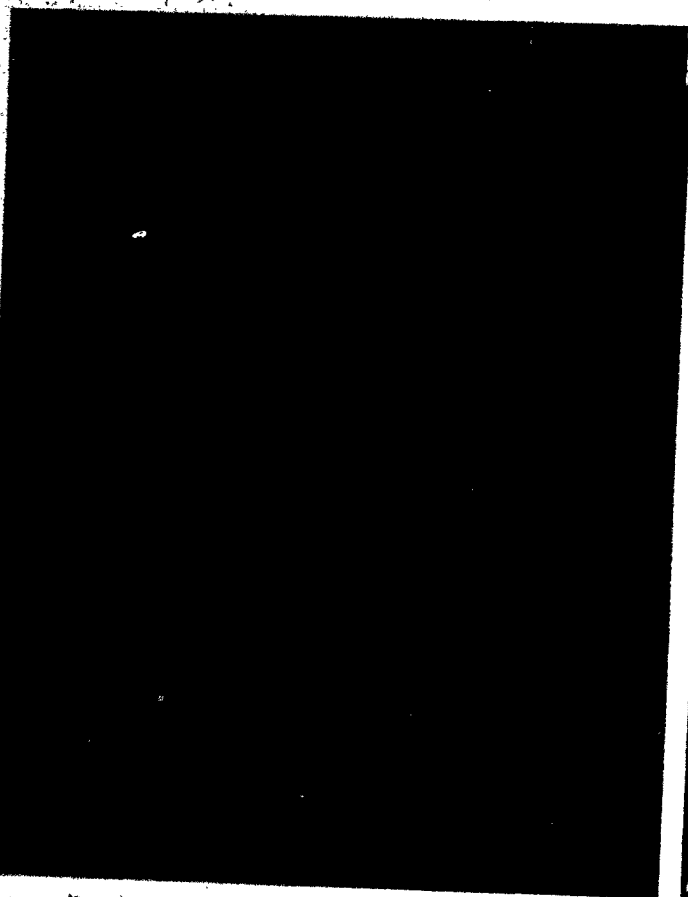


Great Torrents from Tiny Pools



These small pools, swelling in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains in Pennsylvania, gather volume and momentum to become the Genesee River of high waterfalls and deep gorges.

Genesee River

Continued from Page 9

ages of savages located beside large bodies of water have been completely destroyed by enemies by being driven into the water and drowned, or shot with arrows while swimming.

EUROPEAN HARDWARE

Before and after the founding of Quebec in 1608, Champlain made annual voyages between the St. Lawrence River and France. In *WEEKS OF CHAMPLAIN* (Vol. II, page 117) we find his words, "On the twenty-sixth of the month (April 26, 1610) we arrived at Tadoussac (below Quebec on the St. Lawrence) where there were ships which had arrived as early as the eighteenth. Such a thing had not been for sixty years, according to the reports of old seamen who sail regularly to these ports." This means that annual voyages for trade with the Indians on the St. Lawrence River were taking place as early as 1550, and that, let us say possibly 100 shiploads of European articles of trade had been passed out to the Indians before 1600. By trade from tribe to tribe, and by war with St. Lawrence River tribes, European iron hardware would come into use among our Senecas of the Genesee Country before 1600.

Dutch Hollow, a Seneca village site near Lima, New York, apparently of sixteenth century occupation, dug and explored by workers of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences under the direction of Mr. William Ritchie, contained in its graves European iron axes. Presence of the axes in such an early village site could be accounted for historically by this reference of Champlain to sixty years of trade on the St. Lawrence River before 1610.

FRONTIER AND WAR PATH

Before 1627 reports of the locations of the tribes on either side of the Genesee River began to drift into Quebec from some of the many young men who escaped from the restraints of the settlements of New France by getting into canoes of traveling Indians and going where the Indians took them. The Senecas were the westernmost of the Iroquois League with two groups of villages, one group on Honeoye Creek seven miles east of the river and twelve to twenty miles south of the site of Rochester, and another group, miles east of the river near Victor and Holcomb, New York.

Not until 1720 were any Seneca villages located on the Genesee River. Villages were not located on large bodies of water because, when an Indian village was attacked by a superior force the inhabitants needed unobstructed forests on all sides in order to escape and hide. Whole villages

Most likely for this reason there never were any Iroquois Villages on the shores or within fifteen miles of Lake Ontario. The Genesee River also remained an uninhabited frontier until the Senecas no longer had any Indian enemies who might attack them.

In the period we speak of, the Eries, a powerful tribe, enemies of the Senecas, were at some distance west of the southern reaches of the Genesee River toward Salamanca, New York. For a while the Eries had the upper hand against the Senecas. They cut to pieces a column of 60 Seneca warriors. A village, a forerunner of Totiakton, was destroyed by Eries. Terrified Senecas left their villages in Honeoye Valley and took refuge in the villages further from the Genesee River, near Holcomb. Brought to the necessity of unified action by these disasters the Senecas in full force paddled up the Genesee River and tributary creeks in their canoes and, carrying their canoes to the stockades of the Eries, used these boats as overhead shields while they battered down the walls. Their strategy was successful, and the Eries were defeated.

Now imagine a picture of the upper Genesee River of that day with a flotilla of war canoes, loaded with triumphant savages, bearing scalps, the ghastly evidences of victory, and with captives, some destined for slavery and some for the sacred rites of torture. Coming from the south on the river, this flotilla of victorious Senecas and captive Eries would arrive at the head of the rapids at Portageville at the south entrance of Letchworth Park. Then to get around the falls to the lower stretches of the river, the long carry would begin. When the captives had been loaded with baggage, and canoes, the march began. The silence of the forest was broken by the rough jeering commands of the elated victors and the groans of the wounded. The portage went up out of the river on the east side and came back down a slope in the wall of the gorge one-half mile below the lower falls. A trail followed the west side of the river also but was not easy in its approaches to the river near the falls.

When back again on the river the flotilla could proceed as far north as Avon or, with high water in Honeoye Creek, the canoes could come down the river to Colton and Superior. The inhabitants needed to go up the creek as far as Totiakton in order to escape and hide. Whole villages

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