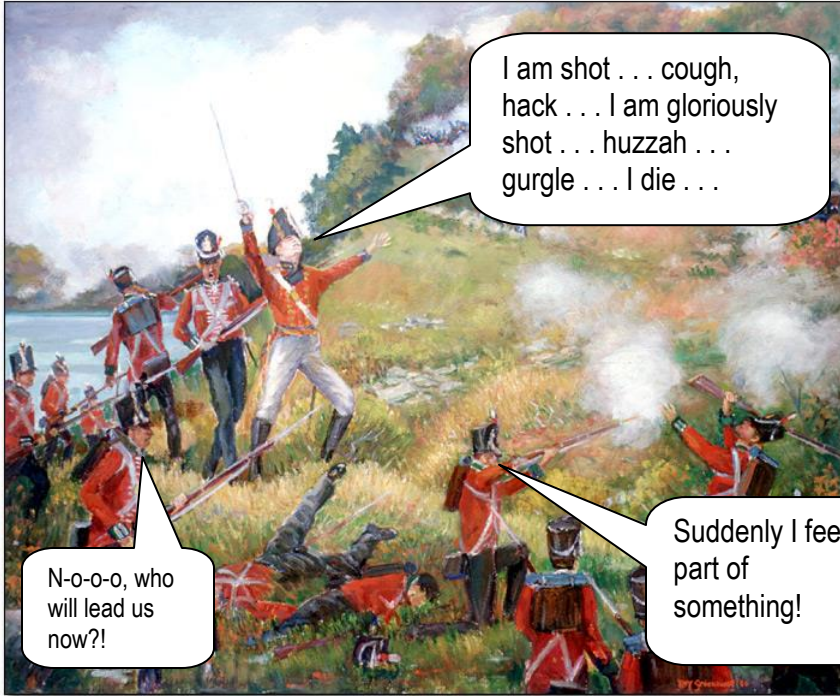


The War of 1812 – Points to Remember



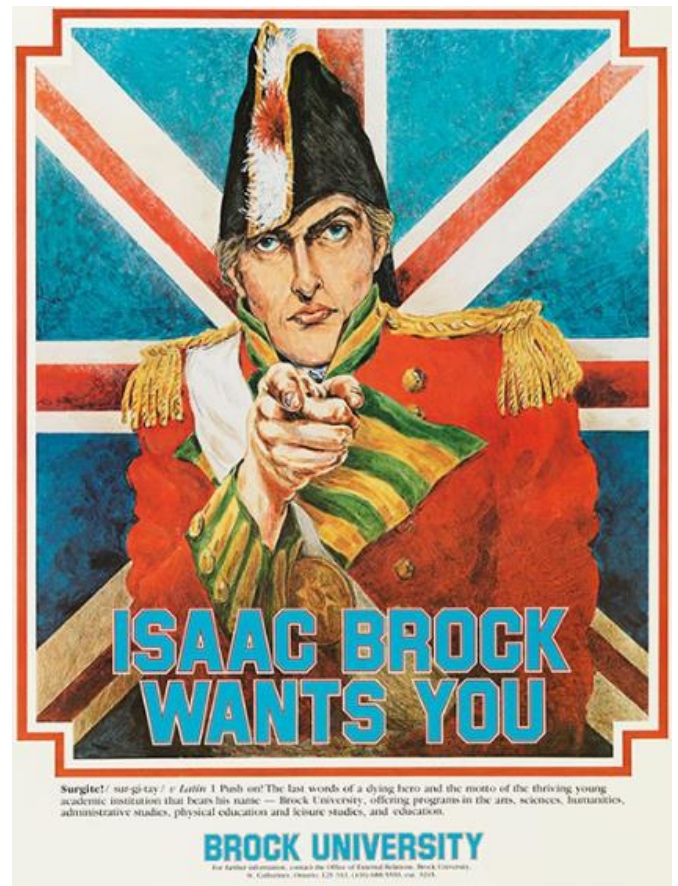
- The American strategy depended on use of militias, but they either resisted service or were incompetently led. Financial and logistical problems also plagued the American war effort. New England opposed the war and refused to provide troops or financing.
- The powerful Royal Navy successfully blockaded the American coast, raiding coastal communities at will.

- The attention of the British was largely focused on defeating Napoleon in Europe. After the final defeat of Napoleon in 1814 they were able to send veteran troops to the New World.
- General Brock was frustrated with the English settlers, largely transplants from the United States (Late Loyalists), who were not overly concerned with the prospect of American conquest.
- The death of Tecumseh ended the last 19th century hope for an independent Indigenous Nation – the Indigenous threat to the United States and British North America (Canada) was neutralized.
- Locally, the Battle of Stoney Creek on June 6th, 1813, was a major turning point in the war. 700 British soldiers, as well as Indigenous warriors, defeated an invading force of 3,400 American troops on their way to Burlington, Ontario. Victories like these rallied local people around the British flag – cementing a new identity.



- The War of 1812 was seen by the people in British North America, and later Canada, as a reprieve from an American takeover. The outcome gave “Upper Canadians” confidence and, together with the postwar “militia myth” that the civilian militia had been primarily responsible rather than the British regulars, was used to stimulate a new sense of Canadian nationalism.
- The war is scarcely remembered by the British today – they were more occupied by the defeat of Napoleon.
- Americans see the War of 1812 as a successful conclusion of their larger struggle for independence from Britain.
- General Isaac Brock becomes a national hero – “The Saviour of Upper Canada.” He becomes a figure that Canadians use to identify themselves with.
- The end of the war also marks the beginning of the end of the long alliance between the British Crown and the Indigenous Peoples living in the United States. The British are unable to get the Americans to honour previous treaties signed by the Crown.
- From *Canadian History: Pre-Confederation*: created by John Douglas Belshaw:

From 1783 until 1812 the most important source of immigrants to British North America was the United States. Movement across the border was easy and the host community was, outside of Lower Canada, overwhelmingly and increasingly North American in its accents and values. That ended with the War of 1812. After 1815 British North America became much more British than it had ever been before.¹



¹ Belshaw, John Douglas. "Canadian History: Pre-Confederation." Canadian History PreConfederation. April 13, 2015. Accessed April 23, 2019. <https://opentextbc.ca/preconfederation/chapter/10-3-immigration/>.