

38 Goslen Place
Hudson, New York
12534
April 1978

Dear Mr Crabtree:

A high school science teacher with a long-time interest in New York State Indian archeology, I live in the Mid-Hudson Valley (Hudson, N.Y. is directly 30 miles southward on the Hudson River from the State Capital, Albany). I have been fortunate to have access to a local Indian industrial site called Flint Mine Hill, located nearly across from Hudson but on the west bank of the river, about 25 miles south of Albany.

Flint Mine Hill, a mile-long ridge is composed of Normanskill and Deepkill cherts of the Lower Ordovician age interbedded within shales distributed along large distances in the Mid-Hudson Valley. There are also extensive limestone formations of the Lower Devonian age on both sides of the Hudson River which contain black and

Gray varieties of flint; about twelve other
varieties of flint found in New York
State have been described by Chas. F.
Wray (Varieties & Sources of Flints found
in New York State; Pennsylvania Archaeologist,
Vol. 23, No. 1, pp 4-37. Milton). These
flints have also been utilized by the
Hudson River Valley Indians and transient
groups passing through this well-traveled
valley.

Flint Mine Hill is important because
it was a major supply of chert in the
Northeast. (I prefer chert instead of flint
because of Winifred Goldring's thorough
description of this stone in the Mid-Hudson
Normanskill belt: 1943, Geology of the Coxsackie
Quadrangle, New York. New York State Museum
Bulletin, 332. Albany).

Successive cultures in this area using the
Coxsackie materials range from the Paleo-Indian to
Archaic and on to the Woodland Indians
in the Northeast. Some distribution of the
Coxsackie cherts occurs at the Paleo-Indian

③

Bull Brook site in Massachusetts (Byers, 1954:
Bull Brook - a fluted point site in Ipswich,
Massachusetts. American Antiquity, V. XIX,
No. 4, pp. 345-351. Salt Lake City). Some
other non-local or out-of-state artifact
stone also appear at Flint Mine Hill;
e.g., Jasper from Pennsylvania or argillite
from New Jersey.

Since 1968 I have been collecting and
examining chert debitage, workshops and quarry
tools from the Coxsackie workshops and have
been allowed access to other nearby quarry and
workshop sites allowing an opportunity to compare
tools and raw chert & flint. What has
emerged from Flint Mine Hill having great
interest to me is not just the well-described
traditional tools and weapons commonly found
on Mid-Hudson Valley sites but (1) examples
of what appear to be heat-treated Coxsackie
Chert, (2) clusters of ^{quarry} workshop tools appearing
to show traits and ^{quarry} functions in all the quarries
I have explored - these may indicate

(4)

the existence of components of various tool kits;
(3) some heavy populations of flakes which appear to have been knapped as ^{waste} products of tool-making or perhaps detached from cores (which may represent a little-known or described flake production technique in the Hudson Valley; and (4) recognition of some knapped stages in the manufacture of blanks and preforms.

Because the knapping of stone is not decidedly within my competence, I have been unable to make sound judgments on techniques of knapping stone from the lithic materials I have accumulated from different archaeological features even though I have gained some visual insights from the works of Fr. Bordes and your Tebira reprints.

I hope you will help by accepting and examining some of my lithic materials, and kindly identify from the numbered flakes sent you (of which I have photographs) or categorize & describe the possible techniques used to detach the flakes from what I believe to be from cores or from tool manufacture and maintenance.

Since I have numbered the flakes and placed them in numbered envelopes, it would be helpful if you referred to the numbered specimens upon your examination, and when possible, inform me of your determinations.

I have also broken some cherts from Flint Mine Hill into equal parts for identification, numbered them (so I would have the other halves for comparison) and

placed them in the following groups:

- (1) cherts which ^{may} have been heat-treated and other cherts which might be their parent materials, (2) Normanskill cherts from another Quarry in the Mid-Hudson Valley which might serve as comparisons to the first group & others from the Flint Mine Hill site (both are from the Normanskill chert belt), (3) worked cherts from different archeological features on Flint Mine Hill (4) Raw cherts

from Flint Mine Hill which may possibly ⁽⁶⁾
been worked (?) after heat treatment (?). (5) Some
samples from Flint Mine Hill which might
have been altered by different agents; and (6),
some worked stone and chert found locally
which may be of interest to you.

It would be appreciated if you would
examine these two categories of these materials
and inform me of your findings. It would
not only be an invaluable learning experience
for me but will hopefully provide new
and informative materials for study and
addition to your own collections in your
long-term studies as samples from the
Northeast.

If you feel that there is a need for more
raw chert from this region for your studies,
please do not hesitate to detail your

needs and specifications, and the material will be sent you.

It is, for me, a significant event to write you. I hope this request will not make unwelcome demands on your time.

Please accept my thanks & best wishes for your continued success in your work.

Sincerely,
M. F. LACETTI
(M.F. LACETTI)

May 29, 1958:

Enclosed find 2 slides of the contorted exposures at the main quarry at Flint Mine Hill (discussed over phone).

Also, does the photo (in black & white) of a rough blank from

CG.6.5.3.7

Flint Mire Hill indicate soft or
hard percussion? (I hope you
can make this observation without
having the specimens in hand)

the color slide showing 26 flake
are also from the workshop flake material
sent you in the small brown envelopes? are
they blades? are they derived from cores?

A.H. I am pulling for you
during your different period.

June 22, 1978
Hudson, N.Y. 12534

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

Please excuse the mailing of this package to you long after our phone conversation; but I felt it would be inconvenient for you receive it during the pressures of formal activities.

Again, please accept my best wishes for your formal recovery.

W. J. Foster