

Sir Robert Barrie

Sir Robert Barrie was born on the 5th of May 1774 in St. Augustine, Florida. His father, Dr. Robert Barrie of Sanquhar, Scotland was a surgeon's mate with the British Army. His father died in 1775 and the family returned to England. In 1788, Robert Barrie joined the Royal Navy (RN). He was made a midshipman aboard HMS Discovery with Captain George Vancouver. Barrie's service in the RN saw him rise to the rank of Captain in command of HMS Calypso in 1802. In October 1810, Barrie, aboard the frigate HMS Pomone, captured Lucien Bonaparte during an attempt to reach America from Italy.



Barrie, noted for his stellar service during the War of 1812 was given command of HMS Dragon which played

a major role in the blockade of American forces in Chesapeake Bay. During his command in charge of the British Squadron some 85 vessels were taken.

Following the conclusion of hostilities, Barrie married Julia Wharton Ingilby of Ripley Castle in Ripley, Yorkshire which is now part of the Borough of Harrogate.

They went to live in France. In January 1819 he took up the post of commissioner of the Naval Dockyard in Kingston, Upper Canada. As such he was the senior Naval Officer in the Canadian Colony. He was instrumental in developing the facilities at Kingston as well as the building of the Rideau and Welland canals.

In June 1834 Barrie returned to England and King William IV made him a Knight Commander of the Royal Guelphic Order (KCH). He was promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1837 and created Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB) in 1840.

Rear Admiral Sir Robert Barrie lived in retirement at his seat in Swarthdale, Lancashire, and died on the 7th of June 1841. His final resting place is in All Saints Church in the shadow of Ripley Castle, which has been occupied by the Ingilby's since the 14th century.

The Sir Robert Barrie Project



Post-Captain (Royal Navy) Robert Barrie during the War of 1812 being rowed from his ship HMS Dragon to reconnoiter the Rappahannock River region prior to a landing. He and his ship were successful in helping to destroy the Chesapeake Bay flotilla during that confrontation.

The Project

The city of Barrie was named in 1833 in honour of Rear Admiral Sir Robert Barrie, KCB, KCH, who was in charge of the naval forces in Canada and frequently commanded forces through the city and along the Nine Mile Portage.

The city's International Relations Committee would like to honour Sir Robert Barrie by having a renowned Canadian marine artist Peter Rindlisbacher portray him in action. He will design and paint an original 48" by 36" painting of HMS Dragon complete with Post Captain (RN) Barrie and his ship. In addition, we want to exhibit a mannequin of him, dressed in the Naval uniform that he would have worn during the War of 1812.

On the 7th of June 2013 a twinning ceremony was held on the grounds of Ripley Castle to unite the City of Barrie, Ontario, Canada and the Borough of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, England.

We plan to place the mannequin in an enclosed glass case near the painting of

HMS Dragon in the Sir Robert Barrie Room at City Hall. We feel that by doing this, the citizens of Barrie, both present and future, can experience a special part of our history.

Barrie City Council approved the project on 21 March 2016. We plan to raise \$25,000 to complete our project. We are asking that you and/or your organization consider making a contribution to help us achieve our goal. Jennie Rushton, the great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Sir Robert Barrie, made her second visit to Barrie in 2015 and upon hearing of our project donated \$1,000 towards this endeavour.

By teaming up with the Harrogate Twinning Committee and the International Relations Committee, both volunteer committees of the City of Barrie, we are able to issue a tax receipt for any donation of \$25.00 or more. Copies of the Rindlisbacher painting may also be purchased.

Should you wish more information about the Sir Robert Barrie project please contact Bill Sergeant at: <w_a_serjeant@hotmail.com>.

Donations

Please make all cheques payable to the "City of Barrie" with a note on the memo line stating "The Sir Robert Barrie Project". Please mail your donation to: The City of Barrie, Treasury Department, 70 Collier St, PO Box 400, Barrie, ON, L4M 4T5. Attention: Lila Jermeý.

I wish to donate:

\$ 25 \$ 50 \$100 \$ 250

Other amount: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

(H): _____

(C): _____

E-Mail: _____

I would be interested in further information about obtaining a reproduction of the Rindlisbacher painting.

For more information please contact:

Bill Sergeant 705-252-3129

Janice Laking 705-728-5874

Jean Maurice Pigeon 705-737-4951

Rob Warman 705-725-2409