

Matthew Zembo

2013 UELAC Loyalist Scholarship Award Recipient

The 2013 UELAC Loyalist Scholarship was awarded to Matthew Zembo. Originally from Saratoga Springs, New York, Matthew's interest in history grew from the history that surrounded him while growing up. Many Loyalists who evacuated to Canada left homes located in upper New York State. Throughout the American Revolution, this area served as a theatre for many battles between British soldiers, American soldiers, Loyalists and Native Allies, fighting for their home and country. The Saratoga Battlefield played a crucial role in developing Matt's passion for military history. It was also influential in directing his research towards British and Commonwealth military history.

Matthew pursued a career and BA degree in History at the University of Albany-SUNY in Albany, New York. To expand on his interest of the British viewpoint, he studied for one year at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Keble College, Oxford University. After his graduation (BA History 1997) from the University of Albany, Matthew worked as an archaeological team member in Cultural Research Management in upstate New York.



In 1999 he was accepted into the MA program in War Studies at Kings College, London, England. His MA dissertation, titled 'British Army Training

and Tactics during the American War for Independence: The Burgoyne Campaign of 1777', takes a deeper and more fully faceted look at Burgoyne's Army and its training and combat performance to shed new light on a campaign that impacted the national history of three nations.

Upon completing his MA, War Studies with Honours in December 2001, Matthew joined the staff of Schenectady County Community College as an Adjunct Instructor. In 2003 he became Assistant Professor at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, New York where he teaches European, American and Military History. He has also taught American Foreign Policy at Russell Sage College, Troy, NY.

Matthew began his PhD program at King's College, London in the fall of 2013. His dissertation 'War from the Side of Canada: British Military Operations from Canada 1775-1783', discusses the role of Crown Forces in Canada and their impact on the American War of Independence. Matthew's focus of study is strategy and tactics, specifically the tactical and operational adaptation of regular armies to irregular situations. His research will address how the British wove the very different forces of Loyalists, Regulars, and Natives into an effective and dominating military force on the northern frontier.

Outside of the academic sphere, Matthew's interest in military history led him to re-enact the life of British soldiers in the American Revolution as a sergeant of Light Company, 34th Regiment of Foot. The 34th Lights participated in Burgoyne's Saratoga Campaign and were garrisoned in Canada until after the Revolution. He has been re-enacting for roughly 20 years. (All as a Redcoat).

Matthew will resume his PhD studies in January of 2017.