

New York State Archeological Association
THE BULLETIN

March 1957

Number 9

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Association will be held Saturday, April 6, at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, 657 East Avenue, Rochester. The committee, which consists of Alfred K. Guthe and Marian E. White, is planning a session which should enable members to visit the museum, and discuss and compare their findings.

Business meetings will be held in the morning; papers will be presented in the afternoon. It is hoped to include an annual dinner preceding an interesting presentation on an archeological subject.

The Hotel Seneca, at 26 South Clinton Avenue, has been designated as the headquarters hotel. Reservations should be arranged individually.

Further details will be supplied a few weeks prior to the meeting. Plan on coming. Bring your friends.

Contributions to the Publication Fund

In the August, 1956 issue of THE BULLETIN acknowledgement was made of special contributions by chapters of the Association to the publication fund as follows:

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|-------------------------|--------|
| Auringer-Seelye chapter | \$ 85. |
| Lewis H. Morgan chapter | 50. |
| Long Island chapter | 25. |

In November, 1956, the Long Island chapter very graciously made an additional contribution of \$50 bringing the total money received from these sources to \$210.

These contributions are extremely important to the Association if its publication program is to be successfully carried out. The funds available to the publication fund from dues just about pay for THE BULLETIN, It is, therefore, necessary that other funds be found if the Researches and Transactions are to be continued. Insofar as possible, special contributions from chapters are being earmarked for the Researches and Transactions, and similar contributions from other chapters are invited.

At its next meeting, just prior to the 1957 annual meeting, the publication committee will have before it for consideration five or six manuscripts for publication in

the Researches and Transactions. Special funds to pay for the printing of some of these manuscripts either wholly or in part will be available. Others, however, will have to be financed by the Association with whatever assistance it can obtain from the chapters.

W. S. Cornwell, Chairman
Publication Committee

A Pre-Pottery Site in Northern Saratoga County¹

William H. Rice

Auringer-Seelye Chapter

On a sharp bend on the south bank of Snookkill creek about 1/8th mile from where it empties into the Hudson river, is located a site of nearly 4 acres on a sandy terrace approximately 25 feet above the old level of the creek. The soil is similar to molding sand for a depth of 3 feet, after which the consistency becomes much coarser. The land surrounding the site is a loam or heavy clay.²

To the south is a ravine with a small stream of spring-fed water which runs in the driest of weather. Presumably, this was their source of drinking water, as the Snookkill flows through clay and was probably not too clear even in those times.

The most heavily occupied section is on the east side of the site nearest the creek where five fire pits have been located in an area about 75 feet square. They vary in size from 2 to 5 feet in diameter and extend as far as 52 inches in depth. Three of these are thought to be roasting platforms.

The top-soil reaches a depth of about 1 foot. This is intermixed with great quantities of chert chips and fire-cracked stone over the entire occupied area.

Fire pit #2, the deepest one found to date, was 5 feet in diameter and about 52 inches in depth where a broad-stemmed point was discovered at the depth of 2 feet. The typical formation of these pits is; 12 inches of top soil, mixed with chert chips and fire-cracked stones; then a 6 inch layer of stone and black soil, and finally 10 inches of charcoal, more black soil plus small pieces of bone in the calcined state.

Very few artifacts were found in pits, most of them being excavated in the area adjacent to same.

Pit #2 was small with a complete absence of artifacts.

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1. Presented at the N.Y.S.A.A. annual meeting, 14 April, 1956.
 2. The site is on the Clarence Middleton property.

Pit #3 or fire platform, measured 6 by 3 feet, contained chips and fire cracked stone in the 12 inches of top soil. Beneath this was a 12 inch layer of stone and black soil containing small pieces of calcined bone. A stemmed point, two whetstones, and a hammerstone were found here.

Pit #4, very similar to No. 1 but not so deep was found to contain a chisel and a hammerstone.

Pit #5, another fire platform type was located to the south of #3 and found to be almost oval in shape, although smaller at one end, dimensions being 5 by 2 1/2 feet in width at widest point. This pit revealed much more calcined bone matter than any of the others. It also produced a knife, two scrapers, and parts of two drills.

Three completely different kinds of pits, which I found to be of great interest and call "flint pits", were located on front side of site. Each one contained about three quarts of flint with a few small pieces of charcoal and a fragment or two of fire burned stone. It appeared to me as though a hole had been dug and these pieces buried. No unfinished implements or even blanks were found, although many of the flakes were of a large size.

In May of 1955 a large and very interesting pit was discovered on the back or west side of the site. It was about 6 by 3 feet and stratified similarly to the others with the exception of a layer of 14 inches of very black soil in the bottom. Throughout were fragments of calcined bone and a number of carbonized seeds suggestive of wild cherry. On the edge of this pit a large hammerstone and a round river stone about three inches in diameter and perfectly formed were found 18 inches beneath the surface. Part of a drill, two unfinished points, and a large quantity of chips were also discovered. A few feet to the southwest were found two crude choppers about 6 inches in length, one fashioned of chert and the other of chipped sandstone.

After excavating about one half of this promising looking pit our work had to be discontinued because of spring planting on the field. That curtailed our digging for the season. Many artifacts were found by surface-hunting, however.

Just before we discontinued our work, Mrs. Rice noticed, in the bottom of a dead furrow, grayish-white ash that was being brought to the surface by ants. A few test holes showed a strata of very hard-packed ash and by testing with a probe we found the bed to be about 20 to 25 feet square and 2 feet deep in places under the top soil. This ash strata is on what we feel is the back side of the village and is just to the north of pit #6.

Most of the pieces found in and around this area on the surface, were in the shape of knives, leading us to believe that perhaps game and fish were prepared for drying here and the large bed of ash was formed from fires under the drying racks. We anticipate studying this in greater detail.

The mold of a log, about 18 inches beneath the surface, and reddish in color was found near pit #2, as were a number of implements at the same level.

All told, about one hundred pieces have been picked up or unearthed from this site. Large, broad-stemmed points predominate. The celts and choppers are very rough and any grinding was on the cutting edge only. One stone wedge which measured 1 1/2 by 8 inches was recovered at a depth of 20 inches, as was a small chisel from fire place #4.

The site also yielded numerous hammerstones and chipping pebbles. One of the hammerstones weighed five pounds. The scrapers, all rough, were for the most part from large retouched flakes, with the exception of one which was of unground slate. Most of the drills, which were broken, were straight except for a small number with a slightly expanded base. One very rough mortar-like stone was found on the surface.

An interesting feature is the number of broken pieces which were found at different times and locations on the site and were perfectly matched to companion pieces picked up later.

So far as I can ascertain, this site was unknown as such until the time of our discovery and has not been worked as garden or farm land to any extent; at least not in the past 40 years. The previous owners, who I understand did an appreciable amount of collecting in this area never "came upon" this particular "find." We discovered no evidence of disturbed soil after three years of diligent digging.

No cache pits were present and evidences of post holes were nonexistent, although possibly this could be attributed to the shifting of the top soil during periods of dryness.

These features, among others, would seem to indicate hunters and fishermen dwelt here, inasmuch as there was excellent fishing in their front yard, an inexhaustible supply of drinking water, and excellent hunting terrain with no severe mountains nearby.

After extensive search we were unable to find pottery of any description.

All fragments and complete pieces of artifacts so far found are of a type which we understand is Archaic. After comparing our find with collectors which we have seen, we notice one very definite difference. Here, all artifacts seem to be of same broad-stemmed type and show nothing that would induce us to believe that they were familiar with bow and arrow.

Our conclusion must be that this is a very ancient, closed site, used extensively over a period of years (note six fire pits in seventy feet square) and that it has never been worked.

Seventeenth Century Graves at Montauk, Long Island¹

Roy Lathar

Long Island Chapter

In 1928 a building concern digging on Burial Point, Montauk, Long Island, exposed two Indian graves dated prior to 1700. The writer discovered the excavation a few days after the hole had been dug and abandoned. The crane had taken out parts of two graves.

Grave 1 was 4 feet in depth and contained the skeleton of an adult male with remains of wood, nails, textiles, and shoe buttons. The second grave, for which this article is written, was 6 feet south of the first, 38 inches in depth. The skeleton was an adult male extended without remains of wood or nails. The head was toward the south, facing east. There were remnants of leather and fabrics, with bark spread on the bottom. The grave was rich in wampum beads; there were approximately 6000 pieces in a broad belt or vest over the breast region of the subject. Among the beads represented were the white made from the whelk and the purple from the quahog clam, the white being in the majority. The beads, which apparently were for ornamentation, so far as could be determined, were arranged on each strand in alternating groups of color. The smallest of the several types of wampum beads were 3/8 to 5/8 inch long by 1/16 to 3/8 inch in diameter, the bore to 3 mm. At the neck was a necklace made from an interesting group of 48 goose-head shaped beads, made from the purple area of the quahog, 1/8 inch thick and 1 inch in length. The drilling, all in, the same position at the base, is only one mm in diameter. Intermingled with the above were 255 larger wampum beads 1 inch in length, a part of them worked down from kaolin trade pipe stems. There was a group of 300 pieces of a third size, wampum 1/2 inch in length, with a great bore worked down from stems of trade pipes, the reason for the larger bore. Aside from the above three lots of wampum, there were 35 longer pipestem beads, up to 5 inches long, part of them unfinished on one end--otherwise, pipestem bead stock from the outer end of the stems.

Other articles in the grave were 32 shoe-button type copper buttons coated black; three flat pewter buttons with square shanks; 20 very small tubular copper beads adhering together in a strand; a series of minute brass and shell disk beads; striped red and blue, black and clear glass beads of various sizes; part of a brass ring, a section of a small brass chain; a bore knife handle, the iron blade completely rusted away. The crane shovel had badly damaged a large thin-walled copper pail, with handle of thin rolled copper over an iron ring support

Two spines of the spined dogfish, Squalus acanthias, and the skeleton of a small dog were in the grave. There was considerable bright red pigment with the skeleton. The substance was not red ochre, but probably commercial paint or dye stuff. The bones were stained bright red by it, in contrast with the green corrosion from the copper.

In tracing the records, it was found that two copper buckets, spoons, and other large articles were taken out at the time of the digging by people from Amagansett, L.I., who could not be located, so a complete record from the grave was not possible.

1. Presented at the N.Y.S.A.A. annual meeting, 14 April, 1956

Burial point is a short spur on the west shore of Lake Montauk, the largest body of fresh water on Long Island, a mile in length and nearly half as broad. Before the development there it was called Great pond.

In the earliest days of the East Hampton settlement, from 1650 for more than a century. Burial point was one of several similar burying grounds of the Indians eastward from Fort Pond on Montauk Point. The graves which have been examined contained no grave articles, except the one described above. This one was without a surface marker. Some of the graves are covered with cobble stones, occasionally a foot thick, a practice to prevent wild animals--probably stray dogs--from digging the graves out. They were frequently shallow, only 2 or 3 feet in depth. Other graves are marked by a small rock at each end. The latest of the graves are marked by a single field rock.

The grave described from Burial point parallels certain graves in the cemetery excavated at Pantigo, near East Hampton, by Prof. Forest H. Saville and Mr. Nat Booth in 1917-18. "A Montauk Cemetery at East Hampton, Long Island." Indian Notes, Heye Foundation, Volume II, No. 3, 1920.

The farthest east on Montauk that a prehistoric native site is known is in the lee of Fort Hill on the east shore of Fort Pond. Other sites farther west are at Fresh Pond and on the east side of Napeague bay on the western extremity of Montauk.

Report of Group Discussion Held at the 1956 Annual Meeting

One of the timely subjects on the program was a group discussion on "Practical Ways of Achieving Cooperation Between Professional and Non-Professional Archeologists." Interest in this topic had been previously stimulated by two articles in THE BULLETIN, Nos. 5 and 6. "Let's Get On With Our Work" by Editor Charles Knoll and "Each To The Other" by President William A. Ritchie.

Now one important aspect of cooperation is having something to contribute. As Knoll pointed out, this contribution can result only from work, excavation, historical research, active interest in the Association and the like: Yet all the work in the world is fruitless unless it is given proper direction through cooperation and planning. This was the theme of Ritchie's article in which he indicated several general ways of achieving the maximum benefits for all through "problem centered" research.

The problem of our discussion then was finding practical and specific ways of getting the proper work done in an efficient and cooperative manner. While this may be viewed as "Cooperation Between Professional and Non-Professional Archeologists" there is another point of view which would achieve the same results and be more pertinent to the Association. For membership in the Association is by virtue of an interest in New York State archeology rather than an interest divided along amateur-

professional lines. With this in mind we asked the following questions: How can the N.Y.S.A.A. as an organization best carry out its objects as stated in its Constitution? What can the Association do to aid individual members in fulfilling their interests and responsibilities? What can individual members do to aid the purposes of the organization?

First we discussed some ways in which members could contribute to the Association. One way is through the prompt reporting of sites, those threatened with destruction as well as newly discovered ones. Some mechanism could exist whereby these sites are reported to a committee of the local chapter which would in turn contact the archeologists of cooperating institutions which serve as a center for records and further dissemination of the information. Plans could then be made by all concerned for the necessary follow up and excavations. Adequate precautions have been taken to assure the rights of the reporter. The information on sites is "restricted" information. If a site is being excavated locally and should have professional attention as well, a policy for this situation has been established. "Rights to the site and title to the collections can remain with the finder" (Ritchie, William A., "Each To The Other," American Antiquity, Vol. XXII, No. 2, Part 1, Oct. 1956, p. 170).¹ It was further suggested that local chapters take care of the organization necessary to expedite reporting, recording, and planning for excavation, especially salvage work, as soon as possible.

The opposite side of the coin came up in a discussion of what the Association could do to aid its members. Some interest was shown in having membership cards to serve as identification. There were arguments for and against the usefulness of these in gaining access to properties which would be otherwise be inaccessible. This led to the suggestion that a special status be created among the membership of the Association. This status which could be achieved by fulfilling certain requirements would serve as a goal for outstanding members and could in itself constitute a source of recognition. The majority showed interest in this special status and asked that the Executive Committee give attention to the advisability of such a move.

Other suggestions dealt with the need for more communication and education on archeological standards, such as articles on digging techniques and a Question and Answer Box in THE BULLETIN. Instruction and demonstration of proper digging techniques could be carried on in field seminars, visits to exemplary digs or chapter digs under competent leadership.

The next step is to have action on some of the suggestions that have been made. This action must take place on three levels and can be initiated on all three. The individual member can through his own activity or through his local chapter "set the ball rolling" by acting in accordance with the suggestions that have been made. The chapters can take the lead in organizing committees and serving in the chain of command between the individual members and the Association. The officers and Executive Committee of the Association can act on the desires of their constituents and anticipate in their planning what will make the Association most profitable for the pursuit of archeology per se as well as for Association members.--Marian E. White, Chairman

1. An expansion of THE BULLETIN article and which mentions this Albany discussion.

THE CAIN MOUND (Ctg 5-2), ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK¹

A. C. Glamm, Jr.

Van Epps-Hartley Chapter

The presence of mortuary mounds in the central and western part of the state is evidence of a very interesting phase in New York State archeology.

As each additional mound contributes to the total archeological knowledge the presence of the Hopewellian Phase in the state becomes more certain.

The intent of this article is to describe briefly the investigations carried out at the Cain mound, Erie County, New York, and to summarize the conditions and artifacts recovered. Although the full report and final conclusions are expected to be published at a later date, the tentative conclusions are included in this article.

The Cain mound is located four miles east of Gowanda, New York, on the farm of Mrs. W. L. Cain mound lies on a hillside which slopes to the north and to the northeast. The area was at one time covered by a chestnut grove, subsequently destroyed by the chestnut blight. The mound proper has been recognized from its apparent symmetry for some time prior to its initial opening in the early thirties. At that time, the southwest quarter of the mound was explored, from the surface down. As recalled, definitely two skulls were recovered, one of which was a child's. Both skulls were found not more than 10 to 12 inches below the surface. Possibly a third skull was found. Numerous rude cache blades (16) and 35 small (1/4" length) tubular copper beads were found. A 2 inch length of the original bracelet, preserved by the corrosion products of the copper, and holding some ten beads is still intact. Also recovered was one copper dish-shaped object, having a perforated rim. The published literature mentions this initial opening under the site name of Kane Mound.²

During July, 1954, through the full cooperation of Mrs. W. Cain and Bob Cain, permission was obtained to examine and reopen the mound. The mound was found to be essentially circular, with an east-west axis of 28 feet and a north-south axis of 31 feet. Removal of the berry bushes and brush from the immediate vicinity showed that portions of the northwest and southeast, quarters and essentially all of the southwest quarter were touched in the initial opening of the mound. However, the distribution of the soil as left indicated that the northeast quarter and possibly the center of the mound had not been disturbed. The work of excavation was, therefore, planned with the hope of finding the central burial in an undisturbed condition. The first excavation, in the reopening of the mound was a 2 foot wide trench from the east headed due west, essentially through the center of the mound. This east-west trench was started at a point outside of the mound proper and extended into the mound for 21 feet until the disturbed soil of the previous opening was reached and entered into for a distance of about 2 feet. Although the original height of the mound had been disturbed, a 3 foot maximum height is estimated for it. The east-west trench exposed bones at 13 feet west in the north wall of the trench and uncovered five cache blades. With a stronger possibility of the center burial still being undisturbed, the central area and north-east quarter of the mound was

1. An original contribution.

The author would like to hear from others actively working in the western portion of the state.

Write him at 77 Saratoga Drive, Scotia, N.Y.--Editor

2. Ritchie, W. A. The Pre-Iroquoian Occupations of New York State, 1944; pp, 224, 227.

excavated. Within this area was found the central burial and a loosely flexed burial farther to the north.

On the basis of the recent excavations, together with the initial opening, it is felt that all burials within this mound have been uncovered.

With the central burial, a secondary burial, were found the following artifacts: seven cache blades; one unique obtuse limestone pipe, presenting a biconical internal longitudinal section and a square cross-section; and one copper "dish" identical with that uncovered during the initial opening. This dish contained three quartz pebbles. Also found were sections of a turtle carapace preserved by the copper salts from the dish; two knives corner notched; a pocket of eight quartz pebbles; and centered above the burial by six inches, a red slate gorget. A sufficient number of pieces of the turtle box shell remained to show that its size matched that of the copper dish. That this turtle shell, the copper section and the three quartz pebbles within formed a rattle was apparent. The pocket of eight quartz pebbles found some 6 inches removed is considered to be the stones within a larger rattle, composed of two turtle shells. The notched knives were found at the extreme bottom of the burial. Both knives were over 3 inches in length, one being formed from Flint Ridge, Licking County, Ohio material. The red slate gorget was drilled from both sides. The indications are that the knives were placed on the hill slope, the central secondary burial then taking form.

A number of femurs were found in a parallel position within this central burial. The positions of the skull sections indicated a minimum of five individuals within this burial. The classification of over 75 teeth from this burial, as found with the jaw sections, showed that the following burials were definitely made: (1) An adult female, with teeth worn smooth, (2) an adult male, with teeth worn smooth, (3) a female, 12 to 15 years, (4) a child, eight years old, (5) a child nine years old, and (b) a child, four years old. The right mental foramen was present in each of the first five cases. This burial, the main burial of the mound, occupied a volume 2 feet in length by 1 1/2 feet in width by a settled depth of 1 foot.

A loosely flexed burial was discovered north of the central burial. The skeleton was aligned along a north east - south west axis, with the skull facing south east and located 2 feet north of the central burial. The left patella was found to be eleven inches below the shoulder clavicle. Seven stones, the largest having an overall length of 8 inches, were located in the area behind the knee position. The skeleton was in a far state of disintegration, however, the teeth and jaw section of the lower left of the mandible indicated that the burial was that of an adult. The teeth again exhibited considerable wear, being flat, and approaching the region of the gums. A crude celt was found immediately behind the skull. Ten cache blades were found associated with this burial. Apparently this individual was placed in burial shortly after death.

In the total excavation, there was no indication of mica flakes, pottery, red ochre, or bone artifacts. Likewise, there were no stone slabs found about either the central burial or the loosely flexed burial. The largest rock found within the mound was

that located behind the knee position of the flexed burial. A very small amount of charcoal was found in the central burial, but none throughout the mound proper. Of the 22 cache blades recovered during the reopening of the mound, six exhibited a definite spiral twist at the tip of the blade. The material of the blades is of local western New York Onondaga flint, with none being light and of the Flint Ridge, Ohio variety. A second material was of speckled gray flint, the source of which has not yet been established.

The mortuary mound is considered to be of the New York Focus of the Hopewellian Phase of the Early Woodland III Period. This designation follows the current culture sequence of New York State. The mound is considered to be of Hopewellian culture origin rather than Adena culture origin because: (1) of the straight base of the cache blades; this being a Hopewellian trait, the Adena type being predominately of a leaf shape configuration; (2) the shape of the corner notched knives found within the central burial; and (3) the lack of a reinforced side of the mound, a trait occurring more often with Adena mounds than with Hopewellian mounds.

Reservations have been made as to whether the burials - were all of one time period. The central burial is quite definitely Hopewellian in character. However, the extended burial and associated artifacts have given rise to the question of whether the latter burial is intrusive, with possible Point Peninsula traits being exhibited.

The sincere appreciation of the author is extended to Jack Walsh and A. C. Glamm, Sr. for their enthusiasm and long hours of endeavor in carrying out the excavation work and for their continued interest in this site.

A Woodland Site in Washington County¹

L. M. Brinkman

Van Epps-Hartley Chapter

The Flat Rock bay site is a composite site consisting of three occupied areas located on labate spurs of the mountain range which separates Lake George from Lake Champlain, beginning at South Bay village in Warren County and extends to Mount Defiance, opposite Fort Ticonderoga, in Washington County. At the beginning of the French and Indian wars, there were three military roads from Fort Edward to Ticonderoga and the middle military road straddled this mountain ridge for the entire length with cut-offs at Pike Brook, Clemons or the Two Rocks and to the present Hague.

The first or South site is about fifty yards north of the brook which established the boundary between the towns of Dresden and Putnam. The land is in the northeast corner of the Stewart patent and was sold to Levi Belden about 1795. In 1880, the Whitehall and Plattsburg railroad laid its tracks along the lake shore and made a rock cut through each of the three sites without doubt doing some damage to the remains.

1. An original contribution.

On the west or upper side of these rock cuts, there is nothing but bare rock for at least 500 feet.

One hundred yards to the south of the first site is Pulpit point, a rocky ledge rising 150 feet above the lake and commanding all traffic on the lake. Prior to the barge canal, the lake was divided into three principal channels and the west channel lay at the foot of Pulpit point and our three sites, the North site having a concealed hideout for small craft within: the bedrock and wholly invisible from the lake. Pulpit point was fortified with breastworks about 1753 by the French. At its extreme southern point was a natural amphitheater, guarded by deep ravines and a natural road through a mountain pass to the west. Here the French established a strongly guarded camp. One of the diagnostic features of these French sites is a level "Place des Armes," or parade ground, and this feature is readily distinguished at Pulpit point. From materials recovered by Mr. Roscoe Belden it is obvious that this site was used as a camp site by Indians long before the European entry. One and one half miles further south, are the Two Rocks, also fortified by the French in 1753. In 1755, Dieskau weakened his army by leaving a rear guard of 1590 men at this point, Robert Rogers and Israel Putnam both used the Two Rocks as an outpost during the Revolution; in the War of 1812, they were occupied by an American regiment to discourage any British traffic on the lake. On the West Rock is buried General Barrett, commander of the 123rd New York volunteer infantry during the Civil War. He is buried at the head of the bay that bears his name. Another mile southward or at Clemons, is the spot where Robert Rogers launched his boats at the "Ling Hole", after dragging them across the mountain from Lake George. The South site at Flat Rock bay has been known for many years but it was not disturbed until about 1925 when a brief visit was made by Dr. Arthur Parker. I discussed this visit with him at Ticonderoga in 1952. He recalled the site and advised me that his notes and material collected were stored in Albany. Local tradition only records the burial site directly across the lake from the South site. It is said by both Mr. Gardner Belden and his son, that two skeletons were sloughed off from the clay bank and quite naturally were the largest bones ever seen. The top of the burial knoll was used as a garden plot many years ago by, be Norton family, hence any surface indications of disturbance have been destroyed. At the base of the knoll are copious springs and the knoll is almost entirely surrounded by water. Even today, several beaver ponds can be found around the perimeter of the knoll, and the beaver are frequently seen at their work. In 1945, the writer first noticed chippings leaching out of the burnt loam at the waters edge of the South site. In the fall of that year, two transverse trenches were dug dividing the site into four sections. Trenching disclosed a light refuse mantle just beneath the grass roots and a subsoil depth of 6 to 8 inches of burnt sandy loam overlying the bed rock. At the approximate geometric center of the site, a central fire pit area was disclosed. These pits were made by heating the rocks and spalling or slabbing with water, the largest being about 3 feet wide by 5 feet long and 10 inches deep into the bed rock. These pits seem to have been abandoned as they were all filled with refuse, broken pottery, burnt bone, charcoal and especially noticeable as it is thus far the only location where mussel shells have been found on any of the three sites. Large quantities of pottery were found adjacent to these pit areas as was burned and calcined bone; however the bone refuse was so finely divided as to be of indeterminate origin. This trait is in keeping with the traditional bone disposal

of the Algonkians who believed that it acted as a peace offering to the slain animal.

Outside the pit areas was a considerable mantle of workshop debris from the embankment rim to the water's edge. Many corner and side notched projectile points usually slightly imperfect were found in this area, and were probably rejects. Asymmetric knives and an occasional scraper completed the list of chipped implements. The basic materials were probably local cherts taken from the limestone beds along the lake proper. An occasional trace of red jasper also occurred in the refuse.

At the inner edge of the principal fire pit was found the eroded remains of a shell necklace which included small shell beads as spacers. Occasional shell beads were found over the entire area and this required extensive screening. Pottery found at this site was mostly of the punctate pattern with the usual corded and stamped designs found on Lake Champlain sites and compare favorably with pottery found by John Bailey at the Ticonderoga and Vergennes sites. Dr. William A. Ritchie kindly reviewed some of the early specimens recovered from this site and pronounced them to be Early Middle Woodland types. The writer, assisted by his daughter and her husband has explored about sixty percent of this site to date.

In comparison to the South site, the Middle site is a complete transition. It has never been worked prior to discovery by the wife of the writer in the fall of 1947, as she sat down beside a fire pit to knit in the autumn sunshine. It is located about fifty yards north of the South site and is free of brush and grass on the work shop area or upper level while the dump areas or lower level is moderately wooded to the waters edge. There is no subsoil and all artifacts are found in the black refuse mantle which varies from nothing to thirty inches in depth at the rock crevices and fire pits. Large broken rocks laced with tree roots present formidable barriers to digging in the dump areas. All excavated soil has been carefully screened and the writer has handled many tons of rock and work shop spoils in the past ten years.

Excavation was begun at the lower limits of the grassy level and progressed from east to west to the upper rim of the rock cut. The largest and deepest fire pit on the upper level was soon encountered as was the rock fissure which runs north and south for the entire length of the site. Black earth, burned bone fragments and heavy deposits of flint chert, quartz and quartzite chippings were mixed with limestone and other friable rock well sprinkled with mica flakes and iron sulfide or pyrite crystals.

As trenching progressed from north to south, the overburden of chipped materials became heavily concentrated. Many fine drills, scrapers and triangular points of local chert and quartzite as well as a host of rejects and cache blades, were found adjacent to the rock crevice as though fallen from an upper level. Some very fine perforators were recovered from the fire pit areas.

On a ledge just above the rock crevice, a string of shell beads was removed and restrung exactly as they lay when the former owner laid them down. With

the exception of one harpoon fragment, one flaker fragment and several pieces of worked antler, no single complete bone tool was found. The fire pits yielded considerable pottery but it was so finely divided as to preclude definite typing. The upper level of the Middle site has been almost entirely excavated excepting one strip along the rock crevice about 10 feet wide and 20 feet long. This strip is at the extreme eastern end of the upper level and in which Schuyler Miller discovered some evidence of stratification. Perhaps he will return some day soon and finish the job.

Then excavation began in the dump areas and confusion reigned almost at once. Here Snell site incised pottery lay under Owasco rocker stamped, Fonda incised under coastal punctate and Point Peninsula corded with a few rims of Lamoka Plain thrown in for good measure. Round bottoms and conoidal bases extruded rims, collared rims and straight rims, all of these features coming out of the same rock pocket.

At first the immediate dump area was worked but it was found necessary to drop back to the high water mark, dig down to bed rock and then ascend at a 45 degree angle. The overburden of large broken flat rock usually came to rest on edge and in the rear of these rocks are located the finest materials found on the dump.

In the section now being excavated, typical Iroquois bone refuse was found just under the leaf mold including two bear canines and a fragment of jawbones and teeth yet unidentified, possibly elk teeth. Beneath this material at bedrock were large fragments of an Owasco pot.

Less than 25 per cent of the dump area has been explored and a standing invitation is extended to all healthy individuals who wish to participate in a good workout and deflate the waist line to take a ride up to Flat Rock bay. The ground is usually open 'til Christmas and the effort wonderful for promoting red cheeks and a good appetite.

The North site, about 75 yards down the lake and outside my own surface exploration, has not been touched. It is just too big a job for one man to tackle alone.

Briefly summarizing, I believe that the South site unquestionably is of a different period and separate occupation than the others, probably much earlier since there are indications of Point Peninsula culture traits but in the main the Laurentian traits seem to predominate.

The Middle site is an enigma which would not ordinarily exist if any stratification could be determined. From the materials recovered, it would seem that Owasco or perhaps transitional Owasco-Iroquois (similar to Chance and Snell materials) visited this site. Again, based on the few clear Iroquois type pottery sherds and the extensive bone refuse associated with them, it is certain that this site was known to our Mohawk valley inhabitants. A few decorated pottery sherds have been found on the North sites which are marked with conventional Iroquois decoration, principally incised chevrons. I believe that this site was an outpost as it commands a full view of the lake

for five miles to the north. Not until the work of excavation on the Middle site is completed and a detailed analysis of the material recovered has been made, will we be able to make any positive assumptions as to the culture and dating of the Flat Rock bay site.

N.Y.S.A.A. Library

Members are reminded of the existence of an Association library. This library is located in the Anthropology Division of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, 557 East Ave., Rochester 7, New York. It has been formed through exchanges with, and gifts from, other institutions and members, as well as occasional purchases of significant works.

Use of the library is restricted to members of the Association. Books and pamphlets may be borrowed for a period of one month. There is no charge for this loan, although the borrower will be expected to pay the return postage.

Inquires and requests should be sent to the N.Y.S.A.A. Library, in care of Alfred K. Guthe at the above address.

Some recent acquisitions follow:

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