

But we are wandering away from the "lost point in history," that it has been the main purpose of this paper to consider. It is the long in-doubt location of the Indian encampment and fort that was the objective point in the expedition of the French invader Champlain, in 1615, two hundred and sixty-seven years ago, the earliest recorded event of Central New York, being six years after the attempt of the same explorer to follow the water ways of Lake Champlain, and five years before the landing on Plymouth Rock.

From a careful translation of Champlain's Journal, published in volume three of the Documentary History of New York, we will read the parts describing in his own words his disastrous and adventurous expedition into a vast and unknown woodland, filled with savages of courageous character. The time at which his narrative is here taken up, was in September, 1615. His army consisted of Northern Indians and a few French Arquebuseiers, with their clumsy weapons, (which were, however, very alarming, and sometimes effective in the contests in which arrows and stones were the other means of attack and defence;) and they were among the islands at the east end of Lake Ontario. His story of their progress, is as follows:

"We continued along the border of the Lake of the Entouhonons, always hunting; being there, we crossed over at one of the extremities, tending eastward, which is the beginning of the River St. Lawrence, in the parallel of forty-three degrees of latitude. There are some beautiful and very large islands in this passage. We made about fourteen leagues, (fifty-six miles,) to cross to the other side of the Lake, proceeding southward, toward the enemy's country. The Indians concealed all their canoes in the woods near the bank. We travelled by land about four leagues over a grassy plain, where I observed a very pleasing and fine country, watered by numerous small streams, and two little rivers which empty into said Lake, and a number of ponds and prairies, where there was an infinite quantity of game, a great many vines and fine trees, vast numbers of chestnuts, the fruit of which was yet in the shell. It is quite small but well flavored.

"All the canoes being thus concealed, we left the bank of the Lake, which is eighty leagues long and twenty-five wide. It is inhabited for the greater part by savages, along the sides of the streams, and we continued our journey overland some twenty-five or thirty leagues. In the course of four days we traversed a number of streams and one river issuing from a lake which empties