

Explorations

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of Honeoye Creek, a site visible to all passengers on the Buffalo Division of the Lehigh Valley Railroad from the station at Rochester Junction, the date was November 1, 1668. He then was the first white man from whom we have a written record to walk over the Great Middle Trail of the Iroquois from near Albany to near Lima, N. Y. When Father Louis Hennepin on December 31, 1678, arrived at Totiakton he was the first white man to give a written record of a walk which must have traversed most of the middle trail between Lima and Buffalo. Portions of the trail east of Canandaigua had been traveled at earlier times by known historical characters who have left some records of their journeys.

In 1642, Saint Isaac Jogues was on portions of the trail near Auriesville. Father Bressant and Poncet were on portions of this trail soon after Father Jogues.

In 1655, Father Simon Le Moyne traveled between Auriesville and Albany, and in 1661-2 Le Moyne traveled from Onondaga to Cayuga.

In 1656, Father Chaumonot—Onondaga to Holcomb. In 1656, Fathers Menard and Chaumonot—Cayuga to Oneida. 1668-69, Father J. Garnier—Oneida, Onondaga, Lima. In July, 1677, Wentworth Greenhalg rode the trail on horseback from Albany to Lima and Totiakton. Ask in the library for his interesting Journal, in Does. Rel. Hist. N. Y. Vol. III p 251. He was the first non-Catholic to enter what is now this Diocese, as far as we know. He was the first official representative of any other power than French government to enter the Seneca country. He came sixty-one years after the official errand of Brule in 1616. Thus the French had just prior claim on this Seneca country.

Middle Trail

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It is a fair conclusion to draw from circumstantial evidence that Brule passed over the middle trail from Lima westward taking the north fork of the trail west of Batavia to a canoe or raft, crossing the Niagara River below Lewiston. Certain natural features and advantages gave the great middle trail its location. In general it is the shortest route between open connections with ocean travel at Albany to upper Great Lakes travel at Buffalo. It is the lowest pass across the Alleghany Ridges, from tide water to connections with the Mississippi Valley.

The middle trail left the Hudson River at the site of Albany and passed north of the site of the State capitol on the state road. It came through the railway ravine to Schenectady where it divided into two trails, one going up the north side of the Mohawk River and the other crossing where the bridge is and going up the south side.

The trail on the south side was most used because the principal Mohawk Villages were on that side of the river. The Auriesville Shrine is beside this south side trail.

After passing Danube in Herkimer County the trail came out of the land of the Mohawks into the Oneida Indian lands where Utica is now situated. From Utica the trail went through Whitesboro and Oriskany to Rome, going to Rome involving a detour to the north.

The trail on the north bank of the Mohawk kept close to the river most of the way from

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