

THE



BULLETIN

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Contents

Notes	1
Hudson River Valley Projectile Point Correlation Workshop, Sept. 22, 1962 Mauck Brammer	4
Fossils and Concretions from Coastal New York Sites Edward J. Kaesar	5
A Double Child Burial in Orient, Long Island Roy Latham	8
Riverhaven #1 (Twa 4-3) Site, Grand Island, New York Edward Kochan	9
Vinette I Pottery in the Croton River Mouth Area Louis A. Brennan	12
The NOK Site (Mda 9-4) Stanley Vanderlaan	15



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OFF SCHEDULE

This issue of THE BULLETIN is somewhat off schedule, as the March one will probably be, because of printing difficulties for the July issue. Your editor would like to have himself absolved of blame for the tardiness of that number since the copy was in the hands of the printer in May. There is nothing about archaeology that will not keep under normal conditions, however, and we hope no harm has been done. NYSAA members are reminded that it is now time to (1) get their reports in order for papers at the Annual Meeting at Rochester in April and (2) make submissions for accord of Fellowship status and the Annual Achievement Award. Your editor, who is also chairman of the Fellowship and Achievement committee, has already received nominations for each of these. Which is no reason why there should not be more.

WHAT'S NEW IS WHAT'S OLD

American archaeology has reached another break-through comparable to that made when Jesse Figgins exposed the first Folsom points. The break-through site, Tule Springs, Nevada, is not new but there is a new, confirmatory date on it, and authority has swung to unqualified acceptance of the association of the bones of camel, horse, mammoth, etc., with a primitive or Paleolithic industry consisting of choppers, scrapers, hammerstones, and utilized flakes.

There has been no discovery of new material at Tule Springs. The site was uncovered by Fenley Hunter during a fossil-hunting expedition for the American Museum of Natural History in 1933. At that time a section of earth containing bones of extinct animals and an obsidian chip were cased together undisturbed and shipped to the Museum where the flake was removed in the presence of scientific witnesses.

Mark R. Harrington of The Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, California, visited Tule Springs in October, 1933, on learning of Hunter's discovery, and went over the same ground. His party found several fire-ash beds with bones of extinct animals and choppers, scrapers, ovoids, and flakes. Samples of charcoal collected during this expedition and saved at the Museum was turned over to Dr. Willard Libby, the C14 dating technique discoverer, in 1952 and yielded, by the methods then in use, a minimum age of 23, 800 B.P., with the maximum not known.

With this enhancement of the importance of Tule Springs, a small Southwest Museum expedition returned to the site in 1954, 1955, and again in 1956. Hearths and bones continued to appear, along with some artifacts. During the third or 1956 work session a fire pit or hearth was discovered in which there were burned bone and one worked stone tool, a discoidal scraper. This was the hearth that supplied the material for the latest C14 run, which yielded a new minimum date of 28, 000 years plus. Lab reports are that the maximum could be about 33,000 years.

The whole history of the site is told in The Southwest Museum publication "Tule Springs, Nevada, with Other Evidences of Pleistocene Man in North America" Southwest Museum Papers, No. 18, Los Angeles 42, California.

We have been informed that a final and definitive date of 38,000 years will soon be published for the Lewisville, Texas, site which, like Tule Springs, is a series of hearths with but a small inventory of tools and an abundance of extinct animal bone. At Lewisville the staple was apparently horse; at Tule Springs it was camel. The two sites not only fall into the same time horizon, they corroborate each other, and the existence of an American Paleolithic.

The geology of the Lewisville site places it during an interstadial of the Wisconsin, that is, during a warm period of glacial retreat. This warm period is generally called the Peorian, and preceded the second or Tazewell-Cary major phase of the Wisconsin. Some glaciologists are beginning to talk of five glaciers, with the last, or Wisconsin glaciation--which is now called the Tazewill-Cary--being preceded by the Iowan, which had two major phases, the first of which was called the Farmdale and the second the Iowan.

Depending on how the glaciology finally works out, Lewisville Man and Tule Springs Man were either mid-Wisconsin or pre-Wisconsin inhabitants of the New World, in a Paleolithic stage of culture.

The Tule Springs report, written by M. R. Harrington and Ruth D. Simpson, both of The Southwest Museum, was reviewed for American Antiquity by Jesse D. Jennings. A recent president of The Society for American Antiquity, Jennings was also Viking Medallist for Archaeology in 1958. Jennings writes: (parentheses are your editor's)

"There is now no reasonable doubt that the association (of man-made hearths, bones of extinct animals and artifacts) is valid. The interpretation of ancient man's history in America, along with his technology, must now take account of a more-than-doubled time depth. (The oldest date on Clovis is about 12,000, from the Lehner Ranch site, Arizona; the oldest date on Folsom is about 11, 000, from the Lindenmeier Horse Ranch, Colorado.) The fixing of this early point in time for man to have been preying on large American mammals will surprise no students of early man in America, but they will be more comfortable in having this additional bit of evidence'. (Certainly it will surprise no readers of your editor's "No Stone Unturned.)

In his foreword to the Tule Springs report Alex D. Drieger wrote "Looking back, one may well wonder why the original discovery of the Tule Springs locality in 1933, with its evidences of contemporaneity of man and extinct Pleistocene fauna as reported in that year by Dr. George Gaylord Simpson of The American Museum of Natural History, did not draw more attention from archaeologists. About all that can be said now is, that many American archaeologists were still having difficulty in believing the evidence at Folsom, New Mexico, that man had actually killed bison there of a species now extinct. "

A new era now begins in American archaeology, of, to repeat Jennings' words "interpretation of ancient man's history in America, along with his technology." In short,

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American archaeology has to be re-thought out, and that modest tool, the chopper, is about to loom larger and larger in the new era. Don Drago reports, verbally, a complex from southwestern Pennsylvania of large, crude stone tools without projectile points, that can't be placed in time archaeologically, which disposes him to believe in an American Paleolithic in the east.

Though Tule Springs is a large area of the sites of many camp fires, the artifact yield has been very sparse because there is an overburden of 20 ft, of very tough clay that can be moved only by a bulldozer. The mathematical chance of anything but a major expedition uncovering the evidence that is undoubtedly there is not high. Anybody know an archaeologically minded millionaire?

E FOR EFFORT

This issue includes an encouraging number of original contributions in archaeology from NYSAA members. Other NYSAA members have also been busy elsewhere. For example:

Michael Cohn of Metropolitan Chapter last summer issued his "Fortifications of New York During the Revolutionary War 1776-1782" which will undoubtedly become an indispensable reference for historians and historical novelists--if they can get a copy. Mr. Cohn and his wife and friend Murray Scharfstein did the 40-page mimeograph job themselves.

Bert Salwen of Metropolitan Chapter, who is now teaching at Bennington College, made the July issue of *American Antiquity* with his "Sea Levels and Archaeology in the Long Island Sound Area." The abstract in *A. A.* says "Two coastal sites on Long Island, the Stony Brook site and the Baxter site, are examined in the light of Fairbridge's data on sea level fluctuations during the last 7000 years." (Readers of *THE BULLETIN* are familiar with Fairbridge's data from our last issue, July, 1962). Mr. Salwen delivered essentially the same paper at the Eastern States Archaeological Federation Conference at Athens, Georgia, in November, under the title "Midden Analysis: Examples from the Northeast Coast."

L. A. Brennan's paper "Choppers--the Paleolithic Strain" was read at the ESAF Conference.

Charles F. Hayes III of Morgan Chapter, Secretary of NYSAA and Associate Curator of Anthropology at The Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, has been publishing regularly in the Museum's "Museum Service" bulletin. The titles we have seen so far are: "Another Prehistoric Iroquois Site in the Bristol Hills, New York"; "Salvage Operations at the Shakeshaft Gravel Pit"; "Iroquois False-Faces on Exhibit"; "Archaeological Collections Rearranged to Facilitate Research"; "Fifty Years of Anthropology", and "1962 Archaeological Field Work." Mr. Hayes' successor as junior anthropologist at Rochester Museum, appointed in July of this year, is Miss Rachel Bonney.

HONOR

Joffre Coe of The University of North Carolina was re-elected to a two-year term as ESAF president at the ESAF Annual Meeting. Re-elected vice-president was Sigfus Olafson of the NYSAA Metropolitan and Mid-Hudson Chapters. With the change in the ESAF constitution which takes effect with this new slate of officers Mr. Olafson will assume the presidency in 1964.

PLEASE

For the past several years we have been suggesting (1) that those who attend the Annual Meeting be specifically encouraged to bring representative collections of artifacts from their digs to the conference for inspection by fellow attendants and opinion by specialists; (2) that adequate arrangements be made to display these artifacts; and (3) that a period during which specialists, particularly Fellows, discuss the collections in a semi-lecture situation, be made a part of the program. Is there any reason why these suggestions should not be initiated this year?

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY PROJECTILE POINT
CORRELATION WORKSHOP, SEPT. 22, 1962

Mauck Brammer

Metropolitan Chapter

At a meeting of thirty representatives of five chapters of the NYSAA at the Mid-Hudson Chapter House, Rhinebeck, N. Y., on September 22, Louis A. Brennan of the Metropolitan Chapter presented a plan for an impersonal and objective classification of Hudson River Valley artifacts. A basic system was developed and approved in preliminary form, and a committee from various chapters was selected to continue the study. A further general workshop was scheduled for October 27.

A suggestion by Dr. Ralph Solecki that a representative Hudson River Valley sampling would be desirable for the Metropolitan Chapter, to be housed at Columbia University, Brennan reported, had led him to the conclusion that a group effort at classification and synthesis would be necessary to make such a sampling meaningful. Present available classification systems were inadequate for independent use, he declared, because of their tendency to associate points with site finds primarily and to confuse locality of finding, in itself perhaps accidental, with the larger problem of age, distribution, and typical characteristics. A system developed on an objective basis from the artifacts themselves in which the emphasis was placed on the outline, the description, and the features with the local or personal name used only as reference would, Brennan asserted, make it possible to classify and interpret new finds promptly and without confusion.

Such a system would first show the artifact in line outline on a grid, would give it a code number for overall references, would provide an appropriate name, would describe its shape in generally agreed-upon terms, would indicate its variety features of technique, materials, and so forth, and would be completed with references to the names and cultures and locations associated with it as a type. Obviously, the terms to be used and the sub-classification of the system would need further study by the committee. And obviously, also, similar systems for pottery and other artifacts as separated by function, as pointed out by Dr. Solecki, would need to be developed for a complete picture of the Hudson River Valley cultures over the long time span of its prehistory.

At the suggestion of Mrs. William H. Rice the Hudson River Valley was defined as the Hudson drainage system. Dr. Solecki pointed out the need for recognition of cognate names and Brennan indicated that the reference section would do so. Charles Gillette commented that it was important to recognize the present nomenclature but indicated that he believed it possible to develop a workable system for further classi-

fication. Sigfus Olafson, Vice President of the Eastern States Archaeological Association, emphasized the need for emphasis on cultural and temporal aspects. A suggestion was made that a supplement of the report of this study could be a glossary of terms acceptable for the Hudson River Valley artifact description.

The committee selected is: Charles Gillette, Chairman Pro-tem, Van-Epps-Hartley; William H. Rice, Auringer-Seelye; Alvin Wanzer, Mid-Hudson; Selwyn Gibbs, Orange; and Antony Gahan, Metropolitan. Margaret B. Schramm, Mid-Hudson, was named corresponding secretary. By general agreement the Committee undertook the task of further development of the details of classification. For the October 27 workshop, it was suggested that concentration on the first three or four main sub-divisions would be desirable. (Editors note: a second conference was held on October 25 and will be reported later.)

FOSSILS AND CONCRETIONS FROM COASTAL NEW YORK SITES

Edward J. Kaeser

Metropolitan Chapter

The curious and quite common occurrences of fossiliferous pebbles amidst the midden and pit debris of prehistoric Indian camp sites in the Pelham Bay Park area of Bronx County, New York, led the writer first into an investigation of the types and period of origin and finally the possible value of these objects to the Indian as curios, medicine charms or fetishes.

It is unlikely that fossils found in tide-water New York are indigenous to the area. Their water-tumbled matrix attest to a glacial (the Wisconsin) transporting of unstratified sand, gravel and stones characteristic of the coastal New York till.

The Indian, in the development of lithic manufacturing skill and quest for stone of fine grade, found the coastal beaches and streambeds a treasure-trove of easily gathered raw material. Large numbers of these water-tumbled stones were carried into the camp area where most of them were tested for quality of the material by striking a single or several flakes obliquely from the periphery. The stones not meeting the necessary requirements for further modification became hearth and boiling stones or were put to some other crude utilitarian use, such as hammers, anvils, and mullers. In the Park area, the Archery Range Site (Kaeser, 1962, pp. 4-7), Pelham Boulder Site (Lopez, 1956, p. 15), and the as yet undocumented Bartow midden have all yielded various stones containing molds or negative impressions of fossil mollusks, in association with cultural material diagnostic of the East River and Windsor aspects (Smith, 1950, pp. 116-187).

Doubtlessly, the shore dwelling Indian held no interest in the families, genera, species, and chronological order of fossils which were discovered in his lithic work shops. However, the presence of recognizable mollusks and other aquatic animals in beach pebbles might have suggested to these shell-fish-gathering folk either a contemporaneous species inhabiting solid rock or, more akin to their religious, superstitious and mythological beliefs, pure evidence of the fearful powers of the malevolent demons whose placation was woven into their daily life. The aboriginal digging of cooking and grave pits in camp sites no doubt also brought to light occasional stones and concretions of grotesque and animal form which were probably regarded in a like manner. At the Archery Range site, an unmodified stone of duck like form, partly polished as if by handling, was recovered from a feast pit adjacent to a burial at-

tributed to the florescent Bowmans Brook stage of the East River Aspect (Smith, 1950~ pp. 152-3). At Tottenville, Staten Island, New York, a zoomorphic limonite concretion was recovered from a beach embankment shell deposit in association with early Bowmans Brook material. Indian cultures of the southwest, particularly the Zuni of New Mexico, owned and highly valued stones and concretions, resembling birds or animals. These fetishes or "Pray Gods" were often altered by incision and abrasion to elaborate and accentuate physical details such as eyes and tails. Many of these objects, handed down through generations, are believed to be fetishes of the Hunters Society (Fazzini, 1935, p. 81).

Another, as yet, undocumented site on land of the Morris Estate Community Club in Bronx County yielded several unmodified stones and a scraper containing fossil mollusks and fragments of shale holding trilobites. At Grassy Sprain reservoir, Yonkers, New York, an ovoid, drilled pendant of fossiliferous limestone was surface-collected in association with projectile points of Poplar Island and Orient Fishtail type culturally affiliated with the late Archaic period, (Ritchie, 1961, pp. 39, 44-5).

Further north, natural stone concretions among grave goods are noted at the Frontenac Island Site, (Ritchie, 1944, p. 386). On the north shore of Lake Ontario, Bay of Quinte' Component, a Point Peninsula Focus burial mound contained several natural concretions and fossils in addition to various burial offerings (Ritchie, 1944, p. 178). Fossil brachiopods stained with red paint were among a large collection of artifacts recovered from cache pits at a site south of Trenton, New Jersey, resembling Orient culture components (Ritchie, 1944, pp. 232-3).

Projectile points have been recovered throughout the eastern states containing fossil remains of coral, crinoids, and trilobites. Some of these artifacts have a single cross section of a fossil located centrally in the face of the blade suggesting the intentional ornamental plan of the maker.

The northeastern woodlands have contributed many Indian legends dealing with magic and sorcery relative to stone, some of harboring demons or, benevolent spirits, others of humans transformed to stone through witchcraft and most curious, the legendary beginnings of various natural phenomena. One such story graphically relates the origin of the glacially deposited boulders of the Connecticut coast (Jenkins, 1912, p. 316). It tells how the Indian version of Satan ordered the native residents of coastal Connecticut to vacate their lands. On the advice of their women the Indians consented; with the proviso they would be paid for their losses. This was not acceptable to the devil and he attacked them. The Indians fought him fiercely with all their numbers, and he retreated southward down the coast to the vicinity of Throgs Neck, the south eastern end of Bronx County. Being hard pressed and the tide low, he crossed Long Island Sound by way of the small rocky islets known as Stepping Stones. At the terminus of Throgs Neck, he left the imprint of his big toe before jumping to the first of the Stepping Stones. This point has been called Satan's Toe. Enraged, the devil gathered a great mass of stones and boulders in the interior of Long Island and hurled them at his enemies across the Sound, leaving the western shore line boulder strewn as it can be seen today. As the legend goes, prior to this conflict, coastal Connecticut was completely free of stones and easily tillable:

Scattered throughout the park lands are numerous glacial erratics, many of which have proved to be focal points of Indian habitation. Certain of these boulders were revered as holy places and used as council and trading areas. One such boulder situ-

ated at the southeast end of Hunters Island in Pelham Bay Park, was called "Mishow" and reputed to have been an ancient religious gathering place of the Indians (Bolton, 1881, p. 89).

Spirit voices from a rock, animal, or other object conveyed guidance to the hunter, warrior, or to the neophyte on reaching maturity.

The twelve heated, steam -producing stones of the Sweat Lodge Ceremony of the Delaware were considered sacred in the diagnosis and treatment of sickness (Wallace, 1961, pp. 73-74).

The Burnt Offering Ceremony called for placing tobacco on twelve heated stones, the smoke carrying prayers to the twelve heavens (Wallace, 1961, p. 72).

One of the most cherished possessions of the Delaware was the medicine bundle, this cultural item providing most support for the writer's charm-stone theory. The medicine skin bag contained medicinal roots, certain parts of animals and birds and oddly shaped stones believed to have magical and pharmaceutical powers. The bundle was owned and used by nearly everyone and not exclusively by doctors and magicians. With the aid of the contents of the bundle, the owner could communicate with his guardian spirit. The hunter and warrior was assisted in tracking game and eluding and overpowering his enemy. The doctor used it in the diagnosis and treatment of disease (Tantaquidgeon 1942, pp. 21-22).

The concretionary stone found in the digestive system of certain deer was considered a potent medicine stone. Its powers were used in the preparation of medicines or the stone could be used as an ingredient in the treatment of wounds, (Tantaquidgeon 1942, p. 23).

Stones have been associated with religion throughout the ages, having use as magical charms and amulets, fertility symbols and the home of gods, or the stones themselves were considered to be gods. The Lingam phallus stone of India representing the god Siva has been worshipped by the Hindus since the third millenium B. C. in the Indus Valley. The Black Stone of Mecca is kissed by thousands of Moslems each year on their pilgrimage to Mecca. Stones believed impressed with the footprint of Gautama Buddha were considered sacred. Whole mountains such as the Greek Mount Olympus is an example of the ancient belief in the residence of the gods. Gems, such as the sapphire and emerald have been reputed to bring good luck and health, the power to cure disease, eyestrain, snakebite, and predict the future. Contemporaneously, who has not heard of the virtues bestowed by Ireland's renowned Blarney Stone?

Conclusion

This paper invites further conjecture on other undefined, problematical objects under continued discussion and research. At present, direct and conclusive evidence clarifying the significance of fossil recoveries from coastal New York habitation and burial sites is non-existent. However, by virtue of their wide-spread occurrence, some in direct association with human skeletal remains, they can be regarded as more than fortuitous intrusions or aboriginal possessions of simple oddities.

The fossils recovered at the Archery Range site imply special significance to the author, their being material culture constituents recovered from a concentrated burial area exhibiting a unique ceremonial complex for southern coastal New York.

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A DOUBLE CHILD BURIAL IN ORIENT, LONG ISLAND

Roy Latham

Long Island Chapter

A double child burial was recently discovered on the farm of Latham Brothers in Orient, Long Island. The two infants were placed in the grave back to back headed south, one lying on the right side facing east, the other on the left side, facing west. The grave was 26 inches in depth and the fragile skulls were badly fractured by freezing of the heavy soil. The grave was situated 150 feet from salt marshes on land many times inundated by marine tides. Ten feet south of the grave was a circular pit 28 inches in depth by 30 inches in diameter which contained only valves of the soft clam. Scattered in a semicircle north of the grave were 21 shallow pits 15 to 18 inches in depth from the old occupational surface; over all was eight inches of heavy farm loam. These pits were located and staked while plowing at extra depth. The only item found between the pits was a medium-sized Sebonac pot below the plowing depth, lying on its side without support of stones and crushed in by frost and traction of heavy machinery. Underneath the pot and for about two feet of the surrounding vicinity the soil was brick-red from fires. In the pits were stunted shells of the soft clam, remains of bug scallops and seed oysters that inhabit the banks of salt-marsh creeks; no quahogs were present. The occupation was evidently in one of the periods when the hard-shell clam was absent from the north side of the local bay. Judging from the nature of the food remains in these pits, it was a season when food was scarce, perhaps partially the cause of the death of the two young subjects.

Most types of tools have been collected on the surface of this small site during the past 70 years, notably among them a small completely grooved axe two inches in length, no doubt but a child's toy tool, and one wonders if the departed mentioned were the

owners of this, the smallest grooved axe recorded from Long Island, although certainly not a Sebonac type of tool. No late projectile points were found in the pits, but they occur in the surface, more often the narrow, slightly side-notched points with straight bases are found, which outdates the Orient culture fishtail form. There is no evidence that the pot is related to the grave or the pits. Isolated pots have been recorded far removed from pits or shell heaps on eastern Long Island. This land has been under cultivation for 250 years. There were no Indian habitations in Orient when the first settlers occupied the area. This burial is the most easterly that an Indian grave has been recorded on the north branch of the Island, but not the only one in Orient, and the cremation graves of the Orient Focus people are only a half mile west on high hilltops.

RIVERHAVEN #1 (Twa 4-3) SITE
Grand Island, New York

Edward Kochan

Morgan Chapter

Riverhaven Site #1 (Twa 4-3) is located on Grand Island, an island in Erie County, located in the Niagara River between Lake Erie and the City of Niagara Falls, New York. The island, consisting of twenty-seven square miles of surface area, is fairly level and was undoubtedly created by the last ice age. The chief industry has been farming since the island was purchased by New York State from the Seneca Indians in 1815. At present, it is in a transitional state, from rural to suburban development.

Very little archaeological research has been done on the island since Frederic Houghton of the Buffalo Historical Society did some work there in the early 1900's. Intensive field work by the writer in the last three years has revealed a large area on the island's eastern-most promontory that contains aboriginal artifacts. The area straddles Spicer Creek and is approximately one mile long, one quarter mile wide, paralleling the Niagara River's east branch. Inasmuch as heavy concentrations of artifacts were found on extreme opposite ends of the site, with the intervening area apparently deficient of the same, it was decided for the sake of clarification, to call the concentration on the southern border, Site #1, and the northern border, Site #2, with Spicer Creek as the dividing line. It is Site #1 that is the subject of this paper.

Site #1 is bordered on the north by Spicer Creek, on the east by the East branch of the Niagara River, and on the south by a deep gully that runs in a south-westerly direction from the river bank. The area is a gentle rolling plain, rising in a south westerly direction from the river bank which is approximately six feet above the river level.

At the present time, the larger portion of the area is under intensive cultivation and excavation is impossible. A few sample holes have been dug in between seedings, but due to the nature of the soil, nothing definite was learned. In the early 1800's, the area was occupied by the Village of Whitehaven. A portion of the area has been under constant occupation since, and the rest of it has been under almost continuous cultivation. Thus, the soil has been completely disturbed and impregnated with white man's refuse for over a century. Should excavation be possible at some future date, it is doubtful if any of the early aboriginal occupation will be found undisturbed.

Surface collecting has been done from this site for the past three years by the writer, and a large inventory of artifacts has been collected. The majority of the artifacts would appear to be from the Late Archaic and Early Woodland periods,

although a small quantity of artifacts representing the Iroquoian period were found also. White man's artifacts from the earliest occupation to the present are also very numerous.

Some earlier collecting was done from this area by a Mr. Mark Reed, whose collection and notes may be found at the Buffalo Museum of Science. I have not at the time of this writing had the opportunity to view the collection or read the notes, but hope to do so in the near future.

The fact that many aboriginal cultures are represented by the artifact collection, leads one to believe that the site may not have been occupied permanently by any of them, but may have been a gathering place or a portaging point for travel across the island. Geographically, the evidence points to this theory, as the site is located at one of the more favorable fording points on the river. Tonawanda Creek, which undoubtedly was used for travel by the early aborigines empties into the river directly across from the site. On the opposite side of the island, another fording of the west branch of the Niagara River would lead the natives to the Welland River in Ontario, thus creating a travel route from the interior of the Niagara Peninsula in Ontario to the environs of the Genesee Valley in Now York. It is logical to believe that the moving tribes, traveling from east to west and vice-versa, crossed the formidable barrier of the Niagara River at this point, for above the island the river is swift in its descent from Lake Erie, and below the island is a series of rapids that drop over a tremendous precipice creating the Falls of Niagara. From the Falls, the river flows through a great gorge in a series of turbulent rapids, to empty into Lake Ontario. We have not as yet found any similar evidences on the west branch of the river as were found on the east branch to strengthen our theory. It is possible we never may, as much of that area of the island has been developed and the evidences may be destroyed.

At the present time, the area on which the site is located is up for sale to be subdivided into building lots. Grand Island's rapid transition from its present rural to suburban development may soon destroy the remaining evidence of the site, though we do intend to continue collecting from this area until, that time arrives.

Artifacts gathered to date from the site include:

Early Settler: Gunflints, oxen shoes, axes, china fragments, etc.

Projectiles: Notched, stemmed and triangular

Scrapers: Notched, beveled, triangular, simple end, and side scrapers

Drills: Straight, expanded base, notched, T and Y shape

*Mortuary Blades: Ovate, Lanceolate, and triangular

*Cache Blades: Various shapes and thickness, percussion chipped

Strike-a-lights: Isosceles triangular

Knives: Base and point fragments only

Celts: Fragments of various types

Hammerstones: Flint hammers, bi-pitted, and single pitted pebbles

Net Sinkers: Notched and combination sinker and whetstone

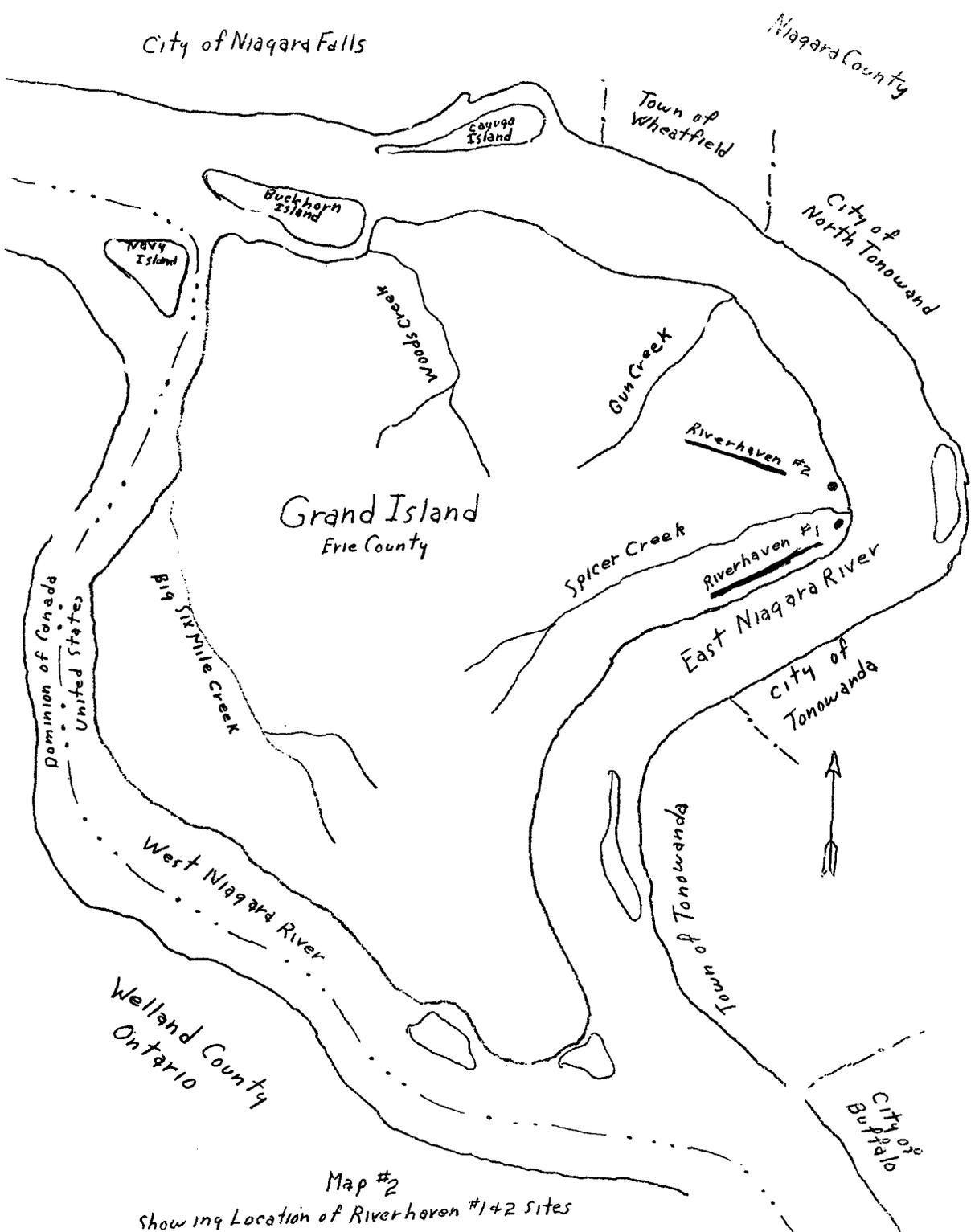
Sinew Stones: Grooved and combination sinew and whetstone

Whetstones: Tabular form

Pestles: Fragments of cylindrical type

Bone: None has been found

Pottery: A total of twenty-six small fragments, three of which are rims of the Iroquoian type, while the remainder are potsherds with no identifying features. Some are water-worn.



Map #2
Showing Location of Riverheron #1+2 Sites

Flint chips are prevalent and flint in various asymmetric shapes that may be considered to be quarry blanks are also common.

A large quantity of chipped items have been found that are broken in various stages of chipping, thus making their identification almost impossible.

* Mortuary blades as referred to in this report are differentiated from cache blades in that they are thin, finely chipped blades such as are usually found in association with burials, while the cache blades are generally similar in shape though larger and thicker in section, generally of crude percussion chipping.

VINETTE I POTTERY* IN THE CROTON RIVER MOUTH AREA

Louis A. Brennan

Metropolitan & Mid-Hudson Chapters

Two weeks ago, (March, 1962), while excavating in the middens at the Kettle Rock end of Croton Point about which we reported to this Association last year, the author, in the company of Mauck Brammer and Sigfus Olafson, came upon the first occurrence of descriptively Vinette I pottery in stratigraphic midden position in our twelve years of excavation in this area.

This pottery, interior and exterior cord marked, the cord marking of the interior and exterior at diagonals to each other, occurred in the top and last-deposited oyster shell heap in a complex of shell heaps of at least two different climatic epochs. The shells of this Vinette I-like pottery midden are small by comparison with those of the middens beneath it. This context confirms our finding of Vinette I-like pottery in association, in two other places, with heaps of small oyster shell. In the two previous instances the Vinette I-like pottery was discovered beyond the periphery of middens, rather than within the shell. Thus the association was probable without being actual.

The only other pottery found in two years (we are now entering our third year) of excavating at Kettle Rock Point, the northernmost, upriver tip of Croton Point, has also been found with small shell. Some sherds of this are interiorly channeled, which relates them to Vinette II ware. An examination of the literature places this type early in the Early Woodland Period and an inspection of the material itself by John Zakucia of Pennsylvania confirms that similar ware is found immediately succeeding Fayette Thick in the upper Ohio Valley and in Pennsylvania.

Thus the only pottery we have found in two years of digging at Kettle Rock Point is very early. This earliness or priority is confirmed by its stratigraphic position. The midden where our latest Vinette I-like pottery occurs itself lies under a top soil layer of from two to six inches. This soil consists of a high-Ac content which includes shell fragments from the decay of the top of the midden, and a good scattering of rolled-down stones from the hillside above. It represents the soil history here since the occupation by the Vinette I-like pottery makers.

But between this top midden and the midden below it is an exactly similar soil layer, consisting of rolled down stones in a one to four inch layer of black dirt. The domed shape of the lower middens--there are several separate shell heaps--is outlined in this black layer, obviously a long soil building period. The bottom series of middens are of

*Paper delivered at annual meeting of NYSAA, April 8, 1962

distinctly larger oyster shell, with an occasional scallop showing up. These contain no pottery, nor is there pottery in any heap of medium to large shell anywhere on Kettle Rock Point. We can, after over two years of digging at this location, assert with considerable conviction that pottery is associated here with little shell only, never with medium to big shell, and there are at least two soil building periods at Kettle Rock Point older than the Vinette I-like pottery.

If, as has been postulated, Vinette I is the primary ware in the northeastern states, and if our Kettle Rock pottery, which is descriptively Vinette I, is in fact Vinette I, then we can fix the date of our Kettle Rock middens by the occurrence of the little shell. From a study of ecological clues to dating, published in *American Antiquity*, July, 1958, under the title of "Ecological Interpretations in Archaeology," (Clement Meighan and others) we quote the following "Shell fish are also good indicators of general climatic conditions, reflecting changes in ocean temperatures quite precisely."

What the occurrence at Kettle Rock of Vinetta I-like pottery in dumps of little shell requires us to think is that these heaps were laid down during a relatively cool period, since the much larger shell of earlier middens show us that there had been in this sequence periods much more favorable to oyster growth, and hence much warmer. But the little oysters occur in the latest middens, with bigger oysters under them, not above them, and we must therefore assume that the climate was trending cool. Since no later middens occur in this vicinity we must further assume that after this time, conditions at Kettle Rock were never again by reason of climate and/or water conditions, favorable to the establishment of oyster beds.

The Orient Complex of Long Island, in some pottery of which Ritchie has found Vinette I resemblances, has been dated at approximately 3000 B. P. But the Orient Complex pottery is, technically at least, later than Vinette I. Therefore, when we search for a period of cooling trend of climate in which to place our Kettle Rock, Vinette I-like pottery we must look for a period before 3000 B. P. Consulting the graphs of the geologist Rhodes W. Fairbridge, published in *The Massachusetts Archaeological Bulletin* of April-July, 1960, we find that sea level began to drop, hence the climate to cool, at about 3500 B. P. Ergo our Vinette I-like pottery at Kettle Rock dates at about or just subsequent to that time, say no later than 3300 B. P.

This confirms the chronology for the Croton River mouth area placed by us before this conference last year, whereby our Parham Ridge site, a manifestation of our Q or quartzite tradition, with its steatite and no ceramics, dates from the younger Peron High of 3800 B. P. Thus, the sequence of heaps of larger oyster shell lying under, and separated from the smaller shells by soil horizons must be in the order of dates we have estimated, stretching back to about 6000 B. P.

At midden Locus 1 at Kettle Rock where Vinette I-like pottery occurred in two spots opposite each other on the midden periphery the meager artifact midden content consisted of a 2 in. long fishtail point, a 3 in. long narrow side-notched point, a narrow simple stemmed point, a large, broad asymmetric knife, two smaller knives, typical hammer stones and mullers, two quartzite choppers with considerable quartzite chipping debris and blue-gray (possibly Onondaga) chert strip blades with blue-gray and black chert spalls.

At midden Locus 3 at Kettle Rock the artifactual association with the pottery is not precise because the material recovered occurred at the edge of a midden complex of several separate heaps. The point styles included one thorn-shouldered point, one simple stemmed narrow point, a narrow asymmetric point, a point that is probably in

the fishtail tradition, four broad-stemmed points that would elsewhere be called Gary stemmed and three triangulars. Strip blades, use of quartzite, typical hammerstones and mullers and half a polished winged bannerstone occurred if not with the pottery at least in similar stratigraphy.

In midden Locus 4, where the Vinette I-like pottery was found in stratigraphic position, the only artifact that has turned up so far in the same dump is the base of a fishtail-like point smaller than but similar to the fish-tail point in midden Locus I. In an adjacent midden of small shell there occurred a short, broad-bladed, simple stemmed point, a quartzite stemmed point that may fall within a fish-tail or, more likely, an incipient fish-tail phase, a 3 in, narrow bladed side-notched point, half an oval winged bannerstone, quartzite spalls and typical hammerstones and mullers. But no pottery occurred in this dump.

Kettle Rock is not the only situation in the vicinity of the Croton River mouth where Vinette I-like pottery has been found by us. It was found in two places at our Crawbuckie Beach site on the Hudson just below the mouth of the Croton. The cultural context of this provenience of Vinette I is quite different from the Kettle Rock occurrence. The points of the latter are narrow bladed and stemmed or side-notched and some would be called Lamokoid descriptively although that is certainly not a good classification for them. At Crawbuckie, in so far as we can determine the point association it consists of (1) small, stubby side-notched points that have been called "little" or basic Laurentian by Don Dragoo in his "Archaic Hunters of the Upper Ohio Valley"; (2) thick, digital stemmed points and (3) broad, thick, bell-bottomed knives. The most striking feature of this culture, however, is the very considerable number of coin-sized snub-nosed scrapers that were used. We have found just one of these at Kettle Rock and they are certainly not prominent in what we have named the Q tradition along the Hudson, which is the narrow-bladed point tradition and which certainly has roots in the preceramic here, as we know from our Winterich site. Nor was the quartzite, so prominent in the Q tradition, a favored material of these Crawbuckie Vinette I people. There is plenty of quartzite at Crawbuckie, but it is with the narrow, short pattern of points we have come to expect to find it with.

Tentatively, then, we conclude that Vinette I-like pottery arrived in this vicinity with these Crawbuckie people, since their Vinette I ware differs a little, or we fancy that it differs a little, from that at Kettle Rock, with the Kettle Rock ware being thinner and somewhat more expert looking. We have always believed that these first Vinette I carriers arrived from the south and the pottery making trait was transmitted by them to the narrow-blade point makers of the Q tradition who were the continuing population in this section of the Hudson from indubitably pre-ceramic times.

The Vinette I carriers from the south did not become dominant in this area by any evidence we have come across but seem, rather, to have acculturated with the Q tradition people, influencing their point styles and, possibly, their bannerstone styles while merging otherwise into the living pattern of the long-native population.

This living pattern, on the evidence of the uniform volume of individual shell heaps that vary but little through the several horizons during which they were laid down, consisted of a basic population unit of perhaps a dozen to fifteen persons which visited a regular series of food gathering stations and depended on no one food resource for very long. Our Kettle Rock middens produce ample bone to testify to a substantial meat diet even while oysters were being consumed, and enough mullers to testify to the

probable substantial use of vegetable foods.

We are satisfied at this time that most of these bands had each its own peculiarity in projectile point style and that of ten, when several styles are found at a site they indicate only that several different bands camped at that site and not that many styles were made by the same people. The provenience of Vinette I-like pottery with variations in projectile point styles probably indicates no more than that this ware was manufactured through a rather extended period of time, say 300 years, by the natives of this area who were basically of the same blood and cultural traditions despite some differences in projectile point styling.

While we are satisfied that Vinette I pottery dates from about 3500 to 3300 B. P. we believe that a series of dates for it from Long Island, up the Hudson and into western New York and into New England would provide what amounts to a road map of the place of origin of eastern pottery and some eastern peoples. If this is the route of diffusion, Vinette I would obviously be older in the lower Hudson Valley area than in central and northern New York and New England.

THE NOK SITE (MDA 9 - 4)*

Stanley Vanderlaan

Morgan Chapter

Because of the presence of agriculture on some Indian sites, one desiring to do archaeological excavations sometimes finds the time very limited before planting and after the harvest. Such was the case of the Nok Site, a prehistoric village near Oakfield, in Genesee County, discovered by this writer in the spring of 1959. This site should not be confused with the Oakfield Fort, a well-known site.

While looking over a recently plowed field, which had been plowed deeper than usual, several dark areas containing flint chips, charcoal, bone fragments, and potsherds, were observed. We had hardly begun to excavate one of the most promising areas when a heavy downpour filled the hole with water and brought the digging to a soggy halt. Because of the heavy rain we expected that the farmer would not be able to work the field the next day, nor would we be able to dig, so we returned the second day to finish the pit. We were surprised to find the site had been worked and planted to oats the previous day. This and later crops stalled our attempts for nearly two and a half years to finish this pit.

In the fall of 1961, after again obtaining permission from the landowner, who must remain anonymous to protect the site, we again started excavating. At this time we were able to dig two large and one small pits before the site was again planted, this time to wheat, only ten days after corn had been harvested. Worked bone material recovered from the site consisted of four complete and five broken bone awls. One of the complete awls is decorated by incising and is one of the finest ever recovered by the writer. This is shown as Fig. A. A phalange bone bead was also found in one of these pits.

At least four different pipes were represented here. One bowl is undecorated, another has a single line horizontally around the top of the bowl with vertical rows of short horizontal lines beneath (Fig. B). The third pipe has four horizontal lines around the top of the bowl with a horizontal row of vertical punctates beneath (Fig. C). The fourth

*Reprinted from the Morgan Chapter NEWSLETTER, Vol. 2, No. 10, Oct., 1962

pipe is represented by a stem only, but is unusual in that the rear portion of an animal, possibly a lizard, stands out in relief on the top of the stem. It has legs with three toenails on each and a short tail (Fig. D). Another pipe stem was originally round, but the portion of the stem which would be in the smokers mouth had been ground down to make it hexagon shape.

Rims of 69 different pottery vessels were recovered and several vessels were partially restored. The largest is 17" across the top and 22" tall. Another is 9" x 14". A third vessel is only 4 1/2" x 7". While more than 69 rims are normally desired for pottery study on a given site these three pits were widely separated over the site so these rims should give a good sample of vessel designs used there.

A chart of technique and design on these rims is on the following page.

The Nok Site

Ontario Horizontal	45 rims	Horizontal rows of punctuation	5 rims
Oblique	1 rim	Motif of punctuation	8 rims
	46 66% incised		13 19% Punctuation
Corded Herringbone	1 rim		
Corded Horizontal	1 rim	Undecorated	1
Corded Oblique	1 rim		1% Undecorated
	3 4% Cord Wrapped Stick	Interrupted Linear	7
			10% Linear

In the January MORGAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER a graph (4B) shows the number of horizontal lines around the rims of the Ontario Horizontal designed pottery vessels. Four lines are the most common; three are next more common. This graph is correct however, as since its printing, another rim has been found which has 11 lines around it. Three of the NOK rims are "scalloped", as shown in Fig. E.

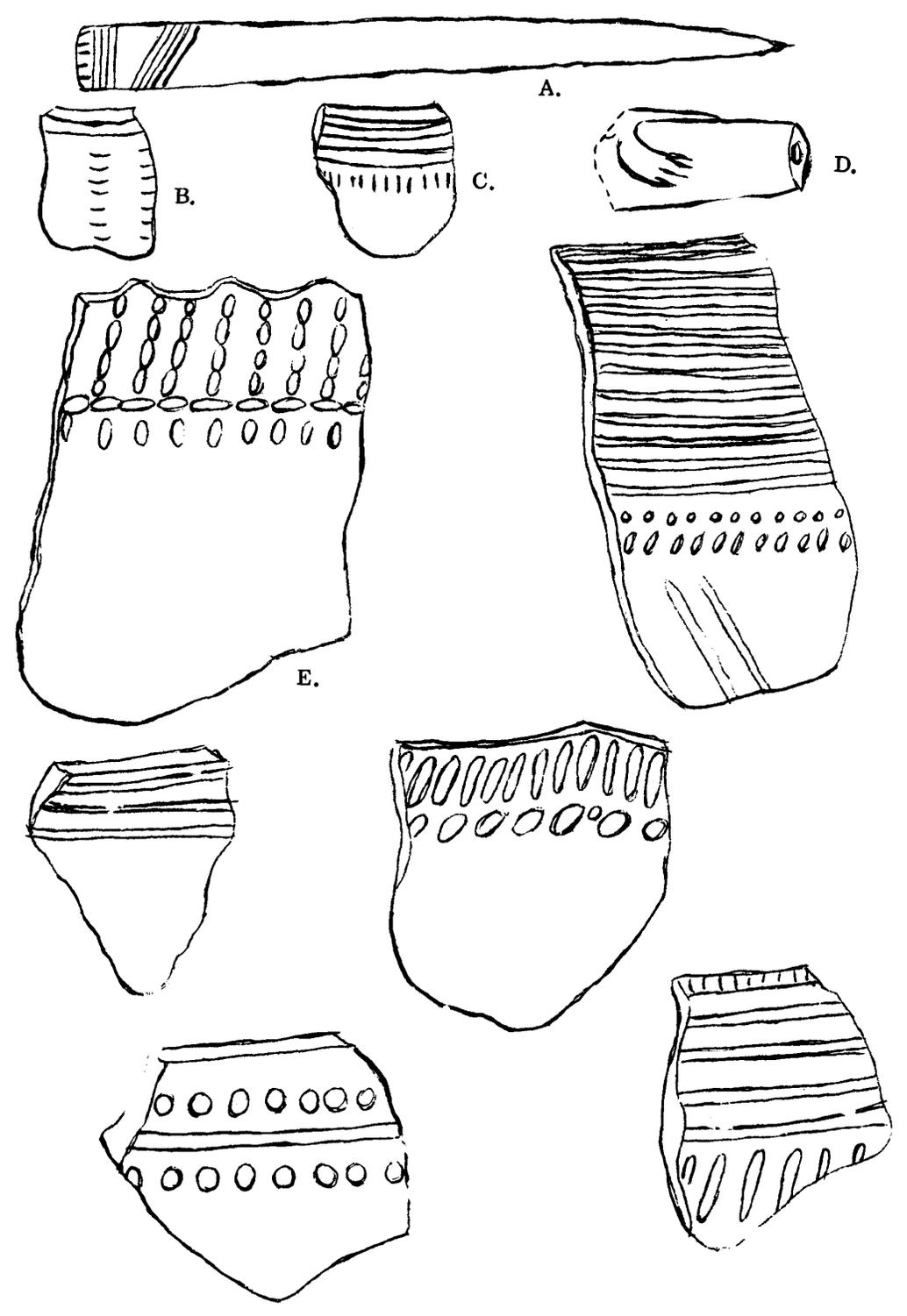
Many anvil stones, hammerstones, whetstones, sharpeners, celt fragments, flint scrapers, and triangular projectile points were also recovered from the site. A few "strike-a-lights" and one meadowood* point, probably a stray from Point Peninsula times were also found.

To date, we can compare the NOK site chronologically with a somewhat similar site, the Oakfield Site. From this it appears that the NOK site is more recent than the Oakfield Fort, but not as recent as Kienuka, where cord wrapped stick technique of decoration is completely absent.

	NOK	OAKFIELD FORT
Absence of Collar	9%	24%
Have Castellations	35%	34%
Lip Decorated	32%	22%
Lip and Interior Decorated	1%	7%
Cord Wrapped Stick Decorated	4%	11%
Median Size of Triangular Points	21 x 30 mm	23 x 34 mm
Bossed Rims		.2% (1 example)
Ontario Horizontal Design	65%	30% (next page)

*Ritchie, W. A. A TYPOLOGY AND NOMENCLATURE FOR N. Y. PROJECTILE POINTS

THE NOK SITE (MDA 9-4)
(All drawings actual size)



	NOK	OAKFIELD FORT
Animal Effigy in relief on pipes	1 example	
Maximum Number of Ontario Horizontal Lines (Directly proportional to collar height)	11	7

LITERATURE

In addition to the highly significant report on Tule Springs mentioned on page 1, 1962 produced another archaeological study that ought to be in the library of every chapter of NYSAA. This is "The Paleo-Indian Tradition in Eastern North America" by Ronald J. Mason in Current Anthropology, June, 1962.

In the method of presentation used by this new, and major, periodical (published five times a year) the lead article is accompanied by a series of critiques and comments by specialists who have read it before publication. Thus the Mason piece, about 20 pages long, is followed by 24 pages of critiques from 20 specialists in the area of the Paleo-hunter, the whole comprising the most definitive summary to date of the current state of knowledge of pre-Archaic, stone-projectile point cultures east of the Continental Divide. In his own summary of his piece, Mason says:

"Information from western sites and an analysis of the role of the hunting of Late Pleistocene big-game suggest, in the absence of contrary evidence, that it was this specialized subsistence base that initially granted man the necessary mobility to penetrate and occupy the East before diversification of his stone industry could occur.

"Indications of cultural units following the Clovis complex in time are provided by later fluted and non-fluted lanceolate points (Cumberland, Quad, Reagen, etc.) the distribution of which is more circumscribed.

"While we cannot demonstrate the emergence of the Archaic out of the antecedent Paleo-Indian stage there is good evidence that the delineation of some lines of affinity will be possible in the future."

Issue is taken with these views and other views are advanced by George A. Agogino, Douglas S. Byers, Chester S. Chard, John L. Cotter, Robert J. Drake, Richard G. Forbis, E. E. Greenman, David M. Hopkins, Dick E. I. Grasso, Arthur J. Jelinck, Alex D. Krieger, Carl F. Miller, H. Muller-Beck, Edward Norbeck, Olaf H. Prufer, Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., William B. Roosa, E. B. Sayles, John Witthoft, and H. M. Wormington. Altogether it's quite a package. And don't overlook in the same issue, "Potassium-Argon Dating at Olduvai Gorge" by F. Clark Howell

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