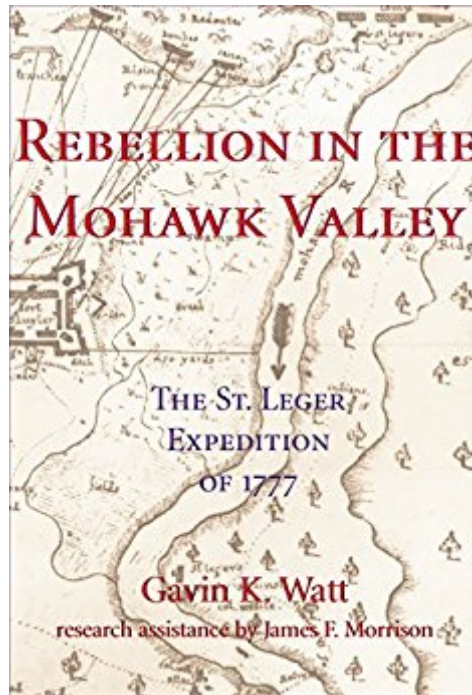


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# Rebellion In The Mohawk Valley: The St. Leger Expedition Of 1777



## Synopsis

In the summer of 1777, while the British and the Americans were engaged in the bitter American Revolution, a massive campaign was launched from Canada into New York State. Brigadier Barry St. Leger led a crucial expedition from Lake Ontario into the Mohawk Valley. The goal was to travel by waterways to join Lieutenant General John Burgoyne in the siege of Albany. But Leger encountered obstacles along the way. While laying siege to Fort Stanwix, Leger received word that Benedict Arnold was leading a massive relief column that was headed their way. Leger and his men retreated, and despite a later attempt to carry on, were never able to help Burgoyne. The Americans then destroyed the British-held Fort Ticonderoga, marking the end of the campaign. The results of the failed St. Leger expedition were historic. Not only was the loss of Fort Ticonderoga a major blow to the British war effort, but the campaign also brought about the disillusionment of the Iroquois Confederacy, and saw the founding of the infamous Butler's Rangers and the first major campaign of Sir John Johnson's King's Royal Regiment.

## Book Information

File Size: 7623 KB

Print Length: 432 pages

Publisher: Dundurn (May 1, 2002)

Publication Date: December 5, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00AKAGCLG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #299,206 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #13

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > Canada > Pre-Confederation #22

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## Customer Reviews

Gavin Watt's latest contribution to the history of the American Revolution in the Mohawk Valley in

New York (Rebellion in the Mohawk) is a wonderful account and the research matches that of his previous books. A very well-written, smooth reading account and once again, the author's research is impeccable. What is particularly appealing (to both scholars and the general reader) is the extensive footnotes which provide the little known (or previously unknown) background details that Watt and his co-author/researcher James Morrison provide along with deductive reasoning and especially the interjection of various small details of original accounts that add "spice" and some levity to the book; for example Watt including this rare quote from original documents relating "the Royal Yorkers being ordered not to wear their shoes when fishing!". Such aspects provide one with a true sense of what it would have been like at that time. Overall, another excellent addition to the library of those interested in the American Revolution, irregardless of the exact phase; again a fine job by the author. I highly recommend it.

The Rebellion In The Mohawk Valley, The St. Leger Expedition of 1777 is the third book in Gavin Watt's trilogy about the turmoil that swept through that region during the American Revolution. There's a certain sense of dread and doom as one reads through the book, especially for Canadians who may identify with the hopes and aspirations of the Loyalists as the 1777 campaign unfolded. The book goes into great detail about the victory at Oriskany by Crown Forces, balanced with their failure to take Ft. Stanwix. It is interesting to note how casualty estimates vary according to which side was reporting, and how the Americans have taken the destruction of the Tryon County Militia and somehow cast it into a Rebel victory. There is, however a balance to the book, and people favouring either side can feel at home reading it. Aside from the military aspects of the book, you get to know Joseph Brant, Sir John Johnson, Daniel Claus, Nicholas Herkimer and many other central figures. Great military history. Well written. Great biography. Definitely one for anyone interested in that time period.

One of the best things about a well written history is its ability to bring the participants to life. Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley does just that for a little known battle of the American Revolution. From the patriots (or rebels depending on which side you feel yourself on) to the Loyal Americans fighting for their very homes and farms I now understand not just what motivated a group of people on both sides who lived through one of the most important events in world history, but I also now know a lot about how they lived, fought and felt. This was war between neighbors, friends and even family and this book's descriptions of that fact brings a whole new dimension to the story. The author, a Canadian, and the American researchers and historians who contributed to his work have

produced a balanced and colourful work. Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley clears up many long held misconceptions about this important battle and the events that surrounded it. The illustrations and maps are very helpful. When combined with the descriptions of the places, people and events in the book I came away with a clear image of the events it describes and explains. The author clearly knows the time period and the locations in the book very well indeed. One of the best features of the book are the extensive footnotes and the bibliography. From here one could go on to explore the entire American Revolution. It opened my eyes to the other side's view of the war and made me see this part of it in a much more open way, I'm anxious to do just that. I'd highly recommend this book to anyone from early teens on in age because regardless of your degree of knowledge or interest in this particular battle of the revolution the quality of the storytelling alone makes it worth the read. I just wish I could meet some of the people I came to know.

I recently finished "Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley". This book does an outstanding job of describing the events that took place in central New York 225 years ago (1777). The reader is shown how these events tied into the main British advance from Canada and eventual defeat at Saratoga. Gavin Watt does not only talk about the key players like Barry St. Leger, John Johnson and Peter Gansevoort but he also shows how the little person fit into the picture. You get the feeling of what the common soldiers and their families were thinking and experiencing. The training, equipping and discipline problems on both sides are discussed. Also, the loss of property, dignity and dangers faced by the local loyalist; the influence and power that the local Committees of Safety wielded. All these were contributing factors to some of the bloodiest fighting of the entire war and it was fought between former friends and neighbors. The Indians of the six-nation confederacy were also discussed in detail. Much like their white contemporaries theirs was a fight of brother against brother, which ended with the breakdown of the Iroquois nation. Great war captains like Joseph Brant are portrayed as the great leader that he was and how much impact he actually had on the over all campaign. You will also get an understanding on how the Indians suffered which is often overlooked or touched on just in passing in other books. I recommend this book to anyone that has an interest in the American Revolution and wants to read about something other than what happened on the main stage. It is written in a very readable and understandable manner so you don't have to struggle with it--it just flows.

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