



LAKES TO LOCKS PASSAGE

THE GREAT NORTHEAST JOURNEY

Alfred Z. Solomon Cultural Heritage Trail

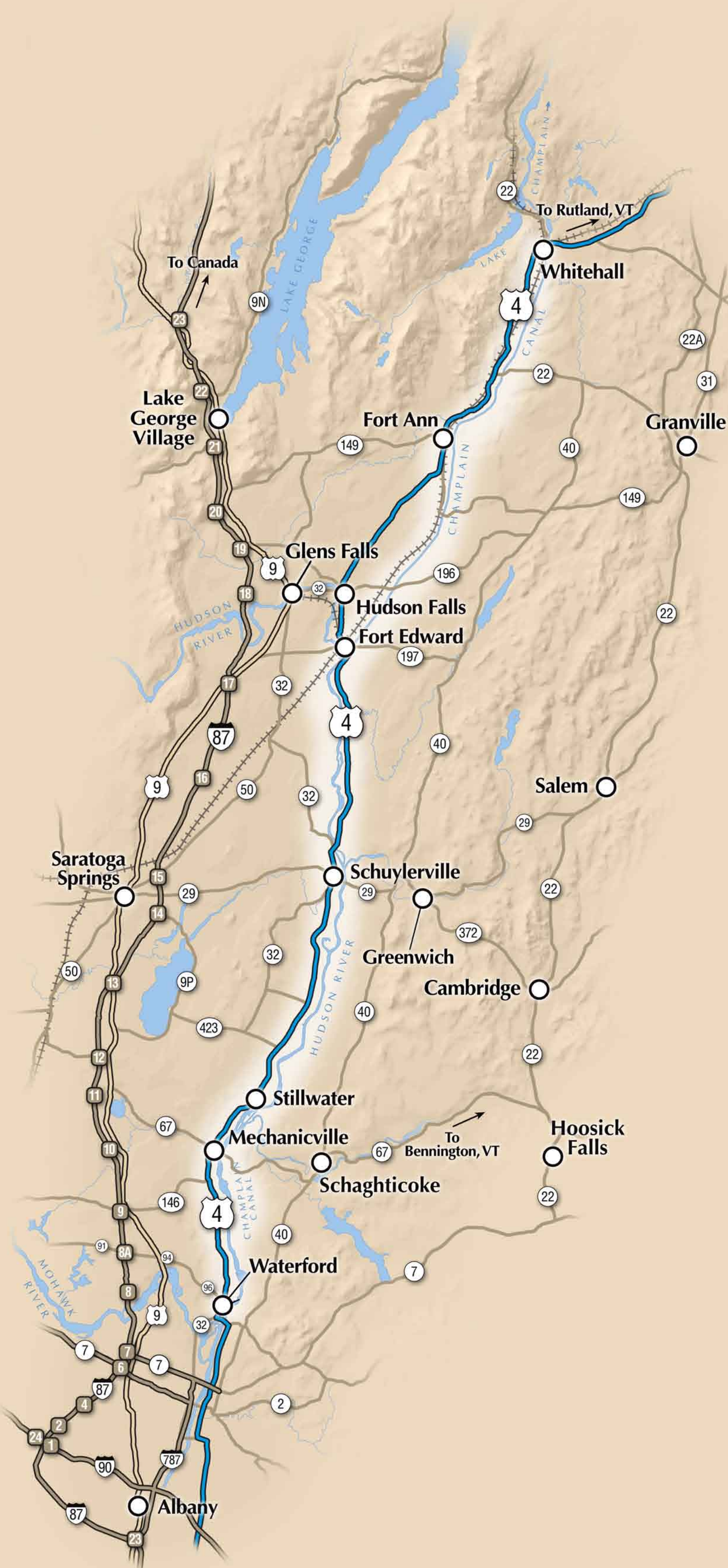
"Nothing should be hidden." The formula that Alfred Z. Solomon used so successfully for selling women's hats takes on new meaning when applied to the trail named in his honor. The route celebrates the communities, the river, and the natural features of the upper Hudson River landscape that surrounded his Madcaps Farm just east of Gansevoort.

The Alfred Z. Solomon Cultural Heritage Trail follows the route of the Upper Hudson River and Champlain Canal from Whitehall, at the head of Lake Champlain, south to Waterford, then on to Schaghticoke and Hoosick Falls, returning through the rich farmlands of Easton, Greenwich, Cambridge and Salem, to the northern edge of the Slate Valley at Granville, New York.

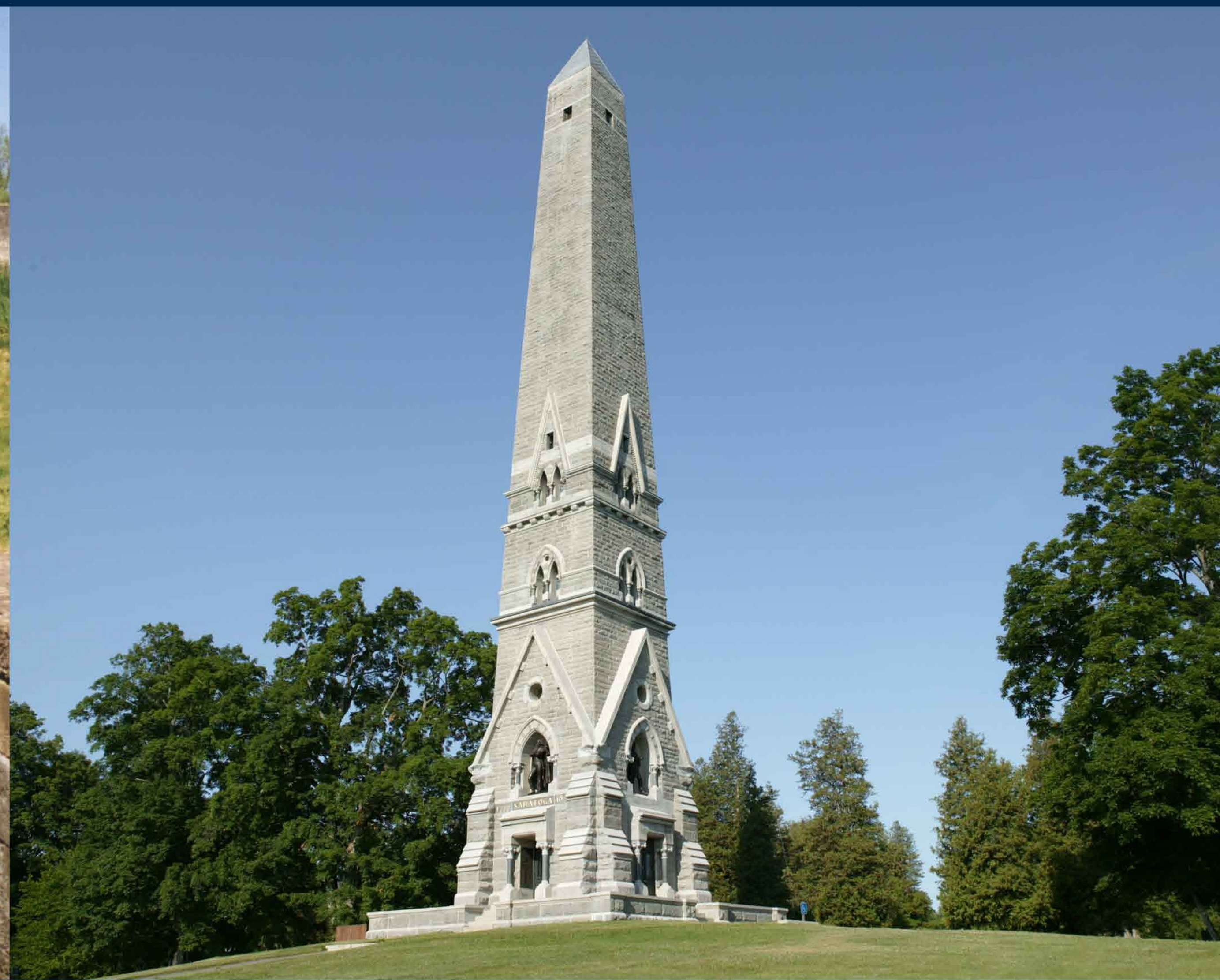
This stretch of eastern New York State has served travelers since the glaciers melted. Wildlife and waterfowl migrated along the Hudson River and Lake Champlain in spring and fall. Indian hunting and trade routes followed the connecting waterway, ▼



Alfred and Nancy Solomon valued the open land and wildlife that surrounded them at Madcaps Farm. They rambled the fields, went bird watching and swam in the river. Their conservation interests live on in the Alfred Z. Solomon Cultural Heritage Trail. *Photograph c. 1950 courtesy of Alfred Z. Solomon Trust.*



▲ Evidence of the first Champlain Canal still survives in the landscape between Waterford and Whitehall. Locks and viaducts demonstrate the engineering skill employed in construction of the canal. Tow paths offer pleasant, level terrain for walking or cycling. Former "turning" basins now serve as habitat for wildlife.



▲ The Saratoga Monument celebrates the pivotal American victory over General Burgoyne's British force in the fall of 1777. Many other sites along the Trail recall particular events of the American Revolution, French and Indian War and earlier battles of the colonial conflicts that raged through this valley. *Photo courtesy of Saratoga National Historic Park.*

For maps and guides to the **Alfred Z. Solomon Cultural Heritage Trail** please contact:

LAKES TO LOCKS PASSAGE, INC.
www.lakestolocks.com
email: info@lakestolocks.com
phone: (518) 597-9660
814 Bridge Road, Crown Point, NY 12928

bypassing waterfalls and heights of land with portage paths. European Armies penetrated the heart of the wilderness, dragging cannon and supplies in their quest for control of North America. When peace finally paved the way for settlement, the canal by-passed barriers to navigation so manufactured goods and farmers' produce could travel cheaply by water all the way from New York City to Canada, and beyond. With the advent of the railroad, markets opened for the slate and agricultural products of the working landscape. And now, diverse recreational opportunities are abundant throughout the region.

The Alfred Z. Solomon Cultural Heritage Trail provides information and access to the sites and communities associated with the rich history of the region. Look for kiosks, maps and guides in the Lakes to Locks Passage Waypoint Communities that tell the story of the natural features, battlefields and monuments, historic villages, picturesque landscapes, and numerous outdoor experiences.



Today's paddlers can explore the waterway without needing to portage their boats and gear around the riffles and waterfalls that slowed down historic travelers. The New York State Canal Corporation operates the locks that by-pass obstacles along the way.