



WRIGHT L. COFFINBERRY CHAPTER
MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

COFFINBERRY NEWS BULLETIN

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This is the fourth of the new series of Coffinberry News Bulletins and again I have dominated the issue for want of any other submissions. While I can always think of something to say about practically anything archaeological it has never been my intention to make this 'Lynn's blog' and we (myself, Wesley, Alex) will prioritize articles from anyone else over our own. Also, we have been trying to put this out each month before the meetings but increasingly my other commitments are making it such that I feel I am sacrificing quality in order to get the CNB out on time and I am not happy about that. Please submit articles to Lynn Chapman (lynnalanchapman@gmail.com) or to Wesley Jackson (jacksowe@gvsu.edu) via e-mail or in person.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting will be at 7:00 on January 9th, 2019 in Room 249 Lake Michigan Hall, Grand Valley State University. Dr. Janet G. Brashler will be speaking on the Early and Middle Woodland, ca. 600 B.C. to A. D. 500.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

For over 150 years, archaeology along the Grand River in west Michigan focused mostly on the so called "mound builders who the first people Europeans acknowledged as those who were here before them. Their understanding was grounded in what they believed from their 19th century perspective. This presentation discusses the history of Early and Middle Woodland archaeology in the Grand River Valley, discusses survey data, and puts the most significant archaeological excavations of mounds (Norton, Converse, Spoonville, and Converse) along the river into contemporary historical environmental and theoretical contexts.

CHAPTER NEWS

The schedule and topics for presentations to-date are given below:

Meeting Date	Topic	Speaker
Oct. 10 th , 2019	Geology of the Grand River Valley	Dr. Patrick Colgan, (GVSU)
Nov. 14 th , 2019	Paleo	Dr. Dillon Carr (GRCC)
Dec. 12 th , 2019	Archaic	Lynn Chapman
Jan. 9 th , 2020	Early and Middle Woodland	Dr. Janet Brashler (GVSU)
Feb. 13 th , 2020	Late Woodland	Wesley Jackson (GVSU)
Mar. 12 th , 2020	Late Prehistoric, - Early Historic	Lynn Chapman
April 9 th , 2020***	Historic: Ottawa settlement and Fur Trade	Dr. Jessica Yann
May 14 th , 2020	Historic: Euroamerican settlement	Jeff Seaver

*** It may be necessary to move this meeting to later in April. This will be discussed during forthcoming chapter meetings.

SOCIETY NEWS

Dues are due!

Yep, its January and time to dig out those check books or credit cards to pay dues to the Michigan Archaeological Society.

MAS 2020 Elections

A request for nominations for State offices will be going out this month. Lynn Chapman, the nominations committee chairman (and secretary, etc.) doesn't have any more details at this point. Elections are held in April but you must attend the spring meeting to vote.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The **Lowell Area Historical Museum** will be hosting **Museum for Tots** this January. Explore the Lowell Area Historical Museum participate in hands-on experiences and create take home activities.

Monday, January 13

10:30-12:00

"Winter Crafts"

Victorians loved crafts. Come explore the Museum and create Thanksgiving themed art projects to bring home with your child.

Lowell Area Historical Museum
325 W. Main Lowell

For young children ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

Cost \$1.00 per child stop in at any time during these hours, activities typically take 30 minutes

KNC **Club Connection** is having a Club connection day at the KNC Visitor Center, 7000 Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo on February 8th from 12:00 to 4:30 PM. Various clubs from around the Kalamazoo area and Michigan generally are invited to have a table to display their club. This is for clubs that deal with nature, science, history or recreation.

I am wondering if anyone is interested in manning a table for this event? I've contacted Dave Cusack to see if MAS has a table at this event or if they are interested in doing so.

The **Midwest Archaeological Conference** will be held October 1-3 in East Lansing this year. It is at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, MSU. That is all the details that is available for now on their website.

ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND MICHIGAN

There is nothing to report at this time.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Paleo, Fossil Beaches, Don Peru and Caribou

Lynn Chapman

In his book *Journey to the Ice Age, Discovering an Ancient World*, published in 2006, Peter Storck describes his time working for the Royal Ontario Museum researching Paleo in southern Ontario. Starting with surveys in the region on the north side of Georgian bay, hoping to locate Paleo sites on raised beaches and continuing through the discovery and excavations of the Fisher site, a Parkhill phase site, *Journey to the Ice Age* is a personal account of his career. One aspect of Storck's account is how he encourages researchers to imagine the landscape as it appeared 11,000 – 10,000 years ago.

Distribution of Paleo Sites in the Great Lakes

Most Paleo sites are find-spots, places where one or two Paleo artifacts, usually projectile points, are found on the surface. In his book, Peter Storck jokes that most of the time the artifacts recovered from a typical Paleo site can be taken home in a cigar box. Only a few large Paleo sites have been found and these – such as the Gainey, Butler, Barnes, Holcomb, Parkhill etc. are found on the east side of the state or in southwest Ontario.

In 1958 Ronald Mason and George Quimby mapped the distribution of surface finds of Paleo points and discovered they extend about half way up the Michigan peninsula and likewise only part of the way north in Wisconsin. This became known as the Mason-Quimby line. It must be acknowledge there may be a strong element of sample bias in the definition of the line since it is easier to find Paleo points in the plowed fields of southern Michigan than in the forested northern half of the state, nevertheless, the overall concept of the line has held up well since the time it was first defined.

Equally as important as the Mason Quimby line was the recognition that fluted Paleo points were only being found at elevations higher than Lake Algonquian in the Huron and Michigan Lake basins. In the Great Lakes region, the correlation of the distribution of fluted points with events of glacial geology have a long history. In 1956

James B. Griffin¹ showed that fluted points must post date the maximum Cary glaciation evidenced by the Minooka moraine (early Cary) and the Port Huron moraine (late Cary) which were correlated with the Glenwood stage of Lake Chicago at 640 ft asl. (Quimby 1958:247). In 1956 Griffin wrote: "in certain finds in Michigan, the location of fluted blades is...on the landward side of the Algonquin shoreline..." (Quimby 1958:253). Following James B. Griffin's lead, Quimby concluded:

"In other words, in areas of eastern Michigan where there exists a considerable expanse of land that once was covered by Lake Algonquin, fluted points have not been found. This could mean that fluted points were not used by paleo Indians after the termination of the Lake Algonquin state about 7,500 B.C."

"It is tentatively concluded that the fluted points in the Lake Michigan basin were deposited there sometime between 10,600 B.C. and 1500 B.C. This is the period during which spruce and fir dominated the forests of the region (Zumberge and Potzger 1956). It is also the period approximating the range of radiocarbon dates for mastodon remains found in Michigan and adjacent areas (Crane 1956:666-8; Griffin). Thus there was perhaps an association of spruce-fir forests, mastodons and fluted points in the Lake Michigan basin area from about 10,000 to 7,500 B.C." (Quimby 1958:253).

Fossil Beaches and Lake Algonquian

Glacial Lake Algonquin is a stage in the evolution of the Great Lakes which occurred when the glacial ice sheet retreated past the Indian River – Straits of Mackinac lowlands and the lakes occupying the Michigan basin (Lake Chicago) and the Huron basin were united forming Lake Algonquin. This occurred approximately 11,200 rcybp. Lake Algonquin represents a high-water stage with elevations at 604' asl.

Prior to Lake Algonquin, glacial Lake Chicago had occupied the Michigan Lake Basin. A glacial lake is one that is formed of melt water from the glacier and is impounded between the ice sheet and high ground which often consist of end moraines. During this period Lake Chicago drained southward through the Chicago River and the Illinois River. Similar lakes formed in the Huron Lake Basin and Saginaw Bay and at times this drained west, through the Glacial Grand River into Lake Chicago. By 11,200 rcybp the ice sheet had retreated across the Straits of Mackinac and Indian River lowlands opening up a channel into the Huron Lake basin, thereby becoming confluent with the lakes there. Lake Algonquian drained east through the Trent River valley at Fenelon Falls in Ontario (Monaghan and Lovis 2005:34).

Lake Algonquin lasted until ca.10,500 rcybp when further retreat of the ice sheet uncovered a new and lower drainage channel known as the North Bay Channel (present day French River-Lake Nipissing-Matawa River system). The North Bay channel was at a lower elevation than the Trent channel and drainage through the North Bay channel had the effect of pulling the plug on the Great Lakes resulting in a rapid

¹ Griffin, James B. 1956 *The Reliability of Radiocarbon Dates for Late Glacial and Recent Times in Central and Eastern North America*, manuscript on file, museum of anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

lowering of the water level down to the Chippewa (Michigan Lake Basin) and Stanley (Huron Lake Basin) low phase (Monaghan and Lovis 2005:36).

In Ontario, the former or fossil beach-lines of Lake Algonquin are very evident and well mapped by geologist. Archaeologist there survey these beaches to find Paleo sites, Peter Storck refers to this as “beachcombing”, there being a strong correlation between the location of sites and the presence of the fossil beach-lines. An example of the Lake Algonquin beach is found on Mackinac Island where Fort Holmes stands upon a Lake Algonquin wave cut cliff. Likewise, on the island a series of low ridges, fossil beaches, between Fort Holmes cliff and Fort Mackinac on the Short Rifle Range mark the lowering of Lake Algonquian (Dorr and Eschman 1970:177, Fig. VIII-13).

In west Michigan unfortunately a different situation exists. For reasons having to do with changes in the elevation of the earth’s crust after the weight of the glacial ice is removed, called isostatic rebound, the Lake Algonquian beaches in west Michigan dip below the present day level of Lake Michigan, or, they are so close to the present day shoreline they are buried beneath the sand dunes (Larsen 1987; Monaghan and Lovis 2005). The exception to this would be lowlands in river channels which laying below 604’ asl would have been flooded by Lake Algonquin. The lower regions of the Grand River would have been flooded and the channel of the Grand River may have been a long, narrow, embayment of Lake Algonquin up to Grandville.

Don Peru and Tim Losey

In southwest Michigan, distributional studies of fluted points – not distinguishing between Enterline, Gainey and Barnes, indicate that fluted points are not found below 660’ elevation based on data for 12 fluted points found in Berrien County (Amos Green, reported in Mason 1958). Don Peru in a study of nine fluted points in Kent and Allegan counties reported in the *Michigan Archaeologist* noted that none of these were recovered below the 660’ elevation either (Peru 1965:5). In this region, which is crossed by former drainage channels of the glacial Grand River, the points were being recovered from the high ground between channels. The channels themselves were probably low, marshy regions in the early and middle Paleo periods and mastodon remains have been recovered from several areas within the channels (Peru 1965:4-5). Peru concluded that the points dated to a period when the drainage channels were in operation or shortly thereafter (Peru 1965:5). Peru published a similar article in 1967 concerning the distribution of fluted projectile points in Cass County again equating the distribution with early stages of Lake Chicago.

Peru followed up his 1965 and 1967 publication with a series of updates appearing in *The Coffinberry News Bulletin*. Fluted points from southwest Michigan are found on the Sturgis, Kalamazoo, Valparaiso and Lake Border moraines. “Distributional studies in southwest Michigan have indicated that a high percentage of fluted points have been clustered around the shorelines of extinct lakes and waterways which were active in Middle and Late Cary times” (Peru 1968b:97).

The photos shown below were digitized from slide Lynn Chapman and Wesley Jackson found while going through some old Coffinberry paperwork. These are the same fluted projectile points Don Peru used to illustrate his 1965 article.



Left: Paleo points from Allegan County. From left to right: Schroeder, Armintrout, Armintrout, and Smith sites. Right: Points from Kent County: from left to right: Dobbelaar, Dobbelaar, Smith, Smith, Whitcomb sites, unknown. The blade or preform is from the Dobbelaar site (Peru 1965).



Left: Points and biface (preform?) from the Dobbelaar site. Right: points from Byron Township, the Whitcomb and Nyland sites, Kent County (Peru 1965).



Left: Littlejohn Lake in 1965. Presumably the Paleo point came from the sand blow in the foreground. Right: fluted point from the Schroeder site (Peru 1965).

During a survey of the upper Rouge River on the border between Kent and Newago Counties, Losey discovered the remains of one or several Holcombe sites. The sites are located around an area known as Rice Lake, the bed of a former lake in Grant Township Newago County. The area of Rice Lake – much of which has been drained for farming purposes – was formerly a post-Pleistocene lake at about 800 ft. asl. The lake is thought by Losey to be a remnant of the time when the Muskegon River drained into the Rouge and then the Grand River before moving to its current channel with the retreat of the ice away from the Muskegon area. The lake was eight miles long and three or four miles wide. The survey was focused on the former shorelines, sandy ridges varying from five to twenty feet high. One site discovered was Woodland, the others, lacking in ceramics and thought to be pre-ceramic in date, in other words either Paleo or Archaic. Tools found in these sites include the base of a Holcombe point, graters, graters-spokeshaves, end scrapers, concave-convex scrapers, utilized flakes, blades or blade-like flakes. Unfortunately, the report appearing in *The Coffinberry News Bulletin* were not detailed enough to indicate which artifacts were recovered from which site. Losey observes that Peru (Don Peru) had found similar assemblages from sites in Allegan County. “These tool assemblages also lack diagnostic projectile points. However, Mr. Peru has recovered from one of these sides a wooden, fire hardened projectile point, lanceolate in form and basally socketed” (Losey 1969:34-35).

The Holcombe point base speaks for itself as Late Paleo but the graters we now know are a diagnostic Paleo tool so some or maybe all of the sites Losey classified as Paleo or Archaic were most likely Paleo. I’ve driven around the Rouge River valley

locating the sites Losey found or at least the general area of those sites. They lie intermediate between the tops of the ridges making up the Middle Charlotte moraine on the east side of the valley and ridges making up the Valparaiso moraine on the west. In one case the site is situated near the base of a large knobby hill which affords an excellent view over the Rouge River valley.

Caribou

While the possibility of Paleo people hunting mastodons in Michigan have always fascinated archeologists and the public the basic subsistence for Paleo people in the Great Lakes region was probably barren ground caribou². Wherever humans have co-existed with gregarious herbivores such as bison or caribou humans have been depended on them for a large portion of their livelihood (Johnson 1996:187). One point made by Johnson is that:

“...whenever they occurred during the past 25,000 years caribou were a significant human resource. The degree of exploitation has varied in intensity though time and space because of availability. However, it is clear that if they were available, they were probably exploited” (Johnson 1996:188, other references omitted).

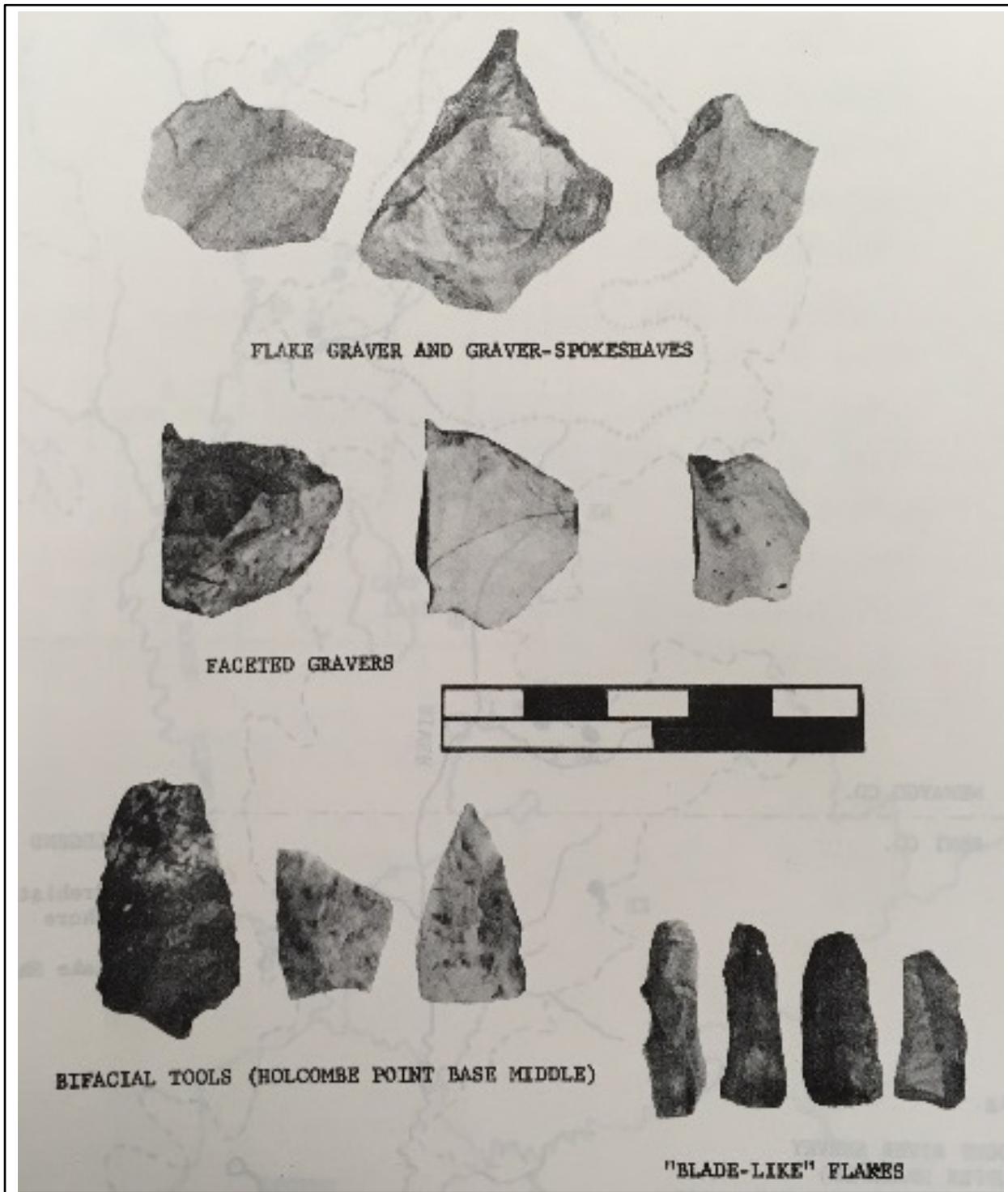
This is not stating that Paleo Native Americans only hunted caribou to the exclusion of anything else but hunting caribou would provide much more than meat, in a manner similar to bison on the plains, they would also provide skin to be used for clothing and tents and bones to be made into tools (Jackson 1988). In between seasons when caribou were hunted, the people depended on smaller mammals and fish, perhaps moving seasonally between fishing sites and caribou hunting locals. In spite of probable focus on caribou hunting by Paleo people, caribou remains have recovered from only a few sites in the Great Lakes or the northeast (Lemke 2015:276):

- Holcombe site in Michigan, associated with Holcombe points/complex;
- Whipple in New Hampshire, a Bull Brook phase site, similar to Gainey;
- Bull Brook in Massachusetts, a Bull Brook phase site, similar to Gainey;
- Udora in Ontario, a Parkhill complex site (Barnes points)

Lemke (2015) documents the remains of caribou found in non-archaeological paleontological sites including locations in Eaton, Livingston and Manistee Counties. In her study of paleontological caribou remains Lemke observed a temporal gap between remains dating to the late Pleistocene and those dating much later. This gap corresponds to the time of the Chippewa-Stanley low water stage in the Great Lakes

² Two types of caribou exist or existed prehistorically in the Great Lakes region: barren ground caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*) and woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*). The skeletal remains of both species are nearly identical and difficult or impossible to distinguish between the two in an archaeological or paleontological context. The difference between the two species has more to do with adaptations to different environments (Lemke 2015:279-280).

when the caribou herds had moved out into the former lake beds as evidenced by the remains of caribou hunting activities found on the Alpena-Amberly Ridge (Lemke 2015:279).



Artifacts recovered during Rouge River survey (Losey 1969:40, Plate III).

Caribou migrate during the year, from the tundra in the summer to the forest to the south in the winter. The extent of migrations depends on the environmental conditions which exist at the time. Knowing where the herds existed at any point in prehistory would take a thorough knowledge of the environment. When caribou herds are migrating, their movement would be in basically a north-south direction, the herds tend to form linear columns and they follow paths along the landscape offering the least amount of resistance. Points made by Johnson (1986) concerning hunting caribou:

- They are a gregarious herd animal;
- They move in definite directions;
- They are not dangerous;
- They do not panic easily;
- They are generally not wary except in winter.

Caribou have other tendencies which make them easy to hunt. When coming to obstacles they tend to walk along them rather than cross over. This makes it easy to manipulate herd movement through the construction of drive lanes out of rock or wood. Migrating caribou herds are also taken at bottleneck points along migration routes such as river crossings or where topography would channel migrating herds into confined spaces (Lemke and O'Shea 2015:171; Lemke 2015a:76).

Caribou hunters generally did not "follow" herds in the literal sense of the word but rather travel to areas where herds might be intercepted and taken them at naturally occurring or artificially constructed bottlenecks. Exact routes caribou will take during migration vary from year to year and hunters must have experience with both the terrain and the herds to be able to predict when and where herds might be found (Johnson 1996:192) Another strategy is to travel to caribou dispersal areas such as the tundra during the summer and forest during the winter. In dispersal area hunters venture out from base camps to hunt them (Johnson 1986:191-192).

Models of Gainey and Parkhill complex mobility patterns involve wintering in the south the moving north in the spring to intercept migrating herds of caribou. These models are constructed by identifying the materials used to make fluted points and tracing them back to their sources. In the case of the Gainey site assemblage, many of the points recovered were manufactured of bluish-black Upper Mercer chert from quarries in central Ohio. This fits a pattern of cyclic mobility used by caribou hunters. Likewise, in Illinois and Wisconsin similar movement have been identified through the finding of Burlington cherts in Wisconsin fluted points (Koldehoff and Walthall 2008).

Conclusion

Both Don Peru and Tim Losey were correlating their distributions of artifacts with ancient channels of the Grand and Muskegon Rivers. We now know however; those

channels were inactive thousands of years before the artifacts were deposited³. The areas of the finds were on north to south trending moraines and intermediate lowlands adjacent to moraines. What I think Don Peru and Tim Losey were finding/mapping were points and sites located along caribou migration routes. My hypothesis is that caribou herds in west Michigan would have migrated along these moraines running approximately north-south parallel to the Lake Algonquian shore line. The ancient river channels and areas formerly flooded by Lake Chicago were lowland/wetland environments probably covered with spruce and aspen forests. The tops of the moraines being more exposed to wind probably had a thinner covering of spruce and possibly in some areas only lichens, the preferred browse of caribou. The moraine ridgelines would also have been the easiest routes for caribou to travel when on the move.

Driving on the ridges parallel to the Rouge River today it is not hard to imagine what the paleo environment must have been 11,000 – 10,000 years ago. Spruce and pine probably filled the low-lying Rouge River valley whereas the ridge tops were wind swept and covered with lichen, offering an easy route and browse for migrating caribou herds. Paleo hunters could wait for the passage of the herds in the shelter of spruce trees, preparing their weapons and perhaps posting a watcher on the high ground to look out for the coming of the herds.

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³ Fitting (1975:41) thought Peru was dating his sites too early.

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ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

The Holcombe Point and Complex

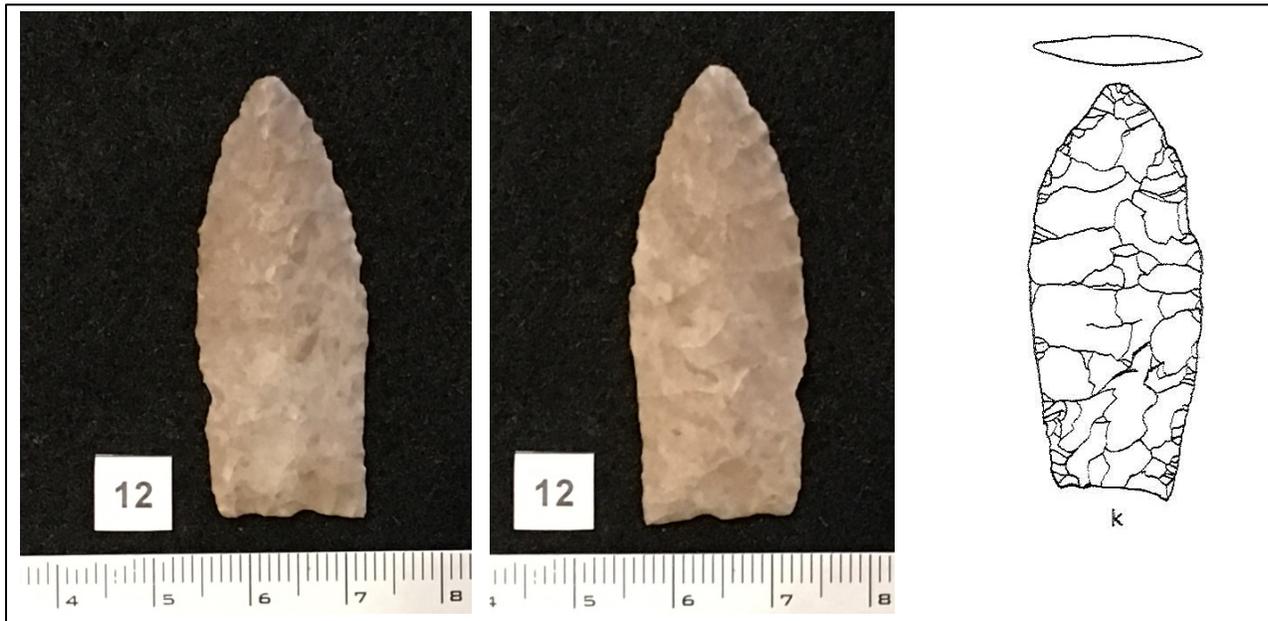
Lynn Chapman

The Holcombe point shown below was found by a landowner on a site located in southeast Kent County. The site lies on a small hill near a small stream which drained a nearby small lake. The region consists of ground moraines formed by the retreating Saginaw lobe of the Wisconsinan glacier.

The point is manufactured of a chert ranging from grayish to dark brown and is finely flaked. The overall length of the point is 45.59 mm and the base is very nearly straight. The thickness of the point is only 5.40 mm, one of the characteristics of Holcombe points being their extreme thinness. The width of the point is 17.87mm at its maximum width and 15.92 mm wide at its base. It narrows down rapidly from its maximum width to 16.20 mm just below a large chip out of the edge of the blade making it seem almost waisted. There is grinding/dulling of the edge apparent at the base and along one side of the up approximately 5 mm from the base. Other than the grinding and the chip out of one side the point is sharp and in relatively good condition.

The point was recovered along with a Hi-Lo point (perhaps next month) and a collection of other points ranging from early Archaic to Late Woodland/late Prehistoric. Holcombe points, while not common, are not unknown in the Grand River valley. As mentioned in the article above, in 1968 Tim Losey recovered a broken Holcombe point during his survey of the upper Rouge River valley. A Holcombe point was recovered from the Spring Creek site during excavations by the Coffinberry Chapter (Kolkman 1971:55). This point was found approximately 12 inches deeper than the Late

Woodland occupation level at the site. David Hartman (1968), an old time Coffinberry member illustrates several Holcombe point he found around the Grand River valley.



(Left and center) Front and back view of a Holcombe point found in southeastern Kent County and for comparison, (right) a Holcombe point from Indiana illustrated by Justice (1987:18-20)

The type site for the Holcombe phase is the Holcombe site excavated in 1961 by the University of Michigan⁴ (Fitting et al. 1966; Fitting 1965, 1975). The site was located on a former beach line of glacial Lake Clinton, a small glacial lake formed behind a moraine in Macomb County MI. Lake Clinton in turn drained into Lake Algonquin. The assemblage from the site included 200 projectile points and bases and 16,500 pieces of flaking debitage. Besides the Holcombe site proper, three other sites were located nearby along the beach line. The pattern of debitage at the site suggested there was a central area containing a large hearth at which projectile point performs were flaked. It is from this hearth that caribou bone was recovered. Surrounding this central area with the high concentration of debitage were smaller campsites consisting of hearths and concentrations of small retouched flakes.

“The pattern of chert distribution is also significant. In the central area we found equal amounts of all major chert variants from the site. In the surrounding areas, where finishing activities took place, there were concentrations of distinctive proportions of chert every ten to twenty feet. We could recognize five such areas and would postulate the existence of at least three others to complete the symmetry of the camp. We also found the highest percentages of performs in the center of the site and the highest percentages of finished bifaces in the surrounding areas” (Fitting 1965:105).

Fitting had suggested a date of 11,000 B.P. (“just prior to 9000 B.C.) for Holcombe based on its location on the Lake Clinton-Lake Algonquin beachline (Fitting

⁴ The Holcombe site was found by MAS member Jerry DeVisscher and an article on the site appeared in the *Coffinberry News Bulletin* 8 (6) 1961 by Edward Wahls (Gillis 1961:84).

1975:45-46). Mason (1981:103) suggested a date of 9,500 B.P. (8000 B.C.) or 9,800 – 10,000 B.P. Deller and Ellis (1986, 1984) indicated that Holcombe should date after 10,400 B.P.⁵. Ronald Mason (1981):

“The age of Holcombe site has been a matter of some controversy. Some of the projectile points are fluted, some are definitely not, while the great majority are only basally thinned. As a group, they are generally similar to early (but post Folsom) types widely represented in the west under the catch-all label “Plano”. Most of them look very much like the kind of thing one would expect from a site inhabited when the practice of fluting projectile points was on the way out and newer styles were coming into vogue. Probably most prehistorians would place the Holcombe site within the fluted point tradition but, as in the case of similar Regan site high above Lake Champlain in Vermont, as a very late representative” (Mason 1981:103).

Griffin interpreted Holcombe was being Early Archaic because it did not have a “pan-regional” distribution like the earlier Paleo complexes did. However, on typological grounds there was more continuity with Paleo (Overstreet 1993:80).

In terms of distribution, Holcombe points are found throughout the Great Lakes region (Justice 1987) but my impression is they are more common in the eastern Upper Great Lakes (Michigan, SW. Ontario, northern Ohio) than in Wisconsin. This impression might be bias by accessible published literature which is focused on Michigan and Ontario rather than a reality.

Technology

Holcombe points were first recovered and described from the Holcombe Beach site. It is thin, fluted point with convex sides and basal ears. Most of these points achieve maximum width above the haft with a sharp contraction near the base which distinguishes them from others of the Clovis cluster (Justice 1987:24).

Holcombe points have concave bases. They are very thin (<5 mm) with a half-moon or plano-convex cross-section. They expand slightly from the base to a maximum width above the midpoint. Bases are shallowly concave with small, pointed ears and inwardly rounded basal corners rather than fishtails. In place of fluting, Holcombe points exhibit short, often multiple, basal thinning. Flaking is short, un-patterned retouch (Ellis and Deller 1990:57).

Overall, Holcombe points resemble unfluted western points such as Midland and/or Plainview (Ellis and Deller 1990:57). Ellis and Deller also relate Holcombe to the earlier dated Crowfield points which have only been found in Ontario and not in Michigan (Shott and Wright 1999:65).

“Of all LP [Late Paleo] points, these most closely resemble fluted points and particularly, the Crowfield type. They differ from Crowfield points only in the lack of fluting, the dominance of plano-convex cross-sections, being much narrower (9<25 mm) and having less expansion of the side edges from the base. On this basis it is suggested

⁵ Assuming that Paleo point styles are time-sequential in the Great Lakes (Gainey, Barnes, Crowfield, Holcombe, Hi-Lo), the Parkhill phase Fisher site shows evidence of being occupied at the time when Lake Algonquin was falling to the Chippewa-Stanly Low phase (Storck 2006). If so, Holcombe would post-date Lake Algonquin ca. 10,500 RCYBP.

Holcombe represents the earliest of LPI assemblages and is a direct development out of Crowfield just after 10,400 B.P.” (Ellis and Deller 1990:57).

There is evidence of transitional forms to suggest Holcombe eventually developed into Hi Lo points.

“In fact, throughout southern Ontario and adjacent areas such as northern Ohio (Payne 1982a), there is a widespread form of point which for convenience, we will refer to as “Holcombe-like”. In the lack of stems and alternate beveling, these resemble Holcombe points. However, unlike Holcombe and like Hi Lo points, they are quite thick and have slight ear-flaring. In other words, they appear to be intermediate between Holcombe and Hi Lo and are suggestive of a transitional form” (Ellis and Deller 1990:57).

Lithic Source Material

In Paleo studies, the raw material out of which artifacts are made are important for determining the range over which the makers of the artifacts traveled and the direction. If an assemblage is made up of a large proportion of a certain raw material it is assumed the occupants of the site traveled to the location of the material to acquire it. If a small quantity of a certain stone type is found on a site it may have been acquired by the occupants through trade or possibly be of glacial origin. The lithic material most common at the Holcombe site was Bayport chert from outcrops occurring 100 miles north of the Holcombe site (Fitting 1965). Holcombe peoples in southern Ontario exploited fine grain cherts such as Collingswood, Onondaga, Kettle Point, Haldimand and Balsom Lake cherts (Ellis and Deller 1990:56). These are all cherts found in southern Ontario. Based on the distance between artifacts and lithic sources, that band territories were large. At the Holcombe complex Welke-Tankonoh site near Toronto, 80% of the tools were made of Haldimand chert from a source 200 km to the southeast (Ellis and Deller 1990:56-57).

Another Holcombe component was found at the McKibben site, located in northern Ohio, southeast of Cleveland. The McKibben site consists largely of surface finds (plow-zone) occurring on a terrace about ten feet above the Mahoning River, a mile above Pricetown, Trumbull County, Ohio. The artifacts occur on slight knobs separated by intervals of low ground which, at the time of occupation, may have been more marshy than present day conditions (Prufer and Sofsky 1965:11-12). Other tool types beside Holcombe and Hi-Lo points recovered from McKibben include end scrapers, retouched flakes, spokeshaves and blades (Prufer and Sofsky 1965:16-18). Projectile points at McKibben are similar to Holcombe but made of a locally available chert. The breakdown of the raw material used at McKibben by Prufer and Sofsky (1965:2) does not seem to distinguish between the Holcombe and Hi Lo occupations at the site but is as follows:

40.1%	Plum Run chert
4.5%	Flint Ridge, Licking County, Ohio
35.6%	Upper Mercer, both low- and high-grade Coshocton County Ohio
19.6%	unidentified

There was a point base of Bayport chert at McKibben and a point base and 2% of the débitage at Holcombe was Upper Mercier chert from east-central Ohio. Fitting thought each locus at McKibben was occupied by different bands of people who periodically would make contact resulting in an exchange of chert or finished points and probably marriage partners (Fitting 1965:106-107).

Subsistence and Settlement

The Holcombe site is notable in being one of the few Paleo sites in the Great Lakes from which faunal material has been recovered. A caribou bone was found in a hearth area at the site (Fitting 1975: 45; Fitting et al. 1966). From Paleo-ecological analysis it was determined that the area around Holcombe was probably forested at the time of its use. Barren ground caribou migrate into the forests during the winter and go north to the tundra in the summer. Fitting (1965) postulated that the Holcombe site was occupied by caribou hunters who followed the herds south into the forests during the winter and north into the tundra during the summer. The Bayport chert outcrop would have been located on the way north (Fitting 1965:106).

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