

## THE BOYD SITE

**Excavated by The Ontario Archaeological Society  
on May 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1957.**

By PAUL W. SWEETMAN

This brief report will attempt to summarize the results of a three-day investigation of an aboriginal site on the Boyd property near Woodbridge. It is in no aspect a detailed or complete report, but presents a generalized statement of the work done by The Ontario Archaeological Society during May 18th, 19th, and 20th of this year. Since the area under consideration is soon to become a public park the urgency of the investigation made haste imperative. Fortunately the site is a small one and the task of salvage much simpler than it would have been on a larger one. Inclement weather made digging unpleasant, but enthusiasm can overcome even the wettest rainfall and a great quantity of artifactual evidence was recovered.

Digging was concentrated on the most obvious midden and test squares were completed east and north of this area. The refuse pit is along and over the bank and of very little depth. There is virtually no overburden and pottery was present in the sod itself. The area to be excavated was divided into five foot squares and excavated by trowel in the approved manner. Notes were kept for each square dug, and three inch levels were maintained—the material from each level being bagged separately. The artifacts recovered included pipes, flint projectiles and scrapers, quantities of incised pottery and many fine artifacts of bone and antler. The analysis of this material will prove a lengthy task, but preliminary study has revealed interesting information relevant to Iroquoian occupation of the Humber Valley.

### ARTIFACTS

**Pottery:** A great amount of incised pottery, as well as some fabric-impressed ware, was recovered. Fortunately many rims containing a variety of castellations and designs were obtained; mention of them will appear in the proper place.

All the pottery is buff to black in colour and of moderate thickness, although some very thin sherds were also found. The tempering is grit and the body sherds are undecorated except for a few which are fabric impressed.

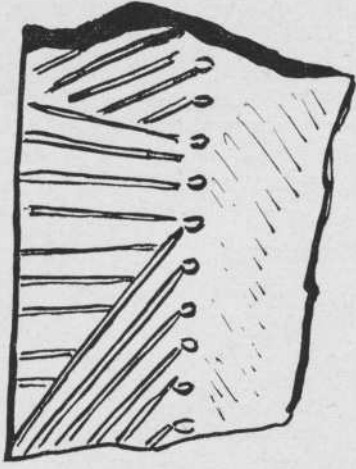
The collars of many vessels were generally high, and incised with oblique and horizontal designs. This predominating feature satisfies the Prehistoric Lalonde type described by Mr. Frank Ridley in his paper on the Lalonde culture (see bibliography). However, many later types are represented on the Boyd site and it is tentatively suggested that the area has been occupied until recent prehistoric times. The presence of some Huron-like rims would seem to indicate a fairly recent occupation in terms of pre-history. As no Contact trade goods or metal ware was found it is apparent that the site was unoccupied during our historic period. The absence of any vertical stratigraphy (sub-soil was reached in from six inches to eight inches) suggests that small groups only occupied the site.

**Pipes:** There was no doubt that the prehistoric inhabitants of this area used tobacco, as many pipe stems of clay were found, as well as fragmentary and complete bowls. The complete bowls are illustrated, and all are of late type. The "snake head" effigy is a splendid example of ceramic art, the eyes being inlaid pieces of shell.

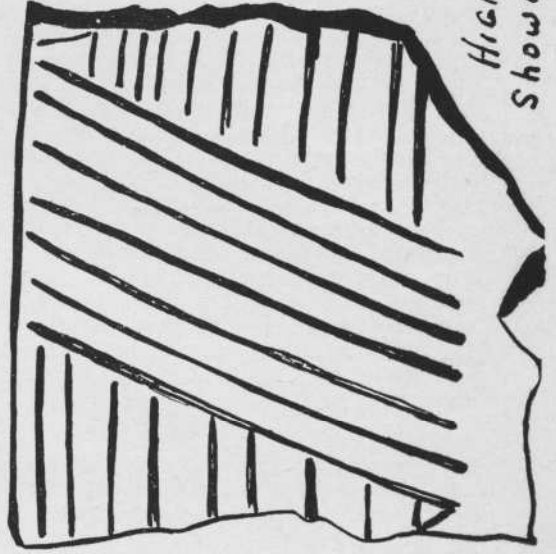
**Articles of Bone and Antler:** Several fine flaking tools of antler were recovered, as well as a carefully worked antler chisel. In all cases the antler sockets were found beside the worked tang, suggesting that originally they were attached.

A few long bone awls were also located, as well as beads of bone and drilled phalangeal bones of deer.

**Projectile Points and Stone Tools:** All but one of the flint "points" were triangular, the exception being a minute notched point. Several of these triangular points were of the elongated type frequently found on prehistoric Iroquoian sites. A few were small Huron-like points. The flint in all cases was blue-grey to blackish in colour.



RIM FRAGMENTS - ACTUAL SIZE -  
SHOWING - INCISING = JUNCTION



HIGH-COLLARED RIM  
SHOWING INCISING



-A-  
SERPENT  
EFFIGY  
PIPE



-B-  
DOUBLE-BARRELLED  
RING PIPE



-C-  
CASTELLATED  
OR  
TURRET  
PIPE

Many scrapers of varying sizes were recovered, as well as rubbing-stones and adzes of green-stone.

Two worked clam shell fragments were found. In each case one edge had been serrated in a saw-like manner; their function is uncertain but they were certainly artifacts.

**CONCLUSIONS**

On the basis of pottery types recovered, the projectile points, pipes and the castellation patterns, it is safe to say that the Boyd site represents a manifestation of late Lalonde and includes material of a more recent date. Dr. Norman Emerson's valuable monograph on "Castellations" is useful in arriving at some conclusion regarding this important criterion. From the Boyd site we have represented the "scaloped" variety, and the high collared type, as well as the punctuated castellation. Dr. Emerson places the first two varieties in late middle Iroquoian period and the latter persists from Roebuck up to Contact. A perusal of the literature on prehistoric Iroquoian development in Ontario strengthens the view that this site is approximately 600-700 years old. It was the habitat of an agricultural and hunting people (charred corn and beans, deer and other animal bones were found in abundance) never numerous at this site, but part of a cultural pattern which seems to have dominated southern Ontario from the St. Lawrence to Huronia, and which culminated in historic times with those remarkable Indians we call Iroquois.

**Suggested Reading:**

Frank Ridley:

- "Huron and Lalonde Occupations in Ontario"  
American Antiquity, Vol. 17, No. 3.
- "The Fallis Site"  
American Antiquity, Vol. 18, No. 1.
- "The Frank's Bay Site, Lake Nipissing"  
American Antiquity, Vol. 20, No. 1.

J. Norman Emerson:

- "Castellation Development Among the Iroquois"  
The Ontario Archaeological Society, Research Guide No. 1.

Paul W. Sweetman:

- "The Peterborough Petroglyphs" (appendix B Quackenbush Site) Ontario  
History, Vol. XLVII (1955), No. 3.

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