



WRIGHT L. COFFINBERRY CHAPTER
MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

COFFINBERRY NEWS BULLETIN

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

September 9th, Show and Tell, members and guests can bring in artifacts and collections to show around and even get some expert opinions on from the professional archaeologists.

The meeting is expected to be held in the Anthropology Lab at Grand Valley State University. See the back of this bulletin for map and parking information.

There are Covid concerns that must be dealt with. Some of you may have heard the announcement from Grand Valley State University on 8/6/2021 that mask must be worn indoors regardless of vaccination status and that students and faculty are to be fully vaccinated by 9/30/2021.

As of the time of writing we are still planning to meet in the Anthropology Lab at GVSU (see schedule of meetings below). GVSU has required or advised the following:

- As mentioned above, masks must be worn.
- If you are sick, please do not attend the meeting, Likewise, if you are sick, you should not be on campus.
- GVSU is taking precautions to have hand sanitizer available, and they are cleaning high touch surfaces such as the desks and table tops.
- We are going to maintain safe social distancing (6 ft) – to that end Wes is going to determine what the capacity of the Anthropology lab is. One possible alternative for us would be to duck into the adjacent classroom, which we have done in the past, if classes are not being held there at the time of our meetings.
- Last, but not least, if you consider yourself to be a high-risk category, please do not put yourself in danger by attending the meetings. As much as we would like having you to the meeting, we would rather see people being safe.

CHAPTER NEWS

Something else that was postponed because of the pandemic was the election of chapter officers. 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 three years I (Lynn Chapman) 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 – Lynn Chapman.

Our plans as of now are to continue with the seminar series we had started in 2019-2020 which were so abruptly cancelled after our meeting in February 2020.

- **September 9th**, Show and Tell, members and guests can bring in artifacts and collections to show around and even get some expert opinions on from the professional archaeologists.

Also, in this meeting we are going to need to re-group. We did not have elections in the spring of 2020 as we should have and I would like to step down as chapter president.

- **October 14th**, Lynn Chapman will be presenting the Late Prehistoric thru the Middle Historic as pertains to West Michigan and the Grand River Valley.
- **November 11th**, Dr. Jessica Yann of MSU will be presenting on the historic Odawa occupants of the Grand River valley and the fur trade.
- **December 9th**, presentation on the American settlement of the Grand River valley.
- **January 13th** (2022), Dan Wymer will give a presentation on the Gray site, a Gainey complex early Paleo site.
- **February 10th** (2022) Alex Michnick will present his research concerning fur traders Rix Robinson and Daniel DeMarsac. Note: Alex is using materials that came either directly or indirectly through Coffinberry Chapter excavations in the 1960's and 1970's.
- **March 10th** (2022), Speaker TBD Research on the Ottawa County Poor Farm and GVSU recent field school there.
- **April 14th** (2022), TBD
- **May 12th** (2022) Lynn Chapman, Cartographic History of Western Michigan. This is if we do not have another speaker lined up. I (Lynn Chapman) love old maps and have collected a number in print form or digitally and have assembled them in a presentation that I think will be interesting.

The presentations after January 2022 are somewhat tentative. I have also left the speakers blank for the November and December 2021 meetings. We had speakers lined up for these slots in 2020 but I have yet to confirm their availability to speak in 2021.

SOCIETY NEWS

There were several MAS Board meetings held over the summer of 2021 and I'll try to touch on some of the major topics of discussion.

Because of Covid and the cancellations of all in-person meeting over the past year and a half, membership in MAS, defined here as being current with dues, has declined. Also, with respect to MAS Chapters restarting their meetings in the fall of 2021, there is a lot of uncertainty regarding meeting venues, rules and restrictions that may be in place. This is particularly true for chapters, such as Coffinberry, which are meeting on collage campuses.

For those who are so inclined, by periodically checking the MAS website you may find that some chapters have been having video presentations. The Huron Valley Chapter and the Detroit Chapter have been active in this regard and have been having some success with them.

MAS 2021 Elections

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

President,
Two Vice President Positions
Secretary
Treasurer
Trustee

Nominations can be emailed to lynnalanchapman@gmail.com

Elections will be held in the fall of 2021 but you must attend the annual meeting (see below) to vote.

***The Michigan Archaeologist* Publication**

Publication of *The Michigan Archaeologist* has experienced delays due to Covid, the editors' workloads, and also because the person who used to do the layout work of the MA has retired and the editor is looking for a new person to do this. A new layout person has been found but there is expected to be a learning curve before that person is up to full speed. It is hoped a new issue (Volume 61) will be coming out this

summer. I belong to several other archaeological organizations who publish periodic journals and all are experiencing delays in publication due to Covid.

If my notes from the 8/5/2021 MAS board meeting are accurate, the future *Michigan Archaeologist* publications may look like this:

- Vol. 61 (2015) Report on a Middle Woodland and Late Prehistoric (Oneota) site in the Upper Peninsula. Report on early mound excavations, and short articles by Dr. Lovis and Dr. Yann.
- Vol. 62 (2016) Report on the S-Curve project in Grand Rapids
- Vol. 63 (2017) Report on the S-Curve project in Grand Rapids
- Vol. 64 (2018) Report on the S-Curve project in Grand Rapids
- Vol. 65 (2019) Compilation of articles from the first 10 volumes of the Michigan Archaeologist.
- Vol. 66 (2020) Description of Hugh Heward's 1790 trip down the Grand River.
- Vol. 67 (2021) Underwater Archaeology issue

Notes regarding publications listed above:

1. There is some uncertainty regarding the number of volumes the S-Curve report will be split into. The report is huge. The S-Curve project relates to excavations performed at the S-Curve on the west side of the Grand River in the winter of 1999-2000 when MDOT was doing repairs to the bridge there. Historically, this area of downtown Grand Rapids was the location of the Middle Woodland Converse Mound group as well as historic Odawa villages. The rapids in the Grand River would have important location for a spring sturgeon fishery and the archaeological record shows this area was used for thousands of years. During the construction of Fulton Street and neighborhoods in the area the site(s) were buried under urban fill. During the reconstruction of the S-Curve overpass a large amount of this fill was dug into and hence the archaeology. This is of huge importance to the archaeology of Grand Rapids.
2. These will most likely include several articles by former Coffinberry members such as Ruth Herrick (Ada site) Edmond Gibson (Norton Mounds) and also the De Marsac site.

3. Hugh Heward was a fur trader out of Detroit who portages from the Huron River to the upper Grand and then down the Grand to Lake Michigan. His journal is a valuable historical document concerning the Grand River prior to Euroamerican settlement.



Archaeology at the S-Curve, 12/1999. Excavations were performed under large, circus-style tents shown in the insert, upper right.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- Annual meeting of the Michigan Archaeological Society may be held on 9/26/2021. Venue still to be determined but it might be at the auditorium of the Michigan History Center in Lansing, the Castle Museum in Saginaw or outdoors at a pavilion in Sleepy Hollow State Park.
 - Presentations to be determined. We will be voting for new officers at that time (voting needs to be done in-person).

- Midwest Archaeological Conference is scheduled to be held in East Lansing, October 7-9 / 2021. It is still being determined if this will be in-person, video conferencing or a hybrid of both.
- Archaeology Day at the Michigan Historical Museum is scheduled for October 23'd, 2021. (This a change from the previously announced date).
- An event may also be held at the Sanilac Petroglyphs over in the Thumb area to celebrate 50 years as a Historic State Park. I do not have any details on this at this time.

ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND MICHIGAN

Changes in the State Archaeological Organization

At the beginning of August, Michael Hambacher took a position as staff archaeologist in SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office) working for Stacy Tchorzynski.

Stacy Tchorzynski has accepted a new position with the DNR, the position is newly created "to help lead archaeological resource stewardship on state-owned lands". Stacy will be the point person for general state business, permits, collections and opportunities for research and field schools on state-owned lands.

Michael Hambacher is the point person for Section 106 (Cultural resource Management, CRM) archaeology, site file research and other SHPO related business.

At the time of writing, Stacy's departure from SHPO leaves Mike as the sole archaeologist working in SHPO but it is expected they will be hiring him some additional help.

Belson Site / Southwest Michigan / St. Joseph County

In 2021 a Clovis site has been identified in St. Joseph County, Michigan by an avocational archaeologist surface collecting from plowed farm fields. He found the first fluted point in the field in 2008 and repeated finds since then convinced him he had a Paleo site rather than just the find spot of a single specimen. In one example, he found pieces of the same projectile point in different years. By 1019 he had found nine pieces of diagnostic Paleo tools which he reported to Dr. Henry Wright and Brandon Nash of the University of Michigan. Excavations by U of M begun in 2020 indicated more artifacts in situ, in the sub-plow zone from units excavated as much as 1.5 meters deep (Michigan News 8/2021; Archaeology 8/2021).

Twenty tools and hundreds of pieces of debitage (flakes and other remains of manufacturing or reworking stone tools) have been recovered from the site. Wright has indicated the projectile points to be true Clovis points. The tools were made of Attica

chert which is found along the central Wabash River in western Indiana and eastern Illinois, some 120 miles southwest of the site (Michigan News 8/2021). The material of which Paleo tools are made and the distance between the source of that material and the site where the tools are found is an important means of determining the extent of Paleo mobility and direction of travel.

The site is described as being a campsite, a short-term occupation possibly by six or seven people. No mention is made in the articles of features or subsistence remains in the news articles. Analysis of residue on the stone tools may provide further evidence to what the people were doing there. The site is estimated at 13,000 cal. B.P. years old based on the type of tools and dates from Clovis elsewhere in North America (Michigan News 8/2021; Archaeology 8/2021).

The site is situated on an outwash plain left by the glacier which had probably melted out of St. Joseph County by approximately 14,000 R.C.B.P. if not a little earlier.

Although people are thought to have inhabited North America by 14,000 R.C.B.P. if not earlier, evidenced by sites such as Meadowcroft Rockshelter PA, Cactus Hill VA, and Topper SC, Clovis is the first widespread Native American culture in North America. It appears to have originated in the northwestern part of the United States during the late Pleistocene (Schroedl 2021) and spread rapidly across the continent due in large part to migrating bands of hunter-gatherers. Western Clovis sites are dated between approximately 11,500 and 10,900 R.C.B.P. (Stanford 2005:289). Wyckoff (2005:346) dates Clovis 11,500 – 11,000 R.C.B.P. Clovis, in calendrical years can be dated 13,300 – 13,000 cal B.P. (Fiedel 1999:106)¹. Water and Stafford in 2007, after an evaluation of radiocarbon dates placed Clovis between 13,000 and 12,600 cal. B.P. More recently, in 2020, Waters et al., based on an analysis of 32 radiocarbon dates from 10 sites indicate the earliest Clovis sites dating between 13,050 and 12,750 cal. B.P. (Wisarch 2020:17). Clovis is usually thought of as arriving later in time east of the Mississippi River however the speed at which the culture spread and the poor resolution of radiocarbon dating in this time period does not really differentiate between east and west very well. A calendar date of 13,400 – 13,000 years B.P. [cal] can be assumed as the initial Clovis settlement of the Midwest (Fiedel 1999:106).

Beside the fact that this is a very cool find, it is also very important with respect to understanding the early occupation of the upper Great Lakes by Native American peoples.

(I'd like to thank Troy Schindlbeck and Dr. J. Brashler for bringing this story to my attention).

¹ Due to fluctuations in the quantity of C14 in the atmosphere radiocarbon dates of Paleo and Early Archaic sites have been shown to be 1500 to 2000 years later than the actual calendar dates (Fidel 1999). Therefore, I have adopted the convention of reporting radiocarbon dates at RCBP and calendar dates as cal B.P. (B.P. = Before Present).

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Field Work around the Grand River Valley

Unfortunately, the only field work I know of that occurred this past summer, with one exception, are the projects I was personally involved with in one way or another:

- Last April Dan Wymer hosted a day long dig at the Wooster Bailey site. This was primarily a Huron Valley Chapter activity. Some may remember Wooster Bailey is a Late Paleo site in Jackson County and Dan may have made some progress in locating undisturbed Late Paleo deposits.
- Grand Valley State University held their archaeological field school at the location of the Ottawa County Poor Farm, property now owned by Ottawa County Parks and Recreation. The field school consisted of several phases:
 - Visual walk over of plowed fields situated inland/upland from the Grand River. An activity which produced several projectile points.
 - Sub-surface shovel testing of terraces located near the Grand River. Initially the focus of this activity was to locate an 1836 house which may have been located in that area of the park. The house went undetected but a prehistoric site was found.
 - Locating and excavations of 1X1 test units around the foundation of the "Midway House", ca. 1860 – 1950, one of the buildings making up the Poor Farm.

Hopefully we will hear more about the field school in this publication and/or presentations to the Chapter.

- Western Michigan Archaeological Consultants was called up to locate the foundation of an old stable, ca. 1840, in the back yard of a house in Holland.
- Troy Schindlbeck who has been working a site in Oceana County put in several 1X1 m units to define a feature (fire pit/hearth) he had located in 2016. Troy was assisted in this effort by Lynn Chapman, and several former GVSU students, Aubrey DeWitt and Milo Grover who had also participated in the GVSU field school mentioned above.



View of the hearth feature in the profile of test units at a site in Oceana County. The gray layer above the feature is from sand blown over the site from a nearby sand dune.

- Dr. Brashler and Wesley Jackson were called upon to investigate the find of a cache of some triangular chert points found on some property on the lower Grand River. This may be similar to a cache found on the lower Muskegon River and reported in *The Michigan Archaeologist* 57 (2011) "An Unusual Stone Cache from 20MU147" by Janet Brashler and Donald Gaff

FEATURE ARTICLES

The Last Voyage and Death of Father Marquette

While working with Troy, Aubrey and Milo on a site near the Lake Michigan coast of Oceana County, not far from Stoney Lake, we were asked by local residents if we were searching for Father Marquette's remains. Apparently, there is a rumor that Father Marquette's remains are located in the dunes somewhere along that stretch of coastline. At the risk of greatly disappointing them I responded with what I will describe below.

Following Louis Jolliet and Jesuit Father Marquette's exploration of the Mississippi River in 1673, Father Marquette retired to the Jesuit mission of Saint Francis Xavier at Green

Bay, Wisconsin. The Jesuits had been in contact with the Illinois² who had been coming to the mission to barter with French fur traders and Jolliet and Father Marquette had visited them in their villages on their way down the Mississippi – the Peoria Illinois at the mouth of the Des Moines River³, and on their way back to the Great Lakes – the Kaskaskia Illinois at Starved Rock⁴ on the Illinois River. They returned from the Mississippi valley in late 1673 and Father Marquette, who was ill, spent the winter of 1673-74 and the summer of 1764 at Green Bay awaiting permission to return to the Illinois and begin a mission there. In the fall of 1674, he received permission to do so.

Father Marquette and two other Frenchmen traveled down the west side of Lake Michigan in the late fall of 1674, accompanying a party of Illinois who had been to Green Bay to trade. They reached the Chicago Portage but were forced to stop there and spend the winter because Father Marquette was too ill to travel on. During the winter they were visited by groups of Illinois and also by two French fur traders. In the spring of 1675 Father Marquette was sufficiently recovered to travel on to the Kaskaskia village.

The Return Trip and Death of Father Marquette 1675

Father Marquette preached at the Kaskaskia village but ill health still dogged him so in late April he left the Illinois and returned to the Chicago Portage with the intent of returning to the Jesuit missions, this time not the mission at Green Bay but rather to the mission he had originally founded, the Mission of Saint Ignace at Michilimackinac. Father Marquette's journal ends at this point and the story was continued in the *Jesuit Relations* by Father Dablon.

“After the Illinois, filled with great esteem for the gospel, had taken leave of the Father, he continued his journey, and shortly after reached the Lake of the Illinois, upon whose waters he had to journey nearly a hundred leagues, by an unknown route, whereon he had never before traveled; for he was obliged to coast along the southern shore of the lake, having come by the northern” (Thwaites 1959, JR 59:191-193).

To take the shortest route to Michilimackinac, Father Marquette traveled along what Father Dablon refers to as the “southern shore”, meaning the eastern shore of Lake Michigan (Kellogg 1917:272). This is the first historically documented trip by a European down the west coast of Michigan. Father Marquette's health rapidly declined on the trip down the lake and he described to his companions how to administer the last

² The Illinois were an association of five to twelve bands or tribes, the: Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Michigamea, Peoria, Tamaroa, Coiracoentanon and Moingwena. Although often called a “confederacy”, there is “no evidence of any overall intertribal organization or political institutions” such as those found among the League of Iroquois for example (Callender 1978:673). Callender (1978) refers to the different constituents of the Illinois as tribes, Mazrim (2015) refers to them as bands.

³ The Hass and Hagerman (23CK116) archaeological sites, often referred to as the Illiniwek site or village located in Illiniwek State Park at the mouth of the Des Moines River (Mazrim 2015).

⁴ The Zimmerman archaeological site (11LS13) (Mazrim 2015; Brown 1961; Brown 1974).

rites and how he wished to be buried. On May 18th, 1675, Father Marquette knew his time had come.

“Thus, did he converse with them as they made their way upon the lake [concerning the details of his last rites], — until, having perceived a river, on the shore of which stood an eminence that he deemed well suited to be the place of his interment, he told them that that was the place of his last repose. They wished, however, to proceed farther, as the weather was favorable, and the day was not far advanced; but God raised a contrary wind, which compelled them to return, and enter the river which the Father had pointed out. They accordingly brought him to the land, lighted a little fire for him, and prepared for him a wretched cabin of bark. They laid him down therein, in the least uncomfortable way that they could; but they were so stricken with sorrow that, as they have since said, they hardly knew what they were doing” (Thwaites 1959, JR 59:195).

“His two poor companions, shedding many tears over him, composed his body in the manner which he had prescribed to them. Then they carried him devoutly to burial, ringing the while the little bell as he had bidden them; and planted a large cross near to his grave, as a sign to passers-by” (Thwaites 1959, JR 59:199-201).

Father Dablon goes on to describe how in the spring of 1677 the Kiskakon Odawa returning to Michilimackinac, having

“...carried on their last winter’s hunting in the vicinity of the Lake of the Illinois. As they were returning in the spring, they were greatly pleased to pass near the grave of their good Father, whom they tenderly loved; and God also put it into their hearts to remove his bones and bring them to our Church at the mission of St. Ignace at Missilimakinac, where those savages make their abode.”

“They repaired, then, to the spot, and resolved among themselves to act in regard to the Father as they are wont to do toward those for whom they profess great respect. Accordingly, they opened the grave, and uncovered the body; and, although the flesh and internal organs were all dried up, they found it entire, so that not even the skin was in any way injured. This did not prevent them from proceeding to dissect it, as is their custom. They cleansed the bones and exposed them to the sun to dry; then, carefully laying them in a box of birch-bark, they set out to bring them to our mission of St. Ignace. There were nearly 30 canoes which formed, in excellent order, that funeral procession” (Thwaites 1959, JR 59:201-203).

At Michilimackinac, on June 8th, 1677 after a funeral was held, the remains “was lowered into a small vault in the middle of the church, where it rests as the guardian angel of our Outaouas missions” (Thwaites 1959, JR 59:205).

In 1706 the Jesuits abandoned the Mission of St. Ignace at Michilimackinac, burning the mission house. The site of present-day St. Ignace was left uninhabited until the early 1800’s when some French-Canadian fisherman started a small village there. In 1834, a new church was built and a Jesuit priest once again said mass at St. Ignace. In 1877, a man named Peter Grondin was clearing land on property owned by Patrick Murray when he found the remains of a stone foundation measuring 36 X 40 feet. Amongst the stones were bits of iron, copper, mirror fragments, a well and a cellar. Murray reported the discovery to Father Jacker, the local priest, who was familiar with the Jesuit histories of the region and Father Jacker immediately concluded the foundation had to be the old mission. In September of 1877, with the local bishop looking on, Peter Murray started

excavations within the old foundation and eventually within a cellar-like depression, uncovered fragments of birch bark and 36 bone fragments which a doctor from Cheboygan identified as being human. These were pronounced to be the remains of Father Marquette. Some of the bones were given to Marquette University in Milwaukee while the remainder were reburied at the old mission and a marble monument with a cross was placed over it (Havighurst 1966:31-32; Donnelly 1968:313-323).



Father Marquette memorial at St. Ignace, 9/2019.

Ludington as the Original Resting Place of Father Marquette

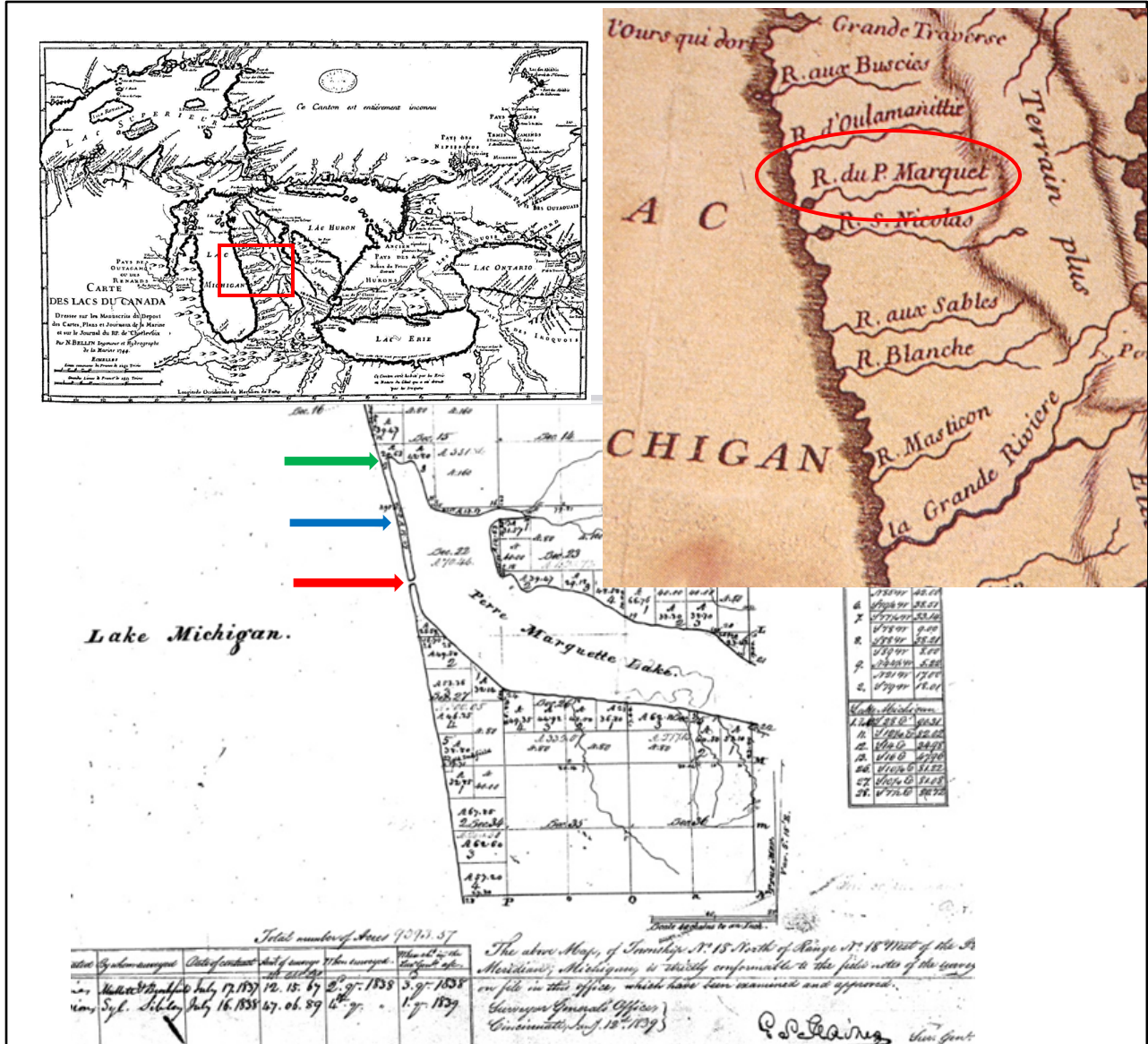
According to tradition, the river was the mouth of the Pere Marquette at the present-day city of Ludington. In 1721 Father Charlevoix made a trip around the Great Lakes and out of curiosity made it a special point to visit the site of Father Marquette's death.

“On the 3rd [August, 1721] I entered the river of Father Marquette, in order to examine what I had been told of it was true. This is at first entering it, no more than a brook, but fifteen paces higher you enter a lake which is near two leagues in circuit. In order to make way for its discharge into Lake Michigan one could imagine that a great hummock which you leave on the left [north] as you enter, had been dug through; and on the right the coast is very low for the space of a good musket-shot, afterwards all of a sudden it rises to a very great height. It had actually been represented to me as such, and on that head, the following is the constant tradition of all our travelers, and what ancient

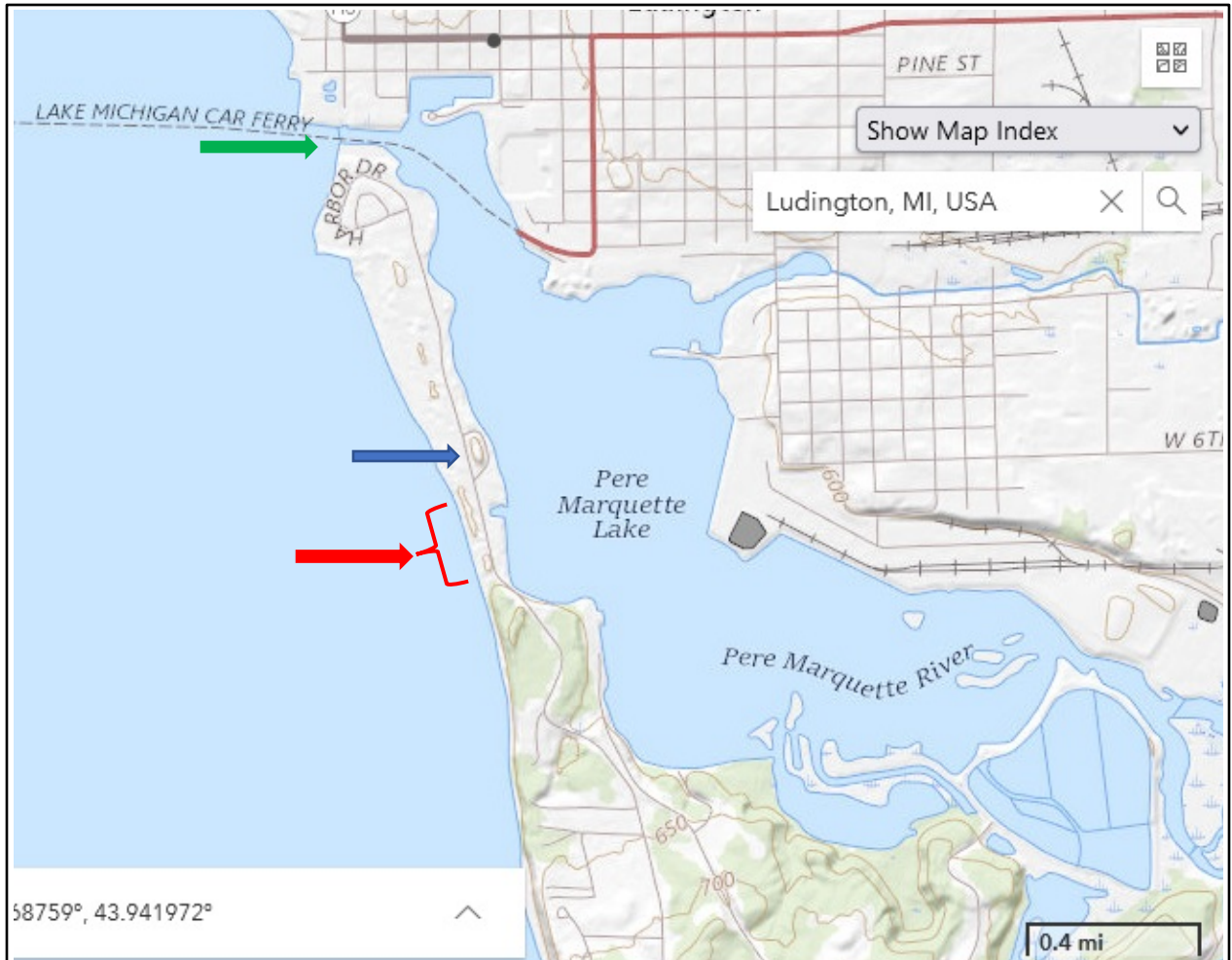
missionaries have told me”...[Charlevoix repeats the descriptions of Father Marquette’s life and discoveries] ...”as he [Father Marquette] was going from Chicagou, which is at the bottom of Lake Michigan, to Michillimackinac, he entered on the 18th day of May 1675 the river in question, the mouth of which was then at the extremity of the low ground, which as I have already notice, you leave on the right hand as you enter...They buried him near the bank of the river, which from that time has retired by degrees, as out of respect to his remains, as far as the cape, the foot of which it now washes, and where it had opened a new passage...I have not been able to learn, or else I have forgot, the name this river formerly bore: but at this day the Native Americans call it the river of the black robe, for thus the Native Americans term the Jesuits...the French call this river Father Marquette’s River, and never fail to call upon him when they are in danger on Lake Michigan” (Charlevoix 1966: 95-97; Greenman 1956:4; Donnelly 1968:305).

According to Emerson Greenman, the Anishnaabeg name for the Pere Marquette River was *Notispescago* and *Aniniondibeganining*, the later possibly meaning “place where the dead man was brought out” (Greenman 1957:64).

One thing obvious from Father Charlevoix account is that the inhabitants of the Upper Great Lakes, French and Native American were preserving the memory of the place where Father Marquette was first laid to rest. Although the description provided by Father Charlevoix could be applied to any number of places where rivers or streams which pass through the dunes to enter Lake Michigan (Stoney Lake, Silver Lake, Sauble River etc.) it best fits the description of Ludington / Pere Marquette River before the channel was altered to the north side of the lake. Greenman spent several days in Ludington in 1957 investigating the terrain and concluded it closely matched the description provided by Charlevoix (Greenman 1957:64). In 1721 when Father Charlevoix visited the area, Father Marquette would only have been dead for 46 years and Father Charlevoix indicates there was a strong tradition among the French and Native American inhabitants of the Upper Great Lakes as to where he had been first laid to rest.



Top: Map by Bellin 1744 made to accompany Father Charlevoix’s publication showing R. du P. Marquette in the location of present-day Ludington. Bottom: GLO map 1839 of the Ludington region showing the previous location of the Pere Marquette channel prior to rerouting ca. 1860 (Greenman 1956:65, fig.1). Red arrow indicates the channel in 1839; blue arrow indicates the location of the Marquette memorial; green arrow is the location of the present-day channel.



USGS Topographic map of Pere Marquette Lake. Red arrow indicates the channel in 1839, Greenman indicates several channels existed in this low area at different times, 1675, 1721; blue arrow indicates the location of the Marquette memorial, the “great hummock” of Charlevoix; green arrow is the location of the present-day channel.

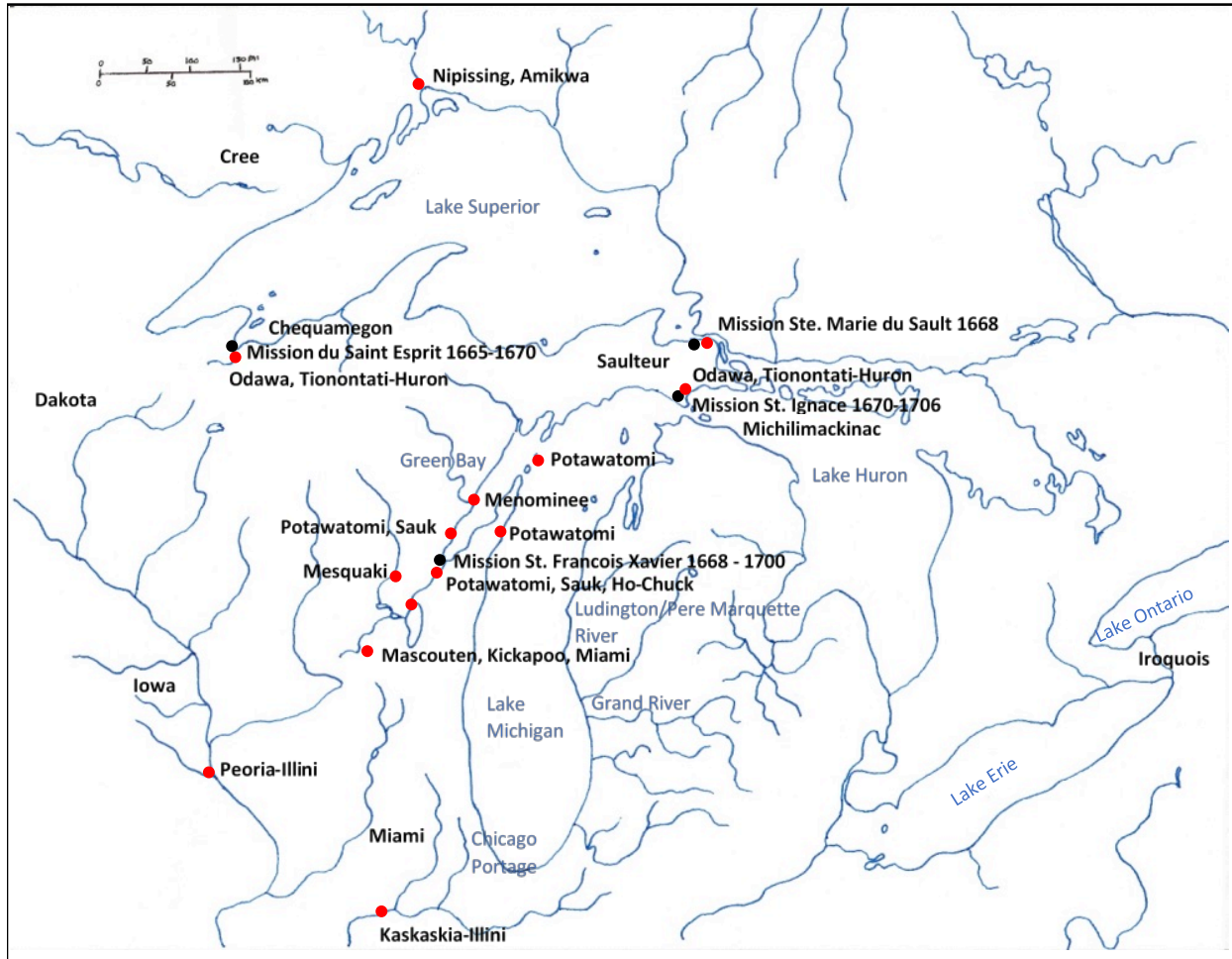


Left: Marquette memorial at Father Marquette Memorial Park, Ludington. Right: View of the present-day channel of the Pere Marquette River from the top of the dune south of the old channel and where the memorial is located (5/2019).

Although not as epic as Louis Jolliet and Father Marquette's exploration of the Mississippi, Father Marquette's journey to the Illinois in 1674 - 75 is important in the insight it provides on Illinois trading activities at the time. The Illinois was acting as middlemen, trading French merchandise to tribes further south and west. Also, the two French fur traders who visited Father Marquette at the Chicago Portage in 1674-75 are the first documented European fur traders in the Illinois Country. As noted previously, Father Marquette's final trip took him up the west coast of Michigan, the first European documented as doing so. The 1677 removal of his remains by the Odawa provides an indication not only of the respect the Odawa held for him but also is an indication of the Odawa spending their winters in the southern Lake Michigan region, including most likely the Grand River valley.

With respect to the concerns of the residents who questioned us that day, two points stand out: (1) The remains of Father Marquette were relocated to St. Ignace in 1677 and it is unlikely anything would remain of the original grave site to be discovered archaeologically. (2) Father Marquette's originally burial site was most likely where present-day Ludington now stands. In the words of Donnelly, in a biography of Father Marquette: "From this writer's own efforts concerning the location of Marquette's original

grave, it is concluded that until much more cogent evidence is available to the contrary, one has no choice but to hold that Jacques Marquette died and was originally buried only a few paces down the slope from his monument which looks over Lake Michigan at Ludington” (Donnelly 1968:312).



The Great Lakes 1665-1680 including places mentioned in the text. Black dots represent Jesuit missions, red dots indicate Native American villages specifically mentioned in the historical documentation. The absence of residents in the lower peninsula of Michigan is due to the wars with the Iroquois in this period. The lower peninsula served as a hunting ground for Native Americans from the Green Bay and the Straits region.

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JR 59 Account of Father Marquette last voyage.

JR 59 Father Dablon's account of Father Marquette's last voyage

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

From Levanna to Madison, the Triangular Point Continuum

Lynn Chapman

The Levanna Point

While performing a survey of some property in Oceana County Troy Schindlbeck found the Levanna point illustrated below. This was found on site which has produced lithic debris, some girt tempered, cordmarked body sherds characteristic of the Late Woodland and fire cracked rock (FCR). Out of everything recovered from the site, the Levanna point contributes the most to narrowing down the site chronology. The point, shown below, length is 30 mm and the width as the base is 20 mm.



Levanna points are named after the type site located in New York state (Justice 1987:228; Ritchie 1980). The points are equilateral triangles or close to it, some are approximately as wide as they are long with straight or concave bases, while others including the one from Oceana County have a base narrower than the length. The blades range from slightly incurvate to straight to slightly excurvate. Bases range from being nearly straight to concave, some illustrated by Ritchie from sites in New York state have a deeply concave base, almost V shaped (Ritchie 1980:277, plate 92).

As can be seen from the description above, there is a range of variation possible for Levanna points and Levanna represents one end of a continuum of triangular projectile points cumulating at the opposite end with the more isosceles shaped Madison points (Justice 1987:224) and it can be a judgement call for some points whether they are Levanna or Madison.

Levanna points are diagnostic of the early Late Woodland, dated generally from A.D. 700 / 900 to 1200 (Justice 1987:228).

“Certain sites, such as Cayuga Bridge in Ontario (Wilmeth 1978:120), have produced radiocarbon dates in good context as early as A.D. 600 to 800 (cf. Stothers 1972, 1975, 1977), suggesting that Levanna points appear across the Great Lakes and Northeast at about the same time without a lag in time between areas. The early dates are probably correct considering that Levanna may well be a technological derivative of the Jacks Reef Pentagonal type which temporally precedes Levanna in its area of distribution” (Justice 1987:228).

Use of Levanna points may persist later than the date suggested by Justice however. Levanna points were characteristic of the projectile point assemblage of the Kelso site in New York state which produced radiocarbon dates of A.D. 1390±100 (Ritchie and Funk 1973:274).

The distribution of Levanna points ranges from southern New England to western Michigan and Indiana and including southwestern Ontario, Kentucky and West Virginia (Justice 1987:228, Map 99).

As mentioned above, Levanna points are one end, the early end, of a continuum of triangular points ranging from equilateral in shape toward isosceles triangles which are characteristic of the post A.D. 1200 Late Prehistoric. While describing the material culture of the early Late Woodland Owasco tradition (A.D. 1000 – 1200 /1300) of upper New York state, Ritchie indicates:

“Throughout the whole of Owasco times the standard hunting weapon seems to have been the bow and arrow, tipped with a broad, triangular flint point. Earlier specimens are generally the largest and most equilateral, and have a concave or straight base ...The principal modifications of later Owasco times are a decrease in size and shift toward an isosceles shape, both trends which ultimately transpose the points from the Levanna type of the Owasco to the Madison type of the Iroquois (Ritchie 1980:276-178).

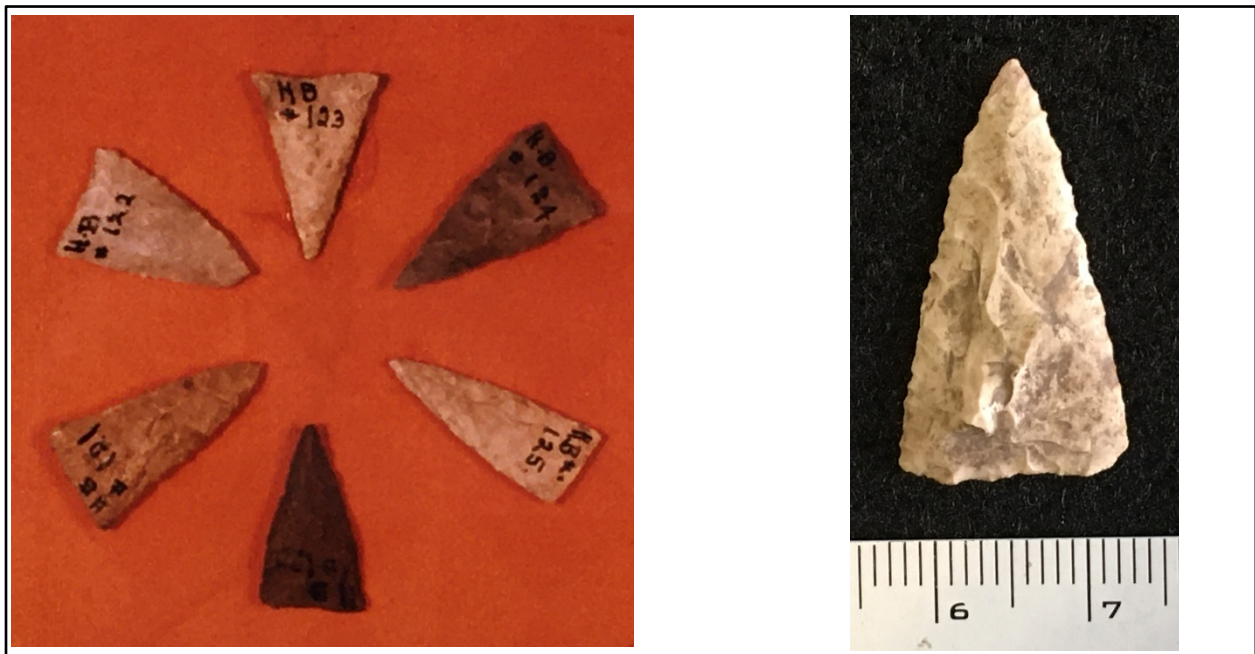
The Madison Point

Madison points are generally shaped like isosceles triangles with straight to excurvate sides and straight to slightly concave bases. Some bases may be slightly convex. The maximum width of Madison points, as with Levanna are always at the base. Some

Madison points, such as those illustrated here are finely flaked using the pressure method but others may be only roughly percussion flaked (Justice 1987:224).

Madison points begin to appear in the archaeological record as early as A.D. 800 probably as a minority point type in assemblages that are predominantly Levanna. In New York state it is said that Madison points replaced Levanna by A.D. 1350 (Justice 1987:227 from Ritchie 1961). This point type remained predominant until bow and arrows were replaced by guns during the historic period.

Madison points and regional variants thereof are widely distributed across eastern North America (Justice 1987:227).



Madison points from Kent County. Left: Madison points from the Ada site, ca. A.D. 1450 glued to an orange poster board. Right: Madison point from a site in southeast Kent County.

Trends in Late Woodland Point Types

In Michigan, and probably the Great Lakes overall, two main chronological trends have been noted with respect to Late Woodland triangular points: (1). A shift from notched points such as Jacks Reef Corner Notched and Raccoon Side Notched (Justice 1987) to triangular points, and; (2) a change in the morphology of the triangular points from a more equilateral triangular shape to one that is more isosceles. These changes over the course of the Late Woodland period, ca. A.D. 500 to 1500. Note that the use of the term “triangular point” refers to finished projectile points and not triangular shaped preforms or cache blades (for an example of the later, see Brashler and Gaff 2011).

Chronological Trends in Late Woodland Point Types

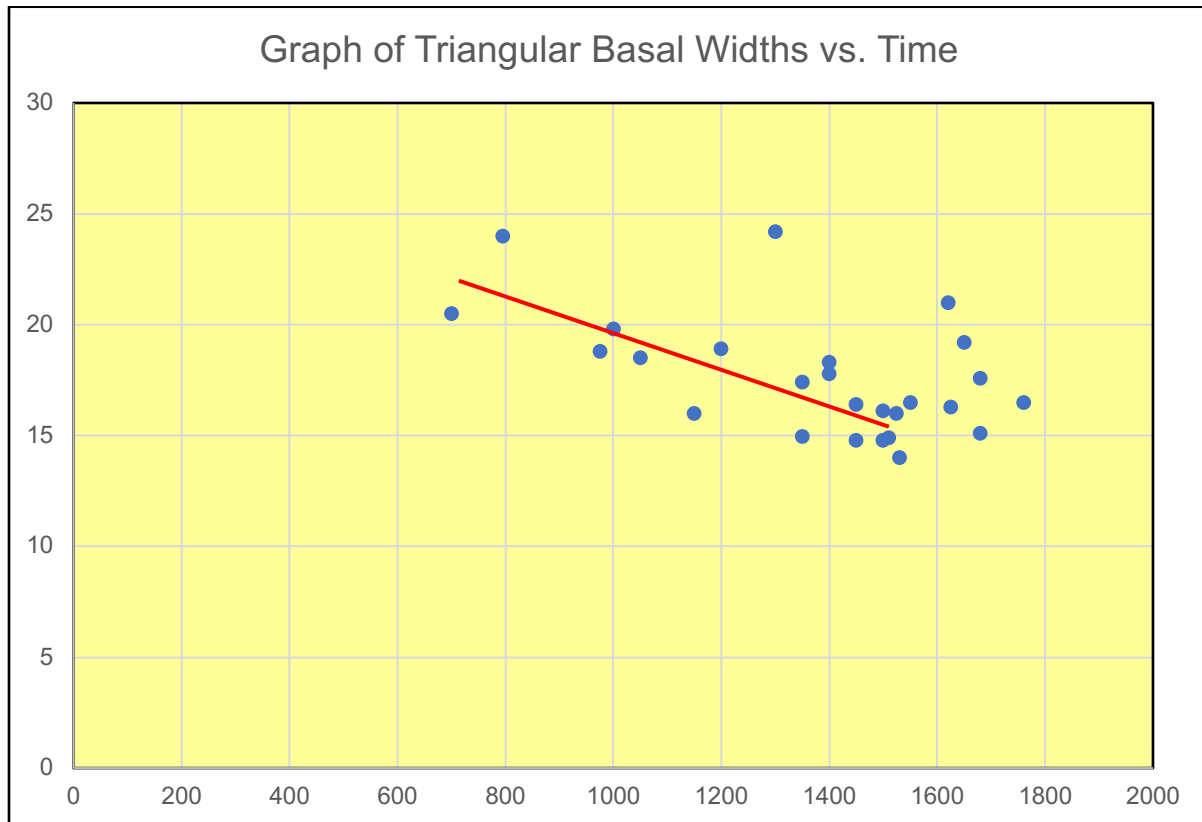
Utilizing data from 34 archaeological sites, Luedtke (1978) documented a trend in Late Woodland projectile point assemblages wherein there is a steady decrease over time in the number of notched points and an increase over time of triangular points. Luedtke did not distinguish between Levanna and Madison points although she notes that Madison points were the most numerous in the collections she examined (Luedtke 1978:6). Lacking high resolution chronology for sites used in her study, Luedtke classified the sites into different periods 1 – 4 with period 1 being the earliest and period 4 the latest). Luedtke's study did not utilize data from sites thought to date after A.D. 1400.

Sites of period 1 exhibit assemblages dominated by corner and side notched points (55.8%) while stemmed points made up 18.9% and triangular made up 24.3% fo the projectile point assemblages. By period 4 there is a dramatic reduction in the percentage of notched forms to 8%, and a corresponding increase in stemmed (26.5%) and triangular (65.5%) projectile points (Luedtke 1978:7, Table 1

Chronological Trends in Triangular Point Morphology

As noted in the quotation above from Ritchie, at an early date archaeologists recognized that Levanna points underwent a morphological change over time, becoming smaller in overall size and more isosceles in shape. In addition to New York state this was also recognized in the central Ohio valley where triangular points also underwent a morphological evolution cumulating in the Late Prehistoric with a projectile point that if found in Michigan would be called Madison (Railey 1992).

In the Great Lakes region, the main area of change over time in triangular points occurs in the width of the point bases. Krakker (1983) noted a decline in basal width of triangular point over time as occurring in southeast Michigan and adjacent portions of southwest Ontario. Krakker and Shott (1984) and Shott (1990) compiled data concerning sites in the southeast Michigan demonstrating a steady decline in the basal width of points from ca. A.D. 750 through A.D. 1500 with a reversal of the trend occurring after A.D. 1500. In other words, basal widths start to increase again after A.D. 1500. In 1990, Shott plotted the basal widths of triangular points from the Bridgeport Township site in the Saginaw Valley against this data and found a reasonable correspondence between the age of the site suggested by the base widths and the estimated age of the site determined from the ceramic assemblage (Shott 1990:79-80). As an undergraduate at Grand Valley State University, I duplicated the approach used by Shott (1990) using Late Woodland / Late Prehistoric sites from the Lake Michigan basin and obtained essentially the same results.



Graph illustrating the decline of triangular point basal widths over time up to ca. A.D. 1400 after which there is an apparent increase again. Graph combines data from sites in the Lake Erie basin from Shott (1990:81, Fig. 7.5) with data I compiled from sites in the Lake Michigan basin. The vertical axis represents the basal width in mm, the horizontal axis represents time (years A.D.). Trendline was inserted manually. Note also, the trend reversal around A.D. 1500.

A Cautionary Note

It is tempting to apply the basal width of the Oceana Co. Levanna point to the graph to more closely date the site but because of the variation in shape and size exhibited by triangular points in any given assemblage only an average basal width representing the entire assemblage of a single component should be used. Hence, using this method to date the site in Oceana County with a single Levanna point could not be expected to produce an accurate result.

Another important factor to be considered is the number of times in the Late Woodland a given site is occupied (and so many prehistoric sites exhibit multiple occupations). The average basal width of a component dated in the early Late Woodland is expected to be much larger than the average basal width of points from a Late Prehistoric occupation of the same site. If the two components from a single site are conflated, the date produced by averaging the basal widths would be expected somewhere in-between the actual dates of occupation.

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