

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



ARCH-NOTES

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Due to a mix-up in meeting arrangements, this month's meeting will not be held at the Board of Education Centre. Instead, The Ontario Archaeological Society will meet at 8 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, at 118 Kingsdale Avenue, Willowdale. Kingsdale Avenue runs east off Yonge Street, just a few blocks north of Sheppard Avenue.

This should prove to be an interesting and informative evening, for several of our members will present informal reports on their archaeological activities during our summer recess. Additional time has been allotted for reports from other members in attendance, so come prepared to impart and receive the latest news on the activities of our members.

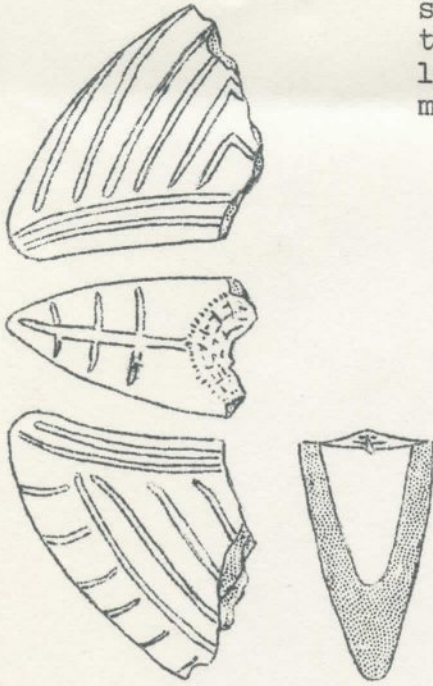
BEETON SITE PROGRESS REPORT

Despite very short notice, a good number of members turned out for the September "dig" at the Beeton site. They excavated several new units and removed the walls between a number of those previously completed. Several more post molds were uncovered and quite a number of artifacts were collected - enough to keep us busy for several "lab" sessions this winter.

Every excavation produces a few "problematicals", and the Beeton site is no exception. The latest of these was a broken pottery item encountered by Mrs. Eilene Balsky in unit E-0 (illustrated on page 2).

The natural question, "What is it?", brought forth such suggestions as, "shoulder castellation", "pipe bowl", "amulet", "totem", and "copy of a bannerstone". Though it is possible that one of these suggestions could be the correct one, for various reasons none of them seemed to fit the bill. Perhaps one of our readers has encountered a

similar item and can provide us with the answer. If not, we will probably have to await the recovery of the missing portion to settle the matter.



#### BEETON SITE PROBLEMATIC

(full-scale illustration)

#### FUTURE EVENTS

**O.A.S. PROMOTIONAL DISPLAYS:** From October 18 to November 14, the North York Public Library will feature an archaeological display prepared by the Society's Promotion and Publicity Committee. This display, which is well worth seeing, will then travel to the various North York branch libraries during the winter months. Members will be notified of the schedule in Arch-Notes as soon as it is available.

The North York Library series of displays is just one of several planned by our Promotion and Publicity Committee. At present they are arranging a series of promotional talks, etc., before various groups in the Toronto area as part of their forthcoming membership drive. Mrs. Davie, Chairman, reports that her committee urgently needs someone with woodworking ability to help them design and construct a portable archaeological display case to be used in this campaign, scheduled to begin this winter. Volunteers are asked to write to Mrs. Davie at 118 Kingsdale Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario, or telephone 222-6396.

**E.S.A.F. MEETING:** The 1966 Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation (of which the O.A.S. is a member society) will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6, at New York, New York. Registration for members and guests will begin at 9.30 a.m., Saturday in the City Squire Motor Inn, Broadway and 51st Street (just north of the Times Square complex).

#### NEWS OF MEMBERS

Dr. J.N. Emerson and a six-man University of Toronto crew are carrying out a preliminary survey and exploratory excavation on a prehistoric Indian site near Leamington, Ontario this week. They are to be joined by volunteers from the University of Windsor on the weekend of October 15th.

This work, financed by the National Museum of Canada, is being carried out at the request of the University of Windsor, and is in preparation for a full-scale excavation planned for next year.

Dr. Dean Axelson reports that his Milton ossuary excavation has revealed several interesting features to date. The pit itself, measuring 11 feet across at its widest point, is lined with a layer of clay and has lumps of this material scattered throughout the sand fill. Areas of ash mixed with clay have also been noted. Bundle burials predominate, and none of the skeletons so far encountered appear to have been fully articulated at the time of interment. Fragments of normally perishable items - human hair, beaver skin and cloth - have been preserved by the action of copper salts from certain grave goods.

Included in the grave goods inventory from this site are fragments of hide and cloth garments, small discoidal shell "wampum" beads, coloured glass and rolled tubular copper beads, spiral copper wire finger rings, and a few pottery sherds.

On October 5, Dr. Axelson journeyed to London, Ontario, to speak before the Archaeological Society of Western Ontario. His well-received talk dealt with the Uren and Middleport phases of Iroquoian development in Ontario, and sought to establish the position of his recently excavated Van site in this development.

Last month Mr. Charles Garrad visited several points of archaeological and ethnological interest in eastern Ontario and Quebec. Included in his itinerary were the National Museum of Canada, the Caughnawaga Mohawk Reserve, Montreal, Loretteville, and Québec.

Mr. Garrad reports that the National Museum of Canada's Iroquois Indians of Ontario display is now closed for modifications; that the "Indian Museum" in the Caughnawaga Mohawk Reserve, Montreal, has central heating added and will be open all year; that he found Montreal to be a Canadiana browser's paradise, with many hard-to-find archaeological and ethnological publications available, and that the Huron Indian village of Lorette proved quite a surprise and a bit of a disappointment. He found this "Village des Hurons" to be a section of the modern, bustling town of Loretteville, entirely indistinguishable from the rest of the town - as were its inhabitants. The percentage of Huron blood surviving in this "Village" is now so small that it is more proper to regard them as French-Canadian with a trace of Huron blood. The small museum attached to the Village Church contains many items from the early mission period, but no Indian artifacts.

In Quebec City Mr. Garrad talked to Father Adrienne Pouliet on Jesuit archaeological work. Father Pouliet advised him that he had, to his satisfaction, located the first grave of Champlain, from which the remains were later removed. This discovery involved much research through 17th and 18th Century land deeds. The site of the Chapel which was erected over the remains is now mainly covered by a restaurant.

#### VIEWS AND COMMENTS

With the dropping of the A Series of Ontario Archaeology, Arch-Notes will expand its services to provide the reader with archaeological reports and information not normally included in the major B se-

ries. This will include informal and general-interest reports, examples of which appear in this issue. Members are urged to contribute articles, which may include line drawings suitable for reproduction by stylus or electronic stencil.

Heavy earth moving equipment often destroys or greatly damages an archaeological site before the operators of these machines are aware of it. One such instance occurred this summer on the farm of Mr. Desmond Zimmer, Lot 1, Concession 14-15, Orford Township, Kent County. Heavy equipment under the charge of Mr. Ralph White, Thamesville, was brought in to remove the top of a large sand hill between Mr. Zimmer's house and barn. The excavated sand was then spread along 100 yards of the newly widened Town Line Road, immediately to the northwest of the farm. During the course of this work, his machines sliced into three ochre stained burials and a large deposit of cremated human bone. The burnt bone was immediately reburied in a shallow trench a few feet north of its original position but all that could be found of the other burials was gathered together with the intention of reburying it when the grading operation was completed.

We heard of this find through Mr. James Secord who, although not fully aware of the importance of the discovery at the time, knew of our impending visit to the area and persuaded Mr. Zimmer to allow us to examine the remains and run a test trench through what was left of the hill.

We first examined the ochre-stained remains and found them to represent a juvenile, probably female, between 14 and 18 years old, an adult under 25 years of age, and an infant no more than a year old. Mixed with these remains were a number of marine shell beads, 3 to 5 millimeters in diameter and from 3 to 13 mm. in length, an awl fashioned from the canon bone of a deer, and two unmodified deer metapodal bones.

When questioned, Mr. White and Mr. Zimmer stated that the shell beads were found with the infant, and the bone awl with the juvenile. The stained skeletons were liberally sprinkled with lumps of red ochre, lay extended with the head to the west, and were roughly in a line between the east corner of the house and the west corner of the barn. The "washtub size" cremated burial lay partly under and to the north of the juvenile. All burials were encountered between 3 and 4 feet beneath the original surface of the hill, from which a maximum of 4 feet of wind deposited Plainsview sand was removed.

With the intention of locating and checking the disturbed cremation burial, and in the hope of discovering an undisturbed burial missed by the hit-and-skip action of the earth moving equipment, we ran a test trench across the general area in which the adult juvenile and cremation burial were encountered.

We failed to locate any more burials but did uncover most of the juvenile's missing hand and foot bones - obviously spilled and dragged along by the earth moving equipment after it had sliced into that burial. The burnt bone deposit was also located and examined. At least two, and probably more, individuals were involved in this burial. Mixed with the bone and ash of the deposit were 3 fish vertebrae, a 3/4 inch long fragment from the end of an elongate marine shell gorget, a beaver

incisor wood working tool, and the tip of a broken chert point,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length. The disturbed sand above this deposit produced a mottled chert scraper or knife.

Though undoubtedly much valuable information on this site now lies scattered beneath the Town Line Road, and none of the rest was obtained by what could be called controlled conditions, we have, through the alertness of Mr. Secord and the co-operation of Mr. Zimmer and Mr. White, obtained enough data to surmise that this hill was a late Archaic burial site, probably used by people of the Glacial Kame, Red Ochre, or related culture. Very little is known of these people's activities in Ontario (though members Neil Coppieters and Stanley Wortner are making substantial contributions to this end) so any information, however meager, is better than none.

One further bit of information on this site was provided by Mr. Zimmer. In the early 1950s, "four or five" other "red ochre" and "a couple" of cremated burials were uncovered when a portion of this sand hill was cut away to improve his driveway. The exposed skeletons were reburied elsewhere on the farm but most of the associated artifacts were donated to a "Michigan university" by Mr. Zimmer's brother, Morand. This lead is now being checked out in the hope that these artifacts can provide additional information on the cultural relationship of the site.

Our activities on the Zimmer site were responsible for turning up an archaeological conundrum that we hope one of our readers will be able to solve.

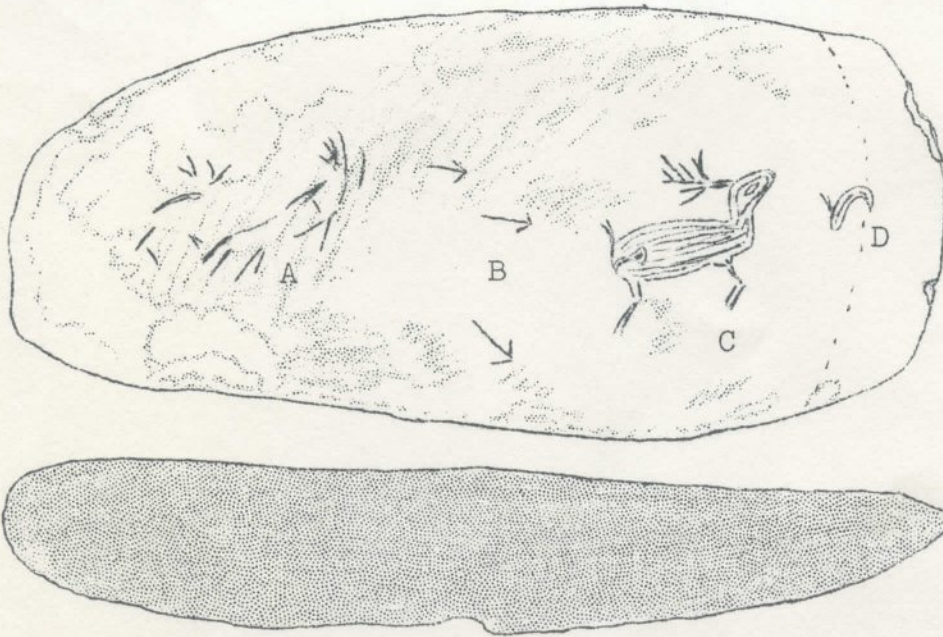
The discovery of these Archaic burials so close to his own farm rekindled Mr. James Secord's active interest in archaeology and set him to reminiscing about some of the artifacts he had discovered in the last 30 years or so. During the course of his narrative he mentioned a small box of artifacts that he had mislaid many years ago. His ten-year old son, David, listening to the conversation, immediately embarked on a determined - and eventually successful - search for the missing box which, when opened, revealed a number of stone implements, including a crude adze recovered by Mr. Secord in the early 1940s from the surface of a freshly ploughed field.

When this adze was cleaned, David's sharp eyes spotted a faint, partially obliterated, hunting scene scratched into its surface (see sketch on following page).

Now a stone adze, particularly a rough specimen such as this one, is a most unlikely place to find a carved hunting scene so, with George F. Carter's recently published article on the famous Lenape stone from Bucks County, Pennsylvania (Anthropological Journal of Canada, Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 2 - 6) fresh in our minds, we were soon subjecting the adze to a critical examination under various lighting conditions and powers of magnification in an effort to determine if it were genuine.

We concluded that the scene was carved somewhat later than the manufacture and use of the adze by its original owner (the design cuts through a patina that covers most of the adze), that still later the carving itself had been partially obliterated by the scraping action of some large, hard, and slightly concave object (probably a harrow or plough blade), and that the scene itself had been executed by either

an Indian or someone well versed in their style of illustration (note "X-ray" depiction of colon and stomach of pursued deer).



- A. Subject doubtful - possibly hunters or deer.
- B. Arrows or javelins
- C. Buck deer in flight
- D. Unknown, but seems to be part of intended scene.

Considering the circumstances surrounding its discovery, the choice boils down to acceptance of the specimen as a genuine Indian artifact, re-used by a later prehistoric artist, or as the handiwork of a learned prankster on a genuine Indian artifact - someone willing to wait many years, perhaps in vain, to reap the rewards of his effort.

If you are interested in pursuing this matter further, please write to Mr. Secord at R.R.#3, Thamesville, Ontario.

Mr. Charles Garrad advises us that the printing firm of Rolph - Clark - Stone Ltd., 201 Carlaw Avenue, Toronto, still has copies of their Canadian Indians series calendar left. This calendar is one of their Early Canadian People series and carries original Indian prints by Tom McNeilly (18" x 14" in size) suitable framing. All cultural details in these pictures have been authenticated by Dr. E.S. Rogers, Curator of Anthropology, Royal Ontario Museum, and of the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto.

Your comments on our modified format are invited.

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