

ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW JERSEY

Volume One.

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DESCRIPTION OF EXCAVATIONS

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Burials—Eight burials were unearthed in Lenhardt Excavation 1 distributed over a decidedly limited area (Plan 35). Ranging from but $4\frac{1}{2}$ " to 15" in depth,²⁵ several had been slightly damaged by the plow. Numerous fragments of human bones scattered throughout the excavation imply that additional skeletons had been completely demolished. Potsherds, animal bones and fragmentary artifacts were distributed through the soil surrounding the skeletons. Evidently, these were loose in the ground at the time of burial and were not from cultural pits, for in only one case was a burial cut into a definite pit. In spite of the disturbance, most of the skeletons were in a fairly good state of preservation, good enough to obtain adequate drawings and photographs (Pls. 47a, 47b).

All of the skeletons were flexed; the varying degree of flexure may be seen on the ground plan (Plan 35). Six were resting on the left side with head to the northeast and the remaining two were completely reversed. The majority were accompanied by articles of European manufacture. Until anthropometric studies are made on the skeletons, the information contained in Table 2 must suffice.

TABLE 2. BURIALS FROM LENHARDT EXCAVATION 1

| <i>Skeleton No.</i> | <i>Depth</i> | <i>Position</i> | <i>Side</i> | <i>Face</i> | <i>Age</i> | <i>Sex</i> | <i>Associated Objects</i> |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--|
| 201 | 9½" | NE-SW | Left | SE | Adult | F | Trade pipe at vertex of skull. |
| 202 | 13" | NE-SW | Left | SE | Adult | M | |
| 203 | 15" | NE-SW | Right | NW | Infant | | |
| 204 | 7" | NE-SW | Left | SE | Adult | M | Trade pipe at vertex of skull. |
| 205 | 11" | NE-SW | Left | SE | Adult | F | 14 red trade beads and shell pendants around neck. ✓ |
| 206 | 4½" | NE-SW | Left | SE | Adult | F | Trade pipe below mandible; twisted copper wire. |
| 207 | 7" | NE-SW | Right | NW | Adult | F | Copper bracelet on left wrist; trade pipe in right hand; 250 black and 26 white trade beads under skull. ✓ |
| 208 | 8" | NE-SW | Left | SE | Child | | Chert arrowhead near right scapula. |

SPECIMENS

Stone Industry—Of the 211 stone artifacts from both sections, 61% are of argillaceous materials and 29% of flinty materials. Shale and argillite occur in almost equal proportions. Most of the remainder are sandstone except for a few pieces of quartzite, steatite, mica schist and conglomerate. The average depth of non-pit stone artifacts was 11.2" with a maximum concentration at about 10.0". The deepest specimens are two argillite points found at 29". This distribution might have been affected by the fact that most of the remains came from an area disturbed by a plow turn.

Argillaceous and flinty materials were used for the 69 typed arrowheads. The triangular points, made almost entirely of flinty materials, decidedly predominate, accounting for 35%. Side-notched points, almost equally made of argillaceous and flinty materials, are next in numerical importance (16%) and are closely followed by right angle-stemmed points (15%), which are largely of shale. Thirteen per cent are leaf-shaped and 10% plain-stemmed, both almost exclusively of argillaceous materials. A few oblique-notched, bifurcate-based and lozenge-shaped points complete the list of arrowheads (Pl. 46b, Figs. 1-6, 8-11).

²⁵ Depth measured to top of skull which in no case was 5" higher than the lowest part of the skeleton.

The five pipe sherds consist of two bowls and three stem fragments. These are made of fine buff paste and are undecorated. The fragments are not large enough to determine the shape of the bowl or the angle formed by the bowl with the stem. The stems are thick and taper sharply to the mouthpiece.

Animal Bones—Most of the animal bones were found in pits but some were loose in the soil at depths ranging from 5" to 30". The loose bones were usually scattered separately throughout the earth, but occasionally several pieces were found together. These are in small fragments, exhibiting sharp splintery fractures and certain of them show evidence of having been subjected to fire-action. Fragments of both the carapace and the plastron of a large turtle were scattered in Pit No. 13 but whether or not they formed part of a rattle could not be determined. The only possible tool is a fragment of antler which had been severed near the base. The side of one of the branches shows traces of intentional shaping.

European Trade Objects—One complete white clay trade pipe was found with Skeleton No. 201 (Pl. 49a). The heel is slightly keeled and the bowl is decorated with a single row of milling just below the rim. Three additional pipes with broken stems accompanied Skeletons Nos. 204, 206, 207 (Pl. 49b, Figs. 11, 12). All are of the same general type with narrow bowls and wide, flat, disk-shaped heels. Two have single rows of milling just below the rim while the third is plain. The undecorated pipe also has a narrower bowl with a more pronounced bulge below the rim. A single stem fragment found loose in the soil completes the list of trade pipes. All have wide holes measuring from 4 to 5 mm. in diameter.

A bracelet of copper was found on the left wrist of Skeleton No. 207. It is made from a thin strip of hammered copper and the open ends are rounded off. It is decorated with a fine but crudely executed incised design consisting of four sets of six diagonal lines bordered above and below with a double line of incisions (Pl. 49b, Fig. 6).

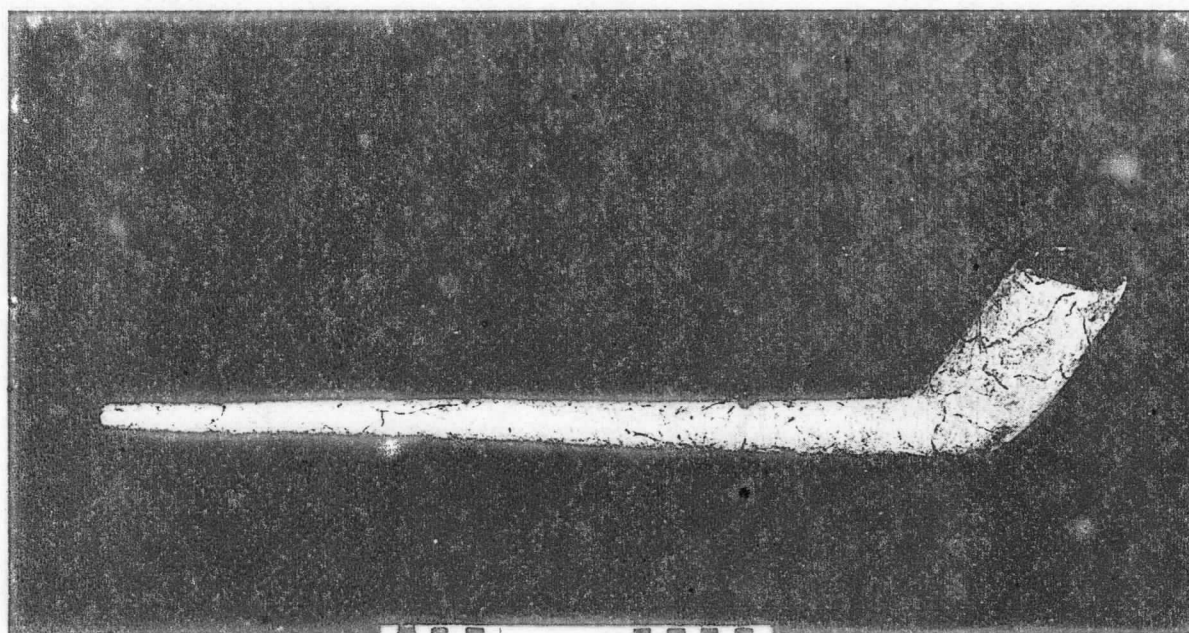
Four fragments of hand-forged copper wire, square in cross section, were found at the bottom of Pit No. 1 (Pl. 49b, Figs. 1-4) and a similar fragment accompanied Skeleton No. 206 (Fig. 5). In both cases the wire had been twisted into loops as if to form a design. Fourteen red ball and barrel-shaped trade beads were found around the neck of Skeleton No. 205; 250 black and 26 white ring-shaped beads were found under the skull of Skeleton No. 207 (Pl. 49b, Fig. 9).

The only contact object recovered from the Lahaway Hill section is a triangular copper arrowhead found at a depth of 13" (Pl. 49b, Fig. 7).

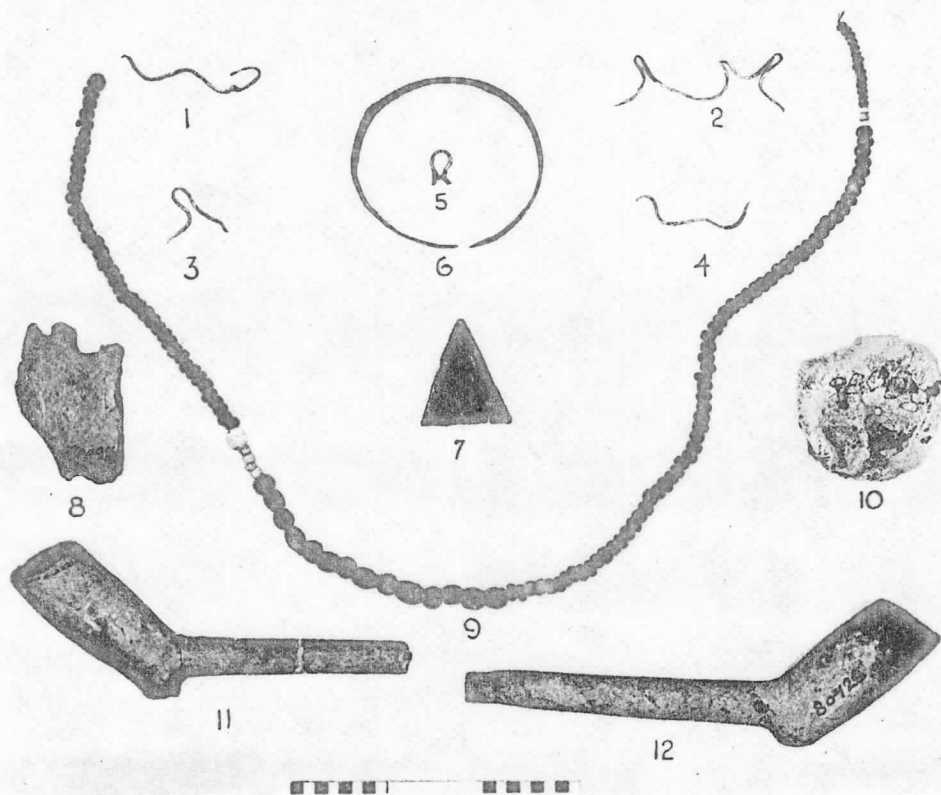
CONCLUSIONS

Unfortunately, the excavations on the Lenhardt farm were limited to narrow strips along the creek banks which were free from cultivation. Thus, in spite of the comparative richness of the material culture and the great number of pits and burials, the actual area excavated is hardly sufficient to draw conclusions for the whole site. Also unfortunate is the fact that the Lahaway Hill section, which was dug primarily to secure material to compare with Lenhardt, produced so poorly.

The material culture indicates that the whole site was at least a semi-permanent camp while the pits and burials argue for a more permanent occupation. The presence of numerous trade objects proves that the site was used during the contact period and the fact that the skeletons which were accompanied by trade pieces were flexed and extremely shallow, points to an early date in that period. That the burials are contemporaneous with part of the Munsee Cemetery near Montague is



a



b

a. Trade Pipe Found with Skeleton No. 202, Lenhardt Excavation 1
b. Trade Material, Gorget Fragment and Shell Disk, Lenhardt-Lahaway Hill