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Mima Kapches' visit to Ireland included checking out the reconstructed Creevykeel Court Tomb. For the full story see Page 11.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ON MATURATION

At various stages of our lives, we may be surprised to find ourselves in possession of certain combinations of experience, skills, knowledge, character, and ability for which our peers seek us out as leaders. These stages can begin in the schoolyard and can occur almost anytime thereafter. Sometimes we actively pursue them, purposefully and strategically accumulating achievements leading to a goal. Other times they sneak up on us, seemingly the by-product of just racking up life experience.

So it was that I found myself honoured by the nomination to serve as OAS president three years ago. Having had to decline a previous invitation to serve on the Executive Board, my sense of duty was already well primed. On taking stock of my situation, I concluded that, if endorsed by the membership, I probably could bring to the table many of the faculties necessary for the job. Accordingly, I let my name stand, realizing that I would be filling big shoes previously filled by others who had no doubt faced the prospect with a similar degree of trepidation. And like them, I was accepting the torch that elders always pass on to youth—even if those ‘youth’ qualify for a seniors’ discount! This is the process we call maturation, and although it may fluctuate like stock market trends, the overall trend is constant.

Organizations like the OAS are also subject to the forces of maturation, embedded as they are in various social and cultural milieus. The OAS began as an avocational interest group founded in 1950 by Dr. J. Norman Emerson and graduates of his public interest course on archaeology at the University of Toronto. These early OAS members, trained in archaeological field methods by Dr. Emerson, became valued trainers and teaching assistants for succeeding cohorts of archaeology students at the U of T. The society achieved a significant developmental milestone in 1958 with

the publication of the first issue of the journal, *Ontario Archaeology*. The creation of regional chapters beginning in the early 1970s fully established the OAS as a provincial society, with many of these chapters carrying out their own programs of high-quality field research, public outreach, and publication.

In 1979, the OAS established the part-time role of Administrator in order to address the growing organizational needs of the society. By the late 1980s, the ranks of the OAS began to transform from a largely avocational membership with a minority of academic and museum-based professionals to a membership with a growing cohort of young professionals engaged in the expanding field of cultural resource management. In the 1990s, the OAS briefly ran a successful public education program from a facility in Richmond Hill, and in the 2000s we were established as a Provincial Heritage Organization (PHO) with annual grant funding from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Currently, the OAS enjoys a growing membership of over 600, a robust and active network of nine chapters across Ontario, a part-time Executive Director who looks after the Society's day-to-day administration at the provincial level, an editor and editorial board for our peer-reviewed journal, two newsletter co-editors, a webmaster and social media team, and a volunteer Executive Board that manages a suite of portfolios and on-going concerns that includes public outreach, heritage advocacy, publications, chapter services, member services, student services, avocational services, membership recruitment, accounting and finance, grant applications, internships, merchandise and sales, human resources, information technology, legal compliance, facilities, furnishings and equipment, and special projects.

In short, the OAS has matured to become one of the preeminent regional ar-

chaeological societies in the world with all the concerns that attend to such a position.

My point in describing these stages of OAS maturation, albeit in the most cursory historical fashion, is not to be self-congratulatory. Rather, it is to propose that we are approaching a new stage in the on-going maturation of our society. I see this as a new level of organizational sophistication and complexity requiring enhancements to our current structure. Just as we can see social change occurring in the archaeological record when communities reach certain size and complexity thresholds, so too would I argue that the OAS is approaching a size and complexity where the current organizational structures are beginning to struggle.

I see this most clearly in terms of the capacity of both our part-time Executive Director and our volunteer Executive Board members to carry out their appointed roles and responsibilities. While the current demands are arguably both reasonable and manageable, restructuring will be required as the membership continues to grow, the ambitions of the Society broaden, and the administrative requirements increase.

Implementation of our new on-line membership management system and interactive web site on the Wild Apricot software platform is an example of how we can both facilitate growth and more easily manage it using technology.

Another realignment strategy being pursued is to better integrate and support the work of the Chapters on behalf of the entire OAS. This will spread the executive tasks more effectively and efficiently between the Chapters and the parent society. For example, the First Nations Liaison Committee is now chaired by an officer appointed by the OAS Executive Board and composed of representatives appointed by each of the Chapters in order to best represent the OAS to local First Nations communities across the province.

For the next few years, I believe that the necessary structural changes can be achieved within the existing organizational framework. We should anticipate, however, that within the next decade, we may need to consider more substantial changes,

such as one or more full-time, paid staff positions, increased managerial oversight, enhanced revenue to support such changes, and a realignment of priorities within a new five year plan in order to guide the process of maturation to this next stage.

The time to start thinking and talking about this is now. I hope to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

Rob MacDonald
President

CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RADIOCARBON DATABASE

Dear Colleagues,

I write to invite you to join and make use of the revised Canadian Archaeological Radiocarbon Database (CARD): www.canadianarchaeology.ca. CARD was developed by Dr. Richard Morlan at the Canadian national museum in the 1990s as one of the first crowd sourced online data systems. Recently, CARD was transferred from the Canadian Museum of History to the Laboratory of Archaeology at the University of British Columbia.

CARD has an archive of over 34,000 c14 dates from archaeological contexts, mostly from Canada and the USA. Our recent upgrade (CARD 2.0) has considerably improved the utility and accessibility of the data system. I encourage you to review the database and request access as a researcher or administrator (we limit access to the location data for the general public to protect archaeological sites).

In addition to improving functionality, we are embarking on a major update and expansion of our data. We hope to become the de facto c14 database for archaeologists in North America. We are a user driven project that is guided by the needs of the ar-

chaeological community. Our funding comes from grants and donations and we do not charge for access to the data. We hope that those of you in heritage governance will find CARD a valuable repository.

Our research team includes Michael Blake (UBC), Matthew Betts (CMH), Konrad Gajewski (Ottawa), Robert Kelly (Wyoming) and Ken Ames (PSU). Please let me know if you have any questions about CARD, its data, functionality, or administration. If you have data you would like to add to CARD, we would be happy to assist you. Please circulate this invitation to colleagues.

Many thanks,

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WHY WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES

We are missing current email addresses for a number of members. If you have not added or updated your email address in your membership profile on the new OAS website, please take a moment to log on to <http://www.ontarioarchaeology.org> and review your contact details for missing or out of date entries (emails have also been returned as undeliverable due to inactive/ incorrect

addresses).

For those with Family memberships, consider adding a separate email address for the family member so they may receive communications individually.

Mailing address should also be verified for those members subscribed to Ontario Archaeology to prevent returned mailings.

Keeping your contact information

current helps the OAS stay in touch with members and ensures delivery of membership news, Arch Notes and OA. Your personal information will be kept in strictest confidence and is never shared with outside organizations.

Thank you.

Debbie Steiss
Treasurer

AN 1852 NEWS ITEM AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE OTTAWA-AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

By Randy Boswell and Jean-Luc Pilon

Situating the Problem

Since 2002, a series of discoveries in the columns of 19th-century Ottawa newspapers has rewritten the history of the earliest-documented and best-known archaeological site in Canada's capital. This ancient aboriginal burial ground was unearthed in 1843 along the shore of the Ottawa River, a short distance downstream from the Chaudière Falls and just hundreds of metres from what would become, by the 1860s, the symbolic centre of Canada: Parliament Hill.

The communal cemetery, initially believed to contain the skeletal remains of about 20 individuals, became known as 'Van Cortlandt's Ossuary' because Dr. Edward Van Cortlandt, a Bytown (Ottawa) physician and antiquarian, excavated the site and collected the disinterred bones, which he likely kept in his highly regarded, personal 'curio cabinet' or displayed amongst the collections of the local learned societies he frequently served as curator. (Boswell 2015:207-8)

Nearly 10 years passed before Van Cortlandt published a detailed report on his 1843 excavation. In February 1853, the Toronto-based scholarly publication *The Canadian Journal* printed a vivid description of the ossuary, but the author failed to specify the precise location of the site. Instead, the burial ground was said to have been found at a shoreline locale "about half a mile" below the Chaudière Falls, thus inviting an obvious question: On which side of the river? (Van Cortlandt 1853)

Following Van Cortlandt's death in 1875 and continuing for more than a century, the burial ground was believed (mistakenly, we now know) to have been found near the corner of Wellington and Bay streets in Bytown/Ottawa, at about the location of today's Library and Archives Canada headquarters, not far from the river but atop a limestone cliff some 850 metres west of the Peace Tower.

But the old newspaper stories found between 2002 and 2014, as first described in *Arch Notes* (Boswell and Pilon 2014) and in much-expanded fashion in a forthcoming issue of the *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* (Boswell and Pilon: in press; Pilon and Boswell: in press), finally settled the question of the true whereabouts of the burial place. It was, in fact, located at Hull Landing, sometimes called Bédard's Landing, a point of land on the north bank of the Ottawa River in Gatineau, Que., directly across from Parliament Hill. Historical Hull Landing encompassed parts of the southwest grounds of today's Canadian Museum of History and adjacent riverside lands to the west, currently controlled by the National Capital Commission. All of these properties are part of "Anishinàbeg Aki," the unceded territory covering huge swaths of

eastern Ontario and western Quebec and claimed by the Algonquin people.

Even after the resolution of this principal question — the exact location of Van Cortlandt's Ossuary — a mystery lingered: Why was the ancient "Indian burial-place," as Van Cortlandt had called it, ever erroneously situated on the Bytown/Ottawa side of the river, at or about the intersection of Wellington and Bay streets?

The notion appears to have first arisen in the writings of T.W. Edwin Sowter, an important figure in Ottawa-area naturalist circles in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, who produced many valuable early records of archaeological sites in and around Canada's capital (Pilon 2004). His particular insistence that Van Cortlandt's 1843 excavation had taken place at the "north-west angle formed by the intersection of Wellington and Bay Streets" (Sowter 1909:98), and his later, elaborated assertion that the ossuary had been unearthed "on the site of Capital Brewery, corner of Wellington and Bay Streets" (Sowter 1915:50), influenced the studies and stories of generations of archaeologists, historians and popular writers, but remained unsourced and unexplained. (Brault 1946:38; Moffatt 1973:20; Jenkins 1996:134; Jamieson 1999:16-17; Pelletier 1997:48; Pendergast 1999:96; Boswell 2002; Pilon and Young 2009:182; Public History 2009:4-5; Past Recovery Archaeological Services Inc. 2014:37)

One theory, advanced in recent years as fresh findings began to point to Hull Landing as the true site of the ancient burial ground, was that Sowter might have confused its location with that of Van Cortlandt's home and medical office — a large, three-storey house located just 10 or 15 metres from the southwest corner of Wellington and Bay streets, and which is known to have been where the doctor kept his renowned 'curio cabinet' collection of archaeological objects and other natural history specimens (Pilon 2003:26). It is also possible that Sowter was steered generally toward an Ottawa-side conception of the ossuary by a landmark 1889 Canadian Institute inventory of Eastern Canada archaeological sites that inaccurately identified the location of Van Cortlandt's 1843 discovery as "Bytown (Ottawa)" (Chamberlain 1889: 57).

New Light on the Wellington-Bay Link to Ottawa's Archaeological History

We present here what appears to be, finally, a clear and quite plausible explanation for the longstanding but erroneous association between the 1843 ossuary site and the intersection of Wellington and Bay streets in Ottawa (Figure 1). The explanation is based on newly discovered evidence drawn from the same historical resource (digitized and microfilmed 19th-century newspapers) that was previously used to pinpoint the actual site of Van Cortlandt's excavation, and adds an important (though fragmentary) new record of a possible aboriginal archaeological site to the existing



Figure 1. An 1845 painting of the west end of Wellington Street in Ottawa looking east and showing the present site of the Library and Archives Canada headquarters (1), the intersection of Wellington and Bay streets (2), the home and medical office of Dr. Edward Van Cortlandt (3), and Hull Landing in the far distance, on the Quebec shoreline (4). (Thomas Burrowes, Archives of Ontario, I0002128)

inventory of Ottawa-area cultural heritage.

On June 26, 1852, under the headline “Remains of Skeletons,” (see Figure 2) the *Ottawa Citizen* briefly reported that “last week some men employed in quarrying for the foundation of a house at the corner of Wellington and Bay streets found part of the bones of 6 or 8 human skeletons in a crevice of the rock,” and that “the pieces were chiefly jaw bones” (Anonymous 1852a:2). This short but intriguing article also noted that “this is not the usual way the aborigines were accustomed to dispose of their dead,” and that the discovery occurred “not far from the old carrying-place past Chaudière Falls.” News of the discovery, evidently distilled from the *Citizen* report, was also published in Toronto on July 10, 1852 by *The Globe* newspaper, which stated: “Portions of eight human skeletons were discovered last week in Bytown, by some labourers employed in making excavations at the corner of Wellington and Bay streets.” (Anonymous 1852b:3) A similar item appeared in the *Bathurst Courier*, published in the Ottawa Valley town of Perth (Anonymous 1852c:2).

The anonymous *Citizen* writer’s assumption that these were a) human remains, and b) aboriginal remains, cannot now be tested,

nor can the source of that person’s expertise with aboriginal burial patterns be questioned. So it is not exactly clear what this 163-year-old news article represents with respect to the significance of the bone cache stumbled upon by the construction crew. Perhaps this find should take its place alongside the 1843 ossuary and other noteworthy Ottawa-area aboriginal archaeological sites — including those at Aylmer Island and Leamy Lake Park — as a valuable window on cultural practices among the region’s precontact inhabitants. But it also seems possible — though not in keeping with Van Cortlandt’s well-documented dedication to collecting and displaying archaeological artifacts — that the doctor (who lived in such close proximity to the site of the 1852 discovery) might have taken some portion of the human remains he’d collected from the Hull Landing site in 1843 and placed them in a rock crevice near his home, perhaps for storage or disposal or some other unknown reason. If this possibility is not the case, then the discovery of such a significant number of presumed skeletal remains so close to the home of Van Cortlandt — the only Bytown/Ottawa resident of that era known to possess a significant collection of, and interest in, human bones — constitutes a remarkable coincidence.

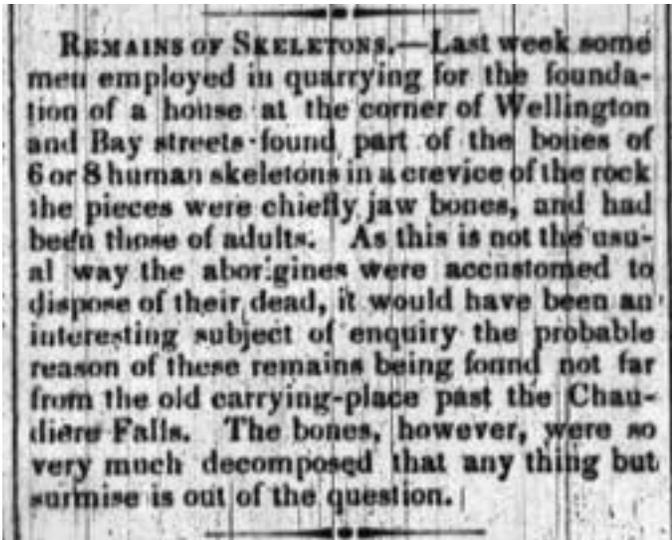


Figure 2. Brief newspaper article published in the June 26, 1852 Ottawa Citizen describing the discovery by workmen of a cache of human bones that had been placed in a rock crevice in Bytown, the future Ottawa.

Unfortunately, subsequent issues of the Ottawa Citizen in the summer and fall of 1852 offer no further information on the bones discovered by the workmen. But it seems certain or at least highly likely that, regardless of how or when those remains came to be placed amidst the rocks near the corner of Wellington and Bay streets, the 1852 discovery led to Sowter's conflation and confusion of this Ottawa location with that of the ancient aboriginal remains disinterred by Van Cortlandt nearly a decade earlier at Hull Landing, on the opposite shore of the Ottawa River, approximately one kilometre to the northeast of Wellington and Bay (see Figure 1). To quote a phrase from the 1852 Citizen news item, while "anything but surmise is out of the question" when seeking the truth of the matter, it is conceivable that Sowter (who was born in 1860) learned of the Wellington-Bay bone cache from a workman present at the 1852 discovery, or from some fellow citizen familiar with the story. Evidently, however, recollections of this site and memories of Van Cortlandt's 1843 excavation across the Ottawa River must have become blurred over time.

Notably, Van Cortlandt himself made no mention of the June 1852 discovery of bones at Wellington and Bay streets in his much-delayed report — published in the February 1853 edition of *The Canadian Journal* — on the burial site he had excavated in 1843. Nor did Van Cortlandt reference the 1852 find in July 1860,

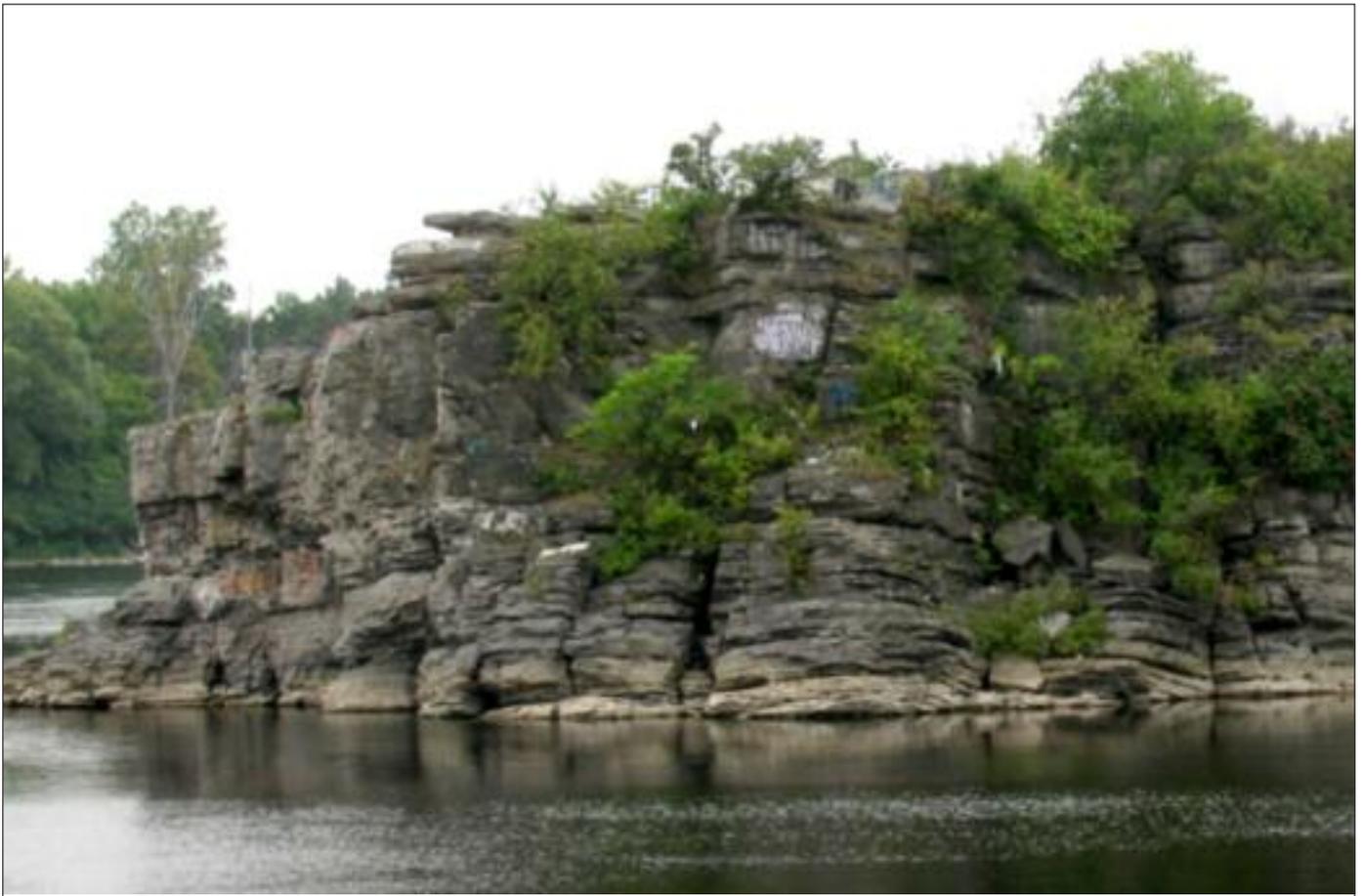


Figure 3. Examples of deeply creviced bedrock cliffs along on the Gatineau side of the Ottawa River directly across from the site of Library and Archives Canada. (Photo: Jean-Luc Pilon)



Figure 4. What remains of the steep bedrock cliffs along the south side of the Ottawa River just west of Parliament Hill. The headquarters of Library and Archives Canada sits atop the steep cliff just behind and to the right of the four Canadian flags near the centre of this photograph. The cliff edge in places has been obliterated by construction of buildings or retaining walls. (Photo: Jean-Luc Pilon)

when he published an extensive further account of his second major excavation of the burial ground at Hull Landing, a place only then explicitly identified by Van Cortlandt as the scene of his 1843 discovery, as well. (Van Cortlandt 1860; Boswell and Pilon 2014; Boswell and Pilon in press).

Expanding Our Understanding of Ancient Ottawa Valley Burial Practices

Pilon and Young (2009) summarized the various methods of treating the remains of the deceased that have been documented archaeologically in the Ottawa Valley up until then. These included primary burials with grave goods, secondary burials making copious use of powdered red ochre and involving few if any offerings and cremation burials, both with and without offerings. If the 1852 Wellington-Bay remains are, in fact, ancient human burials, then this adds to the known inventory yet another way of dealing with the remains of deceased relatives. Crevices in the cliff edge were likely not rare (see examples in Figure 3), but this particular location had the added advantage of being within direct sight of the Chaudière Falls. Was this merely coincidental or were remains deliberately placed there in order to maintain a relationship between the deceased and that spiritually significant place? As with the location of the Hull Landing burial place, there would seem to be very distinct and clear locational strategies at play.

Unfortunately, a careful examination of suitable crevices along the edge of the cliff throughout the downtown areas of both Ot-

tawa and Gatineau no longer seems like a fruitful possibility as these places are now seriously modified or under concrete (Figure 4).

In 1916, Thomas Shore of Ottawa donated to the National Museum of Canada a stone pipe bowl (Figure 5) that he had found “about 100 feet north of Wellington Street and about 750 west of Bank Street”. This approximate location falls somewhere in the parking lot immediately east of the current Library and Archives Canada building, or about 100 feet northeast of the intersection of Wellington and Bay streets. Its style is unique and while it could date from the historic period, it could just as easily be pre-contact in age. Certainly, there are no obvious parallels with any European stone pipes that are commonly known. Could there be some kind of relationship between the crevice burials and the pipe? While purely speculative, our interest in this item is only mentioned because these two finds — the human remains and the pipe — are the only known potentially pre-contact archaeological remains ever documented in the general vicinity of the Wellington and Bay streets intersection and both are cloaked in potential ceremonial and/or symbolic meaning.

In spite of the frustrating brevity of the 1852 articles, they nonetheless add an important element to the discussion of the articulation between the living and the dead through time in the area surrounding the Chaudière Falls, pointing out yet another potential method of interment that could be used, as well as suggesting that

the south side of the falls area was also included in a ceremonially significant cultural landscape that stretched between the Chaudière and the nearby mouths of the Gatineau and Rideau rivers in times well prior to the arrival of Europeans in the region. (Pilon and Boswell in press)

Some Final Thoughts

Completed in 1967 and officially unveiled as part of Canada's centennial celebrations that year, the institution originally known as the National Library and Public Archives occupies a parcel of land where, in 1939-40, a temporary federal government administrative building had been erected to house civil servants helping to manage Canada's war effort (Dewar 1962). That structure, known as No. 1 Temporary Building, had been constructed at the former site of the Capital Brewery — the early-20th-century industrial operation referenced by Sowter in his erroneous pinpointing of Van Cortlandt's Ossuary.

The discovery of the 1852 news article describing “remains of skeletons” on the west side of downtown Ottawa appears to have resolved a lingering mystery in the annals of Ottawa Valley archaeology, even as it raises new questions and opens new possibilities. Other recent discoveries definitively situated Van Cortlandt's Ossuary on lands now occupied by the Canadian Museum of History and the NCC — respectively the country's most important public history institution and the federal agency responsible for preserving and celebrating the cultural heritage of Canada's capital. This newly identified, prospective archaeological site near Wellington and Bay streets offers a further, potentially important trace of ancient aboriginal life in what became Canada's capital and — rather astonishingly — positions this potential site at a place now occupied by yet another of the country's leading keepers of national history and heritage: Library and Archives Canada.

A Word On Methodology

This article, along with our other recent research establishing the true location and characteristics of the ancient communal burial ground known as Van Cortlandt's Ossuary, highlights what has proven to be a highly effective method of rediscovering lost information related to Ottawa's archaeological history. Canadian newspapers and other publications from before, during and after the 19th century constitute a valuable auxiliary resource for scholars investigating archaeological activity in the dawning days of the discipline in this country.

While railway building and other construction activities in mid-19th-century Canada were frequently unearthing archaeological sites, the finds were considered rare and important enough to warrant news coverage even beyond the immediate vicinity of the discovery, as illustrated with the Bytown discovery discussed here being also mentioned in Toronto and Perth, Ont., newspapers. It is also notable that in September 1852, when the Toronto-based Canadian Institute published its landmark appeal for more systematic and scientific reporting of ar-



Figure 5 Stone pipe bowl found in 1916 by Mr. Thomas Shore of Victoria Street, Ottawa at a location which corresponds to the parking lot immediately east of the Library and Archives Canada building on Wellington Street in Ottawa and very near to the Supreme Court of Canada. (photo: Canadian Museum of History D2004-24734)

chae-
ological sites in British North America, the notice in *The Canadian Journal* made specific reference to news items like the ones noted above as a principal source of intelligence about newly excavated “Indian Remains.” (Anonymous 1852d:25)

While such sources of information have always been indispensable to researchers attempting to recover forgotten facts and to reconstruct the places, events and personalities of the past, the rapidly expanding range of digitized historical material, and the relative ease with which it can be browsed — and sometimes searched by keyword — from any location at any time, can transform the cumbersome and time-consuming task of probing physical newspaper archives and even microfilmed pages into a much more efficient, high-yield source of historical information. Sometimes, as demonstrated here and in our other recent probes of Ottawa-area archaeological history, crucial details that failed to find their way into the scholarly record were retained and are available for rediscovery in long-forgotten but newly digitized 19th-century newspapers. The key findings in this study and in our other recent papers related to Ottawa's early archaeological activity were made possible by combining more conventional research resources — including microfilmed newspapers and physical archival holdings — with increasingly voluminous online repositories of Canada's documentary heritage. We believe these resources and the searching methods employed in producing our recent findings may serve as a model for researchers elsewhere in the country who seek to resolve longstanding questions about their communities' archaeological heritage.

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IRELAND 2015: A SPRING VOYAGE

By Mima Brown Kapches

From May 13 - 27, 2015, I was lucky to embark on a tour of Ireland. I know that many of you have ambitiously toured Ireland on self-drive packages and I too might consider one of those for my next visit, but for this time I chose the convenience of a coach tour where someone else did the driving and worried about all the other arrangements. And what a wonderful time I had! I went with a company called Pauwels Travel of Brantford, Ontario. I had looked at trips to Ireland for the spring and some seemed too large (too many people) and not comprehensive in the area covered (just the cities, not the countryside), in contrast the Pauwels itinerary was archaeological, geological, including cities, ruins and museums over a two-week period. There would be very few of Ireland's major attractions that we wouldn't see. It was my first time travelling with Pauwels and I will definitely go on another trip with them. But this brief article isn't an advertisement, so enough said about them and on to the trip. I'm just going to select a few highlights for this article.

There are three World UNESCO sites in Ireland, one in Northern and two in the Republic. The Giant's Causeway is north of Belfast. Situated on the coast it's where lava from a volcanic



eruption millions of years ago flowed into distinctive six to eight
Figure 1: Coins at the Giant's Causeway. (M. Kapches).



Figure 2: Newgrange Passage tomb (M. Kapches).

erupted columns. There is a new interpretive centre and tours are given by volunteers, many of whom spend their time keeping foolhardy tourists from jumping between the columns while trying not to fall into the sea! (Think of the foolishness of visitors to Peggy's Cove and beware.) I was intrigued with the placing of coins in the crevasses between the columns, coins that have now corroded blue and green (Figure 1).

The first of the two sites in the Republic is Bru na Boinne, also known as the Newgrange Passage Tomb, dating to ca. 3200 BC. This is a large ceremonial tomb near Donegal in Co. Meath. There is also an interpretive centre. At the winter solstice the rising sun shines right into the centre of the tomb through a gap at the front entrance



Figure 3: The Star Wars VII poster, note the storm trooper puffins for the Skellig Wars. (M.Kapches).

somewhat like a clerestory window. The tomb was excavated in the 1960s and has been reconstructed (Figure 2). The reconstruction is controversial and has been likened to a cream cheese cake with currants dotted about. Every year they have a competition to let members of the public into the tomb at the winter solstice and you can only submit your entry at the site. I filled out a few forms so who knows maybe I'll be one of the 100 who are allowed to see the sunlight enter the tomb on December 21, 2015? That assumes that it'll not be raining, another big "if!" I'd be glad of a trip back to Ireland, and wouldn't that be an amazing experience!

The third UNESCO site is Skellig Michael in Co. Kerry. We didn't actually visit Skellig Michael which is a rocky crag of a

small island and a few smaller ones some 12 km off shore. It takes several hours by boat to get to the island and if the weather is rough then boats do not go, in fact as of the day of our visit, May 23, only three visits had been made so far this year. It is a windswept and desolate place where hermits and monks established retreats and a monastery beginning in the 7th century. As the guide book said "This is a wilderness site and accidents and fatalities have occurred."

Needless to say on the mainland they have developed an interpretive centre where they show a movie about the island and its history. It is an important wildlife refuge and nesting grounds for a puffin colony as well as other birds. Skellig Michael is a very unique place which unfortunately is about to have its 15 seconds of fame as last summer it was the set for the filming of *Stars Wars VII* locally called "Skellig Wars" with puffins attired as storm troopers on the posters and T-shirts! (Figure 3) As you can imagine there is consternation that the island may be inundated with tourists and being such a fragile environment it can ill afford to accommodate them.

Although there are many more places and sites we saw I'm only going to touch on three more stops on the trip: one an archaeological site literally along the road side, and two museums - one in Belfast, the other in Dublin. Along the way to visit W.B. Yeats grave at Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo, we pulled off the road to walk through the Creevykeel megalithic Court Cairn. A burial cairn constructed and used between 4000- 2500 BC. (Figure 4 is shown on Page 1) it's the best preserved such site in Ireland. Interestingly, you can find all about this site and directions to other sites from the National Monuments Service of Ireland on the publically accessible website. How good is that?

The first museum that I'll mention is the Titanic Museum in Belfast. It opened in March of 2012, the centenary of the launch, and is built in the shipyard where the boat was constructed. We had two hours in the fabulous museum and could have spent several hours more. What a great experience. There is a 3-D visual where you can ascend several floors from the boiler room to the top deck and if you don't have vertigo it's amazing! The architecture of the building is striking as the façade is the exact height



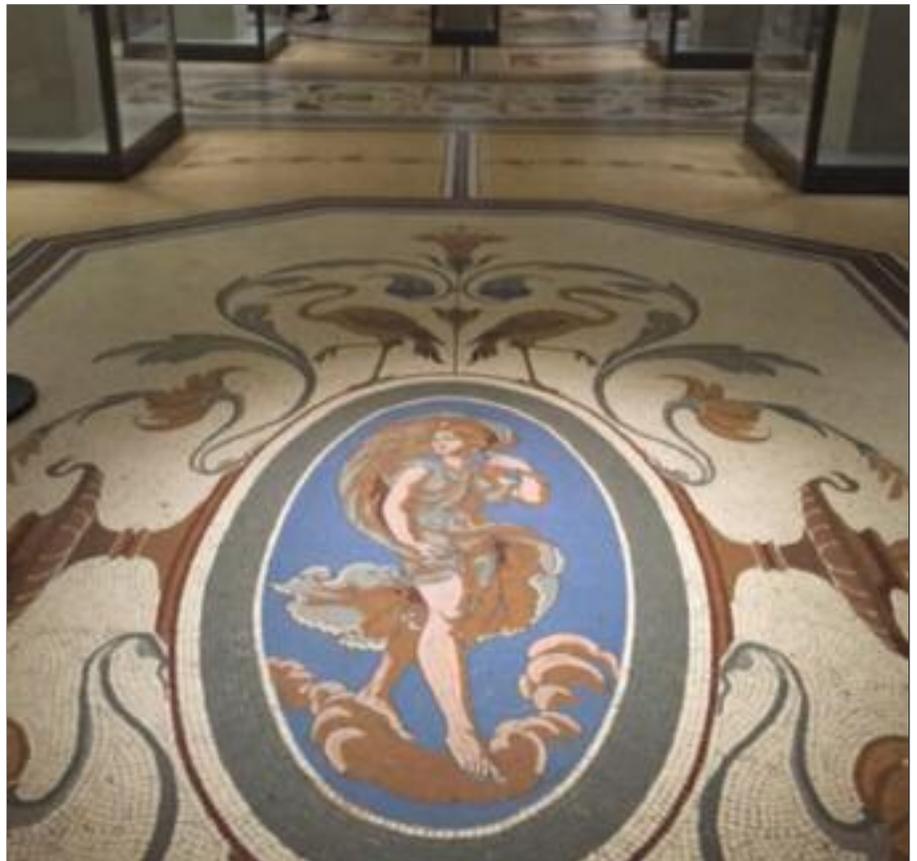
Figure 5: The Titanic Museum, Belfast (M. Kapches).

of the keel of the ship and it's very impressive! (Figure 5).

The final museum I'll talk about is the National Archaeological Museum in Dublin. Beautifully done, marvellous permanent galleries, just enough descriptive text and all the significant artifacts from important Irish sites. The gold jewellery, the Viking displays, the bog objects, early Christian items, and on and on. The building itself is also an architectural gem opened in 1890 it's in the Victorian Palladian style it is situated beside Leinster House where the Irish Parliament meets (Figure 6). As well, all national museums in Ireland are free entry.

This brief article was intended to give a bit of a tour of Ireland. I'm sure many of you have travelled more extensively on the beautiful island country. It's really necessary to spend more time to explore in greater detail, perhaps next time!

Figure 6: Display Hall, National Archaeological Museum, Dublin. (M. Kapches)



BOOK REVIEW

PHANTOMS OF THE FRENCH FUR TRADE: TWENTY MEN WHO WORKED IN THE TRADE BETWEEN 1618 AND 1758

by Charles Garrad

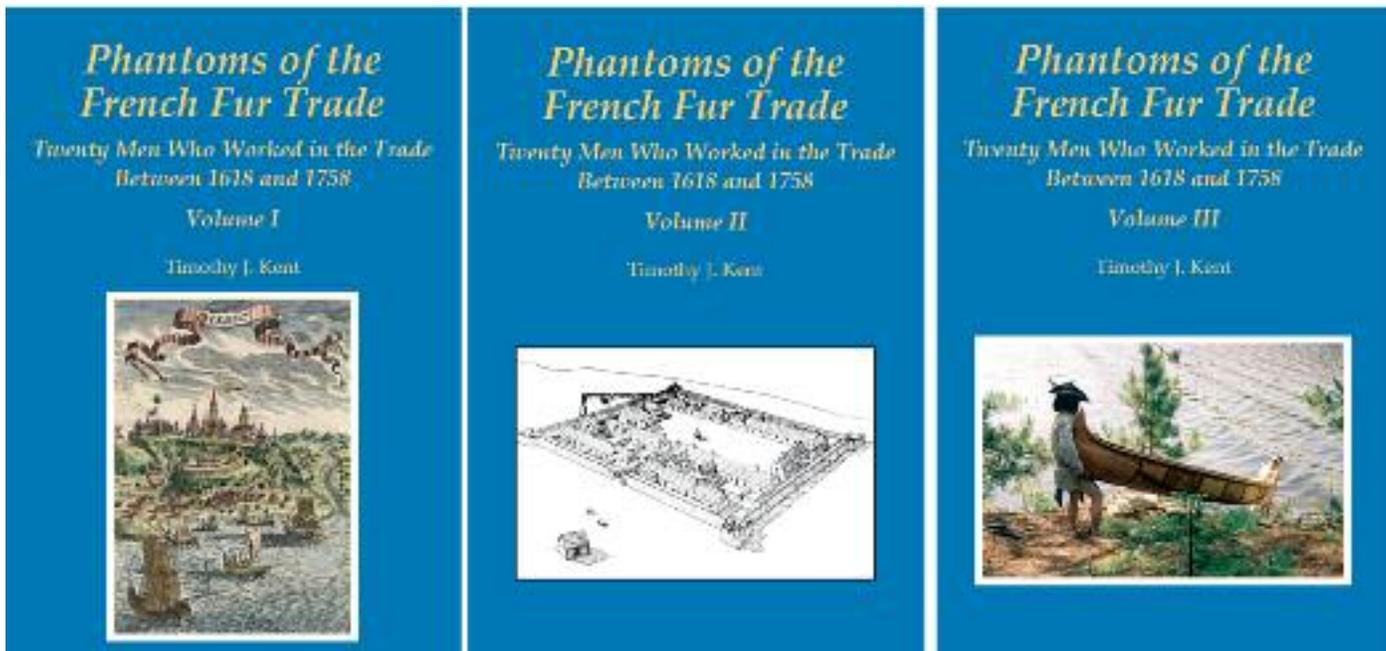
Everyone knowing the prolific writings and publications of Timothy J. Kent over some 40 years about the French Fur Trade will anticipate that his latest production will be of the highest detail and scholarship, meticulously researched and presented, with exciting innovativeness in the manner of presentation.

His new (2015) three-volume release *Phantoms of the French Fur Trade: Twenty Men Who Worked in the Trade Between 1618 and 1758* meets all these expectations.

The 'Phantoms' are his own ancestors, whose biographies Timothy has researched in depth, including not only the men but their wives and families who supported them. Timothy brings these forgotten people back to life.

The three volumes are hard-covered, with high-quality binding and editing, and amount to 2,450 pages. This work truly represents a leap forward in understanding the French Fur Trade and no library with holdings on the subject can be without these volumes.

For more information see Tim's website <www.timothykent.com>



A PETUN INDIAN STATUE AND OTHER EVENTS

by Charles Garrad

On Monday, August 24, two events of interest to O.A.S. members occurred at the Simcoe County Museum, near Barrie.

The first was the formal opening of the Natural Resources Gallery, which adds further to the First Nations content of the Museum with an artifact display representing all periods from Palaeo to Ceramic.

The second was the ribbon cutting and opening of the Kenneth E. Jobe Sensory Garden, the central feature of which is the bronze statue of a Petun-Wyandot woman holding an ear of corn. She has become known as The Woman of the Corn.

Some time ago Kenneth E. Jobe donated funds to create a statue or life-size bust of a Petun-Wyandot woman. This was superbly done in bronze by sculptress Marlene Hilton Moore, of

nearby Hillsdale, whose work is meticulously researched and executed. Another of Marlene's creations, presently standing in front of the museum, is a First Nations man with a French fur-trader who is portaging a full size birch-bark canoe, also cast in bronze.

The statue of the Petun woman was placed outside the Museum in a garden as the most appropriate context and setting.

Speakers at the events included the Director of the Museum, Kelley Swift-Jones, the Deputy Warden of Simcoe County Terry Dowdall, and adopted-Wyandot and O.A.S member Charles Garrad, who brought Greetings from Janith English, the Principal Chief of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas, who added that she would be attending the O.A.S. Symposium in October in Midland and will then visit The Woman of the Corn, as representing Chief English's Bear and Petun ancestry.



Ella Garrad with Woman of the Corn



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