

B U L L E T I N

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

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23 Champlain Avenue  
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## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

### The Importance of Recording

Second in importance to preserving the artifacts found on Indian sites in our state is that of recording what we find and where we find it. Possibly the greatest service our organization can render the State is in leaving a written record of our findings.

In this Bulletin there have appeared from time to time articles written by our members relating to artifacts found on certain sites with a story of the member's experiences on the site. This type of article is very constructive and we solicit such contributions.

When the writer first came to Wilmington he asked at the public library for material pertaining to Delaware archaeology. The only references which answered his purpose were early issues of this Bulletin which are kept on file. In no other publication is there a reliable record of archaeological data in our state. Teachers and students of the future will look to this Bulletin for information, and it is our duty to publish what we have learned.

Unfortunately, the society's limited funds do not permit the issuance of a printed bulletin at present; but as our membership grows, that should be our first objective.

Nevertheless, while the present Bulletin has its limitations in form, it is a media which can be just as broad in scope as our members choose it to be.

### Contribute to the Bulletin .....

We ask that active collectors in our membership submit articles describing their specimens and all data of interest about the various sites with which they are familiar. We should particularly record the existence of Indian sites which have been destroyed due to the erection of plants or dwellings. If you know of any of these, won't you please submit a short article for the Bulletin so that we will have an official record of their existence.

Those who are not collectors can also be of assistance by passing along information which pertains to Indian traditions gathered from conversation with old residents, farmers, or from early histories. We welcome your contributions.

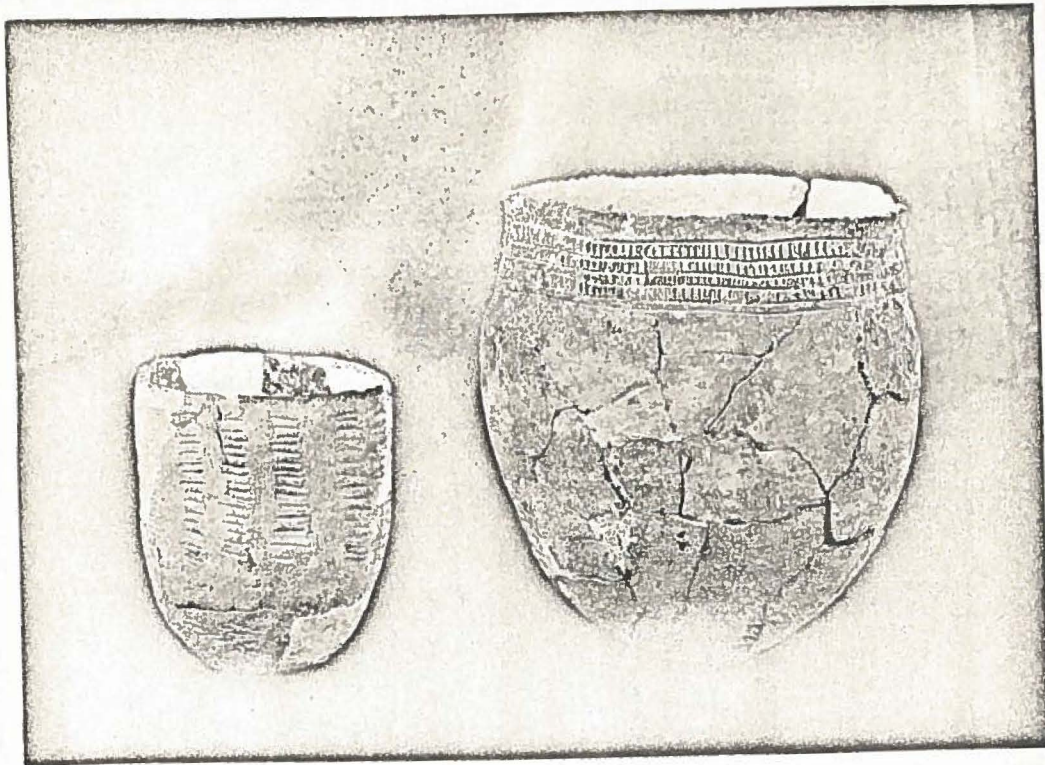
We have no official record in Delaware of burial grounds, of Indian quarries, rock shelters, picture writing on rocks, etc. Data pertaining to any of these should be transmitted to the society for investigation.

## LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

The following is an alphabetic list of members who had paid dues either in 1937 or 1938. Not all of the people on this list have paid their 1938 dues, and if you have not, won't you please remit to our treasurer now. (Harold Lang, 814 N. Adams St., Wilmington). Your contribution is needed to keep our organization together.

Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass.  
Douglas G. Byers, Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass.  
Samuel H. Carson, 106 Lockerman St., Dover, Del.  
Francis A. Cooch, Newark, Del.  
A. Crozier, Kennett Square, R.F.D. #2  
Mrs. A. Crozier, Kennett Square, R.F.D. #2  
Wm. O. Cubbage, R.F.D., Wyoming, Del.  
Leon De Vallinger, Jr., Dover, Del.  
Mary R. De Von, 1311 Delaware Avenue  
Frances Dorrance, Wilkes Barre, Pa., (69 So. Franklin)  
Lammot du Pont, P.O. Box 303  
Norman Dutton, Jr., 815 Washington St.  
I. B. Finkelstein, 1618 Franklin St.  
John W. French, Dover, Del.  
Mrs. John W. French, Dover, Del.  
Miss Jennie Graham, 910 W. 9th St.  
W. S. Habbert, 7 Darley Road, Claymont  
Dr. H. V. Holloway, Dover, Del.  
Dr. Walter Hullihon, Newark  
Dr. Frank M. Jones, 2000 Riverview Ave.  
F. Krapf, 38 S. Clayton St.  
Harold V. Lang, 814 N. Adams St.  
Mrs. Harold V. Lang, 814 N. Adams St.  
Henry J. Law, 2206 Delaware Avenue  
W. W. Mack, Dover, Del.  
Mrs. W. W. Mack, Dover, Del.  
Master Henry R. Mack, Dover, Del.  
Dr. J. Alden Mason, University of Penna. Museum, Phila., Pa.  
Miss McComb - address unknown  
Egbert Nutter, Holly Oak  
Mrs. Egbert Nutter, Holly Oak  
H. Geiger Omwake, Hockessin, Del.  
Prof. H. Clay Reed, Newark  
Swithin C. Robinson, Newark  
Dr. George H. Ryden, Newark  
Ludwig Schweitzer, Hartley, Del.  
Ludwig Schweitzer, Jr., Hartley, Del.  
John Swientockowski, 718 Pine Street  
William Taber, Dover, Del.  
Arthur G. Volkman, 1608 W. 4th St.  
C. A. Weslager, 23 Champlain Avenue  
Mrs. Joseph Wigglesworth, 104 Lore Avenue  
Virgil B. Wiley, Selbyville, Del.

If your name is not listed, our records show you have not paid your membership dues either in 1937 or 1938. Please remit and have your name placed on our Active List.



The pottery vessels shown above were described in one of last year's bulletins, but at that time it was not possible to illustrate them. Recently the pots have been photographed and for that reason we are again introducing them into the records of the society.

Both vessels were found in a pit at Slaughter Creek, Prime Hook Neck, Sussex County, Delaware, in December, 1936 by H. G. Omwake. The vessels were in fragments when found but it was possible to restore them.

The simple decorations are clearly shown in the photograph and consist of incised, straight line markings; the rims are slightly flared; the bottoms are pointed.

This find by one of our active members is a significant contribution to the archaeology of our state.

AN EARLY INDIAN VILLAGE ON THE  
WHITE CLAY CREEK, DELAWARE

By: A. Crozier

About one mile above Newport, New Castle County, the White Clay Creek enters the Christina River from the West. It is the largest tributary of the Christina with the exception of the Brandywine, and its two branches extend well into Chester County, Pennsylvania. It is quite a sizable stream and has three good sized branches -- the Red Clay Creek, Mill Creek and Pike Creek. Its headwaters are not far from the headwaters of several streams which empty into the Susquehanna River; therefore, it was probably a very important part of the Indian waterway from their settlements on that river to Wilmington and New Castle, where they came to trade their furs, as stated by Campanius in his History of New Sweden. They probably came up the streams from the Susquehanna and portaged a few miles to the headwaters of the White Clay which, at that time, was no doubt much larger and deeper than it is today.

At several points along the White Clay are evidences of Indian towns and camp sites, the largest of these being on the Clyde Farm, near Stanton, Delaware. Near this town the White Clay is joined by the Red Clay and Mill Creeks and it was an ideal spot for an Indian village. It extended from the highway leading from Stanton to Cooch's Bridge, down the West shore of the White Clay to its junction with the Christina and along that stream to Churchman's Bridge, a distance of two or three miles. On the other side of the Christina, between Newport and Churchman's Bridge are many evidences of Indian occupancy, but these settlements were probably separate from the one under discussion.

I believe the site in question was entirely prehistoric. This fact could only be verified by extensive excavation which will probably never be made, as the land has been acquired by the Wilmington Country Club and will soon be gone forever as far as Archaeology is concerned. A few gun flints and some pipe stems of Colonial type are the only objects found on this site which might show white contact, but these may have been left there long after the Indians had departed, as this land has been cultivated since the early 1600's.

The site is on elevated land, well drained, and while the bluffs are rather high in places, it was easily accessible from the stream. A small brook flows through it which would have furnished an abundance of pure water and there are two fine springs still in existence on the site. The marshes on the lower side of the Creek and those along the Christina until recent times were famous for reed and rail bird shooting, and in the ancient times must have been teeming with these and many other marsh birds. Wild ducks are still fairly numerous in the Fall.

The White Clay, before it was polluted with industrial wastes, was a fine place for perch and other fresh water fishing, which I enjoyed there when I was a youngster. Turtles and mussels were also very plentiful. The woods in the vicinity, while sadly depleted, still furnish many different kinds of nuts, wild grapes and berries. All of these factors helped to make the site ideal for the Red Man. That he occupied it for a long period of time is indicated by the great number of artifacts found thereon. I have been collecting on the site for over forty years, and during that time the tenants of the farm have been most kind in permitting me to hunt, with the exception of the present tenant, who arbitrarily forbids any relic hunting on the property. The site has also been extensively searched by our late friend Joseph Wigglesworth, and by Mr. Swithin Robinson one of our Newark members. His collecting probably covers a longer period than mine. In late years Messrs. Omwake, Weslager and Dutton of our Society have been quite successful in hunting on the site.

Mr. Wigglesworth found many interesting pieces here, the rarest being a highly polished banner stone which is grooved instead of being perforated. The most interesting specimens in Mr. Robinson's collection from here are two broken semi-lunar knives, the ulu or woman's knife of the Eskimo. One of them is deeply incised on the handle part. This is the farthest south in this region that I know of these implements having been found, and may indicate contact with the Eskimos by the early inhabitants of this village. Mr. Robinson has many other interesting pieces from the site.

The most numerous artifacts that I have found there are the chipped implements. These include arrowheads of many types and a great variety of material, drills, spoon and bunt shaped scrapers, large bevelled scrapers, and knives of various shapes. Among the minerals used are jasper ranging in color from light brown to black, chalcedony, argillite rhyolite, calcite, iron sandstone, white quartz, quartzite of many colors, etc. An occasional arrowhead is found of smoky and rose quartz, and a few are of undoubted Flint Ridge material from Ohio. Much of the material found here is made from minerals brought in either as unfinished blades or finished artifacts, such as rhyolite from the South Mountains of Pennsylvania and jasper and argillite from the upper Delaware River quarries. The quartz and quartzite ones were probably from localities nearby where outcrops occur. Over half of the chipped implements are of jasper in its various colors. Quartz and quartzite comprise nearly all the other half. In contrast to the Crane Hook site, the argillite artifacts comprise only about two per cent, iron sandstone two per cent and rhyolite about one per cent.

The points measure from  $5/8$ " to spear head size of 5". They are mainly of the shouldered type. Quite a few have barbed and bifurcated bases and a few are of asymmetric form. Three of the barbed type are broader than they are long, and suggest a flying bird. Next to the shouldered type in point of numbers are the triangular points, comprising about 20 per cent of the arrowheads.

Some of them are very beautiful and practically all of them are equilateral. The long isosceles Iroquois type is absent.

The ground and pecked implements in my collection from this site include seven good pestles and several broken ones, eight grooved axes, two celts, four hoes - one of rhyolite measuring 6" x 4", six abraiders, dozens of hammerstones - many of them pitted, several symmetrical stone balls, a few shallow mortars, many lap or anvil stones, together with the usual run of smoothing and grinding stones.

Problematical and ceremonial stones are rare. The best one from this site is a perfect banner stone of green steatite found by Mrs. Crozier. Next in interest is half of a butterfly type banner stone with boldly incised designs on both sides. Another interesting little piece is a pendant 2" long  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, drilled for suspension and deeply notched like saw teeth around its entire perimeter. I also have four steatite tubes, all more or less damaged, but quite interesting. An octagonal tablet about 3" x 3" has three holes neatly drilled through it and has six incised designs, probably representing trees or bird tracks. Six gorgets complete my list of this class of artifacts from the site.

Pipes are almost absent and comprise half of a beautifully polished steatite bowl found by Mrs. Crozier and about half a dozen clay pipe stems, not trade material.

As no excavating has been done, pottery is represented only by sherds, the largest ones being about three inches square, all surface finds. Of these I have several hundred ranging in color from white to dark red, the white predominating as there was an abundant supply of Kaolin on the site. The sherds range from  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in thickness, and are mostly tempered with coarse sand or gravel. Occasionally sherds are found tempered with mica, but shell tempering is absent. The sherds are so small that very little conjecture can be made as to the size of the vessels, but they probably ranged from cups to large storage and cooking pots.

Ornamentation seems to have been confined to the portion nearest the rim, and include triangular and herring bone motifs, usually below a series of parallel lines encircling the outer rim. One sherd has a well executed "Walls of Troy" design. The rims are usually straight, although I have quite a few with flaring rims. Some are crimped on the upper surface of the rim and occasionally sherds have the inside marked with the same impression as the outside. No portion of a collared vessel has been found. Decoration of the body of the vessel is the usual basket or textile marking, and the inside walls as a rule are very smooth and show no trace of the smoothing process. In addition to the incised linear decoration, I have a number of sherds showing finger nail impressions around the rim, but these are rare.

Many pieces of broken steatite vessels have been found, but none large enough to give a complete idea of the size or shape of the pot. Some of these sherds show the beginnings of being made into

ornaments or trinkets.

It is very unfortunate that scientific excavation has not been made on this site, in view of the thousands of objects that have been found on the surface.

## UNEXPLORED SITES IN THE CHRISTINA RIVER VALLEY

By: C. A. Weslager

It is at once apparent to anyone who has followed its course and carefully explored its twists and turns, that no river in New Castle County was more important to our aboriginal population than the Christina, or Christiana, as it is commonly known.

Its source in the Maryland hills beyond Newark, the Christina crosses the Elkton Road as a small creek, but fed by such streams as Persimmon Run, Mill Creek, White Clay Creek, None-Such Creek and the Brandywine, it finally meets the Delaware as a wide and deep waterway.

There are still many older residents in this area who remember when the Christina was navigable for large boats as far as the town of Christiana, Delaware. Yet, as an avenue of commerce, it was apparently far more important to the Indian than it was to the white man. Except, of course by foot, the river was the red man's only medium of transportation. The Christina carried him to his choice hunting grounds; it was his line of communication with his neighbors up and down stream. Moreover the Christina teemed with varieties of fish and shell food and provided the Lenapes with a major source for their diet. Its valleys were fertile producing an abundance of berries, nuts, grapes and other edibles. Since the incoming tide from the Delaware carried saltwater the river, especially downstream was obviously not used for drinking purposes, however those who dwelt on its headwaters probably found the water excellent for drinking.

Those who are interested in the archaeological aspects of the Christina River Valley know that at least three or four major Lenni Lenape villages were situated in its valley. I refer of course to the village site near its mouth at Crane Hook, the second at Newport and the third at Stanton. The fourth was located near the present city of Wilmington, possibly in the vicinity of "The Rocks". The first three sites mentioned have been diligently explored for many years by members of this society as well as other interested persons. Many thousands of artifacts in the largest collections in this part of the state are from these sites. In the last issue of this bulletin, Mr. Crozier contributed an interesting article covering his experiences over a number of years at the Crane Hook site. In this issue he has written another paper describing the village site at Stanton, which is a fine contribution to our records.

But these villages did not house all those who lived along the Christina. Our knowledge so far as these sites are concerned is due entirely to the fact that they have been in cultivation for many years and the plow has turned up evidences of their inhabitants. It must be remembered that the Christina meanders through

miles of woodland which have never been under the plow and whose secrets remain hidden beneath the top soil.

Smaller sites are located on both sides of the Christina all the way up to its headwaters. At the junction of smaller streams, where the topography is such that an Indian would choose to live, one will find evidences of occupation. H. G. Omwake and the writer have located three sites on the Christina in the vicinity of Newark which had never before been recorded. These have produced many interesting specimens for our cabinets which will be fully described and recorded in a future paper.

There is a small site near Cooch's Bridge, but so far as I know the area on the Christina between Cooch's Bridge and the town of Christiana has not been thoroughly explored. It seems logical that a village site should exist in the vicinity of Christiana, but as yet, one has not been located.

This brings me to the subject of unexplored sites between Wilmington and Newport on the Christina which I should like to record in this paper. On the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, approximately half-way between Wilmington and Newport, there is a signal tower and a station known as "Ragan". North of the tower, directly on the west bank of the river, there was once a hillock whose total area I estimate as an acre and a half. Today, unfortunately, only half of this hillock remains, the balance having been sheared off by steam shovels when the tracks were laid. The hillock was once part of a large farm (now owned by the railroad) but it has not been cultivated for at least 35 years and probably will never be cultivated again. When it was in farmland it yielded hundreds of artifacts, many of which are in the collection of the late Joseph Wigglesworth.

Browsing around on this half-hill as I have many times I have found potsherds and several arrowheads and worked flints. A concentration of mussel shells leads me to believe that at least one midden awaits the patient explorer. Before this site is completely destroyed by further changes by the railroad company it should be excavated, and I for one certainly wish the Archaeological Society had the means to undertake such a survey.

In the direction of Newport about 1/4 mile from the hillock just described, there is a series of knolls bordering a swamp on the west bank of the river. This constitutes another unrecorded and unexplored site. In the gulleys washed out by the rain, one can find sherds and quantities of quartz, quartzite and jasper flakes.

On the opposite side of the railroad tracks at the south edge of Folly Woods, there is a small body of water known as Folly Pond. This pond was once backwater of the Christina but the railroad has separated it by its roadbed from the river proper. Several springs flowing from the woods are the tributaries to the pond. A favorite haunt of local anglers today, this pond was once the center of a Lenape community. Thanks to the fishermen who have

spaded along its shores for bait, I have found a number of excellent specimens. I have found no evidence to indicate that this area has ever been in cultivation and consequently the many relics which lie undisturbed in the soil are no doubt in excellent condition.

At one point in the woods I found in the wash a great quantity of quartz and jasper flakes and a number of sherds. I dug several test holes to substantiate my belief that this was a dwelling place several centuries ago. I was rewarded with some two dozen sherds, several chipped specimens and a broken banner stone. Inasmuch as local tradition places an Indian graveyard somewhere near Folly Woods, I certainly wish we could sponsor a project here.

It is of course extremely dangerous to attempt to draw any positive conclusions concerning the archaeology of the Christina Valley until such a time as a complete study is made which will entail proper and thorough excavation. However, certain things are obvious: first, that the valley housed a substantial aboriginal population; second, that this population was concentrated in several apparently permanent communities; third, that in addition to the major villages, there dwelt or camped along the river banks at strategic positions a scattered population.

REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

Place: Wilmington Institute Free Library  
Date: June 4, 1938.  
Time: 8:00 P.M.

The President called the meeting to order and the minutes of the preceeding meeting were approved as read. Mr. Crozier expressed the great sorrow of the Society caused by the sudden death of its treasurer, Joseph Wigglesworth. He spoke of Mr. Wigglesworth's life-long interest in the archaeology of Delaware, and of his years of service as an officer in the Society.

By unanimous vote Harold V. Lang was chosen to succeed Mr. Wigglesworth. C. A. Weslager was also elected as new editor of the Society by unanimous vote.

All of the further business was dispensed with in order that the speaker of the evening, Dr. Dorothy Cross, New Jersey State Archaeologist might have sufficient time to present an illustrated address on the excavations being conducted in New Jersey under her direction with the aid of W.P.A. funds.

(Ed. Note: A resume of Dr. Cross's discussion is presented on the next page.)

Great interest was shown by the members during Dr. Cross's discussion and when she concluded she very graciously answered the several questions which were prompted by her main address.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

H. Geiger Omwake,  
Secretary.

PROGRESS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN NEW JERSEY

Resume of an address by Dr. Dorothy Cross, New Jersey State Archaeologist, presented before the Society, June 4, 1938.

By: H. Geiger Omwake

Until the past few years little digging of a scientific nature had been done in New Jersey. Sporadic excavations had been conducted on the Abbott Farm, the Crissman Farm and the Minisink Island sites by various individuals and institutions, including the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. However, these diggings resulted in no well-authenticated theories and nine-tenths of all the material excavated and found on the surface was removed to museums outside the State of New Jersey.

The present explorations are being conducted by reason of a W.P.A. grant. To date excavations have been completed or begun on twenty-two sites, the most comprehensive investigations being on the old Abbott Farm site near Trenton. From a scientific point of view this excavation is the most important. Nearly thirty-three thousand archaeological specimens have been recovered and have caused radical changes of theories concerning the antiquity of the site. Of course present conclusions must necessarily be tentative and may be subject to some alterations as the excavation progresses.

It appears that the objects which Dr. Abbott called paleoliths and which were discussed in his book "Primitive Industry" and various magazine articles and which he claimed as the handiwork of glacial man, are in reality no more than roughly blocked out material for making blades. These are currently known as "turtlebacks" and are commonly found on Indian sites.

The present investigations at the Abbott Farm site have made it apparent that Dr. Abbott misnamed the material of which these "turtlebacks" are made. He called it argillite, whereas it is actually shale. The material commonly known as argillite should be designated rhyolite. In the course of the excavations several "turtlebacks" of jasper have been found.

What appears to be a bannerstone culture has been suggested by the finding of numerous bannerstones at exceptionally deep levels. No theories have been advanced to account for their presence and efforts are being made to establish further facts regarding them.

These excavations are of particular interest to us in Delaware because of the close relationship between the prehistory of New Jersey and that of our state. We hope to keep our members posted on the future progress of the diggings.

## AN ARROWHEAD

There was a summer day not long ago, so utterly lovely from sun up to sunset that I could not resist the call of the fields and furrows. Spent of its clouds in a rain the previous night, the sky, a blue curtain, drew its folds aside to let the sun through. Yet the earth where I walked was cool and soft like moss that grows in shady places. The rows of corn stalks brushing my shoulders shaded the ground and kept it moist and sweet smelling. Between these lines of green-garbed sentries I slowly made my way, head low, eyes scanning the ground lest a precious find pass unobserved.

A scattering of pale quartz flakes, none larger than my little fingernail, told me I was near my goal. For here, in this field, many centuries ago an arrowmaker sat cross-legged on the edge of the hill. I could imagine him there now, and I, hidden behind a veil of tassels fixed my eyes on his hands and arms. Glistening, copper-colored arms they were, unclothed save for a bracelet of drilled bear teeth. On the palm of one hand he wore a piece of deer hide so the sharp stone would not cut his skin. A slate pendant dangled on his breast. How deftly he turned the pebble in his fingers and how his hammerstone bit into the quartz and sent tiny iridescent flakes flashing in the sun. Then with a bone tool he skillfully shaped an arrowhead so quickly that it seemed as though he were whittling at a piece of wood. As he finished he carefully laid the arrowhead beside him with others made of jasper, chalcedony and rhyolite.

Suddenly he was no more, but where I imagined he had been sitting something sparkled in the sun.....it was a beautiful arrowhead, so white that a heart-shaped blossom might have fallen to the ground, so clear-cut that it might have just been made. It lay there like a jewel on a bed of velvet.

I picked it up and held it to the sun. The rain had washed it clean. It was crystal-clear at the point, its clearness melting into a milky whiteness at the barbs and stem. Thin almost as a leaf, it was so delicately tooled that it was as though Nature and Man had both outdone themselves in producing a thing of such beauty.

There are those who call my gem a pretty stone and nothing more, and tell me that in boyhood they found them in the fields by scores and idly threw them at the birds. But to me this arrowhead represents an art since lost, a relic of the past that has outlived its creator and will outlast my generation and my children's children.

No song or poem tells a story more romantic than that which I can read into this arrowhead. There are few joys to compare with mine in finding and preserving this tiny part of the dead centuries. For generations it lay unnoticed, lost by the arrowmaker and Fate choose me to find it.

This piece of stone finds its way to my cabinet from a past which this amazing new world chooses to forget. But it never allows me to forget that venerable race of Lenni Lenapes who once inhabited the place where I live and who have vanished, leaving behind a few eternal traces of their existence such as the white quartz arrow-head I found on a lovely summer day in Delaware.

C.A.W.