



The Historical  
Society of  
Pennsylvania

Collection 1695

Larned Family  
Papers

1777-1822

7 vols., 0.5 lin. feet

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**Abstract**

Simon Larned (1753-1817) was born in Connecticut and later became a merchant and banker in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He served in the Revolutionary War as a captain in the 4<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment, commanded by Colonel William Sheppard. Simon Larned's brother, Thaddeus (1756-1819), was a farmer, magistrate, and land speculator in Thompson, CT. Noadiah, the son of Thaddeus, also farmed the family's Thompson lands.

The collection contains seven volumes, six of which pertain to Simon Larned's Revolutionary War experience. These volumes include regimental orderly books containing courts martial, marching orders; a contemporary copy of Maj. John Armstrong's Newburgh Addresses and Washington's replies; a memorial to the General Court of Massachusetts concerning officers' pensions, along with a description of New Year's Festivities, 1783. Thaddeus is represented by a diary, 1791-1819, which includes farm rental accounts maintained as an agent for Thomas Dawes of Boston. A diary for Noadiah Larned, 1820-22, also includes accounts through 1825. These writings appear at the end of one of Simon Larned's orderly books entitled "Minutes 1778 Establishment of American Army Court Martial Minutes."

**Background note**

Simon Larned (1721-1807) inherited his farm, the first ever occupied in Killingly, Connecticut, from Simon Bryant, his grandfather. Simon served as a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War and as a magistrate for Killingly; he also owned a store. He presided at the meeting to organize the town of Thompson as a separate entity from Killingly on June 21, 1785. Simon and his wife Rebekah had seven children: Jesse, John, Hannah, Simon, Thaddeus, Rebecca, Darius.

The Larneds' third son, Simon, was born August 13, 1753, in Thompson, Connecticut. He served in the Revolutionary War as a captain in the 4<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment, Colonel William Sheppard commanding. The regiment saw action at Saratoga in 1777 and Monmouth in 1778. He continued to serve in the 4<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts with Col. James Mellen and later Col. Henry Jackson commanding. On October 28, 1784, he married Ruth Bull of Hartford, Connecticut. He settled in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as a merchant and banker.

In 1791, Larned became a representative in the general court; he served as treasurer of the county from 1792 to 1812, and as High Sheriff. He represented Massachusetts in the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress from November 5, 1804 to March 3, 1805, after he was elected to fill the vacancy of Thomas J. Skinner, who resigned his position. The Berkshire Bank, of which he was president and director, became indebted to Columbia Bank, and he was held responsible for the debt because of his position as director. His property was sold to pay for the debts, but local businessmen bought his house on his behalf. In spite of these circumstances, he maintained his position as high sheriff until 1812, when he resigned due to his appointment as colonel of the 9<sup>th</sup> regiment, U.S. Infantry. He remained in the army throughout the war, but he was not in active duty. Simon and his wife had seven children who lived to adulthood: Martha, Harriet, Charles, James, George, Sylvester, and Joseph. Charles gained particular distinction through military service, and he settled in Michigan where he had a successful law practice and became attorney general for the state. Simon's son Sylvester was the first Protestant clergyman in New Orleans, and he built the first Protestant Church. He died in New Orleans during the yellow fever epidemic of 1820. Simon Larned died November 16, 1817.

Thaddeus Larned, Simon's brother, was born October 25, 1756. He was a farmer, speculator, and magistrate in Thompson, Connecticut. He married Abigail Russell on January 18, 1787. She died March 7, 1797, and he remarried her sister, Esther Russell, who died August 16, 1816. Thaddeus went out as a minuteman on the "Lexington Alarm" and the "New York Expedition," where his brother Jesse died. He inherited the Simon Bryant farm from his father, and he and Daniel Larned purchased the "Thompson farms" in 1803. This was a large speculation (about 2000 acres) that brought good returns. As a magistrate he appraised and settled estates and was involved with the Turnpike, among other things. Thaddeus had four children who lived to adulthood with his wife Abigail: Simon, Noadiah, Abigail, and George. Thaddeus died January 19, 1819.

Noadiah Larned, Thaddeus's son, was born February 19, 1789. He lived and farmed in Thompson, Connecticut, and he inherited his father's farm. He never married. He died December 16, 1860.

## **Scope & content**

The collection contains seven volumes covering day-to-day military administration during the Revolutionary War and farm life in Connecticut from 1791 to 1822. The first six volumes are Simon Larned's orderly books containing minutes of courts martial, brigade orders, and descriptions of movements and supplies. The entries are almost daily, and they include information such as the "Parole" and "Countersign" of the day, which officers were assigned what position for the day, and formations for parades. Some entries include reports from Congress and praise passed along from commanding officers. Recurring themes include ensuring preparedness in case of a sudden movement, making sure all troops have had the small pox vaccine, and asking for the return of certain supplies. In the courts-martial most of the accused were on trial for desertion, conduct unbecoming an officer (such as verbally abusing a commanding officer), and enlisting multiple times to receive several enlistment bonuses. When convicted, most men received 100 lashes. Occasionally people were charged with more serious crimes,

which were punished by hanging. In the volume “Headquarters Peekskill Minutes Etc. Continental Army 1777,” three men were hanged for enlisting men for the enemy. Thaddeus and Noadiah’s diaries read similarly, with entries that mention items bought and sold, crops planted and harvested, travels made, and deaths in the village. The entries in both diaries consist of a few lines per entry. Noadiah wrote almost daily in his diary, while his father Thaddeus wrote very sporadically. The titles that appear on the enclosures of the volumes were not given by the authors, and the titles often do not accurately reflect the content of the volumes, which are better identified by number.

Volume 1 contains orderly minutes from April 21 to July 9, 1777. The minutes include courts martial, brigade orders, regimental orders, and reports of raises in pay ordered by Congress. A few entries are signed “Simon Larned Adj.” Through June 9, the entries are labeled “Peekskill,” a town in upstate New York that served intermittently as location for troops throughout the war.

Volume 2 contains similar minutes spanning from July 9 to August 29, 1777. A few entries are signed, and the location is occasionally given. This volume includes a list of supplies provided to various brigades. An entry on August 26, 1777 details the number of officers and soldiers that make up a regiment. “A Regt. Consists of a Col, Lt. Col., Maj., 8 Capt., 8 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., 8 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., 8 Ensigns, Pay Master, Adj., Q[uar]ter Master, Surgeon Mate; thirty-four Ser[geants], eighteen Drum and Fifes; -the Ser[geant] majors, Q[uar]ter M[aster] Ser[geant], Drum and Fife majors included- & six hundred and forty-eight Rank and File.”

Volume 3 spans September 2 to October 26, 1777. These dates cover the Battle of Saratoga, where fighting occurred September 19 and October 7, 1777, with Gen. Burgoyne surrendering on October 17. The volume, however, does not provide much information about the battle. It does mention Native American forces fighting on the American side; red caps differentiated the Native American soldiers so that American soldiers would not attack or abuse them. Simon Larned’s relative, Ebenezer Larned, was a brigadier general who played a large role at Saratoga, and his name appears in this volume.

Volume 4 contains not only Simon Larned’s orderly notes, but also a diary and some accounts by Noadiah Larned. Simon Larned’s notes span May 17 to July 21, 1778. This volume contains an extensive entry on marching orders, a broadside of a congressional resolution dated May 27, 1778, printed by John Dunlap, and other minutes similar to the first three volumes. A note says the marching orders for June 18 to July 5, 1778, are in another book, not in the collection, and therefore it does not cover the Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778. At the beginning of this book, Larned’s regiment appears to have been stationed at Valley Forge. George Washington (usually referred to as the Commander-in-Chief), Marquis de Lafayette, and Baron De Kalb are all mentioned in this volume. Noadiah Larned’s diary (or “Memorandum”) covers January 1, 1820 – January 31, 1821, and April 13, 1822 - November 28, 1822, along with some accounts dating through 1825. Thaddeus Larned’s journal (volume seven) provides some earlier context for Noadiah’s diary. Noadiah generally wrote a couple lines per entry, and he wrote almost daily. The entries discuss items bought and sold, such as butter and pork,

travels, mostly to nearby large towns such as Providence, planting and harvesting, and deaths in the village.

Volume 5 contains a contemporary transcription of the Newburgh Addresses and Washington's replies. Simon Larned did not write all the entries that appear in this volume; the entries that are not in his hand are not signed. The Newburgh Addresses, by Maj. John Armstrong, were presented as an anonymous call to mutiny if Congress did not provide soldiers with the recompense they were promised. The initial address came on March 10, and Washington condemned its circulation. A second address appeared on March 12. Washington replied on March 15, and he persuaded the troops not to rebel but to wait to see what Congress would do. The final entry in this small volume is the announcement of the cessation of hostilities on April 18, 1783.

Volume 6 contains a memorial to the Massachusetts General Assembly in extracts scattered throughout the book, along with a lengthy marching order, and a list of New Year's Activities to be performed at Continental Village, a location in upstate New York, where troops resided throughout the war. The dates of these writings are unclear. The year "1783" appears early in the volume, but the memorial to the General Assembly has no date, and it may well be from late October 1780. The New Year's activities date to December 1781.

Volume 7 contains Thaddeus Larned's diary, 1791-1818, with further entries through 1819 by his son Noadiah. The journal contains notes about planting, deaths, accounts, travels (mostly to nearby towns), and occasionally details about Connecticut General Assembly Resolutions. Thaddeus's entries are short and sporadic, but he took note of sermons occasionally, including details such as who gave the sermon and on what passages from the Bible. At the death of Abigail, his first wife, he included the quote, "Lover and friend hast thou put far from me and mine acquaintance into darkness." He recorded the deaths and burials of people from Thompson, and he sometimes appraised and settled estates. His notes about farming itself are not too detailed; he grew corn, potatoes, and hay, among other things, but he did not consistently record what he planted or harvested and when. He had pigs and cattle, which he would sometimes slaughter and sell. He traveled most often to Providence, Boston, and Hartford. He served in some capacity on the Connecticut Turnpike authority.

## Separation report

None.

## Bibliography

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## Subjects

United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Addresses, essays, lectures  
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Equipment and Supplies  
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Military personnel American.  
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Desertions  
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Regimental histories  
Courts-martial and courts of inquiry -- United States.  
Saratoga Campaign, N.Y., 1777  
Valley Forge (Pa.) -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783  
Monmouth, Battle of, Freehold, N.J., 1778

Larned, Simon, 1753-1817  
Larned, Thaddeus, 1756-1819  
Larned, Noadiah, 1789-1860  
Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Headquarters

United States. Continental Army. Massachusetts Regiment, Fourth.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions**

The collection is open for research.

### **Acquisition information**

Gift of Hope B. Tyler Montgomery, 1951.

### **Preferred citation**

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### **Processing note**

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## Volume listing

Volume title	Date	Volume
Headquarters Peekskill Minutes Etc. Continental Army 1777	Apr. 21- Jul. 9, 1777	1
Regimental Boston 1777 Orders Etc. Autograph of Adj. Larned	Jul. 9 – Aug. 29, 1777	2
Regimental Minutes 1777 Under General Gates of Great Interest as to Details of Life of Soldiers, Duties of Military Staff Etc.	Sept. 2- Oct. 26, 1777	3
Minutes 1778 Establishment of American Army Court Martial Minutes	May 17-Jul. 21, 1778; Jan. 1, 1820 - Nov. 28, 1822, and accounts 1825	4
Address At Close of War 1783 Discontent of Soldiers	Mar. 10- Apr. 18, 1783	5
October 1780 Minutes of a Plea to Congress Concerning Pay of Officers Who Were Willing to Continue in Service to End of War Commonwealth of Mass.	Winter 1781, and 1783	6
Thad. Larned – 1791-1816 Interest Local Historical Society Weather Health Conditions of Period Farming Customs War of 1812 (few notes)	Nov. 1791-Jan. 1819	7