

The Sackets Harbor Loop is generally level; you'll find a few short hills between Sulphur Springs and Brownville.

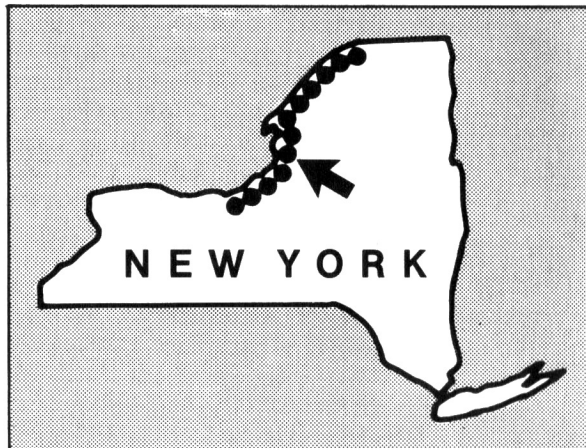
Sackets Harbor was a focal point of naval activity during the War of 1812. It is now a charming village surrounding the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site and Madison Barracks, a partially restored, mid-19th century military post. Old Military Road originally connected a string of military posts with the rest of New York State.

In Dexter, the Black River makes its final fall over limestone ledges to lake. Brownville is the site of the General Brown Mansion built by local war hero Jacob Brown.

Roads along the eastern and southern edges of the Sackets Harbor Loop are quiet, traversing farms placed in a fertile lowland. West of Sulphur Springs, herons nest and raise their young in treetop nests along Mill Creek.

County Road 12F, on the south side of the Black River, is the best bicycle access to the museums, bike shops, and services of Watertown. Traffic on State Route 3 is quite heavy, especially as you approach Watertown. The stretch of State Route 180 used by the loop also carries heavy traffic, but it has paved shoulders.

A guidebook and map for The Seaway Trail Bicycle Route—Eastern Segment contains additional information about points of interest along the Sackets Harbor Loop. The map, guidebook, and five other loop brochures are all available through the same sources that distribute this brochure.



LOCATION OF THIS LOOP ON THE SEAWAY TRAIL BICYCLE ROUTE

ABOUT THIS LOOP

The Seaway Trail Bicycle Route—Eastern Segment loop brochures are developed by the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission as an aid to bicyclists. Those involved with the development and publication of these brochures in no way warrant the safety of the roads recommended to bicyclists for shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. The roads are suggested only as routes which are suitable for bicycling based on available data and prior evaluation by experienced bicyclists.

The routes shown on these brochures follow designated state, county, and local roads, and are used by drivers of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles and farm machinery as well as bicycles. These roads have no special provisions for bicyclists, though most of the state highways do have paved shoulders suitable for bicycle riding.

Bicyclists using these brochures and related materials assume the responsibilities and risks for their own safety when cycling on these loop routes or other roads.

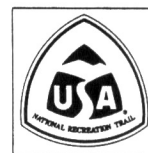
These recommended loops are designed for the average adult bicyclist, defined as being 16 years or older, having a drivers license, or having received drivers training and having several years of bicycling experience.

BICYCLES ARE VEHICLES

The New York State code mandates that "Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle..."

The code requires bicycles to be ridden near the right-hand curb or roadway edge, or on a usable right-hand shoulder, to prevent "undue interference" with traffic flow, except when turning left or when conditions make this position unsafe. This means that bicycles on a roadway must ride single file when being overtaken by another vehicle.

These definitions and laws are of great benefit to you as a bicyclist, giving you the rights, responsibilities, and a legally-defined status in the motor vehicle/bicycle traffic mix.



THE SEAWAY TRAIL SACKETS HARBOR BICYCLE LOOP

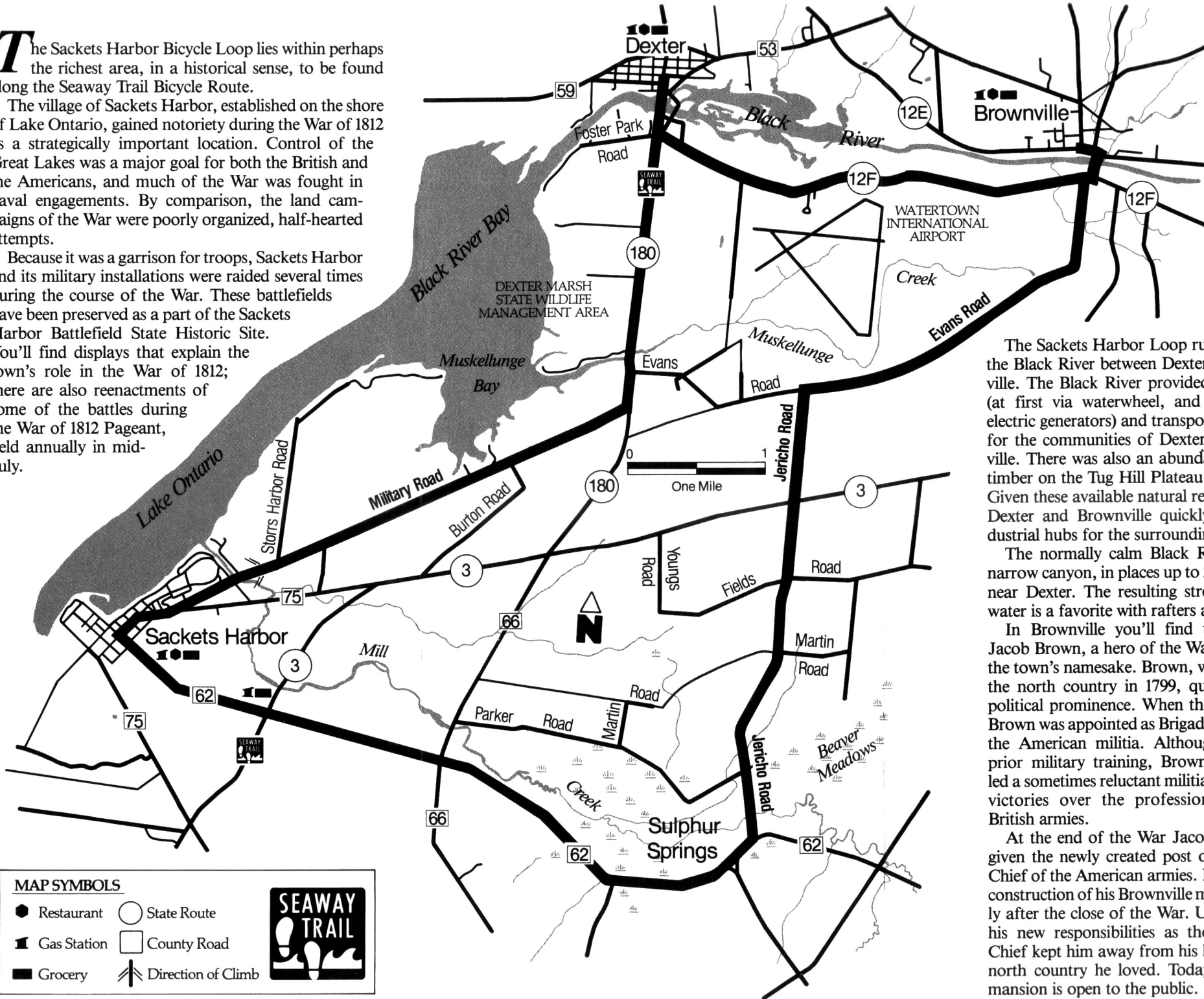


The Sackets Harbor Bicycle Loop lies within perhaps the richest area, in a historical sense, to be found along the Seaway Trail Bicycle Route.

The village of Sackets Harbor, established on the shore of Lake Ontario, gained notoriety during the War of 1812 as a strategically important location. Control of the Great Lakes was a major goal for both the British and the Americans, and much of the War was fought in naval engagements. By comparison, the land campaigns of the War were poorly organized, half-hearted attempts.

Because it was a garrison for troops, Sackets Harbor and its military installations were raided several times during the course of the War. These battlefields have been preserved as a part of the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site.

You'll find displays that explain the town's role in the War of 1812; there are also reenactments of some of the battles during the War of 1812 Pageant, held annually in mid-July.



The Sackets Harbor Loop runs parallel to the Black River between Dexter and Brownville. The Black River provided both power (at first via waterwheel, and later hydroelectric generators) and transportation access for the communities of Dexter and Brownville. There was also an abundant supply of timber on the Tug Hill Plateau to the south. Given these available natural resources, both Dexter and Brownville quickly became industrial hubs for the surrounding areas.


The normally calm Black River enters a narrow canyon, in places up to 200 feet deep, near Dexter. The resulting stretch of white water is a favorite with rafters and kayakers.

In Brownville you'll find the home of Jacob Brown, a hero of the War of 1812 and the town's namesake. Brown, who arrived in the north country in 1799, quickly rose to political prominence. When the War began, Brown was appointed as Brigadier General of the American militia. Although he lacked prior military training, Brown nevertheless led a sometimes reluctant militia to a string of victories over the professionally trained British armies.

At the end of the War Jacob Brown was given the newly created post of General-in-Chief of the American armies. He completed construction of his Brownville mansion shortly after the close of the War. Unfortunately, his new responsibilities as the General-In-Chief kept him away from his home and the north country he loved. Today the historic mansion is open to the public.

MAP SYMBOLS

- Restaurant
- State Route
- ⛽ Gas Station
- County Road
- Grocery
- ↗ Direction of Climb

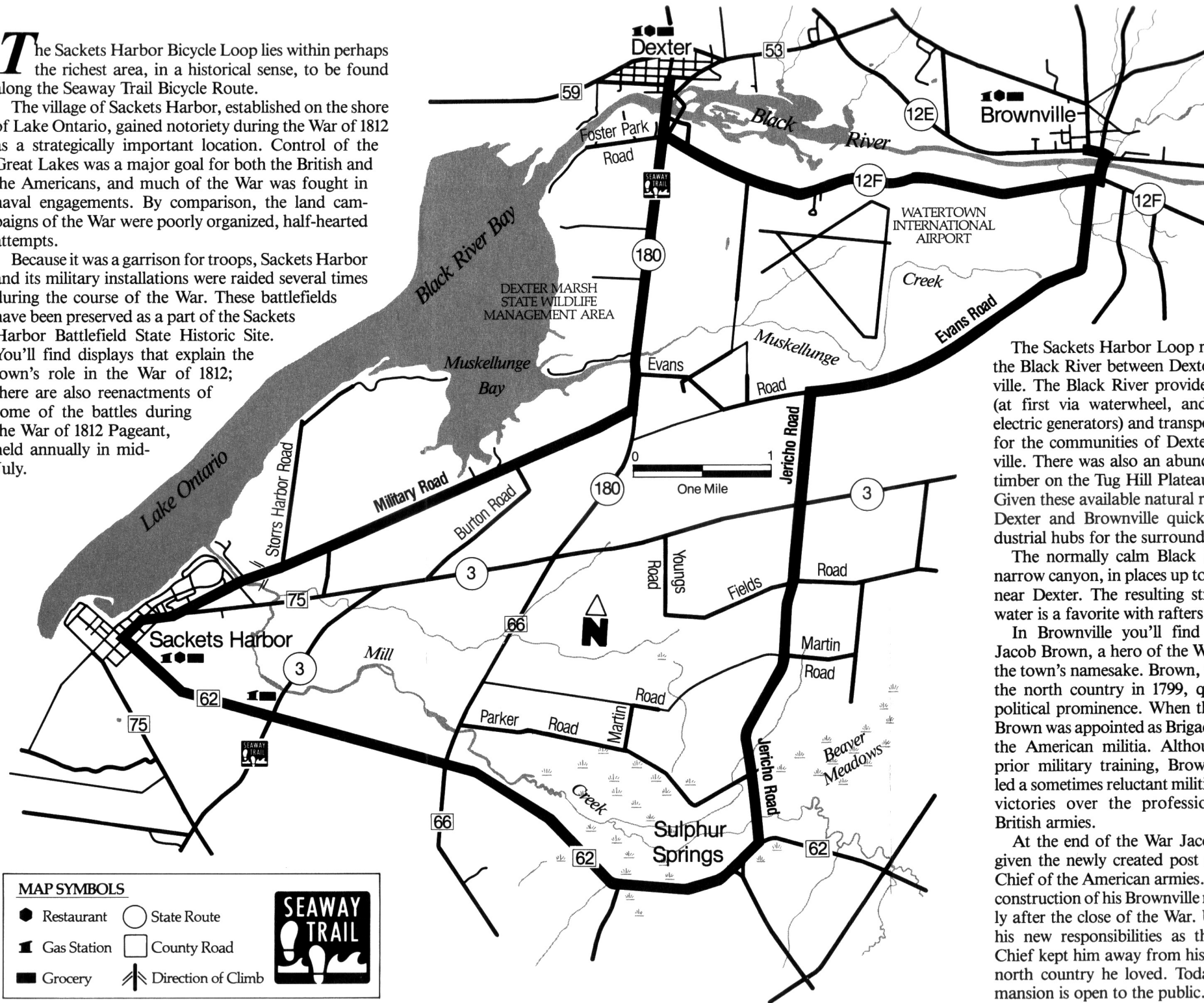


The Sackets Harbor Bicycle Loop lies within perhaps the richest area, in a historical sense, to be found along the Seaway Trail Bicycle Route.

The village of Sackets Harbor, established on the shore of Lake Ontario, gained notoriety during the War of 1812 as a strategically important location. Control of the Great Lakes was a major goal for both the British and the Americans, and much of the War was fought in naval engagements. By comparison, the land campaigns of the War were poorly organized, half-hearted attempts.

Because it was a garrison for troops, Sackets Harbor and its military installations were raided several times during the course of the War. These battlefields have been preserved as a part of the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site.

You'll find displays that explain the town's role in the War of 1812; there are also reenactments of some of the battles during the War of 1812 Pageant, held annually in mid-July.



The Sackets Harbor Loop runs parallel to the Black River between Dexter and Brownville. The Black River provided both power (at first via waterwheel, and later hydroelectric generators) and transportation access for the communities of Dexter and Brownville. There was also an abundant supply of timber on the Tug Hill Plateau to the south. Given these available natural resources, both Dexter and Brownville quickly became industrial hubs for the surrounding areas.

The normally calm Black River enters a narrow canyon, in places up to 200 feet deep, near Dexter. The resulting stretch of white water is a favorite with rafters and kayakers.

In Brownville you'll find the home of Jacob Brown, a hero of the War of 1812 and the town's namesake. Brown, who arrived in the north country in 1799, quickly rose to political prominence. When the War began, Brown was appointed as Brigadier General of the American militia. Although he lacked prior military training, Brown nevertheless led a sometimes reluctant militia to a string of victories over the professionally trained British armies.

At the end of the War Jacob Brown was given the newly created post of General-in-Chief of the American armies. He completed construction of his Brownville mansion shortly after the close of the War. Unfortunately, his new responsibilities as the General-In-Chief kept him away from his home and the north country he loved. Today the historic mansion is open to the public.