

Fort Schlosser

Subject Area: Social Studies

Grade Level: 9-12

New York State Social Studies Learning Standards

Standard 1

History of the United States and New York

Students will:

- Use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York.
 - Distinguish between near and distant past and interpret simple timelines,
 - Investigate key turning points in New York State and United States history and explain why these events or developments are significant.
 - Gather and organize information about the important achievements and contributions of individuals and groups living in New York State and the United States,
 - Prepare essays and oral reports about the important social, political, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural developments, issues, and events from New York State and United States history, and

Fort Schlosse was built in 1760 slightly upstream from the site the French Fort Little Niagara or Fort du Portage (1750-9). Built by the British, it was located at the head of the Niagara Falls Rapids . It was locsted at the south (upper) end of the land route from Fort Niagara. It was named after it first commander,Captain John Joseph Schlosser of the 60th Regiment of the Foot (the American Regiment).

The new fort consisted of a ditched square earthworks with four bastions. The old chimney chimney from the burned French fort was used for the new barracks and mess

house.



Source: http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/58100/58161/58161_fort_schloss.htm

Also, the British established a shipyard on Navy Island in the river opposite the Fort.


The portage route was attacked frequently. In September 1763, the "Devils Hole Massacre" occurred. Because of that attack, a series of blockhouses were constructed in 1764 to protect the route..

Fort Schlosser remained occupied by the British during the Revolutionary War. The British vacated it in 1796. It was garrisoned by American troops in the War of 1812. On July 5, 1813, a British and Canadian force, consisting of some 35 militia and a small detachment of the 49th Regiment, attacked Fort Schlosser. The British wanted to eliminate the American depot because, situated at the southern terminus of the


Lewiston Portage, it was an important military trans-shipment point. The attacking force was commanded by Lieut.-Col. Thomas Clark of the 2nd Regiment, Lincoln Militia. The British surprised the American garrison, encountering little resistance. The British captured a gunboat, two bateaux, a brass cannon and a substantial quantity of small arms and supplies. When embarked for their return to Canada, the British were attacked by local American militia but they suffered no casualties. In December, 1813, the British captured Fort Schlosser and burned it.

Activity

Students will use draw their own diagram of Fort Schlosser, using the following illustration as a model




GREAT LAKES SEAWAY TRAIL



NEW YORK STATE FRENCH & INDIAN WAR COMMEMORATION

FORT SCHLOSSER

GUARDING THE UPPER LANDING



New York Power Authority
Generating more than electricity

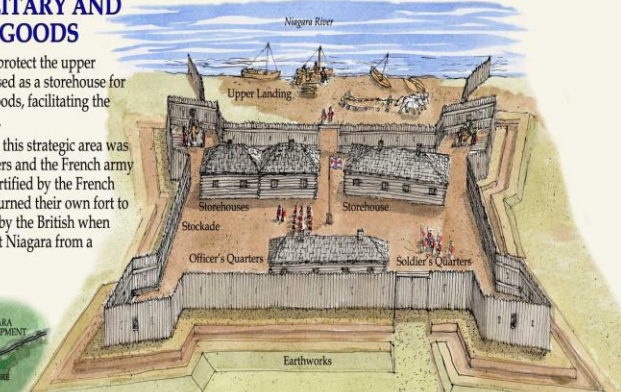
PORTAGE TIMELINE

- 1763**
British rebuild Fort Schlosser.
- 1760**
British occupy the landing and build a new fort they call Fort Schlosser.
- 1759**
French forces abandon and burn Fort Little Niagara (Fort du Portage).
- 1751**
French build Fort Little Niagara (Fort du Portage) just downriver from here.
- 1726**
French build Fort Niagara and occupy the portage route.
- 1720**
Joncaire builds a trading post at the landing.
- 1679**
French explorer La Salle establishes early French claims to the region.
- 1650**
American Indians use the Portage route, the Seneca tribe controls the area.

SECURING MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL GOODS

Fort Schlosser was built to protect the upper portage landing and was used as a storehouse for military and commercial goods, facilitating the supply of western outposts.

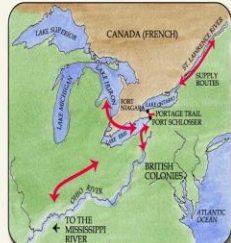
The importance of securing this strategic area was recognized by early explorers and the French army as well. The landing was fortified by the French prior to the war, but they burned their own fort to prevent it from being used by the British when they left to help defend Fort Niagara from a British assault.



FORT SCHLOSSER 1760-1763

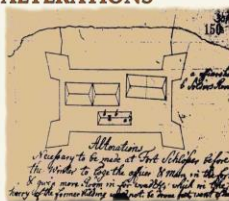
Fort Schlosser was the name given to the fortification when the British built it in 1760. It was rebuilt in 1763. It was named after Captain John Joseph Schlosser, an officer in the 60th Regiment of Foot (or Royal American Regiment), commander and builder of the post.

GATEWAY TO THE INTERIOR

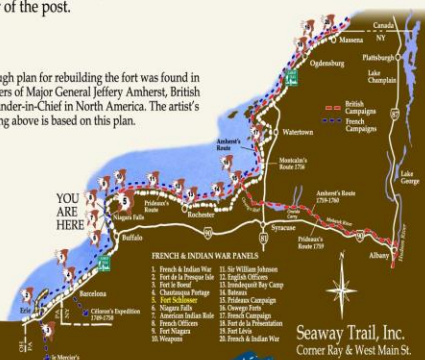


The Niagara corridor was the gateway into the interior of North America, but Niagara Falls presented a major obstacle. All travelers and goods going to or coming from the Ohio Valley had to land or depart from here for the overland bypass (portage) around the Falls to enter either Lakes Erie or Ontario.

ALTERATIONS



This rough plan for rebuilding the fort was found in the papers of Major General Jeffery Amherst, British Commander-in-Chief in North America. The artist's rendering above is based on this plan.



FRENCH & INDIAN WAR PANELS

1. French & Indian War
2. Fort du Portage
3. Fort de la Joncaire
4. Chatham's Portage
5. Fort Schlosser
6. Seneca Falls
7. American Indian War
8. French Soldiers
9. Fort Niagara
10. Hopewell
11. St. William Johnson
12. English Garrison
13. French Fort
14. French Campaign
15. French Campaign
16. French Campaign
17. French Campaign
18. Fort de la Joncaire
19. Fort de la Joncaire
20. French & Indian War

French & Indian War

Troops carrying supplies walked this section of the Great Lakes Seaway Trail.

Extension Activity 1

Students will describe why the Niagara Portage was the gateway to the interior of North America.

Extension Activity 2:

Students will explain why the British established a series of blockhouses along the Niagara Portage.

References

Raid on Fort Schlosser 1813 at <http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=49163>
New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs: Military History.(2006) Fort Schlosser at http://dmna.ny.gov/forts/fortsQ_S/schlosserFort.htm