

the protection of the invaders before the attack began. The Canadian volunteers, officered by such men as Crawford, Pothier, Johnson, Enuatinger, Livingston, Rolette, La Croix and Frank, were set at work cutting a road and hauling one of the unwieldy iron guns to the summit of a ridge which overlooked the fort, while the Indians, directed by Dickson, Askin, Langlade, Nolin and Cadotte, occupied the adjacent woods.

The fort was a quadrangular enclosure, formed with cedar pickets twelve or fourteen feet in height, with block-houses at each angle, surrounded by a ditch and containing almost two acres of ground. Inside were the barracks, store-houses, and a bomb-proof magazine. Seven guns were mounted, and the garrison consisted of three officers and sixty-one men of the 1st Regiment of United States Artillery under Lieut. Porter Hanks. Nine small trading vessels lay in the harbor, whose crews, numbering forty-seven persons, might have been called to the assistance of the troops. But Hanks had received no information of the declaration of war, and his post was not well prepared for defence. Most of the inhabitants of the little village of some thirty houses clustered about the Roman Catholic church, almost within the shadow of the stockade, had already fled to the west side of the island to claim the protection promised them by the British commander. At ten o'clock a summons to surrender was sent in, which Hanks stated officially was the first intimation he had received of the existence of war. In a very short time, articles of capitulation were agreed on, by which the fort was surrendered and the garrison became prisoners of war. At noon the British flag was hoisted. Four of the schooners taken in the harbor, the "Mary," "Salina," "Erie" and "Friend's Good Will," were among the largest of the few trading vessels then on the upper lakes, and were loaded with seven hundred packages of furs, being the result of a year's trading of the American Fur Company, of which John Jacob Astor was one of the principal members.

The Indians were kept so well under control that Captain Roberts himself was astonished. "It is a circumstance I believe without precedent," he said, "and demands the greatest praise for all those who conducted the Indians, that though these people's minds were much heated, yet as soon as they heard the capitulation was signed, they all returned to their canoes, and not one drop, either of man's or animal's blood, was spilt, till I gave an order for a certain number of bullocks to be purchased for them."