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BULLETIN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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BRONSON MUSEUM

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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 at the Society Office, Bronson Museum, Attleboro, Mass.

The Museum includes exhibits of artifacts and seven dioramas portraying man's prehistoric occupation of New England. The displays are arranged so as to show man's development through four culture stages, from early post glacial times.

The most recent diorama extends 15 feet across the front of the museum. It depicts an Archaic village of seven large and unique wigwams as indicated by their foundations, excavated at Assawompsett Lake by the Cohasset Chapter. Human figures to scale make the scene come alive and help create what unquestionably is an outstanding addition to our ever growing museum displays.
In May of 1970 final stages of a housing development on the Seaver Farm in Bridgewater, Massachusetts were completed, except for an untouched exposed bank adjoining the Titicut site boundary line. This was the sole remaining undeveloped piece of land that was available for excavating. During the previous year I had spent some time exploring certain parts of the bank with rewarding results, and had uncovered 6 cremation burial pits, reported in the Society Bulletin, Vol 31, #3 & 4, entitled, Seaver Farm Red Paint Burials. The recoveries from these pits were quite unusual, and inspired me to try again in the same location. There was one untouched area between pits 4 and 5, which seemed to present a possible place to excavate. It had formerly been avoided because in the building development, bulldozing operations had dumped two 12" diameter trees and several smaller ones onto this spot, and had then partially covered them with dirt. This massive pile had discouraged excavation of this place before. But now I determined to investigate this area by tunneling down and under the pile wherever necessary in order to find out what lay below. As a result, 5 more burial pits were located, the subject of this report. They will receive identifying numbers commencing with 9, where, numerically the former pit recoveries left off. All told, with this new group of pits added, 13 pits will have been uncovered and reported at this location, besides the original Dunn 12 x 15 foot excavation, now thought to have been a crematory; supported by evidence referred to further along. Plan of this cremation complex, including burial pits and crematory with essential grave goods and other details noted, is shown in a drawing, not to scale (Fig. 1).

In the excavation of the 5 new burial pits I was grateful for the assistance of my two sons, David and Billy, as well as Roland Engstrom, and Roy Piver, which made it possible to complete what otherwise would have been a difficult undertaking for one digger. With these pit discoveries added to those previously uncovered at this site an extensive cremation burial complex has been exposed at the Seaver Farm. In an effort to get the opinion of others, who have had some experience in this field of burial investigation, I have asked the Editor for his valued opinions on the meaning of this complex. His interpretation of the evidence, which agrees with several of my evaluations, appears in the conclusion of this report.

Before making further efforts to locate additional burial pits, we felt it important to know more about
the 12 x 15 foot area dug by G. Dunn in 1937. At that time little was known about the aboriginal practice of cremating the dead, and so this large pit was dug and artifacts recovered without any clear understanding of this burial phenomenon; the work was done then by shovel and screen. However, Dunn's notes were found and showed that an immense amount of charcoal was encountered from which his many artifacts were removed. Some of them showed exposure to extreme heat, with cracks and discoloration resulting.

But to see for ourselves what this blackened disturbed area was like we spent some time carefully excavating it in entirety. As a result, 13 small and large points of several types were recovered. Evidently, these had been missed by Dunn, as also were other recoveries, including a Hammerstone, a well-rubbed piece of hematite, a graphite fragment, and many burned and broken point fragments, segments of Grooved axes, Celts, and Pestles — representative specimens are illustrated (Fig. 2). Found in the mass of excavated pulverized charcoal fill were several pieces of calcined bone — recognized as human — and small patches of red powdered ocher scattered throughout. These may have been intrusive from the adjoining burial pits during Dunn's work of refilling this large excavated hollow, as red ocher was not mentioned in his notes. From our inspection of and recoveries from his excavated pit, it now seems evident that it was in fact a crematory for incineration of the dead. Not only this, but the quantity of artifacts that were found, many in a burned and cracked condition supports the belief in the existence of a custom of throwing functional stone implements into the fire to accompany the departed into the next world. And now our work began of pushing further beyond this crematory in search of more burial pits.

Burial Pit #9. About 4 or 5 feet from Pit #4 toward the boundary line, as shown on the map, the first find of the 5 pits that were finally uncovered was made. It contained no artifacts, unless a long felsite unworked flake could be considered as such. The pit was somewhat round in shape with a 30" diameter, and reached 27" down to a white sand base. Throughout its upper section a faint appearance of red ocher was noted. It seemed to be mixed with much sand that had given it a pinkish shade. Gradually this narrowed into 3 pockets of red ocher toward the bottom, where a 2" thick covering of red ocher occurred, at the edge of which lay the felsite flake.

![Fig. 2. CREMATORY RECOVERIES, Seaver Farm Site. 1,2,Eared#1 (show signs of heat searing); 3,4,Eared#2; 5,6,8,Fire-fractured Ax or Celt Bits; 7,Hematite Block (shows results of grinding, probably in the producing of red ocher).](image-url)
Burial Pit #10. Continuing about 2 feet across the boundary line from Pit #9 appeared perhaps the most interesting pit of all. This was on account of its rather complex contents of 4 red ocher deposits containing numerous artifacts, of which most were apparently carefully placed. A few stray tips of broken points appeared in several deposits but are not mentioned, as they are believed to have been intrusive. This pit was nearly round in shape with dimensions of about 54 x 60", as it included a large pocket of ocher at one place on its edge. Its exact depth varied between 24 and 43" below ground level, extending at places below the white sand base, which was 27" deep. This depth situation was more or less the case with all 5 pits, in some of which a few secondary deposits reached only to a point 2 or 3" above the white sand. These secondary deposits consisted of various sized 3" thick pockets of red ocher that frequently contained grave goods, of which several appeared in this burial pit and in Pit #12. They are known as secondary burials, but here are referred to as deposits, so that they may not be confused with the larger overall burial pits in which they occurred.

Secondary Deposit #1, Pit #10, was about 10" in diameter, and revealed a mixture of sand and red ocher starting at level 24" deep and extending down about 3". Just below it appeared some charcoal and some 50 or more fragments of calcined human bone. But the outstanding feature of this deposit was a 2" long Eared #3 black porphyry point, apparently carefully placed where it lay on top of the bone. It is expertly made of a thin piece of stock with a needle sharp point and tiny delicate ears at its base — shown among illustrations of Pit #10 (Fig. 3,#1).

Secondary Deposit #2, Pit #10, appeared about 16" away from the first, and was another round 10" diameter pocket of red ocher at bottom of the pit, in which was found a 4" long well-worked blade, probably a Stem knife of felsite, with its base fractured. It rested in red ocher with its point sticking up at a 45° angle. Just under it were stacked, one over another, 3 large unworked flakes, made of a similar felsite to the knife blade, and with razor-sharp edges, doubtless to serve as knives. Near one edge of this ocher pocket a Stem scraper of argillite was uncovered.

Secondary Deposit #3, Pit #10, occurred about 18" removed from the last. This 18" diameter pocket of red ocher 3" thick was at a depth of 43" from ground level, the deepest deposit in the pit. A 3" long Stem knife of quartzite first appeared in the ocher, and just beyond it were uncovered 3 more Stem knives of about the same size, of which one was broken in two; all showed the effects of fire scorching in the crematory. It seems significant to note that 2 of them were placed side by side on edge. Also, possibly the broken one was originally included in this setting before it became fractured, and so disturbed. Beside the points was a pebble Hammerstone, and this with the points were placed tightly together in close association.

Secondary Deposit #4, Pit #10, was uncovered nearby with a similar 18" diameter, and contained 3" of red ocher at the same depth as the last. At one edge appeared a flat pebble with a slightly pecked surface at one end — probably an Anvilstone. As in deposit #3, in the center of this one was uncovered a cache of tools placed tightly together. They consisted of 2 Stemless knives, a large flake, 1 Flake scraper, a fractured Eared #3 point, and a broken Stem knife; these tools, also, show the effects of fire scorching. Unlike the cache of points in deposit #3, these tools apparently were deliberately stacked on end with their blades pointing down. It seems to me that the various positioning of the contents of this and the other deposits had some important meaning, yet to be discovered. One more find was made connected with this deposit #4. At one edge of it, 33" below ground level and some 10" above its other ocher contained contents was uncovered a 15" smoothly finished Pestle in two pieces, but close together — possibly "killed" — lying partly in red ocher at this depth. A second Pestle 1" long was found lying nearby at the bottom of this Pit #10 in red ocher along one edge, apparently having no relation to any of the 4 secondary deposits — both Pestles are the Late Archaic type with worn bit ends.

Nearby this last Pestle appeared a 12" diameter pocket of solid red ocher, which seemed to adjoin and so to become a part of the pit's ocher-rimmed outline, extending more than half way around the pit. No artifacts were present in this ocher deposit. One last feature connected with Pit #10 was a 10" diameter deposit of pulverized charcoal 3" thick that occurred near the pit's bottom on its edge, in the part of its outline not marked by red ocher — other signs of charcoal throughout the pit were non-existent, except as previously mentioned in deposit #1. These various features are illustrated, with solid black areas representing the presence of red ocher (Fig. 4).

Burial Pit #11. About 6 feet removed from Pit #5 near the northerly edge of Dunn's crematory this 30 x 35" oval-shaped pit was encountered, but only after tunneling under the immense dump of trees and dirt, previously described. The pit, 35" deep, extended 8" into the white sand, and had charcoal scattered throughout its fill along with 8 calcined human bone fragments. Some 12" above its bottom, which was covered with a 2" layer of red ocher, a Hammerstone ap-
Fig. 3. GRAVE GOODS FROM BURIAL PIT #10, Seaver Farm Site. Deposit #1 - 1. Eared #3 Point (black porphyry); Deposit #2 - 2. Stem Knife (pointed up at a 45° angle), 3-5. Felsite Flakes, 6. Stem Scraper; Deposit #3 - 7-10. Stem Knives (fire scorched, 2 were stacked on edge); Deposit #4 - 11. Eared #3 Point, 12. Worked Flake, 13, 14. Stemless Knives, 15. Stem Knife; 16. Flake Scraper (most were fire-scorched and stacked points down).
peared. But that which deserves special mention was a 6" long Eared#3 spear point of felsite, which was lying in the ocher at the bottom. It is quite thin and displays excellent workmanship. Probably it represents the most outstanding blade recovered from this burial complex. It will be found among the illustrations of grave goods (Fig. 5 #16).

Burial Pit #12. Adjacent to Pit #10 in a northerly direction over the boundary line good luck attended our excavation, which at this spot extended under a sizeable standing oak. Directly below this tree appeared this large oval pit, about 42 x 66" in size, which reached irregularly into the white sand in some places. It contained 6 deposits of red ocher, 5 of which yielded artifacts. As the work of excavating progressed, faint traces of red ocher were noted high in the pit. This light staining of ocher may have occurred by chance during the back filling of the pit. Or maybe there are other reasons to account for the ocher in this pit appearing in a pinkish color, with a high sand-saturated content.

Secondary Deposit #1, Pit #12, had an oval shape of about 6 x 10" and was located near the pit's edge at the southern side, 33" deep at the pit's bottom, where the ocher was the thickest. In it appeared a Strike-a-light set at one edge, consisting of a felsite Striker with yellow decomposed remains on two of its sides, probably what was left of a pyrites block, which originally had served as the other part of the set for making fire.

Secondary Deposit #2, Pit #12, was a small ocher pocket with a 6" diameter, located nearby the first at about the same depth. It yielded but one grave good, a Stem scraper of felsite.
Secondary Deposit #3, Pit #12, was relatively large in size with a 24" diameter, and was uncovered close by the first two pockets occupying a good portion of the west end of the pit. At one side of this deposit at only 20" down from the ground level a small handful of calcined human bone fragments was encountered. At a depth of 21" on the opposite side, at the edge of this deposit, appeared a 6" long slightly Grooved adz made of a hard stone, with a sharply ground cutting blade. An overall polish of high spots seems to have resulted from the final grinding in finishing this tool. At the bottom of this ocher deposit at the pit's base was found a fire burned Eared#3 beveled point lying about 4" away from a pebble Strike-a-light set, of which the pyrites block had disintegrated, leaving a yellow pulpy coating on the felsite pebble Striker, as well as on the point to which apparently it had spread. (Reference to fire-making sets may be found on page 78 in C. C. Willoughby's, Antiquities of the New England Indians. He says that pyrites lumps are usually disintegrated except in the case of protohistoric graves — such would be grave #15 at Titicut — or when the mineral is in an impure state.). In this deposit #3 the cache of calcined human bone fragments contained no artifacts.

Secondary Deposit #4, Pit #12, had a 15" diameter and lay alone by itself at the easterly end of the pit. It occurred at a depth of about 31", and at its bottom 3 Eared#3 points were found in 3" of red ocher. One was made of brownish yellow flint — probably from a Pennsylvania source. Another was of felsite with signs of having been burned, and the third of felsite had a very sharp point, somewhat fire scorched. They lay close together as though carefully placed in the ocher.

Secondary Deposit #5, Pit #12, was somewhat smaller, confined within a 10" diameter round pocket of ocher. It lay nearby deposit #3 along the long side of the pit, and appeared at about a 20" depth, where fragments of calcined human bone occurred.

Secondary Deposit #6, Pit #12, had a 10" diameter, also, and occurred beside deposit #5 at a depth of about 30" at the pit's bottom. Here, in a layer of ocher a Strike-a-light set was recovered. It consisted of a felsite Striker, its sides coated with the decomposed remains of a pyrites block. All of these deposits are included in an illustration of this pit, in which solid black areas represent red ocher (Fig. 4).

Burial Pit #13. This pit was the last to be uncovered at a spot a short way removed from Pit #12 between the boundary line and the Dunn crematory. Located beneath a large pine thrown on top of the dump, it had an oval shape of about 24 x 46" and reached down to a depth of 43", which was in fact 16" into the white sand. A pink colored mixture of sand and ocher filled its upper section to a depth of 24", then no ocher at all until a 40" depth had been reached, then 3" of ocher. Scattered throughout were charcoal flecks and 14 fragments of calcined human bone. Near the bottom an Eared#3 felsite point and a felsite Striker, but with no coating on it of decomposed pyrites, were recovered. At the same depth in the pit's center a yellowish-orange discoloration was noted about 4 x 8" in size and 3" thick. This may have been the decomposed remains of the pyrites block, which belonged to the Striker. In it appeared 4 Eared #3 points — one was fractured — all fire scorched and heavily coated with the same orange substance of the discolored area. Most of the more important grave goods recovered from the 5 burial pits have been illustrated, and are shown allocated to the pits in which they have appeared (Figs. 3,5).

CONCLUSION

The custom of cremating the dead seems to have been an important function of early man, extending over a long period of occupation in the central regions of New England. Radiocarbon dates alone at three different sites from eastern Massachusetts to central Rhode Island have established its existence for more than a millennium from 4,700 down to 3,500 years ago. Also, typological evaluation of grave goods at the Seaver Farm from three of its first eight burial pits, as reported by the author in the Society Bulletin, Vol. 31, #3 & 4, leads to a belief that cremation of the dead continued into Ceramic times until about A.D. 600. Obviously during such a long span of human existence many modifications probably took place, determined no doubt very largely by independent creative impulses of a long line of shaman priests. Therefore, in attempting an analysis of any particular cremated remains, doubtless we should not expect to find conformity to any set ritual involving similar kinds of grave goods. For example, at Swan Hold it was Grooved axes, Grooved gouge, large points, drills, knife, and Wing atlatl weight; at Wapanucket 6, points, knives, plummet, Plain gouges; at Wapanucket 8 (complex), Plain gouges, stone slabs probably for grinding hematite in producing ocher; at Wapanucket 8 (other burials), many large side-notched and eared knives of flint, Wing atlatl weight, Small Triangular point; at Flat River, symbolic tools made expressly for the burial for one, and large points, knife for the second burial complex; at Coburn, Cape Cod, quantities of Grooved axes, Celts, Grooved gouges, large points, drills, knives; at Bear Swamp, small points, Wing atlatl weight; at Mansion Inn, large points,
Fig. 5. GRAVE GOODS FROM BURIAL PITS #11, 12, 13, Seaver Farm Site. Burial Pit #11 - 16, Eared #3 Spear Point (dark gray felsite). Burial Pit #12 - Deposit #1, 1, Strike-a-light Set (pyrites disintegrated on striker); Deposit #2, 3, Stem Scraper; Deposit #3, 13, Adz, 14, Strike-a-light Set (pyrites disintegrated on pebble striker), 15, Eared #3 Beveled Point (fire burned, covered with disintegrated pyrites); Deposit #4, 4-6, Eared #3 Points (5, yellow jasper, 4, 6, fire scorched); Deposit #6, 2, Strike-a-light Set (pyrites disintegration showing). Burial Pit #13, 7-10, Eared #3 Points (fire scorched, smeared with pyrites disintegration), 11, Strike-a-light Set (disintegrated pyrites nearby containing points), 12, Eared #3 Point (found apart from other goods).
knives, Grooved axes, copper ax, stone bowl; at Carver, large cache blades made for burial, points, knives — all had red ocher in varying amounts except for Swan Hold and Flat River, while some, not all, had calcined human bone fragments, and all had charcoal deposits of some kind.

This subject of disposal of the dead always has held, and still does hold great interest for most all involved in archaeological research, no matter how casual such study may be. Perhaps one reason is that even today, we, the descendants of early man through devious hereditary channels, are as uncertain of life after death as were our primitive ancestors. True, we have various religions that require faith as a necessary attribute to guide our thinking as to the after life. But so had early man in his mystic forms of worship, of which there were many. Human beings, it seems, from the beginning of advanced reasoning have been impelled to grasp for reasonable assurance of a life continuance after death. But resultant beliefs have had wide variance. During prehistoric times they have been influenced and controlled by shaman priests or medicine men, who were the spiritual leaders of the people. With their authoritative performance of special rites, life after death was guaranteed, giving comfort to those who remained. Now, as we dig up evidence of burial practices that went before, we are intrigued to the extent of human curiosity, if nothing else, to learn more about these spiritual observances. That is, to find out how this question of an after life was answered, a subject that is of spiritual concern to most people. For this was, and still is one of the great mysteries of life.

Now that 13 burial pits at the Seaver Farm have been uncovered partly surrounding Dunn's crematory, it is evident that a burial complex exists at this site, apparently very similar to that at the Mansion Inn site in Wayland. Beyond this, what further can be said about it? One fact stands out quite clearly, that a substantial quantity of red powdered ocher had been used. Furthermore, it was observed that in pits #2, 12, and 13, which yielded grave goods, an excessive amount of sand had become mixed with ocher, changing its usual deep red color to a pinkish shade. In explanation of this, tests have shown that water leaching in such pits, if passage is not blocked by some impediment, will cause this mixing to take place. On the other hand, the ocher in pits #1, 4, 5, and 9, with little or no grave goods, tended to have a brilliant red color — an exception was Pit #10, which had both brilliant ocher and many grave goods. Might this not mean that the first group of pits remained open longer than the last, before being back-filled, which allowed more sand and ocher mixing from weathering? This, then, might suggest that the first group with grave goods was attended by ceremonies extending perhaps for several days, during which they remained open, while the pits of the latter group were soon filled in.

Another observation noted was that there appeared to be no uniform pattern for the deposit of grave goods. A few lay outside the secondary deposits, as though added as an after-thought, while others lay inside. Moreover it was noted that those artifacts found in the deposits had been carefully placed. For, when they were not lying flat, they were either on edge or with their points sticking up or down, as previously described. What meaning, if any, such special placement had is open to speculation, but at least it should indicate calculated intent, rather than random action on the part of the shaman performing the ceremony.

Perhaps one of the most important interpretations of the evidence, as for any excavation, is that which deals with ferreting out the age of the remains. At this site, lacking radiocarbon analysis of charcoal from the pits, the next best indicator is to be had through typological analysis of the artifacts involved. And here fortune stepped in to make the going easier, for all projectile points found in pits having points nearby the crematory, namely, pits #3, 10, 11, 12, and 13, belong to the Eared#3 type, although some variation is noticeable. This kind of point has been uncovered repeatedly at various sites at a level representing the last half of the Late Archaic, estimated to have extended between 3,500 down to 2,000 years ago. However, it is worth noting here that other point types found in pits #6, 7, and 8, which lay at a distance from the crematory, included Adena, Small Stem, and large Cache blades. These types, except the Small Stem, which has an earlier source, have been found to belong to a later period, after the close of the Late Archaic, probably the same as, or slightly after that of the Carver cremation complex reported in Society Bulletin, Vol. 32, #3 & 4.

Further interpretation of the Seaver Farm cremation complex seems to suggest the following events that may have taken place. First there was the burning of the dead in the crematory, at which time functional tools were thrown into the fire. This act may have been intended as a means of having these implements accompany the departed into the next world, with fire as the sacred agent to unite them. However, there was much more to the burial rites than what took place at the crematory. After the fire had cooled, a nearby pit was dug, while fragments of burned bone of the dead were sometimes scooped up with a little charcoal often being included for redeposit in the
burial pit. Also a quantity of charcoal was often transferred from the crematory to the secondary burial, as found in Pit #10. Probably this was done as a symbolic act of introducing the combined burnt remains and charcoal in an effort to assure a good afterlife for the departed. Finally, new artifacts were sometimes carefully placed in the secondary deposits along with burnt ones, as found in Pit #10, and to a lesser extent in Pit #12.

So far as the use of red ocher is concerned — a substance obtained by grinding blocks of hematite like the small ground piece from the crematory — its elaborate use suggests that it played a significant part in rituals performed by the shamanic spiritual leaders. Beyond this general conception of the ceremonies, all else that may be said is speculative. However, it seems reasonable to suggest that red ocher — a blood-like substance — may have been used as a symbolic blood offering for the purpose of bringing the dead one to life again in the other world. For there it was believed that in a materialistic world the dead would need blood along with tools for survival. The small caches of burnt human bone fragments seem to have been still another way of bringing the dead spirit from the crematory to effect a more potent bond between the cremated and the shaman performing the ceremonies. In this way the mourners were assured of a good life for the departed in the next world of mystery, the key to which was believed to rest in the hands of their shamanic priest. Also, sometimes artifacts were deliberately broken, or “killed”, as was the case with the 15” pestle in Pit #10. This act may have been done with the idea of changing the object into a similar useless shape to that of the dead body, that they might better journey together into the other world.

A question concerning the small deposits within the larger burial pits seems to demand an answer. As has been reported, within Pit #12 with pink ocher and in Pit #10 with red ocher several secondary deposits containing ocher and grave goods were encountered. The question is, does each of these deposits represent a separate secondary burial, or were they a part of a single ceremony conducted at each of the two pits?

After giving some thought to this question, it appears likely that a single deposit with grave goods represents a separate burial. The reasoning here is that in as much as the bottom levels of the deposits in each pit were not always the same, the deposits might be considered to have been made on different occasions, thus requiring the pits to remain open for a protracted period of time. And, as the Eared #3 point type remained constant throughout the pits near the crematory, this might indicate a more or less contemporaneous association of some kind. As for pits #6, 7, and 8 of the previous report, their age seems to have been somewhat later after the Eared #3 point had ceased being used.

So here are various hypothetical suggestions of what may have taken place at this cremation burial complex. Other solutions are possible of course, and are expected from those who think they have better answers. However, those suggested in this conclusion seem to be possible ones, which it is hoped will lead to further thought on the subject. It is expected that additional excavations will at least support our observation so far, that there existed no set ritualistic formular requiring the exclusive use of certain kinds of grave goods by shaman leaders. On the contrary, grave goods varied from site to site, as has been shown, while the use of red ocher remained quite constant, with only a few exceptions.

Finally, it should be noted that there is a difference between the grave goods as used in New England cremations, and those from burials in other parts of the world. Here in this area inclusion of articles of adornment is rare, almost never found among grave goods from cremations. A Whaletail pendant found in one Titicut cremation, and possibly a few bone beads at Wapanucket 8 complex are all that come to mind. Otherwise, the nearest thing to it seems to be the so-called lucky stone, such as the pink quartz pebble at the Seaver Farm in Pit #6, or the thick iridescent white quartz stone, completely chipped into a flattened rounded shape, from a cremation grave in Brookfield, excavated some years ago. This attractive stone is now on display in the Bronson Museum.

Cremation burial evidence so far uncovered here in New England indicates a concern over survival, to the exclusion of dependence upon ornamental offerings. Grave goods consist, with but a few exceptions, of tools for use in the procurement of food as fit gifts to accompany the dead. This doubtless is as might be expected in the Late Archaic period, which has been shown to be the age associated with the practice of cremating the dead. For it represents an evolving culture that has not reached a more affluent civilized state, in which survival was not such a pressing problem. By the time the whites had arrived, agriculture was an important factor in supplying food, when needed, to the Indian descendants of their Archaic ancestors. Consequently, it was then that grave goods in flexed burials frequently included articles of adornment, such as glass and bone beads, pendants, and other pieces of native finery.

North Middleboro,
January 14, 1971
MAINE ARCHAIC COMPLEX

William S. Fowler

Nearly a half century of investigation in Maine involving excavation of a great many aboriginal burials has revealed the existence there of mortuary ceremonies, in which the deposit in graves of quantities of red ocher is a significant feature. At first and for some time following discovery of these burials, excavator after excavator thought of this evidence as being the remains of a separate and mysterious race of people, known as the “Red Paint People of Maine.” After Moorehead had exhumed 440 graves at 12 locations, but found no habitation site, indicating to him the existence only of a mortuary complex, it was referred to as the “Moorehead Burial Complex.” Then, Hadlock called it the “Red Paint Culture,” while Willoughby named it “Pre-Algonquin.” Still later, Smith published his report in the Society Bulletin, Vol. 9, #2, in which he offered a new name as being more appropriate: the “Maine Cemetery Complex.”

In more recent times excavations in other New England states and eastern New York have uncovered burials containing red ocher somewhat resembling deposits in Maine. However, for the most part, the amount of powdered ocher in a single grave was less than that found in Maine. Perhaps this was on account of existence of free powdered ocher in known natural deposits in Maine, easily obtainable by digging, as against the necessity in other areas of laborious grinding of hematite to produce the red powder. So far as grave goods are concerned, all but one of these other burials lacked inclusion of one artifact in particular, which invariably is present in Maine: the Ground slate point. This distinctive blade, occurring in many different styles and sizes, is considered to be the most diagnostic trait of the Maine burial complex. Therefore, whenever it occurs outside of Maine, at once it suggests a relationship of some kind that arouses speculation as to the reason for its presence.

In Smith’s report appear stylized illustrations of Ground slate points of which he acknowledges 24 variations, represented by recoveries from 44 burials along the Kennebec, Georges, and Penobscot rivers, including a few from sites along the coast. Beside these blades he reports other grave goods including, large side-notched, broad-stem Daggers; large Corner-removed #3 points; thick Wing atlatl weights; Effigies; Classic and Clumsy plummets, as well as fancifully shaped ones; Ungrooved adzes, including Celt-like blades; Plain and Channeled gouges; and chipped projectile points of the Late Archaic, with a few Corner-removed #8 points of the Early Archaic. Subsequently, the Bronson Museum received a representative collection of these Maine grave recoveries, generously donated by Benjamin L. Smith, and they have provided the incentive for this report.

Whereas most analysts in the past, when describing Maine red paint graves, have confined their reasoning to the evidence as it appeared, without regard to any possible relationship it might have with outside areas, it is the purpose of this report to do otherwise. That is, the writer intends to consider cultural changes that were taking place outside Maine, and examine their probable effect upon what happened in that more northerly part of New England. Not only there but also, as now seems probable because of appearance of red paint and Ground slate point-furnished burials, further north into New Brunswick.

As reported by David Sanger in Man of the Northeast, an excavation of 1970 in south central New Brunswick at the Cow Point site uncovered about 60 red paint burials thought to be more or less contemporaneous. Beside some grave goods similar to those reported by Smith for Maine, they contained 79 long Ground slate points, a few of which were elaborately decorated by incision. These remains are believed by Sanger to represent a time of about 3,500 years ago, and therefore would appear to lie in the Late Archaic period. Other comparable recoveries have been reported from another southern area in New Brunswick, and an exceptional one of 11 Ground slate points with lengths of from 4 to 13”, taken in 1860 from a burial in northern Vermont near Chester on Lake Champlain. These outstanding recoveries from surrounding areas would seem to extend the Maine complex into adjoining regions. However, because of the more extensive research in Maine carried on over a longer period of time, this state will no doubt continue to be thought of as the center of this mortuary complex, although it now appears to have covered a more extensive area of the Northeast.

During the early years when Maine burials were being uncovered, they were conceived by Moorehead to be osseous interments from which the organic remains had disappeared as a result of decomposition from the acidity of the soil. In fact, even now at the Cow Point site there is thought to be sufficient evidence of osseous burials, although only rudimentary, to lead to this same conclusion, in spite of the presence in them of some charcoal, a quantity of which is most always present in cremation-connected inter-
ments. Red paint graves in Massachusetts have furnished clear evidence that they represent burials of cremated dead. And it is now quite generally believed that Maine deposits also for the most part are secondary cremation burials, although this is by no means a certainty.

Concerning the status of Ground slate points, the question has been raised: were they used as utilitarian projectile points, or simply as ceremonial grave offerings? At the Cow Point site their long spindly shapes and elaborate decorations on some seem to indicate the probability of the latter, although certain observations that will follow might suggest otherwise for shorter slate points. Of course, both points of view might be justified — short blades could have been used for hunting and longer ones for ceremonial offerings. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that Maine's other kinds of grave good implements, as formerly listed, had utilitarian uses, as their counterparts have appeared frequently on habitation sites throughout the Northeast. In Maine there are some modified implement types, and these variants enter into the thesis of this paper.

Excavational research in Maine followed that of Moorehead and others. At Blue Hill Byers and Johnson made recoveries that revealed this to be the first habitation site to be discovered of the Red Paint culture, since its artifact assemblage seemed to equate with Moorehead. Then at the Vergennes site in Vermont, representing a red paint affiliated complex, a Ground slate point was found in situ close by an Ulu of ground slate, the first reported appearance together of these two implement types. Subsequently, other habitation sites of this complex were located in Maine, including one on Cobbosecontee Stream, a tributary of the Kennebec River.

GROUND SLATE POINT RELATED RECOVERIES

But there is another aspect to this Maine complex that so far has eluded interpretation. It concerns appearance from time to time in unconnected northeastern localities of the Ground slate point. Occurring sometimes as surface finds and at others as a result of excavations, intentional or otherwise, its appearance has seemed to indicate some related connection with the Maine complex, the apparent production center for this kind of blade. In order to bring this matter more into focus, several recoveries will be described, of which all but one are illustrated (Fig. 6).

At Frontenac Island site in central eastern New York Ritchie reports recovery of 2 Ground slate points (Exhibits #2,3), of which the relatively short and broad bladed one was found with a preserved extended burial, while the narrow bladed, serrated stem point was taken from the site refuse. Ritchie conceives for this Frontenac Island site, evidence of intrusion of the Red Paint culture, with an overall composite manifestation of a mixed Archaic Lamoka and Brewerton complex to form his Frontenac focus of the Laurentian.

Both of Ritchie's Ground slate points are quite short and could well have served as projectile points for utilitarian use. However, what interpretation should be placed upon random recoveries of these
slate points, when the blade is relatively long, more in keeping with its Maine center of origin? Such a point was found purely by accident on Manzanita Island in Chippewa Bay in the Thousand Islands. Recovery was made several years ago by Thomas S. Knap near the shore of a small inlet. The point lay in shallow water among small pebbles, evidently eroded from the bank during high water periods of the St. Lawrence. This Ground slate point, made of greenish-gray banded slate, measures 6½" long and tapers skillfully to a sharp point. It has a medial rib on each face that extends from stem to tip, the work of an experienced artisan (Exhibit #4). The blade shows gradual thinning of its stem, as though it were intended to be hafted on a shaft, which suggests that it may have served for a utilitarian purpose such as hunting. Especially is this so, for to have served ceremonially would seem to suggest a use that would have been out of place on an island in the St. Lawrence.

Another relatively long Ground slate point, a surface find from Saratoga, New York, is made of a light maroon colored slate. It has slightly wider proportions than many of these blades, but its most distinctive feature is a serrated stem (Exhibit #5). This trait is often found among the many Maine styles, and is present on Ritchie’s Frontenac Island narrow point previously described. Here again is a well-proportioned point that may have served on a spear shaft during some hunting expedition.

Again, a much longer Ground slate point was recovered by accident, while a trench was being dug for pipe laying in the town of Plymouth, Massachusetts. It measures about 9½" long, has a medial rib running lengthwise on both faces similar to the Manzanita Island point. In addition, it has a well-worked stem with a deep flute on both sides, apparently made to facilitate hafting it to a shaft — not illustrated. It was found 4 feet deep in a 6" black stratum with sandy gravel above and below. This blade seems too long for a hunting spear; possibly had some ceremonial use, but its unorthodox recovery gives no clue as to its source or function.

Finally, the Cohannet Chapter of this Society, excavating at the Wapanucket #6 site on Assawompsett Lake, recovered an unusual black Ground slate point, honed to a sharp point at both ends (Exhibit #1). This unique artifact is quite short, and if it is a projectile point, it is difficult to imagine how it could have been hafted, since it lacks a necessary stem. Possible it is some other kind of implement, which is not yet understood. Whatever it is, it is well ground and expertly shaped with perfect symmetry.

This site produced Late Archaic red paint burial ceremonially-connected implements and a radiocarbon date of about 4,300 years ago, probably toward the start of the Late Archaic. If this date is applicable to the artifact under discussion, it furnishes another useful piece of evidence toward the culture evaluation as discussed in the conclusion.

**CONCLUSION**

The foregoing evidence has been presented for the purpose of exposing what seems to the writer an intriguing culture complex in Maine that is only partially understood. That its basic manifestation consists of red ocher-treated burials with a certain assemblage of grave goods is well known, of which the Ground slate point dominates the scene. But beyond this, casual speculation seems to have failed in determining the probable events that led up to the development of the complex. Furthermore, there appears to have been no intimate analysis of the grave goods to explain the occurrence of unusual types and variations of artifacts more than to report their presence. The circumstances surrounding the creation of these unique grave goods have been unanswered beyond generalized statements made without regard to possible relationships of the culture involved with other areas of the Northeast. In fact, the void left by such omission of fundamental reasoning seems to the writer so obvious that he deems it opportune to present his views, in the hope of offering a possible explanation for the Maine burial complex.

In order to reach a reasonable conclusion a comparative analysis of artifact traits is basic. And for this reason, identification of certain diagnostic Archaic implement types from New England areas to the south of Maine is important to this discussion. After years of site excavations here under scientific control, certain types of artifacts have been determined by stratigraphy to belong to the Early Archaic culture as important diagnostics. Several of them appear in the Maine burial complex: Classic plummet; Channeled gouge; and chipped Corner-removed #5 point; while the Ulu of ground slate has appeared on Maine habitation sites.

Similarly, important diagnostics of the Late Archaic from the same New England areas have occurred in Maine red paint burials, including, chipped Corner-removed #3 points in large sizes; Plain gouge; Adz; Clumsy plummet; and a thick Wing atlatl weight. However, unlike site distribution of Archaic implement traits to the south, where those of the Early Archaic are found stratigraphically separated from and below
Fig. 7. RED PAINT BURIAL RECOVERIES, Maine. 1,2, Side-notched Dagger; 3,4, Ground Slate Point (with restored stems, after 2 styles by Smith); 5,6, Corner-removed Point; 7,8, Classic Plummets; 9, Effigy Plummets (bird in flight); 10,11, Clumsy Plummets; 12, Plain Gouge; 13,14, Thin Stem Adze.
those of the Late Archaic, when not disturbed, in Maine red paint burials they appear together. Not only this, but appearance here of implement modifications and innovations seems to suggest an Archaic complex that is unlike either of the Archaic cultures, but at the same time exhibits traditional ties. For a close look at this phenomenon, illustrations have been made of significant specimens from the Smith collection of Maine red paint burial recoveries (Fig. 7).

As for modifications, several are clearly discernible in the group of plummets. Here lying beside the Classic plummet of the Early Archaic (Exhibits #7,8) appears the Clumsy plummet of the Late Archaic (Exhibits #10,11), thought to be an adoptive attempted copy of the original early classic form. Interestingly, one of the clumsy forms has superficial grinding (Exhibit #11), apparently for the purpose of trying to make it conform more nearly to the classic shape. Then there are unique variations of the plummet — innovations — in this case, one made in a novel form with the beak, and wings in flight of a bird (Exhibit #9). Modified variants are apparent among the Adzes, where relatively thin polls often appear (Exhibits #13,14). Other noticeable variants, modifications of the Side-notched#5 point, are to be seen in large symmetrically-made, sharply pointed chipped blades side-notched, with unusually wide shanks. These would appear more suited, it would seem, to accommodate knife handles than spear shafts. Possibly, these blades were used like daggers in dispatching wounded game; seldom if ever are they found to the south of Maine (Exhibits #1,2).

Implement innovations are represented most impressively by the many styles of Ground slate points. These blades have never been found in sufficient frequency outside of the Maine area to prove existence of a center of production elsewhere. The two illustrated examples (Exhibits #3,4) are from Maine red paint graves with restored stems to match two styles as shown by Smith in his stylized illustrations accompanying his report. Appearance here together as grave goods of Early and Late Archaic implement types seems to display the joining of these two Archaic cultures. In fact, this suggests an amalgamation perhaps of two groups of settlers, each having different traditions.

Admitting the foregoing evidence to be reasonable, the question is still unanswered as to what caused the Maine Archaic complex to come into being. In order to answer this question, it seems necessary to try to follow the movements of Archaic peoples in New England and the Northeast. To do this a study of artifact recoveries at carefully excavated habitation sites to the south of Maine has made one important disclosure. This is that Late Archaic recoveries in central New England apparently do not represent an evolutionary development of, but rather a replacement of Early Archaic artifact types with new forms. And because of this, there appear to be valid grounds for the belief that a new people with a different tradition replaced the Early Archaics who had disappeared. Barring a cataclysm to explain their disappearance, which is improbable — no trace remains — the probability is that the earlier settlers vacated their sites for the most part, moving toward the north from southern New England, as will become apparent from the following reasoning.

The cause of their exodus cannot be definitely proven, but available evidence shows beyond a doubt that caribou passed through New England at an early date — recovery of their decimated fragmented bone remains has occurred in numerous places. These animals must have fed upon lichen that grows in tundra wastes then present in this area, for they still do today in their tundra habitats in the Northeast: the Gaspe and Quebec-Labrador peninsulas. However, at the time they were moving through New England, obviously toward the north, probably during a 2,000 year span between 7,000 and 5,000 years ago, the area to the north of them was covered with a great ice pack of the Ice Age. As the ice melted and receded north through New England, tundra and caribou followed, with the Early Archaic hunters probably in perennial pursuit — caribou were for them their chief means of survival. Of course this exodus was an extremely gradual affair, assuming it required 2,000 years to complete. Toward its close it appears probable that the Early Archaics, about 5,000 years ago — glacial ice still covered much of Canada at that time — were hunting caribou in Maine, and doubtless for some time thereafter.

At about this time when forests were gradually creeping up from southern New England following retreat of the ice, a new people began to arrive from midwestern regions: the Late Archaics. Finally, they would have reached Maine, probably by northeastern routes, one of which may have been down the St. Lawrence, overland to the Kennebec, and then down river to coastal areas. Certain it is that they were there, as indicated by diagnostic implements of their culture occurring on Cobbescontee camp sites and elsewhere in Maine. They consist of the Plain gouge; Full Grooved ax; Side-notched#1 and Corner-removed#7 points; Wing atlatl weight; and Clumsy plummet. Fortunately, the Late Archaic radiocarbon date at Wapanucket 6 of 4,300 years ago, previously
MAINE ARCHAIC COMPLEX

mentioned, supports the proposed starting date of about 5,000 years ago for this culture influx. With it came burial rites employing the use of powdered red ocher, as shown by evidence at Wapanucket 6.

Here then has been presented, it would seem, enough evidence to support a postulation of what may have taken place in the end created the Maine Archaic complex. Not that it can be considered final in any sense of the word, but rather that it is offered as a possibility, subject to modification to satisfy any new evidence that may appear. However, based on the facts as reviewed in this paper, certain events may have taken place, which seem to this writer well defined.

After a long gradual movement northerly of the Early Archaic caribou hunters through New England and probably up the east side of the Hudson in New York as well, by 5,000 years ago they would have reached the Maine area. At about this time the Late Archaics began moving slowly into New England, perhaps a family group at a time. Here in its southern and central regions they may have found only a few stragglers of the Early Archaics, who, instead of following the caribou, had chosen to remain behind, as indicated by evidence at Wapanucket 6. However, evidently there were too few of them to alter the customs of the newcomers, whose economy appears to have dominated whatever racial mixing took place. This is evidenced at excavated sites by the replacement of old implement types with new ones of the Late Archaics, as previously cited.

Not so in Maine, where conditions were just the reverse. When the Late Archaics reached this more northern area they must have found the region liberally supplied with Early Archaics, who were hunting caribou. Evidently, they were chiefly concerned with hunting and fishing for survival with probably scant religious beliefs, if any, attended by rituals — they left no evidence yet uncovered of established ceremonials.

However, ritualism in disposal of the dead was an important custom of the Late Archaic new arrivals, and doubtless its colorful ceremonies in time would have impressed the Early Archaics. On the other hand, the latter’s superiority in numbers must have dominated the situation, which tended toward retention of their own kind of implements they had become dependent upon for survival. As time passed, there would have occurred, it would seem, a give-and-take accommodation between the two Archaic racial groups, resulting in culture mixing that produced the Maine Archaic complex.

An example of the joining of the two cultures may be seen in appearance together of the Plain gouge of the Late Archaic (Fig. #12) and the Channeled gouge of the Early Archaic — not illustrated. Another good example is the previously referred to plummet assemblage, in which a Clumsy plummet of the Late Archaics (Fig. 7, #11) shows superficial grinding, indicating an abortive effort of a new arrival to make this implement adoption conform to the Classic plummet of the Early Archaics. With this and the unmodified Clumsy plummet appearing in red paint burials along side of the symmetrical-shaped Early Archaic Classic plummet, racial integration of the two Archaic cultures seems probable.

Evidently a creative people evolved with each of the two racial groups contributing ideas by constructive effort, which produced new tool forms including, the Ground slate point; large side-notched, broad stem Dagger; thin polled Adz; and Effigy-styled plummet. Possibly the Ground slate point was a development of Early Archaic grinding skills acquired from processing of the culture’s Ulu with its ground slate blade. This slate point contribution and others of the Early Archaics combined with the impressive red paint burial rituals of the Late Archaics seems to indicate formation of a new culture. In some such way, no doubt, the Maine Archaic complex was born and became a reality. It must have flourished for many years during existence of the Late Archaic. And, as time passed, its influence seems to have spread to outlying regions to some extent, as indicated by the few Ground slate points appearing in out-of-Maine localities. To try to explain this minor diffusion of slate points is not so important, as to realize that elements of the Maine Archaic complex appear to have dispersed sufficiently to intrude other neighboring cultures, with results that are now only imperfectly understood.

Bronson Museum,
July 12, 1971
THE OBED HEIGHTS ROCK SHELTER

RICHARD Q. BOURN, JR.

Approximately 1,000 feet north of the Connecticut turnpike in Old Saybrook and 300 feet southwest of the Obed Heights Reservoir lies a small rock shelter. The reservoir drains into the Ragged Rock Creek, which flows under the turnpike and the Boston Post road, then out across an open salt marsh and into the Connecticut River some 5,500 feet southeast of the shelter. The shelter is about 19 feet long — half of which is unlivable — with an overhang of 6 feet. Here there is enough living area for a small family and no more (Fig. 8).

During excavation of the shelter it was noted that the top soil consisted of a moist, dark humus, which varied in depth from 4 to 12 inches, while the subsoil that lay below consisted of a very dry powdery yellow sand. Work of excavating the site started several years ago and ended in the fall of 1968 with recovery of 65 artifacts. Two Stem scrapers, 2 small pebbles — one used probably as a Hammerstone, the other with one small chip removed — and 63 potsherds compose the total number of recoveries made at the shelter.

ARTIFACTS AND THEIR CULTURAL RELATIONS

The large Stem scraper (Fig. 9, #2) was found at the 7 inch level in the subsoil, while the small Stem scraper (Fig. 9, #1) appeared at the 6 inch level in the subsoil about 2 feet removed from the other. The smaller one appears to have been made from a large flake, smooth on its back side. Both scrapers have well-worked stems resembling Ritchie’s Orient Fishtail type of projectile point, the equivalent of Fowler’s side-notched #6 as shown in his Classification of Stone Implements of the Northeast. According to Ritchie this type of point represents the Late Archaic of the Transitional Orient phase. In his 1965 report, The Archaeology of New York State, Ritchie has this to say about the time span of the Orient phase: “A compact and consistent series of five radiocarbon dates for Stony Brook and three of the four major burial sites, ranging between 1043 B.C. and 763 B.C., indicates a minimum time span of around three hundred years for the Orient culture. This period seems to correlate with a progressively cooling climate phase and a con-
sequent drop in sea level, believed by Fairbridge to amount to approximately ten feet during its maximum or 'Pelham Bay Emergence,' radiocarbon dated c. 876 B.C. + 220 years on wood from a ‘drowned forest’ at Pelham Bay, New York.”

Additional information about this culture period appears in a 1967 report by Fowler, Oaklawn Quarry: Stone Bowl and Pipe-Making, in which he states: “But what appears of additional value was recovery here of a number of Side-notched #3 and #6 projectile points. These types have been found at certain excavated camp sites with #6 appearing in stratum between the Stone Bowl and Ceramic zones of occupation, and #3 within the early part of the Ceramic. Together, they suggest a period extending about 400 years from the close of stone bowl-making into the following Ceramic Age.”

The 2 Stem scrapers found at the shelter were not in direct association with the potsherds, description of which follows. According to Ritchie, 19 of them belong to the Middle Woodland Stage (Early Point Peninsula), and may be classified as the Point Peninsula Rocker-stamped type (dentate stamped). They would then fit into Fowler’s Stage 2 ceramics (Fig. 9, #7,8).

In Ritchie’s 1965 report the Early Point Peninsula culture is radiocarbon-dated as follows: “In New York only one radiocarbon date has so far been obtained, which apparently applies to the Early Point Peninsula horizon, and this date, A.D. 240 + 80 years (Y-1277) is much later than the Canadian chronology. It was derived from hearth charcoal excavated in 1962 by the writer’s party on the O’Neil site, on the Seneca River, Cayuga County, New York.”

Also recovered were 10 potsherds of the Bowmans Brook Incised type, belonging to the Late Woodland Bowmans Brook phase of the East River tradition. They would seem to belong in Fowler’s Stage 3 ceramics (Fig. 9, #3-6). In connection with the Bowmans Brook phase, Ritchie, 1965, p.268, says: “None of the sites has been radiocarbon-dated, but a beginning date for the culture of around A.D. 1100 has been estimated, probably correctly, by Smith (1950, p.107), making it approximately coexistent with the Canandaigua phase of Owasco culture in upstate New York.”

There are 5 potsherds of those recovered, which have not been classified. One of these has Thumbnail marks, which would place it in Fowler’s Stage 2 ceramics of Middle Woodland times. Four other sherds have characteristics qualifying them for Stage 3 ceramics of Late Woodland times. The remaining 29 potsherds have no decorations and cannot be classified. The 2 small pebbles were not in direct association with any of the artifacts; apparently have no significance.

**DISCUSSION**

In Ritchie’s Orient phase on Long Island no scrapers of any kind were found (Ritchie, 1965, p.170). Therefore, the 2 Stem scrapers found at the Obed Heights shelter might be a rare find. From personal correspondence received concerning the 2 Stem scrapers, Ritchie writes: “We have to remember, however, that the Orient phase as known on Long Island is not
Both scrapers are made of Pennsylvania yellow jasper, and since no chips or flakes of this stone were found in the excavation, the scrapers probably were made elsewhere; may have been imported from eastern Pennsylvania. Similar cases of imported materials—not scrapers—occurred in the Orient phase on some Long Island sites (Ritchie, 1965, p. 170). However, because of the distinctive styling of the shelter's scrapers, with their stems resembling Side-notched #6 projectile points, the probability is that they were left at the site by hunters of the Late Archaic, before the advent of pottery. Then, during the following age of Ceramics later-day occupants broke several pots in the shelter and so left evidence of their presence.

Old Saybrook, Conn.
January 5, 1969.

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Fowler, William S.


Ritchie, William A.


quarries are located in a comparatively small area of southern New England, they are highly representative, no doubt, of this important industry of stone bowl-making. Beside steatite, and chlorite, a workable talc-softened stone that frequently outcrops with it, there were many other stones, which were mined for other purposes. For the most part, they display tough durable traits that made them suitable for implements requiring hard usage. However, their sources are not to be found in every section of Massachusetts. Therefore, this report, locating and describing a few deposits known to the writer, most of which have been actually worked, seems important in a survey of this limited New England area. Of course, there doubtless are other known sites beside those covered in this report, as well as countless more that are still undiscovered. Nevertheless, the few that have been visited, explored, and are now described herein may serve to reveal not only the sources of certain important stones, but the significant characteristics of the sites, which doubtless played a part in their original discovery and development. These disclosures, it is hoped, may lead to the uncovering of comparable stone workings that until now have been passed by as insignificant outcrops, possibly half buried by erosion and vegetation.

Beside actual stone works where mining was confined to a single kind of stone, some stone materials, unquestionably, were derived from cobbles exposed along lake or river shores, deposited by the glacier when it retreated north. This paper does not concern itself with these sources, although doubtless they were just as important to early man as the more concentrated deposits. The ones now referred to deal with worked outcrops of stones, some in the eastern part of Massachusetts, and others located in the western section in the Connecticut River Valley. In this river region felsite rarely appears in implements and has no known deposits; presumably is not indigenous to this area of the state. Therefore, for researchers of this area knowledge about sources of felsite as presented in this paper should be of interest, as indicating possible provenience for Connecticut Valley specimens. However, other stones do outcrop in the western part of the state, and they form the greater part of the materials from which Valley implements were made.

In the early days of this Society, about 1942, the writer was intrigued by an inconspicuous outcrop of two small exposures of quartzite. These appeared in the rough along a fairway at the Mount Tom Golf course in Holyoke. With the help of members of the Connecticut Valley Chapter, an excavation of the site was undertaken with good results. Here, many flakes and broken pieces of quartzite that had been struck off the outcrops were uncovered. They indicated mining activity of what appeared to be a small quarry. Quarry tools probably were limited to hammerstones and mauls, although evidence of them was lacking. However, from among the chipped waste a worked quartzite blank was discovered, which inadvertently had been left behind. It had been flaked into a rectangular shape of about 3 x 5” with a thickness near the center of about an inch. This represented stock that was intended for removal to be fashioned into an ax, or some other kind of implement. Doubtless, many more such blanks had been taken from this small quarry, of which the recovered specimen remained as evidence of this industrial activity.

White quartz is a stone that was used extensively for projectile points, knives, and scrapers, as well as for larger implements such as clubs, hoes, and hammerstones. It is known not only to have been obtained from cobbles found in the glacial till, but also from veins of the stone occurring in granite outcrops. A good example of the latter source was discovered by the writer at the Westfield steatite quarry, and described with illustration of the workings in the Society Bulletin, Vol.30, #1. Here in a granitic boulder had occurred quartz veins at irregular intervals, remnants of which can still be seen. Apparently, they had been pecked loose with large quarry End picks. The several that were found in the tailings were made of quartz-feldspar taken from a nearby deposit, and showed considerable wear from hard usage. They are thought to have been employed in mining the quartz veins by pecking from around them the softer granitic stone of the bedrock. Whatever the mining operations were, the immense accumulation of quartz flakes and rubble at the boulder’s base, extending over a foot in depth in some spots, seems proof enough of a massive quartz removal. Add to this the more than 500 stone bowl-making tools, which were taken from three storage crevices and from among the quartz tailings, and one begins to get some idea of the amount of mining activity involved.

The Connecticut Valley, extending down stream almost to the river’s mouth, contains exposed escarpments of basalt, or traprock, the igneous remains of ancient volcanic eruptions. Mountain ranges in the state of almost solid basalt, such as Mt. Tom, Notchuck, and Holyoke are impressive sights today, and must have had attraction for the river aborigines of by-gone days. Besides serving them as effective lookouts, doubtless they were valued greatly as sources of basalt, from which most tools, large and small, at one time or another were made. Mining operations probably were reduced to the simplest form, that of merely picking up from among countless eroded spalls one
that most nearly conformed to the shape of the implement being constructed (Fig. 10, #6). Search was confined for the most part, no doubt, to weathered mountain slides, consisting of immense accumulations of eroded basalt. One such deposit occurs at the western end of Mt. Holyoke in a section called Hoccanum. Here the river road passes right beside it, while numerous camp sites, conspicuous by their basalt litter, exposed by present-day plowing, lie on the other side along the high river bank only a stone’s throw from the eroded bed of basalt. On these sites have appeared quantities of basalt flakes and numerous implements made of this stone, such as hoes, and clubs, impressive evidence of stone procurement from the nearby slide. Here, one may pick up at will spall after spall of weathered rusty-brown basalt identical to the kind of material of the recovered artifacts. This is convincing evidence, it would seem, of the use, not only of this basalt mountain slide, but doubtless other similar ones in the area by the river natives. In fact, these deposits also were probably worked by those living at some distance, who may have journeyed to the Connecticut Valley for procurement of its noted volcanic stone. Further outcrops of volcanic basalt are to be found in other parts of the state, such as the one in North Stoughton, called the Pinnacle. Doubtless they provided this kind of stone for aboriginal use in this eastern section and elsewhere, although it seems to have been used to a greater extent in the Connecticut Valley and its surrounding hills extending into the state of Connecticut.

Of other stones in the Valley, no worked deposits are known to the writer, although exposures of several useful ones have been reported and are known to exist. For example, the much talked-about red argillite or indurated shale of the Chicopee River Valley, from which knives and projectile points were fashioned, outcrops quite generally in that river valley. Also, Goshen schist appears in site recoveries, sometimes used for pestles, but more often for abraders and whetstones. It is known to occur in deposits on Goshen Mountain, just beyond Northampton. But durable felsite, as found in other parts of the state, has no deposits in the Valley known to the writer. So, when points made of it occasionally appear on camp sites, they are presumed to have been brought into the area from outside regions. For instance, some years ago a cache of about 60 large projectile points made of porphyry was uncovered by the plow in South Hadley Falls. Nothing like them had been seen before in Valley collections, and their presence at once provoked a desire to learn about their source. Were they made locally from imported stone, or were they brought into the Valley already fashioned from some outside region, where this kind of stone was to be found?

Then there is a dark grey felsite that at times appears in projectile points on Valley sites, which is often patinated to a light grayish color, with tiny sparkling phenocrysts showing all through it. Investigation has shown this kind of stone to have derived without doubt from an immense promontory at Mt. Kineo, Maine, half way up Moosehead Lake. At the base of this felsite escarpment are quantities of flakes and spalls, the remains of aboriginal mining of this useful stone that exhibits a good conchoidal fracture (Fig. 10, #7). This Kineo felsite appears to have been a favorite choice in Maine for all types of points and knives, and evidently found its way to a diminishing extent into Massachusetts.

Pursuing our search for felsite, numerous deposits of red felsite, a dark reddish stone, are to be found in the eastern part of Massachusetts among the Attleboros. Here there are numerous outcrops to be seen, although the stone from some appears softened by weathering to such an extent as to have made it useless, it would seem, for implement-making. Harold Curtis, a long-time Society member, discovered a prominent cliff of this stone with a fine grain in a hard unspoiled condition near East Saugus, incorrectly referred to as Saugus jasper. It may have been mined at this place, although no evidence of it was reported. However, in about 1953 the writer was guided to a worked red felsite deposit in Oldtown, near Attleboro, which has interesting characteristics that make a somewhat detailed description of it seem worthwhile. About a half mile north from the center of the town and deep within a field beside the road, a steep rise of ground in one corner of the opening attracts immediate attention, since it is the only hill of its kind anywhere around. It rises abruptly to a height of about 75 feet and is covered with scrub bushes and field grass. At the time of the writer’s visit, that which made it seem different from other such hillocks was the appearance in the grass of numerous blocks of hard red felsite in all sizes and shapes. Some of the smaller ones showed secondary chipping, which at once suggested the site as a quarry for the procurement of this kind of stone. But up to this point our search had failed to find a stone-working concentration, to justify a belief that the site was anything more than an infrequently used source for red felsite. After testing about the rise without success, an ascent was made to the summit, which had a more or less flat surface. After removal of some sod, a spot was found where a workshop had once existed. Here was uncovered a quantity of chips and spalls of red felsite, flaked from blocks of this stone, apparently taken from the side of the hillock. And as evidence that stone material had been prepared for removal, sev-
Fig. 10. WORKED BLANKS, from aboriginal stone works. 1, Red Porphyry; 2, Gray Porphyry; 3, Red Felsite; 4, Black Porphyry; 5, Hingham Felsite Spall; 6, Basalt; 7, Kineo Felsite Spall. (Sources: 1, 2, Cat Island; 3, Oldtown; 4, Marblehead; 5, Hingham Harbor; 6, Conn. Valley of Mass.; 7, Mount Kineo, Me.).
eral chipped-out blanks, suitable as stock from which to make the stone implements of the day, were found among the flakes; one is illustrated (Fig. 10,#3). Further excavation of the summit continued to uncover more worked waste, which seemed to indicate that here was the center of quarry activity, where blocks of felsite were chipped and made ready for removal. Apparently no more than hammerstones were required to knock out the desired blanks from readily available loose chunks of surface stone found on the slopes of the hillock. No worked outcrops of felsite were observed, and no quarry tools for mining the stone were encountered. While a thorough excavation of the area might discover such evidence, our limited investigation of the hillock indicated that its felsite supply was in the form of loose surface blocks, which were collected as desired, and then flaked into worked blanks at the workshop on top of the hill for removal to home sites.

For information about three important worked deposits of other varieties of felsite lying in coastal areas of the state, the writer is indebted again to Harold Curtis, who carried out his research in about 1935. The first of these sites to be described lies along the shore of Hingham harbor. Here are ledge exposures of felsite, at the foot of which are quantities of flakes and spalls of this stone, the remains of aboriginal mining activity. The stone is of a brownish gray color, sometimes with darker veins running through it, as found in several parts of the escarpment. However, the most characteristic variation of this unique felsite appears in ledges, which outcrop further out in the harbor. At low tide they are completely exposed and may be easily reached by wading. Evidence of aboriginal quarrying is to be found at the base of the ledges, where a quantity of flaked waste appears in the shallow water. Evidently, workmen knocked spalls off the ledge as desired and chipped them into suitable blanks for removal; a worked spall, in which the veining is extreme is illustrated (Fig. 10,#5). This felsite has a good concoidal fracture, and is uniquely beautiful with fine wavy light brownish veins running more or less throughout a creamish-lavender to pinkish fine grained stone, sometimes in the reverse. Color combinations vary greatly, even including a reddish base. It was much prized for making projectile points of various types, and for many years has been referred to as Hingham felsite.

The second site from which a different variety of felsite was obtained lies further up the coast at Marblehead. As a note of interest the place received its name from high cliffs of felsite at the end of Marblehead Neck, once an island, now joined to the mainland by a causeway. Weathering over the years has produced a whitish patina here on the cliffs at Lighthouse Point. Evidently, in early days it had the appearance of marble, when seen from ships of the early colonists — hence the name. This enormous promontory, called Castle Rock, is an outcrop of black porphyritic felsite, more properly called black porphyry. It consists of a medium grained dull black felsite interspersed with small white feldspar crystals. Presumably, it was the material and this source, from which the cache of 60 points at South Hadley Falls — previously referred to — may have come. This felsite is susceptible to weathering, and different parts of the ledge outcroppings show several degrees of patina probably as a result of removal of different sections by aboriginal mining at various intervals of time. Apparently, this deposit was worked extensively, with immense quantities of its black porphyry struck off the ledges and carried away, as the great amount of man-made waste strewn over the ground amply testifies. These tailings consist of flakes, unworked spalls, and some worked blanks made for removal, but unintentionally left behind, of which one is illustrated (Fig. 10,#4). This kind of felsite often appears in knives, projectile points, and larger tools at sites throughout the eastern part of the state, and may have had Castle Rock at Marblehead as its source.

From the third and last felsite site to be reported, two varieties of this stone were derived. In order to reach it a boat is required, as no doubt was the case in aboriginal times, for it is on the shores of a small island, a short distance off Marblehead. Here, at Cat Island, occur bedrock outcroppings that show quarry working over a space of about an acre. One of the two felsite deposits consists of red porphyry, with a medium grain. It has a dark grayish-red color with small white feldspar crystal inclusions, and various implements are often found made of it. The second deposit at Cat Island is gray porphyry, which differs from the others, in that it is light gray in color with occasional dark gray patches and small white feldspar crystals throughout the stone. It has a medium grain, and takes a good concoidal fracture, as do all the others. Round about these island outcrops the ground is strewn with a mass of flakes and rubble struck off the ledges, among which may be found an occasional chipped blank prepared for removal. Exhibits of both gray and red porphyry blanks are illustrated (Fig. 10, #1,2). Doubtless there are other outcrops of porphyry in the eastern part of the state, but it is doubtful if they can match the immensity of the Marblehead-Cat Island deposits, both as to size, as well as to the worked remains, which signify their importance to, and extensive use by aboriginal man.

Beside these examples of felsite mining, Curtis
made still another discovery of the source of an important stone of frequent appearance in artifact collections. The stone is best described as argillite, an indurated shale of varying degrees of hardness. When wet or dampened, it differs from the reddish Chicopee argillite, in that its color displays a green to greenish-gray hue. Apparently, the early stone workers were not too careful in selecting this material as to its degree of hardness. For the stone occurs, made into drills, projectile points, and occasionally knives, sometimes as soft as shale with a tendency to splinter, while at other times it exhibits a hardened state with a fair conchoidal fracture. Here in the eastern coastal region Curtis located an extensive deposit of this stone on what is known as Slate Island. It lies due north of Weymouth in outer Hingham harbor, and is reached by boat, as no doubt it was in aboriginal days. On the island massive bedrock deposits outcrop extensively, composed of variations of this indurated sedimentary stone in the form of slate, argillite, and shale. These rock exposures clearly show where spalls have been struck off through countless ages to produce a mass of broken waste over much of the surrounding ground. Apparently, this was a well-known site that developed into an extensive quarry works. However, there is reason to believe that other sites exist at which argillite was mined, as this material outcrops repeatedly in coastal areas all the way to Newport, Rhode Island.

Description has been made of the white quartz tool quarry near the Westfield stone bowl quarry, which reveals one source of this hard stone, a favorite for many kinds of tools. Harold Curtis located another extensive quartz deposit, which had been heavily worked. It consisted of a 3 foot wide vein of this white stone on the eastern side of highway, Route 140, near Freetown. Quantities of flaked waste lay exposed near the vein.

And now a new discovery has been made of white quartz mining on a large scale by John Dauray, an energetic Society member. Located in Uxbridge toward the top of a steep elevation that rises some 100 feet above the highway, large outcrops of white quartz occur, and provide an impressive spectacle. The writer spent an afternoon at the site with Dauray starting an excavation that will be continued. In the meantime a preliminary report and description of artifacts recovered during this initial excavation seems worthwhile.

Capping the summit of the elevation are huge granite boulders. At their base, high up on the south side of the hill, is a solid vein of white quartz of a compact uniform silica content, interspersed with small ferrous crystals. It is about 10 feet wide, and extends exposed for a distance of from 50 to 75 feet. Here and there, small boulder outcrops of quartz jut out from its surface, and it is these exposed deposits that first attract attention as having been mined. Quartz flake waste exists over the entire area, and reaches depths of from one to several feet in places. To provide some idea of the tremendous amount of mining activity that took place here, suffice it to say that in a comparatively small area of about 3 square feet and one foot in depth at the base of a boulder outcrop some 20 or more artifacts were uncovered. Many of them were perfect, and some of the large mining tools appeared to have been heavily used with much wear showing. These recoveries are described and interpreted in this report.

Two classes of tools have been identified, those which apparently were used in mining the quartz, and those which were shaped from quartz blanks into tools for the making of stone bowls at steatite quarries. Three of these quarries lie only a few miles distant, Dolly Bond, Horne Hill, and Eight Lots — the first two have been thoroughly excavated and reported in previous Society Bulletins. Of these quarries, Dolly Bond is the closest, a scant 5 miles removed. And it is quite possible that still other steatite quarries may exist in the immediate area, as yet undiscovered. This industrial association seems to account for the predominant existence of stone bowl-making tools at the Uxbridge quartz mine.

Large heavy tools for quartz mining, as recovered in our afternoon’s work, consist of hand-wielded 8 to 10 lb. mauls of quartz; sometimes made of blocks of coarse grained granite containing small quartz or feldspar crystals, doubtless derived from some nearby outcrop. These large pounders usually were shaped with a point projecting at one end. Apparently, this point was used to penetrate faults in the quartz deposit, in order to loosen and break away chunks of stone. Often the pointed bit was worn down to a rounded stump, that then would have served more as a bumper than as a wedge. One recovery was made of another interesting type of tool, probably used to split the stone away from faults. A similar tool was identified and named a Disc by Parker, at the Great Cocksackie Flint Mines in the Hudson Valley, and rightfully so. Here at Uxbridge it is made of quartz, with a thick 2½” handle base and a 6” wide semi-lunar blade that tapers down to a well-worked edge. Its 2 to 3 lb. weight ensured a forceful blow in the probable breaking off of chunks of quartz from a faulted boulder. Beside these implements, hammerstones appeared, made of both quartz and granite in various sizes for the flaking and finishing of products (Fig. 12, #6).
The second class of tools in evidence are those which conform to several kinds of implements found in steatite quarries, used for fashioning stone bowls; selected specimens are included in figure #12. As usual, the End pick had the greatest frequency, appearing in large and small sizes (Exhibits #1-3). Also, several pick points were recovered, apparently having been broken off in the making of picks. An Abrading-scaper was uncovered with a coarsely chipped circular blade (Exhibit #8). And a Shaver, with well-defined traits appeared (Exhibit #7). As may be seen by the illustration, it reveals a well-worked sharp, straight scraping edge with one end rounded. Finally, a small Hand gouge occurred (Exhibit #5). It has a well-chipped rounded bit showing at one end, with thick stock left for a handle on the back edge. As a matter of fact, all these tools are made with relatively thick handle grips of one kind or another, as may be gleaned from the illustrations. Often they have had unwanted sharp edge projections dulled by hammering.

Beside these tools, one or two worked quartz blocks appeared, which may be prepared blanks from which tools were to have been fashioned either at the quarry, or after removal to home camp sites; one is illustrated (Exhibit #4). The unusual occurrence of such a quartz quarry as that at Uxbridge seems to pose questions of not only how it was operated, but what relation it may have had to the stone bowl industry, for which it was making tools. The answers cannot be other than hypothetical in nature, and yet a little straight thinking may lead to a better understanding of the evidence as presented.

First of all, does it seem reasonable to expect that all men, no matter where they might have lived, who journeyed to the steatite quarries to make stone bowls, would have known how to mine quartz? Or more explicitly, would it be likely that they would have been skilled enough to know the proper techniques for knocking out blocks of quartz from which to make their stone bowl-making tools? Would it not have been more probable that they would have made do with other more convenient stone stocks outcropping at or close by steatite quarries, as evidence shows they frequently did? These questions beg the answer that the Uxbridge quartz mine may have been operated as a specialized industry by men, skilled in the mining of quartz, who shaped it into stone bowl-making tools of their day, perhaps to be traded to the makers of stone bowls.

This conjecture could become more realistic, if storage caches of stone bowl-making tools are discovered in deep rock crevices, as found at the Westfield quartz tool works, previously referred to. And even with the present sparse evidence, how else explain the apparent abundance of finished stone bowl-making tools abandoned in the mined waste? If made by stone bowl artisans, would it not seem more probable that these finished quartz tools would have been carefully removed for use at steatite quarries by those who had made them, rather than apparently laid aside in the tailings at the Uxbridge quarry?

But that which tends to confuse any such speculations as those advanced is the fact that neither at Horne Hill quarry nor at Dolly Bond, the nearest steatite works to Uxbridge, were white quartz tools present in the excavated recoveries. Instead, tools were made of other hard stones, such as basalt, rhyolite, quartzite, granite, or gneiss, some of which presumably outcropped at these quarries and could be conveniently obtained. For whom, then, were the Uxbridge quartz tools being made? Could it be that they were being prepared for stone bowl-making use, but were never delivered to steatite quarries? Of course it is possible that further digging at the two stone bowl quarries referred to might turn up quartz tools, but this seems unlikely, as both sites were extensively excavated. Then, too, the possibility exists of Uxbridge tools being found in the Eight Lots quarry in Sutton, which has been only superficially excavated — but with no quartz tools appearing. Either this, or another steatite quarry in the immediate vicinity, not yet discovered, might hold the answer. However, the fact remains that a large quartz mining enterprise, making tools for the manufacture of stone bowls, was in full operation at Uxbridge, where accumulated tailings seem too extensive to suggest an output of finished tools without users, only to have them lie idle at the quarry.

Bronson Museum, April 27, 1970

APPENDIX

Subsequent to completion of the report of the aforementioned stone works, a discovery was made in Rhode Island of what seems to have been a deposit of quartzite that was well-known to early man. A dependable digger of the Narragansett Archaeological Society of Rhode Island, Steve Dlugosz, came upon it by chance, and guided the writer and other Society members to it for a thorough inspection.

Located on the edge of the village of Westcott in the northwest section of Warwick, it consists of an immense ledge some 400 feet or more in length, about 80 to 100 feet in height, and with a more or less ver-
Fig. 12. TOOL PRODUCTS, UXBRIDGE QUARTZ QUARRY. 1-3, End Pick; 4, Prepared Blank; 5, Hand Gouge; 6, Hammerstone; 7, Shaver; 8, Abrading-Scraper. (1-3, 5-7, 8, Specialized Stone Bowl-Making Tools).
tical face of exposed quartzite, displaying a marked condition of sheeting. Here are exposed to view quantities of quartzite layers with protrusions that can be easily knocked loose.

It is reported that around 1900, gold ore was discovered in this ledge, and mining of the ore was commenced. But, after tests were made, it was found that the cost of extracting the gold would be prohibitive. This killed the project and left the front of the ledge with a somewhat vertical face as described.

This deposit must have provided aboriginal stone quarriers with an easily mined source of what proved to be an inferior grade of quartzite that tends to shatter when chipped, instead of producing a good conchoidal fracture. However, the fact that it was obtainable in flat-faced slabs of various thicknesses down to a quarter of an inch, made it serviceable for quickly-made implements. This was demonstrated at the Flat River site only about 4 miles up river, see Massachusetts Society's Bulletin, Vol. 28, #2. Here at this site this very stone — as proven by comparative analysis — was being worked into symbolic tools for a cremation burial as ceremonial offerings, which were then thrown into the fire that consumed the body. Part of a four cremation pit feature at the site radiocarbon dated at 3,500 years ago, it is seen to belong to the Late Archaic.

While a prominent part of this quartzite deposit was formed in such a way as to produce easily obtained slabs with inferior working qualities, further examination of the ledge revealed veins with a more condensed consistency, which produced better conchoidal results. This came about as a result of our search for a workshop, where quartzite could have been processed into blanks and semifinished tools. Remembering writer's experience at the red felsite works in Oldtown of the Attleboros, previously described, our search was directed at this Westcott quartzite deposit to the top of the ledge. After making a steep climb up one end of it, a likely spot at its summit was found for excavation — a singular location that commanded an extensive view of the countryside below.
Luck was with us, for out of about a 6 foot square area came a quantity of broken quartzite waste including many chips. But what was more important, in the tailings appeared enough worked pieces of quartzite stock to provide a fair picture of the different grades of this stone and how they were being worked. Evidently, we had located a quarry workshop.

Here were found at least two qualities of quartzite, probably mined from outcrops at the summit, as a huge 60 or 70 pound core was uncovered, which suggested its removal from some nearby workings. Together with the ever present inferior rusty brown slab material, there appeared pieces of unfauluted extremely hard, fine grained stock. Interspersed throughout the coarse grained slabs appeared to a perceptible extent fine powdered mica. This mica content also was present but to a diminishing degree in the hard superior stock, which tended to have a lighter color with light smoky translucent characteristics. Beside quartzite this extensive deposit must contain a few veins of pure white quartz silica, also with a fine mica content, as one block of it was found in the workshop along with a large roughed-out scraper of this material. Illustrations are shown of representative recoveries from the workshop, to be referred to in the following paragraph (Fig. 13).

Worked blanks of various sizes — Exhibit #1 is from the larger ones of inferior, coarse grained quartzite stock, showing slab-produced faults — were probably removed to home sites for final fashioning into tools. However, some preliminary work in tool-making was noted in this quarry workshop as a result of the recovered white quartz scraper, as well as the large broken stem from some sizable implement of quartzite, not illustrated. Two Hammerstones of the hard fine grained quartzite were recovered, of which one is illustrated in such a way as to show one battered edge (Exhibit #2). It seems worth noting here, as displayed by this battered edge and a corner of the block, which is of a size to fit conveniently into the hand, that they were the preferred parts of the Hammerstone used in striking off flakes. Larger Hammerstones and Mauls were probably used in the mining of stock for its finishing into blanks and tools. Flake waste was plentiful, which supports our conclusion that here was a much-used workshop, perhaps one of many now covered by grassed-over sod.

Finally, proof of the presence of aboriginal man is had from two Side-notched #5 projectile points of argillite recovered from the workshop (Exhibits #3, 4). Evidently, they had been inadvertently left behind, probably part of a worker’s equipment. Seemingly, they had not been made there, as argillite does not outcrop with quartzite. Interestingly, the longer one (Exhibit #3) was found broken in two, which may have occurred from later natural forces, since both sections lay near each other.
IN MEMORIAM

JESSE BREWER, 1888-1971

In the fall of 1939 a group of persons, interested in the formation of an archaeological society, met at the Peabody Museum, Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. This was my initial acquaintance with Jesse Brewer, who was one of the founders of our Society, and has ever since been an active and most valuable member. He will be greatly missed by those who were associated with him. I don't believe that Jess ever missed a meeting of our Society, as long as his health permitted. His genial greeting and hearty handshake was one of the joys of Society gatherings.

Jess was a veteran amateur archaeologist, roaming from Bridgewater to the end of Cape Cod in his quest for information. His collection of Indian artifacts was large and contained many excellent specimens, and is now at Plimouth Plantations. At one time Jess was associated with Douglas S. Byers and Frederick Johnson of Phillip's Academy at Andover, in their work at Blue Hill, Maine.

Jess was the founder and first President of the Massasoit Chapter of the Massachusetts Society and served that Chapter both as an officer and as a member during the rest of his long life. He will be missed by his Plymouth associates.

He contributed a number of papers, which were published in the Society Bulletin, from 1940, Volume #1, to 1968, Volume #30: Sand Bank Burials; A Rock Shelter at Bourne, Mass.; Pits at the Nook Farm Camp Site; Excavating Without Damaging Property; An Important Burial from Plymouth, Mass.; Camp Sites Near Plymouth, Mass.; Workshop Logic; A Cape Cod Canal Pot; Eel River Sites; Suwanee Point Finds in Florida.

Jess was one of the Old Guard, a group of 29 who founded the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. By alphabetical choice he became "Member #1," and so will he always be in the minds of those who knew him in the old days. (Maurice Robbins).
The earliest projectile points of the Northeast are considered to be those that have fluted faces, and are referred to in general as Fluted points. In the West this class of points is subdivided into the Clovis and Folsom types; Clovis being the older of the two, with a possible age of about 11,000 years ago. Folsom points have a more refined style with apparently superior flaking in evidence. Fluted points of New England especially as recovered at the prolific Bull Brook site in Ipswich, Massachusetts, seem to resemble best the Clovis type, but carry a much later radiocarbon date of about 9,300 years ago.

Ever since Fluted points have been identified in New England there has been a constant search for evidence that would reveal the type of projectiles that followed these earliest points. On several occasions Early Archaic points have appeared at sites in such a way at low levels, as to seem to present convincing evidence that they represent a separate early cultural occupation, preceding that of the Late Archaic. Their types are now well-known, and include, Corner-removed, 5,8, and 9, as well as Bifurcated with sharp barbs. Furthermore, at three sites, Twin Rivers, Flat River, and Oak Island, reported in the Society Bulletin at different times, have occurred at low levels underlying or associated with the Early Archaic that which appears to be an earlier point, which has been named Parallel Stem. This was fully described in Society Bulletin, Vol. 29, #3&4. At Twin Rivers and Oak Island the stratigraphy was especially well-defined, which placed this point below and presumably before the advent of the Early Archaic, possibly as an early phase of that culture. How early has not yet been determined, but it could represent the last part of the hiatus separating Fluted points of the Paleo from diagnostic points of the Early Archaic.

In the West, where early points have been extensively studied and analyzed, a comparatively long narrow point has occurred, especially at the Finley site near Eden, Wyoming, and at the Horner site near Cody, Wyoming, where several of these points were uncovered in situ. They have been named Eden points, and are now considered to belong to the Cody complex. Their age has been estimated to be between 5,000 and 9,000 years ago, with an actual radiocarbon date from charcoal, presumed to be associated with a probable hearth at the Horner site of approximately 7,000 + years ago.

Some years ago, Charles Sherman, a faithful Society member of long standing, was excavating a site in Plymouth in the Eel River area. At a relatively low level in the yellow sandy subsoil 3" up from the underlying white sand horizon he uncovered half of a narrow-bladed projectile point, with traits that suggested it to be part of a relatively long blade. It was made of a coarse grained felsite, heavily patinated. In spite of this it revealed uniform flaking, strangely resembling certain long narrow points of the West. Fortunately, he returned to the site the following year, and continued digging where he had previously left off. At last, much to his astonishment, he exposed another half of a narrow point at the same low level as that of the first. It fitted contiguously onto the fractured point of the previous year, which made a ¾" wide projectile, 4½" long, and uniformly thin throughout. In spite of the coarse graining of the stone, by careful examination it is possible to make out attempted collateral flaking of its thin body, and a re touched parallel stem extending ¾" up from the base. This is produced by indents, so slight that more than a casual glance is required to identify it (Fig.14, #1). These traits seem to denote this projectile as an Eden point, although evidence of grinding of stem edges is nil.

Here is what Dr. H. M. Wormington of the Denver Museum of Natural History, in Ancient Man in North America, says about Eden points: "There is another type of projectile point... This is the Eden point. It is much narrower in relation to its length than the Scottsbluff [point] and has a less strongly indented stem. It is horizontally flaked, but the flaking, although sometimes of the transverse type, is more frequently of the collateral type, which produces a diamond-shaped cross-section. Edens have a more limited distribution than Scottsbluffs, their range apparently being limited to the High Plains and areas to the North. The writer has seen one example found on the outskirts of Peace River, Alberta. Another specimen, ... was found by Oscar Lewis while doing reconnaissance along the Alaskan Highway. One fragment was found near Fairbanks, Alaska, in frozen muck deposits, which contained bones of extinct animals (Hibben, 1943)."

Referring again to the Horner site, Wormington says: "The 210 artifacts recovered included some of the most magnificent specimens of Scottsbluff and Eden points that have been found. The men who made them were truly great craftsmen."
Although Wormington is considered an outstanding authority on this subject, it is interesting to note that she does not indicate a knowledge of Eden points occurring in the Northeast. Perhaps the reason may be that they have not been reported to her, if, and when found in this area. Now, with appearance of the Plymouth specimen — on display in the Bronson Museum — it seems necessary to extend their range to the Atlantic coastal region of the Northeast. If this were the only recovery in this area, it might be considered a stray, or casual import of some kind. Fortunately, there have been other specimens found in recent days, to make this point appear more at home here, as belonging to a definite occupation.

In the summer of 1969 a chance recovery was made by Richard Barton, brother of George Barton, an early Society member. He had gone out to Washburn Island, only a short distance away from Falmouth on Cape Cod, to try his luck at off-shore fishing. As he walked along the shore of this small island he came to a place where he noticed the sea had eroded the bank. Looking down he saw two relatively long and narrow, well-worked projectile points that evidently had been washed out of the bank. He took them home and placed them in his brother’s collection. When later they were shown to the writer, their identity as belonging to the Eden category seemed probable; and George Barton gladly made them available for study and illustrations (Fig. 14,#2,3).

Exhibit #3 is made of an unusual porphyry that has conspicuous pinkish phenocrysts imbedded in rather fine grained gray felsite. While no prominent outcrops of this exotic porphyry are known to exist in this region, it may be just possible that it derived from a freakish vein among the deposits of gray porphyry on Cat Island in Marblehead Harbor. Interestingly, Exhibit #2 of a coarser grained gray porphyry with white feldspar crystals closely resembles Cat Island deposits. Finding these points in close association might suggest a common provenience for both, which accounts for the Cat Island assumption. Unfortunately, both have been subjected to considerable wear from surf erosion, but nevertheless have retained flake scars to an extent sufficient to permit a satisfactory inspection, revealing collateral flaking. Short parallel stems about 1½" long are identifiable on both with slight indents, produced as a result of retouched edges. These have been worn by water action, as have all remaining edges of the blades, so that evidence of man’s grinding, if present, has been obliterated.

Exhibit #4 is another probable Eden point of felsite with one of its basal corners missing. In spite of this, its 3" long parallel sided stem is just discernible with retouched edges. While collateral flaking is ill-defined, this point doubtless belongs in the Eden category because of its relatively long, thin proportions, much the same as those of the other exhibits. It was found at a site in Wareham on the Cape, some years ago by the late Charles Sanderson, an enthusiastic Society member for many years.
are the exclusive property of regions in the West. At least this is an opinion that is held by some, although there are those, who may disagree, as is often the case when a statement of facts is advanced that differs from the norm. However, in this case the evidence offers something more convincing than just a statement of facts, for here are shown four typically narrow, thin, and relatively long projectiles, which have several distinguishing traits that seem to place them as Eden points. Before describing these characteristics, attention should be drawn to a certain condition of the points that makes a comparison to western specimens difficult.

The fact is that these points are made of fairly coarse grained indigenous felsite, which is more difficult to work than flint, from which western points are made. In view of this disadvantage, it is to the credit of the eastern artisans that they were able to match Eden traits so closely. In spite of the heavy patina of the Plymouth specimen, and the water-washed condition of the Washburn Island points, a characteristic Eden flaking is discernible on all, but only under careful scrutiny and favorable lighting conditions. However, the work is, unmistakably, collateral flaking to the extent allowed by the coarse stone stock. This distinctive Eden trait is one that is not found on other types of New England points. The illustrations faithfully define this important flaking, which strikes one as a remarkable accomplishment for such thin and narrow points of coarse grained felsite, especially Exhibit #1 from Plymouth. On Exhibit #4 from Wareham this kind of flaking is less obvious.

Another Eden trait, found on the four points, is a parallel-sided relatively short stem that is barely discernible in the case of the Plymouth and Wareham specimens. Furthermore, these stems are made by retouching, which produces only slight indents. However, the eastern exhibits lack the reported cross section diamond shape reported by Wormington. Probably this is on account of the coarse felsite from which they are made, which does not lend itself to free conoidal fracturing like flint. Be that as it may, the fact remains that here are points, which, had they been worked in flint would doubtless have matched western Edens quite closely.

What more can be said about these probable Eden recoveries from Massachusetts. Stratigraphically, only the Plymouth specimen furnishes some idea as to its culture position. Its 3" level above the white sand indicates a considerable age, although a deeper level would have been more significant, as compared to Early Archaic zone recoveries. However, the parallel stem trait and narrow proportions of all four specimens compare favorably with traits of the Parallel Stem point. This type, similar to the Alabama Dalton point of about 9,000 years ago, has appeared at a level below the Early Archaic zone at Twin Rivers and Oak Island, as previously noted, and has been described as the probable Early Phase of the Early Archaic. From this it seems realistic to associate the eastern Eden with Parallel Stem points of this region. This would place it in a transitional position between Paleo and Early Archaic cultures. Whether it should be considered nearer the latter than the former cannot be determined, but with further recoveries, as may be reported, a clearer understanding of its age may be possible.

Another observation that might be made is the fact that all four Massachusetts Edens came from coastal sites, which seems to suggest an ancient occupation that hugged the coast for some unknown reason. Possibly, at this presumed early date the continental shelf was exposed, and these Eden recoveries may represent the inland occupied edge of this terrain. That other Eden points might be expected in this coastal area is supported by a find recently made in Plymouth of a fractured long, narrow and thin point. It could not be identified exactly because its base was missing, but otherwise it appeared to exhibit Eden traits.

But what does this appearance of Eden points in the Northeast mean in terms of relationship with the western makers of this point? Can it be that there was indirect contact of peoples between the West and East, that tended to convey ideas and techniques, which may account for some similarity between projectile points of the two widely separated fields of culture development? A quick glance at the point traits and progressive changes that are known to have taken place from Paleo times down to the last cultural period of ceramic development in both areas seem strangely related. In the West the Fluted point is followed by the Eden, Gypsum Cave (Corner-removed #8), broad stemmed, and then side notched forms of the Anasazi Cliff Dwellers and others. In Massachusetts (similarly, the sequence is Fluted, Eden, Corner-removed #8, Corner-removed #7, and finally, Side-notched #5 and other varieties of this point type. This sequential resemblance between the two is startling, as though something besides pure chance has taken place to cause this situation to occur. A continuing exchange of ideas appears probable, but beyond this an explanation of how it took place is something for future research to ponder.

Bronson Museum
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A POSSIBLE RED PAINT GRAVE FROM MARTHA'S VINEYARD

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During the fall of 1967 excavations for a basement on a small knoll on the west side of Hariphs Creek, Town of Gay Head, Massachusetts revealed an interesting feature which, despite the absence of human bone, seems similar to Early or Middle Woodland burials found elsewhere in New England. The contractor, Mr. Ernest Duarte, reported the find to me and I completed excavation of the feature. Although excavations by the bulldozer had removed a portion of the topsoil immediately above the pit as well as a portion of the pit itself, enough remained to allow the original dimensions to be reconstructed with considerable confidence.

The nearly round pit opening must have measured originally in excess of sixty-five inches in diameter and terminated about sixty inches below the present surface. The sides sloped gently inward and the bottom was slightly rounded to form a cone-shaped pit, probably necessitated by the soft sand into which it was dug. The fill comprised an uppermost layer of dark stained sand with a somewhat darker mass on the northern edge, suggesting a slump which subsequently became filled with wash and humus. Beneath this the pit outlines were very indistinct until the basal portion of the feature was reached and the fill consisted of tan sand, practically indistinguishable from the surrounding subsoil. Through this sand were several so-called "red bands" formed by natural deposition of an orange hematite pigment which had percolated from above.

Centered forty-eight inches below the surface was a lens of dark stained sand, measuring eighteen inches in diameter by six inches deep, containing a large felsite blank, a partially ground "boat-shaped" stone, probably an atlatl weight, made of olivine diabase, a small celt made of polished chert, now heat altered, and two large fragments of a whelk shell (Busycon canaliculatum?) too badly eroded to determine whether it had been modified.

Below this mass of stained sand and cultural material there lay a small pocket of red paint, much darker and of a very different character from the "red bands" mentioned above. Contained within this pocket of paint were three small unmodified flakes of felsite and a fourth flake with the edges trimmed to form a crude knife or preform, all of which retain encrustations of the red paint in which they were found. Finally, the lowermost portion of the pit was lined with a thin layer of what appeared to be burned sand mixed with a hematite pigment not unlike that described above, surrounding the flakes and knife.

Despite a very careful search of the remaining portion of this feature as well as of the backdirt removed by the bulldozer, no trace could be found of any bone, tooth crowns, or other evidence of human interment, a not too surprising fact in view of the subsoil which is very acid in character.

Nearby, on a somewhat lower terrace of the same knoll, there was exposed a shallow, basin-shaped feature, filled with stone, dark sandy humus, and containing a few chips of quartz, felsite, mammal bone (probably deer), and several fragments of sturgeon plate. Also recovered from the fill of this apparent cooking pit were a poorly formed narrow quartz point, the basal portion of a probable side corner notched point, a graphite pebble and several sherds of coarse grit tempered pottery, either coil or fillet made. Some of the latter resembles Point Peninsula Plain (Stage 2 pottery) (Ritchie and MacNeish 1949: 102-3) while other sherds show horizontal brush marks (stick-wiped) on the exterior and vertical brush marks (stick-wiped) on the interior not unlike North Beach Brushed pottery (Stage 2) from Long Island (Smith 1950: 96; Ritchie 1959: 38). No material would seem to connect the domestic feature to the burial described above but both seem to pertain to a (Ceramic) Middle Woodland occupation.

Both ceramic varieties are of this vintage and similar sherds have been found in this context on Martha's Vineyard (Ritchie: 1969). Narrow stemmed points also seem to persist into the ceramic horizon on Martha's Vineyard (ibid. pp 28 - 32). The burial feature is somewhat less easy to date although the atlatl weight resembles a finer specimen from the Early Woodland Pratt Site on Martha's Vineyard (ibid. p. 71). The celt and flakes are undiagnostic but the conch shell and mode of burial duplicate others of apparent Middle Woodland affiliations in southern New England, especially that recently described by Taylor (1970) from Bridgewater, Mass. which the two platform pipes clearly place in the Middle Woodland (Ceramic) period.

In summary, then, the Hariphs Creek Site represents another extension of Woodland (Ceramic) per-

1) Although this report was prepared in the fall of 1967 its submission in the spring of 1970 was prompted by William B. Taylor's article on red paint graves from the Seaver Farm in the Bulletin Vol. 31, nos 3-4.
iod mortuary ceremonialism which reached southern New England during the early years of the Christian era but where it seems to have been but a pale reflection of more elaborate developments to the west in the Great Lakes drainage.

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