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PREHISTORY OF THE UPPER OHIO VALLEY; AN INTRODUC- TORY ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDY

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Historic period. Documentary records indicate that groups of Delaware and Shawnee were in the area in the last half of the 18th century. No precisely located sites are yet known and artifacts distinctive of the period are not well known. However, several Monongahela sites in Greene County, Pa., have produced scraps of brass and copper (including riveted fragments), ornaments formed out of such scraps, and a few blue glass beads. Engberg (1930, p. 78) reports one burial with copper beads which may be either native or European copper. The copper reported from the Keyser site (Manson, MacCord and Griffin, 1943, p. 400) is definitely native but since much of the Greene County metal is brass, and obvious kettle fragments do occur, it seems likely that the metal was obtained indirectly from Europeans, possibly through a chain of intermediate Indian groups. The glass beads are definitely of European manufacture so there seems little doubt that these sites represent occupations during the earliest part of the Historic period.

Butler (1936*b*) first recorded historic items from the White site (36Gr16) but the importance of these finds was not emphasized and no additional work was carried out. Jones (1945) has briefly described some of this material and illustrated some of the historic Monongahela artifacts which we have not been able to examine. On a map which accompanies "The Horn Papers" (Greene County Historical Society, 1945) many archeological sites are plotted, most of which are probably prehistoric and Historic Monongahela.

A fair amount of European trade material has come from at least five sites which are clustered in the area just south of Waynesburg, Pa., and much of this I have examined in the museum at Waynesburg College. On the basis of many years of collecting from these sites, Dr. Paul R. Stewart, President of Waynesburg College, feels that it is possible to arrange these historic Monongahela sites in order of amounts of trade material. The Eisiminger site (36Gr2) has the greatest quantity and assuming this to represent 100, the others follow in sequence (going back in time towards the prehistoric) as indicated below.

36Gr2	100
36Gr17	50
36Gr1	35
36Gr15	5
36Gr16	5
36Gr13	0

The most common forms of trade copper or brass are the cylindrical bead and the conical jangler or "tinkling cone". A few of these forms are very carefully made and possibly are of European manufacture. Most of the metal artifacts, however, appear to have been made by the Indians from pieces of scrap. Ornaments of unusual form which are quite distinctive are illustrated on Plate 63. The "salamander" forms (Plate 63, "A") are found at no other site in the Upper Ohio Valley, but are duplicated from the Clover site (46Cb40) which will be described in the following Ohio Valley section. The copper spiral is found in the Clover complex and at the Herriott farm site (MacCord, 1952) and is also a diagnostic for early Historic Seneca (Wray and Schoff, 1953) sites in western New York. The spiral and other items probably come from the Ingraham site.

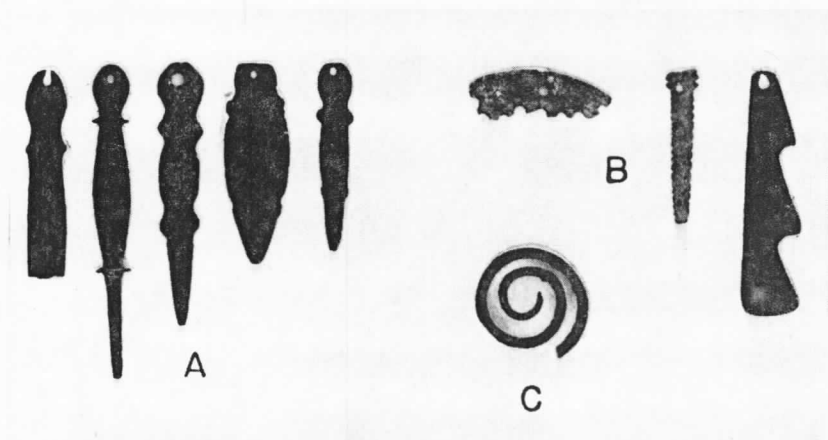


Plate 63. Copper and brass artifacts from Greene County, Pa., Historic Monongahela sites in the collection of the museum at Waynesburg College
A, Salamander-shaped pendants. B, Pendants. C, Spiral ear ornament.

Items on Plate 64 were found with burial 10 on the Ingraham site according to the field notes of Butler (n.d.). No information is available on type of burial but 19 janglers, 3 short and 4 long tubular beads, 2 circular disk pendants, 1 rectangular pendant and 1 hawk bell comprise the copper items. A "double-pointed iron needle," two bone combs and one antler ladle are also reported with the burial. I have seen none of these items but Butler photographed the specimens and her photograph was used for Plate 64. Another group of trade items recently added to the Waynesburg College collection was collected years ago from the Eisiminger site (36Gr2) and consists of blue glass beads, two red beads with a blue core, and several perforated fragments of small copper spheres, perhaps crudely hand-made bell fragments. In addition, a small scrap of silver has been found on this site and may pertain to the Historic Indian occupation. ✓

Historic Monongahela sites have produced many bone and shell ornaments, some of which are shown on Plate 65. Bone beads (Plate 65, "A") tend to be shorter and thicker than on prehistoric sites and are often made of young deer cannon bone as well as bird bone. Perforated canine-tooth pendants are quite common and represent several kinds of animals. The perforated, ground and polished "shoe shaped" bear molars on Plate 65, "F" are unique in the Upper Ohio Valley (The one at the left is stained green, evidently from copper). They occur only at 36Gr1, but are found on several Late Prehistoric or Early Historic Iroquois sites in western New York (Parker, 1920, Plate 36). MacCord (1952, Fig. 4) has reported these same items as well as brass artifacts (MacCord, 1952, Fig. 2) which are duplicated on the Greene County sites. Shell ornaments are varied and of both marine and fresh-water shell. Cannel coal pendants are also common and the major shapes are shown on Plate 65, "I" and "J". Projectile points found on these

Historic period. General references to late Historic Indian groups in this area are known, but artifactual evidence of such an occupation is not yet at hand. One unsuccessful attempt has been made (Augustine, n.d., and 1942) to locate the late Historic village known as "Logstown".

Evidence of an early Historic occupation has been noted for the section of the Ohio Valley just south of our Upper Ohio Valley area. This material has been called the Clover complex (Mayer-Oakes n.d.c) of Fort Ancient culture, and a brief summary is included here because of its basic relationship with Monongahela culture. This relationship has been mentioned before in the discussion of early Historic sites from Greene County, Pa. Representative items from the Clover complex are illustrated on Plates 101 through 108.

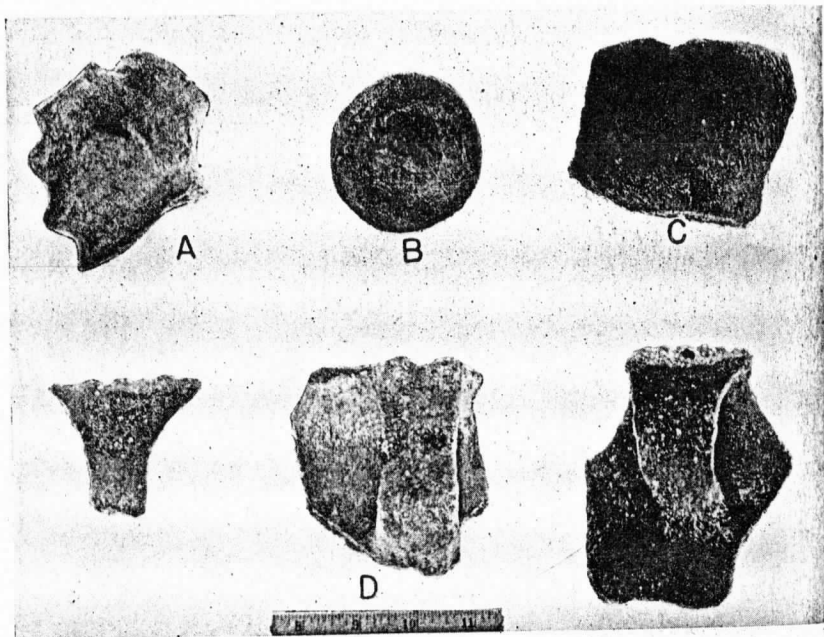


Plate 101. Clover complex pottery from the Sayre collection at Campus Martius Museum, Marietta, Ohio

A, Effigy water bottle fragment. B, Pottery trowel. C, Cordmarked bowl rimsherd. D, Strap handles.

This unit was briefly described by Griffin (1943a, p. 240-245), but except for one brief article (Mairs, 1950) it has remained largely unknown and undescribed in detail. The report presented here is preliminary to an intensive study which was started in 1953 by the West Virginia Archeological Society.

There are at least eight major sites of this complex, distributed from Huntington up to Marietta on the Ohio River and to Charleston on the



Plate 102. "Clover Cordmarked" pottery vessels from site 46Ms61 in the collection of O. L. Mairs

Kanawha River. Major sources of information to date are the collections of J. J. Adams and S. F. Durrett from the Clover site (46Cb40), that of O. L. Mairs from the Orchard or Parsons site (46Ms61), and those of C. L. Paxton and R. E. Barnett from the Buffalo and Orchard sites. Additional items from several sites have been examined in the collection of Elmer W. Fetzer. In addition to specimens there are notes made by Mairs on 70 burials which have been excavated from the Orchard site, from what is apparently a small cemetery or accretional burial mound. Also consulted were the field notes of Martin (n.d.) and Fetzer (n.d.a). The Clover site may have small burial or platform mounds on it; the existence of a truncated pyramidal mound, possibly in association with a unit of the Clover complex, has been noted (Griffin, 1952a). From the various past excavations at these sites it is apparent that this unit was an intensive village type occupation but the details of village structure must await systematic investigation. Burials are predominantly extended or semi-flexed, and 13 of them (Mairs, n.d.) give evidence of the use of rows of bone beads as skirt ornaments.

Clover sites are rather productive of artifacts, especially fragments of pottery. Sherds from the Sayre Collection at Campus Martius Museum, Marietta, Ohio (Plate 101) are the kind of material which may be in association with the pyramidal mound illustrated by Squier and Davis (1848). The presence of a hooded water bottle (Plate 101, "A") and a pottery trowel (Plate 101, "B") are particularly significant since such items are extremely rare on Fort Ancient sites, though common on some Middle Mississippi sites.

Fifteen complete pottery vessels have been examined from the Orchard site and examples of the major forms are shown on Plates 102 and 103. Typical cordmarked vessels with smoothed neck area and strap handles are shown on Plate 102, while the less common lugged and effigy-handle forms as well as bowl and simple-stamped forms are shown on Plate 103. As a

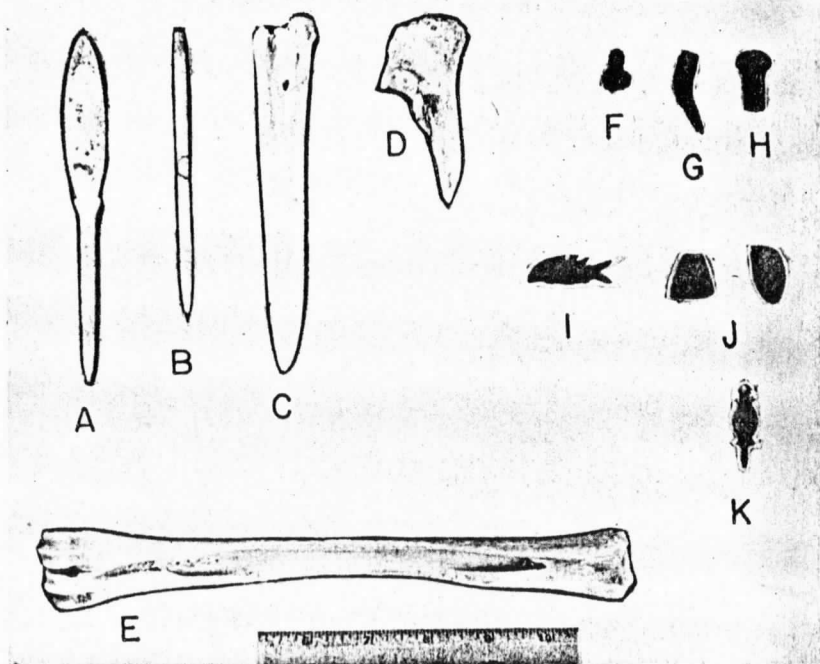


Plate 107. Clover complex artifacts

A, Spatulate bone pin from site 46Ms61 (O. L. Mairs collection). B, Bone pin from site 46Ms61 (O. L. Mairs collection). C, Bone chisel from site 46Ms61 (O. L. Mairs collection). D, Ulna awl from site 46Ms61 (O. L. Mairs collection). E, Cannon bone beamer from site 46Ms61 (O. L. Mairs collection). F, Cannel coal pendant in shape of elk canine from site 46Cb40 (S. F. Durrett collection). G, Cannel coal pendant in shape of canine tooth or claw from site 46Cb40 (S. F. Durrett collection). H, Cannel coal in shape of shell ear pin from site 46Cb40 (S. F. Durrett collection). I, Fish pendant in brass from site 46Cb40 (S. F. Durrett collection). J, Brass or copper pendants from site 46Cb40 (S. F. Durrett collection). K, Salamander-shaped effigy pendant of brass or copper from site 46Cb40 (S. F. Durrett collection).

beads, the Clover emphasis was on the use of mammal bone, especially the cannon bone of young deer. Some of these bone beads have been decorated with incised parallel lines. Other bone traits not illustrated include perforated pin, turtle-shell rattle, perforated raccoon penis bone, two-hole gorget, flute, rasp, cannon-bone awl, turtle-shell cup, needle and compound spearhead.

Plate 107 also shows the metal and cannel coal items in the Clover complex. The major Monongahela types of cannel coal pendant are duplicated, several other types are known and a knobbed pin, possibly an ear plug, is also made from cannel coal.

Both brass and copper fragments occur on several Clover sites. Some fragments are definitely parts of kettles of European manufacture as shown by the use of rivets. The most common artifacts worked from these scraps are conical janglers, cylindrical beads, and pendants in various geometric forms. Animal pendant forms are also known, and a fish is illustrated on Plate 107, "I". One of the most significant forms of pendant is the salamander-shaped one from the Clover site shown on Plate 107, "K". This item is an exact duplicate of pendants found on the Eisiminger site in Greene County, Pa., and illustrated on Plate 63. Small spherical blue glass beads have also been found on the Clover and possibly other sites of the complex. They are identical with the glass beads from Greene County, Pa. ✓

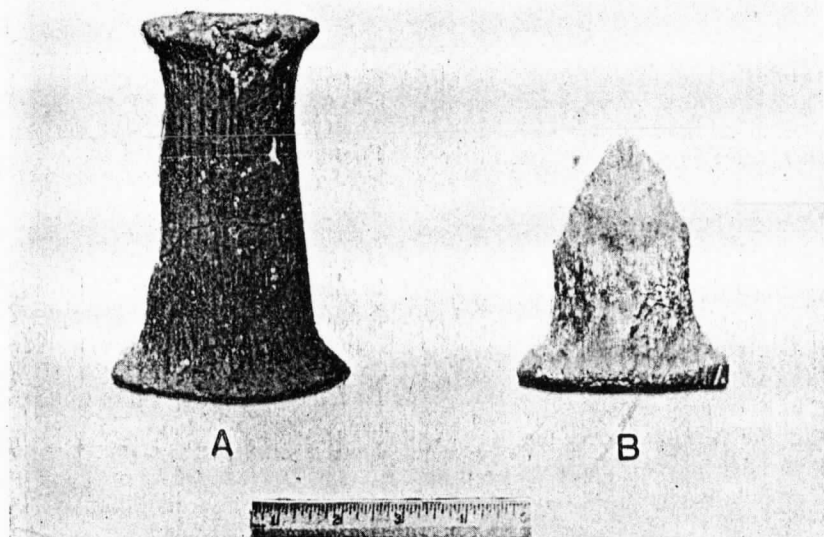


Plate 108. Pottery pestles (?) from site 46Cb40 in the collection of J. J. Adams

A, Cordmarked. B, Plain.

A preliminary trait list based on my intensive examination of three collections is found in Table 5. A great deal of additional artifact material has been examined in the high school collection at Parkersburg, W. Va. Most of it came from Blennerhassett Island and it all appears to belong in the Clover complex, judging by its approximation to the above trait table.

When comparing this Clover material to known archeological units one is impressed with the Monongahela and Fort Ancient resemblances. The whole complex looks very much like the historic part of Monongahela, especially in the proliferation of vessel forms and the trade goods. The Clover pottery vessel complex, however, is more closely related to the Madisonville focus of Fort Ancient, and in most of its traits appears to fit into this focus. On the basis of trade goods the Clover complex is similar to the historic Fort Ancient unit recently reported from the site of Fort St.

Historic period. A fair amount of historical research and writing concerned with the 18th century Indian groups of the area has been accomplished. General studies include Donehoo (1928), Sipe (1927, 1931), McKnight (n.d.) and Morgan (n.d.) Specific study of Indian trails has been done by Elkin (1940) and Wallace (1952), while the work of Swauger (1949) is the only intensive research on one particular late historic group. (See Fig. 29-30.)

The best known archeological unit representing the Historic period is the Historic Monongahela complex. Sites near Waynesburg, Pa., have been described as of the Monongahela type but with some artifact distinctiveness, especially a greater variety in forms of pottery vessels and the presence of small quantities of European manufactured goods. The fullness of the native complex plus the relatively and absolutely small amount of European material indicate that the unit flourished during the early part of the Historic period.

Most of the native artifact traits are directly derived from prehistoric Monongahela, but influences from the Clover complex farther down the Ohio River are apparent in pottery and bone work. Most traits involving European-made items are shared with Clover, but Historic Monongahela also reflects contacts with Iroquoian groups, specifically the Susquehannock (Cadzow, 1936, Plates 39, 40, 43, 83 and 88). The presence of a few "Monongahela Cordmarked" sherds at the Eschelman site which is considered by Witthoft (1952*b*) to be Susquehannock dating around 1650, may give an indication of the range of time of Historic Monongahela. This same pottery is found on the Herriot farm site, a Susquehannock village of the same time in West Virginia. Traits which occur at both the Herriot farm and on historic Monongahela sites are copper or brass spirals, cones and beads; spherical blue glass beads; "Monongahela Cordmarked" pottery and shoe-shaped bear-molar pendants.

The dating of this Historic Monongahela complex is somewhat confused by its similarities to the Clover material which may date towards the end of the 17th century. It seems likely, however, that Historic Monongahela existed for a span of at least 30-50 years sometime between A.D. 1600 and 1700, judging by cross-ties, especially with Susquehannock sites.

Fig. 29. Pottery vessel forms of the Ceramic Epoch, Early Historic period A, Plain jars from the East 28th Street site. B, Incised jars from the East 28th Street site. C, Punctate jars from the East 28th Street site. D, "Monongahela Plain" bottle. E, "Monongahela Plain" bowls. F, "Monongahela Cordmarked" plate. G, "Monongahela Cordmarked" bowls. H, "Monongahela Cordmarked" jars. (A, B and C are 0.22 natural size; D to H are 0.16 natural size.)

Another early Historic complex from the area is known from the East 28th Street site in Erie, Pa. This material probably represents the last Erie Indian occupation of the region. Some indication of Seneca occupation of the upper Allegheny is recognized, but most documented sites are at a much later period.

The latest historic Indian occupation known is at the site of Pymatuning town, a Delaware village. No artifactual information is yet available from this site, but it is definitely located and documented in historic written records.

Forms of pottery vessels from early historic complexes are shown in Fig. 29, while various distinctive Historic Monongahela artifacts appear in Fig. 30.

A schematic interpretation of the time, space and cultural relationships of various units is presented in Table 7.

Several interesting aspects of Upper Ohio Valley archeology have received little attention in this report since they are poorly known and crosscut temporal divisions. The sources of materials used by the prehistoric people, especially the cherts used for chipped stone tools, are an important clue to trade and other direct relationships. We are only beginning to learn about this aspect of prehistoric life. Several distinctive cherts are known and the sources of some of these are also known. The problem warrants separate treatment and will be so handled in a future paper.

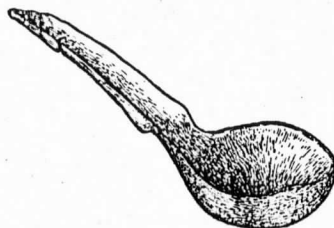
Petroglyphs have been recorded from several parts of the Upper Ohio Valley, but we have not yet devoted intensive research to the question of their significance. This, also, poses an interesting problem for future study.

Fig. 30. Distinctive artifacts of the Ceramic Epoch, Early Historic Monongahela period

A, Bone combs. B, Antler ladle. C, Shoe-shaped bear molar pendant. D, Copper or brass pendants. E, Salamander-shaped copper or brass pendants. F, Copper or brass disk pendant. G, Rectangular copper or brass pendant. H, Copper or brass conical jangler. I, Cylindrical copper or brass bead. J, Copper or brass hawk bell. K, Copper or brass spiral ornament. L, Riveted fragment of copper or brass kettle. M, Slab-covered semi-flexed juvenile burial pit. (All but M are 0.35 natural size.)



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



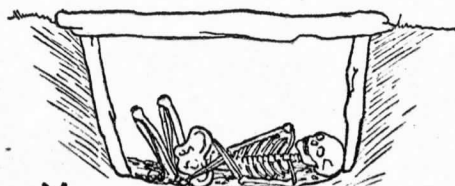
J



K



L



M

