

Vocabulary from the primary source texts

3-pounder, 6-pounder – cannons firing **balls** or **grape shot** of those weights

assault – attack

ball – usually a musket ball (bullet), sometimes a cannon ball

bayonet – a pointed rod for stabbing attached to the end of the barrel of a gun

breastwork – a defensive structure that is chest high (often made of logs)

Brunswicker – a German soldier from the state of Brunswick (all but a few of the German soldiers at the Battle of Bennington were Brunswickers)

check – stop (“check an army’s progress”); also, a setback (“receive a check”)

clamber – climb with difficulty

commence – begin

commission – give someone a job to do; also, the job itself

conceal – hide

dragoon – a soldier who is supposed to ride a horse; Baum’s dragoons lacked horses

entrenchment – a defensive structure made of earth, logs, etc.

envelop – surround

esteem – think well of

exhume – dig up

falter – grow weaker

field pieces – cannons

flax – a kind of tall grass used to make clothing

fortifications – defensive structures

grapeshot – small balls (30 or so) shot from a cannon all at once

grenadier – a kind of foot soldier

Hessian – a German soldier in the Revolutionary War, sometimes from the German state of Hesse, sometimes not

impending – coming soon

infantry – soldiers who fight on foot

Loyalist (also *Royalist*) – an American who sided with the British

meeting house – a church or other main public building in a town

mortally – fatally

musket – a gun with a smooth bore firing round bullets

neutral – not taking sides

non-combatant – someone who chooses not to fight

Patriot – an American supporting Congress

plunder – take possessions by force (also, the things that are taken, as after a battle)

rebel – the name given by the British to Americans who fought against the King; also, with the stress on the second syllable, to rise up against authority

redoubt – a defensive structure, a fortification to protect soldiers

reluctant – hesitant to do something

repent – regret

rifle – a gun with a grooved bore

sinews – muscles and tendons

summons – a call to come

terminating – ending

works – defensive structures

Tory – a Loyalist, a civilian supporter of the King

widow – a woman whose husband has died

widower – a man whose wife has died