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AN INDIAN CAMPSITE ON COBBOSECONTEE STREAM

Gerald C. Dunn and William S. Fowler

Cobbosecontee Stream has its origin in a lake of that name (now called Winthrop Pond) which lies mostly within the town of Winthrop, Maine. Flowing out of the lake in a southeasterly direction the stream turns abruptly to the northeast at the entrance of Pleasant Pond and empties into the Kennebec River at the town of Gardner.

In Indian times this stream was much less wide and deep than it is at present having been altered by the erection of several dams built in recent times. However, it has always been of sufficient depth to accomodate the light canoes of the original inhabitants of its banks as is attested by the many legends which establish Cobbosecontee Stream as an aboriginal highway of some importance on the route from Canada to the sea.

Some few years ago when an extremely dry season caused the stream to shrink to its original size the author discovered a considerable deposit of Indian material at a point on the east bank of the stream above Gardner, Maine. The shore at this point had been eroded by stream action so that the original campsites had been completely destroyed, the cultural material being redeposited in hopeless confusion in the muddy bed of the stream. The presence of several distinct cultures at the site have been determined by a typological approach which is a part of this paper.

Little can now be said of the earlier inhabitants of this site and their presence is assumed only upon the strength of typological evidence, however, the historic Indians, whose presence is attested by the numerous potsherds and stone artifacts from their culture complex, are much better known.

The valley of the Kennebec, including Cobbosecontee Stream and Lake were the tribal hunting grounds of a powerful ethnic group known historically as the Canibas. These Indians were in alliance with, or possibly a part of, the Anasagunticook and their tribal chief had his village on an island (Swan Island) in the Kennebec downstream from the mouth of Cobbosecontee Stream. This group of Indians were among the most warlike of all the Maine tribes and were extremely active in the wars against the encroaching English from 1650 until 1760 when they were forced to give up the unequal struggle and retire to Canada.

As late as 1807, however, Kendall reported an Indian family of this tribe still living on Cobbosecontee Stream near the Kennebec, “on the direct route of travel leading from Moosehead Lake to the sea.”

An interesting possibility is suggested by Speck that a remnant of this group may be represented by the Sockalexis (Sturgeon) family of the Penobscot, now living on Indian Island. Speck relates the following legend in that regard:

### THE CABBASSAGUNTI VERSION OF THE FAMILY ORIGIN

IN Winthrop is part of a lake, six miles in length, called Lake Cobbosecontee. From this lake a small stream runs southeastward into the Kennebec and is known by the Indian name of Cobbosecontee, as the English pronounce it; but by the Indians called Cobboseconteag, which in their language is “the land where the sturgeon are taken.” A very trifling number of Indians are still in existence and belong to the village of St. Francisc, where they bear the name of Cabbassaguntiquoke, that is the people of Cabbassaguntiquoke. Cabassa signifies sturgeon... However, the Cabbassagunties were only inhabitants of Cabbassaguntiquoke, but the-Cabassa are sturgeons themselves. They relate that in days of yore a certain man, their progenitor standing on the banks of the river stripped himself and having made formal declaration that he was a sturgeon, leaped into it. He never returned out of the water in human shape, but a sturgeon, into which he was supposed to have changed himself, or to have been changed, was seen playing in the stream immediately afterward; and upon this evidence, in addition to his own declaration, all the nation professed themselves ever after to be sturgeons.

Another fable of the Cabbassagunties respects the outlet in the lake by which the stream below escapes, and at which they represent the rock as having been cut by the axe of a mighty manitous, standing with one foot on either bank of the river.

We are told by Mr. Starbird in his most interesting book that even after their withdrawal to Canada the Indians of this area continued to make two annual trips to the sea by the way of their old tribal hunting grounds. On these trips they combined business with pleasure, visiting their old haunts and the graves of their ancestors, and bringing with them their winter catch of furs to trade with the whites. According to Mr. Starbird one of these groups always took the route across Cobbosecontee Lake and by the way of the Stream to the Kennebec. Could this have been a remnant of the group who once lived at the site under discussion?

2. Ibid. P. 225.
Belgrade Lake

Brunswick

FIGURE 1. Sketch showing location of Cobbosecontee Stream site (a) and its relation to the Androscoggin and Kennebec Rivers. The several lakes and ponds are connected by small streams or can be reached on foot with ease. The old forts were at Waterville (Fort Halifax) and at Augusta (Western).

remnant of the group who once lived at the site under discussion?

To quote Mr. Starbird; "The last tribal trip was made in 1796 on which occasion they bade a last farewell to their few white friends on the lower Androscoggin waters, abandoned the graves of their ancestors to the watchful care of here and there a lone Indian in solitude, and returned to the broken fragments of their kinfolk of the Abnaki in Canada.

Many books, both of fact and fiction, have been written concerning the Cobbosecontee area but, as far as the author is aware, no mention has been made in them of an Indian camp site near New Mills Bridge in the town of Gardner.

During the year of 1941 rainfall was very light in the state of Maine so that the level of the water in the area flooded by the dam at New Mills gradually declined. In May of that year the water level was at the lowest point in a long period for that season of the year. As the water receded, stone chips, burned stone fragments, artifacts, and clay potsherds lying on the surface were exposed in an area approximately two hundred yards long on Cobbosecontee Stream seven-eights of a mile above the New Mills Bridge. While most of this occupational evidence was found on the east bank of the stream, indicating that the Indians probably lived on that shore, it was not entirely absent from the west bank which rises somewhat more abruptly and is less suited for use as a camp site.

From the observations of the writer few persons visit this particular area, most fishermen go by boat up the stream to Pleasant Pond and thence to the other ponds and streams of the area. Since the period of extremely low water in 1941 there have been several other occasions when, for one reason or another, the water has been allowed to recede. On these occasions the writer has seized the opportunity to examine the exposed river bed at this point and has recovered numerous Indian artifacts which are described in the following “typology.” Each year, due to ice scour and high water, the river bed becomes more deeply eroded and Indian material less easy to find. Under normal conditions the water level at this point is such that some thirty-two to thirty-six feet of water is impounded above this ancient camp site.

TYPOLOGY OF THE SITE

The Cobbosecontee site of Maine, lying as it does in the immediate vicinity of certain so called burials of the Maine Cemetery Complex (Red Paint Culture) of the lower Kennebec, is situated well within its cultural sphere of influence. In analyzing the typology of the site, therefore, it would seem only natural if certain lithic traits of the Cemetery Complex should appear among the site’s artifact assemblage. While strong evidence of this enigmatic culture is reported lacking on most habitation sites in Maine in spite of its well defined presence in forty-four cemetery deposits, examination of Cobbosecontee material reveals a number of artifacts that appear to have close relationship with some of its diagnostic traits, although they may not be exact counterparts. In determining this typology, frequent reference has been made to “An Analysis of the Maine Cemetery Complex,” by Benjamin L. Smith, Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Vol. IX, Nos. 2 and 3. As this report is a synthesis of nearly every important writing on the “Red Paint People of Maine” since 1898, comparisons are made with Smith’s illustrations rather than with previous reproductions, whenever possible. In addition, the site has produced certain artifacts with what seem to be characteristics of culture occupations other than that of the Cemetery Complex, and this paper attempts to delineate them in so far as it is possible.
FIGURE 2. Shore line of Cobbosecontee Stream much as it was at the period when it was inhabited by the Indians. Note the deposit of burned rock as left by the action of water and ice.

FIGURE 3. At this point were found a stone mortar, most of the clay potsherds, and most of the material assigned to the stone bowl period. Main Cemetery complex material was found along the shore as shown in Figure 2.
This typological classification of stone artifacts recovered from the surface of a disturbed site is made possible as a result of recent stratigraphic research on several central New England sites. At Ragged Mountain, Connecticut, Potter Pond, Rhode Island, and at Nunkatuset, Massachusetts, as well as at another site where excavation has not yet been completed, there is agreement as to the relative vertical positions of three well defined cultures. While they have been referred to variously in different localities of the Northeast, this paper has chosen to use the same nomenclature as that found in “The Typology of the Heard Pond Site,” by William S. Fowler, Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Vol. XI, No. 3, viz., Eskimoid, Stone Bowl, and Ceramic-Agricultural Occupations.

Eskimoid (Eskimo-like) Occupation, with its remains deposited on the lower levels has been referred to at times as Early Archaic. It is identified by lithic traits that closely resemble those of certain Eskimo cultures of the north. This migration is thought, therefore, to have had a northern provenience, and may well have been culturally tinged, even though only slightly, with various Eskimo characteristics.

Stone Bowl Occupation comes next with artifacts deposited on a level that directly overlies that of the Eskimoid. This cultural manifestation is colored not only by the presence of steatite (soapstone) bowl sherds, but what is of equal importance at some sites, by the industrial tools used in finishing steatite vessels. While domestic traits of this occupation have until recently been unidentifiable, recent excavation at Ragged Mountain and Potter Pond sites leaves no doubt as to their identity. Therefore, it is now possible to recognize them at other sites such as Cobbosecontee where no evidence of steatite has appeared. This comparative analysis is based on the belief that economic pursuits of this age were probably similar within the more or less natural confines of New England, even though the use of steatite vessels seems to be more in evidence in the immediate vicinity of steatite outcrops where quarrying activities were carried on. As in the case of the Eskimoid Occupation, evidence seems to suggest an intrusive movement for this migration, which probably emanated from a different locale, however, and brought with it new traits as well as much inventive and organizing ability.

Ceramic-Agricultural Occupation is the third and last cultural complex with artifact evidence appearing in the uppermost zone. As the name implies, the period is linked with the introduction of ceramics and agriculture. From all available evidence, it appears to represent a modified cultural continuation of the previous Stone Bowl age with racial continuity strongly indicated, rather than another migratory intrusion. Clay pottery replaces the manufacture of stone vessels, and the cultivation of maize marks the beginning of a staple food supply. Here again it seems possible to identify certain projectile point forms from Cobbosecontee that apparently belong to this period, although some diagnostic traits, such as agricultural implements, are absent from the recovered evidence. Nevertheless, clay potsherds are present to furnish a conclusive link with this age.

ESKIMOID OCCUPATIONAL EVIDENCE

Cobbosecontee site artifact assemblage contains 82 specimens that seem to be diagnostic of the Eskimoid Occupation. Distinctive traits are herewith listed, together with a number after each to indicate type frequency, viz., ulu (1); oval knives (11); plummets (8); grooved pebble sinkers (2); celts (4); adz (1); grooveless stemmed gouges (16); whetstones (12); drills with expanded base (3); ground slate spear blade (1); perforated ground slate problematical (1); projectile point forms, viz., corner-removed elongated (6); corner-removed rounded base (9); corner-removed triangular shape (4); eared broad-based (large proportions) (4).

Certain of these traits suggest Eskimo affinities, while other resemble traits from the Maine Cemetery Complex. For the purpose of clarifying these similarities, reference will be made to those traits most concerned, and Bulletin, Vol. IX, Nos. 2 and 3 of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society will be used in making comparisons with forms of the Maine Cemetery Complex.

Celt (slightly grooved). (Fig. 4, #1). This implement closely resembles Cemetery Complex modified celt, (p. 42, Fig. 15, f).

Adz blade, (Fig. 4, #2). This style of implement is sometimes called humpback adz, and has a likeness to certain Cemetery Complex shapes, (p. p. 38, 39, Figs. 11 and 12).

Gouge blades, (Fig. 4, #3, 4). These two illustrated blades seem to resemble Cemetery Complex forms, (p. 28, Fig. 2, a and d respectively).

Ulu, (Fig. 4, #5). This small knife blade, 1 5/8” x 3 7/8” is perfectly ground with a deep comb back and resembles other larger specimens from New England. These knives are much like those used by certain Eskimo tribes of the north, “Antiquities of the New England Indians,” C. C. Willoughby, p. 72.

Perforated ground slate problematical, (Fig. 4, #6). After projecting its missing section, it resembles, except without slot, a ground slate form illustrated by Willoughby, p. 80, Fig. 48. Willoughby comments that it has the appearance of an ivory harpoon rest and guide for fishlines on Eskimo umiak skin covered boats.

Plummets, (Fig. 1, #7-9). Of the seven specimens from Cobbosecontee, these three with small well
FIGURE 4. Lithic Traits, Eskimoid and Maine Cemetery Complex. 1, Grooved celt; 2, humpback adz; 3, 4, grooveless stemmed gouges; 5, ulu; 6, ground slate problematical; 7-9, plummets; 10, oval knife of Labrador quartz; 11, 12, corner-removed round based points; 13, corner-removed point; 14, ground slate spear blade. Scale - 3/4.
FIGURE 5. Lithic Traits, Stone Bowl and Ceramic Cultures. (Stone Bowl) 1, Full grooved ax; 2, 3, eared broad-based points; 4, corner-removed point; 5, Adena-like point; 6, small triangular point (isosceles). -- (Ceramic) 7-9, side-notched points; 10, small triangular point (equilateral); 11, Point Peninsular, Vine Valley Aspect of New York State point, probably. Scale - 3/4.

formed knobs appear to have close affinity to certain types of the Cemetery Complex, (p. 31, Fig. 5, b, h, and k respectively). The remaining specimens from this group resemble recoveries from many New England sites. Willoughby believes an affinity exists between plummets and somewhat modified stone forms as used by Alaskan Eskimo for single fishline sinkers and fish lures.

Oval knife, (Fig. 4, #10). While this exact blade is not found among specimens from the Cemetery Complex, it is made of the same translucent light gray, black banded quartz that is common to Labrador, and from which some long stemmed projectile points of the Complex are fabricated. Its shape has similar oval proportions to the other ten specimens from this class of knives, a trait that is present in the New England Eskimoid horizon.

Corner-removed, rounded based points, (Fig. 4, #11, 12). This projectile basal style is not only present in the Cemetery Complex, (p. 35, Fig. 8, i, j), but appears with high frequency, stratigraphically, in the Eskimoid horizon of the test sites.

Corner-removed, long stemmed point, (Fig. 4, #13). This style is typical of a certain Cemetery Complex type, (p. 36, Fig. 9, d).

Ground slate spear blade, (Fig. 4, #14). While the basal portion is all that is left, there remains enough of this specimen from which to project the blade. It closely resembles Cemetery Complex basic type 7, (p. 44, Fig. 17, c), and undoubtedly belongs to this culture complex.

STONE BOWL OCCUPATIONAL EVIDENCE

Another group of Cobbosecontee artifacts seems to fall within a cultural category that, stratigraphically, has been found to overlie the Eskimoid complex. It belongs to the Stone Bowl period, which may now be quite definitely identified by certain domestic traits although it may not contain steatite bowl sherds in every case. Cobbosecontee specimens include 21 artifacts, representing seven traits that have been found to be diagnostic of the Stone Bowl culture, type frequency being indicated by number after each, viz.,
grooved axes (4); short pestle (probably for nuts) (1); winged bannerstone with 1/2" perforation (1); end scrapers (5); projectile point forms, viz., eared broad-based (eared triangular incl.) (3); corner-removed; small triangular shapes (isosceles) (2).

Illustrations have been prepared of the more significant traits, which will be described separately with qualifying statements concerning each.

Grooved ax, (Fig. 5, #1). All four specimens in this group of implements have full grooves formed by pecking. While three quarter grooving is sometimes present, grooved axes of New England more frequently have full grooves. Stratigraphic high frequency of these axes has been conspicuously associated with steatite bowl sherds, and at Potter Pond, with tools for finishing steatite vessels as well. Furthermore, grooved axes have appeared, usually in badly worn condition, at steatite quarries, which leaves little doubt as to their significance as being a part of this cultural economy.

Eared broad-based points, (Fig. 5, #2, 3). While at test sites, large forms of this distinctive projectile style appear at lower levels associated with Eskimoid traits, smaller modified forms as illustrated occur in the overlying horizon linked with Stone Bowl cultural traits. Their high frequency at this level seems to indicate general preference for this style in the later age. Cobbosecontee specimens, as a group, embrace the eared triangular shape although a more elongated form is sometimes encountered at other sites. The relative broad base of this point seems to suggest its use as a spear or dart point.

Corner-removed point, (Fig. 5, #4). This relatively broad bodied point with removed basal corners is a diagnostic trait of the Stone Bowl culture. The style is also present at this site in a small form, as is customary for this cultural period at test excavation sites elsewhere.

Small triangular point, isosceles, (Fig. 5, #6). From excavated evidence used in developing this typology, it seems probable that small triangular points, especially those having isosceles shapes, were first used in the Stone Bowl age. Frequently, they have slight side notches with a concave base to form pronounced basal points that appear as ears, but occasionally they are without ears with a flat base as in the illustration. That these isosceles forms may have become modified to equilateral proportions in the succeeding age is now supported by stratigraphic evidence.

Long stemmed point with rounded base, (Fig. 5, #5). This form resembles the Adena, Ohio (Moundbuilder) type and is presumed to represent an importation. It may be considered significant at Cobbosecontee as a part of its Stone Bowl Occupation, for this is thought by some to have been an intrusive early migration from the Great Lakes region; possibly having a common source with Adena and exhibiting certain early undeveloped traits of that culture. That this Adena-like projectile form appears without repetition at the Maine site seems supporting evidence for a postulated importation, especially when it is revealed that this type does not appear as an established trait in any New England cultural horizon.

CERAMIC-AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONAL EVIDENCE

Of the last cultural period of New England, Cobbosecontee material contains 16 lithic specimens and nearly 100 clay potsherds, some of which are rim sections with design elements. This age is well defined by the presence of pottery, and in areas where conditions are favorable to agriculture by cultivating tools. As Cobbosecontee is in a region where agriculture is limited by certain natural conditions, it is not surprising to find there the absence of agricultural evidence. However, those traits at the site that are thought to be diagnostic of this period are listed with frequency numbers for each, viz., sinewstone (1); cross-based drills (2); clay potsherds; ceramic pipe-shers (2); projectile point forms, viz., side-notched (11); small triangular (equilateral) (1). To this list should probably be added one gun flint, which indicates contact with Colonial days.

Following the same procedure as that of the preceding occupations, certain important traits have been illustrated and will be described separately, while clay potsherd evidence will be discussed in the succeeding section on ceramics.

Side-notched points, (Fig. 5, #7-9). Side-notched forms such as these are a well established aspect of the ceramic period. In general, side-notching is usually wide and sometimes ill defined, especially on narrow points, but almost always is found with bases that are irregularly straight; seldom concave. Small triangular point, equilateral, (Fig. 5, #10). Small forms like this frequently appear stratigraphically in this upper horizon.

Side-notched point with square-cut basal corners, (Fig. 5, #11). This point has certain characteristics that seem to single it out as an importation. The sharp square-cut basal corners, slight concave base and narrow well defined notches produce a style that is included in Ritchie's Point Peninsula Focus, Vine Valley Aspect of New York State. Since this is a ceramic culture, this point was deposited, presumably, at Cobbosecontee during its ceramic occupation. Supporting evidence for importation lies in the fact that the point is made of light pinkish-tan banded flint that resembles Normanskill shale flint from New York State; see "Stone Importation in Prehistoric Massachusetts," by William S. Fowler, Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Bulletin, Vol. XI, No. 2.
FOUR INDIAN BURIALS AT HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

Federico S. Vidal, Charles I. Shade and Edward E. Hunt, Jr.

Early in April, 1949, Mr. Burt Rose, a contractor and bulldozer operator of East Sandwich, Massachusetts, was removing the side of an embankment facing the sea in the Fish Hill section of Hyannis, Massachusetts. This land was about 100 yards inland and some 50 feet or more above sea level. During these excavations, he discovered a number of Indian remains which are to be described here.

Mr. Rose's first discovery was an adult human skeleton which he removed and transported to the Hyannis Police Department. He and the policemen who first saw it believed that it was a flexed burial. Its precise orientation, however, is unknown. Two more adult skeletons were subsequently uncovered and scattered by the bulldozer before Mr. Rose could prevent the damage. The following day, he found some potsherds, which he covered and left only moderately disturbed.

A field party consisting of the authors and Mrs. Kathleen Hall Canby went to the site on April 15, 1949 to examine the terrain and to recover as many specimens as possible for the Peabody Museum at Harvard University. Mr. Rose's bulldozer excavations have since destroyed the site.

The potsherds were some 30 centimeters below what appeared to be the original surface. They have subsequently been reconstructed by Mr. Frederick P. Orchard at the Peabody Museum, and prove to be most of the pieces of a small pot. This specimen is now No. 49-29-10/31693 in the Peabody Museum collections.

This vessel, which is shown in Fig. 6, is a coarse, grayish-brown ware, 11.8 cm. in diameter, 14.8 cm. high, and some 5 mm. thick. The clay was shell tempered and poorly fired. The body is globular, with a rounded bottom. It is shouldered, with a somewhat constricted neck and convex collar. The aperture is pentagonal and without rim points. The modeling of the lip was apparently accomplished by extruding the clay rather than by applying additional clay to the inside or outside of the vessel. Six approximately annular lines were incised with a blunt instrument around the collar. The body below the shoulder of the vessel is faintly corn-marked. Punctate decorations occur on the shoulder in the form of two rows of contiguous parallel chevrons. On part of this decorated surface, additional double chevrons are applied in opposition to the upper chevrons, resulting in adjacent rhombi with parallel sides, one within another. The interior of the pot is fairly rough, and undecorated except for a single small patch of interior scoring in the neck region.

The cultural affiliations of this ware may be tentatively reconstructed. According to Rouse (1949), a somewhat similar protohistoric and historic style is found in Eastern Connecticut. Smith (1949) has noted probable extensions of these ceramics into Eastern Long Island as well. This style is characteristic of the Niantic focus of the Windsor aspect, Coastal
FOUR INDIAN BURIALS AT HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

Figure 6

Niantic pottery, like the present specimen, is characterized by shell temper, round bases, necks and collars. The interiors are smooth and undecorated, but cord marking occurs on the exterior. This marking, however, is commonest on the collar: whereas the present ware is cord marked only on the body below the shoulder. A Niantic specimen pictured by Smith (1949) has a polygonal but castellated aperture. The present ware, however, has a flat, horizontal lip without rim points or castellations. Furthermore, the presence of a small, localized patch of interior scoring is in contrast with the undecorated interiors of Niantic pottery.

In some respects, the Hyannis specimen seems to resemble wares other than Niantic. The globular outline of the body, the parallel lines below the brim, and the completely cord-marked body are often found in the pre-Iroquoian Owasco wares of New York State, as described by Ritchie and Macneish (1949). Traits comparable to those of Owasco pottery have previously been reported in sherds from Guida Farm, Westfield, Massachusetts (Brooks, 1946), and from South Windsor, Connecticut (Rouse, 1949). The ware from Hyannis seems to indicate that these traits extended not only to the Connecticut River Valley, but further east as far as Cape Cod.

Twenty centimeters west of the potsherds was the skeleton of a fetus. It was very friable but originally complete except for the facial bones, and lay flexed on its right side. It appeared to have been buried in red ocher, as if a hole had been dug, a layer of ocher put in, then the body deposited. Additional ocher was put in to cover it, and finally a little dirt on top. The surrounding soil was a mixture of sand and earth.

Three adult skeletons were found within a few yards of the potsherds and fetal remains, but their exact relative positions could not be ascertained because of the disturbed condition of the soil. Mr. Rose stated that the earth around the skeletons was darker than the surrounding soil. The three adult skeletons were catalogued in the Peabody Museum as N/7190, N/7191, and N/7192. The fetal remains were also catalogued as N/7191.

N/7190 was a middle-aged male. The remains include an incomplete cranium, shown in Fig. 7, six vertebrae, parts of the left scapula, and a few long bones. Statural reconstructions from the long bones by the Pearson interracial formulae vary from 161 to 165 cm. (5'3 1/2" to 5'5").

Figure 7

N/7191 is an incomplete postcranial skeleton, probably of a young female, about 156-157 cm (5'2") tall. Ten thoracic vertebrae, a part of the left scapula, parts of the sacrum, innominate bones, left calcaneus and most of the long bones are present.

The second individual labeled N/7191 is the fragmentary skeleton of a fetus in about the 7th month. A number of pieces of parietals and occipitals, and most of the body of the sphenoid, are preserved. The hip bones, several ribs, and the shafts of some of the long bones are also recognizable.

N/7192 was a male in early middle age, who was less muscular than N/7190. His stature was about
164-169 cm. (5' 4 1/2" to 5' 5 1/2"). These remains include an incomplete maxilla, part of the temporal bone which is tentatively assigned to this individual, a complete set of cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, most of the right scapula, and some of the long bones.

Additional anatomical details of these remains are on file at the Peabody Museum. The cranial fragments were reconstructed and described by Mr. Vidal, and the postcranial skeletons by Mr. Hunt.

**DISCUSSION**

These Hyannis burials are probably protohistoric to early historic, if the affiliations of the pot with the Niantic focus are trustworthy. The apparent links of this ware with the Owasco culture of New York State supply further evidence that New England was once inhabited by a culturally conservative Indian population who retained features of earlier and more western Woodland pottery after it had given way to Iroquoian forms in New York State. The eastern position of Hyannis indicates that Owasco cultural influences penetrated not only to the Connecticut River Valley, but further east to Cape Cod as well.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We wish to acknowledge the help of the director of the Peabody Museum at Harvard, Professor John Otis Brew, for initiating this project. Mrs. Kathleen Hall Canby provided transportation for the authors, skeletons and potsherds. Professor Earnest A. Hooton and Dr. Philip Phillips supplied valuable technical help. We especially appreciate the assistance of Mr. Frederick P. Orchard, who reconstructed the pot and made the photographs which are reproduced here. Finally, we wish to thank the members of the Hyannis Police Department and Mr. Burt Rose for their interest in these remains and their help in preserving and describing them.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


**EARLY MAIZE**

A Peabody Museum, Harvard University, expedition to Bat Cave, Catron County, New Mexico, in the summer of 1948, led by HERBERT W. DICK, graduate student in anthropology, discovered a sequence of cultural deposits ranging in date from 2500 B.C. to 500-1000 A.D., all containing prehistoric plant remains, including about nine hundred specimens of primitive maize in a distinct evolutionary sequence.

The specimens from the lower strata are the most primitive maize so far known, and it provides an answer to an Americanist problem of long standing: this early maize is not derived from teosinte, long held by many scholars to be the ancestor of maize. However, "about midway in the sequence there is strong evidence of an introgression of teosinte germplasm into maize," from which has resulted much of the variation in modern corn.

The new evidence does not solve the problem of where maize originated as a wild plant.

This important paleobotanical find has been announced by PAUL C. MANGELESDORF and C. EARLE SMITH, Jr., botanist of the expedition, in Harvard University Botanical Museum Leaflets, Volume 13, No. 8 (March 4, 1949).
NEW MEMBERS

The following persons have become members of our Society as of September 1, 1950.

Richard W. Hatch - Deerfield, Mass.
Dr. C. Wesley Hale - Springfield, Mass.
Mrs. Edith M. Adams - Plymouth, Mass. (Family Member)
Ralph A. Metcalf - South Dartmouth, Mass.
Josephine L. Fernandez (Mrs.) - South Dartmouth, Mass.
Dr. W. B. Heath - New Bedford, Mass.
Mrs. W. B. Heath - New Bedford, Mass. (Family Member)
Mrs. H. C. Mandell - New Bedford, Mass. (Family Member)
Howard L. Mandell - New Bedford, Mass. (Junior Member)
Harold Doane - Spencer, Mass.
James M. Clancy - Newton, Mass.
Cranbrook Institute of Science - Bloomfield Hills - Michigan (Institutional)
Robert Coburn - Middleboro, Mass.
Dr. E. T. Waters - New Bedford, Mass.
Mrs. E. T. Waters - New Bedford, Mass. (Family Member)
Arthur Alvin, West Bridgewater, Mass.
Kirk Bryan, professor of physiography at Harvard University, died August 21st at Cody, Wyoming, where he had been engaged in field research project.

A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Dr. Bryan received his A.B. from the University of New Mexico in 1909 and his Ph.D from Yale in 1920. He was awarded honorary degrees by Harvard University and the University of New Mexico.

A veteran of World War I, he served in France with the Engineer Corps. In 1912 he entered the United States Geological Service and became a senior geologist in 1927. He joined the faculty of Harvard College in 1926 and was made professor in 1943.

Professor Bryan was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, former Vice President of the Geological Society of America, a member of the American Academy, Association of American Geographers, Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Society of American Military Engineers, American Geographical Society, American Geophysical Union, and the Geological Society of Washington. A former president of the Boston Geological Society, he accepted special assignments with the National Geographic Society’s Chaco Canyon expedition, and was geologist in the Columbia River Basin project and the Mexican Government’s San Juan project.

He leaves a wife, Mary C. and four children Richard, Mary, Kirk, and Margaret Bryan.