

QUEENSTON HEIGHTS

decided to cross the river at Lewiston early in the morning of October 11th. The attempt was made but not carried out, and the adventure was postponed until the dark of the morning of October 13th.

At the appointed time all was ready and the thirteen boats provided for the purpose were busy carrying the men across the swift current of the Niagara River, less than a quarter of a mile wide at the place.

General Van Rensselaer, himself not a military man but a politician, had placed his cousin and aide-de-camp, Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer, an accomplished soldier, in charge of the operations. He, with 300 regulars and 300 militia, was the first to take the boats. Immediately the British were aroused and the twenty-four-pounder at Vrooman's Point and the eighteen-pounder on the Heights went to the assault. Vigorous response came from the batteries at Lewiston in the effort to protect the troops being carried across the river and landing at the place which, afterwards, became the Canadian end of the Lewiston Suspension Bridge. Captain Dennis took sixty of the three hundred defenders of Queenston and, with a three pounder in charge, advanced towards the river. His little party opened well directed and continuous fire, killing and wounding several American officers and men and driving the rest behind a bank near the water's edge. Amongst the wounded were Colonel Van Rensselaer and three captains.

Captain Dennis was then reinforced by the remaining Grenadier Companies of the 49th. The Light Infantry, under Captain Williams occupied