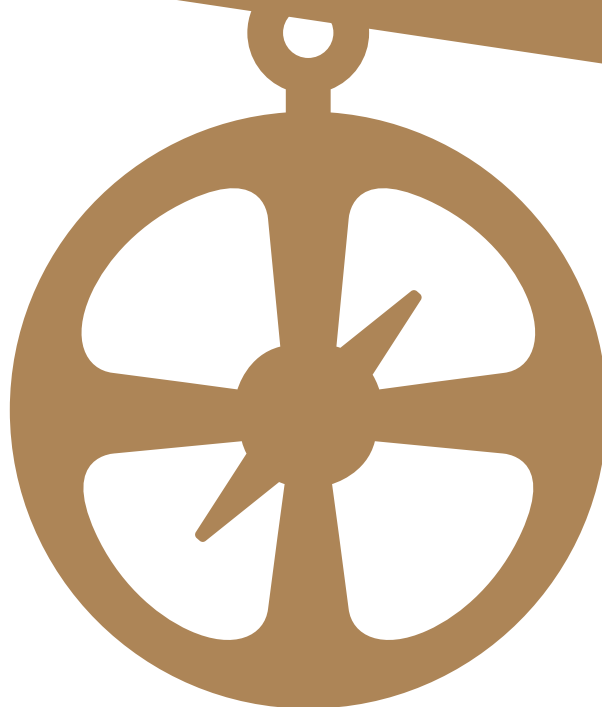


MAIN POINTS & CHRONOLOGY OF

CHAMPLAIN IN ONTARIO

1613-1616



#CHAMPLAIN1615

MAIN POINTS

During his trips to the New World, between 1603 and 1635, Champlain makes two journeys to regions that what will become part of the province of Ontario. The first is in 1613, and the second in 1615.

At the time, the French referred to all the country north and west of the sault Saint-Louis (Lachine rapids in Montreal) as the *Pays-d'en-Haut*, the Upper Country.

THESE EXPEDITIONS HAVE TWO OBJECTIVES:

- ✕ EXPLORATION: CHAMPLAIN IS LOOKING FOR A ROUTE TO THE INTERIOR OF THE CONTINENT AND ABOVE ALL A PASSAGE TO CHINA; IN PARIS, DURING THE WINTER OF 1612-1613, HE HAS MET NICOLAS DE VIGNAU AN INTERPRETER WHO CLAIMS THAT HE WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL TO THE SEA OF THE NORTH (HUDSON'S BAY) BY GOING UP THE OTTAWA RIVER, A RETURN TRIP THAT HE MADE IN 17 DAYS. ONE OF CHAMPLAIN'S GOALS IS TO SEE IF THIS STORY IS TRUE.
- ✕ DIPLOMACY: CHAMPLAIN WANTS TO CONSOLIDATE HIS ALLIANCES WITH THE VARIOUS FIRST NATIONS ALLIED TO THE FRENCH. HE NOTABLY COMMITS HIMSELF TO HELPING THE WENDATS (HURONS) AND THE ALGONQUINS BY OFFERING TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR MILITARY CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THEIR ENEMIES, THE IROQUOIS, WHO LIVE SOUTH OF LAKE ONTARIO.

ABOUT HIS TRIP FROM MAY 13TH TO JUNE 17TH, 1613:

- ✕ IT IS HIS SIXTH VOYAGE TO NEW FRANCE. HE IS PROBABLY 43 YEARS OLD.
- ✕ CHAMPLAIN AND HIS GROUP TRAVEL UP TO ALLUMETTES ISLAND (NEAR PEMBROKE) AND HAVE TO HEAD BACK BECAUSE TESSOUAT, THE ALGONQUIN CHIEF, FORBIDS THEM FROM GOING ANY FURTHER ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS TOO DANGEROUS. TESSOUAT IS PROBABLY TRYING TO PROTECT HIS STATUS AS A MIDDLE-MAN IN THE FUR TRADE WITH THE FRENCH.
- ✕ EVEN THOUGH HE DOESN'T MAKE IT TO HUDSON'S BAY, CHAMPLAIN MANAGES TO EXPLORE THE OTTAWA VALLEY. HE DESCRIBES THIS JOURNEY IN HIS BOOK, *QUATRIESME VOYAGE DU SIEUR DE CHAMPLAIN, CAPITAINE ORDINAIRE POUR LE ROY EN LA MARINE, & LIEUTENANT DE MONSEIGNEUR LE PRINCE DE CONDÉ EN LA NOUVELLE FRANCE, FAIT EN L'AN 1613*.
- ✕ HE SUCCEEDS IN MAKING ALLIANCES WITH SEVERAL ALGONQUIN NATIONS.

ABOUT HIS TRIP FROM JULY 9TH, 1615 TO JULY 11TH, 1616:

This is his seventh voyage to Canada. He is probably 45 years old. There are four Recollets missionaries with him, and this marks the start of the French efforts to convert the First Nations to Christianity.

- ✕ DURING THIS TRIP, CHAMPLAIN **EXPLORES NEW AREAS:** THE MATTAWA RIVER, LAKE NIPISSING, THE FRENCH RIVER, GEORGIAN BAY (WHICH HE NAMES THE MER DOUCE, OR FRESHWATER SEA BECAUSE HE IS DISAPPOINTED TO DISCOVER THAT IT ISN'T A BODY OF SEA WATER WHICH MEANS IT ISN'T A SEA THAT CAN LEAD TO CHINA), WENDAKÉ, THE LAND OF THE HURON TO THE SOUTH-EAST OF GEORGIAN BAY AND, FINALLY, THE AREA SOUTH OF LAKE ONTARIO (PART OF WHAT IS NOW THE STATE OF NEW YORK).
- ✕ CHAMPLAIN **MEETS SOME NEW FIRST NATIONS:** THE NIPISSINGS, THEN THE OUTAOUAIS (THAT HE NAMES THE CHEVEUX-RELEVÉS OR HIGH HAIRS) AND ALSO THE PÉTUNS.
- ✕ FOR CHAMPLAIN, THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE IROQUOIS IN OCTOBER 1615 IS A FAILURE. FOR THE WENDATS, IT IS A SUCCESS, BECAUSE THEIR GOAL IS NOT TO CONQUER THE ENEMY, BUT SIMPLY TO CARRY OUT A RAID OF RETALIATION.
- ✕ FEBRUARY 15TH, 1616, CHAMPLAIN IS BACK AT THE VILLAGE OF CAHIAGUÉ WHERE THE WENDATS HAVE SUMMONED HIM TO ACT AS AN ARBITRATOR IN A DISPUTE THAT HAS BROKEN OUT BETWEEN THEM AND THE ALGONQUINS WINTERING IN HURONIA. A WENDAT HAS KILLED AN IROQUOIS PRISONER THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE ALGONQUINS. THE LATTER THEN KILLED THE WENDAT WHO HAD EXECUTED THE PRISONER. THE ALGONQUINS, FOLLOWING CHAMPLAIN'S ADVICE, WILL END UP OFFERING COMPENSATION TO THE WENDATS. CHAMPLAIN SPENDS THE REST OF THE WINTER OBSERVING AND NOTING THE MORES AND CUSTOMS OF HIS HOSTS.
- ✕ FOR CHAMPLAIN, THIS TRIP WILL BE HIS LONGEST AND HIS LAST VOYAGE OF EXPLORATION.
- ✕ CHAMPLAIN'S IMAGE AS AN INVINCIBLE WARRIOR WILL BE SOMEWHAT TARNISHED.
- ✕ CHAMPLAIN WILL USE THE GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION HE GATHERS DURING THIS TRIP TO IMPROVE HIS MAP *CARTE GÉNÉRALE DE LA NOUVELLE-FRANCE*.
- ✕ CHAMPLAIN BECOMES MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE WENDATS AND OTHER FIRST NATIONS AND NOTES MANY DETAILS ABOUT THEM. HE DESCRIBES THE ABORIGINALS AND HIS STAY AMONG THEM IN HIS BOOK, *VOYAGES DU SR DE CHAMPLAIN EN LA NOUVELLE FRANCE, DEPUIS L'ANNÉE 1615 JUSQUES À LA FIN DE L'ANNÉE 1618*, PUBLISHED WITH ROYAL PRIVILEGE IN MAY 1619.
- ✕ THE FRENCH AND THE WENDATS REINFORCE THEIR MUTUAL COMMITMENTS TO ONE ANOTHER (BOTH MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL). ACCORDING TO CHAMPLAIN, THE WENDATS ARE EAGER TO HAVE FRENCH PEOPLE COME LIVE AMONG THEM SO THAT THEY MAY BETTER LEARN THEIR WAYS.

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



First voyage from May 13th to June 17th, 1613

MARCH 6 TO APRIL 29, 1613

Champlain's **sixth crossing** to New France, from Honfleur, to Tadoussac.

MAY 13, 1613

Departs from Québec for the Pays-d'en-Haut, Upper Country, (Ontario today) with a Native guide and four Frenchmen, including Thomas Godefroy and Nicolas de Vignau who claims to have travelled to the Sea of the North (Hudson's Bay) and back in 17 days by going up the Ottawa River.

JUNE 1, 1613

Champlain nearly drowns when he falls into the Long Sault rapids (near Hawkesbury).

JUNE 4, 1613

Champlain admires the Rideau Falls (in Ottawa) and witnesses a sacred ritual performed by the Natives at the Chaudière Falls.

JUNE 6, 1613

During a portage near Muskrat Lake, Champlain loses his astrolabe (which will be found in 1867).



JUNE 7 TO 10, 1613

Arriving at Lac aux Allumettes and Allumettes Island (near Pembroke, Ontario) Champlain meets the Kitchissipirinis. Tessouat, a Native chief Champlain met at Tadoussac in 1603, dissuades Champlain from going any further. Disappointed, Champlain turns around and heads back.

JUNE 17, 1613

Champlain and his men are back at the rapids near Montreal. Nicolas de Vignau confesses to Champlain that he lied about going to the Sea of the North. He wishes to stay in Canada. Champlain leaves him in the forest and he is never heard from again.

AUGUST 8 TO 26, 1613

Champlain crosses from Tadoussac to Saint-Malo.

Second voyage from July 9th, 1615 to July 11th, 1616

APRIL 24 TO MAY 25, 1615

Champlain's **seventh crossing** to Canada. Accompanied by the Recollet missionaries Denis Jamet, Jean Dolbeau, Joseph Le Caron, and Pacifique Duplessis, he boards the *Saint-Étienne* at Honfleur. The *Don de Dieu* and the *Loyal* also make the voyage to Tadoussac and Quebec.

JUNE 1920, 1615

Champlain is at Rivière des Prairies (Montreal). He returns to Québec to begin preparations for his journey to the land of the Huron.



JUNE 24, 1615

Le Caron, impatient to get to the country of the Hurons, leaves with 12 Frenchmen before Champlain.

JULY 9, 1615

Champlain, accompanied by two Frenchmen, departs on a voyage of exploration to the Huron country. In the first stages, he repeats his 1613 trip. He travels up the Ottawa River to Allumettes Island. He then continues and reaches the Mattawa River.

JULY 26, 1615

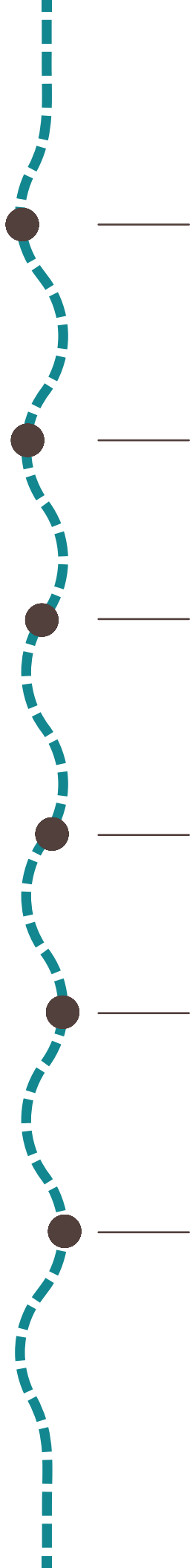
Champlain meets the Nipissings and then the Ottawa (whom he calls the Cheveux-Relevés, literally the High Hairs). He crosses Lake Nipissing and then goes down the French River to reach the large Lake Attigouautan (Lake of the Hurons and Georgian Bay), which he calls la "Mer Douce" (freshwater sea).

AUGUST 1, 1615

Champlain arrives at the Huron village of Toanché near present-day Penetanguishene.

AUGUST 12, 1615

Champlain travels to the village of Carhagouha where he finds the 13 Frenchmen who had preceded him, including Father Le Caron. He attends the first mass celebrated in the Great Lakes region. A cross is planted.



AUGUST 17, 1615

After visiting 5 Huron villages, Champlain with 10 Frenchmen arrives at the village of Cahiagué, (near Orillia). It takes the Wendats a number of days to assemble their troops and prepare their expedition against the Iroquois.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1615

The military expedition with Champlain and at least 500 Wendat warriors gets under way.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1615

Delegation of twelve Huron warriors, with Étienne Brûlé, goes to inform the Andaste allies in southern Iroquoisia of the campaign and encourage them to take part in it. The Andastes are expected to supply 500 warriors.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1615

The expedition crosses Lake Simcoe, and then Sturgeon Lake, the Severn River and travels to the Bay of Quinty and the east end of Lake Ontario.

OCTOBER 5, 1615

The expedition crosses Lake Ontario at its most eastern point. The Wendats hide the canoes in the forest and the party travels another 120 km on foot to the south-east.

OCTOBER 9, 1615

The allies capture eleven Iroquois four leagues from a village.



OCTOBER 10, 1615

The allies arrive at an Iroquois fort, perhaps at Nichols Pond, near Perryville, N.Y., south of Lake Oneida. The Iroquois are entrenched within a fort defended by four successive palisades thirty feet high. Champlain is forced to attack because his allies are impatient. His strategy is that used to besiege a fortified place: employ a cavalier in order to shoot inside the fort and mantelets to cover the besiegers, and set fire to the palisade with torches. But the attacks fail. Champlain is wounded by an arrow in the leg and another in the knee.

OCTOBER 16, 1615

The allies, believing that the Andaste warriors will not come, decide to retreat. (In fact, they will arrive two days later.) Champlain, wounded, is carried for several days, then is tied in a basket on the back of a Huron.

OCTOBER 18, 1615

First snowfall of the season. Shortly after, the expedition is back on the shores of Lake Ontario to retrieve the hidden canoes. Despite Champlain's wish to return to Quebec, the Hurons decide it is too late in the season. He is forced to follow the Hurons in their autumn hunt and to spend the winter with them.

OCTOBER 28 TO DECEMBER 4, 1615

Champlain observes the Wendat hunt deer and kill 125 of them. During the hunt, Champlain wanders off on his own to follow a strange bird he notices. He will become lost and spend three nights alone in the forest. On the fourth day, he's able to find the Wendats by following a stream that leads to a river.



DECEMBER 23, 1615

The allies arrive at Cahiagué. Champlain stays in this village where chief Darontal is his host.

JANUARY 5, 1616

Champlain, who has decided to go and visit a few other First Nations goes to find the Recollet Le Caron at Carhagouha. The priest will accompany him.

JANUARY 15, 1616

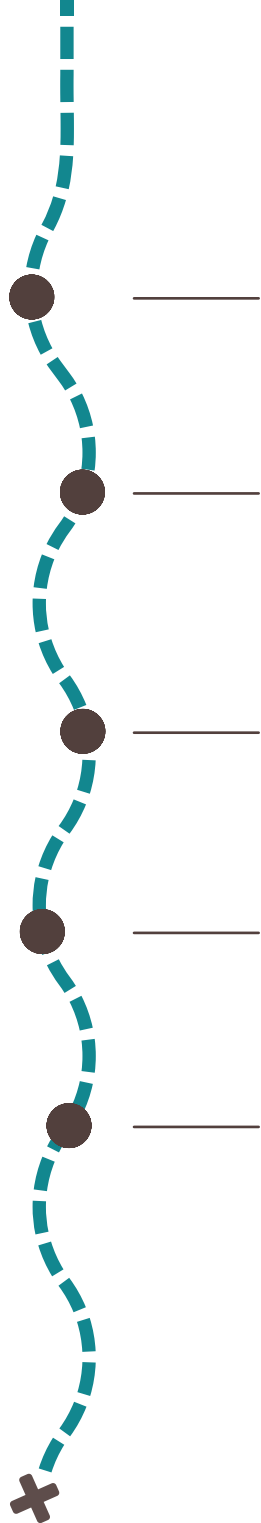
Champlain and Father Le Caron visit the Petuns, south of Nottawasaga Bay, then the High Hairs (Ottawas), who are wintering in the Bruce Peninsula.

FEBRUARY 15, 1616

Champlain returns to Cahiagué, where he must arbitrate a dispute between the Wendats and the Algonquins who are wintering in their country. A Wendat has killed an Iroquois prisoner that had been given to the Algonquins. The latter then killed the Wendat who had executed the prisoner. The Algonquins, following Champlain's advice, will end up offering compensation to the Wendats. Champlain spends the rest of the winter observing and noting the mores and customs of his hosts.

MAY 20, 1616

Champlain leaves the Huron country with a group of Hurons, including Chief Darontal, with whom he spent the preceding winter. The Recollet Le Caron also leaves.



JULY 1, 1616

Arrival at Sault Saint-Louis, where Gragé Du Pont is waiting.

JULY 11, 1616

Arrival at Quebec. Champlain, who had been thought dead, expands the settlement.

AUGUST 3, 1616

Departure from Tadoussac for France.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1616

Arrival at Honfleur.

1616

Champlain draws a general map of New France based on the 1612 and 1613 maps, to which he adds data gathered during the war in Iroquois country, as well as details uncovered during explorations in the autumn of 1615 and the spring of 1616.



#CHAMPLAIN1615