

was abandoned by the survivors, and became henceforth the game preserve of the Iroquois, by whom, for convenience in their hunting operations, villages were established at intervals along the north shore of Lake Ontario from the Bay of Quinte to the township of Beverley.

Hitherto we have had to depend upon inference as to visits of early explorers to the region immediately around Hamilton. But now we are on firmer ground. For it is on record that, on the 19th of September, 1669, a fleet of seven canoes led and manned by white men, passing westward along the south shore of Lake Ontario, entered Burlington Bay. An Iroquois guide conducted them. The leaders were the intrepid Le Salle, seeking to discover the Ohio, and two Sulpitian priests, Galinée and Dollier de Casson, eager to establish a mission among the populous tribes on its banks. With them were twenty other Frenchmen and a Shawnese interpreter. They drew up their canoes on the shore near Burlington, climbed the mountain to Waterdown, and then followed the trail to the Beverley swamp, where they found a Seneca village of deer and bear hunters called Tinaouatoua, near the present site of Westover. There they met Joliet, the first European that ever passed down the lakes from the Sault through the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers and the western half of Lake Erie. La Salle was, or pretended to be, ill, and turned back after having conversed with Joliet. The latter was to become the discoverer of the Mississippi, and the former to be the first to explore it to its mouth. The priests, the first of Europeans to sojourn on Lake Erie, passed the winter at Port Dover, and the first also to ascend the lakes, proceeded to the Sault, and thence to Montreal. In November, 1669 or 1670, at their instance, Father Trouvé extended his missionary circuit, which already covered part of the north shore of Lake Ontario, and exercised his priestly functions in the little collection of cabins in the Beverley swamp. How long the village continued to exist is unknown; it could have been only for a few years at most. The name is repeated, it is true, on later maps down to the British occupation. But otherwise it does not appear to have been mentioned or referred to in any record. The rude clearings made by the Neutrals for the purpose of planting their corn disappeared under the new forest growth, and from Burlington Bay to Detroit stretched an unbroken wilderness of woodland.

Soon after the expulsion of the Neutrals, the Mississagas spread southward from Georgian Bay. After a time they came into conflict with the Iroquois. Fierce and long was the contest, and it was at the south end of Burlington Beach, according to a tradition of the Missis-

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