

Tablet to the American Soldiers Killed with
General Montgomery at Pres-de-ville,
1775



On the road that leads to the Citadel, and but a short distance from St. Louis Street, stands a small group of ancient and military looking buildings. According to James Thompson, the Overseer of Public Works in the Royal Engineers Department in Quebec in 1775, they were sometimes used as a powder magazine and were surrounded by a stockade. Later they were used as a military prison, and now-a-days as a store house for the Commisariat Department.

When the American General Montgomery made his unsuccessful and disastrous attack on the defences of Quebec on the early morning of the 31st of December, 1775, at *Près-de-Ville*, during a violent snow storm, he encountered a determined resistance from a small but determined force of Canadians and British and some British seamen under Captain Barnsfare, who worked the battery of three pounders placed in a hangard to the south of the pass. At, or near day-break the Americans were discovered approaching. Captain Barnsfare, at the critical moment of the advance of the Americans, who were hoping for a surprise of the little garrison, opened fire of guns and musketry against the head of the advancing column. It was disastrous to the Americans in its effects, and they at once retreated, leaving their General dead, also his two aides, Captains Cheeseman and McPherson, and thirteen soldiers.

In 1818 James Thompson, in order to satisfy the relations and friends of General Montgomery as to the identity of his remains, in order that they might be removed to New York for interment beneath a monument that faces St. Paul's Church on Broadway, New York, made affidavit as follows :