

Character Analysis of General Horatio Gates

H. Allen Skinner

HIUS 512: Final Research Paper

19 March 2023

Agenda

- Introduction
- Horatio Gates' Formative Years
- Gates Joins the Revolution
- The Saratoga Campaign
- The Conway Cabal and Other Controversies
- The Camden Campaign
- Aftermath
- Analysis of Gates' Generalship & Character
- Conclusion



Figure 1. Gilbert Stuart, *Horatio Gates*, c. 1794. Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horatio_Gates#/media/File:HoratioGatesByStuart_crop.jpg

Formative Years

- Born 1727 in modest circumstances
- British army 1745-1769
- Resigns due to lack of career advancement
- Emigrates to Virginia in 1772



Figure 2. Unknown artist. *Soldier of the 20th regiment, 1742*. PD-old-100.
https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/?num=12&parent_id=293136&word=&snum=&s=¬word=&d=&c=&f=&sScope=&sLevel=&sLabel=&imgs=12&pNum=

Gates Joins the Revolution

- June 1775: Appointed first Adjutant General of the Army
- Oct 1775: Command of Canadian Department
- 1776: Command at Ticonderoga
- August 1777: Appointed commander of Northern Department



Figure 3. *Horatio Gates Esq., Major General of the American forces. United States, 1778.* London: Publish'd as the Act directs by John Morris, Jany. 2nd. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003675468/>.

The Saratoga Campaign

- June 1777: British army under General John Burgoyne invades New York
- July 1777: Fall of Ticonderoga
- August 1777: Schuyler relieved by Gates
- 19 September 1777: Battle of Freeman's Farm
- 7 October 1777: Battle of Bemis Heights
- 17 October 1777: Burgoyne surrenders to Gates

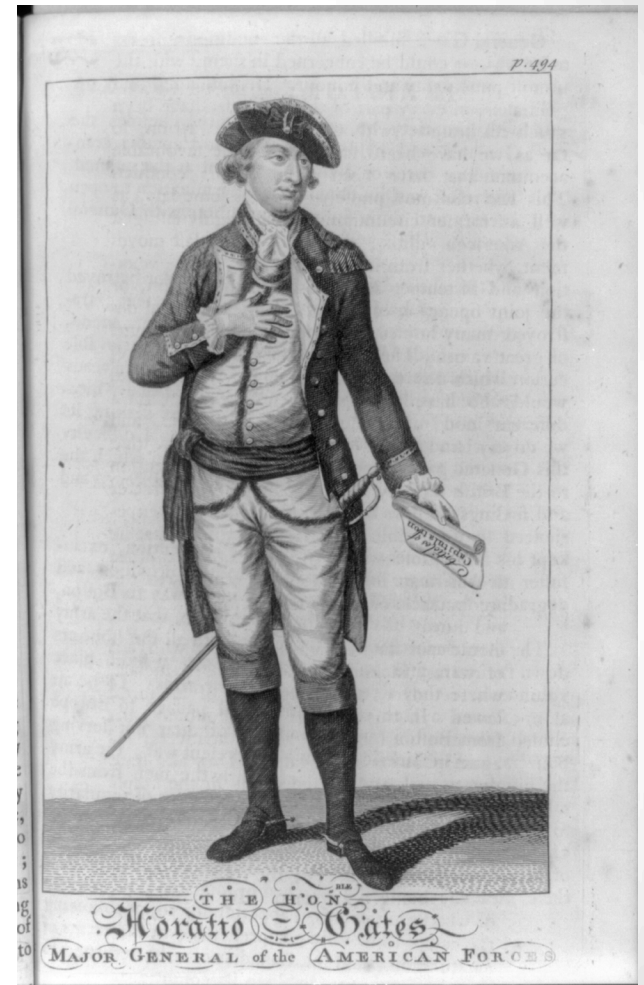


Figure 5. *The honble. Horatio Gates, major general of the American forces, United States 1780.* Photograph, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003675470/>.



SURRENDER OF GENERAL BURGOTYNE AT SARATOGA N.Y. OCT. 17TH 1777.

FROM THE ORIGINAL PAINTING BY COLONEL TRUMBULL IN THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON

PUBLISHED BY N. CURRIER, 152 NASSAU ST. NEW YORK

166
Surrender of Gen. Burgoyne at Saratoga N.Y. Oct. 17th 1777

Figure 6. N. Currier, and John Trumbull. *Surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga N.Y. Oct. 17th.* United States New York, ca. 1852. New York: Published by N. Currier. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2002695771/>.

General Benedict Arnold

- 1740-1801
- Prewar Connecticut merchant
- 1775: Joins Continental Army
- 1775: Captures Ticonderoga
- Promoted Major General
- Slighted after Saratoga
- September 1780: offers to surrender West Point for £ 20,000
- 1780-1783 British general



Figure 7. Colonel Arnold - who commanded the provincial troops sent against Quebec, through the wilderness of Canada, and was wounded in storming that city, under General Montgomery. United States, 1776. London: Published by Thos. Hart. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2001696987/>.

BICKERSTAFF'S
BOSTON
ALMANACK,

For the Year of our REDEMPTION,

1778.

Being the Second Year of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

And the Second after LEAP-Year.

Calculated for the Meridian of BOSTON, Lat. $42^{\circ} 25' N$.

CONTAINING, besides what is necessary in an Almanack, a
Variety of useful and instructing Pieces.

THE GLORIOUS WASHINGTON and GATES.



Calculated by BENJAMIN WEST, a Student in Astronomy, at
Providence, and Author of this Almanack for twelve Years past,
except those *false* Editions printed by Mycall, of *Newbury*,
for 76 and by Boyle and Draper and Phillips, of *Boston*, for 77 :
The Author of this *genuine* Copy never had any Connexions
with those Printers.

DANVERS: Printed by E. RUSSELL, at his Printing-Office,
late the Bell-Tavern. (Pr. 12/6. per Dozen and 1/6. single.)

Figure 8. West, Benjamin, Publisher. *The glorious Washington and Gates. United States, 1778.* Danvers: Printed by E. Russell, at his Printing Office, late the Bell-Tavern. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/200466682/>.



Figure 9. Chappel, Alonzo. *Battle of Camden-Death of De Kalb, August 1780*. Copy of engraving, 1931. Washington DC: National Archives. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/532872?objectPage=3>.

51 [1780, Aug. 30]

be furnished. This State Governor Nash assures me, with not hesitating
that in supplying these Part. General Lovens
informs me he has wrote frequently since our un-
fortunate Defeat to your Excellency he marched from
hence Yesterday, with what remained of your Militia
(about 400) - they are to be stationed for a time at
Guilford Court House. Four Hundred deserted in
the last three Days they were here. and the
General is apprehensive, he shall very soon be left by
many of those that went with him from hence. In your
Letter of the 1st Instant you mention 3^d Regulars,
being just fitted, and ready to sail from Petersburg,
3rd they were here, but as yet I have not intelligence
of their being upon the March. I beg Sir they
may be expedited to this Place. I shall do my utmost
to procure the best Intelligence of the ^{your} Movements of
the Enemy - of which you may depend upon my
giving you the earliest Information in my
power - I am &c

Y^{rs} 50 To His Excell^y Genl.
Washington Newburgh 30th August 1780

- Image of Horatio Gates' report to General Washington
- Date is 30 August 1780, ten days after the first report sent to President Samuel Huntington

Figure 10. Horatio Gates to George Washington. 08-30 1780. Manuscript/Mixed Material, Thomas Jefferson Papers at Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mtjbib025933/>.

Colonel Alexander Hamilton



- 1755-1804
- Orphaned at 13, sponsored to attend Kings College in 1772
- 1776: Commissioned captain of New York Artillery
- Fights with distinction at Bunker Hill, White Plains and Trenton
- 1777: Lieutenant Colonel and aide-de-camp to General George Washington
- October 1781: Leads assault at Redoubt No. 10, battle of Yorktown
- First Secretary of the Treasury

Figure 13. Alonzo Chappel, *Alexander Hamilton in the Uniform of the New York Artillery*, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alexander_Hamilton_1757_1804_hi.jpg.

After Camden

- After Camden, goes on leave of absence until August 1782
- Rejoins Washington's army at Newburgh, New York
- Implicated in 1783 "Newburgh Conspiracy"
- Wife Elizabeth dies in 1783
- Retires to Traveller's Rest in 1784
- Remarries in 1784
- Sells estate in 1790, and moves to New York City
- Dies in 1806



Figure 14. James Peale, *Horatio Gates* ca. 1782. Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Horatio_Gates_at_National_Portrait_Gallery_crop.jpg

Conclusion & Questions