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ALQUIPPA, PA.

reservoir. Evidently in pre-electric time the sometime island was a point sheltering a curving shallow sand bay which must have been a popular camp area. Occupation had been concentrated at the north end of the bay (Fig. 1), where the height of the island gave the best shelter from northwest winds.

The artificial high water levels had removed the soil of the site, leaving stones, gravel, and a few square feet of the original surface where some willows were rooted. From the rubble of the site were gathered eighty-seven articles of human workmanship, and the small area of undisturbed site was carefully excavated in three inch levels. A representative group of the surface gathered material is shown on Fig. 5, and the results of the excavation are shown in chronological order on Fig. 6.

Surface gathered were a gunflint (Fig. 5, 1), a rifle bullet, centerfire brass rifle cartridge cases, one of which served for the handle of a wooden awl (Fig. 5, e), European clay pipe fragments, buttons, white glass beads and the beam of a store weigh scale. Aboriginal pottery gathered includes a punctated shoulder sherd of late Iroquoian style and a shoulder sherd with complex stylus punctation, some smooth and some fabric malleated body sherds. Woodland pottery was represented in rim and body sherds of St. Lawrence Pseudo Scallop Shell vessels (Fig. 5, m, i), and an undecorated incurving rimsherd (Fig. 5, n) (Ridley, 1954, Fig. 18, c, t).

Four implements of dark blue slate were recovered. These are a thin bifaced ground bit chisel (Fig. 5, a), a rectangular plano-convex knife (Fig. 5, b), a leaf shaped unifaced point or knife (Fig. 5, g), and a thin poorly chipped end scraper.

Though most of the chipped stone

implements are of the same chert as those from the other locations, none of them is patinated, and excepting one example, some twenty pounds of gathered flakes and spalls are also non-coated. The chert here has a blue-grey surface color that is found under the patina of the chert from the high Ghost River site.

Only one point was found (Fig. 5, c), being stemmed and of chert. Six whole and four fragments of bifaced leaf shaped knives are of chert, varying in length from 12 cm. to 5 cm. Examples are Fig. 5, f, k. Three end scrapers of chert are roughly shaped flakes of about 4 cm. in width and length, and another of the same size is fashioned from a granitic spall.

One whole (Fig. 5, j) and a fragment of a large finely made scraper-knife implement are of chert, and of the same material is the illustrated side blade (Fig. 5, o). Two prismatic pointed scraper tools that are modified on the edges by apparent use, parts of an exhausted polyhedral core, and several lamellar blades are all of chert.

A remarkable implement, prismatic in section, is of chert (Fig. 5, h) and has an end scraper fashioned on its hinge rippled end. The end having the percussion bulb on the plano face has had three successive flakes removed perpendicular to the plano face, like a burin.

The balance of the surface-gathered stone artifacts is of chert, being miscellaneous choppers, two percussion flaked celt fragment bits, uniface knife fragments and modified flakes and spalls.

It has been mentioned that part of this site was found undisturbed or non-eroded. This area comprises but forty-five square feet. The willow roots and six inches of newly deposited clay were removed and the black soil of the site surface exposed. The area was divided

and each division excavated in three inch levels with all the care possible in dark drizzly weather. The principal articles recovered from these levels are illustrated in Fig. 6. Level one held iron nails, a white button, a football-shaped white bead, a rim fragment of a brass kettle with an edge whetted as for cutting purposes (Fig. 6, f), fragments of a classic example of High Collar Lalonde vessel sufficient for positive identification and restoration (Fig. 6, a), rimsherds with an obliquely incised collar typical of late Huron (Fig. 6, b), a rimsherd of flaring collar decorated with poorly incised hachured triangles of a typical Lalonde decorative element (Fig. 6, d), and one small unidentifiable potsherd deeply incised with a parallel pattern. Also in level one was a ground celt of a hard siliceous laminated sandstone (Fig. 6, i), a frost pitted, black flint end scraper, and two nondescript side scrapers (Fig. 6, g, h, j). Firestones were plentiful, and also interesting were many large flakes and spalls of greenish grey chert.

Level two was a black sticky humus ending in grey clay within which were several patches of red pigment. Bedrock of the island that slopes upward and inland was encountered on the inland side of the excavated area. Elsewhere boulder tops were bared and a well cemented bed of firestones crossed the excavation. Pottery recovered was more of the High Collar Lalonde vessel found above, and some smooth textured body sherds.

From level two a fragment of a large blade that was shaped by alternate evenly spaced blows is of black quartzite (Fig. 6, k). The cutting edge is quite sinuous because of the large size of the removed flakes and the lack of secondary work. Point (Fig. 6, l) is of milky quartz and was probably notched

in its original form. Point (Fig. 6, m) was unfinished and seems to have been subsequently burned, as the material is light colored and laminated. The knife and side scraper (Fig. 6, n, o) are of the local or common chert. Some chert spalls were present in the level.

Level three was partly black humus and partly a sticky grey clay, and its area was reduced by the sloping bedrock and the large boulders. Nevertheless artifacts were present in an interesting association. Found were the pointed base of a clay vessel which is a basic Woodland shape (Fig. 6, p), a notched flint point with rounded or convex tang (Fig. 6, s), a chipped slate ulu (Fig. 6, u); all from this level; they form a parallel with a similar association on a site on Lake Nipissing (Ridley, 1954). Other items are a chipped slate knife (Fig. 6, q), a grey chert end scraper (Fig. 6, r), and a lamelloid end scraper of brown flint or jasper (Fig. 6, t). Eight large chert flakes were also present.

The much constricted area of level four was grey and black muck enclosing many firestones. From this level were recovered the green-grey chert unfaced blade (Fig. 6, v), and a finely flaked crescentic end scraper (Fig. 6, w), of identical material with (Fig. 6, t) of the above level. Bedrock, gravel, mud, and firestones lay at the base of these artifact-bearing levels.

Conclusions

Excepting the small excavated areas of the island site, the material recovered from the three locations is essentially a surface collection, but certain comparative details of both material and topography between the island site and the river site should be discussed. The tools and flakes of chert of the river site are heavily patinated to a cream color,

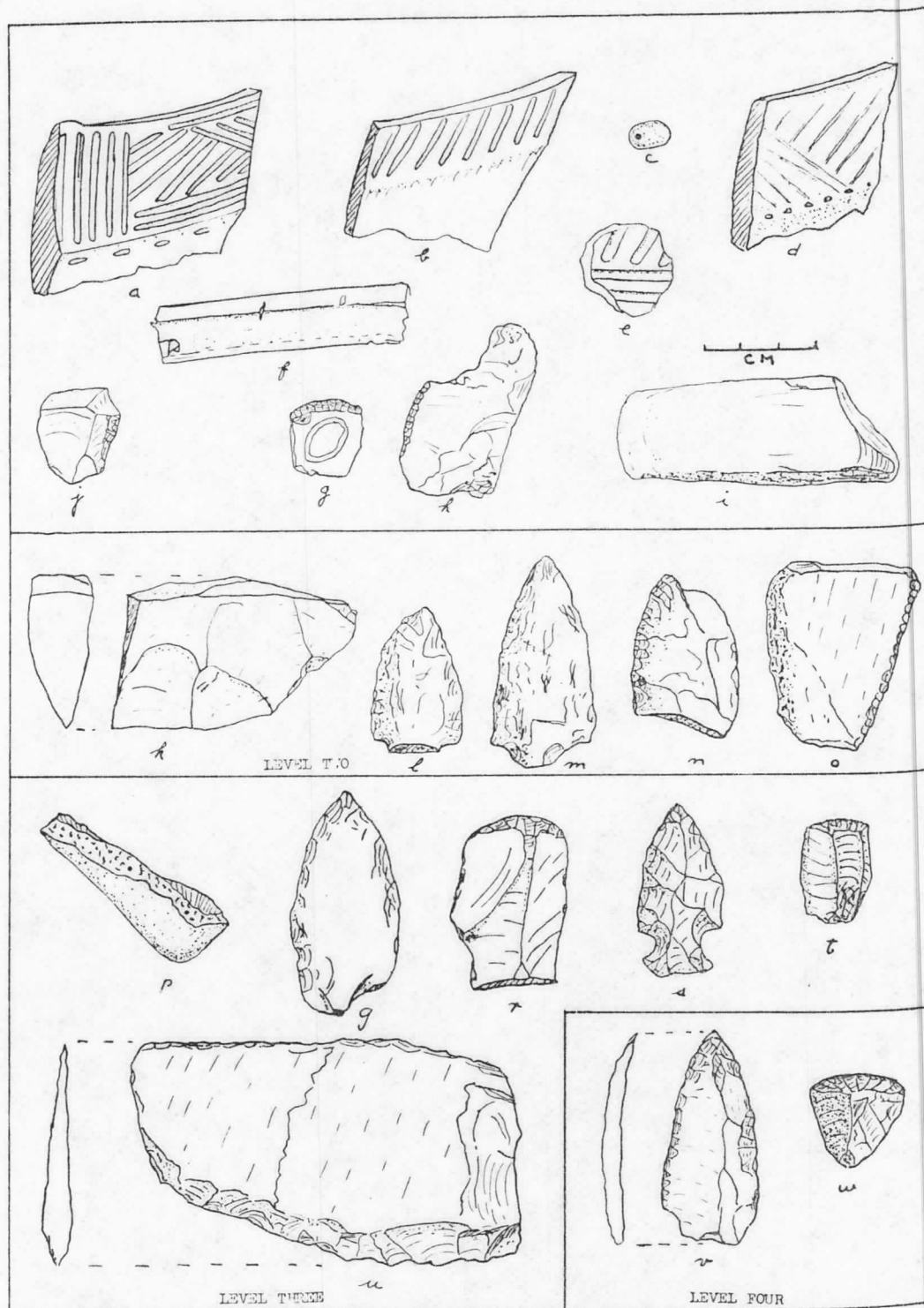


Figure 6. Material excavated by levels from a small survived area of the Ghost River Island Site.