

THE BULLETIN OF
 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 OF CENTRAL NEW YORK
 DIVISIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY



The BULLETIN of the Archaeological Society of Central New York is published monthly, except during July and August, in the interest of all phases of archaeological and historical endeavor pertaining to central New York State. Regular meetings of the A. S. C. N. Y. are convened at 8:00 P. M. on the second Thursday of each month at the Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn, N. Y.

The A. S. C. N. Y. is part of the Division of Anthropology of Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn, N. Y.



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APPENDIX TO THE SULLIVAN EXPEDITION, 1779
 THE EXPEDITION ALONG THE WEST SHORE OF CAYUGA LAKE
 UNDER COMMAND OF LIEUT. COL. HENRY DEARBORN

INTRODUCTION TO THE APPENDIX BY THE AUTHOR:

As suggested by W. Glenn Norris, Historian of Tompkins County, it has been decided to add the Campaign of Lieut. Col. Henry Dearborn to the Campaign History of Cayuga County.

Influencing this to some degree is the fact that intensive study during recent years of the culture of the inhabitants of Seneca County between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes during the Iroquois aboriginal period tends to class them as Cayugas rather than as Senecas. It has been generally assumed and believed that they were Senecas. At the time of this writing it has not been definitely determined. However, it is considered of importance to the Campaign History of Cayuga County because of its archaeological importance, and because so little is known by the public concerning it.

No record has been found that gives a survey of the route of Col. Dearborn and it therefore becomes necessary to depend entirely upon what has been published. The mileage quoted is accurate and correct, which may remove the stigma of following the line of least resistance.

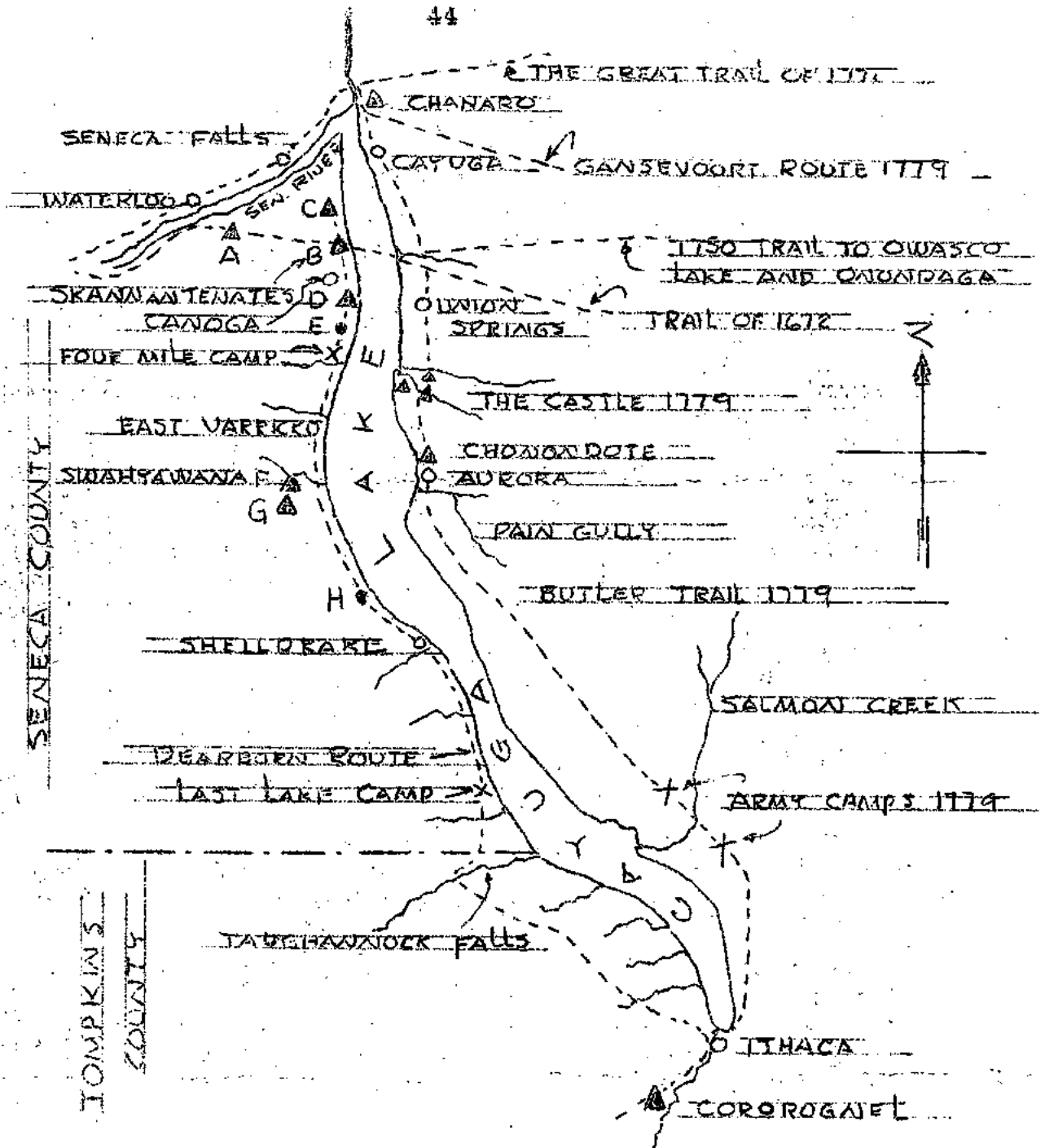
The greater portion of the records are extracts from the History of the Campaign as published by A. Tiffany Norton of Lima, Livingston County, N. Y., in 1879, one hundred years after the campaign took place.

Changes in the route as shown by his map are made to comply with the distances travelled rather than following the course of the Seneca River to the lake, which appears to the writer to be unwarranted and incorrect as per the Army Journals as written.

APPENDIX TEXT

Lieut. Col. Henry Dearborn was of the Third New Hampshire regiment, according to the report of General Sullivan. He was ordered to destroy all of the settlements that might be found in the region and to intercept any Cayugas who might attempt to escape from Col. Butler.

There were four separate expeditions from the main army against as many different points in the enemy's country. Col. Gansevoort went against the lower Mohawk villages, Col. Smith up the west side of Seneca Lake, Col. Butler along the east side of Cayuga Lake, and Lieut. Col. Dearborn up the west side of Cayuga Lake.



MAP exhibiting the Traveled Route by the Detachments of Sullivan's Army on both sides of Cayuga Lake; the location of the Indian Villages as they existed; known trails; their camping places enroute, and modern places for identification of location.

Scale of Map 1-5/8 inches--10 miles

For detail, see the text following

These orders were issued from headquarters camp near Kanadasaga. Col. Dearborn left the main army at the foot of Seneca Lake and proceeded due east on the south side of the Seneca River, where at eight miles distance he found in the woods several pathes of corn, squash, watermelons, and cucumbers, and fifteen horses, which he could not take with him. (What disposition was made of them has not been recorded). This site is nearly directly south from the place called Scawyace (Waterloo), the location of which is designated on the preceding map by the letter A.

Four miles east along the dotted line that indicates the route travelled, they came to Skanayatenate (Skannantenates) a village of ten houses, which stood at B, about a mile north of the present village of Canoga. About a mile north of this was a smaller village C and a mile south a third settlement D, which was called by Dearborn "Newtown", (recently established), consisting of nine houses. These were all destroyed on Sept. 21.

The description of locations and distances travelled obviously indicates that they did not march according to the line as shown on Mr. Tiffany's map, for had they followed the course as his map indicates, the site designated as B would not have been mentioned first.

This destruction took place while Butler's forces were destroying Choharo and enroute to the Castle sites.

They Then marched south up the lake four miles, destroying on the way a large house standing along at E. Here they encamped for the night while Butler's forces were encamped one and two miles from the Castle on the east side of the lake.

On Sept. 22 they proceeded five miles and came to the ruins of a town which a part of the army had burnt when it was discovered by them while they were missing their course along Seneca Lake and accidentally fell in with it at F. Half a mile beyond this a large field of corn and three houses were found.

The corn was gathered and burnt in the houses. This place was called Swahyawana (F and G, one village), and was nearly opposite the present village of Aurora, G.

Two miles further on a hut was found with three squaws and a young Indian who was crippled, H. Two of the squaws were made prisoners. Disposition of them, the other squaw, and the cripple is not quoted in the Journal.

Eight miles beyond here they camped for the night, which must have been on Sept. 23rd, and were but a few miles north of the mouth of Taughanpeck Creek.

The route from here along the shore of Cayuga Lake to the head is almost impassable and it is therefore reasonable to assume that upon the discovery of this, they passed up the hillside and crossed above the falls, keeping on high ground for quite some distance, which was also necessary in order to avoid the many ravines that occur in the vicinity.

As the history states, "The next days march was over a route so horribly rough and bushy that it was difficult to advance, gradually working down the hillside they reached the head of the lake and this morning the 24th after a march of three miles on the high land small parties were sent out to look for a large town that Dearborn had been informed was not many miles from the end of the lake. It was discovered about two miles southwest of the lake. It contained 25 houses and Dearborn named it Cororoguel".

It was situated on the west side of the Cayuga Lake Inlet, which is contrary to the historical quotations as made by General Clark that it was upon the east side of the point where the burying ground existed. (See footnotes by General Clark in Tiffany's history, which reads: "General Clark of Auburn, authority on such points, fixes the site of this town as given in the text".

This town was established sometime between 1750 and 1766 and was inhabited by Tetelos and Delawares who were subjects of the Cayugas and governed by a Cayuga Chief.

At the Cayuga Castle at Great Gully in 1760, a council was held between the Cayuga Chiefs, the Moravian David Zeisberger, and others in reference to the town being established as a permanent settlement.

The village; although it is said that it took no part in the war against the colonists, was completely destroyed, together with the corn fields.

Dearborn was, as is quoted, ordered to await the arrival of Col. Butler at the head of the lake, but it appears that he was impatient and left guides to inform Butler of his departure. Dearborn went nearly directly west over the hills to connect with the trail by which they entered the country at Catherinestown, south of the head of Seneca Lake.

On the morning of the 24th, Butler's forces finished the destruction of Chonodote, and marched to camp at Salmon Creek, leaving Chonodote at 10 o'clock. Thus it is a question as to which town was the last destroyed in the region. However, as some of the destruction of Chonodote took place on the 23rd., it is likely that both towns were finished at about the same time.

When Butler arrived at the point where Dearborn's guides were waiting, and he learned that Dearborn had gone on, a consultation was held and his guides informed him of a short cut to Fort Reed, which they took, and which the army maps indicate.

Thus ended the destruction of the Cayuga Towns, and Mr. E. R. Eastman aptly entitles his story, "The Destroyers".

EVENTS IN BRIEF THAT LED UP TO THE ENLISTMENT OF THE INDIANS BY THE BRITISH

As the hostility of the Iroquois to the struggling colonists during the Revolutionary War were largely due to the influence which Sir Wm. Johnson and his family had over the Indian tribes, a brief historical sketch is hereby quoted of some of the prominent loyalists.

Sir Wm. Johnson was a native of Ireland, and came to America in 1734. It is said that he left Ireland because of a love affair. He was made the agent of a vast estate in Montgomery County, which was owned by his uncle, Sir Peter Warren, an English Admiral.

He established his home near Port Jackson, and was very successful in making friends with the settlers and the Indians. He won the confidence of the Indians to such an extent that he was able to wield over them a powerful influence. He soon acquired their language, and by studying their habits and peculiarities, was able to deal with them on any occasion.

He often donned the Indian dress as a compliment to them, and at his mansion they were always welcome. He had on the Mohawk River two residences known as Johnson Hall and Johnson Castle, the former being his summer residence. Enjoying as he did the favor of the Indians, Sir William was just the man the English Government needed in the exigencies of that period.

The French at that time still maintained a foot-hold in Canada, and as in the past, made strenuous efforts to establish settlements in the country of the Iroquois. This they accomplished to quite an extent in northern New York, the evidence of which at this late date is obvious in the St. Lawrence river region. This fact was recognized by Parliament, and therefore there was need of one who was able to resist the intriguing diplomacy of the French, and thus hold the Iroquois allegiance to the Crown. Having been made Indian Agent, and the Almoner of the King, Sir William craftily lavished the king's gifts upon the Indians, and his powers were greatly advanced toward those of a Baronette.

In the last war against the French, he was made a General of Militia, and having been chosen as a Chief by the Iroquois, he led them in the engagement of that final struggle. For this part, we as an English speaking nation can be thankful, for had it failed, this country might have been a French speaking nation. Sir William was made a Baronet for his service in the expedition against Crown Point, and Parliament voted him five thousand pounds.

He was active in Indian affairs, negotiating many treaties between the Iroquois and Western tribes.

The dark side of his life was shown in his material relations. A comely Dutch maiden filled his heart. Taking her to his abode, she lived with him as his acknowledged wife for many years. By her he had three children; two daughters and a son, who later became Sir John Johnson. One of the daughters married Col. David Claus, and the other married Col. Guy Johnson, a nephew of Sir William. When on her death bed, Sir William was married to this woman in order to legitimize his children.

He afterwards took Molly Brant, a sister of the noted chief, and lived with her for several years before he married her.

The death of Sir William occurred on July 11th, 1774, at the age of 59. Much has been written pertaining to his sudden death, and it is thought to have been suicide. It occurred at the commencement of the struggle for independence. Sir William found himself in a trying position. Many of his neighbors to whom he was deeply attached, had already joined the cause of the colonists. He had led them to victory in previous wars and enjoyed their fullest esteem and confidence. Being under obligation to his King, while distressed by his trying position, it is recorded that he told a friend that he would never live to see the colonists in a state of open war with the mother country. While the circumstances indicate suicide, it is rejected by historians.

Sir John Johnson succeeded to the title and estate of Sir William, and Col. Guy Johnson was made general superintendent of Indian affairs. The Johnsons strongly supported the cause of the King of England and their wealth and power was freely used against the colonists.

There were many Scotch tenants on their domain whom they armed and with Colonel John Butler, his son Walter Butler, and Joseph Brant, the Mohawk Chief, they waged a relentless war on the settlements of the colonists.

Sir John Johnson procured a commission for John Butler and his brother Walter, and they had accompanied him on his expedition against Crown Point in 1755. In the action on Sept. 8th, Walter Butler was killed, but John escaped. The Walter Butler of the revolution was a son of John and a nephew of the Walter Butler killed at Crown Point.

Joseph Brant, whose Indian name was Thayendanegea, was very active in the war. He was a noted Mohawk Chief. However there seems to be no record of his birth or parentage. Some claim him a Mohawk, born on the Ohio. Col. Stone accepts the theory, while Draper assumes that he was a Cherokee. He was a protege of Sir Wm. Johnson, who sent him to school at Lebanon, Conn. After the war, Brant made his home in upper Canada. Brant is charged with many murderous atrocities, and many of them have been denied. However, it may be that he was still an Indian and subject to their methods.

ANNUAL SOCIETY EXHIBIT AT MUSEUM

As has been our custom since the organization of the A. S. C. N. Y., an annual exhibit of Indian artifacts will be held during April and May at Cayuga Museum of History and Art in Auburn, N. Y.

An added feature this year will be an arrangement of Comparative Anatomy including several types of human skulls and the skulls of several mammals which have been acquired in recent months. This display will be arranged by H. Lee Davie whose articles on Anatomy we have enjoyed in recent Bulletins.

A small exhibit of Paleontology is being arranged by Ken. Wright displaying several fossils including a Mammoth tooth, several large shark teeth as well as other specimens of this type of material.

It is urged that as many members as possible participate in making our exhibit this year a success. Please contact Prof. Walter K. Long, director of Cayuga Museum; Kenneth N. E. Wright, chairman of Division of Anthropology of the Museum or any of the Society officers.

AN ARCHAIC SITE AT SENECA YACHT CLUB
EAST SHORE OF SENECA LAKE

by

Floyd Johnston
Geneva, New York

In the summer of 1935, workmen who were removing the top soil on the east shore of Seneca Lake just south of the Seneca Yacht Club, dug up some fragments of bone and stone implements of Indian culture. I had the good fortune to find out about it and started a little excavation with my brother-in-law, Murry Guilfoose. We succeeded in digging a lot of net sinkers, a few stone beads, arrow points, half of which were broken, bone awls and many fragments of bone. We also recovered quite a few crude stone implements, hammer stones, three or four stone adzes, teeth of animals and other unknown objects. Roy Roach and Bill Warder, Sr., also found a quantity of the same objects as well as two fine pestels and some mortars.

The Rochester Museum of Arts and Science was soon notified and archaeologists under the direction of Dr. Wm. A. Ritchie started excavation. They found the same class of articles that we had previously discovered. Dr. Ritchie said that it was his belief that this particular site was used as a rubbish heap by the Indians and that the village site was east of the dump heap, but the road which runs through there now had destroyed it.

The relics uncovered belonged to the Archaic-Algonkian period which existed long years before the Iroquois Confederacy and represents the oldest definite occupation yet discovered in New York State. It is the second largest village site of that culture reported and excavated in this State, the largest being at Lake Lamoka.

Dr. Ritchie and his party found unmistakable evidence that the Indians were cannibals. He based his opinion on the human bones that were found which were cracked and broken to extract the marrow.

The archaeologists unearthed two skeletons, of which one bore a gorget, or breast ornament, but it was broken. It was Dr. Ritchie's belief that the burial was of a later date, probably of the second Algonkian period.

The Rochester Museum party were excavating for about two weeks; after they were gone, Murry and I again dug there several times together with George Clark. Between us, we had accumulated a considerable collection and as I was most interested in making a collection of this type of material, Murry sold what artifacts he had recovered to me and I obtained other pieces from Roy Roach and I now have a rather nice collection from the Yacht Club Site. The articles are for the most part, rather crudely made but I prize them highly on account of the early culture which they represent.

HAIL KENDATA

by

Anita Wesselmann
Geneva, New York

The last Sunday in May, 1949, was the date set to explore Kendaia on Sampson's grounds. Preliminary permission had been obtained months in advance from the Dean of Sampson College. The party was made up of President Newton Farwell, Honorary president Harrison C. Follett, Harry Schoff and daughter Helen, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wray, and Mrs. Wesselmann and daughter Janine.

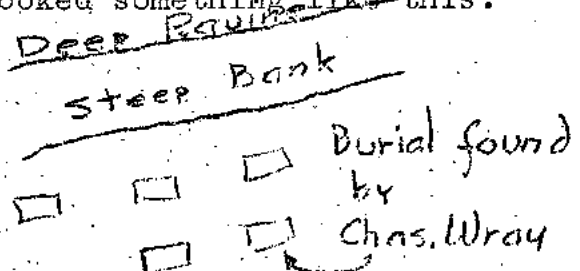
We went directly to the general locality of the state marker "Kendaia". No time was wasted getting out of the cars with shovels and other tools for digging. Harry Schoff had a place in mind and started working in a small part of the field which was pitted with unethically refilled test holes. It was more like a modern battlefield. Obviously, we all started digging where the holes weren't. There wasn't much choice to choose from so some of the digging was done very close to trees. After much hard chopping of roots, Harry found one grave which yielded poorly. The grave contained some brass spangles from a necklace of periwinkle shells. It was the grave of a tall Indian. I shall never forget him. He was the first I had ever seen in that state. I helped shovel dirt back--reverently.

Three graves in the same vicinity, presumably of the pre-contact period, yielded comparatively little and the morning was over. We stopped for a picnic lunch when Mrs. Farwell and son David, and Mrs. Schoff joined the group.

The afternoon program included a little of everything. In fact, it was anticlimactical inasmuch as we were showered from above by pouring rain, hail, more rain, and more hail. We changed locations, and in doing so, made the trip exciting and worthwhile. Harry had dug the spot before so he chose a new area near the ravine and the rest of us started test-holing. Charlie Wray was meeting with success for he found a grave, as did Harry, who produced a blue glass trade ring in rather good condition, and one of his leather gloves which he had lost at the spot several years before on a previous digging expedition.

At this point, the situation looked something like this:

Being a rank amateur, I didn't know where to put my weak, short, shovel, but I started dreaming Indians...and I wondered about how they might want to bury someone. Might not a pattern of graves run in this order: - - - - -



Since the graves were all parallel to the ravine, roughly two rows deep, why not have a grave as a cornerstone to others going horizontally to the ravine....sort of an outer guard to the inner graves. I started action (until the shovel hit dirt) in the spot most likely to be the foot of the grave next to the imaginary cornerstone. After a few shovelfulls, the dirt looked to be organic...or suspiciously interesting. With the voice of a lowly amateur, I asked the other archaeologists if I might have something....please, huh?

Harry came over, looked, dug, and said it looked good. Also said I could have the first thing found. Can you remember your feeling about your first Indian artifact possession? The first article to come up was a blackened brass pot in almost perfect condition, containing an animal shaped comb of wood with bead work on top, some spangles with horsehair attached, which may have been a pouch, food, and traces of vermillion. Harry also found a tomahawk within this grave.

Sometime between hail and rain...(we ran down the wooded ravine for shelter twice) Charley Wray found the grave which was the piece de resistance of the day. It was that of a woman, and contained a fairly good brass pot and much bead work on what was deduced to have been a skirt and mocassins. The design fairly leaped up at us in its clearness. The bottom of the skirt seemed to be done in a bird motif. There was also a necklace of various kinds of small green, black blue, and white glass beads, and wampum, pink-purple and lesser white.

It was over this encouraging grave that we all ended, stems tilted Hellward, sterns Hairward, sifting out the fine beads, a goodly supply of which Charley graciously let us have.

As we were leaving the grounds, a patrolling police car stopped us and asked what our business was. Since we still have our beads, pots, and a desire to revisit, everything turned out satisfactorily.

THE MARCH MEETING

The March meeting was held at the Cayuga Museum on the 9th of the month. The weather on that particular night was probably as bad as any this winter; however, ten members attended including Pres. Farwell and Mr. & Mrs. Wesselmann of Geneva.

The program on which Jim. Stowell of Elmira was to speak was postponed due to a severe cold on the part of the speaker. Jim will be with us at a later date which will be announced.

The evening was spent on plans for the annual banquet to be held April 27th and in getting out the March Bulletin.

RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN WEST CENTRAL NEW YORK

by

Harrison C. Follett

It was occurred to the writer that a narrative pertaining to the activities in the western part of central New York might be of interest to members of the Society who inhabit that region.

It has been about forty years since the writer was active in the field of archaeology in this section which is the territory known historically as that of the Senecas.

It has been a source of great pleasure to the writer to have had the opportunity during the fall of 1948 to have visited a great many of the Indian village sites of the region through the courtesy of Mr. Harry Schoff, Mr. Charles Wray and Mr. Donald Cameron who by observing the method and system of research conducted by them prompts the writer to cite their operations as being worthy of great praise. The thorough excavation, regardless of the remuneration, tends to class them far above the average so-called professional who generally excavated only the heart of a site; that is to say, that portion which is productive of artifacts. The reason, of course, is quite obvious for it often happens that an expedition which is sent forth to excavate is financed by insufficient funds to completely excavate a site, or perhaps is better explained, by stating that a specified amount of funds are appropriated and when, as a rule, it is exhausted, excavation ceases. It is seldom that a return to the site is made. Thus the head of the expedition is forced to render his deductions by what has been recovered in a limited time and as it often happens, the territory left unexplored contains information that, had it have been recovered, the deductions made would be different.

A specific case known is that of a prehistoric site in Ontario County where, years ago, a person was sent out on an expedition from a western city to excavate. The burial site was opened and after several graves had been excavated and no accompaniments found with the deceased, was abandoned and definitely declared that the culture in prehistoric time did not place accompaniments with their dead.

At a very recent time the gentlemen above mentioned, knowing of the decision made and in face of the graves being on an average of three feet deep in tenacious red clay, excavated several of the untouched portions of the cemetery and they too dug many graves before they were rewarded with some of the most unique pipes yet found in the region.

These pipes, together with other articles from the site have resulted in changing the deductions of an eminent archaeologist on the culture of the occupants from that of the Senecas to the Cayugas.

So, throughout the territory their excavations, records and proper care of artifacts has rendered sufficient information for the writer to prepare a large volume of manuscript of the region and a tentative migration map of the Iroquois region from the Genesee River on the west to Owasco Lake on the east.

An example of what may result in more definite determination some time in the future is the advanced theory of Mr. Harry Schoff that the early Seneca of the region did not possess the art of native clay pipe construction; this hypothesis, as it may be termed, results from the complete excavation on an ancient pure Seneca site of very slight European contact on which in over three hundred graves disinterred many of which contained pottery and other articles, not a single pipe or fragment thereof was found. The refuse and surface of the site has failed likewise to produce any. However, evidence made by photography and careful excavation produced evidence of wooden pipes; stone pipes made by gouging a hole in pebbles occur in considerable quantity.

Upon a neighboring site of about the same period of habitation the result is the same and upon successive sites up to the period of Huron contact no clay pipes appear. But in the Huron contact period pipes occur that are so identical with those from Huron sites of Canada that they cannot be distinguished apart. Evidence that quite conclusively indicates that Huron taught them the art is abundant but is omitted from this article for various reasons at this time.

Health and revival of youthfull days permitting, it is hoped in the spring to continue the field trips that are interesting beyond the ability of the writer to describe.

Congratulations boys, you are pursuing a course that is indeed commendable.

THE TOTEM POLE



The A. S. C. N. Y. welcomes Mr. Paul Farnham of Aurora, N. Y. to society membership. Mr. Farnham is well known in this region for his activities as secretary of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce and secretary of the Finger Lakes Association; he succeeded the late Harry R. Melone in the Finger Lakes Association.

THE COVER THIS MONTH

1. Crucifix from the Maynard A. Cramer collection now on exhibit at Cayuga Museum of History and Art in Auburn, N. Y.
2. Corpus from Crucifix found by Kenneth N. E. Wright in the refuse at St. Joseph's Mission Site of 1656-1683 at Mapleton, N. Y. As far as can be determined, this is the first Crucifix ever recovered from that famous site. There are three others of this type known; two from Scipioville site of 1725 in the collection of the owner of the site, Mr. Russell Paddington and one in the Haberlie collection at the Onondaga Historical Association in Syracuse, N.Y.
3. Crucifix found by James L. Ward of Cayuga, N. Y. on the surface at Scipioville site and now on exhibit at the Cayuga Museum.

JUNIOR MEMBER EXHIBITS

Jason Dobbs, eleven year old son of George F. Dobbs, participated in the recent hobby show at Seward School in Auburn where he attends. He exhibited his Indian relic collection, most of which he has acquired through his own efforts when he has accompanied his father on several field trips.

It is imagined that George augmented Jason's display with several articles from his personal collection.

Incidentally, George recently exhibited some of his collection at the First Methodist Boy Scout meeting promoting considerable interest among the boys.