

Indian artifacts dating to 500 B.C. found in burial ground



SHERIDAN ARCHAEOLOGIST Mrs. Ilsa Kraemer holds pieces of Woodlands Indians pottery thought to date back to 500 B.C. These, other artifacts and skeletons were excavated from an archaeological site.—Public Relations Sheridan College.

Indian artifacts unearthed recently in an old Indian burial ground near here, described as an "important" archaeological find, date back to possibly 500 years before Christ.

The relics of Canada's historical past were dug up by Sheridan College's applied archaeology teacher Mrs. Ilsa Kraemer and her Wednesday night class of enthusiasts, between Oct. 3 and 18, on property owned by a Burlington doctor. Although College officials refused to divulge the site for fear of tipping off souvenir hunters, it is believed the relics came from a large Indian burial ground on or beside the Niagara Escarpment north-west of Kelso Conservation Area. This area is known to have extensive screeages that once housed Indian encampments, villages, battlefields and burial grounds.

Discovery of a relatively minor find, a pile of Indian bones that a bulldozer unearthed at the College's Heavy Equipment School on the Sixth Line of Nassagaweya in May of 1967, is believed to have sparked Mrs. Kraemer's search for more positive proof of Canada's first inhabitants in this area.

She and her 25 students uncovered the bones of five Indian skeletons thought to belong to southern Huron tribes, circa 1600, plus pottery, flints and tools belonging to two pre-white tribes, the Woodlands Indians and Owasko Indians. The Woodlands lived in this area from 500 B.C. to 600 A.D. and the Owaskos are thought to have been here from 900 to 1100 A.D.

Dr. W. Noble, archaeologist at McMaster University termed the find quite "important." Mrs. Kraemer said the burial packet found and the other skeletons with it could be part of a southern Huron burial ground holding up to 100 or 200 skeletons. She termed the find "very much the same as recent finds at Huronia."

Mrs. Kraemer said the artifacts dating back to Woodlands Indians are not the oldest found in the area between Burlington and Etobicoke Creek, which is a rich archaeological locale; but are nevertheless fairly rare.

Some of the sites in this area that have been excavated hold archaic remains dating back to 8,000 B.C. She said the Indian burying-ground find is something that happens "not very often."

The main burial packet Mrs. Kraemer excavated holds two skeletons, probably a mother and child, buried with the skulls and leg bones side by side. Other skeleton fragments removed are a distinct blue green color, the result of them having been buried with copper chips, used by the southern Hurons (of the Iroquois tribe) as trading pieces.

Mrs. Kraemer is an "archaeologist by experience" who learned much of her lore from her archaeologist parents in Germany. She has worked at it as a hobby in the 16 years since she came to Canada, and has held exhibitions of her finds at Bradley House Museum in Clarkson. Her pieces have also been displayed at the Royal Ontario Museum. She hopes to bring out a large report, within the next few years, on her work in the southern Ontario area.

Pieces found at the local site will be used by her for that. The double-burial packet may go on display at Sheridan College.

Mrs. Kraemer does not plan to go back to the nearby site and excavate any more skeletons.

"I have the information I need," she said.

One spring day in 1967, principal Wil Fournier of the

Heavy Equipment School drove a bulldozer onto a knoll near the school buildings where students had been practicing road-building. As he got off the dozer he saw two skulls sticking out of the ground beside his machine. Police were called and when it was ascertained they were not buried recently, archaeologist Walter Kenyon of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto was called in to investigate.

Mr. Kenyon at first believed it was a rare discovery, but further digging by University students failed to uncover much more of the bodies. And there were no relics—flints, pottery or weapons buried with the bones. He said the rocky soil atop a knoll was an unusual place for Canadian Indians to bury their dead and the lack of other artifacts indicated the bones had been reburied from their original burial grounds.

Another possibility was that the bones were those of Iroquois or related visiting tribes who did not live in this area. They hung their dead from the trees for several months and later buried the bones in a pit. Although they were positively identified as Indian bones, he said it was impossible to guess what kind of Indians they could have been.

Several other Indian burial grounds and villages dating back to the 1600's have been found within a few miles of the Sixth Line site in recent years. One Hamilton archaeologist has studied Jesuit priests' reports of Indians here in the 1600's and have located 14 camps within a five mile radius north of Milton. This man said many of the local villages were burned and pillaged by marauding Iroquois nations in 1649 and 1650. He dug up one complete village which covered five acres of ground and would have accommodated a band of about 175 agricultural Indians. Another camp he dug showed signs of having been founded in the 1200's.

Other major finds were uncovered in recent years in Esqueping Township by university groups who painstakingly brushed away years of dirt to dig up burial grounds and villages. One was found in 1968 near Glen Williams, the other in 1966 near the site of the new Scotch Block dam site south-east of Speyide.



SHERIDAN COLLEGE instructor M. Rooney with bones uncovered close to the Heavy Equipment School on Nassagaweya's Sixth Line in the spring of 1967.—(Staff Photo)

EBENEZER

Sunday school class enjoys doll house

By Mrs. R. McLean
Mr. Jim Chapman was the speaker at Ebenezer on Sunday. He had an interesting message. To the layman, the world is an exciting place. Many people spend time just to amuse us. People are bored with life. A bore is one who says 1000 things, but never "Good-bye".
What if we discover that life itself is meaningless. People kill time not realizing that they're killing themselves in the process. A person can live in a state of boredom and not realize the emptiness of his soul. There is not a single person alive in perfect health. In the New Testament there are two kinds of glory, the glory of God and the glory of man, because of the possibility of becoming what God meant him to be.
Jesus is the true light of life. When the light shines, the darkness retreats. Futile search for glory did not originate with God. The trained mind should

be able to appreciate the wonder of God. The beauty of nature can not be discovered until the glory of God is discovered. Men are saved by grace, but we must choose to receive it. We are unique beings because we can obtain fellowship with God.

A good time was enjoyed by the Sunday-school scholars at Mrs. Shoemaker's doll house in Rockwood. There is a most interesting collection of 625 dolls. There are Bible stories, nursery rhymes, dolls of all nations and of history, a Mennonite kitchen and an old fashioned general store. Afterwards, hot chocolate and doughnuts were enjoyed at the church.

Plastic gasoline tanks were used in 13,000 GMC trucks in 1968. Other manufacturers are testing plastic tanks for use in 1970 models.

Free Press District Page

OUR READERS WRITE:

29 Ashby Road,
Anlaby Park Road South
Hull, Yorkshire
England

Dear Sir:

I find, to my surprise, that my brother, W. A. Johnson has over the years had many letters published on a variety of subjects.
The Acton Free Press being one of his platforms, I am enclosing my first letter (!) to the press, hoping that when "wicked Willie" settles down to his paper he will have a pleasant surprise.

Yours Faithfully
P. M. Johnson

Over the Hills and far away
The Editors mail is signed Johnson, W.A.
While here in Hull I wonder at night
Did our Willie ever learn to write?

On every subject no matter how curious,
W. A.'s pen flies fast and furious.
Has he who once helped stem the German horde
Found the pen mightier than the sword?

Speydale washout, politics, toning,
W. A. his literary blade is honing.
If life out there set him creating
Does he ever regret emigrating?

Life down North Road is not the same
Floodlights blaze as they watch the game,
So come on Bill, take up thy quill,
And drop a line to your brother Phil.

LIMEHOUSE

Interesting program set for Limehouse Y Teens

By Mrs. A. Benton
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Homan and children visited his parents at Uxbridge a week ago.
We hope Mr. Campbell Sinclair improves in health soon. He was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital on Wed. last week.
Mrs. Gordon Booth has returned from a visit with her daughter in Vancouver.
Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Patterson visited Miss W. Ivens at Brantford on Sun., Oct. 19.
Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Greenlees of Campbellville were with the Bentons on Sunday.
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Henry of Midland spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Patterson.

by Leadership Training Course girls. A trip and a Christmas party will be enjoyed in December. It is hoped grades 6, 7 and 8 will attend regularly to take advantage of an interesting program.

Miss Jean Ruddell was guest speaker at the Limehouse Presbyterian church W.M.S. Thank-offering meeting held in the church on Sunday evening. She showed splendid slides of scenery and people in various countries of South America where she travelled extensively on holidays a few years ago. She was deeply impressed by the poverty side by side with wealth. She showed a large number of craft items and souvenirs which

she had purchased while there. She was introduced by Mrs. A. W. Benton.

Mrs. Sanford chaired the meeting and welcomed visitors, and led in prayer. Mrs. Gordon Booth read the Scripture, and Mrs. Bert Benton gave the courtesy report and with Mrs. A. C. Patterson convened the lunch afterwards.

Mrs. Bill Karn and Miss Mary Lou Brown were accompanied by organist Mrs. Roughley for two well rendered duets, "God will Take Care of You," and "Have Thine Own Way, Lord." Mesdames Crichton and Patterson received the offering, and Rev. F. N. Young pronounced the Benediction.

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