The Cumberland Greys and Civil War Beginnings in Cumberland County

By Jonathan E. Wood

Within a month of the election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency of the United States, the State of South Carolina seceded from the Union in December, 1860. President Buchanan failed to act even when other states of the Deep South likewise seceded. A crisis arose over U.S. Fort Sumter, located in Charleston Harbor. While plans for provisioning the fort were underway, South Carolina fired on the fort on April 13, 1861 and caused it to surrender.

There was an immediate response in the North. In Bridgeston, on April 20th, the largest meeting yet then recorded, was held in Grosscup’s Hall. There was a call for enlistments—these supported by both political parties. And by April 25th, one hundred one men were enlisted in the “Cumberland Greys.” They would leave Bridgeston on board the steamboat “Patuxent.” Artist John Keyser painted the scene of the recruits surrounded by a host of local persons boarding the steamboat.

Joining the recruits on the “Patuxent” were a group of businessmen and young ladies who would accompany them to Philadelphia and then return to Bridgeston on the steamboat. A cotillion, a lively dance that had as one feature the frequent change of partners, was set in motion. The dances continued with fiddlers accompanying all the way to Philadelphia. Such cheerings, laughing and merriment! The men were going to war, and the somber possibilities had been touched on, but the light spirits reflected the opinion that the Rebels would soon capitulate.

Months later in August, 1861, Bridgeston Congressman John T. Nixon, who at Grosscup’s Hall, had urged the men to enlist in the Cumberland Greys, joined the throng of Washington dignitaries who drove out to Bull Run in Virginia to see the Rebels take a thrashing. The thrashing was taken by the Union forces and the Washington crowd rushed back to that city fleeing the victorious Confederate Army. Only then did it begin to dawn on the North that saving the Union would be a long, hard fight.

Meanwhile in Bridgeston, enlistments would continue until they all but outnumbered those of any other community in the state. All the same, it was a civil war, and opinion was sharply divided. Dr. Samuel Beach Jones, who was the favorite minister in town, was responsible for establishing West Jersey Academy. His preaching reflected a view that was becoming ever more unpopular. It was voiced about that the weathervane on First (Presbyterian) Church pointed south. He would not continue in the pulpit after May, 1863.

The next great influx of enlistments came in September, 1862 when the 24th Regiment gathered complete with regimented artist John Keyser—but that’s another story.

Departure of the “Cumberland Greys” on the steamer “Patuxent.”
(John Keyser’s painting.)

TWO TRIPS A WEEK.
STEAMER PATUXENT.
FOR PHILADELPHIA.

On and after Monday, February 18th, the Steamer Patuxent, Cape Cod Bow, will leave Bridgeston for Philadelphia, every Monday and Thursday afternoons at 4 o’clock. Returning, will leave Philadelphia, first pier below Arch street, every Tuesday and Friday afternoons at 5 o’clock.

The boat has been well repaired. She has a saloon and 10 State Rooms on her upper deck, and good accommodations for over 100 passengers.

Fare, each way, 50 Cents. Sides Room Berths, 25 cents extra. The boat stops at all the landings on the creek. Supper provided on board. Freight carried at Packet rates.

Stages for Milville, Cedarville, Newport, Divide Creek and Maureystown connect with the boat.
Bridgeston, Feb. 16, 1861.
Large Tool Industries and Lithic Procurement Along the Necks of the Delaware Bay New Jersey: A Fox Creek Cultural Expression
By Tony Bonfiglio

Archaeological finds or data, usually are uncovered as the result of random chance occurrences, even during controlled scientific excavations. Upon discovery, this information and/or artifacts can then be assimilated into the known data and form the basis for predictive modeling and interpretation. An archaeologist or individual just has to be at the right place, at the right time, to recover and record this data. Such was the experience of the author in the discovery of an extensive complex of lithic procurement, processing and tool manufacturing on Statham’s Neck, Greenwich, Cumberland County.

It seems only fitting that the preliminary technical reporting of this activity should then be made through a bulletin of the Cumberland County Historical Society.

The “Neck’s”, which are situated along the lower section of the Delaware River and into the Delaware Bay, contain large deposits of gravels, cobbles and even boulders. In places, the substratum contains as much as 20 percent gravel. These deposits accumulated as the result of several periods of glacial out-washing events from the north. Deltaic fan deposition, as well as, the melting of rafting glacial ice, which contained large quantities of unconsolidated sand and gravel, were responsible for forming most of Southern New Jersey. Later episodes of wind-blown ( Aeolian) events, created dunes that reshaped these deposits and along with constant runoff erosion, as well as, the meandering and down-cutting by streams and rivers, the present day outer coastal plain geomorphology of South Jersey was formed.

On the lower necks adjacent to the Delaware Bay, these gravels were exposed or located close to the surface during specific temporal periods, lending these areas to be attractive for aboriginal prehistoric lithic procurement practices. These deposits contain large quantities of quartz, chert (flint), quartz and arkosic sandstone pebbles and cobbles, as well as, some argillitic shales, mica schists and diabase. What is absent from this formation is the usual locally occurring Cohansy Creek Quartzite(silcrete), limonite sandstone and except in a few instances silcrete referred to as Salem or Cuesta quartzite. Prehistoric groups of Southern New Jersey utilized all these materials in the making of their tools i.e. axe heads, spearpoints, knives, anvils, drills, etc., as well as for the tempering materials for their later developed ceramics.

During the winter of 2006, I planned to build a rock garden and cobbled walkway for my house. Therefore, I decided to take advantage of the discarded boulders that farmers throw at the edge of their fields in order to preserve their plows and allow most of their seed to take root successfully. As the soils of the lower necks are normally extremely silty and therefore wet, I felt that the possibility for evidence of prehistoric cultural use in this area would be minimal. Usually areas containing these types of soils were avoided by Amerindian groups in their settlement practices. Much to my surprise, I collected a few pieces of cracked rock as soon as I started looking for cobbles, which is an indicator of prehistoric cultural use. However, as no other tools or artifacts were encountered, I believed that this locus was most likely used as an ephemeral site of undetermined activity.

In little time, I was able to accumulate a nice pile of silty muddy cobbles, which I then transported to my truck. Upon reaching my home, I then proceeded to wash my hoard of cobbles to begin constructing the pond garden. To my surprise and shagrin, the first cobbles I washed turned out to be a preform prehistoric axe head in early stage tool manufacture and the second cobbles turned out to be a very large sandstone prehistoric hammer. I now realized my plans to build a rock garden were not going forward and I had stumbled onto a lithic procurement and tool-making locus.

A large glacial erratic boulder deposited as the result of ice rafting deposition on Statham’s Neck. It is estimated to weigh 600-800 lbs. and measured over 4 feet in length. (Tony Bonfiglio in picture.)
Continued: **Large Tool Industries and Lithic Procurement Along the Necks of the Delaware Bay New Jersey: A Fox Creek Cultural Expression**

My initial question, which is one that most archaeologists would have, is who was responsible for this activity, i.e. what temporal cultural group could this processing be attributed to. Another question which needed to be addressed is what was the extent of this activity or was this expression a single location event.

In order to establish a data base to answer these questions, an extensive surface survey of the lower portions of Dutch Neck, Statthem’s Neck, Back Neck and Bacon’s Neck where gravels were exposed was initiated. The advantage of collecting artifacts representing this activity and from sites of this nature is that artifact collectors are usually not interested or recognize these tools and, except for farmers placing these cobbles on field edges, there would be little impact to the inventory database. Unfortunately, diagnostic tool types which would date the use of these sites, specifically biface knives and/or spearpoints, would not be a part of the expected discarded tool kit, for the most part.

The survey still continues after 5 years and new sites are added all the time. These sites appear to represent an extensive single temporal component industry of lithic procurement and export. Furthermore, early stage manufacturing of primarily large tool axe head preforms had occurred on the lower Neck’s along the Delaware Bay. Approximately 35 sites have been investigated and identified, which all exhibit this activity use of the landscape. However, only 3 diagnostic tools were recovered during the survey, and flakes of purple argillite, attributing this activity to the Fox Creek Phase, of the Middle Woodland Period, circa 1600-1150BP (years before present) or 400-850AD.

The Fox Creek people were primarily a society based on a fishing economy of anadromous fish, namely alewife, shad, sturgeon, herring etc. They occupied riverine terraces, especially in headwater regions, and required woodworking celts and axes to fashion their dugout canoes. However, it is evident that they did not utilize the lower bayshores, observed by the lack of their tools in several collections inventoried.

Most of these use loci (sites) contain swales, which lead to navigable watercourses. These swales are most likely pirated periglacial ponds, which had been encroached or breached by tidal/storm episodes and weathering. It is postulated that small groups arriving on dugout canoes made their way from more semi-sedentary base habitational towns upstream for the reason of procurement and processing of these locally occurring lithic resources. These groups of probably males only spent possibly several days at a time engaging in this activity and then loaded their canoes with the finest of what was gathered and manufactured and returned to their town. The preform artifacts recovered during this survey represent either those that were inferior in quality and discarded or could not be transported because of canoe capacity. Many primary thinning flakes collected during the survey of the more desirable and durable arkose sandstone, with the almost absence of discarded preforms of this material, suggests this occurring.
Our Future is In the Past
By Richard E. DeMarco

“Our Future is In the Past”... The first time I wrote this phrase was 21 years ago. I had just settled in an old house in Greenwich, Cumberland County. My dream was to someday open a Native American artifact museum. Little did I know, in just a few years, I would meet a man who would change the course of my life forever.

Last month, I was approached by my friend and mentor, Mr. Alan Carman, who, due to declining health, has decided to resign as curator of one of the finest efforts to preserve the Native American history of South Jersey. He asked me, “honored me,” with the task of carrying on his legacy.

Thank you, Alan. We will not let you down!

The Prehistorical Museum is open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays (12 Noon to 4 P.M.)

John DuBois Maritime Museum Currents...
By Steve Carnahan

We are in the “downstream” phase of an inventory of artifacts at the John DuBois Maritime Museum by maritime trade, craft, and purpose with the intention of developing docent and visitor guidebooks and display visual support materials. Once completed, the Museum will be a great deal more user-friendly for supporting staff, volunteers and, of course, visitors. If you have a background in marine trades, crafts, artifacts, or history, we would welcome your participation.

The artifacts at the Museum offer a great deal more than a portal to Cumberland County’s attachment to the past water dependent industries. They grant all of us a unique bridge to our present bay shore area’s continued relationship with our marine environment, with all of its opportunities and challenges. Additionally, they offer the youngest among us a chance to look at the world in terms of their natural surroundings on a personal experience basis, founded in the past, supported by the present, and open to the future. Today, as in the past, the Museum’s Greenwich home, boasts active marine trades, commercial watermen, active boatyards, salt marsh-riverine wildlife, and a distinctly maritime flavor with an unobstructed watery access to the world’s ocean highways.

Our connection to bay’s fisheries is, in fact, yielding a unique opportunity to participate in crafting a role in an educational effort that ties a prominent historic position once held by Greenwich to a current marine science effort. The project is being conducted by a number of research institutions and government agencies focused on studying and, if possible, restoring our signature finfish, the Atlantic Sturgeon, and its smaller cousin, the Shortnose Sturgeon. The story of Greenwich and its Bayside section, once known as Caviar, and its role in developing a leading American role in a world-wide fishery, is well-known but we have very little in the way of artifacts with the associated trades which ran the full gamut from net to can. The current multi-stage science effort is not directed at restoring a fishery, but in restoring a resource whose very present announces positive environmental factors existing in our Delaware Estuary.

The Seaboard Fisheries Institute, housed at The Rutgers Cousteau Center at the David Sheppard House in Bridgeton, is actively engaged with Rutgers Haskin Lab, The Delaware Estuary Program, Philadelphia Museum of Natural Science, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Jersey Port Corporation, private naturalist and a host of university scientists, to determine the location and health of the sturgeon population.

The “Viking” pictured above is a first decade of the 20th Century Shad Skiff from Greenwich and restored by boat builder, Alan Hedges, at his Ye Greate Street Boat Shop in Greenwich, owned and operated by Capt. Martin Morse, Sr., of Delaware Avenue in Greenwich, fourth generation of Greenwich watermen.
Continued: John DuBois Maritime Museum Currents...

In addition, The DuPont “Clear into the Future” Science Education Program is providing a foundation for developing education outreach projects that, hopefully, will include cooperation with the collection at the Cumberland County Historical Society’s Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Research Library and John DuBois Maritime Museum. The target audience for this effort is school children and their educators. In closing, I will include some of the program’s direction provided by Lisa Calvo, Principal Investigator for the Research and Executive Director of Seaboard Fisheries Institute, and Watershed Coordinator/Manager for the Rutgers’ Cousteau Center at the David Sheppard House in Bridgeton.

If you have information related to the Delaware Bay Sturgeon Fishery, we would welcome your participation.

“The Sturgeon Return and the Tradition Remains” The Seaboard Fisheries Institute (Rutgers Cousteau Center at the David Sheppard House, Bridgeton) Scientist, Hal Brundage, is holding a less than one-year old Atlantic Sturgeon, taken below the Marcus Hook Anchorage on the Delaware River.

ACQUISITIONS – Warren & Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Research Library 2011

By Warren Adams

DONOR: Francis C. Fekel (Nashville, TN) Cobb and Campbell Family Genealogy of Southern New Jersey.

DONOR: Joseph M. Woods (Wallingford, PA) Buck Family Photo, photos of Laura Maxwell Buck, namesake of the Tugboat “Laura B” of the Cumberland Nail and Iron Company, Bridgeton; Copy of stock certificate of Cumberland Nail and Iron Company, 1870; Photograph of the Buck House 163 West Commerce Street, Bridgeton, 1870’s.

DONOR: Warren R. Rule, PhD (Richmond, VA) Genealogy, Francis Pilgrim, Thomas Parsons (Maskell), Dr. Bodo Otto, Johann Hann m. Elizabeth Schull, Samuel Erickson (Riggins), Peter Peterson (Sr), Robert Ayars m. Ester Bowen, Caleb Ayars m. Rebecca Braman, Joseph Bivins m. Sarah Ayars, Steven Buckley, (H)ester Burnet (Leaming), Abiel Carll M. Mercy Maskell, Constantine Carll, Daniel Carman, Benjamin Comb(e)(s) (West), Samuel Conyers (Iszard), John Cornwell, Samuel Craig #2 M. Catherine Danzenbaker, George Danzenbaker m. Mary Pilgrim, Mark Dilkes m. Elizabeth Hughes, Floyd Moore Emmons m. Pearl West, Johann Friedrich Fuchs (Fox), Daniel Garrison M. Hannah Cornwell), Daniel Gotherson m. Dorothy Scott), William Robinson m. Sarah Garrison, Elijah Dilks m. Temperance Chard), Daniel Garrison, Daniel Carman m. Hannah Garrison), Daniel Gotherson, George Hughes, Gabriel Issard, Friedrick Marcus Kirmann (Carman) m. Fox, M. Otto, Christopher Leaming, Joseph #4 Lord, Marcus Kirmann m. Maria Elizabeth Otto, Thomas Maskell, m. Mary Statham, James McLong, m. Agnes Booth, Evan Moore, John Murphy m. Mary Craig, Francis Pilgrim m. Catherine Hann, Johann Schull, William Robinson, Benjamin Riggins, John Shoemaker, Thomas Statham m. Ruth Udall, Stephen Thompson, David Atwood Simpkins, Edward m. West, Edward m. West (Young), Jennings White (Stratton), Barlow Williams, Philip #2 Titus, Brown Youngs (Mapes), (Youngs), Rebecca Mapes, Philip #2 Titus, Barlow Williams m. Mehitable Carll), Stephen Thompson m. Temperance Dilks (Lord), Heinrich Rokop (Danzenbaker), (Rocap). Lucis Elmer letter to James S. Green Esq., 1826 and William Rawle Esq., 1824 & 1826; C. Ogden, letter to brother Henry S. Ogden Esq, 1826, 1827 letter cancelled Bridgetown.


DONOR: Holly Kennedy, Twice Loved Treasurers Thrift Store, supporting Hospice (Vineland) Cumberland County Advertiser Press, Port Norris, December 2, 1943 – November 23, 1944; Reminiscing with Old X, about Lower Creek in 1891.
The Cumberland County Historical Society hopes to reproduce
John G. Keyser's Sketchbook
containing over 80 Civil War sketches of
Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Virginia
plus, a reprint of the
History of the 24th Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, 1889
to accompany the sketchbook.
Pre-publication list of purchasers are asked to
contact the Cumberland County Historical Society via email cchistsoc@verizon.net
or by calling 856-455-8580.

Hearthside Dinners

On several Saturdays this winter, the Cumberland County Historical Society was busy preparing hearthside
dinners in the 1740 colonial kitchen in the Gibbon House (one each month in December through March and one
will be held in May). Each home-cooked dinner was sold out!

Everyone enjoyed the historical ambiance with the sights and
fragrances from the hearth while dining with friends and family. Guests enjoyed meals that used recipes of a bygone era. Ms. Mary
Cash and staff enjoyed preparing and serving their guests and are
looking forward to the hearthside dinners, starting in December, 2011.

Colonial server, Tony Bonfiglio, is busy turning the beef tenderloin with sage stuffing for the January dinner.

Colonial cook and server, Mary Cash and Tony Bonfiglio, discussing new meals “over the horizon.”
Announcing the Winners in the Gingerbread House Contest

On behalf of the Cumberland County Historical Society, we wish to congratulate the winners in our Annual Gingerbread House Contest that was held in the Old Stone Schoolhouse during “Christmas in Greenwich.” The gingerbread creations were judged on overall appearance, originality/creativity, difficulty and detail and were made completely of edible products.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Ms. Mary Cash, Bridgeton – 1st place winner in the Adult Division
Mr. Paul Fox, Pittsgrove – 2nd place winner in the Adult Division
Jamey Hunter-White, Greenwich – 1st place winner in the Child Division
(First time participant – A student at Stow Creek Township School)

A special thank you to Mrs. Kathy Goodwin, Mrs. Sarah Hughes and Mr. Matthew Pisarski for judging the entries this year.

ATTENTION ELEMENTARY TEACHERS
Children’s Program in Historic Greenwich – Fourth and Fifth Grades

The Cumberland County Historical Society offers a children’s program for those enrolled in the fourth and fifth grades. The program provides a guided walking tour through the historic village of Greenwich, a cooking demonstration in the colonial kitchen of the Gibbon House, and a visit to the Prehistorical Museum that contains New Jersey Indian artifacts and fossils dating back to 6000 BC.

For information and scheduling of field trips, please call the CCHS at 856-455-4055.
The Cumberland County Historical Society
Box 16, Greenwich, New Jersey 08323

Return Service Requested

Phone: (856) 455-4055

Editorial Staff
Warren Adams
Tony Bonfiglio
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Richard DeMarco
Linda Peck
Jonathan Wood

Thank you!

If you have updated your current mailing address, please send us your new email address so we may update our records.

Due to the rising cost of postage and mailing, CHS is embarking on plans to make nearly all of our communications available in electronic versions in the coming months. This would allow us to launch our e-newsletters and other on-line materials via your email. Please send us your email address so we may update our records.

Have you provided your email address to the Cumberland County Historical Society? If not, let us know if it has been changed.

UPDATING OUR RECORDS