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EDITOR'S PAGE

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The first two articles which appear in this number were papers read at the Annual Meeting of the Society at Attleboro on October 1st, 1955.

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The paper entitled "Suggested Classification of Atlatl Weights" by William S. Fowler is published as a partial report of the work of the Research Council for 1954-55.

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The fourth installment of "Aboriginal New England Pottery" is a portion of a lengthy manuscript written by one of our oldest members, the late William J. Howes of Holyoke, Mass. The illustrations are also the work of Mr. Howes. We shall continue to bring you abstracts from this manuscript as space permits.
The Reuben Leach sand bank is two miles south of Plymouth, Mass., on the easterly side of Clifford Road. It is one-third of a mile from the ocean bluffs at Hotel Pilgrim, and about fifty yards from Eel River.

My first recollection of this sand bank dates back to the time I was about eleven years old, when nearly everyone in the village bought sand from Mr. Leach for fill and cement work. This was a sloping bank of live sand about sixty feet high, and at that time I used to think “What a swell place to see how far I could jump with a running start from the top!”

The sand hill itself was originally a promontory, sixty to seventy feet above the river, sticking out like a pointed finger from a plateau of high land, and being about fifty yards wide at the base. On the north, east and south sides of this bank is a continuous layer of Indian shell deposit, approximately a quarter of a mile long, and varying from fifteen to fifty yards wide, this shell deposit being in the shape of a half-circle, with the sand bank on the west, or river side, and almost in the center.

The shell deposit varies in depth from a couple of inches to about four feet. The thick deposit had been dug into quite extensively over fifty years ago, by whom I never knew. In some places this shell layer was at the surface, and in other places it had been buried three to four feet deep by erosion and by plowing.

My first knowledge that the sand bank had any connection with Indians was from a story told me when I was about thirteen years old, by the senior Mr. Charles Sherman. He said that a man had found a grooved axe in the sand which he had screened from the hill. This information didn’t jell for over ten years, but once I remembered his statement, I went over and investigated. On the very top of the hill the soil was bare of grass, and the wind had blown off several inches of topsoil. Here I found three very good arrow points, and was ready to really check anything I could find, or find out, about the location.

In 1914, I found a small deposit of shell at the top of the bank, about two quarts of broken shell in a small pit. This pit I dug out with my hands. The sand is loose, so it was easy to remove. Under the shell pocket were several large pieces of split green slate. The two largest pieces were on edge about four inches apart, and between them were several artifacts, one of them a felsite blade that was and is still the best artifact I have. It is five and a half inches long, and two and a half inches wide. There were two smaller blades of dark colored stone, about two and a half inches long and one and three-fourths inches wide. There was also a small double-edged axe.

From that time on, I haunted that sand bank at every opportunity.

Other persons, mostly masons screening sand for cement and mortar, had made finds in this bank. James Adams found a beautiful pendant. Percy Fish found a pendant which slid off a load of sand onto the sidewalk. Richard Adams, in getting a load of sand at the bank, kicked what he thought was a puffball, but found that he had smashed a human skull.

In 1915 the top of the bank had broken off in huge chunks, caused by the sand running down to fill up where it had been dug away at the base. One day, when riding by on my bike, I saw three bright red spots in the yellow sand. This was just about the time that Dr. Warren K. Morehead had published several papers on the Red Paint People and Pre-Algonkins. Having read some of them, I got all steamed up and ran up the bank to the spots and started to dig with both hands.

The more I dig, the more I realized this was my lucky day.

After digging a great hole in the slope, about half way down from the top, where the sliding had stopped, I had:

1. five and a half inch felsite blade, a duplicate of the one mentioned above
2. beautiful green polished celt
3. slate abrading stone
4. perfect polished slate one-hole pendant
5. damaged pendants, all one-hole type
6. perfect two-hole specimen
7. partly drilled pendant
8. small abrading stone
9. platform pipe, five pointed bowl
10. large quartz crystals (one got lost, somehow)
11. top of pendant, broken off at the drill hole
12. platform pipe stem, drilled and with incised markings
13. small piece of bone, probably fragment of a thigh bone, and ten teeth, five upper and five lower jaw teeth, from the right side of the face
All these artifacts were in the three spots of red ochre stained sand.

About twenty-one years ago, Ralph Hornblower, Jr., saw the outline of a shaft at the top of the bank. He dug a small hole at the base of the shaft and found a skull. He filled in where he had seen the skull, and the following Sunday morning at 5 A.M., he, Mr. Ralph Hornblower, Henry Hornblower II, my son David, and I had two skeletons removed from the sand bank before anyone came by on Clifford Road. It had been a double burial, the body of one apparently sitting in the lap of the other. Frederick Johnson took charge of these skeletons.

The only artifact in this burial was one brass triangular arrow, which had oxidized to the extent that it had preserved about one and a half inches of the wooden shaft, and some of the two-ply cord that bound the point to the shaft.

A couple of years later, William W. Whiting and I dug out another skeleton. This was a very interesting burial. When we had dug the shaft out to about six inches above the body, we found about two inches of charcoal mixed with the sand. Below this, the sand was clean, so the grave must have been partly filled, then a good hot fire burned on top of this sand layer.

When we removed the earth from around the bones, there was a row of tiny stake moulds on each side of the skeleton. Evidently there had been a series of hoops across the body when it was buried. Bark was used to cover the whole body. The fire which had been in the grave shaft turned the bark to carbon right through several inches of sand. There was nothing buried with this person, but the body was that of a woman, and she was laid on her right side, the body facing west, but the head facing east. I wondered how this could be, unless she had a broken neck. These three skeletons are at Andover, I assume with a lot of others.

Mr. Whiting and I thought we had another grave, but it proved to be a rotted-out tree stump.

Henry Hornblower and Dennis Ward did a month’s dig on the hilltop one summer, but found nothing of importance.

Mr. Ralph Hornblower, Sr., has a soapstone platform pipe which slid down from above.

This is a complete summary of the findings on this site, and it will be the last, for the site has been completely destroyed by a new by-pass highway and the removal of the sand to other locations.

Plymouth, Mass.
October, 1955

SOME EVIDENCE OF THE USE OF RED OCHRE INTO HISTORIC TIMES

Maurice Robbins

While the age of some of the ceremonial or mortuary deposits, in which red ochre is a prominent feature, is undoubtedly respectable, the mere presence of this spectacular trait is not a sure indication of antiquity. During the course of our work at the Wapanucket site in Middleboro, Massachusetts we have found a number of these interesting features. Some of them seem to have been made in pre-historic times; several, however, because of their stratigraphic position and their content, do not appear to be particularly old.

I hesitate to use the term mortuary in describing the deposits which we have found. No parts of the human skeleton have been found in them except in one instance. Possibly the dense black charcoal that is usually present, may be the residue of a cremated body, but it is difficult to assume that in all instances a complete cremation could have been attained. Perhaps, in this marginal area, it was not considered necessary that the “corpus delicti” be present.

I shall confine my remarks to those deposits in which articles of European manufacture were found, particularly to one instance in which an object appeared which could be dated quite accurately. To condition our minds to the date which I shall propose for this deposit it might be well to cite some supporting evidence. In Mourt’s Relation may be found the following quotation describing an experience of the Pilgrims which took place in 1620:—
"They went a short distance and encountered small mounds of earth which were found to cover pits or caches filled with corn. And then they found another; it was also covered with boards, so as we mused what it should be, and resolved to dig it up, where we found first a mat, and under it a fair bow, and then another mat, And under that a board about three quarters long, finely carved and painted, with three tines or brooches on the top, like a crown; and also between the mats we found bowls, trays, dishes, and the like trinkets; and at length we came to a fair new mat, and under that two bundles, the one bigger, the other less, we opened the greater and found in it a quantity of fine and perfect red powder, and in it the skull and bones of a man. The skull had fine yellow hair still on it, and some of the flesh unconsumed, and there was bound up with it a knife, a pack needle, and two or three old things. It was bound up in sailors canvass and a pair of cloth breeches. . . .

We opened the lesser bundle likewise, and found the same powder in it, and the bones and head of a little child, about the legs and other parts of it was bound strings and bracelets of fine white beads; and there was also a little bow, about three quarters long, and some other old knacks; we brought sundry of the prettiest things away with us, and covered the corpse up again."

From the Bureau of American Ethnology No. 71. comes the following:

"Deposits of the insoluble red oxide were associated with burials in an ancient cemetery discovered in 1913 in Warren, R. I. This appears to have been a burying ground of the Wampanoags, when it was destroyed some of the skeletons were exposed together with a large number of objects dating from the years between the first contact with the Europeans until the latter part of the Seventeenth Century."

In an article by Nicholas N. Smith which will appear in your Bulletin for October 1st. you will read:

"I found an instance where a symbolical substance was used for red paint in a burial ceremony in 1929 among the Pleasant Point people." . . . "One (a Penobscot Indian) gave me an account of the use of red paint in a burial ceremony in 1930. He said that the face, hands, and feet of the deceased were marked with the paint. The survivor put a streak of the paint on her cheek also."

Quite recently, in August 1955, a burial was reported from old Fort LaTour, Portland Point, New Brunswick in which

"There was about three quarts of bright red ochre. Grave goods of Dutch, French, and Indian origin was found associated with these burials."

The vertical distribution of the tops of the red paint pits at the Wapanucket site varies considerably, probably according to the period in which they were dug. In other characteristics there is a striking similarity. The first indication of the presence of one of these pits is a lens of white sand usually circular but sometimes irregular in outline. Often bits of red paint will be observed in this sand or there may be a line of red about the circumference. Below the sand there may be a carefully arranged layer of stones upon a layer of dense black material; in some instances the stone covering is omitted. Upon removing the black layer one will come suddenly upon a brilliant layer of red paint. The amount of red paint varies considerably, perhaps from one half inch to two inches in thickness. Within this red paint, but sometimes partially embedded in charcoal will be found the ceremonial deposit, from one to a dozen implements may be included. Beautifully polished banner-stones, grooved axes, pestles, chipped blades, gorgets, pendants, bits of colored stones, crystals, and the like are the usual content. Those pits which start at the loam-subsoil junction are apt to yield glass beads and other trade goods.

The first of these to contain trade goods was found in 1954 and came as a complete surprise to us. The top of this pit was located directly beneath the loam and appeared as a lens of white sand with an indication of red paint about its circumference. Upon removing the sand we came upon a layer of dense black material about two inches in thickness. Beneath this was a layer of red paint about an inch in thickness. In the red paint was an iron axe head, badly rusted, and a polished implement of stone. A second layer of the black material covered another layer of red paint more brilliant in color than the first. A third and final mass of black material contained the balance of the artifacts, a plummet, a small pebble worked to represent a polywog, a pendant, a polished pebble, three quartz crystals, a fragment of chipped, purple glass, and the bowl of a nickel-silver spoon. Intermixed with the artifacts were nearly three hundred black, blue, and white glass beads with a few copper beads of the tubular type.

Here, without a shadow of doubt, was a ceremonial red paint deposit made in historic times. The spoon bowl in particular appears to be quite recent. A careful search of the available literature and conferences with several authorities on the subject resulted in the conclusion that the spoon could not have been made many years prior to 1850. Here
then was a problem, who could or would have made this ceremonial deposit in the nineteenth century?

In a search for the answer to this question it will be necessary to digress a bit. The area in which the Wapanucket site is located was sold by Tuspaquin, the last of the Pond Sachems, in 1672. Presumably there were no Indians living at the site at the time of its sale. Just across the pond to the south is an area known to the Indians as Nahtewamet, and to the English as Betty's Neck. This tract of land was deeded by Tuspaquin to his daughter and son-in-law and has never been sold to the English. It is today known locally as "the Indian lands". According to Bennet in the Mass. Hist. Coll, vol 35., there were "eight Indian families living in their Indian houses" on this Neck in 1793.

One of these eight families is of particular interest to us and I have prepared an abbreviated genealogy of them to which I will now refer.

1. Massasoit, alias Ousamequin.
2. Arnie, daughter of Massasoit, married Tuspaquin (The Black Sachem).
4. Benjamin (2), son of Benjamin (1) and Weecum, married Mary Felix. Mary Felix was the daughter of Felix, son-in-law of John Sassamon. Her mother was Assawetough, a Pequot Indian.
5. Lydia, daughter of Benjamin (2) and Mary Felix. She married an Indian named Wamsley from the Gay Head Band.
6. Phebe, daughter of Lydia Tuspaquin and John Wamsley, married (1) Silas Rosier and (2) Brister Gould.
7. (A) John Rosier, son of Phebe and Silas Rosier, never married, was drowned in Assawompsett Lake in 1851.
7. (B) Zerviah, daughter of Phebe and Brister Gould, married Thomas Mitchell, a Cherokee Indian.
8. Melinda, alias Tweealema, and Charlotte, alias Woontonekanske, the last of the Assawompsett band to live on the ancestral lands at Betty's Neck in Lakeville. Melinda died in 1928 and her sister Charlotte died in 1933. It is of interest to note that the members of this family maintained their Indian blood without dilution from sometime prior to 1620 to 1933, a little more than 300 years. The last descendants in this line, Melinda and Charlotte Mitchell lived and died single rather than marry a person of foreign blood.

You will note that the line starts with Massasoit, Sachem of the Wampanoags, passing through Amie, his daughter, sister to King Philip, and wife of Tuspaquin the Pond Sachem. The first person of direct interest is John Rosier, son of Phebe Wamsley and Silas Rosier. Silas Rosier was an Indian from Mashpee. John was a sailor and was at one time attached to the U.S. Frigate Macedonia. He was drowned in Assawompsett Pond in February 1851.

In 1953, one of the members of our Chapter found, in the sub-soil, a rough stone tool. This implement was recorded and assigned a number. Nearly a year later my attention was called to the fact that there were some letters scratched upon the surface of the stone. Close examination verified this fact. If the stone is held in just the right position with relation to the light, the letters O-S-E-E-I-R and another letter O slightly out of line and above the first E will be seen. Although spelled a bit differently than in the genealogy, the name is obviously ROSSIER. The name JOHN seems to have been also scratched into the stone at an angle across the former name. Here then is a stone implement bearing the name of an Indian who once resided at Betty's Neck found on the Wapanucket site.

You will note that Phebe Wamsley was married twice. Her second husband, Brister Gould, was the father of Zerviah, credited by Speck with being the last full-blooded Wampanoag to live at Betty's Neck. She was also the last to speak the language of that tribe.

Zerviah married Thomas Mitchell, a part-blood Cherokee, and took up her residence in North Abington, Mass. Mrs. Mitchell was well educated and taught school prior to her marriage to Mitchell. Eleven children were born to the Mitchells, two of them died in infancy. The other nine children were brought up in North Abington and were educated in the public schools there. Two of the daughters had some higher education, one at Union Academy and the other at the Harvard Street school in Boston. These last two daughters were also school teachers.

In 1858 Mrs. Mitchell published a book written by Ebeneezer W. Pierce in which a genealogy of Mrs. Mitchell's family is included. In a foreword to this book Mrs. Mitchell writes "For the past twenty-five years I have been seeking redress for the wrongs done me and mine". Mrs. Mitchell took great pride in her lineage. Her writing reveals a
deep-seated resentment of the treatment accorded
the Indians and a determination to emphasize her
right to speak in their behalf. This mental attitude
she seems to have succeeded in communicating to
at least two of her children.

Mr. Mitchell died in 1859. About twenty years
later, at the age of 72, Mrs. Mitchell abandoned her
life in North Abington and, accompanied by her
two remaining daughters, moved back to the ances­
tral lands at Betty's Neck. This move was an abrupt
change in their mode of life. From living in a white
community to the isolated house on the Indian
lands in Lakeville, from the secure life of school
teachers to a precarious existence as farmers and
makers of baskets and such trinkets. Here is a
striking indication that these women were psycho­
logically Indians and were possessed of an intense
desire to live as close to nature as was possible in
their day and age.

I have found quite a number of people who
were well acquainted with the Mitchells and from
them I have obtained much significant informa­
tion. We do not have the time to go into detail
but I would like to introduce a few pertinent facts.
Although many of the facts related to me indicate
considerable contamination from English sources
there is much that seems to be truly Indian in
concept.

All of my informants agree that the Mitchells
were inordinately proud
of their Indian ancestry
and missed no opportunity to attempt to impress
upon any with whom they came into contact,
with the fact that they were the descendants of
the royal family of two great tribes, the Wam­
panoags and the Pequots. Whenever the two
Mitchell girls appeared in public or allowed their
pictures to be taken, they wore their version of
Indian dress. Through all of the tales I have col­
clected concerning them, there runs the theme of
mistrust and resentment toward the English as a
race; although they appear to have been quite
friendly with a number of white people.

They lived on the Indian Lands about two
miles from the main road in quite an isolated
neighborhood; their house was built by the two
girls with little outside help. They ran quite a
farm, sold vegetables about Lakeville, raised chick­
cens, kept a horse and a cow, and occasionally took
summer boarders. In addition to the above, the
Mitchells made and sold baskets, beaded bags,
small Indian bows and arrows, and roots and herb
medicine. The arrows were often tipped with stone
points which they either found in their plowed
field or made themselves. Two informants agreed
that the younger of the sisters, Charlotte or Woo­
tonekanuske, was the one who made the medicine.
They traveled far and wide to sell their wares, from
such summer resorts as Onset to the County Fairs
at Brockton and Taunton.

One informant, who claimed to be an Indian
himself and a sort of relative to the Mitchells, told
of spending several summers with the Mitchells at
Lakeville. He said that he often rowed the two
sisters across the lake, a distance of about two
miles, to our site on the north shore. They came
there in search of sassafrass root and other herbs,
and for grass, which they found along the river
bank; and from which they made baskets. While
the women hunted their botanical specimens the
boy was set to find a certain type of stone from
which "the old lady made red dye by grinding in
a mortar". This side of the lake was the only place
where this stone could be found. My informant
thought that the red dye was used for dyeing the
material used in basket work but also volunteered
the thought that Charlotte may have used some of
it in her medicine making.

Another story from this same source is quite
illuminating. "One day, old Mrs. Mitchell went to
the funeral of a little Indian girl in East Fall River.
When she passed by the casket she attempted to
slip a little piece of the red paint stone into the
pocket of a little white apron the girl had on. The
mother of the girl saw the move and made quite
a fuss about it. She wasn't much of an Indian."

Mrs. Mitchell died March 5, 1898 at Betty's
Neck but her two daughters continued to live there.
Melinda passed away in 1919 and Charlotte in
1933. However, as Charlotte, due to the infirmities
of age, had been compelled to spend the last seven
years of her life with friends in Middleboro, there
have been no Indian occupants at Betty's Neck
since 1926.

Now let's sum up our case:
1. We have a direct tie in John Rossier who left an
Indian implement with his name inscribed upon it,
sometime before his death in 1851. The imple­
ment he either found or made.
2. Several people have confirmed the fact that the
Mitchell women were well versed in Indian tradi­
tion, that they were attempting to live in a primiti­
SOME EVIDENCE OF THE USE OF RED OCHRE INTO HISTORIC TIMES

We have placed the Mitchells on our site in the nineteenth century, and shown that they had in their possession Indian artifacts, beads, and red paint.

One story indicates that "old Mrs. Mitchell" at least had some idea of a connection between red paint and the mortuary complex.

Charlotte may have thought of red paint as a medicinal component along with her roots and herbs.

Now, of course, I have found no one who saw any of the Mitchell women bury red paint and implements; in fact none of my informants were aware of the significance of red paint or why we were particularly interested in it. However, I would like to suggest that there is good reason to suspect that the Mitchells or some of their direct ancestors may have been responsible for the recent red paint deposits found at Wapanucket, especially the one which contained the spoon bowl which must have been manufactured around 1850.

Attleboro, Mass.
October, 1955

AN INDIAN BURIAL AT GARDNER'S NECK

MAURICE ROBBINS

Gardner's Neck in Swansea, Massachusetts, is a point of land projecting into Mount Hope Bay and bounded on either hand by the Cole's and Lee's Rivers. To one familiar with the history of early Massachusetts this is in the very heart of the ancient land of the Wampanoags. Directly across the bay is Mount Hope, home of the sachems Massasoit, Alexander and King Phillip, and along the banks of the rivers are the sites of numerous Indian camps.

New Gardner's Neck Road leads directly from Route No. 3 to the shore and near its terminus Bay Point Road, a private way, runs in a westerly direction to the estate of Mr. Ellis Waring, passing the property of Mr. Foley (see Figure 1). The burial, which is the subject of this paper was found on the estate of Mr. Foley.

During the middle of June (1955) workmen in search of a broken water pipe excavated a narrow trench some six feet in length at a point midway between the Foley house and garage. At a depth of about eighty centimeters the skeleton of an Indian was encountered. The crania and most of the upper bones of the skeleton were removed. At this point Mrs. Waring was told of the discovery and at her suggestion, and with the permission of Mr. Foley, work was stopped. Mrs. Riley, President of the Swansea Historical Society was notified of the event and in turn communicated with the writer. Mrs. Riley, Mrs. Waring and the Foley family are to be congratulated upon their interest and their willingness to cooperate in the interest of science.

As soon as possible I went to Gardner's Neck and examined the trench and the portion of the skeleton which had been carefully preserved by Mrs. Waring. An examination of the east wall of the trench (see Figure No. 2) showed an old sod line at a depth of about thirty-five centimeters below the present surface upon which a layer of coal ash had been deposited. About fifty centimeters below this old sod line the trench terminated in a layer of very dark soil which was determined to consist of sand mixed with bits of charcoal and the decayed remains of a bark floor. In this dark layer at the base of the workmen's trench were scattered bits of bone, broken human ribs and a number of vertabrae. Two lumbar vertabrae in articulation with the sacrum were visible in the north or end wall of the trench and suggested that the remainder of the burial was still in situ.

An examination of the bones preserved by Mrs. Waring confirmed the fact that the upper portion of a skeleton had been removed but that numerous bones and parts of bones were missing. The crania had been considerably damaged by the workmen. From the trench we recovered broken vertabrae (between I and J), two vertabrae (at K) which later proved to have come from a second individual, and a single metatarsal (at K) which also must be that of the second individual.

On June 18 and 19 I again visited the site and with the welcome assistance of Mr. Howard C. Mandell, who surveyed the site and drew the map shown as Figure 1, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Lord Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Armand J. Martin, Mr. Donald...
AN INDIAN BURIAL AT GARDNER'S NECK

FIG. 7
Gammons and Mr. Edward Bielski, the excavation and the remainder of the burial was removed.

A rectangle two by one meters was staked out as shown in Figure 2 at A.B.C.D. and the earth was removed in layers. At a depth of thirty-five centimeters the old sod line and ash layer was encountered. The northeast corner of the excavation was occupied by a large block of cement which extended from a depth of fifteen centimeters to a point seventy-five centimeters below the present surface. This cement is said to have been the foundation for one corner of a wind mill which was erected at this spot some fifty years ago. Mrs. Waring has a photograph of this windmill but it was not possible to determine which of the corners was represented by the block within our excavation.

At a depth of eighty centimeters the disturbed fill of the grave shaft was easily recognized. The western margin of the shaft was plainly marked by a vertical band of black material, assumed to be the decayed remains of a bark lining, which was two centimeters in thickness. Just outside of this bark lining a number of large beach pebbles had been placed. The lining extended downward, conforming to the surfaces of these pebbles to form the floor of the shaft at which point the thickness increased to about five centimeters. This dark floor was traced eastward, except for the portion beneath the cement block, to a point marked L in figure 2, beyond which it was not possible to extend our excavations at this time. The easterly margin of the shaft has not been definitely located. The base of the workmen’s trench also appeared to have been covered by the bark floor but the disturbance was such that the continuity was destroyed in that area.

At a depth of one hundred centimeters the remaining portion of the skeleton was located. The sacrum lay with its distal end just beneath the cement, the iliacs lay on either side of the sacrum. The lower limbs had been loosely flexed, the left foot lying just east of the cement, the right foot which should have been beneath the cement was missing. Between the femurs were scattered a number of small white shell beads. The precise position of the upper portion of the skeleton was not observed by us but it is obvious that the body had been placed on its left side facing west, with the feet to the northeast.

Because of the character of the pelvis and the general size and robust nature of the long bones and crania the skeleton is assumed to be that of a male Indian. Dentition and other features suggest an age of death of between thirty-five and forty years. The crania is dolichocephalic. On the right side of the face just above the tips of the root canals of the upper teeth and extending from above the third molar to the first bicuspid a deep bone lesion is visible. The teeth at this point are drawn upward out of line with the rest of the teeth in the upper jaw. It is possible that this lesion may have occurred at the time of death but it seems more probable that the deformation of the jaw at this point was a natural defect and that the lesion may have been of post-mortem origin.
AN INDIAN BURIAL AT GARDNER’S NECK

A white quartz projectile point of the stemmed variety was found deeply embedded in the left iliac approximately five millimeters from the acetabulum posteriorily. The projectile must have struck with great force as it would have been necessary for it to have penetrated the mass of posterior muscles which lie over the iliac at this point to become embedded in the osseous structure. There are several large blood vessels present in this area which may have been severed and there is a possibility that the sciatic nerve might have been cut or injured so as to bring about a paralysis of the injured limb. A wound of this severity might be expected, in the absence of medical care, to terminate in sepsis and death even if the resultant hemorrhage was controlled. The presence of the projectile point is an indication that this wound was the immediate cause of death otherwise one would expect the projectile to have been withdrawn.

From the grave fill several kernels of corn, a single fragment of clay pottery, a tiny bit of red oxide of iron, and a small mass of what appears to be animal hair or fur, were recovered. There was no major deposit of grave goods in the portion of the grave excavated by the writer.

It would seem that the burial herein described had been disturbed on two previous occasions. When the windmill foundation was put in place the bones of the right foot and ankle were destroyed or removed and some of the destruction of the bones of the lower limbs may have resulted from the acids of wet cement which was deposited close to them. The second disturbance was at the hands of the present day workmen and involved the upper portion of the burial.

A study of that portion of the burial shaft shown in Figure 2 is interesting indeed. It would seem to the writer that there is a definite indication that the lined portion of the excavation is much too large to accommodate a single individual. From the western margin of the original excavation where the bark lining turns upward to mark the side of the shaft to the point marked L, where the horizontal lining still continues eastward is somewhat greater than a meter. If our assumption is correct that the floor of the workmen’s trench was also bark lined, the extension from north to south is nearly three meters with no indication of a margin in either direction. Then too the presence at K of two cervical vertebrae of a second individual and at M of the metatarsal is suggestive of additional burials which may have been removed by the workmen under the impression that all were part of a single individual. It would seem highly desirable, if suitable arrangements can be made, to carry out further excavation at this spot to determine whether or not additional burials are present.

Attleboro, Mass.
July, 1955

SUGGESTED CLASSIFICATION OF ATLATL WEIGHTS

WILLIAM S. FOWLER

While the term atlatl weight has only recently been applied to these artifacts (formerly known as bannerstones), there are now several pieces of evidence which strongly recommend its use in the case of small to medium sizes as charms or as weights attached to a spear-throwing stick. In the Southwest, this stick, usually about 2 ½” long, is called by the natives, “atlatl,” hence its use in this classification. Originally, the stick is thought to have been used in a plain undecorated condition. Later, it is probable that carefully shaped stone weights were attached to it, either to provide greater momentum to the spear in its flight, or, as is thought by some when made in fanciful shapes, to lend good luck to the hunter in assuring a direct hit with his spear.

Attention is directed to a report by T. M. N. Lewis in the Tennessee Archaeologist, Vol. IV, No. 3, 1948, in which reference is made to certain archaic burial finds by University of Tennessee archaeologists. In these graves appeared antler atlatl hooks in close association with cylindrically shaped stones, drilled longitudinally with a hole varying between ½ and ¾” in diameter. Each weighed no more than 4 ounces, and in each case the weight lay at a distance from the antler hook and in such a way as to indicate it had been attached to the throwing-stick immediately adjacent to the handle, rather than toward the hook end. While these plain but well worked weights lack imagination in styling, two fanciful wing weights also perforated with about a ½” hole occurred at
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two New England hunting sites, Ragged Mountain and Twin Rivers. Because of their association at these sites with the Stone Bowl Age (Late Archaic) and with hunting stone traits, there seems little doubt that they were in use there at an early date as hunting equipment, probably as atlatl weights. This evidence seems to support the Tennessee burial hypothesis and leads to the belief that objects of this nature of moderate weight, perforated with about a ½” diameter hole, were associated with spear-throwing equipment. Some of these stone weights instead of being perforated have grooves across their face on either one or both sides. Others, which are in the shape of a bow tie, have side-notching instead and are sometimes nicely ground. In such cases the grooves or side-notching probably provided the means for lashing these weights to the atlatl in place of a perforation.

While this suggested classification is intended principally to show various groups into which the different shaped weights may be placed with no reference to the age in which they belong, it seems axiomatic that the oval type has been found stratigraphically in the Early Archaic horizon, which appears just below the Stone Bowl horizon in which wing and bow tie shapes occur. Therefore, it would seem that the latter fancifully shaped specimens were made by a different people from those who made the oval forms, and probably did not evolve from the former, but were introduced at a later date.

As Chairman of the Artifact Classification Committee and with approval of the Society's Research Council, I have illustrated four different types of atlatl weights which occur in central and southern New England. In all but one classification, I have included specimens in different shapes to show some of the variations which may be anticipated. However, they do not represent by any means the full extent of variation which may have taken place to satisfy individual fancy. Nevertheless, they do suggest that variation is to be expected, which in itself should not, therefore, prevent assignment of specimens to be classified to whatever class they seem to belong. It should be noted that the distinguishing features which have been used to separate “wing” from “whaletail” forms are two in number. First, whaletail weights should have wings which taper to nearly a point like a whale’s tail. Second, whaletail wings should exhibit more thickness toward the perforated area than is usually found in wing forms, although this is not always the case.

For the illustrations I have copied actual specimens from the New England area referred to, recovered as surface or excavated finds. Whenever there was but a fragment of a specimen, I have taken the liberty to reconstruct the missing section in the illustration, provided the fragment was large enough to adequately represent the finished shape.

Wing Weights
To belong to this group, specimens may or may not be perforated, but must have thinned extended sides like wings. These may be styled variously either irregularly convex, butterfly shaped, straight, or with concave edges. They should be ground smooth, often polished, and usually are made from attractive stone material, either by virtue of banding, unusual spots of black or colored phenocrysts, or of some appealing overall color. At times stone stock appears exotic with unusually bright colored spots in green, blue, and red, which makes one wonder about its source. At other times it has a solid color in shades of green, red-brown, or cream; made of sandstone, argillite, or other semi-hard stones.

Whaletail Weights
In this classification appear thick winged perforated forms with each wing tapering to a pointed tip resembling the tail of a whale. While these weights are rare as compared with the wing type, they are believed to be coeval. They too are ground, sometimes polished, and are made of unusual stones, often sandstone which is usually banded. However, the stone stock does not show the same fanciful variations with colored spots as in the case of wing forms. This may be explained by the relatively smaller number of whaletail specimens which have come to light, and therefore may not be a fair observation of this deficiency.

Bow Tie Weights
Included in this class are unperforated forms which have been either chipped or ground into a shape resembling a bow tie. They are not perforated; were probably attached to the atlatl by means of thongs wrapped around their narrowed center. They are believed to be coeval with the wing and whaletail weights. Their size varies between 4 and 5” in length, and they are usually made of argillite or sandstone.
FIG. 9—Atlatl Weights (Bannerstones). Proposed.
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Oval Weights
This group contains forms which are perforated with about a ½" diameter hole, as in the case of other perforated weights. They are generally oval in shape, although often variations alter the oval symmetry and tend to beautify an otherwise plain shape. They are always bulky about their center, and apparently because of this characteristic nearly every specimen belonging to this class has been thinned on one side by grooving, or by flattening. The reason for reducing the thickness of one side has not been fully understood until quite recently. During the process of hafting one of these weights for museum display, an interesting discovery was made. In slipping the weight on the smaller hook end of the throwing-stick, found necessary because enlargement at the other handle end was greater than perforation of the weight, the reason for thinning became evident. As the weight was worked up toward the stick’s central area, it was found that the reduction of one side, usually by grooving, was done apparently for the purpose of permitting the spear shaft to be drawn in closer to the stick along the groove, without becoming at the same time detached from its hook engagement. The reason for this then became quite clear: the spear shaft would thus lie close enough to the stick’s handle so that the forefingers of the hand which held it could also grasp the spear; and the spear could then be thrown with one hand. This experiment demonstrated beyond a possible doubt that bulky forms like those in this category could hardly have been used as weights on atlatls without the thinning of one side. For it should be remembered that the hand which holds the stick must also hold the spear, because control of the aim is only possible when one arm is used in thrusting the spear forward. As the results of this experiment become fully understood, doubtless it will seem unrealistic to most that these perforated oval objects could have been used other than as atlatl weights.

So far, perforated cylindrical forms such as those from Tennessee have not appeared in this area, and it may be doubted if they were ever a part of Northeastern cultures. However, boatstones, birdstones, and other perforated problematical elongated objects do occur in New England and may have been used for atlatl weights, as is thought by some. However, so far, none of these artifacts have been recovered under controlled excavation, associated with other recoveries in such a way as to suggest their use for atlatl weights. Therefore, until they are, it may be best to consider only the four illustrated types as atlatl weights. It is hoped that critics will not think it presumptuous to recommend substitution of the term atlatl weight for that of bannerstone in view of the evidence as presented, which relates to small to medium sized specimens. However, it could be possible in the case of large sized wing forms, which rarely appear here, but do occur in other sections of the country especially in the Middle West, that such objects were attached to the end of staffs and used for ceremonial purposes; therefore might still be termed bannerstones. Certainly, such enlarged objects in heavy weights would seem unwieldy and out of place as atlatl weights.

Bronson Museum, 
Attleboro, Mass. 
February 1955
ARTIFACTS OF THE WILBRAHAM AREA

RICHARD JOHN CURRY

Are Indian artifacts becoming difficult to find? This question often arises in the minds of those of us who are interested in the culture of the American Indian. Judging solely from my experience as a former assistant curator of the Springfield Museum of Natural History I would answer in the affirmative since, during my stay at this institution I encountered a few individuals who brought newly found local artifacts into the museum for examination. I understand that this situation still prevails.

However, speaking for myself, I would say that local artifacts are still plentiful enough to make a search for them worth the while. Apparently those who discover artifacts do not bring them to the museum or otherwise publicize the matter fearing that such action would encourage so much hunting that their choice locations would be quickly depleted.

At one time one could be almost certain to find something within the area of the old Agawam Indian’s corn field adjacent to the point at which the Agawam River enters the Connecticut. Today, however, it is unusual to hear of anyone finding much in the vicinity. As a matter of fact during the recent construction of a new highway which runs parallel to the Connecticut River and almost directly through the old corn fields no mention was made of any Indian finds. Of course bulldozers and the untrained eye are a poor substitute for archaeological methods.

Also there are the Longmeadow Flats which are said to have been the site of an old Indian burying ground. While talking with an old time resident I was told that skeletal remains are still to be found at this site. Possibly, this may be true, but upon a recent field expedition to this area I received nothing more for my efforts than a car full of dust and a most unpleasant surprise attack from a nest of angered wasps.

Since I began teaching the sixth grade at the Wilbraham Memorial school it has been my fortune to find a number of artifacts within the general area of the town of Wilbraham. Some of these finds were made right on the playground of the school at which I teach. Undoubtedly this immediate vicinity was a camp site of the local Indians. During the construction of this new school it was announced that many artifacts had been found during excavation. It was this news that prompted me to do some careful searching after school hours. With the assistance of some students I was able to find several choice points during the fall of 1954. Since then I have added many more pieces to my collection from the school grounds and from nearby pastures.

It might be of interest to note that the entire area of the Wilbraham Mountain Range is spotted with a type of conglomerate rock formation which affords a number of interesting geological features including caves which may have been used by local Indians in pre-historic times. I have examined several of these caves and come to the conclusion that, giving consideration to the effects of time and the elements, it is quite possible that some of these formations served as rock shelters. Today these rock shelters can be found only by careful search since nature has hidden them well with vegetation. While at the museum I came across an old photograph of one of these rock shelters at the opening of which the skeleton of an Indian was said to have been excavated. It would be of interest to devote some time to a careful examination of these shelters.

One of my prize finds in this area is what I believe to be a perfect fist-hammer. One day while doing playground duty I happened upon a small pile of rocks at the edge of the field. By chance I noticed a peculiar stone that was oblong in shape. Further examination showed it to be six to seven inches in length, tapered to a rather blunt end, with a well grooved thumb hole on one side. The piece fitted the hand very nicely and seemed to be of serviceable weight. It was of the same general appearance of other fist hammers which I had examined at the museum.

In addition to the artifacts mentioned I have found what seems to be an almost perfectly made truncated scraper with a blade approximately one inch in length. The scraper together with several points were made from what seems to be flint although I have been told that true flint is not found in this area. The substance is black in color, smooth, and has conchoidal depressions. It is possible that the raw material has been brought in from some other region where flint is to be found. This was not an uncommon practice. The other points are made from a variety of quartz, shale, and trap rock, the latter probably coming from Mount Tom. Wherever points were found I was almost certain to find a number of chips both large and small. Chips found in the Wilbraham area are quite simi-
ARTIFACTS OF THE WILBRAHAM AREA

lar to those found at the Guida site in Westfield, Massachusetts. (1). I accord to these chips the same archaeological value as to a perfect point.

In all probability the Indians who inhabited this area were itinerant Agawams or Quabaugs who resided in the area just east of Springfield. In any event the geographical features of Wilbraham and vicinity provided the necessary conditions under which the local Indians chose to live. This is especially true of the area occupied by the Memorial School. This site is on a small hill at the base of the Wilbraham Mountain Range. Several small streams are found nearby and, of course, the area abounds in a large variety of minerals and other material from which the Indians made implements.

In closing let me say that this article was prompted by the increasing number of individuals who have asked me if I thought that Indian artifacts were becoming rare in this area. As I am not an authority I am hardly in a position to give an authoritative answer but I can voice an opinion. I am not certain that artifacts are so plentiful that one need only to scratch the surface of the ground to find an abundance of points, tools, etc. On the contrary, as mentioned earlier, there are many sites in this area which have been nearly exhausted by continual hunting. However, I do believe that there are yet to be found many sites in this area which will offer a store of new materials to further our increasing knowledge of the American Indian.

The recent excavation and restoration of Fort William Henry in upper New York is an example of what I mean. Hidden by the ravages of time archaeologists were able there to unearth innumerable relics of bygone days and beneath all of this they have uncovered an Indian culture of respectable antiquity. Surely this is an encouraging indication that with more people taking a greater interest in the field of archaeology such organizations as the Massachusetts Archaeological Society will continue to strive for a better understanding of the early history of our country.

Springfield, Mass.

ABORIGINAL NEW ENGLAND POTTERY

WILLIAM J. HOWES

(Fourth Installment)

There were at least five known pottery making centers in this territory. All indications place one in the southerly part of Springfield near the Pecow­sic Fort site. A brickyard exhausted the supply of clay and obliterated all evidences of the workshop sites with their pottery making implements, and broken potsherds, which generally accompany such workshop litter.

At South Hadley Falls, some distance back from the crest of the high terrace, and above where the north and easterly slope runs down to Tannery Brook, there is an outcropping of fine clay in the bed of the stream. Just above were the workshop sites, for many pottery fragments of both Algonkian and Mohawk workmanship have been found there. On them were found many moulding implements, fragments of graphite, other artifacts, and large clusters of burned and broken firestones. The graphite was of two grades, the course was probably pulverized and used as a tempering material and for waterproofing purposes, for some of the sherds indicate its use. The fine grade fragments were rubbed down on all edges to a smooth face from application to the pot surfaces. One piece was worn down to a thickness of less than one's little finger, and it was not over an inch in length. One potsherd indicates its use over both the exterior and interior surfaces, with the exterior surface polished to a bright black luster. Evidently its partial application on the exterior was intentional, for it appears to have been omitted leaving it the natural brick red color of the fired sherd.

On the Northampton Meadows opposite Shepherds Island is another, and probably the most important site for pottery making on the whole river. More fragments of different types of pots in both form and decoration have been found here than at any other location along the river. There is little doubt that the gem of all pottery pipe production found on the river bank opposite by William Lamb was made at this location. (See American Antiquity, Vol. 8, No. 2, Oct., 1942).

The outstanding Mohawk production recovered from this site inclines one to believe that this location was one of the main sources or focal points where the transition of Algonkian were
started which ultimately radiated throughout Southern New England territory.

The sites at both Turners Falls and Westfield are unknown at present. The fragments found on camp sites around both locations show that there must have been considerable production, for the material recovered from these sites include different types of ware, also decoration of late production ware. Original conceptions of ornamental motifs are found upon potsherds from each location, indicating that they were in no way duplications of ware produced at any other workshop site.

Each locality seems to have had certain outstanding features from which one can determine the source of its production. From the artistic quality and refinement of the ware found within the area, the Northampton and Westfield locations will rank as superior to all others.

The Northampton location would seem to have been where there was a more direct contact with the Mohawk than at Westfield. At Westfield the known production would seem, on account of the type of clay used, to have been of very late construction and made by proficient artisans who had experience and training at one of the Connecticut Valley locations.

South Hadley Falls and Springfield sections seem to have many pieces of high quality, yet the general run was of a lower grade. Springfield known fragments seem to have been mostly of Algonkian type in both form and decoration, with a few pieces of Mohawk type influence, which radiated from locations further north.

Among the most primitive types of Algonkian ware of this section decoration was of secondary consideration. Occasional toothed indentation markings were imprinted on the ware in a hit or miss random fashion. Later the decoration was indented around the rim, and sometimes it extended over to the inside of the pot. Cord wound paddles and chip markings made in wiping the pot's surface to a finished state are also found.

The early Southern New England cylindrical body type pottery with its pointed base seems to have preceded the type with the upper portion contracted to form a neck, such as that found in the shell heaps of Maine. While there is no conclusive evidence in this connection, we know that the Indian traditions of the North country as related to the Mission Fathers, told of the early Indian "com-
ALGONQUIAN POT
FOUND AT
PECOWSIC FORT SITE
SPRINGFIELD, MASS
FROM THE
JOSEPH A SKINNER MUSEUM

FIG. 10
Plastering over a form against a fabric lining... Illustrating the result of the application by daubing the material on with a downward and inward stroke as indicated at "A".

Construction by plastering material on over a form.

Large Algonquian Pot
Springfield Museum No. 24

Interior walls pitted same as shown on the exterior.
Pottery Rims of Connecticut Valley Algonquian Ware
Showing Decoration by an Indentation Implement
Algonquian Potsherds
Found on Meadows at Northampton, Mass

No. 1

Rim

Inside

Section

*2127 H.X

No. 2

Rim

*2135 H.X

Section

From the Collection of W.S. Rodimon, Northampton, Mass.
ABORIGINAL NEW ENGLAND POTTERY

FOUND AT NORTH HATFIELD.

No 1.

FOUND AT TURNERS FALLS.

Connecticut Valley Type of a late period Algonquian Pottery

From the Collection of Walter S. Rodmon
Northampton, Mass.

Fig. 14
ABORIGINAL NEW ENGLAND POTTERY

RIM OF 8 INCH POT

IROQUOIAN TYPE POT

FOUND IN LONGMEADOW MASS.

SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM NO.

FIG. 15
Rubbings of Iroquoian Type Potshards Found in the Connecticut Valley

From the Holyoke Public Library Anthropology Collection

FIG. 16
ABORICAL NEW ENGLAND POTTERY

Iroquoian Type Pot


See plan of rim

FIG. 17
ABORIGINAL NEW ENGLAND POTTERY

FIG. 18

PLAN OF POT RIM
SEE POT #903