

bend to the east. On several farms in the vicinity, the farmers have found relics singly, some of which afford evidence of a considerable population in pre-Huron times.

No. 8. On the southeast part of this farm, near a swale. On clay ground, about 25 rods from the sand belt.

No. 9. Patches of blackened soil, with fragments of pottery, etc., showing continued residence at the place, occur along the roadside, opposite lot 13, and near these camp sites there are small ponds on the clay soil, where water could easily be obtained by the villagers. When the Kellys lived upon lot 14 (north half, concession 3), they found some relics. The position of these perhaps indicates the scaffold cemetery belonging to the village at the ponds or small marsh, as a bonepit was discovered across the road from the Kelly house in June, 1882, and was completely ransacked by numerous persons within a short time. The pit was circular and had a diameter of about 20 feet from brow to brow. A pine tree had grown within the circle of dirt thrown out when the pit was dug; this was at the west side, and a similar tree was at the east side, the latter, however, not so distinctly within the circle. It is situated about 60 rods due west from the permanent camps at the ponds. Wm. McKernan informed me that he found a skull in this pit in which were round holes, probably drilled, rather than bullet holes. This would doubtless be one of the drilled skulls, of which there are numerous instances in Huron burials. About four years after the discovery the writer placed on record in his memoranda a description of the opening of this pit, as follows:—

THE OPENING OF A HURON BONEPIT.

During the summer of 1882 some men found a large Indian ossuary, a few details of the discovery and excavation of which it will be advisable to record while the facts are still fresh in memory.

I visited the place as much as anyone else, or perhaps even more, the pit being situated but a short two miles from the Village of Phelpsston, where I was then living, and I am, therefore, not without some preparation for the task, which should be performed by someone before the facts are forgotten.

The pit is situated on the south half of lot fourteen in the fourth concession of Flos; and, although the fourth concession line is not four rods away from it, and had been travelled for many years, nothing was known (publicly, at any rate), of the pit before 1882. In June of that year some men were engaged in cutting logs at the place, some boys being also with them, and they remarked the unnatural depression in the ground. A tradition of the neighborhood regarded it as the work of Indians, but for what purpose they used it, up to that time nobody seemed to have either known or cared. The boys who were present at the time, through curiosity, and to occupy their time turned over the sod in the hollow and exposed to view a mass of human bones.

The news of the discovery spread like wildfire within a few days. On the first Sunday following the event, the place swarmed with men and boys; and as some went away, other visitors came. The excavation of the grave was by no means systematic. One or two men went down into the hole and dug furiously until they became tired, when they were relieved by fresh diggers. They kept this up for the greater part of the day, and long before night the logs near the pit had on them long rows of grinning skulls. Those members of the crowd who took no part in the digging stood about in little groups, ridding themselves of all sorts of wild theories as to how the remains came to be put there. The favorite conjecture seemed to be that some terrible war