

Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

2015 Saratoga National Historical Park Quarter – New York

Thirtieth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The fifth and final America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2015 honors Saratoga National Historical Park in New York. The coin was also the 30th in the series and completes the sixth year of the collection. Eventually, the series will feature a National Park or other national site in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories.

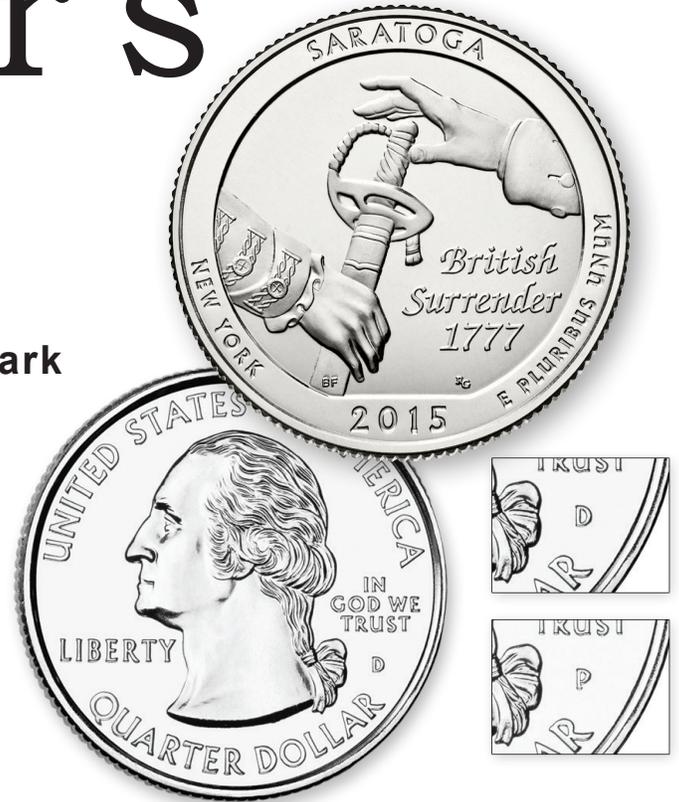
Five new coins are issued each year, and the series will continue in 2016 with coins for Shawnee National Forest in Illinois, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in Kentucky, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia, Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, and Fort Sumter National Monument in South Carolina.

The minting period for each America the Beautiful Quarter is only about 10 weeks. When the limited mintage is over, no additional coins can ever be struck and production starts on the next coin.

All but a few coins are released into circulation, leaving just a tiny fraction in original Brilliant Uncirculated condition for collectors. Each Quarter is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two different coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark on the obverse under "In God We Trust."

Saratoga National Historical Park, which was established in 1938, honors the 1777 Battles of Saratoga and the British surrender at Saratoga on October 17, 1777. It is located on 3,394 acres at the battle site on the upper Hudson River in eastern New York.

The surrender by British General John Burgoyne to American General Horatio Gates was the first major American victory in the American Revolution and one of the most important military victories in American history. It was also a turning point in



the war, because it boosted American confidence, proved that the Americans were capable of fighting a major European power, and resulted in France entering the war as an American ally.

The main attractions at the park are the Visitor Center, which includes battle artifacts and historical displays, and the battlefield itself. However, the park also includes the Schuyler House – the country house of General Philip Schuyler, an American general in the American Revolution – and the Saratoga Monument, a 155-foot obelisk commemorating the American victory.

The reverse of the 2015 Saratoga National Historical Park Quarter represents the moment General Burgoyne – whose hand is shown holding the sword – surrendered his sword to General Gates. The image was inspired by artist John Trumbull's 1821 painting, *Surrender of General Burgoyne*, in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

The United States Mint prepared nine additional designs for the Saratoga Quarter, all of which were created after consulting with representatives of Saratoga National Historical Park to assure historical accuracy in all the details. Six of the designs also highlighted the British surrender, with various images of Burgoyne handing his sword to Gates; the remaining three depicted cannons of the type used in the American Revolution.

The Saratoga National Historical Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in November 2015.

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