



The Tekakwitha Memorial Shrine

THE MOHAWK VALLEY

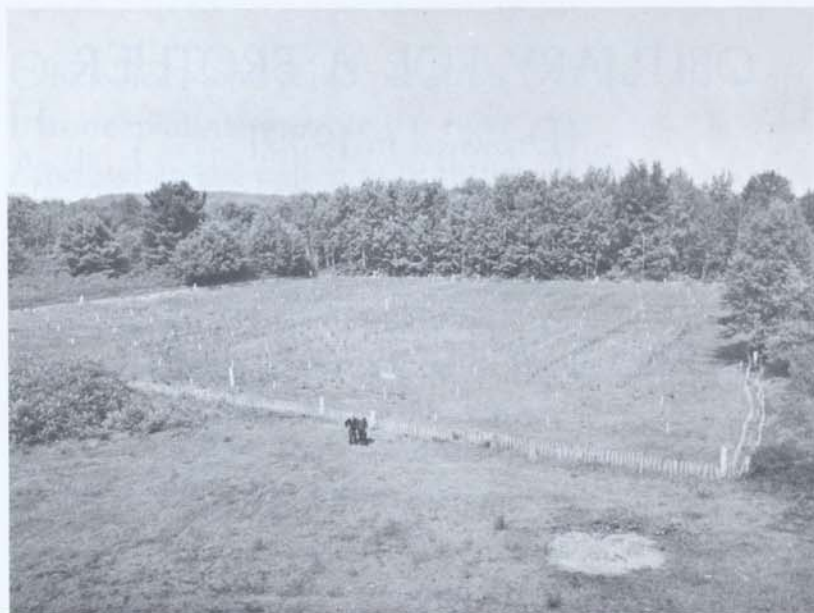


Fr. Thomas Grassman

KATERI TEKAKWITHA was born in the Mohawk Valley at Ossernenon, today Auriesville, N.Y., in 1656. Any of her friends wanting to know more about her times, her people, and the Mohawk Valley could find no better book on the matter than **THE MOHAWKS AND THEIR VALLEY** by the Rev. Thomas Grassman, O.F.M. Conv., published in 1969.

Fr. Tom was a highly dedicated man. He is the one who founded the Fonda Memorial Shrine of Kateri Tekakwitha in 1938. In 1950, with the help of the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter of the New York State Archeological Association, Father Grassman discovered the remains of the Iroquois village where Kateri was baptized in 1676. Fire pits were found as well as arrowheads, clay pipes, pipe stems, pieces of pottery, and a myriad of other Indian artifacts. Most importantly, the remains of the posts were uncovered in the ground exactly where the Mohawks had placed them when they built the stockade round the village and the long houses inside. Now metal posts mark the exact place where they are, clearly outlining the stockade and the former dwellings of the Indians. For directing this work, Fr. Tom received the Achievement Award of the New York State Archeological Association, which has been given to only six men in its long history.

Fr. Grassman died a year after the publication of his eight-hundred page work on the Mohawk Indians and their valley, for which he received two awards, and which is also considered the definitive work in its field.



Here Kateri was baptized on April 18, 1676, by Father Jacques de Lamberville, S.J.