

HISTORIC BURIALS AT THE BOUGHTON HILL SITE

(CAN 2-2), VICTOR TWP., ONTARIO CO., N. Y. \*

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The following tables contain all the scattered written information made available by Charles F. Hayes III, Associate Curator of Anthropology, from the files of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences about burials discovered at the Boughton Hill site or Ganagaro. The site dates approximately at A. D. 1670-1687 and was one of the larger of the Seneca villages destroyed by the Governor of New France, the Marquis de Denonville, in 1687. The information in Table I was taken from a notebook written by Arthur C. Parker, former State Archeologist and Director of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences. The notebook had previously been studied and typed by Michael J. Ripton of Morgan Chapter, and it was checked against a card file of field notes in which the information had been recorded. Table II is a compilation of a similar card file of field notes in Parker's handwriting and also contains more information from a report he wrote about the 1920 excavations for the Rochester Historical Society. Table III is based upon field notes made by William A. Ritchie, former Archeologist at the Rochester Museum during the summer and fall of 1934. Table IV is information given to Alfred K. Guthe, former Anthropologist at the Rochester Museum, by Albert J. Hoffman of Holcomb, New York. (See tables on the following pages.)

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PROJECTILE POINT CLASSIFICATIONS

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In the last five or six years, many of the sessions of the New York State Archeological Association have dealt with the problem of an acceptable projectile point classification for New York State in particular and North America in general. The interest and animated discussions involved in the problem have been healthy signs that both professional and non-professional archeologists are seriously trying to reach a common ground upon which projectile points can be discussed without confusion, especially on the part of persons from widely separated geographic areas of the State.

The advantages of one classification system over another have been the subject of many publications and archeological meetings outside New York State for several decades. It is not the intention of this short paper, however, to dwell upon that which is but an extension of the situation facing the members of the New York State Archeological Association. Although projectile point classification has been the topic of primary interest lately in New York, the problems of classification and description can still be found in respect to all assemblages of artifacts of bone, stone, shell, and clay. The urge to classify seems to be a trait common to most archeologists. Often a classification has been elaborately conceived, yet its value to archeology has yet to be ascertained. Recently, however, a trend can be seen among investigators which emphasizes the functional use to the archeologist of any classification. The importance of a classification to the particular archeo-

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\*Note: This paper submitted as the fifth report for the Lewis Henry Morgan Chapter Study Group.

TABLE I. Condensed Record of Burials at Boughton Hill  
Parker - 1919

Field No.	Depth and Grave Dimensions	Orientation			Approx. Age & Sex	Burial Accompaniments	Remarks
		face	skull top	side			
Grave #1	38" d. triangular	-	-	-	-	Iron ax, red beads, musket barrel & stock	Portions of 4 or 5 skeletons found beneath a pit 36" x 20" deep - pit contained "mass of carbonaceous substance, possibly a grave fire." Most smaller bones disintegrated.
Skeleton A	-	W	S	L	Adult male	2 iron knives, 1 ring bowl pipe, 1 iron hatchet, 1 copper pot containing about a pint of wampum, red glass beads & "some of cat- linite," 1 stemmed chert point	
Skeleton B	-	E	N	-	Female	Wampum beads; notched flint near feet; brass pot or kettle which contained portion of wooden bowl, 1 large wooden spoon, squash stem, pressed mass of grapes, 12 apples of wild variety, mass of pressed berries & other foods, perhaps boiled corn bread. Under kettle were a bark bowl & some deer hair. To one side of kettle was 1 iron knife. Above kettle were remains of wooden bowl, beneath which were a deer hair robe, red wool Dobson blanket, bass wood woven fabric mat.	Wampum beads about forehead possibly narrow headband or belt. Iron knife retained bits of bone handle.

Field No.	Depth and Grave Dimensions	Orientation			Approx. Age & Sex	Burial Accompaniments	Remarks
		face	skull top	side			
Grave #1 Skeleton C & D	30" d.	-	-	-	Female & male	Skulls covered by large brass kettle & preserved by its salts. Near cheek of female was portion of bone comb w. several teeth & a musket barrel, which had no lock but whose wooden parts were preserved by contact w. iron rust & copper tubes. When followed, barrel led to another disassociated skull, B.	Lower jaws of both had been placed behind skulls & also under kettle. Skulls were well-preserved & upright—all others in Grave #1 were crushed & lay on their side. Burial included a femur w. third trochanter & a platymeric tibia.
Skeleton E	-	-	-	-	-	1 iron ax, 2 triangular flints, & a brass triangle, still in tip of original hafting found "near the hip"	All axes in this burial were upright w. cutting edges in earth & parts of handles preserved by rust.
Grave #2	38"d. 48"x35"	down	-	-	-	1 iron ax near skull, brass kettle n. of skull contained black substance & bird skeleton (?robin), 1 neat wooden spoon "quite small." Discoid flints s. of kettle, also a slicking stone, & 1 short iron knife—one stone seemed to be a "water biscuit." Kettle also contained bear effigy, possibly glass that had been thru fire, as it was checked & cracked.	Larger bones lay under & n. of skull.
Grave #3	20"d.	-	-	-	Child	1 hawk bill found in grave dirt	Evidence of grave robbery by pot hunters

Grave #4	40"d	-	-	-	-	1 iron knife & 1 awl found in black bottom dirt	No remains. Grave soil 40" down was covered by an ash pit.
Grave #5	24"d	-	-	-	Adult	1 bell, small string ?copper beads, 1 catlinite bead, 1 kettle bail, 2 iron knives, 1 brass lug	Evidence of robbery by pot hunters
Grave #6	30"d. 5' x 3'	N	W	R	-	No artifacts	Flexed
Grave #7	40"d. 48"x38"	N	W	L	-	3 fire lighters & flints, 1 iron ax in soil back of head, 2 iron awl points, 1 knife bead, 1 ring bowl pipe at feet w. awls	Flexed—all bones except skull & leg bones gone. Ash pit over grave 18" deep. Sketch w. original notes shows "beads" lying in area between flexed leg and thigh bones, fire lighters & knife near hand area, & indicates that skeleton faced W. & headed S.
Grave #8	30" d. 29" x 42"	S	W	R	-	Broken pipe, ring type—bowl only—in ash pit	Flexed. Two fire pits above grave; grave itself contained numerous stones.
Grave #9	24" d.	N	W	L	Child 5 yrs.	About neck was string of 52 glass beads, about 3/16" in diameter. 2 tubular shell beads & a shell runtee found below. (Sketch in original notes suggests last 3 items were a pendant.)	Found between two graves dug by robbers
Grave #10	40" d.	-	-	-	-	No artifacts	Bones gone. Under apple trees

No. 32, November 1964

Field No.	Depth and Grave Dimensions	Orientation			Approx. Age & Sex	Burial Accompaniments	Remarks
		face	skull top	side			
Grave #11	38" d. 35"x4"	-	-	-	-	-	Disintegrated
Grave #12	18" d. 30" x 42"	-	-	-	-	Parts of ring bowl pipe, wolf-faced pipe, parts of gun lock, some flints, & 3 bear teeth	Bundle burial w. skull turned away from rest of remains. Extended leg bone led to artifacts. Skull: dolichocephalic. Tibia "large & unusual." Humeri perforated. Evidence of great musculature—some necrosis
Grave #13	32" d.	-	-	-	Child	2 brass kettles: Kettle A, w. complete bottom, contained 1 horn spoon bowl, 1 woven bag, brass & glass beads, fabric fragments, some small triangular shell pendants. Kettle B, incomplete, contained 1 short-handled wooden spoon.	On hill at pasture gate. Bones nearly gone
Grave #14	36" d. 30" x 44" or 36" x 44"	N	W	L	Female	S. & back of head was large copper pot (A), contained mass of fine-cut tobacco, bone comb, & wooden spoon. Flat stone covered (A). Smaller pot (B) between heels & pelvis, contained portions of a squash. Red beads about neck, turtle shell rattle fragments in front of tibia	Completely flexed. Skull broken. Black stained area over grave contained feast bone fragments.
Grave #15	35" d. 38"x29"	SW	NW	R	Female	2 iron knife blades, 1 pair scissors, red paint	Skeleton disassociated, bones mixed, skull crushed



Grave #16	-	-	-	-	-	-	Disassociated, grave previously robbed
Grave #17	34" d.	S	W	-	-	Portion of European knife handle, ring-bowl pipe (near skull) w. tip missing — 17 rings & dots below	Disassociated
Grave #18	14" d.	-	-	-	Male	2 knives, 1 nail	On middle knoll
Grave #19	38" d.	-	-	-	-	Fragment of clay pot	Disassociated

TABLE II. Condensed Record of Burials at Boughton Hill  
Parker - 1920

Field No.	Depth and Grave Dimensions	Orientation			Approx. Age & Sex	Burial Accompaniments	Remarks
		face	skull top	side			
Grave #1	-	-	-	-	-	None	Disassociated
Grave #2	30" d. 30" x 48"	-	-	-	Female	None	Disassociated
Grave #3	30" d. 30" x 48"	-	-	-	-	None	Disassociated remains of 2 skeletons
Grave #4	-	-	-	-	-	None	Flexed. Skull crushed
Grave #5	38" d.	-	-	-	- -	Comb artifact placed near dorsal innominate area of body	Flexed. Burial in refuse 6" w. of Burial #4
Grave #6	30" d.	-	-	-	-	None	Dissociated. Against road

Field No.	Depth and Grave Dimensions	Orientation			Approx. Age & Sex	Burial Accompaniments	Remarks
		face	skull top	side			
Grave #7	40" d. 50" x 42"	N(B)	W(B) S(A)	L(B)	Adult male, child	1 quartz club head, 1 quartz arrow, 1 triangular flint, iron gun barrel, wire, 2 iron knives.	Beneath refuse, 2 burials. Bundle burial (A), head to & over r. shoulder of flex- ed (B) burial. Adult skull crushed, wampum discov- ered w. other skull
Grave #8	-	-	-	-	-	2 combs, 1 knife, beads (?black)	South of Grave #1
Grave #9	28" d.	-	-	-	Child	Red beads, kettle, knife	West of Grave #8
Grave #10	-	-	-	-	Adult	None	West of Grave #9. Dis- associated
Grave #11	24"d.	Down	S	-	-	Bone hatchet found at feet	South of Grave #9
Grave #12	-	-	-	-	-	-	Card missing
Grave #13	14" d. 48" x 29"	-	SW	-	-	Iron ax at hip. 1 Jesuit ring	Flexed, on back w. arms crossed over breast, knees w. on left. Skull crushed
Grave #14	24"	SE(A) SW(B)	SW(A) -	- -	- -	None	2 skulls, (B) on base, facing sw. Syphilitic bones. Bur- ied beneath refuse, mention of deer & beaver ?bones
Grave #15	30" d. 24" x 40"	S	N	R	-	1 pipe behind, but on plane w. legs. Iron knife near dorsal innominate area of body	Flexed, arms separate & s. of body.
Grave #16	-	-	-	-	Adult & infant	Red beads, shell. Long beads & ?nutus? with infant	Disassociated

Grave #17	-	-	-	-	-	-	Card missing
Grave #18	20" d. 48" x 36"	-	-	-	Male	None	Disassociated, head at feet
Grave #19	20" d. 40" x 27"	-	-	-	Adult	Brass kettle found near bones	Bones surrounded by circle of clay clods of various sizes. Arms aged, ridged
Grave #20	35" d. 50" x 30"	-	-	-	-	1 comb, 1 small comb, 1 copper pot	2 skulls: 1 head "up", 1 head s., cheek broken
Grave #20 A	48" d.	S	W	R	-	None	Associated burial—?beneath Burial #20. Flexed
Grave #21	28" d. 40" x 38"	-	-	-	Infant	3 wampum ?tubes, 1 wampum bead, 1 brass kettle upside down	-
Grave #22	30' d. 30" x 42"	-	-	-	-	1 iron ax, copper pot, broken comb, dish	-
Grave #23	32" d. 27" x 39"	-	W	-	Child 10 yrs.	Scissors, red beads	Notes say: "Baby in s. e. corner, red beads."
Grave #24	28" d. 30" x 32"	-	-	-	Infants, children 8-11	Red beads, deer ?tine, some iron fragments (in accompanying sketch these resemble blades)	3 skulls, "teeth not all in"
Grave #25	42" d. 30" x 60"	-	-	R	-	1 iron knife w. bone handle, "bottom of copper pot in ?ring"	Flexed, small bones broken
Grave #26	38" d. 52" x 42"	-	-	-	-	1 iron adze, 1 broken adze	In bottom of refuse pit; skull on side "face?1, s."
Grave #27	42" d. 40" x 64"	-	-	-	-	1 comb w. 38 teeth, 1 comb w. 20 teeth & animal effigy design opposite teeth	2 skeletons: A on back, position "prone ?stalt". B disassociated



TABLE III. Condensed Record of Burials at Boughton Hill  
Ritchie—August and September, 1934

Field No.	Depth and Grave Dimensions	Orientation			Approx. Age & Sex	Burial Accompaniments	Remarks
		face	skull top	side			
Grave #1	1'6" d.	S	W	R	Adult male	4 triangular brass points on 1. foot, decayed brass kettle lay behind legs— probably contained squash or pumpkin. Iron knife blade 5" from r. leg. Flint knife under 1. leg near knee. Iron ?knife behind neck. 2 flint triangles near 1. foot.	Grave floored w. bark. Bones decayed
Grave #3	2'10" d. 3'5" x 2'10"	E	N	-	Female, c. 45 yrs.	R. hand before knees held remains of brass kettle containing bark & wood. 6" over knees a 25-toothed antler comb w. decorations: heron w. head turned over on back, & above this a dog ef- figy w. tail turned up over back	Loosely flexed. Disturbed by woodchuck. L. hand & lower arm bones separated from rest of burial 1'7" on n. side of grave
Grave #4	2'3" d. 2'7" x 2'	SE	SW	-	Child, c. 9 yrs.	-	Lower jaw back of head. Disturbed, discarded
Grave #5 Grave #6	9" d. 15" diam	-	-	-	Male & female		Fragments of 2 skulls & 1 lower jaw. Covered w. very dark charcoal. One skull "in face of other"
Grave #7A	1'11" d.	-	-	-	Male, c. 30 yrs.	2 copper & 1 flint arrow point back of skull. 1 flint arrow point around ribs— "may have been in them." 2 flint ob- longs for flintlock muskets	Skull & lower jaw in place, atlas on skull. Refuse earth over burial, red ocre or hematite around & throughout grave. See AP920. One-half of skele- ton left side

Grave #7B	2'1" d.	S	W	R	Adult, ? male	Parts of hilt, trigger, guard, lock, & flint of dragoon pistol between hand & knee. 2 iron knife blades just above level of gun & a few inches away. Inverted, decayed brass kettle behind pelvis. Near kettle were preserved fragments of fabric & bark covering of grave. In kettle were food fragments, including deer vertebrae. Beneath kettle was section of woven blanket, removed in 8" folds & fragments of cordage. Also under kettle were tufts of deer hair. Beaver skin fragments on same level as deer hair. All this lay upon bark lining. Beside ?copper kettle lay fragment 7" long of rim & side of burl bowl—also 5 neck vertebrae of young deer.	Flexed. Evidence indicates that grave was lined & covered w. bark & that body lay upon skins. See AP 426 for dental details.
Grave #1 "2d Burial Ground, 2 Nov 34"	2' d.	S	SW	R	Young Child	At feet: 6 knives, 1 iron ax head, 1 stick pink ochre, 1 pair shears, all badly rusted. Several fragments of cloth preserved by iron oxide from relics	Left hand folded over chest, r. ?hand down to knees. Feet fairly well-extended

TABLE IV. Condensed Record of Burials at Boughton Hill  
Hoffman—October 1954, Green Site #4

Field No.	Depth and Grave Dimensions	Orientation			Approx. Age & Sex	Burial Accompaniments	Remarks
		face	skull top	side			
Grave #1	-	-	-	-	-	Ax	-
Grave #2A	3'4" d. 4' x 27"	S	W	R	Child, 9-11 yrs.	Round red beads found around child's neck	Hands before face. Charcoal present, humus over grave very dark

Field No.	Depth and Grave Dimensions	Orientation			Approx. Age & Sex	Burial Accompaniments	Remarks
		face	skull top	side			
Grave #2B	31" d. 12" x 15" x 27"	-	-	-	Adult, 40 to 45 yrs.	Round bottomed brass kettle 7" x 6 1/2" contained smaller kettle 5 1/2" x 2 3/4", which contained corn cake. Back of kettles was brass-beaded buckskin blanket & cloth, also buck- skin pouch & red paint. Following articles mixed w. bundle burial: 500 round red beads 1 Jesuit ring 1 ring w. stone setting 1 antler pitching pin 1 perforated French coin 2 red hematite paint stones section small brass kettle, 3" diam., 2" high 1 round black & white glass bead, 3/4" diam. 2 bone-handled knives 1 decorated trumpet pipe 15 shell beads - 3" long 1 square shell bead section runtee section lead package brass common pins	Bundle burial—skull in- cluded. 9" of humus over burial, "lots" of charcoal. Burials 2A & 2B seem to have been closely assoc- iated, with bundle & child in same grave area. See sketch w. original notes.