

THE STATUE OF GENERAL JAMES WOLFE

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THE GIFT OF CANADA TO ENGLAND

When was the Battle of the Plains of Abraham won? The official date is September 13, 1759, but was that the real moment of victory? Francis Parkman, writing of Wolfe, says that on September tenth, "landing on the south side a little above Quebec and looking across the water with a telescope he descried the path that ran with a long slope up the face of the woody precipice, and the cluster of tents at the top." What thoughts passed through his mind as he stood there, telescope in hand? William Wood puts them in words.

"On September tenth he stood at Etchemin on the South Shore, two miles above Quebec, and looked long and earnestly through the telescope at Foulon Road a mile and a half away, running up to the plains of Abraham from the Anse au Foulon which has ever since been called Wolfe's Cove.

Then he looked at the plains themselves, especially at a spot only one mile from Quebec, where the flat and open ground formed a perfect field of battle for the well drilled regulars. He knew that the Foulon Road must be fairly good because it was the French line of communication between the Anse au Foulon and the Beauport Camp. The Cove and the nearest point of the Camp were only two miles and a quarter apart, as the crow flies, but between them rose the table land of the plains, three hundred feet above the river. Thus they were screened from each other and a surprise at the Cove might not be found out too soon at the camp.

He knew that the French expected to be attacked at one or the other end of the line, Cap Rouge or Beauport--that his own army