

country of the Hurons, landing somewhere on the north-east shore of the township of Tiny.

As soon as he arrived among the Indians, Le Caron began his missionary work, but was greatly hindered by his lack of knowledge of their language, which took him some time to learn. Champlain visited five of the Indian villages, some of them with frightful names. He reached Cahiague with its 200 lodges, and then from there went on his way past the fishing station of the Indians at the Narrows down the chain of waterways now known as the Trent route. From Cahiague, in the winter he and Le Caron visited the villages and towns of the Tobacco Nation in Nottawasaga Township, and in the spring returned from the Huron country to Quebec.

Champlain has left a minute description of the home, three hundred years ago, of the long-vanished Hurons. All that now remains of these early settlers of Simcoe County are the relics that can be seen in museums throughout every part of the world, and the three kinds of their remains best known are their village sites, burial pits, and trails in the forests. They had very strange methods of burial, and after the arrival of the French, many brass kettles were found buried with the bones. These were purposely damaged at the time of interment by knocking a large hole in the bottom with a tomahawk. Many of these kettles have been found in some ossuaries, especially in those of the Townships of Medonte, Tiny and Tay. One of these kettles was brought up from the bottom of the Wye river during the search conducted by Father Murray, of Penetanguishene, a few years ago. Besides kettles they buried almost everything to be found in a Huron household. No tale of the early history of Simcoe County would be complete without a thought, at least, in our minds, of those men who laboured that these Indians might be taught how to live holy lives. I refer to the Jesuit Fathers, who suffered so much at the hands of their enemies, the Iroquois.

With the massacre of 1649 and 1650 the Hurons vanished from these parts, and the events for more than a century afterwards are less known. Some say the Iroquois took up their abode in the land from which they had driven the Hurons; others that Ojibways from near Sault Ste. Marie settled the county. Whatever may be the value of these traditions, the first travellers after the beginning of British rule in the eighteenth century found Ojibways in the district now comprised within our county.

Hunter's history says that "some of the early documents which attest the purchase of land from the Indians, have some curiosities in the way of orthography, for the Indian chiefs seem to have given places names which no ordinary linguist can be expected to articulate without a great deal of practice." The object in buying this tract of land from the Indians at this time appears to have been to open a road by which the North-West