

stituting Wood Creek, named also "Ossavages" on one old map? All other points on the west side of the lake where the battle could have possibly taken place are left nameless on the old French maps except Point au Chevelure, Crown Point, or Scalp Point. Is not this strong presumptive evidence that there was the battle?

Champlain, in his rude map of Lake Champlain, plainly marked the "cape which extends into the lake," placing by it the number 65, referring to his explanation of this as the site of the battle, this cape being the most prominent projection on the western shore. The French map-makers, following him, gave the outline of the lake with remarkable accuracy, and they too marked the "cape which extends into the lake," and gave it a name which commemorates bloodshed, and to-day, no observant traveler, following Champlain's course up the lake can fail to be struck with Crown Point as answering more completely to Champlain's description of the site of his battle than any other locality where the battle could have possibly been fought.

All along down the course of historic time Crown Point has been noted as one of the grand strategic points of the Champlain valley. Here an outpost was established by the English in colonial times, near the close of the seventeenth century; here, in 1731, the French built Fort Frederick, making a bold advance from their former frontier a hundred miles north; from this point the great military road was built across the mountains to the Connecticut; here, under the guns of Fort Frederick, was the first church in the Champlain valley, the Jesuit Fathers planting the cross beside the French lily according to their custom, as if in obedience to Champlain's desire; here the walls of the great Amherst fort — said to be the most massive and best preserved of all the Revolutionary or pre-Revolutionary military ruins of the North — began to rise in the very month that the French were finally driven out of the valley; here, doubtless, at the head of the "lake which is the gate of the country," was the scene of many bloody encounters between the two great nations of savages before the white men came; here, the best evidence concurs in showing, was the spot where the Iroquois built the first fort since the dawn of historic time, in the Champlain valley, on the night of July 29th, two hundred and eighty years ago, and here, on the morning of the 30th of July, 1609, was fought the first Battle of Lake Champlain.

(1) He (Champlain) was upright and amiable in his deportment — was zealous in propagating the Roman Catholic faith, and was often heard to remark that "The salvation of one soul was of more value than the conquest of an empire." — (Thompson's Vermont, Part 2, p. 2, foot-note.)

(2) Map accompanying Pownall's Topographical Description 1776.