

Captain Fox was then ordered as a Militia officer to carry dispatches describing the invasion to General Brock at Niagara. Consequently, the Masons in the local Canadian Militia from Adoniram Lodge were among the first to respond to the American invasion.

Back at Niagara, General Brock hastily assembled an armed expedition of Regulars, Militia and a few warriors with Brother and Chief John Norton to travel to the Detroit River. On his arrival, Brock met with Chief Tecumseh who had assembled a large force of several hundred of his own warriors for battle.

By this time American General Hull had retreated back across the Detroit River and was bottled up in Fort Detroit. Hull's plans to attack Fort Malden had come to nothing. Everyone at this point expected a bloody battle on the American side of the Detroit River.

On August 16, Brock ordered the artillery to fire into Fort Detroit, and then sent a message to Hull. Counting on the savage and violent reputation of the warriors, Brock pointed out that he could not control their actions once active fighting began. To Brock's great surprise, Hull immediately surrendered the Fort and the entire Michigan Territory. Several of Hull's senior officers were so disgusted they threatened to shoot him; he later faced a court martial for cowardice over the quick surrender.

Battle of Queenston Heights:

Brock did not have long to enjoy the victory, since he had to rush back to Niagara to plan his defense against an invasion on the Niagara Frontier. By October of 1812, it had become clear that the Americans were assembling a huge force to cross the Niagara River. If they could gain a foothold in the Niagara Peninsula, it would enable them to cut off supplies to the British posts on the Upper Lakes. and then go on to capture the southern part of Upper Canada.

On October 13, 1812, the American Army opened up artillery fire on Newark as the prelude to an invasion of Upper Canada at Queenston Heights. Norton and his warriors were camped at Newark and realized that a battle was imminent. Norton rushed to Fort George and met with General Brock who told him to move his warriors to Queenston as fast as possible. Brock also ordered all the Militia and Regular Army reserves from Fort George to march to Queenston at double time. The General then mounted his horse Alfred, and rode to meet the main American attack.

As the warriors jogged into Queenston a short time later they met members of the Canadian militia retreating from the battle, who informed them that Brock had been killed and that most resistance had ceased. In addition, they said that the Americans were crossing the Niagara River by the boat load. One of the older chiefs simply replied "the more game, the better the hunting."

The Iroquois arrived on the battlefield and began to skirmish with the American Army, then in position on Queenston Heights. The warriors, from under cover of the surrounding brush, shot at the Americans who returned heavy musket fire. Norton described the sound of the lead balls flying through the air as "a hive of bees enraged," and was slightly wounded. At the same time, the militia artillery threw down accurate fire on the boats crossing the Niagara River, further intimidating the Americans.