

May 1957

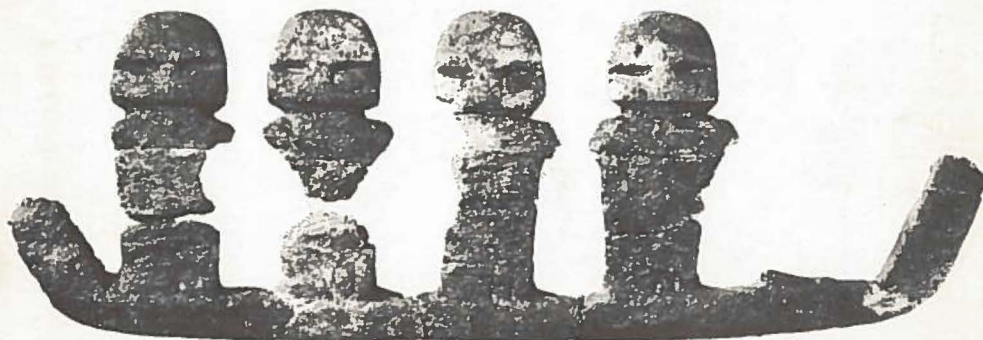
Vol. 9, NO. I

THE ARCHEOLOG

PUBLICATION of the

SUSSEX SOCIETY of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORY

DELAWARE



Photograph from Smithsonian

ORDINARILY THE GIVING OF CREDIT for a special find does not present any difficulty, for the honor goes to the pit number - unless the workers themselves agree that some one of them deserves the credit. In the case of the artifact illustrated above, however, the problem of credit, and even of ownership, is far from simple, though all concerned are in full agreement that this lucky find could hardly have been made except in the precise way it was made and each is glad to have had a part, for each part was an indispensable link in the chain.

Several of the pits in the Jones Site (which is part of the old Slaughter Creek Site) are in a loam having a large portion of clay and in the hot sun this bakes to an adobe-like hardness - harder, in fact, than the bones found in it, so it was impossible to remove the earth without much damage to the skeletal material. Dr. T. Dale Stewart at the Smithsonian was informed of this difficulty and at his suggestion large lumps of dirt with the bones they contained were taken to the Institution laboratories. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Purnell who on weekends were helping Harold Purnell at the Jones Site, operated this transfer of Delaware earth to Washington D.C.

While the dirt was being softened and removed by one of Dr. Stewart's assistants, a small piece of bone was found that did not seem to belong to the skeleton being uncovered. This was taken to Dr. Stewart who confirm-

ed its non-human origin and pointed out the crude suggestion of carved features. With the further work of separating the clay from the burial, many more small pieces of worked animal bone were found which, when fitted together, made the object shown on this page.

What is it? There is little doubt that it represents four (originally five) men in a boat. The break at the point where the fifth man would have been is old so it is probable that he was lost by the Indian owner. The boat is not a dugout log canoe - or like any of the Indian canoes of this area. Several connecting holes in these pieces of bone may have contained slender sticks extending down to make the tines of a comb. It is also supposed to be a gorget or insignia of rank or office. This artifact is now on display in the State Museum in Dover.

The removal of earth containing bones or other fragile evidence from the field to a laboratory is considered good practice but we cannot expect the installations of the Smithsonian to take the place of a workshop of our own. A "lab" where we can process our fragile material should be one of our next projects. Our wish for self-sufficiency, however, is strictly limited to the material side, for our dependence on the advice and supervision of national authorities is intentional and constantly increasing.

Table of Contents

	Page
(1) Report on the Russell Site	1
(2) An Iron Age Pottery Site in Belgium.	10
(3) Constitution of the Sussex Society of Archeology and History (Successor to the Sussex Archeological Association).	11
(4) New Members	16

Errata

Article by Prof. C. A. Bonine entitled:

"Archeological Investigation of the Dutch "Swanendael"
Settlement under DeVries."

Vol. VIII, No. 3, December, 1956.

Page 2 - paragraph 4, add "figure 2" after "plate 1".

" 3 - " 2, change "plate 6" to "plate 2".

" 10 - " 5, " "plate 2" to "plate 1 figure 2".

" 11 - " 1, line 23 after word "sketch" add the
following: "and the south bank of Lewes
Creek, as shown on The Godin Bay map, on
the modern topographic map, plate 1, figure
2, at the point where the cemetery plot and
monument are located, the three features on
the DeVries sketch".....

" 12 - " 2, line 22, change "plate 6" to "plate 2".

Plate 1, figure 1, first sentence, change "Gilpin" to "Godin".

REPORT ON THE RUSSELL SITE*

7-S-D7

by

David Marine, Project Chairman

This Indian Camp-site (marked by a black dot on the insert map plate 1) is located on the right bank of Pagan (Canary) Creek about one mile south-southwest of DeVries Monument on Pilottown Road, Lewes, Delaware, and about 900 feet northwest on the "New Road". The Site is also about 230 feet northwest of the northern end of the old "Dike" or causeway across Pagan Creek and is important historically as well as archeologically. The property is part of the farm owned by Mr. Samuel Russell, to whom we are indebted for permission to excavate.

The area investigated (see plate 1) extended 190 feet north and south by 220 feet east and west, and included slightly less than one acre of cleared and brush land. This was laid out in 20 foot squares - north, south, east and west from a zero point. Nineteen shell (refuse) pits were located and excavated, together with two areas designated as features - one being an equine burial and the other an exploratory trench at the edge of the marsh where a bend in Pagan Creek comes within 50 feet of high ground.

The whole site is flat except for the gentle slope (about 1 foot in 200 feet) toward Pagan Creek and less than 10 feet above mean sea level. The soil is classified as sassafras sandy loam and the subsoil as yellow porous sand.

Written reports were received from 15 of the 19 refuse pits excavated.

The following members of the Sussex Archaeological Association participated in the excavations: Mrs. Virginia Cullen, Miss Helen Hutchinson, Henry Hutchinson, William Ingram, Ralph Karl, Mary Marine, David Marine, Orville Peets and Roger Vandegrift. Work was begun in February 1951 and terminated in December 1951. None of the area between the refuse pits was scraped for evidence of postmolds, hearths or other evidence of Indian occupation. The whole area was systematically probed but most of the shell (refuse) pits were located without probing, because of the local concentration of shells on the surface, loosened by annual deep plowing. In addition, erosion probably contributed to the loss of topsoil over the 250 years of cultivation due to the light sandy soil, gentle slope and row crops.

Surface hunters over the years have been rewarded by finding many stone artifacts. The present owner of the farm, Mr. Russell, presented to us the following items which he had found on and adjacent to our site:

*A Project authorized and carried out by the Sussex Archeological Association - February to December 1951.

- 1 broken clay pipe. The stem is intact but the bowl is broken.
- 1 hammer stone containing four finger holes. It shows several deep plow marks.
- 1 small polished Indian axe.
- 1 triangular arrow point (jasper) with 1 corner broken.
- 1 notched arrow point 1 3/4 x 1 1/4 inches, almost black.
- 1 piece of worked jasper - probably a scraper.

Mr. Russell said his father and grandfather also had found stone artifacts in this field. However, surface finds and refuse pits are numerous on both banks of Pagan Creek upstream for at least a mile.

The refuse pits have been plotted (plate 1) and follow no pattern. However, nearly all are located in the southern half of the site with the greatest concentration in the south west quadrant. This quadrant is nearest to the water approach (Pagan Creek is a tidal stream and was navigable for sloops until blocked near its mouth by the highway bridge) and also to the land approach from the old "Dike" crossing Pagan Creek about 230 feet to the southeast.

PRESENTATION OF DATA

1. Refuse Pits and Fire Places.

The principal data as reported from 15 of the 19 pits are presented in the accompanying table (see table 1). As already mentioned, all observations indicate that the upper portions of most pits had been destroyed by deep plowing and erosion. The shell layer varied from 6 to 19 inches in thickness except the burial pit (No. 5) and pit No. 4 - both of which were in the brush area. Careful search of the brush area revealed no additional refuse pits.

Thirteen pits showed extensive shell injury by fire and two (Nos. 11 and 12) contained so little shell they may have been primarily fire places.

Sherds. A total of 469 potsherds from an estimated 48 pots were reported and all but one sherd were shell tempered. No restorable pots were found although enough matching sherds (up to 11) were found to determine the diameter of 6 pots that varied from 9 to 11 inches. No very small or large pots were indicated.

As to decorations, nothing unusual was reported (see Plate 2). The great majority of sherds were either "fabric impressed" or "cord wrapped stick impressed". Only a few showed crude incised rim rings or combinations of ring and herring bone design. One group of 5 matching sherds showed

patchwork incised parallel line decoration on the inside while the outside showed faint overall basket weave markings.

Bone. All pits contained abundant well preserved fragments, charred and uncharred. These were mostly deer, turtle, raccoon and other small mammals, bird and fish bones. Pit No. 8 contained about 100 large charred blue crab claws in a remarkable state of preservation. There were several well preserved fragments of deer antlers found and one nearly complete and intact right antler was recovered from pit No. 12.

Worked bone. Eleven bone awls were reported, 3 bone scrapers, one $4\frac{1}{2}$ " polished bone tube and one $3\frac{3}{8}$ " polished bone (see Plate 2) resembling the tibia of a turkey. A hole had been drilled $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the upper end into the marrow cavity and the cavity cleaned of cancellous bone to the rounded polished lower end. Was this a whistle? (In the Museum at the Mesa Verde National Park there were (1954) several practically identical bone artifacts but their use was unknown.) Similar bone artifacts are exhibited in the Archeological Museum of the University of Arizona. The report on pit No. 5 states that 10 "bone implements" were found.

Pipes. Two rather crude, undecorated clay pipes were found (see Plate 2). One was a slightly curved elongated funnel with the overall length $2\frac{3}{4}$ ", the diameter at rim $1\frac{5}{16}$ " and the depth of the bowl $1\frac{3}{8}$ ". This pipe is intact except for a portion of the left side of the bowl. The other is a crude slightly curved pipe with part of the stem missing. The overall length is $1\frac{1}{8}$ ", the diameter at rim is $\frac{7}{8}$ " and the depth of bowl $1\frac{5}{16}$ ". The stem fragment is $\frac{3}{8}$ " long. The slightly irregular demarcation notch or groove between bowl and stem shows longitudinal marks of a scraper and the demarcation groove between bowl and stem was scraped out before firing. A well preserved flexible fish bone (rib) extended through the stem and bowl and projected about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each end.

Both these pipes are of approximately the same diameter, curvature and quality of untempered clay, which suggests that before scraping out the demarcation groove between stem and bowl, both pipes were nearly identical.

No other Indian pipes were reported. However, the surface of the site contained fragments of European pipe stems and bowls. These fragments increased in number as one traveled northeast over a distance of about 200 yards to an old house site where these pipe fragments could be picked up by the hundred.

Stone artifacts. These were unusually scarce. Only 33 chips were specifically listed in the 15 pits reported, although 3 of the reports use the words "yes", "several" and "many". Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ this number (15) were recovered from Feature 2 trench. Arrow points also were very infrequent - only 7 being reported; 4 of them notched and 3 triangular.

- 7 -

One scraper and two hammer stones were reported. One European gunflint (see Plate 2) was recovered from Pit No. 8.

Burials. One human burial (see plate 3) was found, and it has been reported by Ralph Karl in the "Archaeolog" for July, 1951. A careful search of this brush area revealed no other burials. It was an extended burial at the bottom of refuse pit No. 5 (see Plate 1). The skeleton was lying on a pavement of large oyster shells. This skeleton was sent to the National Museum and the writer has not heard of any report on it. The skull and long bones were intact and fairly well preserved. Whether this is due to neutralization of the soil acidity by the shells above and below the bones or due to recency of burial we do not know. One equine burial is described as Feature #1.

2. Features

Feature No. 1 (see plate 1) was located by Ralph Karl and myself while probing the Russell site for refuse (shell) pits. The probe penetrated a resisting substance that we instantly recognized as less resistant than the familiar shell. We thought of decaying wood. The top soil (9-10 inches) was removed and exposed a rectangular area of disturbed earth about 25 inches wide and 78 inches long surrounded by yellow sand. On removing this fill we exposed an upper jaw bone at 9 inches below the topsoil (or 19 inches below the ground surface). Extending the excavation we exposed pelvic bones at 14 inches (24 inches below the ground surface). When fully exposed the jaw bone proved to belong to a member of the genus Equus with the slightly curved row of incisor teeth of the upper jaw. The front leg bones were folded under the skull which was pointed back toward the shoulders. All the bones examined were intact and soft but the epiphyses were united to the shafts indicating that the bones were from an adult animal, although considerably smaller than the average present day American horse.

The long axis of the skeleton extended in a north-east and south-west direction with the skull to the north east. No bones were removed. No remnants of harness or other identifying or dating material were found in our limited examination. However, it is not a recent burial. Since no leads developed as to the significance of such a skeleton, it was decided to leave it intact and in situ for possible future study.

Feature No. 2 Since a sharp bend in Pagan Creek brings the stream nearest to the high ground where our north-south axial line intersects it (see plate 1) Orville Poets and I thought that traffic to the site by boat might land here where only 45 feet of marsh separates the stream bank from firm ground, and if this were the case, some archaeological evidence might be found to support our speculation.

We dug a trench 2 feet wide and one foot deep beginning at the junction of marsh and firm ground and extended it 12 feet in a northeasterly direction toward the field. The tough

sod and topsoil was approximately 9 inches deep and of a dark gray color resting on a yellowish wet sandy loam. In the lower one-third of the topsoil we found 4 sherds, 15 chips and one nearly complete triangular arrow point. A lump of bog iron ore possibly weighing 4-5 lbs. was uncovered. No artifacts were found at or below the one foot level. No shell or bone was found. This we interpreted as indicating that the area explored was probably not a landing path of the Indians. Further exploration was not undertaken but might be rewarding, particularly as regards evidence of Indian occupation antedating that presented in this report.

SUMMARY

Reports on 15 of the 19 refuse pits excavated were filed with the Projects Chairman. The outstanding features of this site may be summed up as follows: Plow and water erosion has greatly reduced the depth of the pits. Extensive destruction of shells by fire was observed in all 15 pits reported. On the other hand, the bone, antler and shell at the periphery or away from the fire areas were unusually well preserved.

Only 469 sherds were reported and all but one were coarse or fine shell tempered. No type of pottery not represented at the Townsend site was found. Only about 48 pots were represented and none of these was restorable.

Two pipes were found. These are almost identical in basic shape, size and material, except that one had been scraped extensively to demarcate the junction of bowl and stem.

Stone artifacts were extremely rare. Only a total of 33 chips or chipped pebbles were reported (I have seen more than 4 times this number in a single refuse pit). It is possible that some of our members at that time did not consider chips or flakes important enough to report. A total of 7 arrow points, one scraper and 2 hammer stones represent the remainder of stone artifacts found.

Charred and uncharred bone was very common with deer predominating, but turtle, fish, small mammals and bird bones were common and well preserved.

Several large pieces of deer antler and one nearly intact right antler were found. The presence of a hundred or more large charred blue crab claws was an unusual and suggestive finding.

Of worked bone, 11 polished awls and 2 scrapers are in contrast with the scarcity of stone artifacts. In addition, a bone tube $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and a "whistle" like section of a turkey (?) tibia - both highly polished - were found.

One extended human burial and one animal (equine) burial were excavated. The skeletons of each appeared to be complete and intact. No dog burials were found. This may be significant since all the long occupied sites in Sussex County I have seen or read reports on contained many such burials.

All refuse pits were separate and isolated. No intrusions into older pits were found.

CONCLUSIONS

It is our opinion that this encampment was recent, (probably within the historic period), temporary or seasonal and of short duration. The suggestion is made that this camp may have sprung up because of a nearby trading post and thus may be comparable to the summer encampments of Indians that have sprung up near Hudson's Bay Co. trading posts in Canada during the past 200 years.

The following facts may be cited in support of the above conclusion:

- (1) The high state of preservation of shell, bone, antler and crab claws where these were not injured by fire.
- (2) The large amount (relatively and absolutely) of deer bone.
- (3) The small number of pot sherds.
- (4) The relatively large number of worked bones (awls, tubes).
- (5) The unusual scarcity of worked stone (chips, arrow points, scrapers, etc.)
- (6) The presence of only one human burial and no dog burial.
- (7) The presence of an animal (equine) burial.
- (8) The presence of a European gunflint and pipe fragments.
- (9) The large number of fragments of European pipe bowls and stems in the site and extending about 200 yards to the northeast where there was a colonial house (William Rowland) in 1725, and some evidence exists that an earlier trading post was located in the vicinity of this colonial house.
- (10) Both the Indian encampment and the colonial house sites are located on the original "Dutch West India Fort" or "The Company's Fort" land grant, which antedated the English occupation in 1664.
- (11) None of the refuse pits were intrusions and no evidence was obtained that this area had been previously occupied as a camp site.

Worked Stone		Bone		Special Features
No. chips	Artifacts	Worked	Kinds	
				Much charcoal
1	1 hammer 1 point	2 awls	deer small animals	4 rim sherds with drilled holes
12			deer bird	shell well preserved around edges
several		4 awls	deer turtle	
yes		10 pieces	antler deer, turtle sm. animals	extended burial 29" below top soil.
3	2 broken points		turtle	
3	European gunflint		deer, 2 jaw bones raccoon?	clay pipe, crab claws charred and well preserved
			charred deer bone	intact deer vertebrae basal 6" of antler
2	scraper 5" x 3½"			one grit tempered sherd
3	2 points		20 pcs. 1 deer jaw	Rim of well preserved shells
Many	1 point		much char- red bone	nearly complete right antler, more like a fire pit.
5		1 awl	deer, turtle	polished bone tube 4½"
	1 point			3 matching rim sherds indicated 11" pot diam.
		1 awl 2 scrapers	much deer turtle	2 lower jaws deer oval stone with red ochre
4	2 hammer stones	3 awls 1 scraper		5 matching sherds with patch work parallel in- cised lines on inside.

Plate I

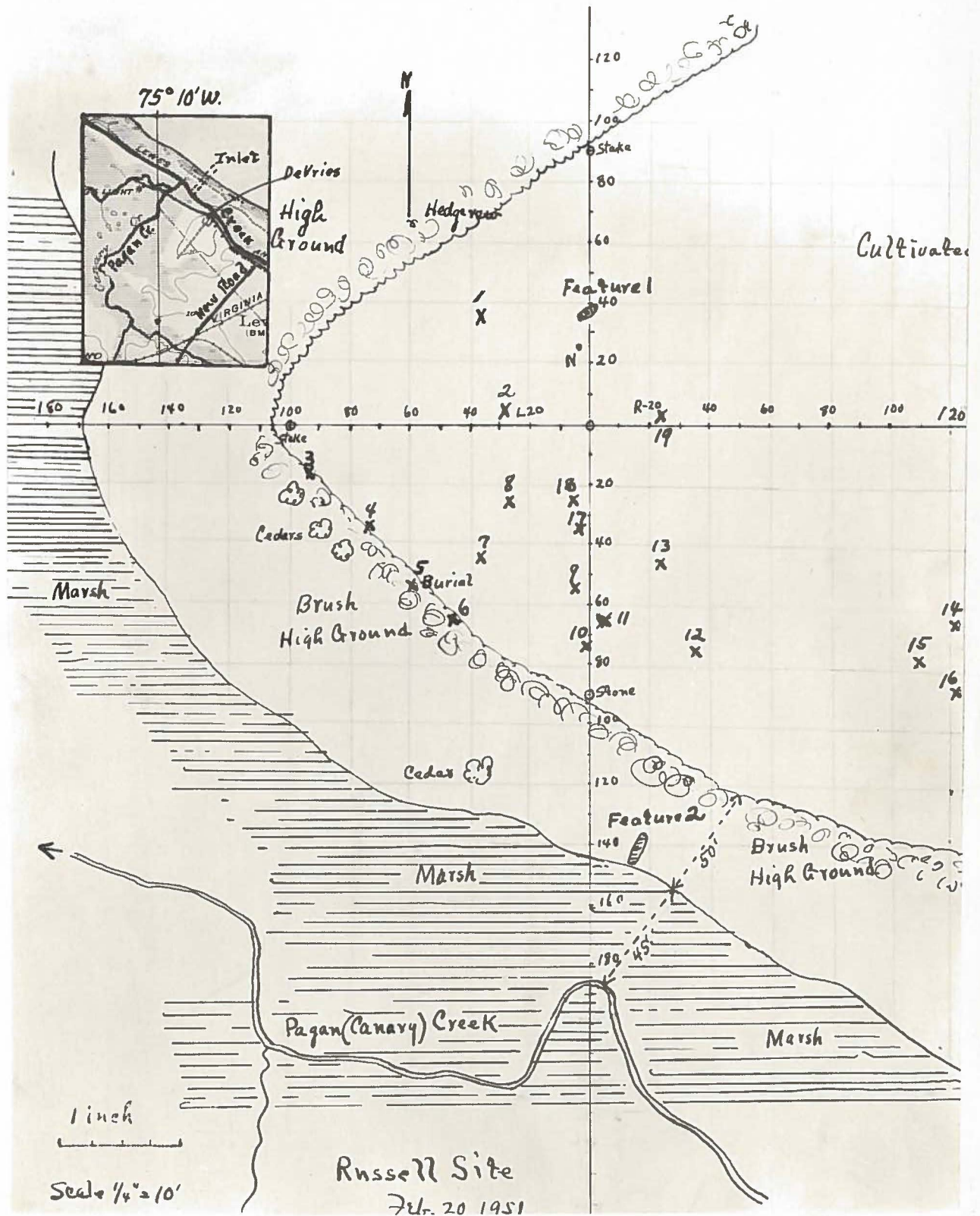
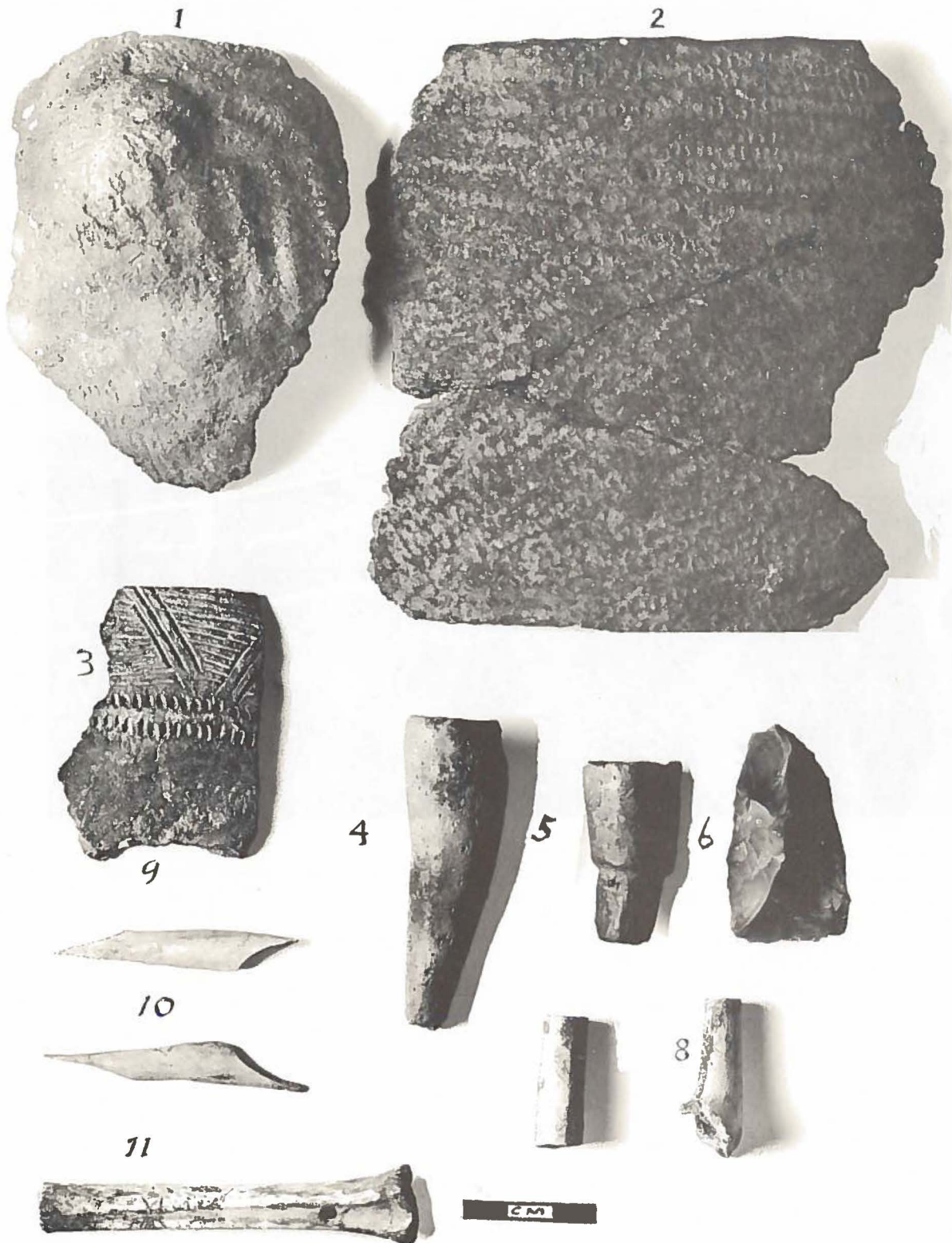


Plate 2

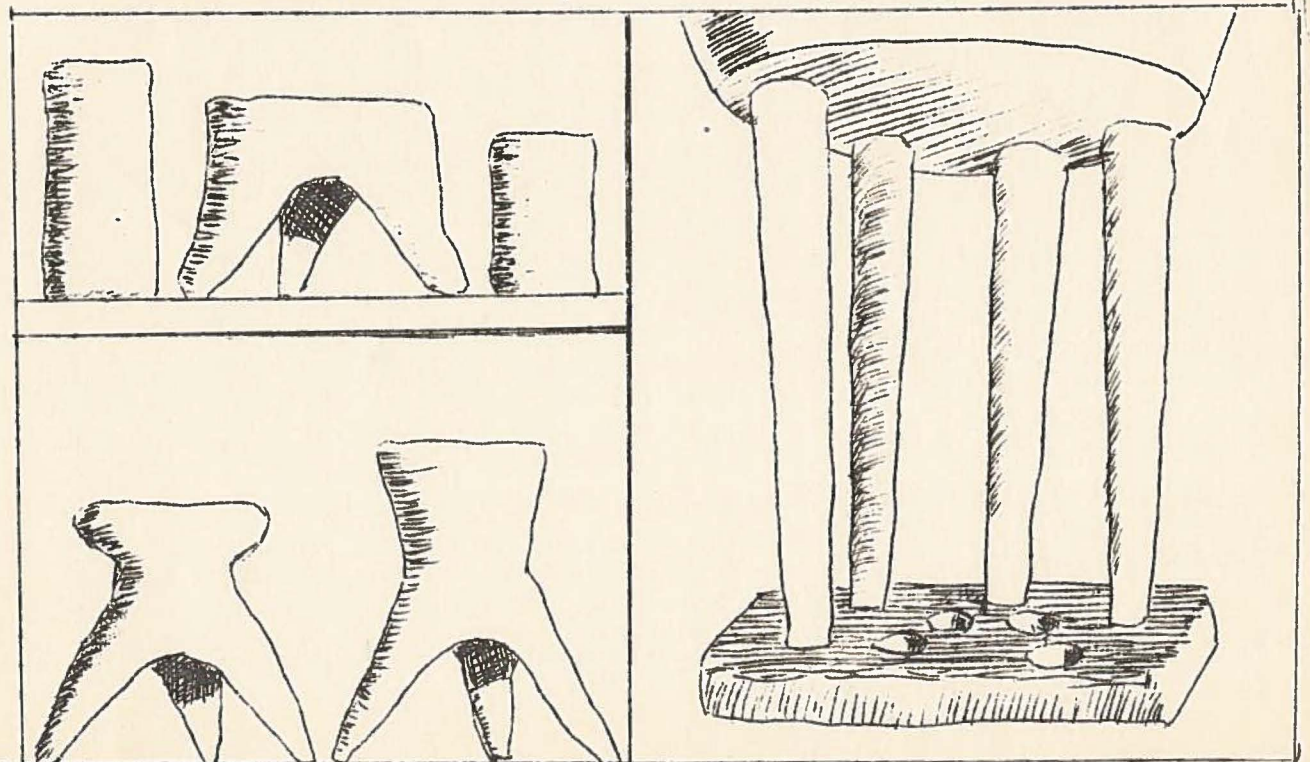


Iron Age Pottery Site in Belgium

One of our members (Mr. C.L.W.Stein) now residing in Brussels came upon a book published in Brussels in 1928 and written by M.E.Rahr , entitled "Vingt-Cinq Années de Recherches, de Restaurations et de Reconstructions" which Mr. Stein thought might interest us .

The site of the excavations is in the vast dunes of La Panne near the French frontier and about 500 meters from the coast line. Work has been in progress here since 1886 and is believed to represent pottery making from the beginning of the Iron Age to the beginning of the Christian Era , as indicated by the several layers of work-shop material at several levels from 10 to 90 cm. or more, but the greatest concentration of artifacts averages about 70 cm. below the present surface. These several layers are composed of charcoal, innumerable fragments of very small vessels and larger conditioned pot sherds both plain and ornamented.

In addition to the great concentration of pottery fragments in the several workshops , there were found also divers other objects of great interest - such as (1) the curious tripods of baked clay used for drying pottery and (2) devices used for the firing of vases. Also deposits or caches of clay used in making pottery were found in the debris. The pottery, fashioned by hand was placed on tripods of clay to dry. These tripods (see illustration) were of varying heights and formed a vertical cylinder flattened on top with the base drawn out into three prongs or feet. (This aid to potters is still manufactured) Another device for drying small pots and vases was a slab of clay with several perforations into which clay pegs were inserted. Two types of clay were found. One less plastic and containing less iron, was used for large thick-walled objects. This turned yellow on firing. (Our Sussex workers will recall the many yellow bricks made in Holland found in the area of the first Dutch settlement at Swanendael)



CONSTITUTION
of the
Sussex Society of Archeology and History
(Successor to the Sussex Archeological Association)

NAME

The name of this association shall be THE SUSSEX SOCIETY of ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY, Successor to The Sussex Archaeological Association.

(The phrase "Successor to the Sussex Archaeological Association" shall be printed on the letterhead of stationary printed in the future by the Society.)

ARTICLE I - Purposes

1. The purpose of this Society shall be to search out, record, and preserve all or any facts, materials, and documents of archaeological or historical significance or interest, especially those pertaining to Sussex County, Delaware, but not necessarily confined thereto, and to preserve such items in such place or places that they will be safe from fire and vandalism, but accessible for study and reference by responsible persons.
2. To advance interest in Archaeological and Historical study and research, and promote good fellowship between persons and organizations of like interest.
3. To do all in our power to prevent the destruction of archaeological and historical sites by unscientific methods of those who will not file detailed, accurate, and complete information and descriptions of their findings with acknowledged and recognized institutions and/or organizations.
4. To discourage and oppose the barter, traffic, or trade in archaeological and historical material, except that which is necessary for the scientific preservation of such material.
5. To encourage all persons to search out archaeological and historical facts and material, and legends, and preserve them in the archives of this Society or other reputable societies or museums where they will be available for study.
6. To publish as much of this archaeological and historical material as the Society is able to publish at its own expense, and to encourage the exchange of such material with other societies and organizations of like interest.
7. To cooperate with other archaeological and historical organizations in all matters of archaeological and historical interest.

- 11 -

8. This Society is a non-profit organization and no part of its net income is to inure to the benefit of any private individual.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Qualification for membership

1. Members must have a real, sincere, and true interest and desire to promote the purposes of this Society, as given in Article One. They must sign an application stating they have read the purposes of the Society and are in agreement with them.
2. Applicants must be acceptable to the majority of members present at the meeting when their names are voted upon.
3. Proposed members presented at one meeting will be voted upon at the next regular meeting of the association.
4. Paid up members of the Sussex Archaeological Association at the time this constitution goes into effect will automatically become members of the Sussex Society of Archaeology and History, provided they agree with the purposes of this Society as set forth in Article I.

Classes of membership.

5. Active members meeting the requirements above. They will have full voting privileges.
6. Subscribing members consisting of libraries, institutions, and other societies. They will have no vote, and will not be sent notices of meetings, but will receive one copy of all publications issued. Their dues will be one dollar a year less than Active membership dues.
7. Honorary members - Honorary membership may be conferred by vote of the Executive Board to persons who have shown continued interest in and valuable service to this Society. They may be voted Honorary Members only for one year at a time. They will not be sent notices of meetings or publications of the Society except when specifically recommended by the Executive Board. They will pay no dues.

ARTICLE III - Dues

1. There will be no initiation fee.
2. Annual dues shall be established by the Executive Board, but must be approved by the Active Members at a regular meeting.

3. Annual Dues shall cover the period of January 1st to December 31st.

4. Annual dues shall be paid in advance, and those delinquent for six months shall not be eligible to receive publications of the Society until such dues are paid, and then the Society will not be responsible for providing any back numbers that delinquents may have missed during their delinquency.

5. A member delinquent for twelve months will be dropped from the membership list.

ARTICLE IV - Meetings

1. The Society will meet once per month whenever practicable, preferably on a previously agreed upon day, such as the third Thursday in each month, but the date may be changed by the Executive Board to meet special or peculiar circumstances.

2. Conduct of meetings - Meetings may be informal or formal according to the discretion of the presiding officer, but the presiding officer may, or any member may call for procedure according to The Roberts Rules of Order at any time, and upon such a call the presiding officer shall apply such rules of order for the rest of that meeting, unless the person calling for that procedure withdraws his/her request for said formal procedure.

ARTICLE V - Officers

1. The ELECTED officers shall be:-

President	-	term two years;	cannot succeed himself.
Vice President	-	" "	may succeed himself.
Secretary	-	" "	" "
Treasurer	-	" "	" "
Custodian	-	" "	" "

The duties of these officers will be those usually performed by these offices.

2. The Appointed officers shall be:-

Publication Chairman	-	term two years,	may be reappointed.
Archaeological Chairman	-	" "	" reappointed.
Historical Chairman	-	" "	" "

The duties of these appointed officers shall be defined to them in writing by the President at the time of appointment. They shall select their own committeemen, with the approval of the President.