

**Clément Gosselin, master carpenter, spy
and soldier of the United States Revolution**

Born in Sainte-Famille, île-d'Orléans in 1747, Clément Gosselin was a master carpenter in « Sainte-Anne-du-Sud » (La Pocatière) when the insurgents of the Thirteen Colonies attempted to take Quebec and drive out the British. He was among the most active Canadians who supported the "Americans" during the siege of Quebec in 1775-76.

During the siege of Quebec by the insurgents, he travelled the Côte-du-Sud, from Kamouraska to Pointe-Lévy, to spread the propaganda of the United Colonial Congress, recruit soldiers for the Hazen regiment, appoint insurgent-friendly militia officers and oversee the fire system put in place to announce the rise of British ships on the St. Lawrence.

Despite all the research done, there are still some obscure passages afterwards. It is not clear what happened to him from the end of the American siege in May 1776 until he returned to his regiment in the summer of 1778 at White Plains, N.Y. He was probably imprisoned for some time.

The work of Gaston Deschênes then relates the espionage missions conducted by Gosselin for General Washington and the Marquis de La Fayette, and the last years of his military career. It highlights Gosselin's role in the post-war group of demobilized and refugee Canadians at Lake Champlain, where he brought his family in 1785. He returned to the "Province of Quebec" in the early 1790s, but died again at Beekmantown, New York, on March 9, 1816, in the country he helped to make independent.