

# BATTLE LINES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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Members of the recreated 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment, including Saratoga Battle Chapter members, fired off a Revolutionary War-era cannon during the dedication of the new Surrender Site memorial in October.

## Surrender Site Unveiled

By Edward Munger Jr.

Cannon smoke filled the Schuylerville hilltop where dozens gathered to celebrate the new memorial honoring Patriots involved in the pivotal Battles of Saratoga.

The October 17, 2019 gathering marked the 242<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of British General John Burgoyne's surrender to American General Horatio Gates following the Americans' Revolutionary War victories at Saratoga.

Several members of the Saratoga Battle Chapter gathered with founders, supporters and others who worked for years to establish the Saratoga Surrender Site memorial.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter's Color Guard marched the American Flag to the podium and, later in the event, sounded a 1700s replica cannon as the recreated 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Artillery Regiment.

The October event recognized the monumental impact the British Army's surrender at Saratoga had on the world stage. It also served as a time to thank many individuals and groups who made the memorial a reality.

The Saratoga Surrender Site features a granite memorial wall on the same hill overlooking the Hudson River where British and American troops gathered for a feast and ceremonial sword surrender.

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## In Our Memory

Submitted By Duane Booth

T

he chapter is saddened to learn of the passing of chapter member John H. Sheaff.

John joined the Saratoga Battle Chapter when he, as President of the local Wal-loomsac Battle Chapter, and then Saratoga Battle Chapter President George H. Ballard decided that both chapters would benefit by joining the other's chapter as Dual

Chapter Members.



This idea was a big success and resulted in a bigger SAR participation in community events such as the August 16<sup>th</sup> ceremony at the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Patriot Henry Perry

Submitted by Michael Companion

H

enry Perry was born on May 9, 1763 in Tiverton, Rhode Island. He was the son of Paul Perry of Tiverton.

The 1774 census record of Rhode Island indicated that Henry had 3 sisters, one of which was named Huldah, as

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# Upcoming Events

- February 2020 (date TBD) - Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner at The Century House.
- Saturday, July 4, 2020 10:00 AM - The 18th Annual Citizenship Ceremony, Saratoga National Historical Park's Visitor's Center, Stillwater, NY.
- Sunday, August 2, 2020, Schuylerville, NY Turning Point Parade, 1:00 pm step-off.
- September (date TBD), 2:00 pm - Annual Wreath Laying at stop #2 of the Saratoga National Park's Tour Road (DAR Monument) and Chapter Meeting.
- Friday, October 16th, 2020, 10 AM - Surrender Day Ceremony, Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville, NY.
- Check our website for more details on events for 2020 <http://www.saratogabattle-sar.org/>



## Compatriot Sheaff ...

(Continued from page 1)

Bennington Battlefield, and the Turning Point Parade and the October 17<sup>th</sup> Sword Surrender events in Schuylerville.

John and George knew that more SAR members at more community events was always good.

John usually showed up at the Turning Point Parade with a float and encouraged Saratoga Battle members to help with Walloomsac Battle events.

John and George, who passed away in 2009, started this in 2007 and the chapters to this day continue to work together on events.

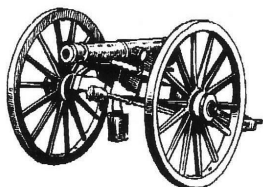
John, and his wife Lois, could usually be found at Saratoga Battle Chapter meetings and events and John offered many good ideas.

John joined the SAR in 1994 as a charter member of the Walloomsac Battle Chapter and shortly thereafter became its Chapter President, a position he held until June of this year or about 23 years.

John was proud of his patriot ancestor Robert Blair of NY who served in General Washington's Guard.

John was Revolutionary War history buff and several years ago donated several paintings to the Syracuse Chapter for display at the State Fair booth.

Our condolences to John's wife Lois and the entire Sheaff family.



## President's Dispatch

By Michael Companion

Greetings Compatriots,

As 2019 comes to an end I offer best wishes for the upcoming year for our members and families.

It is hard to believe that it will be a year in February, since I was given the honor of serving as the President of the best Chapter in The Empire State.

Forgive the bluster but we have a lot to be proud of - the hard work of the officers and the commitment of our membership.

Our continued participation and support in community events enables us to promote the values of the Sons of the American Revolution and our Patriot ancestors which is necessary to the preservation of American ideas and preservation of our way of life.

Sadly, in this last year we have lost a few of our longtime members, and they will be missed.

The best way to recognize our fallen Compatriots is to continue their legacies by making our Chapter the best it can be.

I hope to see you again at the February 22, Meeting.

Have a Happy New Year,  
Mike Companion



*Paul Revere's Ride*—from the National Archives and Records Administration.



(Continued from page 1)

Centered on the stone wall is a sculpture in brass by Artist Chas Fagan. The artwork is a rendition of artist John Trumbull's 1821 painting depicting Gen. Burgoyne's surrender.

A granite memorial opposite the stone wall honors the generals of the army and the militia members who captured victory at the Battles of Saratoga. It reads:

"The Saratoga Surrender Site is dedicated to the soldiers of the United States Army who on this spot accepted the surrender of a British army and forever changed the course of American and World history."

Saratoga Town Supervisor Thomas N. Wood III served as Master of Ceremonies during the event, offering thanks and welcome to all in attendance.

U.S. Army veteran Larry J. Arnold, a seasonal interpretive Park Ranger at Saratoga Battlefield and past president of the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, who served as chairman of the Surrender Site fundraising project, offered words of welcome and history during remarks to the group.

"The British plan of invasion was to end the American war for independence, but instead led to a devastating British defeat," Arnold said.

"The path that led us here to today's celebrations and the building of this beautiful park was long, but thankfully it brought together a diverse work group and a community that saw the value and the historic significance of this site."

The property went up for sale in 2006, Arnold said, and NYS Assemblyman Steve Englebright and his colleague Sen. Roy McDonald secured state funding to purchase the land. Early on, donations from the National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program, the Children of the American Revolution and the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust "got the ball rolling," Arnold said.

"These donations paved the way for what you see here today," Arnold said.

## FEAST AFTER SURRENDER

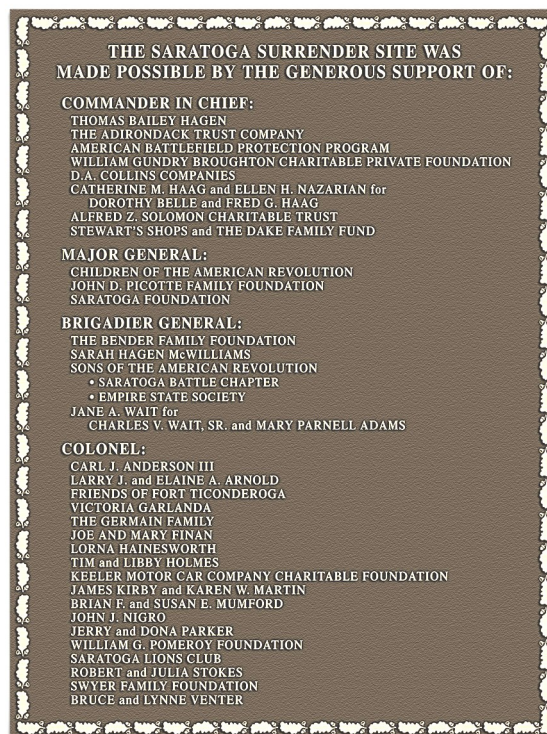
Historian Eric Schnitzer, a Park Ranger at Saratoga National Historical Park, gave an account of this historic day, using details gleaned from the writings of those who were

there.

There was a feast beneath awnings set up for the occasion, Schnitzer said.

The "extraordinary surrender of a British Army," never before happened in the history of the world, he said.

There are many eyewitness journals and letters that provide a narrative of the day's



*A plaque at the new Saratoga Surrender Site honors donors who helped make it possible, including the Saratoga Battle Chapter and Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Image provided by Larry Arnold*

events, Schnitzer said.

Burgoyne and Gates met a half-mile from the surrender site, Schnitzer said, where one of the Continental soldiers recalled Burgoyne approaching Gates with his hat off, extending a handshake. It was their first meeting face to face.

The entourage went to the hilltop – now decorated with the new Surrender Site memorial – and had a dinner, Schnitzer said. They sat beneath awnings set up for the feast.

Schnitzer said an anonymous British officer listed the menu for the afternoon meal: "A ham, a goose, some beef, and a boiled mutton. The liquor was New England Rum, mixed with rum without sugar."

Gates is said to have filled a cup for a toast and "in the most polite and liberal manner, drank to his Britannic majesty's health." Not to be outdone in politeness, General Burgoyne filled a cup and "Drank to General Washington's health," Schnitzer said.

The size of the Saratoga-area Revolutionary War engagement is evident in the number of people there. Schnitzer said in total, the American northern army totaled 17,000 which included U.S. Continental Army officers and soldiers from Massachusetts New York, New Hampshire Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Most of the American military men were from the militias of the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut and New York. Vermont – which at the time was a newly-declared, independent republic, sent militia troops under the leadership of Brigadier General Jacob Bailey, Schnitzer said.

The surrender and departure of British forces included a gauntlet of sorts – as the vanquished trudged down the road while the victorious Americans lined both sides.

Burgoyne's troops surrendered their weapons on the "Field of Broken Arms," present-day Fort Hardy Park.

Nearly 7,000 soldiers, officers and women and children marched down the road at about 3 p.m., Schnitzer said. The British were in the lead, followed by Germans and then a dwindling number of American Loyalists – those still loyal to the British Crown – and French Canadians. American Indians and First Nations people all left before the surrender took place, Schnitzer said. At the end of the column were hundreds of barefooted women and children, Schnitzer said.

A surprised German officer wrote that the American victors "stood straight and in orderly lines. There was absolute silence in those regiments as can only be demanded from the best disciplined troops. Not a single man gave any evidence or the slightest impression of feeling hatred, mockery malicious pleasure or pride for our miserable fate. Their modesty rather filled us with amazement."

As the defeated group made its way off, the Fifes and Drums played "Yankee Doodle," Schnitzer said.

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## Henry Perry ...

mentioned in his Revolutionary War pension record. The family moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts before 1777.

On August 10, 1777, Henry, age 14, enlisted in the Massachusetts State Militia as a substitute for his father, Paul, who was drafted for six weeks service. Paul may have been unable to serve due to the necessity of caring for his family, so Henry served in his place. Despite the fact the age of enlistment was 15 years old, Henry enlisted as a Private under Captain Earl of the 13th Massachusetts Regiment, commanded by Colonel Cook.

His first service consisted of six weeks, beginning with a march to Howland's Ferry, Rhode Island, then to Newport Island. British forces would drive them toward Providence and then to Pautuxet Falls, in what was known as the Battle of Rhode Island.

The Battle of Rhode Island was also known as the Battle of Quaker Hill and the Battle of Newport. American Forces were commanded by Col. John Sullivan and consisted of about 10,100 Continentals and an assortment of Militia units. Sullivan had initially landed near Newport by ship to lay siege to town.

American forces withdrew to the northern part of Aquidneck Island after abandoning their siege of Newport, Rhode Island when the British forces in Newport sortied, supported by recently arrived Royal Navy ships, and attacked the retreating Americans.

The battle ended inconclusively, but

afterwards Continental forces withdrew to the mainland, leaving Aquidneck Island in British hands. American casualties were estimated to be 30 killed, 173 wounded, and 44 missing. British casualties were estimated to be 38 killed, 210 wounded, and 12 missing out of about 7,000 soldiers.

The battle was the first attempt at cooperation between French and American forces following France's entry into the war as an American ally.

Operations against Newport were planned in conjunction with a French fleet and troops, but they were frustrated in part by difficult relations between the commanders, as well as by a storm that damaged both French and British fleets shortly before joint operations were to begin.

The battle was also notable for the participation of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment under the command of Colonel Christopher Greene, which consisted of Africans, American Indians, and white colonists. The result of the battle was a British victory.

In October 1777, Paul Perry was again drafted for three weeks. Henry again served as his substitute, marching to Sakonnet Point then again to Howland's Ferry, where he was discharged at the last of October or first of November, 1777.

He reentered service as a volunteer on the 5th day of June 1779 in the Company of Captain Page, under the command of Colonel Sprout of the 13th Regiment. He marched to West Point to garrison the Fort

until the month of November, when his company and a body of five hundred men who had been detached from the rest of the Army went to a place called Young's on the east side of the Hudson River, about twenty miles below West Point.

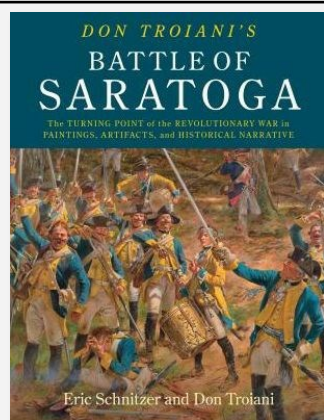
He remained here to about the last of December or first of January, then marched back again to West Point at which place he was discharged on the 27th day of April 1780. He returned home on the 7th day of May.

Based on his pension record inscribed on the Roll of New York, Henry served for 12 months and 27 days in the service of his country, and received a yearly pension at the rate of 38 Dollars and 32 cents, which commenced on the 4th day of March, 1834. His service had marched him through New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts & Rhode Island.

Henry married Anna(?) sometime before 1784. Cemetery records for the Town of Providence, in Saratoga County New York indicate Anna was born in 1768. He and Anna would have at least 4 children: Mary, Eunice, Gideon, and John.

Henry brought his family to Washington County, New York by 1810. He would move several more times to Saratoga and Fulton Counties as well, before eventually settling in the Town of Providence, Saratoga County.

Henry died in Providence on March 18, 1842. Anna passed away on February 14, 1848. Both were laid to rest in Clark Cemetery, Clark Road in Providence.



### Historian Eric Schnitzer and Artist Don Troiani Publish New Text on Battle of Saratoga

The Battles of Saratoga are cited as the turning point in the Revolutionary War. Beginning when the armies prepared to face off in June 1777 through the surrender of the British Army in October, the battles of the Northern Campaign were significant to the outcome of the War and the fight for independence. As a result of the Saratoga battles, the patriots gained confidence, the French entered the war, and the British plan to win the war quickly was put to an end. Master historical painter Don Troiani and historian Eric Schnitzer combine their talents in this new book on Saratoga, the Revolutionary War campaign. This magnificently illustrated history features many new artworks, previously unpublished eyewitness accounts, photographs of important artifacts, and a solid, detailed historical narrative including background on the campaigns leading up to Saratoga. From: Barnes and Noble. Learn more at this link: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/don-troiani-campaign-to-saratoga-1777-eric-h-schnitzer/1130529441#/>





*The Saratoga Battle Chapter Color Guard joined in a Veterans Day commemoration at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery November 11, 2019 - the 100th Anniversary of the End of World War One. The Color Guard fired three cannon salutes at the end of the ceremony to honor all veterans living and dead. Members of the Color Guard who were present included Saratoga Battle Chapter President Michael Companion, First VP Michael Skelly, Compatriot Brian Companion, Compatriot Peter Hormell, Timothy Butler, Alfred Bartlett, Bradley Allen, Mary Skelly, and Fran Bartlett. Photo by Compatriot Peter Hormell.*

## Surrender site ...

*(Continued from page 3)*

Gates and Burgoyne, from the hill that now serves as the Surrender Site memorial, arose to watch the procession. It was at this time when Burgoyne handed his sword to Gates, Schnitzer said, and then Gates “gave it back to him, as a present.”

The end to the 1777 Battles of Saratoga marked an important point in the early days of the Revolutionary War, which raged on until 1783.

“Burgoyne’s surrender was only the beginning and few if any here in 1777 could have foreseen its ramifications,” Schnitzer said.

### RAMIFICATIONS

Educator James Kirby Martin, a Professor of History and author of *“Insurrection, the American Revolution and its Meaning,”* served as a keynote speaker during the site dedication.

There have been countless military engagements over the course of human history, Martin said, which highlight a harsh reality: Though millions suffered in and around them, most battles large or small “have really had little lasting significance beyond the momentary confrontation that occurred,” Martin said.

Of the untold number of battles, 15 were included in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Historian Sir Edward Cressey’s book *“The 15 Decisive Battles of the World.”* Among them are the 1066 Battle of Hastings, the 1588 defeat of the Spanish Armada; and the 1815 Battle of Waterloo in Belgium which ended the Napoleonic Wars.

Also prominent among Cressey’s list was the earth-shattering victory of the Americans over British General John Burgoyne, Martin said.

“What happened here wasn’t merely consequential ... it was of grand significance throughout modern history,” Martin said.

“This was, for the British Empire, the first time they’ve really lost a battle, and that’s a very, very tragic and traumatic thing for the British Empire,” Martin said.

He said the loss in the Northern Campaign shifted the British strategy, forcing their efforts to the south from 1778 to 1781 where the British lost a second army at Yorktown—which represented the beginning of the end of the war, Martin said.

The American victory over the British led the French to form an alliance with America. France’s recognition of the young United States as a legitimate nation had important consequences, Martin said.

The United States arrived on the world stage as a new Republic among monarchies and totalitarian regimes across the world.

“It’s a beginning of something that will be very, very special,” Martin said.

“May this site serve as a lasting memorial to those who fought and died on both sides of this remarkable, decisive clash of arms. May it also serve as a daily reminder that freedom is not free, that it must be earned and preserved for the benefit of not just ourselves but also for our posterity.

I contend that the remarkable American Revolution was critical, going back to Saratoga, in creating and sustaining hope for greater freedom and liberty for all peoples across the face of the earth. Saratoga was at the heart of this highly consequential trend and development,” Martin said.





*Christmas Eve In Colonial Times, circa 1892, James S. King. From the Library of Congress*

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