

Six Nations Legacy Consortium

War of 1812

General Brock Had His Doubts



Portrait by John Wycliffe Lowes Forster
Copied from a portrait owned by John Savery Carey, Channel Islands in 1897.
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Sir Isaac Brock was Administrator of Upper Canada from October 9, 1811 until his death at Queenston Heights on October 13, 1812. Brock estimated about 300 warriors from Grand River would join him. However, only 100 warriors appeared at Fort George in July 1812. They wanted assurances of pay and weapons before they would fight. The Chiefs wanted answers to the longstanding land issues first. Brock became enraged threaten to remove the entire community to the west. He then sent Joseph Willcocks to Grand River to win over their support. It was difficult because Mohawk Chief Henry Tekarihogan headed what was called the 'American Party' at Grand River, those who favored an alliance with the U.S. instead of Great Britain. Shononhsé:se' ("he is of the long house" a.k.a. George Martin) who served as "Confidential Interpreter" to Col. William Claus, helped Brock enlist the aid of the Grand River warriors in support for the battle at Detroit in 1812. Brock also sent William Kerr, who was married to Joseph Brant's daughter, Elizabeth. Kerr reported that some Tuscaroras at Grand River were also favoring the Americans, and sent along intelligence to undermine the British position. It is not hard to see why Brock had his doubts. He could not hide his true feelings when he stated, *"They may serve to intimidate; otherwise I expect no essential service from this degenerate race."*