

Saratoga Timeline

Compiled by Dean R. Snow

Readers of *1777: Tipping Point at Saratoga* might find the following thirty-three tables to be helpful in following the timeline of events that are described for that brief but intense period of American history. Each table is numbered according to book chapter and the day(s) covered by that chapter. Sections that deal primarily with the American Northern Army are color coded in blue. Sections that deal primarily with the British and German Army from Canada are color coded in red. Events experienced by both sides are in black. Readers interested in following involving specific individuals, such as Benedict Arnold and Frederika Riedesel, will find it possible to do so more easily using these tables. Of course, the book's index can also be used for that purpose.

Table 1.1. Monday, September 15, 1777

3:24 AM	Full moonset
6:05 AM	Sunrise, pleasant and dry
6:05 AM	Alexander Bryan barely avoids capture.
8:00 AM	John Burgoyne issues his orders for the day.
9:00 AM	Horatio Gates digs in.
9:30 AM	Wilkinson reads out the orders of the day.
10:00 AM	Oliver Boardman arrives in camp.
11:00 AM	Benedict Arnold takes out a detachment.
12:00 Noon	The British army pushes south.
1:00 PM	Simon Fraser leads the Advanced Corps forward.
2:00 PM	Friedrich Riedesel copes with command and family.
2:00 PM	Horatio Gates dines with his officers.
6:08 PM	Full moonrise
6:19 PM	Sunset
6:20 PM	The British army makes camp at Dovegat.
8:30 PM	John Acland escapes a flaming tent.
9:00 PM	Horatio Gates weighs new intelligence.

Table 1.2. Tuesday, September 16, 1777

4:38 AM	Full moonset
6:06 AM	Sunrise
8:00 AM	Burgoyne prepares at Dovegat.
9:00 AM	Gates makes ready for an attack.
1:00 PM	Hadden joins a scouting detachment.
2:00 PM	Boardman witnesses a tragedy in camp.
3:00 PM	Van Cortlandt dines with Arnold and division officers.
5:00 PM	Digby watches the scouting detachment return.
6:00 PM	American soldiers ridicule Burgoyne.
6:17 PM	Sunset
6:41 PM	Full moonrise
8:00 PM	Van Cortlandt sets off on a nighttime raid.

Table 1.3. Wednesday, September 17, 1777

5:00 AM	Van Cortlandt blunders.
6:07 AM	Sunrise
5:53 AM	Full moonset
8:00 AM	An American scout comes in and another is sent out.
8:30 AM	Burgoyne moves forward to Sword's house.
2:00 PM	Gates copes with trivia and dines with his staff.
5:00 PM	The American scout returns from Saratoga Lake.
6:15 PM	Sunset
7:12 PM	Full moonrise
8:30 PM	John Burgoyne takes over Sword's House

Table 1.4. Thursday, September 18, 1777

6:09 AM	Sunrise
6:00 AM	Arnold probes the British position.
7:00 AM	Gates braces for an attack.
7:09 AM	Full moonset
11:00 AM	Burgoyne deploys his army for action tomorrow.
12:00 Noon	Riedesel repairs the river road.
3:00 PM	ten Broeck arrives with the first of the Albany militia.
6:00 PM	Scouting parties return with news.
6:13 PM	Sunset
7:42 PM	Full moonrise
11:30 Midnight	John Stark takes his militia home.

Table 2.1. Friday, September 19, 1777

6:10 AM	Sunrise
8:00 AM	Riedesel moves to protect the river road.
8:25 AM	Waning gibbous moonset
8:30 AM	Gates hears of an attack on the river road.
9:00 AM	Fraser takes the Advanced Corps westward.
9:30 AM	Burgoyne accompanies the main center column.
10:00 AM	Morgan's riflemen in no-man's land.
10:15 AM	Dearborn takes a different path.
10:30 AM	Arnold agitates for an attack.
12:00 Noon	Burgoyne prepares to attack on Freeman's farm.
12:00 Noon	Morgan skirmishes with lead British elements.
12:00 Noon	Dearborn takes on Fraser's Rangers.
1:00 PM	Riedesel tries to get information.
1:00 PM	Fraser captures an American officer.
1:30 PM	Burgoyne deploys three regiments.
2:00 PM	Wilkinson finds Morgan in disarray.
2:30 PM	Arnold persuades Gates to commit regiments.
3:00 PM	Cilley leads the 1 st New Hampshire into battle.
3:00 PM	Burgoyne launches an attack.
3:15 PM	Cilley and the 1 st New Hampshire engage the British 62 nd .
3:30 PM	Scammell and the 3 rd New Hampshire join the battle.
4:00 PM	Arnold argues for more regiments to attack.
4:15 PM	Arnold recruits Brooks and Hull.
4:30 PM	Cilley falls back but attacks again with support.
4:45 PM	Brooks and Hull attack.
4:45 PM	Fraser foils an American flanking attack.
4:45 PM	Arnold badgers Gates.
4:45 PM	Riedesel goes into action.
4:45 PM	Burgoyne is reported shot.
5:00 PM	Hadden struggles to keep his guns in action.
5:00 PM	An American rifleman meets Arnold.
5:00 PM	The 62 nd Foot takes casualties.
5:15 PM	Riedesel attacks the American right.
5:30 PM	Officers' wives tend to the wounded British.
6:00 PM	Dearborn and Clarkson withdraw.
6:00 PM	Hadden abandons his guns to save a fellow officer.
6:12 PM	Sunset
6:30 PM	Fresh American troops join the action at dusk.
7:00 PM	Burgoyne takes stock.
8:00 PM	Brooks lingers on the battlefield.
8:14 PM	Waning gibbous moonrise
8:30 PM	Men from Nixon's brigade form a picket line.
9:00 PM	Gates writes to Lincoln.
10:00 PM	Varick writes to Schuyler.

Table 3.1. Saturday, September 20, 1777

6:11 AM	Sunrise, foggy and cold
6:00 AM	Burial parties mingle in no-man's-land.
6:30 AM	Benjamin Warren surveys the battlefield.
7:00 AM	Gates keeps a worrisome secret.
8:00 AM	Burgoyne considers renewing the action.
9:42 AM	Waning gibbous moonset
10:00 AM	Riedesel secures the left flank.
10:30 AM	Simon Fraser secures the right flank.
12:00 Noon	Fraser debates next steps with Burgoyne.
2:00 PM	Daniel Taylor arrives with a message as the generals dine.
6:00 PM	Gates reveals his secret.
6:10 PM	Sunset
7:00 PM	Scammell regrets a lost opportunity.
8:00 PM	Arnold lets Clarkson think the worst of Gates.
8:48 PM	Waning gibbous moonrise
9:00 PM	Warren and his men return exhausted.
11:45 PM	Daniel Taylor starts a new dangerous journey.

Table 3.2. Sunday, September 21, 1777

5:00 AM	Fraser realizes the dogs are blameless.
6:00 AM	Burgoyne resolves to dig in.
6:12 AM	Sunrise, foggy
7:00 AM	Riedesel attempts to build a road.
9:00 AM	Arnold spreads good news.
10:00 AM	Wilkinson loses a new friend.
10:57 AM	Waning gibbous moonset
3:00 PM	Gates indulges the Oneidas.
6:00 PM	Burgoyne sends a second messenger to Clinton.
6:08 PM	Sunset, steady rain
9:00 PM	Another American lost to friendly fire.
9:26 PM	Waning gibbous moonrise

Table 3.3. Monday, September 22, 1777

4:00 AM	Gates dispenses with Arnold
6:13 AM	Sunrise, foggy
6:00 AM	Burgoyne receives Loyalist volunteers.
12:00 Noon	Gates receives scouting reports.
12:00 Noon	Burgoyne grills a captured American.
12:10 PM	Half moonset
4:00 PM	Arnold confronts Gates.
5:00 PM	Gates receives Lincoln
6:06 PM	Sunset, steady rain
7:00 PM	Arnold writes a letter to Gates.
8:00 PM	Frederika Riedesel loses her patient.
10:09 PM	Half moonrise
10:30 PM	A drunken expedition
11:45 PM	Burgoyne sends two messengers back to Clinton.

Table 3.4. Tuesday, September 23, 1777

6:14 AM	Sunrise, steady rain
6:00 AM	Gates reads Arnold's letter and replies.
8:00 AM	Burgoyne strengthens and organizes.
10:00 AM	Arnold demands a proper pass.
12:00 Noon	Gates replies to Arnold.
1:18 PM	Half moonset
6:04 PM	Sunset
8:00 PM	Burgoyne sends another messenger to Clinton.
10:59 PM	Half moonrise

Table 3.5. Wednesday, September 24, 1777

6:15 AM	Sunrise
8:00 AM	Burgoyne tries to improve intelligence.
12:00 Noon	Gates accommodates fresh additional forces.
2:00 PM	Washington writes to Gates
2:19 PM	Half moonset
6:03 PM	Sunset
8:00 PM	Burgoyne settles in.
11:55 PM	Waning crescent moonrise, heavy rain

Table 3.6. Thursday, September 25, 1777

12:23 AM	Waning crescent moonrise
5:00 AM	Riedesel's line is attacked in the early morning.
5:30 AM	Ebenezer Wild sees action.
6:16 AM	Sunrise, steady rain
10:00 AM	Gates copes with Indians and prisoners.
12:00 Noon	Burgoyne receives a communication from Gates.
1:00 PM	William Wilkinson starts mapping.
3:11 PM	Waning crescent moonset
4:00 PM	Arnold 's allies grow weary.
6:01 PM	Sunset, steady rain

Table 3.7. Friday, September 26, 1777

12:55 AM	Waning crescent moonrise
6:17 AM	Sunrise
8:00 AM	Burgoyne fusses over details.
10:00 AM	Gates attends to public relations.
2:00 PM	Arnold is persuaded to remain in camp.
3:55 PM	Waning crescent moonset
4:00 PM	Scammell writes to a friend.
5:59 PM	Sunset

Table 3.8. Saturday, September 27, 1777

1:59 AM	Waning crescent moonrise
6:19 AM	Sunrise, cold
8:00 AM	Glover's Brigade moves to the right wing.
9:00 AM	Burgoyne answers Gates.
2:00 PM	Gates proposes an exchange.
3:00 PM	Gräfe gets lucky.
4:32 PM	Waning crescent moonset
5:57 PM	Sunset, still cold
6:00 PM	Burgoyne sends another messenger to Clinton.
7:00 PM	Gräfe arrives in camp.
8:00 PM	Glover takes the initiative.

Table 3.9. Sunday, September 28, 1777

3:03 AM	Waning crescent moonrise
5:30 AM	Glover's detachment surprises the enemy.
6:20 AM	Sunrise, cold and foggy
7:00 AM	Gräfe makes his report.
8:00 AM	Gates attends to details.
12:00 Noon	Alexander Campbell prepares to run the gauntlet.
5:03 PM	Waning crescent moonset
5:55 PM	Sunset, still cold
9:00 PM	Ebenezer Wild prepares for a scout.

Table 3.10. Monday, September 29, 1777

4:06 AM	Waning crescent moonrise
6:21 AM	Sunrise
8:00 AM	The 1 st Massachusetts detachment returns.
10:00 AM	Burgoyne tries again to stop desertions.
2:00 PM	Morgan's men find German deserters.
4:00 PM	Glover takes stock.
5:30 PM	Waning crescent moonset
5:54 PM	Sunset
10:00 PM	A new 1 st Massachusetts detachment goes out.

Table 3.11. Tuesday, September 30, 1777

5:08 AM	Waning crescent moonrise
6:22 AM	Sunrise
8:00 AM	The 1 st Massachusetts detachment heads west.
9:00 AM	Burgoyne's problems increase.
5:55 PM	Waning crescent moonset
5:52 PM	Sunset
6:00 PM	Wild's detachment captures Loyalists.
8:00 PM	Burgoyne receives a message from St. Leger.

Table 3.12. Wednesday, October 1, 1777

6:00 AM	The 1 st Massachusetts scout heads west.
6:10 AM	New moonrise
6:23 AM	Sunrise
9:00 AM	Burgoyne's problems increase.
10:00 AM	Arnold attempts reconciliation.
12:00 Noon	John Hardin takes a scout to Fish Kill
1:00 PM	The 1 st Massachusetts scout passes Saratoga Lake
2:00 PM	Burgoyne struggles to hold his army together.
6:19 PM	Waning crescent moonset
5:50 PM	Sunset
7:00 PM	Alexander Fraser takes out a scout.
8:00 PM	Gates receives an intercepted message from St. Leger.

Table 3.13. Thursday, October 2, 1777

6:00 AM	An encounter between British and American scouts.
6:24 AM	Sunrise
7:10 AM	New moonrise
2:00 PM	Burgoyne's tries to inspire his men.
3:00 PM	Fisher undertakes a risky mission.
4:00 PM	Fraser braces for an attack.
5:00 PM	Gates's confidence rises.
5:48 PM	Sunset
6:00 PM	Gräfe returns to American captivity.
6:43 PM	New moonset
9:00 PM	The 1 st Massachusetts scouting detachment returns.

Table 3.14. Friday, October 3, 1777

5:00 AM	Burgoyne tightens his army's belt.
6:25 AM	Sunrise
8:09 AM	New moonrise
12:00 Noon	Gates worries.
1:00 PM	James Wilkinson scouts the east bank of the Hudson.
5:47 PM	Sunset
6:00 PM	Burgoyne tries to cut his losses.
7:07 PM	New moonset

Table 3.15. Saturday, October 4, 1777

6:00 AM	The unnerving realities of a <i>petite guerre</i> .
6:27 AM	Sunrise
9:09 AM	Waxing crescent moonrise
10:00 AM	Gates's confidence grows.
12:00 Noon	Burgoyne makes an audacious proposal.
2:00 PM	More militia regiments arrive on Bemis Heights.
5:45 PM	Sunset
7:33 PM	Waxing crescent moonset

Table 3.16. Sunday, October 5, 1777

6:28 AM	Sunrise
10:09 AM	Waxing crescent moonrise
10:00 AM	Burgoyne copes with the symptoms of despair.
2:00 PM	Arnold cannot be mollified.
3:00 PM	Gates spars with Washington at a distance.
4:00 PM	American troops attend church services.
5:00 PM	Burgoyne and his generals hold another Council of War.
5:30 PM	Campbell reports to Clinton and is sent north again.
5:43 PM	Sunset
8:02 PM	Waxing crescent moonset

Table 3.17. Monday, October 6, 1777

6:29 AM	Sunrise, warm and a bit rainy
9:00 AM	Riedesel's camp prepares for the unknown.
10:00 AM	The American camp continues to fill.
11:08 AM	Waxing crescent moonrise
12:00 Noon	Burgoyne commits to a desperate plan.
5:41 PM	Sunset
8:36 PM	Waxing crescent moonset, cold and rainy
9:00 PM	American scouts own the night.
12:00 Midnight	Confusion to the enemy and friend alike.

Table 23. Tuesday, October 7, 1777

6:00 AM	American soldiers greet a beautiful day.
6:30 AM	Sunrise, warm and pleasant
8:00 AM	Burgoyne assembles 1700 officers and men.
9:00 AM	Gates assesses the Northern Army.
10:00 AM	Anburey probes into no-man's-land.
10:00 AM	Burgoyne addresses his Indian allies.
12:00 Noon	A confident Burgoyne leads his men forward.
12:07 PM	Waxing crescent moonrise
1:00 PM	All quiet on the western American line.
1:30 PM	Burgoyne approaches the wheat field.
1:30 PM	Päusch refuses a request.
1:30 PM	Gates has lunch with his officers.
2:00 PM	Arnold rides toward the wheat field.
2:00 PM	Morgan and Dearborn deploy on the British right.
2:00 PM	Poor deploys his brigade against the British left.
2:30 PM	Morgan and Dearborn attack the British right
3:00 PM	Cilley rides a British cannon.
3:00 PM	Arnold assumes the appearance of command.
3:00 PM	Morgan and Poor throw back the British right flank.
3:00 PM	Burgoyne is taken by surprise.
3:00 PM	They also serve who only stand and wait.
3:00 PM	Acland is wounded and taken prisoner.
3:05 PM	Päusch tries to hold the center.
3:10 PM	Fraser tries to cover a retreat.
3:20 PM	Fraser refuses to withdraw.
3:20 PM	Ebenezer Mattoon coaches an old rifleman.
3:30 PM	Fraser falls.
3:35 PM	Burgoyne has no choice but to retreat.
3:40 PM	The American advance wavers.
3:40 PM	Francis Clerke tries and fails to rescue the artillery.
3:45 PM	Päusch escapes.
3:50 PM	The Americans secure the wheat field.
3:55 PM	American troops assault the Balcarres Redoubt.
4:00 PM	Brooks and Arnold carry the Breymann Redoubt.
4:30 PM	Frederika Riedesel receives her guests.
5:40 PM	Sunset
5:45 PM	Brooks holds the Breymann Redoubt for the night.
6:00 PM	Von Speth blunders into the Breymann Redoubt.
6:30 PM	Gates dithers amidst uncertainty.
7:00 PM	Gates debates with a wounded British officer.
7:30 PM	Frederika Riedesel prepares for the worst.
9:15 PM	Waxing crescent moonset

Table 5.1. Wednesday, October 8, 1777

5:00 AM	Burgoyne struggles to regroup.
6:31 AM	Sunrise, foggy but warm
8:00 AM	The Americans move north on the river road.
9:00 AM	An American artillery battery races north to Saratoga.
9:30 AM	Wilkinson tries to deliver a letter.
10:00 AM	Two British spies set out from Fort Montgomery.
11:00 AM	John Henry quits the Northern Army.
12:00 AM	Frederika and Harriet help tend to the wounded.
1:00 PM	Arnold apologizes.
1:03 PM	Waxing crescent moonrise
3:00 PM	Burgoyne waits for sunset.
4:00 PM	Lincoln is wounded by a sniper.
5:40 PM	Fraser is buried amidst a barrage.
5:38 PM	Sunset
6:00 PM	American artillery block the ford above Saratoga.
6:00 PM	Massachusetts militiamen occupy Saratoga.
8:00 PM	The retreat finally begins.
8:00 PM	Wilkinson receives a disturbing letter.
10:00 PM	Gates copes with problems known and unknown.
10:00 PM	Waxing crescent moonset

Table 5.2. Thursday, October 9, 1777

3:00 AM	Burgoyne's army stalls at Dovegat.
3:30 AM	Advanced troops find American militiamen asleep.
4:00 AM	The rear guard abandons the hospital.
6:00 AM	Riedesel reaches Dovegat.
6:00 AM	Nixon's brigade approaches the British camp.
6:32 AM	Sunrise, cloudy and cold
7:00 AM	Daniel Taylor begins another hazardous journey.
8:00 AM	Burgoyne dithers.
8:00 AM	Americans take over the British hospital.
12:00 Noon	American militiamen evacuate Saratoga.
1:55 PM	Waxing crescent moonrise
2:00 PM	The British distribute food and burn baggage.
5:00 PM	American artillery redeploys northeast of Saratoga.
5:36 PM	Sunset
6:00 PM	Most of the British army finally reaches Saratoga.
7:30 PM	The Beckers come home.
8:00 PM	A soaked army settles in.
8:00 PM	Harriet Acland gets permission to join her husband.
8:30 PM	Gates learns that Clinton is moving up the Hudson.
9:00 PM	Fellows sets out for Fort Edward.
9:00 PM	Dearborn receives Harriet Acland.
10:54 PM	Waxing crescent moonset
12:00 Midnight	Burgoyne gets more bad news.

Table 5.3. Friday, October 10, 1777

3:00 AM	The barracks sheltering wounded men burns.
6:34 AM	Sunrise, cloudy and cold
7:00 AM	Mattoon's battery prepares to fire at the Lansing House.
7:00 AM	Frederika Riedesel sets Burgoyne straight.
7:00 AM	Harriet Acland goes to American headquarters.
10:00 AM	Becker sets a limit on patriotism.
11:00 AM	Sutherland tries to open an escape route.
12:00 Noon	American advance forces reach Fish Kill.
2:43 PM	Half moonrise
2:00 PM	Frederika finds shelter in the Lansing House.
4:00 PM	Mattoon's battery is sent towards Fort Edward.
4:00 PM	American main forces reach Fish Kill
5:00 PM	The British burn Schuyler's estate.
5:34 PM	Sunset
7:00 PM	Gates takes a chance.
11:00 PM	Wilkinson warns Gates.
11:54 PM	Half moonset

Table 5.4. Saturday, October 11, 1777

12:45 AM	Half moonset
6:15 AM	Morgan and Dearborn lead an attack in the fog.
6:35 AM	Sunrise, foggy and cool.
6:30 AM	Nixon and Glover move to attack across Fish Kill.
8:00 AM	Frederika passes another day in a rancid cellar.
9:00 AM	Burgoyne's army faces desperation.
10:00 AM	American fire forces the abandonment of the bateaux.
11:00 AM	Gates writes a letter to Burgoyne.
12:00 Noon	Burgoyne changes passwords as security declines.
3:26 PM	Half moonrise
5:33 PM	Sunset
7:00 PM	Burgoyne and his generals have no good options.

Table 5.5. Sunday, October 12, 1777

1:00 AM	Half moonset
6:36 AM	Sunrise, clear and pleasant
8:00 AM	Burgoyne thinks out loud.
9:00 AM	Gates enjoys his circumstances.
12:00 Noon	Daniel Taylor is hanged as a spy.
2:00 PM	Frederika Riedesel does her best.
3:00 PM	Burgoyne calls a new council of war.
4:03 PM	Half moonrise
5:31 PM	Sunset
7:00 PM	Burgoyne releases the provincials and loyalists..
9:00 PM	John Stark and his militia appear on the east bank.
11:00 PM	No way out.

Table 5.6. Monday, October 13, 1777

2:11 AM	Waxing gibbous moonset
6:30 AM	Riedesel finally accepts reality.
6:37AM	Sunrise, cloudy and cold
7:00 AM	Gates has to send some units south.
12:00 Noon	Burgoyne's artillery achieves a minor victory.
4:37 PM	Waxing gibbous moonrise
5:29 PM	Sunset
7:00 PM	Burgoyne's generals agree to capitulate.
11:00 PM	Gates makes an error in haste.
12:00 Midnight	Desperate men dig in or flee.

Table 5.7. Tuesday, October 14, 1777

3:24 AM	Waxing gibbous moonset
6:38 AM	Sunrise, cloudy and cold
10:00 AM	Gates presents his conditions.
12:00 Noon	Burgoyne reacts and seizes the advantage.
5:08 PM	Waxing gibbous moonrise
5:30 PM	Kingston delivers Burgoyne's reply.
5:28 PM	Sunset

Table 5.8, Wednesday, October 15, 1777

4:41 AM	Waxing gibbous moonset
6:40 AM	Sunrise, cloudy and cold
7:00 AM	Burgoyne decides to stall.
10:00 AM	Gates responds to Burgoyne's proposals.
12:00 Noon	Burgoyne proposes a conference.
1:00 PM	Gates becomes exasperated.
2:00 PM	The negotiators come to an agreement.
5:38 PM	Waxing gibbous moonrise
5:26 PM	Sunset
11:00 PM	Gates agrees to a final word change.
12:00 Midnight	Burgoyne grasps at straws.

Table 5.9. Thursday, October 16, 1777

1:00 AM	A final messenger from Clinton appears.
5:58 AM	Full moonset
6:41 AM	Sunrise
7:00 AM	Burgoyne grasps at one last straw.
8:00 AM	Gates issues an ultimatum.
9:00 AM	A family reunion in Fish Kill.
10:00 AM	At last, an agreement.
5:25 PM	Sunset
6:09 PM	Full moonrise
6:00 PM	Burgoyne prepares to surrender.

Table 5.10. Friday, October 17, 1777

6:26 AM	Full moonset
6:42 AM	Sunrise, cloudy and cold
8:00 AM	Americans hope for the best, prepare for the worst.
9:00 AM	Burgoyne signs the capitulation.
2:00 PM	The British army lays down its arms.
3:00 PM	British and German troops march into captivity.
3:45 PM	Burgoyne and Gates meet.
5:23 PM	Sunset
6:43 PM	Full moonrise
6:00 PM	Gates writes home.
7:00 PM	Burgoyne contemplates the future.
9:00 PM	Saratoga has changed everything.