

North-Carolina Chronicle; or, Fayetteville Gazette.

—[No. 17, of Vol. II.]—

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1791.

—[Total No. 69.]—

HISTORY.

BARVER'S TRAVELS.

(Continued.)

THE stones and pebbles on the shores of this lake, are most of them tinged, in a greater or less degree, with spots that resemble brass in their colour, but which are of a sulphureous nature. Small pieces, about the size of hazle-nuts, of the same kind of ore, are found on the sands that lie on its banks and under the water.

The navigation of this river is esteemed more dangerous than any of the others on account of many high lands that lie on the borders of it, and project into the water in a perpendicular direction for many miles together, so that whenever sudden storms arise, canoes and boats are frequently lost, as there is no place for them to find a shelter.

This lake discharges its waters at the north-east end, into the River Niagara, which runs north and south, and is about thirty six miles in length, from whence it falls into Lake Ontario. At the entrance of this river, on its shore, lies Fort Niagara, and about eighteen miles further up, those remarkable falls, which are esteemed one of the most extraordinary productions of nature at present known.

As these have been visited by so many travellers, and so frequently described, I shall omit giving a particular description of them, and only observe, that the waters by which they are supplied, after taking their rise near two thousand miles to the north-west, and passing through the Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie, during which they have been receiving constant accumulations, at length rush down a stupendous precipice of one hundred and forty feet perpendicular, and in a strong rapid, that extends to the distance of eight or nine miles below, fall nearly as much more—this river soon after empties itself into Lake Ontario.

The noise of these falls may be heard an amazing way: I could plainly distinguish them in a calm morning more than

twenty miles. Others have said that at a particular time, and when the wind fits fair, the sound of them reaches fifteen leagues.

The land about the falls is exceedingly lilly and uneven, but the greatest part of that on the Niagara River is very good, especially for grass and pasturage.

Fort Niagara stands nearly at the entrance of the west end of Lake Ontario, and on the east part of the Straights of Niagara. It was taken from the French in the year 1759, by the forces under the command of Sir William Johnson, and at present is defended by a considerable garrison.

Lake Ontario is the next, and least of the five great lakes of Canada. Its situation is between forty-three and forty-five degrees of west longitude. The form of it is nearly oval, its greatest length being from north-east to south-west, and in circumference about six hundred miles. Near the south-east part it receives the waters of the Oswego River, and on the north-east discharges itself into the River Cataract. Not far from the place where it issues, Fort Frontenac formerly stood, which was taken from the French during the last war, in the year 1758, by a small army of provincials under colonel Bradstreet.

At the entrance of Oswego River stands a fort of the same name, garrisoned only at present by an inconsiderable party. This fort was taken in the year 1756 by the French, when a great part of the garrison, which consisted of the late Shirley's and Pepperil's regiments, were massacred in cold blood by the savages.

In Lake Ontario are taken many sorts of fish, among which is the Oswego Bass, of an excellent flavour, and weighing about three or four pounds. There is also a sort called the Cat-Head or Pout, which are in general very large, some of them weighing eight or ten pounds, and they are esteemed a rare dish when properly dressed.

On the north-west parts of this lake, and to the south-east of Lake Huron, is a tribe of Indians called Missisagues, whose town is denominated Toronto, from the lake on which it lies, but they

are not very numerous. The country about Lake Ontario, especially the more north and eastern parts, is composed of good land, and in time may make very flourishing settlements.

The Oniada lake, situated near the head of the River Oswego, receives the waters of Wood-Creek, which takes its rise not far from Mohawks River. These two lie so adjacent to each other, that a junction is effected by sluices at Fort Stanwix, about twelve miles from the mouth of the former. This lake is about thirty miles long from east to west, and near fifteen broad. The country around it belongs to the Oniada Indians.

Lake Champlain, the next in size to Lake Ontario, which lies nearly east from it, is about eighty miles in length, north and South, and its broadest part fourteen. It is well stored with fish, and the lands that lie on all the borders of it, or about its rivers very good.

Lake George, formerly called by the French Lake St. Sacrament, lies to the south-west of the last mentioned lake, and is about thirty-five miles long from north-east to south-west, but of no great breadth. The country around it is very mountainous, but in the vallies the land is tolerably good.

When these two lakes were first discovered, they were known by no other name than that of the Iroquois Lakes; and I believe in the first plans taken of those parts were so denominated. The Indians also that were then called the Iroquois, are since known by the name of the Five Mohawk-Nations, and the Mohawks of Canada. In the late war, the former, which consist of the Onandagoes, the Onidas, the Senecas, and the Tuscarories, and the Iroquoets, fought on the side of the English; the latter, which are called the Corawabags, and St. Francis Indians, joined the French.

A vast tract of land that lies between the two last mentioned lakes and Lake Ontario, was granted in the year 1629, by the Plymouth Company, under a patent they had received from King James I. to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and to captain John Mason, the head of that family, afterwards distinguished from others of that name, by the Masons of Connecticut.