

Foreword

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Jonathan C. Lothrop received his graduate training in anthropology at Binghamton University (New York). While there, he collaborated on excavations at the Potts Paleoindian site in Oswego County, NY, for his dissertation, receiving his Ph.D. in 1988. From 1988 to 2007, he worked in cultural resource management, directing archaeological survey, testing, and data recovery excavations on Native American archaeological sites in the Ohio Valley, MidAtlantic and New England regions. In 2008, Dr. Lothrop joined the New York State Museum as Curator of Archaeology. His responsibilities include curation of the Native American archaeology collections, public outreach and education, and research on Late Pleistocene human adaptations in the New York Region.

Few researchers have labored as long and hard as Dr. Lawrence Jackson to model the lifeways of the first peoples to inhabit the eastern Great Lakes. These early Native American foragers – referred to as Paleoindians by archaeologists – entered the region in the late Ice Age, shortly after 13,000 years ago. And while Jackson has examined broader geographic frames of reference in his research (e.g., Jackson et al. 2000; Jackson and Thacker 1997; Jackson and Hinshelwood 2004), equally significant contributions have come from his four-decade-long focus on the archaeology of these early peoples in south-central Ontario, primarily in the Rice Lake region (e.g., Jackson 1977, 1983, 1990, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2004; Ellis et al. 1991). This research program of sub regional survey and site investigation was geared to identifying smaller, less-visible Paleoindian sites in that study area to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the settlement adaptations of these peoples in the subarctic environments of Ice Age Ontario.

For most archaeologists working in the eastern Great Lakes, Jackson's Paleoindian research is perhaps best known through his monograph on the Sandy Ridge and Halstead sites (Jackson 1998) as one product of his western Rice Lake basin study. That publication is notable for (1) detailed inferences on internal site structure and

settlement patterning based on artifact distributions and assemblage composition, and for (2) new approaches Jackson developed (in the absence of recovered fluted points) for relative dating of these sites as Gainey phase occupations (early Younger Dryas) based on end scraper and channel flake variability.

Reflecting more recent discoveries by Dr. Jackson, the present report summarizes two recently investigated fluted point sites – Waverly Heights and Chemung Portage – located north of Rice Lake in the Kawartha Lakes/Otonabee River watersheds. Jackson discovered both sites during cultural resource management (CRM) surveys, ultimately resulting in near-full excavation prior to property development. As a cautionary tale, Jackson identified the Waverly Heights site based on a single positive shovel test producing an Onondaga chert flake during survey across a drumlin, thereby highlighting the low archaeological visibility of many Paleoindian sites. Indeed, such discoveries remind us that much of the Paleoindian archaeological record in northeastern North America consists of small sites that can easily be missed by conventional survey methods.

Excavation of the small Paleoindian occupation area at Waverly Heights (98 m²) encountered a single plow-truncated basin feature. Use of 3-mm (1/8-inch) mesh for sieving excavated soils proved critical for recovering the small assemblage of 149 flaked stone artifacts and several hundred small fragments of calcined food bone. Similar to several other Fluted point sites in the glaciated Northeast, the faunal sample included mostly mammal (large cervid), consistent with the widely held hypothesis of caribou predation as a key component of these early peoples' lifeways (e.g., Lothrop et al. 2016:227-230). Importantly, the faunal sample also includes a single calcined fish vertebra, identified as *Percidae*. Now that presumed fish remains from the Shawnee-Minisink site in Pennsylvania have been debunked (Gingerich et al. 2019), this finding at Waverly Heights provides perhaps the best evidence at present for Paleoindian exploitation of fish in the glaciated Northeast.

Investigation of Waverly Heights produced two nondiagnostic fluted point fragments, requiring Jackson to estimate site age using channel flake widths, a technique derived from his study of the Sandy Ridge and Halstead sites (Jackson 1998). His analysis indicates the site postdates Gainey and is affiliated with a later fluted point phase (either Parkhill, Crowfield or Holcombe). Collectively, the small flaked stone assemblage and associated faunal remains appear to reflect a focus on fluted point manufacture and food consumption by one or only a few individuals, again highlighting the small scale of occupations at some fluted point sites.

Jackson also reports on the Chemong Portage site, a small Gainey or Parkhill phase occupation situated just 10 km northwest of Waverly Heights along the Otonabee River. What is perhaps most striking about this site is its proximity to a traditional First Nations portage route between Chemong Lake and the Otonabee River. As in the rest of North America, Paleoindian archaeologists working in the Northeast have used data on artifact toolstone at Paleoindian sites in relation to geologic sources of that toolstone to infer broad patterns and possible routes of seasonal movement by these highly mobile Ice Age peoples (e.g., Ellis 2011; Lothrop et al. 2018). In the case of Chemong Portage, while an ancient association with this traditional overland route cannot be confirmed, Jackson appropriately calls attention to this legitimate possibility.

This monograph also synthesizes Jackson's Paleoindian research in the western Rice Lake watershed from 1976 onward. He summarizes findings at Sandy Ridge and Halstead, as well as other sites and find spots, and emphasizing variation in artifact types, assemblages, internal site structure and site settings. He discusses site distribution across the watershed to infer settlement patterning and lifeways linked in part to hypothesized seasonal caribou exploitation. Supported by complementary research on paleoenvironments, paleontology and geology, Jackson reveals how Holocene isostatic rebound of the eastern Rice Lake basin flooded late Pleistocene terrain in the western basin, surely inundating several fluted point sites. Elsewhere, Jackson et al. (2000) demonstrate how site discovery biases were created by rising Holocene water levels in the Erie and Ontario basins, but here we see how geomorphic processes can also differentially mask the Paleoindian record at the sub regional, local level. Synthesizing these available data with models of caribou ethology and diet as well as caribou hunter ethnology, Jackson argues convincingly that in the late Pleistocene, the western Rice Lake basin supported a rich marsh habitat, attractive for caribou and in turn, for Paleoindian hunters of these animals as well.

This volume makes clear how important insights on the human past can be gained by long-term archaeological research focused on an individual subregion. As Jackson demonstrates, his targeted survey and excavations of less visible, small (and more common?) fluted point sites have revealed a fuller picture of Paleoindian lifeways not attainable through a traditional focus on disparate larger sites. We can hope that this publication will inspire future Paleoindian researchers to similarly commit to targeted studies at the sub regional level in the Northeast and elsewhere.