

Letter Writing or Journaling

Most of what we know about the Battle of Hubbardton comes from letters and journals written by Revolutionary War soldiers.

Materials: Paper and modern writing utensil

Background and Instructions to Students

You are a Continental soldier. It is mid-July 1777. You and the other men in your regiment fought in the Battle of Hubbardton on July 7. You have now joined General Schuyler (pronounced SKY-ler) at Fort Edward, New York, and are preparing to fight General Burgoyne's British army again this summer or fall.

Writing a Letter

You have decided to use the last sheets of paper you have to write a letter to your parents. What will you tell them about the battle? What other things would your parents want to know? (Hint: They will want to know that you are safe and in good health.) Remember to fold up your letter (no envelopes in 1777), seal it, and address it!

Making a Journal Entry

Instead of writing a letter about the battle, you as a soldier might want to make an entry in your journal. (A journal is a small blank book in which you write down interesting things you see and do from day to day.) As you get older, you will forget some things that happened before, during, and after the battle. What you write in your journal after the battle will help you remember. Make your account of your experiences as complete and accurate as possible. Did your friends and fellow soldiers tell you about their experiences?

If you don't have a journal, you can make one by cutting and folding in half a few sheets of paper, and putting them together. You also can sew the pages together along the fold with a needle and thread. You will only need a few blank pages to write on.

Here are some things to think about as you decide what to write:

- What major fortification did the army evacuate before coming to Hubbardton?
- What time of day did the battle start and about how long did it last?
- Did you get a good look at the enemy or were the smoke and trees in the way?
- Did you fight just British troops or were there other soldiers helping the British?
- Were any of your "brother soldiers" (other men in your regiment) killed or wounded?
- Some of the men are missing. What do you think happened to them?
- Was this your first battle? What did you do during the battle?
- How did you feel at the end of the day?

Important: When historians read your letter or journal many years from now, will it help them learn what really happened at the Battle of Hubbardton? Why or why not? What will your grandchildren or great-grandchildren think about your experience?