

Fort Carillon/Ticonderoga



**A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY BEHIND THE
STRATEGIC KEY TO BOTH BRITISH AND
AMERICAN VICTORIES IN THE NORTH.**

**SEVEN YEAR WAR, 1756 – 1763
THE COLONIAL INSURRECTION, 1776 - 1783**

A Brief History



- America made history at Fort Ticonderoga! For a generation this remote post on Lake Champlain guarded the narrow water highway connecting New France with Britain's American colonies.
- **Whichever nation controlled Ticonderoga controlled a continent.** During the American Revolution Fort Ticonderoga was the scene of America's first major victory in its struggle for independence and the United States' northern stronghold protecting New York and New England from British invasion from Canada.

A Military History of the Adirondack Region



- 1690 ~ War between England and France spilled over into the New World, as British Colonials launched an unsuccessful invasion of New France.
- 1709 ~ Fort Anne was constructed by the British colonists to protect supply lines for the Queen Anne's War invasion of New France.
- 1731 ~ The French constructed a fort at Chimney Point and then in 1734 built Fort Saint Frédéric at Crown Point, in a concerted effort to control and settle the Champlain Valley.

Nova Francia – New France (1716)



*Nova Anglia Septentrionali Americæ implantata
Anglorumque coloniis florentissima*
Published by Johann Baptist Homann, Nurnburg, Germany, 1716

Named for the Mohawk word meaning “land between the waters,” Ticonderoga is recognizable on early maps of northern New York long before its name appeared in print. It is the place where the La Chute River connects Lake George (*Iroquoise* on this map) with Lake Champlain.

Fort Saint Frédéric at Crown Point



Between 1734 and 1738, the French built an awe-inspiring stone fortress at Crown Point called Fort St. Frédéric. French settlers created a thriving community around the fort that they were forced to abandon in 1759 because of the approach of a large British army. Rather than allow the fort to fall into British hands, the French blew up the fort, leaving it a ruin.



THE RUINS OF FORT ST. FRÉDÉRIC



Chaussegros de Léry, the king's engineer in New France, drew plans for Fort St. Frédéric that included this image of the beautiful stone fort.

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Built on the site of the present-day Champlain Memorial Lighthouse, Fort St. Frédéric's windmill ground wheat into flour and helped support the burgeoning French community.



Fort St. Frédéric during a summer visitation.

Fort Saint Frédéric at Crown Point



The Bridge at Crown Point...
not original



**Original
foundation**

A Need to Protect Travel Routes

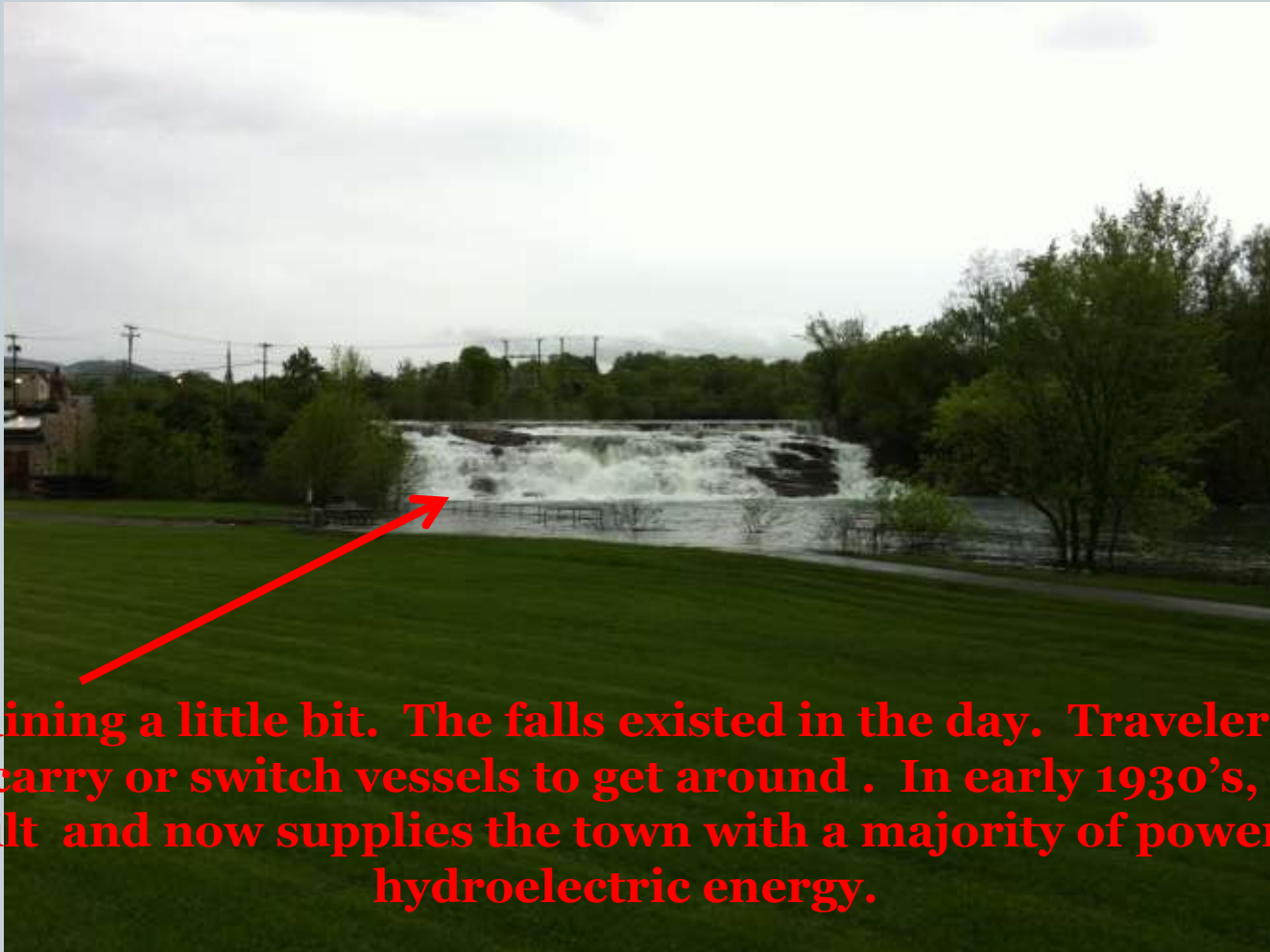


- 1755 ~ As the British pushed north into traditionally French territory, Governor-General Vaudreuil in Québec anticipated attack on French settlements in the Champlain valley. He ordered Michel Chartier de Lotbinière to construct a fort south of Fort St. Frédéric (Crown Point) that would cover the portage between Lakes George and Champlain. Construction of Fort Carillon began in the fall, and continued for the next four years.

Lake George – “Queen of Lakes”



Portage Route between Lake George and Lake Champlain



It was raining a little bit. The falls existed in the day. Travelers would have to carry or switch vessels to get around . In early 1930's, a damn was built and now supplies the town with a majority of power using hydroelectric energy.

Canoe for portage built using Traditional Materials and Methods



A Covered Bridge over Portage – Early 1900's



Welcome to Fort Carillon



Welcome, 1755



An Overview



South Entrance



The Barracks



The Armory



Parade Grounds inside the fort

The Trenches overlooking the North Fields



FIRE POWER!

15' Deep

30' High

Facing South on Lake Champlain



Cannon's Henry Knox brought to Dorchester Heights (Train of Noble Artillery)



BOOM!!! (1732 Cannon)



To raise and lower



Mortar Cannon (Short Range for Land Attack)



The French and Indian War (7 Years)



- 1758 ~ Robert Rogers fought the Battle on Snowshoes near Trout Brook south of Ticonderoga. In July, General Abercromby led an army of 17,000 British and Colonial troops against a small French force of 3,700 entrenched at Fort Carillon. Abercromby lost the battle and nearly 2000 men, a third of whom were members of the 42nd Regiment of Foot, the Highlanders, or the “Black Watch” Regiment.
- 1759 ~ General Jeffrey Amherst laid siege to Fort Carillon. Losses elsewhere in New France had left the garrison ill-equipped, so the French abandoned the fort after blowing up the powder magazine. Amherst repaired the fort and renamed it Ticonderoga, and then began construction of a British war fleet and a major new fortress at Crown Point. Later that year, Montcalm lost Québec to General Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham.

The French Lines of Montcalm



The Trenches – French Line (designed to protect from cannon fire)



Trenches

More Trenches



Fort this way



A French Soldier



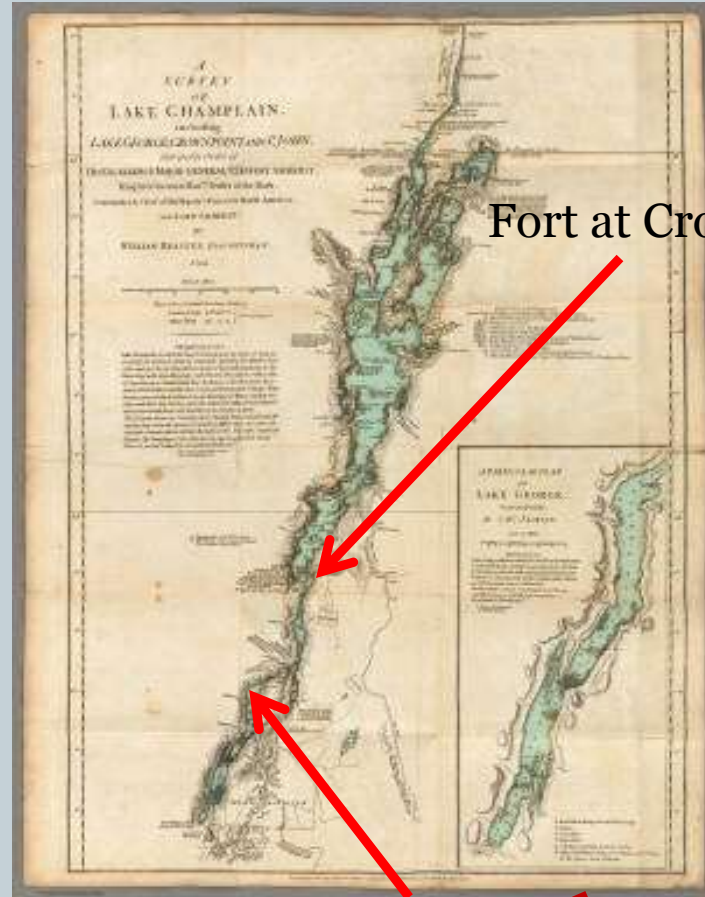
Not French Soldiers!



Results of the Seven Year War



- 1763 ~ End of the Seven Years' War. France had lost Canada to Great Britain. Settlers from New England began to settle the "Hampshire Grants," now Vermont.
- The Fort at Crown Point (located at the narrowest section of Lake Champlain) become the main protection for these settlers. Ft. Ticonderoga is left to fall apart.



Fort at Crown Point

Ft. Carillon Ticonderoga

British Fort at Crown Point



Cypress Bay and Falcon would fit in the parade grounds of this fort

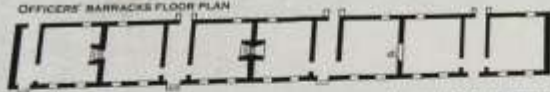


OFFICERS' & SOLDIERS' BARRACKS

LES CASERNES DES OFFICIERS ET DES SOLDATS



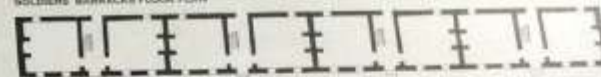
OFFICERS' BARRACKS FLOOR PLAN



British and American society in the 18th century drew clear distinctions between different classes of people. Officers (military leaders with rank) were drawn from the literate upper classes of society. Sophisticated clothes and personal belongings were symbols of their wealth and authority. The men who enlisted as common soldiers in the army were mostly from the lower economic and social classes.

Les sociétés britanniques et américaines du XVIII^{ème} siècle établissent des distinctions profondes entre les différentes classes sociales de l'époque. Les officiers (commandants militaires) furent choisis parmi les classes érudites et instruites de la société. Leurs vêtements sophistiqués et leurs possessions étaient des symboles de leur fortune et de leur autorité. Les hommes enrôlés comme simples soldats venaient principalement des classes sociales et économiques inférieures.

SOLDIERS' BARRACKS FLOOR PLAN



The ruins of two standing barracks have clear evidence of the differences between officers and common soldiers. The soldiers' barracks had coarser, stone chimneys; the officers' barracks had finer fireplaces and chimneys made of brick that was removed and reused elsewhere by later generations. The soldiers' barracks had simple brick floors, whereas the officers' barracks were tiled. If you look closely at the entrance, you can still see where rough-hewn planks were attached to the officers' barracks; the soldiers had none. Officers slept one or two in a room, depending on rank; soldiers slept 12 to 18 in a room, 2 or 3 men in each bunk.

Les débris de ces deux casernes montrent l'existence des différences entre les officiers et les simples soldats. Le rez-de-chaussée des soldats a des cheminées en pierre crues; les officiers ont des cheminées plus raffinées construites de briques qui ont été réutilisées ailleurs par des générations postérieures. Le rez-de-chaussée des soldats avait des planchers de briques, tandis que les planchers de la caserne des officiers étaient carrelés. Si on regarde aux entrées de plus près, on peut même voir l'attache des planches au large attachés à la caserne des officiers; les soldats n'en avaient pas. Les officiers dormaient un ou deux par chambre, selon leur rang, tandis que les soldats dormaient deux à six par chambre, deux ou trois hommes dans chaque couchette.



Fort Construction/Destruction



Barracks and Officers quarters.
The arrow shows where the second floor would have been placed using wood. Double chimneys are efficient for heating and cooking.

The results of an armory explosion rendered this fort useless and in ruins.

Fort's were built with material found on-site



- Ohio River Valley (Fort Necessity) = Wood
- Fort at Crown Point/Carillon = Quarried Stone

Quarried stone:

Notice the chisel marks.

Every stone was chiseled out of the ground using hand drills, wedges, and small gunpowder charges



Construction Methods



Actual hand drill marks on the original foundation of Ft. Carillon.
(recently discovered)

Architects, stone masons, etc. would be employed by the armies.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

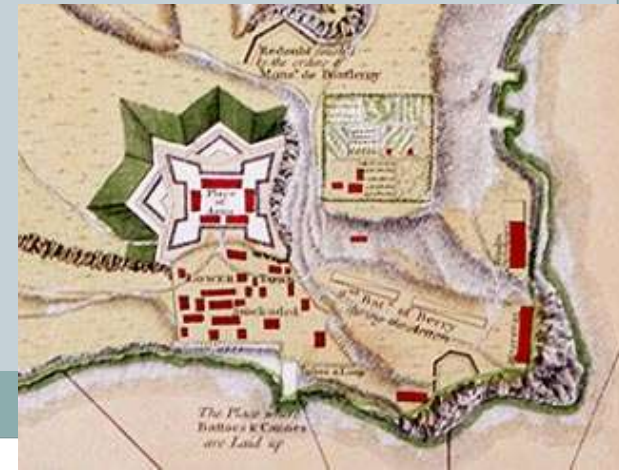
Under the British, Ft. Carillon is Ft. Ticonderoga



- 1775

At the outbreak of the Revolution, Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold both realized that Fort Ticonderoga made an easy target for the American rebels.

With a small band of Green Mountain Boys, they captured the Fort from the British in an early morning raid on May 10th, only three weeks after Lexington and Concord. **This was “America’s first victory” in the Revolution.**



Knox saves Washington



- 1775-6

Colonel Henry Knox transported more than 60 tons of military supplies including 59 artillery pieces from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston. Ticonderoga's cannon were placed on Dorchester Heights which had a commanding view of Boston. The threat of these guns forced the British to evacuate Boston on March 17, 1776 and the Continental Army entered Boston the next day

The Noble Train of Artillery



Dorchester Heights

Great Cannons... now if they only had gun powder



Birth of the American Navy



- 1776 ~ **Benedict Arnold** organized the construction of the first American navy to thwart a British invasion from Canada. The fleet was built at Whitehall, and outfitted at Ticonderoga. The British defeated the American navy at the Battle of Valcour Island in October, but decided that Fort Ticonderoga was too strong for their forces to tackle so late in the year. The Americans further strengthened their position at Ticonderoga by fortifying Mount Independence, on the east shore of Lake Champlain.

(That's right... the first American Navy was built on/for a lake in Whitehall, NY, not on/for an ocean.)

Battle of Lake Champlain, Oct. 11, 1776



Battle of Lake Champlain, October 11, 1776

Oil on canvas by Carlton Chapman, ca. 1898 painted as an illustration for A.T. Mahan's article "The Naval Campaign on Lake Champlain," *Scribner's Magazine*, February 1898.

In the summer of 1776 General Benedict Arnold ordered the construction of a fleet of 15 ships at Skenesborough (Whitehall, NY) to secure a naval presence on Lake Champlain to stall British plans to invade New York. On October 11, 1776 General Arnold's fleet engaged a larger British fleet near Valcour Island. After a day-long battle, most of Arnold's ships were damaged or sunk. The fleet retreated south under cover of darkness scuttling and grounding several ships along the way. The remains of Arnold's broken fleet (only four ships) reached Crown Point several days later, hotly pursued by the British.

Due to the lateness of the season the British decided not to push south to engage the Americans at Ticonderoga. Even though the Battle of Lake Champlain was a defeat for the Americans, it prevented the capture of northern New York by the British for another campaign season.



1776-7

The former French military gardens continue to serve as the garden for the American army at Ticonderoga that constitutes the third-largest urban concentration of people in North America at the time. The American garrison builds numerous shoreline defenses against the threatening British fleets.



The American Army at Ticonderoga
“...the third-largest urban concentration of people in North America at the time.”

Battle for the North is Won



- 1777 ~ General Burgoyne led a large army of British and German troops south from Canada, intent on taking Albany, and splitting off New England from the other colonies.
- By hauling cannon up Mount Defiance, Burgoyne forced the Americans to abandon Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence. Two months later, Col. John Brown captured British outposts surrounding Ticonderoga in a surprise raid that coincided with the first battle at Saratoga, where Burgoyne finally met his defeat.

