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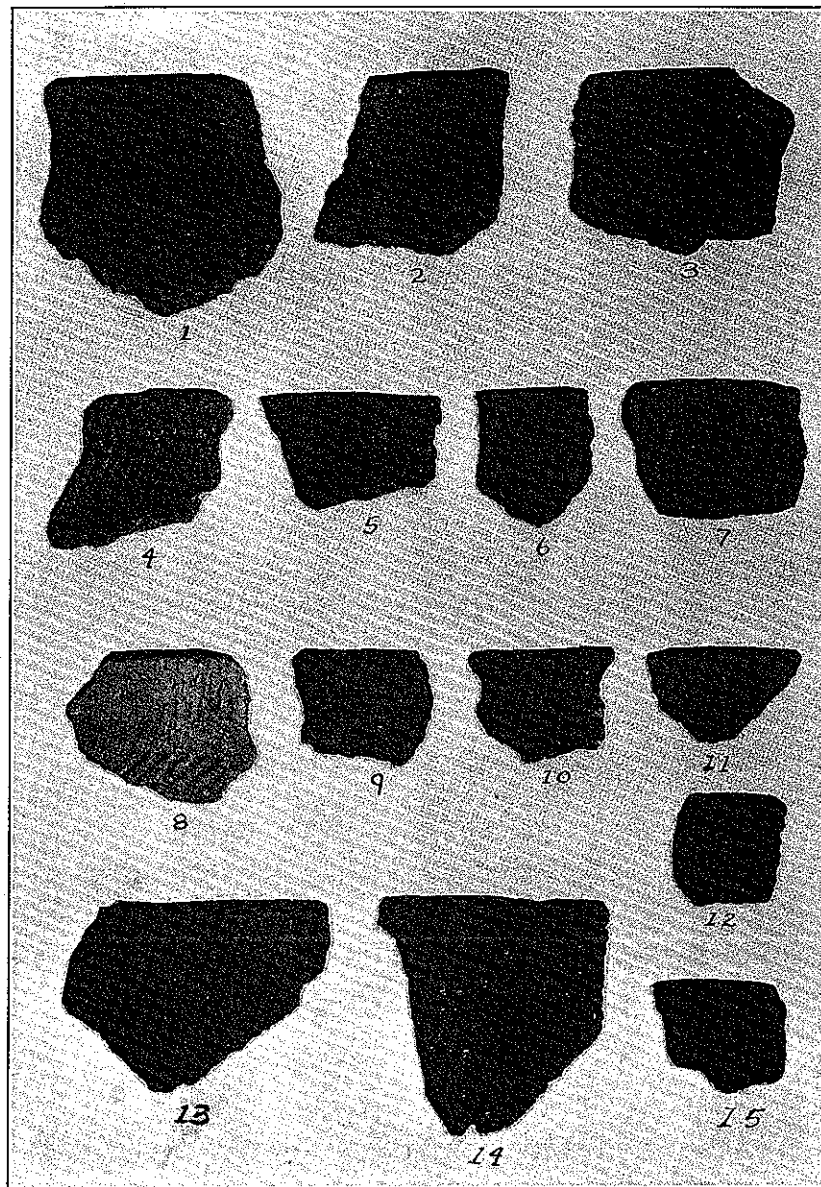


PLATE VIII.

POTSHERDS. FIG. 14 IS $3\frac{1}{4}$ " LONG

Note stamped decoration on all but fig. 3 which is incised.

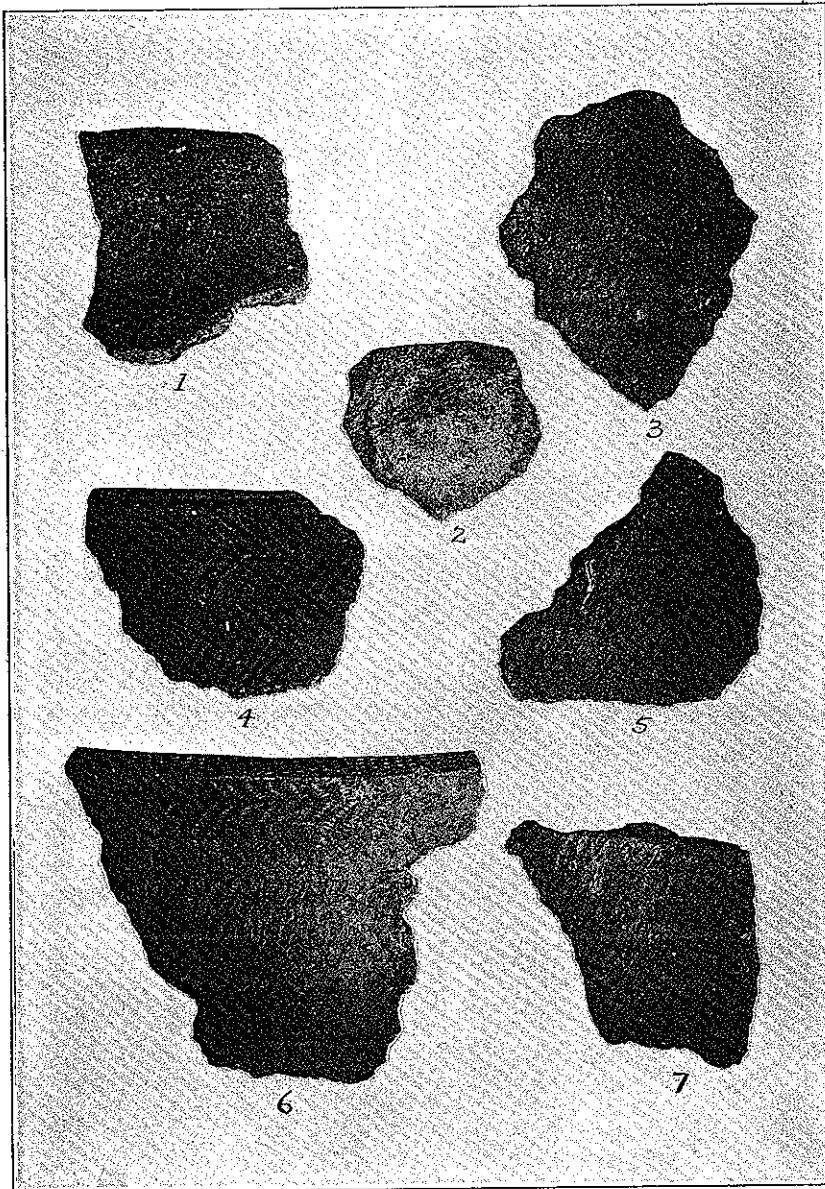


PLATE IX.
POTSHERDS

Fig. 6, the largest sherd recovered is $4\frac{1}{2}$ " high. Fig. 2, is the pointed apex of a pot.

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Plates V
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Pottery

A highly developed ceramic culture was manifested by the contents of every midden. Potsherds occurred profusely everywhere, small sherds prevailed but occasional large pieces were found, Plate IX, fig. 6. Not infrequently a number of fragments of the same vessel lay in association. In midden 1 the largest number of pertaining sherds occurred scattered over an area of several square feet. When assembled they composed nearly half of a pot 12" high with a rim diameter of $7\frac{3}{4}$ ". The remainder was restored in plaster and the vessel is illustrated in Plate VI. The stamped decoration, very characteristic of late Algonkian pottery is carried over the rim for more than an inch. The contour is typically conical; fabric wrapped paddle impressions show everywhere over a slightly corrugated surface.

The small receptacle, probably a cup, shown in Plate VII, was found by Parker in the refuse on the southern slope. Coarse fabric marks constitute the sole decoration. It has a height of 3" and a diameter of $3\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Plates VIII and IX, containing a carefully selected assortment of potsherds, are illustrative of those found and convey an adequate concept of the decorative motives employed. In every instance but one the designs were impressed, presumably with a toothed wooden stamp, into the plastic clay. Fig. 3, the exception, suggests a sub-Iroquois type in that the chevron pattern has been incised with a thin instrument.

The sherds range in thickness from $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ ", are evenly tempered with medium grained granite grit, soundly fired and mostly of grayish or reddish brown coloration. In no instance was a slip employed.

Refuse

The extreme scarcity of animal bones in the middens and village layer can best be accounted for by the fact of their superficiality. Altho widely spread the deposits were surprisingly thin from which fact it appears that a great deal of moving about was done by the

villagers; presumably therefore the bulk of bone refuse was scattered on or near the surface, a condition highly appreciated by such animals as dogs, foxes, porcupines, mice and others. Decay would also enter as a factor into the destruction of exposed debris.

The following species, arranged in descending order of abundance, have been identified from the scant remains: Virginia deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), red fox (*Vulpes fluvus*), gray(?) squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), muskrat (*Fiber zibethicus*), wood chuck (*Arctomys monax*), porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatus*), ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*) and wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*).

Jaws of the northern pike (*Lucius Lucius L.*) and the lake trout (*Cristinomen namaycush*), were recognized and fin spines of the bull head (*Amiurus nebulosus*) were quite abundant. The last species was probably taken from the pond bordering the site on the north.

A few broken turtle carapaces and shells of the fresh water mussel (*Unio complanatus*), occurred sparingly.

ARTIFACTS

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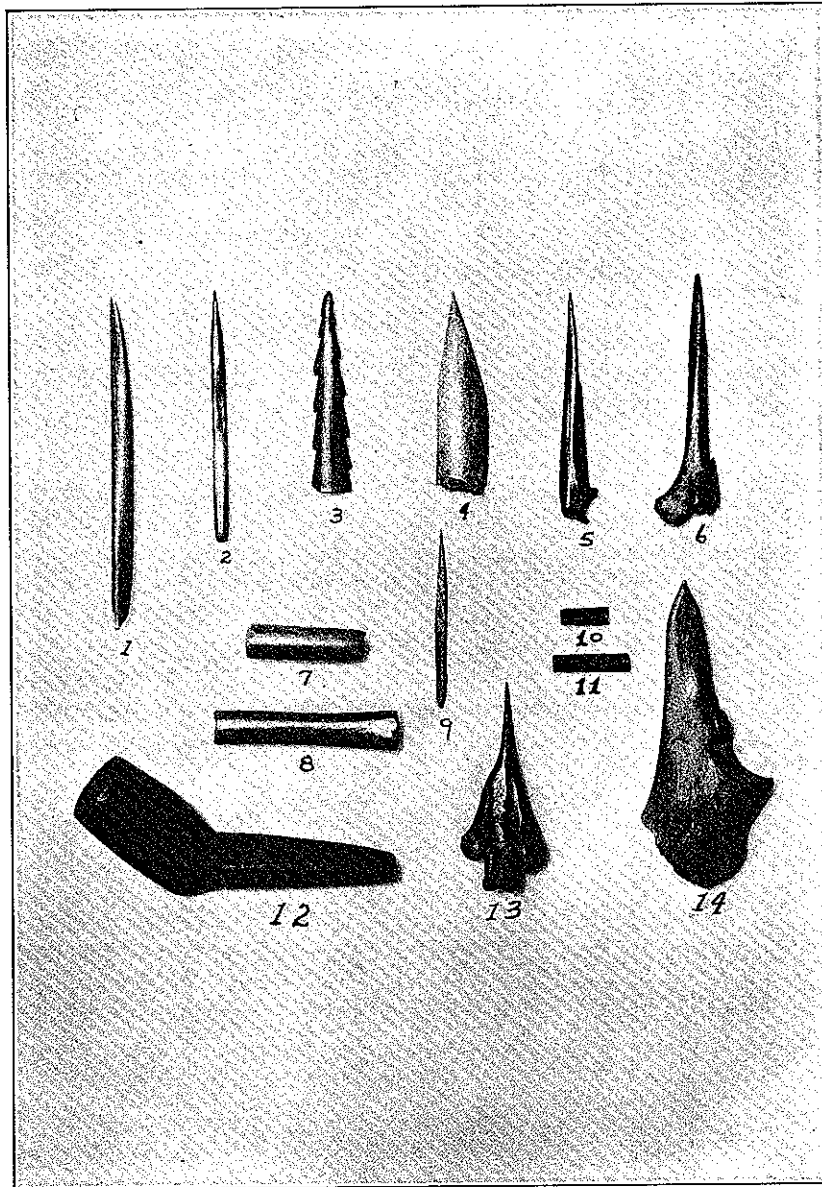


PLATE X.

ARTIFACTS FROM THE LAKESIDE PARK, OWASCO LAKE SITE. FIG. 14 IS $3\frac{1}{2}$ " LONG

Figs. 1, 2, 9, finished splinter awls; fig. 3, tip of bone harpoon head; fig. 4, point of deer ulna awl; fig. 5, awl made from small ulna; figs. 6, 13, awls made from tarsometatarsus of wild turkey; figs. 7, 8, bone tubes; figs. 10, 11, bone beads; fig. 12, plain pottery pipe; fig. 14, deer ulna awl.

General Conclusions

The Levanna site, situated high among the hills for security, was inhabited by a people on the same cultural plane as those who left their vestiges at Lakeside park, Owasco lake, possibly the same tribe. If this be true Levanna was the earlier village for the objects there are less refined.

These people were Algonkians, presumably of the early Third Period as defined by Parker, the identification being based largely on the ceramic status. A tentative date between 450 and 1200 A.D. may ascribed.

The village was small but scattered as was shown from the thin, widely spread village layer. A basis for judging the population may be drawn from the burials. Six only were found in the gravel knoll. Exhaustive testing in the most promising localities failed to disclose more. The average annual mortality among Indian tribes has been computed by Hrdlicka as 35 per thousand.³ Thus 6 burials would represent the equivalent of 200 inhabitants for one year or correspond with the more likely distribution of 50 people shifting their lodges about the area for about 4 years. Accumulated middens of the depth and extent of those discovered are compatible with this estimate.

Agriculture is not known to have been practiced. Hunting with the bow and spear and fishing with hook, harpoon and net were carried on.

³Hrdlicka, Ales, "Physical Anthropology of the Lenape or Delawares," etc.; Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 62, Washington, 1916.

HARRISON C. FOLLETT

THE ALGONKIAN SITE
Of Levanna, N. Y.
On Cayuga Lake

A Book Summary By
FRANCIS V. GRIFONE, ED.

Supplement No. 1, to YESTERYEARS.
1957

PREFACE

Sometime during the Spring of 1955, Mr. Paul Mann of Lima, N. Y. was most generous in placing in my hands several book-long unpublished manuscripts of the late Harrison C. Follett; among which was a very long one on the Levanna Algonkian Village Site, which Mr. Follett had prepared to be published as a two volume book. Mr. Mann who had been for many years a close friend and a coworker of Mr. Follett, and was with him at his bedside, was most anxious that some token of honor be granted to one who devotedly gave himself to the excavation of several important Indian Sites in our State.

The manuscript consisted of over 500 pages of closely written, minute, and difficult to decipher handwriting. To these must be added two note books of newspaper clippings and a field work book, all on the Levanna Site.

The editing job was largely a question of condensing all of this material in a brief monograph. In doing so I have eliminated all biographical and personal notes, much controversial material, and a great deal of details on the setting up of the out-door museum. In the condensation I have attempted, as far as it was possible, to retain as much of the language of Mr. Follett as found in his manuscript, and to make the statements as nearly literal as could be done.

Mr. Mann and I, hope that in this effort we have succeeded in giving some measure of fond remembrance to a friend. We want to state emphatically that no other intent or purpose must be construed other than a memorial to a man who gave 65 years of his life to the archaeology of Central New York. Mr. Mann and I sincerely hope that it will be so received by all the friends and coworkers of Harrison C. Follett.

Francis V. Grifone
Scipio Center, N. Y.

The Levanna Algonkian Site

In 1932 the writer and Mr. George Selden repaired to the Levanna Site to develop it into an out-door museum. The project was inspired by the writer's experience on various occasions while conducting visitors through the Rochester Public Museum and often heard the expression; "It would be of great educational value to witness the recovery of the articles which you exhibit."

Shortly after the Levanna Site was discovered in 1922, Dr. Arthur C. Parker, then New York State Archaeologist located in Albany at the State Museum, visited the site and made preliminary examinations. The result of which led him to believe that it was an important site and after he was appointed Director of the Rochester Municipal Museum directed an expedition to the site. The excavating was soon after abandoned but in 1927 an earnest effort was made to set up a permanent camp for prolonged excavation and study. The expedition was made up of the writer and Messrs. William A. Ritchie, his brother Donald L. and George B. Selden. After a short period excavations were discontinued again.

In 1932 the writer and Mr. Selden made arrangements with Mr. Fred Sherman, owner of the farm on which the Levanna Site is located, and excavation began in earnest and lasted till 1948. Our ultimate objective was as stated, to build an out-door museum.

The Indian village is located on a triangular knoll on the south side of the Levanna-Scipioville road about 1500 feet east of Cayuga Lake. The site occupies a knoll that is bounded on the south side by a creek that winds its course through a ravine that extends from the site's east boundary and west from the flat land. The ravine is about 200 feet across and in depth it averages about 20 feet on both sides of the creek on the north side of the village and in a natural hollow through which a small stream flows as drainage of the uplands on the east. This stream is bone dry except in the early spring after a hard rain.

Up to 50 years ago the Indian site was covered with a dense forest, and has since been used only as a wood supply and cattle pasture. Therefore it was never cultivated. In 1922 the Highway Commissioner in surfacing the road with crushed stone opened a gravel pit on a knoll adjacent to the highway which was used as one of the five, now known, burial plots that surround the Indian site. From this knoll 26 human skeletons were removed.

Some of the road gang notified Mr. Edwin K. Gohl of the find. Mr. Gohl who was of Auburn and an artist of repute and an Indian relic collector, immediately came on the spot, and after examination was convinced that the location of an Indian village had been uncovered. He made several trips to the site, then covered with a heavy growth of underbrush and black berry bushes. The banks on the north, at the easternmost portion, sloped in the greater part gently to the aforementioned hollow. In the accumulation of the refuse thereon he succeeded in recovering a large number of fine specimens of bone awls, clay pipe bowls, and sundry stone and bone articles.

In the summer of 1922 Mr. Gohl asked Mr. Sherman to plow a number of furrows across the Indian site north and south, east and west. In 1927 one of these furrows on the south side was still partly visible. In 1933 after clearing a large section of underbrush the most western portion of the furrows which ran north and south across the center of the former occupied area was still plainly visible.

Dr. Parker accompanied by Mrs. Parker and Mr. Vincent Shafer of Schenectady, spent their vacation on the site presumably in 1923 or 24. Dr. Parker at that time was State Archaeologist and came to the site upon Mr. Gohl's request.

On the center and extreme west end of the village's former occupied area, and just a few feet from where the expedition of 1927 headquarters existed, there was a space about 10 by 10 feet of sunken soil which seemed to disclose the extent of the previous exploration of the village area. Another spot at the foot of the bank, 15 feet wide and extending to a narrow point about 20 feet up the steep bank, disclosed the extent of the refuse dump of the exploration. In these two described sections artifacts were recovered, sufficient to warrant Dr. Parker in concluding it to be a very important village site, which resulted in his sending out the 1927 expedition to the site after he became Director of the Rochester Municipal Museum.

Shortly after Selden and the writer arrived in Levanna in 1932 to begin the project sponsored by the Cay. Co. Hist. Socy., Dr. Kerr D. McMillan visited us with Prof. Carter A. Woods of the Wells College Faculty and expressed a willingness to help sponsor the project in conjunction with the Cay. Co. Hist. Socy.

The first week surely was a hectic one for in addition to our anxiety to get into the archaeological work, there remained much to be done to set up a permanent camp and housing facilities. We had no funds and we had to use what we could find on the spot.

The first archaeological work consisted of exposing the stone bear effigy which had since 1927, when we left here, become completely sodded over so that it was entirely invisible except for a mound like appearance. The soil here and nearly covering the entire area consists of a sandy loam to a depth of about one foot where the subsoil is a solid bed of tenacious pink clay that exists more or less throughout the country, thus any prior disturbance is easily detected. The top soil, or loam, is absolutely void of stone. Thus it is rendered an easy problem, aside from tree roots, to find and locate the approximate outline of a stone formation of artificial origin without disturbing the original formation.

In 1932 in order to make sure the depth of the outline of the Bear formation, and to provide a protection against the elements, we started a deeper trench around it throwing as much of the dirt as it was removed to the east side, when later we could carry it away at our leisure. At the south end of the Bear a solid mass of charcoal stained soil was encountered a few inches below the bottom of the 1927 trench, in this stained soil was a pavement of fire broken stone corresponding to those of the body of the Bear. As the charcoal stained soil was removed by enlarging the trench it was discovered as we uncovered the clay that it pitched downward to a depth of 18 inches, where a pit filled with ashes was discovered and underneath was a hearth of stone each of which was four to six inches in diameter and unbroken by heat. The pit was rounded slightly. As we exposed the Effigy of the Bear, Dr. McMillan stood by and thereby became a witness to the accuracy of the work we were doing but also to the fact that the Bear was left undisturbed as found.

In the removal of the surplus soil from the east side, we contacted another large body of stone and by careful and tedious labor of several days, removing large and small roots of a hickory tree distant 21 feet to the northwest, we discovered another figure which was sloping to the east parallel to the Bear, and distant from it about 18 inches with what appeared its back resting parallel to the Bear. Viewing this operation was the President of the DAR of Ithaca Mrs. Perry and her husband. The discovery of this second stone figure led eventually after some time to the discovery of 24 such effigies which we believe constituted a veritable temple group.

Directly south of the deep fire pit near the Bear and Panther's head, another figure was encountered that did not appear to possess any form that represented any object we were familiar with. In order to determine the definite form we had to excavate around it. In front of

the altar and to the west in a slight semicircle were found fire hearths on which only the most northern one contained yet broken stone comprising the same quality of fire-burned stone of the main effigies. These hearths were two or three feet from the altar and contained about six inches of ashes and charcoal.

On the northwest corner of this location is a square projection of 18 inches to the left of which is a small stone crescent partially destroyed by another tree root. Straight north of this and east of the center unknown object is another crescent. This one being a foot wide and two and one half feet long, the hollow facing toward the deep fire pit.

Four years passed before we were able to remove a large tree root that extended through the Panther's figure and then only by the reason of its decay.

Considerable speculation arose as to what all this figure symbolism indicated. To the writer and Mr. Selden's deep study of the objects involved and their relations to one another, there came only one conclusion, that the effigies constituted some primitive sort of temple that was used by the occupying Indians periodically and for a long occupational extent.

Upon the extreme eastern end, there was found a figure that crudely represented Salamander, and near it there was a large pile of net sinkers indicating probably that they had been placed there as an act of propitiation for better luck in the catch of fish in the nearby Cayuga Lake.

In 1984 while the writer was excavating a plot on the east end of the site, Mr. Wm. VanDusen came there and stood by. In his presence a food storage was uncovered and in it a perfect harpoon one half inch wide and 8 inches long with 8 barbs on each side. To this followed a bears tooth and a highly decorated pipe bowl and several broken pieces that formed a bears head pipe.

Directly to the north there was a stump of a hickory tree that showed 222 concentric rings with a diameter 2 feet 9 and one half inches. In 1927 the tree of this stump was standing and towered high above the surrounding area. It had been cut for firewood in 1928. Roots from it had spread out in all directions, several of which on the west side were 6 and 8 inches thick, and had grown on a stone hearth as it was thought to be and what was visible on the surface indicated that it was extensive, and presumably would indicate and disclose some activity in the vicinity, as it occupied a rising piece of ground on the bank that permitted a view of the entire area on which the village cabins were

located. As more roots were cut at this spot, and some excavating was permissible, a skeleton came to view. Near the skeleton a stone mass with the distinct form of another animal effigy. The tree stump was too firmly embedded to remove without destruction of the figure, therefore it was decided to abandon any further effort and allow it to serve as conclusive evidence that the effigy, whatever it might be, had been there before this mammoth tree had sprouted. It was not until 1940, that the stump had decayed to a point in which it could be removed, and when this was finally accomplished, the effigy proved to be, as presumed, that of another bear, but inferior in formation, containing only a thin layer of fire broken stone and the head was missing. It appeared to have been for some unknown reason removed by the Indians or never completed, although a portion of the neck was plainly visible. On the figure we found a large quantity of small animal and fish bones commingled with potsherds and ashes. West of this animal figure, a pit 5 by 1 foot deep was discovered. This pit was several feet outside of the village refuse. It contained a small metate, two hammer stones, a muller, a broken pipe bowl, and a thin layer of ashes.

Upon the east end of the village, we had left intact up to now the discovered edge of what appeared to be a huge fire pit. As we came to it with the assistance of David Hammond who was spending the vacation with us, we began to remove the soil and then the decomposed refuse consisting principally of 20 inches of black soil and 5 inches of ashes, charcoal, and burned and cracked stone. In this pit we found several bone awls, one small fractured harpoon and some potsherds.

During the later part of July, Dr. Donald Cadzow with Dr. Mason and Dr. Penneypecker came to Levanna to see me and to tell me that they had uncovered a similar figure as the Bear on Spanish Hill near Athens Pa.

Luckily the winter of 1932 proved to be a very mild one, no severe cold until the middle of March of 1933, so that exploration upon the Indian Site was carried on all winter long except on rainy days. By now Mr. James Titus of the village of Cayuga came daily to help me. We first began exploration along the plowed furrow that was made for Mr. Gohl. This proved to be an extensive and rich section, and while only 10 inches deep it proved very productive of Indian artifacts. In this section we discovered three lodge sites and 11 scattered hearths and several storage pits in which we found bone harpoons, pipes and many fragments. We found one of the largest clay pipes we have ever seen. The only part missing was a slight chip off the mouth piece. The bowl was long and so was the stem. In the southeast corner of this area we

discovered a V shaped storage pit 11 feet long and 3 feet deep. It was filled to the surface with charcoal, broken fire stone and ashes. To the west, ten feet, was a storage pit in which a whole canoe shaped small vessel was recovered. This pit must have held a large pot for it was 14 inches in diameter and 2 feet deep. In the center of the bottom, the end part of a pot three quarters of an inch thick and five inches in diameter was found. One bushel full of potsherds was recovered from this area.

East along the driveway that follows the site, 85 feet along the north side, and 32 feet from the palisade line, in the northwest corner of the area later described as the village industry, occurred beside a hearth of stone and ashes, much material among which a pipe with a sort of short piece attached. The bowl was that of a human face and was completely black from much use. None others were found on the site similar to this one.

This hearth produced several pieces of broken human skull and a section of a broken tibia highly calcinated. Bedded in the subsoil was the complete skeleton of a lake sucker fish 11 inches long. This area cited as the village industry was one mass of fire hearths and storage pits. In it we discovered a spot where large amounts of clasp for the manufacture of pottery was located.

The year 1933 proved to be one of great activity. Early in the midsummer, a student from Cornell visiting the site requested permission to do some excavating. Normally such requests were denied, but in this case as the student was advanced in Indian Archaeology permission was granted. One day as I was preparing dinner, this student came to me all excited saying that he had found something of great importance and wanted me to come and look at it. To my surprise he had uncovered a pavement of unfired stones about 15 feet long. It began with a large stone that apparently had never been disturbed, then a layer of stone on which refuse was abundant; potsherds, net sinkers, pieces of clay pipes, fish scales, and fish bones mingled with small broken animal bones. It required several days to completely expose it, during which time while Dr. Bates and other local persons were gathered, the image was photographed by a news reporter, and the effigy which measured 15 feet long, was declared by Dr. Bates to represent a huge Salamander or Thunderbird.

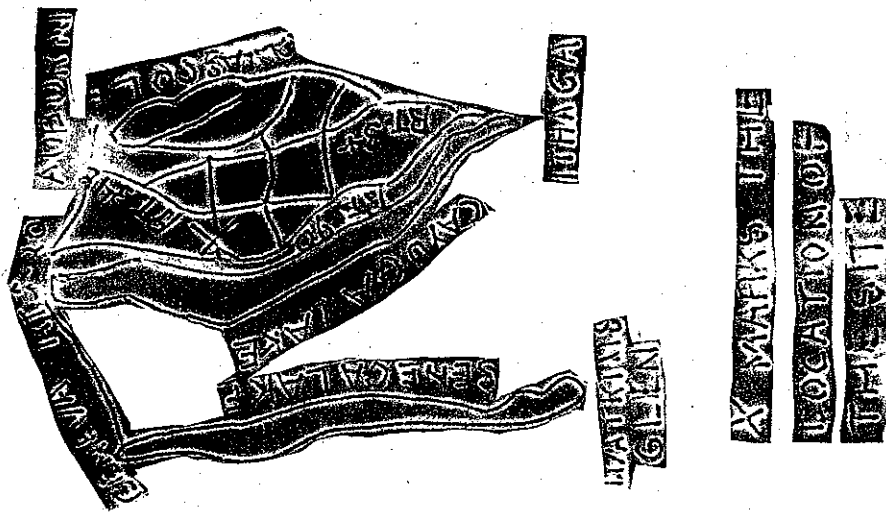
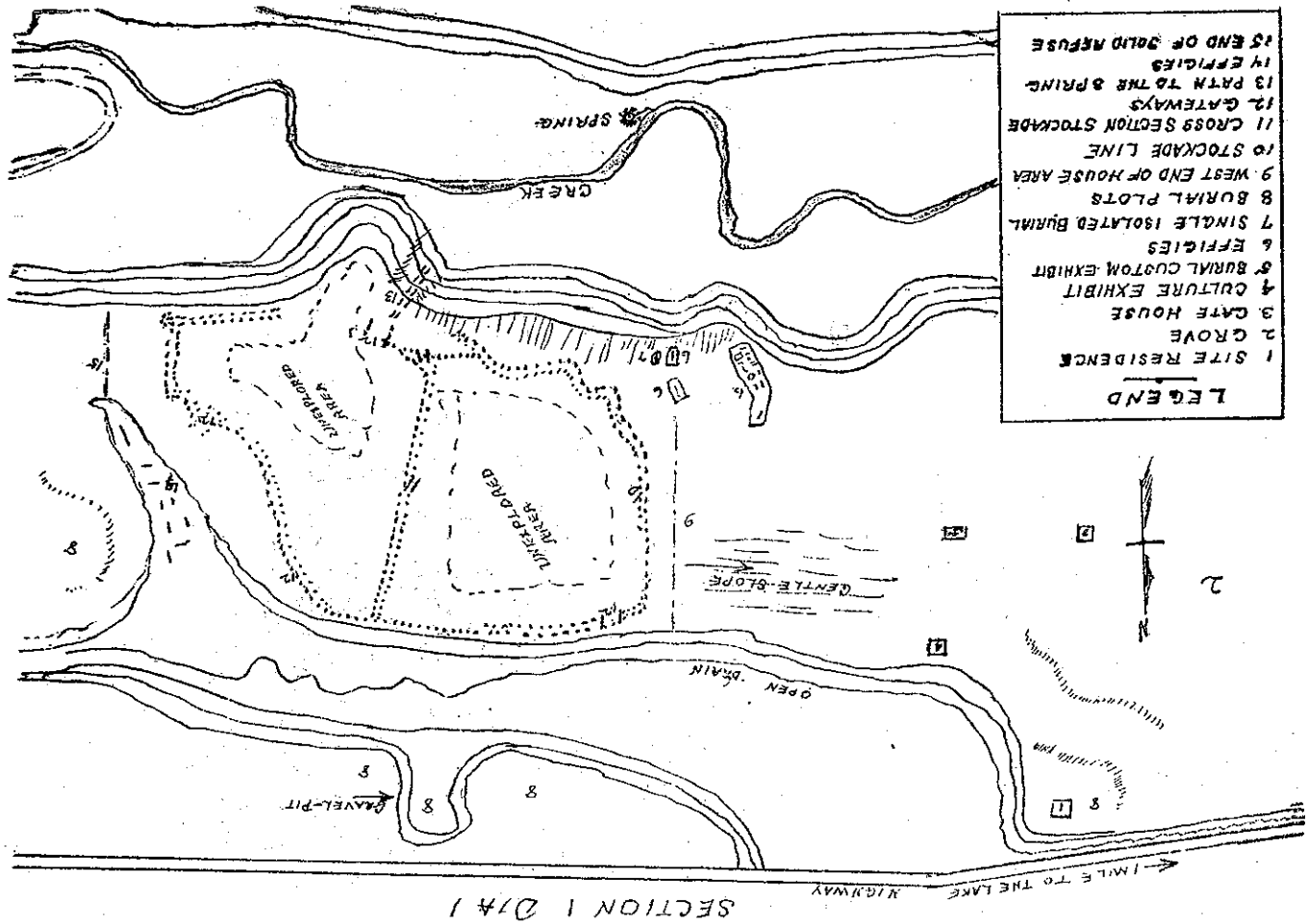
The spring of 1934 was the year that Mr. Sherman began to plow up the field that joined the Indian Village site on the east. It was virgin sod and had always been used as pasture land. As the furrows were plowed, they turned up repeatedly black spots with pottery, flint and charcoal with burned stone accumulations. These spots were at regular

intervals and in a straight line indicating the location of lodges covering the entire area. When the field was harrowed out 88 distinct lodge sites were visible. The conclusion was evident that this field represented a previous and much older site which had been occupied for a shorter duration, but probably by the same people belonging to a more primitive Algonkian culture. Across the south hollow on a knoll was a small burial plot and another on the northwest corner where a perfect walnut shaped pipe covered with red paint was found. On this same field potsherds by the hundreds, and slate gorgets and pendants were found.

In late September another important discovery was made. On a line extending along the road and for a very definite straight row, a large number of moulds were uncovered, all in such a disposition, which proved the emplacement of a palisade.

Much more needs to be excavated and properly evaluated. Whatever happens in the future, the writer places this project in the hands of those who may become interested. The pages of these note books will serve to assist in reconstructing the Village by some experienced person and when completed will prove to be an outstanding feature of attraction and education.





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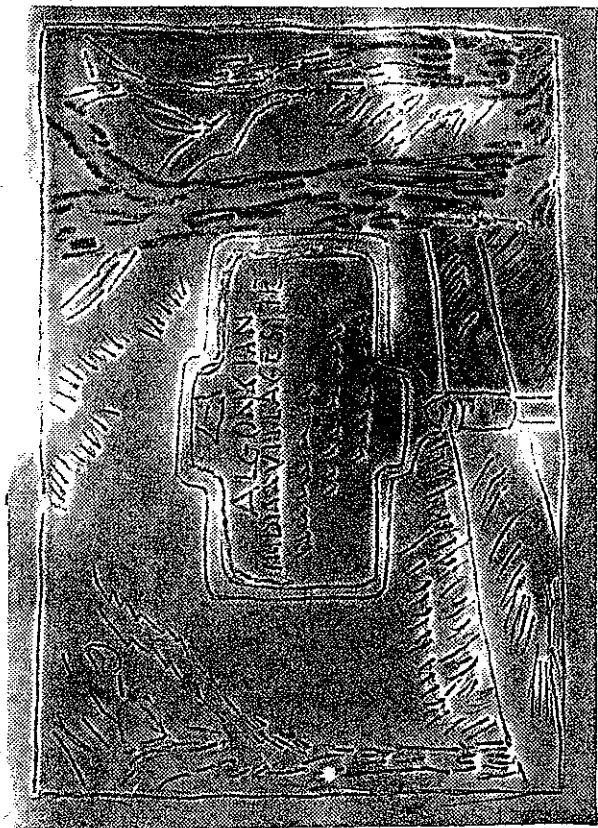
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