(Lands granted to the brothers of Sir Isaac Brock by the Legislature of Upper Canada, in 1812, in posthumous recognition of the services which he had performed for the country.)

The lands that will form the new Erindale campus of the University of Toronto have a history dating back to approximately 1800. They were originally purchased from the Mississauga Indians by the Lieutenant Governor of the province of that time, General Hunter. The lands extended for one mile east and one mile west of the center line of the Credit River, from Lake Ontario to the present Burnamthorpe Road. The original intention, suggested by Isaac Brock, was that these lands be given to retired veterans of the Imperial Forces, as a pleasant place in which to spend their final years.

On the death of General Hunter, Isaac Brock became the commander-in-chief of all British troops in the Province. On the 9th of October 1811, he was made Lieutenant Governor. During this period, the policy of settling Imperial veterans on the Credit River lands had been continuously pursued. The rumblings of war with the United States were continuously heard, however, and when the bloody battle of Queenston Heights occurred in 1812, Brock was unfortunately killed, although the Americans were ignominiously repulsed. It is unnecessary to go into the detail of this important chapter in Canadian history, since it should be known to all.

In recognition of the services which Sir Isaac Brock had performed, the Legislature of Upper Canada at that time, decided to make a gift of land to his four surviving brothers. This land comprised 6,000 acres in East and West Flamborough at the head of Lake Ontario, 1,200 acres in the Township of Brock on Lake Simcoe, 3,000 acres on Rice Lake and 150 acres on the Credit River, the latter being the site now under discussion. Sir Isaac Brock's four brothers resided in England. In 1817 they came to Canada to inspect their land. Having no immediate use for it, they eventually sold or gave away most of it, except for the 150 acres on the River Credit. This latter property remained in the name of Sir Isaac's brother, Daniel Brock (1762-1842).

Neither Daniel Brock, Isaac Brock nor any other of Sir Isaac Brock's brothers or sisters left any descendants. Sir Isaac himself was a bachelor. Many of his brothers and sisters died in infancy, and those who did eventually marry either were childless or had children who themselves succumbed to various illnesses. Consequently, the property on the Credit River eventually passed into the hands of Sir Isaac's nearest relatives in Canada, the Schreiber family. The particular branch of the Schreiber family who built and occupied the house of Licolhurst in 1885, around which Mr. Reginald Watkins' present residence is centered (many of the original walls are included in the Watkins residence) were as close possible relatives of Sir Isaac Brock as it is possible to be, without being direct descendants. The bloodlines of both Sir Isaac Brock's paternal and maternal grandfathers were again united five generations later in the mother of the builder of the first house on the property, Herbert Harrie Schreiber. Regardless of this, however,
Lislehurst and the two other Schreiber homes that were built on the property Woodham and Iverhome, became the frequent haunts of writers and artists noted in Canada's cultural history. Many of Ernest Thompson Seton's animal stories were written while staying there, and many of the locales of the stories themselves are in the very grounds. The noted Canadian artist and illustrator of the original edition of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Poems, Charlotte Mount Brock Schreiber, was also the mistress of the household for many years. She was Weymouth G. Schreiber's second wife and also a direct descendant of Isaac Brock's paternal grandfather, William Brock. (see diagram) She was one of the founder members of the Royal Canadian Academy of Art in 1880. Some of her murals are still to be seen on some of the original interior walls of the Watkin's residence. The Schreiber family also produced in Canada, Sir Collingwood Schreiber, Weymouth G. Schreiber's brother, who with Sir Sandford Fleming built the first railway in Upper Canada from Toronto to Collingwood in 1853, and was instrumental in surveying and building the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Grand Trunk Pacific, the Intercolonial and many other pioneer Canadian railways. Sir Collingwood Schreiber was the first Deputy Minister of Railways during the regime of Sir John A. Macdonald and was Chief Engineer of the C.P.R. from 1880 to 1892, being present at the driving of the last spike in 1884.

The actual relationship of the Schreiber family at Erindale to Sir Isaac Brock, may be of some interest. It comes through both the maternal and paternal sides and is most simply illustrated by the following diagram.

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William Brock (1702-1776)
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  │
William Brock (1725-1800)
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  │
Mary Brock — M — John Carey (1750-1823)
  │
  │
John Carey — M — Judith Mainquay (1774-1855)
  │
  │
Mary Carey — M — Capt. Hirzel Delisle (1802-1842) ───────
  │
  │
Mary Carey — M — Capt. Hirzel Delisle (1797-1878)
  │
  │
(Transferred in 1869)
  │
  │
Harriet Delisle — M — Weymouth G. Schreiber (1835-1861)
  │
  │
(Builder of Iverhome)
  │
  │
Beatrice Walker — M — Herbert Harrie Schreiber (1859-1897) (Builder of Lislehurst)
  │
  │
  │
(Builder of Watkins Residence)
  │
  │
  │
  │
(Transferred in 1869)
  │
  │
Daniel Delisle (1705-1779) ───────
  │
  │
Daniel Delisle (1700-1762)
  │
  │
Isaac Brock (1769-1812)
  │
  │
Hirzel Delisle M (1750-1828)
  │
  │
Daniel Brock (1762-1842)
  │
  │
John Brock — M — Elizabeth Delisle (1729-1777) (1735-1775)
  │
  │
William Brock (1702-1776)
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The actual relationship of the Schreiber family at Erindale to Sir Isaac Brock, may be of some interest. It comes through both the maternal and paternal sides and is most simply illustrated by the following diagram.
This diagram shows that Harriet Delisle, the mother of the builder of the original house on the site of the Watkins residence, (Herbert Harrie Schreiber) was the only person in whom by chance, the bloodlines of both Sir Isaac Brock's paternal and maternal grandfathers were again reunited, four and five generations later. As an incidental fillip in the history of this property, Herbert Harrie Schreiber's first wife, and mother of his descendants, Beatrice Walker, was also the great-grand-daughter of the 11th Duke of Norfolk - this being attested by a Royal Coat of Arms and document by Queen Victoria - given in 1843 to her grandfather, Edward Howard Howard-Gibbon, who had been disinherit from his title of 12th Duke by the political and religious wrangles of the time.

The actual descent of the property from Daniel Brock to Harrie, Edith and Delisle Schreiber, occurred as follows (indicated by the dotted line on diagram): Louisa Delisle (right side) was the favourite niece of Daniel Brock (1762-1842). When he died in 1842 he left the 150 acres on the Credit to her by direction of his will. Louisa Delisle never married and when her cousin Weymouth Schreiber (relationship not shown in diagram) visited her in Guernsey with his three children in 1868, her heart was so delighted with the children that she gave them the 150 acres on the Credit as a gift. "The Deed of Gift in Trust," dated 5th July 1869, between Miss Louisa Delisle and Weymouth George Schreiber, Hirzel P. Delisle and his wife Marion (trustees for the three children) was not registered in the Registry Office of the Township of Toronto until the 8th day of July 1876. This was probably because the Grantor, Miss Louisa Delisle, did not die until February 1874. The actual construction of houses on the property did not occur until 1885, when the two sons had matured. The acreage belonging to Reginald Watkins was sold to him in 1928.

The three children of Weymouth and Harriet Schreiber (Herbert Harrie, Edith and Weymouth Delisle) all had children, many of whom are living in Canada today. They are intermarried with the Swanson, Clarkson (E.R.C. Clarkson) and Robinson (Sir John Beverly Robinson) Mason, Beaty and others families, as well as maintaining the family name of Schreiber. More detail is available on various aspects of the background of this story, but the foregoing should provide the main outlines that may be of interest to the University.

Guy Collingwood Clarkson, October, 1963.

Post Script

In view of the foregoing history, it would not be inappropriate to call one of the buildings of the new campus Sir Isaac Brock College. The Schreiber houses of Lislehurst, Iverhouse and Woodham might also provide the names for future student residences.