

New York State Archeological Association

THE BULLETIN

March 1955

Number 3

Contents

Arthur Caswell Parker William A. Ritchie	1
Chapter Reports	3
The Rivers Site, Addison County, Vermont Edward Brooks	5
The Getman Site (Cnj 25-2) Donald Lenig	8
The Arthur Harris Site B. Frank Hodges	10
The Davis Site at Margaretville, NY Ralph S. Ives	11
Culture Marches On Alfred K. Guthe	15

New York State Archeological Association

THE BULLETIN

March 1955

Number 3

Arthur Caswell Parker

by

William A. Ritchie

On New Year's Day, 1955, after an eventful and fruitful life of 73 years, Arthur Caswell Parker died suddenly of a heart attack, still with his boots on, as he would have preferred. The "Old Chief", as he signed himself to some of his long associates had been in "active retirement" since 1945 from the directorship of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, to which he had devoted 21 of the most productive years of his long life. It was largely owing to his skillful planning and energetic accomplishment that the Rochester Museum developed from a small nucleus housed at Edgerton Park to its present impressive establishment on East Avenue and its general recognition among the salient museums of the country, a status which has been maintained and augmented under Dr. Parker's successor and his competent staff and board.

This is the phase of the "Chief's" career best known to me because of my close association with him as a member of his staff throughout the entire period. Somehow the less hurried earlier years of this long span glow most brightly in my memory, perhaps because in the eagerness of youth I found much consolation at the fountainhead of the older man's wisdom. Our long discussions on a multitude of subjects, especially on the Sunday hikes he often led, and his friendly encouragement of my studies, are fond and grateful recollections.

His own youth was passed on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation, where he was born at Iroquois, N. Y. on April 5, 1881, the son of Frederick Ely and Geneva Griswold Parker. His paternal lineage included Seneca Indian ancestry; his grandfather, Nicholson H. Parker, a civil engineer and leading Seneca chief, being a brother of Gen. Ely S. Parker, military secretary to General Grant in the Civil War.

This genetic and natural background left its indelible impress on the man. To many of his friends and colleagues he seemed to be essentially Indian in his emotional and psychological reactions. From this source, too, sprang his intimate and sympathetic comprehension of the beliefs, customs and problems of the contemporary Seneca, which consistently characterized his whole life. His keen concern with the political, social and economic well-being of the American Indian was manifested in many directions, such as his post of New York State Indian Commissioner (1919-22), his presidency of the New York State Indian Welfare Society and of the Society of American Indians, his affiliation with the Indian Rights Association, and his chairmanship of the Committee of 100 appointed in 1923 by the Secretary of the Interior to investigate prevailing conditions among the reservations groups.

Undoubtedly, his sense of kinship likewise accounts for his preoccupation with the ancient beginnings and early history of the Iroquois, whom he has defended with the written and the spoken word.

Oddly enough, his formal education, taken at Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport, Pa., was in preparation for the ministry. His concern with Indian culture, however, soon led him into the anthropological fold. Between 1903-04, in company with a like-minded young man, Mark R. Harrington, now Curator of the Southwest Museum, he performed his apprenticeship as a field archeologist for the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology of Harvard University, under the stimulating direction of the erudite and dynamic Professor Frederick Ward Putnam.

In the latter year he came to Albany and in 1905 was appointed the first full time salaried archeologist of the New York State Museum, a position he held until his departure for Rochester in 1925. This was the period of his major field work in Iroquoian ethnology and archeology and his best publication years. Of most enduring value are such of his monographs as "Excavations in an Erie Indian Village and Burial Site at Ripley, Chautauqua Co., N. Y." (1907), "Iroquois Uses of Maize and Other Food Plants" (1910), "The Code of Handsome Lake, the Seneca Prophet" (1912), and "The Constitution of the Five Nations" (1916).

Coincidental with this field work came the amassing of some of the chief collections of anthropological materials of the New York State Museum. Among his other accomplishments, during this high creative interval, should be listed the still popular and treasured series of six full scale Iroquoian life groups, whose planning and supervision over construction were his responsibility.

In 1916, in the same year he organized the New York State Archeological Association, a still-thriving body with five active chapters, Parker was awarded the Cornplanter Medal of the Cayuga County Historical Society for his research in Iroquoian ethnology. The University of Rochester honored him with an honorary M. S. degree in 1922, following publication of his "Archeological History of New York", the initial effort to classify the then known prehistoric cultures of the state.

The second major phase of his career began with his role of administrator at the embryonic Rochester Museum. Now his interest in the educational function of the museum, which he regarded as "the university of the common man", came to full heat. With characteristic vigor he undertook the difficult assignment of developing a small, obscure museum under public support, into a monumental institution dedicated, through a host of varied services, to the promotion and dissemination of knowledge. During the struggling years preceding his notable triumph in the dedication in 1942 of the splendid building donated by the late Edward Bausch, perhaps only those closest to him knew (and shared) his agonies of frustration and his tremendous labors. I shall continue to regard, as the paramount achievement of the man, his eminent success as a "museologist", a word I believe he coined himself.

Now, with mounting success, came more numerous tokens of recognition, in the form of academic honors and public acclaim. Union College conferred a doctorate in science (1940), and Keuka College bestowed the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (1943). In 1947 he received the Citizenship Award of the Rochester Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

Still I have not exhausted the ledger of this multi-faceted man. He stood at the top in Masonry, to the history of which he had contributed research and writings. In other domains

of historical interest he had also probed, as attested by his well received book entitled, "A Manual for Historical Museums", and by his post of executive officer, at one time or another, of such organizations as the New York State Historical Association, the Society for Colonial History, and the Genesee County Historical Federation.

He authored a series of books for young people about the Indians' way of life, such as "Skunny Wundy" (1926), "Indian How Book" (1927), "Rambling Wings" (1928): and "Gustango Gold" (1930).

Dr. Parker sought, and found, acclaim and distinction in a host of abiding services to his fellow man.

Reverend Thomas Grassmann Resigns Editorship

We regret that Father Grassmann was obliged to resign his post as editor of the Association's publications. The move was necessitated by ill health.

The Association is indebted to Father Grassmann for outstanding work put into production of the last issue of the Researches and Transactions; and for the high standard established in the first issues of THE BULLETIN. He guided this infant journal well on its way to the goals envisioned for it.

At the time of this writing; Father Grassmann is well on the road to recovery. We wish him a speedy return to his normal activities.

Association President Announces Publication Committee Appointments

William S. Cornwell has been named chairman of the Publication Committee, in which he succeeds Charles M. Knoll. The latter has been appointed editor.

Chapter News

Auringer-Seelye

The following officers were elected November 1, 1954:

President:	Webster M. Price, 35 William Street, Glens Falls
Vice President,	James A. Magee, Athol
Secretary-Treasurer:	Mrs. Margaret J. Green, 27 Lincoln Ave., Glens Falls

Mid-Hudson

Guest speaker at the annual meeting on January 31st was Dr. A. Scott Warthin, whose subject concerned the geological history of the mid-Hudson valley, from a billion years ago to the last retreat of ice 15 or 20,000 years ago. There is evidence, according to Dr. Warthin, that we are entering another ice age which may reach its climax about 40,000 years from now. Dr. Warthin is chairman of the geology department at Vassar College, and president of the Paleontological Society of America.

Newly-elected officers of Mid-Hudson Chapter are:

President:	John Bowman, Clinton Corners
Vice President:	John Losee, R. D., Red Hook
Secretary:	Miss Margaret G. Coon, Mulberry St., Rhinebeck
Treasurer:	Mrs. Gerald Flewelling, 13 Cedar Ave., Poughkeepsie

Lewis H. Morgan

The following resolution was approved by Morgan Chapter's Executive Committee. The resolution was drafted in a manner applicable to any person or organization, rather than to a specific recipient.

RESOLUTION

Lewis H. Morgan Chapter

New York State Archeological Association

The passing of Dr. Arthur Caswell Parker leaves a void among his admirers, friends and colleagues. We of Morgan Chapter were honored to have been associated with him.

Dr. Parker was active in organizing the New York State Archeological Association in 1916, of which Morgan Chapter was the mother chapter. For many years he was President of the Chapter, the Association, and in recent years, President-Emeritus.

He was an internationally known archeologist, anthropologist, folklorist, and was by racial ties possessed of an unusual insight into the life of the Indians, which rendered him most eminently suited to present sympathetic and authentic chronicles of the Iroquois. Worthy of mention are his "Code of Handsome Lake", "Seneca Myths and Folk Tales", "Indian How Book", "Red Jacket". Morgan Chapter is proud to have published under its imprint seven of Dr. Parker's works, among which the following demonstrate his concern with more contemporary problems: "The New York Indian Complex and How To Solve It", "Notes on the Ancestry of Cornplanter", "An Analytical History of the Seneca Indians".

At the time of his death Dr. Parker was at work on "The Amazing Iroquois". Recognition of past accomplishments, and faith in his ability to produce what may well be the crowning work of his career, is evident in the fact that the Guggenheim Foundation had granted him a Fellowship for the sum of \$5,000 to complete this work. His untimely death intervened to prevent its being put to use.

It is our knowledge that his widow, Mrs. Anna Parker, intends to complete the work of editing and revising the book. It is also our knowledge that she had definite plans which she intends to pursue in this undertaking. From our understanding of these plans we are confident that she is competent and best qualified to carry on the work of preparing the manuscript for publication. The Executive Committee of Lewis H. Morgan Chapter considers publication of "The Amazing Iroquois" a pressing need, and that it is worthy of your support. We urgently recommend that you seriously consider giving Mrs. Parker support, financial or otherwise, toward preparation and/or publication of this work.

Executive Committee
Lewis H. Morgan Chapter

Rochester, N. Y.
February 16, 1955

Charles M. Knoll
Secretary

Abstracts of 1954 Meeting Papers

The last issue of THE BULLETIN contained abstracts of papers presented at the annual meeting last April by William A. Ritchie and Roy Latham. The following pages complete the list except that presented by the guest speaker from the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Maurice Robbins. Since the official site report has not yet been published we are not at liberty to include it herewith.

The Rivers Site, Addison County, Vermont
By Edward Brooks Van Epps-Hartley

At the confluence of Dead River with Otter Creek, in the Township of Ferrisburg, Addison County, Vermont, is a point of land that slopes gently northward from a higher plateau. This area, which is now in pasture, contains about five acres. A low ridge of land extends north and south along the center of this point, which slopes gently to the banks of Dead River on the west and eastward to a small marsh, which in turn is bounded by a State highway. On this point was once the site of an early Indian village.

In later days, it became the home of white settlers, and from this occupancy the area was known as "Shanty Point". Histories consulted do not record the dates of this occupancy, nor are there any living residents who remember any habitation, or the names of those who made their home upon that spot.

"Shanty Point" has long been known to archeologists as containing the remains of aboriginal occupancy, but no intensive archeological investigations were carried on there until the summer of 1938, when a portion of the site was explored by Mr. John H. Bailey.

During the summer of 1946, the writer and Mr. Leaman F. Hallett of Mansfield, Massachusetts, excavated a small area at the northwest boundary of Bailey's operations and found a limestone-capped ash pit which contained a small pottery vessel.

From June 15th to October 15th, 1951, further archeological explorations were carried on in this village site under the sponsorship of the Vermont Historical Society and the result of the work is the subject of this paper.

It has long been our opinion that the Chronological Sequence for the State of New York, as prepared by Dr. William A. Ritchie, is generally applicable for that portion of the Champlain Valley that lies within the western boundary of the State of Vermont. With this in view all pottery and chipped stone artifacts have been placed in their respective cultural sequences.

Excavations of 1951

A base line 300 feet long, running north and south, and 30 feet east of the high water mark of Dead River, was laid down on the western slope of the site. From each terminus of the base line; perpendicular lines were extended easterly 150 feet. The area thus staked out consisted of approximately 1, 3 acres.

Starting easterly from the base line, a trench 75 x 5 feet was excavated along the southern boundary of Bailey's excavations. This trench was measured off in five foot

squares with stakes marking the corners of each square. The squares were each given a number and their stakes a combined numerical and alphabetical symbol for reference. The position of all artifacts recovered, as well as pits and post-molds were recorded with reference to the nearest stakes.

As the work progressed a mantle of black loamy dirt was exposed, which rested on undulating surfaces of white mottled clay and yellow sand. In this mantle, at depths varying from 6 - 8 inches from the surface of the ground, many widely scattered, fire-cracked stones were found. It was thought at first that they might have formed a hearth which was subsequently disturbed by plowing, but there were no evidences, such as ash or charcoal, of any hearth, nor were there any indications of plowing, which we understood was extensively done in former years.

Stone chips of chert and quartzite, of various sizes, far outnumbered other material recovered. Finished and broken chipped stone implements, others in the process of manufacture, as well as pottery rim and body sherds, were as widely scattered as were the fire-cracked stones.

Along the eastern shore of Dead River a growth of trees, extending north and south, fringe the point of land. For a distance of 80 feet and westerly from the explorations on the higher land, the trees have been cut down and only their rotting stumps remain.

In this area the land slopes sharply, covering a distance of 25 feet to low water mark. Extending a line horizontally westward, from high water mark to a point directly over low water level, the perpendicular drop is 5 1/2 feet.

On the surface stone chips of chert and quartzite of various sizes were much in evidence and several arrow points and weather-beaten sherds of pottery were recovered.

Near the end of the season it was decided to investigate the spot and two areas were chosen for the work. One was at the southern boundary of the open space where five squares were staked off, comprising 100 square feet. Work proceeded westerly down the slope towards low water mark.

At first a mantle of white sand, an inch in depth, was encountered that covered a clay subsoil. As excavations went deeper in the ground a mixture of black loamy soil and sand, brown in color, was found which continued in depth to two feet at low water level. There were indications that this mixed soil condition extended deeper, but water seeped in faster than it could be removed and further work there was stopped.

Many chipped stone implements and sherds of pottery were found. Careful measurements were made of the position of each artifact, but not too much importance was placed on their positions because it was evident that the periodic fluctuations of water levels over the years had caused soil wash, so that the artifacts recovered were probably not in the position in which they were originally deposited.

The next area explored was 30 feet to the north. Using high water level again as the line of demarcation, two squares were excavated westerly and one easterly of it. Here black loamy topsoil was encountered to a depth of 8 inches, resting on mottled clay subsoil. Soil wash was again in evidence, but not to the extent found in the other areas.

As the water level of Dead River receded, two test pits were dug in a flat area that appeared. The soil encountered was a mixture of sand and clay and from each pit numerous broken stone implements and pot sherds were recovered.

Five pits were found on the higher ground. They were cylindrical in shape and in every instance penetrated into the clay subsoil. They had gently sloping sides and rounded bottoms. There was no evidence that they extended upward into the black loamy top mantle. They contained small stone chips and crumbs of charcoal and pottery. No artifacts were taken from them. The skeletal remains of some fresh water fish, so small and broken that they could not be identified as to species, were found in them.

Bailey found much the same conditions on the John Donovan site situated across Dead River, and raises the question whether they were actually dug pits or depressions caused by rotted tree stumps or erosion, that had subsequently become filled with debris.

Seventeen post molds were found. Their depth in the clay subsoil ranged from 6 - 12 inches. None was found in the yellow sand subsoil, nor did their position indicate the shape of dwelling used by these people.

One fireplace was uncovered. Its contents consisted of a few scattered fire-cracked stones, small stone chips; bone fragments, crumbs of charcoal and pottery sherds. A thin deposit of gray ash was in evidence around the rim.

One flexed skeleton of an adult male Indian was found, whose estimated age at time of death was 60 years. Clusters of fire-cracked stones marked the perimeter of the grave; whose top was 8 inches below the surface of the ground. The body had been placed on the right side, head to the north and facing west. The bones were in a bad state of preservation and the absence of many of them may have been due to disintegration from long interment in the ground.

Several pottery sherds, broken points of chert and quartzite, granules of charcoal, and the lower jaw of a small rodent were found scattered about in the grave. A broken bone awl, made from a deer antler, was near the spine. It was not considered as a grave offering, but had probably been included in the fill.

Apart from the broken bone awl, no artifacts made of this material, such as harpoons, spearheads or fish hooks were taken. Two lower jaws of a small rodent, one a beaver and the claw core of a bear were the only skeletal remains of animals found.

There were a small number of long, broad-bladed, stemmed or side notched spear and arrow points of the Laurentian culture. The majority of the arrow points are triangular with straight or concave bases. They range in length from 1 to 2 inches and are evenly divided between chert and quartzite. The chert specimens show a slightly better grade of workmanship than the quartzite, which is probably due to the type of material used.

Two scrapers were recovered, one of mottled chert the other of quartzite. The former is flat on one side, slightly convex on the other, and appears to have been reworked from a rejected implement. On one surface the quartzite scraper shows depressions from which small flakes may have been removed while the other surface is flat and beveled to the scraping edge. Its width is 1 1/2 inches and the one of chert is 1 3/8 inches wide.

Four drills were found, two of mottled chert and two of black chert.

Pottery sherds were recovered from all squares at various depths in the black loamy topsoil, while a few were taken from the yellow sand subsoil, the lowest at a depth of 21 inches below the surface of the ground. Attempts to join sherds together into pot sections have been without success.

Among the more than 300 pottery fragments found, the majority are body sherds. Many of them have plain surfaces, while others show parallel lines that may have been drawn with a toothed stick or "comb". Corded or fabric marked surfaces also occur.

The rim interiors are often smoke blackened and on many of them layers of carbonized grease occur. The decorative motif in many cases consists of parallel rows of round depressions while others have no decoration. Rim thicknesses vary from 3/16 to 1/2 inch. Colors range from different shades of brown to muddy yellow. Pottery tempering consists of medium to coarse grit.

Conclusions

There were not a sufficient number of artifacts recovered, or a large enough area explored to give a complete statistical picture of the cultures occurring on the site.

The recovery of large and heavy, broad-bladed, chipped stone projectile points of the Laurentian culture, indicates an early occupation of the area.

The next manifestation recorded is the pottery and triangular arrowheads of the middle and late Woodland period.

It is therefore evident that this area was occupied by two different groups of people, - the Laurentians of the older Archaic Period who had no knowledge of agriculture or the use of pottery; followed later by the Woodland peoples with their more complex pottery culture, specialized burial forms and an agricultural economy of corn and beans.

But there appears to have been a span of nearly 1500 years between these occupations with no recorded evidence of the early Woodland period, as seen in New York. It cannot be assumed that the absence of manifestations of that period would indicate that the area was unpopulated during that space of time, as further excavations might produce the missing evidence; which if found would be a significant contribution to the prehistory of the northeast in general.

The Getman Site (Cnj 25-2)

By Donald Lenig

Van Epps-Hartley

The Getman site covers an area of about five acres on the eastern extremity of a long, low knoll located some three miles north of the Mohawk River in the Town of Palatine, Montgomery County, New York. Extending across the top of the knoll and for some distance down the gently sloping sides, are rectangular areas of black-stained soil, from 16 to 20 feet in width and varying from 50 to 100 feet in length. Still farther down the slopes are large irregular areas of black-stained soil. It is probable that the rectangular areas were house sites, a fact further substantiated by the presence of a row of hearths spaced

about ten feet apart, in the center of one of them. The irregular areas on the lower portion of the slopes seem to be middens.

The nearest source of water at present is about one quarter of a mile to the northeast where there is a small brook, one of the sources of the Knauderack Creek. Several wet spots are evident on both the north and south slopes of the hill and it is probable that, at the time the site was occupied, there was at least one spring on either of these slopes.

Excavations have been limited by the owner to periods when the area is plowed. This makes the area available for a few weeks in the spring and for a slightly longer time in the fall. The site is cultivated for about three consecutive years and then seeded down for pasture. During the time the site is in pasture no excavating is permitted. Because of this time limitation, no large scale excavations have been attempted. Several widely separated sections of the site have been tested by post holing systematically on three foot centers. All of the subsoil structures discovered have been located in this manner.

At least four different types of subsoil structures are present:

1. Round hearths varying from 30 to 40 inches in diameter and extending into the subsoil from 12 to 18 inches. Stratification is evident in every hearth and is invariably the same. At the bottom of the hearth is a thin layer (1-2") of charcoal and black humus, above this is a thin band (2-3") of red stained soil, overlaying this and filling the hearth is a layer of gray ash containing many fire-broken stones. Industrial material is very scanty in these hearths and when it does occur it is usually near the top of the gray ash and fire-broken stone layer.
2. Large oval-shaped hearths from 6 to 8 feet in major diameter and from 3 to 4 feet in minor diameter. Stratification is the same as that found in the circular hearths. The circular hearths are invariably found near the center of the rectangular, black stained areas, while the oval hearths are always outside of these areas.
3. Large, shallow bowl-shaped pits, varying in diameter from 3 to 4 feet and 2 to 3 feet in depth (from top of subsoil). The fill of these pits consists of a homogenous dark stained soil usually containing camp debris and industrial material. These pits appear to be abandoned corn cache pits which have been filled with refuse.
4. The last type of subsoil structure does not appear to be of Indian origin. They consist of irregular, oval-shaped areas having one steep side while the other sides slope gradually upward to the surface. Depths and diameters vary considerably. In every instance the steep side of the pit has been to the west. It is very probable that these structures were formed by the felling of some of the trees by a wind of near hurricane force, evidently from the east. These windfalls were probably present at the time the site was first occupied and became filled with refuse either intentionally to level the site or because they provided a ready made and convenient way in which to dispose of the rubbish.

The stone industry is represented by; medium width, concave base, triangular, projectile points; ovate knives; several types of scrapers; a single strike-a-light; a graver; thick polled celts; thin, rectanguloid colts; discoidal hammerstones, both pitted and unpitted; pebble hammers; spherical hammers; mullers; a whetstone and several anvilstones. These are all types ascribed to the Chance Horizon Mohawk stage by Ritchie.

Polished splinter awls; worked beaver incisors; deer phalanges, ground cone-shaped with the apex pierced at right angles to the long axis of the cone; polished tubular beads of bird bone; a fragment of a turtle shell rattle and a section of antler with two tines, one ground chisel-shaped; represents a much larger inventory of bone and antler artifacts than heretofore found on Chance Horizon Mohawk sites.

Pipe fragments are numerous and many types are represented. The most frequent form is the ring bowl trumpet but other forms such as the raised-band trumpet; the Deowongo barred chevron, square-collared forms in imitation on the collared pottery vessels and undecorated trumpets are also present. Effigy types are not as numerous but fragments of bird and bear effigy pipes have been found. No human effigies have been found to date. Pipe stems are circular, diamond-shaped, and semicircular in cross section and are often decorated.

Pottery types present are: One Oak Hill Corded (.005), 43 Chance Incised (.25), 50 Deowongo Incised (.29), 75 Garoga Incised (.43), six Otsungo Notched (.04). Necks and shoulders are frequently decorated. The surface finish is predominately smooth but a few check stamp sherds occur.

It would therefore appear that the Getman site can tentatively be assigned to the latter part of the Chance Horizon stage of Mohawk development. More specifically it appears to be later in time than the Chance or Second Woods sites and earlier than the Otsungo site which terminates the Chance Horizon stage. Its importance in the development of the Mohawks seems to be threefold: (1) It ties the previously known sites more securely to the newly discovered Chance Horizon sites; (2) It is the earliest large village site in the Mohawk series and apparently represents either a population increase and combining of the smaller groups or the first arrival of a large Mohawk population of which the earlier sites are pioneer bands; (3) The presence of corn cache pits for the first time on a Chance Horizon Mohawk site might indicate that their economy was becoming more dependant on horticulture than hunting-fishing-food gathering which seems to be indicated by the small sites located in areas unfavorable to horticulture, characteristic of the earlier Chance Horizon sites.

The Arthur Harris Site

By B. Frank Hodges Auringer-Seelye

The activities of this Chapter at its official dig site have not been extensive enough so far to make a positive identification and analysis. It is believed to represent a transition from Laurentian to Early Woodland and to have been an important station of its time in the area.

That part which extends out into what must have been a pond created by a dam, has on it a built mound of sand about 52 inches thick on which a house site has been exposed containing five fire pits within a 27 foot square. The reason for its being built up in this fashion while

other house sites are not so built here is yet unsolved. A suggestion has been made that this mound along with the types of burials found might indicate Middlesex similarity.

Pottery has not been found that would suggest its use by this people and the chipped stone congery is varied but much has yet to be uncovered that would or might afford more diagnostic artifacts.

Evidence of two levels of occupancy occur at two different parts of the site but await further investigation.

It is hoped this season will allow considerable work to be done which will afford a better picture.

The Davis Site at Margaretville, N.Y.
By Ralph S. Ives Van Epps-Hartley

The Davis farm lies on the northern end of the village of Margaretville and adjoins the so-called Roxbury Road.

The sites we excavated in 1938 lie only a short distance below a point where the combined waters of the Bushkill and Dry Brook streams unite with the East Branch of the Delaware River.

The discovery of the site should be credited to Ralph Felter, a member of our local group.

In the year 1938 Ralph was employed by the State of New York, in State Road patrol duty. During one of his noon hours in June of that year, he remembered having seen a quantity of white clover growing in a rough pasture on the west side of the state road at the Davis farm. It occurred to him that white clover grew best where there were wood ashes. Hastily finishing his lunch he began digging in the white clover with a hunting knife which he always carried for such purposes. That evening he came to Roxbury to show us a quantity of bright colored flint and jasper chippings he had found.

On the following day we joined him and began digging. In an opening about 60 feet from the east line of the Davis lands and 10 feet from the north highway line we found chippings and a hammer stone at a depth of about 3 feet; also two broken points.

There were quantities of hammer stones in the pasture, as well as mullers and small pestle shaped work stones. On that same day we found a light brown spear head or knife in three sections, which were easily fitted together.

I recall finding a broken weathered gray knife found in a wood road leading from the level where we were working to higher ground. We concluded from this and several other broken pieces also found, that there must be a cache of blades in the vicinity. The following day, digging in this pasture, we found eight pieces: A long red flint arrow point at grass roots depth; a small, notched drill of black flint at the depth of 1 foot; a brown point having a broad notched base and a light brown point 3 inches long at a depth of 10 inches; a wide triangular point with a broad base tapering to a point, 4 inches deep; a blue-gray scraper, mottled with brown at a depth of 1 foot; a broken knife, the pieces of which could be put together, of a light striped flint, at a depth of 6 inches and a brown arrow head at

a depth of 6 inches.

These finds represented the work of seven people covering all of one day. At the time, we were impressed more particularly by the variety of colors we were unearthing. A good many years later we were to learn that most of our discoveries were Laurentian in character.

The field where we were working extended from the highway in a westerly direction at a slight rise for about 50 feet, and then rose sharply. It ran for about 100 feet parallel to the road. Near the road one could dig at times to a depth of 3 feet before striking hard-pan. Farther up the slope the hard-pan was reached at a depth of 1 to 1 1/2 feet.

An occasional fire pit went deeper into the hard-pan, but we gathered the impression that the fire had had its effect in softening the close packed earth. At one point and at a depth of 10 inches we came upon a turtle effigy, worked from a blue-gray native slate. Where the neck of the turtle was carved, the stone had been rubbed smooth. We came to the conclusion that the stone was a pendant and indicated that some 3,000 years ago some of the Laurentians at least were members of the Turtle Clan. I found this specimen, sitting on its flat side on a good sized rock. It almost seemed as though someone had placed it in that position and had never come back to regain it.

Each time we went back to our digging, we discussed the possibility of locating the suspected cache. I felt that it must be somewhere in or along the old wood road where we had found several broken blades. I suggested that Ralph Felter join me with a pick axe we had been using to remove large stones and that we take away the thin sod from the wood road. My older son and his wife, who had joined us for the day, came with us. As Ralph removed the sod, broken pieces of knives appeared. We worked some 20 feet up the road when, all in a second, Ralph was down on his knees, lifting out of a small pit knife after knife. There were about 125 in all, a good many of them broken. After giving the matter considerable thought we came to the conclusion that when the state road was built, the rock near the cache had been blasted out and drawn down the hill for sub-base use and the points had been shattered by the blast.

On July 31st we found a fire pit. It was 2 1/2 feet long, 2 feet wide, began 12 inches below the surface level and was 6 inches deep. In the charcoal and ashes were a number of conglomerate or pudding stones, burned to such an extent that the quartz could be broken out with one's fingers. At the bottom of the pit a hammer stone; at its edges two flat smooth edged rubbing stones; three small flakes of flint in the pit. No broken bone and no pottery. This is also true of all other fire pits opened on the west side of the road. The absence of pottery should have meant as much to us at that time as its discovery later in a site upon the east side of the same road did.

On August 7th my son and I had arrived at the Davis farm somewhat earlier than the others. As I alighted from his car he said "Where are you working today?" "At that stone filled spot we have previously avoided," I said, "And you?" "I'll sit in the car a few minutes and wait for the gang," he said. A matter of 15 or 20 minutes later he called from a point east of the road on a fairly level bit of the river flat. "I am in a fire pit," he said. He had cut out a circular piece of sod, about 3 feet across, set it at one side and was working down in the sandy alluvial soil. At a depth of about 10 inches he had found charcoal and ashes. "Go down deeper," I suggested. A few minutes later he called again. "Eight inches deeper,

another layer of charcoal, etc. and this time, two broken points and also pottery. "The points were quite different from those previously found. Much wider at the base. Very few of them notched and among them; argillite specimens.

Mr. Calvin Davis kindly gave us permission to excavate in this flat, even as he had given us permission to open the other side of the road and soon, with circular pieces of sod, cut out to be replaced, we resembled seven woodchucks, digging for very life itself, directly down in that easily worked rock free soil.

The pottery we found crumbled to such an extent, that we had to work it out carefully. Then we put it in the sun, so it would harden and could be handled without breaking. We did not know until several years later that we were bringing to light twelve or thirteen different designs of Point Peninsula pottery. Running from specimens rubbed on both sides, with the only decorations a few punch holes on the rim, to quite elaborate designs running from the inside of the rim of the bowl to a point at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way down the outside. Our information as to the period of the pottery came from Dr. Ritchie, when he paid us an all too short visit at Roxbury.

On that first day on the east side of the highway, we found 24 specimens. This included pottery specimens bearing different designs, broken projectile points knives, drills and points designated as "arrows", in my field book. As I studied those outline drawings while preparing this paper, I came to the conclusion that I had misjudged the pieces. Many of the specimens I designated as "arrows" should have been spear or javelin point. Some of them were from 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the base. This is particularly true of the pentagonal points which seem to be somewhat rare in this vicinity. We found 15 of this type, each about 2 inches long, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide at their square bases, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width at the widest point. From their widest point, the sides running to the tip are outcurved.

The argillite points were yellow and brown. We understand that the material from which they are made came from a point on the Delaware River north of Trenton. There were 53 of these argillite specimens and they varied from a depth of 6 to 19 inches. Twenty-four of them came from a depth of 12 inches.

We have found similar types of argillite material at Roxbury, Colliers, Oneonta, Sidney, Middleburgh and Blenheim. We are inclined to believe that we have here a south to north migration, which came up the Delaware River, passed through the so-called "gorge" and then branched out into more northerly sections of the state.

It would seem that this migration might date somewhere near the period represented as Laurentian, since, the argillite points are associated with Laurentian types in eastern Pennsylvania, as well as in this section.

At some places we found streaks of charcoal and ashes, super-imposed one above another. As a rule the top depth was about 10 inches under ground. There would be another 8 to 12 inches lower and the lowest level was down nearly 5 feet. At that depth we struck a layer of gravel, and water seepage from the nearby Delaware came into the pit. Some pottery came from this level, although most of it came from the 10 to 12 inch level. In all we worked out two nearby adjoining parcels, each about 30 x 50 feet.

In one of these areas we found part of a yellow jasper knife at a depth of 14 inches. The other part of this knife was found 2 feet down about 50 feet away.

It would seem that the erosion varied greatly in different areas. Near the road and on the southwest side of the dig there is located what we locally call a spring hole. From its bottom there bubbles a large spring, carrying enough water to keep the hole open when silt is washed in from the floods, of spring, and sometimes; fall. At points near this spring hole the artifacts were much closer the surface than in other places. We came to the conclusion that the area had been flooded so many times in the 1, 000 years represented that the matter of the depth of a piece carried little weight when used for comparative purposes.

As you all know, there is an irresistible fascination in digging for artifacts. You are thrilled by the thought that you are bringing to light objects that last touched the hands of human beings perhaps 3,000 to 5,000 years ago. Except for the possible effects of erosion, the specimen may be in the exact position where it was left by its former owner. There is also the thrill when your small working tool causes metallic sound as you touch some still undisclosed object. Will it be pottery, a stone ornament; projectile point or a piece of water-washed stone to be thrown away?

In the process of the dig we came upon a section of yellow ocher which had been squeezed in someone's hand and remained in that form. It was still usable, if you care for yellow body adornment. With three projectile points found at a depth of 24 inches there were a few small sheets of mica. The nearest mica is at least 150 miles away. From which point was it brought? There were a few broken celts and one partly worked, ungrooved axe, nearly the shape of a modern axe head.

Other people apparently enjoyed the dig as much as we did. Each time we came back to the field, earth had been removed in our absence. Even when the seven of us were there, friends of ours would arrive, dressed in their Sunday best. A few questions would be asked, a knife or trowel borrowed and men and women alike would be down in our trenches, working against the earth face; listening for the metallic ring of steel against stone. Silk dresses were no hindrance where an unusual specimen might be found. So much unauthorized digging was taking place that we knew by the middle of September that the trenches would have to be closed. And then came September 21st. That was the day of the East Coast hurricane. In the early afternoon I came past the Davis farm. The Delaware was lapping at the edge of our dig. The next morning Ralph Felter called.

"The flood washed us out", he said laconically and he couldn't have been more correct had he used a thousand words.

The earth we had loosened was gone. The spring hole had managed to clear itself. The following summer we worked every Saturday afternoon, holiday and Sunday drawing in gravel, filling holes and spreading good soil over the new surface. During that period we punched dozen of holes about fence post size to locate other occupied areas, but none were found.

We still feel that somewhere on the Davis farm there are other village sites, but we are mindful of the floods which may come without warning and we distinctly remember that it is a lot harder work to replace damaged fields than it is to open them in the way of discovery.

Culture Marches On
By Alfred K. Guthe Lewis H. Morgan

During the past two years, the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences has salvaged what it could from four sites. Knowledge of each site was gained after power machinery had dislodged human bones.

On August 20, 1952, burials were discovered about nine miles west of Rochester while a bulldozer was leveling land in connection with a real estate development on the property of Fred Davis. They were on the southern slope of a hill paralleling Black Creek in Chili Township, Monroe County, N.Y.

Five burials were removed by interested persons prior to the arrival of museum personnel. Members of the Morgan Chapter, N.Y.S.A.A. assisted the museum in excavating ten burials. When the burial position could be determined, it was flexed. Both sexes were represented and the range of ages at death was between adolescence and 55 years. Cultural affinities were indicated by the burial position and a few grave goods recovered by non-museum personnel. They include: a stone pestle, two stone adzes, two leaf-shaped blades and a trumpet-type pipe. Some potsherds found in the topsoil support the identification of the site as that of a prehistoric Iroquois group, perhaps the Neutral.

On April 21, 1953, a thruway construction crew encountered burials while obtaining sand on Frank Putman's property. The site lay a few hundred yards south of Canandaigua Outlet, northwest of Phelps, N.Y., and consisted of an estimated 16 burials. We removed the, burial of an adult male, placed in a flexed position. Parts of an additional five individuals were collected after power machinery had disinterred them. No grave goods were located or observed. On the following day, additional burials were uncovered and removed by Paul Mann, of Lima, N.Y. This was probably a prehistoric Iroquois cemetery. No village area was located in the vicinity.

During the spring of 1953, a third burial area was located while obtaining dirt for use as fill. It was on the California Ranch owned by S. Lambo. This is just west of the West Lake Road overlooking Honeoye Lake, Canadice Township, Ontario County, N.Y. The burials were in a clay and gravel ridge just north of the prehistoric Iroquois village excavated in 1935 by W. A. Ritchie. Our test of the undisturbed area near the gravel pit led to the finding of a small child's burial. The child had been placed in a wooden box with a fabric cover fastened to it with brass studs. Iron nails, flat headed screws and a black, enameled handle complete the inventory. Since our test; two additional box enclosed burials of children have been recovered as have two turtle rattles.

Two components are probably represented. One may be pre-1800 A.D., the other is pre-1600 A.D.

The fourth salvage operation was accomplished one afternoon after a burial was struck by excavations bordering Rochester's East Ave. Here a 25 year old girl had been buried in a wooden box which was indicated by square iron nails. That she was wrapped in a shroud is suggested by green stains on her left linea temporalis just behind her orbit and on the seventh right rib. The disarticulated positions of her leg bones indicated a previous disturbance of some years ago. Possibly this burial dates from the 18 century. Verbal reports of onlookers indicate burials were found in this vicinity at an earlier date.

These efforts toward recovering information on the prehistory of various areas from the onslaughts of steam shovels, bulldozers and the like are not unique. Our federal government has sponsored large scale salvage work in connection with the Tennessee Valley Authority (1930's) and the current River Basin Surveys (established in 1946). The recent cooperation of the El Paso Natural Gas Company and the National Park Service has yielded considerable information on our southwest's pre-historic inhabitants. Educational institutions and interested non-professionals have conducted salvage work on a smaller scale in many states. Generally this has been done on the spur of the moment as it was in the cases reported in this paper. However, sufficient salvage work has not been conducted. This is regrettable, since the significance of a find may not be fully comprehended until some years after the material is acquired.

I am led to observe that our American Culture can be characterized as an acquisitive, yet wasteful one. We believe in doing things in a big way. We expand our control of atomic energy and increase the ease with which we can achieve a desired end. Sometimes this is done without giving sufficient thought to the conservation of land and the pre-historic record.

So culture marches on, or does it? An interest in one phase of a way of life shouldn't march unrestrained over others. The public must be made aware of the knowledge hidden in the earth.

Eastern States Archeological Federation Questionnaire

The NYSAA is one of the 16 societies of eastern states and Canadian provinces affiliated with the ESAF. Since members of these societies automatically share membership in the ESAF the following remarks and questionnaire merit their consideration and attention.

The value derived by member societies has been largely in the realm of moral support, - annual meetings with presentation of papers, publication of the annual Bulletin, and research projects (such as the Eastern State's Bibliography). It is possible that there are additional services which the Federation can and should render, or ways it can improve present services.

William J. Mayer-Oakes, director of the membership committee of the ESAF, requests that members send their answers to these questions to him at the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh 13, Penna.

Are there any specific ways in which you think the Federation can be of assistance to the member societies?

Are there any specific ways in which the Federation can be of assistance to the individuals who comprise the member societies?

How do you feel about admitting societies from areas not included in the Atlantic drainage area?

Do you think the Federation should actively solicit the membership of organizations outside the Atlantic drainage area?

Societies from the following states comprise the ESAF: Connecticut, Delaware; Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, and Ontario, Canada.