

Appendix 3

Laura Secord (1775-1868)

Heroine of Beaver Dams



Born: September 13th, 1775 in Massachusetts

Heroic Action: Rescued her husband, James Secord a militia sergeant, from the battlefield at Queenston Heights where he was wounded.

Heroic Action: After overhearing the American plans to

surprise the British outpost at Beaver Dams commanded by Lieutenant James Fitzgibbon, she walked more than 12 miles cross-country to avoid American detection in order to warn the British. Two days later the American force was surprised at Beaver Dams and forced to surrender. If the Americans had won it would have given them control of the Niagara Peninsula and jeopardizing Upper Canada.

Historiography: Some 20th century historians have questioned whether Secord's message was too late and that Indian scouts had forewarned Fitzgibbon earlier as to the surprise attack. However, two testimonials written by Fitzgibbon indicate that it was indeed Secord's message who which had arrived first and that "in consequence of this information" he had been able to ambush the Americans. (Ruth McKenzie, [www.biographi.ca/.](http://www.biographi.ca/))

Abridged from www.1812.gc.ca/eng/1317828221939/1317828660198#a8