

The Story of the French and Mi'kmaq at Port-Royal (1604-1613)

For over a century whales and cod had lured Europeans seasonally to northeastern North America, but it was beavers that encouraged them to settle there permanently in the late 1500's.

France joined the competition later than other countries (1524 – King François I sponsored Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano to explore the North Atlantic coast and to find the supposed route to the Orient.)

Laid claim from the Carolinas to Cape Breton – named New France.

Idea developed to use trade monopolies as a way of financing permanent French colonization. France's treasury was depleted so Henri IV's overseas ambitions fell to private interests in exchange for exclusive trade monopolies.

Late 1500's	New style of headwear popular in France: beaver felt hat. The French wanted the <i>castor gras d'hiver</i> (the 'coat beaver').
	Expression 'mad as a hatter' originates from a felt-making method in which mercury used slowly poisoned the hat-maker.
1598	Marquis de La Roche planted a settlement on Sable Island: about 10 soldiers and forty vagabonds and beggars.
1600	Pierre de Chauvin, Sieur de Tonnetuit established a colony at Tadoussac, Quebec which was abandoned by the following spring (Sieur de Mons and François Gravé du Pont were members of the expedition).
1603	Pierre de Chauvin dies and his grant is passed to Commander Aymar de Chaste.
1603	Eleven remaining survivors on Sable Island were rescued and taken back to France.

Dec. 18, 1603

Henri IV issued an edict banning the trade in furs and other merchandise in 'Acadie, Canada (Quebec) and other places in New France unless the traders held shares in de Mons' company.

De Mons had vice-regal powers:

- could build forts and settlements
- enact laws
- wage war
- issue land grants and titles
- keep most of the profits from precious metals
- could search and seize illegal traders

In turn de Mons had to:

- establish sixty colonists a year
- make peace with and convert the Amerindians
- explore and make records of the coast
- make records of precious minerals

February 1604

De Mons' company is up and running. Shareholders came from Rouen, Saint-Malo, La Rochelle and Saint-Jean-de-Luz. In addition to the two ships bound for Acadie, three ships were sent to the St. Lawrence River to trade furs.

Early March 1604, at the fortified fort of Havre de Grace, on the English Channel, at the mouth of the River Seine in northern France, two ships are about to sail for La Cadie.

Leader:

Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Mons
 Protestant nobleman-courtier
 Governor of town of Pons
 (position received from King Henri IV)
 as a result of Wars of Religion from 1562-1598

First Ship:

Don-de-Dieu - 120 persons

Captain:	Timothée
Passengers:	Samuel de Champlain Jean Biencourt de Poutrincourt et de Saint-Just Jean Ralleau (or Ralluau), secretary to de Mons
Catholic priest:	Nicolas Aubry
Protestant pastor:	unnamed
Spare captain:	Guillaume Foulques
Second Leader:	François Gravé Du Pont, naval captain and merchant
Second Ship:	Bonne Renommée
Captain:	Morel
Pilots:	Guillaume du Glas and Pierre Cramolet
March 7, 1604	Capt. Timothée sets sail out of Havre de Grace (today called Le Havre) on the Don-de-Dieu.
March 10, 1604	Capt. Morel sets sail on the Bonne Renommée. Two ships were to rendez-vous in Canceau (Canso). En route, Sieur de Mons changed his mind and set his course toward Port Mouton.
May 8, 1604	After two long months at sea, Sieur de Mons and crew reach Cap de la Héue (Cape LaHave, NS). Anchored in nearby Port de La Heue (Green Bay): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for fresh water and game - to meet the Mi'kmaq Indians and Messamouet. <p>Soon after, de Mons' men seized a ship trading illegally. They named the place du Rossynol (Rossignol: today's Liverpool Bay) after the ship's captain.</p>

Expedition made its way south-west to Port au mouton (place name given because of a sheep that leaped overboard). Stayed there approximately 3 weeks waiting for Gravé du Pont, on whose ship were most of the supplies for the coming winter.

Meanwhile

Champlain, Jean Ralleau and 10 men set out to explore the coast.

Sieur de Mons sent one of his men and several Amerindians up the coast towards Canso to look for Gravé du Pont. Found him at 'La Baie des Iles' (near today's Sheet Harbour).

Gravé du Pont handed over supplies to de Mons' men and then made his way back to Canso to trade for furs.

Champlain and Ralleau returned to Port Mouton. The expedition then sailed to Baye Sainte Marie (St. Mary's Bay) where they left the larger vessels while Mons, Champlain, and Poutrincourt explored the unfamiliar waters in a smaller boat.

1604

They entered an expansive basin: Port-Royal (now Annapolis Basin).

Poutrincourt expressed an interest in the place which Sieur de Mons subsequently granted to him.

From Port-Royal, they explored the baye Françoise (Bay of Fundy). Explored it counter-clockwise.

June 24, 1604
St. John River

Made their way toward a large river called Oigoudi which they named R. St. Iehan (St. John River) in honour of St. Jean Baptiste.

Passamaquoddy Bay
St. Croix River

Continued westward entered present-day Passamaquoddy Bay and then sailed up the Riuere des Etechemins (St. Croix River) and stopped at an island which they called St. Croix Island (Mehtonuwekoss in Indian, meaning 'little out of food place'. Sieur de Mons and crew prepare lodgings for themselves.

St. Mary's Bay

Once the defences were in place, de Mons sent Pierre Champdoré and a small crew to tell the men on the two ships still at St. Mary's Bay to come to St. Croix Island. Arrived at St. Mary's Bay several days later and remained in the area to fish.

Long Island

When they reached isle Longue (Long Island), they came across the Catholic priest, Nicolas Aubry, who had been given up for dead.

Around June 16th, while ships were still at St. Mary's Bay, Aubry misplaced his sword while out for a walk in the woods with several others. He left the group to go and find it but became lost. No one could find him. He had survived 17 days by eating sorrel (type of herb) and some berries.

Back at St. Croix Island, de Mons moved quickly to establish the settlement.

De Mons decided to send Captain Foulques in Rossignol's ship (the Levrette) to retrieve the remaining supplies from Gruvé du Pont at Canso.

Shortly after Foulques' departure, Guillaume Du Glas, pilot of the Bonne Renommée, arrived from Canso with two Basque captains whom they had caught fur trading illegally.

Summer is going by. De Mons decided to send the ships Don-de-Dieu (Captain Timothée) and Levrette (Captain Foulques who had returned from Canso) back to France.

Poutrincourt, Ralleau and Nicolas Aubry also returned to France on this voyage to attend to company matters and to report to the king.

Back at St. Croix Island, Sieur de Mons sent Champlain, along with a dozen sailors and two Passamaquoddy Indians (Etchemins) on an excursion along the coast of Maine in search of a more suitable place to settle.

Mount Desert Island Soon sighted a large island: Mount Desert Island (present day Acadia National Park).

Penobscot River Local Etchemin Indians guided them about 30 km up the nearby river called Peimtegouet (Penobscot River) – (present day Bangor on this river).

On this trip, Champlain learns about:

- a portage route from Penobscot River to St. Croix Island.
- a route via the Chaudière River to the St. Lawrence River.

This was Champlain's first documented formal encounter with the Etchemins.

French continue to Kennebec River but turn back because supplies were almost depleted.

October 6, 1604 Snow begins to fall. The crew is stuck on St. Croix Island. The liquors froze (except the Spanish wine), cider dispensed by the pound. Scurvy led to many deaths.

Spring 1605 Thirty-five of the 79 men had died.

June 15, 1605 Champlain on guard duty spotted a shallop and on it was François Gravé du Pont. He announced that the *Bonne Renommée* was nearby and that Sieur des Antons of Saint-Malo in the *St.-Étienne* was following with provisions and supplies.

June 18, 1605 De Mons, Champlain, 20 sailors and a Mi'kmaw guide named Panoniac and his Armouchiquois wife sailed along the coast to the Kennebec River. He met:

Etchemin Chiefs – Météourmite, Marchin and Sasinou.

Made their way to site of future Boston, port St. Louis (Plymouth Harbour), Cap blanc (Cape Cod) and Malle-Barre (Nauset Harbour).

First of several hostile encounters with Armouchiquois.

After five weeks of sailing, de Mons decided to return to St. Croix Island.

Saco River, Maine

On return trip. visited Armouchiquois Chief Marchin at the Chouacoit River (Saco River, Maine).

August 3, 1605

Expedition arrived back at St. Croix Island to find St. Étienne anchored in the river. Now they would relocate to Port-Royal.

In early August, Gravé Du Pont and Champlain went to Port-Royal to scout for a suitable location. First considered today's Annapolis Royal, but rejected it for being too far upriver and difficult to defend.

Finally chose a rise of land on the north side of the riuere de l'Equille (which in 1609 was being called the Rivière du Dauphin; now the Annapolis River), opposite Goat Island.

Back on St. Croix Island workers were dismantling the buildings.

This time the French planted themselves firmly on the mainland where there were plenty of trees for construction and firewood, easy access to a variety of wild game, easy access to fresh water, and fertile soil for planting gardens.

Late August 1605

De Mons decided to return to France to arrange for supplies and to see to it that his monopoly was not revoked. He was never to return.

Gravé du Pont took charge of the approximately 45 men including 3 of the St. Croix Island survivors: Champlain, Champdoré and Fougeray de Vitré. Catholic and Portestant priest also stayed on.

September 1605

Champlain sailed with miner Maître Jacques to once again look for the copper mine.

Found Etchemin Chief, Secoudon, at his village on the St. John River. He guided them to Port des mines (Advocate Harbour,

Nova Scotia) area. Once again, he was disappointed as outcroppings were small and on tidal waters. Returned to Port-Royal.

Port-Royal location in native language was "Kespukwitk" which meant 'Lands End'.

For at least 3,000 years before the arrival of the French, the Mi'kmaq had lived a semi-nomadic existence here.

Annapolis River – Te'wapskik

Chief Membertou lived in St. Mary's Bay area. Around 100 years old at this time. Claimed to have met Jacques Cartier in the mid 1530's. Put well-being of his people first and was very generous toward the French.

December 20, 1605

Snow began to fall. Inhabitants of Port-Royal were better prepared. Mi'kmaq continued their customary visits, often bringing furs and fresh meat to trade for knives, axes, pots, beads and even bread.

Despite improved living conditions, 12 men died of scurvy, including the miner, Maître Jacques, and the Catholic and Protestant priests.

Back in France

1598 – Edict of Nantes – granted Protestants freedom to worship and equality of rights.

French at Port-Royal slowly adapting to their new surroundings.

March 1606

Champlain, Gravé Du Pont, Champdoré (boat's master) and a small crew left the settlement to sail along the coast for Florida. Bad weather forced them back to Port-Royal.

Gravé du Pont suffered a heart attack but 10 days later set out once again. Champdoré appointed master of vessel again, however, disaster struck once more. At St. John River boat was forced 'on the rocks'. Chief Secoudon came to their rescue. Everyone returned to Port-Royal.

- June 1606 Relief ship had not arrived yet from France.
- Gravé Du Pont wanted to go to Canso or Cape Breton to find a French ship to take them back to France.
- July 17, 1606 Two boats with 30 passengers and crew departed Port-Royal, leaving behind two volunteers:
- La Taille and Miquelet.
- They agreed to take care of Habitation. Chief Membertou promised to watch over it too.
- Back in France, de Mons was still trying to raise funds for his monopoly. Asked Jean de Poutrincourt (who had already been to Acadie) to replace Gravé Du Pont as his lieutenant at Port-Royal. Poutrincourt agreed.
- Marc Lescarbot, a lawyer and noted poet and writer joined him.
- May 13, 1606 The *Jonas*, under the command of Captain Foulques (who had also been to Acadie in 1604) set sail for Port-Royal.
- mid-July 1606 Poutrincourt arrived at Canso. They met a group of Mi'kmaq who brought them up-to-date on current news in the area.
- July 23, 1606 Poutrincourt arrived at Port Mouton. The cabins and lodgings that de Mons had made two years before were untouched.
- All this time Gravé Du Pont was on his way to Canso to look for a ship to sail to France.
- July 24, 1606 Du Pont's expedition came upon de Mons' secretary, Ralleau, who had sailed along the coast to let them know that the *Jonas* was on the way.
- July 27, 1606 The *Jonas* arrived at Port-Royal with Poutrincourt.
- July 30, 1606 Ralleau, Gravé du Pont, and their crews arrived at Port-Royal. A big celebration is held.

Meanwhile, rival merchants and traders (Basques, St. Malo) would continue to undermine de Mons' efforts at Canso and elsewhere.

Among recently arrived skilled artisans:

Jean Pussot & Daniel Hay - carpenters
 Antoine Esnault & Jean Hanin - joiners
 Oliver Bresson & Husson Jabart - pit-sawyers
 Jean Duval & Louis Fey - locksmiths
 Pierre Rondeau & Pierre Vozelles - stonecutters
 François Guitard - toolmaker
 Toussaint Husson & Claude Desbry - tailors

Charles de Biencourt - Poutrincourt's son
 Claude de Saint-Étienne de la Tour - cousin to Poutrincourt
 Charles de Saint-Étienne de la Tour - Charles' son
 Estienne - surgeon
 Louis Hébert - apothecary
 Sieur du Boulay
 Sieur Sourin - superintendent of building
 François Ardamin - provider to Poutrincourt's table

Agriculture thrived:

grains, turnips, radishes, cabbages, planted hemp, and made soap from wood ash which they used to whiten linens.

Men gathered blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, apples for making marmalade, and small seaweed peas.

The seas gave them: mussels, scallops, cockles, sea-chestnuts, crabs and lobsters.

These local provisions were augmented with foods brought from France:

rice, prunes, olive oil, vinegar, almonds, lemon peel, raisins, spices, sugar-loafs, peas, beans, hams, dry cod and salt beef.

Before leaving France, de Mons had instructed Poutrincourt to relocate the settlement to a more suitable climate farther south. However, with everyone's approval, the settlers decided to stay at Port-Royal.

August 1606

Poutrincourt, Champlain, Pont-Gravé, Hébert and several others left on an exploratory voyage.

François Gravé Du Pont, and the others who had wintered at Port-Royal departed for France in the *Jonas*.

Champlain, Champdoré, and Fougeray de Vitré had decided to once again remain in Acadie.

Poutrincourt's "pinnacle" was forced back to Port-Royal due to bad weather.

Mouth of St. Croix River

Poutrincourt met Wolastoqiyik Chief, Secoudon, and Mi'kmaw Chief, Messamouet, who were heading to the Saco River, Maine to make peace with Armouchiquois.

September 1606

They reach the Saco River. They parlayed with the Indians and then moved on.

Made their way to Gloucester, Massachusetts. The ship's rudder broke and forced them to stop at Port fortune (Stage Harbour, Cape Cod). Here they were attacked by the Armouchiquois.

With supplies low and wounded needing care, Poutrincourt headed back to Port-Royal.

These disastrous encounters with the Armouchiquois marked a turning point for the French. It ended any plans to occupy lands to the south. Instead, the region was soon to be claimed by England.

November 14, 1606

Poutrincourt arrived back in Port-Royal.

Received by a theatre production that Lescarbot had organized called *Théâtre de Neptune*.

The warm home-coming was suddenly disrupted when Etchemin Chief, Ouagimou (Passamaquoddy) arrived with the embalmed body of Panoniac, who had been killed.

Chief Membertou made a speech inciting his friends and followers to go to war against the Armouchiquois the following Spring to avenge his death.

Panoniac buried in a secret hiding place following Spring on a desolate island in the Cape Sable area.

At this point, there were still no women at Port-Royal.

In winter, everyone received one and a half pints of good wine every day – to fight scurvy.

Mi'kmaq brought pelts – beaver, muskrat, otter, moose, fox, seal, to the Habitants to trade for goods. European technology and trade items continued to interest the Mi'kmaq. They valued as well the European-made axes, kettles and pots.

French equally fascinated with Mi'kmaq technology: birch-bark canoes, snowshoes, toboggans and moccasins.

The introduction of European technology would gradually change the lives of the Mi'kmaq and other Indians to the great detriment of their traditional life skills.

Winter 1607

Lescarbot busied himself writing: *Histoire de la Nouvelle France*. He thought very highly of the Indians, describing them as having courage, fidelity, generosity and humanity.

Quote: 'So if we commonly call them Savages, the word is abusive and unmerited, for they are anything but that....'

After two winters in Acadie, Champlain learned that those who had been active seemed to have suffered the least from scurvy. So he established *l'Ordre due Bon Temps* (Order of Good Cheer). This was more profitable than all sorts of medicine would have been.

- Spring 1607 Only 4 men had died of scurvy. The French were adapting.
- April 1607 Poutrincourt had two boats readied to go to Canso to seek passage on ships heading back to France should the relief ship not arrive as scheduled.
- Meanwhile, he had a water-mill built on today's Allain River to lessen burden of grinding wheat by hand.
- May 24, 1607 Captain Chevalier arrived from Canso with bad news: De Mons fur-trading monopoly was revoked. The men at Port-Royal were ordered to pack up and go to Canso where the *Jonas* was fishing for cod.
- Men began the dreary task of preparing to leave Port-Royal.
- At the same time, Poutrincourt sent Captain Chevalier, Champdoré and Lescarbot to the St. John River and St. Croix River areas to trade for furs while he and Champlain went to search for copper mines.
- In the meantime, Chief Membertou launched his war against the Armouchiquois.
- end of July 1607 Two groups of men including Chevalier, Lescarbot and Champdoré departed for Canso.
- Poutrincourt, Champlain and 8 others delayed their departure in order to gather samples of rye and wheat to take back to France.
- Just as the French were about to leave, Membertou arrived back from the Saco River victorious over the Armouchiquois. Armouchiquois chiefs, Onemechin and Marchin were killed by Etchemin Chief Sasinou, who was subsequently killed by followers of the two former chiefs.
- August 11, 1607 Poutrincourt and the others finally departed Port-Royal. Poutrincourt left the Habitation in Membertou's care, giving him 10 barrels of flour and free use of the buildings.

late October 1607

The *Jonas* arrived in France with the crew from Port-Royal.

So it was that the French abandoned Port-Royal just 3 months after the English, under the auspices of the London Company, had founded Jamestown, Virginia, an event that would eventually see the French and English clash on the shores of Port-Royal.

In 1606, King James I of England had granted the Virginia Company of London and the Virginia Company of Plymouth each a part of the area between the 34th and 45th parallels. The companies' territory overlapped almost all of de Mons' grants.

After 3 years, de Mons accepted that it was impossible for him to enforce his monopoly along the Acadie's coastline. Dutch, Spanish and French vessels in considerable numbers were flouting the monopoly. Unlike de Mons, they did not have to bear the heavy costs of settlement.

However, the French had acquired practical knowledge about the environment and geography of the Atlantic coast and they had learned how to interact with the Mi'kmaq and Amerindians.

The French abandoned Port-Royal just as real progress was being made. Lescarbot felt that within a year they would have been able to survive without France.

The French would get another chance in 1608.

Henri IV granted de Mons a one-year renewal of his original fur-trade monopoly provided he established a post on the St. Lawrence River (Champlain agreed with this).

De Mons had two ships equipped and made his lieutenant, François Gravé Du Pont leave first. Champlain, aboard the *Don-de-Dieu* left after.

July 1608

Champlain founded Quebec.

Simultaneously, de Mons sent Jean Ralleau and Pierre

Champdoré to Acadie to trade for furs. Membertou welcomed them back but their stay was short-lived.

The French sailed to the Saco River, Maine, where they meet Armouchiquois Chief Asticou (who replaced Chief Onemechin who had died in Membertou's war). Asticou wanted to make peace with Etchemins. Chief Ouagimou was chosen to represent Etchemins and peace was made.

Ralleau and Champdoré returned to France with a cargo of furs to report on what they had found and heard.

Meanwhile, back in
March 1608

Henri IV ratified Sieur de Mons' seigneurial grant of Port-Royal (which included fur-trading and fishing privileges) to Poutrincourt, provided that he move there with several families to settle permanently.

At the same time, the king approached Father Pierre Coton his confessor. He said he wanted to obtain the services of the Jesuits to secure the salvation of the Amerindians. Religious intrigue would delay the Jesuits' departure for another 3 years.

Fathers Pierre Biard and Énemond Massé were chosen to lead this project. Father Massé was the confessor to Antoinette de Pons, Marquise de Guercheville, wife of the governor of Paris, and first lady-in-waiting to the Queen.

November 1609

King surprised to learn that Poutrincourt was still in Paris and had not yet gone to Acadie. Poutrincourt said he would leave right away. Father Coton heard of this and wanted to go with him. Poutrincourt said the kitchens were not built and that he should wait another year.

Then Poutrincourt spent the winter getting ready.

February 1610

The *Grace-de-Dieu* sailed from Dieppe in late February.

Poutrincourt was finally able to outfit a ship and engage a crew.

On this trip was:

Charles de Biencourt de Saint-Just - Poutrincourt's son

Louis Hébert - apothecary

Thomas Robin, Vicomte de Coulogne - investor in expedition

Claude Saint-Étienne de la Tour

Charles Saint-Étienne de la Tour - Claude's son

along with about 20 workmen

Abbé Jessé Fléché - a secular priest (in hopes that the Jesuits would not come)

May 1610

Three months later, after enduring raging storms, the expedition reached Acadie.

Near Cape Sable, they were blown off course towards the Penobscot River, Maine.

June 1610

Reached Port-Royal. Habitation was found in good repair. Not a piece of furniture or food was missing.

Poutrincourt was anxious to send his son back to France with proof that progress was being made in christianizing the Amerindians.

June 24, 1610

Membertou and 20 members of his family adopted the Christian faith. The details were carefully recorded in a registry that Biencourt was to take back to France to show that the Jesuits were not needed.

By the time Father Fléché left Port-Royal in 1611, he had baptized approximately 140 Mi'kmaq and other Amerindians.

During the summer and early fall, the men planted gardens, repaired damaged buildings and the water-mill and went fishing and hunting.

Meanwhile, in France, Biencourt and Thomas Robin had gone to Paris in late August where they presented the baptismal registry. However, matters had changed. The Jesuits had gained the upper hand in the Royal Court. Fathers Biard and Massé would be returning to Port-Royal with Biencourt.

Biencourt was named the vice-admiral of Acadie.
Poutrincourt did not receive a fur-trade monopoly.

January 26, 1611

The *Grâce-de-Dieu* sailed from Dieppe with 36 on board, including Biencourt, Thomas Robin, and Fathers Biard and Massé.

Meanwhile, at Port-Royal supplies were being rationed as there was a shortage of provisions.

March 1611

Membertou was dying. Poutrincourt nursed him to good health.

April 1611

Situation slowly improved as the fish began their season run. No one had died or showed symptoms of scurvy.

May 22, 1611

The *Grâce-de-Dieu* dropped anchor at Port-Royal.

Soon after their arrival, a group of Etchemins from St. Croix came to the Habitation to complain that a Captain La Coq had robbed them and killed one of their women.

Poutrincourt, Biencourt, and Father Biard sailed to a port called Pierre Blanche, located near the mouth of the St. Croix River to confront the interloper.

La Coq had run off but 4 ships were found, including one belonging to the Sieur de Mons, and another owned by Pont-Gravé (who was not there) commanded by Captain La Salle.

Father Biard insisted to look for Pont-Gravé. Biard found him and intervened with Poutrincourt on Pont-Gravé's behalf.

Poutrincourt did not like the Jesuit priest meddling in civil affairs.

early June 1611

Poutrincourt and company arrived back at Port-Royal.

Father Biard kept a diary and wrote that the Amerindian nation is 'savage, wandering and full of bad habits...are extremely lazy, gluttonous, profane, treacherous, cruel in their revenge.'

Poutrincourt prepared for the return trip to France with no profits having been made. Blamed this on the Jesuits.

June 11, 1611

Poutrincourt left Port-Royal with 38 passengers, including Abbé Fléché, Sieurs Bertrand, Belot, and Jouy.

Biencourt took charge of the Habitation.

The Jesuits' main challenge was to try and understand the Mi'kmaq. Biard decided to move the mission to the St. John River where Pont-Gravé was still operating. Since Pont-Gravé had lived with the Indians, Biard thought he would make a better translator. Biencourt was against this decision as he mistrusted the Jesuits – as did his father.

late August 1611

Biencourt and Father Biard went to St. Croix Island where they found a Captain Plâtrier who had wintered there with his men. Biencourt intended to charge Plâtrier a tax on his furs. Plâtrier acknowledged Biencourt's authority but said that English fishermen had stolen his furs.

September 8, 1611

Biencourt and company arrived back at Port-Royal.

Membertou was gravely ill.

September 18, 1611

Membertou died and was buried at Port-Royal cemetery.

early October 1611

Biencourt, Father Biard, Louis Hébert, Charles de La Tour and several others sailed towards the Saco River to trade for food. Father Biard came to meet many Indians.

early November 1611

Too late to carry on to Saco, so the French headed back to Port-Royal.

On return trip. sailed up the Penobscot River where they came across about 300 Amerindians. Met Etchemins Chief Bashabes, whom Biard liked.

Still without food, Biencourt went to St. Croix Island where Captain Plâtrier lent them two barrels of peas and beans.

- November 18, 1611 Expedition arrived back at Port-Royal with no relief ship in sight and almost no provisions as winter set in.
- Meanwhile, in France, Poutrincourt had been unable to secure the funds to purchase supplies for Port-Royal.
- In desperation, he approached Mme de Guercheville. She was reluctant. Entrusted her funds to Jesuit Brother Gilbert Du Thet who was to give them to the Dieppe merchant contracted to outfit a vessel.
- Poutrincourt managed to persuade Du Thet to give him a portion which he then used to have another ship readied by one Simon Imbert Sandrier.
- late November 1611 Captain Nicolas L'Abbé, the younger Simon Imbert, and Brother Du Thet left Dieppe.
- January 12, 1612 Arrived at Port-Royal where they found hunger and conflict.
- Many disagreements between the Jesuits and Biencourt.
- Year 1612 Really bad for the Mi'kmaq. Many fell ill and died of once unknown diseases such as pleurisy and dysentery.
- Brother Du Thet had somehow made his way back to France. He arrived just as a ship was about to depart for Port-Royal.
- Poutrincourt and Mme de Guercheville had formed a joint venture. Both had borrowed 750 livres for the venture.
- Outraged by what she heard from Du Thet, she decided to form an even larger expedition. She and the Jesuits were going to establish a new colony elsewhere. Poutrincourt commenced a complicated legal proceeding. He was put in jail but eventually released.
- With all the delays, it was too late to send supplies to Port-Royal. He would have to wait until the Spring of 1613.

- March 12, 1613 The *Jonas* (commanded by Mme de Guercheville's agent, René Le Coq de La Saussaye - sailed from Honfleur with 48 on board.
- Nearly two months later, reached Cap de la Héue (Cape LaHave) where the passengers said mass and erected a cross on which were affixed Mme de Guercheville's coat of arms as a sign of having taken possession of the area in her name.
- May 5, 1613 The Grâce-de-Dieu left France for Port-Royal. Poutrincourt had obtained funds and help from La Rochelle merchants Macain and Georges.
- May 16, 1613 The *Jonas* arrived at Port-Royal where they found Louis Hébert was in charge. Fathers Biard & Massé, servant Guillaume Crito, Biencourt were off fishing.
- Around May 20, 1613 The *Jonas* sailed from Port-Royal bound for Kadesquit on the Penobscot River, Maine.
- They came out of the fog near Mount Desert Island where they entered today's Frenchman Bay. Said mass and planted a cross, and named the place Saint-Sauveur.
- While deciding whether or not to continue to Kadesquit, sails of a different kind appeared on the horizon.
- Early summer 1613 Captain Samuel Argall, Admiral of Virginia, was empowered to expel all foreign intruders from English-claimed territory. Argall was on his way to the Kennebec River (in the *Treasurer*) which he used as a summer fishing base. Strong winds threw him off course and when the weather cleared on July 2nd, he and his crew of 60 men found themselves near Mount Desert Island.
- July 2, 1613 The English sailed into Frenchman Bay and found the *Jonas*. The English captured the French vessel as almost everyone in it was on shore.
- Meanwhile, Argall returned to Jamestown to report to the Governor. He was directed to sail north and to plunder all

French ships and destroy all settlements as far as Cape Breton.

Landed at Saint-Sauveur: destroyed settlement, tore down the French cross and replaced it with one bearing the name of the king of England.

St. Croix Island: burned the remnants of de Mons' 1604 settlement

October 31, 1613 Argall entered Port-Royal and found Habitation empty. After plundering the rooms, the English raiders stripped the buildings of all useful materials. Then they set the place on fire.

November 13, 1613 Argall sailed from Port-Royal satisfied that he had proclaimed English sovereignty of the area.

The *Jonas*, with Lt. Turner in command with Fathers Biard and Quentin, and Guillaume Crito on board, was blown off course and ended up in the Portuguese Azores.

mid-February 1614 They reached Milford Haven, Wales. Late April, they finally reached France.

This set the stage for the struggle for supremacy in North America that would last over the next 150 years.

Spring 1614 Poutrincourt returned to Port-Royal with Louis Hébert and David Lomeron. Found his Habitation destroyed.

Poutrincourt's son, Biencourt, Charles de La Tour and the others had spent the winter with the Mi'kmaq but were near to starvation.

Poutrincourt deeded his holdings to his son and left for France,

Biencourt, Charles de La Tour, his father Claude, and a few others stayed on at Port-Royal.

Biencourt or Charles de La Tour built a fort next to the ruins of the Port-Royal Habitation.

- 1617-1618 Biencourt shifted his base from Port-Royal to Cape Sable.
- 1623 Biencourt died. He left his territory and rights in Acadie to his brother, Jacques de Biencourt, living in France, and direction of the settlement to his friend, Charles de La Tour.
- Charles de La Tour built a fort at Cape Sable which was the last remaining French presence in Acadie. He carried on a sizable fur trade, farmed, and married a Mi'kmaw woman with whom he had 3 daughters.
- La Tour would later bring families to settle in Acadie.
- By 1620's Yet another group would claim territories.
- 1629 A group of Scottish settlers built a fort at the confluence of the Annapolis and Allain Rivers, near the spot where the French had planted their wheat from 1605 - 1613.
- Scots only stayed 3 years. Vestiges of the Scots' fort form part of today's Fort Anne. They named the area: Nova Scotia, meaning New Scotland.
- 1625 Coat of Arms granted to Sir William Alexander by Charles I of England. Still serves as the province's coat of arms.
- 1632 Port-Royal handed back to French by Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye, and for a few years in the 1630's, LaHave was the principal French settlement under the leadership of Isaac de Razilly.
- 1636 Razilly died. Charles de Menou d'Aulnay became new leader. Most of the settlers relocated to Port-Royal, establishing themselves where the Scots had placed their fort.
- 1630's The first French families began to settle in Acadie.
- 1650 Approximately 50 families (around 400 inhabitants) lived in Acadie. These families formed the foundation for the development of the Acadian people.

- 1911 Dr. William F. Ganong investigated and marked what he believed was the position of the original Habitation.
- 1924 Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada erected a plaque commemorating the national significance of the site.
- The idea of reconstructing the Habitation took hold. The project was conceived and spearheaded by Harriette Taber Richardson, an American from Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- She proposed that the descendants of the New Englanders and Virginians who had destroyed the original in 1613 undertake the reconstruction of the Habitation.
- L.M. Fortier, Honorary Superintendent of Fort Anne National Historic Park; and Lieutenant-Colonel E.K. Eaton were keen supporters. So was the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal.
- 1930 The building fund accumulated a goodly sum before the economic depression.
- 1938-39 The property came up for sale. The Province of Nova Scotia then purchased the property on behalf of the Canadian Government. Work on the site began September 1938.
- One of the consultants for the site was Charles W. Jefferys.
- Present-day archaeologists have re-examined the evidence and have concluded that there was no conclusive proof that the reconstruction was re-built on the exact location of the original Habitation.
- July 4, 1941 Habitation was officially opened.