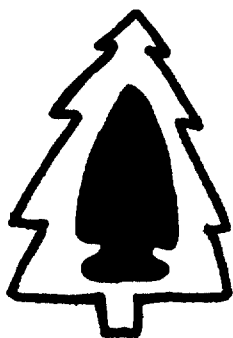


BULLETIN

Maine Archeological Society

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Anniversary Issue

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Minutes of Annual Meeting of Maine Archaeological Society

Sheraton Inn, Bangor, Friday 18 Oct 74

The meeting was held in conjunction with the Eastern States Archaeological Federation meeting.

A quorum was not present but it was decided to go ahead with the meeting because of the resignation of several officers and to ask for confirmation at the Spring meeting.

The Treasurer reported \$542 on hand as of 1 Oct 74 which includes \$100 in gifts to MAS specifically to help defray expenses connected with the ESAF meeting. Enclosed is a statement of that meeting.

R.G. MacKay was appointed to check and report on revision of the Constitution and on the incorporation of the Society. Out of 160 questionnaires sent out last spring, three replies were received.

Dues

All annual dues shall be paid in advance on or before the regular Fall meeting following the anniversary of the member's election to membership. Membership application will be found at back of Bulletin.

You will note there is an increase in dues, largely to offset rising costs for printing and mailing. This increase will be in effect for the year beginning September 1, 1975.

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ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Sunday, April 27th - 12:00 M. - 4:00 P.M.

Maine Teachers Association Bldg., 35 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine

Hostess: Mrs. Eugene Lasselle.

Lunch (bring your own and fellowship) - 12:00 M. - 1:00 P.M.
Coffee and refreshments will be served free.

1:00 - 1:30 Set up of displays

Program:

- President Eric Lahti
- Carrabec Archaeology Project
- Eugene Lasselle
- Cro-Magnon Man Paintings - France
- Viking Fort Restoration - Denmark
- Slide program
- Robert MacKay
- Videotapes - FlintKnapping by Robson Bonnichsen,
Archaeologist (UMO)
- Dr. Bruce Borque, State of Maine Museum
Mexico

The President's Autobiography

Born and raised in Maine, I was educated in Madison and graduated from Madison High School in 1961. I entered the University of Maine at Orono and received a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1965. I joined the Navy and went through O.C.S. and was commissioned in 1965. I spent about 2½ years in Corpus Christi, Texas. While there, I was a member of the Coastal Bend Archeological Society for a short time before being transferred to Long Beach, California, and shipboard duty in the Far East. I left the Navy and returned to Maine and the University of Maine at Orono in 1969 to pursue a teaching career. I commenced my present job as social studies teacher at Carrabec High School in North Anson in the fall of 1970.

As one of my interest areas has long been Indian life and anthropology in general, I instituted an Anthropology course for high school students. In 1973 I attended the U.M.O. Archeological Field School and got a long-desired grounding in that field. Since then I have organized the Carrabec Archeological Project and we are presently excavating a site in Embden with high school students. We hope to establish eventually a small museum within the school to further the study of Indian culture.

I was married this past summer to Susan Ainaire of Bangor and we are living in East Madison.

In addition to archeology, my interests include fishing, hunting, canoeing and backpacking.

My involvement with archeology has been rather recent but a result of long interest and little opportunity. When the opportunity came, I apparently jumped in with both feet.

Letter from the President

This first communication to M.A.S. members is extremely difficult to begin, basically because so few of you know me and I know so few of you. I sincerely hope this situation will be rectified in the next few months and together we can carry on the valuable contributions the Society has made to Maine Archeology. In this light, I would quote Lloyd Varney in the Fall '74 issue: "It is not what you have already done, but what you will do in the future that is important to our Society."

As we look to the future we should consider our goals and realistically assess what we can potentially accomplish. Most people reflect the ideas of their background, and since mine is in secondary education, I would like to toss out a few ideas for you to consider and react to.

I believe that the key to the future of Maine Archeology is through education of our young people. As we all know, patterns are set while a person is young, and these tend to follow a person into adulthood. If interest and skills in Archeology are developed while in school, they may be carried on to a rewarding hobby and/or career in later life.

In the past, and even now, much collecting has been carried on with little system or method involved. This has resulted in the almost complete destruction of many sites and severe damage to many others. It would seem to me that the M.A.S. is in an excellent position to conduct an on-going educational program to help alleviate this situation. It would be a means for many of us to share our hobby and interest with a group of motivated young people in our communities and further the cause of archeology at the same time.

In addition to the educational values of such endeavors, these groups might take on a permanent status as local chapters of the M.A.S. and thus greatly strengthen our Society, while vastly increasing our knowledge of the pre-history of specific areas of the state.

I have started a project of this nature at Carrabec High School in North Anson over the past two years and have met with a great deal of success. We are presently excavating a local site and working on a small museum within the school.

Another priority for our Society should be an active recruitment of present amateurs throughout the state who are non-affiliated. This will take an active program due to the secrecy and general suspicion of others, particularly professionals, that is prevalent throughout the state. However, if recruitment is handled correctly, it could be a boon to our Society and to the field of archeology in general.

In conclusion, I hope that you will consider these ideas and suggestions and also bring your ideas to my attention so we can establish some definite goals for the M.A.S. Please feel free to contact me at any time to get acquainted and share ideas.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Lahti

* * * * *

REPORT OF THE
EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION CONVENTION

Alice N. Wellman

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archeological Federation was held at the Sheraton Inn, Bangor. A total of 229 delegates, speakers and guests attended representing twenty state societies and one Canadian provincial society. Unaffiliated registrants from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were also on hand. Delegates came from as far away as Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia and Michigan, with the heaviest concentration from the high population Middle Atlantic states. Fifty-eight State of Mainerers attended the sessions, many by advance publicity in the Bangor Daily News and several weeklies.

The October 17-20 weekend took advantage of late fall foliage and seasonable weather. The Friday afternoon bus trip to Bar Harbor took place on a coolish, but crystal clear day with exceptionally strong late color. The visitors truly enjoyed the scenery and the visit to the Robert Abbe Museum. Sunday's biting cold and snow flurries justified the change in meeting date from the traditional first weekend in November.

Program Chairman, Herbert Kraft, put together a well-balanced, productive program with a fine roster of speakers and prepared papers. His office as chief time-keeper was tactfully handled so that all speakers stayed within their allotted times with ample question and answer periods.

Friday morning's session, "Prehistory of the Maine-Maritime Provinces", was chaired and led off by David Sanger, UMO. He was joined by Bruce Bourque, Steve Davis, Christopher Turnbull, H. Brad Myers and James Tuck.

Following the Friday evening Business Meeting, Dr. Charles R. McGimsey III, President of the Society for American Archaeology, presented thoughts on a proposed system of registration and accreditation for the archaeological profession. His remarks perpetrated considerable discussion.

The Saturday morning session on Viking Influences on the Western Hemisphere was perhaps the key drawing card for contentious, curious, arm-chair archeologists as well as scholarly professionals. The invited speakers, Dr. O. G. Landsverk, Donal B. Buchanan, Edward J. Lenik, Claiborne W. Thompson, Einar Haugen, Robert Doyle, and Birgitta Wallace were articulate, convinced of their positions and eager to debate, if not hotly dispute, their colleagues' positions. Moderator Wallace oiled the waters just enough.

Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning offered a variety of volunteer papers.

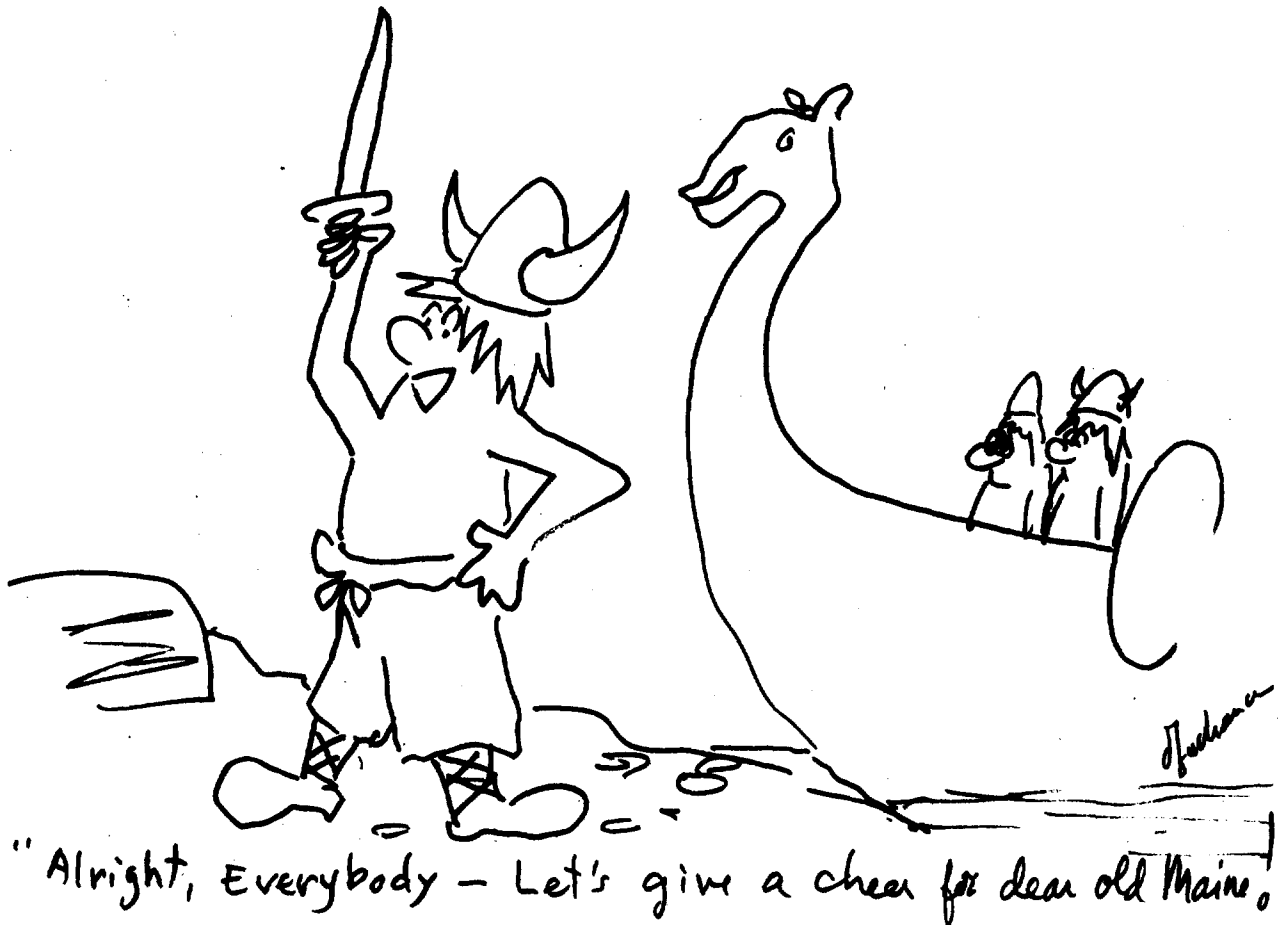
One hundred and forty-five persons attended the social hour and banquet in Wells Commons on the Orono campus of the University of Maine. Dr. Carl C. Lamberg-Karlovsky's illustrated after-dinner speech entitled, "The Urban Revolution Reconsidered", was a delightful and informative change of pace and scene, namely, "big gun" expeditions at vast Near East locations.

Several carloads of delegates braved the Sunday afternoon cold for a tour of the Hirundo site in Hudson and the UMO Archeology Lab after the conference was adjourned.

The Maine Archaeological Society, the Robert Abbe Museum, and the Department of Anthropology, UMO, shared local arrangement tasks, underwriting expenses, providing volunteer leg and clerical power and hosting. Marshall Rice and Paul G. Favour welcomed the delegates on behalf of the two societies. Jean MacKay served as Treasurer and bookkeeper. She and an unflappable crew manned the Publication sales room with all its headaches. Bob MacKay with student helpers set up, guarded and dismantled the popular Exhibits room. Alice Wellman was

registrar with help from Marshall Rice, Frances Soper, Julie Kellogg, Wendell Hadlock, Gardner Lane, and Mary Sawyer of Maryland. Registrations outstripped projected estimates early. Each registrant received a packet of maps and tourist information assembled by Marshall Rice and Bob MacKay. Audio-visual technician for the meetings was Guy Moura. Many other willing and efficient persons pitched in to help when they saw a need. The Sheraton Inn's staff and the UMO diningroom and conference personnel were enormously helpful from the first tentative planning meetings to the final wrap-up.

Next year's meeting (Nov. 1,2,3) will be held in Columbus, Ohio. Several Mainers who have tasted what these conferences have to offer are planning to attend.



At the ESAF Convention there were differences of opinion concerning the authenticity of the Spirit Pond Rune Stones (as indicated in the reports of both Alice Wellman and Bob MacKay).

For those who attended the talks, the above cartoon will bring back memories of Landsverk's and Buchanan's disagreements both from the podium and the floor. One certainly has the right to his own opinion. Are the Rune Stones authentic or are they a hoax?

There is a fine publication, "Spirit Pond Runestones", \$2.00 per copy, from New England Antiquities Research Association, 4 Smith Street, Milford, N.H. 03055.

* * * * *

Eastern States Archaeological Federation. Bangor, Maine 1974

Income

Registration	2,493.97	
Donations: Abbe Museum	322.00	
Me.Arch.Soc.	148.05	
Anthro.Dept, UMO	98.25	
		<u>3,062.27</u>

Expenses

Bad check	10.50	10.50
Sheraton-Inn, Bangor		
Hall & two display rooms	375.00	
Coffee & danish twice	236.35	
Room, Dr.Lamberg-Karlovsy	19.78	632.03
Dr.Lamberg-Karlovsy, honorarium	100.00	
expenses	65.73	165.73
Registration material, etc.	54.58	54.58
Flowers, Head table	14.28	14.28
Bus, Bangor-UMO	70.00	
Campus direction signs	23.75	
A.V.	4.50	98.25
Social hour	322.00	322.00
Banquet	840.00	840.00
Projectionist	30.00	30.00
ESAF, Registration	222.00	222.00
Book sales, Vendors	617.85	
ESAF	55.05	
		<u>672.90</u>
		<u>3,062.27</u>

* * * * *

Coming Events

Under the able direction of Dr. Bruce J. Borque, Research Associate, Archaeology of Maine State Museum, students from Bates College will be surveying portions of southern Kennebec County. Dates: April 21-May 23. He plans a return to North Haven to resume excavation at the Turner Farm site between June 23 and August 2nd. This will be his fifth year there.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGY LAB, UMO

Robert MacKay

The summer field season of 1974 included field survey, excavation, and laboratory analysis. Under a contract between the University of Maine and the State Planning Office, Stephen and Diane Davis conducted a 6 week survey for sites in the coastal townships of Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties. The purpose of the survey was to locate sites which could be included in long range planning and zoning. The region is very rich and over 100 sites were visited and examined. Steve is currently a staff member at St. Mary's University, Halifax.

Our summer field school program began at Hirundo site for 2 weeks before going to Alley's Island near Mt. Desert Island. Unfortunately, Bob MacKay, director of the field school, had an emergency operation after one week on the island, and the field school had to be terminated. Bob was once again assisted by Jean MacKay.

In the fall we conducted a survey of the shorezone of Acadia National Park. Our work turned up 11 sites on Park property and as they are all eroding badly we have recommended to the Park Service that they conduct salvage excavations.

Dave Sanger continued work on the Passamaquoddy Bay reports and other manuscripts concerning local archaeology. He was assisted in the laboratory by UMO student Guy Moura. Sanger also conducted site surveys for the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements. Mary Jo Sanger assisted on these surveys.

The Eastern States Archaeological Federation meeting held in Bangor in October was well attended. One session revolved around the archaeology of the Maine-Maritimes area, and was well received. A highly spirited discussion of the presence or absence of evidence pertaining to Viking influence in North America was a highlight of the conference. From all accounts, the efforts made by the Maine Archaeological Society, the Robert Abbe Museum, and the University were much appreciated. Following the meetings we entertained a number of delegates at the laboratory, and then took them on a tour of the Hirundo site. On Monday following we had our annual workshop on local prehistory where archaeologists working in the Maine-Maritimes region met to discuss specific problems. This time we examined ceramic description problems and made some progress towards an attribute approach to ceramics.

In the fall of 1974 we were joined by another archaeologist - Robson Bonnicksen. Rob has a PhD from the University of Alberta and has developed an outstanding capability to replicate chipped stone artifacts as an aid to understanding how aboriginal man made his tools. He is currently learning about our local felsites, and developing a research program here in the Maine area. One of his first projects will be to locate quarries and sources of rocks. Any information on this point will be appreciated. Rob and Bob MacKay are also organizing a much-needed comparative zoological bone collection so that we can identify all those food bones found in our coastal sites. Up until now, it has been necessary to contract out this work.

For the past several years we have been assisting various agencies

in the preparation of environmental impact statements and making recommendations for land zoning when archaeological sites are involved. Recently, we have formalized this activity in the form of the Maine Archaeological Preservation Program. Its aim is to conduct site survey and evaluation in a systematic way with the eventual object of placing sites into various protective categories, such as the National Register. The program will be eligible for Federal funding through the National Register Act and the State Historic Preservation Commission. The Maine Archaeological Preservation Program will also have the staff capability to prepare environmental impact statements upon request. Initially, the program will be directed by Dr. Sanger, with the anticipation of a full-time director.

In the summer of 1975 we are planning a major effort at the Hirundo site from July 22 to August 30 (weekdays). We plan a crew of from 15 to 20. We will be delighted to have society visitors and will welcome any assistance in the excavation proceedings. Late in the summer it is pleasant at Hirundo; it is shady and the flies are few. So come on out and visit us.

* * * * *

POMKEAG SITE REPORT

Alice N. Wellman

The Robert Abbe Museum has thoroughly surveyed and tested a site on the Aroostook River upstream from the Oxbow. The site was first reported in 1966 and has been visited briefly by small crews on three occasions since. Alice Wellman was field supervisor working under the direction of Wendell S. Hadlock, honorary curator of the Abbe.

A considerable amount of data has been recovered and is awaiting thorough analysis. Present indications point to three distinct periods of occupation, two pre-ceramic and one ceramic.

The picture on the ground is complicated. Some trade items occurred in upper horizons. Visitations by Indian salmon fishermen early in this century are recalled by older Oxbow residents. Extensive logging and log-driving operations are recorded for the river from 1850 cf. The site lies on a portage route of long repute between the Penobscot and Aroostook watersheds. Mid 19th century survey parties hiring Indian guides availed themselves of it.

A partial report on the Pomkeag Site was presented to the Abbe Museum trustees in 1973. Segments of a report were written as course work at UMO. A final comprehensive report is still to come. And the Museum contemplates a more thorough excavation of the site for the clues it can yield about Indian occupation of northern interior Maine.

EDITORIAL

This is the twentieth year since the Maine Archaeological Society was organized. For our members, both old and new, time has passed quickly. As we look back with one eye, we look ahead with the other; and while viewing past accomplishments, we see an even greater task for the future.

Some of our member friends are no longer active, and some have retired; others have passed on. We mourn not, but we remember the joyful times we had together and the wealth of information they have shared with us. The one we think of in particular is Jerry Dunn, at one time Mr. M.A.S. It was largely through his efforts that our Society is in existence today.

Time is running out for protecting, surveying, and digging archaeological sites. In fact, in some instances due to construction and lack of time, only minimal or no work at all can be done, and sites must be left to be destroyed.

For some time your Society has realized the importance of this problem. We have written to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in support of related bills coming before Congress. In addition, your Society was in support of a similar bill introduced in Maine, a bill which was defeated. You will read in the "Notes from the Archaeology Lab, UMO" that that type of work has been done and is still being carried on.

One highlight which we looked forward to with anticipation, the Eastern States Archaeological Federation Convention at Bangor, is now behind us. It was a success and you will read more about it further on in the Bulletin.

Looking to the future we should envision our own Museum and headquarters building, a place where members may leave their collections in security, a headquarters for meetings, classes, etc. Without plans for the future, we only reminisce; we die! Look forward, pitch in, take part, each bearing a share, and we will grow!

Several months have passed since the last Bulletin reached you, and much has happened, with several changes in your staff. The new slate is posted inside the front cover. Another change is in the editorship. Mr. Varney has run out of ink, and has passed the duties on to me, Marshall Rice. As your president I had for three years repeatedly entreated you to send bits of information concerning your activities for a news sheet, as well as articles for publication, either of an Historical nature or earlier. I have found that our membership includes people of varied interests: Anthropology, Geology, Historical Archaeology (such as the Pemaquid excavation), Basketry, and artifacts to the extent of creating their own replicas. Others can be added. Let us know yours.

No doubt there is much for us to learn. In the past we have received many questions with no formal way of answering; therefore, starting with this issue, we will have a "Letters to the Editor" page.

We have many members of professional status whom we can call upon for answers on which you can rely. This is YOUR publication, and as editor I want it to represent YOU; so again, please cooperate. Together we will have a better publication. For a starter, I recently received the following from a fellow member. "How should we amateurs prepare our collections with an eye to the future? Most importantly, how do we label, number, and catalog the items so that at some future date a Museum can use them?" We give you some of these answers, with excerpts from "Adventures in Antiquity" by Walter Bruce, April 1965, M.A.S. Bulletin:

"Now, how can we become good amateur archaeologists? What is the difference between such and a collector? A collector is just interested in securing relics - the archaeologist has a serious purpose. He wants to find out the where, how, why, etc., and keep complete records of his work that will increase the state's knowledge of its historical foundation.

"Let's analyze how to become a serious scientific archaeologist.

LEARN TECHNIQUES

Identification of artifacts
How to excavate, classifications, cultures

STUDY

Become serious about Why? What? Where? When? How?

CONSULT

Professionals, Experienced collectors, Archaeological bulletins, etc.

REPORT

Data, Write for publications, Talk to schools and organizations, Display artifacts for public education

INTEREST

young people, Discover sites, Leave sites in good shape, Secure permission to operate.

EXCAVATE A SITE

Lay out base line, use compass, lay out grids - 5' or 6' square, use trowel or cut-down hoe, work 1 foot layer across grid and keep continuing in this manner.

KEEP RECORDS

Depth artifact found, culture determination, from depth, type of artifact, pottery, etc.

DO NOT SPEED

You will exhaust yourself, miss some artifacts, lose culture history, might become disgusted and quit.

LOCATE SITES: SHELL HEAPS

Look for clam flat, Good camping spot, Fresh water near brook, spring, etc., protection from wind, etc.

INLAND SITES

Well drained land, protection from enemies, water supply, chips.

You will not find much bone material as our acid soils destroy them.

"CONCLUSION:

Let us learn ancient lore; become serious amateurs who use scientific methods and reporting; persons who appreciate the chance of working a site and leaving it in good enough shape to be invited back again; persons who excavate carefully; locate sites never discovered before - if we do these things then we contribute to the state's pre-historic heritage, bring ourselves good health, meet many fine people and have a permanent hobby."

More about this in a later issue.

* * * * *

INDIAN MADE HANDCRAFTS

FROM CAPE BRETON AND OTHER PARTS OF CANADA

Mr. & Mrs. Roddie Gould
Whycocomagh, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

All early observers of the MicMac remarked on the fine bright colors of which they had only four. Before contact with the white, and long afterward they had only red, yellow, black and white. These colors decorated chains, beadwork, shells and small bells hanging from pierced ears and on ceremonial occasions, collars, bracelets and belts which were all done in dyed red or yellow. These dyes were also used for face painting during feasting or mourning.

MicMac seems always to have enjoyed painting gay figures on wigwams and robes. Colors applied with specially prepared and heated bone were waterproof. Designs in the present century appeared most frequently, in the porcupine-quill work and bead work. Ribbon applique appears on women's bonnets and skirts.

Moose-hair thread and porcupine quills were undoubtedly used in pre-white MicMac culture. All early travelers speak of the brilliantly dyed quills employed for bracelets, necklaces, and belts, sewed on moccasins, robes, purses, and tobacco bags. Quills are said to have outlined the designs of insignia on chief's robe at least as early as the sixteenth century, and quills adorned the canoes, snowshoes, and other articles shipped as curiosities to France by 1670.

Small figurines were made in aboriginal days. Birds, beasts and men were carved in stone and wood in the forms of pipes or simply to please the eye. Little figures molded from pigment, and quills, beadwork or wampum, adorned cradles.

Baskets of various shapes and sizes were made out of ash, maple and birch. Sweet grass was and is still presently used in the weaving of baskets. Alders and poplar served to make furniture, and the design is evident on such pieces as chairs.

When the missionaries first worked among the MicMac Indians of Nova Scotia, the people had no written language. Through the efforts of these missionaries a system of ideographic or hyroglyphic writing was developed. This was their only form of writing for 100 years. Two hundred years ago this system was transcribed into a phonetic alphabet of 13 letters which is still used today.

* * * * *

RECENT READING OF INTEREST -

Song of the North Wind

Paul A. Johnsgard
1974, Anchor Press-Doubleday, New York

Although this book is primarily about Snow Geese nesting and migration, there is much of Indian history and legend. Anyone interested in either waterfowl or Indians will certainly enjoy reading it.

The American Indian Craft Book

Mary Nono Minor
1972, Popular Library, New York- Paperback

Back of History

William Howells
C. 1954, Revised 1963
Anchor Book-Doubleday, New York

The People Called APACHE

Thomas E. Mails
1974, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J.

* * * * *

During the summer of 1973, Mrs. Rice and I visited the MicMac Museum at Pictou, Nova Scotia, Canada, and talked at length with Mr. Hopps. He gave us permission to reprint the following article, the latter half of which will appear in the Fall Bulletin.

TWO SEVENTEENTH CENTURY MICMAC

"COPPER KETTLE" BURIALS

J. Russell Harper

Two spectacular 17th Century Micmac burial pits were excavated recently at Pictou, Nova Scotia. Considerable information on burial customs was obtained from these, and a rich supply of artifacts recovered. These graves have an enhanced interest when the discoveries are related to certain 17th century literary works. Several authors of that period discuss Micmac burial rites while describing Indian life and customs in the Acadian region. The principal writers on the subject are Champlain, Lescarbot, Biard, LeClercq and Denys. All of the literary accounts have some relation to the discoveries but those of Denys are of particular value. Published accounts of similar burials excavated in Nova Scotia seem to be non-existent. Most previously discovered Micmac burials from that period were along New Brunswick's North Shore at Tabusintac, Tracadie and Redbank; descriptions of these are sketchy.

Excavation of the first Pictou pit in 1955 was completed by K.B. Hopps the property owner, his son Ralph, and George Crawford of Pictou. The material recovered was examined later by the writer and a report prepared.* A second pit located in 1956 was excavated by the writer with the assistance of Frederick Jack, John Berrigan, and other interested parties. A noteworthy feature of both graves was the preservation by copper salts of many organic and normally perishable articles; these were formed from the many copper kettles buried among the grave gifts. The following account will give a description of the graves, a co-relation of the findings with the 17th Century literary accounts, and a listing of the artifacts recovered.

Pictou is traditionally the centre of one of the seven tribal groups comprising the Micmac confederacy. While much Micmac material has come from Pictou County, no remains have been recovered in the vicinity of the Hopps property. The Hopps site is on a pleasant sandy loam plateau sloping gently to the southward at a 25' elevation and 300' back from the water's edge of Pictou Harbour. It lies 3- $\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the open Northumberland St. A sandbar curves out into the harbour in front enclosing a lagoon where fish abound, and where quantities of reeds, bulrushes and grasses of types used in Micmac basketry grow.

BURIAL PIT NO. 1

Burial Pit No. 1 excavated in 1955, was divided into two distinct areas or sections. Section One was a circular depression of 6' diameter and 3' deep; it had been carefully prepared. A second depression, Section Two, lay to the north and slightly overlapped the first section.

* Published 1956 as an Appendix to Portland Point, Crossroads of New Brunswick History, Historical Studies No. 9, New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, N.B. The report covers Grave Pit No. 1 in greater detail than the summary information given in this article.

It was of the same depth, covered roughly the same area, but was irregular in shape; this second section was much less carefully prepared. Both portions had nearly verticle side walls.

The floor of Section One was covered with small branches and twigs. Over these a carefully prepared birch bark sheathing covered the entire floor, and then reached up along the sides to a height of 1'6" from the bottom. Sewing holes bordered some bark edges. Several fragments were irregularly daubed with red ochre; others had black patches on their surface, either of paint or the result of decaying organic material. Five layers of pelts lay above the bark on the floor. The final pelt layer lay with flesh side uppermost and was painted red. Three intact inverted copper kettles lay on the painted skin. Beneath each kettle was a very black layer of decayed organic material. A fragmentary human long bone, a single incisor, and a short jaw bone section retaining three molars, ere embedded in the mass of fine twigs, rootlets, seeds and hair of which the black stratum seemed chiefly composed. Several grave gifts lay on the black stratum and were protected by the kettles from the earthen grave fill. These included a wooden bow, iron trade axe with handle, awls, fragments of cloth, and a glazed pottery beaker. Moose skin covered Kettles Nos. 1 and 3, and a black bear skin, hair side down, covered Kettle No. 2. A few scattered articles such as a sword were thrown into the grave fossa around the kettles. Earth had been added until the kettles were covered, then a birch bark sheet laid over the fill at the depth of 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ ' from the grave floor; this was at the same depth as the upper edge of the bark lining along the pit sides. The remainder of the grave fossa was filled finally with stones and earth.

Section Two adjoined the first part on the northerly side. Seemingly the carefully prepared portion was not large enough to receive all gifts necessitating the hasty preparation of an extension. Bark and skin covered the bottom of this section's southerly portion only as a flooring for gifts. No such flooring was found under Kettles Nos. 5, 6 and 7. All kettles in the Second Section were mutilated; some were badly crushed by deliberate flattening under pressure (jumped on?), and the balance were slashed with an axe. All had been evidently "killed" to release the spirit of the dead at burial. Kettle No. 4 covered a black humus layer of the type found under the kettles in Section One. Fragments of carefully woven rush matting lay immediately under this kettle being the floor covering's top layer at that point. Very many French trade objects and some native artifacts thrown into the grave along with the kettles, were scattered about without definite order. Skin and birch bark covered the articles found in part of this Second Section, rush matting other portions, and in places there was no covering of any kind. Stones and earth completed the grave fill.

BURIAL PIT NO. 2

Burial Pit No. 2 was a circular excavation with a total depth of 48" along the northerly side and 40" on the southerly; the floor was level and the difference in depth was the result of the sloping surface of the ground. The diameters at ground level measured 6'8" from north to south and 6'3" from east to west. Sides were virtually verticle to a depth of 34" when they sloped inwards to make a pit bottom measuring

68" x 63". The fill of Pit No. 2 as revealed in excavation may be most readily described by considering it as laying in three distinct strata. The lowest 14" contained skeletal remains from either three or four bodies together with a compact mass of grave goods; in the next 15" were skeletal fragments from a single body together with two inverted copper kettles and stone and earthen fill; the third section, 11" deep, showed traces of two fires lit over the grave, evidently of a ceremonial nature.

Lowest Stratum

A bulrush basket in the south west sector was the first object placed in the grave. The grave floor then was covered deliberately with a single thickness of copper sheeting obtained from opening up three kettles. A portion of the pit sides was lined with birch bark sheeting. Much of this was preserved along the easterly side where it reached a height of 16" above the grave floor.

Objects placed in this lowest section of the pit formed such a compact and closely packed grave goods mass that little earth had trickled in among them. Skeletal remains were noted at four points. A flat birch bark pouch containing fragmentary child remains with the second or permanent teeth erupting, was found in the north west sector directly over the copper flooring (Skeletal fragments 5). The head lay at the rim of the pit and the pouch extended to the pit centre. A cranium fragment lay on matting in the same sector at a 45" depth (Skull fragments 3). Conceivably several nearby grave objects may be associated with it. Principally these were strings of glass beads and a leather pouch filled with trade vermillion. A single lower jaw bone lay at the same level in the south west sector (Jaw No. 4). There is no indication as to whether or not it belonged with any of the recovered skull fragments. The upper part of an inverted skull and two long bone fragments lay at a 40" depth in the south west sector (Skull and Fragments 2). Considerable black decayed organic material lay around it together with beads, pelts and remains of kettles.

Gifts to the deceased placed with these skeletal remains showed no evidence of orientation, the only apparent purpose having been to distribute them evenly so that the top of the stratum would be relatively level. These gifts fall roughly into two categories, either articles obtained from the French in the fur trade, or articles of native origin.

Of the French trade goods, eight copper kettles, all crushed or completely smashed, were distributed at fairly regular intervals. Two others were crushed but still retained a recognizable form. The rest were so fragmented that the only way to make anything like an accurate count was from the number of handles which were intact and found scattered among the sheeting fragments. Trade axes, chisels, scrapers, spears and other French iron material was similarly distributed without apparent orientation. Strings of glass beads were thrown in. Two woollen blankets, one folded, were placed without apparent orientation.

Native articles were similarly distributed in a haphazard fashion. Those of Micmac manufacture were principally several grass or reed baskets, only one small basket being nearly complete. Two sections of a sewn rush matting were recovered. A birch bark dish was practically intact, but two wooden fragments which could not be identified with certainty were.

possibly portions of bowls or boxes. Pelts and birch bark sheets collected by the natives were distributed throughout the entire level. At one point pelts lay in layers still 4" in depth. In the grave's southerly section, a birch bark layer covered five thicknesses of pelts which in turn were separated by another bark layer from a further three thicknesses of pelts. Rush matting lay beneath these layers of pelts and bark. Deer, moose, bear and squirrel skins were recognized among the many pelts in the grave, but because of their fragmentary nature no accurate count of the total number which had been consigned to the pit could be made.

A birch bark sheet lay over this 14" stratum. No traces of the bark covering were noted in the north east sector. Either there had never been any there, or a lack of copper in proximity to the bark had resulted in decay without leaving traces.

Second Stratum

The only grave goods in this stratum were two inverted copper kettles, one in the south east and the other in the north east sectors. That in the north east sector was intact and kept earth fill from skeletal material consisting of a large portion of a skull and several long bone fragments. Traces of pelts lay over the kettle. That in the south east sector had been placed intact in the grave but now has a hole from corrosion allowing the earth to trickle into what had originally been a vacuum. Beneath this second kettle was a half inch layer of black organic material, principally of vegetable matter and somewhat similar to the black layer in Grave Pit No. 1. A pile of beech nuts, conceivably a food offering, lay in the black layer. This kettle was wrapped snugly in sewn birch bark sheeting.

A few large stones and earth were filled in to just cover the kettles in the pit centre, but this fill was heaped higher around the pit margin forming a saucer shaped depression.

Third Stratum

An ash layer from a fire lit over the grave lay in the saucer shaped depression. The fire had been extinguished, another 10" layer of earth added, and a second fire lit. A charred stick still remained in the ash of the second fire. Further earth was then placed over the second fire.

RELATIONSHIP OF THE PICTOU BURIALS TO THE LITERARY ACCOUNTS

The foregoing brief descriptions of the two Pictou grave pits confirm in various aspects accounts of Indian burials in that district during the 17th Century. Some of the early writers were presumably eye witnesses of burials, and in the following an attempt will be made to correlate what they have said with what was actually found in the excavations.

Nicholas Denys who operated trading posts in Northern Nova Scotia as well as the Bathurst area of New Brunswick, has given an elaborate description of Micmac burial rites. He tells first of the sorrow of death followed by funeral orations reciting the deceased's lineage,

prowess and such like. A ceremonial feast or tabagie was then held, after which

"The women went to fetch fine pieces of bark from which they made a kind of bier on which they placed him (the deceased) well enwrapped. Then he was carried to a place where they had a staging built on purpose, and elevated 8 or 10 feet. On this they placed the bier, and there they left it about a year, until the time when the sun had entirely dried the body."

Mourning during the year by the deceased' wives is described, and

"The end of the year having passed, and the body (being) dry, it was taken thence and carried to a new place, which is their cemetery. There it was placed in a new coffin or bier, also of birch bark, and immediately after in a deep grave which they had made in the ground. Into this all his relatives and friends threw bows, arrows, snow-shoes, spears, robes of Moose, Otter and Beaver, stockings, moccasins, and everything that was needful for him in hunting and clothing himself. All the friends of the deceased made him each his present of the best and finest that they had. They competed as to who would make the most beautiful gift. At a time when they were not yet disabused of their errors, I have seen them give to the dead man guns, axes, iron arrowheads and kettles, for they held all these to be much more convenient for their use than would have been their kettles of wood, their axes of stone, and their knives of bone for their use in the other world.

" There have been dead men in my time who have taken away more than two thousand pounds of peltries ... All the burials of the women, boys, girls and children were made in the same fashion, but the weeping did not last so long. They never omitted to place with each one that which was fitting for his use, nor to bury it with him ..."

Father LeClerc writing at almost the same time, but whose knowledge of the Micmacs was based on the Gaspé and the Miramichi and Restigouche region of New Brunswick, also describes burial customs. His version makes no mention of temporary platform disposition of the body as does Denys. He states only, in regard to temporary burials, that when an Indian dies during the winter at a place remote from the common burial place, the body was wrapped in bark painted red and black and left in a log shelter until fetched by the chief and young men in the spring when it was given a proper burial. He states that normally after death the body is carried to the nation's general burial-place and then

"It was placed in the grave and covered with bark and the finest skins. It is adorned also with branches of fir and springs of cedar, and finally they add thereto everything which the deceased had been accustomed to use. If it was a man, they added his bow, arrow, spear, club, gun, powder, lead, porringer, kettle, snow-shoes, etc.; if it was a woman, her collar for use in dragging the sled, or in carrying wood, her axe, knife, blanket, necklaces of wampum, and of beads, and her tools used for ornamenting and painting the clothes, as well as the needles for sewing the canoes

"...and for lacing the snowshoes. The grave is then filled with earth..."

He adds that the Acadian Indians never cremate their dead.

The making of gifts to the deceased for inclusion in the tomb is also described by both Champlain and Lescarbot. Diereville alone mentions gifts of corn placed in a dead Indian's grave. Presumably this would be a food offering.

Wallis has recently given an account of a Micmac tradition in the Pictou district. He says:

"I was told at Pictou that it was formerly the custom to leave the body on an elevated platform until the bones were exposed. They were then buried. The platform was made of small horizontal sticks, supported by four upright poles."

Clearly on a comparison of the excavated finds with the literary accounts, we have in Pictou secondary burials as described by Denys and confirmed by local oral tradition. It would seem that only fragmentary skeletal remains had survived for reburial from the period when the body was placed on the platform as a result of action of the elements, marauding animals, and the like. The burial custom differed from that of the New Brunswick North Shore where excavated burials of the same period all contained skeletons from flexed inhumation burials; these latter graves evidently correspond with LeClercq's account based on Gaspesian Micmac customs. One notable respect in which Denys differs from excavated evidence is the presence of several bodies in one pit.

The use made of copper kettles to keep earthen fill from the bodies and certain grave gifts as found in both Pictou burials, possibly explains the motive for not "killing" or destroying them in such a way as to render unfit for further use. Father Biard writing in 1616 at a time when the copper-kettle burial complex would presumably hardly have begun, states that:

"When the body is placed (in the grave), as it does not come up even with the ground on account of the depth of the grave, they arch the grave over with sticks, so that the earth will not fall back into it, and thus they cover up the tomb."

Might it be that this protective covering over the body has been replaced by the much more durable and effective copper kettles?

Twigs found in Burial Pit No. 1 obviously were placed deliberately on the grave floor. While the preceding quotation mentions "sticks", LeClercq specifically mentions that the body "is adorned also with branches of fir and sprigs of cedar". Wallis was told at Pictou that in Micmac burials some bands of twisted yellow birch twigs were wrapped around the legs, the waist and the chest, while leaves from any variety of tree were placed under and over the body in the grave.

Use of red and black, the mourning colours among Micmacs, is mentioned widely. Skins and bark were both painted red in Burial Pit

No. 1, and possibly the bark was daubed with black in the same grave. A large pouch of vermillion was found in Burial No. 2, and a few lumps of red ochre at other points among the grave goods. Denys makes no mention of mourning colours. Champlain says that a stake with the upper end painted red was set in the ground over Indian graves; he probably wrote of the Port Royal district. He also saw the body of a dead Micmac warrior being wrapped in a red coverlet before burial. LeClercq says that for temporary disposition of a body during the winter that "those of his wigwam enwrap him with much care in barks painted red and black". According to both LeClercq and Champlain, the face was painted black as a sign of mourning, but Wallis was told at Burnt Church that it was painted red. Placing of red ochre in protohistoric grave in New England was widely practiced.

Extensive use of birch bark and skins in Micmac burials is described by several 17th Century writers. Denys tells of the use of birch bark in temporary platform burials, and as a fresh covering for reburial when skins were added to be used in "clothing himself"; the latter he says totalled "two thousand pounds of peltries" at times. LeClercq saw the body placed in the grave "with bark and the finest skins" and tells how in the temporary disposition of the body previously mentioned, bark was enwrapped around with much care. Champlain mentions wrapping the body in skin before burial. Wallis found a tradition in 1912 of wrapping the body in a white birch bark sheet to preserve it; this was practiced at Burnt Church. In Pictou he was told of a birch bark covering or a "kuwenuite Rwedelaan" sewn together with spruce roots around the body "as bark encircles a tree".

Lighting of a fire over graves as part of the burial ceremony in the Acadian area is not mentioned, although there are references to burning the deceased's goods, and to ceremonial feasts or tabagie.

Both Denys and LeClercq say and Champlain implies that gifts to the deceased are appropriate to his sex. Skeletal material recovered in the Pictou excavations is very fragmentary and certain identification of the sex is possible in only one instance. A reasonable inference would be that Burial Pit No. 1 contained a male body since spear points, a bow, swords, axes and other tools were placed in it. Hunting equipment is probably the most significant in making this assumption. However beads and wampum are referred to as used by women and baskets are normally associated with that sex. On the other hand, bones of both sexes may be in Burial Pit No. 2. Skull No. 1 is certainly male, but the grave contains leather and rush thongs, some of which may be Women's tump lines. There are also numerous baskets and strings of beads. Could this be a family burial of a man, his wife or wives, and his child? There are references to burials of wives with husbands in the region of the Atlantic provinces at an earlier date, but apparently there is no contemporary description of a family multiple burial.

An examination of the literary works is also helpful in arriving at some approximation for the burial date. The two graves must be almost contemporary from the similar general character of the buried grave goods. The writer has assumed that European grave goods in such quantities as found in both pits was only probable with the advent of established traders operating from local Acadian bases as opposed to

the 16th Century's sporadic or occasion trading such as was carried on in conjunction with fishing trips to the Grand Banks. In such a case the graves would not antedate the opening of the 17th Century. This dating might be advanced if the above supposition is incorrect. Certainly Acadia early received the full impact of the European fur trader. The presence of a wooden bow and the absence of fire arms is significant in determining a terminal date for the burials. Muskets rapidly replaced the bow after the European advent and once the French made them articles of trade. Acculturation progressed to a point where Denys implies that firearms were in universal use on the Canadian east coast by the third quarter of the century for by that time the natives used the musket

"more than all other weapons, in their hunting in spring, summer, and autumn, both for animals and birds. With an arrow they killed only one Wild Goose, but with the shot of a gun they kill five or six of them. With an arrow it was necessary to approach an animal closely; with the gun they kill the animal from a distance with a bullet or two."

However note that Thomas Pichon writing about the Micmacs of Cape Breton Island as late as 1750 mentions that they still had bows, arrows and stone hatchets which are produced at the time of declaration of war although such a use may be merely a retention of an obsolete article for ceremonial purposes. The large quantity of grave goods at Pictou is such as belonged to great ceremonial burials described by Denys and which he says were no longer being held in 1672. With spear points, caulkers, axes and other objects closely paralleling material excavated on the site of Fort La Tour in Saint John (1630-1645) and Fort Ste Marie in Huronia, Ontario (1639-1649), the whole complex would seem to date from the mid 17th Century. Further research on bead types and other excavated articles will be necessary before such a date can be confirmed completely.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.

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SOME HOE-LIKE IMPLEMENTS

Steve Feher

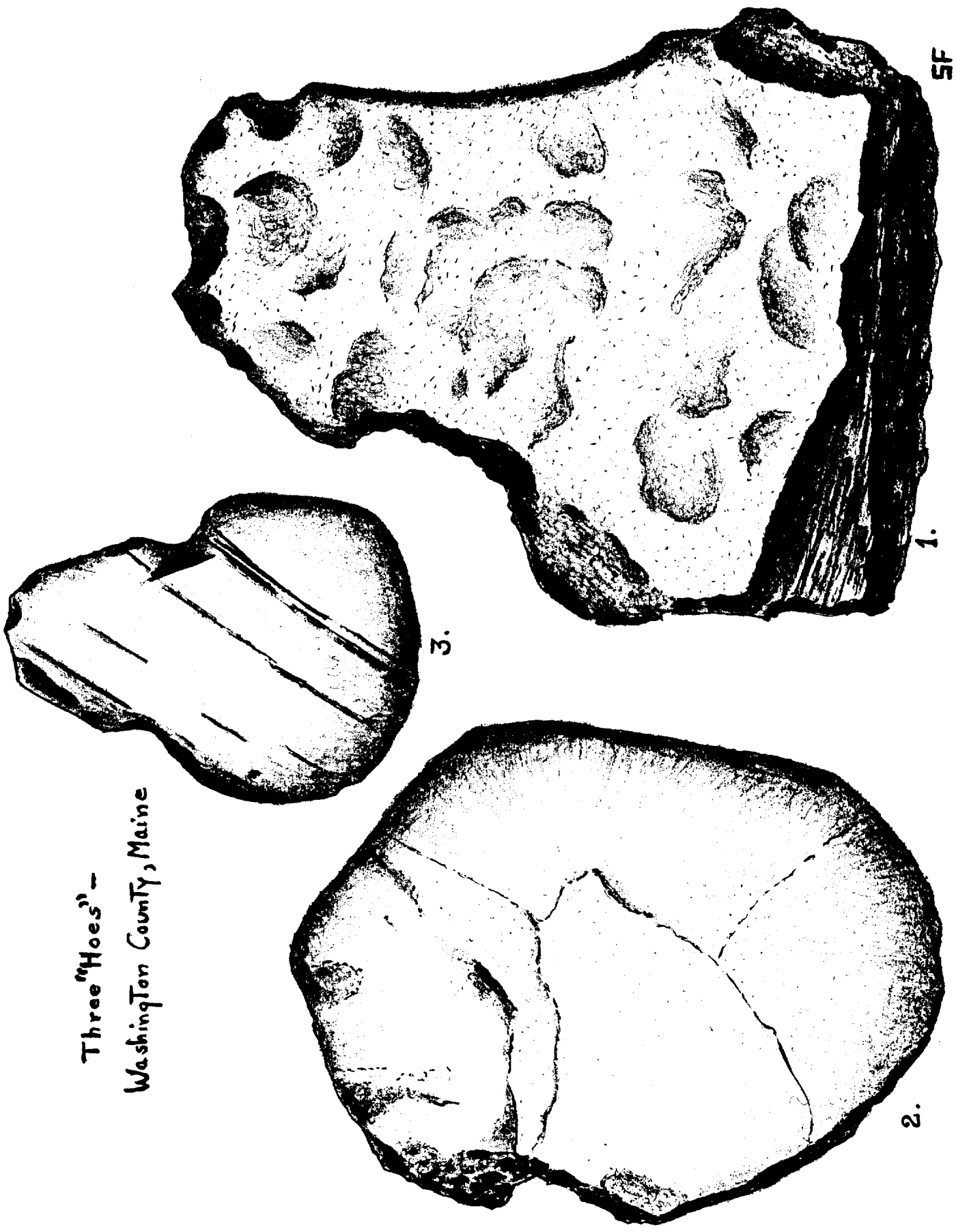
Early in the 17th Century both Samuel de Champlain and John Smith observed that in America agriculture was largely limited to Southern New England. In contrast, they noted in Maine a system of hunting, fishing and food gathering that persisted as it had done for centuries with but little and slow evolutionary changes. Although maize, as well as other cultigens such as beans and squash, was available and would grow, yet it was not easily adaptable to Maine, for this area was and still is a marginal one for the growing of maize.

Bearing this in mind, I was somewhat surprised and puzzled to find



DIGGING AT MICMAC MUSEUM, PICTOU, N. S.

Three "Hoes" -
Washington County, Maine



5F

1.

3.

2.

what appear to be three hoes at a Washington County site some 30 miles from the coast. This very shallow but productive site also produced such trade items as iron arrowheads, glass beads, and a tomahawk from approximately the same levels as the hoes. The abundance of projectile points found here clearly shows that hunting was the main activity. This is further attested to by a comparable abundance of end scrapers. In the immediate area, there is very little tillable soil even to this day. Consequently, anything pertaining to agriculture seems out of place.

Available evidence seems to indicate that this site, located between two large lakes, was a stopping over place for Indians traveling to and from inland winter camps and coastal summer camps. The lack of such features as hearths and refuse pits, indicative of more permanent camp sites, is quite marked and conclusive. The presence of the hoes suggests they may have been used at both camps and possibly even during the journey. This in turn implies that they were a multi-purpose tool rather than a specific one. I believe many of us make a serious mistake in regarding each kind of artifact as a specific tool for a specific purpose. There is ample evidence to show that many, if not all, artifact types are multi-purpose tools. Some examples are easily envisioned such as projectile points being used as awls and drills; others are considerably more difficult to ascertain.

A fellow Society member, Mr. Marshall Rice of Deer Isle, very helpfully and intelligently suggested how these implements could have been used for purposes other than hoe tillage. Inland they might have been used for grubbing out roots and tubers and various plants. They would have served admirably for gouging out lumps of clay from a bank in making pottery. Certainly they would have been useful in digging pits for food storage or to dispose of refuse. Along coastal areas, they would have been handy for digging up clams and other shellfish. Were we more familiar with the everyday life of these Indians, we would no doubt be able to realize many more uses for these artifacts.

These three specimens are fashioned from various grades of sandstone and differ considerably in design and method of manufacture. No. 1, the largest, appears to have been a large spall that was crudely chipped into its present form. It bears no evidence of any grinding. The rather irregular edge, perhaps damaged from use, is quite sharp and somewhat curved. In cross-section the specimen is concavo-convex and about 1" thick at its midpoint.

No. 2 was obviously made from a smooth, discoid cobble. From one face a number of large flakes have been removed and the working edge has been thinned by grinding. In addition, about half of the working edge has a narrow bevel. This specimen is lenticular in cross-section and at midpoint is $1\frac{1}{4}$ " thick.

No. 3 is the most carefully made. It is very symmetrical and is crossed diagonally with veins of quartz. The entire piece has been smoothly ground and polished. Striations that might have been made by bindings which once held the specimen to a shaft are visible between the notches. It too is lenticular in cross-section but only $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick at midpoint. Compared to the other specimens, this one is almost toy-like in appearance. It is the only specimen that is clearly notched on both sides of the poll. On the other two, perhaps the shape of the shoulder

made up for the lack of the second notch.

Reports on agriculture and agricultural implements in prehistoric Maine are meager, to say the least. For the rest of New England the literature is none too voluminous either. Both elongate and disciform stone hoes with chipped or ground notches have been recovered as surviving implements of hoe tillage from various Owasco Culture sites in Central New York and parts of Vermont dated at A.D. 1250-1600. Some authorities have termed the disciform specimens net-sinkers or "pot-covers" but their worn edges refute this designation. Similarly, hoes of chipped sandstone have also been found on sites of the late Point Peninsula Culture from central New York to lower Ontario dated at A.D. 1150-1300. Some agricultural activity has been attributed to even earlier cultures such as the Early Coastal and Middlesex some time after A.D. 800. Archaeological remains of the latter culture have been found in Maine and Vermont and even the Upper St. Lawrence Valley. I have, however, found no information concerning what agricultural implements, if any, were found at these sites.

In central New England, stone hoes have been excavated from sites dated as early as A.D. 300. The great majority of these are triangular in shape rather than oval or elongate and, in most cases, have been fashioned from fire spalls.

These brief excerpts are typical of the information I have been able to glean regarding agriculture and agricultural implements in areas contingent to Maine. For Maine itself, I have found no references at all, possibly because I do not have access to such information or, more likely, it simply doesn't exist.

In any event, I would be especially interested to hear of similar hoe-like artifacts being found anywhere in Maine, whether along the coast or at inland sites. Such evidence would help to confirm the nature of these artifacts and to determine how they were used.

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THE SEARCH FOR NORSE OCCUPATION AT

SPIRIT POND, MAINE

1974 EXCAVATION REPORT

Edward J. Lenik

INTRODUCTION

Since 1972 an intensive archaeological investigation has been conducted in the Spirit Pond area of Phippsburg, Maine in an attempt to uncover evidence of Norse settlement and exploration in this region. The prime research area has been along the west shore of Spirit Pond. In 1972, excavations were conducted at three sites near the entrance to the pond where three runestones were reportedly found the previous year,

and at its northern end where two unique semisubterranean structures were discovered. (see Lenik 1972)

The results of this research established a 6,500 year cultural history for the Spirit Pond area. The archaeological work revealed the rich and varied nature of the area's historical past. Evidence was found of Indian occupation spanning the Archaic through Woodland Periods and colonial activity in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Unfortunately, no evidence of Norse occupation or exploration was found.

The major excavation effort at Spirit Pond, beginning in the latter part of 1972 and ending in 1973, was devoted to one semisubterranean structure designated as the West Structure at Site Number 4. The two seasons of excavation determined this structure to be a colonial sod house. (Lenik 1973) The evidence indicated strongly that there was at least two occupations of the sod house the last dating to around 1765.

Located some 9 feet to the east of the West Structure or Sod House was a similar, though somewhat smaller, semisubterranean structure. This was designated as the East Structure at Site Number 4. As the excavations proceeded on the sod house in hopes of finding evidence of the Norse, the East Structure was maintained intact for control purposes. The plan was, if archaeological evidence of the Norse was found in the sod house, the East Structure could then be excavated to check and verify the results independently at a later date. However, as previously stated no evidence of the Norse was found in the sod house.

As a final consequence of all this work, the 1974 field season was devoted to the excavation of the East Structure at Site Number 4, Spirit Pond, Maine. Our purpose was to check, compare and hopefully add to our knowledge of colonial period sod houses as revealed by the previous year's excavation. We also continued our hope and expectation of finding some evidence of the Norse which would lend credence to the finding of the three Spirit Pond runestones. (for a complete account of the runestone find see Whittall 1972)

A total of 7 full days was spent in the excavation of the East Structure with a field crew of 8 people participating in the excavations each day. At the conclusion of the 1974 excavations, the site was completely backfilled and landscaped as much as possible to its original form. This paper presents a complete report of the archaeological work, features unearthed, and artifacts recovered along with the conclusions and interpretations as indicated by the finds.

THE EXCAVATION OF THE EAST STRUCTURE AT SITE NUMBER 4

The East Structure, like its counterpart to the west, is a "U-shaped" earth mound with a depression in the center surrounded by a shallow ditch. The ground slopes slightly downward toward the edge of the bank and the entrance, or open end of the "u", faces the water to the south. The East Structure measures 20 feet in length from north to south and 19 feet in width from east to west near its entrance. (Figure 1) The structure was undoubtedly longer at one time but has been partly destroyed by the erosion of the bank.

The 1974 field work began with the usual careful clearing of the site,

measuring and recording pre-excavation details, and of course photographing. (Figure 2) A grid system was laid out over the interior of the structure. That is, the interior chamber was divided into three grid sections labeled as sections 1, 2 and 3. Thus the interior chamber was excavated in 3 parts with all horizontal and vertical measurements relating to the datum point established in 1972. Grid section 3 was not excavated in its entirety because a large oak tree was growing at the edge of the bank in the southwest corner of the structure which made excavation extremely difficult.

The excavation technique employed on the East Structure was markedly different than that employed on the sod house. In digging the sod house, we carefully and meticulously hand troweled through the soil of the interior chamber until the floor level was ultimately reached. We found that the upper soil layers of the sod house consisted of earth and sod from the roof of the structure and disturbed-mixed soil that had slumped and eroded in off the walls. Thus we were painstakingly hand troweling through disturbed fill soils which were lying above the collapsed roof timbers and which proved to be essentially unproductive.

With the experience of the previous years' excavation in mind, we decided not to hand trowel through the upper soil layers of the East Structure. Instead, we carefully shovel troweled through the upper soils, removing approximately 1/4 of an inch of soil at a time, until we encountered evidence of collapsed roof timbers or other features. Short handled straight edged garden shovels with their blades sharpened were employed in this process. When roof timbers or other features were encountered we of course reverted to careful hand troweling.

The shovel troweling technique proved to be very efficient and successful. We were able to maintain good control with this method and the work proceeded at a much more rapid pace. Once again, we encountered disturbed fill soils in the upper layers which proved to be almost totally sterile as far as artifact recoveries were concerned.

Our first step in digging was to peel off the sod from the interior chamber of the structure in all three grid sections. In the center of Section 2 we immediately encountered a sawn board which measured 23 inches long, 3-1/8 inches wide and varying in thickness from 1/4 to 1/2 of an inch. This board was fairly well preserved, and since it occurred in the sod and upper leaf mold, we concluded that it was of fairly recent origin. A description of the soil stratigraphy and features encountered in each section of the interior chamber is as follows:

Section 1:

The excavation of Section 1 of the interior chamber gave us a clear picture of the construction and ultimate demise of the East Structure. The soil layers were readily discernible and presented a clear picture of what happened to this structure (see Figure 4).

A large pocket of gray-black ash was encountered in the northwest corner of the interior chamber. Protruding from this ash pocket was a small piece of unburned timber. It was clear that considerable burning took place in this corner and the soil beneath the ash deposit was fire reddened.

Several traces of collapsed timbers were found lying immediately

above the floor level where they had apparently fallen in. These timbers were at right angles to the side walls, that is, they basically were orientated from east to west. There was no evidence that these timbers were sawn or dressed and, in fact, their condition was poor. They were undoubtedly the remains of roof timbers.

Three large stones were encountered in the excavation of Section 1. Two were protruding from the east wall and one from the north wall interior. (see figure 1 plan of excavation) These large stones showed some evidence of being shaped or worked. It appears that they were not placed in the position in which they were found but probably slid in off the top of the walls.

The floor and a part of the rear wall consists of a gray hardpan subsoil. Occasional traces of charcoal were found imbedded in the hard-packed floor. A thin brown humus layer was immediately above the floor in the center of the structure. Also, numerous small stones measuring some 4 to 8 inches in diameter were scattered above the floor.

Very few artifacts were recovered from the excavation of Section 1, with all recoveries made from the upper soil layers. The finds consisted of bone and shell fragments, a shotgun shell casing, one red clay pipestem fragment, and two white clay pipestem fragments. A complete description of all artifacts appears later in this report.

Section 2:

The soil stratigraphy encountered in Section 2 of the interior chamber closely followed that of Section 1. (see figure 3) The partial remains of a collapsed roof timber was found in this section together with various scattered fragments including several pieces that had been burned. Once again, these wood remains were found lying just above the hardpan floor.

One unusual feature was encountered in the excavation of grid Section 2. An oval shaped pile of hard-packed earth was found in the center of this section. This earth pile consisted of dark brown soil with small stones and a trace of charcoal and wood. It measured 2-1/2 feet x 2 feet x 6 inches in height. We carefully excavated this feature but did not recover any evidence of cultural material. The question remains, how did this unique pile of earth get placed precisely here, and for what reason?

Only one artifact was recovered from Section 2. This was a side-notched Indian projectile point with its tip and one corner missing. It was found in the tan/brown disturbed soil layer that had probably washed in or collapsed off the walls. A sample of this soil was taken for analysis which showed a ph value of 5-1/2 which is acidic. This would promote the rusting of iron but would have little effect on bone. The soil sample showed a severe deficiency of nitrogen and potash indicating a lack of organic material.

Section 3:

The excavation of grid Section 3 of the interior chamber proved to be quite difficult due to the fact that a large oak tree was growing in the southwest corner of the structure. We had to cut through several large roots in order to be able to reach the floor level.

In this section, we again found traces of wood and gray/black ash indicating considerable burning took place. Near the edge of the bank, the soil which filled in the entrance was a dark brown color, whereas in the other sections of the interior chamber it was a lighter tan/brown color. Also, one large flat stone was found at the edge of the bank just above the hardpan floor and we concluded that it had apparently fallen in.

Several pieces of iron hardware were recovered near the entrance or opening of the interior chamber. One small unidentifiable piece of iron came out of the topsoil, and a badly rusted wrought iron nail was found in the brown soil beneath. Three items were found in contact with the floor, namely an iron spike and two pieces of badly corroded iron with wood adhering to them. These latter two pieces fit together and the general shape of the joined object resembles a hook. However, the condition of this artifact is very poor.

Outer Ditch:

Four (4) test squares were excavated in the ditch which surrounds the East Structure. These are identified as squares A, B, C, and D. (see figure 1 for location) The purpose in digging these squares was to determine the nature and function of the ditch, and hopefully to find some evidence of the identity of the builders of the structure.

In square A, we found 3 to 4 inches of sod and black topsoil followed by tan subsoil which was completely sterile. A nail fragment was recovered from the topsoil layer.

In Square B, we removed 3 inches of sod and black topsoil which was followed by 3 to 6 inches of light/brown colored soil which contained small pebbles. The bottom soil layer of this square was a tan colored subsoil. No cultural artifacts were recovered from this excavation.

Squares C and D were 2 feet x 2 feet in size and the following soil stratigraphy was encountered in the excavation. Square C had 3 inches of sod, followed by 2 inches of reddish burned soil which overlay 5-1/2 inches of brown soil, beneath which was tan sterile subsoil. Square D consisted of 3 inches of sod followed by 5 inches of brown soil which overlay the tan sterile subsoil. There was no indication of burned soil layer in Square D. Furthermore, no artifacts were recovered from these two squares.

Artifact Descriptions: (Figures 5 and 6)

As previously indicated, only a few artifacts were recovered in the excavation of the East Structure at Site Number 4. However, these artifacts provide us with some clues regarding the time period and cultural affiliation of the site. Each artifact is discussed in detail including the identification, nature and provenience of the item:

1. IRON SPIKE (Fig. 5A): The total length of this item is 3 inches, with the shank rectangular in cross section. The head of the spike is badly deteriorated due to rusting, and the driving point is missing. A fragment of wood is adhering to the shank at its midpoint. The grain or fibers of the wood fragment run perpendicular to the shank. This spike was found in contact with the floor near the entrance to the structure.

2. WROUGHT IRON NAIL (Fig. 5B): This artifact is 2-1/2 inches long and has a "rose" head. Its general condition is poor and it is heavily encrusted with rust. The nail was recovered from the brown soil above the floor near the entrance to the East Structure.

3. IRON FRAGMENT (Fig. 5C): Recovered from the topsoil near the edge of the bank in grid section 3. It is 3 inches long, 5/16ths of an inch wide, and on two sides it tapers slightly from 3/16ths of an inch down to 1/8th of an inch. The object is rectangular in cross section, flat at one end and slightly rounded at the other. This artifact might possibly be a floor or finishing nail of 10 penny size.

4. INDIAN PROJECTILE POINT (Fig. 5D): This projectile point is a finely worked piece made of translucent red jasper. The stone is of excellent quality and has "bands" or red coloration throughout. It is a distinct side-notched point with a straight, somewhat thinned base, squared tang, and slightly convex sides. Fine chipping and workmanship occurs along the edge of the point, however a large flake or scar occurs in the center on one side. Unfortunately, the tip and one corner of this projectile point are missing. This artifact was recovered from the tan/brown soil layer that had filled Section 2 of the interior chamber.

This projectile point probably belongs to the Late Archaic Period and may be approximately 5,000 years old. It appears to be similar to that described by Fowler as Side-Notched Type #5 (Fowler 1963:4).

5. Two FRAGMENTS of IRON were recovered from the floor level of section 3 near the edge of the bank. The two pieces fit together making one object four inches long. The identification of this item is difficult due to its poor condition as it is badly encrusted with rust. A radiograph of this artifact was taken which indicates that nearly all of the iron in the object is gone (see Figure 6). A faint rectangular outline shows up in the X-ray which seems to indicate that the object might be a nail or spike. However, positive identification is not possible.

6. A BRASS SHOTGUN SHELL casing was recovered from the topsoil of grid section 1. The head of this shell is marked as follows: "No. REM-UMC 12; NITRO CLUB". It is a 12 gauge center-fire brass shotgun shell with the paper missing. It was manufactured by the Remington-Union Metallic Cartridge Company after 1902.

7. A badly corroded NAIL FRAGMENT was found in the topsoil of Square A. It is approximately 1/2 inch long and is probably the head of a nail.

8. WHITE CLAY PIPESTEM FRAGMENTS: Two fragments of a clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from the tan/brown soil lying above the collapsed timbers of grid section 1. The two pieces came from the same pipe as they fit together. The bore diameter of this pipestem is 8/64ths of an inch and it probably dates to the period 1620 to 1650.

9. One RED CLAY PIPESTEM FRAGMENT was recovered from the tan/brown soil lying above the wood timbers in grid section 1. The bore diameter of this stem fragment is 8/64ths of an inch, and the pipe is probably of colonial manufacture.

According to Noel Hume, crude copies of English pipes were produced

in New England and Virginia by the middle of the 17th century. Also, he notes that red clay copies of late 17th century English pipes were found in Jamaica (Noel-Hume 1969:308).

Numerous fragments of redclay pipestems have been found at other colonial sites in Maine such as at Pemaquid located about 12 miles south of Damariscotta. Pemaquid is the site of an early English settlement dating to about 1625. (Camp 1967) They have also been found at the Clark and Lake Site on Arrowsic Island in the Kennebec River; just a short distance from Spirit Pond. The Clark and Lake Site was also an English Settlement occupied from about 1650 to 1676. (Brown 1974) Thus it appears that the red-clay pipestem from Spirit Pond probably dates to the 17th century.

Observations and Interpretations

The excavation of the East Structure at Spirit Pond revealed many architectural features that were similar to the Sod House, which was excavated in 1972-73. In like manner, the interior chamber of the East Structure was dug out of the ground down to the gray hardpan, thus making it a semi-subterranean structure. The walls were constructed of earth which was dug out of the center chamber and piled up on the outside. The appearance of the walls would be "half-moon" in cross-section and a shallow ditch encircled the entire structure.

The roof of the East Structure was also made of rough-hewed timbers or logs which were covered with sod and earth. The entrance, or front of the structure, was at least partly of frame or wood construction. The archaeological evidence points to this conclusion as the entrance (grid section 3) was the only area where we found iron hardware, namely the nails and spike. Unfortunately, some of the structure was destroyed due to the erosion of the bank.

Despite the many similarities between the East Structure and the Sod House, there were many important differences. These are summarized as follows:

1. We found no evidence of laid-up stonework on top of the walls, or, near the entrance to the East Structure. Three large stones were found protruding from the interior walls near the northeast interior corner and one was found in the fill of the entrance. These stones however appear to be random finds rather than laid-up stonework. In the Sod House, on the other hand, stones were carefully laid-up on top of the walls and in the entrance in order to provide structural strength to the dwelling.

2. The floor of the East Structure sloped downward from the rear of the structure to the entrance. Elevations were taken in the interior chamber which showed the drop to be 1 foot 4 inches between the back of the structure and front. Whereas, the floor of the Sod House was essentially level.

3. No evidence of a hearth was found in the East Structure. The Sod House did contain a hearth with evidence of cultural material such as ash, shell and an 18th century button.

4. The East Structure showed considerably more evidence of burning

than did the Sod House. Only a few logs or timbers were preserved in the interior. It appears that this structure was destroyed by fire resulting in its collapse and ultimately being filled in.

5. We did not find any pottery whatsoever in the excavation of the East Structure, In the Sod House, on the other hand, we recovered many fragments of redware from the upper soil layers plus one fragment of salt glazed stoneware of 18th century date.

6. A few pieces of iron hardware were recovered from the entrance only of the East Structure. However, many nails were recovered from nearly all areas of excavation at the Sod House.

Summary and Conclusion

No evidence of Norse occupation was found in the excavation of the East Structure, Site Number 4, Spirit pond, Maine. However, the excavations did indicate that this semisubterranean structure was of European origin. The few fragments of iron hardware (nails and spike) found on the floor in the front of this structure lends weight to this conclusion.

The evidence further indicates only minimal use or occupation of the East Structure. We found no evidence that it was used as a dwelling or sod house. We did not find any hearth in the interior chamber which would have been used for cooking or heating, nor did we find any trace of sleeping platforms. In fact, no artifacts were recovered which might give us a clue as to its function. In short, we do not know that the East Structure was used for.

On the other hand, it definitely appears that the East Structure is associated with the westerly one or Sod House. The many similarities in construction points to this conclusion. The archaeological evidence indicates that the East Structure was burned and destroyed to a considerable extent. In considering this fact, we speculate that this structure may have been destroyed before it could be used or occupied. This would certainly account for the lack or scarcity of cultural material at the site.

In this rough and wilderness area, it is probably most unlikely that we would find evidence of the minimal traces which would have remained from a Norse visit. However, the 1974 excavation, as well as the previous ones, certainly does not indicate that Norse remains do not exist at Spirit Pond. They simply have not been found as yet. Continued research, exploration and excavation along the Maine coast may one day reveal such evidence. The search for truth must and will continue in the years to come.

Acknowledgements

Special tribute and high praise is in order to those who did the digging at Spirit Pond. These dedicated excavators, who came to be known as "the group", labored tirelessly day after day in the pursuit of knowledge. They are: John W. Briggs, Marjorie Chandler, Laura L. Linder, and Robert E. Stone. They are truly a hardy breed who exhibited pride and facility in the use of tools, care and attention to detail, tremendous zeal, and remarkable stamina. We are greatly indebted to this "Group"

for their contribution to knowledge. I am personally privileged and honored to have worked with and directed such a fine group of archaeologists.

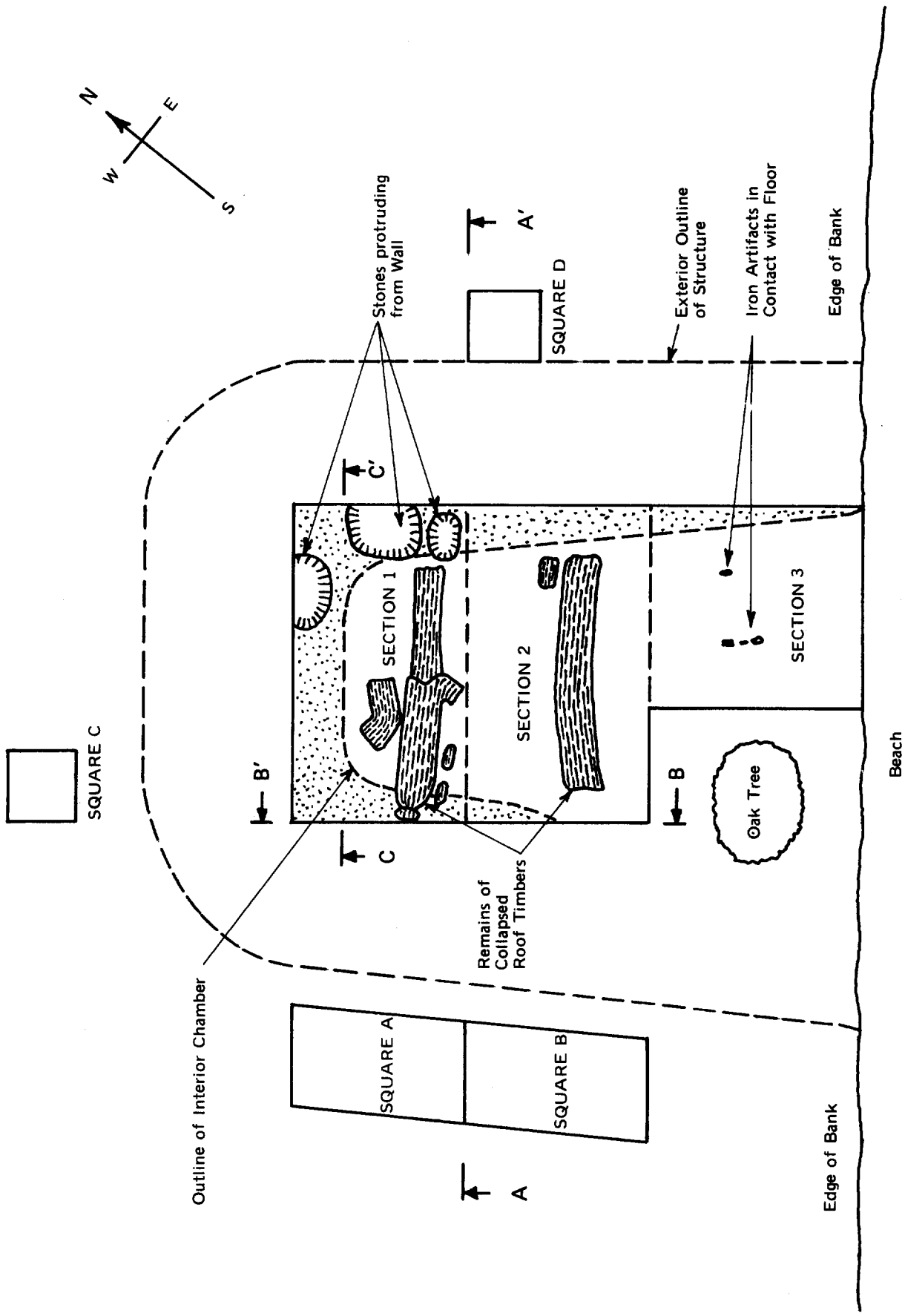
Thanks are also in order to three new excavators who also contributed considerable time and effort to the 1974 excavations. We are extremely grateful to Barbara Corcoran, Sally Johansen, and Osborne Stone. Others who participated from time to time were park rangers Mike Soule and George Stone; Paul Stephenson, and Roger Sloan. We are most thankful for their fine help.

Finally, I wish to thank Barbara Corcoran for illustrating the artifacts recovered from the 1974 excavations.

Edward J. Lenik

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Scale: 1/4" = 1' - 0"

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Figure 1

EAST STRUCTURE SITE NUMBER 4

Plan View of Excavation

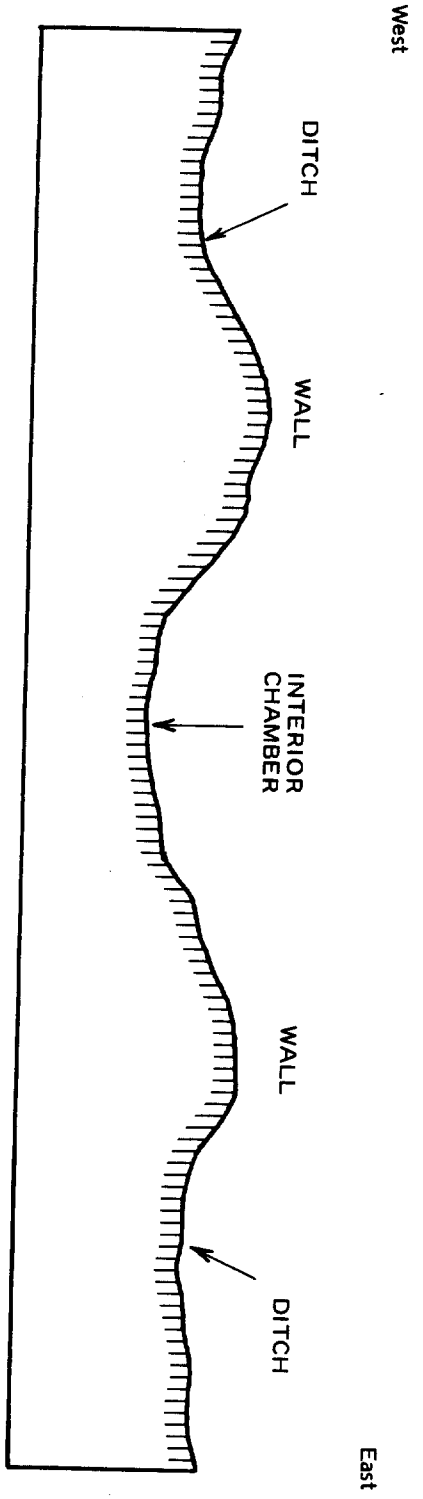
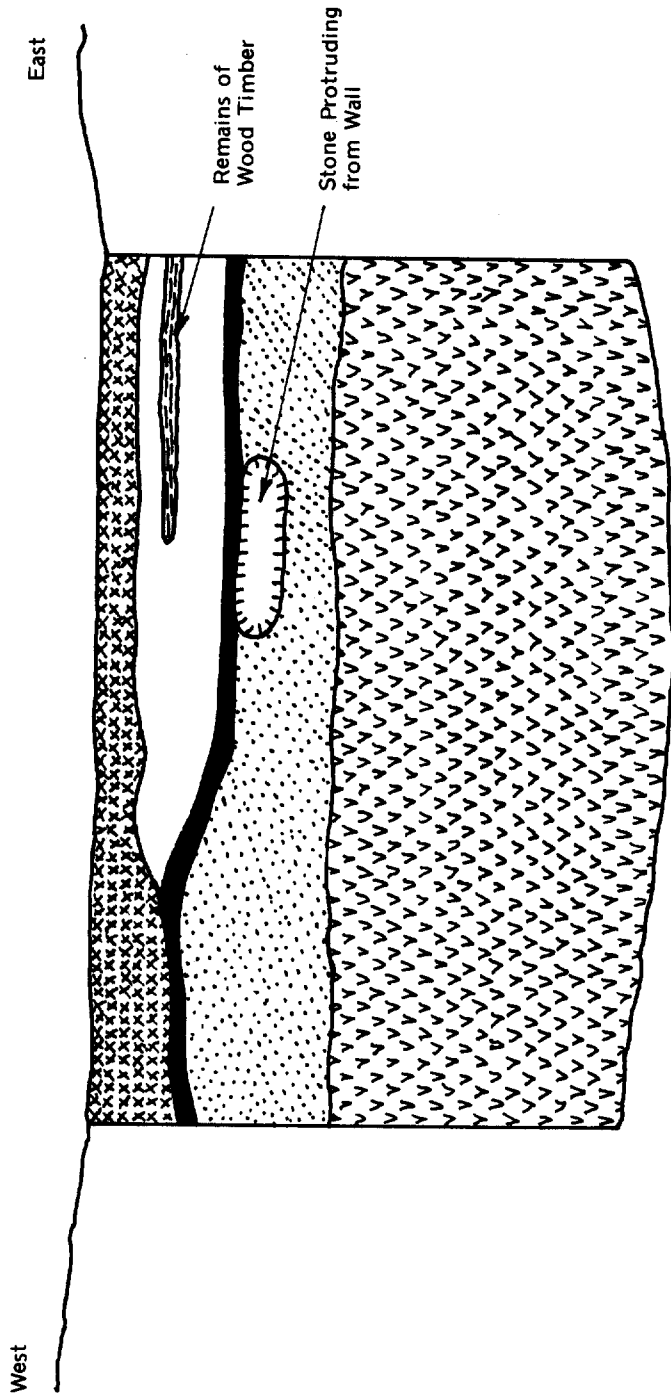


Figure 2

EAST STRUCTURE SITE NUMBER 4
Pre-excavation Profile A - A'

Scale: 1/4" = 1' - 0"

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- Stratum 1 - - - Sod and Topsoil
- Stratum 2 - - - Black-Gray Ash Layer
- Stratum 3 - - - Reddish-Burned Soil
- Stratum 4 - - - Disturbed Brown-Tan Soil
- Stratum 5 - - - Hard, Gray-Tan Subsoil

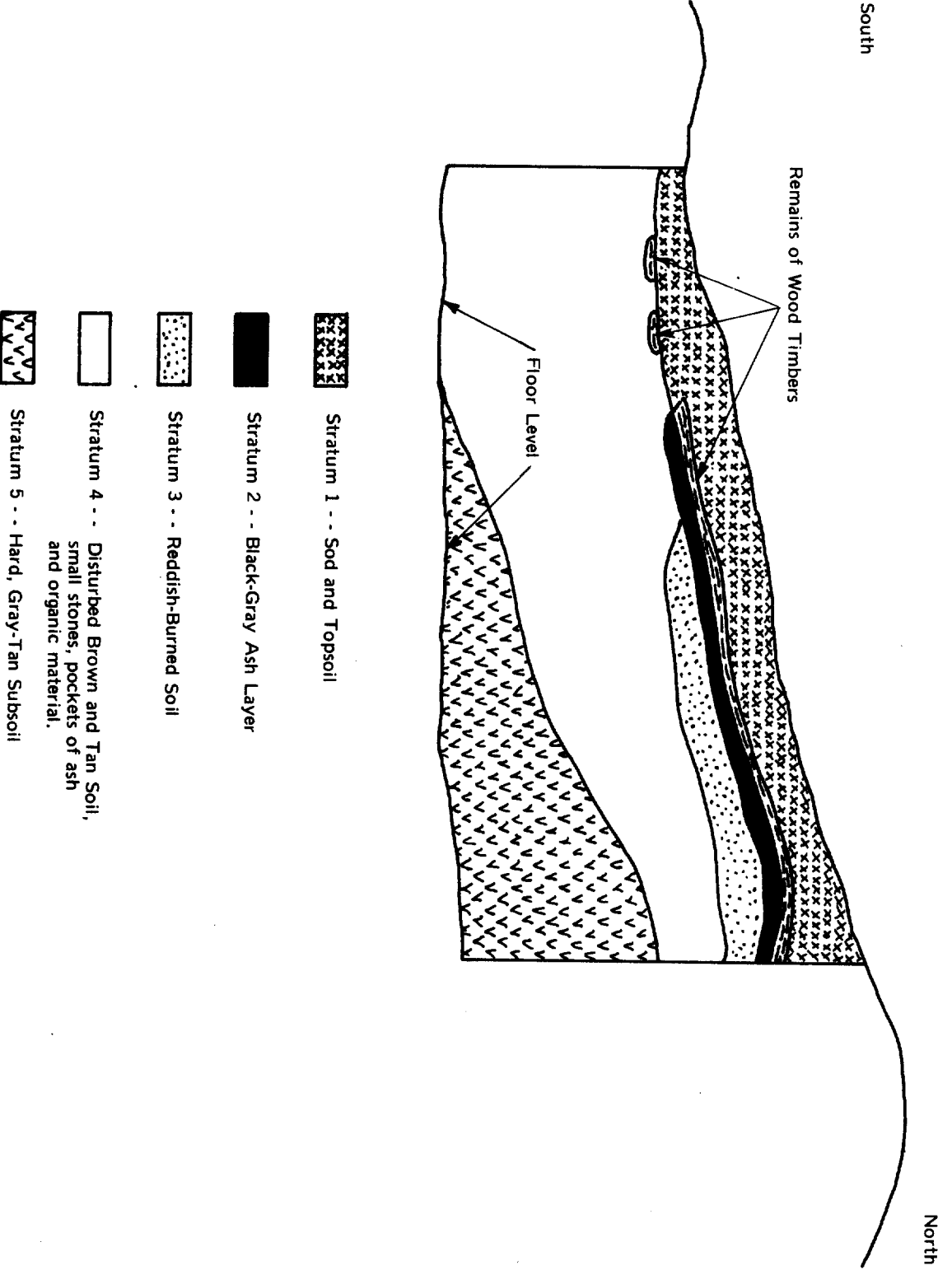
EAST STRUCTURE SITE NUMBER 4

Profile C - C' Interior of North Wall

Figure 4

Scale: 1/2" = 1' - 0"

EJL 1974



EAST STRUCTURE SITE NUMBER 4
 Profile B - B' Interior of West Wall

Figure 3

Scale: 1/2" = 1' - 0"

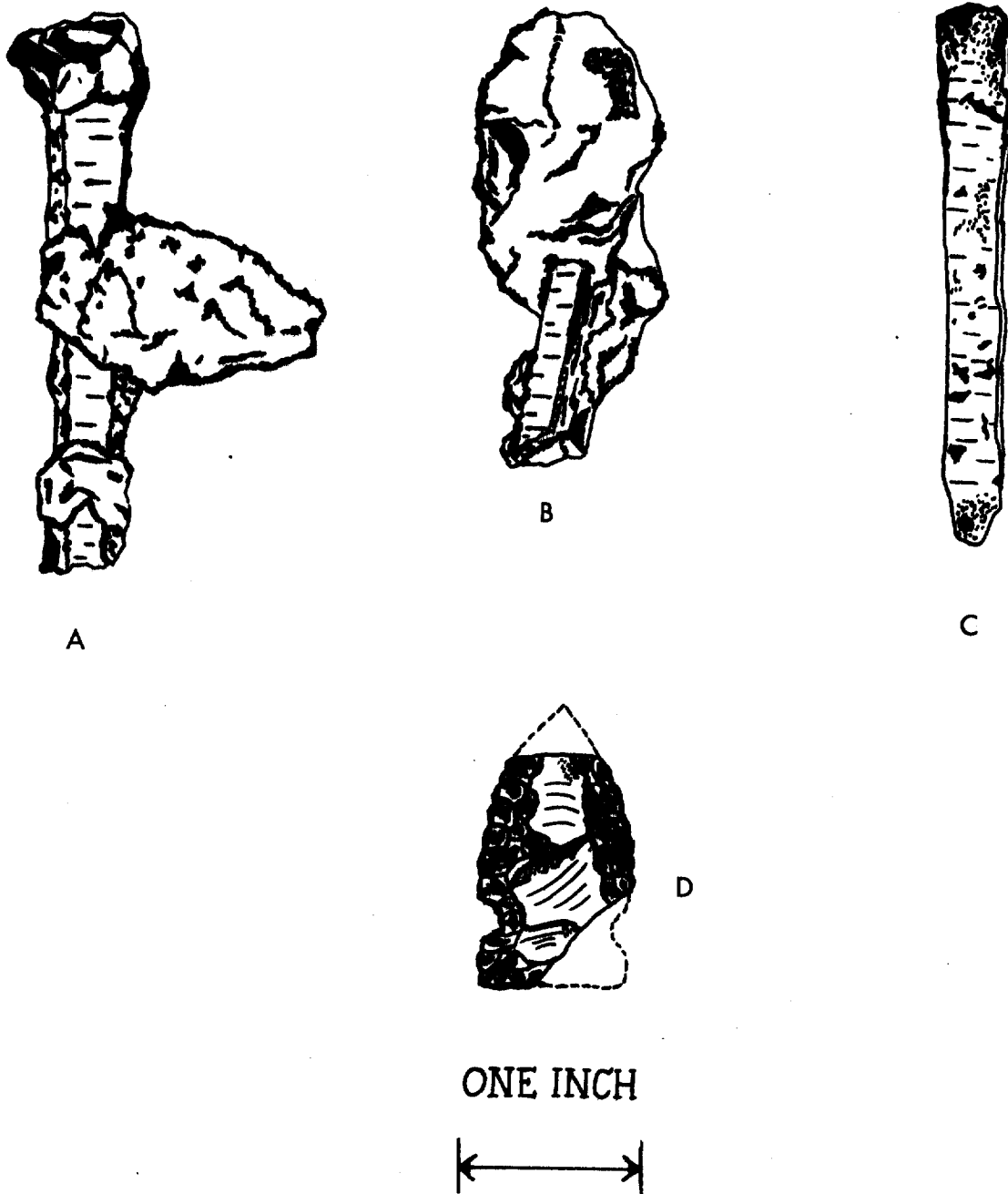


FIGURE 5: Artifacts From East Structure. (A) Iron Spike, (B) Wrought Iron Nail, (C) Possible Floor or Finishing Nail, (D) Indian Projectile Point.

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