

Tupper then relates the visit of Sir James Kempt (1764-1854), Master-General of Ordnance, to Guernsey in about 1834. This officer, a veteran of Maida, the Peninsula, and Waterloo, had been posted to Canada from 1808 to 1811 and knew Brock. On meeting Daniel de Lisle Brock, Kempt, so Tupper reports, “was struck with the personal resemblance [to Isaac], notwithstanding that Mr. Brock was then in his 71st year.”⁹ This fact suggests that at least an initial impression of Isaac Brock’s facial features may be gained by studying a portrait of Daniel de Lisle Brock. For this purpose a photograph of the latter’s official portrait is included in this article (Figure 1). The outstanding quality of this work seems to be that Daniel de Lisle’s head can in all fairness be described as heavy or massive. Even if these words err on the strong side, a certain similarity with Brock’s “enormous” head is undeniable. A comparable heaviness may also be seen in the portrait of Isaac’s brother John Savery (1772-1844) (Figure 2). Though too much importance should perhaps not be attached to such comparisons, they provide helpful clues.

THE MINIATURES

The earliest miniature portrait purportedly of Brock (Figure 3) is attributed to Philip Jean (1775-1802), a noted miniaturist from Jersey, scarcely a stone’s throw from Guernsey.¹⁰ The correctness of the attribution seems confirmed by similarities of style and execution found in the portrait of another officer which is known to be by Philip Jean.¹¹ Figure 3 shows a young man in a scarlet uniform with blue turn-down collar and facings as well as an epaulet and loops (button-slits or holes) painted in gold. These details are correct for the uniform of an officer in a “Royal” Regiment such as the 8th (or the King’s) Regiment of Foot.¹² Isaac Brock joined that regiment on 2 March 1785, thus following in the footsteps of his older brother John (1759-1801?) who had also begun his military career in this unit.¹³ The portrait might well be of a youth approaching his sixteenth year, as Isaac Brock then was. To say that this picture is dominated by a heavy or massive head would perhaps be an exaggeration, but its size cannot be ignored. All in all, the exceedingly limited evidence does not negate the view that this miniature is a portrait of Isaac Brock as a teenager in uniform.

The next miniature (Figure 4), the work of an unknown artist, shows an officer who is no longer young.¹⁴ The lean face, though possibly accentuated by the whitish hair, is unlike that found in the previous portrait. It cannot be determined with certainty whether the sitter has been portrayed with his actual hair or a wig so that this detail is of little help in fixing the approximate age of the subject.

9 *Ibid.*

10 A. Maude (Cawthra) Brock, *Brock Family Records* (Toronto, 1927), attributes the miniature to Philip Jean. The New Brunswick Museum has a rather pleasing copy of this miniature; it is listed in J.C. Webster, *Catalogue of the John Clarence Webster Canadiana Collection (Pictorial Section) New Brunswick Museum* (Saint John, N.B., 1939), Catalogue No. 1, p. 31, no. 173.

11 Daphne Foskett, *A Dictionary of British Miniature Painters*, 2 vols. (London, 1972), vol. 1, p. 353, has an entry on Philip Jean amounting to nearly a full column and in vol. 2, plate 187, no. 476, the portrait miniature of an “unknown officer” provides a most apt comparison.

12 W.Y. Carman, “Infantry Clothing Regulations, 1802,” *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, 19 (1940), pp. 232-35, gives the details of regimental colours.

13 Tupper, *Brock*, p. 4.

14 The author would like to thank Professor Wesley B. Turner, Brock University, for help in providing him with photographs of this miniature.