



WITH MUSKET AND TOMAHAWK: The Turning Point of the Revolution, Saratoga 1777

Michael O. Logusz

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A comprehensive look at the brutal wilderness war that secured America's independence . . .

With Musket and Tomahawk is a vivid account of the American and British struggles in the sprawling wilderness region of the northeast during the Revolutionary War. Combining strategic, tactical, and personal detail, this book describes how the patriots of the recently organized Northern Army defeated England's massive onslaught of 1777, thereby all but ensuring America's independence.

Conceived and launched by top-ranking British military leaders to shatter and suppress the revolting colonies, Britain's three-pronged thrust was meant to separate New England from the rest of the nascent nation along the line of the Hudson River. Thus divided, both the northern and southern colonies could have been defeated in detail, unable to provide mutual assistance against further attacks.

Yet, despite intense planning and vast efforts, Britain's campaign resulted in disaster when General John Burgoyne, with 6,000 soldiers, emerged from a woodline and surrendered his army to the Patriots at Saratoga in October 1777.

Underneath the umbrella of Saratoga, countless battles and skirmishes were waged from the borders of Canada southward to Ticonderoga, Bennington, and West Point. Heroes on both sides were created by the score, though only one side proved victorious, amid a tapestry of madness, cruelty, and hardship in what can rightfully be called "the terrible Wilderness War of 1777."

MICHAEL O. LOGUSZ has served in both the Regular and Reserve branches of the U.S. Army, most recently during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007–08. He holds a B.A. from Oswego State College and an M.A. in Russian Studies from Hunter College in New York. The author of numerous articles and a previous book on WWII, Lt. Colonel Logusz has personally examined the ground of each battle he describes. He currently lives in Florida.

WITH MUSKET AND TOMAHAWK: The Turning Point of the Revolution, Saratoga 1777 Details

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From Reader Review WITH MUSKET AND TOMAHAWK: The Turning Point of the Revolution, Saratoga 1777 for online ebook

Steve says

A straightforward account of the Saratoga Campaign. Written by a former military officer, some of the assumptions about the British military are flawed. Unfortunately, that taints the rest of the book.

Chris says

This book walked through the 1777 Saratoga Campaign in which British General John Burgoyne made his way south from Canada down Lake Champlain to Fort Ticonderoga and finally to Saratoga, where he surrendered to American forces.

John Stubler says

Fantastic!

For those interested in the details of the Northern Army campaign of 1777, this book brings those events to life. Day by day, hour by hour the details of both the British and American forces are fleshed out on the pages. The author does a great job using source letters, journals, historical documents, and other sources to not only bring the characters to life, but to make them be remembered. From riflemen to drummer boys, page by page the action explodes. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Well worth the read.

Ben Doeckel says

Interesting book, lot of detail, but the writing style and errors made it at times painful to read.

e.g.

"Most who fought in the terrible Wilderness War of 1777 had little to no notion of what the American Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, or the Constitution stood for."

...not surprising I guess, since the Constitution was drafted on September 17, 1787, and the Bill of Rights was created on September 25, 1789.

Martin Whatwouldthefoundersthink says

With Musket and Tomahawk covers the Wilderness War of 1777 and is a great book to read in conjunction with Willard Sterne Randall's Ethan Allen biography. Logusz provides a lot of interesting detail about the people and events leading up to Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga in October of 1777.

Read my full review at [What Would the Founders Think?](#)

Debra says

Oy.

The good is that this is indeed interesting with the kind of campaign detail that you'd expect from a career military author. And, and, well, lets go to the negatives.

Minor factual errors lead me to question the veracity of the rest.

- Daniel Webster did not create the dictionary. That was unrelated Noah Webster.
- Twice, at least, he asserted that the colonists were not fighting to support the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. No kidding, since they weren't written and adopted until a decade or so later.

And so that went....

The narrator, Dennis Johnson, was terrible. He took a breath every four or five words. Audibly. And with a slight pause so the phrasing sounded like a Sousa march.

I have the second volume of this which subject is of greater interest to me. I will listen to it but with little anticipation. And double check my facts.

Nancy Knab says

Thank you Michael O. Logusz! Awesome book!

I have been researching my ancestor who was with Ethan Allen at the taking of Ticonderoga, fought at Hubbardton and Bennington, and took part in the Pawlet Expedition of 1777. I have been getting my information in little bits and pieces in books and from the internet. Finally I found a source that documents the events of 1777 in chronological order and makes sense.

Stephanie says

History of the Saratoga campaign of the Wilderness War of 1777. Lots of regional history that I didn't know.

Robert Krenzel says

Fiction Masquerading as History

Historical fiction contains fictional elements woven into a background of actual historical events. Typically the author does extensive research, but the reader does not expect academic precision.

A work of history is an interpretation of facts, based on primary and secondary sources. The author may express her or his opinion, but should always be able to back up the writing with fact.

"With Musket and Tomahawk" by Michael Logusz is neither of these. It is advertised as history, but sadly the author has a complicated relationship with the facts.

I read other reviews that criticized this book for the author's peculiar habit of attributing thoughts to characters from history. This is an effective technique in historical fiction, but it is poor scholarship for a historian. The author simply can not know what John Burgoyne or Simon Fraser were thinking at particular times, so he should not put thoughts in their heads.

Being forewarned, I was prepared to accept the use of supposed thoughts. I was not prepared for sloppy use of terms and downright fabrication.

The author's lack of familiarity with, or imprecise use of, terms like "regiment" or "brigade" is distracting to a student of military history and retired soldier. As the author is an Army officer himself, I find these errors incomprehensible! These words have precise meanings, and his continuous misuse of them undermined my confidence in his research and competence. My confidence was further eroded by his clear lack of understanding of how period weapons worked. In his description of the culmination of the Battle of Freeman's Farm, Logusz has German gunners switching from canister to solid shot, and lobbing the shot over their grenadiers to explode in the rear of American formations. The problem is that solid shot does not explode. This is just one more in a long line of questionable details.

The final straw for me was the story of "The Witch of the Wilderness." The author uses several paragraphs to describe an alleged incident after the Battle of Bennington in which an American woman dragged 16 Tory prisoners into the woods, tied them up, and danced around them with a tomahawk, killing them one at a time, except for two whom she allowed to escape to spread the tale. Having read extensively about Bennington and Saratoga, but never having read such a story, I checked Logusz' sources. (I also struggled to accept that a single woman could herd sixteen grown men, all trained soldiers, away from the American forces and to their deaths.) I found that his single citation was from Richard Ketchum's "Saratoga." Having a copy handy, I looked at the page cited, and the closest I could come was: "...and in a single mass grave he found he found thirteen Tories, most of them shot in the head." No witches there! This is at best incredibly poor scholarship; at worst it is sensational fabrication. I can't tell for sure, but in either case I feel it disqualifies this book as a legitimate work of history.

"With Musket and Tomahawk" is the worst kind of history book: it is fiction posing as history. It would be poor historical fiction; advertised as history...well...I want my money back!

Beakerkin says

Excellent reading that is well crafted. One should read this prior to reading Kenneth Roberts Rabble in Arms

Mark Levandoski says

Some interesting information throughout the book. Sometimes repeats itself in the chapters, as well as the notes. Good maps. Easy to read.

Steven says

Read the intro, and a part of the first chapter. Good so far. Completed reading this excellent book. Very well written with good descriptions of the battles of the wilderness campaign of 1777. Just the chapter on the battle of Brayan's redoubt (depicted in the excellent cover art by the super artist Don Troiani) is well worth the read.

Ross says

Three stars is a little bit of a stretch. The quality of the writing is not polished and much of it is too melodramatic in style for a serious work of history.

Never the less, this book relates a very detailed, and interesting history of the British expedition from Canada south to capture Albany. The grand strategy here was to meet up with British forces coming north from New York City. This action would then cut off the Americans in New England from Washington's army in the south, and thereby end the revolution.

Two big things went very wrong. First, the British had no conception of how hard it was going to be to move an army south from Canada through the northern wilderness.

Second, the British forces in New York City failed to come and attack from the south.

The result was the defeat and capture of the British forces at Saratoga NY and a huge psychological victory for the Americans.

Rebecca Hill says

THE BRITISH ARE COMING!!

Michael O. Logusz brings to the forefront a little followed section of the American Revolution. When we think of the American Revolution, we think George Washington and his amazing and daring tactics in bringing the British to their end in the American colonies. However, there is much more to this war than many are familiar with.

As we move through the many facets of the Wilderness Campaign, it can get really easy to get bogged down with some of the details. If you are looking for a novel read, this book is NOT for you. But if you want to get a deeper understanding of the Wilderness Campaign of 1777, the major players AND the mistakes that plagued both sides, then this is a MUST READ!! Logusz breaks down the campaign by days, not just notable markers. You get to know the mindset of not only the American Continental Army, but the British Officers as well. Taking the day by day approach, readers are treated to not only to maps and details from

correspondence between the leaders, but to the fears and the doubts that plagued both sides. As the troop movements commenced and the Wilderness Campaign heated up, the Northern Army operated as well as they could. Supplies and moral were in place. However, on the British side, things were much different. Lack of supplies, risky intelligence, lack of knowing the area, and loyalist advisors who were in it for themselves, a reader can almost feel as though they are marching through these forests themselves.

Michael Logusz brings readers not only the big picture of how the Wilderness Campaign was lost, but the smaller and finer details that often escape other writers. From some of the first snipers in American history to the murder of Jane McCrea by Native Americans fighting for the British, the nitty-gritty details are brought to the front.

As General John Burgoyne began to prepare for his foray into the war, he studied the maps and what little intelligence that they had concerning the wilderness areas of the colonies. What they did not realize was that their maps were completely out of date and what they were being told from some of the loyalists that were still residing in the areas was not always completely true. According to the maps, what should have been a straight and narrow shot through the countryside was in fact, full of ravines and other obstacles that had not been noted. The British considered the American Patriots weak, and thought the war was won before they even started. As they moved into their first battles with the patriots, they were shocked at the tactics that they employed. To this point, British regulars had only been faced with pitched battles where each side would come out and meet each other head on. Instead, the patriots borrowed from their Native American counterparts, and began to use more guerilla tactics. They hid, they jumped up and fired, then ran. General Burgoyne kept waiting for the many loyalists that he had been told were waiting for the British before they would join but those loyalists never fully materialized. As for the American Patriots who were opposing the British, they were entrenched and more determined than they were given credit for. Even though they lost Fort Ticonderoga early, they managed to not give up much more.

As you read through there are several details that will catch you and make you thumb back a few pages. This is not a bad thing! The facts are such that you have to almost view British and American thought side by side, and Logusz does just that! Grab the book and join the Wilderness Campaign today! From triumph to hesitation, "With Musket and Tomahawk" will take you on a journey that will have you wanting to dive deeper in.

**The one historical discrepancy in the book was the statement that Daniel Webster wrote the dictionary. Noah Webster wrote the dictionary. There is no relation between the two men. **
