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DELAWARE

FURTHER INFORMATION re SOAPSTONE BOWLS, QUARRIES and ARTIFACTS.

H. H. Hutchinson and David Marine

In the October, 1961, issue of the ARCHEOLOG (1) the senior author described a prehistoric soapstone (steatite) bowl quarry in Ashe County, N. C., and promised a further investigation of that industry. About the time that article was being printed, the authors of this second article were climbing the sides of the mountains and hills of the Blue Ridge, following leads established by correspondence and hearsay, looking for further evidence of Indian bowl quarries, and also collecting such information as we could from the mountaineers, farmers, and collectors near known soapstone deposits. Later we visited an Indian quarry in the Maryland Piedmont section which the Archeological Society of Maryland had discovered and was studying. This current article reports the results of our October investigation. It is impossible to attempt to describe herein the pleasure we derived from our contacts with the many fine people we met in our rambles off the beaten highways and in the mountains.

Although we found no additional Indian quarries, we did find many soapstone artifacts in mountaineers' cabins, neighboring farmers' collections, and on the mountain sides near the old Indian quarry previously described. It is not hard to account for the disappearance or destruction of the many prehistoric quarries that according to local tradition once existed in the area. Since soapstone is fire-resistant, holds heat, and can be sawed into slabs or bricks with a crosscut or handsaw, the early settlers found it a very useful material, especially for lining their fireplaces. Also the outcroppings of the stone that had been quarried by the Indians were readily noticeable and often of easy access. Modern builders and industries have done even more to deface and destroy those old Indian quarries.

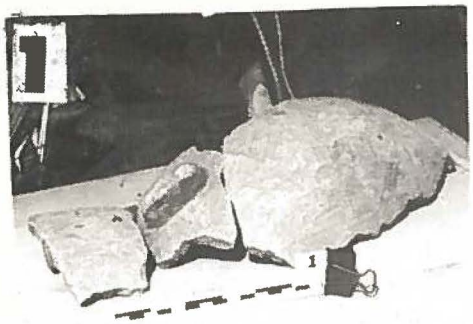
Any further reference to "the old Indian quarry" or the "old quarry" refersto the Indian Bowl Quarry described in the October, 1961, ARCHEOLOG (1).

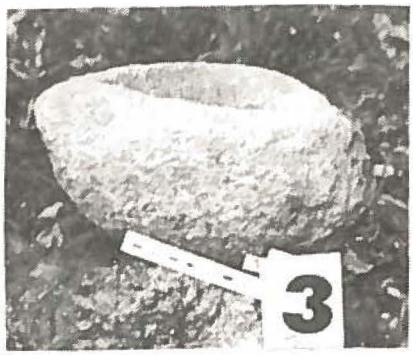
The accompanying drawings, Plates II and IV, are made to scale from measurements taken in the field. They are intended to give a truer representation of the actual shape and comparative size than that readily seen in the photographs. They show a plan (looking down on the top of the artifact) and a side view. Shaded portions represent the actual pieces, the dotted lines represent the probable original shape and size, and cross-hatched sections indicate the actual thickness. The figure numbers are the same for the drawings and corresponding photographed pieces.

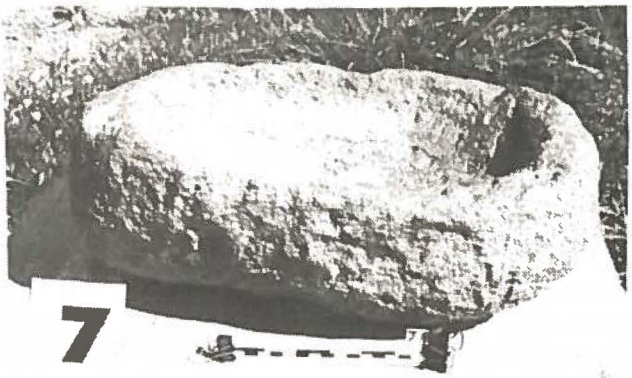
Other Quarry Sites

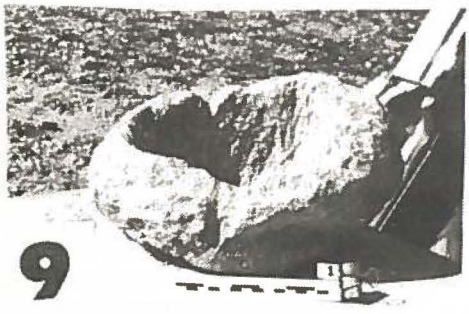
In addition to the old Indian quarry in Ashe County we found corroborative evidence of other bowl quarries at three places:

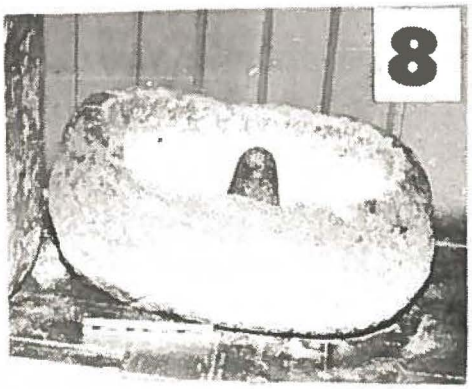
At Cherokee Museum, Cherokee, N. C., there is outside of the building, a soapstone slab about 3 ft. square, cut from bedrock or a large boulder, on which is a partially formed "blank" of a bowl











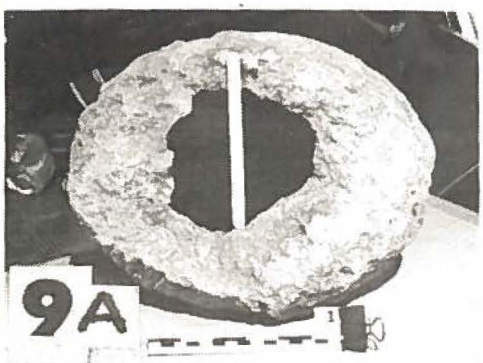


PLATE-I

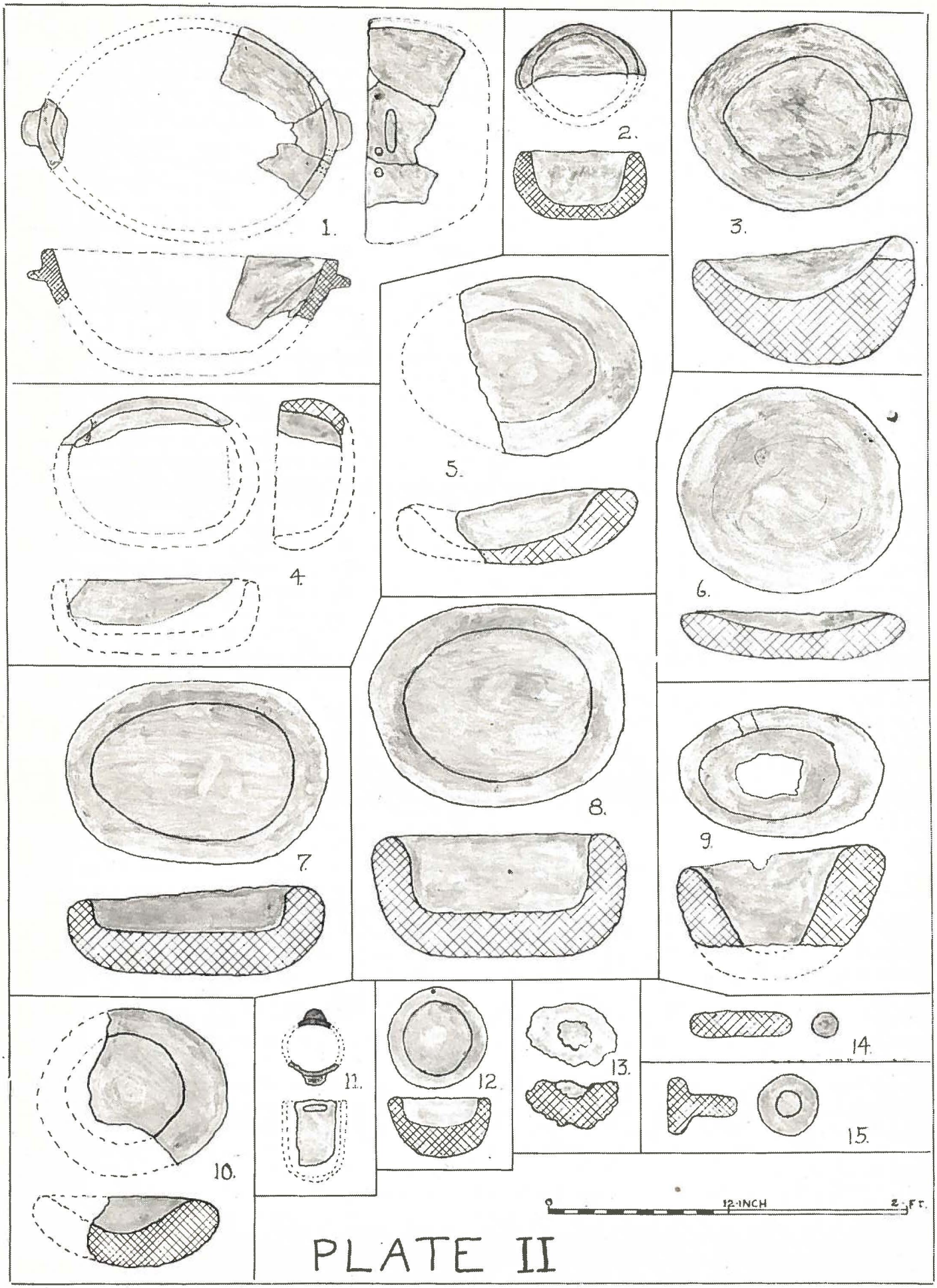


PLATE II

or mortar. It is an unfinished attempt of the early Indians to remove a "blank" to make a vessel of some kind. This "blank" is about 18" long by 15" wide and 3" to 4" high, with the top center slightly scooped out to a maximum depth of about 1" within a diameter of about 5". Plate III, Fig. 30. It had been raining hard when this picture was taken, so the tool marks on or around the "blank" do not show; but it was obvious that the "blank" had been formed by man. Due to the wetness we could not distinguish any difference, if any, between the weathered and unweathered parts. The Curator of the museum could not give the history of this stone, nor the exact location from which it was obtained, except to say that it came from the mountains not far from the Cherokee Reservation.

Near Judaculla Rock, N.C., Mr. Hiram C. Wilburn, now a retired engineer and surveyor, saw in 1945 and made note of partially finished soapstone bowl "blanks" on outcroppings a few hundred feet up the mountainside, together with a partially finished bowl. In October, 1961, Mr. Wilburn led us to this site, only to find that most of the mountainside there had recently been removed by extensive mining of vermiculite. (Vermiculite is said to be a form of weathered soapstone, and is used in some instances as an insulating material.)

At The Didier Site, Maryland, (19-Ba-21), an official of the Archeological Society of Maryland showed us a large soapstone boulder on which prehistoric man had started to carve out a "blank". The "blank" was about 20" long by 15" wide and 6" high. See Plate V, Fig. 22. Around this boulder The Maryland Society has carefully excavated, and has found many fragments of soapstone bowls, and also a number of sandstone tools which, it is believed, were used to carve out and to semifinish the vessels. It seemed strange that, up to that date, no flint or quartzite tools had been found here in association with the worked soapstone, although quartzite rocks and boulders are found in abundance on the ridge where this site is located.

Associated Artifacts

(A) The Old Indian Quarry (31-AS-1) in Ashe County, N. C., is located 3.2 miles southwest of the town of West Jefferson, and is on the northeast slope of Elk Ridge of Bluff Mountain, on property once in the possession of the National Soapstone Co. Artifacts found in this immediate neighborhood are:

Bowl, about 8" x 6" x 3" deep.See previous article, Fig. 6 Plate III. (1)

Bowl, about 20" x 15" x 5" deep. See previous article, Fig. 8, Plate III. (1)

Bowl, about one half of the original, slightly oval in shape, 8" x 6-3/4" x 4-1/2" deep inside. Bottom 1" thick. Rim 1/2" to 3/4" thick. Medium hard, light color. Though only about one half of the bottom was left, it showed part of the "neck" where it had been broken off from the bedrock; the diameter of the neck was 4". Vertical tool marks inside. Outside irregularly tooled. Considerably weathered. Found in a deserted cabin 1/4 mile from the old quarry by Ronnie Hopkins who lived nearby. See Plates I & II, Fig. 2.

Bowl, small, unfinished, much weathered, about 6" x 4" x 4" deep.

Only part of interior dug out. Rough tool marks indistinct; poor grade of very soft stone. Found on property of Mrs. Lilly Hopkins adjacent to the old quarry mill site. See Plates II & III, Fig.13.

Bowl, fragment representing only one side of a bowl about 14" x 8" x 3-1/2" deep inside and 5" high outside. Poor grade of soft stone much pockmarked and weathered. See Plates II & III, Fig. 4. Found on mountainside about 300 yards above old quarry. In possession of H. H. Hutchinson.

Bowl or Mortar found on mountainside near soapstone outcroppings about 500 yards southeast of old quarry. An unfinished vessel from a small soapstone boulder. Interior only had been partially dug out, with tool marks still visible. Much weathered and moss covered. Found by Dr. Marine and now in possession of Hutchinson. See Plate III, Fig.81.

(B) Jesse M. Miller's collection is mostly on exhibit in his Blue Ridge Minerals Museum at milepost 269.9 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, and contains many soapstone artifacts found by him and local residents in Ashe County and nearby sections of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Among the soapstone artifacts of local origin are:

Bowl with lugs at each end near rim. Finely finished to a smooth surface inside and out to a thickness of 5/8" to 3/4". There are many matching sherds of this bowl, enough matching ones to get a reasonably accurate estimate of its original size and shape of a roughly oval plan 20" long, 15" wide and 5" to 6" deep. "Mending holes" are in two of the matching sherds. All the sherds found in a cultivated field in Watauga County about 6 or 7 miles from the old quarry. See Plates I & II, Fig. 1 & 1A.

Bowl, about 1/2 of which remains. About 13-1/2" x 11" x 2" to 3" deep inside. Rim 1-1/2" to 3" thick; bottom 2" thick. Indistinct tool marks vertically inside, and indistinct random tool marks outside. Found near Lancing on the North Fork of New River and about 10 miles from the old quarry. See Plates II & III, Fig. 10. Soft stone, lightish color with brownish tinge.

Bowl or Mortar about 17-1/2" long x 12" wide x 5" to 6" high. Oval in shape outside; inside egg shape and 2-3/4" deep with almost vertical walls. Outside edges and bottom rounded. Wall thickness 1-1/2" to 2-1/2". See Plates I & II, Fig. 7. Found within a few miles of the old quarry.

Bowl or Pot with lugs near rim. Relatively small and deep. 4" to 4-1/2" inside diam. x 5-1/4" deep. Wall thickness 1/2" to 3/8". Finely finished both inside and out. Represented by several large sherds, two of which had lugs about 1/2" below the rim but not quite parallel to it. Lugs 1-1/2" long x 7/16" to 3/8" thick. No tool marks. See Plates II & III, Fig. 11. Found near Phillips Gap about 9 miles from the old quarry.

Pestle of quite hard soapstone; 1-3/4" diam. x 6-3/4" long. Light color. Found near Phillips Gap about 9 miles from the old quarry. See Plates II & III, Fig. 14.

Small Bowl or Paint Pot of dark and hard soapstone. Almost true circle at rim, 1-7/16" inside diam. x 1-3/16" high. Inside egg shape and 1" deep. Edges rounded. Found near South Fork of New River, in Ashe County, about 8 miles from old quarry. Plate IV,Fig.17.

Two Atlatl Weights found in Ashe County. One approximately 3" long x 1-1/2" diam., and one about 3-1/2" long x 1-1/2" diam. Highly polished dark color soapstone, and symmetrical about the shaft hole. Plate IV, Figs. 19 & 20.

Pipe. A small soapstone pipe was also in this collection, very similar to one in the Cherokee Museum. Said to have been found in the vicinity of the old quarry, but no definite data of origin available.

(C) Mr. Fred M. Colvard's collection of locally found artifacts is at his farm near Jefferson, N. C. It contains some very fine specimens, including a number of soapstone artifacts which were found within 10 miles of the old quarry, mostly from his lands on the South Fork of New River. Of special interest to us are:

Shallow Bowl or Metate of steatite; 15" x 13-3/4" x 3" high outside, with depression 1-1/4" deep tapering to nothing at the edges. See Plates I & II, Fig. 6. Medium hardness, dark color, much weathered. Roughly rounded edges and bottom. No tool marks visible. Poor grade of stone. Now used as a bird bath.

Potsherds of soapstone finely finished on two faces, none matching. Thickness varying from 1/2" to 3/4". (No pictures).

Small Bowl or Paint Pot of dark color, hard soapstone; 1-3/8" diameter inside, by 1-1/4" high outside. Inside egg shape and 1" deep. Outside was trimmed to a five sided slightly pyramidal shape. Top rim perfectly flat. Found about 8 miles from the old quarry. See Plates III & IV, Fig. 16.

Pendant of steatite, roughly rectangular in shape, 1-3/4" x 3/4" x 3/8", with a diagonal hole drilled from end to side. See Plates III & IV, Fig. 18. Found about 8 miles from old quarry.

Two other items not of soapstone that were found in this Colvard area are herewith mentioned for their association value; they are:

Fluted Points, one of flint and one of yellowish quartz, were found near the place where the above mentioned small bowl or paint pot was found. They are similar in shape to the classic Clovis type. See Plate III, next to Fig. 18.

Pestle of sandstone or taprock, with finger grooves on the handle. Found on same farm as the above Clovis type fluted points and the small bowl or paint pot. See Plate III, Fig. 27.

(D) The Cherokee Museum has a number of soapstone artifacts of interest. Although the Curator, Mr. Mose Owl, could not tell us exactly where they were found, he said they were all from the Cherokee Reservation or neighboring areas. Notable among them are:

Mortar of much weathered, grayish color, medium hardness soapstone; 17" x 13" x 8" outside. Average depth inside 5" with walls vertical and 1-1/2" to 2-1/2" thick. See Plates I & II, Fig. 8.

Small Mortar of good grade soapstone, medium hardness, dark gray color; 6-1/2" to 7" diam. x 4" high. Inside diam. 4-1/2" to 5" and 1-1/2" deep. See Plates II & III, Fig. 12.

Two Pestles of highly finished and polished dark, hard soapstone. Stems are 1-3/4" diam. x 4-1/2" long, with an enlarged and flattened base 3-1/2" diam. They are seen inside the mortars, Plate

I, Fig. 8, and Plate III, Fig. 15, and in the drawing, Plate II, Fig. 15.

(E) From other Ashe County, N. C., collections are:

Part of Bowl about 14" x 12" x 5" high. Inside depth 4" tapering steeply toward the edges. Walls near edges 3-1/4" to 3-5/8" thick. Original estimated to have been 18" long. See Plates I & II, Fig. 5. Owned by Mr. Dewey Ham of Lancing. Reported to have been found near Lancing. It is almost a duplicate of the part bowl found near the old quarry and reported in the October ARCHEOLOG, Plate III, Fig. 8 (1)

Bowl or Metate of massive body with shallow depression. Roughly oval in shape; 15" x 12-1/2" x 8" high outside. 4" deep depression, 10" x 8", tapering to sides. Rounded edges and bottom except for a flat place which may have been the "neck" or place of cleavage when broken from bedrock. Good grade of dark greenish soapstone. Had a deep notch 1-1/2" deep cut in one end. See Plates I & II, Fig. 3. Found within one mile of the old quarry by Stanley Harmon of West Jefferson.

(F) The Didier Site (18-Ba-21) located in the Maryland Piedmont section has produced a number of soapstone and associated artifacts, some of which are mentioned here for comparative purposes. They are being preserved and studied by the Archeological Society of Maryland.

Bowl in semifinished state. Probably oval in shape about 18" x 12" x 4" deep. This bowl had been roughed out to almost finished condition. See Plate V, Figs. 24 & 24A. Along with this was a soapstone sherd with two holes about 1" diam. drilled through. See Plate V, Fig. 24. There were also rough sandstone tools with this.

Bowl in semifinished state, with incipient lug on one end. This was also roughed to almost finished dimensions. See Plate V, Fig. 23 & 23A. Rough sandstone tools also associated with it.

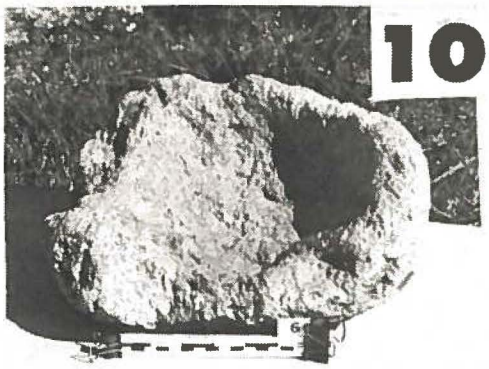
Large Sherd of soapstone about 1" thick x 6" x 10" shows the marks of the rough tools; these marks practically match the cutting edge or points of the sandstone tools found nearby. See Plate V, Fig. 25.

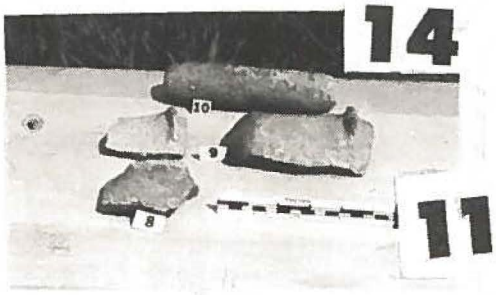
Sandstone tools used in roughing out the above bowls at the Didier Site are seen in Plate V, Figs. 23, 23A, and 24. They are of sandstone roughly sharpened at one end like hand picks.

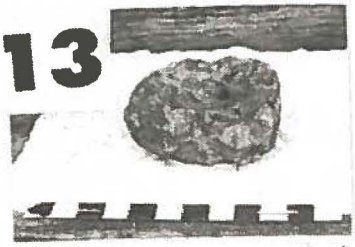
(G) The Simons Site, though not a quarry, is mentioned here because dozens of disklike hand-size soapstone objects, apparently made by man, have been found there. They range from about 1" to 4" diam. See lower part of Fig. 26, Plate V. In the same figure appears part of a soapstone bowl also found on that site. This site is about 1/2 mile from the Didier Site. The use of the disklike artifacts is unknown.

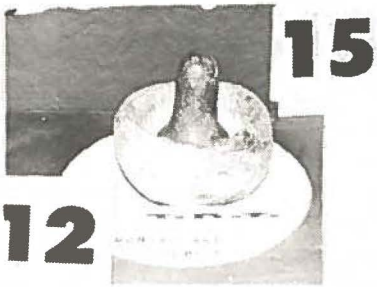
DISCUSSION

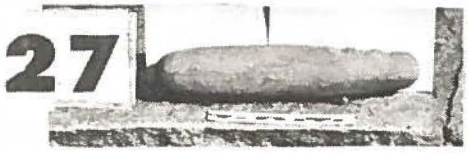
The 15th Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology (1893-1894) contains an extensive study and report by W. H. Holmes on "Stone Im-











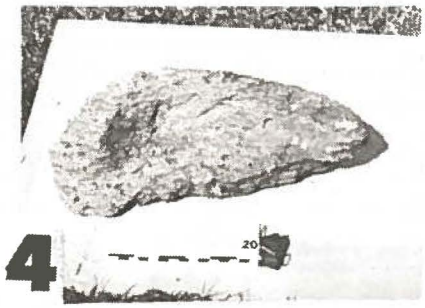


PLATE - III

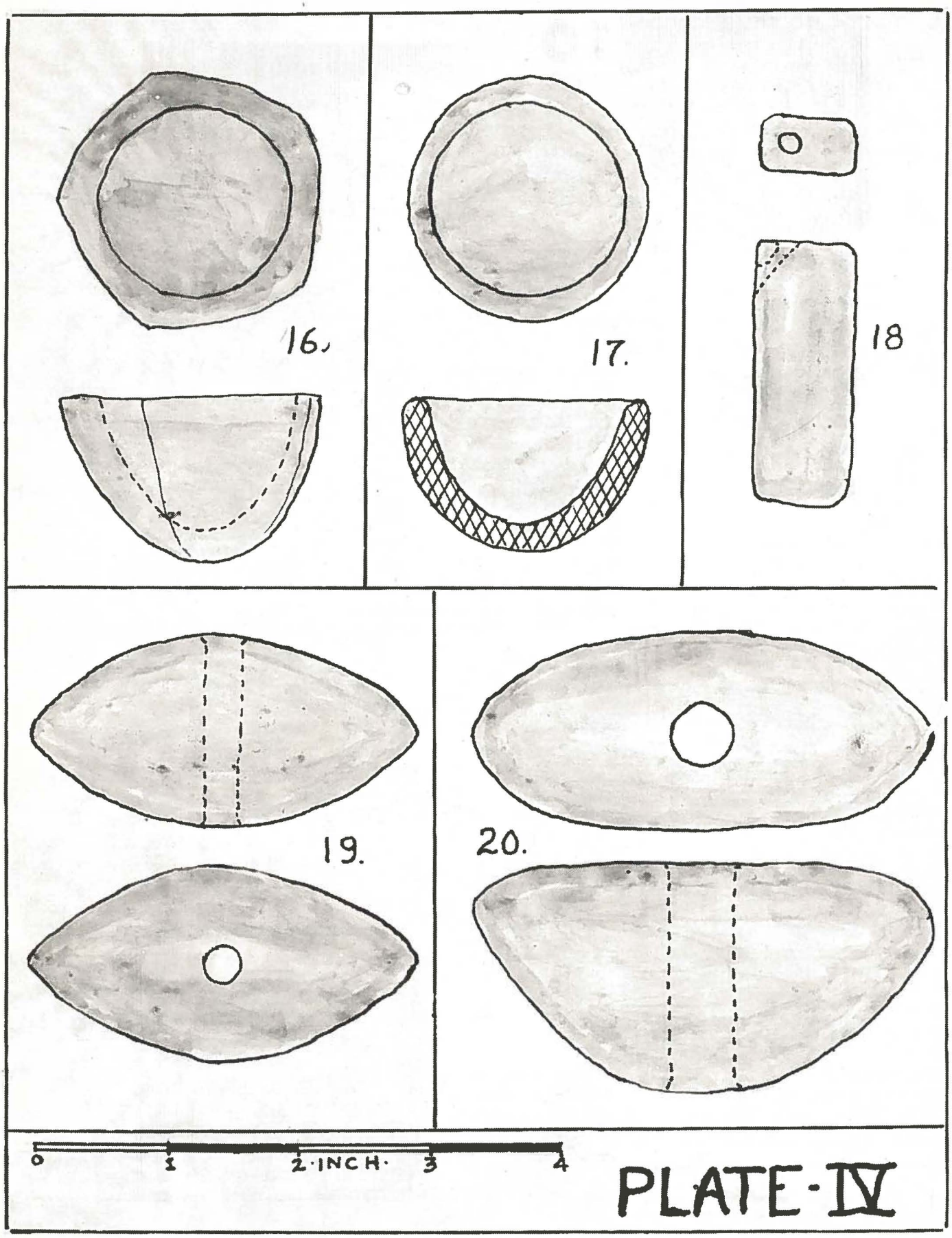


PLATE-IV

plements of the Potomac-Chesapeake Tidewater Province" (2). We are fortunate that such able men as Dr. Holmes and his associates made this study at such an early date in the development of American Archeology, for since that time urbanization and industrial development have destroyed many of the aboriginal quarries of flint, quartz, soapstone, and other stone used by the prehistoric Indians.

Holmes visited and studied many soapstone bowl quarries in Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, and referred to other similar bowl quarries in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Vermont. Our pictures and sketches in the October ARCHEOLOG (1) only confirm, in general, his drawings and pictures of the Indian's method of obtaining blanks for the manufacture of soapstone bowls.

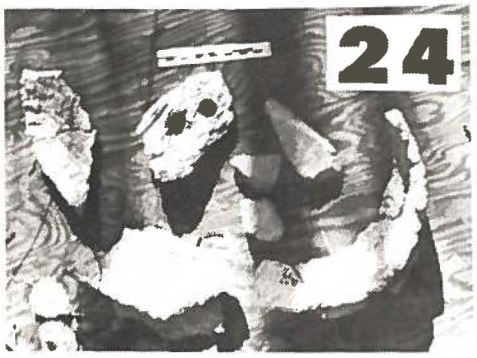
All Stone Age peoples have utilized soapstone, and the Eastern United States made good use of its abundance here. We have not seen any mention of the use of soapstone in the early narratives of European explorers and colonists, although they frequently described the Indian's method of making earthenware pots and bowls.

In 1939 Bushnell (3) described the collection in the Smithsonian Institute of soapstone pots quarried in all States containing portions of the Appalachian Mountains and the Piedmont plain except Delaware and Florida. The Piedmont Plain terminates at "fall line" and is therefore quite narrow in New York and the New England States, but widens rapidly as one passes southward and reaches a width of 300 miles in North Carolina. This vast area contains extensive deposits of soapstone as ledges in the mountains and still more extensive surface and subsurface deposits in the Piedmont.

Hundreds of soapstone quarries have been investigated and the total may run into thousands. The Indians preferred the surface and subsurface deposits rather than the exposed ledges in the mountains for their material. Two reasons suggest themselves: (a) the exposed ledges were more weathered and the quality often poorer, and (b) more Indians lived in the Piedmont section and transportation must have been an important consideration.

Both Holmes and Bushnell were of the opinion that the objects (pots, bowls, mortars, pipes, etc.) were only roughed out at the quarries. The tools used by the Indians in mining and shaping their pots and mortars, judging by the descriptions of Holmes and Bushnell, were approximately the same from Massachusetts to Alabama, and one of the most common was the triangular (in cross section) piece of sandstone shaped somewhat like a stout mower guard and chipped to a blunt point. See Plate V, Figs. 23 & 23A. Several of the bowls and mortars above reported were gouged with such tools and still show the vertical flutings or grooves.

In Sussex County and adjacent counties in Maryland on the Eastern Shore, we have found a few comparatively thin-walled, polished soapstone sherds in several of the camp and village sites examined, but never any crude unfinished sherds. We have gained the impression that there is a slight but progressive increase as one proceeds westward to the Chesapeake Bay or northward to the Pennsylvania line. That is, the use of soapstone vessels varied inversely with the distance from the source of supply. This suggests that the problems of transportation were quite important. This impression is supported by the brief comparison of artifacts found on various sites reported in our "Site Survey Report," July 1956 (4).



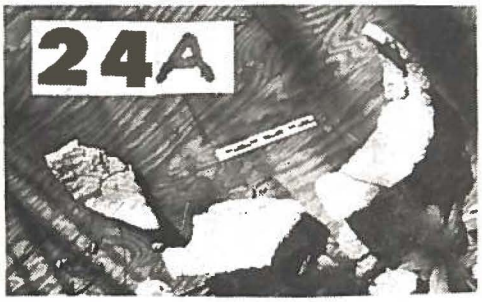


PLATE-V

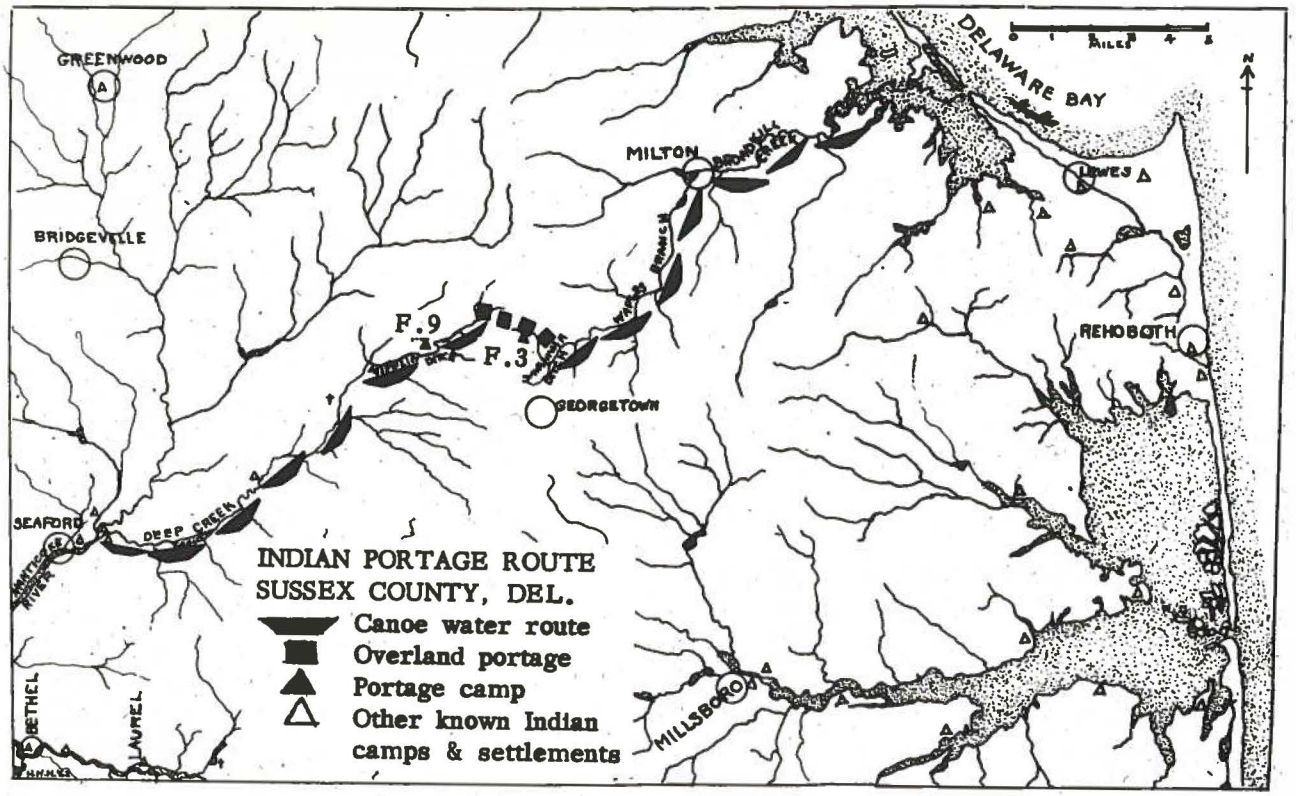
Notes and References

(1) H. H. Hutchinson."An Indian Soapstone Bowl Quarry" in the ARCHEOLOG, Vol. XIII, No. 2, Page 10, Oct., 1961.

(2) W. H. Holmes."Stone Implements of the Potomac-Chesapeake Tidewater Province" in the 15th Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institute, 1893-1894, pages 13 to 152.

(3) D. J. Bushnell, Jr. "The Use of Soapstone by the Indians of The United States." Annual Report of Smithsonian Institute, 1939, pages 471 to 491.

(4) Report of the Site Survey Committee on Sussex County and adjacent areas. In the ARCHEOLOG, Vol. VIII, No. 2, July, 1956.



AN INDIAN PORTAGE ROUTE IN SUSSEX CO., DELAWARE

H. W. T. Purnell

For thirty odd years the writer has been surface-collecting Indian artifacts from the fields just a short distance from his home in Georgetown, Delaware. This collection includes some 1500 projectile points, stone axes, celts, mauls, hammerstone, etc., and some broken pieces of Indian pottery. These were found in what we call the "Sharp's Hill Area", which includes about six square miles extending from near the State Police Station north of Georgetown northward to the Redden Forest; about 1 mile eastward, and 3 miles westward. Outside of this area relatively few artifacts were found. Those from this Sharp's Hill Area have been kept separate from other collections in the County. A large proportion of the points found came from a small field in the east part of the Sharp's Hill Area which is now known as the Sharp's Hill-Monroe Site (7-S-F3). This site is located on a crest of high ground and covers less than one acre.

Why was such a heavy concentration of artifacts found in the Sharp's Hill Area, while likely fields outside this area produced relatively few?

About 2 miles west of the Sharp's Hill-Monroe Site (F3) and within the Sharp's Hill Area is another sandy knoll covering less than an acre, which has been a prolific source of Indian darts for many surface collectors. This is called the Gordy's Hill Site (7-S-F9).

Only in the past year have the artifacts collected by several of our members on these two sites been kept separate from those collected in the general Sharp's Hill Area; so we can get only an

approximate comparison between the general area and the two specific sites. A comparison of these and their classification will be discussed in a separate paper.

The two sites (F3) and (F9) are on the edges of the "divide" between the Nanticoke River drainage and the Delaware Bay drainage. F3 is on the east or Delaware side and F9 is on the Nanticoke side.

Both of these sites are alike in that there seems to be no depth in the layer of artifacts found. Relatively few pottery fragments have been found. The area of surface finds is concentrated in a space of less than an acre which is situated on relatively high and dry ground, well but gradually drained in all directions; and both sites are only a few hundred yards from the headwaters of small streams draining westerly into the Nanticoke River and thence into the Chesapeake Bay or easterly into streams draining into the Broadkill and thence into the Delaware Bay. Between the streams no natural obstacles obstruct the portage of material or canoes. On both sites surface hunters can still find dozens of stone flakes and chips and an occasional small potsherd.

Undoubtedly several routes were used by the early Indians in their travels between the Chesapeake and the Delaware Bays. The two sites mentioned above are, we believe, two "portage camps" at or near the "head of navigation" of streams flowing into the two Bays.

At the head of tidewater on the Nanticoke, near the present towns of Seaford, Concord and Middleford, are known sites of several Indian settlements. From these sites a canoe could travel up Deep Creek to Old Furnace Mills, where there was another Indian settlement, then on past Cokesbury Church to Mifflin Ditch, and up Mifflin Ditch to or possibly beyond the Gordy's Hill Site (F9). From here would begin a portage of a mile or so, depending on the season and the depth of water, to near the Sandy Hill-Monroe Site (F3) on Savannah Ditch. Thence by canoe down that stream to Waples Branch, then into the Broadkill Creek and down the latter to the Delaware Bay not far from the many known Indian settlements in that neighborhood. (See map)

It must be born in mind that what are now called "Ditches" were originally small natural drainage streams, which had at that time much more water in them than today, since so much of the land has been deforested. Even today, except in very dry spells, a canoe could travel this route if fallen trees, fences and highway culverts and bridges were removed.

It seems only natural that the Indians would look for a high and dry spot for an overnight or rest camp near the head of navigation, before or after making the portage with their canoes, trade goods, gifts, or loot. Probably in peace time on their return journey they might camp at these spots for a day or two of hunting in an area that was not so much hunted as the areas near their settlements on or near tidewater. In between hunting and portaging they would fill in time chipping out projectile points for their regular armory. This would account for the many chips and flakes at these two portage sites. The scarcity of pottery on the two sites indicates temporary occupation, but the number of "points", stone chips, and flakes could indicate many brief occupations over a long range of time.

Artifacts

An analysis and listing of the artifacts found in this area and those definitely known from the above two sites will be given in a separate paper, but they can be summarized as follows:

Pottery. Most of the potsherds found in our early collecting (which amounted to two paper sacks full) have been lost, but memory indicates they were practically all grit tempered. However, those found in the past year and labeled at the two sites (F3) and (F9) indicate a preponderance of shell tempered sherds. This can be accounted for by the fact that grit tempered sherds are usually stronger than weathered shell tempered sherds and so would have remained in larger pieces and would have been picked up sooner than the small shell tempered sherds recently found.

Projectile Points. The projectile points cover a very large range of designs, a total of 93 different designs being recognized, not counting scrapers and drills.

Flint and jasper are the predominant materials used.

The most popular body shapes are: first - long triangular; second - broad triangular; third - lanceolate; fourth - leaf shaped (convex sides); fifth - diamond shape.

The most popular base or stem shapes are: First - shouldered, roughly rectangular stem; second - no shoulders or side or corner notches; third - side notched; fourth - shouldered with pointed stem.

The most popular specific designs are as follows:

(1) 2-F-1*. Long triangular, square shoulder, rectangular stem. (116)
(2) 3-F-1. Lanceolate, square shoulder, rectangular stem. (65)
(3) 1-A-2. Broad triangular, slightly concave base. (55)
(4) 1-A-1. Broad triangular, straight base. (54)
(5) 1-F-1. Broad triangular, square shoulder, straight base. (39)
(6) 3-C-1. Lanceolate, side notched, rectangular stem. (34)
(7) 1-F-3. Broad triangular, sloping shoulder, straight base. (33)
(8) 2-L-3. Long triangular, sloping shoulder, rounded stem. (32)
(9) 3-M-4. Lanceolate, sloping shoulder, rounded stem. (31)
(10) 1-C-1. Broad triangular, side notched, straight base. (30)

Space limitations prevent listing the other 83 designs.

*These combinations of numerals and letters (e.g., 2-F-1) refer to the Mullin's system of projectile point classification, which will appear in a later issue of the ARCHEOLOG.

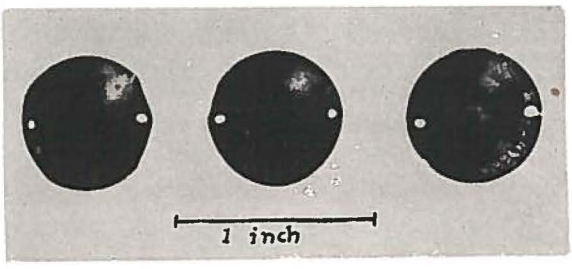
The photograph on the cover of this issue shows an early stage in a project inspired by two quite different intentions: One was derived from a report, made to us at the time of our finding of the "big pot" on Wolf's Neck (1949), that copper beads - probably a necklace - had been found on this site complex a few years previous to our digging. All that we were able to learn of these "beads" was that they were found by Jake Moore, son of the owner of the farm, while digging on a hillside south of the house and that they had been given to members of the Delaware Archaeological Society.

At that time metal beads meant only trade goods to us because no really ancient Indian copper beads had been found in this area, but when the recent St. Jones site produced many copper beads that were probably two thousand years old, it seemed wise to determine what the beads found by Mr. Moore were really like. At first the information we were able to obtain was meager and conflicting; but when Mr. Weslager was so kind as to send us three of these beads or spangles our slight hope that they might be real Indian evaporated, for they were brass or bronze and not copper. As probable trade goods they are not without interest for they are similar to some "jetons" found by Alice L.L. Ferguson near Piscataway Creek, Maryland and illustrated in American Antiquity Vol., VI, No. I, Plate V, c. Dr. T. Dale Stewart, who reported on the skeletal remains from this Piscataway site, describes these objects in the following paragraph:

> "The most elaborate of all the necklaces consists of eighteen little copper jetons or medalettes (PlateV, c). Each jeton is stamped with a rose crossed with a thistle and surmounted by a crown. The reverse side is blank. There is no record that other jetons of this type have been found in this country. The Department of Coins and Medals of the British Museum reported that they were issued between 1630 and 1640 in the reign of Charles I and that they were used as admission pieces to the ceremony of the King's Touch."

Our spangles had been buffed and would have needed only one operation to emboss the Charles I design, but only an an examination of both together would show whether or not they were blanks disposed of by Cromwell as surplus. One has been sent to Dr. Stewart for any comment he cares to make.

In re-examining this site last autumn, we probed on the hillside where the spangles were said to have been found and discovered a large area of shells that had been covered by soil eroded from the field above. These were a continuous mantle generally called a shell heap. Our society had excavated hundreds of shell pits but never an extensive shell mantle. Therefore Dr. Marine proposed that a careful investigation of this shell heap be made. This is now under way and will be reported in a later issue of the Archeolog. As we "go to press" we have news that a somewhat similar spangle has been dug from a pit about two miles from where the first were found. This investigation will be carried further - if possible. O. H. Peets



RESEARCH APPEAL

Being engaged on a complete monograph of the now extinct Carolina parakeet (Conuropsis carolinensis), I urge archaeologists and ethnologists to write me if they know of any of the following instances of a role for the parakeet in the life of the Indians of America (approximately east of the Great Plains): Indian words for parrot or parakeet, skins, bills or scalps used in a decorative or religious way, skeletal remains from middens, etc. I shall contact larger museums; this appeal is addressed to individual workers.
Daniel McKinley, Biology Dept., Lake Erie College, Painsville, Ohio.

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IN MEMORIAM

Colonel Wilbur S. Corkran died in the Walter Reed Hospital February I3, I962 and was buried in Dover, Delaware, on February I7 th.

After graduating from the University of Delaware, he spent several years in engineering work, particularly in South America.

In I93I Colonel Corkran came to Rehoboth Beach and began to develope Henlopen Acres as a beautiful residential area. He took time out to head the Mosquito Control work of southeastern Sussex County under the auspices of theCivilian Conservation Corps and performed an outstanding public service. He was also a veteran of World War II and retired as Lt.Colonel to resume the development of Henlopen Acres.

He was deeply interested in archeology and history of southeastern Delaware and with the establishment of the Sussex Archeological Association in I948 became active in its projects, particularly those involving history. During the last few years the handicap of progressive deafness lessened his activities but not his interest.

He is survived by his widow, Louise Chambers Corkran.

We regret the loss of a friend of archeology and history and of a spoksman for the preservation and extension of the cultural and natural features of our area.

NEW MEMBERS

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NOTICES

Corrections: Issue of October, 1961

1. On cover read VOL. 13, No. 2 instead of VOL. 13, No. 3.

2. On page 14, read 7-S-D 10 instead of 7-5-D 10.

Back numbers: All inquiries regarding back numbers of the ARCHEOLOG should be addressed to Henry H. Hutchinson, Bethel, Delaware.