

THE FLETCHER SITE : PART II

by

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INTRODUCTION

In May, 1955, a second excavation of the Milton Fletcher site on the Twenty Mile Creek was undertaken by members of the Jordan Museum of the Twenty, under the supervision of members of The Ontario Archaeological Society, of Toronto. This "dig" was organized primarily for the purpose of giving specific instruction in archaeological field techniques to members of the Jordan Museum "Dig Committee" and to acquire additional material to substantiate the tentative date and tribal affiliation which was suggested in the initial report on this site.

THE EXCAVATION

Five five-foot squares were staked out to the east of the parallel trenches excavated previously (refer to Part I), as well as a test trench $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and 5 feet long, located on the top of the sloping creek bank at the north-west end of the wooded area, adjacent to the ploughed field. Surface material observed in this latter field was found to be similar in type to that located in the excavated areas.

POTTERY

RIM SHERDS

<u>Ceramic Type</u>	<u>Tribal and Temporal Relationship</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Lawson Opposed	Neutral and Erie - dominant in historic and late prehistoric times.	8
Lawson Incised	same as above.	7
Seed Incised (variant)	occurs throughout Huron history	1
Problematical	appears to be a Cayuga form	1
Unidentifiable	too fragmentary for classification	30
		47

CASTELLATIONS

None of the rimsherds recovered during the 1955 excavation showed any evidence of castellations.

BODY SHERDS

A total of 1259 body sherds were recovered. Seventy-one of these carried incised or punctated designs, several more showed signs of cord wiping, and the remainder were plain. Tempering was medium to coarse, and consisted mainly of crushed gneiss.

SEED POTS

None of the sherds recovered during the 1955 excavation appeared to be from seed pots.

PIPES

As in the previous excavation, pipe fragments were few indeed. Of the seven located, two were small pieces of rim. One of these was too small to identify but the other is from a ringed-barrel type pipe. There were two stem fragments with circular, reed-formed bores, two crude bowl fragments, and one poorly shaped piece which may be part of a stem.

WORKED BONE

Only two bone artifacts were recovered: a split antler flaker, 1 3/4" long, and an unfinished bone tube or large bead.

REFUSE BONE

Though over 800 specimens of refuse bone were recovered, nearly three-quarters of these were too fragmentary to be identified. The identified specimens include: rodent jaws, small mammal ribs, fish vertebrae, gills and fins, bear teeth, the pelvis of a fox, and numerous deer jaws, teeth, phalanges, etc.

WORKED STONE

Flint tools recovered include: four complete (and one incomplete) triangular arrowpoints, averaging 1" in length; one lozenge-shaped point, 1" in length; one broken drill; one snub-nosed scraper; one end scraper, and four knife-like artifacts, two of them incomplete. A cutting artifact with sharply serrated edges, similar to the two mentioned in the previous report, was found - an interesting feature connected with the flint work of this site.

Flint chips were numerous. Four hundred and ninety-six showed no signs of having been worked but 96 revealed definite chipping (possibly for use as artifacts). The remaining 38 were cores.

Besides the flint, a bi-pitted sandstone anvil, two broken abraders, and a lump of hematite (which would likely be crushed to obtain a reddish powder used as paint) were removed.

SHELL

The only specimen encountered was a fragment of clam shell.

METAL

One thin fragment of trade copper, 1 3/4" by 7/16", was recovered.

BEADS

One small, round, red trade bead, about 1/16" in diameter was found.

CONCLUSION

Since the excavation in October, 1954, was limited to one day, owing to inclement weather, the small sample of cultural material obtained was not sufficient to allow its recognition as being necessarily representative of that throughout the entire site. The "dig" in May, 1955, however, with its subsequent artifact analysis, supports the previous tentative dating of this site as contact Neutral. While French goods in any quantities were not discovered during the course of the two excavations, those that were found suggest a direct relationship between French and Indian. Apart from the fact that the ratio of trade to Indian artifacts would be small in any case, it must also be borne in mind that this site has been known to Indian souvenir hunters for some years, and that specimens such as glass beads, copper and other trade material would be taken as collector's items. The continued scarcity of pipes and pipe fragments on this badly looted site supports the theory, previously advanced, that pipes would be among the first of the artifacts taken by relic seekers.

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