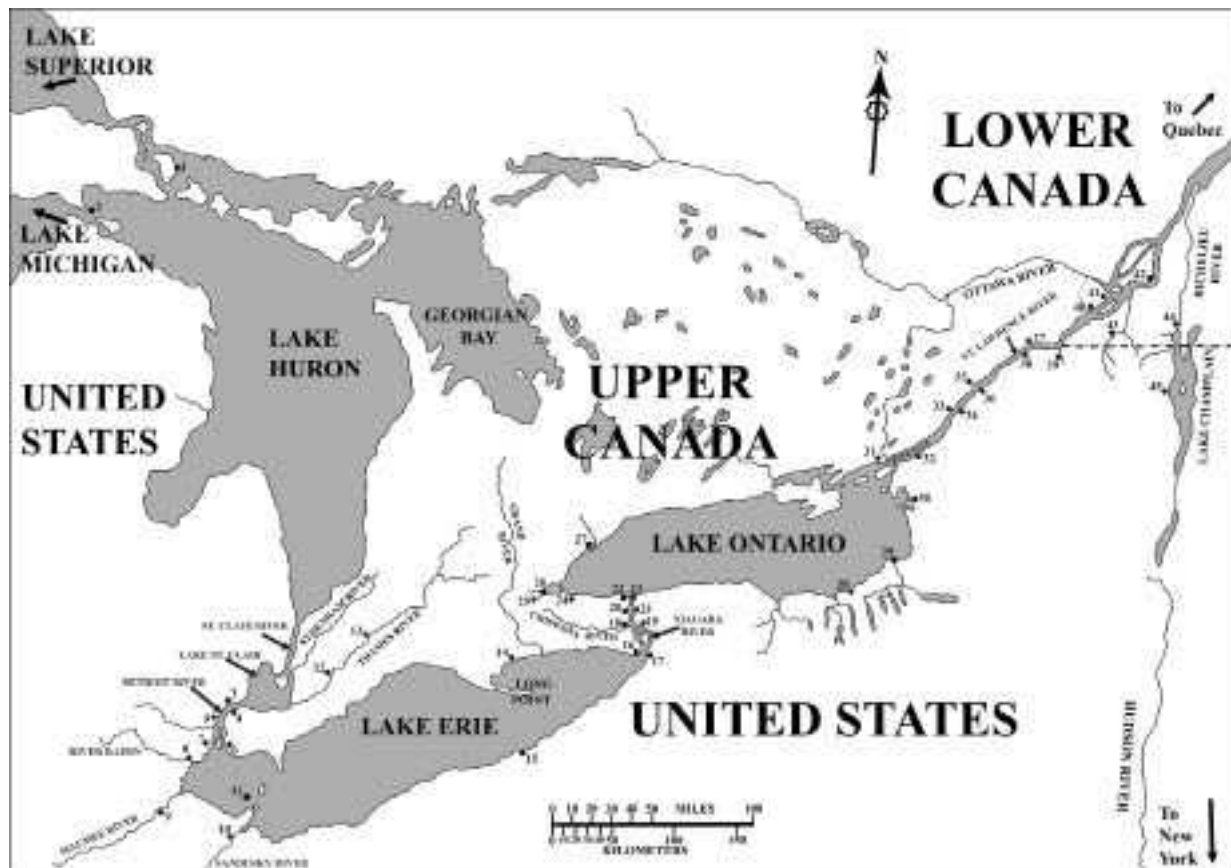


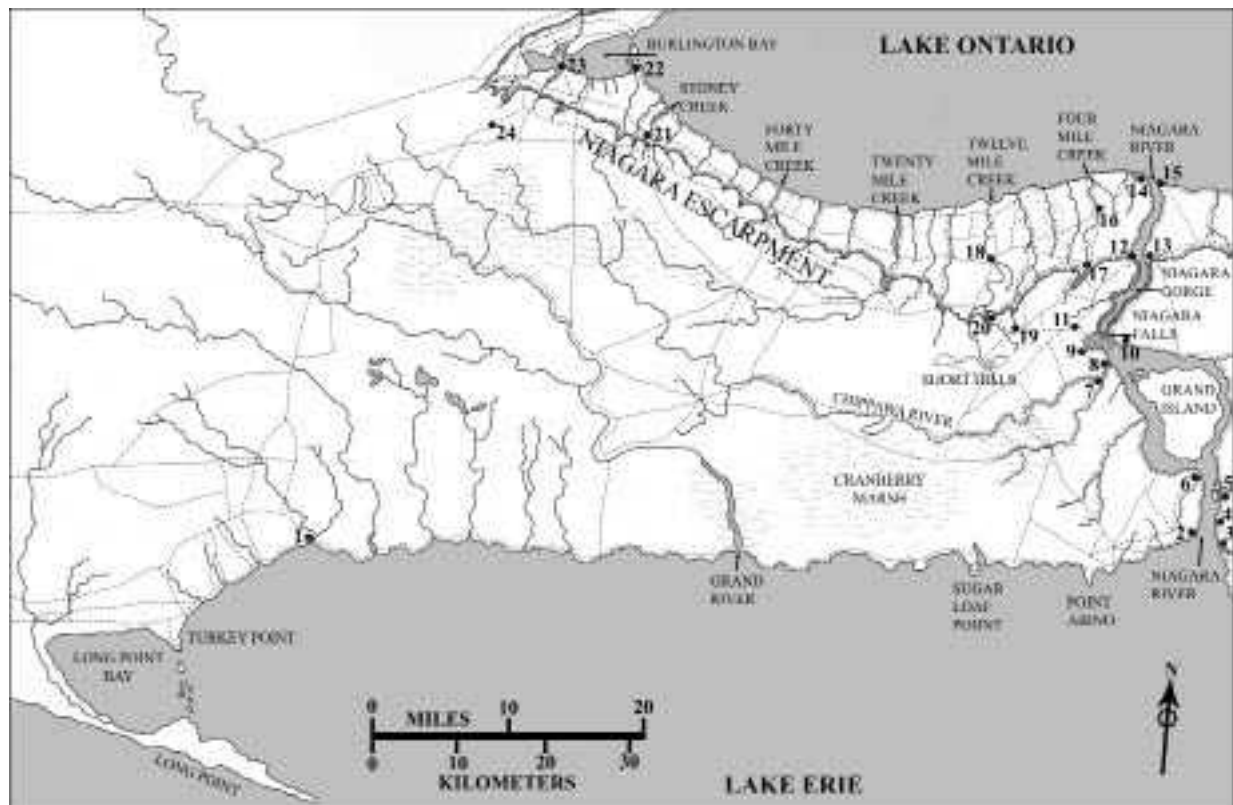
Maps:



THE "NORTHERN FRONTIER" OF THE WAR OF 1812-1815

1. St. Joseph Island
[Fort St. Joseph]
2. Michilimackinac
Island (Mackinac)
[Fort Mackinac/Fort
Michilimackinac]
3. Detroit [Fort Detroit]
4. Sandwich (Windsor)
5. Monguagon/Maguaga
6. Amherstburg (Malden)
[Fort Amherstburg]
7. Brownstown
8. Frenchtown
9. Perrysburg [Fort
Meigs]
10. [Fort Stephenson]
11. Put-in-Bay
12. Moravianstown
13. Longwoods
14. Port Dover
15. Erie (PA)
16. Fort Erie [Fort Erie]
17. Buffalo/Black Rock
18. Chippawa
19. [Fort Schlosser]
20. Queenston
21. Lewiston
22. Newark (Niagara-
on-the-Lake)
[Fort George, Fort
Mississauga]
23. [Fort Niagara]
24. Stoney Creek
25. Ancaster
26. Burlington Heights
27. York (Toronto) [Fort
York]
28. Sodus (NY)
29. Oswego [Fort
Oswego]
30. Sackets Harbor
[Fort Tompkins, Fort
Volunteer]
31. Kingston [Fort
Frederick, Fort Henry]
32. French Creek
33. Elizabethtown/
Brockville
34. Morrisburg
(Morrisville) (NY)
35. Prescott [Fort
Wellington]
36. Ogdensburg
37. Chrysler's Farm
38. Hamilton
(Waddington) (NY)
39. French Mills
40. Coteau-du-Lac
41. Cedars
42. Montreal
43. Châteauguay
44. Île aux Noix
45. Plattsburg

The "Northern frontier" of the War of 1812-1815.

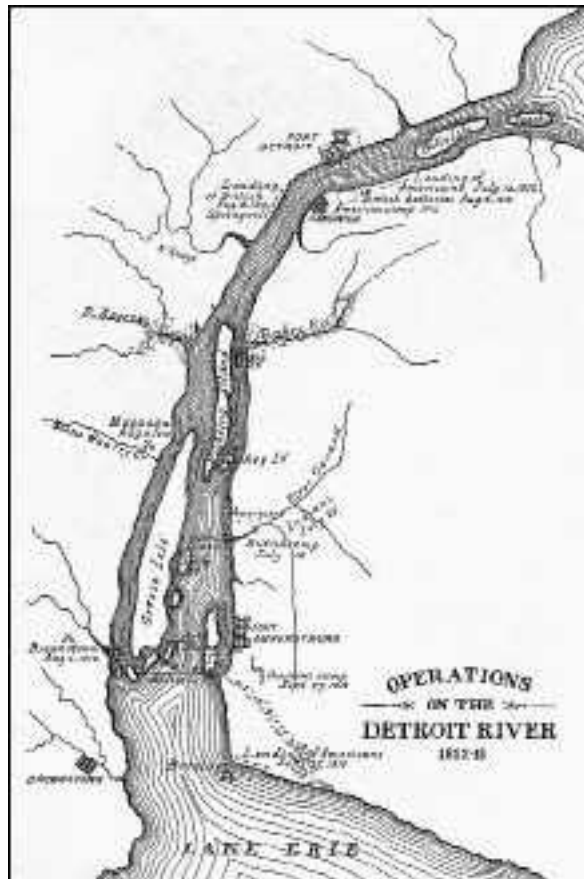


The "Niagara frontier."

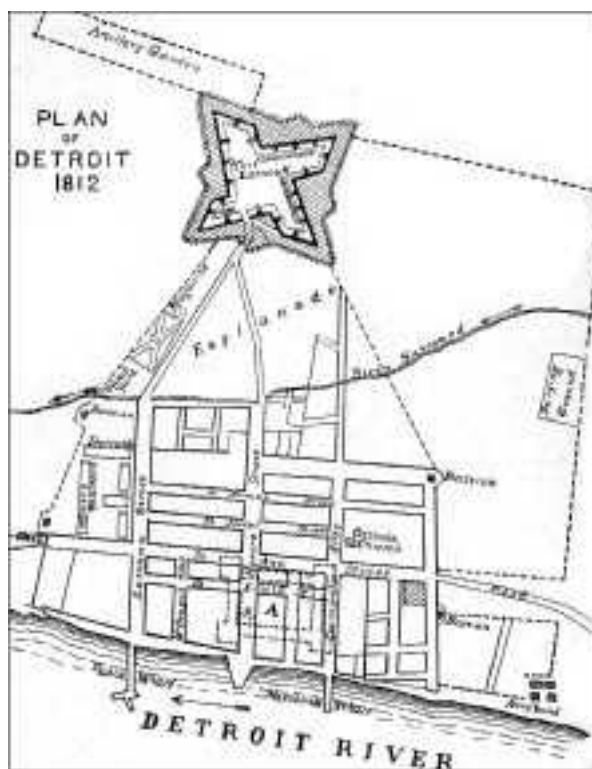
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Port Dover | 9. Bridgewater Mills | 17. St. Davids |
| 2. Fort Erie [Fort Erie] | 10. Fort Schlosser | 18. Shipman's Corners (St. Catharines) |
| 3. Buffalo | 11. Lundy's Lane Hilltop | 19. Beaver Dams |
| 4. Black Rock | 12. Queenston | 20. DeCou Mill |
| 5. U.S. Naval Yard on Scajaquada Creek | 13. Lewiston | 21. Stoney Creek |
| 6. Frenchman's Creek | 14. Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) [Fort George, Fort Mississauga] | 22. King's Head Inn |
| 7. Weishoun's Point | 15. [Fort Niagara] | 23. Burlington Heights (Hamilton) |
| 8. Chippawa [Fort Chippawa] | 16. Crossroads (Virgil) | 24. Ancaster |



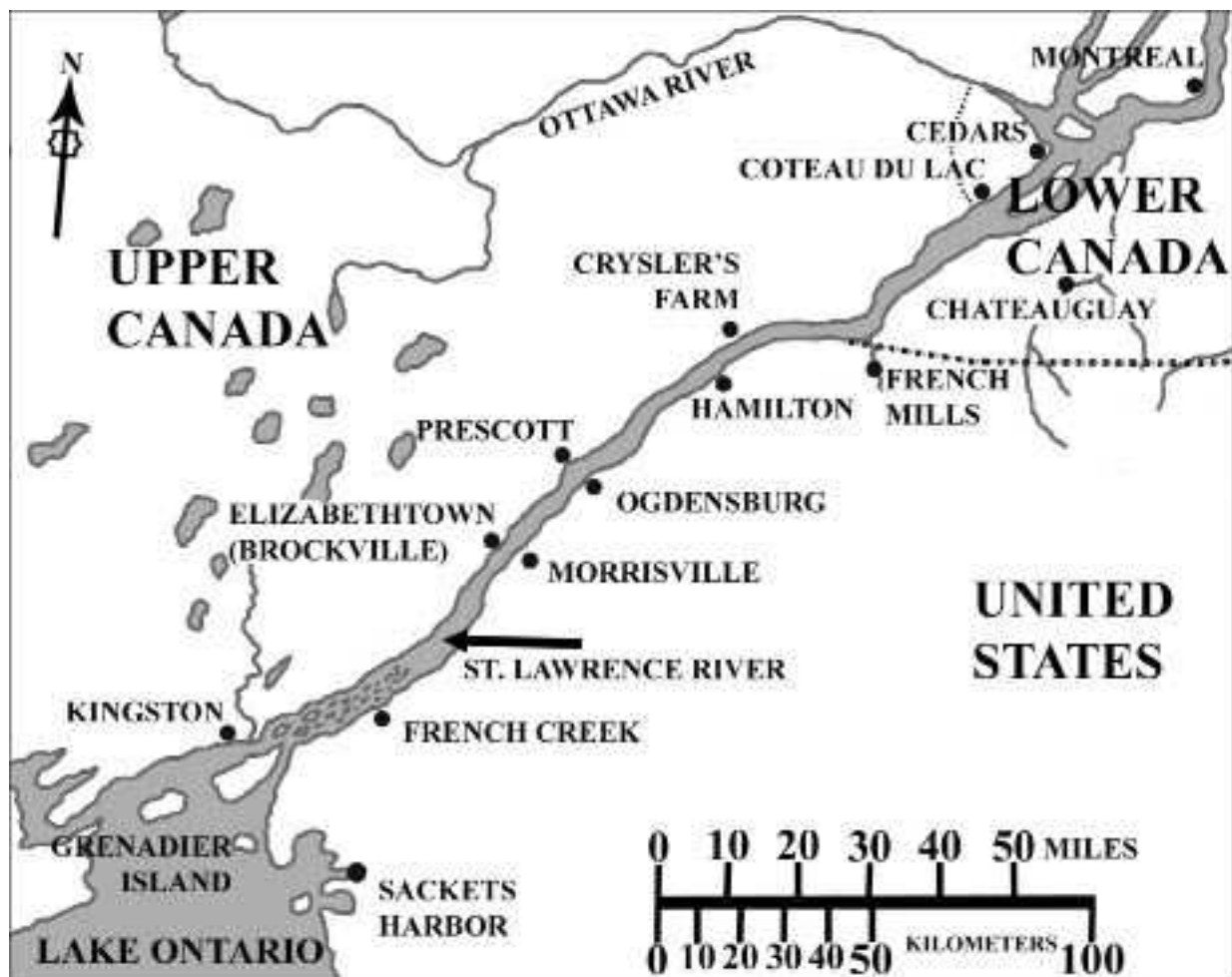
Locations along the Niagara River.



The “Detroit frontier” in 1812.



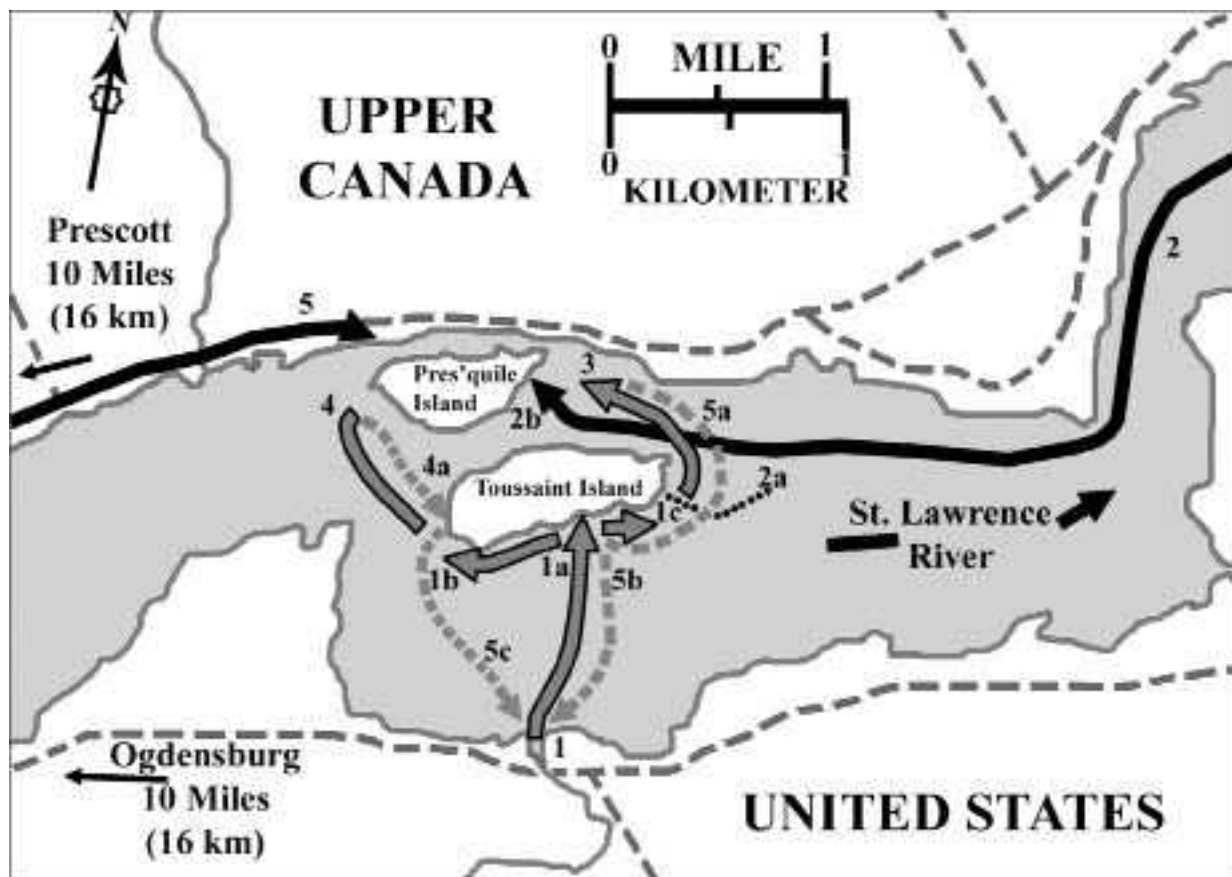
The plan of the town and fortifications at Detroit in 1812.



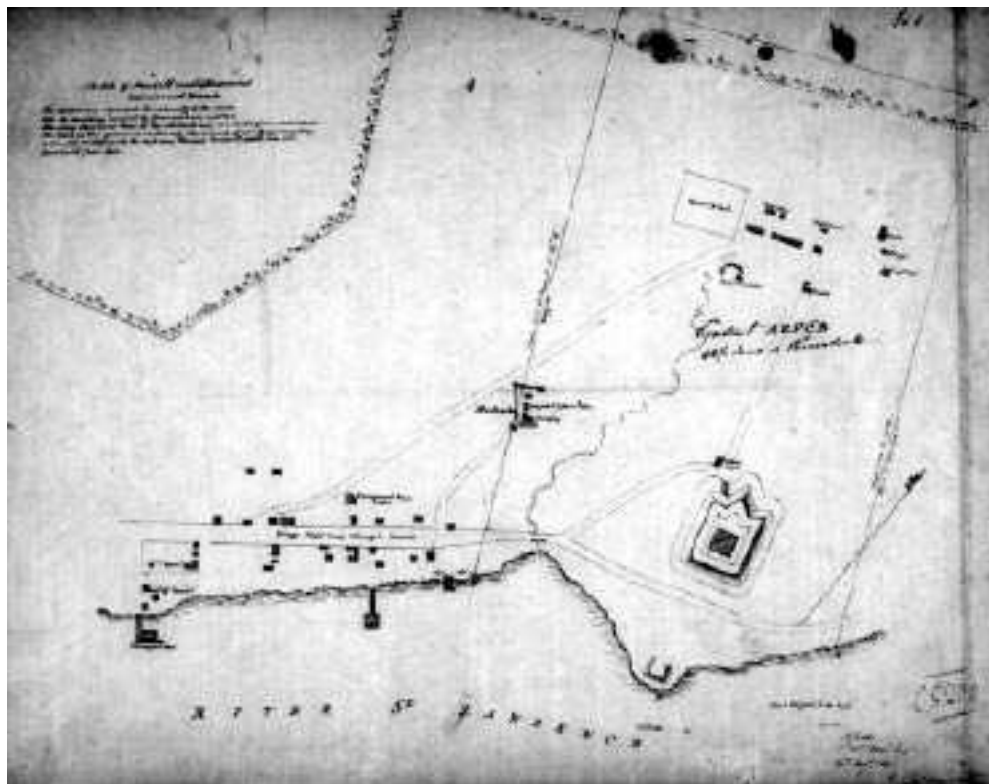
The St. Lawrence frontier.



A detail from a contemporary map of the defences constructed during the war to protect the vital supply depot and shipbuilding centre of Kingston.



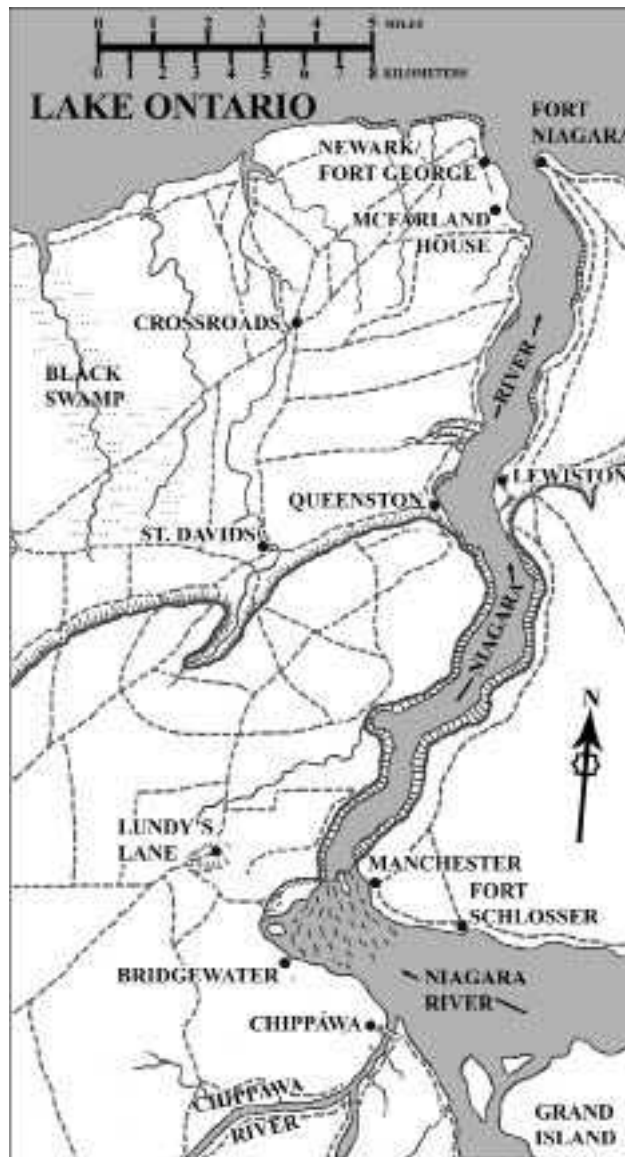
The Battle of Matilda (September 16, 1812).



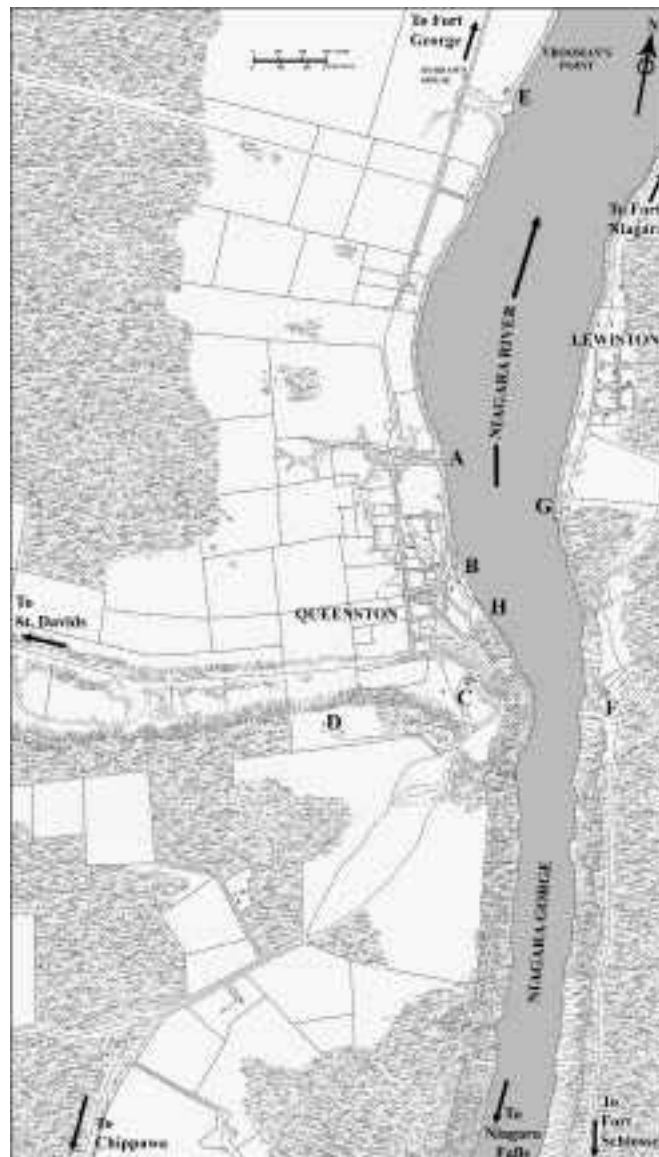
The British garrison post at Prescott, the first (easternmost) real defensive fortification on the St. Lawrence River in Upper Canada.



The upper (southern) end of the Niagara River as it flows out from Lake Erie and the various military positions established in 1812.

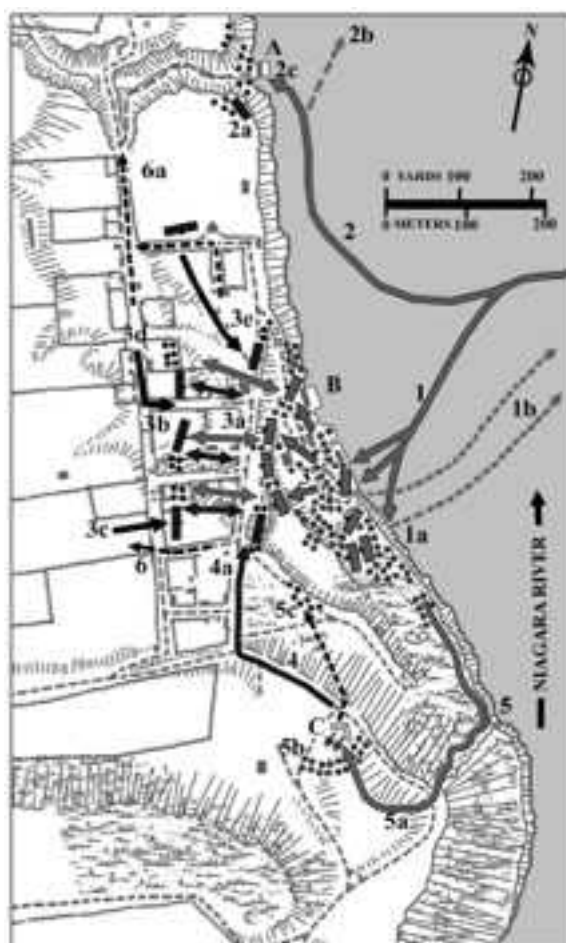


The lower (northern) half of the Niagara River.



**THE BATTLE OF QUEENSTON HEIGHTS,
OCTOBER 13, 1812**

- A Hamilton Dock and Landing
- B Queenston Government Dock
- C Redan Battery
- D Government Hospital and Barracks
- E Vrooman's Point Battery
- F Fort Gray Battery
- G Lewiston Dock (U.S. 1812 invasion embarkation point)
- H U.S. 1812 invasion initial landing point



The American landings, stalemate in the village, and the capture of the redan battery.

- A Hamilton Dock and Landing
- B Queenston Government Dock
- C Redan Battery

6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.

1. Under cover of darkness, U.S. boats cross the Niagara River from Lewiston (1), but are detected. Under increasing fire from the British defenders, the first wave lands at the foot of the escarpment (1a) and push up the slope of the riverbank, engaging the defenders, while the boats return for the second wave (1b).

2. During successive crossings, several boats are swept downstream (2) and come under fire from troops (2a) at Hamilton's dock (B) causing multiple casualties. Some boats veer away (2b) while others are forced to land (2c) and become prisoners.

3. U.S. units continue to push up from the landing ground (3) and engage British units attempting to bottle-up the American beachhead in a fierce firefight in the village (3a). This initially forces the British to retire (3b) but the Americans are unable to break out from the landing ground and become trapped once additional British reinforcements arrive (3c, 3d, 3e).

4. General Brock arrives from Fort George to find the British/Canadian troops containing the Americans but under strong pressure. In response, he orders the detachment of the 49th Regiment (Light Company) (4) down from the Redan battery (C), to engage the Americans (4a).

5. U.S. troops under Captain John Wool locate and climb the Fisherman's path (5, 5a), storm the redan battery from the rear (5b), forcing the artilleryists to spike their guns and escape downhill (5c).

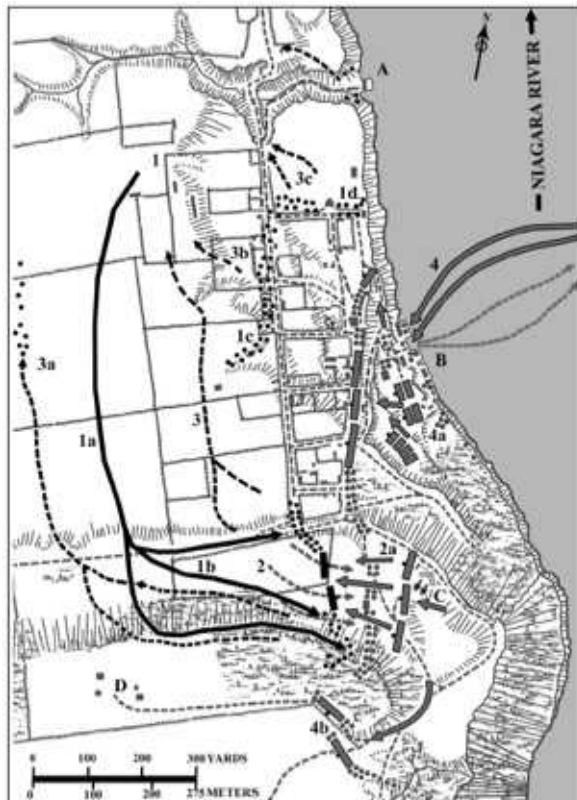
6. With increased daylight, the British forces come under heavy artillery fire from U.S. artillery batteries at Fort Gray and Lewiston and are eventually forced to abandon their positions and retreat to the north end of the village (6, 6a).



General Brock's counterattack to regain the captured guns

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

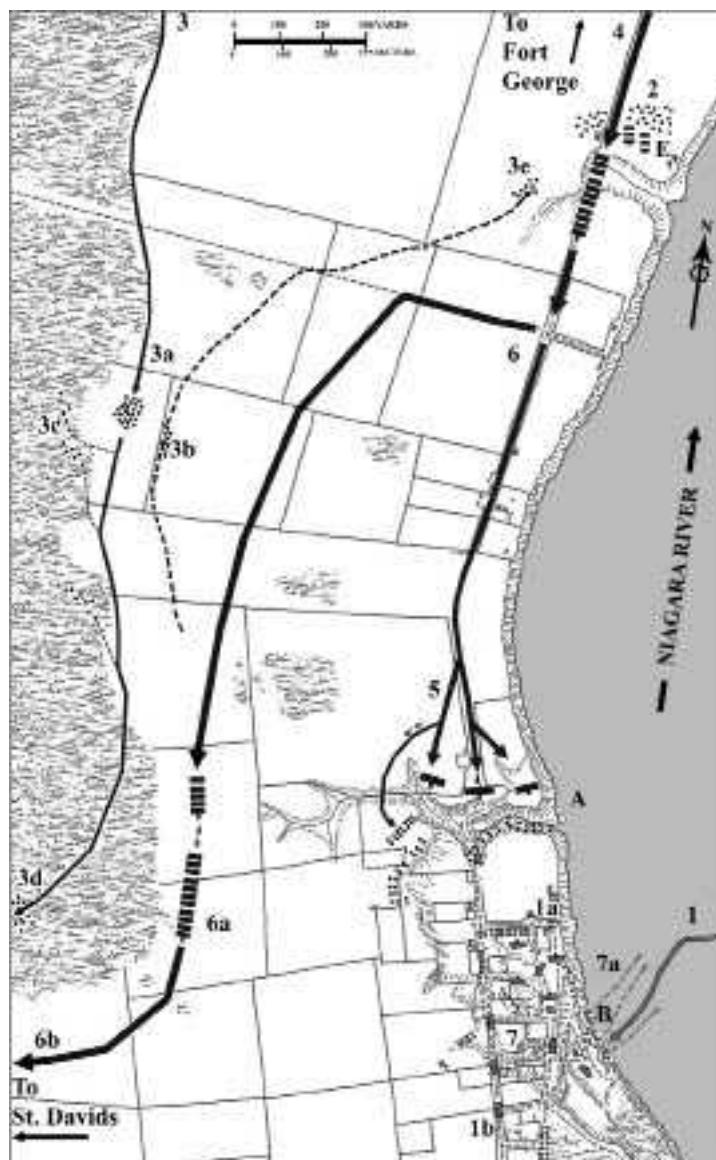
1. U.S. units move out of the beachhead into the village (1, 1a) and establish a perimeter of skirmishers among the houses and gardens (1b, 1c) while those at the redan battery (C) form a skirmish line running from the village up onto the hillside (1d, 1e). Successive waves of reinforcements land and take up positions to secure the village (1f, 1g).
2. U.S. detachments move up the escarpment (2) and secure the Queenston-Chippawa Portage Road (2a).
3. General Brock gathers a composite force of detachments at the north end of Queenston (3). He then marches his line across the open ground behind the village (3a), while additional units maintain pressure on the American perimeter (3b, 3c) and secure the main road (3d).
4. After the British/Canadian advance is halted by American fire (4), General Brock moves out in front of his line and is shot while rallying his men (X).
5. The British/Canadian force retreats back to the north end of the village (5).



Lieutenant Colonel John Macdonell's counterattack.

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

1. Lieutenant Colonel Macdonell rallies the defending troops (1) and makes a wide sweep to the west (1a) before attacking the Americans along the slope of the escarpment above the village (1b), while militia detachments secure his flank (1c, 1d).
2. The American skirmish line (2) is pressed back up the hill toward the redan battery (C), forcing them to spike the guns again. Once Lieutenant Colonel Macdonell is shot, the attack falters, allowing the Americans to mount a counterattack (2a) that drives the British/Canadian troops off the hill.
3. All British/Canadian units (3, 3a, 3b, 3c) withdraw north from Queenston toward Vrooman's Point.
4. With a greatly reduced number of boats (4), the Americans continue to build up their forces in the village (4a) while additional units move up onto the escarpment to secure the American positions from counterattack from Chippawa (4b).



The detour routes taken first by the Native warriors, led by John Norton and later by General Sheaffe's column to gain the heights to attack the Americans from the rear (south).

9:30 a.m. – Noon.

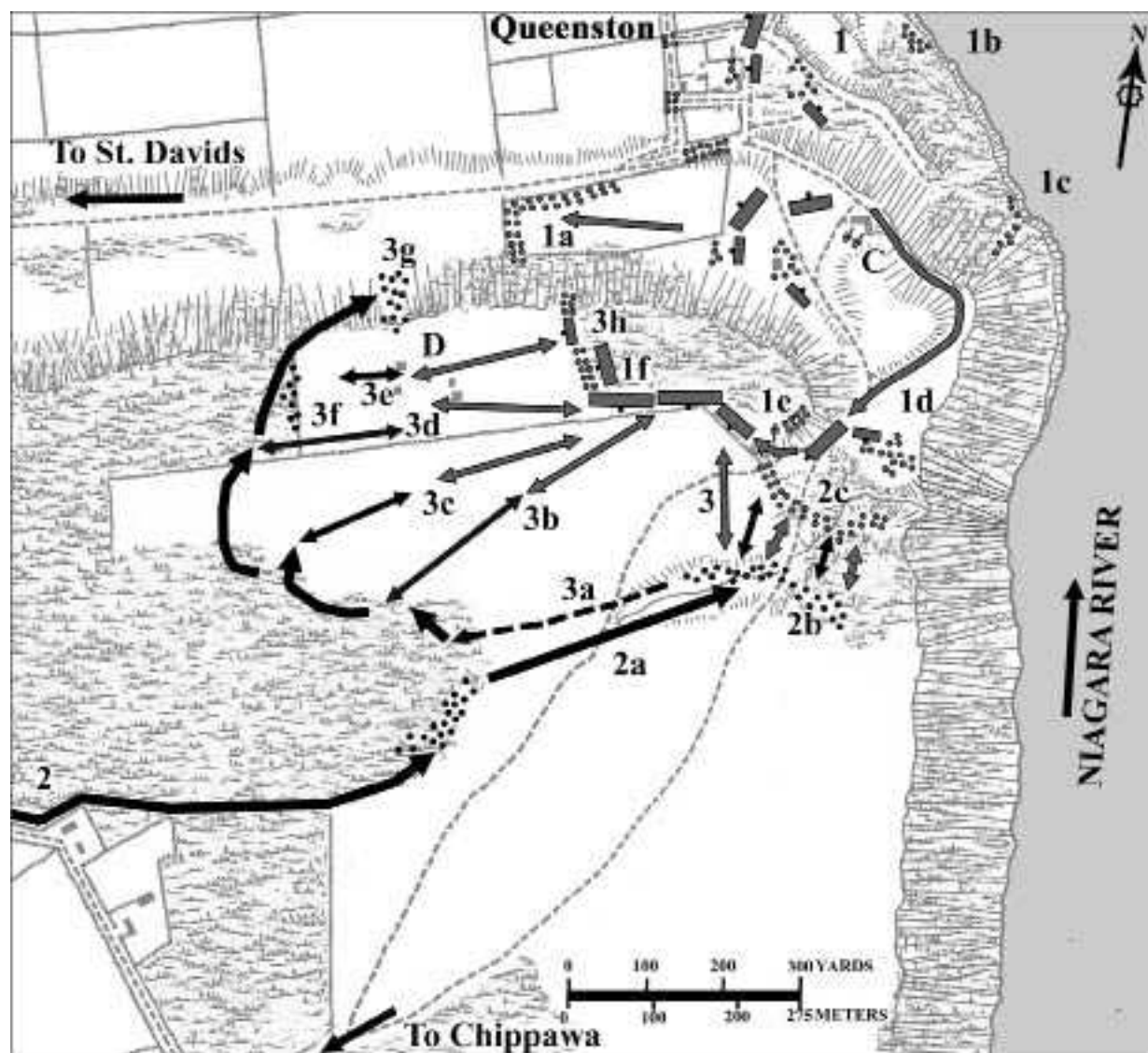
1. U.S. reinforcements continue to land (1) at the government dock (B) and push out their defensive perimeter to the edge of the village (1a, 1b).
2. British/Canadian troops (2) at the Vrooman's Point battery (E) await reinforcements from Fort George.
3. Native forces under John Norton arrive (3) and move south following the treeline of the forest (3a). Hearing of Brock's death from some militia retreating toward Vrooman's Point (3b), many warriors abandon the advance (3c). A core group of approximately eighty warriors continue the advance west to reach a pathway (off map) that leads up the escarpment (3d). The militia detachment continues its retreat toward the assembly area at Vrooman's Point (3e).
4. General Sheaffe arrives with reinforcements at Vrooman's Point (4), and deciding against a direct frontal assault, directs a two-pronged counterattack be made by all the assembled force.
5. Canadian militia and Holcroft's artillery advance directly toward the village to fix the American units below the escarpment in place (5).
6. General Sheaffe's column moves across country in a wide detour (6, 6a, 6b) to connect with the Queenston-St. Davids Road (off map) and follow Norton's route to the top of the escarpment.

7. The American ferry system collapses as American units refuse to cross, while increasing numbers of American troops abandon their positions (7) and use whatever boats are available to escape back across the Niagara River (7a), only to come under fire from Vrooman's battery.



Lieutenant Colonel Winfield Scott. Placed in charge of artillery at Lewiston, he subsequently left his designated post (without orders) to join the invasion, and led the American forces in a succession of fruitless bayonet charges against the British Native harassing attacks.

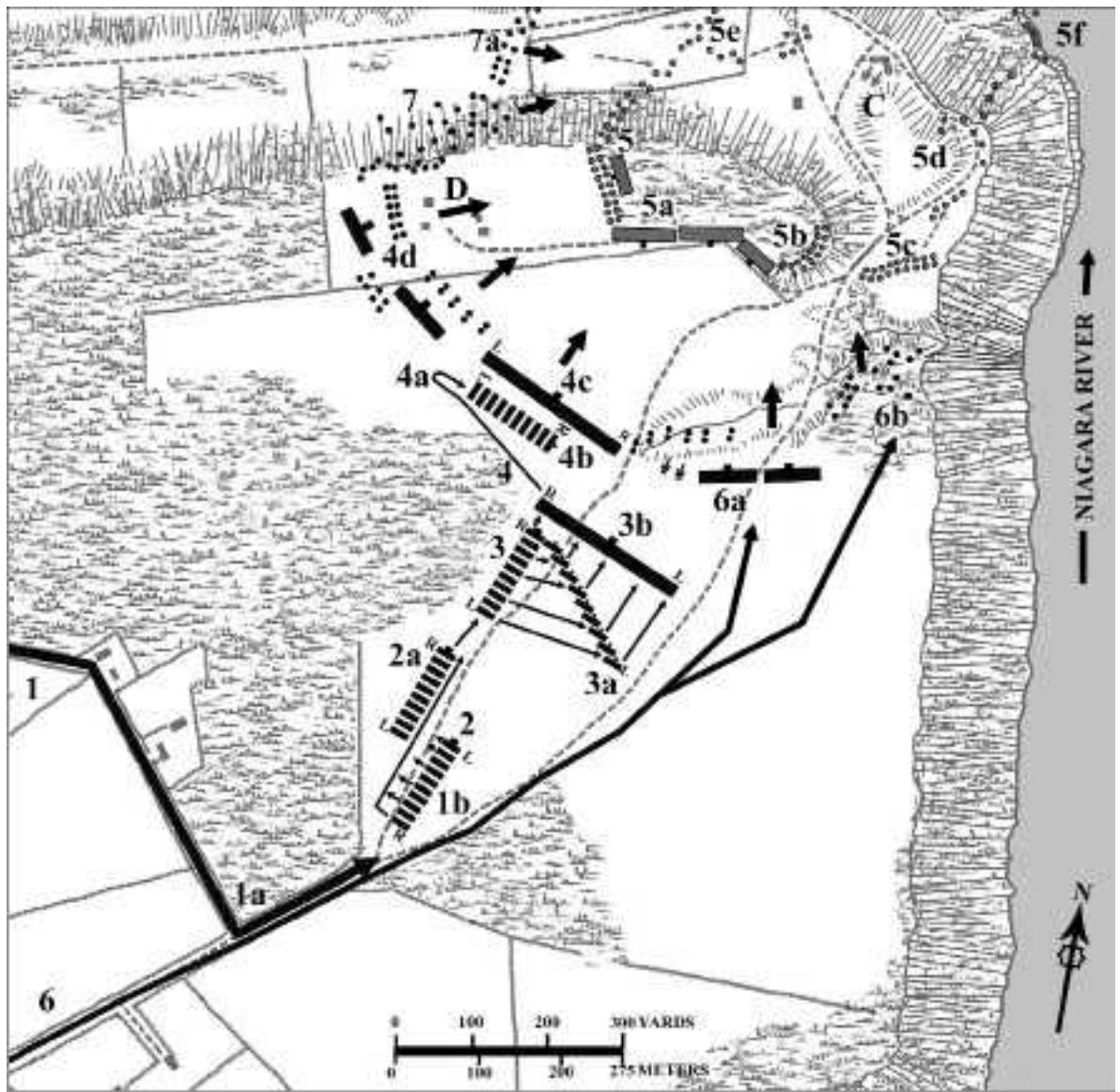
From the Conger-Goodhue Manuscript Collection, Vol. 8. Courtesy of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society Research Library, Buffalo, NY.



The Native harassing attacks and Winfield Scott's counterattacks.

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

1. U.S. troops in Queenston (1) and on the lower slope of the escarpment (1a) attempt to maintain a weakening perimeter to control the village, as increasing numbers of men attempt to return to the American side of the river or hide along the riverbank (1b, 1c). Other units (1d) move up the escarpment from the redan battery (C) and join the main body of U.S. troops (1e, 1f) controlling the Portage Road and the high ground.
2. Reaching the top of the escarpment, Norton's warriors (2) move up under cover of the treeline, cross the Portage Road (2a) and commence a harassing attack (2b) on the American left flank (2c).
3. Lieutenant Colonel Winfield Scott, witnessing the British Native allies attacking the left flank, leads a body of formed troops in a bayonet charge (3) against the Natives, driving them off (3a). However, the Natives simply move to their left and regroup before attacking once again (3b). Winfield Scott is then forced to repeatedly move to this right and make a number of bayonet charges, while the Natives simply keep moving to their left and reengage at will (3c, 3d, 3e). Reaching the British hospital and barracks on the heights (D) both sides disengage, with part of the Native force remaining at the treeline (3f) above the escarpment, while others move down the slope (3g) to outflank the American positions above the village. Winfield Scott withdraws his forces to secure the American right flank (3h).



General Sheaffe's column arrives on the battlefield, redeploys, and countermarches in front of the enemy.

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

1. General Sheaffe's column reaches the top of the escarpment and advances (1) to the Portage Road and moves south (1a), heading toward the American positions. It then halts for almost an hour (1b), while under long-range artillery harassment from Fort Gray, to await the arrival of reinforcement units from Chippawa.

2. General Sheaffe decides that the main part of the column is in "clubbed" (reverse) sequence to his planned order of attack (i.e., with its left flank (L) in front) (2). He therefore orders its reordering to place the right flank (R) in front (2a).

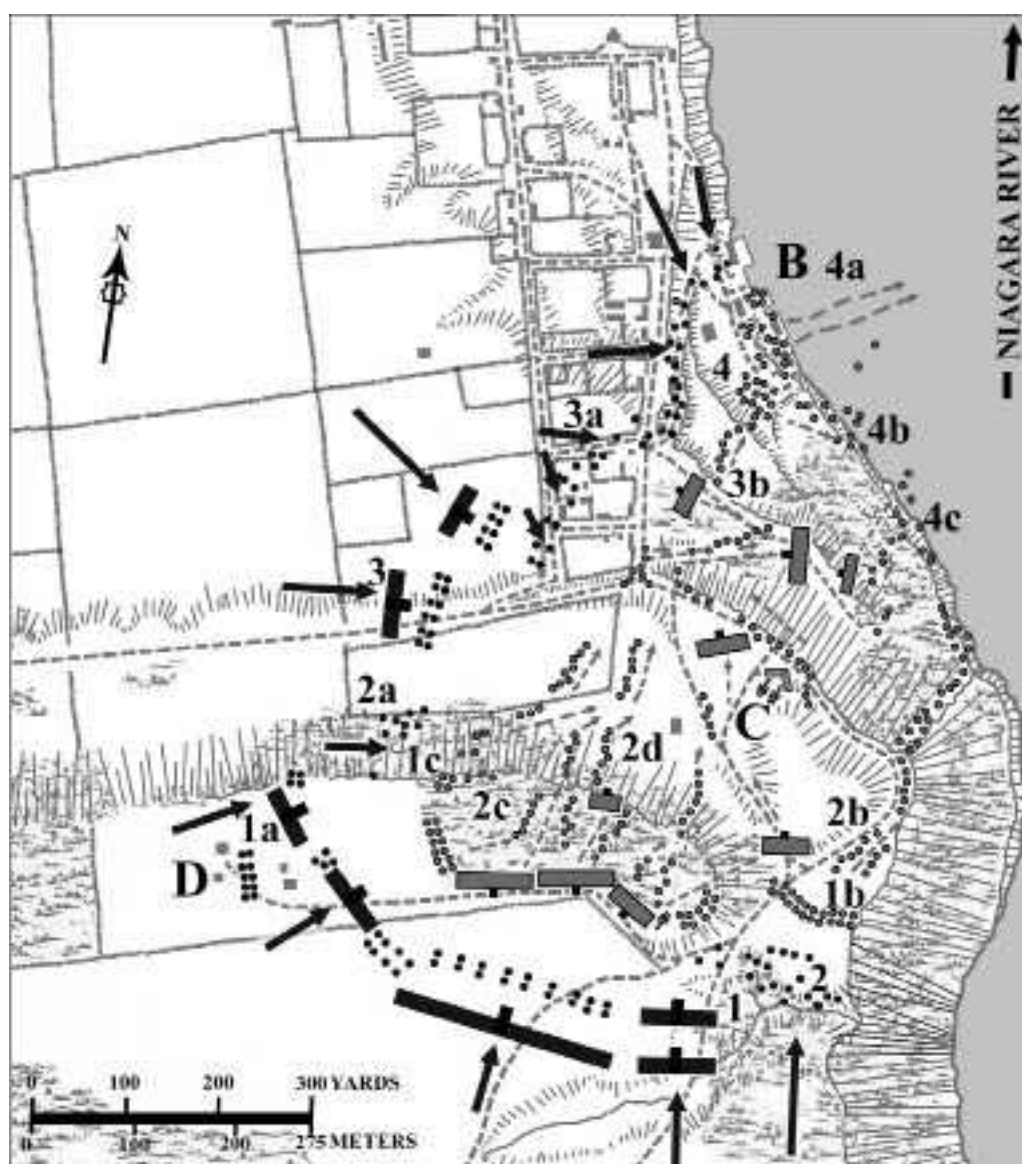
3. Upon advancing, the broken ground and woods prevent a proper deployment of the column to the left into a (L-R) line (3). It is therefore forced to deploy in reverse order to the right (3a) causing the line to club (R-L) when it is formed (3b).

4. Forced to reorganize once more, Sheaffe reforms his column (R-L) (4) and marches it to the left (4a) and then countermarches to the right (L-R) (4b). The column then forms line to the front in the correct (L-R) sequence (4c). At the same time, the left wing of the British line extends to the escarpment (4d)

5. Surprisingly, the American line on the escarpment (5, 5a, 5b, 5c) makes no move to attack the British while they are reorganizing and vulnerable. Increasing numbers of Americans begin to abandon their positions and seek to return to the riverbank in order to find passage to the American side of the river (5d, 5e, 5f).

6. Reinforcements from Chippawa (6) arrive as the British line is finalizing its deployments. The Chippawa force extend the British line to the right (6a, 6b) as the entire British line advances and begins to fire on the Americans.

7. On the escarpment slope, the British Native allies (7) and Canadian militias (7a) also begin their main attack on the weakening American positions directly below the escarpment.



**The American invasion collapses as the British/
Canadian/Native alliance press forward.**

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. The British/Canadian/Native line (1, 1a) advances upon the American line (1b, 1c) and the two formations engage in a close-range firefight for several volleys.
2. Under pressure from British Native allies and Canadian militia units (2, 2a), the American flanks start to waver and begin to retire (2b, 2c). U.S. General Wadsworth orders a fighting withdrawal to the boats. However, once the American retreat begins it rapidly degenerates into a rout (2d).
3. Below the escarpment, British regular and Canadian militia detachments press forward (3, 3a) as the American perimeter in the village collapses (3b).
4. The Americans are pressed into an ever-decreasing pocket (4) around the government dock (B), where groups of individuals attempt to escape in whatever boats remain afloat (4a), try to swim across the river (4b), or hide in the underbrush bordering the river to evade capture (4c). The battle ends with the surrender of the American beachhead.



The second American force captures the bridge at Frenchman's Creek, while the British force from Fort Erie march to retake the bridge and reopen communications with Chippawa.

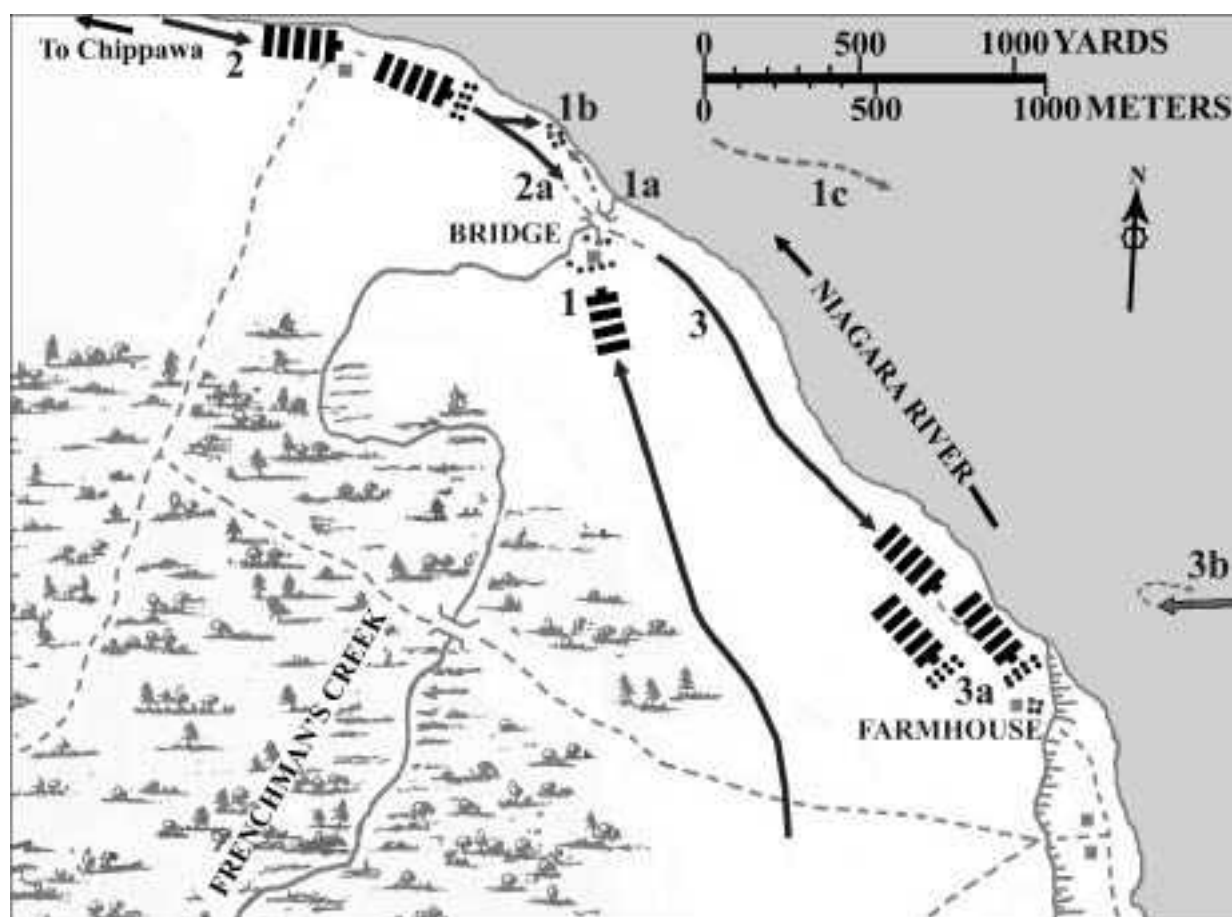
4:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m.

1. Hearing gunfire from the riverside batteries, Major Ormsby at Fort Erie (1) leads a strong detachment on a wide detour to approach the gun positions from the cover of the forest (1a). Meeting the retreating detachments from the batteries (1b), Ormsby changes his line-of-march, heading for Frenchman's Creek to get additional reinforcements (1c).

2. Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler's flotilla (2) is detected upon their approach to Frenchman's Creek (2a) and is fired upon by Lieutenant Bartley's troops (2b). Moving downstream while under a heavy fire and with at least two boats sunk (2c), most of the remaining boats abandon the crossing and retreat (2d). The remaining troops of Boerstler's force land (2e) and are immediately engaged by Bartley's unit (2f). Overwhelmed, the defenders are forced to retreat (2g), leaving the bridge in American hands (2h).

3. Captain King leaves behind guards on the riverside guns (3) while the remainder of his stranded force moves downriver, searching for boats to make their crossing (3a, 3b). Locating two small skiffs, King sends part of his force back with the wounded and prisoners (3c), while he and the remainder occupy a nearby farmhouse (3d) to await the boats' return.

4. Lieutenant Bartley's retreating detachment meets Major Ormsby's force (4), informing him of the capture of the bridge. Ormsby moves on Frenchman's Creek to retake the bridge and re-open communications with Chippawa (4a).



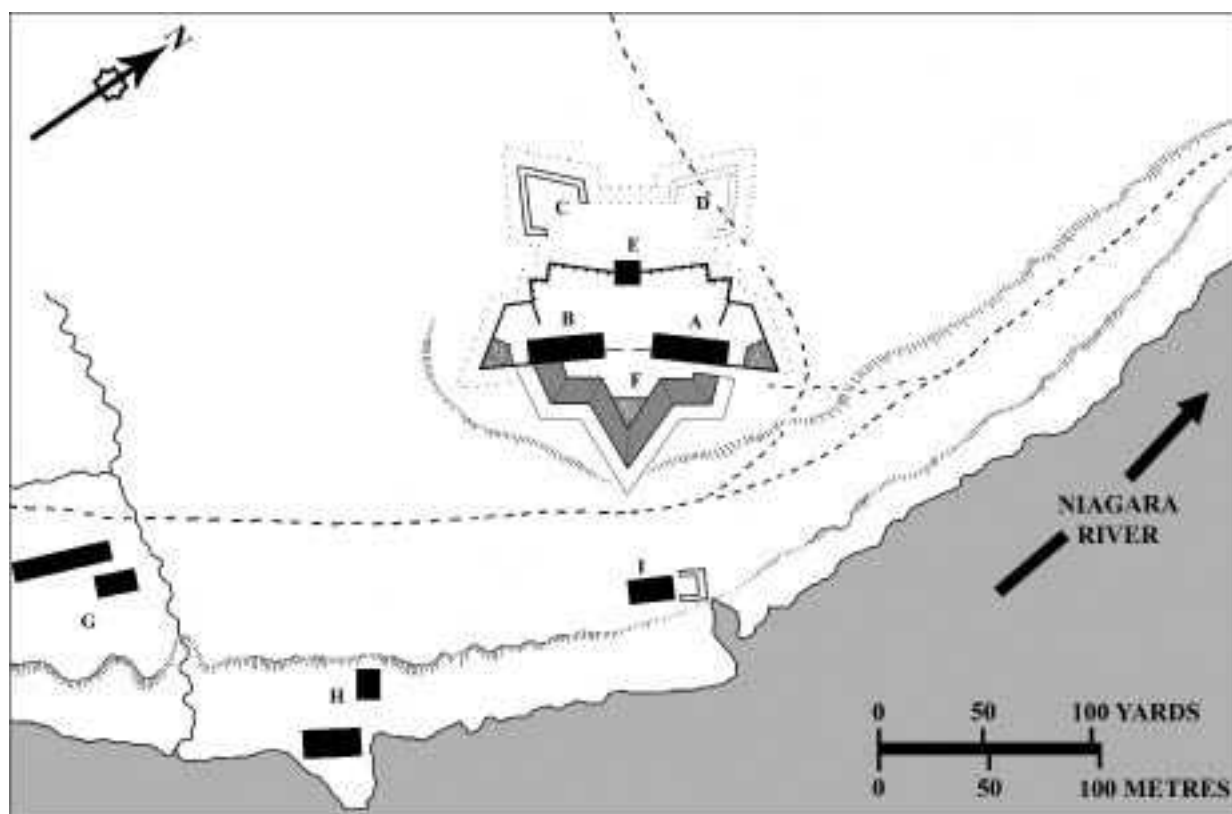
The British retake the bridge at Frenchman's Creek and link up with the relief column from Chippawa before advancing to capture Captain King's stranded troops and retaking the riverside batteries.

5:00 a.m. – 6:30 a.m.

1. Ormsby's force (1) drives off the few Americans at the Frenchman's Creek bridge (1a), who retreat to their landing point (1b) only to find they have been abandoned by Boerstler, who is already retreating across the river (1c).

2. Bisshopp's relief column from Chippawa arrives at dawn (2), captures the abandoned Americans, and unites with Ormsby (2a).

3. The combined British/Canadian force advance on the riverside batteries to recapture them (3) and come across King's unit at the farmhouse (3a). Surrounded, King surrenders, while his relief boats, seeing the British at the farmhouse, abandon their return trip (3b).



A plan of Fort Erie as it appeared in late 1812.

- A Northeast two-storey stone "Mess" House
- B Southeast two-storey "Mess" House
- C Southwest bastion, only consisting of a stone foundation to ground level
- D Northwest bastion foundation trace, no construction work
- E Western wooden blockhouse in the western wooden picket wall
- F East artillery platform
- G, H, I Civilian and Military warehouses

Pictures:



The “Upper Canada Preserved” medal was produced, but never officially issued, by the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada in 1814. Originally created as a limited edition of sixty gold and 550 silver medals, most were deliberately destroyed in 1840.



The York Road, J.P. Cockburn, artist, circa 1830. Part of the main road linking Kingston to York under good travelling conditions for the period.



Corduroy Road near Guelph, Upper Canada, H.B. Martin, artist, circa 1832. A “corduroy” road, constructed of baulks of cut timber, designed to create a raised pathway for wagons to drive (bone-jarringly) through regions of wet or swampy ground.



Encampment of the Royal Regiment at London, Upper Canada, F.H. Ainslie, artist, circa 1842. British troops encamp as best they can amidst the oversized stumps of the ever-present trees.



View of the Falls of Niagara (1801), lithograph by A.M. Hoffs, J. Vanderlyn (artist), circa 1840. The Great Falls of Niagara as seen from below Table Rock.



View from the Head of the Whirlpool Falls of Niagara, C.B.B. Estcourt, artist, circa 1838. A period and modern view, looking north (downriver) along the Niagara Gorge, around the whirlpool, towards Queenston.

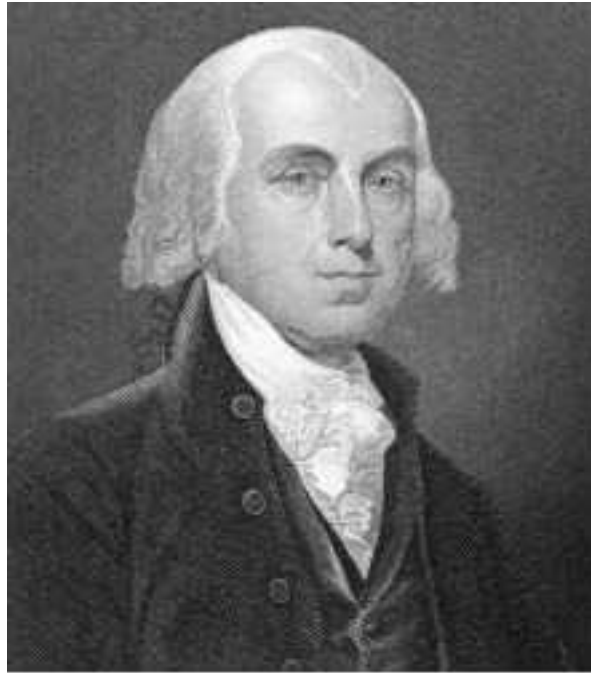


View from Queenston Heights, F. Hall, artist, 1816. The strategic military importance of the commanding “Heights” on the escarpment is evident in these views. Queenston lies to the bottom left. Beyond lies Newark and Fort Niagara at the mouth of the river (upper centre), and the north side of Lake Ontario (skyline).



The Shawnee War Chief, Tecumseh (Leaping Panther). Artist unknown. The lynchpin of the Native alliance opposing the westward expansion of the Americans

in the pre-war period, he was also a crucial element in Upper Canada's defense during the War of 1812. He was killed in action against the Americans at Moraviantown, Upper Canada, in October 1813.



U.S. President James Madison (artist unknown) signed the declaration of war against Great Britain on June 18, 1812.



General Henry Dearborn, (artist unknown) the senior American general at the commencement of the war. He was a veteran political appointee and relic of the Revolutionary conflict of nearly forty years previous.



Major General Sir Isaac Brock K.B., G.T. Berthon, artist, circa 1883. In 1812, Isaac Brock held the cumulative titles of senior military commander for Upper Canada, lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada and president of the Upper Canada Executive Council. News of his knighthood only arrived in Canada following his death.



Sir George Prevost, S.W. Reynolds, artist, date unknown. Appointed governor-in-chief and commander-in-chief of the British forces in British North America in 1811, Sir George proved to be an able civil and political administrator.

Unfortunately, his on-field military command capabilities were not as strong. Following flawed decisions made during the Plattsburg campaign of 1814, he was recalled to England at the end of the war to face a court martial inquiry. He died a month before the inquiry began.



Brigadier General William Hull (artist unknown). The American commander at the fall of Detroit — the first of many military failures for the American war effort in 1812.



The American fortifications at the island of Michilimackinac [Mackinac].



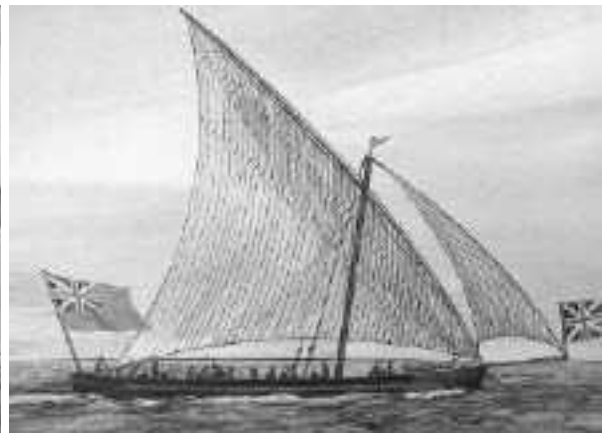
Fort George, E. Walsh, artist, circa 1805. The parade ground and officer's mess at Fort George in the pre-war period. (Below): A 2012 view of the reconstructed officer's mess in the National Historic site of Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Kingston, Sir E.W. Grier, artist, circa 1896 (after Admiral Henry Bayfield R.N.). A view of the shipyards at Point Frederick (centre) and the town of Kingston (right distant), as it looked at the end of the war from the hillside alongside Fort Henry (left).



Kingston, 1815, E.E. Vidal, artist, 1815. This image is a detail taken from a larger painting showing Fort Henry as the Americans would have seen it from their ships.



Watercolours (artist not known) depicting two of many varieties of gunboat used during the War of 1812, showing how the combination of both sail and oar were required for manoeuvring through the narrow channels and swift currents of the St. Lawrence River near Kingston and the Thousand Islands region.



A view from the 1813 earthen ramparts of Fort Wellington at Prescott. The existing central blockhouse is a postwar construction. The far bank, beyond the St. Lawrence River, is the United States.



General Stephen Van Rensselaer, artist unknown. Manipulated into a command he did not want, he later became the scapegoat for the American defeat at Queenston.



New York State Governor, Daniel D. Tompkins. Political opponent of General Stephen Van Rensselaer, he used the general's defeat at Queenston to win re-election.



Brigadier General Alexander Smyth, the self-proclaimed military “expert” who made considerable contributions to the failures experienced by the American military on the Niagara frontier in 1812.



(Above) Fort Niagara, J.E. Woolford, artist, circa 1821. Fort Niagara, as seen from alongside a Canadian battery position located at Newark. (Below) The same view in 2012.



(Above): Fort Niagara, H. Slade, artist. This postwar view of Fort Niagara shows the garrison as it appeared during the war, with the roofs of the “French Castle” and blockhouses removed to facilitate the mounting of artillery. The main (riverside) gate of the fort from 1812–15 can be clearly seen, as can the (by then collapsing) perimeter picket walls. (Below) The same view in 2012.



Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer (artist unknown). Cousin to General Simon Van Rensselaer and military commander of the initial American attack at Queenston.



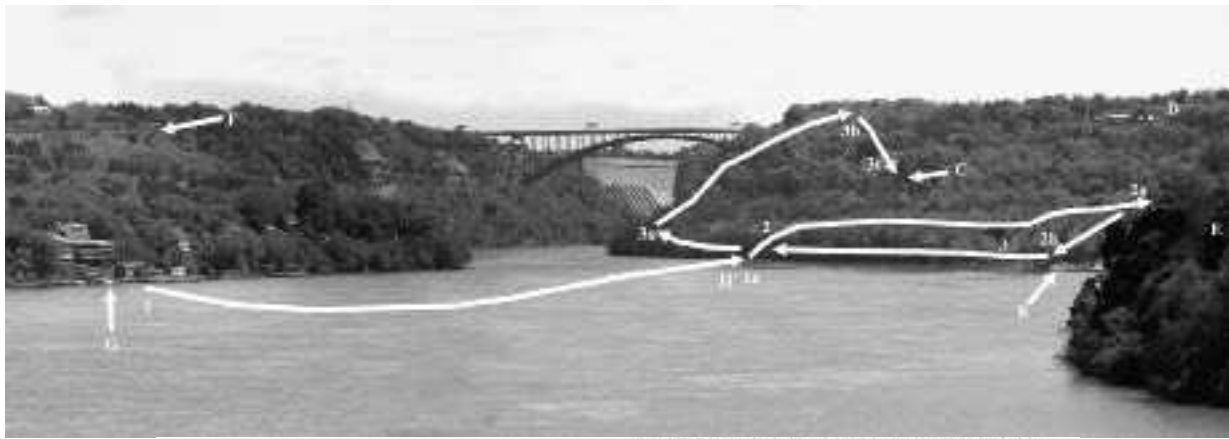
View at Queens Town of West Landing, Upper Canada, Sempronius Stretton, artist, 1805. The Hamilton House is prominent in this early view of Queenston, as are the “heights” and Portage Road, winding its way up the escarpment. The redan battery would later be built just below the right-hand sweeping curve of the road.



Huts near the landing (Queenston), E. Simcoe, artist, circa 1793. The government dock at the village of Queenston in 1793, as seen from immediately above the 1812 American embarkation point. The American landing zone at the foot of the escarpment is to the left, hidden behind the rising ground and two tree stumps.
(Below) The “landing” in 2012.



Queenston, O. Staples, artist (after E. Simcoe), 1913. Looking south to Queenston from the strategic vantage point of the Vrooman's Point battery location in 1792.



- B Queenston Government Dock
- C Redan Battery
- D Government Hospital and Barracks
- E Vrooman's Point Battery
- F Fort Gray Battery
- G Lewiston Dock (U.S. 1812 invasion embarkation point)
- H U.S. 1812 invasion, initial landing point

1. U.S. forces (1) embark at Lewiston (G) and make their initial landing (1a) (H) above the Government Dock (B).
2. Pushing back the initial opposition (2), the Americans move up into the village and engage the defenders (2a). Following a series of engagements, the Americans are forced back to the riverbank (2b).
3. Looking to outflank the defenders, U.S. detachments (3) move up the riverbank and locate the "Fisherman's Path" (3a). They climb the hill (3b) and assault the redan battery (C) from the rear (3c).

The same vantage in 2012. Including the relative movement of the American forces and various positions at the time of the battle.



View from Queenston Heights, G. Heriot, artist, circa 1805. The view from the Portage Road, drawn just downhill from the redan battery. The government dock is visible at bottom right and the road through Queenston [Front Street] at left.



Unable to acquire the actual ground, the 1850s committee looking to erect a monument to mark the point where General Brock actually fell were forced to locate it almost two blocks away. Therefore, they inscribed the location as being located "Near this spot." Not, as popular history has it, halfway up the hill

towards the redan battery, but down slope, nearer to the Secord family home and present-day museum.



Major General R.H. Sheaffe in later life. He was forty-nine years old in October 1812. Although the technical “victor” of the Battle of Queenston Heights, history has denied him the appropriate credit. Subsequently, as lieutenant governor of Upper Canada, Sheaffe was unable to maintain the alliances developed by Brock and came under increasing levels of criticism. He was eventually replaced and reassigned to Montreal in June 1813.



Brock's Monument as it looks today. The second one to be built, it marks the epicentre of the fighting at the climax of the Battle of Queenston Heights. The area, which was once a landscape of fields, farmsteads, military buildings, and

dense forest, is now a manicured park that attracts tourists from around the globe.



(Above) A View of Fort George Upper Canada, E. Walsh, artist, circa 1813. Fort George as seen from a riverside American fortification upriver of Fort Niagara. The Navy Hall complex of buildings can be seen at centre left. (Below) Modern waterfront developments encroach on the same view of Fort George in 2012.





Above and below: Two views of the reconstructed National Historic site of Fort George as seen in 2012 from the American side of the Niagara River.



The powder and ammunition magazine building at Fort George. Hit by hot-shot on October 13, 1812, but saved from exploding by the heroism of Captain Henry Vigoureux (R.E) and his team of volunteers.





Even today the isolated position of the garrison of Fort Erie in winter is clearly seen.



U.S. Secretary of War John Armstrong, who reluctantly accepted the appointment of secretary of war in replacement of the inept Dr. Eustis, but who subsequently failed to improve the record of the American military in the year to come.
