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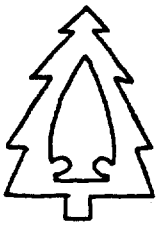
MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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END SCRAPERS

Steve Feher

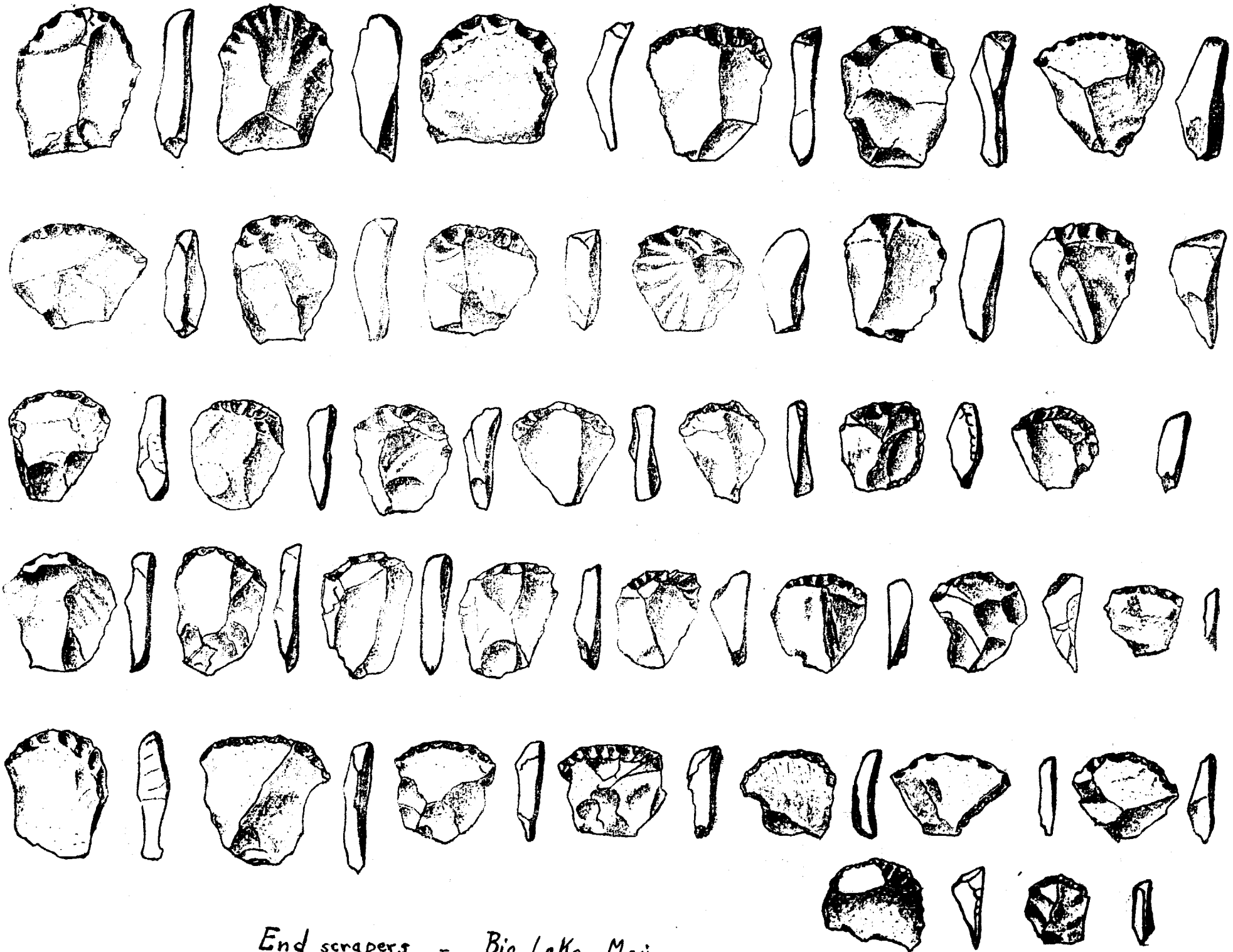
End scrapers, often referred to as "thumb" or "snub nosed" scrapers, appear to be one of the oldest tools in the aboriginal toolkit. There is good reason to believe that they were also one of the most versatile and widely used items therein.

Basically their overall design has changed very little from Palaeo times on to and through the succeeding periods. This would apparently indicate that they were the ideal tool for certain as yet not completely defined operations. However, we can safely assume that they were used in working such materials as hides, wood, and bone.

The number of specimens of a certain tool found at a given site should clearly show the degree of its usefulness and importance. At many sites, the frequency of end scrapers is second only to that of projectile points. Such is the case at the site that produced the specimens illustrated, along with others totalling 180 readily identifiable as end scrapers.

The characteristic common to most of these end scrapers is an arched or concave ventral surface. Since this occurs naturally in stone that fractures conchoidally, very few specimens required any additional work on the ventral surface. Some specimens are nearly flat ventrally but only one had a convex surface. A dorsal ridge running the length of the tool also occurs on nearly every specimen. Though sometimes medial, it is most often found marginally. This gives the scraper a triangular cross section. A few specimens bear two dorsal ridges. This produces a flat-topped scraper that is tranpesoidal in cross section. In 9 out of 10 specimens the bulb of percussion is located at the base. These criteria are quite similar to those noted by MacDonald for over 50% of the end scrapers found at the Debert Palaeo-Indian Site in Nova Scotia.

There is considerable variability within the form. The cutting edge varies from a very flat arc to all degrees of convexity. No specimens with a concave bit occur in this entire group. Evidently such a trait would be of no use in these tools.



End scrapers - Big Lake, Maine

Usually the arc of the bit is at right angles to the axis of the stem, resulting in a bilateral symmetry. However, asymmetrical specimens in which the greater part of the bit is to one side or the other of the axis, are fairly common. In 6 specimens the arc of the bit dips to the left, while in 12 specimens it dips to the right. Some advantages can be demonstrated when these scrapers are held in left and right hands respectively.

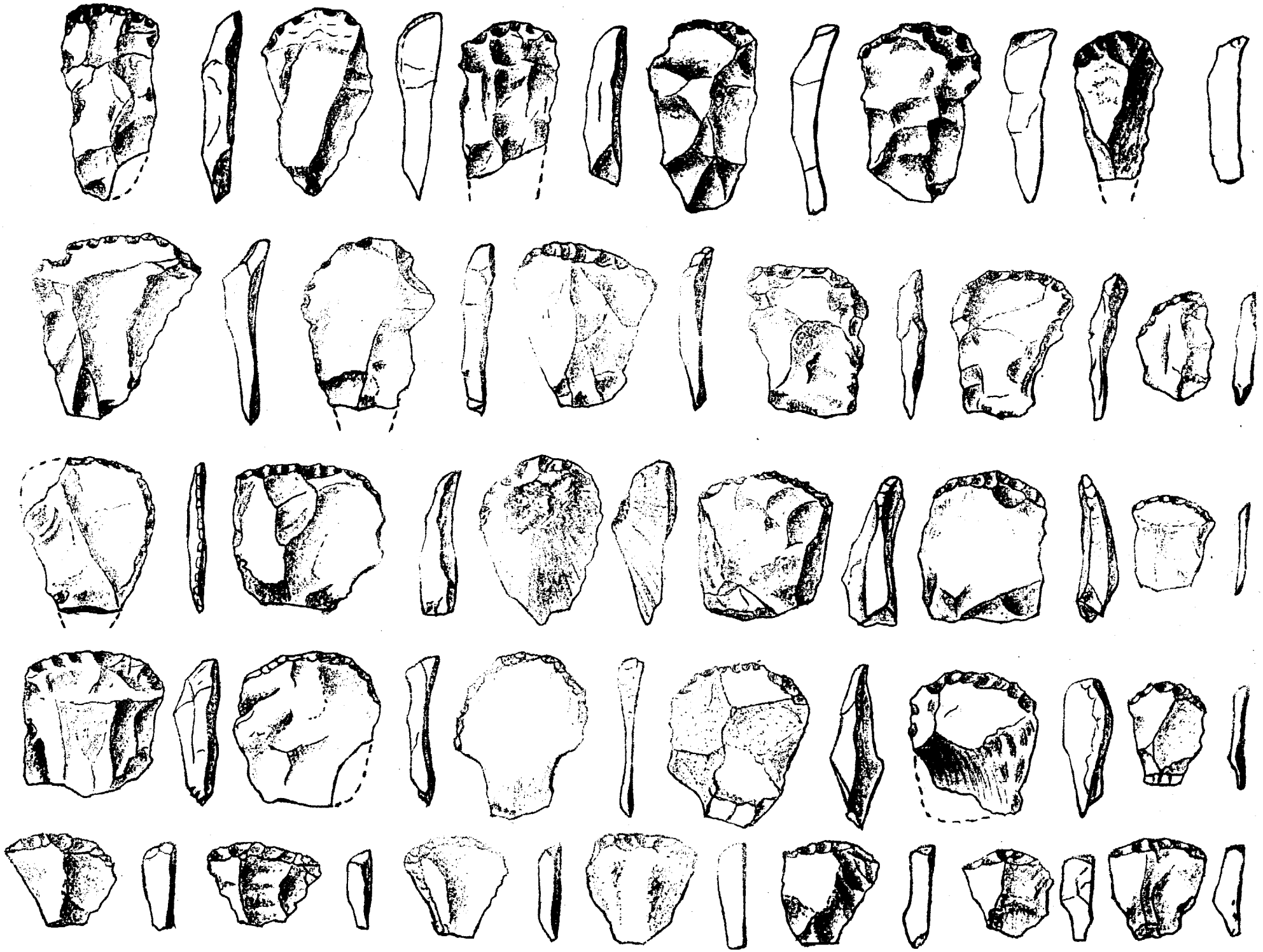
Twenty-six of the 180 scrapers bear definite spurs at one or both ends of the bits. In all likelihood this number was originally much highter for similar spurs could have been present on other specimens but were broken off or worn down in use. The presence of these spurs indicates a secondary function for these scrapers, possibly as gravers. Similar spurred scrapers have been found on all the major Palaeo sites in the Northeast.

Eight specimens are suggestive of the "end of the blade" variety; elongated flakes more than twice as long as they are wide. Here too we find bits that slant to the left or the right and two specimens bear single spurs.

Questions exist as to which of these scrapers were hafted. Those that have bases which taper to a point could have been set in sockets of wood, bone or antler. Those with blunt or truncated bases were probably simply held in the fingers. On some, the truncated bases are considerably thinned and could have been set in wooden hafts in the same manner that arrowheads are fastened in shafts. Only three specimens have notched bases; a definite sign that they were hafted.

The incidence of fracture could also suggest which scrapers were hafted. Transverse fracture of the base occurs in more than 35% of the total. The location of these fractures might indicate that these scrapers were hafted at the time of breakage. They could have been broken under other circumstances but the fact that the break is always transverse to the axis of the stem seems to be more than just a coincidence.

The importance of a tool to its maker is manifested in many ways. One of these is surely the choice of materials. In the overwhelming majority of these scrapers,



End scrapers – Big Lake, Maine.

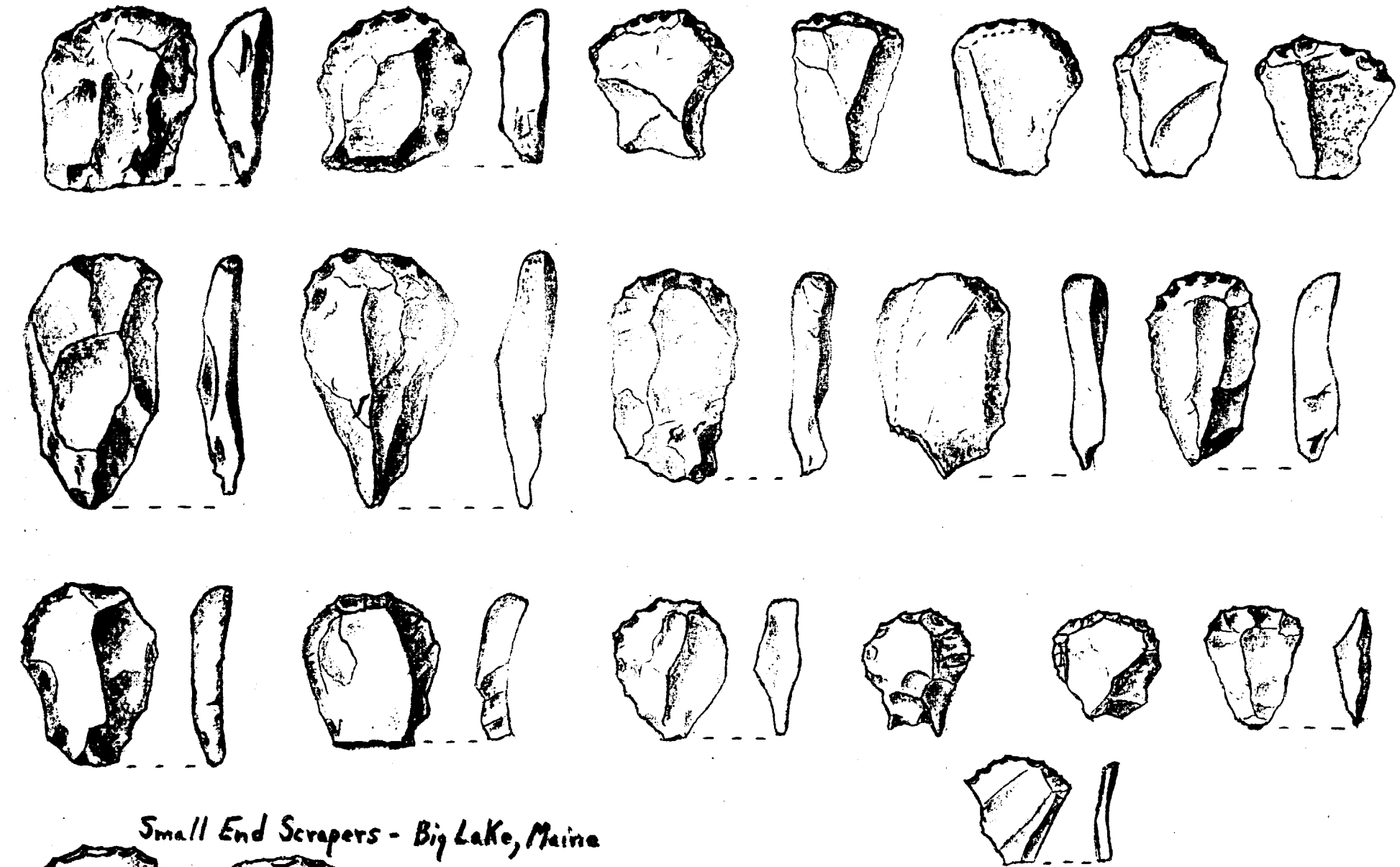
CF

the finest and most enduring materials were used. Only 6 specimens were made from material that shows marked bleaching and weathering. In order of their frequency, the materials used were chalcedony, jasper, felsite, quartzite and quartz.

While most of these scrapers were fashioned from carefully prepared and selected preform flakes, at least 30% were formed from amorphous flakes by simply utilizing the most suitable edge and doing little if any other shaping. Cortex flakes were seldom used; only 5 specimens were noted.

At some sites the presence of large numbers of end scrapers in apparent association with projectile points, to the almost total exclusion of other implements, has led some authorities to conclude that they were used in working on wooden shafts. At this site the areas of greatest concentration of scrapers coincided with equally great concentrations of pottery. The significance of this is conjectural but it may suggest that the persons who used the pottery also used the scrapers. This of course would be the women.

Since no stratification could be ascertained for this site, it cannot be determined which of these scrapers were in use simultaneously and which were characteristic of certain periods. However, the range of variability within the form is clearly demonstrated by these scrapers excavated from a single site in Washington County, Maine ...



Small End Scrapers - Big Lake, Maine

SF

A COMPLETE INDIAN VESSEL FROM NOVA SCOTIA

Stephen A. Davis
Department of Anthropology
Saint Mary's University

A number of years ago Wilber Sollows, a resident of Arcadie, Nova Scotia, had the good fortune of finding the fragments of a prehistoric cooking vessel, which with careful reconstruction proved to be nearly complete. The find was made in a shell midden site near Commeau's Hill, Yarmouth Co., on the Atlantic side of Nova Scotia. While Mr. Sollows was excavating in this midden he encountered the fragments in a context which suggested to him that the vessel had been deliberately broken. All but one sherd was found in a concentration, and in the middle of these was found a large stone which, in Sollows opinion, had been used to break the vessel. The one stray sherd was located about five feet from the rest. Mr. Sollows was able to collect most of the fragments and with them do a professional job of reconstructing the vessel. At this time I would like to thank Mr. Sollows for his permission and guidance which allowed me to view and write about this vessel.

The vessel has a diameter of 175 mm. (approximately 7 inches) across the top and an estimated capacity of 6 quarts. The bottom, which has yet to be completely restored, is rounded, giving the vessel somewhat of a globular shape (Figure 1).

The decorative motif is somewhat complex with two techniques employed in its application. The dominant portion of the motif is done using a cord wrapped stick. This technique is believed to involve the use of a stick which has had a length of cord wrapped around it. This tool is pressed into the wet clay before the vessel is fired, with the result that it leaves the cord markings in the clay. These impressions are usually oval in shape with rounded ends and have convex cross-sections. The second technique used on this vessel to create a design was punctation. In this method an end of a tool is simply pushed straight into the wet clay. It is possible that the punctates on this vessel were made using the end of the cord wrapped stick.

The following discussion will relate as to how these techniques were used

A COMPLETE INDIAN VESSEL FROM NOVA SCOTIA

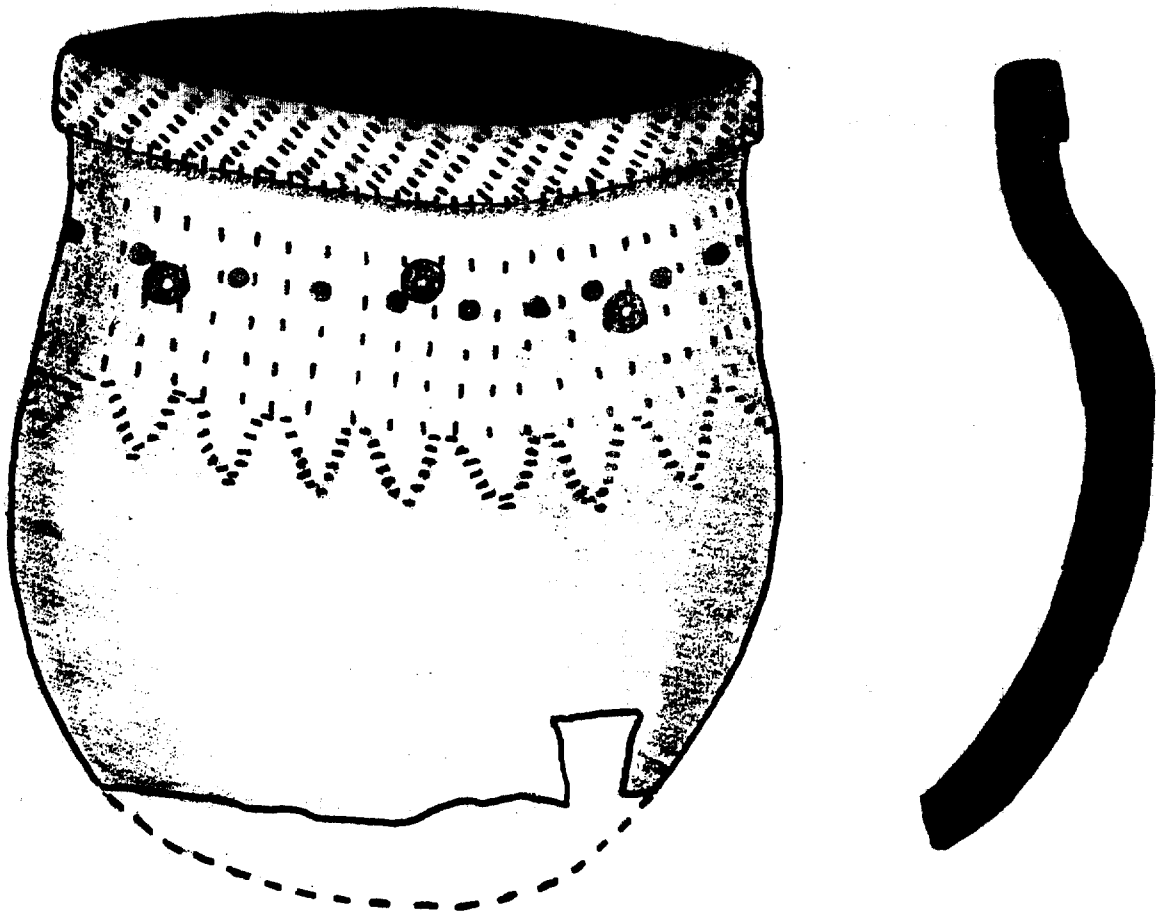


Figure 1 Approximately 1/3 actual size

on this vessel starting from the lip. The lip itself is plain being on the average 8 mm thick. Below the lip is a 18 mm. wide collar which extends completely around the vessel. This collar has 48 rows of oblique cord wrapped stick impressions which leave an average of 7 impressions on each row. Immediately below the collar along its base is a horizontal row of impressions made by using the same cord wrapped stick tool. This design is repeated five more times to produce 6 rows of horizontal cord markings below the collar. The last row is approximately 78 mm below the lip.

The third row of this series was used as a guide for the application of the punctates. There is a total of 17 punctates on this row running completely around the vessel at an average distance of 32 mm. from the lip. Most of these punctates raise slight interior bossing but in no case do they break through the vessel wall.

After the horizontal series of markings, the cord wrapped tool was next used to create a zig-zag pattern below the last horizontal row of impressions. This row was used as a guide for the top of this zig-zag design which has 36 peaks and valleys.

At some point after the vessel was fired it was broken and subsequently repaired. The evidence for this is in the form of 7 mend-holes which have been drilled into the pot presumably to be used in tying the broken fragment onto the vessel.

The vessel also offers some clues as to how it was manufactured. It is a very well made vessel, its maker used grit for temper and was able to maintain a fairly uniform thickness throughout the vessel. The firing of the vessel was also accomplished with some skill as the exterior texture is quite hard. The interior texture contains numerous fibre impressions, which suggests that prior to firing the vessel was filled with something like marsh grass. The grass may have been packed into the vessel to help hold its shape. The packing would have caused some of the grass to be pressed into the clay, and when fired the impressions of the fibre remained.

It is difficult to date this vessel as there has been little done with ceramics

in Nova Scotia. However, we know that the cord wrapped stick technique is late in the ceramic sequence following the dentate stamping technique. I would guess that this vessel was made between A.D. 800 and A.D. 1000.

Again I would like to thank Mr. Sollows and mention that this vessel is currently on display at the Yarmouth Town Museum.

* *

THE CABOT SITE:

A Ceramic Period Occupation

North Haven Island, Maine

by

Rene Michel Descartes

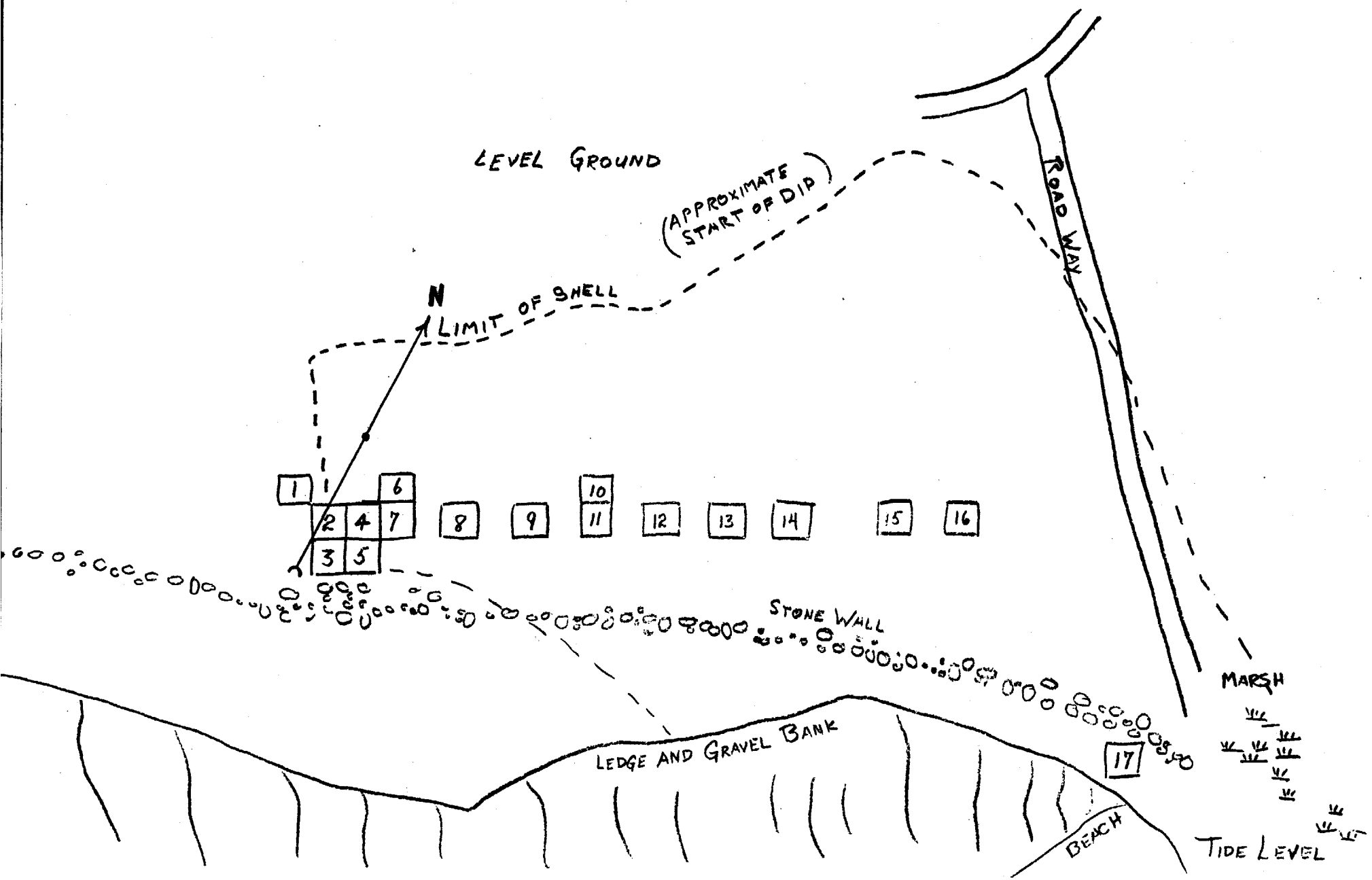
Preface

The Cabot site is located on North Haven Island, Maine, which is one of the Fox Islands in Penobscot Bay. North Haven lies eleven miles off the mainland. The property is owned by the Cabot family of Boston, Massachusetts.

Research at the site was carried out under the direction of Dr. Bruce J. Bourque between July 28 - 30 1971. Excavation was accomplished by the State University of New York at Albany Archaeological Field School comprised of nine students. The author was Dr. Bourque's field assitant during the 1971 season.

The Cabot site was one of four sites excavated on North Haven during the summer of 1971 in an attempt to better understand the Archaic Moorehead Phase as it developed in the Fox Islands. Although the Cabot site was originally thought to be associated with the Moorehead Phase, analysis of excavated cultural material has indicated that aboriginal occupation was much later in time.

THE CABOT SITE



The Cabot site occupies a slope which extends from a terrace down to nearly sea level on the beach below. There is a small marsh on the southern end of the site. The site is now in an open field. Relic hunters have been active at numerous sites on North Haven Island including this one, but disturbance so far has been minimal. Generally the disturbances amount to small holes dug or hoed into the shell middens with a clam fork.

Sites on the Atlantic coast, including coastal Maine, suffer considerable damage each year due to storms and high tides. The Cabot site has not escaped the ravages of nature: shell is eroded out of the bank that faces the sea, and part of the shell is found nearly at sea level in the southeast corner close to the marshy area.

Geologic Summary

The Bays-of-Maine Complex underlies the Penobscot Bay area. This geological feature is comprised of igneous rocks (various granites and gabbros) 4,000 to 15,000 feet thick. This complex is overlain by intruding younger granites (Chapman 1962: 883-887).

The retreat of the Mankato ice sheet in southeastern Maine at about 15,000 B.P., has left a number of geological features in this area: moraine banks, kettle holes, kames, kame terraces and eskers. Glacial till usually does not exceed 50 feet in thickness (Fenneman 1938: 37-39).

As glacial ice moved back from the coast, outwash was laid down in the shallow waters. Deltas and moraine banks were created near the mouths of streams. Sand was deposited over delta material as the ice further retreated and the water continued to rise. The sand deposits were followed by silt and these in turn by deposits of clay. A final deposit, the "Presumscot Formation," comprised of a thick layer of rock flour, was laid down upon the entire coastal area, from southern Maine to New Brunswick.

An interplay of eustatic and isostatic rebound, resulted in the flooding of much of coastal Maine during the post glacial period. As the ice receded the water rose, but land rise did not keep ahead of the water, hence innundation came

about. Isostatic rebound finally caught up with the sea. However a reversal developed which created a rise in water along the Maine coast and northward (Bloom 1963: 864-869). Therefore, many sites of the Archaic Stage have been destroyed, others as the Cabot site have been damaged, their artifacts being pulled from their cultural associations and deposited on beaches or drawn perhaps, out into the sea.

Flora and Fauna

North Haven Island and the Penobscot Bay area are in the hemlock-white pine-hardwood region. White and black spruce, tamarack, poplar, aspen, beech, white ash, black cherry, and the American elm are all species found along coastal Maine (Nichols 1935: 407-420). Balsam fir provided food for moose, once plentiful in the area (Shelford 1963: 136-138; Shalford and Olson 1935: 376-378).

There were a number of faunal species available, as the archaeological record has demonstrated, for utilization by an aboriginal population. In my analysis of the Cabot site, I have not attempted a full scale faunal analysis, however a partial list below will give some indication as to resources available for exploitation.

Terrestrial fauna included bear, deer, rabbits and many smaller mammals, forest birds and, of course, the moose. Also a wide range of aquatic creatures were available, which were exploited to a lesser extent, by the populations residing on the island during the summer months (Shelford 1963: 136-138; Shelford and Olsen 1935: 383-390).

However fish and shellfish provided the main food supply for these people. Sites along the North Atlantic coast testify to this. Swordfish were utilized prehistorically (during the Moorehead Phase), as were the porpoise, sturgeon, mussel, hard and soft shelled clam and a variety of fish. These species were caught or gathered during different temporal periods by the aboriginal peoples of the Maine coast. A list of faunal material recovered from the Cabot site may be found in Appendix I.

Field Research

Field research began with the establishment of a datum from which was laid

a 125 foot base line running from east to west. Parallel to the seaward margin a grid was laid out through the long axis of the sloping part of the site. At first squares were opened at ten foot intervals. By the end of the third day of excavation a total of 17 five-foot squares were excavated, the additional squares being placed where artifactual material appeared to be most heavily concentrated.

The Cabot site was covered by a sod of varying thickness and texture. In numerous places the sod contained shell, while in certain squares which were excavated it was found to be absent due to disturbance.

below this sod two basic strata were found. Stratum I was comprised of crushed shell containing qualitiative differences in texture. Shell lenses, pockets and layers of different texture were found within this stratum.

Stratum II was a layer of varying depth comprised of dark rocky earth. This stratum rested upon the subsoil.

A definite recognizable stratigraphic pattern is evident, however there are a number of varied features within the stratigraphy that create a picture of great diversity. These qualitative differences include small pits, small ash layers, scattered pockets of fish bone, tiny deposits of animal bone, small pockets and lenses of blue mussel shell and heaps of rocks. Also concentrations of stone chipping debris, shell texture that varies from fine to coarse within the same stratum, and gravel lenses holding broken cultural material further aid in creating a pattern of diversity within the stratigraphic record.

In the far western part of the excavation the sod thickness was found to be from two to about five inches in depth. The shell layer was quite shallow. In square number two the ledge came within several inches from the surface. In the lower sod a bone point tip and a knife base were found. At six inches in depth a knife base was unearthed.

In square number four a layer of crushed shell about three and one-half inches in depth was found to overlie a gravel lens. This lens extended into square number seven.

Excavation of the topsoil in square number four, directly beneath the sod

produced 220 stone chips (194 of argillaceous chart and 26 of quartz) and five artifacts. A knife base, two small knives, a side-notched projectile point of the Wiesenthal type and one knife blade were found directly beneath the sod. At nine inches in depth a gravel lens was encountered. Three straight-stemmed points were recovered from the gravel lens.

In square number seven the sod depth reached a maximum of four and one-half inches, the minimum being three and one-half inches.

The sod level produced a blade fragment and one grit-tempered body sherd. In the sod level containing shell, an amulet was found.

In square number seven at four and one-half inches in depth into the shell stratum two rim sherds were found. Both are finely grit-tempered and dentate stamped. At twelve inches in depth, at the bottom of the shell stratum, seven rim sherds and fourteen body sherds were excavated. All are grit-tempered (with large inclusions), undecorated, and badly weathered.

Excavation in square number six revealed a thin sod which was two inches in thickness. Beneath the sod a gravelly black lens was found to contain a high percentage of finely crushed clam shell. One straight-stemmed point came from the sod. A shell lens containing earth, tapering up to four inches in thickness, was found to overlie one other layer. This layer was comprised of coarsely crushed clam shell, about five inches in thickness.

Excavation at the western end of the site produced a large concentration of stone chips and several projectile points and blade fragments. This appears to have been a lithic workshop area and it was the only section within the excavated area of the site where such a large concentration of lithic debris was found. Postmold features were not excavated at the Cabot site.

Square number three was composed of rocky dark soil. Directly below the sod a bone point and a knife base were recovered. Close to the ledge, at seven inches in depth, a side-notched point and fourteen grit-tempered body sherds were uncovered.

Beneath the shell stratum in square number seven the dark soil stratum was found to contain a small pit. This dark soil stratum went to a depth of

eighteen inches, the pit feature being incluaed within it.

Cultural material found in the dark rocky soil stratum in square number seven were comprised of a blade tip, a quartz knife base and the base from a side-notched point.

One feature appears to have been a stone lined pit, as various sizes of rock material encircled this feature. Between the stones were 165 sherds from several different vessels (11 rim sherds and 154 body sherds) all grit-tempered, undecorated with walls eight to nine mm. in thickness. This was probably a pit within the midden rather than a hearth as little ash was encountered during excavation. A small amount of fish bone scattered within the pottery sherds probably indicates the previous contents of these vessels.

These finds caused us to open several squares around this area. Square number five placed adjacent to the stone wall, south of our base line found the ledge to be about six inches below the surface. Shell-free, dark rocky soil beneath the sod contained a few stone chips and two large knife fragments.

On the eastern limit of excavation (square number seventeen) a stone-lined pit was discovered. In this square, twelve inches of moderate to coarsely crushed clam shell, at a depth of seventeen inches from the surface a circular shaped pit was excavated. This began in the bottom of the black shell-free gravel. The pit was 30 inches in diameter and was found to exist from 17 to 25 inches in depth. This basin shaped feature was stone lined. The pit fill appeared to be sterile clay. However the margins of the pit contained a lens of dark soil which held pottery fragments. A charcoal sample was taken from this lens around the pit. A date has not yet been secured from this sample.

The pottery fragments found in this pit were all grit-tempered and rocker stamped, with the exception of the shell tempered body sherd. This sherd was found at a depth of fifteen inches directly above the pit. The grit-tempered sherds were removed from the inside at a depth of 25 inches.

The only lithic artifact found associated with the pit was a large blade fragment which was excavated at seventeen inches in depth.

Animal and fish bone were absent.

Bone

Bone artifacts recovered from the site bear evidence of being reworked from original material. Six points exhibit shaping marks which were inflicted during their manufacture.

The remaining bone specimen is round and bears the marks of reworking. This piece may be the lower section of a bone point or it may have been part of some other bone tool, such as an awl.

These bone points were probably used as fish spear points or as bone fish hooks, the latter being hafted to a wooden stem. Bone points are extremely common in the archaeological record of this type of site and have been documented ethnographically filling a number of functions.

Lithic Material

The lithic material found at the Cabot site represents a number of different material types.

Knives

Several sizes and shapes of knives were found. An "argillaceous chert" appeared to be the most popular material, comprising 10 pieces. One complete knife and four fragments, were made from Kineo felsite. One knife base and tip constructed from quartz. One large blade and a base were chipped from argillite. One specimen, a base, was fashioned from Penobscot Chert which is found on the east branch of the Penobscot River.

Other Lithic Artifacts

The two examples of whetstones are made of diabase and basalt; the single hammerstone of Kineo felsite and the only scraper found is made from quartz. An amulet was made from a smooth cylindrical basalt beach pebble and has a design scratched around it and two deeper grooves at one end, perhaps to facilitate suspension by a cord or thong.

Projectile Points

Of the projectile points, three straight-stemmed points were side-notched

and one was a fragment from a corner-notched point.

Four straight-stemmed specimens are similar to the Lamoka type point which appears in the archaeological record in New York State beginning about 3500 B.C. and persists in a much more limited nature into Middle Woodland times (Ritchie 1961: 85).

Of these straight-stemmed points, three were found at nine inches in depth in square number four within a non-ceramic context. This was the workshop area. The straight-stemmed quartzite point was found in the sod level of square number six. At five inches in depth in the same square a side-notched point was found.

Two points were found in two adjacent squares, from seven to nine inches deep in a brown soil layer. These finds were associated with ceramics in a different straitigraphic layer than were the previously described types of Lamokoid resemblance.

Ceramic Analysis

An analysis of the ceramic material indicated that 13.6% of the total ceramic sample was shell-tempered. Grit-tempered sherds made up the remaining 86.4%. Shell-tempered ware is found in the Maine archaeological record after 1100 A.D.

Exactly 14% of the sherds held an indentifiable decorative motif, other than 167 corded sherds found in the western end of the site. The breakdown of decorative styles is as follows: 2% punctate, 31% rocker-stamped; 37% cord wrapped stick impressed; 26% dentate stamped; 2% incised and 2% pseudoscallop shell.

Using Bourque's (1971: 189-217) typology for these wares three recognizable ware types are present at the Cabot site. The earliest is Wiesenthal ware, followed by Eaton pottery, which is in turn succeeded stratigraphically by Grindle ware. Exactly 55% of the decorated pottery sample or 47 sherds, was made up of grit-tempered Wiesenthal ware, which exhibited rocker-stamping, simple dentate or pseudo-scallop shell design. This type of ware was found below all other ceramics except where disturbance was evident. Wiesenthal ware ceased to be manufactured about 250 A.D.

In certain squares I have determined this ware to be followed by Eaton

pottery, which comprised 22.5% of the decorative sample. Eaton ware was manufactured in the Penobscot Bay area from about 250 A.D. until 1000/1100 A.D. Eaton sherds are all grit-tempered. Denate rocker-stamping is found with some stamping or punctation around the vessel lip. Rim sherd profiles within my small sample correlate with those within the much larger sample analyzed by Bourque.

Grindle ware comprising 22.5% of the decorative sample, exhibits shell-tempering with cord wrapped stick impressions. Bourque postulates Grindle ware began to be produced along the Maine coast sometime between 860 A.D. and 1130 A.D.

Grindle ware was found stratigraphically above the Wiesenthal and Eaton ware types. In the sod level of square number eleven an example of Grindle ware was found, shell-tempered and cord wrapped stick impressed. At eleven inches in depth a grit-tempered rim sherd with punctation and dentate stamping, of the Eaton type was recovered. An inch below this, but in the same stratigraphic level (black soil with crushed shell) a grit-tempered, rocker stamped Wiesenthal body sherd was found.

In square number seven at the upper end of the slope, small shell-tempered Grindle body fragment was found in the sod. From four inches in depth to twelve inches within the same stratigraphic level, a number of sherds were found belonging to the Eaton and Wiesenthal styles. At four inches an Eaton rim sherd was found. At five and one-half inches another Eaton sherd was found, but belonging to another vessel. From six through eleven inches in depth three Wiesenthal sherds were uncovered: at six inches a plain rim with large grit-temper; at ten inches in depth a pseudo-shell body sherd and a Wiesenthal rocker stamped sherd at eleven inches.

Conclusion

Chronology

An analysis of the Cabot site artifactual material has indicated that the site was initially occupied probably slightly before the birth of Christ. Diagnostic Archaic stage material such as gouges, adzes, bayonets, and plummets were not found in the lower stratum, nor were faunal remains found that were representative of species exploited during the Archaic stage. Such remains

would include a high percentage of bone from larger terrestrial species and marine fauna, including swordfish.

The middle stratum appears to represent a ceramic producing population that had not yet achieved seasonal dependence upon shellfish. From the limited amounts of cultural material and faunal remains (primarily fish bone) recovered from this stratum, it would appear the groups represented occupied the site briefly.

The populations represented by the uppermost stratum subsisted primarily upon shellfish. If we assume that a technological shift occurred about 1 A.D. leading to seasonal dependence upon shellfish exploitation and a de-emphasis upon hunting larger species (Bourque 1971: 253), plus the fact that ceramics were found in most shell deposits, a post-1 A.D. occupation for groups represented by this stratum seems most probable.

The straight-stemmed points are similar to points manufactured in central New York state until Middle Woodland times (c. 240-905 A.D.) (Ritchie 1961: 29, 85; 1965: xviii). Their appearance may be indicative of a brief utilization of the site in late Archaic times. An alternative explanation is that a continuity of these lithic forms, over a considerable period of time as in New York State, may be evident here.

The side-notched points conform to Bourque's (1971: 172-174) Variety 2 in size and design. Bourque believes Variety 2 predominated in the Penobscot Bay area from about 900 A.D. until sometime after 1150 A.D. Although my projectile point sample is quite small, the chronological framework associated with these types coincides with the chronology advanced from my ceramic analysis.

I would therefore suggest a predominantly post-Archaic chronology based upon ceramics, faunal remains and an absence of diagnostic cultural remains from the Archaic stage.

The research currently being carried out by Dr. Bourque on North Haven will undoubtedly shed further light upon the transition of non-ceramic to ceramic producing cultures.

With a consideration of the ceramic and lithic typologies previously discussed, the Cabot site was primarily utilized up to about 1000-1100 A.D. Grindle

ware was manufactured from about 860-1130 A.D. until the Historic period. The low frequency of Grindle ware may indicate that groups who manufactured it occupied the site during the infancy of its development along the central Maine coast. An alternative interpretation is that the site was unoccupied for an unknown period, and then briefly visited by a Grindle ware manufacturing population.

Settlement and Subsistence

The Cabot site was in effect a large dumping ground for different types of food wastes, mainly clam shell, and cultural debris such as pottery and lithic wastes.

I have previously mentioned that post molds were not encountered during excavation. The Algonkian peoples who resided here during the warmer periods of the year may have constructed shelters of a very temporary nature on the midden, which would not leave evidence in the archaeological record. House structures may have been very similar to the type recorded by the Pilgrims in the early seventeenth century, built by Algonkians along the Massachusetts coast. These structures were rounded and composed of bent saplings, with both ends pushed into the ground (Cheaver 1848: 39).

The gravel layers encountered during excavation were comprised of beach material, perhaps placed over decomposing refuse in an attempt to make the midden more livable during the warmer months.

Faunal evidence suggests the Cabot site was occupied during the late spring and summer months. Deer were available all year, however an absence of antler suggests they were taken in the spring. Sturgeon were available from May through July. Beaver can be taken in the spring, summer or fall.
However, the peoples represented by the upper most stratum were primarily interested in clam gathering. The great amount of shell material attests to this and it would seem their foremost economic interest in coming to the island was to gather clams and other shellfish species. It is interesting to note that the finest clam beds today on North Haven lie right off the Cabot site.

Social Structure

The hunting and gathering bands that occupied the Cabot site may well have possessed a loose social structure. Through this mechanism, if game were scarce during the colder periods of the year, the family could easily adjust itself to exploit the resources that were available. Most North American hunting and gathering cultures which were dependent upon migratory and seasonal species for survival possessed a certain adaptive structural flexibility and most probably the prehistoric Algonkians could be characterized by this model. A strong degree of optation, alternatives in residence pattern, and individualism may well have been structural features which insured the successful ecological adjustment and cultural continuity of these populations until the Historic period.

Faunal Remains

As indicated in the environmental section, there were a number of faunal species available during the prehistoric period. However a very small amount of faunal material, excluding clam shell, was retrieved from the Cabot site. If our sample is correct, that is truly representative of the subsistence pattern of these people, it would coincide with the data that indicates a seasonal occupation on the Fox Islands and the Maine coast in general. The economy of these people after 1 A.D. is interpreted as being primarily dependent upon shellfish gathering in the summer, rather than hunting terrestrial species.

The small amount of faunal remains from this site indicates that species represented by these meager remains were not a primary food source. The total yield of faunal remains came to 136.6 grams.

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MEMBERSHIP

The Maine Archaeological Society is a non-profit Educational organization, with a stated purpose of fostering amateur archaeological activity and knwoledge in the State of Maine.

Anyone interested in membership should contact Mrs. Jean T. MacKay, P.O. Box 133, Stillwater, Maine 04889. Checks should be made payable to The Maine Archaeological Society.

As was stated at the Spring Meeting, inflation has made it necessary for the Society to propose an increase in dues. Present dues do not cover the cost of two bulletins per year. Anyone who would care to help the cause may pay the higher rate this year.

Classes of membership are:

	Present	Proposed
Individual	*$2.00 per year*	*$4.00 per year*
Family	*$3.00 per year*	*$5.00 per year*
Institutional	*$3.00 per year*	*$5.00 per year*
Life		*$100.00*

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EDITORIAL POLICY

All manuscripts or articles should be submitted to the editor. Original will be returned if requested.

Any article not in good taste or plainly written for sake of controversy may be withheld at the discretion of the editor and editorial staff.

The author of each article or paper that is printed will receive two copies of the bulletin in which his work appears.

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FROM the EDITOR

This will be the last issue which will bear my name as editor. After serving the Society as an officer for 12 of my 13 membership years, I have asked that I not be considered for office next year.

During these years I have seen our Society grow steadily, catapult astronomically with the Pemaquid finds, and then slowly return to the present membership level. I feel fortunate indeed, to have made so many fine friends, to have had an equal number of experiences to be long remembered, and to have been part of this Society and able to serve it. For all of this I wish to thank each of you.

While I was President, or one of the VP's, and even as Editor, I was able to editorialize. This privilege will no longer be mine. Thus, I would like to leave a thought with you -

It is not what you have already done, but what you will do in the future that is important to our Society.

--Lloyd Varney