



Friends of Saratoga Battlefield

Newsletter



Gen. Burgoyne October 17, 1777

Fall Winter 2024



Saratoga Surrender Site August 2020

Volume 32 Issue 2

President's Message: Thank You To donors

2024 has been a breakthrough year for Saratoga National Historical Park.

- Events are at full scale
- Outstanding waysides have been installed throughout the Battlefield after a long period of preparation
- The Park is fully staffed

The Friends of Saratoga Battlefield endeavor to support the Park in planning, interpretation and visitor experience. Contributions from members make the difference in the Friends' continued action in supporting the Park.

Upcoming events represent a bonus season between Surrender Day and Thanksgiving.

Veterans Day.

The Park's Program Manager for Interpretation and Visitor Experience, Garrett Cloer is taking the initiative to host a special Veterans Recognition Day on Saturday, 9 November 2024. This will include thanks and recognition to veterans, and informative displays for family members of all ages. Important veterans and military organizations will participate. The Friends of Saratoga Battlefield along with the Friends of the New York State Military Museum have been developing support.

Speaker series.

Garrett has organized an excellent line up of authors and speakers for this special season. The series culminates with Kevin Weddle who wrote *The Complete Victory*. It is the newest comprehensive telling of the Burgoyne Campaign and the victory at Saratoga.

For a current list events be sure to see the Battlefield's and Friends websites www.nps.gov/sara/ , friendsofthesaratogabattlefield.org/ , and www.facebook.com/FriendsofSaratogaBattlefield/ .

Special gifts.

Our sound base of contributors inspires special gifts. The passing of Bob Stokes, a longtime volunteer at the Park inspired his friends and family to form a special fund at the Friends. Designation of the use of funds will be announced as appropriate.

A generous contribution was received to fund casting of a French cannon, one of the Superintendent's 'wish list' items. When completed, this will add rare authentic detail on the Battlefield.

Our priorities include the run towards the **250th Anniversaries** of the American Revolution and Battles of Saratoga. As we move towards commemorating the Revolution, and the Battles of Saratoga in 2027, the Friends are planning to provide lasting gifts to the Battlefield to carry forward to future years.

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Our purposes engage a wide network. Because the Saratoga battles involved a vast expanse of territory and participants, our partners are many. We include national and international allies, and thank local groups for promoting all that we do in partnership with Saratoga National Historical Park.

Most of all we thank our steadfast donors and look forward to working with you on the opportunities of 2025.

Sincerely,

Tim Holmes

President, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield

Superintendent's Message

As we wind down the busy season here at Saratoga National Historical Park it has been another incredible year here at the park. This spring the park completed work on the upgrades to the tour stops funded through the Great American Outdoors Act. The new pathways and interpretive waysides have transformed the battlefield landscape and greatly improved the visitor experience. If you haven't visited recently be sure to stop by and check them out. The park team continues to work hard to get the park ready for the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. This includes new programming such as inviting Frederick Douglass back to Schuylerville to speak on democracy and maintenance activities to rehabilitate cannon carriages and replace the cannon platforms. We continue to improve access and accessibility with updates to the South Trailhead parking area (off route 32) and a new paved pathway to the Schuyler House. September and October were busy as usual with two successful encampment weekends, a Naturalization Ceremony during Constitution week, the addition of 25.6 acres through our partnership with the American Battlefield Trust (ABT), Candlelight Tour and so much more. We are incredibly grateful for all the volunteers, partners, and the community for all the support, we couldn't do it without you. We're sad to say goodbye to our amazing seasonal employees, but already prepping for next year. If you know anyone interested applications are open now for next summer: [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#). We'll switch to winter operations starting December 1st with the closure of the Tour Road and reduced hours at the visitor center (Friday-Sunday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm). The adventures don't stop however, so be sure to check out the fall lecture series, supported by the Friends, which starts October 24th and runs through November. You can find more information on park website: [Special Events and Programs - Saratoga National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

Leslie Morlock

Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park



Deed transfer Ceremony with ABT. NPS Photo



Replacement Cannon Platforms. NPS Photo

The US Navy Honors the Victory at Saratoga

...or "Six Saratoga Ships Sail the Seven Seas"

Richard Rosen, Friends Members and Nielson House Volunteer

It was just two and a half years after the 1777 Victory at Saratoga that Congress commissioned in the Continental Navy the first of six fighting ships that carried the name Saratoga well into the 20th century.

** ** *

Saratoga I: April 1780 to March 1781; service 11 months

This first Saratoga was a "sloop of war," a small, fast and maneuverable vessel intended to guard the coast and seek and capture enemy merchant shipping in the Atlantic and Caribbean. She was about 70' long with a crew of 80 and mounted 18 guns, mostly nine-pounders. Formidable enough to intimidate and overcome even armed merchant ships and combatants of similar class, but no match for the heavyweights of the Royal Navy.

Congress commissioned ships like our Saratoga and even some larger vessels into the nascent US Navy. These were accompanied by armed ships chartered by some of the states and by "privateers." Privateers were civilian ships officially authorized by Congress or states to harass and capture enemy shipping. The owners and crews shared any gain from the sale of the vessels and cargos ("prizes") that they might recover. Estimates suggest that there were several thousand privateers supplementing - and often sailing together with - ships of the "official" American navies during the Revolution.



Saratoga I
Naval History and Heritage Command

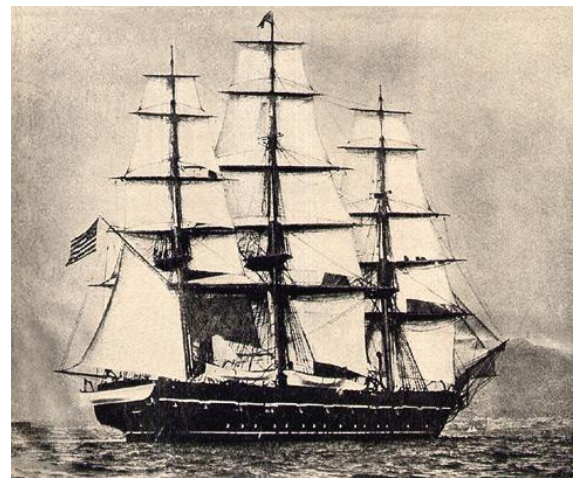
Saratoga I was lost without a trace following a storm off Haiti on March 15, 1781.

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Saratoga II: April 1814 to 1815; service 10 months (sold 1825)

Officially listed as a Corvette, this Saratoga was built in Vergennes, Vermont for service on Lake Champlain during the War of 1812. Larger than Saratoga I at 143 feet, with a complement of 212 officers and men. She had eight 24-pounder guns, six 42-pounder carronades, and twelve 32-pounder carronades. Carronades were short, smooth-bore heavy cannons for short-range combat.

In active service for a relatively short time, she nevertheless gave the United States a critical advantage in defeating the British attempt to, once again, invade New York via the lake corridor used by Burgoyne in 1777. With Saratoga as his flagship, Master Commandant Thomas MacDonough, overall commander of American naval forces on the Lake, won a decisive victory at Plattsburg Bay in September of 1814. This British defeat helped ensure a favorable climate for the Americans in crafting the peace which was concluded early in 1815.



Saratoga II
USS Saratoga Association

At the conclusion of the war, the Saratoga was laid up and sold at Whitehall, NY in 1825.

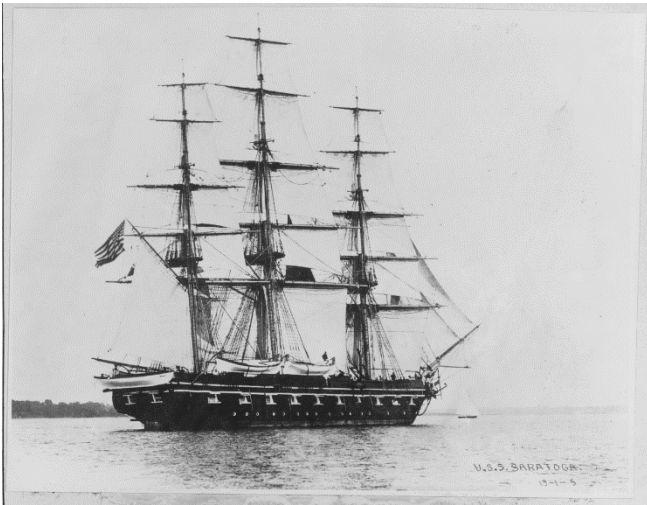
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Saratoga III: September 1842 to August 1907; 65 total years

Still in the age of sail this Saratoga had the longest overall period of service albeit with several periods of de-commissioning for overhaul and repair. Classed as a sloop of war, her length was 146' 4" with a complement of 210 and armament of four 8" shell guns and 18 32-pounders. "Shell guns" fired exploding shells in a flat trajectory suitable for naval combat.

Saratoga III was truly a ship of the seven seas initially posted to the Africa Squadron under Commodore Matthew Perry to control the West African slave trade which, by this time, was outlawed by the US. (Slavery was still legal however, given America's self-sustaining slave population). Perry's mission also included support for Liberia, established as a haven for freed American slaves.

Saratoga III later sailed the Gulf of Mexico, protecting US interests in the war with Mexico stemming from the US annexation of Texas. Later, as part of the Brazil Squadron she cruised the South American coast. By 1850, having transited to the Pacific via Cape Horn, Saratoga III joined the East India Squadron as part of Commodore Perry's opening of Japan and the Far East to American commerce.



1Saratoga III
USS Saratoga Association

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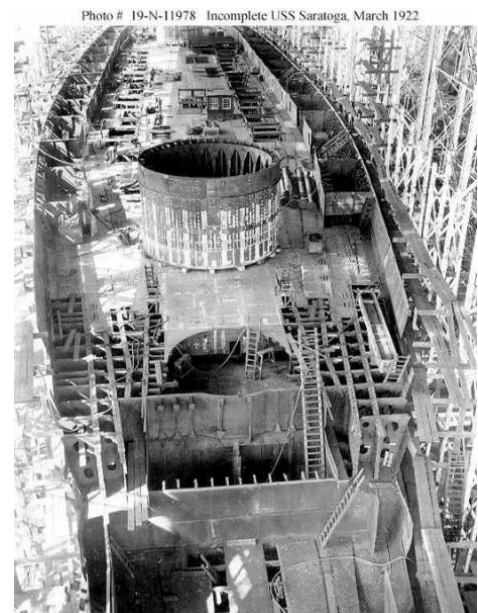
Upon returning to home waters in 1854, Saratoga III served again off Africa until the outbreak of the Civil War. Decommissioned in 1861 and recommissioned in 1863 she performed combat and blockade duties against the Confederacy until the close of the war.

Following several periods of de- and recommissioning, the Saratoga III, now in the age of steam, served the Navy as a utility and training vessel. Her last 11 years of commissioned service was as a training and school ship. Her story ends in 1907 with her sale in Philadelphia to a private concern.

[Note: The armored cruiser New York, 1883-1938, was renamed Saratoga from 1911 to 1917. This Saratoga is not considered among the six in the present history.]

Saratoga IV: September 1920, construction began as a battle cruiser, but was suspended in 1922 in compliance with the Washington Naval Limitations Treaty. Converted to an aircraft carrier in 1923.

Intended as fast battle scouts for the main fleet, Saratoga IV marks this history's passage from the age of sail to the age of iron ships now encompassing all of the emerging military technologies of the 20th century. Saratoga IV is probably best known as the United States Navy's first aircraft carrier having been converted and reclassified in 1923. This brings us to Saratoga V.



Saratoga IV
USS Saratoga Association

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Saratoga V: Launched in 1925, commissioned in 1927 and served until 1946; 19 years

Designated as a fast carrier, CV-3, Saratoga V displaced 33,000 tons, with a length of 888 feet, a speed of 34 knots, and a complement of 2111 crew and 81 aircraft.

Assigned to the Pacific Fleet, CV-3 spent most of her time until the outbreak of World War II in testing and fleet exercises developing the tactics for the use of air power in naval warfare. These exercises covered much of the eastern Pacific, from the Canal Zone to Hawaii and West Coast naval bases.



2Saratoga V CV-3
USS Saratoga Association

When Pearl Harbor was struck, Saratoga V had just concluded a modernization overhaul at Bremerton, Washington and immediately departed to fleet operations near Hawaii. On January 11, 1942, she was first bloodied by a torpedo attack by a Japanese submarine which required a return to Bremerton for repairs.

Throughout the war in the Pacific, Saratoga V's planes flew thousands of air strikes against shore installations in the famous "island-hopping" battles on the path to Tokyo. Her planes are credited with sinking major ships of the Japanese Navy including a carrier, two cruisers, several destroyers as well as inflicting severe damage to a battleship and numerous other naval and merchant ships.

CV-3 suffered her most significant damage in early 1945 at Iwo Jima in a bombing and Kamikaze attack and was forced to retire for repairs. At the War's end, she made eight "magic carpet" runs ferrying 30,000 veterans back home. Saratoga V was the oldest carrier in service at the end of the War and earned seven battle stars for her service.

This Saratoga's final act was less glamorous than her active service. Now surplus to Navy requirements, she served as a test ship in the Bikini atomic bomb tests in 1946. Even so, she survived the first blast at 500 yards from ground zero. It took the second, on July 25, to send her to the bottom...

** ** *

Saratoga VI: Launched in 1955, commissioned in 1956 and served until 1994; 36 years

Designated an Attack Carrier CVA-60 (later a multi-purpose carrier, CV-60), Saratoga VI was a conventionally powered carrier of the Forrestal class. She displaced 56,000 tons, with a length of 1,063 feet, a speed of 33 knots and a complement of 3,826 crew and 70 to 90 aircraft.

A recitation Saratoga VI's career reads like the headlines of the 70s, 80s and 90s.

She patrolled off the coast of Cuba during the Cuban missile crisis, steamed off the coast of Lebanon during the six-day war, saw combat in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam War and in the Red Sea during the Persian Gulf War.

Although not officially in a wartime status, CV-60 was steeped in action, using its advanced aircraft and technologies to monitor events and crises around the world. These included training exercises with NATO allies, enforcing "no-fly" zones over the former Yugoslavia, tracking Soviet and other potentially hostile forces, providing humanitarian aid and "showing the flag" at



National Naval Aviation Museum

times of particular tension. In two years deployed to Vietnam her aircraft flew 15,000 combat missions. Her 22 cruises to the Mediterranean covered a period when that region of the world was particularly volatile, as it remains to this day. Finally, this last of the Saratogas participated in the Desert Shield/Storm actions in 1990 and 1991 employing its airpower in missions of both deterrence and destruction.

Following its decommissioning in 1994, CV-60 was held in donation status (for possible use as a museum ship) but by 2014 the decision was made to permanently retire her.

For further reading:

<https://www.uss-saratoga.com/historyofusssaratoga>
<https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/ships/aircraft-carriers/uss-saratoga.html>
<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/search.html?q=saratoga>
<https://www.uss-saratoga.com>

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<p>Reminder: No individual membership renewal notices are sent.</p> <p><u>Your renewal date is listed on the mailing address page of this Newsletter</u></p> <p><u>and on your Annual Membership Card.</u></p> <p>If you are unsure of your membership date email friendsofsaratoga@gmail.com and your last renewal date will be emailed to you.</p>			

<p style="text-align: center;">Become a Friend of Saratoga Battlefield</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>E-mail _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">FRIENDS OF SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION INCORPORATED UNDER THE N.Y.S EDUCATION LAW.</p>	<p>Choose your membership level:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Enlisted Personnel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Noncommissioned Officer (Noncom)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Commissioned Officer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100: Field Grade Officer "Battlefield Club"</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (>\$100 also Battlefield Club)</p> <p>Make checks payable to: FRIENDS OF SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD and mail to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friends of Saratoga Battlefield 648 Route 32 Stillwater, NY 12170</p>
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Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield Membership Postcard Photo Contest

These photos were submitted by members to be considered for the 2025 Membership Card.

Now it's time for Members to vote! Vote online or by mail.

To vote online scan the QR code or enter the link on the next page.

To vote by mail complete the ballot on the next page and mail as directed on the ballot.

A. Cannon overlooking the Hudson



B. Schuyler House in Summer



C. Neilson House in the Autumn



PHOTO CONTEST BALLOT

The photo receiving the most votes will be used for the 2025 Membership Postcard. The winner and the photo will be featured in the Spring Summer Newsletter. The winner will receive a *Battlefield Club Membership* for 2025.

Voting closes December 1, 2024.

To Vote by Mail

Please select one (1) of the following by checking the box following the name of the photo. Cut along the dotted line and mail to:

The Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield
648 Route 32
Stillwater NY 12170

Cannon overlooking the Hudson.....☐

Schuyler House in the summer.....☐

Neilson House In the autumn ☐

To Vote ONLINE

Scan this code

Or

Go to



<https://friendsofthesaratogabattlefield.org/2024/09/18/photo-contest/>

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