

in diameter. I have not heard of any relics showing traces of contact with the white men being found there, though lots of relics have been picked up. As the ground is very poor near the rock the occupants may have subsisted without cultivation. In the vicinity there are a great many wild plum and cherry trees, grape vines and butternuts, which may be descendants of those planted by the Indians. As the water of the lake has been raised about six feet, it probably covers many camp sites, the shores being very shallow.

Later on I visited a village site, No. 4, on lot 9, concession 3, Bexley, near Bexley P. O., six miles north from the old Portage and four and a quarter miles west of North Bay, Balsam Lake. Traces of graves, ash-beds or hearth-places exist here—the graves were single and in rows. Among the relics picked up fragments of pottery of the usual patterns, and pipes of the usual types of this section, bone awls, perforated clam shells, bone arrow-heads, a stone pipe and a stone disc. This site is in the bend of a large creek flowing into the Talbot River, which flows into Lake Simcoe. Soil in this locality a sandy loam suitable for the growth of corn, beans, pumpkins, etc., and other vegetable foods.

On this site also, no relics showing traces of contact with the white men were found. I enquired strictly on this point. The traces of the village are almost completely erased by cultivation.

In the following summer I made a thorough examination of a village site, No. 3, which I had cursorily examined the previous year. This village site is situated on Corbett's Hill, lots 4 and 5, concession 4, Bexley, four miles north of the old Portage road, one and three-quarter miles west of North Bay, Balsam Lake, and two and one-half east of village site No. 4.

That this was a principal town the following will tend to show remains of separate habitations, as evinced by traces of ashes and the generally dark-colored spots of twelve to twenty feet in diameter, produced by the decay of organic matter, were to the number of seventy-five or eighty, and covered an area of five acres, roughly guessing.

A graveyard lying to the north on higher ground, consisted of separate graves in single rows. Some opened some years ago disclosed skeletons in a sitting or crouching position, but no relics. The exact position of this graveyard cannot now be determined without exhaustive research, owing to twenty years of cultivation.

Innumerable fragments of pottery of the same patterns as those found on adjoining sites were gathered together, with bone and horn implements, clay pipes, perforated mussel shells, stone and pottery discs, skimmers, stone pipes, etc., fragments of burnt bones and horns, and bears' teeth.

The soil in the vicinity, though stony, was quite fit for the cultivation of such cereals and vegetables as the aboriginals grew.

Two large springs existed at the bottom of the western slope, and were probably one of the primal inducements to build a town there. As this site is situated midway on the height of land and a little north of the shortest distance between Raven Lake—an expansion of the Talbot River—and Balsam Lake, distant from each other two and one-quarter miles, it commanded the approaches on both sides of the divide to and from the Huron country, if indeed the Hurons existed at the time this village was occupied.

The western slope is very abrupt. A far western view can be obtained from the summit of the divide. Smoke signals from the hills near Lake Simcoe could be discerned and repeated to other localities. The eastern view is intercepted to some extent by a higher cluster of isolated hills, a spur of this height of land. From these hills, especially, smoke signals could be seen miles in any direction, and they furnish the best point for observation of Balsam Lake from its western side.