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

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.