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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

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**File No. 343**

**1929 October 17**

**Remarks - Saratoga Battlefield, Saratoga, NY**

Remarks of Governor Roosevelt on Occasion of Visit to the  
Saratoga Battlefield, October 17, 1929

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This country has been made by Tim Murphys, by the men in the ranks. Conditions here have called for the qualities of heart and head that Tim Murphy had in such abundance. He and other colonists, fighting in the ranks did more than some of the generals. It is to the men in the ranks more than to the generals that we are indebted.

The World War was over only eleven years ago, yet the battlefields of 1917 and 1918 on which our soldiers fought are already almost obliterated. Perhaps it is well that the marks of war should be eradicated as soon as possible, but on a battlefield like this at Saratoga, we should be able to

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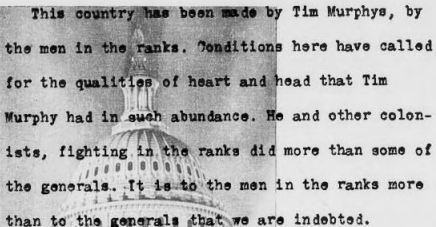
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visualize the history which was made here. We should have some central spot from which anyone with no knowledge whatever of military science should be able to understand it.

In the geographies in schools, the position of the 13 original colonies, showing how the Hudson Valley formed a dividing line of the colonies and control of the valley would separate the eastern from the western part of the thirteen colonies as Burgoyne sought to do, should be taught the pupils. We must remember, as we hark back to the battle, that the valley which extends from the St. Lawrence through Lake Champlain and along the Hudson river to the sea, split in two the New England States and the South. It was to effect a definite division between forces in the two sections that the British made their drive up the river to Kingston, and down from Canada until stopped on the ground where we now stand. Their plan came close to succeeding, and would have but for the courage of the men who lie buried yonder and their comrades who survived the terrible battle.

The Federal Government should make this battlefield a national shrine. We must not let Saratoga become just a point of interest, but the National Government should rightfully and properly take up the cause which the State has started, and recognize in this spot a national shrine. This field was the scene of much more than a battle. It was the scene of the birth of American Independence in fact, just as surely as the Declaration of Independence was the birth in theory. The field, therefore, is a shrine. It is more than a battlefield. The State Government, the administration, and I am sure the Legislature, will continue slowly but definitely to round out this battlefield and make it a real national shrine.

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