

Colonel Seth Warner

Colonel Seth Warner was one of Bennington's early settlers in the 1760s. He lived near the Henry Bridge over the Walloomsac River, not many miles from what would later become the site of the Battle of Bennington.



Warner joined Ethan Allen

as second in command in the citizen militia known as the Green Mountain Boys to defend land titles in the New Hampshire Grants (later known as Vermont) against rival claims by the state of New York. He accompanied Allen and the Boys on the daring raid on British-held Fort Ticonderoga on May 8, 1775, and the following day he led a force in capturing Crown Point and its more than 100 cannons.

Two months later, when the Boys became a regiment of the Continental Army, they elected Warner as their leader for his qualities of courage and steady good judgment. In July of 1777, Warner and his regiment fought the vital rear-guard action on Vermont soil known as the Battle of Hubbardton to protect American troops retreating from invading British forces under General John Burgoyne. The following month Warner joined General John Stark's command in Manchester and went on to Bennington with Stark ahead of his own regiment. When Lt. Col. Baum arrived to menace Bennington, Warner helped Stark devise a plan to attack the British positions, and he commanded the left wing of the American militia in the first engagement of the Battle of Bennington.

When Lt. Col. Breymann's German reinforcements arrived on the scene and threatened the disorganized Americans, Warner led his newly arrived Green Mountain Boys in a counter-attack that turned the tide of the battle and preserved the American victory.

After Bennington Warner served at Saratoga; he reported that until Burgoyne's surrender he was "so continually on the alert that for seventeen days and nights he never took off his boots." The hard fighting took its toll on Warner. He died in his native Roxbury, Connecticut, in 1784 at the age of 41.