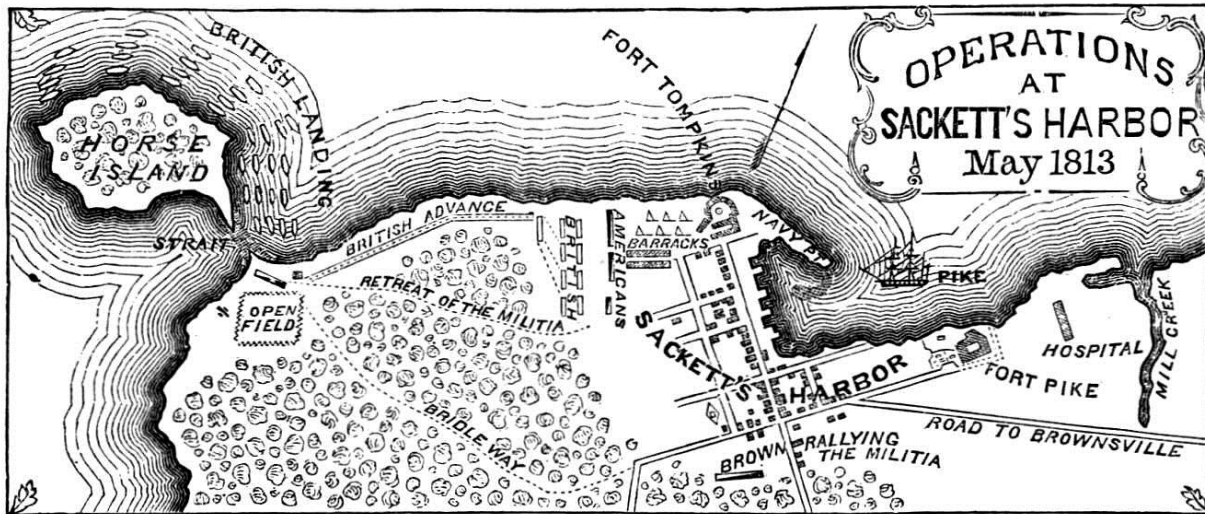


Fight or Surrender?



Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial Field-Book Of The War Of 1812*, 1869

What made the Americans so fearful of the warriors? On May 29, 1813, the British attempted to capture the U.S. Naval dockyard at Sackett's Harbor, NY. The American recruits landed their bateaux and fled into the woods. Hodinohson:ni warriors, who had been put ashore earlier, pursued them. After losing 35 men, the Americans regained their vessels and raised a white flag.

British naval officer James Richardson watched boatloads of American frantically row toward his fleet on Lake Ontario to surrender. These 115 well-armed Americans were terrified of the warriors and chose to surrender rather than fight. It turned out that there were only 36 warriors!

What made the warriors such effective fighters? Hodinohson:ni warriors were the secret weapon both the British and Americans employed. Unleashing the "savagery" of the Native allies was a real threat both sides relied upon. Our warriors knew how to use their knowledge of the woods, skillfully employed the weapons of war, as well as capitalize on the psychological fear factor of their enemy. Our warriors also fought for their right to exist free on their own land. This was, and remains, a powerful motivator for the Hodinohson:ni.