

From the beginning of the American Revolution, Britain's goal was to deliver a crushing defeat of the rebels to return the American colonists to to their place within the emerging British empire. Their plan was to take control of the interconnected waterway from New York City to Lake Champlain, thereby breaking off New England, the seedbed of the Revolution, from the rest of the continent. In 1777, Lieutenant General John Burgoyne arrived in Canada to undertake his part of the mission to gain control of Lake Champlain, Lake George, and the upper-Hudson River. The events of the summer and fall of 1777 turned the tide of the American Revolution. *Waterways of War: The Turning Point of the American Revolution*, features battlefields and associated historical sites that explore this stunning reversal of fortune.



Top left: *The Battle of Valcour Island*, October 11, 1776, painting by Peter Rindlisbacher. Courtesy of the artist. Top right: *A View of Ticonderoga from a Point on the North Shore of Lake Champlain*, watercolor by James Hunter, c. late 1776. Courtesy the British Library. Above left: *Prisoners Taken at Battle of Bennington* on Aug. 16, 1777, painting by Leroy Williams, WPA artist. Courtesy Bennington Museum. Above right: *Benedict Arnold leads American troops into the rear of the Breymann Redoubt at the Battle of Bemis Heights*, October 7, 1777. Courtesy National Park Service/Harpers Ferry Center Commissioned Art Collection/artist Don Troiani.

Waterways of War

The Turning Point of the American Revolution

A Traveler's Guide to Revolutionary War Forts, Battlefields, and Historic Sites along New York's Lakes to Locks Passage Scenic Byway

Waterways of War The Turning Point of the American Revolution

Published by Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc.



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Front cover: Surrender of General Burgoyne by John Trumbull, 1821. Courtesy Architect of the Capitol. The central figure is American General Horatio Gates, who refused to take the sword offered by British General Burgoyne, and, treating him as a gentleman, invites him into his tent. Many of the figures in the scene are portraits of specific officers. Trumbull planned this outdoor scene to contrast with the Declaration of Independence mural beside it.

John Trumbull (1756–1843) was born in Connecticut, the son of the governor. After graduating from Harvard University, he served in the Continental Army under General Washington. He studied painting with Benjamin West in London and focused on history painting.

Acknowledgments

Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc. is pleased to present the story of Lieutenant General John Burgoyne’s ill-fated military campaign in 1777. His campaign, leading to the Battles of Saratoga, included a series of battles and skirmishes that many historians consider to be the “turning point of the American Revolution.” Burgoyne’s campaign followed the route that is now known as Lakes to Locks Passage, a New York State Byway that has the Federal Highway Administration’s premiere designation of “All American Road” due to its significant natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources. We hope that this book not only enhances your journey through history, but provides an appreciation for these battlefields, and ultimately, a desire to steward these important resources for future generations.

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