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THE FLETCHER SITE : PART II

by

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INTRODUCTION

In May, 1955, a second excavation of the Milton Fletcher site on the Twenty Mile Creek was undertaken by members of the Jordan Museum of the Twenty, under the supervision of members of The Ontario Archaeological Society, of Toronto. This "dig" was organized primarily for the purpose of giving specific instruction in archaeological field techniques to members of the Jordan Museum "Dig Committee" and to acquire additional material to substantiate the tentative date and tribal affiliation which was suggested in the initial report on this site.

THE EXCAVATION

Five five-foot squares were staked out to the east of the parallel trenches excavated previously (refer to Part I), as well as a test trench 2½ feet wide and 5 feet long, located on the top of the sloping creek bank at the north-west end of the wooded area, adjacent to the ploughed field. Surface material observed in this latter field was found to be similar in type to that located in the excavated areas.

POTTERY

RIM SHERDS

<u>Ceramic Type</u>	<u>Tribal and Temporal Relationship</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Lawson Opposed	Neutral and Erie - dominant in historic and late prehistoric times.	8
Lawson Incised	same as above.	7
Seed Incised (variant)	occurs throughout Huron history	1
Problematical	appears to be a Cayuga form	1
Unidentifiable	too fragmentary for classification	30

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Besides the flint, a bi-pitted sandstone anvil, two broken abraders, and a lump of hematite (which would likely be crushed to obtain a reddish powder used as paint) were removed.

SHELL

The only specimen encountered was a fragment of clam shell.

METAL

One thin fragment of trade copper, 1 3/4" by 7/16", was recovered.

BEADS

One small, round, red trade bead, about 1/16" in diameter was found.

CONCLUSION

Since the excavation in October, 1954, was limited to one day, owing to inclement weather, the small sample of cultural material obtained was not sufficient to allow its recognition as being necessarily representative of that throughout the entire site. The "dig" in May, 1955, however, with its subsequent artifact analysis, supports the previous tentative dating of this site as contact Neutral. While French goods in any quantities were not discovered during the course of the two excavations, those that were found suggest a direct relationship between French and Indian. Apart from the fact that the ratio of trade to Indian artifacts would be small in any case, it must also be borne in mind that this site has been known to Indian souvenir hunters for some years, and that specimens such as glass beads, copper and other trade material would be taken as collector's items. The continued scarcity of pipes and pipe fragments on this badly looted site supports the theory, previously advanced, that pipes would be among the first of the artifacts taken by relic seekers.

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