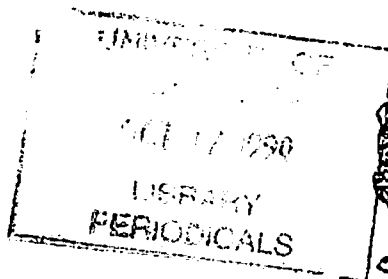


MANITOBA

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NEWSLETTER



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MANITOBA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING

Location: Dauphin Parklands Lab,
Fort Daupin Museum Complex
Dauphin, Manitoba

Date: October 27 and 28, 1990

Inside this issue:

A Cody complex Site in the Swan River Valley
The Setting Lake Chinmey Site
Interesting Artifacts Recovered at the Forks
The Manitoba Glass Works Historic Site
The Young Archaeologists Club
Office News, Chapter Reports, Announcements

\$1.00

The Setting Lake Chimney Site Archaeological Project

by Brian J. Smith

The summer excavations at the Setting Lake Chimney Site (GpLp-1), were sponsored by the Manitoba Archaeological Society. The site is an early historic (1795-1796) Hudson's Bay Company wintering post on Setting Lake near Wabowden, Manitoba. The excavations were funded by the Manitoba Heritage Federation, Inc. and Repap Manitoba, Inc. The archaeological crew consisted of Kathy Neary and Brian Smith. To date, three chimney hearths, the perimeters and floors of two houses, a dwelling house, a smaller store house, and a trash pit/ash dump have been exposed. The dig was visited by Peter O. Walker on August 18, for a filming of a show on "Archaeology in Manitoba". In September, three classes of grade 6, 7, and 8 students from Thompson visited the excavations for a day as part of their Canadian History lessons. It was a good chance for the kids to learn about archaeology in Manitoba, how archaeologists work, and to promote the Manitoba Archaeological Society. A full report of the excavations will be published in the Manitoba Archaeological Journal in the near future.

A BRIEF NOTE ON SOME ARTIFACTS FOUND AT THE FORKS

by Sharon Thomson

This season's excavations of the Public Archaeology Program at the Forks have yielded a variety of artifacts dating from the fur trade era to the present. Although all of the artifacts recovered to date deserve attention, a few interesting examples are particularly noteworthy.

Of the large number of historic bricks recovered from the site, a single nearly complete handmade brick has been found in a level tentatively assigned to the fur trade period. This brick is made of the same brownish-orange clay as the large quantities of chinking found throughout the excavation. It appears to have been sand-struck, a common nineteenth century method of brick manufacture using sand as a lubricant in the brick molds. Sand struck bricks therefore commonly have a pebbled

or rough outer texture. The brick has mortar adhering on one side.

A number of buttons made from a variety of materials have also been found. The majority are of glass or metal, but two notable exceptions are made of lead and hard rubber. The lead button, in an extremely advanced state of decomposition, was found within an extensive chinking deposit, again in what is believed to be fur trade context. No decoration is distinguishable on the face of this two-hole button, which has yet to be removed from its clay matrix. The hard rubber button is in much better condition. On one side it has a double groove molded around the rim, while the opposite side bears the words "N.R. Co./Goodyear's P-T. 1851". The inscription on this particular button commemorates the development of "improved" hard rubber by American Nelson Goodyear in 1851. It was manufactured by the Novelty Rubber Company, which operated in New Jersey from 1855 to 1870.

A variety of beads have been recovered from all areas of the excavation. The majority of beads are of white, black, or blue glass although smaller quantities of red and green beads have also been found. The manufacturing technique was either wire wound or drawn. These beads were a common item of trade during the fur trade period. The red beads, all wire wound, have an inner core of clear glass around which a layer of red glass has been added. These beads average less than 4 mm in length. One large wound bead, 12 mm in length, is identical to a bead recovered at the Forks in 1988 by the Canadian Parks Service excavations at the North Point. Made of many strands of white, blue and gold glass twisted together, it is believed to be of Venetian origin.

Two small signet rings, possibly brass, have been recovered from a thick deposit of chinking. One of these rings is complete, and its hexagonal face has a crude "H" carved upon it. The other ring is incomplete, the band being flattened and largely missing. The face of this ring is heart-shaped, and has the initials "R I" also carved roughly upon it.

Although two gunflints and several bullet casings have been recovered, most of the ammunition found is in the form of lead shot. These small pellets occur in large quantities over the entire site. Modern shot of various sizes brought in by a volunteer for comparative purposes indicates that most of the shot recovered is of a size that would presently be used for shooting geese and ducks.

Several clay pipe fragments, primarily stems, have been found. The largest of these is a stem fragment with the name "BANNERMAN" impressed on one side and "MONTREAL" on the other. Historical records show that Robert Bannerman first began making clay pipes in Montreal in 1858, and the last year that the Bannerman name appears is in 1907.

Finally, in addition to large quantities of faunal remains, two cowrie shells have been found. Like the single specimen recovered last season, this species of shell is native to the Gulf of Mexico and may represent a trade item.

THE FORKS LECTURE PROGRAMME

(Illustrated Presentations)

7:30 p.m., November 22nd, 1990
Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature,
Planetarium Auditorium

Hunters, Traders and Settlers at
The Forks - An Historical Perspective

Robert Coutts, Historian
Canadian Parks Service

Discover the dynamic heritage surrounding The Forks as Natives, Hudson's Bay Company and North West Company Traders, Metis, and early settlers utilized the area and struggled to develop it for their various interests. Subsistence strategies, trade networks, empire building, and powerful lobbying efforts produced a dynamic record of change and intrigue!

Heritage, Scientific Discovery and Fun!
Public Archaeology at the Forks, 1990

Sid Kroker, Director
The Forks Public Archaeology Programme

During the past 2 summers, more than 600 people (youths, students, adults) have participated in and around 80,000 people have visited one of North America's most outstanding public archaeology programmes at The Forks. Participants were involved in a hands on programme as they learned proper archaeological techniques and recovered artifacts from various occupations, particularly Fort Gibraltar I, 1810-16.

The Young Archaeologists Club

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Get your materials together and get out your pocket knives because the 1990-91 season for the Young Archaeologists Club is underway!

Activities that are being looked into include: making a leather pouch decorated with beadwork, making a fire drill or making an atlatl (spear thrower) and darts (for those who haven't made one or want to make another one), making a clay vessel (they're getting better every year), in addition to field trips, films and visits to archaeology labs.

At the first meeting, on September 15, the Y.A.C.'s enjoyed a picnic and field trip to the Kenosewun centre at Lockport. This included a tour of the Lockport site and museum as well as testing the bows and arrows and an atlatl that were made last year. They all worked, although everyone would have starved if they had to hunt for their own food since it was hard to hit the targets (which included a stuffed animal head with antlers and a bullseye) It was a good thing there were plenty of hotdogs for lunch! The atlatl was thrown 20 metres, three times farther than the arrows could be shot.

Y.A.C. meetings are once a month, usually the first Saturday, from 12:30 to 3:30. They are held in the Classroom P47 on the Planetarium level at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature.

Meeting Dates:

Nov. 3	Feb. 2	May 4
Dec. 1	March 2	June 1
Jan. 12	April 6	

For further information on becoming a member contact Dr. Leigh Syms, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature at 956-2830.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Young Archaeologists Club is looking for volunteers to help supervise at the meetings. Interested individuals are asked to contact Dr. Leigh Syms, Museum of Man and Nature at 956-2830.