

Allegheny Chapter #1

of the

Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.

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Officers 2015 - 2017

President: Brian Fritz
Vice President Bill Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Valko

Meeting Information

First Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.,
February through June and September through
November. Holiday Dinner is in December at
an alternate location.

October 2017 – Christopher Espenshade,
Archaeologist, Skelly and Loy, will be
presenting *Palimpsests and Archaeological
Interpretation: The View from 36WH1686*.

November 2017 – To be announced.

December 2017 – Annual Holiday Party

*Meetings are held at Michael Baker International,
100 Airside Drive, Moon Township, PA in the first
floor presentation room. Parking is free. Building
is locked so please buzz the security guard to get in
and sign in at the reception desk.*

President's Letter

October is Pennsylvania Archaeology Month!

Cooler weather, colorful foliage, and fewer bugs make October the perfect month to get outdoors and enjoy Pennsylvania's archaeological heritage. For those who are less inclined to trample through the woods and fields, consider visiting one or more of the many historic sites across found across Pennsylvania. If you haven't been to the Meadowcroft Rockshelter, don't miss the Second Annual Workshop in Archaeology to be held at the Meadowcroft Site in Avella, PA on October 7. Other historic sites make excellent weekend outings. Some examples are the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site near Cresson, the Old Economy Village Museum in Ambridge, Fort Ligoneer at the foot of Laurel Mountain, or the Carrie Furnace Historical Landmark site in Swissvale. Visiting and supporting Pennsylvania's museums and heritage sites helps support archaeology by showing public interest and concern for preserving our past.

Brian

Palimpsests and Archaeological Interpretation: The View from 36WH1686

Skelly and Loy conducted a Phase III data recovery of the Yuhas site (36WH1686) for District 12-0 of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The site was threatened by proposed improvements to I-70 in Washington County. The field methods included the excavation of 50 x 50 cm units at 7.5-m intervals, the hand excavation of 30 1 x 1 m units, and the machine-assisted removal of the plow zone from 20 percent of the site area. The spatial distributions of Late Archaic and Woodland projectile points, generalized debitage, features, and

Woodland period radiocarbon dates provide a cautionary tale against equating spatial proximity with temporal concordance.

Three Early to Middle Archaic Points from Somerset County

by Richard L. George

Three surface-collected Early to Middle Archaic points from three Somerset County sites are described and illustrated.

1. TYPE: Kirk Corner Notched, Large Variety
PROVENIENCE: 36SO141, Surface
SITE SITUATION: Casselman River Terrace
LITHIC MATERIAL: Dull Gray, Coarse Grained Chert
DIMENSIONS: Length = 62 mm+; Width = 30 mm; Thickness = 8 mm
DISCUSSION: This damaged Kirk Corner Notched point (Broyles 1971:64-65; Justice 1987:71-73) has uneven serrated edges and a ground base. The blade edges exhibit damage apparently from use as a cutting or sawing tool. Of Early Archaic age, Kirk Notched points date between 7500 to 6900 B.C. (Justice 1987:71).

2. TYPE: Kirk Stemmed
PROVENIENCE: 36SO44, Surface
SITE SITUATION: Laurel Hill Creek Terrace
LITHIC MATERIAL: Glossy, Cream Colored, Fine Grained Chert, Possibly Heat-Treated
DIMENSIONS: Length = 44 mm+; Width = 25 mm; Thickness = 9 mm
DISCUSSION: This Kirk Stemmed point (Boyles 1971:66-67) is at its thickest in the area where the blade meets the base. The incurvate edge appears to be much worn from use as a cutting or sawing tool. The base is not ground. Broyles (1971:67) suggests a date for the type of 6900 B.C. based on the St. Albans site evidence. Justice (1987:82-84) places Kirk Stemmed points between 6900 to 6000 B.C.

3. TYPE: Kanawha Stemmed
PROVENIENCE: 36SO117, Surface
SITE SITUATION: Coxes Creek Terrace
LITHIC MATERIAL: Onondaga Chert (Ammonium Chloride Coated)

DIMENSIONS: Length = 24 mm+; Width = 27 mm; Thickness = 5 mm

DISCUSSION: Similar in configuration to LeCroy points, Kanawha Stemmed points have “short rounded and shallow notched bases,” (Boyles 1971:59). This Somerset County specimen has a missing tip and damaged edges, although the latter still retain small serrations. A single radiocarbon date of 6210 B.C. for the type was obtained at the deeply stratified St. Albans site in the Kanawha River in West Virginia. Justice (1987:95) suggests a date range of 6200 to 5800 B.C. It is this writer’s belief that Kanawha Stemmed points are much more common than LeCroy points in Somerset County. At a site in Tennessee, Kanawha Stemmed points were found stratigraphically above LeCroy points (Justice 1987:95).

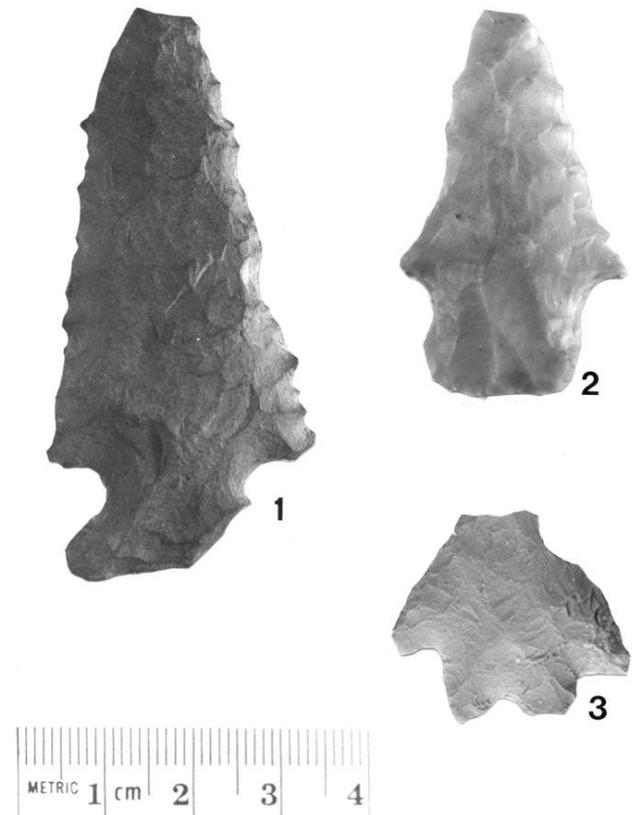


Figure 1. Three Early to Middle Archaic Points from Somerset County.

REFERENCES:

Boyles, Bettye J.
1971 Second Preliminary Report: The St. Albans Site, Kanawha County, West Virginia. West

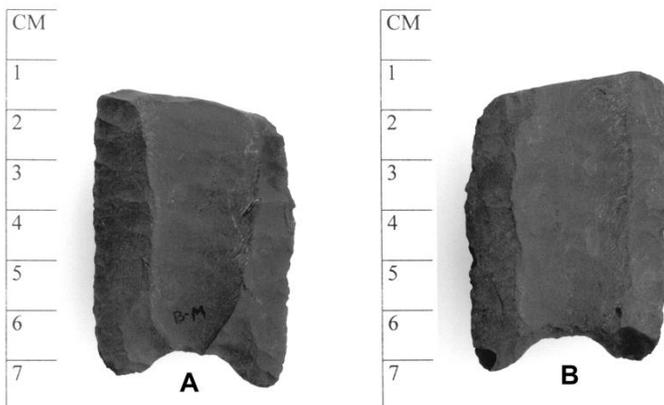
Justice, Noel D.

1987 Stone Age Spears and Arrow Points of
Midcontinental and Eastern United States. Indiana
University Press, Bloomington.

Unique Clovis Point

by Brian L. Fritz

A Clovis point fragment was found by Bob Foust in the Casselman River drainage of southern Somerset County. The point was made from a fine grade of Bedford County Shriver chert. This is the typical gray/tan chert that is found on prehistoric sites throughout Somerset County. The piece is 5.9 cm long, 4.1 cm wide, and 0.8 cm thick. Unfortunately the tip is missing so we will never know how long it once was. All I could say is WOW! That is really thin for such a large point. It is even thinner when measured at the middle of the channel scars. Expert flint knappers find it difficult to drive such long and wide channel flakes from a blade this thin and delicate. So did the prehistoric flint knappers, as evidenced from this failed attempt at fluting.



Close examination reveals some interesting features. When the knapper was making this point, he first produced a preform in the approximate shape of the final point. He then carefully prepared a striking platform on the base of the point in preparation for removing the first channel flake. Removal of this flake was successful (side B). He may have first removed two smaller side channel flakes producing a prominent center ridge. This

center ridge would tend to guide the direction of the final channel flake up the middle of the blade. Witthoft describes this as the Enterline fluting method (Kent et al. 1971:35). With the first channel flake successfully removed, he then turned his attention back to forming a striking platform on the base for removal of the opposite channel flake. On this side, the Enterline method is strongly suggested. Two side channel flake scars are visible on either side of the final channel scar (side A). This time when the prehistoric knapper attempted to strike off the final channel flake, the flake unexpectedly dived inward and through the blade snapping it into two pieces. Modern knappers routinely experience this knapping failure when attempting to reproduce Paleo-Indian fluted points. Notably missing are fine pressure flaking typically found along the base, and lateral grinding of the blade edges. There was no reason to complete these two final steps since the point had already broken during channel flake removal. The knapper apparently discarded the basal section after it broke. No use-wear or lateral grinding is evident on the blade edges or base.

North Fork Chapter Picnic

North Fork Chapter 29 invites all SPA and Chapter Members to enjoy a fall day in western PA at our annual picnic.

Sunday, October 15th

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Scripture Rocks Heritage Park

The park is located on Route 28, 1/8 mile south of 1-80 exit 81 at 560, PA Route 28, Brookville, PA.

- ❖ Guided Walking Tour of this State & National Award winning Park
- ❖ Free Picnic 4:00 pm (Everything provided)
- ❖ Atlatl Competition

Please RSVP by Oct. 7th to:
kenburkett@comcast.net or (814) 365-5563.

Archaeology Month Calendar 2017

Second Annual Archaeology Workshop in Western Pennsylvania

The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology in partnership with Meadowcroft Museum and the Heinz Historical Center are sponsoring the second annual archaeology workshop during archaeology month on Saturday, October 7. The theme of the workshop is Experimental Archaeology. For more information contact John Nass at nass@calu.edu. Further information about registration, lunch, and the workshop schedule will be made available later this month on the SPA website, the Meadowcroft Museum website, and Heinz Historical Center website, as well as the fall SPA newsletter.

2017 Annual Workshops in Archaeology

October 28, 2017 at The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, PA. The theme is Ethnicity in the Archaeological Record.

Immigration, ethnicity, and multi-culturalism are significant issues in contemporary American society. Archaeologists can examine these issues through the recovery and analysis of artifacts. Pennsylvania's archaeological record is as diverse as its population and reflects upon our founding under William Penn as a welcoming place for freedom from religious persecution. Identifying and connecting with our ethnic origins is important as we strive to recognize our own sense of place in an ever-changing society.

The Archaeology Section of The State Museum of Pennsylvania invites you to attend the annual Workshops in Archaeology on Saturday, October 28, 2017. This program is designed to provide the public with an overview of archaeological discoveries and research being conducted in the region. Papers presented at these sessions will focus on Ethnicity in the Archaeological Record as it can be identified at farmsteads, industrial sites, religious sites and other locations in Pennsylvania. By recognizing cultural markers of preceding populations in Pennsylvania, archaeologists are better equipped to understand the fluid cultural landscape of our country.

For more information visit our blog to learn more: twipa.blogspot.com or the State Museum's website at StateMuseumPA.org.

Fort Hunter Archaeology

The Section of Archaeology at the State Museum will be conducting their excavation at Fort Hunter Mansion & Park between September 6th and October 6th, 2017. The public is welcome to visit and archaeologists will be on site, weekdays between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

This year's investigations will focus on two areas. The first is a midden area west of the milk house that was encountered in 2008 and in 2016. It consists of two layers of artifacts dating to the late 18th and/or early 19th centuries based on ceramics. Artifacts were deposited in some type of depression approximately 2.5 feet below the present ground surface. It is unclear what this represents, but it may be an early building relating to the Hunter or McAllister occupation.

The second area we plan to further investigate is a circular rock foundation, 12 feet in diameter, interpreted as the smokehouse described in an 1820's magazine article. During excavation last year we recognized an area of hydrophobic soils in the center area of this feature. Additional soil samples from this area will be gathered for specialized analysis. Additionally, further investigation of a small open ended rectangular structure on its north side, possibly a stove as described in historic documentation will be completed. The recovery of 18th century artifacts and the low density of artifacts, suggests that these are indeed the early structures mentioned in documentation. We are starting to get a better picture of the cultural landscape of Fort Hunter. Mr. Hunter and Mr. McAllister were true entrepreneurs and their stories are unfolding as we uncover the archaeological record of this fascinating and important site in the development of Harrisburg.

Visitors at Fort Hunter Mansion and Park enjoy learning about the archaeological investigation and often stop by several times a week to check on our progress. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit an archaeological site and experienced volunteers are always appreciated. Please contact Kurt Carr at

(717)783-9926 or kcarr@pa.gov for additional information or to volunteer.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Archaeology Open House on Saturday, October 21st from 12-3 PM in McElhaney Hall on the IUP campus. There will be artifact displays, stone-tool making & spear throwing, bone lab & specimen tours, laser scanning, 3D printing & geophysical demos. Examine artifacts & faunal remains, try your hand at prehistoric technologies, print artifacts in 3D, view student research and more! Kids activities include hand-painting, wampum & pottery. Also enjoy complimentary archaeology-themed snacks!

John Shrader Chapter #21

Monday October 2: Chapter member Gene Delaplaine is writing a play about “The Arch Street Excavation” in Philadelphia, which is scheduled to be presented on Monday, October 2 at 2 PM in Exton, PA.

Wednesday October 4: Monthly Chapter meeting will feature Tom Lewis from CHRIS, Inc., who will give a presentation on “New Perspectives with Some Current and Traditional Interpretations of Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Prehistory,” at 7 PM in the mule stable of Joanna Furnace.

Excavations will be ongoing through October on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at the Mouns Jones House in Douglassville, Berks County, PA. Members of Chapter 21 and students from a Montgomery County Community College archaeology class will be working at the site.

We will have an exhibit on archaeology at Joanna Furnace and SPA Chapter 21 at the Apple Festival to be held at Joanna Furnace on Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15.

International Archaeology Day will be celebrated on October 21 at the Mouns Jones site in Douglassville.

For more information contact Cathy Spohn at CSPOHN@pa.gov.

North Fork Chapter #29

Thomas N. Glover, North Fork Chapter 29 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, will present the program Review of the Johnson-Thompson Adena Mound and Cache of Burial Goods on Friday, October 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Heritage House, 4 Sylvania Street, Brookville, PA 15825.

Excavated by Ernest Sutton in the fall of 1963, the Johnson-Thompson Adena Mound was located in Troy Township, Athens County Ohio. It was situated on top of a hill ½ mile west of the lower portion of the Hocking River and 2 ½ miles northwest of the village of Coolville, OH. The Mound contained six burials and four cremations. The central feature was a double burial of a male and female in a subfloor pit. Associated with the male burial was a cache containing points, bone awls, a gorget, whetstones, an atlatl handle, and of particular interest cut upper wolf jaws. Also associated with the male burial was a stone wall containing 618 small sandstone and limestone rocks. Also incorporated in this wall were 13 large slabs of sandstone. Four of these large slabs were worked, a narrow grooved abrading stone, a wide grooved abrading stone, an anvil stone, and a cupstone. The four worked slabs of sandstone provide an insight into the manufacturing of Adena artifacts.

SPA 2018 Annual Meeting

Call for Papers

Anyone wishing to participate should send abstracts of 150 words or less for papers and posters to the Program Chair by March 17, 2018. Students please send a copy of your student identification when you submit your abstracts. All presenters must be current members of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology.

Program Chair: Kenneth Burkett 2717 Brookville Street, Fairmount City, PA 16224, Phone: (818) 849-0077; kburkett-jchc@windstream.net.

2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM

To become a member of Allegheny Chapter #1, SPA, complete this form and send it to Amanda Valko, Secretary, Allegheny Chapter #1. Thank you!

NAME _____ DATE _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PRESENT CHAPTER AFFILIATION (IF ANY) _____ STATE MEMBER? _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CHECK ONE):

<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE	\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE HUSBAND/WIFE	\$16.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING	\$ 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT	\$ 8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE INDIVIDUAL	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTIONAL	\$16.00

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