



Marker #29

It has been written that the spring of 1781 may well be counted as the darkest time of the Revolution. In Guilderland's own local militia occurred disloyalty and treason.

On June 14, 1781, John Groot appeared before the Albany County Board of Conspiracies with one Edward McGurkey. McGurkey, Groot informed the board, had tried to enlist him in the service of the King of Great Britain. McGurkey confessed to his dealings as a traitor and was jailed.

By the fall of 1781, 80 to 100 families of the most "notoriously disaffected" were arrested, brought to Albany and placed under surveillance.

John Groot, a patriot, is credited with helping to banish the Tories who actively opposed the Colonist cause. A blue and gold marker on Route 397 north of Altamont sets a place for him in the annals of history.

"Without a sense of history no man can truly understand the present."

Winston Churchill