We join Champlain's expedition, on Page 311 of the Volume, as the party leaves the area west of present-day Aylmer, Quebec, (Gatineau), heading upriver. His was the first documentation done by a European explorer traveling the Ottawa River. Each page includes footnotes with the suggested landmarks the party was passing. This interpretation of distances, done in 1925, has been reinterpreted in Croft's 2006 paper (above). Of special interest are Champlain's notes & observations of the hospitality he received, native burial rights and the smoking of pipes.
paint their faces and their little trinkets, according to the custom in use among them. Along this river there is also a range of mountains, and the surrounding country seems rather unpleasant. The rest of the day we spent upon a very pleasant island.

On the following day we continued our journey as far as a large rapid, which is nearly three leagues wide where the water descends a slope some ten or twelve fathoms high and makes a wonderful noise. It is full of a great number of islands, covered with pines and cedars. In order to pass it we had to bring ourselves to abandon our maize or Indian corn and our small quantity of other provisions and the less necessary wearing apparel, keeping only our firearms and nets to supply us with food, according as opportunity and the luck of the chase might provide. Thus lightened, we passed this rapid, partly by paddling and partly by portage, carrying our canoes and our arms. These rapids are a league and a half long, and here our Indians, who are indefatigable at this work and accustomed to endure such hardships, helped us very much.

Continuing our journey, we passed two other rapids, the one by portage and the other by paddling and poling. Then we entered a lake six or seven leagues in length into which empties a river flowing from the south. Here, five days' journey from the other river, lives a nation called the Matou-oëscarini. The region about this lake is sandy and covered with pines, which have been almost all burned down by the Indians. There are some islands here, on one of which we rested. Here we saw a number of fine red

1 Probably the Eardly hills on the north and the sandy shores of Constance bay on the south.
2 Possibly Mohr island.
3 Chats falls, at the head of lake Deschenes.
4 The upper rapids of the Chat.
5 Lac des Chats, which is about eighteen miles long.
6 The Madawaska. The Mississippi and Bonnechere also enter this lake from the south, but as the portage over the Chat falls was on the south side, Champlain probably saw the Madawaska.
7 See Plate I, p. 1.
8 Probably on one of the islands opposite Braeside, but these have no names.
cypresses, the first I had seen in this country. Of this wood I made a cross which I set up at one end of the island, on a high and prominent point, with the arms of France, as I had done in the other places where we had stopped. I named this island Sainte-Croix island.

On the sixth we left this island of Ste. Croix, where the river is a league and a half wide, and having gone eight or ten leagues we passed a small rapid by paddling and also a number of islands of different sizes. Here our Indians left their sacks with their provisions and their less necessary articles, in order to be lighter for portaging, and avoiding several rapids which had to be passed. There was a great dispute between our Indians and our impostor, who declared that there was no danger by the rapids and that we should go that way. Our Indians said to him, 'You are tired of living,' and to me that I should not believe him and that he was not speaking the truth. Having observed several times in this way that he had no knowledge of these places, I followed the advice of the Indians; and it was lucky I did so; for he was on the look-out for difficult places in which to work my destruction, or to disgust me with the undertaking, as he afterwards confessed, whereof mention will be made farther on. We crossed to the west of the river, which flowed towards the north, and took the latitude of this place, which was 46° 40'. We had much trouble in taking this route overland, being laden for my part alone with three arquebuses, an equal number of paddles, my cloak, and some small articles. I encouraged our men, who were somewhat more heavily laden, but who

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1 The eastern red cedar is meant (Juniperus virginiana, Linn.). See Vol. I, 97, note 2.
2 The Chenaux rapids and islands at the head of lac des Chats.
3 Vigna wishes them to proceed up the Ottawa past Calumet island and Coulange lake, while the Indians insisted on taking the shorter portage across to Allumette lake by way of Olmsted and Muskrat lakes.
PLAN
SHewing ROUTE TAKEN BY CHAMPLAIN THROUGH MUSKRAT LAKE
ON HIS FIRST VOYAGE UP THE OTTERLAKE RIVER
1613
By J. L. Norris
Scale 320 Sols to inch
Champlain's Route
Boundary between
Ontario & Quebec
suffered more from mosquitoes than from their loads. Thus, after passing four small ponds and walking two leagues and a half, we were so tired that it was impossible for us to go farther; for it was nearly twenty-four hours since we had eaten anything but a little broiled fish, without any other dish; for we had left our provisions behind as I have stated above. Therefore, we rested on the bank of a pond which was quite pleasant; and we made a smudge to drive away the mosquitoes which annoyed us greatly. Their pertinacity is so great that it is impossible to give any description of it. We set our nets to catch some fish.

The next day we passed along this pond, which may have been a league in length, and then made our way by land for three leagues through more difficult country than we had yet seen, on account of the wind having blown down pine-trees one on top of the other, which is no small inconvenience; for one must go now over, and now under, these

1 Coldingham, Catherine, Town and Edmounds lakes.
2 Olmsted lake.

trees. Thus we reached a lake, six leagues long and two wide, so abundant in fish that the surrounding tribes do their fishing here. Near this lake is a settlement of Indians who till the land and reap the maize. Their chief, whose name is Nibachs, came with his men to see us, and was astonished that we had been able to pass the rapids and bad trails on the way to their country. And having, according to their custom, offered us tobacco, he began to address his companions, saying that we must have fallen from the clouds; for he did not know how we had been able to get through, when those who live in the country had great difficulty in coming along such difficult trails, giving them to understand that I carried out all I set my mind upon. In short, that he believed I was everything the other Indians had told him. And knowing we were hungry, they gave us some fish, which we ate; and after the meal I expressed to them, through Thomas, my interpreter, the pleasure I felt at meeting them. I told them I was in this country to assist them in their wars, and that I wished to push on still farther to see other chiefs for the same purpose, at which they were glad, and promised to help me. They showed me their gardens and fields where maize was growing. Their soil is sandy, and on that account they are more given to hunting than to tilling the soil, contrary to the practice of the Ochataiguins. When they wish to make a piece of ground fit for tillage, they burn the trees, and this very easily, since they are only pines full of resin. When the trees have been burned, they turn up the ground a little, and plant their maize, grain by grain, as do those of Florida. At that time the maize was only four finger-breadths high.

1 It was probably while getting through these fallen trees that Champlain lost his astrolabe, which was found at this spot in August 1867 by E. G. Lee, then a boy of fourteen. A photograph of the spot and Mr. Lee’s account of how he discovered the astrolabe are given in Charles Macnamara’s paper, cited on p. 273, note 1. The distance from Olmsted lake to Muskrat lake is three miles, not three leagues. See Plate XII, p. 275. The photograph for this was kindly supplied by the present owner, Mr. S. V. Hoffman of Morristown, N.J.
2 Muskrat lake, which is only ten miles long. Farther on Champlain says it was nearly seven leagues long.
CHAPTER IV

NIBACHIS had two canoes fitted out to take me to see another chief named Tessouiat, who lived eight leagues from him on the shore of a large lake, through which passes the river we had left, which leads northward. Thus we crossed the lake in a west-north-westerly direction nearly seven leagues, where having landed we went a league to the north-east, through a very beautiful region along narrow beaten trails where the going is easy, and we arrived at the shore of this lake where stood Tessouiat’s encampment. He was with another neighbouring chief, and was much astonished at seeing me, telling us he thought I was a ghost, and that he could not believe his eyes. Thence we went over to an island where stood their badly-made bark wigwams. This island is covered with oaks, pines, and elms, and is not liable to be flooded as are the other islands in the lake.

This island is strongly situated; for at its two ends and where the river enters the lake are troublesome rapids, whose rugged character makes it strong. The Indians have made their encampment here in order to escape the incursions of

1 Lower Allumette or Potoby lake. See Plate XI, p. 273.
2 The Ottawa, which after leaving Allumette lake and flowing north then curves round through Couteau lake and down past Calumet island to the lac des Chats, where Champlain had left it.
3 Muskrat lake. They must have left this lake near Neath, whence the Stoqua portage led northward to Lower Allumette lake.

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1 On Lower Allumette lake, not far from Terreton.
2 Morrison or Hawley island, between Upper and Lower Allumette lakes, about three-quarters of a mile long, and the same in width. It is protected on the north by Allumette rapids and on the south by those called Lost Chenail. The island, which comprises 400 acres, rises to sixty feet in height. See Plates XIII and XIV, pp. 278 and 280.

Statue of Champlain on Nepean Point, City of Ottawa. Photo from Wikipedia.
their enemies. The island is in latitude 47°, as is also the lake, which is twenty leagues long and three or four wide. It abounds in fish, but the hunting is not very good.

Now, as I looked about the island, I noticed their cemeteries, and was filled with wonder at the sight of the tombs, in the form of shrines, made of pieces of wood, crossed at the top, and fixed upright in the ground three feet apart or thereabouts. Above the cross-pieces they place a large piece of wood, and in front another standing upright, on which is carved rudely (as one might expect) the face of him or her who is there buried. If it is a man they put up a shield, a sword with a handle such as they use, a club, a bow and arrows; if it is a chief, he will have a bunch of feathers on his head and some other ornament or embellishment; if a child, they give him a bow and arrow; if a woman or girl,

1 Morrison island stands in 45° 48'; its sides are far higher than those of the other islands. See Plate XIV, p. 280.
2 Lower Alumette lake is about twelve miles long.

a kettle, an earthen pot, a wooden spoon, and a paddle. The largest tomb is six or seven feet long and four wide; the others smaller. They are painted yellow and red, with various decorations as fine as the carving. The dead man is buried in his beaver or other skin, whereof he made use in his life; and they place beside him all his valuables such as axes, knives, kettles and awls,1 so that these things may be of use to him in the land whither he goes; for they believe in the immortality of the soul as I have stated elsewhere.2 These carved tombs are only made for warriors; for other men they put no more on the tombs than for women, as being useless people. Hence but few of these tombs are found amongst them.

Having noted the poorness of the soil, I asked them how they could waste their time in cultivating such a poor region, seeing there was much better land which they left untilled and abandoned, as at the St. Louis rapids.3 They replied

1 Mr. J. L. Morris of Pembroke has a collection of axes, flints, awls, etc., found on Morrison island.
2 See Vol. I, 120.
3 The Lachine rapids.

that they were forced to do so, in order to be safe, and that the roughness of the region served as a bulwark against their enemies; but that if I would make a settlement of Frenchmen at the St. Louis rapids as I had promised, they would leave their abode to come and live near us, feeling assured that their enemies would do them no harm whilst we were with them. I told them that this year we should prepare wood and stone in order next year to build a fort and plough the land. When they heard this they gave a great shout in sign of approval. At the end of this conference I invited all the chiefs and head-men among them to meet me on the following day on the mainland at the wigwam of Tessouar, who was going to give a feast in my honour, and said that there I should announce to them my intentions. They promised they would come, and immediately sent an invitation to their neighbours to be present.

Morrison Island with a set of rapids, (whitewater), on both its northern and southern flanks was a choke-point for any navigation of the river. It therefore had great strategic value to the Indigenous Peoples. Google Map.
Then each of those who had stayed began to fill his pipe, and several offered me theirs, and we spent a full half-hour at this ceremony, without uttering a word, as is their custom.

After having smoked plentifully during such a long silence, I explained to them through my interpreter, that the object of my journey was none other than to assure them of my affection, and of my desire to aid them in their wars, as I had done previously: that what had hindered me from coming last year as I had promised, was that the king had employed me in other wars, but that he had now commanded me to visit them, and to reassure them regarding these things, and that for this purpose I had a number of men at the St. Louis rapids.\footnote{The Lachine rapids.} I told them I had come on a visit to their country to note the fertility of the soil, the lakes, rivers and sea, which they had told me were in their country, and that I desired to visit a nation, distant six

days' march from them, called the Nebicerini,\footnote{The Nebicerini.} in order to invite them also to go on the war-path, and that for this purpose I asked them to give me four canoes, with eight Indians to take me to that region. And since the Algonquins are not great friends of the Nebicerini, they seemed to listen to me with the greater attention.

My speech being finished, they began again to smoke and to converse together quietly about my proposals. Then Tessouiat, on behalf of all, began to speak, saying that they had always realized that I was more kindly disposed towards them than any other Frenchman they had seen, and that the proofs of it which they had experienced in the past, made it the more easy for them to believe in it for the future; that I had shown that I was indeed their friend by running so many risks to come and visit them, and to invite them to go on the war-path; and that all this forced them to bear as much good will towards me as to their own children.