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**Name:** Peter Gansevoort

**Years:** 1749 – July 2, 1812

**Residence:** Albany, NY; Saratoga County, NY

**Brief Biography:**

Peter Gansevoort was born to Harmen and Magdalena Douw Gansevoort in 1749. Soon after finishing school, in New Jersey, Gansevoort gained a commission as a major in the Second New York Regiment of the Continental Army as the American Revolution was beginning in 1775. Following a march north and a bout of illness, Gansevoort became involved with the attack on Quebec. Emerging uninjured and victorious, Gansevoort was promoted to lieutenant and placed in command of Fort George. Capitalizing on the success of his campaign, Gansevoort was again promoted to the rank colonel of the Third Regiment of the Continental Army. In the early spring of 1777, Gansevoort was given the command of Fort Stanwix (located in what is now Rome, NY). Gansevoort, with the many men under his command, went to work on the vitally strategic fort in order to make it a symbol of American strength. The durability of the fort and of Gansevoort's command was put to the test on August 3, 1777, when the British attacked. Both held fast against the British, even being outmanned and gunned Gansevoort was able to outlast the British's attempts until Continental reinforcements arrived. Because of his efforts the Congress promoted Gansevoort to colonel commandant of Fort Stanwix. In 1778, Gansevoort became the colonel commandant of Fort Schuyler. The next few years Gansevoort served in Schenectady, Saratoga, the Finger Lakes, Albany, West Point and Fort Saratoga. Finally returning to Albany in 1781, Gansevoort became brigadier

general of the militia. Having married in 1778 to Catherine Van Schaick, with which he had two surviving children, Gansevoort took a brief retirement to focus on other things. In the early to mid 1880's Gansevoort became involved in production and selling of lumber. By the late 1880's Gansevoort became a member of the Albany Federal Committee and was appointed as an Indian Commissioner. In 1809, he was again appointed by a President, James Madison, and this time to become a brigadier general in the U.S. Army. This became his last appointment as he died in 1812.

**Major Accomplishments:**

Gansevoort, being the son of a brewer/merchant from Albany, NY obtaining the high rank of brigadier general is one of his greatest accomplishments. Although, Gansevoort had a very long career in the military his actions in defending Fort Stanwix, and ultimately preventing an attack on Albany, must be seen as the greatest accomplishment of his career.

**More Information:**

Alice P. Kenney, *The Gansevoorts of Albany: Dutch Patricians in the Upper Hudson Valley*

**Resources:** American National Biography Online