



Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

Green Mountain Boys

Vermont was not one of the 13 colonies. Families from southern New England who settled in the ‘Grants’ (as the New Hampshire titled lands were known) created communities similar to the ones they had left behind.

They were confident that if they moved their families, built farms, and worked the land, their claims would be justified.

They believed that the royal governments of New Hampshire and New York, representing the king, wouldn’t deny the rights of citizens who tamed the land, organized governments, paid taxes, and obeyed the laws.

When the ‘Yorkers’ (as the New York landholders were called) started to stake their claims, the troubles began.

The Green Mountain Boys at present-day Bennington, Vermont, was an unauthorized militia organized to defend the property rights of local residents who had received land grants from New Hampshire.

New York, which then claimed present-day Vermont, disputed New Hampshire’s right to grant land west of the Green Mountains.

When a New York sheriff, leading 300 militiamen, attempted to take possession of Grants farms in 1771, he was met with resistance.

A determined group of Bennington militia led by Ethan Allen and Remember Baker blocked his efforts. Several Grants towns then organized committees of safety and military companies to protect their interests against the Yorkers.

These military groups called themselves “The New Hampshire Men” while New York authorities referred to them as the “Bennington Mob” and rioters.

By 1772, they were called the “Green Mountain Boys.” Their leader Ethan Allen declared they were fighting for their “liberty, property, and life.”

The Green Mountain Boys stopped sheriffs from enforcing New York laws and terrorized settlers who had New York grants, burning buildings, stealing cattle, and occasional floggings.

A Green Mountain Boys regiment was on July 4, 1775 and they became part of the Continental Army (part of the Northern Army). Control of Lake Champlain was a crucial military objective.



GREEN MOUNTAIN RANGERS, 1776
PRIVATE IN DRESS UNIFORM

When the British were defeated at Bennington and again at Saratoga, they gave up their plan to control Lake Champlain.

This was a turning point in the war, as it allowed the Continental Army to turn southward and convinced France to enter the war as an ally of the Americans.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: www.sar.org

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