

**Diary of LT John Fassett Jr. during a Trip to Canada and return  
in Captain Weight Hopkins' company of  
Colonel Warner's regiment, under General Montgomery,  
from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1775.**

1<sup>st</sup> Sept., 1775. I went from Bennington (to go into the war) with Major Safford, Adj't Walbridge, and Serj't Major Hutchens and some others (and Capt. Hopkins with the company went two days before); we went as far as Landlord French's, Manchester, 23 miles.

2<sup>d</sup> Sept. Went on our march to Col. Seth Warner's, Rupert, 12 miles. Staid there till 3<sup>d</sup>. Proceeded on our march as far as Skeenborough. Lodged at Landlord Gordon's, 30 miles. We sent our horses back.

Sept 4. Went down the Lake Champlain to Ticondaroga 28 miles.

5<sup>th</sup> Sept. Doct. Jacob Meak was buried under arms. He died the day before.

6<sup>th</sup> Sept. Major Safford, Capt. Hopkins, Adjutant Walbridge and I went to Lake George afoot, about 3 miles, to carry a letter and Drink some Toddy which was the best I Drink'd after I went from home. Went back to Ticondaroga the same Day.

7<sup>th</sup> Sept. Went down the Lake Champlain with a fine gaile of wind to Crown Point, 15 miles. Arrived there about sun-set.

8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. Staid at Crown Point. Nothing Extraordinary. We Viewed the Ruins of the Fort which is Remarkable.

12<sup>th</sup> Sept. At night after Day Light was gone, Set out with a fine gale of wind from Crown point and went with 5 Battoos and on Canoe. Went 12 miles that night to a small Island called Bitten Bay, where we had nothing but the Heavens to cover us. I lay down after we struck up a fire, on a Flat rock and slept very well. Two of our boates went by us about a mile to Bason Harbor.

13<sup>th</sup> Sept. Set out early in the morning. Came up with the two Boates. We had to row as there was no wind the chief of the forenoon. Went on shore at one Mr. Person's of Shelburn. About noon got a dinner of chocolate & cakes, then set out with a fine wind and landed at night East of the great Bay north of where Onion River Empty's into the Lake, 30 miles. We built fires and pitched some Tents. It Rained hard but I slept Tollerable well, but Began to think it was not home.

14<sup>th</sup> Sept. We set out something late in the morning, by reason of the wind being high. The wind held high all Day, but after noon the wind increased, the waves ran High and Boisterous. It made me think of the Anthem (they that go Down to the Sea in Ships). The wind increased and we were afraid of being Lost, and could not land. At length we put in to a small Island 30 miles I know no name to but shall call it Cherry Island for the

abundance of the cherries there was there. We landed about three o'clock in the afternoon. Staid all night.

15<sup>th</sup> Sept. Staid to a Frenchman's house, where pitched our tents. I was officer of the Guard at night. I paid my Bottle of Rum for that was the first time I mounted guard. We expected we were in great danger of the Enemy but Received no harm. Went about 40 miles that Day.

16<sup>th</sup> Sept. Set sail before Day Light appeared, for fear of an attack. Went about 7 miles to where Remember Baker was Buried. Went two miles farther to the Island Ore where the main army was. We met Gen Skylar in sight of the Island, for he had set out for Ticondaroga, for he was sick. We got there about 10 o'clock in the morning. Went into a Barn where I saw Serj't Jo Cobb on a sort of Bed, for he was wounded. I was glad to see him as ever I was in my life, but sorry to see him in that situation. We left Ezekiel Brewster, Benj'in Holmes and Simeon Covell sick with five of our company.

17<sup>th</sup> Sept. Sunday, Col. Warner's Reg't set out for to take the Brestwork, 12 miles from the Island Ore, where Serg't Cobb was wounded, and the company he was in was defeated. We arrived at the brest work before night and found no Molestation, tho' we expected a battle as much as we expected to get there. The whole army soon came up where we all staid that night and had nothing to cover us but the heavens and it was very cold and they flung Boms among us and we had a very tedious night of it indeed.

18 Sept. In the morning our army fired their cannon and they fired from the fort. There was a hot fire from both sides sometime, but in the midst of it Col. Warner's Regiment was ordered to march about three miles thro' the wood around St. Johns. We had to travel knee deep in water expecting every minute to meet with the enemy. We at length came very near to Major Brown's encampment, where the Regulars were. They gave us a hot fire. The grape shot and Musket balls flew very thick, but our pilots, not knowing the ground, we had not an equal chance for they all fled to St. Johns. They wounded Capt. Watson, but killed none of our men. We took the ground and staid there all night and had a very tedious night with our feet wet and cold, no houses nor tents to lie in.

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. The next day we went to intrenching and followed it for Some Days, and built a very good Breastwork.

20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. Nothing Remarkable.

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. Capt'n Hopkins with the biggest part of the company and also Col. Warner and the biggest part of his Regiment went from our Encampment to Laprairie. Left me with the rest of the company. Nothing Remarkable.

23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. Nothing Remarkable for a week except that we expected every day and hour to have a battle. Heard every day that the Enemy was coming upon us. Sometimes we had news at midnight that the Enemy was close by; then would be every man to his

arnes, then we must run to our Station at the Breastwork and stay there 'till further orders which would be an hour or two sometimes. We had to lie in the Barn as many as could get in. We kept some in houses and some out doors. We had a very tedious week of it for it was very wet and cold.

30<sup>th</sup> Sept. Col. Bedel sent me with a Frenchman down the river Surrell to buy shoes and stockings for the army. I went about 45 miles. Bought 133 p'r stockings and 71 p'r shoes. I was treated the Best I ever was in my Life with what wine I could drink and with what victuals I could eat. The best they had in their houses was at my Pleasure. They carried me in a clash from place to place. No man could be used better than I was, but the man that went with me could not talk English, that I was put to it sometimes to understand them, but the French are very Civil and Polite.

4<sup>th</sup> Oct. 11 o'clock at night returned to Col. Bedel's Encampment. Was fatigued with my journey and not very well and when I came to my tent found Lieut. Noble and his waiter. He informed me that Col. Warner had sent for the rest of his Regiment and that they were all gone to Laprairie except those that were sick and Lieut. Noble staid to take care of them and my waiter was gone with them.

5<sup>th</sup> Oct. Col. Bedel sent me to Gen. Montgomery with a guard of 20 men to carry the shoes and stockings I had Bo't. I went to the Gen's Markey. He said he never was so glad to see anything in his life as he was the shoes and stockings, but when we counted them out there was 9 p'r of stockings and 3 p'r shoes missing. He asked how that should happen and why I was not more careful. I told him the circumstances. He told me to come to him next morning, and he would settle with me for the shoes and stockings. I went that night to Dr. Fay's camp where was Capt'n Herrick and Doct'r Nathan Fassett, Josiah Fay and Sundry other of my friends I had not seen for some time. I was very glad to see them. Nathan and I went into one of the boats to get out of the way of people and talked about two hours till I was almost chilled to death with the cold for I had waded knee deep in water and had no dry stockings to put on. At length we went into the tent and lay down and I slept very well.

6<sup>th</sup> Oct. Next morning I grew more ill, but eat pretty hearty, but the Bloody Flux took me very hard for I had had the Quickstep for some time before. I went to the General's tent, and he paid me the money I for the shoes and stockings and thanked me for what I had done for my Country. He said he believed I had done as well as any man could and he did not think I was to blame by the stockings and shoes being lost, but should be glad if I would try and find them, and before I got back I found 1 p'r stockings in a man's pocket that went with me that was one of the Guard that carried part of the stockings. I went on towards Col. Bedel's camp, but grew poorly so fast that I thought I never should get there. We went very slow. The men that were with me had some wine with them and they gave me some to drink 2 or 3 times, which helped me much. They seemed to pity me very much. We sat down a great many times. I did not think of home much because I would not. At length we arrived at Col. Bedel's camp. I told him my misfortune in losing the stockings and shoes, and that I had found one p'r stockings. He advised me to ut the man under guard immediately, which I did. I grew worse. Had a

search for the stockings but could not find any more. That night I could not sleep. Had to go out doors every few minutes. Was in great pain.

7<sup>th</sup> Oct. Had a Court martial upon the man I put under guard and they freed him because he proved to their satisfaction that he forgot to pull them out of his pocket. I grew more and more sick and that day went to the tavern and got in there for a few days. The Innkeeper was a Scotchman. He and his wife were very kind to me. Indeed I could not have expected more from my own Father, Only as their victuals were not cooked to suit me, for my stomach was very weak.

8<sup>th</sup> Oct. Sunday. No better. Nothing extraordinary except that our people kept on the firing as well as the enemy, every day more or less after we took the breast work that I mentioned the 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. Every day they fired from both sides with their cannon and bomb shell more or less.

9<sup>th</sup> Oct. Some better, but yet in great distress at times. Eight of our men went from Col. Bedel's Camp to the General's, was ambushed by a party of the Enemy who fired upon them, wounded the Serg't of the party and took two of our men prisoners. They bro't the wounded man in where I was and upon search found the ball to be in his Leg. The Surgeon cut a great while but could not get it out. That made me think that I ought to be thankful that I was not in such a condition.

10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. I grew better but very slow. Was in great pain all the time when I used the stool and was very weak, but went about some every day. Col. Warner came to seem, and he said I must go to Laprairie with him. He said they wanted me there and I must go. He urged so hard I set out with him but did not expect to get there that night for it was dark when we set out, and we had eighteen miles to go. I rid on a low horse and it was very wet and muddy and we rid very hard that my feet were as wet as if I had waded knee-deep in water. We get to Laprairie Between nine and ten o'clock at night. I was very much worn out, but was glad to see my friends, for I had not seen them for three weeks. Major Safford informed us that there was an army of 500 men Coming upon us that night. We had to lie on our arms that night.

13<sup>th</sup> Oct. Was called up a four o'clock in ye morning by the beat of the drum, but no Enemy came upon us all this time. I had no stummick to eat. I bo't as many apples as I could eat, some 3 and some 4 for a copper. I had one apple pie and that tasted good. We had a court martial on John Twohy, the mitemus that was brought against him was for not doing his Duty. I was one of the members of the court, and our Judgment was that Twohy should be stripped naked and tied to a post for five minutes, and then be released. He was Bro't to the post and the Col. Set him at Liberty without having his punishment.

14<sup>th</sup> Oct. Nothing Extraordinary. Some better.

15<sup>th</sup> Oct. Went to Mass in the forenoon. I see the strangest thing that ever I see in my life. Their Ceremonies are beyond what I can express. They had six candles burning all the time. Held a counsel of war. Resolved to go to Longail which was nine miles, with

all the men we had at Laprairie except Capt'n McCracken's Company for we heard the Regulars and Canadians were going there to take it, and we see a number of boats going that way. Major Safford was not well that he could not go. I was very weak yet, but I set out with the company. I held out very well about seven miles, and then we had word we must all run for the Enemy had all landed about three miles below Longail. They all set out to run, but I could not run, but I put on too fast for my strength. We all flung off our packs but put a Centry over them. I was soon left behind so that I was alone and went in alone, but before I got in I heard the guns fire brisk. I expected to have a hot battle when I got to the fort. Every man was gone forward. I went into a house and sat down. The people of the house were going to supper. They asked me to sit down with them. I ate a few mouthfuls of hot soup. While I was at supper seven or eight yorkers came in that were behind me. I ordered a guard immediately. Our men all came back pretty soon. It was my turn to be officer fo the guard that night and the Adjutant told me I must take it. I got Serg't Major Hutchens to take my place. Was very glad to get freed from my Duty that night. Capt. Hopkins and I went to a Frenchmen's house and got a lodging in a good bed. I slept very well.

16<sup>th</sup> Oct. Got up early in the morning. Felt better. Nothing Remarkable.

17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Sent out a scout of 60 men. They went down the River 18 miles and had a battle about twelve o'clock at night. William Draper was killed down dead on the Spot. We had one more man wounded in the thigh and we killed the Capt. Of the Enemy and sundry others, but how many we could not tell for they fled to their boats and our men followed them and had had all the advantage upon them Imaginable for they were close to them. About 7 o'clock at night word came to Capt. Hopkins and I that Col. Brush was at Col. Warner's lodging which was about 20 or 30 Rods from our lodging. We went very quick to see him. I was very glad to see him indeed. He Bro't me two letters from my wife. I was exceeding glad to hear that my family and friends were all well. We staid with him until late in the night, then Returned to our Lodging. Sleep well, by this time I had got hearty and well.

18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Yesterday scout returned and Bro't the above Intelligence concerning the Battle. Seven Boats came down the river and made as if they were going to land on a point of an island or come across the river to us. A number of our officers went out towards the boats, and the Regulars from the boats fired their field pieces at us. The Balls and Grape Shot flew over our heads, but did us no harm. They shot two or three cannon balls thro' the roofs of some of the houses. Our men fired several small arms at them. Their Balls scooted along by their boats, some of them. I was officer of the Guard that night. Nothing Remarkable.

19<sup>th</sup> Oct. Nothing more than common.

20<sup>th</sup> Oct. A very rainy day.

21<sup>st</sup> Oct. Rainy yet. Wrote letters to send to my wife and friends by Col. Brush.

22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. Sunday, went in the morning to see a man stript and tied to the post for neglecting his duty. The regiment was all paraded, the man was brought and the Col. Forgave him upon the Capt'n's Bail. Went to mass with Col. Warner, Col. Brush, Major Safford, Adjutant Walbridge and sundry others in the forenoon. In the afternoon Col. Brush, with his brother, Wm. Brush, set out in a Calash for home. Capt'n Hopkins accompanied them as far as the general Brestwork south St. Johns.

23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Nothing more than common. Well and hearty, but nothing to do. Chose Sinion Graves sergeant.

24<sup>th</sup> Oct. Nothing extra. Got out of Bread and Meal so that we had to live upon dumplings. The sentry just shot his gun at something he can't tell what. It is bed time, all are gone to bed but I. Flour came plenty.

25<sup>th</sup> Oct. Fair weather. Snow appeared on the mountain by Montreal. We had thickened milk for breakfast, and I don't see as ever they will be done. 7 o'clock at night Lieut. Gallusha, Lieut. Roberts and sundry others come to my lodging after me to go to the Adjutant's lodging. Went with them. Col. Warner and Chief of the Officers belonging to his regiment and some York officers were there. We stayed there and drank some wine and sung songs till half after 11 o'clock at night when the Col. Heard he had an express come to his lodging. We all went immediately to see what it was, and found it to be a letter from Capt'n Grant that was with a party of about ten men at Variene about 12 miles down the river below us which was to this import, that about 20 miles below him there were seen 300 Regulars marching towards him as fast sa they could and there was a ship of 500 tones with a number of cannons in her with about 300 more of the King's Troops and 4 or 500 Canadians all comng to give us battle. We concluded to send two men to see what more discovery they could make. Then we all went to our quarters. Now I am going to bed.

26<sup>th</sup> Oct. Concluded to send one Capt'n with sixty men down the river as an advance guard to see what further discovery they could make. About 11 o'clock forenoon four Battoes about 10 or 12 men in each came down the river from Montreal by us. They fired their swivels at us and small arms. Our men fired from ye shore at them. No harm on either side as I know of. Battoes went down 2 or 3 miles, then went back on the other side of the river. About 2 o'clock afternoon, 15 or 16 boats came down the river by us. They fired at us and we at them, nothing but small arms. They went down about a mile and a half below us, then turned about and came directly back. As they passed by us, they fired very brisk and our people on them, but no ham till they had got by the town. Some of our men followed them by and Serg't Jackson of Capt'n Potter's Company run onto a point of land within about 25 or 30 Rods of the Battoes, and fired at them and they discharged a number of guns at him. He said the balls flew around him as thick as hailstones. One ball went through his arm and gave him a flesh wound but did no other harm. Our men picked up a number of balls that fell where they stood. Some of ye balls went over our heads, some struck the ground by our feet. I don't think they were less then 100 rods from us when we first see them. I some expected that they had laid a deep plot against us, but at present we kept peaceable and it is now about 9 o'clock at night. This

afternoon 12 Sub.'s of us have held a council and have carried a petition to the Col. Tonight to send for some cannon. He said he would give us an answer tomorrow morning as early as we pleased. 10 o'clock at night Col. Warner, Major Safford and all the Capt'ns sent for us to consult us. We went to see them. They approved of what we had done. We all consulted together and concluded to send Major Safford, and Capt'n Ten Eyck to Chamblee for cannon and if they could not get any there to go till they could get some. We all went to our lodging.

27<sup>th</sup> Oct. At 2 o'clock in the morning some of our folks that lodged in the same house with me, said they heard guns with partly awaked me, then one or two jumped up and said "stand to your arms" and I sprang up expecting nothing but that the enemy was come. We dressed ourselves and got our guns immediately and ran to the fort which was about 50 rods but when we came to the guard he said he had heard nothing. So we all returned to our Quarters again. Very fine weather. Nothing extra. David Brewster is very sick. Sent for Col. Warner and he gave him a portion of Jallap. Jacob Safford not very well, nor has not been for several days.

28<sup>th</sup> Oct. Cloudy, raw, cold weather. Looks like snow. Capt'n Hopkins came from ye General's Breastwork. Bro't news that they had not taken St. Johns, that Gen. Worcester was come to Gen. Montgomery's encampment with 300 men and that he was coming on to us, and that Major Safford was like to get some cannon. All which gave us some encouragement. Christie is making up my Plush breeches at last.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. Col. Warner blooded Jacob Safford. David Brewster is some better. Col. Warner is going to Laprairie; the weather is warmer than it was yesterday but is cloudy yet. 10 o'clock in the morning Major Safford came back. Bro't news that there was one four pounder coming from Chamblee, and that the main army had struck their tents yesterday and had moved on mile and a half north St. Johns to where Col. Bedel commanded, that they had pitched their tents there, and that Col. Easton with his regiment had gone down the river towards Surrell to drive off the enemy that were fortifying there. Doct. Fay went with Col. Easton. Doct. Fassett staid with the main army to take care of the sick. Capt'n Herrick and Lieut. Sencer is sick. Major Safford says that the officers think in general that St. Johns will be taken in 4 or 5 days; Lieut. Noble came to us with the invalids at 9 o'clock. They bro't the cannon above mentioned to us.

30<sup>th</sup> Oct. A pleasant morning, but afternoon grew very cold. Very early came a spy boat down to see our motion. Between 11 and 12 o'clock there appeared (as near as we could tell) 34 boats from Montreal coming Down towards us, then every man to his arms. We all paraded. There were about 200 of us that were fit for duty. We drew the cannon to the water side and a Number of us went by the side of the carriage so as to keep it undiscovered from the schooner that lay off against us. We got the cannon to the water side. Thirty or forty men were ordered up the River to watch the motions of the Boat, for it seemed by their Motion they were going to land about 2 miles above us. In a few minutes a number more men were ordered up the River. Capt'n Hopkins' company was ordered up the River. We went as fast as we could about two miles. The Boat was trying to land, but we fired so brisk upon them they were forced to Retreat. By this time

the Biggest part of our army was come up. There were enough left to manage the cannon. There is a Island about 2 miles above Longail fort were part of the Enemy landed and it is very shoal water so that a man may wade very well across the River to where we were, but it is about 1 mile across. There are some little Islands and some large rocks I the River. The Enemy got out of their Boat and Began to wade across towards us. Our men were all ordered along the shore, a number to run and meet the Enemy that were coming across the River some half mile Below were the Boats were trying to land. The Bank of the River favored us for it is higher at the edge of the River than it is a little back, which made a very good breastwork where we lay Behind; and where the Bank of the River did not favor us in that line we got behind the pines. Before many of us got to the place, some of the Enemy got almost to our shore, and 2 Indians got across. David Mallary ran after one of them and took him with his gun loaded. The other our men took after dark. But to return, we kept a perpetual firing on both sides. The Enemy had cannon and Bomb Shells aboard, which they gave us a plenty of. There was one shell broke within a few feet of my head right over me. The pieces flew all around me and there were men lying very thick around me, but none received any harm. Several Cannon Ball came very near me and the Musket balls came close to our heads in great plenty. This was the first time I ever shot at a man. There was a very steady firing on both sides all the afternoon till after dark, but no more landed on our side of the River, but they came within gunshot and got behind the Rocks and little Islands. When the Enemy perceived that they could not Land by wading, they sent a number of Boats down against the fort (thinking we were all drawn off from the Fort) where our Cannon gave them a salute. The boats returned when they perceived that, for they did not know we had any cannon. Then the men drew the Cannon up the river after them. All this while the Enemy were trying to land by wading across and there was a continual fire. We saw numbers fall down and some never got up again. When our Cannon came up we gave them a few cannon Balls which drove off the Boats back to Montreal. Then our men threw the grape shot on to the little Islands which drove them off. By this time it had begun to be dark. Then we hailed the Enemy (for there were some within 30 rods) and told them that if they would come ashore to us they could have good quarter, there were 3 behind one rock that said they would. We waited for them sometime. Then we called again. They said they had a wounded man they could not bring. Col. Warner told them to leave him and come ashore and if they offered to run back, or if they fired a gun, Death was their portion. Then we see one stepping off the other way Col. Warner ordered us to fire. The gun cracked merrily at him. He fell down and crawled off, but whether we hit him I don't know. The one of them came ashore to us which was a gentleman from Montreal. His father is one of the richest men in Montreal. Then a number of our men went in after the wounded man which was an Indian. He died soon after he came ashore. They took one other Frenchman prisoner in the water. We found 2 more dead Indians that night which we brought ashore and five guns with some other plunder. All the while the firing lasted there was a great number of men and women standing on the Bank on the other side of the River looking to see how the battle went on, and for all we had such a long and brisk firing, not one of us was hurt except Capt'n Hopkins who had a ball shot thro' his coat sleeve and thro' his shirt and it took off a piece of skin from his arm as big as a York shilling but did him no other harm. The Balls flew around on all sides of us close to our heads and feet yet God suffered them not to hurt us. Oh that I might never forget his goodness to me. I come very near being killed by

one our own men. I had got my gun charged and was lying flat on my belly as all the rest were and was going to get up to see if I could see anybody to shoot at when one spoke and said: "There is a man running, shoot him!" I put my head a little higher when all at once our men fired very brisk and one that was behind me fired his gun over my head so that it seemed to shake my head, and Capt'n Stanton that was close behind me said that he expected I was killed. He said it did not go more than one inch from my head the whole charge, but it did not hurt me. Shot 13 times this afternoon. We all returned to our Quarters except what we left to keep guard. I had not eaten anything after breakfast. I was so tired I could not sleep much that night.

31<sup>st</sup> Oct. Early in the morning the Col. Examined the two French prisoners and they informed us that Gov. Carleton head the army the day before, and that the army consisted of 660 men, that 100 were Regulars, and the rest Canadians and a few Indians. They said we killed 12 men in the first Boat that tried to land. They said they believed we killed 9 others and wounded about 50 men. We sent off the four prisoners to the General. I went with Lieut. Galusha and Mr. Sunderland to see yt. The 3 Indians were buried when we got there. Canadians were digging a grave for them. They dug it about 2 ft. and a half deep, then put them in stark naked with their faces downward, two at the bottom with their heads both one way, the other on top with his head at the others feet. Then they flung on dirt and then stones. 'Twas such a funeral as I never saw before. Nothing extra, it is very cold. Bells tolled in Montreal this morning. Seven Boats went down the River. The schooner that lay against us went down the river about a mile and a half last night. The prisoners that we took yesterday said that Gen. Carleton's intention were to land on our side of the River at all events. As a number were to wade and the rest to come with their boats.

1<sup>st</sup> Nov. A great day among the French, it being All Saints Day. There was a great gathering among them and greater ceremonies at church than common. Fair weather. Nothing Remarkable. Confined a man that we suspected for an Enemy for he was overheard speaking to one of his friends in private that he know before hand that Gov. Carleton was coming with his army to give us battle as above and that he would not put up with the above battle but that he would come with all his strength in two or three days. This man told his friend, that he went to Montreal every night to carry news. All this time this man pretended the greatest friendship to us, but we secured him. B the above intelligence and by other news (for we had a great deal) the Col. Thought proper to send a strong guard of 36 men up the river where we had the late battle. Capt'n Potter and I slept none so went with them. The Col. Sent a guard of 10 or 12 men down the river to watch their motions. Nothing extra, a very cold night.

2<sup>d</sup> Nov. I must say I expected a battle this morning as soon as it was light, but it passed over so that at sunrise, we all went to our Quarters. We hear all the time and from all parts that we may expect a battle every day and hour which made us look out sharp. A party went and made a sort of breast work where we had the battle, so as to stand a better chance if they should come again. A little before night they all went back to their Quarters. Just before they went away about 50 of the Enemy was seen to land on the Island over against them and gave them a few shots, but our men made them no answer.

The schooner that had sailed down the river that I mentioned before sailed up about sundown. Our cannon fired upon her 5 or 6 times. She fired upon us 3 times but did not harm. One ball went thro' the roof of a church over my head. We did no damage to the schooner as I know of.

3<sup>d</sup> Nov. Had news that St. Johns was taken and that Gen. Montgomery had sent to Laprairie to Major Livingston to send him 100 teams, to bring the army along to La prairie which news was of the greatest rejoicing to us. Between 1 and 2 o'clock Col. Warner had a letter from Gen. Montgomery the substance of which was that St. Johns surrendered last night and that he was coming to Laprairie immediately with his forces and a fine trail of artillery which caused a great rejoicing in our regiment and among the Canadians. Rain this afternoon. A little before sunset we were all ordered to fire, which made a terrible crashing. The cannon was fired three times. All of which was upon the occasion of the Reduction of St. Johns. After dark it snowed, and was a very tedious night for the Sentries. I am just come from a Council held concerning Doct'r Stoddard who had got in to be head doctor of our regiment and we concluded to dismiss him. It is now 10 o'clock at night and all have been gone to bed this hour but I.

4<sup>th</sup> Nov. Came a spy boat. We gave her several Cannon but did her no harm. The snow covered the ground this morning but all gone before night. Te o'clock had to take the main guard. Nothing Extra. Wrote a letter to Nathan. Sent it by Serg't Major Hutchins. After dark Lieut. Claghorn sent a prisoner to the Guard house. His crime was he shot 6 times at the sentinel and swore he would be the death of the Officer of the Scout which was Lieut. Claghorn and offered other abuse. He was the worse for liquor. Had a good guard. Slept none.

5<sup>th</sup> Nov. Sunday. Heard from St. Johns that Gen. Montgomery took 550 men, 100 women, 150 children, (About 30 of the men were Canadian Tories), and about 2000 arms a great number of cannon and cannon ball not much powder and no provision. We hear our army is pushing forward for Montreal and we hear from Col. Easton that he has had 2 battles and has drove the enemy both times. We hear from Quebec that Col. Arnold has taken two certain points, which news gave us great encouragement.

6<sup>th</sup> Nov. Nothing Extra. One sloop, and one Pereyaugre sailed up the river. We gave here several guns but did her no harm. A rainy afternoon. Heard that Montreal had sent a flag of truce to Gen. Montgomery, for what we don't know. At 10 o'clock at night our guard heard a very brisk firing of guns as if they had a battle, but what it was we don't know.

7<sup>th</sup> Nov. Pleasant morning. Heard that Col. Easton had order to go to Montreal, that they had driven the enemy off from Surrell. Col. Warner is going to the Gen. this morning. We hear the Biggest part of our army has come to Laprairie, that they had to live in tents. We had word this afternoon from the Gen. that we must be ready in an hour's warning, which makes us expect that we must go to Montreal soon. Capt'n Hopkins cut Lieut. Noble's coat even to the buttocks. Just ate some bread and milk and

am going to Capt'n Potters to hold a council upon Dr. Stoddard. Came home between 11 and 12 o'clock at night. Nothing Extra.

8<sup>th</sup> Nov. Heard Cannon very brisk as soon as the daylight appeared down the river. We expected it is Col. Easton firing at the shipping at Surrell. It is a very pleasant day. Had roast Turkey for breakfast. Major Safford, Capt'n and I went to Bushavie, afoot, about 6 miles, where we were treated extra well. We had a dinner of very fine soup, then beef and carrots, cabbage and green lettuce as good as any ever I eat any time of the year. Then a mince pie such as I never eat. I did not like it right well. We had what wine we could drink. We stayed 4 hours, then set out for home. Shot at a mark 4 or 5 times. Got back before dark. We bought 12 blankets and 12 pr. Shoes. Got some lettuce seed, onion seed and carrot seed at Bushavie, a sort of lettuce that heads like Cabbage.

9<sup>th</sup> Nov. Cloudy but warm. Nothing extra. Nine o'clock heard from Col. Easton that yesterday morning he fired upon the King's shipping at Surrell. He fired so brisk that they were obliged to cut their cables, and pass off down the River. They had a very brisk fire for some hours with Cannon and small arms, but I have not heard the circumstances. Afternoon I received a letter from Doct'r Fassett. He informed me that he had heard from Pittsford that Jonathan Fassett's wife and his wife had got each of them a boy, that they were all well. Nathan informs me that he was ordered to Crown Point the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. With the sick, but since I heard it contradicted. Heard there were five pieces of Cannon come to Laprairie, that they were bringing 30 battoes by land to Laprairie.

10<sup>th</sup> Nov. The ground is covered with snow this morning. It keeps on snowing but it melts as fast as it falls. We expect every hour when we shall be sent for by the General to make a push for Montreal for he has sent to Col. Warner to be ready for a march at a minute's warning. Afternoon heard that Col. Easton determined to keep the ground at Surrell, and that Major Brown with about 200 men had crossed the river St. Lawrence and was coming up the other side towards Montreal. Heard that Gen. Montgomery had got 8 pieces of cannon, one of which is a 24 pounder and that some of the Battoes were come to the General at Laprairie which makes us every hour when we shall be sent for. A very snowy day. Heard that Serg't Clark is coming back from Surrell sick in a Calash.

11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 4 o'clock in the morning Major Safford came to our lodging and told us the Gen. had sent to have us march immediately down the River about 3 miles and there to cross. We got up and made ready for our march. Ate breakfast as soon as it was light. It snowed all last night and this morning. About nine o'clock got ready to march. It was very cold and wet and muddy traveling. We got down about 3 miles and there was but a few canoes, and we thought we saw people on the other side, so we expected a battle as soon as we crossed, or rather before we could cross. We went into the houses to warm us. In the meantime Col. Warner had an express from the General, if he had not crossed the river to come to Laprairie. We turned our course immediately, went back to Laprairie where we arrived before dark. I was so beat out could hardly help myself, and could get no victuals to eat. At length lit of a French woman that had a Turkey pie to sell. I bought it and gave 20 coppers for it. Major Brown and Capt'n Cockran came to Laprairie after dark from Surrell. Brought news that they had driven the enemy from that Quarter and

cleared the River of their water craft. That none of our people had crossed the river as we heard. They informed us that they had taken several packets from the Enemy, that informed that Col. Arnold had arrived near Quebec with 1500 men and had taken 1 or 2 fortresses of importance, and by what they could learn by the packets, Montreal would not fire a gun. Gen. Montgomery with about 300 men has landed on an Island about 3 miles of Montreal. The whole army is to go as fast as they can. Capt'n Cockran told me that Doct'r Fay (some days before he came away) set out for St. Johns, but he thought he had got back to Surrell before now. He said he had gone for medicine. Heard Corporal Hall is very sick at Surrell and that Serg't Clark is better and is coming on to join us.

12<sup>th</sup> Nov. Sunday. Got up before day and went down to the river to wash. Went to a Dutchman's house to get a dram soon after light where were a number of Yorkers of the First Battalion, cursing and swearing and damning themselves and one another. It seemed like a hell upon earth. Fair weather but cold. We expect in a few hours to go to the Gen. It is tedious for the men, but I hope we shall get thro' with the business soon, so as to dismiss the men. 12 o'clock E. Smith, Jacob Safford and I have been buying an apple pie and a sort of a floured short cake and apples. Have eaten as much as we can which makes us feel well. This morning a Lieut. Of the First Battallion of the New Yorkers died. Is to be buried to-day. His name is McDougal. Capt'n Bronson is not well today. Am afraid he is going to be sick. 2 o'clock afternoon Capt. Grant arrived here from Vershire. Bro't news that the shipping that was Montreal was 6 miles below Longail and that he see them going down, and that he see the boats go from the Island, that Gen. Montgomery landed on yesterday, to Montreal and he see the army land and walk up into the town, so that we now conclude that the war is all over for this fall, for them that intend to go home this fall. 5 o'clock afternoon. Just returned from the Funeral of the above Lieut. He was buried under arms. He had a brother to see him buried. His father is the head Col. Of the Regiment but is not here. When I was at the funeral received a letter from brother Johnathan Fasett dated the twenty sixth of October which informed me that he had a son 3 days old and that Nathan had a son a month old. Very windy. Cannot cross to Montreal.

13<sup>th</sup> Nov. Very windy yet. Froze hard last night. We now have orders to return back to Longail where we expect to cross to Montreal. We shall go in a few hours I expect. Set out from Laprairie about 9 o'clock in the morning. Went down the River about 7 miles afoot. Got there about 2 o'clock. Here we are shooting at a mark. Expect to go over the River in a few minutes. 3 Boats are over and are coming back. Got over the river just before daylight was gone. Went about a mile by land. Came to a tavern where we ate supper of eggs, dinked what cider I could. We are within ½ mile of Montreal. Some say small pox is very thick in the city and some say it is not in the city at all.

14<sup>th</sup> Nov. Am not at the Scotch Tavern that I mentioned last night and just going to Breakfast. As pleasant a day as we have had since we came from home. 10 o'clock Capt'n Bronson, Adjutant Walbridge and I with some others went all around the city of Montreal. It is a very fine City with a wall all Round it & a trench without the wall from the Bottom of the trench to the top of the wall is about 15 foot the wall is about 2 foot thick the City is about 2 mile Long But it is Narrow perhaps 80 or 100 Rod wide I Eat a

pear in the City almost Every thing to Be Sold at the market it is a very Rich City 7 o'clock at night Been going about the City again See Strange things See George the Third, Effigy made of white marble the most Curious thing that ever my Eyes Beheld; we Drink'd Some porter and went Back half a mile out of the City to our Lodging Set up Something Late and told Stories.

15<sup>th</sup> Nov. got up. Early the ground is Covered with Snow. Had word that it is in general order for Every man to Be Ready at 10 o'clock for a march to Quebeck That we were to go in Bark A=Canoes and the whole army was to follow after in Battoes with the Cannon and that we were to take the shipping that sailed out of this harbor, which lay about 12 leagues below us and it being a very snowy morning, our men looked down. Some talked one thing, some said we should suffer if we went, and upon the whole I expected that they would raise a mutiny. Everything was in confusion. For my part I was very sober to see the confusion we were like to come into. After a while new orders came out that we must be ready to march at 12 o'clock. One Officer was running here, another there to get in readiness. The men chiefly laid still, and I believe by the motion of things, determined not to go. 11 o'clock fore-noon. Word came that all Officers as low as captains to meet Gen. Montgomery at his quarters at eleven o'clock. At 12 o'clock they set off to see him. They are now gone. What will be the event. I know not. Snows very hard and has all day and looks very tedious, though the snow melts almost as fast as it comes. A snowy night.

16<sup>th</sup> Nov. Fair weather but cold. Snow over shoes but melts away. 8 o'clock Col. Warner's Regiment all Paraded. The Col. Proposed for all that were a mind to go to Quebec, to follow him, and First the Capt'ns. Capt'n Hopkins followed the Col. Then the sub-Lieut. Galusha and Lieut. Smith followed. The Capt'n Hopkins tried to see if any men would go with him. 3 followed. Lieutenant Galusha tried and 5 followed him. Lieutenant Smith tried and 2 followed him which was all that appeared to go. Adjutant Walbridge this minute came to me to warn the men with their packs to march into town and all ready for a march. What is next I know not. 12 o'clock. The Gen. had a letter this morning from Col. Easton which informs us that the shipping that sailed from this place the other day were going to sail by him, and that he fired 7 Cannon Ball thro' the foremost of them which damaged her very much so that they were obliged all to retreat about 2 leagues where they wall now lie at anchor, and we are ordered to march to Surrell immediately. I expect to march before night. 1 o'clock. All marched into town where we waited until dark. Then came word that we must march back to our quarters, for there were no boats for us to go down the river in. Our men all marched to their Quarters but Lieut. Noble, Serg't Rudd, Serg't Graves, Jacob Safford, Alex. Brush, David Brewster and I went into a tavern and drank Porter and had Brandy sling much as we thought proper. Then we all went to our lodgings, after we had concluded to be ready early in the morning for a march.

17<sup>th</sup> Nov. Went early in the morning to the city. I bought apples, pears and four Canadian forks and one jack knife. There was almost everything that one could mention to be sold. 9 o'clock in the morning. Concluded to call all the Captains and Sub's together belonging to col. Warner's Regiment for a Council. Resolved to send a petition

to Col. Warner that we thought it was not proper as the circumstances were, for us to go to Surrell but to go home. We made choice of Capt'n Hopkins, Capt'n Grant and Capt'n Bronson to draw the petition, and carry to the Col. Which they did and we were to meet again at 2 o'clock and sent to the Col. And Major Safford, and desire them to come to our meeting, which they did. We presented them the petition and they carried it to the General, and the Gen. gave the Col. A answer to his Officers, but the petition with the answer and pass will be too tedious to write here. Our Company with Chief of the Regiment set out from this place before night and crossed the River to Longail, but Col. Warner, Major Safford, Capt'n Hopkins, Adjutant Walbridge and I did not cross but went into the city and drank eleven bottles of porter, then went to the tavern and ate our supper of fowl and drank Cider.

9 o'clock went to our lodgings. I cam to the house alone where I used to lie with a houseful, but they were all gone over the river. The were all abed. I knocked several times before they answered. The man got up but there was no fire in the house. He went to the neighbors for some fire, light a candle and I sat down to writing. The old woman got up, fried me some fresh pork and onions, before I took notice of what she was about, but I ate the second supper with a good stomach as hearty as anybody that had not ater for 12 hours. Between 11 and 12 o'clock at night and now going to bed, but cannot but dread our voyage across the Lake home, but hope we shall return with safety.

18<sup>th</sup> Nov. I set out, sun an hour high in the morning to go over to Longail, staid at Longail until sun half an hour high at night. Then Capt'n Hopkins and I put on our packs and set out for Laprairie. I was lame in one foot, but it grew worse. I was so lame before we got Laprairie I thought I should never get there, but we got there about 7 o'clock at night.

19<sup>th</sup> Nov. Sunday. I am yet lame, but have sent out for a horse to ride to St. Johns. Col. Warner and Major Safford are yet behind for we left them at Longail. It is very cold but cloudy. 10 o'clock set out from Laprairie on foot. Went 9 miles before we stopped. Went into a tavern and drank so small beer. Overtook some sleds got our packs carried. I grew more lame. Went about 2 miles. Then got in to one of the sleds and rid into Bedel's camp. Went to see Nathan Ruggles. Got some bitters and got some dinner or supper of salt pork and fresh and some Johnny Cakes. Was very glad to see him. I hear there are boats to carry us across the Lake. Hope we shall get home well, but it seems a great way off. Went to the Tavern where I was when I was sick and had a good Lodging.

20<sup>th</sup> Nov. Went early in the morning to St. Johns and saw the fort where the Regulars lived so long, and every thing looked like destruction. Went over the lake to Hazon's house where Nathan had been living but had set out for home yesterday was a week. Heard this morning that Elija Story died about 12 days ago. He died like a beast; killed himself with drinking. The last he called for was bread and grog, which seemed to be the whole of his desire. We are fixing to go home, but whether we shall go today, I don't know. We are heating an oven to bake some bread. Capt'n Potter, Capt'n Veal, Capt'n Bronson and their companies set out today for home, and part of Capt'n Fitches Company. The rest are going to stay till tomorrow.

21<sup>st</sup> Nov. Got up an hour before day. Ate some unleavened Bread, and Capt'n Grant set out for home, Before light I hear this morning. The enemy are very thick among us. An enemy we have not been troubled with. Some call them Body-lice, but for all they are so thick as they tell for I have not seen any yet. Col. Warner, Major Safford, Adjutant Walbridge, Capt'n Fitch, Lieut. Galusha, Searg't Major Hutchins and sundry others set out for home about 12 o'clock. One Company are left behind waiting for Corporal Hall. 4 o'clock heard our people had taken the vessel at Surrell. Col. Campbell came to St. Johns and ordered all the boats to stop and got away our boat which troubled us very much. When we shall get another boat, I know not. Jacob Safford received a letter from Mr. D. Safford. Major Safford's wife sent him a letter which I got and opened, for the Major had gone forward. Read in the letter that all friends were well in Bennington, except ye Major's wife who had been sick 3 weeks.

22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. Got another boat. Are fixing of it to go home. Ben. Whipple has had the colic this morning very bad but is better. Last night Abram Hathaway fell down stairs and hurt himself pretty much. Cut a hole close by his eye and bruised him considerable, but is better today. After we had our Battoes taken from us yesterday, we got a boat to cross back again in. We had a barrel of pork in it which we left in the boat all night, and some sails that we had got made, but when we got up this morning the boat, meat and sails were all gone, and we see them no more. What we shall do for meat I don't know. Ten o'clock. Miller, the man we sent to Surrell after Corporal Hall came back with heavy tidings, that he left Hall breathing his last breath to all appearance. He left him speechless. He brought news that Col. Easton and Col. Bedel ha taken the King's vessels at Surrell which were 11 in number, and that they were all gone to Montreal. Said he heard that Gov. Carleton and St. Luke had fled from the vessels and were taken by the Canadians, but they were come to Montreal. Dr. Fay was gone there also. 2 o'clock afternoon, set out from Hazon's house went to St. John's and drew some provisions and rum. The sun and an hour and a half high. Set out for home, went to an Irishman's house about 19 miles from St. John's that night got there about 11 o'clock at night.

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Set out about sun rise. Went about 35 miles to a house that was not finished. It is a small log house. Chimney in the middle, but no roof. We built a fire in both fire places. Had a sort of floor overhead. Ate Chocolate and unleavened cakes for supper. Very good. Slept very well. The wind was against us all the while from St. Johns to this place though not very high.

24<sup>th</sup> Nov. Set out as soon as it was light. The wind was high and against us. We bore away for a certain island about 5 miles and it was about 11 o'clock before we got there. When we went ashore we found it to be a small Island about 3 or 4 acres. The timber mainly Cedar, some fir, where we built a fire and roasted some rusty rashers of pork and ate unleavened cakes. Past noon. Here we are about a mile from Cumberland Point, waiting for the wind to fall. When we shall go we know not. Half after one o'clock the wind fell, so we set out again and went about 10 miles that night. When we got against Colchester Point there came up a squall out of the West, so that we were obliged immediately to turn about, for the Point, which we made without much difficulty. Got there before sunset. The wind held high all night and until almost night the next day. We

made good fires but had no shelter. I was not well, had colic but got better before morning.

25<sup>th</sup> Nov. We killed 10 or 12 partridges which gave us a very good meal. Shot at a mark and some went hunting. About 4 o'clock the wind fell, so we set out again, steered for parson's at Shelburn, but night came on and it clouded over that it was very dark so that we could not see to steer, and we tried to make a shore, but it was a very bold rocky shore that it was very difficult to land, but we at last got a shore, built fires and ate a little unleavened cake and cheese and lay down. About 11 o'clock at night Serg't Graves waked up and it snowed and the wind blew very hard. He waked us up to go and take care of the Battoe, for it was in great danger of staving, and our guns and chests were in it. Went down and the Battoe was full of water. We got out all we could but one man had to wade up to his middle in the water. We had a very tedious night indeed. We had nothing to cover us but the heavens and one blanket apiece and it snowed very hard all night, and where we were we knew not. But the timber was girdled where we lay, that we hoped we were not far from some house. Our provisions and our rum was almost out, but I slept tolerable well.

26<sup>th</sup> Nov. Sunday. When we came to look for our guns and packs there were some missing, and the Batteau was gone but we found it washed up ashore. We found 5 or 6 guns in it and one or two pack's washed up on shore, that upon the whole we saved all our effects, but the Battoe was stove to pieces and was good for nothing. We then thought proper to see if there was anybody lived in this part of the world. Sent 3 or 4 men to see who returned in 2 hours. Bro't news that we were within a mile and a half of a house. We were all rejoiced to hear it and made ready to march, and about 10 o'clock we left the Point Trouble and Destruction, (for I don't know what else to call it) and came to the man's house, whose name is Smith. We were very glad to get here where we are now. It snowed all day and was a very cold night but we had gotten a good harbor.

27<sup>th</sup> Nov. Stayed here all day. The wind was very high at north. Very cold, but grew warmer in the afternoon. We were short of it for provisions but went hunting, but killed nothing, but we heard that Mr. Persons had some of the country's Pork. We sent and got some, and got some potatoes so that we made out very well. We got some of our flour baked, so that our unleavened bread ceased, but we had nothing but bread, pork and potatoes three times a day or two time which we pleased, if we would go without the three times. In the afternoon the wind fell, and three o'clock sent Lieut. Noble with two men in a canoe to Crown Point to get a Battoe for us if they could, for we expected our regiment were all there.

28<sup>th</sup> Nov. Nothing extra. Capt' Hopkins and I and Serg't Graves went to Mr. Parsons about 2 miles and came back at night and just as we got back there were two men come from Crown Point in a Battoe, which brought news that Col. Warner and Major Safford set out for home the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. These men saw nothing of Lieut. Noble. We are now consulting what to do.

29<sup>th</sup> Nov. Lieut. Noble came back last night without any Battoes. Bro't News that Col. Warner and his Regiment had gone home which made us very uneasy, for they promised to wait for us. We have now a head wind. About 11 o'clock set out Pery Augre for Crown Point, but we had to cross the Lake first. When we got across the lake there was a number of men with the prisoners that were taken at Surrell. They were going to have a court martial upon Mr. Beman's clerk for being unfaithful to his trust for selling liquor and converting the money to his own use, etc. Captain Hopkins was president and I was one of the members. We condemned him to receive 39 stripes on the naked body, and to pay Mr. Beman the loss he had sustained by the prisoner. After dark we set out and went about 3 miles up the Lake on the West side and went ashore where we fared very well.

30<sup>th</sup> Nov. The wind held against us. 10 o'clock we set out, rowed u the Lake about 3 miles, then hoisted sail and tried to make Split Rock which was about 3 miles off, but we could not. The wind was so hard against us. We tacked away into the Lake and then back again and got but 100 rods in an hour and a half. Then we rowed up the bay west of Split Rock and ran ashore where we now are, without provisions or rum. A little before sunset bought half bushel potatoes, and ate them without bread or meat, and at daylight down the wind fell and we set out and rowed to Grogg Harbor, about a mile south of Split Rock and the wind blew up in the south so we were obliged to put ashore. The snow was over shoes. We went to making fires. It was very cold and tedious, but after our fires burned up, we lay down and slept some, but it was very cold.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Set out half an hour before day. Got to Crown Point about 12 o'clock. Got some Rum and a good dinner, and sun an hour high set out for Ticondarga. Got there about nine o'clock at night.

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Drawed 6 days provisions and Rum. Got our discharge and after noon set out for Scheensborough in a boat, but soon turned back for the lake Was covered was covered with ice, that we could not go up the Lake. We then crossed the lake against Ticondarga and took to the woods. Lay in the woods all night.

3<sup>d</sup> Dec. Got as far as Boardmans, Hebberton. Lodged there 4<sup>th</sup> of Dec. went to old Mr. Howe's, Putney, Lodged there 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. Went to Col. Warners. Lodged there the 6<sup>th</sup> December. Our horses were brought to us. Rode to Abel Hawley's. Lodged there.

7<sup>th</sup> Dec. Got home about sunset.

And Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 1776 set out again for another campaign to Canada and may God of his infinite mercy preserve me.

*Note: Remainder of Diary burned.*