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unexpected intervals, the Contact stage was fraught with a host of tragedies, the result of intertribal warfare, and hostile operations of a deteriorating primitive society against the approach of a civilized one. At least, this appears as a probability, if we are to accept archaeological research as a logical source, supported by historic events recorded by early commentators. A reasonable evaluation derived from this investigation suggests that a cultural decline took place during the 1,300 years of the Ceramic-Woodland period due to pursuit of warfare as a means to an end, of which military bravery was accepted by both men and women alike as an essential social attribute.

### CONTACT RECOVERIES

The various recoveries now to be described were found during the summer and fall of 1974 by Dr. Zariphes, and recently were brought to the Bronson Museum for study, as previously mentioned. Illustrations of them are shown to help the reader obtain a better idea of how they look than words alone can provide (Fig. 14).

Exhibit #1 is from East Windsor Hill, Connecticut, an area that has produced a great many artifacts of aboriginal days. On this occasion the search for artifacts was undertaken with a metal detector. The site is located at the confluence of the Scantic and Connecticut rivers, where in Contact days the Scantic Indians had a large camp. Search for artifacts continued for hours, and at last, on a 4 foot high bank above the Connecticut, where river flooding had worn away some of the site in past years, a strike was made. About 6 feet from the edge of the bank the illustrated tomahawk (Exhibit #1) was located lying just under a covering of loam. This blade is significant because of the pointed design of its oval eye in the poll, where the handle was attached. This trait, of infrequent occurrence, is to be seen on the two specimens from the Saugus Iron Works (Fig. 13). Could it be that this East Windsor blade was made at Saugus, and found its way across country to the Connecticut Valley over well-known Indian trails.

Recovery of this East Windsor Indian weapon of Contact times was on one of two occasions, as reported in this paper, when a metal detector was used to advantage in locating metal objects concealed from view in the ground. The second occasion came about as a result of a personal invitation. This time Dr. Zariphes journeyed into Iroquois territory and searched a well-known Mohawk site, to which he had had previous access with favorable results. The site is located in the town of Fort Plain, about half way between Little Falls and Schenectady in the Mohawk Valley. It covers the crest of a steep-sided 75 to 100 foot high ridge, or "hogsback," with the Caroga Creek on one side—about 1 mile distant from the Mohawk River. On this ridge in Contact days Mohawks of the Wolf Clan are known to

have had a double stockaded village, one of several Iroquois strongholds, which early writers refer to as Iroquois "Castles." The Mohawk castle of this report, Tionondogue, is reported to have contained 30 lodges inside the stockade, besides 10 more lying outside at the base of the ridge near the creek. The number of fighting men is said to have been 300, who were called into action on two notable occasions in 1689 and 1693. In these fateful years their stockaded stronghold was destroyed by fire, when attacked by the French and Hurons from the north. As reported by early writers, in the successful 1693 assault, 300 Mohawks, men, women and children were taken captive into Canada. With such fights occurring at Tionondogue from time to time, recovery at the site of weapons that may have been used should be expected. The tomahawk, more than any other weapon was doubtless a necessary part of a fighter's equipment. So, when the metal detector struck first one and then another, evidence of the fighting that once took place there seemed well established.

Two types of relatively heavy tomahawks were recovered, one with a plain oval eye poll (Exhibit #2, weighing 2 lbs.), the other with a solid poll (Exhibit #4). Of this type, an interesting specimen was recovered (Exhibit #3). This blade was being cut in two, in an effort to make a narrow bladed tomahawk with a width of 1 3/4". Apparently, the Mohawk workman had obtained from the whites a cold chisel, with which he had succeeded in cutting a groove the length of the blade not only on one face, but on the opposite face as well. Just short of cutting the blade in two, the workman had given up on what obviously must have been a tedious job. To have carried a 2 lb. tomahawk like Exhibit #2 would have needed a strong arm, of which doubtless there were many. Given such motivation, a heavy blade like this would have been ready to do double duty when required, such as cutting down trees in building a barricade—reported by Champlain as previously mentioned.

During these recoveries at Tionondogue Dr. Zariphes made numerous surface finds as well, which are included in the page of illustrations. Exhibits #5-10 are Iroquois projectile points. Their appearance in the plowed top soil suggest that not all the Mohawk fighters had trade flintlock muskets from the whites. Evidently, arrows played a significant part. Also included among the recoveries are 4 Crescent drills (Exhibits #11-14). Points and drills are all made of black flint—probably Helderberg—except one bluish-gray point of Little Falls flint (Exhibit #9).

As further evidence of Contact days 3 large colored striped glass trade beads were picked up (Exhibit #15). And, as evidence of native industry, 2 black shell discs of perforated wampum were found (Exhibit #16), possibly drilled by one of the recovered drills, or its equivalent.



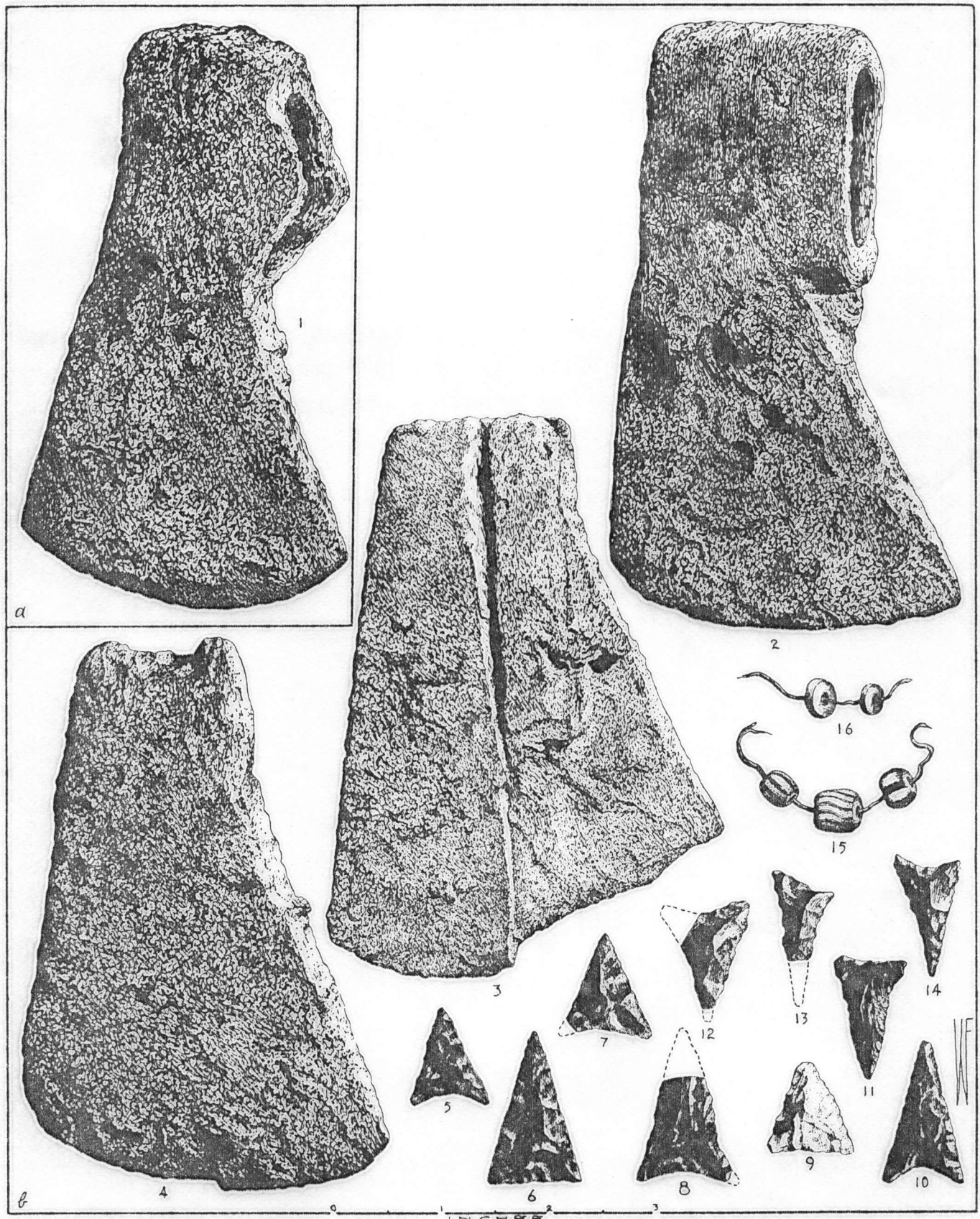


Fig. 14. TOMAHAWKS AND RELATED RECOVERIES. a) East Windsor Hill, Connecticut: 1, Tomahawk with pointed oval eye. b) Tionondogus Mohawk "Castle" site, Mohawk Valley; 2, Heavy 2 lbs. Tomahawk with oval eye; 3, Tomahawk with solid poll, showing cold chisel attempt to make a narrow blade; 4, Solid poll Tomahawk; 5-10, Iroquois points (Small Triangular #5, 6; 11-14, Crescent drill; 15, Striped glass beads; 16, Shell wampum).