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NOTES ON SITES OF HURON VILLAGES.

Township of Mendota.

(Simcoe Co.)

by

Andrew F. Hunter.

1902.

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NOTES ON  
SITES OF HURON VILLAGES  
IN THE  
TOWNSHIP OF MEDONTE (SIMCOE CO.)

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By ANDREW F. HUNTER, M.A.

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## INTRODUCTION.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The Township of Medonte has a central position in the hilly tract between Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe, where the Huron Indians lived during the first half of the seventeenth century. It is of a regular shape, about nine miles from north to south, and twelve from east to west. An alluvial plain occupies nearly all of its westerly side. Proceeding from this plain, three sharply-cut valleys (whose bottoms have a level similar to that of the plain) traverse diagonally from southwest to northeast the remaining parts of the township, dividing its surface into four well-defined portions. I shall call these its four ridges, though each might be more fitly called a group of ridges than a single one. Through each of the three valleys flows a river, thus more effectually dividing the township into four natural divisions. The names of the rivers are the Hogg, Sturgeon and Coldwater. Besides these, the North River crosses the southeasterly corner of the Township, but only slightly affects the physical features. The four ridges thus formed, with a river between every two, may be named: (1) The Waverley Ridge, west of Hogg River; (2) the Vasey ridge, between that river and the Sturgeon; (3) the Mount St. Louis ridge (which in Tay I called the Rosemount ridge), lying between the Sturgeon and the Coldwater; (4) the Coulson ridge, lying along the whole southerly side of the township, and which really consists of the ends of various high ridges in the northern part of the adjoining Township of Oro.

Each ridge consists of high rolling ground, well suited for Huron occupation; and on all the ridges village sites are found in considerable numbers, especially along their edges, where the land rises out of the valleys. The distribution of Huron village sites depends on the physical features—on the extent and directions of the ridges and the courses of the rivers—as I pointed out in the township reports previously issued. It is not a part of the plan of this enquiry to give a complete account of the physical features of the township, but it is indispensable for the proper understanding of Huron occupation to know the main features of its surface.

## THE RAISED BEACHES.

Up the sides of the ridges there are many raised lake beaches, and the terraces cut by them may be clearly seen. Everywhere we see these proofs that what is now land has been lake bottom, and that this change from water to land has taken place in very recent geological ages. Though at first sight these raised beaches may appear to have little bearing upon our subject, at a closer examination they will be found to possess an intimate relation to the villages.

Now, along these old beaches in many places there are swampy patches, often quite narrow, but made very wet by springs issuing

at these lines. Here moisture is kept all the year round, and frequently the springs are so strong as to trickle out and form rills or rivulets, flowing onward to the rivers, and, in fact, producing them. It seems that when the old lake surface stood for a time at each of these marks, underground courses of the water were established, so as to let the drainage out of the ground at the level of the existing shore line. The process of forming other similar underground courses was repeated as often as the water surface fell and made a new beach. And now, after thousands of years (the lake level having sunk some hundreds of feet lower), these old underground water courses continue to be the grooves in which the natural drainage of the land is discharged to the surface of the ground. Like many people, otherwise well-meaning and estimable, the springs have shown a tendency to get into ruts, out of which you cannot possibly shake them.

Almost invariably at the springs along these lines the Huron aborigines selected their dwelling-places, and got their supplies of fresh water. And, accordingly, the line followed by an old beach in nine cases out of ten becomes the line along which the Huron villages are situated.

Our own ancestors, before the invention of pumps or wells, lived in similar situations. Topley (*Journal Anthropol. Inst.* iii., 34-49) shows that in the southeast of England, "along the foot of the chalk escarpment, where the settlers found good water," there is a line of village communities; and that of 125 parishes along the Weald, no less than "119 belong to villages situated at the foot of the escarpment." Let nobody make this resemblance a proof of the identity of our own ancestors and the Hurons, or of the Anglo-Israel and the Indian-Israel theories. Nor need anyone anxious to promulgate some new theory imagine he sees in this circumstance the effects of European (French) influence on Huron customs. To settle near where fresh water was to be found was an indigenous custom among the Hurons. Human needs are much the same in all ages and countries, and will compel widely separated races to act alike under similar conditions.

That strong beach known as the "Algonquin" furnished many of the Huron villages in Medonte and elsewhere with their water-supply. More than a fifth of the villages are beside it, while nearly all the others are found in close proximity to higher beaches. In this township the "Algonquin" is about 250 feet above the present level of Georgian Bay. The extinct lake which formed it, as well as its higher-level predecessors, washed through each of the channels between the four ridges, the latter having been islands in these old lakes. They rise to a considerable height in some places—at one place on the Gloucester road, near the Township Hall, the top of the ridge is about 530 feet higher than the Coldwater River. With the fall of the "Algonquin" Lake's surface to a lower level (or better, with the rise of the land), the channels between the "islands" became dry, and it is only in the Coldwater valley that the beaches

of the succeeding Great Nipissing series make their appearance. These do not run much farther up the valley than Hobart.

Still further, in the absence of good contour maps of the district, such as the Ordnance Survey maps of Great Britain, these beaches, if mapped, will serve as altitude lines. They are easily observed, and their altitudes may be readily taken by means of a pocket aneroid. No large sum of money, therefore, need be expended for level-surveying; in fact, levelling instruments are not even required to get the contours. In a limited area like a township, where the effect of uplift on the beaches is insignificant, they become, in short, natural altitude lines, the marks of which are permanently on the ground itself.

Accordingly, for the purpose of showing the intimate relations between the raised beaches and the village sites, as well as for recording the altitudes of the different parts of the township, I have adopted the plan of mapping these beaches, as in the Report on Tay. It is not easy to indicate profile on a flat map as clearly as one might wish. In making a choice of graphic conventions for showing beaches, a slight change is made upon the symbols used in the Tay Report. For the "Algonquin" beach the heavy curving line is omitted for the sake of simplicity, and shading is alone used, such as map-makers generally use when hills or other kinds of relief are to be shown. Similar shading shows, in the order of ascent, the next strong beach (probably a tidal one, as its appearance indicates), at about 110 feet higher; and likewise the strong beach about 230 feet above the "Algonquin." The latter occurs only on the Mount St. Louis ridge, and along the southwest part of the township. The lower beaches of the Great Nipissing series in the Cold-water valley are less intimately associated with Huron sites than in Tay, and I therefore omit them from the map, so as to avoid the multiplication of details.

#### THE SHORELINE OF 1649.

It is safe to assert that Champlain and Brebeuf landed among the Hurons on a beach that is now high and dry, the surface of Georgian Bay being many feet lower in our time than in theirs. At Ste. Marie on the Wye, one of the most prominent features of the ruin is its system of artificial trenches, or what the English translator of Isaiah might call its "brooks of defence." The visitor must have observed how these are now entirely destitute of water, the river being many feet below, and incapable of filling them. When the writer measured the amount of this drop (September 13, 1901), it was ten feet from the surface of the river to the top of the bank, where the main trench enters. The brow of this bank has probably suffered denudation, and the fort itself is now more than forty yards distant and on slightly higher ground. Hence it would appear to require at least twelve feet of a rise to completely fill all the empty trenches.



The surface of the Wve in this part of its course, viz., between Mud Lake and Georgian Bay, a distance of about a mile, has the same level as that of the bay itself. When the surface of the bay rises or falls with any change in the direction of the wind (and here the wind exercises a great influence over the level in the long arms of Matchedash Bay), a current is set up. It flows inward or outward according to circumstances, and locally is called a "tide." Accordingly, our measurement of the fall of the river by twelve feet, since the fort was abandoned in 1649, also holds true of the surface of Georgian Bay itself.

A similar measurement of the drop is obtained from Ste. Marie on Christian Island, which was also built upon the shore in 1649, but is now quite high above the present shore.

This lowering of the water does not seem to have occurred suddenly. Fully one-third of it took place in the nineteenth century. There are persons living who remember the time when the bay level was four feet higher. Due allowance has to be made for the direction of the wind and for the time of the year at which the observation is made, as it appears to have become subject to greater fluctuations with the seasons after the surrounding land began to get cleared. But, making every allowance, a decline of the level within the memory of living persons is well established.

Since Bayfield's survey of Georgian Bay, about 1820, the fall of level to the present time has been estimated at four feet six inches, and various portions of land, which were islands then, are now, at all seasons, parts of the mainland\*

The Ojibway land surrender of 1798 became the townships of Tiny and Tay. The southerly boundary of this tract (which is also the northerly boundary of Medonte) appears to have been measured from the head of Coldwater Bay across the peninsula to Nottawasaga Bay. This information furnishes us with the means of knowing where the head of Coldwater Bay was fixed at the time that survey was made. But to-day the bay head is about a mile farther north. The land in the Coldwater valley is quite low for a long way up—only a few feet higher than the present bay level; and we are thus shown how far the bay recedes down the valley with a fall of about four feet in eighty or ninety years. A full consideration of this question of the old water level, from the foregoing sources of evidence, accordingly becomes important in connection with the northeast corner of Medonte. Taking into account all the facts in the case, it is not easy to escape from the conclusion that in Huron times, when the level of the water was twelve feet higher, the head of Coldwater Bay was about three miles up the valley (i.e., about two within Medonte.)

The higher shore line of 1649 would necessarily be, in many other places, more deeply serrated with long bays than the present shore line: and this circumstance supplies an explanation as to

\* I am indebted to C. E. Newton, Esq., of Victoria Harbor, for having called my attention to this circumstance.

some features of Ducreux's map, which was published in 1660. It is really a map of the old shore line, and it would be difficult to identify it with the existing beach, even after making due allowance for the probable lack of any actual survey on the part of its makers. There is much discrepancy, at any rate, between the prolonged Coldwater Bay, as shown on that map, and the actual Bay on maps of our day; and there is nothing unreasonable in supposing that the difference arises from an extension of the Bay three miles farther up the valley.

The conclusion thus reached suggests a query as to the seeming eccentricities of some other early maps of our lakes and water-courses, especially maps of any small area prepared with minuteness of outline. May not their deviations from modern contours be partly due to the change of a few feet in level, rather than wholly to blundering of the draughtsmen?

Some further circumstances of less importance, but still having a bearing on the subject of the water level, deserve notice. In Tiny and Tay, as also at Coldwater, amongst remains of the aborigines found lower than the old level of 1649, and near the present shore line, Lorraine or double-barred crosses are usually found. These belong to the period after 1715, and therefore cannot be classed as Huron relics. In these low parts, also, there is an absence of French axes of the seventeenth century. The latter is purely negative evidence, and we should be lacking in scientific caution if we accepted it as proof of the wider extension of the waters in Huron times, especially up the Coldwater valley. But it has its due significance, and is worthy of note.

The writer is unable to say that he has observed shore line markings at exactly 12 feet above the present water level. But a raised beach (the lowest to be seen) can be observed around Victoria Harbor at about 18 feet above the present level. And in the Coldwater valley, also, I observed marks which I measured at about 20 feet above. It is doubtless the same raised beach in both localities, the small difference of two feet in the measurement being probably due to uplift. Is this the shore line of 1649? As the water surface here is raised many feet during every storm from the northwest, one might have some inclination to identify them. It is more probable, however, that the 18-foot beach belongs to a century before the Hurons, and that few or no markings survive of the beach of 1649. Then, as now, the surface was perhaps slowly falling. The subject is one of much interest, as well as value, and deserves to be carefully worked out. From the various phenomena referred to in connection with the raised beach at 18 feet and the parts below it, some idea of age can be formed. It serves as a chronometer, about three centuries having elapsed since it was occupied by the water; and it gives promise of being a geological timepiece of some value, affording us an idea of the long lapse of time since the higher raised beaches were formed.

## OTHER PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Other circumstances, besides the division of the township into four natural parts or ridges, had their effects upon the distribution of Huron population. As I pointed out in the report on Tay, the Sturgeon River appears, from the abundance of Huron remains near it, to have been thickly inhabited on both sides, and the same abundance is found in Medonte as well as Tay. This result agrees with Ducreux's map, which marks a chain of villages along the easterly side of the river. Perhaps the thick population here was due to the good beaver-hunting and the fishings along the river.

It is said that when the first settlers came to Medonte the Sturgeon River was well supplied with fish, among which were doubtless the sturgeon, otherwise the river would have received some different name. But the brushwood and fallen timber was afterward cleared out of the stream, and sawlogs were floated down from the Clipper Mill, in Concession V. This checked the fish from increasing. Besides, there are now two mill dams in the river, which further reduce their numbers. The consequence is that bass, catfish, perch, sturgeon, and pike are seldom or never caught in the river; only a few large brook trout and grey suckers are found. Beaver marshes are to be seen along the river, which show the presence of beavers in former times, and which may also partly account for the preference the Hurons had for it.

That a greater number of sites face the Sturgeon River than the Coldwater is perhaps accounted for by the fact that the Coldwater has no beaver marshes, so far as I can learn, and certain kinds of fish have not been plentiful in it. This might be because of the coldness of the water, but I cannot say positively. Still further, the hills that face the Coldwater are generally steeper than those facing the Sturgeon, and there are fewer spurs that could be used as dwelling places—considerations that might have had some influence on their choice.

In concluding our general survey of the physical features, and their bearing upon Huron occupation, it should be added that from the three main valleys there run lateral gullies, at the heads of which villages were often located.

No rocks are exposed anywhere in the township, but steep cliffs of boulder clay often confront the traveller. In some places there are patches of boulders, though probably none of these are so extensive as the patches in Tay.

The hills of Medonte (for which the township is noted) have been the cause of many deviations in the public roads, which have had to be deflected in order to avoid the steep places. Further deviations are due to "jogs" or irregularities in the survey, which probably arose from the same cause, viz., its hilliness. In a number of places some of the roads are still unopened owing to the practical difficulties in road-making across swamps and over hills.

At these places the road allowances are marked on the map by dotted lines.

All the roads are marked on the map, by means of which the reader can adopt a scale of measurement for any distances he may require to know. In that part of the township called the Old Survey, which consists of Concessions One and Two, the sideroads are placed at every fifth lot, and are a mile and a quarter apart (100 chains). The lots number from south to north, beginning with No. 41 at Craighurst, and ending with No. 75 at Waverley. In the First Concession they are a mile and a quarter deep, but those in the Second have a depth of only one-half of that amount. Concessions Three to Fourteen make up the New Survey. These are five-sixths of a mile wide (66 2-3 chains), and have sideroads at every fifth lot, or a mile and seven-eighths apart (600 rods). The lots are numbered from south to north also in the New Survey, running from No. One to No. Twenty-four.

It would be confusing to use numbers for the "lines" or roads between two concessions, as the usage of the settlers in Medonte differs from that of many other townships. They give the number of a concession to the line after it, and not to the one before it, as in so many other townships.

#### WHAT HURON TRIBES OCCUPIED MEDONTE ?

Although there are four clearly-defined ridges in the township, occupied by four groups of villages more or less distinct from each other, it is improbable that they represent as many distinct Huron tribes. The Jesuit Relations frequently divide the whole of the Hurons into Attignauentans, Ataronchronons, Attignenonghacs, and Arendaronons. In our formerly published reports, we found that about the middle of the historic period, viz., about 1640, the first of these—the Attignauentans or Bear people—lived in Tiny; and that the Ataronchronons lived in Tay. The result of our present enquiry is to find that the Attignenonghacs or Cord people lived entirely within Medonte, and that a few villages of the remaining subdivision—the Arendaronons, or Rock people—occur also within the township.

In any attempt to assign these tribes to particular parts of the district, it will be well to emphasize the fact that such attempt can only apply to a time about the middle of the historic period, 1615-1650, say 1640. At one time or other each of the four tribes probably passed over or sojourned in Medonte, leaving their relics strewn over the ground, and their village sites for our entertainment or confusion. In the beginning of the historic period, Champlain (whether from omission on his part or because there were no others in the district at the time), mentions the Bears as the only tribe in all the district. But later writers distinguished four principal tribes. Some give their names as above, while others give them as the Bear, Wolf, Hawk, and Heron people. The latter was evidently a classification of them into clans rather than into tribes.

But their villages might have been loosely, or in some general way, occupied by families having the same totem, and thus there would be some correspondence between tribes and clans. If we try to get any light on the geographical position of the clans from the distribution of their totem pipes (bears, wolves, hawks, and herons), we fail, so far as I have collected any evidence on this point. I have found that the different kinds of totem pipes are spread over the district without regard to any particular locality. Some day, however, by a closer scrutiny of this feature, a numerical preponderance amongst these pipes may be found which will throw new light upon the subject.

Even about the time in question the lines of demarcation were not so sharp as we might expect. On Ducreux's map, which gives the positions of the missions as they were about 1640, those along the east side of the Sturgeon River are given as follows:—"S. Joannis, S. Joachimi, Arethsi, S. Ignatii." These are obviously situated on a single ridge—the Mount St. Louis ridge, which extends into Tay. And it is to be observed that these missions, although on the same ridge, belonged to no less than three of the tribes. The Relation of 1640 informs us that St. Jean (S. Joannis), which should be distinguished from St. Jean Baptiste, was among the Ataronchronons, who doubtless lived in Tay; that St. Joachim was among the Arendaronons; and that St. Ignace was among the Attigenonghacs. Notwithstanding this apparent want of correspondence between tribes and ridges, it is probable that the Attigenonghacs were the occupants of the greater portion of the Mount St. Louis Ridge and of the whole of the Vasey and Waverley Ridges, for a considerable period.

On the margin of high land along the south side of the township, which we have called the Coulson Ridge, beginning at the south-west corner, and for some considerable distance along this ridge, there were not enough villages, so far as our enquiries have yielded any results, to enable us to arrive at any definite conclusion as to the kinds of Hurons that occupied them. In these parts, perched on tables or terraces around this high ground, which extends into Oro, were five villages of early date: Nos. 49, 50, 51, 52, 53. They show features similar to those of the adjoining parts of Oro, which were perhaps early villages of the Attigenonghacs.

#### POSITION OF THE ARENDARONONS OR ROCK TRIBE.

To determine the position of this important branch of the Hurons is not so easy as might first appear. Their more probable abode, at least of most of their villages, was in northeastern Oro, in the vicinity of Bass Lake, where a large number of village sites have come to light. This was the view advanced by the writer in some notes in the Burrows Reissue of the Jesuit Relations, and nothing has since transpired that would demand any change of this opinion. The remains found in Medonte near Fairvalley and War-

minster were perhaps of outlying villages of the same tribe, which extended northwestward to the Mount St. Louis Ridge, as we have just seen. But the early Algonquins, among whom the mission of Ste. Elizabeth was established, were also near, if not within the township. The exact position of the latter, however, cannot be determined without an exploration of the adjacent Township of Orillia, to find any differences that might exist between their sites and relics, and those of the Hurons.

#### THE VILLAGE SITES.

In making these notes in the field and bringing them together for the descriptions of the 75 village sites, some disadvantages have been met with. It is probable that the numerous changes of residence among the settlers of Medonte have resulted in limiting my resources of information,—arrivals and departures having taken place quite frequently on almost every farm since the land began to be cleared. And my promiscuous or disconnected methods of enquiry from the present occupants have doubtless prevented me from learning of many more. Hence one-half of the places where Huron aborigines had camped may still be left unrecorded.

But our survey of the township, which is thus avowedly so incomplete, probably includes the more important sites, and especially the bonepits, which are almost always well-known, and the topics of general conversation. Enough has been done to show the distribution of the villages along the borders of the ridges where these meet the valleys, the courses of the Huron trails, the places of thickest population, etc. Briefly, a collection of data has been formed that will be useful in taking a first step toward an improved view of the Huron occupation of this township, and indeed of the district generally.

In the descriptions of the sites, much of the material is the result of my own observations. Some of the statements, however, are necessarily made upon the oral testimony of persons untrained to observe, or what, so far as I am concerned, was "hearsay evidence." It is in the nature of things for all evidence to become "hearsay" with each remove from its source. But so much information has already been lost that even going over the ground as a reporter would do and noting interviews should be received with satisfaction, as it is in many cases the best that can now be done for the subject. This portion of the notes is thus quite as reliable as newspaper literature, and, indeed, more so, because it has been carefully sifted. Every effort has been made to keep a sure footing on the ground of ascertained fact.

The usual signs of a village are the ashbeds and blackened patches where the cabins stood, and over which the ground is strewn with fragments of pottery, with other fragmental deposits of domestic utensils, and occasionally a whole relic. In view of the fact that ashes check the decay of organic matter, it is possible to understand why black patches mark the spots where the lodges

were erected. Nearly the whole ground of a site would become black from the offal, etc., of the villagers. But decomposition would soon restore its first color to the soil, and in the opinion of the writer the ashbeds have been the cause of checking this decay in patches. In other words, the progress of decomposition was arrested wherever ashes were strewn amongst the organic matter. Calcined fragments of wood are also very durable, but they do not fully account for the extensive patches of black ground found at every site.

The village sites are distributed on the four ridges, as follows:—Waverley Ridge, 7; Vasey Ridge, 14; Mount St. Louis Ridge, 27; Coulson Ridge and adjacent parts, 24; in the lower half of the Coldwater Valley (of recent dates), 3. On the high central Mount St. Louis Ridge, villages were more numerous, and population appears to have been thicker, than on the other ridges. But it should be borne in mind that these seventy-five villages were not all occupied at the same time. Our plan of numbering and describing them is to begin at the northwest angle of the township and take each of the four natural groups in succession.

It has now been made sufficiently clear that the favorite dwelling-place of the Hurons was on the hills, nearly always at an old beach where abundance of spring water could be had. Besides the better security to be found in hilly situations, there was, perhaps, something in the nature of the Huron races themselves that required their settlement on hills where the soil and the air were both drier than on the low ground. They always selected for their sites porous or sandy loam with natural drainage. The habitat of the Hurons upon the hills of Medonte and adjoining townships was thus well pronounced in its type. It differed widely from that of another earlier Indian race in parts of the same district, and was in striking contrast with the latter, signs of which occur especially along the lower waters of the Nottawasaga River, near Georgian Bay, the remains of the two races, however, being placed favorably for comparison.

The Huron villages were of all sizes. Those at which bonepits occur were generally large. When compared with the villages of Europeans, or even with those of modern Indians, the large populations in Huron villages appear to have been huddled together in an extreme degree. The largest site, No. 26, covered a space of about 15 acres; and as I have explained in the description to be found on a subsequent page, it was probably St. Joseph, which was alleged to contain 400 families, or at least 2,000 souls, at the time of its surprise in 1648.

Some of the villages were doubtless palisaded, but no traces remain of embankments, and it would require much examining with the spade to find the palisade of any particular site. This was not attempted by the writer in any case. But palisading may often be inferred from the position of the site on an isolated hill or on a spur. We cannot think the precaution of selecting a na-

turally fortified position would be taken without the construction of the palisade itself. Amongst the villages that in this way prove to have been palisaded were:—Nos. 3, 11, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 35, and 53.

Earthworks, in the special sense of the word, are entirely absent. But embankments or trenches of a fragmental kind are mentioned under Sites Nos. 26, 32, and 37. And as iron relics are found at all three places, it is not improbable that early French missionaries or traders had something to do with their construction.

The metal portions of articles that the French traders brought to the district, or that Hurons visiting the city of Quebec procured by bartering furs, are found in abundance. Conspicuous among these is the iron tomahawk, which has been found in thousands. Such metal relics are definitely reported from 55 of the villages herein described, or 73 per cent. On passing from the three northerly ridges to the southerly one, iron relics cease to be so plentiful in the latter ridge as in the former. This greatly decreased proportion makes a distinctive feature, that deserves to be carefully noted.

The usual kinds of stone, bone, horn, shell, and pottery relics, usually found on aboriginal sites everywhere, are common here. But it cannot be denied that, in comparison with village sites of some other races of Indians, more especially with those of earlier date than the Hurons, their sites are not so prolific in relics, nor are their patterns so luxurious, as the large population would lead us to expect. It is extremely desirable that persons who collect relics should carefully record the exact site where each relic was found. It is only in this way that relic-hunting is of any value as an aid to history, here or anywhere else.

#### TEANAUSTAYÉ, OR ST. JOSEPH (II.)

It should prove interesting to scrutinize the village sites, and seek to identify this mission—the scene of the massacre of Father Daniel and a large number of Hurons in 1648. If a person desires to form some idea as to where it ought to be located on our modern maps, and, taking Ducreux's map as a guide, were to select a spot, in all probability the spot chosen would prove to be at some village site, there are so many. Another chance, however, is that the spot would be in a swamp, where no actual sites occur. Thus, so little is to be gained from Ducreux's map, that almost all we can infer from it is that St. Joseph (II.) was somewhere northwest from the sources of the Coldwater River. It could not have been in the low ground, near the river, because, as we have just seen, the Hurons avoided low ground for their dwelling places. Hence, it was likely one of the villages on the Mount St. Louis Ridge.

The Jesuit Relations furnish us with some collateral evidence of its distances from points whose positions are known more or less definitely. It was seven or eight leagues from Ihonatiria (Relation, 1635, Quebec Edition, p. 39), which was somewhere near the north



end of Tiny Township. It was a league and a quarter (Relation, 1639, p. 72) from Scanonaenrat (St. Michael), which was sometimes classed as an Attignenonghac village, like St. Joseph (II.) itself, and which was immediately north or northwest of Orr Lake. It was five leagues from Ste. Marie on the Wye (Relation, 1644, p. 76), the position of which is exactly known.

Taking into account that there were many windings in the trails, and that measurements of distances would follow their meanderings, the foregoing data lead us to the conclusion that it could not have been farther south than the Mount St. Louis Ridge. The Coulson Ridge would be too far south. A scrutiny of the villages upon the Mount St. Louis Ridge shows that No. 26 was the largest and most probable site.

Father Martin showed such good judgment in all questions relating to the sites of the missions, when we consider what were his opportunities fifty years ago, that it is worth while taking into account his opinion as to the position of this mission. In the appendix to his "Life of Jogues," he tells us that "Ducreux's map and historical references seem to indicate as its site a point now called Irish Settlement, in the north of Medonte District (township). Traces of a large Indian town, and especially fragments of coarse pottery, are found here." Father Martin means, of course, the Irish Settlement around Mount St. Louis, and in particular the Fitzgerald site (No. 26), as I have definitely learned from John P. Hussey, who accompanied him while he was in this neighborhood in 1855. Dr. Tache also believed at one time that Fitzgerald's site was St. Joseph (II.), according to Cornelius Frawley, who worked with him during his archaeological excursions. But from the map he supplied to Parkman at a later time for the "Jesuits in North America," he appears to place it farther south. The only evidence at hand, therefore, goes to show that Tache's opinion, at the best, was vague and unsettled.

#### THE FOREST TRAILS.

A trail ran along each of the four ridges, and another crossed them transversely, connecting with the four ridge trails, as the trunk of a tree with its branches. We shall call the transverse one the Main Trail. From the positions of important villages, from the finding of isolated relics along the lines of travel, from the fact that they have been kept open till recently, and from the topography, we are able to lay down the positions of all these trails with some accuracy. In our survey, village sites have been found in sufficient numbers to show where the centres of Huron population were located, and how they were placed in relation to each other; and therefore, if these afford any evidence, how the trails ran. The occurrence of different kinds of forests, too, compelled the Hurons to select and follow routes along the highest parts of the ridges, where the woods were open, and free from underbrush. In the low ground of the valleys, evergreen thickets checked their progress.

The four ridge trails were :— (1) The one to Victoria Harbor, (2) the trail on the Vasey Ridge, (3) the Gloucester Trail, and (4) the Coldwater Trail. Modern Indians followed all these routes; they were Ojibbeways, but they kept open the forest trails of the Hurons until recent years, as I have already pointed out in my Reports on Tiny and Tay.

#### THE MAIN TRAIL.

This crossed the valleys from one ridge to the next at the narrowest places. It appears to have entered Medonte about lot No. 73, Concession L, having followed the Waverley Ridge from villages in Flos and Tiny, which have been described in my Report on the latter township. This trail, with its extension to the Neutrals, was doubtless the one laid down on some early maps as coincident in a degree with the modern Penetanguishene Road. After following the Waverley Ridge, the trail crossed to the Vasey Ridge, near site No. 7, under which a description of the crossing may be found. It soon reached a huckleberry marsh, around which Hurons swarmed in great numbers, as the remains indicate; then dipped down into the valley of Sturgeon River, which it crossed near Site No. 13. It reached the high land of the Mount St. Louis Ridge, near Site No. 26, which I consider was Teanaustaye, or St. Joseph (II.). From this place its course is not quite so evident. Yet, one of its branches, beginning near this village, is known to have proceeded to the Neutrals. And it is to be noted further, that if we continue the trail as we have laid it down to this place, that is, carrying the line forward in the same direction, and passing Sites No. 52 and No. 53, to the south side of the township, it will reach a group of important villages in Oro, where bonepits were numerous, and where the ridges run chiefly at right angles to those of Medonte, and in a line with this Main Trail. No other important group of sites lies to the westward of these, and it is, therefore, probable that the line we have thus drawn, was the leading course taken by the traders and missionaries when going from St. Joseph (II.) to the Arendaronons, and particularly to St. Jean Baptiste. On this view the Coldwater River would be crossed at lot No. 5, about the line between the Fifth and Sixth Concessions, and this place proves, on inspection, to be a good natural crossing. The ground, higher than the "Algonquin" beach, makes its nearest approach to the river at lot No. 8, Concession 5, on the north side: while on the south, the foot of the high ground, known as Leith's Hill, is at the boundary between lots No. 4 and No. 5. At the river itself, in lot No. 5, there is the good crossing-place just mentioned, cliffs of sand facing it on both sides. The latter are the sides of a canyon, about 50 feet deep, through which the river here flows, or, perhaps, of a passage made narrow at this place by an extensive sand-spit, washed from the base of the high ground immediately to the northwest. Here the Hurons would find their most convenient crossing, and future research will no doubt prove

that they used this. There was at least one crossing west of this one—viz., on the trail leading to the Neutrals; but the wooded nature of the district through which it passed also prevents research for the present. As to crossing farther east, there might have been one in the vicinity of Hobart. Modern Indians have camped near the present Hobart School (lot No. 10, concession 7), and we are so accustomed to find the recent tribes following the trails of the Hurons that the circumstance is noteworthy in connection with our search for the old crossing-places in this valley. There are three sites on an isolated hill in the line of a trail at Hobart. Lower down the Coldwater Valley the land becomes deeper and wetter than at Hobart or any place westward. But in the vicinity of Eady, near the head of the Coldwater Bay of that day, there appears to have been another crossing. Here the valley was again constricted, and thus more suited for making a journey through it. And on the west side, old maps show an early road going up through lot No. 17, to the Gloucester Road, doubtless following a trail. The Relations furnish some evidence of a crossing here or at Hobart, as Father Martin, in his "Life of Jogues" (Appendix A), points out that Taenhatentaron, or St. Ignace (I.), was on the route between Teanaustaye and Cahiaque. (See Site No. 48).

#### THE TRAIL TO VICTORIA HARBOR.

This followed the Waverley Ridge, and has been already mentioned in my Report on Tay (p. 22). As very little of it lies in Medonte, it need not occupy our attention any further.

#### THE TRAIL ON THE VASEY RIDGE.

This passed along the ridge from Orr Lake to Victoria Harbor, as I pointed out in my Report on Tay (pages 22 and 32). But the evidence before us goes to show that the trail, as followed by recent Indians, was a little west of the old route, at least in some parts of its course. Huron sites occur in sufficient numbers on this ridge to enable us to lay down approximately its course in early times. It joined with the Main Trail near the huckleberry marsh described under Site No. 11, where, as I believe, there was an important Huron centre for many years.

#### THE GLOUCESTER TRAIL.

This ran to Gloucester Bay, an old name of some part of Matchedash Bay. It was opened as a Government Road about 1832, and the Gloucester Road became the leading highway through Medonte in the early years of its settlement. But it is now closed, except for two miles between Mount St. Louis and the Township Hall. Along this part of it, many signs of Indians, both early and recent, are to be found; oldappings, said to have been made by them, are still visible on maple

trees in Mr. Barr's bush (see Site No. 33). The trail was near the southerly side of the ridge, because here they found the land was higher in most places.

#### THE COLDWATER TRAIL.

This ran from Orillia to Coldwater, and was opened out as a Government road in 1830. It has been used chiefly by the Algonquins, running independently to Matchedash Bay, and was not directly connected with the trail system of the Hurons.

#### BURIALS.

In Medonte, these do not consist altogether of bonepits. Single graves among Hurons, at least in this township, appear to have been quite common. Patches of such single graves occur at the sites numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 26, 27, 29, 31, 35, 36, 37, 41, 49, 51, 64, 68, 69, 74. With almost every bonepit in the township there is associated a patch of these single graves. These are small, round pits; and a dead body, in order to fit one of them, must have been drawn up into a heap,—“the crouching posture,” as it is usually called, whether correctly or not. This is a distinctive character of Huron burials, at least those in the township whose remains are the subject of our present enquiry. These Hurons appear to have buried in the single graves first, in summer at any rate, and then transferred the bones to the large communal pits when a Feast of the Dead was called. It may be that the mode of burial indicated here was more common with the Attignenonghacs than with the other tribes, as the sites mentioned above lie chiefly in their territory. We found scarcely any single graves in Tiny and Tay (see my Reports on these townships). There were few, or they did not force themselves upon our attention.

So far as I can learn, there were no burials in mounds among these Hurons.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF THE VILLAGE SITES.

## I.—THOSE ON THE WAVERLEY RIDGE.

1. On the east half of Lot 74, Concession 1. John Scarlett. Iron tomahawks, clay pipes, pottery fragments, stone axes, etc., have been found at this site, which, with the four following, is on the highest ground in this part of the township. The indispensable supply of spring water was easily obtained from an old (though still water-bearing) beach, 110 feet above the "Algonquin." The most noteworthy feature of the site is a collection of shallow pits, or holes, in the ground. John Bell, of Waverley, estimated their number at 50, and regarded them as "warrior-holes." John Bannister, of the same place, made a similar estimate of their number. The latter, in company with a young doctor, dug into and examined one of these holes, and got a few burnt human bones. There are indications that they had been used for temporary sepulture, awaiting removal of the bones to some larger pit as soon as a "Feast of the Dead" should take place.

2. On the northeast quarter of Lot 73, Concession 1. W. H. Scarlett. Single graves, or empty caches, occurred at this site, confined to a patch of about two acres. Ashbeds were also to be seen, at which iron tomahawks and other relics were found, especially during the term of Daniel Day, who occupied this farm some years ago.

3. On the southeast quarter of Lot 73, Concession 1. T. Morrison. Iron tomahawks, beads, grains of Indian corn (carbonized with age), etc., have been found here. There were from 100 to 200 holes in the ground (similar to those described under the preceding numbers), some of them arranged in rows and cross-rows. These, or at least some of them, were probably graves of temporary use, as the finding of human bones is reported in connection with them.

4. On the northeast quarter of Lot 72, Concession 1. Robert Brown. Many iron tomahawks and other relics have been found here. Two clay pipes were given to Dr. R. W. Large, in 1892, and when his collection went into the Provincial Museum in 1897 these were included, and now appear as No. 16,719 and No. 16,720. (See 10th Archaeological Report, page 9). A cornpit was found at this site, and also shallow pits in the ground, similar to those described under the preceding numbers. One observer remarked that some of these were arranged in a circle. The abandoned beach at 110 feet above the "Algonquin" comes into the east end of this lot, and is water-bearing, and marshy here. The camps were situated on the high ground beside it, and were thus convenient to a supply of fresh water.

5. On the south half of Lot 72, Concession I. John Tweedale. Relics of various kinds, including iron tomahawks, have been found at this site. Enquiry at the next farm southward brought out the

fact that no relics occur on it except a few iron tomahawks, which have been found here and there, but do not indicate any village site. Tomahawks of this kind are frequently found on almost all the farms in this neighborhood, and are generally turned to various uses by the farmers. Since the advance in the price of iron, they are sometimes even sold to the scrap-iron dealers, who make regular visits to all the houses. The quality of the iron is first-class, belonging as it does to the period of French rule, 1615-50.

6. On Lot 69, Concession I. The west half of this lot was the original Archer homestead, and has been occupied for three or four years by Wm. Archer, jr. What appeared to be a small Huron burial ground, consisting of a few single graves, occurred at this site; but wherever there was any sign of a grave, curiosity-seekers had dug into it several years ago. The site extends into the east half of the lot, owned and occupied by Thos. McDonald. A few human bones and relics, including iron ones, have also been found on this part of the lot. The McDonald family settled here about 1860, and one of the members of the family (Mrs. Conlin, of Orr Lake) informed me that in the years immediately following their settlement they found a stone chisel, besides many pottery fragments and iron tomahawks. A small stream rises out of the "Algonquin" beach, near the site, and the "110 foot" beach also comes into the farm.

7. On the west half of Lot 68, Concession I. John Archer. (Edward Archer, sr., Hillsdale, being the owner). Iron tomahawks in considerable numbers have been found at this site. We have now reached the southeasterly corner of the first ridge. Between this and the next the land is flat and more or less swampy, the "Algonquin" beach passing through the narrow gap between the two. Within this lot, and near the site under consideration, is the narrowest part of the gap; and here, at the southerly end of it, there is a long gravel spit, or bar, built out across the old channel by the waves of former days. This bar is the watershed that divides the drainage of the Orr Lake district from that of the sources of one branch of the Hogg River; and along it (clearly because it gave the driest footing), the main trail of the Hurons seems to have passed, going from the higher ground, whose sites we have just been describing, to the next ridges.

## II.—SITES ON THE VASEY RIDGE.

8. On the east half of Lot 71, Concession 2. Thos. Jones. The occupants have found stone and iron axes, pipes, beads, arrowheads, etc., at a small site here, consisting of three or four patches of camps south of the dwelling-house. It is situated on a flat area on a very high hill. On almost every farm hereabout iron tomahawks have been found. Although the position of this village bears some resemblance to that marked *Caldaria* on Ducreux's map, it was, perhaps, too small to be a mission village.

9. On the northeast quarter of Lot 18, Concession 3. John Gawley. Many relics, especially pipes and iron axes, have been found here. On every farm adjoining this one, scattered relics, more particularly iron tomahawks, have been found.

10. In the line of the main trail a huckleberry marsh occurs on Lot 65, Concession 2, with its outlet toward the Sturgeon River. The trail probably passed on either side of this marsh, as Huron remains are abundant on both. On the northeasterly side there is a site on the west half of Lot 17, Concession 3. Franklin Bell. Villars Cripps was one of the first occupants of this farm, and found pottery fragments, pipes, iron tomahawks, etc., in abundance, especially when he cleared that part of the land on which the village was situated.

11. On the west half of Lot 16, Concession 3. Samuel Martin. On a hilltop which faces the Sturgeon River, and which occupies an angle on the westerly side of the outlet stream flowing from the huckleberry marsh, mentioned under the last number, pottery fragments and other relics, including iron tomahawks, have been found. The ashbeds of the camps are distinct. Gen. John S. Clark, of Auburn, N.Y., has called my attention to the fact that several names of Huron villages probably signify "lake," and he includes "Caldaria" of Ducreux's map in this class. He has partly worked out this idea in a valuable article on the word "Toronto," in the Ontario Archaeological Report for 1899. On this view of the meaning of the word Caldaria, I venture to give the opinion that one of the sites at this small huckleberry lake, or perhaps all taken together, is the one indicated by Ducreux. Numerous remains, which are chiefly assignable to the French or historic period, are (like those around Lannigan's Lake, in Tiny Township) quite frequent at this small lake, which is now almost dry.

12. On the east half of Lot 16, Concession 3. Its position is below the hill made by the "Algonquin" beach. Remains occur here beside the stream that flows out of the huckleberry marsh mentioned under the preceding sites. Iron tomahawks have been found, and some shallow pits were to be seen. A few of these were examined by two men, who formerly lived near the place. They found a few human bones.

13. On the east half of Lot 15, Concession 3. Duncan Barr and Chas. Todd. There are ashbeds and ashheaps here, near the left bank of the Sturgeon River. Clay and stone pipes, iron tomahawks, pottery fragments, and other relics have been found. On the same lot some shallow pits have been reported, which, on examination, yielded a few human bones. This place appears to have been at or near where the main trail crossed the Sturgeon River passing southeast to the next ridge.

14. On the east half of Lot 18, Concession 4. James Cowden. The usual pottery fragments, pipes, iron tomahawks, etc., have been found at this site.

15. On the west half of Lot 19, Concession 5. Camp sites strewn with many fragments and relics (including iron tomahawks) occur here. The edge of the hills passes through this farm.

16. On the east half of Lot 21, Concession 5. Samuel Hawthorne. Many iron tomahawks have been found on Mr. Hawthorne's land; and on adjoining fields, camps were to be seen at which the same and other kinds of relics have been found.

17. On the west half of Lot 22, Concession 5. Jas. Loney. Ashbeds strewn with the usual fragmentary relics covered a good space here. When the ground was dug for the foundation of the barn some years ago, ashes of the campfires, mixed with fragments of pottery, were found. There are indications that this was a village of considerable importance. The occupants of this farm have found iron tomahawks in considerable numbers. About 1863, when this district was covered with woods, Dr. Tache's workmen dug a bonepit near this place in a deep gully, but the bones were too much decayed to take up. One of them informed me that they found kettles in the pit.

18. On the east half of Lot 21, Concession 6. Mr. Fallis. Here was found a bonepit of good size, and we are fortunate in having the statements of so careful an observer as Prof. Henry Montgomery, now of Trinity University, Toronto, to give in connection with the pit. Prof. Montgomery examined it in 1870, and again in 1876. In an article in *The Toronto Globe*, of Aug. 3, 1878, he says:—

“One (ossuary) situated on Lot 21, Concession 6, of Medonte, is nearly circular, about 14 feet in diameter, and 8 feet in depth. A great depression was observed in the ground, it was suspected to be an Indian ‘pit’; the earth was removed to the depth of three feet, when an irregularly disposed layer of more or less flattened stones (chiefly limestone) was met with.”

The present writer applied for some further particulars regarding it to Prof. Montgomery, who kindly added:—“I took more than twenty crania from (this) ossuary. . . . I would consider it quite impossible for any person to give you the exact number of crania. I made enquiries from settlers, but received no account of brass kettles having been found in the ossuary. I certainly found none. Nor did I find relics of any other kind here. The ossuary was about fifteen feet in diameter, seven feet deep, and circular in outline. Flat limestones were found over the skeletons. . . . The majority of the crania presented by me to the Toronto University were taken by myself from the ossuary in question.” And again, in another letter, he says:—“With regard to the number of human skeletons (crania, etc.) in the aforesaid ossuary. I would venture to give 300 as a low estimate, and I have always thought there were many more than 300 in it.”

19. On the west half of lot 21, concession 7, John Tinney. Here were found the remains of many camps. At the front of his land, in his garden, and near the road, Mr. Tinney found relics, in-



cluding iron tomahawks, a stone mortar, pottery fragments, pipes, Indian corn (carbonized by age), etc. While doing statute labor on the road near Mr. Tinney's gate a few years ago one of the workmen ploughed up some human bones among the Huron camps. The most notable feature of this site was a group of shallow pits or depressions in the ground, at a short distance from it. My attention was first called to these by James Davis, then of Coulson's Corners. Mr. Davis described them as "rifle pits," and considered them to have had their origin in connection with the war in which the Hurons were engaged. He had traced 140 of the pits about the year 1870, before the forest was cleared. In the year 1889 I made a brief inspection of them, having been guided to the place by Mr. Tinney, who had lived on this farm since 1876. They appeared to be irregularly distributed over the surface of the ground. But what I saw on that occasion, I should hardly describe as pits, although the land had been under cultivation for some years and the appearance of the surface had doubtless changed. The ground was uneven, and made so apparently by artificial means; but the irregularities might have been intended for cornhills, the Hurons having used very large hillocks for this purpose. The pits would thus be the depressions between the cornhills. Prof. Montgomery also noted these, and describes them in the following terms, in reply to my enquiries:—"Not far from this ossuary (see No. 18), perhaps half a mile,—then in the woods,—I found numerous artificial pits. These may be the pits referred to in your catalogue. My recollection would lead me to place the pits I found nearly to the east of the ossuary. . . . They were mere shallow, circular depressions in the ground, but a few feet in diameter. Of the few examined, that is, excavated, most seemed to be barren as to skeletons and relics. But some Indian corn, entirely charred and in perfect shape, was found in one of them. I kept about a pint cupful of this corn in excellent condition for many years."

20. On the west half of lot 22, concession 7. Arthur Cowan formerly owned and occupied this farm. Pottery fragments, a stone mortar, iron tomahawks, and other relics were found in the rear of the farm.

21. On the west half of lot 23, concession 7. A large bone-pit was discovered here in 1869. It was opened in that year by ten men, including the following:—Jas. Davis (who gave me the first particulars of it), David Brolley (deceased), Robert Greenlaw, Jacob Belfrey, Sidney Robinson. They found it contained 440 skulls, besides other human bones; also brass kettles, two swords, iron tomahawks, etc. Many of the skulls had tomahawk or other marks upon them. A large pine tree, thought to be about 300 years old, had grown over the pit. Mr. A. C. Osborne of Penetanguishene informed me that he made some examination of it at a subsequent time. He says it was a large one, and it might have been associated with the village of Mr. J. A. Swan's farm, across the town line, in Tay Township, (see No. 29 in my Tay report), being

situated only about 60 rods south of the Tay and Medonte town line. Mr. Swan gives its position as at the foot of the hill-range; it had 500 or more skeletons, and two brass kettles were found in it.

### III.—SITES ON THE MOUNT ST. LOUIS RIDGE.

22. On lot 53, concession 2. Francis Greenlaw. The camps are within, and on both sides of, the lane leading from the road to Mr. Greenlaw's residence, though perhaps the greater part are in the orchard along the south side of the lane. They occupy a plateau, irregularly circular, which I estimated, when I visited the place on May 17, 1901, to have a diameter of about 250 paces or yards. This plateau has a ravine along its southerly edge, and a branch ravine along its easterly edge for some distance. From my inspection of the situation of this village, I concluded that it was probably palisaded, and was important. The usual relics have been found here; but one iron tomahawk has been reported, their scarcity indicating that the site was probably an early one. Nearly all the clay pipes found at this site are of a noteworthy pattern. Clay

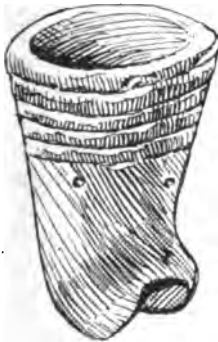


Fig. 30.



Fig. 31.

Clay Pipes of the Belt Pattern.

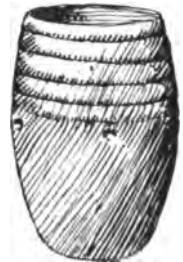


Fig. 32.

pipes bearing this design or pattern—a belt of grooves around the top of the bowl with a line of dots underneath them—are common on the village sites in this part of the township, and on sites all the way to Barrie and even farther south. For the sake of convenience I will call this style of pipe, the Belt pattern. One of the Huron nations, or rather, tribes, was known as the Cord (or perhaps Belt) "Nation," and as pipes often signified the clan or "nation" of the owner, I am inclined to think this kind of pipe indicated the cord or Belt "Nation"; though, of course, this is a mere conjecture on my part, and must await proof or disproof from subsequent research. (See figure.)

23. On the west half of lot 7, concession 4. Patrick Flanagan. This site is at the top of a very steep hill, 250 feet or more in height, at a distance of several rods southeast from the dwelling house, from which it is separated by a small ravine. Mr. Flanagan, sen., who cleared the land, informed me that it covered about two acres. When they first cleared the ground, there were surface

springs along the raised beach about 230 feet above the "Algonquin," but the water has lowered since the land was put under cultivation, and can now be found only by digging to a depth of twelve feet below the surface. There were thick deposits of ashes, in and near which he found many pottery fragments, pipes, stone axes, a copper or brass kettle (with a capacity of about six quarts), iron tomahawks, bone needles, etc. A pipe bowl found here appears to have been used for holding hematite paint after it had lost its stem.

24. On the east half of lot 10, concession 4. Cornelius Frawley. This village was romantically situated near the top of the ridge, which here attains a height of more than 500 feet above the Coldwater River in the valley along the southerly side of the ridge. Many pottery fragments and other relics were found in the ash-beds here. Mr. Houlihan, who formerly lived on this farm, had many iron tomahawks found at the site.

25. On the east half of lot 12, concession 3. John Macnamara. This site is in the woods, on a peak of land, on which the ground is quite stony. In company with James W. Fitzgerald, to whom I am indebted for much information in regard to the Huron remains of this interesting neighborhood, I visited this site on August 24, 1900, and saw evidences of occupation by early Indians at the edge of the hill, about twenty rods from the road. A shallow pit was noticed, perhaps an empty single grave or cache. On other occasions Mr. Fitzgerald had found many pottery fragments here, and once found a fragment of an iron or steel knife. In the ravine along the south side of the peak, a stream flows at most seasons, and this appears to have been the nearest supply of water for the village. The position of this site on a peak indicates palisading, *prima facie*.

#### 26. THE PROBABLE SITE OF ST. JOSEPH (II).

On the east half of lot 12, concession 4. Thos. Francis J. Fitzgerald. This is the most extensive village or town site in the district. Under the guidance of Jas. W. Fitzgerald I inspected it on Aug. 24, 1900. It occupies a level patch of ground of about fifteen acres, surrounded on three sides by gullies or ravines. Springs rise in the ravines on the north side, and unite to form a stream flowing into the Sturgeon River. Most of the soil on the site is very much blackened, indicating that the village might have been occupied for several years. It is strewn with fragments of clamshells, pottery, bones, and brass kettles, besides burnt stones, etc., while here and there artificial depressions or shallow pits are to be seen. The only cultivated part of the site at the time of my visit was a potato patch, in which the soil was everywhere black and mixed with pottery fragments, burnt stones, fragments of bird-bones, etc. At the easterly side of the village plot—the side that had no ravine—a trench of about fifty paces or yards in length was to be seen lying about N.E. by E., though it was not perfectly

straight, but slightly curved with its convexity toward the north. It was probably situated at the main gateway of the town, which doubtless had a palisade around it. While walking irregularly over the site I counted seventeen refuse-heaps; a very long one (thirty-three paces) occurs at the trench. The stump of an elm tree cut down on the site in 1898 showed 200 rings. A number of relics (chiefly metal ones) have been found at various times. These include iron tomahawks, iron knives and fragments, an iron or steel dagger, and other iron relics, besides clay pipes of varied designs, etc.

As might be expected, the mortuary remains found in connection with so large a site have been numerous. A small bonepit is reported to have been found many years ago on the south side; while near it a number of single graves were also found, and similar ones also southwest of the site. When examined, they yielded only bone fragments, the larger bones of the skeletons having perhaps been removed to some communal bonepit. But the burial grounds and bonepit of this large site was perhaps the Kinghorn pit, on the adjoining farm, and will be found described under the next number.

Before leaving this site, however, it might be well to append the following particulars obtained from John P. Hussey, the oldest resident in this neighborhood:—While Dr. Tache was here examining the Kinghorn bonepit, he also visited the large trench mentioned above. Some large pines grew at the place. Mr. Hussey found a portion of a large earthen pot or "cauldron" in the roots of an upturned tree; about a quarter of the vessel was unbroken. Through Dr. Tache it is now preserved in Quebec City, probably in the Tache collection at Laval University.

The corn patch of this site appears to have been on the rising ground in a northeasterly direction from it, and was quite extensive.

## 27. THE KINGHORN BONEPIT.

One of the largest bonepits ever found in the Huron territory was found a short way northwest of the last site, and was probably associated with it, but is situated on another farm—the west half of lot 13, concession 4, owned by Patrick Fitzgerald.

In order to get some clear ideas of the situation and surroundings of this pit, which gained, forty years ago, so much notoriety, I visited it on Aug. 24, 1900, along with Jas. W. Fitzgerald, who had formerly lived for several years on this farm. The ground around it is grey till or boulder clay, slightly modified by the action of water, and contains very little sand. The pit is now filled with stones, but it appeared to have had a diameter of about fifteen feet, so far as it was possible for me to decide by inspection after so many years. This diameter is not so great as that of a few others I have seen, but the accounts of eyewitnesses all agree in giving it an unusual depth (about eight feet). Such pits are usually in sandy soil, where digging was easy, but as the clayey nature of the ground here would enable the banks of a hole to stand upright for

a considerable depth, I can easily accept the extra depth assigned to this pit as a real fact. A large elm or maple tree had grown upon the bank of the pit.

At the time it was discovered (about 1856) the land on which it is situated (the west half of lot 13, con. 4) was the property of Richard Oliver, Barrie, father of Dr. L. Oliver of that town. Yet it was known everywhere as the Kinghorn pit, chiefly because the nearest settler then was Andrew Kinghorn, and perhaps also because Mr. Kinghorn, along with one Mr. Ennis, was the first person, as I have been informed, to dig into it.

As to the number of skeletons in the pit, or at least crania, one credible witness estimated 1,000, another 800 or 900, while another reckoned about 500 or 600. It would, accordingly, be impossible to choose any one of these figures as most nearly correct; we shall have to be content with saying that the estimates to which any value can be attached vary all the way from 500 to 1,000.

It contained various relics, besides the human bones. According to Francis Barr, whose wife is the only daughter of Mr. Kinghorn, someone found almost a bushel of wampum beads, besides a brass kettle and three copper ones. One of these kettles is deposited in the Provincial Archaeological Museum (No. 12,996), through the liberality of Major Joseph Rogers of Barrie, an iron handle having been attached to it since it was found. In the Toronto University collection another relic appears. No. 172, in the catalogue before the fire, was:—"Carved bone human figure, found along with red pipe mouthpiece, and piece of copper, in an ossuary in the Township of Medonte—S. Lount." Mr. Lount informed me that this relic was found in the Kinghorn pit. He estimated the diameter of the pit as sixteen feet.

Many persons of note visited the pit while it was one of the seven wonders. Two or three summer parties from Barrie did so in 1859, and some account of their trips will be found in the newspaper paragraphs quoted below. It was visited by Lord Edward Cholmley Dering and Lady when on their wedding tour, probably in 1862. Lord Dering was the eldest son of Sir Edward C. Dering of Surrenden, County Kent, England. John P. Hussey is my authority for stating that the Prince de Joinville was in the Dering party, and that he was making notes while there, but I have been unable hitherto to find any published notes by the Prince later than 1848.

No systematic examination of the pit appears to have been made until it was done by Dr. Tache, who (according to Mr. Hussey) visited this district for three successive autumns (about 1863-5) and examined it the first time he came. He opened it to the bottom, and took away the skulls that had escaped the curiosity-seekers.

The recollections of some of those who lived here in the years when the pit was a noteworthy feature are interesting; so we shall give a few of such as appear to be reliable. John Fitzgerald, sen..

states that he found as many beads as would fill a pail, in the large pit; also that a piece of buckskin, about two feet long, was found; also a plait of human hair, interwoven with copper or brass. Here and there throughout the pit a burnt bone was found.

Patrick Flannigan, sen., says he saw skulls found in the pit, with sutures of such a kind that from his description I have no difficulty in recognizing them to have been Wormian bones. Such are common in Indian skulls, especially those of Hurons.

Mrs. Barr, whose estimates of numbers are characterized by caution, recollects that someone found half a pailful of wampum beads; someone also found a skull with a hole in it (it was probably drilled, such having been found in other pits). A wolf's head pipe bowl was also found. This is not surprising, as the wolf clan or tribe occupied the district in which this pit was placed, or else some contiguous territory.

Many smaller graves were found around the pit, chiefly by those who cultivated the land. Mr. James W. Fitzgerald, who knew the place well, informed me that he once dug 31 skulls from a small pit a few feet south of the main one; in this auxiliary grave there were only skulls—no other kinds of bones. Mr. Fitzgerald also pointed out some evidences of camps southwest of the pit, but the indications are not sufficient to enable us to arrive at any conclusion, as the relics found at the spot (consisting of pipes, iron tomahawks, pottery fragments, etc.) might have had some connection with the funeral rites of the greater pit. An old shore line, such as might furnish a village, if there was one here, with springs of water, crosses at a little distance north of the pit this west half of lot 13, diagonally. and runs into the west half of lot 12.

About a dozen shallow pits with human bones (mostly one skeleton or part of a skeleton in each) occurred immediately around the large pit. Then at a little distance from it, there appear to have been two other patches of single graves in the shape of shallow pits. The largest of these occurs almost due south from the main pit, on rising ground, or rather, the ground slopes gently away from this patch toward and beyond the main pit. It is partly situated on the same lot, and extends across the line into the adjoining lot 12 (west half). From an inspection of this ground, aided by Jas. W. Fitzgerald, whose recollection of the part under cultivation was of great advantage to me, I tried to make an estimate of the number of these single graves, and concluded that there had been at least forty. Dr. Johnson, formerly of Hillsdale, but now of Toronto, had made an examination of those in the part not under cultivation. West of these single graves and separated from them by some space is the other patch, which is almost wholly in lot 12, just across the boundary from the place referred to as the probable site of camps. Mr. Fitzgerald had estimated about 25 graves here; the ground has been cultivated for some years, and the exact number cannot be now counted.

The following extract from the pen of Dr. L. Oliver of Barrie appeared in *The Barrie Advance* of Aug. 10, 1859. At that time he owned the lot on which the pit was situated, and afterward sold it to George Caswell of Coldwater :—

Ascending the proud, disdainful steep (commonly known as "Barr's Hill"), we gained the Medonte Town Hall, and took an easterly (westerly) direction as far as Peter Riley's, turning north on the line leading to Mr. Andrew Kinghorn's, where the road suddenly ceased. We paid our respects to the old soldier, who received us heartily. . . . After due admiration, felt and expressed by the whole party [which included the county member (Angus Morrison), also Mr. Fraser, "our respected host of the Queen's Arms," and other gentlemen on an excursion in search of adventures. They were driven by Mr. Harvie, of Orillia, with his team] we proceeded, under the guidance of Mr. Kinghorn, jr., to some Indian mounds (?) in the vicinity, well armed with pick-axes and spades, to dig into these sacred repositories of an almost lost race. We give in the next paragraph our adventures,

"Down among the Dead Men."

On arriving at the spot, we selected one that had been previously partially opened up. Skulls and other bones were profusely distributed around the margin of the pit, the work of other Resurrectionists. About three feet from the surface of the ground the bones were deposited, which occupied a further depth of four feet, as thoroughly packed with human remains as it is possible. At about a depth of seven feet from the surface was a solid strata (stratum) of clay, thus demonstrating the depth of the excavation first made by the Indians. The area (diameter?) of this pit appeared to be about fifteen feet, almost circular in shape, but more inclined to the oval. We dug for several hours, and exhumed a sufficient number of skulls to make a graveyard stare. Pieces of copper kettles were hit upon occasionally, lined with deer-skin; and now and then a lock of hair, as natural as though sheared on the spot. We hit upon a few beads of coral, beautifully ornamented; though several had been previously obtained out of the same pit. No particular regularity could be observed in the distribution of the bones, though at times the skull, vertebral column, thigh and leg bones were to be found in seeming apposition. We, of course, each of us indulged a variety of conjectures as to the cause of such a multitude of dry bones in one sepulture, deposited there over two hundred long years, as witnessed to by the presence of a large maple tree immediately over the centre, whose roots were interlaced in every possible manner with the relics—thereby "hangs the tale." To imagine that disease, or war, accounted satisfactorily for their appearance there was not to be entertained, for the compactness and order observable in the arrangement of the bones, forbid the possibility that their bodies could have been interred with them; and the occasional patches of ashes and calcined bone would lead to the supposition that fire had been employed to destroy the soft

and easily decaying parts of the bodies. Then again, the deer-skin exhumed was easily recognizable, and just in that state of preservation that we might expect to find in some of the dense fibrous tissues of the human subject. On the other hand, it is characteristic to find these burying places with their surfaces much below the surrounding earth—in many cases some feet, although originally they must have been considerably elevated, and presenting the appearance of mounds. This would seem to argue that at one time the bulk of their contents were much larger than they now are; and that, in addition to the unerring force of gravitation, some chemical changes have been set up, reducing compound substances to simple elements, as we might suppose to be the case if the bodies had been buried intact. But this last speculation is scarcely warrantable, and it is idle to carry it further. It should be remembered, too, that the sepulchre we visited is not an isolated one, but that there are several others in the same township; and immediately within the limits of our town (Barrie) have they been discovered and emptied of their contents. In Nottawasaga and other townships, they have also turned up; and thus, being of such general occurrence, we may fairly conclude that these resting places of the aborigines of Canada have been duly consecrated and set apart in strict accordance with their ancient customs.

A little work on the "Discovery of America, and the Origin of the North American Indians" (by John Mackintosh; Toronto, 1836), in our possession, gives a chapter on their "Funeral Rites," which accounts satisfactorily for these masses of bones so closely packed together, an epitome of which we will reproduce for the satisfaction of our readers who are curious on this point.

Our author says:—"When a man dies in the time of hunting, they expose his body on a very high scaffold. . . . Every one returns to his own cabin; but the women come for several days after and pour *sagamitty* on the place."

This explains pretty satisfactorily the appearance of the burial-place as we found it at Medonte. Two centuries, at least, have rolled away since last these poor Indians were disturbed, with a prospect still of having to itinerate still further to gratify the curiosity of the white man. In the peculiar conformation of these Indian skulls we can trace faithfully the marks distinctive of them at the present day. They have lived their allotted time and fulfilled their destiny."

From *The Barrie Northern Advance*, August 10, 1859.

*The Spirit of the Age* (Barrie), August 10, 1859, had the following notice:—

#### INDIAN REMAINS.

A large pit of Indian remains has been discovered in Medonte containing several hundred skulls. As we intend visiting the place, we defer further notice until next week.



The issue of the same paper of date August 17, 1859, had the following article :—

#### INDIAN REMAINS.

The pit of Indian remains, noticed in our last, it seems, has been discovered some time, but its contents were not completely rifled until within the last week or so. During our visit of the 11th instant (Thursday), we finished the spoliation by exploring for several hours among the mass of bones and earth, but were rewarded for our trouble by simply finding some clay beads, very similar to short sections of a tobacco-pipe, a round stone, apparently used in some game, or perhaps as a weight, a small clay pipe, a piece of copper, to which was attached some beaver skin, and a single bead of rather a curious description, being of stone, or other hard substance, round in form, and measuring a little less than half an inch through; its sides stained in red stripes, something like the ordinary representations of a balloon. The pit from which these things were dug, is eight feet deep, and from fifteen to twenty feet in diameter, and has apparently contained at one time not less than seven or eight hundred skeletons. Surrounding the large hole are a number of smaller ones, arranged in circles, each containing two or three skeletons. These pits must be of considerable age, as the larger one had a maple tree four feet six inches in circumference, growing over a portion of its mouth, which, from the manner its roots and fibres penetrated into and among the bones, must have grown there since the pit was made. From the known practice the Indians had of collecting the bones of their dead every eight or ten years, and depositing them in one common receptacle, there seems little doubt but these pits had their origin in this custom. Since the Indians usually deposited their most valued articles with their dead, and the trinkets found among the remains are few in number and of little worth, we may conclude the tribe whose members are here buried were very poor.

28. On the east half of lot 15, concession 4. Francis Barr. Mr. Barr found pottery fragments, pipes, fish bones, clam shells, and other relics, among which were more than fifty iron tomahawks, found in patches on the farm.

29. On the west half of lot 14, concession 5. Jas. Loftus. The house and farm buildings occupy this site, which covers about two acres between shallow ravines, in which springs issue. Jas. Davis, who was the first to give me particulars of this site, stated that he saw an artificial mound of earth mixed with stones at the site before cultivation had obliterated the original marks. The bone-pit contained a hundred crania or a little more, according to his estimate, and in it two or three iron tomahawks were found. It was about eight feet in diameter. Francis Barr informed me that he was one of those who assisted Dr. Tache to excavate this pit about the year 1863. He thought that the number of perfect skulls found in it was about seventy-five or eighty. There were also some

isolated or single graves near the pit. He says there were as many as six refuse heaps at the site, which is distinct from another at the north part of this farm, described under the next number.

30. At the extreme northwest corner of the west half of lot 14, concession 5 (Jas. Loftus, owner), extending into lot 15 (F. Barr's), there is a small site, distinct from the last one. A few years ago Jas. W. Fitzgerald ploughed up thick deposits of pottery fragments here. A raised beach passes along at this place, and furnished spring water. In Mr. Barr's part, cornhills were to be seen, when the land was first cleared. He has found clam shell fragments, corn husks, and grains (carbonized), and other relics.

31. On the west half of lot 15, concession 5. Anthony Hughes. The Gore brothers cleared the land here, and were, perhaps, the first to find relics on the site. Various persons have since occupied the farm. The Gores found "skinning stones," pottery fragments, and a "pistol" on the site. Iron tomahawks in considerable numbers have also been found. Mr. Hughes estimates the ground occupied by camps at about two acres. On the higher ground east of the camp sites, Jas. W. Fitzgerald and the writer traced six or seven shallow pits or artificial depressions,—one of the usual features connected with places of Huron occupation in this part of the district.

32. On the west half of lot 10, concession 6. Geo. Miller. In a small field south of the farm buildings, the occupants have found pipes, pottery fragments, a bone needle, a deerhorn fragment, iron tomahawks, etc., in ashbeds. And on the next farm south, a few relics of the usual kinds have also been found.

Between this site and the next one, on lot 11, concession 6, near the boundary between the east and west halves of the lot, there is a very small earthwork of an unusual kind, in size about 20 x 40 feet. Some years ago Mr. Francis Barr dug into the bank at one end of this earthwork, for the purpose of examining it, and found a piece of sheet brass or copper. A human skull and other bones were exposed near it by the turning up of a tree; and other relics appear to have been found beside it.

33. On the east half of lot 11, concession 6. Jas. Barr. Mr. Barr guided me over this site, and its interesting surroundings, on May 9, 1900. Most of the pottery fragments and other signs of occupation have been found on a flat peak of land near the foot of the high hill at this place, the peak having been formed by one of the raised shorelines, with which the face of the hill is so completely terraced. It appears that no large trees grew upon this peak, at the foot of which a plentiful supply of good water could be obtained from the springs that issue here. Higher up the steep hillside may be seen another strong beach, or raised shoreline, which in many other places is a water-bearing beach, although just here I did not observe any springs along it. On the east half of Lot 12, on which Mr. Barr lives, he has found pottery fragments, etc., and when the land was first cleared, cornhills were to be seen in

considerable numbers. He has found altogether a dozen or more iron tomahawks (of early French make), chiefly on Lot 12 (on the high plateau near the Gloucester trail), but also part of the way down the hill near the peak first mentioned. In September, 1900, a son of Mr. Barr found one of these axes with straight lines cut into one of its sides, so as to make a rude design or pattern of an



FIG. 33. IRON TOMAHAWK, WITH DESIGN, PROBABLY CUT BY AN INDIAN.

unusual kind (see figure). It turned up in a field near the old Gloucester Road. On some of the maple trees here tapped by Ojibway Indians, in Mr. Barr's sugar bush, fifty years or more ago, the old channels for collecting the sap are still distinctly visible.

34. On lot 14, concession 6. Jas. Burnfield. Mr. Burnfield has found pottery fragments, etc., chiefly at some ponds on his farm, with iron tomahawks in abundance; and once ploughed up a brass kettle in the adjoining lot (the west half of 15). A bonepit is said to have been once found near this site, probably on the higher ground south of the ponds at Mr. Barr's mill; but, although I have been informed of it by different persons, I have hitherto been unable to ascertain its exact position.

35. On the east half of lot 16, concession 6. Henry Heaslip. This site is large, covering an area of about five acres, and occupying a spur of land formed by a winding ravine. I first visited this site on June 12, 1889, and was shown over it by Mr. Heaslip. He has found on it grains of corn (carbonized), iron tomahawks, and other relics of the usual kinds. He showed me five bonepits, one of which, down in the ravine, was large and had copper or brass kettles in it. It is said to have been examined by Dr. Tache. Some of the four smaller pits on the high ground may have been single graves. The blackened camp sites showed quite plainly throughout Mr. Heaslip's field. Geo. Lee owns the easterly 25 acres of this lot, and he has found many remains west of the ravine mentioned above; and also east of it there are some ashbeds. On the farms adjoining this one, occasional relics are found, especially iron tomahawks. From the size and importance of this site, I am inclined to regard it as that of one of the villages at which the Jesuits had a mission, probably the one marked "St. Ignace" on Ducreux's map, which gives the locations of the missions as they were about 1640. This must be distinguished from the St. Ignace of 1649, the village which was captured by the Iroquois, and to which Brebeuf and Lallemand were taken, a few hours later, and tortured to death.

36. On the east half of lot 15, concession 7. Andrew Robertson. A water-bearing shoreline occurs near Mr. Robertson's , at which numerous camps occur, and isolated graves in his rd. A square piece of copper, or brass vessel, was once found e of these graves. Mr. Robertson used to find, when the land first cleared, pipes, pottery fragments, beads, etc. The old ester Road, opened along the earlier trail, used to pass his , but is now closed in this place.

37. On the east half of Lot 16. Concession 7. Richard Wat- A burial ground here, consisting of single graves in the shape flow pits, covered a considerable extent of ground. The camp of the village were not far distant from the burial ground; throughout the fields, iron tomahawks have been found in ance. Three parallel trenches, four or five rods long, and or five feet wide, occur near the site; while a supply of spring was to be found not far away. Sidney Boyd of the adjoining (the west half of Lot 16), found five or six single graves on nd, and relics with them, such as stone axes, pottery frag- etc.

38. On the east half of lot 18, concession 7. Mrs. Janet Me- The occupants of this farm have found arrow-heads (chert t), pipes, etc., but they report no iron tomahawks found on on. This absence of tomahawks is remarkable in this district, same is true of the next site. The explanation may be that villages were of an earlier date than the others in the same orhood.

39. On the southwest quarter of lot 18, concession 8. Thos. Many camps were to be seen when he first cleared the me years ago. These were found more especially in what the orchard, and near the dwelling house and other farm gs. The most conspicuous feature at this site was the patch hills, which covered considerable space, and extended across lie road into the land of Mrs. McColl. Mr. Sykes says he o iron tomahawks, but found pottery fragments, pipes, etc. r-bearing raised beach is beside this site.

40. On the west half of lot 19, concession 8. Neil Buchanan. rs of iron tomahawks and other relics were found here; and the land was put under cultivation, many cornhills were to e. One of the villages marked "Aretlisi" on Ducreux's ms to agree pretty well with the position of this one. Nearly e this site, beside the Sturgeon River (on the land of Mr. on, lots 19 and 20, concession 7), there is a beaver marsh, informed by Geo. McColl, who is well acquainted with the and hunting grounds along the river.

41. On the east half of lot 20, concession 8. Geo. Lowry. d hercabout is very stony. This farm was formerly occupied Hopkins, who found various relics of the usual kinds when on it. A bonenit was found on the opposite side of the oad, on Lot 21, formerly occupied by Robert Riddle, by

whose name the pit was often described. This pit, which was surrounded by ten or more smaller (probably single) graves, was large, having contained 200 crania at the lowest estimate, according to Neil Buchanan of the farm on which the last-mentioned site occurs. Mr. Buchanan once assisted Dr. Herriman, of Lindsay, Ont., to get two complete skeletons from the bones of this pit. Within the small portion of the pit dug by them, they uncovered 52 skulls; and by comparing this with the part unexamined by them, they readily concluded that the pit had originally contained a large number of crania. They also obtained earthen beads (some of a blue color), of European manufacture, a whole pipe, and some pipe fragments, pieces of brass kettles, pieces of fur, etc. The pit had been examined to some extent by Dr. Tache and his workmen, who, it is said, got kettles out of it.

42. On the east half of lot 22, concession 8. Wm. Greatrix. This site is beside a stream that flows into the Sturgeon River, and appears to have been that of a village of some importance. Iron tomahawks and other relics have been found at it.

43. On the east half of lot 18, concession 8, at what is known as "Moore's Clearing," though nobody now lives at the place. The refuse mounds and ashbeds of the village are near the raised beach 110 feet above the "Algonquin." Near the site was a very large bonepit, found many years ago. Brass kettles, rings, wampum, and other beads, etc., were found in it. Dr. Tache's men opened this pit, and one of their number (Cornelius Frawley) informed me that they found a finger-bone with the ring still upon it; also an ossified backbone, not curved, as is frequently the case with tubercular spines, but straight.

44. On the east half of lot 22, concession 9. The Swaile homestead, now occupied by Mr. Brandon. A large bonepit here was examined by Dr. Tache. A village site of the usual description occurs near it. The position of this site resembles that of St. Joachim, as marked upon Ducreux's map.

45. On the west half of Lot 16, Concession 10. Theophilus Moon. This is a small site, at which Mr. Moon has found the usual relics, including iron tomahawks.

46. On the west half of Lot 17, Concession 10. Mr. Hill. It is at the west boundary of this lot, and extends across the public road into the 9th concession. This village occupied the top of the hill at the "Algonquin" beach, along the bottom of which are found the usual springs. Ashbeds are numerous at it, mixed with pottery fragments, and several iron tomahawks have been found.

47. In an easterly or northeasterly direction from the last site, some shallow pits were to be seen, on or near lot 18, concession 10—on a lot that was formerly part of the Routledge farm. Dr. Tache and his men made an opening into a bonepit near these, but found the bones in it too much decayed by the wet from the springs to be removed.

48. On the west half of lot 20, concession 10. This is the Fox farm, with its now celebrated village site, so widely believed (though erroneously) to have been St. Ignace of the Jesuits. Father Martin described it in the following terms, as he found it in 1855. (See his "Life of Father Jogues," Appendix A) :—

"There were two villages called St. Ignatius—the one just mentioned, about five miles from St. Mary (on the Wye); the other, known in Indian as Taenhatentaron, was near the Iroquois frontier, between Teanaustaye and Cahiaque. We are inclined to think that its site was on lot 20, concession 10, of the present district (township) of Medonte. Many Indian remains have been found there, pipes of various kinds, collars of all varieties (wampum beads from belts or 'colliers' ?), fragments of vessels (pottery), and more than two hundred iron hatchets of French make. We visited near it one of the great Huron graves, such as Father de Brebeuf describes in detail in the Relations. It is a great circular pit, about five yards in diameter, in which great numbers of bones are still to be seen. When it was discovered in 1844, kettles, pipes, collars (wampum ?), fragments of peltry,—the usual articles used in these solemn burials,—were found there. This town was abandoned from fear of the Iroquois, and removed nearer St. Mary, in 1648, as we have said. It is the one shown on Ducreux's map, on what is now called Sturgeon Bay (River ?)."

Father Martin here clearly distinguishes between the earlier and the later St. Ignace. But not so Dr. Tache, whose view is given by Parkman in the following footnote to "Jesuits in North America" (p. 386) :—

"The site of St. Ignace still bears evidence of the catastrophe, in the ashes and charcoal that indicate the position of the houses, and the fragments of broken pottery and half-consumed bone, together with trinkets of stone, metal, or glass, which have survived the lapse of two centuries and more. The place has been minutely examined by Dr. Tache."

It is a little amusing to find a claim made that this pottery was broken in the catastrophe of 1649. It is not in the least strange, however, that forty years ago the fragments should be taken as evidence of some catastrophe. But it should be remembered that on every one of the 75 sites described in this Report, pottery fragments are common, and, accordingly, they can furnish no proof of the manner in which the village came to its end. Nor does the evidence on the other points mentioned make the proof any more conclusive. In fact, it is doubtful whether this site represents any of the mission villages, since Ducreux's map sets them all down facing the Sturgeon River, whereas this village overlooked the Coldwater River.

J. P. Hussey informed me that, among other things, Dr. Tache found a cache of Indian corn at this site. The corn was surrounded with rush mats, then with hide, and stones were underneath it.

C. A. Hirschfelder once informed me that he had obtained some good relics from this site. As his collection is now in the Museum of the Geological Survey at Ottawa, and as some of them are marked "from Medonte," the relics referred to can perhaps be seen there.

The late Rev. J. W. Annis also visited this site and obtained some relics. His collection is now in the Ontario Archaeological Museum at Toronto.

#### IV.—SITES ON THE COULSON RIDGE, ETC.

At the south side of the township a few village sites are found along the edge of the high ground, which becomes still higher in the adjoining parts of the Township of Oro, where many sites occur, and require a detailed survey by themselves.

49. A forest trail connected the Hurons with the Neutrals at the west end of Lake Ontario. About the place where this trail probably reached the high ground along the south side of Medonte, after crossing the valley of the Coldwater, rather after passing the flat ground where the Coldwater River has its sources, there was a village of some importance. Its site is on the farm of Thos. Higgins, the east half of lot 42, concession 1, near the sources of a stream known as the Forty-six Creek.\* A seven-acre field contains the whole of the site, and throughout the field the usual relics have been found. Many bones were found, some of which were those of human beings. Mr. Higgins once found an iron tomahawk, and other tomahawks are occasionally found in this neighborhood. One of his sons found another small iron article; all of which indicate that the village belonged to the French period, but probably not the last part of it.

50. Some indications of a site occur on the west half of lot 2, concession 3, where pottery fragments, pipes, etc., have been found. The land is now tenanted by Isaac Greaves, but was formerly owned by John McKinnon. Strong springs issue along the raised beaches in this farm, as well as in the east half, owned and occupied by Jas. Rix, to whom I am indebted for having called my attention to the remarkable force and coldness of these natural fountains. After uniting, they make rapid streamlets of clear, cold water, which flow together and are the sources of the Coldwater River. The coldness of these numerous streamlets is probably the origin of the river's name.

51. Continuing eastward along the edge of the hills, one finds a village site on the east half of lot 1, concession 4, which was formerly owned and occupied by Thos. Hamilton, but is not now occupied. On a flat shelf of ground that covers several acres, well up on the hillside, in a northeasterly direction from the now vacant house and farm buildings, Mr. Hamilton found many relics and fragments, also pieces of bones, some supposed to be human bones.

\* So named because it crosses the Penetanguishene Road in Lot 46. This stream flows into the larger Willow Creek, which in its turn is one of the feeders of the Nottawasaga River.

The occurrence of a few iron tomahawks is reported. Strong springs of water issue near the site, like those to be seen elsewhere along these northerly flanks of the hills, facing the Coldwater River.

52. On the east half of lot 3, concession 5, (Jesse Shelswell's) extending across the public road into the west half of lot 4, concession 6. The latter farm was formerly occupied by the late Wm. Leith, who found various indications of camps, including mortuary remains.

53. A well-known site of average size occurs on the farm of Mr. Cook, the west half of lot 1, concession 6. Many relics have been found in ash beds, in two places, separated by a gully through which flows a small stream. One of these patches occupies the top of a point between two ravines, and from its position one would conclude that at least this part of the village had been palisaded. The relics comprise pipes, stone axes, beads, bone awls, etc., but none have been found to indicate with certainty the presence of early French traders. A human skeleton, with a clay pipe in its teeth (according to the account of the finder)—No. 16,335 in the museum—was once discovered. This site was mentioned in paragraphs in *The Barrie Gazette*, April 27, and Sept. 7, 1887, both of which are known to have been written by the late F. C. White-lock, teacher at Coulson School, and in company with whom I examined the site, Aug. 27, of that year. Although "knives" are reported in one of *The Gazette* paragraphs, iron relics as such are not reported to have been found, nor are any remembered by members of the Cook family. Some clay pipes of the Belt pattern (see figure and description under No. 22) have been found here.

54. Three small sites occupy an isolated hill or large knoll in the valley of the Coldwater River. This hill had been a small island in the times of the "Algonquin" lake or sea, and it is encircled by the old shore-line, along which springs of fresh water issue here and there, making a plentiful supply for the aborigines. The first of these sites is on the east half of lot 7, concession 7. Wm. Douglas, owner; Frank James, tenant. The black soil and ashes of camp fires were found at a place where water was easily got. On these camp sites, pottery fragments, pipes, flint spear-heads, stone axes, and other relics were found; but no iron relics, so far as those persons remember, who found relics here. In 1889, when I first visited the place, a grove of second-growth pines had grown up since white settlers first cleared the land, but these had also been cleared away by 1900.

55. On the east half of lot 8, concession 7. This site is near springs of water, but is small. Pottery fragments, iron tomahawks, pipes, stone axes, etc., were found at it.

56. On the west half of lot 8, concession 8. Wm. Hawkins. This site is small, covering altogether a patch of perhaps 50 square yards. It is situated about 20 rods from a supply of spring water. Pottery fragments, pipes, etc., were found at it.



57. On the west half of lot 4, concession 10. Nicholas De Hart. This site is on the terrace at the foot of a hill, near the Algonquin Beach, which is water-bearing here, as in so many other places. Some years ago it was frequently examined by Archibald Reid, who picked up numerous pottery fragments, stone axes or chisels, a bone awl, or skewer, and other relics. There were some artificial holes or depressions at the place.

58. On the northeast quarter of lot 7, concession 10, George Duddy. A good many years ago, elder members of the family found a few pipes and other relics in one patch at the westerly edge of the level ground. This spot is in the rear of the farm, and just over the hill from it may be seen the Algonquin Beach, with its springs of fresh water.

59. On the east half of lot 5, concession 11. Walter Brechin. Some pottery fragments and other relics have been found just behind the farm buildings, but the extent of the ground covered by these camps does not appear. There are also signs of ashbeds in a field across the road. The site is near a hillside, overlooking that branch of the Coldwater River known as the Avon River.

60. On the west half of lot 4, concession 12. Archibald McKinley. A gully or branch ravine from the valley of the Avon River runs into this farm, and the site is on the hilltop beside the gully. The relics found here consist of pottery fragments, "skinning stones," pipes, etc. No iron relics are reported.

61. On the northeast quarter of lot 4, concession 12. Thomas Welsh. Some years ago, when the ground was first cleared, this site yielded more relics than it does now. The farm at that time was owned by Patrick Lawlor. It appears to have been a village of considerable size. When I visited this place in 1887, in company with Mr. J. C. Rose of Orillia, mounds of black, mellow soil (probably refuse heaps) and artificial holes in the ground were to be seen. The place was strewn with fragments of pottery, fish-bones, clam shells, etc., in considerable quantities. A circle of stones is reported as having existed at the site when the land was first cleared. It is near the sources of the Avon River, and springs of fresh water are numerous at its easterly side.

62. On the northeast quarter of lot 3, concession 13. Matthew Thornton, who owns and occupies this farm, has found pottery fragments, pipes, iron knives and tomahawks, etc.—the usual relics of a village site—at the north edge of his land; and Mr. Abbott of the adjoining farm (lot 4) has also found similar relics near the same place.

63. On the southeast quarter of lot 3, concession 13. David Hewiston. Some pottery fragments and other relics, including a copper or brass kettle, have been found here, indicating a few camps.

64. On the west half of lot 3, concession 14. John Teskey. The farm was owned and occupied at the time of the discovery of the large bonepit here in the spring of 1856, by Michael Braden,

who first cleared the land. Rev. Dr. Gray of Orillia sent some of the relics from this bonepit to Dr. Daniel Wilson of Toronto University. The finding of human hair in the pit is well authenticated by several eyewitnesses. On June 20, 1900, when I visited the place, Mr. Teskey, the owner, informed me that at a spot about 250 yards from the pit, near the bank of a stream, he had found single graves and relics, such as pottery fragments, etc. Several printed articles describing the pit have appeared. These are worth reprinting, some for their quaintness, if for no other reason. Strange to say, only one of these accounts has any suggestion of its true Huron origin between the years 1615 and 1650.

From the *Barrie Advance*, of Oct. 9, 1856:—

#### INDIAN REMAINS.

Mr. P. H. Hough (pronounced Howe), school teacher, North Orillia, informs us that near his residence a large grave was recently discovered, in which were found about 200 human skulls, with other bones, and a variety of ornaments, such as beads, etc. There were also 15 copper kettles, of different sizes, the largest of which is about two feet in diameter, and would hold about four common pails full. These articles are in the most perfect state, and the hair yet holds in small particles to the skulls, whilst lumps of it are intermixed with the heap. The grave was about twelve feet wide, and six feet deep, and was completely filled. No one in the neighborhood has any knowledge of the circumstance which placed them there; and it would be a matter of interest to be informed as to how such a number could have been collected into a spot which the Indians have not possessed for at least a quarter of a century. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the history of that section of our county to risk an opinion, and would most readily give publicity to the views of those who are more competent to do so. Our informant also furnished us with a poetical composition upon the discovery—more, as he states, for the purpose of prompting inquiry than that of making public his own merits. We therefore forego publishing it, as being too long for our available space, and trust our previous observations will elicit the information desired.”

The following article, from the pen of Rev. Dr. Gray of Orillia appeared in *The Toronto Globe* of Oct. 20, 1856:—

#### INDIAN REMAINS.

The elevated ground that lies between Lakes Simcoe and Huron\* seems to have been, in former ages, a favorite home of the Red Man. Abounding with numerous valleys, and studded with hills of various sizes, it has formed an admirable field for those sudden surprises and those stealthy attacks that distinguish Indian warfare. From its central position, it was probably a battle field for

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\* The old name of Georgian Bay.

the hostile tribes residing in Canada on the one hand, and the north-western nations on the other. This advantageous position of the district was discerned by the military genius of Sir John Colborne, who, with his wonted sagacity, foresaw that only amid those glens and wooded heights could a successful resistance be made to an invasion (which may God forever avert!) from the neighboring States. He accordingly matured a scheme for settling the district with military colonists, and establishing a chain of Indian settlements along the line of portage that connects Lake Couchiching and Georgian Bay. Various circumstances, however, prevented his plan from being successfully carried out. This whole section of country is studded with Indian remains. In many places Indian burrows have been discovered, containing the remains of dead bodies, pottery, copper kettles, pipes and other articles peculiar to the Red Man. And a few years ago, a farmer in the Township of Medonte found the remains of a small manufactory of pottery, in which were utensils of all kinds and sizes in various states of preparation. The writer of this has visited the spot. It lay on the side of a rocky eminence, and resembled one of those limekilns so common throughout the Province. Occasionally, too, the settlers stumble upon a burrow, and make strange discoveries. About six miles from Orillia the North River crosses the Coldwater road, which runs on the old portage between Lake Couchiching and the Georgian Bay, and forms a natural valley with low heights on each side. On the northern height, about a quarter of a mile from the road, an Indian burrow was found last spring. Perhaps our readers may understand by a burrow a raised mound of a peculiar shape, but such is not the case. It is merely a slightly depressed hollow, of an oval shape, about ten feet deep, as many in length, and about eight in breadth. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish it from the depression caused by the roots of a fallen tree. The discoverers of the burrow a day or two ago resolved to open it. Removing the surface earth, they came upon layers of bones in various stages of decay, and near the bottom they found a number of copper kettles, two large shells, some beads made of bone, and a quantity of hair. No pipes or tomahawks were found. The number of dead interred there must have been at least from 150 to 200, as one individual counted no less than 70 skulls that were thrown out, exclusive of those left in the burrow. The kettles are of superior workmanship, of various sizes, in excellent preservation, and tastefully formed; all of them have had iron handles, some of which are much corroded or entirely gone. A few have rims of iron, very much decayed around their tops. The beads are coarsely and inelegantly made. The shells are those usually found in such places, and are much worn. As Professor Wilson has lately shown in *The Canadian Journal*, they must have come from the Gulf of Mexico, and thus exemplify the existence of an extensive traffic between the northern and southern portions of our continent. The presence of the hair is involved in mystery. It does not belong to any of the skulls, but

seems to have been either a talisman or an ornament. While standing amid the debris of decaying bones and mouldering skulls, the question naturally arose: "Who and what were those? What were their joys and sorrows, their occupations and pleasures? How did they come to an untimely end, and how long have they lain in their earthly resting-place, till disturbed by the insatiable curiosity of the white man?" Alas, from those grinning skulls and those discoloured bones, not even the voice of echo is heard. Perpetual silence mocks all our inquiries. Without presuming to offer any very decided opinions, the writer is inclined to believe that the remains are those of warriors, slain in battle. The chief grounds for this are as follows:—

(1) In the spring a skeleton was found at a short distance from the burrow, with every evidence of having been struck down by a tomahawk.

(2) The height, where the remains were found, is one admirably fitted for a battle-field.

(3) The bodies seem to have been hastily interred. Most of them had on their ordinary dresses. A few remains of these were found with the fur yet perfect, the skins neatly sewn, and the fringe-like ornaments peculiar to Indian dresses, still distinct and undecayed. The corpses appear to have been hastily thrown in, and little or no earth thrown over them, as the only covering found over them, was that formed by the accumulation of leaves that have fallen since their interment. The time when this interment took place will never be known, but it must have been after the French began to occupy the country.

The following comments on the foregoing article are from the pen of the late Sir Daniel Wilson:—

From *The Canadian Journal*, N.S., 1856, Vol. 1, p. 554:—

The principal facts contained in the following notice of the discovery of Indian remains in the vicinity of Orillia, County of Simcoe, accompanied with tropical marine shells, and copper and other relics, are derived from an account in a recent number of *The Toronto Globe* (Oct. 20, 1856). Indian mounds (pits?) have been repeatedly opened in that neighborhood; and we have in our possession crania and sepulchral relics found in one of these, which was explored in 1854. One of the skulls betrays unmistakeable evidence of the stroke of the tomahawk with which the old Indian met his death. The relics in the present case, however, have been found in hollows, to which it would appear the term "Burrow" is applied: probably as a distinctive variation from that of the old Saxon Burrow, or Sepulchral Mound.

Some of the beads have also been described to us as of glass coarsely made; and the shells appear to have been specimens of the large tropical pyrulae, repeatedly found along the shores of our northern fresh-water lakes, furnishing unmistakeable evidence of an intercourse carried on with the Gulf of Mexico or the regions

of Central America. In the present case the accompanying relics appear to indicate no very remote date for the sepulchral depository. From the iron rims and handles of the vessels, and the glass beads, they must at least be assigned to a period subsequent to the intercourse of the Indians with Europeans; and the remains of some of their fur wrappings indicated a much shorter interval, since their deposition.

The writer in *The Globe*, while hesitating to offer any very decided opinion, is inclined to believe that the remains are those of warriors, slain in battle. The chief grounds for this view are stated as follows:—(Quotes the three reasons found at the end of the article mentioned.)

The relics, however, with which these human remains were accompanied seem irreconcilable with this view of the case. There was not only an absence of weapons of war, which we cannot suppose would have been entirely removed, when such objects as copper kettles and the cumbrous tropical shells were left, but the latter are not objects with which a war party would be likely to burden themselves. The so-called burrow was more probably an Ossuary, into which the remains of the dead were promiscuously heaped, in accordance with known Indian customs, after the final honors and sacrifices had been rendered to the deceased. One of these Ossuaries, in the Township of Beverly, from which specimens of the same class of tropical shells were procured, has been noticed in this *Journal* (Old Series, Vol. III., p. 156). The depression by which the locality of these recently discovered relics was indicated, is no doubt mainly ascribable to the decay of the human remains interred there. Dr. Schoolcraft speaks of some of these cemeteries as "Sepulchral trenches or Ossuaries, in which the bones of entire villages would seem to have been deposited"; and the appearance of hasty and partial inhumation described above has been noted in other examples.

The locality where these relics have been found appears to present a rich field for investigation; and it is gratifying to find such discoveries meeting with the attention evinced on this occasion. The narrator of the above facts observes:—(Quotes the first part of the article mentioned.)

As no knowledge of the potter's art seems to have survived among our northwestern tribes, an account of the discovery of this native potter's kiln, with a minute notice of its contents, and the condition in which they were found, if still recoverable, would be well worth putting on record.

In an article by the late Sir Daniel Wilson on "Some Ethnographic Phases of Conchology," published in *The Canadian Journal*, Vol. III., p. 399, (New Series, 1858), he makes the following further reference to this bonepit:—

"About six miles from Orillia, where the North River crosses the Coldwater Road, which is on the line of the old portage be-

tween Lake Couchiching and the Georgian Bay, it runs through a valley, with low heights rising on either side. On the northern height, about a quarter of a mile from the road, the Indian relics now referred to were found. Many skeletons were disturbed, and along with these were numerous specimens of native art, beads and other ornaments of bone, some curious rings made from the vertebrae of the sturgeon; and also glass beads and copper kettles, some of the latter with handles and rims of iron. Beside these miscellaneous relics lay two of the large univalve shells of the tropics. In this, as in the former cases, the traces of European art fix the date of the deposit at a period subsequent to the discovery of America by the Spaniards, and in all probability to the explorations of the French among the Hurons of this district in the early part of the seventeenth century."

From The Orillia Packet of Dec. 2, 1892:—

"Shortly after the close of the Russian war, an ossuary was opened on the farm then owned by the late Michael Brayden, now the property of Mr. John Teskey, the west half of lot 3, in the 14th concession (misprinted '11th' in the original) of Medonte. Mr. Brayden was then in California. The ossuary was discovered by Messrs. William and Henry Overend, who observed a large, round depression, which they supposed had been dug out, and the latter removed the leaves and mould with his fingers, until he felt what he believed to be a crock. They then obtained spades, and with the aid of Mr. Harvie Chisamore, dug up seventeen copper kettles, capable of holding from six to fifteen pails of water each. The kettles were well preserved, except that the iron bails were somewhat rusted. The settlers used the kettles for sugar-making years after. In the kettles were scores of skulls and bones, some of them of men of great height. One skull had two rows of teeth. There were no weapons of war, and none of the skulls bore marks of the tomahawk or other indications of violent death. Large quantities of hair, wampum and beads were found. Also two conch shells, supposed to be from the Gulf of Mexico, were among the things dug out. The beads were of copper, bone, and some of shell, strung on some kind of sinew, which was rotten. The hair was in little packages, wrapped in birch bark and bound with pieces of hide. Mr. Henry Overend estimated the skulls at from seven hundred to a thousand in number. The kettles appeared to have been hammered out of a solid piece of copper."

65. On the east half of lot 3, concession 14. H. Wright. In the most westerly field of this farm, and adjoining Mr. Teskey's land, on which the last-mentioned site with its bonepit occurs, considerable quantities of relics were found by the late George Wright, more especially when he cleared the land many years ago. His son, Harry Wright, is now the occupant of this farm, which is on the line of the Coldwater Road (once an Indian trail), where it crosses the North River.

66. On the east half of lot 1, concession 14. Price's farm. On a gravelly knoll, in a northwesterly direction from the dwelling-house and farm buildings, Mr. Price, jun., found some pottery fragments, and other relics, including an iron tomahawk, all which indicated a few camps.

67. On the west half of lot 8, concession 12. Duncan Mathieson. There have been found at this site the usual pottery fragments, pipes, "skinning stones," etc. It is near the source of Purbrook, a feeder of the Coldwater River.

68. On the west half of lot 9, concession 13. Joseph Overend. At this site the occupants have found three or four iron tomahawks, three or four "skinning stones," a mealing stone, or mortar, some iron arrow points, pipes, pottery fragments, etc. There were several empty holes (arranged in a semi-circle, or half-moon), one of which had stones around it. These had probably been used as food caches, or were perhaps temporary depositories of dead bodies, awaiting removal to a larger bonepit.

69. On the west half of lot 9, concession 14. Thos. Murphy. A large bonepit was discovered here in 1867 by Michael Thornton, of Warminster, who furnishes the following account of it :—There were found in it about 300 skeletons, a brass kettle, a copper kettle, a metal bowl (something like a "teapot"), glass beads, wampum beads, an entire conch shell, pipes, etc. Beside this pit there were two isolated graves, each containing a skeleton. The second person to examine it in 1867 was Joseph DeClare, Warminster, who supplied the following data :—The skeletons (those on the bottom of the pit, at least) were regularly arranged with their feet toward the centre of the pit. (Compare this with the mound on Tidd's Island, in the St. Lawrence River, First Archaeological Report (Boyle), 1887, p. 10). Beads were found around the necks of many of these. The indications were that some bodies, with flesh still on the bones, had been buried in the bottom of this pit, unlike the usual practice in connection with bonepits. In 1885, an antiquarian from Toronto, whose name had been forgotten by our informant, engaged laborers and made a thorough examination of the pit. But he found very little, except a few beads, as everything in the line of trinkets had been previously dug out. At the village itself, which is situated at a distance of about forty rods from the pit, iron tomahawks were found in great numbers. This village was situated on high ground near a small stream that issues from springs at the foot of the hill. The soil in some places is sandy, and gravelly in others. Many holes were visible in the ground when I visited this place on August 25, 1887, in company with Mr. J. C. Rose, of Orillia, at which time the farm was in the possession of Eugene Sullivan. But in none of these holes were bones found. Some of the holes were arranged in rows. A smaller bonepit, however, is said to have been found quite near the village site.

70. On the west half of lot 10, concession 12. Robert C. Hipwell. In and round about the garden the occupants of this lot

have found pottery fragments, pipe heads, a stone axe, etc., but no iron relics have been reported. This farm was originally settled by Commander Steele, R.N., and called "Purbrook" by his family. Commander Steele was the member of the old Canadian Parliament for the County of Simcoe, 1841-4, and for some time was Colonel of the militia of the county. His son, Lieut.-Col. S. B. Steele, had the command of Lord Strathcona's Horse in South Africa.

71. On the east half of lot 11, concession 11. Chas. W. Nelson. The owner and his family have found pipes, pottery fragments, "skinning stones," an iron tomahawk, etc. Mr. T. F. Milne received a few relics from them in 1892, and these passed into the Provincial Museum with his collection, in 1898. They include a clay pipe (17,125) and "a small and well made celt" (17,140). This farm was originally settled by the Rev. George Hallen, rector of St. George's, Medonte, and after 1840, the resident clergyman at Penetanguishene.

72. On the west half of lot 12, concession 12. John T. Graham. Relics have been found here similar to those found at the last site. A pit of bones, or grave, was supposed to be here, but on examination it did not prove to be one.

73. On lot 16, concession 12. Jas. Brownlee. Wm. Orr, of lot 17, on which the next site is located, ploughed up thirteen iron tomahawks all in one heap at the site on this farm. There is a place here with so many pottery fragments that it resembles, or would suggest, a pottery factory. The site was probably Algonquin, of later date than the Hurons.

74. On the west half of lot 17, concession 12. Wm. Orr. They have found here pottery fragments, pipes, iron tomahawks, stone axes, knives (iron or steel), and a dagger or bayonet. A graveyard of single graves is said to have been found here also. The camp sites occur beside the "Indian Hill Road," i.e., the original Coldwater Road or Trail. Mr. Orr found three "Indian cents" with old date. Indian houses were built along the Coldwater Road about 1830 at this place, as elsewhere. Like the preceding site, it was probably Algonquin of later date than the Hurons.

75. Various Indian remains have been found at Coldwater Village, where the trail from the Narrows of Lake Simcoe, near Orillia, had its northerly terminus. The landing was near the line between lot 22 and lot 23, in concession 12. Lawrence Heyden informed me (in 1899) of a small brass cross (double-barred, or Lorraine pattern), that was dug up in a garden at Coldwater, and, in response to my enquiry as to this relic, Wm. Teskey, of Orillia, informed me that he found it in a lot adjoining the Orange Hall, in the year 1880. It bore on one side the figure of a dove, above which were stamped the letters I.N.R.I. The lowest rapids on the Coldwater River are now found at this place, and water-mills are in operation here. This may partly explain how the Indian village



and landing place had its origin, as the land hereabout rises a little, while lower down it becomes swampy. It does not appear, however, to have been necessary to make a portage past the rapids, in early times, at any rate, since J. C. Brokovski, who is well acquainted with the district, informed me that according to the oldest residents one could formerly go up as far as Lot 15 (Boyd's Corners) in a canoe. As the land here is nearly at the present level of Georgian Bay, it is probable that no Hurons camped here, because in their time the water stood at a higher level than now. Storms from the northwest also raise the water level in the long arm of Coldwater Bay. It is probable, therefore, that this site was altogether later Algonquin, belonging to the period after the water had receded.

### NOTES ON N. VICTORIA.

BY GEO. E. LAIDLAW.

The undermentioned persons must be thanked for their donations of relics and their aid and assistance during this season:—

Large flint blade, from Mr. Michael Byrnes, lot 1, con. 6, Carden Tp., found on the boundary near north bank of the Talbot River. Dimensions: 9 inches long by  $2\frac{5}{8}$  broad and  $\frac{3}{8}$  thick. Material, dark grey translucent quartzite. Slender stone pick, from Jas. McGirr, P.M., Balsover P.O. Found by Wm. Freeland, near the Portage Road, Thorah Tp., Gamebridge P.O. This artifact is long and slender, of diorite, with smoothed surfaces, oval, oblong in cross section, one end damaged. Present length 10 inches, original length probably  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches, width 1  $\frac{13}{16}$  inch, thickness 1 inch. The back is somewhat rounded.

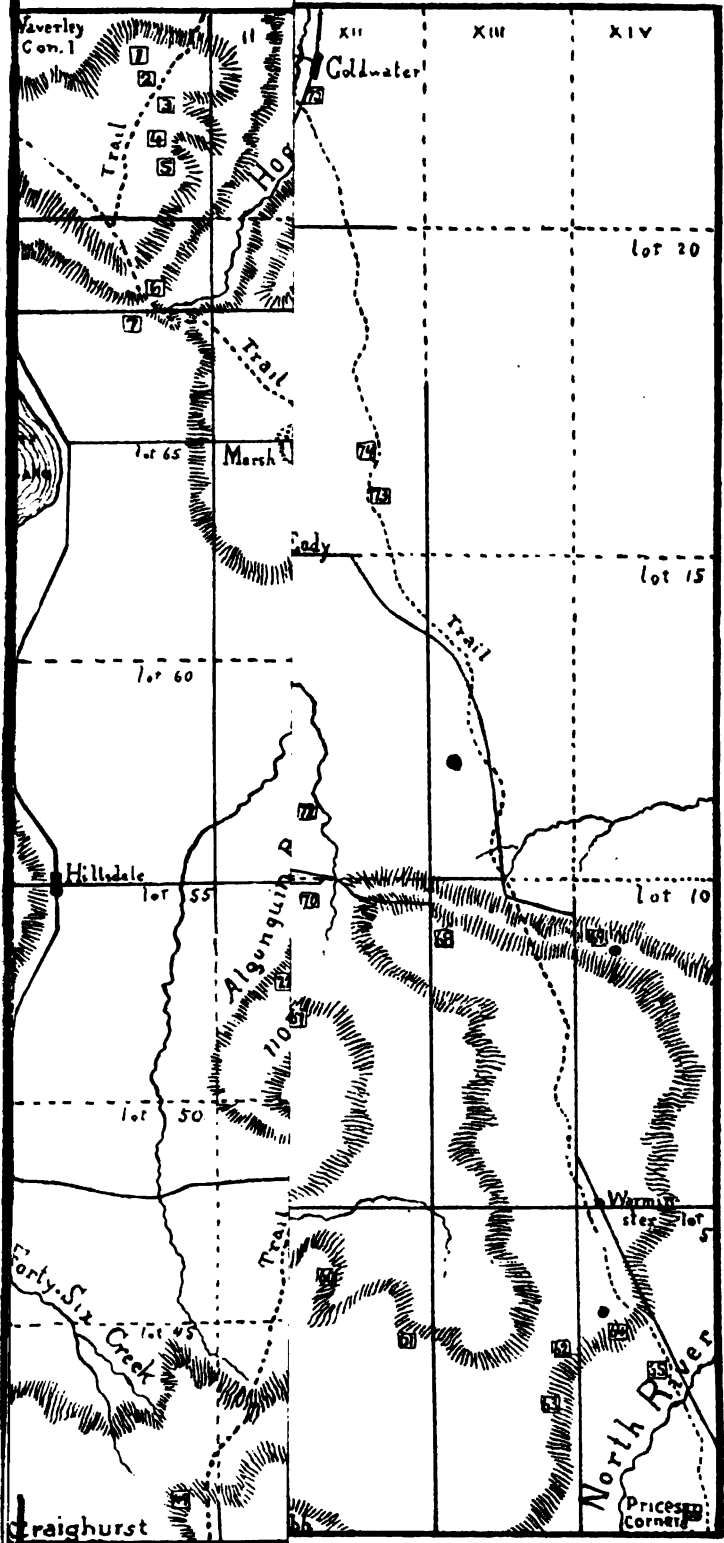
Stone knife or scraper, given by S. Truman, site No. 9, lot 22, con. 8, Eldon Tp. The edge is on one side; one end is damaged. Has the appearance of the ends being shaped as if to form handles. Present length, 9  $\frac{13}{16}$  inches. Length of cutting portion, 4 inches. Width of blade, 2 inches. Greatest thickness on back,  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch. Piece of brass from same lot, slightly sharpened on edge: (questionable aboriginal article).

A large iron French axe, from lot 15, con. 8, Eldon Tp., donated by Mr. A. Ferguson, Glenarm P.O., has been reduced by aboriginal methods to present size. Unlike Fig. 79, p. 51, Arch. Report for '91, this one had a slice from the lower portion of the blade removed, ends of two long cuts, one on each side, and a cross cut at the bottom remain to show how this was done. This axe bears the same maker's stamp as far as can be made out, as Fig. 79.

Small stone celt, N.P.R., lot 3, Bexley, from John Black.

Striped and clouded grey oblong slate gorget, with two holes. Size 3  $\frac{15}{16}$  inches by 1  $\frac{7}{16}$ , by  $\frac{1}{4}$  thick. From Ward's Farm, Bexley P.O., donated by Mrs. R. Campbell, Kirkfield P.O.

P. F. H. C. S. I.



EXPLANATIONS OF THE M  
 s indicate the bonenpits.  
 along the base of each line of e

text, of which it forms a key. The heavy  
 the extinct shore line being supposed to run

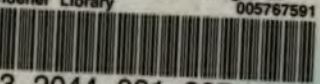






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