

From time immemorial, Diamond Island has borne its present name, derived from the exquisite crystals with which the underlying rock abounds. Here is the scene of the fight which took place on this lake, Sept. 24, 1777, an occurrence that appears to have been purposely overlooked by the Americans at the time, and which has since failed to find a chronicler.¹

But before proceeding to give the narrative of this event it may be well to speak of several other points, and to make a brief statement of the military situation at that time.

First comes the question of the discovery of Lake George by the Europeans. According to the best knowledge that we possess, its waters were first seen by a white man in the year 1646.² It is true Champlain tells us that he saw the falls at the outlet of the lake in 1609, yet there is nothing whatever to indicate that he visited the lake itself, though the Indians had informed him of its existence. It is reasonable, therefore, to conclude that Lake George was seen for the first time by a European, May 29, 1646,³ when it received its name, "Lac du Saint Sacrement," from the Rev. Isaac Jogues, S. J., who, in company with Jean Bourdon, the celebrated engineer, was on his way south to effect a treaty with the Mohawks.

¹ This affair was alluded to by the English, though the Americans said nothing. Among recent writers, I have found no notice beyond that by Lossing in his *Field Book*, vol. i. p. 114. When the present writer composed his first work on Lake George he had not found the official account by Col. Brown.

² See *Relations des Jesuites*, 1648, p. 15.

³ Mr. Parkman, in his work on *The Jesuits in America* (p. 219), has indeed stated that Father Jogues ascended Lake George in 1642, when, in company with Père Gonpil, he was carried away a prisoner by the Indians.

The opinion of Mr. Parkman is based on a manuscript account of that journey, taken down from Father Jogues's own lips by Father Buteux. The account, after describing the journey southward and over Lake Champlain, which occupied eight days, says that they "arrived at the place where one leaves the canoes" (*où l'on quitte les canots*), and then "marched southward three days by land," until they reached the Mohawk villages. But there is nothing whatever in the description, by which we can recognise a passage over Lake George, nothing about the portage, the falls, nor the outlet. Everything turns chiefly on the fact that they arrived at the place where one leaves the canoes. This place, it is assumed, was the head of Lake George, from whence there was a trail southward. Now in regard to the existence of such a trail at that period, there can be no doubt; yet unquestionably it was not the *only* trail followed by the Indians. The old French map shows two trails to the Mohawk villages, one from the head of Lake George, and the other from the South-west Bay.

It is true that Champlain, in 1609, intended to go to the Mohawk country, by Lake George, yet at the period of Jogues's captivity we have no account of any one taking that route. Father Jogues himself clearly did not cross the lake in 1646. It is distinctly said