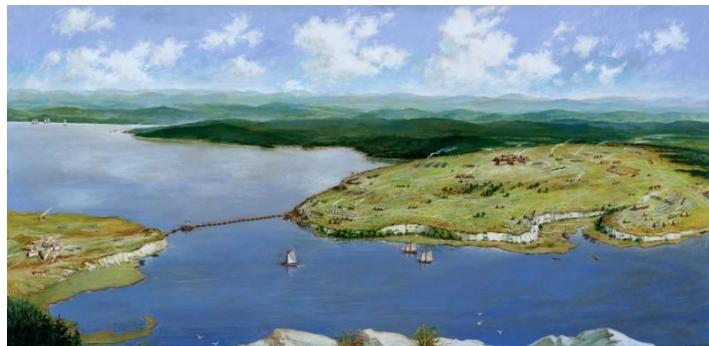


Mount Independence State Historic Site

Orwell, Vermont



Painting, view of Mount Independence from the top of Mount Defiance.
By Ernest Haas, 2002, collection of Mount Independence Coalition.

MOUNT INDEPENDENCE TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Orwell, Vermont

- 1755-1757 The French build Fort Carillon on Lake Champlain for defense against a British advance northward up the Champlain Valley towards French settlements on the lake and in Quebec. In the winter the French cut wood on east side of lake (what would become Mount Independence).
- 1759 The French abandon Fort Carillon during a siege by British General Amherst. The British rename this fort Ticonderoga.
- 1763 Treaty of Paris ends the French and Indian War. Canada becomes a British territory instead of a French territory.
- May 10, 1775 Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allen, and the Green Mountain Boys, capture Fort Ticonderoga from the British.
- Winter 1775-1776 Henry Knox hauls artillery from Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point to Dorchester, Massachusetts, to help relieve the British siege of Boston.
- June 1776 Following a disastrous attack on Canada, the American troops retreat from Quebec south on Lake Champlain.
- July 7, 1776 American officers vote to fortify the peninsula that faces north across Lake Champlain from Fort Ticonderoga. The new fortification will guard New England and points south against British attack from Canada.
- July 28, 1776 The Declaration of Independence is read at the new fort. Its name is changed from Rattlesnake Hill to Mount Independence.
- Fall 1776 American troops continue to build defenses at Mount Independence and to repair fortifications at Fort Ticonderoga.

MOUNT INDEPENDENCE STATE HISTORIC SITE

Orwell, Vermont

October 1, 1776 Construction starts on the star-shaped wooden fort, located on the summit of Mount Independence.

October 11, 1776 At the Battle of Valcour Island, the British fleet defeats the small American fleet commanded by Benedict Arnold. Stiff winds delay the British fleet from continuing to sail towards Mount Independence.

October 28, 1776 Sir Guy Carleton's British fleet approaches Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga. The strength of the American troops, their artillery, and anticipation of cold weather convince the British Army to return without a fight to their winter base in Canada.

November 1776 Most of the American troops leave Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga for the winter and return to their homes.

Winter, 1776-1777 Despite the cold and difficult conditions, the soldiers at Mount Independence continue building new fortifications and strengthening existing defenses.

March 1, 1777 Soldiers start building the Great Bridge across Lake Champlain from "Ticonderoga to Independant point." (An earlier temporary bridge had been destroyed by waves in December 1776.)

May 1777 The troops build a large general hospital on the Mount.

June 20, 1777 Scouts discover the tracks of British soldiers and Native Americans camping near Crown Point, New York.

June 29, 1777 Enemy ships arrive at a point three miles north of Mount Independence. British troops and their allies number approximately 8000 compared to 3,000 Americans.

July 4, 1777 Late in the evening British soldiers place a cannon on top of Mount Defiance, a hill overlooking Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga.

July 5-6, 1777 American troops abandon the forts at Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga. Vessels with supplies and wounded soldiers sail to Skeneborough, New York. Most of the army marches south or southeast. British soldiers and the German and Native American allies take control and establish garrisons at forts.

July 7, 1777 The American Army rear guard fights with British and German soldiers at the Battle of Hubbardton. The British hold the field, but the American rear guard action is successful as the British give up pursuing the Americans.

August 16, 1777 At the Battle of Bennington, American troops under General Stark and Colonel Warner prevent the British from capturing much-needed supplies from an American storehouse.

October 17, 1777 British General Burgoyne surrenders his army in Schuylerville, New York, following a loss at the second Battle of Saratoga. The American victory is considered a turning point in the Revolutionary War.

MOUNT INDEPENDENCE STATE HISTORIC SITE

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November 8, 1777 British and German troops abandon Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga and retreat to Canada. Before they leave, the soldiers burn all buildings at Mount Independence and destroy part of the fort at Ticonderoga. Supplies they can not take with them are dumped into Lake Champlain.

October 30, 1780 The British, under Lt. John Enys, return to Mount Independence and burn it again.

1783 Revolutionary War ends.

1785 Vermont legislature approves selling remains of cast iron articles, such as cannons, mortars, and shells, for use in making bar iron.

Late 1790s Shadrack Hathaway farms on Mount Independence, making use of the 1777 vegetable garden with drainage ditches on west side.

1961 State of Vermont begins purchasing property on Mount Independence.

1966 First survey of Revolutionary War features and layout of trail system—Red, White, Orange, and Blue Trails.

1996 Mount Independence Museum and Visitor Center opens.

2005-2007 Baldwin Trail opened.