



**Volume 22**

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**America's Revolution (105) – Ticonderoga - II**

**Lead: In the 1700s the United States broke from England. No colony in history had done that before. This series examines America's Revolution.**

**Intro: *A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts***

**Content: By the spring of 1775, with war at hand, and with blood staining the precincts of Lexington and Concord, perceptive colonial leaders were beginning to**

**have to think strategically. Britain's North American colonies were grouped into sections: New England, the middle colonies, and the south. On the land side they were divided by great river valleys ranging south to north, with the Savannah River dividing Georgia and South Carolina, the Pee Dee River valley bisecting North and South Carolina, the James River Valley in Virginia, the Potomac River Valley between Virginia and Maryland, the Delaware River Valley cutting into the Pennsylvania heartland, and perhaps the most strategic waterway, the Hudson River Valley of New York which, with interconnecting lakes, went all the way to the border of Canada. One could make a case that contention for control of these river valleys formed the basis of military strategy on both sides during the course of the Revolution.**

**Colonial strategic thinking in 1775 immediately began to focus on the Hudson Valley and the potential for disaster should the British commander in Quebec, Guy Carleton, toss together a rag tag force of British regulars, French, and Indians bring them up the St. Lawrence, down Lake Champlain, and Lake George, and storm down the Hudson, thus cutting New England off from the rest of the colonies. At the heart of this supposed scheme was the crown jewel of frontier fortresses in the Hudson Valley. Built by the French and named Fort Carillon, this enormous citadel was taken by the British in 1759, renamed Ticonderoga and sat astride the connection between Lake Champlain and Lake George. It would be the key to any British move south down the Valley or any American attempt to block them. Next time: Taking Ticonderoga.**

# At the University of Richmond's School of Professional and Continuing Studies, I'm Dan Roberts.

## Resources

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