

Business card

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Black and white photograph of Charles-Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry (1778-1829). He was a French-speaking officer and hero, a veteran of the British army who served in the West Indies, the Netherlands, Sicily, Ireland and Canada. Winner of the Battle of Châteauguay with a distinctive French-Canadian militia he raised himself (the Voltigeurs), he quickly became a hero for his decisive battles in the War of 1812, and went on to become the most respected Canadian soldier of his time.

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Medium and Support silver print, paper; cardboard

Technique glued, printed

Measurements 11,09 x 7,9 x 0,1 cm

Historical context

Between 1857 and 1865, Jules-Isaïe Benoit dit Livernois (1830-1865) practiced photography in Quebec City. In addition to making portraits, he devoted himself to copying paintings and other objects in order to make them known to the general public.

This calling card, a cardboard-mounted photograph, shows an engraving of Charles-Michel de Salaberry (1778-1829) in his Voltigeurs major's uniform during the War of 1812. At the request of Jacques Viger (1787-1858), painter Anson Dickinson created a portrait of Salaberry around 1824. Asher Brown Durand produced an engraving in 1826, which Livernois photographed for this calling card around 1860.

Charles-Michel de Salaberry, son of the Seigneur de Beauport, was commissioned as an officer in the British army at the age of 14. He served in the West Indies, England and Holland, before returning to Quebec City at the dawn of the American War of 1812. The Governor General asked him to create the Voltigeurs corps, which served with distinction during the war. Salaberry distinguished himself at the Battle of Châteauguay on October 26, 1813, when his troop of 300 men blocked the road to Montreal from an American army of 3,700. This feat made him a hero in the eyes of the French population of Sock. Retired from the army at the end of hostilities, he devoted himself to his business in Chambly until his death in 1829.

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