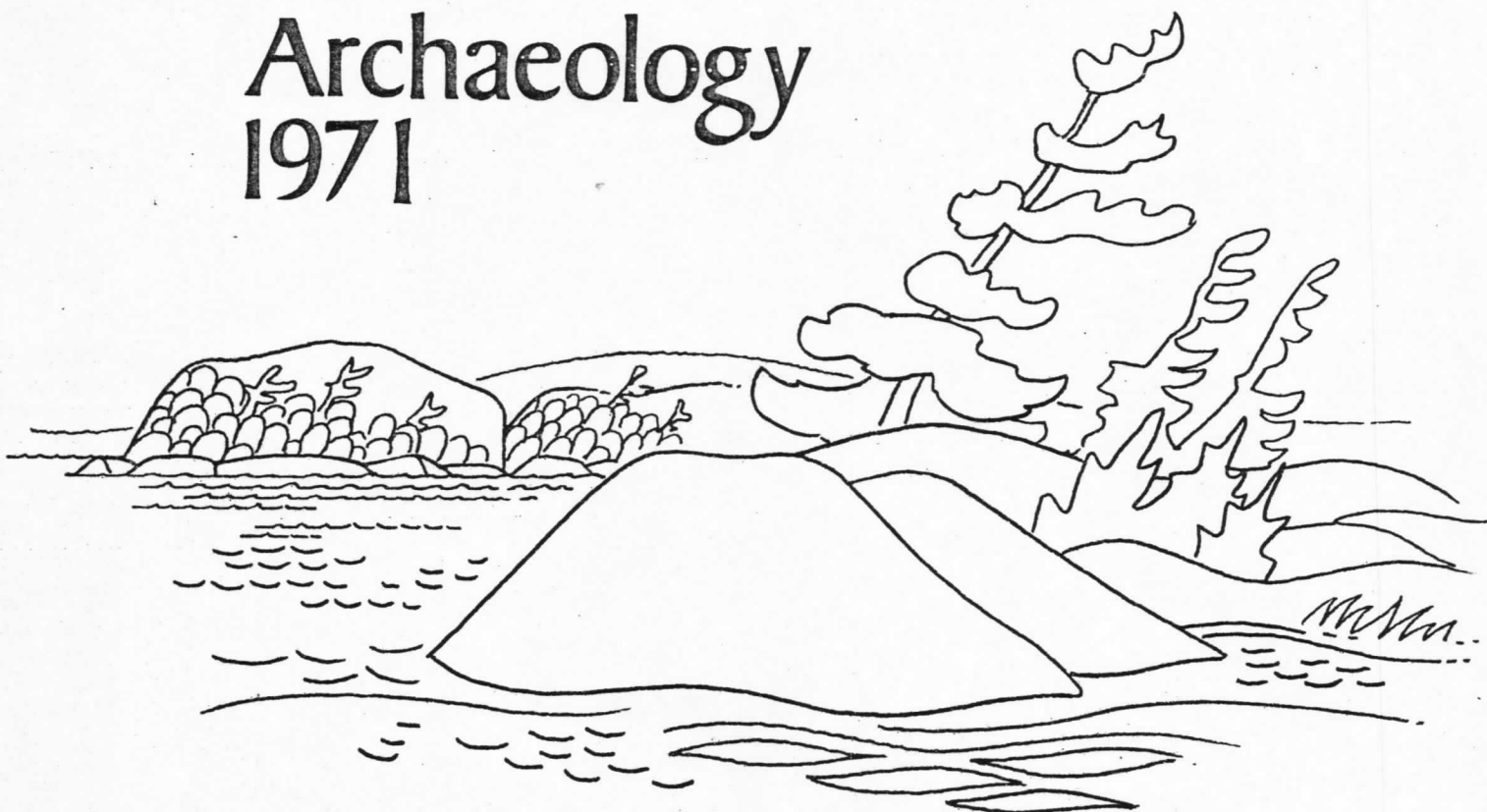


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Algonquin Park Archaeology 1971



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SECTION IVARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN
ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK, ONTARIO, 1971

by
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INTRODUCTION

This paper describes excavations conducted in Algonquin Provincial Park, Province of Ontario, in 1971 under a Canada Council Grant (S71-0682) and a Grant-in-Aid-of-Research from the Society of the Sigma Xi.

It is the counterpart of survey work conducted in 1970 and 1971 in Algonquin Park by the University of Toronto under the direction of Professor W. M. Hurley.

Complementary material, recovered during independent excavation by B. M. Mitchell of Deep River, Ontario, prior to 1969, will be discussed where necessary. This latter work covers areas adjacent to and within 64 km. of the Park's east border. It was assisted by the first Grant-in-Aid-of-Research of the Sigma Xi Fund of Canada.

GEOGRAPHY

The zone under discussion is about 10,300 sq. km. (7,500 sq. km. in Algonquin Park) in central eastern Ontario. It is 161 km. northwest of the capital city of Ottawa and bordered on the east by the Ottawa River. The pertinent section is a sand plain essentially resulting from delta action of the outpouring Algonquin Sea through the Petawawa River system. It is now predominantly covered with red and jackpine forest. The 1:50,000 maps of the National Topographic Series show a variation from 110 metres above mean sea level on the Ottawa River to 325 metres at Cedar Lake (Figure 7). Hills, up to 122 metres above the lakes are common.

Traversing the Park and its adjacent area to the east is the Petawawa River, a southeast flowing system of inter-connected lakes. From a source in the northwest Park corner, it travels 177 km., the last 32 km. which are outside the east border.

BACKGROUND

In 1970 and 1971 the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests contracted with the University of Toronto to assess the Park archaeological potential (Hurley and

Miscellaneous

Pitch filled Birch Bark Container: A sheet of birch bark has been folded to form a 17 x 8 cm. flat bottom, completely encircled by an approximately vertical lip, approximately 2.5 cm. high. The container is filled with a viscous black substance which is considered to be pitch. When first discovered the container was level and had the open side up, the surface of which at the time was quite hard, dry and brown in colour. After several weeks storage, the brown surface cracked and the black fill oozed outward.

White clay pipes (6): Six fragments are distinguishable as three stem fragments and two bowl fragments, and one connected stem and bowl, both incomplete. In the light of recent interest in these pipes, some description is given in Table 23.

TABLE 23
WHITE CLAY PIPE FRAGMENTS

IDENTITY	STEM DIMENSIONS				DEPTH	
	l	o.d.		Hole Diam.	in.	cm.
	mm.	mm.	in.	mm.		
Stem fragment	56	6.5	0.078	0.198	20	50.8
Heeled bowl & stem fragment	65	6.7	0.078	0.198	14.5	36.8
Plain stem fragment	46	7.4	0.070	0.177	Near Humus	
Face on bowl fragment						
Bowl fragment with rim ring					11.5	29.2

Glass bead (1): A middle blue glass bead from the pit has the general shape of a right cylinder, but with slightly excurvate sides. Length is 6.3 mm. and width measurements at 90° planes show off circular diameters of 5.8 and 6.8 mm. A roughly circular, centered hole of 2.3 mm. diameter runs through the long axis of the bead. The surface has 18 individual facets, distributed as follows: 6 diamond shaped facets encircle the middle circumference and a row of 6 half-diamonds (which symmetrically mate with the hole diamonds) encircle each end of the bead. The ends are plain.

Whetstone fragment: Three spalls of a grey fine grained stone which were later found to mate, appear to represent a portion of a whetstone. None of the length, width or thickness measurements are possible due to missing edges. Minimum dimensions are therefore 43 x 32 x 16 mm.

Stone chips: Quartz, quartzite, flint, basalt and granite chips were recovered during the excavation. Abundance, size and subtype are listed in Table 22.

Conclusion (Historic Component)

Placement of the W2A Historic component in time is determined principally by (a) musket ball size, (b) relationship of musket ball size to use of gun flints as opposed to percussion caps, (c) coinage, (d) appearance of lumber trade tools, (e) relationship of firearm usage to date of Act of Algonquin Park, (f) absence of pottery, both aboriginal and European type, and (g) button types. From these the date of occupation is considered to be 1850 \pm 20 A.D. The reasoning involved in this assessment is discussed below:

(a) Musket ball calibre is '69' which relates to the 'light musket', possibly the India Pattern Fusil introduced in this calibre in 1800. (Anonymous 1963).

(b) This possibility is reinforced by the presence of gun flints in the site, which suggest a flint lock weapon. Assuming the use of English weaponry in this Upper Canada setting, the respective percussion locks or rifled muskets were generally either smaller or larger calibres than 0.69 (op. cit.).

It is interesting to note that during the Mackenzie and Papineau uprisings about 1837, a store of flintlock muskets of the India Pattern had to be opened and were made available for purchase in 1843.

(c) The copper disc "token" generally belongs to the period before the establishment of Canada as a Dominion in 1867. Although we cannot identify the token recovered in the site due to heavy wear we know its thickness is much less than a 'normal' token - since some design can still be seen, the thickness measurement is relevant for comparison and relates well to the thin Tiffin Token of about 1812.

(d) The broad axe recovered represents commercial lumbering as opposed to use for domestic fuelwood supply. Whitton (1943:46) has found that lumbering was sufficiently advanced to require issue of licences in 1827.

(e) The establishment of Algonquin Provincial Park in 1893 provides a rough date for the latest use of firearms in that area.

slightly everted near the lip. Lip pinched. Rim thickness: at lip, 3.2 mm. At 25 mm. below the lip, thickness is 6.0 mm.

Body sherds: nine measurable sherds have a plain exterior. Five of the interiors are channelled with a thickness of 8.3 mm., ranging from 8.2 to 8.4 mm., and the other four interiors are plain with a thickness of 7.8 mm., ranging from 6.9 to 9.2 mm. Also, two dozen split sherds were recovered but not analysed.

Lithics

Celt: The item appears to be made of a dense conglomerate with hornblende inclusions. Ovate in plan view with parallel faces, the item measures 98 x 61 x 28 mm. There are no sharp edges. One face appears to be slightly flattened.

Stone chips: The following stone chips, of irregular outline, may represent chipping detritus: Quartz (6), Flint (3), and Greenstone (1).

Bone fragments: A generally white, calcined bone category comprises 38 small fragments, 6 with articulating facets showing and 32 nondescript.

W4 Historic

Lead shot (5): Five spherical pieces of lead shot were recovered averaging 5.1 mm. in diameter, but ranging from 4.9 - 5.2 mm.

Brass: A 1 mm. thick piece of brass plate has the shape of an isosceles triangle 50 x 37 mm., with sharp corners on the base but a rounded apex. Four 2 mm. holes are drilled in the plate, one in each base corner and 2 on the altitude within 6.5 and 16.5 mm. of the apex respectively. The whole item has been slightly bent into a concavo-convex shape.

Beads (2): One white discoidal seed bead was 2 mm. in diameter and 2-3 mm. thick with a very small centre hole. One white tubular bead, 3mm. in length which may be broken, has a diameter of 2.9 mm. and a very small centre hole.

Date: 18th or 19th century (p. 139)

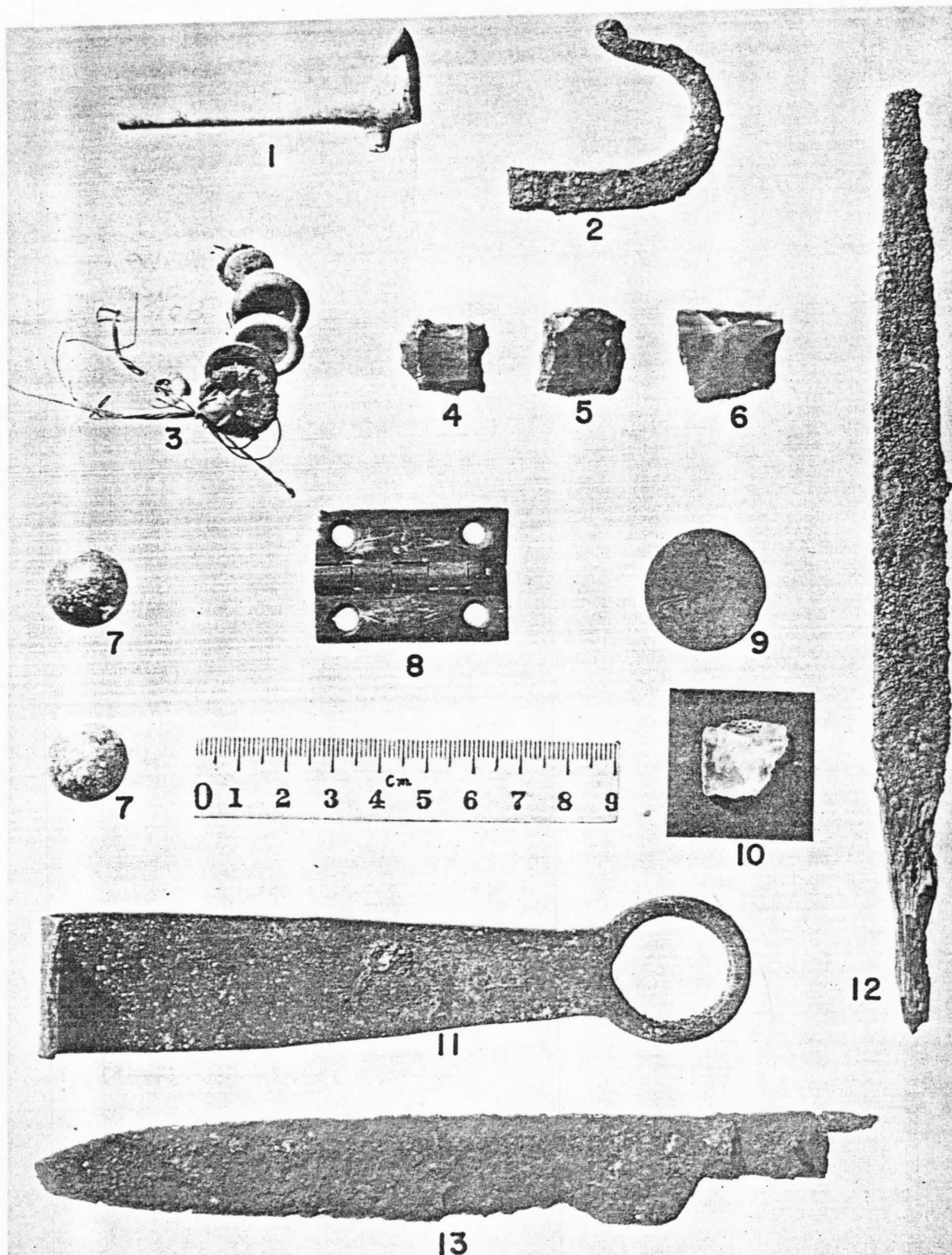


FIGURE 17; W2A HISTORIC ARTIFACTS: 1. WHITE CLAY PIPE STEM AND BOWL; 2. PORTION OF A STRIKE-A-LIGHT; 3. IRON, BONE, SHELL BUTTONS AND BEAD; 4-6. GUNFLINTS; 7. MUSKET BALLS, CALIBRE 0.69"; 8. BRASS HINGE; 9. BRASS COPPER TOKEN; 10. QUARTZ SCRAPER; 11. EYED IRON OBJECT; 12. IRON FILE; and 13. IRON KNIFE