

many courtesies extended by them to the representative of the Institute, and more especially to the last named gentleman for his donation of specimens.

On the 20th May, accompanied by Mr. Jas. Bain, Jr., City Librarian-in-Chief, and A. Cox, A.R.C.A., I visited the Township of Beverly, in response to an invitation from Mr. Wallace McDonald, Clerk of the Township. The object of this visit was to examine the site of an old palisaded fort, or encampment, on the farm of Mr. Wm. Gilbert, lot 26, con. 8.

Mr. McDonald remembers distinctly being able to trace a circular series of post holes in the field when cleared, upwards of 40 years ago. Not only were they apparent on account of the decayed wood they contained, but they became disagreeably noticeable on account of the frequent stumblings they caused to ploughing teams.

Mr. McDonald had preceded us to the ground and planted flags as nearly as possible to correspond with the outline of the enclosure. The accuracy of Mr. McDonald's memory was proven by the fact that after having had a portion of the marked ground ploughed from side to side, and the loose earth carefully removed with spades, we found unmistakable evidences of the old palisades. Only a few decayed fragments of wood were found, but sufficient to prove that the posts were pine; and the discoloration of the earth caused by the subsidence of the vegetable mould into the old cavities in the lighter colored sub-soil, indicated that the stakes had been from four to six inches in diameter, and about the same distance apart. The enclosed space was almost circular, being 180 yards in diameter from east to west, and 140 yards from north to south.

As we were assured by Mr. McDonald that not fewer than 300 iron tomahawks had been ploughed up in the same field, the probability is that the enclosure was of early French origin.

The enclosure was on a plateau about 12 feet above the level of a small stream a short distance to the west, and nearly forty yards from a pool on the east, the situation and surroundings of which are so peculiar as to suggest human design in the arrangement of the embankments, although our excavations, made to the depth of fully six feet, failed to afford any proof to that effect.

Your representatives were deeply indebted to Mr. Jos. A. Smith, Public School Inspector of Wentworth County, for the valuable assistance rendered to them in various ways during their visit—to Mr. McDonald, for his active sympathy and intelligent co-operation—to Mrs. Gilbert and the Messrs. Gilbert, proprietors of the farm, and to Miss Robertson, teacher, for the extension of many courtesies.

The 9th and 10th of June I spent in the Township of Humberstone, a few miles east of Port Colborne, where, from information furnished me by Miss Emma Crosson, teacher, I was led to understand that an ossuary had been discovered a short time previously. The same young lady also presented the Institute with three well-preserved skulls from the burial place in question.

I was fortunate enough to become acquainted with Mr. Cyrenius Bearse, of Sherkston, himself an enthusiastic amateur in Archeology, and he kindly accompanied me to the spot in question, within a short distance of the Lake Erie shore.

The ossuary was found to occupy a position almost in the centre of a piece of low lying ground, about ten acres in extent, and nearly surrounded by a ridge of sand hills from 20 to 30 feet high.

Owing to the promiscuous way in which the bones lay, it was well nigh impossible to estimate how many skeletons had been deposited, but the number was probably not far from fifty. Notwithstanding the Indian mode of burial, many of the skulls seem to be those of whites, but until proper measurements have been made nothing on this point can be stated with certainty.

I was informed that a fine stone pipe had been taken from near the margin of the pit, and was in the possession of Mr. Carroll, of Buffalo, whose men are here engaged in shipping sand to that city.

The low situation of this ossuary, in the immediate neighborhood of such heights as the aborigines usually selected for places of permanent sepulture would, of itself, suffice to raise doubts as to the work having been of purely Indian origin. I am of opinion