



Warrensburch Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 6 Issue 1

Spring 2001

BROTHERS IN NAME ONLY

by Jean Hadden

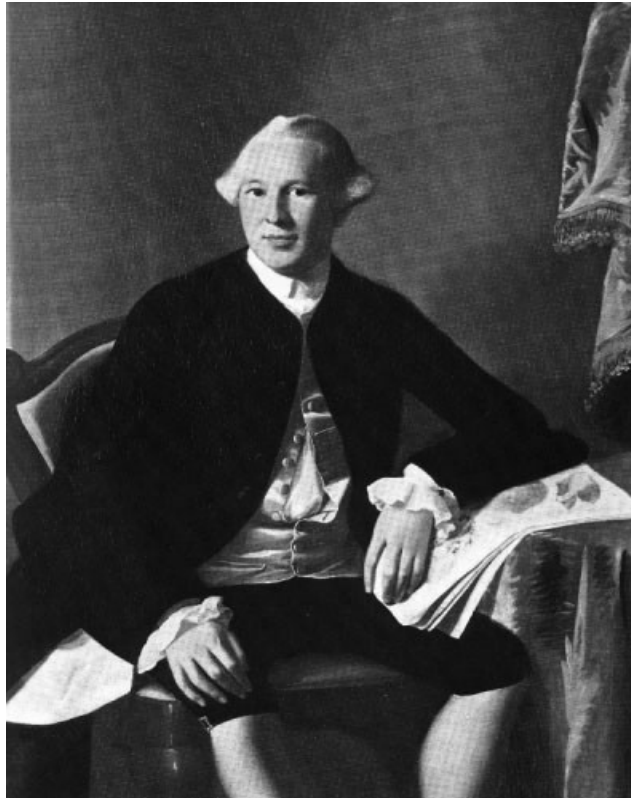
There are no iron clad facts in history. Even the "facts" that we think we are so sure of can, upon unearthing some old document or other, turn our former beliefs upside down.

I have always held truth to be sacred in the writing of history. One bit of ho-hum truth is to me worth all the embellished fantasy any writer can offer. I recently had an experience that brought this point home to me. A gentleman historian, Mr. Jim Shaw, from North River, stopped at my house one day and loaned me an old scrapbook that had been in his family for many years. In it was a very old, yellowed newspaper clipping from The Warrensburch News with a story entitled, "The History of Warrensburch." No date or author's name was in evidence.

The piece stated unequivocally that Dr. Joseph Warren, for whom Warren County was named and James Warren, the tavern keeper for whom Warrensburch is thought to have been named, were brothers. One word, "hogwash!" burst from my lips, but slowly doubt crept into my mind which tormented me. Allow me to tell you about these two gentlemen.

James Warren, whose early life is unrecorded and remains a mystery, was born about 1768. He was

had arrived. He was an active and prominent citizen but there were others already here of greater prominence. His wife was Melinda Beach Warren and their son, Nelson was born April 6, 1804, possibly



Painting of Joseph Warren by John Singleton Copley

here but then, maybe not.

In those bygone days the area was called, "The Bridge," for lack of a better name. James became proprietor of a tavern formerly owned by James Pitts, who established it in 1789 and later, Jasper Duell, who conducted it in 1801. I feel that this tavern developed into the Warren

House, a hotel which stood for many years where Stewart's Ice Cream store is now located, an establishment that was later run by Melinda and Nelson and was not sold until the time of the Civil War. James also managed a store, on the corner of what is now Main and Water Streets and a potash factory where Brew and Stew tavern is now located.

James Warren was in Thurman, at the farm of Nathaniel Griffing, on April 28, 1812, attending a three-day election. This was across from the area later known as Thurman Station. The water in the West River, now called the Hudson, must have been high with the spring freshet in full force. We will never know the details but, returning home in a small skiff with his son, Nelson, James Warren drowned in the turbulent water. Legend has it that Nelson was so terrified that his hair turned white and stayed that way for the rest of his life.

The next year, February 12, 1813, both Warren County and Warrensburch were named. Dr. Joseph Warren, the hero of Bunker Hill, was honored when the county was named for him and according to Smith's History of Warren County printed 72 years later, Warrensburch was named for James Warren, the humble tavern keeper. Could it be possible that the town was named for the "Warrensburch Tract," a piece of

(Continued on Page 3)

From the President

The Warrensburgh Historical Society is proud to announce the establishment of a Scholarship fund for students of Warrensburgh Central school. Due, in no small part, to efforts of Delbert Chambers and Regina Porter, and in association with the Glens Falls National Bank of Warrensburg, a student will receive a scholarship of \$300.00. We expect to present this award at the History Day celebration on June 10th 2001.

The society expects to receive several entries, based on this years historical theme of the Warrensburgh Fire Dept. The best entries will be published by the society, for preservation and use by future generations, to see what our young and newest members of our community have to put forth. I look forward to reading the entries. If anyone has any questions about the scholarship, please don't hesitate to call me. I can be reached at 623-3348 or e-mail at AMF@capital.net.

I also want to mention the wonderful displays that Pat Terrell and the town of Warrensburgh have done at the town hall. They are a nice representation of some old artifacts. I especially like the Civil War display, but, I may be biased since I did help in the preparation. Please stop by and check it out...

Tony Fidd

Calendar of Events

History Day, Sunday June 10, 2001
Warrensburgh Fire House 1-3 PM

Sticky Wicket, Sunday,
August, 2001 – 11 AM – 5 PM

Scarecrow Festival Event, Thursday,
October 25, 2001, Richards Library
7:00 PM

OOPS. In last month's recipe the editor forgot the two eggs. Sorry!

Warrensburgh Historical Society

New Members

We welcome these new members, and look forward to their participation in our programs and events.

Phyllis Bogle
Art Brown
Robin Croissant
Archie Fuller
Caroline Fuller
Richard Granger
Leila Wood
Adirondack Hydro
Development Corporation

Board of Directors

Anthony Fidd, Jr. - President
John Cleveland - Vice President
Eldon Hall - Treasurer
Delbert Chambers
Brenda Cleveland
Jean Hadden
Joyce Harvey
Regina Porter
LeeAnn Rafferty

Committee Chairpersons

Acquisitions—John Cleveland
Grants - Theresa Whalen
Membership – Brenda Cleveland
Programs - John Cleveland
Quarterly - Sandi Parisi
Scholarship – Delbert Chambers
and Regina Porter

The Board of Directors will meet at the Glens Falls National Bank meeting room at 7 PM on the following dates. Members welcome.

May 1, 2001
June 5, 2001
July 3, 2001

Contributors to this issue:

Caron Akeley
Brenda Cleveland
Sarah Farrar
Tony Fidd
Jean Hadden
Steve Parisi
Sandi Parisi,
Quarterly Editor

**We welcome comments,
corrections, articles,
pictures, reminiscences,
and letters to the editor**

Send submissions to :

Warrensburgh Historical Society
Post Office Box 441
Warrensburgh, NY 12885
or e-mail
parisibb@netheaven.com

Quarterly Deadlines

February 1
May 1
August 1
November 1

Warrensburgh Historical Society
Quarterly
Copyright 2001. All rights reserved

Membership Information

Membership Classifications

Individual	\$10.00
Student	\$ 5.00
Junior	\$3.00
Family	\$20.00
Senior	\$ 5.00
Contributing	\$ 50.00
Corporate	\$ 50.00
Institutional	\$ 50.00
Life*	\$250.00

*Individual Only

Membership is on a calendar year basis
If you would like to join and receive the Quarterly by mail, please send check for amount of membership classification, with name, address and phone number to:

Warrensburgh Historical Society
PO Box 441, Warrensburgh, NY 12885

NOTICE

The recording of history is an interpretive and ever changing study. Therefore, the Warrensburgh Historical Society or its Board of Directors or members shall not be held liable for the accuracy or authenticity of the material herein.

land set aside on the east side of the (now) Hudson River for paying off Revolutionary War soldiers, and was not named for either man? All this has given historians something to chew on for untold years.

JOSEPH WARREN GONE BEFORE HIS TIME

Dr. Joseph Warren was a man who, in his short lifetime, had acquired every attribute needed to be a hero. He could not fail because he had the added advantage of being born when our greatest American heroes were being created.

Joseph Warren III was born on a Roxbury, Massachusetts farm on May 30, 1741. Some sources say the date was June 11th. He was the son of Joseph Warren II and his wife, Carla Sue James. He graduated from Harvard in 1759 when he was only 18-years old. He then studied medicine with Dr. James Lloyd in Boston. He was regarded as one of the town's leading physicians while he was still in his twenties. He was known for his study of smallpox, a leading killer of the day. He married Elizabeth Hooten in 1764.

According to John Singleton Copley's painting of Joseph Warren, which was done in 1775, Joseph was a handsome man with large, wide-set eyes, full mouth, a rather long, straight nose, and blonde hair.

This great American hero is not remembered for being a physician but his memory is cherished because he was a radical leader in the American Revolutionary war, a great orator, writer and leader. After his death, fourteen counties in the United States were named for him, including our Warren County.

It was Joseph Warren who sent Paul Revere and William Dawes galloping to Lexington and Concord to warn the colonists that the British were coming. He wrote fiery editorials in Boston newspapers. On March 5, 1772 he delivered the second Bos-

ton Massacre oration. He worked with such men as Samuel Adams, James Otis and John Hancock. In 1773 his wife, Elizabeth Warren died, leaving him with four children.

On June 16, 1775 he left his children with the woman he planned to marry and with a feeling of doom, headed out to fight the British at the Battle of Bunker Hill, which was actually fought on Breed's Hill, near Boston. The night before he said to a young girl in the family that he dined with, "Come, my little girl, drink a glass of wine with me, for I am going on the hill tomorrow and I shall never come off." On June 17th, he was sick and feverish and his friend, Elbridge Gerry pleaded with him not to go. He replied, "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori." (It is pleasant and fitting to die for country.)

He had been named a major general a few days before and the ranking officer on the hill, General Israel Putnam, offered him the command. Joseph said that he would rather fight as a regular soldier. Someone gave him a horse and a musket and he fought all through that terrible afternoon. The American army was losing when a bullet went through Joseph's head. No one saw him fall.

A British officer later wrote that he "stuffed the scoundrel with another rebel into one hole and there he and his seditious principles may remain."

Joseph's father, Joseph Warren II died in 1755, twenty-three years before our tavern keeper, James Warren was born. Joseph himself was 27 years older than James. I think that it is safe to say that they were not brothers. However, Joseph did have three brothers, Samuel, Ebenezer and John Warren, who with their friend, Paul Revere, rowed over to Charlestown and dug Joseph up from his poor grave. They identified his corpse by the two artificial teeth that had been made and installed by Revere. He had lain in his "hole" for a year. He was removed to the Granary Burying Ground and in 1825 was

placed in a vault in St. Paul's Church. In 1855 his remains were moved again, this time to Forest Hills Cemetery in Roxbury.

General Howe said that Joseph Warren's death was worth 500 men. Abigail Adams wrote to her husband John, and said, "Not all the havoc and devastation they have made has wounded me like the death of Warren." Now, 226 years later, we mourn for the citizen, the senator, the physician, and the warrior. May he rest in peace.

WARRENSBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

By Tony Fidd

The 2000 Annual Meeting of the Warrensburgh Historical Society was held at the Merrill-Magee House on February 13, 2001, and by all accounts, was a great success. The Society started the evening by conducting its mandatory business and dealt with one Constitution change. The official business was handled quickly and everyone was able to get to the main event of the evening, the "Historic Artifact" display and discussion. I was very pleased by the attendance and the enthusiasm displayed by everyone that attended. Some truly wonderful items were brought in and shared, including; photos, clothing, bottles, post cards, swords, and many other items that don't fall into such ambiguous categories.

Chuck and Pat Wheeler brought some photographs of the general store that belonged to Chuck's grandfather. The store was apparently located in the "Music" block of Warrensburgh. (*Approximately between Jacobs and Toney and LD'S Pharmacy*) I had never seen photos of this building before, and thought it was great to learn of a piece of history so relevant to our community. Millie Fish brought some wonderful items from the old Warrensburgh woolen mill, and also shared some



Millie Fish, Steve Parisi and Sarah Farrar discussing items on table while Delbert Chambers (standing) examines an article

truly interesting information about the "Tubb house turn" out on Route 418.

Steve and Sandi Parisi shared some photos of the staff from the old Thurman Dude ranch known as Sun Canyon. Marie Borth showed some great old papers, including the earliest Chamber of Commerce pamphlet I have seen, probably dating from the 1930's or 40's. John and Brenda Cleveland displayed a photo of Tom Mix, and as if that was not enough, it was autographed to Brenda's Dad. Phil Hastings showed a Warrensburgh Bottle works crate, and some early Warrensburgh photos. Caron Akeley had a great display of Warrensburgh post cards. Theresa and Ray Whalen explained about a brick recovered from the infamous Main street excavation and resurfacing. Sarah Farrar exhibited an old doll with hand made clothing, the condition and history of which was quite impressive.

The evening was well spent, going from one table to another, examining items, and talking with folks. I wish I could have spent more time with everyone, but the evening was only so long. I did hear from some people, that the Society should hold an

event of this nature, more than once a year. Judging from the overall enthusiasm, I think we will try and add an Artifact evening to the agenda at a latter date, I do feel that we will have this event again next year in conjunction with the annual meeting. The Merrill-Magee house did a wonderful job with the refreshments, as usual. The evening was fun, interesting and well attended. It represented, to me, what Historical Society's are for, the preservation and remembrance of times and things from our past. Let's not forget what General Patton said; "*A generation that does not learn from it's past is destined to repeat it...*"

NOTE

We plan on making this a permanent event at our Annual Meeting, so start looking in your attics and cellars for next year's Historical Artifact display.

Saturday, June 1, 1878

Cleaning parlor Biddie cleaning Pantry It was present I went to ride with Mrs King Jim at _____ on the Road at work half day Hesden came to night

Sunday 2 Present and warm I went to ride with Saml. Came home & went to church & got din-



**Diary of
Grace Noyes**
(18 January 1825 –
5 January 1881)

Transcribed by Sarah Farrar exactly as Grace wrote it, spelling, punctuation, etc. The notes in parenthesis are Sarah's notes explaining who and what Grace was talking about.

Continued from previous Quarterly

ner. MacBeth Preach.d have just heard that Mrs McEwen has left here for good

Monday 3 Present & warm I went down to Emerson.s Biddie washing Marie cleaning Jones Piling wood Jim at Foster Plase making fense

Tuesday 4 Windy & cool MacBeth at Lake George Fred went to Lake G. with the horse yesterday. Mrs Barber here sewing Mrs King sewing Marie sewing Biddie cleaning Went to Emerson.s Charlie C. came to night.

Wednesday 5 Windy & cold I did not go out Mrs King sweing Jim Pileing wood Saml is well and out of the house--- Charlie C call here this AM Biddie & Marie cleaning. I made yeast cakes

Thursday 6 Windy & cold Biddie & Marie clean my Jim at Foster Plase. Mrs King sweing. Marie & Biddie ironing Saml walked to thurman Chas. C. went with him

Friday 7 a heavy Frost this AM and nearly every thing killed Jim at Foster place. Saml & Fred Planting over corn Mrs King at work on Pants-- Marie & Biddie cleaning-- McBeth at Lake George. I got dinner & made cake

Saturday 8 a real rainy day-- Jim Picking up things around

Marie & Biddie cleaning Mrs King mending carpet They got a letter from

George King I baked some and am to mean fore any thing

Sunday 9 It rained all night Fred went to the Lake fore Rev Mr Proud-fit. he Preached here and MacBeth at Lake George I did not go out the ground was very wet James Perse came to day to see Marie

Monday 10 Damp & cool & rainy Cleaning my room & Mrs Kings setting room I slept up stair.s to night & was most dreadfull tired had the wall Painted to day. Maire Biddie & Mrs King all cleaning

Tuesday 11 Cool & damp all are cleaning MacBeth at the Lake My oil cloth came yesterday Marie puting carpet down

Wednesday 12 Biddie Washing to day Mrs King mending carpet It is real cold this AM I setting my room Marie puting down carpet & bakeing

Thursday 13 It was cool this Am. I made pie & cake Mrs Traphagen & Mrs Latimore Aunt daughter came here & Gracie Trap came We went to ride in the PM. I was fearful tired at night

Friday 14 real plesent this AM-- We all went up to the County House fore a ride and out on the River & after dinner they went on the mountain Saml King was home

Saturday 15 Real plesent Mrs King & Mrs Trap went to the Falls Hesden & Anna came up to stay over Sunday I got very tired indeed

Sunday 16 I went to church & out to ride & Hesden & Anna Went to ride I did not go out in the eve

Monday 17 Cool & rainy Biddie

Washing Marie setting The house and I working around Jim on the road at work

Tuesday 18 Plesent & warm Callie & Minnie came home to day from Europe Jim on the Road at work

Wednesday 19 Plesent But Cool Marie ironing Mrs King sewing Jim on the Road Mrs King went to prayer meeting

Thursday 20 Plesent & warm I was washing Marie & Mrs King makeing vest fore Hesden Jim at work on the Road Biddie cleaning Mrs King & MacBeth to Dr Chretts to tea (Dr. Charette)

Friday 21 Plesent & warm Mrs King & Marie cleaning garret I did working around Biddie cleaning Jim at work on the Road

Saturday 22 verry rainy Fred went to the Falls fore Charlie But did not come home Marie makeing dress fore her self I Bakeing I got verry tired

Sunday 23 Warm & plesent It rain.e all night Came up plesent Fred and Chas. came about noon & also James Perse came about noon to see Marie

Monday 24 Biddie ????? Washing Marie helping her Mrs King sewing Plesent & warm through the day

Tuesday 25 Plesent & warm Mrs King & Marie sewing. Biddie washing Hesden Clothes & I washing

Wednesday 26 Plesent & warm Mrs King & Marie sewing I went out to ride & to Prayer meeting Jim hoing corn and Callie & Minnie & Miss Sarah & Mrs Barron called here in the eve

Thursday 27 Plesent & warm the first time I have drest with a fire & felt warm I went down to the Doct to call and in the Eve I went & heard. the Jubble (Jubilee) Singers as they were very good

Friday 28 Plesent & warm. Biddies Aunt came last night Biddie went away after the work done in the AM Jubble Singers here

Saturday 29 Mrs King & Charlie went to the Falls It was very warm indeed I did not want any pie They got a new wagon for Callie & Minnie

Sunday 30 Very warm indeed I went to church MacBeth Preached Jim Colvin.s Father died this AM at 9 Oclock. Mrs King and Fred went up There.

Watch for Scarecrows!



Winter in Warrensburgh – Then and Now – same views



Hudson Street – top photo, courtesy of Caron Akeley,
lower photo by Steve Parisi



Main Street – top photo, courtesy of Caron Akeley,
lower photo by Steve Parisi



Scholarship
Warrensburgh students
interested in the history
scholarship should contact
the guidance department

Recipe Corner

Grandma Wilmot's Lemon Cake

By Brenda Cleveland

1 cup butter softened (no substitutes)
3 cups sugar
5 eggs, separated
1 Tbs. Finely shredded lemon peel
3 Tbs. Lemon juice
4 cups all purpose flour
1/2 Tsp. Baking soda
1 cup milk
Confectioner's sugar

In a mixing bowl, cream butter; gradually add sugar, beating well. In a small mixing bowl, beat egg yolks until thick and lemon colored. Add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in lemon peel and juice. Combine flour and baking soda. Add alternately with milk, sifting well after each addition. Beat egg whites until stiff. Fold in to batter. Pour in to two loaf pans.

Bake at 350 degrees for 65-70 minutes.

Dust top with confectioner's sugar.