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Sacred artifacts being returned to NY tribe

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SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) - American Indian artifacts from a central New York historical group's collection are being returned to a local Iroquois tribe.

A wampum belt believed to be more than 200 years old will be repatriated to the Onondaga Indian Nation during a ceremony Tuesday at the Onondaga Historical Association's museum in Syracuse.

The group has recently returned human skeletal remains and several sacred ceremonial masks to the Onondagas, whose reservation is south of Syracuse.

The repatriation of the artifacts, first reported by the Post-Standard of Syracuse, was prompted by a now-deceased Onondaga clan mother who told the association's new executive director that his organization had items belonging to the tribe, including a wampum belt dating back to 1800.

It's believed all the Onondagas' wampum belts were lost during the American Revolution.

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