

PENNSYLVANIA'S FIRST EXPLORER

THE ADVENTURES OF BRULÉ IN 1616

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TIENNE BRULÉ was born about 1593 or 94 at Champigny, near Paris, and had received an elementary education. He followed Champlain in Canada in the summer of 1608 and was one of the eight men who escaped the attacks of the scorbutic disease which carried off twenty men out of twenty-eight who wintered at Quebec that year. From that moment he was found in the country acting as an interpreter and travelling under the direction of Champlain.

On the first of September 1615, the Huron warriors left Lake Couchiching and proceeded to Lake Simcoe where they made a halt. From that place Brulé took leave of Champlain with his instructions and travelled in the direction of Lake Erie. Let us see what plan had been prepared between the Hurons and Champlain.

In the spring of that year the Dutch traders had planted Fort Orange (now Albany) on the shores of Hudson river close to the Mohawks and not far from two or three other tribes of the Iroquois race. This fact was communicated to Champlain at Georgian Bay during the summer, and the Hurons added that some of the Dutch people having accompanied the Iroquois against a nation situated east of Lake Erie, they were repulsed and three Dutchmen captured, but the Indians thought these were Frenchmen, consequently they let them free because the Hurons had spoken well of their French friends.

The Indians here referred to must have been the Andastes who lived in Pennsylvania and spoke the same language as the Iroquois and the Hurons. When they found that the three prisoners belonged to a foreign nation, allied with the Iroquois, they were greatly vexed and soon made up their mind to punish the Iroquois for this fooling.