

## **The Battle of Stoney Creek (1813)**

The Battle of Stoney Creek was fought in the city of the same name, in Upper Canada (modern- day Ontario), in British North America (now Canada). As part of the wider war, the Battle of Stoney Creek was part of the “Niagara front” in which British and American troops fought over the border area of New York State and Upper Canada.

The battle was quite short in length, and started when British troop movements began to move into position on June 5; the battle itself was fought in the early hours of the morning on June 6, 1813. Some historians have noted that it was a major battle in the War of 1812, and marked a turning point in the war over the territorial demarcations of Upper Canada. It was also followed up by a British victory at the Battle of Beaver Dams near Thorold, Ontario, later in June of 1813.

The British victory at Stoney Creek was due in large measure to the unexpected attack on American forces at 3 a.m. in which Lieutenant Colonel John Harvey, alongside General Vincent, and seven hundred and fifty British regulars attacked the American position. After the capture of two significant American leaders, Brigadier-General John Chandler, and Brigadier-General William H. Winder, as well as the capture of the American cannon used in the battle, the American troops retreated from their position to Forty Mile Creek (which is now modern day Grimsby, Ontario).

The British lost 23 men, and also suffered 136 wounded, and 55 missing. Comparatively, the American side fared slightly better losing 17 men with 38 wounded, and 99 missing. American losses could have been much worse were it not for the troops sleeping in formation, and some early shots fired awakening the troops. In fact, the battle could have ended in a routing of the American forces were it not for the troops sleeping in formation. At the end of the battle, the casualty losses on both sides were fairly even. The United States was defeated, though, and would not venture further north beyond Stoney Creek again through the duration of the War of 1812.

Following the defeat, the Americans fell back to Fort George, which had previously served as the launching point for American incursions into Upper Canada. Later on, Fort George would be retaken by the British as a more formal delineation of the border. The British victory at Stoney Creek secured a territorial victory, which is a reason why Stoney Creek is in Ontario, not New York State. Taken as a whole, the War of 1812 ended in Status Quo Ante Bellum, so the Battle of Stoney Creek remained in control of British Upper Canada.

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