

# THE

# BULLETIN



July 1962

Number 25

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## THIS WAS THE YEAR

During the recess in the afternoon session at the Annual Meeting at the Queensbury Inn, Glens Falls, on April 7, Marshall Seelye beelined into the assembly room from the registration desk in the lobby and announced to your editor, from six feet away:

"We did it. A couple just came in and registered, and that makes 101. Did you think we'd do it?"

Your editor, when he wrote, in the March BULLETIN, that short plea, "Let this be the year, "(that 100 people attend the annual meeting) thought of the number as a goal to be attained only after several years of consistent effort. The final total at Glens Falls, under the expert management of Auringer-Seelye's Mr. and Mrs. Percy Dake, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Rice (Bill had been hospitalized unfortunately, just before the conference began) and Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Seelye, was 102. How long this record will stand we won't make book on. The annual meeting is scheduled next year for Rochester, and the host Morgan Chapter, our biggest (and richest) could break the 1962 record from its own membership. But it will take some doing.

The feat of having broken 100 for the first time must be inscribed into the books opposite the name of Auringer-Seelye. It was a fine conference in every way, from accommodations to the stimulating post-prandial talk by Maurice Robbins on his Paleo hunter site at Assawompsett Lake. Even the piles of surviving snow had, to us downstairs, an archaeological look.

Hereafter new standards will have to be set for the annual meeting. Registration of 100 or more will be taken for granted. The new goal should be that at least: half of the registration be from the eight chapters other than the host. (NYSAA now has 9 chapters, the Metropolitan Chapter, from New York City and environs, having been received into the fold.) Host chapters can, of course, rally only their own membership and draw upon the interested in their own communities. What should become a felt obligation among the officers in the other eight chapters is that they not let the host chapter down, lest they be let down in turn when they became host chapter.

The objective sought is not sheer, teeming Rotarian numbers. Unavoidably, the fault of archaeology at the chapter level is parochialism, concentration, on the sites and materials from a limited locale, and ignorance of what lies beyond. It is the accepted methodology of archaeology that site materials on discovery are compared, for purposes of interpretation, with those from other areas, and this is usually done by means of the literature. But this methodology must be used with caution. The literature is sometimes outdated, sometimes opaque, and sometimes carries the bias of an author's schematic thesis. The schematics of one area are not necessarily those of another, and an innocent and plausible application of the schematics of one area to another may have--almost certainly will have--some invalid consequences,

The purpose of attending conferences, then, other than listening to the- formal papers, is to exchange information and seek enlightenment through the informal and

hence quicker and more flexible means of conversation. Authors of both formal papers and of published texts are available in person for questioning and for the dispelling of and false impressions. Finally, those who are digging or who have dug but have not published on their digs can, obviously, convey what information they have unearthed only by word of mouth.

Hence attendance at conferences is urged not to set records in prom-trotting but for the springtime fertilization of the summer's work ahead, and for the better appreciation of the work of the previous year. No serious archaeologist ought to make a habit of avoiding conferences. He needs the conference, and the conference needs him.

Which brings your editor to a plea he has been making for years--better arrangements and a more substantial place in the program for exhibits of archaeological materials. The physical examination of artifacts is the quickest and most certain way of learning about them. Any serious archaeologist had rather examine the artifact itself than the best picture or description of it. This is why millions are spent on the construction and maintenance of museums. To provide facilities for NYSAA members who bring their discoveries to the annual meeting and put them on display is the equivalent of setting up a temporary museum. There is, further, the advantage to the finder that displayed materials can be identified or interpreted.

What we are talking about is not an art show, not an exhibition of pretty art prize pieces, but materials of archaeological significance, representative collections from sites, and the puzzlers. It would certainly add a great deal to NYSAA conferences if the written and/or spoken word were adumbrated by the artifacts themselves.

Our specific suggestion is that the program chairman for the Rochester meeting not only arrange for adequate display space but issue an announcement in **THE BULLETIN** in bold and unmistakable language that materials for display will be hospitably received and will have an important part in the program.

#### FOR THE RECORD

Herewith the minutes and proceedings of the historic Glens Falls Annual Meeting:

#### NEW YORK STATE ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Glens Falls: April 7-9 1962

The Annual Meeting was called to order on April 7th at 9:40 am. Approximately 50 people attended. President Solecki appointed Charles Wray and Dr. L. L. Pechuman as tellers to count the ballots. The following was the order of business.

1. It was voted to accept the minutes of last year's meeting as published in **THE BULLETIN**.
2. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Arthur Johnson was appointed to audit the Treasurer's books,

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3. The reports of the Chapters were read as follows: Auringer-Seelye, Haskell; Chenango, Whitney, Frederick Houghton, Karass; Lewis H. Morgan, Cameron; Long Island, Solecki; Mid-Hudson, Wanzer; Orange Co., Gibbs; Van Epps.-Hartley, Veeder.

4. The reports of the following committees were read: Nominating Committee, Wemple; Awards Committee, Brennan; Publications Committee, White.

5. Announcement was made that the membership had approved the raising of the N.Y. S. A. A. dues \$1. 00 and that a Constitutional Committee had been appointed to study the means and proper time for inclusion of the new wording in the Constitution.

6. President Solecki presented as a matter of information the fact that Mr. Vincent Foley would begin archeological salvage operations in the Allegany State Park in connection with the construction of a dam due to be completed in three years.

7. It was announced that the Constitutions of the Frederick Houghton and Mid-Hudson Chapters had been approved.

8. President Solecki announced that he was able to present to the Executive Committee a new Chapter henceforth to be called the Metropolitan Chapter of the N.Y.S.A.A. The admission of the new Chapter was approved and the Constitution submitted for review by the Committee on Chapters and Membership.

9: The N.Y.S.A.A. Constitution was pointed out as not specifically including the mention of historic archeology in its stated objectives. It was also pointed out that up to the present N.Y.S.A.A. objectives actually did not preclude historic archeology. Suggestions for rewording were made. President Solecki then appointed a Constitutional Committee consisting of Joseph Bobst, William S. Cornwell, and Sigfus Olafson to study the matter and any other constitutional changes at the same time.

10. Approval, pending Publications Committee approval of the manuscript, of the publication of Dr. Alexander Stewart's Parts #4 and #59 either separately or in a single volume containing Parts #1-5, as Occasional Papers #3, was made.

Also, approval, pending Publications Committee approval of the manuscript, was made of the publication of Gordon Wright's manuscript on the Neutral Indians as Occasional Papers #4a Donald Lenig's manuscript on the Oak Hill Horizon, previously passed upon by the Publications Committee and the Executive Committee, was noted as being nearly ready for the press.

11. It was announced that a three-year term of office was approved for the Editor of THE BULLETIN.

12. The results of the election were announced as follows, President, Earl Casler; Vice President, Theodore Whitney; Secretary, Charles F. Hayes; Treasurer, Beulah M. Rice.

13. A Resolution expressing thanks to Mr. Percy Dake, Program Chairman, and the Auringer-Seelye Chapter for their hospitality during the 1962 meeting was approved,

14. It was announced that the 1963 Annual Meeting would be held in Rochester, N. Y. at the invitation of the Morgan Chapter and in Middletown, N.Y. in 1964 at the invitation of the Orange County Chapter,

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted  
CHARLES F. HAYES, III, Secretary

PROGRAM OF ANNUAL MEETING  
Lobby

8:45 to 11 a. m.

Registration and Sale of Meal Tickets

## Grand Ballroom

9-00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Business Meeting	
11:15 a.m. -	"Claverack Rock Shelter"	R. Arthur Johnson
11:30 a.m. -	"Rogers Island"	Earl Stott

## Gold Room

12:00 Noon - Luncheon

## Grand Ballroom

1:30 p.m. -	Round Table Discussion	
	Topic - "What Should be the Role of the Amateur in Archeological Research?"	
	Professionals	Amateurs
	Dr. William A. Ritchie, Chairman	R. Arthur Johnson
	Dr. Ralph S. Solecki	William H. Rice
	Dr. Marian White	Charles W. Wray
2-30 p.m. -	"First Season- Excavation at Garoga Site"	Robert E. Funk
	"Archeology in Greater New York City - Past and Present"	Dr. Ralph S. Solecki
	"Gunflints - English, French, or Otherwise"	Charles W. Wray
	"Occurrences of Vinette I Type Pottery in the Croton- Hudson Area"	Louis A. Brennan

## Coco Room

5:30 p.m. Social Hour  
Guests of Auringer-Seelye Chapter

## Grand Ballroom

6:30 p.m. -	Banquet
8:00 p.m. -	Address by Dr. Maurice Robbins, Bronson Museum, Attleboro, Mass. "A Paleo-Indian Site at Assawompsett Lake, Massachusetts" Dr. William A. Ritchie, New York State Archeologist, introduced Dr. Robbins.

## TWICE TOLD TALE

The symposium at the Annual Meeting, "What Should Be The Role of the Amateur in Archaeological Research" will, we fondly hope, exhaust this subject for the next five years. The role of the amateur in archaeology or any other science, profession, vocation, or avocation, is exactly what he is able to make of it. The difference between the amateur and the professional in archaeology is a difference in education and training. The professional is a professional by reason of having satisfied certain clear and distinct requirements in curriculum and experience, and having taken a position which makes use of his training. Nothing in any of this is a guarantee of infallibility, of native intelligence, of imaginative intuition of good judgment, of ability to synthesize or summarize or even of imbue with the scientific spirit (not to be confused with scientific method).

What it does guarantee is a fund of knowledge, a mental disciplining, and a standard of competence which no amateur or avocational archaeologist can hope to acquire unless he subjects himself to equivalent courses of study and experience.

The difference is easily discovered. It is in performance. The professional digs competently he analyzes and assembles competently, and he reports competently. Very few amateurs do all these, and when they do, their work is most

likely to be in a limited locale. In length, depth, and breadth of experience, in all dimensions of acquaintanceship with the subject, the "professional," that is, the academically trained and experienced archaeologist clearly stands head and shoulders above the amateur or avocational archaeologist.

And yet -- the criterion is performance and performance alone. What an archaeologist's formal training and background is (except as a job qualification) is irrelevant -- if he performs. The point is that the professional's training enables him to perform. If an amateur can overcome the handicap of lack of schooling and perform, his work will stand by itself. It is the work that is judged, not the man. Granted that the argumentum ad hominem is used often enough by professionals against those not of the Guild, such indulgence in fallacy must in the end be self-defeating.

Let the non-professionals, of whom the NYSAA is 95% composed, stop musing over their "roles" in archaeology and discipline themselves so that they can make respectable contributions to the prehistory of their native heath. With the latest, the March issue, this BULLETIN cleaned out its inventory of reports in state-wide archaeology. The role of the amateur is, having dug, to study what he has dug as thoroughly as he can and write it up as best he can. The less the amateur does, the more amateur he is. The more he produces, the more professional he becomes.

#### NEW YORK STATE ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

April 7, 1962

During the past year of the Association three issues of THE BULLETIN, Numbers 22-24, have been issued under the editorship of Louis A. Brennan. These issues represent 60 full pages, the goal set by Brennan and endorsed by the previous Publications Committee. This is an increase of 6 pages over 1960-61 (Bulletins 19, 20, 21) and has been maintained at a cost of \$: 014 per page, the same as the rate in 1960-61.

The contents of these pages break down as follows; Original articles, 59%, Archeological news, 16%, Editorial, 12%, NYSAA business, 6%, Correspondence, 4%, Bibliography, 3%.

Brennan recommends a continuation of this 60-page annual limit for the present, and the Publications Committee concurs. Furthermore, the Committee agrees with Brennan that the amount of BULLETIN space devoted to Association business could be reduced, and at the same time Association information could be amplified by seeking new ways of distribution about Chapter affairs. It is recommended that the next, Publications Committee work with the Secretary to this end.

Printing of THE BULLETIN has continued to be done by the Moxon Printing Shop, formerly of New York. The service and the cost have been very satisfactory.

No new issues of the Researches and Transactions or of the Occasional Papers have been produced. However, work continues on both series. The Reverend John R. Lee has continued as Editor of the Occasional Papers and has Parts IV and V of Alexander M. Stewart's "French Pioneers in North America, completed except for final typing. It is anticipated that these will be ready at any time. Since funds for the publication of these have been provided by Mr. Stewart and since his death, by arrangement with Mrs. Stewart, there is no reason for delay, and it is hoped that these can be published immediately. With the publication of Parts IV and V, Mrs. Stewart wishes to republish the entire manuscript in a single volume. William S.

Cornwell, former Chairman of this Committee and currently Morgan Chapter representative, has been continuing discussions with Mrs. Stewart. He recommends that the five parts be reprinted as a single volume with improved format and correction of errors.

During the year Gordon Wright has submitted a manuscript entitled The Neutral Indians. A Source Book, for publication by the Association. This manuscript has been edited by Alfred K. Guthe, former Editor of R & T, and by Cornwell, and has also been approved by the present Chairman. The Publications Committee is in agreement that the manuscript should be published as the next Occasional Paper with an improved format consisting at least of plates. The Morgan Chapter has agreed to give \$300 to the Association for publication of this manuscript and Cornwell has arranged the publication at no additional cost to the Association. This publication should also be ready in the near future.

The next issue of the R&T, Don Lenig's Oak Hill Horizon, is currently being edited by P. Schuyler Miller. The Van Epps-Hartley Chapter has voted \$300 toward publication of this paper, and it is hoped that sufficient funds will be available after the beginning of the current fiscal year to publish this as soon as the editing is completed.

Regarding Editors, Brennan, Editor of THE BULLETIN submitted his resignation at the conclusion of work on BULLETIN 24, since the tenure of editorial appointments is not explicit. The Publications Committee recommends the reappointment of Brennan. Furthermore, it recommends that consideration be given to a 3-year term for the Editor of THE BULLETIN. Father Lee, Editor of Occasional Papers, and Miller, Editor of R & T are both continuing on tasks for which they were specifically appointed, and it is hoped that they will continue.

The Association and the Publications Committee is grateful to the Auringer-Seelye, Houghton, and Long Island Chapters for special contributions to the Publications Fund and to Morgan and Van Epps-Hartley for their guarantees of financial aid for forthcoming publications. I would like to thank the Editors for their fine work. I am especially grateful to Cornwell, who as former Chairman, continued to serve as a member of the present Committee, giving continuity and invaluable aid. The members of the Committee were as follows- Auringer-Seelye, Marshall Seelye; Houghton, Bliss Wolcott, Mid-Hudson, Alvin Wanzer; Morgan, William Cornwell; Van Epps-Hartley, Earl Casler, At-Large, Mauck Brammer.

On April 6 a meeting of the Publications Committee was held by the following:- Brennan, Casler, Olafson representing Brammer, Hayes representing Cornwell, Seelye, Wanzer, and White. At this meeting the following recommendations were made and subsequently presented to the Executive Committee which gave its approval:

1. Parts IV and V of Stewart's paper is approved for publication, either singly or as part of a volume including Parts I-III, subject to agreement by the Publications Committee.

2. Wright's "Neutral Indians, A Source Book" is approved for publication as an Occasional Paper, subject to agreement by the Publications Committee.

3. The Editor of THE BULLETIN be appointed for a three-year term, beginning 1962,

4. The Editor of THE BULLETIN be authorized to publish the minimum of business considered essential to operation of the Association. This should include minutes, Committees, and important notices. The Editor should excerpt from Chapter reports only the most important items. The minutes of the Executive Committee need not be published, but should be distributed to Executive Committee members. Chapter reports should be submitted to the Association Secretary in 30 copies wherever possible. Three copies of Chapter reports will be distributed to each Chapter,

Following the annual meeting the following are members of the Publications Committee.

Auringer-Seelye, Marshall Seelye, R. D. No. 1, Haviland Rd., Glens Falls; Chenango, Stanford Gibson, 29 Sunset Drive, Norwich; Houghton, Bliss Wolcott, 189 Margaret Rd., Eggertsville 26; Long Island, Reginald Peterson, North Road, Fast Marion, Long Island; Metropolitan, Mauck Brammer, 28 Ellis Place, Ossining; Mid-Hudson, Alvin Wanzer, Mill Road, Rhinebeck; Morgan, William Cornwell, 350 Westminster Rd., Rochester 7; Orange, William Carhart, Storm King School, Cornwall-on-Hudson; Van Epps-Hartley, Volkert Veeder, Centre St., Fonda; Editor, Louis A. Brennan, 39 Hamilton Ave., Ossining; Editor, Rev. John R. Lee, CSB, 5959 Broadway, Gary, Indiana; Editor, P. Schuyler Miller, 4805 Centre Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania. Respectfully submitted, Marian E. White, Chairman, Dept. of Anthropology and Linguistics, University of Buffalo, Buffalo 14, N.Y.

FIELD NOTES- IBM SITE, PORT WASHINGTON, L.I., N.Y. \*

Bert Salwen

Metropolitan Chapter

On April 27, 1962, a party from the Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, carried out preliminary tests at a stratified site on the west shore of Hempstead Harbor, south of Mott Point, Port Washington, L.I.

The group included Patricia Daly, Thomas Fraser, Martha Goldstein, and Bert Salwen. Its original purpose was to locate and test a site on the shore immediately north of the IBM Country Club bathing beach, which had been previously visited by Fraser. This site had been completely destroyed, probably by storm action, since Fraser's last visit, but another site was discovered somewhat north of the first, at the north end of the IBM property. It has been tentatively designated as the "IBM site."

It is located on the edge of the sand bluff which borders Hempstead Harbor on the west, just north of a small unnamed brook which flows east into the harbor, and approximately a quarter of a mile north of the IBM bathing beach (see sketch map).

The location must have been extremely favorable for aboriginal occupation. It is in a well-drained spot, facing southeast, and is protected on the north by a fairly sharp rise in elevation. The small stream provided a source of fresh water and the bay offered a variety of shellfish foods (at least in Woodland times).

The entire triangular area measuring about 150 ft. north-south by 300 ft. east-west and, bounded by the bluff edge to the east, the stream to the south, and the hill to the northwest, is covered with shell midden debris to varying depths. Parts of the area appear to have been -disturbed, possibly by pothunters, but the section closest to the bay seems to be intact.

A small test pit (No. 1), measuring 2 ft. by 2 ft., was dug at the edge of the bluff, approximately 100 ft. north of the stream. The stratigraphy was as follows (see profile drawing):

0" - 2 1/2" dark humus--containing some shell fragments. A fragment of kaolin pipe stem was found in this zone.

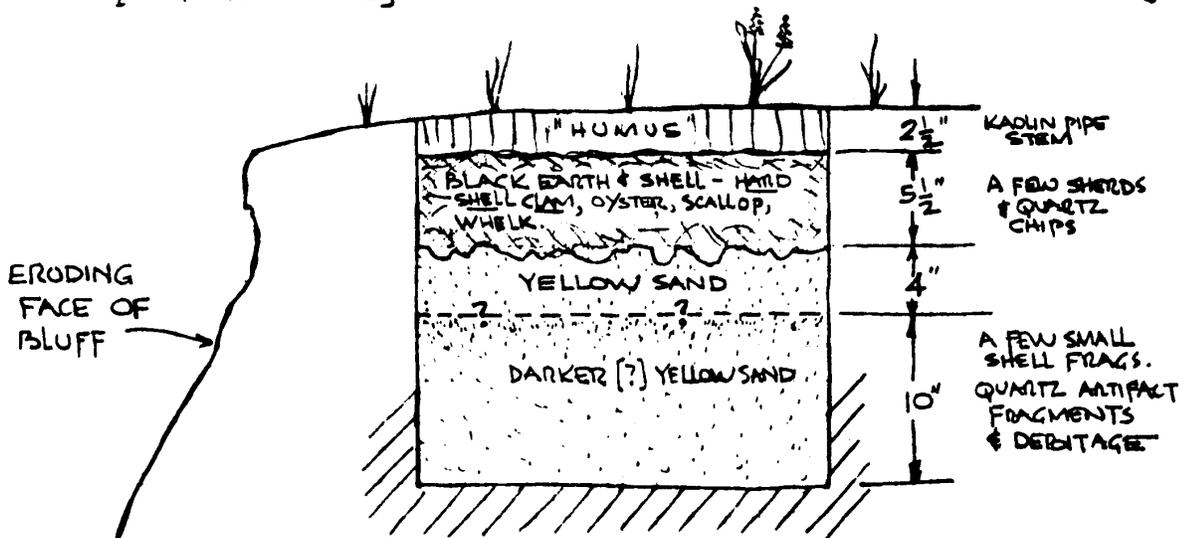
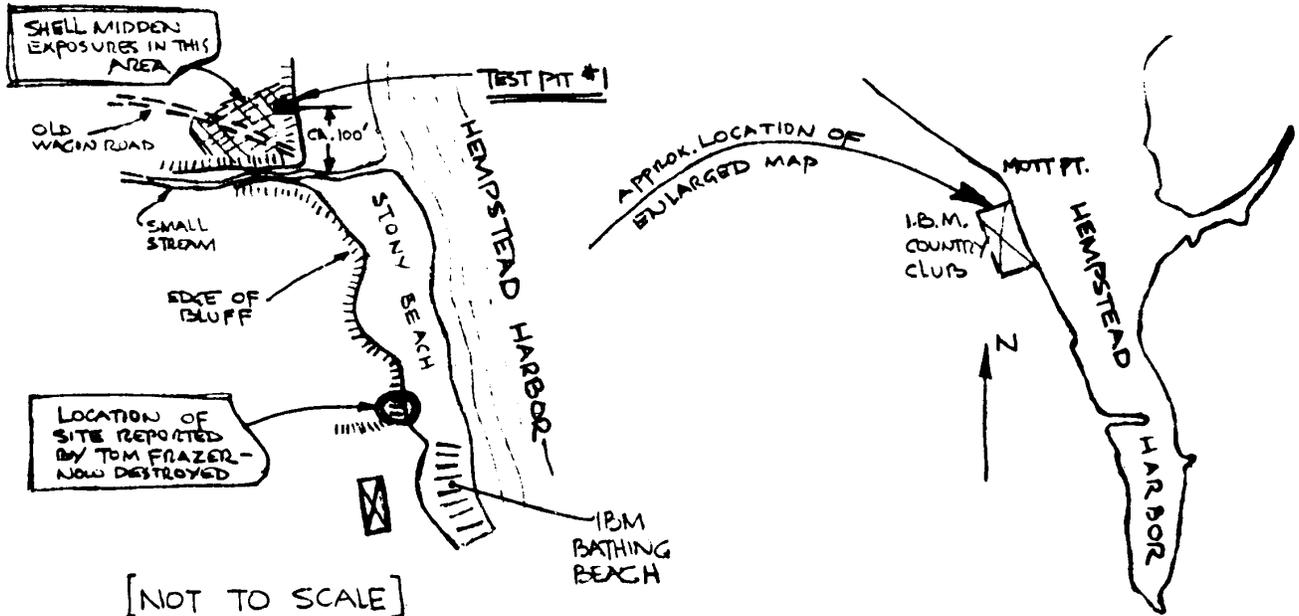
2 1/2" - 8" - shell midden - consisting of black earth and shell. Shell species, in approx. order of abundance-, hard shell clam, oyster, whelk, scallop. A few quartz chips and six fragments of pottery were found in this zone. . The four sherds large enough to be identified have cord-marked interiors, and are probably cord marked on the exteriors as well. All sherds are grit tempered. The sherds seemed

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\*This site is not open to general visitation. Those who wish to visit it must first contact Salwen, Dept. of Anthropology, Columbia University, N. Y. C.

# IBM SITE

TEST EXCAVATION AT EDGE OF BLUFF ON WEST SIDE OR  
 HEMPSTEAD HARBOR. Approx 100 Ft. N. of Small  
 Brook on North End of I.B.M. Country Club Property,  
 Port Washington, L.I., N.Y.



to be concentrated near the bottom on the shell midden zone.

8" - 22" yellow sand--containing numerous quartz and quartzite flakes and chips, and one base of a large quartz blade. There may be two distinct zones within the sand layer, the upper one lighter in color than the lower, with the dividing line occurring 12" below the surface.

While the test was too limited to permit more than very tentative conclusions, it seems certain that at least two components are present at the IBM site. The younger one, represented by the shell midden layer (and possibly by the humus zone also), is clearly Woodland in age. The interior cord-marked pottery would tend to place it early in this period, but on the other hand, the large number of whelk shells encountered might indicate that the site was occupied into early historic times when the manufacture of wampum from *Busycon columella* was an important industry in this area. It is possible; of course, that the shell midden contains more than one occupation, and that the interior cord-marked pottery comes from only the lower part of this zone,

The earlier occupation, represented by the quartz and quartzite material from the yellow sand, is almost certainly Archaic in age. More specimens must be excavated before it can be designated more exactly.

This brief test clearly indicates that the IBM site deserves further excavation. Arrangements are now being made for trips to the site by archeology field classes from Columbia University and New York University, led by Bert Salwen and Professor Jacques Bordaz.

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#### PRELIMINARY REPORT OF EXCAVATIONS AT TAGHKANICK ROCK SHELTER

Robert E. Funk and R. Arthur Johnson

.....Van Epps-Hartley Chapter

The Taghkanick Rock Shelter, also known earlier as the Claverack Rock Shelter, is formed by a jutting ledge on the eastern edge of the Becraft Hills which are located immediately south, and slightly east, of the city of Hudson, New York.

These hills lie on a NE-SW axis some three miles in length, with a width of 1 1/2 miles, the highest elevation--slightly over 400 feet above sea level--being on the western side. The elevation along the eastern escarpment is at the 240 foot contour level, approximately 55 to 60 feet above the rich meadow lands in the valley.

The Becraft limestone is semi-crystalline and very coarse grained, the coarsest of any of our limestones, and is extensively quarried for Portland cement.

The eastern escarpment overlooks the valleys of the Taghkanick and Claverack Creeks which join in a northward flow at a point midway along the precipitous slope. The area immediately north of the junction of the two streams is known as Spook Hollow. Spook Rock rests in the stream. A small overhang overlooking the stream provided a place of refuge for Indians and is known as Spook Rock shelter.

As one follows the road south along the escarpment from Spook Rock Shelter a more prominent precipice comes into view. Closer investigation discloses a rather massive overhang which juts out from the rock wall some 10 to 15 feet and provides a sheltered area 30 or more feet long.

During the fall of 1941 Kenneth Mynter, who resides across the valley at Claverack village, decided to explore this area on the supposition that it may have been used as a shelter. He was assisted by David Bartholomew and David Proper.

First tests under the overhang area turned up numerous pot sherds at a depth

of twelve inches. The next procedure was to lay out the site in five foot squares. A number of squares were excavated during September and October, 1941.

We do not propose to summarize in detail at this time the results of these explorations. Mynter's field notes and the artifacts have been turned over to the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter of the NYSAA and at the moment are stored in the New York State Museum.

However, it is important that we be acquainted with the nature of their excavations. The first four inches were sterile. The greatest number of artifacts occurred from 4" to 8". The authors have not perused the field notes, but from Mynter's recent assurance, from our own experience in digging in 1961, and from the depths shown for pottery analysis, it is quite evident that the main portion of the area under the overhang was dug to a depth of some 36".

As might be suspected, Iroquois pottery was found largely in the upper few inches. Below, Owasco sherds of many types were more frequent.

Point Peninsula sherds tended to concentrate in the lower levels. A more detailed analysis might yield more stratigraphic information concerning culture change and replacement in the upper levels of the site.

Levanna type points were found, not in great quantity.

Other artifacts included bone awls, a piece of bone harpoon, antler flakers, beaver incisors, and, of course, mullers.

There were flint chips, animal bones, unio (mussel) shells, charcoal, and ash, Five stone bordered hearths were charted at the 1011 to 1411 level.

Several members of the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter worked on five Saturdays during March and April, 1954. Their notes are not at hand. However, we are fairly certain that they did not dig deeper than the 36" level and presumably found the same conditions that Mynter experienced. The quantity of artifacts diminished sharply in number at the lower depths which quite likely accounts for the discontinuance of excavations at the 36" level.

During the fall of 1961, Robert E. Funk, Junior Scientist at New York State Museum desired to explore the shelter further, in view of the possibility that there should be earlier occupations at lower levels.

On October 7, 1961, Messrs. Funk, Christman, Mynter, and Johnson removed the spoil dirt from the previous digging and started a five-foot-wide test trench toward the shelter wall.

We had established a datum point at as nearly as possible the original level of shelter deposit previous to Mr. Mynter's excavations. The deposit, largely talus and fallen rock slabs, slopes down away from the wall, The site was charted using our own reference points since Mynter's grid stakes had vanished. The datum point was chiseled on the wall face and a line was painted on this level along the face of the wall.

All depths which will be quoted were measured from this level unless otherwise specified. Of course from our field notes we are able to chart the locations of an artifact with respect to both depths, the one below the datum level and also below the sloping ground level, depending on its distance from the rock wall. We are somewhat hesitant about using the present soil level measurement at any distance away from the rock wall because of the debris discarded on top of this sloping area by previous excavators.

After we had removed the disturbed soil it was quite evident when we reached

the undisturbed area. The soil was hard-packed, of a lighter color, had flint chips, bone fragments and larger rocks, all apparently undisturbed. Soil removed in previous work had been screened and most of the rocks thrown down the slope. The refuse bearing soil, if one can call it soil because it is composed largely of rock fragments of all sizes, continued to a depth of about 80" to 86" below the datum level. It contained a few artifacts, occasional flint chips, a fair amount of animal bone fragments, an occasional fire-broken rock, and a few rounded smooth cobbles, possibly used as boiling stones.

Below 42" there was no evidence of pottery. At 48" a cylindrical pestle was found; at 56" a bi-pitted hammerstone turned up. Other evidence that we had reached pre-ceramic Archaic levels consisted of a Snook Kill point at 42", a Normanskill point at 62", and a Vosburg point at the same level. A single Lamoka point appeared at 48", higher than would be expected. Other artifacts below pottery bearing levels include end scrapers, knives, unpitted pebble hammers, indeterminate stemmed and notched points, and an antler flaker. We have found no stone bordered hearths; but there is evidence of small fires which were built on various levels. The burned areas are usually very small and less than an inch thick, indicating that the fires were probably used only once for short periods of time. The shelter dirt contains a great deal of wind-blown ash, according to Dr. Ritchie's observation.

There is no evidence of any physical stratification in the occupied levels. At two levels the soil was packed hard for an inch or two, possibly indicating either more frequent use or the soil condition at the time was such that it tended to pack more readily. So far there is no evidence from the flint chipping, artifacts, or bone deposits that occupation was more intensive at any one period.

At the 76" level the rock talus is larger although most fragments can be removed by one individual. Below the 86" level the soil is quite different in texture and color. It is hard-packed and a light tan or yellow turning to a brownish stained appearance as it goes deeper. We found animal burrows along the rock wall which started from the 86" level and extended down to an unknown depth. Some were three inches in diameter. No open burrows were found above the 86" level, but obviously there was burrowing in the upper soil, particularly near the wall and around and beneath the very large rock falls.

A word of caution might not be out of place here. The burrowing activities below and around the large rock falls make them very dangerous to the archaeologist. One very large boulder, apparently secure in the side wall of the trench, split unexpectedly and thundered down next to our feet a few minutes after we had been working below it. Investigation disclosed that the soil immediately below and behind the stone was loose from burrowing.

In several places we have dug as deep as 120". The soil below the 86" level is sterile except for an occasional bone fragment or flint chip which was apparently fallen down a burrow. In the lower levels digging is stopped by early falls of giant slabs which we were unable to remove. Further, we had no need to remove them because of the sterile condition of the soil on top of and between them. Preliminary analysis of the food refuse indicates the shelter occupants of Archaic times relied heavily on deer (at least 90% of osseous remains).

Woodchuck and bobcat were also hunted and probably bear also. Fresh water clam was a popular food.

One oyster shell, possibly used as a container, was found. If fish were caught their bones have not survived.

In summary, then, we recovered little artifactual material considering the amount of earth moved. However, the combined results of our work in 1961 and the work of others in previous years demonstrate a long prehistoric occupation of the site, going back to Middle Archaic times or earlier. The depth distribution of artifacts indicates a sequence conforming to that established elsewhere in New York, extending from Archaic horizons on up through Point Peninsula, Owasco, and finally Iroquois times.

The shelter was probably used as a temporary hunting station by both Archaic and later agricultural peoples, perhaps primarily in the winter season.

TAGHKANICK ROCK SHELTER  
Preliminary Analysis of 1961 Collection

- A. Chipped Stone
- 1 Lamoka point - 48"
  - 1 Snook Kill - 42"
  - 1 Otter Creek (?) - 41"
  - 2 Normanskill - 40" and 62"
  - 1 Vosburg - 88" On slope 19" from rock wall. 2 Indeterminate side-notched points
  - 1 Indeterminate stemmed point
  - 2 Ovate knives (40")
  - 1 large trianguloid slate knife - 46"
  - 1 large worked flake knife - 64"
  - 2 end scrapers at 70" and 79"
- B. Rough Stone
- 1 cylindrical pestle
  - 1 bi-pitted discoidal hammerstone 56"
  - 1 bi-pitted irregular pebble hammer - 50"
  - 3 pebble hammerstones (1 at 24-40", 2 at 55-87")
- C. Other Materials
- 1 antler flaking tool - 78"
  - Mica fragments - 70"
- D. Bone and Shell remains
- Deer bones comprise at least 90% of osseous remains
  - Woodchuck - 1 jaw at 65-85" level
  - Bobcat - 1 jaw at 78"
  - Bear - probably some present
- E. Miscellaneous
- Clam, fresh water - fairly common, all levels
  - Oyster - 1 specimen at 46", a possible container
  - Snail - many shells present, possibly a food animal.
- Depths shown are below datum level (not soil level)

FAIRBRIDGE'S SEA-LEVEL FLUCTUATIONS

Louis A. Brennan

Metropolitan Chapter

The correlation of archaeological sites with the climate and ecological conditions of their period of existence is almost the beginning of knowledge about them. This is especially true of American Archaeology north of Mexico where through most

of prehistoric time, the inhabitants were entirely or almost entirely dependent on the food resources that nature provided. What these were varied widely with climatic cycles, and the abundance of one kind of food and the scarcity of another obviously affected decisively the specifics of culture, the general pattern of which was usufructian, or hunting-gathering.

It is the purpose of this piece to bring to wider attention the scheme of sea level fluctuation during the past 6000 years as outlined by Dr. Rhodes Fairbridge, Columbia University, these fluctuations having immediate application to archaeological problems of coastal New York and of tidal rivers, particularly the Hudson, to about Poughkeepsie. Within this tidal area the scheme applies as the rise and fall of sea-level affects the location of sites. For instance, the Pilots Point sites (off the Connecticut coast) discovered by Frank Glynn (Glynn, 1953) through the examination of bottom material dredged up from a sea depth of 10 to 12 ft. below present level were obviously occupied at a time when the ocean had been depleted appreciably below its present stand, even allowing for a rise in coast line (which is now sinking).

Beyond the tidal area the Fairbridge scheme provides an index of climatic change since Fairbridge has ascertained that there is a direct relation between climatic cycles and sea-level fluctuation. The rule is a cold period causes withdrawal of water from the sea and deposit on the land as glacial ice; a warm period causes melting of glacial ice and refilling of the sea.

In marginal regions, such as the tidal length of the Hudson, climatic fluctuation shows most sensitively in the size of oysters in midden deposits. In the Kettle Rock section of Croton Point (Brennan, 1962) oysters show distinct size variations from one stratum to another. Additionally there is an abundant occurrence of the ribbed mussel in middens of larger shell with from a trace to total absence as the size of the shell falls off. Quite likely there were periods when, as now, the Hudson at this point and above yielded no oysters and aboriginal inhabitants had to find other resources to replace them. Beyond tidal areas the Fairbridge scheme relates to climate-ecology and can provide some assistance in cultural and chronological problems.

The initial announcement of the Fairbridge scheme was carried in *The New York Times*, September 8, 1959, in a news story by Walter Sullivan on the proceedings of the International Oceanographic Congress, datelined United Nations, N.Y. Accompanying the account were two graphs, one of sea-level fluctuation over the last 400,000 years with a coordinated graph of sea temperatures for the same duration, and a graph of sea-level fluctuation over the past 10,000 years.

This data appeared first in a paper delivered by Fairbridge before the New York Academy of Science (Fairbridge, 1959) and was given further full treatment in "*Scientific American*," May, 1960, pp 70-79. This later piece includes graphs on sea-level fluctuation for the past 20, 000 years, and for the past 400,000 years, with graphs of tropical sea level temperature and solar radiation.

A paper on sea-level fluctuation was read by Fairbridge at the 25th Annual Meeting and Conference of The Society for American Archaeology at Yale University in May, 1960. Subsequently Fairbridge repeated the substance of this paper for the April-July issue (1960) of the *Massachusetts Archaeological Bulletin*. This treatment is the one most immediately apprehensible by American archaeologists and the graph that appears with the piece is the one from which the graph accompanying the present summary is adapted. All graphs should be consulted in their original form and publication since the present author admits to being but a poor adaptor.

The principal points of interest to us are as follows:

1. At the climax of the last or Wisconsin glaciation, some 17,000 years ago when the glacial front was at the latitude of Long Island, the sea was about 300-350 feet below its present level.
2. From this nadir it trended upward as the Wisconsin melted, with the most precipitate rise between about 6100 B.P. and 5900 B.P. This rise of about 45 feet in about 200 years carried sea level to present height at 6000 B.P. and to about 10 feet above by 5900 B.P. (This rise, Fairbridge believes, is the origin of legends about a great deluge found in most ancient traditions.)
3. Approximately this height has been attained during at least three subsequent warm cycles, separated by cool cycles during which the sea dropped back to present levels or as much as 10 feet below.
4. Warm periods have attained averages as much as 5 degrees above present temperatures; cool periods have dropped 3 to 4 degrees below present temperatures. Climate seems to oscillate in a cycle of 550-1100-1650 years.
5. All continental ice had disappeared by 6000 B.P. when the sea first attained its present level during the post-Wisconsin period.
6. Up thrust or subsidence of land is obviously a factor in measurement of rise or fall of sea level. The removal of the Wisconsin ice mass was followed by a recovery or up thrust of land. This was probably slight along the New England-New York coastlines where the glacier was of least duration and mass. At present this coastline appears to be sinking, at New York, at a rate of 3 M. M. per year. In addition there appears to be a rise in general sea level of about 1 M.M. per year.
7. A third factor in the fluctuation of sea level is subsidence of oceanic basins. Indications are that certain basins, notably the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and the Indian Ocean, have been subsiding at the rate of about 1 inch per century for millions of years.
8. Taking all factors into account the melting of glacial ice is by far the most important in the rise and fall of sea-level.
9. As the sea rose 300-350 feet during the post-Wisconsin melt period vast stretches of coast line were submerged, forcing retreat of life inland. But more than compensating for this loss was the 3 million square miles vacated by the vanishing ice mass. Since, during the general retreat there were short-term readvances of the ice front, the ecology was in constant flux. For the 11,000 years between the Wisconsin climax of 17,000 years ago and its disappearance as a continental glacier 6000 years ago, ecological zones (and the human life adjusted to them) were ever shifting either north or south with perceptible rapidity. During periods of retreat the Wisconsin probably receded at the rate of about a mile a year. (It could also re-advance quite rapidly, as the bulldozing under of the Two Creeks forest shows). The rate of melting of Wisconsin ice obviously maintained an average which caused the sea to rise 30 feet per century. Considering that the Wisconsin did re-advance, in order to achieve the average of 30 feet rise per century during some centuries the melting must have put as much as 40 feet of water into the sea. (A moment of reflection will show that along the coast lines the topography of a man's childhood would in no way resemble that of his grand fatherhood. His birthplace might be 20 feet under water by the time he was 50.)
10. Fairbridge emphasizes that his graph, which has here been adapted, is the best that can be arranged on present evidence. It is not to be considered final and

is subject to modification. (See page 17 for graph)

Brennan, L. A., 1962, The Q Tradition and the G O Horizon, NYSAA Bulletin, No. 24, March 1962, pp, 11-16.

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Glynn, Frank, 1953, The Pilots Point Submerged Sites; Bulletin of The Archaeological Society of Connecticut, No. 27, pp 11-29, New Haven.

Sullivan, Walter; 1959, Ocean Study Puts Flood at 4000 B.C., The New York Times, Tues., Sept. 8, 1959, New York.

#### FORDING PLACES Ood 2-3

Stanley Vanderlaan

Morgan Chapter

One mile northeast of Waterport, Town of Carlton, Orleans County, New York State is a state marker which reads "FORDING PLACE, USED FIRST BY INDIANS, LATER BY EARLY PIONEERS, THE OAK ORCHARD TRAIL FROM BATAVIA TO ONTARIO CROSSED THE CREEK HERE". It is in the vicinity of this marker that the writer has uncovered many traces of both Indian and Pioneer occupation.

At least three pioneer cabins were here, one of them having been located nearly in the center of a small but heavily occupied prehistoric Indian village. This site, covering about one third acre, has been known for many years by relic collectors, but to the writer's knowledge no one in the past has ever kept any records or labeled any of the artifacts from the site. This past relic hunting has again caused the ever too familiar situation where the best of the material has been lost and the archaeologist must try to put a puzzle together with many of the pieces missing.

This Indian village has been logically named the Fording Place site, but to protect it the name was changed for newspaper publication to the North site.<sup>1</sup> This site is located on a very small knoll west of and eighty feet above the Oak Orchard Creek. At this point the creek forms its first riffles upstream from Lake Ontario and becomes shallow enough to be forded. This "Head of Stillwater", as it is often called, would have been and still is an excellent fishing spot. A path winds its way down the steep hillside from the village to the creek. This path is used to a great extent by modern fishermen and may be the same path that the Indians used. At the very top of this creek bank a roadway was constructed destroying the eastern portion of the village and probable side hill dump areas and in 1932 while this roadway was being improved, at least one Indian burial was destroyed. A small spring and stream running along the northern edge of the village furnished water and avoided the necessity of carrying water up the steep climb from the Oak Orchard Creek. The soil is sandy and dark from intense occupation.

<sup>1</sup> N.Y.S.A.A. Bulletin, March 1962, Number 24, Page 16

Unfortunately no side hill dump areas exist and pits are rare. Most of the material was surface collected during the years 1955-1960. Pot sherds were found in abundance, but most pieces were small because of cultivation; however, in the spring of 1957, farm help, in plowing deeper than usual, did turn up many artifacts including a pipe bowl with twelve incised horizontal lines around it (Plate 2, Fig. I).

A total of 54 flat pebble net sinkers were found by the writer. They vary in size from the smallest which is 1 3/4 inches by 2 1/8 inches to the largest which is 3 1/4 by 4 3/4 inches. No small line-sinker types have been found here. Some 45 anvilstones or hammerstones were recovered. In many cases they consist of a combination of anvil and hammerstones. Twenty-four whetstone sharpeners, three mortars, two broken sandstone celts, a few celt fragments, one fourteen-inch-long round sandstone pestle and three small pieces of smoothed slate were also surface collected from the site.

Flint material consists of forty triangular points with about an equal amount of Levanna and Madison points represented.<sup>1</sup> Plate 2, Fig. K is the only untyped triangular from the site. These triangulars range in width from 15mm. to 34mm and the lengths vary from 24mm to 55mm. The median size is 23mm in width by 36mm in length. All are made of local Onondaga flint. Typical points from this site are shown in Plate 2, Fig. M-P. A few stemmed and notched points were found inside the darkened area of the village, but these are also found in the adjoining area and probably the majority of them belong to older cultures. Represented are Brewerton corner notched, Brewerton side notched, Genesee points, Meadowood points, and a few untyped varieties. Many chips of flint which appear to be Ohio and Canadian in origin have been found on the site.

Sixty flint end and side scrapers were recovered as well as one side and one corner notched scraper. Nine flint knives or blades were found and eight drills, one of the latter being side notched. Sixteen fire making flints were found; six of these were triangular with the bases battered and rounded indicating use. Some are worn smooth. Hundreds of uncompleted, broken or indeterminate worked pieces of flint were also found.

Rim sections of one hundred different pottery vessels were sorted and studied to make the following chart. These one hundred represent the largest pieces from nearly one hundred and fifty rims recovered at the site.

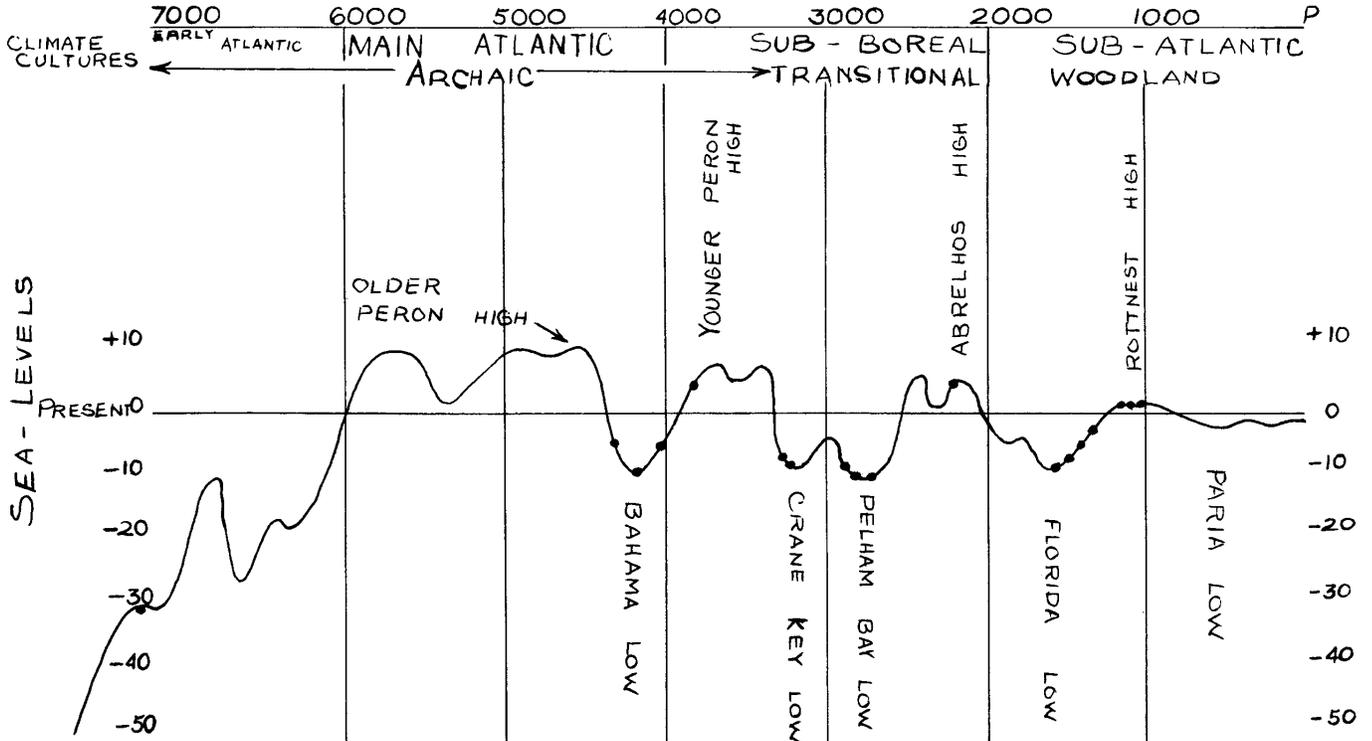
Technique	Quantity	Small Straight Collars	Rolled Collars	Lip Decorated	Interior Decorated	Lip and Int. Decorated	Channeled Int.	Castellations
Punctuation	16	2	6	7	2	2	8	
Cord Wrapped Stick	18	3	1	3	2	11	3	
Undecorated	28	3	3	2	1	2	7	1(?)
Incised	<u>38</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	27		17	11	10	32	2(?)

(continued p. 18)

<sup>1</sup> Ritchie, A Typology and Nomenclature for N. Y. Projectile Points, N. Y. State Museum, Bulletin Number 384, 1961.

# RECENT WORLD-WIDE SEA LEVEL CHANGES

YEARS BEFORE PRESENT



GRAPH ADAPTED FROM FAIRBRIDGE 1960

Rim sections decorated by punctuation have one to four horizontal rows of design around the rim, with the exception of Fig. A on Plate 1. Punctuation includes five which are decorated by fingernail impressions one is shown, Fig. E, Plate 1. This and four others decorated by punctuation have a herringbone design.

Cord wrapped stick decorated rim sherds consist of eight herringbone (some shown in Plate 2, Fig. A, B, D, G), four corded oblique above corded horizontal (Fig. C. Plate 2), five corded oblique (Fig. Ea F, Plate 2) and one corded horizontal

Of the 28 undecorated rims 16 are cord roughened with the remainder having been smoothed. As can be seen on the chart some of the undecorated rims have lip and/or interior decoration.

The 38 incised include 20 with a herringbone design (some shown in Plate 1, Fig. F. J. K.), five crisscrossed (Fig. G-I - Plate 1), two horizontal incised and 11 oblique (Fig. L-O, Plate 1). A few decorated by incised herringbone also have a herringbone decoration on the interior. Unlike other sites in this area producing incised decorated vessels all incising at the Fording Place was done by a sharp instrument.

Generally the body sherds are not smoothed. One sherd had a mending hole through it; another had a hole partially through suggesting that the drill pressure had crushed the pot before it was completely drilled through.

Found while the writer was investigating post molds, a shallow pit produced an unusual sandstone face (Fig. H, Plate 2). In direct association with the face was a portion of a rim section decorated by cord wrapped stick.

One small pit yielded a portion of a bone awl; another produced a single bone bead these being the only bone artifacts from the site. The large rim section shown in Plate 1, Fig. A came from the same pit as the bone bead.

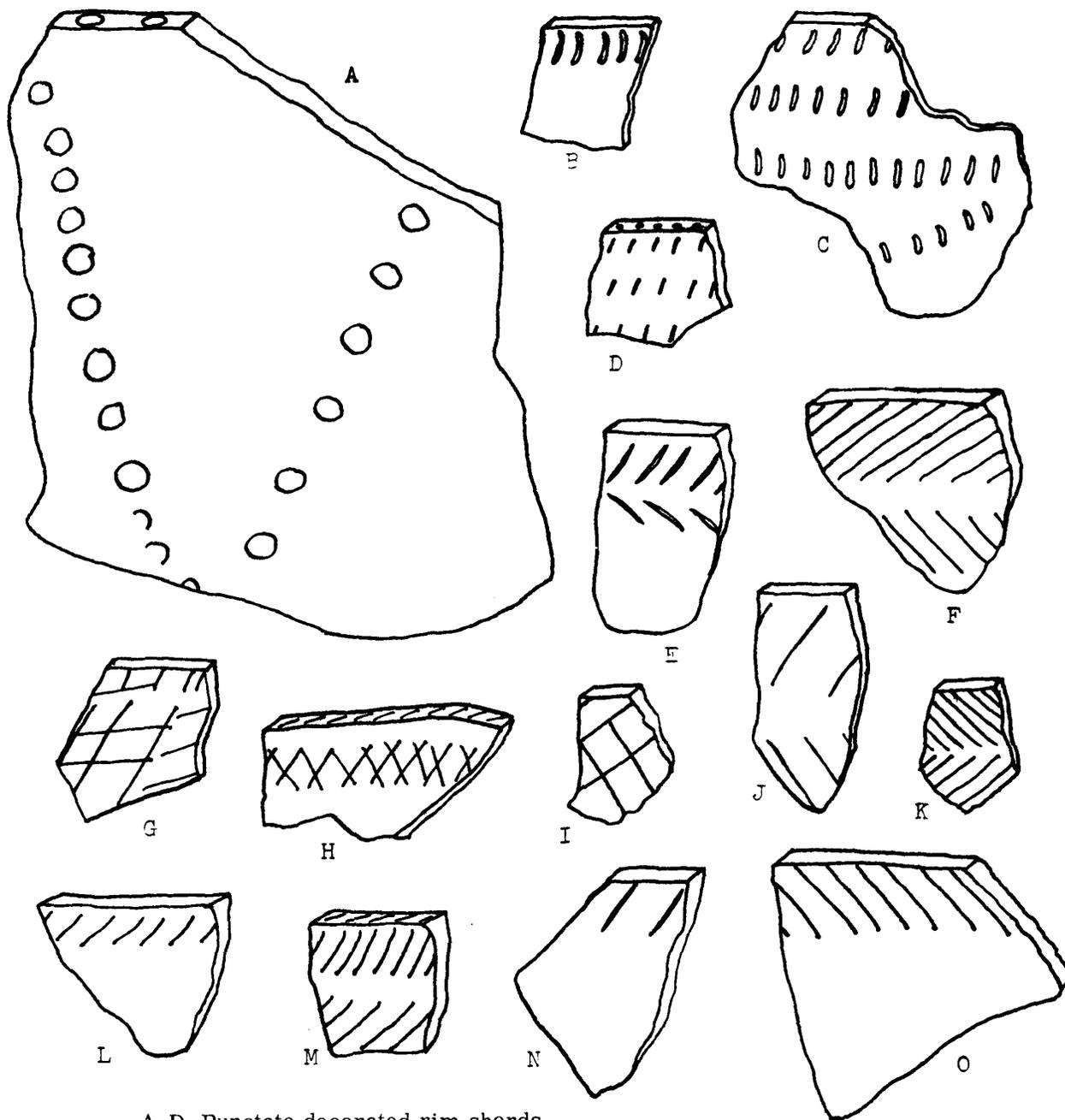
An area about 12 by 15 feet was cleared of top soil by the writer, and post molds of three oval shaped lodges (partially super-imposed) were found. These molds were two to three inches in diameter and extended six to twelve inches below the plow lines. They were ten to eighteen inches apart and formed ovals which were 8 1/2 by 11 feet, 7 by nearly 10 feet, and 7 1/2 by 9 feet. These seem very small, but they probably represent temporary lodges of a seasonal fishing village.

In the summer of 1960 Dr. Marian White and three assistants, Miss Faith Karas of Tonawanda, James Chism of Anthony, Kansas, and Attila Markus, spent a few days here investigating settlement patterns and uncovered scores of post molds. This area was near the center of the village and a superimposed mass of lodges (perhaps one built each fishing season) made tracing of walls quite difficult. However, lodge shapes similar to those found by the writer are obvious (Plate 3).<sup>1</sup>

As was previously mentioned, a pioneer cabin was near the center of this Indian village. Recovered from this occupation were many square nails, gunflints, thimbles, many colored fragments of China dishes, fragments of white pipes, oxen shoes, knives, spoons, and many other implements. Coins include a holed Spanish. 1788 silver piece, a Canadian 1820 half penny, U.S. large cent coins dating 1816, 1824, 1830, 1832, and the most recent, a U.S. half dime nearly uncirculated, dated 1839. At other nearby

<sup>1</sup>. Thanks to Dr. Marian White for the use of Plate 3, Fig. A

Ood 2-3



A-D Punctate decorated rim sherds  
E Fingernail impressed herringbone  
F, J, K Incised herringbone  
G-I Criss-cross Incised  
L-O Incised

cabin sites an 1817 U.S. military button and two U.S. large cent coins dated 1832 and 1851 were found.

Because of similar rim shapes of the cord decorated and incised pottery vessels and the occurrence of several rims decorated on either the interior or exterior by incising and done on the opposite side by cord wrapped stick, it is, apparent that all, or nearly all, of the previously described rims belong to a single ceramic occupation. The scarcity of castellations, lack of well-defined collars, high percentage of herringbone design (total of 33%) and the prevalent occurrence of cord-decorated wares would seem to place this site in the Transitional (Owasco-Iroquois) Period. However, the Oakfield Fort, which has also been called a Transitional site<sup>2</sup> and the Fording Place have a great difference in pottery design and technique. Another site appearing Transitional, Ganshaw, two miles from the Oakfield Fort, is also quite different from the Oakfield Fort and Fording Place. Little is known of the Transitional Period in the Western New York area. Perhaps it covers a longer time span than was first believed. Typical Owasco sites have not been reported in this area, but it is highly doubtful that it was uninhabited during Owasco times. Pottery characteristics of the Fording Place, as well as the other sites mentioned above, show attributes which indicate relationship both with Owasco and the contemporaneous Glen Meyer focus of Ontario.

Future work and study in the Western New York area may answer many questions (and invariably bring up new ones) concerning the origin of the Iroquois.

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NOTE. The Tenth American Ethnohistoric Conference and the Fifteenth Conference on Iroquois Research will be held jointly in Albany on October 12-14. For details, write to Wm. N. Fenton, State Education Building, Albany, N.Y.

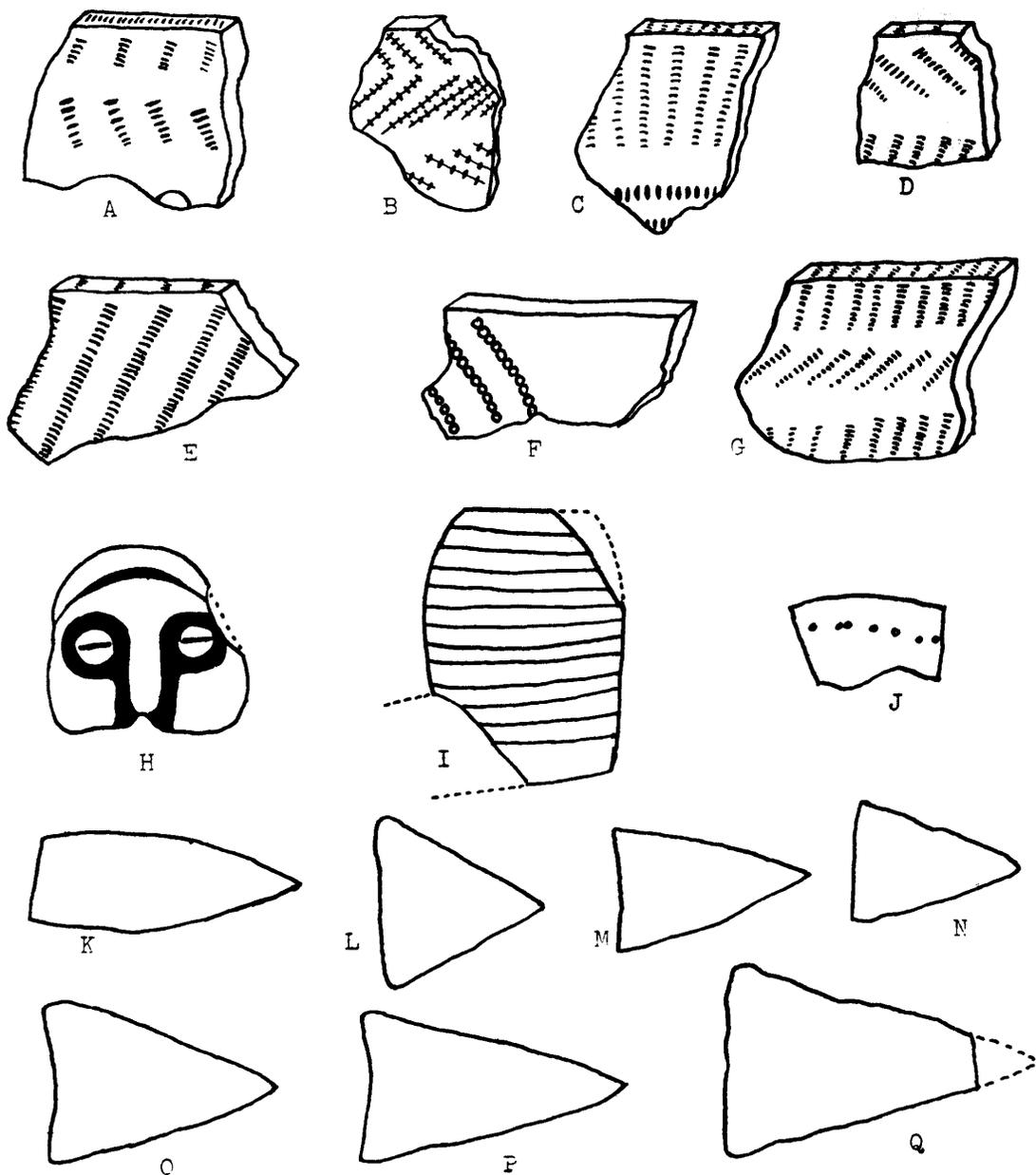
#### ARCHEOLOGY By Donald E. Lown

A few things known  
    some surmised  
much more hidden  
    in disguise  
beneath the surface  
    in the soil  
found by hard  
    sweat and toil

Then to the lab  
    for hours more  
to wash and sort  
    catalogue and store  
to study and read  
    relate and compare  
to answer the  
    enigma  
    latent there

<sup>2</sup>. White, N. Y. S. A. A. Bulletin, Nov. 1958, Number 14, Page 4.

Ood 2-3



A-G Rim sherds decorated by cord wrapped stick  
H Sandstone face. Dark area is grooved  
I, J Portions of pipe bowls  
K-Q Triangular projectile points

FORDING PLACE: OOd 2-3

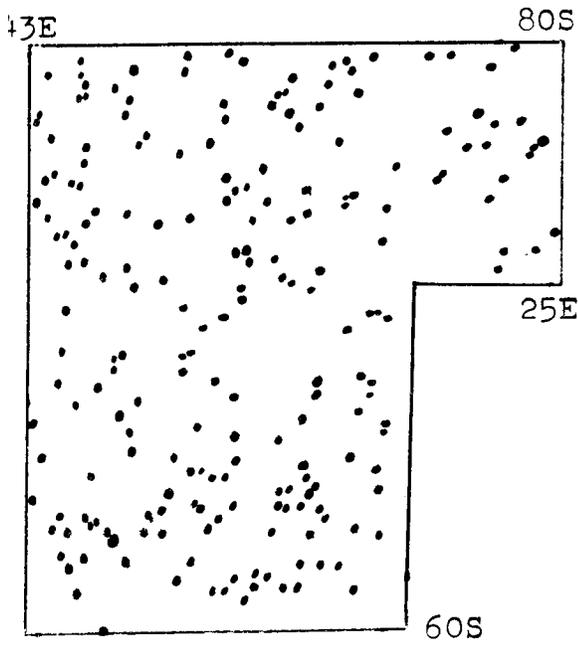


Fig. A

Showing all post molds in excavated area (many lodges superimposed).

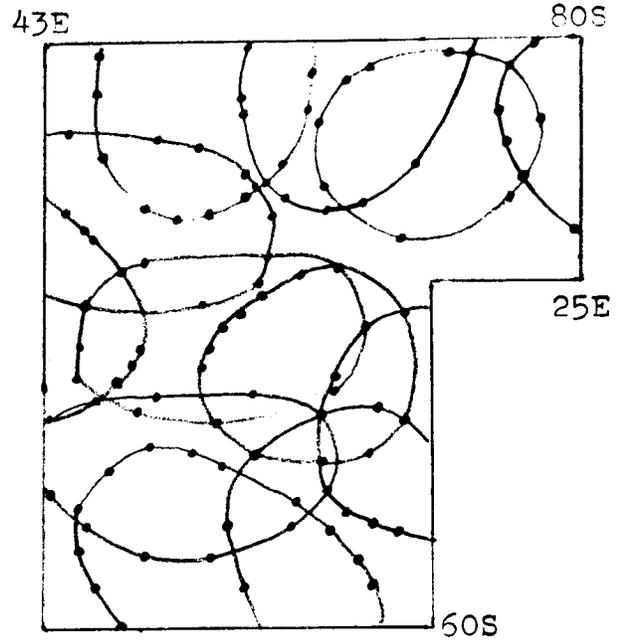


Fig. B

With many molds removed possible lodge shapes are shown.

SCALE IN FEET

