

MAIN POINTS & CHRONOLOGY OF

CHAMPLAIN IN QUÉBEC

1603-1635



#CHAMPLAIN1615

MAIN POINTS

- ✕ AS EARLY AS 1603 CHAMPLAIN EXPLORES THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER AND ESTABLISHES GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE NATIVES AT TADOUSSAC.
- ✕ CHAMPLAIN FOUNDS THE HABITATION AT QUÉBEC IN 1608. THIS MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A PERMANENT COLONY IN NEW FRANCE.
- ✕ FROM 1609-1610 CHAMPLAIN MEETS THE WENDATS (HURONS) AND THE ANISHINABES (ALGONQUINS) AND HELPS THEM WIN TWO BATTLES AGAINST THE IROQUOIS.
- ✕ FOLLOWING HIS TWO VOYAGES TO THE UPPER COUNTRY (ONTARIO TODAY) IN 1613 AND 1615-1616, OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT 19 YEARS CHAMPLAIN WILL SPEND ALL OF HIS TIME IN NEW FRANCE AT QUÉBEC.
- ✕ DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1620 TO 1629, THE SETTLEMENT AT QUÉBEC GROWS THANKS TO CHAMPLAIN'S EFFORTS. THE PROGRESS INCLUDES: THE ARRIVAL OF SETTLERS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF FORT SAINT-LOUIS ON THE CLIFF OF THE CAP AUX DIAMANTS, AND THE CREATION OF A FARM AT CAP TOURMENTE LOCATED 50 KM DOWNSTREAM FROM QUÉBEC. CHAMPLAIN TRIES TO MAKE THE COLONY CAPABLE OF ENSURING ITS SURVIVAL WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES.
- ✕ IN 1628, EVEN THOUGH QUÉBEC IS VERY LOW ON SUPPLIES, BY BLUFFING, CHAMPLAIN MANAGES TO DISSUADE THE KIRKE BROTHERS FROM ATTACKING. NEVERTHELESS, HE WILL HAVE TO SURRENDER THE FOLLOWING YEAR.
- ✕ ALTHOUGH HE WILL CARRY OUT ALL THE FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR OF NEW FRANCE, CHAMPLAIN WILL NEVER OFFICIALLY HAVE THIS TITLE. HE IS ELEVATED TO THE FUNCTION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL OF NEW FRANCE.
- ✕ DURING HIS FINAL YEARS IN NEW FRANCE, BETWEEN 1632-1635, HE WILL RESTORE QUÉBEC, WHICH GREATLY SUFFERED DURING THE ENGLISH OCCUPATION, TO A BETTER STATE.
- ✕ UPON HIS DEATH IN QUÉBEC, DECEMBER 25TH, 1635 HE WAS PROBABLY 65 YEARS-OLD.

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



MARCH 15, 1603

First voyage to New France. Three ships, including the *Bonne Renommée*, commanded by François Gravé Du Pont, leave the port of Honfleur under the trade monopoly in New France held by Aymar de Chaste. Champlain embarks as an observer.

MAY 26 TO JUNE 18, 1603

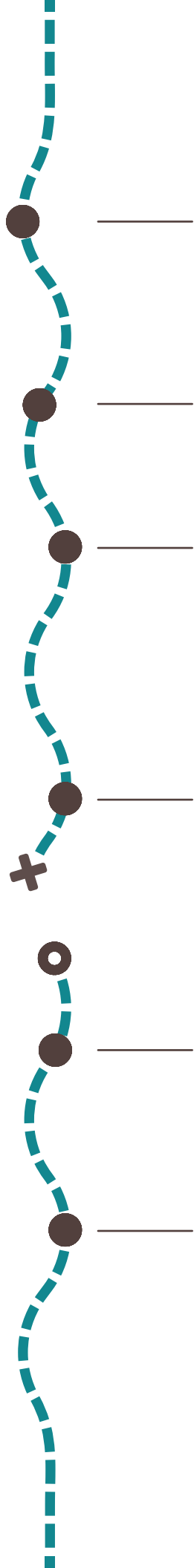
Furs are traded at Tadoussac. Champlain observes and describes a *tabagie*, or feast, led by Chief Anadabijou, as well as the customs and beliefs of the Aborigines, in whom he tries to inculcate Christian principles. On June 11th, he sails up the Saguenay for 12 or 15 leagues.

JUNE 18 TO JULY 11, 1603

Champlain and Gravé Du Pont explore the "River of Canada" (the St. Lawrence River). They name many places, take a side trip up the Richelieu River to the Saint-Ours rapids and, on July 3rd, turn around at the Saint-Louis rapids (Lachine Rapids) and head back.

JULY 15 TO 19, 1603

Champlain is at Gaspé to take on supplies and search for mines. He notes the Aborigines' descriptions of fertile land in Acadia, where he also hopes to find a route to Asia.



AUGUST 3, 1603

At Tadoussac, Chief Bechourat leads festivities celebrating a victory in Iroquois country.

AUGUST 16, 1603

Departure from Tadoussac for France. Some Aboriginals are on the ship.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1603

Arrival at Honfleur. Champlain presents the king with a map of the St. Lawrence, relates his observations and publishes his account, *Des Sauvages, ou Voyage de Samuel Champlain, de Brouage, fait en la France nouvelle, l'an mil six cens trois*. Note that here he is "Samuel Champlain".

1604 TO 1607

See chronology of Champlain in Acadia and New England

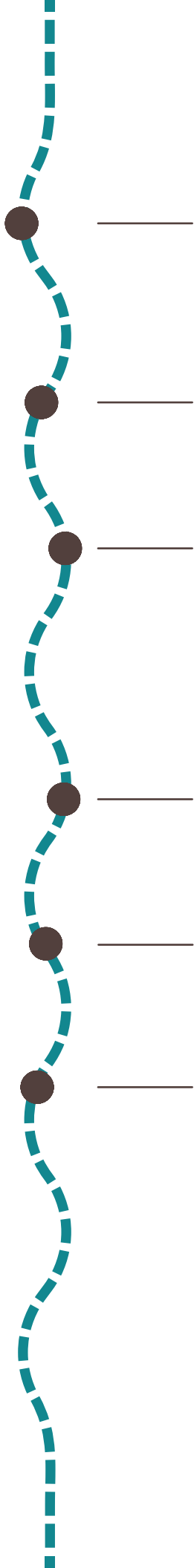
1608-1610

JANUARY 7, 1608

Henry IV awards Pierre Duguas de Monts a one year extension on his trade monopoly.

APRIL 5, 1608

The *Lièvre* leaves Honfleur, commanded by François Gravé Du Pont, to trade at Tadoussac.



APRIL 13, 1608

Champlain leaves a **third time for New France**, with the title of lieutenant under Pierre Dugua de Monts, on board the *Don de Dieu*.

JUNE 3, 1608

Arrival at Tadoussac.

JULY 3, 1608

Champlain chooses the site of Québec to found a settlement of three main buildings surrounded by ditches and a palisade. During construction, Champlain escapes a plot fomented by the locksmith Jean Duval; Duval is condemned and hanged, and his head is displayed in public.

WINTER 1608 TO 1609

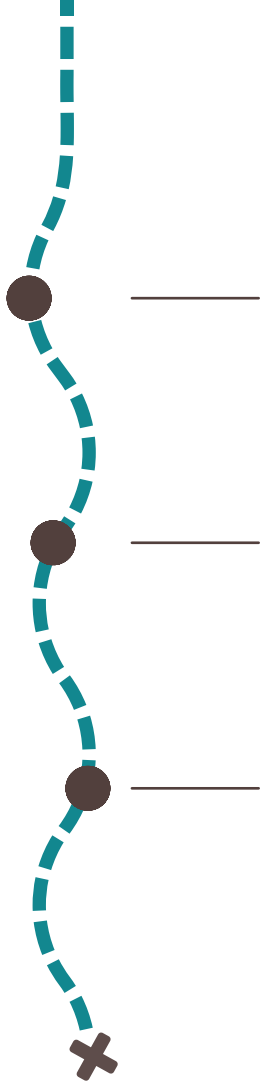
Twenty of the twenty-eight who winter over die of scurvy and dysentery.

MAY 28, 1609

Gravé Du Pont arrives at Tadoussac with fresh supplies.

JUNE 28, 1609

Champlain leaves to “discover” Iroquois country. From the Iroquois (Richelieu) River, he passes the Chambly rapids with two other Frenchmen and continues upriver with Algonquins, Hurons, and Montagnais, arriving at a large lake, which he names after himself.



JULY 29 TO 30, 1609

Armed confrontation with the Iroquois near Ticonderoga (Crown Point, N.Y.). Champlain kills two enemy chiefs and sows panic with his firearm.

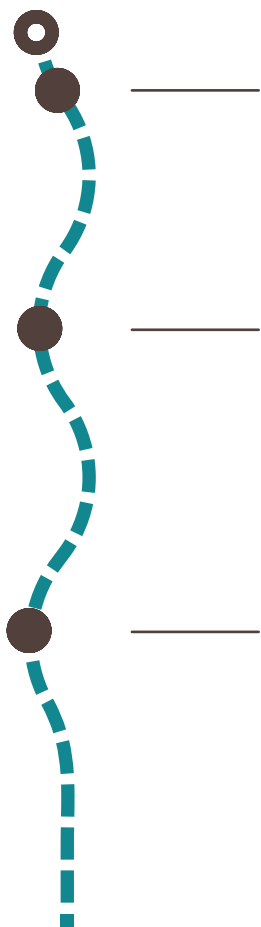
SEPTEMBER 5, 1609

Champlain leaves for Tadoussac and, from there, for France with Gravé Du Pont. He leaves Pierre Chauvin in command of the Québec settlement.

OCTOBER 13, 1609

Arrival at Honfleur. Champlain presents his report to Dugua de Monts and to the king. As his monopoly is not renewed, de Monts forms a company with merchants from Rouen who will support the Québec settlement if it is used as a storage depot for trading.

1610



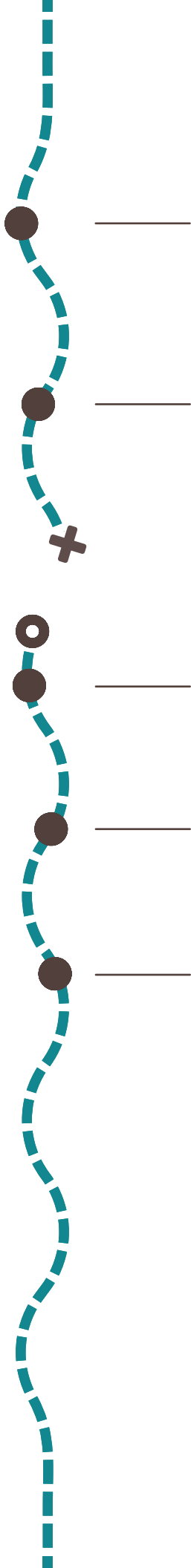
APRIL 8 TO 28, 1610

Champlain makes a very rapid **fourth crossing** on the Loyal, commanded by Gravé Du Pont.

JUNE 14 TO 19, 1610

Champlain launches a second assault, with the aid of his Aboriginal allies, on their enemies in the Iroquois country. He is victorious again, though he is wounded by an arrow.

Chief Iroquet takes in the young Frenchman Étienne Brûlé so that he can learn Algonquin customs and language. He will spend the winter in Huronia.



AUGUST 8, 1610

Champlain leaves for France, with, among others, the Huron, Savignon. He leaves sixteen men at Québec under the orders of Jean de Godet du Parc.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1610

Champlain arrives at Honfleur.

1611

MARCH 1, 1611

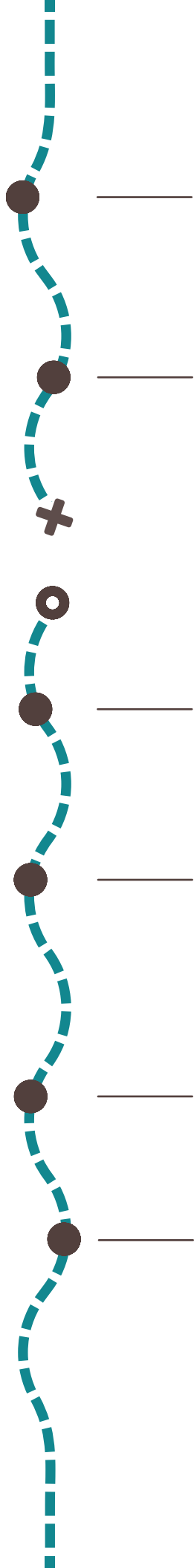
Champlain's **fifth departure** for New France.

MAY 21 OR MAY 22, 1611

Arrival at Québec.

JUNE 13, 1611

Two hundred Hurons and Algonquins, along with Étienne Brûlé, arrive at Montréal from the high country. With them, Champlain canoes upriver, past the rapids.



AUGUST 11, 1611

Champlain has returned to Québec; he has the settlement repaired, plants rosebushes, and leaves for France soon after.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1611

Arrival at La Rochelle. De Monts's partners have not obtained a monopoly and decide to discontinue their support for the undertaking at Québec. Champlain writes memoranda, publishes a map, and asks the king to intervene.

1613

MARCH 6 TO APRIL 29, 1613

Champlain's **sixth crossing** to New France, from Honfleur, to Tadoussac where he assumes his new commission.

MAY 13, 1613

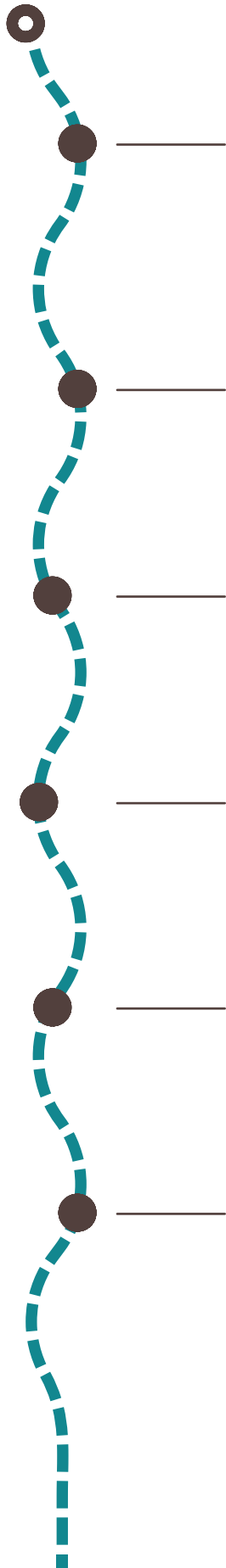
Departs from Québec for the Pays-d'en-Haut, the Upper Country (Ontario today) with a Native guide and four Frenchmen, including Nicolas de Vignau and Thomas Godefroy. (*see chronology of Champlain in Ontario*)

JUNE 17, 1613

Champlain and his men are back at the rapids near Montréal.

AUGUST 8 TO 26, 1613

Champlain crosses from Tadoussac to Saint-Malo.



1615 TO 1616

APRIL 24 TO MAY 25, 1615

Champlain's **seventh crossing** to Canada. He boards the *Saint-Étienne* at Honfleur with four Recollet missionaries. The *Don de Dieu* and the *Loyal* also make the voyage to Tadoussac and Québec.

JUNE 19 TO 20, 1615

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

END OF JUNE 1615

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

JULY 9, 1615

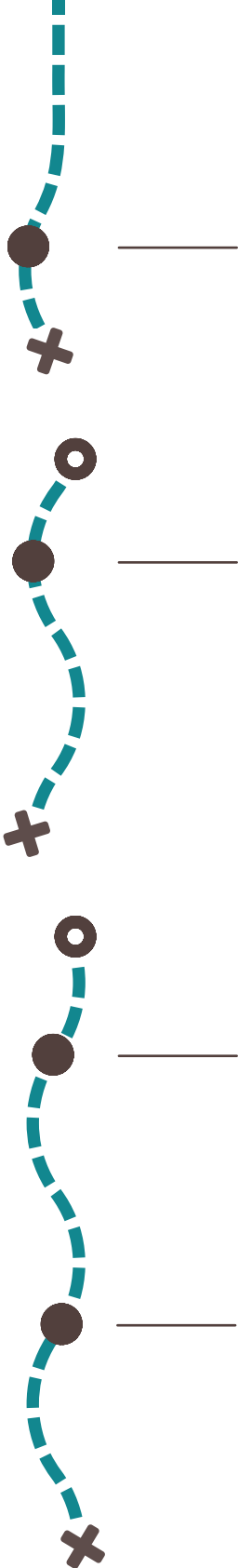
Champlain, accompanied by two Frenchmen, departs on a voyage of exploration to the Huron country. (see *chronology of Champlain in Ontario*)

JULY 1, 1616

Arrival at Sault Saint-Louis, where Gravé Du Pont is waiting, after the winter spent in Wendaké, the land of the Huron.

JULY 11, 1616

Arrival at Québec. Champlain, who had been thought dead, expands the settlement and has wheat harvested to bring back to France.



AUGUST 3, 1616

Departure from Tadoussac for France.

1617

MARCH 11 TO JUNE 14, 1617

Champlain crosses to Canada for the **eighth time**, from Honfleur, on the *Saint-Étienne*. The first French family to emigrate to Canada, that of Louis Hébert, is on board. Misery reigns at Québec, where there are only fifty to sixty Frenchmen. Champlain, who is back in France by mid-July, apparently only stayed a few days in Canada.

1618

MAY 24 TO JUNE 24, 1618

Champlain's **ninth crossing**, departing from Honfleur. At Québec, farming is well established. He meets up again with Étienne Brûlé who tells him of his adventures in the country of the Andastes and the Iroquois in 1615 and 1616.

JULY 26 TO AUGUST 28, 1618

Crossing from Tadoussac to Honfleur.



1620-1624

SPRING 1620

Champlain's **tenth departure** for New France, with his wife, on the *Saint-Étienne*.

JULY 7, 1620

Arrival at Québec, where Champlain reads his commission and takes possession of the country in the name of Viceroy de Montmorency.

FALL-WINTER 1620

The settlement is repaired and fortified. Fort Saint-Louis is built on the southern cliff of Cap aux Diamants.

WINTER 1620-1621

A single inhabitant dies, following a fall from a tree, out of about sixty settlers spending the winter. The colony also records the birth of the first viable child, Hélène Desportes.

MID-MAY 1621

A treaty between the viceroy and the de Caëns, declaring that the latter are now the holders of the monopoly, is given to Champlain.



JUNE 1621

Gravé Du Pont (who was in the old company) and the Sieurs de Caën land at Tadoussac at the same time. The two groups discuss trade procedures. On May 7th, 1621, the State Council had decided that for this year, the two companies would conduct trade together. Guillaume de Caën tries to seize Gravé Du Pont's ship. Champlain renders justice and de Caën returns the ship.

AUGUST 18, 1621

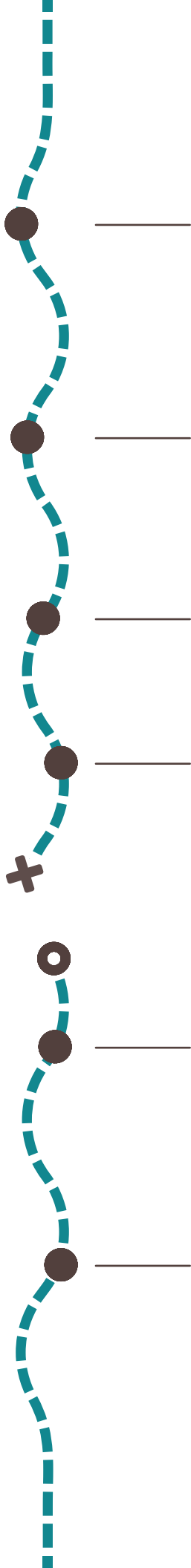
General meeting of the settlers, who ask the Recollet Le Baillif to present the colony's grievances in France. Their request deals with the exclusion of Huguenots, the foundation of a seminary for the Aborigines, more power in the exercise of justice, a stronger military defence, and an increase in Champlain's pension. In response, the king merges the two companies under the leadership of the de Caëns, who must agree to feed six Recollets and settle six families.

JUNE 1622

Peace negotiations, at Québec, between Champlain's Aboriginal allies and an Iroquois delegation.

JULY 1623

At the mouth of the Richelieu, Champlain, continuing with his pacification efforts, resolves a quarrel between Hurons and Algonquins; he also pardons an Aboriginal found guilty of having killed a Frenchman.



AUGUST 1623

A farm takes shape near Cap Tourmente 50 km downstream from Québec. Following the harvest of 2,000 bales of hay, Champlain considers developing feed crops for livestock there.

WINTER 1623 TO 1624

A new settlement is planned. With the help of the Aborigines, Champlain gathers the wood needed to rebuild Fort Saint-Louis.

MAY 6, 1624

The first stone is laid for the new Québec settlement.

AUGUST 15, 1624

Champlain and his wife leave for France after four years, his longest stay in New France. Hélène Boullé will never return to the colony.

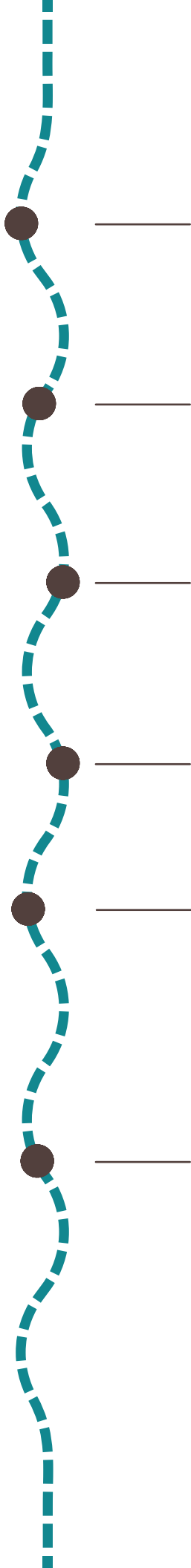
1626-1629

APRIL 15 TO JULY 5, 1626

Champlain crosses to New France for the eleventh time, this time from Dieppe. Five ships make the voyage, among them the *Catherine*, with Champlain aboard, the *Flèque*, and the *Alouette*.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1626

Work is completed on the farm at Cap Tourmente, which is ready to house 40 to 50 head of cattle.



1627

New France has a European population of barely 100; Virginia, almost 2,000; New England, 310; New Holland, on the Hudson River, 200; and Newfoundland, 100.

JANUARY 1627

The Aborigines offer Champlain a present: three girls called Foi, Espérance, and Charité (Faith, Hope, and Charity).

SPRING 1627

Champlain sends a French emissary to the Iroquois country to dissuade his Aboriginal allies from declaring war on the Iroquois.

WINTER 1627 TO 1628

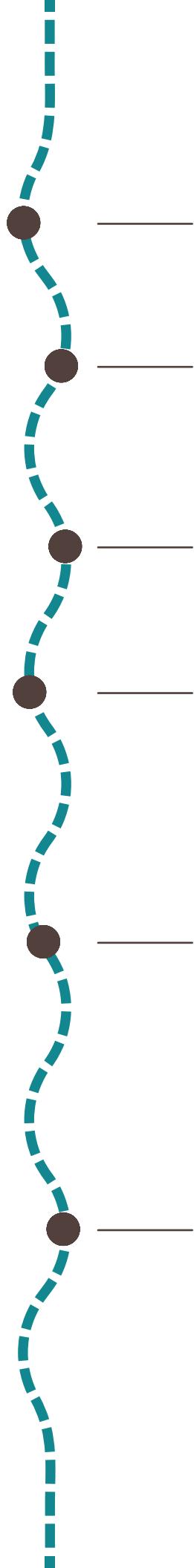
During the long winter, supplies run short.

SPRING 1628

Jarvis Kirke and other merchants join together to expel the French from the St. Lawrence and take over the monopoly on the fur trade. Three ships set out, commanded by Jarvis's sons David, Lewis, and Thomas. They are guided by a Huguenot captain from Dieppe, Jacques Michel.

APRIL 1628

A convoy leaves Dieppe for New France under the command of Claude de Roquemont de Brison, with fresh supplies and 400 people. After taking possession of Anticosti, the captain drops anchor in the Bay of Gaspé, where he is informed that the Kirke brothers are at Tadoussac.



JULY 1628

The English pillage the settlement at Cap Tourmente.

JULY 8, 1628

The French fleet that left Dieppe in April is intercepted by the Kirke brothers' English ships.

JULY 9, 1628

Champlain is informed that the English fleet is at Tadoussac.

JULY 10, 1628

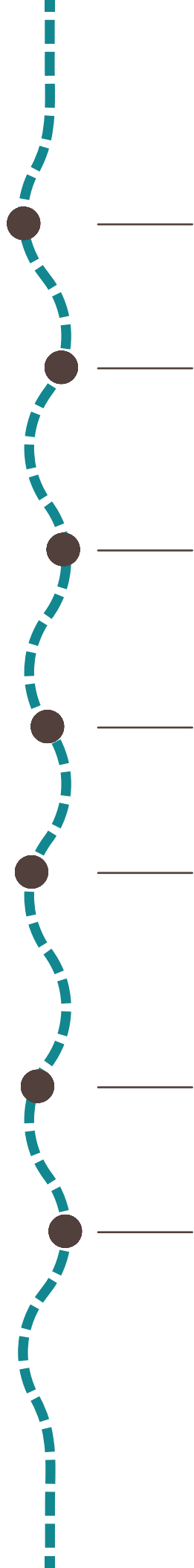
The Kirke brothers, via Basque traders, send notice to Champlain to cede Québec. Famine seems imminent. The inhabitants' rations have been reduced to 7 ounces of peas per day, and only 50 pounds of gunpowder remain. Champlain answers the Kirke brothers that his colony is well enough supplied to resist.

JULY 17 AND 18, 1628

Around Île Saint-Barnabé (facing Rimouski), the battle between the fleets of the Cent-Associés and the Kirke brothers begins. The French fleet is defeated by the English. The French cargo is confiscated and the crew is held prisoner against a ransom. The Kirke brothers return to England with eight ships filled with goods belonging to the Cent-Associés.

WINTER 1628-1629

Supplies are low at Québec.



APRIL 5, 1629

The Kirke brothers leave England, again with Jacques Michel as guide.

SPRING 1629

To reduce the number of mouths to feed, Champlain sends some settlers to Gaspé. Those who remain farm to provide for the next winter.

APRIL 24, 1629

The Treaty of Suse ends the French-English conflict. The capture of Québec will thus take place in peacetime.

JUNE 25, 1629

English ships arrive at Gaspé.

JULY 19, 1629

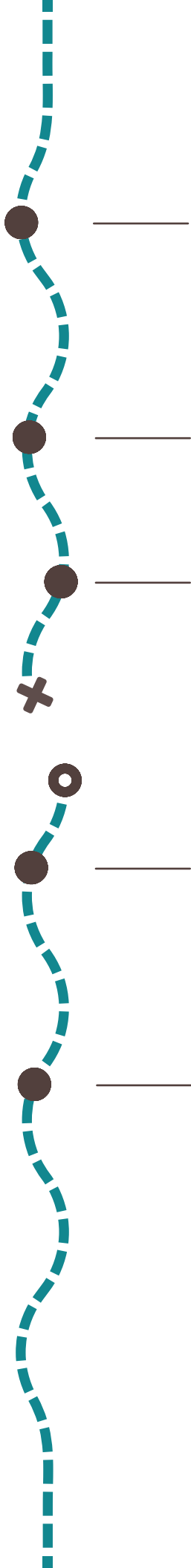
English ships appear at Pointe-Lévy. The Kirke brothers present a summons to Champlain, who, after negotiation, is forced to cede the settlement, and the English take possession the next day.

JULY 24, 1629

Champlain departs for Tadoussac on one of the Kirke brothers' ships.

AUGUST 1, 1629

Arrival at Tadoussac, where Champlain must remain. He berates Étienne Brûlé and Nicolas Marsolet, who have been serving the enemy. He tries to obtain permission to take to France the Aboriginal girls Charité and Espérance, whom he has adopted.



SEPTEMBER 14, 1629

Departure from Tadoussac. The Kirke brothers take a large amount of booty. The Jesuits and Recollets are on the voyage, as are Émery de Caën, Gragé Du Pont, Eustache Boullé, and Champlain.

OCTOBER 27, 1629

Landing at Dover.

OCTOBER 29, 1629

Champlain arrives in London, where he proves to the French ambassador that Québec was taken two months after the peace was signed.

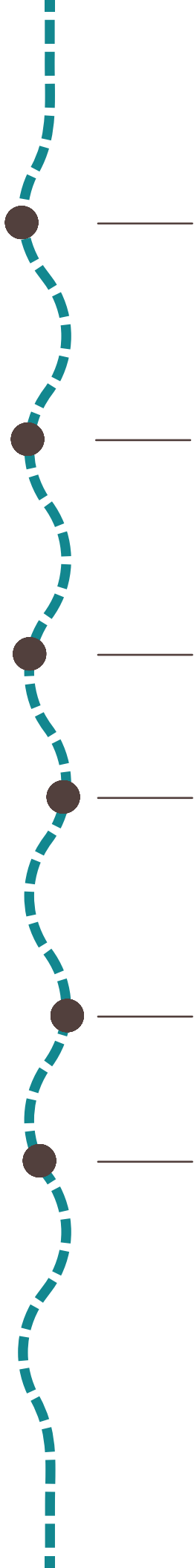
1633-1635

MARCH 23 TO MAY 22, 1633

Champlain's **twelfth and last crossing**, after an absence of four years. Three ships set sail from Rouen for Cape Breton Island: the *Saint-Jean*, the *Don de Dieu*, and the *Saint-Pierre*, with Fathers Massé and Brébeuf aboard.

SPRING 1633

Champlain finds the fort and settlement, handed over by Émery de Caën without difficulty, in terrible shape. The Notre-Dame-de-la-Recouvrance chapel is built at the expense of the Cent-Associés. The colony now has a population of 227.



SUMMER 1633

Champlain renews his contact with the friendly Aboriginal nations, mainly the Hurons. On the other hand, he encounters difficulties with the Algonquins and Montagnais, who had traded with the English during the occupation period.

AUGUST 15, 1633

Champlain sends Richelieu a letter to ask for a halt to the English trade at Tadoussac and permission to launch a major offensive against the Iroquois in their country.

1634

Trois-Rivières is founded.

AUGUST 18, 1634

Champlain presents a new report to Richelieu on the situation in the colony and reiterates his requests of the previous year. Many families have recently arrived in the colony.

1635

Champlain's health declines.

OCTOBER 1635

Champlain becomes paralyzed.



NOVEMBER 17, 1635

Champlain signs his will. He makes the Virgin Mary his heir. His will is confirmed in Paris in 1637, but, upon request of Marie Camarat, Champlain's first cousin, it is quashed. On September 6th, 1639, she obtains the partnership share that Hélène Boullé had inherited.

DECEMBER 25, 1635

Champlain (aged between 55 and 65 years old) dies, attended at his last breath by the Jesuit Charles Lalemant. His body is given a temporary burial at an undisclosed spot.

JANUARY 15, 1636

News of Champlain's death reaches France. Charles Huault de Montmagny succeeds him at the head of a colony with 150 inhabitants.



#CHAMPLAIN1615