

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



ARCH-NOTES

No. 67-5

MAY 1967

EXECUTIVE

President:
Dr. R. Dean Axelson,
247 Truman Road,
Willowdale, Ontario.

Vice President:
(office vacant)

Recording Secretary:
Mr. Ross Strain

Treasurer:
Miss. Lorna Procter

Past President:
Miss. Phyllis Bowland

Corresponding Secretary:
Mrs. Cecilia Finnigan,
57 Chesnut Park Road,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

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The next meeting of The Ontario Archaeological Society will be held at 8 p.m., Wednesday, May 17th, at the Commercial Travellers' Association Salesman's Club, 17 Dundonald Street, Toronto (just east of Yonge Street, one block north of Wellesley).

Our speaker for the evening will be Miss. Joyce E. Holloway, a graduate from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Buffalo. Her topic, "Some Archaeological Sites in Western New York" (Illustrated), covers Miss. Holloway's participation in a number of western New York State excavations during her undergraduate years, and an informal post-graduate evaluation of the results.

THE APRIL MEETING

At last month's meeting, Mr. Paul Sweetman described his work for the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario last August on an 18th Century Hudson's Bay Company post on Lake Kenogamissi, Ontario.

The site of this post, established in 1794 as a subsidiary post for Frederick House to meet the North West Company competition, and abandoned in 1821 when the two companies merged, was, when finally located, almost completely covered by 3 feet of water due to the damming of the lake. All that remained above the level of the water in 1966 was a portion of the post's vegetable garden, which formed a small spit of land on the present lake shore. However, the shallow water covering the rest of the site made it possible for Mr. Sweetman's crew to locate several masonry hearths and recover many artifacts (broken crockery, liquor and medicine bottles, iron barrel hoops, trade beads, etc.) from an area some 45 to 50 feet south of the mid-point of the sandy spit.

The Fretz site, located on the west shore of Moose Lake, Ontario, was brought to Mr. Sweetman's attention through a contact which arose out of the publicity given his Hudson's Bay post work in the local (Timmins) newspaper.

Mr. Fretz had recovered three large boxes of artifacts from the surface of this site over a thirty year period. Included in this collection were red slate grooved gouges, slate bayonets, and a number of artifacts which Mr. Sweetman felt were related to the Mattawan material recovered by Mr. Frank Ridley from the Abitibi area (Arch-Notes, 66-9, November, 1966). Quartzite was used to manufacture 75% of these artifacts. A small excavation by Mr. Sweetman added to and verified Mr. Fretz' sample.

In Mr. Sweetman's view, this is a multi-component Archaic site, worthy of further investigation by qualified persons - and he hopes that one of our universities or museums will see fit to undertake this project in the near future.

Colour slides, photographs and a small sample of specimens from this site were shown to the members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

Mr. Ross Strain has taken on the duties of Recording Secretary, filling a vacancy that has existed since mid-January. Unfortunately, Vice President Joseph De Ryck has resigned due to the press of other commitments, and this leaves the Executive still short of full strength.

Dr. C. S. Churcher, Chairman, Publications Committee, reports that an additional \$1000 grant has been received from the Department of Tourism and Information of the Government of Ontario for the publication of archaeological reports. The latest such effort, Publication No. 10, is now well advanced and should be ready by early summer.

Two "lab" sessions were held at President Axelson's home last month. Though few members turned up (five attended each session), they managed to clean the balance of the Beeton site material, and even catalogued several bags of specimens.

Arrangements for the resumption of work on the Beeton site were completed too late for inclusion in last month's issue of Arch-Notes. However, a special notice sent to all members within a 75 mile radius of the site produced 19 eager diggers on Saturday, May 6th. Heavy rain brought this work to a halt the following day, but it will continue throughout the summer at irregular intervals.

Anyone interested in participating in the Beeton site project should contact President Axelson (Tel. 445-3222), Projects Co-ordinator Jan Roraas (Tel. 447-3758), or your Arch-Notes editor (Tel. 728-5880). They will then call you several days in advance each time work is to be carried out on the site.

Thanks to the quick action of Mr. Wayne Purdy, The O.A.S. has obtained permission to carry out a salvage excavation on the multi-component Short site, in Bowmanville, Ontario (see report in O.A.S. Publication No. 6). He learned of the sale of this property and the imminent

destruction of the site to accomodate the construction of a marina. We have approximately one month to complete the excavation, and this will require the assistance of as many members as possible. Members wishing to participate should call your Arch-Notes editor at 728-5880 (Oshawa) immediately.

To help hold down costs and speed up our mimeographed services, the Society last month purchased a mimeograph machine. This has already been put to use preparing various "lab" and field forms, and will be used to turn out the June issue of Arch-Notes.

The Society is preparing a display of artifacts in the Henry House Historical Museum, in Oshawa, Ontario. This display will be on view from mid-May through October. Members are urged to visit the Henry House Museum, see our display, and tour the rest of the exhibits in this building, which was built from the ballast stone left by early cargo ships in the Oshawa harbour.

The Society's exhibit in the Bowmanville Historical Museum will also be on display when the building is opened to the public early in June.

ACCESSIONS TO THE O.A.S. LIBRARY, APRIL, 1967

HEIDENREICH, Conrad E., 1966. "Maps Relating to the First Half of the 17th Century & Their Use in Determining the Locations of the Jesuit Missions in Huronia." pp 103 - 126, Vol. 3, No. 2, December, 1966 of THE CARTOGRAPHER.

By Exchange:

TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGIST. Vol. 22, No. 2, Autumn, 1966.
ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER. April, 1967.
PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY - REPORT No. I. March, 1967.

By Donation (Dr. Donald B. Shutt)

GRIFFIN, James B., 1967. "Eastern North American Archaeology: A Summary" pp 175-191, Vol 156, No. 3772 (April 14, 1967) of SCIENCE.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Dr. Dean Axelson reports that, thanks to the assistance of Mr. Pat Hartney, Mr. Tony Gullo, and a number of Anthropology students from the University of Toronto, his Carton site ossuary excavation is now well advanced, and expected to be completed before the end of this month. A report on their findings will be submitted for publication following analysis of the recovered material.

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Mr. Ross Channen, Director of the Simcoe County Museum, Minising, has been named Honorary President of the recently formed Huronia Archaeological and Historical Society. This group was organized by students now attending a series of archaeological lectures given by Mr. Channen. Their first President is Mr. William Christianson, of Barrie.

Dr. Dean Axelson was guest speaker at this society's May 2nd meeting, held at the Simcoe County Museum. He described his work on the

early Iroquoian Van site, near Aylmer, Ontario.

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Recently released to the public (The Globe And Mail, April 27) was the news that Dr. C. S. Churcher had uncovered conclusive evidence of man's presence in Alberta at least as early as 25000 years ago, and possibly as early as 30000 years ago. This was found last summer in a bluff of sandy glacial till on the South Saskatchewan River, some 20 miles northwest of Medicine Hat. Included in the discovery were scrapers and a polished rubbing stone. Fossilized bones of extinct mammoth, camel, and horses were found in the same strata.

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Last month Mr. Charles Garrad visited a number of archaeological sites and museums in central Saskatchewan. His comments on this tour are carried below in our Views and Comments column.

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We welcome five new members to the Society this month. These are:-

Mr. Donald Forrester, Timmins, Ontario.
Mrs. D.R. Whitton, Toronto, Ontario.
Mr. M. Smith, Hamilton, Ontario.
Mr. and Mrs. Brian J. Metcalf, Angus, Ontario.

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Our nomadic Librarian reports the following from a tour last month around the Louis Riel country of Saskatchewan.

NORTH BATTLEFORD has a restored N.W.M.P. fort and plains Indian display open all year.

PRINCE ALBERT, fighting a trend, has recently closed its museum. However this is not a permanent state of affairs. The County Court house, where-in it was housed, just had to take the space over for Court purposes. According to local accounts, this area is particularly rich in relics in the rolling foothills south of the town. When breaking up a 50 acre area to bury grounding wires for the Prince Albert Radio transmitter towers, 3 or 4 boxes were filled with Indian artifacts by the station engineer.

SASKATOON. The University of Saskatchewan has recently erected new buildings, and the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at last have spacious work areas. Consequent on the improved facilities, several new projects have been launched. Of interest is that the local amateur groups will also use these facilities for meetings and for specimen storage, research and preparation. A new journal is being planned called "Napao" meaning, man, and anyone interested in the Saskatchewan picture has the opportunity to obtain this publication from the very first issue by writing:-

Tim Jones, Editor "NAPAO"
Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology,
University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Visitors are welcome and given a tour of the preparation rooms and facilities. The greatest volume of material is recent Contact and Hist-

oric, but there seems to have been a continual occupancy right back to the glacial beach level days, and a paper on local fluted points has recently been published. (KEHOE, T.F., 1966, "Distribution and Implications of Fluted Points in Saskatchewan." American Antiquity, Vol. 31, No. 4, April, 1966. pp 530-539).

Mr. Hugh MacKie of the Department advised us that none of the fluted points have been found in association with extinct animal types "yet". There have been but five reported so far.

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If dissent is your meat, we suggest you read the latest issue of the Anthropological Journal of Canada (Vol. 5, No. 2, 1967) for some unorthodox conclusions on the correct location of Dollard's fort on the Ottawa River, on the age of man in North America, and on the value of Apollonius Rhodius' "The Argonautica" as an accurate historical account. You had better hurry though. The recent discoveries of Dr. Churcher in Alberta and T.M. Harrington in the Yukon have more than doubled the accepted dates for early man in North America.

If the news of Yale University's Vinland Map discovery, or of Helge Ingstad's excavation at L'Anse au Meadow has stirred your interest in the life and times of the Vikings, you wont want to miss Eric Oxenstierna's article "The Vikings" in the current issue of Scientific American (Vol. 216, No. 5, May, 1967, pp 66-78).

Of more immediate interest to Ontario, we recommend the James B. Griffin article donated to the O.A.S. Library by Dr. D.B. Shutt (Eastern North American Archaeology : A Summary).

Bill Donaldson, editor,
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