The Archaeology and Early History of the Allegheny River.

Very little has been written concerning the archaeology of the region along the Allegheny River. One reason for this lack of material relating to this most historic field of investigation is because there has never been any real scientific work done in it, and very little has been done to collect and to study the archaeological material which has been found in it.

It is very strange that such should be the case, as this river valley has seen more changes in the early aboriginal occupation than any other valley in the state.

The author, in a recent number of *Pittsburgh First* gave a sketch of the various Indian peoples who have lived along the course of this stream. Among these are the Akansea, the Cherokee, the Erie, the Black Minquas and the historic Seneca, Delaware and Shawnee. — There would, therefore be mingled the cultures of the Siouian, the Iroquoian and the Algonkian groups.

There is some reason for thinking that the earliest occupation of this region, like the greater part of Pennsylvania and New York, was Algonkian. The very oldest types of cultural remains and the most badly weathered which the author has seen, belong to this prehistoric Algonkian culture. Next comes the Iroquoian, including the Cherokee, Erie and Seneca. The last cultural remains are those of the historic period, when the Seneca, the Delaware and Shawnee came into this region.

The State Museum has recently purchased, through the Historical Commission, a most unique collection of Indian artifacts which were collected by L. R. Lane, of Freeport, along the Allegheny River between Oil City and Pittsburgh. Mr. Lane spent his spare time during a period of 40 years in gathering these fine specimens—which are now in the State Museum. This collection is of real value as Mr. Lane remembers where he found each one of the large artifacts.
Among the artifacts are many beautifully made arrow points of flint, jasper and chalcedony. Some of these are Iroquian, but the majority are Algonkian. There is a very finely made ceremonial knife of blue flint which measures 6\% inches in length by 3\% inches in width. A large stone ax, or celt, which was found near the mouth of the Kiskiminetas is 6\% by 5\% inches. But, probably the rarest specimens in this collection are three flint fish-hooks, which were found at the mouth of Bear Creek in Armstrong County, about one mile south of Parker City. Mr. Lane found these when excavating for a pump station for the Standard Oil Company. These fish-hooks measure 3\%\%, 7/8, 1 and 1\% inches in length. They are without question genuine and are the only genuine flint fish-hooks which I have ever seen from the Allegheny River Valley. The collection covers the Allegheny River Valley from Oil City to Pittsburgh. Some of them were found at Bear Creek, Bradys Bend, Poketas Creek, Sugar Creek, and at various places along these streams.

Nearly all of the Indian villages which are mentioned in the early records belong to the historic period. None of them were very old and all of them were occupied after the Indians had fire-arms. The stone and flint artifacts found along the Allegheny are of very fine workmanship and belong to the period when the river was occupied by the ancestors of the Cherokee, who were called Alligewe in the early traditions, and after whom the Allegheny River was named. There is a very striking resemblance between the finely chipped arrow and spear points found on the Allegheny and those found in the southern region occupied by the Cherokee.

The earliest written record of the Indian villages on the Allegheny river is that which is contained in the “Account of the voyage on the Beautiful river made in 1749 under the direction of Monsieur de Celoron. by Father Bonne-camp.”

In this account, which is given in “The Jesuit Relations”, Vol LXIX, pages 150-199, an Iroquois village, called “Kananouangon”, is the first one mentioned as being situated on the Allegheny. It was at the mouth of the Cone-
wango river, just above the site of the present city of Warren. Another village which Bonneccamps mentions as "La paille coupe," was at the mouth of Broken Straw Creek, near the site of the present Irvineton. The English name of the Creek is a translation of the French name of the village as given by Bonneccamps. The name given to this village by the early English traders was Buckaloon. This may be a corruption of the Delaware name, Poquihilleu, which signifies "broken". The Iroquois name of the village, Koshanauadeago, is given by Ellicott and Howell on their maps of 1787 and 1792.

The deserted village of Arigues, mentioned in this account, is the village of Kittanning. The "l'ancien village des chouanons" was probably Chartiers Old Town, and "un village de loups" was probably Shannopins Town. Bonneccamps mentions Chiningue, which was the village known to the English as Logstown. He says of this village, "The village of Chiningue is quite new; it is hardly more than five or six years since it was established. The savages who live there are almost all Iroquois; they count about sixty warriors. The English there were ten in number, and one among them was their chief."

The map of Lewis Evans, 1755, notes the number of Indian villages on the Allegheny. Among these are Buxaloons, which is the same as Bonnecamp's La Paille Coupee; Kuskusdatening, which is the village called Goshgoshing by Zeisberger. This was the first Moravian Mission on the Allegheny and was established by Zeisberger in 1767, near the present Tionesta. It was here that Zeisberger was brought into contact with the chiefs from the Beaver river, at whose invitation he removed to the site which was later known as Friedensstadt.

The Evans map also notes Wenango, the Venango of the Colonial Records, at the site of Franklin; Kittanning, Chartier Old Town, Sewickleys Old Town, Shannoppins Towns, Loggs Town, Shingoes Town and Kiskushkes. The location of these historic Indian villages is so well known that it is not necessary to give them more extended notice. All of them belong to the period following the migration of
the Delaware, and Shawnee from the Susquehanna, from 1727 to 1755.

The historic occupation of the upper Ohio and Allegheny was of short duration, not more than twenty-five years. Previous to that period there was a time when there were no permanent villages in the region. Before that period, when Western Pennsylvania was the hunting ground of the Iroquois, was the period when the Akansea, the Erie, the Black Minquas, the Cherokee and probably the Shawnee occupied it. This period has left no written records. No explorer or Jesuit Missionary has left a "Journal", telling of the villages or the people who occupied them. This record is written only in stone and flint artifacts made by the people who once lived along the Beautiful river. To try to read this record is the work of archaeologists. It seems rather strange that this rich field of investigation has been so sadly neglected. Pennsylvania was a center of migration back as far as we can trace the path-way of the aboriginal Indian. And yet when we reach such a recent period as 1700, we begin to walk in the mystery of tradition when we reach the shores of the Ohio River. More is known of the Aztec and Inca culture of a thousand years ago than of the culture of the upper Ohio of three hundred years ago.

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