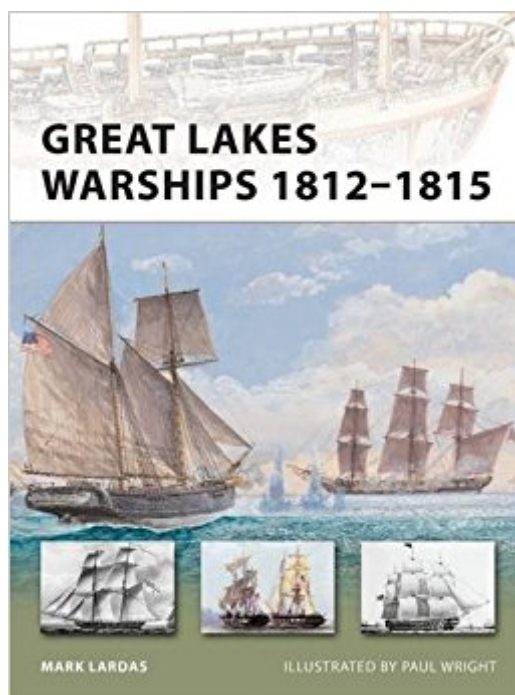


The book was found

Great Lakes Warships 1812–1815 (New Vanguard)



Synopsis

When war broke out in 1812, neither the United States Navy nor the Royal Navy had more than a token force on the Great Lakes. However, once the shooting started, it sparked a ship-building arms race that continued throughout the war. This book examines the design and development of the warships built upon the lakes during the war, emphasizing their differences from their salt-water contemporaries. It then goes on to cover their operational use as they were pitted against each other in a number of clashes on the lakes that often saw ships captured, re-crewed, and thrown back against their previous owners. Released in 2012 to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the outbreak of the war, this is a timely look at a small, freshwater naval war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Another fine volume from maritime historian, writer, modeler and reviewer Mark Lardas. The author covers the design, development and characteristics of these unusual ships in some detail...This well-planned and excellently written volume offers a very valuable reference source for any reader interested in the vessels.”
—Ships in Scale magazine

Mark Lardas holds a degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, but spent his early career at the Johnson Space Center doing Space Shuttle structural analysis, and space navigation. An amateur historian and a long-time ship modeller, Mark Lardas is currently working in League City, Texas. He has written extensively about modelling as well as naval, maritime, and military

history.

The naval aspects of the War of 1812 included the battle for the Great Lakes between the U.S. and British Canada, as both sides scrambled to improvise fighting ships from Lake Champlain to Lake Ontario to Lake Erie. The result was a naval arms race fought from instant shipyards on both sides. "Great Lakes Warships 1812-1815" is an Osprey New Vanguard Series entry, authored by naval architect Mark Lardas with illustrations by Paul Wright. The author sticks to the construction side of the story; battles are referenced only in passing. The text captures the adaptation of numerous commercial vessels into the armed schooners and brigs that did most of the fighting, although a few heavier purpose-built warships made an appearance late in the war. Most of the ship fittings had to be brought from the Atlantic seaboard to equip vessels often cobbled together out of any available green wood. There is an excellent recap of the fleets at the end of this short book, along with a useful glossary of terms. The text is nicely supplemented with a collection of period and modern illustrations, maps and photographs. Recommended.

This book is a good introduction to the Great Lakes naval campaigns of the War of 1812. Undoubtedly its timely publication for the bicentennial celebration has helped it in terms of interest and sales. Like all Osprey books, the page count makes it more of an introduction and salutation of the material, to assist the interested reader in further research on the subject. Nevertheless, it had a lot of good technical information on the boats & ships of both sides. There were a lot of period illustrations which might have been short of detail, but helped a lot in understanding the ships & their times in context. The color plates did not stick to the usual fiery exchange of broadsides, but contributed in understanding to the catch-as-catch-can nature of anti-shiping cruises, and the inherent danger of the Lakes themselves, where fickle weather conditions proved as dangerous as enemy cannon fire. I got this book as a present for my father, a devotee of the Age of Sail, and he liked it a great deal.

The emphasis is on the ships, not on the actions, or on the politics of the time. In this regard the author does a fine job of explaining the differences found in the freshwater vessels from their ocean-going counterparts. Illustrations are excellent, images chosen to illustrate various points are very good, and the narrative flows well. This is a good read and an excellent reference for anyone wanting to understand the naval war in the north.

really good book

New Vanguard is a Great Series of historical data.

An excellent addition to the series.

This little book features almost everything which is known about these curiously important warships whose existence was crucial to defining the borders between two great nations.

I was looking forward to reading this book because there is so little good information to be found on the subject of Great Lakes warships during the War of 1812. On the plus side it's compact and colorful and it does provide some good information in the narrative. However, the author adds very little that can be considered reliable to the existing body of knowledge. The book suffers from sloppy research and/or terrible editing, and implausible illustrations. There are very few line drawings and these have no dimensions. Maps are all but nonexistent and it's hard to follow the narrative without them. There are some scattered figures for dimensions and tonnages in the somewhat incomplete lists of vessels, but many of these are illogical and only tend to exasperate rather than inform. It's hard to understand all the inconsistencies since this is a very small book - almost more of a pamphlet really. It nominally exists to present facts but actually distorts matters in more than a few instances. I would really prefer to like this little book but I honestly can't recommend it.

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