Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Vol. 24, No. 2

Massachusetts Archaeological Society

Follow this and additional works at: https://vc.bridgew.edu/bmas

Part of the Archaeological Anthropology Commons

Copyright
© 1963 Massachusetts Archaeological Society

This item is available as part of Virtual Commons, the open-access institutional repository of Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
# BULLETIN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**VOL. 24**  
**NO. 2**  
**JANUARY, 1963**

## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MILL RIVER: AN ARCHAIC UPLAND SITE</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley M. Roop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIQUE ARTIFACTS FROM MAINE</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George H. Barton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECONDARY CREMATION BURIAL NO. 2, THE HAWE'S SITE</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maurice Robbins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A PLATTSBURG POT FROM NEW YORK STATE</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl S. Dodge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE COHANET LINE</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rei Heino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PUBLISHED BY THE**  
**MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Society Office, Bronson Museum, 8 No. Main Street, Attleboro, Mass.
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President
Arthur C. Lord 38 Worcester Street, Bridgewater, Mass.

First Vice President
Harold F. Nye Marion, Mass.

Second Vice President
Donald C. Wilder 86 Brewster Avenue, South Braintree 85, Mass.

Secretary
Maurice Robbins Bronson Museum, Attleboro, Mass.

Financial Secretary
Mabel A. Robbins 23 Steere Street, Attleboro, Mass.

Treasurer

Editor

Trustees
Society Officers and 2 Last Past Presidents
Laurence K. Gahan Douglas F. Jordan Walter Thomas, Jr.
Robert Valyou Col. E. S. Clark, Jr. Adrian P. Whiting

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN published in four Numbers of one Volume each year, commencing in October.

Price this issue: $ .75
(Subscription by membership in the Society: $3.00)

Note: Address all requests concerning membership to the Secretary; all orders for back Bulletin numbers (4 for $1.00 to members) to the Editor; and mail Society dues to the Financial Secretary.

BRONSON MUSEUM

This is the Society's museum, 5th Floor of the 8 North Main Street Building, Attleboro, Mass. — Museum hours are from 9:30 to 4:30, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. For special arrangements to visit on other days, contact the Director, Maurice Robbins, or the Curator, William S. Fowler by mail at the Society Office, Bronson Museum, Attleboro, Mass.

NOTICE

If you move, you must notify the Secretary at once of your new address, in order to receive your Bulletin.

The Post Office will no longer notify us of your new address, even if we guarantee return postage on undeliverable Bulletins, due to new regulations.

If you move and do not notify us, your Bulletin will be sent to the Dead Letter Office. Replacement of Bulletins lost in this way cannot be guaranteed.
While visiting the Mendon Historical Society Museum early in 1959, the writer saw a group of stone artifacts, and was told by the curator where they had been found. After making a visit to the site, permission was obtained to look around the area. Although it was rumored that various people had surface collected there for a number of years, the writer was unable to locate any of their collections. After viewing the area and making a few surface finds, the chances seemed good for undertaking excavation of the site. Work commenced soon after with results as reported in this paper.

**THE SITE**

Mill River site lies on a fairly level terrace formation about 20 feet above the river level. Concentration of artifacts appears to be distributed over an area of about 1/2 of a mile along the river, and extending in depth about 150 feet away from the river bank. Since there is no spring or brook nearby, river water probably was used for cooking and drinking. The soil is sandy with good drainage; no stones appear except those brought there by the occupants. The site was laid out in 5 ft. grids with the base line running parallel to the river bank. Excavation, when completed, covered approximately 15,000 sq. ft., with a total recording of 374 artifacts, excluding ill-defined ones, such as broken tips of points, etc.

The site is located in Mendon, Massachusetts on the farm of James Ferrucci. He gladly granted permission to excavate, and has been helpful in every way possible during the operation. The area selected for excavation is situated on a high bank of Mill River; a navigable stream for canoes. It flows into the Blackstone River, which empties into Narragansett Bay. The site lies in the uplands, approximately twenty miles from tide water. For years its surface has been plowed from 8 to 10’ deep, and it is now used for a pig farm. In studying the evidence from this site, the writer has been mindful of artifact traits appearing at other well documented sites, including Wapanucket 6, an Archaic site on Assowampsett Lake, Massachusetts.

**METHODS OF EXCAVATION AND RECORDING**

The line of demarcation between loam and subsoil, referred to as the junction, served as the base line to which all recordings were made. The position of an artifact was recorded by two measures, one to the junction, the other to the top of the ground surface, while a note was made of the soil in which artifact was found, whether loam or subsoil.

Recording was done on separate 4 x 6’ cards, and was transferred to a master chart for comparative purposes.

**STRATIGRAPHY**

The layers of soil in which artifacts occurred consisted of loam and subsoil. These were underlaid by sterile white sand. Since loam was disturbed by plowing down to the junction, artifacts found in it were considered as belonging both to the loam and to the upper part of the subsoil, as the latter may have been sliced into slightly at a few places by the plow. However, since recoveries from the loam are similar in type to those from the upper subsoil, it is assumed they belong to the same culture period. After comparing artifact types with those from other reliable sites undisturbed by plow, it seems probable that there are only two culture zones at this site. The lower zone extends from 2 to 6’ below junction, while the upper one extends from 2’ below junction to top of the loam. Due to a hummocky living floor level, which doubtless existed in early days, a 2” vertical span of overlapping between zones is a probability, and this has been taken into consideration when assigning artifacts to their respective zones. However, the main zone determinant of types has been frequency in either zone of any given type.

By comparing artifact types with those from other recorded stations, it is apparent that Mill River site contains only two cultures: Early Archaic—lower zone; and Late Archaic (Stone Bowl)—upper zone. The succeeding Ceramic culture, apparently, is absent, since no potsherds or other important diagnostic traits, such as large triangular points, triangular hoes, crescent drills and sinewstones appeared. It seems probable that the upper zone belongs to the Stone Bowl Age, as it contains one fragment of a steatite bowl and other diagnostic traits as enumerated under the heading—Implement Traits.

A Carbon-14 date of 1,900±200 years ago was obtained from Professor H. R. Crane, Director, Memorial Phoenix Project Laboratory, University of Michigan. It was a measure made of a sample
of charcoal taken from a refuse pit at the site. Associated with the charcoal in the pit was a corner-removed #7 projectile point. This trait is considered diagnostic of the Late Archaic by virtue of its presence in stone bowl quarries of that period, and at Wapanucket 6. At that site it was culturally associated with charcoal with a carbon-14 date of about 4,200 years ago; thought to represent the early phase of the Stone Bowl Age because of affiliated quarry tools and fragments of steatite bowls. Therefore, it appears likely that Mill River's carbon-14 date indicates a period toward the close of this industrial age before the advent of ceramics.

OCCLUSIONAL EVIDENCE

STONE HEARTHS. A number of stone hearths were found at, or slightly below junction. These hearths had fairly large diameters of approximately 4 to 5 feet. They were more or less round in shape, and were composed of masses of scattered stones, similar to those appearing in the Stone Bowl horizon at other sites in the area. Fire pits without stones were numerous, but they lay deeper than the stone hearths, as they were dug into the ground below the living level. Since they occurred from 1 to 2 feet below junction, they have been assigned to the Early Archaic of the lower zone of occupation.

REFUSE PITS. Many scattered refuse pits were dug out. They varied in depth from 1 to 6 feet below junction, but with no shell and only a small amount of other discernible refuse. This prevented recognition of the level of origin (top of pit) of the various pits. Consequently, artifacts found in them could only be assigned to their respective culture by means of typological analysis.

IMPLEMENT TRAITS. (The system of artifact classification of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society has been used to classify artifacts.) Early Archaic—lower zone (Fig. 1). This zone includes the following projectile point types: Corner-removed #5, (29), Corner-removed #8, (47), Corner-removed #9, (8), Bifurcated, (2); also, Leaf Knife, (5).

Late Archaic—upper zone (Fig. 2). This zone includes the following projectile point types: Small Triangular, (92), Small Stem, (31), Corner-removed #3, (14), Corner-removed #7, (21), Eared, (24), Side-notched, (10), Truncated, (1), Tapered Stem, (4); also, Plummet (clumsy form), (1); Stem, (10); and Flake Scrapers, (2); Stem, (5); and Stemless Knives, (14); Expanded-base, (3); Plain, (7); T, (3); Cross, (8); Tapered, (1); and Flake Drills, (6); Festle, (2); Hammerstone, (4); Steatite Bowl Fragment, (1); Worked Graphite, (1).

Fig. 1. EARLY ARCHAIC (Lower Zone). Projectile Points: 1-4, Corner-removed #8; 5-7, Corner-removed #9; 8, 9, 11, Corner-removed #5; 12, Bifurcated. 10, Leaf Knife.
A deposit of 19 cache blades was uncovered in the upper zone. They were made of shale and argillite; were not worked into projectile points. An interesting feature of these blades is that they show signs of having been exposed to fire, and therefore, may have been used in a cremation, since such a disposal of the dead is accredited to the Stone Bowl culture period at other excavations, notably, Wapanucket 6, Mansion Inn, Coburn, and the Boats sites, all reported in former Bulletins of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society.

Another unusual feature consisted of 7 Corner-removed #8 spear points, 2½ to 4" long, 5 of argillite, 1 of felsite, and 1 of quartz. They were uncovered in a vertical position with their points sticking down into the subsoil. They were distributed over an area of about 100 square feet, and averaged in depth about 8" below junction. Such a unique deposit suggests that 7 hafted spears were jabbed into the earth and left there for some unknown reason (Fig. 3). Obviously, they belong to the lower zone.

Still another important recovery was that of a single fluted point of banded flint (Fig. 4). It appeared 6" below junction in the lower zone. Since this horizon contained Early Archaic artifacts, as previously enumerated, it is probable that this fluted point was out of context. It is thought that it may have been lifted from a lower level of Paleo occupation, possibly on the white sand, due to the digging of refuse pits by people of the next culture period. Therefore, it seems likely that a
Paleo zone of occupation exists at the site in some adjoining area, not as yet excavated, and that this specimen represents a stray point from it.

**DISCUSSION**

Pestles were formerly presumed to be diagnostic of maize planting activities occurring in ceramic times. However, more recently a certain type of pestle has been closely associated with the Stone Bowl Age, as reported at Green Point site, Rhode Island. Its ground end is evenly worn in a conoidal shape with rounded tip, as if it had been used in a stone mortar. Pestles of this kind when found in the Stone Bowl horizon are thought to have been used for grinding nuts, and possibly bones for inclusion in stews. Examination of the one perfect Mill River specimen shows it to be just such a pestle with an evenly worn conoidal end. Also, it is relatively short like other Stone Bowl pestles, all of which seems to indicate that it belongs to the Late Archaic culture, and therefore is not out of place in the upper zone where found.

The site was evidently occupied for a long period of time, possibly even back to Paleo times, lasting until toward the close of the Late Archaic period. It has been established at sites excavated by the Narragansett Archaeological Society of Rhode Island along Narragansett Bay that shellfish eating did not occur until the advent of ceramics. Therefore, since no shell remains or Ceramic artifact evidence appeared at Mill River, it is a safe assumption that the site was not occupied during the Ceramic Age after its abandonment by its last occupants, the Stone Bowl Makers.

Bellingham, Mass.
February 1962

**APPENDIX**

Editor's Comment: At the invitation of Mr. Roop, Mill River site was visited by the Editor. At the same time, the excavator's records and methods of allocation of artifact traits to culture zones were carefully examined. This work was found to have been done in a commendable way, so as to accurately present the excavated evidence at the site. A thorough study was made of the recovered artifacts, which at once gave impressive testimony to the importance of this site as a culture determinant of the Archaic era. Although, quantitatively, the number of recordings was somewhat limited, the
conditions of artifact deposition as related to the topography was such as to produce what appears to be a reliable Archaic index of its two culture periods. That is, the Early Archaic zone was low enough to escape disturbance by the plow, while the Late Archaic or Stone Bowl Age, which overlay it, was the last culture to occupy the site. Its disturbance by the plow, therefore, did not impair its usefulness as a culture marker.

However, like most sites, Mill River was subjected to refuse pit disturbance throughout its occupancy, which quite obviously moved some artifacts from their original positions, where they had been dropped. This condition has been taken into consideration by Mr. Roop in his evaluation of the evidence, with what seems to be satisfactory results. We might comment on only one trait, which, when compared to zone artifact components at Nunkatusset site near Nippenicket Lake on the upper reaches of the Taunton River, seems out of context. This is the Expanded-base Drill, of which but 3 specimens were recovered at Mill River. Without this trait the Early Archaic at the site appears without drills of any kind. This seems unusual in view of this drill’s presence in Nunkatusset’s lowest zone. While its omission from the earlier age may be correct, sites with strong Archaic evidence of its two periods stratigraphically separated are too few, at present, to support a belief one way or the other. Twin Rivers is the only other site, where this earlier period is stratigraphically well defined with Corner-removed #5 and #8 traits, and here a drill appeared on the Early Archaic level with rude expanded-base characteristics. As a whole, when consideration is given to the trait lists reported at Mill River for its two zones, they seem remarkably realistic when compared to evidence from other excavated sites in the Narragan-sett Bay drainage, where scant Early, but heavy Late Archaic artifact traits appear.

With this broad comparative analysis in mind, it now seems important to give credit to this new display of culture traits at Mill River, as being authoritative as a guide, to suggest what may be expected in the two Archaic periods. Until other documented sites are reported with contrary evidence, which seems unlikely, this report should serve to establish probable trait differences between these two culture ages.

Mill River appears to be a hunting site with a preponderance of projectile points, but with a conspicuous absence of other traits denoting a larger settlement. However, since projectile points are usually encountered at all sites, they are perhaps the best culture diagnostics. Therefore, their relative abundance here places increased importance upon the types represented.

The small fluted point from Mill River should not be passed over lightly. It is made of banded flint, denoting an exotic source of stone material represented in some fluted points at other Paleo sites in New England, presumed to represent the early phase of the age. It has slightly ground basal edges, characteristic of such points, and is worked and shaped more like the Clovis fluted than the more refined Folsom, which probably never diffused into the Northeast. Since it obviously was out of context, as has been reported, no stratigraphic significance can be attached to it. And yet, it is an exciting recovery, which should provoke further research in the area on the white sand level, in an effort to locate a Paleo living area. This need not be large; will probably be composed of several small areas, each with its concentration of flint chips and artifacts.
Recently, a collection of artifacts from the Kennebec River region of Maine was acquired by the writer. The specimens are well documented as to the location from which each came. But, while they are recorded as having been recovered both by excavation and surface hunting, information is lacking as to which kind of recovery applies to each. However, a great many are listed as coming from a site called "Old Point," which now has been identified as being the location of an early 17th century Abnaki Indian village called Norridgewock. It is located on the upper reaches of the Kennebec, several miles above Waterville. Many of the artifacts from this site consist of articles, which are easily identified as being trade goods, such as glass beads of various shapes, sizes; and colors; drilled moose teeth of aboriginal origin are used as spacers. Of these, certain fairly large deep blue beads have been identified as similar to recoveries from an Oneida Iroquois site, reported by P. P. Pratt, and dated 1677-1710. However, the most unusual part of those specimens, presumed to be trade goods,
UNIQUE ARTIFACTS FROM MAINE

consists of artifacts made of metal. A sample of this metal has been examined by spectrographic analysis and found to be a poor grade of bronze: "This specimen contains the following metals — copper, silver, tin, phosphorous, with some impurities ... a poor quality of bronze ... ingredients suggest European origin." In this group of bronze implements, besides several short points, are long spear-like blades of various lengths, suggestive of bayonets, which may have served as daggers or as ceremonial spears. Also, the lot includes a unique bronze ax, as shown in the illustration (Fig. 5).

In addition to contact goods, the collection contains an array of other artifacts quite obviously of aboriginal manufacture (Fig. 6), such as: shell pendants, bone and shell beads of different shapes, bone awls, and a bone harpoon; stone pendants, gouges, celts, pestles, plummetts, grooved axes, knives, projectile points, and a long ground slate spear point. This, together with a celt and one large hammerstone retain stains of red ochre, indicating their recovery from "red paint" burials (Fig. 7).

Besides Old Point, other locations where some of the artifacts were found are Winthrop, Pellen Brook, Solon, Oakland, and Starks. Recoveries were made over the past fifty years and can only be appraised typologically as to their respective culture affiliations, since no stratigraphic records were made as to their depth of deposition, when located by excavation. However, it is quite obvious that probably all of the beads, the bronze implements, and many of the remaining artifacts from Norridgewock came from grave or pit deposits, rather than from surface recoveries. It may be assumed that such contact goods as appeared there, probably have to do with occupation of the site during historic times, while the remainder, consisting of aboriginal-worked artifacts, during pre-historic days. However, in both cases, the material is such— assemblage of different types of beads, bone artifacts, and bronze blades in multiple groups, rather than singly—as to suggest that it was originally deposited as grave goods in burials. With this in mind, especially as related to the contact material, a review of what occurred at the site during its last days of occupancy by the Abnaki seems important. For, it appears quite probable that these artifacts may have been associated with events surrounding the final abandonment of the village. These events, therefore, become significant evidence as a part of this report. In fact, the artifacts doubtless belonged to the besieged natives, who died as a result of a raid by the English in 1724, and were subsequently buried at the site, where a monument now stands commemorating the event.

Research in histories of Maine has revealed a scene of terror, which is herewith set down in brief for the benefit of those interested. Norridgewock, sometimes referred to as Naurrautsouak, was discovered in 1646 when a Jesuit priest by the name of Gabriel Druillettes, accompanied by Indian converts canoed down the Kennebec from Canada, on a trip to the ocean. He was the first white man into the territory, and was followed by Jesuits Aubry and Loyard, and finally by Sebastian Rasle, who remained at Norridgewock as a missionary. This post was considered the most important mission seat in Maine. During his term there, he wielded tremendous influence over the Indians, and converted most of the Abnaki to Christianity. The French, unlike the English, did not purchase Indian land, and worked in behalf of the natives with great self sacrifice and altruistic effort. Rasle set up a chapel at the site with ornaments brought from Quebec, and for years devoted himself to developing a dictionary of the Abnaki language. During his last years at Norridgewock, the English, fearful of Catholic-influenced Indian raids against their Protestant organized hamlets in Maine and other accessible New England regions, placed a price on his head. In 1722 they pillaged the chapel and priest's dwelling, and carried off Rasle's Indian dictionary—now owned by Harvard University.

Two years later in 1724, believing that continued occupancy of Norridgewock by Catholic-influenced Indians posed a threat to the peace of their settlements, the English, 208 in number with 3 Mohawks, and led by Captains Moulton, Harmon, Bourn, and Bane, sacked and burned the village. Capturing a squaw south of the village, they forced her to direct them to the site, which they quietly surrounded with three groups of men; whereupon a charge was made. A lone Indian, discovering them, gave a war whoop, which awoke the village from a summer-day's siesta. The inhabitants panicked and rushed out of their homes in terror only to face the deadly fire of the English. Some ran into the ambush in the woods and were shot. Others, including women and children, jumped into the river and tried to swim across, but were killed by bullets fired into their struggling mass, or were drowned. Only a few succeeded in making their escape through the woods or across
Fig. 6. ABORIGINAL ARTIFACTS, Maine Sites. 1, Bone Harpoon; 2, 3, Ulna Bone Awls; 4, Corn Engraved Sandstone Pendant; 5, 6, Pendants; 7, Shell Beads, Pendant; 8, Bone Beads—Shell Pendant; 9, Perforator; 10, Leaf Knife. 11-19, Projectile Points: 11, Small Triangular; 12, Eared; 13, Diamond; 14, Side-notched #5; 15, Tapered Stem; 16-19, Corner-removed #7.
Fig. 7. ABORIGINAL ARTIFACTS, Maine Sites. 1, Ground Slate Blade ("Red Paint" Grave); 2, Grooved Ax; 3, Plain Gouge; 4, Hammerstone ("Red Paint" Grave); 5, Celt ("Red Paint" Grave); 6, Plummets.
the river. Rasle was discovered by Lieutenant Jaques, and although ordered by Moulton to be taken alive, was shot. Three captives at the camp were released, and four Abnaki prisoners were taken by the English, who then departed for Fort Richmond, their base of operations. A report has it that one of the Mohawks turned back, perhaps to avenge the death of one of their number shot by an Abnaki in the raid, and set fire to the chapel and other buildings, burning them to the ground.

Perhaps the event, which is the most significant as related to this report, is that the few Indians, who survived, returned and buried their dead including Rasle, their priest. They salvaged what they could, then departed for northern Maine and Canada, never to return; the power of the Kennebec Indians was destroyed forever. Rasle’s strong box, together with the chapel bell, was later recovered and today is owned by the Maine Historical Society of Portland.

While many graves were subsequently exhumed at Norridgewock by archaeologists from which the contact goods previously referred to probably came, Rasle’s grave has never been located. And mystery still surrounds the exhumed grave goods, as to whether or not they were interred with the dead from the raid, or with the dead of a previous colonial time.

Atteboro, Mass.
April 17, 1962

SECONDARY CREMATION BURIAL NO. 2, THE HAWES SITE

Maurice Robbins

The accidental destruction of a large Late Archaic deposit by earth moving machinery and the partial recovery and preservation of the included artifacts was reported in the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Vol. 23, No. 3 & 4, 1962. The location of this deposit, which was judged to have been secondary burials of cremated human remains, was on the edge of a gravel bank on the property of Angelo Caramaneca, Jr., on Rhode Island Road, Lakeville Massachusetts. In the rear of the Caramaneca home, which fronts on Rhode Island Road, is a gravel deposit rising abruptly to the 100 foot contour, and then decreasing gradually in height to the southward until it merges into an extensive swamp. A second deposit, thought to have a similar Late Archaic origin, was located about seven feet from the first. It was discovered recently by Benjamin Hawes, who brought it to the attention of the Cohannet Chapter. This deposit was excavated very carefully with the following results.

The soil at this point consisted of fairly heavy gravel, the top soil having been removed a number of years ago. A considerable amount of clay intermixed with coarse sand and stone made excavation somewhat difficult. The gravel rested upon a layer of fine silt or clay, containing considerable moisture. Beneath the silt a layer of coarse sand of unknown depth was encountered.

A pit approximately 140 centimeters on an east-west axis, and 110 centimeters on a north-south one had been dug into the gravel, penetrating some 85 centimeters to the coarse sand layer. The pit fill consisted of a sandy gravel, which had been colored a deep red by exposure to extreme heat. This fill contrasted decidedly with the surrounding yellow soil and olive green silt or clay. Scattered throughout the pit were bits of charcoal, pieces of burned stone, steatite bowl fragments, and a considerable quantity of calcined bone, which seemed to be concentrated near the stone bowl fragments, and again at the base of the pit.

Location stakes were driven on either side of the pit, north and south, from which horizontal measurements were taken. Vertical measurements were made from the present surface (top of the gravel). The top of the pit was first fully exposed, measured, and photographed. Excavation was accomplished by scraping inward, starting at the outside of the pit (Fig. 8).

Near the western periphery of the pit, at a depth of 3 cm. a steatite bowl fragment K was found in close association with two projectile points #1 and #2. The only nearly complete bowl in this deposit was found in four parts (Fig. 8, A, B, C, D). Sections A and B were together in the northwestern
Fig. 8. DIAGRAMMATIC ILLUSTRATION, PIT NO. 2—HAWES SITE.
quadrant at a depth of 41 cm. Projectile point #4 lay directly beneath these bowl fragments. Section C was found at the same depth in the southeastern quadrant. The fourth section D of this bowl appeared at a depth of 60 cm. in the southwestern quadrant of the pit in proximity to a large stone. Elements of sections A and B also lay in contact with a large stone and elements of section C, 46 cm. southeast of sections A and B at the same depth, were in contact with another large stone. Nine additional but unrelated steatite fragments were found scattered throughout the pit as shown.
Seven chipped projectile points were also found in this pit: #1 and 2 appeared near the top, #3 and 5 occurred as indicated in the diagrammatic illustration (Fig. 8), #4 lay beneath bowl sections A and B, while #6 and 7 lay together near the base of the pit. They are illustrated in detail (Fig. 9).

Fragments of graphite were encountered throughout the pit, but, as similar fragments were noted outside of the excavation intermixed with the gravel, it was decided that these were unintentional inclusions.

Steatite fragment K was later found to fit contiguous with a lug end steatite fragment from the first burials of deposit #1, which had been given to the museum some time ago, with the rest of the material from this recovery, as previously referred to.

CONCLUSIONS

A number of interesting conclusions can be drawn from the data recovered in this deposit. The fragments of calcined bone were identified as human. In particular, there were several root sections of human incisor teeth among them. A few flat sections of bone seem to have been decorated by the incision of parallel lines. This strengthens the conclusion that the pits of deposits #1 and #2 were secondary burials of cremated human bodies. It would also appear that the steatite vessels included in the pits were broken or “killed” before they were placed in these secondary burials. The fact that fragment K from deposit #2 was a part of a bowl from deposit #1, and that there appeared broken fragments in both deposits, representing portions of other bowls, supports this contention. While some of the projectile points and one steatite fragment from deposit #2 seem to have been exposed to intense heat, other artifacts show no indication of having been heated. It would seem, therefore, that this mortuary complex consisted in part of a cremation ceremony in which offerings of steatite bowls and chipped artifacts were placed with the body in the crematory. When this portion of the ceremony was completed, some incinerated bone together with broken vessels and artifacts were gathered and transported to a place chosen for interment. Here the incinerated remains together with additional grave goods were tossed into a pit and buried. Most of the earth fill within the pit must have come from the place where the cremation took place, as it was burned to a deep red color. An experiment with some of the earth in this locality produced the same red color after only a few minutes exposure to heat, and this is supposed to be due to the iron content of the soil.

Deposits #1 and #2 could have been contemporaneous, as fragment K from the latter was found to be contiguous with one taken previously from the former. It is also possible that deposit #1 could have been slightly earlier, with fragment K being left on the surface, and accidentally included in burial deposit #2.

Bronson Museum
Attleboro, Mass.
June 1962

APPENDIX

Editor’s Comment: This burial deposit #2 has the Eared and wide bladed Side-notched Point traits, which places it in Late Archaic (Stone Bowl) times. Further, since, by the conclusion, it seems contemporary with burial deposit #1, as previously reported, the projectile point traits of the latter may be helpful in determining more exactly the age of these burials.

Of the 40 points recovered from deposit #1, all have Late Archaic traits like deposit #2, with Tapered Stem and Side-notched #3 and 6 added. However, it is these last two types that have chronologic importance, of which 2 are #3, and 12 are #6. In general, these types assume narrow blade proportions, with convex sides in the case of #6, and have wide side-notching at the base. They appeared at Potter Pond site in Rhode Island, on a level that indicates a transitional position for them between the Stone Bowl and Ceramic Ages. More recently, they were found at the Oaklawn Stone Bowl quarry associated with pipe making remains. The industry of stone pipe making has now been shown to be a late phase of quarry activity through a Carbon-14 measure of a charcoal sample from pipe-making debris at Oaklawn. Hence, these diagnostic point types suggest that deposits #1 and #2 at the Hawes site belong to the close of the Stone Bowl Age in New England, possibly about A. D. 100.
A PLATTSBURG POT FROM NEW YORK STATE

KARL S. DODGE

During November of 1956 the writer visited Plattsburg, New York, on a business trip. While driving north on U. S. Route 9 with Lake Champlain lying nearby to the east, a sandy area toward the lake seemed to have attractive possibilities as a likely camp site. Situated about a mile from Plattsburg’s business district at the mouth of Scomotia Creek, where it empties into the lake, the site had recently been leveled by bulldozer and shovel for building lots. Exposed to high winds off the lake, much of the light surface soil had been removed, leaving a large dark area, which caught the writer’s attention. It was about 4 feet in diameter, and was observed to contain crushed charcoal. But of greater interest was a quantity of potsherds, which lay scattered in and around the blackened area, evidently the remains of a refuse pit, which had been demolished by the bulldozer. Noting that the sherds had a certain similarity, and believing that they were all parts of the same pot, the writer hastily dug and sifted the sand with his fingers, as he gathered the sherds together. After working in this manner for a short while, he recovered a large number of sherds, some big and others quite small. They consisted of many rim sherds, as well as parts of the body and of a semi-pointed base. Subsequently, it was discovered that about 80% of a single pot had been recovered, with nearly all sherds being contiguous.

Placing the sherds in an old cardboard box, found at the site, the writer came away with a great quantity of them. On arriving home, he called in William Fowler, Curator of the Bronson Museum, and an examination of the sherds ensued. About half of them measured 2 to 3 inches across, while most of the remainder had been crushed into very small pieces, apparently due to the weight of the bulldozer. Many hours were spent by the writer in matching and joining contiguous sherds with plastic glue. After days of effort, several large body and rim sections had been assembled, which represented the start of the pot’s restoration.

The final work was done at the Bronson Museum, where Fowler pressed, stretched, and warped the pot into shape, with the help of acetone to soften the plastic adhesive between sherds. After restoration had been completed, a well shaped pot emerged (Fig. 10). Examination of the pot revealed many interesting traits, which are enumerated as follows for the benefit of reference:

**SHAPE**—semi-conoidal; 10 1/2” mouth opening, 13 1/2” in height.

**CONSTRUCTION**—laminated 1” collar, slightly outflaring; constricted neck; flat uniform rim; coiling indicated.

**WARE**—medium crushed quartz temper.

**FINISH**—vertical cord-marked smoothed-over exterior; uniformly smooth interior.

**DECORATION**—flat rim is bisected by a single line of dentate stamping; the cross-hatch design motif by dentate covers the collar; directly below is a row of punctate marks, following which occurs the remaining decoration, all dentate stamping, covering 1/3 of the body. It consists of 8 horizontal encircling lines, separated in pairs, which are intruded on one face only by 3 large inverted double linear Vs. Note: The V motif does not continue around the pot, but is limited to 3 Vs only, although at the right hand end one side only of a fourth V appears, apparently made in error and not erased.

Greenville, Rhode Island
September 10, 1962

APPENDIX

Editor’s Comment: This restored pot from the western shore of Lake Chaplain provokes some
intriguing speculations. First of all, one's curiosity is aroused to try to explain the three inverted Vs in the body design. Invariably, a major design motif like this extends completely around the pot. This is the only instance, known to the writer, in which an important motif terminates in its repeat half way around the vessel. Therefore, it seems probable that the potter was intent on portraying some phenomenon within range of her vision, limited in its extent. Now, it is known through ethnological research among the Plains Indians that chevron peak effects of this kind in designs often are intended to depict mountains. This being the case, what could seem more likely than that these three peaks represent three high mountain summits, as seen from Scomotia Creek. Upon investigation, three high peaks in the Vermont Green Mountains loom clearly into view across the waters of Lake Champlain from the site, and could well be what the potter was trying to portray. Only 30 miles distant, Mount Mansfield rises 4,393 feet. A short distance to the south is Bolton Mountain, 3,725 feet high and but 32 miles distant, while a few miles further south in the same mountain range appears Camels Hump, 4,083 feet high, lying about 35 miles away. However, the reason for illustration of this natural phenomenon is a mystery, and probably will always remain one.

Another interesting observation is that this pot displays traits that are similar to those found in Stage 3 pottery of New England. To explain this association, it is necessary to get rid of the idea that state lines tend to separate culture traits. Obviously, nothing existed but natural barriers in prehistoric times to restrict culture contacts. Probably by ceramic times peoples had found ways to circumvent such obstacles to a considerable extent. Therefore, it seems realistic to consider the probability of a ceramic association existing between peoples east of the Hudson and north along the western shore of Lake Champlain with those to the east, all the way to the Atlantic Coast. An exchange of ideas evidently took place with potters of coastal New England, or else how explain the similarity of certain characteristics of this Plattsburg pot with many diagnostics of New England Stage 3 ware. For example, note its bisected flat rim, cross-hatch dentate design, and laminated collar, all important traits of Stage 3 pottery. Add to these, other diagnostics, such as its semi-conoidal base with cord-marked smoothed-over exterior, smooth interior, plus large V motif, and you might well imagine you were looking at a Stage 3 pot of New England, not of New York State.

Three instances of excavated evidence in New England should suffice to substantiate the similarities referred to. At Ragged Mountain, a Connecticut rock shelter, recovery of a section of a Stage 3 pot with incised Vs occurred, while at the Locust Spring site in Rhode Island a potsherd of the same stage appeared, which had the cross-hatch motif. And finally, at the Sweet-Meadow Brook site in Rhode Island several rim sherds were recovered of Stage 3 pots showing a well formed laminated collar. And at this site where stratigraphy was held to be reliable, with a relatively small amount of disturbance, Stage 3 sherds appeared directly over those of Stage 2.

Therefore, this Plattsburg pot recovery, indicating probable passage of ceramic ideas across the lake into western Vermont regions, seems to suggest a much more extensive diffusion into coastal New England areas. Assuming this to be a probability, it now seems logical to speculate that by about A.D. 1450, with the advent of Stage 3 ceramics, creative impulses were moving into New England by overland routes from Hudson River peoples, as well as by water routes through Long Island Sound. The latter is thought by some to have been the original channel through which ceramics made their entry into New England.

THE COHANNET LINE

REI HEINO

In this article I will discuss the simplicity and accuracy of a device we in the Cohannet Chapter are using for measuring distances to artifacts or larger deposits lying a foot or more in depth. Accuracy in measurements of artifacts in an organized "dig" are of the utmost importance for future study.

The parts for this device are easily acquired at any hardware store. They consist of two twenty penny nails (surveyor's pins may be substituted),
one plastic or wooden clothes pin of the spring type, a light weight small plumb bob preferably of aluminum, and about ten feet of chalk line.

Heat a small finishing nail and push through the top of the clothes pin, so that the nail and resulting perforation will be slightly higher on one side. The purpose of this offset is to cause the plumb line to form a right angle with one arm of the clothes pin. Using the same heated nail make a second perforation through one side and at the base of the pin in the same arm in which the lower of the two upper holes is located, this will take the plumb bob line. Cut two lengths from the chalk line, one six foot piece will form the horizontal line, the second four foot piece will form the plumb bob or vertical line. The length of these two lines may be varied to suit your particular requirements. Fasten one end of the longer line to one of the twenty penny nails, pass it through the upper holes in the two arms of the clothes pin, and secure the free end to the other nail. Now pass the small line (plumb bob or vertical line) through the hole at the base of the clothes pin and secure to the plumb bob. Tie a loop in the free end about the horizontal line so that it can slide on it. Coating the lines with wax and putting a dab of cement on the knots will help. Paint a dab of red paint on the arm of the clothes pin, which is in the vertical line of the plumb bob line. This serves as a measuring point. The only remaining problem is to find an implement to be measured (Fig. 11)

The operation of the device is so simple that the following description is probably unnecessary. To obtain an accurate measurement care must be exercised in setting up the device. The nails are pushed into the ground on opposite sides of the excavated square, thus the horizontal line forms an extension of the present surface over the excavation. Move the clothes pin along the horizontal line to a point directly above the artifact to be measured. Release the pressure of the clothes pin on the vertical or plumb bob line, sliding the free end along the horizontal line to take up the slack, and adjusting the length so that the plumb bob is suspended directly above the artifact. Your two hands are now free to measure from the corner stakes of the square to the artificial point on the clothes pin directly above the artifact, insuring accurate dis-
distances and eliminating any error due to an angle in your tape. Vertical distance or depth can also be determined accurately from the horizontal line to the artifact.

At the first indication of a pit or hearth, set up your "Cohannet Line" and adjust the plumb bob at the center of the feature. As you continue to excavate, any shift in the center of the feature is instantly noticed. The tip of the plumb bob will also serve as a convenient and permanent center from which to measure any inclusive stones or artifacts.

Several of these lines may be used in the case of large features to retain the location of artifacts removed in the process of excavation.

I have called this the "Cohannet Line" from the Cohannet Chapter, whose members have devoted much time and energy to the study of aborigines of the Northeast under the capable leadership of Dr. Maurice Robbins.

Bridgewater, Mass.
June, 1962