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10 To Hold it in My Hand

Madeline Augustine, Christopher Turnbull, Patricia Allen,
and Pamela Ward

Dedication

As authors of this chapter we would like to acknowledge the many contributions of Joseph Augustine (Figure 10.3) and to dedicate this work to his memory. Without Joseph Augustine, Metepenagiag's past would never have met its present.

10.1. Introduction

The Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation (formerly known as Red Bank) is located at the junction of the Little Southwest Miramichi and the Northwest Miramichi Rivers in northeastern New Brunswick, Canada. This chapter provides a brief summary of the projects and relationships that have developed between two New Brunswick archaeologists, Christopher Turnbull and Patricia Allen, and the Metepenagiag community. Metepenagiag perspectives are given by Madeline Augustine and Pam Ward, individuals who have been inspired by their heritage to play significant roles in the overall development of their community. This chapter provides four separate perspectives on the joint endeavors and partnerships between the Mi'kmaq and archaeologists.

A mutual story begins in 1972 when the late Joseph Michael Augustine, then a Councilor and former Chief of Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq First Nation, decided it was time to explore a childhood memory. Mr. Augustine's discovery and reporting of a 2,500-year-old burial mound, sacred to the Mi'kmaq, halted a menacing gravel mining operation, and introduced his community to archaeology. While the mound was being explored (1975-1977) Mr. Augustine found the Oxbow, a deeply stratified archaeological site. Oxbow excavations (1978-1984) revealed the site was an intensively and continuously occupied 3,000-year-old fishing village. Working together for the past 30 years, the community and the two archaeologists have grown and changed, each being as influenced by one as the other. Archaeological surveys located over 60 additional pre-contact Metepenagiag sites. Other field projects were initiated. Site reports, academic publications, films, public