

*Gentlemen, I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this letter and to consider the extraordinary circumstances of my dear wife, Sarah Hull.*



**UPSTATE NEW YORK  
1777**



*Sarah, like to many others, took on the task of following the army as we served under General Gates and General Lincoln to repel the British whenever possible.*

*She was not only an asset to myself personally, but to the men in my cadre and to the cause overall.*





*As a camp follower,  
she was both common and  
uncommon in her duties.*



*As officers, you are all well acquainted  
with the women who trailed the army on  
the march, for your own wives were surely  
among them at one point or another.*



*It is true that many  
of the women are  
hired on as servants  
and washerwomen  
and nurses and  
cooks, but Sarah  
was none of these.*



*Sarah Hull, or Sarah Frater, as she was when I met her, is a child of both God and nature, as familiar with a rifle as with a darning needle.*



*She is utterly untamable, so our marriage was more a situation of her choosing me than the other way round. I knew instinctively that I would never be able to control Sarah the way men sometimes expect to be masters of their homes, so I never made the attempt.*



SERGEANT HULL?

CAN SOMEONE DIRECT ME TO SERGEANT HULL'S TENT?



ARTILLERYMEN ARE CAMPED JUST OVER THERE, MISS.

THANK YOU.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?



PRIVATE JOHN WARD, MISS.

I'M MRS. HULL. THE SERGEANT IS MY HUSBAND. YOU SHOULD COME BY FOR A BITE TO EAT, PRIVATE WARD. DO YOU HAVE ANYONE WITH YOU?

NO ONE, MRS. HULL. BUT I DON'T THINK IT'D BE PROPER, ME EATING WITH THE ARTILLERYMEN.



*She would range far from the army train, hunting and trapping and foraging as required...*



*...and reappear at dinner with enough food for my entire cadre. She would then work well into the night, and at some point before dawn, I would feel her lie down beside me and rest.*



*I viewed my husbandly obligation in this most unusual of marriages to always be a positive and joyous presence around her, to be gracious and thankful and respectful of her time and talents, to never overburden her or take her for granted.*



*I continued this in our postwar life as well, and I believe we've had a happier marriage than most as a result.*



*She is, as I have stated, a most extraordinary woman.*

*Speaking specifically of the Saratoga campaign, of the battles of 19 September and 7 October, 1777, she was utterly indispensable, and it is to that point that I direct my energies in writing to you.*





**THE BATTLE OF BEMIS HEIGHTS**  
**THE SECOND BATTLE OF SARATOGA**  
**OCTOBER 7, 1777**

