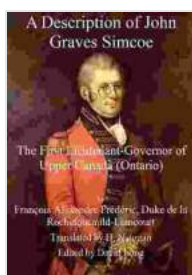


# John Graves Simcoe: The First Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (Ontario)

John Graves Simcoe was a British Army officer and colonial administrator who served as the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario) from 1791 to 1796. He was a key figure in the early history of Canada, and his policies and actions had a lasting impact on the development of the province.



## A Description of John Graves Simcoe: The First Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (Ontario)

by A. N. Wilson

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 486 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 4 pages



## Early Life and Career

Simcoe was born in Cotterstock, Northamptonshire, England, on February 25, 1752. He was the son of Captain John Simcoe, a career army officer, and Anne Katherine Gwillim. Simcoe received his early education at home before attending Eton College and Christ Church, Oxford.

In 1771, Simcoe purchased a commission in the 35th Regiment of Foot and began his military career. He served in the American Revolutionary War, where he fought at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. In 1781, Simcoe was promoted to lieutenant colonel and given command of the Queen's Rangers, a Loyalist regiment.

## **Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada**

In 1791, Simcoe was appointed as the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. The province had been created as a result of the Constitutional Act of 1791, which divided the Province of Quebec into two separate colonies: Upper Canada and Lower Canada.

Simcoe's mission as Lieutenant Governor was to establish a stable and prosperous colony in Upper Canada. He faced many challenges in this role, including the need to attract settlers, develop the economy, and establish a system of government.

## **Policies and Actions**

Simcoe's policies and actions as Lieutenant Governor had a lasting impact on the development of Upper Canada. He was a strong advocate for the development of the colony's economy, and he encouraged the settlement of farmers and the establishment of industries.

Simcoe also played a key role in the development of Upper Canada's political system. He established a Legislative Assembly and a Court of King's Bench, and he introduced a system of local government.

In addition to his policies and actions as Lieutenant Governor, Simcoe is also remembered for his role in the establishment of York (now Toronto) as

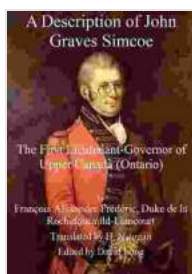
the capital of Upper Canada. He chose the site of York because of its strategic location at the mouth of the Humber River.

## Later Life and Legacy

Simcoe served as Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada until 1796, when he was recalled to England. He returned to England a hero, and he was soon promoted to general. Simcoe continued to serve in the British Army, and he fought in the Napoleonic Wars.

Simcoe died in Torquay, England, on October 25, 1806. He is buried in St. Martin's Church in Torquay. Simcoe's legacy lives on in Canada, and he is considered one of the founding fathers of the province of Ontario.

John Graves Simcoe was a key figure in the early history of Canada. As the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, he played a leading role in shaping the development of the province. His policies and actions had a lasting impact on the economy, politics, and society of Upper Canada, and his legacy continues to be felt today.



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