

Reworked Lithics in the Great Dismal Swamp

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Introduction

Archaeologists have long studied lithic technologies across the discipline and across the world. Created and used by all cultures, stone tools were made in many traditions using many varied techniques. Analyses of lithic tools can provide insights for archaeologists and can aid in interpretations of archaeological sites.

In archaeological excavations, of both historical and prehistoric sites, lithics are commonly found artifacts. Due to the many toolmaking traditions utilized in lithic manufacture, oftentimes age of the lithic, geographic location of the lithic's creation, culture group that developed and utilized the tool and how it was used can be determined from the artifact. An analysis of material type can also be illuminative in lithic study; all of these aspects of study can lend ideas about past culture groups (Andrefsky 2009).

The lithics included in the artifact assemblage from the Great Dismal Swamp include several different prehistoric technologies. Within this portion of the artifact assemblage, flakes (quartz, quartzite, rhyolite, and several kinds of unidentified lithic materials), projectile points, pebbles and other types of lithic debitage were discovered.

This paper will analyze the reworked lithics included in this collection. These stone tools, namely the projectile points, discovered through archaeological excavations, shed light on the materiality of maroonage, particularly within the historic, social and cultural landscape of the Great Dismal Swamp.

Lithic Technologies Before the Time of Contact

Many variations of lithic technologies existed in the United States before the time of contact. These stone tools are separated into distinct groupings based on characteristics of the tool. These groupings coordinate temporally with the societies, groups, and individuals that manufactured and utilized them.

Paleo Culture

The earliest temporal group of American Indians and their correlating lithic technologies is the Paleo Indian group. This group of peoples traveled to what is now North America around the end of the Pleistocene period.

Paleo groups hunted and followed big game animals, megafauna across landmasses and ice caps. It is generally accepted that the first groups to people the Americas crossed an ice and land bridge (what is the modern day Bering Strait) from Asia (groups from Siberia) into North America. This ice and land bridge existed between 47,000 and 14,000 years before present. Groups and parts of groups moved into what is now Alaska, following big game, living as hunter-gatherer societies (Kemp 2004).

Around 17,000 to 12,000 years before present, an ice-free corridor through the North American valley near the Pacific Coast formed. Both animals and human groups then moved into the interior of the North American continent (Kemp 2004). Most early groups seem to have migrated through the corridor by foot, but some debate does exist around this interpretation. Some archaeologists consider early groups as having used boats to go down the Pacific coastline. Of course other theories about the peopling of the

Americas exist; there are archaeologists that believe that an earlier ice-free corridor formed bringing early people's to the America's prior to 17,000 years before present. However, this theory has not yet been substantiated with archaeological evidence.

The Paleo Indians, as a culture group, generally could have existed from 18,000 to 8,000 years before present. However, material evidence of groups earlier than 9,500 years before present hasn't really, conclusively, been excavated. Paleoindians in the Great Dismal Swamp and surrounding eastern United States are considered to have been existing as a culture group from around 9500 years before present to about 8000 years before present (Hranicky 2001, Odell 1996).

Paleolithic Technologies

Prototypes of Paleolithic technologies are used to date and categorize archaeological sites. Within the Paleo period, several stone tool traditions are recognized. No Paleo lithics have, of yet, been discovered in the Great Dismal Swamp (GDSLS). Several prototypes of Paleo lithics found in the area surrounding the Swamp are known. Geological transformation of the Great Dismal Swamp as a wetland, from dry open land could contribute to the lack of Paleo lithics excavated in the Swamp's interior. The transformation of the open wooded land into wetland will be discussed later.

Paleolithics are mainly categorized into the Clovis tradition (in the eastern United States) and the Folsom tradition, following Clovis culture but not geographically reaching the area around the Great Dismal Swamp (Hranicky 2001).

The Clovis tradition is seen around 11,000 to 12,000 years before present. The Clovis point, a bifacial projectile made with percussion flaking, characterizes this tradition. Clovis culture is also associated with faunal bone tools (Odell 1996).

Clovis points are very common finds in what is now Virginia; over 1000 points were reported to the Virginia McCary Fluted Point Survey (Hranicky 2001).

Two stone tool traditions existed in this geographic area before the establishment of Clovis culture. These points are called Lanceolate Points: Simpson and Suwannee points (Hranicky 2001).

Archaic Lithics

Archaic lithic traditions temporally follow the Paleo lithic grouping. The Archaic period is subdivided into three divisions: early Archaic, middle Archaic and late Archaic. The entire Archaic period began around the end of the Paleo traditions and continued until about 2,000 years before present (Hranicky 2001).

The early Archaic period in the eastern United States is characterized by Palmer, Kirk and Big Sandy type points (Hranicky 2001). These points are in use until about 6,500 years before present. Classifications for the early Archaic period are known to be quite difficult, given the variation and diversity of tool types and traditions.

The middle Archaic period is also not as definitely characterized as other periods. The tool making traditions that existed from around 6,500 years before present to 2,500 years before present appear in different forms than both the early Archaic that proceeded and the late Archaic that followed. In the area around the Great Dismal Swamp, the middle Archaic period contains the Morrow Mountain points (Hranicky 2001).

Morrow Mountain points are usually broadspear points and can be stemmed or notched. These points are very common finds across the eastern United States. Most Morrow Mountain points are manufactured of quartzite, but rhyolite is also used when available (Hranicky 2001).

The late Archaic period continues from the end of the middle Archaic until around 1500 years before present. This period contains many different traditions across the territory now called the United States. In the geographic location in and around the Swamp, these traditions included the Halifax cultures, Lamoka cultures, Savannah River cultures, Holmes cultures and Susquehanna cultures (Hranicky 2001).

Post Archaic, or Woodland, Lithics

Following the Archaic period lithics is the grouping of Post-archaic, or Woodland lithics. The Woodland lithic grouping is divided between Early Woodland, Middle Woodland, and Late Woodland. The Late Woodland group ends around the time of contact, between 1000 and 1500 Common Era (Hranicky 2001).

The Early Woodland tradition begins with the Adena culture groups. These groups inhabited the east coast of the United States and extended just into the Midwest, into what is now the state of Ohio. The Adena people used ground tools and axes. The tools were often mounted on handles (axes), but they were unfluted or ungrooved (Odell 1996). This utilized a different method of hafting stone tools.

The Deptford culture groups existed until around year 200 Common Era. These groups inhabited present-day Georgia, as well as extending into other current states in the southeast United States. Small, chipped-stone triangular projectiles, ground stone tools

such as axes, bannerstones, and celts, characterize the Deptford culture stone tool technologies. These stone tools were mostly made of flint, sandstone, quartzite, and limestone (National Park Service).

The Middle Woodland period consists of Hopewellian culture groups and traditions. These groups exist until around 500 – 600 Common Era. The Hopewell traditions are varied between groups. The Middle Woodland period is made of groups united by the Hopewell Exchange System or the Hopewell Interaction Sphere (Struever 1968).

The Hopewell Exchange System brings stone tools, as well as other materials, from more Western United States traditions into the East. Black obsidian projectiles, for example, are occasionally found in sites in the eastern United States. Obsidian is a lithic material only available in the west, to southwestern American Indian groups. A variety of chipped stone and bone tools are associated with the Middle Woodland period. Within these, there are at least fifteen recognized, separate, Hopewellian culture groups (National Park Service).

In the area around the Great Dismal Swamp, the Middle Woodland period consisted of the Madison and Levanna type lithic technologies. Madison points are triangular points, created through pressure flaking using tools made of antler. These are found in all regions on the southeastern coast, utilizing many lithic materials – quartz, quartzite, rhyolite, and flint. Levanna points are also triangular, made with similar materials and through similar manufacture. Levanna points are not found as commonly in the area of the Great Dismal Swamp; Levanna points are more common in more northern areas (Hranicky 2001).

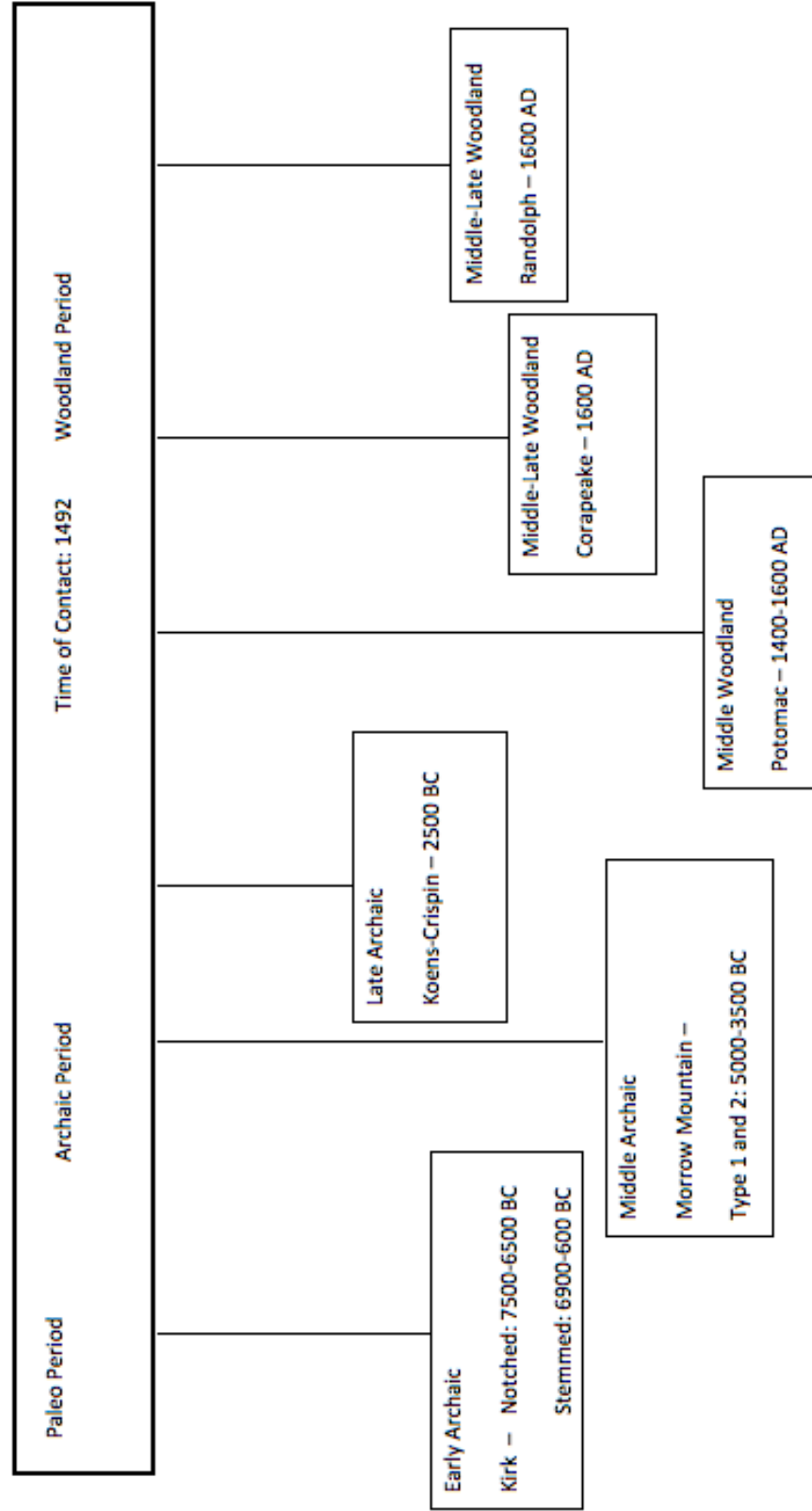
The Late Woodland period recognizes separate traditions that exist sequentially until the time of contact. Around the Great Dismal Swamp, the Late Woodland period consisted of Potomac and Clarksville type technologies. The Late Woodland lithics are mainly created using chert, and other local materials. In the Middle Woodland period, groups would travel to acquire or trade for better lithic materials. In the Late Woodland, this is happening less and less. This is possibly due to the rise in successful agriculture (Hranicky 2001).

Late Woodland stone tools are mostly notched projectiles with stems. These points were then hafted to a shaft, and used with bow as an arrow. This period is significant, because this seems to be the first real use of a bow and arrow. Previously, points were hafted to throwing spears, or used with atlatyls in the West, but not yet with a bow and arrow. The use of the bow and arrow allowed hunters to hunt more quickly. With this quickened hunting, a use of poorer materials can be seen in the actual projectile points. Groups were no longer expending the time or the resources to search for the best materials for tool making. This suggests a decline in ceremonial or cultural value of some materials (Lyman et al 2008).

Lithic Technologies At the Time of Contact

At the time of contact, Late Woodland traditions still existed in the United States. These traditions were in existence at the time of contact until around 1580 Common Era, when all traditions were exceedingly threatened in the United States by genocide, disease, and cultural systems imposed by colonists (Lyman et al 2008).

Timeline of Lithic Technologies in the Great Dismal Swamp



The Great Dismal Swamp

The Great Dismal Swamp is, today, a National Wildlife Refuge in southern Virginia and North Carolina. The Refuge spans 112,000 square acres of seasonally flooded wetland forest and includes a 3,100 square acre lake, Lake Drummond. The Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge is now a protected area that supports many species of wildlife important to the Mid-Atlantic ecosystems. The Refuge has become an area of interest for outdoor recreations, such as birding, hiking, and hunting. The Great Dismal Swamp became a wildlife refuge in 1974 under President Ford (US Fish and Wildlife Service).

The Great Dismal Swamp is a wetland area that is comprised of mainly peat and water. The Swamp was created during the last shift of the continental shelf on the coast of what is now the eastern United States. However, this does not fully explain the large lake, Lake Drummond, in the interior of the Swamp. North American Indians in southern Virginia and North Carolina tell a creation story of Lake Drummond that holds that a giant firebird lived within the Swamp and made a nest of fire. When it rained, the nest filled with water and became what is historically known as Lake Drummond (US Fish and Wildlife Service).

Prehistoric Occupation of the Swamp

The Firebird Origin story of environmental creation shows that American Indian groups were interacting with the Swamp before the Swamp filled with water, around 10,000 years before present. At that time, the Great Dismal Swamp was an open span of land, wooded and not yet a wet land. North American Indian groups, particularly the

Nansemond of what is now Suffolk, Virginia, interacted with the Great Dismal Swamp. Large game, such as elk, inhabited the Swamp's landscape during this period of open woodland. American Indian groups could hunt and survive within this space successfully and this period of the Swamp is known to be intensely occupied (US Fish and Wildlife Service).

Around 3,000 years before present, the Swamp filled with water. The wetland environment did not support American Indian communities as the woodland environment had, and groups were forced to form settlements on the outside of the Swamp. Following this, American Indian groups would travel in small hunting groups into the interior of the Swamp to hunt, and then return to their settlements outside on the borders of the Great Dismal Swamp.

Historic Occupation of the Swamp

Beginning at the time of contact, people not of European descent were not treated ethically in what became, and is now, the United States. Those groups that are now referred to as "minorities" due to the colonization of North America and the implementation of slavery and slave trade were treated brutally and exploited. This legacy of brutality and intolerance, in both the Southern and Northern United States, for American Indians, enslaved Africans, and African Americans is thusly reflected in the history of occupation of the Great Dismal Swamp (Sayers).

North American Indians

Occupation of the Great Dismal Swamp can be divided into three temporal and settlement groups (Sayers). The first of the Swamp inhabitant groups lived on the edges of the Swamp, around the years 1660 – 1750. This group includes North American Indians. North American Indians near the Swamp lived on the edges until around 1607. Colonization drove American Indians to live within the interior of the Swamp. These people are thought to have occupied the Swamp from around 1607 – 1680. Outside of the Swamp, the intolerance of European immigrants and the penchant for slaves made life far too difficult and far too oppressive for these American Indians (Sayers).

Maroons

The second temporal and settlement group were the social groups, communities, living in the interior of the Swamp from 1680-1860. These communities were made of individuals that purposefully extricated themselves from the outside environment. This process is called maroonage. These maroons were enslaved Africans and African Americans. Many, or most, were runaways from southern United States plantations and planters (Sayers).

Maroons in the Great Dismal Swamp faced perilous dangers in their journey into the interior of the swamp. As highlighted by Swamp scholar Carolynn Finney, maroons and runaways both are often described as in flight, attempting to flee the horrors of their reality (as enslaved in capitalistic political economy). In the model of the great dismal swamp, however, it is clear to see that the maroons were resilient, determined, resourceful, and acting with admirable strength and decisiveness. These individuals and

groups were revolting against the racial and economic deprivation and abuses felt by non-whites in the landscape of the United States in the 1600-1860s - and arguably still in existence (Sayers).

When maroons entered the swamp's interior, they undoubtedly sought drier ground. The swamp contains many islands, most of which could offer groups a possibility for constructing structures, creating social spaces, and even starting agricultural practices. The preference of maroon communities for drier ground has been shown archaeologically (GDSLS).

The presence of runaway slaves as part of the maroon populations within the swamp brings the idea of the Underground Railroad into studies and analyses of the great dismal swamp. The national wildlife refuge is a "certified underground railroad" stop (US Fish and Wildlife Service) While some runaway slaves surely did just move through the swamp, the model of communities of maroons living within the swamp provides a unique view of both diaspora in exile and the Underground Railroad (Sayers).

Early conceptualization of enslaved Africans held that African traditions, customs, and culture were lost in the Middle Passage; this view held that enslavement was so horrendous all previous social memories were lost. Within this view, there is also this compacted ideology, dominant at the time, that the white past was so much more exciting and influential, no one, including enslaved Africans, would be so dull as to want to remember their own history. With the option between remembering their own history and becoming a part of white history, it seemed obvious they would choose to forget their own. The racism of the time also dictated that no other culture, especially one that was not white, would have had any accomplishments or history really to even remember or

think of. However, this idea of cultural abandonment has been repeatedly shown to be incorrect. The Great Dismal Swamp archaeology shows that culturally, as well as socially, maroons were cohesive. The enslaved African identity was so strong they extricated themselves from the outside cultural and societal oppression instead of becoming part of the racist workings of the society of the time (Sayers).

The number of maroons that lived in the swamp interior communities is so far unknown. Numerous structures have been archaeologically determined, so it has been determined that maroons were not merely few social outliers (Sayers).

The presence of maroons in many literary works and works of art suggests the number of maroons was not insignificant, and the practice of maroonage was both noted and understood by the rest of the society. These novels include Dred by Harriet Beecher Stowe, written in 1856, among other short stories and works of fiction. These works illustrate the visibility of maroons within the historic United States.

The appearance of maroons in these works gives support to the idea that maroons were living in resistance to the outside world. Maroons were cohesive social groups: they purposefully took a stand against the injustices of the outside world and shaped their own worlds, socially, politically, and economically

Company Workers

The third temporal and settlement group to in the Great Dismal Swamp were the groups of company workers; these workers occupied the Swamp from around 1800 – 1860. The Great Dismal Swamp supported company workers involved in both lumbering of the Swamp and building canals within the Swamp.

Lumber workers lived in camps along the canals within the interior of the Swamp. Lumbering in the Great Dismal Swamp was performed for the intent of constructing shingles from the wood and timber harvest from the Swamp. The Dismal Swamp Land Company was a main producer of shingles from the Swamp. This company harvested juniper trees for shingles, and later shifted to producing cypress shingles. The Dismal Swamp Land Company brought and sustained industry in Suffolk, Virginia; the Company produced 6-7 million shingles per year (US Fish and Wildlife Service).

The Dismal Swamp Land Company was originally founded by George Washington to drain the Great Dismal Swamp in 1763. The Company dug the first canal in the Swamp, with the intention of making the Swamp land suitable for farming and agriculture (US Fish and Wildlife Service). However, the profitability of timbering changed Washington's plan.

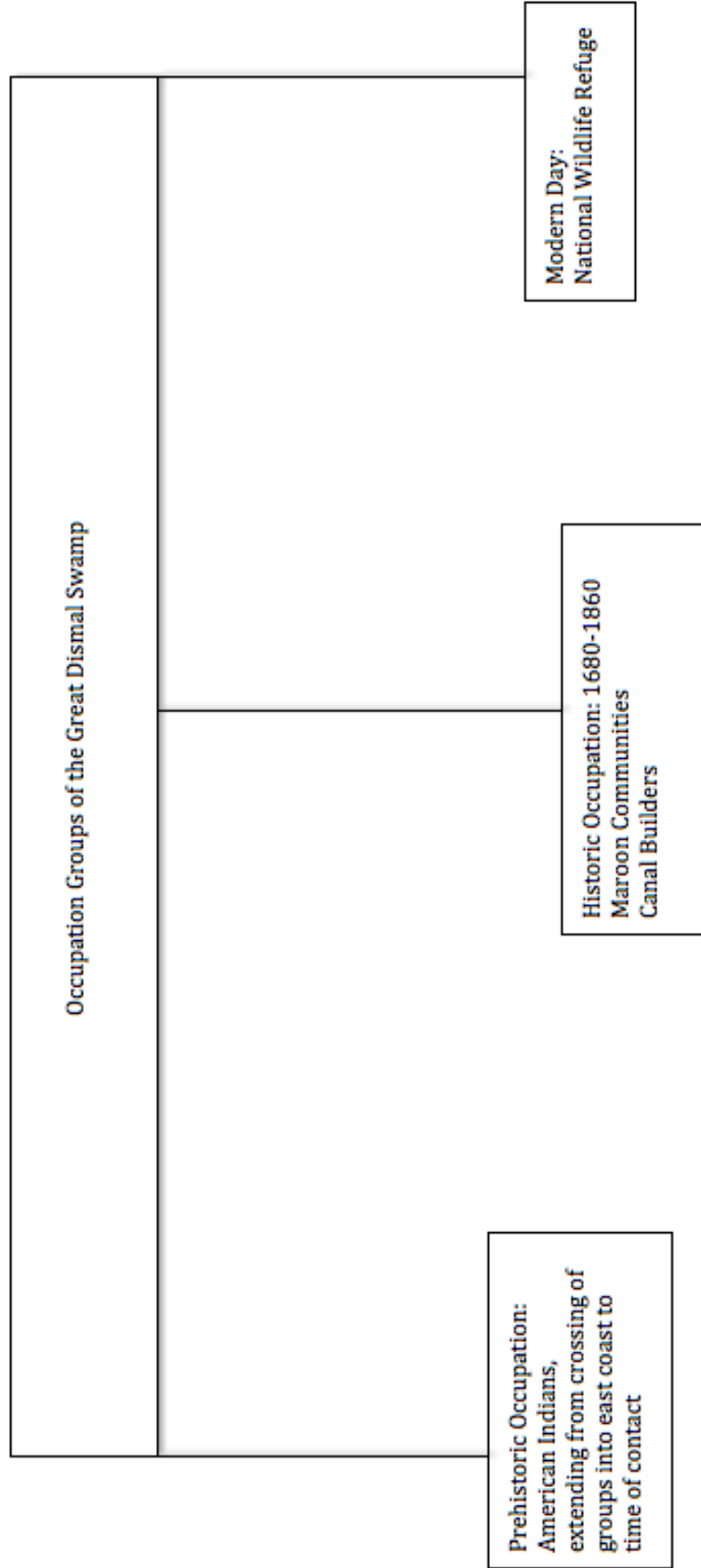
The astounding number of shingles produced, and of lumber produced, from the Swamp changes the views of company camp laborers in the Swamp. The production per worker, based on shingles produced, far surpasses expectations and likelihood. Current views of the Great Dismal Swamp show that groups living within the Swamp, not association with the Dismal Swamp Company, were participating in lumbering in the Swamp. These individuals, or maroons, were trading their labor for outside goods. These goods, possibly any of a number of things, were not available to the maroons; they would have desired objects and items that they could not produce within their social groups in the interior of the Swamp (Sayers).

Washington's vision for a canal system within the Swamp was realized. The Dismal Swamp Canal was approved by the state of Virginia in 1787 and North Carolina

in 1790 (US Fish and Wildlife Service). Construction on the Dismal Swamp Canal then began in 1793. The Canal was completed around 1805. The Dismal Swamp Canal encouraged timber production within the Great Dismal Swamp. It, along with a railroad constructed in the late 1820s to the early 1830s, opened the interior Swamp socio-cultural environment to the outside world (Sayers).

The Dismal Swamp Canal, or ‘corridor of capital’ (Sayers), reconnected maroon communities within the Swamp with the outside capitalistic society. The maroons had purposefully extricated themselves from the inextricably capitalistic nature of the United States’ society. With the physical connectedness of the Canal, and the more economic and material connectedness furnished by the Canal, the maroon communities began to change following the construction of the Dismal Swamp Canal and railroad.

Further canals have been constructed within the interior of the Swamp. Most of this canal construction occurred after 1929 following the United States Government purchase of the Great Dismal Swamp. These canals and canal systems did not affect the interior occupation of the Swamp, which ended around 1860 (US Fish and Wildlife Service).



Artifact Assemblage

Archaeological excavations in the Great Dismal Swamp have demonstrated the temporal periods of occupation of the Swamp. The artifact assemblage can support the views of capitalism's affect, through the Canals, on the lives of the maroons. The artifact assemblage can also attest to the difficulty of existing within the Swamp's interior and that the maroons existed within the Swamp as a cohesive, social community. The artifacts also support the view of the maroons as resilient and resourceful.

Within the Swamp, artifacts coordinate by depth with the temporal designations of groups living and occupying the Great Dismal Swamp. Researchers believe that they will discover that artifacts found at historical depths will show an increase in "outside world" goods following the construction of canals and of the railroad. These "outside world" goods include clay pipes, lead shot, and other materials not produced within the confines of the Swamp. The artifact assemblage of archaeology sites within the interior of the Swamp also includes prehistoric lithics and pottery associated with American Indians.

Prehistoric Materials Found within the Historical Period of the Swamp

The presence of lithic materials within historical depths of the sites within the Great Dismal Swamp is integral to the conception of the social existence of maroons within the Swamp interior. These materials within the stratigraphic depths of the historic period (after contact) show that lithic and prehistoric artifacts were found by maroons and reused and re-purposed for the needs of the maroon communities in the interior of the Swamp (Sayers).

The idea of the maroons as willingly self-extricating themselves from the outside capitalist society is reinforced and illustrated by the use of prehistoric materials found by maroons. It can be inferred from this archaeological discovery that maroons would prefer the materials that could be found within the interior swamp environment than to interact with the outside force of capitalism. As previously enslaved, or children of enslaved individuals, or marginally treated individuals, maroons wanted to disconnect from the inherent exploitative nature of the capitalist mode of production. This was done so succinctly that maroons would prefer to use prehistoric materials in their daily lives than to support capitalism through acquiring mass-produced, outside goods (Sayers).

Lithic materials found at historic depths within the Great Dismal Swamp also speak to the social conditions outside of the Swamp for maroons. The choice to live within a swamp illustrates the inequity and brutality of life in the outside world for enslaved and marginalized individuals before the Civil War. This is compounded by the archaeological observation that an entire social community, and possibly multiple communities, existed within the Swamp; entire groups of people were so severely disenfranchised. The conditions were so universally cruel that they formed resistance communities within the Swamp (Sayers).

The use of lithics by historic maroon communities shows the difficulty and inhospitable nature of living within a Swamp. The environment was so harsh they had to make do with materials that could be found since the Swamp environment provides so little.

Lithic Materials Discovered

Lithics and lithic materials, such as flakes, points and pebbles, have been found within interior Swamp sites (the Great Dismal Swamp is a peat swamp – no natural rocks or lithic materials occur). Of these materials, the projectile points discovered were analyzed. Critical analysis of typology, material and social and cultural meaning, as well as evidence of reworking are all included (GDSLS).

Projectile Point One – Lot #291, Artifact #648

Image 1

The first projectile point to be examined in this study is artifact number 648. This projectile has been classified as a Corapeake point. The point is constructed of white quartzite.

This Corapeake point is 4 cm in length, 3.5 cm wide at the maximum width, and .3 cm thick. Artifact #291-648 is a Corapeake point, made of white quartzite; Corapeake points are small-to medium in size. These tools have pointed stems, and long, narrow, contracting points. These projectile points were usually manufactured out of colorful flints and quartz. Corapeake points have typologically been dated to the Woodland period, around 1600 AD (Painter and Hranicky 2001).

Projectile Point Two – Lot #352, Artifact #723

Image 2

The second projectile point examined is artifact number 723 in the artifact assemblage. This point is a Randolph point. This artifact was excavated at depths

corresponding to the year range 1725-1800, a clear historic find. This point is particularly lightweight. The point is 10.5 cm in length, has a maximum width of 4 cm, and measures 2 cm thick.

Artifact #352-723 is a Randolph point. Randolph points were termed by Coe; these points are points that are not typologically determined to be any other point. Randolph points have tapering stems, and can be made of many lithic materials. They are reworked from other points. They are crude points, dating to the historic period. Randolph points date to around 1600 AD, right after the point of contact. They remain classified within the Woodland period (Painter and Hranicky 2001).

Projectile Point Three – Lot #333, Artifact #700

Image 3

The third projectile point to be analyzed is artifact number 700. This point has been identified as a Morrow Mountain point. The point shows clear evidence of being reworked. The point has been reworked into a scraper. The tool is small, and made of grey quartzite. The point measures 7 cm long, 4 cm wide, and has a thickness of .5 cm.

Artifacts #333-700 and #258-567 are Morrow Mountain points. Morrow Mountain points are Archaic period projectile points, dating between 5000 and 3000 years before common era. The presence of Morrow Mountain points in the Great Dismal Swamp support, materially, the geological timeframe that presents the early days of what is now the Swamp as an open area used for hunting larger elk and deer. The elk antlers were the tools used to create these points.

Two types of Morrow Mountain points exist. Type One points are wide bladed

with rounded bases. These points also have tapering stems. This type is seen in the early years of the Morrow Mountain temporal range, from around 5000 to 3500 years before present. Type Two has a much more narrow blade with a short, pointed, narrow stem. This appears following Type One, from around 4500 years before present to 3000 years before present. This point, from the artifact assemblage, seems to be closer to Type Two typologies.

Projectile Point Four – Lot #258, Artifact #567

Image 4

The fourth projectile in the assemblage is also a Morrow Mountain point. This artifact has been reworked as well. The lithic is made of grey quartzite and has a side-notched base. The artifact is 5 cm long, 4.5 cm in width, and 1 cm in thickness. This point also seems to be a Morrow Mountain Type Two point, but this distinction is not conclusive due to the size and amount of rework done to the point.

Projectile Point Five – Lot #257, Artifact #566

Image 5

The fifth point in the artifact assemblage is the tip of a large projectile point. The artifact was excavated 14 cm below datum. The artifact is made of white quartz. The point is 6 cm in length, 4.5 cm width at the point of maximum width, and 1.25 cm thick. The point is difficult to identify because it no longer has a base, stemmed or notched, restricting the possibly characteristics for classification. Because of the lack of a base on this projectile point, conclusively, analysis cannot determine what type of point it is. But

close attention to the typological classifications of points and knowledge of common points in the area suggest that it is possibly the tip of a Potomac type point with the base removed or a Morrow Mountain point with the stem removed. Either classification shows that the point was reworked and resharpened so many times that the tool broke.

Potomac points are made of quartz, quartzite, rhyolite or flint. The points are small, thin triangles with flat or concave bases. The points are from the Woodland period, appearing in the late Woodland period, around 1400 to 1600 AD.

Projectile Point Six – Lot # 113, Artifact #329

Image 6

The sixth point is another Corapeake point. The tool is made of heat treated chert or jasper. It has a 5.1 mm thick, triangular base. The point is 2.56 cm in length and has a maximum width of 1.2 cm. The point is smaller than average measurements for excavated Corapeake points due to being reworked and used extensively. The point dates to around 1600 AD.

Projectile Point Seven – Lot #590, Artifact #1397

Image 7

The seventh projectile in this assemblage was a large bifacial tool; only the midsection of the point was discovered during excavations. The tool is made of grey quartzite. This fragment is 8 cm in length, 3.5 cm in width, and has a thickness of 1.25 cm. This piece of the biface is not enough of the artifact to classify the tool, but it can be gathered from the remaining section that it was a large bifacial tool, most likely a point.

Projectile Point Eight – Lot #188, Artifact #448

Image 8

The eighth point to be examined and analyzed is a Kirk point. The point is made of chert. The only part of the artifact discovered is the base. It is a side-notched base. The artifact measures 5 cm in length, 5 cm in width, and 2 cm in thickness.

Artifact #188-448 is the base of a Kirk point. Kirk points are archaic period lithics, existing in two typological categories: notched and stemmed. The artifact in this assemblage is a notched projectile. Notched Kirk points are older than stemmed Kirk points. Notched points were created and used around 7500 to 6500 BC and stemmed Kirk points date to around 6900 and 6000 BC. Kirk points are bifacial tools, manufactured through percussion flaking. Percussion flaking was made, utilizing an antler tool. Flint was the primary material utilized in manufacture of Kirk points, but other local materials were used as well. The Kirk point in the Great Dismal Swamp assemblage is made of chert. Notched Kirk points have two side notches, with a straight, wide base in between the notches. Kirk point blades were often serrated, but not always (Painter and Hranicky 2001). The base often became wider than the blade due to resharpening, and the angle of what is left of the blade of artifact #448 alludes to this being the case with this point.

Projectile Point Nine – Lot #941, Artifact #2355

Image 9

Artifact #2355 is a possible projectile point, made of a utilized flake. This tool is made of heat-treated quartzite.

The point, or possible flake, is a tool with evidence of rework on two sides. The tool is not bifacially worked, however. If the tool is a point and not a utilized flake, it most closely resembles points of the Koens-Crispin, or Lehigh, tradition. These are Archaic period tools, around 2500 BC. However, the lithic is not conclusively a flake or a point.

Social Analysis of Lithics in the Great Dismal Swamp

The technical analysis of the lithics, projectile points in this study, lends to the understanding of the cultural and social landscape present in the Great Dismal Swamp during the historic period.

The implementation of these tools in the everyday lives of the maroons highlights several aspects of maroonage that were explored previously in this paper. Maroons were extricating themselves from a very desperate situation. Social conditions for marginalized groups were severely unbearable and this groups left. These conditions were so brutal, maroons had no access to tools or possessions, so they had to utilize what could be found (Sayers).

The use of lithic materials by maroons also speaks to the relationship or connection maroons held with the world and political economy existing outside of the great dismal swamp. Trade with those outside of the swamp would have been extremely

feasible. Known outlaws lives on the boundaries of the swamp, and it can be inferred that may have sold tools and supplies to he maroons. However, these outside materials are not discovered as frequently as lithic materials are at this point in the study - not conclusive yet (GDSLS).

The condition of the projectile points excavated furthers thoughts about maroonage in the United States. The extreme use of all of the tools excavated, resulting in breakage, resharpening and reshaping, shows the resilience and determination of Swamp occupants. Tools were found and used; tools were so well used they nearly disintegrated into nothing. This is seen in the broken Kirk point (Artifact #448) and the fragments of tools (Artifacts #1397, 566). These lithics were so well used they were too small for identification.

The reworked lithics demonstrate the lack of resources available to maroons in the Great Dismal Swamp. Many of the lithics show clear signs of not only being reworked, but also of complete repurposing.

Reworked lithics are stone tools or lithic materials, projectile points, utilized flakes, or other materials, that have been sharpened or reshaped to extend the use of the tool or to change the tool's functions. Rework can be determined by examining the artifact in contrast with known typologies. While discrepancies of course exist between all lithic technologies and known typological examples, the differences caused by rework are profound.

Evidence of rework is apparent on Artifacts #2355, 329, 648 and 700. Artifact #2355 cannot be classified due to the extent of the rework; it is difficult to determine if

this artifact was originally a point or a flake due to the extensive rework that was done to the point (Image 9). It has a very unique shape due to the reworking of the tool

Artifact #329 is much smaller than most points of its classification category. This discrepancy in size is caused by the rework of the point. This point has been reshaped and used so much, it is smaller than typologically thought. Typical Corapeake points measure around 2 cm in width at the maximum width, and Artifact #329 is approximately 1.2 cm at the maximum width.

Artifact #648 is another Corapeake point that shows signs of rework and heavy use. The point has only a partial stem. This could be due to the point being manufactured out of a larger point that was used so heavily it had to be reshaped – creating the Corapeake typology. The point could also have been used so heavily on one side that the side was resharpened so many times the stem disappeared. This point measures much thinner than most Corapeake points as well.

All of the artifacts in the assemblage show signs of heavy use, while many show signs of intense rework. The points elude to many conditions, social, cultural and environmental, integral to understanding the lives and cultural and social systems that existed in the Great Dismal Swamp communities.

Conclusion

Lithic analysis of the lithic artifacts included in the Great Dismal Swamp assemblage is a great tool in understanding the social and cultural landscapes that existed in the Swamp. Through these analyses, a more thorough understanding of the groups of people that interacted with the Swamp throughout prehistory and history can be seen. Materiality of the groups that lived outside the Swamp, on the border of the Swamp, and in the interior of the Swamp are all integral to the cultural and social perceptions of the Great Dismal Swamp (Sayers).

The materiality of life in the interior of the swamp, including and highlighting the use of lithic technologies, informs ideas of enslavement, capitalism, and extrication, as well as supporting ideas of cultural and social cohesion in enslaved African communities (Sayers).

Further analysis of lithics excavated in the Great Dismal Swamp, such as analysis of utilized flakes and other materials and tools, is needed to advance archaeological thought, ideas and interpretations of communities and groups that interacted with the Great Dismal Swamp. Future excavations and analyses will surely bring more light to the conceptions of life of those on the borders of the swamp, and, perhaps more so, to the groups that lived within the interior of the Great Dismal Swamp.

Images

Image 1:

Projectile Point One – Lot #291, Artifact #648



Image 2:

Projectile Point Two – Lot #352, Artifact #723



Image 3:

Projectile Point Three – Lot #333, Artifact #700



Image 4:

Projectile Point Four – Lot #258, Artifact #567



Image 5:

Projectile Point Five – Lot #257, Artifact #566



Image 6:

Projectile Point Six – Lot # 113, Artifact #329



Image 7:

Projectile Point Seven – Lot #590, Artifact #1397



Image 8:

Projectile Point Eight – Lot #188, Artifact #448



Image 9:

Projectile Point Nine – Lot #941, Artifact #2355



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