

FORMER INDIAN HABITATIONS AND ANCIENT RELICS FOUND NEAR LANCASTER CITY

By D. B. LANDIS

PARTICULARLY during a period covering the past twenty odd years, it has been my great pleasure to walk over numerous fields surrounding Lancaster city, in search for Indian relics and artifacts of stone, besides other archaeological specimens and minerals. In this regular manner, from week to week, traversing miles of local territory, many discoveries were made.

A number of these findings, with personal impressions, are here presented for permanent record in The Lancaster County Historical Society's Proceedings. By this method its members and others may have additional gathered knowledge on the vast Indian employment at former camps or prehistoric habitations in our very midst.

Indian occupation of these parts of central Lancaster county passed out of existence about 150 years ago. There were a few Indians scattered hereabout, as the fairly peaceable Conestogas, in the Pequea district, and at several native localities prior to the Revolution. A number of these reduced groups, however, were already on their way beyond the Susquehanna toward the Ohio river, or forced to the northern Pennsylvania borders, ten years after the period when Lancaster became a borough in 1742 and before a massacre of the Conestoga Indians in 1763.

Within the present confines of Lancaster city, preceding advent of the white man, early in the eighteenth century, there were around about its various hill slopes numbers of natural springs of running water. These supplied suitable surroundings for temporary or permanent camp-sites. The Indian families steadfastly lodged themselves near to springs and flowing streams of water. Usually there was added protection afforded them by forests of trees. Near by game, birds and fish were to be had in abundance, with use of bow and arrow or spear.

Before Lancaster was so named in 1729-30, the place at different times was designated as "Indian Town," "Spring Town," "Waving

Hills," "Gibson's Pasture," and "Hickory Town." For many years there were meetings of Indians near and at Centre or Penn Square, as recorded in history. It is not necessary to repeat a narrative of those established events and conferences between red men and white settlers.

Thousands of arrow-heads and stone implements were lost where now the Red Rose municipality occupies former Indian habitations, by its civilized structures and developments, surrounding and covering up swamps and small water courses.

Occasionally a single arrow-head or a few flaked artifacts are to be found in some modern excavation. Thus two centuries of progress have wiped out from Lancaster evidences of Indian occupation, and which I shall treat of not very far beyond the city's limits, where there are yet many tracts of "God's country" left, as tilled by our twentieth century "sons of toil."

COMPARISON WITH ANCIENT STONE IMPLEMENTS

Prior to more fully describing the stone implements and darts as used here near Lancaster, in the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries, comparisons can be made with the domestic stone tools and war products of the ancients in other lands. This short study will reveal startling similarities of workmanship, executed by more or less uncivilized or so-called savage people in all parts of the world.

It is stated that "written history affords an incomplete history of the past." Without it, however, archaeology would have to depend more upon actual possession of instruments as excavated and recovered from mounds and graves. This plan of procedure has been going on in Lancaster county and elsewhere in Pennsylvania and at different parts of the United States. I have not been an Indian grave digger, but have found a great deal of value in the recovery of stone and other tribal material, much of which unavoidably would have been lost or destroyed.

Various stone cutting tools, knives, celts and serrated gouges as found by me in central Lancaster county, have some of the shapes and general contour of such implements when gathered from old caves of Europe and primitive parts of Africa and Australia. Flint cutters are common in many lands in both hemispheres, reaching back to the earliest life of man.

As a worker, man, with his hands, shaped stones for grubbing, rubbing and flaking purposes, making implements and tools long ago, in what has been termed, in a scientific phrase, as "recent" ages. The early ancient Upper (glacial) and Lower Monastirian ages show considerable evidence of broken stones resembling scrapers and knives.

Time, as also scientifically reckoned, denotes recent and Pleistocene epochs as having lasted anywhere from 250,000 to over 1,000,000 years. Neanderthal man is placed as belonging to the earliest Lower Monastirian age, according to Prof. W. J. Solas, of the University of Oxford. These brief references on the antiquity of man may illustrate how natural science is coming along in its conclusions of primitive archaeology.

When did man first make stone tools? Probably some time after he stood erect, walking on two feet and having two hands, he discovered something to do more than to climb trees or run after game. Instead he pelted animals and birds with stones, whether the ready material was shaped or in the rough. Throughout later ages he made larger and better implements like hammers, pestles, axes and spears, resembling, in some degrees, the ones I have found here in these later years.

INDIAN RELICS OF THE LATER CENTURIES

Many of the smaller and finer darts and bird arrow-heads became a product of an advanced and later culture, especially during the past thousand years. This is noticeable to-day in the beautiful white flint quartzite triangulars and war points. Many colored arrow-heads were flaked from jasper, argillite schist and rhyolite stone.

Small drills and suitable abrasive Indian tools are in my assorted collection, picked up within a radius of five or a few more miles from Lancaster. Shells, bone and mixed stone articles, showing some degree of skill in their make-up, are found even on the surface of fields.

The finer kind are more frequently discovered after fall of heavy rain over sloping areas of terrene. Erosion reveals numbers of choice specimens. Again, many others are perhaps washed away, to be forever lost from view except in occasional instances when once more brought to the surface.

Civilized man makes use of all sizes of shot and bullets in his pursuit of birds and game. The Conestoga Indians and their prede-

cessors made very small darts for similar purposes. I have arrow-heads as small as less than one-half inch, ranging to three inches in length. Larger sizes may properly be called spear-heads.

Some darts are quite narrow; others being very wide. There are thin and thick ones; crude and perfect shapes. The range of design at all sides and ends is remarkable, while ancient patterns are readily distinguished from the later productions in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

HAMMER AND POLISHING STONES IN PLENTY

I have found most of my collection of hammer and pounding stones in farm fields, on all sides of the city in surrounding townships. The latter include Lancaster (East and West), East Hempfield, Mannheim, East and West Lampeter, East Conestoga, Pequea, Strasburg and others.

Stones for hammering were rubbed to fit the palm of an Indian's hand, and are thick enough to withstand long usage. Most of this type of hammers show picked marks around edges, and in many cases have a well-dented or pitted depression in centre of one or two sides. It is surprising how many hard and heavy stones, from two to five and more pounds, were shaped and smoothed for special kinds of polishing other stones. There were also smaller and less heavy stones shaped for various working purposes.

There is no doubt that Indian groups of families had a large assortment of sizes and forms of stone in their camps, ready to use for all occasions. While some of these implements were lost, from time to time, owing to hasty removals when annoyed by enemies, at a later period other groups again re-camped at the same places and made use of what they found, together with their own selected products. The type and character of stone implements, as revealed to-day bear out such deductions and conclusions.

Round stones, for throwing, before the later and general use of arrows and spears, I have found hereabout, ranging in weight from one-half pound to over a pound. These were chipped and made round as possible, to be practical for accuracy in hitting with deadly effect, when thrown by the hands of strong primitive people in prehistoric times. My specimens include white quartz, hard red and dark colored round stones.

The local Indian tribes, besides making use of native Lancaster county stone, as gray flint, white quartz, soapstone, slate, limestone, mixed mica and ironstone, exchanged and traded raw material with other inhabitants from far away sections of this country. When these are found near Indian graveyards, they include artifacts in hematite, mica, lead, copper and coal, with collected shells and bones.

CULTIVATION CHANGES LOCAL SITES

Early homes near Lancaster were established at springs where there are now clusters of farm houses and buildings, these being on the identical spots of former temporary or permanent camp-sites. Thus great quantities of Indian relics were covered up and lost from view, yet along nearby slopes at small streams, on these many farms there are findings to be had, which "will never run out" as long as fields are used for farming. Some of these artifacts are perfect or nearly so, of which I possess thousands.

After every turning of soil, through plowing and cultivating, more arrow-heads, implements, banner and ceremonial stones are brought to the surface, to be found or again damaged by disc harrows and other devices trailing after the white man's modern tractors.

Large stone spears of four or more inches in length, as now recovered, are frequently found in a broken state. Some of these are very wide, two to three inches across the head or ears. More of the smaller arrow-heads have escaped destruction, in the past two centuries of farm cultivation.

After heavy rains, it is surprising how many small, beautiful white flints, rhyolites, jaspers and others are uncovered on exposed ground, ready to be picked up and saved in almost a perfect state. This proves that the smaller objects outlast the ravages of ages very well, when put to the test of duration.

TRADER RELICS AND LOCAL COLLECTIONS

The early Dutch, English, French and Swedish Europeans traded extensively with the Susquehannocks and other Indians in the seventeenth century. War weapons, household articles and jewelry, including many glass, porcelain and shell beads, thus were acquired by them and their Lancaster followers, the Conestoga Indians.

Brass and copper utensils as preserved to-day are mainly from Indian graves, otherwise there would be few such left comparatively with stone and pottery articles. Occasionally I have found a glass bead or copper war-point on the fields in the Willow Street section.

Among the outstanding trader collections near here have been those of D. H. Landis, Windom, gotten along the Susquehanna; and Gerald B. Fenstermaker, residing east of Lancaster. The former has his collection at his house, while the latter disposed of many of his trader and other items to the Pennsylvania State Museum, at Harrisburg. He is again collecting other articles in glass, copper, metal and pottery as stored in his home. D. J. Eckman, Lancaster, also has trader beads and rare Indian articles in his fine collection of relics gathered some years ago.

In addition to the foregoing collectors, the following have or had more or less extensive accumulations of stone and other Indian articles as found near here:

M. A. Baldwin, Lancaster, Pa.; Emanuel L. Fenstermaker, Lancaster, Pa.; David B. Landis, Lancaster, Pa.; Richard C. Schober, Lancaster, Pa.; W. Scott Seldomridge (deceased), Lancaster, Pa.; Christian H. Shenk, Lime Valley, Pa.; H. L. Simon (deceased), Lancaster, Pa.; Edgar W. Worrest, Lancaster, Pa.; Warren W. Worrest, Lancaster, Pa.; Frank A. Diffenbaugh, Lancaster, Pa.; and others.

Included in their findings are numerous arrow-heads and assortments of spears, hammer stones, pestles, axes, ceremonials, banner stones, gorgets, pipes, drills, awls, scrapers, fleshers, knives, hoes, sinkers, etc.

A LIST OF OLD-TIME SITES

In listing a number of the camp-sites or temporary places and abode of the Indians, surrounding Lancaster City, I have discovered that in the majority of these districts the largest number and best variety of implements and artifacts were found on fields sloping to the east, south-east, south and south-west. This fact proves the natives' love for the sun, imparting light and warmth in their working and living conditions. There are exceptions to this when noted in the localities as herewith described.

Starting westward from Wheatland, at the familiar spring on the Buchanan homestead, and following a small stream north-westwardly

beyond the Marietta pike, I found relics no longer obtainable there. The main site for such was on a hill-side sloping southward to a large quarry, where hammer stones, very old arrow-heads, flints and jaspers, were found. Land developments have destroyed this site leading to the Little Conestoga creek.

Northwardly, at Long Park, there was a site, also removed from further findings, near the artificial lake and natural swamp-land. This site faced to the south. My stone articles were found among chips and spalls, across from the Harrisburg pike, on the west bank of the small stream flowing from Brookside.

Going to other tributaries of the Little Conestoga, north-west to Indian Spring farm, near Lake Mill, there are evidences of Indian occupation. Many kinds of relics have been found there and all the way down the stream, as it passes on east and south of Bamford, following a southerly course to and beyond other old mills.

On the west bank of the Little Conestoga, between spaces leading south from the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge to the Columbia pike, near Maple Grove, hammer stones and arrow-heads are found, including jaspers and other varieties. A work-site was on a slope near where a flowing stream enters the Little Conestoga from the west. This run starts some miles beyond Rohrerstown. At the large lime spring, near there, close to a lime-kiln, many relics have been found east, west and south of that locality and further on up the stream, mainly on the north and west banks. These findings include ceremonials, celts and axes, besides small mortars and mixing pestles.

Starting again from Lancaster, at the Neffsville trolley rotary, in a field facing the east, one-fourth mile away, there is a large, open spring. An Indian site for work occupied its northern, western and eastern sides on low ground; and numerous relics, including large axes and old artifacts were found there. A few fields south another spring is near a slope where fine jaspers and rhyolites were found from time to time. Less than a half mile eastward some white triangulars and war-points were picked up on the northern slope of a field near a stream. About one-fourth mile further east, where several small streams unite, more good specimens were found, with raw material in mixed stone. Good pick-ups were encountered to and beyond the Oregon pike near Landis Valley, at Landis run.

Taking a back road east of Rocky Springs, there are a few farm springs near which quartz and other Indian artifacts are to be had on upper grounds. At top of Williamson Park, towards south-east, there was a site having hammer stones, arrow-heads and triangulars. On road leading to Eshelman's mill, on north and south sides of Mill creek, there are several Indian localities, revealing pestles in red stone, axes, old and later-made arrow-heads; also some broken pottery.

One of the most prolific districts with stone relics, showing long occupation of sites is east of Mylin's corner on Willow Street pike. Starting from a spring on a cultivated nut tree farm and taking in another spring head at Kendig road, there are a number of wide reaching slopes having many arrow-heads, pounding and rubbing stones, knives, axes, ceremonials, etc.

Within a few fields, on the north, east and south sides of Big Spring, I have found many worth-while pieces, along with bits of Indian pottery. Between that locality, following stream from Big Spring to a high point leading to Hollinger's, are several excellent places with plenty of rare relics. Broken pottery gives evidence of a graveyard on one of several hills there, facing a spring on the west of an old farm site. In my first visits to this locality I secured from thirty to forty odd relics in several hours of an afternoon's walk-over.

At Lampeter there are two definite districts once occupied by Indians and their predecessors. The west section starts northwardly from a farm spring and pool near the Vocational school. Some years ago I found arrow-heads between the spring and school property. Along a small stream running north to north-east, there are several former sites which gave me interesting material in implements, arrow-heads and banner stones.

Not far from the village of Lampeter (in the second district), there are many relics at springs and small streams, facing the south and south-east. Evidently this locality was long occupied by Indians, according to variety of arrow-heads and worked stones. My choicest specimen of a clear crystal arrow-head I found there two years ago.

Following a road to Strasburg, near Edisonville, at the Pequea creek, on the west slope of a large winding field, south of a novel swinging bridge, there is an ancient Indian camp-ground. This is indicated by

old weather worn material and considerable pottery, besides small triangulars, over a prehistoric graveyard.

There are two well-defined work-sites about a mile east and a mile south of Strasburg along the Little Beaver creek. Both localities are rich in quartz, rhyolite and jasper findings. There is one particular spot where every time I can go over a washed field of corn or potato patch, numbers of perfectly cut tiny white triangles are my reward. Pendants and butterfly-shaped banners, the latter more frequently broken in half at a drilled hole, are occasionally rescued from among other chipped artifacts.

At Mill Creek, near Greenland mills, toward the north-east, considerable good material of Indian make is found on two sides of a small stream entering the creek above a dam. Apart from customary arrow-heads, axes, knives, hammer and smoothing stones are found there, specimens being in my collection.

South-east of the late Lampeter rotary, in a sloping field which contains a very old white settlers' graveyard of the eighteenth century, there are ancient Indian relics in native stone, flint and traded jasper. Further westward, along a small stream, near an orchard, there are yet other places where arrow-heads are found.

Not far west from Beaver Valley pike, at former Quarryville trolley turn-out, several springs supply water to a small stream running southward. There, on both sides of the highway leading to the Mennonite church, are many quartz and limestone relics. On the southern slope of a hillside, jaspers, banner and hammer stones are in evidence at an old Indian occupation. One of my finest large bluish triangulars was found near there last year.

A fourth mile west of the Mennonite church, on way to Hildebrand's corner, is another very old site of Indian employment. The usual small stream flows in a south-west direction at several hillside fields. All sorts of old artifacts are to be found, including banners and ceremonials made from light and dark soapstone, besides quartz, jasper and argillite arrow-heads.

To the north of Old Mennonite cemetery, a small stream flows west of the pioneer Christian Herr house. On several fields at same western slope, there is much material where Indians worked on artifacts. Many of these are small and attractive. They are scattered over a half mile range.

THE WILLOW STREET SECTION

The Indian district west of Willow Street can well be divided into two sections, at a watershed on the Kendig road. The first one of these starts around about a spring formation in a swamp. The stream of water begins where formerly there were a number of willow trees, and flows south-westward. For some distance there are relics on the east and west sides of this locality. The best and finest arrow-heads are found on the western ground. Work tools and many kinds of stone were gathered there.

South of road leading to West Willow, this same stream is fed by other springs, and another stream joins it at a road leading from Hildebrand's to Quarryville railroad. In the fork of these streams there are many Indian relics. The run which starts south of Willow Street, not far from an old stone Harnish farm house, has quite a swamp near its beginning. On its north-western slopes there are many stone implements and old arrow-heads. Some of the latter are quite crude; others of a later period, as jaspers and quartzites, show improved workmanship.

Further south, on a high elevation, reaching westward below Hildebrand's to a woods, there is rare material. The soil is unusually light and sandy. It wears away quickly by erosion. A peculiar hard, bluish variety of drills and arrow points, besides flints and shaped tools are found there. My largest specimen of a very deep gray flaked spear was found near at a former encampment, pottery being among other evidences.

The second Willow Street watershed, at the Kendig farm, feeds a swampy field, starting from the property buildings towards the north. Further on springs supply a small stream, on the west sides of which there are spears, arrow-heads, hammer stones, banner stones and triangulars. Some sort of worked material is found all the way north to hills facing Hollinger's from the west. On these several hill slopes I have gotten triangulars and arrows, with some heavy stone pestles.

Across from Hollinger's, eastwardly on the Harnish farm, there was an Indian camp-site, about a very large tree which was blown over more than a half century ago. Old and later made arrow-heads and spears are found there, besides pottery and a few beads.

At Lyndon, south-west of a former school-house, a field has croppings of small arrow-heads and triangulars. Beyond Eckman's saw mill, where Mill creek joins the Conestoga river, close to Quarryville railroad, there is Indian material. A camp-site and burial ground, on the most elevated portion of northern hill, revealed numbers of Indian arrow-heads, chips, ceremonials, skinners, and bits of pottery a decade since. Unfortunately this location is not at present cultivated, high grass and weeds covering up further traces of Indian occupancy.

South of Second Lock and westward towards Millersville, there are other localities where I have gathered artifacts, including small white triangulars and mixed jaspers. Not all the exact places around the city of Lancaster have been listed. The foregoing are among the interesting fields for investigation and further record.

Among the unusual worked stones in my possession, gathered at some of the foregoing camp-sites, attention is called to numbers of ceremonials with tally, or record, marked and notched edges. There are stones having odd signs cut upon their sides; others with designs of curious tribal emblems, and of the human face.

SOME ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Archaeology as a recreational hobby, is truly an ideal. It presents real thrills to one in pursuit of health and added knowledge acquired from "mother earth." Besides collecting and possessing thousands of Indian relics, hundreds of years old, I discovered many natural forms of stone in my frequent walks near Lancaster.

East of Rohrerstown, between the Marietta and Columbia turn-pikes, on the west bank of the Little Conestoga, are abundant deposits of iron pyrites, or "jack stones." Some of these are large and more than ordinary.

South of Hollinger's and at Mylin's corner west, there are longitudinal layers of disintegrated-looking, thin strands of soft gray stone, resembling brittle wood.

Dull colored slate, in small sizes, appear on the surface of fields south of the road from Hildebrand's to Beaver Valley pike, together with shale formations. In less than a mile large croppings of white quartz are to be seen.

Mica and sand-mixed stone, in Pequea and Conestoga townships, came under my observation. Some of the limestone, north of Lancaster, is filled with iron cubes of sulphur resembling pale gold.

Quartz crystals, glass-like, are plentiful in a number of local districts I have been over. Some of these are of good size. Others are small and occasionally found in clusters.

Quartz, in various shades other than white, is picked up between the Kendig road and West Willow. Colors range from smoky gray to amber and pink. Pieces are found with specks resembling opal.

Sink-holes are noticed on every side of Lancaster. At times these sunken spaces are disclosed upon high points, as at the Indian site near junction of Mill creek and the Conestoga river. In a field, on a hill-top north of Eshelman's mill, I came across a deep hole stuck full of fence rails.

On one of the Indian camp slopes, near the ancient Herr house, a sink-hole needs filling up with stone and earth, from time to time. It may be part of a cave covered roof. Indications suggesting this are from water-dripped stone found near there upon the surface. Sink-holes are numerous on lower levels, where water runs to underground channels near streams, as west of Rohrerstown, south of the big covered spring.

In conclusion, if one cares to collect odd-shaped native stones, a vast field is ever ready quite near to Lancaster's outgoing avenues. All over the many acres of this diversified county, there are various deposits of minerals, as listed in scientific chapters of our different histories and institutional publications.