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BLACK LUCY'S GARDEN

Adelaide K. and Ripley P. Bullen

While excavating the Stickney Site, M12/77, on the west side of Woburn Street in the Ballardvale section of Andover, Massachusetts, what was presumed to be Colonial pottery was found in association with Indian material. (1) A cellar hole was found just to the south, at the foot of the knoll containing the Indian site, Fig.1. As it was hoped that this might offer an opportunity to date the pottery, the cellar hole was excavated. It proved to have been occupied from about 1815 to 1845 and to be extremely rich in material. As a closed site, it documents material of that period as well as supplying information regarding life in Andover of one hundred years ago. As a result of the historic research, certain features of the Indian site can be better interpreted.

The house unit consisted of the cellar hole, a large dump to the southwest of the cellar, a well, and a possible vegetable cellar. The relationship between these is shown on the plan, Fig.2. To the south were the remains of a woodchoppers' shack, S in Fig.2, built when the land was lumbered just prior to 1900.

Before excavation, the cellar hole consisted of a basin-shaped depression, about three feet deep in the center, bounded by a few stones marking the tops of the cellar walls. It was obvious that the side of the hill had been dug into and the dirt so secured, as well as that from the cellar hole, had been spread out around the cellar to make a small terrace surrounding the house, as shown by the contours on the plan, Fig.2. Trenches, dug in an endeavor to locate house supports outside the cellar walls, confirmed this. The old sod line, covered by yellow dirt from the cellar hole, was readily identifiable. Further excavation indicated that in constructing the cellar a hole had been dug down into gray clay and dry walls erected. The gray clay formed a hard smooth floor. The inside dimensions of the cellar were from 10 feet 2 inches to 11 feet 6 inches while the thickness of the walls varied from 18 to 25 inches. The clay floor was from 50 to 60 inches below the tops of the existing walls. In the fill were found many rocks indicating that the walls had originally extended higher.

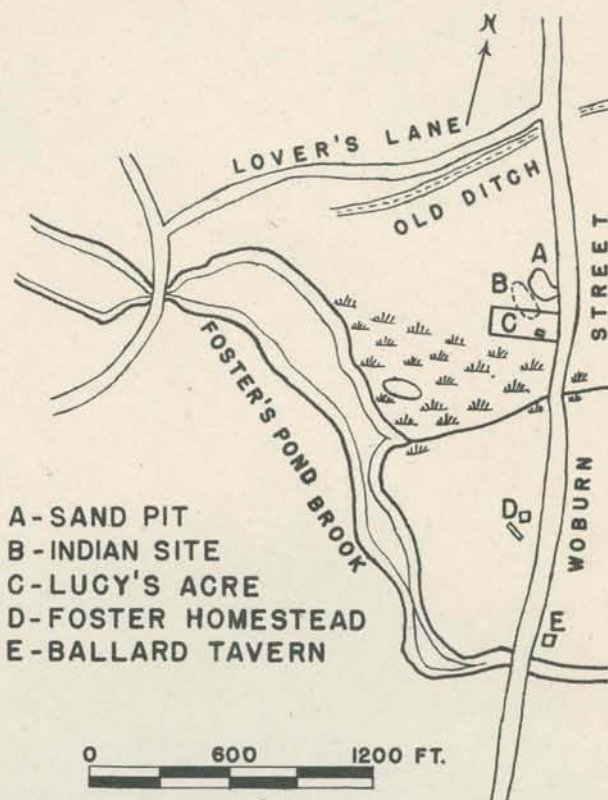
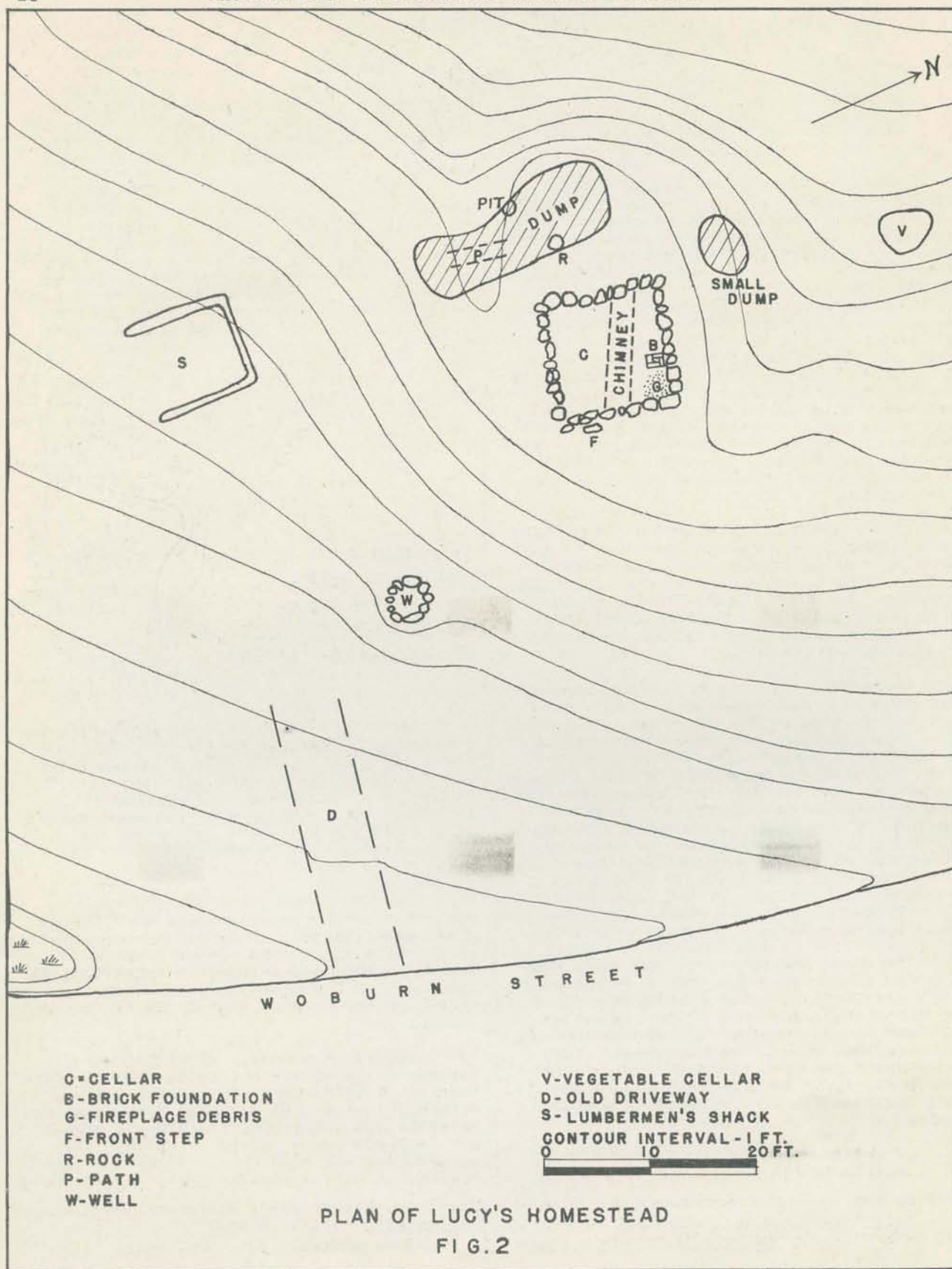


Fig.1. Sketch map of land along Woburn Street in Andover.

For descriptive purposes the fill of the cellar may be divided into three layers; the lowest consisting of waterlaid sand, a complex intermediate layer representing the collapse of the house, and the highest, composed of relatively recently deposited sand and humus.

On top of the clay floor was a layer of mortar and brick fragments $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches thick. Sealing this was a deposit of waterlaid sand 5 to 8 inches deep which was sterile except for the bottom of a glazed

(1) Bullen, R.P. and Hofmann, A.M., "The Stickney Site, Ballardvale, Massachusetts", Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Boston, Mass., Vol. V, No.2, pp.20-25, January, 1944.



jug or mug, standing upright and resting on the layer of fragmentary bricks. In one place a charred board, 10 inches wide, was impressed into the top of the waterlaid sand. This waterlaid sand is believed to have accumulated during the occupancy of the house while the layer of fragmentary bricks presumably represents debris left from the construction of the chimney.

While broken bricks were found throughout the intermediate fill, the fallen chimney, consisting of tightly packed bricks, mortar, and charcoal, was found extending from just south of the center of the east wall across the cellar to the west wall near the northwest corner, Fig.2. Along its center line the chimney rested on the waterlaid sand but towards the sides the reddish brown sand (not waterlaid), of the intermediate fill, was between it and the layer of waterlaid sand. The fill of the intermediate layer in the northeast corner, G in Fig.2, consisted practically entirely of bricks, mortar, charcoal, and ash. Presumably the fireplace was over this corner. An extremely large rock was in the top of the east wall at this point and a small brick foundation, B. in Fig.2, was found resting on the clay floor along the north wall. This foundation consisted of five complete and two incomplete courses of bricks extending upwards a distance of 15½ inches. It formed a rectangle, 11½ inches parallel to the north wall and 21 inches perpendicular to it. The distance between it and the east wall was 34 inches. It seems reasonable to assume that the foundation was originally higher and supported the fireplace or one end of it.

About 16 inches south of the southwest corner of this foundation was a brown deposit, about 8 inches square, which completely penetrated the layer of waterlaid sand and continued slightly into the top of the clay floor. Below this deposit was a 6½ by 7 by 2 inch stone slab in the clay floor. At the south edge of this stone the brown dirt continued into the clay floor a distance of 5 inches. Included in this lower deposit was a nail and a sherd of white glazed pottery.

The above suggests that the stone was embedded in the clay floor as a foundation for a post, which may have slipped off, to support the floor above. Very likely the post was installed after the deposition of the waterlaid sand. Presumably the floor above would have been in front of, or just beside the front of, the fireplace where such a support, with the years, might be needed.

As mentioned above the intermediate fill, enclosing the chimney, consisted of

reddish brown sand which was not waterlaid. Over part of the bottom of this deposit was found decayed wood suggesting a fallen floor. Over a smaller area was plaster suggesting a fallen wall or ceiling. Included in the fill were some food bones and domestic equipment and, on top and to each side of the chimney, rocks from the walls.

The superior layer, very thin in the center of the cellar but about 18 inches thick at the walls, might be roughly divided into an upper and lower part, the lower being light brown and the upper brown in color. The change in color is due, presumably, to a greater concentration of humic material in the upper part. Only a relatively small amount of domestic equipment was contained in this superior layer. As the division between the upper and lower parts sloped downward towards the center of the cellar, this layer may be considered the result of slope wash and soil growth. Covering all was a thin layer of grass and poison ivy.

The ordinary bricks were all hand made, 2 inches thick, 8 inches long, and from 3¼ to 4½ inches wide. The few hearth bricks found were similar but thinner. One varied from 1¼ to 1 5/8 inches in thickness.

Both mortar and what was presumed to be plaster were found. The latter (found in the dump) was mixed with sand but contained no hair. Marks on the plaster indicated that it had been put between bricks and boards or on boards like lathes, but no suggestion of wall paper or of paint was found.

The fragments of wood were insufficient to give much indication of house construction. At least some planks 2 inches thick and boards 10 inches wide had been used. One strut or roof support, 4 inches in diameter, was found as well as one fragment of a roofing slate. The latter is too inconclusive to presume that the house had a slate roof.

Other evidence regarding the construction of the house consisted of window glass and hardware. Very little can be said about the window glass except that it varied slightly in thickness, approximating 1/16 inch, and contained air bubbles. No piece was found which showed how it was set.

Many nails were found varying from 11/8 to 4½ inches in length. According to Mercer, (2) hand wrought nails were only made up to 1800 but their manufacture was continued until 1870 for clenching nails; between 1800 and 1820 nails had cut shanks but hammered heads, while after 1820 the manufacture was done in one operation resulting in square stamped heads. Examples of

(2) Mercer, H.C., Ancient Carpenter's Tools, The Southworth Press, Portland, Maine, 1929, pp.235-247.

all three types were found. Although the house was pretty certainly built by 1815 the presence of nails made after 1820 is not surprising as the house was occupied until about 1845.

Two door pintles (of different types), a long narrow door hinge and a large padlock complete this part of the inventory. The padlock did not bear any identifying marks.

The dump, Fig.2, to the southwest of the cellar, contained a large amount of charcoal but only a relatively small amount was found in the fill of the cellar, except for that directly associated with the fireplace and chimney. The house does not appear to have completely burned down.

While the cellar contained some fragments of glass, pottery, and domestic equipment, most of this material was found in the dump and well, both of which will be covered in more detail later. Digging any place within thirty feet or so of the cellar would uncover sherds of pottery.

From the above information the history of the house may be reconstructed. With construction (probably by 1815) fragments of bricks were left on the clay floor. Over the years of occupancy the waterlaid sand was deposited by slope wash and seepage. The house in part burned (probably in 1845) and somebody went through the debris, either to clean it up or to salvage. He or they shovelled the debris into the dump behind the house, threw a lot of pottery into the well, and, in the process, scattered sherds in every direction. Dirt began to accumulate and after a while the floor and then the chimney fell. More dirt accumulated while the tops of the walls fell in. Finally slope wash and the accumulation of leaves, etc., covered all with soil and sod.

The location of the dumps is shown on the plan, Fig.2. The composition of the larger dump changed from north to south. At the north end it consisted of sod, then three inches of ash and charcoal, then three inches of plaster over some food bones and broken pottery. It was noticed that these bones, being protected by the calcium in the plaster were better preserved than bone found elsewhere on the site. Southward the layer under the plaster increased in thickness and richness of content while the plaster feathered out. Thus towards the south the dump was about five inches thick and under about four inches of sod and dirt. It consisted of pottery, glass, nails, iron, tin, bones, etc., mixed with black dirt containing charcoal.

While excavating this dump three features were observed. The first was a pit, Fig.2, about 22 inches wide and 24 inches deep, dug partly into the side of the hill. There were three rocks along the sides of the pit and some mortar and broken

bricks in the bottom but no clue was noticed as to its original use. The chief content of the pit was a bucket or firewood container of tinplate.

The second feature was a large rock, R in Fig.2, which suggested the support for a back porch. The third feature was a narrow deepening of the dump, P in Fig.2, extending towards the south. This suggested a path, presumably from the back door, which may have been near the south end of the west wall, to the outhouse. Search for the latter was unsuccessful.

From the plan, Fig.2, it will be noticed that the location of the rock, R, the path, P, and the fact that the dump did not extend to the cellar wall, all support the theory that there was a back porch or an extension of the house to the west. Similarly placed rocks were not found to the north, east, or south of the cellar. Three superimposed rocks, F in Fig.2, suggest, by their location, a step. This would place the front door on the east wall near the southeast corner.

A short distance to the northwest of the cellar was a slight depression, V in Fig.2, on the slope of the hill, which did not look natural. Excavation uncovered a large pit, oval in shape, and about 84 by 102 inches in maximum dimensions. The top of this pit was covered with from 10 to 18 inches of sterile sand, presumably the result of slope wash over the past hundred years. The bottom of the pit was 43 inches below the bottom of this sterile sand. This pit contained nothing but brown sand except at its very top. There a restorable Old Leeds(?) mug, several other types of pottery, a gun flint, a pair of spectacles, some buttons, and a few bricks, were found.

Further up the hill were two or three other pits. A trench was put through one of them but it was sterile and furnished no clue to its use. While these pits must remain a mystery the suggestion presents itself that they may have been vegetable cellars.

To the south of the cellar hole was the outline of a shack, S in Fig.2, built by woodchoppers when the land was lumbered just prior to 1900. Digging inside the walls of this shack produced fragments of a stove and grate, the glass chimney of an oil lamp, rectangular as well as round wire nails, a two-hole shell button, a bottle marked "Grand Union Tea Co.", one marked "Larkin Soap Mfg. Co.", fragments of broken whiskey bottles, and five sherds of circa 1835 pottery. All except the latter, which was abundant around the cellar hole, represent good 1900 material. The whiskey bottles are of special interest as they were also found in the well.

The well, W in Fig.2, produced stratigraphy proving, if that were necessary,

that the woodchoppers' shack was later than the abandonment of the house. Starting about two feet below the top of the well there was some dirt and a few rocks. Below them was a layer of broken whiskey bottles with a little dirt. As the 50 inch level was approached some pottery was found mixed with the broken bottles. From 50 to 60 inches the deposit consisted of broken pottery with only a little dirt. From 60 to 63 inches dirt was found but very little pottery. After 63 inches pottery was abundant again down to 68 inches where, at the bottom, was an iron spike. Below this was fine clay and the water table. Fragments of one vessel, an octagonal pitcher which was reconstructed, were found all the way from 50 to 63 inches in depth.

That the material from the cellar hole, well, and dump represents one unit in time is proved by the fact that five plates and bowls were partially reconstructed by fitting together sherds from each of the three places. That the whole unit goes together is further proved by a drinking glass reconstructed from fragments found in the dump and the vegetable(?) cellar and a dish composed of sherds from the dump and a location twenty feet north of the cellar where a concentration of pottery was found.

COLLECTIONS

Pottery (and china), comprising ninety one catalogued items, represents the bulk of the excavated material. With the exception of one whole jug, from the well, the pottery was found as sherds. However, many items were completely or partially restorable and some of them datable. They may be divided into five general classes: based upon their place of origin; Chinese export porcelain (Lowestoft), delft (possibly from Liverpool), various decorated wares from Staffordshire, England (the bulk of the collection), black-glazed red ware (probably of domestic manufacture), and brown-glazed domestic red ware. There was also one yellow ware mug and a salt-glaze jug. The various wares are discussed below. The lack of any lustre ware, although common for the period, is to be noted.

Chinese Export Porcelain

Two examples of this ware were found. One was a very nice bowl, 9 inches in diameter and 3½ inches high. A little running design had been painted near the rim while the sides and bottom were decorated with a bouquet of flowers in a vase using brilliant red, orange, purple, blue, and green colors. Both designs were hand painted. The other was a smaller bowl represented only by rim sherds. A fine hand painted design was on the inside near the rim. These bowls are porcelain, not pottery, being vitreous throughout.

This type of ware was produced in China in the late 18th century. It is reasonably

certain that the particular examples found were imported prior to 1782 as they seem to have been inventoried in an estate of that date as will be explained later. As far as this site is concerned they represent heirloom items.

Delft

A Delft bowl having a thick bluish-white glaze over a porous interior is represented by several sherds. It had been decorated, somewhat crudely, with blue, hand painted flowers. As such bowls were included in the inventory mentioned above, it can, with reasonable certainty, be dated as prior to 1782 and is another heirloom.

Pictorial Staffordshire

A decorated plate, "The Landing of Lafayette", is probably the most interesting item. This was made by Clews for the American trade to commemorate the visit of Lafayette in 1824. It is a collector's item, dark blue, and can be dated to 1825-1834.

A green "Canova" plate, in honor of the Italian sculptor, made by T. Mayer circa 1829, is also a collector's item.

Another plate, in blue, with a view of a castle was marked "BATALHA, PORTUGAL" on the back. It had no maker's name but a duplicate plate in the museum of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, also without any maker's name, is dated on the label as 1810-1825.

One blue plate with a floral rim decoration and an architectural view on the bottom was marked on the reverse side with "Morea" in a shield and over the words "Stone China". Unfortunately the plate is incomplete so that the maker's name is missing. Possibly the title should be "Moreau".

Two cups and deep saucers, 5½ inches in diameter, had a border of flowers and scrolls and a center design of a three-story building with two women and a child in the foreground, all in blue on white. On the bottom was printed "Stone China" but no maker's name. The saucers also had an impressed figure "4". Evidently these came in sets. The authors have been unable to identify this picture or the border design.

The famous "Willow" pattern is represented by fragments of two plates and a cup. One of the plates with the cross-hatched type of rim was marked "J & W Ridgeway" with an impressed figure "5". It was evidently made between 1814 and 1830 when the firm was known by that name. The other plate is only represented by part of the rim which bears the complicated design frequently found today on restaurant ware.

A blue cup was decorated with a bridge

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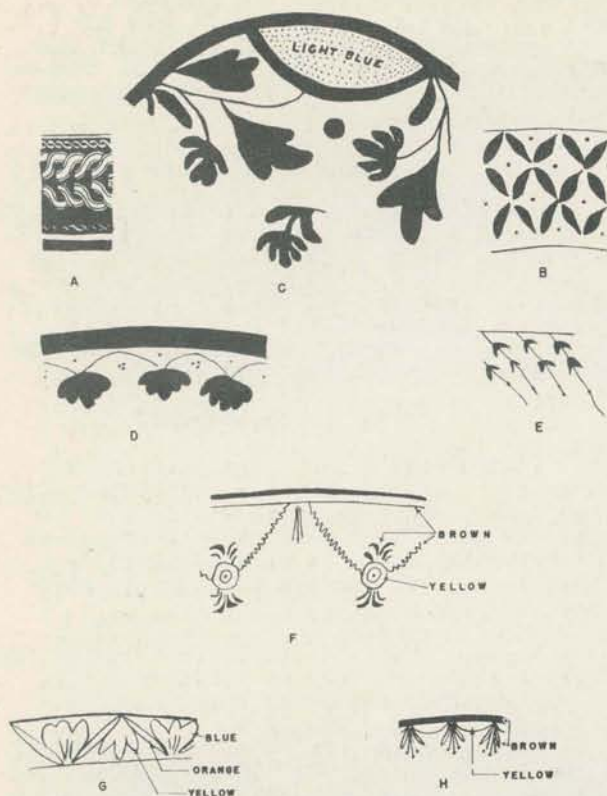


Fig. 3. Various Staffordshire decorations.

and fields on one side while the other shows an architectural ruin being viewed by two men. On the inside the bridge and field was repeated in miniature.

Fragments of large saucers decorated on the inside with a coiled rope border design in white on a blue background were found. Unfortunately only a bit of the bottom was discovered. This showed a sheaf of grain. As the authors have not been able to identify the border design a sketch of it is given herewith, A in Fig. 3.

One interesting fragment in blue and white showed a man, wearing a cocked hat and knee breeches. He is walking across a bridge carrying a load of firewood(?) on his shoulder.

Marbleware

Two examples of this ware were found. One was a mug with a light blue band around the rim above the marblelike sides. The other was a reddish brown bowl with marblelike band around the middle. It had a black and white border near the rim.

Mochaware

Mochaware was represented by parts of

three bowls. Two were of black on reddish brown with incised green lines near the rim. The other was black on yellow-brown with a border of black and white lines above and below.

Both marbleware and mochaware may be dated as around 1820.

Various Unidentified Designs

Many sherds were found with decorations in blue as well as other colors which are not found in public collections or illustrated in books covering Staffordshire wares. While they may possibly be correctly dated as after 1835, when the English potters gave up dark blue and branched out into a great proliferation of colors and designs, some of them may be earlier. This excavation seems to date those found here as manufactured before 1845.

As they are not collectors' items and consequently have been neglected in the literature an attempt will be made here to include those susceptible to verbal description and illustration by line drawings.

The one found here most frequently, represented by cups, saucers, and sauce or cereal dishes, consisted of a conventional design in blue on white, possibly representing leaves, forming squares in the center of which were dots, B in Fig. 3. This was found on the outside of the cups and the inside of the saucers and dishes. In the bottom the leaves(?) have been arranged radially to form a star.

One design, apparently on a bowl, is extremely difficult to describe accurately but must be mentioned as it is so spectacular. A mat of small white conventionalized flowers on a blue background surrounded an oval panel. On the blue background of the panel was a white dove with its head turned to look over its shoulder. Another was a pitcher decorated on the outside with a complicated bright blue floral design. These pitchers are sometimes seen in antique shops.

Cups, saucers, and dishes were found decorated with a fairly bold design of leaves and flowers in dark blue alternating with light blue panels, C in Fig. 3. As usual the cup was decorated on the outside and the saucer and dish on the inside.

Another cup and saucer had a band of blue flowers with connecting stems, D in Fig. 3. Blue dots were interspersed between the flowers.

A more delicate treatment was shown by a cup having on the outside blue lines, running diagonally towards the bottom and connecting leaves and dots, E in Fig. 3.

A rather pleasing design in brown and yellow on white was found on a bowl 7 inches in diameter, F in Fig. 3. A slight variation

of it was found on a dish. The chief characteristic of this design is the "wiggly" lines. In the Athenaeum collection in Hartford, Connecticut, this motif is labeled as being used in 1820.

A cup and saucer were found decorated with a band of alternating yellow and blue flowers divided by an orange leaf, G in Fig.3.

Cups and saucers were also found decorated with garlands of seeds and leaves in brown and yellow, H in Fig.3.

Other designs included sprigs of reddish fruit with green leaves, bands of gold leaves, seeds, and blue flowers, and connected yellow fruit which look like yellow strawberries.

Plates with Raised Edges

Under this heading may be put fifteen plates, 7½ to 9 inches in diameter, and soup plates, 9 inches in diameter. They all had raised and usually scalloped edges but the rest of the plate is smooth. There were many minor variations in the treatment of the edges. Some were white all over but most have a band of blue near the rim. One had a green instead of a blue edge. Another was octagonal with a green edge.

These seem to have been the regular table ware of the period. No doubt the variations in the raised edge and the distance the color extends from the edge, as well as the shade of blue, varied with the manufacturer. Unfortunately, however such details do not attract the attention of collectors and have not been studied. These plates are commonly referred to as blue edged Leeds or blue edged Staffordshire. In this collection only two were marked. One, with a blue edge had "Stevenson" impressed in the bottom. While it probably was made around 1820 the date is not exact. One of the blue edged soup plates had impressed in the bottom a crown within a circle. Owing to its fragmentary condition only part of the lettering was present. These were the letters "CL". Undoubtedly the balance of the design would have included the words "Clews Warranted Staffordshire" indicating manufacture between 1818 and 1840.

Queensware

Remnants of queensware cups, saucers, sauce dishes, plates, soup plates, bowls, and pitchers were found. This was probably the most common ware. One small plate had an octagonal rim. One soup plate had impressed in the bottom "T. Mayer" and "Stoke". It must have been made in 1829 or shortly thereafter.

Various Mugs and Pitchers

Several examples of these useful

containers were found. Frequently the rim opposite the handle is missing so that it is not always possible to determine whether they were a mug or a pitcher.

One was "barrel shaped", 3 inches high and 3½ inches in maximum diameter. It was decorated with a band of delicate flowers and leaves in orange, green, blue, and brownish gold near the rim. The white glaze background had a bluish green cast. The design and glaze suggest that this may be what is called "Old Leeds" and dates to the very late 18th Century but it may be later in manufacture.

Another mug or pitcher with straight sides, 4½ inches high, 3 inches in diameter, was decorated with a complicated floral design in blue on glaze with a bluish cast. Near the rim was blue crosshatching. While not the "flowing blue" of collectors, that technique is suggested.

The commoner black and white checkerboard type of design was represented by a pitcher. Near the top and bottom was a brown band enclosing six incised horizontal green lines.

A shaving(?) mug, 3½ inches high and 4 inches in diameter, had its yellow monotonousness relieved by simple raised lines painted white. Being of "yellow ware" this specimen was probably of domestic manufacture, 1830 or later.

An octagonal water pitcher from the well was decorated with a brown design consisting of a castle, lake, boats, and people with camels. Both inside and out, near the rim, were flowers and scrolls. While this pitcher may remind us of the summer hotels of our youth it was a very complicated piece to make. Not only was it octagonal but it also had raised panels. It was probably one of the very latest pieces in the collection and suggests the later "General Grant Era".

Salt Glaze

A jug, 8 inches high, was the only example of this ware found. It came from the well and was the only piece found whole.

Black Glazed Red Ware

Black glazed red ware jugs, mugs, and teapots were represented in the collection. While no beanpots could be identified, some of partly reconstructed specimens may represent that respectable New England institution.

Brown Glazed Red Ware

Fragments of two mixing bowls of this ware were found. Both were decorated with vertical dark brown smears. They were glazed on both the inside and the outside while the balance of the brown glazed red

were was only glazed on the inside.

Three examples of pie plates were found. They were 1 to 1½ inches deep and 9 inches in diameter.

Fragments of a few large dishes for separating cream from milk were found. They were 3½ inches deep with flaring sides that expand from about 9 inches diameter at the bottom to 15 inches at the top.

The remains of many storage jars or crocks attested to the importance of preserving food in the days before the tin can came into use. They all seemed to be about 9 inches in diameter and 10 inches high with slightly barrel-shaped sides.

Drinking Glasses

Fragments of four different types of drinking glasses were found. One, 3½ inches high and 2½ inches in maximum diameter was decorated with three different bands cast from the original mold. Another had curvilinear flutings for sides. Two were plain with straight smooth sides. The fourth type was represented by the base and stem of what presumably had been a goblet.

Knives, Forks, and Spoons

Five table knives were found. They had riveted wooden handles, curved iron blades with rounded ends and a humped back. One kitchen knife, also with a wooden handle was found.

The eight two-tined or "tungd" forks, also with riveted wooden handles, apparently represented a set.

The spoons were all of pewter. Three large spoons were represented by two bowls and one handle. The latter had a cryptic design, possibly representing letters, cast on the front. Both the bowls were of the "rat-tail" type. Neither of them seemed to go with the handle.

The two complete teaspoons were the size of our coffee spoons. They were undecorated.

Food Remains

No remains of vegetable food was found. Judging from the vast quantity of animal bones meat must have been extremely important in the diet. Pig, sheep, cow, and a few fowl bones were identified by Barbara Lawrence, Associate Curator of Mammals, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. No wild animal bones were found but a few unidentified bones may represent wild birds. The domestic animal bones were obviously of young animals as the epiphyses had not as yet closed. At least a quarter of them, including all the larger one, had either been sawed or marked with carving knives.

Bones of three fish were found. W.C. Schroeder, Assistant Curator of Fishes, Oceanographic Laboratory, Harvard University has stated that two of these appear to represent a codfish, Gadus callarias, and a sea herring, Clupea harengus. Both of these must have come from salt water. The third fish could not be identified.

There were also several fragments of the shell of the fresh water clam, Elliptio complanatus dill, which is still to be found in the neighboring Shawsheen River.

Kitchen Equipment

The brown-glazed mixing bowls and pie plates and the black-glazed teapots have already been mentioned. Some of the Queensware plates contained fine cracks in their surface suggesting that they may have been used as oven dishes. Otherwise cooking containers were only represented by two metal covers. Very likely, pots and frying pans were of cast iron and salvaged after the fire.

The rather extensive inventory of tinplate included two bowls, a pail, a cup or dipper, what appears to be the bottom of a salt shaker, and a large container, probably for firewood. It had a wire handle, bent so that the part for the hand was straight, a raised line near the rim, and seven holes punched, close together, in each side as a decoration.

Household Furniture

A chest of drawers, etc., was represented by seven escutcheons, six with pulls and one with a keyhole. The escutcheons and pulls are of brass but the latter were held on by iron wires which apparently went through the front panel of the drawer. All are decorated with an incised diamond design. This type of escutcheon can be dated to about the middle of the eighteenth century. Another similar keyhole escutcheon, but decorated with a different design, was marked "J & G" on the back.

Two candle holders and the top of a lantern complete the evidence as to household furnishings.

Tools

The ubiquitous binding wire was represented by several coils. Nails have been mentioned earlier. Parts of one hoe and two shovels were found. One of the latter had a divided top for the handle. Less expected were a 5 inch pair of dividers, a 1 5/8 inch diameter grindstone, and part of a sectional ramrod for a gun.

Gun flints were common. Some had never been used while some were greatly worn. Out of the twenty saved, two merit special mention. One was oval in shape reminding one of an Indian scraper. The other was

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circular with rounded, well worn, edges. It strongly suggests that it was part of a fire-lighting set.

Clothes and Sewing Equipment

Three round-headed pins, the eye for a hook-and-eye unit, part of a belt buckle, small scissors, a thimble and fifty-five buttons were found. Shoes were represented by a leather heel and sole. The former had been nailed on and the latter hand sewn.

The buttons included both plain and decorated ones. Several of them still contained thread in the eye. Five were of wood, ten of iron, one of bone, one of shell, five of silver, and the rest of brass or other metal. These may be divided into those with holes and those with eyes.

The holed buttons include those of bone, shell, wood and five of those of iron. The shell button had a cut decoration. The wooden buttons were in various sizes from 3/8 to 3/4 inches in diameter. The five iron buttons were of the four-holed variety.

The rest of the buttons included both plain and decorated varieties. Some were obviously originally cloth covered. Four were round of which two bore complicated incising. Many of the buttons were gilded. Two were datable. One of these, marked "L. H. & Scovill Extra Rich", was made in Waterbury, Connecticut, between 1811 and 1827. The other was marked "R. & W. Robinson Best Extra Rich Jones & Co." It was made in Attleboro, Massachusetts, between 1831 and 1843.

Other Personal Belongings

Many white clay pipes attested to the popularity of smoking. Some were plain and some decorated. All had pronounced spurs on three of which "G" and "W" were molded on opposite sides. Typologically they can be told from eighteenth century pipes but other than that not much can be said about them.

One pipe was entirely different from the rest. It was of red, instead of white clay. The bowl was decorated with a raised floral design and the stem was short and thick and obviously arranged for an inset handle, presumably of wood. While this pipe seems to be somewhat of an enigma in Ballardvale, the authors are advised by Mr. Langdon Warner of the Fogg Museum that he has seen such pipes in Georgia. It may easily have come from there.

Parts of three eye glasses indicate that at least one of the inhabitants had eye trouble. Judging from the lense, still in one, they were only for magnification.

The only piece of jewelry found was a small brooch pin. It consisted simply of plain glass in a brass frame.

Four small specimens appear to be parts of umbrellas or parasols, the part used to hold the cloth at the end of the arm or rib. One was nicely carved of bone with a ball tip. Another was of brass and similarly had a ball tip. The other two were much simpler and consisted of simple funnels of rolled brass with holes in the sides for sewing on the umbrella cloth. Apparently three umbrellas or parasols were represented

Two pocket or clasp knives were found. They are quite modern in appearance.

The only coin was an 1827 United States Penny.

Glass Bottles

A great many remnants of glass bottles completed the inventory. They included a fairly wide range of types. One type consisted of large bottles blown of thick green glass. On the bottom of one was cast "H Rickets Co. Glass Works Bristol". Apparently this was another importation from England.

Twelve bottles of thin glass with very thick bottoms suggest perfume or medicine, more likely the latter. They varied from 3/4 to 2 inches in diameter. Some were of white and some of slightly greenish glass.

Several rectangular bottles suggested patent medicine or "vanilla extract" for cooking. One had "175" and another "605" blown in the bottom.

Discussion of Dating

From the historic records, which will be given later, it is pretty certain that this house was built between 1812 and 1815 and destroyed in 1845. It is of interest to archaeology, however, to see if the same dates can be reconstructed from the specimens excavated.

It will be noticed that the bulk of the datable pottery was made between 1810 and 1840. The Chinese export porcelain and the Delft are the only exception. They are in such a minority, however, that they would hardly seem to represent the period of occupancy.

The buttons also span approximately the years 1810-40 as one covers from 1811 to 1827 and the other 1831 to 1843. The coin and the nails also give the same period.

It seems therefore that approximately the same dates would be arrived at from a study of the material as from historic research. 1810 to 1843 is suggested from the material, 1815 to 1845 from historic research. The slight temporal lag would be expected as there would be some delay between manufacture and use.

Historic Records

There are three types of original records having to do with this site. They are the Registry of Deeds, the Probate Court Records, both for Essex County and available in Salem, Mass., and the records of the South Church, Congregational, of Andover and of the Andover Infirmary. The tax records of Andover, while not shedding any light upon the house itself, are part of the record of the site in the broader sense. For secondary sources we have Charlotte Helen Abbott's Notes (typed by an ERA project and deposited in the Andover Memorial Library) and her articles on Historic Andover (specifically #107 of April 12, 1901) published in the Andover Townsman. Both the notes and articles have many inaccuracies. We also have an article by Alfred Poor under History of Andover, Woburn Street, published in the Andover Advertiser of August 29, 1863, and the Vital Records of Massachusetts. The name "Black Lucy's Garden" was used by Poor in referring to the site.

The story of this site is really the biography of Lucy Foster, a negress. As it sheds some light on the Andover of 100 to 200 years ago, as well as giving the very human story of Lucy, it seems worthwhile to briefly include it here. The history of the specimens dug up cannot be properly separated from the history of those who used them.

The land was originally part of the 100 acre farm of Job Foster which he inherited from his father Joseph Foster in 1751. Job married Hannah Ford of Wilmington in 1760 and their first child, a son, Joseph, was born in 1762 while their second child, a daughter, Mary, was born in 1775. Living with the Fosters as a servant, at least by 1770, was a Negro slave named Lucy. We cannot tell from where she came but Alfred Poor in his article says "She was the daughter of a slave in Boston and was given to Mrs. C. (Chandler) when she was the wife of Job Foster." It was this Lucy who later built and lived in the house we excavated.

Lucy in 1771 had a daughter, Sarah, by Job Foster as is duly recorded by the Rev. Samuel Phillips, minister of South Church, in his record book, "July 14, 1771 Sarah a child given to Job Foster and Lucy a Negro Child was baptised." A later record book of the South Church records Lucy's second child, "Oct. 20, 1792 bapt. Peter, son of Lucy Foster, negro woman". The other parent is not given but it could not have been Job Foster as he had died ten years before. We do not know what happened to Sarah but there is a very excellent chance that Peter

later lived with his mother in her home.

Job Foster died of smallpox and was buried Jan. 1, 1782. He died intestate and his estate is of interest to us as apparently documenting some of the specimens excavated. Hannah, Job's widow, and Philemon Chandler, whom she later married, were bonded as administrators. Their inventory, dated May 18, 1782, has only a few points of interest for us. In the first place Lucy is not listed as an asset so that either she was the property of Hannah (as Alfred Poor said in his article) or she received her freedom in 1780 as was generally the case in Massachusetts. The chest of drawers listed may be the source of the escutcheons from the excavation. The two dozen pewter plates and five pewter dishes clearly indicate that pottery was not yet commonly in use.

In 1785 Hannah's son, Joseph Foster, petitioned the court that his mother had omitted from the inventory certain items and that this omission was to his detriment. With his petition he listed the omitted items several of which are of considerable interest as they apparently include some of the excavated material. Hannah duly presented an added inventory. No doubt she considered these things as not worthy of inclusion and we have Joseph to thank for the more complete record. Included are "11 stone plates and 1 dish, 5 turtle shell plates, 2 glass mugs, 2 wine glass, 2 'delf' bowls, 3 China dishes, 8 two dung forks, 1 hay ditto, and case of drawers."

While the authors are not able to identify the first few items, it will be remembered that the base of a glass goblet, one delf bowl, two Chinese export porcelain bowls, and eight "two tungd" forks were found. Some of these appear to be the same. The inclusion of the eight forks may be questioned but the authors would point out that eight forks for "dung" pitching would seem to be an excessive number while a poorly written "d" (and it was not good handwriting) might easily make a "t". The division of the property, in 1786, does not mention the disposition of these items. If they are the same ones used by Lucy they were probably given to her later by Hannah. (3)

In 1789 Hannah married Philemon Chandler who was then seventy-two years old. Both Hannah and Lucy left the Foster farm and went to live with Philemon. In 1792 Lucy's son Peter was born and on Sept. 27, 1793 Lucy was received into the South Church on profession of faith.

(3) The division of the property mentions "ditches". They are part of "Fort Graham". See Bullen, R.P., "Forts, Boundaries, or Ha-has?", BULLETIN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Vol. IV, No. 1, Oct. 1942.

Philemon Chandler died in 1798 and, according to Alfred Poor, Hannah (and Lucy and Peter?) shortly afterwards moved back to the Foster homestead, D in Fig.1. Hannah died on Christmas day 1812. In her will, dated Dec. 15, 1812, she says "give to Lucy Foster, the Black Girl, who lives with me, 1 cow, 1 acre of land on the left side of the road leading from my house to the south meeting house in Andover and bounded by a line beginning at a pair of bars in the wall next beyond the apple tree which stands near the fence a few rods beyond the brook which runs through my land (bounds are given), to have and to hold the same to the said Lucy for and during her natural life". Joshua Ballard is named as executor.

While the fence and apple tree are gone, this approximately locates Lucy's acre, C in Fig.1. Joshua Ballard was probably living in the "Ballard Tavern", E in Fig.1, as on the Andover town map of 1830 that building is marked "J. Ballard". While we cannot be sure as to exactly when Lucy's cottage was built, it could not have been before 1813. Joshua Ballard as executor had a moral obligation to see Lucy installed. Alfred Poor says, "Capt. Joshua Ballard with \$150 of her own money (Lucy's), together with some more contributed by her friends, built her cot, (cottage) about 1815". She was probably living there by 1815.

Hannah left a lot of debts when she died and Joshua Ballard sold various parcels of the Foster farm to the highest bidders. He, himself, bought the homestead. Stephen Abbott bought two parcels of Foster upland and meadow. The bounds are difficult to trace but apparently these parcels are to the west of Lucy's acre. In 1814 Mary Foster (Hannah's daughter), who was residual heir, both of remainder and reversion, sold 20 acres from the Wilmington Road (Woburn Street) to the west but reserves to Lucy the use of her acre under the will of Hannah Foster. It is not clear as to whether or not this deed duplicates in part the deeds from Joshua Ballard, Executor, to Stephen Abbott. In any event it clears the title so that at Lucy's death her acre would go to Stephen Abbott.

In 1815 Stephen Abbott sold to Ebenezer Jones, the great-grandfather of the present owner, "a certain tract of meadow and woodland *** starting at the northeast corner on the westerly side of the Andover-Wilmington Road, thence westerly 59 rods by an old ditch (4) (Fig.1) *** thence southerly about 24 rods up the brook to land of Joshua Ballard, thence easterly by Ballard and by a brook about 26 rods to Boston Road so called, thence northerly by road about 20

rods to land set off to Lucy Foster according to will of Hannah Chandler, thence 8 rods by Lucy's land to stake and stones, thence still by said road about 89 rods to first bound mentioned, containing more or less 20 acres, reserving to Lucy Foster all the right she hath to one acre of land agreeable to the last will and testament of widow Hannah Chandler."

In 1820 Ebenezer Jones mortgaged this land. The mortgage deed gives the same bounds as above except for carefully going around Lucy's acre so that if there had been a foreclosure Lucy would not have been affected.

From these two deeds Lucy's acre can be definitely located. The 89 rods from Lucy's land to the "old ditch" is clearly an error in the deed. However, starting from the brook and measuring northward 20 rods brings one to the southeast corner of Lucy's acre, Fig.1. At this point can be seen a break in the remains of an old wall and a road can be traced a short distance to the west, D in Fig.2. Going along the road 8 rods further does not disclose the "stake and stones" but continuing from this point westward it will be noticed, Fig.1, that the north boundary of Lucy's acre crosses an Indian site. In the excavation of this site (5) two piles of rocks were found. They would be approximately on this boundary line.

These deeds have been quoted to show how carefully Lucy's interest in her acre was protected and to confirm the dating of the material. In 1857 there is another deed from Ebenezer Jones to his son-in-law, Hezekiah Jones, with no mention of Lucy's interest.

In the records of the Andover Infirmary is the notation: "Lucy Foster, admitted Oct. 22, 1845, born Boston, 88 years old, state ward, died Nov. 1, 1845." She had no interest therefore in the land in 1857 and her omission from the deed mentioned in the previous paragraph is, of course, proper. It is also evident that she lived in her cottage ten days before her death. While we cannot be sure, the chances are that the fire occurred just prior to her admission and possibly was the cause.

Did Lucy live alone those thirty years? The large number of gun flints suggests hunting which would presumably be difficult for Lucy at her age. It must be remembered that she was 58 in 1815. Also the large number of food bones, fish and animal, suggests frequent visits to town. At 58 Lucy was no doubt quite active and probably

(4) Ibid.

(5) Bullen and Hofman. Op. cit.

supported herself by working but by 1840 she would be 83 and presumably somewhat restricted in her activities.

Miss Ethel Howell, of Andover, whose mother was born on the Foster farm (then the Howell farm) was told by her great-aunt that a negro couple used to live where the cellar hole is. While we have no proof, the suggestion that the couple may have been Lucy and her son Peter seems logical. Peter would have been 20 in 1812 and the desire of Lucy to make a home for her son may be the reason for the cottage.

While we know about most of the landmarks in Lucy's life, something about the clothes she wore and the food she ate, we can only surmise about her as an individual. She seems to have been a worthy, respected, and faithful person with a flair for collecting pottery. The fact that she had a child by Job Foster in 1771 cannot be held against her alone. She was 14 and a slave at the time while Job was 45. Certainly Hannah Foster did not hold it against her. While we cannot tell what motivated people to help build her cottage, they would not have done so if she was not accepted as a respectable member of the community.

She (and Peter) probably supported themselves by odd jobs as well as raising some of their own food. In the Indian site, B in Fig. 1, pottery, indistinguishable from that found in the cellar hole, was mixed with Indian material. (6) A hoe was also found in the dump from Lucy's cottage. Alfred Poor suggests that Lucy had a garden on top of the hill. Technically this would have been trespassing on the land of Ebenezer Jones. He must have permitted it, suggesting, again, that Lucy was well thought of. That Lucy was able to take care of herself for the last thirty years of her life, from 58 to 88, is a distinct compliment.

From this site we get a glimpse of old Andover. The excellent documentation of the excavated material will permit much more accurate dating of many things, particularly pottery, than has been possible before. This will be useful in future excavations. Without exception some error has been found in every one of the secondary sources used. While the errors have not been emphasized here, this is a clear indication that in Colonial archaeology it is necessary to check all secondary sources with the original records.

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Andover, Massachusetts
June, 1944

(6) Ibid.

Vol 6 #2

THE DOLMEN ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Frederick Johnson

For years a dolmen was known to exist on the land now owned by Mrs. Mary B. Austin on Martha's Vineyard. A number of people inspected the dolmen from time to time and reported that it was a structure of considerable interest and that it should be investigated; the problem being its origin. That is, was the dolmen made by the Indians, by early Norse visitors to the Island, or by English colonists?

The dolmen is located some 85 meters from Mrs. Austin's house, the direction from the southernmost chimney of the house being 284 degrees (1). Additional bearings from the center of the capstone are; chimney on the house of Allan Flanders, 40 degrees; church at Gay Head 331 degrees.

The structure may be found to the south and just under the crown of a hill or ridge, the general direction of which runs east and west. A second ridge south of the dolmen joins the main ridge some 70 meters east of the dolmen. These two ridges form a valley in the bottom of which there is a swamp which drains into a brook connecting Menemsha Pond with Squibnocket. The edge of the swamp is some 15 meters downhill from the dolmen and it is about 5 meters lower than the dolmen. North-east of the dolmen about midway between it and Mrs. Austin's house is a swampy sinkhole about 10 meters in diameter.

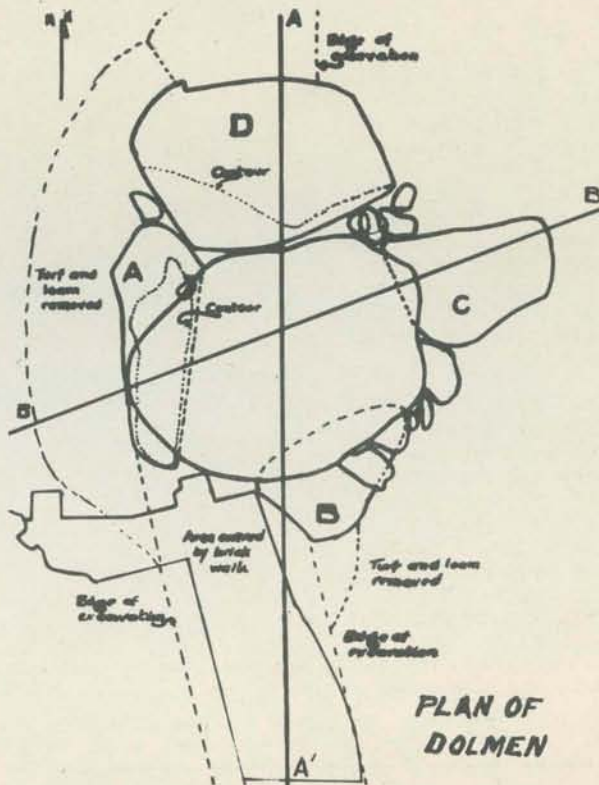
The rolling landscape is characterized by the absence of trees, the vegetation being comprised of low bushes in clumps on the sides of the ridges. The tops of the ridges are usually barren except for coarse grasses. Many stone walls divide the land into large lots but except for a few boulders there are few stones to be seen on the surface.

Covering the top of the main ridge there is a small Indian shell heap, a few shovels full of which yielded fragments of deer bone, clam shells, and earth stained with charcoal and rotted refuse.

On Thursday, September 7, 1934, my wife and I with two Gay Head Indians began work on the dolmen. While the men were clearing away the brush which was found in the western and southern sides of the dolmen, we mapped the dolmen.

Excavation was begun by removing the

sod from the area south of the entrance of the dolmen. The first layer of sod, which was 7 centimeters thick, uncovered a "brick walk" extending from the entrance of the dolmen in a southerly direction. The area covered by this "brick walk" was 220 centimeters long by 65 to 70 centimeters wide. (See plan of floor of dolmen for details.) The bricks were handmade bricks, probably of local origin. Two of the bricks measured 17 centimeters square by 4.5 centimeters thick. These two bricks were at the northern end of the walk, one being the nearest brick to stone A, the other forming the corner nearest to stone B. The remaining bricks which were not broken measured 19 centimeters by 9 centimeters by 4.5 centimeters thick. All the fragments which were found appeared to be parts of bricks of the latter size. The measurements of the bricks vary a little and some of them are curved and partly glazed, this probably happened accidentally in the kiln.



Following the measurement of the "brick walk" the bricks were removed.

(1) The compass variation was taken as 15 degrees west.

The turf had extended its roots into the soil between the bricks and to some extent beneath them. It was impossible to determine definitely whether the bricks had been laid upon turf or upon bare soil. However the depth of the soil beneath the bricks, 9 centimeters, would indicate that perhaps they had been laid upon live turf and that the interstices had been filled with soil. The top layer of turf had then grown upon soil washed down from the hillside and the roots had penetrated to the lower layer.

The removal of the sod from the area indicated on the plan of the dolmen brought to light the following: south of the entrance, one rubber jar washer such as is used on Mason preserving jars; 30 centimeters west of the entrance, 4 small pieces of glass which had been broken off a thick piece of plate glass; not far from the glass, a piece of rusty iron was found; north of stone D and 8 centimeters beneath the surface, a rusty iron gate hinge. The removal of the surface soil from the floor of the dolmen revealed a small rectangular piece of brass through which a hole had been punched.

The top-soil, which was slate gray in color, consisted of fine sand mixed with a meagre supply of rotted vegetable material. In the area of the brick walk it was 16 centimeters thick, this being divided into two strata by the bricks. Within the dolmen there was a layer of top-soil, but almost no turf, 20 centimeters thick. Underlying this there was a stratum of soil containing less vegetable matter 10 centimeters thick. Beneath this the "hard-pan" was found. The thickness about the bricks was probably caused by their being laid upon the original surface. The soil inside the dolmen was probably built up by wash from the hill above.

The "hard-pan", uncovered by removal of the top-soil, consisted of a fine yellow sand mixed with some clay in which there were boulders varying from the size of one's fist to the size of one's head. As far as could be determined, the hard-pan was undisturbed when we uncovered it. A trench, following the size and shape of the brick wall was dug to a depth of 60 centimeters. This trench produced nothing in the way of artifacts and there was not the slightest sign of its ever having been disturbed by human activities.

In the northward extension of the trench into the entrance of the dolmen a number of small bits of charcoal were found. A fire pit was finally discovered inside the dolmen near stone B, (see plan of floor of dolmen). This fire pit was 24 centimeters in diameter and the top was 17 centimeters from the original surface. The deepest part of the pit was 22 centimeters from the original surface, i.e. the pit was 5 centimeters deep. This fire pit was filled with charcoal, some of which had not

been completely carbonized so that it was immediately determined that wood had been burned there. There were several hand forged nails associated with the fire pit and one piece of charcoal had the remains of several nails in it. Thus it was obvious that the wood that had been burned there had had nails driven into it. The earth about the fire pit was not affected by the fire, there was no change of color or any other evidence of chemical changes because of heat. The stone (stone B etc.) near the fire pit showed no evidence of having been subjected to heat. It is probable that the fire was of short duration. It may also be suggested that the fire was contemporaneous with the "brick walk". The difference in depth from the surface might be accounted for by the difference of location, i.e. the surface over the brick walk would be more exposed and thus would build up more slowly than the protected surface inside the dolmen.

We dug the floor of the dolmen to a depth of 65 centimeters beneath the fire pit and in front of stone C. The remainder of the floor was dug to a depth of 50 centimeters. What first appeared to be disturbance in the earth beneath the floor turned out to be pockets of discolored earth of natural, not human, origin. At a depth averaging about 30 centimeters from the top, the "hard-pan" was found, it being the same as that found outside the structure.

Further excavation was done in the area west of stone A and north of stone D. In this trench, the turf was removed and the digging stopped as soon as the undisturbed hard-pan was reached.

It is evident that the makers of the dolmen utilized stones which had only to be moved a short distance. Stone A may have been moved slightly from its original position. As it is found today, the northern half of the lower face rests directly upon the "hard-pan". The southern half slants upward and this part is supported by three boulders which rest, not upon the hard pan, but upon top soil which is about 7 centimeters thick. It is possible to believe that this stone has been set upon its edge and supported in this position by the stones mentioned above. The earth under the northern end may have been excavated to allow the end to drop down, so leveling the top of the stone. Stone B rests upon a layer of top soil which is about 7 centimeters thick. Around this stone a number of smaller ones have been set, apparently to keep it from rocking. Only the west side of stone C was uncovered but this indicated that the northern edge of the stone was firmly imbedded in the hard pan and that the sandy soil had worked its way underneath its southern edge for a few centimeters. Because of the slope of the hill, the surface of the land was even with the top of the stone on its northern

edge and practically even with the bottom of the stone on its southern edge. This slope of the hill left an open space between stones B and C which the makers of the dolmen closed with a number of boulders none of which act as supports for the capstone. Stone D has its northern edge firmly imbedded in the hard-pan. Beneath the southern edge a few centimeters of top soil may be found, this probably has worked its way in from the floor of the structure. The space between D and C has been filled with four boulders, placed one on top of the other, probably by the builder.

The origin of the capstone is not absolutely certain but probably it comes from a large stone, lying to the northwest of the structure. By a stretch of the imagination it is possible to see how the capstone might have split off naturally and then have been turned through 180 degrees and rolled into its present position.

Conclusions

There is no doubt whatever that this dolmen was made by human hands. It is difficult to determine just how much labor was involved in its construction but it is certain that stones A and B were moved to some extent. There is no evidence to indicate that C and D are in other than their natural positions. As for the capstone, little more can be said than the obvious, that is, it was placed upon the supporting stone and smaller stones used to chock it. Openings in the sides of the dolmen have been filled with small boulders.

The excavation brought to light the brick walk, the firepit, glass, rusty iron, the gate hinge, and a piece of brass. All these things are of Colonial origin, and so may be dated as not earlier than 1600. Further research might make it possible to date the bricks exactly. It might also be possible to determine the date when the bricks were laid by a long investigation of the length of time required for turf to grow 7 centimeters thick in the locality of the dolmen. There are some doubts, however, as to the value of such a study in the present case.

The fire pit immediately suggests some activity about the structure, but the thinness of the deposit, and the lack of any trace of continued burning in the surrounding earth is an indication that the fire was lighted but once and burned only for a short time. Furthermore, the presence of incompletely charred wood supports the above statement. As was said in the account of the excavation of the fire pit, it is probable that the fire pit and the brick walk are of the same age.

What tangible evidence we have, then forces the conclusion that human activities associated with the dolmen were post-Colonial. I may hazard a guess that at some

time some children "played house" in the dolmen, built the brick walk and got smoke in their eyes from a fire which they made of old scrap wood which was full of nails.

More serious considerations having to do with the dolmen are almost immediately frustrated by the lack of any further evidence. The excavation produced nothing except those articles mentioned above, which came from the top-soil. There was no trace of any kind of human activity in the earth beneath. The few quartz pebbles which were found occur naturally throughout the island, there were no flint chips or any other sign of human occupation.

A determination of the age of the dolmen would be based on two things. First, on the assumption that the 7 centimeters of top-soil beneath the south end of stone A and beneath stone B was the thickness of the soil when the dolmen was made. Secondly, the rate of accumulation of top-soil would have to be determined. There is no proof of the first assumption and the second consideration involves careful experimentation over a long period of time.

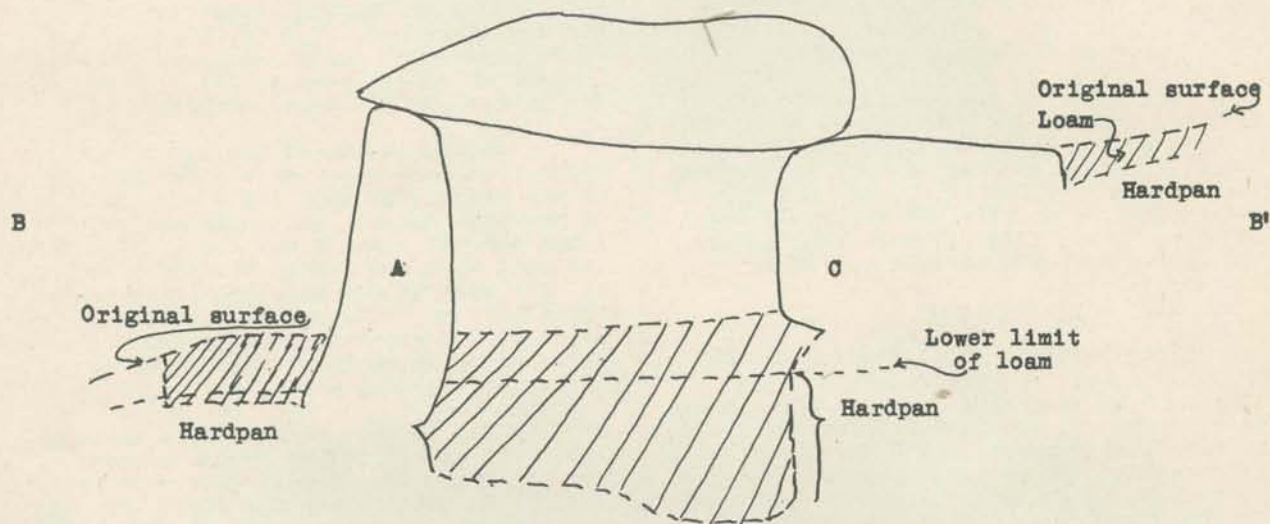
We are reduced then to mere speculation. In regard to the Indian origin of the dolmen it can be said that if this was made by Indians it was the first and only one that has ever been made by them. This does not preclude the possibility of its Indian origin but it does make it extremely improbable. The aboriginal population of Martha's Vineyard was fundamentally a sea hunting people who farmed the land in a desultory sort of way. Furthermore, if the Indians were responsible for this structure, there would be evidence of their presence in the form of flint chips or implements or in unmistakable debris caused by human occupation. These, as was noted above, do not occur about the dolmen.

The theory that the Vikings were responsible for the dolmen requires careful consideration. Before any decision may be made on the point it must be proved that these early explorers really reached the Island. This engrossing subject has been the cause of a great deal of research and of considerable difference of opinion. It is a question which I cannot answer. Menemsha or Squibnocket both correspond rather closely to the descriptions as they are given in the Sagas. However, botanical arguments such as those advanced by Fernald and others should be given due consideration. The question may also be raised, did the Vikings ever build dolmens? As far as I am aware, the building of megalithic monuments had ceased long before the Vikings discovered Vinland.

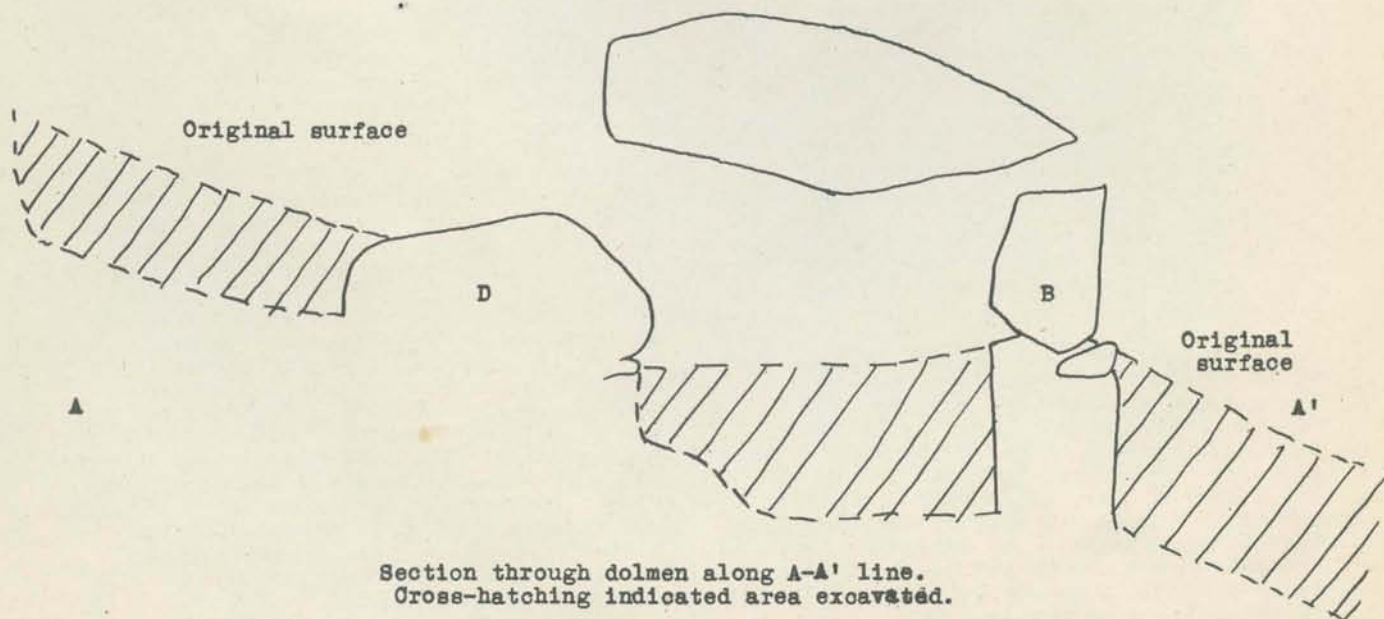
In my humble opinion, the dolmen was constructed by some ambitious Colonist who was the owner of a fine pair of oxen. He may have intended to make a cold cellar or some such addition to his farm. I doubt

if the local tradition that this was a pig pen has any foundation.

Andover, Massachusetts
April, 1944



Section through dolmen along B-B' line.
Cross-hatching indicates area excavated



Section through dolmen along A-A' line.
Cross-hatching indicated area excavated.