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A newsletter to encourage the communication of research

Is this John Winslow's Wall? Interrogating a Soil Stain at Grand- Pré National Historic Site

By Jonathan Fowler, Saint Mary's University

Had John Winslow known, in advance of the 1755 campaign, that his forces were destined to be deployed against civilians, it is doubtful he would have sought their command. At least, that is the impression one gets from a careful reading of his orderly book, which survives in the archives of the Massachusetts Historical Society. A daily record of his troops' activities and movements, provisioning,

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and orders and correspondences sent and received, the document gives an unparalleled, first-hand account of the logistics behind the 1755 deportation. In its pages we may also read signs of strain on the human face behind the mask of authority. Winslow admits as much, almost apologetically, to the Acadian men and boys he makes prisoners in their church at Grand-Pré on September 5th, prefacing the deportation order with the admission that this part of his duty, though necessary, was "Very Disagreeable to my natural make & Temper" (Winslow 1883:94). Less publicly, but no less significantly, he admonishes his troops not to add to the inhabitants' miseries by

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stealing from them, "not so much as a fowl," and he flogs them severely when, inevitably, they ignore his warning (Fowler and Lockerby 2013:57; 84-85). It is ironic that the man pointing the bayonet during the Grand Dérangement should be flogging his troops in defence of Acadian property rights, but this was not the only ironic feature of that fateful fall's events, traces of which we may now be seeing thanks to our most recent field season.



Figure 1: Copy of a portrait of John Winslow at the Historic Winslow House and Cultural Center, Marshfield, Massachusetts.

Disembarking at Grand-Pré on August 19th, Winslow marched his 300-man detachment a mile and a half along the flat dirt road bordering the dyked marsh. Their destination was perhaps the largest building in the community, and it had been pre-selected as the site of their camp. The parish church of St-Charles-des-Mines, which occupied a low spur of upland overlooking the flat surface of the dyked marsh, was visible for miles around. A suitably prominent perch

for a place of worship, to a military man of Winslow's pedigree it must have seemed dangerously exposed. More so, no doubt, given the vivid memories of the 1747 ambush at Grand-Pré, in which French and Aboriginal forces had cut an earlier New England detachment to pieces. Its commander, Arthur Noble, had been killed, and his grave, near those of more than 70 of his men, stood nearby. Winslow would have known the spot, just as he knew Noble's detachment had been far stronger than his own. Therefore, shortly after their arrival, Winslow ordered his men to enclose the church, the priest's house, and another small house with a stockade "to Prevent a Supprise" (Winslow 1883:71).

Winslow's palisade line has fascinated me since I began researching the archaeology of Grand-Pré National Historic Site, and part of the appeal arises from an unlikely source: a short trip to Scotland made during the Easter weekend in 1998. One of the stops in that chilled itinerary was Culloden Moor, just outside Inverness, at the northern gate to The Great Glen. Here, in April of 1746, Winslow's contemporaries in the British Army, including a 19-year-old James Wolfe and perhaps a slightly less world-weary Edward Cornwallis, routed the army that had brought the Second Jacobite Rebellion perilously close to the Hanoverian throne. Its leader, Charles Edward Stuart, escaped with his life but perhaps not his soul, descending into drunken rages in his Italian retirement. His body now rests in St. Peter's, while his phantom haunts shortbread tins worldwide. What occupied my mind that day in the sharp air above Inverness, though, was not the memory of the bonnie prince, nor the loneliness of the moor where his followers' lives were ruined and lost, but the elegant approach The National Trust for Scotland had taken to interpreting the battlefield. No papier-mâché, no overblown murals, and no CGI. It was this: flags had been placed to mark the positions of the opposing armies on the day of the battle. The pitiable field seemed too small to accommodate the grandeur of the clash portrayed in John Prebble's vivid account

(1961), but there was nevertheless a potency in this understated act of interpretation. The Jacobite forces, exhausted, with sleet in their faces, could almost be made out by their banner, and the opposing ranks of the Duke of Cumberland's men by theirs.

To Grand-Pré National Historic Site, now, and a neatly cropped sward, and a contrast not only in history but in heritage. Whereas Culloden's elevation as a site of memory was virtually automatic, the process transforming Grand-Pré into a special place certainly was not. The deportations of the Acadians were a slow moving storm compared to the historic thunderclap at Culloden Moor, and the forced migrations of the Grand Dérangement swept away many French colonial communities in the Maritimes over a period of years. The process by which Grand-Pré came to stand for them all was likewise protracted, relying on an unlikely braiding of folklore, poetry, and antiquarian archaeology to drag John Winslow into the service of the memorial movement.

It happens that Winslow's orderly book became an essential source for T.C. Haliburton's *Historical and Statistical Account of Nova Scotia* (1829). Thus, when a young Henry Wadsworth Longfellow committed himself to the project that would become the literary phenomenon *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie*, his resort to Haliburton's history for information on the Acadian deportations inadvertently brought Winslow's ghost to his tableside (Hawthorne and Dana 1947:7, n. 4). *Evangeline* forever fixed the epicentre of the deportation narrative at Grand-Pré. It has long seemed odd to me that a primary agent behind this memorial site should be the very man tasked with destroying the community in 1755, and yet the archaeological remains of Acadian Grand-Pré and John Winslow's camp should remain elusive. Nothing can be done about the former - history is packed with ironies - but archaeology might offer something to contend with the latter.

When our field school program began at Grand-Pré in 2001, a tradition of archaeological interpretation had already established itself at the center of the national historic site. Unfortunately, that tradition was based on evidence and interpretation generated by antiquarians in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Dunn 1982), almost none of which was verifiable through notes, photographs, plan drawings, or artifact collections. On the basis of antiquarian diggings "Evangeline's Well" had not only been found but given a mythical genealogy. How much confidence should we then have in other antiquarian claims, such as those purporting to identify the ruins of St-Charles-des-Mines, thus providing the basis for the construction of the iconic Memorial Church in 1922?

With the support of Duncan McNeill, Rob Ferguson, the Société Promotion Grand-Pré, and the Parks Canada team, we set out to find answers with an ambitious (and ongoing) program of archaeogeophysical research, followed up with a ground-truthing program of test excavations. This work has clarified much of the distorted picture handed to us by the antiquarians, leading to the discovery of a pre-Deportation Acadian building (probably a house), and demonstrating that a ruined dwelling linked by antiquarians to the Acadian village was actually occupied by New England Planters in the decades after the deportations. St-Charles-des-Mines, the original goal of our research, remains hidden, but much work remains to be done, and here again John Winslow's book offers valuable clues. This past season, we may at last have encountered evidence of his palisade line.

This is an important development for at least two reasons, the first of which pertains to our original intention of locating the old parish church. We know from our sources that the palisade enclosed the church, the priest's house, and another small house, and that shortly after its completion it was enlarged

to encompass the cemetery (Winslow 1883; Fowler and Lockerby 2013:59). Having begun to trace the cemetery's extent with the discovery of grave shafts near Herbin's Cross in 2004, we have continued this work each season, gradually removing the ploughed topsoil to the east and west. What appears to be a thin fence line marking the cemetery's western boundary came to light in 2009, and during our 2013 season - though we did not know it at the time - an exploratory excavation approximately 25m east of Herbin's Cross yielded the subtle traces of what would become the easternmost grave shaft. Extending the excavation unit in May, 2014, we discovered yet another thin soil stain that appears to mark the cemetery's eastern boundary. A short distance beyond this, an unmistakable trench feature, approximately 25cm wide and running north-south, stood out against the subsoil. Could this be Winslow's palisade?

There is good reason to kick the tires supporting this hypothesis. Ever since William Stukeley's recourse to Caesar's Gallic War populated Neolithic and Bronze Age Britain (erroneously) with druids, archaeologists have known the perils of text-aided archaeology. Texts exert a kind of gravitational force, and their tendency to pull material evidence into their orbit can be dangerous. But if, when faced with an attractive new hypothesis such as this, the first duty of science is to try to kill it rather than uncritically embrace it, it is encouraging that our putative palisade features have so far survived several assassination attempts.



Figure 2: The two trench features discovered by Saint Mary's University archaeological field school students at Grand-Pré National Historic Site in 2014. We hypothesize that the smaller feature (a) is the fence line marking the eastern extent of the Acadian cemetery, and the larger (b) is the palisade line marking the eastern edge of John Winslow's 1755 military camp.

First, we should acknowledge alternative explanations. What else could the 'palisade trench' be? A narrow footer for an earthfast building is a possibility, although the near absence of artifacts in the vicinity is a stubborn, countervailing fact. Better yet, it could owe its origin to any of a thousand fence building campaigns that go completely unacknowledged in the historical record, but which

nevertheless abound in the daily lives of rural communities. This might better account for the absence of artifacts, but there is no evidence in the land records of a property boundary ever having stood here.

How well do the features - in their sizes, orientations, and relationships - accord with the documentary evidence from 1755? Quite well. Two primary sources offer clues as to the nature of the New England camp, and both concur that the cemetery was enclosed within the pickets. In fact, the journal of Jeremiah Bancroft, who was a junior officer in Winslow's unit, identifies the date on which the work was finished: Saturday, September 30th (Fowler and Lockerby 2013:59). From west to east, our excavations over the last several years have revealed in the cemetery area: a thin feature resembling a fence line, running north-south); an area approximately 40m wide in which grave shafts are present and in which Herbin's Cross stands; another thin fence-like feature (sharing the same orientation as the first one); and, approximately 2m beyond this, our possible palisade feature. Extending our test excavations over 10m beyond this point revealed no additional grave shafts or other features of any kind, thus suggesting we have passed beyond the boundary of the cemetery and, if our sources are to be believed, the New Englanders' camp. At this stage, therefore, despite well-warranted scepticism, the palisade hypothesis appears sound, but only further excavations designed to trace its course will ultimately resolve its identity. If this was the handiwork of Winslow's men, it will extend approximately 45m north-south before turning back to the west to enclose St-Charles-des-Mines and its associated buildings (Fowler and Lockerby 2013:58-59).

The second valuable aspect of these new features may be less dramatic, but no less informative. It is the fact that they represent stratified contexts. Most of the archaeology we have been involved in at Grand-

Pré National Historic Site has taken place in the plough zone, that upper 25cm or so of tumbled earth so frequented by bugs, roots, and - to the dismay of many a student archaeologist - earthworms. This is not a context in which securely datable botanical samples may be obtained, but our sealed deposits are, and so we did. From the 'palisade' trench were recovered seeds of carbonized cereal and pea plants, and from the narrower 'fence' feature, carbonized seeds from a host of vegetation, including fir and spruce trees, grass, black medick or alfalfa, the cultigens oats and peas, and a blueberry seed. These ecofacts provide a glimpse of the ecology of the archaeological landscape that will only increase in value once the new features are securely dated.

We do not know what became of John Winslow's camp or the buildings it enclosed. Perhaps the weather-beaten pickets and the vacant buildings greeted the New England Planters when they arrived in 1760 to reoccupy the settlement. One can almost picture the Connecticut labourers pulling down the posts, bleached and lopsided after five years of neglect, but perhaps others had harvested them earlier. Whatever the case may have been, the historical record has thus far been mute on the subject, and unless this changes it will be down to archaeology to tell the story. As we have seen, the evidence is there to be found and scrutinized. If this does turn out to be is the eastern wall of John Winslow's camp, then its footprint will hold the promise of decoding much of the rest of the site, and perhaps one day conveying to visitors a deeper sense of the events of autumn, 1755. ♦

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The Hawk Beach Enclosure

By Courtney Glen, Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited

In August 2013, members of Davis MacIntyre & Associates visited the Hawk Beach, while staying on Cape Sable Island. It was known to us that occasionally an enclosure or possible palisade is visible on the beach at low tide, particularly after a storm. And we were in luck: clearly visible along the beach was a feature of some kind, possibly part of an enclosure (Plate 1). Additionally, the peaty surface that the feature was situated in was also exposed and postholes from a missing section of the enclosure were visible (Plate 2). This prompted Davis MacIntyre & Associates to take out a category B permit, to record the site and collect any artifacts on the surface.

While exploring other areas of the beach, red ceramic building material, later tentatively identified as roofing tile, was noted and collected from the surface of the storm beach. Also on the storm beach were fragments of a leather shoe. These fragments had clearly been purposefully arranged (Plate 3) and we theorized this was done by a visitor to the beach in order to take a picture. The leather was quite well preserved and the shoe had probably been located within the peaty soil on the beach before a visitor removed it.

The site itself is located within a drowned forest on the Hawk Beach, Cape Sable Island (Plate 4). Understanding the submergence of the forest is crucial in understanding the relationship between the enclosure and the forest. However, it was difficult to find sourced information on a date for the forest. Many websites promoting the area list the forest as dating 1300 to 1500 years before present but none list a source for their information (Cape Sable Island 2014, Novascotia.com 2014, Shelburne County Tourism 2014).

After documenting the site and collecting the tile, shoe and some pieces of brick, we attempted to determine exactly what kind of site was represented. There are many possible functions for an enclosure - animal pen, fishing weir or defensive enclosure. More information is needed, however, to answer the questions regarding function, date and tradition of the feature. In addition to the enclosure itself, the shoe, brick and roofing tiles could provide evidence of the type of site. However, these finds were essentially isolated, being found on the storm beach above the enclosure and not within a stable context.

The shoe was nearly complete and of a distinct type (Figures 1 and 2). It was square toed and appeared to be for a right foot, based on the wear patterns (Plate 5). It was constructed of 11 pieces of leather and held together with stitching and wooden pegs, some of which were recovered in situ in the shoe sole. Consultation with Dr. Marquita Volken of the Gentle Craft Museum, Switzerland, identified the shoe as a "Bulcher," a type of men's shoe commonly worn by workmen in the 19th century, although it was available in adult and children's sizes. The shoe recovered from the beach was dated by Dr. Volken to the middle of the 19th century (Marquita Volken, pers. comm.). The approximate interior length of the shoe is 21cm corresponding to a modern size 4.5 (women's) or 2.5 (child's). Given the small size of the shoe, it probably belonged to a child or small man, as it is typically associated as a man's style of footwear.

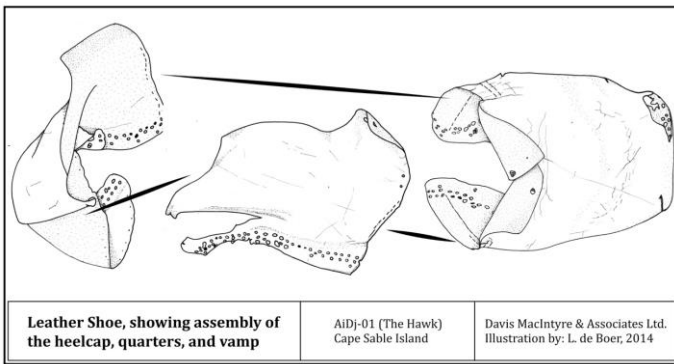


Figure 1: An approximate assembly diagram of the shoe's upper portion.

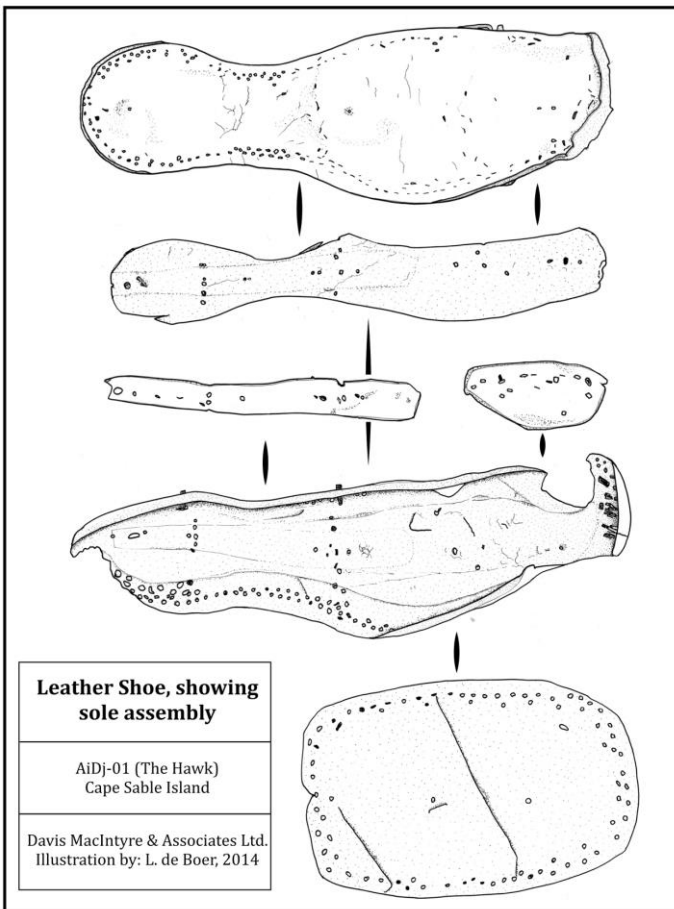


Figure 2: An approximate assembly diagram of the shoe's sole.

By contrast, information regarding the roofing tile and brick was not so easily found. The tiles were very fragmentary and no complete tile was found (Plate

6). Roofing tile had previously been collected on the Hawk by Laird Niven in 1996 and these fragments were found in the peaty soil where the enclosure and drowned forest are located giving them slightly more context. The tile collected by Niven was identified as 17th century Dutch or Basque earthenware roofing tiles (Niven 1996).

Red roofing tile fragments are found in large numbers on Basque sites in Newfoundland, Labrador and Quebec and are regularly used to identify potential Basque sites. In fact, they are often the most common artifacts found on these sites (Fitzhugh, Phaneuf et al. 2013; Ringer 1983; Tuck 1983). Yet despite their common appearance on Basque archaeological sites, a literature review found only one publication specifically dealing with analyzing Basque roofing tiles (Myles 2007). Communication with Brad Loewen, McGill University, suggested that the colour, consistency, thickness and temper of the Hawk Beach fragments are consistent with Basque roofing tiles, as are the air bubbles within the tiles (Brad Loewen, pers. comm.).

The possibility that the Hawk tiles are ballast cannot be discounted. Archaeological research on a small Basque boat, associated with the wreck site of the *San Juan*, has identified ceramic roofing tile fragments packed between its frames. These tiles were likely used for ballast or cargo (Ringer 1983).

The enclosure itself provides little information. The visible portion of the feature was roughly 45 metres in length and appeared to be slightly curved, suggesting a circular feature or structure. If it is circular, it probably curves west under the storm beach. Hints about the construction of the feature can be found in series of photographs of an amateur (and unauthorized) "excavation" by a local interest group of a section of the posts, in the early 1990s. These photographs are available online (Nova Muse

2013) and show a horizontal post approximately 40 centimetres below the surface to which the vertical posts appear to be set into. Wooden pegs appear to have been used to fasten the posts in place. This is a fairly robust construction technique, more than might be expected for a simple animal pen.

Based on the data and information available today, there are various possible interpretations of the site and evidence. The relationships between the enclosure, the drowned forest, the roofing tiles and shoe need to be explored. Davis MacIntyre & Associates plans to continue to pursue more avenues of research, including geochemical analysis of the tile. We have only scratched the surface of the Hawk site and associated evidence. Whether the enclosure is an animal pen, defensive structure, a fish weir, or something else, there is an interesting story waiting to be told. ♦



Plate 1: A view of the wooden feature on the Hawk Beach



Plate 2: Postholes in the peaty soil underneath the sand on the beach.



Plate 3: The leather shoe fragments as found on the beach by archaeologists.



Plate 4: The enclosure continues into the stumps of the drowned forest.



Plate 5: The lower sole (top) and upper sole (bottom) of the leather shoe.



Plate 6: The eight most intact tile pieces collected in 2013 from the cobble beach.

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Blade-Core Technique in the Northeast

By Travis Crowell, SMU Co-op Student w/ Davis MacIntyre and Associates

Introduction

The existence of a prepared core-blade technique in the lithic tradition of the Northeast is still being explored by archaeologists. Traces of “blade-like” flakes are present in the record, but to date are not interpreted as being the product of a deliberate process. Accepted in Pacific Northwest, Arctic, and Palaeoindian components, archaeology in Atlantic Canada has yet to establish compelling evidence that aboriginal populations created blades as part of their “tool-kits” into relatively recent times (post-10kya).¹

The collected flakes and artifacts at Starr’s Point were examined with the possibility that it might contain traces of a prepared core-blade technique. The large

assemblage increased the probability of finding a significant sample size. A “blade-like” classification was created and selected microblades and microblade cores were set aside for a more detailed analysis.

The goal of this analysis is to determine whether our sample shows a deliberate intent to produce microblades or whether it was incidental flaking. This analysis will be dealing solely with microblade technology. Any reference made to blades indicates microblades. Differentiating between micro and macro blades is a matter of size and the manufacturing technique. Typically, microblades are classified as anything under roughly 50mm in length and 10 mm in width.² This analysis will follow the methodology and criteria set by David Sanger’s research on the 7,000 year cultural sequence of the Lochnore-Nesikep locality.³

Background

Specialized blade technology is strongly associated with Upper Paleolithic groups ca. 35,000 BP – 10,000 BP, though the origin is far earlier in the archaeological record.⁴ Blade technology is seen as early as 80,000 BP, predating the Mousterian complex in the Middle East. Microblades and microlith technology are seen as a more recent innovation appearing by 30,000 BP in northern China and by the late Ice Age in Siberia.⁵ Semenov sees small blade technology springing from necessity to economize limited stone resources available in the last Ice Age.⁶ It is likely that the Siberian tradition was the precedent to the microblade technology we see in North America.

Microlith technology is a derivative of microblades, and its broad application earns it the comparison as the Swiss Army Knife of Cro-Magnon people.⁷ Blades

¹ Sanger 1968:92

² Kooyman 2000:75

³ Sanger 1970

⁴ Kooyman 2000:75

⁵ Fagan 2008:115

⁶ Semenov 1964:63

⁷ Fagan 2008:108

were reworked into numerous other tools, like burins and scrapers, or modified for hafting into the shafts of composite weapons like spear barbs and arrow points.⁸ Microblades themselves are currently the best evidence we have for their use.⁹ Their size alone speaks to their function as a tool for fine precision work or use in a compound tool. Context, faunal remains in association with these tools, and microwear analysis have been used to further explain site specific uses for tools.^{10,11}

Microwear analysis on a bladelike tip fragment by Lawrence H. Keeley suggests use for delicate work, like whittling, planning or graving, on soft organic material.¹² This is from a Paleolithic site in Hoxne, Britain. Keeley also suggests that blades may have been used as a knife for cutting meat held beneath the teeth, something of a fine dinner utensil.¹³ David Sanger hypothesizes that blades in the Lochnore-Nesikep locality in British Columbia were used as scrapers and gravers and were end-hafted, not longitudinally hafted as seen in Palaeoindian assemblages.¹⁴ The blades Sanger examined occur in assemblages from 6000 BP-2000 BP. He hedges this with the admission that ethnographic information is limited and insights into usage are hypothetical.¹⁵ James Tuck, looking at blade-like flakes found with an artifact assemblage from Dead Man's Pool on the Tobique River in New Brunswick, suggests that these long linear flakes may have been useful in fish processing. Tuck dates this site to around 3500 BP.¹⁶ If there is one take-a-way from blade function, it would be their versatility in use.

Blades are defined more for their process of manufacture than function, created using what Sanger calls the blade-core technique.¹⁷ This technique involves the removal of blades from a

prepared core through the use of indirect percussion or pressure flaking. Indirect percussion involves the application of force through a soft intermediary, such as antler or wood.¹⁸ Pressure flaking involves the application of greater force by pressing on the prepared edge of a core resulting in a straighter fracture line.¹⁹ This force could be applied with composite hafted tools, or with a hand-held material such as stone or antler.

The striking platform, that is the area from which the blade was struck, is often battered to create an effective area to strike and leaves the proximal end narrower than the maximal width of the microblade.²⁰ As a result, proximal ends often have rounded edges as a result of core edge preparation. The use of hard percussion in the creation of microblades is doubtful, given the small prepared edge, though experimentation has found that this is possible in larger blade sizes.²¹ Heat treatment may have been used in this process as it has been proven to help detach longer flakes and reduce the frequency of flake termination by hinge and step fractures.²²

Methodology/Definitions

Microblades

Analysis of both the blade-like flakes and cores follow the methodology outlined by Sanger.²³ The criteria for defining microblades will also follow Sanger's model:

- 1) Microblades are detached from the core from one specific direction
- 2) The edges and ridges are straight and parallel
- 3) Microblades are relatively thin and thickness/width index is relatively constant.

⁸ Ibid:114

⁹ Sanger 1970:62

¹⁰ Keeley 1980

¹¹ Semenov 1964

¹² Keeley 1980:128-129

¹³ Ibid:138-139

¹⁴ Sanger 1970:65

¹⁵ Sanger 1968:97

¹⁶ Tuck 1984:31-32

¹⁷ Sanger 1970:131

¹⁸ Semenov 1964:48

¹⁹ Ibid:46

²⁰ Sanger 1970:62

²¹ Kooyman 2000:75

²² Ibid:65

²³ Sanger 1970:58;131-132

- 4) Angle formed by the striking platform and the blade surface is approximately 90 degrees.
- 5) Cores are found in association.²⁴

Qualitative and quantitative attribute analysis was undertaken for blade-like flakes. Measurements were taken with Vernier caliper and rounded to the nearest tenth millimeter. Maximal *length*, *width*, and *thickness* were all recorded. The *thickness/width index* was also calculated to see if this was consistent over the sample. Qualitative attributes like *outline*, *cross-section*, and *retouch details* were also recorded for each. The absence of a Formagage for measuring angle meant that angle had to be judged to the best ability of the researcher.

Blades have been observed to show evidence of “spontaneous retouch”, meaning small retouch-like scars that occur where one applies pressure to the flake during removal. This action is deliberate, and in Keeley’s words the effect is to “...carry the force of the blow and thereby increase the length and regularity of the blade”.²⁵ Damage, or what appears to be reworking, can also occur when struck flakes hit the ground. The study of the collection here is done with the naked eye, and not microwear analysis, and as such a judgement of retouching is given only in clear examples.

Microblade Core

Microblade core “refers to the prepared nucleus from which microblades were removed”.²⁶ Sanger elaborates on this definition by saying, “There can be no doubt that the microblades have been detached from the cores, and that the cores were primarily designed as nuclei and not as any other artifact, such as steeply flaked end scrapers...”²⁷ Analysis of cores was done by Vernier caliper, taking maximal measurements for *core edge*, *edge chord*, *fluted surfaces*, and *width of flutes*. Absence of a Formagage

made measurement of the *angle at core edge* impossible.

Analysis

A total of 30 blade-like flakes were collected from Starr’s Point. Chalcedony appears to be the preferred material, with quartz and quartzite only comprising 10% (3) and 3.33% (1) of the sample respectively. This is not surprising given the geographic availability of the material and that chalcedony is a preferred lithic material due to its more predictable fracturing pattern. Complete microblades made up less than a quarter of the sample (Table 1). Given that they were collected from the surface of a farmer’s field, it is hard to discriminate whether this is a result of deliberate snapping, unintentional fracture in manufacturing, or plow broken.

A total of 21 artifacts retained their proximal end (or striking platform). Preparation of a striking platform is evident on a number of these. Maximal width averages above the generally accepted size range of <10mm (Table 2). The thickness/width index is relatively consistent, with a mean and range smaller than Sanger’s samples.²⁸

The majority of the artifacts revealed no clear optical evidence of retouching. Microblades are noted for their razor-like edges which require little additional retouching before use as is.²⁹ One quartz microblade was retouched along the dorsal edge. It appears to have been struck with a burin blow towards the distal edge.

²⁴ Ibid:60

²⁵ Keeley 1980:25

²⁶ Sanger 1970:54

²⁷ Ibid:66

²⁸ Ibid:131

²⁹ Semenov 1964:54

Attribute	Number	Mean	s.d.	Median	Mode	Range
Complete microblade	7	25.1	2.6	24.6		23.5-28
Distally Square	14	23.0	4.7	22.0		17-35.8
Proximally Square	6	23.5	4.2	23.1		18.6-30
Distal-Proximal Square	3	21.7	3.2	21.5		18.6-25
Triangular	14	22.7	3.4	22.7	20	17-28.9
Non-triangular	16	24.1	4.5	23.6	18.6	18.6-35.8
Retouched	1	24.6		24.6		
Unretouched	29	23.4	4.1	23.3	18.6	17-35.8
One edge retouched	1	24.6		24.6		
Both edges retouched						
Dorsal retouched	1	24.6		24.6		
Ventral retouched						
Dorsal-ventral retouched						
Totals	30	23.4	4.0	23.4	23.5	17-35

Table 1: Length statistics (mm) of microblades.

Attribute	Number	Mean	s.d.	Median	Mode	Range
Complete microblade	7	13.5	1.6	12.7		11.9-16.1
Distally Square	14	12.4	2.5	12.75		6.5-14.5
Proximally Square	6	12.6	1.6	12.45		10.8-14.8
Distal-Proximal Square	3	13.6	2.5	12.3		12-16.4
Triangular	14	12.3	2.6	12.6		6.5-16.1
Non-triangular	16	13.2	1.7	12.7	12	11.2-16.4
Retouched	1	12.2		12.2		
Unretouched	29	12.8	2.2	12.7	12	6.5-16.4
One edge retouched	1	12.2		12.2		
Both edges retouched						
Dorsal retouched	1	12.2		12.2		
Ventral retouched						
Dorsal-ventral retouched						
Totals	30	12.8	2.1	12.7	14.8	6.5-16.14

Table 2: Width statistics (mm) of microblades.

Attribute	Number	Mean	s.d.	Median	Mode	Range
Complete microblade	7	2.4	0.6	2.6	2.8	1.4-2.9
Distally Square	14	2.6	1	2.35	1.7	
Proximally Square	6	3	0.9	3.1	3.9	2-3.9
Distal-Proximal Square	3	2.6	0.7	2.7		1.8-3.2
Triangular	14	2.7	0.8	2.8	3.9	1.6-3.9
Non-triangular	16	2.5	0.9	2.6	1.7	1.6-4.7
Retouched	1	1.7		1.7		
Unretouched	29	2.6	0.9	2.8	2.8	1.6-4.7
One edge retouched	1	1.7		1.7		
Both edges retouched						
Dorsal retouched	1	1.7		1.7		
Ventral retouched						
Dorsal-ventral retouched						
Totals	30	2.6	0.9	2.8	2.8	1.6-4.7

Table 3: Thickness statistics (mm) on microblades

Attribute	Number	Mean	s.d.	Median	Mode	Range
Complete microblade	7	25.1	2.6	24.6		23.5-28.9
Distally Square	14	23.0	4.7	22.0		17-35.8
Proximally Square	6	23.5	4.2	23.1		18.6-30.1
Distal-Proximal Square	3	21.7	3.2	21.5		18.6-25
Triangular	14	22.7	3.4	22.7	20	17-28.9
Non-triangular	16	24.1	4.5	23.6	18.6	18.6-35.8
Retouched	1	24.6		24.6		
Unretouched	29	23.4	4.1	23.3	18.6	17-35.8
One edge retouched	1	24.6		24.6		
Both edges retouched						
Dorsal retouched	1	24.6		24.6		
Ventral retouched						
Dorsal-ventral retouched						
Totals	30	23.4	4.0	23.4	23.5	17-35.8

Table 4: Thickness/Width Index

Three microblade cores (Plate 2) as well as two core fragments (Plate 3 & 4) were identified in the assemblage, all of chalcedony. Each have the keel shape characteristic of microblade cores. One of the core fragments was weathered on lateral surfaces but was worked on both front and back surfaces. Another core also had weathering on the lateral surface at the proximal end, on the striking platform. The striking platforms are flat, though one core and core fragment have striking platforms which step down to another flat surface. It is possible this was the product of core creation through two blows, one front and one back, which did not perfectly meet. Edge battering and preparation is clearly evident on the cores. The scars on the fluted surfaces all originate at the striking platform. Some scars are parallel sided and end in a point while others span the length of the core and expand towards the end like a fan.

Creation of microblades was not a factory process. Cores bear scars of abortive and failed attempts. The removal of blades also often leave a hinge on the face of the core that needs to be removed before subsequent blades can be produced.³⁰ These hinges are present on the faces of our cores. Small scallop shaped exclusions are present on one fluted surface and may be the result of removal attempts.

³⁰ Sanger 1970:62

<u>Totals</u>	<u>Length of Striking Platform</u>	<u>Width of Striking Platform</u>	<u>Length of Core Edge</u>	<u>Edge Chord</u>
<i>Mean</i>	8.85	6.8	13.5	22.3
<i>s.d.</i>	2.3	1.8	3.2	2.1
<i>Median</i>	8.85	6.8	13.5	22.3
<i>Mode</i>				

Table 5: Microblade core fragment statistics (mm).

<u>Totals</u>	<u>Max. Length of Fluted Surface</u>	<u>Height of Core</u>	<u>Number of Flutes</u>	<u>Average Width of Flutes</u>
<i>Mean</i>	26.9	40.9	4	5.2
<i>s.d.</i>	9.9	10.0	1.2	0.3
<i>Median</i>	26.9	40.9	4	5.2
<i>Mode</i>				

Table 6: Microblade core fragment statistics (mm).

<u>Totals</u>	<u>Length of Striking Platform</u>	<u>Width of Striking Platform</u>	<u>Length of Core Edge</u>	<u>Edge Chord</u>
<i>Mean</i>	28.8	18.3	41.7	26.5
<i>s.d.</i>	2.2	4.1	11.7	1.8
<i>Median</i>	29.0	17.6	41.7	26.1
<i>Mode</i>				

Table 7: Microblade core statistics (mm).

<u>Totals</u>	<u>Max. Length of Fluted Surface</u>	<u>Height of Core</u>	<u>Number of Flutes</u>	<u>Average Width of Flutes</u>
<i>Mean</i>	37.4	43.2	2.7	7.9
<i>s.d.</i>	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
<i>Median</i>	42.0	45.9	3.0	7.9
<i>Mode</i>				

Table 8: Microblade core statistics (mm).

The length of core scars is close to the mean length of the microblade sample. The difference in width between core scars and microblades is due to measurements of flutes taken as close to the core edge as possible whereas microblades are measured at maximal width. Sanger notes in his much larger Lehman sample that the overall length of microblades from a single core does not seem to depreciate, though the width does as blades are removed.³¹ This means that the first blades removed

³¹ Sanger 1970:66-67

from cores are generally wider than those removed later. This interpretation is consistent with this sample, with our core fragments bearing smaller flute width than our complete cores.

Summary

There is enough evidence in the Starr's Point assemblage to suggest a blade industry existed at some time in the northeast. The presence of long linear, "blade-like" flakes and specially prepared cores in the assemblage satisfies the criteria that a blade-core technique was practiced. These cores are not the preform stage of another artifact, and the surface flutes are blade shaped. Surface collection from an area that has been significantly plowed and disturbed results in a loss of context, still a blade-core technique is reflected in the material recovered.

Future analyses of Woodland period sites should consider the existence of a blade-industry in their interpretations. Though small, these blades were no doubt important to the material culture of indigenous groups in the region.

The site contains a series of long, thin, rectangular flakes with evidence of proximal dorsal preparation along with cores that appear to be prepared solely for the removal of blades. Unfortunately, these were found in a less than ideal context so well-tempered conclusions cannot be made. Still, the evidence is sufficient to broaden our interpretation of Nova Scotia lithic complexes, particularly on this side of the Minas Basin. ♦



Plate 1: A sample of microblades from Starr's Point (BgDc-12). Blades are pictured dorsal side with proximal side at top.



Plate 2: Microblade Cores pictured dorsal side with proximal end up.



Plate 3: Chalcedony Microblade Core Fragment Front Side

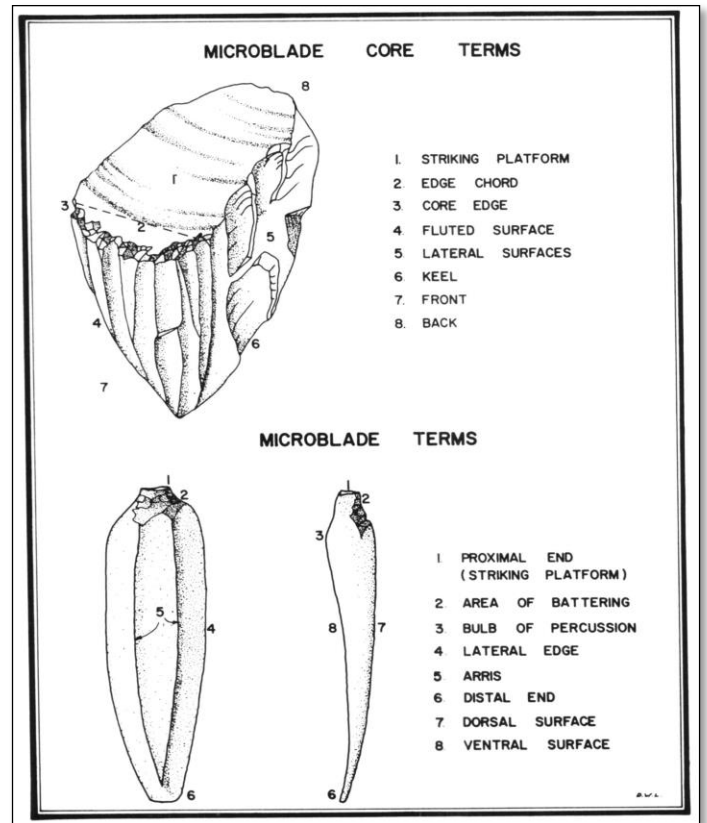


Plate 5: Blade-Core Technique.³²



Plate 4: Chalcedony Microblade Core Fragment Back Side

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³² Sanger, McGhee and Wyatt 1970:116

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Tusket Falls

By Courtney Glen, Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited

In 2013, Davis MacIntyre & Associates spent five weeks conducting an archaeological resource impact assessment of the Tusket Falls Dam in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia. This assessment was conducted to provide information regarding the archaeological resources within the area, in preparation for plans to refurbish the dam. A major goal of the assessment was to re-locate a series of First Nations sites reported in the 1980s, prior to GPS technology, and of which there was limited information available.

Historically, First Nations peoples occupied the area seasonally, taking advantage of the abundant resources the river with its tidal interface provided. First Nations occupation in the area is dated to 5000 BP and probably earlier. One of the few known Susquehanna sites in the province is also found at

Tusket Falls, being one of the sites reported in 1987 (Davis 1987).

There has also been a tradition of "collecting" in this area of the province, which continues to some degree to this day and has impacted many of these sites. Therefore, much of the diagnostic material related to the sites has been removed, including some Susquehanna material. The illegal nature of "collecting" means that local collectors or people connected to them are reluctant to speak to archaeologists, yet these people hold valuable information such as site locations and the artifacts themselves.

Historic sites are also a target for looting and the Tusket Falls area contains many historic archaeological resources as well. By the 1780s, Loyalists had started to arrive and colonize Tusket Falls (Campbell 1876). Many of the local landowners living there today are descendants of the early Euro-Canadian settlers. These local property owners were valuable contacts during the project, providing everything from oral history, access to their properties, and access to artifacts they had found on their property, including a brass gunpowder flask for a Colt 1849 model pistol, which was found beside a local barn (Plate 1).

Over the five weeks of fieldwork, over 70 archaeological resources were identified. These include stone boundary walls, several cellars, a historic cemetery, a possible mill location and outbuilding footings. These features, when mapped, provide insight into the historical landscape at Tusket. This landscape is overgrown and less visible today but traces can be found deep in the woods (Plate 2), on a landowner's lawn (Plate 3) or in overgrown fields (Plate 4).

First Nations and historic Mi'kmaq landscapes and resources were also identified. All seven previously identified First Nations sites were re-located. During investigation of one of the known sites, AIDI-20, several stone features were noted on lowland surrounding a hill and in a crevice on the hill itself. The stone features on the hilltop are believed to be stone fish caches, used to store fish. To our knowledge, these kinds of features have not been identified in Nova Scotia before. Five stone caches were identified, some with multiple chambers visible. One large cache was more visible and less overgrown and was therefore cleaned and recorded (Plate 5). This cache contained four chambers, all of which appeared to have been opened (Plate 6).

The stone mounds located on the lowland beside the hill were not so easily identified (Plate 7). These mounds did not appear to be stone clearing and the mounds themselves were quite small. They also did not appear to have been re-opened, unlike the stone caches. Each mound that could be identified was GPS'd and the resulting map demonstrated that the stone mounds were arranged linearly, something not completely apparent on the ground (Figure 1). Although believed to be associated with Mi'kmaq or First Nations activity, more fieldwork would be needed to determine the exact function and date, and to confirm the tradition of the stone mounds.

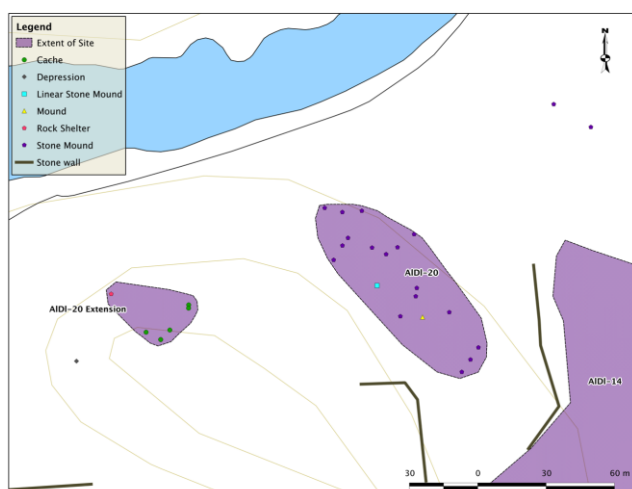


Figure 1: A map of AIDI-20 showing the caches and the stone mounds, based on GPS data.

Most First Nations archaeological resources were represented by flake scatter along shorelines and exposed soils or through oral history. One site, identified by surface scatter, oral history and past excavations in the 1960s, was estimated to be just under 8 acres² in size. With the exception of the stone mounds, the re-located sites were found along the river, typically near the narrows, where fish runs could be constructed. Unfortunately, oral history and archaeological testing indicated that these sites have been severely impacted by looting, erosion and modern buildings. Aside from flakes in both quartz and chalcedony, very few other artifacts were found; a scraper was recovered from a test unit and a gunflint was found during surface collection.

Local collections contain many formal artifacts however, including the Green collection, currently held at the Nova Scotia Museum. John Green was one of the collectors who identified sites in the 1980s for archaeologists. He also kept a notebook and his collection was donated to the Museum. The Green collection contains Maritime Archaic period material (Plate 8), Susquehanna tradition material (Plate 9) and Ceramic period material, including Meadowood tradition (Plate 10).

Oral history from the local community and archaeological evidence suggested that arrival of Euro-Canadian settlers had an impact on the occupation patterns of the Mi'kmaq at Tusket Falls. Seasonally inhabited precontact sites, dating back 5000 BP, are typically found at narrows of the river and ideally situated to take advantage of fish runs in the Tusket River. However, Euro-Canadians who arrived in the 1780s also exploited the resources of the river and built their homes in areas traditionally settled seasonally by the Mi'kmaq.

Euro-Canadians and their encroachment pushed local Mi'kmaq to areas further away from the best fishing

locations. Oral history from one local contact describes how in the early 1900s, Mi'kmaq would arrive in Tusket Falls in the fall and spring. They would stay a few weeks to fish and process their catch, before moving on. Rather than occupying the land near the narrows, then occupied by Euro-Canadians, these Mi'kmaq people would inhabit a small area of high land on the edge of a grass marsh away from the narrows themselves.

A major impact on both First Nations/historic Mi'kmaq and Euro-Canadian sites and landscapes was the construction of the dam in 1928-29. The construction project left behind a wealth of historic maps and photographs, which were invaluable in the archaeological assessment. A collection of several hundred photographs chronicling the construction of the dam provided detailed information about the construction process and the machinery used, including images of the steam powered Errie shovels (Plate 11). Glimpses into the lives of the workers and even a few mishaps were also documented (Plate 12). This detailed photographic recording highlights the importance of the dam in the 1920s, as does the thorough description of the project in contemporary newspapers.

The dam impacted the land as well, submerging at least one known First Nations site and several documented historic buildings and features. In some ways, the submersion of these sites has probably protected them. However, when the reservoir is de-watered, visitation is common and the archaeological resources are vulnerable.

The archaeological assessment at Tusket Falls provided a fascinating glimpse into changes in human activity and occupation in the area. The 2013 assessment suggested that Tusket Falls has been occupied at least as early as 5000 years BP and was an important resource for First Nations peoples. The

importance of this fishery continued through the historic period, where both historic Mi'kmaq and Euro-Canadians were exploiting the river. In fact, the fishery remains an important part of Tusket Falls today.

The multidisciplinary approach employed during this assessment took advantage of as many sources of information as possible, including historical research, collection of oral history, field survey and archaeological testing. The value of local contacts and establishing a relationship with local community members cannot be overstated. These individuals provide everything from oral history, access to photographs, artifacts and land. Ultimately, the assessment met its goals; all seven known First Nations sites were identified, a risk assessment of these sites and other recently identified resources was conducted, and a good working relationship was established with the local community. ♦



Plate 1: Brass gunpowder flask for a Colt pistol, model 1849, found in Tusket Falls.



Plate 2: A cellar in the woods around Tusket Falls. Artifact scatter suggests occupation between the late 18th century and mid 19th century.



Plate 5: A view of the large cache prior to cleaning of vegetation and recording.



Plate 3: A cellar located in the front lawn of a local property owner.



Plate 6: The large cache after cleaning, showing one open chamber in the foreground and one open and collapsed chamber in the background. Scale set to 50 cm.



Plate 4: One of 18 stone boundary walls identified during the 2013 assessment



Plate 7: One of the small mounds located at the base of the hill, looking towards a second stone mound, marked by Laura de Boer.



Plate 9: Susquehanna points found at Tusket Falls and held at the Nova Scotia Museum in the Green collection.



Plate 8: Maritime Archaic points from Tusket Falls, held by the Nova Scotia Museum in the Green collection.



Plate 10: Meadowwood points (bottom row) and Middle Ceramic points (top row) from Tusket Falls in the Green collection at the Nova Scotia Museum.



Plate 11: Excavation of the main dam in 1929 with steam powered Errie shovels (Argyle Township Court House Archives P1999-712pf).



Plate 12: A 1929 photograph showing a car that had driven into the dam's excavation trench (Argyle Township Court House Archives P1999-787pf).

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Starr's Point Clay Pipe Discovery and the Maker Behind It

By Irene Hart, Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited

This year, in April 2014, an interesting discovery was made that dates back to the 17th century. Davis MacIntyre and Associates conducted an archaeological reconnaissance in the area of Starr's Point, Kings County. The area held an abundance of artifacts on the surface of a ploughed field, which were collected using 5mx5m grid units. Amongst an abundance of worked lithics, a clay tobacco pipe was discovered. This is a significant find as the pipe has a makers mark with the initials L.E. impressed on the bowl (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Clay Tobacco Pipe with initials L.E. impressed on bowl.

Research determined that the initials L.E. stands for Llewellyn (Luellin) Evans, who was a clay pipemaker during the Bristol pipe industry in England. A number of flourishing industries in Bristol provided goods for export. Prior to the American Revolution, as many as 500-600 boxes of clay pipes were shipped to North American colonies annually.

Llewellyn Evans was freed from apprenticeship in 1661. He apprenticed under the pipemaker James Fox, who was one of the earliest pipemakers in Bristol

to export to North America. Once Evans finished his apprenticeship, he went on to start his own business, using his stamped initials as a makers mark. His business flourished in 1684.

Llewelin Evans died in 1688 or 1689. However, his business did not. His wife, Elizabeth Evans, succeeded him and took two apprentices, Thomas Owens and Robert Hodge in the years 1689 and 1690. It seems she kept her husband's makers mark while the business was under her influence.

A number of pipe stems and bowls, attributed to Llewelin Evans, have been found on eastern North American sites. Sites in Canada include Fort Meductic, New Brunswick and at Portland Point, Saint John, New Brunswick.

Two other historic artifacts were found on site; a copper alloy shotgun shell and a lead bale seal. Historical activity around the Starr's point area includes a French Acadian settlement along the Minas Basin. The early historic artifacts may be related to this settlement, although further research may provide more context into the significance of the clay pipe. ♦



Figure 2: L.E. Clay Tobacco Pipe.



Figure 3: L.E. Clay Tobacco Pipe.

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Photo Source: Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited, Laura de Boer.

Curator's Corner....

By Katie Cottreau-Robins, Curator of Archaeology, Nova Scotia Museum, Collections and Research Unit

The Editor has requested a “brief summary” of the past two years of activity from the Curator’s Office. As I reviewed my calendar, I was amazed not only by how much had flowed through the CO and the Collections Unit of the NSM over 2013-2014, but also by how quickly time had past. Stewardship, research, collaboration, fieldwork, consultation, presentation, publication, exhibit development, public engagement and student support all rolled out to produce two very industrious years in provincial public service.



Excavating the Boswell Site, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia (K. Cottreau-Robins, 2014)

Public Archaeology Symposium

A significant event took place in the spring of 2014. A group got together representing the Gorsebrook Research Institute, Saint Mary’s University, Boreas Heritage Consulting, the Nova Scotia Archaeology Society, and the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage (Special Places Program and NSM), to develop and present a symposium on public archaeology. Hosted at SMU, and supported by the organizations above, the one day symposium was very well attended with 114 registered delegates. Open to the public, the range of participants included interested individuals, amateur archaeologists, professional consultants, historians, public servants, museum folks, First Nation representatives, students and heritage advocates.

The overall goal was simple - lets get together and talk about public archaeology. Lets talk not only about exciting field projects but the intrinsic value and benefits, challenges, and opportunities for the archaeology community and the public at large. The keynote speaker and session commentator was a leading international expert in public archaeology and editor of *Public Archaeology*, Tim Schadla-Hall from the University College London. His question to the audience, “Is there a future for the past?” His answer was affirmative and he outlined a key role for public archaeology.

SHARING THE PAST: A SYMPOSIUM ON PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

March 20-21, 2014
Scotiabank Theatre
Saint Mary's University
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Tim Schadla-Hall

Please join us for a symposium to exchange information and perspectives on Public Archaeology in Nova Scotia and beyond.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- ❖ Opening Remarks: **Dr. Catherine Cottreau-Robins**
- ❖ Keynote Speaker: **Tim Schadla-Hall**
 - ❖ **Dr. Jonathan Fowler**
 - ❖ **Charles Burke**
 - ❖ **Dr. Helen Kristmanson**
 - ❖ **Sara Beanlands**
 - ❖ **Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost**
 - ❖ **Rebecca Dunham**
- ❖ Session Commentary: **Tim Schadla-Hall**



GORSEBROOK RESEARCH INSTITUTE



The poster promoting the symposium. (Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc., 2014)

The symposium presenters, representing Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, each provided their insights on very different project experiences within the public realm. The papers were a launching pad for a lively, hour-long panel discussion at the end of the day that generated numerous questions from the floor and a push from the public for more public archaeology and more government support for heritage in general. It was an exceptional occasion having representatives from a number of sectors listening to citizens. The room was filled with heritage-minded people and the dialogue between sessions was rich. The message was clear. Nova Scotians want to encounter the past in a hands-on fashion. If provided the opportunity, they will support and advocate for such initiatives.

At the close of the event, each delegate was emailed a survey and organizers were delighted by the response. Across the board, all agreed that their

participation in the event had improved their understanding of public archaeology and its contribution to Nova Scotia. They would indeed participate in a similar themed symposium in the future. When asked what the focus of a future symposium should be, responses ranged from marine issues, urban issues, and multidisciplinary projects to the Mi'kmaq, material culture, standards and guidelines, and public education. There was no cost to delegates and lunch was provided. An important goal was to make the symposium accessible to all.

Curator Field Trips

Every year the Archaeology and Ethnology curators develop a plan to explore a portion of the province in order to record new sites or check in on the condition of previously recorded sites. These are brief field excursions but treasured opportunities to work together and talk archaeology, cultural history and landscape. Over 2013-2014, we explored the historic Mi'kmaq cemetery in Greenfield, Queens County, reviewed previously recorded sites along the Mersey River, recorded two new Woodland period sites (Jones Cove Site (AIDf-38) in Port Mouton and the Allendale Bay Site (AkDg-4) near Lockport), established a coastal erosion monitoring station at the Fort St. Louis Site (AiDi-1) in Port La Tour, and visited some shell midden sites in Port Joli. Three new potential sites areas were also scoped out in southwest Nova but have yet to be ground-truthed.

As Curator, additional sites were visited. Fieldwork was completed at Perkins House (BaDe-44), the Bedford Barrens petroglyph site (BeCw-2, in collaboration with the KMKNO-ARD), the Boswell Site (BfDf-08), and Fort St. Louis had another round of successful testing for earthwork features. The Back Cove Site (BdCv-04), a Woodland period site on McNab's Island first visited by John Erskine in 1969 and later by Helen Sheldon in 1991, was also visited to begin coastal erosion monitoring.

Of particular interest was the recording of a new early African Nova Scotian site in Brooklyn, Yarmouth County. The Greenville Road Site (AIDm-10) was the home of David Dize. Mr. Dize was born in Jamaica in

1798 and arrived in NS at age 14. By age 17 he was indentured to the coroner of the Town of Yarmouth. Over the years he became an individual of note and eventually owned 9 properties in the area including the AIDm-10 property with domestic structural features dating to the 19th century.



NSM Curators Stephen Powell (Archaeology) and Roger Lewis (Ethnology) examine lithic artifacts at the Jones Cove Site (AIDf-38) in Port Mouton, Queens County. (Image: K. Cottreau-Robins, 2013)



A site visit in 2014 resulted in the recording of the Greenville Road Site (AIDm-10) in Yarmouth County. The landowner, M. LeBlanc and Colin Campbell of African Nova Scotia Affairs agreed that the homestead features should be protected under the SPPA. (Image: K. Cottreau-Robins, 2014)

Maritime Provinces Archaeological Regulatory Group

In 2014, the Curators of the NSM and staff in the Special Places Program (CCH) came together with like staff from New Brunswick Archaeology Services and the Prince Edward Island Aboriginal Affairs and Archaeology Office to form a working group. Known among us as MPARG, the group meets annually to share and discuss current initiatives, issues, and programs at the provincial level. Goals include sharing insights, developing solutions, aligning processes (like the MARI form we all share), and providing opportunities. All of us in MPARG agree that our meetings are tremendously valuable. It is helpful to know what our neighbors are doing and planning regarding archaeology. We have a chance for discussion at the annual CAPTA (Canadian Association of Provincial and Territorial Archaeologists) meeting held during the CAA however, MPARG keeps the topics particularly regional. Topics to date include regulation, standards and guidelines, the permitting process, digitization, CRM, collections, and aboriginal engagement and consultation. Its all about sharing, cooperation, best practice and support.

Birchtown Heritage Centre

In 2013 and 2014 preparation and planning was in full-forward mode for the new Black Loyalist Heritage Centre in Birchtown, Shelburne County. Given the high potential for Black Loyalist and indigenous archaeological resources, fieldwork such as archaeological survey across the proposed building footprint and grounds, as well as monitoring of ground disturbance associated with initial construction activities, was required. Following completion of fieldwork, exhibit design, artifact and artwork selection, as well as interpretive text development for touch screen media was ongoing. Numerous specialists in African and African Nova Scotian history, art, slavery, archaeology, and public history were engaged to make the Centre come to life.

The story of the world's largest free African population outside of Africa in the late 18th century is the focus of the Centre however other elements were key to creating a full historical narrative. The story of the Mi'kmaq and their presence in the area long before the arrival of the Black Loyalists was a key component. The Mi'kmaq content was developed in collaboration with the Sable River Native Council who were keenly focused on the inclusion of the local Mi'kmaq story. Artwork and historic imagery in the provincial collection and from Native Council members enriched the narrative.

Today a visitor can experience the exceptional view of Birchtown Bay from the turret, which commemorates all Black Loyalist communities in Nova Scotia. The Centre's Lindsay Gallery has the contemplative space to immerse oneself in the multimedia presentation of the Black Loyalist journey from Africa to America then to Nova Scotia and back to Africa again. This is not your typical museum, but more of an art gallery with a strong museology thread. Visitor numbers are sure to be high.



Pre-contact artifacts recovered from the Acker Site (AkDi-23), the likely home of Black Loyalist Stephen Blucke, in Birchtown. (Image: R. Lloyd, NSM)



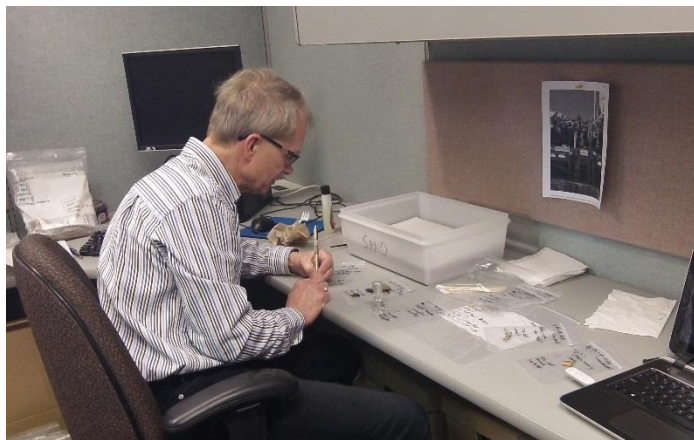
Assistant Curator Stephen Powell, NSM and Designer Todd Vassallo review artifacts and labels for installation at the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre, December 2014. (Image: K. Robins, 2014)

NSM Research Associates in Archaeology

Some readers may not be aware that the NSM has a longstanding Research Associate Program. The parameters of the program are characteristic of museum policy rooted in best practice and staff welcome inquiries. Briefly, the NSM Board of Governors, upon recommendation of the Executive Director, appoints Research Associates to carry out specific research or project work. The activities of the RA must support the mission and mandate of the NSM and the research should relate directly to an ongoing research activity or project. RAs work under the auspices and with the support of the NSM. A term is typically 3 years but many terms are extended through re-application. Applications for RA status are evaluated in terms of likelihood of achieving desired outcomes, relevance to the Museum program, candidate's suitability, demonstrated research skills, references, as well as the Museum's capacity to support the work. Individual applicants must link to a specific Curator and therefore a recommendation from the liaison Curator must accompany the application. Throughout the Research Associate term, both the Museum and the RA have specific responsibilities. These are detailed in the policy and are designed to facilitate a positive and fruitful relationship. Currently there are 28 Research Associates in the NSM program. What a contribution they make! Many are featured in the NSM publications page. See -

<https://museum.novascotia.ca/curatorial-reports>

Three RAs have been working with archaeology collections and curatorial staff over the past three or more years. Rob Ferguson, Archaeologist, Parks Canada, Retired is nearing completion of the catalog for the artifacts from an early Planter-era site we tested near Grand Pré during the UNESCO nomination fieldwork in 2009. Possibly the remnants of the Planter Fort Montague, artifact and site analysis has been boosted by additional survey data (EM38 B) carried out in the associated pasture in 2013 (Davis, MacIntyre & Associates, 2013). Rob has been instrumental in bringing focus to this important site and recording details that only emerge once additional time is taken for a methodical review of units and artifacts.



Rob Ferguson cataloguing artifacts from the Planter site in Hortonville recorded in 2009 in support of the UNESCO nomination proposal for world heritage site and cultural landscape status. (Photo: K. Cottreau-Robins, 2016)

April MacIntyre, M.A. and President, Davis, MacIntyre & Associates Limited, has been working with the archaeology curator in the development of a book on the urban archaeology of Halifax. We have made progress over 2013-2014 in terms of developing the format, reviewing 18th and 19th century collections and field reports, and compiling primary historic sources that provide insight to daily life. April is writing the 19th century component and I am writing the 18th century component. Excitement has been developing as the sections of the volume have become clearer. We aim to supplement the artifacts content with images of complete objects from the NSM History Collection. The idea is to develop a book heavy on historical material culture that will be a

steady reference for archaeologists – reminiscent of the *Artifacts of Eighteenth Century Halifax* (Davis, Cottreau, Niven, 1984), but in colour and as a free download via the NSM E-publications program. Completion date is planned for early 2017.



Research Associate April MacIntyre in the Accessions Room of the NSM reviewing the Charles Morris Site collection for the urban archaeology book. (Image: K. Cottreau-Robins, 2016)

Dr. Jacob Hanley, Geologist and Geology Department Chair, Saint Mary's University, has been an RA in Archaeology since 2013 and our project has been expanding steadily. Based in the NSM pre-contact and proto-historic copper collections, the RA project aims to determine the source of the copper excavated from archaeology sites in the Maritime Region. Over 100 artifacts have been laser ablated - a virtually non-destructive process – at UNB and sourcing indicators have begun to emerge. Questions regarding procurement and trade are at the forefront of the study and the development of a database to be used by researchers is the overall goal. Compiling comprehensive data regarding copper artifact trace elements, site and feature context, associated dates, and natural copper sources (in the wider Maritime Peninsula region, Upper Canada and abroad), is an ongoing and lengthy process. A comparison of testing methodologies used for sourcing studies is also underway meaning results produced by LA, XRF, SEM and INAA (from an earlier study in the 1990s, see Whitehead, et al 1998), are being reviewed for

differences, similarities, breath of trace elements and level of precision. Support for The Copper Project continues to grow as well as student involvement. We thank Saint Mary's Geology Department, UNB, NSM and the NSM Board of Governors, NB Archaeology Services, PEI Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat and Archaeology Office, NSERC, CRM Group Ltd., Canadian Museum of History and the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

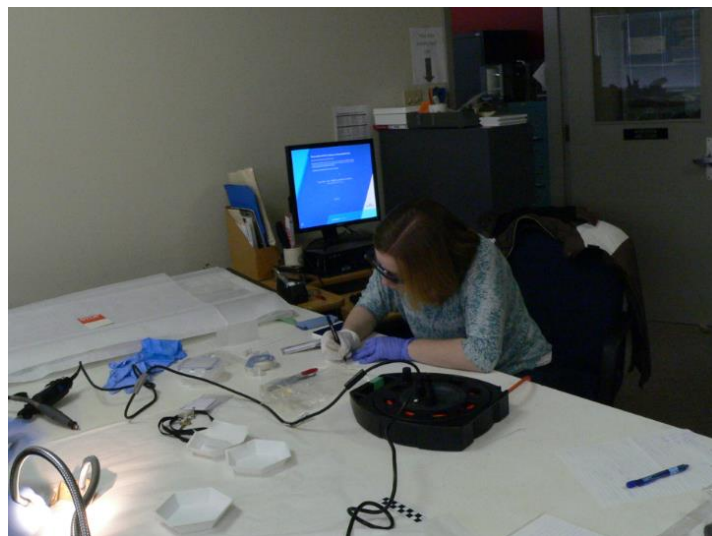


Jacob Hanley preparing a tray for the mounting of copper artifacts in the laser ablation (LA) lab at University of New Brunswick's Department of Earth Sciences. (Image: K. Cottreau-Robins, 2013)

Students at the Nova Scotia Museum

I must take a moment to mention one of the most enjoyable aspects of our work in archaeology at the NSM. Over 2013-2014 we had the opportunity to engage with a number of students from local and international institutions as they completed research for theses, dissertations, internships or other projects. Typically, students reach out to the NSM via our website contact page and upon review of their inquiry, we arrange opportunities to study collections, reports and historical documents that can assist them in their goals. It is particularly interesting to meet and learn of the projects and anticipated outcomes. Active engagement with the collections by the researchers/public keeps the NSM relevant and meets our mandates of education, stewardship and service. We are delighted to provide support for new

scholarship. When a package arrives that contains a copy of the finished work, our library grows and future researchers benefit. Thank you to the students from CMM, NSCAD, DAL, SMU, COGS, UNB, StFX, McMaster, MUN, Emory, Oxford, Laval, Trent, South Carolina and Australia and their work concerning lithics, ceramics, faunal remains, the Black Loyalists, emancipation, copper, mapping, ship wrecks, the fur trade period, public history, museum practices and exhibit development.



SMU student Paige Fleet in the NSM Accessions Room. (Image: K. Cottreau-Robins, 2015)

These are a few notes about the work in the Curator's Office. Always busy, always rewarding and always done with the help of others. I thank my colleagues at the Museum especially Steve Powell (Assistant Curator of Archaeology and Registrar), Roger Lewis (Curator of Ethnology), Martin Hubley (Curator of History), Lisa Bower (Assistant Curator of History and Registrar), as well as our Manager, Laura Bennett. ♦



Editor's Note:

The purpose of this newsletter is to improve communication of research in Nova Scotia between archaeologists and to inform the broader public. A special thanks to all the authors for making this another successful edition of Archaeology in Nova Scotia News.

Stephen Powell, NSM

<http://museum.novascotia.ca/collections-research>

From the Collection...



This reconstructed near complete Flower Pot (BfCx-2:971) was found in 1992 during excavations at the Hothouse site in Uniacke Estate Museum Park. It has an interior rim diameter of 203mm and stands 185mm high.

Vessel counts of flower pot bases revealed that at least 21 pots were recovered. All are unglazed, red-bodied coarse earthenware, and date from the first decade to the middle of the 1800s. The Hothouse is a rare archaeological feature and is the only structure of this type listed in the Nova Scotia inventory of archaeological sites.

You can read more in: *Archaeological Investigations on the Uniacke Estate, Hants County, Nova Scotia, 1992*, Curatorial Report #74 by Laird Niven. This report and many others are available for free download in the Publications section of the Nova Scotia Museum, Collections and Research web site. (S. Powell)