

annual publication *HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*. Application for membership is received by the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Arnold R. Pilling, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48202.

The first Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology at Williamsburg, on January 12-13, 1968, began with an organizational conference of the Officers and Board of Directors. The program included a resume of the current status of Historical National Sites Registry, National Legislation and Current Field Projects according to Region, as well as the Pacific area, Canada and Mexico. Sessions were held to describe and discuss ceramics and glass from the 17th through the 19th centuries. Motion pictures were screened, including the *Coopers Craft*, *Pioneer Acts*, and *Colonial Six* as well as *4-Butte-1: A Lesson in Archeology*, produced by the University of California on an historic Indian site. Three rooms were provided for open discussion on an informal basis by specialists and interested auditors on ceramics, glass and metal objects. As an aid to the discussions, a keg of beer was provided in each conference room for the benefit of the participants and auditors.

A session was held on Saturday, January 13, on the excavation of military sites and a talk was given on the dating and evolution of arms in the Colonial and Federal periods by Harold Peterson of the National Park Service. A session was held on Industrial Archaeology led by Robert Vogel of Smithsonian Institutions' Museum of History and Technology. The session concluded with a visit to the Department of Archeology laboratories and colonial Williamsburg craft Shops and a symposium on laboratory treatment of excavated artifacts.

The dinner speaker was Dr. George Bass, University of Pennsylvania, who gave an illustrated talk on *Techniques of Under Water Archaeology*.

THE MADISON CEMETERY

R. P. GRAVELY JR.

The Sura Indians were an important historic tribe of the eastern Siouan group, living in the central and western Piedmont along and south of the Virginia-North Carolina border. Lederer (1670) and Abram Wood (1673) mention only a single town. William Byrd (1728) names and locates an upper and a lower Saura Town, both abandoned, on the Dan River. Lower Saura Town was described as being on the right or south bank of the Dan two miles east of the present town of Leaksville, N. C., between the Dan and Saura Creek (now Town Creek). Upper Saura Town was on the Dan in the general vicinity of Walnut Cove, N. C. About 1710 the Saura were forced by pressure from the Seneca and other Iroquois to move south and settle among the Keyauwee. The Barnwell map of 1722 has the Sura situated on the lower Pee Dee (Yadkin) River.

In 1966 a native cemetery site was discovered on the Dan River about fifteen miles upstream from the site of Byrd's Lower Saura Town. Quantities of European trade goods have been recovered from the burials, including glass beads, copper and brass articles, and steel tools and weapons. There is little indication on the site itself of a native village large enough to have accounted for the total of 120 burials which have been discovered to date. However, diagonally across the Dan, is a village site of unknown extent, but probably large, which may have been associated with the cemetery.

The burials were located in a strip sixty feet wide running 225 feet northeast parallel to the river. The entire area was laid off in a five-foot grid and excavated, with all features carefully plotted. The cemetery area may extend further to the east, but circumstances did not permit further investigation in that direction initially. A series of small test holes disclosed a 12" midden layer below the plowed zone, extending east about fifty feet from the edge of the excavated area. From the base of the ridge a layer of hard reddish clay covered the midden layer beneath the plowed zone to a point twenty-five feet from the edge of the excavated area; this is evidently soil washed down from the ridge at a time subsequent to the occupation of the site by the Indians. Within the midden area three large shallow bowl-shaped refuse pits were found which contained potsherds of a rather crudely made sand or crushed-quartz tempered pottery, of smooth Catawba-like pottery, and the check-stamped and curvilinear complicated stamped pot-

tery, in addition to deer antler, deer and other animal bone, box-tortoise shell, mussel and univalve shells, bone awls and flakers, a broken bone beamer, charred corn-cobs, and other village debris. It is possible that a small habitation area lies in the fifty-foot strip to the east of the excavated cemetery area.

The majority of the bodies were placed on the back or turned slightly to the left side, heads to the east, knees flexed to the left (south), and hands crossed on the chest or upper abdomen. Two bodies were fully extended, one had the lower legs folded back tightly against the thighs, and one was located with the head to the west (but with the knees flexed to the right, or south). Many, and possibly all, of the graves were lined with bark and the bodies wrapped in matting woven of split cane.

Nineteen of the burials contained a deposit of heavy sandy ash in the upper levels, extending outwards in many cases in a circle with the diameter about equal to the long axis of the grave. In this ash were food remains (bone, shell, charred vegetable matter) but very few sherds or other objects. Scattered through the ash was red ocher, occasionally in considerable amounts. From the appearance, these ash deposits were the remains of funeral feasts thrown into ceremonial fires kindled over the partially-filled graves at or subsequent to the interment.

Thirty-five burials contained red ocher in varying amounts, on and about the body and scattered through the fill. Ten complete clay vessels of native manufacture were found, indicative of offerings of food and drink placed with the remains.

Grave offerings were present in seventy percent of the burials, which is a rather high ratio. Fourteen graves contained native artifacts only, twenty-two contained both native and trade articles, forty-eight contained trade goods only, and thirty-six had no offerings. The percentage of burials with articles of native manufacture would undoubtedly have been much higher if the objects made of wood, leather, fiber, fur, and other perishable materials had not disintegrated and vanished without a trace. The presence of European trade goods in sixty percent of the burials is indicative of a wealthy village in which the European-made articles were beginning to supplant the Indian wares, particularly so in the case of items of personal adornment.

Glass trade beads were very numerous, over twenty-five thousand of them having been recovered. They are of many varieties, sizes, and colors, including polychrome. Sizes vary from the small 1½ to 2 mm. seed beads used for embroidery to the larger types which were strung into necklaces and bracelets, worked into ornaments, or attached to the seams of garments. In two cases the pattern of the beadwork was preserved and was recorded. A single amber-colored transparent faceted glass bead was found. Copper and brass was quite plentiful, worked into short rolled tubular beads, long rolled beads or hair-tubes, conical tinklers sewn to the hems of infants' garments, round and rectangular gorgets, and a variety of miscellaneous ornaments. There were two steel awls or knives with wooden handles, a large knife, the tip of a knife or sword, and a well-preserved shell tomahawk head around which was wrapped a chain of small dough-nut-shaped metal beads.

Preserved by copper salts on or near the copper and brass objects were a number of fragments of woven matting, twisted cord, bark, leather, hair and fur, and skin and flesh. One of the most unusual items preserved in this manner was a band of snakeskin about which had been clinched six strips of copper, and to which was attached two fragments of a knotted net made of thin leather thongs. From the position of this article it was a hair ornament or possibly a copper-decorated net cap.

The number of burials made during what appears to have been a relatively short time indicates that the dead may have come from a village swept by an epidemic of one of the white man's diseases. The exact name of this village and its native people is lost in the mists of time. Nevertheless, it is quite likely that we can identify and name the Englishmen who traded there and who may have brought with them the diseases which took such a toll of the villagers. There is even a date to guide us. William Byrd, in "A Journey to the Land of Eden" (1733), writes as he camps on the banks of the Dan just south-east of the present city of Danville, Virginia, fifty miles downstream from this site:

"We forded another stream, which we called Hatcher Creek, from two Indian traders of that name who used formerly to carry goods

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to the Sauro Indians. Near the banks of this creek I found a large beech tree with the following inscription cut upon the bark of it, 'JH, HH, BB lay here the 24th of May 1673.' It was not difficult to fill up these initials with the following names, Joseph Hatcher, Henry Hatcher, and Benjamin Bullington, three Indian traders who had lodged near that place sixty years before in their way to the Sauro town."

EXCAVATIONS AT THE SITE OF LOWER WESTOVER CHURCH CHARLES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

EDWARD F. HEITE

During the spring of 1967, members of the Richmond, Peninsula, and Appomattox chapters of the Archeological Society of Virginia conducted excavations at the site of Lower Westover Church (ca. 1730-ca. 1805), in Charles City County, Virginia. Since some structures at the site had been damaged by earthmoving machinery, the site assumed the character of a salvage excavation. An eminent historian, using a probe rod and a vivid imagination, had concluded that the site contained also the site of Wallingford Church (1648-1720), although the western limit of Wallingford Parish was a hundred yards east of the site.

Excavations proved that only the Lower Westover Church had stood on the site, and a plan of the church and of the churchyard wall was produced. Although the church and the wall had been robbed of most of their brickwork, enough remained to leave vivid details for the archaeologist. The alleged site of Wallingford Church was proved to be a brick kiln, which had been constructed for the purpose of building the Lower Westover Church. Two kilns, a heap of oyster shells from lime-burning, and the pit from which the brick clay had been dug were found. A full report has been published by the owners of the site, and is available from Westover Church, Charles City, Virginia, at \$1.00 per copy.

A STUDY OF POTTERY IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

C. G. HOLLAND

During the summer of 1963 and 1964 an archeological survey, supported by the National Science Foundation by a grant to the Smithsonian Institution, surveyed 7,000 sq. mi. in 18 counties in southwest Virginia and small parts of two counties in North Carolina. Some 21,808 potsherds were collected from the surface and by excavation. Seven series were found to be present, namely: Dan River, Grayson, Lee, New River, Radford, Smyth and Wythe. Each series was plotted geographically, which showed the regional distribution and permitted a hypothesis on the portal of entry of each series into the area. This was followed by the establishment of four ceramic areas: Piedmont Uplands-Blue Ridge Mountains, Holston-Upper New-Roanoke Rivers, Lower Clinch-Powell Rivers, and Western. Within these ceramic areas the technique of seriation delineated the changes in ceramics that took place. These changes were placed temporally by excavated levels, carbon-14 dates and historic accounts and materials. The main sequences occurred in Mississippian, Late Woodland and Historic times.

AN ARCHAIC STEATITE QUARRY NEAR GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

A. R. KELLY

For some years I have been interested in the problems of steatite quarrying in neighboring areas of South Carolina and Georgia. Recently

I visited the large quarry outside Greenville where a considerable section has been exposed due to the activities of "rock hounds" excited about the discovery of corundum and sapphires in the same mineral context. Among the characteristic artifacts associated with the quarrying activities are numerous bludgeoned three-quarter grooved axes and steatite bowls in varying degrees of manufacture. It appears demonstrable that the grooved axes, mostly three-quarter grooved, are quarry tools discarded after being used in quarrying.

Bowl shapes appear in three general forms. The whole question as to the functional explanation of these artifacts needs to be considered. The extensiveness of steatite exploitation in the southern Appalachians, carrying over from the Archaic to the Early Woodland, needs to be examined in the light of wide ecological implications and technological changes introduced by the earliest pottery, i.e. fiber-tempered ware as exhibited in the Stallings Island sites. River basin surveys in north and northeast Georgia in the last fifteen years have produced pertinent data relating to this problem.

THE MILLER FIELD SITE: WARREN COUNTY NEW JERSEY

HERBERT C. KRAFT

In June 1967 the Seton Hall University Museum, South Orange, New Jersey, under a grant from the National Park Service, undertook a nine-week excavation of the multicomponent Miller Field site in the Upper Delaware River Valley, Warren County, New Jersey. This knoll-site in the Tocks Island Reservoir area yielded the first complete Indian house patterns in New Jersey, as well as the first Historic trade materials found in a sub-surface context.

Several house patterns were found. One pattern described a round house 22 ft. in diameter, one end of which expanded into a longhouse 38 ft. in length and 22 ft. in width. Lithic and ceramic evidence associated with the houses suggests it is terminal Owasco. A second longhouse, oriented north to south along the knoll, was 60 ft. by 20 ft. Three partitions extended from the east wall to within about 4 ft. of the west wall which provided a walkway. Ends of the structure were curved with a single entrance on the west wall. Both houses were double posted suggesting an inner and an outer framework.

Pits on the Miller Field site were of considerable variety in size, shape and function. Differences between pits of the earlier Owasco, Oak Hill, and Historic Period cultures were observed. A straight-sided, flat-bottomed pit 3 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. deep with one half of the floor compactly lined with cobble stones and fire cracked rock and the other half composed of a hard tamped earth was excavated. Ringing this unusual pit was a series of perpendicular postmolds about 3 in. in diameter and extending as much as 12 in. below the plow sole. The design suggests a small sweat lodge with floor divided into standing room and medicinal sauna.

Deer, turtle, dog, bird and shad fish bones were recovered, together with large quantities of fish scales and mussel shells. No worked bone, shell or antler artifacts were recovered. Three burials were found, with only the skulls and long bones surviving. One burial was a tightly flexed young adult; in another the right leg was flexed while the left leg was extended. The third burial was plow scattered. These burials are tentatively dated as terminal Owascoid, although no grave goods accompanied these interments.

Projectiles points were almost exclusively triangular, and were fashioned predominantly of local Helderberg Limestone flint and Glen-erie flints. Many of the triangular artifacts showed signs of having been used for purposes as scrapers, "strike-a-lights", reamers, and drills. A number of gravers with finely chipped central spurs were recovered, as were teshoas and elongated pebble tools, abraders, chisels, celts, both square sided and beveled, and numerous utilized flakes. Pendants of slate, usually of trianguloid form with serrated perimeters, were the ornaments found.

The ceramic remains showed a wide range of influence. Overpeck pottery, more common below the Delaware Water Gap, was frequently found in association with the earlier Owasco forms. Susquehanna pots