

SMITHSONIAN MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS
VOLUME 89, NUMBER 7

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ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

(WITH 11 PLATES)

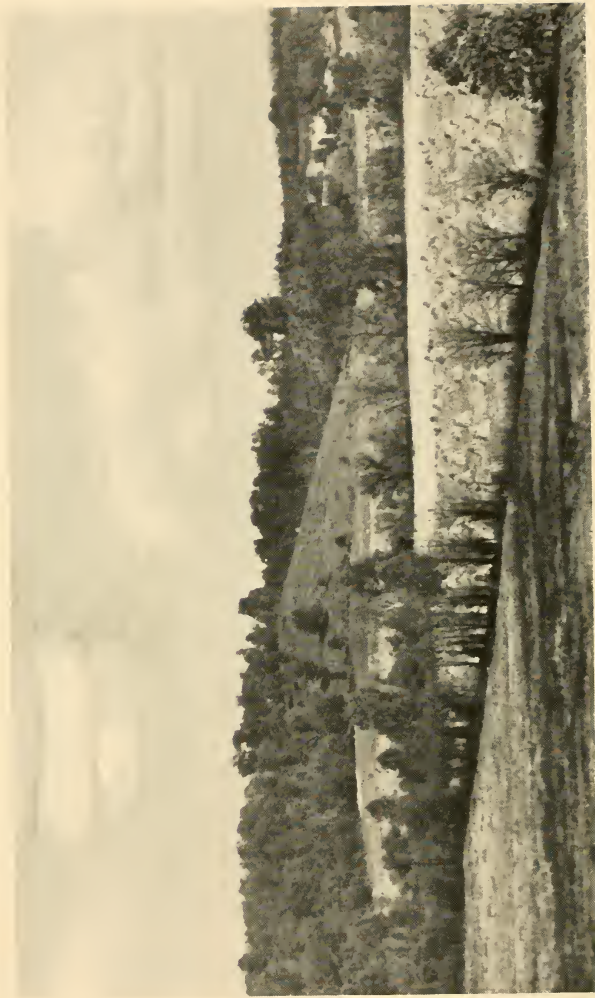
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(PUBLICATION 3217)

CITY OF WASHINGTON
PUBLISHED BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
OCTOBER 6, 1933

THE SCIENCE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA



Looking northward from the cliffs south of the Rivanna, over part of the site of Monastukananough.

EVIDENCE OF INDIAN OCCUPANCY IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By DAVID I. BUSHNELL, JR.

(WITH 11 PLATES)

Early in the seventeenth century, when English colonists reached Virginia, that part of the valley of the James which extends westward from the falls to the mountains was claimed by the several tribes of the Monacan confederacy. These belonged to the Siouan linguistic family, inveterate enemies of the Algonquian tribes whose villages stood along the course of the stream from its mouth to the border of the Monacan territory.

Soon after the settlement of Jamestown, late in the spring of 1607, the colonists learned of the existence of five towns or tribal centers occupied by this Siouan group, but not until the autumn of the following year, 1608, did they enter the country of the Monacan.¹ During that season a large party of the English ascended the James to the falls, the site of the present city of Richmond, where they left their boats and continued some miles beyond. They discovered two of the native towns, Mowhemcho and Massinacak, both located on the right bank of the James west of the falls and some 14 miles apart. The English did not advance far beyond Massinacak but soon returned to Jamestown.

It is believed the remaining three towns were never visited by Europeans and that all had been abandoned before the region was entered by white settlers. The three villages to which this refers were Rassawek, at the junction of the James and Rivanna Rivers, probably the most important of the settlements; Monahassanugh, on the James between present Norwood and Wingina in Nelson County, believed to have been the Tutelo of early narratives; and Monasukapanough, on the banks of the Rivanna north of the University of Virginia, in Albemarle County, identified as the ancient settlement of the Saponi. The three native villages thus stood at the angles of a roughly triangular area bounded on two sides by the rivers and on the third by mountains. The evidence of Indian occupancy of this region forms the subject of the present sketch.

¹ Bushnell, David I., Jr., The five Monacan towns in Virginia, 1607. Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 82, no. 12, 1930.

The valley of the Rivanna and southward to the James is a country of much natural beauty. It is traversed to the westward by the Blue Ridge, which attains an elevation of more than 3,500 feet, sloping to the foothills and rolling land to the east. Here are many streams fed by innumerable springs of clear, cold water. A great part of the surface remains heavily timbered. Game was plentiful during the days of Indian occupancy, and deer, bear, and the smaller animals were here in vast numbers. Buffalo are known to have reached the valleys by coming through the gaps in the mountains, but they may never have been very numerous. A region so plentifully supplied by nature attracted the Indian hunter, and the many arrowheads found in all parts, on low ground and on mountain sides, prove that game was sought here during a long period. This must have served as a hunting ground for the people of the three ancient Monacan towns, the last of the native tribes to occupy this part of Virginia, as well as for others who had preceded them.

Although Siouan tribes were occupying villages on the banks of the James and Rivanna Rivers at the beginning of the seventeenth century, they are believed not to have been there many years; consequently all the small camp sites and numerous objects of native origin discovered in the region should not be attributed to the Monacan. Algonquian tribes may have preceded them as occupants of the same territory. The latter had evidently been pushed eastward by the Siouan people coming from the direction of the Ohio, and the pressure was still being exerted in the year 1607, at which time Powhatan related to Captain Newport "that the *Monanacah* was his Enmye, and that he came Downe at the fall of the leafe and invaded his Countrye." With these continued invasions the Algonquian villages near the falls would soon have been abandoned, thus enabling the Monacan to have advanced still farther eastward.

Conditions of the country immediately above and below the falls were very similar. Strachey wrote (p. 27):² "Pokotawes, which the West Indians (our neighbours) call maiz, their kind of wheat, is here said to be in more plentye then below, and the low country fructs grow here. It is supposed that the low land hath more fish and fowle, and the high land more number of beasts. The people differ not much in nature, habit, or condicion, only they are more daring upon us; and before we erected our forts amongst them, there was ever enmyty, and open warrs, betweene the high and lowe

² Strachey, William, *The historie of travaile into Virginia Britannia*. Hakluyt Society, London, 1849.

country, going by the names of Monocans and Powhatans." Thus it would appear that the people of the two groups had much in common and did not differ greatly in manners or ways of life.

If the belief that the Siouan tribes moved eastward from the Ohio is correct, they must necessarily have crossed the valley of the Shenandoah—the Valley of Virginia—before entering the piedmont where they were established when first encountered by Europeans, but the rich and fertile region just west of the Blue Ridge, one which would have appealed to the hunter if he were unmolested, was not occupied by any native tribe when it first became known to the colonists. War parties of the northern Iroquoian tribes traversed the land, and evidently the fear of their coming had caused the less warlike to abandon the region and to seek new homes elsewhere. Thus it is believed the Siouan groups crossed the Blue Ridge and occupied the piedmont country, in turn pushing the Algonquian tribes before them. That such were the actual conditions appears to be proved by later events. During the months of June and July, 1744, a great gathering of the Six Nations met Commissioners of Virginia and Maryland at Lancaster and there concluded a treaty of much importance to the colonies. Present at the treaty-making were "The Deputies of the *Onandagoes*, *Senecas*, *Cayogoes*, *Oneidas* and *Tuscaroraes*."³ On the afternoon of June 27 one of the Indians, Tachanoontia, addressed the gathering and said in part: "All the World knows we conquered the several Nations living on *Sasquahannah*, *Cohongoronta*, and on the Back of the Great Mountains in *Virginia*; the *Conoy-uch-such-roona*, *Coch-now-was-roonan*, *Tohoa-irough-roonan*, and *Connutskin-ough-roonaw*, feel the Effects of our Conquests, being now a Part of our Nations, and their Lands at our Disposal. We know very well, it hath often been said by the *Virginians*, that the *Great King of England*, and the People of that Colony, conquered the *Indians* who lived there, but it is not true." On the following day one of the Commissioners replied to the foregoing: "If the *Six Nations* have made any Conquest over *Indians* that may at any Time have lived on the West-side of the Great Mountains of *Virginia*, yet they never possessed any Lands there that we have ever heard of. That Part was altogether deserted, and free for any People to enter upon, as the People of *Virginia* have done, by Order of the Great King, very justly. . . ."

The conquest of the region by the northern tribes had probably occurred only a few years before the coming of the English colo-

³ Colden, Cadwallader, *The history of the Five Indian Nations of Canada*, 2d ed., London, 1750.

nists, and it is believed that the last of the Siouan tribes living beyond the mountains, in the direction of their earlier habitat, were then compelled to move eastward to the lands which they occupied in 1607.

COMING OF THE COLONISTS

It is not known when a European first entered the region now embraced within the bounds of Albemarle County, but the earliest patents for land in parts of Albemarle "on the far side of the mountains called Chestnut," were taken out June 16, 1727. Within the next few years several large grants were secured in the southern section of the county, bordering on the left bank of the James and extending some miles up the valley of the Rockfish, including the extensive soapstone quarries which had been worked by the native tribes. And during the year 1735 Thomas Moorman was granted 650 acres extending from the branches of Meadow Creek to the South Fork of the Rivanna "including the Indian Grave low grounds,"⁴ so designated by reason of the large burial mound which was then standing on the low ground a short distance from the right, or south bank of the stream. Some years later the mound was carefully examined and described by Jefferson in his "Notes on the State of Virginia."

A few Indians may have been living in Albemarle County two centuries ago, but nothing definite is known concerning them. However, it is within reason to believe that small scattered groups, one or more families, would have been encountered throughout the surrounding country, all of which they had, so short a time before, claimed and occupied.

About this time Indians are known to have been living on the banks of the Rapidan, some miles below Orange Court House, as is revealed in an order made by the County Court in 1730. This is in part: "William Bohannon came into court and made oath that about twenty-six Sapony Indians that inhabit Colonel Spotswood's land in Fox's neck go about and do a great deal of mischief by firing the woods, more especially on the 17th day of April last whereby several farrows of pigs were burnt in their beds, and that he verily believes that one of the Indians shot at him the same day. . . ."⁵ Fox's Neck, mentioned in the order of the court, is a narrow spur of land, nearly a mile in length and bordered by the left bank of the

⁴ Woods, Rev. Edgar, Albemarle County in Virginia. Charlottesville, 1901.

⁵ Scott, W. W., A history of Orange County, Virginia. Richmond, 1907.

Rapidan, immediately up the stream from Germanna bridge, the site of the settlement of Germanna. The Indians may have been some who had formerly lived at Fort Christanna. The fort was abandoned by the Colony in 1718, but the "Sapponey Indian Town" nearby was recognized as late as 1728 as belonging to the Saponi and allied tribes, and white settlers were not permitted to acquire

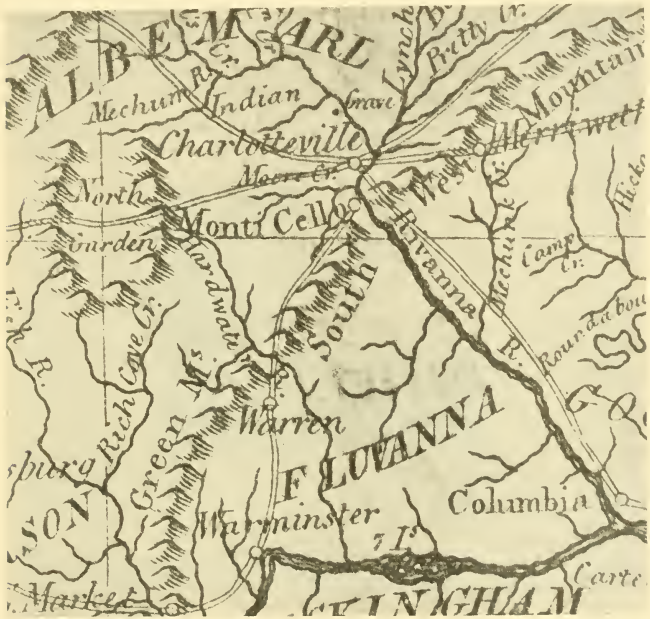


FIG. 1.—Section of "A Map of the State of Virginia, compiled for Rawle's Hot-pressed Edition of Jefferson's Notes." Philadelphia, June 1801. Showing the "Indian Grave," on the right bank of the Rivanna north of Charlottesville.

the land. It is not known when the Indians were finally dispersed, but it is believed that not all left at the same time; they probably drifted away in small groups to seek new homes elsewhere. Not long after this a party of Indians visited the burial mound, "the Indian Grave," on the low ground of the Rivanna and, as related by Jefferson, "staid about it some time, with expressions which were construed to be those of sorrow." The mound, long since destroyed,

is believed to have been the burial place belonging to the Saponi village, Monasukapanough, which occupied the level ground on both sides of the Rivanna, as described in "The Five Monacan Towns", but which must again be mentioned. Although the mound may have disappeared by the beginning of the last century, it had been remembered and was clearly indicated on the map of the State of Virginia that accompanied the 1801 edition of Jefferson's Notes. A small section of the map is reproduced in figure 1. The "Indian Grave" is placed near the right bank of the Rivanna, a little west of north of Charlottesville, on the site of the ancient settlement. A view looking northward from the cliffs south of the right bank of the river, over a section of the village site, is shown in plate 1. The course of the Rivanna is indicated by the line of trees beyond the cultivated

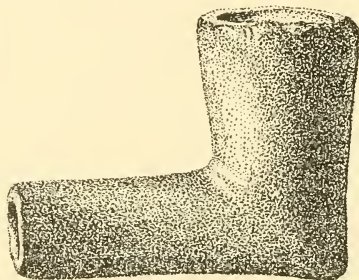


FIG. 2.—Pipe made of greenish steatite, found in contact with human remains on the site of ancient Monasukapanough, on the right bank of the Rivanna, near where the "Indian Grave" formerly stood. Natural size. (U.S.N.M. No. 364594.)

field on the extreme right in the picture. The mound stood within this cultivated area, but its exact position is not known. The rising ground in the distance is on the left bank of the Rivanna and was occupied by part of the native village.

Some years ago the owner of the land, while plowing the low ground bordering the right bank of the stream, encountered a single burial, and, although very near the surface, the bones were in a good state of preservation. Associated with the remains was a small soapstone pipe, figure 2, but no other object was noticed. The burial had been made in the stratum of sand and clay that had been deposited on the site after the abandonment of the village and should, therefore, be attributed to some of the wandering parties of Indians who visited the spot during the early part of the eighteenth century or even later.

EVIDENCE OF AN EARLY PERIOD OF OCCUPANCY

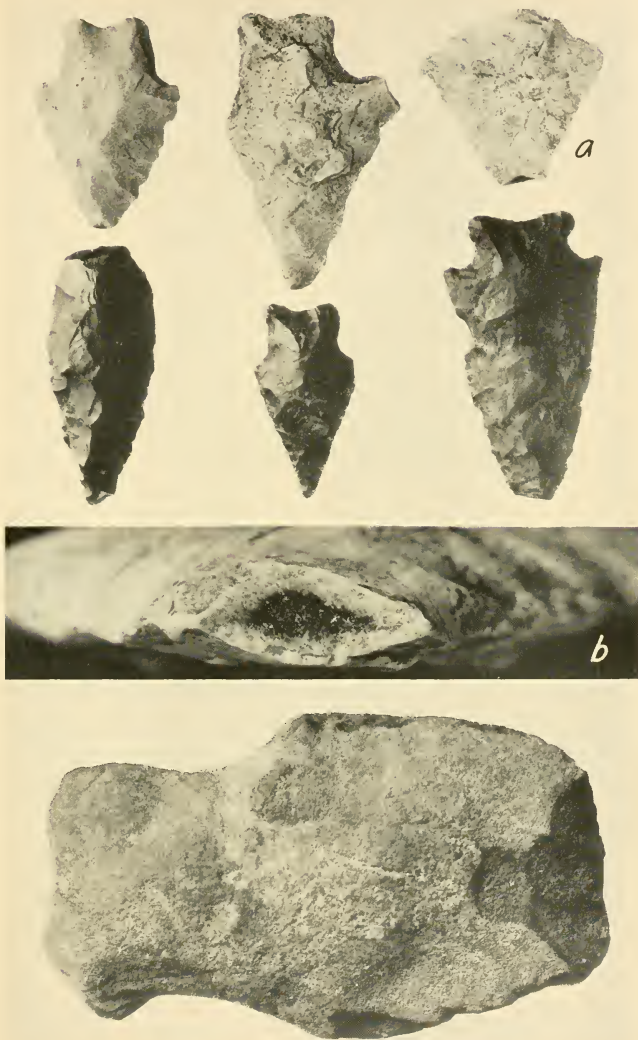
As previously stated, it is evident that several distinct groups of tribes, belonging to different linguistic families, entered and became established in the piedmont country during late prehistoric times, the centuries immediately preceding the arrival of the European colonists. This may be termed the late, or recent, period of occupancy by native tribes, and many of the artifacts now encountered scattered over the surface of village and camp sites in the valleys of the James, the Rivanna, and streams northward, were undoubtedly produced during this period. Some of the objects made of chert and diabase have become slightly weathered, but others reveal the flaking as fresh, and the edges as sharp, as when newly chipped. However, other specimens discovered on the same area and under identical conditions are deeply weathered, appear to be much older, and consequently are believed to have been made and used during an earlier period of occupancy. The approximate age of the objects attributed to the early period can only be estimated by considering the appearance and density of the weathering of the surfaces. Unfortunately, no stratified accumulation of ancient camp refuse has been encountered. All objects have been recovered from the surface and under similar conditions, so that they would have been equally exposed to, and affected by, the elements.

The gradual wearing away of the outside of a specimen, as a result of the weathering, tends to smooth and reduce the sharpness of the fractured edges and chipped surfaces. In some instances the weathering has been so great that it is now difficult to determine the exact extent to which an object had been flaked when originally produced from a pebble or bit of rock.

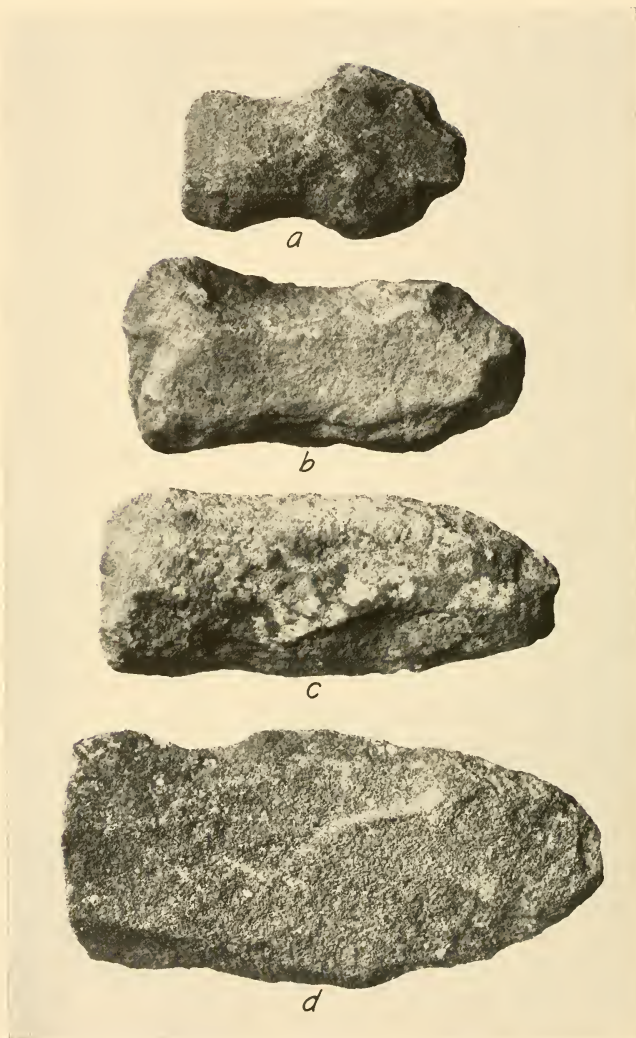
One specimen was discovered in 1928 which proves conclusively and indisputably the existence of two distinct and long separated periods of occupancy in that part of Virginia. It is an axlike object made of diabase, so plentiful in the region, and was recovered from the surface of a cultivated field near the remaining portion of a very large burial mound, believed to mark the site of the Manahoac town of Stegara, on the right bank of the Rapidan, in Orange County, a short distance east of the Greene County line. A photograph of this interesting specimen is reproduced in plate 2, lower figure. When the artifact was newly made, the surface was a lustrous black, and the position of each flake was clearly defined. Now, however, the greater part of the surface is deeply weathered, and it has changed to a light brownish color. The surface has been worn away to such

an extent that it is difficult to discern signs of the chipping by which the piece of rock was reduced to the desired form. But in one respect the specimen may be unique. It is evident that at some later time, after the original flaked surface had become greatly weathered, the object was found and partly rechipped, making it again a serviceable implement or weapon. The removal of flakes during the process of rechipping exposed the black rock, and, as clearly shown in the photograph, large flakes were removed in the endeavor to sharpen the cutting edge. Rechipping of the edge of the object continued as far as the beginning of the groove. The surface exposed by the later, or secondary, chipping has become only slightly changed, contrasting strongly with the deep weathering of the originally flaked portion, but conforming in appearance with many specimens made of the same material and believed to have been produced during the recent period of occupancy. If so slight a change has resulted after exposure to the elements for not less than two and one-half centuries, the very great age of the specimen becomes apparent. Centuries, during which time the surface became weathered and worn away, must necessarily have elapsed between the making of the implement, later to be lost or abandoned, and the time it was found, resharpened, and again used. Evidence of very early occupancy is thus revealed. Considering conditions known to have prevailed on other parts of the continent 1,500 or 2,000 years ago, it is within reason to believe that nomadic bands had even before that time penetrated into the wilderness eastward from the mountains and reached the valleys of the streams flowing into the Atlantic.

Innumerable arrowheads and various forms of small chipped implements are encountered throughout the piedmont region, a large proportion of them having been made of quartz or quartzite, materials which do not show the effect of exposure to the action of the elements. Some, however, were chipped from small pieces of black chert, the source of which has not been discovered. Six of the latter specimens, all found on the Oliver site, located near the center of Albemarle County and described in detail later in this article, prove to be of great importance, as they present additional proof of two distinct periods of occupancy in that part of Virginia. A photograph of the six pieces is reproduced in plate 2, upper figure. The three specimens below do not show weathering, although they were exposed, as was the ax in its rechipped condition, for not less than two and one half centuries. The surfaces of all are as black and fresh, and the edges as sharp, as though recently chipped. Compare



Above, six specimens discovered on the Oliver site, all made of black chert. Natural size. (U.S.N.M. No. 364579.) *b*, fractured surface of *a*. $\times 5$. Below, implement found on the site of Stegara, showing rechipping. $\frac{2}{3}$ natural size. (U.S.N.M. No. 350166.)



Objects attributed to the early period. $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. *a, b*, found in Albemarle County. *c, d*, found in Louisa County. (U.S.N.M. Nos.: *a*, 350163; *b*, 350162; *c*, 365372; *d*, 365371.)

this condition with that of the three specimens shown above. All six are believed to have been made of the same black chert, and all were found in similar surroundings. The three above are bleached and weathered, and the edges are worn away and have become smooth. These unquestionably belonged to the early period of occupancy; the former were made and used during the late or recent period. The older specimens likewise differ in form from those of the later period. The extreme point of the specimen on the right of the upper row, *a*, has been broken, thus revealing the natural black chert unaltered and showing the depth of the weathering. An enlarged view of the fractured surface is reproduced in *b*. Some of the crudely made quartz and quartzite points may have been produced during the early period, but, as already mentioned, the material would not have become weathered and so present evidence of great age.

Four implements which are believed to have been made and used during the early period are shown in plate 3. Above are two rather small specimens, *a* and *b*, which were found on the high ground near the right bank of the Rivanna, opposite the mouth of the North Fork of that stream. Both are made of diabase. Below are two crude specimens, *c* and *d*, found some miles eastward in Louisa County, north of Louisa, near a small stream which flows into North Anna River. The larger specimen, *d*, made of a large flake of diabase which had been shaped by the removal of smaller flakes, is deeply weathered and its appearance suggests great age. The smaller specimen, *c*, differs from all others in having been made of a quartzite pebble which has not weathered, but is greatly discolored.

The weathering of the two small specimens from the vicinity of the Rivanna, *a* and *b*, resembles that of the originally chipped surface of the ax discovered near the Rapidan. The relatively great age of these and of the two examples found in Louisa County is apparent. The black chert points, so greatly weathered, are believed to have belonged to the same early period. Centuries have passed since they were made and used.

The specimens illustrated in plates 2 and 3 have been examined, and the materials identified, by Dr. R. S. Bassler, Dr. W. F. Foshag, and E. P. Henderson, of the Department of Geology, United States National Museum. All agree that the deep weathering of the rock is indicative of the long exposure of the chipped surfaces, in turn proving the great age of the implements or weapons fashioned by man.

There has ever been a degree of mystery attached to the extensive soapstone quarries existing in the piedmont. When and by whom they were operated are questions that have never been answered. No reference is known to the use of soapstone by historic tribes. Fragments of the material are seldom encountered on the village or camp sites, and consequently there is no evidence to prove its use by the Monacan, Manahoac, or other tribes belonging to the later period of occupancy. The lack of evidence of the use of the stone in recent times suggests that the quarries were opened by the earlier occupants of the country—those by whom the crude stone implements, now so weathered and revealing great age, were made and used.

It is believed that proof or indications of an early period of occupancy will eventually be recognized over a wide region, extending from the New England States southward through Virginia, with the extreme bounds difficult to determine. This belief is partly suggested by the discovery in the Connecticut Valley of specimens similar in form, material, and degree of weathering to those just described and illustrated in plates 3 and 4. Many examples now in the United States National Museum were found in or near an ancient soapstone quarry not far from Portland, Middlesex County, Conn., and are believed to have been implements used in working the steatite. Similar objects have been encountered just northward in Hartford County (U.S.N.M. Nos. 34260 and 5860). The discovery of the implements in the vicinity of ancient quarries tends to strengthen the belief, as previously expressed, that the Virginia specimens were fashioned by the tribe or tribes who occupied the piedmont, and there opened the soapstone quarries, long before the coming of the Siouan groups from their earlier habitat beyond the mountains.

SITES, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF VARIOUS OBJECTS

Traces of Indian occupancy are plentiful throughout the region, many of the sites being small, others very extensive. The finding of great numbers of arrowpoints within a rather restricted area is believed to indicate that such a place had been a favorite hunting ground, a region where game had been more easily taken than elsewhere. Several such localities have been discovered about midway between the James and Rivanna Rivers, and undoubtedly other sites as interesting and as rich in material of Indian origin as those already encountered remain hidden in the forest-covered country, on the banks of streams, in the vicinity of springs, or occupying the

summits of projecting elevations that had formerly been bordered by marshy land. And although many interesting localities may not as yet have been revealed, it is certain that others of equal importance have been destroyed by natural causes. In a country of this nature the native camps and villages usually stood on or near the banks of streams, very often on the bordering low grounds which were frequently overflowed. Two centuries and more have now passed since large encampments stood on the banks of the Rivanna, and during the intervening years the stream has often flooded the adjacent lands. Several freshets of unusual volume during the past century are known to have caused radical changes in the appearance of the surface of the areas thus inundated; gullies were formed, some parts of the surface were entirely washed away, and other sections were covered with sand and soil brought down by the currents. Under such conditions all evidence of native camps and villages would have been obliterated. However, such parts of some camp sites as had occupied higher ground, approaching the bordering hills, and had thus escaped the floods, may now be discovered. Traces of such sites, preserved under these conditions, have been encountered on the banks of the Rivanna both above and below the ancient site believed to have been last occupied by the Saponi—the village of Monasukapanough. Undoubtedly, many similar sites remain to be discovered along the course of the Rivanna and other streams.

The material discovered on this extensive site has been described, and very little can be added to the account as already given. However, as evidence of two distinct periods of Indian occupancy may now be recognized in this region, it is believed that certain crudely made implements, deeply weathered and worn, which have been found on the site should be attributed to the early period, antedating by centuries the coming of the Siouan tribes to whom much of the pottery and many of the more finished stone implements should probably be ascribed.

During the autumn of 1931 a ditch was dug across the site of the ancient settlements in the endeavor to discover a deposit of camp refuse, but, unfortunately, without success. The ditch extended from the left bank of the river to the foot of the rising ground, a distance of approximately 100 yards. It was near the middle of the low ground—as distinguished from the encircling hills—and followed the left bank of a natural ravine or gully, through which water had flowed from a large spring that issues from the foot of the cliffs. Some of the most interesting specimens recovered from the site have

been found on the surface near the point where the ditch was dug. Nothing, however, was discovered beneath the surface, nor was there any indication of disturbance of the earth. Conditions may be different on other parts of the site, but that remains to be determined at some future time.

Other discoveries and localities of special interest will now be described.

THE SOURCES OF HARDWARE RIVER

Red Hill is a small station on the Southern Railway about 15 miles south of the Rivanna. A few hundred yards beyond the station the right of way crosses the North Fork of Hardware River just below the junction of the South Branch and North Branch, which here unite to form the main stream. Westward from this point the country is open and rolling and rises gradually to the foothills of the Blue Ridge about 3 miles in a direct line beyond. The entire area is drained by small branches which eventually reach the Hardware, and these are fed by innumerable springs, some of them large, ever-flowing springs of clear, cold water. It is a beautiful country, where wild game was formerly abundant; it had attracted the Indian hunter long before it was traversed by the white man two centuries ago. Across the divide to the westward, beyond Israel Gap, the drainage is into Mechum River, one of the two streams which unite to form the South Fork of the Rivanna.

Eastward from the crossing of the railway the Hardware flows through a very narrow valley with heavily timbered hills rising on both sides, but a mile or more beyond, after passing Dudley Mountain, the country becomes more open on the left, or north side, although steep hills continue on the south. The entire region was formerly covered by a dense forest, much of which remains.

Although the name "Hardware" is now applied to the stream, it was evidently called "Hardwater" during the days of Jefferson and was so designated on the map which accompanies the edition of "Notes on the State of Virginia," issued in Philadelphia in 1801.

THE BERKELEY CACHE

Just north of the left bank of the main stream of Hardware River, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of east from the Red Hill station, is the farm of Francis L. Berkeley. It covers part of the southeastern slope of Dudley Mountain, which continues several hundred yards and reaches the left bank of the river. The stream is rather narrow, rapid in places, and the bed is rocky. Canoes could not

have been used this far up, although they could have ascended some distance from the mouth of the river. According to tradition an ancient trail followed the course of the stream.

Very few arrowheads have been found on the Berkeley farm, although they appear to be comparatively numerous on broken ground nearer the Hardware. But as a very large proportion of the region is exceedingly rough, rocky, and heavily timbered, it is not possible to examine the surface carefully or satisfactorily. No trace of a camp site has been discovered.

About 200 feet south of the Berkeley residence, near the public road, is a slight depression in which it is said a spring formerly flowed. A large cedar is now growing on the eastern edge of the depression. Within 20 feet of the cedar, eastwardly, many quartzite blades have been discovered within a limited space of not more than 4 or 5 feet. These undoubtedly constituted part of a cache of blades which had been deposited just below the surface, lost or forgotten, later to be disturbed and scattered by the plow. Fifty or more specimens have been found during the past few years, 24 of which are now in the United States National Museum (U.S.N.M. No. 339706.) All are of the same general form, although some are rather more elongated than others. Typical examples are shown in plate 4, together with a view of the spot where the cache occurred. The material is grayish brown quartzite, probably derived from pebbles and boulders found in the vicinity.

The Indians of Virginia often secreted their possessions in some secure, secluded spot, away from their habitations, where they would remain until desired. Strachey mentioned this custom among the natives with whom he came in contact and with whose manners and customs he became familiar. He wrote (p. 113):⁶ "Their corne and indeed their copper, hatchetts, howses, beades, perle, and most things with them of value, according to their owne estymacion, they hide, one from the knowledge of another, in the grownd within the woodes, and so keepe them all the yeare, or untill they have fitt use for them . . . and when they take them forth, they scarce make their women privie to the storehowse." The cache of quartzite blades just mentioned undoubtedly owes its origin to the custom recorded by Strachey.

One other cache is believed to have been discovered, but the specimens were not seen by the writer. This was said to have consisted

⁶ Strachey, William, *The historie of travaile into Virginia Britannia*. Hakluyt Society, London, 1849.

of a number of white quartz arrowheads found deposited in a fissure in the rocky cliff on the right bank of the Rivanna about 1 mile above the site of Monasukapanough and just below the bridge spanning the river. It was probably as described.

HUNTING GROUNDS AND CAMP SITES BETWEEN THE JUNCTION OF THE BRANCHES OF HARDWARE RIVER AND THE MOUNTAINS

OLIVER SITE

A short distance south of west of Red Hill station, near the center of Albemarle County, begins a high, rolling tract of land, near the eastern extremity of which is the home of W. R. Oliver. The house is on the highest part of the farm, a small plateau which slopes gradually to the south and southwest and ends rather abruptly a few hundred feet northeast of the dwelling near the junction of, and between, the South Branch and the North Branch of the North Fork of Hardware River. The so-called Middle Branch of the same stream flows into the North Branch just above the mouth of the South Branch. Thus within a very small space the three branches, coming from different directions, unite to form a stream which joins the James some 20 miles away. An ancient trail led up the valley of the Hardware and is believed to have continued along the course of the Middle Branch, on through the present Israel Gap, and thence to have crossed the mountains westward over Rockfish Gap to the valley beyond. The three branches, now small streams, were undoubtedly somewhat larger in the past, when they were bordered in many places by marshy tracts which have now been changed through cultivation, following the clearing of the forests. The entire region appears to have been a hunting ground for the Indians, and, although rather small, isolated sites have been encountered where some objects of stone and many bits of pottery have been found on the surface, no evidence of a large village has been revealed.

Great numbers and varieties of projectile points have been recovered from the surface of the Oliver farm and from the adjacent lands surrounding the junction of the three branches, and in describing the material the area must be treated as a whole.

Quartzite pebbles occur on the slope facing the junction of the North and South Branches, and between 400 and 500 yards westward are outcroppings of white quartz *in situ*. These may have been the sources of materials of which many of the objects discovered on the site were made. Innumerable chips, some very small and others

quite large, scattered over the ground prove that much work was actually done here, and great numbers of arrowheads and other small chipped objects have been discovered during the past few years. The variety of forms is equally remarkable, and practically every type found on other sites is represented, together with some which have not been encountered elsewhere in the region. Although the great majority were made of quartz and quartzite, easily obtained nearby, other small objects were made of jasper, chert, and varieties of quartzite not known to occur here, but some of which may, however, have been found in the streams—pebbles brought down by the current. The latter class of specimens appears to be more plentiful on the southern slope and on the adjoining low ground than on the summit plateau. Traces of several small encampments have been encountered on the slope, from which small fragments of pottery vessels and some very crude stone implements have been recovered. Such camp sites are believed to have been occupied by one or more families when, during the hunting season, they would leave their permanent villages to seek game elsewhere. As Strachey wrote (p. 75): "In the tyme of their huntings, they leave their habitations, and gather themselves into companyes, as doe the Tartars, and goe to the most desart places with their families, where they passe the tyme with hunting and fowling up towards the mountaines, by the heads of their rivers, wher in deed there is plentye of game, for betwixt the rivers the land is not so large belowe that therein breed sufficyent to give them all content."

A view looking south from the Oliver farm over the adjoining lands is reproduced in plate 5, figure 1. Hardware River, as it appears about 2 miles below the junction of the three branches, is shown in plate 5, figure 2.

Arrowheads have been found in such quantities scattered over the surface throughout the country, that they are seldom accorded the interest they deserve and are often regarded as being too plentiful, too commonplace, to occupy a prominent position in a collection. However, in time, as much importance will probably be attributed to them, as a factor in determining the movements of the tribes by whom they were made, as is now attributed by some to designs on bits of pottery recovered from widely dispersed sites.

Capt. John Smith wrote of the natives of tidewater Virginia, the Algonquian tribes with whose manners and ways of life he became well acquainted, but at no time did he have much intercourse with the Monacan. However, it is evident that many customs of the peo-

ple of the two groups were very similar, and undoubtedly all hunted the deer in the same way; consequently Smith's account would apply equally well to the people of the Siouan and Algonquian tribes. He wrote in part, first mentioning the distance an arrow would carry (p. 365):⁷ "Fortie yards will they shoot levell, or very neare the marke, and 120 is their best at Random.

"Having found the Deere, they environ them with many fires and betwixt the fires they place themselves. And some take their stands in the midsts. The Deere being thus feared by the fires and their voyces, they chase them so long within that circle that many times they kill 6, 8, 10, or 15 at a hunting. They use also to drive them into some narrow poynt of land, when they find that advantage: and so force them into the river, where with their boats they have *Ambuscadoes* to kill them."

The high ground on the Oliver farm, with the plateau sloping to the south, east, and north to the marshy borders of the two small streams, would have been well suited for hunting as described, and this is believed to explain the occurrence of such quantities of arrowheads found scattered over the surface. It was a great hunting ground, and nearby are indications of small camps that had been reared by the hunters in the primeval forest.

Here, as elsewhere throughout the country, the discovery of vast numbers of projectile points affords an interesting subject for study, and it is evident that the facility with which an Indian hunter could replenish his supply explains the occurrence of such quantities. Smith, who had undoubtedly witnessed the making of stone points, referred to a hunter when he wrote (p. 68): "His arrow head he quickly maketh with a little bone, which he ever weareth at his bracer, of any splint of a stone, or glasse in the forme of a hart; and these they glew to the end of their arrowes. With the sinewes of Deare, and the tops of Deares hornes boiled to a jelly, they make a glew that will not dissolve in cold water." With these simple means an ordinary point would probably have been made in a few minutes, and material was plentiful.

More than 2,500 arrowpoints and other small chipped objects have been collected during the past three years from an area of about half a mile square, at the junction of the branches of the Hardware, including the Oliver farm and adjoining lands. These vary in form and material, but the vast majority are of quartz and quartzite, much of which had undoubtedly been secured nearby. Typical examples are shown in plates 6, 7, and 8, and may be briefly described.

⁷ Smith, Capt. John. Works. 1608-1631. Arber ed. Birmingham, 1884.



1. The cedar near which the cache was discovered. Carter Mountain in the distance.



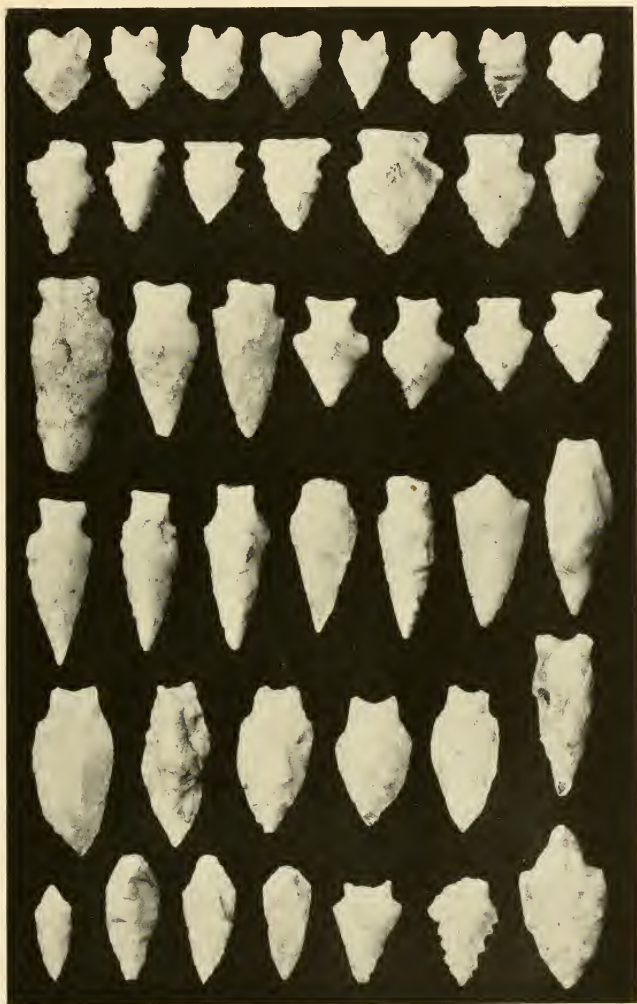
2. Typical blades from the Berkeley cache. $\frac{2}{3}$ natural size.
(U.S.N.M. No. 339706.)



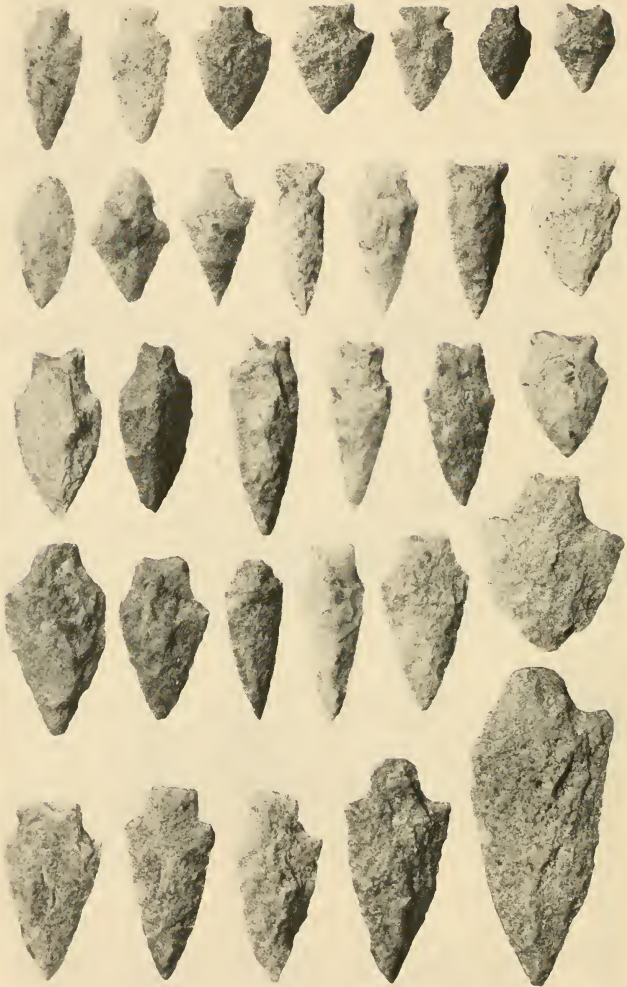
1. Looking south over the Oliver farm, with Gay Mountain beyond.



2. Hardware River, near the crossing of the old Lynchburg road, showing a primitive suspension footbridge high above the water.



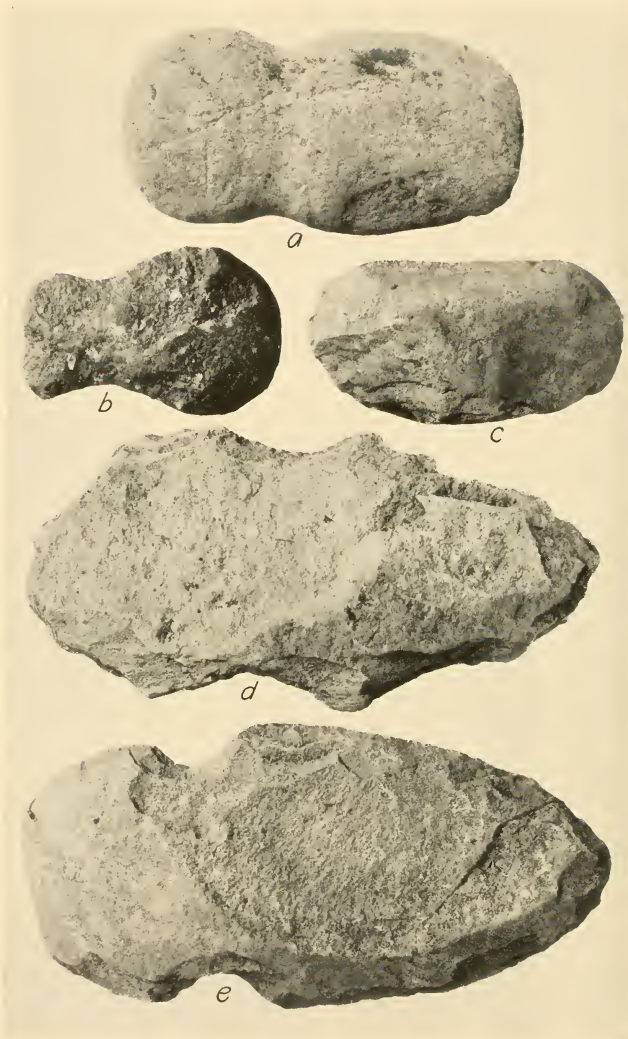
Objects found on the surface, Oliver site. $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size.
(U.S.N.M. No. 364575.)



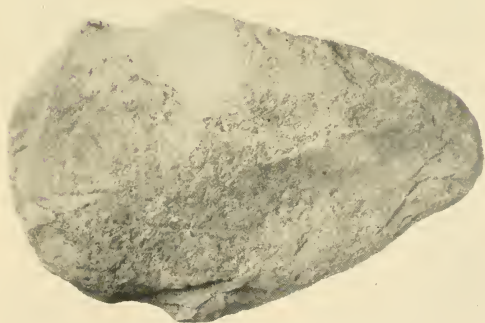
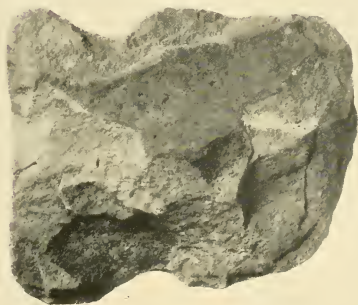
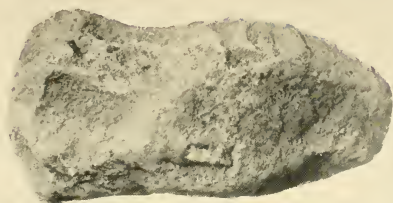
Objects found on the surface, Oliver site. $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size.
(U.S.N.M. No. 364576.)



Objects found on the surface, Oliver site. $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size.
(U.S.N.M. Nos. 364577, 364578.)



Objects found on the surface, Oliver site. $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size.
(U.S.N.M. Nos. 364580-364584.)



Objects found on the surface, Sutherland site. $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size.
(U.S.N.M. No. 364595.)



1. The Burruss site in the foreground, looking northeast.



2. Specimens found on the surface, Burruss site. $\frac{2}{3}$ natural size.
(U.S.N.M. Nos. 364586, 364587.)

Plate 6.—All the objects shown on this plate are made of white quartz, which is found *in situ* throughout this part of Virginia. A large variety of forms are represented, characteristic and typical of piedmont Virginia, but as yet not a single example of a simple triangular point made of this material has been discovered on the extensive site. Some 15 miles northward, on the village site bordering the banks of the Rivanna which is believed to have been occupied by the Saponi town, Monasukapanough, more than one half—40 or 50 in number—of the white quartz points found were of the triangular type. This is significant, and if the country surrounding the branches of the Hardware was a great hunting ground, as it is believed to have been, it is evident that triangular points were not employed by hunters; otherwise some would undoubtedly have been discovered intermingled with the great number of other forms.

The specimen shown in the lower right corner of plate 6 is the only example found of that type made of white quartz; however, the material is banded and appears to be different from the quartz occurring in the vicinity.

Many small chipped objects, usually termed projectile points, were probably used for other purposes. Some undoubtedly served as knives, some as scrapers, and others as drills. Very little is known of the arts and customs of the people during the days when stone implements were made and used, before the coming of Europeans and the introduction of iron. Wood was probably worked more extensively than is generally supposed, and many stone tools would have been used.

Very often a so-called arrowpoint will be encountered on which the edge of the base and the edges of both notches will be quite smooth and polished, while the two edges continuing from the shoulders to the point will be rough and sharp as though recently chipped. An example made of white quartz, found on the Oliver site, illustrating this peculiar feature is shown in figure 3. This may have been a knife, mounted in such a manner that the edge of the base became worn and smooth, while it was necessary from time to time to resharpen or rather rechip the cutting edges. Specimens similar to this are found in other parts of the country.

Plate 7.—This plate shows typical examples of projectile points, and possibly some knives, all made of brownish quartzite. The quartzite of which the great majority were made resembles the material of the objects of the Berkeley cache, plate 4, and may, like the

latter, have been obtained nearby. The specimens illustrated on this plate are very characteristic of the region.

Plate 8.—Arrowpoints of chert, jasper, and other materials are shown in the upper part of the plate. They include a large variety of forms, and it is believed that many of these were brought from a distance; probably very few were made here. A drill and several pieces that may have been knives are included. Three triangular points are shown at the left on the lower line, these being the only examples of this type discovered on the site. Of the three, two are made of chert and one of a light-colored, fine-grained quartzite. As mentioned elsewhere, it is evident that points of this type were not used by hunters, and the belief that they may have tipped the arrows of the warrior rather than those of the hunter is suggested by the discovery, made some years ago, of a human vertebra in which a chert point of this

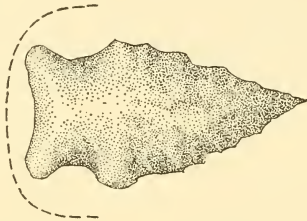


FIG. 3.—Specimen made of white quartz, from the Oliver site. Natural size. Surface and edges within the broken line are smooth and polished. (U.S.N.M. No. 364575.)

form is deeply embedded. Similar specimens have been found in other parts of the country. This was recovered from a grave near Gala, Botetourt County, Va., about 1893 (U.S.N.M. No. 169663).

Nine small quartzite blades are shown at the bottom of the plate. Several of these may have been used as scrapers.

Evidence of a small encampment has been revealed on the slope a hundred yards or more from the left bank of the South Branch of the Hardware, about midway between the junction of the branches and the Red Hill School. This is within the area referred to as the Oliver site. In addition to numerous arrowpoints and other small chipped objects found nearby were several axes, two of which are shown in plate 9, *a* and *e*. Both are typical specimens, although the latter, *e*, is exceptionally well proportioned and very symmetrical and shows no effect of use. Another object, one of great interest, was discovered on the site. It is part of a large bannerstone and was found a few

inches below the surface in a garden, but whether it had been intentionally buried or had been on the surface could not be determined. The specimen had been broken and the fractured edges of the original perforation, which had passed through the middle, were later smoothed

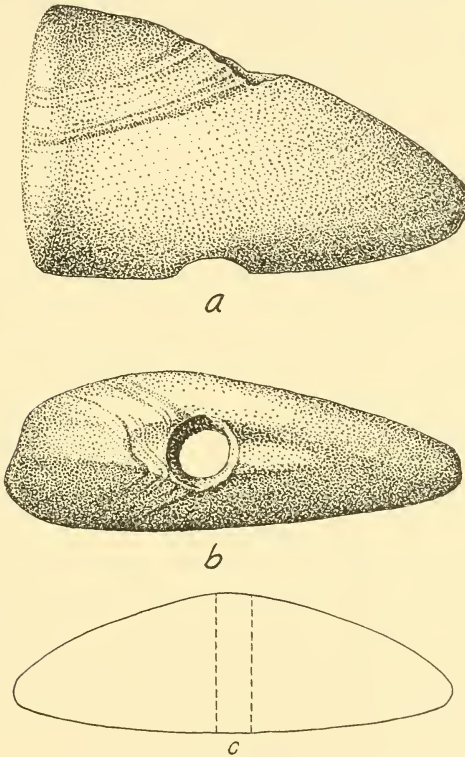


FIG. 4.—*a* and *b*, two views of part of a large bannerstone made of banded slate, found near Red Hill School, Albemarle County. After being broken, this half had been perforated and the fractured edges polished. Natural size. *c*, probable outline of the bannerstone as originally made, before being broken. $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. (U.S.N.M. No. 364588.)

and polished. In this restored condition it continued to be used. Two views of this interesting object are given in figure 4. The material is banded slate, light gray in color, which does not occur in this part of the country, and it is believed that the specimen came originally from

the far north or northwest, in the vicinity of the Great Lakes. Two other examples, very similar to this, are in the collections of the United States National Museum. One is from North Carolina and the other from Ohio. In the latter the new perforation had been started but not completed, and the edges of the fractured end had not been smoothed. These curious objects, of unknown use, had evidently been treasured by their owners. No fragments of pottery have been found on the site just mentioned.

Southwest of the Oliver residence, near the foot of the slope a short distance from the left bank of the South Branch, are traces of either a more extensive camp or, what is more probable, a site that had been frequently occupied. A spring formerly issued from the side of the hill just above the site, and the water flowed through a narrow channel to join the branch a few hundred feet away. This would have been a beautiful location for a camp, on the southern slope of a well-wooded hill which afforded protection against the north and west winds, and with a good supply of pure water. The land has been cultivated for many years, the gully filled, and the spring covered.

Arrowheads are numerous on the slope and adjacent low ground, and here they are more varied in form and in material than are those on the plateau above, where the more common types made of quartz and quartzite, occurring in the region, predominate. A few hammerstones, a pestle or clublike object, several pitted stones and extremely rough axes, one of which is shown in plate 9, *d*, all very crude, have been found here. One small fragment of a soapstone vessel and many bits of pottery have been recovered from the surface. The pottery is so weathered and the surface so disintegrated that it is seldom possible to determine the marking on the outer face; some fragments reveal the imprint of small twisted cords, but no impression of woven cloth has been recognized as such, although some few suggest the imprint of rigid basketry. The fragments resemble those found on the site of Monasukapanough, bordering the Rivanna.

About a third of a mile west of north of the Oliver house, on both sides of a small stream which flows into the Middle Branch just before the latter unites with the North Fork of the Hardware, are traces of a camp. The ground is very low, often marshy, and consequently difficult to examine. Many fragments of pottery have been recovered from a restricted area, besides a few arrowpoints and the two implements shown in plate 9, *b* and *c*. The pottery is similar to

that found on the site previously described; all is weathered and worn away on the surface.

Undoubtedly many other small camp sites similar to the three just mentioned are to be found along the courses of the several streams which unite to form the Hardware. All were probably temporary camps, occupied during the hunting season, when, as is well known, many families would leave their permanent village, often travel far, and "passe the tyme with hunting and fowling up towards the mountaines."

SUTHERLAND SITE

The road running in a northwesterly direction through North Garden and Crossroads and passing the mountain at Israel Gap is one of the oldest in Albemarle County. There is reason to believe a trail once followed the same general course. On the south side of this road, a mile or more southeast of the gap and about 3 miles in a direct line west of the Oliver site, is another locality very similar to that site. Here a long, narrow tongue of land projects due southeast from the higher ground, a spur from the south side of the gap. Small streams fed by many springs flow on both sides of the ridge and unite just below to form the principal fork of the South Branch of Hardware River, which, some miles beyond, bounds the Oliver site on the south. The ground on either side of the spur was formerly very marshy, overgrown, and consequently difficult to pass. The high land, rising thus above its marshy borders on three sides, was evidently well suited to the hunting of deer as described by Capt. John Smith, and that it was a favorite hunting ground is indicated by the vast quantities of arrowheads which are known to have been gathered from the surface. Now, after the land has been cultivated for more than a century, many are yet found which resemble those from the Oliver site. A few chipped implements, very rough and crudely made, which may be termed axes, are found in the vicinity, usually on the low ground. Three examples are shown in plate 10. This was undoubtedly a long-frequented hunting ground, as no trace of a permanent village has been discovered.

BURRUSS SITE

This small but very interesting site was discovered near the source of Jumping Branch, a small stream which flows south and soon joins the South Fork of Hardware River. It is near the old road, already mentioned, which extends from North Garden to

Crossroads, and about 1 mile west of south from the Red Hill School. Here is a comparatively level area a few acres in extent and sloping down to the left bank of the stream, with a steep hill rising from the opposite side. Many arrowpoints are now—and have been in the past—collected from the surface. The majority are made of white quartz and the usual grayish brown quartzite, similar to those recovered from the sites previously described, but others are made of materials less common, including jasper, chert, and argillite, as well as varieties of quartzite seldom encountered in the region. A view across the site is reproduced in plate 11, together with some of the more unusual specimens found on the surface. The specimen at the bottom of the plate, termed either celt or chisel, has a ground cutting edge at the right and shows the effect of much use.

Restricted areas, such as the one just described, where great numbers of projectile points are scattered over the surface, are frequently encountered near springs or on the banks of small streams in this part of Virginia. The scarcity of material other than arrowpoints and the total lack of pottery or any indications of a camp makes it evident that such sites were merely small hunting grounds where game was sought.

COOK SITE

An ancient trail of great importance led from James River up the valley of the Rockfish and thence over the mountain through Rockfish Gap to the Shenandoah. Another trail is believed to have led from Rockfish Gap across the intervening ridges and valleys to Israel Gap, near the Sutherland site, and to have continued down the course of the Hardware eastwardly, as has been mentioned elsewhere in these notes.

The coming together of several important trails necessarily made this a place of considerable interest.

The site to which reference is now made occupies the summit of a rounded knoll at the end of a ridge, rising a short distance east of the North Fork of Rockfish River, in Nelson County. It is on the farm of Charles B. Cook, and is about $1\frac{1}{8}$ miles west of south of Avon post office. In one respect it is very unusual, for although it appears to have been a camp of rather more permanent nature than many, it occupied this exposed site, which, however, commanded a wide view of the surrounding country, including the gap through the mountains several miles away. No pottery was discovered on the site. Stone implements were numerous, including several hammerstones, broken arrowpoints, and some beautiful specimens made of

black chert which had probably been brought from the valley. Two club-shaped objects were of unusual interest. One of these is shown in figure 5; this may have been a primitive form of weapon rather than an implement. A fragment of a similar object was found on the camp site on the south of the Oliver site.

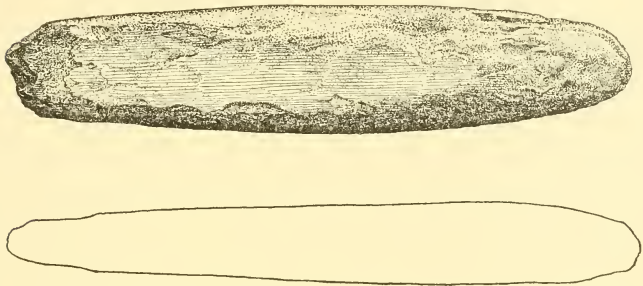


FIG. 5.—Club-shaped object made of greenstone, found on a camp site east of the North Fork of Rockfish River, south of Avon, Nelson County. $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. (U.S.N.M. No. 364596.)

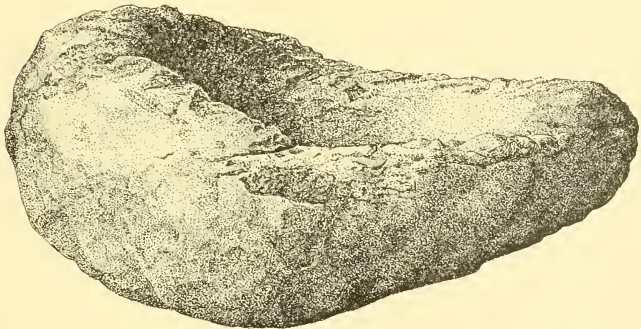


FIG. 6.—Mortar made of a block of amphibolite, found in Browns Cove, near the foot of the Blue Ridge, Albemarle County. About $\frac{1}{3}$ natural size. (U.S.N.M. No. 337375.)

The secluded, protected spots along the foot of the mountains were often occupied by small groups, probably hunters, traces of whose camps are frequently revealed. A few objects of stone may be found, but seldom is any piece of special interest discovered. A massive mortar, formed from a piece of amphibolite, found in

Browns Cove, near the foot of the Blue Ridge, in Albemarle County, is shown in figure 6. It had probably been made and used near the spot where it was discovered; nothing similar has been found on the village or camp sites encountered in other parts of the county.

It is to be regretted that a more complete, more exhaustive archeological survey of the region could not have been made, and the same statement may be applied to the entire piedmont country. However, the few scattered sites described at this time are believed to be characteristic of the entire region, and if this be true, the examination of additional localities and the gathering of more material of the same nature would not tend to add greatly to what is now known concerning the manners and ways of life of the native tribes who once occupied the country. Two important investigations, however, remain to be carried on: One is to bring together and sift the evidence of a very early period of occupancy in piedmont Virginia; the other is to determine the route followed by the Siouan tribes from their ancient habitat beyond the Ohio to piedmont Virginia, to the land they claimed and occupied in 1607.