

35. Farther west, at Tanner's Mill, (also known as Tannerville) more aboriginal remains have been found. It was at the shore here that the trail to the interior had its northerly end. And in the days of early settlement (in 1830, or soon after) this trail was widened into a Government road from Coldwater, and a blockhouse erected here. The place was a depot on the way to the early mines of the upper lakes. It had docks, and the early steamers of Georgian Bay made it a port for calls, the other port being Penetanguishene. Altogether, the port of Sturgeon Bay—the terminus of the Government portage—in the days before railways was a stirring place. But its glory has long since departed. Many legends cling around the old place, and stories of buried treasures. But the only articles ever found here, so far as can be learned with certainty, were a few Indian beads and fragments of human bones, besides some other kinds of Indian relics. These were found on the high ground just back from the shore. This place was always a frequent resort of Algonquins; but its origin was doubtless earlier, in Huron times, when the trail to the interior was in constant use. Ducreux's map places the mission of St. Jean (not St. Jean-Baptiste) to the right of the outlet of Sturgeon River, and a short way inland. It will be seen by referring to our map that there is a tract of high ground here, an island during the time of the Great Nipissing Lake, and this tract is separated from the high ground of the interior by low swampy ground through which a stream flows toward Sturgeon River. St. Jean was a mission to the Ataronchronons, while the mission next south of it (according to the Ducreux map), viz., St. Joachim, was among the Arendaronons. A physical demarcation of some kind, between St. Jean and St. Joachim, is thus suggested, because the Huron "nations" were usually divided from each other by physical boundaries. It is possible, therefore, that St. Jean belonged to the isolated tract of high ground now under consideration, and was a site near Tannerville, if not the one itself at the place.

36. Rev. Father Chazelle, whose investigations in the Huron country in 1842 we have already mentioned, made a search on the east side of the Sturgeon River for the site of St. Ignace, where Brebeuf and Lallemand were put to death. It is evident that, in doing this, he was following Ducreux's map, which gives the position of the earlier and first St. Ignace, and that he had not become aware of the fact that a second St. Ignace had existed. He directed the French Canadians with him to run the canoe up Sturgeon River a mile and a half from the outlet. Near where they landed they found, in the woods, a village site, and at it some relics, such as conch-shells. Here were "blazes" or marks upon trees, made by Indians of comparatively