

# LE BULLETIN

DES

## RECHERCHES HISTORIQUES

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### LE SIÈGE DE QUÉBEC EN 1775-1776

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William Lindsay, l'auteur du *Journal* peu connu du siège de Québec en 1775-1776 que nous publions ici, était originaire d'Écosse et était venu s'établir à Québec aux environs de 1770. Il s'occupa d'abord de commerce.

En 1775, William Lindsay s'enrôla dans la milice britannique (*British Militia*) et fut promu lieutenant avant la fin des hostilités.

En 1792, M. Lindsay entra dans l'administration en qualité d'assistant greffier de la Chambre d'Assemblée. Il remplit, en même temps, pendant plusieurs années, la charge de greffier de la Maison de la Trinité à Québec.

Le 6 août 1808, M. Lindsay remplaçait Samuel Philips comme greffier en chef de la Chambre et garda ce poste jusqu'au 30 septembre 1829.

M. Lindsay décéda à Québec le 11 janvier 1834. Il avait toujours donné satisfaction à nos députés pourtant assez hargneux et difficiles à servir à cette époque troublée de notre histoire.

Le *Journal* de M. Lindsay fut publié dans la *Canadian Review* (1826) mais cette revue est devenue tellement rare qu'il n'en existe pas six séries dans tout le Canada.

Ce *Journal* porte les deux notes suivantes sur sa première page : « Extraits from Journal of the proceedings of Quebec commencing at the time the British Militia were embodied 17th Sept. 1775 until the blockade was raised 6th May 1776, by Wm Lindsay, Lieut. B. Mil.

« This Journal being regularly kept as the Daily Regimental Orderly Book, I only copy the remarks by Mr. Lindsay, which are scattered and irregular. The manuscript is lent to me by Mr. Antrobus, with full permission for me to copy what I choose April 1879. D. »

Nous devons copie de l'intéressant *Journal* de William Lindsay à M. Gustave Lanctot, conservateur des Archives Publiques du Canada, à Ottawa. Le *Journal* de William Lindsay n'a pas une importance extraordinaire mais nous y trouvons une foule de petits faits qui ne sont pas mentionnés par les autres mémorialistes du siège de 1775-1776. Il intéressera certainement ceux qui veulent connaître l'histoire de Québec dans ses petits détails.

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EXTRACTS FROM JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
AT QUEBEC COMMENCING AT THE TIME THE  
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SEPTR. 1775 UNTIL THE BLOCKADE WAS  
RAISED 6th MAY 1776.

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1775 *Novr. 6th.*— The Magdalen schooner from London, 4 Guns, arrived express, bringing intelligence of Arnold's expedition against Quebec. Nearly about same time we heard of Arnold's arrival at Point Levi by way of the river Chaudière from New England, U. States.

The artificers under Capt. Law, late from England, Acting Engineer, busied in laying platformson the lines, and erecting barrier gates on every avenue to the lower town.

7th.— This day a Council of War was held at the house of Lt. Gov. Cramahee, at which all Field Officers assisted, and attended by Cap. Hamilton and Mackenzie of R. N.

It was unanimously agreed upon to defend the City, to the last extremity, in absence of the Governor (Gen. Carleton) now at Montreal.

The ships of war were immediately ordered into the Cul de sac, there to be laid up in Ordinary — the guns and ammunition to be sent to the upper town — the Marines and Seamen to be landed to do garrison duty

10th.— All the British Militia on duty to-day-quiet.

11th.— Much dissention in the garrison, owing to a number of bad subjects, English as well as French, refusing

to do duty, and endeavouring to poison the minds of their fellow citizens, in hopes of persuading them to give up the town. A meeting had been called by these miscreants for that purpose.

12th.— Every British Subject requested to meet Colonel Maclean at Prentices this afternoon — the decided part, the British Militia took in support of the common cause, joined to the manly and spirited exertions of Col. McLean peace and good order has been restored, and those traitors to their King and Country who had been labouring to excite a revolt in the garrison were obliged to draw in their home.

13th.— All the British Militia under Arms. This morning Colonel Arnold and his party landed at Wolfe's Cove — soon after they appeared on the heights, or Plains of Abraham. A volunteer party under Lt. Col. Caldwell immediately made a sorti from the garrison when after a few straggling shots exchanged the whole rebel party retired to « Sans bruit » and Holland House in the same vicinity, both being on the St. Foy road about two miles from town.

17th.— Capt. Vialars has leave to quit the garrison a sensible and well informed gentleman, but being much connected with the party that desired to create a revolt in garrison he chooses to retire — not doubting but the City must surrender — remained at Island of Orleans all the winter.

19th.— This forenoon General Carlton arrived from Montreal, a circumstance which, from the dissensions still existing, proved very apropos. The General escaped in a Canoe and had very nigh fallen into the hands of the enemy — all quiet during the 24 hours.

20th.— A few of the enemy seen parading on the heights, coming towards St. Johns suburbs a sorti by a volunteer party under Major Nairne of the B. Mila. from St. Louis Gate, the rebels retreated precipitately to « Sans bruit » thinking that the wisest measure.

21<sup>st</sup>.— A prisoner taken informs that in consequence of the sorti from the garrison, Colonel Arnold's party had retired to « Point au tremble » when they met General Montgomery with the York troops from Montreal.

22<sup>nd</sup>.— The Governor issued a Proclamation, ordering all persons that would not take up Arms to quit the town in 4 days, and the district by the 1<sup>st</sup> Decr. found after that they would be treated as spies and rebels. Great numbers both English and French, many of their Officers of the Militia left the town — a happy riddance.

23<sup>rd</sup>.— In consequence of Arnold's party having retired to such a distance, Volunteer parties went out in all directions to purchase stocks and much was brought in.

24<sup>th</sup>.— Volunteer parties employed as yesterday — Artificers as usual busied in putting the garrison in proper state of defence — the whole Militia to be clothed in green with buff vests and breeches.

30<sup>th</sup>.— During the interval of Arnold's retreat and Montgomery's approach, the Garrison got in a very ample supply of all kinds of stock, also the King's wood at St. Rocqués.

Decr. 1<sup>st</sup>.— Lieut. Meredith of B. Mila. deserted from the garrison.

Decr. 3<sup>rd</sup>.— A flag appeared this forenoon in St. Roc's, but was not alloed to approach the walls.

4<sup>th</sup>.— The forenoon a woman came in at Palace Gate, who said she had something to communicate to the Governor — immediately conducted to His Excellency, she presented a letter from General Montgomery. The Governor would not receive it, but desired his A. D. Camp to call a drummer whom he directed to take the letter from the woman with a pair of tongs and put it in the fire.

He then ordered the bearer of it to be turned out of the garrison, to acquaint Gen. Montgomery in what manner she had seen his letter treated — adding that all others

would meet the same fate, unless they entreated the King's mercy, and were declared to be such.

6th.— All quiet in the garrison — several letters were sent into the upper town by arrows, which were picked up and immediately carried to the Governor — contents not known.

N. B.— Having since obtained copies of two of them, they are inserted in their place.

To the Inhabitants of Quebec,  
My friends and fellow Subjects,

The unhappy necessity which exists for dislodging the Ministerial troops, obliges me to carry on hostilities against your city, which they now occupy it is with the utmost compunction I find myself reduced to measures which may overwhelm you with distress. The City in flames, at this severe season : a general attack on wretched works, defended by a more wretched garrison, the confusion, carnage, and plunder, which must be the consequence of such an attack fills me with horror.

Let me entreat you to use your endeavours to procure my peaceable admission ; you cannot surely believe the ungenerous falsehoods propagated to our disadvantage by ministerial hirelings ; the continental Army have never been sullied by any set of violence or inhumanity. We come with professed intention of eradicating tyranny, and of giving liberty, and security to this oppressed Province, private property having ever by us been deemed sacred.

I have enclosed you my letter to General Carlton because he has industriously avoided giving you every information that might tend to shew you your true interest. If he persists, and you permit him to involve you in that ruin which perhaps he courts to hide his shame I have not the reproach to make my own conscience that I have not warned you of your danger.

(Signed)

Richard MONTGOMERY,  
*Brig. Gen. Continental Army.*

Holland House,  
Decr. 6th, 1775.

To General Carleton.

Sir,

Notwithstanding the personal illtreatment I have received at your hands — notwithstanding the cruelty you have shown to the unhappy prisoners you have taken, the feelings of humanity induce me to have recourse to this expedient to save you from the destruction which hangs over your wretched garrison. Give me leave to assure you, I am well acquainted with your situation — a great extent of work of their nature incapable of defence-manned with a motley crew of sailors, most of them our friends — of citizens who wish to see us within their walls — of a few of the worst troops that ever called themselves soldiers — the impossibility of relief, and the certain prospect of wanting every necessary of life, should your opponents confine their operation to a single blockade, point out the absurdity of resistance — such is your situation. I am at the head of troops accustomed to success, confident of the righteousness of the cause they are engaged in : insured to danger and fatigue, and so highly incensed at your inhumanity, illiberal abuse, and the ungenerous means employed to prejudice them in the minds of the Canadians, that it is with difficulty I restrain them, until my batteries are ready, from insulting your works, which would afford them the fair opportunity of ample vengeance, and just retaliation.

Firing upon a flag of truce, hitherto unprecedented even among savages, prevents my following the ordinary mode of conveying my sentiments. However, I will at any rate acquit my conscience, should you persist in an unwarrantable defence, the consequence be upon your head. Beware of destroying stores of any sort, Public or Private, as you did at Montreal, or in the river. If you do, by Heavens ! there will be no mercy shewn.

(Signed)

Richard MONTGOMERY.

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*Decr. 8th.*— From 1st to this day all the enemy's troops arrived from Point au tremble' and General Montgomery

with Arnold took possession of the principal houses in the neighbourhood of the town, — Major Holland's (say Holland House) as Headquarters, — Minuts, and the General Hospital as Barracks — employed the « habitants » in cutting fascines for the purpose of erecting a Battery

9th.— Received information that the enemy were preparing a Battery a little above the Back Mill at the end of St. John's suburbs. All day a constant fire of small Arms by the enemy from the Intendants Palace St. Roc's against the two gun battery next the Barracks — did no damage — Late in the evening and till about 3 a. m. they threw in about 35 small shells from behind Mr Grant's garden wall St. Roc's the families intown much alarmed by such unusual visitors

10th.— At daybreak the enemy's fascine battery appeared on the face of the hill above mentioned, which is only exposed to the guns near St. John's gate. From that quarter a constant fire kept up from 2.12 pr., and 2.24 pr., which seemed to annoy the enemy greatly.

At mid-day a party was sent out to destroy some large houses near St. John's gate, but finding difficulty and trouble, as well as loss of time in pulling them down, they were set on fire — of which the Governor much disapproved.

About 1 a. m. the enemy threw shells from the same quarter, and in the three hours sent in the critical number of 45 — by which no damage done. In return we threw 13 inchers from the garrison both at their battery and into the village of St. Roc's where the enemy was lodged, which seemed to fall as we could wish

11th.— This evening and till late in the morning the enemy sent into the town a number of shells, without doing any damage whatever.

13th.— Kept up a constant fire all day on the enemy's works — still annoyed by small shot from without.

14th.— Constant fire kept up from the garrison ; having opened the Cavalier of 2.36 p. and 2.32 p. besides 1.24 p. flank gun on Cape Diamond.

15th.— Enemy opened their battery this morning at daylight till about 9 a. m. when their fire ceased — owing either to guns bursting, or their powder magazine blowing up — at 10½ a. m. another flag appeared, but the Governor would neither admit it, nor receive their proposals — on this message being delivered over the ramparts near the lower barracks, the person with the flag replied « then the Garrison have only themselves to blame, and the Governor will be answerable for the consequences ». and marched off towards the General Hospital. About 2 p. m. they began again from the battery, and continued till dark, without doing any material damage — continued firing from both sides. Another flag having been rejected, the following extra ordinary production was written with all the ire that passion and pride could suggest :

Headquarters, Holland House,  
15th Decr. 1775.

Parole Connecticut  
Countensign Adams.

The General having in vain offered the most favorable terms of accommodation to the Governor and having taken every possible step to prevail on the inhabitants to desist from seconding him in the wild scheme of vigorous measures, for the speedy reduction of the only hold possessed by the ministerial troops in this Province, flushed with continual success, and confident of the Justice of their cause, and relying on that Providence which has uniformly protected them, the troops will advance to the attack of works incapable of being defended by the wretched garrison posted behind them, consisting of sailors unacquainted with the use of Arms, of citizens incapable of soldier's duty, and a few miserable emigrants.

The General is confident, a vigorous and spirited attack will be attended with success — the troops shall have the effects of the Governor, the garrison, and such as have been active in misleading the inhabitants and distressing the friends of liberty equally divided among them. The one hundred share of the whole shall be at the disposal of the General, and given to such soldiers as distinguish themselves by their activity and bravery, and sold at

public auction — the whole to be conducted as soon as the city is in our hands, and the inhabitants disarmed.

Extracted from the Orderly Book of Capt. Nicholson's Company York Provincials, commanded by Colonel James Clinton.

*Decr. 16th.*— At daylight opened our batteries on the enemy and continued without interruption till night, apparently did great execution — the guns as on former occasion were under the direction of Major Mackenzie. and a Capt. Gosling of the Merchant Service, acting as gunners.

At half past 2 the enemy opened their battery but instead of 5, used only 3 guns, the largest of which was only 12 pounders — we could see by our glasses the two other guns dismounted. They kept up their fire till dark, without any other damage than throwing down a few chimnies, and wounding one little boy.

From the number of Yankeys seen about St. Roc's in the dusk, particularly in and about the Intendants Palace, we suspected an attack in the night, and heavy snowstorm which began to fall late seemed to favor their design if they had any such in contemplation.

*Decr. 17th.*— It turned out as we supposed — About a quarter before 5 a. m. the alarm was given by drums, and by the Great Bell of Cathedral, and the honour of the garrison every one repaired to his post with alacrity — after remaining some time we wer informed that no real attack had been made — a few discharges of small arms only were heard, a circumstance more familiar than otherwise since the enemy took possession of St. Roc's. The Governor appeared about 7 a. m. and after thanking the garrison for their vigilance dismissed it.

« The Faithfuls » Canadians wer seen marching home with their spades and pick axes over the shoulder tired, we suppose, of the job, of raising batteries which they have seen so soon destroyed.

*18th.*— Firing and shells as usual — doing no damage. A Canoe came over from Point Levi, 4 men in it. The Governor suspecting they came for no good purpose, though they had brought a little provision for sale, ordered them

to be sent directly back under escort to the water side. It seems there are about 50 of the enemy in that neighbourhood who prevent them from bringing provisions to the garrison, but see the absurdity of such a story. Fifty rebels hinder a body of 4 or 5000 Faithfuls from doing but as they please — a set of *Traiterous, Faithless ungrateful miscreants!!!*

Colonel Maclean received a letter to-day from some friend without, full of very agreeable information — it was brought in by a deserted — it says the Army is much dissatisfied with the proceedings of their Commanders, and backward in doing their duties — a great scarcity of powder as well as cannon and musket shot.

20th.— Several letters in town to-day confirm what was written to Col. Maclean, and desiring the Governor to be aware of some of the Captains of Militia : (they can be no others than *the Faithfuls*) a correspondence being kept up, by which the enemy are made acquainted with every circumstance that passes in the garrison. We have accounts that there are not more than 1500 men in this neighbourhood, 800 Yankeys — 400 Canadians from above, and 300 Faithfuls of this neighbourhood. Were they twice that number we have little to fear, the town being now so well fortified.

We are also informed that some of the York troops are retiring up the country.

This evening we threw shells into St. Rocs and set it on fire, but there being no wind it went out of itself before morning having done little damage — it is asserted that the woman mentioned to have been killed, turns out to be the enemy's Chief Engineer in that disguise : (not improbable) papers bespeaking his quality being found on the person so found in the snow, by the people without.

Decr. 21st.— Our Blockhouse finished, and another on Cape Diamond well advanced ; few of the enemy seen to-day.

22nd.— Late last night a young gentleman (Clerk to Colonel Caldwell, who had been taken prisoner when « Sans bruit » was burnt, where Col. C. had lived) came into town by way of Drummond's Wharf, and brought one of the enemy with him. They got under our Guns, the *Faithfuls* having the guard, without their being perceived —

he gives accounts of great preparations for storming the town — confirms the numbers 1500 — Headquarters at Holland House. That Montgomery resolved on making an attack between that and Xmas, assuring his troops that they should certainly dine in town on or before that day — he says great numbers are down in the small pox and that many had been killed and wounded in their battery near the St. Johns suburbs — much dissention among their troops, but that Montgomery had gained their consent to an attack by promise of 100 to every man who should mount the walls with his extra Picquets and additional Guards ordered to the former I repaired as a Volunteer — during the night threw shells into St. Roc's.

*Decr. 23rd.*— Most of the garrison under Arms all night, in the expectation of attack, but nothing occurred.

*24th.*— The Volunteer Picquet continued which I joined. The Garrison busy in mounting flanking guns — all the Posts were reinforced, and good look out kept in expectation of attack, but this night passed away as the others, all tranquil — throwing shells as usual during the night.

*26th.*— About mid-day intelligence was received, that about 350 of the enemy had got into St. Roc's with their sailing ladders, and meditated a stroke this evening, in consequence of which every one on the watch, but all was quiet without — on our part continued to throw shells into St. Roc's

*29th.*— This morning early a deserted from the enemy confirmed the information we had received of their intentions of attack by surprise — the posts again reinforced.

*30th.*— All quiet to-day — very few of the enemy seen — fired some shot at a few men on snowshoes tho seemed to be reconnoitring on the heights.

*31st.*— The darkness of last night and gloominess of this morning seemed fit for the blackest designs, and as many expected would forward the blow meant and planed against the garrison — so it turned out — about half after

4. a. m. we were alarmed at our Picquet Guard in the lower town but could not learn where the attack was made — the Great Bell was ringing and after the Captain had mustered the Picquet in the Market place, our Alarm Post, I was dispatched to the Governor to receive orders. I was fortunate enough to meet the General coming out of the Chateau, and I was ordered to wait at the main guard — the General being on his way to the *recollects* where the upper town Picquet was assembled. After remaining some time at the Main Guard, the enemy pouring in shells upon us, I began to imagine the Governor must have forgotten his desiring me to wait there, I went in search of him, and by accident met Colonel Maclean with an Officer of the Emigrants who was informing him that he had just come from the Grand Battery, and the post of Sault au Matelot was in possession of the enemy. Upon hearing this I immediately repaired to join the Picquet Guard and inform the Captain. On my arrival at the market place where I had left them, I learnt they had proceeded on the Sault au Matelot. Thither I repaired, where I found all disorder and confusion. A number of our Picquet who had advanced too precipitately had been made prisoners along with Adj. Mills, and Capt. Lister had narrowly escaped. At this moment there was not keeping any order among the few British and French Militia who had repaired to the assistance of the post — however daylight appearing a little relieved our distress, but then we had no proper Commanders to direct us, at least none who had any weight (say the *Faithfuls*) to keep the Militia to their duty. During this disorder, I heard that two other attacks had been made, one on Cape Diamond, and the other attacks at the Potash without success — the Sault au Matelot post surprised — the Guard and parties advancing to its assistance taken, and the enemy coming up the narrow pass that leads to the lower town, taking possession of the houses as they advanced, from the back parts of which a smart firing was kept up and returned by us, under the best cover we could find. At this critical juncture (for had the enemy pushed on, having got under our last barrier in the Sault au Matelot they must have carried it, and of course got into the lower town) a most seasonable reinforcement arrived of Volunteers, and the Company of Captains of Merchantmen, the whole under

the command of Colonel Caldwell, Major Nairne, and a Captain Anderson (Lieut. R. N.) who was soon after killed. Thus aided by able Officers, things soon bore a different aspect — having disposed of the greatest part of the body in the neighbouring houses, a constant fire was kept up which prevented the enemy from getting over the barrier, through frequently attempted, or advancing by any other quarter. At this moment a sailor got upon the stage behind the barrier gate, and laid hold of a scaling ladder which the Rebels had put up and attempted to mount — having pulled it over, the ladder was immediately mounted against an end window which faced into the street — the house being next to the barrier gate in which the enemy was lodged — Major Nairn with a Mr Dambourges an Officer of the Royal Emigrants and followed by others mounted the ladder and forced the window — they soon made themselves masters in the house, killing an Officer and wounding several men without receiving the least injury themselves — they continued there nearly an hour, during which time the fire on both sides became extremely brisk, and in this conflict the British Militia was the only Corps that suffered, (except Capt. Anderson).

Notwithstanding the horrid scene of killed and wounded around us, the firing on our part never ceased until victory declared in our favour, a circumstance as unexpected as singular — for about 9 a. m. we found ourselves in possession of nearly 200 prisoners, with our friends taken in the early part of the morning released — and escorting them to the upper town, in which very agreeable duty I assisted. How we thus became conquerors, when the contest with us was still undecided, and when we imagined the business very doubtful, comes now to be told.

The Governor, being informed by repeated messages how likely the lower town was to fall into the hands of the enemy, having forced our post at the « Sault au Matelot » and gained our last barrier, ordered a sorti, by the Corps de reserve under Capt. Low, from the Palace gate — this party was covered by Capt. Macdougall and detachment of the emigrants and other Volunteers — this last body had no sooner got to the bottom of the hill, than they fell upon the rear of the Rebels amounting to nearly 200 men, who were so much confounded by this unexpected attack,

that they called for quarter and submitted themselves Prisoners. Captain Laws kept advancing, leaving Capt. McDougal to dispose of his prisoners, and soon reached our outpost at the « Sault au Matelot » which he entered alone without opposition, and rushed into the midst of the enemy, crying out, You are all my Prisoners. If the rear had been astonished, you may well suppose the surprise of those who had made themselves masters of our post, when addressed in such language — How, said they, your Prisoners — You are ours ! — No, no, my dear creatures, I vow to God you are all mine, don't mistake yourselves — But where are your men — Oh ! make yourselves *easy* about that matter they are all about and will be here in a twinkling — Conversation to that purpose was going on —, while a proposal was made to put him to death, but was overruled — in the interim his party arrived, made themselves masters of the post and secured the whole body of the enemy at the « Sault au Matelot ». In this manner we within the barrier were relieved from our fears by this seasonable manœuvre of the Generals, and thus Arnold's whole party were either killed, wounded, or taken — on our part we had 5 killed and as many wounded — the total amount of Prisoners 427, of whom 32 are Officers.

Thus ended the attack at « Sault au Matelot » barrier conducted by our old acquaintance Benedict Arnold, Mariner, and Horse Jockey, who being early wounded was carried off to the General Hospital soon as the enemy were seen advancing by McCord's house in St. Roc's a constant fire was kept up from behind the Barracks, by which the Rebels suffered considerably, many dead having been found on the snow, of which there was a heavy fall that morning.

As already mentioned, the attack at the Potash which was found to be under the direction of General Montgomery, succeeded no better, having been repulsed at the first onset, leaving behind them nine killed two wounded. At daylight in the morning another sorti was made at Palace gate ; after sending in a Brass six pounder, with the enemy's small mortar and shells found in St. Roc's they set fire to the whole village, beginning a little below Palace gate taking in McCord's street, the Intendant's Palace and all that neighbourhood, which were entirely consumed before next morning.

Thus ended an attack, which threatened destruction to the city of Quebec, and its inhabitants, with a probability of the subversion of the whole Province for a certain time.

But to the All ruling hand of Providence, we owe our success : and to The Almighty our thanks are alone due for our preservation.

1776

*Jany. 1st.*— All quiet during the night. In the morning two Canadians came in, thinking the Lower town in possession of the enemy — they were carried to the main guard, and reported that they had just come from the General Hospital, at which there were no accounts of General Montgomery — this intelligence joined to the circumstance of a fur cap being found without the Potash barrier, bloody, and marked in bottom R. M. Immediately led the Governor to suppose that he must have been killed in leading on his men. Orders were sent down to bring up all the dead bodies, and among them was found General Montgomery — his Aid de Camp, a Mr McPherson, and a Captain Cheeseman of their Artillery, with the General's Orderly Sergeant. This discovery gave new spirit to the garrison, and relieved us from any apprehension of a second attack.

*2nd.*— The General was down surveying, and directing the further security of the post at « Sault au Matelot ». The General's A. D. Camp with Major Meggs one of the prisoners went out with a flag for the purpose of bringing in the Officers necessaries, but at the end of St. Roc's they were stopped by the guard, and returned.

The officers' prisoners are confined in the Seminary and the Privates at the Recollets — all much pleased at the treatment beyond their expectations.

*Jany 7th.*— Three Canadians were taken prisoners, plundering without the walls, from whom we learn that General Wooster was expected from Montreal to take the Command, and that the troops above were to accompany him.

*17th.*— Nothing material occurring the daily detail is passed over.

A Mademoiselle Babauche who used to bring intelligence to the garrison, but detected by the enemy and confined, made her escape and came in to-day. She confirms the accounts of Wooster being expected from Montreal, accompanied by Walker — that since 31st more than 200 of the enemy had deserted — in going off the Canadians endeavoured to stop them, scuffled had ensued when several were killed.

*Feby. 1st.*— Much firing and burning scattered houses from day to day : nothing material resulting — two women had permission to leave the town, but the enemy's advance guard would not allow them to pass — they say, that the Yankes (or rather *the Faithfuls* for they were chiefly the Guard) imagine we are reduced to great distress for provisions and firewood. On the contrary we are in want of neither — so that their remaining without in the idea of starving the garrison will answer no good purpose.

*Feby. 16th.*— The Yankey prisoners from their good conduct had been allowed to volunteer into Col. Maclean's Corps, but in consequence of frequent desertion afterwards, they were this morning sent into the Jail, a circumstance which has given satisfaction to all.

This evening a volunteer picquet was again established, and the guards on Cape Diamond and Louis gate reinforced — this was occasioned by the height of the snow in these quarters, in many places the enemy might have walked in at the embrasure.

*24th.*— By a deserter who came in last night, we learn that the enemy are busy manning scaling ladders and meant to hazard another attack, directed on Cape Diamond ; he had left Montreal lately when things were in confusion.

A Colonel Clinton had arrived without to assume the Command, and brought 100 men to reinforce.

*28th.*— This morning a habitant from Orleans brought in the following agreeable intelligence that large reinforcements had sailed from England for Halifax and Louisbourg, to give early succour to this place — that the enemy had sent 150 trains over the Lakes to bring their expected rein-

forcement but had returned with 100 men only, picked up from different places — the enemy had been talking of going away, but that the country people won't let them, saying « that as you have brought us into a scrape, you « must bring us out of it again, and take Quebec ». The enemy who amuse the habitants by telling them, that the Governor had offered to give up the garrison, but that they did not choose to accept of it till their reinforcement arrived as they would then be able to keep it. Many other satisfactory circumstances have put the garrison in high spirits.

*March 9th.*— The two persons who came in last night were both Canadians of some consequence from above — the one had been taken prisoner at St. Johns, and carried up to Congress — but after repeated sollicitation had obtained permission to return to Canada, supposing him to be in their interest — the other a Mr Papineau from Montreal, who, having remained silent in regard to his political principles in the present critical situation of affairs, was not suspected to be a Royalist. With much interesting information of the favorable complexion of affairs in the South, and of the Army without, (though they do intend an attack this week) the whole garrison is in high spirits, and wait with impatience to put the finishing stroke to their fatigues.

*10th.*— About 10 at night a false alarm — after being an hour under Arms were dismissed — it was a very pleasing circumstance to the Governor to find the garrison so alert, for in less than one quarter of an hour, there were 1000 men under Arms.

*11th.*— A general review of the British Militia on the parade — they made a very respectable appearance and the General through Lt. Colonel Caldwell thanked them for their alertness the preceding evening ; they consist of six Companies — total 267 men.

*13th.*— A flag of truce appeared, who said, he had papers for the Governor — he was answered, unless they contained supplicating terms, and exhibited a true sense of the heinousness of past offences, they could not be received — on which the Officer made a bow, and marched off.

17th.— This being St. Patricks day, the Governor requested the garrison to put off keeping it until 17th May when he promised they should be enabled to keep it properly. The ice breaking up fast.

19th.— Launched one Bateau and two ships boats with a 3 pounder, on the river, and sent up to examine as high as Sillery Cove — observed nothing.

22nd.— This morning 2, 36 pounders on the Grand Battery and 2, 24.<sup>5</sup> on the nine gun battery opened on the enemy, now seen busy in raising works on the Point Levi side — the distance is so great, can't discover the effect of our shot, in the afternoon sent over some shells in order to ascertain the distance — night mild with some snow, very dark — many lights seen without the town to the Northward — the garrison all on the alert.

March 27th.— The enemy still seen moving about in bodies, many of them crossed over to Orleans — it leads us to suppose that the « habitants » below are becoming troublesome to the Yankeys — we observed 30 of them carried up Prisoners on the south shore, and crossed the river above Sillery.

29th.— This morning a constant fire kept up on the enemy's works at Point Levi, many shells thrown, which seemed to annoy them much, but they still go on with the work.

31st.— A deserter came in, reports the arrival of a further reinforcement to the enemy of 300 men of whom he was one — another of the same strenght was on their way.

The enemy still mean an attack, but there is much dissention among them on that point.

The battery at Point Levi is to have 5 or 6 guns, and intends to stop the shipping in Spring, by which it would appear they don't mean to leave us soon. A fortunate and providential discovery was made to-day of a Plot by the Prisoners to make their escape and this led to other information of their connection with people in town. Arms and instruments had been provided to them, and the plan

well laid to attack the Guard at St. Johns Gate, throw it open and admit the enemy from without. The 12 ringleaders were put in irons — thus Providence once more interposed to save us miraculously.

The Governor, now possessed of the signal agreed upon with the enemy, resolved to avail himself of it, and bring them on — the scheme, though extremely well conducted, did not take, for not a man of them appeared.

*April 1st.*— Deserters come in daily — report that General Wooster who has remained till now at Montreal, is at last arrived with 13 men only ; he further says that the Canadians have now nearly all left them, that Colonel Hearens Battn. of Canadians raised about Chambly is now reduced by desertion to 60 men — the enemy are very sickly and much dissatisfied.

*2nd.*— Soft Weather, extremely hot in the morning. This night the garrison Extra Picquets were discontinued, but the garrison ordered to sleep every night in their clothes — being now moonlight the whole night.

*3rd.*— About 7 a. m. the enemy opened their battery at Point Levi, 3.12 pounders, 1.8 inch how. they played away till 10 a. m. neither shot nor shell did any damage.

On our part, nine large pieces not less than 24.<sup>o</sup> and 2.13 inch Mortars opened on them — we see their battery very much damaged. About mid-day six discharges of Cannon were heard to come from below extremely distinct — we remain ignorant as to the cause.

*April 4th.*— Firing as yesterday — snow and squally weather.

*6th.*— The information of the deserter, and a gentleman of repute from Montreal who came in last night is favorable — that the number of sick is  $\frac{1}{3}$  of their force without — great desertion — and they could not bring their troops to hazard another attack. A Priest and 40 men from below had intended to surprise the post at Point Levi, but were betrayed — they however occupied a house, and defended themselves bravely — until several being killed and many

wounded of whom the Curé Bailen was one, they surrendered — in consequence Wooster has ordered all the Priests and respectable people below to be carried up the country.

*7th.*— Blowing weather, rain and snow.

*9th.*— About 1 o'clock a deserter came in, of rather genteel appearance, reports that the whole Army are in a miserable condition from want of clothing — does not exceed 1800 men, of whom 1000 only are fit for duty — that Arnold had set off that morning to take the command at Montreal, in short he says (though many suspect he has been sent in) that if we keep a good look out, we have nothing to fear.

*April 18th.*— In this intermediate period — daily firing but with little damage.

At mid-day two deserters came in at Louisgate — report that an attack is still meditated — that the York Troops, their time being up, had refused to do further duty — about 300 men — they had been disarmed, now withstanding which, they had huzza'd for the King. We still keep our good look out.

*23rd.*— Six habitants from Montreal came down in canoes to the garrison gave much information — that Colonel Caldwell from the upper country with a considerable force of Indians was on his march to the relief of Montreal.

*25th.*— The ice on the river Charles broke up, which makes « Sault au Matelot » a secure post.

*28th.*— Many bateaux seen passing from the Point Levi side to Wolfe's Cove loaded with baggage, lead us to imagine that the enemy abandons that quarter — from information of vessels being at hand, which God grant.

*May 2nd.*— At 10 a. m. Colonel Maclean and a party went out at Louis gate to bring in all the picquets in the neighbourhood of Mount Pleasant — the advance brought also a few of the scaling ladders which the enemy had lodged there in the late hazy weather, the advance Sentinels

fired at the Colonel and then made off — the ladders are so long and heavy that two men can scarcely carry one of them — see then the absurdity of approaching our walls with such incumbrances.

*3rd.*— The wind at East, fine weather — at 10 a. m. about 300 of the enemy were seen marching round the point at Sillery to Wolfe's Cove with three stand of colours, in the intent, by this parade, to make us believe that additional reinforcement had arrived — but we have strong reasons to think the contrary, as they were heard to beat to Arms early this morning to gather them together.

A little after 8 a. m. the garrison was agreeably surprised to see a sail coming round Point Levi — every one was elated with joy at the sight but our pleasure was short, for though repeatedly hailed from the batteries, she made no answer. She had nearly reached the cul de sac, when a 24 pounders was sent at her — upon which the helm was immediately put a lee, the sprit sail set, and in a moment she was on fire. Providentially for us, it was ebbtide inshore, and little wind, she dropped down, instead of getting forward, contrary to the expectation of the vagabonds who conducted her, and owing to their abandoning the vessel and taking to their boats too soon. On the first discovery of her being on fire, the alarm was given, the great Bell rung, and every man was at his post while a brisk cannonade from every gun that could bear on her or the boats that were seen making off. The sight, from her being so well prepared, was truly grand, and exceeded in splendor the most elegant fire works I had ever seen.

The Vessel proves to be a Brig purchased from a Yankey by Mr Simon Fraser Senr, of this place, for £400 which that gentleman had sent down to winter at Patrick's hole — had the attempt succeeded of setting fire to the vessels in the Cul de sac, the whole lower town must inevitably have been destroyed — a serious consideration to all interested.

*May 4th.*— Nothing material in the 24 hours — save Rockets thrown, and fires made on Orleans, which lead us to imagine, that the enemy are either about to decamp, or that vessels are at hand for the relief of the garrison.

6th.— This morning about half past 4 a large vessel have in sight, the garrison was immediately under Arms, and every man at his alarm post, not knowing whether she was friend or foe. However we were soon relieved from our anxiety by the signals made and answered — so soon as anchored a boat went on board with Major Makenzie, and he returned very soon with Major Carlton — it is the surprise frigate 24 guns, Capt. Lindsay from Portsmouth. She had not been long at anchor before the Isis Man of War 50 guns Capt. Douglas, and the Martin Sloop of War came round the point, and so soon as moored, the troops on board and marines were landed, 100 men in all, 29th Regt. With this small reinforcement and the garrison off duty, a sorti was made with 4 field pieces 6 p.<sup>2</sup> from Louis gate, and St. John's — our left extending across the Plains of Abram to the precipice over the Ance des Mères — our right to the hill over St. Roc's. In this manner we proceeded in a regular and steady march to the skirts of the woods in the face of the battery, but the dastardly scoundrels never waited to fire one cannon shot — for on our little Army getting without the walls, they took to their heels, a few only having discharged their muskets without doing any harm. In this manner the blockade of Quebec was raised, an event which has amply repaid us for the toils and fatigues of a long and severe winter. This stroke, we imagine, will put an end to the War in this Province for their retreat was so precipitate that they have left all their cannon, 15 pieces behind them, besides Mortars &c. &c. not spiking one of them — the quantity of warlike stores baggage and provisions is incredible, in short never did an enemy make a more shameful and cowardly retreat.

It may not be improper to add, that as soon as the troops and Marines were landed, the ships of War proceeded up the river, firing upon the flying enemy on both sides, making several prisoners, Before night they had retaken an armed schooner, and the sloop Gaspé, which had fallen into their hands last fall.

May 7th.— The Garrison off duty, slept in peace and quietness — went out on scouting party this morning as far as Montmorency, sent in several prisoners and baggage

found at their guard houses. The *rascally Canadians* flocking to town, as well as many others who deserted the garrison, numbers of whom were sent to Jail.

8th.— This morning the Lord Howe, East India man with the remainder of 29th Regt. and the Niger 24 guns with part of 47th Gen. Carlton's own Regiment from Halifax anchored before the town — we learn that several traders are at hand with troops.

9th.— Nothing new. Prisoners bringing in fast.

17th.— Shipping and troops are daily arriving. By accounts from above we learn that the enemy notwithstanding they had received large reinforcements were still retreating, but meant to take post at Sorel

May 19th.— The British Militia attended Church to-day being appointed a Public Thanksgiving for our happy deliverance from the Enemy.

21st.— The troops being rembarcked in transports last night, the Governor embarked also this morning and the fleet 10 sail proceeded up the River, His Excellency being saluted by the garrison.

22nd.— An express arrived about mid-day from above with the agreeable accounts, that Col. Caldwell in conjunction with a body of Indians on their way down from the Upper Country, fell in with a large body of the enemy at the Cedars, and entirely defeated them with great slaughter — they immediately pressed on to Montreal, and retook that place.

Journal finished.

(Signed)

Wm. LINDSAY, Lt. B. M.

## LES SPECTACLES A MONTRÉAL

Depuis la parution, en 1932, de notre petite étude : *Recherches historiques sur les spectacles à Montréal, de 1760 à 1800*, des amis nous ont fourni trois renseignements intéressants que les bouquineurs pourront peut-être noter en marge de la brochure, s'ils ont eu la discutable idée de la conserver.

Tout d'abord, en parlant de la tragédie *Jonathas et David* ou *le Triomphe de l'amitié*, jouée au collège de Montréal en 1776, nous demandions quel pouvait être l'auteur de la pièce susdite et voici ce que nous confia, aimablement, le docte bibliothécaire de Montréal :

« Sur la foi de M. Gofflot, auteur du *Théâtre au collège*, j'ai déjà écrit que *Jonathas et David* avait été composé par le R. P. Desbillons, Jésuite du XVIIIe siècle. Mais de plus amples recherches m'ont convaincu que l'auteur est plutôt le R. P. Pierre Brumoy, un autre Jésuite du même temps, resté célèbre pour son ouvrage en 17 ou 18 volumes : *Le Théâtre des Grecs*.

« L'erreur est venue de ce que dans les collèges jésuites du XVIIe et XVIIIe siècle, on a joué de nombreuses tragédies en français et en latin sous le titre de *Jonathas et David*. Le P. Desbillons qui a pondé beaucoup de tragédies surtout en latin a pu en faire une sur *Jonathas et David*, mais il n'a pas composé celle qui nous occupe. De Backer dans sa *Bibliographie des Jésuites* n'attribue en fait aucun *Jonathas et David* à Desbillons, tandis que le même de Backer mentionne que *Jonathas et David* ou *le Triomphe de l'Amitié* a été publié dans le tome IV du *Recueil des divers ouvrages en prose et en vers* du P. Brumoy, paru à Paris en 1741. Avant de l'écrire en vers français, Brumoy paraît avoir composé son *Jonathas et David* en vers latins, car le R. P. de Roche-monteix dans son *Histoire du Collège de Laflèche*, donne en appendice le titre complet en latin de *Jonathas et David* joué à Laflèche en 1741 et, non seulement la liste des personnages est absolument la même que dans l'exemplaire Mesplet, mais l'argument correspond exactement à celui de la pièce jouée à Montréal. » . . .

Aegidius FAUTEUX.

Cette question nous semble donc réglée.

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Il nous avait été possible, au moyen de quelques rares documents, d'avancer qu'il y avait eu un théâtre à Montréal en 1774 et que les acteurs étaient des officiers de l'armée anglaise, mais nous n'avions pu identifier l'un d'eux, toujours simplement nommé M. Thomas. Or l'archiviste émérite, Francis-J. Audet, nous écrit ceci, en résumé :

« Ce M. Thomas ne serait-il pas Charles Thomas, admis au barreau le 19 juillet 1783, et qui devint protonotaire aux Trois-Rivières ? Il avait servi comme juge-avocat dans les troupes du duc de Brunswick et il était entré au service de S. M. Britannique au début de la révolution américaine. »

Jusqu'à plus ample informé, il faut s'en tenir à cette conjecture.

\* \* \*

Le troisième addenda nous a été procuré de façon dérobée. Sans se nommer, sans dire autre chose qu'étant très âgée, une demoiselle qui prévoyait sa fin prochaine, nous faisait parvenir, plutôt que de les détruire, deux ou trois périodiques, fort anciens, qui avaient enveloppé des choses venant de ses grands parents. A notre agréable surprise, l'un de ces journaux était un exemplaire assez bien conservé de la *Gazette de Montréal* (alors bilingue), daté du 26 février 1798.

Entre autres choses qui piquaient la curiosité d'un vieux chercheur, se remarquait, dans cette petite feuille, l'annonce suivante, en très bonne place :

### C I R C U S

This evening Monday 26th Feb. 1798 will be presented to the Public, the greatest Variety of Performance, that has yet been Exhibited at the Circus.

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(In particular Mr. F. Ricketts will make his first appearance in Canada)

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In addition to the great Display of HORSEMANSHIP, SONGING, DANCING, &c.

Will be Performed a COMIC PANTOMIME — Called :  
THE DEATH OF THE BEAR.

Characters :

Guillot . . . . . Mr. Durang  
And Colas . . . . . Mr. F. Ricketts.

Huntsmen and other Characters, by the rest of the Company

—  
The evening Entertainments will conclude with  
Mr. F. Ricketts

Une réclame aussi attractive d'un spectacle exceptionnel dut avoir grand effet sur le public de 1798 ; elle en aurait même aujourd'hui. A notre égard, elle confirme l'assertion qu'un cirque permanent, ou presque, exista dans le Montréal fin dix-huitième siècle, ainsi que nous le disions, en terminant notre étude.

Conclusion : Remerciements cordiaux aux secourables correspondants.

E.-Z. MASSICOTTE

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LES SŒURS CHARLY SAINT-ANGE  
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André Charly Saint-Ange était originaire de Paris, paroisse Saint-Gervais, et on croit qu'il passa dans la Nouvelle-France sur les conseils du baron de Renty, un des dévoués associés de la Compagnie de Montréal. Charly Saint-Ange épousa ici Marie Du Mesnil qui, elle-même, avait été envoyée à Montréal par M. de La Dauversière. Le savant abbé Faillon dit de ces deux colons : « La famille Charly Saint-Ange était l'une des plus saintes familles qui se fussent dévouées à l'œuvre du Canada. » Dieu récompensa ce ménage exemplaire en donnant la vocation religieuse à quatre de leurs filles. Les quatre sœurs Charly Saint-Ange furent religieuses de la Congrégation, Marie, née à Montréal le 14 juillet 1662, traça la voie à ses sœurs. Elle entra dans la Congrégation en 1679 et fut connue sous le nom de sœur Charly. Elle décéda le 28 avril 1683. Marie-Catherine,

née à Montréal le 3 juin 1666, entra à son tour dans la Congrégation Notre-Dame en 1679. La sœur Marie-Catherine Saint-Ange du Saint-Sacrement décéda à Montréal le 27 janvier 1719. Elle avait été supérieure de sa communauté de 1708-11 et de 1717-19. La troisième des sœurs Charly à se consacrer à Dieu fut Anne-Françoise née à Montréal le 2 décembre 1675. Elle entra à la Congrégation en 16 . . . , et décéda le 4 septembre 1692, sous le nom de sœur de la Nativité. L'aînée des sœurs Charly Saint-Ange, Elisabeth, née à Montréal le 3 juin 1659, avait été mariée à Joseph Montenon de Larue, officier dans les troupes. Celui-ci fut tué par les Iroquois le 2 juillet 1690. Mme de Montenon suivit l'exemple de Marie de l'Incarnation. Elle avait un fils. Elle le plaça en mains sûres puis alla rejoindre ses sœurs à la Congrégation. La sœur Montenon de Sainte-Françoise décéda le 17 février 1713.

P.-G. R.

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## LES SANS-CULOTTE

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Dans la province de Québec, le mot culotte est très employé mais, le plus souvent, à contre sens. En France, lors de la Grande Révolution, les nobles et ceux qui avaient à souffrir des énergumènes qui étaient à la tête du mouvement leur donnaient le nom de *sans culotte*. Pourquoi ? C'est Lenotre qui nous donne l'origine de cette expression :

« Un sans-culotte, dit-il, n'était pas, comme on peut le croire, un homme indécentement vêtu ; ce mot désignait, par opposition aux élégants dont la jambe se moulait dans un bas bien tiré, les ouvriers portant des pantalons de toile ou de futaine tombant jusqu'à la cheville et recouvrant le soulier. Avant 1792, le pantalon faisait horreur ; c'était l'emblème de la rudesse, du bas labeur et du sans-*façon*. Au cours des récits où l'on conte l'apparition dans les provinces d'une de ces bandes de terroristes qui faisaient trembler les bonnes gens, on note les barbes incultes, les grands sabres, les bonnets rouges et les *pantalons* ; les pantalons causaient autant d'effroi que les barbes et que les sabres. Un *sans-culotte* était donc un homme à pantalon. »

## LES FAMILLES DOUCET

Plusieurs Doucet vinrent s'établir dans la Nouvelle-France. Quelques-uns passèrent par l'Acadie avant de se fixer dans les régions de Québec et de Montréal. Mgr Tanguay, au volume troisième de son *Dictionnaire généalogique*, page 437, mentionne Jean Doucet, de l'île Saint-Jean, marié d'abord à Elisabeth Prou puis à Anne Pinet ou Pinel et, enfin, à Thérèse Dauphin. Nous ignorons si ce Jean Doucet est l'ancêtre des Doucet actuel. Un point, cependant, nous intéresse dans l'histoire de ce Doucet.

D'après une ordonnance de l'intendant Bégon, du 24 février 1713, ce Jean Doucet était d'origine irlandaise. Nous citons l'ordonnance en question :

« Jean Doucet irlandois de nation et anne Pinel sa femme nous ayant représenté que nous leur aurions fait delivrer une ordonnance de la somme de Cinquante livres monnoye de france pour la gratification a eux accordée par Sa M<sup>te</sup> en faveur de leur mariage a payer par les<sup>r</sup>. de Monseignat directeur des fermes du Domaine du Roy en ce pays au bail de M<sup>r</sup> françois traffane fermier gnal du domaine d'Occident, laquelle il auroit fait reffus de payer, ce qui nous auroit obligé de faire venir devant nous les<sup>r</sup> de Monseignat qui nous auroit dit ne pouvoir acquitter notre ditte ordonnance faute par lesd Doucet et sa femme de rapporter Le certificat de leur mariage et que la ditte somme ne seroit point allouées dans les Comptes du dit S<sup>r</sup> Traffane, et comme nous avons une Connoissance certaine que lesd. Doucet et sa femme ont remis Le mois d'octobre dernier au feu S<sup>r</sup>. Surrat nôtre secretaire le certificat de la célébration de leur mariage fait par le R. P. Felix Recolet missionnaire a l'Acadie le quinze juillet MVII<sup>e</sup> onze qui a esté Brulé dans lincendie de la maison du Palais, et que pour y suplée Le s<sup>r</sup> Le Boullanger curé de la psse de Charlebourg ou est a present Etably Lesd. Doucet et sa femme a delivré un certificat de la connoissance qu'il a de leur mariage.

« Nous ordonnons audit s<sup>r</sup> de Monseignat de payer au dit Doucet et Pinel sa femme la dit somme de Cinquante livres monnoye de france qui sera passée et allouée en les dépenses des comptes du dit s<sup>r</sup> traffane dans l'Estat qui

sera par nous arrêté de la Distribution des Mariages en rapportant la pnte et led. certificat du d. s<sup>r</sup>. Boullanger, seullement Mandons etc. f. à Quebec ce 24 fevrier 1713. »

Qui nous dira si réellement Jean Doucet était d'origine irlandaise.

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## LA MILICE CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE EN 1775

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Le 9 juin 1775, le gouverneur Carleton proclamait la loi martiale dans toute la province de Québec. Il ordonnait en même temps de mettre incessamment sur pied les milices. La tâche n'était pas aisée puisque, virtuellement, les milices avaient cessées d'exister avec le régime français. Dès le 29 juin 1775, Les Canadiens-français de Québec adressaient la supplique suivante au gouverneur Carleton, alors à Montréal : « Les bourgeois et citoyens de Québec, considérant la triste situation de cette ville, prennent la liberté de représenter à Votre Excellence, que, toujours zélés pour défendre les droits de leur auguste souverain croient ne pas devoir lui offrir des services qui lui appartiennent de droit, en attendant de Votre Excellence de moment en moment en conséquence de sa proclamation, ses ordres pour nous mettre en milices telles qu'elles étaient précédemment, et ainsi que Votre Excellence vient de l'établir à Montréal, afin de maintenir le bon ordre et veiller à la tranquillité publique. » Le 3 juillet, le gouverneur Carleton répondait de Montréal aux sujets canadiens de Sa Majesté à Québec : « J'ai bien des remerciements à vous faire de votre supplique, remplie de bon sens et d'obéissance envers un souverain dont le premier soin est le bonheur et la protection de ses sujets ; les milices des districts de Montréal et des Trois-Rivières étant à peu près complétées, je vais prendre les arrangements nécessaires pour celles du district de Québec, quand je me

flatte que ceux qui cherchent à donner atteinte à la tranquillité de cette province par les armes et la violence, ou par des rapports faux et séditieux, seront châtiés comme leurs crimes le méritent. » Le 2 août, le gouverneur Carleton était de retour à Québec, et, dès le lendemain, il se mettait à l'œuvre pour organiser la milice de la capitale. Les Canadiens-français s'enrôlèrent avec tant de bonne volonté que le 11 septembre, à six heures du matin, le lieutenant-gouverneur Cramahé passait les milices en revue sur la Place d'Armes. Les Canadiens-français firent alors bonne figure à côté de leurs concitoyens d'origine britannique et Cramahé, qui était un soldat de carrière, ne manqua pas de les complimenter sur leur bonne tenue et leur esprit de loyauté à la Couronne britannique.

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#### LA REVUE DU 11 SEPTEMBRE 1775

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C'est Gabriel-Elzéar Taschereau, capitaine aide-major de la milice canadienne-française, qui nous a conservé le rôle de la revue du 11 septembre 1775. Sa liste donne les noms de tous les officiers et soldats avec le nom de la rue où résidait chaque milicien. Nous ne donnons ici que les noms des officiers d'état-major et de chaque compagnie. L'état-major comprenait : Noël Voyer, colonel ; lieutenant-colonel, Jean-Baptiste Dumont ; major, M. LeCompte Dupré ; aides-majors, Gabriel-Elzéar Taschereau, Louis Germain fils et M. Guichaud ; sous aides-majors, Joseph-François Cugnet fils et Pierre Perras fils. Les officiers des compagnies étaient : 1<sup>re</sup> cie : capitaine, Louis Dunière ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, Richardière Corbin ; lieutenant, Jean De-Chamblain ; enseigne, Jean-Baptiste Panet ; 2<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine, François Baby ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, Louis Lizotte ; lieutenant, Pinguet Vaucour ; enseigne, Amand Primont ; 3<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine, M. Perras ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, M. Dufau ; lieutenant, M. Perrault ; enseigne, M. Fortier fils ; 4<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine, M. Marcoux ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, M. Chabot ; lieutenant, M. Bouchard ; enseigne, Pierre Perrault ; 5<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine,

Charles Berthelot ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, Louis Corbin ; lieutenant, M. Serindas ; enseigne, René Marchand ; 6<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine, Alexandre Dumas ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, Charles Voyer ; lieutenant, Joseph Duval ; enseigne, Jean-Baptiste Volant ; 7<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine, Louis Frémont ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, Louis Fornel ; lieutenant, Alexandre Picard ; enseigne, Jean-Baptiste Chevalier ; 8<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine, Henry Morin ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, Pierre Marchand ; lieutenant, Libéral Dumas ; enseigne, Joseph Noel ; 9<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine, Michel Fortier ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, Charles Lambert ; lieutenant, Paul Lacroix, enseigne, Joseph Dupont ; 10<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine,.....  
2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, Charles Riverin ; lieutenant, M. Turgeon, enseigne, Cureux de Saint-Germain ; 11<sup>e</sup> cie : capitaine,..... ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, Charles Liard ; lieutenant, M. Guerrault ; enseigne, François Valin ; cie d'artillerie, capitaine, M. Laforce ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, M. Pommereau ; lieutenant, M. Raby ; enseignes, M. Launière fils et M. Bruneau ; cie des volontaires, capitaine, Pierre Marcoux ; 2<sup>e</sup> capitaine, M. Chabot ; lieutenant, M. Bouchard, enseigne, P. Marchand. La milice canadienne-française, en 1775, comprenait 57 officiers, 26 sous-officiers et 891 soldats. Petit fait très significatif sur 1775 : Gabriel-Elzéar Taschereau nous fait connaître dans son Rôle, les noms d'une vingtaine de Canadiens-français qui servaient dans la milice britannique

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## LE DUC DE KENT ET LA FAMILLE DE SALABERRY

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Le duc de Kent avait juste vingt-cinq ans lors de son arrivée à Québec, en 1791. Plein de tact, aimable, joyeux, porté à rendre service, possédant le français comme sa langue maternelle, il fut vite populaire parmi les Canadiens-français. Il semble même qu'à Québec le duc de Kent fréquentait beaucoup plus la société canadienne que les familles anglaises. Dès les premiers jours de son arrivée à Québec, le duc de Kent connut la famille de Salaberry et, pendant les quatre ans qui suivirent il fréquenta assidûment l'hospitalière

maison de l'honorable M. de Salaberry, à Beauport. C'est même par sa haute influence que les quatre fils de M. de Salaberry entrèrent dans l'armée anglaise. En 1794, l'aîné des Salaberry, Charles-Michel, le futur héros de Châteauguay, obtenait une commission d'enseigne dans le 60<sup>e</sup> Régiment grâce à l'intervention du duc de Kent, qui ne cessa de le protéger. En 1810, Salaberry revenait au pays natal comme aide de camp du général de Rottenburg et c'est encore le duc de Kent qui lui avait fait obtenir ce poste convoité. Si après la bataille de Châteauguay, Salaberry obtint le crédit de ce beau fait d'armes que des officiers supérieurs voulaient lui enlever, c'est le duc de Kent qui lui fit rendre justice. Maurice-Roch de Salaberry, le deuxième des fils de l'honorable M. de Salaberry, obtint une commission d'enseigne dans le régiment de ligne York Rangers par l'influence du duc de Kent. En 1805, le prince fit mieux encore. Il le fit entrer comme lieutenant dans son propre régiment, le Royal ou Premier Régiment d'Angleterre. François-Louis de Salaberry, le troisième fils de Salaberry, encore par l'aimable intervention du duc de Kent, entra comme lieutenant dans le régiment Royal Scotch. Enfin, le cadet des fils de M. de Salaberry, Edouard-Alphonse qui avait été tenu sur les fonts baptismaux par le duc de Kent et madame de Salaberry, fit tout son cours militaire en Angleterre aux frais de son illustre parrain qui lui fit ensuite obtenir une commission d'officier dans les Ingénieurs Royaux. Ce jeune officier fut tué dans la nuit du 6 avril 1812 en conduisant une attaque sur Badajoz. La veille de sa mort, par un douloureux pressentiment, il avait écrit à son parrain et protecteur le duc de Kent : « J'ai reçu ordre de monter à l'assaut d'une des brèches cette nuit . . . Je désire assurer à Votre Altesse Royale ainsi qu'à madame de Saint-Laurent, que, quoiqu'il m'arrive, je n'oublierai jamais combien je vous dois. » Le duc de Kent, en homme de cœur, n'oubliait pas ses amis, et il resta en rapport avec la famille de Salaberry jusqu'à sa mort.

P.-G. R.