

Title of Essay:
"The Local Paul Revere(a.k.a John Weir) and The Battle of Bennington

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“The Local Paul Revere(a.k.a John Weir)” and The Battle of Bennington

The history of America has been remarkable and quite substantial. Who would have known that two hundred and thirty three years from our historic parting from Britain we would be the number one power in the world? While most of us take that for granted, it took our forefathers blood and effort to even achieve the recognition of a stable country to the world. Of course, The American Revolution was the breaking moment for our country from the mother country England. While independence could not have been gained without every minute occurrence, there are of course some big events that happened to make the rebellion a success. To these events are significant people. In this essay it will be found that the Battle of Bennington was quite significant in the Revolution and without John Weir that battle may have been a complete disaster.

The July of 1777, in what is now known as the Northeast of the Continental United States, went well for the British forces(in terms of the Revolution of course) as Burgoyne’s forces from Canada were able to capture Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Edward. Burgoyne was waiting for General Howe from New York City to come up the Hudson Valley and meet him in Albany. Also, a British force from Lake Ontario was supposed to make its way down to Albany traveling along the Mohawk Valley. With all the traveling and success Burgoyne was in need of supplies and in order to maintain some he sent the Hessian commander, Colonel Baum, towards Bennington, Vermont. To the dismay of the British, General John Stark of the rebellion was waiting in Bennington with a force of two thousand men waiting for the British-Indian attack(Battle Fields Across America

pgs.48-51). However, without the forewarning of the attack by John Weir, the British could have possibly rolled on to Bennington and back.

John Weir, born in 1742 near Boston, had fought in the French and Indian War on the side of the British until the British and French reached an armistice in 1765. From there Weir went on to work as a scout for Sir William Johnson until 1769 when they successfully reached a peace agreement with the Pontiac tribe. Weir, who on his way back to Boston in 1771 decided to visit his brother and his newly wed bride(Elizabeth Green) met Elizabeth's sister, Deborah and wed her after a short time. Thus John Weir also settled in the Cambridge Valley (John Weir Pioneer and Patriot pgs.2-3). John Weir, who had stayed particularly neutral in the realm of the war, was enacted into action in favor of the Colonists the Monday evening of August 11th, 1777 when he was told by a messenger that the British force from Canada, accompanied by their Hessian mercenaries and Indian allies, were staying in Union Station (now Greenwich) and planning to move on to Bennington and take control of the supplies stored there. Weir, whose wife was actually a loyalist (somebody from the colonies loyal to the British during the war), then saddled up a horse and that night rode on to Bennington and warned General Stark's forces of the British advancement being led by Colonel Baum. Stark then sent an urgent message of the necessity of reinforcements to Colonel Seth Green and began preparing for the battle ahead. On August 13th of 1777 Baum finally moved, and Stark hearing of Indian Raids to his west went out to meet the intruders(Old Cambridge 1788-1988 pgs.101-102).

The Saturday of August 16th Stark waited as one of his three flanks came around the back of Baum's forces and at 3:00 P.M the Americans began to fire and within two hours

had run the British forces out of ammunition. The British forces did not stop there though as they decided to use their swords and it was there that Baum, trying to retreat, was shot and killed. Burgoyne, who due to the lack of technology in the communication department at the time, was unaware of this defeat and sent the Lt. Colonel Breymann towards Bennington as backup to Baum. Breymann's forces caught the happy Continental forces off guard and were forcing General Stark's forces to retreat until Colonel Green's forces arrived and were able to deal Breymann's forces the same fate as Baum's. The only difference was that Breymann survived to tell the tale to Burgoyne(Battles That Changed The World pgs.48-51). The British were then sent running for the hills and forced to retreat. The fact that the Americans had pushed the British back was a great feat as they were able to keep the British unsupplied and forced the Battle of Saratoga to occur. It is said that the initiated attack by the Americans caught Baum's forces off guard and that it changed the whole battle and war possibly. The reason for the surprise was that Baum thought the non-uniformed militia behind him was a group of Tories or Loyalists sent by Burgoyne. Because Baum could not speak English he was not able to communicate with the force behind him and it cost him his life and the battle(The American Revolution pg.109-111).

It is said by many experts of the American Revolution that, "Without the Battle of Bennington there is no Battle of Saratoga, thus no Yorktown." It is very interesting and appealing that the two battles that are noted for turning around the war are right in our backyards. After the war John Weir went back to Cambridge where he and Deborah added six more children to their one prior to the Battle of Bennington. Deborah died young and John Weir was remarried to Rebecca Wilson until he died at the age of 84.

Without John Weir, who is known around the Washington County area as the, “local Paul Revere,” the outcome of the whole Revolution may have been different. Thus our independence would have been longer in coming and our country may be different than we know it today. As it has been said for the last two hundred thirty three years plus, “God Bless America.”

Sons of The American Revolution Essay Bibliography

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For the majority of my grade school career (excluding Kindergarten) I have attended Greenwich Central School. I consider my grade school career to have garnered success no matter what level I was at. For instance ever since my inception into Junior High I have either been on the High Honor Roll or on the Honor Roll, and on my two history based Regent exams have scored two ninety eights. Also I have earned three Presidential Academic Achievement Awards from the time I was in 6th grade up till now.

Over the last two years I have joined clubs that, in Greenwich anyways, are quite renowned. I decided last year to join the school's FBLA program which has in itself has gained much attention and positive press from the local papers and other news sources. Within that I have been to many meetings, many educational field trips, conferences, and competitions as well. Along with doing that, at about the same time two years ago I joined our local FFA program, which in our state and regional area takes a back seat to no other FFA group, as ours has in past has soared to bring home many first place awards for the certain activities that are a part of the FFA. Being a member of the FFA I was given the chance to be a part of the Parliamentary Procedure team and we finished third at the Regional competition last year, missing going to the State wide competition by one placement.

As for other merits, this past summer I was chosen by my guidance counselor and other school officials to participate in the Boys State program in SUNY Morrisville. There we were Marine trained and conditioned for a week and we were taught the fundamentals on which our government is built by some Veterans who have decided to volunteer their services to this program. There I was elected to a Senate seat, which consisted of about 90 members out of 1000 boys that attended the event. It was quite an experience. Throughout my life here in Greenwich I have also played on the baseball team, the football team(to which I was named the captain this year), and have played hockey in a youth league in Glens Falls.

My plans for college are to study in the areas of law primarily, including political science and so on. However, being that I do not have my mind made up definitely I am also looking into studying the areas of Journalism and Business as well.