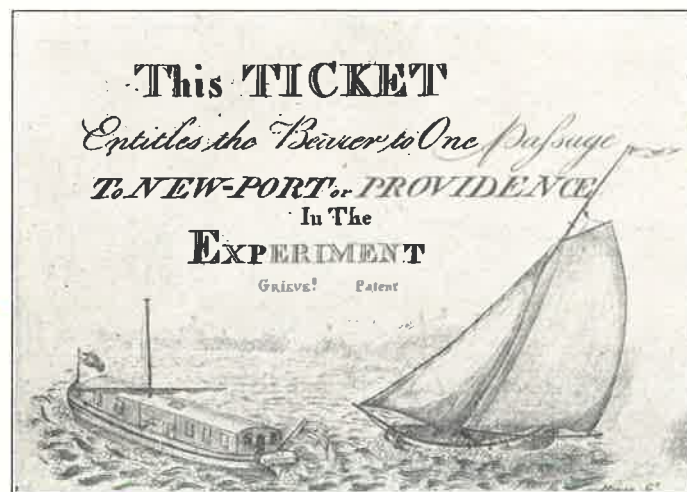


RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

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No. 4



The Grieve patent propeller horseboat *Experiment*, 1809.

From original ticket in the Society's Library

Issued Quarterly

Notes

An account of the horseboat *Experiment*, illustrated on the cover of this issue of the *COLLECTONS*, will be found in the *Narragansett Historical Register*, vol. VI, p. 387.

The following persons have been elected to membership in the Society:

Mr. Howard V. Allen
Miss Mildred E. Bassett
Mrs. Grace Coburn Sanctuary
Mr. Edward L. Watson

Mr. Richard Ward Greene Welling has presented to the Society a chair that formerly belonged to Col. Augustus Mumford, who was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Miss Sarah Bourne Manchester recently gave the Society the manuscript account book of Dr. Aaron Bourne of Bristol. The book covers the period from 1720 to 1751, and contains a large amount of valuable and interesting historical data.

Among the new books of local interest are:

"Block Island, Fact and Fancy," by Thomas B. Fielders.

"The House of Carr. An Historical Sketch of the Carr Family from 1450 to 1926" by W. L. Watson.

"Shall the Ancient Grudge be Starved?" by G. Alder Blumer, M.D. An Address before the Society of the Cincinnati.

"Colonial Rhode Island" by Alice Collins Gleeson.

"Rhode Island Privateers in King George's War, 1739-1748" by Howard M. Chapin.

The *Bulletin* of the Newport Historical Society for July, 1926, contains an account of the First Regiment Rhode Island Detached Militia, 1861.

The seals of the ports of Providence and Newport are illustrated in the *Essex Institute Historical Collections* for July, 1926, and in Louis F. Middlebrook's "Seals of Maritime New England."

Charles M. Leffert's "Uniforms of the Armies in the War of the American Revolution," recently issued by the New York Historical Society, contains illustrations of two Rhode Island uniforms and six pages of notes on Rhode Island uniforms extracted from contemporary newspapers.

The *American Collector* for July contains a note on Samuel Vernon's work as an engraver and printer.

Unusual Indian Implements Found in Rhode Island

BY HOWARD M. CHAPIN

The October 1924 and the January 1925 Collections contain an illustrated account of the Indian implements more commonly found in Rhode Island with illustrations of a few unusual specimens. It may be of interest to record and illustrate other unusual types.

The stone head found at Warren, the soapstone mask found at Fields Point, and the face carved on the pipe bowl were mentioned in the previous article, but objects bearing carved representations of human beings were rather rare among our local Indians.

Three very interesting stone effigies have been found in Rhode Island and were, I believe, the work of our local Indians. When I first heard of these effigies I did not believe that they were genuine, but after talking with Mr. Romer and Mr. King, I became convinced of the sincerity and honesty of these gentlemen, each of whom found one of the effigies. The soapstone face, about one and a half inches tall, was found near Warwick Pond about twenty years ago by Mr. Samuel W. King, and the soapstone image, two and a half inches tall in its present broken two-thirds condition, but evidently originally a full length image, was found near Warwick Pond by Mr. Carl Romer. The larger seated figure three and a half inches tall, is made of graphite and was found at Neutaconkanut Hill. As these three effigies are made out of stone commonly found in Rhode Island, it seems probably that they were made here, but it is quite possible that they were made in the colonial period by Indians, who had come in contact with European civilization and had seen figures made in Europe. The effigies all have a certain Indian cast of countenance doubtless due to the environment of the artisan, even though he received his general inspiration from European objects.



Face carved in soapstone,
1½ inches tall, found near
Warwick Pond, R. I.

Collection of Samuel W. King



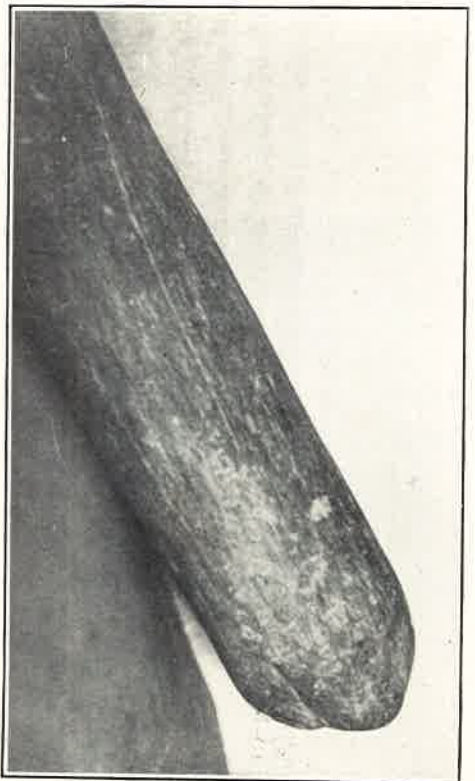
Statue carved in graphite, 3½
inches tall, found at Neutacon-
kanut Hill, R. I.

Collection of Samuel W. King



Statue carved in soap-
stone, 2½ inches tall,
found near Warwick
Pond, R. I.

Collection of Carl Romer



Turtle-headed pestle, 14½ inches long, found at East Providence, R. I.

Collection of Oscar J. Tyler



Flat mortar found at Oaklawn, R. I.

Collection of Oscar J. Tyler

Two effigy pestles were mentioned in the previous article. A third one, crudely carved at one end to represent a turtle's head, was found at East Providence. This pestle, which is fourteen and a half inches long, is owned by Mr. Oscar J. Tyler.

The subject of stone mortars opens up a question on which much has been written although but little is known. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread, it is said, and so in history and archaeology, we find many statements without supporting proof. That an Indian might use any chance hole or depression found in a rock or stone as a makeshift mortar or anvil can not of course be disputed, but that many of the natural holes and depressions, which are said to have been used as mortars by the Indians, were ever so used, is a matter that can not be substantiated by conclusive evidence.

The so-called flat mortar, found at Oaklawn, is an unusually good specimen of its type. It is a rough flat stone with a shallow concave depression made by rubbing, but whether the rubbing was done by a large pebble and the forces of nature, or by a pestle and the arm of man is a difficult question to solve. If such a stone was used as a mortar, the original depression was doubtless natural, so that the difficulty of solving the problem is increased. Of course time and wear would have long since eliminated all trace of any substances that might have been ground.

The artificial stone mortar or dish offers another problem. Such a stone vessel was illustrated in the previous article, and there is another smaller one, with a much smaller cavity, in the collection of Mr. Daniel Sherman of Wakefield, that was found in that vicinity. The cavity in both cases is unquestionably the work of man, and the outside of the vessel has to some extent been shaped. Such a vessel may have been used for a mortar or for some other purpose.

This brings us to a very interesting problem, the origin and use of the oval stones with the concave top. About twenty years ago Mr. Edgar M. Bacon found near the shore north of Mount Hope an oval stone about sixteen inches tall with a slight concave depression at one end and presented this stone



Mortar found at Woodville, in
Hopkinton, R. I.

Property of Judge Oliver Williams



Oval stone mortar (so-called) found at Coventry, R. I.

Collection of Oscar J. Tyler



Bird-shaped pipe, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches tall, found at Scituate, R. I.

Collection of Peter Cook



Tubular pipe, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, found at Jamestown, R. I.

Collection of Peter Cook



Ornamented pipe, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, found near Warwick Pond, R. I.

Collection of Samuel W. King



Platform pipe found in Rhode Island.

Collection of Mrs. A. B. Bradshaw



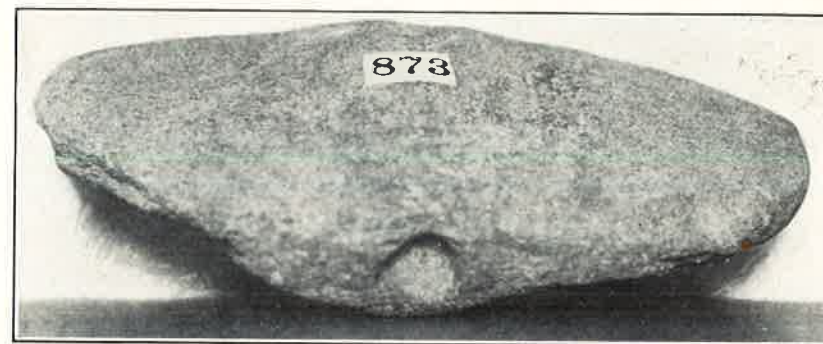
Pipe, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall, found in Newport County, R. I.

Collection of Oscar J. Tyler



Cross-grooved sinker, 3 inches long, found in Rhode Island.

Collection of James H. Richardson



Unfinished banner-stone, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, found at Washington, R. I.

Collection of Oscar J. Tyler

to the Historical Society. It appeared to be a glacial pebble of natural formation although unusually symmetrical, and of no particular note except for the slightly concave flattening at the larger end. According to a local tradition this stone had been used as a mortar by the Indians.

No special importance was attached to this stone until about five years ago, when a stone of similar size, shape and appearance, was found near Wallum Lake and presented to the society by Dr. Harry Lee Barnes. This stone was also said to have been used by the Indians. It had the same sort of a concave depression at the larger end, only somewhat deeper than in the case of the Bristol stone.

A stone, similar in size, shape and appearance, was recently found at Coventry by Mr. Oscar Tyler. This stone has a much deeper cavity at the larger end and the cavity seems at first glance to have been the work of man. If this cavity is the result of intentional design, it arouses the suspicion that the depressions in the other stones may also have been the work of human beings, and if so, presumably Indians. On the other hand these stones are remarkably similar to the oval stones with concave pebble-worn cavities, that are preserved at Lucerne, Switzerland. As all of these stones are top-heavy and have a spherical base, it seemed at first as though they could not have been used as mortars on account of their instability, but on the other hand if they were set in soft earth they would stand quite firmly.

A fourth stone of similar size, with an artificial cavity in its top, was located at Woodville in Hopkinton, R. I. This stone, however, has a rather rough and irregular exterior and does not present the smooth finished appearance of the oval stones. The pipes found in Rhode Island are of many designs. The pipe, three inches tall made of polished greenish stone carved in the shape of a bird, perhaps intended for a crow, was plowed up in Scituate, R. I. It is a beautiful piece of work and in a very good state of preservation. A banner-stone also found in Scituate is of somewhat similar stone, and both pieces may have been made elsewhere and brought here by trade. The tubular



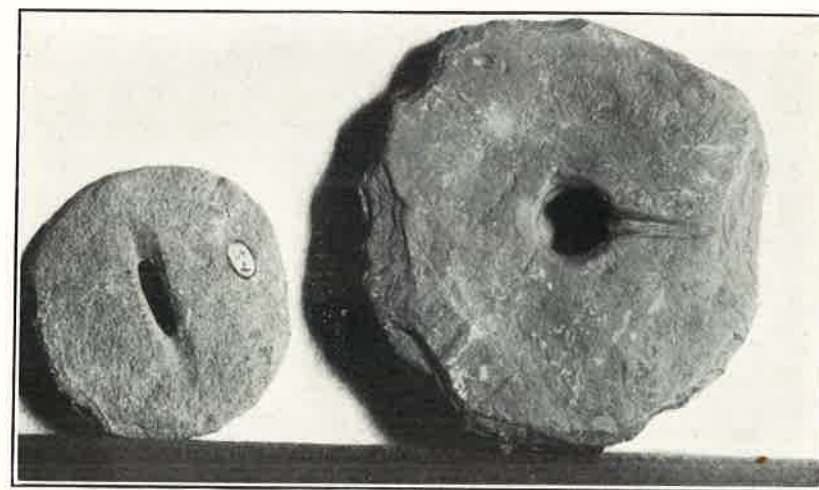
Circular trinket found at
Olneyville, R. I.
Actual size.

Collection of Earl Romer



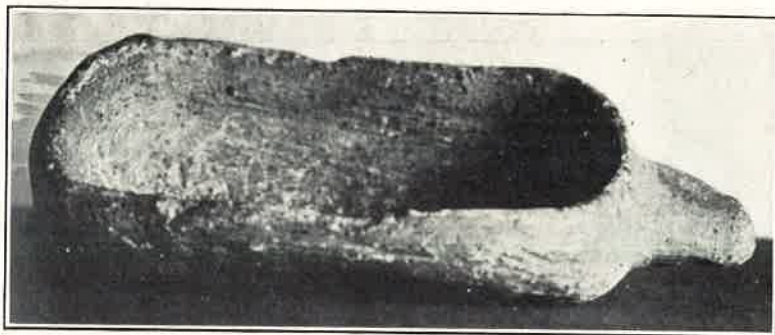
Triquet or pendant, 1½
inches tall, found at Car-
buncle Hill, Coventry, R. I.

Collection of Oscar J. Tyler



Pierced stones or "gorgets," 2 inches and 3½ inches in diameter,
found at Elmwood, R. I.

Collection of Samuel W. King



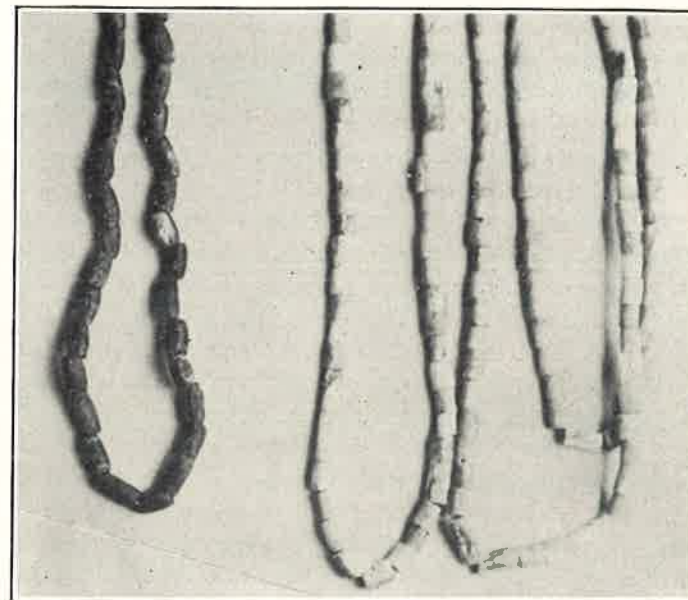
One-handed bowl, 8 inches long, found at Sand Pond, Warwick, R. I.

Collection of Samuel W. King



Unfinished bowl, 8½ inches long, found at Norwood, R. I.

Collection of Samuel W. King



Metal beads and shell wampum found at Burrs Hill, Warren, R. I.

Collection of Peter Cook

pipe found at Jamestown is the only specimen of tubular pipe that I have heard of being found in Rhode Island. Another very unusual pipe is the black bowl pipe found at Newport. A soapstone pipe found near Warwick Pond has incised ornamental lines in diamond shaped patterns, a design which may have been due to contact with European civilization. It is probably of local workmanship. A very fine specimen of platform pipe was found in Rhode Island, a fragment of a platform pipe was found near Red Bridge, Providence, and unfinished blanks for platform pipes were found at Wickford and Warwick. An unfinished pipe stem, which might have been part of a pipe stem similar to the one on the animal effigy pipe found at Warren, was found at East Providence. The prevalence of pipe blanks in Rhode Island proves conclusively that our local Indians manufactured pipes, and it is quite possible that stone for this purpose was occasionally brought from a considerable distance.

An unfinished "banner stone" found at Coventry would seem to indicate that our local Indians made these problematic pieces. Some consider that they were made by prehistoric tribes that preceded the Indians, who were found here by the whitemen.

Two thin pierced stones are shown. These are particularly interesting in that they show depressions evidently made by rubbing sinew back and forth. The use of such stones still remains an unsolved problem. Small stones of unusual shape, showing traces of human workmanship, are called trinkets for want of a better name. Everyone is free to make his own conjectures as regard the use of such objects.

Soapstone dishes are of many types and would make an interesting study in themselves. Occasionally they are almost rectangular in shape, sometimes have only one handle, and vary from being very shallow to having a depth of several inches.

The Indians made beads out of sheet copper by rolling bits of copper into the required shape. These beads had a general resemblance to Indian wampum as regards size and shape.