



Figure 1. Pauline Johnson in her stage costume (McCrea 1947)

Historic photographs taken by Horatio Hale in 1871 of a set of belts held by the Grand Council at Grand River were located in the collections of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University, and Smithsonian Institution Archives. One Pitt Rivers Museum photograph illustrated sufficient detail to allow NMAI Conservation staff to positively identify the claimed belt (NMAI 008386.000) among those photographed by Hale in 1871 (see Figure 5).

A preponderance of evidence indicates the wampum belt (NMAI 008386.000) was a Confederacy (or National) belt inappropriately alienated from the Haudenosaunee of Six Nations Reserve (now referred to as the Six Nations of the Grand River) and therefore meets the standard for “object of cultural patrimony” as defined in the NMAI Act Amendments of 1996 (Public Law 104–278, Section 11A(b)), and reaffirmed in the NMAI Repatriation Policy Statement, Section III.C.4 (August 2010). Criteria used to determine cultural affiliation include a review of NMAI accession and catalog records; archival documentation from NMAI, the Huntington Free Library, Cornell University, the Library and Archives of Canada, the Pitt Rivers Museum, Chiefswood National Historic Site, and the Royal Ontario Museum; published historical accounts; information