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CONTENTS

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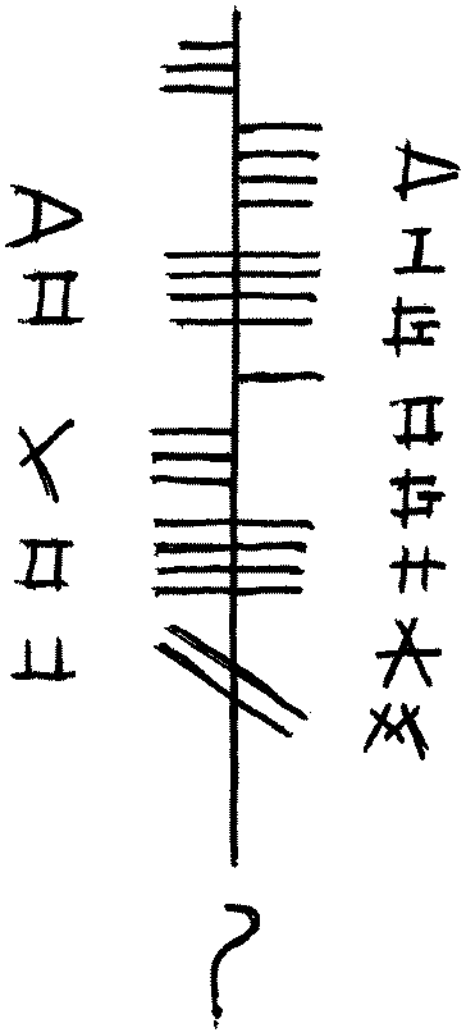

THE NEW YORK STATE ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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BARRY FELL, *AMERICA, B.C.*, AND A CARGO CULT IN ARCHAEOLOGY

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(Cole is a consultant in archaeology for The
Committee for The Scientific Investigation Of Claims Of The Paranormal,
as is Dr. Robert E. Funk. Ed. note.)

A meeting-or festival-at Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont, entitled "Ancient Vermont, B. C." was held October 14 and 15, 1977, attracting perhaps 600 to 800 registrants, including several NYSAA members. The "conference" was, in effect, a celebration in honor of Barry Fell and his recent claims that America had not only been visited but had been extensively colonized by large numbers of Europeans, Asians, and Africans hundreds of thousands of years before Columbus. Fairly well-documented if ephemeral Viking contact may fit into his scheme, but he and other conference speakers were much more interested in alleged colonies and trade networks involving Romans, Egyptians, Libyans, Celts, Iberians, Cypriots, Hittites, Babylonians, Greeks, and every other Old World civilization imaginable, including "Megalithic Cultures. "

Professional and amateur archaeologists may simply chuckle at these extravagant super-diffusionist claims, but many thousands of people are taking them seriously and Fell's book *America, B.C.* was published by Quadrangle Press, owned by the *New York Times.* The Vermont conference was covered by television, radio and newspapers from across the U. S. and Canada at which Fell and other speakers advised, "ignore the experts and the professors,"; and carne close to suggesting that it would be wise to cut off state and federal support of archaeological research by scientists. Scientific archaeologists were said to be "elitists" who systematically cover up evidence of such things as Egyptian cities in Ohio and refuse to accept new ideas from "amateurs." Which is an insult to serious amateurs, implying that they are not interested in being scientific.

When evidence was questioned by hardy souls in the audience, speakers replied with a simple call to faith: "Do you think I would lie to you?" The air of revival meeting hung heavy over the proceedings, with speaker after speaker going through ritual motions which only "believers" could understand, warning that doubters would arise to test their faith but that they should be strong. The conference organizer, Dr. Warren Cook (a historian) closed the meeting by saying that all the exhibits and slides which had been shown were "sacred. " Fell and others made joking references to "specialists" the way George Wallace used to deride "pointy-head bureaucrats," and it was very clear that the basic appeal was to a number of issues far beyond specific controversies about pre-Columbian "tablets" or "Megalithic structures" in Vermont and the Northeast.

People who feel left out of the sometimes elite and complicated world of science were reassured that they were more expert than the "experts" (at least if they had bought Fell's book), and they were told their tax money should not be "wasted" on these "experts"; *real* research was possible only if it were done by common folks. Such research need not cost much it was said, because "wasteful expenses" such as excavation and laboratory analysis could be eliminated by simply consulting Fell a pd his friends. People vaguely alienated by the sometimes overly god-like nature of "science"[1]) were told they were right: *Science is* the cause of their problems, from threat of nuclear war to EPA rules regarding dairy barn drainage (not literally, but by implication). Furthermore, they were told that contrary to the evidence that individuals no longer counted for much, individuals-they themselves, in fact-were incredibly important and in fact held the secret of all of human history in their grasp. In an obvious play to enlist the religious, Fell said that he now had evidence in his possession that Jesus Christ was known and worshipped throughout the New World "at least by the fourth century A. D. " We are all one, with

[1]"Science" is being used here without detailed definition, because the concept can be completely philosophical. I refer simply to the systematic ordering of knowledge empirically obtained with the goal of understanding phenomena in light of what we know about other phenomena and processes. Laws, theories, hypotheses, proposals, and guesses all have their place in science and are based upon data and their orderly interpretation. Inherent to science is a skepticism and demand that claims be supported or proven "according to the rules" rather than simply asserted. All ideas are not equal in science because some stand up to empirical testing and others do not (a basic flaw in most of Fell's work). Science should not be equated with technology or any particular viewpoint but rather with a coherent and substantiated method and theory.

one God, and there is no need to think about evidence of cultural evolution and diversity or to question whether or not the Judaeo-Christian ethic is the "right" way; of course it is and don't worry any more about cultural relativism! thus saith Fell.

On the secular level, Fell and the others appealed to special interest groups by assuring them that they had on their properties valuable tourist attractions. A hotel owner asked me not to argue with the conferees when he discovered that I was an archaeologist because, he said, their claims would mean thousands of dollars in business for him if they were not debunked. Property owners were also being told, implicitly, that their land had been European-settled for thousands of years, rendering moot Native American land claims and law-suits. And the indirect economic advantage of being known as a local "authority" should not be discounted, either. People outside the local elite might suddenly be able to claim higher status as owners or discoverers of evidence which would revolutionize human history.

Bigfoot and UFO sightings, Loch Ness monster research, interest in witchcraft and astrology, renewed enthusiasm for Velikovsky and Atlantis claims, anti-evolutionism and other non-scientific "solutions" to contemporary problems seemed to be clustering together at this assembly. Egyptian colonies in America and all of the other Fell claims fit into this syndrome which both leads and capitalizes upon a general dissatisfaction with the way things are, channeling general malaise into an active yet safe anti-elitism and anti establishmentarianism.

There is also an appeal to what must be called racism. Native Americans were "obviously" incapable of developing impressive cultures on their own as the fuddy-duddy cultural evolutionists argue. From the beginning they were influenced or even directed by Europeans, North Africans or Middle Easterners. Fell even showed slides of paintings of Indians such as Sequoya, stressing their noble, intelligent features unlike the "brutish" features typical of Indians! (Sequoya's "alphabet" is said to represent some sort of racial memory of Minoan Linear C rather than a true Cherokee invention.)

Throughout the conference there was a general tactic of innuendo and proof by oblique question: Speakers showed alternating slides of New England and Old World "Megalithic" structures, but when asked just what contacts were being suggested, the answer was "We are not suggesting anything; we're just presenting some data which need to be studied." Later, the conference organizer, Dr. Warren Cook wrote (1977) "we witnessed a historical spectacular" in Fell's myriad "revelations. "

Interestingly, he says nothing to refute critical comments which surfaced at the conference and in later newspaper coverage except to denigrate them sarcastically. In response to my question about why famous frauds from Iowa and Ecuador were being presented as if no questions had ever been raised about them, Fell attacked me personally, while Cook (1977) simply repeated the unverified and sometimes contradictory claims.

The emotional and unscientific way such arguments are often handled reveals something about the difference between serious dissent and what might be called a crackpot syndrome of hypersensitiveness, disregard for rules of scientific logic, denigration of professionals, assumption of a maligned underdog stance, and slipshod use of evidence. Yet unorthodox claimants typically yearn to be accepted as scientists by the "establishment" even as they cultivate their "outsider" image. They want to share both the scientist's prestige and the fruits of growing disillusionment with science. They have seen science work, solving problems, bringing fame and respect to particular scientists, and stimulating the public imagination; science can be exciting. They want this, the rewards but not the discipline.

The result is a sort of cargo cult phenomenon. South Pacific islanders in World War II saw first invading Japanese and then American troops wade ashore, clear forests for airfields, build radio towers, and then miraculously receive visits from cargo planes with undreamed of material wealth aboard, from drugs to refrigerators to movies. In time the outsiders packed up and went away, leaving behind memories and rusting remnants of industrial civilization. So the literal-minded islanders reasoned that the world's distribution of resources made no sense-why should Americans or Australians have so many things they lacked? Time and again they hit upon the same solution: outsiders were rich because they pleased the gods with certain rituals. So the natives cleared airstrips, built wooden "control towers", with boxes for radios, and began to wait for the arrival of the cargo planes. They had a confused view of the cause and effect relationship between airports and cargo planes, and the technology of radios and other such

things was not understood at all. But they went through the performances they had witnessed by the outsiders whom they envied. Sometimes success did seem to come their way: colonial authorities sometimes stepped in to provide some of the services being demanded by the islanders simply because they did not want world opinion to continue to focus upon the inequities being protested by these seemingly strange religious movements.

Like New Hebrides Islanders confusing form with substance, inscription "believers" perform many of the rituals of science and scientific archaeology-and then await the "cargo. " When it, scientific acclaim, does not arrive on schedule they redouble their efforts. Quite impressive cargo sometimes arrives when the press and public join the cause-book sales, lecture fees and tourist dollars can come rolling in, even while the establishment remains disdainful. People who judge the validity of a scientific theory by its sales are understandably impressed by the likes of von Daniken who has sold more than 40 million books!

How do those books differ from an SAA Memoir except in obviously being more successful, people will ask! Fell and others in "the movement" hold conferences, publish books and articles, master an almost incomprehensible jargon, speak glibly of "hypotheses" and "theories" and "data, " and proclaim that they are being more scientific than the scientists. Never mind that much of their activity is, objectively, unscientific, confused and confusing--it looks very good to the layman awed by, *and also a bit resentful* of science. In Warren Cook's expression, here is "the *people's* archaeology! "

Frustrated people, waiting for "cargo", are participating in a basically religious experience. Scientific counter-argument has little effect on true believers; their creed stresses that doubters will arise to tempt them and skeptics become part of their confirmation of faith. Yet skepticism does have its value, because much of the public is *genuinely open to argument. Scientists should not concede the argument by default.* At the Vermont meeting many audience members heard counter-arguments for the first time and learned that there was a side to the story they were not getting from Fell, Cook, et al. In addition there is the admittedly idealistic view that scientists have an obligation to make themselves heard, dealing with popular movements and not retiring to their ivory towers feeling superior. Raising the voice of rational and scientific thought, in effect, "shows the flag."

Finally there is the fact that unorthodox claims can have germs of truth in them, even if they are often argued very unscientifically and are rife with nonsense and even knowing fraud. If new ideas are not forced to prove themselves in the face of criticism, whatever value they *may* have will not be established. The weakness of most of the arguments heard at Castleton is not a proof that there never were any pre-Columbian Old World contacts with the Americas. What scientists need to do is to force the argument onto a scientific level where the burden of proof lies with the unorthodox claim, not with orthodoxy.

Pacific island cultists, like their New England counterparts, find satisfaction and hope in what, to the outsider, seem rather bizarre behavior and beliefs. Science cannot solve problems as easily as once hoped, perhaps, but it may offer a better long-range hope than trust in irrational solutions. We cannot disprove every piece of poppycock which comes along, but neither can we smugly assume it will simply go away.

The Vermont conference generated tremendous interest in the press all over the country and abroad. The Rutland *Herald* gave it extensive and fair coverage which evoked a barrage of irate letters, follow-up articles, and editorials. A full range of this printed reaction is reprinted in the Fall issue of *MAN IN THE NORTHEAST* (Cole, 1978). What follows here is reprinted from the Rutland *Herald* (by permission of its editor, Kendall Wild) and include the original report of the meeting, a sample of the reactions included more fully in *MAN IN THE NORTHEAST,* and *Herald* items published after that article went to press. There is thus little overlap, and readers are urged to consult my original article, along with this one, to see the full range and extent of the fallout from the "Vermont, B.C." meeting as a rather vivid "ethnography" of contemporary pseudoscience (cf. , Gardner 1957/ Harris 1977).

ANTIQUITY, SOURCE OF PROFESSOR'S RUINS DEBATED AT CASTLETON EVENT

Skeptics Among True Believers

Daily Herald
Oct. 15, 1977

By Ken Wild

Coins of Greek, Roman and Carthaginian origin, Egyptian sun-ships, unexplained stone structures, and inscriptions deep in the heart of the North American continent all purporting to indicate repeated pre-Columbian penetration from Europe-dominated the afternoon session of a conference on "ancient Vermont" sponsored Friday by Castleton State College.

There were demurrers. Some archaeologists were in the audience-there weren't too many professional archaeologists among the scheduled speakers. Those in the audience said they hadn't heard much to convince then there was any solid evidence for the claims. They were greeted with scattered enthusiasm but it was noticeable that those at the college's Fine Arts Center auditorium who rose in rebuttal got heavier applause.

While the Friday morning session dealt chiefly with claims of ancient relics in Vermont, the afternoon term presented people who talked of the same sort of material elsewhere in the country.

There was Norman Totten, chairman of the History Department at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass. He hails from the Arkansas-Oklahoma region, and talked about coins of Mediterranean origin that have been found in this country. He said they were found in contexts that strongly indicated they arrived well before Columbus.

His examples: in Clarksville Bluff, Ark., a Bronze Age ingot from Cyprus. In eastern Oklahoma, uncovered by farm boys, a coin from a Sicilian town. In Champagne, Ill., uncovered in 1883 from the hoof of a horse that had just walked over a place where a trench was being dug, a coin dated in the Fourth Century.

Totten said shekels from the Mideast have been discovered-he offered the suggestion that some say they were brought by refugees. There was a coin of Nero (63 A.D.) found in six inches of soil in western Arkansas in 1973 A. D. There was a Carthaginian coin found in Phoenix City, Ala.

"I believe, " Totten said, "that taken with other evidence to be developed, these coin-findings would add to reasonable evidence of pre-Columbian voyages to America."

Gloria Farley, president of the Eastern Oklahoma Historical Society at Heavener, Okla., was even more definite about early European penetration.

"They came in frail ships to the Gulf of Mexico, and up the tributaries of the Mississippi," she said.

Farley dwelled on markings at Clarksville Bluff, far up one of those tributaries. She said she copied the markings and sent them to Barry Fell, the retired Harvard University professor who is the central figure in the discussion of ancient settlements.

She said Fell translated the markings and considered some to be Basque, some to be Carthaginian, some Ogham, and some various forms of Iberian. They were markers, graves, directions, memorials.

Farley spoke of findings in the Cimarron mesa country far toward the New Mexico- Colorado border with Oklahoma. She said they were figures of "a Mediterranean people" and also cited inscriptions in Ogham and the Egyptian sun symbol.

She produced a 30-foot scroll that copied the Clarksville Bluff markings. ("That's my class in American history, " said Prof. Warren L. Cook of Castleton State, organizer of the two-day conference, waving to the 20 or so people holding up the scroll in the limelight of the stage. The audience applauded appreciatively).

Don G. Rickey, historian with the U. S. Bureau of Land Management at Denver, discussed the topic: "Bronze Age fertility rituals-recent findings in North America of similarities with the Old World. "

Rickey said he and an associate found in a Colorado ravine some inscriptions which Fell called an American variant of Ogham writing.

In New Mexico, Rickey said, his associate found inscriptions called pre-Arab Iberian and a Libyan tongue used in Morocco before the arrival of Arabic, dating from 700 A.D, at the latest.

Rickey said a professor of ancient languages at the University of Colorado had confirmed Fell's interpretation of the inscriptions.

"A serious study of pre-Columbian America cannot afford any longer to overlook this evidence, " Rickey said.

Salvatore Michael Trento of Delaware Valley College in Matamorras, Pa., presented a long discussion on stone houses, standing stones, perched rocks and stone piles in eastern Pennsylvania, northern New Jersey, southern New York and southeastern Connecticut. "Enormous research potential for students," Trento said.

John J. Jonasch of Northboro, Mass. , speaking for studies he made with Richard Keller and William Crandall, also of Massachusetts, described mounds on the headwater of the Sudbury River in the Bay State. He postulated the presence of Egyptians living in small groups and farm ing the countryside around structures of sacred or astronomical significance. He talked of Egyptian hieroglyphs etched on the rocks.

The demurrers to those presentations were fewer, but were quite definite.

Peter Reynolds, director of a museum complex in Hampshire County in England, said: "I think we're in danger of mounting interpretations when we don't know what the prime data is all about. "

He added: "Validity and historical truth is possible to produce several arguments from the same set of facts - politicians do it all the time. This subject needs systematic investigation. From what I have heard so far, it isn't systematic. "

Of Vermont sites, Reynolds said: "You have buildings but no people. I would like to hear about post-holes, pits, potsherds-there is nothing yet to persuade me of the material presence of people. Too many positive conclusions are being based on too sketchy hypotheses. "

Prof. Eleanor Ott of Goddard College said there was a need for more intensive fieldwork. "However much we have enjoyed today, in the end we do not know what it is, when, or why. "

Pamela Bumsted of the University of Massachusetts grilled the speakers on biological evidence-blood types, and the like. She said there was a shortage of archaeologists on the panel, and along with archaeology any serious study should deal with the biologic, geologic, and soil-science evidence.

It got downright testy just before the break for dinner, with Trento saying: "You can't tell origins from bones. . . . " and Bumsted interjecting: "That's not true. "

Sally Robinson, an anthropologist at Brown University, agreed with the skeptics. "I've heard no evidence here today to convince me, " she said bluntly. "It's sort of a popular-magazine approach."

Gary Hume, archaeologist at the University of New Hampshire, said he discerned a split between professionals and enthusiasts from other fields. He classified himself among the former, and told members of the latter:

"If the evidence demonstrates that all of what we have seen is not pre-Columbian, you're going to have to accept it, like it or not. "

FELL'S THEORY

Daily Herald
Oct. 15, 1977

By Harry Jaffe

Barry Fell, a retired Harvard professor who two years ago advanced the theory of Celtic settlements in Vermont over 2,000 years ago, ran into devastating criticism here Friday night during the two-day "Ancient Vermont" conference.

Two prominent scholars--one from England-refuted Fell's contention that ancient script called Ogham proves that before the birth of Christ people of Celtic origin traveled across the Atlantic to North America. Their comments represented some of the most pronounced scholarly criticism of his claims.

Fell spoke to an estimated 550 persons packed into the Fine Arts Center auditorium at Castleton State College. The two-day symposium, arranged by Castleton Prof. Warren Cook, is the first gathering of scholars and the public to discuss the subject of ancient settlements in North America.

Two years ago, Fell came to Vermont and ignited a controversy over transatlantic settlers in the Green Mountains. Drawing from examples of stone structures in central Vermont and inscriptions on rocks, the professor claimed that Phoenicians, Libyans, Egyptians and Celts roamed North America and influenced native people.

Since that time, he has published numerous articles on the subject and a book, entitled "B. C. America. " Dr. Cook, an ardent supporter of Fell's claims, organized the two-day conference that drew scholars from all over the country and England.

Fell's speech came at the end of a long day of presentations by a variety of academicians and experts, most inclined toward his position. The lobby of the Fine Arts building here was filled with examples of Ogham-inscripted rocks and photos documenting the existence of many rock chambers.

For almost two hours Friday night, the professor emeritus addressed the audience. Using a lengthy series of slides, Fell told of European and North African contacts in North and South America long before Columbus sailed from Spain.

He told of Phoenician cities in Ohio, showed slides of ancient artifacts found in New York, ancient inscriptions with roots in Crete that turned up in Ecuador, vases covered with age-old hieroglyphics unearthed in New York, contacts between Cypriot and native Cherokee script Inca coronation robes with North African script, and gold plates from Egypt found in South America.

All examples Fell described were developed to support his widely criticized claims that people crossed the Atlantic back and forth centuries before scholars acknowledged such excursions.

Fell's rapid-fire presentation of astounding claims represent either the early stages of a revolutionary change in anthropological thought or the vague claims of an amateur dabbling in unsupportable theories.

While two of the five well-respected scholars who commented on Fell's talk congratulated him on his work and supported his finds, three struck down the foundation of his claims. William Nicolaisen, a professor of English and folklore at the State University of New York, told the audience and Fell that his contentions of Celtic place names in North America are false. He said he traced Fell's evidence in his book and disproved them.

Fell said current land-marks and physical features in this country can be linked to ancient Celtic contacts. That part of his theory is basic.

According to Nicolaisen, Fell made too many assumptions. He found Fell's claims "discouraging. "

"Place names lead to a dead end, " said Nicolaisen. "There's no evidence of any place names of Celtic origin in this country. "

Perhaps even more damaging were the comments offered by English Prof. Ann Ross, an archaeologist at the University of Southampton, who took issue with Fell's use of the term Ogham.

She said of Fell's claims of meaningful script on Vermont rocks: "I cannot even say they represent any kind of script at all."

"To date, I cannot say there is proof there were any Celts in New England before Columbus. " she said.
Prof. Ross inspected the so-called ancient sites in Vermont on Thursday. Fell offered no defense to either of the professor's statements.

ARCHAEOLOGIST

Daily Herald
Oct 15, 1977 By Harry Jaffe

The state's archeologist delivered the results Friday of her summer-long study of Vermont's so-called ancient ruins and deemed them to be root cellars constructed by colonists in the 18th Century.

Giovanna Neudorfer issued her paper during the first of the two-day conference on "Ancient

Vermont" at Castleton State College. Her presentation debunked theories advanced by retired Harvard Prof. Barry Fell and a number of researchers in New England.

They claim the ruins are the remains of temples and chambers used by people, probably of Celtic origin, centuries before the acknowledged discovery of North America.

Although Neudorfer called her study "just a beginning, " she said after delivering her talk that when the project is complete, the state will end its research into the sites.

While supporters of the ancient settlement claims draw heavily from obscure script and comparisons of rock chambers here and in Europe, Neudorfer used available records and oral traditions to substantiate her research.

Severely limiting the study to rock chambers, her conclusions pointed firmly to origins in Vermont's recent colonial past.

She said the state study closely scrutinized 38 stone structures. Most were tied into existing buildings or were associated with once-standing structures, she said.

All but one of the free-standing structures was located near an existing or old farm complex, suggesting use by colonists, she said. The way the stone chambers are constructed-most covered by earth or built into hillsides-strongly indicates their use for storing food, she added.

Of the three free-standing buildings not mounded with earth, she said one was used as a pig pen, one as a grave and the last as a hideout for a Civil War draft evader. For these examples, Ms. Neudorfer drew from oral history.

The archaeologist went to town records and primary writings of Vermont's colonists to find out when they built root cellars. According to her research, colonists constructed "food lockers" before they built permanent houses for themselves.

Unfortunately, she found no references to actual construction of root cellars.

"Detailed descriptions of these cellars is absent," she told 550 persons gathered to hear her report.

Neudorfer's report was preceded by a lengthy slide presentation by Castleton Prof. Warren Cook who is responsible for the conference.

Cook supports the theory that the stone buildings are of ancient origins. He hopes to gain enough support to declare them state historical sites and protect them from vandalism.

After Fell and Neudorefer gave their presentations, an astronomer and aerial archaeologist reported on their findings. The conference will continue Saturday.

An avalanche of responses were received after these stories were printed, followed by an editorial entitled NO CELTS, NO OGHAM, which said, in part,

> *Celts did not come to Vermont in some early wave before Columbus. The "inscriptions" that have been found in Vermont are not inscriptions. The stone structures that are on the properties of various Vermonters are derived from Colonial or post-Colonial times. . . . To hold any other belief . . . is to fly in the face of all the means by which historical facts are documented.*

And so it continues for 15 more paragraphs (cf. Cole 1978b for the full text of this and other items excerpted here). Strong stuff, perhaps calculated to promote controversy but, I think, sincere and a good example of journalism committed to scientific standards where many scientists prefer to remain silent.

A follow-up editorial, STILL NO CELTS, appeared Oct. 21, characterizing the conference as "intellectual junk food."

Many people wrote to say simply "congratulations on a fine conference, " but others wrote in high dudgeon, offended by the news articles and subsequent editorials. I wrote a letter which was published October 24, not knowing about the two editorials which had been printed after I left Castleton. Among the issues I raised were questions about why pre-Columbian voyagers and colonists had left no traces in the New World except religious shrines (or root cellars) and graffiti-no habitation sites nor domesticated animal nor plant remains, etc.

Jeffrey Freeman attacked the *Herald's* coverage and criticized the State Archaeologist for inability to see her own slides from the podium! He cited Dr. Joseph Mahan's presentation and forthcoming book *WHENCE COME THE YUCHI?* proving that "Indians" Amerinds, actually do come from India (cf. , Cole 1978). Gloria Farley, President of the Eastern Oklahoma Historical

Society in Heavener, took the *Herald* to task for reporting her "Scroll" of pre-Columbian inscriptions as 30 feet long (she said, indignantly, that it was 46 feet long), and she referred to people who raised questions at the meeting (such as I!) as "dissidents "

Conference organizer Dr. Warren Cook, an historian, wrote an entire half page reply (Oct. 28, 1977) to my letter and to *Herald* coverage in general. His article cannot be adequately summarized because of its wide-ranging attacks. But I submitted perhaps against my better judgment, a reply (published Dec. 2, 1977), aiming at the rational. Cook ignored my criticisms and accused me of trying to force my way onto the program, when in fact I was nominated as a discussant by New York State Archaeologist Dr. Robert E. Funk when he found himself unable to attend. (Cook ultimately chose someone else, which was his right). And he attacked me for slighting a book by Geoffrey Ashe proving that "Mystery Hill", New Hampshire, was indeed pre-Columbian. I checked the Ashe reference, and found that it basically supported my viewpoint. So I wrote again pointing out these and other problems in my Dec. 2 reply, which was accompanied by comments by M. Pamela Bumsted of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Eleanor A. Ott of Goddard College. Cook replied again to us "dissidents" on Dec. 10, misquoting me and calling me "intemperate" and accusing Bumsted of being a "student." (I was "former assistant professor") Titles and credentials were stressed, although such elitism might well be seen as inconsistent with Cook's attitude, which was that training and experience in archaeology seemed to be synonymous with ignorance and prejudice. Yet "Distinguished Professor of Geography George Carter" was said to support retired Harvard biologist Barry Fell, so Fell must be right.

The following Feb. 20, 1978, editorial appeared after the *MAN IN THE NORTHEAST* article (Cole 1978b of, 1978a) went to press. As it notes, the Castleton Proceedings are being published: I hope I am quoted accurately, but I might note that I have not seen the transcript nor sighted a release nor had the opportunity to add comments or qualifications as some people apparently have!

TRIPE REPORT

Rutland Herald -- Mon., Feb. 20, 1978

Castleton State College has put out a publication called the "proceedings of the ancient Vermont conference held at Castleton Oct. 14-15, 1977. " Castleton State ought to be spanked for perpetrating any such thing. They are charging $10 up to March 1 and $12 after that date, and it's an outrage either way. Anybody who would spend $10 for the trash that was perpetrated at that "conference" might just as well put the money on a milepost and hope some indigent makes good use of it.

Let us examine the reasons that have gone into such a statement, based on the evidence at hand:

There were no Celts in pre-Columbian Vermont. The so-called "settlements" are not of pre-Columbian European derivation. The so-called "inscriptions" are not inscriptions and practically all of them are not even any language. It is misleading to refer to "lithic sites" since that carries a connotation of scientific proof of pre-Columbian origin, and there is no proof of that and considerable belief to the contrary.

Some who ought to know better have referred to the markings found on various stones as "Ogam." Such a reference displays an ignorance of the provenance of Ogam writing, and the time in which it was used. Ignorance, in fact, is what the Castleton "proceedings" publication panders to: ignorance of history, ignorance of anthropology, ignorance of linguistics, ignorance of this region's own cultural and economic background.

The theories expounded at the "conference" were of the dreamy sort of "what-if" wanderings that characterize minds unwilling to accept solid scientific examination. It is much easier to postulate Celts, or Minoans, or Phoenicians, or Chinese, than it is to go out and find what really is the derivation of such sites.

At the time of the conference certain doubts were expressed in this corner as to the validity and value of the Castleton conference on "Ancient Vermont. " The college offered in extenuation

that the conference was merely to air views and exchange ideas. Now we see that it is not merely to air views and exchange ideas-it is to make money. Making money out of unscientific junk by calling it something scientific is shameful. To perpetrate it on an unsuspecting public is base. It is vile. The best thing that could have happened to the "Ancient Vermont" conference would have been to have it forgotten forever except for an occasional twinge of conscience on the part of the promoters when they realized what tripe they had been dishing out.

Now it appears they have no twinges of conscience, do not realize it is tripe, and are trying to make some money out of it, at $10 a throw. The best advice to the public would be: don't waste your money, you'd be better off reading the funny-papers.

Cook replied to this editorial with another long article defending the conference as a revolutionary development and accusing the *Herald* of unfairness (Cook 1978). He implies that Dr. Ann Ross and Dr. Peter Reynolds, British scholars who attended the conference and were severe critics of Fell and Cook's contentions, now support the conference "conclusions." (Ross's forthcoming article in *Antiquity* should probably be consulted before one assumes that she has become a convert, however!)

The following editorial reply was published the same day:

(If you do not read Ogham, this "Reply on 'Ancient' Sites" reads "Get . . . " but perhaps I should not translate it here, because it will be interesting to see if "True Believers" get the message! It *does* include a typo-or perhaps a 'scratcho?'-but that may be intentional!)

The story will no doubt stumble onward with new claims, charges, and counter-charges, but its melodrama should not be allowed to obscure two basic questions: (1) was there Pre-columbian Old World-New World contact of a meaningful nature? (2) how should scientific debate be conducted? On the latter question I would venture a suggestion: Competing "claims" cannot be judged easily on their own merits, because an idiotic-sounding claim may be true or at least have germs of truth in it, although that cannot and should not be assumed, because the burden of proof is upon challengers to orthodoxy. Therefore, the only reliable way to judge competing claims is to analyze their methods and theories as objectively as possible. Claims arrived at by dubious methods must remain dubious at best.

Judged by this standard, the claims of Fell, Cook, et al. are dubious indeed. They are best understood as phenomena of social rather than archaeological significance, aspects of a Northeastern North American cargo cult which should not be ignored but for reasons other than those consciously argued by their adherents.

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THE ATHENA SITE (Sfd 1-2)

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Introduction

The Athena site is a multi-component site of the Late Archaic and Woodland periods situated on the west side of Lake Kitchawan, in the Town of Pound Ridge, New York. Located in the northeastern corner of the property of Mr. Thomas Rizzo, the site was discovered in June, 1973, by Robin Geller and Ernest A. Wiegand II after examination of recently bulldozed soil. Previous construction work had uncovered a Late Archaic site of the Sylvan Lake complex in the southwestern corner of the property (Wiegand, 1977). A decision was made to excavate a portion of the site when it was learned that further landscaping was planned for the near future. A further consideration that led to this decision was the fact that, although there are numerous surface collections from the immediate area, no controlled excavations had ever been conducted at Lake Kitchawan, which has been steadily developed over the past thirty years. Permission to conduct fieldwork was granted by Mr. Rizzo, and in late June, excavation was begun by a volunteer crew working under the author's direction. In October of 1973, students from Norwalk Community College of Norwalk, Connecticut, aided in the fieldwork as part of an independent studies program offered by Olivia Vlahos, assistant professor of anthropology at the College. Excavation was continued for a short time in spring, 1974, under the sponsorship of the Norwalk Community College Archaeology Club.

Setting

The site is situated on a gentle slope overlooking the west side of Lake Kitchawan, a natural, spring-fed lake with numerous adjoining marshlands, one of which forms the eastern boundary of the site. The lake is approximately 520 ft. above mean sea level, and the site, 750 ft. to the west, is about 560 ft. above mean sea level.

At present, the area surrounding the lake is composed of several different microenvironments. The lake and marshes support a rich variety of fish, water-fowl, reptiles, and mammals; dense stands of maple, beech, ash, tuliptree, hickory and oak are found in the undeveloped areas

surrounding the lake. Most of the broader expanses of level land are characterized by open fields or second growth mixed hardwood forest; dry stone walls crisscross most of these areas, attesting to their use as farmland in the 18th and 19th centuries. With few exceptions, most bird and mammal species that inhabited the area in prehistoric times are still present. Cougars have been reported in the area in recent years (Phalen, 1976: 28), as well as an increase in many other species that thrive on the edge area effect created by modern land use. Outcroppings of bedrock are frequent and in some cases extensive. A special attraction of the Athena site to prehistoric peoples may well have been a small spring located several yards north of the excavation area (Figure 1).

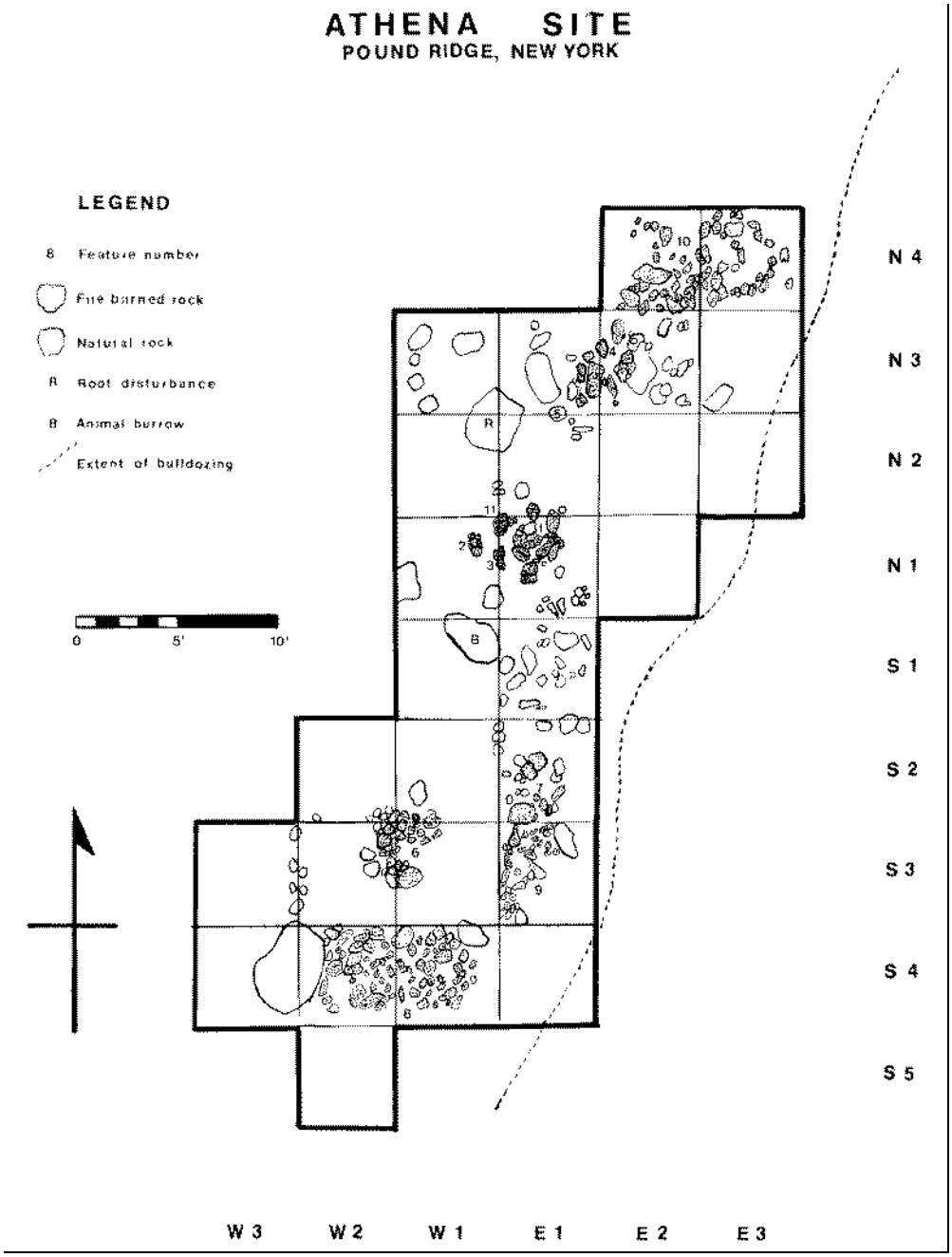


Figure 1

Methodology

A datum point was marked on the highest point of a rock outcropping located about 30 ft. west of the excavation. A grid system of 5 ft. squares was laid out using a compass, line level, string and tape, and was oriented to magnetic north. Excavation was done with trowels and brushes, all soil being sieved through a ¼ in. mesh screen. Soil samples were saved for flotation analysis. All artifacts were recorded for exact provenience, or, in the case of surface finds or screening recoveries, at their approximate locations. Photographs were taken extensively, and plan and profiles drawings were made for most units. (Fig. 1). A total area of 675 sq. ft. was excavated to an average depth of 18 in. Backfilling was unnecessary, as the landscapers were planning on bulldozing the site shortly after the completion of our work.

Soil Strata

Three soil horizons were encountered at the site. Stratum 1 was a dark brown topsoil that ranged from 0-4 in. in depth in the excavation area, where bulldozing had previously removed an additional 2-3 in. Few artifacts were recovered from this layer. Stratum 2 was a yellow-red subsoil containing most of the artifacts and features found at the site; it had a pH of 5-5.4. Stratum 3 consisted of a thin layer of glacially deposited pebbles and cobbles which overlay the bedrock, a schistose-gneiss of the Manhattan Prong (Prucher et al., 1968). In several areas this bedrock was exposed, and there seem to be few areas around the site where it is deeper than 3 in. below the surface.

Artifacts

Cultural material from several occupations was recovered from the site, most of which pertains to the Late Archaic and Woodland period. One-hundred and fifty-three (76.6%) of all excavated artifacts were found in the upper 4 in. of stratum 2. As the ceramics and the lithics were relatively evenly distributed throughout this stratum, it is obvious that the site lacks even a trace of stratigraphic separation. Hence, any interpretation of non-diagnostic artifacts in terms of age and/or cultural affiliation would be pointless, with the possible exception of those found in association with features.

Projectile points, totaling 40, were the most common lithic artifact recovered. Six of these are Wading River points (plate 1, #2, 3, 6-8), one of which has been recycled for use as a scraper (plate 3, #9). Three are made of Normanskill flint, and 1 each are made from quartz, quartzite, and red slate. The stems of 3 specimens have been ground.

A Squibnocket Stemmed point of quartz and a probable Beekman Triangle of Normanskill flint were also found (plate 1, #5, 1 respectively).

Several other stemmed and side-notched points are felt to be of Late Archaic age, but cannot be positively assigned due to the site's compressed stratigraphy. One (plate 1, #4) is made of a heavily weathered material, and may be a Bare Island point. Two of the stemmed points may have served as knives as well as, or instead of, projectile points. One (plate 1, #9) is of quartz, and has a long, tapered stem with a thick, biconvex cross-section and a blade that is almost entirely unifacially flaked, with a plano-convex cross-section. The other (plate 2, #3), of Normanskill flint, has an asymmetrical blade due to reworking, a feature that is sometimes felt to be indicative of a cutting rather than a piercing function, but may just as well have occurred during resharpening. Two side-notched points (plate 1, #10, 11) are tentatively identified as Sylvan Side-notched points. Both have slight notch grinding. Number 10 is made of phyllite, and has an unfinished base; #11 is of quartz.

Two Genesee points were found (plate 2, #2, 4). One (#4) is of Onondaga flint while the other, of Normanskill flint, has been heat-shattered. A third point (plate 2, #1) of Normanskill flint is very similar to the others except that its base is somewhat narrower. Grinding occurs on the bases of #2 and 4, and on the stems of #1 and 4. Numbers 1 and 4 were made from flakes, the platforms of which are present on the bases.

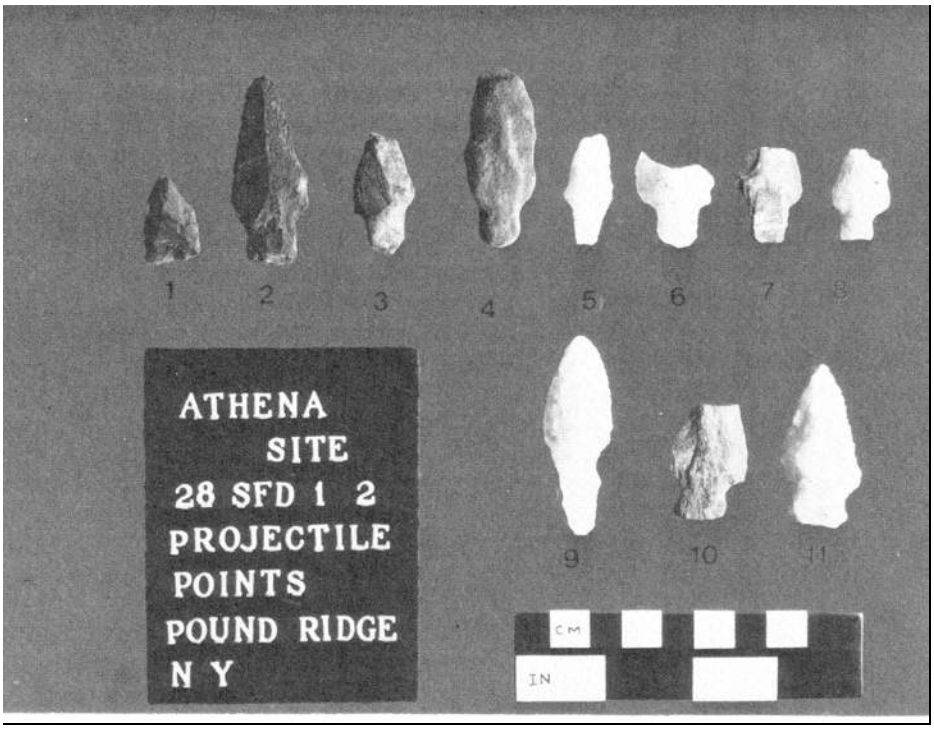


Plate 1. Athena Site #1, 3 and 7 - Normanskill flint; #2 - red slate; #4 - unknown; #5, 6, 9 and 11 - quartz; #8 - quartzite; #10 - phyllite.

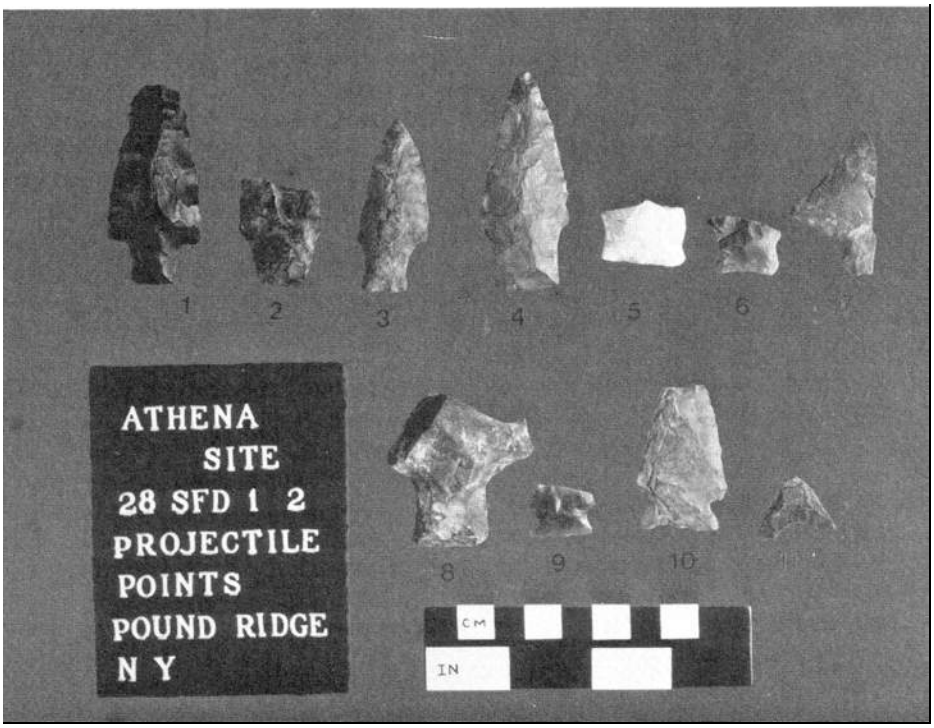


Plate 2. Athena Site #1-3, 6-8 - Normanskill flint; #4 - Onondaga flint; #5 - quartz; #9 - chalcedony; #10 - red slate; #11 - Fort Ann or Glennerie flint.

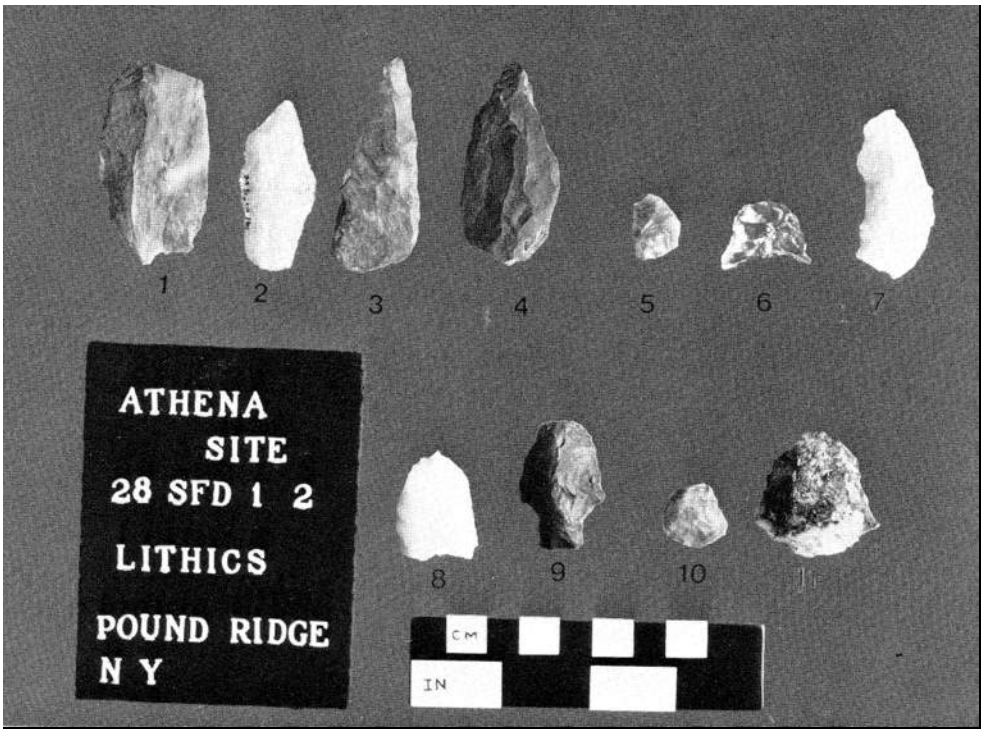


Plate 3. Athena Site #1, 3, 9-11 - Normanskill flint; #2, 6-8 - quartz; #4 - red slate; #5 - chalcedony (?).

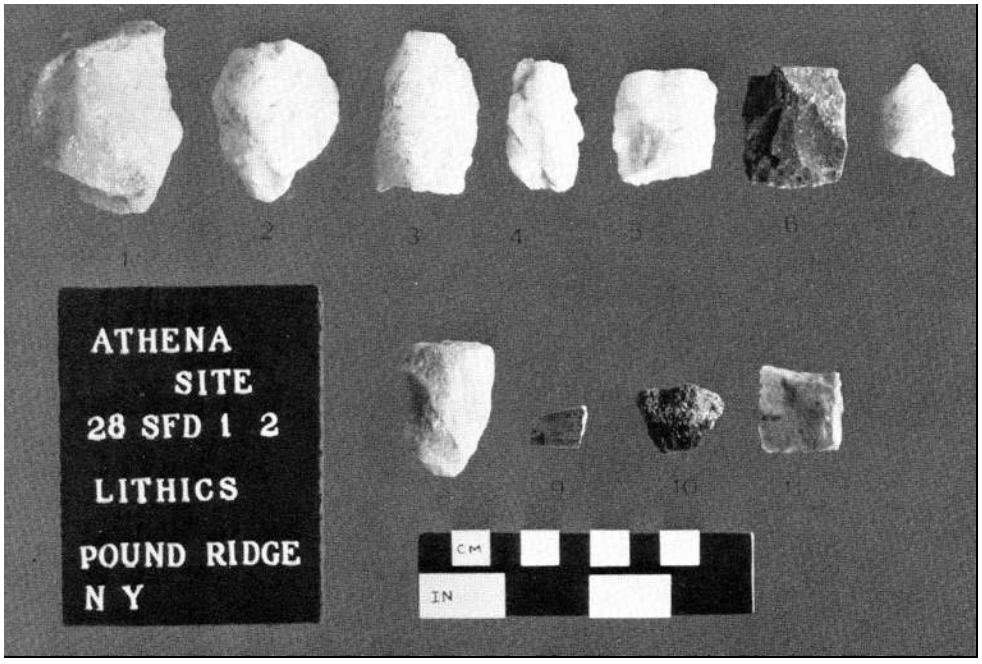


Plate 4. Athena Site #1-5, 7 - quartz/ #6, 8 - quartzite; #9 - slate; #10 - goethite; #11 - English flint.

Two projectiles made of Normanskill flint date to the Terminal Archaic: a Perkiomen Broad point, which was found on the bulldozed surface, and the basal portion of a large Susquehanna Broad point (plate 2, #7 and 8, respectively).

Two side-notched points (plate 2, #9 and 10), while bearing some resemblance to the Susquehanna Broad type, may be examples of the Tock's Island point, recently defined by Herbert Kraft, who has assigned the type to the Middle Woodland period (Kraft, 1975: 51-53). Both have ground notches; #9 has slight basal grinding and is made of chalcedony; #10 is made of red slate.

A Levanna point of Fort Ann or Glenerie flint was found on the bulldozed surface (plate 2, #11).

Three basal portions of presumed projectiles are too fragmentary to attempt chronological or cultural placement; two of these are pictured in plate 2 (#5 and 6).

Twelve tips and 5 midsections make up the remainder of the projectile point inventory. Three of the midsections are very similar to the blades of the Genesee points in form and technology; one is of Onondaga flint, the others are of Normanskill flint. The remaining fragments are from narrow-bladed points.

Most of the non-projectile lithic artifacts were used for the manufacture and repair of other tools, or in the performance of domestic chores. Nine flakes bear signs of utilization in the form of edge attrition, and are felt to have been used as cutting and/or scraping tools. Several are pictured in plate 3 (#1-6).

Six scrapers were found, 1 of which is the previously mentioned stemmed scraper recycled from a Wading River point. Two ovate scrapers have edge attrition along most of their edges (plate 3, #10 and 11) and are both made of Normanskill flint. Both the stemmed scraper and the ovate scraper attrition consists of a unifacial pattern of small step fractures, indicating use on a hard, resisting objective material (Tringham et al., 1974: 188-191). The remaining 3 scrapers have a single working edge parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tool. One is of Normanskill flint; the others are of an unidentified material. The spine plane angles of the scrapers range from 40-55°, in contrast to the range of 16-30° for the utilized flakes.

Two flake tools that may have been gravers or perforators were found in unit N1W1; one is of quartz and the other of Normanskill flint. Each has a small, sharp spur at one end made by the removal of a single flake from the flake's dorsal surface. The edge of each spur is slightly crushed. Another such tool is a quartz biface (plate 3, #8) having a sharp tip carefully made by the removal of one small flake on each side of the tool diagonally opposite each other, resulting in an S-shaped cross-section.

A small flake tool of grey flint has a sharp tip that exhibits edge attrition on one lateral edge on each face, diagonally opposite each other in cross-section. This pattern of attrition may have been produced as a result of using the tool in a unidirectional, rotary motion, such as boring or drilling.

Two bifaces were found that are thought to be knives. One of quartz (plate 3, #7) has a curved blade that is broken at each end. The other (plate 4, #8) was found in Feature 8, in close association with the base of a ceramic vessel.

Several small segments of flaked stone tools were found, but are too fragmentary to determine form or function.

Larger woodworking tools recovered include a notched ax of hornblende found on the bulldozed surface (plate 5, #1). An abrading stone (plate 5, #2) was found within a concentration of pottery east of Feature 4. It has one abrading groove on each side, one of which is 10mm wide, and the other 5 mm wide. The grooves are both worn smooth. A second possible abrading stone was found with a small, shallow groove on one surface; it was made of schist or gneiss. A cobble hammerstone of quartzite was the only stone-working tool recovered; it was found on the bulldozed surface (plate 5, #3).

Raw materials, products, and by-products relating to the production and re-working of stone tools were found throughout the site. Four unmodified quartz cobbles were found that are felt to have been transported to the site as raw material. A total of 10 broken bifaces in various stages of manufacture were recovered, several of which are shown in Plate 4 (#1-7). Eight of these were quartz; 1 was a dark grey quartzite, and 1 was of Normanskill flint. Approximately 1400 pieces of debitage were found, most of which were concentrated in the areas surrounding

Plate 5. Athena Site #1 - hornblende; #2 - sandstone (?); #3 - quartzite.

features 1, 8, and 7/9. Aside from a few flakes of slate and quartzite, most of the debitage was quartz (940 or 67. 3%), black flint (188 or 13.4%), green flint (148 or 10.4%), mottled flint (66 or 4%), or brown flint (52 or 3.7%). The greatest variety of debitage was confined to quartz, which was present in the form of blocks, shatter, and flakes; the flints were almost entirely small and thin, many with platforms. Thus, it would appear that quartz was used for the manufacture of tools directly at the site, while objects of flint were probably made elsewhere, and refined, resharpened, or recycled at the site. Based on the limited criteria of color and texture (Hammer, 1976), it is suggested that most of the flints are from the Normanskill out-croppings in the Hudson River Valley.

Other lithic artifacts include an abraded pebble of gneiss or schist measuring 19mm x 11mm x 5. 5mm. On one face is an abraded groove 9 mm long and l mm wide. The function of this object is unknown; it may have served as a fastener of some kind. A gunflint (plate 4, #11) of English flint was found in stratum 1, and is the only historic artifact recovered. A small piece of abraded slate (?) may have been part of an ornament (plate 4, #9). A piece of goethite was found between features 1 and 2, and may have been brought to the site as a curiosity (plate 4, #10).

A total of 120 artifacts of fired clay were found. Six of these were amorphous lumps of fired clay that are felt to be the by-products of the firing of ceramic vessels. The remaining 114 artifacts are potsherds from a number of different vessels. Due to the small size of most of the sherds, it was decided to classify them using the methodology employed by Dincauze in her study of sherds from the Charles River basin (Dincauze, 1975), which involved separation of the sherds into individual lots on the basis of three mutually exclusive attributes: temper, surface treatment, and decoration. This classification resulted in the formation of 13 lots. It is not felt that each lot constitutes an individual pot (though this is a possibility) because of the small size of the sherds. It has been observed on other local vessels that as many as 5 surface treatments, or, perhaps more accurately, degrees of treatment, are to be found on a single vessel (Wiegand, 1976), an observation that cannot be made on small, noncontiguous sherds. The 13 lots are summarized as follows:

Lot #1 is made up of 7 body sherds and 1 rimsherd, all found in close association in the northeast corner of unit N2E1. The temper consists of angular particles of feldspar and quartz; the paste has a Munsell value of 10YR 5/1. The interior surface is smooth; the exterior, while smooth, has faint traces of cord (?) impressions running diagonally across some of the sherds. The rimsherd and an adjoining body sherd are decorated with 3 rows of dentate stampings parallel to each other and the rim (plate 6, #1). These stampings are 2mm in diameter, and evenly spaced. The rimsherd is slightly everted with a rounded lip, and is 6mm thick. The interior surface of one sherd is also pictured (plate 6, #2).

Lot #2 is represented by 3 sherds having feldspar and quartz temper, round or oval, unevenly spaced dentate stamping (sometimes almost touching each other) ranging from 1-3mm in diameter and arranged in parallel rows. The exterior surface is smooth; the interior has a "spackled" texture that may have been left from impression with a thick cord (plate 6, #3 and 4, respectively). The exterior Munsell value is 10YR 5/4; the interior is 10YR 5/2. All three sherds were 8. 5mm thick.

Lot #3 is made up of 8 sherds having similarities to those in both Lots 1 and 2. Quartz and feldspar temper, and smooth interior surfaces are attributes of all sherds. Most of the sherds (6) have smooth exterior surfaces; the remaining two, while smooth, seem to have traces of cordage impressions. Dentate stamping is present on all sherds, but varies from shallow, round dentates to deep, rectangular ones, both present on three of the sherds. As before, the dentates are arranged in parallel rows (see plate 6, #5). Color also varies somewhat: exterior surfaces have colors of 10YR 6/4 or 5YR 7/6; interiors are 10YR 6/2 or 5YR 7/6. Thickness ranges from 5-8 mm.

Lot #4 consists of 9 sherds having coarse feldspar and quartz temper, smooth interior surfaces and smoothed-over cordmarked exterior. The exterior color is 7.5YR 6/4; the interior is 10YR 6/3. Thickness varies from 10-13mm. Most of these sherds were found amongst the fire-burned rocks in Feature 8, and fit together to form the base of a vessel (plate 7). An

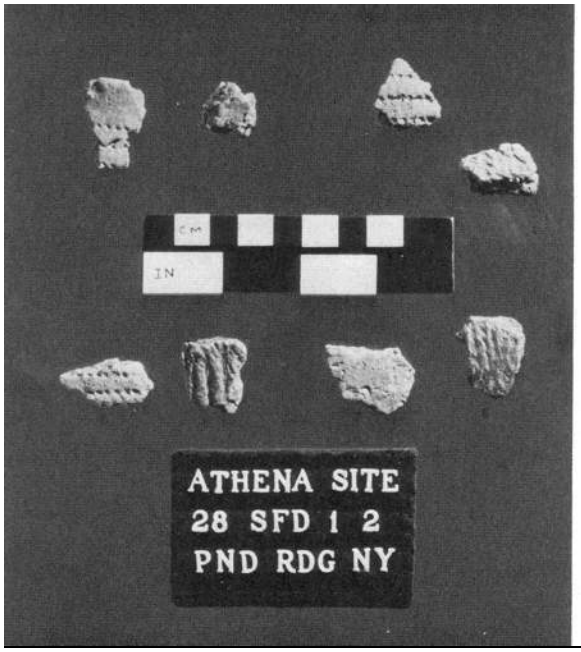


Plate 6. Ceramics.

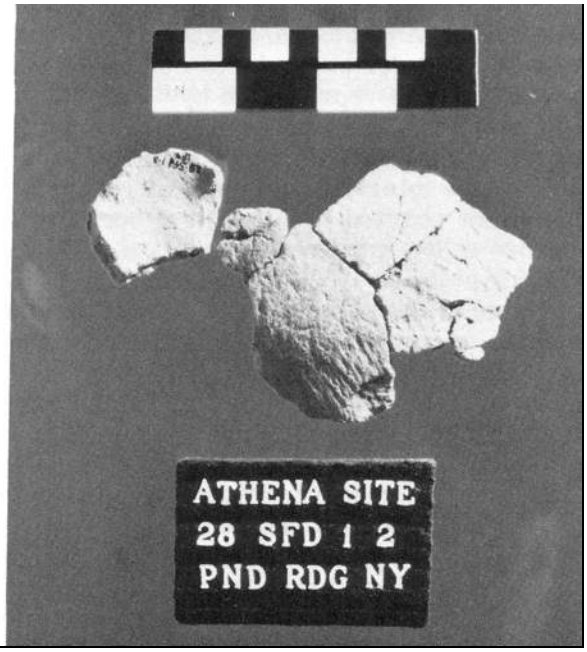


Plate 7. Ceramics.

interior surface of a sherd is next to the reconstructed base in plate 7. Several shallow depressions on the interior surface suggest that the base was formed by the pinch-pot technique. The remaining two sherds from this lot were found in Feature 7/9.

Lot #5 has a single sherd that was probably tempered with crushed shell which has since leached out. It has smoothed interior and exterior surfaces, and is 7mm thick (plate 6, #7). Its interior color is 7.5YR 3/2; its exterior is 5YR 6/6. This sherd was found on the surface several yards south of the excavation.

Lot #6 is also represented by a single sherd having feldspar and quartz temper. A rimsherd, it has very smooth interior and exterior surfaces which are of uniform color: 10YR 6/3. The rim is slightly everted, and the lip has been flattened, probably with a cord-wrapped paddle, as evidenced by shallow impressions of cordage (plate 8, #3). The sherd is 5-6mm thick.

Lot #7 is known through a single surface find having fine particles of feldspar and quartz for temper. The interior is smooth; the exterior has slightly smoothed-over cordmarking (plate 8, #4). The sherd, which is 5mm thick, has a uniform color of 10YR 6/1.

Lot #8 consists of two small surface finds having coarse temper made up of quartz, feldspar, muscovite mica and schist. Both surfaces are smooth and have the same color: 10YR 7/1.

Lot #9 is made up of 3 sherds having quartz and feldspar temper, smoothed-over cord-marking on the exterior surface, and deep cordmarking on the interior surface which is almost perpendicular to the exterior cordmarking (plate 8, #5 and 6 for exterior and interior surfaces, respectively). The exterior color is 10YR 6/4; the interior is 10YR 6/2. Sherd thickness ranges from 7-8.5mm.

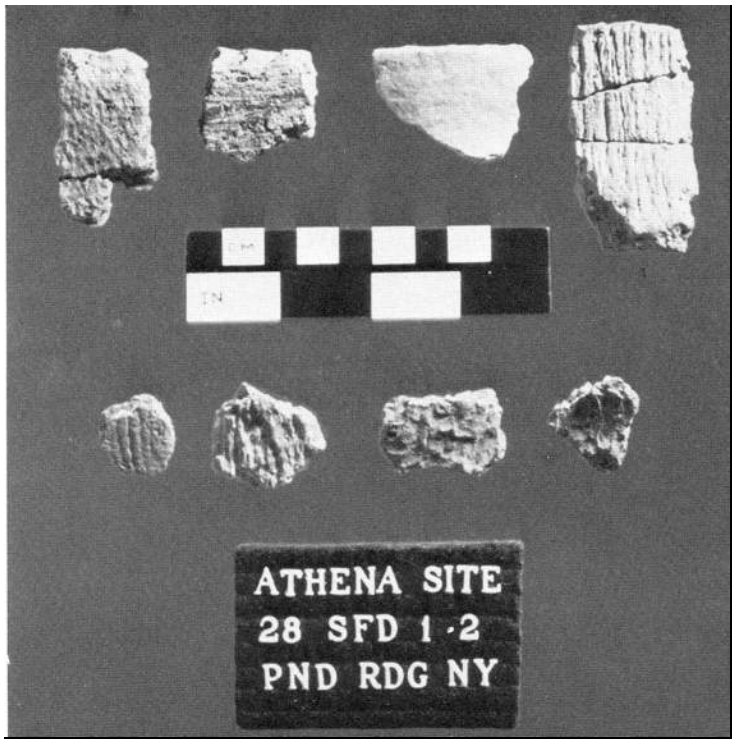
Lot #10 is known through 4 sherds having coarse feldspar and quartz temper, a smooth interior, and an exterior having deeply impressed cordmarking. Three sherds are connected to form a slightly everted rim having a lip that has been flattened with a cord-wrapped paddle (plate 8, #4). The color throughout is 10YR 6/2. All of these sherds were found close to Feature 1.

Lot #11 consists of 4 sherds having feldspar and quartz temper, a smooth exterior surface and a rough, 'spackled' interior surface. Most of the sherds have a Munsell color of 10YR 6/4; the remaining sherd is 10YR 5/3.

Lot #12 is made up of 16 sherds having feldspar and quartz temper, 'spackled' interior and exterior surfaces, and exterior color of 10YR 6/4 and an interior color of 10YR 6/2. The exterior and interior surfaces can be seen in plate 8, #'7 and 8, respectively.

Lot #13 is represented by 49 sherds, most of which were found concentrated in units N3E2 and N3E3, probably belonging to a single vessel. Sherd thickness ranges from 7-8.5mm; tempering material has been tentatively identified as hornblende. The exterior surface is cord marked; the interior has been brushed or scraped smooth. Four rimsherds were found, all of which have rounded lips that have been decorated on the interior with diagonal impressions of a corded stick or paddle edge (plate 8, #1 and 2 for exterior and interior views, respectively). Exterior color is 10YR 6/3; interior is 10YR 5/1.

Due to the small size of the sherds, and the paucity of rimsherds and decorated sherds, attempts to compare the lots with established ceramic types from eastern New York and coastal Connecticut proved difficult. It is suggested that the exterior/interior cordmarked sherds of lot #9 are of the Vinette I type. The paste of the sherds in lots 1-4 and 8-12 is moderately compact, but poorly consolidated, probably due to the medium-to-coarse grit temper. These attributes are characteristic of the Windsor ceramic tradition (Smith, 1950). On the basis of the limited data regarding vessel form, surface treatment, and decoration, it is felt that the sherds in these lots can be assigned to the Early Woodland period. The sherds in lots 5-7 and 13 differ from the others in that the paste is more compact, the temper finer, and the sherds are better consolidated. The sherds in lot #13 bear some similarity to the Point Peninsula Corded and Jack's Reef Corded types in terms of rim form, decoration, and surface treatment (Funk, 1976: 92-94), and may therefore date to Middle Woodland times. Lacking stratigraphic evidence and associated C-14 dates, this temporal placement must be regarded as tentative.



Features

A total of 10 features were found at the site, all of which originated in the first 6 in. of stratum 2.

Feature 1 is a circular hearth 30 ft. in diameter and lined with fire-burned rocks. Associated finds include a dentate stamped sherd from lot #3, chipping debris, and a small amount of charred wood. The cordmarked rimsherd from lot #10 was found immediately out side the feature, as were several small pieces of calcined bone.

Features 2, 3, and 11 consist of small piles of fire-burned rocks found immediately west of and at the same level as feature 1. The rocks comprising these features are of schist or gneiss. The function of these features is unknown, but their close association with feature 1 suggests that they may have been related to cooking activity. Although their size and shape do not seem suited for the task, perhaps they were used in stone-boiling.

Feature 4 is a circular hearth 36 in. in diameter lined with fire-burned rocks. Associated finds include a Wading River point (plate 1, #2), and a stemmed scraper made from a broken Wading River point (plate 3, #9), both of which were found between rocks in the lower portion of the feature, which was at least 8 in. deep. The upper portion of the feature had been disturbed somewhat, probably due to farming, resulting in the mixing of later materials, such as several potsherds and a charred kernel of Zea mays, as well as other cultigens and introduced species that probably relate to historic period agriculture. A large sample of charred wood was taken from the lower portion of the feature for C-14 analysis, and yielded a date of 4120 ± 190 C^{14} years BP (GX3372).

Feature 5 is a small pit filled with yellow clay measuring 7 in. in diameter by 3 in. deep. It is felt that this feature was used for the storage and/or aging of clay that was to be used later in the manufacture of pottery.

Feature 6 is a circular hearth with a diameter of 3 ft. The depth of this feature is in ex-

cess of 24 in. ; it was not completely excavated due to a lack of time and heavy rainfall during the 1974 season. The rocks lining the top of this feature were extremely fire-burned, as was the soil underneath. A large sample of charred wood was dated at 2375 ± 170 C-14 years BP (GX3437). Associated finds include a stemmed point or knife (plate 2, #3), the base of a Susquehanna Broad point (plate 2, #8), a quartz scraper, a broken point tip, debitage, and a small portion of a charred hickory nut. As it is felt that the date obtained from the C-14 sample is accurate, the Susquehanna Broad point, and perhaps the rest of the artifacts, must be considered intrusive.

Features 7 and 9 are actually one feature, a hearth consisting of a bed of fire-burned rocks measuring 8 ft. long by 3 ft. wide. Associated finds include a utilized flake (plate 3, #6), debitage, and 2 sherds with corded exteriors and smooth interiors (lot #4).

Feature 8 is a rectangular hearth consisting of a bed of fire-burned rocks, measuring 8 ft. long by 4 ft. wide. Associated finds include a quartz biface, a quartzite knife (plate 4, #8), and the remaining sherds from lot #4, which comprise the base of a pot. A sample of charred wood yielded a date of 3040 ± 200 C-14 years BP (GX3438).

Feature 10 is a hearth made up of a bed of fire-burned rocks measuring 8 ft. long by 5 ft. wide. Associated finds include a Genesee point (plate 2, #4) and a large biface midsection that may have been part of a Genesee point.

Flotation Analysis

All soil contained in features 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8 was saved for flotation analysis, which was conducted by Denise Tratalotis. Her results, which appear below, are based on 20 litre samples processed by the washbasin technique. The screen size was 1/16" (1. 587mm.).

Table 1 - Miscellaneous

Feature 1:	charred wood (3.5 grams) burned bark fragments (2) - Quercus sp. (oak) fossil brachiopod
Feature 4:	charred wood (3 grams) fish scale - Esox americanus (pickerel) insect wing - Aglenus sp. (colydid beetle)
Feature 6:	charred wood (15 grams) charred skin (reptilia) burned bark with scraped inside surface - Ulmus sp. (Elm)
Feature 7:	charred wood (17 grams) calcined bone fragments (2) 1 small mammal (mouse, mole?) 1 bird

Table 2 - Arboreal Seeds, Nuts, Hulls*

Species	Fea. 1	Fea. 4	Fea. 6	Fea. 7	Fea. 8
Betula nigra Black Birch	1				
Betula sp. Birch		1	1		
Carya ovata Shagbark hickory	1				
Carya sp. Hickory				1	1 (H)

Table 2 - Continued

Species	Fea. 1	Fea. 4	Fea. 6	Fea. 7	Fea. 8
Castanea sp. Chestnut		1			1
Cornus sp. Dogwood	1				
Corylus sp. Hazel	1 (H)				
Fagus grandifolia American beech	1		1 (H)		
Fraxinus sp. Ash		1			
Hamamelis virginiana Witchhazel			1		
Juglans cinera Butternut				1	
Juglans nigra Black walnut	1 (H)				
Juglans sp. Walnut		1			
Quercus alba White oak			1 (C)		
Quercus (alba?) Oak	1 (H)		1 (H)		1
Quercus rubra Red oak			1 (C)		
Tilia sp. Basswood			1		
Tsuga canadensis Eastern hemlock	1				
Ulmus sp. Elm					1

*H = hull
C = cap
all others are seeds

Table 3 - Non-arboreal Seeds

Species	Fea. 1	Fea. 4	Fea. 6	Fea. 7	Fea. 8
Achillea millefolium Yarrow		1	5		
Allium canadensis Wild onion			10		
Allium sp. Wild onion	1	1	1	1	2
Amaranthus spinosa Pigweed		1	1		
Amelanchier arborea Serviceberry				1	
Apios sp. Groundnut				1	
Asclepias sp. Milkweed				1	1
Berberis spp. Barberry			1	1	

Table 3 - Continued

Species	Fea. 1	Fea. 4	Fea. 6	Fea. 7	Fea. 8
Braccus negra Mustard		1			
Ceanothus sp. Jerseytea					1
Celtis sp. Hackberry	1			1	
Chenopodium sp. Goosefoot	1	1	6	1	1
Cirsium sp. Thistle				1	
Corylus sp. Hazelnut					1
Cucurbita sp. Gourd		1	1		
Gullenia trifoliate Indian physic				1	
Lactuca sp. Wild lettuce				1	
Lathyrus sp. Peavine		1			
Myrica cerifera Waxmyrtle		1			
Myrica sp. Bayberry	1				
Nuphar lutem Spatterdock			1		
Oxalis sp. Oxalis				1	
Physolis sp. Ground cherry			1		
Phytolacca americana Pokeweed					1
Pleridium sp. (?) Fern	1				
Polygonium sp. Smartweed					1
Pontederia cordata Pickerelweed				1	
Portulaca sp. Purseweed				1	
Potentilla canadensis Silverweed				1	
Ranuculus sp. Buttercup				1	
Rhus sp. Sumac				1	1
Ribes sp. Gooseberry				1	
Rubus sp. Blackberry (?)	1	1		1	
Rumex crispus Dock		1		1	
Sambucus sp. Elderberry	1		1		

Species	Fea. 1	Fea. 4	Fea. 6	Fea. 7	Fea. 8
Scirpus validus Bullrush				1	
Similacina racemosa False Soloman's seal	1	1			
Similax rotundi Greenbriar	1	1			
Spirea sp. Meadowsweet			1		
Streptopus sp. Wild cucumber				1	
Typha latifolia Cattails	1		1	1	
Vaccinium spp. Blueberry	1	1		1	
Vaccinium sp. (not blueberry)		1			1
Vitis sp. Wild grape	1	1	1		
Zea mays Corn		1			

The seasonal availability of the arboreal seeds is almost entirely limited to the period between mid-September and early November. The single exception is elm, the seeds of which fall in July.

The seasonality of the non-arboreal species are, for the most part, reflective of the arboreal species' availability, although some species (gooseberry, sumac, blueberry, service-berry, and wild onion) are present in August.

On the basis of this analysis, it would appear that the site was inhabited during the late summer and/or early fall. The small number of recovered seeds preclude any inferences to be made concerning the role and importance of these plants to the site's occupants, although many are known ethnographically to have been used by the region's historic period Indians.

Conclusions

Due to the lack of stratification, and the fact that only an estimated 25% of the site was excavated (based on the observable extent of artifact distribution through examination of bull-dozed and eroded areas), interpretations of recovered materials from the Athena site are limited. Most of the artifactual material is felt to have been deposited during an Early Woodland occupation and, to a lesser degree, the Late Archaic Sylvan Lake occupation. Diagnostic artifacts are present for the Transitional, Late Woodland, and possibly Middle Woodland periods, but are few in number. Activities conducted on or near the site include hunting, stone tool manufacture/repair, pottery manufacture, woodworking, and food preparation, as inferred from artifact and feature functions. Biological remains attest to the gathering of wild plants and, to a lesser degree, hunting and fishing.

On the basis of C-14 dates and associated artifacts, it is felt that features 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7/9, 8, and 11 were used by the Early Woodland occupants. Feature 4 is assigned to the Sylvan Lake component, and feature 10 may belong to Funk's recently proposed "'Batten Kill"' complex (Funk, 1976). This would indicate a greater amount and variety of activities on the part of the Early Woodland occupants who may have used the site on more than one occasion, as would seem to be the case, based on the C-14 dates for features 6 and 8.

Recovered floral remains from these features indicate a late summer through early fall occupation for the Early Woodland inhabitants. The inferred function of clay storage or aging for

feature 5, and the recovery of several pieces of ceramic 'debitage', also indicate more than a short-term stay. The disturbed condition of feature 4 prevents any valid inferences to be made concerning the seasonality of the Sylvan Lake component.

Acknowledgements

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CEDAR TERRACE II SITE

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Cedar Terrace II (Cox 43) is a stratified, multi-component site in Greene Col, N.Y. which seems to have been a minor occupation locus of at least 3 stratigraphically distinct cultural groups. The area was found approximately 15 yds. south of the Cedar Terrace I Site (Weinman and Weinman, n.d.). These two sites have some related diagnostic artifacts, but testings made between them show no continuity of settlement remains. Cedar Terrace II was at the edge of a small, shallow upper rise on a Normanskill shale anticline remnant. It is approximately 40 ft. east and 20 ft, above Rte 9W. Six miles south of W. Coxsackie, the land is on Lloyd Zimmerman's property, within several miles of Flint Mine Hill and Scott Farm flint quarries.

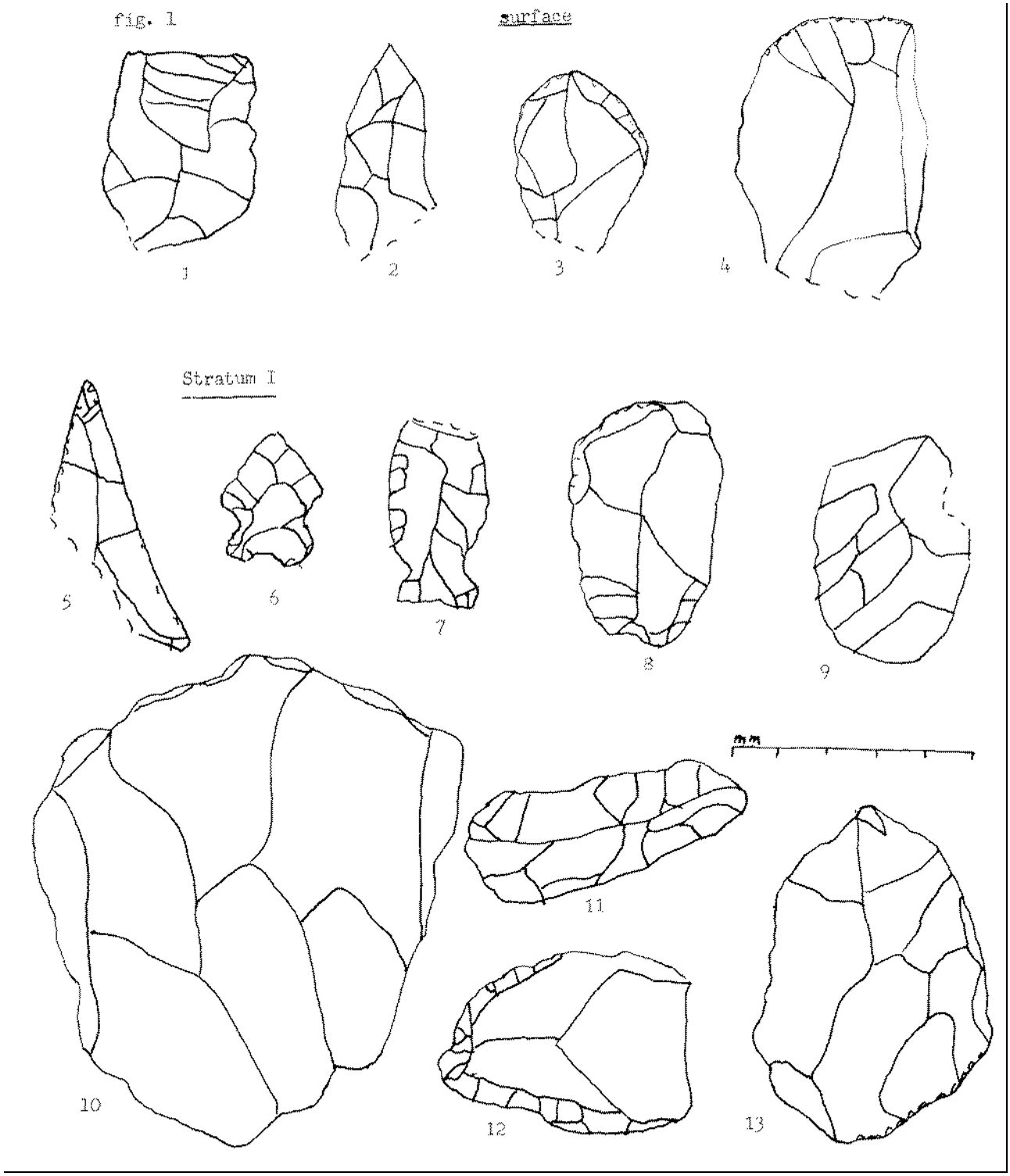
We excavated 15 five-foot squares in the Spring of 1976, finding 3 soil strata. The first was a 4-5 in. thick layer of dark brown loamy sand. Stratum II was generally 8-10 in. thick where debris was most plentiful. It abruptly thinned to several inches thick at and just over a slight, buried ridge of shale that edged the site to the south. Except for Feature I (to be noted later), which was built on the slope of the 3-4 ft. rise, there was little cultural debris in this thinning section of Stratum II. Shale fragments occurred in the post-glacially set yellow-brown clayey sand of Stratum III. We tested this to bedrock at about 3 ft. deep, but there were no traces of occupation.

As in almost all this flint-rich region, we came upon debitage at the exposed surface and beneath decomposing vegetable matter. Among the debitage were a thumbscraper (fig. 1;3) an endscraper (fig. 1;4), a projectile point blade (fig. 1;1), and 2 knife or point tips (fig. 1;2). Their original provenience is unknown.
Stratum I produced 72 fire-cracked rocks, approximately 500 chips of local flint, 4 quartzite hammerstones, and 13 broken blades. A small, bifurcated-base point (fig. 1;6), a Levanna (fig. 1;5), and a square-tanged, sloping shouldered specimen (fig. 1;6), were the projectile points. Since the sample is so small and indeterminate, we can suggest only that people from Transitional to Middle Woodland phases stayed here - as hinted at by the Levanna and Orient-like points (Ritchie, 1971). A combination knife-drill (fig. 2;22), 2 large endscrapers (fig. 1;8), a sidescraper (fig. 1;12), 11 blade fragments (fig. 1;9, 11,13), a utilized flake; and a quartzite hand-chopper (fig. 1;8), indicate that some living activity other than flint knapping was done. The fire-cracked rocks do show that cooking and/or heating was carried out.

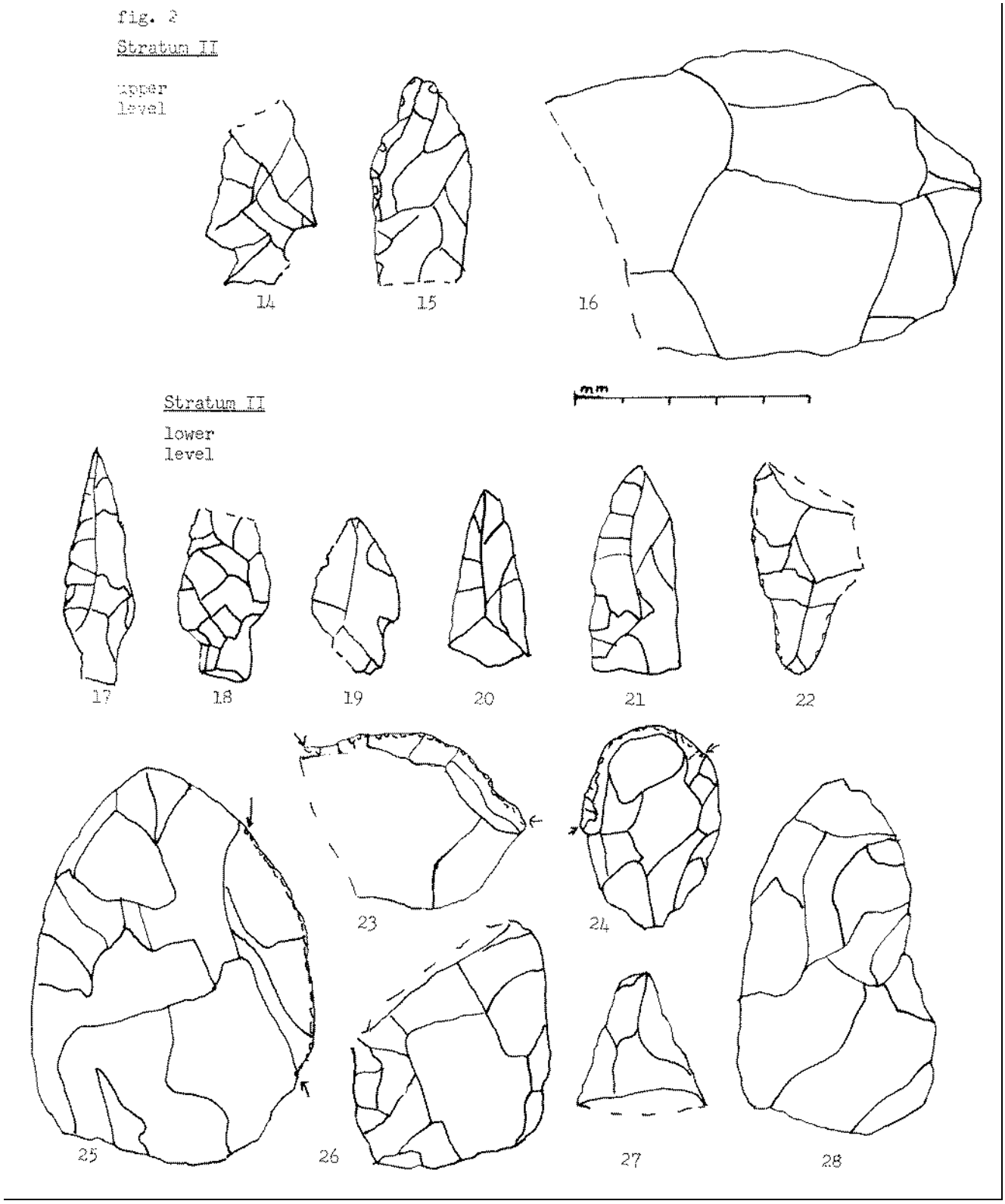
In the upper level of Stratum II, a broad Normanskill-like point was found at 2 in. below Stratum I. This is associated with a drill-knife (fig. 2;15), 4 large blanks (fig. 2;16), and 5 quartzite hammerstones. These could belong to a River Phase group (Ritchie, 1969).

Below this was a Sylvan Lake (Funk, 1976) component that clustered northerly adjacent to the single feature, just above and into Stratum III. The 3 projectile points were Lamoka-like (fig. 2;17-19), while a single blade piece is shaped similarly. One Lamoka-like point (fig. 2;19) discovered within the 39 fire-cracked rocks of the feature was crudely fashioned from a flint flake. Other local flint artifacts were: a narrow point blank (fig. 2;21), a large asymmetrical knife (fig. 2;24), a large endscraper, 2 sidescrapers (fig. 2;23, a large side-knife, a rectangular knife (fig. 2;28). and a similar knife base (fig. 2;26), a hand-chopper, and 6 blade

CEDAR TERRACE II (Cox.43)



CEDAR TERRACE IT (Cox. 43)



fragments (fig. 2;27). A maroon jasper flake-knife and 4 quartzite hammerstones complete the artifact inventory. Sylvan Lake artifacts were also found in Stratum II of the first Cedar Terrace site.

The small number of projectile points, a large number of hammerstones (9), and nearly 1800 flint chips within the small area indicate that both the River Phase and Sylvan Lake Tradition peoples stayed at the site to work flint. As with the initial stratum evidence, the 134 fire-cracked rocks from the lower levels (along with the scrapers, knives, and chopper) evidence some living activity other than tool preparation of flint collected from nearby quarries.

Feature I is assigned to the Sylvan Lake component because of the Lamoka-like point found within its rocks and its position at the bottom of Stratum II and intrusion into Stratum III. Circular in outline, the fire feature had a diameter of 4-5 ft. and was 9 in. thick at its basin-shaped center. No charcoal, but some reddened earth was present. Apparently this hearth was constructed adjacent to and south of the major work area. Being built at the upper edge of a slight incline, the fire could be contained and used easily from the lip of the site. Because there were no bone or tools that might indicate seasonal purpose, we have no idea at what time of year the peoples utilized the site. However, since all artifacts were found within a diameter of a 15-18 ft. circle, we can suggest that only a few people stayed here and left their stone refuse in a small, circular locus. Although no postmolds were evident, perhaps the groups constructed and stayed in single, round shelters. The abundant fire-cracked rocks, and the profuse and dense amount of flint chips indicate short, but intense, use of the locus. Coincidentally, groups of a few people left objects in this same spot. Soil buildup through leaf mold accumulation, soil creep, and human activity covered at least 3 occupations in the stratigraphic order found throughout the Upper Hudson Valley (Funk, 1976).

In conclusion, evidence at Cedar Terrace II suggests a sequence of Sylvan Lake Tradition below River Phase, which in turn underlies artifacts of Transitional and Middle Woodland times. The size of the Cedar Terrace II site and the settlement of such niches for brief workshop use, add to our understanding of aboriginal settlement pattern in New York.

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SOME RADIOCARBON DATES AND SETTLEMENT STUDIES FROM THE MOHAWK RIVER VALLEY

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Introduction

During the 1977 field season archeologists from SUNY Albany Anthropology Department conducted test excavations at several prehistoric sites in the Mohawk Valley as part of the State Education Department's Highway Salvage Program. These tests were designed to acquire in-

formation, such as site size, material density, age and cultural affiliation, necessary for cultural resource management purposes.

In the case of these preliminary surveys, it is necessary to provide information required by the sponsor agency seeking a determination of eligibility by the National Register of Historic Places for sites located. Since the argument concerning a site's "significance" is phrased in terms of its potential research contributions, it is desirable, whenever possible, to attempt to date the period of occupancy of sites located.

Fortunately, several sites located during these preliminary studies yielded charcoal samples from undisturbed contexts which were submitted for radiocarbon age determinations. Although multiple dates from a single site are preferred, this is not usually possible from preliminary testing programs such as this one. However, an age determination from the preliminary site examination may be useful to initial interpretation, as well as to the development of research problems which may be investigated at the site in the future.

The objective of this discussion is to mention briefly the age determinations which were obtained from three Mohawk Valley sites. In addition, the implications of the results are seen in terms of cultural resource management objectives and the archaeological research potential of the site.

General Considerations

The sites discussed here may be generally considered as small sites, reflecting a limited range of aboriginal activities. They may be considered important to the degree that a temporal, spatial and functional analysis of them would contribute to our knowledge of prehistoric settlement systems and intra-site settlement patterns. The dispersal of prehistoric social groups over the landscape remains a central issue in current archaeological studies. The spatial extent and limits of seasonal aggregations and dispersals, as well as the subsistence activities at various locations, are a major objective in Northeastern archeology.

The aim of archeology undertaken with federal and state funding is not different from the aims of research archeology, since the sites are assessed in terms of their potential to contribute information to current research problems. Frequently, the significance (importance) of a site may be considered as its functional role in a larger geographical region, or settlement system.

In assessing the regional significance of archeological properties, determining the contemporaneity of sites or loci on one site is of prime importance. In a regional settlement system study it would be both futile and misleading to consider all of the sites within the region to be components of the same system. The differential distribution of sites (e. g. back-country vs. riparian) may be a function of time and may not represent the exploitative pattern of one particular system.

Likewise, at the intra-site level, it is necessary to determine whether separate loci represent spatial separation of a single period of occupation, or a multi-component site. The temporal variable should be controlled before additional study is undertaken.

Determining the contemporaneity of sites in a region and loci within a site is potentially problematic in the Northeast. Relative dating can be accomplished at the site level through the comparisons of stratigraphic sequences. Cross-dating can be utilized at both the site and regional levels through the use of diagnostic artifacts, most often projectile points and pottery. Both of these dating techniques are widely used by archeologists working in this region. The primary source of absolute dating, despite a number of new techniques, remains radiocarbon determinations.

Unfortunately, small pre-ceramic sites may lack the diagnostic items necessary for adequate cross-dating and stratigraphic sequences can not be expected from the majority of small sites. This problem is probably a result of the limited activities at these sites and their brevity of occupancy. It is at these sites that radiocarbon age determinations become imperative. Some of the sites from the Marcy-Utica-Deerfield Study fall into this category. Small sites without diagnostic artifacts may represent an important aspect of prehistoric economic adaptations, delineating activities considerably different from those at the larger sites which

contain the material that results from a larger range of human activities. It is necessary to determine if these sites were occupied during the same period of prehistory as larger prehistoric sites (possible base camps) in the vicinity. More specifically, the problem may be considered as whether the inhabitants of a large, known prehistoric site in this area dispersed into smaller, specialized-extractive sites or whether these sites represent a different prehistoric occupation period during which a different economic focus was possibly present.

The Sites

Atlas (Alb-301)

This site is a relatively small (600 m^2) one located approximately 1 km north of the Mohawk River. Although there is some evidence to indicate that the site has been modified by the construction of a parking lot to the northwest, the remaining part is apparently undisturbed.

The site is bordered on the east and southeast by a small, unnamed stream. A 6 to 10 cm living floor of dark reddish brown sand was sealed beneath a humus level ranging from 3 to 20 cm.

No diagnostic artifacts were recovered from this site; the majority of the cultural material was chert flakes and trim. Only five bifacial tools and one rough stone tool were found in the 6.5 m^2 area excavated. Three features were located in these tests.

Feature 2 (square S5 E3) and Feature 3 (square S7 E3) were both oval shaped hearths encountered at 28 cm below the surface. Feature 2 measured 45 by 50 cm and was about 9 cm thick. Feature 3 measured 35 by 45 cm and was 8 cm thick. Feature 2 produced a small amount of charcoal which was not submitted for C-14 dating.

Feature 1, from square S5 E3, was a large roasting platform extending from 3 cm below the surface to 25 cm. It almost completely covered the square where it was encountered and probably totals close to 2 m^2 in area. A total of 555 fire-cracked rocks were excavated from the exposed section of this feature. The charcoal sample was taken at 17 cm below the surface and yielded a date of 2, 360 ± 70 B. P. (DIC-932). This date places the site in the Meadowwood phase of the Early Woodland Period.

Functionally, the site is lacking projectile points, fishing gear and faunal remains making it unlikely that it was a hunting or fishing station. The high percentage of trim flakes present suggest that tool manufacturing did not take place at the site. Instead, resharpening and re shaping were performed on already manufactured tools. Feature 1 closely resembles the large roasting platforms found at the Bent Site in Schenectady County, for which the inferred use is the roasting of acorns (Ritchie and Funk 1973:55). We would expect pitted nutting stones or similar rough stone tools to be recovered in future excavations at this location.

Tentatively Site 301 has been interpreted as a vegetal food processing station with a very limited period of occupancy.

Morse (Alb-305)

Site 305 is also a small (740 m^2) activity area located approximately 1 km north of the Mohawk River in Oneida County. It is on the east side of a small stream which once flowed directly into the Mohawk River but has since been diverted by the construction of the New York State Barge Canal. The site has been cultivated for a considerable time and almost all of the prehistoric material was recovered from the plow-zone.

No diagnostic artifacts were collected, although 9 test squares (.5m by .5m) were excavated. No bifacial tools or rough stone were recovered; the prehistoric activities were represented entirely by debitage. Fortunately, at least one feature escaped destruction by cultivation. Feature 1 was located in square N0 E5 and was found at 40 cm below the surface with a 15 cm layer of undisturbed deposits between it and the base of the plow zone, which extended to 25 cm. This feature was 40 cm and contained 136 chert flakes. The charcoal sample submitted for C-14 analysis was taken at 57 cm below the surface (well below the base of the plow zone) and yielded an age of 1570 ± 85 B. P. (DIC-933). This date places the earliest occupation of the site within the early portion of the Middle Woodland Period.

Future studies are needed at this site to determine the prehistoric economic activities which took place here. The relatively small size of the site and the fact that it is lacking the expected chert tools indicates that it represents a very brief occupation, and that it was probably not inhabited by the entire social group, possibly not even an entire nuclear family. More likely, this site resulted from a brief visit by a small task group.

The dating of these two sites by C-14 enables a preliminary assessment of their role in the regional settlement system. For example, the occupants of a large base camp, which is located 2 km to the west of these sites may also have been responsible for these small camps. This base camp, reported in a 1975 Highway Salvage Project, contained projectile points of the Brewerton, Lamoka and Meadowood styles and was interpreted as occupied from 4,500 to 2,000 years B. P.

Based upon this span of occupation, it is possible that Site 301 could have been a part of the same settlement system. In contrast, there is no indication that the base camp was occupied during the Middle Woodland Period, so Site 305 may be an extractive camp associated with another base camp located outside our study area or may represent a brief intrusion into an area that was relatively unoccupied during at the time.

Site 301 offers an interesting implication in settlement system studies, since it may represent an attempt to extend the habitation period of the base camp into a year round settlement similar to the Lamoka Lake Site (Ritchie and Funk 1973: 44) or the Bent Site (Ritchie and Funk 1973: 70). Since it was probably a nutting station, it represents a longer period of occupation of the base camp, from spring-summer through the fall. This is similar to the settlement model recently proposed for the Susquehanna Valley (Funk and Rippeteau 1977). Minimally, it indicates more of a central base wandering pattern of settlement than a restricted wandering pattern. Both of these sites indicate a dispersal of task groups from larger sites along the Mohawk River, in addition to possible back-country stations.

Cady Co. (Alb-103)

The charcoal sample submitted from this site in Glenville, Schenectady County, was intended to address a site specific problem in settlement pattern interpretation. Survey information indicated both a surface-plowzone component in the northern portion of the site and two subsurface features in the southern portion. One of these features had been truncated by plowing, while the second was separated from the base of the plow zone by 6 to 10 cm of silts, devoid of cultural material.

The problem in interpretation revolved around whether a single or multiple occupation of the site was represented. If the features were associated with the material in the plow zone and on the surface, a Transitional Period date was anticipated. This was based on the recovery of Broad Points from the plow zone in test excavations. However, there was also the potential for an Archaic (or earlier) construction period of the features. This would considerably alter the possible research potential of the site and the future excavation strategy. For example, the association of the features alters the interpretation of site function and duration of occupation.

The sample was collected from Feature 2, excavation unit #7, at a depth of 35 cm below the surface. This feature was a prehistoric hearth, circular in plan and basin-shaped in cross section. Cultural material from the feature consisted of 13 chert flakes. The lack of diagnostic items prevented age estimates of the construction of this feature. The stratigraphic evidence suggested an earlier construction date for the feature, since it was separated from the plowzone items by a layer of silt which lacked any cultural material.

The sample age of 2940 years B. P. ± 245 (DIC-931) indicates that the feature is probably associated with the cultural material in the plowzone, rather than an earlier occupation of the site. The large deviation of the age determination is probably the result of the small sample size after treatment. However, until additional investigation of this site is undertaken and new evidence is recovered, it is interpreted as a single component, Transitional Period occupation.

Summary

This paper presents three new radiocarbon age determinations from archeological sites in the Mohawk Valley. These dates reflect prehistoric activities during the Transitional, Early

Woodland and Middle Woodland Periods. It is suggested that settlement system studies must seriously consider small sites, since they reflect the range of prehistoric activities, task locational variability and task group organization. Such sites frequently do not contain items which are easily employed in estimating the occupation period. It is interesting to note that the two Woodland Period sites did not contain any pottery, despite the careful excavation and sifting of all excavated soil through 1/4" mesh screen.

Radiocarbon age determinations from these sites have indicated the possible relationship between site 301 and a known base camp in the upper Mohawk Valley. A second site, 305, which was also believed to have been a part of that settlement system much now be re-evaluated in light of the Middle Woodland Period date. The radiocarbon age determination from site 103 has indicated the temporal association of a subsurface feature with cultural material in the plowzone.

This brief paper has not attempted to detail the sites mentioned, since these descriptions are contained in project reports on file at the New York State Museum and the New York State Department of Parks and Recreation. However, since the reports were written prior to the C-14 results, several of the preliminary interpretations have been altered. We would like to caution anyone attempting to use those earlier interpretations.

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