September 1948

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THE

ARCHEOLOG

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ARCHEOLOG

Sept. 15, 1948

"THE ARCHEOLOG"

You will note that this, our second issue of the News Letter of the Sussex Archaeological Association, is dignified by the name "Archeolog". We have been trying, with the many suggestions of our members, to give to this publication a name. The many titles submitted, such as "The Arrow", "The Digger", "The Sherd", etc., were very fine but did not have that something that we wanted for a title. Then out of a clear sky arrived a letter from Mr. Orville H. Peets in which he suggested "The Archeolog" as a fitting name for our paper. He coined this word by combining the first two syllables of the word "archeology" with the word "log", which is the complete record of a ship and the events of a voyage. When this suggestion was presented to the Association, it was adopted unanimously. We wish to thank Mr. Peets, and we hope that the material contained in this issue and future issues will be worthy of such a fine title.

NEW MEMBERS

Our last issue saw us with forty-two members. Since that time we have acquired twenty-two new members, making our present grand total sixty-four. We wish to welcome these new members to our Association and are pleased to publish their names in this issue of the ARCHEOLOG:

43.	Martin Berdit
44	Ethelvn Burns
45.	Frederick H. Butcher
Lin	W S Conknon
1.7	Famina C Componton
¥.6	Ediluna S. Carpenter
40.	Mrs. Cecil C. Fulton
49.	David B. Green
50.	Mrs. J. Robe Green
51.	Jacob Gruber
52.	Jack R. Lawton
53.	Wm. Typch
ST.	Henry Michael
27.	he N MeCaulor
22.	Wille Ne McCautey
20.	Horace S. Okle
5%.	John T. Purnell
58.	Howard Sammons
59.	Indrew W. Van Sant
60.	Molloy C. Vaughn
61.	Mrs. Mollov C. Vaughn
62.	Stephen C. Vaughn
62	Wm B Woughn
02.	T Uneminie Volugiui
04.	J. Franklin reager

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University of Pennsylvania Rehoboth, Del. Rehoboth, Del. Rehoboth, Del. University of Toronto, Canada Dover, Del. Milford, Del. Baltimore, Md. Temple University Lewes, Del. Lewes, Del. University of Pennsylvania Georgetown; Del. Georgetown; Del. Georgetown; Del. Georgetown, Del. Dover, Del. Lewes; Del. Lewes; Del. Lewes; Del. Lewes; Del. Lewes; Del. Lewes; Del. Silver Springs; Md.

REPORT OF EXHIBIT COMMITTEE KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTY FAIR

The exhibit of artifacts from the Townsend Site, placed in the State Board of Education Building at the Harrington Fair, was considered successful. It consisted of seven implements. These were placed in a locked show case which was Ioaned to the SAA by the senior class of the Lewes High School.

A restoration of a "bundle" burial was prepared and exhibited in a case made by Roger Vandegrift. Another year, learning from experience, the Committee, if it wishes to display a burial, should provide a cover for the case. Visitors plucked most of the Indian's teeth for souvenirs. This particular exhibit attracted a great deal of attention.

A large sign, identifying the display as belonging to the Sussex Archaeological Association, was painted on celotex by our member, Mr. Orville Peets, and was tacked to the sloping beams over the exhibit.

A series of enlargements of five pictures of activities and recoveries at the site was tacked to the wall behind and above the show cases and received much favorable comment for their excellence. The Association is fortunate in numbering among its members, our good and devoted photographer, Fred Butcher. Both the original prints and the enlargements were his work. They added greatly to the effectiveness of the exhibit and expressed some of the vitality of the dig.

Appreciation is due members W. S. Imgram, Jr., Ralph and Mrs. Karl, Roger Vandegrift, Adele Chambers, and Ken Givan for serving as counselors and guides. Each was responsible for one day's service.

The Association is also indebted to Otto Zacharias for the use of his truck for taking material and cases to Harrington before the Fair and hauling it back to Lewes afterwards and to the State Board of Education for the use of the allotted space in its building. Appreciation is also due officials of the Kent and Sussex County Fair Association for their generosity in the matter of passes for both people and automobiles.

Committee on Fair Exhibit

Orville Peets Roger Vandegrift Geiger Omwake, Chairman

are to be given to the Association. Mr. Carpenter has directed the survey of the site and a complete master map of the site, showing all contours and features of the site, is in progress of making. Mr. Carpenter will prepare the ceramic report.

The Committee reports that Lewis Purnell and his dad, Harold, have found trade goods in one of the pits. These goods consist chiefly of fragments of old "Dutch" bricks and white clay pipes. A fragment of brick has been sent over to Mr. G. S. Helbe, Director of the Municipal Museum at Gouda, Holland, for identification and possible chemical analysis. One of the pipe stems bore the letters EB on the heel. These appeared first in Briston, England, in 1650 as the work of one Edward Battle. In the year 1672 these initials were recorded in the Iists of the pipe-makers guild at Gouda.

Vandalism has appeared at the site. The skulls of four burials were disturbed, one being moved a considerable distance, three being crushed by attempts to remove them. The entire skeleton of a small animal excavated most carefully by the Purnells was completely destroyed, most of it having been carried away. The Committee recommends the erection of a sign welcoming visitors but warning against molesting exposed features.

The Committee calls attention to the urgency of keeping accurate charts, records, and field notes and again points out the responsibility of those members who have excavated pits to prepare the pit analysis reports at once and turn them in to the Committee in order that all information may be saved. This is an obligation which members should meet promptly and accurately.

All in all, progress has been satisfactory and the job is being done in an accurate manner fitting the importance of the site. The Committee commends the care with which most members have done their jobs.

Project Committee

Harold Purnell Orville Peets Ralph Karl Roger Vandegrift Geiger Omwake, Chairman

OF INTEREST

Welcome back!

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We are glad to welcome back to Lewes Mr. James Moore, principal of the High School, and Mr. Warren Schneller, science teacher in the high school. We hope they will enjoy "Digging" this fall and winter.

More Work

Several new sites within a radius of 2 miles of the Townsend Site have been reported recently. If they are as rich as the prospects indicate, mombers of the SAA will enjoy a lot of digging for a long, long time. We will really fill in the picture of Indian life in the Lewes area of Sussex.

Good luck

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One of our most active diggers leaves this week for a battle with the instructors at Yale University. Louis Purnell, who serves in the United States Foreign Service, has been sent to Yale for further schooling, after which the State Department threatens to send him to Burma. Your friends wish you the best of luck, Louis.

Recovering

Our official photographer, Fred Butcher, we are glad to report, is recovering from an injury to his back and will soon be on the job again developing pictures of the Townsend Site dig.

by

H. Geiger Omwake

In the spring of 1931, in the course of grading the playground of the Lewes School by horse-drawn scoop to provide for tennis courts, there was uncarthed a single human burial. The fact that the remains were scooped out along with a quantity of oyster and clam shells suggested that the skeleton was that of an Indian. Although the skull was badly mutilated by the scoop, one of the teachers at the school, Mr. Irvin Kepner, salvaged what remained of the fragments and sent them to the writer who was able to fit together enough of the pieces to reconstruct a goodly portion of the skull. In the spring of 1948 this partial skull was forwarded to the United States National Museum for possible identification and measurement.

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In the fall of 1947 the writer became associated with the Lewes School. Remembering the finding of the skull fragments he, in company with Mr. James A. Moore, also associated with the school, made a censory examination of the playground and the adjacent fields. In one of them, not far from the reported area of the burial, a refuse pit was located. Moore excavated and found it to be a small pit, three feet in diameter, three feet in depth, and having a conical shape. Contents were only three small body fragments of paddle-marked pottery. Shell refuse consisted of about equal parts of clams and oysters. There was nothing unusual or distinctive about the pit.

During August 1948 further grading operations were undertaken on the school playground which had been enlarged through the purchases of the field in which had been located the shell refuse pit described above. Grading was accomplished by tractordrawn scoop and was of such a nature that removal of all top soil was required before the subsoil was disturbed. The writer and Moore kept careful check to discover what evidences of Indian occupation might be revealed by removal of the topsoil.

The accompanying sketch tells the story. The location of the burial is given as approximate from verbal accounts of eyewitnesses. Other features have been plotted to show their actual location.

Most interesting were the shell refuse pits of which six more were located.

Two of these, R2 and R3, contained an unusual greasy earth. Both held comparatively small shell deposits of oysters and clams. R2 had a few small conch shells and R3 a number of very large ones. R2 contained a large quantity of badly burned fragments of bone, most of which came from the legs of small birds. Deer was represented as well as box turtle. R3 contained

no bone refuse. Both pits gave heavy evidence of the presence of fire. The earth was replete with particles of charcoal and burned pulverized shell. Both contained a few fragments of pottery, some incised, which are shown in the accompanying sketches.

Both R2 and R3 were slightly oval in shape. R2 had an approximate diameter of 40" and a depth of 36" from the surface of the ground. The top soil depth was 9". R3 was 24" in diameter and 25" in depth. Both were cylindrically shaped, vertically, and had slightly rounded bottoms. The earth immediately surrounding both pits was stained.

R4 was somewhat different. It was almost perfectly round, two feet in diameter, and tapered conically to a depth of two feet. There was no evidence whatsoever of fire. Refuse consisted of a tightly packed compact mass of oyster and clam shells. The majority of all clam shells were broken. There was no black greasy earth, no bone refuse, and only three small fragments of blanched turtle shell. The oyster and clam shells were marked by an unusual whiteness of color.

There is some question in the mind of the writer whether the pit designated as R5 ought to be called a refuse pit or a fire pit. It was much larger than other fire pits yet it contained an abundance of fragments of charred wood, two pieces of fire-crack3d stone, and held a layer of clay which was burned to a reddish brown color. At the bottom of the pit was a layer of oyster shell refuse and elsewhere in the upper levels of disturbed earth were several fragments of paddle-marked pottery. For these latter reasons it has been designated a refuse pit.

R5 was oval in shape, having a long diameter of five feet and a short diameter of 40". Its depth was three feet from the top of the ground with top soil measuring six inches at the location of this pit. The bottom was flat and was of white sand. Resting on the sand was a 2" layer of oyster shells. Above them was a deposit of black greasy earth containing much charcoal. Immediately above this blackened carth was a 4" layer of burned clay of reddish brown color. The balance of the pit contained disturbed earth and many fragments of charred wood. Three paddle-marked pottery fragments from which the shell tempering material had leached out occurred in the disturbed earth at random depths and was in such poor condition that it crumbled to the touch.

R6, 30th in diameter and 42th deep, had vertical sides and a slightly rounded bottom. It contained a large quantity of burned and broken oyster, clam, and mussel shells which rested on a layer of black earth ten inches thick at the bottom of the pit. There was no bone refuse. Pottery consisted of large fragments of two vessels and single sherds of three others.

R7, slightly oval in shape, had a diameter of six feet and a depth of two feet. It contained a large quantity of oyster and clam shells, several conchs, and many charcoal particles. There were several fire-cracked stones, but no pottery.

The area shown as on the map was a foot deep disturbed section of the field which might have been a refuse pit. There was some fire-cracked stone, a large quantity of broken and scattered oyster and clam shells, one small pot sherd, a small quantity of bird bones and turtle shell fragments. However, mixed in with the apparent aboriginal material were pieces of broken red brick and crockery of no great age. Cultivation had so mixed up the evidence that nothing certain may be said about the area.

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Two areas of disturbed earth which seemed unusual were found and investigated. The first was approximately three feet in diameter and four feet in depth. The second measured 3'6" in diameter and had a depth of 4'. Depth measurements include the 9" top soil layer. No aboriginal objects and no shell refuse occurred in either disturbed area. They are presumed to represent storage holes which were filled in subsequent to use as such. There were traces of charcoal in both. These areas are designated as S1 and S2 on the accompanying map.

Seventeen small pits, presumed to have been fire pits, were found and recorded. Each of these contained a minimal quantity of clam and/or oyster shells, considerable charred wood particles, and much very black earth. In the second was found a crudely chipped, drilled-shaped, stemmed point of brown pebble jasper. These small pits varied in diameter from approximately one foot to slightly more than two and all had rounded bottoms. Maximum depth into the subsoil was six inches. These small pits appear on the map under the designation F.

In addition to the features noted above, frequent small, round areas of disturbed earth containing many particles of charcoal were observed but not recorded. Investigation revealed nothing but shallow deposits of blackened earth, each about 6 inches in diameter. They were not fire pits, nor did they resemble post moulds or tree stumps. There was no pattern of distribution which might have suggested structures.

Pottery recovered from R2 and R3 and R6 is represented in the accompanying sketches. There was an insufficient quantity in any pit to permit restoration. Patterns of incised line decoration follow closely those being found currently at the nearby Townsend Site.

In conclusion it must be pointed out that this report is intended merely to record the passing of a small aboriginal site. Too frequently the progress of modern civilization has obliterated all evidence of pre-historic occupation without so much as a brief notation.



A word should be added in regard to excavation by tractordrawn scoop. Modern earth-moving machines can be regulated almost to the half inch. It was observed that the scoop made a clean cut, leaving well exposed on the top of the subsoil all the evidences of aberiginal occupation. Two of the refuse pits, R4 and R6, were damaged in the process, their upper layer having been sheared off. This was partly due to the fact that no blackened earth was contained in the upper part of the pits and their presence was not evident until the upper layer of the subsoil was peeled off. Otherwise, all the pits, refuse, storage, and fire, presented a cleanly outlined appearance. The neat job of soil removal done by the scoop suggests that this method might be tried to advantage on other archaeological sites where the top soil is not likely to contain evidence of importance.

Finally, the meagre evidence recovered from the seven relatively small refuse pits bears striking resemblance to the materials currently being recovered from the well-known Townsend Site. The Lewes School yard site is presumed, therefore, merely to represent an extension of the cultural pattern revealed there.