

Brock University describes General Isaac Brock

An example of owning identity?

Taken from www.brocku.ca on April 12, 2011

Sir Isaac Brock: the "Hero of Upper Canada"

He died defending Niagara

Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock was 43 years old when he died defending Niagara from the American invasion at Queenston Heights on Oct. 13, 1812.

His military actions in the War of 1812, particularly his success at Detroit, earned him a knighthood, membership in the Order of Bath, accolades and the sobriquet "Hero of Upper Canada."

The last pronouncement of the brilliant military strategist is said to have been "Surgite!" — Latin for "Push on!" — which is Brock University's motto.

He loved to learn

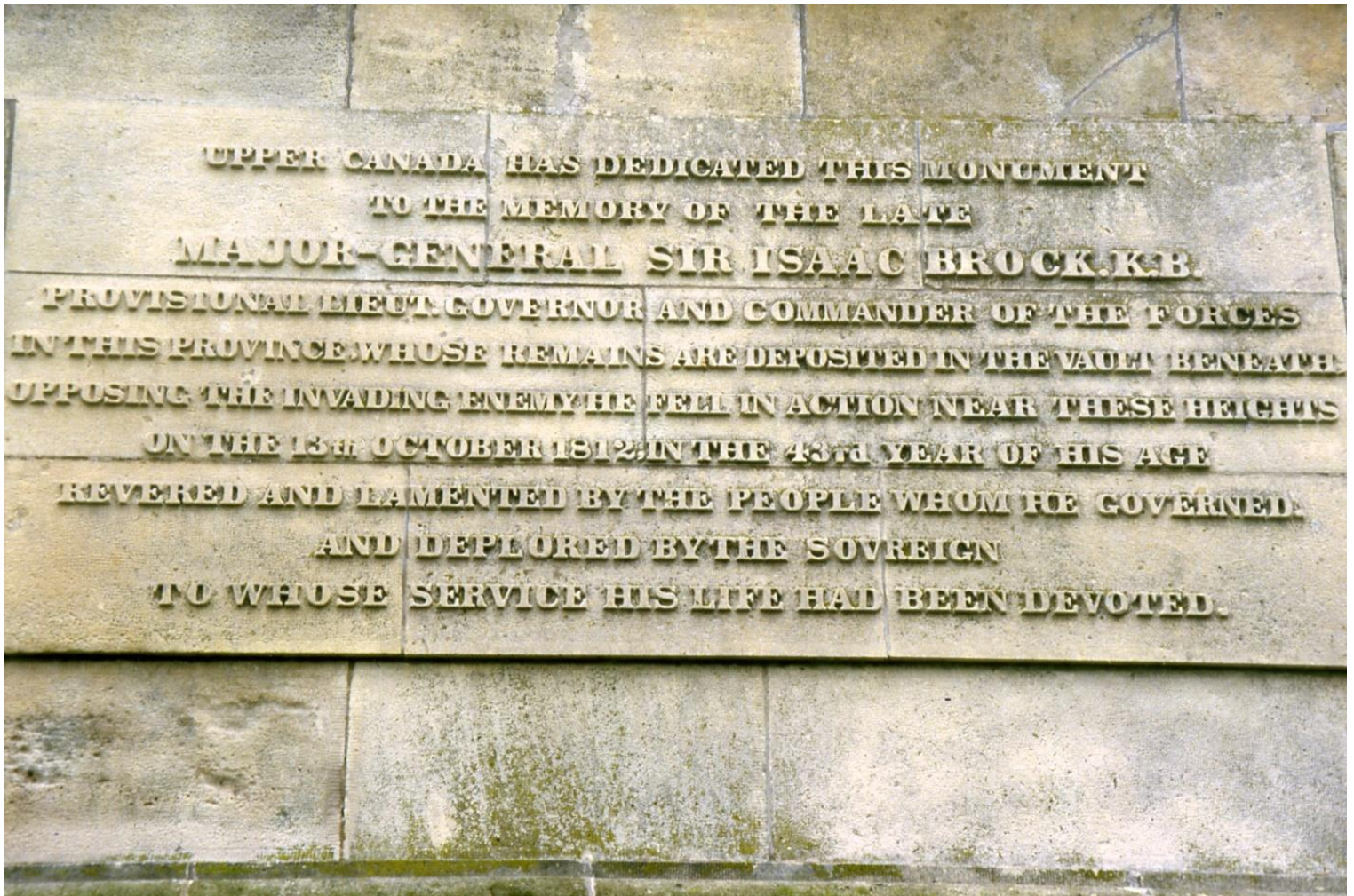
Brock was born on the British Channel Island of Guernsey, the eighth son of a middle-class family. As a boy, he earned a reputation as a keen student and an exceptional swimmer and boxer. Despite his lack of extensive formal education, Brock appreciated its importance. It's said that as an adult he often spent his leisure time sequestered in his room, reading books to improve his education. He read many works on military tactics and science, but ancient history and other topics also interested him. At the time of his death, he possessed a small library that included works by Shakespeare, Voltaire and Samuel Johnson.

When he was 15, he followed three of his older brothers into service in the British Army, and advanced in rank mainly by purchasing promotions. He served in a number of locations before settling in Canada in 1802. In 1811, Brock attained the rank of major-general and took command of all British forces in Upper Canada. He became the administrator of the province the same year.

When the Americans invaded Upper Canada on July 12, 1812, Brock was ready. He'd already recruited a force of citizens and forged First Nations alliances. Fort Detroit fell to the British army and Brock was hailed as a hero.

After Detroit, the main American threat existed in Niagara, and it was here that Brock would fight his final battle. The British were victorious at Queenston Heights, but Brock lost his life while leading his soldiers in a charge. A limestone monument that contains the remains of Brock is located at Queenston Heights Park in Niagara Falls.

Words at the base of the Brock Monument at Queenston Heights



This is written on Brock's tomb:

Here lie the remains of a brave and virtuous hero,

MAJOR GENERAL SIR ISAAC BROCK,

Commander of the British forces, and President administering Government of Upper Canada,
Who fell when gloriously engaging the enemies of his country at the head of the flank companies

of the 49th Regiment,

In the Town of Queenston,

On the Morning of the 13th October, 1812,

Aged 42 Years.

J.B. Glegg, A.D.C.

General Brock and Flamborough

Taken from www.uppercanadahistory.ca/brock

- In an address dated 6th of March, 1813, to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who was ruling in the temporary absence of his father, George III, the 'Commons' of Upper Canada petitioned the Prince to recognize Brock in a most unusual way. **"We deeply lament our inability to bestow on him any other reward than praise, and beg to suggest a grant to his family of a portion of His Majesty's most valuable wastelands in this province."** The Prince approved their petition, and the thanks of a grateful nation was extended to Brock by bestowing upon the male members of his family, property in the province of Upper Canada.
- The land grant bestowed by the Legislature was for 12,000 acres, which Brock's brothers were to hold as tenants in common forever. **The properties were situated in various parts of the province, the largest parcel, seven thousand acres, being located in East and West Flamborough Townships, which are in Wentworth County.** Twelve hundred acres were located, appropriately, in Brock Township on Lake Simcoe in Ontario County. Three thousand acres were in Monaghan Township on Rice Lake in Peterborough County, and the last 800 acres were in Murray Township along Lake Ontario in Northumberland County. Numerous errors occurred in the description of "all these several lots, parcels of land and hereditaments," as a result of which several lots purporting to be mutually conveyed were, in fact, not granted.
- Savery Brock (Isaac's brother), who toured Canada and parts of the United States in 1817 was overjoyed with this generous gift, and eagerly visited the various sites during his trip to Upper Canada in August of that year. **He astutely informed his brothers that the Flamborough acreage was:**

"at the head of Lake Ontario about twelve miles from its margin with not a house within 8 or 9 miles of it. This is the best of our land."

- Savery was very proud to discover wherever he went in the province, that Isaac's cherished memory "lived in the hearts of the people." He visited Isaac's grave at Fort George, where he had the good fortune to dine on August 16th, the fifth anniversary of Brock's capture of Fort Detroit, with 49 guests. Brock's regiment was the 49th.
- None of the Brock men had any male children, and the brothers' properties were inherited by their daughters. Daniel's went to his only child, Sophia Brock, a spinster. William bequeathed his properties to his wife, Sarah Maria, who left the land in turn to her daughters, Mary Brock Pottinger and Julien Jane Pottinger. Savery's two daughters, Rosa Barnes and Betsey de Jersey Carey, were co-heiresses. None of the Brock family ever lived on these lands and over a period of time they were all sold.