



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

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Walton County Heritage Association

April 2020



WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE LOCATION

Walton County Heritage Museum, (Old Train Depot)
Hours: Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Postal Address

Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.
1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435
Phone: 850-951-2127
Website: <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/#>

DEPARTMENTS

Administration

President: Marie Hinson, hinsonharmony@yahoo.com
Vice President: Carolyn Brown
Treasurer: Sam Carnley
Secretary: Mary Lancaster

Public Relations

Sharon Grenet, smgrenet@bellsouth.net

Museum Docent Coordinator

Sharon Grenet

Genealogy Society

President: Wayne Sconiers, waynesconiers@embarqmail.com

Newsletter

Editor: Sam Carnley, wsamuelcarnley@gmail.com
Assistant Editor and Lead Researcher: Bruce Cosson, bac2work1958@yahoo.com
Editorial Advisor: Diane Merkel, ddmerkel@cox.net
Back Issues: <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/newsletters.htm>
Cover Design: Sam Carnley

Newsletter Cover Collage Photos

Clockwise from top left:

1. Darlington, Florida, early 1900s, Courtesy of Baker Block Museum, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.
2. *Henderson-Mathis turpentine still in Glendale or Gaskin*. 1904. Black & white photoprint, 4 x 6 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/42107>>, accessed 28 June 2017 by Sam Carnley.
3. William Lewis (Luke) Hurst Family, Fleming Creek/Clear Springs area, north Walton County, ca 1894, from “The Heritage of Walton County, Florida,” p. 190.
4. Old Paxton High School, “1961-62 Paxtonian” Year Book, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley
5. Walton County Heritage Museum, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
6. Gladys D. Milton (1924-1999), Midwife, Flowersview/Paxton, photo by her daughter, Maria Milton. Also in “The Heritage of Walton County, Florida,” p. 249, and the September 2018 Newsletter at <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2018Sep.pdf> Edited by Sam Carnley.
7. Lake Jackson, South Side, in Paxton City Limits, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
8. Paxton Water Tower, Paxton, Florida, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
9. Old Freeport School, constructed ca 1908, burned 1943. Photo from “The Heritage of Walton County, Florida,” p. 45. Photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.
10. *Floralia Saw Mill Company's engine number 3 - Paxton, Florida*. 1907. Black & white photonegative, 4 x 5 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Photographer unknown. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/146972>>, accessed 7 September 2019 and edited by Sam Carnley. [Built in 1873 and Originally owned by New York, Ontario and Western Railroad Company as engine number 60; then owned by Southern Iron and Equipment Company as engine number 568 in 1907; then owned by Florala Saw Mill Company as engine number 3 on March 3, 1907; returned to Southern Iron and Equipment Company and number changed to 915 on March 13, 1913; then owned by Louisiana Saw Mill Company as engine 50 in May, 1913.]

The **Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.** is an 501 (C) 3 Florida Not for Profit Corporation Recognized by the IRS as a Public Charity Organization for Tax Deductible Donations.

The Walton County Heritage Association was organized for four main purposes:

- To promote the preservation and restoration of buildings and other landmarks of historical interest within Walton County;
- To maintain the Walton County Heritage Museum to preserve the heritage of Walton County for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations by collecting, preserving, and exhibiting artifacts and information from the time of its original inhabitants to the present;
- To foster and enhance the development, education, and sense of history which is unique to Walton County; and
- To secure cooperation and unity of action between individual citizens, businesses, and other groups as may be necessary to fulfill these purposes.

The Association depends upon the support of its members and the business community to accomplish its goals. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals, \$40 for families and \$100 for corporate memberships.

[Click here](#) for the **Individual Membership Application**

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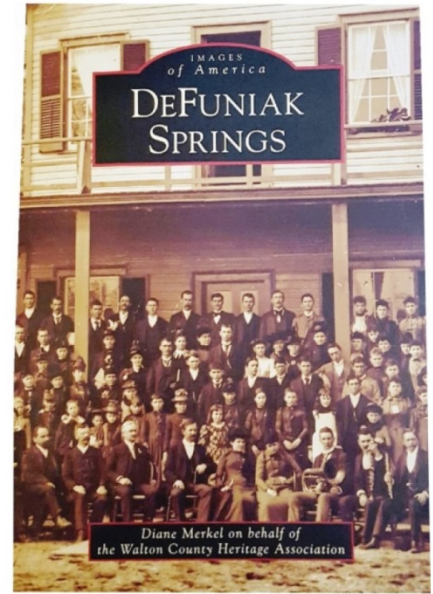
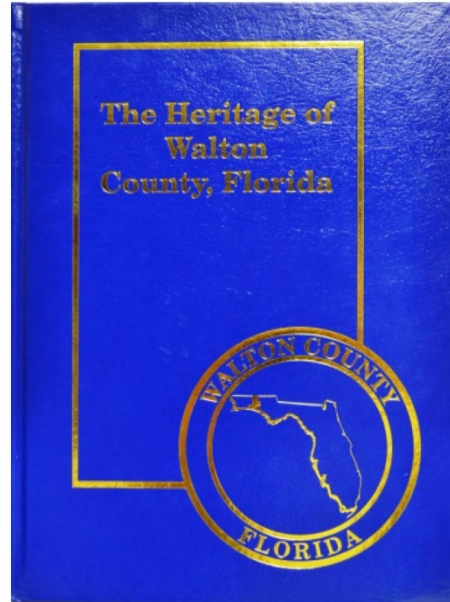
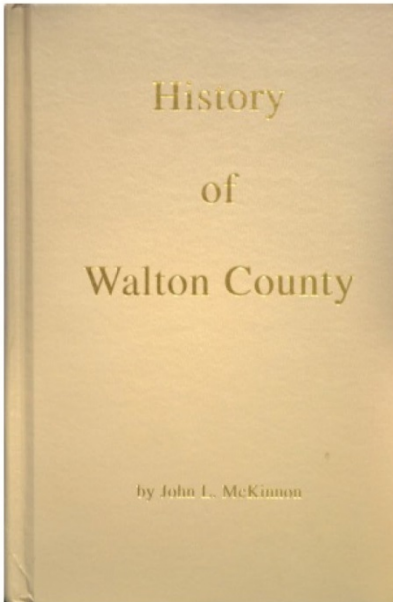
Member Benefits:

- **Automatic** membership in the **Walton County Heritage Museum** and the **Walton County Genealogy Society**.
- **Invitations** to Quarterly Members Meetings
- **Discounts** on Special Events
- **The Museum Research Center:** Members get free copies of documents and use of the Genealogy Society computer when the Museum is open.
- **The Museum Gift Shop:** Members receive discounts on books, special publications, postcards, photographs, CDs, DVDs, videos, and gift items.
- **Free subscriptions** to the WCHA Newsletter and Journal.

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From the Museum Gift Shop

Our most popular books



History of Walton County
by John L. McKinnon. The Museum has sold out of this book and it is out of print, but it is available on line free of charge at this link,
<https://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/georgiabooks/pdfs/gb0503.pdf>

The Heritage of Walton County, Florida. Item code **B13**. History of Walton County's organizations, churches and people. Hard cover, 316 pages, indexed.
\$59.00 plus tax and shipping.

Images of America, DeFuniak Springs. Item code **B06**. By Diane Merkel. Softcover, 128 pages, 185 photos, indexed.
\$21.99 plus tax and shipping.

BOOK MAIL ORDER FORM

Walton County Heritage Association
1140 Circle Drive
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Customer Name: _____
Address: _____
Ph./Email: _____

Quantity	Description	Item Code	Price Each*	Amount
	The Heritage of Walton County, Florida	B13	71.13	
	Images of America, DeFuniak Springs.	B06	31.53	

*Price includes tax at 7% and shipping of \$8.00 per item.

Total

Sorry, credit cards not accepted. Please send check or money orders only. Do not mail cash. Please allow two weeks for delivery.

From the Editor, Part I

As most of us are aware, genealogical information can sometimes vary depending on its source. A case in point is the article on the “Michael Vaughan Family” we featured in the March 2020 newsletter. Bob Anderson, the source of our information on the “Angus Lane Anderson Family,” featured in the February 2020 newsletter advises us that due to connections between these two families he has researched the Vaughans and offers the observations below regarding our March article on that family. First, I take responsibility for misattributing the parents of James Vaughan’s second wife Nancy as Angus L. and Sarah Katherine Broxson Anderson. Her parents were actually of an earlier generation as Bob points out in his comments.

Sam Carnley
4/21/2020

March 2020 Newsletter, History Snippet on Michael Vaughan Family

2 messages

Bob Anderson <rmamsc70k@gmail.com>
To: wsamuclarnley@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 20, 2020 at 5:14 PM

Dear Sam,

I thought your history snippets in the newsletter were an excellent idea. The Michael Vaughan Family selection was of great interest as that family is one of the Anderson-Broxson Families. However, as I read the text I was somewhat distressed to find several facts that conflict with the Anderson-Broxson Family Genealogy/History. As with nearly all families of Scottish Heritage conflicts related to names occur because of the historic Scottish naming convention. Also, it is not uncommon for family details to get confused as they pass down thru the generations unless they have been researched and recorded in a sourced document file be it paper for electronic.

I delved into the Anderson-Broxson genealogy and would like to offer some additional information and/or corrections. What you with this information is your choice.

MICHAEL VAUGHAN – Michael's birth place is a disputed fact, either Mecklenburg County, Virginia or Maggie Valley, Haywood County, North Carolina (which could be South Carolina due to boundary adjustments). It is believed that his wife was Margaret Powell of Maggie Valley. However, even this name is in dispute because it is lacking definitive proof.

Comment – Based on some early research I discovered that modern maps appear to show Maggie Valley spanning the North Carolina-South Carolina boundary. It appears that the boundary line has moved over the years based on surveys and depending when the person was born or living they may have been one or the other of the states. In the Anderson-Broxson records, Maggie Valley is listed as North Carolina.

JAMES VAUGHAN – The second wife of James was Nancy Anderson (1799-1879), Daughter of ANGUS Anderson (1768-between May 1838-1840) and Katherine ?? (1770-1831). She immigrated with her parents and two Brothers (Archibald and Daniel) in 1802, *Directory of Scots in The Carolinas, 1680-1830*, David Dobson, (Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Co., 1986 and 2009). [*A Scottish naming convention gotcha*].

Burial place. - After extensive research, I have been unable to locate McDuffie Cemetery in Holmes County, FL. However, I did find several children buried in a McDuffie-Vaughan Cemetery, Geneva County, AL. This cemetery is on land formerly owned by Vaughan Family and in the area that transferred from Florida to Alabama when the state boundary was resurveyed in the 1840's.

Children with Rebecca ” Jones:

Michael – Died 1837 in the same Indian War Skirmish with his Brother-in-Law “Big John” Anderson. Anderson-Broxson records show a Kenneth (1815-1815).

Children with Nancy Anderson:

Catherine (1836-1913) ADOPTED, Biological parents unknown/unrecorded. Married Charles Rowe Abt 1870

MICHAEL VAUGHAN, Jr (1795-1884) Died in Holmes County, FL Buried at the Mount Ida Methodist Church Cemetery.

LUCY VAUGHAN - Not in Anderson-Broxson database I will have to research.

Thanks fro all you do. But I just wanted to try and the record straight.
Bob Anderson

From the Editor, Part II

From time to time we come across historical writings privately published by Walton Countians of which the general public is little aware. One such writing recently coming to my attention is a little booklet titled “Flint Chips,” authored by the late Harold W. Gillis (1914-1999). Harold was in a long line of Gillises descended from John, who arrived in Walton County about 1831 among its earliest settlers. The Gillis Family story is found on page 168 of “The Heritage of Walton County, Florida.” It tells of the origins of the family beginning with Donald and Florence Stewart Gillis of Isle of Sky Scotland. Their son John was born there on August 6, 1810. Shortly thereafter the family immigrated to America and settled in North Carolina. As an adult, John migrated to Florida and settled in the Knox Hill area of Euchee Valley where he remained the rest of his life. Presented below is an excerpt from the story about Harold Wilson Gillis, who appeared to be in the fourth generation of the family descended from Donald. The story was submitted by Harold’s son, John, of DeFuniak Springs:

My father was Harold Wilson Gillis, seventh son and eleventh child of John Newton and Amanda Ramsey Gillis. He was born at Knox Hill on June 12, 1914. On November 29, 1939, Harold married Mildred (Mickey) Wright Broxson, older daughter of Dr. John A Broxson and Verna Louise Spears. Mickey was a graduate of Troy State University. Harold graduated from the University of Florida. There were three children born to this couple: Amanda Claire, John Harold and Sara Louise. My mother taught school for many years in the surrounding communities. My father taught some earlier in his career, but chose banking as his lifelong profession. My parents made their home in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Mildred Broxson died September 18, 1991, and Harold Wilson died October 20, 1999. Both are interred in the Magnolia Cemetery in DeFuniak Springs. Alva Knox, Jr., my cousin, and my two sons, John Nathaniel and Adam Wilson, and I are the only living male descendants of John Newton Gillis to perpetuate the Gillis name. The third child and second daughter, Sara Louise Applewhite, resides in Marianna, Florida. Amanda Claire died on January 5, 1978.

And so we remain, thrifty, fiercely independent, and true to our commitments . . . , a Scottish clan from the Knox Hill Community of Walton County, Florida.

As a lifelong resident of Walton County, Harold became acquainted with many of its out-of-the-way places little known to the general public in his hobby of collecting Native American artifacts. He researched the artifacts he found to learn of their origins and the people who created them. Desirous of sharing what he found and learned with others he wrote and published a booklet titled “Flint Chips.” As a self-published document it’s circulation was very limited when originally written but deserves greater public exposure than it received owing to the historical information it contains. Due to its historical value, we present it as our featured article in this month’s newsletter. It contains no copyright information and is presumed to be a public domain document but we fully credit it as the work of Harold W. Gillis. I did the editing needed for inclusion in the newsletter.

Sam Carnley
4/24/2020

FLINT CHIPS

By Harold W. Gillis

Transcribed and Edited by Sam Carnley

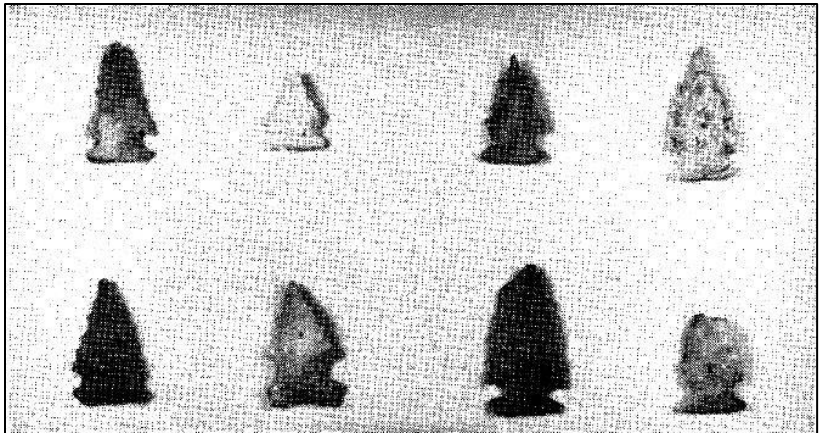
During the past several years, especially from 1969 through 1972, my family and I have enjoyed frequent field trips on which we have found evidence that many thousands of years ago, long before the white man came to the New World, other men hunted, fished, and camped beside the big gushing springs in Walton County.

In this part of Florida, we often tend to think, rather absent-mindedly, that Walton County was a totally uninhabited wilderness, before the white man first appeared here in the early 1600s. And that seems like a long time ago. Even then, he was merely a chance visitor. We do know that there were Indians here, but we know little about them, for the written records left by the early explorers give us only sketchy accounts of the life in this area. The early historians describe the Indians whom they encountered as an unfriendly lot and fierce fighters, and perhaps that is why we know so little about them. A representative early account is written by a Spaniard who accompanied a band of Apalachees and Chacatos into the region for a raid on the Chiscas (or Euchees) in about 1680. He tells of a terrific battle which occurred, apparently in South Walton County, in which a large numbers of Euchees were killed.

So the earliest written records establish the existence of Indians here in the 1600s, but tell us little or nothing about their culture. In recent years we have learned that the entire area was inhabited by Indians over a period of thousands of years, and we know a little about their culture. Our knowledge is derived only from artifacts left by these prehistoric men. No other records exist, but the artifacts of a culture often provide much clearer and more reliable evidence than written records. It is about that kind of evidence that I am concerned, and about the tale such evidence tells.

The tale goes back very far indeed, though just how far we are not sure. Since the late 1940s, authorities are generally agreed that the American Indians (as all early Americans are called) originated in Asia. They believe that more than 10,000 years ago man first came to America from Asia by way of a 50-mile ice bridge across the Bering Strait. Thence it was not long – a mere few thousand years – before man wandered into Walton County in search of game. Whether or not that theory is valid is not for me to say, but certainly men were here several thousand years before the Christian Era. I myself have seen many locations here in Walton County, especially on high hills and bluffs where water was plentiful, which were used as settlement sites over periods of thousands of years. Many artifacts have been found, by others as well as by me, which under carbon dating attest to very ancient settlements in Walton County.

Associated with the earliest known artifacts in the State of Florida are the points known as Bolen Points. These points are assumed to have belonged to the period 7000-5000 B. C. (Bullen, 1965). This point is identified by the side notches and the beveled and serrated edges; and most of the points are basally ground. Specimens of these points have been found at several locations described in this account. These points fall in the same time period with the famous Folsom point, so named because it was found near Folsom, New Mexico, in association with the remains of animals such as the camel and the mastodon (Reader's Digest Almanac, 1967). In Florida, these points are often found in swampy areas where large animals, after having been hit by the projectile, may have become bogged down near springs and rivers where they might have come to drink, (Bullen, 1965). In Walton County's warm humid climate, it is not likely that

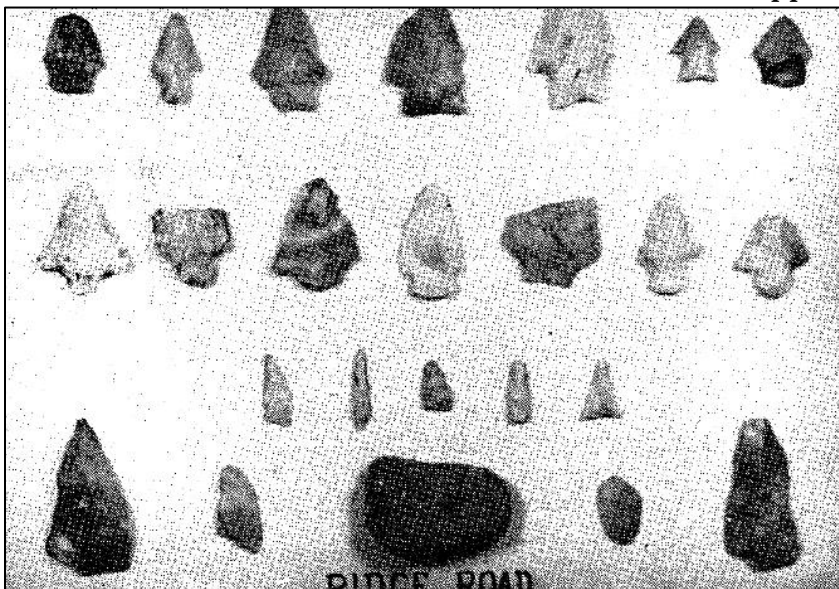


Bolen Point Types From The Gillis Collection

any fossils are to be found with one of these ancient points, unless it would be found in a limerock formation.

Perhaps the most singular observation to be mentioned in connection with our local artifacts is that there is a prevalence of quartzite or sandstone objects. The articles that are found the deepest and would ordinarily be considered the oldest are frequently made of quartzite or are associated with quartzite chips. A fine specimen of one of these large quartzite points was found during the construction of I-10 just west of the intersection of State Road No. 278 in the Alaqua area. This particular point had suffered a great deal of sandblasting, and the cutting edges are somewhat rounded. Several specimens were found at a depth of about eighteen inches at the Bee Branch pit, and one fine Bolen point specimen was found in the swampy area of the Shoal River site. All of these items were made of quartzite, leading one to believe that there is an unknown source of this material somewhere near. This sandstone material is soft and easy to fashion, but it is extremely brittle and frequently the articles are broken. I have several items that I cemented together, having found the two parts on separate trips to the site. The fact that so many of the objects have serrated edges strengthens the theory that these artifacts are from the earliest time periods.

The County Road leading from Knox Hill to the Douglass Crossroads, and on which the site of the Knox Hill Academy is located, follows a high ridge, and it is frequently referred to as the "Ridge Road." There is a definite ridge extending from the Ray Hill to the north a distance of about 1 and ½ miles, where the elevation averages more than 200 feet above sea level, and on both sides of the road are steep buffs and big springs where sloping drops of 150 feet are common. Much evidence of prehistoric settlements is found along this entire stretch. In some spots there is an abundance of flint chips, indicating work sites where points and knives were made and reworked. The flint with which these settlers worked was of excellent quality, and it was evidently imported from distant sources, perhaps from as far away as Georgia. There was evidently a large settlement specifically around the heads of the Hughes Ditch and Camp Branch on the East side of the road and the head of Crooked Creek on the west side of the road. Here a worksite appears to have been spread out over an area of



Artifacts From The Ridge Road

several acres. Artifacts representative of eras covering thousands of years have been found along this road. The collection includes points, knives, hoes, scrapers, drill points, and one large nutting-grinding stone. It may be mentioned in connection with the many items found here, that a strict classification of points or objects is difficult, especially for the amateur as there were many craftsmen and many patterns. Also, materials of varying qualities imported from distant places were adaptable to specific uses. In addition to the items mentioned above, several sherds of early pottery were found. Most of the artifacts found in this area indicated that the region was

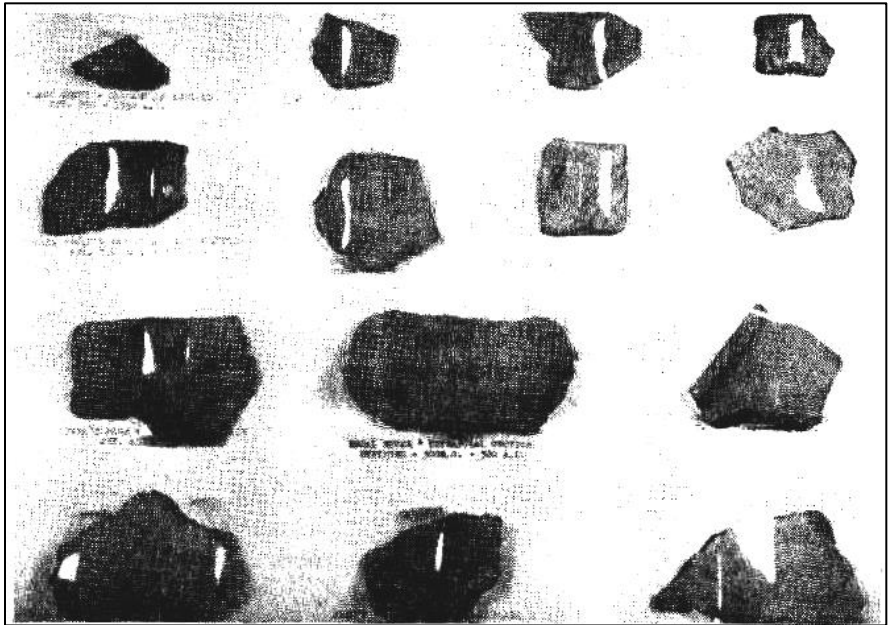
well populated during the period from 5,000 B. C. to 1,000 B. C. and later.

Almost every elevated area near a source of water throughout the County contains evidence of prehistoric inhabitants. The high bluffs along Bruce Creek, particularly in the Red Hill Bridge area, are full of evidences of prehistoric campsites and settlements. Along the lower Choctawhatchee River and in the Choctawhatchee Bay Area are many sites and Indian mounds, some of which have not yet been disturbed. Reportedly, the largest dug-out canoe found in North America was found near the mouth of Choctawhatchee River in 1965. This canoe, with a small section of one end broken off, was 46 feet long. It was displayed at the Barrett's Store in Point Washington for some time and was later

bought by the owner of the Indian Springs Museum at Tallulah Falls, Georgia. In 1971 it was on display in a museum in Michigan. Rock Hill, about seven miles south of DeFuniak Springs, was so named because of the large ceremonial rock found near the top of the hill. For many years this rock remained beside the road leading from DeFuniak Springs to Freeport. Around 1936, the rock was hauled to Freeport where it was later struck by large truck and broken, after which it was reportedly thrown into a nearby creek.

During the late Pre-Ceramic Archaic Period, around 5,000 B. C., the evidence indicates that the early inhabitants began to depend on shell-fish, snails and mussels for the major component of their food, and there was a gradual shift of the population to the areas affording these foods (Bullen, 1965). Occasionally, at some of the oldest sites in the hill section of the county, I have found an occasional clam shell. Huge piles of oyster shells and clam shells, or middens as they are called, are found along Choctawhatchee Bay. A concentration of such mounds is found in the Piney Point area south of Portland. Similar mounds are found along both sides of the lower Choctawhatchee River. Potsherds, representative of the Ceramic Period, are plentiful in these sections, indicating that these areas were inhabited over a period of thousands of years.

Historians tell us that pottery was perhaps first introduced in Florida and Georgia several hundred years before pottery appeared in other parts of the country. Radiocarbon dating places this date at about 2,000 B. C. (Bullen, 1965). The oldest pottery is undecorated, rather thick and appears to have been made of dark clay in which fibers had been mixed. The time period of the use of this type of pottery in Florida has been designated the Orange Period and dates from about 2,000 B. C. to 1,000 B. C. At one spot on Jake Powell's farm, in adjoining Holmes County, many large sherds of this type pottery, known as the Norwood Series type pottery, were found where the Bulldozer had cut into the side of the hill making a dam for a fish pond on the Big Spring run. The spot was at the west end of the dam and at a depth of about four feet. It appears that the clay in this pottery had been mixed with Spanish moss. A 2 and ½ square inch sherd of this same type pottery was found at the Shoal River site on the south side of the river. Around 1400 B. C., writes Ripley P. Bullen, carved stone vessels were introduced. One such vessel was reportedly found in the Sandy Creek area, northeast of Argyle. A "Molaquita," made of Mexican volcanic rock, was found by D. W. Kennington in the Caney Creek area. About 1,000 B. C., the beginning of what is known as the Transitional Period, a new type pottery appears to have been introduced. Some of this pottery was a temperless, chalky type, while other types appeared to be tempered with some fibers, large sand and limestone. Also, it has been learned that decorations began to appear on pottery during this period. Sherds of this Transitional Period type pottery have been found throughout the county. D. W. Kennington has a collection of large sherds of pottery found in the lower Choctawhatchee River area, many of which appear to be from the Spanish Mission period about 1600 A. D.



Potsherds Representative Of Several Types Of Early Pottery

One could not describe in one volume all of the places in our County that have been inhabited by ancient men, for the evidence is literally turned up with almost every spade-full of soil from the sand dunes of Grayton Beach to the banks of Limestone Creek along the Alabama border. Historians have estimated the Indian population of this entire section of Florida at less than 3000 during the

period around 1600 A. D. (Swanton, 1946). Whether the prehistoric population had been reduced by wars and diseases, or whether the estimates of later populations are too low, one can only guess.

The narrow strip of high ground south of Turner Bay and along the north bank of Shoal River just west of State Road No. 285, was used extensively as a campsite for many centuries. This area was cleared by the First American Farms of Freeport in 1969, and in one spot particularly, erosion has revealed a lot about the history of this area. Where the river makes a U-turn because of a high bank, heavy erosion has taken place to the north-east at this location. Here a number of places were uncovered that gave the appearance of ancient fire sites. Small heaps of charred clay uncovered at considerable depth gave the appearance of having been sites where the clay had been brought into the fires on the sand in order to retain the heat of the fires. In one of these spots, a quartzite chip scraper was found. It had been burned in the fire. At another spot, at a place where less erosion had taken place, a small piece of pottery had been burned in the fire. While there was no appearance of these sites conforming to the familiar Indian fire pits, the artifacts found nearby support the supposition that they were indeed fire sites of ancient men. It appears that the place had been used by early man as he camped briefly at this spot to hunt and fish. Several large archaic stemmed points were found nearby. In addition, at a point about one-quarter mile to the west, on the eroded bank of the river, a perfect Bolen point specimen was found. The ground had eroded at least eighteen inches at this spot, and it may be readily assumed that this ancient point was left with the dying animal as he came seeking water after being hit by the projectile. One of the interesting points found in this area is a small beveled triangular point which appears to be a reworked Bolen point. Another small point is a side-knotched point similar to points found in nearby Alabama. Nearer the State Road was an area where a number of sherds were found. Since very few flint chips were found, the spot appeared to have been used more as a business and pleasure site than as a permanent settlement site. The array of wild flowers and plants in their season in this section is simply fantastic.

Rare varieties, ranging from wild orchids to sugar maple have been noted. Of interest to geology students is the fact that a hand sized piece of fossilized wood was found at this site. Directly across the River, about one-quarter mile south of the stream, was located an ancient settlement site. Situated on the north side of a hill, about one-half the distance up the side of the hill, an erosion ditch had evidently cut directly through the site. Coming upon the spot, as I did in the Spring of 1972, one might have gotten the feeling that surely the area had not long been abandoned. There in the bottom of the ditch, which was about two feet deep, were two large knives, one upon the other. The other ancient tools were near by – the ancient quartzite axe, the smaller knives, the beautiful hafted end scraper, the broken hafted quartzite knife, and all the flint work chips. The familiar charred clay signs nearby made me wonder if I could not detect the odor of roasted buffalo in the air. It was as if these men had hurriedly vacated the spot, perhaps driven away by some enemy. All that had disappeared was the lean-to and the personal articles subject to the decay of thousands of years. It seemed strange that this spot had been chosen below the crest of the hill where such places are usually found, but the elevation here was sufficient, and the crest was too far from the River. About two miles to the East of this site is Battle Branch, where during the 1800s a terrific battle was fought between the white settlers and a band of Creek Indians who had massacred a family of white men (McKinnon, 1911). This section of Walton County is most interesting, and one could have a historical picnic researching the area.

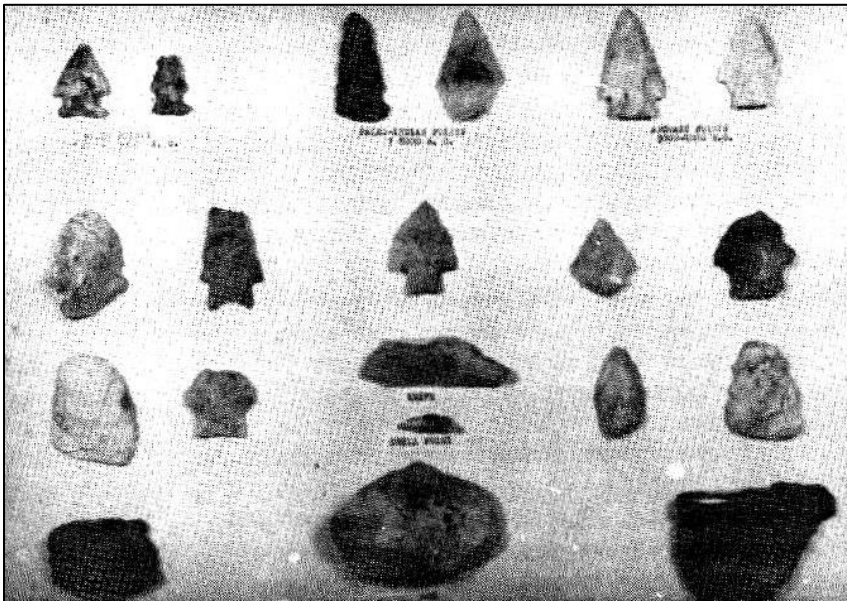
About one-half mile south of Bruce, on the West side of State Road No. S-81, a borrow pit has been expanded into an area where there is much evidence of an early settlement. The area to the north is bordered by a cypress swamp, and the elevation at the settlement site is only about twenty feet above sea level. The soil here is built up to about thirty inches, and since the terrain is fairly level, there is little erosion. Where the excavation had been made to a depth of about thirty inches, several spots with charcoal, stones and charred clay clods were seen. These gave the appearance of ancient camp fire sites, and over an area of about thirty square feet there was evidence that the spot had been used as a work site. Deeply patinated chips of flint are scattered all over the site. Here we found several scrapers, a gouge, a drill point, the base of an archaic stemmed point, one broken side-knotched arrow point, one single-pod section of a tetrapodal pot, several other pot sherds, one fine

small point, and a section of an archaic quartzite knife. In addition, we found two heart-shaped flint chips which give the appearance of having been ground and used as knives. One has a razor-sharp edge and could very easily have been used as a surgical instrument. Authorities would question any use for such items, but the fact that the two were found here and an identical one found in the Big Swamp Creek area some thirty miles away, leads me to conclude that the objects were of useful nature. The drill point is deeply patinated and has been delicately shaped, demonstrating the fine craftsmanship of the artist who fashioned it. The sandstone scraper, the ancient knife, and the patinated side-scraper would indicate that this site may have been inhabited as early as 7000 years ago. The potsherds indicate that it was still used as a campsite several thousand years later. It can be assumed men continued to use it, attracted here by the abundance of game and fish. It is interesting to suppose that the small gouge found would have been a perfect tool for opening shellfish which the settlers used for food.

About three miles southeast of Freeport and about three quarters of a mile north of Black Creek, along the bank of a small sandy-bottomed branch, is another area that is filled with artifacts. My daughter, Sara, and I made several trips to the big clay pit here and found several interesting items. Several small archaic arrow points were found near the stream. Imbedded in the bank of the dirt road leading down to the stream, at a depth of about two feet below the surface, we found a fine wide-stemmed point. This spear point was deeply patinated and appeared to be a very old point. On the slope of the hill, we found several sherds of pottery representative of a later period of time.

The Jake Powell farm in Holmes County, adjacent to the northeast corner of Walton County, has a long and interesting history as a site of permanent Indian settlement, extending over a period of thousands of years. Frequently, archaeologists have discovered such sites where artifacts provide evidence of long-established settlement. However, they rarely find a site where life has continued from prehistoric times to the present time. The thing that makes Jake's farm so interestingly rare is that the artifacts give evidence that life has continued there rather consecutively over perhaps the last ten thousand years. Innumerable artifacts have been found here. In the red clay hard-pan on the eroding side of the high bluff at the head of the big spring, the ancient Bolen points continue to be exposed. Many of these points have been found here. It is difficult to estimate how deep these points were originally; before the big timber was cut away and farming began on the hill, for the top soil is

being removed with every heavy rain that falls on this steep hill. It is easy to speculate that at the time these points were used the inhabitants lived in a nearby cave, for a stalagmite piece was found at the top of the hill. Since that time, it is quite possible that shifting sands and erosion have long since closed the mouth of the cave. Several archaic quartzite points, together with a deeply patinated stock-piece of quartzite about three and three quarter inches long and two inches in diameter have been found. The site is rich with all sorts of artifacts. There are points, knives, axes, celts, scrapers, drills, finished and unfinished items, grinding stones, and potsherds representative of Ceramic periods covering the entire



A Variety of Artifacts of The Types Found At Jake Powell's Farm Site

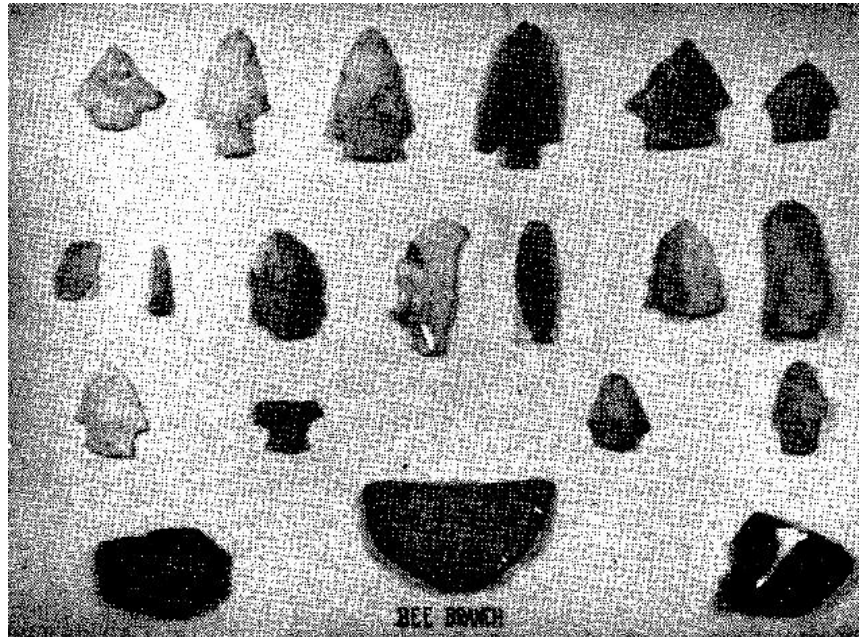
span from 2,000 B. C. to the historical period. Evidence seems to indicate that this spot was used consecutively as a settlement site for many thousands of years. On all sides of the spring which flows to the north, these artifacts have been found behind the plough and the bulldozer and on the eroded side of the hill. In an area where berries, native fruits, nuts, and game still abound, these paleo-

Indians found a wonderful spot for their home. With the stone tools found here, it would have been possible for them to fashion all sorts of wooden and bone conveniences which have long since decayed. One of the most interesting items found here is a fine tiny flint knife about an inch long, cut in an elliptical shape. The workmanship on the knife is fantastic, extremely delicate. It might be said that it is the ancient counterpart of the modern lady's pearl-handled knife. A University of Florida museum representative described it as a "Lovely Knife." Truly, it is a work of art!

In neighboring Jackson County, particularly along the Blue Springs run, are many prehistoric campsites. I have more than one hundred artifacts that I found in that vicinity several years ago. On July 8th, 1971, Sara and I spent a pleasant morning on a field trip on property owned by Mr. W. B. Reddoch in search of artifacts. After trudging for about a mile, we came to a small limerock knoll about a hundred feet in diameter where we found a number of artifacts, all apparently belonging to the Pre-Ceramic period. The site is directly south of the head of the Blue Springs run, about one-half mile south of the boil. This appeared to be a work site, as many chips of flint and chert were found nearby. Here we found a large spear point, one fine multicolored point which appeared to be similar to a Dalton point, several side scrapers, two heavily worn axes, one large knife, and a very interesting chert scraper made with a perfect indentation for a right thumb when it was used for scraping. The Dalton-like point was found in a depression just east of the knoll. The other items were found where they had been ploughed from a depth of perhaps ten to twelve inches. The terrain here is different from that in Walton County, for the lime rock is near the surface in many sections, and the artifacts are not as deep beneath the surface as they are to be found in Walton County. Since no potsherds appeared in this spot, it may reasonably be assumed that this site was not chosen by later inhabitants as a suitable place for a camp site.

About one-half mile north of Gum Creek on Bee Branch, in section 31, an extensive area has been used as a borrow pit. About eighteen inches of the top soil has been removed by the State Road Department, and the naked earth surface has been eroding rather rapidly, especially on the east side of the branch. On the west side of the marshy branch that flows into Gum Creek, I found several archaic stemmed points, two archaic stemmed or hafted knives with serrated edges, one fine specimen flint knife, and an interesting curved knife with a small knotted haft, seemingly designed to be worn about the neck on a string. There was a scattering of flint chips, indicating a good bit of activity on the west side of the branch.

On the east side, about the middle of the entire area, there was a definite campsite covering an area of about fifty square feet. I made several trips to the place, following heavy rains, and found a number of items; but I am confident that before I located the spot, many items had already been washed down toward the branch and had been buried in the sand. On the first trip, I found several potsherds, which appeared to be of the Transitional Period type pottery. Several Archaic stemmed points were found. Also, I found a quartzite smoothing stone. The last point to appear was an ancient Bolen point. In this immediate vicinity appeared the familiar camp fire signs with the charred clay. These fire places were inspected by Mr. A. B. Covell, a student of geology, and he too, was of the opinion that these oddities were signs of ancient fires. There seems a definite connection between these fire signs and the ancient artifacts found nearby. In a lower area, about fifty yards to the east of this site, I found a beautiful



Artifacts From The Bee Branch Site

inspected by Mr. A. B. Covell, a student of geology, and he too, was of the opinion that these oddities were signs of ancient fires. There seems a definite connection between these fire signs and the ancient artifacts found nearby. In a lower area, about fifty yards to the east of this site, I found a beautiful

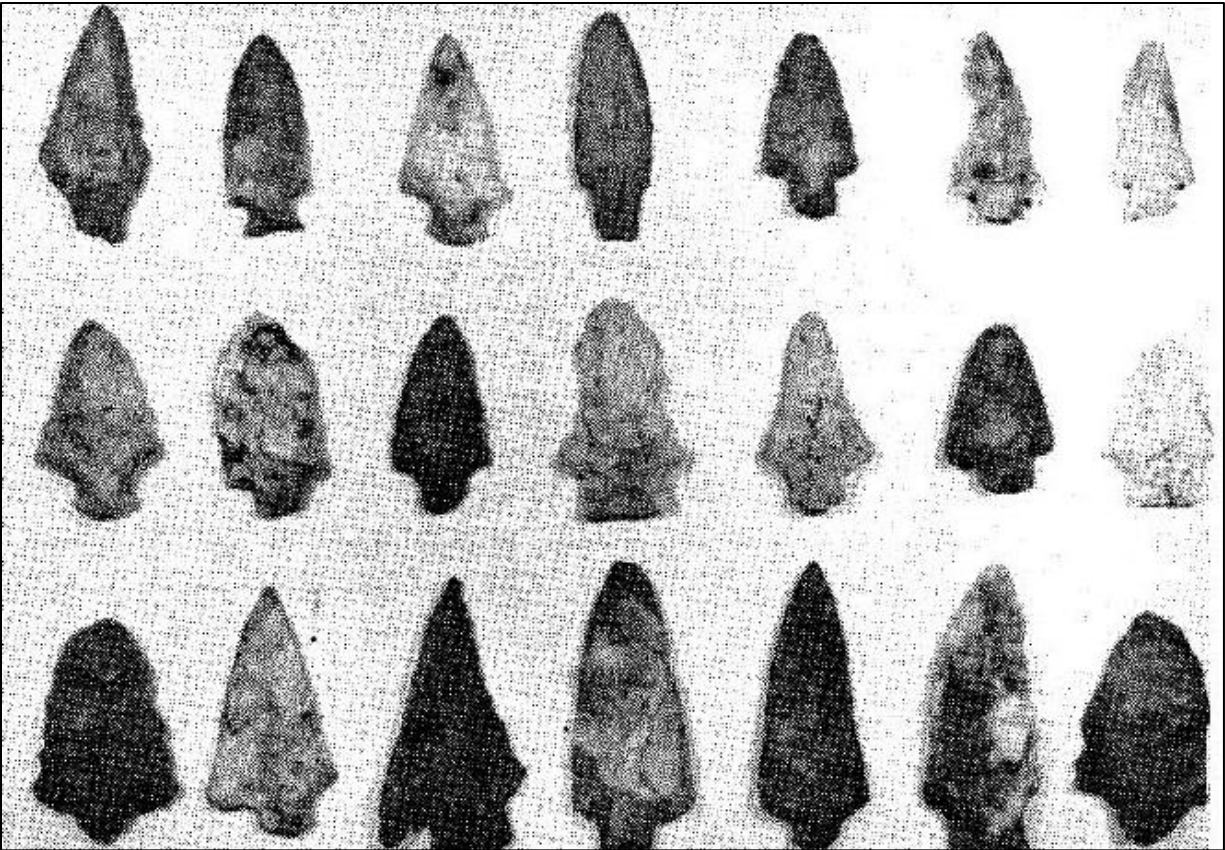
translucent amber-colored, quartz-like, corner-notched spear point, very thin, one and one-half inches wide and two and one-half inches long. This stray point appeared to have no definite connection with the camp site. However, it is a beautiful item.

Just south of Southwide Baptist Church, about two miles southwest of DeFuniak Springs, a large pit was dug for fill during the construction of Interstate 10, in 1971. Near the southeast corner of the pit where the digging was no deeper than about eighteen inches, adjacent to the head of a spring that flows into Bay Branch, we found a spot that appeared to have been used as a campsite. On one of our trips around this pit, Sara and I saw several clods of clay that appeared to have been burned. These singular clods were in a small erosion ditch leading down to the spring run. About six months later, we went back to this same spot and found that the heavy rains and erosion had given us evidence that the suspect clay clods were from ancient fires. At this site we found several sherds of pottery, a broken point, and saw a number of flint chips. About fifty feet to the east, we found a fine three-inch specimen of an archaic spear point.

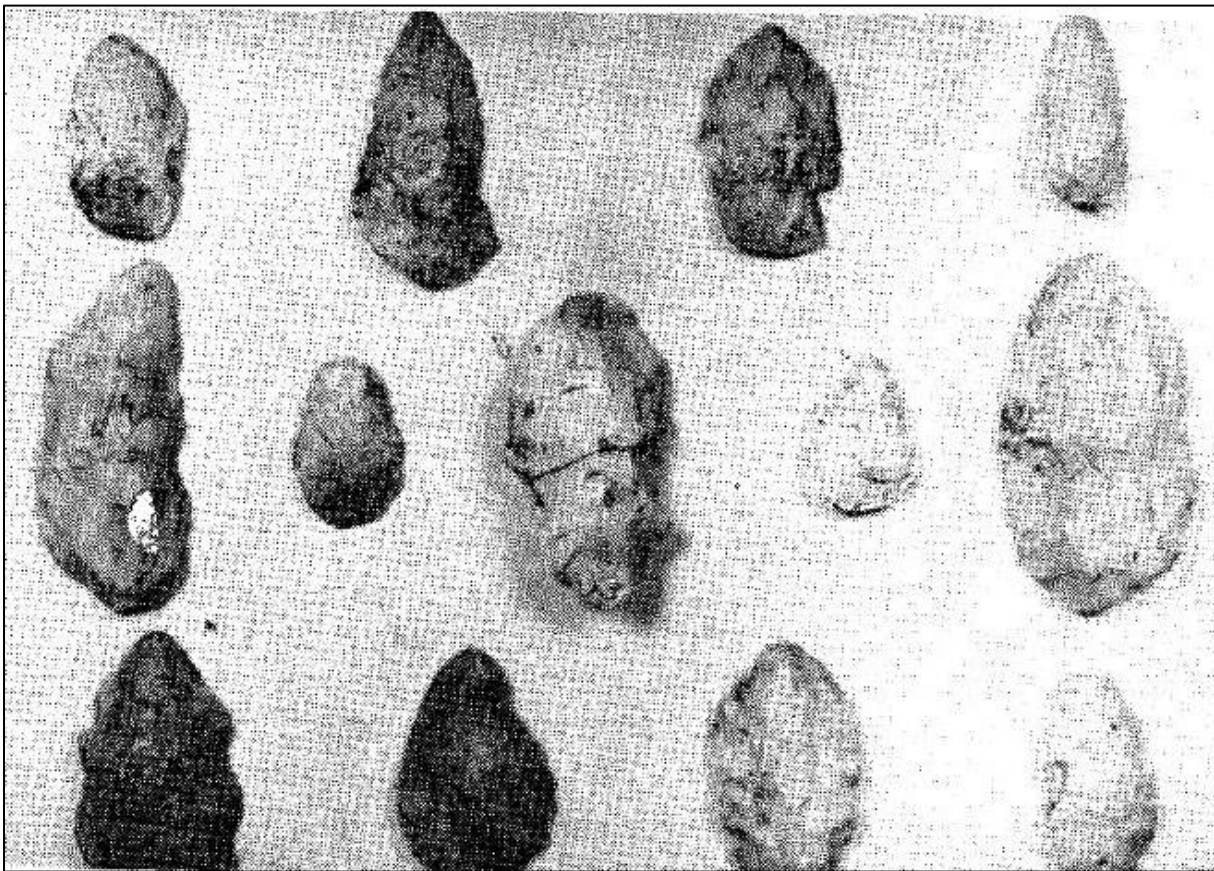
The Oak Grove Baptist Church on Limestone Creek, about four miles north of Darlington, is located adjacent to an ancient settlement site. At this location, we found many large sherds of pottery. A number of these sherds are of the Transitional Period type pottery. On the slope of the hill on the creek side, a number of wide-stemmed points were found, together with small knives and one perfect two-inch drill. Several of the items were extremely discolored, and it appeared that the site had been inhabited many years before the introduction of pottery. It was apparent that the pottery had been dislodged by the plough from a depth of not more than twelve inches, while the patinated flint items were found where considerable erosion had taken place over the years since the large trees had been cut away. Less than a mile to the east of this site, Archie Harrison has some articles, ceremonial flint blades and others, that are from an ancient burial site, these items having been ploughed up in his pasture. This section of the County, with the high hills and fine streams is rich with evidence of prehistoric settlements.

These notes are written that the reader may be impressed with the extent to which our County has been inhabited for many, many years. One may reflect that the beauty of our land, discovered thousands of years ago, attracts us today, even as early man was attracted by these same spots. Modern man still seeks the high place, the safe place, to build his shelter. We still camp beside the beautiful, clear, sand-bottomed streams, and use the same areas for recreation used by man ten thousand years ago. We still enjoy the bountiful supply of wild game and native fruits and nuts, and where ancient man left his spear points and arrow-heads, we drop our metal and plastic shell hulls. When we stroll through the woods thinking perhaps we are the first to pass this way we may remember that perhaps we walk in the exact footsteps of one who took the same route thousands of years before us. Earliest man has left for us but faint traces of his occupancy. Here and there he left what he had taken from nature and fashioned into a useful tool. The artifacts which tell his story are works of art, fashioned with great skill, precision, and originality, works of which I am sure he was proud. We can only imagine what future generations, unable to decipher our language carved on stone and metal, will decide about our culture.

Ere long, present developments will erase these traces of ancient men. Bulldozers will level his monuments of earth, and the artifacts of which I write will be broken into bits and buried beneath our surfaces of concrete. It is hoped that this collection of items gleaned from behind the plough and grader will be preserved as a sampling of the "Flint Chips" of prehistoric Walton County.



Miscellaneous Large Points



Samples Of Large Tools Found In The Local Area

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