



# “A Virtuous and Respectable Woman”

FORT TICONDEROGA  
AMERICA'S FORT™

## **An Excerpt from John Joseph Henry's account of his involvement with the Benedict Arnold's 1775 Expedition into Quebec.**

*Henry joined a Pennsylvania Rifle Company when he was 16 years old, he later wrote an account of this expedition which his children published posthumously.*

“This morning, the first of November [1775], breakfasting on our bleary, we took up the line of march through a flat and boggy ground. About ten o'clock A. M. we arrived, by a narrow neck of land at a marsh which was appalling. It was three-fourths of a mile over, and covered by a coat of ice, half an inch thick. Here Simpson concluded to halt a short time for the stragglers or maimed of [Capt. William] Hendrick's and [Capt. Matthew] Smith's companies to come up. There were two women attached to those companies, who arrived before we commenced the march. One was the wife of Serjeant Grier, a large, virtuous and respectable woman. The other was [Jemima Warner] the wife of a private of our company, a man who lagged upon every occasion. These women being arrived, it was presumed that all our party were up. We were on the point of entering the marsh, when some one cried out “Warner is not here.” Another said he had "sat down sick under a tree, a few miles back." His wife begging us to wait a short time, with tears of affection in her eyes, ran back to her husband. We tarried an hour. They came not. Entering the pond, (Simpson foremost,) and breaking the ice here and there with the butts of our guns and feet, as occasion required, we were soon waist deep in the mud and water. As is generally the case with youths, it came to my mind, that a better path might be found than that of the more elderly guide. Attempting this, in a trice the water cooling my armpits, made me gladly return into the file. Now Mrs. Grier had got before me. My mind was humbled, yet astonished, at the exertions of this good woman. Her clothes more than waist high, she waded before me to the firm ground. No one so long as she was known to us, dared intimate a disrespectful idea of her. Her husband, who was an excellent soldier, was on duty in Hendricks' boat, which had proceeded to the discharge of the lake with lieutenant M<sup>c</sup>Cleland.”<sup>1</sup>

---

1. John Joseph Henry, *An Accurate and Interesting Account of the Hardships and Sufferings of That Band of Heroes Who Traversed the Wilderness in the Campaign Against Quebec in 1775* (Lancaster: Printed by William Greer, 1812), 65-66.



# “A Virtuous and Respectable Woman”

FORT TICONDEROGA  
AMERICA'S FORT™

In your own words, summarize this account:

--	--

1. Who is the author of this account? What do we know about the author?	Cite your evidence:
---	---------------------

--	--

2. What does the author think of Mrs. Grier?	Cite Your evidence:
--	---------------------

--	--

3. Why is Mr. Warner missing?	Cite your evidence:
-------------------------------	---------------------

--	--

4. Why did the author stray out of line?	Cite your evidence:
--	---------------------

--	--

5. What do the soldier's think about Mrs. Grier, and why?	Cite your evidence:
---	---------------------

--	--