



ARCH NOTES

University Newsletter of
Western Ontario

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

MAR 21

LIBRARY SYSTEM

March 1973

73-2

contents

AN INFORMAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE HIND SITE (Adhk-1), William S. Donaldson.	2
CARBONIZED PLANT REMAINS FROM THE DRAPER SITE, Peter Ramsden.	3
REPORT ON POTTERY COURSE.	4
EDITOR'S PAGE	5
RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE O.A.S. LIBRARY, Betsy Gummow	

monthly meeting

The next general meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m.,
Wednesday, March 21, in the Archaeology Laboratory, Room 561A,
Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George St., University of Toronto,
Toronto 181, Ontario.

Mr. Mike Yarborough, a graduate student in Anthropology,
University of Toronto, will give an illustrated talk on
"Archaeological Field Work on the Alaska Peninsula - 1971".

papers & reports

2

AN INFORMAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE HIND SITE (AdHk-1)

Since the last progress report on the Hind site excavations (Arch-Notes, May, 1972), a small crew of Society members has spent some 22 days digging an additional 500 square feet of this late Archaic burial site in Middlesex County.

During May and the first half of October, progress was slowed considerably by an extensive historic disturbance which cut through most of the grave shaft of Burial #21, smashing and scattering the skeletal remains. In addition, a small quantity of Woodland material was encountered throughout the disturbed area, requiring a great deal of time to determine how it got there (from the sod line at the time of the historic disturbance).

Members of the Windsor Branch Kent Chapter #1 visited the site on Saturday, May 13th, to view the excavation in progress and invite the crew to their end-of-season barbeque that evening. The crew had to settle for a more mundane fare that night, however, for a few minutes after the Kent Chapter members departed, Stan Vanderlaan discovered human skull fragments in the freshly plowed soil of a smaller knoll, several hundred feet north of the main excavation. Since disk harrowing operations were scheduled in a day or so, most of the crew were immediately set to investigating this discovery. They continued this work without a break until completion at dusk.

Their efforts revealed a roughly circular grave shaft, some 24 to 30 inches in diameter, roughly 14 inches in depth. Within this shaft were three partial bundle burials. Each of these consisted of human long bones in an east - west orientation, with skull and mandible placed on top. The central bundle also produced an atlas vertebra, and had a grossly infected femur. The soil of the grave shaft was high in organic content and very dark, with a small patch of charcoal at the southern edge. Despite the much later date of interment suggested by the mode of burial here, the skeletal remains were in a very poor state of preservation when compared to those recovered from the main knoll.

Since it is almost impossible to trace faint soil stains and subtle texture changes in the sandy soil of this site once the hot, dry weather sets in, work was suspended from May 16th to October 3rd. At that time, removal of Burial #5, an in-flesh primary inhumation almost completely destroyed by cultivation and subsequent wind erosion, was begun, and the previously opened units in the disturbed area were excavated to sterile subsoil, nearly 5 feet deep in places.

Our attention then turned to Burial #14, the edge of which had been revealed during our exploratory excavation in 1969. At the base of the plow zone, the grave shaft was roughly circular and just under four feet in diameter. By the time we had reached

the level of the skeleton, however, the shaft had narrowed considerably along the northern and southern edges. The shaft was just over 22 inches deep. The skeleton, that of a juvenile, possibly 14 years of age, was lying in a flexed position on its left side with the head at the southeastern edge of the shaft. The left hand was flexed at the neck and the right hand lay across the chest. The head was tilted backwards and to the right. There was a heavy concentration of red ocher-stained sand around the bones, particularly in the abdominal area and between the knees and chest.

The only artifact associated with Burial #14 was a trianguloid or heart-shaped marine shell pendant having 3 holes drilled in it. This was found just below the right elbow, angled between the 9th and 10th right ribs.

In an effort to detect possible stains and texture changes not readily apparent in the visible spectrum, two rolls of false-colour infrared film were exposed during our work on Burial #14 and in the adjacent units. Though yet to be subjected to a critical frame-by-frame comparison with the Kodachrome and Ektachrome film exposed at the same time, preliminary viewing indicates that this film does provide a sharper contrast for certain features, and can be used to advantage on this site.

W.S. Donaldson, February 15, 1973.

CARBONISED PLANT REMAINS FROM THE DRAPER SITE

The following is a summary of an analysis of some carbonised plant remains from the Draper Site, near Pickering, Ontario. Draper is a prehistoric Southern Division Hruon site, dating between 1450 and 1500 A.D. (Wright 1966:101), and was chosen by the OAS for inclusion in its 1972 salvage project. The carbonised materials reported on here were excavated by the writer between 1960 and 1967. The sample was submitted in 1971, through the courtesy of Mr. D. Stothers, to Dr. Hugh Cutler of the Missouri Botanical Garden who, along with Leonard W. Blake, performed the analysis.

The sample submitted for analysis consisted of 9 carbonised corn cobs, 38 carbonised corn kernels, and three carbonised wild plum seeds. In a previous brief description of this sample, the plum seeds and many of the corn kernels were erroneously attributed to other species (Ramsden 1968:123).

Of the corn cobs, Cutler and Blake note that five have eight rows of kernels, and four have ten rows. The average number of

rows for the sample is 8.9, which they say is higher than the average for Northern Flint corn (the only variety known for pre-historic Ontario) found on Iroquois sites. They go on to say:

If only the predominantly eight - rowed Northern Flint race was involved, we would expect that there would be fewer rows of grains on the more northern specimens. Under adverse conditions, such as short season, weed competition, or poor soils, corn plants are smaller than usual, and those which survive tend to have fewer rows of grains. The samples from the Draper site are small but suggest that the older and many-rowed hard flints and popcorns may have spread into Ontario before or with the eight-rowed corn and a mixture of this small-cobbed and many-rowed corn with the eight-rowed types produced the corn from (the Draper site) (Cutler and Blake n.d.).

Peter D. Ramsden, March 1973.

References

- Cutler, H. and L. Blake n.d.
Maize from Prehistoric Ontario Indian Sites. Manuscript.
- Ramsden, Peter G. 1968.
The Draper Site: A Late Ontario Iroquois Component.
M.A. Thesis, University of Calgary. (Copy in O.A.S. Library).
- Wright, J.V. 1966.
The Ontario Iroquois Tradition. N.M.C. Bull. 210.

REPORT ON POTTERY COURSE

The response to the pottery analysis course has been very encouraging in terms of attendance and enthusiasm. Over the first three sessions, the average number of persons attending is 34, and actual attendance has been as high as 38. The programme appears to meet with interest and enthusiasm on the part of those participating.

The first session consisted of a lecture covering an introduction to those aspects of ceramic technology relevant to prehistoric Ontario; a brief statement of some of the aims and methods of

ceramic analysis; and a summary of prehistoric pottery in Ontario.

The next two sessions were devoted to sorting material excavated from the Beeton Site by the O.A.S., with a view to gaining familiarity with potsherds, and facility in sorting these into categories, and recognizing and recording significant characteristics.

Future sessions will involve an exercise in typing Huron rimsherds, an attempt at drawing comparisons between the Beeton sample and other published samples; a lesson in sorting and classifying pre-Iroquoian Ontario pottery, and a guest lecture by William Russell on the ceramic analysis at Fournier.

editor's page

I hope everyone has noticed the new look of our newsletter, with the Book reviews and research articles. I invite all members to participate by sending in progress reports or small articles with drawings and maps if you wish. Please limit information to six pages single spaced. Longer articles will be run when the newsletters are smaller. Deadline is the first of each month. I hope Arch-Notes will become a sounding board for research ideas and, as a monthly publication, a fast way of making thoughts known to members with perhaps similar ideas or problems.

If members have any suggestions for Arch-Notes please feel free to write directly to me; and that includes questions or problems arising from articles.

A note to all members who have not paid their 1973 fees by March 31: this will be your last issue of Arch-Notes. So, come on, dig deep and pay up; \$5.00 is not that much for your returns. And speaking of money, we will probably have a financial statement in the June issue.

Last month's talk by Miss Geraldine Shepherd was both well illustrated and presented, so much so that members were heard to say it was sad to find oneself merely in the lab when the slides were over and the lights came on. It was well received and on behalf of the membership I would like to thank Gerry for taking the time to do it for us.

John Reid, Editor.

EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Bulletin

Library has:-

	No. 11 (1953)	NO. 21 (1962)	NO. 31 (1972)
	12 (1953)	22 (1963)	
No. 3 (1945)			
4 (1946)	14 (1955)	24 (1965)	
5 (1946)	15 (1956)	25 (1966)	
6 (1947)	16 (1957)	26 (1967)	
7 (1948)	17 (1958)	27-8 (1969)	
8 (1949)	18 (1959)		
	19 (1960)	29 (1970)	
10 (1951)	20 (1961)	30 (1971)	

EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Research Publications

Library has:-

- No. 1 (1947)
- 2 (1963)

EXPEDITION

Bulletin of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania
Library has:-

No. 11⁴ (1969)

12³ (1970)

No. 8² (1966)

LAVAL, UNIVERSITE. QUEBEC
Centre d'Etudes Nordiques
Travaux Divers
Library has:-

No. 12 (1966)

No. 27 (1969)

MANITOBA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Library has:

No. I

II

III

IV

V

VI

VII

VIII²⁻³

IX

MARYLAND, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF

Miscellaneous Papers

Library has:-

No. 2 (1960)

3 (1960)

5 (1963)

8 (1969)

MARYLAND, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF
Newsletter
Library has:-

XI⁴ (1965)

No. VI 2,4,5,7-12 (1960)
VII 1-11 (1961)
VIII 1,3,5 (1962)
IX 2,3,5-12 (1963)
X (1964)

MICHIGAN, UNIVERSITY, ANN ARBOR.
Museum of Anthropology
Anthropological Papers
Library has:

No. 24 (1965)

25 (1965)

27 (1966)

MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Special Publications

Library has:-

No. 1 (1969)

MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGIST, THE

Library has:-

No. 11 ¹⁻² (1965)

12 ⁴ (1966)

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS NEWS
Library has:-

- 7 (1971)
- 8 (1972)

NATURAL HISTORY

Journal of the American Museum of Natural History

Library has:-

CARD 2

LXXXI (1972)

LXXXII (1973)

LXXIX^{9,10} (1970)

LXXX²⁻⁹ (1971)

NEW JERSEY, ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF
Newsletter
Library has:-

No. 45 (1958)

48 (1959)

NEW JERSEY, ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF
Newsletter
Library has:-

Card 2

No. 61

No. 52 (1960)

53

63 (1963)

No. 74 (1965)

55 (1961)

56

66

57

58

68 (1964)

69

60 (1962)

70