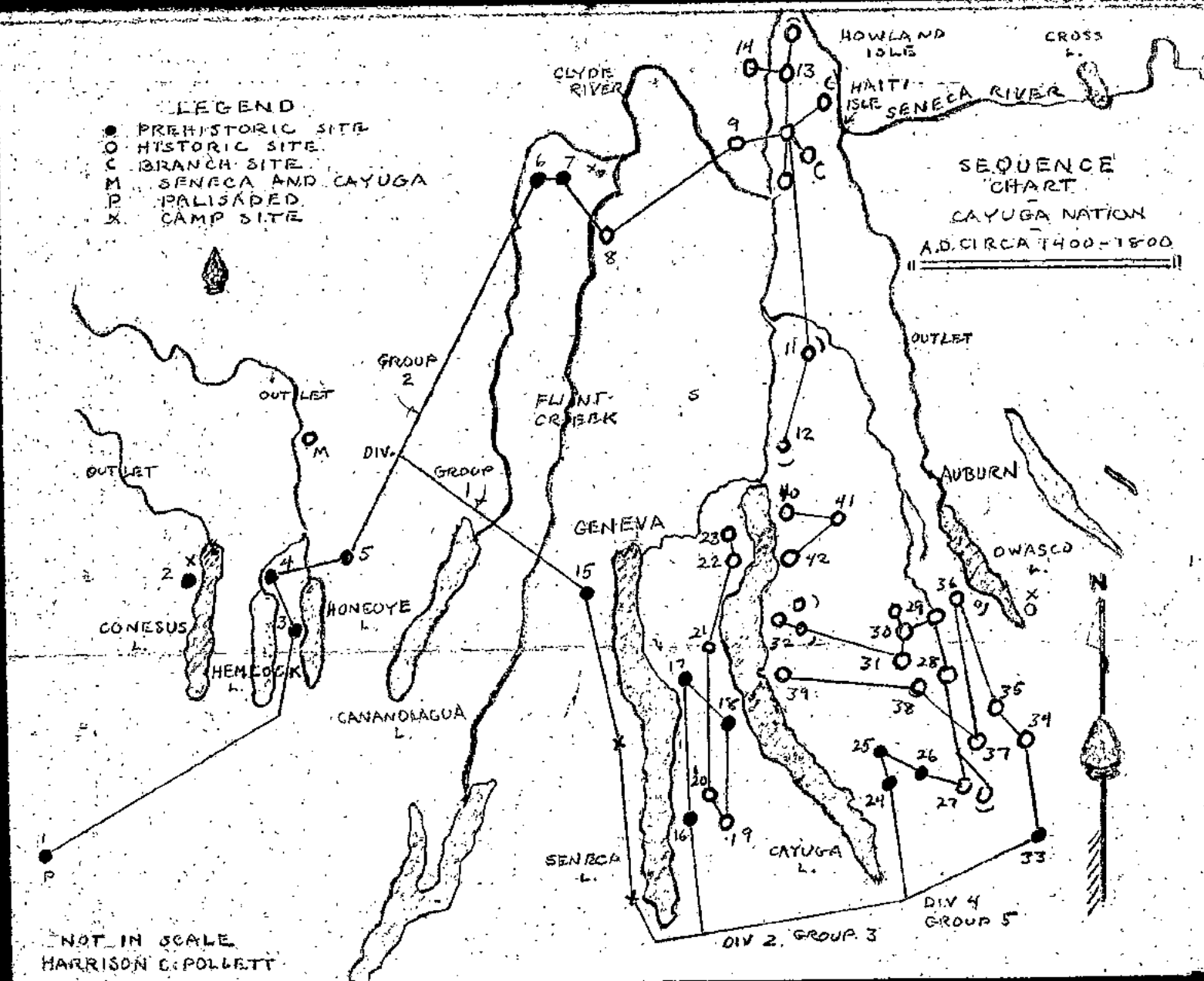


# THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CENTRAL NEW YORK BULLETIN



THE BULLETIN of the Archaeological Society of Central New York is published monthly, except July and August, covering all phases of archaeological and historical endeavor pertaining to central New York State. Regular meetings of the A.S.N.Y. are held, 8:00 P.M., at the Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn, N. Y.

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

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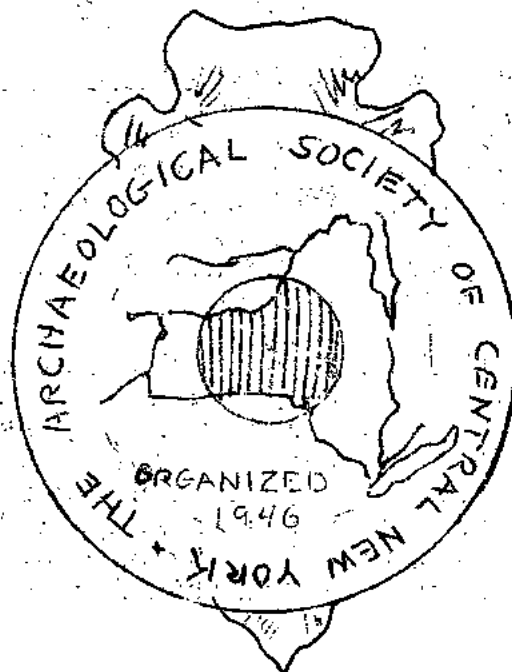
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## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF CAYUGA COUNTY

by Harrison C. Follett

We are happy to announce that Mr. Follett has completed his writings on Cayuga County. With the assistance of Gordon Wright and the editorial staff this history will be presented in nine installments during the coming months. The Introduction and Forward are printed in this issue, and the first installment will be in the January Bulletin.

Reprints of this material will be made to comply with the desire of those who wish the volume complete and independent of the monthly Bulletin.

Editorial Council

I N T R O D U C T I O N

This Archaeological History of Cayuga County has been many years in the writing. The author, who has given much of his life to the assembling of this data, has within the last 10 years revised and further established the authenticity of his findings. In so doing and by careful selection of the content he has reduced this writing to a minimum, yet covering conclusively the chronological development of the material. During the last two years the author has been able, through the aid of friends, to revisit many of the old sites and to carefully watch developments as the Thruway cut across Cayuga County, opening up "known and unknown sites". Aided also by the Woodland Topographic (U.S. Geological) survey maps and by many conferences with those who have also dug in this county, the author has reestablished the early archaeological findings into group cultures which have helped greatly in the writing of this history.

Harrison C. Follett began his archaeological career in 1886, and for 68 years has been active in the field. Now, with a keen memory and a watchful eye over his co-workers, he is devoting his entire time to the writing of a complete archaeological history of this section. During his active years he lectured extensively and was responsible for the development of the Lovanna sites, where for 15 years thousands of people came to view early Algonkian effigies.

In 1945 Professor Walter K. Long, Director of the Cayuga Museum of History and Art in Auburn, New York, organized a class of adult students and asked Mr. Follett to conduct the class in the archaeological research. This class, which expressed a great enthusiasm for the subject and other plans proposed by Professor Long, led to the organization of the Archaeological Society of Central New York. The organization has produced a Bulletin for the last 8 years. In this past

year the Society has experienced an increased membership and interest in the Bulletin, which now has a mailing list of over 130. Professor Long requested Mr. Follett's manuscripts for publication, and scarcely an issue since its inception has appeared without some writings by Mr. Follett. In fact, a very substantial part of the publication has been inspired by Mr. Follett, and we are sure that in the future more of the many volumes he has prepared will be published.

#### F O R W A R D

The compiling of this history began in 1927, when Mr. Follett turned his entire attention to Cayuga County. After a brief interval, he resumed his interest in 1932, and since that date has thoroughly covered every inch of the territory embraced in this present writing. Within the boundaries of Cayuga County over 200 sites have been registered. Mr. Follett has ingeniously catalogued the findings, which make it possible to deduct from aboriginal symbols and artifacts the cultures, characteristics and historical sequences of the early occupants. Also, from the objects found, the time of their activity, their immediate associates, the food they ate, and earmarks of their origin have been determined. The excavations of their buried remains bespeak of diseases, injuries and deformities along with physical structure. Some burials give the history of disaster and famine as it struck, and the impact of white man's influence is easily evidenced.

The writer, Harrison C. Follett, wishes to acknowledge the interest and cooperation of Honorable Judge Leonard H. Scaring, President of the Cayuga County Historical Society, and Judge R. C. S. Drummond, Secretary of the Historical Society and County Historian. Their cooperation, with the records at the Cayuga Museum of History and Art, the early publication of the Bulletin of the New York State Museum and of the many members of the Archaeological Society who have contributed generously in assisting with the clarification of information, have made this history possible.

## SEQUENCE CHART OF THE CAYUGA NATION

It is believed that this sequence chart is as nearly accurate as it can be at this time. Current and future explorations will undoubtedly add much new information. Recently an innovation in the dating of Indian Sites has been introduced which is the radioactive carbon 14 test. This will greatly facilitate the dating and the writing of prehistoric sites.

In tracing the migration of the Cayuga Nation, the territory west of the Genesee River is not claimed herein to have been occupied by that nation, for the reason that there still remains a question as to that nation's origin. The Cayugas, like the other Iroquois peoples, came northward, it is believed, up the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers into the Genesee country. There is still much controversy about these early sites due partly to lack of careful study of them. One great mystery is that while the Iroquois occupied sites south and just north of the Pennsylvania state line they were on fortified hilltops, whereas their immediately subsequent locations (those of the Senecas) were on the low flat lands of the Genesee Valley, surrounded by enemies.

The first known Cayuga location, Site No. 1, was supposedly a palisaded type in the town of Ossian, in the hills southwest of the present village of Dansville. This is probably the first site of the Cayugas east of the Genesee River, although their trail is in evidence before they entered this area. From this site fishing excursions were made to a camp site on the west side of Conesus Lake, now known as Long Point. This same camp was used by Indians of various cultures, early and late, including the Senecas (See "The Long Point Site" by Gordon K. Wright, PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGIST (BULLETIN), Vol. XX, Nos. 3, 4). This is Site No. 2 on the chart as a Cayuga camp site only.

Site No. 3 is known as the California Ranch site, and is on the west side of Honeoye Lake. Burials and other evidence indicate not too long an occupation.

Site No. 4, the Reed Fort site, was long occupied, on the east side of Hemlock Lake outlet, near the hamlet of Richmond Mills. This site produced a great amount and variety of stone, bone and pottery artifacts, the largest of any site in west-central New York.

Site No. 5 is the next location of the Cayugas, in the hills northwest of Bristol Valley. At this time a small number of them appear to have joined the Senecas, who were established on the Factory Hollow site, on the hill on the east side of Honeoye Creek, just west of West Bloomfield. These Cayugas apparently rejoined their kin, who in the meantime had settled on the Genoa Fort site, in the Salmon Creek valley, as evidenced by the recovery of a Seneca pot there, in a burial. This Cayuga-Seneca connection might well account for the belief that the Cayugas were an offshoot of the Seneca Nation.

Moving on from here, the Cayugas separated into two groups. The smaller one proceeded northeast to site No. 6, a temporary one, on the outlet of Canandaigua Lake. Site No. 7 was the next one occupied, on the south side of the village of Clifton Springs, a palisaded type. All this took place in the prehistoric period.

Site No. 8, on the east side of Flint Creek, represented the first one of the historic period. Site No. 9 is on the summit of Fort Hill, two miles south of present Savannah, County of Wayne. Another site at the time was on Cruseo Island. More information will appear on this at a later date.

Site No. 10 was on the southern end of Howland Island, known as Bluff Point. At the time of occupation it was surrounded by the waters of Cayuga Lake. From this point, several camp sites were established: on Haiti Island, Kipp Island, Turtle Island, on Fox Ridge, and at Moose Wallow.

Site No. 11 was to the south, on a high, oval and narrow ridge. It was a branch site known in 1672 as the mission site of the Jesuits.

Site No. 12, still further up the lake, was the Jesuit mission site of St. Stephens. The area here later became known as the foot of Cayuga Lake (1779), as the lake receded partially to this point.

Site No. 13 was on Howland Island to the north, and still further north was a branch site. Site No. 14 was situated in 1721 nearly directly west across the then old lake bed. This group apparently dwindled to where but two bark houses existed, when white settlers first came to the area of present Wolcott, about 1800.

Let us return to Division I of the Cayugas, which as the chart indicates, proceeded southeast around the head of Seneca Lake. Having left Site No. 5, this group located near the foot of Seneca Lake on Site No. 15, a prehistoric one. They left a trail of several camp sites along the west shore of the lake, and turned east around the head of the lake into more hilly country. In the valleys here flows the headwaters of Taughannock Creek, and in this area the Cayugas divided into three distinct groups, as they went on to occupy the area first between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, and then between Cayuga and Owasco Lakes. The first division occurred on Site No. 16 on a palisaded site on the eastern bank of Taughannock Creek.

Site No. 17 was on the east bank of a branch of a large creek that flows eastward through the present village of Trumansburg. Site No. 18 was to the southeast on the north bank of Taughannock Creek, a prehistoric site, but here an historical marker cites it as a village missed by General Sullivan's army of 1779.

Site No. 19 was about 5 miles to the south on the top of a high ridge in Schuyler County. This site yields European material,

so is the first of the historic period for this group. It is known locally as the "School house site," and is northeast of Mecklenburg.

Site No. 20 was to the north, but a few rods from a previous Cayuga site. Sites 21, 22 and 23 are on the west shore of Cayuga Lake, where in 1779 three Cayuga towns were destroyed by the white man.

To return to the earlier mentioned Division 3, Group 3, which proceeded northward, we find the first station to be a small, fortified one (No. 24) at the head of Payne's Gully. Site No. 25 was a mile or so to the north. Site No. 26 is to the southeast. Site No. 27 was in a more remote area and was the first of the historic period. North of this was No. 28, and No. 29 was five miles further north, a branch to several sites, No. 30.

After the breaking up of the Jesuit missions, the Cayugas are found several miles to the south, No. 31; then Site No. 32, the first site of the group on the lake, destroyed in 1779.

Of Group 4, a village was established, Site No. 33, near Locke, about 1550. The Genoa Fort site, No. 34, was next, a hill-top site north of present Genoa, the first of the historic sites of the group.

Site No. 35 was in Salmon Creek Valley. In 1668 this village was moved to Site No. 36 to the north. As the mission period ended, these Cayugas separated from the pagans, forming Group 5, Division 5 and moving southward into the valley, and ended up on the lake shore in 1779, Site No. 39.

The greatest dispersion and division of the Cayuga Nation took place after Sullivan's raid of 1779. Some refugees returned and set up a village on the shore of Cayuga Lake two miles north of Union Springs, Site No. 40. Soon after they had a large town on what was known as the Mines Reservation, Site No. 41. Next was Site No. 42 at Farley's Point. The final movement of the Cayugas occurred when their Reservation lands in Cayuga County were sold to the state.

#### FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday evening, the 11th, 8:00 PM

The February meeting of the Archaeological Society of Central New York will be held in the Geneva Historical Society rooms, in Geneva. President A. Glenn Rogers will give a review of the Historical Society activities and some of the time will be spent in viewing the exhibits.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To Members of the Archaeological Society

As a result of the write-in ballot at the December meeting, I have the honor of serving the Society for another year. This has been a very successful year if the response of all concerned can be the judge. Not only did we have nine very interesting meetings, two successful summer gatherings, but the Bulletin has made great strides ahead in content, appearance and general response.

The talks by our own members were especially good this past year and set a pace for the invited guests. Those who came in to give us their time included Laila Surky of Egypt, whose story of her country will long be remembered. She was most interesting and left with us the desire to explore in the Land of Past Civilization - Egypt. Claude Smith set us straight on meteors, etc., and we are glad to learn more of "celestial" things.

The Banquet with Jim Stowell brought together a large group of folks who felt that Jim did a fine job. Glenn Norris' recent book on the Finger Lakes Trailways was brought to life again by his illuminating talk. Glenn Rogers has a book also just out which he put to fine words in a talk to the Society. He is adding much to our local history interest by his book and his radio talks.

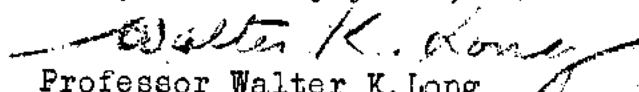
Charles Wray held up the tradition of a splendid report from "Schooff and Wray", a yearly event on our program. We are sorry Harry was not able to be with us at that time. He is back in good health and we look to next year for his account.

No one objected to my ranting on in 3-D about last summer in Spain and North Africa - nor the food we served after. Thus, with many stimulating talks, the program for 1953 became a pleasant memory.

The Bulletin now, larger than ever, has met with unusual success. Every effort will be used to continuing its good influence in this section of our land of beauty.

The officers and editorial board of this organization join me in pledging you our full support in the months to come. Your continued interest and cooperation in securing new members will be appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Professor Walter K. Long  
President



Annual Treasurer's Report  
The Archaeological Society of Central New York

In presenting the treasurer's report for the year 1953 I would like first to thank the members of the society, not only for their very prompt renewal of memberships, early in the year, but also for the many new members they have secured for the society. The notes and letters I have received with the dues from many of you, indicates a continued and growing interest in the Bulletin as well as an enjoyment of the articles published.

I hope the Bulletin for 1953 has fulfilled all expectations, and I am sure that we can look forward to an even better and more interesting presentation in 1954. Our editorial committee is constantly on the lookout for original material. You can help by sending in reports or stories on the early history and archaeology of Central New York.

The Consolidated Treasurers Report  
1953

Bal. January 1, 1953		\$6.00
Receipts:		
Sustaining Membership	\$45.00	
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Junior Membership	1.00	
Banquet Receipts	57.00	
	<u>233.00</u>	
		239.00
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Paper	40.00	
Postage and Envelopes	45.00	
Covers	12.00	
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Scientific Note

A survey by the National Geographic Society reveals  
55% of the Cigar Store Indians were squaws.

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MEETING NOTICE

Father Grassmann of the Mohawk-Caughnawaga Museum at Fonda will address the Onondaga Historical Association on "Recent Archaeological Finds in the Mohawk Valley" Friday, February 12, 1954 at 8:15 P.M. His talk will be illustrated with colored slides.

A cordial invitation is extended to all Archaeological Society members to attend.

"PAST DIGGING INTO THE PAST"

By Harrison C. Follett

I remember clearly an expedition on a Sunday in August, 1952 which proved to be among the most interesting field trips ever taken.

While the early morning clouds threatened rain, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of Harry Schoff and Charles Wray. Promptly at 8 o'clock as promised, Schoff was on hand and with the writer headed north from Lima. Upon arriving at the first road that turned west off the Lima-Honeoyo Falls road, we turned to reach a point about a mile to the west. Wray's car was parked in the field on the south side of a place known as the Powerhouse site only about a mile southwest of the Dann site known as St. Jean, the Jesuit Mission site upon which Father Julian Garnier lived among the Indians of all nations for fifteen years.

Mr. Wray was found excavating a grave, one of about 35 previously dug by Schoff and Wray, from which they have gleaned several pipes and quantities of other valuable historical material.

This grave, and all others they have encountered, were in a soil composed of coarse gravel and large boulders, the toughest kind of digging. How the Indians could possibly have dug them with such tools at their command is a mystery, for it proved a task with the most modern tools.

For temporary identification we call it grave number one. It was two and one-half feet wide by three feet long, and nearly round. It contained on one side the remnants of an adult, and resting near where the skull had been the ulna of a child. Among the few remaining bones were about fifty wampum beads and pieces of a turtle shell rattle. Over all were several large stones from six inches to one foot in diameter. Fragments of what had probably been a brass kettle were found in different sections of the grave.

While Charlie was filling this grave, Harry, after digging several test holes, encountered a skeleton of an adult but eight inches below the surface. First contact was that of what had probably been a wolf skin head dress identified by the jaw bones, and portions of broken and badly decayed long shell beads and a quantity of wampum beads. Fragments of the skull and other parts of broken bones of the skeleton evidenced that in cultivation of the field it had been disturbed to a great extent. On side of the sepulchre lay a broken gun barrel in three pieces. At this time Mr. Gordon Wright arrived as a visitor and assisted Harry in sorting beads from the debris. This we listed as grave number two.

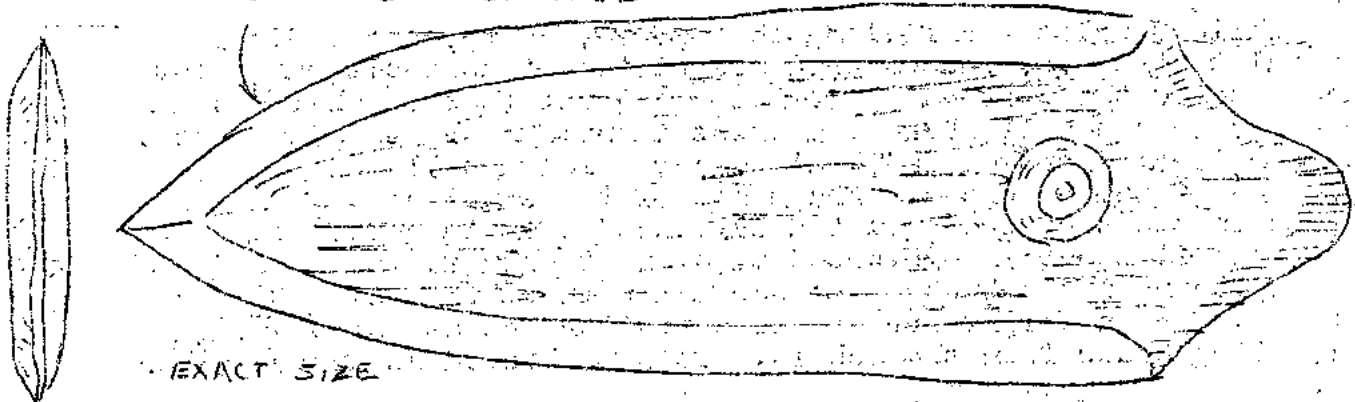
About five feet from grave number two, grave number three was found by Mr. Wray. I have dug thousands of graves in years

past. However, this was one of the toughest ever seen. It was a compact mass of stones from pebbles to boulders a foot in diameter; a grave that the average digger would have abandoned before a foot in depth had been reached. Enhanced perhaps by Schoff's encouraging words that it would prove a rich one, Charles dug on and at a depth of about two and one-half feet contacted the decayed and crumbled bones of what appeared to have been the remains of a woman in a flexed position, head northwest. Near the pelvis was a large bone comb, above which was, when we left about noon, a brass kettle surrounded by several wampum beads.

Those who have read the writer's story of the migration of the Iroquois will recall the citing of this village as having been inhabited prior to the Dann site. A few Jesuit rings have been recovered here that may indicate habitation to some extent at the same time as the Dann site, and it could therefore be classed as a suburb site of the earlier occupation of the Dann site, but in general at this time evidence seems to favor a slightly earlier inhabited settlement.

The work being accomplished by Schoff and Wray merits special mention. They not only keep a complete record of all information obtained, but before attempting excavations, the sites are arranged for in such a way that intrusions by others is prevented. Sites are first plotted out into squares of 20 or 25 feet and charts recorded where each grave is located. Photographs are made of everything of importance so that as sites are completed accurate records remain on file. This is the type of work that should be adopted in every county in the State, so that in time an accurate archaeological history can be written.

DOUBLE BEVELED EDGE



A knife like blade of limestone which could be a spear, harpoon, knife, or what? Traced from a letter from Leon H. Cowles to Harrison Fellett.

## "A BIT OF INTERESTING HISTORY"

The following letters and remarks were found in a copy of The Auburn Daily Bulletin dated September 13, 1872. We believe that they contain a true account of early New York State and are well worth the space in our Bulletin.

## WENTWORTH HALL

Indian Camp, Seneca Lake  
Nov. 15, 1778

My Dearest Margaret;

Perhaps this will be the last letter I shall ever write you. It is only by special favor of Capt. Brant that I am allowed to send this by one of his runners. As you warned us, at no small risk to yourself (for if your letter had been intercepted your precious life would have been sacrificed to the vengeance of the Tories) the attack on the village and fort of Cherry Valley was made on the morning of the 11th inst. You probably know the result; thirty-two of the inhabitants of the village, mostly women and children were slain, and in addition to these sixteen soldiers were killed. Some of the inhabitants escaped, but the most of them were taken prisoners. In my vain attempt to save the life of my superior in command, Col. Alden who, regardless of your warning lodged at the house of Mr. Robert Wells in the village. I was taken prisoner and have been brought with others to this encampment. A grand council of the warriors of the Six Nations is to be held on the next full moon, which falls on the 26th inst., when my fate will be decided. If my fate depended solely on the will of Capt. Brant, I should not have much fear, but his Sachems have a voice in the decision, they have lost many braves in their late forays and they clamor for blood or a heavy ransom. God's will be done! If it is fated that we never meet again on earth I trust that we shall meet in a better world where wars and rumors of wars are unknown and where Indians and Tories are not likely to prevail. Heaven protect you.

Farewell, Philip

At the foot of this letter was the following endorsement, in a lady's handwriting:

The Council meets on the 26th--this is the 20th--with a good horse and girdle I can reach the Encampment in five days--I will save his life or perish in the attempt.

(Signed) Margaret

The last letter in the series was dated:

Cherry Valley  
June 4, 1779

Dearest Margaret;

I have got back at last from my long captivity among

the Indians. They would not release me until your order for fifty blankets and a thousand rounds of ammunition, the price agreed upon for my ransom, had been presented to Sir John Johnson at Quebec and duly honored. I owe you my life, my precious heroine and every moment at my own command shall be devoted to your service. I learn since my return that the garrison is to be withdrawn from this post in the course of the summer, when the settlers in the valley will be left to the tender mercies of the Indians and their allies the Tories. You can no longer remain at Wentworth Hall with safety. Since your unparalleled feat of journeying through the wilderness to Seneca Lake with only an Indian guide for protection to negotiate for my ransom the Tories have marked you down for a dangerous rebel and neither your sex nor the well known loyalty of your invalid father will avail to save you from their vengeance.

Fortunately I have been ordered to report for duty at Fort Putnam, West Point and shall leave here about the 8th inst. with an escort of ten mounted rangers and I shall be provided with a sufficient number of led horses to mount you and your family; so dearest be prepared to mount at a moment's notice and let me place you all in safety with my mother at her beautiful home on the banks of the Hudson where you can remain as honored guests until this unnatural war is terminated.

Try to overcome the prejudices of your father against accepting rebel hospitality, otherwise for his own safety I shall be forced to take him with us as a Tory prisoner. Let no intimation of your intention to leave get abroad among your neighbors for the Mohawk valley is full of scouting parties of Indians and Tories and should they get wind of the contemplated movement they might give us trouble.

Yours ever by the double tie of love and gratitude,  
Philip

This is the last written record of the peerless Lady Margaret and her noble lover, disclosed by the ruins of the Old Hall. That a grandson of Margaret and Philip, after a lapse in their history of more than forty years, appeared to claim the property is sufficient evidence that they escaped the peril of the times and were finally married.

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Simpson, Violet		Ludlowville NY
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Stuard, Dr. H. D.		Genoa NY
Swart, Joel		Hoffmans NY
Treeter, George	87 Genesee St.	Geneva NY
Tyler, Prof. A. I.		Pultney NY
Ward, Arthur E.	192 Claremont Ave.	Mount Clair NJ
Wesselman, Mrs. R. A.	R.D. 3	Geneva NY
Wilson, T. A.	R.D. 2	Wolcott NY
Winters, Floyd J.	13 Westlake Ave.	Auburn NY
Wright, Betty Mae	9 Adams St.	Auburn NY
Wright, Hazel J.	9 Adams St.	Auburn NY
Wright, Gordon K.	78 State St.	Pittsford NY
Wray, Charles		West Rush NY
Wright, Joan	123 E. Genesee St.	Auburn NY
Wright, Richard N.	206 E. Kennedy St.	Syracuse 5 NY
Young, Stanley H.	16 Fairmont St.	Wethersfield 9 Conn.
New Members 1954:		
Burton, Mrs. Carl	14 W. Main St.	Lima NY
Cowels, Leon N.	100 Belmont St.	Rochester 20 NY
Cramer, Maynard A.	Main Bldg. Willard State	Hosp. Willard, NY
Secor, Harold		Savannah NY
Stanton, Mrs. M.A.	East Lake Road	Auburn NY
Strang, Mrs. Louise R.	Masonic House R.D.	Utica NY
Wiegand, Phillip H.	1276 N. 63rd Court	Wauwatosa 13 Wis.
Wolf, Sam Gray	1740 5th Ave.	San Diego, Calif.