

cave. The cavern is simply an enlarged fissure in the soft Potsdam sandstone, which abounds in that region, and is situated on the eastern edge of a small marsh surrounded on all sides, except the north, by a high ridge of this sand rock. The original opening to the cave was on a level with this marsh, and was about fifteen feet wide. At some former time, a "land-slide" had occurred, which must have completely closed the opening. On this slide there is a stump two feet in diameter, far gone into decay. This stump stands above the top of the cave, and the roots have had to be cut away to effect an entrance. A careful examination revealed the fact that the tree (a poplar) was one hundred and twenty-five years old, and Mr. Samuel says it was a dead tree twenty-five years ago. On my arrival, a large opening had been made, which was closed with a door, kept securely locked. About three feet of sand had been removed from the entire floor of the cave.

In company with Rev. Mr. Brown, and three other reverend gentlemen, Revs. A. Clark, P. Hitchcock, and J. C. Webster, with many of the people living near by, I commenced excavations by making a cross section of the back part of the cave, carrying it down to the water, a distance of over five feet, and had the sand wheeled out of the cave, thoroughly examining every load. This section revealed four separate and distinct layers of ashes and burnt sand, in some places almost vitrified. These layers varied from four to six inches in thickness, and between them were as many layers of clean, white sand, varying in thickness from nine to twelve inches. The excavation was thus carried forward until the entire floor of the cave had been carefully examined, the layers of ashes and sand continuing throughout. In the first layer of ashes nothing whatever was found. In the second layer a few pieces of pottery were discovered. These pieces were smooth on both sides, and were made of clay and pounded shells. In the third layer several pieces of pottery were also found. These pieces were all made of the same material as that found in the second layer; but it was all ornamented on the outer surface. Many fragments, and whole sides of fresh water bivalve shells were found in the second and third layers of ashes.