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E. W. HAWKES & R. LINTON

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS Vol. VI No. 3

A PRE-LENAPE SITE IN NEW JERSEY

BY

E. W. HAWKES AND RALPH LINTON

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FOREWORD

The investigation which forms the subject of this Memoir was undertaken at the instance of Mr. George L. Harrison, Jr., who generously provided the funds for the purpose. The actual excavation, which occupied the summer of 1915, was done in person by Dr. E. W. Hawkes and Mr. Ralph Linton, and the preparation of this report is their joint work.

During the progress of the digging, the site was visited by Prof. Amos P. Brown of the University of Pennsylvania, who studied the geological conditions and who has given us the benefit of his observations. According to Prof. Brown, there are indications that the yellow sand is a wind-borne deposit laid down upon the layer of white glacial sand, and though its age is not clearly defined, it must be of considerable antiquity.

The publication of this paper is due to the generosity of Mr. Eckley B. Coxe, Jr., President of the Museum.

G. B. GORDON, Director of the Museum.

April 1, 1916.

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A PRE-LENAPE SITE IN NEW JERSEY

There are few regions in North America which are of greater interest archeologically than the North Atlantic seaboard, as throwing light on the possible antiquity of man in America. Beginning with the much disputed paleoliths of Abbot, which may or may not represent glacial man, we pass to the so-called argillite culture, which is characterized by the exclusive use of this material and the entire absence of pottery, and from this period to the culture of the recent Lenape of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, represented by well-chipped implements and the manufacture of pottery. In the excavations made in the vicinity of Trenton by Volk, these three culture levels were found conforming to three geological strata: a surface black loam, in which the recent implements were found; a layer of yellowish sand of varying depth, in which occurred the crude implements of the argillite users; and the underlying glacial gravel, where the paleoliths are said to have been found. A similar arrangement of the strata, with the exception that the gravel was replaced by white glacial sand overlying cretaceous marl, was found in the site excavated by the authors. The location of the excavation, which is about fifteen miles south of Trenton in an air line, and about six miles from the Delaware makes it fall well within the region of the earlier investigations. As in the sites excavated by Volk, the modern implements were found in a surface stratum of leaf mold, but the argillite implements were found at the bottom of the yellow stratum, lying on the white glacial sand. A few scattered points of argillite exhibiting better workmanship and less signs of decay, were found in the yellow soil in a