

THE UNITED CHURCH SITE NEAR ROCK LAKE IN MANITOBA

by

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INTRODUCTION

The reason for undertaking this excavation was the need of examining a site of possible stratigraphy in order to attain a chronological sequence for southern Manitoba. Previous excavations in the area have no recorded stratigraphy.

The area dug is near the southern border of Manitoba in the watershed of the Pembina River (See map Fig. 1). The actual site, DhLs-3, (1) is situated about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of the village of Glenora, on the north shore of Rock Lake, in the grounds of the United Church just north of the outdoor chapel. The site is on a high lake or river terrace, probably a river terrace of the Pembina Channel during late or just post-Pleistocene times, when Lake Souris drained in a channel southward through a chain of lakes that included Rock Lake. (2) The terrace is about half-way up from the lake to the top of the escarpment, about 250 feet from the water. This spot was picked because the edge of the road adjacent showed deepest refuse.

EXCAVATION

Initially a contour map was made of the immediate area (See map Fig. 2). This was accomplished by setting up a plane table and using the top of the foundation of a house as datum plane, as it was about level with the terrace. The map included the area right around the site to be excavated. The area for excavation was marked off in two adjacent rows of five 5-foot squares

(1) See map Fig. 1

(2) Elson, 1955

running east-west, and finally an eleventh square extended the west end of the 10-foot wide trench five feet to the north. Digging was carried out in squares in arbitrary 6-inch levels or by actual soil zones when they were discernible. (Fig.1). Approximately the top 4 inches comprised humus which was shaken over screens. The trowel was used through the dark sandy refuse remains which came next and which was also screened. In this horizon three charcoal lenses with fire-cracked rocks turned up in squares E10, N5, and N10W10; in all probability some sort of hearth areas. Gradually the sandy refuse became clayish and at a depth of about 18 inches it was necessary to exchange the trowel for a shovel, using a horizontal slicing technique. The clay refuse was also put through the screen. At a depth of about 30 inches there was another soil break and refuse became predominantly a yellow-grey clay mixed with buffalo bones. This grey-clay bone zone continued to about 40 inches and noticeably contained no pottery, though it had chips and a few stone artifacts. Below this level lay sterile sub-soil and digging was not continued much deeper.

The method of analysis followed was the laying out of all excavated material according to arbitrary squares and levels, combining all levels of each square, noting the trends in time of each individual type of artifact, and finally correlating arbitrary levels and trends of each type with the geological levels. (3)

PROJECTILE POINTS

With the exception of Level 3, points were found in all levels down to 6 inclusive. Ten were of recognizable types. There were 5 unidentifiable tips, and one whole specimen of unknown type.

McKean Lanceolate (4) (Plate 1, No. 10)

Two broken specimens came from Levels 5 and 6 respectively; in Level 6 two more were found

(3) See analysis

(4) Wheeler, R.P., 1952.

but disappeared from our washing tables in the field.

Form and size:

The two collected are small, basal notched; one is straight-sided and one convex, both taper gradually to a point. Measurements of the convex-sided specimen are: length 36 mm., width 16 mm., thickness about 5 mm.

Chipping technique:

Pressure flaking on surfaces from edges inwards; little retouching of edges. One lateral basal edge of the chalcedony point has a small amount of grinding on it.

Material:

Brown chalcedony and grey chert.

Function:

These are small enough to have been arrow points. However, both are in the small end of the range for the type which, in the main, were probably dart points.

Relationships:

Points of this type occur in the White-shell Focus of eastern Manitoba (5), at Mortlach in Saskatchewan (6), at a number of sites in Montana (7), and Wyoming (8), in the Angostura Basin of South Dakota (9), and in Signal Butte I in Nebraska (10). They bear a resemblance to stemmed indented based points covering a larger

(5) MacNeish, n.d. (6) Wettlaufer, personal communication. (7) Mulloy, W., 1952 (8) Mulloy, W., 1954 (9) Hughes, J.T., 1949 (10) Strong, 1935.

area southwest of Manitoba from California (where they are called Pinto Basin Points) to Texas (where they are called Pedernales Points) (11).

As far as our United Church site is concerned, the type is mainly in our pre-pottery levels and may have lasted up into early ceramic times. In eastern Manitoba the type is always pre-ceramic (12).

Hanna (13): (Plate I, No. 5, 6, 7).

Six specimens came from Levels 1, 2 and 5.

Form and size:

Small, convex edges gradually tapering to a point, side-removed to corner-notched, with bases straight to slightly concave. Average measurements of three specimens are: length 27 mm., width 18 mm., thickness 7 mm.

Chipping technique:

Basal notches or concavity removed by percussion flaking. Surfaces and edges finished by pressure flaking.

Material:

Brown chalcedony and quartzite.

Function:

Probably either arrow or dart points.

Relationships:

Points of this type appear with the ceramic horizon at Rock Lake. Further south and west in the Plains they are pre-ceramic.

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- (11) Suhm and Krieger, 1954 (12) MacNeish, n.d.
(13) Wheeler, 1954.

Anderson Corner-notched (14): (Plate I, No. 8 and 9)

Two points, one of quartzite and one of chalcedony, came from Levels 2 and 5 respectively.

Form and size:

Medium sized, corner-notched with convex edges gradually tapering to a point, and straight base. The quartzite point is the larger and measures: length about 57 mm., width at shoulders 30 mm., width at base 24 mm., depth and width of notch 5 and 13 mm., and about 10 mm. thick. The measurements of the chalcedony point are: length 50 mm., width at shoulders 22 mm., width at base 20 mm., depth and width of notch 5 and 10 mm., thickness about 5 mm.

Chipping technique:

The quartzite specimen is retouched on all edges and slightly chipped on surfaces, probably by pressure flaking. The chalcedony point has fine pressure flaking on both surfaces and neat retouching on edges.

Material:

Brown chalcedony and quartzite.

Function:

Dart or spear points.

Relationships:

These occur with the pottery at the United Church site. They are common in eastern Manitoba appearing in the late pre-ceramic Larter Focus and in the early ceramic Anderson and Nutimik Foci (15). Either the same type or a similar one is widespread in the northern Plains (16). A similar type also occurs with the Middle

(14) MacNeish, n.d. (15) MacNeish, n.d.
(16) Mulloy, 1952.

Woodland horizons in the midwestern United States (17).

Prairie Side-notched (18): (Plate I, No. 1 and 2).

Two points and one base of point were found in Levels 2 and 4.

Form and size:

Small, side-notched, with convex edges gradually tapering to a point, and straight base. Measurements of complete specimens are: length 20 mm., width 11 mm., thickness about 1 mm. Side notches are 2 to 4 mm. above the base, and are 3 to 4 mm. wide, and 2 mm. deep.

Chipping technique:

Retouching on all edges of both surfaces by pressure flaking; quite long scars (about 2 mm.); flaking on body negligible except above base.

Material:

Two of brown chalcedony and one of quartzite.

Function:

Arrow point.

Relationships:

These points appear in the upper levels of the United Church site and are associated with the Manitoba and Winnipeg River Fabric-Imprinted wares. The type is widespread in the Plains during late prehistoric times and the same, or a similar, type appears over much of North America at this time period (19).

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- (17) Griffin, 1952 (18) MacNeish, 1954
(19) Suhm and Krieger, 1954.

Eastern Triangular (20): (Plate I, No. 3)

One base found in Level 2.

Form and size:

Straight base with sides converging very gradually. Width 20 mm.

Chipping technique:

Very shallow flakes removed from both surfaces by pressure flaking; edges slightly re-touched.

Material:

Quartzite.

Function:

Arrow point.

Relationships:

Small triangular points like this one are widespread over much of North America during the late prehistoric or early historic periods (21). The one found at Rock Lake also appeared late in that deposit.

Aberrant point: (Plate I, No. 4)

This point came from Level 2.

Form and size:

A small, long, narrow, corner-notched point, with slightly convex edges, gradually tapering to a point, straight base, and straight stem. Total length 33 mm., width at shoulders 13 mm., width at base 7 mm., length of stem 5 mm.

(20) MacNeish, 1954

(21) Suhm and Krieger, 1954

Chipping technique:

Both surfaces covered with fine pressure flaking, and edges retouched by same method. Seemed to have been made from an initial flat flake rather than a quarry blank.

Material:

Brown chalcedony.

Function:

Arrow point.

Relationships:

Unknown.

SCRAPERS

Borer Scrapers: (Plate I, No. 15-18)

These scrapers, numbering eleven, were found in Levels 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7.

Form and size:

They are like irregularly-shaped small side-scrapers, chipped to a point at the end opposite the bulb of percussion, which is on the ventral side. Average length and width of the four specimens illustrated are respectively 36 mm. and 18 mm.

Chipping technique:

Plano-convex flakes were selected; percussion flaking applied to dorsal surface; retouching by pressure flaking formed point, sometimes on both sides but most frequently on dorsal side only; retouching also applied to one or more edges. One specimen is bifacially chipped.

Material:

Brown chalcedony and chert.

Function:

As awls for making holes in skins and possibly for gouging bone.

Thin flake side-scrapers: (Plate II, No. 10-13)

These scrapers come from all levels.

Form and size:

They are small, thin, random, irregularly-shaped flakes. Some have been retouched on one edge only, others on two edges, some all the way round. Average measurements of the four specimens illustrated are: length 44 mm. and width at widest point 23 mm.

Chipping technique:

Percussion flaking on dorsal surface only; retouching by pressure flaking, usually only the dorsal side, but occasionally same edge retouched on both dorsal and ventral surfaces.

Material:

Mostly brown chalcedony; some chert.

Function:

Most likely used for knives, for cutting rather than scraping. May have been inserted in slotted bone handles.

Small humped-back scrapers: (Plate II, No. 1-3)

The scrapers of this type were found in Levels 4, 5 and 6. Their maximum concentration was in the pre-pottery Level 6.

Form and size:

They are small, plano-convex, with the dorsal side rising abruptly to a hump at the scraping end, and sloping gradually to a fairly flat and usually narrowing edge at the opposite

end. In general outline they are fairly triangular.

Measurements were taken of eight scrapers showing they ranged from maximum height of 5 to 11 mm., with width from 16 to 23 mm., the back end ranged from a height of 1 to 7 mm., with width from 2 to 32 mm. Average and typical measurements are: height and width of scraping edge 8 mm., and 21 mm., respectively, height and width of back end 3 mm., and 10 mm., length of scraper 25 mm.

Chipping technique:

Initially fashioned by percussion technique, all flaking on dorsal surface only. Steep pressure flaking has been applied to the nosed end; pressure flaking also to retouched edges, sometimes all the way round.

Material:

Brown chalcedony, chert, and quartzite.

Function:

Hafted to a handle and used to scrape skins.

Thin concave end-scrapers: (Plate II, No. 7-9)

These scrapers, numbering ten, came from Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Form and size:

Typical specimens are concave-convex, roughly oblong, one end a little narrower than the other. In three out of four whole scrapers the wider end is the scraping edge, i.e., the end opposite the bulb of percussion which shows on the ventral (concave) side. The scraping edges are thin and almost flat. In the fourth specimen the bulb of percussion appears at the wider end and therefore the scraping edge, which, contrary to the others, is snub-nosed, is at the narrow end.

The whole specimens ranged in length from 40 to 48 mm., and in width from 19 to 30 mm.,

averaging in size 43 x 24 mm.

Chipping technique:

Flat or concavo-convex flakes struck off core; retouching by pressure flaking on dorsal surface and along the two sides and scraping edge on dorsal surface.

Material:

Brown chalcedony and chert.

Function:

Hafted to a handle and used as an end-scraper or flesher.

Lamellar flakes: (Plate I, No. 11-13)

Eight of these flake tools came from Levels 2 to 5. Their greatest concentration was in Levels 4 and 5.

Form and size:

These flakes are roughly rectangular with the exception of the long shaped flake from Level 2 (See No. 13) which seems to have been fashioned as a composite tool. Average width of flakes is 15 mm. Length of two whole ones is approximately 45 mm. each. The majority are under 3 mm. thick but one piece is 6 mm. in thickness.

Chipping technique:

The flakes have been struck from polyhedral cores. Most flakes show some retouching by pressure flaking. A lamellar flake side-scraper is retouched on its cutting edge. A tiny flake is retouched on opposite sides on alternate surfaces.

Material:

Brown chalcedony, chert, quartzite.

Function:

Probably knives for cutting.

Thin flat end-scrapers: (Plate II, No. 4-6)

Most of the ten scrapers of this type came from Levels 1 to 3 though two were found in Level 5.

Form and size:

These scrapers are plano-convex, truncated triangular to isosceles triangular in shape, with the wider end having the scraping edge. The bulb of percussion seen on the ventral surface is usually at the narrow end but sometimes is near the centre giving the tool a convex-convex appearance. The scraping edges are steep compared to the working end of the thin concave end-scrapers.

Length ranges from 20 mm. to 35 mm.
Width at scraping edge is from 20 mm. to 27 mm.
Height of scraping edge is from 1 to 5 mm. Average measurements are: length 28 mm., width 24 mm., scraping edge thickness 3 mm.

Chipping technique:

Flake struck off prismatic core, fashioned by percussion flaking on dorsal surface. Cutting end has steep retouching by pressure flaking, lateral edges also finished by pressure flaking but not so steep.

Material:

Brown chalcedony, chert, fossilized wood (1 scraper).

Function:

Hafted to a handle and used for scraping.

Large flake side-scrapers: (Plate III, No. 4-6, 8)

Twenty-two of these scrapers were found in the top five levels.

Form and size:

Irregular in shape and size, ranging from 65 x 36 mm. to 35 x 19 mm.

Chipping technique:

Struck off core by percussion flaking and shaped by percussion flaking; some pressure flaking on dorsal side of cutting edge; sometimes on more than one edge.

Material:

Quartzite, chert, brown chalcedony.

Function:

Scraping skins.

OTHER STONE TOOLS

Bifacial blade fragments: (Plate III, No. 1-3)

Sixteen fragments of bifacial blades came from all levels.

Form and size:

Since they are broken specimens, the forms are irregular, but several appear to be parts of spear points. The most complete specimen measures 74 mm. by 37 mm.

Chipping technique:

All specimens are bifacially flaked and have retouched edges. One artifact of chalcedony has fine pressure flaking on both surfaces and all edges. (No. 1)

Material:

Brown chalcedony, quartzite, chert.

Function:

Some probably used as scrapers.

Stone choppers: (Plate III, No. 7 and 9)

Two choppers came from Levels 3 and 5, respectively.

Form and size:

One is rectangular to squarish, measuring 68 mm. by 55 mm., and about 10 mm. thick at upper end, thinning to thickness of 1 mm. at chopping end. The other is a thick spherical tool approximately 50 mm. in diameter.

Chipping technique:

Both are crudely fashioned. The sphere has been struck from a pebble and shaped along two edges by percussion flaking. It has no re-touching. The other is a coarse bifacial flake that has been roughly chipped, with a little percussion flaking on its cutting edge.

Material:

Quartzite.

Function:

Chopping and scraping.

Rubbing stones: (Plate IV, No. 1-3)

Three of these stones were found in Levels 2, 4 and 5.

Form and size:

They appear to be parts of pebbles. One measures 43 mm. by 30 mm., the next in size is 40 mm. by 20 mm., and the third 25 mm. by 15 mm.

Chipping technique:

To flatten pebble large flakes have been struck off. Then the steep edges have been worked by removing thin parallel grooves, probably by rubbing with a pencil-pointed bone tool.

Material:

Shale.

Function:

Scraping or rubbing.

Aberrant side-scraper: (Plate I, No. 14)

This artifact was found in Level 3.

Form and size:

It is a small, narrow side-scraper, oval in outline; one long side forms a cutting edge, but one end has been flattered (by removal of two long flakes) as if for scraping. Length 47 mm., width 15 mm.

Chipping technique:

Worked on dorsal side only, pressure flaking on surface and retouching on cutting edge.

Material:

Brown chalcedony.

Function: Probably cutting and scraping bone tools.

Polishing stone:

This tool was found in Level 1.

Form and size:

It is a tiny fragment measuring 29 by 9 by 2 mm.

Chipping technique:

None. Polished by use.

Material:

Mica schist.

Function:

Probably for polishing bone.

BONE TOOLS

Bone awls: (Plate IV, No. 4 and 5)

There were three awls from Levels 4 and 5. One is a fragment of a leg bone, probably deer; one is made of the ulna of a smaller animal, such as a hare; and the third is a cut and polished antler tip.

Form and size:

Long, narrowly rounded to flat, rounded -- pointed tool. Length of deer leg bone tool measures 15 cm., width about 2 cm., width at tip 5 mm.

Manufacturing technique:

Cut, whittled to a point, and then polished with an abrasive tool.

Function:

Piercing skins.

Bone pendant (drop end broken): (Plate IV, No. 8)

Found in Level 4. Probably part of a leg or rib bone of deer.

Form and size:

Sides fairly parallel, though slightly narrowing towards upper end with hole. Tip is broken off. Present length is 78 mm., width at bottom is 18 mm., at top 12 mm. One long edge is rounded, about 2 mm. thick, the opposite edge is squared, ranging from 4 mm. thick at top end to 12 mm. at bottom.

Method of manufacture:

Cut off, shaped by cutting, and then polished with abrasive tool that has left scratches. Hole bored from both surfaces, probably with one of the borer-like scrapers described above.

Function:

Ornament.

Bone needle (?) fragment: (Plate IV, No. 6)

Came out of Layer 4.

Form and size:

Parallel-sided, flat, rounded edges, one edge steeper, about 2 mm. thick, other edge 1 mm. thick, width 5 mm., total length unknown.

Manufacturing technique:

Cut, and polished with abrasive tool.

Function:

Probably needle.

Barbed bone point (fragment): (Plate IV, No. 7)

Tip only, found in Level 3.

Form and size:

It is unilaterally barbed. Upper barb is cut at right angles to body, about 2 mm. in, perpendicular length of slot about 5 mm. Tip is about 4 mm. across.

Manufacturing technique:

It is made from an antler tip that was cut and then polished.

Function:

Fishing.

Bone flesher: (Plate IV, No. 9)

This tool came from Level 2. Another one was also recorded from this level.

Form and size:

It is made of the distal half of the cervidae tibia, about 18 cm. long. The distal end is the handle, the bevelled end (the working part) is about 7 cm. long and 3 cm. wide at the tip.

Manufacturing technique:

The distal half of a cervidae tibia has been cut off about 18 cm, below the proximal end. A piece has been split off at the bottom end to make a bevelled scraping edge, which has been shaped by cutting and then polishing with an abrasive tool that has left scratch marks. The working end has been cut to make a saw-like edge, the notches being about 3 mm. apart and 2 to 3 mm. deep.

Function:

Scraping skin.

Ochre:

A tiny ball of ochre, measuring 20 by 15 mm., came out of Level 2.

Function:

Body ornamentation.

Beaver tooth:

Out of Level 2 came a fragment of beaver tooth that has been split longitudinally and part of inner side of split has been polished.

Function:

Gouge.

POTTERY

Two main classes of pottery were found at the site. One characterized by being particularly coarse, came out of all levels, down to Level 5 inclusive, but was particularly prolific at the lower levels. It comprised three different types of sherds (or wares). The other class, considerably finer in texture, and with small temper, was not found below Level 3. It slightly predominated in the two upper levels and was of two types (or wares). Probably all five types, or wares, may eventually be further subdivided when more materials become available.

Avery Corded: (Plate V, No. 10-15)

Three hundred and seventy-seven sherds were examined from the upper five levels, including 4 pieces from Levels 7 and 8, which occurred in rodent holes.

Paste and temper:

Crushed rock, mainly quartz, ranging in size from 4 mm. to .5, averaging 1 mm. 101 pieces in 1 cubic cm. of pottery, making 8% of paste.

Consistency:

Poorly knit, angular, coarse texture.

Hardness:

Average 2.5.

Thickness:

Sherds range from 5 mm. to 8 mm. in thickness, averaging 5.7 mm.

Colour:

Exterior surfaces range from pale ochraceous buff to olivaceous black. Interior surfaces have the same range - pale ochraceous buff to olivaceous black. Cross-section - generally dark, but uneven firing, can lighten toward centre or toward exterior surfaces. Range from light ochraceous-salmon to iron grey.

Manufacturing technique:

Probably coil-made.

Surface finish:

Cord-wrapped paddle-impressed, the cord impressions running horizontally. The cord, of more than one yarn, appears tightly woven, the twist ranging in length from 1 to 2 mm., and thickness of cord about 1 mm. The cord is wound counter clockwise (Z).

The paddles appear irregularly wound, the width between cord impressions varying from 1 to 8 mm.

Vessel form:

Rims: Ten varieties of rim form show up in 16 rim sherds (See Fig. 3) Nos. 1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17) with No. 15 (with four rims) being slightly more common than all the others.

Decoration:

Some rims show interior punctating with a conical object (about 4 mm. in diameter) causing nodes on exterior; some lips marked with cord impressions or incising.

One rim sherd and two body sherds have incisions, in no regular pattern, by a sharp instrument criss-crossing the cord impressions. One sherd has a wash of red ochre on it.

Temporal and Geographical range: This type has been found only in south central Manitoba (22). The United Church excavations indicate that the type is dominant in Levels 3, 4, and 5. It diminishes noticeably in the upper two levels and its absence in various components of the Manitoba Focus in the same area would tend to show that it died out before the late prehistoric period (23).

Relationships:

The type is similar to Lockport Corded Ware in southeast Manitoba (24). Judging from photographs and brief descriptions, it seems related to some of the cord-marked wares of the Malmo Focus of northern and central Minnesota (25).

Laurel Plain: (Plate V, No. 4-9)

This type is based on 240 sherds taken from the five upper levels, including 4 pieces from Levels 7 and 8 (intrusive).

Paste:

Temper:

Crushed rock, mainly quartz; ranging in size from 5 mm. to 1/2 mm., average 1.5 mm.; 55 pieces in 1 cubic cm. of pottery, making 8% of paste.

Consistency:

Poorly knit, angular coarse texture.

Hardness:

About 2.55.

(22) MacNeish, 1954
(24) Ibid

(23) Ibid
(25) Wilford, 1955.

Thickness:

Sherds range from 4 to 10 mm., averaging 6.6 mm. in thickness.

Colour:

Exterior surfaces range from capucine buff to black, the majority being buffy brown. Interior surfaces are mainly black but a few are buffy brown. In cross-section the sherds reveal poorly-controlled firing, ranging in the centers from black to dusky neutral grey, usually brightening toward exterior surface, and may or may not brighten toward interior surface.

Manufacturing technique:

Probably by coiling, but coil breaks not well-marked or readily observable.

Surface finish:

Brushed horizontally to make clay smooth, interiorly and exteriorly; a few sherds approach to dull polishing.

Decoration:

Usually absent, but 3 out of 12 rims have interior punctating causing nodes on exterior. Linear punctating by a stylus on a few body sherds. Dentate stamping on other sherds, teeth about 4 mm. long and 2 mm. wide.

Vessel form:

Rims: Show considerable range of form, 10 varieties (See Fig. 1-10) appearing amongst the 12 rims found.

Temporal and Geographical Range:

This type occurs over much of northern Minnesota and all of southern Manitoba. It is a majority type in the earliest ceramic complex (Anderson Focus) and dies out in the second period

(Nutimik Focus) in southeast Manitoba (26). In Minnesota it is a majority type in the Laurel and Malmo Focus but also occurs in the Kathio and Howard Lake Foci (27). At United Church it is a strong minority type in Levels 4 and 5 that decreases in Levels 1 to 3.

Rock Lake Net-Impressed: (Plate V, No. 1-3)

Analysis of this type is based on 101 sherds from the top 5 levels.

Paste:

Temper:

Mainly quartz ranging in size from 1.5 mm. to .5 mm., averaging .8 mm. There were 53 pieces in 1 cubic cm., which made 4% of temper in paste.

Consistency:

Poorly knit, angular, coarse, crumbly texture.

Hardness:

2.07.

Thickness:

Sherds range from 4 to 12 mm. in thickness, averaging 7.4 mm.

Colour:

Exterior surfaces range from pale olive buff and light ochraceous buff to dark olive grey.

Interior surfaces range from pale olive grey and light ochraceous buff to iron grey. Cross-section shows poor firing, generally lighter towards surfaces, from light ochraceous buff to iron grey.

(26) MacNeish, n.d. (27) Wilford, 1955.

Surface finish:

The surface is covered with net impressions as if the net were wrapped around the wet clay; perhaps sometimes paddled on. The net seems to have been made of cord about 1 mm. thick, comprising more than one yarn wound counter-clockwise. The size of the squares range from 2 to 5 mm. The net was probably made of Indian hemp and the original function of net of that size mesh could have been as a carrying bag or dip net for fishing.

Vessel form:

Rims: Two rims found representing types 7 and 8.

Decoration:

None.

Temporal and Geographical Range:

Sherds of this type occur over much of southern Manitoba (28). However, they are always a minority ware. In the United Church site excavations they are most numerous in Levels 2 and 3 though still a minority type.

Relationships: Unknown.

Manitoba Corded: (Plate VI, 1-6)

Analysis based on 188 sherds from Levels 1 to 3, including 1 sherd from Level 4.

Paste:

Temper:

Crushed rock, chiefly quartz, varying in size from .25 to 1 mm., averaging .5 mm.; 58 pieces in 1 cubic cm. of pottery comprising about 3% of paste.

(28) MacNeish, n.d.

Consistency:

Fairly well knit, laminar structure, moderately coarse texture.

Hardness:

2.5.

Thickness:

Sherds range from 2 to 6 mm., averaging 4.3 mm. in thickness.

Colour:

Exterior surfaces range from pale ochraceous-buff to dark mouse-grey. Interior surfaces range from capucine buff to blackish mouse-grey. Cross-sections usually fairly even in colour, chiefly dark, though a few pieces get light towards exterior surfaces. Range is from capucine orange to deep mouse-grey.

Manufacturing technique:

Paddle and anvil method of beating clay, paddle being cord-wrapped.

Surface finish:

Cord-paddle impressed, then smoothed. The cord impressions run perpendicularly on pot. The cord, of more than one yarn, appears loosely woven, the twist being about 3 to 5 mm. in length, and thickness of cord 1 to 3 mm. The direction of twist is counter-clockwise (Z). The paddles must have been quite closely wound as the cord impressions are in most cases quite close.

Vessel form:

Rims: Ten varieties of rim are seen in 15 rim sherds, (See Fig. 3, No. 8, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29).

Decoration:

One type of rim sherd has incisions alternately on exterior and interior edges of lip; these appear to be made with a pointed object like a pencil. (Plate VI, No. 5).

Other methods of decoration are cord-wrapped stick and punctating on rim sherds along mouth, rim, and neck.

Broad line incising is seen on a few sherds. (Plate VI, No. 2).

Temporal and Geographical Range:

In the United Church this type (or ware) occurred in the upper 3 levels. This same type of ware is diagnostic of the Manitoba Focus and is spread over the whole southern half of the province (29). It also occurs in the Blackduck Focus of northern Minnesota (30).

Relationships:

The body sherds of this type (or ware) are the same as those appearing in the above-mentioned areas. The cord-wrapped paddle-edge decorated wares from the United Church site seem to belong to the Manitoba Horizontal type. However, the notched rims and incised sherds that we have classified into this type (or ware) are a little different from any we have seen before. Perhaps when a large sample has been uncovered from south-central Manitoba, these may be classified into new types.

Winnipeg River Fabric-Pressed: (Plate VI, No. 10-12)

. Analysis is based on 117 sherds from the top 3 levels.

(29) MacNeish, n.d.

(30) Wilford, 1955.

Paste:

Temper:

Crushed rock, chiefly shale, some quartz, varying in size from 3 to .5 mm., and averaging .9 mm; 37 pieces in 1 cubic cm. comprising a little over 3% of paste.

Consistency:

Fairly well knit, laminar structure, moderately coarse texture.

Hardness:

2.6.

Thickness:

Sherds range from 3 to 5 mm. in thickness, averaging 3.8 mm.

Colour:

Exterior surfaces range from light ochraceous salmon to mouse-grey to blackish mouse-grey. Interior surfaces range from pale ochraceous buff to mouse-grey to blackish mouse-grey. Cross-sections fairly even in colour, darkish, ranging from mouse-grey to blackish mouse-grey.

Manufacturing technique:

Perhaps paddle and anvil method.

Surface finish:

Surfaces are marked by a mass of shallow ovoid impressions fairly close together; these impressions range from 3 to 6 mm. in diameter and are about the same distance apart.

Probably the surfaces were paddled by babiche-wrapped paddle and then lightly smoothed.

Unfortunately none of the impressions are distinct enough for the type of weave to be discerned. Similar sherds with more distinct impressions from the Selkirk Focus of eastern Manitoba, however, usually show plain twine weave impressions.

Vessel form:

Rims: Out of 5 rim sherds, types represented were Fig. 3, No. 19, 22, 23, 24 and 30.

Decoration:

Punctating around neck. One rim sherd has notches on lip. (Plate VI, No. 7).

Temporal and Geographical Range:

This ware is common in eastern and northern Manitoba and occurs in the more northerly section of Saskatchewan (Reindeer Lake). Sherds of this type (or ware) occur at least as far east as Sioux Lookout, Ontario (31).

Relationships:

Since the typology of this ware in eastern Manitoba is based mainly on decorated rim and neck sherds, it has not been possible to classify these United Church Fabric-Imprinted sherds more finely than as a ware class.

Aberrant Sherds:

There are two sherds with grit temper and a grooved paddle impression from Level 3 that were unlike any of the other sherds. There are also two grit-tempered sherds with deep wide trailed lines from Level 2 which resemble the Cambria Type A materials of southern Minnesota (32).

(31) MacNeish, n.d. (32) Wilford, 1945.

BONE REMAINS

Through all layers, down to Level 7 inclusive, buffalo bones predominated. The next most prevalent bone material was bird bone, a few fragments from every level except Level 6. Rodent bones were found in the upper three levels and also Level 6. Scraps of turtle bone came out of Levels 1 and 4. Other animals represented by teeth only were fox--Levels 2 and 3, beaver--Levels 2, 5 and 7, wapiti--Levels 2, 3, and 4, bear--Levels 2, 4 and 5, canines--Levels 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, deer--Level 7 only. Fish bones came out of Levels 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7.

It was noticeable that the buffalo bones on all horizons comprised chiefly the joints of long bones and the phalanges. There were no whole long bones. Presumably they were represented in the mass of unidentifiable scrap from all levels and had been split for the marrow or crushed for fat. Conspicuously absent were the heavy bones such as the pelvis, scapula, and skull; only 2 horns were found. A number of teeth came out of all levels and a few lower jaw fragments, which might indicate that the lower jaws were cut out in order to get at the tongue which would be a delicacy to take home. Vertebrae were rare. This indicates that buffalo probably were killed and skinned away from the site and only the long bones and ribs with the meat adhering brought to the site.

Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Glass Bead.....	X						
Clay Pipe Stem.....	X						
Polishing Stone.....	X						
Ochre.....		X					
Beaver Tooth.....		X					
Bone Flesher.....		X					
Aberrant Point.....		X					
Eastern Triangular Point..	X						
Winnipeg R. Fabric Impr. X	X		X				
Manitoba Corded Ware....	X	X	X				
Aberrant Side Scraper.....	.		X				
Bone Point.....	.		X				
Prairie Side Notched Pt...	X	X		X			
Bone Needle.....	.	.		X			
Bone Pendant.....	.	.		X			
Grooved Bone.....	.	.		X			
Laurel Plain Ware.....X	X	X	X		X		
Rock Lake Net Impressed..X	X	X	X		X		
Avery Corded Ware.....X	X	X	X		X		
Anderson Corner Notched..X	X	X	X		X		
Hanna Point.....X	X	X	X		X		
Large Flake Side Scraper X	X	X	X		X		
Thin Flat End Scraper....X	X	X	X		X		
Lamellar Flake.....	X	X	X		X		
Rubbing Stone.....	X	X	X		X		
Stone Chopper.....	.	X	X		X		
Bone Awl.....	.	.	X		X		
Thin Concave End Scraper..	.	X	X		X	X	
Humped-Back End Scraper...	.	.	X		X	X	
McKean Lanceolate Point...	.	.	.		X	X	
Bifacial Blade.....X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Thin Flake Side Scraper..X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Borer Scraper.....	X	X	X		X	X	X

CONCLUSIONS

As may be seen from the study of the artifacts and the chart showing the distribution of the artifacts in the stratigraphic levels, there are some definite cultural changes. The earliest level is without pottery and besides that it contains the distinctive McKean Lanceolate projectile points. These materials from Level 6 seem to compose a distinctive pre-pottery manifestation. Starting with Level 5 and continuing into Level 4 there is a whole series of new artifact types including pottery. This is the second occupation at the site. The final complex of artifacts appear in Levels 1 to 3. In these three top levels there is a new kind of pottery as well as smaller projectile points and a few other distinctive artifacts. There are included, however, in these levels many of the same kind of artifacts that appeared in Levels 4 and 5. The question now becomes, do these distinctive materials from Levels 1 and 3 represent cultural additions to a single basic complex that started in Levels 4 and 5, or was there a distinctive occupation in Levels 1 and 3 by a new group whose materials became mixed with those of the previous occupation? The senior author is inclined toward the latter view, while Miss Capes favours the former interpretation. Be that as it may, the excavation showed definite trends of artifacts and at least gave us the beginnings of the stratigraphic sequence of an archaeological material in southwest Manitoba.

The earliest occupation has three kinds of artifacts: snub-nosed end-scrapers, thin concave end-scrapers, and McKean Lanceolate points. These three kinds of artifacts occur with the Lake Shore Focus which Vickers uncovered on the beach below the Avery's Hotel nearby. Though our sample is inadequate, it seems likely that the Level 6 material is another component of this focus. On a more speculative level, McKean Lanceolate points may indicate that this occupation is related to the Whiteshell Focus in eastern Manitoba (33), the lower levels of the McKean

(33) MacNeish, n.d.

site in Wyoming (34), and Signal Butte I in western Nebraska (35). The materials found in Level 6 are too few to give us a very complete picture of the way of life of this first occupation. However, the bones do show that their economy was basically hunting of buffalo, somewhat supplemented by the hunting of other animals, and fishing. The McKean Lanceolate type of point probably tipped spears which they used in hunting, while the scrapers were used in preparing the skins for clothing.

The second occupation of the site gives us a much fuller picture of the ancient way of life. These materials are the same as those Vickers found at Avery Lake and at the Paddock site in the same area. He classified them as belonging to the Rock Lake Focus. Thus Levels 4 and 5 of the United Church site are components of that same focus. These materials in their pottery and projectile points show relationships with the Nutimik Focus of southeast Manitoba (36) and with the Malmo Focus of northern Minnesota (37). The similarity of the various artifact types have been pointed out in the artifact descriptions.

The location of the site was on a body of water in an area accessible to these people's chief natural resource, the buffalo. This animal not only provided the main staple of diet but also the skin necessary for clothing and shelter.

Subsistence thus was largely dependent upon hunting buffalo. These animals could have been rounded up and sent over cliffs to their death, being finally dispatched by spears tipped with points. From the type of buffalo remains found at the habitation, it is evident that preliminary butchering took place at the site of the kill, in order not to have to transport home the weightier parts of the animal.

(34) Mulloy, 1954
(36) MacNeish, n.d.

(35) Strong, 1935
(37) Wilford, 1955

Fish bones indicate that some fishing was done throughout the occupation of the site; the harpoon also is further indicative of this type of food. It is possible (from pottery evidence) that some fishing was done by dip nets. Doubtless berries were collected in season.

That the preparation of skins featured largely in the technology of these peoples is witnessed by the accumulation of different types of scrapers from the middle levels. As hunting was the chief occupation of the men, curing the skins would be one of the main tasks of the women. The skin would be laid flat or hung up so that the stone hafted end-scrapers could be applied to roll off the fat, and, finally, the large-flake scrapers would abrade it clean.

Neither hunting nor skinning could be carried out without stone tools. Chipping tools therefore was another main feature of their technology. The methods used were percussion flaking and pressure flaking, frequently very finely done. The two main rocks used were quartzite which could be found locally and brown chalcodony which came from the Dakotas to the south. This latter stone would have been acquired either through trade or by expeditions to the site of the quarry on the Knife River.

Some wood-carving must have been done to make lance shafts and various other tools. For this work the choppers and the flake side-scrapers would have been useful.

Bone artifacts too were manufactured and would bring into play the same choppers and knife-like side-scrapers, and also the rubbing and polishing stones, and, when needed, the stone borers for drilling holes.

Tailoring the skins would have been an occupation of the women. For this work they would use the bone awls and possibly the stone borers for punctating the skins, and also bone needles. Their thread would have been babiche, made of strips of hide.

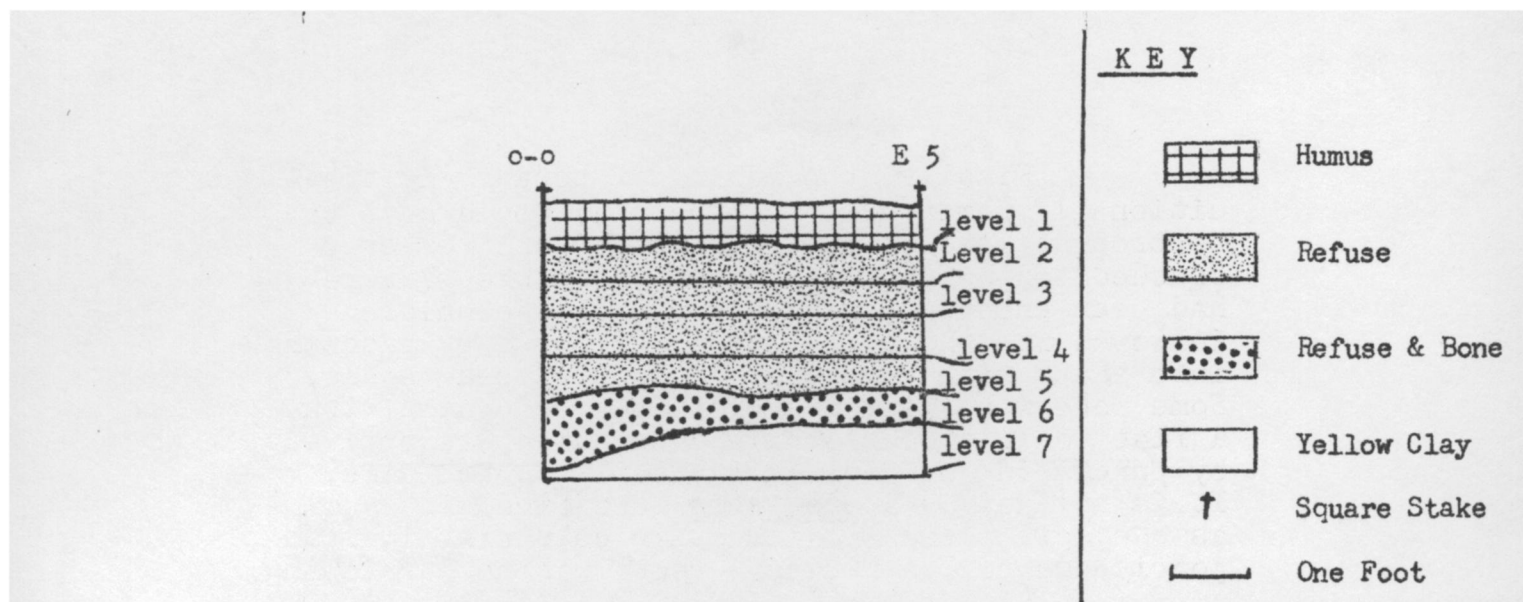
Finally, the making of pottery is traditionally women's work. The clay would have to be brought into camp, the rock for the temper crushed to the required size. When the mixture had been kneaded it is possible the technique followed was the coil method, followed by paddling into shape with a cord or fabric-wrapped paddle. Some pots were finished by simply smoothing with a flat tool. Occasionally decoration was applied by punctating or incising, chiefly on the rims. It is unlikely that the pots were fired in a kiln as the soft sherds of irregular colouring indicate poorly-controlled firing. There was no burnishing.

The pottery indicated another aspect of these people's technology. They made a fabric of tightly woven babiche thongs and also knotted nets for which the cord was probably made of Indian hemp.

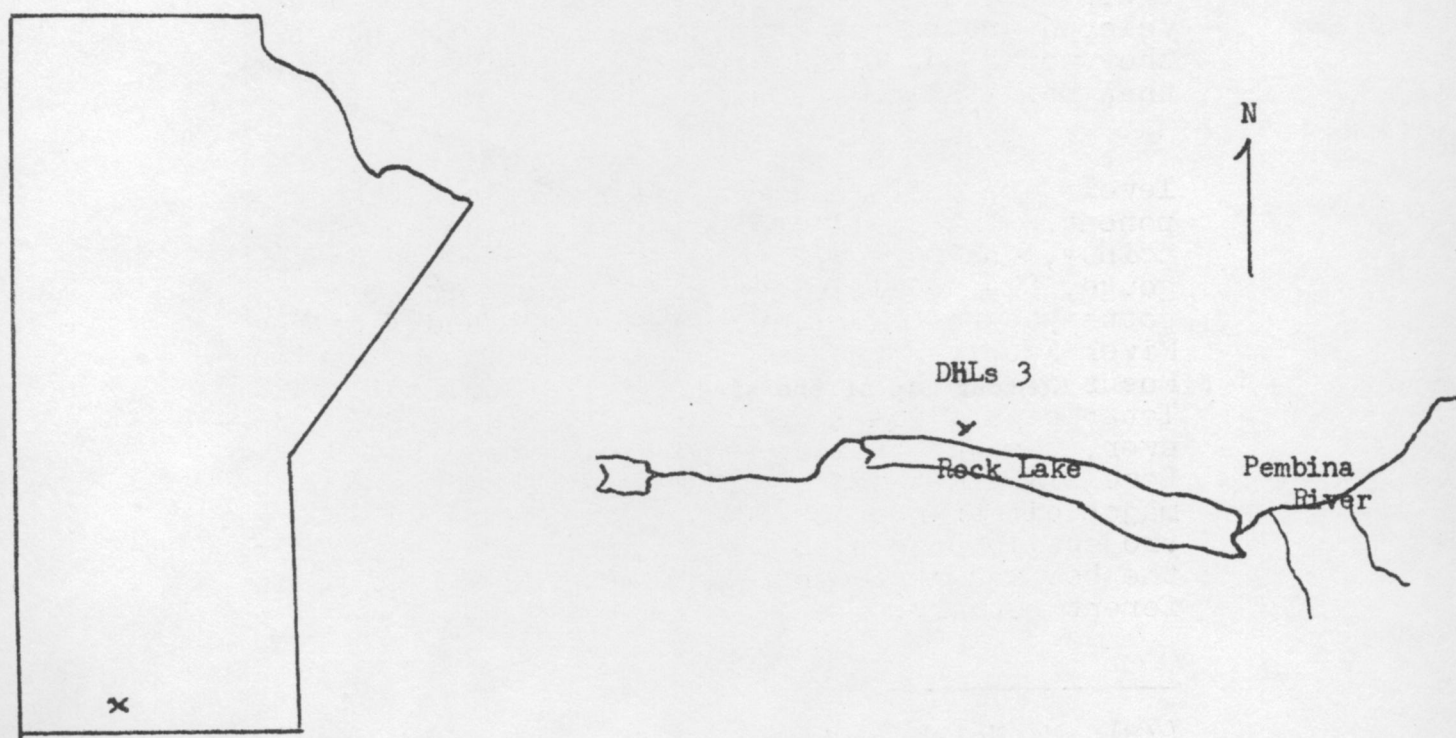
The ochre and bone pendant would indicate that these people were interested in ornamenting their bodies. Their pottery does not show a developed art but as they were migratory hunters they would not likely burden themselves with other than utilitarian utensils.

Some of the artifacts from the top three levels are different from our main Rock Lake component. The small triangular and side-notched points, the barbed bone point, the beaver tooth gouge, the needle, the bone flesher, and the two pottery types, Manitoba Corded Ware and Winnipeg River Fabric-Impressed Ware, occur in the Manitoba Focus of southern Manitoba (38). Certainly this later occupation is related. In actual fact, however, the way of life previously described for Levels 4 and 5 is very little different. The major difference is the more extensive use of small projectile points that may mean a preference for the bow and arrow and the making of slightly different pottery.

(38) MacNeish, 1954.



a. Cross-section of a typical square in the excavation.



b. X is the Rock Lake area in Manitoba while Y is the location of DhLs 3 on Rock Lake.

Figure 1

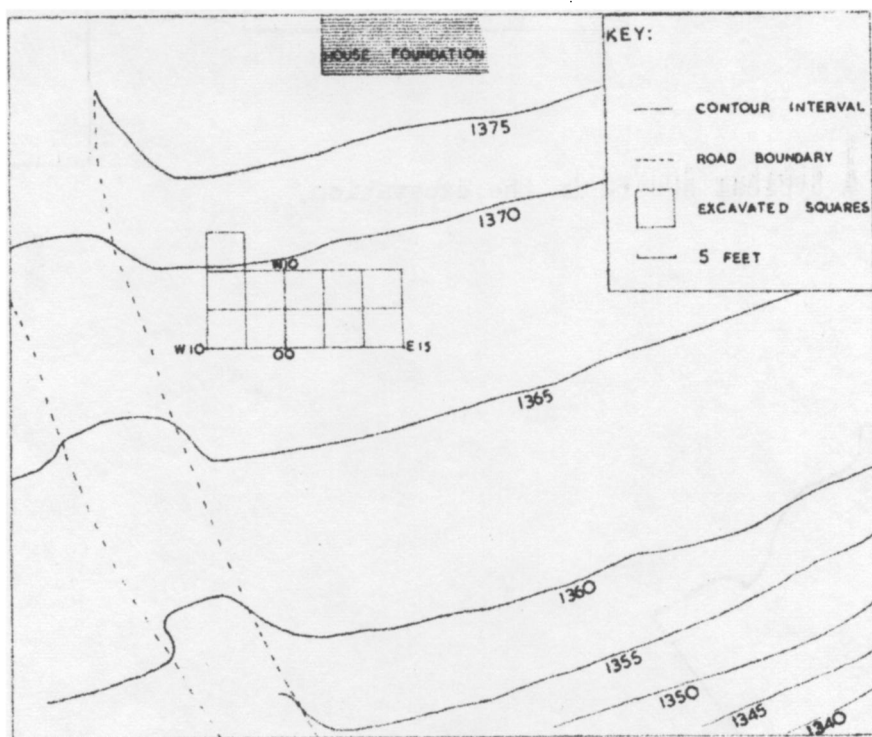


Figure 2 Contour map of the site.

Figure 2 - Contour map of site.

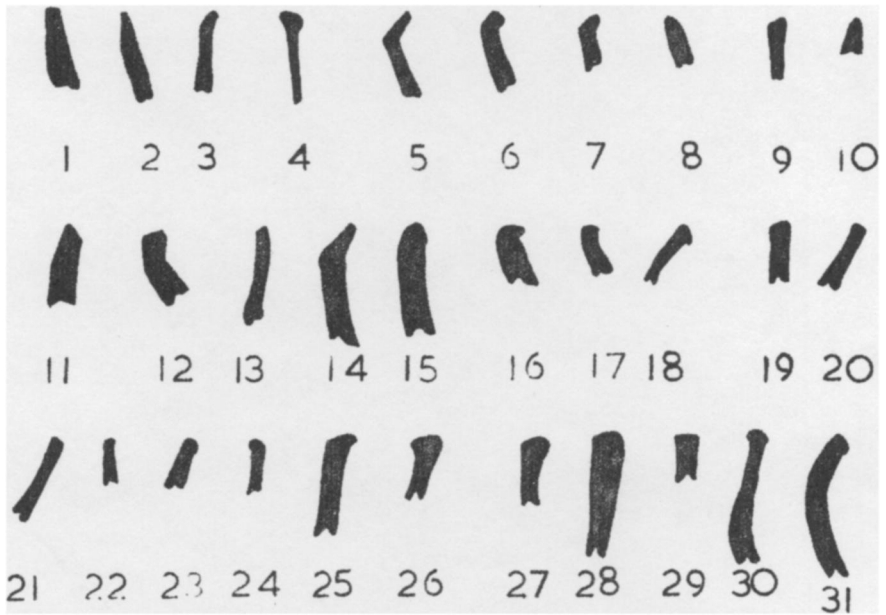


Figure 3 Pottery rim cross-sections, exteriors to the right.

Figure 3 - Rim cross-sections, exteriors to the right.

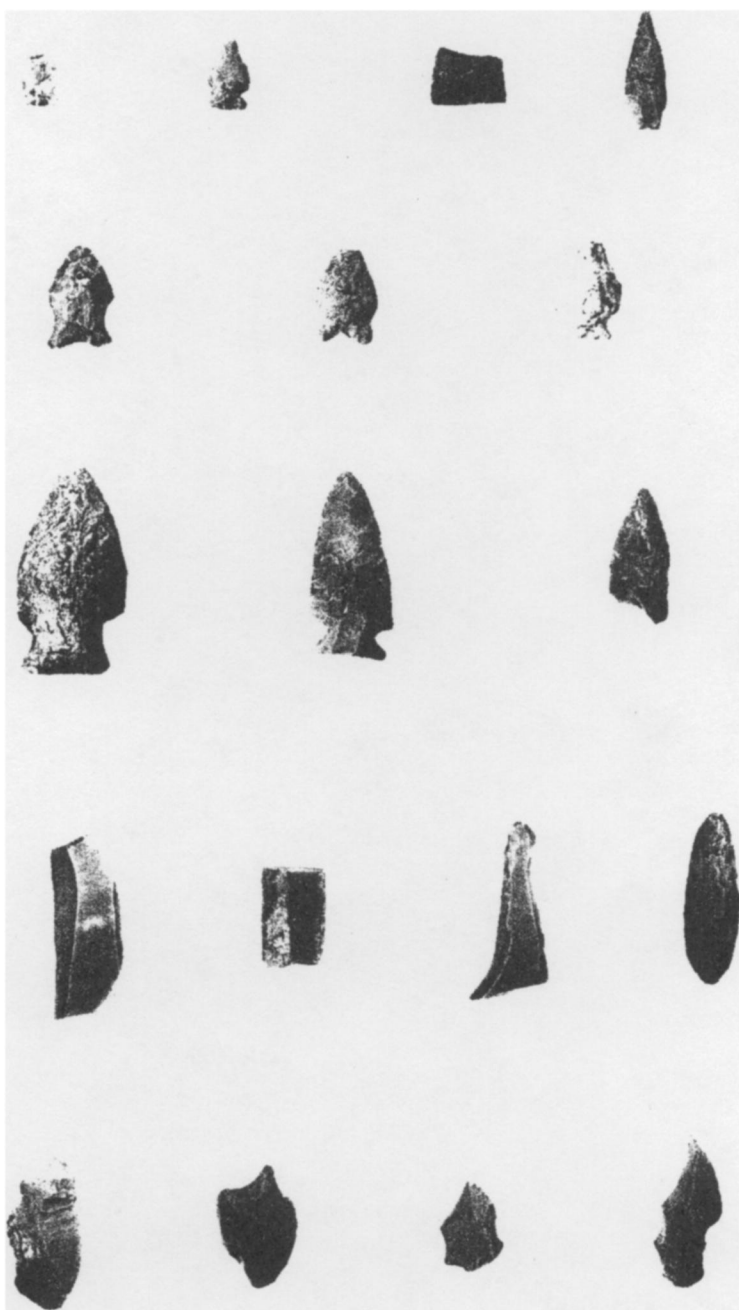


PLATE I



PLATE II

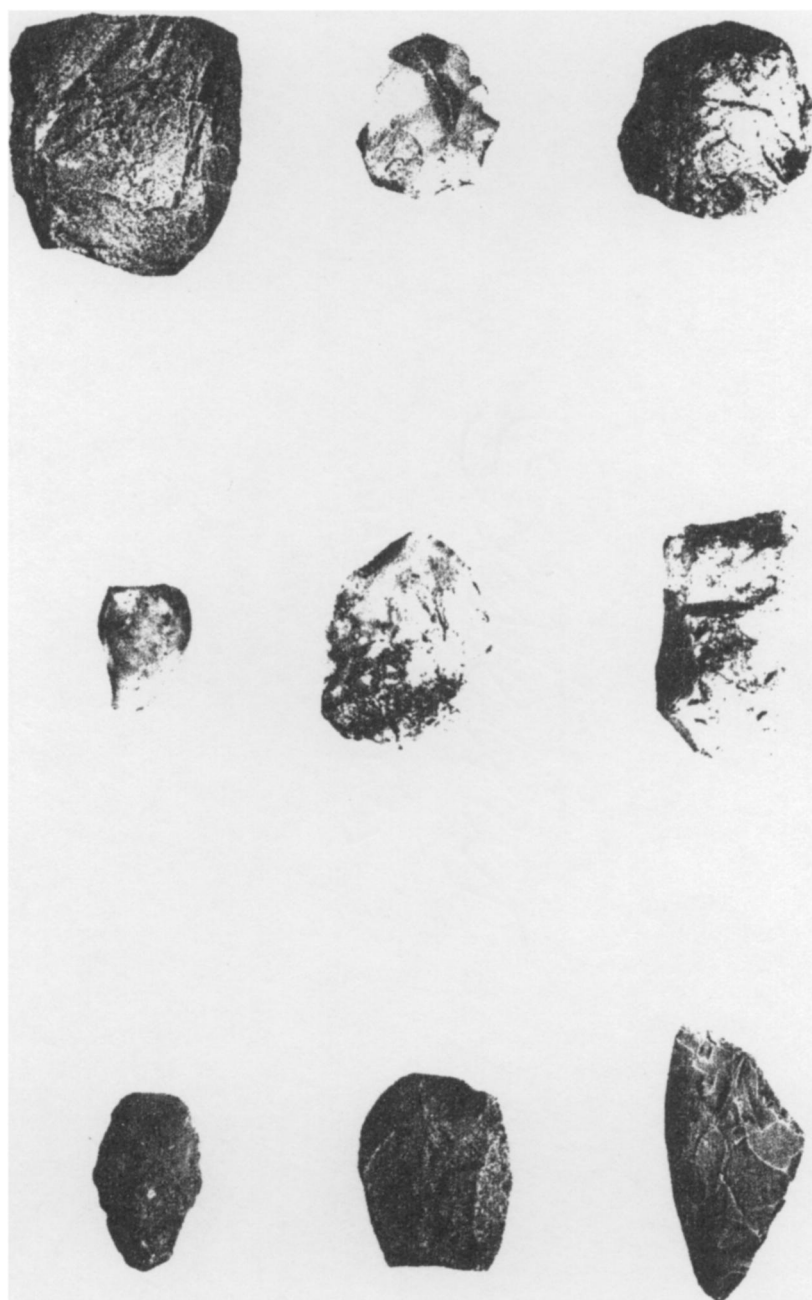


PLATE III

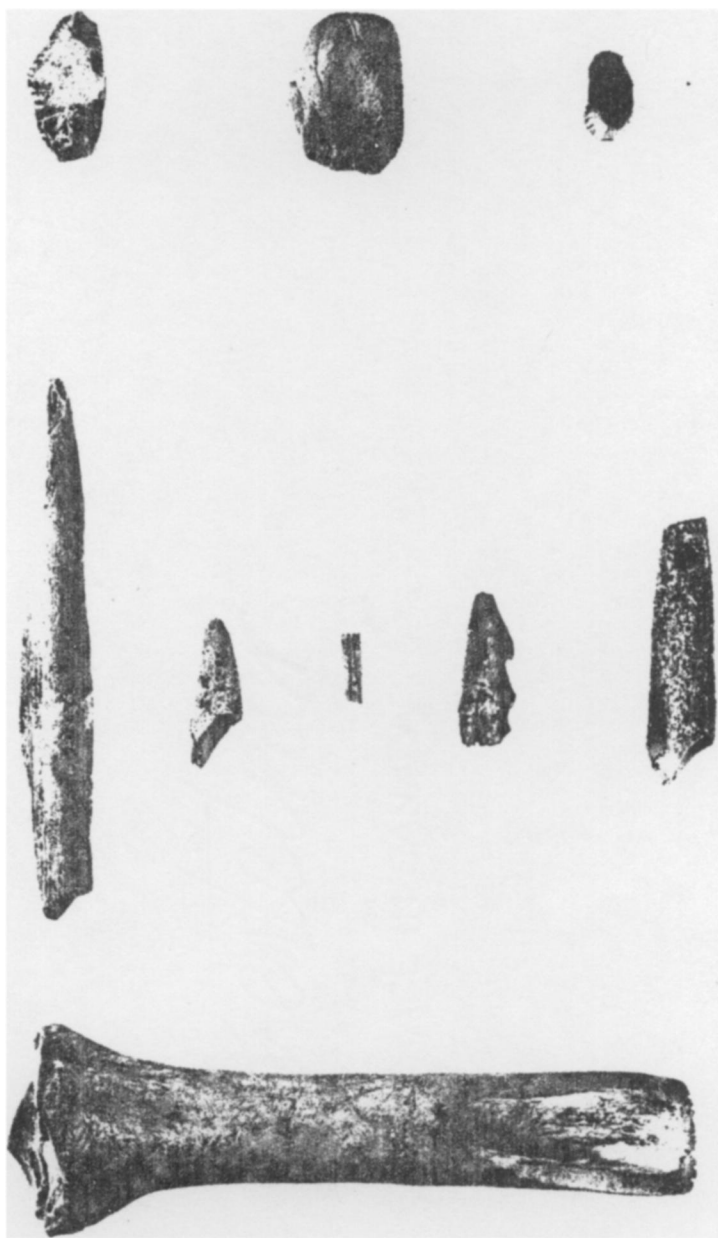


PLATE IV



PLATE V

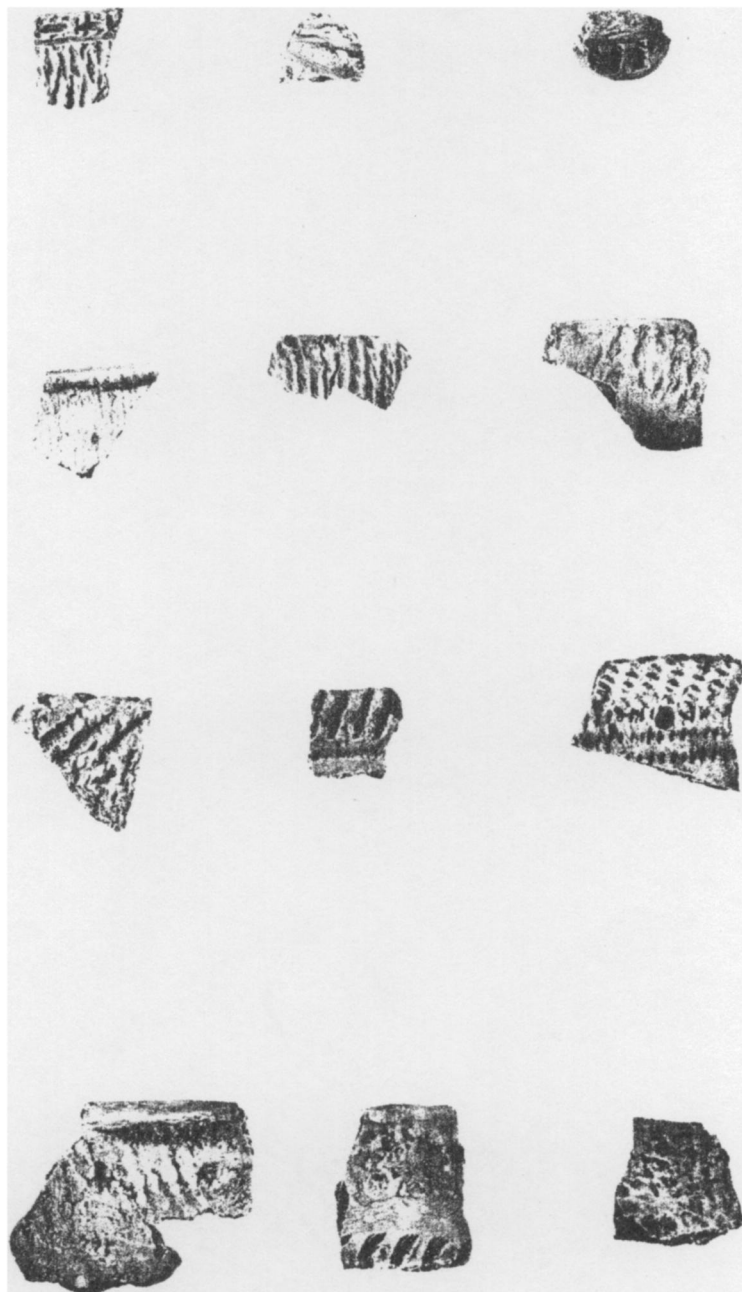


PLATE VI

Thus our preliminary excavations at Rock Lake show that a component of the Lake Shore Focus preceded a component of the Rock Lake Focus, which in turn is followed by materials of the Manitoba Focus. As is perhaps obvious, our information for the area is very limited and much more work should be done, but at least we have the framework for a cultural sequence.

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