

QUIZ:

What is PML's historic connection to both victor and vanquished of the Battles of Saratoga, 1777 (Generals Burgoyne & Gates)?

The Patchogue-Medford Library
54-60 East Main Street
Patchogue, NY 11772
(631) 654-4700



*Courtesy Patchogue-Medford Library
Local History Room*

ANSWER: Dr. Wellington E. Gordon, Member, Managing Committee of Patchogue Library Association, *1883-1899*, later a founding Trustee and first Treasurer of the public Library, serving ably from its inception on *August 7, 1900*, until his death on *April 4, 1926*. A Patchogue High School Principal, he became UFSD # 24's (which much later became Patchogue-Medford Schools) **first superintendent of schools**, and following his 1921 retirement, for a while **Patchogue Village Historian**, producing a manuscript, **History of Patchogue**, ca. 1924-25 (a copy of which is held by the PML Local History Room). Dr. Gordon was the great-grandson of a "**Hessian**" serving with **Burgoyne's Army**, who upon its surrender (in October 1777), promptly switched sides, fought with the **Continental Army** until war's end in 1783, and later, completing the irony, married the niece of Burgoyne's credited opponent at Saratoga, **Horatio Gates**.*

*Actually, Benedict Arnold, much as we hate to admit it, was the true victor of Saratoga. Gates brand of generalship became all-too-evident at Camden, a major British victory.

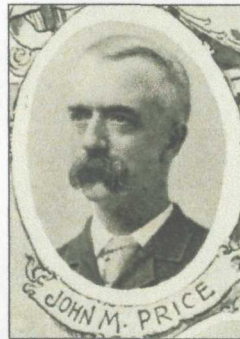
Source: "*Former School Superintendent Wellington E. Gordon Dies,*" *Patchogue Advance*, April 7, 1926.

QUIZ:

*What is PML's historic connection
to people and events of 1776:*

- (a) To the Battle of Long Island?*
- (b) To L.I.'s State Assemblyman & General Nathaniel Woodhull?*
- (c) To the notorious British prison ship, Jersey?*
- (d) To George Washington's Crossing of the Delaware?*
- (e) To the First Battle of Trenton that followed?*

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*Photo Courtesy Long Island Advance,
From A Souvenir of Patchogue (1896)*

ANSWER: **John M. Price**, Vice President of the Patchogue Library Association, 1884-1899, was a direct descendent, on his mother's side, of **Gen. Nathaniel Woodhull**, who was captured and mortally wounded at the **Battle of Long Island** on August 27, 1776, and later died aboard the pestilential prison ship *Jersey*. On his father's side, his great-grandfather, **Elijah Price**, was with Washington at the **crossing of the Delaware**, and ensuing **Battle of Trenton** on December 25, 1776. **John M. Price**, while still serving as a library board member, became first President (i.e., mayor) of Patchogue village, serving from its incorporation in 1893 to 1899. He also served as Brookhaven Town Supervisor and President of UFSD # 24 Board of Education.

Sources: Patchogue Library Association *Minutes*; Price's obituary in the *Patchogue Advance*, December 16, 1921: p. 1; "Patchogue's Presidents and Mayors," *Patchogue Village Centennial Issue*, *Long Island Advance*, September 9, 1993: p. 4.