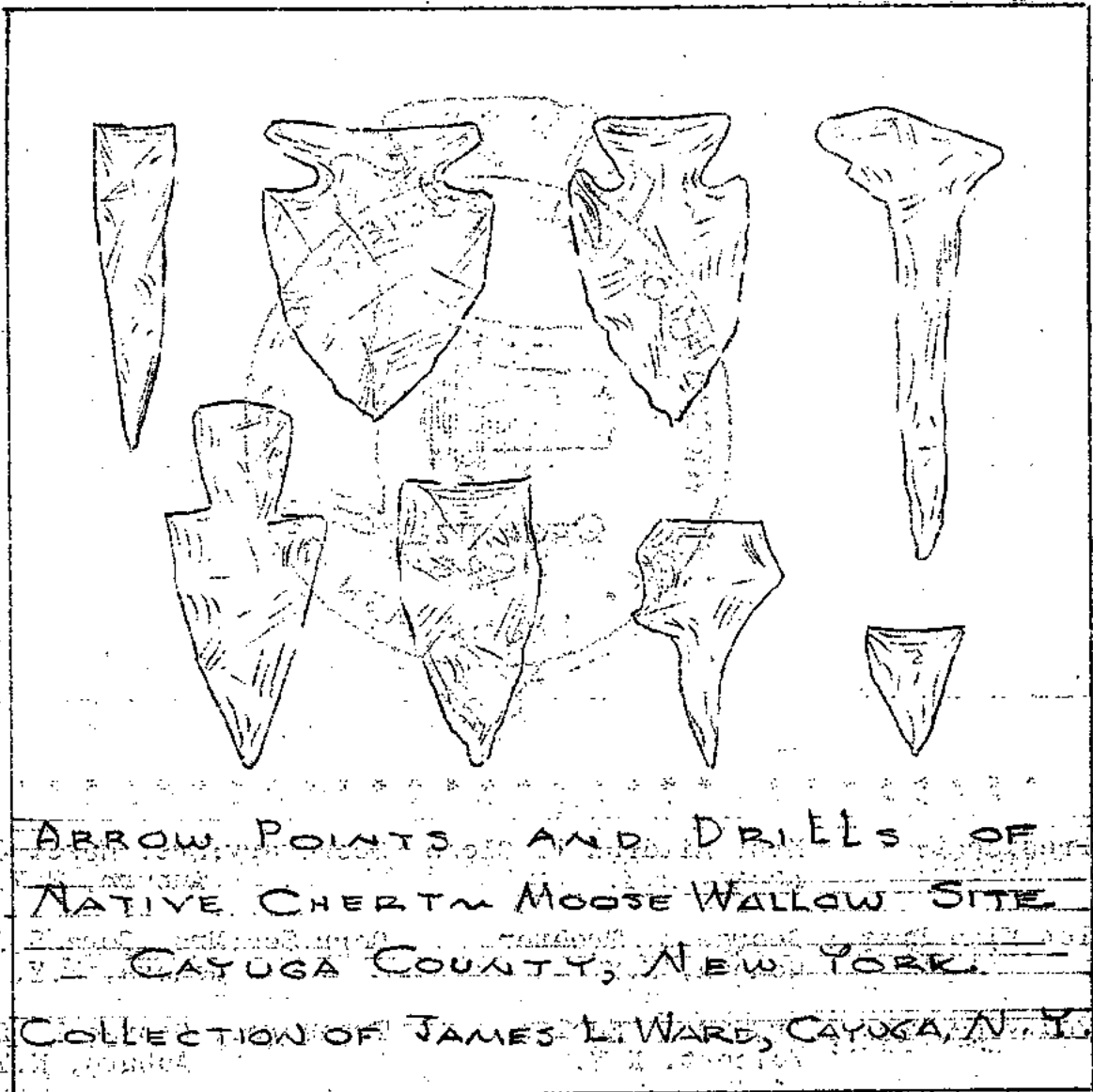


THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF CENTRAL NEW YORK
BULLETIN

ARCHAEOLOGY

HISTORY

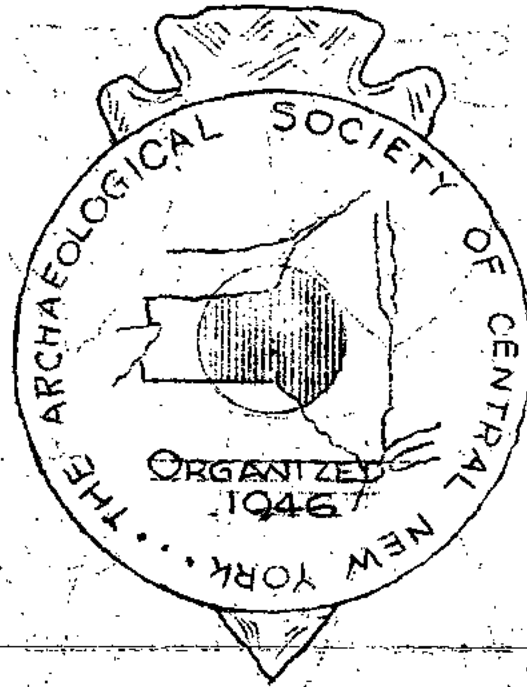


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The BULLETIN of the Archaeological Society of Central New York is published monthly, except during July and August, in the interest of all phases of archaeological and historical endeavor pertaining to central New York State. Regular meetings of the A.S.C.N.Y. are convened at 8:00 P.M. on the second Thursday of each month at the Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn, N.Y.

The A.S.C.N.Y. is affiliated with the Division of Anthropology of Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn, N.Y.



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9 Adams Street, Auburn, New York

EXTRACTS FROM SENECA COUNTRY HISTORY

By Harrison C. Follett

Since the writer came to Lima, N. Y., which is in the area of his early explorations, it has been possible to gather a large amount of matter pertaining to the early history of the region heretofore not generally known, and which is here quoted for the benefit of the readers of the Bulletin.

In the summer of 1700 Colonel Romer was sent by the Earl of Bellmont to the Indian Country from Albany with instructions "to go on and view a well or spring which is eight miles beyond Senekas (Senecas) furtherest Castle which they have told me blazes up in flame when a lighted coal or firebrand is put into it" (N. Y. Col. Doc. IV, 750)

This "burning spring as it is called" was visited by LaSalle in 1669. It is situated on the west side of Bristol Valley nearly opposite Bristol Center, in Ontario County. It is a natural gas spring and once ignited burns almost endlessly even though it emerges to the surface in a flowing spring of water. Its location is erroneously charted on the Sullivan Expedition map of 1779.

Colonel Romer in 1700 mapped the country in an elaborate form from Schenactady to Onondago, where he was forbidden by the Indians to go any further west. He returned to Albany "on urgent business". But in his determination, he attempted to map the Cayuga region. As it appears from a description which ruined this portion of the map other than charting the Cayuga Village in its approximately correct location, the Cayuga region part of the map is a curiosity.

The N. Y. Col. Doc. V, 528 under date of 1719 is the following: "One of the furtherist castles of the Genecas called, Onage, within a days journey of Yagerah". (This was the Seneca Village of 1687-1732 located on what is known as the White Springs Farm southwest of the city of Geneva.) On page 542 is the Journal of Mynderst Schuyler and Robert Livingston Jr. which indicates that they arrived at the "Sinnekies" Castle on the 12th of May, 1720, and on the next day at a conference, it was resolved to send for the Sachems who were abroad (fishing or hunting) and also for those of the neighboring Castle of Onagee or Onagee as it is sometimes spelled. Onagee was the Huron Indian Village that at that time stood on the early known farm of McClure, later known as the Snyder farm. (Snyder is the father of Mrs. Harry Schoff of Holcomb, N. Y.)

The Jesuit articles recovered from Onagee are the most perfect and of the greatest quantity known to have been resurrected from any missionary site in New York State. This was the site to which the Hurons came in 1687, when their town on Mud Creek in Ontario County was destroyed by the de Nonville raid.

The schuyler-Livingston Journal continues: "On the 16th a conference was held and an answer made by the Sachems of the Sinnekiens, being joined with some of these from Onagheethe 15th of May 1720." In this answer they said, "As the four Sachems sent here from the others of Onaghee seem not free in their opinion, we have thought fit they should go back to consult with the rest of the Sachems there, and that you'll be obliged to tarry for four nights longer. An answer was finally given by the Indians on their return home."

On page 570 is a representation of Evert Bancker, Mynderst Schuyler and other citizens of Albany Sept. 14, 1720, in which is stated that the principle of the Sinnekiens Castle called Onnahee have given a large belt of wampum to the Governor of Canada to select a place for them to remove to, and that a location had been selected for their settlement near Montreal whither some of them had already gone.

N.Y. Col. Mas. LXVII, 139. In Sept. 1726 Governor Burnett gave instructions to Capt. Evert Bancker forthwith to repair to the Sinnekiens Country and there to reside till April Next, either at Canandaigua or Onahee, or go back and forth time to time from one castle to the other as he shall think most tending to the public service. (Thus the evidence appears quite conclusive that the conference held by Schuyler and Livingston and the Indians pertained to the move of the Hurons to Canada and Bancker's presence was to see that the Jesuits who had been expelled on or about the year 1710, did not return. By 1720 the Hurons had all left for their new home in Canada.)

When archaeological investigations agree so well with history as they do pertaining to these village sites, there is nothing left for speculation.

The village of Onagee was located on what is now known as lot 20 in the western part of the Township of Hopewell, Ontario County., N. Y. There were two nearby cemeteries both of which have been practically exhausted.

LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE

The January 23rd edition of the Auburn Citizen-Advertiser stated:

"SFC George F. Dobbs, who has been a member of the New York National Guard since 1926, has been awarded the New York State 25-year service medal by this state. Qualifications for this award include a record of long and faithful service."

Congratulations George, from all of the A. S. C. N. Y. members.

AN INTERESTING ARTICLE

The following article was discovered in the AUBURN JOURNAL AND ADVERTISER, Vol. 1, No. 11, dated Wednesday, September 28, 1836.

"An ancient Indian mound of very large dimensions exists on the bank of the Maumee, opposite Toledo. There are a number of others in the same vicinity. Their shape is usually oblong or circular, and some of them embrace 50 acres. Large quantities of the bones of the aboriginal tribes are found in the small mounds or embankments, which are about from 8 to 10 feet diameter, and at from one to two feet depth. The skeletons are arranged in radii, the head at the periphery, the feet in the centre. It is believed they were so placed on the surface of the ground, and that no excavation or graves were made; the earth having gradually deposited itself over them, in the course of many ages. This opinion is advanced by the Toledo Gazette, but we have great doubts of its accuracy. -- N. Y. Star"

AUBURN MUSEUM

Another article in the same AUBURN JOURNAL AND ADVERTISER of 1836, it is believed, will be of considerable interest to most of our readers.

"The NEW MUSEUM, in Chedell's Building, directly opposite the Western Exchange, Genesee Street, Auburn, is now open for the reception of visitors."

"The proprietors have incurred great expense in procuring rare and interesting specimens with a view to making the establishment permanent and a public ornament to our village. Included in these Curiosities, is a very rare collection of

BIRDS,

(about 500 in number,) which cost over \$4,000. This collection was exhibited at the American Museum in New York, for a few days the early part of this season, and acknowledged by Naturalists and other good judges, to entirely surpass any collection ever before exhibited in the U. States. As they are expecting constant additions to their collection for some months to come they will not at present attempt to enumerate. They intend to make the Museum such as shall merit a liberal patronage."

"Admission 25 cents, children half price, -- Doors open at 7 o'clock"

John H. Chedell) Propri-
A. & J. Bostwick) etors

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

The chairman of the editorial committee received the following letter from Mr. James Taylor Dunn, Librarian, New York Historical Association at Cooperstown, New York.

Dear Mr. Wright:

"Thank you very much for your kind letter of January 7th and for the collection of your publication which was received in good condition."

"We are extremely glad to have these in our library, and as soon as we can obtain volume 1, we will have the lot bound up to avoid any future loss. Perhaps in your next issue a notice could be inserted that we are seeking volume one. Maybe in that way some member might be willing to dispose of his holdings."

"Just one correction; you will note that in the last issue you referred to us as the "Cooperstown Historical Museum" which, of course, we are not since our coverage is state wide, and we are the State organization."

"Many thanks again for your cooperation in this matter."

Sincerely,

James Taylor Dunn
Librarian.

The first year of our existence as a Society, we printed only about fifty copies of volume one of the Bulletin and these are exhausted. It would indeed be a worthy effort if any of our group have duplicates and would bring them into a meeting so that the State Association can have a complete file to date.

We were happy to welcome George F. Dobbs of Auburn to the February meeting. George recently underwent surgery at Auburn City Hospital for a displaced disk in the spine. He says he is feeling fine and doesn't believe his trouble will interfere with his spring surfacing activities.

We really missed George during January for operation "Grinding out the Bulletin". Betty Wright took over the memographing in getting out the Bulletin.

AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGY -- PROFESSIONAL STYLE

by

George Treeter

Last month we located our mythical Indian village site and proceeded to draw our topographical map and to divide the map into ten foot square sections. Using a fixed point as our datum we then drove stakes into the ground at the intersection of our lines on the map, thereby making it very simple to keep an accurate record of the location of all artifacts, fire pits, burials, etc.

I would like to interrupt the beginning of our excavation right here and try and explain the methods and material necessary to keep an accurate inventory of our discoveries. There are many ways to do this work but I believe that the control should be systematic and made very easy for future generations to understand. I have built my system around the atlas. It is very inexpensive to buy a topographical map at your local book store or you can send to the United States Geological Survey, Washington, 25, D. C. and secure as many maps as you need. Buy only as many maps as you need for the territory that you intend to study and later on, if you like, your atlas can become larger. The Geological Survey will send you free a map of New York State showing the state laid out in quadrangles, each quadrangle having the name of the most important city or feature as its name. These maps are of very recent survey and show many details, as the scale is one inch equals one-half mile. If you would like the woods to show on the map mark all orders "Woodland Copies" and I believe these features are necessary for our work.

Take your map of New York and give each quadrangle a number, if you like working from east to west or vice-versa. Use your map of New York and place it in the front of your atlas as page one, it will be the key for finding all your quadrangle maps. Example: If Auburn quadrangle was given a number 55 then the Auburn quad will be page 55 in your atlas and all references to any location in this quadrangle will be about page 55 in your atlas. This atlas can be bound but I prefer to use ring binders as you can then remove the maps for study or add new maps as you like.

Assuming that you have your atlas completed, you should next secure a number of copies of the Archaeological Site Survey Records (See Plate I). Again it is inexpensive to have mimeographed a number of these sheets of paper. I used common plain three hole ring binder paper and keep these in a three ring binder. Number one on this sheet is the Site. Simply number the sites as you become familiar with them. (The first site #1 etc.) Number two on the sheet is Map, simply write in the atlas page number (As page 55 for Auburn site). The other questions are self explanatory and make a very easy way to record all information in regard to each site. On the reverse side of this site

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SURVEY RECORD

PLATE I

1. SITE _____ 2. MAP _____ 3. COUNTY _____
4. TWP. _____ 5. LOT NUMBER _____
6. LOCATION _____
7. ON CONTOUR LEVEL _____
8. PREVIOUS DESIGNATIONS FOR SITE _____
9. OWNER _____ 10. ADDRESS _____
11. PREVIOUS OWNERS, DATES _____
12. PRESENT TENANTS _____
13. ATTITUDE TOWARD EXCAVATION _____
14. DESCRIPTION OF SITE _____
15. AREA _____ 16. DEPTH _____ 17. HEIGHT _____
18. ELEVATION _____ 19. NEAREST WATER _____
20. SOIL OF SITE _____ 21. SURROUNDING SOIL TYPE _____
22. PREVIOUS EXCAVATION _____
23. CULTIVATION _____ 24. EROSION _____
25. VISIBILITY OF DISTRUCTION _____
26. BUILDINGS, ROADS, ETC. _____
27. OTHER FEATURES _____
28. BURIALS _____
29. ARTIFACTS _____
30. REMARKS _____
31. PUBLISHED REFERENCES _____
32. SKETCH MAP _____ 33. DATE _____
34. RECORDED BY _____ 35. PHOTOS _____

Survey Record make your notes and observations.

As you can see our atlas is the foundation for all our records. All additional reports contain the site number and the atlas page number.

Another interesting and necessary record is the Archaeological Burial Record (Plate II) Use the same system to obtain enough copies as above. On the reverse side of this record write in any comments that you wish to make. Always remember when you disturb a grave that you alone are responsible for keeping a record. In another feature I will attempt to sex a skeleton and to show how to determine its age.

You should also make your self an index file of all artifacts taken. This card can be a regular three by four inch card giving the necessary information. Most collectors give the artifact a simple number but it would be just as easy to give it three, (The site, the atlas page and the number of the artifact.)

Example: 5 - 55 862 ; this would mean site number five on page 55 (Auburn) of your atlas and the 862nd artifact in your collection. In that way you could tell at a glance where the artifact came from. You should make an explanation of your system at the beginning of your artifact file.

Another record and most accurate is your photographic file. Your mind can soon forget the minute details but a photographic record will keep the smallest detail. Use your camera freely and take advantage of this wonderful aid. Your negatives and photographs can be placed in an envelope and the envelope numbered in the same three letter system. As your artifact records. Additional information should be kept such as the direction of the object photographed, and the grave number. In another feature, I will explain the technique of photography in relation to archaeology.

The above maps and records are the foundations that you can build your information on. There are many other reports that you could make for additional information but they would only complicate your procedure until you become familiar with this system. I hope I have made myself clear on the method of building this atlas or collection of maps as you might call them. Any detailed map or sketch of a site can be incorporated in your three ring binder. Simply number the maps the same number as your site (as site number five on page 55, Auburn) This would give you a detailed drawing on site number five in the quadrangle of Auburn. Your survey record would also carry the same page number.

To briefly review the system outlined above.

1. Archaeological Atlas
A collection of quadrangle maps, numbered
2. Three Ring Binder
Containing Site Survey Record, Burial Record, sketch maps and notes.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BURIAL RECORD

PLATE II

1. BUR. NO. _____ 2. _____ 3. EXCAVATION _____
4. LOCATION _____ OF DATUM _____ TO _____
5. DEPTH FROM SURFACE _____ 6. DEPTH FROM DATUM _____
7. STRATIFICATION _____
8. MATRIX _____ 9. CONDITION _____
10. BONES ABSENT (OR PRESENT) _____
11. SEX _____ 12. AGE _____
13. PATHOLOGY _____
14. TYPE OF DISPOSAL _____
15. POSITION OF BODY _____
16. LEFT SIDE _____ RIGHT SIDE _____ BACK _____ FACE _____
SITTING _____
17. POSITION OF HEAD _____ SIDE _____ BACK _____ FACE _____
FACING _____
18. ORIENTATION _____ 19. SIZE OF GRAVE _____
20. ASSOCIATED OBJECTS (ITEMIZE) _____

21. REMARKS _____

22. EXPOSED BY _____ 23. RECORDED BY _____
24. PHOTO _____ 25. SKETCH _____ 26. DATE _____

- 3. Artifact File
Containing 3 x 4 index cards by numbers
- 4. Photographic File
Containing pictures and negatives, numbered in envelopes.

The above paper work may seem complicated but it is one way that a complete record of your activities can be recorded and correctly interpreted by another person. This little preparation can save you a lot of unnecessary guess work when the summer diggings are over.

To tell you the truth, it is easier for me to dig an excavation all day than to write this copy so I will call it a month and see you in a future issue.

SECOND REPORT ON MEMBERSHIPS FOR 1952

(From January 16 to February 16)

NEW MEMBERS:

- Troy W. Caudill 13 Richardson Ave. Auburn, N. Y.
- Mrs. T. W. Caudill 13 Richardson Ave. Auburn, N. Y.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS:

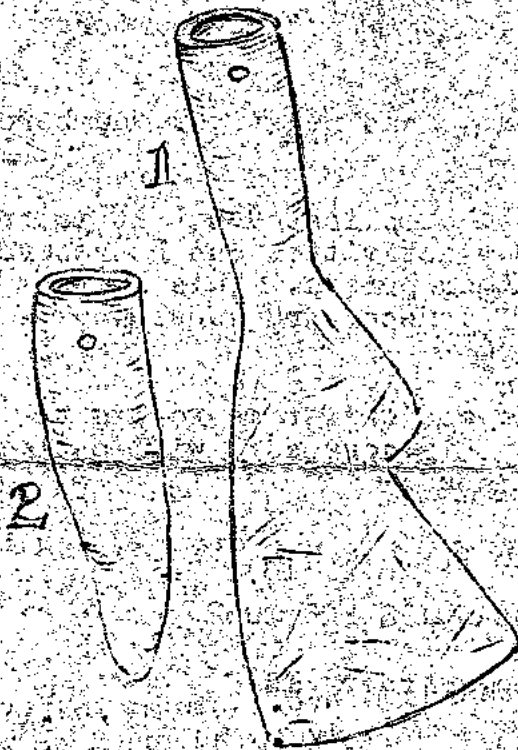
- Drummond, R. C. S. 138 Genesee St. Auburn, N. Y.
- Farwell, Newton E. 179 S. West St. Geneva, N. Y.
- Warde, Wm. O. 7 Goodelle Terr. Geneva, N. Y.

ACTIVE MEMBERS:

- Ball, Marjorie 56 Frances St. Auburn, N. Y.
- Ball, Robert 56 Frances St. Auburn, N. Y.
- Chase, Stanley L. R. D. Union Springs, N.Y.
- Davis, Mrs. J. Stanley So. Lansing, N.Y.
- Farwell, Marjorie 179 S. West St. Geneva, N. Y.
- Farnham, Paul N. R. D. Aurora, N. Y.
- Hetzel, Donald E. Cayuga, N. Y.
- Ludlowville Cent. School So. Lansing, N.Y.
- Palmer, Dudley F. Bluefield Rd. Auburn, N. Y.
- Wesselman, Mrs. R. A. R. D. #3 Geneva, N. Y.
- Wright, Joan 123 Genesee St. Auburn, N. Y.
- Young, Stanley H. 16 Bairmont St. Wethersfield 9, Conn.

Continued on next page

IDENTIFIED



In the December issue of the BULLETIN we requested an identification of the two iron implements illustrated at the left. Dr. Wm. A. Ritchie, New York State Archaeologist was kind enough to take time from his busy duties to reply to our request.

"Mr. James L. Ward
Cayuga, New York"

"Dear Mr. Ward:

On page 139 of the current bulletin of your archaeological society, I find two iron objects illustrated with a request for possible identification and I am going to suggest that these rather unlike pieces were both used as ice spuds. Figure 2 is somewhat similar to copper specimens, which are older in date, found in the Great Lakes area and are believed to have served this purpose and I am quite sure

that elsewhere I have seen something in iron like figure 1. The vertical shaft holes with openings for a pin suggest the hafting of a handle in line with the long axis of the implement and the terminal edges of both pieces are such as to permit their use for the purpose I have stated. Probably ice fishing was carried on then as now on Cayuga Lake."

"Sincerely yours,
William A. Ritchie
State Archaeologist"

Dr. Ritchie's assistance in the above matter is greatly appreciated, not only by Mr. Ward, but by all of us who take interest in identifying artifacts recovered by our efforts.

MEMBERSHIP CONTINUED:

During 1951 there were sixty-two sustaining and active memberships in the Society. So far in 1952 we have had forty renewals, leaving twenty-two members from whom we have not heard. A prompt response from the latter will be greatly appreciated so that we will know just how we will stand financially for 1952.

We are happy to welcome four new members to the Society since January 1st, 1952.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING

by

Hazel J. Wright, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Society was held on February 15th at Cayuga Museum of History and Art.

The meeting was called to order by President Mildred Close of Locke, N. Y., who expressed her appreciation for the excellent attendance and welcomed several guests who were present.

Following the business meeting, the guest speaker of the evening, Mr. Dudley F. Palmer of Auburn, was introduced by the program chairman, George F. Treeter of Geneva. Mr. Palmer, who was a charter member of the Society as well as a past officer, delivered an interesting and enlightening paper on the life of Chief Logan. The title of his paper was "Who is left to mourn?"

Mr. Palmer discussed the many theories as to the probable birthplace of Logan and stated that, after many years of study and research, he is satisfied that Logan was born at the Cayuga Indian Village at Scipio, Cayuga County, N. Y. This site is known both archaeologically and historically to have been a large Cayuga village in 1725 and the subject of his address was born in 1727.

Mr. Palmer described the life of Logan most completely, mentioning his many important roles as peace maker between the Indians and his friends the white colonists.

The speaker stated that, to this day, the exact place of the burial of Logan is unknown and that many researchers are continuously endeavoring to locate it.

The entire content of Mr. Palmer's address will be published in the BULLETIN starting in the March issue.

Another feature of the evening was the discussion of a little known Indian site at Moose Wallow on the Seneca River, north of Montezuma by Mr. James L. Ward, past president, of Cayuga, N. Y.

Mr. Ward stated that he has worked on this site for twenty years and believes it to be a fishing village of a culture of Indians probably 1000 years ago. Mr. Ward exhibited many stone artifacts to substantiate his conclusions; the relics displayed are contemporary with many other sites in this region which proves, without a doubt, that the site was occupied by these pre-Iroquois people.

As a conclusion of the enjoyable evening, refreshments were served in keeping with St. Valentine's Day. President Close of Locke; Mrs. J. S. Davis of South Lansing and Mrs. Newton E. Farwell of Geneva were the hostesses of the evening.