



Figure 5. Six Nations Reserve wampum belts. Chiefswood, September 14, 1871. NMAI 008386.000 center. Photo by Horatio Hale. Photograph courtesy of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University (1998.190.3.2-O.tif).

III. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NMAI 008386.000 TO HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

On September 14, 1871 Horatio Hale met with several chiefs at Chiefswood, the home of Pauline Johnson's father, George H.M. Johnson. In addition to Chiefs George H.M. Johnson and John Smoke Johnson (Pauline Johnson's grandfather), four other chiefs were present, including wampum keeper John Buck, Sr. who was present to "read" the belts. Hale's photographic documentation of the event includes two nearly identical photographs of the chiefs holding the belts (see Figures 3a–b). Hale also made a third photograph of the displayed wampum belts (see Figure 5), which, NMAI conservators Marian Kaminitz and Kelly McHugh compared to the NMAI belt (008386.000). Based on "the beaded design, locations and extent of losses, the materials the belt is constructed from, and how it is constructed" they concluded that the NMAI belt appears in Hale's 1871 photographs (Marian Kaminitz and Kelly McHugh, personal communication 3/21/2011; see Figures 6a–b).