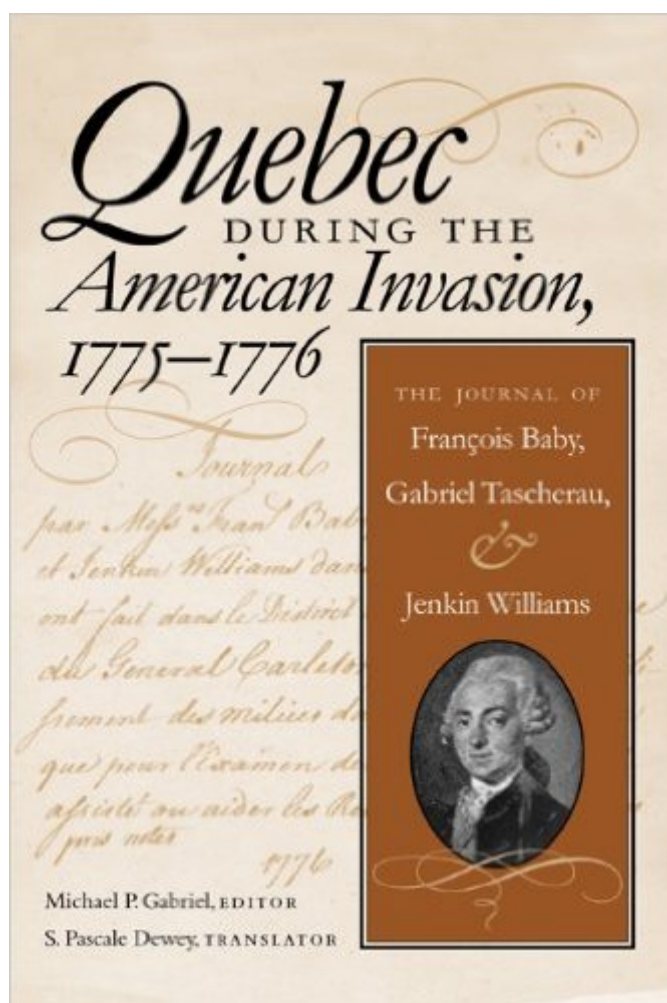


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Quebec During The American Invasion, 1775-1776: The Journal Of Francois Baby, Gabriel Taschereau, And Jenkin Williams



Synopsis

Available for the first time in English, the 1776 journal of François Baby, Gabriel Taschereau, and Jenkin Williams provides an insight into the failure to incite rebellion in Quebec by American revolutionaries. While other sources have shown how British soldiers and civilians and the French-Canadian gentry (the seigneurs) responded to the American invasion of 1775, this journal focuses on French-Canadian peasants (les habitants) who made up the vast majority of the population; in other words, the journal helps explain why Quebec did not become the "fourteenth colony." After American forces were expelled from Quebec in early 1776, the British governor, Sir Guy Carleton, sent three trusted envoys to discover who had collaborated with the rebels from the south. They traveled to fifty-six parishes and missions in the Quebec and Trois Rivières district, discharging disloyal militia officers and replacing them with faithful subjects. They prepared a report on each parish, revealing actions taken to support the Americans or the king. Baby and his colleagues documented a wide range of responses. Some habitants enlisted with the Americans; others supplied them with food, firewood, and transportation. Some habitants refused to cooperate with the king's soldiers. In some parishes, women were the Americans' most zealous supporters. Overall, the Baby Journal clearly reveals that the habitants played an important, but often overlooked, role in the American invasion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The three writers of the journal were agents sent by the British governor of Quebec, Sir Guy Carleton, to travel among the surrounding parishes and missions to find out who had lent support to

the American troops in their invasion of Canada during the Revolutionary War. The Americans knew that they had support among some of the French-Canadian "habitants" (i. e., peasants). Though this support turned out not to be widespread or effective enough to help the Americans to victory, Carleton wanted to weed the supporters out of the local militias. In their journal, Baby and the others reported parish by parish the actions they took against individuals posing a threat to British control of Canada and the reasons for this. Some militia men performed military duties such as standing guard for the invading rebel forces; others encouraged support for them; and others offered them food or transpiration. Carleton's punitive measures were mild, dismissal from the militia in most cases; but they were effective in virtually eliminating what support there was for the Americans among the French-Canadian peasants. The journal is an important historical document first published in the 1920s.

This book documents the widespread support for the Continental cause in 1775-1776, and the multiple reasons why the efforts of the Continental Congress lost momentum in Quebec. Translator S. Pascale Vergereau-Dewey presents a readable rendering of a succinct yet detailed narrative. Historian Michael P. Gabriel also wrote the 2002 biography, Major General Richard Montgomery: The Making of an American Hero, the story of the Irish-born American who died in the Dec. 31, 1775 midnight effort to capture Quebec City. The Forward by Louis Balthazar (professor emeritus, University Laval) gives a great sense of the sentiments of Quebec, who still have a great interest and belief in what the United States represents. If you are from Quebec, you may like finding many familiar names.

Wonderful research tool; highly recommended

Learned a lot by reading this book!

very happy with this item

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