

***CIVIL WAR RIFLE PARTS UNCOVERED***

*Near Pickerel Lake  
January 6, 1984*

## Civil War Vintage Rifle Found

Petoskey News-Review  
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Front Page

### **Civil War Rifle Parts Uncovered**

By DIANNE MURRAY

A Petoskey Middle School student has found a part of a rifle believed to be more than 100 years old.

Jerry Kondrat uncovered the metal piece last November while pounding in a post to build a fort in the woods near his Pickerel Lake home.

About 1 to 1½ feet into the ground, the eighth grader said the post struck something. He dug out the area and discovered the section of a rifle.

"I knew it was a gun, but didn't know what part so I brought it into school," he said.

Counselor Bob Motley, a gun enthusiast, did know.

Motley said he thinks the piece is the "action" of a Ballard rifle, which came out about the time of the Civil War, 1861-65. The action is the part of a rifle between the stock and the barrel, and includes the trigger, hammer and chamber areas.

The Ballard was one of the earlier rifles with a cartridge used by settlers, Motley explains. Muzzle-loaded firearms were commonly used during the Civil War, he said.

Production of this style of rifle was probably stopped in the early 1900s, the counselor said.

Because the screws are still intact, the wooden stock and barrel must have rotted away, Motley surmised. The hammer also is rusted locked in a cocked position.



**THE RUSTY** remains of what's believed to be a Civil War-vintage rifle were uncovered by Jerry Kondrat, an eighth grader at Petoskey Middle School. (NEWS photo by Dianne Murray)

Mystery surrounds the discovery.

Motley said the gun must have cost months' worth of wages and wonders why it was left to rot. "To the right person" the piece is worth some value, he added.

The value is apparent for 13-year-old Jerry, the son of Donna Kondrat. He's proud of his discovery.

Will he sell it? Or display it in some special place?

"Oh,... I think I'll just keep it in my room," Jerry said.

## PETOSKEY'S ANCIENT DISCOVERIES

The Petoskey Record  
Wednesday, June 5, 1901

### AN ANCIENT RELIC

In excavating the cellar under the new brick block being erected by Mr. E. C. Barnum on corner of Woodland avenue and Mitchell street, the workmen came upon a small cedar structure about 10X12 feet in dimensions, which was six or seven feet below the natural slope of the hillside. The RECORD reporter tried vainly to discover some satisfactory information regarding it from the early white settlers, but failed because it had evidently been buried long before the coming of white people into the region on the south side of Little Traverse Bay. Finally the matter was referred to John Duvernay, the interpreter, who talked with the older Indians in this vicinity, and from them he learned the following:

When the Ottawa's came from the East and made settlements on the Straits of Mackinaw and at L'Arbre Croche {Cross Village} they found a small tribe of Indians of Algonquin origin, who called themselves "Mush-quah-ta" occupying a fertile valley in what is now the township of Friendship, with a few wigwams also at Seven Mile Point. This was more than 230 years ago, but how much more no one knows. The Mush-quah-ta were nearly exterminated by the Ottawa's, but before that time one of the Mush-quah-ta chiefs names Ah-Swa-Quee with two or three others came here, and cleared the Indian gardens through which Kalamazoo avenue now runs and of which the residence of Mr. John C. Hill is nearly the center.

At that time the hillsides from the water's edge to this Indian garden were clothed with a heavy forest growth and the Mush-quah-ta wigwams were down near the shore. After the corn gathering in September, the Indians were wont to make their fall catch of fish for drying, and a little later to hunt for deer, so Ah-Swa-Quee built him a hidden corn crib in the tangled woods half way between his wigwam and the garden on the hill, in which to store his corn for winter use. In the passage of the centuries the rain wash from the hills carried down sand and earth until, like the ancient cities of the Troad and Chaldean plain, Ah-Swa-Quee's humble corn house was buried from human knowledge. This is the legend our older Indians received from "our father's father."

The Petoskey City Record  
Wednesday, September 19, 1883

### PRE-HISTORIC MAN AGAIN

Prof. Crane gave us a chance to examine two, remarkably fine specimens of ancient smith work last week. One was a copper spear head found two years since on the point at the mouth of Pine River in Charlevoix. The metal is very hard with sharp point and edges, but the forging is plain.

The other is a copper spear head also, but giving evidence of a much higher degree of skill in mechanical arts than the other. It was found by the workmen when excavating for the foundation of Curtis, Wachtel & Co's bank, corner Mitchell and Howard Streets, Petoskey, and is forged evidently by the use of swedges, the sides being hollowed out like one of the old style of bayonets/ Prof. Crane has perhaps the most complete collection of mound builder's relics in the west, and we await the advent of his work, now abut completed on Pre-historic Man, with very great interest.

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The Petoskey City Record  
Wednesday, September 19, 1883

There are winks and nods, mysterious conferences, and all sorts of dark-lantern proceedings, among a certain few of our citizens. The fact is that somebody has dug up a chunk of copper in the south end of town, and a number of people really believe that Petoskey is built over an immense copper mine. If anybody is mysteriously offered a large price for their property we advise them to sell at once.

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Petoskey Evening News  
March 27, 1922

MRS. A. C. McMONAGLE  
FINDS OLD COIN, 1783,  
- ALONG INDIAN TRAIL.

Mrs. A. C. McMonagle brought to this office recently an old coin she had picked up on the lime quarry along Bay View road. The coin was dated 1783. It is believed the piece is a Greek or Turk coin.