

THE
CONSTITUTION ISLAND
ASSOCIATION



Fifty-Seventh Annual Report
1973

THE CONSTITUTION ISLAND ASSOCIATION

Box 41 West Point, New York, 10996

OFFICERS 1974

MRS. SIMON C. BRISTOFF CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
MRS. WILLIAM F. LEWIS CHAIRMAN
CHARLES D. ROBINSON SECRETARY
MISS HARRIET DEMEREST CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
MRS. ELIZABETH MCINTYRE TREASURER
MR. CONRAD CONERO ASSISTANT TREASURER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Term Ending 1974

Mrs. Francis C. Dale Cold Spring
Col. William F. Luebbert West Point
Mrs. A. H. Dehle New Windsor
Mr. Allan Dewey Southbury, Conn.
Mrs. Richard Kuehne Cornwall-on-Hudson

Term Ending 1975

Mrs. Howard G. Abbott Rockville, Conn.
Mr. Hugh Davies Yorktown Heights
Mr. C. Sidamon-Eristoff Highland Falls
Col. Merle G. Sheffield Wallingford, Conn.
Mr. Egon Weiss Cornwall-on-Hudson

Term Ending 1976

Mr. Chester Logan Peekskill
Mrs. George Osborn West Point
Mrs. Hollis Smith Monroe
Mr. Roland Stebbins Garrison
Mr. Arthur Yagel Highland Falls

Members Ex-Officio

Lieutenant General William A. Knowlton, *Superintendent, USMA*
LTC John H. Bradley, *Director of Bicentennial Activities*

Advisory Committee 1974

Mr. Joseph T. Butler Mr. Wilson Duprey Mr. Edward Kilian
Mr. B. W. Frazier Miss Jean Saunders Mr. Harold Hoffman

For the first time since 1783 soldiers in Continental uniforms were seen on Constitution Island. Twenty men from the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Regiments of the New York Continental Line, Brigade of the American Revolution joined four Fusiliers from the Hessian Regiment von Dittfurth in presenting a demonstration of 18th Century American and German drilling.

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COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

I ADMINISTRATION

Insurance of Warner House Collection..... Mrs. Elizabeth McIntyre
 Membership..... Mrs. William F. Luebbert
 Mailing..... Mrs. JoAnn Olivia
 Publications..... Mr. Charles Robinson
 Publicity..... Mrs. Edward O'Gorman
 Copyrights..... Mrs. William F. Lewis
 Cataloging and Archives..... Mrs. Jerome Kelleher
 Warner House Collection —
 Inventory & Catalog..... Mrs. Charles Radler
 Highland Falls Library
 Office Arrangements..... Mrs. George Osborn

CONSTITUTION ISLAND — USMA LIAISON COMMITTEE ON ISLAND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robinson — Chairman
 Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Davies
 Mrs. Edward O'Gorman
 Col. and Mrs. William Luebbert
 Mr. Roland Stebbins

CONSTITUTION ISLAND ASSOCIATION — USMA "MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING"

Mrs. William F. Lewis
 Mrs. Hollis Smith
 Mrs. George Osborn
 Mr. Arthur Yagel

NATIONAL LITERARY LANDMARK DESIGNATION COMMITTEE FOR THE WARNER HOUSE

Mr. Egon Weiss, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Mrs. William Luebbert
 Mrs. Hollis Smith
 Mrs. George Osborn
 Mr. Roland Stebbins

II EDUCATION

For Members —

Annual Meeting and Lecture Program..... Mrs. William Lewis
 Island Nature Walks..... Mr. and Mrs. Chester Logan

For Public — Lectures and Warner House Visiting Program

Transportation and Boat Hostesses..... Mrs. George Osborn
 Reservations and Information..... Mrs. Jerome Kelleher

Publicity..... Mrs. Edward O'Gorman
 Bookshop..... Mrs. Robert Richards
 Book Covers..... Mrs. Gary Sausser
 Book Marks..... Mrs. Donald Carroll
 Mrs. Jack Capps
 Mrs. Francis Dale
 Needlework, pressed flowers,
 Devil's thorns, etc.
 Warner House Note paper..... Mrs. Fred Gantzier
 Pencil Caddies..... Mr. Charles Robinson
 Warner Cook Book..... Maj. and Mrs. Robert Richards
 Mrs. Richard Kuehne
 Mrs. Wallen Summers

For Docents and Volunteers

Workshops and Training Programs..... Mrs. William Lewis
 Lectures

The Warners and the
 Warner House Collection..... Mrs. Charles Robinson

Constitution Island in the
 Revolutionary War..... Mr. Charles Robinson

The Program and Policies of
 the Constitution Island Association..... Mrs. William Lewis

Practice Training..... Mrs. Charles Robinson
 Period Costume..... Mrs. Robert Dougherty

Warner Lending Library..... Mrs. JoAnn Olivia
 For School Children

"The Little American" Program..... Mrs. David Bramlett
 and Handbook..... Mrs. Richard Perry

"The Little American" Newspaper..... Mrs. William Lewis
 Mrs. Michael Bartelme
 Mrs. Fred Gantzier

III RESEARCH PROJECTS

American Revolutionary War

Bibliography..... Mrs. John Sanderson
 Warner Bibliography..... Mrs. John Sanderson
 Warner Library Catalogue..... Mrs. John Elting

Constitution Island Association

Records..... Mrs. Jerome Kelleher
 Warner Family Records..... Mrs. JoAnn Olivia
 Warner Manuscripts..... Mrs. Mabel Baker
 Warner Recipe Collection..... Mrs. Wallen Summers
 and Illustrations..... Mrs. Richard Kuehne

Wild Flower Collection made by Anna B. Warner — catalogued

Pencil and Water Color Drawings
 by Anna B. Warner —
 catalogues and preserved..... Mrs. Howard Abbott
 Mrs. William Lewis

**PROVISIONAL CHARTER OF
CONSTITUTION ISLAND ASSOCIATION, INC.
ISSUED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

This instrument witnesseth that the Regents of the State of New York have granted this provisional charter incorporating

Jenny B. Tracy
Edward J. Timberlake
George Haven Putnam
Bessie Skillman
Anne Cristoff
H. Percy Silver
Lucretia T. Osborn
Clara Acensio

Walter Thompson
Clayton Wheat
Mary Averell Harriman
Merck B. Stewart
Fred Mayer
Alice Dodge Osborn
Katherine S. Sloan
Edward L. Partridge

and their associates and successors as an historical society for the purpose of commemorating the associations, legendary, historic, literary and artistic of the Hudson River Valley, and particularly to arouse interest in the preservation of the house of Susan and Anna Warner on Constitution Island opposite West Point, New York, and with powers incident to the carrying out of such general purposes, under the corporate name of Constitution Island Association, Inc., its principal office to be located in the City and County of New York with seventeen trustees to be at first the named incorporators, to hold until their successors shall be chosen by the corporation with power therein to increase or decrease its membership in such manner and upon such terms as shall be provided for by general rules of its trustees, and with power in them from time to time by unanimous vote of their full board to fix their terms of office and their number to be not more than twenty-five nor less than five; and this provisional charter will be replaced by an absolute charter if within five years the corporation shall acquire resources and equipment available for its use and support and sufficient and suitable for its chartered purposes, in the judgment of the Regents of the University, and be maintaining an organization of usefulness and character satisfactory to them.

Granted March 31, 1927 by the Regents of the University of the State of New York executed under their seal and recorded in their office.

The ABSOLUTE CHARTER was granted on April 23, 1965, Number 8861.

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

1. Members receive an invitation to all the program activities of the Association and to the Annual Meeting held on Constitution Island.
2. Members receive a copy of the Annual Report of the Association.
3. Members attending the Annual Meeting participate in all transactions brought before it, including voting for members of the Executive Committee which is responsible for the program of the Association.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS OF THE CONSTITUTION ISLAND ASSOCIATION

Member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation
Chartered by the University of the State of New York in 1927
Member of the Victorian Society in America
Member of the Orange County Community of Museums & Galleries

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1973**

The Executive Committee met three times this year; May 4th, July 6th and November 13th with the chairmen of the Administrative and Education Committees also attending.

At the May meeting a lengthy discussion took place on the lack of security at the Warner House on Constitution Island. Sometime in the spring before May 2nd, the house was broken into and a number of large items were stolen. Packable items are always stored in secured rooms but furniture is usually left covered and in place during the winter months. The following resolution was adopted and sent to the Superintendent of the Military Academy:

To: Lieut. General W. A. Knowlton
Superintendent
United States Military Academy
From: Executive Committee, Constitution Island Association
Signatures attached

Subject: Memorandum requesting immediate appointment by U.S. Military Academy of a caretaker twenty-four hours per day to safeguard Revolutionary Ruins and the Warner House and Collection.
The Executive Committee of the Constitution Island Association is concerned that its efforts to protect the work and renovation which has been done on the Warner House Collection have been greatly negated by theft and vandalism.

And so that it may continue to expand and safeguard its activities the Association believes that security of the premises is of the utmost importance. We also believe that it is to our mutual advantage to see that the Revolutionary artifacts on the Island are also protected from vandals.
The Association would be pleased to have a committee meet with you to discuss how such a plan could be expedited.

Thanking you for your consideration,
In July Col. J.D. Foldberg met with the Executive Committee to try to solve the security problem. At that time it was requested that the old caretaker cottage at the rear of the Warner House be renovated and preserved for a resident caretaker. In the meantime, the Association requested that a temporary trailer be located on the Island and a year-round caretaker employed. The Association offered to try to find funds to help finance such an arrangement. Numerous problems eliminated this plan.

The Military Academy is hoping to build a barn-style modern caretaker's cottage on the Island to be financed by the DeWitt Wallace Fund. For the past three years the Association has urged the Military Academy to follow the recommendation of the New York State Historic Trust . . . to preserve the present buildings and to bar modern intrusions from the historic environment and eliminate visual distractions on the Island. We strongly urge that the Warner House on Constitution Island be given special consideration and preserved and protected 'in situ' . . . This house and its collection represent a major historic resource in New York State.

Publicity

The Warner House slide program and talks were presented to civic groups, DAR, University and Women's Clubs and for the Warner House volunteers. Visiting day schedules were distributed to members, libraries, historical societies, banks, stores and gift shops in the Hudson Valley. Special individual news releases were sent to the major local newspapers. Feature articles were printed in the Middletown, Newburgh, Peekskill, Monroe and Mt. Kisco papers.

Publications

"Gardening By Myself" by Anna B. Warner was reprinted for a Centennial Edition. It was presented for sale for the first time at the spring lecture which was on historic aspects of gardening and flowers. Over 800 announcements were sent out to publicize

the printing of this book which Anna Warner wrote in 1872 when she lived on Constitution Island. She used her own gardening experiences as the basis for the twelve chapters in the book. Starting in January with the importance of selecting good seeds from the colorful catalogs; progressing to soil preparation; treatment of bulbs, roses and favorite annuals; careful guidance is offered and the December chapter ends with advice on how to save geraniums for the following season. The book has 223 pages, is hard covered and as a special attraction, flowered, calico jackets are specially made to protect the book. This makes a lovely gift for your favorite gardener, or for a hostess gift and it is a delight to read. (\$3.00 each plus 50c for handling)

Memberships

Our membership seems to have leveled off at about 450 persons. We urge each member to help recruit new members who are interested in preserving the Warner House and in promoting awareness of the historical and cultural aspects of life in the Hudson Valley. With your help we should be able to reach at least 50 more persons - 25 families.

Our income is not rising fast enough to meet expenses. Annual Reports, invitations and circulars cost \$1.50 for each membership. This naturally does not include the value of the wonderful contribution of all the workers who volunteer over 4000 hours of time to conduct the program of the Association. At \$2.00 per hour this alone would be \$8000 to say nothing of the cost of an administrator for the Warner House program. Any contributions or helpful suggestions which you can offer will be received with deep appreciation.

Mailing

The new Postmaster at West Point, Mr. John Davis, has assisted the Association in obtaining a non-profit organization mailing permit for bulk mail. This will be a great help financially but may result in slower mail delivery. The West Point Post Office staff are most helpful in trying to eliminate our mailing problems.

Copyrights

All books and original written articles are copyrighted in order to protect the Warner House Collection. The Centennial Edition of "Gardening By Myself" was copyrighted in 1973.

Warner House Collection Catalogue

The furnishings, art, utensils and memorabilia belonging to the Association have been listed, described and valued by experts. Mrs. Charles Rader is putting the records in final form and has designed work sheets to be used in packing and unpacking for storage.

The Archives and manuscripts are being arranged and indexed in the office of the Association in the Highland Falls Library by Mrs. Jerome Kelleher and Mrs. JoAnn Olivia. Our British representative, Mrs. Mabel Baker is studying and arranging Warner papers and manuscripts which have been sent to her in England. Up to now the papers have been "unclassifiable" as only Mrs. Baker has the extensive knowledge of the Warners' writings to carry out this intensive research.

Spring Lecture

Mrs. J. Lloyd Berrall of Montclair, New Jersey, spoke to 130 members and guests of the Association on "Bojackets from the Early American Garden." Arrangements for the program were made by Col. Jack L. Capps and an excellent dinner at the Hotel Thayer preceded the lecture. Mrs. Berrall is a Vassar graduate who has lectured extensively on the history of gardening and flowers. She is the author of "The History of Flower Arrangement" and of "The Garden," an illustrated history. Articles by her have appeared in "Historical Magazine" and in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Bulletin and the Encyclopedia Britannica. In her program, Mrs. Berrall demonstrated flower

arrangements typical of the Early American, Federal and Victorian periods. The program was not only informative, but beautiful.

Annual Meeting, June 17, 1973

On a beautiful June day the 57th Annual Meeting of the Constitution Island Association was held on the Island among the trees near Romans' Battery. With picnic lunches for their families and guests about 285 persons gathered to watch a group of twenty soldiers from the Brigade of the American Revolution representing the 1st, 2nd and 4th New York Continental Line and Regiment von Dittfurth present a drill exhibition. The soldiers wore authentic reproductions of Revolutionary War uniforms and used regulation muskets. The program was colorful and rather realistic in the wooded area of Constitution Island. Mr. Alan Almonre, Adjutant of the Grenadier Company of the Regiment von Dittfurth was in charge of the program.



U.S. Army Photo
Young guests at the Annual Meeting fraternizing with von Dittfurth Grenadiers.

Summer Visiting Program at the Warner House

In 1973 the number of visitors reached a total of 1976. Visitors made reservations for trips to the Warner House and Constitution Island each Tuesday and Wednesday during 23 weeks from May to October. Eighty volunteers contributed about 4000 hours serving as Boat Hostesses, in the Bookshop, as Information and Reservation volunteers, Inventory and Library cataloguers and Warner House Docents.

Information and Reservation Volunteers

While the Warner House was open a volunteer was on duty mornings in the Association Office Mondays through Fridays to answer the telephone, accept reservations and provide in-

formation. This service has proved a valuable contribution particularly in the busiest months of July and August. Five patient and devoted volunteers work in the office.

Boat Hostess

Visitors to the Warner House are accompanied to the Island by a hostess and on the boat ride places of interest are pointed out along the banks of the Hudson River. Each visiting group is met by a Docent at the Island Boat Dock and escorted to the Warner House.

Anna B. Warner Memorial Garden

The garden was spectacular this year from spring to fall. Under the loving care of 14 gardeners guided by Mrs. Hugh Davies and Miss Constance Hahn and aided by plenty of rain the early bulbs, the lavender, rose geraniums, lobelia, petunias, verbena, marigolds, yarrow, bergamot, chrysanthemums and many other plants provided a colorful approach to the Warner House. Two botanists from Connecticut and New Mexico came especially to see the Prickly Pear Cactus in June. They were surprised and pleased to see such beautiful specimens in the Hudson Valley.

Warner House Bookshop

In 1973 the Bookshop had its biggest and best year. All items are sold at cost and must be articles that relate to the Warners, the Island or the Revolutionary War period. Mrs. Robert Richards and Mrs. Gary Sausser were the guiding lights of this project aided by eleven other volunteers.

Starting at a work day in early April, volunteers made "Jesus Loves Me" bookmarks designed by Mrs. Jack Capps and pencil caddies, book ends and bulletin boards with Revolutionary War soldier motifs. Volunteers also made calico book covers for "Gardening By Myself." The demand for the book with these colorful covers was so great that the "Homemakers of Highland Falls," under the guidance of Mrs. Donald Carroll have agreed to help with this project.

Warner House Cookbook

The next big undertaking is the publication of a cookbook using recipes found among the Warner papers. Mrs. Wallen Summers has been working on the project and Mrs. Richard Kuehne has been preparing illustrations. Many of the original, handwritten recipes seem to be in the handwriting of Frances Warner - Aunt Fanny.

Docents Program Started for Volunteers

Museum visitors have become more knowledgeable and expect attention from skilled and informed guides who are able to interpret and explain the museum in an interesting manner. To meet this need and in anticipation of increased interest in the Warner House and Constitution Island as the Bicentennial approaches, the Association has started a course to train Docents for the Warner House Visiting Program. Docent requirements for 1974 include:

A. Attendance at three lectures -

1. The Warners and Warner House Collection with slides by Mrs. Charles Robinson.
 2. The Role of Constitution Island in the Revolutionary War with slides by Charles Robinson.
 3. The Program and Policies of the Constitution Island Association by Mrs. William Lewis.
- B. Attendance at the demonstration and practice tour at the Warner House.
- C. Serving as Docent at seven different sections of the Warner House Program one or more times.
- D. Attendance at two workshop sessions with museum experts.
- E. Reading a selected bibliography on the Warners and Constitution Island history.

Docent Handbook

A handbook for Docents is being published which will supplement the first Hostess Guide and which will bring out program procedures and additional points to emphasize in each section of the Warner House and for "The Little American" program. Mrs. David Bramlett, Mrs. Richard Perry and Mrs. Charles Robinson are working on this project with me.

"The Little American" program will include the dramatic skit, procedures for organizing and conducting the program. study references and sample educational materials.

Four editions of the "Little American" newspaper are planned which will be about the Revolutionary War history of Constitution Island and West Point and about the natural beauty and ecology of the Island.

New York State Council on the Arts Grants for 1973-74

The Association was awarded a grant of \$1316 to help start the Docent program, for the Docent Handbook and for the "Little American" newspapers. Funds have been provided for two workshops, lecture, consultants, meeting places and publications. The New York State Council on the Arts provides funds for non-profit educational organizations that provide cultural and historic programs that benefit New York State. The Constitution Island Association appreciates the financial assistance and advice provided for our program.

Special Projects for Future Funding

1. Cleaning and repairing selected pieces of furniture in the Warner House to preserve them for future use. \$2000.00.
2. To photograph and catalogue 80 drawings of Constitution Island and West Point done by Anna B. Warner 1822-55. \$400.00.
3. To publish a bibliography of the Warner books in the Collection of the Association with annotations to be distributed to New York State libraries, historical societies, colleges and universities interested in the Victorian period. \$1350.00.
4. To rebound and preserve copies of the biography of Susan Warner and some leather albums of cadet photographs of the late 1800's given to Anna Warner. \$400.00.
5. To publish a children's edition of "The Wide Wide World" by Susan Warner to be sold at cost in the Warner Bookshop. \$2000.00.
6. To reproduce family photographs and miniatures for exhibition. \$140.00.

The Executive Committee and Committee Chairmen are studying possible future activities at the Warner House. Meetings with representatives of the U.S. Military Academy are being planned to try to work out mutually satisfactory arrangements. As you know, Constitution Island and the Warner House were designated in 1908 by Mrs. Russell Sage and Miss Anna Warner to be added to the reservation of the Military Academy for its use. The Association was founded in 1916 to ensure preservation of the house and its furnishings, and when the Association was incorporated in 1927 the bulk of the furnishings, books, art and memorabilia were given to it by Mrs. Charles Addison Miller. Since that time a number of other Warner items have been given to the Association by friends of Miss Warner for use in the Warner House. The Warner House is a rare example of a historic house furnished with the possessions of its former owners and should be preserved. Interest is growing in the program of the Association and your help and advice would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve H. Lewis, Ed. D.

Chairman

DOCENTS FOR THE WARNER HOUSE PROGRAM 1973

Mrs. William Annan
Mrs. Michael Bartelme
Mrs. Gary Beech
Mrs. Eugene Blackwell
Mrs. David Bramlett
Mrs. Edmund Burhans
Mrs. Robert Doughty
Mrs. Heman Gabriel
Mrs. Fred Gantzer
Mrs. Duane Hancock
Mrs. William Jackson
Mrs. Jerome Keiteler
Mrs. Robert Kewley
Mrs. Don Lair
Mrs. James Looman
Mrs. Lloyd McCabe
Mrs. Edward O Gorman
Mrs. Mihum Perry
Mrs. Richard Perry
Mrs. Charles Robinson
Mrs. David Rohr
Mrs. Pierce Rushton
Mrs. Gary Sausser
Mrs. Charles Westpheling

VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. Donald Albertson
Mrs. Cary Anderson
Mrs. Edward Aschelman
Miss Sarah Baker
Mrs. Roland Beck
Mrs. John Bianco
Miss Vanessa Burhans
Mrs. Jack Capps
Mrs. George Chancellor
Mrs. Warren Clark
Mrs. Francis Dale
Mrs. Hugh Davies
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Dewey
Miss Harriet Demerest
Mrs. William Dyckman
Mrs. John Eiting
Mrs. Hans Gierschik
Mrs. Peter Grey
Miss Constance Hahn
Mrs. Donald Harper
Mrs. William Harris
Mrs. Bert Tryon
Mrs. Wallen Summers
Mrs. George Templeton
Mrs. Karl Ten Brink
Mrs. Richard Kuehne
Mrs. Wilmarrh Tuhill
Miss Marian Wellar
Mrs. Charles Whithead
Mrs. William Zierdt

CONSTITUTION ISLAND ASSOCIATION, INC.

BALANCES DECEMBER 1, 1972

Checking Account \$2,558.74
Savings Account \$2,528.47
Double M Account \$4,777.42

\$ 9,864.63

RECEIPTS

Dividends \$ 37.80
Interest \$ 346.36
Membership Dues \$ 833.50
Gifts \$1,355.00
Educational Materials \$1,211.50
Annual Meeting \$ 127.00
Dinner Reservations 3/25/73 \$ 708.00
Telephone Refund \$ 32.98
Visitors Donations \$1,297.00

\$ 5,949.14

\$15,813.77

EXPENDITURES

Postage \$ 249.98
Printing \$ 636.40
Telephone \$ 366.17
Safe Deposit Rent \$ 6.00
Maintenance Warner House \$ 529.50
Refinishing Furniture \$ 475.00
Insurance \$ 265.00
Educational Program \$4,208.66
Boat Transportation \$ 679.50
Administration \$ 173.14
Warner House Program \$ 51.18
Highland Falls \$ 668.50

\$ 8,666.93

BALANCES DECEMBER 1, 1973

Checking Account \$ 23.59
Savings Account \$2,098.82
Double M Account \$5,024.43

\$ 7,146.84

\$15,813.77

By Elizabeth J. de Witte
Treasurer

THE WARNERS OF CONSTITUTION ISLAND

by Hilma Robinson

One day when Anna Warner was extolling the beauties of New England scenery and its history, her friend Miss Olivia Stokes of New York City asked her to name her favorite spot in New England. Unhesitatingly Anna replied "Canaan," a village which just escapes by a few miles from being in Massachusetts. When early settlers had purchased tracts of land "six miles square" from the Stockbridge Indians in 1758 at a price of 250 pounds a tract¹⁴ they thought the property was included in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. For years the inhabitants strongly protested its inclusion in New York State.² And so it was very natural for Anna to consider this small New York village a part of New England.

Even today Canaan is still a village which happily has been able to retain some of its New England flavor. A few of its old houses are still standing, among them the Jason Warner house where Susan and Anna spent happy childhood summers and which is described in some of their books. Another Warner house is still there. The old tavern of their great grandfather Warner burned years ago. The original Whiting grist mill was set afire by a party of Tories while Col. Whiting, another great grandfather, was at the Battle of Saratoga. Today, historic markers point out the Jason Warner house and the spot where stood the grist mill near Whiting's Pond, now renamed Quechee Lake in honor of Susan Warner's book of the same name.

Canaan's earliest settlers had moved westward from eastern Massachusetts and Connecticut in the years preceding the Revolution and prominent among them were the Warner and Whiting families, ancestors of Susan and Anna Warner. When William Warner of Wethersfield, Connecticut, and his wife, Rebecca Lupton of Boston came to Canaan Center in 1764 his paternal family had already been in this country for 127 years, since 1637 when another William Warner arrived in Ipswich, Massachusetts from Ipswich, England on the vessel "Globe."¹¹ For some years the Warner family continued to live in Ipswich, which still boasts of its many 17th and early 18th century houses. Gradually various members moved out of the village to settle in other parts of New England. Down through the years the Warners are described as hard working, independent leaders in their communities. The men fought in the long series of French and Indian Wars, handing down to succeeding generations a strong love for this emerging nation and a staunch willingness to work for it as well as to fight for it.

While Susan and Anna's direct ancestors ultimately settled in Canaan, another branch of the first William Warner's descendants moved northward from Ipswich to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. There perhaps its most prominent member, Jonathan Warner was born in 1726. He became a very wealthy merchant, ship owner and civil magistrate as well as a member of the King's Council. He also married into the wealthy, powerful Wentworth family of New Hampshire, famous as a family of Royal Governors. He acquired a handsome brick mansion built ca. 1716 and this was his home for 54 years. It was occupied by his collateral descendants until 1931 when it was saved by the Warner House Association which was formed to preserve it. In 1960 the house was designated a Registered National Historic Landmark and it is now open to the public.¹⁶

"The New Hampshire Gazette" of May 24, 1814 writing of Jonathan's death says "At the commencement of the American Revolution he was a firm and undeviating vindicator of his country's rights and through the whole course of his valuable life, he ardently espoused the same free and patriotic principles which achieved our independence."¹⁶

The great grandfather of Susan and Anna was another William Warner born in 1717. Like his cousin Jonathan he became a leader in his community, the growing village of Canaan. He also was an early advocate of American independence, a soldier-briefly, for he died in 1776 and the father of seven soldier sons averaging six feet in height.¹⁷ The youngest was Daniel, only 15, "who would not be left behind

and, being too young for heavy service took fire in hand and cheered on the rest."¹¹

In time another of the seven, Jason, married his colonel's daughter, Abigail Whiting, and became the father of Thomas and Henry Warner and the grandfather of Susan and Anna.

Abigail Warner's family too had made the long journey from the Massachusetts coast. Her father, William Bradford Whiting, arrived in Canaan in 1765, one year after William Warner. Also an early patriot leader he became a colonel in the New York Militia, fought in the Battle of Saratoga and witnessed the surrender of Burgoyne.⁵ After the war he was active in state politics, a state senator for 20 years and a long time leader in the eastern part of the state.⁷ Colonel Whiting, named for his early ancestor, William Bradford of Plymouth, was also a direct descendant of other families of "Mayflower" fame, the Aldens and Peabodys.²

Not too much is known about the women in the Warner-Whiting families but they must have had the same courage and strength as other pioneer women, traveling over rough trails in wagons or ox-carts to make a home in a wilderness. Anna describes her great-grandmother Rebecca Warner as a "woman of extreme energy and executive force."¹¹ On one occasion she not only provided a pillow for a tarring and feathering party for a Tory spy but sent out her best one by her youngest son. Another family story relates that some unfriendly Indians were seen lurking near the house of their great-grandmother, Amy Lothrop Whiting, while the male settlers were away Mrs. Whiting, who was making soap at the time, carried the hot soap up to the second floor and, as an Indian approached the house, poured a dipperful of the hot liquid on his bare back. The Indians left.³

Thomas and Henry Warner were born in Canaan, the former in 1784 and Henry in 1787. They grew up on the farm, getting what education they could in nearby schools. Their father, Jason, also a legislator, was often away from home. Neither boy wanted to remain on the farm, but other opportunities were limited. Finally their father successfully concluded arrangements for their admission to Union College in Schenectady. This experience opened up a whole new world to these two farm boys and perhaps more importantly exposed them to the influence of Dr. Eliphalet Nott. As its president for 62 years Dr. Nott made Union College one of the four best known colleges in the country, ranking with Princeton, Yale and Harvard. Clergyman, educator, inventor and zealous promoter of some questionable projects, Dr. Nott was a widely known and very controversial figure.⁸ To him the end often justified the means. There would seem to be indications in their later lives that this philosophy was not lost on Thomas and Henry Warner.

After college Thomas went into the ministry and Henry turned to law. He went to New York City to get his training by working in a law office. A serious and hard worker he prospered in time and built up an excellent law practice, often traveling back and forth to Albany. All of this occurred before the days of the railroad when the Hudson River was the main avenue of transportation.

Through friends Henry met Anna Bartlett, described as a charming and beautiful girl. She came from a very different financial and social background but, like Henry, from pioneer New England stock. Her father, Isaac Bartlett, was a direct descendant of Robert Bartlett of Plymouth who sailed from England on the "Anne."⁹ Her mother was Susan Marsh, whose forebears from England had settled in Salem. The marriage of Isaac Bartlett and Susan Marsh took place on August 9, 1789 in Providence, Rhode Island, home of the bride. Their two children were Samuel Lothrop Bartlett and Anna Marsh Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett died when these children were very young and in 1795 his widow married Cornelius J. Bogert, a man of considerable means who became very fond of his step-children and gave them every advantage.³ Part of Anna Bartlett's early

life was spent in Newport, Rhode Island. Later her step-father and mother owned a handsome house and large farm in Jamaica, Long Island, then a lovely and fashionable village.

Anna Barrett and Henry Warner were married in 1817. They lived in New York City where their five children were born. Only two of these children survived. Susan, born in 1819 and Anna, born 1827. In 1829 Mrs. Warner died when she was only thirty-six. In this crisis Henry's maiden sister came to live with him and to care for the two little girls. Their maternal grandmother, Mrs. Bogert, was a frequent and welcome guest and her namesake Susan often visited her, traveling to her home in their elegant coach. We believe Mrs. Bogert died about 1845 and Mr. Bogert coar.

Susan's diary, which she started at an early age, plus other contemporary material gives a picture of the Warners' life in New York in the 1830's. In 1835 the family was living in a handsome town house on St. Mark's Place.¹⁰ Their property was a block deep and included a carriage house, green house and gardens. The house with its double parlors was richly furnished and servants were no problem. Susan had private tutors and was a talented pianist and artist. Their close neighbors were members of the Livingston and Delancey families as well as James Fenimore Cooper.¹⁰

All too suddenly this comfortable, even luxurious life came to an end in 1837. Mr. Warner lost money in the financial panic of that year. In addition, he was already deeply involved in the purchase of Constitution Island opposite West Point where he planned to build a summer home for himself as well as an elaborate hotel. Only recently were the preliminary designs for this hotel, drawn by Alexander Jackson Davis discovered in the Metropolitan Museum and the New York Historical Society. All these transactions had started when Henry and his family visited Thomas who had been chaplain and professor at West Point since 1828. As a result of wise investments, involved financial dealings and poor management, the lives of Henry Warner and his children were drastically changed. One legal complication after another followed for years and Henry never regained his successful law practice. The handsome town house with much of its elegant furniture was lost to them and sacrificed to pay debts. Gone too were all the comforts and luxuries to which they had become accustomed.

Thomas, who might have been of some help, did nothing as far as we know. Furthermore, he left the Military Academy in 1838 and sailed for France the following year during one of Henry's many periods of crisis. Thomas had strongly urged Henry to buy Constitution Island, suggested alterations for the existing small house and even talked of building a small lodge for himself. There is no mention of any conflict between the two brothers and Henry was well aware of Thomas's plans to go to France. In her biography of Susan, Anna records that her uncle was to be a tutor and personal chaplain in the household of Colonel Herman Thorn in Paris. Self-styled Colonel Thorn was a tremendously wealthy American from a Dutchess County family who lived in princely style in the French capital.⁷ He is reputed to have been demanding and autocratic. Thomas is described as impetuous and excitable. It would not take long for two such strong willed personalities to clash and Thomas left or was discharged by April 1840. Thomas had also planned to start a private school for wealthy American boys in Paris. Although he obtained many letters of recommendation for his prospectus for the school from bishops, clergymen, authors (including James Fenimore Cooper and Washington Irving) and business men, there seems to be no record of its having been started.⁷ Do fact records about Thomas' life abroad are very sketchy. We do not know whether his wife, Elizabeth McDougal, accompanied him to Paris. Thomas died penniless in Paris in 1848 during a cholera epidemic after having been sent to Clitchy Prison for debt. He was buried in a mass grave in the Cemetery of Pere la Chaise.⁴ Such a tragic ending must have been a sad blow to Henry and Aunt Fanny.

Constitution Island became the old Revolutionary War house was mortgaged. From 1836 on the old Revolutionary War house with the wing Henry added became the family's only home for

the rest of their lives -- a total of 79 years of Warner occupancy. Henry, Aunt Fanny and the two girls, now 17 and 10, found themselves living in almost the same primitive surroundings as their very early ancestors and poorly equipped to cope with the many problems of survival. We can only surmise what these drastic changes meant to Henry and what it cost him in self-esteem. Even though Henry lost his law practice as well as his role as bread winner he always retained the respect and deep affection of his sister and children.

Aunt Fanny, 15 years younger than her brother, served Henry and her niece with devoted care and in turn was greatly loved and appreciated by them. Fanny Warner was only 27 when she came at Henry's request to take over the management of his home and his two young daughters. Anna describes her aunt as "a very young woman then; extremely handsome; quick, deft, energetic, high spirited, fearless and self-contained; devoted as anyone could be."¹¹ We are told of only one plan Fanny may have had for her own life or what sacrifices she may have made. She simply moved in at the time of Mrs. Warner's death and remained with the family for the rest of her life. It was a long life too, for she lived to be 83 years old and died in 1885 within months of Susan's death. Aunt Fanny was described in her later years as a gracious, tactful and mentally alert old lady, who, unfortunately, was confined to a wheel chair for some years.¹³

The natural beauty of the Island and its role in the Revolutionary War had then little appeal to these two city bred girls. To Susan -- a sensitive, high-strung, often imperious adolescent the exile was frightening and impenetrable. Anna's youth saved her from some of the harsher realities. Now Susan had to assume the responsibility of teaching Anna in their isolated home. Later in her biography of Susan, Anna writes "Our own life was changing much faster than we knew our affairs were on a steady progress down hill. From waiter and coachman and cook to the skill of our own hands (chiefly) was a black pony; oars and saw and hatchet succeeded our frisky broad ponies; while from dainty silks and laces we came down to calicoes, fashioned by our own fingers; and from new bonnets with every turn of the season, to whatever headgear we could get. All this mattered very little to me, but to my sister in the bloom of her young womanhood, it must have been very hard."¹²

It was hard for the legal and financial problems followed for years, even after the Warners moved to the Island. In the spring of 1849 certain men managed to acquire the mortgage on some city lots which Mr. Warner still held and immediately foreclosed. They bought the property for less than the mortgage and sued Mr. Warner for the bond. In order to pay the debt there was a sheriff's sale on the Island.⁵ It was all very legal but undoubtedly a very traumatic experience for the hard-pressed family. Susan's beloved piano had to be sacrificed as well as many other treasures. Anna writes, "Books had to be separated, other things sorted out . . . all that we might lawfully keep was set aside . . . We watched our little 'Sir Joshua' (portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds) as long as we could see it." Poignantly Anna continues, "Our little Revolutionary (and revolutionized) front room was swept and dusted, stray bits of furniture were gathered in and I ran out for a handful of flowers to make myself feel at home."¹¹

Their Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington escaped from being included in the sheriff's sale only because it was not in the house. It was then in the possession of Judge Blatchford, a family friend who had taken it as security for a loan. Sometime after the publication of Susan's successful novel "The Wide, Wide World" he graciously returned the portrait to Susan in gratitude for his pleasure in reading her book.⁴ This portrait, one of Stuart's best, is in the Cadet Library at West Point, the gift of Anna Warner. Legal technicalities prevented her from carrying out her wish to will it directly to the Corps of Cadets so it was bequeathed to the Superintendent of the Military Academy, whoever he might be, at the time of Anna's death, and to be so placed that the cadets could see it daily and be reminded of all that Washington had done for his country.

After the sale Henry, his two daughters and their Aunt Fanny continued to live on the Island. Although Susan and Anna grew to love this home, life there was never easy. Often there was almost no money, little food and sometimes not even a candle. Family silver was sold for needed clothing. Money was borrowed at times and repaid as soon as possible. When money was to be spent on the Island although when financially possible the family went to New York or Highland Falls. Living on such an isolated farm with only intermittent help meant that both sisters had to work hard physically. They became experienced in cutting and sawing wood, shoveling snow, caring for their animals and rowing to West Point or to Garrison for provisions or to meet friends. Sometimes they were able to afford household help but often, like their thrifty New England ancestors, they learned to "make do." They learned cooking, preserving and darning better. They made most of their own clothes and did washing and cleaning. Anna, the gardener, tended a large vegetable garden as well as her flower garden. Frequently selling vegetables and berries.

Events were often spent in reading aloud, either chapters of books or stories Anna and Susan were working on, books from their library, or in lively conversation about current events. There were the regular Bible readings, family prayers and religious discussions for religion played a most important part in this family's life. In the biography of her sister Anna further brings out the warm and affectionate relationships among this closely knit family group. Susan was a more reserved and intense person than her more outgoing sister. She was also not as strong physically. As the elder she had the burden of family support placed on her shoulders when she was not expecting it nor was she prepared to assume it. Perhaps more quickly than the others she was made acutely aware of her father's broken spirit, his business failures and his inability to ever again support his family. After some years of invalidism, Henry Warner died in 1875 at the age of 87.

That both sisters became well-known Victorian authors happened out of sheer desperation, for writing became their way of earning their living, thus supporting themselves, their father and the aunt as well as maintaining their island home. There were few employment opportunities open to gentlemen in that era. Positions as companions or governesses would not have provided a home for their father and aunt. As for marriage, it is doubtful that either Susan or Anna with their strong family loyalty would have been willing to burden a young husband with the support of elderly relatives, particularly if he were an army officer who would be frequently transferred from one post to another. It is most unlikely that one sister would have left the other alone to face the family responsibilities. While there has been great speculation as to why neither sister ever married, research among family papers has not revealed any clear cut answers.

In order to earn money Susan and Anna wrote whatever they thought might sell, often arising at dawn to start work on novels, hymns, poems, travel books, religious essays, puzzles and short stories. Susan and Anna did become very prominent and successful authors and their earnings at times were considerable but they were often drained by their father's debts and deprived of income because of copyright problems. "The Wide, Wide World" was second only to Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published about the same time. However, in accepting Susan's voluminous manuscript for publication George Putnam took a decided gamble. The author was unknown and the book too long. Anna comments "There must have been something in my dear father's face which touched his kind heart." Mr. Warner had assumed the hard and often disappointing task of approaching various publishers. Perhaps more credit should be given to Mr. Putnam's mother who read the manuscript first and strongly urged her son to publish it. The book was an instant success and soon the author "Elizabeth Wethehell" was revealed as Susan Warner. From 1850 until 1920 there were 67 editions but about one third were pirated English editions. George Haven Putnam, son of the publisher, later

estimated that there were one hundred thousand copies of Susan's book sold in England during the first ten years for which the author received nothing.² "Queezy," which soon followed was another success and was admired by Elizabeth Barrett Browning among others.

Anna's book "Dollars and Cents" was written under the name of Amy Lothrop, another family name and was moderately successful. A centennial edition of Anna's charming book "Gardening By Myself" was published in 1972 by the Constitution Island Association. Her hymn "Jesus Loves Me" familiar to Solomon Islanders and more recently sung by Vietnamese children is still sung in American Sunday schools. Her well known biography of her sister Susan was written only years after Susan's death and then rather reluctantly and only in response to many requests from American and English writers. The two sisters wrote a total of 106 books 18 of which were authored. The best known of the co-authored books is "Sky and Seal".

In evaluating the writings of these two sisters a literary critic in the 1920's made the following comment. "The writings of the Warner sisters have undoubtedly historical value. Their portrayal of American life, in town and country, among the fashionable and plain people of their day was as graphic as the view of English life which we enjoy in Jane Austen or Charlotte Brontë. No other American authors give us quite so much insight into the home life and moral aspirations of that period."³ Anna and Susan had often been called the American Brontë sisters. Famous authors and figures prominent in the religious and social world both here and abroad admired their work. Many of these people visited the house on Constitution Island and their winter residences elsewhere.

The Warner sisters had many friends in New York City and along the banks of the Hudson. Among them were Cyrus Field who laid the first Atlantic cable and his wife, and Mrs. David Codwise, a member of the well known Livingston clan, who with her husband had known the Warners in their days of plenty. Others in their group of friends were Fanny Kemble, famous actress and Shakespearean reader, Julia Ward Howe, author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and Alice and Phoebe Cary who were also authors and poets. The publisher George Putnam and his family became dear friends and included the Warner sisters in their receptions, teas and dinner parties when they entertained such literary figures as Thackeray and James Russell Lowell. Miss Haines, headmistress of an exclusive girls' school in fashionable Gramercy Park was a long time friend as was the socially prominent Olivia Phelps Stokes who was later to write a book about the two sisters. Anna and Susan enjoyed many social activities during the winters such as musicals, lectures, church services and the popular Bible classes. They returned these courtesies as best they could. In their rented rooms they were "at home" on Saturday evenings, serving simple refreshments prepared by their own hands and frequently entertaining as many as thirty friends in an evening.¹

Closer to their Island home were friends from Garrison, Cold Spring, Highland Falls and West Point. Well known local authors such as Nathaniel Parker Willis and E.P. Roe knew the sisters. Benson Lossing of Poughkeepsie stopped at the Island to visit and to sketch the Revolutionary War ruins while gathering material for his "Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution".

The Warner sisters' long, friendly and close relationship with West Point is well known. The famous Bible classes for the cadets held during a period of 40 years, were an outgrowth of similar classes for the officers' wives and were begun at the request of the cadets. Those nineteenth century years were times when Bible classes, church attendance and religious education were not only popular and fashionable but were an important part of Victorian life just as church services had been a most important part of the lives of Susan and Anna's Pilgrim and Puritan ancestors.

What is not as widely known are the many and long-lasting

September 5, 1908

My dear Miss Warner:

I have written Mrs. Sage thanking her, and I write to thank you for the singular generosity which has prompted you and her to make this gift to the Nation. You have rendered a real and patriotic service, and on behalf of all our people I desire to express our obligation and our appreciation. With regard, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Theodore Roosevelt
By arrangement Anna continued to live in her old home, freed at last from the financial burdens which had been so great a part of her life. One of her old friends wrote: "It was a pleasure to see the pretty changes in her dress . . . the shopping out of chess in her garret did not always express her taste as did the soft gray crepes and silks with the shoes to match."¹³ She even visited her dear friends, General and Mrs. John Wilson in Washington. General Wilson was a member of the class of 1860 and Superintendent of the Military Academy from 1889-1893.¹⁴ She also gladly welcomed her many friends to the Island.

The Bible Classes were carried on as usual. Shortly after her 67th birthday on August 31, 1914 she wrote to a friend, "I read the paper to Bertha, and many a nice book . . . sitting in the piazza room while she mends and makes for herself and me. . . . And I go out for my morning row."¹⁵ Late in the fall Anna and Bertha carefully closed the house and left the Island to spend the winter in Highland Falls. And there Anna died January 22, 1915.

There is no formal monument on the Island as the cadet suggested but the Military Academy gave its own recognition to the Warner sisters for all they had done for the cadets over the years by requesting and obtaining permission from the Secretary of War for first Susan, and then 30 years later, for Anna to be buried with honors in the Military Cemetery at West Point in a spot overlooking the river and Constitution Island. Sheltered by a magnificent honey locust tree their simple white house stands in its serene and lovely setting facing the Hudson River and West Point. Fortunately, it is still amid the unspoiled beauty of Constitution Island. We can only hope that this beauty will be preserved and protected for future generations.

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friendships between the cadets and the sisters, particularly with Anna who carried on the Bible classes for 30 years after Susan's death in 1885. One of their first cadet friends must have been their Canadian cousin, William Henry Warner, son of Daniel who first served in the Revolution as a 15-year-old fifer. William was graduated from the Academy as a Lieutenant of Artillery in 1836.¹¹ After a distinguished military career during which he was severely wounded by Indians while exploring the far west he was ambushed and killed on the east side of the Sierra Nevada in September 1849. The Manuscript Collection contains many letters from graduates telling of their experiences in Indian Territory and of other military posts. Many officers stopped to visit the Warners whenever they returned to West Point even up to the final year of Anna's life. Their wives also became fast friends and we know of one very new lieutenant who brought his bride to the Warner house on their honeymoon.

The Warner home was one of the very few places the cadets were allowed to visit, for rules and regulations were much more strict in those years. One cadet wrote, "For the first three years (1835-1836) was there I practically entered no private home except Miss Warner's, nor did I come into social contact with anyone on the reservation except her and the cadets."¹² On the Island the cadets briefly escaped from military supervision. In addition to the Bible classes the cadets were entertained at tea and dinner, a coveted privilege for Anna was an excellent cook and she was aided by Bertha, her maid and devoted companion for many years. Anna writes to a friend on March 6, 1889, "They keep me busy, these gray uniforms. Last Saturday I had Nebraska to dinner; Tennessee, Kansas, Michigan, New York, and New Jersey to call; and to tea Illinois, Delaware, Wisconsin, South Carolina, Minnesota and Ohio."¹³ One homesick young cadet wrote in a letter that when he passed the Thayer monument and saw the words "Father of the Military Academy" he would think that some day on Constitution Island there should be a monument to Anna Warner with the words "Mother of the Military Academy."¹⁴

There was an additional bond of interest and friendship with the cadets. These boys in training for military careers were to serve their country as the Whiting-Warner ancestors had served at an earlier time. The Revolutionary War years were made vivid to the two sisters by tales told by their grandfather Warner and from family records. General Washington was his hero and therefore theirs too, so it is not surprising that the Stuart portrait occupied the place of honor over the fireplace in the little room they called their Revolutionary parlor.

Furthermore they were living on land occupied by Continental soldiers during most of the Revolutionary War years. To Susan and Anna this was hallowed ground which should be preserved. Unhappily, they could not afford to give it to the Military Academy, but they steadfastly rejected lucrative offers to sell for commercial purposes. Even after Susan's death Anna struggled on to preserve her land. On its part the Military Academy was not reluctant to acquire this valuable property on the opposite shore. Its purchase had been recommended by two Superintendents, two Secretaries of War, William H. Taft and Elihu Root and also by the Congressional Board of Visitors. Still, the Congress failed to make the necessary appropriation.¹⁵

Not until almost the end of Anna's long life was her beloved Island made safe from commercial developers. Then Mrs. Russell Sage, one of America's early philanthropists, purchased it for the price at which Anna had offered it to the Government which was about half the offer, made by developers. In 1908 the Island was presented to the Government as the joint gift of Anna Warner and Mrs. Sage with strict provisions that the land should always remain part of the Military Reservation and that it should never be used by any commercial enterprise for profit or public pincenicking. Carefully preserved in the Warner House Manuscript Collection is this letter to Anna from President Theodore Roosevelt, an early

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 DeLin, Mr. and Mrs. Erich
 Demarest, Ms. Harriet
 Dodge, Mrs. Philip E.
 Doherty, Ms. A. Marie
 Doughty, Cpt. and Mrs. Robert A.
 Dunn, Ms. Elizabeth
 Duntion, Mrs. Lawrence
 Enos, Mrs. George
 Felth, Ms. Irene
 Ferree, Dr. and Mrs. John W.
 Finnigan, Mr. William E.
 Fleck, Ms. Alma
 Frank, Mr. and Mrs. L.S.
 Gannon, Mrs. Rosemary
 Glass, Mr. Clarence K.
 Gray, Mrs. J.A. Clinton
 Guise, Mrs. Dorothy
 Hall, Ms. Thelma
 Hallock, Mr. and Mrs. Henry
 Helfenstein, Mr. Gouveneur Morris
 Helmick, Mrs. George R.
 Hitchcock, Ms. Catherine
 Hoyt, Mrs. Clare J.
 Jimenez, Mrs. Helen D.
 Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey
- Kennedy, Misses Catherine and Margaret
 Kilian, Mrs. Violet
 Ludowicy, Mrs. John R.
 MacLean, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H.
 Macomber, Mrs. Dorothy O.
 McElroy, Ms. Miriam
 McGree, Ms. Dorothy
 McGunnin, Ms. Mary
 Manville, Mr. Stewart R.
 Matz, Mrs. Irene
 Moser, Mrs. Charles E.
 Nathan, Mrs. Robert H.
 O'Hare, Mrs. Herbert F.
 O'Morrissey, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F.
 Osborn, Mr. and Mrs. Albert L.
 Parsons, Mrs. Hazel
 Peterson, Mrs. James
 Pierce, Ms. Anne
 Pinkel, Ms. Dorothea M.
 Powell, Mrs. Allan
 Pulver, Mr. Saul
 Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J.
 Saunders, Ms. Jean
 Schaeffer, Mrs. Madeline
 Schoonover, Mr. and Mrs. R.A.
 Seymour, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth
 Smith, Ms. Johanna
 Smith, Mrs. Marilyn K.
 Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon
 Stiles, Mrs. Kenneth
 Story, Mrs. Dorothy C.
 Taube, Mrs. Adele
 Taylor, Mr. Howard C.
 Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Allen B.
 Tozeski, Mr. Stanley P.
 Tuttle, Mr. Walter A.
 Stuster, Grace Vincent
 Von Fluegge, Mrs. Rudolph
 Watkins, Ms. M.W.
 Webb, Mrs. George S.
 Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Henry E.
 Wilhelm, Mrs. James R.
 Winchell, Miss Constance
 Winters, Mrs. Sheila
 Wood, Mrs. Harriet
 Woods, Mrs. Everett J.

CONSTITUTION ISLAND ASSOCIATION
 West Point, New York
 10996

ITEMS FOR SALE

- Revolutionary War History
 1. "The Fort that Never Was" by Col. Merle G. Sheffield
 Box 41
 A report on the earliest forts on Constitution Island with maps and illustrations. 1969 60 p. \$1.50
- The Warner House Collection
 2. "Gardening by Myself" by Anna Bartlett Warner
 Published in 1872 and reprinted in 1972 223 p. illus. (Handmade calico cover 50c extra) 2.50
 3. "Recollections of Anna and Susan Warner" by Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes and others 12 p. .25
 4. "The Warner Sisters and the Literary Associations of the Hudson Valley" by Maj. George Haven
 Putnam, 1922 18 p. .50
 5. "Jesus Loves Me" compiled by Ardis Abbott. Incidents in the life of Anna Warner 1971 1.25
 6. "The Warner Family and the Warner Books" by Mrs. Mabel Baker. An analysis of the lives and
 writings of Susan and Anna Warner. 1971
 Warner Paper Dolls, reproductions by Marie Capps 1.25
 7. Warner House notepaper, 10 in a package .25
 8. Warner House notepaper, 10 in a package 1.00
 9. Color Slides of Warner House Interior, ea .35
 10. Annual Reports of the Constitution Island Association, 1916 - 1970 Each .50

Please add 50c to mail orders to help cover mailing costs

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Ernest Bersin
 An honorary member of the Association and for many years skipper of the West Point launch. He loved the Hudson River and was a devoted helper with the Warner House visiting program. He had retired but came back every summer to see what was going on.

Mrs. Katherine Tillman Martin
 A life member for many years who had known the Warners and who wrote us to commend the work of the Association in recent years.

Mr. Frederick Mayer
 He was organist at the Cadet Chapel and attended the 50th Annual Meeting of the Association before moving to Florida. He had known the Warners and gave the Association the original music written for one of Anna Warner's hymns. He served on the Executive Committee in the early years of the Association.

Mr. John Nalle
 He was the husband of Mrs. Frances Bain Nalle and when they visited the Warner House in 1972 reminisced with the hostesses on how he and his wife had helped to arrange some of the exhibits in the house when they lived in Newburgh.

Mrs. George Nichols
 A former hostess and great supporter of the work of the Association. She and her husband were faithful visitors and were always helping with Association projects.

Mr. Frederick Neuberger
 A recent member who attended the activities of the Association with his many friends from Monroe.

APR 30 1974

Bill - will you pursue this?
Copy of 'bid sheet on Henry + Thomas sent May 3, 74



**THE
CONSTITUTION ISLAND
ASSOCIATION**

BOX 41 WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996

April 27, 1974

Registrar
Union College
Schenectady, NY

Dear Sir:-

I am writing to ask whether your administrative office or Library has any records concerning Thomas and Henry W. Warner who were graduated from Union College in 1808 and 1809 respectively.

Thomas Warner became a minister and from 1828 until 1838 was Chaplain and Professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point. In 1839 he went to Paris to become chaplain and tutor in the household of Herman Thorn, a very wealthy American. We believe he died in Paris about 1848 during a cholera epidemic.

His brother Henry Warner purchased Constitution Island in 1836 and two years later he, his sister Frances and his daughters Susan and Anna left New York and made their home in the house on the Island. Susan Warner became well known in the mid Nineteenth Century as the author of "The Wide, Wide World" and a number of other books popular at that time. Anna Warner also wrote, primarily for children and also co-authored several books with her sister. In 1908 Anna Warner, then the last of her family, and Mrs. Russell Sage gave the Island to the United States Government with the proviso that Anna could continue to live in the house. The Constitution Island Association was formed after her death in 1915 to care for the furnishings, manuscripts and library which were in the house. The house and the Island are now part of the USMA Reservation but the Association owns the family possessions and with the co-operation of the Military Academy conducts guided tours of the house and part of the Island during the summer months.

The Association is assembling biographical material about the family. We have no information about Thomas Warner's activities between his graduation and his appointment as Chaplain at the Military Academy, and we shall be very grateful for any information which you may be able to supply.

Very truly yours,

Charles Robinson
Charles Robinson

CLASS OF 1809

HENRY W. WARNER

Born March 9, 1787.

Died February 20, 1875, on Constitution Island,
near West Point, at the residence of his daughter,
Anna B. Warner.

He was a member of the New York bar and author
of "An Inquiry into the Moral and Religious Character
of the American Government." (N. Y. 1853).

He married Anna Bartlett.

Children:

1. Susan Bogart, b. at New York, July 11, 1819
d. at Highland Falls, N. Y.,
March 17, 1885.
2. Anna Bartlett, b. at New York, 1820;
3. A son, who died in infancy.

Genealogies & Biographies of
Ancient Wethersfield, Conn.
Henry R. Stiles
The Grafton Press
New York
1904.

Vol. 2 p. 741

HENRY WHITING WARNER

Constitution Island continued in the possession of the Philipse family till November 3, 1836, when it was sold by Samuel Gouverneur and his wife to Henry W. Warner, Esq., a lawyer from Long Island for the sum of \$4,800. Upon this island Mr. Warner made his home, commencing improvements on an extensive scale, and erecting a beautiful country seat, which he named "Wood Crag." Constitution Island has been famous in modern times as the residence of the well known authoresses, Susan B. and Anna M. Warner, daughters of its former owner. In 1850 appeared the celebrated novel "The Wide, Wide World," and its popularity has been exceeded by few works written in America. Over 300,000 copies of this book were sold and 30 editions were issued in England.

(Constitution Island is separated from the main land by a wide extent of marsh. It includes about 250 acres of land or rock. The island was ordered fortified by the Continental Congress and the fort called Fort Constitution. It is opposite West Point.)

History of Putnam County, N. Y. p. 577
 William S. Pelletreau
 W. W. Preston & Co.
 Philadelphia 1886.

Henry W. Warner married Anna Marsh Bartlett.

He was a lawyer, who wrote on the "Liberties of America" and "An Inquiry into the Moral and Religious Character of the American Government." He died on Constitution Island in 1875.

Daughters:

Anna Bartlett Warner (Amy Lathrop), novelist and poet, was born in New York City in 1820.

Susan Warner, novelist, was born in New York City July 11, 1819; died at Highland Falls, Orange County, N. Y., March 17, 1885.

National Cyclopaedia

Vol. 4 p. 530
 Vol. 5 p. 354

The Warners' Island Gift

Reminiscences of an Old Hudson River Family and Their Contribution to West Point

To the New York Herald Tribune:
 Thank you for your enlightening editorial "The Wide, Wide World," which appeared in your issue of Sept. 30. My grandfather Warner was a cousin of the Misses Susan and Anna Bartlett Warner, so your bringing the famous book to the attention of many is of particular interest and pleasure to me.

Perhaps even more pertinent to the younger generation may be some brief account of the Warner sisters and their life on Constitution Island, opposite West Point. Their father, Henry W. Warner, was born at Canaan, N. Y., and practiced law in New York and Albany. He married Miss Anna Bartlett, and their daughters, Susan and Anna, were brought up in New York City. They frequently visited Mr. Warner's brother, Thomas Warner, who was chaplain at West Point Military Academy. There they enjoyed the beauties of Constitution Island and land on the east bank of the Hudson. At that time a bridge connected the mainland and the island. Mr. Warner purchased the island, where an old Revolutionary house became their home. It still stands, and many great men visited there during its prime. Financial difficulties made it necessary to give up the comforts of the New York home and live permanently on the island. The larger house they had hoped to build there never became a reality.

Near the dock one can still see the end of the famous chain which was stretched across the Hudson to prevent the English fleet passing up the river. The discovery of Benedict Arnold's treachery in removing a link from this chain is history.

The Warner sisters always alluded to their home as "The Island," yet their stationery was marked with the famous old name "Martaer's Rock." The Martaer's Rock Association still meets yearly on the island. Many heirlooms of great interest are still on exhibit in the house—glass cases with gowns, silver, etc., belonging to the sisters.

Susan started the Sunday afternoon Bible classes for cadets, and later Anna continued this practically to the end of her long life. At the time of her death my husband wrote an article about her, after timely research.

Anna refused a very large offer to sell the island to be used for an amusement park. This she felt would be wrong for her beloved cadets and the academy. Though needing money desperately, she many times refused an offer which would have made her wealthy. Hearing of this heroism, Mrs. Russell Sage bought the island and with in-

finite thoughtfulness gave the property to West Point Military Academy in her own name and Miss Anna's.

Writing to President Theodore Roosevelt on Sept. 4, 1903, Mrs. Sage said in part: "I take pleasure in tendering as a gift to the United States from myself and Miss Anna Bartlett Warner, Constitution Island, opposite West Point, embracing about 230 acres of upland and fifty acres of meadow, the same to be an addition to the military reservation of West Point, and to be for the use of the United States Military Academy. Upon the island are now the remains of some *terre* breastworks commenced in 1775 by order of the Continental Congress, and completed later by Kosciusko. The guns mounted upon the island then commanded the river channel as it rounded Gee's Point, and to the island was attached one end of the iron chain intended to prevent the British warships from sailing up the Hudson. Washington's Life Guard was mustered out on this island in 1783. It is distant only about 300 yards from West Point."

Mrs. Sage also stated in this letter: "I have become the owner of the island in consideration of the same amount for which Miss Warner has been willing to sell it to the United States, upon the understanding that I offer the island to the government for the use of the United States Military Academy at West Point, so that it shall form a part of the military reservation there, and upon the further understanding that Miss Warner, who is well advanced in years, may continue to occupy the small part of the island now used by her for the remainder of her life, using her house, grounds, springs, pasture and firewood as heretofore. In view of the great pecuniary sacrifice to Miss Warner in parting with the island at this price, she becomes with me a donor of the property to the United States government. . . . It is a great satisfaction to me to be thus able to carry out the great desire of Miss Warner's life, and I am sure that her unselfish and high-minded refusal to sell Constitution Island for other than government purposes will be a tradition dear to the heart of every West Point graduate."

Miss Warner willed to West Point her original Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington. This hung over the mantel in her living room and may now be seen in the library at West Point.

Susan and Anna are both buried in the old West Point cemetery, at the request of the cadets they loved and who so loved them.

AMY WARNER HOTCHKISS.
 New York, Oct. 6, 1946.

Clipped from
Times-Herald
Class 1809
Henry W. Warner
 by
 Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
 Date: July 5, 1957

Columbia Conf. N. Y.

In "Queechy House," not far from Queechy Lake, which was built in 1781 by Jason Warner, the complete collection of novels of Susan and Ann Warner, his granddaughters, will be displayed. The Warner sisters, called the "Hudson River Bluestockings" in a recent issue of New York State History, were best-selling authors of a century ago. When, in 1850, Susan's first novel "Wide Wide World" was published, its sales exceeded a million copies—it's record as a best-seller has been exceeded only by "Gone with the Wind."

In her second novel, "Queechy," Susan drew upon her memories of the old house and the surrounding countryside for background. Nine men of the Warner clan had fought in the Revolution.

The house is now owned by artist Edward Jacobson and Mrs. Jacobson, who have been collecting the novels of the two sisters over the years—quite a feat, considering how long the books have been out of print.

THE YORK STATE STORY

1809
By Mary E. Cunningham

The two little girls lived on an island. Their names were Susan and Anna Warner; the name of the island - Constitution Island. It lay in the Hudson River directly off the towering rock of West Point. In fact during the Revolution the mighty chain that barred the Hudson to British ships had stretched from the Point to Constitution Island.

Susan and Anna had not always lived on Constitution Island. They were born in Brooklyn where their father, Henry W. Warner, was a flourishing lawyer. Sometimes, in the course of business, Lawyer Warner journeyed to Albany. This was the 1830's and travel up river was easiest by sailing sloop. Henry Warner was charmed by the little isle off the Point, bought it as a summer home.

Soon Constitution Island was to become more than this to the Warner family. In the financial panic of 1837 Warner lost heavily. His city home was sold out. The family migrated to their little cottage on the Island.

There the girls' mother died. Aunt Fanny, Mr. Warner's sister, came to live with them and be a second mother. The little girls left at home in Brooklyn their silk and satin dresses, their carriage, their household servants. The girls grew older; their poverty grew more acute.

Those were the days when there were few careers for womenfolk. The sisters wanted to go out as governesses, one of the meager ways in which a lady

might earn her keep. Mr. Warner and Aunt Fanny shook their heads. As an alternative the good aunt suggested that one of the girls should write a book. Susan was the elder. Aunt Fanny pointed her finger at Susan.

Obediently Susan sat down and whipped out a long novel, "The Wide, Wide World". Now came the tedious business of shopping around for a publisher. The manuscript came back from several in turn, was dispatched finally to G. P. Putnam's.

George Palmer Putnam, head of the firm, was about to reject it, too, when his wife chanced on the manuscript, firmly told her husband, "George, if you never publish another book, you must make 'The Wide, Wide World' available for your fellow men." "But I think it will be a financial failure," her husband protested. "Providence will take care of this book," Mrs. Putnam prophesied. And she was exactly right!

The very week the book appeared, there happened to be a meeting in the city of Providence, R.I., of ministers of the Baptist denomination. A committee was appointed to prepare a list of books recommended for Sunday school teachers. One of the ministers had happened on "The Wide, Wide World" and he emphasized its value.

As a result there came to New York from Providence a first order from a Baptist Sunday school for forty sets of "The Wide, Wide World." Religious reviewers pricked up their ears.

The career of the book was launched.

Few books ever issued in America were more popular. Its ultimate success was phenomenal. Hundreds of thousands of copies were sold in America alone. "The Wide, Wide World" went through thirty editions in England, was translated into all tongues. Its popularity lasted a half century or more.

Susan Warner was off on her career as an authoress. Sister Anna tried her hand at writing, too, and a long series of books followed. Seventy titles in all issued from the cottage on Constitution Island.

The West Point cadets, looking down from their rocky crag, took note of their neighbors on the tiny isle and their neighbors began to take note of the cadets. An intensely religious woman, Susan initiated a custom of Bible classes for cadets alone.

After Susan's death in 1885 Anna carried on the Bible classes alone until her own death at an advanced age in 1915. A career in the Army seems to run in some families and many a West Pointer attended the Warner sisters' Bible class whose father before him had learned his Bible from the Warner girls.

But it was not the West Point cadets alone whose thoughts the Warner sisters turned to higher paths. One hymn written by Anna Warner has been sung by nearly everyone of us, is in every hymnal. This is the sturdy song, "Jesus Loves Me - This I Know."

1809 HENRY WHITING WARNER:

DIED:-In Detroit, at the residence of her brother,
Dr. J.L.Whiting, on the 10th ult., Mrs. Eliza C.
Warner, relict of the late Henry Warner, and
daughter of John Whiting, Canaan, N.Y., aged 32.

Albany Argus
Sept. 6, 1831.

Probably his parents?

ucslaf1809warner-h-00017

U.F.M. July - 1809 Aug. 1930

Joseph R. Brown, Jr., sends us an interesting alumni item: HENRY W. WARNER of the Class of 1809 was the father of Susan B. and Anna M. Warner, the novelists. He came up Cold Spring in 1836 and bought Constitution Island, opposite West Point, and built a home there. His daughters continued to live there after his death. The Continental Congress ordered this island fortified and Fort Constitution was built there. Warner was also somewhat of an author. He wrote "An Inquiry into the Moral and Religious Character of the American Government," and "Liberties of America."

Henry W. Warner, B.M. was a tutor at
Union 1809-11 (Raymond's)

Warner, Henry W.

From: Canaan, N.Y.

Last residence: Cold Spring, N.Y.

09

Records show one

Henry W. Warner

Ensign and Paymaster in Capt. Garrit H.

Striker's Co., 2nd Regt. (Van Hook's)

N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Sept 2, 1814

Expiration of service: Dec. 3, 1814

1809

... We mislaid the Putnam "first century" sheet a week or so ago, but after a hundred years, what's a few days more? . . . It isn't too late to repeat from it an anecdote dated only 1850, which begins: . . .

"One day, into th^e office of George P. Putnam, walked Mr. Henry W. Warner, to deliver a weighty manuscript, the product of his eldest daughter, Susan, who, he explained, preferred to make her literary debut under the name of Elizabeth Wetherell. . . . The publisher took the manuscript home and got his mother to read it. It was such a long novel, he was dubious. But mother stood firm. "My son, if you never publish another book, publish this! Providence will provide."



... The book was that lachrymose and long-lived best seller, "The Wide, Wide World." . . . And mother was right; the first big order, which started it on its long career of popularity, came from a Sunday School. . . . I. M. P.

N.Y. Herald-Tribune Books - July 24, 1938

From: Hudson River Bluestockings--The Warner Sisters
of Constitution Island

By: Grace Overmyer
New York History, April, 1959

"Henry Warner died in 1875. It would be easy to put this man down as a failure, who let his daughters carry the burden, but to his daughters he was simply the victim of very bad luck. Certainly he had been a successful lawyer and had maintained a prosperous establishment for some years. After giving up his home and office in the city, he continued to practice in the State and City courts, but eventually retired to the Island. Country-bred, he was able to adjust to the life there, and to milk cows himself when, as often happened, there was no man for chores around the place. Always a scholar, 'his life-long delight was in Greek,' his daughter Anna recalled. In his junior year at Union College he had been put in charge of the Greek Class; and in after years, 'look in his coat pocket when he was going by steam boat or train, and you would commonly find some little old Greek volume for light reading on the way.' As a young man he had published a Discourse on Legal Science (New York, 1833) and other learned papers; and twenty years later, while his daughters were achieving literary fame, he brought out his book Liberties of America (New York, 1853), a lengthy treatise, meticulously planned and written, on the privileges and responsibilities of citizens in a free government. pp. 151-152

"Wood Crag," the home of the Warners where the sisters wrote their books, still stands near the shore, in what might be called the south east corner of the Island, not far from the military ruins. Henry Whiting Warner, a prosperous New York lawyer, city lawyer, bought Constitution Island in 1836, at the suggestion of his brother, the Reverend Thomas Warner, then the West Point chaplain.-----By inheritance it (the Island) had become the property of Mary (Philipse) Gouverneur, wife of Samuel Gouverneur, from whom Mr. Warner bought it. p. 139

"Together with the Island, Henry Warner had purchased a parcel of land on the mainland to the east, separated from the Island by a narrow channel, which even to-day looks more like a swamp than river. His effort to fill in a part of this was violently contested, as was also his move to sell off some of the land, since he had thought he was dealing with friends, his daughter Anna later related stated, part of the agreement had been oral; and the only witness, his brother Thomas, having severed his connection with West Point, had gone to Paris, where he died soon died. Henry Warner, "practical lawyer that he was, and a firm believer in the total depravity of mankind," found himself in a legal trap, Then followed years of litigation. pp. 143-144

At length to save the very roofs over their heads, they were obliged to part with their most valuable possessions at public sale.

Constitution Island and the Warner home are now cherished by the Constitution Island Association, first called the Martlaer's Rock Association, organized a year after Anna's death. She died in Highland Falls, January 22, 1915.

p. 160

From: The Warner Sisters and the Literary Associations
of the Hudson River Valley
An address by Major George Haven Putnam
Sept. 23, 1922 at Annual Meeting

In 1835, Warner was tempted to make the purchase of Constitution Island. It was his belief, that the Island could be cleared and made suitable for residence and that he should in the near future secure a large profit from the investment. This possibility was, of necessity, delayed by the panic, and at no time thereafter did Henry Warner have the money required to develop his island, or even to make the proper advertising of its possibilities.

The city home was finally given up and the family migrated to the pretty little cottage on Constitution Island. In the winter, however, it was necessary to have quarters at or near West Point.

From: Constitution Island: Written for the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands of Newburgh, Orange County, N. Y. by Stuyvesant Fish.

Constitution Island continued in the possession of the Philipse family until November, 8, 1836, when it was sold by Samuel Gouverneur and wife to Henry W. Warner, Esq., a lawyer from Long Island. Upon this land Mr. Warner made his home, commencing improvements on an extensive scale, and erecting a beautiful country seat, which he named 'Wood Crag.' Constitution Island has been famous in modern times as the residence of the well-known authoresses, Susan B. and Anna B. Warner, daughters of the former owner.

Anna B. gave the Island as a gift as a part of the West Point Reservation.

The Martelaer's Rock Association was formed for the preservation of the Warner house and places of historic interest on Constitution Island opposite West Point, New York. Anna made no will and her worldly goods went to her half-brother, a restaurant keeper in Cape May, who died a few months later

The sisters were Susan Bogart Warner and Anna Bartlett Warner
Anna was the author of "Jesus Loves Me, This I know."

(over)

The Martelaar's Rock Association was organized a year after Anna's death, it is now the Constitution Island Association.

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The Constitution Island Association was organized a year after Anna's death, it is now the Martelaar's Rock Association.

Poem by Anna B. Warner

Supposed to be the last she wrote

It seems so strange to think of days
When I shall not be here;
When the winds shall blow, and the waters flow
And I am not even near.

When my roses bloom for other eyes;
And my birds sing not for me;
When the shadows fall from the cedars tall
And I am not here to see.

Oh, Wreniken, dear little friend!
Make hay while it shines, my sweet!
Come down from the back of the old settee
On your dainty little feet.

Come turn your pretty head about,
And sing, and sing and sing;
There'll be many changes, dear Wrenikin,
When I have taken wing.

They'll tear away the corner gourd
And the old box over the door;
And the little old green watering pot
Will be your nest no more.

Printed in the Martelaer's Rock Association
Year Book, 1920-1923 p. 41

Henry Whiting Warner AB-1809

Henry Whiting Warner ^{A.B.} 1809