

Gen. Sir Arthur William Currie.

January 20, 1927.

Grants, west of the Connecticut River, established their Constitution. This was the first constitution on the American continent definitely to prohibit human slavery. The late Lord Bryce remarked to me once at Windsor that this fact was the proudest sort of heritage for the town. With his statement I think you will agree. I hope you will also agree with the soundness of my statement when I say that it would be peculiarly fine in the interest of international friendship to have as one of the main speakers on this picturesque anniversary occasion a Canadian soldier of your distinction and of your attainments and standing. I recall how happy were the surviving soldiers of our Southern Confederacy when, years after our Civil War, Mr. Charles Francis Adams, a Massachusetts veteran of that War, came to Richmond, Virginia, to deliver the principal address in memory of Gen. Robert E. Lee. It was the happiest thought to invite Mr. Adams for that occasion. He acquitted himself well, won the grateful appreciation of many former southern soldiers and thereby made a real contribution to good-will between the South and the North. You see I have a fairly good precedent for my idea in proposing that you should speak at Windsor. We understand that President Coolidge will endeavor to be at Bennington to make an address on the anniversary of the battle. If we can also have your acceptance for Windsor our joy will be great.

Windsor is a country village, attractive in itself, wonderfully beautiful in its surroundings. Of course, my attachment for the region is very great because I was born there and my family was settled there long ago. But I do not exaggerate the charm of the landscape in that locality with its wonderful verdure and its variety in hills, valleys, forests and streams. On the Cornish Hills to the east of Windsor Village with a view that looks across the Connecticut Valley to the Vermont Mountains, Augustus Saint Gaudens, the great sculptor, made his home and there did his greatest work. Many artists have followed his example in making their homes in that beautiful region. Maxfield Parrish, the painter, and Herbert Adams, the sculptor, are among the notable artists still living there and getting there their inspiration for their work. It has been the home of men of distinction in the history of the country. It abounds in choice traditions.

Won't you think favorably of coming down for the occasion I speak of? My committee is enthusiastically supporting this invitation. The trip is but a short one from Montreal. Every sort of welcome that I can think of will be provided for you and such members of your family as would like to come. In the meantime I should be happy to give you any further information you wish and would gladly go to Montreal to confer with you should that serve your convenience.

Trusting that I may hear from you favorably, I am, with great respect,

Yours very truly,

H.S. Wardner

Honorary Vice President,
Vermont State Sesqui-Centennial
Commission.