

Notwithstanding this silence on the part of our early explorers, archaeological researches have revealed numerous evidences that most of our shell-fish and even land snails were used as food.

Shell heaps composed of fluviatile species of clams have been found in the interior parts of the country; notably a very large one on the shore of the Concord River, Massachusetts. It was made up almost entirely of shells of *Unio complanatus*, a species which still exists in the river. Ernest Ingersoll,¹ the well-known naturalist, discovered one in Tioga county, New York, but he does not state what species were represented. Dr. Beauchamp informs the writer that he has seen *U. complanatus*, which he says "was the favorite mollusk for food mostly used by the Iroquois," in large beds and small heaps on the Susquehanna. Other *Unio* shells very rarely occur on early Iroquois sites in New York. In Ontario we have a record of only one shell heap, and this is near the Indian mounds at Cameron's Point, in the Rice Lake district. Of this shell heap Mr. Boyle writes: "A little east of the mounds, and now close to the edge of the cliff, there is a quantity of mussel shells, forming a bed from one to ten inches in thickness and seventy-five feet in length. That these were brought here in connection with food purposes there cannot be a doubt, and the Indians of the Alnwick Reserve across the lake explain the presence of so many shells by stating that on one occasion their people would have died of famine but for the plentiful supply of mussels. However this may have been, there are the shells, pointing to an unusually large or long-continued consumption of this kind of food."²

We may be sure that most species of mussels native to Ontario figured quite prominently at the aboriginal repast. Of the species represented in the Museum's collection there are: *Unio gibbosus*, *complanatus*, *luteolus*, *rectus*, *ventricosus*, *alatus*, *ligamentinus* and *plicatus*, and *Margaritana costata* and *marginata*. *Anodonta footana*, *Margaritana rugosa*, and *Unio pressus* were found on village sites in York county.³ *M. rugosa* is not a native of York.

Of the above species *U. gibbosus* (in Waterloo and Oxford) and *U. complanatus* (somewhat generally distributed) are most abundant. *U. ligamentinus*, also fairly well represented in the collection, seems to be confined to the Thames drainage, and *U. rectus* is peculiar to the Brant district.

And now as to snails, their shells are frequently collected on the sites of our Indian villages, and also have been found in shell-heaps in the United States. In one of these shell-heaps in Maine, explored by Professor Wyman and others, the following species of land snails were discovered: *Helix albolabris*,⁴ *Sayii*, *alternata*, *lineata*, *striatella*, *indentata*, *multidentata*, *Zua lubricoides* and *Succinea Totteniana*.⁵ The mussel shells having been used as food, and the land snails being present in the same heap, would indicate that they were used for the same purpose. In the shell-heap referred to as discovered by Mr. Ingersoll, "a few land shells

¹Apud Dr. C. C. Abbott: *Primitive Industry* (Salem, Mass., 1881), p. 442.

²*Annual Archaeological Report of Ontario for 1896-7*, p. 31.

³"Animal Remains found on Indian Village Sites," *Annual Archaeological Report for 1901*, page 45.

⁴There is considerable confusion in our scientific nomenclature. The Helicidae in America being divided into different genera, the shell mentioned is now *Polygyra albolabris*.

⁵*American Naturalist* (Salem, Mass., 1868), Vol. I., p. 566.