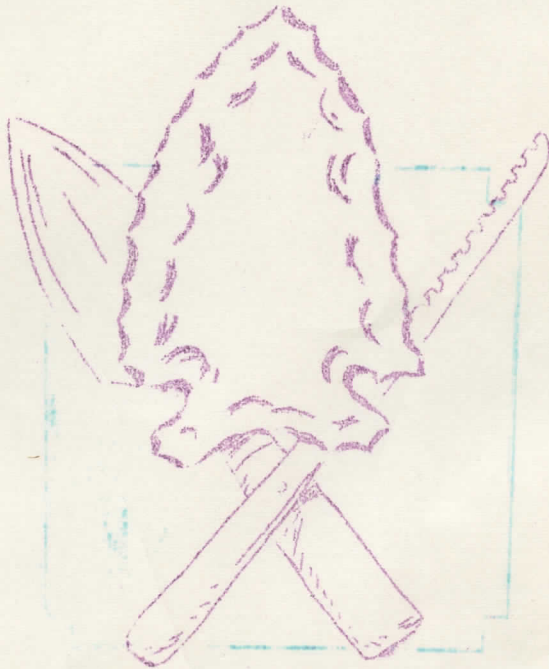


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ARCH NOTES



THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1962

NO. 62-1

LYN SOUCY

EDITOR

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On behalf of the O A S, the executive would like to extend a welcome to those members who have joined us since we were last able to publish our news. Since your secretary-cum-editor is one of these, this puts her in the odd position of welcoming herself; but such are the idiosyncrasies of publishing. We do hope to resume our plan of making Arch Notes a quarterly; meanwhile, to catch up a little, we say hello to

Mr & Mrs W T Burke, Miss Margaret Boland, Mr Jack Dear,
Mr Trevor Denton, Mr Carman Douglas, Mrs C Finnegan,
Mrs Margot Davidson Garfield, Mr & Mrs Gerald Goetz,
Mr David Lumsden, Mr John Macfie, Mr George Morton,
Mr Peter Ramsden, Mrs D S Taylor, and Mr Ken Tilley.

For the complete membership list, see page 9. If your name is misspelled, your address changed, your phone number missing, or anything else incorrect, please inform the secretary.

There are some members for whom we have at present no address at all. If any of you are in touch with them, please ask them to give us their address so that we can send them their notices and Arch Notes.

And - oh, yes - some members have dues outstanding...

Review of O A S Activities

Digs

The O A S began its official digging in the spring of 1951, taking over the Woodbridge (MacKenzie) site at the conclusion of the U of T student dig there. In the fall of that year the O A S, under the supervision of N Stuckey, dug the Schomberg site.

The Parsons site (south of Barrie) was excavated first by the O A S, under P Pratt, and later by the U of T. Data from this site was used by Dr Emerson in his article "Understanding Iroquois Pottery Types" to illustrate how ceramic remains are used to derive a chronological and cultural sequence for sites. Material from the dig is now in the O A S Oshawa lab.

Doncaster - this site, on the Don River, was excavated in the fall of 1952, under the supervision of P Pratt.

The Draper site, north-east of Toronto, was dug in the spring of 1953, under J V Wright, who is now with the National Museum. Material is in the Oshawa lab.

During 1954, 1955, & 1956, three sites in the north-east corner of Metropolitan Toronto were excavated: Milroy, Robb, and Fairty. The second Milroy dig was shared with U of T, under the supervision of Dr J N Emerson. Material is in the U of T labs, with samples of artifacts at our Oshawa lab. A preliminary report on this site, by Bill Donaldson, is in our current Publication #6. The Robb site was excavated under J V Wright. Field notes and material are in the Oshawa lab; a preliminary report, by Bill Donaldson, is in Publication #6; the final report is in rough draft. The Fairty Ossuary was excavated in the fall of 1956; G Ruth Marshall supervised. Field notes are at the Oshawa lab; material is at U of T.

In the fall of 1954 and spring of 1955, the O A S supplied supervisory personnel for the Jordan Museum of the Twenty, to dig the Fletcher site, near Grimsby. Material is on display in the Jordan Museum. A report, by Ruth Marshall, is in Publication #6.

The Rouge Valley Watershed Survey was begun in the spring of 1956, and continued in the spring of 1959 and 1961. This surface survey covers an area east and north of Metropolitan Toronto.

The Boyd site, near Kleinburg, was excavated by the O A S in the spring of 1957, with Paul Sweetman in charge. A display of the material has been set up in the Boyd Conservation Area. The preliminary report, by Paul Sweetman, is in Publication #4; the final report, by Bill Donaldson, has been prepared for publication. Material is in the Oshawa lab.

Spring and fall of 1960 saw the O A S north-east of Agincourt, digging the Elliott site under Frank Mee. We returned in the spring of 1961, under Phyllis Bowland and Paul Karrow, to complete the dig. A preliminary report is in Publication #6, and a final is in draft; both are by Bill Donaldson. Field notes and material are in the Oshawa lab. A display is being prepared for the Agincourt High School.

The Short site was excavated in the spring and fall of 1961, under Bill Donaldson's supervision. A display has been mounted in the Bowmanville Historical Museum. Field notes and material are in the Oshawa lab, and a preliminary report is in Publication #6.

The O A S has, in addition, assisted at digs by U of T, the National Museum, and the Royal Ontario Museum, during the period from 1951 to the present.

Meetings

Our first meeting of this season (Oct) was held in the Parrish Hall of St Paul's Church. Our speaker, Miss Helen Devereux, of Toronto, told us the history of the Cahiaque site, which the University of Toronto uses as a Field Archeological School. A brief resume of her talk is given on page 8.

For our second meeting (Nov), we moved into our new "quarters": the shiny new Archeology Labs in Sydney Smith Hall, the U of T's new Arts Building. The array of mounted displays around us was a fitting setting for the talk by Mr E R Channen, Curator of the Strathaven Indian Museum, Antennmills, Ont (near Barrie). Mr Channen told us how his enthusiasm for archeology and the richness of the sites he excavated drew him on into establishing his museum. He touched only lightly on the labour of cleaning, cataloguing, and mounting his thousands of items;

but anyone who has done any work in this line can appreciate what an immense effort it has been. The museum is open to the public during warm weather, and members especially are invited to visit.

Our annual dinner meeting in Dec proved very popular. We were particularly pleased to see so many out-of-town members with us. After the banquet, Dr J N Emerson, of the University of Toronto, told us "Archeological Anecdotes", reviewing incidents that had occurred on sites of interest to the O A S, during the past decade.

Miss Phyllis Bowland, who continues as president this year, gave her president's report for 1961 at the Jan meeting. A delightful difference to most organizations' reports, this one was illustrated by Phyllis' own 3-D colour slides, taken at digs and meetings during the past year.

For the Feb meeting we had two speakers, Mr Morgan Tamplin and Mr Don MacLeod, both of Toronto. Morgan recounted his experiences on Devon Island, in the Arctic, where he had to fight off musk oxen to get at a pre-Dorset site last summer. One of the findings of his party was that beach-levels, which have sometimes been used for dating sites, were invalid in a place like Devon, where block-faulting of the island has altered the apparent sequence.

Don told of uncovering 9,000 years of pre-history in the gravel beds of the Fraser Canyon, B C, through soil so hard that pick-axes were the order of the day. Some of the levels were dated by carbon-14; another was dated by traces of the Glacier Peak eruption of 6700 years ago. Discoveries included dry-masonry structures of prehistoric, and a pit house of historic times. Both talks were illustrated by colour slides.

Labs

Pottery labs were conducted by Dr J N Emerson in Dec, Jan, and Feb. Members washed and sorted material from the Bennett site (U of T), practised testing pottery for hardness, measuring height, diameter, and thickness of collar, and making technical drawings of pottery shapes and designs.. At one session, we had a seminar in which we attempted to define the aims of archeology, and to specify individually what we are seeking in the study.

Bone lab, with Dr J E Anderson, was held in Jan, and comprised a review of the skull and the femur. Dr Anderson also reported completion of the Fairty Site osteology project (a survey of infracranial skeletons), which will be of great use in population studies.

Project labs were held at the home of Bill Donaldson in Jan and Feb, at which members processed material from the Milroy site.

Current Events

As announced in our March bulletin, our regular meetings and labs will be held in Sydney Smith Hall, on the second, third, and fourth Wednesdays of March, at 8 pm. Our speaker for the meeting will be Dr Rufus Churcher of the Dept of Zoology, U of T, talking on "The Fort Albany Excavations". Members are invited to bring along interested guests to become acquainted with the work we are doing.

Bill Donaldson will again hold a lab at his home in Oshawa (111 Riverside Dr N) - Sat, 24 Mar.

A reminder about the Northeastern Anthropological Conference: Sat, 14 Apr and Sun, 15 Apr; Sydney Smith Hall. Registration \$1.00. Inquiries and registration through Professor J N Emerson, Dept of Anthropology, University of Toronto, Toronto 5, Ont - before 15 Mar.

Members who have done or seen anything of archeological interest recently are invited to send in to the editor a note describing these events; and anyone who has written a report on one of our digs is requested to submit it to the Publications Chairman. Let us know, too, of any coming events which you feel would interest other members.

Publications
Committee Chairman - Dr Paul Karrow, 51 Alexander St,
Toronto 5. WA 1-3268.

The Publications Committee has decided that in the future final reports on sites will be printed and bound; preliminary reports, research guides, etc, will be mimeographed. Due to the necessary difference in size of these two types of publications, they will be divided into two series: the printed ones will be Series B, and the mimeographed ones Series A. The six publications already prepared will be divided as follows:

<u>Publ. No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>New Series No.</u>
1	Ont. Archaeologist	A-1
2	Research Guide #1	A-2
3	Understanding Iroquois Pottery	A-3
4	Publ. #4	B-1
5	Research Guide #2	A-4
6	Publ. #6	A-5
7	Publ. #7	B-2)

Publication #6, enclosed with this issue of Arch Notes, contains reports on the Short and Fletcher sites and the Rouge Survey. For our next publication, #7, we hope to print a final report on the Boyd site.

Research Advisory Committee

Re-activated under the chairmanship of Bill Donaldson, the Research Advisory Committee has been directed to assess our past work and offer suggestions for future areas of concentration. Recommendations will be made to a General Meeting when the committee's survey is completed.

Cahiague

By Helen Devereux

Thirteen miles west of Orillia lies the site believed to have been the Huron village of Cahiague. In 1615 Champlain described it as a large and thriving community; but in 1623 Sagard referred to it in the past tense. Between these dates, apparently, as is their custom every ten to fifteen years, the Hurons moved their village. The Cahiague population, it is suggested, split and resettled elsewhere.

In 1946 Professor T F McIlwraith, assisted by Miss Margaret Thomson, excavated a portion of the disturbed ossuary at the south-west end of the site - a 25-acre expanse of hardwood and open pastureland. The U of T's first training school was opened here in 1947, under the direction of Dr J N Emerson. About two dozen students excavated sidehill dumps along the east ravine, as well as middens in the south section of the pasture. Two and a half longhouses were also exposed.

In 1961 Dr Emerson organized the second U of T training school on the same site. The school had a four-fold objective: There had been many requests for archeological assistants, from both Canadian and American institutions: Cahiague is easily accessible from Toronto and of sufficient size to accommodate a continuing school, to turn out these assistants. Secondly, the Archeological and Historic Sites Board wished to place an historic marker in official designation of the site of Cahiague; additional verification of the location might be forthcoming through excavation. Information from this site can contribute to the study of settlement patterns. Fourthly, further documentation of the movement and prehistory of the Iroquois could be provided.

The 1961 school accommodated 25 to 30 students, who were exposed to the basics of applied archeology, participating in a series of daily seminars and actual excavation. Weekly public lectures by staff members of the U of T were also included in the curriculum. The formal course comprised an introduction to such various aspects of archeology as field techniques, human and comparative osteology, material culture, archeological survey, and camp management. It is hoped that the supply of trained students will from now on be able to match the demand.

Discovery of an area of palisades helped confirm the identity of Cahiague; and last year the Hon. Leslie Frost, then Premier of Ontario, unveiled an historic marker on the spot. It was found that the 1947 longhouses lie outside the north section of the palisaded area. A long exploratory trench was dug along the pasture area in hopes of locating some of the 200 longhouses reported by Champlain; but results were negative.

Artifactual materials collected in the digging will contribute to the general picture of Huron history and culture. A bounded midden, entered in the course of the search for the south palisade, produced charred corn and bean kernels, sherds, bone and flint fragments. A sequence of discoidal shell beads and one whole ceramic pipe came to light.

The ossuary proved to have been completely decimated in the period since the 1946 excavation. Within an area of 20 feet on three sides of the pit, only a few - so far disorganized - possible scaffold molds were evident. However, there remained undisturbed one infant burial, peripheral to the main pit. Grave goods in this burial included several strings of discoidal shell beads, a little copper kettle containing some vegetable and animal remains, and one copper ladle.

More information about Cahiaque, both specific and general, can be found in Cahiaque 1961, by Dr J N Emerson. Miss Margaret Thompson's Excavating Ontario History contains further specific reference; and Bruce Trigger's "Destruction of Huronia", in Transactions of the Royal Canadian Institute, Vol 33, Part 1, (no.63), p 14-45 (1961), will provide the broad setting in which the history of Cahiaque rests.

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Members are requested to inform the secretary of any errors in the above list.

Publication #6 is enclosed with this issue of Arch does not contain a #6, better check on your dues! If you are paid up and we have somehow missed you, please bring the oversight to the attention of any of the executive, and we will send you your copy.

If any paid-up member has not received a membership card for 1962, please let us know so we can send you one.