

**DOCUMENTARY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE RELATIVE TO THE  
FIRST HOMES OF THE ADAM YOUNG FAMILY ON THE YOUNG TRACT,  
SENECA TOWNSHIP, HALDIMAND COUNTY, ONTARIO, CANADA:  
1783 TO CIRCA 1879**

BACKGROUND

As the War of the American Revolution (1776-1784) began to draw to a close, some of the older members of Butler's Rangers were discharged. Each was given land across the River from Fort Niagara (in what became Newark, now Niagara on the Lake) in order to establish farms to supply the military garrison and the many dependants who had found shelter outside the walls of the Fort. One of these men was Adam Young. More details can be found by [clicking here](#). Meanwhile, sons Sgt. Daniel Young and Pvt. Henry Young remained in active service with the Rangers until they were disbanded in 1784. Adam's eldest son Lt. John Young was then serving as an officer with the Indian Department, and in 1783 (and perhaps earlier) he was assigned to over – winter with the Delawares, then settled on the Grand River, with the goal of keeping them steady in the King's cause. A detailed biography of Lt. John Young can be found on the Young Family Website, managed by the present author, and seen by [clicking here](#). One excerpt is particularly important and will be quoted here:

*Evidence that John Young was the first settler on the Grand River is found in a letter from Robert Hoyes to Frederick Haldimand 2 Nov. 1783 stating that, "A party of Rangers with an Indian as their guide march by land to the Grand Riviere. They carry a letter, from Col. Butler to a Mr. Young, who resides amongst the Indians settled on that river,..." He was the first to purchase land from the Mississauga owners, the deed to his farm (one mile square) in the Young Tract being dated 20 Jan. 1784.*

Thus the land settled by Lt. John Young was the first Euro-Canadian farm on the Grand River, Haldimand County – before the Six Nations arrived (although some Delaware and Mississauga were residing nearby in settlements). Hence the property discussed here has special significance in the history of the Region and the Province. John and Catharine brought their three sons and one daughter with them to reside part time at the Mohawk Village near Brantford, and to establish a permanent farm on John's original grant. Within two years John was joined on what became the Young Tract in Seneca Township, Haldimand County, Ontario by his father Pvt. Adam Young, and brothers Sgt. Daniel Young and Pvt. Henry Young and their families.

LAND DEEDS

1) 20 January 1783. Deed from the Mississauga Chiefs to John Young for a one square mile tract of land which was later enlarged by the Mohawk Deed (see below) from the Six Nations Indians (the subsequent owners of the Grand River Tract), to become what is seen today on current maps as the Young Tract.

Know All men By these presents  
 That We the Chiefs & Commons of the Massachusetts  
 Nation Do hereby Agree and Grant unto  
 John Young or His Assigns a Tract of Land  
 Beginning on the Grand River Beginning on the  
 East Side of said River on the Lower End of a Island  
 And Running Upwards one Mile of a North Course  
 And from thence one Mile of a East Course  
 And from thence one Mile of a South Course  
 And from thence Running Round a Island joining  
 the said Land Enclosing We Do hereby Fully  
 Agree and Grant to said Young and His  
 Assigns With all ways, Paths, Passages, waters water-  
 Courses Easements, Privileges, Commodities, Advantages

And Appertinences whatsoever to the said Tract of  
 Land Belongeth or Appertaining therewithall  
 Commonly Used We Do hereby assign all our  
 Right Title and Interest Property and Claim to the  
 said John Young or His Heirs or Assigns and the  
 said Young his Heirs and Assigns shall And Lawfully  
 May from hence forth for Ever hereafter Peaceably and  
 Quietly Have and Use Occupy Possess and Enjoy the  
 above Tract of Land or Land, Tenements or What ever  
 thereunto Belongeth

Therefore unto these Presents We have set our hands  
 and Seal  
 This Day January 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Hierckia Schomaker  
 Henry Gage  
 Nathaniel Young  
 Nobeconine  
 Nobeckkie

2) 26 February 1787. Part of the "Mohawk Deed" to the lands held by the Dochstader, Huff, Nelles and Young (Adam, John, Daniel and Henry) families, confirming their title (999 year lease, the Government would not allow outright sales or gifts in fee simple).

13

Thiyonsawe ne thagaghdeanatege onsayante  
 weaninyaghte, ne toinenwe, thagonte ok  
 ne thagaghdeanagh ne Enyeweaniyoge  
 Joghwa aknon we adongh, thiyondayonkhiwea  
 naright, ne ongwatere sera, toinenwe ok  
 on, ne onghkagi ok togheva etho nayeyere  
 ne onsayonkhiwea naright, Shen agwagh  
 se, otogea ongh Watyagwayatoghte thagwe  
 te ne to ethona agwayere — Ne nonwa  
 ne kinyaghterate, February 26. 1787

Negadi Waagwatemihtaghte ne on ne  
 wagarighwagh nivatstaghkwe ne to nonwa  
 gea tho wa agwennijonongh daren —

Thomas thategarwate  
 Hendrick Te Karstogea  
 Jacob Syonghwaghta  
 Adam Karista twagh  
 Aaron Hill

3

for, Brant Thayeadaniga  
Johanes Tewighnitoogeeh  
David Hill  
Pebus Sakonawdi

Thomas Davis

+ Thomas Shoghogharwane

+ Thayeadaadishon  
David Oserugeghit

+ Adam Shaweyagearet  
David Aghshigherison  
Svendrik Orondadekha

+ Jacobus Ogkisonwaghtageghite

+ John Aghsharongeeh

+ Tshamnyongh

+ Kavenghaton

+ Araghwanendagongh

+ Ogkwanighakshite

+ Onighniajagwadon

+ Auekaratye

NAC, RG10, Vol. 624. The translation by John Norton of the above deed written in the Mohawk language can be found in NAC, Vol. 1834, pp. 201-3.

Apparently a dispute between Lt. John Young and one of his brothers arose quite early on. On 26 May 1788, the Mohawk chief, Captain Joseph Brant, wrote to the Provincial surveyor Frey concerning, *the affair between the two Youngs' are not rightly settled, .... That John Young's boundary tree is falts. There is another tree has been found with*

marks just near about the longer end of the island. We mean to enquire this matter some of the Missesagues who know the boundaries (Ref?).

SURVEYOR'S NOTES

Ministry of Natural Resources  
Survey Records.

Field Notes of the Indian Lands on the Grand River,  
Haldimand County, F.N. Book 835 (Original  
Old Book No. 828). Augustus Jance 1791-2

en. 1791.

	Course	Chains, links	Remarks
p. 4			
①	N 25°, W	24 .. 00	at 15 chs. rapids
②	N 1°, 15' E	40 .. 00	at 20 chs. Daniel Youngs house and a big island on the left.
③	N 30°, E	14 .. 00	at 14 chs. John Youngs house on the right.
④	N 1°, 30' W	19 .. 00	
⑤	N 37°, 15' W	36 .. 00	at 18 <sup>(32)</sup> chs above the island at 36 chs to 4 small islands on the left.
⑥	N 42°, 30' W	21 .. 00	at 10 chs. Harry Youngs house on the right at 14 chs an island.

From above: (see 1:10,000 map)

Distance from:

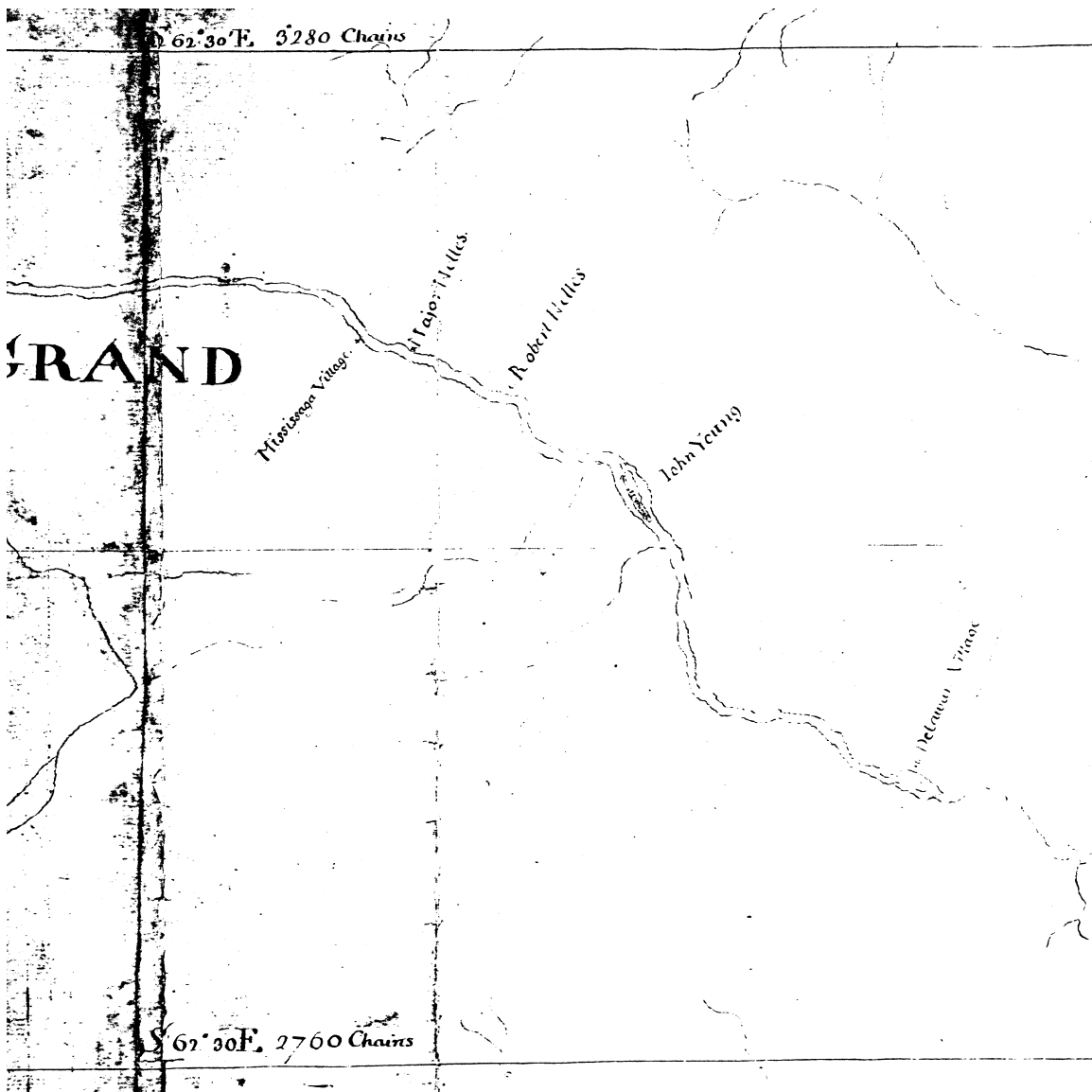
			house of
point 1.	Pony rapids	to point 2 = 594 ft.	(18.4 mm)
point 2.	-	to point 3 = 1320 ft.	(40.9 mm)
point 3.	Daniel Youngs	to point 4 = 1320 ft.	Daniel Young (40.9 mm)
point 4.	-	to point 5 = 924 ft.	(28.6 mm)
point 5.	John Youngs	to point 6 = 1254 ft.	(38.8 mm)
point 6.	-	to point 7 = 2376 ft.	(73.7 mm)
point 7.	-	to point 8 = 660 ft.	(20.5 mm)
			Henry Young.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Survey Records, Field Notes of the Indian Lands on the Grand River, Haldimand County, F.N. Book 835 (Original Old Book No. 828), Jones, 1791-2, January, p.4-5.

MAP CREATED FROM NOTES AND TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

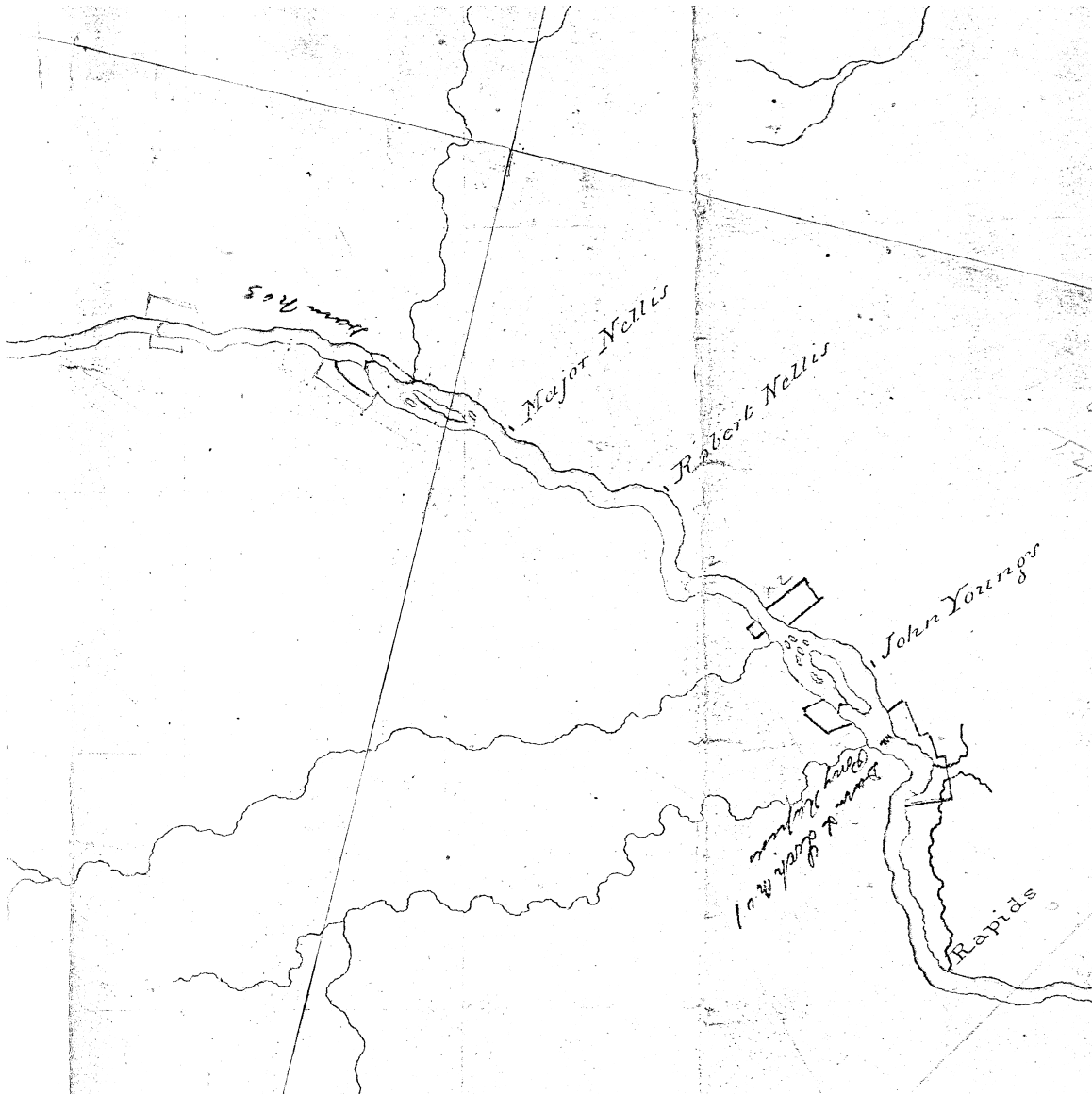
(This compilation of the above data, transferred to a modern topographic map, was completed in 1981, and will presumably be added later – in the intervening 30 plus years items have gone astray)

SURVEY MAPS



*Augustus Jones Survey Map Grand River 1791*

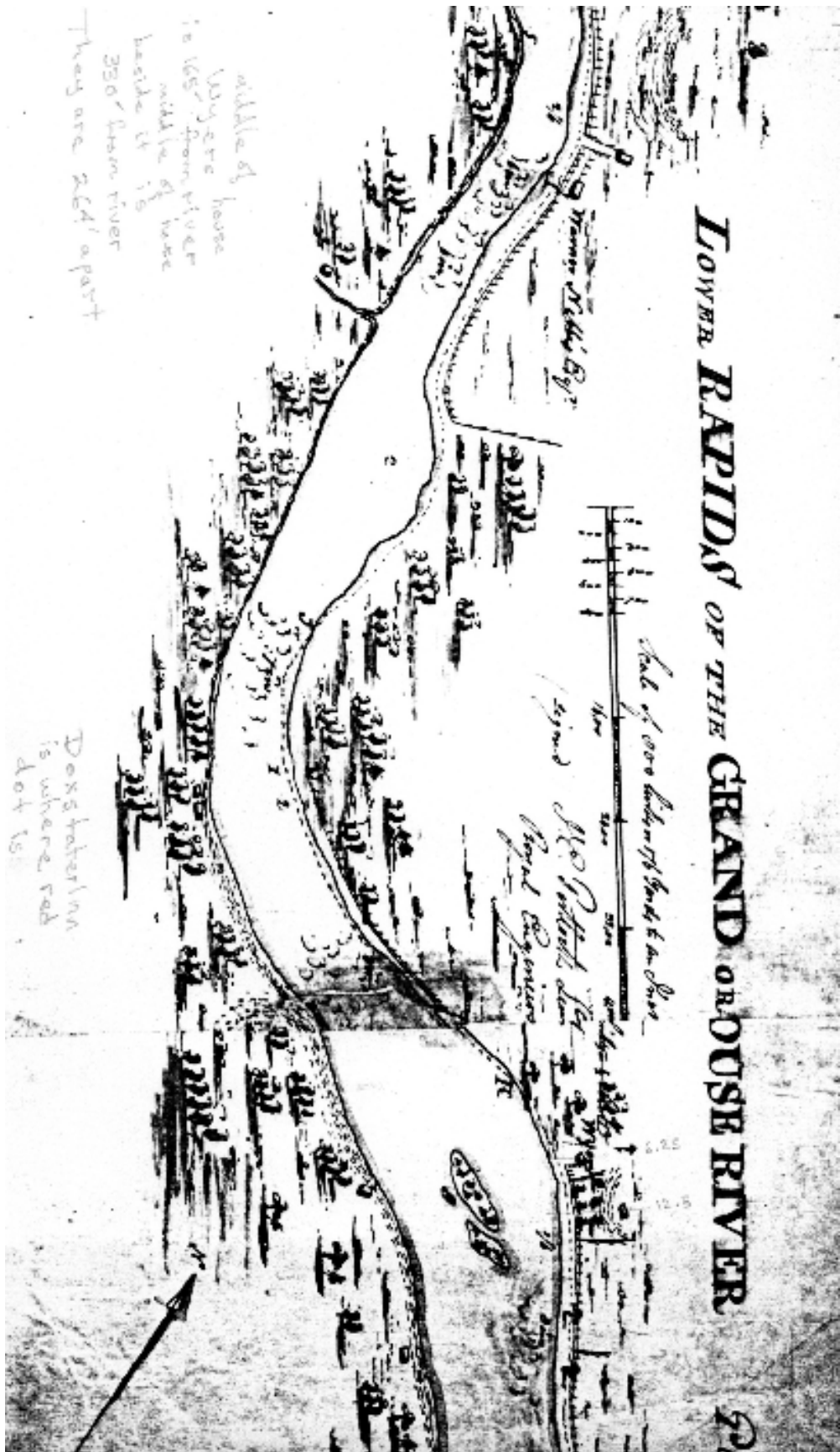
Archives of Ontario, A-16. [Office of the Surveyor General]. Plan of a tract of land situate [on the Grand River] in the District of Nassau reserved for the Mohawk Indians and others [Six Nations] agreeable to an order of the Governor in Council of the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1791. FN Book 835. From Jones Plan. 1791. MF.



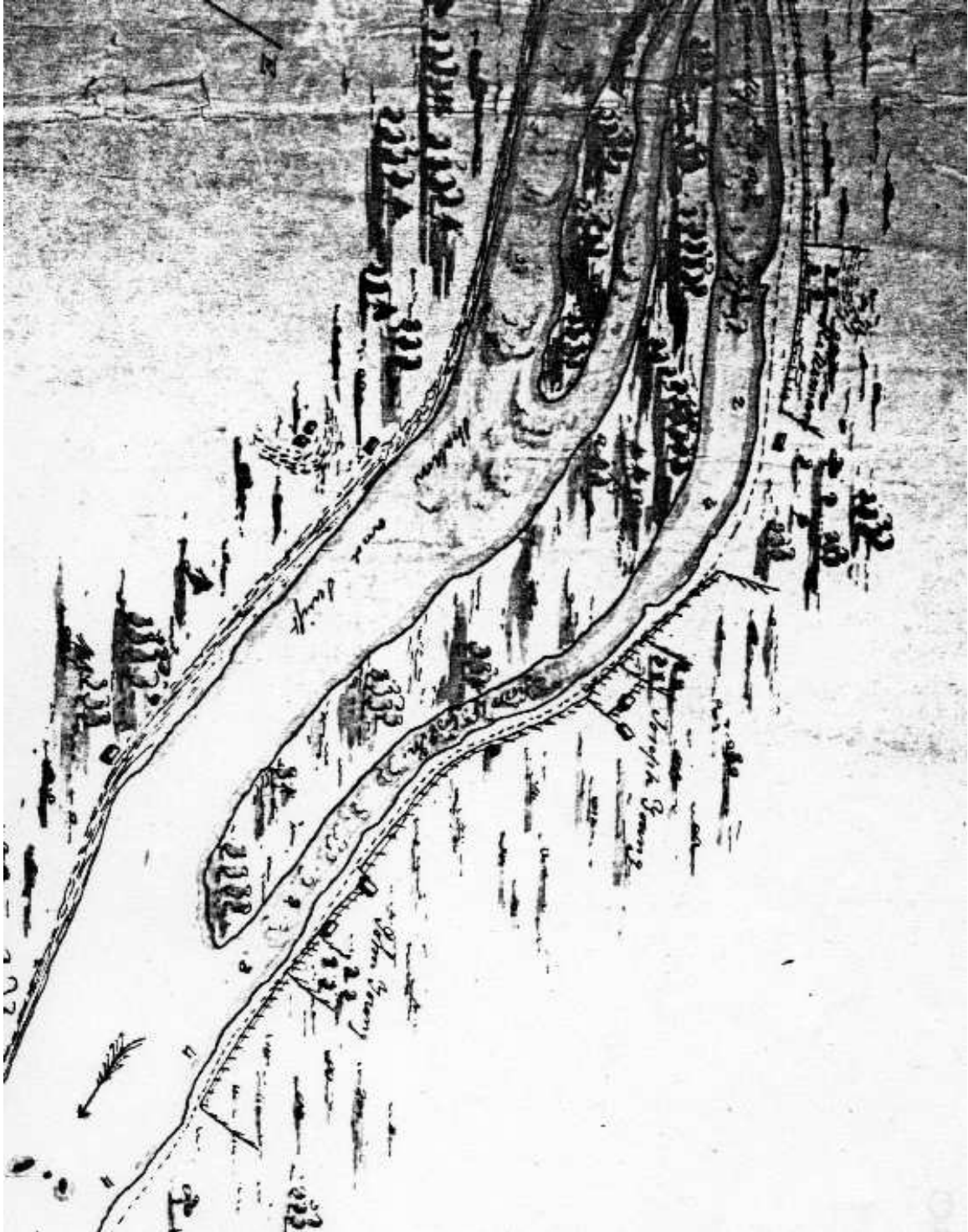
*Augustus Jones Survey of Grand River prob. August 1797 (properties of GRNC added later)*

Archives of Ontario, A-15, [Plan of a Survey of Indian lands on the Grand River]. [Upper Canada Office of the Surveyor General]. [Augustus Jones]. [c.1791-97].

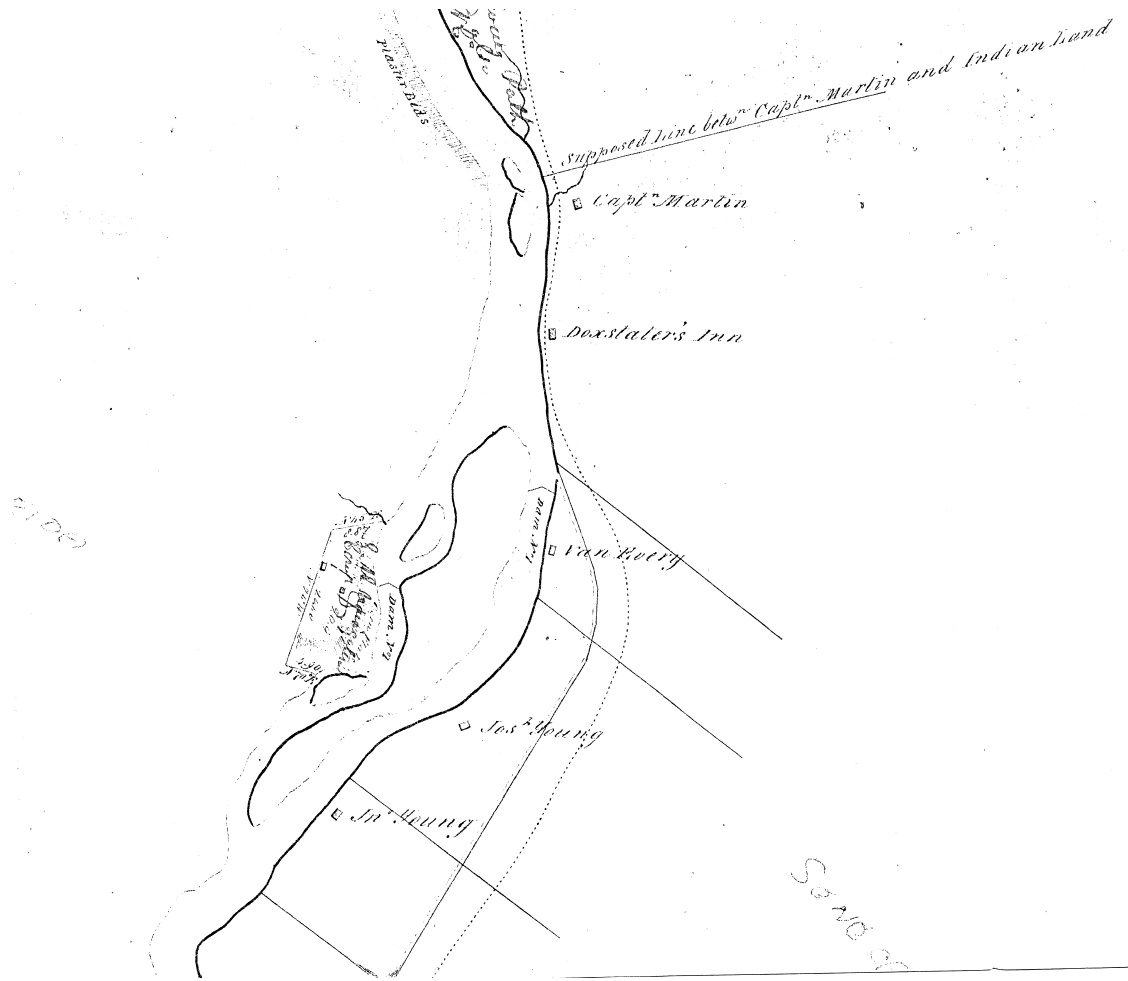
# LOWER RAPIDS OF THE GRAND OUSE RIVER







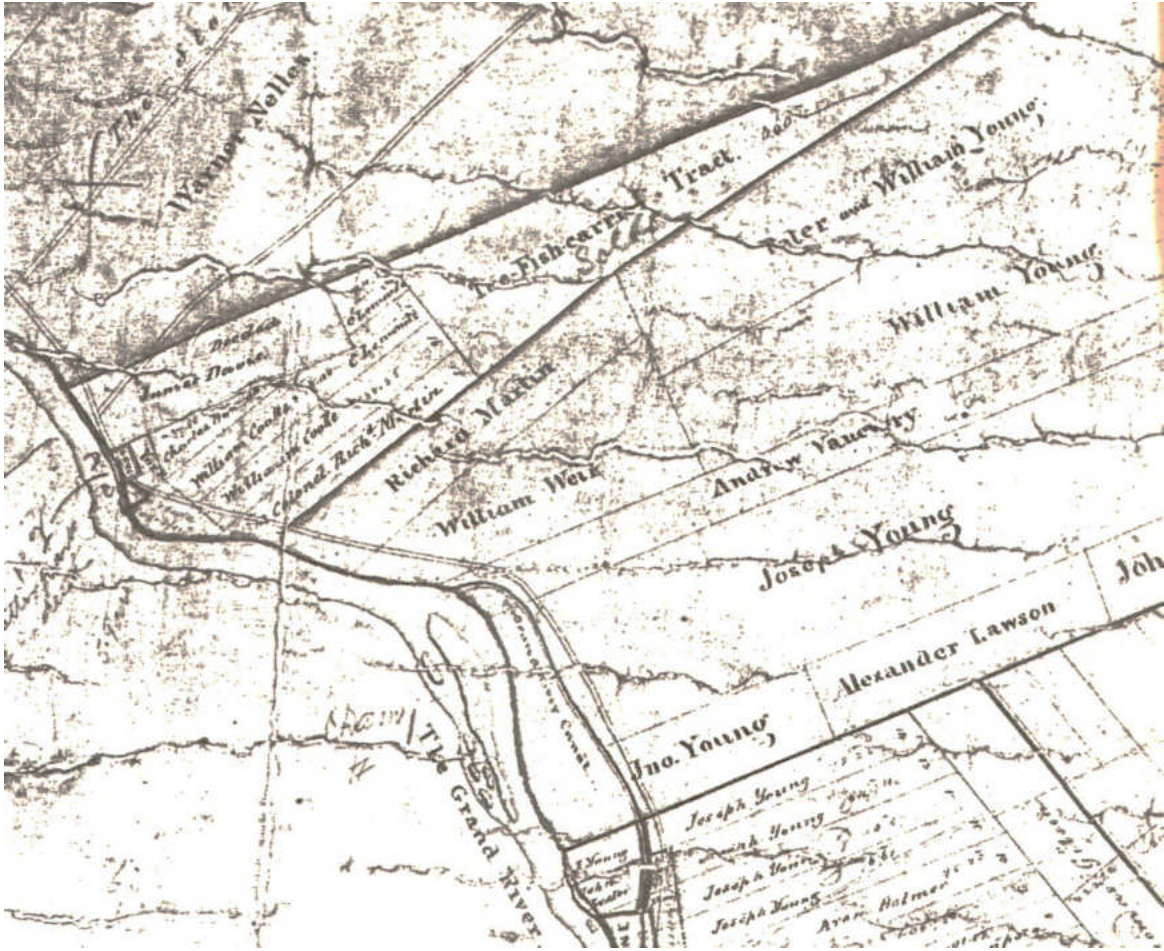
*Lower Rapids of the Grand River or Ouse River Plan 2, VI, 410, Grand River, 1820*



*Peter Carroll Survey, 26 March 1835, Seneca*

Ministry of Natural Resources, Survey Records, Seneca 7061, 016-27. Plan of Part of the Grand River Showing the Indian Lands Appartioned to the GRN Co. Peter Carroll. 26 March 1835, Oxford.

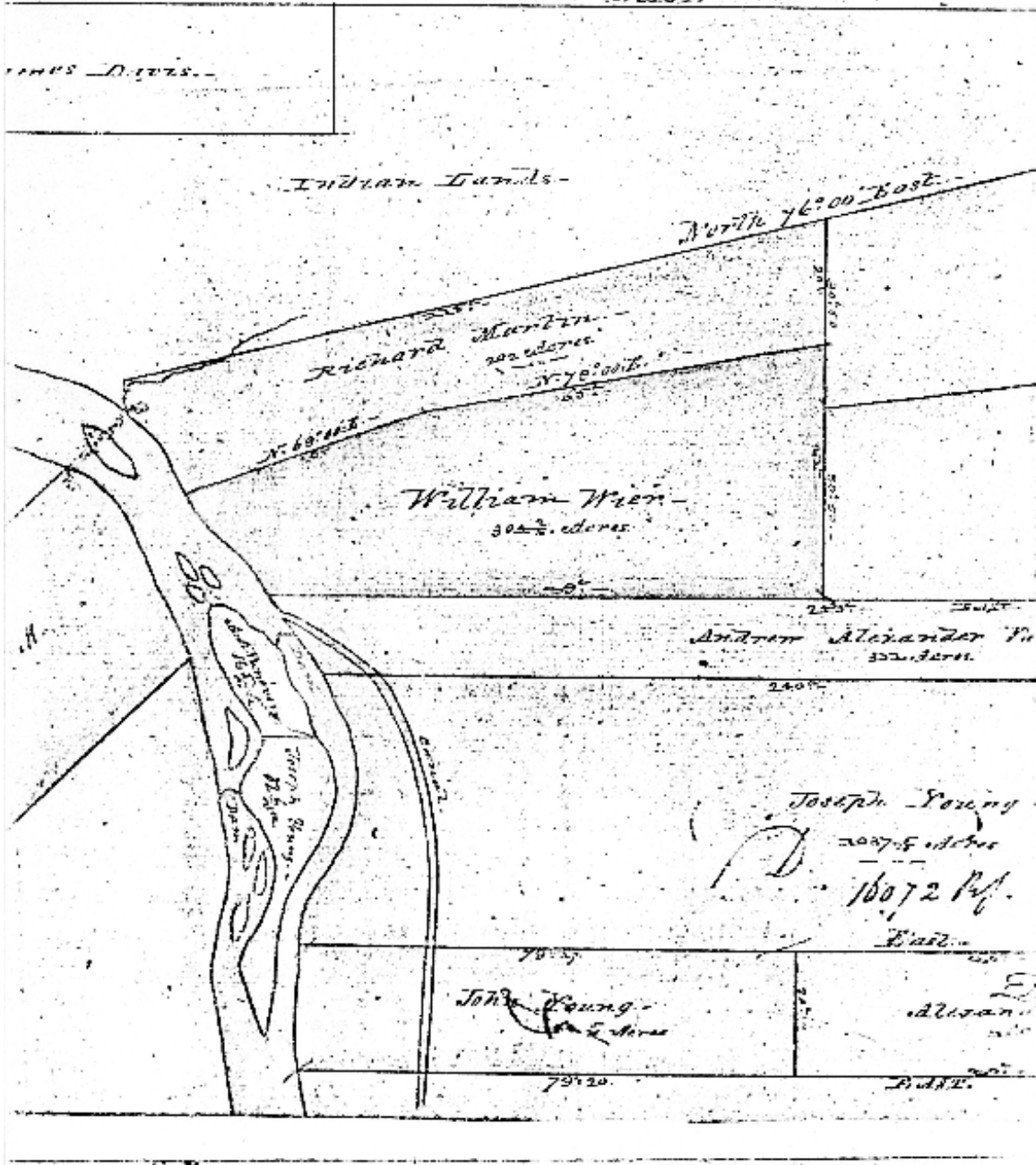
This map clearly shows John Young's home close to the River, near his northern property line and cannot be the home at the southern tip of the island in which Daniel Young resided at the time of the 1791 survey. Joseph Young's home appears to be further back from the River than the other properties. The Van Every house (formerly that of Abraham Young) is sited a little further south than the dwelling seen in other documents. An error has been made by Carroll in that "Doxstater's Inn" was at Mount Healy on the Oneida side of the River. The Inn is precisely where one would expect to find the Weir property (formerly that of Adam and Henry Young).



N.A.C., VI/430, [c.1835], Township No. 2

Warner Nelles Esquire

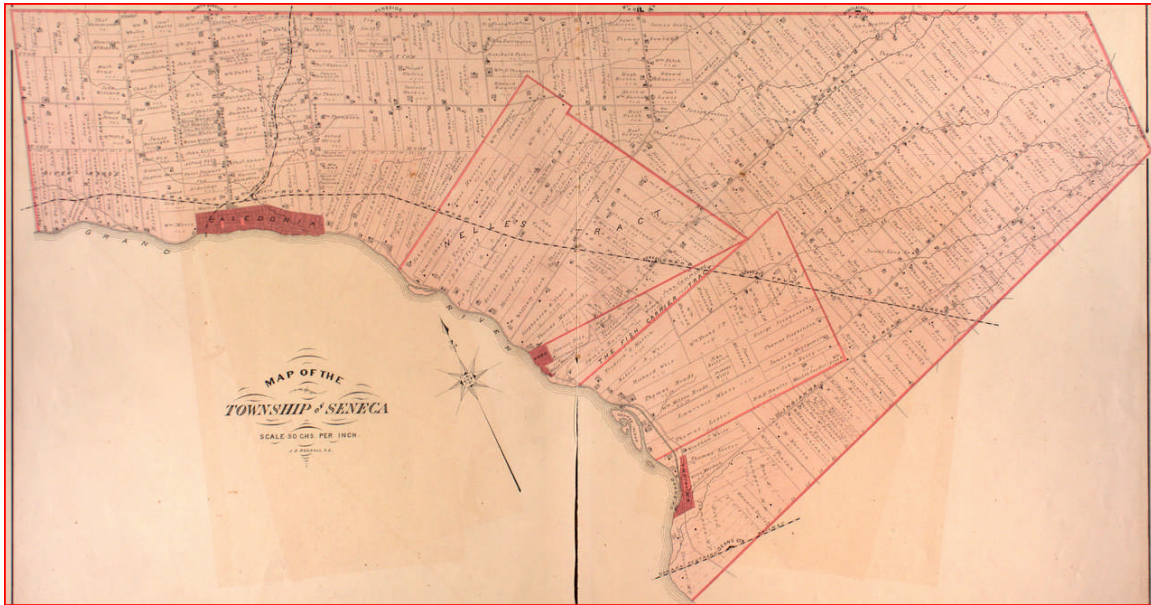
East



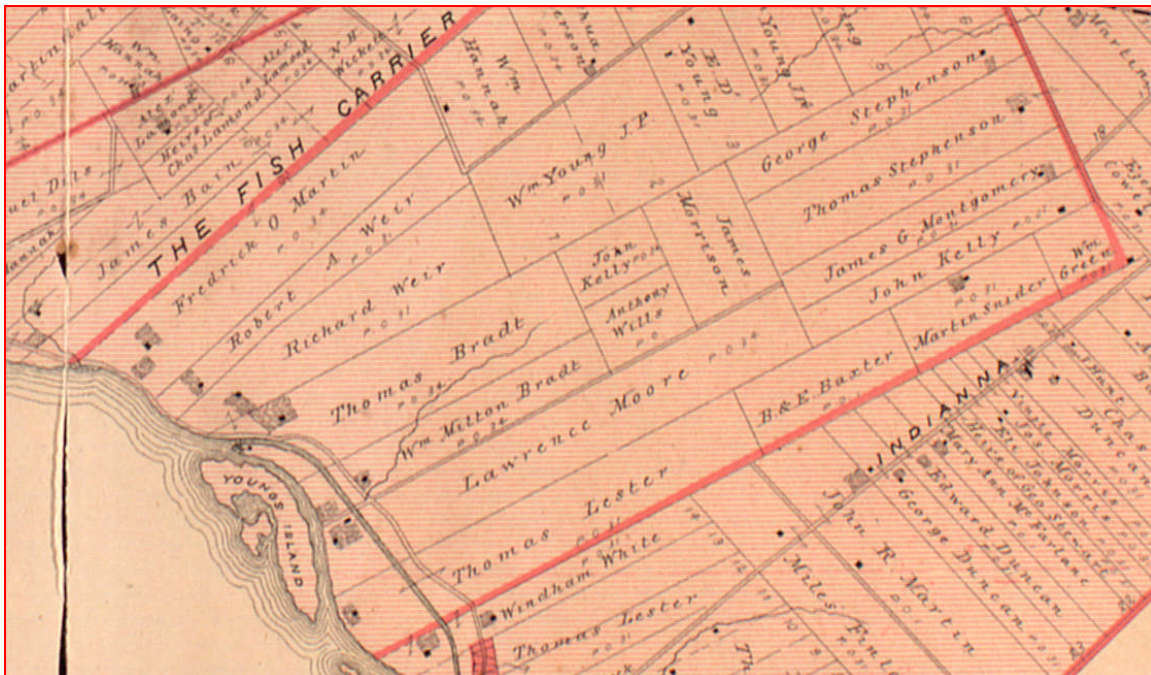
Young Tract (Lewis Burwell Survey, Plan Showing the Relative situation of several Brant Lease Tracts, situate in the Nelles Settlement, 15 February 1836). Note three small islands opposite the William Wier (formerly Adam and Henry Young) property as per 1791 Jones survey notes.

The cluster of three small islands below a larger one up river is consistent with the survey notes of Augustus Jones where he indicates that the home of Henry Young (hence Adam

Young) was between these two features and so close to what became the property line between the Weirs and Col. Martin.

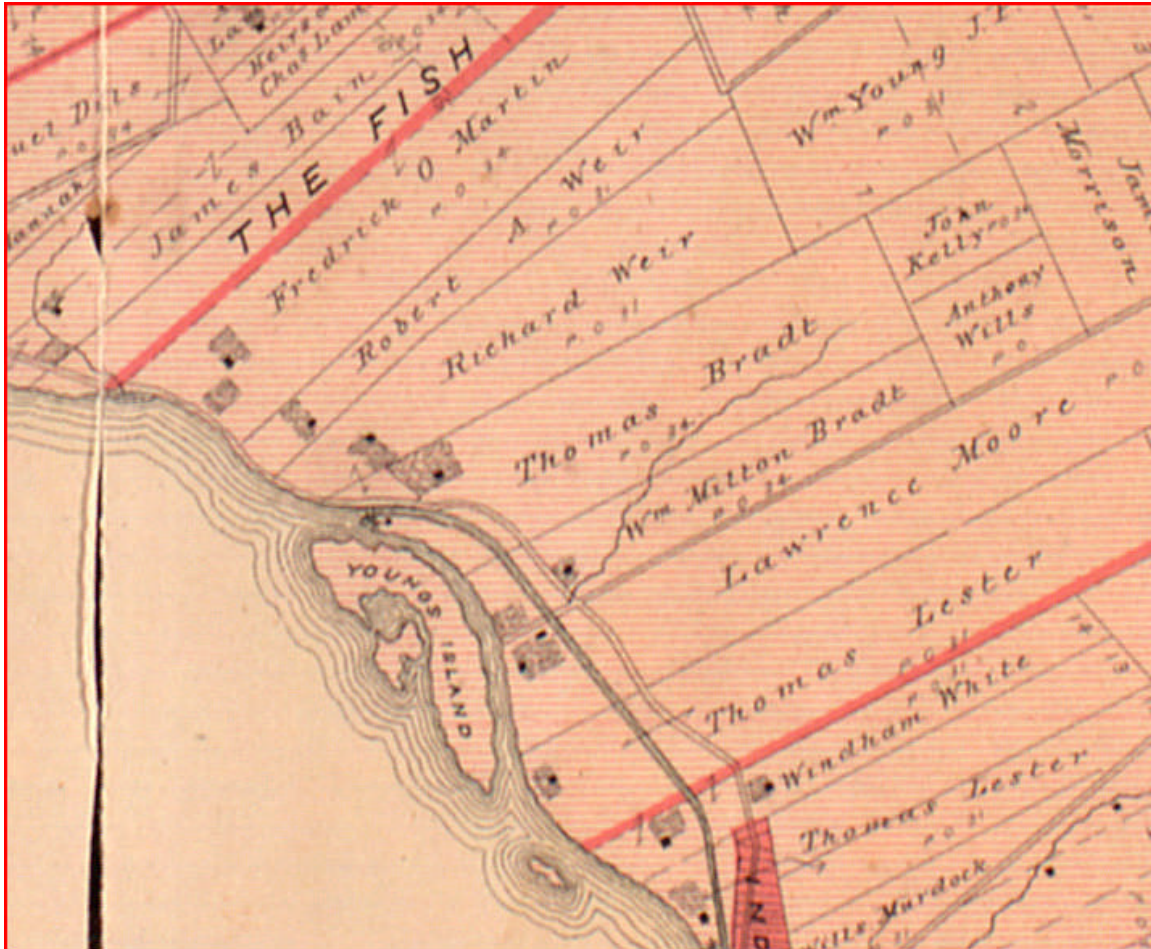


*Map of Seneca Township from H.R. Page and Co. Haldimand County Atlas, 1879*



*Close up of above map showing Young Tract bounded by the heavy red line between The Fish Carrier Tract and Indiana*

Note: The above home on the Thomas Bradt property shown above was not built until 1865, when it was constructed for Thomas Bradt by Jacob Young (The Township of Seneca History, 1967, p. 73). Thus this was not the home associated with Abraham Young discussed below. The early home can still apparently be seen standing at the northern tip of land where the Grand River Navigation Company canal enters the Grand River.



On the neck of land on the then Thomas Bradt property is shown the home, presumably once belonging to Abraham Young, with a plaster mill at the tip of the land where the canal enters the River.

There are two structures on the Lawrence Moore property. The one nearest the River is positioned in accordance with the 1835 Carroll map. Plotting the distance it would be a ratio of one from the River to three to the canal – very close to what is shown above.

A 1975 topographic maps shows a knoll on the site of the former home; and a 1975 aerial photo shows what appears to be the foundations of an old home on the site, about 200 feet from the River (which is in accordance with the depiction seen on the 1879 Atlas map). The author will attempt to locate these items and upload each to this webpage.

## DOCUMENTS TO CLARIFY SURVEY MAP DATA

ADAM and HENRY YOUNG HOUSE:

The Augustus Jones survey notes provide exact positioning of the home in 1791.

### Law Suit Young vs. Weir

While the locations of the properties of Daniel Young, John Young Jr., John Young Sr., and Abraham Young are relatively clear, there is uncertainty about the specific location of the home occupied by Adam Young. The following documents will show the change in ownership since 1796:

- 1) Deed from Catharine Elizabeth Young, *late of the Grand River Settlement*, the widow of Adam Young, dated 21 March 1796. Here Catharine Elizabeth sells to Robert Weir of Niagara, *all and every part and parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, on the Grand River aforesaid, occupied owned or claimed by Adam Young aforesaid in his lifetime* (NAC, RG10, Vol. 894).
- 2) Indenture, dated 1 July 1804, from the Six Nations by their agent Joseph Brant, granting 500 acres north of Abraham Young's line (survey details provided) to William and John Weir [sons of the then deceased Robert Weir] (NAC, RG10, Vol. 103, pp. 155-8).
- 3) Letter from John Young of Indiana, 13 Nov. 1847: *to certify that Henry Young lived in the house occupied by Adam Young, which was situated on the property sold by Henry Young to Robert Weir and Mr. Weir occupied the same house afterward* (NAC, RG10, Vo. 894).
- 4) Letter from John Weir, Burford, 26 Nov. 1846: *he (Henry) lived on the A(dam) Young part and had for some years & when he removed we took possession of that part as there was no other house – we built a house on the same part & lived there fifty years & cleared [250] acres & then sold to Col. Martin (ibid).*

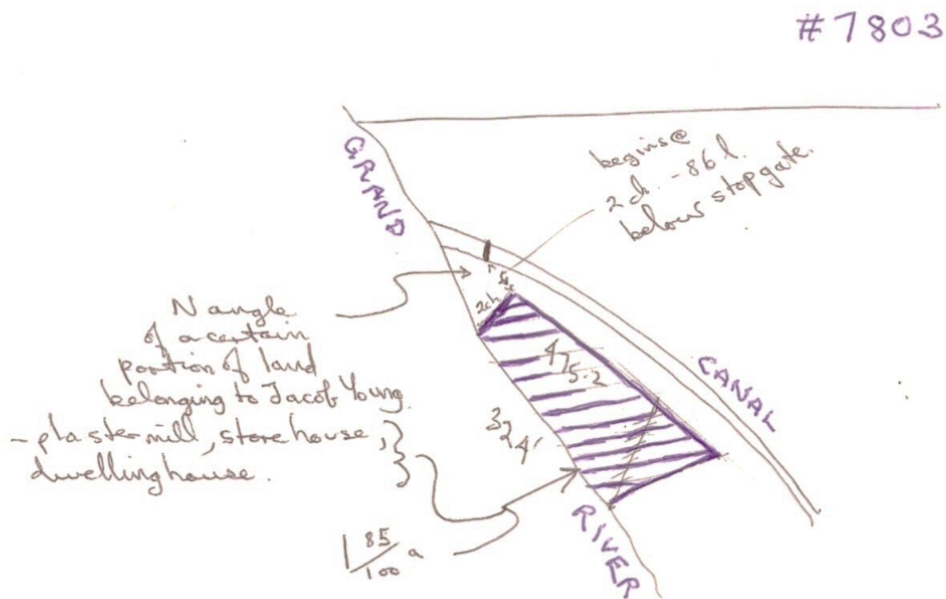
The dispute between the descendants of Daniel Young and Henry Young (who maintained that they never alienated their own interest in the lands in the Young Tract), and the heirs and assigns of the purchasers of the property of Adam Young via his widow Catherine Elizabeth Young in 1796 was a “battle” adjudicated by the officials of the Indian Department as reflected in the copious documentation in the RG10 Indian Affairs Papers, and in the similar records in the possession of Reynolds Young (descendant of Daniel's son James who represented the family) and published in the *Ontario Register* as well as the 1847 David Thorburn Journal in the Indian Affairs Office in Brantford (transcribed by George Nunamaker, Brock University Special Collections, FC 3095, B68, I598). The upshot is that the Weirs and Martin retained the front (River) portion of the upper end of the Young Tract (closest to York), but the descendants of Daniel and Henry

Young were assigned all the lands to the rear of these properties, extending back to the old Indian line.

### ABRAHAM YOUNG HOUSE:

The land records from the Haldimand County Land Registry Office in Cayuga help to pinpoint the structures that were situated on the land owned originally by Abraham Young.

After the death of Abraham in 1815, individual shares of their father's land were sold by his children to either their uncle Joseph Young or to Andrew Alexander Van Every. The details are summarized in the 1836 map and notes of surveyor Samuel W. Ryckman [NAC, Vol. 894, pp. 10-1]. On 27 July 1836 a patent was issued and Van Every obtained the north / east end of the tract, 327 1/2 acres, which included the house. He sold the portion not granted to the GRNC to Jacob Young 8 September 1845 (Deed #450). Ultimately the house, along with a plaster mill and storage house was deeded to or claimed by, sundry individuals. The property of interest is situated in a 1 and 1/85 acre parcel 324 feet along the Grand River, below the canal entrance, which likely included the home once owned by Abraham Young, where his children were all born and raised. Deed #7803 dated 30 June 1859 from Jacob Young to Alexander Taylor, owner of the plaster mill in the Census of 1871, shows the following:



The dwelling house is within the hatched area.

### JOHN YOUNG SR. HOUSE:



The Augustus Jones survey notes provide exact positioning of house in 1791.

As to the property, the “Mohawk Deed” of 1787 was rather non-specific in terms of the exact dimensions of the farms that the Six Nations wished to lease (they were not at this time allowed to give or sell lands to white men) for 999 years. After a few years there were changes such as Henry Young and Adam Young selling land to the Weir family (500 acres of which was patented via lease by Joseph Brant in 1804), and the need to sharply define properties. A lease from the Six Nations by their agent Joseph Brant was granted on 24 February 1800 to John Young. The deed was for one thousand nine hundred and twenty and one quarter acres, plus the 70 acre island opposite this land (Archives of Ontario, Upper Canada Land Petitions, RG1, L3, Vol. 550 (a), “Y” Bundle 20, pp. 8aa to 8cc). So effectively, John Young was granted 2000 acres in what became the Young Tract.

#### Legal Suit - Young v. The Grand River Navigation Company

More germane to the subject of the possible changes to the landscape that have occurred since 1783, is the monumental impact of the Grand River Navigation Company (GRNC). This controversial scheme to create a navigable river from Port Maitland to Brantford had a huge impact on the shores of the Grand and the farms established there. One of the many sources on the subject is *The Grand River Navigation Company 1832-1875*, by Bruce E. Hill, in *Stories Along the Grand*, The York Grand River Historical Society, Jean Farquharson (Ed.), 2010, pp. 176-8. A series of canals, locks, dams and assorted other structures were created that altered the water level of the Grand River and made scars to the landscape which remain to this day. Many of these features appear on maps since 1832, and can be seen on the ground (and from the air) today.

The Court papers of the Law Society of Upper Canada (Queen’s Bench Reports, Vol. 12, 1855, Toronto, Henry Rowsell, pp. 75-8) record a liability law suit as above captioned. An unnamed Young, but clearly a son of Joseph Young residing on the old property of his grandfather Lt. John Young (Sr.) brought suit against the GRNC. Young maintained that due to the canal building, *large quantities of water of a certain stream, which ought to have flowed to and past the said close and dwelling house of the plaintiff, was penned back, and stopped and turned away, and thereby the said quantities of water of the said stream became tainted and unhealthy, and generated offensive smells etc.* Furthermore, due to, *the improper construction and management of the said dams etc.; divers large quantities of the said water burst through and escaped, and were forced with increased violence upon and over the plaintiff’s close, washing away the soil and obstructing the dams. And furthermore, that the defendants, by stopping the stream below the plaintiff’s close with stone and rubbish etc., had penned back the water on his closed and forced it to accumulate there, etc.* The bottom line is that the judgement was in favour of the GRNC.

Further action was taken on this matter (ibid, Vol. 13, 1855, pp. 506-7) wherein it is asserted that the poor workmanship resulted in the dams and embankments giving way,

and, *Somewhere about two acres of land were washed away.* The rest of the action relates to the amount of compensation that should be permitted.

To this day one can see the area where the stream was crossed by the canal, and the wet area where the water from the canal spilled into the area between the River and the canal – closer to the canal. This can be seen in the pictures from 1981 and in the Google maps.

#### B) Other Documents

- a) The Will of Lt. John Young, 1805, does not give any clear indication of the size of the home, nor any features. What does seem evident is that his (second) wife Priscilla was to share the home with her step-son Joseph Young and four “Negros”, Jack a man, Jack a boy, and Laya and Dean both women. Other references speak of a male indentured servant earlier residing in the home, as well as the fact that it was typical to have a number of Indians also staying in the home. Clearly the home must have been a fair size – but little else can be said.
- b) The Will of Joseph Young, 1845 (Archives of Ontario, Wentworth County Wills, RG22-6-2, file 570). Here Joseph, who inherited the home of his father Lt. John Young (Sr.), provides a description of his farm estate. Noted therein is the clause that while his youngest son James Young was to inherit the farm, his wife Sarah was to have, *the free use of the cellar and kitchen*, indicating that there was a basement or cellar of some sort associated with the home.
- c) The 1861 Census of Seneca Township shows that at that time, James resided in a one story frame house shared with his wife, 4 children, a female servant, 2 male labourers, and a plaster mill operator. Hence the structure was likely of a large size. The cash value of the farm was then \$10,000, a huge sum.
- d) The 1871 Census of Seneca Township shows that Lawrence Moore and family were then living on the property (having been purchased from James Young earlier), and that on the property there was one dwelling house inhabited, and one dwelling house uninhabited.

#### JOHN YOUNG JR. HOUSE:

It is likely that the home of John Young Jr. was built at some point after 1812, by which time John Jr. had married and likely established his own home. Since he is known to have had at least two children by 1812, the home was probably built about 1805 or so.

The home site remained in the possession of John Young Jr. until he sold the property to Thomas Lester on 6 February 1851 (Haldimand Count Land Registry Office, Township of Seneca, Nelles (sic) Tract, p. 133, No. 1089).

#### DANIEL YOUNG HOUSE:

The Augustus Jones survey notes provide exact positioning of home in 1791. Due to a number of factors, not the least of which is that the position of the tip of the large island may have shifted over the years, it is not straight forward to determine whether the 1791

structure is the same as say one which seems to be in that area in later maps – but which may for example be out buildings associated with the John Young Jr. house.

In a letter submitted to the Indian Affairs Department on 4 March 1847 by William Young the son of Henry Young, he claimed that Daniel Young and his heirs, *do not make their claim under the original Mohawk Deed but only as their share or half of my grandfathers bequest to his sons Danl & Adam [Henry]. That part mentioned in the Mohawk Deed to Danl Young he has since sold to John Young for which the said John Young since obtained a Patent deed* (NAC, RG10, Vol. 162, pt. 1, p. 93892-3). Thus when Daniel left the Grand River in the spring of 1795, it is not known who (if anyone) resided in the home at the tip of the island. It may have been scavenged for building material either by Daniel or his brother John. The property was given to John's son John Jr. after the former died in 1812, but the early records show John Jr. residing further up river, again suggesting that the Daniel Young home of 1784 to 1795 was not likely standing at the time John moved out of his father's home to establish his own farm on the Young Tract. If this is correct, then the artifacts found on the site of the Daniel Young home will form a time capsule of sorts.

#### AERIAL PHOTO

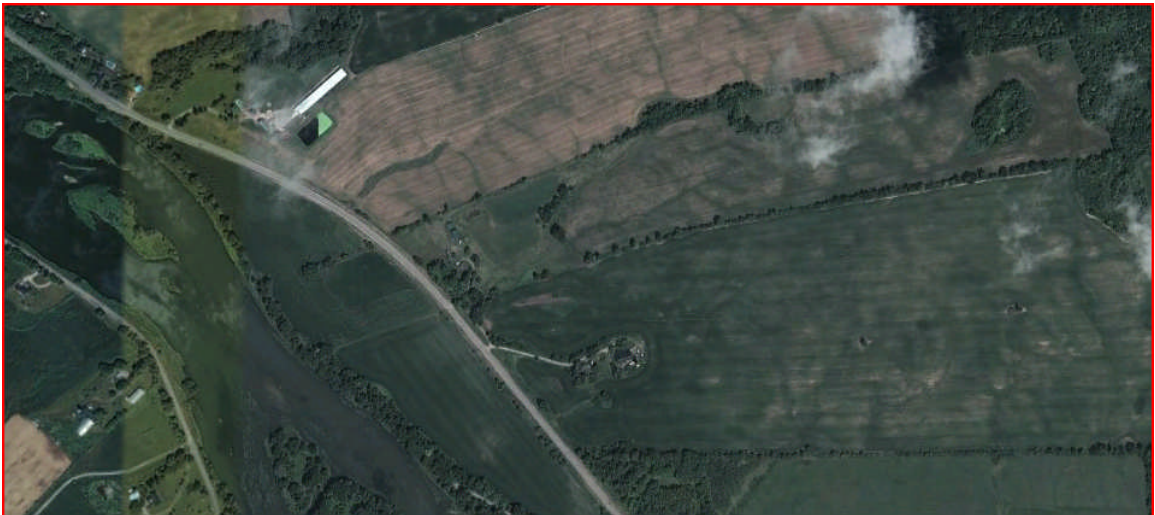


*Aerial photo from the mid 1970s which shows the small clump of scrub where the John Young Jr. site was located in 1981 when the author made his survey*

GOOGLE MAPS



*Full extent of the Young Tract fronting on the Grand River*



*The Adam and Henry Young part of the Young Tract. The Weir property is shown in the green area from the tree line at the bottom of the photo, and the Martin property is seen as a brown plot at the upper end.*



The red arrow points to possible site of Adam Young's home, The general area appears to be consistent with the location determined in the 1791 Jones survey, and the 1820 map which shows the "Wyers" house on a promontory, further back from the River relative to other houses in the area. No archaeological work has been done in the immediate area.



The two red dashes mark the limits of the John Young Jr. (south) to the Abraham Young property (north). Note the Young Tract Burying Ground as a gray patch on the flats above the southern dash.



The red circle marks the probable location of the Abraham Young home site, below the entry point of the old canal.



Above is seen an overview of the John Young Sr. site, depicted in greater detail below.



*The red circle is the approximate location of the Cluster 1 site on the John Young Sr. property.*



*John Young Sr. site with clusters 1, 2, 3 and GM (Gary Meyer) illustrated above.*





*Red arrow shows approximate location of John Young Jr. site, which is seen in the above aerial photo of 1975, and was noted by the author in 1981, but little trace is seen of the site today*



The red circle shows the positioning of the Daniel Young site, on the property later bequeathed to John Young Jr. by his father John Young Sr. It is situated between the end of the large island (Young's Island, later known as Thompson's Island) to the left, and the Young Tract Burial Ground to the right. The southern line of the Young Tract is

approximately the bottom line of the photo. More information with pictures of artifacts can be found by [clicking here](#).

1980s SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



*Southern tip of Young's (Thompson's) Island from Daniel Young house site – looking W – March 1981*



*Looking S towards Daniel Young site from John Young Jr. site – March 1981*



*John Young Jr. house site SE corner looking NW*



*John Young Jr. house site NE corner looking SW – March 1981*



*Gary Myer site looking N = March 1981*



*Gary Myer site looking W – Tim Kenyon near center of site – white flags mark finds – March 1981*



*John Young Sr. site (Cluster 1) from canal looking W – on knoll to the right of Tim Kenyon seen in the background – March 1981*



*John Young Sr. (Cluster 1) site. Approx. center at box. White flags mark finds – looking E from N edge of bush – March 1981*



*John Young Sr. (Cluster 1) site. Approx. center at box. White flags mark finds. Looking SE from a little N of N edge of bush – March 1981*



*John Young Sr. site (Cluster 2) site looking E – March 1981*



*Structure at Abraham Young site (now demolished). South side, looking N – March 1981*



*View of Grand River looking N, where old canal entered, with structure at Abraham Young site on far right – March 1981*



*Structure at Abraham Young site (now demolished) – SE corner – March 1981*





*Structure at Abraham Young site (now demolished) – looking W – March 1981*

### MODERN SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

(These will be included in March 2014 with the attempt to match them up with the equivalents from 1981. What will be clear is that in the 30 plus years that have followed, some changes are to be found to the site, but all features can still be recognized).

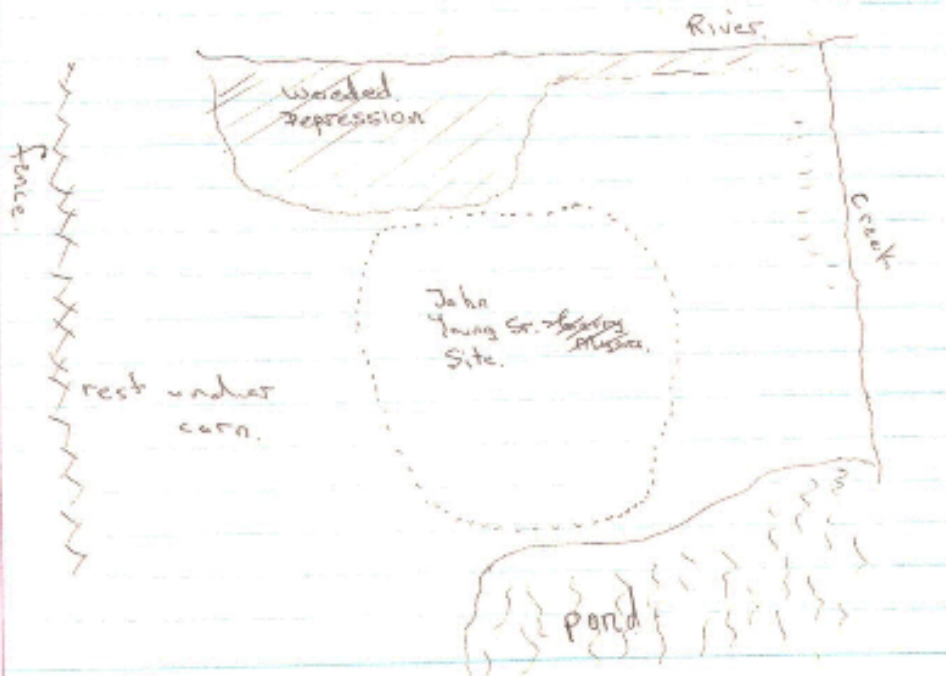
### ARCHAEOLOGY SITE DIARY

What follows is an exact recording of what was first found, and under what circumstances, with impressions and off the cuff remarks as found in the “site diary” written on the day a particular site was visited, and key artifacts located.

24 March 1981 - I met Tim Kenyon <sup>at 9:10 a.m.</sup> in the parking lot behind the library in Calhoun and we then proceeded down # 54 to the home of Garry Myer. Warm sunny day. I introduced us, and presented my Mohawk card and Mr. Myer was very receptive to our project. He granted us permission to surface collect on the flats; and I promised to provide him with a part of his information concerning the history of the farm.

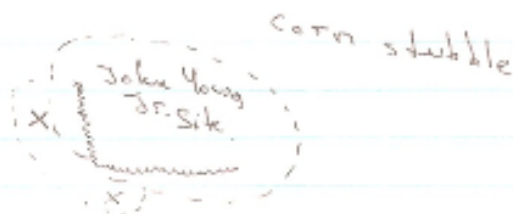
Tim and I walked from our parked car through the gate that allowed access to the Myers flats and walked a straight line over the old canal towards the river. Between the canal and the river I found my first pine artifact at this site - a small blue ceramic shard. We continued towards the river and found a scattering of artifacts (brick, redware, ceramics, bone, glass and some debitage plus a piece of Indian pottery).

The material was found in a relatively concentrated area



After about an hour here we went across to the John Young Sr. site on Mc Sorbie's property. This site has a nucleus which is stubble overgrown ruin and around a dry wall foundation.

River.



We spent about an hour here collecting - most finds being on S side around the X's. We found ceramics, windows & bottle glass, refuse. Noticed the pronounced knoll where the Young burying ground is.

We then proceeded back to the J.Y. Sr. site, did some more collecting and decided to visit the L.C. longhouse site.

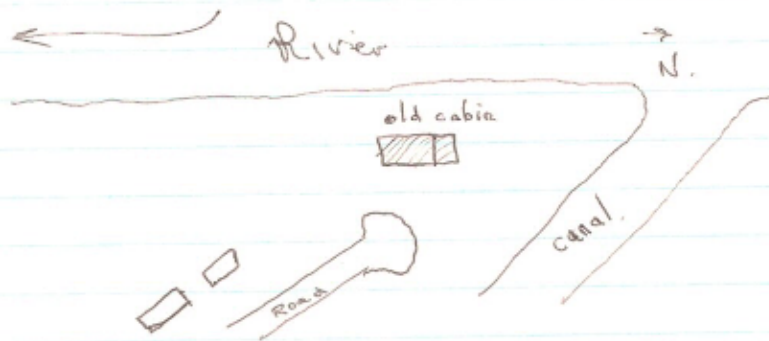
Tim all the while tonight was teaching me about these types of artifacts - I guess I am sort of an apprentice - I have a great deal to learn but can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

We drove through Cayuga to the Stynes site and proceeded to where we believed the longhouse site was. The weather became unsettled, part cloud, part sun, some rain. Back to Caledonia by 1:15 p.m.

29 March 1981:

I set out about 12:25 to search for the homestead of Abraham Young. I parked the truck along the road which leads to the string of cottages. I then walked over the old canal south of the cottages and along a high ~~low~~ mound of earth stretching to the river. On the left is an area in scrub that appears to have been gouged out, the overburden being what I was walking on. Perhaps this was part of the plaster bed on the property. I then walked over the area on the left (which contained what appeared to be coak) and looked for any signs of previous habitation. I walked south to a knoll on the periphery of the disturbed area and found nothing of significance. Most of this area had been flooded well back to the road.

I then (after taking a number of pictures) walked back to the <sup>grassy</sup> area between the cottages and the river, talked with one of the owners of the cottages and obtained ~~to~~ his permission to be on the property. I walked along the shore (which had been flooded up to the cottages) towards an cabin that had been insulbricked. It was situated on a rise, higher than any other place near the river on the property, close to the entrance to the old canal.



I took pictures of the cabin from a number of angles. It seemed to have an addition on the N side and faced the river, the longest axis being N-S. The building was dilapidated and the <sup>stone</sup> foundation was crumbling in places. It seemed to be dry wall on the lowest courses and mortared above. On the S side there was a small door that provided access to the basement-crawlspace. The framing ~~appears~~ suggested great antiquity.


I then returned to the ~~road~~ <sup>truck</sup> and about 1:30 I left to meet Fred at the S. Cayuga Baptist Church.

Sunny, warm, hazy day.

31 March 1981:

Met Tim at 9:10 in Caledonia. We went to the Myers property and walked towards the J.Y. Sr. site. Marked 2 spots in what I call the cluster 2 site with white flags and proceeded towards the McSorley property. Between the brush-depression and the fence line I noticed some ceramics and flagged the area. This was a surprise as we noticed nothing here last week and no map indicated a site in this area.

We then went past the J.Y. Sr. site to seek the Daniel Young site. The conditions (weedy stubble) were poor for picking however just before the end of the island I noticed a bit of ceramic. In this area and toward the end of the island I found about 5 artifacts. I took pictures from here towards the island and back towards the knoll where the cemetery is located. The end of the knoll is almost exactly in line with the end of the island. ~~Some~~ We spent somewhat less than 1/2 hr. here - Tim before going to the J.Y. Sr. site to stake out with yellow posts and ropes, the house site.

We photographed and measured the house, measured the distance to the river and road, noted compass directions and the depressions on the N side of the house (11 ft) which may have been an out building. I was pleased to note that the building was oriented in the direction indicated in the 1820 map. (  ). We also collected a number of artifacts from the site. About noon we went back to the Myers

Island  
2.1.1981  
antiquarian

11

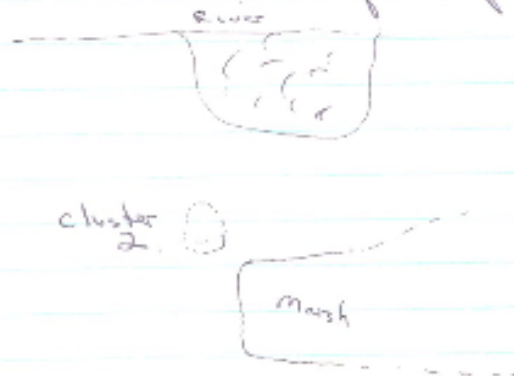
long

property.

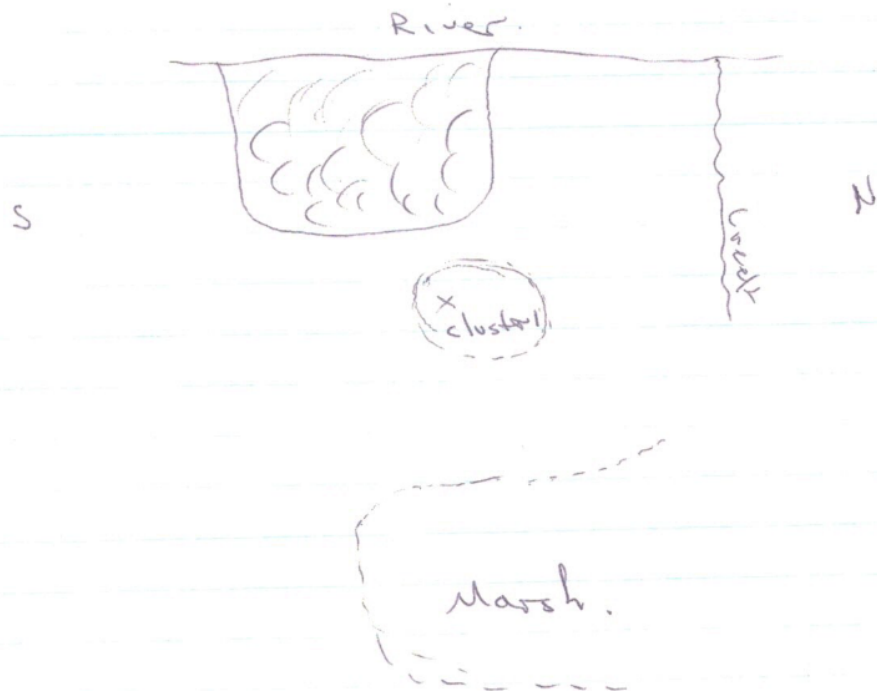
Before reaching the flags we noted a number of artifacts so continued flagging and collecting at this site which we named the Garry Myer site. It was near the old road between the bush on the N and the fence line on the S. We photographed the flagged area.



About a half hour later we went to the flagged area near the marsh and then went to get his metal detector. In the indicated area I found a cluster of artifacts.



We then went to the spot where J. Y. Sr. house is shown to be on the early maps. We flagged the most productive area and staked the area where indications were that the house was located and took pictures. We spent about an hour here collecting.



At 1:15 we left for Caledonia.



8 April 1981: John Young Sr. site.

Warm sunny day. Catharine, Daniel and myself left home about 2 o'clock. We walked to the site and almost immediately at cluster 2 found a bone button. We walked slowly across the site towards the river, pausing every so often to move some of the corn refuse. We then washed our hands in the river (there was pig manure spread on the fields which was still somewhat odiferous) and sat down by the river bank to have apple juice and graham crackers. I found one piece of blue here in this vicinity. In about 15 minutes we returned to the site and resumed collecting. By about 3:30 it was apparent that the kids wanted to go home to see their "programmes" and to wash the artifacts so we proceeded slowly towards the car, leaving by about 4:15.

I left work and arrived at the site about 1:30.

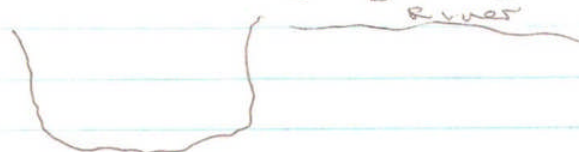
~60°F.

John Young Sr. site.  
10 April 1981. Warm sunny day - I was in a short sleeve shirt. I walked to the site of cluster 2 and began searching; using a trowel to scrape away the corn stoves and some of the dry lumps of soil. I found nothing until I reached the cluster 1 site - where I noted large pieces of a pale blue ceramic plate. I then conducted a semi-systematic search, between some rows of corn from about 1/2 way from the pond to about 30 feet from the wood. I noted that the majority of artifacts were found on and near the sandy knoll, far fewer being found in the loam-dug closer to the pond. I found some nails (x) as indicated below.



I spent most of the time in the cluster one area and left the site about 5:15.

15 April 1981 Sunny, cool day. I arrived at the site about 1:45 and spent most of the time collecting at the cluster 1 site. As in previous occasions the corn stubble made the going rough.



• nail, wire, spoon handle,  
metal part.

• Bottle shards

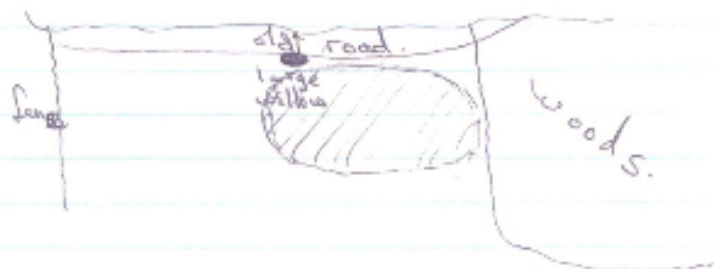
• Bottle shard.

I left about 4:30.

Fri. May 1, 1981

Catharina, Daniel & I collected at the John Young Sr. site, the fields were still covered in corn stover. Warm sunny day. In about 2 hours we collected a fair quantity of materials which the kids carried in a basket. Daniel found a horsehoe and Catharina found a shard of majolica.

Tues. May 5, 1981. Warm hazy day, a brief light shower. I collected at the Garry Meyer site for about 1 1/2 hours.



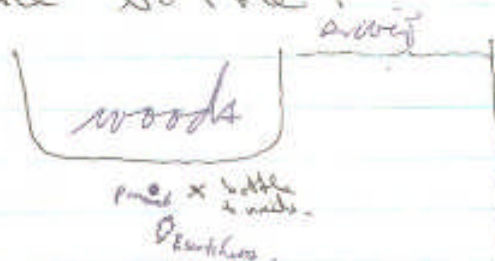
I then spend about 3/4 hrs. @ the John Young Sr. site. Fields still unplowed and a corn stubble <sup>not</sup> covered about 1/2 of the surface area.

Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> May, 81

Tim + I searched for the Delaware Village site and on our way back we stopped at the Young site. It had recently been plowed but had not rained since. We spend about 1/4 hour collecting there, little was visible other than portions of items protruding but still encrusted with earth. We nevertheless obtained a small sample.

Tuesday 12 May 1981.

Cool windy day. It had rained for the previous 3 days so the fields were wet. I arrived at 10:30 and it was soon apparent that the rain had exposed a substantial number of artifacts in the plowed field (still not disced or harrowed). The conditions were ~~rather~~ much improved in terms of area exposed. I collected here walking back and forth over the site. Of particular note ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> the ~~the~~ collecting of an escutcheon plate from a Brown Bess and a sword pommel. I also found a cluster of hand wrought nails, a lock part? and two pieces of the same? old "medicine" bottle:



I put a brick at this location hoping to take measurements next time.

I also collected at the cluster 2 site and the Garry Meyer site and left about 2:30.

It was apparent that under the above conditions ~~so~~ pieces of redware much larger than any I had found before were evident.

Thurs. 14 May 81.

Tim and I arrived at the J.Y.S. site about 10. A warm sunny day at the time. The field had been harrowed since I last visited but it had not rained. We picked a small collection of ceramics + glass from the ~~soil~~ drying soil. Little else was apparent. We stayed for about 1 hour. ~~Not~~ Meyer was harrowing the other end of the field as we left and it appeared that he was going to go over the entire <sup>flats</sup> area again.


Sat. 16 May 81.

I arrived at the J.Y.S. site about 1:30. It had rained <sup>off and on</sup> the previous ~~two~~ <sup>and a half</sup> days and the fields were moist. Sunny cool day in p.m. The rain had washed out copious artefacts. Very few metal objects were apparent. The fields had not been worked further. I collected here until about 3:30 and proceeded to do the same at the Gary Meyer and Cluster sites. I left about 5:15.

31 May 1981

I don't believe that  
the ground had ever  
worked any further.

Warm sunny day. Corn was up. It had  
rained since I last collected. I arrived  
at the cluster 1 site at about 11 o'clock.  
I noted that while the pickings were slim  
everywhere, the sandy knoll part (where  
I assume the house was and had been  
backfilled with sand to fill in the old  
basement) was almost sterile. The most  
noteworthy item I found was a brass  
cylinder with two decorative lines at  
one end and with an iron post at the same  
end.

 I have tentatively  
identified this item as part of a truck and  
pick for a market - the bristle holder.



I had been thinking that it was  
likely that there was an earlier house  
that suffered for the ~~the~~ first few years  
and that it was located near the creek  
and close to the river. Thus I walked  
this area.



While I found a fair collection, later  
analysis of these artifacts showed  
that they were of "recent" vintage.  
There was no creamware, mostly  
white ware, two ~~to~~ type pieces  
with gold trim, and the ~~the~~ edge ware was  
the later type. ~~Aggravated~~ <sup>pieces of</sup> edge ware was  
however of an earlier type. Thus I believe

that the materials are merely scattered from the cluster 1 site.

I then went to the cluster 2 site and collected. Again I had the feeling that there was a strong "contamination" factor operative at this site. It was virtually impossible to differentiate between where cluster 1 ~~end~~ materials end and cluster 2 materials begin. I suspect that they are heavily intermingled.

I left the John Young Sr. sites at about 2:30.

Thurs June 4, 1981

After turn out and worked at the John Cooker site, I went back to the John Young Sr. site. I arrived at about 4:30. I collected at the cluster 1 until about 6:30. I then found what would appear to be a rusted tool at the southern end of the house site.

Sat. June 6, 1981.

I went to the Gary Meyer site at about 1:30. A warm sunny windy day. I walked the ~~at~~ site then the park of the cluster 1 site. I did not cover on Thursday, then finally the cluster 2 site. A small sample was obtained at each site. I left about 4:00.



11 June 1981.

A sunny, partly cloudy, windy day. It had rained the day before - at least it had in Toronto and here. The ground however appeared very dry. I collected at the cluster 1 site between 10:00 and ~~12:00~~ 1:00 and obtained a very small sample.

The above notes record the author's collecting at the John Young Sr., John Young Jr., Abraham Young, and Daniel Young sites on the Young Tract in Seneca Township between 24 March 1981 and 11 June 1981, often with my mentor, the late Thomas "Tim" Kenyon (father of Ian Kenyon, late Provincial Archaeologist).

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSEMBLAGE

What follows are photographs of artifacts collected from the surface. The site was located according to the field notes and map of Augustus Jones (1791), and all subsequent survey maps confirm the location of this home site on the River flats prior to its demolition and/or use in the building of a newer home up on the hill above what is today Highway 54. It appears that the assemblage resulted from a typical scattering of refuse artifacts at any pioneer home site, and, due to the size of some of the artifacts, it is possible that over the years the ploughing upturned items that had been backfilled into a partial basement / cellar. At the time of the author's visit, the site was recently ploughed, planted in corn or was arrayed as corn stubble. Items were picked as located and bagged for subsequent washing and sorting. Most of the collecting was done in the early 1980s as indicated in the site diary. John Young Site Cluster 1.

#### 1) Metalic Objects and Indian Trade Beads:



A) Top Row, Left to Right –

- a) Brass escutcheon plate from a Brown Bess musket (to 1790). This item has a rack number from the British military, “A 19”. It fits perfectly into the wooden stock of a reproduction Brown Bess, model year 1763.
- b) Sword pommel (likely brass, with silver coating seen in grooves). The item has not been dated, but appears consistent with those swords from the era of the American Revolution.
- c) Four glass Indian trade beads. These items were found by Tim Kenyon, at the John Young Junior site, immediately downriver of the John Young Cluster 1 Site.
- d) Brass tube with two horizontal rings at the top end and an iron rivet below these. Unknown use, unknown date.
- e) Iron small spatula type device – unknown at to use and date.

B) Bottom Row, Left to Right –

- a) Brass circular object with a series of concentric inscribed rings on the bottom plate. Unknown.
- b) Brass plate with circular perforations.
- c) Thin brass spoon.
- d) Brass object, possibly a shoe heel wear protector.
- e) Two brass items.

2) Ceramics: Shell – Edged Pearlware (c.1780-1840):



The scallop shaped edgeware with the “feathered look” is the earliest (e.g., the first three items top row), and probably dates to prior to 1800-1805. The latter two on the top row with the colour painted as a stripe probably post – date this period. Some of the collection probably dates to the time of the tenure of Lt. John Young.

3) Ceramics: Cream Ware (c.1762-1820):



These ceramics have a slight cream or yellowish colour to them, and tend to be fragile and easily break into small shards, many with spalling on them. The presence of this ceramic variety is the hallmark of an early pioneer site in Ontario. There is a very full bag of cream ware in the assemblage and the above represent only a very small sample of the entire collection. Much of the assemblage would date to the tenure of Lt. John Young.

4) Ceramics: Hand Painted Assorted - Embossed:



There are few of these items that were found, all are shown here. The embossed portions, such as floral patterns, have been hand painted in a variety of different colours including blue, green and gold.

5) Ceramics: Hand Painted Assorted, Not Embossed:



Some of the items here may be Delftware, which dates 1600 to 1800. The two most likely objects are in the cluster of four, below the top row, the second and third items. If correct then these pieces would likely be quite early, and date to the time of Lt. John Young.

6) Ceramics: Willow Pattern (c.1792-1840+; median 1818):



7) Transferware blue (c.1751 to present):



8) Ceramics: Transferware – many colours (c.1840 to present):





9) Ceramics: Spongeware (c.1840+):



10) Ceramics: “Flowing Colours Ware” (c.1840-1890):



This assemblage is rather small, but ushers in more “modern” times, as does the large quantities of “Ironstone Ware” that were collected from the site but not shown here.

11) Window Glass and Porcelain Objects:

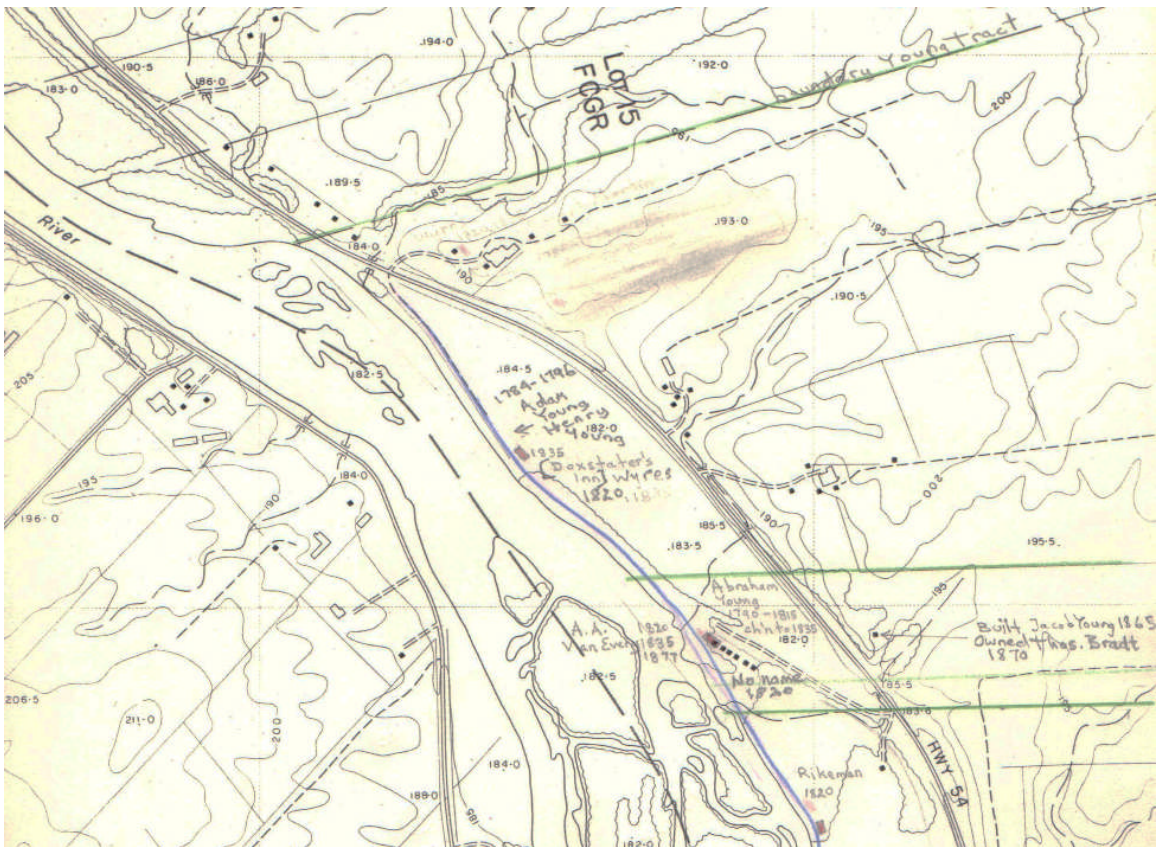


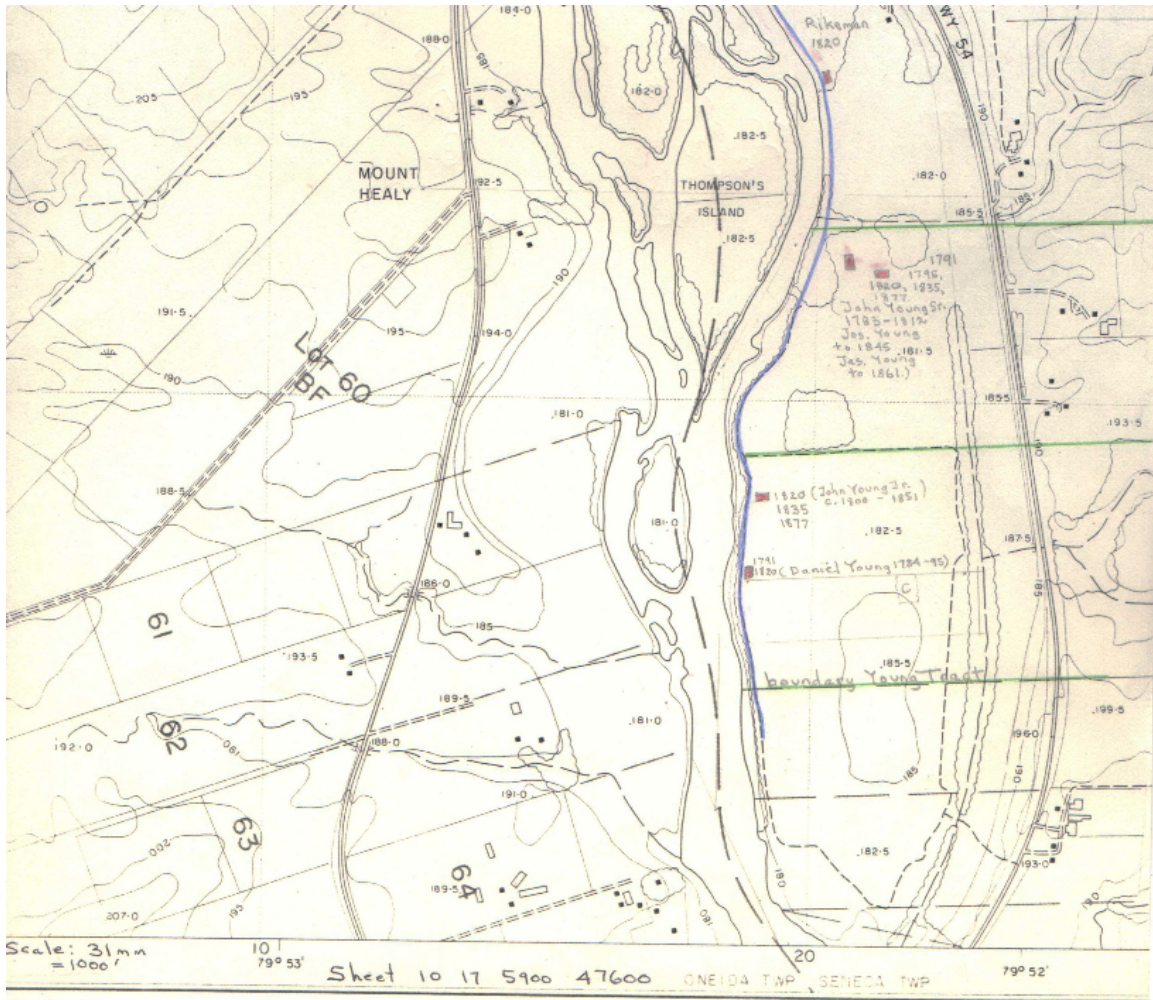
Amongst the early (thin) window glass is a doll's head, a child's toy cup, and a religious item with an angel (?) cradling two children. The window glass is likely pre 1840, but the porcelain objects are of unknown dates.

Other Items:

The usual assortment of window glass, bottle glass, nails and other building material are in the collection but it is generally more difficult to date these items than is the case with ceramics. Also, most of the material appears to come from a date subsequent to occupation of the site by members of the Young family. If any of the items prove "diagnostic" in any way they will be included in subsequent iterations of this document.

MODERN TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SUMMARIZING DATA ABOVE





A compass and protractor and ruler were used to convert the information from the 1791 survey, and (less accurately) other survey maps, to convert these details to on the ground positions of each home site as shown in the above 1:10,000 scale topo maps. The present clustering of artifacts is remarkably consistent with this data, particularly with respect to the John Young Sr. (Joseph Young) site.

### SUMMARY

What follows is a compilation of what is known about the early Young homes on the Grand River in the Young Tract. Starting from the north (western) end of the Tract:

#### 1) Adam and Henry Young House:

- Built about 1785
- Mentioned in the 1791 survey by Augustus Jones (Henry then occupying the home, residing there with his widowed mother)
- 1796, Catharine Elizabeth Young, the widow of Adam Young sells her interest in the property of her husband to Robert Weir

whereupon she and Henry move to Barton and Ancaster respectively

- Prior to 1804 John Weir and William Weir inherit the property from their father Robert Weir.
- 1804, John and William Weir obtain a Brant lease for 500 acres, which included the property which fronted the Grand River. The rest of the land (to three miles back) became the subject of extensive litigation between the Weirs and the heirs of Daniel Young and his brother Henry Young
- Old house site seen on maps of 1820 and 1834
- By the time of the 1879 Atlas, the home on the original site is still standing
- While a likely site of this home (now entirely disappeared) can be seen in arial Google maps, no archaeological investigation of the area has been done
- The best estimate from map sources, particularly that of the 1820 map, is that one of the two houses on the site stood 130 to 165 feet from the River (that sold to Richard Martin?), while the other was 264 feet downstream and on some sort of promontory about 330 feet from the River – seeming to be on or close to the William Weir and Richard Martin boundary seen in the detailed survey of 1836

## 2) Abraham Young House:

- Built around 1792
- Seen on 1820 map when in possession of one Rikeman
- Location immediately south of the entrance of the GRNC canal (which was built after 1832) into the Grand River, on a wedge of land
- A structure is shown in this location on the 1835 Carroll map
- Property sold by the children of Abraham Young either to their uncle Joseph Young or to Alexander Andrew Van Every prior to 1836
- Property purchased by Jacob Young, who appears to have been living there in 1861 in a one story frame house
- In 1865 Jacob Young built a new home on the hill above the canal
- In 1870 Jacob sold the property to Thomas Bradt
- In the 1879 Atlas the old and the new houses are still standing
- A structure on a stone foundation was present in that location during the author's survey of the area in 1981. It is not clear whether this was the dwelling house, plaster mill, or storage house described in various deeds
- No archaeological explorations have been made of this area

- The best estimate from map sources is that the house stood 91 feet from the River

### 3) Lt. John Young (Sr.) House:

- Built about 1783
- In 1791 is noted in the survey of Augustus Jones, and in the associated map
- Willed to youngest son Joseph Young in 1805, prior to his death in 1812
- On 1820 map two building seen here
- The 1835 Carroll map shows two building here
- Property willed to youngest son James Young in 1845
- (James) Young files a legal claim for damages against the GRNC, citing problems caused by the canal which as still visible on photos taken in 1981, and on current Google maps
- In 1861, James was residing here with his family and 3 lodgers in a one story frame structure
- 1865, the property was sold out of the family
- 1879 Atlas shows two structures, one near the GRNC canal, and another closer to the River
- Archaeological explorations here have located the primary site (Cluster 1) as well as three ancillary sites, Clusters 2 and 3, and the GM (Gary Meyer) site
- Artifacts from Cluster 1 have survived, and photographs are included in the present work
- Artifacts from the other clusters were donated to the Haldimand County Museum and Archives. Unfortunately, the collection is now “jumbled” with other donations from pre-history to historical. The present author assisted the curator in separating out the bags which, as the author recalls, belonged to the John Young Sr. site
- The best estimate from map sources suggests that the primary house site was 195 feet from the River; and the second house seen on the 1820 map was about 290 feet from the River

### 4) John Young Jr. House:

- Built about 1805
- Seen on 1820 map
- Property sold to Thomas Lester in 1851
- In 1861 Census the property appears to have been occupied by one Benj. Foster, residing in a frame building of one story
- 1879 Atlas, the house is shown and appears to be standing in its original location



- The best estimate from map sources suggests that the house stood about 117 feet from the River

#### 5) Daniel Young House:

- Built about 1795
- Noted in the 1791 Augustus Jones survey
- Daniel and family left this property in the spring of 1795 to reside in Barton Township
- At some point prior to 1800, Daniel sold his improvements to his brother John Young Sr. who obtained a Brant Lease for a total of 2000 acres
- This part of the Young Tract was willed by John Young Sr. to his son John Young Jr. in 1805
- Shown on the 1820 map
- The land where the Daniel Young house was located, along with the land surrounding the Young Tract Burying Ground, was purchased in 1837 by John Lester from John Young Jr.
- The disposition of the structure on this site is not known, but was probably salvaged by Daniel Young and taken to his new home in Barton Township, or was left for John Young to take the choice parts for inclusion in structures closer to his home site
- The best estimate from map sources suggests that the house site was less than 100 feet from the River

Note: All of the above facts need to be verified and further documentation added. It is anticipated that the work can be completed by July 2014.

### **Conclusion**

Work on this subject is continuing.

Why Did Lt. John Young Chose His Location on the Grand River? A question that the present author, after many years of on site and archival investigations, cannot yet answer, is why Lt. John Young chose this particular site for his farm, and specifically why he sited his home where he did. Since he was the first permanent European resident on the River, settling here even before the Six Nations arrived (in 1785), John would presumably have had his choice of locations. It may have had some strategic significance in relation to the tribes then resident nearby (Delaware and Mississauga). After visiting the home in the Mohawk Valley which John left in 1777, it is evident that there are physical similarities, including an island in front of the farm which is of a similar size. The oak savannah terrain and the wide River flats may have made the location attractive with rich flood plain land already cleared for farming.

Dr. David K. Faux  
Cypress, California; Caledonia, Ontario

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