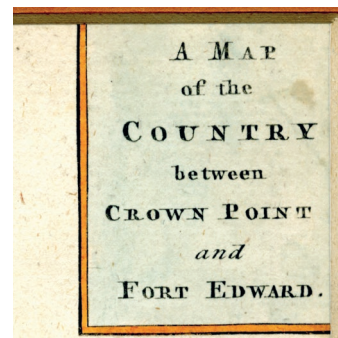


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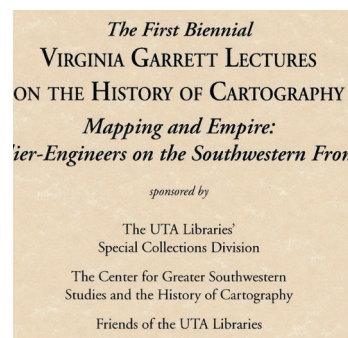
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Front cover Matthäus Seutter, detail from 'Imperii Magni Mogolis Sive Indici Padschach', 1728, 49 x 57 cm. The full map shows the extent of the Mughal Empire in the late 17th century. Courtesy Anubhav Mathur, Ojas Art Gallery, Delhi.

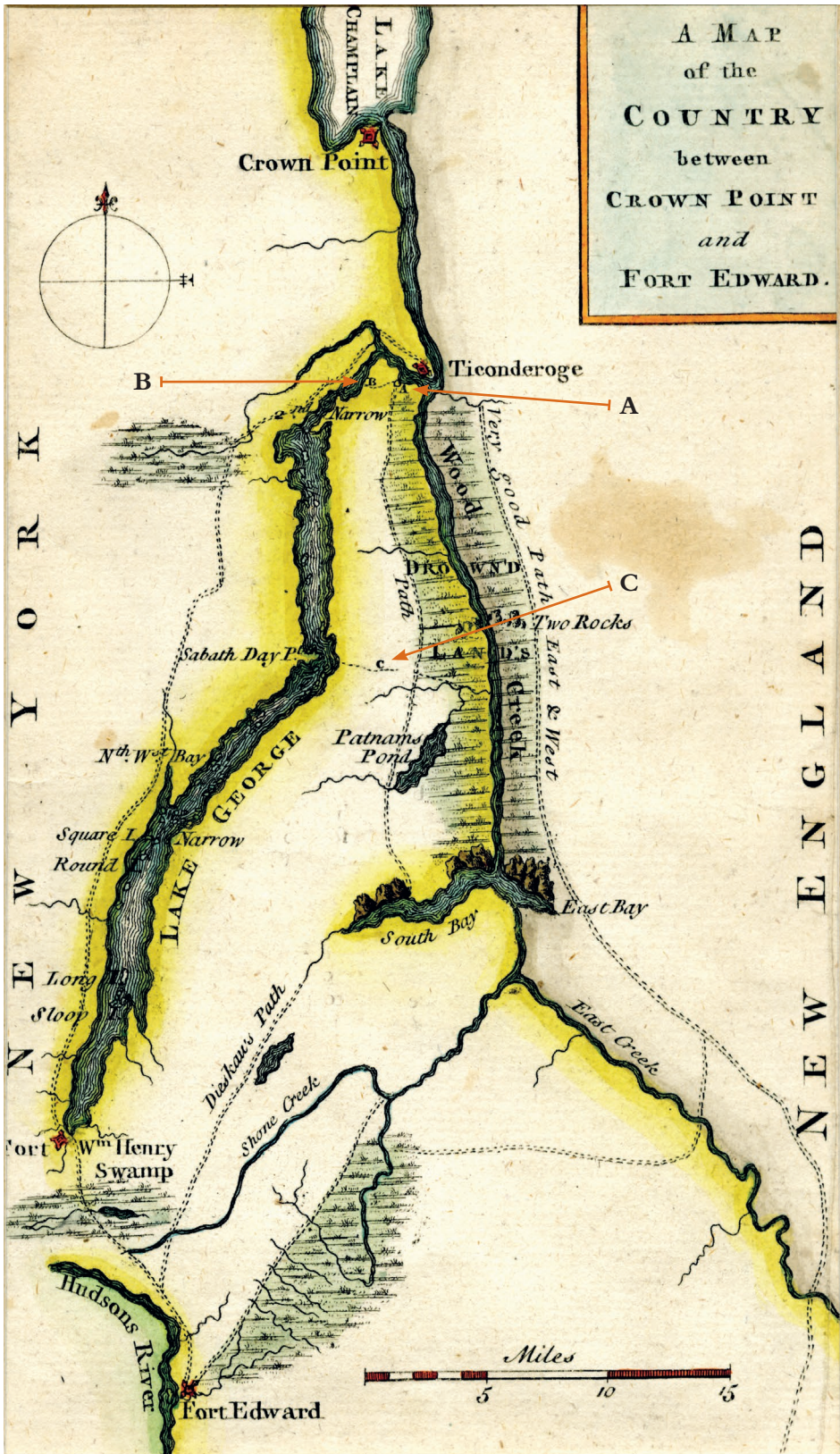


Fig. 2 An anonymous map titled 'A Map of the Country between Crown Point and Fort Edward', 19.05 × 11.4 cm (7½ × 4½ in), contained in *The Gentleman's Magazine* (see Fig. 1, 1759). Author's collection.

commemorates that mill. In 1757 the British General James Abercrombie used the mill as his headquarters during the battle of Ticonderoga on 8 July 1758.

### The letter B near Ticonderoge

The letter ‘B’ locates the portage where travellers going between the lakes bypassed the falls and rapids by carrying their boats and equipment over land. The Lake George/Champlain portage was part of a larger system that stretched across New England and eastern New York. It made travel possible from New York up the Hudson River to Lakes George and Champlain and from there to French Canada via the St Lawrence River. Prior to the arrival of the French, the portage was in regular use by the Native Americans who called it *Wahcoloosencoochaeva* in the local dialect.<sup>4</sup>

The location of the portage first appeared on a French military map used by Maréchal-de-camp Jean-Armand baron de Dieskau, commander of the French forces at the battle of Lake George (8 September 1755).<sup>5</sup> Its strategic importance was well known by both sides; consequently, a map showing its location was a military necessity. During the battle Dieskau was wounded and captured, and the manuscript map was discovered in his pocket (Fig. 3). It showed the portage as an unnamed double dashed line. The map’s author is unknown, but it is written in French.<sup>6</sup>

The letters ‘a’, ‘b’ or ‘c’ do not appear on Dieskau’s map. The portage is correctly located but indicated only by a dotted line. (The sawmill ‘a’ would not then have existed.) Features were written in either black or brown ink, perhaps indicating that it had been created by more than one author. It was altered after Dieskau’s capture. Original features were in French, i.e. ‘Bois’, ‘Sauts’. On the bottom right of the map, in English, is written ‘Map from the French General Dieskau’. The French name ‘Ft. St. Frederic’ was supplemented in English by ‘or Crown Point’ in brown ink. Fort Carillon, then under construction, is named, but has been supplemented by ‘Tierandaroga [sic] or’ in brown ink. Fort Carillon (in black ink) is found at the northern end of Lake George, and the name ‘Tierandaroga’ has been added in brown ink. Another note in English explains: ‘The Huntington Library Art Museum and Botanical Gardens, where the original map is housed, describes the map as depicting the area of Albany to Fort Saint Frederic or Crown Point during the Crown Point Expedition, 1755 in the French and Indian War. The map was drawn up by, or for, General Baron Jean-Armand Dieskau and

was in his possession when he was captured by General William Johnson. Lac du Saint Sacrement was later renamed Lake George’.

A manuscript copy of Dieskau’s map in the Library of Congress (Fig. 4) has no French notes or names. A notation by the unknown copyist says, ‘The Original of this Plan was found with General de Diskau [sic] when he was taken Prisoner.’<sup>7</sup> The site of the portage in the copy is the same but the dotted line has been replaced by a rope-type trail marker. The words ‘Carrying Place’ were added.<sup>8</sup>

### The letter C

The curved dotted line designated ‘C’ on the GM map was the route followed by Rogers when he led fifty men with five boats from the eastern shore of Lake George over a mountain to Wood Creek. He was thus screened from French patrols and sentries at Fort Carillon. His mission was to disrupt supplies and troops coming down Lake Champlain from Quebec to reinforce and re-supply Fort Carillon. On 28 June 1756 Rogers’s expedition departed Fort W[illia]m Henry at the southern end of Lake George (see Fig. 2) by boat and two days later hauled out of Lake George at a portage scouted by Rogers a few days before.<sup>9</sup> His rangers needed four days to clear a path through the forest for the boats to pass. They then returned to the portage and began hauling the boats and their equipment up some 800 feet to the elevation of the top of the mountain path before descending to Wood Creek – a hike of 10.4 km / 6½ miles.<sup>10</sup> It was a herculean effort that became legendary, but to Rogers it was a mere afterthought. He recorded in his journal ‘the next day, at about five miles distance from this island, we landed our boats, and carried them about six miles over a mountain, to South Bay, where we arrived the 3rd of July’ (see Fig. 2).

### Captain James Abercrombie’s relationship with Rogers?

English Captain James Abercrombie (1732–1775) may have been the nephew as well as the aide-de-camp of Major-General James Abercrombie, commander of the British forces in North America. He was assigned to the 42nd foot which had arrived in North America in April 1756. An accomplished engineer and mapmaker, he participated in some of Rogers’s missions.<sup>11</sup> Rogers noted in his journal that during 1756, he led thirteen expeditions to reconnoitre and harass the French. One of them was the trek across the mountain between Lake George and Wood Creek. If Abercrombie participated

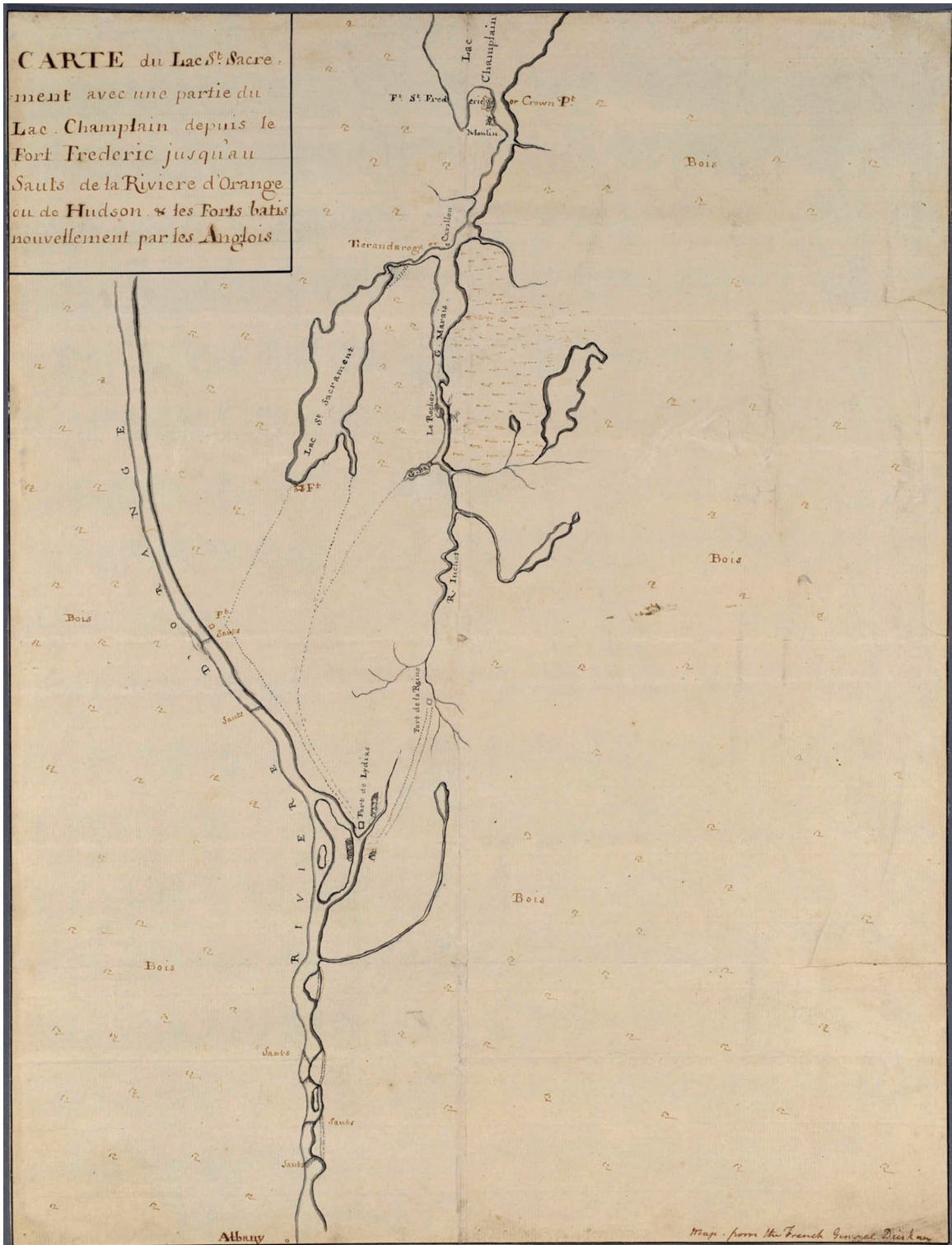


Fig. 3 Jean-Armand, baron de Dieskau, 'Carte du Lac St. Sacrement avec une partie du Lac Champlain depuis le Fort Frederic jusqu'au Sauts de la Riviere d'Orange ou de Hudson & les Forts batis nouvellement par les Anglois', 39 × 32 cm. Manuscript map of Lake George area, recovered from Dieskau upon his capture on 8 September 1755 after the battle of Lake George. Courtesy of The Huntington Library, San Marino, California, MSSHM 15405.