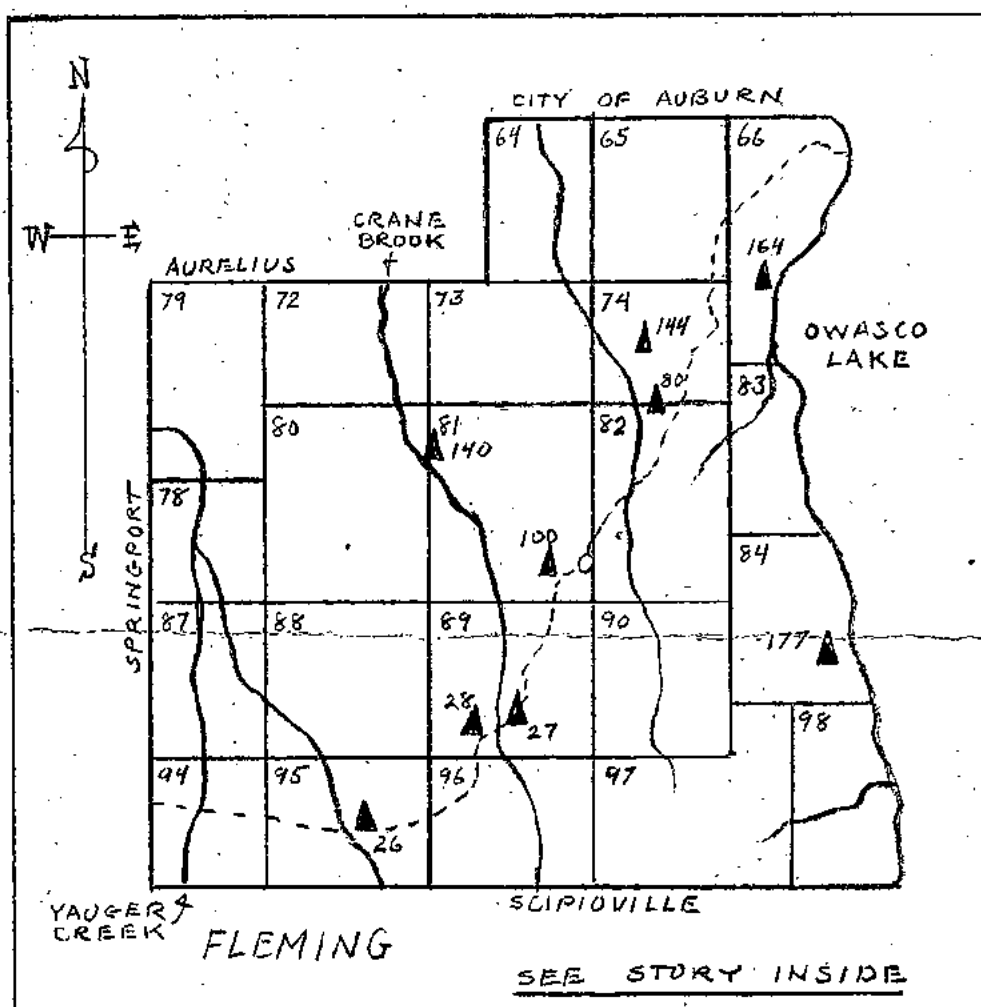


THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

BULLETIN

ARCHAEOLOGY
HISTORY

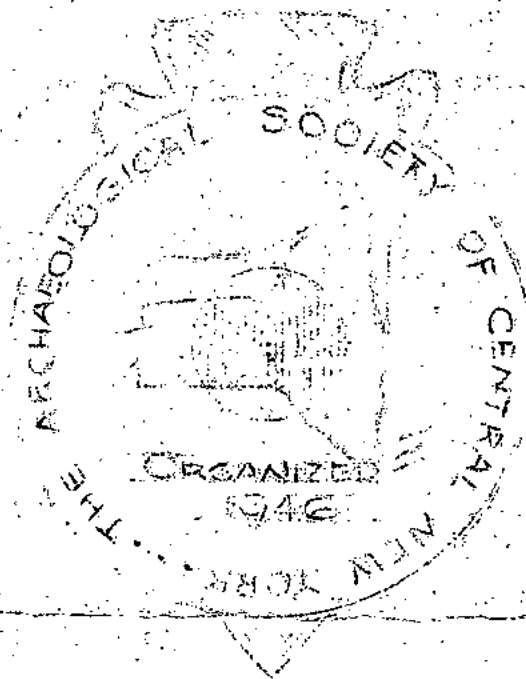


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INDIAN VILLAGE SITES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF AURELIUS

by Harrison C. Follott

In reality this should have preceded the beginning of this citing of the Indian Village sites in the township of Aurelius.

Since this portion has been prepared for publication, such conditions have been discovered to exist that it is deemed essential that no misunderstanding occurs in which any society or persons may be unduly charged with responsibility for the various errors that may be cited in the writers attempt to enlarge and at the same time amend that portion of the Archaeological history that exists.

Many persons are involved, including the writer, and when and where he is implicated it will frankly be admitted. Naturally as the drastic errors are cited readers will demand an explanation as to why at this late date no effort is known to have been made to rectify them. First, they are not generally known of and second, considerable expense, time and energy is involved. Third, ample proof that the error cited exists. Fourth, perhaps in making charges which involve a direct contradiction to published history, rendered by supposed and relied upon authority of 75 or more years ago, up to 30 years ago, may be considered by the elder zealots of no importance.

With this in mind the following explanation occurs as our research determines.

In behalf of those who are charged no doubt exists but that the citations were made in all good faith.

Excuses for errors made 167 years ago can well be accepted for the reason that Archaeology by which facts can be obtained was unknown.

There were several persons involved prior to the records made by General John S. Clark of Auburn upon whom he relied to some extent. Then came Mr. W. W. Adams, Dr. William H. Lewis, Dr. F. E. Herrick and several others all of whom added to the confusion that already existed by erroneous tradition.

The first authentic expedition in the field occurred in 1916 when Dr. Alahson B. Skinner and Dr. Donald Cadzow under auspices of the museum of the American Indian took place. Their investigations on several Indian village sites in Cayuga County was published in two volumes.

In disregard of the publication (Perhaps unknown of in 1920) when in two volumes, the Archaeological History of New York State by Dr. Arthur C. Parker appeared, Vol. two parts No. 238 lists the Indian sites and location by Counties. Those of Cayuga County are credited to Dr. William Beauchamp who in turn apparently depended upon information received from W. W. Adams who it will be obvious to the reader was not versed in the rudiments of Archaeology.

Then in 1929 during the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration in Auburn (unless we are mistaken), the various historical monuments and markers were placed by the state of New York. The officials, who depended to a great extent upon Vol. 238 for information and the history of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign of 1779, so that between these cited historians and General Clark's records, the various errors are charged with the exception of a marker placed at the Indian site on the Young farm at the head of Great Gully (full explanation will appear under site No. 26 township of Fleming.)

That the Archaeology of Cayuga County may be more thoroughly understood by the reader in its complication without attempting to define the various cultures that once held the region as their domain, we quote abstracts from Dr. Arthur Parker's preliminary to the counties of Alleghany, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario and Seneca -- in brief.

First, regardless of all the new theories that have been advanced, the writer fails to find therein an iota of evidence that can be definitely called forth that is contrary to Dr. Parker's determinations with the exception of a few instances that have no material effect except in some logical condition.

"Cattaraugus County seems to have been occupied from remote times. The earliest culture seems to be Eskomonian like, as culture that also is found in Cayuga County."

"Large notched flints and soap stone fragments, a culture that appears to merge with another which used polished stone implements, celts, gorgets and grooved axes."

"With the exception of the grooved axe, similar culture also occurs in Cayuga County in accordance with what Dr. Parker terms branches of the Algonkian Family."

"Next occurs sites upon which mounds exist in which are found notched flint spears, arrowheads, knives, celts, and occasionally a grooved axe, copper implements, gorgets, banner stones, bird stones and gouges, pipes of the platform-monitor type."

While all the implements of this assumed same culture, except the grooved axe, occur in Cayuga County, Parker does not attempt to state in this record who they were.

Successors to them, he says, were the Huron-Iroquois stock who drove out the earlier occupants and as it will later appear the remnants or descendants at a much later date we find in Middle North Cayuga County principally along the Seneca River in an eastward movement.

"The Huron Iroquois did not use copper (native) gorgets or banner stones."

"At the opening of the historic period this county was probably occupied by the Erie or Cat Nation which held most of the territory between Buffalo Creek and Sandusky, Ohio."

Dr. Parker says that the Alleghany Valley contains numerous remains of all the various cultures mentioned and it remained only the hunting ground of the Seneca Indians.

"Many of the aboriginal village sites and burial grounds found in the Valley of Cattaraugus and vicinity usually credited to the Erie exhibit characteristics that lead one to think that in reality they belong to the Senecas. The clay vessels and pipes are counterparts of those found in the Valley of the Genesee, the original habitat of the Senecas. West along the Lake Erie shore are sites that are unmistakably Erie. But the pottery is vastly different in form and decoration."

"From the time the Erie were exterminated (1654) and until after the Revolution their territory was supposed to have been uninhabited. To have left such a rich hunting ground unvisited and without settlement is doubtful and it is probable that the Senecas, to whom the territory naturally fell, early had villages and defensive works. Their tradition has little to say of this occupation though there are a few faint glimmerings that might lead to the idea."

"Archaeology, however, sheds a more definite light on the matter and from the material found in grave pits and refuse heaps in the Cattaraugus Valley, I am led to say that there is much evidence to support the statement that the locality was occupied by the Senecas soon after the Eries were driven from it."

(Follett) From the approximate time the Senecas are first discovered in the Genesee Valley up to 1654 over two hundred years had elapsed and during that time they certainly must have increased to a greater extent in

numbers than the first migration to the east (Ontario Co.) indicates, thus it is quite likely that some of the early Seneca occupation originated from the Genesee Country. Of Chautaugua Co. Parker says, "There were at least three distinct cultures and possibly four".

"The oldest being characterized by notched and shouldered arrow point and large spear point, and total absence of pottery."

"A second distinct culture is known as the early Iroquois susceptible to two divisions, viz: prehistoric and historic. The historic or second stage of this culture is undoubtedly Erian but the prehistoric or first stage is better termed Iroquoian and differs from the second in several material points. The third culture is that of the confederated Iroquois."

"The early Iroquois is characterized by inclosures surrounded by low walls of earth, by ossuaries, triangle arrow points and no objects with the burials."

"The later Iroquoian occupation is more specific and is recognized as the Erian, burials contain flint and shell objects, pottery of different form and decoration."

"Eric Co. was inhabited by the mound building culture. The early Algonkian, the Neuter, Eric and Menios. The latter three by 1654 had all been captured or exterminated by the eastern Iroquois league."

"Genesee Co. though not extensively occupied had at different times all the early cultures except the Eric and Menios."

"Orleans Co. had but two or three sites of importance. In Livingston County, Monroe and Ontario are found remnants of all the cultures that existed West thereof, except the Eric, Neuter and Menios."

"The main object in citing the general habitation of the region to the West is to indicate the possible trend of most of the cultures cited as eastward through Cayuga County and in which are traces of cultures that do not appear in the Western cited areas that presumably originate from Southern sources, which may be attributed to the main water route from South to North."

By a review of all the Cayuga habitations cited it will be seen that all are prehistoric up to Circa 1600. About the time that the Cayugas and Onondagas began to feel the aggression of the Andastes who were at that time located near where the present village of Athens, Pa. now stands. By their powerful attacks and devastation com-

mitted upon these nations, who were unable to compete with them, likely brought about the formation of the league. Even after this alliance they were not able to conquer the Andastos until 1674, or not until the powerful Senecas joined in force after they had conquered the Hurons of Canada, the Eries, Wenios and Neuters of western N. Y. and defeated in battle many other nations, so that by the year 1740 they held by their league power, most of the county east of Mississippi to the South, as far as the Carolinas.

It was there that the Cayugas did not fear to establish their towns upon the shores of Cayuga Lake, that were considered the most dangerous section upon the great water route from the ocean through to the interior of upper Canada.

In about the year 1600 the territorial line between the Onondaga nation and the Cayugas was formed.

This line extended from the head of Sodus Bay to the mouth of the Owasco Lake outlet along its east side, then along the east shore of Owasco Lake following the lake inlet, ran directly south to the head waters of the west branch of a creek that entered the Susquohanna River near Owago, then westward to the junction of the Chemung River at Athens, Pa., then along the Chemung River to a point nearly directly south of the head of Cayuga Lake, thence north along its shore following the Seneca River, the lake outlet, then north to Sodus Bay, over land from the northwest corner of Howland Island, and it will be noted that no Cayuga villages up to 1650 were established north of the Great Gully.

All Cayuga prehistoric villages were located in the southern portion of the county which quite well supports the advanced theory of their entrance into the region from near the head of Cayuga Lake.

The first European contact occurred between 1600 and 1620, likely about 1617, presumably by the Dutch then located near where Albany now stands, where a trading post was established in 1614, while the European contact with the Senecas and the French occurred between 1600 and 1610 or a little earlier.

The earliest European contact with European articles by the Senecas occurred about 1525 to 1550, the origin of which is not definitely known, a problem at this writing. It is being given intensive study and appears as being of western origin possibly via Huron contact with the French of Canada through the Neuter Zone.

Information that should have preceded the townships of Aurelius, Brutus, Cato and Conquest.

AURELIUS

The township of Aurelius bounded on the north by Montezuma and the west by Cayuga Lake and the Seneca River, contains two or three important sites one of which is the Cayuga Jesuit Mission, St. Stephen, now about a mile north of the foot of Cayuga Lake at the point where in 1779 the detachment from the Sullivan-Clinton Army crossed, what their Journals named as the foot of Cayuga Lake at the time and where the late Cayuga Indian houses stood. The place called Chaharo by their Oneida guides, not a Jesuit Mission at that time, the town likely had been abandoned quite some time prior to 1779.

It is one of the towns named in the army records as destroyed, they say it was not occupied at that time.

The river ford here in later years became route 5 and 20, route 20 joined route 5 in Auburn.

This was the route traveled by pioneers in early migration of the whites westward. The route, however, arrived at the ford via Troopsville over the old Indian trail and remained so until the Harris Ferry was established and later a highway across the swamp at Mud Lock. The Harris Ferry was on the south line of the present Village of Cayuga.

At Mud Lock was the ancient Algonkian Village erroneously cited in early history as the Jesuit Mission and at this later date 1952 stands a monument erected in 1929 by the State of New York citing it as the place where the Mission existed which in fact was a mile north.

The question has arisen several times as to the writer's claim of the foot of the lake existing one mile north of Mud Lock in 1779 as cited by several Journals of the soldiers of the Sullivan-Clinton campaign.

See Journals of George and Thomas Grant. The Army records in General, the army supply maps and Lt. Parker.

Then note the topographical government survey maps. The full width of Cayuga Lake in 1779 probably did not extend to the point where the ford existed, however, it was 70 rods or 1155 feet wide. In fact about the only spot known of where a crossing of the Montezuma Swamp could be made at that period.

Early Algonkian sites occur along the lake shores and small sites throughout the region except in the Central part.

BRUTUS

No vast or important sites are known of, however, on a hill top site in the southwest corner is an Algonkian site on which some Eskimo-like articles are found intermingled with those of an ancient culture.

North of Weedsport on the east side and near the mouth of a large creek that enters the Seneca River is quite an extensive Algonkian site, east thereof all along the river an extensive camp and small Algonkian sites and on around the bend of the river in connection with Cross Lake.

CATO

In the southeastern border next to the Seneca River is charted the Onondaga Indian salt fields and extensive cleared land recorded by Clark in his M.S. This tract according to late research was on the east side of the river and south of Cross Lake, where salt springs exist and extensive beds of Pottery fragments occur. This is within Onondaga Co. Extensive Algonkian camps exist on the north and west sides of Cross Lake.

There was a mixed culture on the east side of Forest Lake and Camps on the side of Otter Lake.

In general the town was not extensively occupied. Northeast of Cross Lake, Onondaga Co.--begins the prehistoric sites of the Onondagas that extend eastward.

CONQUEST

This township includes Howland Island and the area on the west side into Wayne County where there exists several important sites.

Spring Lake in the northwest corner has two Algonkian habitations on the east side and several camp sites on its outlet.

An extensive Algonkian site lies on the east side of the river east of Howland Island. On the same side near the southern border of the town is a small Cayuga habitation site. There are within Howland Island four varying culture sites of the Algonkian family and a late 1700 Iroquois site. "In Bulletin 238 Archaeology History of New York Dr. Parker says it is strange that no Iroquois articles occur."

The Iroquois site is situated on the west side.

Eskimo-like artifacts in paucity occur on the Algonkian sites.

Six sites are quoted in Wayne County bordering on the Montezuma marsh as they are related to Cayuga Co. The Wayne Co. sites are contiguous to the trail that extended from Sodus Bay to the Cayugas. Sodus Bay tradition cites as the Bay of the Cayugas. There was once a French trading post on this route cited on Fort Hill (See Site #40).

Archaeological Society of Central New York
March Meeting - 1953

The regular meeting of the Archaeological Society of Central New York was held Thursday evening March 12th at the Cayuga Museum of History and Art.

The treasurer reported that memberships are coming in about as they have in other years. The following new members were introduced during the evening: Mr. Thomas Morgan, Thomas Gasket, Mr. Thomas Lawler.

Mr. Floyd Johnston, chairman of the Program Committee, introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Claude Smith of Geneva. Mr. Smith exhibited many fine examples of meteorites and for the assistance of those present showed many books and pamphlets pertaining to meteorites which are available. He clearly explained how meteorites tie in with archaeology as we study implements and metals as well as stones used by the Indians. Mr. Smith's explanation of the composition of various types of meteorites, iron, stone and stony iron with nickel content was most interesting and his explanation of the burning out of a meteorite as it entered the earth's atmosphere was very enlightening. The group was especially interested in the fact that seven meteorites are recorded in New York State and one of these a nine pound piece was found near the Rene Menard Bridge.

A question and answer period brought forth much discussion, making the evening most interesting.

SEELEY PECK

Taking part in the program of March 12, 1953 was Mr. Seeley Peck, who brought part of his own collection of artifacts to show the members. Most spectacular is a bar colt about eight inches long. A better specimen will not be found in any museum.

All of Mr. Peck's artifacts were found on his farm which lies one mile north of Five Points or seven miles north of Geneva. His grandfather settled there in October, 1825, and it has been in the family ever since. The farm extends from the Canandaigua Outlet on the west to one of the Junius Ponds on the east. This section has always been noted for its abundance of Algonkian artifacts. The total surface finds around the Ponds would amount to bushels, if they could be put together.

It seems a natural trait of the family to have more than one vocation or avocation. The grandfather was a blacksmith and carpenter as well as a farmer. He hand forged all the nails that went into the building of his house (burned in 1885). His records show that he got 38 cents for shoeing a horse, including the shoes which he made. Seeley has some of the hand forged nails. The father was a carpenter and farmer.

The accomplishments of Mr. Seeley Peck are numerous. He is best known as a naturalist and conservationist. He knows all the traits of game birds and animals and thereby becomes an expert hunter and trapper. As an ornithologist he is an authority on all local birds, and his large case of mounted birds and animals portrays his unusual skill as a taxidermist. His home is furnished with antiques. His stamp collection numbers over 15,000. His 74 years have been busy ones.

In archaeology his finds have been limited to surface hunting and entirely to his own farm. While most of his artifacts are archaic, they do cover the entire period of Algonkian occupancy. If the small triangular points are Iroquois, they would be intrusive, as no Iroquoian sites are known of in that region.

Archaeological Society of Central New York

Newton E. Farwell

Communication from Harrison C. Follett
for the Bulletin

In the January, 1953, Bulletin appears an interesting article, "It Should Not Have Been Here".

The writer would not sleep well if he were not granted the privilege of reply. As Jim Ward was, way back in 1945, one of the pupils of the writer, he considers it his duty not from a critical point of view, but merely to clear the probable question that might arise from it, in the mind of the reader.

~~The pewter whistle could have been lost by one of the very late Indians who lived on the Reservation up to about 1800. Other artifacts cited as having been found on the Backus farm site could have been lost there. However, if occupied as a village site, they would be more numerous. The cove and overflowing spring on the lake shore rendered it an enticing place to camp, and in so doing, they would be apt to leave upon the area some artifact that would indicate their former presence. Only one and one-half miles to the south as late as 1800 was an Iroquois village.~~

The site later cited in the Archaeological History of Cayuga County by the writer, was in 1929 quite thoroughly explored as pertaining to the burial site, by Mr. George Selden and the writer. Skeletons of two cultures were exhumed. The early was that of the second period Algonkian and the later that of the early third period Algonkian, who seem to have later occupied the Mud Lock site at the foot of Cayuga Lake.

The former occupation of the second period were the same people who 3000 years B.C. occupied the Lamoka Lake site, attested by artifacts and their skeletal remains. The Owasco culture is not probable.

The hand blown bottle from the Genoa Fort site, the writer leaves up to Earl Mann. However, it is not strange to find evidence of the presence of later people upon the same site, but much depends upon the quantity and association of the artifacts.

The slate articles are very interesting to the writer, as the people who occupied the site were of Cayuga culture and probably of the Richmond Mills group, where the slate articles described occur in prolific numbers.

Congratulations, Jim; keep it up!

* * * * *

ANNUAL BANQUET SPEAKER

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midnight sun has no equal.

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MR. STOWELL BRINGS TO AUDIENCES COAST TO COAST NOT
ONLY PHOTOGRAPHY THAT IS OUTSTANDING BUT YOU ACTUALLY
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COMMENTARIES. THE ARCTIC REGIONS OF TODAY PRESENT A
CONSTANTLY CHANGING PICTURE OF OUR WORLD SECURITY
PLAN OF DEFENSE AND IT IS TO THIS REGION OF OUR
CANADIAN ARCTIC THAT WE MUST LOOK FOR MUCH OF OUR
FUTURE SECURITY. MR. STOWELL HAS TRAVELED THIS AREA
AND HAS OBSERVED MUCH OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE THERE
AMONG THE ESKIMO PEOPLE. THE MISSIONARIES AND OUR
SERVICE MEN WHO MAN THESE NORTHERN OUTPOSTS SAY
THE ARCTIC STILL HOLDS THE KEY TO ADVENTURE AND
UNCERTAINTIES FOR THOSE WHO TRAVEL THERE.