

QUEENSTON HEIGHTS

The distance from Queenston to Beaver Dams is thirteen miles, but Laura Secord had covered twenty miles in her circuitous walk. The next morning she returned to Queenston, and was joyfully welcomed by her anxious husband and five children.

On the morning of the following day and according to his announced plans, Boerstler appeared, but, instead of surprising Fitzgibbon, was himself surprised by the scouts and Indians, and was compelled to surrender, with his five hundred and forty-two men and two field pieces.*

Fitzgibbon has left a written statement telling the story of Laura Secord's intrepid exploit, and has given her full credit, attributing his success to the result of her warning.

Later she and her family removed to Chipawa, where, in 1868, at the age of ninety-three, she died in the house now marked by a tablet, and lies buried in the graveyard at Lundy's Lane. A headstone, erected by the Ontario Historical Society, marks her resting place. On Queenston Heights, near that of the Immortal Brock, a monument to her memory has been erected by the Government of Canada.

Ever since the white men first came to Canada their women have played no insignificant part in the history of the country. The annals of the French régime reveal the spectacular exploits of Madeleine de Vécheres in contending against the primitive and savage conditions of the time, which all the early women settlers had to meet and faced with courage. Outstanding were those elect ladies of the church, whose lives, amidst

*Cruikshank.