

*Philip Hillyer -  
Peabody Museum*

# BULLETIN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOL. 21

NO. 2

JANUARY, 1960



## CONTENTS

	Page
A RARE COPPER AX FROM THE POWERS SHELL HEAP CHARLES F. SHERMAN .....	17
WABANAKI USES OF GREASES AND OILS NICHOLAS N. SMITH .....	19
THE WESTFORD INDIAN ROCK WILLIAM S. FOWLER .....	21
A SURVIVAL OF THE NORSE RUNES INTO MODERN TIMES ARTHUR GEORGE SMITH .....	22
REPORT OF A LODGE FLOOR, ROCHESTER SITE — TEST 4 WALTER THOMAS, JR. ....	25
GUIDA FARM POTTERY WILLIAM J. HOWES (Sixth Installment) .....	27
NEWS LETTER NO. 48 .....	32

PUBLISHED BY THE  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

THE CLEMENT C. HOWELL LIBRARY  
STATE COLLEGE  
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

SOCIETY OFFICE, Bronson Museum, 8 No. Main Street, Attleboro, Mass.

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

*President*

Eugene C. Winter, Jr. .... 1 Erickson St., Stoneham, Mass.

*First Vice President*

Viggo C. Petersen ..... 4 Cottage St., Marion, Mass.

*Second Vice President*

Arthur C. Lord ..... 38 Worcester St., Bridgewater, Mass.

*Secretary*

Mabel A. Robbins ..... Bronson Museum, Attleboro, Mass.

*Treasurer*

Arthur C. Staples ..... Segreganset, Mass.

*Editor*

William S. Fowler ..... Bronson Museum, Attleboro, Mass.

*Trustees*

Society Officers and Past Presidents — Ex-Officio

Waldo W. Horne

William D. Brierly

Walter Thomas, Jr.

Donald C. Wilder

Adrian Whiting

Guy Mellgren, Jr.

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN published in four Numbers of one Volume each year, commencing in October.

Price this issue: 75c

(Subscription by membership in the Society: \$3.00)

*Note: Address all requests concerning membership, and the purchase of back Bulletin numbers to the Secretary, Mabel A. Robbins . . . Mail Society dues to the Treasurer, Arthur C. Staples.*

BRONSON MUSEUM

This is the Society's museum, Fifth Floor of the Bronson Bldg., 8 No. Main Street, Attleboro, Mass. — Museum hours are from 9:30 to 4:30, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; for special arrangements to visit on other days, contact the Director, Maurice Robbins, or the Curator, William S. Fowler by mail at the Museum address.

The Museum includes exhibits of artifacts and seven dioramas portraying man's prehistoric occupation of New England. The displays are arranged so as to show man's development through four culture stages, from early post glacial times.

The last diorama recently completed, extending 15 feet across the front of the museum, depicts an Archaic village of seven large and unique wigwams, the foundations of which were excavated at Assowampsett Lake by the Cohannet Chapter, the only settlement of those early days ever discovered. Human figures to scale make the scene come alive and help create what unquestionably is an outstanding addition to our ever growing museum displays.

## A RARE COPPER AX FROM THE POWERS SHELL HEAP

17

KINGSTON, MASS., SITE M-41-82

CHARLES F. SHERMAN

The Powers Shell Heap is situated in a cove of a made pond in Kingston, Mass., called both Russell's and Foundry Pond. Flood rights to Smelt Brook, which ran its natural course from Smelt Pond to Jones River, near the bay, were obtained by Thomas Cushman. In 1815, after the dam and factory were constructed, he established an iron works and auger shop on the brook, and for 31 years made augers and other iron products. In 1846 he sold out to the Old Colony Foundry Company, which made stoves and hollow ware. This company manufactured their products for two years, and in 1848 the rights and privileges were purchased by Benjamin Cobb and William R. Drew. The new owners conducted the foundry for a few years and then became interested in tacks and rivets, which are manufactured to this day, along with many other products.

The shell heap site (Fig. 1) is sheltered on the north, northeast, and east sides, and one is led to believe that at the time of aboriginal occupation there was also shelter on the northwest. While the site could have been used for a year-round camp, it would have been an ideal winter camp. The hills on the north, northeast, and east would have been frost free for at least five months, thus enabling the occupants ample time to plant and harvest their corn and other vegetables near their homes. From the shore of Kingston Bay shell-fish were easily procured, also, alewives, smelt and other fish nearby on their way to spawn in the pond at the head of the brook. Smelt Brook would probably average two and one half feet in width, and is comparatively shallow. Four other camp sites have been located on its banks, one of which, the Williams site, was excavated by the late Warren K. Moorehead several years ago. While the course of the brook is almost entirely through swamps, it skirts the base of hills and high dry land in places. Travel by canoe does not seem possible today, but in earlier times there could have been more water when the terrain was forested.

The Powers Shell Heap Site, excavated by the Massasoit Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, is on a gradual west slope, and our base line was established in a north and south direction. Five sections with twenty-five foot squares were laid out on the east side of the base line.

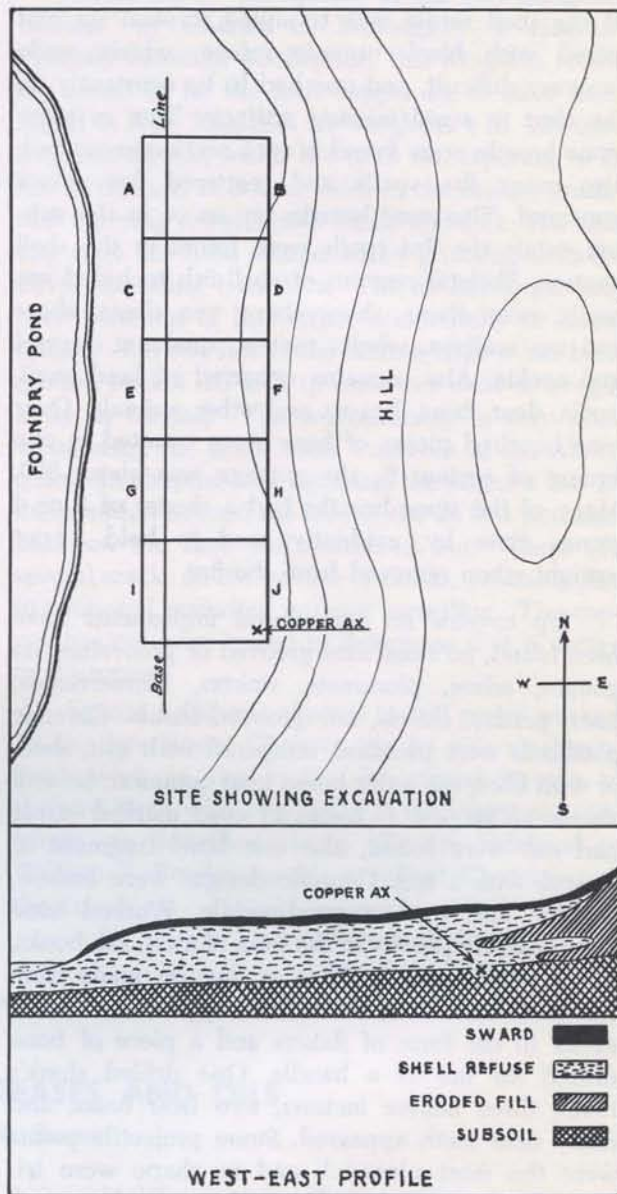


Fig. 1

Later, a row of 5 ft. squares were laid out on the west and adjoining the base line. By driving the corner stakes down flush with the ground we had a nearly permanent elevation from which to measure the depth of artifacts, even after the adjoining squares had been excavated. Elevations of each stake were taken by our engineer, Richard Bent, assisted by the author, and a benchmark established on a nearby tree.

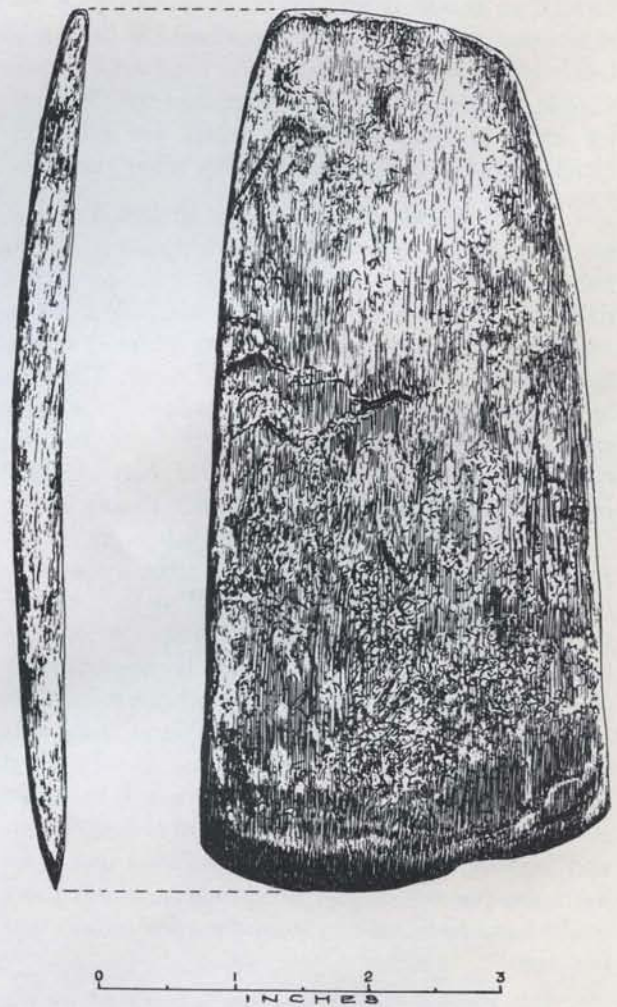
Starting at the bottom of the sward, each square was excavated on a horizontal level and the whole square worked down simultaneously. Most of the shell refuse was trampled, broken up and mixed with black organic refuse, which made recovery difficult, and one had to be constantly on the alert to avoid missing artifacts. Two or more stone hearths were found in each section excavated, also many fire spalls and scattered fire stones appeared. The stone hearths lay on or in the sub-soil, while the fire spalls were found in the shell stratum. Skeletal remains of shell-fish included sea snails, razor-clams, shore clams, sea clams, shore and sea scallops, whelk, oysters, quahaug, mussel and cockle. Also, remains occurred of land snail, turtle, deer, bear, beaver and other animals. Over nine hundred pieces of bone were counted in one square of section B; the average was about 300. Many of the stone hearths had a cluster of 3 or 4 stones close by, evidently used to hold a pot upright when removed from the fire.

Up to now no agricultural implements have been found, no stone axes grooved or grooveless, no gouges, adzes, plummets, sinkers, bannerstones, hoes, pestles, chisels, nor grooved mauls. Ceramic potsherds were plentiful, tempered with grit, shell, or with fiber, the latter being least common. Several sherds of Stage 1 (Vinette 1) cord marked inside and out were found, also one bowl fragment of steatite with a lug. Ceramic designs were incised, dentate, and cord-wrapped-paddle. Worked bone was found frequently in the form of awls, fish hooks, arrow points, and bodkins or daggers made from the ulna bone of a deer. Also, appeared, worked antler in the form of flakers and a piece of bone drilled for use as a handle. One drilled shark's tooth, three beaver incisors, two bear tusks, and many deer teeth appeared. Stone projectile points were the most plentiful, and in shape were triangular, elongate, lanceolate, side-notched, corner-notched, stemmed, and corner-removed with bases straight, convex, concave, or tanged. Stone materials consisted of flint, quartz, felsite, and porphyry, of which the last two were most common. No perfect large spear points were found, the longest one recovered was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins. However, some broken bases would indicate blades as long as 4 or 5 ins.; all were elongate. Two steatite pipe bowl fragments were found, and much worked graphite. Contact material consisted of 3 sections of kaolin pipe stems, one

chest key, 2 cast bronze buckles, one large barbed fish hook, and end of a combination fine and coarse tooth comb.

Seven rolled copper beads appeared varying in length and diameter from  $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{16}$  in. to  $2\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{5}{16}$  in. The longest beads tapered from center to both ends. Excepting the largest bead, the others were in pairs ranging from  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  ins. in length.

The most outstanding copper recovery was a large copper ax (Fig. 2) found by Richard Bent in square #25 of section J. It lay 10 ins. below the surface and just below the shell deposit, but tied into the shell, apparently, by several potsherds,



COPPER AX ~ from the Powers Shell Heap  
Kingston, Mass.

Fig. 2

other sections from the same pot were found in square J #19 and J #12. These sherds were dark gray in color, grit tempered and represented about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the rim of a pot with an opening of about 11 ins. in diameter. The neck of this pot appears to have been constricted, but no base sherds were found. However, a pot of a similar type was found by the late William W. Whiting at the Nook Farm Site in Plymouth, and restored by William S. Fowler. An illustration and description of this pot (Stage 2) with pointed base was published in Bulletin Vol. X, #2 of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. Section J potsherds were roughened inside and out with either cord-marking or stick-wiping, presumably the latter which would correspond to the Whiting pot. The high points have been nearly obliterated so as to form a nearly smooth surface. The sherds vary in thickness, but average about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. Firing appears rather thorough, but the ware has so much grit tempering that its tensile strength seems impaired. As previously mentioned, several of these sherds were found on the same level and in close proximity to the copper ax, while another sherd was found in the center of a hearth in J #19, 14 ins. deep in the shell stratum, and completely covered with gray ash. The third sherd section was found in J #12, 13 ins. deep in the shell stratum. Evidently, at the time the pot was broken, the ax had been lying either in the pot or on the ground. The shell had not spread to this section, but as the shell heap continued to grow, a wash from the hill beyond covered the ax and continued until it met the expanding shell deposit,

and stopped at or near the edge of the shells (Fig. 1).

Referring to "Antiquities of the New England Indians" by Charles C. Willoughby, a Harvard Peabody Museum publication, this Kingston recovery seems to be the fifth copper ax to have been found in New England. Its weight is 1 lb. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  ozs.; length is 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins.; width is 3  $\frac{3}{16}$  ins. tapering to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins. at the hilt. It is  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick in the center, gradually tapering toward both blade and hilt. The cutting edge has been sharpened by grinding with the bevel extending back  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. The ax has apparently been bent out of line either accidentally or intentionally. On one side of the cutting edge it has been ground back  $\frac{1}{2}$  in., as if to remove a dent or irregularity in forging. The workmanship is very good considering the crude tools available to the Aborigines. In shaping and squaring the edges a bur or fin extended beyond the face of the ax was pounded back on the face and feathered out. There are several cracks on the surface of the ax, probably due to continual pounding without annealing. The copper has not been tested to determine if it is native or European.

Square J #25 was allotted to and partly worked by the late Roger Chauvin. As he was unable to finish work on the square, he turned it over to Richard Bent, who completed it with very pleasing results, as described above. We are indebted to William S. Fowler for his excellent illustration of the ax.

Plymouth, Mass.  
November 1959



## WABANAKI USES OF GREASES AND OILS

NICHOLAS N. SMITH

Note: Mr. Smith has lived among the Wabanaki of New Brunswick on several occasions, and is well qualified to discuss their customs and living habits. We are indebted to him for his reports through personal contacts with the descendants of prehistoric man of the Northeast, some of which have appeared in former Bulletins, others to appear in later issues. (Editorial Comment).

Today we can read numerous unsavory accounts of the original Americans left to us by missionaries who frequently described them as greasy, smelly, dirty aborigines. These reverent

fathers had been on small ships whose crews usually consisted of uncouth lower class sailors or fishermen. After four to six weeks on the Atlantic, these seamen must have set up a rather "strong" atmosphere, but the aborigines seem to have made more of an impression on the delicate noses of the spreaders of Christianity.

Bear grease and seal oil were extremely popular for the personal toilet of the Wabanaki. These substances were not only rubbed onto the body but into the hair.

Excessive exposure to the elements dehydrates the skin and dries out the natural oils in the hair and scalp. Today we use various oils and greases for use against the sun's powerful rays doing damage to our delicate skin tissues. Men have a wide variety of hair tonics to aid the scalp as well as the hair. The unrefined animal fats rubbed into the hair and onto the skin undoubtedly did much to help the red man to withstand the ordeals of long hours in the broiling sun or periodic soakings in salt or fresh water and then the rays of Old Sol. This probably prevented the parched feeling one often has after such an experience. The dishpan hand effects of tending nets or fishing lines for long hours was probably almost unknown.

Our English Channel and marathon swimmers are heavily greased before they attempt to conquer a challenging body of water. This must have the same effect that the greases and oils had, which the Indians applied to their bodies.

Indians have always been noted for having exceptionally good hair. Several contemporary Indians have told me that the old Indians had hair like porcupine quills. Perhaps this was due to the unrefined animal oils.

Seals and porpoises were killed for the thick strong oils which the layers of blubber possess. In former times the walrus must have been occasionally killed by the coastal people as there was a colony on Sable Island. My Passamaquoddy informant, Sabatus Tomer, told me that he could remember when the women took the bladder from a seal and used it as a receptacle for the valued seal oil. The bladder would be tied to the ceiling of the wigwam; when a person felt ill, he would put the bladder to his lips and take several long draughts of the liquid. Then the person would feel well again in no time. Speck also tells of the seal bladders being used as containers for the oil. "Seal bladders were commonly used as receptacles or bags for seal oil, which was used in cooking." (Speck 1940, p. 129).

Unfortunately Speck does not give us an account of how the Penobscot killed seals. Sabatus Tomer's reply to this question was that hunters would hide on the beach and shoot the seals when they came to shore or surprise the seals on the beach. Wallis & Wallis gives us an excellent account of how the Micmac captured this marine mammal.

Antoine Maillard says that the Micmac and Malecite used the same customs. (Maillard, 1758) Therefore I quote the description given by Wallis & Wallis:

"Seals, Walrus, and porpoise are no longer caught off the Maritimes, but Micmac of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia know that this great game was once common at Point Miscou and near the Magdalen Islands and can give full accounts of the native method of seal hunting. Seals drifted into Miramichi Bay and other northern waters on ice floes, and the hunter approached them over the floe. In securing the hair seal the hunter imitated a playing seal, until he was close enough to shoot. In Nova Scotia a decoy seal was used. The hunter remained in hiding near the decoy, which was usually put on the beach close to the water's edge. The decoy, made of a piece of dead wood about the color of a seal, resembled a seal in shape and size. A mouth was cut in it, and charred depressions represented eyes. If the wood was too light in color, it was charred slightly here and there and rubbed until the appropriate shade was obtained. Hard, smooth wood was too glossy. When placed on a rock, beach, or sand bar frequented by seals, the decoy often lured them out of the water. A seal-skin stuffed with moss might also be used.

Occasionally a man covered himself with sealskin and lay on the beach, or moved about in imitation of a seal, and sometimes succeeded in his deception. This method, of course, could be used only when the wind was from the proper quarter. Seals, if they could be reached on ice, were sometimes killed with a club. A man who hunted the animal in this way had to keep directly in front of it and deliver his blow from that quarter." (Wallis & Wallis, 1955, pp. 29-30).

He goes on to say that the seal can only go forward a few inches at a time whereas the tail and flippers are dangerous weapons.

In the quote from Speck it says that the seal oil was used for cooking. My collaborator, Peter L. Paul, a Malecite of the Woodstock Reserve, New Brunswick, Canada, often emphasized to me that his grandfather, one of the last great hunters of this group, frequently had told him that bear grease was very important to have when camping in the woods for cooking. A bear killed shortly before hibernating would have a thick layer of fat that would be

highly valued by the Indian hunter. A skinned out bear looks very much like a pig with the white fat glistening in the sun. It was very important for the solitary hunter who often wandered from place to place to have a supply of fat for his cooking.

It is my belief that the fats and oils, which appeared so obnoxious to the Europeans, served a practical purpose to the Indian who protected his skin with them; valued them as a medicine, and could do little cooking without them.



## THE WESTFORD INDIAN ROCK

WILLIAM S. FOWLER

Note: This interpretation of the Westford landmark is somewhat at variance with that appearing recently in the *Yankee* magazine by Frank Glynn. His interpretation envisions not only a sword, but also a large overall outline in pitted marks of a knight in armor. This has been made to appear more real by the use of chalk on the rock to join the pits, which in some cases lie far apart—this was done before photograph of the markings was made. However, this report suggests that the knight in armor pits seem no different from many others appearing over the ledge; are probably as a result of natural erosion, and are not man-made like the well defined peck marks, as shown in the attached illustration. (Editorial Comment)

Careful examination of a man-made pecked marking, discernible on an outcrop of shale heavily impregnated with iron, has been made by the writer at the request of Arthur G. Hildreth of Westford, Massachusetts. The stone marking is in Westford beside the road leading north, and has been subject to exposure to rain action over extended periods of time. Just how long it has been exposed, as of today, is not known. However, because of badly water-worn grooves appearing over the face of the outcrop and an irregularly pitted surface due to frost heaving, it may be assumed that it has been uncovered over long periods, probably, for most of the intervening time since man worked the rock, although road building is known to have covered it with dirt on several occasions.

The face of the shale outcrop slopes perceptibly, permitting water to flow over its surface from rain or melting snow. However, the degree of incline is moderate, so that any flow of water is not swift.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- MAILLARD, ANTOINE S., *An Account of the Customs and Manners of the Micmakis and Maricheets, Savage Nations*, S. Hooper & A. Morley, London, 1758.
- SPECK, FRANK G., *Penobscot Man*, Univ. of Penn. Press, Phila., Penn., 1940.
- WALLIS, WILSON D. AND WALLIS, RUTH S., *The Micmac Indians of Eastern Canada*, Univ. of Minn. Press, Minneapolis, Minn., 1955.

Gloucester, Mass.  
September, 1956

The marking (Fig. 3) has been cut with what appears to have been a case-hardened iron center punch of earlier days, in common use by blacksmiths of those times. The punch was apparently held in one hand and driven by not more than one or two strokes of a hammer. Were it not for this superficial pecking, the rock would have been frequently broken away in spots, which is not the case. Instead, each peck-mark is intact appearing in uninterrupted frequency. Considerable erosion is evident as a result of water action, so that in places where direction of water flow parallels that of the marked lines, peck-marks tend to merge without destroying the outer definition of the marks.

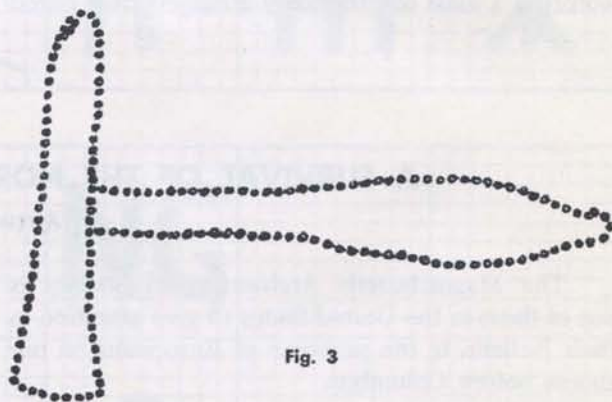


Fig. 3

The marking is clearly identified by hammered peck-marks, which may easily be distinguished from natural pitting caused by erosion, occurring irregularly over parts of the outcrop. It appears to be an

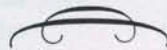
outline of a tomahawk about 15 inches long (see sketch). The handle is enlarged at the opposite end from that of the blade, as if to indicate the usual hand grip. The head suggests an elongated implement with a short edged cutting blade at one end and with what evidently was intended for a pointed terminus at the other. Considering the probable absence of a drawn layout, the proportions of the marking are reasonably close to those of iron tomahawks in use by both Indians and whites during the French and Indian wars of the eighteenth century.

Former analysts have held that what I have described as a tomahawk was instead the hilt of a sword; and further were persuaded in believing the long sword blade to be outlined by what actually are only water-washed grooves, projecting from the lines of the handle by virtue of the excessive escape of running water at these two points, since the bed-rock slopes in the direction of these grooves. As there are no clear-cut peck-marks discernible to outline the blade, inference of its presence is untenable. Furthermore, if a sword had been intended, the cross member of the hilt between handle and blade would have been similarly depicted at both ends, but this is not the case. Instead, one end tends to a point, while the other widens into what seems to be the cutting edge of a narrow bladed hatchet. Reference formerly has also been made to the presence of an Indian head just beyond the end of the handle, but this too is a figment of the imagination. Apparently, what caused this conjecture is a mass of irregularly arranged frost pitted

marks, which could only have been produced by the hand of nature, certainly not by the hand of man. Because of this misconception, the marking has been referred to since early historical times as the Indian rock.

My interpretation of the marking is that it depicts an early eighteenth century iron tomahawk of the era between 1700 and 1750. It is self evident that it was pecked by indirect percussion with an iron center punch, probably by an early settler and not by an Indian, as the natives would not have been equipped with blacksmith iron punches. Because of the tomahawk's style of blade; narrow cutting edge at one end with the elongated opposing end tending to a point, it appears to be similar to the iron tomahawk carried by William Denison of Stonington, Rhode Island, in the French and Indian War, 1740-1748. This early weapon has been preserved in its original haft and is now on exhibition at the Rhode Island Historical Society's Providence museum. This, in my opinion, should date the marking sometime during the first half of the eighteenth century. It may have been cut in the exposed rock by a Westford settler as a memorial of some encounter with the Indians, in which he had participated, possibly in defense of the nearby town of Groton, which was in peril by Indian attack on several occasions.

Bronson Museum,  
Attleboro, Mass.  
December 17, 1957



## A SURVIVAL OF THE NORSE RUNES INTO MODERN TIMES

ARTHUR GEORGE SMITH

The Massachusetts Archaeological Society is one of those in the United States to give attention in their Bulletin to the presence of Europeans on our shores before Columbus.

The writer has always believed that men of all the various fishing fleets of the west of Europe visited the waters off our east coast in their search for fish from the time of the Norsemen until that of Cortoreal and Cabot. These men would have

landed to take on fuel, wood, and drinking water, and some of them in the course of events would have been wrecked on the coast.

But in those days learned men paid little attention to the tales of illiterate fishermen, English, Norse, Breton, or Basque. The voyages of the Norsemen to Greenland were considered to be myths, but English fishermen called, and still call Disko Island, Lievesey, which is Lief's Island.



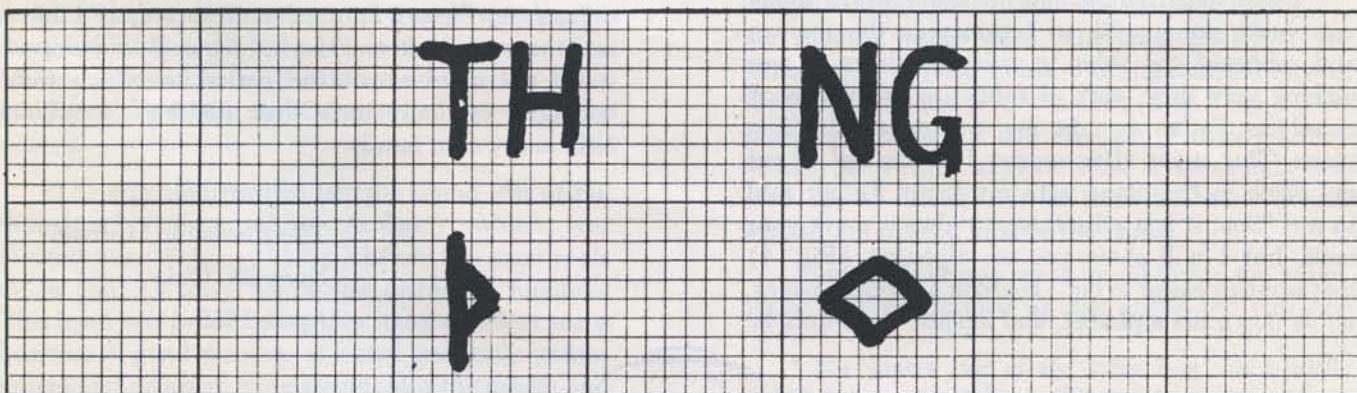
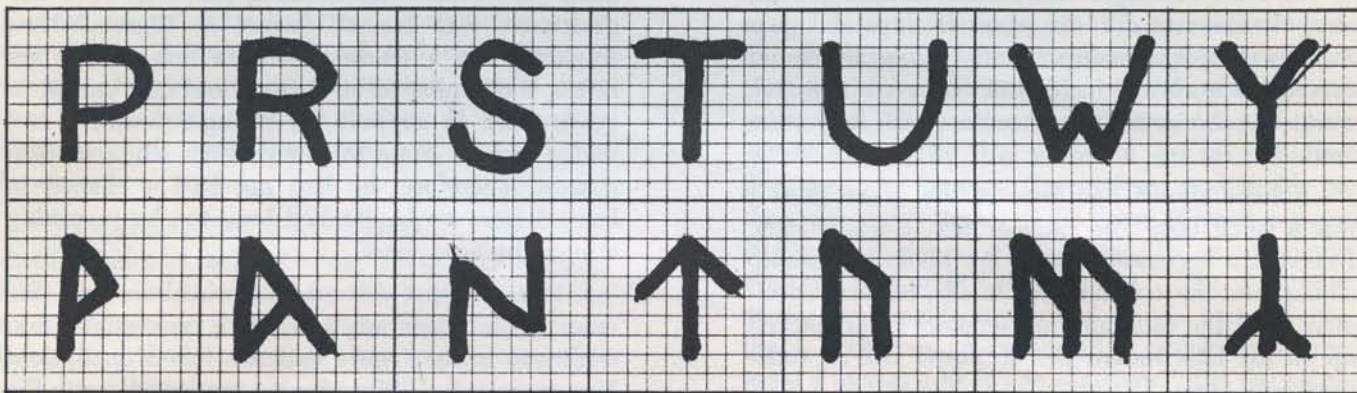
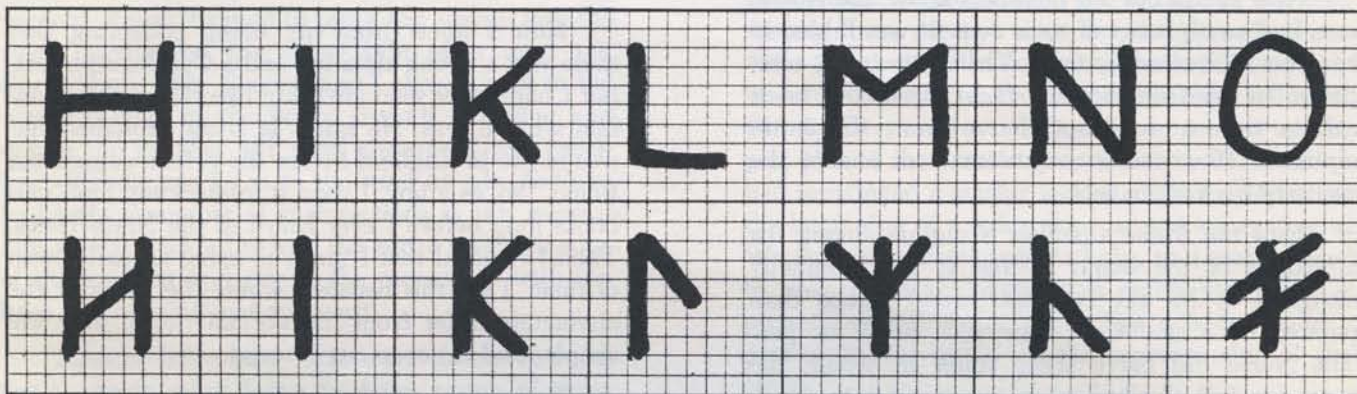
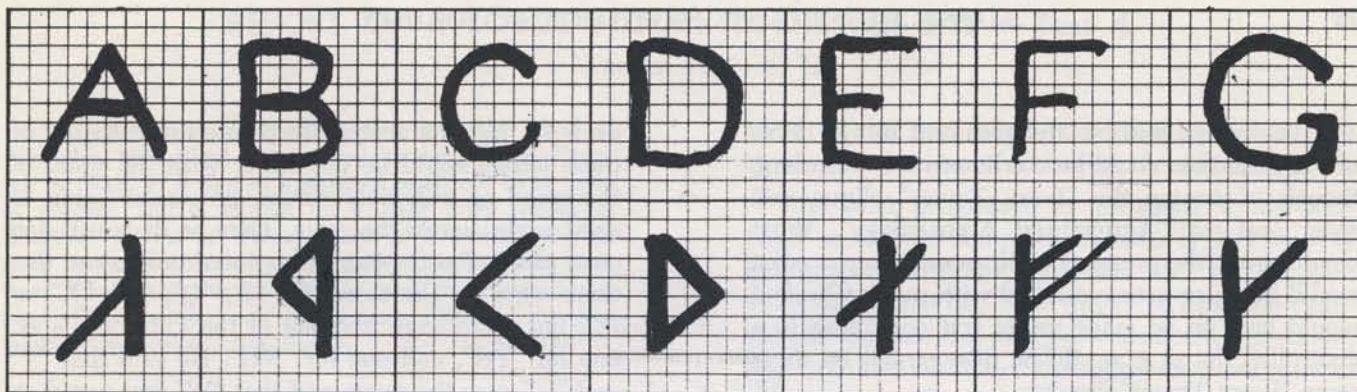


Fig. 4 OLD ENGLISH ALPHABET, AS EXPLAINED IN TEXT.

The recent find by Mellgren and Runge of an old English coin could be a relic of such a landing, though of course the "Ivory Tower" clique will sneer and say "Agricultural Archaeology". What would prove the presence of Norsemen on our coast would be a gravestone marked with runes. The find would have to be made under test conditions in a controlled dig or it would be disregarded by these same "Ivory Tower" pundits.

Now as most of our members know, the Norsemen had an alphabet of their own. It was fabled to have been invented by Odin. The writer is not competent to say from whence they got it, but he is certain that it does not derive from the Latin alphabet. However, it may stem from one of the earliest Greek alphabets.

Now the Runic alphabet is unique among the alphabets of the world in that it was originally designed to be cut into soft wood rather than painted on a smooth surface with brush or pen. The Norse did carve these runes in wood; the sagas are full of allusions to runes cut into staves of wood for messages and letters of introduction, also, of runes cut into the wood of ships and gear as a mark of ownership. Though they are found carved into rock and molded or engraved on metal, wood was the usual substance on which they were used.

I have known one form of the runes since I was a small boy. The summer that I was eleven, I needed a bookcase to hold my books, my stamp album, and my collection of fossils, mineral specimens, and the celts and arrowpoints I had picked up on the Erie Indian site of Tuttle Hill in Independence, Ohio.

I had been taught that anything worth doing was worth doing well, so I gained in the shelves, and rabbeted the sides to take the doors. I was making very slow work of rabbeting with a wood chisel, so Father bought me a regular rabbeting plane. That night after supper I proceeded to cut my name in the plane with my knife. Father said to me, "Son, it is a wise thing to always mark your tools, but I will show you an alphabet (Fig. 4) that is much easier to cut." He took a sheet of paper, wrote down the alphabet, and against the letters he

drew 23 odd characters. He pointed out that all of these letters could be cut either with the grain of the wood or obliquely across, no stroke being at right angles across the grain. Then he demonstrated on a piece of soft pine. He pointed out to me that there were no characters for "J", "Q", "V", "X", or "Z", but there were two, not in the Latin alphabet, one for "TH", and one for "NG". He said that "V" and "U" were the same, and that "W" was just that, two "U's".

Now I knew from my stamp collecting that there was a Greek alphabet and a Cyrillic alphabet, but I had never seen anything like this and I asked him what it was. He said, "It is the alphabet that was in use in England before the priests came from Rome." So, as a boy, I used it to mark my tools and books long before I ever heard of the Norse runes. Then I realized that I must be using an early form of them. I say this because, where the forms of the characters differ from the normal runes, they are simpler and easier to cut in wood.

Father told me that he had learned it from his uncle who used it for marking property. Now my greatuncle was a small farmer in Warwickshire, England, not a learned man in any sense. My father was orphaned at thirteen and quit school to go to work to support his younger brothers and sisters and he came to this country when he was sixteen. Therefore, he had not had a chance to learn it from books. He had been too busy earning a living by hard work.

I believe that this must be a real survival, the more so as there are a number of customs and traditions in the family that are based on the old Norse paganism. The runes were used until the middle of the 16th century in Denmark, but they differ from these I figure, for these are, as I have said, more primitive. Maybe some Runic expert could tell more about the period to which they belong. I can only trace their use back to about 1840 in my own family.

The Firelands Museum  
Norwalk, Ohio  
April, 1958



## REPORT OF A LODGE FLOOR, ROCHESTER SITE — Test 4

25

WALTER THOMAS, JR.

The Lodge as described further on, was found at Rochester, Mass., Test 4, excavated by the Sippican Chapter, M. A. S. It is part of a series of tests over three years of digging, and is located on a large level section of Rochester known as Walnut Plain. It is bounded on all sides by Route 105, Mary's Pond Road and Walnut Plain Road. The rest of this test and the other three tests in this area will be written soon, giving more detail on the geographical location and significance.

Late in 1956 while Test #3 was still being worked, it was decided to put a test square into the south section on the other side of a sand pit. Accordingly, Mrs. Thomas and I chose a spot to the westerly edge of the pit to smooth the edge and obtain the profiles. We soon uncovered two excellent artifacts, one a gouge, the other an adz. As there had been a number of surface finds in this general area, it was decided to grid the entire southern edge of the sand pit and extend the excavation with the base line running east and west.

Squares B19 - B20 - B21 were chosen to start; the object in mind being to drive a row of three squares into the grid area as a base trench. It soon became evident there had been considerable use of the area by a late Stonebowl and early Ceramic peoples. Large numbers of surface firepits were found containing quantities of charcoal, bone, chip, pottery sherds, projectile points, scrapers and perforators.

As this area had been exposed to considerable disturbance and early plowing, it was almost impossible to establish the correct horizon for the Ceramic culture. Here we had to take license and establish a level by finding some undisturbed spot and measuring the depth of topsoil, grass roots and the point at which fire stones, chips, etc., were found. This was done and it was found that a depth of 10 Cm. (4 ins.) below the grass roots or 16 Cm. (6¼ ins.) above the disturbed junction was a good level at which the Ceramic culture probably existed.

The only undisturbed horizon found was of the Stonebowl culture (Late Archaic) which was located some 35 Cm. (14 ins.) below the grass roots or 10 Cm. (4 ins.) below the disturbed junction. This level was found to contain some excellent stone hearths. A good number of eared projectile points, knives and scrapers were found, also the gouge and adz mentioned above. These levels were easily iden-

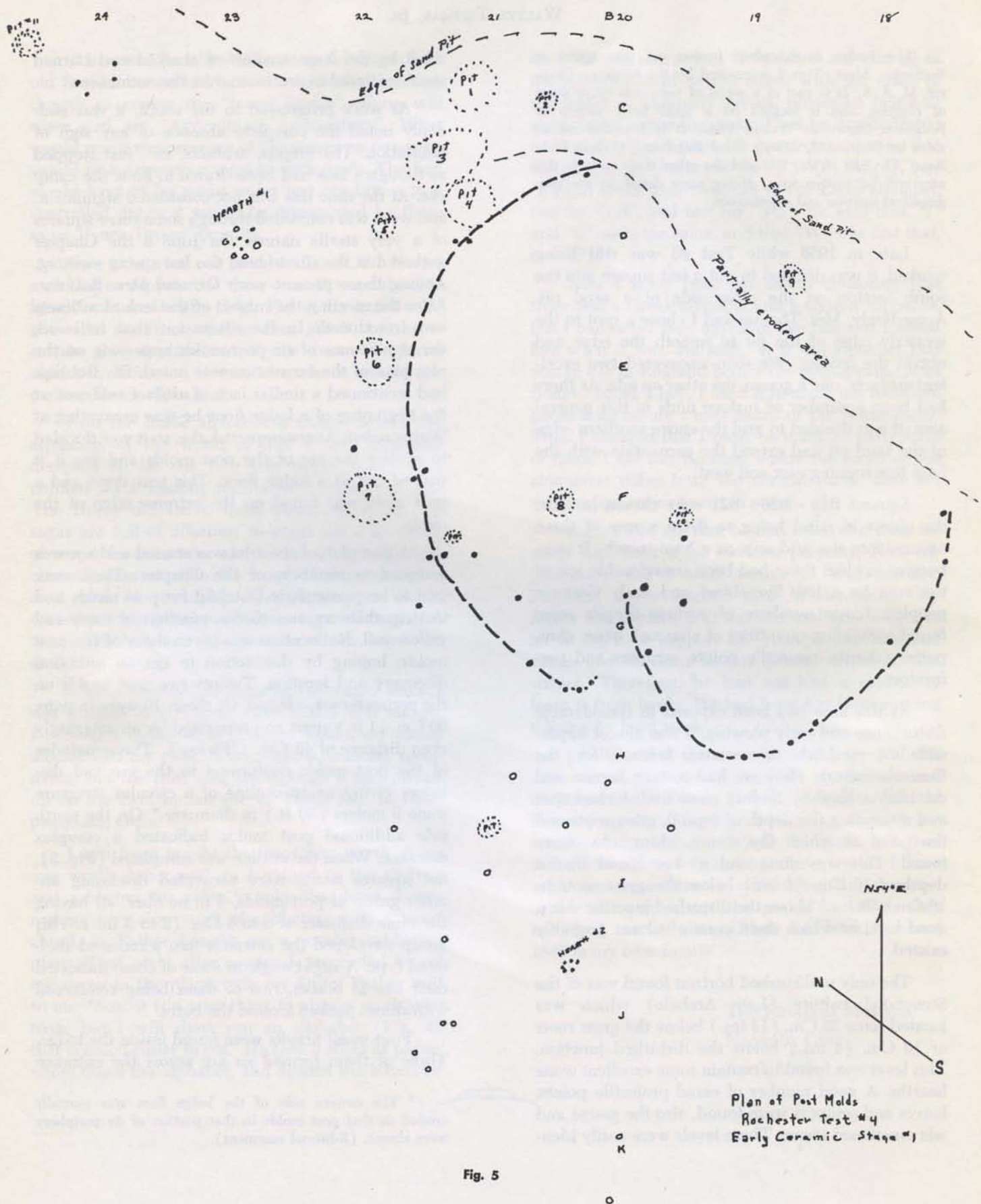
tified by the large amount of cracked and burned stone scattered in profusion over the entire area.

As work progressed to the south, it was suddenly noted the complete absence of any sign of habitation. The firepits, artifacts, etc., just stopped as though a line had been drawn to limit the camp site. At the time this was not considered significant, and work was continued through some three squares of a very sterile nature. On June 8 the Chapter gathered at the site to hold the last spring meeting. Among those present were Dr. and Mrs. Robbins. After the meeting the subject of the lack of artifacts was introduced. In the discussion that followed, the significance of six post molds appearing on the plot plan of the excavation was noted. Dr. Robbins had mentioned a similar lack of artifact evidence at the beginning of a lodge floor he was excavating at Wapanucket, Assowampsett Lake, so it was decided to project the arc of the post molds and see if it proved out as a lodge floor. This was done and a post mold was found on the extreme edge of the circle.

A plot plan of the area was started and squares assigned to members of the Chapter. They were told to be particularly watchful for post molds and to strip their squares to the junction of loam and yellow soil. No location was given them of the post molds, hoping by this action to get an unbiased discovery and location. Twenty-two post molds on the perimeter were found. Of these, 10 were in pairs 30 Cm. (1 ft.) apart and separated by an amazingly even distance of 42 Cm. (16¼ ins.). The remainder of the post molds conformed to the arc and distance, giving us an outline of a circular structure some 9 meters (30 ft.) in diameter.\* On the south side additional post molds indicated a complex entrance. When the outline was completed (Fig. 5), the squares inside were excavated disclosing another group of post molds, 6 in number, all having the same diameter of 6 to 8 Cm. (2 to 3 ins.). This group developed the entrance into a recessed sheltered type. A slight angle to some of these indicated their use as braces, two of them being reinforced with stones packed around the bases.

Four small firepits were found inside the lodge. Three of them formed an arc across the entrance

\* The eastern side of the lodge floor was partially eroded so that post molds in that portion of its periphery were absent. (Editorial comment).



Plan of Post Molds  
 Rochester Test #4  
 Early Ceramic Stage #1

Fig. 5

some 3 meters from it, the larger of the pits being directly opposite the entrance, the other two smaller ones, equal distances, 2 meters on each side.

The inside of the lodge was surprisingly barren of artifacts, some 18 pieces being recovered, mostly small projectile points. There was no firestone scattered about and the presence of only light chip and charcoal in the firepits would seem to indicate most of the cooking fires were outside the lodge, and those inside were used for warmth and comfort, insect repelling or just good company.

The post molds seem to indicate the use of saplings for framing. These were evidently burned to a point, performing three functions, by accident or design we have no way of knowing. The three functions were:

1. Mass production of pointed stakes with little labor.
2. Hardening of the point for cleaner, easier inserting in the ground.
3. Coating the point with charcoal giving them greater resistance to rot and decay.

The average diameter of the posts was 6 Cm. (2¼ ins.) The depth of penetration into the yellow soil was some 10 to 20 Cm. (4 to 8 ins.) which added to the above junction measure of approximately 15 Cm. (6 ins.) gave an overall depth of 25 to 35 Cm. (10 to 14 ins.) that the posts were buried.

It was determined that the lodge belonged to the Early Ceramic culture as there was no evidence of occupation by a later people, and all pottery found was of Stage 1 styling. No true contact materials were found. Projectile points fell mostly into four types: eared, taper stem, small stem and small triangular. Although three large triangular points were found, close to the surface, they were believed to be intrusive. Numerous steepedge and flake scrapers, stemless and stemmed knives, eared and crescent perforators were found. Hammerstones, cores and large amounts of chips all seemed to indicate that this site was primarily a hunting station.

Fairhaven, Mass.

April 5, 1959



## GUIDA FARM POTTERY

WILLIAM J. HOWES

(Sixth Installment)

Previous installments will be found in Vol. XV, 2, 4; Vol. XVI, 1; Vol. XVII, 2, 3.

Note: This is the sixth installment of ceramic reports by the late William J. Howes, who, as an officer of this Society, did much to further its growth during the first number of years of its existence.

Looked at in the light of today's enlightenment from a typological point of view, it would appear that the Guida Farm Site had been occupied from the advent of pottery making, (Fig. 6-A). This sherd evidently represents Stage 1, the first of four stages of ceramic development we recognize for the more than a thousand years of pottery making in New England. The remainder of Howes' illustrations, including both site and burial areas, seem to indicate Stages 3 and 4, the latter being of Iroquoian influence; Stage 2 is absent. We have marked illustrations as to their probable stage position for better understanding. (Editorial Comment).

Along the Westfield River, just above where Little River flows into it, and on the northerly side

between the river and the railroad tracks is the Guida farm. Upon this site adjoining the tracks are strong evidences of an Indian burial ground. Some few years ago five or more skeletons with the bones of most of them in a good state of preservation, were unearthed at this location by the owner Mr. Joseph G. Guida while engaged in removing loam from the premises.

The burial site was not entirely uncovered as a portion of one of the skeletons extended under the bed of the Boston and Albany railroad embankment, which was located upon the crest of the hill. Early records<sup>(1)</sup> note that within this area the beaver were found to be very plentiful, and as

(1) Notes on Woronoco Indians from Josiah C. Holland's History of Western Massachusetts, 1855.

Holland states "it was probably more abundantly frequented by the Indians than any settlement in the Valley. The skins of the beaver were almost the only things that the Indian had to sell to the settlers. Being constantly in want of articles obtainable for these skins, they naturally sought out the resorts of their most important game."

At this location quite a number of pottery fragments which were mostly of late type production (stages 3 and 4), stone artifacts, and many cracked and broken firestones were found. The unusually fine quality of this material together with the promising prospect from an inspection of the site, was thought sufficient to make further exploration.

While knowledge of this find had been known a few years, no effort for exploration was attempted until the writer brought it to the attention of Mr. Edward Brooks the Secretary-Treasurer of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society urging it as a Society project. In the summer of 1940 Mr. Brooks and others from the New England Museum of Natural History sunk several test pits, and in only one, a short distance from the burial site aforementioned, at a depth of about three feet, a former surface level containing Indian material was found. Under this dark surface layer the pit was continued to a depth of about five feet, with no further prospect showing.

By excavation, this pit was developed into a broad trench fifteen or more feet in length. Directly under the turf was a sedimentary deposit of erosion silt laid down by a succession of freshets that covered the dark soil layer where the Indian material was found.

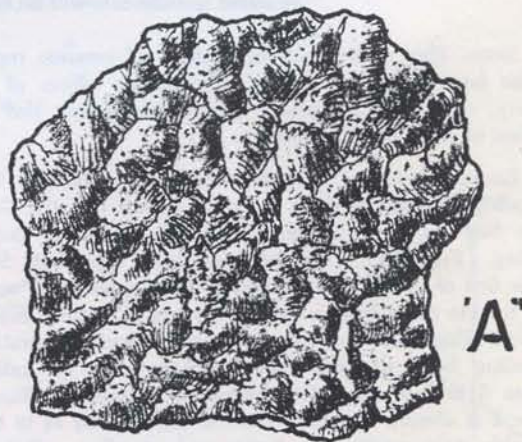
During freshet seasons there is no river in the State that rises so high and in such a short a period of time as the Westfield River. With its confluence with Little River just below, the flow was retarded and set back, submerging the meadow land adjoining, and thereby depositing great quantities of sediment in the more quiet waters near the shore line, than was deposited where the midstream current was stronger.

A partial exploration of this darker layer shown in the trench brought to light many pottery fragments, some crude stone artifacts, broken firestones, and quite a quantity of charcoal was found. As this work refers particularly to pottery, no further mention will be made of other recovered material.

The pottery fragments, many of them in a very poor condition were all worthy of study. They were of both Algonkian and Iroquoian-Mohawk types with evidences indicating that the ware was of local production by the native Indians. Some of the Algonkian pieces seem to be of an early type (Fig. 6-A), judging from the outline and decoration of the fragments recovered.

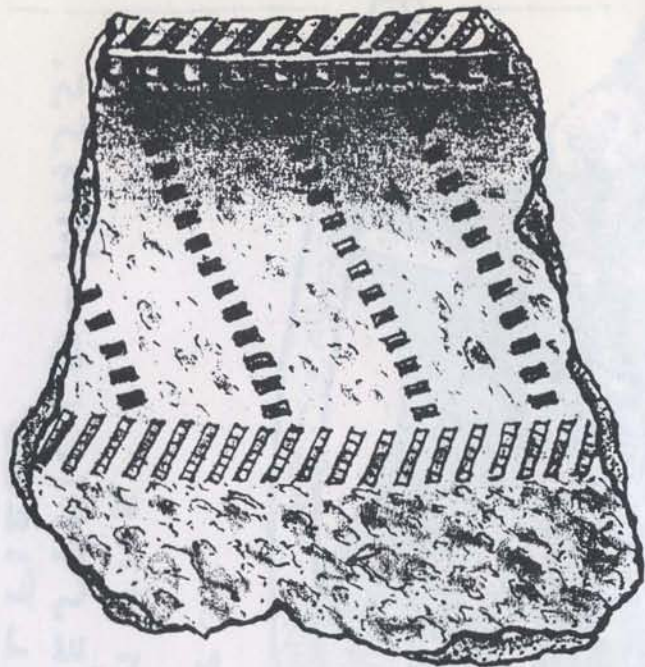
Upon a careful examination it was found that large portions of the exterior walls of some sherds had disintegrated by flaking off, and the material from which it was made seems to have a totally different set of elements or substances in the composition than is found in the usual run of aboriginal clay pottery. Crushed rock was used for a tempering material in most of the pieces. In one piece finely crushed basalt or trap rock was used. The ingredients of this pottery material were of such elements that in some of the fragments the heat application had fused it at certain points to vitrification, a state seldom found in aboriginal New England pottery. There was also a difference in color range in firing than is found elsewhere.

At the base of one of the exploration pits a certain amount of material of a clayey nature was uncovered. At some point of its outcropping the local Indians probably used this material in making their pottery. It is of a more granular and porous nature than that found in the general run of clays, and there is a good basis for supposition that the Westfield clay was not of the standard type, but was an unconsolidated clayey shale.

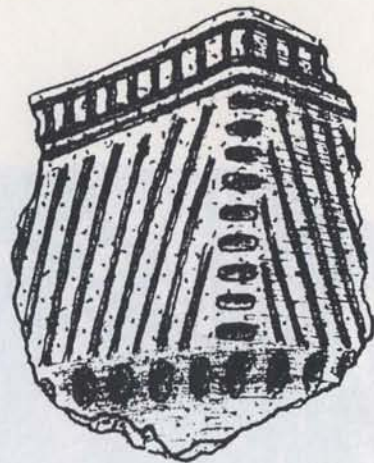
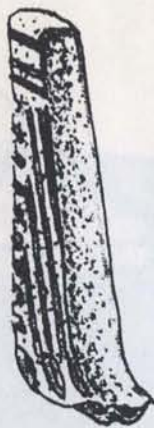


CORD MARKED BOTH SIDES  
(Probably Stage 1)

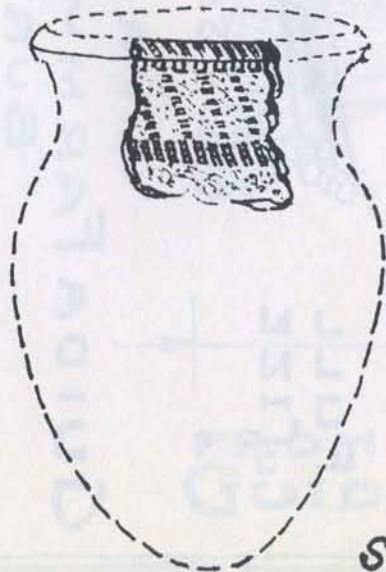
Fig 6



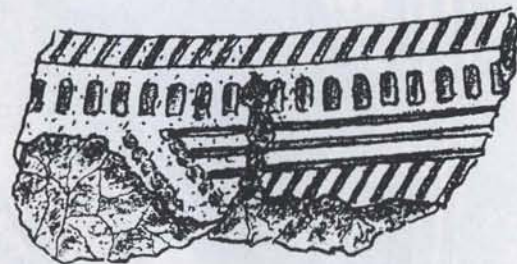
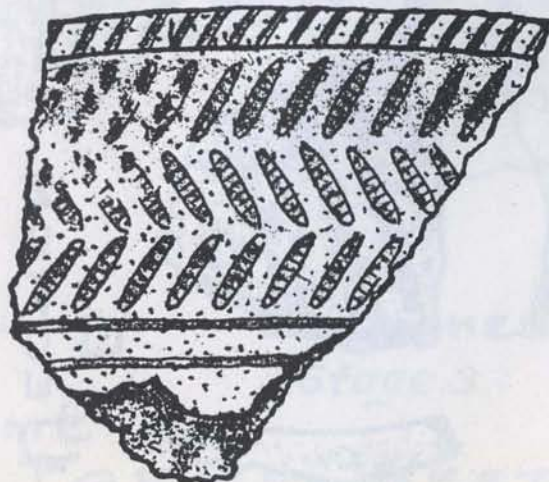
Stage 3



Stage 4



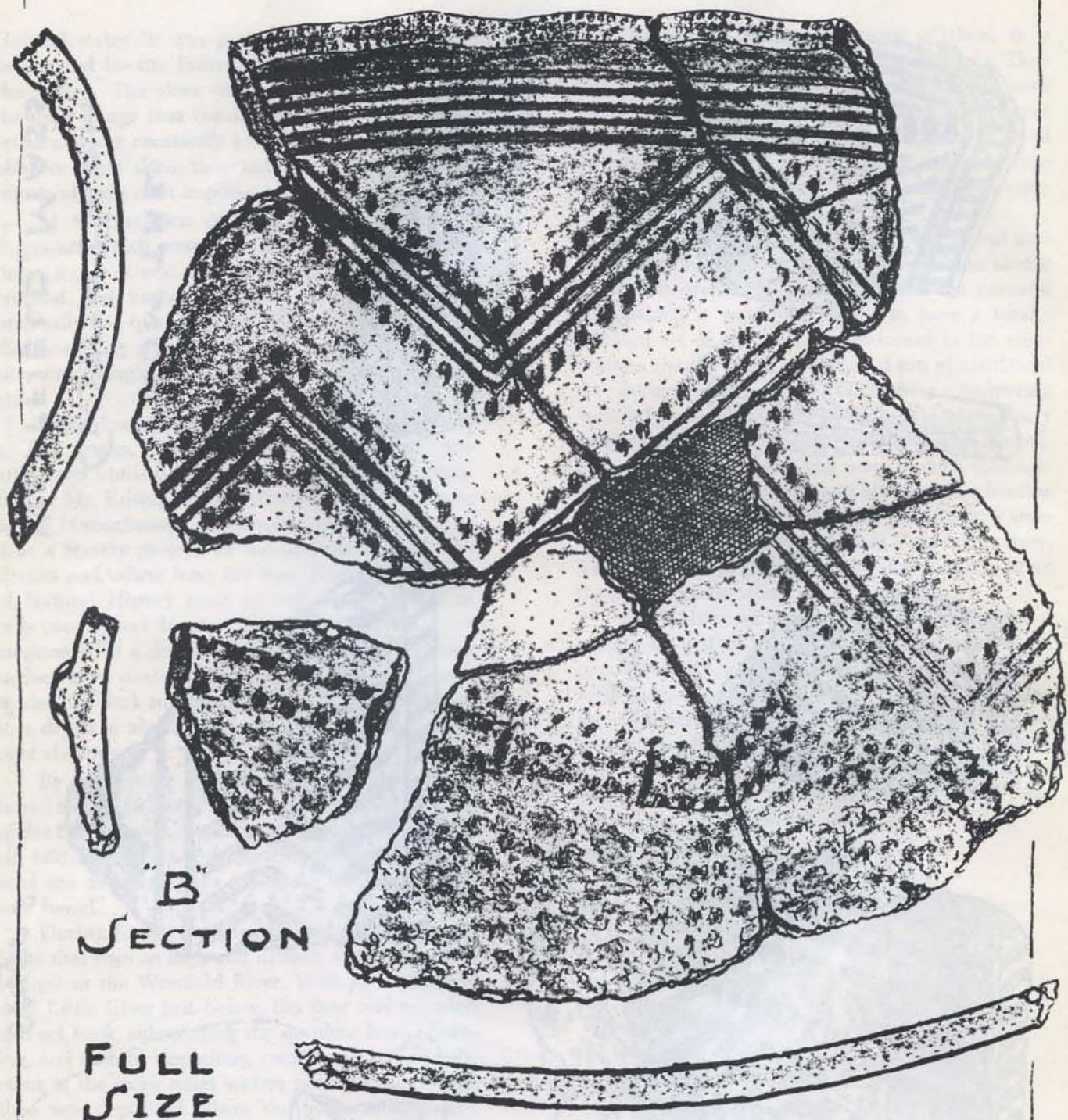
Stage 3



Stage 4

FROM THE  
GUIDA FARM  
WESTFIELD, MASS.

Fig. 7



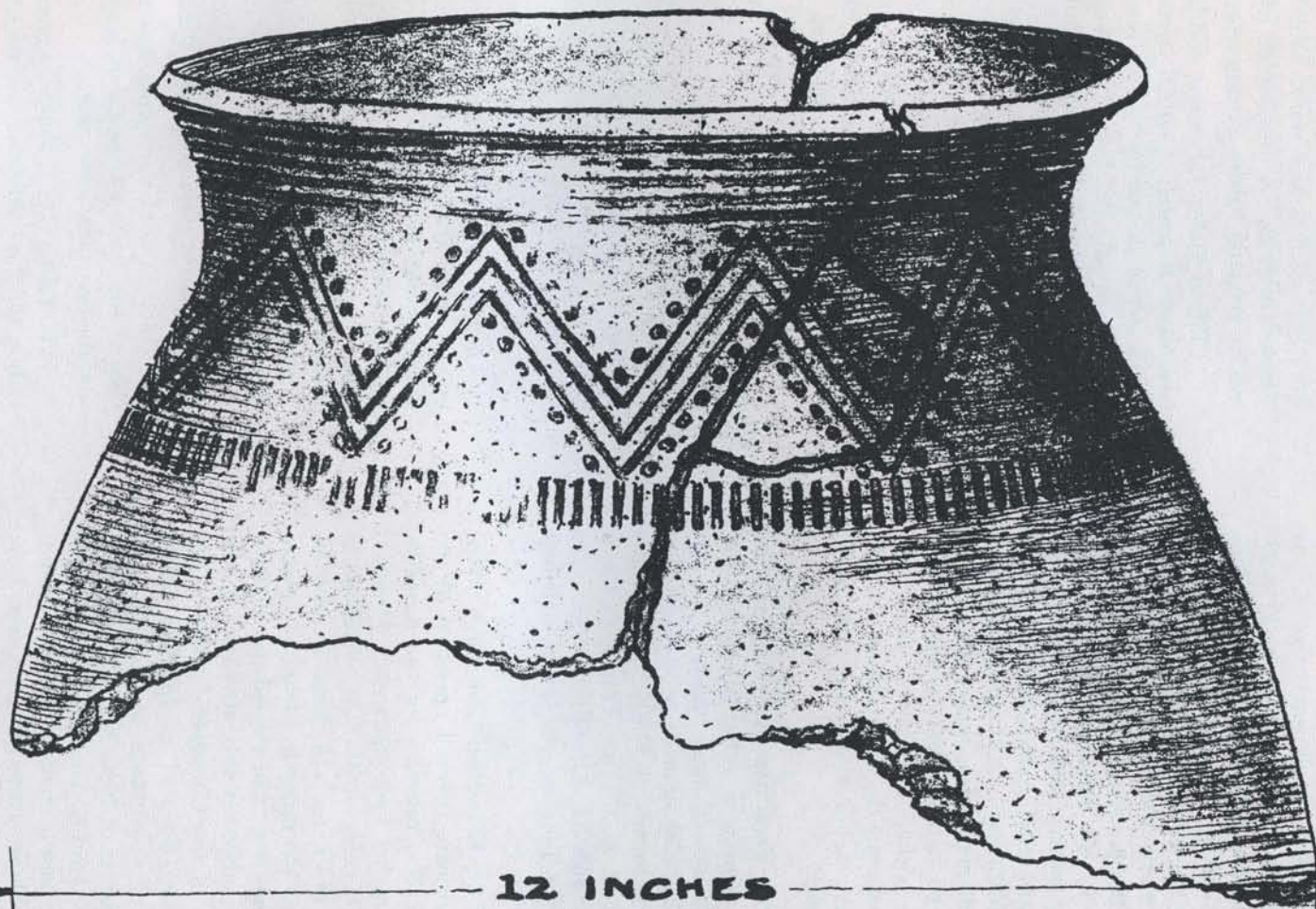
"B"  
SECTION

FULL  
SIZE

*Stage 3*

FROM THE  
GUIDA FARM - WESTFIELD - MASS.  
BURIAL FIELD





12 INCHES

Stage 3

FROM THE  
GUIDA FARM - WESTFIELD, MASS.

Fig. 9

## NEWS LETTER NO. 48

### REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Bronson Museum, Attleboro, Mass., on Saturday, October 17, 1959. The business session was called to order by the President at 10:30 A.M. After a welcome to the museum by Maurice Robbins, Director, a short review of the year's activities was given by the President, E. C. Winter, Jr. After this, the Secretary, Mabel A. Robbins reported mailing out over the past half year two Bulletins and News Letter No. 47. She stated that membership rolls stood as follows: 468 Active, 98 Family, 35 Junior, 29 Contributing, 5 Sustaining, 5 Honorary, 1 Life, 51 Institutional, a total of 692. There were 100 new members added, against 15 resigned and 66 suspended for non-payment of dues, leaving a gain of 19. She wished to thank all those who have assisted in preparing the publications for mailing. Their willingness has made the task much easier for the secretary.

Reports of the Treasurer and the Auditing Committee were read and voted accepted. The Treasurer's report showed total receipts for the year, including \$1,283.50 from dues, of \$1,841.25; against total disbursements of \$1,911.83, leaving a balance on hand of \$1,576.78. This includes a working balance of \$950.84. After this the Secretary read a report of the Trustees' meeting which was voted approved.

The report of the Education Committee, Maurice Robbins, Chairman, covered operation of the museum and education program for the membership. The museum has been open each Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday with Dr. William S. Fowler, Curator, in charge. A large number of people have visited the museum including several groups who held meetings and viewed the exhibits. The new diorama unveiled this afternoon is the work of members of the Cohannet Chapter. We have had collections donated as follows: Mary Roberts Rhinehardt assemblage of beaded work from Milton A. Travers of New Bedford (a permanent loan); the late Paul C. Turberg artifact collection from Mrs. Turberg in memory of her husband; artifacts from Cobbesecontee area, Maine, from Mr. Wallport; sherds of a ceramic pot (under restoration) from William Greene and Ralph Nickerson; artifacts from the Aleutians from Mrs. Alice Cobbett; and numerous artifacts from Wapanucket #6 from Cohannet Chapter members, to be displayed

in a case under construction. Museum courses for the coming winter will probably take the form of workshop sessions and round table discussions on selected subjects. A program of formal education will be referred to the Trustees for study.

Clifford Kiefer, Librarian, and Douglas Jordan, Chairman Research Council presented reports, which were followed by reports from Society Chapters: Massasoit, W. Elmer Ekblaw, South Shore, Cohannet, Sippican, Connecticut Valley, Shawkemo, and Maine; all indicated progress. Announcement of appointments to the Eastern States Archaeological Federation meeting follows: E. C. Winter, Jr.—Representative; Mrs. E. C. Winter, Mr. and Mrs. V. C. Petersen, A. C. Lord, D. F. Jordan, and Maurice Robbins—Delegates.

The Auditing Committee's proposed budget for the ensuing year was approved as follows:

4 Bulletins, 2 News Letters .....	\$1,400.00
October 1959 Bulletin.....	300.00
Office Expense .....	200.00
Museum Expense .....	200.00
Meeting Expense 1960 .....	200.00
Dues to E.S.A.F. ....	47.00
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$2,047.50

A slate of officers for the ensuing year was presented by the Nominating Committee, Robert Barnes, Chairman: President, E. C. Winter, Jr.; 1st Vice President, V. C. Petersen; 2nd Vice President, A. C. Lord; Secretary, Mabel A. Robbins; Treasurer, A. C. Staples; Editor, W. S. Fowler; Trustee to 1961, Guy Mellgren; Trustees to 1962, Walter Thomas, Jr., C. Wilder.

Voted that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers, and they were declared elected.

Voted to hold the spring meeting on April 9, 1960 at the Boston Museum of Science, subject to confirmation at a later date.

The Editor, W. S. Fowler expressed his appreciation for the confidence placed in him, and said that he considered the Bulletin a means of expressing the thoughts of the members and that he desired to cooperate in helping members to publish reports of excavations, which they are conducting, either privately or for a Society Chapter.

The President, E. C. Winter, Jr., expressed his appreciation for the work of the officers and committee chairmen during the past year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

#### RESEARCH SESSION

The meeting reconvened at the Museum at 2:00 P.M. when the new diorama, which represents a Late Archaic Village at Middleboro, Mass., was unveiled by Dr. Ralph Bates, Chairman of the Cohannet Chapter. Papers were then given by Laurence Gahan: "Indian Place Names of Massachusetts," and by William S. Fowler: "Archaeological Discoveries In Rhode Island." Following a short intermission, a symposium moderated by Guy Mellgren with a panel of Maurice Robbins, B. L. Smith, E. C. Winter, and D. F. Jordan was held, in which there was audience participation.

#### EVENING SESSION

After a well served dinner at the Attleboro Y.M.C.A., the meeting reconvened at the Bronson Museum. The evening speaker was Dr. Ralph Solecki of Columbia University, who spoke on the subject, "Early Man At Shanidor, Northern Iraq." With the aid of colored slides Dr. Solecki described his research for the Smithsonian Institution in northern Iraq, where he discovered and excavated an extensive cave. In it were found several skeletal remains of Neanderthal Man in a remarkable state of preservation. They revealed a most interesting story about the people, who 30,000 to 40,000 years ago lived in the cave.

Respectfully submitted,

MABEL A. ROBBINS,

*Secretary*