

So many features of this place meet and coincide with all that comes from authentic sources of information, regarding Champlain's former expeditions, that they cannot be deemed simple coincidences or accidental. The Indian occupation was evidently fully as ancient as the period of his invasion, for the large trees that still occupy part of the place are silent but incontestible witnesses that testify to not less than two centuries of undisturbed growth; and unlike many other Indian works, these are free from any evidences of early communication with trappers or missionaries. There are not found here the beads, medals or Jesuit tokens that are common in places that were occupied when the devoted priests and adventurous traders brought such things to dazzle and tempt the savages, then so eager to meet them and learn the mysteries the whites were masters of.

Indeed, no change or adaptation is called for in Champlain's narrative, or in his sketch of the spot, to fit both to this hill top pond; and although there are many ready pens disputing this long delayed discovery, there is every reason to feel assured that discussion will only eventually confirm the work that connects the story of 1615 with one of our most commanding summits.

As it has been stated, with the exception of water in the form of a lake or pond, no features of Canandaigua or Onondaga Lakes are described that establish for points on their margins any especial claim to represent the form of ground that is shown in Champlain's drawing, and consequently this sketch has been regarded as largely fanciful; but so accurately did the French commander describe the low level borders of Ontario, the sandy plains covered with chestnut trees, and the rivers and ponds lying between his landing place on Ontario and his camp in sight of the beautiful islands, that his observations cannot be regarded lightly. Indeed, so little has before been found to confirm his sketch, that facts have been about even as between the points assumed as the site of the fort, but now this is all changed; for just at the proper distance from his camp by the islands, a large and important Indian work has been found, and when an eye trained in antiquarian research falls upon it, it sees that the palisaded work, if it could be restored from the mould of nearly three centuries, would fit it like hand and glove, even to the small knolls and winding streams.

With Champlain's retreat ended the first French foray. Had their arms gained and maintained so strong a point at that early day, many pages of our history might tell a different tale, and