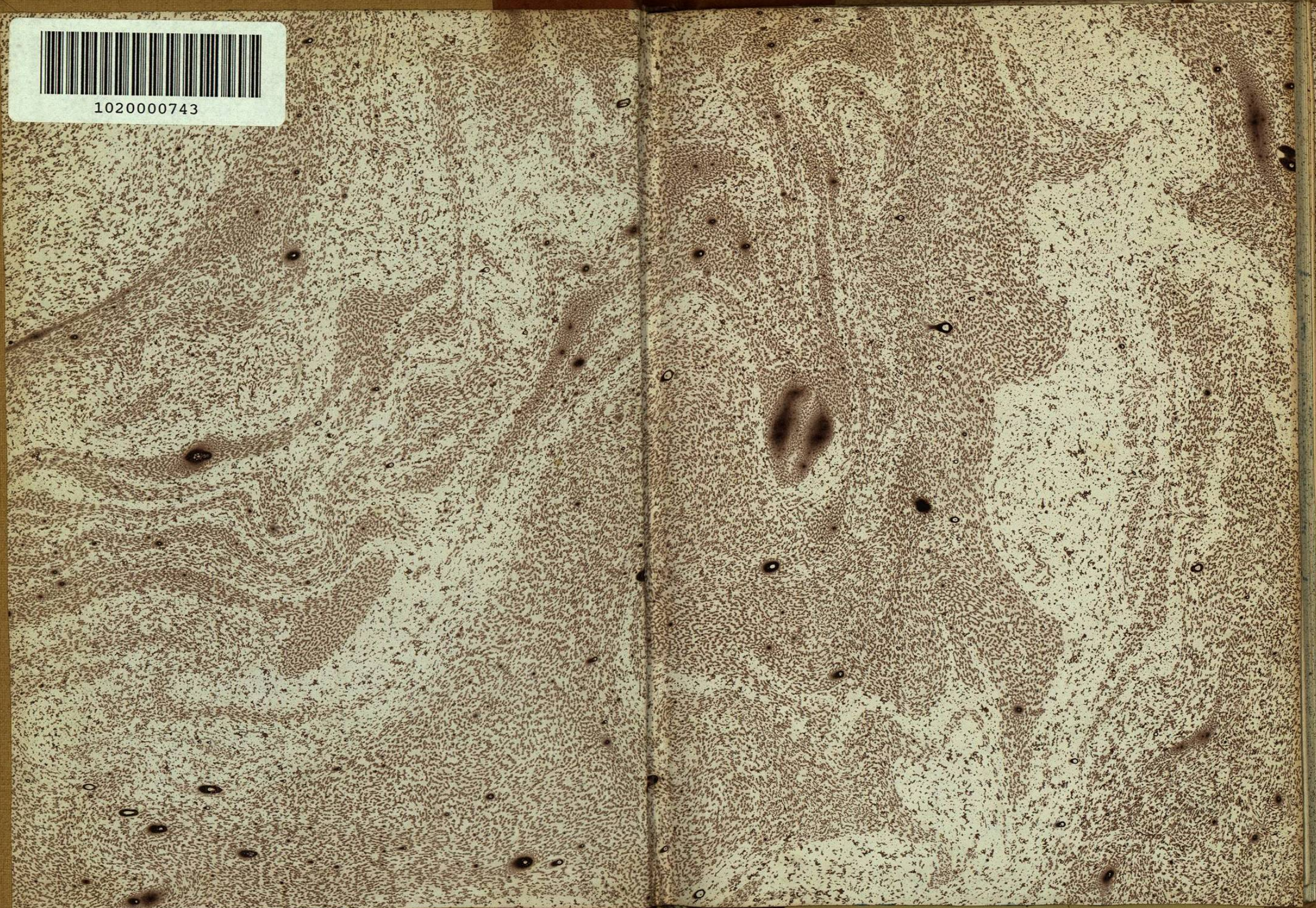


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"Hail to the Chief who in triumph advances."

LIFE OF GENERAL SCOTT.

Scott's Birth and Education.

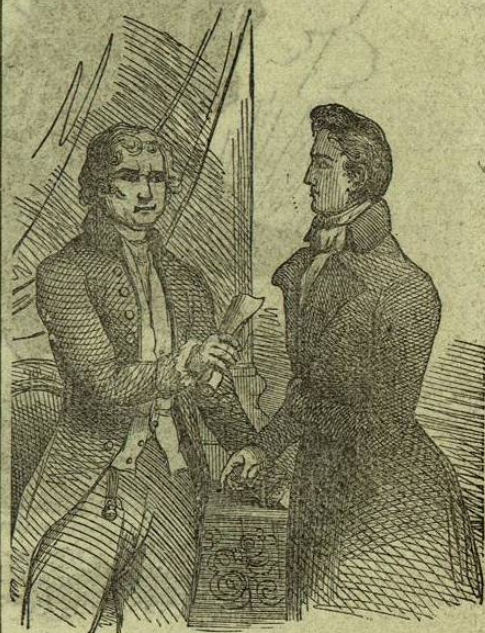
WILFELD SCOTT, the son of a farmer by the name of William Scott, was born near Petersburg, Virginia, on the 13th of June, 1786. He was the youngest of two sons, and had three sisters. His grandfather was Scotch, and took part in the rebellion of 1745, and fought against the king. Another ancestor fell in the celebrated battle of Culloden. His grandfather, forced to fly his country, took refuge in Virginia, where he became a lawyer. His son, our hero's father, became a farmer, and married Ann Mason, a lady of great virtue and excellent sense. Her husband died young,

leaving his wife the sole guardian of five children with a small property, that only a rigid economy could render adequate for their support and education. Young Scott thus came into the world the hardy child of difficulty and fortitude, and no nursing of ease and indulgence. His own exertions seconding his mother's efforts, a good education was obtained for him. He chose the legal profession, attended a course of law lectures at William and Mary's College, entered a lawyer's office, and was admitted to the Bar in 1806, at the age of 20.

How he becomes a Soldier.

In the summer of 1807 occurred the wanton attack of the British frigate *Leopard* upon the *Chesapeake*, and the seizure and imprisonment of several of her crew, upon the allegation that they were British subjects. This outrage excited a violent resentment throughout the country. Young Scott shared ardently in the indignation of his countrymen, and immediately joined a volunteer corps raised in Petersburg, and marched with them down to Lynnhaven Bay, where they took up their station, in expectation of a British descent upon the coast. But this little cloud of war blew over, the volunteers were called home, and Scott returned to the practice of his profession. He was soon to leave it forever, for Providence had marked for him a wide and glorious career. Our difficulties with England thickened. It became clear that a war was inevitable. Congress passed a bill to raise an army. Scott applied for a commission, and in May, 1808, received from President Jefferson a commission as captain of artillery. During the rest of the year he was employed on the recruiting service, and in the study of his new profession of arms. In 1809 he was ordered to Louisiana, and placed under the command of General Wilkinson. For this officer Scott had no respect. Himself filled with patriotic ardor, and a passionate devotion to his country's honor, he believed Wilkinson to be implicated in Burr's conspiracy. The young soldier, with more boldness than prudence, did not hesitate to express his sentiments. The result was, that Wilkinson preferred charges against him that resulted in his suspension from the service for a year. In this punishment he had the sympathy of his brother officers, and was complimented with a public dinner on the occasion of his sentence. The interval of suspension was passed by

Scott in a systematic and thorough study of military tactics, and the whole science of war. At the expiration of the time, he reappeared in service with increased knowledge, and superior fitness for the arduous and important duties now about to devolve upon him.



Jefferson presenting Scott his first Commission.

War Declared.—Hull's Inglorious Surrender.

At length, on the 18th of June, 1812, war was declared. The military preparations of the country had been inadequate to the necessities of the crisis. An expedition to seize upon Upper Canada was planned, and the execution of it intrusted to General Hull. He crossed into Canada at Detroit, with his whole force, on the 12th of July, 1812, and in one month and two days thereafter ingloriously surrendered to

General Brock, the British commander, without striking a blow. The country was stunned by the shock it received in the accounts of this shameful pusillanimity of conduct. The blood of our young hero boiled to wipe out this stain of dishonor. He longed to avenge our disasters upon the very spot where they had been suffered; a result he soon gloriously accomplished.

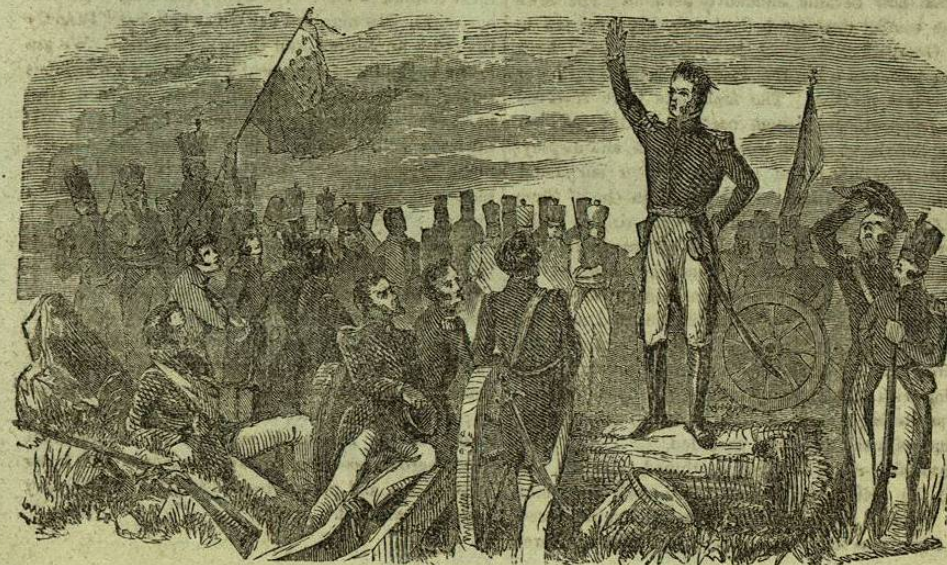
Scott is Promoted.—Sees his First Service.

Receiving the commission of lieutenant-colonel from President Madison, Scott repaired to the Niagara frontier, and took up his position at Black Rock. In October he undertook, in conjunction with Lieutenant Elliott of the navy, the capture of two British armed brigs, named the "*Adams*" and "*Caledonia*,"

then lying moored under the guns of the British Fort Erie, nearly opposite. The attempt was gallant and successful: the vessels were captured. But in carrying them off, one of them, the "*Adams*," drifted on shore under the guns of the battery at Fort Erie, and was deserted by the captors

The enemy at once undertook her recovery. Scott drove back their boats by a well-directed fire. The contest soon became sharp to see who could win the prize. Our young hero's zeal and ardor mounted with the occasion, and he finally prevailed. Our men bore off the brig in triumph, and the American stars and stripes proudly floated at her masthead, in token of our first success on the frontier, and in promise of that succession of victories that soon after crowned our arms with glory on the Lakes and in Canada.

Battle of Queenstown Heights.



Scott's Speech on the Log.

This successful exploit gave a new impulse to the flagging spirits of our troops, mortified and dashed as they had been by Hull's surrender. A body of these troops, comprising 2,500 militia and about 450 regulars, lay below, at Lewiston, under the command of General Stephen Van Rensselaer. This force was impatient for action, and demanded to be led across into Canada. The demand was so urgent as to induce their leader to yield to their importunities, notwithstanding no sufficient preparations had been made for such a step. Hearing of the intended invasion, Scott became at once eager to join the expedition; and by a forced march, hastened through mud and rain to the scene of action. The arrangements of the embarkation were such, however, as to preclude him from joining the columns of the invading force. He accordingly took up a position, with his artillery, where he could best cover the landing of our troops, and opened an effective fire on the enemy. The two divisions of attack moved off, the first headed by Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer, and the second by Colonel Chrystie. The former succeeded in landing a part of his men. The boats of the latter were swept down by the current, and a portion of the men therein fell into the

enemy's hands, while the remainder were driven back to the American shore; Colonel Chrystie himself being among the number. Though wounded in his first effort, Colonel Chrystie obtained fresh reinforcements, and returned and made a successful landing. Meantime, the column under Van Rensselaer formed and advanced under a murderous cannonade from the heights. Beneath it the Colonel and several of his officers fell, killed or wounded. Another portion of the detachment, under fresh officers, came to its succor, and under Captains Wool, Ogilvie, Malcolm, and Armstrong, swept forward upon the heights. They stormed the two batteries which protected them, and drove the enemy under the shelter of a strong stone building near by. Here the flying British were rallied by General Brock, the governor of Upper Canada, who had just arrived upon the ground with fresh reinforcements. He headed a charge against our troops, who gallantly repulsed and dispersed the assailants, mortally wounding both General Brock and his secretary, McDonald.

At this point of time Scott arrived on the ground, and the entire command of the corps, now about 600 strong, was at once committed to him. General