Lake Champlain: 350 Years
Raceways for the currents of history—such are the linking water courses, Champlain among them, that penetrate the wilderness—avenues of access for adventuring men—the places, too, where others would stop them.

From Thermopylae, nature's passes have invited history. So for centuries was Champlain, like a dagger pointed south, the route for invasion. Algonquins, Iroquois, French, British and would-be Americans used and contested it. For two centuries Western Europe’s fierce struggles for North America turned bloodily upon Champlain's waters. Here, in great part, America's national destinies were set.

Today Champlain's strategic place, no longer military, yet lies in its linking waters—now for the peaceful shipping of commerce and for pleasure.

This lake of promise, so many years ago, failed one of its discoverer's great hopes. Champlain still sought a passage to the Western Seas. But the lake, Champlain, its history proud and its future bright, has been proved worthy of the Explorer's name.
Out of the lakes stiff narrows, bridges from Chimney Point in the foreground to Crump Point, far side, was site of great forts and numerous battles, one of the first, perhaps Champlain's with Iroquois. Beyond Bulwagga Bay.
This great scenic and historic valley was a half-billion years in the making.

Back in the dim recesses of time, a half billion years ago, what is now the Champlain area perhaps more resembled the moon. The ancient, pre-Cambrian mountains, the Adirondacks, were there, but towered much higher than now. Nothing was living on the land.

There occurred at this time a profound geologic movement just east of the mountains. The earth’s crust slowly buckled and bent downward, forming a deep, north-south trough which actually persists today.

The sea invaded the slowly sinking area and, in the course of millions of years, deposited thousands of feet of sand, clay and mud into this ocean-linked trough. These sediments, after many thousands of years more, finally turned into rock. An example of this new rock is the red sandstone now seen bared at Burlington.

Perhaps 440 million years ago this Champlain area lifted again above the water. Eighty million more years passed and, as the region subsided once more, the marine waters overspread.

The earth’s crust again began to feel a deep disturbance. The rocks which had formed in the Champlain trough now were thrust up to form the Taconic mountains. Compressing and folding relentlessly forced whole beds of ancient rock upward and atop the younger. Such is the Rock Point Overthrust just north of Burlington, one of the outstanding geological phenomena in America. (A painting of it hangs in Burlington’s Fleming Museum.) Later, to the east of the Champlain area, deep-lying, molten granite forced itself upward. These intrusions formed the great granite deposits at Barre and the monadnocks such as Mt. Ascutney, even farther east. At the

Above Quaker Smith’s Point, looking northeast across Shelburne Point and Bay to Burlington, and distant Green Mountains.
close of this time, perhaps 200 million years ago, the thrusting and folding of the rocks pushed up into the Green Mountain range—much higher than now. For uncounted millennia mountains have successively been built up and worn down in this region. The most recent edition of the Green Mountains thus was made largely from the eroded rubble of earlier great ranges.

In comparatively recent days—150 million years ago—the Champlain area came into an era of very mild weather. Lush vegetation covered the land and sustained the Vermont dinosaurs. Notable are the deposits of lignite (a primitive coal) and ochres laid down at the close of this time in the Brandon area.

Recent happenings began perhaps one million B.C. as the Great Ice Cap covered all of Vermont. The crushing ice, thousands of feet thick, depressed the land 600 feet or more by sheer weight. Finally the earth grew warmer and the mountain tops emerged from the ice.

As it lies today Champlain is an infant by geologic reckoning—perhaps less than 12,000 years old. While the great ice sheet slowly melted, down and northward, still it lay for centuries in the Champlain trough. Thus a lake of melted ice was formed in the valley immediately south of the receding glacier.

The lake basin filled. For thousands of years the water, contained at the north end by the ice barrier, drained southward into what is now the Hudson valley. The south end of the lake, as one still can trace, was held by a natural dam near Schuylerville, N. Y.

In this stage of time the lake, which has been termed “Lake Vermont,” was much higher than now. Many evidences of it remain to this day—marooned deltas, wave caves and shoreline terraces such as those clearly defined on the slopes of Mt. Philo, near Charlotte. Eastward Lake Vermont reached Richmond, Hinesburg and Huntington. An arm extended to Brandon and engulfed Lake Dunmore, near Middlebury. The land level still was partly depressed and even the hilltop campus of the University of Vermont would have been under 200 feet of water.

As the glacier melted back north of Burlington a new
VITAL STATISTICS

LENGTH—118 miles (including 5 miles in Canada).
WIDTH—Maximum, 10 miles.
AREA—490 square miles, of which 151 in New York, 17 in Canada, 322 in Vermont. 428 sq. mi. are water, 55 in islands.
SHORE LINE—238 miles in Vermont, 170 in New York.
ELEVATION—95 feet above sea level; rises to a maximum of 100 feet.
DISCHARGE—at Richelieu River, average of 2,992 gallons per second.
DRAINAGE AREA—8,277 square miles.
DEPTH—greatest is 390 feet, 2 miles north of Split Rock.
ISLANDS—80.
FREEZES—average date of freeze-over—February 7. Last area to freeze is 3 mi. south of Juniper Island. In the last 150 years, Lake has failed to freeze over in about 12 winters.
Above, a self-propelled barge plies the Narrows, headed south toward the Champlain Canal and the Hudson. Benson Landing lies in the foreground.

At the right is a scene further north, near Chimney Pt. It overlooks the DAR State Park, in the foreground, toward Fort Henry and the iron mines above.

6 VERMONT Life
Near Burlington the arm of Colchester Reef, carrying the Rutland Railroad, hooks out northward toward South Hero.

still more. So the now fresh-water lake, fed by mountain streams, found its outlet spilling over this northern barrier to flow by the Richelieu River into the St. Lawrence. This is Lake Champlain today.

But the slow, relentless forces of nature still move. If this upward spring of the earth continues in the north, geologists say, the balance someday will shift again.

Already the mouths of Otter and Dead Creeks, southward on the lake, are flooded back. A geologically minded skin diver off Port Henry will find a not-so-ancient river delta under 60 feet of water.

A further tilt along Champlain’s length of only 4/10 of an inch per mile would do it. That would be enough to cause Champlain once again to pour its water southward into the Hudson. But it isn’t a matter of immediate concern. The year 14,000 A.D. would be a likely date.

The Champlain country has milder weather than its neighbors both east and west. It has a longer growing season (150 days), less snowfall (4 to 8 feet) and less rainfall (34 inches). Though the ancient weakness of the earth, which caused Champlain’s trough and the building of its neighbor mountains, is still there, the scar seems fairly healed. It is likely that Champlain’s clear waters for ages more will continue to temper the valley’s climate and pour out its bounties to man.

W. H. Jr. END

LAND AND WATER 7
IT WAS Samuel de Champlain, himself, who left the first written record of the fish and game life of the region that now bears his name. His *Journal* of 1609 tells of “stags, fallow deer, fawns, roebucks, bears” and other animals. The only Champlain fish which he noted was the gar pike. He described it as being some five feet in length, with a “bill” extending an additional two-and-a-half feet from its head. The bill of the gar pike, he notes, when touched to the skull of a headache sufferer, was believed by his Indian guides to effect a sure cure.

Nobody else, from that time to this has seen a gar pike much over three feet in length, including the bill. This, plus the fact Champlain also reported snow on the Green Mountains (in July), has led some historians to view the Explorer as a truth stretcher. Most sportsmen, however, believe Champlain was the lake’s first white fisherman, and thus his description of the gar pike was merely under the license granted to all fisherman in telling of the size of the one that got away.

In any event there can be no doubt that the Champlain country in the early days was a fish and game paradise. In 1749 the indefatigable Swedish traveler, Peter Kalm, visited the French fort at Crown Point. “The lake close by,” he states, “is full of fish and the woods abound with birds and animals. Those who chose to be diligent may live extremely well, and very grand in regard to food.”

When the French wars were over and the first English settlers made their clearings on both shores of the lake, they were dependent upon the fish in Champlain’s waters and game in the nearby forests for their sustenance. Atlantic salmon that came in by way of the St. Lawrence and Richelieu rivers were so numerous that settlers netted them by the wagon load at the mouths of the rivers that entered the lake. Many were dried and salted for future use. So common and monotonous was this diet of Champlain salmon that laws were passed in some northern New York communities forbidding the feeding of this fish more than a specified number of times to apprentices and “bound out” servants.

More dense even than the salmon was the flight of the passenger pigeons. By uncounted thousands they settled in the great groves of chestnut and oak. Pigeon hunting in those days was more a slaughter than a hunt. They were netted and trapped and their nests destroyed. Like the salmon they were salted down by the barrel for future use,
or for barter or sale. In many Vermont towns the "bound out" boys and girls became as tired of pigeon pie as did their New York contemporaries of the flesh of salmon.

The pigeons continued to darken the skies for many years, despite this wholesale slaughter, until like the chestnut tree on which they fed, they vanished from the Champlain country forever.

The fall and the spring found wild fowl by the thousands winging along Lake Champlain. The pioneer would wait patiently until a packed flight of ducks or geese came within range of his heavily-loaded flintlock. Aiming at the very center of the flying mass he often could pick up a hundred duck dinners when the cloud of black smoke lifted. An occasional wild turkey from the chestnut groves would provide a welcome change of diet. The ruffed grouse or "partridge" could be knocked off a limb by a boy with a stick—a statement hard to accept for today's hunter who knows the grouse as the wariest game bird of all.

But with the bounty of the forest there were hazards as well. Bear, lynx, wolf and the dreaded catamount or panther prowled about the new clearings. Stray cows or colts quickly became their prey. Settlers themselves were not exempt from attack by these beasts. Almost any of the old Champlain towns has its legend of the lone hunter pursued by a wolf pack, or of a great bear attempting to enter a log cabin.

Equally dreaded on the new frontier was the rattlesnake, ruthlessly exterminated and now almost unknown in the Champlain Valley. Liberal bounties and organized hunts by whole townships spelled the end of the wolf and the panther. The bear has now retreated to the fastness of the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains, where constant hunting has made him among the shyest of animals.
It is only fair to add, however, that there are those who will disagree on the extinction of the panther. We will not quarrel with those who are panther believers. We would as soon deny the existence of the Champlain sea serpent.

But whether or not Champlain contains a serpent there can be no doubt it does contain about as wide a variety of fish as can be found in any body of water. The salmon have gone, although a few of the landlocked variety are taken every season.
The biggest fish in Champlain waters, yet rarely seen, is the sturgeon. Growing to a length of six feet and often weighing more than 200 pounds, it lives on the bottom of the lake. It feeds with a mouth like a vacuum cleaner on both small plant and animal life at the muddy bottom. The sturgeon has been said to reach an age of more than fifty years.

Not growing to the size of the sturgeon, (36 pounds is big) but a game fish of sheer savagery, is the muskellunge. Though comparatively rare it is found in the northern part of the lake. Akin to the muskellunge both in family and savagery is the northern pike. This wolf of the fresh water is distributed from one end of the lake to the other, favoring shallow, weedy water more than the clear depths. The northern pike may reach 20 pounds in weight. He will grab minnow, frog, young muskrat or duckling with fierce impartiality.

The southern part of Champlain, with its slough-like rivers, also contains that chain-marked relative of the northern pike, the eastern pickerel. This lurker in the weeds is sudden death for small perch and venturesome frogs.

In these same weed waters, south of the Crown Point bridge, lurks the bowfin, an archaic sort of fish looking just like his fossil ancestors of Mesozoic time. He has a large, flat head, small beady eyes and a pike-like body; weighs up to a dozen pounds; will tackle anything that comes along; even out of water is very tenacious of life.
As a table fish the bowfin leaves something to be desired. The ancient recipe for cooking bowfin is to split the fish and nail each side to a plank. The plank is then placed in front of a very hot fire and the bowfin allowed to cook for four hours. Then the bowfin is removed from the plank. After that, the recipe states, throw the bowfin as far away as possible and eat the plank.

Neighbors of the bowfin in the same waters are the carp and the gar pike. The carp is a foreign importation detested by most anglers, although a stout fighter. He is a long-lived fish of the sucker family and may attain a weight of 30 pounds. He often can be traced by the muddy trail he leaves, rooting like a pig along the bottom.

The gar pike, another of Champlain’s archaic fishes (with an ancestry of 45 million years), is equipped with sharp teeth which raise hob with smaller fish. In spring, when spawning, the large dorsal fin protrudes above the water like a sail fish’s. Its very hard scales have peg and socket joints, which allows them to be moved separately. This fish has no food value.

Two of the most sought-after game fish in Champlain are the two kinds of bass and the wall-eyed pike. The large mouth or Oswego bass inhabits the shallower or more weedy waters of the lake, while the bronze-colored small-mouth likes the clear, deep waters of the deep reefs and rocky shores.

The wall-eyed pike, properly known as the pike perch, is found from the Canadian border to the Whitehall locks.

**FLORA**

The Champlain valley climate, like the lower Connecticut River area, is milder than the rest of Vermont. This favorable climate and the alluvial soil determine the predominant trees, shrubs and wild flowers which are native to the region.

This was white pine country until the woodman’s axe cut back the great stands. Typical valley trees now are red cedar, white and pitch pine, and such transition hardwoods as ash, basswood and oak.

Perhaps 1000 different species of flowering plants are found in the valley area—a great variety of grasses and sedges, roses, clovers, lady’s slippers and other orchids, cowslips, trillium and hepaticas in the spring, anemones and buttercups. A variety of interesting ferns favor the limestone outcropping areas.
With his protruding, almost luminous eyes he's hardly a beauty winner among fish, but he is the best of table fish. Undoubtedly the most fished-for inhabitant of the lake is the yellow perch, prevalent everywhere in Champlain waters. These perch travel in schools and the fish in a given school are apt to be of almost identical size.

Equal in numbers, perhaps, to the perch, but found only in the deep waters, is the smelt—small in size, silvery in color and with a cucumber-like odor. Its ancestors were landlocked in Champlain when it became a lake.

In the deepest water is the ling, a fish that seems to be covered with flesh rather than skin or scales, comes equipped with strong teeth, may weigh several pounds. The ling is a member of the codfish family and is another of Champlain's primitive survivors. It is listed as a fine food fish, but Champlain fishermen consider it a nuisance.

Members of the sunfish family are found in all the shallow parts of the lake. These include the pumpkin seeds, blue gills, strawberry bass and even crappies. Sheephead, another descendant of ocean-going fish, are found generally throughout the lake. They are fine fighters but worthless for food.

In southern Champlain's muddy waters and in the various "slangs" and slow-moving creeks which enter that part of the lake dwell the ugly but toothsome bull heads and catfish. The bullheads, or "horned pout" rarely measure over a foot in length, whiskers and all. But the evil looking catfish may grow to twice that length and attain a weight of twenty pounds.

Lake trout are not numerous, as in the years when they were fished commercially. But they are found occasionally, as are their cousins the rainbows, brown and brook trout.

Wild ducks and occasional Canada geese follow their ancient sky trails in the fall migrations. Black ducks and mallards, wood ducks and an occasional teal all raise their families on Champlain. A dozen other varieties join them in the autumn.
CHAMPLAIN ACE IN THE HOLE
Leon W. Dean

Somewhere under the cavernous bluffs of Lake Champlain, if men are to believe their eyes and children their elders, dwells a mammoth lake serpent. No one attempts to explain its origin. We know only that its mysterious presence has been reported all the way from Bulwagga Bay, where it may have made its initial appearance, to Alburg Tongue.

States a local newspaper account of 1871: “The ‘What is it?’ of Lake Champlain was again interviewed near Barber’s Point, on Monday last. It was in full view of the passengers of the steamer Curlew.”

A man who fled in a rowboat from the creature’s path some fifty years ago testifies that he still has vivid recollections of the experience. Two ladies fishing near Malletts Bay on August 9, 1948, had the summer tan scared off them when they spied the monster disporting itself in their vicinity. So recently as 1954 a Vermont high school principal and three companions sighted the thing while they were out in a boat between West Swanton and Alburg. At first they mistook it for a floating telephone pole. Then it began to move, and so did they. An impressive number of other observers bear witness that Lake Champlain has an unexplainable ace in the hole as a Festival attraction.

For identification purposes, the reptile is described as being from twenty to forty feet long. It usually travels in high gear, and at such times it raises a wave similar to the bow wave of a fast moving powerboat. Sometimes its body bulks well out of water. More intimate details of the creature’s physical appearance are understandably lacking.

Doubters claim that the object is possibly the reflection of light upon the water, a drifting substance, gamboling sturgeon, or waterfowl skittering over the surface. Some people have no faith in anything.

This unique woodcut, now in the Vt. Historical Society collections, was fashioned about 1880 by the late Theobald M. Tobin, publisher of the Swanton Courier. It was printed there at the height of a sea serpent scare.
The ruffed grouse or partridge still thrives in the abandoned apple orchards and the cedar thickets along Champlain’s shores. And that hardy and bright-colored importation, the pheasant, may nest on the edge of the same marsh where the black ducks raise their young. Raccoons prowl the shore lines at night in search of crawfish and frogs, with the sly and sinewy mink a rival for the same tidbits. Lake Champlain, which was the home of seals as late as 1821, also is apt to be fox country. Both the red and the grey varieties hunt the margins of the marshes.

These same marshes, in the West Haven and Benson sections of Vermont, are the homes of thousands of those sturdy little furbearers, the muskrats. Across these wet lands on spring nights, the big, green frogs boom their bass chorus.

One of the more familiar animals, the gray squirrel adds a tragic note to the Champlain story. Once in a decade or so the beeches, the oaks and butternuts of the Vermont woods fail to produce any nuts. Then the squirrels start a westward migration. Although they are not the best of swimmers, they do not hesitate to venture the crossing of the lake, even in the roughest of water. In such years the wanderer along the shores will find the wet, furry bodies of scores of these little rodents, that have failed to gain the crossing.

Users of both the shore and water are the turtles of Lake Champlain. They range from huge, moss-covered snappers to the small and harmless mud turtles. Unknown in many waters but relatively common in Champlain is the soft-shelled turtle—fast and powerful and capable of catching a swimming fish. Sometimes in the spring, when the waters are high and muddy in the southern part of Champlain, a whole flotilla of huge turtles may be encountered on the lake, presumably on their way to some sandy beach to lay their eggs.

The gulls have used Champlain for centuries. These scavengers of the lake patrol its waters from end to end and follow the tributary rivers back almost to their sources in the far-off mountains. On the Four Brothers islands, far out in the “broad lake,” they nest and raise their young, with great herons and wild ducks for feathered company.

The wildlife of Champlain, whether in its waters, upon its rugged shores or flying in the sky above it, is varied and most colorful. The happy fishing and hunting grounds of the ancient Indians has remained today the same for the nature lover, hunter and angler. Some of the fishes, fowl and animals of Champlain have vanished with the ages, but new species have come to replace them. And the wildlife explorer of tomorrow will still find this historic lake a fascinating world of nature.
For 6000 years this was the sustenance, the home, the travel route and the battleground of the first Americans

JOHN C. HUDEN

No phase of Vermont history is more puzzling than the mystery of its Indians. For many years historians have declared that Indians never lived in Vermont; that Vermont was just a hunting-ground, a stopping-place for migrants. Yet, practically every Green Mountain village has a locally collected display of arrowheads and pottery fragments, too many to be just casual discards. Moreover, archaeologists have identified certain arrow points from Highgate as dating from at least 4000 B.C. Only a few places in the Champlain Valley have been carefully examined by experts, although many sites are eminently worthy of investigation.

No competent recent historian has sifted the meager historical evidence now available on Vermont’s aborigines, and none has searched for further documentation. Lesser investigators have found that fifty-odd years before Champlain’s 1609 visit an earlier explorer, André Thevet, wrote of a beautiful lake dotted with islands, “the largest of which, peopled by barbarians, served as a refuge for savages pursued by enemies.” These islands may have been Isle la Motte and The Heroes. Sieur de Champlain himself has furnished the first historically acceptable mention of Vermont natives; he observed “four beautiful islands which like the Iroquois (Richelieu) river were
formerly inhabited by Indians, but have been abandoned, since they have been at war with one another.” This “war” was probably the ancient conflict between Iroquois and Algonkians, although some authorities maintain it was civil strife between Mohawks and their Huron cousins.

The “Velasco” map of 1610 shows two lakes and a river in the same relationships as Lake George, Lake Champlain and the Richelieu. Probably Champlain never saw that chart, even in its preliminary form, but his first knowledge concerning “The Iroquois Sea” came from the same informants as Velasco’s—the Indians. Possibly these savages were Algonkian tribesmen exerting relentless pressure on the slowly receding Iroquois, who in 1525 had been masters of the St. Lawrence estuary as himself in the midst of a long-existing fracas.

Champlain’s 1609 victory did not end the age-long contest between Iroquoian and Algonkian. The former became allies of the English; the latter favored the French in the grand conflict for North America. In some respects this alignment continued until the end of the American Revolution.

Very little is known about Indians in Vermont between

These Indians and their squaws of Lower Canada, probably Abenakis, dressed as did their contemporaries further south.
1609 and 1651, except that many savages died of pesti-
ence, and that by 1640 the Iroquois had run out of fur. Sev-
eral old maps show northeastern New York (Vermont
was legally four New York counties until 1775 at least)
as Koughserage, "the ancient Mohawk beaver hunting
grounds." As records of the Dutch East India Company
were sold for junk in 1821, the quest for New Netherlands
cooks along the Connecticut from Vernon to Barnet, the
Pocumtucs of Deerfield Valley and possibly the Nulhegans
in Essex County.

On September 1, 1666 the French Intendant in Quebec
sent a letter to his foreign minister in Paris, discussing a
proposed general war against the Mohawks. Less than
two months before, the French had dedicated Fort Ste.

Mier Mac Indians, living in eastern Canada, were pictured in 1812. Their dress was like those of the Champlain area.

data has come to naught; but French archives are being
scrutinized in hope of discovering how many Indians, and
what kinds, lived and hunted in Vermont between 1609
and 1750.

In the summer of 1651 French authorities at Quebec
stated that New Englanders were honor bound to check
the "Iroquois savages who were killing Sokokis and
Abenakis" (Algonkians). The Sokokis included Penna-
Anne at Isle La Motte.

From the middle 1600's until 1760 there were many
skirmishes, forays and raids between New France and
New England. The English colonists "called the New
England Algonkians Brothers, but treated them as Wolves;
the French called the Algonkians Wolves (Loups) but
treated them as Brothers." This pattern was established
in 1637 when Connecticut settlers nearly exterminated the
Interesting diorama of a typical Indian village of the Champlain region is displayed at Burlington's Fleming Museum.

Pequots, some of whose survivors fled up the Connecticut river to Canada.

In 1666 Mohawk allies of the British destroyed the Pocumtuc fort at Deerfield, Massachusetts, and apparently built a palisaded stronghold of their own somewhere near Marlboro, Vermont. Pocumtuc refugees from southern Vermont eventually joined other harassed Algonkians under Metacomet (alias King Phillip) at Squakheag, near Brattleboro. To Squakheag came also remnants of the Mohicans, who had been mauled by Mohawks in 1668, at Pownal; another Mohican shred went to “Winooskeek” at the mouth of the Winooski river, thence to Missisquoi Bay.

After King Phillip's death in 1675 some of the battered Algonkians sought refuge at Anquassicook, west of Arlington, Vermont; others went to Winooskeek, still more to Grand Isle and on to Missisquoi. Another group fled up the Connecticut, tarrying a season or two at Bellows Falls, or Weathersfield Bow, or Bradford, or Newbury (Coös, or Koesseck) eventually arriving at Canton Hatley, Quebec, via Lake Memphremagog and the St. Francis river.

In the late 1670's Father James Bruyas, Jesuit missionary, spent considerable time in the Champlain Valley. Possibly other itinerant French priests had missions at Lake Ste. Catherine, at Ferrisburg, and along Missisquoi Bay: if so, their congregations may have included dejected New England Algonkians making their way to Canada.

Documentary history concerning the Upper Connecticut valley (1600-1760) is almost non-existent, but on some undated sketches (probably drawn around 1660) there is

Nicholas Vincent Isaacwanhonhi was a Christian chief of the Hurons, a number of whom gave their services to the Green Mt. Boys during the Revolution. The chief was dressed like this when presented to King George IV in 1825. He wears the King's medal, is carrying tomahawk.
The Colchester Jar was unearthed just north of Burlington in 1825. It is characteristic of Iroquois pottery; probably was made by Mohawks before 1500; is one of the finest examples of such pottery in existence. It is in the Fleming Museum.

a village marked Goutsagans Loops or “Leggings-Wearing Indians” which may be Vernon, or Bellows Falls, but most likely is Newbury, “Coös.” Several Massachusetts town histories contain references to Coös as a stopping-place for French raiding parties; many a captive from the Bay State was brought there on the way to Canada in the late 1600’s and early 1700’s. The Green Mountains were criss-crossed by ancient trails well known to Indian refugees in Canada, from 1637 or even earlier.

In June, 1704, the Abenakis of “Koesseck” sent a note to French authorities, refusing an invitation to move to Canada. These Indians stated that they had always lived at Koesseck and wished to remain there, “the best place to take revenge on the English.” This was a fully twenty years before the English establishment of Fort Dummer, so “Koesseck” may have been Vernon, the village visited by King Phillip in 1675. But a French map of 1713 shows Newbury as “Koes, an old Christian Indian mission.”

Many documents were burned by Rogers’ Rangers at St. Francis in 1759, so the complete history of the Abenakis and other Algonkians of the East can never be written. Vermont’s formative years (1760 to 1775) are very poorly documented in this respect, but it is known that the Indians of New York (including Charlotte, 4000 BC  INDUANS OF CHAMPLAIN

| 4000 BC | PALEO-INDIAN—Nomadic, non-agricultural hunters; roamed northwest Vermont. Stone points found at Highgate. |
| 1200 BC | OLD ALGONKIANS—Brought agriculture from the West. Trade with western tribes. Stone hoes found—arrow points, copper beads. Pottery shows inter-cultural influences. |
| 1000 AD | LATER ALGONKIANS—Clashed with Iroquoians and Europeans. Historical, archeological, legendary and linguistic evidences. |
| 1775 | IROQUOIANS—Came from lower Mississippi valley. Took over New York state; clashed with Algonkians. |
| 1775 to 1800 | IROQUOIANS—Mostly loyal to British, but didn’t invade Vermont. New York and Canadian reservations; none on Vermont. Land claims on Vermont refused. |
| 1795 | ALGONKIANS—Few lived in Vermont. No reservations established, through individual grants and pensions made by legislature. |

INDIAN LEGACY 25
Albany, Cumberland and Gloucester Counties, now Vermont) were disheartened by their treatment at the hands of the victorious English after 1760. By 1766 native dissatisfaction reached such intensity that the royal governors of New York and Canada summoned Iroquois chiefs and Abenaki councillors to Isle la Motte, to hear the displaced persons’ pleas for redress.

Apparently the Mohawks were appeased, as they con-

During the Revolution only a few Mohawks came into Vermont on raids. There is some evidence that they were restrained by their war chief Thayandenega, or Joseph Brant, who had been a pupil of Eleazer Wheelock before his Indian school was moved to Hanover, New Hampshire. Probably no Mohawks dwell in Vermont today, although steel workers from Caughnawaga come here to work on “high iron.”

Bhdstme amulet, worn by married women, supposed to be conducive to maternity. Also sometimes worn by pregnant women, and possibly worn by unmarried women as courtship amulet. Shown at actual size.

tined their traditional allegiance to the British crown. The same cannot be said of the Algonkians, pro-French as they had been for several generations; influenced greatly by their white chief, Joseph Louis Gill, the St. Francis Abenakis were openly hostile to the British during the first part of the American Revolution.

Chief Joseph Louis Gill had lost his first wife, daughter of an Abenaki chief, when Rogers sacked St. Francis. Some of his sons by his second spouse, a French woman, were students at Dartmouth College (1774–1780); under pretext of visiting his boys, Chief Gill went frequently to the Upper Connecticut where he hobnobbed with General Jacob Bayley, American Commander of the Continental’s Northern Department at Newbury, “Coös,” which still had a considerable Indian population. Gill seems to have been one of Bayley’s chief informants concerning the disposition of British forces in Canada until September, 1780, when he was detained by General Haldimand’s officers and compelled to sign an oath of loyal good behavior at Quebec.

A few Hurons offered their services to the Green Mountain Boys during the Revolution. At least one of these, Captain John Vincent, was later pensioned by a Vermont legislature.

A few individual Algonkians were so honored, and one group of Stockbridges was granted the town of Marshfield, which they never settled.

Up to 1918 considerable numbers of Abenakis came into Vermont from Canada every spring, returning in the fall as Rowland Robinson’s delightful stories attest. A generation ago there were at least fifty families which made annual visits to the Champlain valley, but today only three aged Abenakis make their homes at Thompson's Point.

The Indian has almost vanished from the Vermont scene. Vermont has no Indian reservation, no recent special Indian legislation. About all that remains are some place names, some legends, some recipes for succotash, and a vast, unknown number of unmarked graves. But perhaps one Vermonter in twenty has a dash of Indian blood.

26 VERMONT Life
A complete visitor's handbook to main attractions and little-known byways of the Champlain Valley. A program of the entertaining activities planned for 1959

COMPILED BY AUDREY MACLEOD

Arranged below in alphabetic order are the valley towns and cities, each with main attractions and points of interest noted.

ADDISON—A farming town steeped in early history. Nearby is Snake Mountain (1271 ft.). Chimney Point—one of first settlements in Vermont (1731) located at a narrowing of Lake Champlain, opposite Crown Pt., N. Y. A small fort here as early as 1690, but first real settlement made in 1731 by French, who when they retreated north, burned buildings. Blackened chimneys gave point its name. Champlain Bridge, opened 1929 (toll), was first roadway across lake. Barnes House stands on site of fort ruins, one stone wall thought to be part of the original fort. Displays historical relics, ancient fireplace, utensils (Open to public). Strong Mansion, 1 mile north of Bridge, handsome brick house built 1794 by Gen. John Strong. Owned by Vt. DAR. Secret room in chimney. Open daily July 1 to Sept. 1 (Admission). Interesting grave stone near village, a triple memorial to three young Payne sisters.

ALBURY—Originally occupied by Abnaki Indians and settled by French in 1735; a mineral spring resort in late 1800s. Missisquoi Bay bridge leads east to Swanton, Rouses Point bridge west (toll). A smuggling center after embargo of 1808. Contraband sledded over ice to Canada. Windmill Pt. site of ancient mill. Here Benedict Arnold anchored before battle at Valcour island with British.


BENSON—Farming area. At Benson Landing was old ferry crossing, no longer used. Active marina here now. Interesting old postoffice building in village.

BRANDON—Quiet resort town and trading center. Restored birthplace (visitors), birthplace Stephen Douglas, debater with Lincoln. First electric motor made here 1834 by Thomas Davenport. State school and farm for retarded children here. East of village is Lake Dunmore, state beach south end (see also Leicester).

BRIDPORT—Farming community, apple orchards, old homes, interesting old cemetery. Prize Merino sheep and Morgan horses once raised here, home of famous race horse, "Blackhawk." Nearby is marker of Crown Point Military Road, built 1759 by Gen. Amherst connecting Connecticut River with Lake Champlain.

CHAMPLAIN GUIDE

BURLINGTON—Vermont’s largest city and main lake port. Is region’s principal trade and medical center. Site of University of Vt. (1791), Ira Allen chapel, Medical & Agricultural colleges, Billing Library, Wilbur Library, Fleming Museum. Architecturally outstanding Unitarian (1816) and modern St. Mark’s churches. Waterfront Battery Park was fort site in 1812, famous for sunsets and Adirondack views. Lake Champlain Transportation Co., lake ferries, is oldest and medical center. Site of University of Vt. (1791), Ira Allen chapel, Medical & Agricultural colleges, Billing Library, Wilbur Library, Fleming Museum. Architecturally outstanding Unitarian (1816) and modern St. Mark’s churches. Waterfront Battery Park was fort site in 1812, famous for sunsets and Adirondack views. Lake Champlain Transportation Co., lake ferries, is oldest steamship company in world. In Greenmount cemetery is grave and monument of Ethan Allen. State’s largest airport here. Noted geological formation, "Rock Point Overthrust" north of city. City is home of St. Mary’s Academy and Trinity College, site of Municipal North Beach. Nearby Juniper Island had the lake’s first lighthouse.

CASTLETOWN—Quiet, historic town, location of teachers' college, noted for outstanding old homes and public buildings, many designed by Thomas Dake, notable Federated church. Annual Colonial Day held Aug. 5, includes house tours. Here May 9, 1775 Ethan Allen and Seth Warner planned successful attack on Fort Ticonderoga. After Battle of Hubbardston town was headquarters of Hessian troops. On Rte. 4 is site of 1779 Fort Warren. Bomoseen—Interesting antique car museum at Jct. Rts. 4 & 30 (Admission). Lake Bomoseen, north on Rte. 30, largest in Vermont.

CHAMPLAIN—In 1790 French Canadian settlers named town for lake’s discoverer. Village main street is formed by Rte 11.

CHARLOTTE—Village located in fine apple orchard region. On Rte. 7 is interesting, white columned brick church. West, along lake, are summer colonies at Cedar Beach, Thompson’s Point. Off Rte. 7 south end of town is Mt. Philo state forest park, paved summit road, fine view of Adirondacks, camp and picnic facilities. Lake’s first ferry established here, service to Essex, N. Y.

CHAZY—Apple growing area, on Little Chazy River. Colonial House, a private museum, has early American china, Colonial furniture. Colchester—Boat manufacturing, boys’ and girls’ camps here. At Colchester Pt. a $45,000 treasure is said to lie near the reef where schooner “General Gates” went down. Old lighthouse now at Shelburne Museum (see Shelburne). Eight miles north of Burlington is Malletts Bay summer resort, cottages, beaches and facilities for all water sports. Was named for mysterious “pirate captain Mallet” of the 18th century.

CORNWALL—Farming area notable for apples, bees, cows. Attractive church.

CROWN POINT—A landmark in American history. Indian custom of scalping said to have originated here, hence name. Interesting ruin of Ft. St. Frederic, built by the French in 1731. Secret stairway leads from fort to lake. Collection of Indian & colonial relics in small museum. Nearby Ft. Crown Point, started by Amherst for the British in 1759, completed for $10 million, was ruined by fire. Both forts are maintained by State of New York. Monumental lighthouse. Champlain Memorial, was erected 1909 by N. Y. & Vt., statue of Champlain and Rodin’s “La France” plaque. Champlain Bridge to Chimney Point (see Addison). Swimming, dock, fishing.

ELIZABETHTOWN—Boquet River runs through this rugged mountain country. Adirondack Center exhibits portray life of region from Indian days (Admission). Interesting Historical Museum at Adirondack Center (Admission) and Colonial Gardens, near Rte. 9, height of bloom in Aug. Split Rock Falls, south of town. Body of abolitionist John Brown, buried near Lake Placid at North Elba, lay in state here in county courthouse.

ESSEX—Small village was scene of many pitch battles during Revolution and War of 1812. Prime views here of both Adirondack and Green mountains. Shrine of Our Lady of Hope (with picnic area); exhibit (toward Willsboro) of 1776 gunboat “Philadelphia,” raised from lake (Admission). Ferry here to Charlotte, Vt. On shore nearby is famous Split Rock.

ESSEX JCT.—Rail junction and industrial center in farming community; canny, brick and electronics manufacture, largest forestry tree nursery in New England. Champlain Valley Exposition (Aug. 31–Sept. 5), farm & educational exhibits, on Rte. 15 toward Burlington.

FAIR HAVEN—Founded 1785 by Irish Democrat Matthew Lyon, who built Vermont’s first iron forge, later was Kentucky and Arkansas pioneer. Leading slate center—purple, gray, green. Inhabitants are largely of Welsh extraction. Unusual Indian cave with entrance behind water fall at Carver’s Falls on Poultney River.

FERRISBURG—Many of early settlers were Quakers. Pt, Cassin site, built at mouth of Otter Creek during War of 1812, protected fleet being built at Vergennes. On Rte. 7 is Rokeby, home of Rowland E. Robinson, noted 19th century literary figure. (open to public). Basin Harbor—Popular resort 6 miles west of Vergennes. South is Button

ROCK DUNDER
Among Champlain’s eighty recognized islands, one of the smallest is perhaps the most meaningful in history.

In Burlington Bay a half-acre stone slab, rising 30 feet above the water, served for centuries before the white man’s coming as a vital boundary marker. This was the division line, running west to the Great Lakes, between the warlike Iroquois Confederacy and the south and their northward Algonquin foes.

One Lake legend holds that Dunder (or Mohawk Rock) once was shelled by a confused British captain. More likely, however, this incident took place off Providence Island. To this day a low rock there is called “Carleton’s Prize.” Here in 1776 the British are said to have mistaken the rock for an American ship. And while they shelled it in the morning haze, Benedict Arnold’s defeated fleet fled southward.
TRAVEL HINTS

AUTO REGULATIONS—Speed limits are posted, and vary according to conditions. Both states’ highway maximums are 50 MPH. New York requires that all motorists carry liability insurance; does not honor junior operators’ licenses. In both states even small accidents must be reported at once to the police. Both states publish periodic maps showing road conditions, available free at information centers. In some communities parking meter payments are not required for out-of-state cars.

ACCOMMODATIONS—The very wide variety and numbers of visitor accommodations on both sides of the Lake, on certain holidays is not adequate—notably on July 4th, Labor Day and Columbus Day. At such crowded periods visitors will do best to make reservations ahead; begin looking for over-night stopping places by mid-afternoon; or shift to less frequented highways.

BANKS—As elsewhere, travelers’ checks save time. Many banks in New York and Vermont close Friday afternoons for the weekend. When planning to cross into Canada it is cheaper to secure Canadian money at a U. S. border bank.

CANADA—Entering Canada (and returning) from New York or Vermont is very simple for U. S. citizens. A driver’s license usually is enough identification. Average supplies of tobacco, liquor and film may be carried either direction. When entering Canada it is wise to record all valuable jewels, camera and sporting equipment. Dogs require a special health certificate, are best left at home. Save money by converting excess Canadian cash into U. S. funds just before returning to the U. S.

GAMBLING—in Vermont is limited to bingo games for charity. Parimutual betting is legal in New York. Nearby is the famous Saratoga Raceway.

FOODS—Specialties of the region are not usually found in restaurants and hotel dining rooms—except in breakfast fare. Some lake resorts do occasionally serve Champlain fish. Shops and roadside stands sell excellent maple sugar and syrup (graded by law), home-made preserves, cherries in the Grand Isle area, apples and sweet cider (in late September and October).

HOLIDAYS—National holidays and Daylight Saving time pertain throughout the area. Retail stores, particularly in the smaller towns, are open by custom either Friday or Saturday evenings. Sunday closing is more general in Vermont, though in most towns at least one service station and drug store remain open evenings and Sundays.

HOSPITALS—General hospitals in the Lake region are at: St. Albans (2), Burlington (2), Middlebury, Rutland, Proctor, Plattsburgh, Ticonderoga.

LIQUOR—Privately operated, state-licensed package stores prevail in New York. Bar service is more general and less restrictive than in Vermont, especially in Sunday and late servings. Vermont package stores are operated by the state in the larger towns, charge comparatively low prices. Beer and wines are sold in groceries. Some towns by local option are "dry".


PESTS—The Lake area is largely free from insect pests. Gnats may be encountered in wooded areas early in the summer, and some mosquitoes in the evenings. Rattlesnakes, once seen rarely in high rocky areas at the south of the Lake are probably now extinct. Poison ivy is found in scattered areas. The Lake waters are free from jelly fish and other swimming nuisances.

PIECKNICKING—In addition to their state parks both states maintain free roadside picnic areas, many at scenic spots, all through the Lake area. All milk sold in both states by law is pasteurized.

TIPPING—is limited largely to meal service (15 percent an average) and to bellboys. A few resort hotels add a service charge to bills, which covers tips.

WEARING APPAREL—Dress varies with the type of accommodations, but seldom is formal. Slacks and shorts for ladies, and shirtsleeves for men, are sometimes frowned upon for hotel dining rooms and on small-town streets. Sweaters, jackets and light coats are recommended for cool evenings and for Autumn wear.

Federal wildlife preserve at nearby Missisquoi Bay. Highgate Springs was a flourishing resort spa in 1890s. An Abenaki Indian village was located here.

Hubbardton—Site of only Revolutionary battle on Vermont soil. Here in 1777 Vermont troops under Seth Warner protected retreat of Gen. St. Clair from Fort Ticonderoga. Monument and marker on battle field.

Isle La Motte—First mass in Vermont was said here in 1609, site now of Shrine of Ste. Anne. Settlement by French in 1666 first in Vermont. Black marble quarry. Stone build-

LAKELAND MUSEUMS

CHAMPLAIN GUIDE 29
CONTINUING EVENTS

May 1-Oct. 31—Granville—Quarry tours, 8:30-5
May 1-Oct. 1—Willimantic—Display, Gunboat "Philadelphia"
May 1-Nov. 1—Manchester—Skyline Drive open
May 1-Nov. 1—Wilmington, N.Y.—Whiteface Highway open
May 9-Oct. 21—Wilmington, N.Y.—Whiteface Mt. chair lift
May 15-Oct. 15—Manchester—Pike chair lift (9-5:30)
May 30-Oct. 19—Proctor—Marble Exhibit (9-5)
May 30-Nov. 1—Isle La Motte—Ste. Anne Shrine
May 30-Nov. 1—Stowe—Playhouse (Wed.-Sun.)
June 1-Sept. 7—Websterville—Granite quarry tours
June 1-Oct. 1—Whitehall—Museum open
June 1-Oct. 15—Elizabethtown—Colonial Garden open
June 14-Aug. 16—Plattsburgh—Art exhibit
June 15-Sept. 5—Saranac Lake—Yapez Art Gallery
June 21-Oct. 12—Stowe—Summer chair lifts operate
June 22-Aug. 14—Burlington—U.V.M. Summer session
June 26-Aug. 13—Middlebury—College language schools
June 29-Aug. 31—Saranac Lake—Summer theater (Mon.-Sat.)
July 1-Aug. 30—Stowe—Playhouse (Wed.-Sun.)
July 1-Aug. 30—Addison—Gen. Strong Mansion open
July 1-Aug. 30—Grand Isle—Art exhibit (1-5)
July 4-Sept. 6—Lake Dunmore—Sail Races, Sundays, p.m.
July 4-Oct. 15—Manchester—Southern Vermont Art Center
July 5-Aug. 23—Marlboro—Music Concerts, Sundays
July 6-Aug. 16—Plattsburgh—Art & history exhibit
July 7-Aug. 15—Winookski—Players, Summer theater
Aug. 1-31—Burlington—Northern Vermont Artists exhibit

SPECIAL EVENTS

June 1-7—Willimantic—Gilliland Memorial dedication
June 6—Burlington—Miss Vermont Contest
June 11-14—Ticonderoga—Invitation Golf tournament
June 13—Crown Point—Historical Marker day
June 13-14—Burlington—Horse show
June 14—Plattsburgh—Art exhibition
June 14—Ticonderoga—Flag Day parade

LEADING EVENT

Willsboro
May 1-Oct. 1—
May 1-Oct. 31—
May 9-21—
May 15-Oct. 15—
May 25—
May 25-Oct. 20—
May 30-Nov. 1—
June 1-Sept. 7—
June 1-Oct. 15—
June 14—
June 16—
June 15-Sept. 5—
June 22-Aug. 14—
June 29-Aug. 31—
July 4-5—
July 4-7—
July 4—
July 5—
July 6-12—
July 9-12—
July 11-12—
July 11—
July 11—
July 11—
July 11—
July 12—
July 12—
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July 12—
July 12—
July 12—
July 12—
July 19—Middlebury—Vermont Garden tour & tea
June 27—Ticonderoga—Children's fish derby
June 27-28—Essex Jct.—Horse Show
June 28—Pottersville—Caves treasure hunt
June 28-July 1—Plattsburgh—Dominion Day festival
June 29-July 4—Rouses Point—Festival Week
July 3-5—Bristol—Country Fair
July 3-4—Mineville—Old Home Days
July 3-7—Burlington—Craft Mart
July 4—Essex Jct.—Riverama
July 4—Rouses Point—Canoecade arrives
July 4—South Hero—Parade and barbecue
July 4—Essex, N.Y.—July 4th Celebration
July 4—Alburg—Barbecue, dance
July 4—Bristol—Historic Float parade
July 4—Lake Placid—Ski jump
July 4—Saranac Lake—Firecracker Fiesta
July 4-5—Burlington—Northeast Waterama
July 4-5—Plattsburgh—Power Boat exhibit
July 5—Isle La Motte—Ste. Anne Shrine
July 5—Ticonderoga—Soapbox Derby
July 5—Burlington—Canoecade arrives, p.m.
July 5—Middlebury—Vt. Chamber Orchestra (8:15)
July 5-8—Pittsford—Farmers' Day, covered bridge tour
July 6-12—Addison—Strong Mansion celebration
July 8—Middlebury—Historic House Tour
July 9—South Hero—Chicken barbecue
July 11-12—Burlington—Waterama
July 11—Middlebury—Peasant Market
July 11—Pottersville—Arts & Crafts show
July 11-12—Essex Jct.—Lions' Horse Show
July 12—Rutland—Stamp Show
July 12—Orwell—Turkey supper
July 12—Isle La Motte—Dinner
July 12—Burlington—National Guard parade, sailboat races
July 12—North Elba—John Brown Anniversary
July 12—Burlington—Dog Show, Oakledge Manor
July 12—Alburg—Chuckwagon Dinner (noon)

ings are typical. Feast of Ste. Anne here in July.


KEENE—Resort town at upper end of scenic Keene Valley; Hull's and Clifford Falls. Junction here to John Brook Trail, an eastern approach to Mt. Marcy.

KEESVILLE—Nearby are Ausable Chasm, largest keystone arch bridge in U.S., Fordway and Peke-O-Moonshine mountains. Interesting homestead, toward Peru, Sandstone Mansion built 1834 by Quaker, Peter Keese (Admission).

LAKE PLACID—Year-around resort on Mirror Lake. Lake Placid on outskirts of town. Highest Adirondack peaks are in vicinity. Lake Placid club (private), Olympic arena, Mt. Van Hoevenberg Bob Sled run, Olympic ski jump, Sterling Alaska Fur & Game Farm and Old MacDonald's Farm nearby (Admissions). John Brown home, a state reservation, is nearby, at North Elba, opens July 12.

COVERED BRIDGES

Located in Jay and Lake Placid, N. Y., Swanton (railroad), Shelburne (2), Salisbury, Middlebury (2), No. Ferrisburg, East Shoreham, Charlotte (2), Pittsford (4), Proctor, Brandon.
THE VALLEY

July 15—Brandon—Flower show (2)
July 17-19—Middlebury—French-American Salute
July 18—Whitehall—Navy Day celebration
July 18-19—Burlington—Northeast Waterama, Air Show
July 19—Whitehall—Old home tours
July 19—South Hero—Church barbecue
July 19-26—Swanton—Festival Week, Jesuit rededication
July 20—Franklin—Fenian Raid Pageant
July 20-24—Whitehall—“Champlain Story”
July 21—North Hero—Old Home day, Abenaki water show
July 21—Whitehall—Waterama
July 23-24—South Hero—Historic Homes tours
July 24—Ticonderoga—Amherst Day
July 24-25—Saranac Lake—Hobby Show
July 24-26—Lake Dunmore—Keewaydin reunion
July 24-26—Vergennes—Festival Weekend
July 25—Swanton—Parade, waterama
July 25—Crow Point—Canoecade arrives, pageant, Lighthouse rededication
July 25—Vergennes—Canoecade arrives, old vehicle tour
July 25—Whitehall—Parade
July 26—Ticonderoga—Canoeade, Indian battle
July 26—Keene—Old Timers’ Day
July 27-31—Rutland—N. E. Golf Tournament
July 27-31—Ticonderoga—Craft Mart
July 28-Aug. 1—Plattsburgh—Clinton County fair
July 29-Aug. 5—Ticonderoga—Old Home week
Aug. 1—Keeseville—Homecoming Day, church anniversary
Aug. 1—Saranac Lake—Outboard regatta
Aug. 2—Ticonderoga—Elks’ Club Clambake
Aug. 2-9—Champlain—Festival week
Aug. 2-31—Burlington—Northern Vt. Art Show
Aug. 3—Peru, N. Y.—Historic tour
Aug. 4—Elizabethtown—Colonial Garden day
Aug. 4—Brandon—Square Dance Festival (street) (7:30)
Aug. 4-6—Saranac Lake—Antique Show
Aug. 5—Castleton—Colonial Day
Aug 6—South Hero—Turkey supper
Aug 7-8—Essex, N. Y.—Our Lady of Hope services
Aug 8—Grand Isle—Champlain at Hyde Cabin
Aug 9—North Hero—Beef barbecue
Aug. 9—Willisboro—Church anniversary
Aug. 11-14—Shelburne—Craft Market
Aug. 11-16—Westport—Essex County Fair
Aug. 12—Grand Isle—Dinner
Aug. 14—Ticonderoga—Indian Pageant, 8 p.m.
Aug. 14-15—Brandon—Lumberjack Roundup
Aug. 15—Elizabethtown—Flower show
Aug. 15—Crow Point—Historic Marker program
Aug. 15-16—Lake Placid—Swim races
Aug. 15-16—St. Albans Bay—Watershow & regatta
Aug. 16—South Hero—Turkey supper
Aug. 16—Essex, N.Y.—Sailing regatta
Aug. 16—Saranac Lake—Archery Shoot
Aug. 16-22—St. Albans—Old Home week
Aug. 19—Bristol—Flower Show
Aug. 20—Isle La Motte—Old Home Day
Aug. 21-22—Keene—Art show
Aug. 21-23—Rutland—Les Pierce Golf tournament
Aug. 22-23—St. Albans—Antique & sports car rally
Aug. 24-28—Rutland—Craft Mart
Aug. 26—North Hero—Chicken barbecue
Aug. 26—Addison—Strong Mansion Pilgrimage
Aug. 27—South Hero—Address, early religions
Aug. 31-Sept. 5—Moriah—Old Home week
Aug. 31-Sept. 5—Essex Jct.—Champlain Valley Expos.
Sept. 5-7—Rutland—N. E. Archery tournament
Sept. 6—Port Henry—Motor Boat regatta
Sept. 7—Port Henry—Labor Day celebration
Sept. 7-12—Rutland—Fair
Sept. 11-13—Ticonderoga—Muzzle-loading shoot
Sept. 11-13—Plattsburgh—Battle commemoration
Sept. 23—Bristol—Chicken pie supper
Sept. 26-27—Lake Placid—Iroquois Council Fire
Sept. 27—Crow Point—Horse show
Sept. 30—Bristol—Chicken pie supper

LEICESTER—Contains north end of beautiful Lake Dunmore; boating, fishing, swimming, state park and beach.

MIDDLEBURY—College town in center of rich dairy and apple region. Middlebury College, 1800, coeducational, liberal arts, noted for summer language schools. Outstanding Frost, Thoreau, Whitman collections at Abernethy Library. Sheldon Museum—early American furnishings; Congregational church—outstanding early 19th century architecture; Community House was Battell family home. Old double-barreled covered bridge on town outskirts. Emma Willard here began her pioneer work in women’s education.

MILTON—A 1900-acre wildlife refuge lies near Lamoille River mouth. At Sandbar bridge to South Hero is large state park, swimming, picknicking, boating. Power development at village creates Arrowhead Mt. Lake, boating. Ancient Indian flint quarries here. State’s only nudist colony here.

NEW HAVEN—Birthplace of Sir Curtis Lampson, only knighted Vermonter. Brooksville—Dog Team Tavern, established by Grenfell Mission (Labrador) arts & crafts.

NORTH HERO—South and North Hero named for Ira and Ethan Allen. Shire town of Grand Isle County, courthouse built of Isle La Motte marble. Boating facilities at Dutchman’s Pt., a British blockhouse site.

ORWELL—Farming area; remains of ancient Red Paint Indian graves found. Interesting Greek Revival Wilcox house (private); new Indian museum (admission). During Revolution boom was stretched across lake here to stop British fleet. Old fortifications stood on Mt. Independence.

CHIPMAN POINT—Ferry runs across to Wright, N. Y. Scenic, on Mt. Independence. Stop British fleet. Old fortifications stood

SOME VERMONT DOINGS

June 6—Enosburg—Dairy Festival
Aug. 16—East Poultney—Historical Day
June 25—Oct. 12—Dorset—Caravan Players
July 1-Sept. 6—Weston—The Players
Aug. 16—Bennington—Battle Day Celebration
July 5—Stratton—Daniel Webster Day
Aug. 6—Craftsbury Common—East Hill
Aug. 5-7—Newbury—Cracker Barrel Bazaar
Aug. 27-29—Lyndonville—Caledonia County Fair
Sept. 2-5—South Woodstock—GMHA Trail rides
When Vermonters speak of 'The Lake' they mean Champlain. Except for the handful that includes Willoughby, Bomoseen, Dunmore, St. Catherine, Morey, Fairlee, Caspian and the incomparable Memphremagog, the rest are all ponds, whatever the visitor may think or find on his map.

In high and far off times a long arm of the Atlantic made a seacoast for Vermont. Whales spouted near Charlotte and one, at least, became a fossil for our edification, mind us of the coast of northern Maine, or crossing Canadian border; customs and immigration headquarters. Nearby are ruins of Ft. Montgomery, called Ft. Blunder, built on Canadian soil by mistake, never used, abandoned 1908. Boats can approach it from water side.


When Vermonters speak of ‘The Lake’ they mean Champlain. Except for the handful that includes Willoughby, Bomoseen, Dunmore, St. Catherine, Morey, Fairlee, Caspian and the incomparable Memphremagog, the rest are all ponds, whatever the visitor may think or find on his map.

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**FAMILY FUN**

**Assayable—Assayable Chasm, Sterling Alaska Game Farm, Barre—Granite quarry tours, Bomoseen—old auto museum, Elizabethtown—Colonial Garden, Lake Placid—Sterling Alaska Game Farm, North Hudson—Frontier Town & Serpentarium, Plattsburgh—Fantasy Kingdom, Fort Henry—Mineville, Proctor—marble exhibits, Stowe—Mt. toll road & chair lifts, Upper Jay—Land of Makebelieve, Wilmington—North Pole, Whiteface Mt. highway & chair lift, Winooski—Ethan Allen Airbase.**
Brainerd monument with a tirade against Lincoln. On Aldis Hill (excellent lake view) is strange marker to a wolf shooting. Oil prospecting here recently. In 1866 the Fenians used central Taylor Park as bivouac before raids on Canada. At St. Albans Bay—pier, swimming, picnicking, camping, fishing, state park.

ST. GEORGE—One of state’s smallest towns, near Burlington. Named for George III.

SALISBURY—Part of town borders Lake Dunmore (see Leicester). Trout hatchery.


SHELBOURNE—Site of Shelburne Museum, original buildings moved from all over New England to form model early American village. Includes schoolhouse, church, country store. Collections, of dolls, coaches, tools, decoys. On display is last sidewheel steamer, the Ticonderoga, Colchester Lighthouse, a steam train. (Admission). In town is interesting Episcopal church, a miniature English abbey. Shelburne Craft school (fair in August). Interesting gun shop north on Rte. 7. At Shelburne Harbor is active shipbuilding company, established in 1820; launching and drydock facilities.

SHOREHAM—Here Ephraim Doolittle in 1766 established a “share the profits” settlement, one of first cooperative ventures in America. Area noted for apples. Five-mile state wildlife refuge on Lemon Fair River. Name derived from Indian massacre, called “lamentable affair.” At Hand’s Cove Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold embarked with small force in 1775 to seize Ft. Ticonderoga. U. S. Vice-President Levi Morton born here. Larabee’s Point—Ferry here runs to Ticonderoga dock. Near water’s edge is first store in town, built of stone brought across lake from Ticonderoga ruins.

SOUTH HERO—Dairy farm and apple growing region; site of old Ebenezer Allen tavern and Iodine Springs resort. To west in lake is Valcour Island, scene of Arnold’s naval battle of 1776. Sand Bar bridge joins island with Vermont mainland.

SUDBURY—Contains several attractive lakes. Site of Hyde Manor, a resort hotel managed by Hyde family since 1801.

SWANTON—Was settled successively by

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<th>LANDMARKS OF HISTORY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addison—Chimney Pt., Barnes Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bristol—Lord’s Prayer rock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hubbardton—Battlefield site</td>
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<td>Lake Placid—Stephenson cottage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orwell—Mt. Independence</td>
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<td>Rouses Point—Pt. Blunder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelburne—Sidewheeler “Ticonderoga”</td>
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<td>Valcour—Naval battle site</td>
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<td>Westport—Gunboat “Philadelphia”</td>
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<td>Whitehall—Put’s Rock battle site</td>
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CROSSING THE LAKE
Afloat: The choice of five Ferry Routes

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<tr>
<th>Ports</th>
<th>Sail</th>
<th>Operate</th>
<th>Rates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burlington—Port Kent</td>
<td>every ¼ hr.</td>
<td>7:30a-8p</td>
<td>$3.00 car &amp; driver &amp; 75c per passenger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Isle—Cumberland Head</td>
<td>every ¼ hr.</td>
<td>7:30a-8:20p</td>
<td>$1.85 car &amp; driver &amp; 35c per passenger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte—Essex</td>
<td>every hour</td>
<td>9a-6:30p. After</td>
<td>$1.85 car &amp; driver &amp; 35c per passenger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larabee’s Pt.—Ft. Ticonderoga on signal</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 1 to 5:30. Last day Oct. 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chipman Point—Wright</td>
<td>on signal</td>
<td>7-sundown; July &amp; Aug. to midnight</td>
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On Wheels: Two Toll Bridges

| Rouses Point—North Alburg | 25c per car, including passengers |
| Crown Point—Chimney Point | 25c per car, including passengers |

All bridges in Grand Isle County and connecting to Vermont mainland are toll-free.

FISHING
New York’s and Vermont’s territorial waters are divided by an invisible boundary line which follows the deepest shipping channel. This gives to Vermont the majority of water area and of the fishing. Fishing licenses of the two states are not good, reciprocally, on the Lake. Each state issues special licenses to non-residents for the season and varying short periods. These are sold by town clerks, agents and game wardens.
Indians, French, Dutch and British; was a camping ground of St. Francis Indians. First church in Vermont (marker) established 1700. Base of smuggling and scene of running gun fights in early 1800s. Area is noted for fishing and duck hunting. Old Indian burial ground; Vermont volunteers drilled on town common before Battle of Plattsburgh.

TICONDEROGA—A year-around tourist center with many historic and sports attractions. Fort Ticonderoga—splendid restoration of French fort built 1756, which was held by France, England and the U.S.; an outstanding 18th century fortification; museum has extensive displays of colonial war relics. (Admission). Ft. Mt. Hope is a restored colonial log fort, guns & relics. Mt. Defiance—has motor road to top; famous view at Summit House; reconstruction of old British gun battery. At Forest Theater dramas of John Hancock house. In Bixby Library is museum with tables, children's room. Boat dock and launching facilities at foot of Vergennes Falls. Scenic, canal-like channel of Otter Creek runs from town 7 miles to the lake.

WALTHAM—Small farming town south of Vergennes.

WEST HAVEN—A farm area at extreme southern end of lake; was boyhood home of N. Y. Tribune founder, Horace Greeley.

WESTPORT—Old summer resort for many prominent families; once important lake steamer port. Stately homes here. On nearby Cole Island Jesuit priest, Isaac Jogues was tortured by Iroquois.

WEBBRIDGE—Site of former Morgan Horse farm, now state-operated experimental farm for sheep and cattle; has bronze statue of famous stallion, Justin Morgan. Nearby is Shard Villa, a once-elaborate mansion built in 1872 by Columbus Smith, left as a home for aged Christian women not addicted to smoke or drink.

WHITEHALL—A mill and rail town and shipping terminal now; was called Skeneborough during Revolution and scene of that war's first military action in New York state. Pioneer settler and trader Philip Skene favored an independent Vermont, lost his estates as a Tory, died in England. Birthplace of American navy. Champlain Barge Canal starts here, an 11 mile portage between Lake Champlain and Hudson River, has four locks. Opened 1823. Fiddler's Elbow just north is short double crook in lake channel. Wrecks of some vessels engaged in Battle of Plattsburgh under water here. Ft. Putnam on high rocks northward is scene of Israel Putnam's ambush of French and Indians 200 years ago. Museum (Admission) contains model of Skeneborough Shipyard that built Arnold's fleet.

WINOOSKI—An industrial center across Winooski river from Burlington, built in 1787 to use water power. Was site of Ft. Frederick, a block house built near present bridge by Ira Allen. On east outskirts is St. Michael's College, liberal arts, founded 1904. Summer theater here Ethan Allen Air Base here with fighter squadrons based at adjacent Burlington airport.

FINE OLD BUILDINGS
Addison—Gen. Strong Mansion; Burlington—Unitarian church; Castleton—Federated church, Dale house; Grand Isle—Hyde Log cabin; Middlebury—Congo, church, old chapel, Pulpmill covered bridge; Orwell—Wilcox house; Plattsburgh—Kent DeLord house; Fort Kent—old homes, Richmond—polygonal church; Shelburne—Museum buildings; Sudbury—old church; Willsboro—old homes, 1778 log cabin.

LAKESIDE STATE PARKS
Addison (D,AR)—CP, Crown Pr.—CPS, Ferrisburg (Button Bay)—U, Grand Isle—U, Milton (Sand Bar)—CPS, Plattsburgh (Cumberland Bay)—CBS, St. Albans Bay—BPS, Wilmington Notch—CFP.

NATURAL WONDERS

PUTTERS' PLEASURE
Golf: At Ausable Forks, Burlington, Castleton, Elizabethtown, Lake Placid, Maillet's Bay, Middlebury, Plattsburgh, Port Henry, Port Kent, Proctor-Plattsford, Rouses Point, Rutland, St. Albans-Swanton, Saranac, Sudbury, Ticonderoga, Upper Jay, Vergennes, Westport, Willboro, Wilmington.
For centuries the trade and military forces of six nations—Dutch, French, Iroquois, British and American—contended for this vital valley, fought desperate land and naval battles.

RALPH N. HILL, JR.

At first the lake had seemed no more than a river, but then great islands, heavy with foliage and game passed, and now in mid-July, 1609, beyond a promontory (Cumberland Head) that had withheld a longer view, the water widened grandly to reveal at its far limits tiers of blue mountains both east and west.

The Indians asserted that the lake went to meet the [Green] mountains [by way of rivers] to the East. In his journal Samuel de Champlain described finding a grove of chestnuts, which placed him on the left bank of the Winooski River—the only spot in the Valley where settlers later found such trees. The fireflies astonished him. One night he dreamed of an Iroquois drowning in the lake. Seizing upon this as a happy omen, his Algonquin scouts told him he would meet his enemies to the west at the foot of the [Adirondack] mountains. To the south the lake still disappeared beyond the horizon but as the days passed it narrowed and the bays and points and rocky escarpments to the west and east drew nearer. Danger, too, was close at hand and the Indians insisted that they travel at night.

On the evening of July 29 Champlain came to a cape on the western shore, which some historians believe to have been the promontory below what was to become Fort Ticonderoga. Others declare that it was Crown Point, ten miles to the north, later the site of two other great fortresses, where the lake is so narrow that a shout on the New York shore may be heard in Vermont. Here, or near here, on this fateful night 350 years ago Iroquois cries and shouts pierced the dark. With his arquebus Champlain (the next morning) made short work of the enemy, although they outnumbered his Algonquins three to one.

Pursuing his explorations after the battle, Champlain scouted to the south the outlet of Lake George which drains into Champlain at Ticonderoga. One authority on the French in the Champlain Valley (Guy Coolidge) has written that the discoverer, returning northward, paused at Chimney Point on the Vermont shore directly opposite Crown Point and there gave his name to the lake. That night his Indians bivouacked at the mouth of Otter Creek, some ten miles north, to torture their prisoners.

The Europeans were quick to seize upon the ancient hostility between Iroquois and Algonquin and use them in...
their war for empire. It has often been said that the Iroquois was the enemy of New France from the moment Champlain fired his arquebus, but the alignment of the Iroquois with the British and the Algonquin with the French was owing as much to the fur trade. A brisk commerce in beaver pelts developed first with the Dutch, then with the British. Gradually, as the supply dwindled in the Adirondacks and the Iroquois trappers worked north, they collided with the Algonquins and French. To protect the treasures of his northern forests and those of the rich Ohio valley, the king of France sent troops to Canada. Thus the trough of water leading from the heart of New France to the heart of New England and New York became a cauldron of war. The Jesuit priests, bold followers of their pioneering countryman, were the first to suffer the tortures of savages whom they tried futilely to convince of the word of God. In 1666 the French built a small fort at Isle La Motte in northern Lake Champlain near what is now the border between Vermont and Canada. Two years later the first bishop of Quebec, Monsignor de Laval, journeyed to this bleak outpost in a canoe and held a service for the soldiers. The next earliest temporary settlement in Vermont was not French, but British. In 1690 Captain Jacobus de Warm leading an expedition from Albany against the French built at Chimney Point a small fort, a wall of which may stand today as part of a brick house that was serving as a tavern during the Revolution. Meanwhile Champlain was a no-man's lake between the expanding empires of France and Britain. Britain had conquered Canada in 1629, only to return it to France five years later in the treaty of St. Germain. During the next century and a quarter one frightful, bloody attack after another from north to south and south to north even in the dead of winter over the frozen lake kept both sides in fear and under arms. There was the French Governor Courcelles' hopeless expedition in 1666, on a 300-mile trek to attack the Mohawks, during which his soldiers nearly froze to death. The following September 1200 Frenchmen and Indians in shining regalia embarked from Fort St. Anne in 300 light boats and bark canoes but could not find the Mohawks to the south.

In 1689 Montreal fell before the onslaught of 2000 Iroquois who as a measure of defiance ate some of their prisoners. In 1690 the Count of Frontenac fitted out a winter expedition against Albany but his 114 men and 96
Ausable Chasm, one of America’s oldest tourist attractions, opened to the public in 1870. An unknown artist painted this about 1865.

Indians attacked Schenectady instead, burning the town and massacring or capturing 140 of the inhabitants. In retaliation, that same year, Captain John Schuyler fell upon the settlements south of Montreal, and the next year a force of British and Iroquois under Peter Schuyler met the French and Algonquins in the first battle in America, it is said, in which these four nations were opposed.

Little wonder that the Champlain valley remained largely unsettled until after the American Revolution. Through the gate to the country, as the lake was called by the Indians, were to pass many more ragged, sick and freezing armies. Mid-winter, 1693. Frontenac, determining to put an end to British raids, sent 600 French and Indians over the ice of the lakes to destroy the Mohawks. Finding them absent, they instead demolished their villages. The story of the return of the French force to Montreal, and the British one under Schuyler that pursued them, is one of a blizzard, starvation, of the eating of boiled moccasins by the white soldiers and dead prisoners by the Indians.

In the Champlain Valley one could scarcely have told that the first French and Indian war, that of King William, had ended, and that the second, Queen Anne’s, had begun. In 1704 the French struck at Deerfield by way of the Winooski Valley in Vermont and the Connecticut River. The ghastly march of the prisoners through the forests has been told by many, but never more graphically than by the Reverend John Williams, who survived it. In 1709 and 1711 two attempts of the British to invade the Champlain Valley failed because of bungling commanders and the watchful Governor Vaudreuil of Canada who sent 1500 men up the lake to defend it. The Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 merely slowed preparations for the convulsive struggle that was coming between France and England.

The French decided that brick and mortar, as well as men, were required if they were to become the real masters of the northern gateway. In 1731 was built a stockade called Frederic at the Lake's narrowest point. Strengthened in 1734 and vastly improved in 1742 the star-shaped redoubt stood boldly in the path of British designs against Canada. From 1731 to 1759, 243 baptisms, 31 marriages and 108 deaths were recorded at the fort and the village around it on both sides of the lake. On the Vermont side at Chimney Point the French built a small companion fort from the materials of the more ancient one (that of the Dutchman de Warm in 1690) and a stone windmill to
grind grain to make bread for the soldiers across the way. The mortar in Frederic was scarcely dry before the guns of empire boomed again, this time in King George’s War from 1744 to 1748. Again the marauding bands of French and Indians were on foot. Again the English in their wooden villages to the south arose to the hair-raising war whoop, the glint of the scalping knife and the flickering red torch. Again a treaty—Aix-la-Chapelle—a brief, false stillness before France and England again dipped the wilderness in the blood of the Seven Years War.

In 1755 the first of the great armies, a brilliant pageant numbering some three thousand five hundred men, sailed south from Quebec under command of the Baron de Dieskau to prevent the vain and militarily inept Sir William Johnson from taking Crown Point. This Dieskau did, although the Battle of Lake George cost him dearly in dead and wounded. At the same time Britain had gained little or nothing. The Champlain Valley was now more securely French than ever, for south of St. Frederic on the bluff between Lake George and Lake Champlain they were building another and greater fort, the one they called Carillon but which to the Indians was The Place Between the Waters: Ticonderoga, a ringing and fateful name in American history.

Although the good William Pitt erred gravely in choosing the sickly, slow-witted James Abercrombie as the general to crush the French in the Champlain Valley, his army might yet have won the day were it not for the bullet that carried away his junior in command. Young General Lord George Augustus Howe was “the noblest Englishman that has appeared in my time,” according to General Wolfe, “and the best soldier in the British Army.” Moving the largest European army ever assembled in America to the head of Lake George by way of the Hudson River and Fort Edward in hundreds of bateaux, wagons and carts, with thousands of barrels of provisions, thousands of tents and tens of thousands of arms had been a frightful burden for the frail Abercrombie. Early on the morning of July 5th, 1758, 15,000 men were afloat on southern Lake George in 900 bateaux, 135 whaleboats and two floating batteries, presenting, according to witnesses, a perfectly fantastic spectacle. Robert Rogers and his green-clad Rangers were in the vanguard; there were not quite 6,000 British regulars in red (the Black Watch regiment in kilts), thousands of provincial farmers and townspeople, Bayonets flashed, bugles and bagpipes blew, drums rolled.

At Sabbath Day Point the army paused to regroup and in the darkness embarked again. The next morning, in the woods north of the Lake, it was much closer to doom Robert Rogers was in the lead. Lord Howe, Israel Putnam and 200 Rangers were leading the main column some distance behind. Astonished, frightened and lost, a French force of 350 men, while trying to gain the safety of the
The Barnes Place in Addison, at Chimney Point and opposite Crown Point, is probably the oldest building in Vermont. One wall of the house, once a tavern, is thought to be part of the British fort built here in 1690.

Fort, collided with Lord Howe's men. A brief skirmish, a few shots and Howe fell. Howe was dead! Paralysis seized the King's legions. Like a centipede without a nervous system the army began to trip over itself. Shots rang through the trees. The French? Who knew? In the forest darkness and panic reigned.

The next morning orders came to return to the landing place. At length the army, heavy in heart, again started north for Ticonderoga, beneath whose walls the great Montcalm, with three times fewer soldiers, had built a breastwork of trees with pointed ends. As Abercrombie's legions lumbered forward his Indians took seats in a kind of spectators gallery on the safe slopes of Mount Defiance. "Then," remembered a wounded Ranger, "out of the woods behind us issued the heavy red masses of the British troops advancing in battle array with purpose to storm with the bayonette." How they died that day, wave after wave of red before the fire from behind those pickets!

And the Lord of Inverawe, Duncan Campbell of the brave and dying Black Watch, learned too late the meaning of the strange, half-forgotten curse of the ghost of his murdered cousin: "Farewell, Inverawe! Farewell, until we meet at Ticonderoga!"

* * * * *

In his journal Major Robert Rogers wrote of the rout and retreat of His Majesty's splendid army with notable economy and understatement: "We toiled with repeated attacks for four hours, being greatly embarrassed by the trees that were felled by the enemy without their breastwork, when the General thought proper to order a retreat, directing me to bring up the rear, which I did in the dusk of the evening."

It was the methodical Sir Jeffrey Amherst who, replacing Abercrombie in the Champlain Valley, sent Rogers the following year into the forests of Vermont and lower Quebec against the St. Francis on the most frightful mission of this, or perhaps any, Colonial war. So silently did the Rangers pour over the St. Francis stockade at sunup, so fast and savagely did they kill (when they saw 700 English scalps waving from poles) that 200 Indians were dead by seven o'clock, including those they burned in their fifty houses, and those shot or drowned in their boats as they tried to escape. On December 1 Rogers (many, indeed, thought it was the ghost of Rogers) returned to General Amherst's new fort at Crown Point, which he had left by whale-boat on September 13 for almost certain oblivion. His destruction of St. Francis
became legendary. Throughout the Colonies it was regarded as a symbol of the rising power of the British in the North.

Political intrigue and corruption in the Quebec government and lack of military support from France had reduced Montcalm to near helplessness, and when General Amherst advanced down Lake George with a strong new army, the French, with only 2,300 men to defend Ticonderoga, knew that the jig was up. At 11 o'clock at night on July 26th, 1759, a thundering roar echoed in the Vermont hills across the water as great chunks of the proud fort plummeted into the lake. The French were blowing up their own works and leaving the Champlain Valley forever.

Amherst, to the contrary, was building and repairing forts as he advanced—Fort George at the foot of that lake, Ticonderoga, and now Crown Point, which cost England the enormous sum of ten million dollars. The British planned to reduce Montreal by approaching it from three directions; up the St. Lawrence from Quebec and down it from Lake Ontario, and north from Lake Champlain. During the summer of 1759 Amherst was so preoccupied with his fort-building that he failed to advance until October, when cold weather was at hand and it was too late. Meanwhile the great general Wolfe had scaled the heights of Abraham. Even as he and Montcalm (the last hope of France) lay dying on the battlefield, the British flag arose over Montreal and all Canada.

* * * * *

More ink seems to have flowed, from the capture of Fort Ticonderoga by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold, than blood flowed on the battlefield of Saratoga. Presumably this is because their daring coup on May 10th, 1775, was one of the first events of the Revolution, because possession of the fort was of profound importance to any army invading America from the north and because of the interesting circumstances under which two of the war's foremost extroverts managed to subordinate their egos to the common cause.

The two agreed that although Ethan would command, Arnold might march at his side and to that extent share the honors. The rest is well enough known. Historians have unravelled and scrutinized every small and frayed detail—whether Ethan did in fact demand the surrender of the fort from its commander "in the name of the Great Jehovah, and the Continental Congress" (he appears to have said just that, and not something more profane); whether it was Lt. Feltham or the commander, Captain De la Place who had not had time to put on his breeches (it was the former). The great though dilapidated fortress had in any case fallen to a band of rough farmers from Vermont, and, as Ethan wrote: "The sun seemed to rise that morning (May 10) with a superior lustre; and Ticonderoga and its dependencies smiled on its conquerors, who tossed about the flaming bowl and wished success to Congress, and the liberty and freedom of America."

The conviction that Montreal and Canada could be taken without much trouble, if it was done before the British were able to set the wheels of their ponderous military machine in motion, had long possessed Ethan Allen. In the fall of 1775 he resolved, without orders, to take Montreal himself and might actually have done it with a small force if another officer who with his men had agreed solemnly to take part in the raid, had lived up to his agreement. Instead of Montreal it was Ethan who was taken and who departed for England in chains. Congress tardily decided upon a campaign against Canada and that fall St. Johns and Montreal capitulated to the American army. Quebec, winter and sickness, proved overwhelming, however, and when a fresh army arrived from England all hope faded. In the spring of 1776 Americans began a retreat south to the safety of their Champlain forts.

To the resolute Benedict Arnold fell the task of building a fleet to halt the inevitable British invasion through the ancient gateway to the heart of the colonies. He had, of course, a nucleus of ships to start with and carpenters from various New England ports. But when it is considered that the timbers they shaped were growing in the woods in the spring and were in action against the British in the fall, and that the flotilla consisted of three schooners, one sloop, seven gondolas and one galley carrying, in all, 32 guns and over 500 men, the achievement at the primi-
Macdonough's naval victory at Plattsburgh, his flagship the "Saratoga," in this print shows the land battle as well.

The land victory at Plattsburgh, over 14,000 British, shows the Americans on the left in this view, looking south.
five shipyard at Skanesboro (Whitehall) seems all the more notable.

On October 4, 1776, the British fleet of 53 ships and boats, large and small, manned by 670 seamen under the command of Sir Guy Carleton and Captain Thomas Pringle, left St. Johns. On October 11 the squadron passed to the east of Valcour Island without any knowledge that Arnold's ships were lying in wait out of sight, on the west side between the island and the New York shore. Passing the southern end of the island and discovering the Americans' position, Captain Pringle brought his ships about and at eleven in the morning the first hot fight in American naval history began. Through an unfortunate maneuver of its untrained crew the Royal Savage, the American flagship, lost her rigging in a thunderous broadside and ran ashore. Although he kept the rest of his smashed and leaking flotilla in action all afternoon, Arnold's own ship, the Congress, had twelve holes in her hull by evening. The Gondola Philadelphia was awash and sank in the darkness. Withdrawing six or seven hundred yards, the considerably damaged British fleet was nevertheless well able to resume battle in the morning. For Arnold, who had used three-fourths of his ammunition, this was impossible.

But good fortune veiled the tiny fleet, a mist so dense that Arnold's ships, each with a tiny stern light that could only be seen directly aft, were able to slip past the British lines single file close to the New York shore. When morning came the furious Sir Guy Carleton found no targets for his guns. While Arnold lost all but three of his ships in the running fight to the south, the season was so late by the time Carleton reached well-defended Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, directly opposite in Vermont, that Carleton returned to Canada for the winter. Much has rightfully been made of the precious year that Arnold gained for the Americans with his battered fleet whose odd complement of ill-trained farmers engaged the energies of the British all through the navigable summer months when otherwise they might have poured south into the Hudson valley, sealed off all New England and ended the war.

In the spring of 1777 General John Burgoyne arrived in Quebec to organize an invasion of ten thousand regulars and three thousand hired Hessians. Afloat on Lake Champlain in June this polyglot army with its throng of Indians, its music and its banners flying against a background of mountains presented an astonishing spectacle of color and drama. At Ticonderoga General Arthur St. Clair had some 2,500 artillerymen (one third of them sick and many others without shoes or adequate clothing) to cover as many vital yards of defense—from the star-shaped fort on Vermont's Mount Independence across a floating bridge 400 feet long to the old French lines north of Fort Ticonderoga. The long crescent-shaped line of defense needed 10,000 troops to defend it. There had been that many here the previous fall but most of them had been withdrawn during the winter and of those remaining eight out of nine, it is said, did not even have bayonets.

On July 2 the British began their advance against Ticonderoga and Mount Independence on both shores, the Hessians slogging through a swamp in Vermont and the regulars occupying a hill on the west shore to the north of the Fort that they called Mount Hope. Even if there had been enough troops to hold the American position, its most serious weakness was another small mountain called Sugar Hill whose summit commanded the entire American defenses on both sides of the lake. It even looked down upon nearby Ticonderoga to the north, but General Horatio Gates had considered it too steep to fortify. It was the lot of the unfortunate St. Clair to bear the burden of his thick-headed commander's mistake, for the British quickly saw the possibilities of what they called Mount Defiance, drew their guns to its summit and with this single maneuver put the entire arc of American defenses in jeopardy. On the morning of July fifth St. Clair's troops on Mount Independence looked across to the summit of Mount Defiance and saw with astonishment that it was covered with Redcoats.

The defeat of the retreating American forces at Hubbardton and the remarkable victory at Bennington of the militia of New Hampshire and Vermont under John Stark and Seth Warner against two detachments of Britshers and Hessians were, however, the beginnings of a series of disastrous reversals which ended in the downfall of the proud Burgoyne at Saratoga.

Colonial Garden in Elizabethtown is a reproduction of the fine formal gardens of 200 years ago. It is open to visitors.
NEW NETHERLANDS AND NEW ENGLAND,
and also Pennsylvania and part of Virginia, with many locations revised by Justo Danckers

This Dutch map, in the Wilbur Library collection of the University of Vermont, probably was published soon after 1681, since it shows Philadelphia, founded that year. The Dutch used Latin since so few Europeans understood their language.

The place names show the Dutch reluctance to recognize that New Netherlands now was British. Even the St. Lawrence is labeled hopefully “The Great River of New Netherlands.”

The coastal areas apparently were copied from earlier Dutch maps and carry Dutch and Swedish place names. North of Albany (Ft. Orange) and back from the New England coast the drafting seems to have been done from hearsay. Note that the bulging Lake Champlain (here called Irocoisia) seems to lie east of the Connecticut River. The map probably was published in Amsterdam, Holland.

GATEWAY STRUGGLE 43
In New Orleans the Yankee victory at Plattsburgh was front-page news.
The sidewheeler "Vermont," launched at Burlington in 1808, was the second successful steamboat built in America.

"Oakes Ames," built in 1868 as a railroad ferry, had an engine for each paddle wheel. She was wrecked near Split Rock.

Station House, Hotel and Steamboat Landing at Rouses Point, New York.
HISTORIC LANDMARKS of major rank are the restored Fort Ticonderoga, for 20 years the greatest military bastion of North America, and the Shelburne Museum, the northeast's most complete reconstruction of early American life. Both are products of dedicated private efforts and resources, by the Pell and the Webb families.

Fort Ticonderoga, built as Fort Carillon in 1755, was held successively by the French, the British and the new Americans. The remarkable restoration of the fort and its period accoutrements was begun more than forty years ago.

Shelburne Museum is a pastoral village of early Vermont buildings, each filled with preeminent collections representing all phases of early American life and art. It was begun a decade ago and still is not completed. Its unusual exhibits also include the last of the lake's sidewheel steamers, the "Ticonderoga," the Colchester Lighthouse, a double-barreled covered bridge, and an old steam locomotive, cars and period station.

Peace at last descended upon the Champlain valley. Settlers streamed in to farm the rich bottom lands, to cut down the forests and raft them to Quebec and to build boats to transport produce between their ports. To carry passengers on the principal thoroughfare between New York and Montreal, they built, in 1808, the steamboat Vermont, the first in regular service after Fulton's Clermont.

In 1812 the Union suddenly found itself in the grips of an unwise, unwanted war that Federalists charged the Democrats had brought on. There was at least one bright facade to a scene grimy with politics and military mismanagement: Thomas Macdonough, a young lieutenant who had arrived under much the same circumstances as Benedict Arnold in the Revolution, to do what he might for Lake Champlain's navy, then consisting of two rotting gunboats—"my poor forlorn-looking squadron" as he called it. During the winter of 1813-14 the shore of the basin below the frozen waterfall of the river Otter Creek at Vergennes was a scene of frantic industry. In five and a half days 110 men cut the timber for three ships, the largest of which, the Saratoga, was launched forty days after her heavy keelson and planks were growing in the woods. By midsummer Macdonough had produced seventeen ships and boats. There was one less in the 900-man British fleet in the Richelieu River, but the Royal flagship Confiance, 37 guns, built at Isle Aux Noix, outclassed the American Saratoga.

To match Sir George Prevost's 14,000 troops (twice as many as in the army of John Burgoyne), the Americans had at the end of August, 3,400 men, 1,400 of whom were sick. To General Alexander Macomb's desperate call for help some two thousand yeomen on the farms and villages on both sides of the lake seized their muskets and shipped for Plattsburgh.
The last great clash of armies and ships on the ancient highway of nations took place on Sunday, October 11, 1814. As Sir George Prevost’s huge army advanced on Plattsburgh Captain George Downie sailed his fleet south around Cumberland Head to engage the ships of Macdonough, anchored in the town’s harbor. The first shattering volley from the British flagship silenced most of the Saratoga’s starboard guns and put a fifth of her crew out of action. Macdonough was nearly knocked out by a shattered spar and the severed head of a gunman which hurled him across the deck. All was chaos in the bright sunshine: smoke and blood and the groans of the dying. Macdonough managed to slip the Saratoga’s cable, swing her about and bring her port guns to bear upon the Confidence; one of her sailors reported that compared to what followed, Trafalgar was a “mere flea bite.” Captain Downie was killed. The rigging of the Confidence hung in shreds. When she struck her colors her hull was breached in 105 places. The Yankee farmers behind the cannon in their sloops and gunboats realized, incredulously, that the lake was theirs. Fearfully outnumbered, their compatriots ashore took heart as well, and by evening the King’s 14,000 troops, shocked at the loss of their fleet, were in mad retreat to the north.

Once more Champlain was an American lake, and a peaceful one it was to remain. In the place of warships and battle canoes, white-winged schooners and sloops flecked the water; instead of the roar of the cannon the hoarse salute of the steamboat whistle sounded at St. Johns, Plattsburgh, Burlington, Crown Point, Ticonderoga and Whitehall. The people poured their energies into canal building south and north and, mingling fresh water with salt, opened the gates of their hard-won valley wide to commerce and prosperity.
The tripart economy of the Champlain Valley has been shaped by its great water links, by its unparalled scenic splendor and by its fertile, lake-formed shores.

The earliest evidences of man's use of the Champlain valley, some dating possibly from soon after the great ice sheet had melted its way northward, suggest parallels with the economics of the region throughout its recorded 350 years.

The valley has been home, a source of food, of fuel, of wood and minerals and always, regardless of changing modes, an avenue of travel and transportation.

Whether afoot or in canoes, on horseback, in sailboat, steamship, railroad or jet plane, men have used the lake and its valley as a convenient route between the Hudson and the St. Lawrence, not alone for through travel but also for reaching the resources of adjacent lands and moving their products to distant markets.

Perhaps commerce played no part in valley economics in pre-Indian times. We know little about the men who first ventured into what had been ice-bound New England. But certainly it was early, and long before the white man's coming, that flint deposits like those near Mt. Independence in Orwell were mined to provide arrowheads—the valley's first developed mineral deposit!

Commerce was not the Indians' interest, either; but the lake, and the rivers that enter and leave it, provided easy avenues to hunting grounds or to enemy territory.

Samuel de Champlain was with a war party when he discovered and gave his name to the lake. Half a century later one of the earliest references to commerce through the valley is to be noted in arrangements made by the Dutch, then in control of the Hudson settlements, for trade exchanges with Canada—by way of the route north from what is now Albany.

Apparently that trade grew and prospered, doubtless with furs and Indian goods the chief items, until in 1720 the British, then in control of New York, decided the furs ought all to be coming their way. An edict was issued forbidding trade between Albany and Canada—though with what success is not of record. Until the so-called French and Indian War broke out the Indians were inclined to do their trading where they got what seemed to them the best bargains!

Except for the forts protecting the trade routes and guarding against invasion there was little settlement of permanence until after the close of the French war, and...
the English were in control of both ends of the valley. Then settlers began edging in. Maj. Philip Skene founded Skenesborough, now Whitehall, in 1761 at the lake's southern tip and about the same time New Englanders began moving into the region along its eastern shore. With the coming of these settlers began what can properly be called the economic development of the Champlain valley.

* * *

In that development the valley has seen the rise of many different kinds of economic activity—and the decline of some: lumbering, for example.

Other once leading activities like sheep raising and wool production have given way to the competition from regions where costs were lower. Or, as with the valley's graphite deposits, it was not only lower costs but the small demand for Champlain's particular kind.

Changing times and technologies account for still other shifts in economic activity. Discovery of potassium salts in Germany combined with disappearing forests to put an abrupt end to the first manufacture and export—first in time as well as in cash value—of the early settlers: the making of potash from the ashes of trees burned in clearing the land.

There have been changes, changes that make a varied pattern in the economic cloth: the woof of that cloth, as it were. But the warp, running through the whole from prehistory to now and on into the future—the warp is transportation.

* * *

The transportation story could start and end with the canoe, for canoeing today is tied to the recreation portion of the valley's economy, though the end would be no real end at all, as millions of tons of freight move up and down the lake and planes drone overhead carrying people and mail... and goods, too.

But except for his own feet, the canoe was man's first vehicle in his visits to Champlain, whether fishing or hunting or on a war party. From the Indians the white men learned their usefulness but soon turned to building and using bigger and sturdier vessels: batteaux, first, but then sailing vessels, some of them as big as many an ocean-going ship of their time.

The first ship to be put into regular commercial service on the lake was launched by Maj. Skene at his tip-of-lake settlement in 1770. Its financial success is not of record and in any event the commercial life on the lake was skimpy at the start and turned almost wholly to military needs during the Revolution.

But records show that between 1790 and 1815—a post-war period when most settlements had been established and were growing quite rapidly—some 30 ships big enough to deserve the name were launched, most of them at Burlington. That settlement, with river access to deep forests at its back and the broad lake in front, early seized and held leadership in lake commerce. One Gideon King of that community controlled so many of the cargo boats that, until steam drove sails from commercial competition, he was widely known as "Admiral of Lake Champlain."

Vermonters will never be convinced that Samuel Morey didn't make a steamboat run successfully on the Connecticut River before Robert Fulton sent the Clermont puffing up the Hudson. However, the whole Champlain valley takes pride in the fact that the Vermont, which made its first trip in June of 1809, was the second steamer anywhere to enter and succeed in regular commercial service.
Much of Champlain's commercial shipping today is in oil.

Built by John and James Winans, in Burlington, this lake pioneer was 120 feet long, 20 feet in beam and drew eight feet. Her top speed—unless the wind was against her—was eight miles an hour under the propulsion of her 20 horsepower engine. But she made the round trip of the lake, from St. Johns, Que., to Whitehall via Burlington pretty regularly every week for some six years, except during the War of 1812 when she served for a time as a transport for troops and supplies.

In all, 29 sidewheelers served the lake passenger traffic through more than 14 decades until the Ticonderoga, built 97 years after the first Vermont and last to ply the waters, was hauled overland to her present dry land berth in the Shelburne Museum. Of all that could be written of their size, appointments and their days of glory, perhaps two things stand out in relation to the area's economy.

One, of course, was their tying together of the lake communities with the fastest and surest passenger and freight service available in their day, in addition to their major role in linking first the stages and then the railroads to complete the New York-to-Montreal route.

And the other was their part in what may well have been the first attempt to capitalize on the recreation possibilities of the area. An advertisement that appeared in 1821 detailed a schedule for the steamer Congress “for the better accommodation of Parties of Pleasure, and others, who may wish to view the remains of those ancient fortresses, Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and other more recently memorable places on the Lake, such as the Battle Ground (sic) of Macdonough’s Naval Engagement—Plattsburgh & c . . .”

Certainly from that early date excursions were a top attraction, especially toward the close of the steamboat era when the railroads, the automobile and more lately the airplane gained the patronage of those who were travelling for the sake of getting from one place to another.

The knell for passenger traffic on the north-south runs was sounded when the railroads completed their track connections—on both sides of the lake. The automobile age put an end to hopes of profitable passenger boat operation. Today, passengers still ride big boats, and in large numbers—but across, not up and down the lake; and the ships are auto ferries. Drivers and passengers of thousands of cars and trucks, taking a ferry shortcut make up the bulk of the lake riders today.

But of course transportation is not limited to people. Since earliest times of white settlement goods have been moved on the lake’s broad surface. Rafts, sailboats, canal boats and, in late years self-propelled barges have carried and still carry millions of tons of all kinds of freight through the lake and the canals which connect it with the St. Lawrence and the Hudson, as well as to and from lake ports—of which today the most important are Burlington and Plattsburgh.

In early days most of the freight went north or was brought in from there, for the Richelieu River was an existing natural waterway and the St. Lawrence was an easy route to Europe, then eager for Champlain valley lumber and the potash.

But the Champlain canal, connecting the lake at Whitehall with the Hudson, was opened in 1823. The first boat through was the Gleaner from St. Albans with wheat and potash. Many followed; and the flow of valley trade, with iron and marble soon joining logs, lumber and farm products in making up its growing bulk, shifted largely to the south.

The canal boomed the valley economy, encouraging settlement and development of farm and mineral resources by offering cheap and easy transportation for valley products outward bound and for valley needs, inbound. Three decades or so later another boost came with the railroad era. Whitehall was reached from Saratoga in 1848 but it was about 1875 before the New York-Montreal links were complete, both sides of Champlain, with lines to Boston and connections to the growing West. Important in view of what is happening nowadays were energetic railroad efforts to get people to visit the resorts of the region.

The transportation story would not be complete without mention of the automobile and truck. The good roads they have brought in their wake pin the valley’s communities together, serve farms and businesses and enable the hundreds of thousands of visitors, at all seasons, to come at their own convenience.

Meanwhile the airplane uses the Champlain valley as a flyway, bringing people and mail—and some express and freight, too—to its major centers and finding the valley, as its predecessors did, a natural and logical as well as easy “road” to follow.

Numerous small airfields dot the valley but Burlington and Rutland, on the Vermont side, and Plattsburgh and Glens Falls in New York are the airline ports. Champlain's
military importance, today as yesterday, is evident also in the Air Force installations, with squadrons of ever-ready jet fighters based at Ft. Ethan Allen and, across the lake, at Plattsburgh.

* * *

About 300,000 people live in the Champlain's valley now—give or take 50,000, depending upon whether one considers only the valley of the lake itself or includes all who live on the lands it drains. Their activities range from the farming and lumbering, mainstays since the first settlers arrived, through most of the kinds of jobs and professions that characterize life in America today.

Though not usually regarded as an industrial area manufacturing is the largest single source of jobs and income. Until recently, farming was second in value of annual production but now is third, behind that business which began with the 1821 advertisement of boat rides for "Parties of Pleasure, and others..."—namely, recreation.

Prime farm land typifies the Champlain Valley, too. This field of harvested oats lies near West Ferrisburg.

Lumber-carrying sailboats filled the Lake 100 years ago.
That's a term that includes a wide variety of activities—or inactivities, for those who want it that way! And providing the facilities and services for the ever-increasing number of those who come to the valley for the fun of it, has developed into an “industry” with an annual product estimated at well over $100,000,000—perhaps up to twice that amount if the larger geographical meaning of “valley” is understood.

How many people join the valley residents in enjoying it during the four seasons of the year? Nobody knows for sure. Some can be counted, though: besides many others on lakes and ponds that dot the larger valley there are 11 boys’ and girls’ camps directly on the shores of Champlain itself, with summer attendance totalling over 2,000.

From that first experimental excursion, through the Victorian summer hotel era, to the all-year appeal and variety of today’s relax-and-have-fun facilities, all must be counted among the major economic phenomena of valley history.

Agriculture and lumbering were the settlers’ first occupations and for the first 100 years or so farming was the base of sustenance and lumbering the No. 1 industry, source of jobs and supplier of cash. At first most of the logs and sawed lumber, chiefly white pine and oak, were exported northward, but the opening of the canal to the Hudson in 1823 drew most of the business toward Albany.

At just about that time the virgin forests on the Vermont side approached exhaustion, though the Adirondacks continued for another decade or more to provide tremendous quantities of valley timber. But the sawmills kept busy, for a coincidental development brought millions of feet of Canadian logs to the lake ports—chiefly Burlington and Chazy—for sawing and reshipment to fill the growing American demand.

The coming of the railroad from Boston to Burlington, just before midcentury, pushed that port and its lumber industry to a new high. As the only port on the lake with both good rail connections and broad, deep-water docking, Burlington by 1850 became the third largest lumber center in the world; and its boom continued until, in the 1890s, a tariff on Canadian logs put a damper on imports.

Lumber is no longer king... but is far from dead. Conservation measures are slowly but surely bringing the valley’s woodlands (that cover two-thirds of its area) back to a high level of sustained annual yield. Timber and pulpwood for papermaking provide jobs for thousands in the woods, in mills and in transportation. Gross income today ranks forest products next below farming in economic importance.

Farming has always been a solid backlog of valley life but few areas have seen more drastic changes. After the early days of subsistence farming, grain growing and cattle raising became the leaders. Wheat kept well and shipped easily; and cattle, fattened on good valley pastures, could be (and were) driven by the thousands to the growing cities to the southeast and south. “Packing” beef—salting it down in barrels—offered another way of getting farm output to market. It’s of record that in one 25-year period John Simonds, of Addison county, “packed” 100,000 cattle.

But the wheat weevil in 1827 chewed off grain growing profits and the opening of the West’s beef supplies pushed meat prices down. Slowly at first, and then with a rush, the valley switched to sheep. The change was helped by a tariff on wool and by introduction of Merino sheep from Spain.

By 1840 Addison county, Vermont, was the leading sheep county of the nation. One of its towns, Shoreham, had 24 sheep per inhabitant according to that year’s census and Vermont, with only 291,998 people had 1,681,819 sheep that produced 3,699,235 pounds of wool! That was about the peak; for by mid-century sheep emphasis (and profits) shifted westward, too, although Vermont-bred sheep continued world-famous and were in demand in many other lands for several decades longer.

But sheep couldn’t help the average farmer to compete with the West and the dairy cow began to come into her own. From about two million dollars’ worth of butter and cheese marketed annually 100 years ago, the value of the milk produced each year in the valley today has multiplied to some 50 times that figure.

Maple syrup and sugar were and are important farm items in the valley. Vermont is first in the nation, with about two-fifths of the total maple production and New York is second with about a quarter—and much of each state’s output comes from the Champlain valley counties.

There are apple orchards, too, along and near the lake; some 10,000 hives of bees help to pollinate the trees and the untold acres of clover and other legume hays, producing tons of delicious sweet in the process. But the dairy
cow reigns as queen; she is responsible for three fourths of valley farm income, most of it the value of the fluid milk that goes by tank truck to Boston, New York and other centers.

No story of the Champlain valley would be complete without mention of the mineral resources that, almost from the first, have made notable contributions to the economy. The flint at Orwell long ago ceased to be of more than historical interest; but iron ore was discovered early and marble and slate soon followed. Garnets, graphite, limestone and clays all have been found and developed.

Though bar iron was one of Vermont’s main exports to Canada in the post-Revolutionary period, ranking next to potash and lumber, the eastern valley ores were soon worked out or gave way to those of higher iron content elsewhere. The Port Henry area on the New York side, though, has mines—the Cheever is most famous—that have been worked since before 1800 and the ore beds at Mineville, still producing heavily, have yielded close to 15 million tons. The town of Moriah, in which Mineville is located, is said to have the largest developed magnetic ore bodies in the world except for one or two in Sweden.

Backed by that ore, Port Henry a century ago had eight blast furnaces, 20 forges, three rolling mills and two foundries! Shipments from that port in 1864 were so heavy the Champlain canal could not carry them and thousands of tons went across the lake to Burlington for rail shipment to Boston. Today, the ore goes south by barge and rail for smelting elsewhere; the furnaces are gone but the mines remain active.

For reasons geologists can best explain the Vermont side leads in marble and in slate. Proctor calls itself “marble capital of the world,” and the “slate belt” of southwestern Rutland county is, with its next-door region centering on Granville, N. Y., second only to Pennsylvania as a producer of roofing, granules, flagstones and the like.

As a source of garnet, used in abrasives, Johnsburg in Warren County, N. Y., though not in the Champlain valley proper, leads the nation. Ticonderoga was the lake shipping point, with nearby Hague, of about a quarter of all the graphite mined in this country until, early in this century, cheaper imports and technical problems caused the mines to shut down. The village of Graphite remains as a reminder that millions of tons of high grade graphite remain, for possible later development.

Limestones and clays have, at various times and places, been used in the valley. The Rutland Fire Clay Co. got its name from a valley product, though it no longer handles fire clay. Chiefly used for local building, valley limestones were important also in the heyday of the iron smelting business, used in combination first with valley-produced charcoal.

Other Champlain valley businesses range up and down the alphabet, from Ayrshire cattle headquarters to woolen mills and back to accounting machines. In plants and factories employing from a single worker to 1,500 or more, “value added by manufacture” runs into hundreds of millions of dollars a year—again depending upon the territory included. Manufacturing payrolls account for close to a third of valley incomes—and this in a region still widely considered rural and of ever-spreading fame as a playground!

Anomalous? No, just, like the lake itself, an ever-changing entity of infinite variety, constant usefulness and universal appeal!
Enchanting holidays began a century ago along these inviting shores and sparkling waters

MURRAY HOYT

Did you ever catch a fresh water fish six feet long that weighed over two hundred pounds? Did you ever climb aboard a 220 foot lake steamer two miles from the nearest water? Did you ever catch fish at twenty below zero, you sitting in your shirt-sleeves? Did you ever pick up hundreds of clay buttons off a lake shore? Or see a huge sea serpent? (see page 19)

No? Draw up a chair.

Those are just some of the things people have done for recreation on Lake Champlain in modern times. We won't even mention scalping the other tribe's war party, dunking Tories, or even invading Canada via Vermont as the Irish Fenian Society did, items which passed for recreation among certain of the earlier inhabitants.

Canoeing and fishing have the longest history; they're still going strong. At first, however, they were more a way-of-life than they were a recreation. The first white man to canoe on the lake was Samuel de Champlain in 1609. He was the first non-Indian fisherman, too. The item with the shortest history is water-skiing. I can assure you without fear of successful contradiction, that Samuel did none of that.

Between the oldest and the newest, there have been countless schemes for taking advantage of so majestic a body of water to furnish hours of fun, excitement, relaxation, contentment and happiness.

There were the travelers who enjoyed the lake. Before the advent of roads and railroads, overland travel was rugged and laborious. But on water you could let the wind do the work. And later still, aboard a steamer, you could sit at ease in luxury and watch the wild and beautiful scenery unfold. Champlain's steamboat history, beginning with the second successful steamboat in America, the Vermont, has been fabulous.

Early settlers built homes on or near the lake for ease of access and of transportation, and for proximity to drinking water for themselves and their stock. But having built there, in spare time they fished, both summer and

The tree-fringed oval of Mallets Bay lies just north of Burlington. It serves as a snug harbor for countless pleasure craft.
Regattas and a variety of small boat events are held each summer at many lake ports. This is Burlington’s “Waterama.”

winter, for fun and food. They bagged the ducks that used the lake as a flyway from the nesting areas of Canada. They hunted the deer and other game animals that came to the lake to drink. They bathed and swam in the lake on hot days in summer after work. And much as people do today, they sat at dusk and watched the changing colors in waters which reflected the sunset.

The same reasons that prompted the early settlers to choose a lake location, prompted men of considerable means to build estates on both its shores. In pre-income-tax days, the life on these estates was delightful. There were grooms, gardeners, maids, cooks. Usually there was a dock, boathouse, powerboats,—the naphtha launch was a favorite in another era—skiffs, canoes, a float, a diving tower. There were flower and vegetable gardens, walks, huge sweeps of lawn, “summer houses” hanging out over the water. At least two, Grosse Pointe in Ferrisburg, and Shelburne Farms had golf courses. Sometimes these
homes combined gracious living with a farming or orchard operation, or the breeding of horses. They were spotted from Isle La Motte down through the islands.

Almost always there were expanses of porch and, long before the general popularity of the picture window, huge plate glass windows that overlooked lake and mountains.

Often in early days on Shelburne Harbor or some other area of easy access, horses with special shoes were raced on the ice.

There was often a tennis court, wire enclosed, and sometimes the backstop was only a few feet from the back line, mute testimony to the ladylike game that was played. Some of the houses were kept open all year, some were closed in the winter while their owners went back to New York, or Pinehurst, or Florida.

In the luxury-living category, too, were the old summer-hotels-on-the-lake. They featured all the items the estates featured—often not done quite so well because, with them, a profit mattered—plus the famous rocking-chair-filled veranda.

The pattern in those days was very different from today’s. If you had the money you took your wife and your family to a summer hotel and they stayed there all summer. You came up on the “sleeper” Thursday night or Friday night, and went back down to the city again on Sunday night.

In those days when automobiles were not as plentiful, and getting-around not as easy, “moonlight excursions” on the lake steamers were popular with young people, and with some of the oldsters, too. An orchestra played for dancing, and both the Chateaugay and the Ticonderoga could handle upwards of eight hundred people. The boats picked up at various lake towns and cities, and then after the sail, discharged in the same order they had picked up.

The big boats are all gone now. The last one, the 220 foot Ticonderoga, was carried two miles inland at tremendous expense to become part of Shelburne Museum.

Many of Lake Champlain’s attractions that can today be reached in hours by people hundreds of miles away, were in those days available only to those who lived nearby. Fishing for smelt through the ice in shanties is an example. Now people drive to the lake in cars and fish possibly only part of a day.

Fishing on weekdays in summer was pretty much confined to the residents of estates, summer hotels, or the owners of summer cottages. The exception came on rainy days when haying was at a standstill. The farmers’ boats were out there on rainy days. And in places, that doubled and tripled the number of boats. In those days they were rowboats, not outboard motorboats. Always in the spring bullhead fishing is a companionable, fire-on-the-shore, nighttime occupation.

There are a lot of other sports that remain popular, too. Duck hunting is one. Any change there’s been in Cham-
plain duck hunting has been mostly in the comfort of the blinds. It’s a well known fact that the worse the weather, the more the ducks fly and decoy. A blinding snowstorm is likely to be tops. Crouching in a blind was once a chilblain-producing occupation. Of late years the boys have constructed ingenious front-dropping set-ups with oil heaters and the comforts of home, if your home is on the primitive side. There are literally thousands of duck-blinds from Missisquoi Bay to Whitehall on both sides of the lake.

Skating is another timeless sport. The skates have changed some—they used to clamp onto the shoe. But essentially there’s little difference. Lake Champlain skating is dependent on snowfall. You have to catch the ice before there’s a snowstorm. Some snow will blow off, but a lot of snow kills the skating. Occasionally in midwinter a thaw melts the snow on top of the ice completely, or turns it into slush, while the ice itself remains solid. A freeze will then give you miles and miles of skating until the next heavy snow. Ice-boating, which has the same good-ice requirements as skating, has some addicts. But not many. What a thrilling sport when conditions are right.

Swimming, one of the first lake sports, remains one of the most popular. The clothing has changed during the years, especially the long-stockinged, arms-covered female clothing. And men have, literally, lost their shirts at this sport. But the basic fun remains the same. Kids, especially, can splash and cavort by the hour. Inflated inner-tubes have been added. A dock and float are nice. But all you really need is the water.

Sailing on Lake Champlain is the one sport which has most drastically declined in popularity through the years. In the eighteen hundreds, on a pleasant Sunday, sails dotted the lake in all directions. You saw near the big cities, sailboats in almost the proportion to population that you see outboard boats today. There are still a few; in the last few years it has seemed as if sailing were starting to make a comeback.

The outboard motorboat has taken sailing’s place. You can go faster, farther. And whereas you may run out of gas, you aren’t going to be becalmed. So heavy is the trend that Vermont is building Fishing-Boating Access Areas where you can leave your car, launch your outboard from its trailer, and reload when you have had your day on the lake.

Since Lake Champlain was for so many centuries the pathway of invasion for both redmen and white men, and its shores were fought over so intensely, the hobby of searching out and even diving-for war relics has grown up. Arrowheads, spearheads, bullets, cannonball, uniform buttons, and cannon have been found. At the scenes of Champlain’s naval battles, divers, many of them hobbyists, have raised guns and even entire ships. The most famous
CATCH A FISH

BASS, LARGE MOUTH—Likes shallow, weedy waters; unpredictable as to bait (frogs, dobsons, minnows, nightcrawlers).

BASS, SMALL MOUTH—Prefers deep, clear, rocky waters; same bait as Large Mouth.

BOWFIN—Good fighter, but not for eating.

BULLHEAD (Horned Pout)—Found in slow creek areas, fish for at night, special license for set lines; worm bait.

CARP—Likes muddy bottom; some consider fine food fish; worm or doughball bait.

CATFISH—Same conditions as Bullhead; larger fish.

CISCO—Like a salt water herring; caught mainly through ice with perch.

EASTERN PICKEREL—Lurks in weeds, strong fighter; fish by “skittering” in weeds with long pole. short line, big hook baited with perch belly.

GAR PIKE—Not a food fish, rarely hooked, sport with bow and arrow.

LING—Deep-water fish, caught through ice with smelt.

Good eating, some think.

MUSKELLUNGE—Lie in weedy growths, mainly in Missisquoi Bay area; fierce fighter, troll or minnows.

NORTHERN PIKE—Likes shallow, weedy waters; found all over Lake; come easily to boat and then lunge; fish with large minnow or red-and-white wobbling spoon.

SHEEPSHEAD—Good fighter, but not good to eat; all over Lake.

SMILT—Deep water fish, taken through ice with smelt skin on hook with metal attractor—to lure schools closer to surface.

STURGEON—Special licenses needed for netting.

WALLEYED PIKE—Found everywhere in Lake. Use nightcrawlers behind June bug spinner for trolling; small minnows and nightcrawlers for still fishing; taken also through ice.

YELLOW PERCH—All over Lake; schools run in almost identical sizes; worms and minnows for bait—through ice, use perch eye on “jig.”

In special waters, from March 15 to May 15, may be shot; need hunting rather than fishing license.

Fine beaches are found on both sides of the lake, more in the northern half. This is Burlington’s municipal North Beach.
is the Philadelphia which is on display now at Willsboro, New York. Arnold's Bay, where the ships of the defeated fleet after the battle of Valcour Island were burned to the waterline, was a rich source of historic relics.

At the Narrows, site of the present Champlain Bridge, huge numbers of small relics have been found. Fort Saint Frederick, Fort Crown Point, Chimney Point and Hospital Creek (where the isolation hospital victims of small pox were buried in the seventeen hundreds) all are in this close area. Every farmer's plowing here turns up arrowheads and other interesting items.

Most residents of the Champlain Valley and most visitors, spend time visiting and exploring its old forts, and its museums of Americana. It's not as exciting a diversion as water skiing, perhaps, but to most people even more possible and more satisfying.

For those addicted to collecting things, Button Bay can furnish natural clay buttons in all shapes and sizes, some of them perfect. Years ago clay hardened around grass or bush stalks, which later rotted away leaving a perfect round hole. It's incredible how many of these there are.

Almost from the opening of the Champlain Canal in 1823, which connected Lake Champlain with the Hudson River, the popularity of cruising the lake's waters has increased. There are many gorgeous vistas, many snug harbors. At the north end of the lake, the Richelieu and the Chambly Canal give access to the lake for boats less than eighty feet long from the St. Lawrence River. This in turn connects with the fabulous Trent Canal through the Canadian wilderness to Georgian Bay on Lake Huron. Twenty-seven states in the United States, and six provinces of Canada can be reached from Lake Champlain via the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, the Mississippi and its tributaries, the Inland Waterway, Long Island Sound, and the Hudson, all without using the open ocean.

Camping on the shores of the lake has gone on for centuries. There has been, and still is, everything from one man sleeping under his canoe or in a tiny tent, to the hundreds of campers in the permanent boys' or girls' camps. Camp Dudley, across the lake from Panton, Vermont, claims to be the oldest boys' camp in the United States. Of late years, camps located away from the lake have sent fleets of canoes on racks in trucks, and have given their boys a week or so of camping on the lake.

Cottage life is still a big part of Champlain's recreation. Some of these cottages are owned by local people who commute from them to their work each summer weekday.

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**SWIM THE LAKE**

The first man in recorded history to swim the "broad lake" was Paul Brummer of Willsboro. In 1921 he swam the 8 miles from Willsboro Point to the King Street Dock, Burlington. His time was 7 hours 35 minutes.

In 1938 Mr. Brummer, then 50, swam from Port Kent to Burlington in 12 hours 40 minutes. He crossed again in 1948 and 1957.

Record time of 6 hours 20 minutes was set by Bob Cleveland, then 17, in 1930. Mr. Brummer, who plans to swim the lake again this year at age 71, finds late July to mid-August the best season. Winds then usually are from the West and the water fairly smooth.
Others are owned by out-of-staters who have the summer free.

In this automobile age, and with constantly better snow removal methods, people are building year-around homes on the lake or making their cottages into homes. They thus gain for themselves the advantages of lake living, yet they can still commute easily to their work.

Resort life goes on, too. It has changed through the years, mostly in the shorter stay of the average guest, and the more active life he leads while vacationing.

He hikes, plays tennis, plays golf, pitches horseshoes. He might even play polo at Basin Harbor. All within sight of the lake. I remember watching a Vermont Doubles Championship once at that same spot when one set went to more than forty games before being finally decided.

As the number of speedboats has gradually increased on the lake, boat racing and water skiing have come to be major Lake Champlain sports. Most of the lake cities and towns, led by Burlington's annual Watcrama, hold boat races. Those young and skillful enough have a great time zooming back and forth across the wake of the towing boat.

The usual intercollegiate sports are played by the colleges in the Champlain Valley. But even their football is strictly small time. At skiing, however, these colleges often beat the biggest universities in the country.

Then there are the quiet sports. Recreation for those who look upon the coursing of blood through their veins with extreme distaste. Recreation that has the flavor of leisure. Skipping stones, for instance; the round, flat, smooth slate stones of many of the lake's beaches. Or bird watching. The lake area, since it is an easy landmark for migrating birds to follow, is a rather rewarding place for a bird watcher to operate. For their part, the birds probably do an occasional spot of human watching, too.

And there's the sitting in some padded chair which allows the feet to be up, while you look out at the ever-changing color of the lake, while you listen to the sound of the cicadas on a hot summer afternoon, or the crickets on an August evening.

Not bad. You loll there, and just for you, as if you were the sole viewer, nature puts on one of those Lake Champlain sunsets that leave you awed and small-feeling from the huge grandeur of its coloring. Or on a cool night you watch the northern lights march majestically up and down the sky.

At such times you look out at the lake and remember the centuries that she's been showing people sights like these, bringing them food, firewood, fun, frolic, since long before you were born. The years she will go on furnishing these same items long after you're gone.

You figure right there that it would be pleasant to set your sights on the four-hundredth-year celebration. I'll see you there.

END
CONTENTS • SUMMER 1959

Cover—Burlington, Vt. from the Lake
Introduction ................................................................. 1
Land and Water .......................................................... 2
Life of the Wild—Milford K. Smith ................................. 8
Indian Legacy—John C. Huden ............................... 21
Champlain Valley Guide ............................................. 27
Gateway Struggle—Ralph N. Hill, Jr. ......................... 35
Life and Labor—Seargent P. Wild ............................ 48
Away—Outdoors—Murray Hoyt ................................ 54

The Editor’s Uneasy Chair
Our single-minded concern with Lake Champlain this issue is not the start of a pattern. With the Autumn we return to diversified fare, representative of all Vermont. This issue, incidentally, is the first to reach 92,000 copies.

With pleasure we announce the July publication of the Vermont Life Calendar for 1960, a handsome desk and wall type, with gift box, and carrying reproductions of many of the magazine’s most beautiful color scenes. The calendar will be available in Vermont gift shops and bookshops throughout the summer. It may be ordered from Vermont Life later in the year.

The regular Mystery Picture takes a holiday in this issue, together with other regular features, to resume, however, in the Fall. Winners of the Spring issue contest, first identifying a wild boar fountain in Lyndonville, were Jack Cheney, Jr., Hartford, Ct., Harold G. Benson, Agawam, Mass., Miss B. M. Donaldson, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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p. 3, 6, 50 (top), 54—Warren Case
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p. 51, 58—Stephen Warner
p. 52, 56, 57—Geoffrey Orton
p. 55 (top)—C. H. Callahan
p. 56—Mack Derick
p. 56, 57, 60—Basis Harbor
p. 59—Les Smith

INDEX
NUMERALS: light face—illustrated; bold face—in text; italic face—located on map.

Agriculture—51
Air Views—2, 3, 6, 7, 46, 47, 48, 49, 54
Airports—27
Allen, Ethan—39
Animals—12, 13, 18
Architecture—34
Attractions, Tour—32, 42, 46, 47, 55
Battles—38, 39, 41
Beaches—55
Boating—32, 55, 57, 60
Books, on the Lake—32
Bridges—2, 27, 30
Champlain—35
Economy—48 to 53
Events Program—30, 31
Evolution, of Lake—7
Fish—12, 13
Fishing—32, 58
Ferries—27, 32, 59
Flora—13
Forts—2, 33, 38, 40, 46
Geology—3 to 7
Golf—34, 55, 56
Historic Sites—28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 38, 39, 40
History—35 to 47, 34
Indians—21 to 26, 21 to 24
Industry—52, 53
Maps—1, 4–5, 7, 27, 38, 43, 55
Museums—29, 38, 46, 47
Natural Wonders—28, 34, 37
Parks, State—34, 55
Plattsburgh, Battle—41, 44, 46, 47
Serpent, Lake—19
Shipping—6, 36, 50, 59
Sports—37, 54 to 60, 55, 56, 57, 60
Statistics—5
Steamboats—45, 47, 50
Swimming—55, 57, 58, 59
Travel Hints—29
Treasure, Buried & Sunken—38
Waterfowl—16, 17, 19
Wildlife—8 to 20


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THAT FREQUENT RECURRENCE TO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND A FIRM ADHERENCE TO JUSTICE, MODERATION, TEMPERANCE, INDUSTRY AND FRUGALITY ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY AND KEEP GOVERNMENT FREE.  [VERMONT CONSTITUTION]
This lithograph of 1858 shows the breakwater and harbor at Burlington. The two sidewheelers are the *Boston* and the *America*, and beyond the latter is the College Street dock. In the middle distance there is a sidewheeler towing four barges, and at far right a train made up of locomotive, tender and nine cars. Buildings which can be identified include the Old Mill at the University of Vermont and the Unitarian Church. This print was made by Endicott & Company of New York, and was published by H. P. Moore of Concord, New Hampshire.