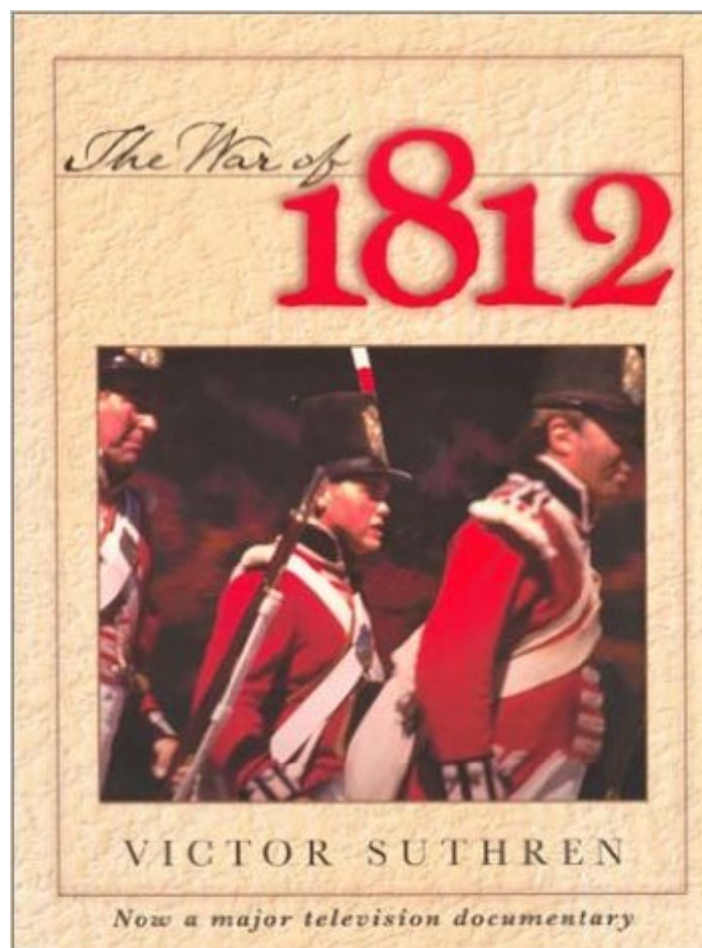


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# War Of 1812



## Synopsis

It was by far the bloodiest, most dramatic, and longest-running war to take place on Canadian soil. Full of acts of great folly and great courage, and marked by the actions of larger-than-life characters, such as General Isaac Brock and Tecumseh, it left Canadians and Americans with a clearer sense of who they were – or who they were not. It taught the British a lesson on the limits of power, and the Natives on the western frontier lost their last hope of a homeland secure from western expansion. Author and historian Victor Suthren has written a dramatic and informative book on this pivotal moment in our past, unravelling the story of a complex struggle, and bringing the battles and the many fascinating personalities vividly to life. The result is an excitingly written, heavily illustrated, full-colour history. Written to tie in with History TV's mini-series – The War of 1812, – this book draws on research done for that television series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An interesting collection of his paintings centered on the actions on the Great Lakes in the War of 1812. Having seen several of his paintings in histories of those conflicts I frankly expected more. The paintings vary considerably in effect and quality. I particularly liked his Sunset at Sacket's Harbour and the U.S. Brig Oneida Off Sacket's Harbor. The former had a beautiful sense of light and the latter was one of his more detailed ship portraits (but surely the mainstay should have been heavier?). Some of his winter and night scenes, however, seemed little more than attempts at something interesting but missed the mark. The ship pictures, which were my main interest, vary substantially. In many the running rigging is simplified with lines omitted; spritsail yard braces, for

example, in all but two that I could make out and bowlines either partially or totally missing from the square sails in most cases. Perhaps some of the pictures were much smaller than others accounting for the simplifications but no canvas sizes were noted. If this reads like rivet counting I plead guilty. Another striking painting was the U.S. Brig Eagle on Lake Champlain, which, along with a battle scene, were the only two paintings dealing with the decisive battle there in 1814. Nevertheless, the book provides coverage of an often neglected area of the war, which, from a naval viewpoint and the ultimate peace negotiations, was more important than what occurred at sea.

Stunning. If you are studying the War of 1812, Rindlisbacher's art alone is worth the price. The art adds emotional sensation to the various battles and Great Lake confrontations between the U.S. and Britain. Details of the ships help to "put you in the middle of the fight". The narrative supports and elaborates on the art. My only criticism is that there were no maps. Other than that, the book should be on every War of 1812 student's bookshelf.

The artist turns his craft to a little-portrayed theater of the conflict, and I found most of the scenes nicely done. The artwork is not up to the standards of Geoff Hunt (Aubrey series) or Geoffrey Huband (Bolitho series), but the diversity of scenes brings home the harsh four-season setting of the building contest, and they encompass the range of ship and squadron actions. The text is unabashedly biased to the British view of the war at sea and on the lakes. There is little detail about the two major victories by the Americans on Lakes Erie and Champlain, where (it is claimed) weather bested the British -- not morale, seamanship, or strategy. The centuries-old explanations for imperfect early performance by the Royal Navy in single-ship battle at sea are here, with some new twists. To advantages of heavier guns, stouter bulwarks, and larger crews, we find that the American frigates and sloops benefited from facing the Royal Navy's "third team" in the North America station in 1812. Sir Philip Broke and his crack Shannons must be rolling over in their graves, since they came on-station in 1811! The War of 1812 was a military stalemate and produced for either side little except naval heroes and martyrs. By now, they ought to be equally valued for their efforts and accomplishments.

I'm very happy and satisfied with Peter's artistic rendition of the ships of the "War Of 1812. My ancestors settled on the shores of the Detroit river several centuries ago and Peter's descriptions and narrations allow me to imagine a family member being in the thick of it. Well done Mr. Rindlisbacher.

very good

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