

The laws and customs of the Channel Islands, Guernsey among the number, partake very much of the old French feudal system. A Lieutenant there is the same as a Lieutenant-Governor in Upper Canada, so that, as the sequel will show, Brock filled in Canada relatively the same place that his maternal grandfather held in Guernsey, that of Lieutenant-Governor of the dependency.

Isaac Brock was born in Guernsey, on the 6th October, 1769, the year of the birth of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon Bonaparte. He was a robust youth, and grew up to be a man tall and commanding. When he attained to manhood he was six feet two inches in height. When eleven years of age he was sent to school at Southampton, and completed his education with a Protestant clergyman at Rotterdam, where he likewise received a French education. He had only completed his fifteenth year when he obtained, by purchase, a commission as ensign in the 8th, or King's Regiment. In 1790, he was presented with a lieutenancy, and was then quartered in Guernsey and Jersey. At the close of the year 1790, he obtained an independent company by raising the requisite number of men to complete it, and was put on half pay. In 1791, he exchanged into the 49th, which regiment he joined at Barbadoes, and served there and in Jamaica until 1793, when he was compelled to return to England on sick leave. As an instance of his courage and true manliness, it is recorded of him that when he joined the 49th that regiment had the misfortune to have in it a captain who was a confirmed duellist, and who claimed to be a dead-shot at twelve paces, and had made himself a terror to his brother officers. As soon as Brock became one of the officers of the regiment, he determined to show this gentleman that he was neither