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INDIAN RESERVATIONS OF THE MARYLAND PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ON THE MIDDLE DELMARVA PENINSULA.

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Henry H. Hutchinson

Many papers have been published about the Indians on the middle third of the Delmarva Peninsula, but we have not seen any dealing with the reservations that the Colonial Government of Maryland granted to them when the English settlers commenced to crowd the Indians in their homeland. Nor have we seen any published maps that show the relationship between these reservations. Three of these reservations are referred to frequently in the Colonial Maryland records, and others have been mentioned in tradition and in published literature. (1) This paper attempts to summarize the legislative Acts regarding the three principal reservations and to show on the accompanying map their location and relationship to present day towns and waters. Also I have collected some of the available and pertinent information concerning their origins and boundaries, and the rights and restrictions of the Indians thereon. Subsequent research may bring forth authentic facts about the other reservations, and if we find sufficient facts, they will be presented in a later paper.

On the accompanying map the streams and rivers are from the U.S.G.S. maps and are, (except for the mill-ponds on many of the small streams), about the same as they were when the Indians were here. Principal present day towns are shown to make an easy orientation of the reservations, and some of the pre-contact period Indian villages or camp sites are shown in small circles. No modern roads are shown, as they would be confusing on a map of so small a scale.

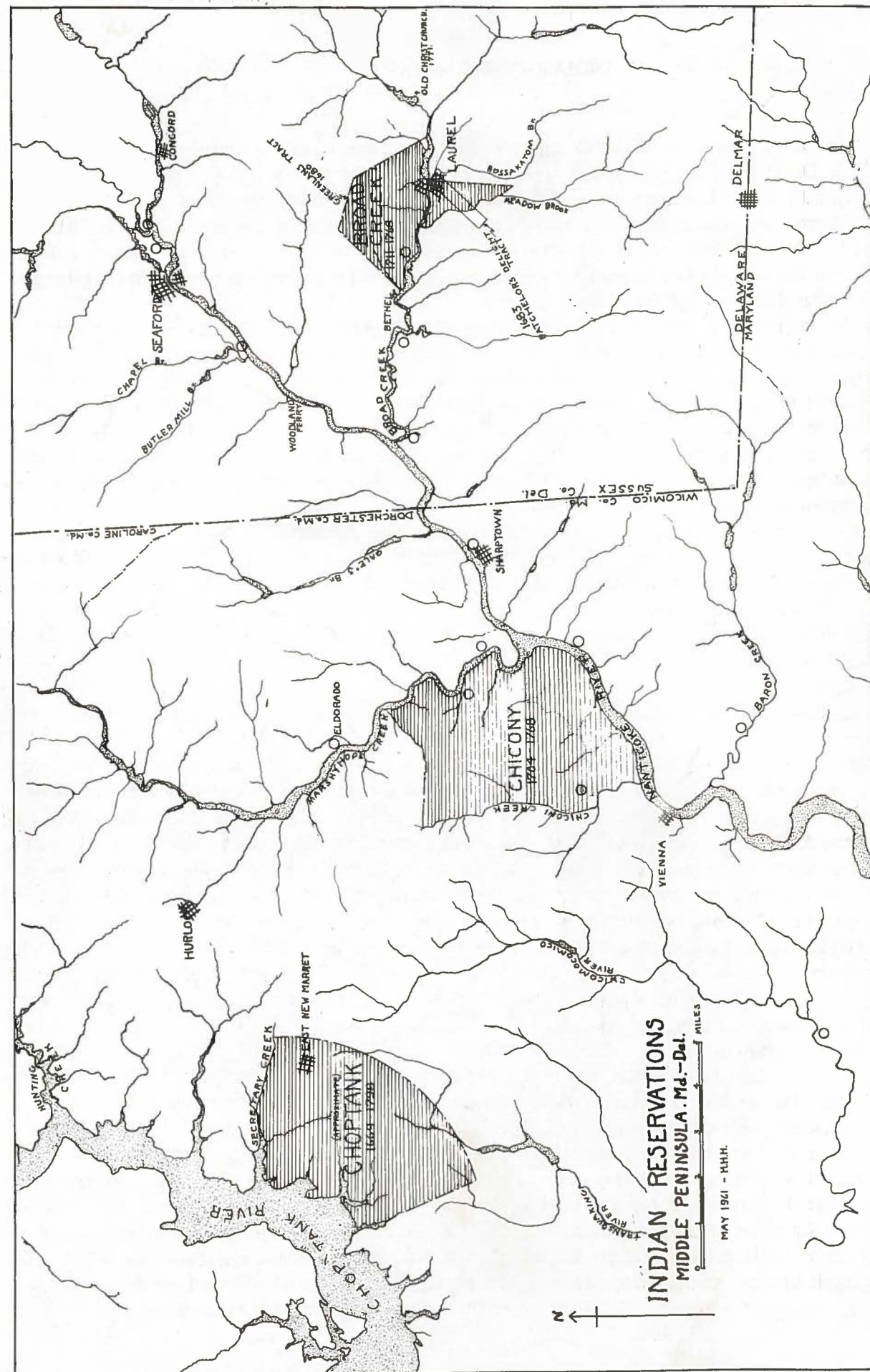
CHOPTANK RESERVATION.

In 1669 the Colonial Assembly of Maryland "for the continuation of peace with, and protection of, our neighbors and confederates, the Indians on the Choptank ... on account of the fidelity of the Choptank Indians in delivering up some murderers ... settles upon them and their heirs forever ... all that land on the south side of the Choptank River, bounded westerly by the freehold now in the possession of William Dorrington, and easterly with secretary Sewall's Creek (now called Secretary Creek) for breadth, and for length three miles into the woods: to be held of his Lordship under yearly rental of six beaver skins" (2).

In 1723 an Act passed by the Colonial Assembly of Maryland provided that on the Choptank Reservation "no lease already made by the Indians for a term of years, or for life, was to be in force longer than seven years from the end of the present session; and all gifts, sales, grants, or leases made by the said Indians since November 1721 on the south side of Sewall's Creek and the southern branch thereof, were to be declared null and void and of no effect." Also that same Act provided for the enforcement of the regular payments of debts accruing to the Indians on leases not contravening the above provisions bona fide made since the year 1721, "provided such purchases were made when the Indians were sober and of sound and perfect memory" (2).

In 1741 an Act was passed by the Assembly by which Charles Sewall, Esq., was satisfied (amount not stated) for such lands laid out for the Choptank Indians, since his father Nicholas Sewall had not been paid for them during his lifetime. The Act also stated that when the Indians should totally desert these lands, they should be sold for the good of the public (2).

In 1785 the Governor and Council were authorized to treat with the Indians in Dorchester County for the purchase of their lands and to pay them an annuity (2). Nothing seems to have



been done under this Act, and in 1790 a similar Act was passed and nothing done; so it was repealed in 1798 and another Act of similar nature passed, under which a contract was made with the Choptank Indians who remained on the reservation. This was acknowledged in 1799 with the settlement being summarized as follows: Mary Mulberry and Henry Mulberry her son to receive ten acres of land on which her house stood and ten acres of woodland, plus an annuity of \$160.00 paid quarterly. Henry Sixpence to receive the same in land and an annuity of \$100.00 paid quarterly. Thomas Joshua to receive the same in land and an annuity of \$160.00 paid quarterly. Ester Henry to receive no land but was allowed annuity of \$30.00. The land was to be theirs as long as they or their direct descendants lived thereon, but if they deserted the land it reverted to the State. The balance of the land was directed to be sold and the monies to go to the public use (2).

CHICONI RESERVATION

In 1698 an Act to create a reservation for the Nanticoke Indians of Dorchester County, Md., was passed, but was repealed in 1704 and another Act of essentially the same nature was enacted which described the bounds of the reservation "for the use of the Nanticoke Indians in Dorchester County, so long as they should occupy and live upon the same." This Act in its preamble stated that it was "most just" that "the Indians, the ancient inhabitants of the Province ... especially the Nanticoke Indians in Dorchester County, who for many years past had lived in peace and concord with the English and in obedience to the government" should be given lands for their own use.

This reservation was described as beginning at the mouth of Chickawan Creek (now called Chiconi Creek), extending up that creek to its headwaters, thence along a straight line to the headwaters of Francis Anderton's Branch, thence down this creek to where it flows into the North West Fork of the Nanticoke (now called the Marshyhope Creek), thence down the North West Fork to its mouth in the main river (Nanticoke River), thence down the main river to the beginning at the mouth of Chickawan Creek. This was confirmed and assured unto "Panquash and Annotoughquan and the people under their government or charge, and their heirs and successors forever."

This Act also provided that the Indians should pay a yearly rent of one beaver skin, and that should the Indians desert the said land, the former grantees of the proprietary might enter upon same, and that those grantees should not be liable to quit rents until they should be in possession thereof (2).

In 1711 The Nanticoke Indians on the Chiconi Reservation claimed that their lands were worn out and insufficient for their use, and prayed for additional lands, which were granted to them (2). (See Broad Creek Reservation below.)

In 1723 on a complaint from the Indians of "repeated and excessive trespass" on their lands in Dorchester County, an Act was passed to assure the Indians of their "free and uninterrupted possession of the tract lying between the North Fork of the Nanticoke River and Chicucune Creek" ... "so long as they or any of them should think fit to use and not totally desert and quit claim the same." By this Act they were also debarred from the right of selling, or leasing for a term of years any part of said land (2).

In 1768 an Act of the Assembly gave clear title to certain tracts of land, in the Chiconi Reservation bounds, to Robert Darnell and Sarah his wife, Henry Steel and Ann his wife, and John Henry and Dorothy his wife, which said Sarah, Ann, and Dorothy were co-heiresses of Col. John Rider deceased, and who claimed parts of the 3,000 acres named "Reserve", "Handsell", and "Bartholemew's Close," which had been taken as part of the Reservation (2)(3). So by this Act it appears that the Indians had totally deserted this reservation by 1768.

BROAD CREEK RESERVATION

In 1711 on the complaint of the Nanticoke Indians on the Chiconi Reservation, the Maryland Assembly passed an Act to purchase 3,000 acres of land on Broad Creek, a branch of the Nanticoke River in Somerset County, for the use of these Indians, as they claimed their lands on the Nanticoke River were worn out and insufficient for their use. Commissioners were appointed to lay out, evaluate, and purchase same, to be held in trust for the Indians as long as they should occupy said lands (2).

One of the earliest grants of land in the area near the present town of Laurel, Del., was a tract called "Greenlands" comprising 2,500 acres on the north side of Broad Creek, patented to Wm. Green in 1680. Apparently this whole tract was selected as part of the reservation. The balance of the reservation was on the south side of Broad Creek and included part of a tract named "Batchelor's Delight" which had been patented to James Wyth and Marmaduke Nestor in 1683, and which covered much of the land where the town of Laurel, Del., now stands.

The boundaries of both tracts of land are described as beginning at the "wadeing place" on Broad Creek. To establish just where this "wadeing place" was, we have several leads. First, one would naturally expect such a "wadeing place" to be at or above the head of tidewater. According to the U.S.G.S. Map (4) the contour lines would indicate that tidewater would have extended to where the town of Laurel is now, and not much, if any, further than where the dam of Records Pond is now. Second, the early settler in selecting his location for a milldam would naturally pick a shallow site above tidewater where the banks were suitable. The Records Pond milldam seems to fit these requirements. Third, if we start from the north end of the Records Pond milldam, take the "meets and bounds" of the tract on the north side of Broad Creek as given by Weslager (3) and lay them out on the U.S.G.S. map, we find that they come to a point on Whale Creek. This Whale Creek coincides with a small stream just north of the present town of Bethel. Now that same stream is called "Well Creek, the boundary of the Indian lands" in a patent of land called "Jobs Lot" to Job Sherman in 1729 (5). This "Jobs Lot" took in the northern end of the town of Bethel, and I think these points are conclusive evidence in establishing the northern part of the "wadeing place". Fourth, now turning to the south side of Broad Creek, both Scharf (6) and Westlager (3) give the beginning of the 500 acres on the south side of Broad Creek, as "a marked white oak near the wadeing place." A survey made in 1813 by Levin Collins shows a plat of part of the town of Laurel and the location of "an old white oak stump, the first boundary of the Indian Lands." Levin Collins further states that this stump was shown to him by a certain elderly man named Charles Moore in 1789 or 1790 as being the first boundary of the Old Indian Lands, and that this was done in the presence of a number of persons who had been called together for that purpose (7). His plat places this old white oak stump about 230 feet north 17-1/2 degrees east from a point where the present Pine Street extended would cross the present Market Street. The plat shows the "cripples" extending to within about 60 feet from said stump (7). Since all of the above items point to the "wadeing place" as being very near where the Records Pond milldam now stands, we can lay out with reasonable accuracy the area covered by both parts of this reservation.

Wm. Green was paid 50,000 lbs. of tobacco for "Greenlands," his 2,500 acre tract on the north side of the creek. The owners of "Batchelor's Delight" were paid 2,660 lbs. of tobacco for that part of the tract that was within the reservation on the south side of the creek. Also the "true owners" of the balance of the south side tract were allowed 7,334 lbs. of tobacco. Henry Freaks was paid 3,000 lbs. of tobacco for damage to buildings and fencing, and Wm.

Denston, Jr., 500 lbs. for work in preparing to build and settle on said lands (3) and (6). Total cost was 63,494 lbs. of tobacco.

Apparently no further Acts of the Colonial Assembly of Maryland were passed specifically pertaining to the Nanticokes of the Broad Creek Reservation until 1768, when an Act stated that the greater part of the Nanticoke Indians had left the Province, that the remaining few were, as appeared by their petition, desirous of departing and joining themselves with the Indians of the Six Nations, and that they prayed that some consideration be made to them for quitting the lands that had been granted to their tribe. They had given a certain Amos Ogden power of attorney to act for them. Agreement was therefore made with Amos Ogden to pay him for the Indians six hundred and sixty-six and two thirds dollars, for a complete release of all claims to the tract of 3,000 acres on Broad Creek, in Somerset County, Maryland (2)(8).

Wm. Allen, Levin Gale, and Henry Steel were authorized to sell the Broad Creek Reservation lands and to turn the receipts over to the "treasurer of the eastern shore for the Province." John Mitchel bought 2,236 acres and Joseph Foreman the remainder said to contain 518 acres (6). Someone has suggested that Maryland wanted to sell these lands quickly before Delaware realized that they were within her (or Pennsylvania's) borders according to the recently agreed upon boundaries. If this surmise is true, it is about the first time that Maryland got ahead of the Pennsylvanians in a land deal.

MISCELLANEOUS

A few other Acts that pertain to reservations in general might be mentioned.

In 1704 it was ordained that persons cutting or carrying away timber from lands within Indian Bounds, should be treated as trespassers and liable for damage (2).

In 1721 Commissioners were appointed to resurvey the Indian lands, and in 1723 that survey was confirmed (2).

In 1756 the County Courts were empowered, upon petition, to determine in a summary way, all complaints against persons holding Indian Lands and refusing to pay the rents agreed upon, and to give judgment thereon, and award execution and costs (2).

On our map we have shown the outline of the tract called "Batchelor's Delight", since it is of local interest (9).

Also of local interest are the names and places referred to in a survey made in 1810-1811 of the part of the Broad Creek Reservation on the south side of the creek (10).

REFERENCES and NOTES

1. C. A. Weslager, Indians of the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland (1950).
2. John Kilty, The Landholders Assistant, 351-357 (1808). Kindness of the Land Commissioner's Office, Annapolis, Md.
3. C. A. Weslager, The Nanticoke Indians, A Refugee Tribal Group of Pennsylvania (1948).
4. U.S.G.S. Map, Seaford Quadrangle, ed. of 1915, reprinted 1944.
5. Photostat of Patent to Job Sherman of "Job's Lot" dated 1729; from Maryland Land Office. In possession of H. H. Hutchinson.
6. J. Thomas Scharf, History of Delaware (1888).
7. Levin Collins, Manuscript Indenture and Plat, dated 1813, belonging to Mrs. Nan Fooks Campbell, Laurel, Delaware.
8. The question has been raised of Maryland using "dollars" in 1768, before the Revolution. I have in my possession Maryland paper money authorized in 1770, 1774, and 1776,

payable in "dollars." There probably were earlier authorizations of this paper dollar money. This paper money stated on its face that it was the equivalent of four shillings and sixpence sterling per dollar. (HHH)

9. Photostat of Original Grant of "Batchelor's Delight," in possession of Mr. Carmel Moore, Laurel, Del.
10. Between Oct. 10, 1810 and Dec. 22nd, 1811, Levin Collins of near Laurel, Del., surveyed what appears to be the boundary of the "Old Indian Lands" on the south side of Broad Creek. The original manuscript field notes of this survey were in the possession of Mrs. Nan Fooks Campbell of Laurel, and are now preserved in the State Archives in Dover. There are twelve pages, most of which are very much weathered and torn along the top edges, so that from one to three lines on each page are missing or indecipherable; it is impossible to plot a continuous line of his work, since it is broken in eleven places. There are many names and places mentioned near which his lines ran. Some of these may be of interest to Sussex Countians. Gilly Moore is mentioned several times as being his authority in identifying land lines. Other names and places are given below in the order in which they appear in his notes:

Doctor Folks house (or Polk's)
The sawmill
The Ferry Road
The Plantation
Georgetown Road
Mitchel's New Road
Indian land
Mitchell & Fourman
Cripples of creek
Eskridge Plantation
W. R. Daniel's House
Isaac Benson's field
Field where Neomiy Eskridge lives
Bridge over Cool Creek
Widow Eskridge's field
Plantation where William Johnson lives
Plantation where Cha's Thompson lives
Stevens (or Stebens) Freehold
O'Neal's house

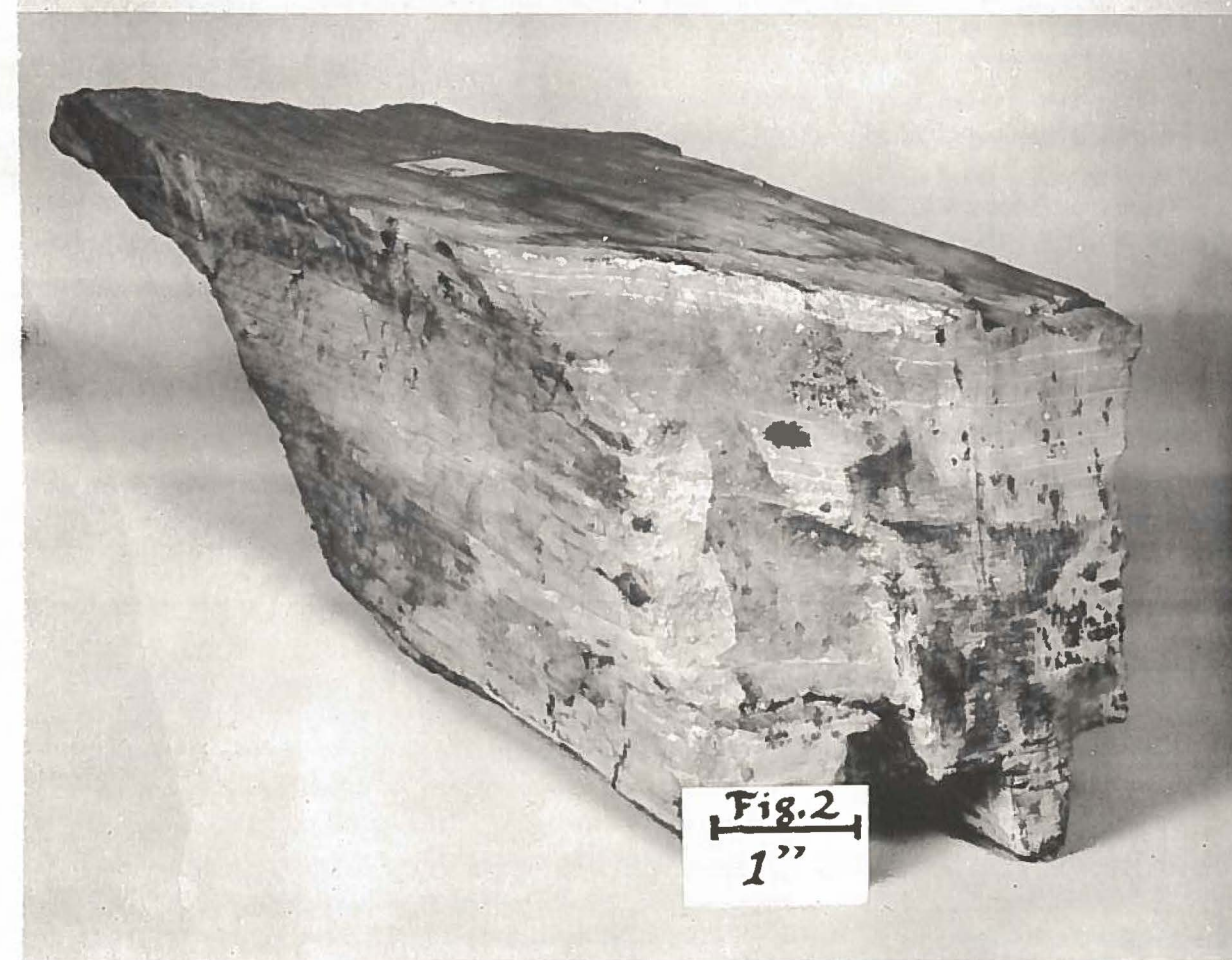
Widow Johnson's house
Wm. Johnson house
Edmond Johnson's Survey
Wiley's land
Hufferyton's land
School House
Meeting house
Jane Wiley
Mill Dam
Grist mill
Bryon's (or Bryan's) house
Tobey's Landing
"Now or Never"
Cooper's fence
Elliot's field
Widow Wiley's fence
Jeffers Adventure
William Cooper
Batchelor's Contrivance
Dr. Polk's House

REPORT ON FIVE ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS OF PETRIFIED WOOD

David Marine

Since the first report (ARCHEOLOG, 1960, XII, No. 1) we have received five additional pieces of petrified wood found in the area between the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays making a total of six specimens to date.

In hastily scanning the paleobotanical literature only a few reports related to this area have been found. One very brief account by Penny (1) deals with fossil, but not petrified wood. He states "during dredging operations along the C. and D. Canal in eastern Delaware tons of lignitic and succiniferous (amber bearing) logs were uncovered from the upper Cretaceous period strata - all were conifers of the Pityoxylon, Araucarioxylon and Brachyoxylan types".



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SPECIMEN 2 (Figure 1) was presented by Robert R. Bell. It was found near Leipsig, Delaware, along with many other fragments of similar material and consists of a small rectangular fragment measuring $6\frac{1}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{13}{16}$ inches and weighs 8 ounces. In color it is uniformly brownish yellow. It is exceedingly hard. This flattened piece has been split off quite smoothly along the tree ring lines. The ends show sharp fracture lines of the individual rings with no polishing or rounding of the angles of fracture. There are several irregular tunnels of small wood borers. These tunnels average $\frac{1}{16}$ inch in diameter and still show plugs of the petrified borings. Most of the tunnels follow a given tree ring but others cross the rings. There are six growth rings clearly outlined and fairly uniform in thickness - averaging $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. The early and late wood layers are distinct but their finer structure is not visible. The material probably is almost pure silica and dates from the lower Cretaceous period (70 million years). It is almost certainly of coniferous origin.

SPECIMEN 3 (Figure 2) was presented by Warren Calloway. It was found in Kent County, Maryland, along with several other pieces of similar material. In color it is deep cream with widely scattered brown areas of variable size. The piece measures $12 \times 3\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{5}{8}$ inches and weighs 8 lbs. 1 oz. The specimen is roughly rectangular. The outer and inner surfaces parallel individual tree rings. The sides are also roughly parallel and the fracture lines are fairly even. Both ends show irregular fractures sharply outlining the individual rings. The rings are very distinct both in the sawed cross section and fracture lines. They are uniform in thickness - averaging $\frac{1}{8}$ inch with relatively wide early wood and narrow sharply demarcated late wood nearly white in color. There are no distortions from compression and the finer structure of the rings is not visible. Thirty one rings are present. The specimen came from the outer portion of a large tree trunk as is indicated by the outer surface being only slightly convex over a width of $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches and the inner surface is equally concave. The material is very hard and is probably similar to that in Specimen No. 2. Dr. Mamay (2) thinks the specimen is of coniferous origin but of a different family from Specimen No. 2 - possibly a cypress.

SPECIMEN 4 (Figure 3) was presented by Frank Austin. It was found on the south side of the Murderkill River in Kent County, Delaware, on the low flat land adjacent to the marshland of Delaware Bay. The specimen measures $13\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ inches and weighs 3 lbs. 14 oz. There has been considerable weathering of the ends and lateral surfaces, and it is least on what appears to be the inner surface. Over much of the weathered areas a white powder can be rubbed off which suggests lime or magnesium. The inner and outer surfaces are mottled gray and brown and very hard. The annual growth rings are not distinct. On both lateral surfaces and the ends are closely spaced and parallel ridges and grooves that probably represent the growth rings. If this is true the rings are quite narrow; roughly $\frac{1}{16}$ inch in thickness. On cross section the rings are even less distinct, but in places the cut surface is less homogenous and in these areas one can imagine he sees the outline of narrow rings. Dr. Mamay feels quite certain, however, that the specimen is coniferous and dates it from the Cretaceous period.

SPECIMEN 5 (Figure 4) was presented by Henry H. Hutchinson. It was found on the north bank of Indian River at Riverdale in Sussex County, Delaware, while excavating for a sea wall. The specimen is a sawed cross section of one of the many pieces found at the site. In color it is uniform driftwood gray on the outside while in cross section it is brownish. The rings, 14 in number, are quite distinct but vary in width from $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (best seen when the cut surface is held at an angle to the light source). This specimen resembles in all essentials Specimen No. 1 (referred to at the beginning of this report) which first showed up in Lewes, Delaware - some 15 miles distant from Riverdale. That is, it is almost pure silica and the finer details of the early and late wood of each ring are well preserved.

SPECIMEN 6 (Figure 5) was found and presented by Frank Donovan. It was discovered in a gravel pit on the south shore of the Murderkill River in Kent County, Delaware, between 5 and 6 feet below the ground surface. This specimen measures $24\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{3}{8} \times 5$ inches and weighs $22\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. It is somewhat curved as if it was a fragment from a large branch rather than from the trunk of a tree. In color, externally it is driftwood gray except for five longitudinal streaks of a brown color that are largely confined to individual tree rings, but in places this pigment has diffused into the adjacent ring and one localized area measuring $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ inch of a hard brownish bog iron like material. Also visible on the surface is a somewhat rectangular hole measuring $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{9}{16}$ inch at the surface but becoming rounded and somewhat narrower deeper in the specimen. This hole was still partially blocked with compacted yellow sand and one small pebble. On picking out the sand and gravel the hole was found to be a curving and sloping tunnel which crossed diagonally many tree rings. The finder of this specimen at first thought he might be dealing with an old post or discarded timber and that the hole and mass of embedded bog iron were possible terminal results of iron spikes. A more careful examination suggests that both holes (one filled with bog iron and the other with sand and gravel) were made by large beetles or worms. No other evidence of boring insects was found.

Externally each ring shows with great clearness at the fractured ends, the sides and the external and internal surfaces. On the latter the individual rings can be pried off as large flakes corresponding to single tree rings. On cross section the reason for this is apparent. Between each ring and paralleling each other are rows of fine cells or holes that probably correspond to the early wood of each ring while the main portion of the ring is hard and homogeneous. In prying off the tree ring sheets the break occurs along the line of these tiny holes or cells. Also, the cross section confirms the statement above that the rust like pigment is largely confined to individual tree rings, although here and there one sees some diffusion into the ring above or below. There is a striking uniformity in the thickness ($\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{16}$ inch) of each of the forty-four rings present. There is some tilting of the rings but no evidence of uneven compression.

The cross section shows that the weathering extends irregularly throughout the specimen, and this may be due to the rows of fine holes between each ring. The scattered denser unweathered areas are in the interior of the rings. These areas are much whiter in color and much harder. Dr. Mamay thought the wood was definitely coniferous and might be cypress or cedar. He was also of the opinion that the specimen dated from the lower Cretaceous period but could be older.

SUMMARY: Five additional specimens of petrified wood are reported - four from Delaware and one nearby in Maryland. Each is believed to be coniferous in origin and to date from the Cretaceous period (70-90 million years). There was no evidence suggesting ice transportation, although three of the specimens were found on the present ground surface. All have sharp fracture lines and no polishing with the possible exception of Specimen No. 4. In this instance the somewhat chalky and rounded surface may be accounted for as weathering. Only two specimens - Nos. 1 (previously reported) and 5 are very similar in color, texture and type of petrification. Two specimens show the tunnels of wood-borers. Sections of each of the six specimens have been placed in the Zwaanendael Museum at Lewes, Delaware.

Note and Reference

- (1) J. S. Penny, "Upper Cretaceous Wood from Eastern (Northern?) Delaware," Am. J. Botany, Vol. 27, No. 10 (1940).
- (2) I wish to acknowledge with thanks the assistance and helpful criticism of Dr. S. H. Mamay of the National Museum.



AN INDIAN SOAPSTONE BOWL QUARRY
Near West Jefferson, Ashe County, N.C.

Henry H. Hutchinson

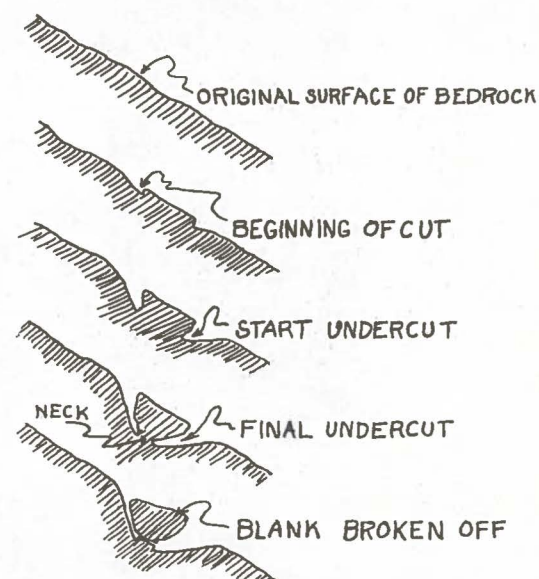
This paper is being written to record certain findings and observations made in 1921, and to add some conclusions arrived at recently, since I revisited the site in 1961. These conclusions are my own; I have not as yet looked up the archeological literature on the soapstone bowl (or mortar) industry. The term "bowls" rather than "mortars" is used, as they were referred to as "bowls" by the native mountaineers who showed me the workings back in 1921. If further research, as now planned, justifies the term "mortar", I will use that term in a later paper.

In 1921 I was assigned to build a small power-house and install stone-working machinery for a soapstone quarry near West Jefferson, Ashe County, N.C. The outcropping of steatite (commonly called soapstone) was located in a little valley with the mountains several hundred feet high on each side of a relatively flat floor not more than 300 yards wide at most. When the trees and topsoil had been stripped from the bedrock where we started our quarry, my attention was called to several places where some prehistoric people had carved out of the bedrock hunks or balls or soapstone from which they made soapstone bowls. Inquiry among the workmen (who were all native to the area) disclosed that many nearby cabins and farms had one or more pieces of broken soapstone bowls which had been found in the neighborhood and kept as Indian relics, and which they often used as "bed warmers".

The writer had only a 1917 vintage Kodak with which he took a number of "snaps" of the unfinished balls or blanks of bowls, and of the "neck" left on the bedrock when these blanks were broken off. The original negatives of those "snaps" have been lost, but the faded prints are reproduced here for what they may show. (See PLATE II)

Unfortunately I did not have the time or labor, or the foresight, to search through the soil that had been removed from over and around these Indian workings, for they probably contained the remains of some of the tools that the Indians used in cutting out these blanks. The site was revisited in 1961 only to find that the Indian workings had been quarried away, and the original topsoil buried under tons of quarry detritus.

From my observations in 1921 it seemed obvious that the Indians, after selecting a spot where the stone and conditions looked suitable, started cutting a roughly circular or oval ring around what they planned to be their bowl. This cutting was 6" to 10" wide at the start, and as they cut deeper they undercut more and more until there was only a knob or ball of stone (which I term a "blank") supported by a relative small neck. When this neck became small enough, a heavy pressure on one side of the blank would break the neck. Then the blank would be taken to their camp or other suitable place for finishing, hollowing out, thinning the walls, smoothing, etc. The accompanying sketch (PLATE I) shows the successive steps taken in removing the blanks from the bedrock. From the remaining necks



PREHISTORIC METHOD OF CUTTING-OUT
SOAPSTONE BOWL BLANKS.

ASHE COUNTY, N.C. 1921-1961 H.H.Hutchinson.

PLATE I

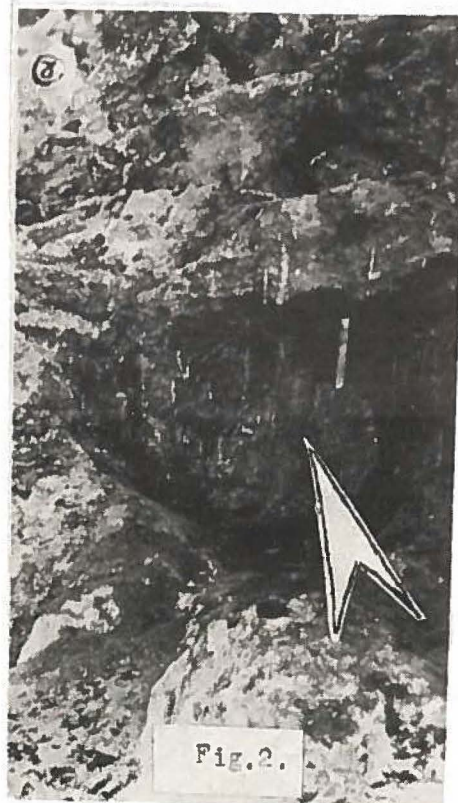
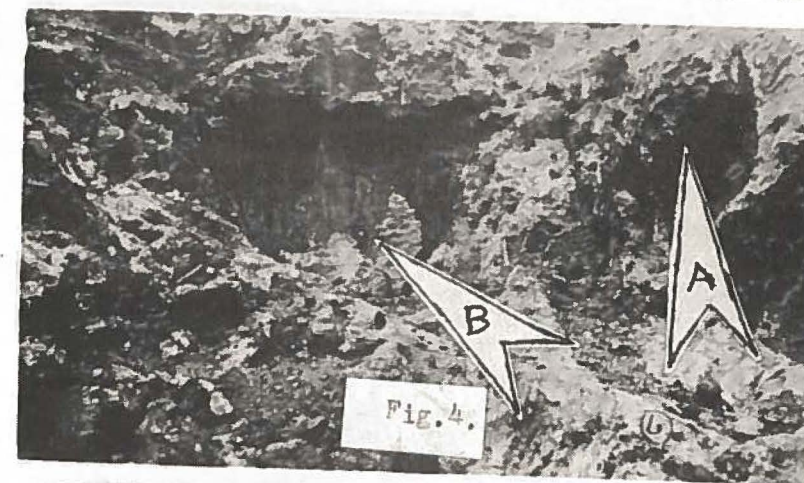
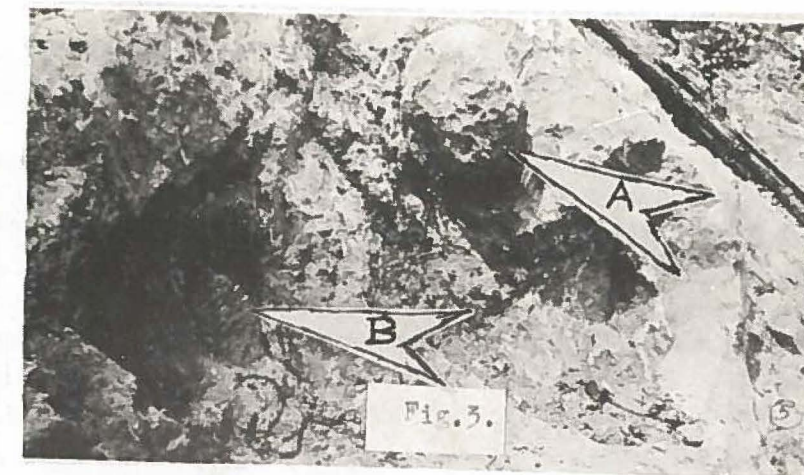


PLATE
II

that we found, it would appear that most of the blanks were broken off before the undercutting had to be cut as deep as our sketch shows the undercut; but at least one of the remaining necks that we saw indicated an undercut relatively as deep as the sketch shows.

PLATE II, Fig. 1 shows (arrow) the mountain slope and the uncovered bedrock where we saw these Indian workings. Fig. 2 shows a neck left after a blank had been broken off. (In the picture the small straight stick just above the neck is a 6" pocket rule.) Fig. 3-A shows one of the blanks in the first stage of undercutting, and Fig. 3-B is another neck after the blank had been removed. Figs. 4-A and 4-B are a different view of the blank and neck shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is another blank that had been girdled, but not yet undercut.

One of our native workmen told me that he had seen other Indian soapstone bowl workings in which the inside of the bowl was hollowed out first, then the outside was undercut and the semi-finished bowl removed. He was not sure he could find the place again, and as my time was limited, we had no opportunity to look for it.

Steatite occurs in many places throughout the Blue Ridge Mountain System, and there are a number of outcroppings near these Indian workings. Generally the stone near the surface in these Ashe County outcroppings is of a rather poor grade with many veins and spots of impurities, so that when bowls are made therefrom and are exposed to the weather for many years, their surface becomes pitted and pockmarked where these impurities have weathered away.

BOWLS

I visited six or eight of the local cabins and farms where they had fragments of Indian soapstone bowls. (Some of the natives had found whole bowls but had sold them.) The several fragments or part-bowls that I saw at that time (1921), all had quite thick rims, 1-1/2" to 3" thick tapering to about 1" thick at the bottom. They all appeared to have been slightly to definitely oval in shape, varying from 15" to 20" in length; 10" to 15" in width; and 3" to 8" in depth. (These measurements are memory estimates only, as I made no notes of the measurements at the time.) The surfaces both inside and out were relatively smooth, but not polished to a fine finish, and were all pockmarked from weathering. I do not recall that any had indications of knobs, handles, or feet, and I am sure that if they had I would have noticed and remembered them.

In 1961 when I revisited this quarry site I took a picture of part of a bowl that was in a cabin on the quarry site, and which I had probably examined in 1921. (See PLATE III, Fig. 8)

A small unfinished bowl was found when we excavated for our power house foundations. It was very roughly hollowed out inside, and the outside was apparently just as it had come as a blank from the quarry. It was considerably pockmarked both inside and out. It was found just below the topsoil in land that had been cultivated by the native mountaineers for many years. PLATE III, Fig. 6 shows this bowl upright, and Fig. 7 shows the same bowl inverted. It is still in my possession. It is about 8" x 6" x 3" deep. The powerhouse excavation where this small unfinished bowl was found was about 300 yds. distant from the Indian bowl workings, and about 125 ft. lower in elevation.

ASSOCIATED INDIAN ARTIFACTS

The only projectile point or blade or other "hard stone" tool that to my certain knowledge had some "location association" with the soapstone bowl industry is a beautifully worked flint blade (see PLATE III, Fig. 9), which was also found in our excavation for the power house. It was found about 10 - 12 feet distant from where the small unfinished soapstone bowl was found, but at a depth of 3 - 4 feet in clean gravelly soil. (Note: I was not present when either this

point or the small bowl was dug out, but I was there an hour or so later, and I have implicit confidence that the uneducated workmen reported correctly "according to their lights".) This blade does not appear to me to be a tool used in cutting out the bowl blanks or finishing them. Their questionable propinquity does not prove a definite cultural association of the two artifacts, but it is the only factual association that I can attest to, of a hard stone tool near the soft soapstone bowl industry.

Many stone projectile points and other stone "points" had, however, been found in the general neighborhood (say within a five mile radius). I looked over many collections of points in local cabins and farms, and also found a few in nearby cultivated fields. Most of these were made of flint, quartz, quartzite, or chert; occasionally one was of a rhyolite-like stone, and there were several of beautiful clear crystal quartz. Their shapes were mostly the conventional types, such as square stem, lanceolate, side notched, corner notched, bottom notched, triangular, etc. There were end-scrapers, thumbnail scrapers, large-base and small-base drills. My memory is refreshed on these by my own surface collection plus many points that were given me by the workmen and other natives during my few months stay.

One unconventional type of point was given to me by one of the workmen who found it "near here", which meant within a mile or so of the quarry. It was a heavy and thick triangular shaped point with a very deep basal notch (see PLATE III, Fig. 10). It is practically flat on one side, but has a high median ridge on the other. Dimensions: width - 4.49 cm (1-3/4"), length - 6.2 cm (2-7/16"), thickness - 1.4 cm (9/16"), depth of basal notch - 1.63 cm (5/8"). I can conceive that it was made in this form so that it could be fitted, glued, and lashed into a heavy wooden handle about 1-3/4" in diameter. Such a tool would withstand heavy lateral as well as end pressure or percussion, and so would have been suitable for carving and undercutting the blanks for bowls from the bedrock.

My conception of how this heavy, deep notched, triangular point was mounted for use as a chisel or scraper in cutting out bowl blanks is shown in PLATE III, Fig. 11, a mounting that I made for it in a few minutes. This I found to be a very practical tool for gouging samples of soapstone which I took from the quarry in 1961. Using a hammerstone weighing about one pound, I gouged out a groove 1/4" deep, 1" wide, by 1-1/2" long in less than one minute. At this rate I believe a blank could be quarried out of soapstone bedrock, with similar tools, in two days at most.

Inquiries among the mountaineers in 1961 indicate that other Indian bowl workings are known in these mountains. The writer will endeavor to locate some of them, and if possible, report further on the subject.

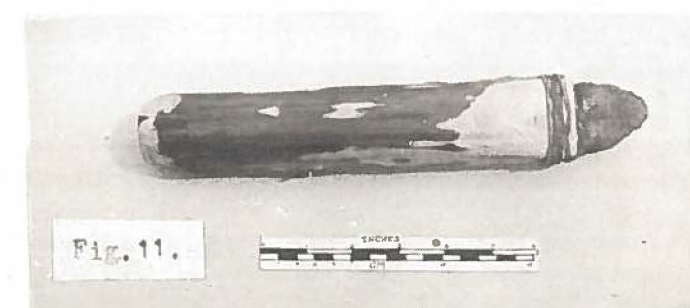
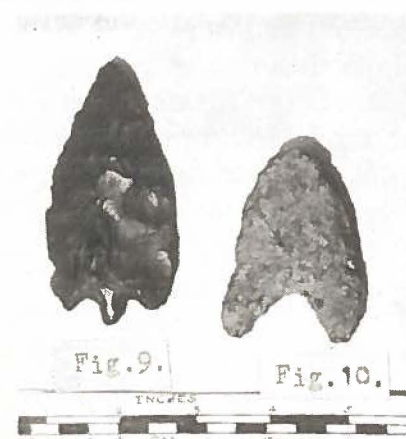


PLATE III

O. H. Peets

This site was called Moore's site by the Archaeological Society of Delaware and changed to Wolf's Neck site by the Sussex Archaeological Association to avoid confusion with the important Moore's site it was excavating on the west side of the county.

Several problems of this site are unanswered. One of the most striking of these may not be the most important but will be mentioned first because it is involved in the way the site - or at least the habitation area - was discovered. Mr. C. A. Weslager describes this event in his book "Delaware's Buried Past" (p. 75). He and some friends from Wilmington had been digging in the shell heap near the canal when a rain interrupted their digging. After the rain they went to look at a freshly plowed field to see if anything of interest had been turned up. "There, he writes, we were confronted with an unusual sight that we will never forget ... Scattered over the muddy field were approximately fifty circular areas where the earth was stained a deep red in color. Each area was about six feet in diameter, and they occurred throughout the field in no recognizable pattern". This is the only instance in Sussex county where a site was located by such areas of burned earth. In hundreds of pits we have found countless hearths but they have been small and below ground level. The difference may be significant of a somewhat different way of life or it may be only that the Indian, like the White man, had an urge to build large bonfires at the seashore. But if we accept the theory that so-called refuse pits were first dug for cold storage pits that would be needed in areas a few miles or more back from the oyster or clam beds, we have another possible explanation. When all the seafood had been used from such storage pits they would present a danger until filled in and they would also have been an inviting place to throw refuse. There would have been no need for such storage pits where the source of supply was within a few minutes walk and so the fires - large and small - were made on the surface of the ground and the refuse shells would have been thrown in the nearest suitable place. Such a place might have been in the ravine south of the Moore house. In digging in this ravine Jake Moore found a thick layer of shells. Also he found a half cup full of copper beads that he gave to Weslager and his friends. We are hopeful of getting two or three of them to determine their date but from the descriptions they are probably trade goods.

Also later than the excavations described by Weslager, Jake Moore found six cache blades of "a white stone". We hope to borrow one of these but at the present writing they have not been located although turned over to the Delaware Society.

At a much earlier date excavations of this site or near it gave such things as stone tubes which are taken generally to be Adena culture though they may with greater accuracy be considered Hopewellian, and as recently as a few weeks ago a gorget of the sort also called Adena was picked up on the site and sold to a collector. There is no reason why the Archaic period should not be represented at this site, or even that of the earlier hunters. Shell food would have made a welcome change of diet secured with less effort than that of hunting.

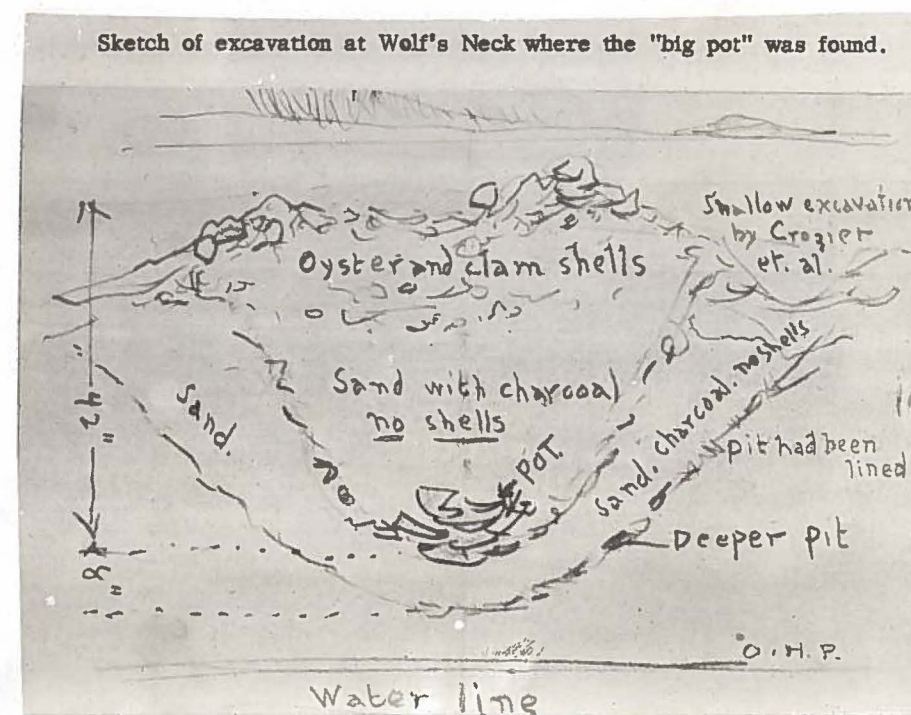
Site 7-5-D10 has never been systematically investigated by our Society. One of the reasons for this was the feeling that considerable work had been done on it by the Wilmington Society and that there were other sites demanding attention. Several of our members did find the very large vessel illustrated here.

Sherds of this pot are shown in situ on the cover of this issue and a schematic drawing of the double or twice-dug pit in which it was found is shown from a sketch made on the spot. It is probable that the first pit was partially filled by wind blown sand but that its location was still visible. Our cover photograph may be compared with the upper part of the plate opposite page 72 in "Delaware's Buried Past".

Both cameras may have been on the same spot but not pointed quite the same. The earth to the left was burned to a noticeable red but this color did not reach the surface of the ground under the shell heap.

Although the south edge of the trench dug by members of the Delaware Archaeological Society seems to have passed over the north edge of the pit in which the large pot was found it is not surprising that those who dug it thought that they had reached undisturbed soil for there was some sand -- probably wind-blown -- over the top of the double pit and under the shells. This sand layer was not thick however and may not have been accumulating for many years, unless conditions were such that the sand was not retained in place. But if the "guess date" of the beginning of the shell heap was about the year 1300, we must date the large pot at up to a century earlier.

The workmanship of this pot was of a high order; although the capacity is nearly ten gallons the walls are not thicker than the average for smaller vessels and it is very symmetrical and, although unquestionably coiled, the only coil breaks found in the nearly 100 pieces that were put together in making the restoration, were between the base and the main body. Only a few pieces of the base were recovered and they were so much smoother than the body and showed so little of the cord-marking that we thought, at first, that they were of another pot but we decided that the base had been made and allowed to get leather dry before the coiling was continued. This seems to have been a common practice but coil breaks between such bases and the first coil of the main body are more numerous than elsewhere.



When first restored the base was left open to indicate the lack of most of the pieces comprising it, but it was twice broken at public exhibitions so the base has been re-stored with cast stone although the shape may have been slightly altered in doing this.

In trying to reach an approximate date for our Indian pottery we are at a disadvantage in not having any carbon 14 dates for this area. Apart from the cost we felt that our materials were not old enough to give useful dates.

The shell temper of this large vessel is very fine and regular and uniformly mixed in with the clay. This in itself suggests long years of experience with pottery that showed defects due to less care in these matters. There is the vertical imprinting on the inside of this pot that normally is considered an old trait whether on grit or shell tempered vessels, although the size of this one may have indicated a further need for a treatment to consolidate the coiling.

A stew pot of this size is shown by de Bry (1590) and this one could at first have been used for that purpose but it developed cracks repaired by the Indians by drilling holes on both sides of the cracks and -- no doubt -- lacing them with rawhide. This would have preserved the pot for storage use and that in turn suggests agriculture.

This vessel is 16 inches in diameter at the rim, about 16 1/2 inches deep and 55 inches in maximum circumference. It was found Sept. 25, 1949 by a party consisting of Mrs. S.M. Sloan, Prof. and Mrs. Moffitt, Seaton Maynadier and O. H. Peets.

It was given to the Swaanendael Museum in Lewes, Delaware.



Forty persons (including children) journeyed to the home of Helen and Henry Hutchinson in Bethel, Delaware, for our annual picnic on Saturday afternoon, July 22nd.

Group tables had been set up on their beautiful lawn overlooking the rippleless Broad Creek where, one can be certain, many an Indian had basked in bygone days. As he had promised, Warren Calloway made good by supplying from his farm freshly picked golden sweet corn far beyond our capacity to consume it, and the writer confesses to four large ears despite the heat and humidity.

No formal meeting or speech making marred the festivities. Several members exhibited material they had collected - the largest being Mr. Norman Parris, Jr.'s collection of Montana ores (gold, copper), flints, obsidian and elk teeth. Perry Flegel presented and donated to the Society six pieces of petrified wood he had collected on the shore of Marshyhope Creek.

After three hours of eating, visiting, informal group discussions and horseshoe pitching, the party began to break up a dusk. We were all indebted to the Hutchinsons for a most agreeable outing.

DM

OUR COVER: Persons who saw the proofs of this issue were quick to suggest that the ARCHEOLOG had, at last, bowed to the prevalence of the cover-girl. The data, however, do not support that criticism. This is not a model called in for the occasion, but one of our long time members; a veteran of the Townsend site excavation; one who had majored in anthropology at Barnard College and one whose careful technique had made possible the recovery of the perfect Indian vessel (T-26) accessioned by the Smithsonian Institution.

Photographing shards in situ against the dark and broken surface of a pit is not easy and many expedients are often resorted to that are supposed to help but do not always do so: a trowel or shovel may be pointed at the spot, or properties such as white arrows of various sizes may be used. Here we had planned to have the hand of the person doing the excavating serve as the pointer but when the photograph was printed the general character of the site as covered in the full view seemed more worth showing than a less sharp blow-up of a small heap of shards would have been.

OHP

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WILLIAM S. INGRAM, SR. ----- 1907 - 1961

Captain William S. Ingram, Sr., 54, a Delaware Bay and River pilot, died last Thursday, August 17th, in the Beebe Hospital where he had been a patient for three days. His health had been failing the past year.

He resided at 588 Pilot Town Road. He was born in Lewes, the son of Mrs. Elizabeth Schellenger Ingram of Market Street, and the late Thomas B. Ingram, a former president of the Sussex Trust Company of Lewes.

He had been a member of the Pilots Association for the Bay and River Delaware the past 35 years. He was also a member of the Rehoboth Beach Country Club and Bethel Methodist Church of Lewes.

Besides his mother, he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Florence Scott Ingram; a son, Capt. W. S. Ingram, Jr., of Lewes, also a bay and river pilot; two daughters, Mrs. Robert C. Bogott of Elmhurst, Ill., and Mrs. Wayne Fralin of Richmond, Va.; one brother, Rowland B. Ingram of Wilmington, and two sisters, Mrs. John R. Lawton of Herring Creek, Sussex County, and Mrs. Richard Blocksom of Carneys Point, N. J.

The funeral was Sunday at 2pm from Atkins Funeral Home, conducted by the Rev. William H. Hudson, pastor of Bethel Church. Burial was in the family plot in Lewes Methodist Cemetery.

Pall bearers were members of the pilots association headed by the president, William R. Egan. (Copy of notice in Delaware Coast Press)

** ***** **

"Bill" was an enthusiastic collector of Indian relics and became an active member of the Sussex Archaeological Association -- as our Society was first named. He was a real digger and contributed to the success of the Townsend Site Excavation by long hours of patient and careful work under the able supervision of Geiger Omwake who directed this first, largest and perhaps most important "dig" of the local society.

We feel deeply the loss of our comrade, Bill Ingram and know his passing to be a serious loss to our whole community.

Ralph Karl