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PROCEEDINGS:
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A VERMONT
Quarterly



Act of God
Narrative of Richard Lee
The Romans Map of Vermont
Seth Warner Papers
Catholic Church in Vermont
Tuttle — Vermont Bookseller

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NOTES AND DOCUMENTS — I
CALENDAR OF THE SETH WARNER PAPERS

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The following papers, written by the sons of Seth Warner, the revolutionary hero, mostly to Henry Stevens, of Barnet, reveal significant information as to some of the famous incidents in which Warner participated. Of course, it must be remembered that these are recollections of much later, and are in the nature of claims, in which a man's importance and contributions are usually over-emphasized.

1834, March 22 *Edward, J. L.* to *Warner, Israel*
 Washington, D.C. *White Hall, N.Y.*

Sir,

You are requested to furnish this Office with any evidence you may have of the revolutionary services of your father, Col. Seth Warner, or of the officers and soldiers who served under him.

Pay and muster rolls become very important in the investigation of claims for revolutionary services. Other papers likewise which relate thereto in any way, may be useful in view of the same object.

(1839?) *Deposition by Warner, Seth*

In the Year 1817 I was in Montreal and Sir John Johnson came to me and requested me to go home with him and when I came to his house he had a splendid dinner table set and set a Chair for me at the table, and told me he had some things to communicate to me after dinner which he had not ever told to any person, after dinner, he took me into a private room and told me that Capt. John Warner once took him a prisoner in the time of the Revolution War, about five or six miles east of the mouth of the River Lamoil and killed all the Indians he had with him which was 150, and marched him to Bennington

where Col. Warner's Regiment was Stationed, and he did expect to be Hanged or be put to death some way he was kept Snug in a room one day and was not allowed to Speak to any person, about midnight Col. Warner Came to him and told him to follow him and not Speak a word, he followed him to the door Warner told him to mount a hors that was at the door and go with him. Warner was armed with Pisles and Rifle and they rode to Arlington, and Never Spile a word, and When they Came there, Warner told him if he woud promise that he Never would Bring his Indians on to the Land Called Hampshire Grants he woud let him go if Not he would kill him on the Spot, he said that he did promise and kept his word, and gave orders to his Indians not to go on that tract of Land Nor to hurt or Molest any of the Inhabitants on that Side of the Lake Champlain. Warner told him if he did come with his Indians on that Ground he would be Sure to be taken and killed for the King had not Indians Enough to fight with John Warner's Scout. I asked him what Rout he took after that, he Said he went out to the westward on to Susquehannah River and around that Section of the Country.

What I have written are facts.

Seth Warner

Col. Seth Warner's family.

Israel Warner — Lives in White Hall

Abigail Warner Married James Meacham of Williams-
town, Mass. and is Now a Widow

Seth Warner Resides in the Village of Henry-
ville, Province of Lower Canada

1845 October 23 *Warner, Seth* to *Stephens, H.*
Montpelier, Vt. *Cabot, Vt.*

Sir,

My Father Spent his time and property in the Revolution War, and after his death his property only paid to his creditors one Shilling and ten pence on the pound which left my Mother and her family very poor in the town of Woodbury State Connecticut, in two or three Years after the death of my Father General Washington and another Gentleman by the Name of Do^r. Johnson came to See my Mother and Staid at

her house a few days and enquired into her Situation and made her a present of Nine hundred dollars and a Very handsome horse which enabled her to buy a Small house and farm, But General Washington made her promise that she Never would tell any person of the present that he gave her and there was not any person by or had any knowledge of the Business except Doctor Johnson and Myself we saw the money Counted by General Washington. My Father died in Dec^m. 1784.

1845 November 25 Warner, Israel to Stephens, H.
White Hall, N.Y. Cabot, Vt.

Worthy Sir,

I have Sent to Williamstown for part of the papers and some papers are in Albany as they obtain them from the Secraterry when they arrive I will forward them to your honour my father's Comision and Colonol Allen's deed I forward to you together with some other papers and after you have Examind them sufficiently you will be so good as to send them to your Humble servent.

Israel Warner

N B I feel verry Much in your Wellfare
You are Verry Much applauded abroad

1845 December 30 Warner, Israel to Stephens, H.
White Hall, N.Y. Barnet, Vt.

Worthy Sir,

I received your letter the 27 Inst. and with pleasure am happy to give such information as has come to My knowledge, in regard to papers. My Father Directed me to pack up all the War papers which I did and put them in a Barrel and headed them up tight, and when we Mooved to WhiteHall those papers were left with Elihew Canfield in Roxbury in Litchfield County Connecticut, and the secretary of the U. S. wrote to me to forward them to him, I wrote I was two hundred miles Distant and did not know how to get them to him, he then wrote to me to Discribe the place and I need not trouble, he would send for them, there was a great dispute whether we Belong'd to the Continental Line, or volunteeers of Vermont, and I had to send my Fathers Commision to Congress Sign'd

by John Hancock, this was on account of giving our Soldiers a Pension, My Mother's name was Hester Hurd, and I believe he Married her in Lanesborough, or Adams, in Massachusetts, I have been to my Granfather Hurd's, and attended School there one winter, then my Father had six brothers, viz, Benjamin, John, Asel, Reuben, Elijah and Daniel, Daniel was killed in Bennington Battle, my Father had two Sisters, Hannah (Tamer?), Hannah married Sire Hawley and lived in Arlington, Tamer married Israel Hurd, and was left a widow, My Granfather came to Bennington and bought one mile square of Land and as fast as his Boys married, mooved on the Land, as for the particular time they Mooved there I cannot say it was before my knowledge, but I have seen it in William's History of Vermont, that gives an account of the Struggles with New York, my Father married, and mooved to Bennington and always resided there untill the close of the war, there were three children of us viz. Israel, Naby or rather, Abigail, and Seth, my Father was mooving to Castleton with his family, when we got as far as Ruport news came that the British had Ariv'd at Ticonderoga, then the Volunteers of Vermont went forward and my Fathere with these, and I return'd with my Mother and Sisters and goods to Bennington, as for personal knowledge of the Campaign in Canada I have not, until you come to the Battle at Bennington, but I Suppose I can give a true account of the taking Ticonderoga, St Johns, Chamby, Laprarie, and the taking of the Shipping on the St. Lawrance, against Montreal, and the Battle at Longuenil, the retreat from Ticoderoga, Hubberton Battle, by hearing the Officers Discoursing on every particular of their Battles, in regard to the correspondance between the Governor of Vermont, and the general of Canada, when my Father came to be inform'd of it, he took Major Hide with him with their Loaded Pistols, and the first salute my Father Call'd the Governor a Damd Tory, then the Governor says, hipso-factodo you say that, I do said he, and there were no reconciliation then the Governor sent for General E. Allen and they Both pledged their honor there was not any secret Conspiracy against the Goverment, Daniel Chipman Esq. of Ripton has wrote to me to know whether my Father was in the first action in Bennington and what my Mother's Name was when a girl, I have

answered his letter, after Hubberton Battle My Father made a stand at Manchester, and went to Bennington to consult the best step and at that same time the Enemy was coming to Bennington My Father sent an Express for his Regiment to Re-
pare to Bennington, General Starks and my Father consulted to send a letter to General Stafford on Stafford Hill and my Father said put Israel on the horse, and told me to not spare horse flesh, and not stop to speak with any one but tell them the enemy are just into Bennington, when I arived at General Staffords door the horses tongue hung out of his mouth I called for general Stafford he came out I gave him my Fathers letter, he took it and said to his man take that Boy off the horse and cool him as fast as possible it was General Training there, and the General went and red the letter in all their hearing, and said I must stay until morning and a large company of volunteers would accompany me, I said I must return to give information and I rode the best part of the Night but the volunteers did not arive until the next Day at Evening with Old Major Rann at their head, my Father was at Medad Deweys, Major Rann said his orders was to put this man under Warners directions My Father told him to join General Starks he said he would not, if he could not go according to order he would not go at all, and my Father went on with Rann in the first action, and our regiment did not get there until after the first action, and at that Crise the Enemy had a Powerful Reinforcement, and General Starks ordered my Father to ride on line and order a retreat into the Middle of Bennington, my Father said he be Dam'd if he would, What says the General will you not Obey my orders, my Father said he did not know but he must if it brought the Heavens and Earth together, and if they began a retreat there would be no stop to the Militia, My Father swore he could get the Action on the ground, then General Starks told him to go on, my Father gave his men half a pint of Spirits each with some gunpowder in it, and then said he did not see but what they felt as merry as if they were a-going to a New Years Ball, after they had taken Burgoin our Regiment had to March down the Hudson River to Stop the Enemy Burning, they then said Warner is coming with his hell hounds and they might as well give the ground first as last, they shipped aboard for New York, after all these struggles

Our Regiment was stationed at Lake George, and when peace took place all those that were Enlisted During war, was Discharged, and those that were Enlisted for three years had to go to westpoint, and serve their time out, my Fathere lost Eight horses in the war and the last horse was shot through with Eight Balls, and two Balls went through my Fathers left arm, My Fathere died December 26th, 1784, in Roxbury Lichfield Count-y Connecticut, in the Forty Seccond Year of his age He was Born the six day of May, and if you look in the second volum of Williams history of Vermont, in the latter part of said Book, I could write a Multitude of grievous in the first instance My Father had a very Considerable Land in Vermont and he Contracted with the Governor that his Lands Should be sacred until the war was over, the Land was sold to the Allens, and not one foot was left for us, it was all sold for taxes and when the General Assembly sat at Newbury I came from Connecticut and the Honorable house gave two thousand acres of Land and after it was surveyed I went to view the Land I found it to be not anything but a great swamp, and on the East side a very steep high Mountain, I went to the General surviyer Ira Allen, and told him I was sorry he laid out my Land in a swamp, he said it was well enough that it was nothing but a gift, the state of Vermont Owed my Father 7.40 pound, and when My Father was very sick, and we very much Distressed My Mother wrote to the Governor for assistance but the Governor refused to assist us, Mr. Gove sid that debt was still due, My Brother was Born the same year Benning Battle was fought 1777, consequently had no personal knowledge of the war.

1845 September 23 *Deposition by Warner, Seth*

Whereas Israel Warner Abigail Meacham and Seth Warner the Heirs of Col. Seth Warner have presented a memorial to the assembly of the State of Vermont for Ballance if any there is due to Col. Seth Warner for the depreciation of the Continental that was paid to him for his Services in the Continental War and likewise to him an allowance for us for to make good the worth of the land, that was given to us by the State of Vermont to make it good for Settlement.

And now I Seth Warner for myself and as an attorney for Israel Warner and Abigail Meacham do promise and agree to pay to Mr. Henry Stephen Esq. one half of the Sum or Sums that General Assembly Shall allow us on the Said Memorial for his Labour and Services in tooeking over papers and for Monies he has expended in the Said Business as Soon as Received from State of Vermont.

In Witness my hand at Monpelier this 23rd, 1845.

Seth Warner

1846 Jan. 15 *Warner, Israel* to *Stephens, Henry*
Whitehall, N.Y. *Washington, D.C.*

Dear Sir,

According to request I have this day Sat down to give some information in regard to the Revolutionary War in our Northern Direction the first alarm was that the British had taken Ticonderago, out Vermonters were much alarm'd and turn'd out Volunteers to the rescue of that Fort, it was a general turn out, and when they came opposite Ticonderoga in the Bushes there was a Dispute who they would have for a Commander, it fell on Allen, and Warner says Allen to Warner, I am not going under you, says Warner to Allen I will not go under you, and finally they agree'd that Warner, Should go out one way, and Allen, the other and the Men follow whichever they choose, they all followed Warner, then Allen was so enrag'd that he Challenged Warner for a Dewel, and took his distance, Says Allen to Warner, we are a going to Die like Dam'd fools, Says Warner if you will not fight, fire off your Pistol in the air, then he fir'd it off now says Allen fire off your's said Warner, mine is not loaded they came and examined it and it was not loaded, says Warner, to Allin, I can fight you any time with an empty Pistol, The next subject is how they were to cross the Lake, they sent two Men to Wm. Earl's who lived in a log house to see if they could get conveyance across the Lake, telling them they were hunters, and wish'd to go acrost to the fort to buy Amunition Mr. Earl said they had no Boat, But the Captain was a going to send his Boat acrost that Evening for him and his wife to go and take Supper with him, and he believd they might cross at the same time, when it came

Evening the Boat came, then those two Men came and agree'd with the Sergant to cross with him, then ran back to the mountain to give information then fifty more of our Men came down with them, took the British Sergeant put him under guard, and kept the Boat, just then Skenes Sloop came in sight, Commanded by two Negroes, it was loaded with Iron Ore from Crown Point, going to the then call'd Skeins Borough, (now Whitehall) Our Men Called the Negroes, the Negroes asked what they wanted, the answer was we want to go to Skeinsborough, then they came in to Shore, our Men took the Boat, put the Negroes Under Guard, and threw the Ore overboard, then Our Men Crossed over to the Sandy Battery on the west bank of the Lake, about a mile North of Ticoneroga in the Night, then my Father and Ebenezer Allen agree'd to steal the Centry off his post, they went, when the Centry went from them they ran forward, but when he turn'd towards them, they squat to the ground they continued this way till they got near enough, then they seiz'd him pointed two Pistols at his Breast and Brought him to our party, then our party Marched in to the Fort, and the Centry show'd where the Captains apartment was, then General Allen flew up to the Door, and Commanded the Captain to come forth he with much surprise came forth in his shirt not Dressed it being in the Night and wanted to know what their Business was, Says Allen, I Demand this Fort in the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress, and Ethan Allen By God, the next subject my Father with his Volunteers and the Navy took Crownpoint, and then we had all their war vessels, we went forward to Canada and took Isle Auxnoix but St. Johns, they could not take, My Father went down Twelve Miles North of St. Johns and took Chambly, then went to Laprarie, and what few Men he had they Marched in at the Front Gate, and out at the Back gate, until dark, he March'd them round and round that way, to make the Enemy think they had a great number to appearance the British said, they had a Million of Men the British shiping were in front of Montreal, My Father and Doct. Jonas Gay, wrote and my Father Endited that if they did not give up by Tomorrow Morning at ten Oclock, they would not give any Quarters, that Night they threw their gunpowder over Board, the next Morning another Flag was

sent, and said they were very sorry they should waste their Amunition, and Black the River so much, that was the last invitation, they gave up their shipping at once, then the British were trying to cross at Longuil to go and relieve St. Johns, My Fathers Regiment went from Laprarie to oppose them, there was a stone wall on the East Side of the highway along the Bank of the River, and our men took Shelter behind that, and fought four hours and Forty six minutes, and we did not have one man wounded or hurt, only one Ball went through my Fathers hair and cut about one third off, our Regiment kept the British Back until St. Johns surrendered, Now General Ethan Allen made a Complaint to our Commanding General that he had Volunteered for his Cuntry and had not the honors shone him that belonged to his rank, the General told Allen if he would Call for Volunteers and go and take Montreal he should be highly promoted, he accordingly went on, crossed the river below Longuil and Commenced a fight with the British, and the first our men knew Allen was Missing and our Men return'd across the river for want of a Commander, then the British made search for Allen, and found him in a Barn covered over with Hay, they then took him to England where he Resided about a year and then was Exchan'd I saw him when he return'd to Bennington he Caused three Cannon to be fired in the night, it alarm'd the town then he said he would not go to Bed until he had seen his Old friends, and he buought out Rum, some Drank and some would not, but went away much displeas'd, You will remember that Ebenezer Allen and Ethan Allen are two different men, it was Ebenezer that took the Centry of his post with my Father, After this Montreal was taken, after they had taken that they Decended Down the river St. Lawrence to Quebec and laid siege to that place after General Montgomery had got into the City he was Killed, and that Disheartened our Forces very much, then General Arnold Came across from some place Eastwardly to join our forces, at that time the Small Pox raged very hard in our Regiment, and the British coming in at the same time, our Army thought best to Retreat, and General Orders came that not a Man should Enoculate for the Small Pox, my Father Called his Regiment together, and said My Brave Boys, it is General Orders that they shall

not Enoculate for the Small Pox, on account of keeping Guard, I do not wish to Countermand the General Orders, but if you should take it in the Thigh and Diet for it, it would be much better for you, and they will not find it out, they all likewise inoculated, and Our Regiment came off without losing one Man, whilst other Regiments had their men die on the Road my Father Brought up the rear and would not leave one sick man Behind, and pressed every Frenchman that had a horse, and Cart, to go and Carry his sick soldiers, (those that had the Small Pox) and they Retreated until they came to Ticonderoga, and there thought to Make a Stand, but through the neglect of our Officers, the British got Possession of Mount Defiance and Cannonaded Ticonderaga Fort, then my Father and Colonel Frances had to retreat from Ticonderoga, some came by water to Skeinsborough but the main army marched by Land, Eastwardly to Hubberton, there the British Army overtook them and there a Battle ensu'd and Colonel Frances, and my Father's Regiments Beat them back, but when the great Body of the British arived they were Ten to One of us, and Colonel Frances was Killed, Then we expected General Hale's Regiment to assist us, but Hale gave up his Regiment without fireing one gun and my Father was Oblig'd to retreat on the Mountain and when they arrived at the top of the Eminence, my Father said now my Boy's we will give them four rounds each and then retreat on the next hill they made great slaughter, then the Enemy came up the second hill and our men waited on the third hill, but the British return'd back, and our men came through the mountains to Rutland then marched to Manchester and there made a stand, until called for to fight at the Battle of Bennington and the taking of General Burgoin and our Regiment going down the river to stop the Burning of Kingston and then our Regiment was stationed on the frontier to guard against the British and savages at Lake George,

My Father wore himself out in the Revolutionary war, and Expended the whole of his Estate, lost Eight horses in the war, and the last one was shot through with Eight Balls, and three Balls went through my Fathers left Arm, Adjutant Hopkins, and Lieutenant Coon, was killed in the ambush of forty five Indians, I took my Father to the sea side for his health but it

was of no use he came back home, and Died in Roxberry, Litchfield County, Connecticut Dec. 26th 1784 in the Forty Second year of his age, General Arnold was with our fleet on Lake Champlain when the British fleet came out on the Lake and they had a very hard Engagement until our Amunition was all Expended, then Arnold sunk our shipping at the south End of the Island of Belcore, and took small Boats and run ashore, and took to the woods, when peace took place and our army paid off in Continental Money and we were allowed Eighty Dollars Bounty, one hundred Dollars of that Money would not buy one glass of rum, Mr. (Vanvanse?) Meer offered me a Silver Dollar for my Bounty, I told him I would take it, but I could not get the papers so I lost that, when my Father was very sick word came that the army was to be paid off in Commutation Money, and before I saw any of it, it Became as worthless as the Continental Money was, the Honorable House of Congress gave five hundred Acres of Land to My Mother, and heirs, in Ohio, but there are so many squatters on it that we in our Indigent Circunstances are not able to support a Law suit Consequently must loose it, I am told that every soldier that was during the war, drew a hundred acres of Land in the Ohio, by act of Congress, I have not received any warrant and do not know whether it is true or not,

Respectfully Yours

Israel Warner

(Note added on reverse)

Worthy Sirs,

Should war be Re proclaim'd against the United States, and his Excellency our President should see cause to raise a Regiment of Green Mountain Boys, I feel as if I should volunteer in defence of my Cuntry,

I. Warner

(Note added on a separate sheet)

If it is Consistent with the Secretary of the United States to let Esq. Stephens have the Revolutionary papers of the Northern Direction or take Copies from them, you will much oblige your Humble servant

Israel Warner

Mr. Stephens will return those papers to me at Whitehall

1846 July 28 *Warner, Seth* to *Stevens, Henry*
Henryville, Vt. *Barnet, Vt.*

Worthy Sir,

You will please to excuse me for troubling you so much I wrote you two Letters before this time and have not received any answer and so conclude that you have not received them You wrote to me there was some prospects of getting some pay for my Fathers Services in the Revolution and you are the Better Judge about it than me if you will take the Business in hand and Send for the copies to Washington we will pay you what is right for your trouble or we will give a Commission on what we get please to write to me what pr cent you will take and do the Bussiness I have a power from my Brother and Sister to make any Bargain I please to write to me at any rate if it necessary I will come and see you if you Believe there is a prospect of getting any thing This from your friend and Humble Servant

1853 Jan. 11 *Warner, Seth* to *Stevens, Henry*
Henryville, Vt. *Barnet, Vt.*

Worthy Friend Sir,

My Brother and myself signed a Quit Claim deed to you of 2000 acres of Land Called Warners Gore in the State of Vermont Last Summer and put it in the post office in Alburgh and we have not heard from you whether you received it or not if you have received it we wish you would write us and Inform us the Situation of the land how you have succeeded if you write you can direct you letter to Israel Warner of Alburgh Springs post office if you direct your letter to me at Henryville the letter will be sent to Montreal and sometimes they are detained a long time before I get it

This from Your Old friend