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**WRIGHT L. COFFINBERRY CHAPTER**  
**MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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## **COFFINBERRY NEWS BULLETIN**

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

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**October 14<sup>th</sup>: Late Prehistoric to Middle Historic in the Grand River Valley and West Michigan**, presented by Lynn Chapman. This presentation picks up where we left off in February 2020 when Wesley Jackson presented the early Late Woodland.

This presentation is going to focus on the Late Prehistoric period A.D. 1200 – 1608 in west Michigan, discussing such sites as Ada, Lyons Prairie, and Dumaw Creek among others. This presentation will cover aspects of material culture, subsistence and settlement, mortuary customs and trade and exchange. In addition, I will also give a brief overview of the Early Historic A.D. 1608 – 1665 and Middle Historic periods A.D. 1665 – 1760 periods as relates to west Michigan. This last is done in order to bring us up to the next presentation which is expected to focus on the Late Historic post 1760 fur trade and Odawa settlement in the Grand River basin.

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.

### ***GVSU Covid Policy***

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, 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

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.

- **October 14<sup>th</sup>**, Lynn Chapman will be presenting the Late Prehistoric thru the Middle Historic as pertains to West Michigan and the Grand River Valley.
- **November 11<sup>th</sup>**, Dr. Jessica Yann of MSU will be presenting on the historic Odawa occupants of the Grand River valley and the fur trade.
- **December 9<sup>th</sup>**, presentation on the American settlement of the Grand River valley.
- **January 13<sup>th</sup>** (2022), Dan Wymer will give a presentation on the Gray site, a Gainey complex early Paleo site.
- **February 10<sup>th</sup>** (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 10<sup>th</sup>** (2022), Speaker TBD Research on the Ottawa County Poor Farm and GVSU recent field school there.
- **April 14<sup>th</sup>** (2022), TBD
- **May 12<sup>th</sup>** (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 December 2021 meetings.

The Coffinberry News Bulletin has been distributed via hard copy handed out at the chapter meetings and through posting on the Coffinberry web site linked to the MAS website however, our website has been down for some time now. The website for the Coffinberry chapter was created a few years ago by the Michigan Archaeological Society. In the home page of the MAS website, click on "About us" and scroll down to the list of chapters and links to their websites. Some of the chapters, notably the Huron Valley and Detroit chapters have additional, interesting content besides the bare minimum of meeting time and location. Efforts to resolve the issue of the website being down has not been successful to-date and I (Lynn Chapman) am discussing with chapter members what our options might be. At the same time, I'd like to gather any ideas or thoughts regarding content if we did have a new website.

## SOCIETY NEWS

The fall meeting of the MAS was not be held on 9/26 as was tentatively indicated in the previous edition of the *Coffinberry News Bulletin*. If and when there is going to be a fall meeting is to be determined. Nor to this authors knowledge has a new issue of the *Michigan Archeologist* been released as was previously indicated it would be.

## UP-COMING EVENTS

- Archaeology Day at the Michigan Historical Museum is scheduled for October 23'd, 2021.
- 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.
- If MAS is going to have a fall meeting the time and location will be announced later.

## ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND MICHIGAN

West Michigan Archaeological Consultants (WMAC) has completed the survey of yet another segment of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Grand River Greenway 36.5 mile Idema Explorers Trail which when completed will connect Grand Rapids with Grand Haven via a paved bike path.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### Great Lakes Fluted Point Typology

Lynn Chapman

#### Introduction

The earliest Paleo Native American groups in North America produced an assemblage of tools which included a distinctive projectile point characterized by having a channel, groove or flute where a large flake had been removed starting from the base and extending longitudinally up the length of the point. Fluting was done on either one or both faces. It is unknown precisely why was done but it may have aided in the hafting of the point to the shaft (Ellis and Deller 1990:39). Obviously, however, fluting was not required for successful hafting so some researchers have speculated that fluting was part of a process of invoking a form of hunting magic.

"I also consider the extreme care and artistry that is expressed in many Paleoindian projectile points to be symbolic of the power invested in them. Many contemporary American Indian cultures believe that stone projectile points have their own spirits and may be used to invoke supernatural powers. Projectile points are frequently

included in medicine bundles and used in various types of religious rituals. I consider it likely that this was the case since at least Folsom times" (Bradley 1991:378-379).

Fluted points, characteristic of the Early and Middle Paleo periods is described as being "time-sequential" in the Great Lakes, meaning that one point style or type succeeds the other in time. This is another way of saying that each point type represents a horizon in the archaeological record. Paleo cultural traditions are often described as being "complexes" rather than cultural traditions or phases an acknowledgement that the diagnostic element of the complex is often only the projectile point and remainder of the material culture of the people is unknown or poorly understood.

In the southern Lower Peninsula of Michigan, the sequence of Paleo fluted points are as follows:

- Clovis;
- Enterline points, diagnostic of the Clovis related Enterline complex;
- Gainey points, diagnostic of the Gainey complex;
- Barnes points; diagnostic of the Parkhill complex;
- Holcombe points; diagnostic of the Holcombe complex, weakly fluted to unfluted, viewed as transitional to Late Paleo unfluted points.

These point types are considered to represent a linear chronological sequence series in the order presented above.

"These types are generally thought to represent a temporal series rather than contemporaneous variation (see Deller 1988, 1989; Deller and Ellis 1988). There is considerable overlap in the spatial distribution of the types, yet, in the vast majority of cases, individual sites yield only points of one type. In short, there is no regionalization of the types to the extent which might be expected if there were solely contemporaneous "social" variation" (Deller and Ellis 1993:35).

They tend to go from larger to smaller points with the fluting technique improving in quality over time. These points are considered diagnostic of what have been termed "complexes", "industries" or "phases" (Ellis and Deller 1990:40, 46, Shott and Wright 1999).

Overall, Paleo sites are much better dated in the west, both by means of actual radiocarbon dates and through the excavation of stratified sites such as Blackwater Draw, Hell Gap, and Agate Basin. Often, the dating of Paleo in the east is inferred based on dates of similar point styles known from the west.

### ***Paleo Sub-Periods***

In the west and southeast Paleo is sometimes divided into an early, middle and late subperiods. To-date, the Great Lakes typically just the early (fluted lanceolate points) and late (non-fluted lanceolate) are used but point typology and chronology is becoming better developed and the tripartite division could be used here as well.

- **Early Paleo:** Clovis and “Clovis-like” including Enterline and Gainey / Bull Brook. In the southeast this is dated 11,200 – 10,800 RCBP. (Anderson et al. 1996a; White 2014:53). In a more general sense, archaeologists use 11,050 RCBP as the beginning of the Paleo period in the Midwest (White 2014:53). The Early paleo period witnesses the widespread occurrence of fluted point forms. “These points are generally large, parallel sided forms with concave bases and flutes (Longitudinal flakes removed from the basal edge) on both faces” (White 2014:53).
- **Middle Paleo:** This period witnesses the widespread Clovis and Clovis-like points being replaced by more localized regional styles. These are often smaller fluted point forms with broad blades and constricted (waisted) hafting elements, sometimes with faint ears. In the southeast this encompasses the Cumberland, Suwannee/Simpson, Quad and Beaver Lake point types. In the upper Great Lakes this would include Barnes / Parkhill and Folsom to the west. In the southeast dated 10,800 to 10,500 RCBP. (Anderson et al. 1996a). In the Midwest a different range is suggested by Andrew White (2014:54), from 10,800 – 10,300 RCBP.
- **Late Paleo:** Un-fluted or barely fluted lanceolate point forms. In the southeast this is mainly Dalton and related varieties whereas in the Great Lakes would include Holcombe, Hi-Lo, Agate Basin, Hell Gap and Cody complex forms. In the southeast this is dated 10,500 to 10,000 RCBP. Cody complex may date to 8,400 RCBP (Frison 1991:66). Note that Early Archaic notched point types begin showing up ca. 10,200 RCBP in the south (as evidenced at Dust Cave, Alabama) so there is overlap between Late Paleo and Early Archaic (Anderson et al. 1996a).

Sub Period	Mid-Atlantic / North East	Great Lakes	South East incl. Ohio Valley	The West
Late Paleo		Early Archaic / Scottsbluff		Scottsbluff/Eden
				Alberta
	Reagan	Hi-Lo / Agate Basin	Dalton	Hell Gap
		Holcombe / Crowfield		Agate Basin
Middle Paleo			Suwannee / Simpkins	
			Quad, Beaver Lake	
	Michaud - Neponset	Barnes	Cumberland	Folsom
Early Paleo				
	Vail / Debert			
	Gainey	Gainey	Clovis-like	
	Enterline	Enterline		
	Clovis?	Clovis	Clovis	Clovis

**Approximate chronological relationship between Paleo points from different regions of North America.**

## ***Issues with Paleo Radiocarbon Dating***

Dating of Paleo and Early Archaic sites is complicated by fluctuations in the amount of carbon 14 isotope in the atmosphere during this period. This has caused a disparity between the dates indicated by carbon 14 dating and the real or calendar dates. The difference between the two varies over time but is on the order of 1500 to 2000 years, with the calendar dates being earlier or older<sup>1</sup> (Fiedel 1999). A “date compression or radiocarbon plateau occurs between 10,600 and 10,200 RCBP an event that may be associated with a severe change in climate known as the Younger Dryas. Because of this plateau, radiocarbon dates may appear to be contemporary when in fact they are not. Within this period, 400 radiocarbon years can correspond to 1400 / 1500 calendar years (Curran 2000:9, 1996). As if this is not bad enough, there also appears to be a “jump” in radiocarbon dates from 11,400 to 10,900 RCBP and another jump or reversal from 10,900 to 10,600 RCBP (Curran 2000:9; Fiedel 1999).

The net result of these fluctuations in the radiocarbon curve is that radiocarbon dating is highly unreliable for the Paleo and Early Archaic time period. Also, in the archaeological literature there is much ambiguity as to what a given date represents – whether it is calibrated or not and if it represents a radiocarbon date or a calendar date. Unfortunately some authors give dates in calendar years and others in radiocarbon years and there is no simple, accurate way to convert between the two.

In the discussion below all dates are given as “B.P.” (before present) and I will indicate a date derived by carbon 14 dating as RCBP and a calendar date as “cal BP”. Whenever it is possible, I will try to present both forms of dating so the difference will be apparent (Fiedel 1999; White 2014).

## **Clovis**

The Clovis complex represents the earliest, widespread, Paleo horizon in North America<sup>2</sup>. The type site for Clovis points is Blackwater Draw at Clovis New Mexico. Clovis, once thought to have originated in Asia, is now thought to have evolved among indigenous Native American populations living in the northwest. Material source tracing of Clovis points and preforms found in caches, thought to date early during the Clovis period would indicate that Clovis originated in the Pacific northwest, probably in the Puget Sound lowlands south of the Cordilleran ice sheet (Shroedl 2021) among populations who were already established in the New World. Clovis peoples moved south into the Great Basin and thence into the southwest – Arizona and New Mexico. Also, through passes in the mountains into the upper Missouri valley (Shroedl 2021:138, fig.2). Other computer models would indicate the easiest migration route for Clovis peoples would be to follow the Missouri valley to the Mississippi.

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<sup>1</sup> Also, the relationship between radiocarbon years and calendar years is non-linear. The 3050 radiocarbon years of Paleo and Early Archaic (11,050 – 8,000 RCBP) is equivalent to 3945 years of calendar (aka sidereal) time, spanning 12,930 to 8,985 (White 2014:53).

<sup>2</sup> It is certain, evidenced from sites such as Monte Verde, Meadowcroft, etc. that Native Americans were present in the New World before the Clovis period, sometimes referred to as being pre-Clovis for want of better terminology. Pre-Clovis sites are widely scattered and often ephemeral in nature, dating generally between 14,000 and 12,000 RCBP although older sites, back to 20,000 RCBP are known. It seems that during the Clovis radiation / migration these populations were absorbed into Clovis.

The fact that Clovis points and tool assemblages are so similar across much of North America argues for a rapid population expansion and migration, the pace of mobility exceeding the rate of cultural change (Buchanan and Hamilton 2009). Eventually, over time, fluted points within the different geographical begin to stylistically diverge (drift) from each other resulting in different types including those described below.

### ***Clovis: Description***

Clovis points have been described as being “relatively large lanceolates with nearly parallel sides, ground haft margins, slightly concave bases, and single or multiple flutes that rarely extend more than a third of the way up the body” (Anderson et al. 1996a:9). The maximum width of Clovis points is usually at the midpoint or slightly below the midpoint producing a long, sharp tip (Roosa 1965:93).

Clovis people performed some flaking and beveling of the base to create a what is known as a striking platform, fluting platform, or nipple – a protruding area in the center of the basal width. To obtain a successful flute, the striking platform must be carefully shaped and the size may depend on the quality of the stone being used. On Clovis points the blow to detach the channel flake and therefore to create the flute is struck on the striking platform using an antler billet at almost a straight-on angle. Hitting the projectile point directly with a flaking tool is known as percussion flaking. Using a material softer than the stone is known as soft percussion flaking. In the case of the fluting of Clovis points a tool known as a billet made from a section of antler was probably used. The angle that flaking tool makes contact with the striking platform must be carefully controlled so as to not crush the platform or cause the channel flake to feather out too quickly. Likewise, the force used is also carefully controlled. The projectile point must also be securely supported along its length to prevent it from fracturing. Once one side of the point is fluted, the striking platform is created again in order to detach the channel flake from the second side (Waldorf 1984:56).

“Finished Clovis points have very shallow basal concavities (on the order of 1 mm to 4 mm) and never have remnants of a basal nipple. Clovis points usually have short multiple (double or triple) fluting on triple fluted Clovis points the central flute was removed first, followed by two smaller side flutes or finishing flakes which serve to widen the base of the flute. These flakes overlap each other or obscure the basal portion of the central flute. True Clovis points show little, if any, pressure chipping” (Roosa 1965:93).

Clovis point sometimes exhibits multiple fluting or unifacial fluting. Both might be the result of correcting for problems that occurred with the initial striking platform (Waldorf 1984:56).

### ***Clovis: Distribution***

Clovis points are literally known from coast to coast, from the northwest to the east as far as Virginia. That being said, they are rare to nonexistent in the deep south with the exception perhaps northern Florida. They are also rare in the northern Midwest and southwest Ontario. In the east Clovis points are most heavily concentrated in the



Ohio valley although this observation is affected by sample bias and reporting bias. Agricultural activities in the Ohio valley increases surface visibility making the finding of all types of projectile points easier and state archaeological files often conflate different styles of fluted points as simply “fluted points” or “Paleo points”. Computer modeling of Paleo/Clovis migration would indicate that the Missouri River valley being a corridor out of the west into the east and this leads naturally into the Ohio valley (Steele et al. 1998).



**Figure 1. Clovis points, Museum at Blackwater Draw, Clovis New Mexico 11/2014. Photos give some indication of the range of variation found in Clovis points. Point in the upper right corner is heavily reworked.**

### ***Clovis: Dating***

Western Clovis sites are dated between approximately 11,500 and 10,900 B.P. (Stanford 2005:289). Clovis, in calendrical years can be dated 13,300 – 13,000 B.P. [cal] (Fiedel 1999:106). Water and Stafford in 2007, after an evaluation of radiocarbon dates placed Clovis between 13,000 and 12,600 cal. years 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. years B.P. (Wisarch 2020:17).

Dates on Clovis in the east are sparse but thought to range from 11,000 to 10,500 RCB.P. (Ellis and Deller 1990:39). “Since the dates are earlier in the west it is reasonable to infer a west to east progression through time in fluted point use due either to diffusion or colonization” (Ellis and Deller 1990:39). This is based largely on common sense, if Clovis originated in the northwest, then some amount of time must have passed before the people using Clovis points reach the east. The overall similarity of Clovis points found in the east to those found in the west argues for a rapid migration of people and as of now, the resolution of radiocarbon dating has been too coarse in nature to prove the eastern points being later than the west “Since the dates are earlier

in the west it is reasonable to infer a west to east progression through time in fluted point use due either to diffusion or colonization” (Ellis and Deller 1990:39).

Some date proposed for Clovis in the east include 13,000 – 12,800 cal B.P., 13,000 – 12,615 cal. B.P., and 13,400 – 12,615 cal B.P. (Lothup et al. 2016:205). At the Cactus Hill site<sup>3</sup> in Virginia dates on the Clovis component are 10,920±250 RCBP, 10,910±40 RCBP and 10,840±40 RCBP (Lothrop et al. 2016:215).

## **Folsom**

In the west Clovis is succeeded by the Folsom complex. True Folsom points have not been recognized in Michigan although they are known from southwestern Wisconsin and western Illinois. Folsom is an important horizon marker in North American due to a change in the style of fluting. Points exhibiting the Folsom style of fluting are thought to be contemporaneous or nearly contemporaneous with Folsom in the west.

### ***Folsom: Description***

Justice (1987) provides a description of Folsom points: “Typical Folsom points exhibit maximum width above the middle of the blade and a “snub-nosed” appearance of the tip which is actually delicate and shape as a result of carefully controlled pressure retouch (Crabtree 1966:3)” (Justice 1987:27).

“The Folsom technique involved beveling the base plus careful chipping and grinding of the striking platform prior to fluting the first face. After fluting one face the base was extensively re-beveled thus removing the remains of old striking platform. Finally, a new striking platform was carefully chipped and ground for fluting the second face. In short, the Folsom technique used two carefully prepared striking platforms, one for fluting each face” (Roosa 1965:91). Fluting on points made with the Folsom technique is usually greater than the basal width of the point. The basal concavity on Folsom points is usually deeper than those produced on Enterline type points (Roosa 1965:92).

A main difference between the fluting on Clovis, which utilized direct percussion and that on Folsom which used in-direct percussion. On Folsom points a tool made of antler, known as a “punch” is thought to have been placed up against the striking platform and then stuck with another tool, either a hammer stone or a billet (Waldorf 1984; Frison 1991:51-55).

“Two artifacts believed to have been punches designed for removal of Folsom flutes were recovered in the Agate Basin site Folsom level (Frison and Bradley 1981). The two items, one made from the brow tine of an elk antler and the other a bison metatarsal were recovered in a scatter of channel flakes, broken projectile point preforms, and debitage” (Frison 1991:51-55).

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<sup>3</sup> Cactus Hill is more famous for the pre-Clovis component dating ca. 15,000 RCBP (Lothrop et al. 2016:215).

### ***Folsom: Distribution***

As previously noted, Folsom are found mainly in the west. Similar to Clovis, Folsom points as surface finds are widespread on the Great Plains. In the Midwest they are found in small quantity, in southwestern Wisconsin, Illinois and northwestern Indiana (White 2014:54). They have not been identified as occurring in Michigan - yet.

### ***Folsom: Dating***

Folsom may have overlapped Clovis in radiocarbon chronology but mammoth bones, found on Clovis sites, are lacking on Folsom sites (Frison 1991:47). Also, Folsom is found above Clovis on stratified sites. Radiocarbon dates are existent from many Folsom sites on the Great Plains and Southwest and run from 10,900 (based on an early date at Hell Gap) to 10,200 B.P (based on a date from Hansen, Wyoming) representing a duration of 700 years. (Stanford 2005:296; Frison 1991:50).



**Figure 2. Left and center, examples of Clovis points; right: Folsom point, Museum at Blackwater Draw, Clovis, New Mexico 11/2014.**

### **Enterline**

Enterline was originally identified by John Witthoft in 1952 based upon analysis of fluted projectile points from the Shoop site located in west central Pennsylvania. The Shoop site itself is scattered over 20 acres on an elevated plateau formed between tributaries of a creek which is part of the Susquehanna River system (Witthoft 1971:19).

Enterline remains in Michigan are very rare. Roosa identifies the points from the Lux site as being Enterline points which he had verified with Witthoft (Roosa 1965:97). The Lux site (20SA196), located near Chesaning and St. Charles in the Saginaw valley, Michigan, is the only reported site that has been investigated in any detail and only five

definite tools are known from the site (Shott and Wright 1999:63, Wright 1996:61). The Lux site is one of the few sites where Enterline points have been found with other types of tools (Wright 1996:61).

As a point type, it is not recognized by Ontario archaeologists such as Deller and Ellis and therefore Enterline points are lumped into Gainey (Wright 1996:61). Deller and Ellis (1992:34) describe Enterline as being Clovis-like and also note that the Enterline points are “poorly understood and controversial.”

### ***Enterline: Description***

Enterline points are similar to Clovis in overall shape but tend to be smaller and more triangular in shape (Shott and Wright 1999:62). There are subtle differences in the nature of the fluting process which have led some researchers to consider Enterline as distinct from Clovis (Roosa 1965, 1963:46). “Lux-Enterline fluting is short and bears a resemblance to that of Clovis points which often have double or triple fluting. On Clovis points, the central flute was usually removed first, and the fluting was done from an extensively beveled and re-beveled base” (Roosa 1963:46).

There is little beveling and rebeveling to provide a striking platform for the removal of the fluting flakes. “The cross section of the base of an unfluted Enterline point was roughly symmetrical (Witthoft, in Byers 1954), not beveled as with the Folsom technique. The striking platform was ground smooth prior to fluting. After the first face was fluted, the Enterline point was turned over and the second face fluted with little or no rebeveling of the base. Fluting of the two faces of an Enterline point was done from essentially the same striking platform” (Roosa 1965:90-91). The Enterline technique used a straighter base as a striking platform in comparison to Folsom. Two preliminary flakes or guide flakes were struck off before the removal of the central fluting flake. On Enterline points these guide flakes were often as long or longer than the central flute and so when the central flute is removed the remains of the guide flakes are not obliterated (Roosa 1965:91). The extent of the fluting on Enterline points is roughly equal to the width of the point (Roosa 1965). Fluting length on Lux-Enterline points is usually less than 1.5 times the basal width of the point. The individual flute scars are often narrower than those made by the Folsom technique. Lux-Enterline (a provisional type) often have slight fishtails and may be extensively re-sharpened” (Roosa 1963:46-47).

### ***Enterline: Distribution***

Apart from Shoop and the Lux sites, other Enterline sites include the Wells Creek site in Tennessee and the Adams site in Kentucky (Wright 1996:64). However, I have also seen Adams described as “Clovis”. As noted above, in Ontario, if Enterline exists there it is probably being lumped into Gainey.

### ***Enterline: Dating***

The Enterline complex is thought to perhaps date as early as 11,000 B.P. based upon dates for western Clovis sites (Shott and Wright 1999:63).

“The simple basal preparation and fluting technique of the Lux points may indicate that they are earlier than the forms fluted from prepared nipples such as those from the nearby Gainey, Leavitt, and Barnes sites. If so, and if the Gainey assemblage dates to about 11,000 B.P. (Simons, Shott and Wright 1987), a date supported by accelerator C<sup>14</sup> dates on the Whipple site in New England with typologically similar Bull Brook points (Curran 1984; Haynes, Donahue, Jull and Zabel 1984), then Lux would date before 11,000 rcy B.P. This however, will remain arguable until Enterline assemblages are directly dated. It is possible that the Enterline assemblages are directly dated. It is possible that the Enterline fluting is simply a method used in making fluted points from Onondaga chert, contemporary with, or even later than, Gainey and Bull Brook points (Wright 1996:73).

## **Gainey**

Just as Clovis is described as being the earliest wide spread Paleo complex in North America, Gainey can be said to be the earliest wide-spread Paleo fluted point in the upper Great Lakes. The type site for Gainey points is the Gainey site located in southeast Michigan, discovered and excavated by MAS member Don Simon (Simon and Shott 1984).

Mason (1958:44) and Roosa (1965) observed that points from Bull Brook site in Massachusetts most closely resembled those from Michigan. He also noticed that points tended to become smaller as one moved east and north from the confluence region of the Mississippi valley.

### ***Gainey: Description***

Gainey points described as “parallel sided” in that the angle between the side or blade and the base is 91° (Simon and Shott 1984:269). Since the overall morphology of Gainey points resemble Clovis points, which has led some researchers to either deny that Gainey represents a distinct type of point, separate from Clovis, or they describe Gainey as being “Clovis-like”. Gainey points closely resemble Clovis points except that they tend to be smaller in length; they utilize the Folsom fluting technique and have longer fluting scars. Ideally, Gainey points are fluted either a single or multiple fluting on one of more faces and the fluting extends beyond the midpoint of the point. However, there are Gainey points that are not fully fluted and maybe “virtually indistinguishable from Clovis points” (Stoltman 1991:248). Stoltman attempted to separate Gainey from Clovis based on the length of the fluting where if the fluting exceeds 3/5 of the total point length it would indicate a Gainey point rather than Clovis. (Stoltman 1991:253).

In 1990 Ellis and Deller described Gainey points from a southern Ontario perspective:

“They are consistently the largest [in southern Ontario] of the fluted point forms recovered, especially in terms of thickness and basal width. They tend to have deep basal concavities (.5 mm), are roughly parallel-sided, generally exhibit single, relatively poor, fluting and lack or only have slightly developed flaring of the ears or fishtails” (Ellis and Deller 1990:45).

An important characteristic of eastern fluted point morphological evolution is the deepening of the basal concavity. This can be seen by comparing the basal concavity

of the Clovis points in figure 1 and 2 with that of the Gainey points in figure 3. Curran (2000) performed a study of basal concavity and basal widths among fluted points found in the northeast and also incorporated some point types also found in the Midwest such as Gainey. In New England she found that Bull Brook points, presumed to be the oldest point type in New England exhibited the least basal concavity and the points from the Debert site, dated 10,700 to 10,600 to exhibit the greatest basal concavity. Gainey points from southwest Ontario included in her study cluster with the Bull Brook points. Enterline points from Shoop were shown by this method of comparative basal morphology to date earlier than Bull Brook / Gainey (Curran 2000:10-14, fig. 1.1). When the fluted points from the Noble Pond site in Ohio, classified as a Gainey site, are compared to those from Bull Brook / Gainey and Shoop they fall in-between the two (Curran 2000:14). In this study Curran notes an approximate correlation between the latitude of sites with fluted points and the degree of basal concavity with the sites exhibiting the least concavity being found toward the south and those with greater concavity occurring in the north.

<b>Clovis</b>	<b>Gainey</b>
Thicker, average cross section >70 mm	Relatively thin cross sections
Excurvate edges	Slightly excurvate or parallel edges
Less deep basal indentation	Pronounced basal indentation
No "guide" flutes, prepared fluting platforms isolated in center plane of biface	"Guide" flutes to create an area for final fluting; platform low to center plane.
Fluting done in middle stages of manufacture; direct percussion and larger bulb when bifaces are larger	Late-stage fluting, indirect percussion
Flakes taken from one edge terminate at other edge	Flake scars usually meet at the center
Wider faces	Less wide faces
Ground along lower lateral and basal edges	Ground along lower lateral and basal edges; distal also may be blunt or ground
Thicker interflute measurement (~7 mm)	Thinner interflute measurement (~5 mm)

**Chart comparing attributes of Clovis versus Gainey projectile points (G. Haynes 2002:83, Table 2.2b).**

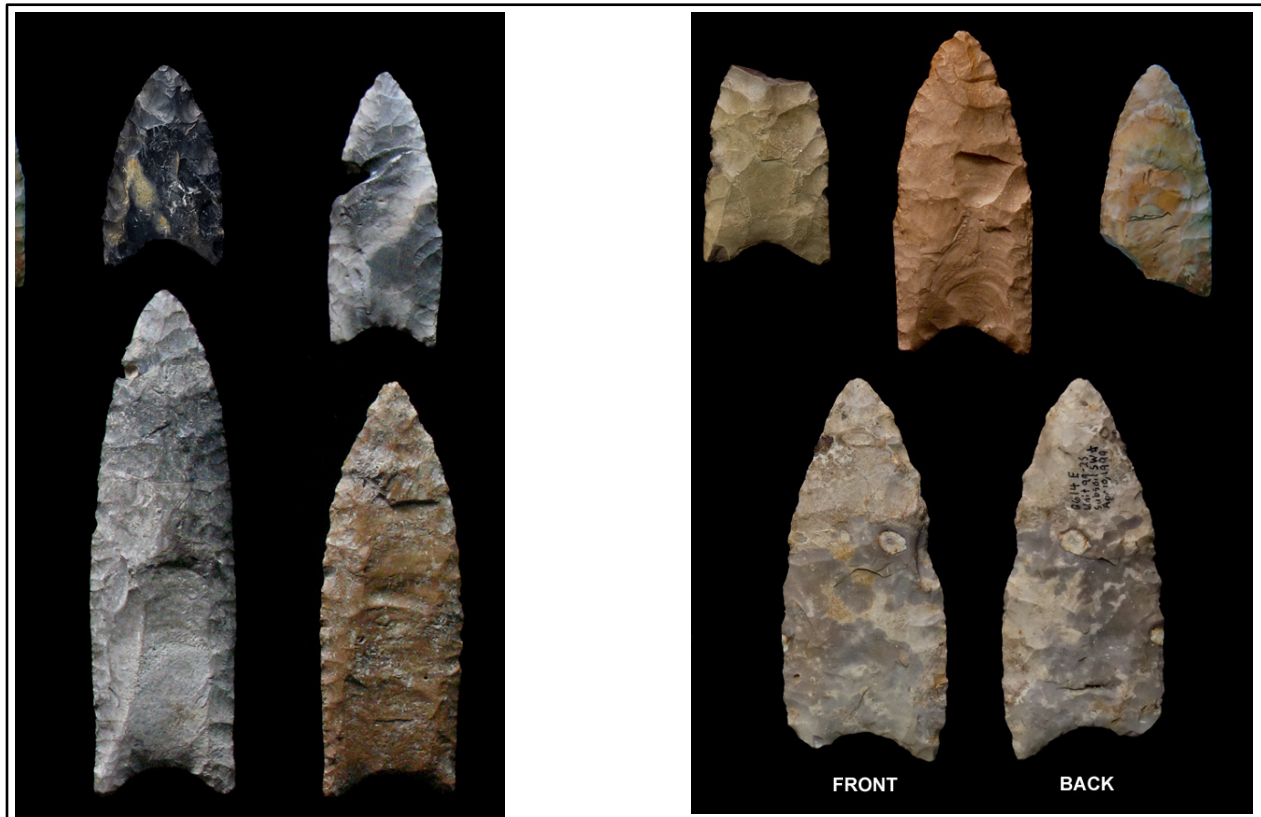
### ***Gainey: Distribution***

Gainey points are found in southwest Ontario, southern Lower peninsula of Michigan, southern Wisconsin as far west as Iowa, Missouri. In Ohio they seem to become confused with Clovis and I have seen examples of sites being reported as being both Clovis and Gainey. In New England, Bull Brook projectile points, identified at the Bull Brook site are very similar or the same as Gainey points.

### ***Gainey: Dating***

The precise dating of the Gainey complex remains elusive. In the southeast, Anderson et al. (1996a:11) suggest the transition from Clovis to Middle Paleo forms occurs around 10,800 RCBP. Stoltman in 1991 described the Gainey complex as being “a presumably post-Clovis complex characterized by fluted points with Clovis forms (i.e., plano-convex-to convex-sided) that were fluted, however, by the Folsom technique” (Stoltman 1991:260). “On purely typological grounds Gainey points could be viewed as intermediate between Clovis and Folsom, raising the interesting possibility that the Gainey complex represents the missing transitional stage between the two better known fluted point complexes” (Stoltman 1991:260). The Gainey site was dated by thermoluminescence, produced an age of  $12,360 \pm 1,224$  and  $11,420 \pm 400$  B.P. but this would be a calendar date and therefore not comparable to other sites dated using radiocarbon methods (G. Haynes 2002:50).

Dates from the Gainey occupation of Sheridan Cave in northern Ohio range from 10,900 to 10,550 RCB.P. (Shott and Wright 1999:63). Others have given the dating of Gainey as being from ca. 11,000/10900 RCB.P. to 10,500 RCB.P. (9,000 – 8,700 B.C.) (Stoltman 1991:248, from Deller and Ellis 1988:255); or, 11,000 to 10,700 RCB.P. (Overstreet 1991:270; Curran 1996:4).



**Figure 3. Gainey points, Michigan Archaeological Society. Note the overall similarity to the Clovis points illustrated above.**

The closely related Bull Brook phase or complex of New England was originally dated at the Whipple site to 10,680±400 RCBP. from what was originally thought to be a hearth feature but this date has since been discredited. Redating and reanalysis indicated the charcoal was probably from forest fire events rather than cultural (Curran 1996:6). “The Bull Brook style of points thus remain essentially undated in New England (Curran 1996:6), although numerous researchers have considered the probability of the temporal precedence of Bull Brook phase sites within New England” (Curran 2000:6-7)<sup>4</sup>. Dates from the Shawnee-Minisink site which may be an early form of Bull Brook / Gainey are 10, 900 RCBP. (Curran 2000:7).

## **Barnes / Parkhill**

Barnes points first identified as such at the Barnes site in Midland County. The same points also occur in southwest Ontario were excavations at the Parkhill site, followed by the Thedford and Fisher sites have led to the definition of the Parkhill phase or complex of which the Barnes point is the main diagnostic tool.

### ***Barnes Description***

In 1990, Ellis and Deller described Barnes points as:

“Overall, they are small to medium in size and are intermediate between Gainey and Crowfield types in terms of thickness, basal concavity, depth and degree of expansion of the sides from the base. They often have fishtails or basal ear-flaring, exhibit long, usually single flutes and have a point of maximum width at or just below the mid point” (Ellis and Deller 1990:45-46).

Barnes points were first identified at the Barnes site in Midland County Michigan. Barnes points exhibit the Folsom flaking technique.

“Barnes points were fluted from a beveled and ground convex striking platform in the middle of the base. The striking platform was partly isolated from the basal edges prior to fluting by two “guide flakes”. After fluting the first face, the striking platform was extensively rebeveled, ground, and isolated by two “guide flakes” prior to fluting the second face. The beveling and rebeveling process removed from 5 to 10 mm of the negative bulb of percussion and the constricted basal portion of the flute scar from the first face. On many points using the Folsom fluting technique, it is possible to tell which face was fluted first and which was fluted last by differences in the bases of the flute scars” (Roosa 1963:45).

“The Folsom fluting process resulted in the removal of a long, wide, deep flute. As a general rule if a point has a flute scar which is at least ½ as wide and at least 1.5 times as long the basal width of the point, it was probably fluted using the Folsom technique” (Roosa 1963:45).

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<sup>4</sup> The situation at Whipple highlights another issue with radiocarbon dating Paleo sites and that concerns what is being dated and how it relates to the cultural component. Dates from several sites in New England are now thought to be dating forest fire events and not cultural remains (Bonnichsen and Will 2005).



Barnes points are similar to Cumberland Points known from the Ohio and Mississippi River valley. In fact, Justice (1987) includes Barnes as being part of a Cumberland cluster. Cumberland points are narrow, deeply fluted, waisted or slightly waisted lanceolate points with faint ears and slightly concave bases (Anderson et al. 1996a:11).

### ***Barnes Distribution***

Barnes points are known from southwest Ontario and the southern lower peninsula of Michigan, especially the southeastern portion of the lower peninsula and the Saginaw Valley. Their distribution does not appear to have extended into Wisconsin or Illinois or if it did so, they would be easily confused with Cumberland points. Even the distribution of Cumberland points centers on Tennessee and northern Alabama. Much of the Midwest would appear to have been sparsely occupied during the Middle Paleo period (White 2014:54).

In New England, the Neponset phase with "...smaller [than Bull Brook/Gainey] flared ear / waisted forms that are technologically, and at least in part, metrically similar to Parkhill phase Barnes points of southern Ontario" (Curran 2000:7).



**Figure 4. Barnes points, Michigan Archaeological Society. The large point on the bottom right is similar to those found at the Thedford site, southwest Ontario (Deller and Ellis 1992).**

## ***Barnes Dating***

Parkhill / Barnes sites have not been directly dated. Fluted points are not found in the bed of Glacial Lake Algonquin which drained 10,400 RCB.P. therefore Barnes points presumably dated sometime prior to then. Curran (1996:4) suggest a date of 10,600 – 10,500 RCBP. for Barnes and Cumberland. The Neponset phase in New England is thought to date 10,200 RCBP. (Curran 2000:7).

## **Conclusion**

The Barnes/Parkhill complex is followed in time by the Late Paleo Holcombe / Crowfield<sup>5</sup> and Hi-Lo Complexes, the projectile points which sometimes exhibit some weak fluting. Discriminating between Clovis, Enterline and Gainey can be difficult, something noted by Mason (1997) in reference to a study of Wisconsin fluted points performed by Stoltman:

“In fact, as pointed out in the Stoltman study, unless a collection of specimens from a single assemblage is available for inspection, attempting to identify a fluted point as either Clovis or Gainey is apt to be a highly subjective exercise. Basal finishing and idiosyncratic factors may obscure the way flutes were produced. And a broken and refinished Clovis point, by simple reduction of blade length in comparison to length of the fluting scar, may replicate a Gainey point. Fortunately, the Folsom type is usually readily distinguishable” (Mason 1997:86).

It is also important to note that the time-sequence of points presented above represent discrete snapshots of a continuous evolution of a projectile point style. Often times fluted points are found which cannot be firmly placed into any particular type of point because it may represent an in-between stage or due to extensive reworking. Paleo points are often made of high-quality chert transported long distances from their source. Projectile points, which are also multi-purpose tools, were heavily reworked, changing the overall length, and shape of the blade. Basal elements are often the least affected by reworking. Deller and Ellis (1992):

“Finally, given that the types are monitoring temporal variation, it seems that each represents a “slice of a continually evolving system. In other words, the types represent an arbitrary segment of a temporal continuum or morphological and technological change, sufficiently separate to isolate a different type. We suspect that this accounts for the majority of the known Ontario fluted points which cannot be easily assigned to certain types (i.e. they appear somewhat intermediate between types). For example, some points appear to fall between Gainey and Barnes points and may be intermediate in time between the two. Similarly, some points appear intermediate between Barnes and Crowfield points. It is worth noting that we have not seen points which are both Gainey-like and Crowfield-like. This is to be expected in a temporal series, as these are probably the earliest and latest in the sequence, respectively. In short, the intermediate forms are Barnes points” (Deller and Ellis 1992:36).

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<sup>5</sup> Crowfield points, which somewhat resemble Holcombe and are thought to be of essentially the same age as Holcombe, are found in southwest Ontario and eastward but not Michigan.

An observation which has been made is that large Paleo sites are absent in west Michigan and that fluted points found represent the actions of hunters who occasionally ventured into west Michigan from regions to the east (Carr 2019). There are multiple possible explanations for these observations:

1. The Late Pleistocene environment in west Michigan overall was less favorable to Paleo people than on the eastern side of the lower peninsula (Carr 2019). This could be due to lake effects or possibly that salt springs or salines attractive to mastodons and mammoths were more common in southeast Michigan and the Saginaw valley<sup>6</sup>.
2. In southwest Ontario, many of the large Gainey and Parkhill sites are associated with the shores of glacial Lake Algonquin where beaches from Lake Algonquin occurred at higher elevations than the present-day Lake Huron and so the sites are found at inland locations. In west Michigan however, maps indicate the Lake Algonquin shore would lie offshore of present-day Lake Michigan (Larson 1999: 26, fig.1.13)<sup>7</sup>. In other words, if there are Gainey and Barnes sites in west Michigan comparable to those found in southwest Ontario, they are covered by present-day Lake Michigan.
3. Sample bias – lack of research. Nobody since Don Peru (1965, 1968a, b) has made a concentrated effort at Paleo research in west Michigan and therefore the sites are there, just haven't been discovered / scientifically excavated yet (Carr 2019).

Examining illustrations of fluted points appearing in early issues of the *Coffinberry News Bulletin* would indicate that, in terms of gross morphology, most fluted points found in central west Michigan are of the Gainey variety. Barnes points are less common and this trend seems counter to eastern Michigan and southwest Ontario where the opposite would appear to be true. This is a very tentative, superficial observation and true research into Paleo in west Michigan should begin with a survey of collections identifying specific fluted point types and source materials.

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<sup>6</sup> A salt spring is reported to have existed at the time of settlement in Grandville, and several mastodon skeletons have also been recovered from the Grandville area.

<sup>7</sup> This statement applies to the Main Algonquin level, ca. 11,200 – 11,000 RCBP, the time during which Paleo Native Americans probably entered the Lower Peninsula. Lake levels only fell from there to the Chippewa low ca. 10,000 RCBP. Prior to the Lake Algonquin Main, lake levels in the Michigan basin corresponded closely to the existing present-day level and hence the beaches associated with those levels are either buried under dunes or were destroyed during later Holocene Nipissing phase high phase. Bottom line, we cannot “beachcomb” for Paleo sites in west Michigan the way Peter Storck (2004) describes for southwest Ontario.

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