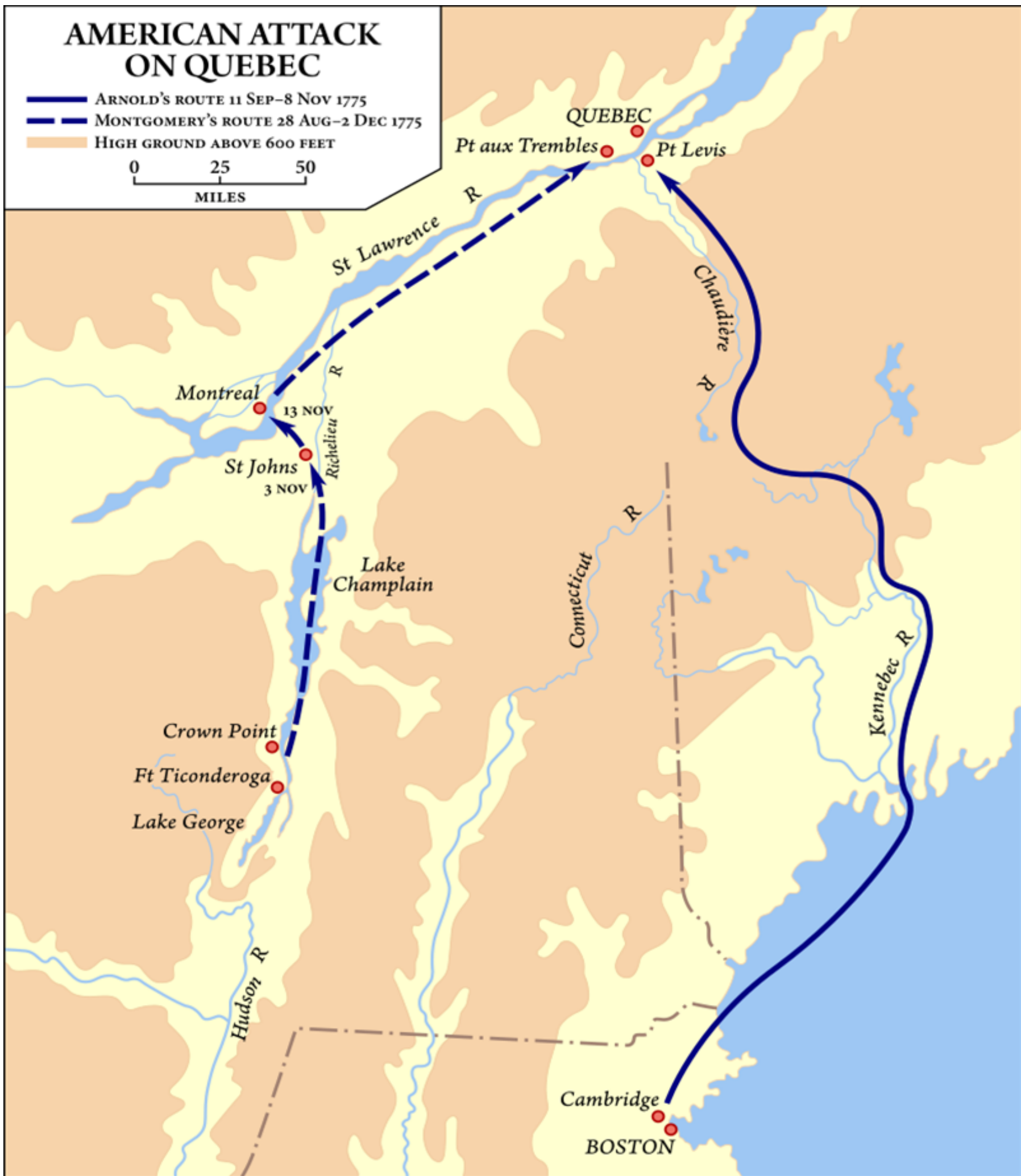


Richard Montgomery was born in Ireland December 2, 1738. He served in the British Army during the French and Indian War in North America and the West Indies, and in Pontiac's War at Fort Detroit, from 1756 to 1772.

In 1775 he joined the American cause and was appointed Brigadier General under Major General Philip Schuyler, with orders to invade Canada. Their plan was to advance via Fort St. John and Montreal, then join forces with Benedict Arnold to attack Quebec.

Unknown to him, he was promoted to major general on December 9 for his victories at St. Johns and Montreal. On December 31 he led his men in the attack on Quebec and was killed.



Engraving of Montgomery by Alonzo Chappel

"The Congress having done me the honor of electing me brigadier-general in their service, is an event which must put an end, for awhile, perhaps for ever, to the quiet scheme of life I had prescribed for myself; for, though entirely unexpected and undesired by me, the will of an oppressed people, compelled to choose between liberty and slavery, must be obeyed." - Richard Montgomery, June 22, 1775

### Elegy on the death of General Montgomery

Melpomene, now strike a mournful string,  
Montgomery's fate assisting me to sing!  
Thou saw him fall upon the hostile plain  
Yet ting'd with blood that gush'd from Moncalm's veins,  
Where gallant Wolfe for conquest gave his breath,  
Where num'rous heroes met the angel Death.  
Ah! while the loud reiterated roar  
Of cannon echoed on from shore to shore,  
Benigner Peace, retiring to the shade,  
Had gather'd laurel to adorn his head:  
The laurel yet shall grace his bust; but, oh!  
America must wear sad cypress now.  
Dauntless he led her armies to the war,  
Invulnerable was his soul to fear:  
When they explor'd their way o'er trackless snows,  
Where Life's warm tide thro' every channel froze,  
His eloquence made the chill'd bosom glow,  
And animated them to meet the foe;  
Now flam'd this bright conspicuous grace alone,  
The softer virtues in his bosom shone;  
It bled with every soldier's recent wound;  
He rais'd the fallen vet'ran from the ground;  
He wip'd the eye of grief, it ceas'd to flow;  
His heart vibrated to each sound of woe:  
His heart too good his country to betray  
For splendid posts or mercenary pay,  
Too great to see a virtuous land oppress,  
Nor strive to have her injuries redress'd.  
Oh had but Carleton suffer'd in his stead!  
Had half idolitrous Canada bled!  
'Tis not for him but for ourselves we grieve,  
Like him to die is better than to live;  
His urn by a whole nation's tears bedew'd,  
His mem'ry blest by all the great and good:  
O'er his pale coarse the marble soon shall rise,  
And the tall column shoot into the skies;  
There long his praise by freemen shall be read,  
As softly o'er the hero's dust they tread.  
- Ann Eliza Bleecker



The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec, December 31, 1775, John Trumbull



At left is the Montgomery monument sculpted by Jean-Jacques Caffieri in 1777 and installed at St. Paul's Chapel in 1787.

"This Monument is created by the order of CONGRESS 25<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1776 to transmit to Posterity a grateful remembrance of the patriotism conduct enterprise & perseverance of *Major General* RICHARD MONTGOMERY, Who after a series of successes amidst the most discouraging Difficulties Fell in the attack on QUEBEC 31<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>br</sup> 1775, Aged 37 Years."

Fifteen states have a county named for Montgomery, and several have cities and towns, including Alabama, New York, Ohio, Minnesota and Vermont.