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

**mortal(ly)** – 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