

A few years after this calamity, Ft. St. Charles was abandoned, and for over a century and a half all traces of it have been lost. In the early part of the last century, some attempts had been made to discover the site, but were unsuccessful on account of the scarcity of documents, and the crudeness of the map of the Lake of the Woods. During recent years researches in the Archives of Paris and Ottawa have brought to light some documents which give a clue to the location of Ft. St. Charles. Notes taken from these by Judge Prudhomme, together with some information given by an Indian chief, Audagnino Winoni, and some discoveries made in former exploits, in which Archbishop Langevin took part, have aided materially in locating the site of Fort St. Charles and the precious relics it contained.

On July 10 of this year, equipped with this information, a party of Jesuit Fathers from St. Boniface, led by Rev. Father Dug s, rector of St. Boniface College, undertook another expedition, which was by no means easy. After reaching the inlet, the probable vicinity of the much-looked-for site, the search was begun with diligence on the north side of the inlet. This continued for some time without much success. After a while, upon the advice of Father Pagn n, who had been looking over the notes, the scene of operations was changed to the south side of the inlet. The shore was examined closely, and a small bay, answering the description in the notes, was found. Shortly after this, the efforts of the Fathers were crowned with success. The ground about the bay was examined; first, the bases of the chimneys which had figured in the descriptions, were found; then an old Indian cabin. Traces of a former habitation began to multiply, till finally the explorers had not only found articles used by civilized people, but also the location of the chapel and the line of palisades. Human bones buried in a heap were unearthed within the fort. A few days later, the search was continued, in which Judge Prudhomme took part. The skeletons of Father Aulneau and of Jean Baptiste de la Verandrye were found buried together, while the skulls of the other nineteen were near them, their bones being buried in a separate heap. Several small articles worn by priests of the period were discovered in close proximity, and other discoveries were made which identify beyond a doubt the remains of the missionary and the dauntless voyageurs.

G. W., '06.