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Mr. Stephen A Chomko, Research Asst.
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Dear Mr. Chomko.

You have, indeed, presented a most comprehensive description of the Old Marsh site and its material. To my knowledge, you are one of the first in recent archaeology to show interest in these particular artifacts. It has been my contention that the hammerstones (percussors) are one of the most important diagnostic implements in determining a technique of stone working and aid in interpreting the method of detaching flakes and resolving the flake scars. Unfortunately, in the past, it was a common practice to discard percussors and flakes as non-diagnostic. It is of considerable importance that there be an association of the character of the percussor with the implements produced. Percussors can be useful in determining the stages of manufacture - whether that be quarrying, blade and flake making, roughouts, blanks, preforms, or the many stages of finishing and thinning. The percussors from your site show a uniformity of wear indicating that they were selected to perform a specific technique which may include the preparation of the margins. For example - removing the overhang of the previous flake scar. You may find an indication of this procedure by examining the dorsal surface at the proximal end of the detached flake.

One can not pass final judgement regarding the exact technique as there may be several approaches to accomplish the same thing. The only ones who know for sure are those who actually made the tools. What is needed are descriptions such as yours from many sites. Hammerstones showing bipolar abrasion may and may not indicate that they were used as an intermediate tool unless there are obvious differences in the character of abrasion. My reason for making this statement is that I have been concentrating on the use of hammerstones rather than antler percussors because large antlered animals were not available to many of the early stoneworkers. Several of the hammerstones that I use in the final stages very closely resemble those in your illustrations but that does not mean that your examples were not used as an indirect tool.

W.H. Holmes describes some of the hammerstones in his "Stone Implements of the Potomac-Chesapeake Tidewater Province" *Eth. Ann.* 15; "The Conbiac Blade Technique and Other Experiments," *Tebiwa* Vol. 12, "2, 1969 Crabtree and Boardes, Idaho State University; *Edge-ground Cobbles and Blade Making in the Northwest*", Crabtree, *Tebiwa* Vol. 11, No. 2, 1968 and W.H. Holmes, *B.A.E. Bulletin* # 60 1919

Sorry I can not think of other publications at this time. Publish your paper by all means - hopefully sparking others to record the character of their percussors.

Sincerely yours,

Don E. Crabtree

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