

The Bigford Site: Late Prehistoric Oneida

By

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*Reprint from Pennsylvania Archaeologist, Bulletin
of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology,
Vol. XXXI, April, 1961, No. 1.*

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IN 1898 the dean of New York State archaeology, the Rev. William M. Beauchamp, recorded "the highest achievement of the Iroquois in decorated ware. . . . In this ornamentation the face or form was molded separately and then luted on before burning. In consequence the faces are often found detached, or the impressions of the limbs remain when they are gone. The Onondagas reached a higher development in this art than the Mohawks, and many faces have such an individual character as regards age and expression, that they seem portraits. . . . They were often, but not always, placed at an elevated angle of the rim." (Beauchamp: 1898, 92 and 93.)

At the time of Beauchamp's writing no such ornamentation had been reported from either Oneida or Cayuga territory. (Cf. Beauchamp: 1898, 92.) Since that time a human face effigy has been illustrated by Skinner from Venice Center in Cayuga country. (Skinner: 1921, Pl. 10.)

If the site to be reported upon in this paper is Oneida, then human face effigies occur on Oneida sites as well.

SITE DESIGNATION

In order to protect this site from looting, it is called here simply the Bigford Site after the late Herbert Bigford of Earlville, N. Y. This is but a very small recognition of Mr. Bigford's invaluable help to me. (See ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.) Record of the site's ownership is on file

with the New York State Museum c/o Dr. William A. Ritchie, with the University of Michigan c/o Dr. James B. Griffin, and with Mr. William Ennis of Brewerton, N. Y., Mr. Gilbert Hagerty of Rome, N. Y., and Mr. John Litzenberger of Syracuse, N. Y.

TRIBAL AFFILIATION

Beauchamp's map of the territorial divisions of the Iroquois shows Madison County to be in the heart of Oneida territory. (Beauchamp: 1905, Pl. 18.) It is in that county that the Bigford Site is situated. Furthermore, examination of collections made in the area, notably that made by the late Herbert Bigford (purchased by Colgate University) together with my own excavations (sponsored by the University of Michigan, the University of the State of New York, Madison County, N. Y., and William Ennis of Brewerton, N. Y.) indicate the Bigford Site to be part of an unbroken development of Oneida which reaches back close to the period defined by Ritchie as the Chance Horizon. (Ritchie: 1952.)

TOPOGRAPHY

This site is one of several located on the east side of a hill some seven miles long and five and one-half miles wide. A creek navigable by canoe runs along the foot of the eastern side of this hill.

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This creek is several hundred yards to the east of the site. However, a water supply was readily available from a creek which abuts the southern edge of the site.

The Bigford Site is in the shape of a broad oval and covers about $4\frac{1}{4}$ acres of cultivated brown clay loam with another $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in woodlot. Good drainage is provided by a gentle grade from west to east. The slope upon which the site is located begins to drop off at about 60 degrees along the eastern edge of the site. Other than this, the site lacks natural protection.

Mr. A. G. Zeller, Historian of the Champlain-Oneida Battleground Park Association and former Superintendent of Schools for Madison County, has generously provided me with a map and notes relating to the Bigford Site (6/12/60).

Mr. Zeller's map which was made immediately after a fall plowing appears here as Plate I. I felt it necessary to edit it slightly and have left out the farmers' names and the modern roads which might have betrayed the location of the site.

In a conversation with Mr. Zeller (9/12/55), Mr. Bigford reported that he had found a stockade a little way down the hillside. Mr. Zeller suggests that the abrupt straight line termination of the occupation dirt at the north end of the site is also stockade wall. Stockades have been found on eight other sites in the area. (My records are on file with Messrs. William Ennis, Brewerton; Gilbert Hagerly, Rome; John Litzenberger, Syracuse; Dr. William A. Ritchie, N. Y. S. Museum; and Dr. James B. Griffin, University of Michigan.)

Mr. Bill Marsden, a regional archaeologist, told Mr. Zeller that a man from Canastota had tried to take off the top of the grooved boulder known locally as

Council Rock, but that he had broken it and had left it. Mr. Marsden, who had seen the boulder, was unable to relocate it when he attempted to show it to Mr. Zeller in October, 1950. It may be that this boulder is the large grooved stone found by Mr. Bigford on the site (Mr. Zeller's conversation with Mr. Bigford 9/12/55).

EXCAVATION

The late Mr. Herbert Bigford excavated an unknown number of pits on the site. From one of these pits he recovered the entire pot illustrated in Plate 3 of this paper. Other excavators were the late Mr. Roy Knapp of Canastota and Mr. Marvin Knapp of Mexico, N. Y.

There was a colonial occupation on the western section of the site. Many fragments of crockery and other utensils may be observed on the surface after a recent plowing. Some of the later occupation debris has, of course, become mixed with the Indian materials. Mr. Bigford found a broken iron knife in one of the pits which he excavated, but he remarked to me that the pit had been disturbed prior to his excavation of it.

In a testing program of this site I located a natural depression in the woods. This depression had become filled with dirt and refuse; it was approximately six feet long, three feet wide and up to two feet deep. Apparently it had resulted from a tree fall occurring before or during the Indian occupation. In this depression I found seven thin, smooth, flat discs about one inch in diameter. Several decorated sherds occurred but, judging from the disturbed nature of the depression, it seems that someone had dug it before me and had removed any sizable rim sherds. An awl reworked from a bone needle appeared as well as a plain brass button. This button is $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in

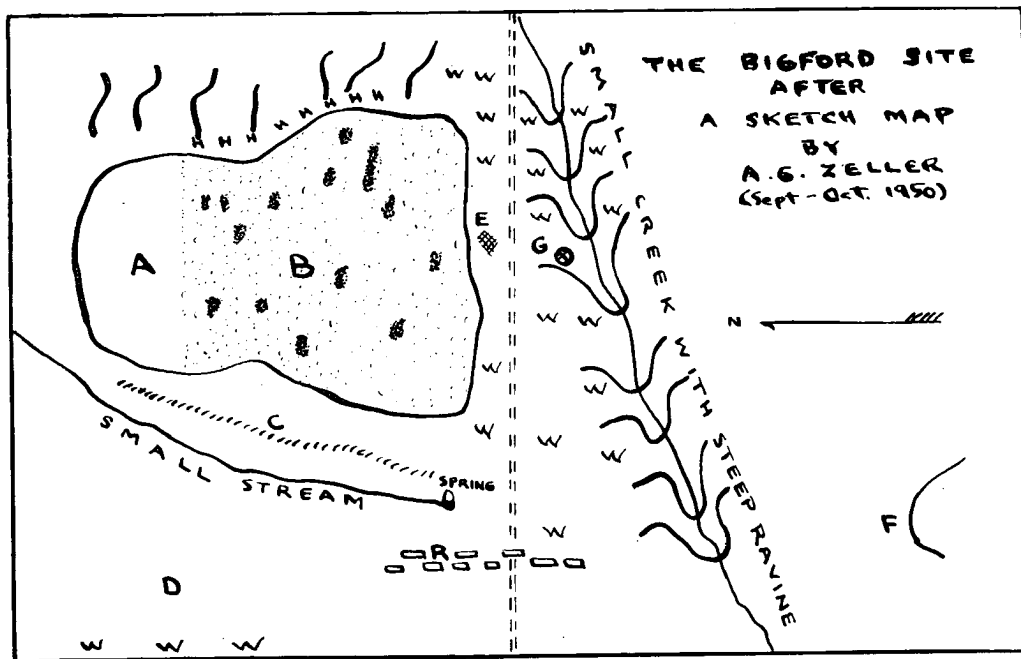


PLATE I

- A & B—Plowed field. The soil of A was distinctly lighter than that of B which was unmistakably stained by Indian occupation. Shading indicates darker stained areas.
- C—Drainage plow trench—no occupation dirt.
- D—Open field—no occupation dirt.
- E—Low spot where Mr. Bigford found many artifacts.
- F—High ground and an open field—upon which artifacts were found years ago.
- G—Large elm tree near which large refuse dumps occurred, and a grooved boulder stone locally known as Council Rock.
- H—Area of stockade; discovered by Mr. Bigford.
- R—Rock ledge 4-5 feet high.
- W—Woods.

diameter and 3 3/4 inches in thickness with an eye centrally located on the reverse side. The eye is at right angles to the face and jutting out to 1/4 inch. The eye hole is 3/16 inch in diameter. Two finely incised concentric circles occur on the eye side of the button; the outermost is 3/32 inch from the edge of the button and the same distance from the innermost circle. Between the circles is the word GILT and a string of V's which are equidistant from one another. The open ends of 5 of these point toward the G in the word GILT. The open ends of the other 5 point toward the T. The

apices of all 10 point toward an asterisk which is opposite the word GILT.

Both the button and the knife were located where they might have been lost by their original owners while they themselves were digging in the Indian refuse.

ARTIFACTS

(All artifacts of Indian manufacture are illustrated unless otherwise stated.)

BONE

Awls: (Plate 2, Figs. n & o) Two of these are splinter awls (Plate 2, Fig. n, Nos. 1 & 2), but two others are seen

to include articular surfaces. A fifth (Plate 2, Fig. o) is reworked from a flat bone needle, the proximal end being cut and polished.

Beads: (Plate 2, Fig. q, Nos. 1-4) A variety of sizes is seen in tubular beads.

Beamer: (drawshave) (Plate 2, Fig. k) This is made of a deer leg bone which had been cracked, possibly to obtain the marrow.

Beaver Incisors—split: (Plate 2, Fig. m) Of these there are two in the Zeller Collection.

Flaker: (Plate 2, Fig. s) Made of antler.

Harpoon: (Plate 2, Fig. r) This was possibly unilaterally barbed.

Maxilla: (Plate 2, Fig. 1) Anterior maxilla of a dog or wolf. This has been cut square and polished. It may have been used as part of a headdress. In Burial 38 at Dutch Hollow, Ritchie found the "cut anterior section of a wolf skull . . . (which) lay over the head (of a child). . . . (This skull) probably remained from a wolfskin robe. . . ." (Ritchie: 1954, 8.)

Needles: Mr. Marvin Knapp of Mexico, N. Y., has told me that needles have been found on the site. I did not have one available to illustrate.

Punch: (Plate 2, Fig. p) Made of antler. (Bigford Collection.)

STONE

Discs—Imperforate: (Plate 2, Fig. g, Nos. 1 & 2) There are a total of twenty-one in the Bigford Collection. Seven more were found by me in a natural depression. (See EXCAVATIONS.)

The discs are 1/16 to 1/4 inch in thickness. They have smoothed faces and all appear to be made of shale. No two discs are exactly the same size. There is a gradual sequence in

size from the smallest to the largest illustrated here.

Imperforate stone discs have not yet to my knowledge been reported in Iroquoia for Mohawk, Cayuga, Neutral or Susquehannock sites. Furthermore, they are specifically excluded from Lalonde traits. (Ridley: 1952, Fig. 5.)

Such discs do occur, however, in Seneca country (Parker: 1920, Pl. 121, Fig. 1) and on prehistoric Ontario Onondaga sites and on Tionontati sites (Wintemberg: 1936, 66 & 67) as well as on historic Huron sites in Southern Ontario (Kidd: 1952, 73). They appear late in prehistory¹ and in the period of early European contact in Oneida territory (Cf. my records on file with Dr. Ritchie, William Ennis, Gilbert Hagerly and John Litzenberger).

Discs—Perforated: (Plate 2, Fig. g, Nos. 3 & 4) Nine of these are in the Bigford Collection.

The discs range in size from the smallest to the largest illustrated here. They average 1/16 to 1/4 inch thick and have smoothed faces. They all appear to be made of shale.

Centrally perforated stone discs seem to have the same distribution in Iroquoia as do imperforate discs with the following addition. Perforated discs occur at the Westfield Site in Chautauqua County, N. Y. This site is considered Late Prehistoric and related to Western Pennsylvania Monongahela and Ontario Neutral. (Guthe: 1958, 39, 40, 79 and Pl. XII, d.) Ontario Neutral sites do not seem to produce such discs, however, nor do Mohawk, Cayuga, Susquehannock or Lalonde.

Perforated stone discs have been

¹ Such discs are a rare occurrence on Minsi sites of the upper Delaware—Ed.

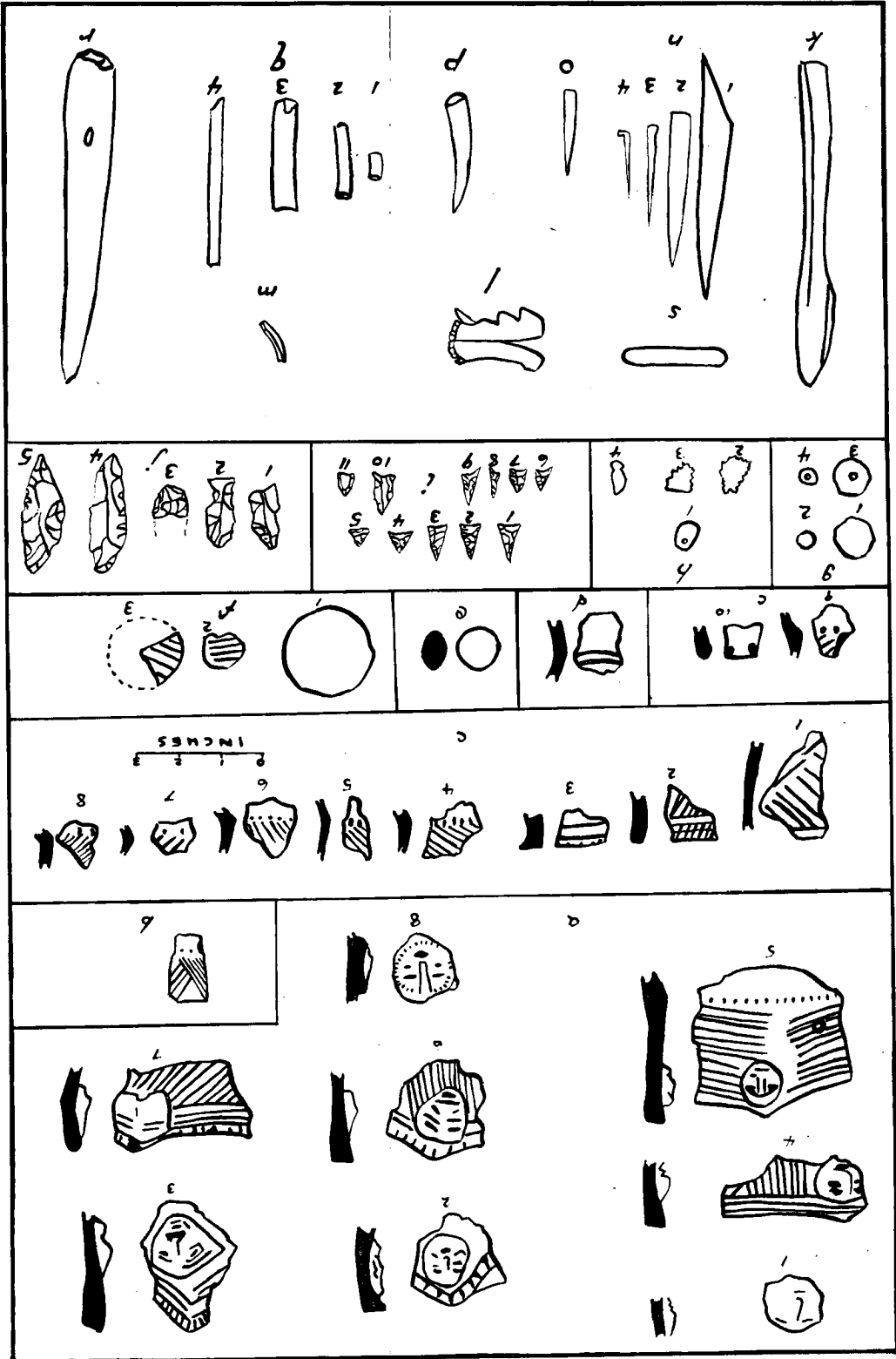


PLATE 2

- Fig. a: Nos. 1-8; pottery human effigy faces luted to pottery vessel rims. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. b: Fragment of a pottery elbow form pipe. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. c: Nos. 1-10; pottery rim sherds with incised and punctated designs. (New York State Museum Collection)
- Fig. d: Pottery shoulder sherd with incised horizontal decoration. (New York State Museum Collection)
- Fig. e: Unfired clay ball. (New York State Museum Collection)
- Fig. f: No. 1; undecorated potsherd disc. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
Nos. 2 & 3; incised potsherd discs. (New York State Museum Collection)
- Fig. g: Nos. 1-4; perforated and imperforated stone discs. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. h: No. 1; stone pendant. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
Nos. 2-4; notched flat stones. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. i: Flint projectile points:
Nos. 1-10. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
No. 11. (A. G. Zeller Collection)
- Fig. j: Flint scrapers and knives:
Nos. 1 & 2, 4 & 5. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
No. 3. (New York State Museum Collection)
- Fig. k: Bone beamer. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. l: Cut anterior maxilla of a dog or wolf. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. m: Split beaver incisor. (A. G. Zeller Collection)
- Fig. n: Nos. 1-4; bone awls. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. o: Broken needle with break ground smooth, probably used as an awl. (New York State Museum Collection)
- Fig. p: Socketed antler punch. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. q: Nos. 1-4; bone heads. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. r: Antler harpoon with single line hole. (Herbert Bigford Collection)
- Fig. s: Antler flaker. (Herbert Bigford Collection)

found on historic Huron sites in Southern Ontario. (Kidd: 1952, 73.) One other Late Prehistoric Oneida site has produced them (Cf. my records on file with Dr. Ritchie and Messrs. Ennis, Litzenberger and Hagerty).

Grooved Boulder: (not illustrated) See TOPOGRAPHY.

Pendant: (Plate 2, Fig. h, No. 1) This flat, polished and perforated shale pendant is much like another pendant from Nichols Pond in Madison County, N. Y. (Madison County Historical Society Collection, Oneida, N. Y.) I have seen such pendants from Huron sites. (Royal Ontario

Museum Collections, Toronto, Canada.) At the Onondaga Roebuck Site "No pendants made of thin, round or oval pebbles, common at Neutral sites in southwestern Ontario were found." (Wintemberg: 1936, 65.) I do not know of similar pendants from other Iroquois territories.

Knives and Scrapers: (Plate 2, Fig. j, Nos. 1-5) All are made of flint. There are four more fragments of oval knives like No. 4 in the Zeller Collection.

Projectile Points: (Plate 2, Fig. i, Nos. 1-11) The points are made of flint. They are all from the Bigford Col-

lection except for one like No. 2, two like No. 3, and No. 11 which are in the Zeller Collection. The number of points like those illustrated is three of No. 1, nine of No. 2, eight of No. 3, two of No. 4, one of No. 5, one of No. 6, five of No. 7, one of No. 8, one of No. 9, one of No. 10, and one of No. 11. This makes a total of 33 projectile points.

Miscellany: (Plate 2, Fig. k, Nos. 2, 3 and 4) Two polished flat pebbles about 1/8 inch thick which have no counterparts known to me. The third (Plate 2, Fig. h, No. 4) is almost identical to a pendant from Uren (Wintemberg: 1928, Plate XXII, Fig. 5).

POTTERY

Ball: (Plate 2, Fig. e) This is untempered and does not appear to have been fired. It is of a yellowish orange clay. It may have been a lump used to test texture of the clay before making a pottery object. It may have been a toy or simply a lump of clay for a pottery object which was mislaid or not needed.

Discs—Imperforate: (Plate 2, Fig. f, Nos. 1-4) (The fragmentary discs are in the New York State Museum Collection. The complete disc is in the late Herbert Bigford Collection.) This is the first appearance of pottery discs in the Oneida sequence. Discs are common on Oneida sites in the period of early European contact. On historic Huron sites in Southern Ontario "Disks made from potsherds are very common." (Kidd: 1952.) Beauchamp notes that they have been found within earthworks a few miles northwest of Prescott as well as on "Iroquois sites in New York." (Beauchamp: 1898, 81.) Beau-

champ illustrates several pottery discs from New York State (Beauchamp: 1898, Nos. 222-225), as does Parker (Parker: 1920, Pl. 121, Figs. 6, 8-12). Of these examples, two are from "the Onondaga fort of 1600 west of Cazenovia." (Beauchamp: 1898, 136.) Elsewhere Beauchamp states that "the fort west of Cazenovia, usually placed at the end of the 16th century" . . . (Beauchamp: 1902, 256) is "locally known and hereafter designated as the Atwell site." (Beauchamp: 1902, 257.)

Pottery discs are extremely widespread. They occur on Ontario Neutral sites (Wintemberg: 1928, 36; 1948, 22) and Ontario Tionontati and Onondaga sites (Wintemberg: 1946, 169; 1936, 66 & 67). They are also found in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Witthoft, talking about potsherd discs and certain other items on Susquehannock sites, says that they "are not trade pieces but locally made copies of Ohio types. They are not found elsewhere in Iroquoia and they represent the diffusion of Mississippian traits into Susquehannock." (Witthoft: 1959, 51.)

Kinsey notes that "rounded pottery discs, about 1 1/2 to 4 inches in diameter, have been found with some frequency at the Schultz and Washington Boro sites. It was believed by some that these represented gaming devices (Cadzow: 1936, p. 193)." (Kinsey: 1959, 65) Cadzow is making reference to the "chunkey" or hoop-and-pole games played by southern Iroquois. Thirteen round flat stones, the largest with a diameter of 5 1/2 inches and the smallest of 4 inches, showed evidence of having been rolled upon their edges. . . . (Cadzow, 1936, 193.)

I am inclined to doubt that these, for the most part, very small discs of pottery and stone on northern Iroquois sites would be suited to such a game as "chunkey." Rather I prefer to share Wintemberg's opinion relating to them (Wintemberg: 1936, 67 & 68) that they may have been used as part of a "popular gambling game of which there are many variants, (which) consists in throwing six elkhorn buttons or plum pits, each blackened on one side, in a wooden bowl. If the dice turn up all black or all white, the thrower scores five points; if five of a color, one point; otherwise he loses his turn. This game also has ritual significance and is an essential feature of most ceremonies." (Murdock: 1934, 318.)

Elsewhere discs may have had different uses as Kinsey notes. "Worn edges and information from other areas (Fort Ancient, Ohio, and Lamar, Georgia) on similar objects suggests a different interpretation. It seems possible that these discs were used as an anvil and scraping tool in the process of shaping and thinning." (Kinsey, 1959, 65.)

"Toy Pots": (not illustrated) In the New York State Museum Collection there are two undecorated body fragments of a crude grit tempered miniature vessel. Diminutive vessels which are fashioned and not more than a very few inches in height are common on prehistoric Huron sites. (Royal Ontario Museum Collections, Toronto, Canada.) The decorations of sloppy scratches or thumb-nail marks on such vessels are likely to have no or little resemblance to full size vessel decorations. The miniature vessels on Oneida sites are of the same order as the Huron ones. They are

both crudely made and of unknown use. They are also found on Neutral, Tionontati and Onondaga sites in Ontario. (Cf. Wintemberg: 1928, 12; 1948, 10; 1946, 159; 1936, Pl. II, Figs. 4 & 5.)

The miniature pots encountered elsewhere can be very different. For example, upon historic Susquehannock sites "In some instances, there are perfect copies of the larger models." (Kinsey: 1959, 90.) Furthermore, on Susquehannock sites they are uncommon except as grave offerings. I know of no Huron or Oneida miniatures having been included as burial offerings.

Full Size Vessels:

a) Bearing Human Face Effigies

The inventory of fragments from full size vessels (all of which are granite grit tempered) is very small—too small, unfortunately, to provide a typology. It is nonetheless sufficiently informative not only to place this site in time but to show some important inter-tribal connections.

The pottery vessel fragments collected by me from sites in this region (New York State Museum and Madison County Collections) which are typologically closer to the Chance Horizon (Cf. Ritchie: 1952) lack luted effigies. The Bigford Site has such effigies. (Plate 2, Fig. a, and Plate 3.) Furthermore, the Bigford Site effigies are markedly similar to those found on several Late Prehistoric and one Historic period site in Onondaga County. (Compare with Beauchamp: 1898, 92, 93, 96 and 97 and Figs. 29, 30, 31, 47, 50, 52 and 53.) Lacking European trade goods, the Bigford Site is therefore considered to be Late Prehistoric also.

Such luted human effigy faces are

not restricted to the Onondaga territory south of Syracuse, locally known as the "Pompey Hills," nor to Madison County, N. Y., Oneida sites. At least one such effigy face, strikingly like the Onondaga and Oneida ones, comes from the Seneca country's Reed Fort in Ontario County, N. Y. (Parker: 1920, Fig. 29, No. 5.) The broad incisions on this specimen together with the decoration suggest an intimate connection with Late Prehistoric Oneida and Onondaga. . . . Parker remarks "the Reed Fort vessels were of the period when effigy faces were placed at the projections on the raised collars, in this respect being like the pottery from the Atwell Fort in Onondaga County, from the St. Lawrence site in Jefferson County, and like that from Burning Spring, Cattaraugus County, though the last named site is even earlier in its occupation than the Reed Fort." (Parker: 1922, 195.)

Such faces are also found on Mohawk vessels. "Especially interesting is one of the small human masks (No. 261) which were frequently placed at the corners or castellations of Mohawk pottery vessels. . . ." (Montgomery County Department of History and Archives and the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association: 1943, 19.)

Another similar face comes from as far away as South Bend, Indiana. It is luted to a jar bearing the broad incisions characteristic of the Late Prehistoric in Oneida and Onondaga territory. (Parker: 1920, Pl. 55, No. 11.) A specimen from Pennsylvania is noted by Wren. "Fig. 9 shows the human face modeled exactly like specimens from the Iroquois coun-

try of New York and there can be but small doubt of its having been made by those people." (Wren: 1914, 80.) The finest portrait faces in the northeastern United States known to me are those from Tioga Point, Athens, Pa. (Wren: 1914, Pl. 6, Figs. 1-4, 5 & 7.) These Athens faces belong to vessels which are grit-tempered and "probably represent Proto-Susquehannock grave pots." (Witthoft: 1959, 48.)

Highly conventionalized triangular faces seem to be common on Historic Susquehannock pottery. (Cf. Kinsey: 1959, 66, 79, 84, 85, Fig. 6 a, Fig. 7 e-j, Fig. 9, Nos. 3, 33-39, 42, 44-47, Fig. 10, Nos. 50, 52, 53, 61-71.) These conventionalized faces are unlike anything else which I have seen in Iroquoia but for a Cayuga pottery jar from Venice Center. This vessel is also small like the Historic Susquehannock ones, being only about six inches high. (Skinner: 1921, Pl. 10.) Witthoft on Susquehannock ceramics remarks, "The effigy heads on later Schultz Incised are most like those found on Seneca pots of about 1620 and those which have a minor incidence in Mohawk at about the same time. They do not resemble Onondaga or Munsee, but have some strong parallels with a few Cayuga pots. . . ." (Witthoft: 1959, 48.)

Kinsey stated that "the most likely area of influence for most Susquehannock traits (effigies in particular) lies to the north in the Saint Lawrence and Lake Ontario region." (Kinsey: 1959, 84.) He also noted that the face effigies occurring in the north "were three circular marks, made by hollow bone or reed punches in a triangular pattern. . . ."

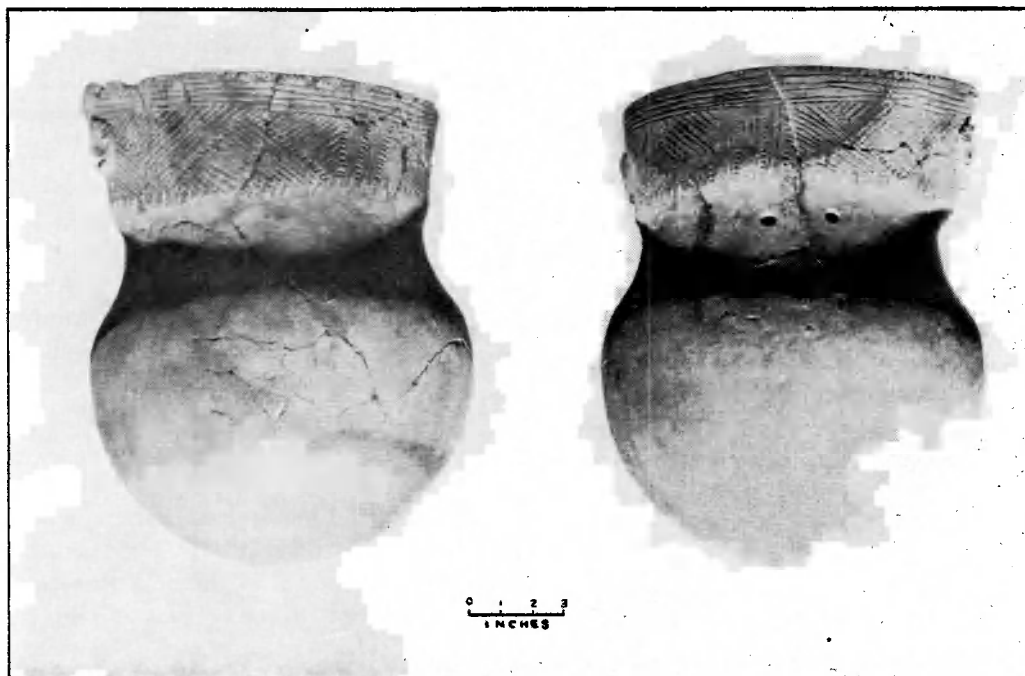


PLATE 3

Figs. a & b: Two views of pottery vessel found in a pit by the late Herbert Bigford. (Herbert Bigford Collection)

(Kinsey: 1959, 84.) Examination of Wintenberg's illustrations shows some features which are very likely transitional in the development of the relief face. For example, as early as Uren:

"The triangular grouping of circles, as well as of the oval and round depressions, seen on the fragments illustrated in Plate XIV, figures 17 to 20, was probably intended to represent the eyes and mouth of the human face. This motive is one of the links connecting the art of the Uren site people with that of the Iroquois, as it is very rarely seen outside of the Iroquoian area.¹ The writer knows of only one example on later Neutral ware, on a fragment found at a village site in West Oxford Township about 13 miles northwest of this site. The motive occurs abundantly

on probable Mohawk-Onondaga pottery in eastern Ontario (notably at the Roebuck village site), at the site of Hochelaga in Montreal, in northeastern New York, and in Vermont." (Wintenberg: 1928, 47.)

Interestingly enough, two of the punctated "faces" at Uren were in relief but lacked noses. (Wintenberg: 1928, Pl. XIV, Figs. 19 & 20.) At the Roebuck site, however, there is no doubt that faces are intended. A relief nose together with three punctates for eyes, nose and mouth are seen in Fig. 26 and a relief nose with ring eyes and ring mouth are seen in Fig. 25. (Wintenberg: 1936,

¹ See Holmes: *op. cit.* Plate CLXXV, Fig. a, and Shetrone, H. C.: "The Campbell Island Village Site and the Hine Mound and Village Site Certain Mounds and Village Sites in Ohio, vol. 4, pt. 1, Fig. 31 (Columbus, Ohio, 1923).

Pl. IX.) Both the triple punctate "face" as well as the fully developed face are present in Jefferson County, N. Y. (Cf. Skinner: 1921, Pl. XXVIII and Parker: 1922: 195, Pls. 27 and 47), and Beauchamp remarked, "In that county I have observed small rude faces on some clay vessels, and a rude attempt at a nose in connection with the three conventional circles." (Beauchamp: 1902, 244.)

There can be little doubt that the Late Prehistoric Oneida, Mohawk, Onondaga and Seneca sites outside Jefferson County received their face tradition from Jefferson County. That the faces did not evolve locally is indicated by negative evidence. The route of these fully developed faces into Pennsylvania and Indiana is not yet clear. The Vermont face effigies came by way of the Mohawk. The intimate relationship between Historic Cayuga and Historic Susquehannock is certain. They may have received their effigy faces through a western development which, like the eastern development, also originally stemmed from Uren. If we look for ultimate origin of these faces we need further data. Kinsey notes that there "is a suggestion of the development of effigies at an even earlier level in late Castle Creek." (Kinsey: 1959, 84.) However, from Castle Creek there is a multiple effigy pot, whose effigies look all the world like paramecia with three ring punctates representing eyes and mouth. This pot was, at the date of publication, "the sole example of Owasco effigy pottery on record." (Ritchie: 1944: 68, Pl. 15.)

On June 12, 1960, I telephoned Mr. Foster Disinger, the finder of the

pot, on the hearsay that more effigy fragments had been found by him on that site. He told me that was not the case. It is possible, of course, that the face effigies evolved by way of the pipe effigies of Castle Creek Owasco. Upon four of the pipes from the Castle Creek and Bainbridge components there were human face effigies, ". . . a feature reminiscent of the Iroquois." (Ritchie: 1944, 68.) Ritchie offered a "suggested Owasco-Iroquois pipe lineage" (Ritchie: 1952, 48), illustrating a Bainbridge face effigy pipe as part of the proposed sequence. (Ritchie: 1952, Pl. 7.) There can be little doubt that Ritchie's proposed sequence of pipe forms is correct, but whether this ornamentation was transferred to pots, rather than the Iroquois pot effigies having separate origin(s), awaits further investigation.

b) Lacking Human Face Effigies

All sherds are granite grit tempered. Some of the sherds illustrated here (Plate 2, Fig. c, Nos. 1-10) may pertain to vessels which bore effigies. Whether or not this was so, these very fragmentary sherds are remarkably informative.

Any one of four rim sherds, for example, would be good indication of the period to which the site belongs. This is because, first of all, the incisions which they bear are broad (3/32 inch or more) which is characteristic of the Late Prehistoric period in Oneida territory. (Plate 1, Fig. c, Nos. 1-4.) Similar broad incisions may be noted on the effigy-bearing sherds. (Plate 1, Fig. a, Nos. 3-7.)

Furthermore, judging from their thickness and shape, it is likely that

all of these latter sherds are also from high collar ($2 \frac{1}{4}$ inches or more) vessels, which is another characteristic feature of the Late Prehistoric period in this territory. High collared broadly incised pottery is also characteristic of the Late Prehistoric sites in Onondaga territory in the Pompey Hills, already referred to. (Cf. New York State Museum and Walter Bennett, Poolville, N. Y., John Litzenberger, Syracuse, N. Y., and Stanley Gifford, Syracuse, N. Y., Collections.)

It has been observed in this paper that broad incisions are found on Late Prehistoric Seneca as well.

Another rim sherd (Plate 2, Fig. c, No. 6) bears the small round punctates characteristic of a motif of the beginning of European trade contact with the Oneida. (New York State Museum and Merrell Conklin, New Berlin, N. Y., and John Stillman of Brookfield, N. Y., Collections.)

The remaining rim sherds, but for one, which has only a punctated design (Plate 2, Fig. c, No. 10), have incised lines about $1/16$ inch broad. Their collar height is not evident by their shape. These sherds are not distinctive of any particular period insofar as I know.

The shoulder sherd has broad incising which marks it as being classically Late Prehistoric.

It is apparent that despite the smallness of the pottery sample, it is indicative of the Late Prehistoric period and that it borders very closely upon the period of European trade.

Pipe: (Plate 2, Fig. b) Pipes seem to be rare in the Late Prehistoric period in both Oneida and the Pompey Hills

Onondaga territory. They are certainly abundant earlier in both areas. (Cf. New York State Museum, Madison County, N. Y., John Litzenberger, Syracuse, N. Y., and Stanley Gifford, Syracuse, N. Y., Collections.)

There is only one pipe fragment in this present collection. The pipe is tubular bowled and is part of an elbow form pipe. It bears a design of opposed bands of parallel incised obliques and undecorated triangles. Below this motif is a single horizontal string of punctates.

OBSERVATIONS

We are in sore need of published data upon Iroquois sites. Photographs or drawings with a brief accompanying statement as to "how many of each" item illustrated would be invaluable. Such information would provide for typologies and sound theory.

CONCLUSIONS

The Bigford site is, on the grounds of its geographical location and its intimate cultural relationship with local sites, considered to be Oneida in tribal affiliation. This site was fortified like other sites in the area. Close connection was seen through the ceramics of the Bigford Site to those of Onondaga, Mohawk and Seneca territories.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is my pleasure to thank Mr. William Ennis of Brewerton, N. Y., who, most of all, has made possible my research in this area. My next greatest debt is to the late Mr. Herbert Bigford of Earlville, N. Y. Mr. Bigford acquainted me with all the sites known to him in Oneida ter-

ritory including the Bigford Site. Furthermore, Mr. Bigford permitted me to study his collections from these sites and cheerfully put up with a heavy barrage of questions upon his finds.

My work at the Bigford Site was part of my research for my Ph.D. dissertation upon the Oneida Iroquois. The work at this site was sponsored by the University of the State of New York through Dr. William A. Ritchie and Dr. William N. Fenton, and by the University of Michigan through Dr. James B. Griffin.

Special thanks are offered to Mr. Walter Bennett of Poolville, N. Y., to Mr. Merrell Conklin of New Berlin, N. Y., to Mr. Stanley Gifford and John Litzenberger both of Syracuse, N. Y., to Mr. John Stillman of Brookfield, N. Y., and to Mr. Fred Thurston of Sherril, N. Y., all of whom graciously permitted me to study their collections.

Most welcome and valuable contributions to this report were the notes, map and collection lent to me by Mr. A. G. Zeller of Oneida, N. Y.

I am also much obliged to Mr. Gilbert Hagerty of Rome, N. Y., and to Mr. Charles Wray of West Rush, N. Y., for placing at my disposal reference materials not available in the Syracuse libraries.

It is with no small feeling of regret that I cannot acknowledge by name here the farmers without whose cooperation no work would have been carried out on the Bigford Site. Their names must be withheld in the interests of the preservation of the site.

There are many other kind persons who have given me special help in my study of the Oneida. I only acknowledge these few at this time as people whose aid was directly applicable to this present paper.

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