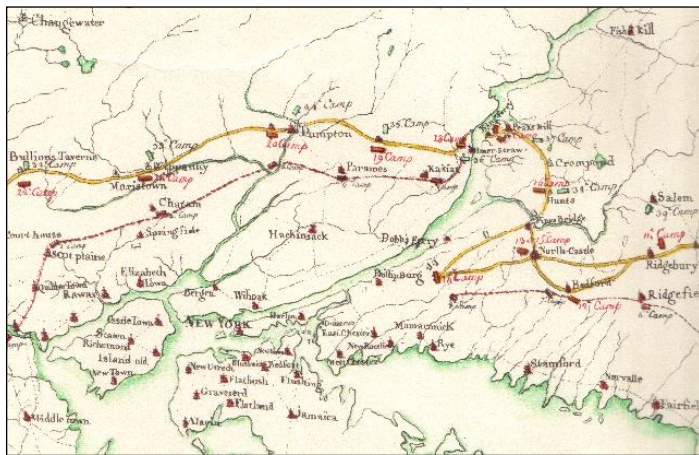


Phase I, Historic Resource Survey

Archaeological Investigations of the Revolutionary War Encampments of the French Army in the State of New York

Plotting the various marches of the French army in New York State during the American Revolution is not a new idea: John A. Stevens wrote about the marches and camps in New York in a series of articles published in *The Magazine of American History* in 1880 and 1881. Later efforts include those of Otto Hufeland (1926), Alan Forbes (1946), and John A. Scott (1981). While these writers relate the route to contemporary landmarks in only general terms, Robert A. Selig in 2001 identified the march routes using modern road names and state highway numbers. Because of the specificity of Selig's descriptions, it was not thought necessary to repeat descriptions of the various movements in any detail in this document. Instead, it was the purpose of this study to graphically depict the movements of the French army on modern-day maps, using as the base reference the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical quadrangles, 7.5 Minute Series (scale 1:24000, or one inch equaling 2,000 feet). These maps allowed persons to follow the route as closely as it can be known.



Camps 11-22 along Rochambeau's 1781 March

To confirm the routes taken, and the campsite locations, we developed an "archaeological signature" for the metal campsite artifacts. The signature included military uniform buttons, gun parts, musketballs, sword and cannon components, and the like. Metal artifacts were chosen because they would be the most numerous and also the easiest to find using metal detectors. We were successful in locating all surviving camps to which we had access.

This report summarized the march routes of the main part of the army are shown on a series of twenty-three 11" by 17" excerpts from the USGS topographical maps. The forward and return march routes (sometimes the same) were shown, along with the sites of the various encampments. Two, three, and sometimes four quadrangles were montaged in order to provide continuity in the march. Because the French moved in both east-west and north-south directions, the map excerpts are presented in both portrait and landscape orientations.