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CERAMIC ANALYSIS OF THE GRAILAM-ROGERS SITE,  
SIMCOE COUNTY, ONTARIO

by

W. D. BELL

MS

~~MS~~ (1952)

## THE POSITION OF THE GRAHAM-ROGERS SITE AMONG THE HURONS

### 1. GEOGRAPHICAL RELATIONSHIPS

We have already seen that the Graham-Rogers site is located in what may well be the southern "frontier" area of Huronia. The writer believes that his concept of this Innisfil area as a frontier zone is valid, since sites containing European trade material are virtually non-existent between Innisfil and western Lake Ontario. It seems probable that the region to the south was unoccupied in early historic times. Hence, these villagers looked northward for neighbours, and perhaps found them among the several other historic sites in the northern part of Innisfil described by Hunter and later by Popham.<sup>1</sup> The Sidey Mackay site, in Nottawasaga township is also not so very far distant, but must have been abandoned by Graham-Rogers times, as no undoubted trade material is to be found there. Hence, the nearest probably contemporary known sites are those in Innisfil, previously mentioned, and those in Vespera and Oro townships, to the north. The sites of Cahiaque (Warminster), Orr Lake, Ossossane, and other known historic sites, such as those Ridley<sup>2</sup> describes are considerably more distant.

### 2. CULTURAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GRAHAM-ROGERS AND OTHER HURON SITES

~~(The following is a summary of the results of the analysis of the chart of coefficients of similarity, drawn up for the rimsherd samples of several sites, will suggest that the sites bearing the greatest ceramic resemblance to the Graham-Rogers are the Mackenzie and Sidey Mackay sites.)~~

Scrutiny of the chart of coefficients of similarity, drawn up for the rimsherd samples of several sites, will suggest that the sites bearing the greatest ceramic resemblance to the Graham-Rogers are the Mackenzie and Sidey Mackay sites.

1. Popham, 1950.

2. Ridley, 1952.

Note that while the coefficients of similarity are by no means extremely great, 97 and 114, respectively, they are vastly greater than those for Warminster and Orr Lake, only 66 and 65.

It may well be that Graham-Rogers ceramics represent a tradition developed in the southern frontiers of prehistoric Huronia, and which remained peculiar to that region, until its abandonment, early in the historic period.. The characteristic wares, Huron Incised and Sidey Notched, seem to have been developing, in the south, at Mackenzie, and in the west at Sidey Mackay. At Graham-Rogers, Sidey Notched became emphasized, almost to the exclusion of the other types, but this site may have been an "end point" of ceramic development as South Huronia was apparently abandoned by late historic times.

Further evidence for a South Huronia local tradition may be found in the charts showing the percentages and proportions of two ceramic wares which occur in considerable numbers in most of the sites north of Toronto. These are the Sidey Notched and Huron Incised wares, which together are more numerous at most sites than all others combined.

It will be seen from these charts that Sidey Notched becomes dominant in South Huronia, by historic times, at the expense of Huron Incised; while in North Huronia, precisely the reverse takes place. The writer contends that a "side by side" or parallel development took place here, rather than a single development from site to site, involving the rise and fall of these types. Not only do these ceramic wares and their occurrences suggest this, but so also does the convincing evidence of contemporaneity between Warminster and Graham-Rogers. [In spite of their ceramic dissimilarities, these two sites bear almost identical trade material, apparently belonging to the time of first white contact. The trade beads in particular, seem

uggestive of this, white glass oval shaped "seed" beads are dominant on both sites. The same bead, in blue glass, is found occasionally, and both sites also produce very small tubular dark glass beads. No Jesuit relics such as rosary beads, rings, etc. have been found.

On the other hand, Ossossane, and other sites known to belong to the late historic period, (ca. 1640), all produce a much different catalogue of trade beads, although the iron tools, kettles, etc. change little, if any, except perhaps in number. ~~Nowhere else~~ Here, we find large and small multi-coloured "candy-striped" beads, and several tubular glass beads, large red tubular glass beads, and several sizes of globular beads of various single colours; some of which have been tentatively identified as rosary beads. All are far different from either the Warminster or Graham-Rogers sample.

This evidence suggests most strongly that not only are Warminster and Graham-Rogers approximately contemporaneous, but that both belong to the early historic period, and that Warminster may very well be the Huron capital, Cahiaque<sup>1</sup>, described by Champlain in 1615.

Since Graham-Rogers and Warminster are evidently contemporaneous, yet are slightly different in a ceramic sense, it does not seem unreasonable to assume that two divergent ceramic traditions had developed in different parts of Huronia by early historic time.

The difference is of course, not great. Sidey Notched is precisely the same pottery as Huron Incised, except that the former bears lip incising, while the lips of the latter are plain. The emphasis on this minor modification in South Huronia is the chief distinguishing factor, along with the near-absence of what seem to be exclusively northern traits such as Warminster Crossed and Horizontal.

ence, while different, the sites are certainly nearly enough alike to be considered as Huron.

The Susquehannock High Collar Ware first described in Ontario by Ridley, is as yet somewhat of a mystery. MacCish affords no assistance, since he evidently saw none in his Ontario research, yet from Warminster, in a small sample examined by the writer, three sherds were discovered. Hence it does exist outside the Graham-Rogers and Ridley's sites. It seems to be most numerous at the Angoutene and Graham-Rogers sites, but is present at several others besides Warminster; all historic sites, but varying from early contact to Jesuit times. All but Graham-Rogers belong to "North Huronia".

Whether or not of foreign inspiration, and despite its "foreign" appearance, this ware is definitely of native manufacture, as clay and tempering appear identical with that used to make the "standard" Huron types.

Its most puzzling feature is perhaps the fact that it appears so suddenly, in early historic times, having no apparent antecedents in the late prehistoric period. This fact argues for its outside derivation, and will be discussed on a later page.

## THE GRAHAM-ROGERS' SITE'S CONTRIBUTION TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HURON CULTURE

### BASIC ECONOMY

The excavation of this site adds confirmatory archaeological evidence of an agricultural economy, long since described by Champlain and the Jesuits. Corn was the main source of food, and the Graham-Rogers middens contained what appeared to be two varieties, a round "flat" kernel, and a somewhat more squarekerneled variety. Deer