

This brief narration of the experiences of the first white visitor to this district is full of interest. We can form an idea of the abundance of game when we consider that 120 deer were captured within the area embraced by the stockades, which would not be more than 300 or 400 acres at the most. This fact would also indicate that there was no extensive settlement in the neighbourhood. The trail of the portage referred to by Champlain would point to a well defined route probably used in reaching their famous hunting-grounds and lakes teeming with fish. No clue, however, is furnished as to the point where he entered this territory after re-crossing the lake upon their retreat from the Mohawk Valley, although he refers to the "island before mentioned;" for no single island is referred to in the narrative. In describing the trip across the lake on their way to the land of the Iroquois he uses the following language: "When we arrived there we went across the eastern end (of Lake Ontario) which is the entrance to the great River St. Lawrence at Latitude Forty-three where there are some beautiful and very large islands." It is not clear therefore which of these large islands he passed upon the return trip. It is reasonable to suppose that the river they ascended after re-crossing the lake was the Cataragui (Rideau) for there is no other answering the description. It has been urged by some that he regards the bay as a river and that he came up this bay: but this theory will not hold, for no portage of half a league from the shore of the bay would bring them to a lake "ten or twelve leagues in circumference." The theory that Hay Bay is referred to may also be dismissed for they could not go up Hay Bay "about twelve leagues." The description of his route also negatives the suggestion made by some writers that he ascended the Napanee or the Salmon River. Thus by a process of elimination and by giving to his words their clear and obvious meaning, we cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that the river he ascended after crossing the end of the lake was the river at the mouth of which he would find himself, the Cataragui. Making due allowance for the distances which he gives, and, bearing in mind that the league referred to by him is the equivalent of two and one-half English miles, let us open our maps and follow him in his wanderings.

Going up the Cataragui, the only lake in any way answering Champlain's description is Lake Loughborough, and the leagues would be pretty short ones. As the ultimate destination of the party was Lake Simcoe they would naturally work their way along in a north-westerly direction. The cabins were built upon the banks of a river ten leagues distant. I find great difficulty in fixing any spot upon the Napanee River that can in any way be identified as the location of this encampment. I would