

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Inc.)



THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE LAKE ERIE BASIN

ABSTRACTS OF THE
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Late Woodland Prehistory of the Lake Erie Basin

Ronald F. Williamson [McGill University]

THE KELLY SITE

A Glen Meyer "Special Purpose" Site
on the Caradoc Sand Plain

In the past, Glen Meyer site investigations have for the most, centred on the Norfolk sand plain. These investigations have dealt almost exclusively with major villages and not with associated smaller, special purpose sites. The excavation of the Kelly site has produced valuable data concerning a Glen Meyer population in another, yet similar, physiographic region in Southwestern Ontario. Examined within a regional and environmental perspective, the size and nature of Kelly implies a function which is only part of a larger settlement-subsistence system that to some degree characterises this transitional period of Ontario Iroquoian development.

Robert J. Pearce

[Museum of Indian Archaeology]

THE LAWSON SITE

Fifteenth Century Fortress in the
Thames River Drainage Area

Recent excavations at the Lawson site by the Museum of Indian Archaeology have revealed that the prehistoric Neutral occupants were deeply concerned with defence. A majority of the settlement pattern data can be interpreted as being influenced by defensive considerations. These data include the site location, six rows of palisade, earthworks, ditches, look-out platforms stocked with rocks to hurl down upon the enemy, a complex entrance maze, and the location, spacing, and orientation of longhouses.

This paper will place Lawson within a regional context, discuss a group of Middleport villages in the Thames drainage which precede Lawson (and possibly represent the same community as Lawson), discuss the defensive measures at Lawson, and offer suggestions as to why Lawson was heavily defended and as to the identity of the belligerents attacking Lawson.

Gary Foster [Trent University]

WOLFE CREEK SITE

Chatham, Ontario

This paper considers the interaction of the Whittlesey and Neutral traditions as they are represented at the late prehistoric Wolfe Creek site at Chatham in southwestern Ontario. Characteristic Whittlesey ceramics as defined for northern Ohio, particularly the presence of applied rim strips, and triangular projectile points suggest a date of around A.D. 1500. Whittlesey-Neutral relationships are indicated by the location of the Wolfe Creek site in Neutral territory as well as by the presence of Neutral material in site features: for example, Lawson-like ceramics and a Neutral pipe complex. The recent excavation at Wolfe Creek has also provided settlement data in the form of five intersecting longhouses, and a quantity of floral and faunal specimens recovered by flotation are representative of subsistence resources at this late prehistoric settlement.

Richard L. Zurel

[Oakland University]

PERSPECTIVES FROM SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

on Late Prehistoric and Historic Indian Interactions
in the Western Lake Erie Region

Recent research at the Graham-Vugt earthwork west of Lake St. Clair has identified it as a Wolf Phase site without shell tempered ceramics but with ceramics similar to Late Woodland types from the northern Lake Huron area. This enclosure is one of the many in Michigan and Ohio which are regularly spaced at 45 km intervals paralleling the shores of lakes Huron and Erie (historically, 45 km was the distance which could be covered on foot in a single day). These sites are suggested to represent the fortification of villages and the possible confederation of local populations as a result of interregional warfare rather than intraregion competition. A review of the available data from southeast Michigan suggests that the area was devoid of major aboriginal populations during the peak periods of interregional aboriginal trade [Late Archaic, Middle Woodland, Mississippian, and Early Historic]. All of these periods are represented in central and southwestern Michigan in areas of major regional ecological transition. Woodland sites in southeast Michigan appear to date primarily from A.D. 400-1300 between the developmental peaks of the Hopewellian and Mississippian traditions. During the Late Woodland period in southeast Michigan there is an expansion of settlements and burials from near the Great Lakes waterways into the interior along the interface between the interlobate and glacial lake plain regions, apparently terminating with the construction of enclosure sites. Concomitant with

This settlement pattern shift is an increase in skeletal evidence of warfare. It is hypothesized that the apparent shifts in patterns of occupation and land use are related at least in part to the development of regional patterns of exchange when major populations located along major ecological edges began to expand their territorial "influence". Southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario are strategically located for the control of exchange via the north-south waterways and the east-west overland routes. Until the establishment of the French trading post at Nawaia in 1701, the apparent aboriginal absence in the area during peak periods of trade may reflect avoidance by populations occupying major ecological transition zones to bypass or displace potential competitors in Native American patterns of exchange.

Archaic Prehistory of the Lake Erie Basin

Dr. William Rouse
[University of Waterloo]
DEVELOPMENTS IN PALEOINDIAN
in the Huron and Lake Erie Basins

Recent developments have largely verified 4 fluted point types that I suggested in 1965. Enterline point sites include the Lark site in Michigan and the Wood site in Ontario. The recently excavated Gaihey site in Michigan has large partly fluted points similar to Bull Brook points and to the so-called Clovis points of the Mississippi Valley and the southeast United States. Four sites of the Parkhill complex (Barnes points) have now been excavated. Hokecombe sites are now known for Ontario.

Enterline points and Gaihey site points are good Clovis analogs. They may represent the earliest cultures in the area. Barnes points are excellent Folsom and Cumberland analogs. Hokecombe points are a Millard analog and may be the most recent of the four.

These sites are concentrated on old beach ridges, etc. which probably were ecological edges. Parkhill data suggests one band of ca 50-60 on the eastern edge of Huron basin and a similar band along the north edge of the Erie basin.

Plano points - especially Azate Basin points - occur in the area. The transition to Archaic appears to be represented by Hi-Lo points. The Archaic may have begun with the development of new weapons systems.

Dr. David S. Brose and Alfred M. Lee
[The Cleveland Museum of Natural History]

EARLY ARCHAIC
in the Southeastern Lake Erie Drainage

Previous archaeological syntheses posited a cultural and environmental nadir between 9000 and 4500 B.P. in the area addressed. Recent evidence of Paleo/Archaic occupations is presented, and a diachronic analysis of lithic typology and function is integrated with regional paleoecology. An explanatory model is developed based on the functional relationship of lithic morphology to differential hunting strategies with differing environmental parameters. Socio-cultural organization and settlement-subsistence hypotheses are developed from this model. These alternative hypotheses and their potential archaeological manifestations are discussed, and compared to the archaeological data recovered.

William A. Fox
[Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation]

THE NETTLING SITE
and the Early Archaic of Southwestern Ontario

A large artifact assemblage recovered from a base camp on the Bothwell sand plain appears to represent an eighth millennium occupation by Archaic peoples participating in the Kirk Corner Notched Cluster [Chapman, 1975] stylistic tradition. A variety of lithic tools are described and compared with similar artifacts from southwestern Ontario and the Northeast in general. Distribution data for "Kirk Cluster" bifaces in southwestern Ontario are combined with palaeo-environmental data to generate hypotheses concerning the local subsistence-settlement strategies of these Early Archaic peoples.

Dr. David M. Stothers and James R. Graves
[The University of Toledo]

**LATE ARCHAIC AND EARLY
WOODLAND SETTLEMENT-SUBSISTENCE
SYSTEMS**
In the Western Lake Erie Basin

The Late Archaic and Early Woodland inhabitants of southeast Michigan, northwest Ohio, and southwest Ontario undertook a settlement-subsistence system which was structured and scheduled to closely correspond to seasonally variable aspects of the annual subsistence cycle. Settlement patterns represented by site size; artifact density; debitage cluttered lithic workshop/manufacturing stations; cemetery sites; post-mold habitation structure outlines and the internal patterning of these habitation structures help to delineate a unified settlement system. Characterized by the coalescence of dis-

parate kin/family/task groups, into larger co-operative focal settlements, which were riverine or lacustrine oriented during the late spring and summer of the annual cycle, these people being basically hunters and gatherers dispersed into the inland/interior regions of their band territory for the fall, winter and early spring of the annual cycle. Upon dispersal into the interior regions during the fall-winter-early spring segment of the annual cycle, these people fragmented their social groupings into smaller and more easily manageable/adaptable family and task force sub-groupings, which would once again coalesce during the following late spring to undertake communal mortuary activities. Such a model, characterizing the settlement - subsistence cycle of these midwestern Great Lakes aboriginals during the first two millennia B.C., not only corresponds to ethnographically analogous cases of documentation in Northeastern North America, but may serve as a model for the interpretation of earlier and later time periods in the Northeastern Woodlands.

Ian T. Kenyon

[Ontario Ministry of Culture & Recreation]

CRAWFORD KNOLL

An Archaic Site by the St. Clair River Delta

The Crawford Knoll site (AdHo-5) is located adjacent to now-drained marshland bordering the St. Clair River delta in Kent Co., Ontario. The site has not been directly dated, but the artifact types from Crawford Knoll suggest a Late Archaic placement, perhaps somewhere between 1500 and 500 B.C. The characteristic point type is a small (30mm long), notched biface similar to those from the Knechtel I site on Lake Huron, the "Haldimand Complex" at the Bruce Boyd Early Woodland site near Lake Erie, and perhaps, the Riverton Culture of Illinois. Four bipoined bone "barbs" from Crawford Knoll further strengthens the connection with the Knechtel I site. During the 1500-500 B.C. there is seemingly a Late or Terminal Archaic "small point" horizon found in the Central Great Lakes and American Midwest, which is, in part, contemporaneous with the quite different Susquehanna (or Broadspear) tradition (or horizon) of the Mid-Atlantic coast.

History of the Lake Erie Basin I

David Faux

*[Mohawk College of Applied Arts
and Technology]*

A DISCUSSION OF NATIVE SETTLEMENT

in the Lower Grand River Valley

from 1783 to 1849: an archival approach

There have been many archaeological investigations that have served to detail the Neutral and pre-Neutral Indian occupation of the Grand River Valley. This is in stark contrast to the paucity of studies involving the more recent sites, some of which were in existence until Confederation.

In the latter part of 1783 the Delaware peoples, who were displaced from their ancestral homes in the American Colonies by the American Revolution, began a settlement just south of the present-day Cayuga. In the next few years the Six Nations, and other tribes paying tribute to the latter (e.g. Naticoke, Tutelo), moved up in the thousands to form new settlements in the Grand River Valley. For varying lengths of time they maintained at least 25 distinct settlement areas scattered between Paris and Port Maitland until the majority settled on the consolidated reserve around the year 1849.

The author has searched a variety of primary sources, including all the original survey maps at the Archives of Ontario and the Public Archives of Canada, plus the voluminous records relating to land found in the RG 10 Series (Indian Affairs) in the latter repository. The paper includes a map pinpointing each tribal settlement site composed from these historical records in the hope that archaeologists will be stimulated to conduct the painstaking on site investigations that are necessary in order to confirm and better illuminate what is known or suspected from historical sources.

Dr. Arnold R. Pilling

[Wayne State University]

LE DETROIT

Urbanism Emerges in the French Period

Analysis of data concerning Le Detroit in the French era suggests the isolation of three periods. The first precedes 1640 and relates to the French knowledge of and contact with a community whose name they spelled "Aictaeronon". From about 1670 until as late as about 1688, several or one continuously-occupied, or possibly intermittently-occupied, Huron village was present near Detroit.

an archaeological report from the 1780s suggests one of these settlements was in the present area of Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Starting possibly as early as 1700, French cultural orientation was continuous in the Detroit area, until long after the British capture in 1760. By 1703, Detroit emerged as a small-scale urban area with a core and suburbs each having a different ethnic group dominant. In the summer of 1980, the first French period archaeological "hot spot" was found within Detroit; it has yielded a few characteristic beads, a brass trade ring, a tinkling cone, and two gaming pieces, suggesting a gambling camp associated with the fur-trade.

Dr. Stuart Scott
[State University of New York, Buffalo]

OLD FORT NIAGARA
Beginning its archaeology

Excavation of Fort Niagara began in 1979 as a mitigation requirement due to the construction of a sewer line through the parade ground. The fort has a long history of private administration, during which time no systematic archaeological excavations were done. Other than archival and historical indications of structures, there was therefore no archaeological knowledge of what might have survived to the present time. The initial excavations by the State University of New York at Buffalo have revealed an unexpected number of architectural remains, as well as an expected volume of Colonial period portable artifacts. This report will document the archaeological studies and results to date.

Ian T. Kenyon
[Ontario Ministry of Culture & Recreation]

EATING IN GAOL

This paper describes the food-related items excavated from the northern courtyard of the Waterloo County Gaol. Most of the artifacts were probably discarded between 1852, the construction date of the gaol, and 1861, when new kitchen facilities were built at the gaol's south end. Ceramic types include white granite (ironstone), blue edged, sponged, stamped ("Portneuf"), banded, and transfer-printed (especially Blue Willow). The comparatively large percentage of bowls in the assemblage implies, not surprisingly, that liquid foods were prominent in the diet.

History of the Lake Erie Basin III

Dr. John Nass
[The Ohio Historical Society]

**REFUSE DISPOSAL AND MILITARY
BEHAVIOUR AT FORT MEIGS**

*A War of 1812 Military Site in Northern Ohio:
an intrasite analysis.*

Schiffer (1972) and South (1977a) have discussed the interpretive implications of various types of cultural refuse which are created during the occupation and the abandonment of a site. Excavation at Fort Meigs has allowed the investigation of refuse disposal practices associated with the occupation of the main fortified camp and a smaller supply fort which was built within the larger fort after its deactivation. The material record at Fort Meigs is quantified and compared against South's Frontier and Caroline Artifact Patterns and the Brunswick Pattern of Refuse Disposal. An attempt is made to show how the various types of discard, loss, and abandonment activities condition the archaeological record, and how these influence South's artifact and disposal patterns.

Dr. Richard Stamps
[Oakland University]

FORT GRATIOT

*An American Post on the Northwest Frontier
[1814 - 1879]*

This paper deals with a brief history of Fort Gratiot and the results of archaeological investigations over the last six years. Structural, artifactual and faunal remains are described. The question of sample size and future work are also discussed.

Peter Lane
[Parks Canada]

**THE ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAMME
at Fort Malden National Historic Park**
[1977 - 1980]

Fort Malden is located in Amherstburg, Ontario, on the Detroit River near the entrance to Lake Erie. The fort was established in 1796 after the British abandoned their post at Detroit. It was occupied by the British army until the mid nineteenth century, then taken over as an insane asylum and afterwards divided up and occupied by private individuals. The archaeology program that has been conducted at the fort during the past four summers has produced an inventory of structures at the fort, as well as detailed information on the fort's earthworks and gun platforms and drainage systems. A large salvage arch-

aeology program has also been conducted at Fort Malden and this includes the King's Navy Yard along the Detroit River. This paper will discuss the program at the fort and the analysis of the material that has taken place to date.

Ron Burdick
[*Defiance College*]

**PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE
EXPLORATORY EXCAVATION
AT FORT DEFIANCE**

This presentation is a preliminary report on exploratory excavations carried out in June and July of 1980 by Defiance College on the site of Fort Defiance, (1794-96). Fort Defiance was one of ten forts constructed by General Anthony Wayne to protect the long line of march and supply line needed during his successful campaign against the combined Indian force centred in northwestern Ohio. Fort Defiance was located at the confluence of the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers within the heart of the Indian controlled territory, the last fort built prior to Wayne's victory over the Indian force at Fallen Timbers in August 1794, and the strongest fortification built during the campaign.

The excavation was carried out for two reasons. One, the origin of the presently visible earthworks was unknown and erosion of the site by the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers. Prior to construction of the present concrete retaining wall (1929), raised doubts about how much of the site still existed. Two, the extent and nature of archaeological resources for future research at the site was unknown.

Testing revealed that the earthworks were original, and that the site contained relatively undisturbed deposits of materials and features from the use and occupancy of the fort. Included in this report is a preliminary tabulation and descriptive analysis of these materials and features. In addition, the future research potential of the site is discussed, along with a preliminary presentation of the work planned for the site next summer.

Prehistory of the Lake Erie Basin: Regional Perspectives

Dr. Peter Reid
[*University of Windsor*]

**AN OUTLINE OF THE PREHISTORY
OF SOUTHWESTERMOST ONTARIO**

More than a century of archaeological activity in Essex, Kent, and Lambton Counties, has shown that the region was occupied prehistorically from at least the Late Paleoindian stage. But until very recently, it was not possible to even begin to assemble a coherent culture history for the region. Although there are still large gaps in our knowledge, it is now possible to sketch the outline of southwesternmost Ontario's prehistory which is presented here. The Paleoindian, Archaic, Early, and Middle Woodland stages are discussed very briefly, and most of this presentation deals with the region's Late Woodland and so-called "Mississippian" manifestations, for which more adequate data is available.

Robert J. Pearce and David G. Smith
[*McGill University*]

IROQUOIAN SOCIETIES
Along the North Shore of Lake Erie

This paper discusses the Iroquoian occupation of the area along the north shore of Lake Erie west of the Grand River and south of the Thames River. We outline a culture history of the area through all stages of Iroquoian development from Princess Point to prehistoric Neutral times. The nature and variation through time of settlement patterns, subsistence systems, and artifact assemblages are considered. The sites discussed in the paper include several that have been known to archaeologists for many years, such as Pound, Southwold and Clearville, and a number of sites that have been recently discovered through archaeological survey conducted in the area. For purposes of examining regional development, the Iroquoian occupation of this area is briefly compared to that of other areas in southwestern Ontario.

Dr. William Engelbrecht and Robert Dean
[State University College at Buffalo]

**THE NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA
SECTIONS OF THE LAKE ERIE BASIN**

This paper briefly describes the Lake Erie plain and adjacent uplands in western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania. The major focus is the description of archaeological sites and material from this area, as well as changes over time in the way of life of the region's prehistoric occupants. In describing the region's prehistory, information from adjacent areas is used on occasion to present a fuller account. Special emphasis is given to the more recent prehistoric occupations (Late Woodland) since more is known about these. During the latter part of the Late Woodland period, farming communities appear. The location of these communities shifted every eight to twenty years, and there has been a considerable amount of research directed toward tracing the movement of these communities through space and over time. Finally, the paper discusses the possible ethnic identity of the various populations in this area and outlines problems for future research.

Dr. David M. Stothers
[University of Toledo]

and

G. Michael Pratt
[University of Toledo
Regional Preservation Office]

**THE CULTURE HISTORY OF THE
SOUTHWESTERN LAKE ERIE
DRAINAGE BASIN**

This paper presents a brief overview of what is presently known about the history of human occupation along the western and southwestern drainage areas of Lake Erie, commencing with the Paleo-Indian occupations of the early post-glacial period (ca. 10,500 B.C.), and persisting until the Indian Removal Period (ca. 1839).

Early prehistoric periods (Paleo-Indian through Middle Archaic) are known only from surface indications throughout the region. Excavation of late Archaic habitation and cemetery sites indicate intensive occupation of riverine and lacustrine environments in the Maumee Valley and Sandusky Bay areas, by cultures which shared, at least, a common mortuary ceremonialism.

By the Early Woodland period (ca. 600-100 B.C.), some regionalization may be recognized, although the evidence is equivocal. However, by the Middle Woodland time period (ca. 100 B.C. - 500 A.D.), at least two archaeologically distinct, but contemporary cultural groups occupy the study area.

The 'in situ' cultural evolution of prehistoric groups in the Maumee Valley and Bay region of northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan have been recognized as a distinct cultural tradition termed the Western Basin Tradition. A second developmental sequence begins, at least in early Late Woodland times (ca. 1000 A.D.) in the Sandusky Bay region of north central Ohio, and persists until the historic contact time period. Termed the Sandusky Tradition, the late phases of this tradition eventually replace or absorb Western Basin Tradition populations in the western littoral regions of Lake Erie after ca. 1400 A.D. By contact, the entire area is apparently occupied by large fortified Sandusky Tradition villages.

Following the early contact period, gaps in the archaeological record occur. Aboriginal sites are not known until the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Due to rapid socio-cultural re-alignment in aboriginal lifeways, as a result of acculturation, material remains consist predominantly of articles of Euro-American manufacture.