

Expedition of 1662

In the spring of 1662, Groseilliers and Radisson proposed to make another tour to the remotest nations, and the Governor of Canada expressed his willingness to give them a license, provided they would take with them two of his servants and allow him one-half of the peltries obtained. Looking upon the demand as unjust, they quietly made their arrangements to slip away, which they did on the second of May,¹ in company with a party of Indians returning to the Sault, at the entrance of Lake Superior. Their purpose was to find Hudson's Bay by way of Lake Superior. In time they camped by the Utawas, now Ottawa River, Lake Huron, "ready" writes Radisson, "to wander on that sweet sea." Following the route from Georgian Bay, by the straits of the Manitoulin Island, they came to the rapids "that make the separation of the Lake of the Hurons and that we call Superior, or Upper" lake. Here they rested for some time, and ate "assickamack," whitefish.

Exploration of Lake Superior

While Radisson's dates are confusing, yet he gives a very correct account of the earliest explorations of the south shore of Lake Superior, and asserts that he was the first white man to visit the Arched Rock. The first stopping place, after entering Lake Superior was an isle designated as "Isle of the Four Beggars;" from thence they paddled toward the south shore, and came to a small stream, which the Indians called Pawabick Konesibis, and in the vicinity found pieces of copper, and were told that it was abundant; probably the Little Iron River. The weather was becoming cold, and they pushed on to an escarpment of rocks, which Indians called Namitouck Sinagoit. Within an arch was a cave, and Radisson writes: "I gave it the name of the Portal of St. Peter, because my name is so-called, and that I was the first Christian who ever saw it."

The next they saw were three beautiful islands in front of a very deep bay. The islands are called Trinity; these, on modern maps, are marked Huron Islands. Going to the

¹ *Journal des Jésuites.*