

HENRY S. WARDNER

160 Front Street  
New York January 20, 19 27.

Gen. Sir Arthur William Currie,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir:

It was my good fortune to hear your capital speech at the alumni exercises on Commencement Day at Harvard University last June after my alma mater had conferred upon you her highest academic honor. Your spirited allusions to the quality of the United Empire Loyalists who migrated from the revolting colonies to Canada during the American Revolution have set me to thinking that it would be eminently proper and quite delightful to further and elaborate upon your thought in some conspicuous way at one of the two principal celebrations to be held in Vermont this coming summer in commemoration of events of the American Revolution and the founding of the Republic of Vermont. To me, as one of the several Vice Presidents of the Vermont State Sesqui-Centennial Commission, have fallen the duty and responsibility of becoming the chairman and taking charge of the celebration at Windsor, Vermont, on July 8, on the occasion of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Constitution and government of the State of Vermont at that place. I want you to come to Windsor for that anniversary and be my guest and make a speech.

You perhaps are somewhat familiar with the singular history of the region now called Vermont but known during the early part of the American Revolution as the New Hampshire Grants. The settlers in that region participated in lively fashion in the early engagements of the War in their neighborhood. Vermont soldiers fought on both sides in the Battle of Bennington. The corps known as the Queen's Loyal Rangers was largely recruited by Lieutenant Colonel John Peters of Bradford among the settlements on the New Hampshire Grants. Vermont did not compose one of the original thirteen revolting colonies, was never admitted to the Confederation and had to fight its own way for independent existence while New York and sometimes New Hampshire, first as Crown Provinces and afterwards as States, claimed jurisdiction over it. Vermont's weak political situation and the fact that it was exposed to British invasion from the north, while unprotected by Continentals or the troops of other states, led some of the Vermont leaders to resort to years of negotiation with the British military authorities in Canada in the endeavor so to preserve the status of Vermont that, whatever the outcome of the War of the American Revolution, Vermont might have a government of its own, either as one of the United States or as a separate British Province. The Dominion Archives at Ottawa contain much with regard to this interesting chapter of American History.

On July 8, 1777, at Windsor, and in a house which is still preserved, the delegates from the settlements on the New Hampshire