

BellBendCOLPEm Resource

From: Imboden, Stacey
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 8:10 AM
To: McDougal, Steven
Subject: FW: License Applicarion of Bell Bend Nuclear Plant enviormental Study
Attachments: NRC 1.jpg; nrc2.jpg; NRC 3.jpg; NRC 4.jpg; NRC 5.jpg

Steve, I passed this on to Jennifer Davis and Michael French but didn't include you on the email. This could be of interest to you. He is responding to letters NRC sent to Tribes and the Berwick Historical Society asking for information on the Council Cup site.

Stacey Imboden

From: Bill Vezendy [mailto:billvez@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 7:00 AM
To: Imboden, Stacey
Cc: Terry, Tomeka
Subject: License Applicarion of Bell Bend Nuclear Plant enviormental Study

Stacey & Tomeka

My name is Bill Vezendy and I'm the VP of the Berwick Historical Society. I was asked by Jim Stout our president to handle your concerns as I have more knowledge about the local Indian Occupation of this area.

There are documented publications that back the claims of the local residents that the 2 1/2 mile area around Wapwollopen, Pa near the Council Cup site has a strong Native American heritage.

Barry Kent from the Pa. State Historic and Museum Commission wrote a book in 1984 about the "Susquehanna Indians" and a section of the book was on the area you had questioned. I attached the pages of the book that pertained to this area, it is known as the Knouse Site (36Lu43).

If you check into the history of this site you will find that PP&L during the installation of their transmission towers that run from the present site actually went through a Native American burial ground and were stopped only after a local resident Terry Knouse blew the whistle about their finds.

The FSAR & PSAR that was required before PP&L built the present nuclear power plant documents this fact as their are something like 16 historic sites found on their property. The next concern is that there was an area that was also located near the river on the plant side that was described in either the PSAR or the FSAR as a site near the present River Intake Building that needed further archeology work if disturbed. Needless to say the area has been disturbed, topsoil stripped, a building built without the archeology work as required. But probably most of these requirements were forgotten in time or no one really looked into them.

Thanks for your concerns and they are worth looking into as I have pretty fair knowledge of the site and the local residents are correct.

Feel free to contact me any time as I'm presently the VP of the Berwick Historical Society. My phone number is 570-759-1792 or by e-mail as I read it daily.

Bill Vezendy

Hearing Identifier: BellBend_COL_Public
Email Number: 99

Mail Envelope Properties (D841D501B2C4D244B75AB897F70C14949A4B242B38)

Subject: FW: License Applicarion of Bell Bend Nuclear Plant enviornmental Study
Sent Date: 7/17/2009 8:09:37 AM
Received Date: 7/17/2009 8:09:40 AM
From: Imboden, Stacey

Created By: Stacey.Imboden@nrc.gov

Recipients:
"McDougal, Steven" <smcdougal@state.pa.us>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: HQCLSTR01.nrc.gov

Files	Size	Date & Time
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NRC 3.jpg	352740	
NRC 4.jpg	115434	
NRC 5.jpg	304617	

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received:

archeologically.

KNOUSE SITE

The Knouse site (36Lu43), also designated the Smith Farm site (Gardner 1939) and the Wapwallopen Village site, is located on the flood plain of the Susquehanna River's North Branch upstream from the modern village of Wapwallopen in Conyngham Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The entire site appears to extend over several properties (Gardner 1939: 23), and has produced a variety of cultural remains.

Testing at the site occurred as early as the summer of 1936, at which time 13 test pits were excavated by Gardner, who encountered therein six "fire pits" or hearths, five apparent storage pits, and one each of post-molds, burials and caches. Gardner noted that the burial was sterile of artifacts, and that the skeletal remains were too badly disintegrated to measure, although parts, at least, of the skeleton were identifiable (Gardner 1939: 25). Gardner further noted a post-contact provenience for some of these features at the site, as manifested by the presence of certain "trade articles." It was his suggestion that these materials resulted from an occupation by a "small band or tribe of Nanticoke Indians" from about "1730 to the late 1790's" (Gardner 1939: 26). One of the features which his crew excavated measured 10 feet by 6 feet by 25 inches deep and contained "a quantity of fire burned stone," underlain by a five-inch-thick lens of wood ash, and with charcoal and animal bone throughout. The "trade articles" from this feature included glazed pottery, a small tin or iron cup, a broken knife blade, "two pieces of white clay trade pipe," and a copper coin

"struck by King George of England, dated 1774. . . . Another pit, also with a large quantity of burned stones and a six-inch layer of ash produced glazed pottery and one small fragment of clear window glass. A third pit, as noted by Gardner (1939: 24), produced "a two-tined table fork, the stag horn handle badly decomposed. . . . Owing to the inexperience of the workmen excavating this pit, accurate measurements were impossible to determine"! In view of this latter statement, it seems prudent to question the association of these features and artifacts, and persons responsible. Do they relate to an eighteenth-century Indian occupation of the area, or are they the result of a slightly later colonial house on the site, which may have been burned? Unfortunately, Gardner's brand of archeology leaves us with these doubts, and therefore a decided uncertainty about the dating significance of the 1774 coin.

In the early 1970's, the Pennsylvania Power and Light company was informed that the construction of transmission lines from their nearby Susquehanna Steam Electric plant might adversely affect archeological remains at the Knouse site. At that time the company indicated its willingness to fund any archeological investigations necessary to avoid the adverse impact of their activities on local archeological resources. In 1978, with the aid of a grant from the company, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission undertook excavations at the Knouse site. The excavations were superimposed on the general area investigated by Gardner in 1936. The 1978 project was under the supervision of Ira Smith and the field direction of Jamie McIntyre (McIntyre 1979).

Thirteen refuse and other pits and 21 burials were excavated by the Commission's field team that season. Two of the pit features produced objects (redware sherds and a kaolin pipestem) of European or colonial manufacture.

Interments at the site were in an established and fairly concentrated cemetery area. Grave orientation was almost without exception southwest-northeast, with the head at either end of the grave, but favoring an arrangement with the head at the southwest end of the pit. Bodies were placed in flexed, flexed supine, or extended positions; the last of these appears to have been the most common. Several of these burials were clearly in wooden coffins, some of which were held together with nails. Generally, the interments were quite shallow and some had been previously disturbed by agriculture or by looting.

None of the burials was accompanied by any large quantity of grave furniture, at least by comparison with other eighteenth-century sites. The laboratory count (as opposed to the field count) of glass beads from the site is 13,355. The vast majority (58%) are white-seed beads (see Table 8). Others include black-seed beads (12%), dark-blue-seed beads (3%), light-

EVIDE

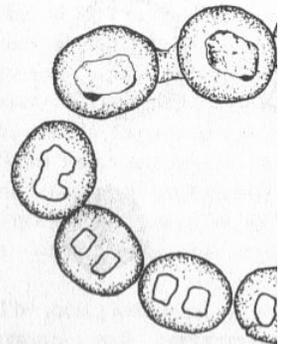
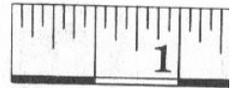
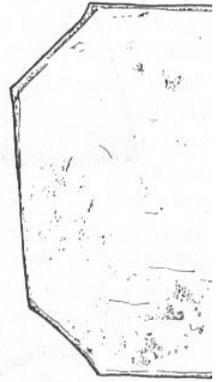


Figure 111. Glass mirror, gu
(36Lu43).

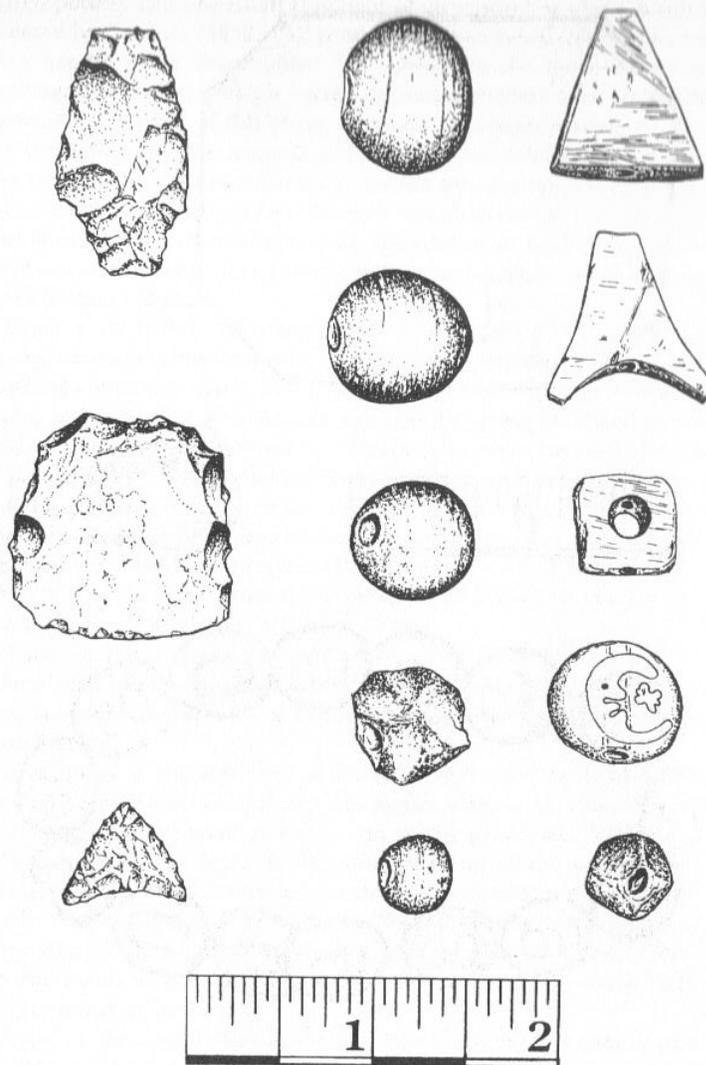


Figure 112. Objects from Wapwallopen (36Lu43). Note "moon" bead (second row from bottom, right).

blue-seed beads (18%), and g (less than 1% [130 beads]) of tic blue-faceted; large opaqu beer-colored beads; and othe from Conoy Town or Coneste bead sample as viewed agains like that from the 1760's Kusk fore may call for a date later t

Most of the other objects i beads. The one exception ma 19. Previously (see chapter or may have been made by Willi; porter during the period 173 medallions (Burial 5), which n precisely datable.

Burial 3, an adult male wra coffin, produced a choker of 1! a thin strap of rawhide (see particularly in the pelvic area ment). There was also a neckla ty case by the left arm; as well ; lar iron container, under whic at the ankles. This grave also with central perforations, and ;

Burial 14 was also in a coffin vicinity of the right arm was a c pigment), which included a g brass wire, two gunflints, six br box. On the fingers of the rig without paste settings. At the seed beads. A brass bell was fe quantity of white seed beads. S legs and feet, suggesting ornam sins.

The total gunflints from the Clactonian style. Also found w such on the right arm of Burial Figure 112), and various triar Figure 112). Grave 22, excavate persons, produced, among ot bedded white quarter moons an

The village location for tho

cussed above may have been partially touched upon by Gardner's test pits and those of the PHMC to the south of the cemetery. Features in this area produced redware, a nondescript white ware, kaolin pipestems, a few iron objects, and the coin dated 1774. If these objects were indeed the result of a mid-eighteenth-century Indian occupation, they may well have been in the area of a house site of such folk. It is very likely that the 12 houses reported by Brainerd in 1744 (Styles 1821: 85-86) were widely scattered over the broad flood-plain area which the Indians called Wapwallopen.

It is also very possible that eighteenth-century Indians of various ethnic or tribal backgrounds lived in the two-mile stretch of flat lands between the Big and Little Wapwallopen creeks. However, it is our opinion that the Moravian records (Fliegel 1970: 879) which label the Indian settlement of Wapwallopen as a Delaware Indian town correctly identify the major residents of the area and the persons responsible for the burials at the Knouse site.