

MAIN POINTS & CHRONOLOGY OF

CHAMPLAIN IN ACADIA AND NEW ENGLAND

1603-1607



#CHAMPLAIN1615

MAIN POINTS

- ✕ THIS FIRST ATTEMPT AT ESTABLISHING A FRENCH COLONY TAKES PLACE IN ACADIA, ON THE ATLANTIC COAST, INSTEAD OF ALONG THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BECAUSE THE SIEUR DE MONTS BELIEVES THAT THE WINTER WILL BE Milder THERE. MATHIEU DA COSTA, A BLACK MAN, IS PART OF THE GROUP OF FRENCH COLONISTS SERVING AS AN INTERPRETER WHO SPEAKS SOME NATIVE LANGUAGES. HE HAS NO DOUBT PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE NORTH-AMERICAN COAST.
- ✕ THE FRENCH CHOOSE SAINTE-CROIX ISLAND FOR THEIR SETTLEMENT BECAUSE IT OFFERS THEM AN EASILY DEFENDABLE POSITION ESPECIALLY AGAINST OTHER EUROPEANS.
- ✕ THE SAINTE-CROIX SETTLEMENT TURNS OUT TO BE A DISASTER BECAUSE THE COLONY FINDS ITSELF ISOLATED ON AN ISLAND LEADING TO FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS.
- ✕ THE SETTLEMENT AT PORT-ROYAL WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE IT IS LOCATED ON THE MAINLAND AND THE FRENCH HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE NATIVE MIK'MAQs WHO LIVE IN THE AREA.
- ✕ THE ENCOUNTERS CHAMPLAIN HAS WITH THE FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN SEPTEMBER 1604 WHEN HE IS IN CHARGE OF THE EXPEDITION GO WELL.
- ✕ DURING THE TWO OTHER FRENCH EXPEDITIONS ALONG THE COAST OF MAINE AND MASSACHUSETTS, THE FIRST LED BY DU MONTS IN 1605, AND THE SECOND BY POUTRINCOURT, IN 1606, THERE ARE VIOLENT CONFLICTS WITH THE ABORIGINALS.
- ✕ THE PRESENCE OF THE ENGLISH CLOSE-BY AND THE POOR RELATIONS WITH THE ABORIGINALS FORCE THE FRENCH TO GIVE UP THE IDEA OF SETTLING FURTHER SOUTH ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST.
- ✕ AS OF THE FALL OF 1607, PORT-ROYAL IS ABANDONED BY THE FRENCH FOR THREE YEARS WHEN THE COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COLONY GOES BANKRUPT.

This chronology uses information and text found on pages 364 to 371 of the book, ***Champlain: The Birth of French America***.

Edited by Raymonde L'Italien and Denis Vaugeois, translated by Käthe Roth, Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, co-published by Septentrion, 2004, 397 pages.

CHRONOLOGY



NOVEMBER 8, 1603

The king grants a commission to Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Monts, to establish a settlement in his capacity as lieutenant general of Acadia.

MARCH 1604

Henry IV gives Champlain permission to sail with Dugua de Monts.

APRIL 7, 1604

Champlain sails aboard the *Don de Dieu* which leaves the port of Le Havre.

APRIL 10, 1604

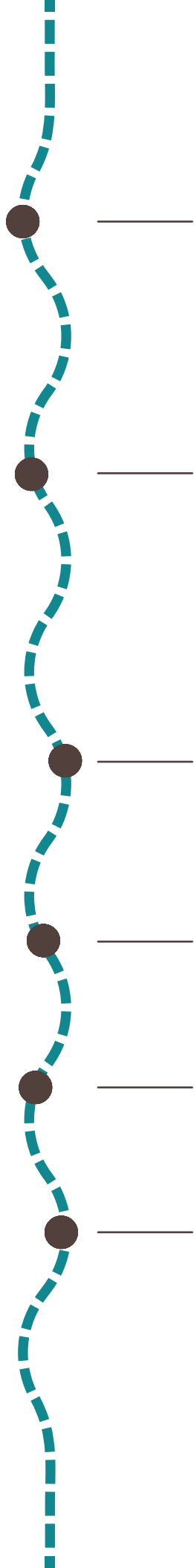
The *Bonne Renommée* sails from the same port.

MAY 8, 1604

Arrival at Port-au-Mouton, in southern Acadia.

MAY 19 TO JUNE 24, 1604

Search for a site for a temporary settlement. Upon de Monts' request, Champlain sails down the coast in a bark with ten men. He passes Cape Sable, enters St. Mary's Bay, explores "Baie Française" (the Bay of Fundy), names Port-Royal (Annapolis Royal), and explores the mouth of the Saint John River.



JUNE 24, 1604

Île Sainte-Croix, on the river of the same name (southern border of New Brunswick) is chosen for a temporary settlement. With materials brought from France, buildings are erected. Champlain builds a dwelling for himself, d'Orville, and Pierre Angibault.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1604

Beginning of a month-long journey of explorations by Champlain aboard a *patache* (small boat) with a crew of twenty to try to locate a site for a more permanent settlement. They enter the Penobscot River (in Maine) and then the Kennebec River and travel more than two hundred kilometres of coastline, of which Champlain produces an accurate description.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1604

Champlain has a successful meeting with two Native chiefs at a place that is now the town of Bangor in the State of Maine.

OCTOBER 2, 1604

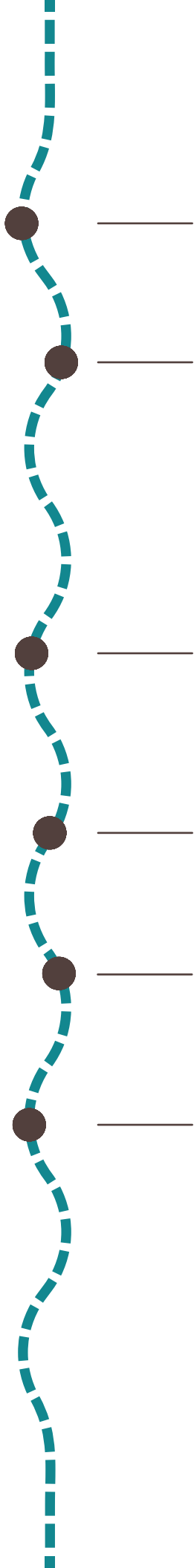
Champlain and his group are back at Île Sainte-Croix.

OCTOBER 6, 1604

First snowfall at Sainte-Croix.

WINTER 1604 TO 1605

Thirty-five or thirty-six Frenchmen out of the seventy-nine who winter over at Île Sainte-Croix die of scurvy, cut off from resources on the shore by the ice in the river.



JUNE 15, 1605

Gravé Du Pont arrives at Île Sainte-Croix with forty men and fresh supplies.

JUNE 17 TO SEPTEMBER 3, 1605

De Monts and Champlain conduct another search for a more hospitable region in Maine and Massachusetts. From the Kennebec River, they continue south, visiting Baie des Sept-Îles (Casco Bay), Baie de Chouacouët (Saco Bay), Cap-aux-Îles (Cape Anne), Baie des Îles (Boston Bay), the port of Saint-Louis (Plymouth Bay), Cap Blanc (Cape Cod), and Mallebarre (Nauset Harbor).

JULY 23, 1605

In Cape Cod, a conflict occurs between the French and the Natives. A French sailor is killed.

JULY 25, 1605

The expedition begins its return trip to Sainte-Croix.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1605

Back at Sainte-Croix. Champlain has made very precise maps on this voyage.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1605

The colony is moved to Port-Royal. The houses on Sainte-Croix are taken apart and rebuilt at Port-Royal, where Champlain makes a workshop, a garden, and a lock for a trout hatchery.



BEFORE THE WINTER

A new search for mines; again unsuccessful.

WINTER 1605 TO 1606

Twelve out of the forty-five who spend the winter die of scurvy.

MAY 1606

On board the *Jonas*, new settlers leave France for Acadia. No woman is on the voyage.

JULY 26, 1606

On board the *Jonas*, Poutrincourt arrives to replace Gravé Du Pont as commander of the colony. Marc Lescarbot and the apothecary Louis Hébert, Poutrincourt's first cousin, are part of the group.

AUGUST 25, 1606

The *Jonas* returns to France with Gravé du Pont and fifty settlers.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1606

Beginning of another voyage of exploration. For two months, Champlain and Poutrincourt navigate along the coast south of Acadia as far as Cape Cod in search of another location for a settlement.



OCTOBER 14, 1606

Poutrincourt has a cross erected at Port Fortuné (present-day town of Chatham, Massachusetts) and this upsets the Natives.

OCTOBER 15, 1606

A skirmish takes place and 6 Frenchmen are killed. The following day, the expedition undertakes its return trip. The explorers note suitable bays and name several places, but the presence of the English close-by and the poor relations with the Aborigines force them to give up the idea of settling on this part of the coast.

NOVEMBER 14, 1606

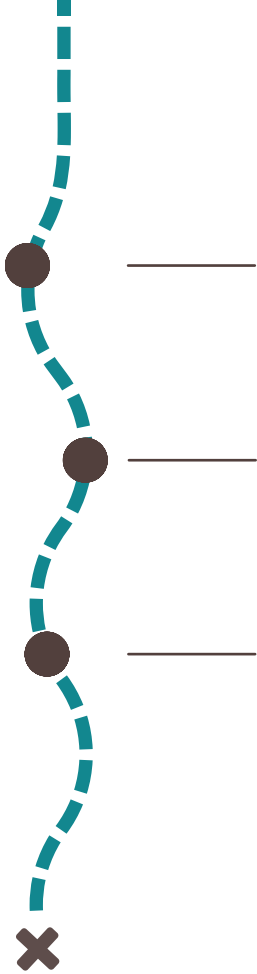
The explorers return to Port-Royal to a welcome from the small colony; Marc Lescarbot has *Théâtre de Neptune* performed, the first play ever presented in Canada.

WINTER 1606 TO 1607

The settlers gradually acclimatize. Champlain creates the Order of Good Cheer. The members of this dinner club must take turns on a regular basis organizing feasts, notably by going to hunt for fresh game. This helps to improve the food situation. Scurvy again claims four to seven victims.

MAY 24, 1607

A messenger, Chevalier from Saint-Malo, arrives at Port-Royal with the order to return to France as Dugua de Monts's monopoly has been rescinded. Champlain returns to Baie Française looking for copper mines and maps from the shore of Cape Breton Island to as far as Cape Cod, which earns him the title of "king's geographer", bestowed by Marc Lescarbot.



SEPTEMBER 3, 1607

The *Jonas* leaves for France with all the inhabitants of Port-Royal aboard.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1607

The *Jonas* arrives at Saint-Malo.

JANUARY 9, 1613

Les Voyages du sieur de Champlain Xaintongeois, an account of his travels from 1604 to 1612, is published under royal privilege. The work also contains a map, the *Carte géographique de la Nouvelle France*.



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