

formed his line the Americans were on the alert. The American left was composed of two brigades under Generals Poor and Learned, with Morgan's Rifle corps and New England Militia. Morgan, with about fifteen hundred men, was ordered out to an eminence on Burgoyne's right, while General Poor's brigade and a part of Learned's moved to attack the British left and center. Morgan first became engaged with the Canadians and savages whom he drove back to the main British line. On the left of the British line, which had moved forward to a wheat field, was Major Ackland with the artillery under Major Williams. The center was composed of Brunswickers under Riedesel, and British under Phillips. The light infantry under Earl Balcarras was on the left. In advance of the right was Frazer with five hundred (Neilson says a thousand) picked men. At half-past two o'clock the Americans attacked both flanks of the British. The British artillery on the left fired over the heads of the Americans, who rapidly advanced and delivering their fire opened to right and left, sheltering themselves by the woods fronting the British to avoid the sweep of the artillery, then charged to the very mouths of the cannon. Five times one of the cannon was taken and retaken, finally remaining with the Americans, the British falling back. The Americans greatly encouraged pressed the British on every side. Major Ackland* was shot through both legs and made a prisoner, and Major Williams was captured. On the British right Morgan made a furious attack and drove Frazer back to the main line. Morgan moved quickly to the left and again attacked the British right throwing it into confusion. While changing position to

* Major Ackland was carried to General Poor's quarters (the Neilson House) where his wife, Lady Harriet Ackland, who had been with him in the British army since 1776, joined him two days after the battle. This beautiful and accomplished lady, with a letter from Burgoyne, was carried in an open boat accompanied by Chaplain Brudenell and attendants, from Burgoyne's army, north of Wilbur's Basin down the river during a drenching rain storm and landed at the American intrenchments on the river flat. When the sentinel hailed them Lady Harriet answered. She was then conveyed to her wounded husband, Major Ackland at a dinner party, after his return to England, warmly defended American courage against the aspersions of Lieutenant Lloyd. A duel followed in which Major Ackland was shot dead. Lady Harriet was insane for two years on account of his death, but recovered and married Chaplain Brudenell.