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DELAWARE

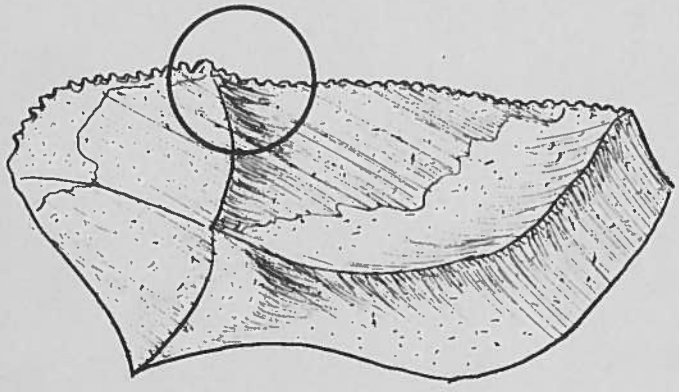

Fig. 11a. Front View

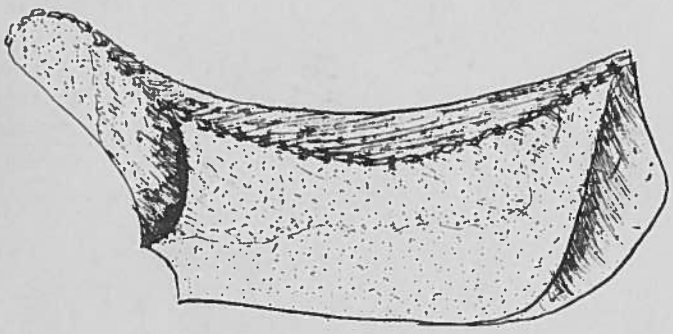

Fig. 11b. Top View

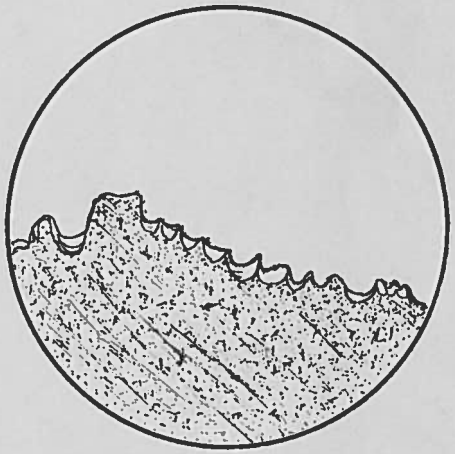

Fig. 11c. Notches in circled area (Fig. 11a) magnified 10 times to show flaking.

Fig. 11. Willin Site "Micro-Scraper" x 4

(See pages 14 and 15)

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NATHANIEL MITCHELL - (1753-1814)

by
Henry H. Hutchinson

Among the many "forgotten heroes" of Delaware's early history, one stands forth as predominately worthy of rememberance and honor. He was Nathaniel Mitchell of Sussex County, son of James and Margaret Mitchell, and a nephew of General John Dagsworthy. He was born near Laurel, Delaware in 1753.(1)* We have found no record of his early life or education, but subsequent events indicate his training led to him being a "gentleman and a scholar." His military and civil record through life clearly indicated his devotion to his country, his state, his community, and his church. His modesty is clearly indicated by the lengthy inscription on his grave slab. This he probably composed before his death, as was frequently done in those days. This inscription mentions none of the honors that came to him in life. It simply gives his name, year of birth and death, and a dissertation on the coming of death. As near as we can decipher this inscription, it reads as follows:

> Life is short--Eternity how long.
> Must this sad chance succeed near me?
> Also, am I to draw my last gasp; to
> become a breathless corpse, & be what
> I deplore? The Lord shall deliver thee
> also into the hands of death.
> Yet a little while and thou shalt be
> with me.

By digging through archives and early records, and published historical and biographical books we have found enough records about him to give some of the events in his life which follow.

MILITARY RECORD: At age 22 he was commissioned Adjutant in General John Dagsworthy's battalion of Delaware Militia, and as such was probably active in helping to prevent clashes between the "Torys" and the "Patriots" in Sussex County who were very bitter at each other in those days (1775). The Torys were known to be active in

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*NOTE: Numbers enclosed in parentheses () indicate the sources of the information given. Thus; (1) is number one in the bibliography given at the end of this paper.

supplying British ships with provisions, and they were accused (but not proven) to have burned a Presbyterian Church near Laurel. (1)(6)(7)

In 1776 General George Washington was authorized by Congress to form a regiment which became known as "The Flying Camp." It was organized and equipped to be sent anywhere at a moments notice. Nathaniel Mitchell joined this regiment as a Captain under Col. Samuel Patterson and was mentioned as having captured a company of British and Hessians numbering more than his own company.(1) His regiment is recorded as having headquarters at Perth Amboy in October and November 1776.(4) He was transferred to Col. William Grayson's regiment and so recorded January 20, 1777.(4) When transferred to Col. Grayson's regiment he recruited his own company and Grayson's regiment was attached to the Delaware troops where they were at Valley Forge and fought in the Battle of the Brandywine on September 11, 1777.(1) He was disabled with "camp fever" and did not take part in the Battle of Germantown on October 12, 1777.(1) From December 1777 through February 1778 he was on furlough, but was in command of his regiment when the Battle of Monmouth occurred in June 1778.(4) While Col. Grayson was in command of the brigade, under General Charles Lee (not "Light Horse Harry" Lee). His regiment was complimented on their stand against the enemy, though the battle as a whole, was badly managed by General Charles Lee.

His company had headquarters at White Plains in July 1778, at Robinson's Plains in September 1778, and at Middlebrook in October 1778. Though he was on the Field and Staff muster roll in September at North River, he was promoted to Major in December 1778.(4)

January through March 1779 he again was on furlough. He appears next in April 1779 as Major in Col. Nathaniel Gist's regiment.(4) It is noted that he did not receive the pay of a Major until he joined Col. Gist's regiment in April. (The red-tape was as bad then as it is today!) Col. Gist's regiment was then under General Peter Muhlenberg in Virginia where we were attempting to stop or restrict the raids that the British were making inland from their bases on the Chesapeake Bay. Here Major Mitchell was in charge of the advance guard of a force against a raid commanded by General Benedick Arnold.(1) He could not stop the raid, but did harass the British and took a number of prisoners. During the winter of 1779 and 1780 he was appointed Brigade Major and Inspector under Gen. Muhlenberg. On the night of May 10 & 11, 1781, Major Mitchell, with a detachment of troops, was trying to throw a pontoon bridge across the Appomattox River near Petersburg, Virginia when they were surprised and captured by the British, and held prisoners until paroled after Yorktown.(1) This ended his active military service in the field, but later he signed documents as Brigadier General of the Third Regiment of Delaware Militia (1797).(4) This

probably accounts for several references on record where he is referred to as "General Mitchell."

In "The Constitutionalist or Defender of Human Rights," published September 19, 1804, is a long tribute to Major Nathaniel Mitchell signed by "An Old Officer." Who this old officer was we don't know, but most of his tribute is just a corroboration of the facts already mentioned along with the following anecdote relating to Major Mitchell's experiences in Virginia - "One morning being at the head of a scouting party, the principal object of which was to gain intelligence, he came up to the farm house of a poor widow, whose husband had fallen in battle, and found her in tears, with several small children crying about her. He inquired into the cause of her distress, and offered any relief in his power. She told him a party of British had just left her home and had plundered her of everything necessary for the subsistenance of her family, leaving her no food for the children, and she knew not how to prevent them from starving ....." To cut the rest of the anecdote short, Mitchell pursued the plunderers, caught them, made them carry all the plunder back and return it to the owners and pay for anything that was missing. They were then taken to headquarters as prisoners of war. Such an act was typical of his nature, so the anecdote is probably based upon fact.

CIVIL AND POLITICAL. After his parole he returned to Sussex County, Delaware, and was soon married to Hannah Morris, a daughter of Anthony Morris.(10)

He was a member of the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS 1786-1788. In 1787 he was credited with aiding the conservative victory in Sussex County by what was said to be "leading armed bands against the Irishmen and Presbyterians and frightening the Liberals so that they would not go to the polls."(12)

He was a "Privy Councellor" in 1792.(2) The Federalist Elector in 1800 and Prothonotary of Sussex County 1788-1805(2). In 1801 he ran for Governor of Delaware but was defeated by David Hall of Lewes by 19 votes. He had been described in the press as "a professed Diest, an open scoffer at, and reviler of the Christian Religion" and opposed to the Methodist.(12) That, and his opposition to the Liberals in 1787 (mentioned above) probably accounted for this defeat. However he was elected Governor for 1805-1808 on the Federalist Ticket; to the State General Assembly 1808, and State Senator 1810-1812.

His public offices were not marked by any sensational innovations, and were conducted in dignity and with his usual modest and conservative nature, but his many public offices reflect the high confidence that his friends and countrymen held for him and his judgment and ability.

His PUBLIC offices seem in the reverse of the modern trend. That is, he started at the top and worked down--Continental Congress, 1st; State Governor, 2nd; 3rd, State General Assembly; and 4th,

State Senator. I account for this in the fact that he was a staunch Federalist party supporter, but the Federalist Party was on the down trend everywhere except in Delaware. He was a practical realist of the situation and still a believer in the Federalist's party theory of government, so he ran for the office that he thought he had had enough support to be elected to, and where he thought he could exert his influence to the best advantage of the proper way of government; not aspiring for the honor of an office, but aspiring to influence the government at any level in the most practical direction for the good of the people. By modern standards he was a poor politician, but by any standard he was a Patriot, a Statesman, and a Gentleman.

PERSONAL. Nathaniel Mitchell's home, which still stands (1969), on Delaware Avenue, North Laurel, Delaware, is reported to have been built in the mid 1700's and is one of the oldest homes in Laurel continuously occupied since that time. Of course it has been much modernized and added to since the original structure.(3) It is generally known as the "Collins House" and as "Rosemont." It stands on high ground overlooking the mill-dam that forms "Laurel Lake" formerly known as "Record's Pond" and is located near the old land-mark known as "the wading place." This mill-dam was built about 1800 by Nathaniel Mitchell to operate a flour and grist mill. This mill was still grinding meal up to about 1961.(8)

He was a member of Christ Church, Broad Creek, in which pew 38 is believed to have been assigned to him, and for which he was assessed 30 shillings per year.(7) He was apparently reasonably active in that church for in 1807 he was a lay-delegate to the Diocesian Convention held in Lewes, Delaware, along with William B. Cooper (later Governor of Delaware 1841-1845) and the Rev. Hamilton Bell (Old Parson Bell) the Rector of Old Christ Church, Broad Creek.(5)

He was a delegate from Delaware to the general meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati in Philadelphia in May 1787 and was an original member of that Society.(4)(9)

He was a brother of George Mitchell who was one of the Commissioners to lay out the new County Seat (Sussex) in 1791, now known as Georgetown, Delaware. Some say that the town was named after this George Mitchell, who was also a participant in a number of land transactions in early Sussex County.

His children were - William I. Mitchell; Theodore Mitchell, both of whom lived in Laurel; Alfred Mitchell, who lived in Trenton, New Jersey; Dagsworthy Mitchell, unmarried and lived in Philadelphia; Elizabeth, who died young in 1833; Mary Ann, married John King of Georgetown, D.C. and had a son, Nathaniel King; and Elizabeth, who married Whiting Sanford and had a daughter, Deboro Sanford.

(4) A Mr. J. Mitchell Hastings joined the Society of the Cincinnati in 1952 as a great-great-great grandson of Nathaniel Mitchell.(4)

Gen. Nathaniel Mitchell died in Laurel, Delaware, February 21, 1814, and is buried in the graveyard at the S.E. corner of Old Christ Church, Broad Creek. His grave is near the grave of his friend the Rev. Hamilton Bell (Old Parson Bell) who was one of the only three ordained Episcopal Priests in the State of Delaware when he died in 1811.(7)

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(10) Family Histories and Descendants of Richard Wilson Long. By Curt W. Long of Salisbury, Md. 1968. Privately printed.
(11) See also W. Emerson Wilson's book "Forgotten Delaware Heroes" due for publication in 1969, which contains brief histories of many of our great and good men.
(12) Personal correspondence from W. Emerson Wilson of Wilmington, Delaware.

We are also greatly indebted to the following persons who did much tedious research in histories, references, archives, etc. to fill in these notes: Miss Mary Bacon, Laurel, Delaware; Mr. Dominick Fallon, Seaford, Delaware; and, the Librarians of the Laurel Public Library.

SOME LOCAL MICROLITHS

by
Perry S. Flegel

Introduction

May it be stated at the outset that the writer in no way qualifies himself as an authority on the subject of microliths and burins, nor any other of the small tools described on the following pages.

The comments made are merely the result of his notes and observations gathered over the years, and relative to the small tools found by him in certain areas of the Delmarva Peninsula. Other observations set down here are the result of comparisons of local hand tools and similar tools found by him in other parts of the world.

The discussion is far from complete and there must be many more kinds and types of tools that were used by the fingers and not by the hands. Probably they have been overlooked at excavations and sites, more so, because their use was not known than because they were not recognized.

Possibly this short paper may be the beginning, and as more knowledge is available regarding these tools, more may be recognized and made known to the layman and the amateur archaeologist.

No one knows just how many and what kinds of small tools were used by early man, nor for what purpose they were made.

Excavations of Indian refuse pits, and surface finds have revealed countless numbers of chips and flakes of quartz, jasper, chert, etc. The size of the chips vary from those less than a quarter of an inch in diameter, to some several inches in length and/or width. Many of these tools and "chip-tools" are still razor sharp, and a sharp edge of stone, even a small one, has countless uses.

What about the removal of a thorn or sliver from under the skin? The removal of dirt from under the fingernails? Encising of pottery, cutting meat and sinew, fraying sinew (tendon) into thread-like strips, scraping, to smooth or to shape arrow or harpoon shafts, bow or spear shafts and a host of other uses?

Some Local Microliths

Burins are small flint or obsidian tools found in the upper Paleolithic cultures throughout the world. They consist of small cutting tools to be used on wood, bone or ivory, and handled mostly between the thumb and the index finger. The tool has been beveled to a point and gets its name from a similar contemporary tool made by man for engraving wood, metal, stone or ivory.

It apparently was an advanced tool and was preceeded by darts, spear points, and arrowheads. Since indications are that they have been made from broken points they were, at least, still being made after arrows were formed.

The first arrows were probably pointed sticks to penetrate small animals, fish, or birds. The larger thick-skinned animals needed heavier and more durable arrow points, hence the introduction of the stone arrow point.

A microlith is a small stone implement also found in the Paleolithic culture levels throughout the Aurignacean to the Tardenoisian periods. (Chart 1)

Chart 1 will clarify, to a certain extent, the placing of various eras and subdivisions as they apply to Western Europe. This writer does not know if there is a comparable classification for North America. In all probability there would not be one, since enough evidence of early man on the North American continent has not been forthcoming. By early man we are referring to those people that might have been here before the Indian. However, the Chart attempts to adjust both continents to a time span.

There must be many theories as to how early man first got the idea for making tools out of stone. We will probably never know the first one, if indeed we have stumbled upon any at all. The answer must be forever conjectural. Did he need tools before he became a meat eater? Probably not. In order to capture some food, did he drop a stone on an unsuspecting animal from an overhanging ledge and, missing it, have it hit other stones below and break into several small pieces? After much trial and error, the right kind and proper flakes and chips were produced. They may have been the beginning of the pebble tools. In all probability the first "tools from tools" were flakes, burins and microliths.

Maybe burins were made after points were developed, since they can consist of the lower part of a blade that has been broken off at the tip. A defective tip of a blade may have broken off in use or while being made. From this a burin could have been made as is illustrated in Fig. 1.

CHART I

ERA	SUB DIVISION	YEARS AGO		MAN
Neolithic Ground some tools. Domesticated animals, planted crops, made pottery, wore clothes.		Up to Modern Times		
Small flint tools of geometric form.	TARDENOISIAN	Transition Period between Neolithic and Paleolithic		
Paleolithic Man only chipped his implements. Was a hunter. Practiced no agriculture.	AZILIAN	10,500		Cro-Magnom
	MAGDOLENIAN	15,000		
	SOLUTRIAN	20,000	Younger Paleo-lithic.	
	PERIGORDIAN	30,000		
	AURIGNACEAN	40,000		
	MOUSTERIAN	50,000		
	ACHEULEAN	75,000	Older Paleo-lithic	Neanderthal
	CHELLEAN	150,000		
	PRE CHELLEAN	200,000		
	EOLITHIC OLDOWAN	500,000		Homo Erectus Australopithicus

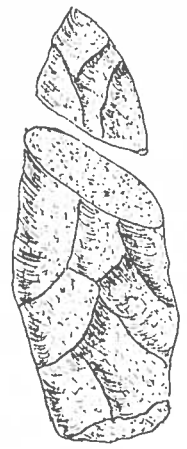
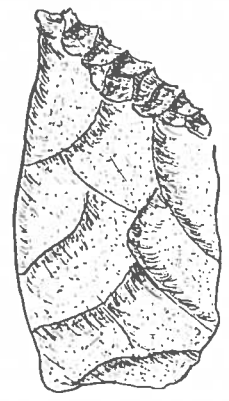


Fig. 1. The tip of a point was removed or broken away at an angle and the lower part can be made into a burin.

From this lower broken piece of blade, either a single or a double edged tool could be made. If a piece of hard wood, tusk, bone or antler was used, the broken end of the blade may easily have produced a striking platform. Then by any of several methods a single or double edged burin was made. The top of the broken blade has been chipped in order to form a surface which will hold the point of the blow when the side is struck off. (Fig. 2)



The top of the broken blade has been chipped in order to form a surface which will hold the point of the blow when the side is struck off.

If it was to have been a single edged burin, then only one edge would be removed. (Fig. 3)

If the tool was to be double edged, then a bevel was chipped off on both sides of the broken blade. (Fig. 4)

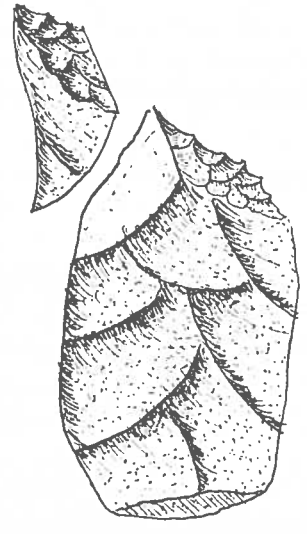


Fig. 3. A Single Edged Burin. Only one side of the blade has been removed.

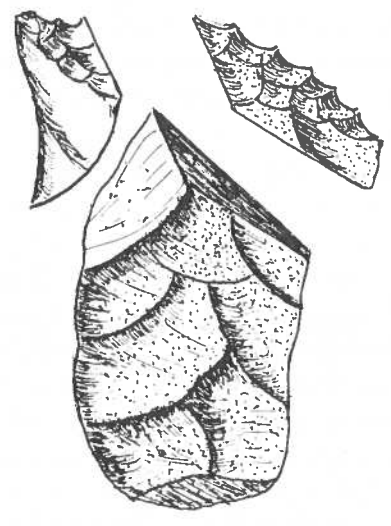


Fig. 4. A Double Edged Burin. Both sides of the blade have been removed.

Of the several ways in which a tip or an edge may have been put on a burin, two are shown in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6. After the point had been snapped off the lower part could have been placed against a stone and resulting pressure and the angle at which it was placed could have removed the tip. By turning the blade over, and repeating the process, the surface on the other side was removed and a double edged burin was the result. (Fig. 4)

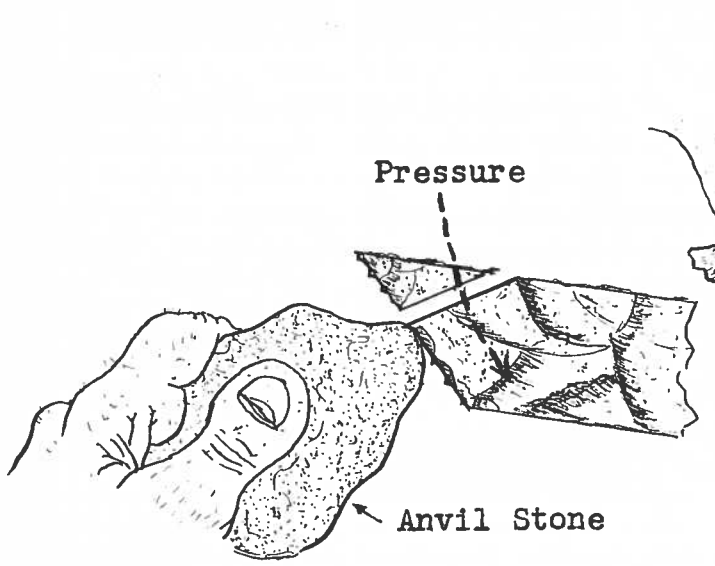


Fig. 5.

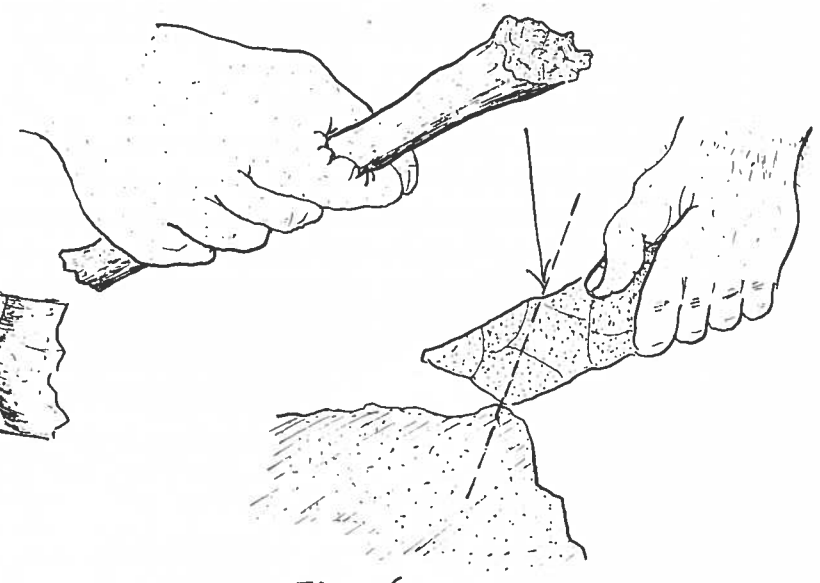


Fig. 6.

Again, by placing the blade on a large stone and using it as an anvil, the blade could be struck with a piece of wood or bone. This would cause the tip of the stone to break off. Here, as before, the angle at which the blade was held would determine the length of the face. It could be long or short; obtuse or acute. As far as can be determined, this writer has not come upon any burins in the eastern part of the United States, nor has he heard of any being found here. However, these tools are common throughout western Europe and Africa.

What appears to be a pebble tool was found at Bowers Beach in Delaware. It is the only one of its kind that has been found by the writer. It was picked up in the vicinity of the first burial that was unearthed and excavated at the site by the present Delaware State Archaeologist.

It was made from a small pebble which did not exceed 30.3 mm in length, was 20.8 mm at its widest part and only 10.3 mm thick.

Only three chips have been removed from one side of the stone and but four from the other. (Fig. 7) The maker appears to have been quite adept at making this tool in needing only seven operations to complete it.

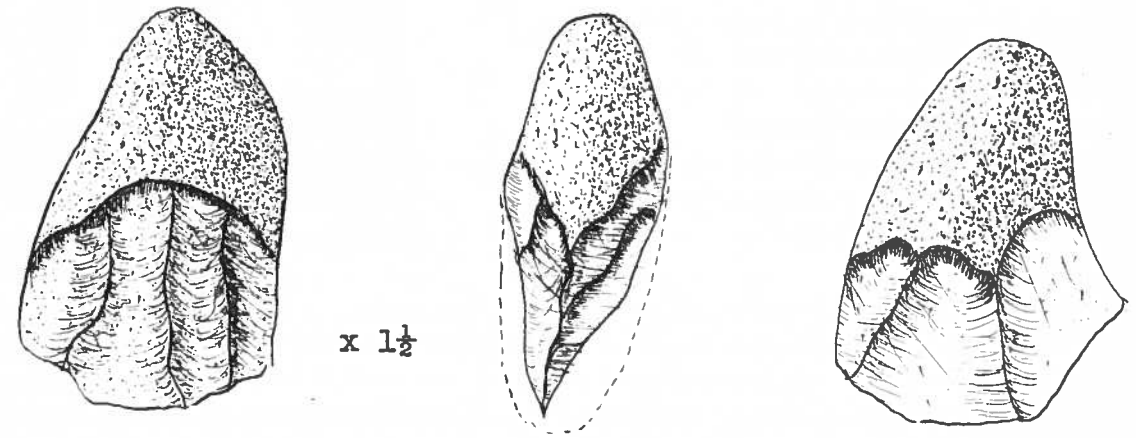


Fig. 7. Pebble tool found on surface at Bowers' Beach

The stone appears to be a piece of mottled quartz, light gray on the outside and a darker gray inside, streaked with light gray. There is some light gray marbling in the dark areas. Its use is speculative, but it appears to have been a tool due to the sharp cutting edge that has been formed in the area of the chipping. It fits very well between the thumb and the forefinger. Since only the lower part or end of the stone has been worked and the upper part of the stone smooth and in its original state prolonged usage would be possible without irritating the finger and thumb. However, its smooth upper surface does not lend itself to giving the user a firm grip on it. Although its tapering sides allow it to fit nicely into the grip of the finger and the thumb, it also tends to fall away and slip from ones grasp. In fact, the uncut part of the tool feels almost like a piece of soapstone. This fine semi-polish could have been due to heavy usage. If the stone is grasped half on the smooth part and half on the chipped part with the thumb extending over the flaking, a very secure grip may be had.

The cutting edge is lunate and irregular, but very sharp. The original pebble was somewhat flat on one side and raised or arched on the other, as viewed from the side. As a result, more chipping and larger flakes were removed from the rounded side than were taken from the flattened side.

From Pit #12 at the Willin site there was recovered a worked piece of smokey quartz. It is rectangular in shape when viewed from the front, and tapering nicely to a sharp point when looked at from the side. The blade is 30.0 mm across its sharp edge and 30.3 mm long. It is 10.8 mm through the thickest part of the stone at the top. (Fig. 8)

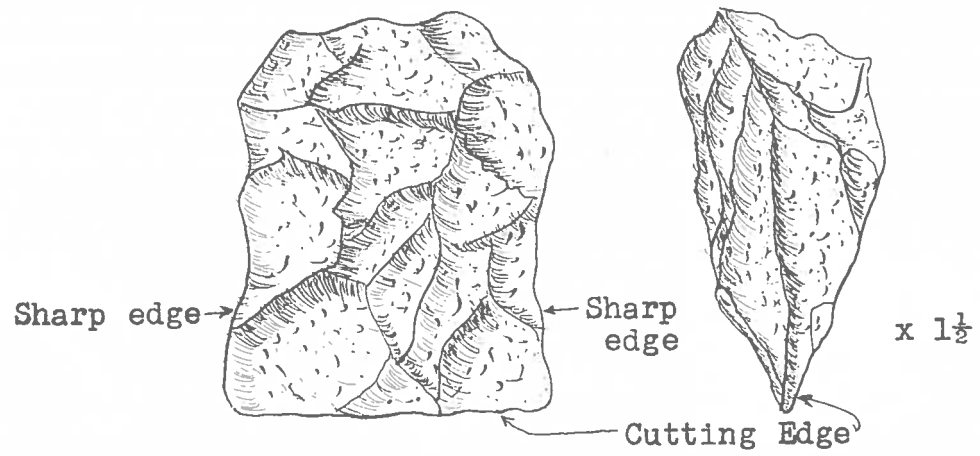


Fig. 8. Tool from Willin Site Pit # 12.

The entire piece has been worked on both sides and also on the edges. The top of the stone had one large flake taken from it, plus two smaller ones. It does not seem to have been as adaptable to the thumb and forefinger as does the previously mentioned pebble tool. Again its use does not seem to be clearly understood. It feels rather clumsy to the grasp, and with continued usage and pressure from the thumb and forefinger its roughness would be irritating to the user. It does have one advantage over the pebble tool in that it could be held much more firmly and give the user more pressure on a cut than the pebble tool. The cutting edge appeared to have been given quite a bit of usage, as it appeared rather worn.

From the McAllister Site in Dorchester County, Maryland, there was found on the surface a trapezoidal shaped piece of gray flint-like stone, with flakes of white throughout it. One side of the stone was almost flat while the other side was rounded. Both sides of the stone had been worked. All four edges of the stone had been worked.with none appearing to have been any sharper than the other. None of the edges were finely sharpened. It could not be determined if this was the original flaking of the stone, or whether it had been worn through usage to these dull edges.

The stone measured 25 mm on its longest base, and had an altitude of 20 mm. It was 5 mm thick. The angles the sides made with the longest base were 60 degrees and 80 degrees respectively. (Fig. 9) There are many small facets on both sides of the stone, indicating much tedious work. Fig. 9 shows a side and an end view.

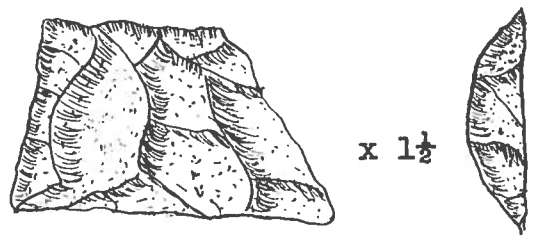


Fig. 9. Thumb-nail Scraper

From Red Bank on the Marshyhope Creek in Dorchester County, Maryland, a tool similar to that shown in Fig. 9 was found. It was uncovered among some potsherds that were excavated at the edge of the bank about 30 yards upstream from what is known as "Turkey Hill." Except for being a smokey quartz in color and almost rectangular, it has the same measurements as the stone found at the McAlister Site. It is slightly thinner and has an altitude of approximately 18 mm and a length of 20 mm. It appears that a corner of the tool has been broken off. The missing tip might have been pointed so as to have made an awl, or this break may have had nothing to do with the performance of the tool. Again, were this corner not broken off, it might also have been trapezodial. Unlike the stone in Fig. 9 it is beveled on both sides or faces. (Fig. 10)

Perhaps the most interesting as well as delicate of the worked chips (Figs. 11a, 11b and 11c. See Front Cover.) that have been found by the writer is a large flake of jasper from Pit No. 8 at the Willin Site in Dorchester County, Maryland. The flake is brown with a lighter outer coating. Along an irregular edge of the stone for a distance of 40 mm, there has been flaked off a total of 42 almost microscopic flakes, making a series of irregular "teeth." Each tooth is slightly less than a millimeter in depth. The last five teeth on the left hand side, as seen in Figs. 11a and 11b, appear to have been chipped or flaked off on the reverse side of the stone. The entire length of the stone is 40 mm. and its depth is 20 mm.

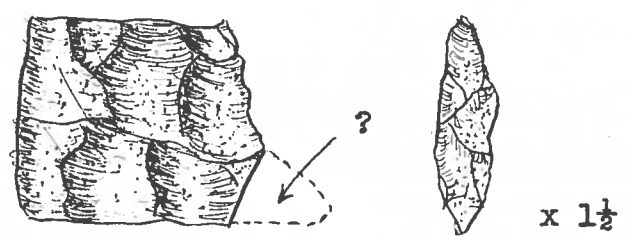


Fig. 10. Thumb-Nail Scraper from Red Bank.

Some of the middle "teeth" are double-notched and a few are triple notched! It is remarkable that such a tool, if it was one, could have been so delicately worked. What kind of instrument could have been used for the small flaking and indentation. In the middle where there are three notches at the top of a "tooth" and counting the notches on either side of the triple notched "tooth," one finds five notches in the space of one millimeter. The notches follow the curvature of the flake. The pressure was applied on the concave

side of the flake. There is no straight edge with notches and the notches are too regular not to have been deliberately made.

From Gamble's Cave in Kenya, East Africa, Dr. Leakey has found worked pieces of volcanic glass (obsidians) which resemble this artifact. He called the tool a "sinew frayer," and suggested its use was to fray out pieces of skin or tendon into threadlike lengths for sewing. The notches of the "sinew frayer" are not nearly as regular nor anywhere as delicate and small as those on the stone found at the Willin Site. This writer has tried the Willin Site stone on skin and leather and it has also failed to work as a "sinew frayer."

An enlarged drawing (11c) of the circled area of 11a is also shown on the front cover magnified 10 times. There can only be speculation regarding the use of this tool. The "teeth" are too small to be used as a "sinew frayer." Also the notches are not deep enough to have been used as a comb. They are sharp enough that they can be felt and also cut one's skin if the tool is pulled on it.

Two pieces of dull gray rhyolite which are more or less parallelograms in shape were found at the Brinsfield Site in Dorchester County, Maryland. They are both chipped and flaked so as to be beveled on all four sides. One is 48 x 32 mm (Fig. 12a), and the other is 40 x 28 mm. (Fig. 12b) Each is about 7 mm thick.

These appear to be small scrapers of a size larger than the accepted dimensions given to thumbnail scrapers. However, they are not too large to be used between the thumb and the index finger.

Figs. 12a & 12b. Thumb-nail scrapers from the Brinsfield Gravel-Pit Site.

Their use was probably for scraping fat from animal skins out of hard-to-get-at places that the larger scrapers would not reach; or for scraping skin of small game such as rabbit, birds, or squirrel. They also could have been used as an instrument for scraping, rounding and smoothing shafts of arrows, bows, harpoons, tomahawks and other wooden or bone implements used in the hand. Incidentally, this Brinsfield Gravel-Pit Site produced more rhyo-

lite spears, points, darts, and scrapers than any other known site in this vicinity. Now these thumbnail scrapers, if they are properly called such, can be added to this list.

A piece of black and shiny stone was found at the Moore Site in Dorchester County, Maryland. It is almost glossy enough to be obsidian, too shiny to be slate, and most probably is a piece of black quartz.

It is almost circular with a diameter of 33 mm. It is tapered at the edges and worked on all of its circumference except for a distance of 31 mm. (Fig. 13a,b,c). Its greatest thickness is 10 mm.

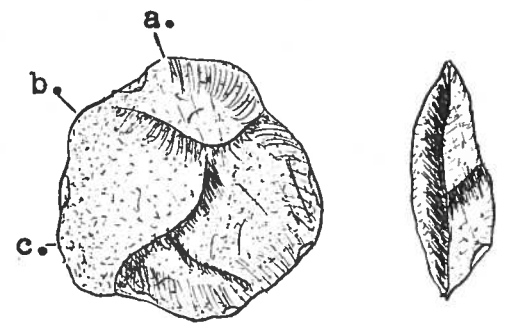


Fig. 13. Thumb-nail Scraper from the Moore Site.

This tool appears to have been an excellent thumbnail scraper and fits very well between the thumb and forefinger. It has a good feel and probably had much usage because it is very well worn.

An interesting microlith (Fig. 14) with a circular area worked out of it was found on the surface at the Willin Site in Dorchester County, Maryland. It is a piece of jasper 33 mm long, 22 mm wide, and about 4 mm thick at the back of the flake. It was made from a piece of brown jasper, having a curvature of 4 mm at its greatest variance.

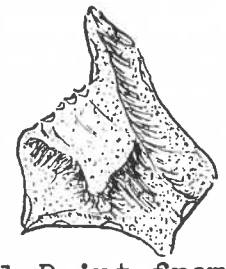
Obviously this tool had only a single use. On the tapered edge was worked or worn a half circular area which fits perfectly around a 5/8 inch dowel rod. (Fig. 14)

Fig. 14. Shaft Scraper from Willin Site

This semi-circular curve in the stone must have been used in the shaping and/or smoothing of a rounded shaft. The edges of the semi-circle give the appearance of being worn. The circular area's surface is not perpendicular to the upper and lower faces of the stone, but is slightly beveled. Due to the wedged shape of the flake, the circular area is thicker at the center of the semi-circle than it is at the edges. It appears that this stone had been worn down into this circular shape through extensive usage. Since this semi-circular shape fits so accurately around a 5/8 inch dowel, it would indicate that the shaft upon which it was used was also at least that diameter. This is larger than the shaft of an arrow, and too small for the handle of an ax or tomahawk. It might have been used to work down a bow and the possibility of its use on a spear or harpoon shaft must not be overlooked.

Five-eights of an inch diameter would make a desirable spear shaft. This is the size most often used by the Kikuyu tribe in East Africa for their spears. The Masai prefer a 7/8 inch diameter shaft for their spears, but their spear is heavier, larger, and with more iron on each end and less wood in the shaft.

Several worked pieces of quartz and jasper were found at the Willin Site which give the appearance of being a tool that was used for drilling or boring through hides or skins. They may also have been used for drilling holes in wood or bone. A typical one of these tools is shown in Fig. 15.



Full Size

Fig. 16. Drill Point from the Willin Site

Such a tool was first used by man about 150,000 years ago.* The Willin Site tools of this type were made from chips or flakes of quartz and jasper, and the reworking of the stone can be clearly seen around the point of the tool. The small tool shown here is 32 mm long and 28 mm wide. It is 8 mm thick. This one is typical of several found by the writer.

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* Life Nature Library, "Early Man," 1965, pp. 112-114.

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