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October 26th. The night was rainy and cold. After breakfast, as Mrs. Annie Montour called upon the Pastor both Dr. Jury and myself were able to question her concerning Mrs. Delaronde. Mrs. Annie Montour is Mrs. Delaronde's godmother. She claims, and I believe that this is true, that Mrs. Delaronde as a child did live at the fourth-site of Caughnawaga. The land belonged to her father and not to her husband. So Mr. MacDonald was wrong, doubtless because of his old age, and Mrs. Delaronde, right.

On arriving at the site, we continued to work on a spot indicated by the lady who owned the property and who had helped, as a child to clear the stones and cultivate the corn fields. Very soon we found some stones that looked to be in line, and it was obvious that they have been placed there. They represented a similar appearance to the stones that we found at Sillery, although they were out of place somewhat and by following through the very tough sod we noticed that they were held together with a yellowish clay instead of mortar. This would be what was expected at that time. Although it is in a ravine, there would be an obvious reason for that that the people rather than excavate had made use of this hollow and broke the wall up and probably could have used the place for a cellar.

Now that what was done on the twenty-fifth the opening was made and we followed that during yesterday. The stones are not in position for the thirty feet that we uncovered but they are obviously in a line



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that has been made and appeared to have been hoed down below the plough level as would be expected in a field that was used. It is my opinion that this area was the depression and that the stones I left there as result of clearing the land. The find of some of ten or fourteen animal bones, deer bones, moose bones, leg bones showed breaking and not cutting similar to what we find in many Indian sites where an attempt has been made to extract the marrow. There has been no artifacts of any kind on earth other than one flat rubbing stone that showed shatter marks, evidently a rubbing stone of common find in any Indian site. Due to the very tough nature of the soil and the lack of help we have not been able to do too much. The whole site needs investigation and we are going out tomorrow morning to continue and either prove or disprove of the one find that I think we should thoroughly examine before we go farther.



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October 27th. A clear day, very suitable for the work we were undertaking. We got out a little later in the morning than usual but continued to push a test trench towards Montreal. We find negative evidence -- no indications of the soil being disturbed. Then we moved over nearer the creek on the highest spot of land close to the mouth of the creek. Directly below, there were a few stones, one or two, one especially that looked as if it were a quarrill stone and foreign to the district. Coming straight up the bank from that to the highest spot, we commenced a test trench about twelve feet back from the raise. The indications along the outside of the earth that was thrown up, I could see by the profile, contained a little carbon and flicks of ashes with flicks of brick or well burnt clay that might have been used as chinking. As we continued in round test holes, a test hole is about two feet apart, we got to carbonized soil mixed with decayed humus, probably fruit that had been compacted and depressed.

Pushing with care the line arm we came on to timber that showed large grain and evidently a well matured tree. Then we went very slowly and scraped the soil until we found the timber lying in a position suggesting that of a bedlog. The imprint of the timber in the clay outlined the sides that I would approximate from eleven to twelve inches. Beside the cedar were some pieces of oak, so it is obvious that both oak and cedar were utilized in the construction of



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the building. Close to what now appears to be a corner were a few nails. Nineteen nails were recovered in this small area not more than three foot square.

We were favored with more visitors and a cooperative visit by Mr. Chapman representative of the Department of Indian Affairs to the Saint Lawrence Seaway Project who later brought the surveyor, Mr.

Continuing at the work we pushed on to the little creek and continued until there was negative evidence in the soil. Its clear that the building was not large. Thereupon, we made our test trench directly away from the St. Lawrence River and we got inside of the logs when no more nails were found but one piece of brass strap four inches long containing a nail on one end and a square punched hole on the other. We also recovered a spigot at a depth of approximately two feet from the sod level.

These finds along with the timber in position, the nails, the humus, the flicks of brick, and one small fragment of a earthen vessel indicate that we have a dwelling, probably an occupied dwelling. From the number of nails it is logical to suppose that this building was used by the French Fathers, rather than Indians who would use no type of metal in the construction of this dwellings. It now appears that we have definite proof that we were on the site for which we were searching.



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Causa Venerabilis • Cause de la Vénérable • Cause of Venerable

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Later in the day an Indian, Mr. Louis Dailleboust, came who had, at the age of sixteen about sixty years ago, found bones and it is reported that he brought these bones to the Church in a box. This bears investigation, but the man not knowing where we were working came directly opposite to where we were and pointed out the site of the Church. We hope tomorrow to establish the identity or at least to find some evidence of the Church.



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October 29. Another fine day. It was reported that there was a grave of one of the Jesuit Fathers across the road from where we were working. Four of us, Fr. Béchard, an Indian Harry Mayo, a boy, David Brilliant and myself, started to open this reported site early on the morning of the 29th. I first went down from a level and made an opening four feet wide. We threw out many stones and brick on the top six inches. We worked with the utmost care throughout the forenoon and found walls four feet apart put up with clay. No evidence of burning of any kind on the stones. The mound, before it was touched, was three and a half feet high and twenty-two feet in diameter. When the cut was three feet deep we noticed that the stone walls were uniform on the sides, and that it extended some twelve and a half feet. Then there was a formation of bricks, very irregular, and an occasional flick of ash and carbon. Four nails were recovered through the three foot level. Once we unearthed the ashes, for three feet six inches below the top of the mound, it was plain to see that we were unearthing what appeared to be an old bake oven. We have a very large pile of broken brick and, I would judge, about eighteen, nearly perfect, early type of brick. Regarding the preservation of the site, in view of the damp nature of the soil and the uncertainty of the seaway disturbing this site it should be excavated as soon as possible. Not only may the destruction come from the seaway but once the surface of the



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rapid transportation in the time that the village was used and I think a great deal of care should be taken. Down by the water's edge on the little creek and a great number of stones that's been placed, they could easily have been covered with timber and a small dock or landing place. Also, it would act as a water break for the canoes and and deepen gully or a bay beside the house.

The soil conditions. The soil is of a heavy clay loam that has been blackened by the fires. There are many firestones in and around the house site. The depth of this blackened earth extends to about eighteen inches where were over the house. It is very obvious that a great deal of carbon and ashes have been mixed throughout the years of cultivation but the soil still has a much darker appearance where habitation has taken place. We found a great many more nails than yesterday, and another spigot similar to the one we found on the 27th. Ever to remind you of the necessity of doing this work is the thunder-like rumble of the heavy machinery that is cutting this new St. Lawrence Seaway Project through. Dwarfed with a punctuation of heavy dynamite blast that makes you fully aware of the jeopardy, this site may well be in.



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ground is disturbed the water that is always a great solvent, will do much damage to any specimens that remains below the sod level. I heartily recommend that this site be preserved. Its historical significance is well known to all scholars interested in the early history of our country. The place should be marked with a crane. It should be at first completely excavated and partially restored with one of the buildings being so arranged inside that it will act as a museum to display in an educational manner the specimens recovered during the research period. In order to have this whole site properly excavated a sum of ten thousand dollars should be raised or at least five thousand dollars to do a job that would be satisfactory. We must bear in mind that this site is of very great historical importance. The site will interest all citizens of Canada and is especially important to the Province of Quebec. It has a religious significance. If we allow this site to pass in destruction this generation and future generations will severely criticize us.



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October 28th, clear. We continued the work on the foundation or some of the building that we had commenced on the 27th pushing on for forty feet. We found that the building was twenty feet wide, that there had been a fireplace near the center of the building about fourteen feet from the wall next to the river St. Lawrence. There are not too many nails in the building, but compared with other buildings found in other places, just about an even distribution. The finding of a hanger for the shutters near the corner of the building indicates that we are someplace near the outside of it and the heavier nails are found near the outside of the building. Usually you find four inch spikes and in some places they are evenly distributed along the outside. We have not been on the side walls, but usually that is the place you find the heavier nails. It is noted that the floor of the building is very near level, that its about sixteen inches below the sod level of high packed clay. There is nothing to indicate that they had sleepers and a wooden floor on it and from the lack of nails it would not be expected to find that they had a wooden floor on this building. Once cross wall is indicated by a number of stones ranging in size from six to eight inches that must be traced because we only ran a five foot test trench down what appears to be near the center of the building.



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The building is situated forty feet from Suzanne Creek and faces the river St. Lawrence and falls along the bank of the creek. So it is evident that the plan of the village may take shape and the buildings will all be facing towards the St. Lawrence River. Fortunately through the interest that was aroused by our work and through the efforts of the Fathers, we have been able to contact more people who knew of the site years ago. Father was very fortunate in obtaining the services of M. de Montigny, and, later, of the Reverend Father Antoine Peltier, Pastor of Côte-Ste-Catherine, who pointed out the grave of what is supposed to be one of the Fathers. It was arched with bricks. Father Peltier came and pointed it out to us: it will be our work from now on. It is most gratifying to find this positive evidence before we seek the more important clues of the people that lived there, but beyond all shadow of a doubt we have an old Jesuit establishment and the finding of this grave authenticates and dispels any doubt.

It is very enjoyable working in this weather. It can well be understood why the site was chosen near the water, a fairly good drainage, no danger of flooding and, of course, right on the main artery of transportation, the mighty St. Lawrence. With a good harbor for protection of their fragile canoes. Too much stress cannot be placed on the importance of the canoes. They were the one method of