

Lesson Resource Kit: Travels of Elizabeth Simcoe

Grade 7: New France and British North America, 1713–1800



Description, by drawing and words of a caterpillar (detail), Elizabeth Simcoe

Reference Code: F 47-11-1-0-105

Archives of Ontario, I0006957

Introduction

Designed to fit into teachers' practice, this resource kit provides links, activity suggestions, primary source handouts and worksheets to assist you and your students in applying, inquiring, and understanding Canada between 1713 and 1800.

Topic

The Simcoe family exploring British North America

Source

The Archives of Ontario's online exhibit about Elizabeth Simcoe - [click here to visit "Travels with Elizabeth: A visual journey through Upper and Lower Canada"](#).

Use the Archives of Ontario's online exhibit on Elizabeth Simcoe:

- As a learning resource for yourself
- As a site to direct your students for inquiry projects
- As a place to find and use primary sources related to the curriculum

Themes that can be addressed

- Using Primary Sources
- The landscape of eighteenth century Upper and Lower Canada
- The Simcoe family and their significance to Canadian history
- Continuity and change between colonial and present-day Canada

Curriculum

Strand A. New France and British North America, 1713–1800

Overall Expectations	Historical Thinking Concepts	Specific Expectations
A1. Application: Colonial and Present-day Canada	Continuity and Change; Historical Perspective	A1.1, A1.2
A2. Inquiry: From New France to British North America	Historical Perspective; Historical Significance	A2.1, A2.2, A2.3, A2.4, A2.5, A2.6
A3. Understanding Historical Context: Events and Their Consequences	Historical Significance; Cause and Consequence	A3.6

Assignment & Activity Ideas

Inquiring into the Simcoe Family

- The historical inquiry process involves five steps:
 - Formulating a question
 - Gathering and organizing information or evidence
 - Interpreting and analysing information or evidence
 - Evaluating information or evidence and drawing conclusions
 - Communicating findings
- The curriculum highlights that these steps do not have to be completed sequentially nor together. You may wish to explore specific steps based on your students' readiness and prior knowledge or your own resources and time. For more details, [click here to see pages 22-24 in the 2013 revised Ontario Social Studies and History curriculum](#).
- Using a primary source handout from this kit, introduce your students to the Simcoes and their experiences in Upper and Lower Canada. Have students ask questions of the sources. Use these questions as jumping off points for exploring these historical issues in depth.
- [Follow this link to use the Travels with Elizabeth: A visual journey through Upper and Lower Canada online exhibit](#) as a source to point your students for their own inquiry project. Here, they can view primary sources and secondary information to gather and organize historical information that they can interpret, evaluate, and communicate for different end products.

Creating a Primary and Secondary Source

- Use *Creating a Primary Source* worksheet to introduce your students to the idea of using primary source records to learn about the past
- Giving your students a text or image primary source found in this Kit, use the *Creating a Secondary Source* worksheet to have your students write a summary or description of the primary source.
- Using these two documents have a discussion about the difference between primary and secondary sources and which type of document would be the most valuable for learning history

Life Then and Now: Similarities and Differences

- Have students pick one primary source diary entry and read it for comprehension.
- Have students rewrite the diary from a modern perspective. For example, if someone was ill now (see *Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary (April 14, 1795)*) would their symptoms be the same or different? Would the treatment be the same or different? Would concern be the same or different?
- Use these rewritten diaries to further the discussion of differences and similarities about the past and today.
- Alternatively, this activity could be completed with the *Officers Carriole and Canadian Carriole (1792)* primary source sketch. Have students complete a similar image about two forms of present-day transportation.
- Alternatively, ask students to focus on the similarities and differences between today and the geographic landscapes that Simcoe created. Use the *Sketches of Present-Day Canada* worksheet to assist in this task.

Experiences of Travel Comic Strip

- Using any of the Elizabeth Simcoe diary entries and the *Comic Strip Cells* worksheet, ask students to graphically depict the Simcoe's experiences outlined in the diary entry.
- Have students complete additional research to further their understanding of colonial British North America

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Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary (July 17, 1792)

Nov^r 10th the new Brandy Petto Isles at Est Point
still going fast - as we can by the dead.

Nov^r 11th anchored at one this morning in the harbor
of Quebec. the gentlemen are just gone ashore to
see the Governor & to look for doings for me
I am left here for the present & have promised
Capt^e Murray ^{to take possession of the ship} not to run away with her to my
favorite Isle of Entry; tho' indeed tis a temptation
I think to me to leave me here considering how
fond I am of being at sea. At ten, we now
just firing the salute, as Mr Simcoe is leaving
the ship, thus I did not order for it is a part of
the story. I do not like as it gave the Captain
so much to make such a noise.

I shall dine aboard here to day, Capt^e
Murray goes to Halifax the moment the
wind changes, but this Post Capt^e keeps
him here for the present. he is an exceedingly
pleasant amiable man & has showed us every
attention. ~~Capt^e Murray is a very~~
~~pleasant amiable man & has showed us every~~
~~attention.~~

"The Governor was walking on the hill this evening when his shoulder and finger were struck by a shot fired by a soldier belonging to the guard tent, who had fired at an Indian dog which had taken away some pork. A shot remained in the Governor's finger and was very painful. A gentleman walking with him was struck and the dog severely wounded. An Indian was also struck by the shot. The Governor immediately gave him the soldier's gun to appease him and reprimanded the soldier."

-Elizabeth Simcoe

Excerpt from Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary, July 17, 1792

Reference Code: F 47-8-0-1

Archives of Ontario

Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary (August 17, 1792)

Nov^r 10th the new Brandy Pitts Isles N^o E wind
still going fast as we can by the dead.

Nov^r 11th anchored at one this morning in the harbor
of haakee. the gentlemen are just gone ashore to
see the Governor & to look for droppings for me
& I am left here for the present & have promised
Capt. Murray, ^{to take possession of the island} not to run away with her to my
favorite Isle of Entry; tho' indeed tis a temptation
I think to me to leave me here considering how
fond I am of being at sea. As they are now
just firing the salute, as Mr Simcoe is leaving
the ship, this I did not order, for it is a part of
the story I do not like as it gave the Captain
so much to make such a noise.

I shall dine abroad here to day, Capt
Murray goes to Malijon the tomorrow the
wind changes, but this North East keeps
him here for the present. he is an exceedingly
pleasant amiable man & has shared us every
attention. ~~At present I shall~~

"We were so cold and wet we were glad to drink tea. It was quite dark and too windy to allow of our burning candles . . . I wrapped myself up in two or three greatcoats and intended, if the tent was blown down, to take shelter under the great dinner table. The rain and wind did not cease for two hours, and we had no means of drying our clothes and were obliged to sleep in a wet tent. However, we have not caught cold."

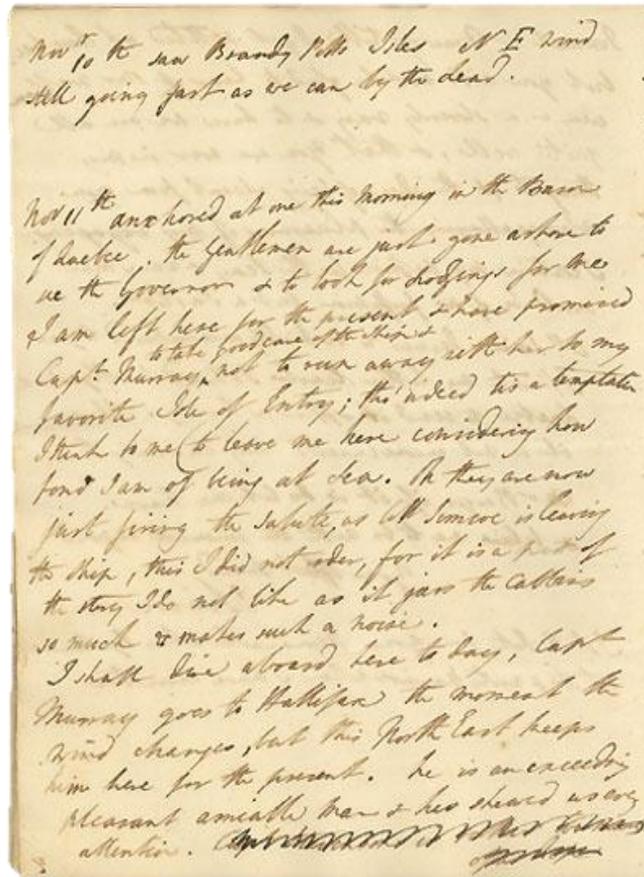
-Elizabeth Simcoe

Excerpt from Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary, August 17, 1792

Reference Code: F 47-8-0-1

Archives of Ontario

Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary (July 28, 1794)



Nov^r 10th the new Brandy Pitts Isles at E. wind
still going fast as we can by the dead.

Nov^r 11th anchored at me this morning in the harbor
of Quebec. the gentlemen are just gone aboard to
see the Governor & to look for lodgings for me
& I am left here for the present & have promised
Capt. Murray ^{to take good care of the ship} not to run away with her to my
favorite Isle of Antoy; this indeed tis a temptation
I think to me to leave me here considering how
fond I am of being at sea. In they are now
just firing the salute, as Mr Somers is leaving
the ship, this I did not see, for it is a part of
the story I do not like as it gave the Captain
so much to make such a noise.

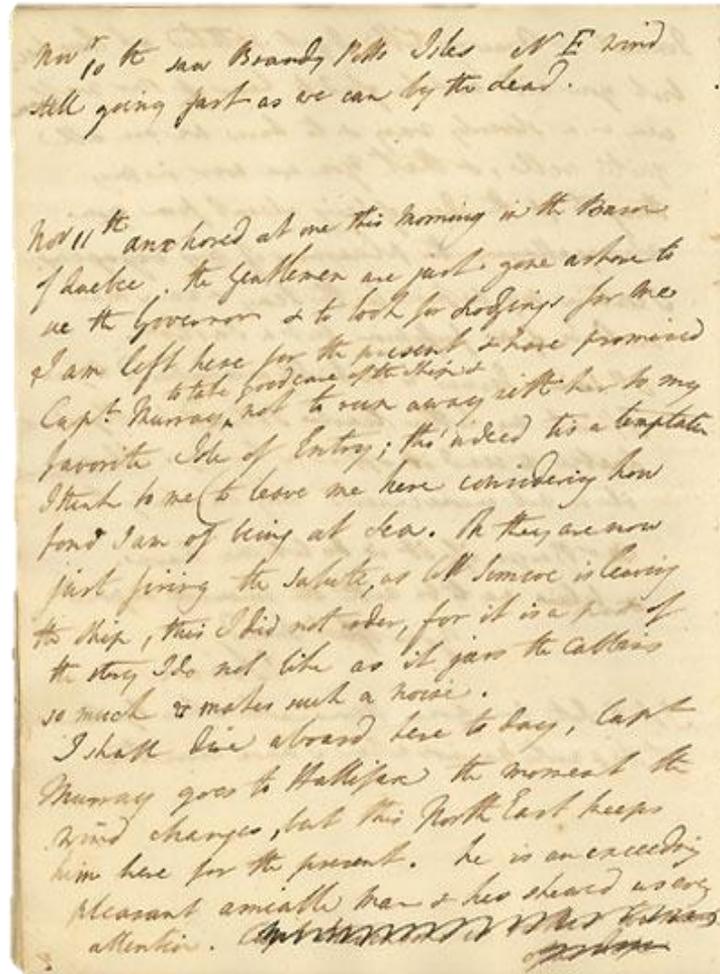
I shall live aboard here to day, Capt
Murray goes to Halifax the moment the
wind changes, but this Post East keeps
him here for the present. he is an exceedingly
pleasant amiable man & has showed us very
attention. ~~At present~~ ~~at present~~ ~~at present~~

“We rose at six and left for the Forty-Mile Creek. We walked through the village and beyond Green's Mills a little way up the mountain . . . Green [a Loyalist from New Jersey who had settled in the area around 1788 and accompanied Simcoe on many of his trips] ground the corn for all the military posts in Upper Canada. His mill stood five miles east of Hamilton on the Stoney Creek Road. A mile further is a mill and a small waterfall, and at a season when the water is higher the scenery must be wonderfully fine. I drank tea at Green's and unwillingly left this fine scenery. Mrs. Green advised me to give Francis crow's foot boiled in milk until it becomes red and thick, which she said would cure the present complaint in his stomach. There are 100 people settled at the Forty, and there have been but seven graves in five years. The Governor promises that I shall ride on the mountain above the Forty this season.”

-Elizabeth Simcoe

Excerpt from Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary, July 28, 1794
Reference Code: F 47-8-0-1
Archives of Ontario

Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary (October 30, 1794)



Nov^r 10th the new Brandy Pitts Ship N^o 1st wind
still going fast as we can by the dead.

Nov^r 11th anchored at me this morning in the harbor
of Quebec. the gentlemen are just gone ashore to
see the Governor & to look for lodgings for me
I am left here for the present & have promised
Capt^r Murray ^{to take possession of the ship} not to run away with her to my
favorite Isle of Entry; tho' indeed tis a temptation
I think to me to leave me here considering how
fond I am of being at sea. As they are now
just firing the salute, as Mr Simcoe is leaving
the ship, this I did not see, for it is a part of
the story I do not like as it jars the cables
so much & makes such a noise.

I shall live aboard here to day, Capt
Murray goes to Hallifax the moment the
wind changes, but the Post Capt keeps
him here for the present. he is an exceedingly
pleasant amiable man & has shew'd us every
attention. ~~What business~~

"We have received from Montreal a birch bark canoe such as is used by the North-West Company to transport their goods to the Grand Portage. It requires 12 men to Paddle is large enough to contain four or five Passengers to sit very commodiously in the centre under an awning. An Indian woman came to-day with Pitch, which is made by the Indians from Fir Trees, to gum the Canoe if any part of it is worn off by bringing it hither. She held a piece of pitch in her hand, and melted it by applying a piece of burning wood. Her figure was perfectly wild & witchlike & a little fire with a kettle on it by her side, in a stormy dark day, the waves roaring on the beach near which she stood formed a scene very wildly picturesque."

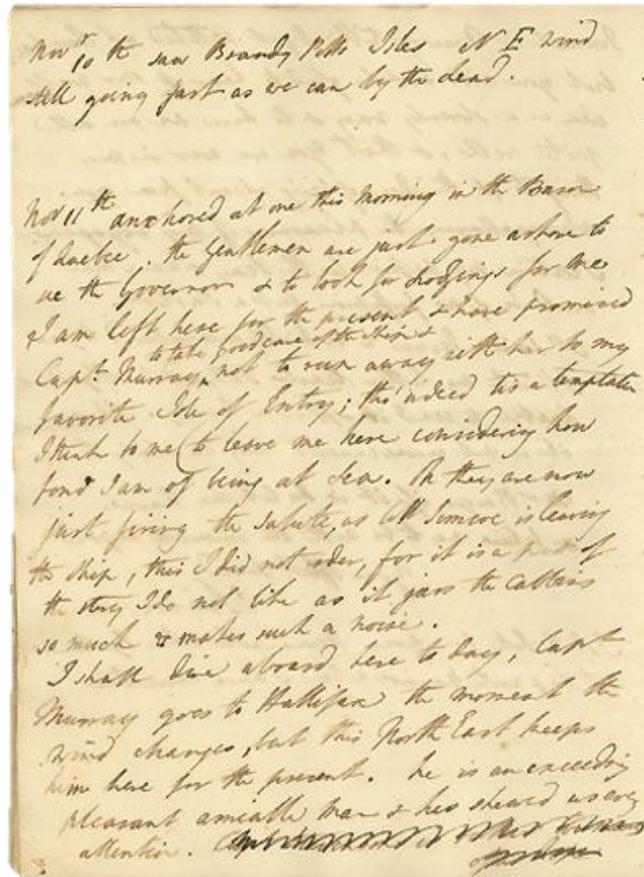
-Elizabeth Simcoe

Excerpt from Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary, October 30, 1794

Reference Code: F 47-8-0-1

Archives of Ontario

Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary (April 14, 1795)



Nov^r 10th the new Brandy Pitts Isles at E. wind
still going fast as we can by the dead.

Nov^r 11th anchored at me this morning in the harbor
of Quebec. the gentlemen are just gone aboard to
see the Governor & to look for lodgings for me
& I am left here for the present & have promised
Capt. Murray ^{to take good care of the ship} not to run away with her to my
favorite Isle of Antoy; this indeed tis a temptation
I think to me to leave me here considering how
fond I am of being at sea. As they are now
just giving the salute, as Mr Somers is leaving
the ship, this I did not order, for it is a part of
the story I do not like as it gave the Captain
so much to make such a noise.

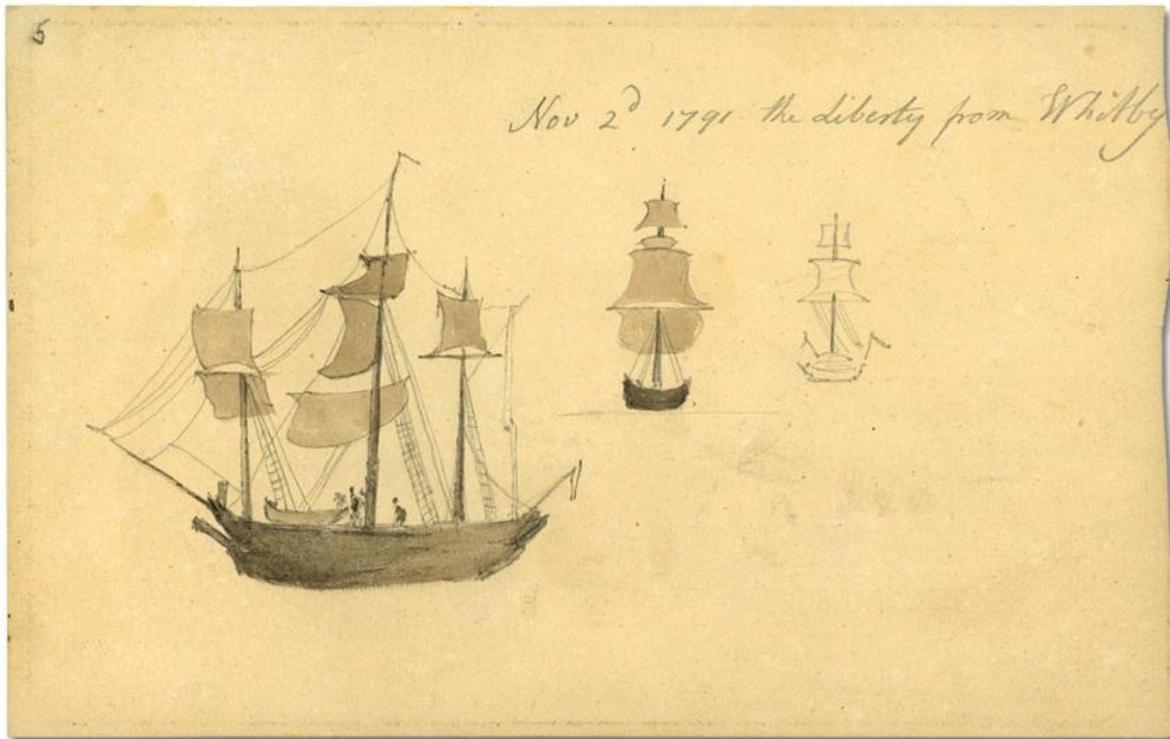
I shall live aboard here to day, Capt
Murray goes to Halifax the moment the
wind changes, but this Post Capt keeps
him here for the present. he is an exceedingly
pleasant amiable man & has showed us very
attention. ~~Apr 14 1795~~ Elizabeth Simcoe

“The Governor has been so ill since the 21st of March that I have not left his room since that day. He has had such a cough that some nights he could not lie down, but sat in a chair, total loss of appetite and such headaches that he could not bear any person but me to walk across the room or speak out loud. There was no medical advice but that of a horse doctor who pretended to be an apothecary. The Governor, out of consideration for the convenience of the staff-surgeon, had allowed him to remain at Niagara, and his not being made to attend his duty has caused me a great deal of anxiety to see the Governor so ill without having proper attendance. Capt. Brant's sister prescribed a root - it is, I believe, calamus, a genus of palm, one species of which yields a resin called dragon's blood, the root of which is the sweet flag, which really relieved his cough in a very short time.”

-Elizabeth Simcoe

Excerpt from Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary, April 14, 1795
Reference Code: F 47-8-0-1
Archives of Ontario

The Liberty from Whitby (1791)



Nov 2nd, 1791 - The Liberty from Whitby, Elizabeth Simcoe, (1766-1850)
Reference Code: F 47-11-1-0-6
Archives of Ontario, I0006857

"I quite enjoy the thoughts of the long journey we have before us, & the perpetual change of scene it will afford."

- March 15, 1792

"Wind N.W., cold, hard gale. This hard gale did not cool the cabins, which had been so extremely heated. I was, therefore, glad to be on deck to get rid of my headache, notwithstanding the weather was so rough that I was obliged to hold fast by a cannon. The waves, rising like mountains, have the grandest and most terrific appearance, and when the ship dashes with violence into the sea, much as a chaise in the act of overturning, it is surprising she rights again. I viewed this tempestuous scene with much astonishment."

-Oct. 15, 1791

Excerpts from Elizabeth Simcoe's Diary
Reference Code: F 47-8-0-1
Archives of Ontario

Creating a Primary Source

Elizabeth Simcoe wrote and sketched in her diary to record new and different experiences. We now can use her diary and sketches to understand what Canada looked like in the 1790s. We call these diaries and sketches *Primary Sources* because they are *original records* for learning about the past.

Use this worksheet to write a diary entry and sketch a picture of a new experience that you have had.



How can this record be a primary source in the future?

Creating a Secondary Source

Secondary sources are documents people today write about the past. Using a *primary source* - an original document created by someone living in the past about their own experience – describe in your own words what the person in the past experienced in the space below:

Questions to think about:

Have you left out any details to make your summary fit on the page better? Did you have any questions that the primary source didn't answer?

Comic Strip

Title: _____

By: _____

<p>Blank comic strip frame</p> 	
	

Officers Carriole and Canadian Carriole (1792)



Officers Carriole (prettier and perpetually over setting);
Canadian carriole (safe and pleasant), ca. 1792
Elizabeth Simcoe, (1766-1850)
Reference Code: F 47-11-1-0-18
Archives of Ontario, I0006870

View of Quebec (1791)



View of Quebec, Lower and Upper towns, from the River, ca. 1791

Elizabeth Simcoe, (1766-1850)

Reference Code: F 47-11-1-0-14

Archives of Ontario, I0006866

Castle Frank (1796)



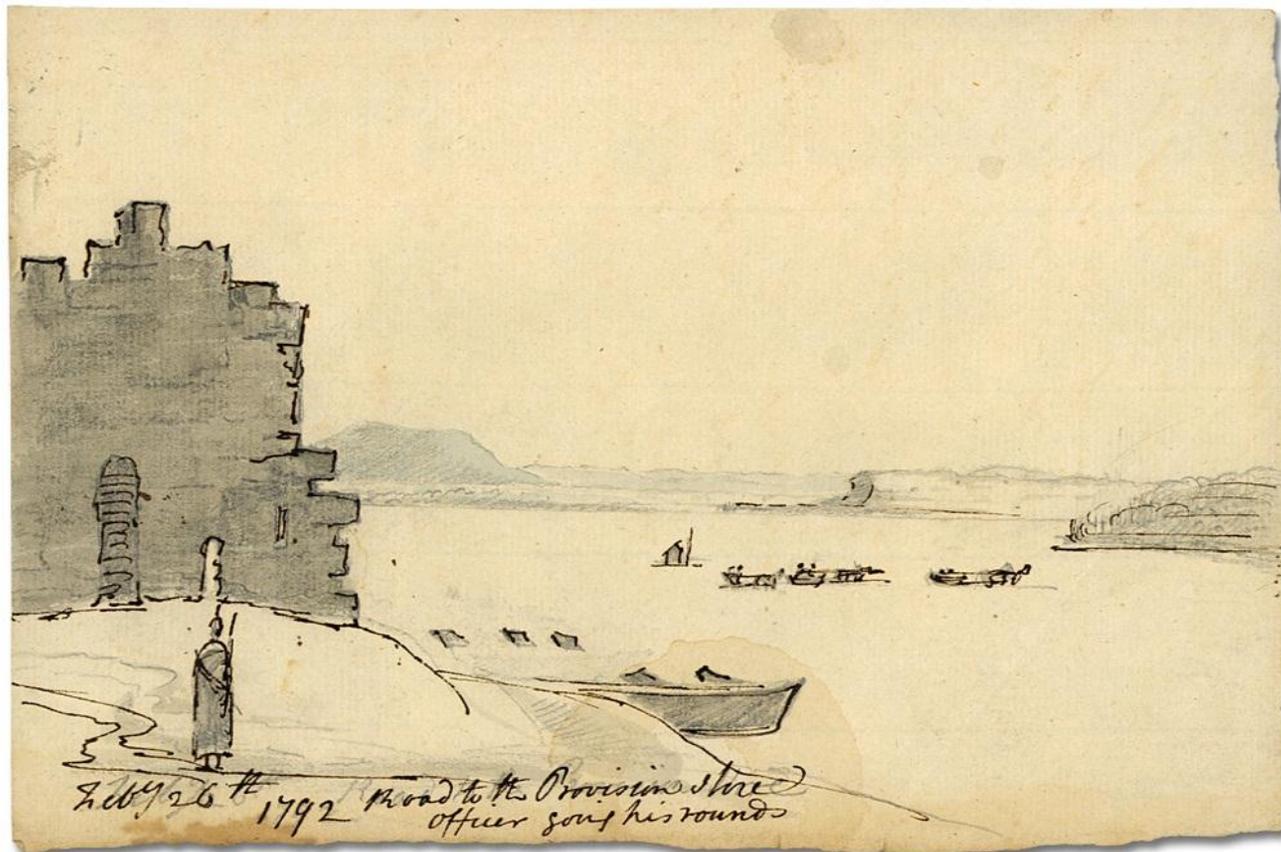
Castle Frank, 1796

Elizabeth Simcoe, (1766-1850)

Reference Code: F 47-11-1-0-231

Archives of Ontario, I0006538

Road to the Provision Store (1792)



Road to the Provision Store, officer going his rounds

Quebec, February 26, 1792

Elizabeth Simcoe, (1766-1850)

Reference Code: F 47-11-1-0-26

Archives of Ontario, I0006878

Niagara Falls (1792)



Niagara Falls, Ontario, July 30, 1792

Elizabeth Simcoe, (1766-1850)

Watercolour paper

Reference Code: F 47-11-1-0-71

Archives of Ontario, I0006923

Navy Hall, Newark (1793)



Navy Hall, the part is the canvas house, The fort at Niagara, A large arbor in the Hill, Toronto Shore, ca. 1793
Elizabeth Simcoe, (1766-1850)
Reference Code: F 47-11-1-0-99
Archives of Ontario, I0006951

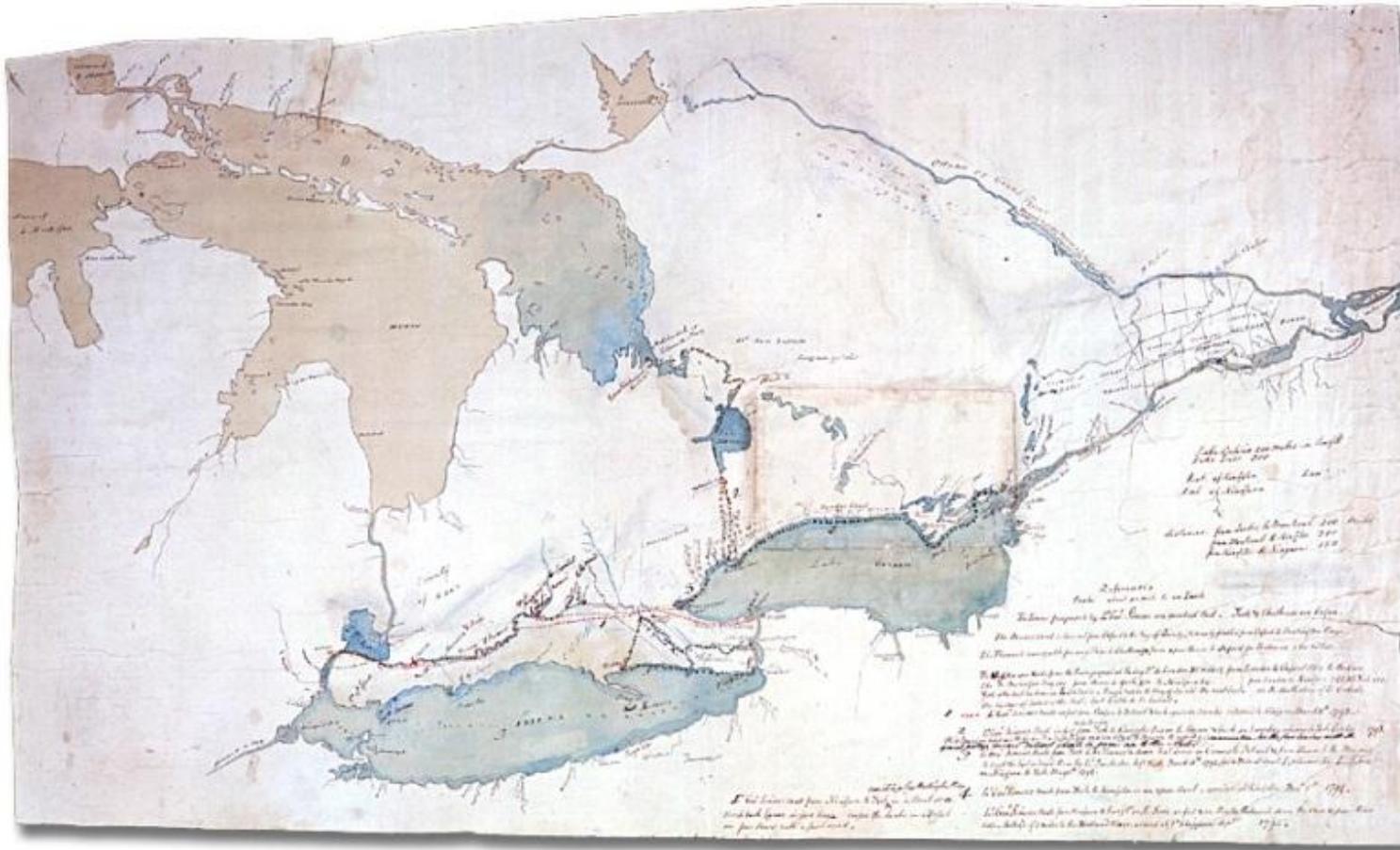
Near the 40 Mile Creek (1794)



Near the 40 Mile Creek L. Ontario, ca. 1794
Elizabeth Simcoe, (1766-1850)
Reference Code: F 47-11-1-0-121
Archives of Ontario, I0006973

The town of Grimsby was founded in 1790 and was originally named "The Forty," after a group of United Empire Loyalists who settled at the mouth of 40 Mile Creek.

Sketch Map of Upper Canada (1795)



Map of Upper Canada showing the routes the Simcoes took on journeys between March 1793 and September 1795,
Simcoe family fonds
Reference Code: F 47-5-1-0-37
Archives of Ontario, I000475

Sketches of Present-Day Canada

Elizabeth made many sketches of places that are around today.

Pick one of Elizabeth's Simcoe's sketches and find a photograph of what that places looks like today. Make a sketch or watercolour painting in a similar style to Elizabeth's to show similarities and differences of the landscape today and in the past.

