

Touaguainchain--1615-1634

The Hurons lived in populous villages between the Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe, and were said to number at a time over thirty thousand people.

An attempt to establish a mission among them was made in 1615, by the Recollet Fathers Joseph Le Caron with Nicholas Viel and Brother Sagard, who from Quebec journeyed up the St. Laurent and the Ottawa, across Lake Nipissing, down the French River, and through the Islands along Parry Sound, until they landed at Otouacha, at the mouth of Penetanguishene Bay, on what is now the Triangle Reserve opposite the north side of the present Asylum. Later Fathers Joseph de La Roche D'Aillon, a Recollet, and the Jesuits De Breboeuf and Anne de Noue landed also at Otouacha.

The efforts of the missionaries proved of little avail as they were strongly opposed by the medicine men, and the natives thought that all troubles, sickness and ill-success in hunting and war were due to them. Father Nicholas Viel and a young Christian, Auhaitic, when on their way back to Quebec were purposely drowned by their Huron companions at the place called until to-day the Sault au Recollet.

Champlain who passed through Touaguainchain, near Penetanguishene, relates an item which might prove of some interest. "And on August 12, 1615, the Reverend Father Le Caron celebrated Holy Mass and set about erecting a Cross near by a little dwelling house apart from the village, which the Indians had built during my sojourn there."

This was the first Mass said in what is now the Province of Ontario, and the spot lay in the present parish of Lafontaine, Simcoe County—Tiny, Lot 20, Concession XVII. Thus 1915 will be the three hundredth anniversary of this memorable fact.

In 1629 the Mission was abandoned. After the taking of Quebec in 1629, Canada remained in possession of the English until it was ceded back to France, March, 1632.

1634-1650

It was two years later, 1634, that the missions among the Hurons was resumed by Fathers De Breboeuf, Daniel and Davost, who journeyed from Quebec to the Huron Country in canoes with a