



PROGRAM

The Lower Manhattan Historical Society with the gracious support and participation of member sponsoring organizations, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, the 1st Continental Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society and the National Democratic Club

Present:

The Third Annual New York City Commemoration of the American Victories at the Battles of Saratoga and Yorktown

Saturday, October 17th, 2015 at 2:30 pm
Trinity Churchyard, 75 Broadway at Wall Street

Honoring:

General Horatio Gates, Alexander Hamilton & Col. Marinus Willett

Welcoming

The Rev. Phillip A. Jackson, Vicar of Trinity Church

Master of Ceremonies

Ambrose M. Richardson III, Sons of the Revolution of the State of New York

Wreath Laying

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| General Horatio Gates | 1st New York Continental Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution |
| Alexander Hamilton | Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society, and the Sons of the Revolution of the State of New York |
| Marinus Willett | The Lower Manhattan Historical Society and the National Democratic Club |

General Horatio Gates

January 11, 1755 and July 12, 1804

After 25 years of service in the British army, Gates came to America at the age of 44, purchased a farm in Virginia, and volunteered to serve in the Continental Army after fighting broke out at Lexington and Concord. George Washington soon appointed him as the first Adjutant General of the United States Army, and his skills as an administrative and supply officer proved invaluable to the fledgling army. In August 1777, he was appointed to take over command of the faltering Northern Department of the American army facing a 10,000 man British and German force led by Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne. Two months later on October 17, 1777, Burgoyne surrendered his entire army to Gates at Saratoga in one of the most stunning American victories of the Revolutionary War. He died and was buried in Trinity Churchyard in 1806, and was largely forgotten until the New York State Daughters of the American Revolution convinced Trinity Church to permit them to place a plaque in Trinity Churchyard in his honor.

Alexander Hamilton

January 11, 1755 and July 12, 1804

Hamilton began his public career as a teenager with a spell binding speech at a patriot rally on July 4, 1774. His efficiency and bravery as an artillery captain of a New York regiment brought him to the attention of George Washington after the Battle of Harlem Heights, and he became one of Washington's key aides. At Yorktown, Washington placed him in charge of the American force that attacked Redoubt No. 10, the last British defense point, which was successful and led to the British surrender. After the War and the enactment of the U.S. Constitution, Washington named him the first Secretary of the Treasury, and his farsighted economic policies revived the American economy. He was one of the organizers of the Bank of New York, New York's first bank, and after his service as Treasury Secretary became an active lawyer and the leader of New York's federalist party, which was the predominant political party in New York City until 1800, when it was defeated by the pro Jeffersonian Republican party led by Aaron Burr and Marinus Willett, and its celebrity candidates like Horatio Gates. In 1804, Hamilton was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr, then Vice President of the United States.

Marinus Willett

July 31, 1740—August 22, 1830

The only of the three patriots honored to be born in New York City, Willett first came to prominence as a Revolutionary War leader when on June 5, 1775 as a member of the Sons of Liberty he jumped in front of a heavily armed British convoy coming down Broad Street to bring heavy arms to the British in Boston in advance of the Battle of Bunker Hill. He later was leader in the New York militia whose heroic action at the Battle of Fort Stanwix prevented a three thousand man British force from providing support for Burgoyne. In 1790, George Washington entrusted him (though he was an Anti-Federalist) with the highly delicate and dangerous job of negotiating a peace treaty with the Creek Indians, which was concluded in New York. He later was a founder of the modern New York City Democratic Party, and was the City's Mayor in 1807. In 1814, at the age of 74, his stirring speech from the steps of City Hall urging young men to join the New York State militia when New York City was threatened with an attack from the British is credited with saving the City.



Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York was founded in 1876 by descendants of Revolutionary War veterans to celebrate the American Revolution and to educate the public about the struggle to achieve American liberty. Its charter states that one of its purposes is to commemorate the American victories at the Battles of Saratoga and Yorktown, and other Revolutionary War battles. Members of the organization must have an ancestor who fought in the Revolutionary War or otherwise placed themselves at risk for the American cause.



The Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society

The Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society was formed by Rand Scholet in 2011 to increase the awareness and appreciation for one of our nation's most influential Founding Fathers—Alexander Hamilton. In its relatively short period of existence, it has become one of the leading promoters of education about Alexander Hamilton, with extensive programs in Trinity Churchyard and elsewhere on the date of Alexander Hamilton's birth in January and his death on July 11. Nolan Asch, the president of the New York Chapter of the Society, will lay the wreath on Hamilton's grave and generally will speak about him at the ceremony.



1st New York Continental Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a national organization with more than 26,000 members dedicated to promoting interest in and knowledge about the American Revolution. Headquartered in Kentucky its purposes are similar to those of the Sons of the Revolution of the State of New York, although the membership qualifications are somewhat different. Wesley Oler IV, the President of the 1st Continental Chapter of the organization, has been active in assisting with the Saratoga/Yorktown ceremony both last year and this year, and in assisting with this year's July 4 celebration. He is also a member of the Board of Managers of the Sons of the Revolution of the State of New York.



The Lower Manhattan Historical Society

Established on August 13, 2014, the general purpose of the Lower Manhattan Historical Society is to promote the commemoration of historical events in Lower Manhattan (including the 4th of July); either on its own or in conjunction with other like-minded historical associations.



National Democratic Club

The National Democratic Club was first formed in 1834 as the Empire Club by United States Marshal and Tammany politician Isiah Rynders, was considered instrumental in the election of James K. Polk as 11th President of the United States in 1844 and thereafter was influential in local and national politics for more than 100 years. After the sale of its headquarters at 237 Madison Avenue (now the Polish embassy), it continued as a private club until 1988, after which control of the Club went to a group led by James S. Kaplan, Alan Weintraub, and Christopher Marlar, who testified in support of the Landmark Designation in 2013 of the last Tammany Hall headquarters on 17th Street.



Surrender of General Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga by John Trumbull
Commissioned by Congress in 1817 for the United States Capitol rotunda; placed in 1826



Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown by John Trumbull
Commissioned by Congress in 1817 for the United States Capitol rotunda; placed in 1820