



WRIGHT L. COFFINBERRY CHAPTER
MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

COFFINBERRY NEWS BULLETIN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Meeting Announcement</i>	2
<i>Abstract of Presentation</i>	2
<i>Chapter News</i>	2
<i>Society News</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	5
<i>Archaeology Around Michigan</i>	5
<i>Featured Articles</i>	7
<i>Artifact of the Month</i>	12

Please submit articles to Lynn Chapman (lynnalanchapman@gmail.com) or to Wesley Jackson (jackowe@gvsu.edu) via e-mail or in person.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting will be at 7:00 on February 13th, 2019 in Room 249 Lake Michigan Hall, Grand Valley State University. Wesley Jackson will be speaking the Late Woodland in the Grand River Valley, ca. A.D. 500 - 1200.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Our January meeting focused on the mound building cultures. With finely decorated ceramics and adorned burials, these groups garnered the majority of early attention from avocational and professional archaeologist in the Grand River. The subsequent period, the Late Woodland, has often been defined by what it lacks, particularly Hopewellian influence on pottery and burials, rather than what it adds. Join us as we explore the early Late Woodland sites and materials along the Grand River valley, including cherts from Ohio and ceramics sharing similarities to wares found east and north, and understand the lifeways of the people who left these objects. *Wesely Jackson.*

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. 19th, 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

Note: the meeting in March will be moved from March 12th to the following week, March 19th. April's meeting will be on April 9th as planned.

Dues are due!

If you did not pay your dues to the Michigan Archaeological Society in January please do so.

Now is the time to start thinking about chapter officers and elections. Chapter positions and current officers are:

President: Lynn Chapman

Vice President: Wesley Jackson
Treasurer: Don Spohn
Secretary: Brian and Brenda Geib
Board: Dr. Janet Brashler, Ken Price, Greg Baldus
Coffinberry News Bulletin editors: Lynn Chapman, Wesley Jackson, Alex Michnick

After two years I am planning to step down as president. I also would not mind if someone else took over as editor of the *Coffinberry News Bulletin*, perhaps someone who could modernize it better than I can.

SOCIETY NEWS

There was a MAS Board meeting in Lansing on January 26'th 2020 and your editor and chapter president dutifully attended. Discussion highlights include:

1. Treasury is healthy.
2. The date for the Annual Spring Meeting has not been set yet. Possible venues may include the Detroit area where it might be tied into the Fort Wayne mound complex somehow; or, it may be at the Castle Museum in Saginaw. I'll keep Coffinberry members posted as soon as I hear anything more.
3. New Chapters: the chapter based largely in Traverse City, known as the Northwest Michigan Chapter is still in the processes of forming but they are so passionate about archaeology they have already started having meetings and speakers. Kudos to them. There is the possibility of a new chapter forming in the Upper Peninsula based out of Houghton.
4. Publication schedule for the *Michigan Archaeologist*. Michael Hambacher the editor reports that:
 - a. Vol. 60 (2014) is at layout the end of February or early March so this should be coming out this spring. As I understand it, this issue is devoted to Detroit area archaeology.
 - b. In the pipeline is Volume 61 (2015) with articles on Upper Peninsula archaeology, and articles by Dr. Lovis and Dr. Halsey. Michael Hambacher expects to have this out by mid-April.
 - c. In the pipeline is Volume 62, 63, and 64 (2016, 2017, 2018) which concerns the S-Curve project in Grand Rapids Michigan. Dr. Brashler and Dr. Hambacher and others are contributing to these volumes. The report is so large they are making several volumes out of it.
 - d. In the pipeline: Volume 65 (2019) which is devoted largely to Hugh Heward's trip down the Grand River valley in 1790 and implications for archaeology.

This may include a few other smaller articles depending on the page count of the Heward article.

Quote from Michael Hambacher: "That gets us through 2019. I have a number of things to choose from for 2020, but haven't made any final decisions. Trying to stay focused on the ones that are in the works. As always, I'm on the hunt for material, especially shorter articles that can help get us to the "normal" page count for an issue (between 75-100 pages)".

A quick word or explanation about four of the above volumes. The S-Curve project dates back to 2000 when MDOT decided to make repairs to US 131 in Grand Rapids. When redoing the pillars holding up the road way they had to excavate new footings. MDOT hired a Cultural Resource Management (CRM) firm to perform the archaeology. The site of the S-Cover includes the area formerly occupied by the Middle Woodland period Converse Mound group and the historic period Odawa village. I'm sure other components were present as well as this area, at the foot of the rapids would have been a popular site throughout prehistory and history.

The major article in Volume 64 will be Hugh Heward's trip down the Grand River in 1790. Hugh Heward was a fur trader out of Detroit whom I believe was associated with John Askin. In the early spring of that year Heward traveled from Detroit to the Illinois County by way to the Huron River and the Grand River, using the portage in present day Jackson County. Heward kept a journal of his travel which provides some interesting details concerning the activities of the Potawatomi, Ojibwa and Odawa as well as fur traders on the Grand River.

All in all, there is much to look forward to.

A note for new members, new members will automatically receive a copy of the *Michigan Archaeologist* upon joining however, because the *Michigan Archaeologist* is not up to date, members only get copies for the years in which they are members. For example, I was not a member in 2013 and therefore I did not receive Volume 59. I'll have to order a back copy instead.

MAS 2020 Elections

A request for nominations for State offices has gone out this month. Lynn Chapman, the nominations committee chairman (and secretary, etc.). The positions include:

President,
Two Vice President Positions
Secretary
Treasurer
Trustee

Elections are held in April but you must attend the Annual Spring Meeting to vote.

UP-COMING EVENTS

Lowell Area Historical Museum:

Madame La Framboise:
Lowell Fur Trader to Mackinac Island First Lady
"No one has ever exerted a greater influence"
April 16th, 2020 ~ 7p.m.
Lowell Township Hall
Presented by Luanne Kaeb and Shantell Ford

Lowell Township Hall is at 2910 Alden Nash Ave, SE, Lowell MI. Note also, this presentation dovetails nicely with the April Coffinberry presentation on April 9th which will be about the historic Odawa and the fur trade on the Grand River.

Michigan Archaeological Society Annual Spring Meeting

Will be held in April but date and location to be announced.

Michigan Historic Preservation Network 2020 Conference:

40th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference
"Preservation on the Frontline"
Thursday-Saturday, May 14-16, 2020
Fetzer Center, Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan

The program of speakers at this event has not been announced yet.

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.

Michigan Archaeology Day will be on October 24th, more information will be coming in the future.

ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND MICHIGAN

This is not exactly about Michigan archaeology but concerns issues which could affect archaeology throughout Michigan and the rest of the United States. In several meetings I have attended recently (the MAS Board meeting and the Upper Grand River Chapter meeting) concern has been expressed over proposed changes to several national laws which will have an impact on archaeology. In one meeting it was said that 90% of the archaeology in the United States today comes about from cultural resource management (CRM) work. CRM surveys and excavations are the studies undertaken to determine what archaeological sites are present and might be destroyed when a

construction project is undertaken. The S-Curve project in downtown Grand Rapids, the subject of three proposed Michigan Archaeologist volumes (see above) is an example of this. This project was undertaken due to requirements under federal law stating the projects receiving federal money must adhere to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Below are some recent notices from the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) I've copy/pasted into the news bulletin to indicate what is going on.

The year 2020 has started out with a bang in Government Affairs, with a flurry of proposed regulatory changes in the federal system. Perhaps the most far-reaching are the proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act, but others include the potential for the National Park Service to propose revisions to the nominations process for the National Register of Historic Places and the redefinition of "Waters of the United States" being proposed by the White House.

All of these proposed changes are indicative of the administration's push toward revising the ways that federal agencies implement the various laws that relate to historic preservation in one form or another. Some of these proposals have short time frames for comments, while others have a little more time, but the Government Affairs Committee wants you to be aware of the things that are going on in Washington, DC.

In addition, we are reviewing a proposal for a phased approach to the Forest Service Programmatic Agreement on Section 106.

On January 10, the administration published its long-awaited proposed changes to the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Ostensibly written with the goal of reducing the environmental review times for infrastructure projects, the draft rule changes could result in reduced protections for cultural resources impacted by such activity. SAA's Government Affairs Committee is reviewing the proposal in order to formulate comments to be submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality. Those comments are due March 10. In addition, we are working with our sister preservation organizations in developing our response in order to present a unified message of opposition to the troublesome portions of the document, some of which include a reduction in the number of projects that would require a NEPA review and a limit in the number of stakeholder groups that could participate in post-review legal proceedings.

On January 23, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers [published](#) a final Navigable Waters Protection Rule to redefine "Waters of the United States." The new definition was designed by the current administration in response to opposition to the Obama-era expansion of federal jurisdiction over certain types of waterways and bodies of water. Under this change, some heritage resources once under the Corps' Appendix C regulation might no longer be covered.

Last fall, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) released a [proposed](#) nationwide programmatic agreement under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to allow "phasing" of Section 106 compliance during large-scale projects. According to USFS, the proposed agreement "allows the Section 106 review to be phased, meaning some steps could be completed after a NEPA decision document is signed, but before ground disturbance occurs." SAA's Government Affairs Committee is also evaluating this proposal and will develop formal comments, which are due March 1.

As of 2/10/2020 from the SAA:

Dear SAA member and supporter,

The Trump administration recently published its long-awaited proposed changes to the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This statute is crucial for the protection of both environmental and cultural resources impacted by federal undertakings. Should these changes go through, heritage assets will become more vulnerable to damage from federally-supported projects.

We need your help in demonstrating to the administration how widespread the opposition is. Please go to our [Take Action portal](#) and click on the "Submit Your NEPA Comments" link. From there, you will be taken to a page containing a template letter to the Council on Environmental Quality that outlines the main problems with the proposed changes. You can edit it to include your personal experiences with NEPA, or replace it with your own letter entirely. Just fill in your information, click submit, and your comments will be instantly filed with the CEQ. Comments are due March 10. Please take a few minutes today to register your opposition to these changes.

Thank you very much for your help.
Sincerely,

Joe. E. Watkins, Ph.D., RPA
President

If you have concerns about the impact these changes to laws have on archaeology or to the environment please contact your congressman and let them know.

Note: I am not trying to politized the Coffinberry News Bulletin but given the concern over revisions to these laws expressed in recent meetings I felt I would be remiss if I did not make mention of what is going on.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Grattan Mounds

Eric M. Mercer
January 2020

Early Michigan settlers crowded into a home overlooking a lake on April 6, 1846. Thirty-five years later, in 1881, Chas C. Chapman described the view of this lake in his historical account of Kent County. He wrote, "The far sweeping lake, with its picturesque shores and forest-crowned isle...fixes the gaze of the beholder like some enchanted scene, of which we sometimes dream."

In this home with a dreamy view, twenty-three votes, cast from nearby landowners, were enough to approve the decision to form a new township, named after an Irish legislator. New lines were drawn on the maps, and Grattan Township was entered into history (1).

Grattan's history is a young history. Just ten years before the vote, the land north of the Grand River, including what would become Grattan Township, was the territory of Chippewa and Ottawa tribes (2). Michigan, as a state, was only in its ninth year when Grattan Township was formed. Only 174 years have passed since then, but the history goes back much further.

A complete history must include six, man-made, earthen mounds discovered on a farmer's property, twenty years after the founding of Grattan Township. The people who built these mounds disappeared centuries ago, yet their mounds survived long enough to tell us a story. People were here long before us, and while they were here, they performed something of importance, high atop a hill, overlooking two picturesque lakes.

The builders of the Grattan Mounds belonged to the population of Indigenous People, who lived for several millennia along the Mississippi River Valley, the Ohio River valley, and the Great Lakes. Mound building was a unifying characteristic of this population; therefore, in the most general of terms, we refer to them as the Mound Builders.

Monks Mound in Illinois, Serpent Mound in Ohio, and the Grave Creek Mound in West Virginia are the greatest and rarest examples of mound-builder engineering and cultural expression. More commonly today, the mounds appear as small hills, hidden on riverbanks, and shrinking every year from exposure to the elements.

Archaeologists and anthropologists offer many theories on why the Mound Builders built mounds. These theories are based on the mound's associated artifacts and location. Many mounds were funerary, whether used as tumuli or as sites for cremation. Many were likely ceremonial or ritualistic while showcasing artistic creativity. The largest mounds served as foundations for villages and homes.

The few remaining mounds continue to be destroyed to make room for crops and parking lots. Often, we destroy them unknowingly. Most mounds are inconspicuous, unlike Monks Mound or the Serpent Mound. Most mounds barely rise above the natural ground level, and hundred-year-old trees may cover them. Unfortunately, an ancient mound, built by a long-lost civilization, will look like a simple hill, next to another simple hill, in an ordinary forest, resting near just another bend in a river. When we do find mounds in Michigan, it is not normally because of our skills in searching, but rather by tripping over them during our expansion of cities and farms.

This is the case with the Grattan Mounds. A farmer only has so much usable land, and the Grattan Mounds were in the way. Luckily, the farmer in Grattan paused before leveling them. Maybe he knew they were ancient mounds, or maybe they just looked unusual to him. Either way, by chance or by intent, the news that these mounds existed landed on one of the most prominent members of the Michigan Archaeological Society.

Wright L. Coffinberry was the first elected city surveyor of Grand Rapids. He was a captain during the Civil War, but his name is most associated with West Michigan archaeology. The Grand Rapids chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society is

named after him. He had his hands, or his shovel, in many of the digs performed in West Michigan, so it is without surprise that he led the excavation in Grattan (4).

On August 24, 1876, Coffinberry and a small team arrived in Grattan Township. He first noticed the geography, and commented on the mound builders' ability to "...choose some of the most beautiful locations in the land." The team numbered the mounds, and then carefully dug through the hard, dry clay. The following summarizes the findings or features of the mounds, as identified by Coffinberry in his manuscript (3).

Mound 1

- Layer of charcoal
- Layer of ashes
- Decomposed animal matter
- Mica plates
- Red ochre

Mound 2

- Red ochre

Mound 3

- Copper chisel
- Pottery shards

Mound 4

- No items or significant characteristics

Mound 5

- Largest mound at approximately four feet higher than natural ground and forty feet in diameter

Mound 6

- No items or significant characteristics

All six mounds had signs of prior disturbance from animals or humans, so other artifacts may have been removed before Coffinberry's excavation. Also, Coffinberry likely excavated just a sample of the site and did not find all items or features of interest. Still, the findings from Coffinberry offer diagnostics, allowing us to paint a picture of these Mound Builders.

The charcoal, ashes, and mica plates could indicate some form of ceremonial fire. Cremation would have been a likely rationale for these items, but no bones were discovered in the mounds. The mica plates and copper chisel also prove that these Mound Builders were traders, because these minerals are uncommon in the lower peninsula of Michigan. The red ochre could have been used as a body paint, but also as a way to add color to the mounds. The pottery had a similar shape and ornamentation as other pottery found by Coffinberry in prior excavations, leading to a theory these

builders could be of relation to other Mound Builders that lived near what is now downtown Grand Rapids (5).

These features assist in determining the age of the Grattan Mounds. The chisel and pottery are typical of a particular phase in Mound Builder chronology. The location of the mounds is unusual. They are not near a river, and they are miles from the denser and centralized population of mounds at the Norton Mounds and Converse Mounds sites in Grand Rapids, which suggests the Grattan Mounds were built later. Therefore, the tentative build date is between AD 200 and AD 400 (5).

“Tentative” is a keyword. We cannot be certain when or why the Grattan Mounds were built. Radiocarbon dating was not yet invented when Wright L. Coffinberry came to the Grattan Mounds. And unfortunately, we will not get the chance to further excavate or confirm the build date of the Grattan Mounds. They are gone--leveled sometime in the last 144 years.

Human nature seems to demand that we build upon the foundations of the people that came before us. Our curiosity also requires us to chase the mysteries of the past, so although the Grattan Mounds are gone, they will continue to add a chapter to the history of this township and this state. They will be our reminder that we are just the latest people to reside on the high hills near the shores in Grattan Township.

Native American and Mound Builder stories fill the archives and collections at museums and more evidence of their lives exist in the soil between our lakes and rivers. Native American culture is ubiquitous in Michigan; you just need to look for it. If you are lucky enough to find something of interest, ask questions or contact local archaeological societies, museums, or universities. Particularly, if you find mounds, do not attempt to excavate. These could be burial sites, and just like the burial locations of our loved ones, they deserve care and respect.

(1)Chapman, Chas. C, & Co. History of Ken County Michigan: Together With Sketches of Its Cities, Villages and Townships... Chicago, Illinois. C.C. Chapman & Company, 1881. Pg 758-760

(2)Henry R. Schoolcraft and Ottawa and Chippewa Nations. Treaty of Washington, 1836. Washington, D.C., Central Michigan University Clarke Historical Library
<cmich.edu/library/clarke>

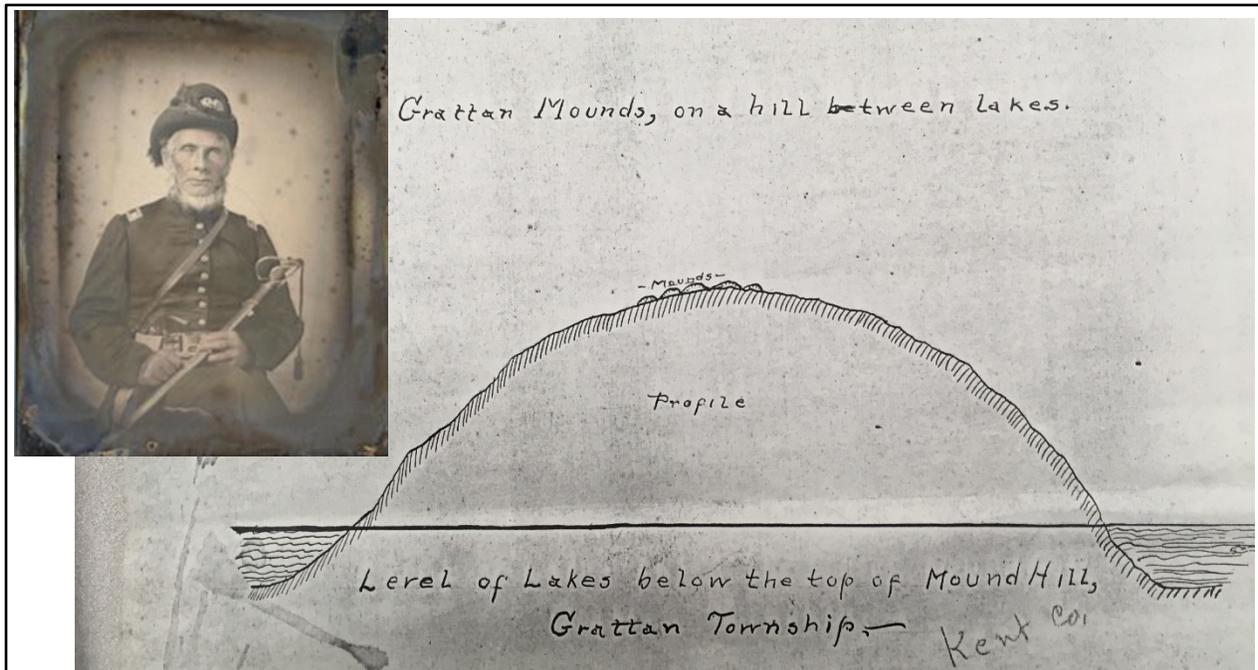
(3)Baxter, Albert. History of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Munsel, 1891. University of Michigan 2008. Pg 119-120

(4)Coffinberry, Wright L. Coffinberry Manuscript - Article IV. Coffinberry News Bulletin 9 (9): Pg 23-25

(5)Halsey, John R. and Michael D Stafford. Retrieving Michigan's Buried Past: The Archaeology of the Great Lakes State. Crabrook Institute of Science, 1999. Pg 150

(6)Profile drawing of the Grattan Mounds on a hill between two lakes by Wright L. Coffinberry. Map on File, Anthropology Lab, Grand Valley State University

(7)Photograph of Wright L. Coffinberry (1807 - 1889)



Profile drawing of the Grattan Mounds on a hill between two lakes by Wright L Coffinberry from his 1876 excavations. Insert: Wright L. Coffinberry in his Civil War uniform. (courtesy Grand Valley State University Anthropology Lab).

Postscript

The Grattan Mounds have always been an enigma in Grand River archaeology. The location of the mounds, adjacent to small inland lakes would suggest a Late Woodland dating but the finding of mica and copper as with the size of the mounds would suggest Middle Woodland. For this reason, in 1999 Kingsley concluded that Grattan dated late in the Middle Woodland and indeed they might be thought of as transitional between the Middle and Late Woodland.

Kingsley, Robert G., David S. Brose and Michael J. Hambacher

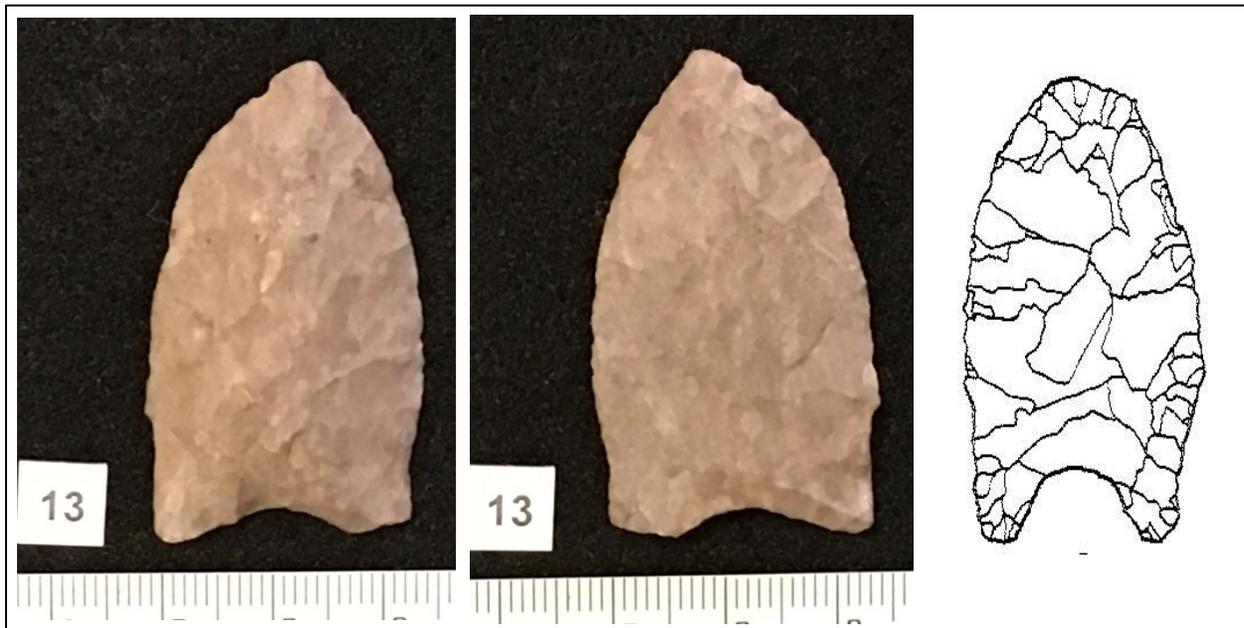
1999 The Middle Woodland: A Golden Age of Mound Builders and Fishermen, in *Retrieving Michigan's Buried Past, The Archaeology of the Great Lakes State*, edited by J.R. Halsey, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bulletin 64, pp. 147-193.

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

The Hi-Lo Point and Complex

Lynn Chapman

A Hi-Lo point was found by a landowner on a site in southeastern Kent County. The point was recovered from a site which has produced several Holcombe points as well as Archaic, Early, Middle and Late Woodland points. This point is 7.02 mm thick at its thickest point, it is 42.58 mm long and 25.08 mm wide. The concavity in the base is 1.65 mm deep. It is made out of coarse textured light colored brownish gray chert which I could positively identify as to the source. In all respects it matches the descriptions given for Hi-Lo points.



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

The Hi-Lo Site

The Hi Lo¹ site (20IA45) is or was located on a high terrace on the Flat River south of Fallsburg in eastern Kent County, Michigan (Fitting 1963:87; Gillis 1960). The site was originally discovered by Coffinberry member Buerl Guernsey and was known as the Flat River Site No. 26. The site is described as being located on a high point of land, 810 ft elevation, about 200 feet above the Flat River, consisting of a sand blow about 40 feet in diameter and two feet in depth. The site was collected from between 1954 and 1960 when a description of the site was published in *The Coffinberry News Bulletin* and came to the attention of professional archaeologists (Gillis 1960:116; Fitting 1963b). James

¹ The site was named after the Hi-Lo Gun Club, not the vehicle commonly found in warehouses.

Fitting published a description of the site and artifacts in *The Wisconsin Archeologist* in 1963.

Technology

Hi-Lo points are thick (7-10 mm) with large, flaring rounded ears. They usually have paleo-convex sections and slightly stemmed shaft ends. Since Hi-Lo points are thick, they are often found in complete form on sites rather than as broken sections more typical of other Paleo points (Ellis and Deller 1990:57). Hi-Lo points compare favorably with Dalton points, a type with several variations found widespread in the southern United States. There are differences between Dalton and Hi-Lo however. Dalton points are occasionally serrated while Hi-Lo points are not. Also, Dalton assemblages contain a wider variety of tools than Hi-Lo assemblages (Ellis and Deller 1990:58).

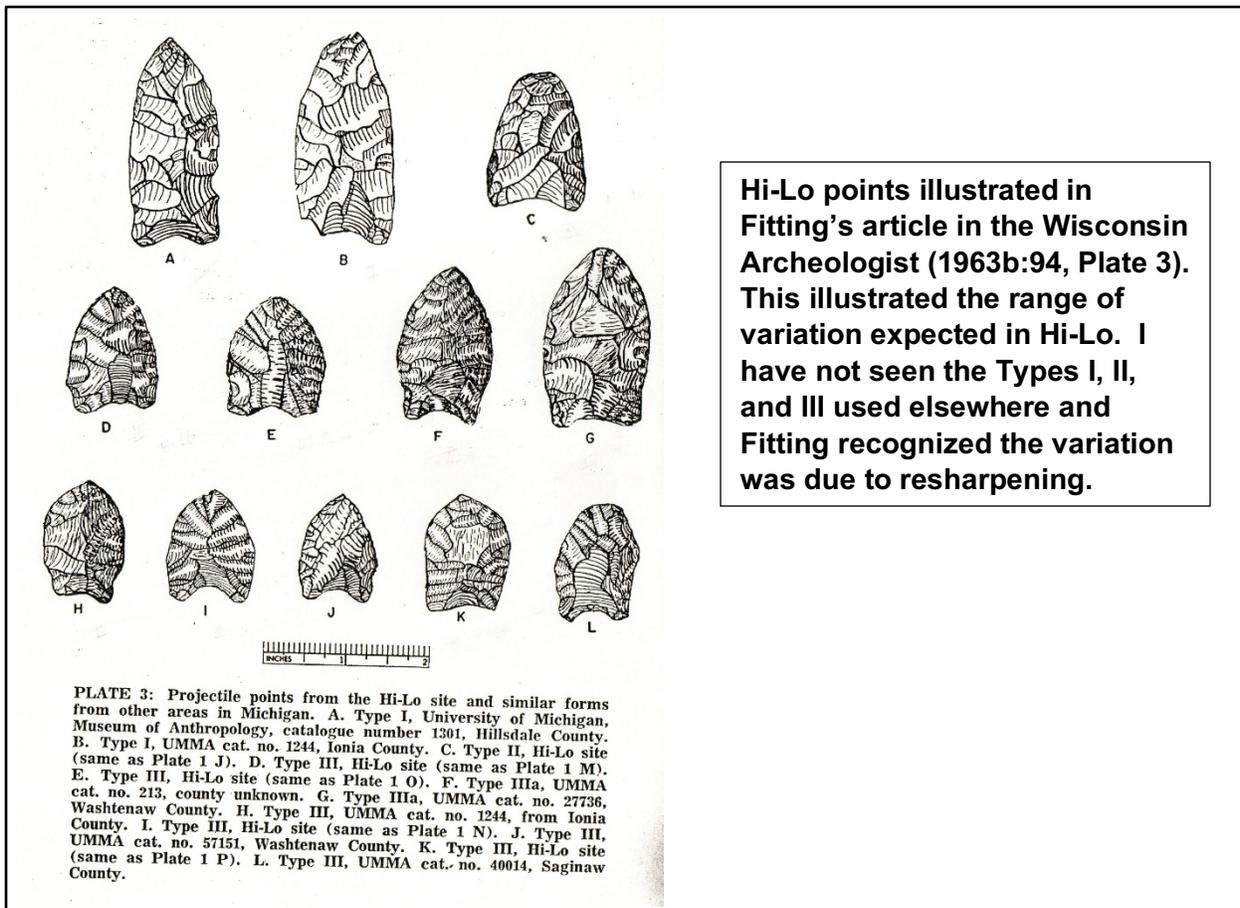
While the description above pertain to “classic” Hi-Lo points, Hi-Lo points exhibit a wide variety of forms (Ellis et al. 2009). Fitting classified the artifacts recovered at the Hi-Lo site into three groups: Type I projectile points are lanceolate in form with straight to slightly convex sides and a concave base with lateral grinding and are all basally modified by having flakes removed along the entire length of the basal fragment. Although there were no complete points of Type I at the Hi-Lo site, Fitting estimated their length to average 6.0 cm (4.9 – 7.0 cm) (Fitting 1963a:88). Fitting also had a type II and type III point forms but decided these represented reworked type I. Also, the source material was the same for all types. This led Fitting to the conclusion there was a single Hi-Lo type projectile point type (Fitting 1963a:90).

Hi-Lo points exhibit a great variation in the blade area due to resharpening on the lateral edges. Prior to resharpening Hi-Lo points exhibit a well-defined shoulder and stem with convex blades. With extensive use as a knife, dulling the blades, and extensive resharpening, the lateral edges are first straightened and the take on a concave shape. Characteristic of resharpening is alternate beveling resulting from sharpening primarily from one edge (Ellis and Deller 1990:57).

“A distinctive aspect of this resharpening is that it involves alternative edge-beveling. One lateral edge is resharpened primarily from one face resulting in a bevel. Then, the point is rotated such that the opposite edge is resharpened by beveling on the other face. If continued, this resharpening results in a point with a hexagon or “twisted” cross-section” (Ellis and Deller 1990:57).

“Besides the distinctive resharpening, Hi-Lo points are often recycled into very different tool forms and to other tasks. Some are recycled to drills while others are made into end scrapers. Some are recycled into graters, side scrapers or “spokeshaves”. Still others are extensively beveled along only one side suggesting other forms of specialized, non-projectile use” (Ellis and Deller 1990:57).

Ellis and Deller (1990:57) describe Hi-Lo points as being “heavy duty, multi-purpose tools.”



Ellis and Deller (1990) make the case for Hi-Lo technology having evolved from the earlier Holcombe points noting the presence of points in southern Ontario and northern Ohio which lack stems and alternate beveling like Holcombe points but unlike Holcombe points, which are quite thin, these points are thick and slightly eared like Hi-Lo points. Ellis et al. (2009:792) describe what they call Hi-Ho points which are lanceolate in form, lacking stems and generally resembling Holcombe points. Other Hi-Lo points show a tendency toward stems with wider blades than the hafting area and some have shallow side notching.

“The variants may actually represent a time series. The implications are (1) that the side-notched forms represent the earliest notched points in the area, and, by definition, would be seen as Early Archaic, whereas the other variants would be seen as Late Paleoindian; and (2) that the presumed earlier forms such as the Hi-Ho variant represent stylistic continuity from earlier Holcombe points. However, since few researchers have seen fit to make such distinctions in reporting sites and since the time-series idea is only informed speculation, we treat the Hi-Lo as a single entity here” (Ellis et al. 2009:792).

In the collection from which the Hi-Lo point (point no. 13) shown above and the Holcombe point reported on last month (point no. 12) comes from also includes a third point (point no. 32) which is similar in thickness to the Hi-Lo point, at 7.38 mm. The Holcombe points in the collection from which this Hi-Lo point comes from measure 5.40

mm thick. Hi-Lo points generally range in thickness from 6.5 to 11.0 mm in thickness with a mean of 8.2 mm (Wright 2006:75). Point 32 has a thickness falling in the range of Hi-Lo but is much larger than a typical Hi-Lo and exhibits an overall shape approximating a Holcombe point. Unfortunately, the base is broken so it cannot be determined what the basal configuration originally was, however, this may possibly be a candidate as a Hi-Ho point described by Ellis et al. (2009).



View of the same Hi-Lo point shown above (13) plus two Holcombe points from the same site (12 and 32). Point, number 32 is thick, comparable to the Hi-Lo point although in overall shape it more closely approximates Holcombe.

J. V. Wright argues that the difference between Hi-Lo and Holcombe points, particularly the thickness differences, indicates the adoption of the spear thrower by Hi-Lo people. This sort of linkage between point styles and methods of propelling spears is disputed however (Koldehoff and Walthall 2009).

Other Tools

The remaining tools in the assemblage from the Hi-Lo site consists of knife fragments, scrapers and one possible graver (Fitting 1963a:92).

Dating

Hi-Lo points have not been directly dated that I am aware of (Ellis et al. 2009; Ellis and Deller 1990:58). Fitting originally placed the Hi-Lo complex in a 10,000 – 8,000 B.P. time frame and at first thought it might be contemporary with Holcombe based on differential distribution with Holcombe being centered more in the southeast Michigan while Hi-Lo was concentrated in central west Michigan (Kent, Ionia and Montcalm counties) (Fitting 1963b:93-95). Later, Fitting concluded Hi-Lo appeared to be a Paleo horizon following the Holcombe horizon (Fitting 1963:201). Currently, Hi-Lo is known to exist from west Michigan east into northern Ohio and extreme southwest Ontario. Deller and Ellis (1990) date Hi-Lo ca. 10,100 B.P. but this is based on similarity between Hi-Lo and Dalton found in the south-central United States. Dalton is dated by Goodyear (1982) as between 10,500 and 10,000 B.P. Shott follows the same line of reasoning (1999:73, 75).

Distribution

Fitting (1963) noted that the Hi-Lo points were found in collections from south central and southwest Michigan with at least seven Hi Lo sites in Berrien County alone. Hi-Lo type I points are rare in east Michigan but common in Ionia, Kent and Montcalm Counties (Fitting 1965). Many of the Paleo Points illustrated in an article by Dave Hartman in the *Coffinberry News Bulletin* (1968) appear to be Hi Lo Points. Judging from past *Coffinberry News Bulletin* issues, Hi-Lo points are probably the most common of the Paleo points found in the Grand River basin although to-date nobody I know of has quantified this.

In southern Ontario, Hi-Lo is restricted to southerly locations – southwest Ontario and the north shore of Lake Ontario south of Rice Lake (Ellis and Deller 1990:61). The occurrence of Hi-Lo in southwest Michigan, northern Ohio and southwest Ontario suggest that Fitting's observation concerning their rarity in southeast Michigan may be in error due to sampling or bias or, if true, indicates a division of Hi-Lo populations for reasons not understood.

Settlement and Subsistence

Dating ca. 10,000 B.P., Hi-Lo occurs at a time of dynamic environmental and cultural change in the Great Lakes region.

Environment

At 10,000 B.P. the water levels in the Great Lakes had fallen to the Chippewa-Stanley low phase (Monaghan and Lovis 2005:39).

"The lowest level of Lake Chippewa was at least 117 m and may have been as low as 107 m (Hough 1958; Hansel 1985; Buckley 1974). Early in its history, Lake Chippewa was actually two separate lakes, one that formed in a "southern" basin and another that formed in a "northern" basin. The southern basin existed south of a line from Ludington,

Michigan, to Milwaukee, while the northern basin existed between this line and approximately Beaver Island, Michigan. The level of the southern basin was controlled by a relatively deep canyon through subcroppings of Paleozoic limestone located offshore from Milwaukee. Water level in the northern basin, on the other hand, was constrained by a deep bedrock canyon that forms the Straits of Mackinac" (Monaghan and Lovis 2005:39).

The lake in the northern basin would drain through the Straits of Mackinac via a river connecting it to similar smaller lakes in the Huron Lake basin.

While not impacting the site from which the Hi-Lo point was found in southeast Kent County directly, this change in the lake level could have had several indirect effects.

- Lowering of the Great Lake levels could have resulted in an overall lowering of the water table resulting in drier conditions in upland settings.
- Also, coupled with this, is the suggestion that the climate overall had become drier as well as warming.
- Third, in west Michigan, the lowering of the lake level would have greatly reduced the lake effect resulting in warmer, drier conditions during the summer and colder, drier winters.
- The reduced volume of water in the Michigan Lake basin could have facilitated travel between west Michigan and northern Illinois / southern Wisconsin.
- And, of course, lower lake levels raise the possibility that some sites from this time period are located off the present-day shoreline beneath Lake Michigan.

Vegetation changes were also pronounced. Evidence from pollen analysis taken from sediments in small lakes and bogs indicate the former spruce-aspen forests were replaced around this time by forest in which pine was dominant. First, there was jack and red pine, followed later by the slower growing white pines. A deciduous element consisting of birch, ironwood, and elm was also present. Forest in the uplands during this period evolved to a diverse mixture of pine and deciduous trees. By 8,000 B.P. oak forest began replacing the pine (Knapp 1999:49-51).

Population Dynamics

In southwest Ontario, at a lower latitude than the Grand River valley, the appearance of Hi-Lo coincides with the onset of deciduous, oak dominated forests (Ellis et al. 2009). Like Michigan, in southwest Ontario, Hi-Lo surface finds are relatively common in comparison to earlier Paleo complexes and in this way Hi-Lo is also similar to Dalton (Ellis and Deller 1990:61). The quantity of Hi-Lo points recovered as surface finds suggest an increase in population compared to previous Paleo times.

“It is possible that this inferred population growth is a product of increasing biotic productivity as the deciduous vegetation component may have been increasing in southern areas where Hi-Lo primarily occurs” (Ellis and Deller 1990:63).

Settlement

As in the past with earlier Paleo sites, Hi Lo sites “tend to be situated on well drained, elevated locations facing south and overlooking poorly drained areas adjacent to small streams thus reflecting a previous Palaeo-Indian² culture settlement pattern. Site locations on ridges and ancient shorelines have been interpreted as evidence for the maintenance of the previous pattern of intercepting caribou (Ellis and Deller 1990, Roberts 1985:110)” (J. V. Wright 2006:76).

In Michigan, apart from the Hi-Lo site itself, Hi-Lo are known mainly from find spots. In southwest Ontario several sites have been investigated (Ellis et al. 2009).

Subsistence

Although Hi-Lo points compare favorably with Dalton points in the south-central United States, Dalton culture exhibits a wide range of other tools not found in Hi-Lo assemblages. Dalton is considered by some researcher to be the earliest manifestation of an Archaic lifestyle with a more sedentary settlement system devoted to exploitation of local animal and plant resources. Hi-Lo in contrast does not exhibit the same range of tools and also chert sourcing indicates a greater range of travel (Koldehoff and Walthall 2009; Ellis et al. 2009). No direct evidence of Hi-Lo subsistence is available but given the environment it seems reasonable to expect woodland caribou and moose played a role in the subsistence economy and perhaps fish.

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² This is not a typo; this is an alternative spelling of Paleo used by J. V. Wright.

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WRIGHT I. COFFINBERRY CHAPTER
of the
MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday evening of each month, September through May, beginning at 7:00 P.M. at Room 249, Lake Michigan Hall, Grand Valley State University. A map and parking instructions are included on the back of the bulletin. Visitors are welcome.

The Chapter publishes a *News Bulletin* at multiple times during the year and the State organization publishes the *Michigan Archaeologist*, periodically as well. These publications are received with membership. The State Society holds an annual meeting in the spring and a workshop in the late summer or fall.

Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone interested in promoting the objectives of the organization, with *concurrent and corresponding membership required* in the Michigan Archaeological Society. Go to <http://micharch.org/wp/> to visit the web site of the Michigan Archaeological Society which also contains a membership page and forms.

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