

32 Kilometers in 18 Hours

Dear diary, this week has been so crazy you wouldn't believe what happened. It all started on a sunny Monday afternoon. When the news reached me that my husband James was wounded in the battle of Queenston Heights and was calling me. I went straight to the battlefield once I fully processed this news. After minutes I got close enough to him that I could find him from the sound of his voice.

All of a sudden I heard, "Laura!" he yelled, "You came to find me, I thought that I was going to die here by myself."

"Well, I couldn't just leave you here once I heard that you were alive, you are my husband," I reminded him.

All of the sudden, we heard horse hooves galloping toward us! In a panic, I collapsed beside my husband and cried. Then we heard voices and I broke into a sob, and by the time I opened my eyes two mysterious faces were looking at us as I cried.

"Don't hurt us, please don't hurt us! I just found him and I just want to bring him home, please!" I pleaded.

"Do we let her go with him," the first man said, "Or do we take them into custody?"

"I don't know," said the second man. "What do you think the boss would do with them?"

"We'll let you go but you can't say anything to anybody about us letting you go," said the first man again.

"THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU," I cried.

As we were on our way home, I felt a huge wave of gratitude toward the men.



Then on Wednesday morning, I heard a knock on the door so as usual, I went to check who it was and as I got to the door, I started to see two large black figures! I reached for the door and slowly opened it.

“Let us in we need a place to stay!” said the first soldier, “Fetch us some tea, a little honey and a dash of milk! “

“Okay,” I said in a very large panic, “Would you like it the same way?” I asked the second soldier. He just nodded and stared at me like he was disgusted by me. As I hurried to fetch the tea both of the soldiers made themselves at home. When they finally stopped watching me, I ran upstairs and burst into James' and my bedroom.

“JAMES!” I said, “There are soldiers in the house and they are staying here for who knows how long and I am supposed to be making the tea for them at this very moment!”

“WHAT!” He said, “why are they here?”

“They said they needed a place to stay,” I said. “That is all the information that they gave me.”

“Well,” he said, “You need to go make their tea, so please go before they find me. I don't want them to hurt or even kill you because they know that I am here.”

I hurried as fast as I could down the stairs and back into the kitchen just as the kettle started to boil and screech and the soldiers called to me.

“LADY!!! The kettle is making weird noises and we want our tea, are you even in the kitchen anymore!”

“What flavour would you like for your tea?” I said just as the soldiers walked into the kitchen.

“We don't care, we just want tea and after our tea, you must show us to our rooms.”

Ok, I said and I was just flying by the seat of my pants by now because we only had one spare room so I said

Are you ok with sharing a room? And I thought that I knew the answer but to my surprise, they said, “Fine but we need personal beds, and if we don't then no we will not be sharing a room at all OKAY.”

“Ok,” I said as I gave them their tea and just as they sat down I immediately ran up the stairs and up to the spare room and got the beds ready and made dinner for them but when I was bringing their dinner to them I overheard them saying.

“Our attack on beaver dams has to work, Fitzgibbon would never expect it to happen, the element of surprise always works.”

The rest of the conversation was lost and all I heard was mumbling because immediately I started thinking that we were done for if Fitzgibbon didn't know about the attack they would lose and the war would be over. That's when I knew I had to go and warn Fitzgibbon myself because James was still injured and I couldn't send the kids he wouldn't believe them. All at this moment, I realized that I would have to leave the house which would mean that I would have to leave James and the kids home with the soldiers but all of a sudden I heard the soldiers calling that they wanted to see their room so I went downstairs and led the soldiers to their room and then finally found out that they would be leaving early the next morning so I realized that I would have to leave in the middle of the night so when I woke up at 12:30 that night I started packing and before I left I put a note on James' nightstand and off I went to go save Fitzgibbon.



I was so cold and was also thoroughly annoyed because I had just lost my second shoe in a swamp and was trying so hard not to scream because I was surrounded by rattlesnakes, wolves and wildcats, and I wasn't any better from there because just after that I was forced to cross a river by crawling over a fallen tree.

“UGH!” I yelled, I was sick and tired of walking but I wouldn't give up now I knew I was close. I could feel it but that wonderful feeling left me within seconds because I saw a light and that light was getting bigger and closer so I ran. I had thought that I had run so much farther than I did but the light had followed me and was still getting closer so I gave up I was ready to die so I went into the light and to my surprise, it was a tomahawk group coming to hunt and when they

found me they welcomed me, but I could tell that they didn't want me to be there so I finally said something to them.

“Hello,” I said, “Can you direct me to the camp of General James Fitzgibbon? I have important information that he needs to hear.”

“What is the information that you need to tell him I can pass it on and you can go home,” said the chief of the tribe?

“That's okay,” I said. “I can give him the information myself. I don't have much longer to give him all of the information that he needs to know.”

“Fine, ” he said,” “From here, Go southeast and you'll find a path that you can follow and it will take you straight to his camp.”



Once I found the path it was easy from there. The sun was starting to shine again and I was starting to panic. The soldiers said that they would be leaving early so for all I knew they could have been on their way at that moment. Just as the sun peeked over the clouds for the first time on my journey I stopped and let the sunshine on me and closed my eyes but then I remembered what I was doing and I was off again. It was probably mid-morning by the time I finally saw the camp but when I did it was like a wave of relief had washed over me but I couldn't waste any time so I ran and ran and ran until I was standing in front of the camp.

“I NEED TO SEE GENERAL JAMES FITZGIBBON!” I yelled at the top of my lungs and immediately someone rushed outside. I didn't care who they were just kept saying.

I need to see Fitzgibbon. But I fainted out of exhaustion but when I finally woke up and realized where I was...

I need Fitzgibbon I said and then out of nowhere, I heard his voice from behind me.

What is your name and how did you get here he said in a very urgent tone but I slowly replied

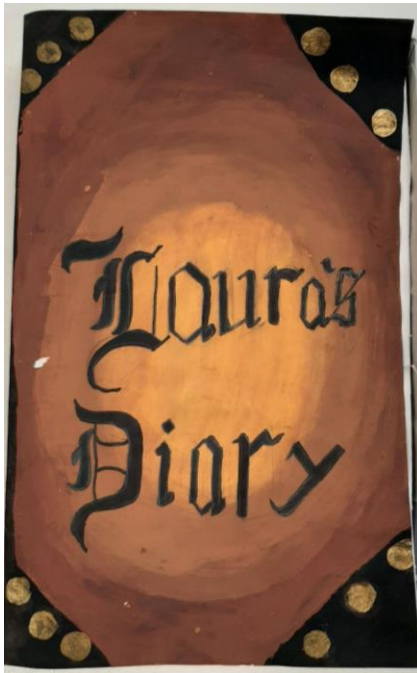
I am Laura Secord and I have walked from my house in upper Canada to warn you about an attack planned against you. After I explained all that had happened I finally realized that I forgot the most important part.

I was forced to let soldiers stay at my house and I overheard them talking about attacking your camp so I walked here as fast as I could to warn you.

“Thank you for this warning,” he said. “I will arrange a ride for you to get home and in the meantime, I will be preparing for the attack.”

“Thank you,” I said, “and I give you my hope that you win the battle.”

~Sincerely Laura.



Works Cited

Christou, Theodore, et al. *Nelson History 7*. W. Ross MacDonald School Resource Services Library, 2016.