

THE SEARCH FOR THE JESUIT MISSION
OF
STE. MARIE DE GANNENTAHA

by

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and
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1980

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Marie de Gannentaha certainly is the most persistent. The other, the 1751 French attempt at a post, is included only because we were unsuccessful in locating any documentation that resolves its final status. While there is no strong indication construction even was started, neither is there any hard proof stating it was not. The considerable separation of time between these two candidates however, from 1656 to 1751, should be sufficient for archaeological evidence to make a distinction.

C. LOCATION OF ANY ARTIFACTS REMOVED PRIOR TO 1974 FROM THE LOT 106 SITE

Related to our literature search, we also attempted to locate and document any articles removed from the Lot 106 site in years prior to the advent of controlled archaeological investigation in 1974. Clark has told us in his 1849 work that the area was long known as a collector's delight, with many European items regularly retrieved from the site (Clark 1849II:147).

This is reiterated by Beauchamp, especially in the notes of his Onondaga Antiquities relative to correspondence with Dr. William G. Hinsdale. The latter was a well known collector of native and European material in the Onondaga Lake environs during the decades both immediately preceeding and following the turn of this century. Beauchamp, himself, walked the shoreline in these years recovering artifacts.

However, despite persistent local oral tradition of considerable material being found on the Lot 106 site, some as late as during construction of the Ward W. Ward house there in 1914, documentation on only a few meager items have survived suitable to allow any analysis. This is contained mostly in Beauchamp's notes.

Compounding the problem of analyzing even these few items is the fact that the present location of only one is known — a small crucifix on loan to Fort Ticonderoga by a relative of Dr. Hinsdale. Dr. Hinsdale reported to Beauchamp that he found it on May 2, 1889, "...among the salt vats at Green Point, not far from the Ganentaha Spring site" (Beauchamp 1879 V:734). Beauchamp, himself, in the same work indicates his own recovery of ten beads from "a railroad cut south of Liverpool"; a stone effigy, possibly of a Jesuit, from Lot 3 in the Town of Salina; and a coiled copper earring (sic?) fragment from the Ganentaha Spring site on Lot 106 (Beauchamp 1879 V:486, 794.). All these findings are either from, or in close proximity to the suspected mission site on Lot 106.

In addition, a local newspaper article in 1891 stated:

Dr. Hinsdale has observed that while articles of European make are common on the east bank of Onondaga Lake, they are comparatively rare upon the opposite side. Possibly this may be accounted for by the fact of the Jesuit mission being upon the

eastern side. From this site Dr. Hinsdale has obtained many rare specimens, among which are enamelled beads of various colors, a Jesuit cross of copper. . .and in addition, a silver coin of Louis XIII, and other coins, chiefly traders' relics, together with a few iron hatchets of French origin.

(Hand 1891: 4)

Since drawings and descriptions of the crucifix, beads, effigy and the copper ornament which was possibly an earring fragment are given in Beauchamp's Onondaga Antiquities (1879), they are analyzed below by Peter Pratt. Regrettably, the whereabouts of only the crucifix is known. (As noted in the foregoing, it is on loan to Fort Ticonderoga). The beads and the copper ornament, along with the other items reported to have come from Lot 106 are apparently long since lost.

The Brass Crucifix

Beauchamp (1903: 48) observed:

Fig. 158 [shown here as Fig.5] shows both sides of a thin brass crucifix found by Dr. Hinsdale among the salt vats near the Gannentaha spring, the seat of the French mission house of 1656, it is of antique appearance, but in fine preservation, and the natural impulse is to connect it with this mission. The French inscription strengthens this. On comparison with recent memorials of modern religious missions, the writer is inclined to ascribe it to our own day. The obverse has Christ on an inscribed cross, and with the knees unusually drawn up. Each limb of the cross terminates in a trefoil outline, and these each include two or three small bosses on the obverse. The reverse is quite plain, and has SOUVENIR on the short, and DE MISSION on the long bar of the cross.

Noted Jesuit historian, Fr. Adrien Pouliot (1980) confirms Beauchamp's suspicions, stating that this type of crucifix was commonly distributed by 19th Century Roman Catholic clergy when they were engaged in a "mission", (generally seeking financial support for the Church). This item is therefore, not of further relevance to this present search.

The Glass Beads

It is difficult to tell the time periods represented by the beads (all from a railroad cut south of Liverpool) without actually seeing their colors and sizes. Beauchamp briefly describes each of them as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| a. Red porcelain | d. Blue | g. Bright red |
| b. Blue glass | e. Opaque white | h. Red |
| c. Light blue | f. Clear white | i. Indian Red |
| | | k. Brownish |

(Beauchamp 1879, Vol. V: Fig 765)

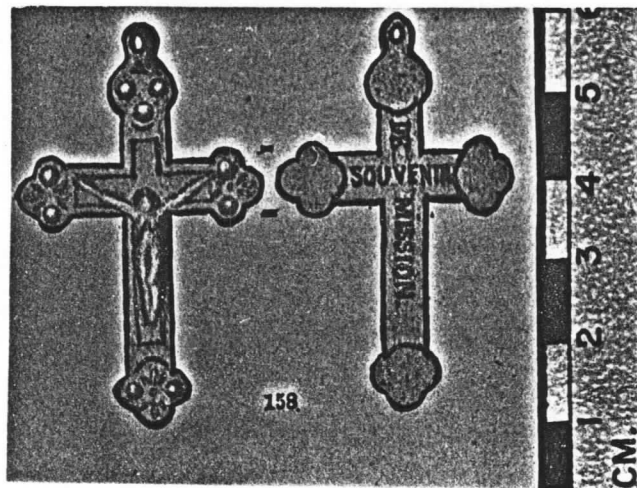


Fig. 5. Brass Crucifix from the Salt Vats near the Gannentaha Spring. (After Beauchamp 1903: Fig. 158).

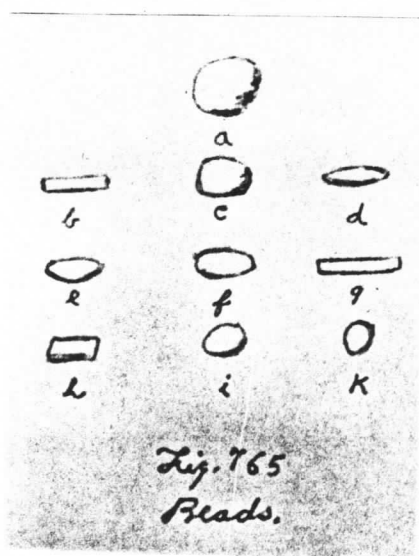


Fig. 6. Trade Beads from a Railroad Cut South of Liverpool. (After Beauchamp 1879 V: Fig. 765).

Assuming that his drawings of them (given here as Fig. 6) are roughly actual size, comparison will now be made of them to those illustrated in Pratt (1961) in his study of the introduction of glass trade beads to the Oneida Iroquois. Pratt's corresponding Plate and No. will be given where possible in parenthesis together with a suggested date for each bead in turn.

- a. The red "porcelain" (sic glass?) appears to have been introduced between 1625 - 1637 (Pratt 1961, Pl. 2, No. 36).
- b. The blue glass bead is present as early as c. 1570 - 1595 as seen in the presence of such a bead in the John Stillman collection from the Cameron site (which bears the code name Wayland-Smith in Pratt's 1961 publication), (Pratt 1980).
- c. The light blue bead is probably also like ones from the Cameron site. (Pratt 1961: Pl. 1, No. 7).
- d. Three beads of an oval blue form which might be very much like if not identical to the blue one shown in Beauchamp are in the Stillman collection, again from the Cameron site (cf. Pratt 1961: Pl. 2, No. 40).
- e. & f. Just what Beauchamp meant by "opaque white" vs. "clear white" is difficult to say. Without seeing them for both color and form, one has to relegate them to being either late 16th century or late 17th century (Pratt 1980).
- g. The thin bright red tubular bead appears to have been introduced with broken ends about 1640 (Wray 1973: 18; Bradley and DeAngelo 1980: 4); Pratt 1961: Pl. 3, No. 72B), and became very popular from about 1660 - 1675 (Wray 1973: 18, Pratt 1961: Pl. 3, No. 72B).
- h. Short tubular red beads with tumbled ends were very much in vogue between 1660-1675 (Wray 1973: 18; Pratt 1980). They all appear to have a dark core, however, which Beauchamp doesn't mention for bead "h".
- i. The "Indian red" bead is pea size and round, probably very much like "a". If so, its date of introduction is the late 16th through early 17th centuries (Pratt 1961: Pl. 2, No. 36).
- k. A "brownish" oval bead doesn't appear to be anything familiar. Subtle variations in glass bead color occur since there was no standardization of proportions of chemicals used in their manufacture (Pratt 1980).

Taken as a group, insofar as can be determined from the drawings and descriptions available, the dates of introduction of these glass beads to the Iroquois ranges from the late 16th through the mid-17th centuries while it may be that the white beads are

later could not be established from the date provided, nor could the brown bead be dated.

The Stone Effigy

From Lot 3 in the Town of Salina (Beauchamp 1879 V: Fig. 794) came the remarkable effigy in red slate (sic catlinite?) shown here as Fig. 7. A low relief depiction of the torso of a bald man clad in a collared loose garment. The figure certainly suggests a robed priest. Nothing like this specimen is known to the writers. The use of red slate (or catlinite) in the making of effigies really doesn't come into vogue until the turn of the 18th century. Nothing as elaborate as this particular effigy would be expected from a mid-17th century context, though it may have occurred that early (Pratt 1980).

The Copper Ornament

The flat copper spiral (cf. Fig. 8), specifically from the Gannentaha Spring Site on Lot 106 (Beauchamp 1879 V: Fig. 486), is a type of ornament known to have been very popular among both the Seneca and the Oneida from about 1550 to 1600 (Wray 1973: 23; Pratt 1976: 277).

Other Artifacts Recorded in the Literature

1. "Enamelled" beads

These are reported from Lot 106 as having been found by Dr. Hinsdale (Hand 1891: 4). The word "enamelled" suggests layering. Glass beads having layering of different colors were introduced as early as the late 16th century and new types continued to be introduced in greater or lesser numbers thereafter (Pratt 1980).

2. Coins

Not only was a Louis XIII silver coin found on Lot 106, but "other coins, chiefly traders' relics", as well (Hand 1891: 4). Coins are fairly common on Indian sites of the mid to third quarter of the 17th century, as at the Onondaga site of Indian Hill. From the Indian Hill site (c. 1663-1682) have come a series of French coins including lairds dated 1656 and 1657 and double turnois of 1619, 1639, 1640 and 1642 (Bradley and DeAngelo 1980: 7,8).

Notes: Backfilling and or continued excavation will require periodic use of excavation equipment in view of the extent of the overburden and the necessity of drainage in the trench.

If limited or extensive excavation is to continue, a drainage way should be opened to the west as soon as possible in order to permit drying before any work is carried out.

The location of such a drainage way is critical in order to avoid destruction of archaeological evidence. If such work is undertaken, we would suggest profiling the east side of C-4 and then cutting out a trench running directly west from C-4 to the drainage way at the bottom of the slope.

In view of other possible evidence not within the apparent post mold line, we would suggest on-site inspection of the excavation of the drainage way.

With regard to equipment, a rubber mounted combination front end loader and backhoe on a medium sized tractor should be sufficient, however if a backhoe bucket without teeth is available, this would be ideal, particularly during the removal of overburden from the post mold line.

If excavation is to continue we would suggest ignoring the 19th century trash layers unless concentrated deposits with high artifact content are encountered.

In order to avoid undue equipment charges, we would suggest a three day schedule, with one day devoted to an hour or two opening the drainage and a return some time later for two days work on the post mold line together with backfilling.

Opinion

Present archaeological opinion is drifting toward conservation and promoting excavation only when necessary. Therefore it is the writer's opinion that unless this project is necessary to on-going research it could be left unexcavated at this time. (De Angelo 1975).

B. EXCAVATION OF 1979

The 1979 excavations followed the research design stated in the "Methodology". The field work began on December 6 and continued

through December 8. A County backhoe was used to clear the excavation of heavy fill and overburden. Excavation then continued by hand with round-pointed shovels and pointing trowels being the basic digging tools. Testing beneath the Manor was accomplished by shovel and trowel only. These investigations were directed by Peter P. Pratt assisted by Marjorie K. Pratt, Gordon C. De Angelo, Charles Groat, Edmund Britt, Dennis Connors, Michael Connell and Richard Fennessey.

The area excavated in 1979 included the squares opened in 1974, Squares C-1 through C-8 (cf. Figs. 2 & 9). The squares cleared by backhoe on the east side of Squares C-3 and C-4 were designated B-3 and B-4 respectively. Another new square was opened on the west side of Square C-3 and was designated Square D-3. The last new area opened in 1979 was an exploratory trench outside the excavation area proper. This is shown as No. 12 (Trench 1) in Fig. 9. Only preliminary testing was done in the Manor itself. This was carried out directly below the Manor Lounge in an unexcavated section of the cellar.

The artifactual materials recovered related predominantly to the 19th and 20th centuries. As with the 19th century items found in the 1974 excavations, these items probably related, at least for the most part, to house refuse from the Ward Wellington Ward house. Other artifacts, however, were of 17th century date. They included three glass trade beads, a European ball clay pipe bowl, a flintlock hammer, and a gunflint, as well as some other items that likely relate to the 17th century. Each of these items will be discussed in turn.

Artifact Descriptions

The glass trade beads included a round opaque brick red drawn bead with a translucent light blue core. This bead has a width of c. 6.75 mm and a length of c. 5.8 mm. It appears to be a rare bead in the Northeast. The provenience of only one other is known to us. It comes from the mid 17th century Mohawk Valley Coleman Van Dusen Site and is in the Dr. Kingston Larnier collection (Palatine Bridge, New York). Dr. Larnier's bead will be illustrated in Pratt's forthcoming volume on glass trade beads among the Iroquois, as Pl. 7, No. 15 (Pratt n.d.). A second glass trade bead, again drawn and "pea size", (width c. 6.6; length c. 7.1 mm), opaque brick red, but having no core, was very popular among the Iroquois in the mid 17th century. It is first known to appear in the Northeast in the early to mid 17th century (Wray and Schoff 1953; Pratt 1980). Beads like it are illustrated in Pratt's 1961 bead study in Pl. 2, No. 36 and will also be illustrated in Pratt's forthcoming bead study in Pl. 2, No. 2 (Pratt n.d.). The third bead was for the decoration of clothing, (such as skirt borders) and clothing accessories, (such as knife sheaths and bags or pouches of various descriptions).

It is short, tubular, opaque, white and tiny (width c. 1.9mm; length c. 2.2mm). Such beads were popular among the Iroquois from the first quarter of the 18th century. They do rarely occur earlier and are known from the Onondaga Iroquois Indian Hill Site which has been dated to 1663-1682 and has produced a number of French coins -- both "double turnois" and "lairds". The "double turnois" coins date 1618, 1639, 1640 and 1642. The "lairds" bear the dates of 1656 and 1657. This site is the suspected site of Father Garnier's 1667 re-established St. Jean Baptiste mission (Bradley and De Angelo 1980:7-8). Beads of this type are illustrated in Pratt's 1961 bead study in Pl. 3, No. 93 and will be shown in Pratt's forthcoming bead volume in Pl. 2, No. 23 (Pratt n.d.).

Two fragments of a European ball clay tobacco pipe bowl of bulbous form (cf. Fig 11), strongly suggest early 17th century Dutch manufacture (De Angelo 1980). Five smaller fragments may relate to the same bowl or to other pipes.

Items relating to arms and armament included a gun hammer, a gunflint and two pieces of lead shot. The gun hammer is from a flintlock musket. It is so rusty that the shape of the back of it could not be clearly made out. It could only be seen that it had a form which could be dated no closer than between 1620 and 1660 since the back of the specimen is so corroded. Through the kindness of NYSAA Beauchamp Chapter member and, dentist by profession, Dr. A. Gregory Sohrweide, the item was X-rayed (Fig. 12). The fuzzy portions of the X-ray composite show the rust. Beneath the rust, the outline could be easily discerned and revealed a straight back and the notch for the "dog" of a doglock musket, both distinctively 1640-1660 in character (cf. Mayer 1943: Fig. 2, p.20; Fig. 3, p. 21 and item D, pp. 38 and 39).

The gunflint is made of a white mottled black flint. Macroscopically the flint is unidentifiable as to source and a thin section was not made of it. It has a modified spall form ("D" shaped, 24 mm wide at front edge, 19 mm long and about 44 mm thick) (Fig. 11). The small size of the flint indicates that it is likely from a light fusil or pistol, while the form suggests 17th century vintage (De Angelo 1980).

The two pieces of lead shot are respectively .17 caliber (4.3 mm) and .18 caliber (4.6 mm) in size, therefore between a B and BB (Dixie Gunworks Inc. 1979). This is a drop shot made by the process first publicized by Prince Rupert in 1665 (Hamilton 1976:35). This type of shot was made by pouring the melted lead through a sieve which was mounted at about one foot distant above a pan of water. The hot lead, which had been fluxed with arsenic, was poured through live coals and flowed through the sieve into the water bath below. Not enough time lapse had occurred to permit the lead droplets to form perfect spheres. The resulting form was therefore somewhat oval in cross section with a slight dimple on one side (cf. Fig. 11). These two pieces of shot therefore represent a time period sometime between c. 1665 and 1769 when it was discovered that shot dropped from a tower resulted in perfect "undimpled" spheres (DeAngelo 1980; Hamilton 1976; 35 and Fig. 26).

Other items of special interest are three small fragments of sheet brass (.5 mm thick). They are likely from one or more brass "kettles", (roughly saucepan shaped pots each having an iron bale). These were manufactured for the Indian market as trade items that would quickly wear through. When that occurred the Indians cut up the kettles and made the scraps into various ornaments (especially tiny cones to wear on shirt or tunic fringes to serve as "tinklers"), tools (such as saws and knives) and weapons (notably arrowpoints). Brass kettles were traded to the Iroquois from the 16th through the 18th centuries.

Possibly temporally related items to the brass scraps are two pieces of very thin (-1.0 mm) sheet iron which bear a copper patina which likely indicates that the object(s) from which they originally came, were copper or brass plated. If they are parts of pails, (and iron ones do rarely occur), they are probably from the late 1600's up through the 18th century. Tin plated iron pails appear in the late 1600's in Seneca country (Wray 1973: 22) and one that did not appear to have been plated was discovered in an Onondaga burial, adjacent and relating to the site at Jamesville attacked by Count Frontenac in 1696 (Pratt 1980).

Artifact Proveniences

All but two of the items datable to the 17th or 18th centuries came from Square D-3, Level 2 or from within the first two inches below it in Feature 14. The two additional items were the possible brass or copper plated iron pail fragments. These came from Trench 1, where no strata were observed.

Level 2 appeared at a depth of c. 8 inches below the dark brown clay loam topsoil and consisted of what is referred to in Fig. 9 as No. 9 (the 17th century stratum) and No. 10 in the same figure (Feature 1). The soil of the Level 2 stratum was a black ashy clay loam. It ranged in thickness from c. 1-2" throughout the square. Though it is a 17th century stratum it does contain intrusive materials of later date (e.g., cf. Table 2, p. 75, C-7, Level 2 and p. 77, D-3 Level 2). Feature 1 is a shallow, flat bottomed pit containing gray, ashy clay. This feature was not completely excavated, as it ran into the north, east and west walls of the square. The depth of this feature is c. 12 inches. Neither its width nor its length can be determined without further excavation. From immediately adjacent the westernmost of the two post molds (shown as No. 4 in Fig. 9) from a black ashy pocket containing tiny charcoal fragments came the tiny white bead and the white mottled gun flint. This pocket was round, c. 8 inches in diameter and 2 inches thick. It was designated Feature 2. This feature, though it does not show it in the schematic plan of Figure 9, overlies by about 1 to 2 inches the north end of the westernmost of the two postmolds designated No. 4 in the figure. The gun hammer, the largest ball clay pipe bowl fragment and the two "pea size" red glass beads were all recovered from the east

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE SEARCH

The background and literature search, as observed on page 10, was designed to investigate:

- Seventeenth century sources offering a contemporary description or plan of Ste. Marie de Gannentaha,
- Documentation of facts related to the 1797 discovery of an "Old Stockade" on Lot 106, and relating this to the incidence of known colonial construction activity on the shores of Onondaga Lake,
- Location and analysis of any artifacts removed prior to 1974 from the Lot 106 site.

1. Forts and Encampments on Onondaga Lake

1. Ste. Marie de Gannentaha

The information gathered from the 17th century sources suggests that the Mission contained several wooden buildings surrounded by a rectangular stockade of straight double rows of wooden upright. Each corner of the stockade appears to have had a bastion, two of which were larger than the others. A dock was also related to the Mission as was a "hall" (sic?), (Scull 1967:18, 125). In Fr. LeJeune's Relation of 1657, there is reference to at least one building having a "loft" and a "cellar" (JR 44:313). In addition, Fr. Charlevoix notes that the largest building at the site was a type of barn which was set away from the other buildings (Charlevoix 1870 I:320). The size of the entire fortification can only be guessed at, but in order to accommodate some 50 people, along with a barnyard, it would likely have been somewhat smaller than the site of Ste. Marie in Huron territory which accommodates some 55 to 60 people and covered, judging from the frontispiece in Ste. Marie Among the Hurons (Jury and Jury 1954), some 7/8 acres of habitation area. If the site of Ste. Marie de Gannentaha is that shown on the Geddes map of 1797 (cf. Fig. 3), it covered about 1/2 acre (Clark 1847 II:148), though there may well have been outbuildings which are not described in the literature.

The questions of what may be "parapet" vs. bastion on the Geddes map may never be resolved since much of the fort shown in the Geddes map lies under the Le Moyne Manor Restaurant and parking lot. At the time of Radisson's writing (1657), there were only two bastions, but two more may have been added within the next year (before

the site was abandoned), and these might all have been of a "parapet" character (cf. Background and Literature Search, pp. 21-22). The wall shown angling from the west side of the fortification is unexplained at this time.

It is highly unlikely that the fort built under Count Frontenac's direction in 1696 (Fig. 4, p. 24) could have been that shown in the Geddes map of 1797 (cf. Fig. 3, p. 8 and App. 3, p. 90). This seems unlikely because the distances shown in the map in Fig. 4 are very accurate (e.g. the length and width of Onondaga Lake, the distance to Three Rivers, etc.). Therefore, it is probable that Frontenac's fort was located where indicated in Fig. 4 — at the head of the lake. Moreover, the "barbell" shape of Frontenac's fort is markedly dissimilar from that shown on the Geddes map.

There are a series of possibilities for the identity of the fort on the basis of the literature, viz:

1. Governor Bellomont's Fort of 1711. Interestingly, the fort to be built for New York Governor Bellomont for which contract was let by the English in 1711 appears never to have been constructed (cf. p. 26).
2. A French post of 1751. The French may have started or even possibly completed construction of a fort on Onondaga Lake in 1751 which they would have been forced to abandon by Sir William Johnson's purchase that year of Onondaga Lake and the land surrounding it (cf. pp. 26-27).
3. Sir William Johnson's Encampment of 1756. While Sir William Johnson encamped for some ten days on Onondaga Lake in late June, 1756, it is unlikely that he would have constructed anything of such permanence as the structure shown on the Geddes map.
4. Sir William Johnson's Fort of 1756. The location of Johnson's 1756, 150 foot square stockaded fort is known to be located at the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Valley Drive and Dorwin Avenue in Syracuse, some 3 1/2 miles south of Onondaga Lake (cf. p. 27).
5. Colonel Van Schaick's Encampment of 1779. Colonel Van Schaick's expedition of 1779 against the Onondagas encamped for an over-night stay on April 21 alongside Onondaga Lake. They would have had no time to construct such a structure as that shown in the Geddes map.

In sum, the evidence at hand favors the location of the fort recorded in 1797 as being that of the site of Ste. Marie de Gannentaha.

The information gathered from the literature about artifacts which had been found on the site produced the following relevant data:

2. Artifacts Recovered on or Near the Site at Salt Springs

Glass Beads

Glass trade beads were recovered by Beauchamp (cf. Beauchamp 1879 V: Fig. 765) from a railroad cut south of Liverpool. The cut may have been anywhere between a few hundred feet and some one-half mile to the north of the site.

Those beads which could be identified as to date (7 of the 10 beads), showed a date range between the late 16th through the mid-17th century.

Stone Effigy

An effigy also recorded by Beauchamp (1879 V: Fig. 794) and identified as red slate (sic catlinite?) from nearby Lot 3 in the Town of Salina shows what appears to be a low relief carving of the torso of a robed priest. Such an item is unknown from elsewhere in the literature. The use of red slate or catlinite does not become popular among the Iroquois until the turn of the 17th century though such an item may have occurred as early as the mid-17th century.

A Copper Ornament

A flat copper spiral ornament, again described by Beauchamp (1879 V: Fig. 486) as coming from the Gannentaha Spring site on Lot 106 is a type of ornament which was popular among the Iroquois in the last half of the 16th century.

Enamelled Beads

Enamelled beads were reported from Lot 106 by Hinsdale (Hand 1891:4). While it is unlikely that the beads were enamelled the term suggests layering. Layered glass beads occur on Iroquois sites from as early as the late 16th century.

Coins

A number of coins were recovered on Lot 106 (Hand 1891: 4). The very presence of coins, together with the fact that there were more than one, suggests a mid-17th century date. Coins on Indian sites in central New York are usually French "lairds" dated 1656 or 1657. The Onondaga Indian Hill site which has been dated to 1663-1682 and is the suspected site of Father Garnier's 1667 — established St. Jean Baptiste mission has produced "lairds" dated 1656 and 1657 as well as French "double tournois" dating 1619 1633, 1640 and 1642. (Bradley and De Angleo 1980: 7-8). The only coin from Lot 106 for which a date can be inferred is a silver coin depicting

Louis XIII whose reign was 1610-1643.

6. Iron Axes

An unspecified number of "iron hatchets" are reported from the Lot 106 (Hand 1891: 4). Without further information, they can only be said to come from sometime after 1550.

In review of the above artifactual evidence, the glass trade beads from the railroad cut south of Liverpool cover a time range that would allow their being in use during the Ste. Marie time period very nicely. They may, however, not come from the site proper, but an outbuilding related to it, or a trader's or Indian encampment of the time. The "enamelled" bead from Lot 106 could date anywhere from the late 16th century on. The stone effigy from Lot 3 is a puzzler, but could date to the Ste. Marie time slot. The copper spiral is probably too early by some 50 years to be considered as other than intrusive. The iron axes are difficult to date at best, and there is too little information on them to relegate them to any definite time period. They would certainly be present, however, during the occupation of Ste. Marie. Next to the glass beads, the most revealing evidence are the coins, one or more of which even without legible date would strongly suggest a time period of sometime after 1650 and before 1682. The presence of the coin dating somewhere within the reign of Louis XIII (1610-1643) is particularly interesting.

B. ON-SITE INSPECTION

1. Structural Remains

The excavations of 1974 and 1979 reveal evidence of a section of one wall of a preserved fortification, or the wall of a building. This evidence consisted of a string of 3 to 5 inch diameter post molds running (however, interruptedly), a distance of c. 20 feet. The northernmost end of this line revealed a large number of burned rocks with small particles of charcoal scattered in and amongst them. This rock-strewn area suggests chimney or, even more likely, a burned bastion. Opposite this area, on the east wall of the excavation can be seen a lens of burned soil suggesting where a shallow trench in which a wall of logs might have been set as part of the matrix to the wall of the fort.

Another kind of structure of particular interest was a flat-bottomed pit (Feature 1) which contained gray, ashy clay and 17th century artifacts (to be described) within the first two inches from its surface. The cross dimensions and shape of the pit are not yet known as it extends into as yet unexcavated areas (cf. Fig. 9, No. 10).

Of considerable importance is the fact that the post molds and the features bearing 17th or 18th century materials

lay, (with the two possible exceptions of two pieces of iron pail and a brass scrap), in a black ashy layer one to two inches thick, or one to two inches below it in Feature I. The post molds and the other features may therefore, be safely assigned a date of 18th century or earlier.

2. Artifactual Remains

The majority of the artifacts dated from early to mid 20th century probably related to the Ward Wellington Ward house constructed 1916 and which is incorporated in the present Le Moyne Manor restaurant. Of interest to this present study were the discovery in 1974 of a sherd of buff earthenware having a green inner glaze and a small honey colored gunflint. The sherd is of probable French or Dutch origin and dates somewhere between the 16th and 18th centuries. The gunflint is European, likely from a small pistol or eprouvette and may be as early as the 17th or 18th century.

From the 1979 excavations came three glass beads. Two were pea size, round and opaque red. One of them had a light blue core. The unlayered bead dates from the early to mid-1600's. The layered bead dates to the mid-1600's. The third bead is a tiny white bead used in clothing and clothing accessory ornamentation. This type of bead is most common in the early to mid-18th century.

A ball clay pipe bowl fragment is probably Dutch and can likely be dated to the early 1600's.

Several items relating to firearms were recovered. Of special interest was a flintlock hammer distinctively 1640-1660 in character. A gunflint of European white mottled black flint appears to come from a light fusil or pistol and to date to the 17th century. Two pieces of small caliber .17 and .18 "dimpled" drop shot recovered through flotation and date as being in common use between 1665 and 1769, (when perfectly spherical drop shot was invented).

Less specific for time period were three small fragments of sheet brass, cut from brass "kettles" which could date anywhere from the 16th through the 18th century.

Definitely late 17th century items were two possible brass or iron pail fragments.

C. SUMMARY

The site shown on the Geddes map of 1797, presently located at and adjacent to present Le Moyne Manor Restaurant is, on the basis of the documentation above, the most likely candidate for the site of the Ste. Marie de Gannentaha Mission. Complementing the documentary record which includes archaeological

findings is the present archaeological research which has recovered from the site; from or beneath a readily distinguishable soil stratum; a substantial quantity of items assignable to the 17th century, ranging from gun parts to glass trade beads. Furthermore, of considerable interest, structural remains lying below this stratum date at least to the 18th century (since the stratum contained some 18th century materials as well).

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

On June 16, 1980, Gordon C. De Angelo and Peter P. Pratt, representing the firm of Pratt and Pratt, met with County Parks representatives Dennis Connors and Robert Mehlow at the Office of Museums and Historic Sites, Department of Parks and Recreation at Liverpool, New York to discuss the findings of the researches conducted to date and the prospects for further investigations in the search for the site of Ste. Marie de Gannentaha. It was concluded that on the basis of the promising archaeological finds made so far, that further investigations were indeed warranted.

Our proposal is that this additional work consist of 1) a field investigation, 2) a report. Each of these will be discussed in turn.

1. Field Investigation

The purpose of this field investigation is a) to determine where materials of archaeological relevance may be located and b) to investigate as thoroughly as possible those areas which appear to be the most informative.

Several areas (as shown in Figure 15 and 16) are culturally sensitive. These include:

Sector 1: The Le Moyne Manor property itself. A possibility exists that the four brass cannon buried in 1658 by the Mission's soldiers are in the unexcavated basement area underneath Le Moyne Manor or that they may be under the Manor's parking lot.

Sector 2: The present natural rise holding the reconstructed Mission may have served as a site for additional outbuildings as well we having been a possible site of Indian encampments related to the Mission's activities.

Sector 3: The land immediately bordering the south side of the Le Moyne Manor parking lot is, like Sector 2, a likely candidate for the location of Indian and/or soldier habitations, Mission outbuildings, or a possible, supportive defensive post.