



# The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

## Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



FEB 2013

website: [www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html](http://www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html)  
Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 46 Number 2

### President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

The definition of momentum is *the impetus of a body resulting from its motion*. The Fort Lauderdale Chapter is in motion and off to a good start this year, making progress toward our immediate goals of increasing the number of new members and enhancing the membership experience. The Executive Committee met last week and are actively working in the following areas:

- Handling the "day to day" business so that we can focus more on speakers and events for chapter meetings
- Preparing a revision of the existing Bylaws for review and approval
- Improving communication

Over the coming months we will keep working to increase our momentum and would appreciate any and all feedback. We have guest speaker Timothy Ashby lined up for February so be sure to attend!

Fraternally,  
Lance T. Pfeifer

**Our Guest Speaker this month is Timothy Ashby**  
[www.timashby.com](http://www.timashby.com)

Timothy Ashby's life has been as thrilling as one of his action/adventure novels. Visit his author blog at [www.timashby.com](http://www.timashby.com).

An international lawyer, businessman and writer, Tim Ashby worked in Washington DC as a counter-terrorism consultant to the U.S. State Department, and then as a senior official - the youngest political appointee of his rank - at the U.S. Com-

merce Department, responsible for commercial relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. He held two Top Secret security clearances and worked with a number of colorful characters, including members of the U.S. military's Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). He has lived in the Caribbean and Europe as well as various places in the United States. An avid historian, he has published widely on military history, archaeology, business and international relations. A licensed attorney in Florida and the District of Columbia, Tim has a PhD degree from the University of Southern California, a JD from Seattle University Law School, and an MBA from the University of Edinburgh Scotland.

He is the author of DEVIL'S DEN (first in a series of "History's Mysteries" thrillers set in the 1920s). TIME FALL (a contemporary military thriller with a paranormal plot twist), and the non-fiction books THE BEAR IN THE BACK YARD: MOSCOW'S CARIBBEAN STRATEGY and MISSED OPPORTUNITIES.

#### NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 16, 2013

Colony West Country Club  
6800 NW 88th Ave in Tamarac

#### Future Dates:

Saturday, 03/16/2012  
Saturday, 04/20/2013  
Saturday, 05/18/2013

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon  
Buffet Luncheon - \$15.00  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-441-8735  
or e-mail Joe Motes at: [joemotes@aol.com](mailto:joemotes@aol.com)

## Battles of the American Revolution

Date	Sunday, December 31, 1775
Weather	~31° F, Blizzard conditions
Location	Quebec City, Province of Quebec

### The Battle of Quebec

#### Belligerents

**Great Britain, Canadian Militia,**  
Sir Guy Carleton, Captain William DeLaPlace

#### Casualties

Force: 1800, Killed: 5, Wounded: 14, Captured: 0

#### U.S. Colonies, United States

1st Canadian Regiment,  
Benedict Arnold, Daniel Morgan, Richard Montgomery

#### Casualties

Force: 1200, Killed: 48, Wounded: 34, Captured: 431

#### Overview

The Battle of Quebec was an attempt on December 31, 1775, by American colonial forces to capture the city of Quebec, drive the British military from the Province of Quebec, and enlist French Canadian support for the American Revolutionary War. The British governor of Quebec, General Guy Carleton, could not get significant outside help because the St. Lawrence River was frozen, so he had to rely on a relatively small number of regulars along with local militia that had been raised in the city.

Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold led a force of about 1,200 American army forces and Canadian militia in a multi-pronged attack on the city, which, due to bad weather and bad timing, did not start well, and ended with Montgomery dead, Arnold wounded, and Daniel Morgan and more than 400 men captured. Following a somewhat ineffectual five-month siege, the American forces were driven to retreat by the arrival of ships from England carrying British troops in early May 1776. The battle was the first military defeat for the Continental Army.

In the battle and the following siege, French-speaking Canadians participated on both sides of the conflict. American forces received supplies and logistical support from local residents, and the city's defenders included locally raised militia. Some of those that supported the American cause were subjected to a variety of punishments after the Americans retreated.

In September 1775, the Continental Army began moving into Quebec, with the goal of liberating it from British military control. Brigadier General Richard Montgomery led one force up Lake Champlain, successfully besieging Fort St. Jean and capturing Montreal on November 13. Colonel Benedict Arnold led a force of 1,100 men through the wilderness of Maine toward the city of Quebec.

Quebec's governor, General Guy Carleton, had been preparing the defense of the province against possible invasion since May 1775, following the capture of Fort Ticonderoga by Arnold and Ethan Allen, and Arnold's raid on Fort St. Jean on May 18. While Carleton concentrated the defense at Fort St. Jean, small British garrisons were located at Montreal and Quebec.

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#### Background

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#### British Preparations

The British authorities had been aware of American invasion plans for some time, as they occasionally intercepted communications between Montgomery and Arnold. While Governor General Carleton was in Montreal seeing to the defenses there, Lieutenant Governor Hector Cramahé had in September organized a militia force of several hundred to defend the town, although they were "not much to be depended on", with estimates that only half the militia forces were reliable. He had also made numerous requests for military reinforcements. Each of these came to nought; several troop ships were blown off course, and ended up in New York, and Vice-Admiral Samuel Graves, commanding the fleet primarily occupied with the siege of Boston, refused to release ships to transport troops from there to Quebec, because winter was closing in.

When definitive word reached Quebec on November 3 that Arnold's march had succeeded and that he was approaching the city, Cramahé began tightening the guard and had all boats removed from the south shore of the river. Word of their arrival also increased enlistment in the militia, increasing the ranks to 1,200 or more.[7] Two ships arrived on November 3, and another the next day, carrying militia volunteers from St. John's Island and Newfoundland that added about 120 men to the defense. A small convoy headed by HMS Lizard also arrived that day, from which a number of marines were contributed to the town's defenses.

On November 10, Lieutenant Colonel Allen Maclean, who had been involved in an attempt to lift the siege at St. Jean, arrived with 200 men of his Royal Highland Emigrants. They had intercepted communications from Arnold to Montgomery near Trois-Rivières, and hurried to Quebec to help with its defense. The arrival of this experienced force boosted the morale of the town militia, and Maclean immediately took charge of the defenses.

#### Arnold's Arrival

For more details on how Arnold reached Quebec City, see Arnold Expedition. On November 9, the 600 survivors of Arnold's march from Boston to Quebec arrived at Point

Levis, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River opposite Quebec City. Despite the troops' terrible condition following their difficult trek, Arnold immediately began to gather boats so they could cross the river. Arnold was prepared to cross the river on the night of November 10, but a storm arrived, delaying the crossing for three days. After crossing the river, Arnold moved his troops to within a mile and a half (2 km) of the walls, on the Plains of Abraham.

Despite being outnumbered two to one, Arnold demanded the city's surrender. However, both envoys he sent were targeted by British cannons, signifying that the request was declined. Arnold lacked any artillery, each man had only 5 cartridges, and over 100 of his muskets were unserviceable.[13] Arnold concluded that he could not take the city by force, so he blockaded the city on its west side. On November 18, the Americans received news (which was in fact untrue) that the British were planning to attack them with 800 men. A council of war decided that they could not continue the blockade, and Arnold began to move his men 20 miles upriver to Pointe-aux-Trembles ("Aspen Point"), where they could find shelter.

#### Carleton's arrival and British preparations for battle

In the wake of the fall of Fort St. Jean, Carleton abandoned Montreal and returned to Quebec City on November 19, passing Arnold's camp at Point-aux-Trembles. He immediately took command. Three days after his arrival, he issued a proclamation stating, in essence, that any able-bodied man within the town that did not take up arms would be assumed to be a rebel or a spy, and would be treated as such. Men not taking arms were given four days to leave. The result of this proclamation was that about 500 inhabitants (including 200 British and 300 Canadiens) joined the defense.

Carleton also set out to address the weak points of the town's defensive fortifications. He had two log barricades and palisades erected along the St. Lawrence shoreline, covering them with his cannons. He assigned his forces to defensive positions along the walls and the inner defenses. He also made sure the under-trained militia in his forces were under well-trained leadership.

#### Montgomery's arrival

On December 2, Montgomery arrived at Pointe-aux-Trembles from Montreal. Montgomery brought with him 300 troops, as well as the 300 militia under the command James Livingston and Jacob Brown, as well as clothing, winter uniforms, ammunition, provisions, and artillery that had been seized from the British. The commanders quickly turned towards Quebec, and put the city under siege on December 6.

Montgomery sent a personal letter to Carleton, demanding surrender. He used a woman as the messenger, but the request was declined, and the letter burned. Ten days later, he tried again, with the same result. The besiegers continued to send messages, primarily intended for the populace in the besieged city, indicating the hopelessness of their situation, and suggesting that if they rose to assist the Americans, conditions would improve.

#### American preparations for battle

On December 10, the Americans set up their largest battery

of artillery 700 yards (640 m) from the walls. The frozen ground had prevented the Americans from entrenching the artillery, so they froze some snow, turning it into a solid wall. This battery was used to fire on the city, but the damage it did was of little consequence. Montgomery realized he was in a very difficult position. He did not have siege artillery, so he could not assault the city, and he could not dig entrenchments in the frozen ground. The enlistments of Arnold's men ended at the end of December, and no ammunition was on the way from the colonies. Furthermore, because British reinforcements were likely to arrive in the spring, he would either have to act or withdraw. Montgomery believed his only chance to take the city was during a snowstorm at night, when his men could storm the walls unnoticed.

While planning the attack on the city, Christophe Pélissier, a Frenchman living near Trois-Rivières, came to meet with Montgomery. Pélissier, who was politically supportive of the American cause, operated an ironworks at Saint-Maurice. Montgomery discussed the idea of holding the provincial convention with him. Pélissier recommended against holding a convention until after Quebec City had been taken, as the habitants would not feel free to act in that way until their security was better assured. The two did agree to have Pélissier's ironworks provide munitions (ammunition, cannonballs, and the like) for the siege, which he did until the Americans retreated in May 1776 (at which time Pélissier also fled, eventually returning to France).

A snowstorm arrived on the night of December 27, but it died down, and Montgomery was unable to attack. A Rhode Island sergeant deserted, and carried the plan of attack to the British, so Montgomery was forced to change his plan. The new plan called for two feints against Quebec's western walls, to be led by Jacob Brown and James Livingston, which would converge with attacks that would be mounted on the lower town. Arnold would lead an attack and smash through the walls at the north end of the lower town. Montgomery would follow along the St. Lawrence and break through the walls of the lower town, and meet up with Arnold, and they would then launch a combined assault on the Upper Town. The new plan was only exposed to the senior officers.

#### Battle

##### Montgomery's Attack

John Trumbull's 1786 Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on QuebecA storm broke out on December 30, and Montgomery once again gave orders for the attack. Jacob Brown led 100 militia men, and Livingston 200, as they headed to the northern gates. Montgomery commanded a force of about 300 New York men, with Arnold leading the largest force of about 600, along with a six-pound (2.7 kg) cannon, against the lower town. When Brown was in position, sometime between 4 and 5 am, he fired flares and his men began to fire on the Cape Diamond Bastion while Livingston's opened fire on the St. John's Gate. Montgomery and Arnold, seeing the flares, set off for the lower town.

Montgomery led his men down the steep, snow-heaped path towards the outer defenses. The storm had turned into a

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blizzard, making the advance a struggle. Eventually, Montgomery's men arrived at the palisade of the outer defenses. The advance party contained carpenters, who sawed their way through the wall. Montgomery himself sawed the second Palisade, and led 50 men down a street. Montgomery and his storming party saw a two story building and began to charge at it. Fire broke out from this blockhouse, which in fact housed a small contingent of defenders armed with muskets and cannons, and Montgomery was instantly killed, shot through the head by a burst of grapeshot. The rest of the men fled back towards the palisade. Most of the storming party was killed or wounded; only Aaron Burr and a few others escaped unhurt. One of the uninjured officers led the few remaining men back to the Plains.

Continued with the March issue.



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## Minutes of January meeting

The meeting was opened by chapter President Lance Pfeifer at 12:05 PM. Jim Lohmeyer gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to SAR led Bill Zimmer.

President Lance Pfeifer gave a written report of things he and the club should try to accomplish this coming year [i.e. good programs, increase attendance, and roster and some outside activities]

Ted Duay stated the State SAR is leaning towards the same areas. A discussion of "Lack of Attendance", with several good suggestions.

V.Pres. Bill Zimmer stated our speaker for February is Timothy Ashby. You will be e-mailed more about him. March speaker is already signed up. Both speakers have interesting backing grounds and will be well worth your coming. Bring your wife too. Just call Joe.

Treasurer Report. Copy given to all. Moved, 2nd approved. Motion to not sent hard copy of newsletter except to those who do not use computer, 2nd. Discussed and approved. Holiday Card from Richard Jones, long time member, former officer.

Registrar/Genealogist Don Green has resigned his position. Ted Duay will fill in until end of year. Ted stated we have one member's papers signed up waiting for approval and a couple more working.

Old Business SAR website. Trying to get update to Ft.LauderdaleSAR.org

New Business In March we will present a Boys Scout Eagle medal hope all scouts will attend. Charles Crowell gave short story about a wooded area he found but he couldn't find it again the second time. Lance stated that our by-laws should be reviewed. Lance will take this on. Lance will be looking into ROBO calls wizard. Discussion of Joe Motes moving to be discussed by executive committee.

Next Meeting February 16th at Colony West Country Club.

No further business meeting closed with the SAR Recessional. Jim Lohmeyer, SEC.

