

BULLETIN

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF
DELAWARE



VOL. 3, No. 1

MAY, 1939

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Editor

C. A. WESLAGER

23 Champlain Ave., Wilmington, Del.

WHY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY?

Archaeology has been defined as a study of the human past concerned principally with the activities of prehistoric man as a maker of things. It is only through a knowledge of the past that we can add to human capacity to understand the present.

Briefly the major objects of the Archaeological Society of Delaware are as follows:

To engage in the scientific study of archaeology as related to the State of Delaware.

To discourage careless and misdirected activity.

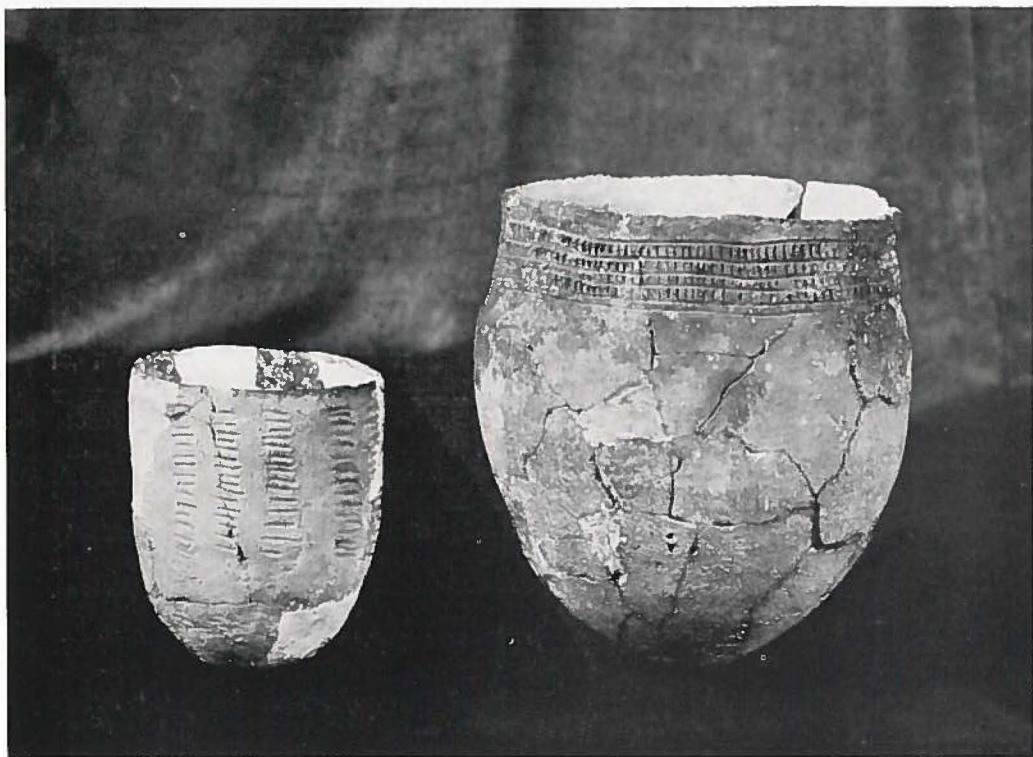
To promote the conservation of important archaeological sites and to preserve implements and artifacts of the peoples who once occupied this area.

To record for students of the present and future, through this publication, important data pertaining to our archaeological findings.

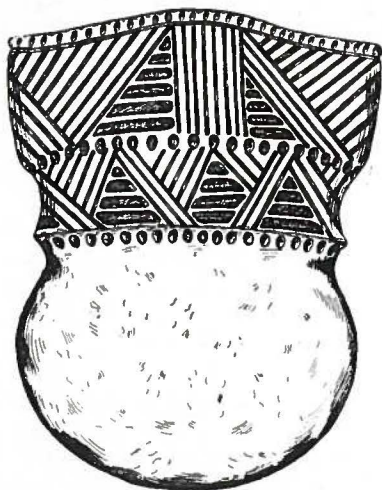
No other organized group in the State of Delaware is engaged in archaeological research. It is therefore of vital importance that this Society continue its constructive work and that support be given to all its undertakings.

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The large illustration shows two pottery vessels, made by Algonkian-speaking peoples and excavated by H. G. Omwake at Prime Hook Neck, Delaware. The smaller illustrations show Iroquoian vessels excavated near Lancaster, Pa. by G. Fenstermaker. The striking differences between the pottery of the two peoples is readily apparent.



Typical of the ceramics of Iroquoian peoples are collared vessels, variously incised and having rounded bottoms. Vessels with conoid or pointed bottoms, slightly everted rims and crudely ornamented are associated with Algonkian peoples. In areas where the influence of the Iroquois was manifest, the vessels reveal this contact in shape and ornamentation. We do not believe there is evidence of Iroquoian contact in the Delaware vessels shown above.

PROGRESS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN DELAWARE

By C. A. WESLAGER

Until recently, the territory occupied by the State of Delaware was considered *terra incognita* from the point of view of the archaeologist¹. Only a small store of archaeological information was available; aboriginal sites were unrecorded; and no one possessed more than a few objects from this area. The fact that the state supported a state museum nor, for that matter, an archaeologist, further retarded the problem.

A considerable amount of scattered information was in the hands of local collectors, especially as related to the locations of various prehistoric stations. A number of individuals had collected a considerable number of artifacts, and an attempt had been made to collate their findings.

Immediately following its inception in 1933, the Archaeological Society of Delaware embarked on a course of gathering the known information, making further studies of its own, and assisting local collectors by publicizing correct technical and proper methods to be followed in cataloging materials. It might be parenthetically stated that the Society discouraged all excavating until it completed preliminary work which consumed several years. As a matter of fact it was vital in having a state law passed forbidding looters from digging on state controlled lands². As a result of a rather comprehensive program, the Society has amassed certain valuable information, some of which has appeared in its Bulletin³ and whose more important aspects will be briefly summarized here.

The Delaware peninsula of which Delaware is a part, while important, is not a major geological area. Situated more or less to the side of the beaten paths of cultural development it has escaped many of the complicating influences which were felt elsewhere. It is not to be implied that Delaware was a self-contained unit or that its population was insignificant. To the contrary, it felt influences from the York and Susquehanna systems on the west and from the Delaware on the other. It was a major artery of aboriginal commerce and transportation. The Society has recorded hundreds of sites showing evidences of aboriginal occupation in the course of which were apparently large communities. Our survey has been making one and some of us have followed on foot the courses of our more important waterways in search of aboriginal stations. A map showing these locations is being prepared.

Generally speaking the aboriginal sites in Delaware are located along the banks of streams on well-drained hillocks. Rarely are hilltop sites found and the scant knowledge we have in the northern part of the state were probably springheads.

Unfortunately in many respects that research in Delaware has had a late start, it is now possible to conduct studies with a knowledge of the general problems of the Atlantic Seaboard, and especially in light of the data we have gleaned from recent regions due to the commendable work of Cadzow, Parker, Ritchie, and others.

We have also learned considerable from the early writers and have

well-established Algonkian horizons. We have no evidence to indicate that Iroquoian peoples ever occupied any part of the State of Delaware. If there are Iroquoian hunting sites, we have not yet found them. It must be remembered that Delaware is a small state, indeed, having but three counties, and archaeological research is not nearly so complex as in such large states as Pennsylvania and New York, for example.

We do not presume to doubt that Iroquoian influence may have been felt in parts of the state during late prehistoric times. Captain John Smith found the Nanticokes in Southern Delaware using metal axes which they told him they had obtained from the Minquas who, in turn, had received them from the French⁵. This indicates a trade contact between the two peoples, assuming that Smith is accurate, and an exchange of influences. Furthermore, the New Castle County villages were but a short distance from the Minquas' towns on the Susquehanna, and it is quite natural there should be a certain exchange of concepts. If the presence of triangular projectile points is a sufficient diagnostic trait to indicate Iroquoian contact, then we certainly felt such influence, because these points are common throughout the state but in the minority when compared with the thousands of stemmed points that have been found in Delaware fields. Generally speaking, the Delaware triangles assume two forms: the large, broad-base point and the smaller equilateral triangle. We know of only a few scattered instances of the finding of isosceles points, the type said to be typical of the Iroquois.

Pottery designs are simple and are confined to straight line markings with occasional chevron or herring bone designs which some authorities claim as being suggestive of the Iroquois. Nevertheless, no rim sherds, of the thousands inspected, have been seen which show any resemblance to the overhanging Iroquoian collar. All incisions are of geometric patterns. No resemblance to man or animal has been found in any pottery decorations. Of the pots that have been restored, the bottoms are conoid, typical of Algonkian pottery. Two of these found at Slaughter Creek in Sussex County, Delaware are illustrated on page 2 in this Bulletin. Others have been restored but unfortunately photographs are not available at the present time⁶.

With reference to those artifacts commonly accepted as characteristic of Algonkian cultures, we have plenty. These include grooved axes, stemmed arrowpoints, bipennate forms, pierced tablets, tubes, cylindrical pestles, steatite vessels, etc. Pipes are very scarce and little can be determined except that they were simple in form and made from both clay and stone. From Wicomico County in Maryland, which is a part of the same peninsula comprising Delaware, one of our members acquired a series of beautiful monitor pipes which suggest southern influences and are superior in workmanship to any other artifacts which have originated on this peninsula⁷. Two fragmentary slate, semi-lunar knives have been found, the only two authentic pieces of this type recorded in Delaware⁸. An inventory of the Delaware collections has revealed only seven examples of Folsom-like points which are described elsewhere in this issue. It should be mentioned that no plummets or boatstones have been recorded and only one birdstone⁹ although both objects are encountered in neighboring states.

Bone and shell artifacts are scarce due probably to the fact that the early inhabitants did little work in these media and secondly that the climatological conditions are not conducive to the preservation of materials other than stone or clay. In "Animals of the Past," 1901, the author, F. A. Lucas, mentions a Fulgur shell found near Hollyoak, Delaware which bears the rudely scratched image of a mastodon or bison. J. E. Graf of the Smithsonian Institution (Mar. 2, 1939) advises that this object is on display at that museum and was presented along with other Indian artifacts by Mrs. Bessie D. Spencer.

It has not been possible to locate any quarries within the state but doubtless progress will be made in the future. These, if existing, will be found in the northern part of the state; the southern area is of a sandy loam, almost devoid of natural stone. Such exotic materials as steatite, Pennsylvania jasper and rhyolite indicate

inter-tribal trade routes. It has been suggested through the investigation of a "lost" aboriginal steatite quarry near Christina, Pa., that the steatite found on some Delaware sites may have had its origin at that source¹⁰.

No prehistoric burials have been recorded from New Castle or Kent Counties and no clues have yet appeared as to their locations, however, we have not begun to exhaust the possibilities. There are no mounds or other surface indications of prehistoric burials in Delaware which means that locating them is a matter of trial and error. In Sussex County, we have knowledge of twenty-three burials which are discussed in detail elsewhere in this publication.

In New York State progress has been made toward establishing a chronology of the several occupations, and it is possible to assign surface materials to their proper tentative aspects¹¹. If an analogy can be made between the two material cultures, a large part of our Delaware material might be assigned to the Second and early Third Periods of Algonkian occupation¹².

Relative to the Archaic or oldest pre-pottery period in New York, we probably did not feel its manifestations in Delaware inasmuch as this culture apparently originated in Canada and extended only to the central part of Pennsylvania. We do not believe Cadzow found any traces of it at all in his Susquehanna excavations¹³. However, it should not be misconstrued that there may not have been an earlier occupation in Delaware, chronologically comparable to the Archaic Pattern in New York, and while we do not state that there was, there are nevertheless several evidences of antiquity which have never been satisfactorily explained and which relate to the so-called "argillite culture" of the Delaware River Valley.

For example we now have before us a little-known report of the excavation of a deep rock shelter site near Claymont, Delaware by Dr. Hilborne T. Cresson of the Peabody Museum in 1886¹⁴ the significance of which must not be underestimated. This shelter, the only authentic one of which we have knowledge in the state, was located on Namaans Creek, a tributary to the Delaware. Cresson claims to have identified four occupational strata, each separated by a natural deposition indicating occupation at different periods.

In the two upper strata he found chipped implements of quartz and jasper and ornaments of stone and shell along with potsherds. In the third layer he found animal bones, fragments of a human cranium and rib and crudely chipped points of argillite. In the fourth and deepest strata he found crude argillite implements to the exclusion of pottery and other materials.

Nearby at Darley's Road Crossing, Cresson claims to have found another rude argillite implement four feet below the surface. Under the influence of Abbott¹⁵ these argillite implements were promptly called "paleolith-like" and were assigned tentatively to a very old culture. While we are not prepared to accept the paleolith story, nevertheless, we repeat that the "argillite culture," if such it was, has not been satisfactorily explained. It should be added that work done by individuals in neighboring states¹⁶ has brought to light certain paralleling features to justify a theory that argillite was widely used either by a pre-Lenape group or by an early Lenape migratory group. That argillite was used by the Lenape at the time of the coming of the white man can not be disputed, which accounts for its presence on contact sites in association with artifacts of jasper, quartzite, etc. It has been suggested by the evidence, however, that in earlier prehistoric times in the east it was more widely used.

About the year 1888 workmen engaged in dredging near the Lobdell Car Wheel Company, Wilmington, Delaware struck a cache of argillite blades or implements at a depth variously reported from 10 to 20 feet. The cache was large enough "to fill a peck measure" and most of these blades found their way to Peabody Museum. Several are in the hands of local persons¹⁷, but unfortunately complete data is lacking.

Delaware is one of the few states where Indian peoples still exist in a community group not under governmental control. In Sussex County, a small colony of Nanticoke Indians have their homes along Indian River. The Nanticoke once

occupied, according to present evidence, the southern part of Delaware¹⁸. It is believed that the Unalachtigo Clan of the Lenape (not to be confused with the Nanticokes) occupied the northern part of Delaware. It is questionable whether the Unami or Minsi Clans occupied any part of Delaware, although some authorities claim that the Unamis lived as far south as New Castle, Delaware. Dr. Frank Speck has made several excellent reports of his studies of the Nanticokes and he is, no doubt, the outstanding authority on this family¹⁹.

Traces of the ancestors of the present Nanticokes are found along most of the streams in Sussex County. A rather interesting interpretation was placed on the coastal sites in the vicinity of Lewes and Rehoboth by the late Francis Jordan, Jr., who surveyed that area in 1879²⁰. He calls the site at Rehoboth a "fishing station," claiming that the inland tribes visited the coast during the summer in search of shell food. When Jordan first saw the town of Lewes in 1861 he states that shell heaps stretched along the shore for a mile toward Cape Henlopen.

One of the rare instances of the finding of native copper artifacts is related by Jordan who found 30 copper beads in a shell heap at Rehoboth.

Further reference is made to the shell heaps by Dr. Leidy in 1866²². He and several associates casually excavated several of these heaps and he states they were quite superficial, less than a foot in depth. Jordan, who examined them more carefully, claims they were from one to two feet high and ten feet in circumference.

In February, 1939 the writer in company with James Scott of our Society, examined the shoreline between Lewes and Rehoboth hopeful of finding some traces of the shell heaps. Unfortunately the waters of the bay have encroached inland and sand covers the shoreline to a depth of several feet and in places huge dunes have built up. It is likely that this area is lost to archaeology unless the wind uncovers a site.

In discussing Delaware archaeology it is apropos to mention the finding of the remnants of an aboriginal canoe or dugout in 1934 during dredging operations along Pepper Creek, a tributary to Indian River²³. The find was made at Dagsboro, Delaware near Dagworthy Landing. The dugout was unearthed from a bed of sand six feet deep. It is of pine, 12 feet long, 18 inches wide and 12 inches deep.

Another rare instance of the preservation of wood is described by Dr. Cresson in a monograph covering his work near Claymont, Delaware from 1887 to 1889²⁴. He located a pile structure in Naamans Creek or rather the remains of three structures. The posts were imbedded in the creek bottom; portions were visible at low tide. Several specimens of the piles showing the ends sharpened with aboriginal tools were taken to Peabody Museum. Many artifacts were found in the mud at the creek bottom. The theory advanced by Cresson, which we see no reason to contradict, was that the piles were the remains of a prehistoric fish weir. Among the unusual artifacts recovered were three mauls which were drilled instead of grooved. Many argillite implements were also recovered.

We have briefly mentioned data relating to village and camp sites, caches, rock shelters, shell heaps and other miscellaneous items. Although we have not discussed Indian trails, some little progress has been made along that line, notably by William B. Marye²⁵, but there is still much work to be done. Local traditions place Indian trails at various places in the state, but no conclusions can be made without proper study of deeds, land grants, and other legal records made in the early days.

No summary of an archaeological area which involves the Lenni Lenape would be complete without some reference to the human face in stone. Unfortunately, up to this writing, Delaware has contributed very little and it seems unlikely that any major contribution will originate in this area.

It was the opinion of Alanson Skinner²⁶ that the life-size stone heads and the small stone pendants depicting human features and found in New Jersey, New York and eastern Pennsylvania were a peculiar Lenape characteristic. An interesting paper on the subject was published in New Jersey²⁷. We have examined in Delaware

no less than 50,000 archaeological specimens found in this state and in none of these collections is there any object which faintly resembles the stone face. Only one instance of the finding of a stone face in this area has been reported and the specimen is illustrated in "Around the Borders of Chester County" by W. W. McElree. The object is a round pebble, about the size of a baseball, and a human face is pecked on one side. It was found many years ago in "The Wedge" near Mechanicsville, Del., and is now in the collection at Valley Forge, Penna. According to Harry Wilson of West Chester, Pa. who examined the specimen, it is unquestionably of Indian manufacture.

In concluding these brief remarks it is in order to add that considerable work lies ahead of the Society and we must have the cooperation of every member. It is only by working together, with a point of view of "learning" rather than "getting," that we will be able to make the greatest contribution to the knowledge of archaeology in the State of Delaware.

1. D. S. Davidson, "Problems in the Archaeology of the Delmarva Peninsula," Bull. Arch. Soc. of Del., Vol. 1, No. 3.
2. Text of law published in Vol. 1, No. 4 this Bulletin.
3. Fourteen Bulletins have been issued; complete file available at Wilmington Library.
4. Campanius, Lindestrom, Acrelius, De Vries, etc.
5. H. Frank Eshleman, "Annals of the Susquehannocks & Other Lancaster Co., Pa. Indians," '09.
6. In collections of William Taber, William Cabbage and Archibald Crozier.
7. Collected by our late member, Joseph Wigglesworth.
8. Found at Stanton, Del. (surface) by our member, S. C. Robinson and now in his collection. A complete semi-lunar knife is on display at the Univ. of Pa. Museum, labeled Wilmington, Del.
9. Found by H. G. Omwake (surface) at Dover, Del.
10. A map of this quarry drawn by Harry Wilson of West Chester, Pa., appears in "Around the Borders of Chester County," by W. W. McElree.
11. Research records of Rochester Museum.
12. Termed in N. Y., "Vine Valley Aspect." The third period is known as the "Owasco Aspect."
13. Donald A. Cadzow, "Archaeological Studies of the Susquehannock Indians," 1936.
14. Hilborne T. Cresson, "Early Man in the Delaware Valley," Proceedings of the Boston Soc. of Natural History, Vol. 14, Part 2, Dec. 1888, May 1889.
15. C. C. Abbott, "Primitive Industry," also "Second Report on the Paleolithic Implements from the Glacial Drift in the Valley of the Delaware River near Trenton, N. J.," 1878.
16. Alanson Skinner and Max Schrabish, "A Preliminary Report of the Archaeological Survey of the State of New Jersey," 1913.
17. M. R. Harrington, "The Rock Shelters of Armonk, N. Y."
18. Two of these blades are in the Wigglesworth Collection. Mr. Crozier has three others and several are in the possession of Mr. George Lobdell.
19. Personal letter from Frank G. Speck, Feb. 14, 1939.
20. "The Nanticoke and Conoy Indians," 1927. "The Nanticoke Community of Southern Del."
21. "The Remains of an Aboriginal Encampment at Rehoboth, Del." delivered 1880, Numismatic and Antiquarian Soc., Phila.
22. "Aboriginal Fishing Stations on the Coast of the Middle Atlantic States," 1906.
23. "Report on the Kitchen Middens of Cape Henlopen," Proceed. Acad. Nat. Sciences, Phila. 1886.
24. Bull. Arch. Soc. of Del., Vol. 1, No. 2.
25. Hilborne T. Cresson, "Report Upon a Pile Structure in Namaans Creek near Claymont, Del." Peabody Museum, 1892.
26. William B. Marye, "Indian Paths of Delmarva Peninsula," Bull. Arch. Soc. of Del., Vol. 2, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6.
27. Alanson Skinner, "Heye Foundation Notes," Vol. 2, No. 1 and No. 2.
28. "The Human Face in Lenape Archaeology" pub. by Arch. Soc. of N. J., 1933.

FIRST PRINTED BULLETIN

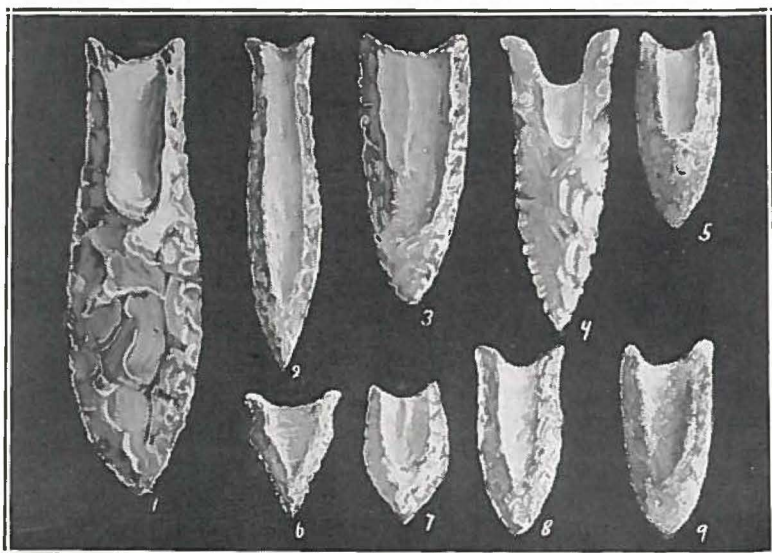
This issue of the Bulletin is a milestone in the progress of our Society, because it is our first appearance in print. Previously, mimeographed publications were issued. The Editor will be glad to receive your comments. What do you like or dislike about our Bulletin? In the meanwhile, if you have not remitted for 1938 please do so now. We must have your support to continue our work.

DELAWARE FOLSOM POINTS

By ARCHIBALD CROZIER

Perhaps no other archaeological discovery in the United States has received as much publicity, both in popular and scientific journals, as the so-called Folsom points.

In 1926 near the town of Folsom, New Mexico, scientists from the Colorado Museum of Natural History at Denver, found two spear points buried about eleven feet below the surface in association with bones of *Bison Taylori* and other extinct animals. Further work the following year at this site yielded many more of these spear points. They were of a distinct type, unlike the forms commonly found in the region. They were characterized by a wide, shallow, longitudinal groove, usually on both sides of the artifact, this fluting extending from the base to as much as two-thirds of the length of the artifact. The base is concave, and a cross section gives a bi-concave appearance. Recognized as a distinct type, they were given the name "Folsom" points, and have so been designated in all the literature concerning them.



So-called Folsom-types, illustration courtesy G. B. Fenstermaker. No. 1 and No. 2 Tennessee; No. 3 Iowa; No. 4 Missouri; No. 5 Oklahoma; No. 6 Louisiana; No. 7 New York; No. 8 Iowa; No. 9 Wisconsin. Folsom-type points found in the State of Delaware shown on center spread.

In order to produce the fine flaking that is evident on Folsom points, the material selected was a very compact one, such as flint chert, jasper or chalcedony. I have record of only one made of quartzite, which is difficult to chip. This one was found in Wisconsin¹.

This particular type of fluted point was not entirely new to archaeologists, as they had been mentioned in archaeological literature over a period of many years. They were noted and illustrated by W. M. Beauchamp² in "Aboriginal Chipped Implements of New York" in 1897, by P. W. Lanson³ in "The Winnebago Tribe" in 1907 and by Dr. W. K. Moorehead⁴ in "Stone Age in North America" in 1910.

They had also previously been found associated with bones of extinct animals in 1911 near West Kimmswick, Missouri, but their significance was not realized at that time⁵.

Many scientists ascribe these Folsom points to the late Pleistocene period, but this is questioned by Dr. N. C. Nelson⁶, based on the other implements which are found associated with Folsom points.

In the Fall of 1934, Dr. F. H. H. Roberts of the Bureau of Ethnology excavated an ancient camp site near Fort Collins, Colorado, and under a sterile deposit fifteen feet deep located fire places and pits of the first "Folsom" camp site thus far discovered. In addition to typical bi-concave Folsom projectile points, small plano-concave scrapers, small gravers, large scrapers, blades and other artifacts were recovered in association with fragmentary bison bones. Thin flakes, found at the site exhibiting the characteristic chipping technique proved that Folsom points were actually chipped all over before the longitudinal flakes were struck off⁷. This is contrary to the earlier theory that the fluting was done first. The association of these other artifacts, according to Dr. Nelson, does not favor any really great antiquity for the Folsom industry, and he considers them Neolithic rather than Paleolithic.

However, all evidence seems to point to their being very much older than the Basket Maker Culture which has been pretty definitely placed at 1000 to 3000 years B. C.⁸

Since the publication of the finding of the Folsom points, collectors in all parts of the United States have been reporting the presence of these fluted points in their collections, and I now have record of their occurrence in twenty-four of our states. In addition, several typical Folsom points have been reported recently as found in Saskatchewan, Canada⁹, in a similar locality to the original discovery at Folsom, New Mexico.

So far seven Folsom-type points have turned up in Delaware, all of which are shown in the center-spread illustration in this Bulletin.

No. 1 is of reddish jasper, found along Shellpot Creek near Wilmington, Del. in 1891 by Mr. J. C. Wilson. It is now in the University Museum, Philadelphia, Pa. I am indebted to Dr. J. Alden Mason for the photo and data on this specimen.

No. 2 is of grayish jasper and was found by the writer over thirty years ago on a camp site along the Delaware River at Bellevue, Del.

No. 3 is of very dark, almost black jasper, found on the Beiderman farm near Hockessin, Del. by the owner.

No. 4 is of identical material and was found on the Fred Roser farm near Hockessin, Del. by Mr. H. Geiger Omwake in 1936.

No. 5 is of a beautiful honey-colored jasper, found in Kent County, Delaware by Mr. Wm. O. Cubbage.

No. 6 is of very dark jasper, found near Georgetown, Sussex Co., Delaware by Mr. Harold W. T. Purnell.

No. 7 is of light yellow jasper, found on the Jones farm in Prime Hook Neck, near Milton, Sussex Co., Del. by Robert C. Jones, Jr. This is the farm along Slaughters Creek where the members of our society have done quite a lot of delving into refuse pits. This specimen has been photographed by the Bureau of Ethnology for their records, and Dr. Roberts¹⁰ commented on it as follows: "It is one of the best I have seen from the East. It more closely approximates the Western form than most of those from this part of the country." This specimen is now in my collection.

All of those seven were surface finds, as are most of those reported, excepting from a few localities in New Mexico and Colorado. They present an interesting archaeological problem, as they may or may not have any connection with the true Folsom points. The writer would be pleased to know of any other points of this type that have been found in Delaware, together with data as to associated artifacts.

1. "Fluted Points," by Foster Disinger. Nat. Archaeological News, Lancaster, Pa. Feb. 1, 1938.
 2. "Aboriginal Chipped Stone Implements in New York," by W. M. Beauchamp. Bulletin No. 16, New York State Museum, Albany, N. Y., 1897.
 3. "The Winnebago Tribe," by P. W. Lanson, Wisconsin Archaeologist, June 3, 1907.
 4. "The Stone Age in North America," by Dr. Warren K. Moorehead, Andover, Mass., 1910.
 5. "Mississippi Valley Folsom Types," by B. W. Stephens. Quincy, Illinois, National Archaeological News, Jan. 12, 1938.
 6. Rev. of "Additional information on the Folsom Complex by Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts," by Dr. N. C. Nelson. American Antiquity, Feb. 4, 1937.
 7. "Field Work in Colorado, 1934," by M. W. Stirling. American Antiquity, Jan. 1, 1935.
 8. "Big Bend Basket Makers," by J. Walker Davenport. Nat. Archaeological News, Jan. 12, '38.
 9. "Folsom and Yuma Points from Saskatchewan," by Dr. Edgar B. Howard. Amer. Antiquity, April 3, 1939.
 10. Personal letter, Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., Dec. 13, 1937.
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COLLECTORS VS. ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Because of an apparent misunderstanding on the part of some persons, it is timely to point out the difference between the science of archaeology and "collecting Indian relics." This and similar societies make no pretense of being collector's organizations such as exist for hobbyists in the fields of coins, stamps and oddities. Our interest in so-called Indian relics is not motivated by a desire to build impressive collections of Indian artifacts nor to obtain material from diverse sources to swell our collections. It is true that some of our active members own large collections of prehistoric Indian materials. However, the gathering of such materials inevitably follows the quest for knowledge of the people who made the artifacts...but does not take precedence over it.

An uncataloged Indian artifact, regardless of its beauty or workmanship, is next to worthless to the true archaeological student, although it may possess definite intrinsic value to collectors. The archaeologist is concerned in knowing specifically where the object was found, what other objects were associated with it, whether it was a surface find or not and how it compares with similar objects found at the same and neighboring locations. All of this and other data he records and his data, therefore, is infinitely more valuable than the object itself, although he must obviously first obtain the specimen before he can compile any data. After intensive field work he finds himself the possessor of a collection of Indian artifacts which he, of course, is anxious to preserve. However, of far greater importance than the objects he has collected is the contribution he has made to the knowledge of the prehistory of his community.

DELAWAREANS VISIT PENNSYLVANIANS

Ten members of the Delaware Society attended the meeting of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology at Harrisburg, April 14.

The first delegation consisting of your Editor, Mrs. Weslager, Mr. Swientochowski and Mr. Brooks, arrived at 1:00 P. M.

In midafternoon a second delegation arrived including Mr. and Mrs. Crozier and Mr. and Mrs. Lang. The vanguard, represented by Mr. and Mrs. Omwake, drew up at 6:00 P. M.

Our visit was deeply appreciated by members and officers of the Pennsylvania Society, and we look for the day when they will return our visit. It is only by working together and helping each other that amateur groups like ours can attain their objectives.

DELAWARE BANNERSTONES

By C. A. WESLAGER

Before introducing specific material relating to Bannerstones found in the State of Delaware, we want to introduce some general information on this subject based upon the work and opinions of competent archaeologists. Much of our information was obtained by letter from persons familiar with the subject, and thus we are able to present some data which is later than that now appearing in print.

It is generally agreed that the Bannerstone is closely associated with such forms as birdstones, boatstones, pierced tablets, stone tubes and similar types which were first termed "problematical forms" by W. H. Holmes. It is believed by some authorities that all of these forms had their origin with the prehistoric peoples who occupied the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi. This is not a new theory but one which appeared in Vol. 30 of the *Bureau of Ethnology Bulletin* as follows:

"They (problematicals) were probably as a class the outgrowth of the remarkable cultural development which accompanied and resulted in the construction of the great earthworks of the Mississippi Valley."

W. K. Moorehead¹ concurs in this belief and goes further to say:

"The high percentage of artistic or well-wrought forms in the Illinois-New York district leads to the theory that the Ohio Valley, west of Pittsburgh, and also southern Wisconsin and Michigan, constituted the place where these forms originated . . . of more importance is the indication that these forms developed in a single compact stock or tribe within the area bounded."

This theory has not been accepted by many modern students; W. C. McKern² writes:

"In the light of existing data, I can see nothing from the Wisconsin area to support a theory that this object originated in or near Wisconsin . . . we have not been able to establish it as a material trait in any of the local cultural manifestations."

Byron W. Knoblock, of La Grange, Illinois, who is publishing a book on the subject of Bannerstones states in an article³ that the Bannerstone had its origin in the southern states, maintaining that the earliest forms are found in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.

Richard Morgan⁴ says:

"There seems to be no new data that would tend to confirm or refute Moorehead's theory as to the place of origin of these forms."

It is immediately apparent that the specific area of origination has not yet been established. However, one definite conclusion can be drawn and that is this, that the Bannerstone was not a trait in any of the western cultures. For example, Emil Haury⁵ tells us:

"I think I can say without fear of contradiction that such stones have not been found in Arizona." Haury's comments might well be applied to all states west of the Rocky Mountains, because as one proceeds westward from the Mississippi, he leaves the bounds of the so-called "Problematical Belt."

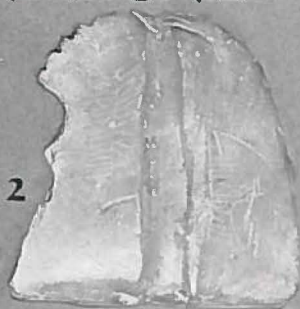
Midwestern and southern areas exhibit a greater variety of Bannerstone shapes than those found in Delaware. Moorehead classifies 62 types of the Bannerstone form, most of which are foreign to the Delaware valley.

It has been well established in the East that the Bannerstone is not an Iroquoian artifact, neither having been made or used by Iroquoian peoples. In 1924, D. A. Cadzow, then affiliated with the Heye Foundation, found two bi-pennates in place with an Algonkian burial on Frontinac Island, Cayuga Lake, New York. So far as our knowledge extends, these were the first to be found *in situ* with a burial in the Middle Atlantic States⁶. They were later assigned to the Second Period of Algonkian occupation in New York.

DELAWARE BANNERSTONES



1



2

Two unusual Delaware Bannerstones from the Wigglesworth collection. Both specimens are grooved on two sides instead of being drilled.



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



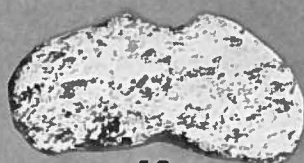
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16



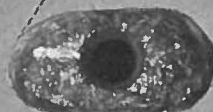
17



18



19



DELAWARE FOLSOM-TYPE POINTS



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

Dr. Cadzow, now associated with the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, has found Bannerstones on sites which were of apparent Iroquoian origin, but everything seems to point to the fact that they were intrusive. He knows of no evidence to indicate that the Iroquois of Pennsylvania made or used Bannerstones, and it is his belief that the Bannerstone is an Algonkian artifact⁷.

William A. Ritchie⁸ is of the opinion that the Bannerstone is of pre-Iroquoian origin and that, at least in the northeast, it was made by Algonkian groups.

Alanson Skinner⁹ in discussing certain criteria for determining Algonkian culture horizons as opposed to Iroquoian said:

"The Algonkian Indians made the beautiful, polished stone tubes, Bannerstones, double hole gorgets and birdstones. These objects are known throughout the regions determined as pure Algonkian. They are constant features."

Fay-Cooper Cole¹⁰ states:

"We find relatively few of these Bannerstones in Illinois . . . I think it is true that the Bannerstones, throughout these regions, at least, were made and used by the Algonkian-speaking peoples."

~~The~~ The following information was received from the Smithsonian Institution¹¹:

"So far as our archaeologists are aware, there is no historical account describing the function of objects of this type among the Indians. Since they seem to be a strictly prehistoric phenomenon, it is impossible to assign them to any one tribe or group of tribes. In New England they have been classed as 'pre-Algonkian' ceremonials and elsewhere their recorded distribution transcends the limits of the area known to have been occupied by Algonkian peoples. No convincing theories have yet been advanced concerning their purpose and they are still classed by most students as ceremonial, religious or problematical forms."

Douglas Byers¹² writes as follows:

"There are thirteen or fourteen types which have been found in New England . . . most of them are surface finds. The consequent problem is a problem of tying in these curious objects with various culture horizons. Certainly they can not be identified definitely as 'pre-Algonkian'; perhaps one or two types might belong to this rather shadowy period."

The failure to find historical references to Bannerstones is not strange when we reflect that they were probably a part of an earlier culture horizon than that extant at the time of the discovery of America. Possibly the Indians who greeted the Swedes in Delaware in 1638 were descendants of a Bannerstone-using people, and this object had since become outmoded or fallen into disuse.

Because of the hole which weakened the stone, many Bannerstones are found broken. There is a beautiful specimen in the State Museum at Harrisburg, Pa. which is completely broken in two. Both halves were subsequently drilled in such a way that the piece could be repaired by lacing a thong through the holes. Alanson Skinner¹³ reported the finding of a Bannerstone on Staten Island which had been broken but was afterwards grooved about its short axis and mended by lashing.

A paralleling instance has been recorded in Delaware by William Cabbage¹⁴ who found two pieces of the same Bannerstone two weeks apart on the headwaters of the Choptank River. Two notches had been worked in the blade of each broken half which would facilitate binding the pieces to a staff or handle.

Quite frequently in the Delaware area fragments of reworked Bannerstones are found. The reworking, consisting of a groove or hole in the broken object, was not for the purpose of repairing, but was obviously directed toward making an ornament or talisman of the fragment. We should be careful not to attribute this reworking to the peoples who originally made the specimen. Actually, it may have been reworked centuries after it was made and used by the person who reworked it for a different purpose than the one for which it was originally intended.

Archaeological research in Kentucky, Indiana, Maine and New York has complicated the Bannerstone problem because there appears to be evidence in those

regions that the Bannerstone occurred at a very early date. Moorehead's work in Maine¹⁵ indicates that the non-pottery using Red Paint Peoples used the Bannerstone. The Bannerstone, gouge, plummet, etc., were found with interments of a people who are believed to have occupied Maine before the prehistoric Algonkian families. That the Red Paint People were ancestors of the later Algonkian inhabitants is questionable.

W. A. Ritchie¹⁶ has recently found Bannerstones in deep refuse at Brewerton, N. Y. associated with the gouge and plummet. We await with interest Ritchie's report on this new complex which has been termed the Laurentian Aspect of the Woodland Pattern.

Possibly the most interesting work on the subject, interesting because it brings us nearer to a possible use for the early forms of the Bannerstone has been carried on in Kentucky by Wm. S. Webb of the University of Kentucky, and in Indiana by E. Y. Guernsey of the Indiana Historical Society. Their work is an enlightening supplement to the work of C. B. Moore, who, in 1919, excavated a number of Bannerstones on the "Indian Knoll" in Kentucky under the auspices of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences¹⁷.

Moore's typical Bannerstone finds were of a simple lenticular or rectangular form and *not* winged. They were found with burials of men, women and children. Associated with many of the Bannerstones were peculiar worked antler shafts having hooked ends not unlike those found on modern crocheting needles. This led Moore to theorize that the antler shafts were needles used in making nets and that the Bannerstones were spacers or gauges used to space the meshes in the net.

This theory has been challenged by Webb who has been excavating in the same area and his findings may result in a very significant contribution to archaeological knowledge. While Webb's theories have not yet appeared in print, in a personal communication¹⁸ he states that he has magnificent evidence to indicate that the so-called antler needles (which he also finds associated with Bannerstones in burials) are termini for atlatls. The spacers and gauges of Moore, which we know as Bannerstones, according to Webb, were the balancing weights for the atlatls. We should point out that the atlatl is an implement for throwing spears which was used by some prehistoric peoples before the development of the bow and arrow. It should be noted that the Kentucky sites are obviously much older than our Delaware sites and that their occupants were probably of a pre-pottery period.

E. Y. Guernsey¹⁹ has excavated an abundance of Bannerstones of the Indian Knoll type, some associated with antler shafts, on very old sites at Ohio Falls, opposite Louisville, Kentucky. These sites are some 150 miles northeast of the "Indian Knoll" and may have been a tribal center, in Guernsey's opinion, before the inhabitants moved into the Green River region. It is his belief that these non-winged Bannerstones were utilitarian in purpose rather than ceremonial.

The original purpose of this paper was to record all the Bannerstones reported from the State of Delaware. However, information is not yet complete from Kent and Sussex Counties. We must therefore confine our remarks for the present to New Castle County which comprises the northern area of Delaware. We admit the futility of endeavoring to study one single feature of a culture to the neglect of others; yet so little is known that even the presence or absence of particular forms may be worthy of observation.

No Bannerstones have been excavated in Delaware—all are surface finds, but fortunately the majority are well cataloged, and we submit that some conclusions may be drawn, despite the fact that there is a tendency among some archaeologists to discount surface materials. Our large village sites; namely, Crane Hook, Claymont, Edgemore, Newport, and Stanton have produced the majority of Bannerstones although the object is found on smaller sites. The writer observes from the collections of our members that the sites which produce Bannerstones are also prolific with potsherds, grooved axes, pestles, pierced tablets and other material cultures attributed to late-prehistoric Algonkian peoples. The presence of Bannerstones

within the reach of the plow on all of our larger sites leads one to believe that in this area they were made and used by aboriginal peoples who also made pottery, used the bow and arrow and practiced agriculture.

The comparative scarcity of Bannerstones in this area, when compared with other artifacts, also suggests that their purpose was not a utilitarian one but may have had religious or ceremonial significance. Furthermore the absence of the simple "Indian Knoll" type and the preponderance of the winged form seems to support this theory, if we accept the suggestion that the winged form is a later development. Could not a simple form of Bannerstone have been developed for a definite utilitarian purpose by an earlier people? If this use entailed a certain mystery or reverence, such as would inevitably accompany the use of the atlatl, could not this respect continue and manifest itself in more complicated forms? Could not the more advanced forms, such as the winged type, have been used ceremonially by later tribes?

Moorehead advanced the thought that the winged Bannerstone could well have represented a thunderbird effigy. If it were mounted on a staff and decorated with feathers, our Delaware bipennate would assuredly resemble a winged creature in flight. The pictographs of the *Walum Olum*, the Lenape's legendary history, exhibits shapes of birds and animals which are akin to some of the stone problematical forms²⁰.

We know of no instance where two Bannerstones are exactly alike; however there are but two general groups which may be simplified as (1) *winged*, (2) *non-winged*. There is, of course, a variety of shapes in each group which we shall not attempt to classify for the present.

No crescents, bayonet types or true butterflies have been recorded in Delaware. One pick-shaped specimen is in the collection of our member Mr. Egbert Nutter which was found by his grandfather 50 years ago within what is now the Wilmington city limits. This is indeed a rarity for the State of Delaware, but, in the writer's opinion, it is an exotic piece. The use of steatite as a Bannerstone medium in Delaware is rather puzzling because of the total absence of natural steatite deposits in this peninsula. The aboriginal artisans apparently went to no little pains to obtain this material.

Limited funds do not permit us to illustrate all of the Bannerstones available for study. We have, however, shown on the center pages of this publication, nineteen specimens. It should be noted that these specimens are not photographed in proportion; accurate dimensions are in the writer's possession and are recorded elsewhere. Suffice it to say that the specimens shown in the illustrations range from 3½ to 5 inches in length and from 1½ to 4 inches in height; the perforations are usually ½ inch or less in diameter.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 are from the Wigglesworth collection. No. 4 is from the Swientochowski collection. Nos. 10, 11, 12, 13 are from the Crozier collection. Nos. 14, 15, 16 are from the Omwake collection. Nos. 17, 18, 19 are in the Weslager collection. All are from New Castle County.

Attention is particularly directed to No. 2 and No. 12, both from the Stanton site and both beautifully incised.

Nos. 4, 14 and 16 are classified as incomplete inasmuch as the perforation has not been drilled.

Both side and top views are shown in No. 17 and No. 19 as more or less typical of winged and non-winged specimens as classified by the writer.

1. W. K. Moorehead, "Stone Ornaments of the American Indian," 1917.
2. W. C. McKern, Curator of Anthropol. Milwaukee Public Museum, personal letter Jan. 30, 1939.
3. Byron W. Knoblock, "Evol. of Bannerstones" in Trans. Illi. State Acad. of Sci., Vol. 29, No. 2.
4. Richard Morgan, Curator of Archaeology, Ohio State Museum, personal letter, Feb. 4, 1939.
5. Emil W. Haury, Director of the Arizona State Museum, personal letter, Jan. 31, 1939.
6. Indian Notes of Heye Foundation, Vol. 2, No. 1.
7. Donald A. Cadzow, Archaeologist Penna. Historical Com., personal letter, Sept. 21, 1938.
8. Wm. A. Ritchie, Archaeologist, Rochester Municipal Museum, personal letter, Jan. 4, 1939.
9. Indian Notes and Monographs, Heye Foundation, Vol. 2, Nos. 1 and 2.

Following is an inventory of the Bannerstones from New Castle County, Delaware in the possessions of some of our members:

NEW CASTLE COUNTY BANNERSTONES

(includes fragments, complete and unfinished)

Collection	Total	Winged	Non-Winged
H. G. Omwake	27	18	9
A. Crozier	25	17	8
Joseph Wigglesworth	13	8	5
S. C. Robinson	8	4	4
C. A. Weslager	4	2	2
Norman Dutton	2	2	
Wm. Habbart	2		
J. Swientochowski	2	1	1
TOTAL	83	52	31

Of the materials used in the manufacture of the above 83 specimens, the following is a summary:

Steatite	35
Slate	17
Syenite	10
Argillite	1
Others	20

There are a number of Delaware Bannerstones in some of the museum collections about which exact data is lacking. We are listing those about which we have knowledge. We are indebted to Dr. J. Alden Mason for information on two Delaware Bannerstones cataloged by the University of Pennsylvania Museum (No. NA 5078 and No. 12378). One of these is a drilled, winged specimen 5 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches long, made of slate.

Horace Mann, Curator of the Bucks County Historical Society, tells us that in the Delaware material obtained from Charles Ottey of Claymont, Delaware some years ago, and now in the Doylestown Museum, there are several fragmentary Bannerstones. Two of these pieces are definitely of the winged type, the others are of uncertain shape.

Mr. George Lobdell of Wilmington sent two winged Bannerstones to Peabody Museum many years ago which were found at Lobdell Car Wheel Works near Wilmington.

On display at the Old Town Hall, owned by the Delaware Historical Society, there are four broken Bannerstones, three of which are of the winged type.

J. E. Graf of the Smithsonian Institution tells us in a letter dated April 5, 1939 that among their limited materials from Delaware, there are no Bannerstone specimens.

There are doubtless specimens scattered throughout the state about which no data has been recorded. We urge all members to keep accurate records of Bannerstone finds. As the study of aboriginal man in Delaware progresses, the writer ventures the opinion that the Bannerstone may be the key to several perplexing problems.

10. *Fay-Cooper Cole*, Chairman, Dept. of Anthropol., Uni. of Chicago, personal letter, Jan. 19, 1939.

11. Personal letter, Oct. 6, 1938.

12. *Douglas S. Byers*, Director, Department of American Archaeology, Phillips Academy, personal letter, Jan. 16, 1939.

13. Heye Foundation Notes, Vol. 12, No. 4, Oct., 1925.

14. Bull. Arch. Soc. of Del., Vol. 1, No. 4, May, 1934.

15. *W. K. Moorehead*, "The Archaeology of Maine."

16. See note (8) above.

17. *C. B. Moore*, "Some Aboriginal Sites on Green River, Kentucky," Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences, 1916.

18. *Wm. S. Webb*, Head of Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Kentucky, personal letters, Jan. 11, and Jan. 20, 1939.

19. *E. Y. Guernsey*, Indiana Historical Society, personal letters, March 7 and March 16, 1939.

20. *H. Newell Wardle*, "Stone Ceremonials in Relation to Algonkian Symbolism," Academy of Natural Sciences of Phila., 1923.



No. 1



No. 2



No. 3

The above photographs illustrate three types of burials uncovered at Slaughter Creek, Delaware. At the left is a partially disarticulated skeleton of an adult female. The flesh had apparently been scraped from the bones before burial. The center photograph illustrates an upright burial of an adult female. At the right are three skeletons in a nested burial, completely disarticulated. The skulls indicate that the three individuals were males. Note that the top of the skull is absent from the burial shown in the center illustration. This was due to the carelessness of one of the workmen who brought up the entire skull pan on his shovel.

Above plate courtesy "American Antiquity"

INDIAN BURIALS IN DELAWARE

By H. GEIGER OMWAKE

The problems presented by Indian burials in Delaware are made difficult not by the abundance of authentic graves but by their scarcity. The writer will discuss all authenticated cases about which he has been able to gather data and will report unsubstantiated rumors on the chance that some reader will be able to verify the statements. In conclusion, some inferences will be drawn in regard to burial customs in the Delmarva Peninsula area.

Some years ago the late Joseph Wigglesworth excavated a burial pit one and a half miles south of the town of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware¹. In all, fifteen skeletons were disclosed, fourteen being those of adults and one that of a child. Mr. Wigglesworth also recorded an earlier find of six skeletons in a burial pit some forty feet removed from the site of his digging². There appears to have been little doubt as to the Indian nature of these latter remains, a cranium having been identified by the late Dr. Frame of Dover.

It seems reasonably safe to believe that the twenty-one burials found were all those of Indians. Four triangular arrowheads and a dozen pottery fragments similar to those found in abundance on the surface contiguous to the burial site were found with the remains excavated by Mr. Wigglesworth. No trade goods, buttons or other articles indicative of white contact or white burial were reported. The position of the bones and the identification by a physician support the assumption that all twenty-one individuals were Indians.

The presence of pottery fragments and arrowheads is, of course, not definite proof of the Indian nature of the burials. It must be noted that the soil was composed largely of sand drifted and blown from the shore of the nearby Atlantic Ocean and that the burials were found at a depth of approximately three and one half feet. It is quite possible that the sherds were extraneous material which had infiltrated through the sandy soil. No other complete artifacts were found.

It appears from the report previously cited that six of the skeletons were interred with their heads to the south or south-east and were apparently in an extended position. Six other individuals had been buried with their legs pointed toward the south-west. Mr. Wigglesworth recorded that the heads of two of these persons were found near the pelvis bone of one of them and that the remaining four crania were located near the feet. He has suggested that beheading had taken place before the burial. These six persons also were buried in an extended position. Two burials were of the flexed type with the knees drawn upward toward the chin. The remains of the child were so decomposed that the actual position of the burial was indeterminate.

There is no record of the type of burial executed in the interment of the six persons whose excavation took place prior to the digging done by Mr. Wigglesworth.

The failure to find ceremonial or other objects with the skeletal remains does not indicate hurried burial as has been suggested by Mr. Wigglesworth. The additional time and labor involved in digging pits large enough to permit extended burials also refutes this theory. As will be shown, the reported custom of interring with the dead, objects used during life, or of ceremonial nature, does not seem to have been practiced among the Indians of Delaware.

Perhaps the most interesting burials, and undoubtedly the most significant because of studies later made by physical anthropologists of the University of Pennsylvania and reported by our Society³, were discovered in October, 1934, during the excavation of refuse pits on the Slaughter Creek Village Site, located about midway between Milford and Lewes on adjoining farms, owned at the time by Dr. Dalema Draper of Milford and Mr. Robert Jones of Primehook Neck, fronting on Slaughter Creek, a small tributary which empties into the Delaware River approximately one and a half miles southeast of the site.

The writer, in company with Mr. Archibald Crozier, President of our Society, Dr. J. A. Mason of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. D. S. Davidson, of the University of Pennsylvania, Roy Barto, and a group of CCC boys from Company 1226, No. 2, came upon four burials (see accompanying illustrations) at a depth of one and a half feet, in the course of removing oyster, clam, and conch shells from a refuse pit, or "kitchin middin." Three burials on the eastern side of the pit were of nested, or bundle, type. Two skulls had been placed on the right side, the third on the left, all having the jaws pointing away from the center. The tops of the skulls were so close together that two of them touched each other. Underneath the skulls, the arm, leg, pelvic, back, shoulder, toe, and finger bones of all three individuals were piled in jumbled arrangement. These burials were contemporary with the use of the pit, because the refuse shells were underneath as well as above them.

The fourth burial, located near the western edge of the pit, was of the flexed type. The remains rested on the back, slightly tilted to the left side, the knees drawn up to a position under and to the left of the chin. The head pointed directly south. This burial apparently antedated the pit itself, for it lay in clean earth below the bottom of the mass of shells. Scattered among the bones and surrounding dirt were numbers of small univalve (snail) shells. None of these had been drilled for suspension and therefore did not represent a necklace. They may, however, have been scattered over the remains at the time of interment.

With these cases just noted no artifacts of any kind were associated. There were, of course, fragments of pottery and broken animal bone, but these were a definite part of the refuse of the pit.

Some months prior to these discoveries a single burial, (see accompanying illustration No. 1), was excavated in May, 1934, at this site by Dr. Davidson, Mr. Loren C. Easley, and Mr. William Richard Faust, graduate students in Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. A full account of this find was written by Dr. Davidson and published in *American Antiquity*, Vol. I, No. 2, October, 1935. It is necessary, here, only to quote briefly from that account.

"This burial consisted of a single partially disarticulated skeleton in a small, undisturbed burial pit. The pit was oval in shape and had been dug to a depth of about 36 inches in the soft, sandy soil. The walls were precipitous and clearly defined, a condition typical of all pits in this area, refuse or otherwise.

"Below the plow-line there were no artifacts or objects of any kind except a few pot-sherds and oyster shells.

"The skeleton was disarticulated in such a manner that it is obvious that the remains had been placed in the grave in a partially dismembered condition but with an attempted arrangement in their normal positions. The head, articulated with the jaw, had been laid in the southern end of the grave and turned on its left side to face west.

"Each arm was completely articulated and had been put into the grave as a unit.

"The lumbar vertebrae, sacrum, ilia, and the leg bones were fully articulated except for the left-foot which was missing. The knees were slightly flexed and pointed to the west.

"In view of the general practice of bone-cleaning in this area, it seems reasonable to believe that this burial represents the interment of a skeleton partially disarticulated as the result of bone-cleaning rites and partially articulated because some flesh had dried, by accident or by design, to hold together various bones and groups of bones.

" . . . resting in some instances directly upon the bones was a thin, undulating layer of charcoal which extended over most of the skeleton. This layer of charcoal had not been disturbed and this condition may be taken as proof that the grave had not been molested since interment.

"No particular problem, however, may be involved in this single burial. Customs probably were not consistent throughout the Nanticoke region or even within local

areas. Furthermore, before the bone-cleaning complex was introduced from the south, the Nanticoke probably buried their dead singly except occasionally when several people were inhumed at one time. It is quite possible, therefore, that this burial may represent a combination of the old and the new in Nanticoke burials, the old custom of single burial with heads to the south * * * combined with the newly introduced bone-cleaning practices and the associated rites over the remains before final interment.

"This would seem to be particularly true if this burial belongs to the late pre-historic period, at which time bone-cleaning may have been new for this area."

A flexed burial was unearthed on a sandy knoll on the Charles Hayes Farm, southeast of Farmington, Sussex County, by Mr. Ralph E. Beers, formerly of Bethel, Delaware, but now removed to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who was the first editor of this Bulletin. The remains rested on the right side, head to the west and face south and were buried at a depth of one and one half feet. No artifacts of any description were found with the skeleton.

An investigatory visit to this site by Mr. C. A. Weslager, Mr. John Swientowski, Mr. Frank Novello, the writer's son, and the writer, failed to reveal evidence of additional burials.

The following quotation is from the *Wilmington Morning News* of Wednesday, May 17, 1933:

"Lewes, May 16—Discovery of a pile of human bones buried in a mound of oyster shell, this week, has revealed what is thought to be another Nanticoke Indian graveyard near the old grist mill around the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, at Lewes. The bones were unearthed by Joseph Holland while setting posts for a new fence. A similar discovery was made a couple of weeks ago near the Lewes school, when Indian relics were found among the bones. The scattered oyster shells are the reason for believing it to be an Indian mound."

The writer has made repeated efforts to contact the Mr. Joseph Holland mentioned in the article, but has been entirely unsuccessful. The writer has been unable to learn what disposition was made of the bones or of what type the burial was. From the quoted article it may, perhaps, be assumed that this, if Indian, was a bundle burial. The word "mound" is open to question. There seem to be no other record of burials found in shell mounds, and it is likely that the so-called "mound" really was a pit, since Mr. Holland is reported to have been setting posts, which act requires the digging of holes below the surface of the ground.

It seems safe to assume that this truly was an Indian grave, since burial in refuse pits full of discarded shells does not appear to have been uncommon. It is to be regretted that the author of the newspaper article does not mention whether pottery or implements were associated with the remains. It is possible, too, that Mr. Holland was entirely unfamiliar with things Indian and failed to note the presence of pottery or other materials.

The reference in the newspaper article to a second burial found near the Lewes School was investigated some years ago by the writer and the remains of the skeleton are now in his possession. Workmen grading the school ground for the building of tennis courts were responsible for the discovery. The burial was unearthed at a depth of one and a half feet by a scoop shovel drawn by two horses. Before the team could be stopped, the entire burial was upturned and scattered over several yards. Workmen gathered up the badly broken bones, a few oyster shells, and several pot sherds and turned the lot over to the authorities of the Lewes school. There were no implements of any kind recovered and the broken sherds were of typical thick Nanticoke pottery. From facts learned, the writer supposes this to have been a bundle burial in a small refuse pit.

The *Wilmington Journal-Every Evening* of October 31, 1938, reported the discovery by Mrs. Theodore Dick, of Rehoboth Beach, of an Indian burial near the Rehoboth-Lewes Canal. Inquiry by letter to Mrs. Dick brought no response to the

writer. On February 1, 1939, Mr. C. A. Weslager and Mr. James Scott, members of the Archaeological Society of Delaware, visited Mrs. Dick for the purpose of ascertaining the validity of the newspaper reports and to gather data for the writer of this paper. The following quotations are from the report made to the writer by Mr. Weslager and tell the story as completely as it has been possible to learn it.

"According to Mrs. Dick, in the summer of 1938 she and Mr. J. K. Spare were surface hunting for arrowheads on a farm bordering on the Rehoboth-Lewes Canal. On a bank above the canal Mrs. Dick saw, jutting out of the hill, a jawbone bearing teeth which she immediately recognized as human. She called this to Mr. Spare's attention and the two of them proceeded to dig into the bank and uncovered bones belonging to the same skeleton. Unfortunately the cranium rolled down the slope and was lost in the canal. Mrs. Dick gave the remains to Mr. Spare who took them to the University of Pennsylvania for identification.

"Mrs. Dick states that a quantity of shells was associated with the burial, which leads to the thought that it may have been intrusive in a midden. The remains were surrounded with a red earth, apparently discolored with ochre. The remains were about two feet below the surface and were apparently articulated and in an extended position. Potsherds were also found but these may have fallen into the burial from the surface either before burial or during removal."

It was impossible to learn the exact location of the find, Mrs. Dick not wishing to betray the confidence of Mr. Spare. This gentleman has since become a member of the Society and has expressed his willingness to cooperate in further investigation of this area.

It might be well to add here that persons without archaeological experience who are so fortunate as to discover Indian burials should not attempt their removal before reporting the find to some member of the Archaeological Society in order that assistance may be given and valuable facts recorded. So much information has already been lost that it is doubtful whether the complete record of the burial customs practiced on the Delaware peninsula can ever be written. This point cannot be too strongly emphasized for the benefit of the archaeology of this area. All burials should be reported before being disturbed. Caution, in this case, is the safeguard of scientific knowledge.

In addition to the burials I have mentioned, two rumors of interest should be noted.

Some years ago, workmen engaged in constructing a roadway from Dover to Hartley were reported to have chanced upon a grave. Its Indian nature seems undeterminable, but it is interesting to learn that the workmen are supposed to have placed the skull upon a fence post and to have pointed it out to passersby as a curiosity.

Local tradition maintains that a hill, known as Indian hill, within the corporate limits of the town of Newport, in New Castle County, was an old Indian burying ground. No trace of skeletal remains from this site is now available. Tradition, however, must be served, and the writer takes notice of this word-of-mouth report.

In the Newport school there is a single skull which, it is reported, was found during grading of the school grounds. No other date is now available and mention of this skull is made here only on the chance that some reader may be able to furnish further details.

Dr. Hilborne T. Cresson recovered from the third layer of a rock shelter near Naaman's Creek in upper New Castle County, part of the skull and a fragment of a rib of a human⁴ in badly decomposed condition.

Huffington⁵, states that workmen digging a mill dam about a mile from Laurel accidentally uncovered some Nanticoke burials. They replaced the bones. No further data are available.

Dr. Frank Speck⁶ mentions a mound near the Indian River which the living Nanticokes revered as an ancient burial spot. This is an unsubstantiated statement insofar as this writer is concerned. Artificial mounds have not been located in

Delaware and the mound referred to is more likely to be a natural knoll.

CONCLUSION:

The people who inhabited the State of Delaware were known as the Lenni-Lenape, commonly called Delawares. This great division of the Algonkian speaking peoples also inhabited part of eastern Pennsylvania and most of New Jersey.

It is reasonable to assume that their burial customs followed traditions common to many tribes of the Algonkian language group. We might, for example, expect to find in Delaware burials similar to those found in New Jersey, etc. The southern group, known as Nanticokes, were a cognate tribe although their cultural traits were different in some respects from the three major Lenape divisions, the Unami, the Minsi, and the Unalachtigo. Before summarizing the information set forth in this paper, the writer would like, for purposes of comparison, to point out some of the known characteristics of burials in neighboring areas.

Among the North American Indians the dead were disposed of either by burial or by cremation, the usual mode being by burial in pits, graves, holes in the ground, in stone cists, in mounds, beneath or in cabins, wigwams, houses, lodges or in caves.⁷ Research in Delaware has shown no evidence of cremation. Mention of the keeping of a chief's body in a mortuary house has been made by Dr. Frank G. Speck.⁸ The same author mentions the practice of bone scraping among the Nanticokes and asserts that the cleaned bones were kept as family heirlooms until such time as the quantity of bones became too great. Burial of the bones of many individuals in common pits followed.⁹ Dr. Speck notes in his "Delaware Indian Big House Ceremony" that the funeral rites of the dead were extended over a period of twelve days,¹⁰ and that during these rites faces of the mourners were painted black as a sign of mourning.¹¹

In a large burying ground in Sandyston Township, New Jersey, many skeletons were found buried in a flexed position with the knees drawn up to the chin and face turned toward the rising sun. The bones of others, it appeared, were placed haphazardly in graves, suggesting that they had been carried from distant places for burial in home grounds¹². Reference has been made to one burial in a cave in New Jersey.¹³

These notes have been given to indicate what we might expect to find in Delaware, as judged from practices of cognate peoples nearby. Actually, evidence from our State consists of only four types of burial, extended, articulated, semi-extended partially dis-articulated, flexed articulated, and nested or bundle. Recoveries have shown at least thirteen extended articulated burials, one semi-extended partially dis-articulated, two flexed, five nested, and two questionable nested burials. There have been no cave interments discovered, probably due to the almost complete absence of caves in Delaware. Twenty-three burials, in all, have been recovered—all in Sussex County.

It is of interest that of the extended burials at least six were placed with the heads to the south or southeast, so that the faces looked toward the north or northwest. The one semi-extended partially disarticulated skeleton was placed so that the head pointed toward the south and the face looked westward. In the case of the flexed burial at the Slaughter Creek site the head lay southward and the face looked toward the north or northeast. The flexed burial from the Hayes Farm lay with the head toward the west and the face toward the south. All these instances would tend to refute the commonly popular theory that the Indians buried their dead so that the faces looked toward the rising sun.

The lack of the presence of red ochre except in the case of one burial, the evidence of which comes by word of mouth, should be noted, since red ochre in graves is currently under the scrutiny of professional archaeologists in the East.

The findings of five definite and two probable nested burials is indication that bone-cleaning was practiced to some extent. We may draw from Dr. Davidson's remarks¹⁴ that the nested were of later date than the flexed and extended burials. No age, however, can be definitely attributed to any of the remains thus far found other than a general statement that they all appear to have been late pre-historic

and, therefore, something over 350 years old. Support for this statement comes from the fact that no trade articles have been found with any of the burials. It is reasonable to suppose that if contact with whites had been made before the interments recorded here, certainly trade materials would have been found with the remains. As a matter of fact no trade goods have ever been found even on the surface of the burial sites. This fact must indicate pre-contact burials.

In passing, we cannot fail to express our disappointment in being unable to secure details from the finders of burials. The writer has, evidently, been unable to convince these persons of his serious and unselfish efforts to assemble in orderly fashion all the known data pertaining to Indian burials found within the confines of our State. Unless those persons who make these fortunate grave discoveries are willing to communicate details of the burials, it cannot be hoped that any definite and positive data can be assembled which will shed light on this important phase of Delaware archaeology. Until such time as this information is available, many problems of the related Indian cultures of the Eastern seaboard must remain unanswered—truly a regrettable circumstance, especially so since the desired information *is* in someone's knowledge.

Finally, it should be pointed out that all of the skeletal material recovered by members of our Society has been thoroughly studied and carefully recorded in an article by Dr. John A. Noone of the University of Pennsylvania in the Bulletin of the Society, Vol. 2, No. 1. Reference should be made to this article for physical data. It is very extensive and scientifically complete.

For accounts of Lenape burial customs as practiced in historic times the reader should consult the writing of Heckwelder, Campanius, Lindestrom and William Penn. Volumes containing these accounts are available at the Wilmington Institute Free Library.

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1. Bull. Arch. Soc. of Del., Vol. 1, No. 1, May 1933, p. 2.
 2. Ibid, p. 6.
 3. Bull. Arch. Soc. of Del., Vol. 2, No. 1, March, 1935.
 4. *Hilborne T. Cresson*, "Rock Shelter on Naamans Creek," Proceedings Boston Soc. of Nat. Hist. Vol. 24, Part 2.
 5. *Huffington's*, Delaware Register.
 6. *Frank G. Speck*, "Nanticokes of Southern Delaware."
 7. Bull. 30, Bur. Amer. Eth., Part 1, p. 945.
 8. *Frank G. Speck*, "Indians of Eastern Shore of Maryland," p. 9.
 9. Ibid, p. 13.
 10. *Frank G. Speck*, "Delaware Indian Big House Ceremony."
 11. Ibid, p. 22.
 12. *Max Schrabisch*, "Indian Habitations in Sussex County, N. J."
 13. Ibid, p. 22.
 14. *D. S. Davidson*, "Burial Customs Delmarva Penin.," Amer. Antiquity, Vol. 1, No. 2, Oct. 1935.
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In order to expand the scope of the society's activities, the officers voted to invite a limited number of new members to affiliate with the Archaeological Society of Delaware during 1939. There are still places for new members in the roster. If you are not a member and are desirous of having particulars, please write the Treasurer, H. V. Lang, 814 N. Adams St., Wilmington, Del. He will be glad to send you details.
