THE LOVE POINT MARYLAND PREHISTORIC SHELL MIDDENS: A RETROSPECTIVE BASED ON THE COLLECTION OF JAMES MARKS

Darrin L. Lowery

The James Marks collection and field work from the 1990s are used to reconstruct Native American prehistoric use of the Love Point area of Kent Island, Maryland. Many of the sites have been eroded or destroyed.

INTRODUCTION

In January 1992, I initiated a systematic archaeological survey of Kent Island, Maryland (Figure 1). The survey was funded by the Kent Island Heritage Society, the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research, and the Maryland Historical Trust. Prior to starting this project, I had conducted some background research about sites that had been recorded on the island. In an obscure publication, produced by the Natural History Society of Maryland in 1943 (see Stearns 1943:18-19 and Plate XIV), a collection amassed in the early 20th century from the Love Point area located on the far northern end of the island was discussed and partially photographed. The collection had been found by a Mr. James Marks at several exposed shell midden sites, situated along the eroding shorelines adjacent to the Chester River. Most importantly, the Love Point assemblages reported by Stearns (ibid) represent some of the earliest documented prehistoric collections in the region. When the Love Point collections were described and photographed no one, including Richard Stearns, had any idea as to the cultural chronologies represented by these coastal assemblages.

When I first drove to Kent Island on Monday, January 6th, 1992 to scope out the landscape and develop a survey strategy, I initially went to Love Point. I knocked on the doors of several residents who lived on the northern, terminal end of Kent Island, and no one had heard of James Marks or the Marks family. Realizing that at least 50 years had passed since Richard Stearns had visited the area, I came to the conclusion that the Marks collection had been lost to time. Being somewhat dismayed, I figured I would at least try to gain access to some of the areas that James Marks had collected and Richard Stearns had visited. I noticed a farm south of Love Point and the residence seemed to be occupied at the time. I cautiously progressed up the driveway and was greeted by a Mr. Walter Denny, the owner. I explained that I had been contracted by the Kent Island Heritage Society to conduct an archaeological survey of the island and was wondering if he would allow me to examine all the shorelines and tilled fields on his farm. As many native eastern shore families do, he kindly gave me access to his property. I happened to mention the Marks family to Mr. Denny. He distinctly remembered them. He exclaimed they had left the island in the 1950's or so. He also recalled where they had lived at Love Point and noted the family had owned a store in which they displayed many of the Indian relics collected by James Marks. Within the first hour, I had hit a "home run." However, a "grand slam home run" eluded me for almost three decades.

As noted on the map published by Stearns (ibid:Figure 36), the shell deposits (i.e., middens) located immediately southeast of Love Point would be recorded as 18QU29, 18QU343, 18QU344, 18QU345, and 18QU352. The middens situated at the terminal end of Kent Island Landing Road (ibid) would be recorded as 18QU315, 18QU346, 18QU347, and 18QU358. Finally, the southernmost middens documented by Richard Stearns (ibid) were recorded as 18QU321, 18QU322, 18QU323, 18QU324, 18QU325, and 18QU326. With the access that I was granted by the residents of Kent Island, I was able to retrace the prehistoric encampments found by James Marks and plotted by Richard Stearns in 1943.

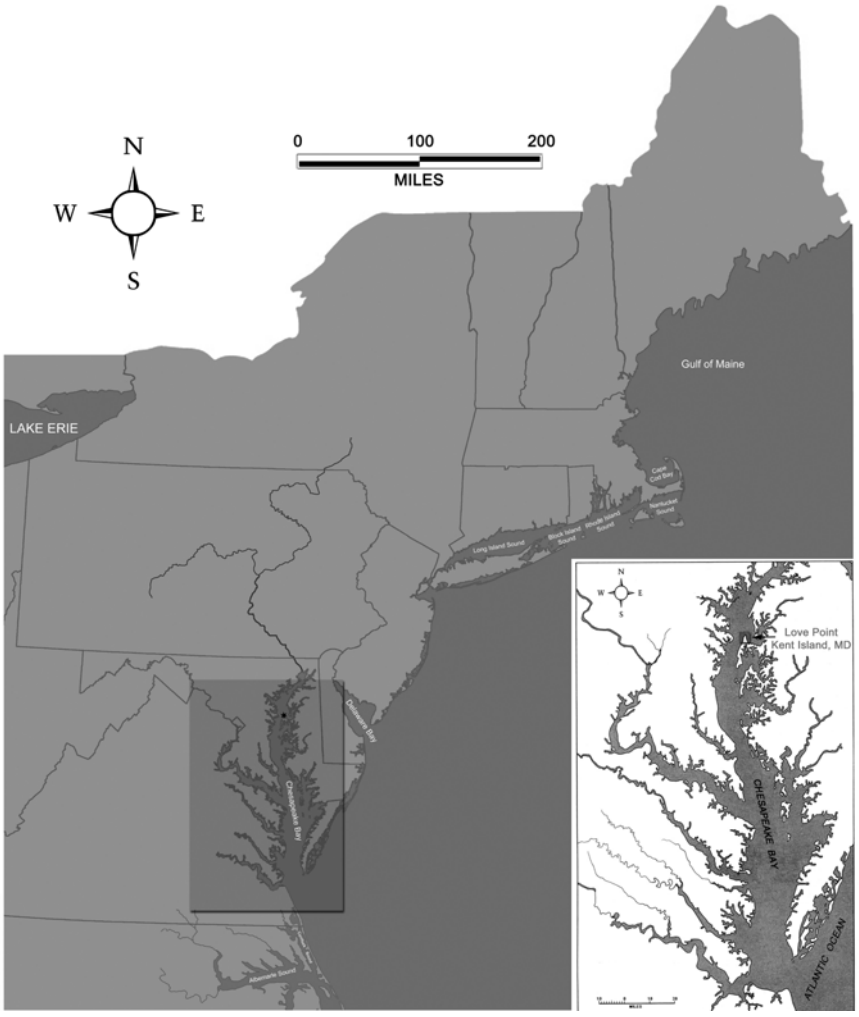

Figure 1. The location of Love Point situated on the northern end of Kent Island, Maryland.

Over the ensuing 28 years, I retained my original 1943 copy of Richard Stearns summary, which highlighted information about *Some Indian Village Sites of Tidewater Maryland* (see Denny 1959). Frequently, I would reexamine the text and graphics and pontificate about the elusive James Marks collection. I knew that Stearns had only illustrated a few specimens. I wondered what other information about the Love Point sites was missing or edited from Stearns' 1943 treatise. With the data at hand, it was obvious that the sites had revealed Middle Archaic through Late Woodland period diagnostic artifacts. Like many published articles summarizing prehistoric site collections, I conjectured that the Marks collection must contain more information. My assumptions would ultimately be confirmed.

On Wednesday August 12th, 2020 at 7:07PM, I received an email with a subject entitled "*Dad's Relics*". The email had been crafted by Dr. Harold Marks. He commented that he had seen my name associated with the Kent Island Heritage Society. He said that his father, James Marks, had recently passed away at 100 years old. Mr. Marks was born on September 30th 1919 and he had died May 31st, 2020. Dr. Marks elucidated how his father had found countless artifacts around Love Point during an extreme low-tide generated by the "Chesapeake and Potomac Hurricane," which roared through the region on August 23rd, 1933. Finally, he stated "*I wonder if you would be so kind as to direct me to an organization where an interest would lie in this collection*." Finally, he included his phone number with the email.

The Marks collection, which had eluded me for almost three decades, literally ended up in my email account inbox. I called Dr. Harold Marks the next day. Initially, he wondered if I knew or had ever heard about his father's collection. I responded "*absolutely*" and described how I had searched for his father and the whereabouts of this collection 28 years earlier. He told me that his father, in his retirement years, would pull out specific artifacts from his collection and could recall the day, the time, and the weather conditions associated with its discovery. Dr. Marks also told me that his father had stopped collecting at the onset of World War II when he joined the U.S. Army and fought in the European campaign. Dr. Marks jokingly said that his father had once told him: "You could follow my trek across Europe by looking for the groove of my nose in the ground as I crawled from country to country." While serving in WWII, James Marks had been

the recipient of three Bronze Stars. I had missed meeting Mr. Marks by only a few months.

In our phone conversations, I mentioned that the Kent Island Heritage Society might be a potential organization to display some of his father's collection. Because the collection had been amassed sometime prior to circa 1943, I indicated that I would also like to go through the collection and potentially synthesize data from a 21st century perspective. Stearns (ibid) had done a great job at the time, but had no concept of the region's prehistoric cultural chronology. Also, Stearns had clearly illustrated a small portion of the collection, given the fact that the email indicated the extant collection contained "*about 15 containers*" of "*arrowheads, and spear points, and axes*". On Friday August 28th, 2020, I met with Dr. Marks and we loaded up my truck with his father's collection. He also allowed me to copy archival family photos illustrating his family when they lived at Love Point, Maryland, during the early 20th century. As we parted, I told him that I hoped to prepare an updated summary about the Marks collection.

The goal of this summary is to highlight the archaeology of Love Point, Maryland, based on the collective knowledge gleaned from my 1992 archaeological survey, from local watermen/clammers, archival map data, and the James Marks collection. Today, most of the plowed fields I surveyed in 1992 are developed. The eroding shorelines young James Marks examined have now been bulkheaded or rip-rapped. Many local clammers no longer dredge the bottom off Love Point or along drowned terraces paralleling the northeastern margins of Kent Island. In sum, the era of amassing extensive prehistoric archaeological collections, like those found by young James Marks, have come and gone.

LOVE POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

The Love Point (see Figure 2) portion of Kent Island currently encompasses 1,239 acres of upland tilled fields, forests, developed lands, and tidal marsh. However, over 300 acres of former land area have vanished over the past 174 years. Since 1847 (Figure 2) approximately 254 acres of upland along the western or bay side of Love Point have been lost to erosion. Over the same period of time, almost 58.5 acres of land have eroded from the eastern or Chester River margins of Love Point. Needless to say, the varying land losses to erosion noted along the west and east sides of the point have played a role in the long-term preservation of archaeological sites.

The 1943 treatise prepared by Richard Stearns was mainly focused on evidence of prehistoric Native American fishing and the activities performed at these fishing encampments throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. His focus was on archaeological sites with middens containing accumulations of oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) shell. From our current perspective it is obvious that some of the artifacts illustrated by Stearns (ibid:Figure 43) pre-dated the middens and the presence of estuarine conditions in the region by several thousand years. However, the bulk of the diagnostic artifacts illustrated in his publication are indicative of the Late Archaic through Late Woodland periods, an era when the American oyster was being actively harvested.

During the period between 1918 and 1943 when Richard Stearns was conducting his research and was affiliated with the Natural History Society of Maryland, the organization was based in Baltimore, Maryland. Stearns' interest in the Love Point region of Kent Island may have been fostered by serendipitous circumstances. Love Point in the early to mid-20th century served as an active steamboat landing, as well as a railroad terminal, both of which offered Baltimore vacationers a connection to Ocean City, Maryland. Secondly, the Marks family at the time maintained a store at Love Point, which supplied visitors and reportedly displayed some of the prehistoric artifacts found by James Marks. During the twenty-five-year period when Stearns conducted his research, he most-likely traveled from Baltimore to the eastern shore several times to partake in the local attractions or for a vacation. Notably, the eastern shore middens he highlighted (ibid:Figure 57) are situated near tourist attractions like Tolchester, vacation stopovers like Love Point, or were within easy driving distance of one or the other like Swan Point. You could arguably declare that James Marks's collection and the documentation of the Love Point middens were chronicled simply

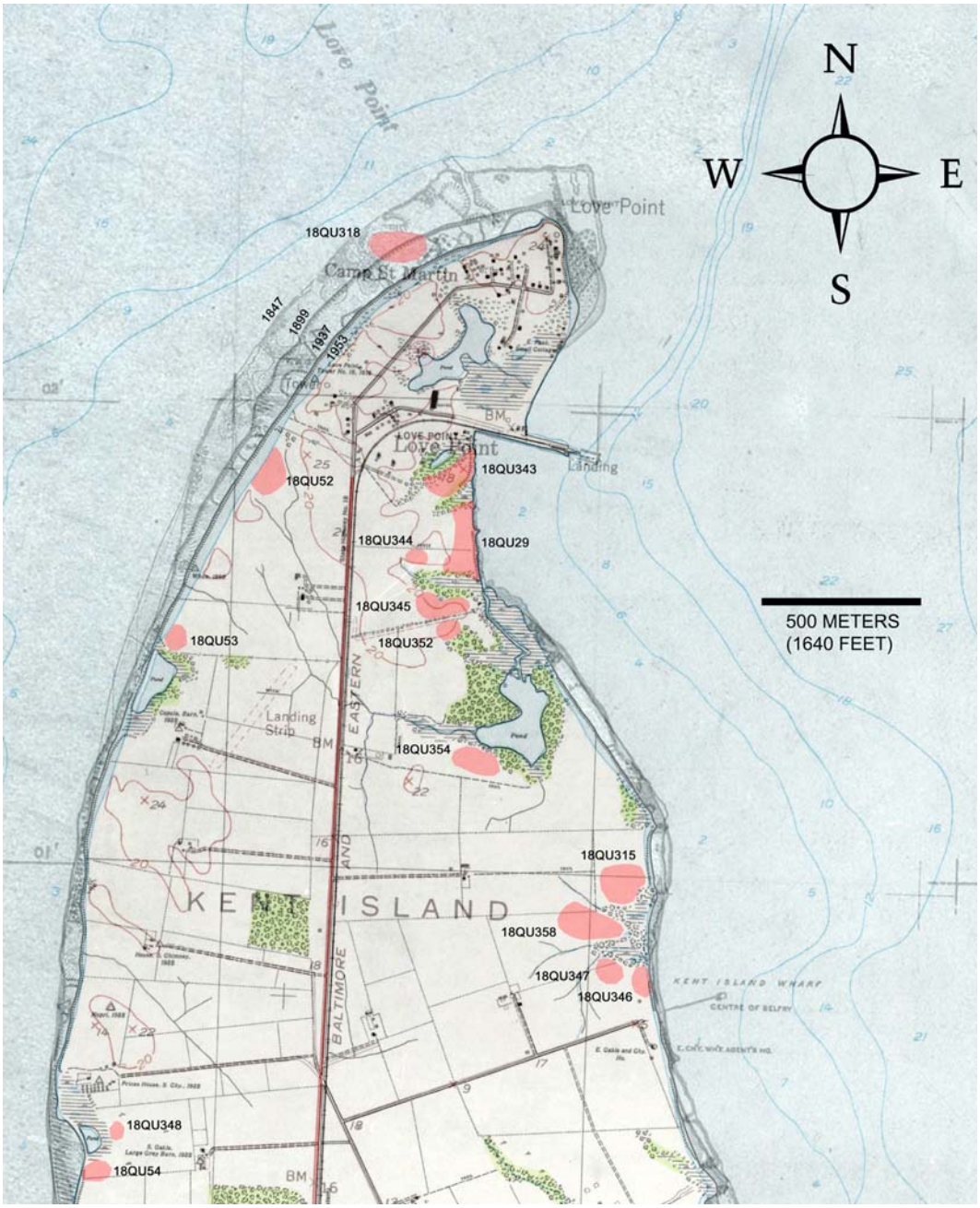

Figure 2. A georeferenced overlay of the 1847, 1899, 1937, and 1953 shoreline locations at Love Point situated on the northern end of Kent Island, Maryland. The known and recorded midden related archaeological sites have been plotted on this overlay. 18QU29 correlates with a large prehistoric midden site originally recorded Richard Stearns based on information provided by James Marks. 18QU52 through 18QU54 represent middens originally recorded by Mr. Steve Wilke and Ms. Gale Thompson during an extensive coastal shoreline archaeological survey conducted in the mid-1970's. 18QU315, 18QU318, 18QU343 through 18QU347, 18QU352, and 18QU358 represent prehistoric middens recorded in the early 1990's by the author. Site 18QU318 represents a midden site that eroded away between 1847 and 1937. The artifacts found at 18QU318 were all discovered by soft-shell clam dredging activities.

because of their proximity to a pathway or conduit of vacation travel. Regardless, the archaeological information recorded by Stearns (ibid) could not be assembled or amassed today.

Stearns (ibid:18-19) made several observations about the archaeological sites located at Love Point. He stated that the "*sites consist of two groups of shell deposits, one near Love Point and the other about one-mile south of Love Point, both facing the Chester River*." The first area mentioned would definitely encompass 18QU29 and 18QU343 (Figures 2 and 3). The first area as noted on his map (ibid:Figure 36) could also have included 18QU344, 18QU345, and 18QU352. The second cluster of shell middens noted by Stearns was located about "*one-mile south of Love Point*" and would include the middens recorded as 18QU321 through 18QU326 located on the property of Dr. John Benton near present day Castle Marina. These middens are not shown in Figure 2 because they are positioned immediately outside of the mapped area (see Figures 2 and 3). Stearns also noted the presence of shallow shell midden deposits near Kent Island Landing. The Kent Island Landing locality would include 18QU315, 18QU346, 18QU347, and 18QU358 (see Figures 2 and 3).

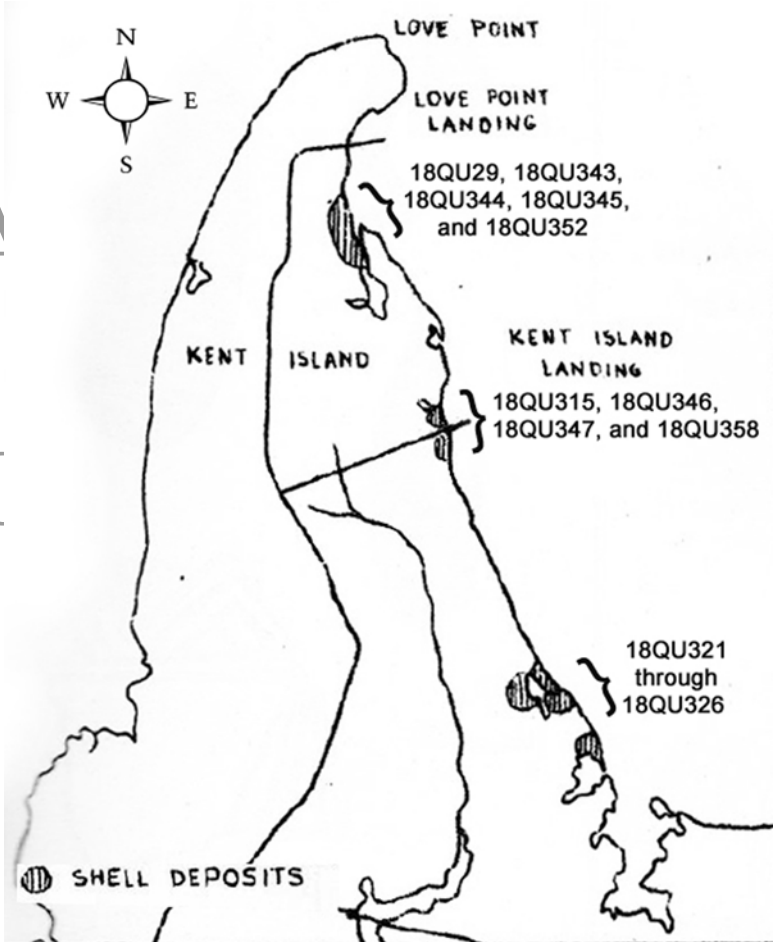

Figure 3. This map, which was originally published by Stearns (1943: Figure 36), denotes several shell middens in the Love Point area. Stearns seems to have visited these sites with James Marks sometime prior to 1943. Superimposed over the mapped shell deposits are the present designated site numbers.

Stearns (ibid) made several comments about the collections gathered from Love Point, Maryland. He noted that "*two stone pipes were washed out of graves some years ago.*" Stearns (ibid) had also amassed a small collection from the Love Point sites during his few visits to the area, and his assemblage primarily included fragments of prehistoric ceramics. He noted that the Marks's collection included about twenty stone axes, which contained three-quarter grooved specimens, full-grooved examples, as well as celts. The Love Point archaeology sites had also revealed five bannerstones, broken pestles, gorgets, numerous pitted stones, several steatite bowl fragments, and a grooved abrader or shaft smoother. The Marks collection contained about 300 "*arrowpoints*" and several large "*spearpoints*." He also commented that most of the "arrowpoints" were made from locally-derived pebbles or cobbles. Aside from Stearns's personal interests in pottery surface treatments and/or decorations, very little additional information was offered.

The most interesting artifact was collected by both Richard Stearns and James Marks. It consists of five conjoining fragments of a banded slate pentagonal pendant (Figure 4). Stearns noted that Marks had found two fragments and he had found the remaining three. The specimen, which is pictured in Plate XIV of Stearns's (1943) report, would be considered diagnostic of the Adena and/or Hopewell moundbuilding culture located in the Ohio Valley between circa 500 calBC and 400 calAD (see Kraft 1976:Figure 2f).

Figure 4. This archival photo shows five conjoining fragments of a pentagonal banded slate pendant found by both James Marks and Richard Stearns at a midden site (18QU29?) near Love Point, Maryland. Two of the fragments were collected by Mr. Marks and the remaining three fragments were found by Mr. Stearns. The style of pendant would be indicative of the Adena and/or Hopewell moundbuilding cultures of the Ohio Valley. Note the presence of distinct plow-scars across the surface of the pendant. The plow damage suggests the pendant was broken as a result of recent agricultural activities and not ritualistically "killed".

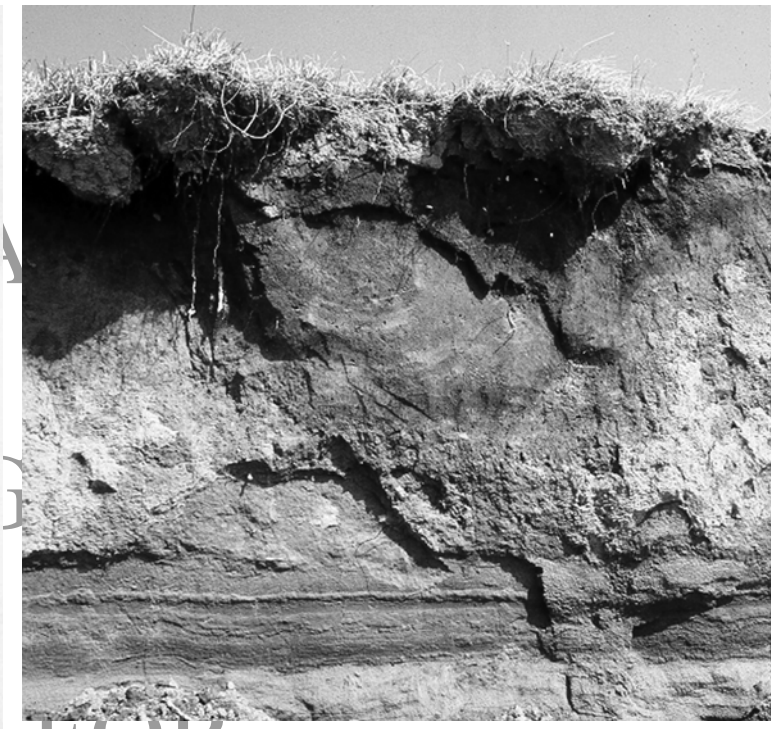

Figure 5. A Delmarva Adena-Hopewell pit feature observed along the eroding bank profile at 18QU54 in 1992. The feature was partially excavated as a result of the 1992 archaeological survey of Kent Island, Maryland.

Other middens near Love Point have revealed diagnostic artifacts associated with the Delmarva Adena-Hopewell complex. Six Delmarva Adena-Hopewell bifaces made of Upper Mercer chert, Wyandot chert and Flint Ridge chalcedony were found by Mr. Melvin Smith within a plowed midden area at 18QU346 and 18QU347. An eroding pit-feature situated beneath a plowed midden at 18QU54 (Figure 5) revealed six Delmarva Adena-Hopewell points and biface fragments made of exotic chert and chalcedony (Figure 6). Two slate gorgets were also found along the eroding shoreline adjacent to the feature at 18QU54. Approximately 2.25 miles south of 18QU54, a clam dredger named Roger Denny exhumed an Adena-style biconcave gorget (Figure 7) from the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay at 18QU335 during the summer of 1988. In sum, diagnostic Adena-Hopewell style artifacts are scattered throughout the local area and have been found at several archaeological sites positioned along the northern end of Kent Island.

Coastal erosion and subsequent land loss have also played a role in the long-term destruction/ preservation of archaeological sites situated around the peripheral margins of Love Point. For example, Mr. Walter Denny recalled that in 1992 a large prehistoric shell midden once existed on the northwest end of Love Point (see Figure 2:18QU318) and he even had a few

artifacts that his family had found before the site washed away. The presence of this former upland site has been validated by several random discoveries made by clam dredgers that occurred during the late 20th century. These discoveries include a large quartz Paleoindian-period Clovis point (Figure 8A), and Late Woodland obtuse-angle steatite pipe (Figure 8B), a bi-conically drilled stone anchor or weight (Figure 8C), and a Middle Archaic chert bifurcate-base point (Figure 8D). The bi-conically-drilled heavy stone anchor or weight is unusual. However, it is small compared to others found throughout the Middle Atlantic region. The author has observed four similar but larger specimens, all found in drowned or inundated contexts at archaeological sites from North Carolina northward into the Chesapeake Bay. Of the assemblage discovered by clam dredgers at 18QU318, the Late Woodland obtuse-angle pipe probably represents the only artifact definitively associated with the prehistoric shell midden. The other diagnostic artifacts found at this location clearly pre-date the presence of oysters in the upper Chesapeake Bay by several millennia.

Figure 6. Several Delmarva Adena-Hopewell bifaces made of exotic lithic material found at 18QU54.

Figure 7. A Delmarva Adena-Hopewell slate biconcave gorget found as a result of clam dredging at 18QU335 in the Chesapeake Bay off the west side of Kent Island, Maryland.

Archaeological sites along the eastern side of Love Point have also been impacted by coastal erosion. Given the fact that the amount of eroded land loss (see Figure 2) along the eastern margin has been less over the past 174 years compared to the west side, archaeological sites along the Chester River shoreline may have been impacted to a greater extent by sea level rise. As such, sites along the eastern fringes of Love Point may have larger numbers of intact and inundated archaeological features. Discoveries made by clam dredgers along the eastern margins of Love Point suggest a combination of both intact and inundated, as well as displaced or eroded sites occur

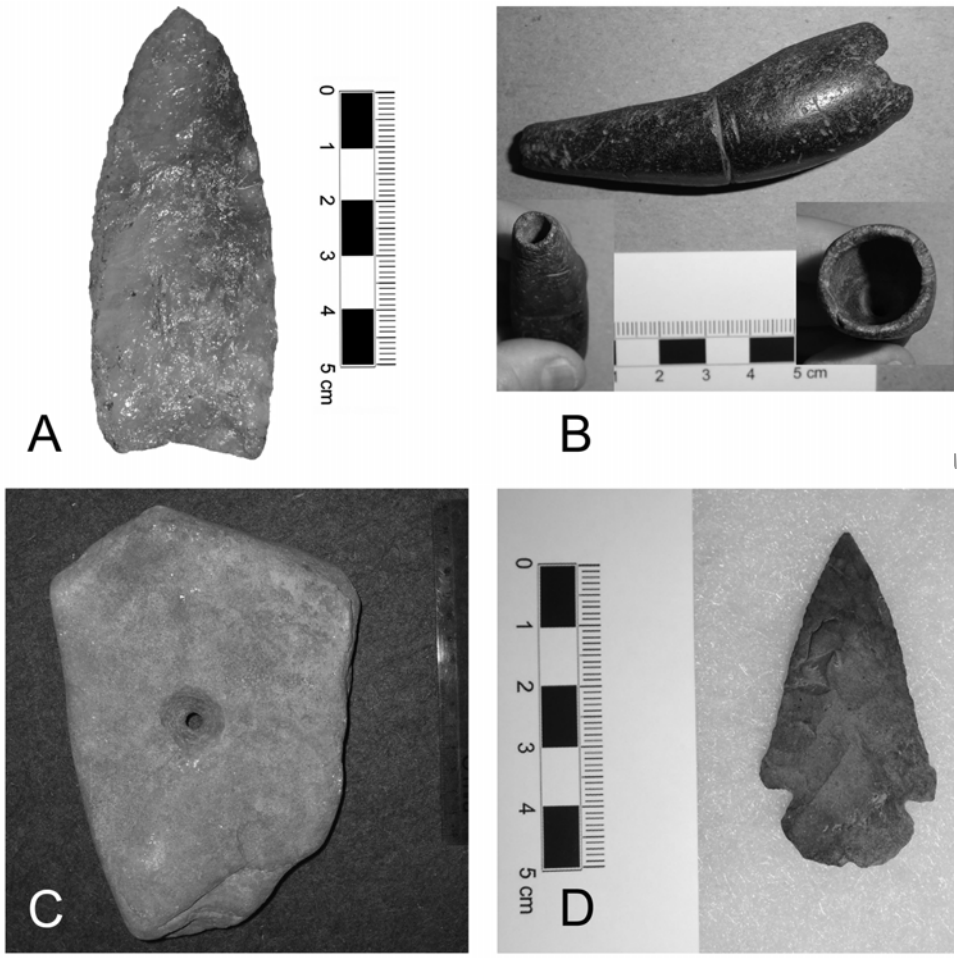

Figure 8. A representative sample of artifacts exhumed from the Chesapeake Bay bottom by clam dredgers at the eroded upland site, which was recorded as 18QU318. The items include a Paleoindian-period quartz Clovis point (A), a Late Woodland period steatite elbow pipe (B), a heavy drilled sandstone anchor or weight (C), and a chert Middle Archaic bifurcated point (D).

in this region (Figures 9 and 10) .

Love Point has fifteen documented shell middens. Even though Stearns (1943: Figure 36) recorded three distinct shell midden cluster areas along the east side of Love Point in 1943, only one site (18QU29) was officially documented after Maryland's Office of Archaeology had been established in the late 1960's. Of the remaining fourteen midden sites (see Figure 2), three (18QU52 to 18QU54) were recorded as a result of a regional survey conducted by Wilke and Thompson (1977) in 1976. The remaining eleven sites were recorded as a result of systematic pedestrian shoreline and field surveys conducted in 1992 (see Lowery 1992 and 1993). The most recent work also documented some associated artifacts collections, as well as limited salvage testing associated with eroding archaeological features. Since 1992, no follow-up surveys, testing, or research have been conducted at any of the fifteen midden sites (see Figure 2) to further refine the recognized cultural chronologies expressed at these midden sites. Over the intervening twenty-nine years, twelve of the fifteen midden sites located in the Love Point area of Kent Island have been graded, armored, and converted to residential lots. Arguably, the site syntheses presented below may ultimately represent the only archaeological information ever documented about the Love Point middens.

18QU318

The site (see Figure 2 for this and other site locations) was recorded by Darrin Lowery. It was found as a result of dredging for soft-shell clams in the Bay just off of the west side of Love Point, along the northern end of Kent Island. Even though the site is now eroded and destroyed, between 1847 and 1937 it was positioned on a bluff overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. The site has revealed a few Paleoindian period through Late Woodland period diagnostic artifacts (see Figure 8). Mr. Walter Denny indicated that a shell heap or midden was positioned at this location.

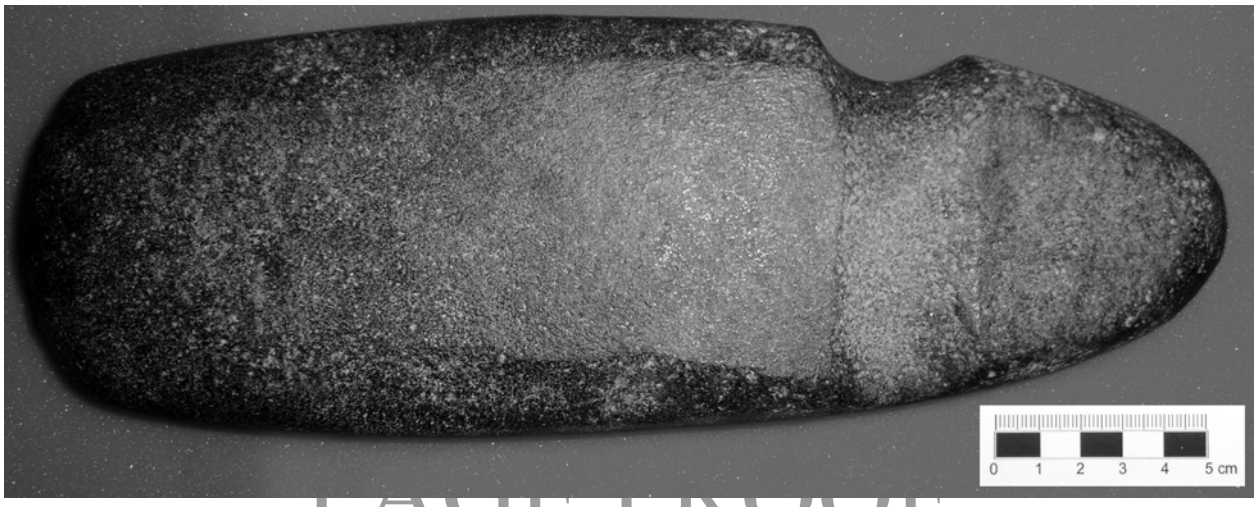

Figure 9. A basalt three-quarter grooved axe exhumed from the bottom by a clam dredger offshore from 18QU29.

18QU343

The site was recorded by Darrin Lowery in 1992. It was positioned in a small cultivated field adjacent to the east side of Kent Island south of Love Point. The site consisted of a dense Woodland period shell midden exposed within the bank profile, as well as fire-cracked rock concentrations scattered along the shoreline north of 18QU29. Oyster shell refuse was not observed in the field area between 18QU343 and 18QU29, which would imply that they represent two distinct archaeological localities. Notably, a small wooded drainage also separates both sites. The site is currently a plowed field with a raw, exposed, eroding bank profile.

Figure 10. Multiple-views of an unfinished slate Archaic-period bannerstone or spear-thrower weight exhumed from the bottom immediately east of 18QU346.

18QU52

The site was recorded by Steve Wilke and Gale Thompson in 1976 (see Wilke and Thompson 1977) on the property of Mr. Walter Denny. At the time, the area was a tilled field with an exposed raw eroding bank profile. In January 1992, Darrin Lowery revisited the site and noted that poor visual conditions were present in the plowed field as a result of corn stubble. The shoreline at the time had not been bulkheaded or rip-rapped. During the 1992 follow-up survey, no diagnostic artifacts were discovered. Oyster shell refuse and some fire-cracked rock was evident within the defined site boundary on the surface of the tilled field and within the plowzone along the exposed eroding shoreline. The shell midden would imply an unknown

Woodland period occupation of this location. The site has now been partially graded, the shoreline has been rip-rapped, and the area is currently a residential yard with a forested lawn.

18QU29

The site represents a locality originally recorded based on data provided by Dr. Richard Stearns in 1943. In January 1992, the site was re-visited by Darrin Lowery. During this fieldwork, he observed and tested at least four shell-filled pit features that were eroding out of the shoreline. A sheet midden was observed throughout the field area and along the exposed shoreline. The continuous midden varied in thickness. The excavations revealed one chert scraper, one fragmented rhyolite broadspear (Terminal Archaic), one quartz lanceolate point (Delmarva Adena/Hopewell), one fragment of Coulbourne ware (Early Woodland), one quartzite pitted stone, one early-stage biface fragment, several cores, and some debitage. A Colonial-era barrel well was also documented along the shoreline. In 1992, a Late Archaic through Colonial era occupation was recorded for this location. The field area associated with the site is presently a residential location that has been graded and the shoreline has been rip-rapped.

18QU344

The site was recorded by Darrin Lowery in 1992. It represents a prehistoric shell midden located on a small knoll or bluff within a cultivated field on the north margin of a small drainage flowing into the Chester River. This site is located west of the 18QU29 site boundary. A low swale containing no shell separates 18QU29 from 18QU344. The separation between these two sites is also defined by an agricultural ditch or field drain. The site area was defined based on a cluster of dense shell and fire-cracked rock. Unfortunately, the area was not tilled and the poor field visibility prevented the discovery of diagnostic artifacts. In 1992, the area was designated as an unknown Woodland-era shell midden. As it was in 1992, the area is presently an agricultural, tilled field.

18QU345

The site was recorded by Darrin Lowery in 1992. It is located on a hillslope within a cultivated field positioned on the south side of a small drainage flowing into the Chester River. The site is positioned across the small drainage directly opposite of 18QU344. Remains from the site consist of a scatter of oyster shell in the tilled field, as well as fire-cracked rock. Like 18QU344, the area was not tilled and the poor field visibility prevented the discovery of diagnostic artifacts. In 1992, the area was designated as an unknown Woodland-era shell refuse and fire-cracked rock scatter. Presently, the western portion of the site area continues to be a tilled agricultural field, and the eastern portion of the site is now a residential yard, that has been partially graded.

18QU352

The site was recorded by Darrin Lowery in 1992. It is located within a cultivated field on the inland side of a marsh positioned along the east side of Kent Island, just south of Love Point. The site area encompasses a small shell and fire-cracked rock scatter. A single quartz scraper, which had been made on a flake, was found at the site during this survey. In 1992, the location was designated as an unknown Woodland-era shell refuse location containing a scatter of fire-cracked rock. Today, the site area continues to be a plowed agricultural field.

18QU53

The site was recorded by Steve Wilke and Gale Thompson in 1976 (see Wilke and Thompson 1977) as an unknown Woodland period prehistoric shell midden. At the time, the site was located immediately north of a ponded drainage that emptied west into the Chesapeake Bay. The remnant portion of the site area was re-examined in 1992 by Darrin Lowery. At the time, he observed some oyster shell and a few fragments of fire-cracked rock in the agriculturally-tilled field. Erosion between 1976 and 1992 had destroyed a large

portion of the original site area. The remnant southeastern portion of the site is currently a residential yard area, which has been heavily graded. The shoreline has also been armored and rip-rapped.

18QU354

The site was originally recorded by Darrin Lowery. It is located on the east side of Kent Island adjacent to an enclosed tidal marsh creek, which drains into the Chester River. The site consists of a large area of fire-cracked rock, as well as unaltered cobble material. Only a few oyster shells along with some lithic debitage were found at this location. The field in 1992 was rough plowed when it was initially surveyed. An agricultural drainage ditch had exposed the underlying sub-soil, which did not contain any fire-cracked rock or altered cobbles. As such, it was concluded that most of the cultural material may indeed be confined to the plowzone. The site was recorded as an unknown prehistoric lithic and shell refuse scatter. The far eastern portion of the site is currently a graded residential yard. The western portion remains as a tilled agricultural field.

18QU315

The site was recorded by Darrin Lowery in 1992 based on information provided by Mr. Geoff Price. Mr. Price indicated that the site area represented the largest concentration of oyster shell that he has seen on Love Point. He estimated the size of the site at one time to be about twenty to thirty acres of shell in the field and along the shoreline. Mr. Price noted that many projectile points were found at this location by himself and others. His collection from this location included diagnostic Late Archaic through Late Woodland period projectile points. In 1992, the area encompassed a large fenced-in horse pasture with a residence and yard situated along an armored shoreline. Presently, additional residential structures have been constructed in the area.

18QU358

The site is located along the western edge of a tidal marsh, which drains directly into the Chester River. The northern and southern boundaries of the site are defined by topographically lower and poorly-drained swales. These swale areas have been ditched to improve agricultural drainage. In 1992, the northern section of the site was tilled. A hedgerow separates the northern portion of the site from the southern portion of the site. The southern area contains the densest shell, and it consisted of a large area of fire-cracked rock and dense oyster shell. Only a few artifacts were found on the surface of the tilled field as a result of the pedestrian survey. The artifacts included two preforms and two flakes. The site was initially recorded as an unknown Woodland period oyster shell midden. A recently constructed road in 1992 indicated that the site area would soon be developed. The site area is now currently a graded yard and residence.

18QU347

The site was recorded by Darrin Lowery in 1992. It is located on the south side of a small unnamed drainage that flows directly into the Chester River. In 1992, the location was a no-till agricultural field with alfalfa. Examination of the surface indicated the presence of dense oyster shell. However, no artifacts were found during the initial pedestrian survey. Mr. Melvin Smith, who lived in the residence located immediately southeast of the site, had a large collection of lithic artifacts he had amassed from this site and the adjacent site (18QU346). His collection included ~300 projectile points and a few ground stone artifacts. He had lumped the collections from 18QU347 and 18QU346 together as a single unit. Collectively, Early Archaic through Late Woodland period diagnostic artifacts were noted in Mr. Smith's collection. Notably, Mr. Smith had found a large fragmented Wyandot chert Adena biface and an Upper Mercer chert biface at 18QU347. The former tilled field associated with this site is now presently a graded yard area.

18QU346

The site was recorded by Darrin Lowery in 1992, located in a field/yard area adjacent to the Chester

River at Mr. Melvin Smith's residence. In 1992, the shoreline section of the site was bulkheaded. According to Mr. Smith the northern tilled portion of the site, which contains dense shell and fire-cracked rock, still produces a few artifacts. The entire Smith collection included ~300 projectile points and a few ground stone artifacts from both 18QU346 and 18QU347. He commented that the artifacts were collected over the 24 years prior to 1992. He also noted that most of the artifacts were found along the eroding shoreline before it was bulkheaded. Mr. Smith had four fragmented Delmarva Adena-Hopewell Flint Ridge chalcedony bifaces he had found at this location. Additional Early Archaic through Late Woodland period diagnostic artifacts were also found within this general area. The former tilled field associated with this site is now presently a graded yard.

18QU348

The site was recorded by Darrin Lowery in 1992. It is located in a residential garden area along the west side of Kent Island near the Chesapeake Bay. Prior to the erosion of the shoreline, the site was located immediately east of a small ponded tidal marsh drainage, which emptied directly into the Chesapeake Bay. On the day the site was initially visited, the landowner, Mr. Wiseman, was actively tilling the garden. Dense oyster shell was observed in the soil. Mr. Wiseman indicated that he has found a few "arrowheads" in his garden after a heavy rain. At the time, Mr. Wiseman's collection from this location was not analyzed or catalogued. The site was recorded as an unknown prehistoric lithic scatter and prehistoric Woodland period shell midden. The site area is now presently a graded yard and residence with multiple outbuildings and a swimming pool.

18QU54

The site was recorded by Steve Wilke and Gale Thompson in 1976 (see Wilke and Thompson 1977). A pedestrian shoreline survey conducted by Darrin Lowery in 1992 revealed the site had subsurface integrity. However, the 3.5- to 4-meter-high bank was actively eroding at the time. Several pit features were observed along the eroding shoreline. Mr. Geoff Price, who owned the property, had found a few Delmarva Adena-Hopewell artifacts along the beach and within one of the exposed eroding features at this site. In 1992, the remnant pit feature (see Figure 5) was profiled by Lowery and determined to be ~9' 11" (~302-centimeters) wide and 39.5" (~100-centimeters) deep. Test excavations were conducted to salvage this eroding feature. Level A in the pit fill included the upper 20-centimeter-thick plowzone. Level B within the pit was ~20-centimeters in depth on the north side and ~33-centimeters deep on the pit's south side. Level C was ~38-centimeters thick on the north side and ~24-centimeters thick on the south side. Level D was ~22-centimeters thick on the north side and ~23-centimeters thick on the south side. The plowzone (Level A) produced only fragmentary oyster shell. Level B produced a few complete oyster shells and a few small fragments of Late Woodland Townsend type ceramics. Level C produced both Early/Middle Woodland Mockley and Wilgus type ceramics. Level D produced a large fragment of Early/Middle Woodland Coulbourne ceramics. No oyster shell was observed in either Levels C or D. However, few small fragments of calcined bone were observed in both of these levels.

Mr. Geoff Price had found one green banded slate bow-tie gorget and one thick rectangular slate gorget on the beach at the base of this feature (see Figure 5) during the prior twelve-month period. As a result of his continued examination of the shoreline, Mr. Price had found one Robbins-type stemmed blade made of white Burlington chert, four Hopewell-like points made of Flint Ridge chalcedony, and a Flint Ridge Fox Creek stemmed point (see Figure 6) exposed and embedded with the eroding feature (see Figure 5). Mr. Price had also found several fragments of Townsend, Mockley, Wilgus, and Coulbourne ceramics on the beach.

As a result of the 1992 follow-up investigation of 18QU54, the site information was updated. The site is now recorded as a Delmarva Adena-Hopewell site as well as a Late Woodland shell midden. Continued erosion may have destroyed more sub-surface features at this site. Since 1992, the site area has been heavily developed, the field has been graded, and the shoreline has been armored. Presently, a large residence, swimming pool, and several associated structures occupy the entire site area.

Figure 11. This 1946 photograph shows Love Point, as viewed from its eastern side. The photo was taken from one of the ferry boats that regularly moored at the Love Point Landing.

JAMES MARKS'S LOVE POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION

Given the disproportionate chronological information and incomplete data outlined for the fifteen Love Point midden sites, the Marks collection becomes even more significant. It provides a detailed glimpse into the cultural use of the central Chesapeake Bay region. Based on the recent development and alterations to the Kent Island area, these types of detailed and sizable prehistoric artifact collections could not be amassed today. The Marks collection may represent the only extant collection for the Love Point study area (see Figure 2) and the importance of this collection was recognized almost eighty-years ago by one of the region's earliest Chesapeake Bay archaeologists.

Figure 12. The circa 1930 photo on the left shows James Marks standing at the base of an eroded high bank shoreline situated along the northwest side of Love Point. The photo on the right shows Dr. Richard Stearns investigating an eroding shell midden. Note that the intact midden in this photo has been buried by a thick layer agricultural slopewash.

Love Point in the early to mid-20th century (Figure 11) consisted largely of rural farmland and eroding shorelines. Today, the region consists largely of residentially-developed parcels and rip-rapped or bulkheaded shorelines. Collections, like the one accumulated by James Marks, could not be amassed today. As such, his collection offers future researchers a unique perspective into the long-term human use of the area.

Figure 13. This circa 1940 photograph (left) shows James Marks near his family's general store (right) situated in the village at Love Point. He displayed some of his prehistoric artifact collection in the store.

Sometime in the 1930's young James Marks started to accumulate prehistoric artifacts from the eroding shorelines (Figure 12 left) near Love Point. Most of the artifacts in his collection have abrasion and rounded edges, suggesting that the artifacts were exposed to a protracted period in the swash and berm zone. A few of the ground stone artifacts do have plow scars. However, even these specimens show surf wear, which implies they had eroded from the surface of an agriculturally-tilled field. Only one of the artifacts in his collection has a caliche coating. The calcium coating suggests that the artifact had actually been embedded within a shell midden before being eroded from the shoreline.

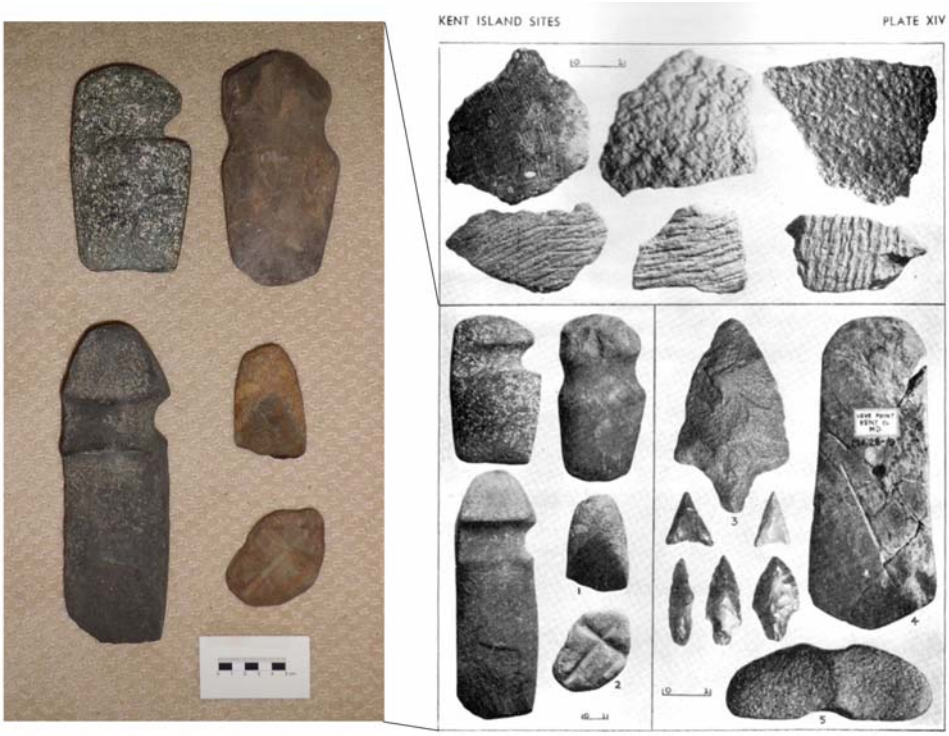

Figure 14. One of the plates (right) published by Richard Stearns (1943: Plate XIV), which portray some of the artifacts found at the Love Point. The extant collection has remained intact over the past 78 years and offers an opportunity to reconstruct Stearns' original plates (left).

In the late 1930's, Dr. Richard Stearns (Figure 12:right) became aware of Marks' collection. Since Baltimore travelers regularly stayed at the Love Point Hotel, it is assumed the display in the Marks' family general store (Figure 13) may have played a role. As indicated by archival photos, letters, and notes included with the Marks collection, Dr. Stearns made several visits to photograph this collection (Figure 14) and

explore some of the middens in the region (see Figure 12: right). The following summary will attempt to expand upon Dr. Richard Stearns' published data and specifically focus on the importance of the diagnostic items in the Marks' collection (Figures 15 through 22).

In 1943, Stearns indicated that *"Mr. Marks' collection contains about 300 arrowpoints and several large spearpoints.*" Including damaged specimens and preforms, the collection includes 407 flaked stone bifaces. From today's perspective, the artifacts selected by Stearns (1943:Figures 37 and 40, and Plate XIV) would imply a Middle Archaic through Late Woodland period use of the Love Point region, spanning circa 8,300 to circa 500 years ago. In 1943, Stearns illustrated thirty-eight (38) artifacts found at sites located at Love Point, Maryland. The illustrated artifacts include line drawings showing nine flaked lithic points or knives (ibid:Figure 37). Stearns (ibid:Figure 40) also published drawings showing some ground stone artifacts. These drawings portray three pestles and/or fragments, two pitted-stones, two celts, two full-grooved axes, and one three-quarter grooved axe. Collectively, all would imply a Middle Archaic through Late Woodland period occupation of the area. A photographic plate (see Figure 14, right) shows six fragments of Middle to Late Woodland period ceramics found within the Love Point shell middens. Without examination, most of the fragments seem to be indicative of the Middle Woodland period. In this plate, he also displayed two three-quarter grooved axes, one full-grooved axe, one celt, and one abrading stone. Finally, he portrayed six flaked points or knives, a bannerstone or atlatl weight, and the previously mentioned refitted slate pendant fragments. As indicated above, the items would imply that humans utilized the region between circa 8,300 and 500 years ago when sea level in the Chesapeake Bay varied between -49 feet below present and -1.6 feet below present.

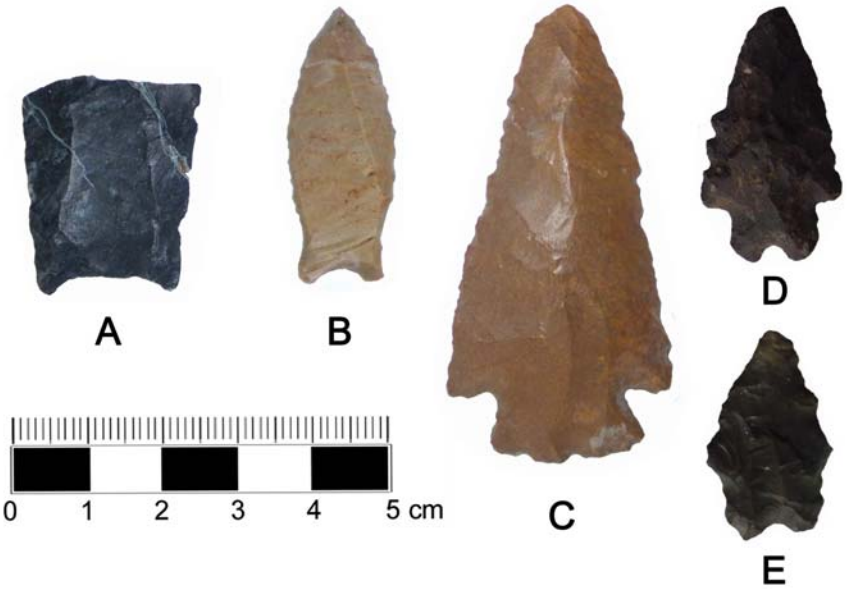

Figure 15. Some of the Paleoindian (A-B), Early Archaic (C), and Middle Archaic period (D-E) artifacts found by James Marks at Love Point, Maryland. The fragmented chert Paleoindian point (A), a chert wasted Paleoindian point (B) made on a flake, a jasper Kirk corner-notched point (C), and two chert LeCroy bifurcated-base points (D & E). None of these artifacts were illustrated in Stearns' publication, but collectively they indicate the Love Point area was episodically occupied between 13,000 and 8,900 years ago.

The flaked stone artifacts in the Marks collection (Table 1, next page) demonstrate an earlier human presence at Love Point than indicated by Stearns. In his defense, Dr. Richard Stearns at the time did not have a thorough chronological understanding of the region's prehistory. Also, the prehistoric human presence at Love Point clearly pre-dates the occurrence of oysters in this portion of the Chesapeake Bay. As such, many of the artifacts in the Marks assemblage were clearly not affiliated with the oyster shell middens Stearns observed and plotted (see Figure 3).

Two artifacts (see Figure 15A and B), which were included in the accumulated box of damaged or broken items, and waste flakes, are clearly Paleoindian in age. Like many areas flanking the Chesapeake Bay, the early human presence at Love Point may have been oriented toward former freshwater spring-related ecosystems situated near the interfluve of Kent Island. A relic drainage divide (see Figure 2), which has been

Table 1. Flaked stone tool summary for the marks collection from Love Point, Maryland.

POINT TYPE:	Qrtz	Qtzite	Ortho.	Ironst.	Chert	Jasper	Argite	Rhylte	Exotic	TOTAL
Clovis					1					**1**
Michaud/Barnes					1					**1**
Palmer/Charleston						1				**1**
Bifurcate					5			1		**6**
Stanly/Neville Knife		1								**1**
Stanly/Neville	2	1		1	2	1		2		**9**
Morrow Mountain/Stark		5		7	4	1		4		**21**
Otter Creek								6		**6**
Brewerton					2			3		**5**
Halifax	1	1	1		2			1		**6**
Lehigh/Snook Kill		3		14	3		2	7		**29**
Lackawaxan	7	6	1	6	14	1	7	16		**58**
Lamoka	6	3	2	1	26	1	1	18		**58**
Normanskill	1	1			1			3		**6**
Susquehanna					5		1	4		**10**
Fishtail	2			1	3			6		**12**
Generalized Notched					4			4		**8**
Calvert					1					**1**
Piscataway	14	3			11	1		3		**32**
Tear Drop	9	2			10	2		1		**24**
Meadowood Knife					1					**1**
Meadowood					3	2				**5**
Adena									1	**1**
Hopewell									1	**1**
Fox Creek			1		1	2	10	10		**24**
Jacks Reef					4					**4**
Triangular	3	1			27	3	1	1		**36**
Preform	1	2		10	3		11	3		**30**
Unknown Damaged		2		1	3		1	3		**10**
	46	**31**	**5**	**41**	**137**	**15**	**34**	**96**	**2**	**407**

intersected by coastal erosion is present in the area and associated with 18QU318. Given the pattern that Paleoindians preferred these types of upland settings, the specimens found by James Marks reinforce regional observations. One of the Paleoindian specimens (see Figure 15A) is a basal section of a chert fluted (Clovis?) projectile point that clearly broke immediately above the haft. The other is a miniature Paleoindian point and represents a "fishtail" or "waisted" style point, which had been manufactured on a chert flake. Similar examples (see Moeller 1980: Plate 7 A and C) have been found in excavated contexts at other Paleoindian sites in the Northeast. The specimens found by Marks (see Figure 15A and B) along the shorelines of Love Point may be younger than the Clovis-style Paleoindian point found by the clam dredger at 18QU318 (see Figure 8A). Regardless, these diagnostic artifacts can be linked to an era when relative sea level in the

Middle Atlantic region was ~50-meters (164-feet) lower than present (see Lowery 2009). Given these constraints, the watershed located east and west of Love Point would have been a freshwater riverine ecosystem. The same riverine conditions may have persisted well into the Holocene when other diagnostic projectile points (see Figure 15C – E) were lost or discarded at archaeological sites near Love Point. As such, the entire Paleoindian through Middle Archaic period diagnostic assemblage found at Love Point would imply an interior upland subsistence adaptation, which seems to have been focused around springheads or ponded freshwater meadows.

During the Early through Middle Archaic periods, the various groups who episodically settled on or near Love Point would have observed a major ecological change in the adjacent lowland Susquehanna and Chester River valleys. Sometime between 10,700 and 10,200 years ago, oysters had established themselves along the margins of the developing Chesapeake estuary immediately west of Smith Island, Maryland. Presently, these relic oyster reefs are beneath 36-meters (120-feet) of water. The actual sea level at this time was ~30 meters (~98.5 feet) below present. Around 7,000 years ago, sea level had risen markedly, as a byproduct of Meltwater Pulse 1c. Locally sea level circa 7,000 years ago would have been ~14.6 meters (~48 feet) below present. Given the current bathymetric depths noted in the area, oysters would have been present at this time in the nearby Chesapeake and Chester River estuaries. We can conclude that after estuarine ecosystems had been established, there would have been a gradual expansion of these ecosystems onto former uplands as a result of continued sea level rise. In tandem with sea level rise, locally available estuarine resources would have adapted to increasing salinity as a byproduct of intensifying oceanic inputs throughout the middle to late Holocene.

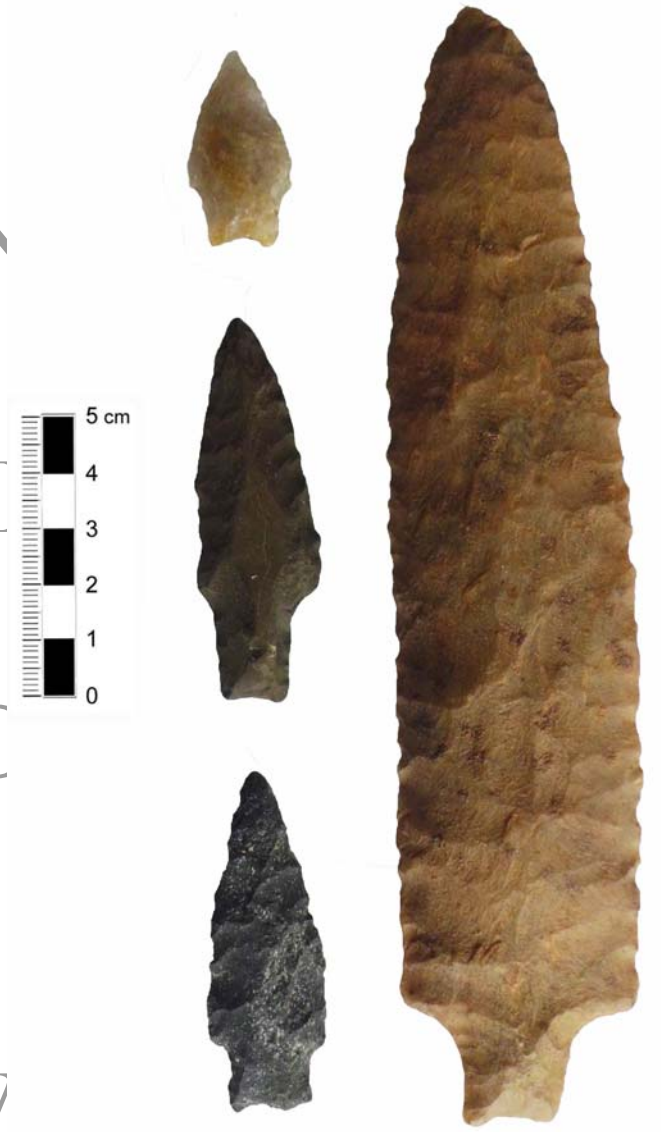

Figure 16. Some of the Middle to Late Archaic period stemmed projectile points and knives found by James Marks at Love Point, Maryland. The points shown are made of quartz (top, left), chert (middle, left), rhyolite (bottom, left), and quartzite (right). None of these artifacts were illustrated in Stearns' publication, but collectively they indicate the Love Point area was episodically occupied between 8,900 to 4,500 years ago.

Some of the Middle and Late Archaic period (Figures 16 through 18) human occupations noted in the Marks collection may be indicative of an ever-growing presence of nearby estuarine resources. At the onset of the Early Woodland period circa 3,000 years ago when local sea level was approximately ~4 meters (~13 feet) lower than present, the diagnostic artifacts (Figure 19 and 20) scattered at various Love Point sites would most definitely indicate human interests in coastal resources. From approximately 2,000 years ago to present, the rate of sea level rise has been approximately ~10-centimeters (~4-inches) per century. During the Middle and Late Woodland periods (Figures 21 and 22), estuarine resource use by

Figure 17. Some additional Middle to Late Archaic period stemmed points and knives found by James Marks at Love Point, Maryland. The specimens are made of iron-cemented sandstone (left and center) and rhyolite (right). The specimen on the far left was illustrated by Stearns' (1943: Plate XIV).

humans settling along the margins of Love Point climaxed. As a result, many of the middens noted on the island are remnants of these later prehistoric occupations. Like several nearby discoveries (see Figures 5 through 7), evidence of long-distance interaction is recorded by a few Delmarva Adena-Hopewell items (see Figure 4 and Table 1) housed in the Marks collection.

As the drowned valley systems expanded around the periphery of Love Point, seasonal and prevailing winds, and fetch-related wave activities would have played a greater role in archaeological site destruction due to erosion. Over time, the persistence and survival of estuarine-oriented archaeological sites (see Figure 2) would be represented along the sheltered coastlines situated along the leeward side of Love Point, the protected headwaters of small tidal drainages, and the impenetrable areas enveloped by erosion-resistant tidal marsh. In essence, the extant midden features currently positioned near Love Point (see Figure 2) are largely a byproduct of a series of chance natural events. The assertion is also supported by the fact that the majority of the artifacts in the Marks collection do indeed have surface wear-patterns associated with swash and berm tumbling actions.

The ground stone tool assemblage in the Marks collection is especially impressive (Table 2). The ground stone tools offer more insights about Love Point in a regional prehistoric context. Having documented numerous archaeological sites along many coastlines, within agriculturally-tilled fields, and around the margins of islands throughout the Delmarva region, my appreciation of the archaeological sites located between Love Point towards

Figure 18 (left). Some Late Archaic and Terminal Archaic period points and knives found by James Marks at the midden sites located near Love Point, Maryland. The Lamoka-like points (top) are made of chert (left and right two examples) and jasper (left center). The Normanskill points (bottom left two examples) are made of quartzite and rhyolite. The Susquehanna-like Broadspear (bottom right) is made of chert.

the Wye River is further strengthened by the Marks ground stone tool assemblage. In comparison to other areas along the coastal sections of the Delmarva Peninsula, the prehistoric sites in western Queen Annes county, Maryland, (e.g., the Love Point region) have revealed far greater numbers of ground stone artifacts. Many of these artifacts directly relate to woodworking activities, ground stone tool manufacturing, as well as maintenance due to damage.

As an example, the coastal sections of Talbot County, Maryland, were thoroughly examined over a period spanning 1976 to 2003 (see Lowery 1992 and 2010), which resulted in the documentation of over 20 prehistoric archaeological sites. Even though thousands of flaked stone artifacts were discovered, these same sites produced only four ground stone woodworking tools (i.e., axes, adzes, and celts). One of the full-grooved axes (Figure 23) found at an eroding coastal archaeological site in Talbot County consists of six conjoined fragments, which were discovered over a period spanning thirty-years.

Table 2. Ground stone tool and ceramic vessel summary for the Marks collection from Love Point, Maryland.

	Basalt	Diorite	Slate	Qrtzite	Sandst.	Steatite	TOTAL:
Full-Grooved Ax	**4**	**2**		**2**			**8**
Complete	2			1			3
Damaged	2	2		1			5
3/4 Grooved Ax	**14**	**1**					**15**
Complete	5	1					6
Damaged	9						9
Adze	**6**	**1**					**7**
Complete	5	1					6
Damaged	1						1
Celt	**8**	**1**					**9**
Complete	7	1					8
Damaged	1						1
Ax Preform	**11**	**1**					**12**
Complete	10	1					11
Damaged	1						1
Unk. Ax Fragment	**23**	**1**					**24**
Pestle	**5**						**5**
Complete	2						2
Damaged	3						3
Gorget			**1**				**1**
Complete							0
Damaged			1				1
Pendant			**1**				**1**
Complete							0
Damaged			1				1
Bannerstone			**2**		**1**	**1**	**4**
Complete							0
Damaged			2		1	1	4
Net Weight	**7**						**7**
Notched	5						5
Grooved	1						1
Drilled	1						1
Hammerstone				**11**			**11**
Pitted Stone				**44**	**68**		**112**
Complete				41	57		98
Damaged				3	11		14
Grooved Abrader					**1**		**1**
Stone Bowl Frag.						**6**	**6**
Ceramic Vessel Frag.							**6**
Wolfe Neck							1
Mockley							2
Townsend							2
Potomac Creek							1

The overall rarity of ground stone woodworking tools has been noted at eroding prehistoric sites further south within coastal Dorchester and Somerset counties in Maryland, as well as Accomack and Northampton counties in Virginia. These observations could indicate a few possible

Figure 19. Some Early Woodland period Piscataway/Rossville points found by James Marks at the midden sites located near Love Point, Maryland. The points are made of chert (left) and jasper (center and right).

Figure 20. Some Early Woodland Meadowood affiliated artifacts found by James Marks at the midden sites located near Love Point, Maryland.

Figure 21. Some Middle Woodland Fox Creek affiliated artifacts found by James Marks at the midden sites located near Love Point, Maryland.

scenarios. Over the past 170 years, the aforementioned counties have experienced greater amounts of archaeological site loss due to erosion (see Lowery 2021). As such, it is possible that most of the sites containing prehistoric woodworking tools have simply eroded away (ibid), and the legacy of these former sites consists of chance finds made by fishermen (see Lowery 2020). Many of these counties are also topographically low and have been heavily impacted by Holocene marine transgression. Therefore, most of the former upland woodworking prehistoric sites could have simply been inundated, which would make them currently invisible, again except for chance finds made by fishermen (ibid). The difference noted between those areas lacking woodworking activities and those regions with evidence of woodworking could also be indicative of variable use of the landscape by prehistoric cultures. With the current limited data, some combination of the scenarios mentioned above could explain the observed disparity.

Figure 22. A late Middle Woodland Jacks Reef point (left) and some Late Woodland triangular points found by James Marks at the midden sites located near Love Point, Maryland. The specimen on the far right was illustrated by Stearns' (1943: Plate XIV).

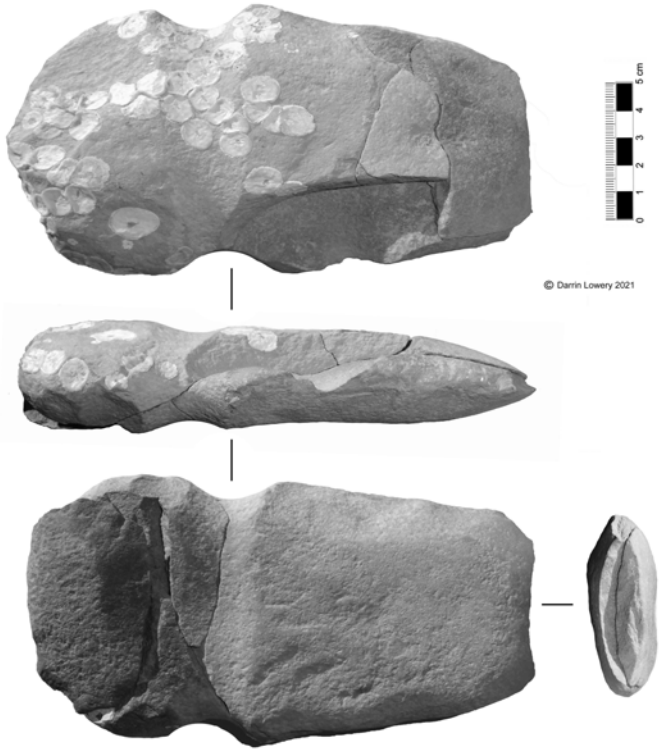

Figure 23. Several views of a conjoined full-grooved axe, which was found by the author and other individuals at 18TA221b in western Talbot County, Maryland. The six differentially patinated fragments were discovered at this site over a period spanning thirty-years. The fractures indicate that the axe was damaged as a result of shopping. A singular traumatic impact to the blade edge caused a conchoidal-like fracture to split and fragment the axe. The shattered axe was obviously discarded. The axe represents one of the four woodworking tools found at the eroding coastal archaeological sites in Talbot County, Maryland.

Many of the woodworking tools in the Marks collection show evidence of cutting-edge maintenance, alteration, and modification as a result of damage. Curiously, several of the cutting edges on the axes were simply not finished and left pecked, dull, and/or blunted. Of the twenty-three full and ¾ grooved axes, fourteen (60%) show chopping or cutting damage that was not fixed or corrected. Given their overall dimensions, it is hard to fathom why these damaged axes were not fixed and why they were simply lost or discarded. As a comparison, the adzes and celts in the Marks collection show far less damage from use. Of the sixteen adzes and celts, only two (12.5%) have chopping and/or cutting-edge damage. Notably, the collection also contains twelve axe or celt preforms in various stages of manufacture. The data would imply that ground stone woodworking/cutting tools were being manufactured at sites within the Love Point area of Kent Island. Fifty-eight of the woodworking/cutting tools were manufactured from basalt, which can be found as secondary boulders in the ancient fluvial deposits located nearby within the Susquehanna/Chester River geologic deposits. Six were made of diorite and two were made of quartzite, which can also be found as secondary boulders in the adjacent ancient fluvial beds.

Gorgets, pendants, and bannerstones (i.e., atlatl weights) are comparatively rare within the Marks collection. The specimens noted in the collection were either damaged and/or intentionally "killed." The collection did, however, include a fair number of notched, grooved, or drilled net-weights. Regionally, net-weights are extremely rare. These heavy tools show only slight modifications (i.e., flaked notches, inscribed grooves, or an intentionally drilled hole; like Figure 8C) to an otherwise heavy rounded boulder or cobble. As weights, these tools imply that fishing was being practiced by the prehistoric people who once settled the Love Point area. The five pestles in the Marks collection would also indicate that grown or gathered plant resources were also being processed at these site locations.

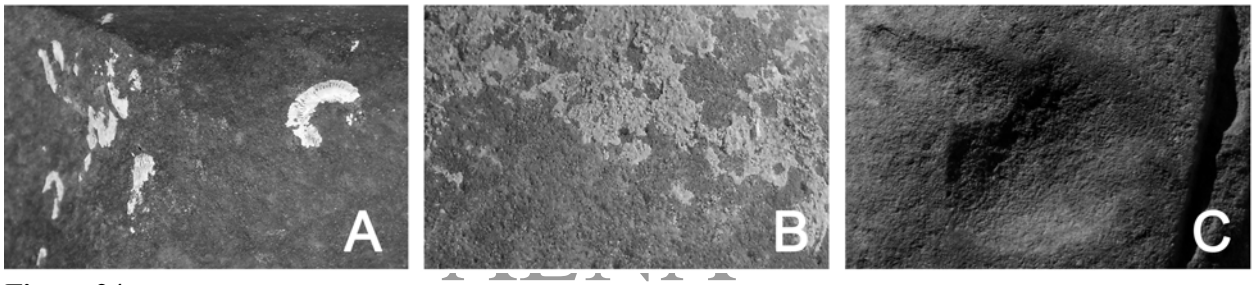

Figure 24. Distinctive surface conditions noted on some of the ground stone tools within the Marks collection. The blade edge of an axe or adze (A) has barnacle attachments on its surface. A pitted stone (B) has caliche coatings indicating it was initially embedded within a shell midden feature. A bi-pitted hammerstone (C) has two distinct deep plow scars adjacent to the depression along one face. The artifact had initially been within a surface plowzone. Note that the edges of the plow scars (C) are rounded because of abrasion. The artifact had clearly eroded from an agricultural field and been tumbled for some unknown period of time within the swash and berm zone along a shoreline.

The Marks collection included 112 pitted stones. From a regional perspective, this total is rather excessive. The pitted stones in the Marks collection show striations, wear, damage, and surface scarring indicative of several actions. Some of the depressions show linear compression damage, which would imply the pit areas may have been used as anvils for bi-polar flintknapping. Some show light focused compression damage within the depression, suggesting the depressions may have been used as support for nut processing and cracking. One pitted specimen has a flattened surface with linear striations surrounding the depression. The striated face and pit area are coated with brilliant red iron-oxide, suggesting that this specimen may have been used as a quern or muller for processing red ochre. Many of the examples are pitted on both faces and show peripheral edge damage and faceting suggesting use as hammerstones for flintknapping. The depressions on both faces may have simply been finger grasping or holding areas. The Marks collection also includes eleven rounded cobble hammerstones. Like the pitted examples, the hammerstones show repeated edge pounding damage along focused areas, which have resulted in distinct faceted surfaces. However, the hammerstones in the collection do not show any intentional pits or depressions.

A single grooved sandstone abrader (see Figure 14) is present in the Marks collection. The grooves, which are at right angles across the face of the flattened sandstone cobble, are distinctly U-shaped. The grooves are approximately one-centimeter in width and the wear patterns within each groove suggest the tool abraded soft materials, like wood and bone. The consistent and uniform depth of the grooves imply the tool may have been a shaft abrader. Shaft abraders are exceedingly rare in the archaeological record of the Delmarva Peninsula and when they are discovered, the repeated crisscrossed grooves imply these objects had a long and continuous use-life.

As mentioned in Stearns's (1943) article, most of the prehistoric vessel fragments found by young James Marks had been lost or stolen before Stearns examined his assemblage. The extant collection contains only six steatite bowl fragments and six prehistoric ceramic vessel fragments. However, these diagnostic artifacts indicate that the Love Point area was occupied through the Late Archaic period, circa 3,800 years ago, until the Late Woodland period, circa 500 years ago.

Like the flaked stone points, knives, and preforms from Love Point, the surface condition of the ground stone tools within the Marks collection provide some insights about the contexts of these discoveries. Most of the ground stone artifacts show abrasion or rounded margins, suggesting that many were found along active eroding shorelines. Two artifacts have barnacle attachments (Figure 24A), suggesting that these items were submerged or partially submerged and may have been discovered during an extreme low tide event. Three have caliche coatings (Figure 24B) indicating that the items were originally within a shell midden feature. Only four ground stone items (see Figure 4) have distinct plow marks (Figure 24C) on their surfaces. However, all show post-plow damage swash and berm zone abrasion or rounded edge margins (Figure 24C). The plow-damaged artifacts had obviously eroded from a tilled field, been displaced within the swash and berm zone, and subsequently discovered by Mr. Marks along a shoreline.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Based on the surface conditions on both the flaked and ground stone tools, James Marks found virtually all of his artifacts along the eroding shorelines near Love Point, Maryland. Collectively, these artifacts accumulated along the shoreline as a byproduct of site loss associated with erosion (see Figures 2 and 12). Having grown up on an island in the Chesapeake Bay and accumulated most of my archaeological discoveries along eroding shorelines, I can relate to Marks's technique and/or methodology of artifact recovery. As an archaeological survey methodology, Marks understood that regularized pedestrian surveys along eroding shorelines with vanishing archaeological sites can result in the discovery of conjoining fragments of artifacts (see Figures 4 and 23).

The Marks collection was amassed during the early to mid-20th century when Kent Island and Love Point were undeveloped, undiscovered, and unmolested by recent anthropogenic alterations to the landscape. The collection at that time was deemed by some scholars (see Stearns 1943) as important, worthy of documentation, and suitable for follow-up site investigations. Because no formal archaeological institution or agency existed at the time, the Love Point midden sites and their associated prehistoric assemblages were simply relegated to the obscurity of antiquated "gray" literature. Of the midden sites positioned along the shoreline margins of Love Point (see Figure 3), only 18QU29 was officially documented and given a site number after Maryland's office of archaeology was established. Between 1943 and 1992, evidence suggests that no "official" archaeologist ever revisited the midden site areas (see Figure 3) defined by Dr. Richard Stearns along the east site of Love Point. In 1976, an archaeological survey of the Chesapeake Bay coastline (see Wilke and Thompson 1977) added three more middens (18QU52, 18QU53, and 18QU54) to the inventory of prehistoric sites along the west side of Love Point.

In 1986, an eighty-four-year-old gentleman named T. Milton Oler Jr. knocked on the door of my parent's house and told my mother he would like to meet her son. Mr. Oler was an elderly member of the Maryland Natural History Society and had worked with Dr. Stearns in August of 1934 at midden sites along the Magothy River in Anne Arundel County, Maryland (Stearns 1943:20-23). Mr. Oler had heard that I had a collection of artifacts found along the eroding shorelines around Tilghman Island. On that day, he brought with him a damaged gorget that he had excavated with Stearns (ibid:Plate XVI #18) from a midden located along the west bank of Forked Creek. After several hours, we parted ways and never met again. Before departing, Mr. Oler indicated that his wife had recently passed and he greatly appreciated my family's hospitality. He insinuated that he would send me a package with some gifts. A few weeks later, a package arrived and it contained original copies of Dr. Richard Stearns' reports, which included the one published in 1943. Since it was located on the eastern shore, the Love Point summary and plates noted in Stearns' treatise attracted my attention.

Five years later in December 1991, I had been contracted by the Kent Island Heritage Society to conduct a survey to document all archaeological sites located on and around the 31.62 square miles of Kent Island, Maryland. The morning of January 6th 1992 represented the "official" start date of this project. Remembering the Stearns report, I drove to Love Point and arrived at approximately 9 AM. The sky was overcast and the temperature was slightly below freezing. With no success, I spent the first hour trying to find anyone who knew or remembered James Marks. Heading south out of the village of Love Point, I noticed a tilled farm on the west side of the highway and adjacent to the bay. I observed a gentleman milling around in the yard and stopped. His name was Walter Denny and his family had a long Kent Island legacy. He remembered the Marks family and their store (see Figure 13). He also remembered James Marks' collection. However, he told me the family had sold their property many years ago and had left the island. At that moment, I relegated the Marks collection as being forever lost. Walter Denny did give me permission to examine both his and his sister's farm for archaeological sites. One of those farms encompassed 18QU29, as well as some unrecorded midden sites (i.e., 18QU343, 18QU344, and 18QU345) once collected by James Marks and visited by Dr. Richard Stearns. As the temperatures rose above 40 degrees and the sky cleared, I walked the same shorelines and saw the same oyster middens that Marks and Stearns did over a half-a-century before. When I returned home that day, I was pleased with the first day's results.

After completing the 1992 archaeological survey of Kent Island, an additional eleven middens or former midden locations (see Lowery 1992 and 1993) were added to the inventory of prehistoric sites (i.e., 18QU315, 18QU318, 18QU343 to 18QU348, 18QU352, 18QU354, and 18QU358) located at Love Point. As Stearns did in 1943, follow-up testing and limited excavations (ibid) were conducted at two previously documented middens (i.e., 18QU29 and 18QU54). Of the original fifteen prehistoric shell middens recorded near Love Point (see Figure 2), only three remain unmolested, unaltered, ungraded, and undisturbed as a result of recent late 20th and early 21st century development. It would seem that only a select few individuals were ever concerned or even remotely interested in these prehistoric shell middens.

Years and decades went by and I never forgot the 1943 published Love Point midden summary. Twenty-eight years later on Wednesday August 12th, 2020, I received the email with the subject line entitled "*Dad's Relics*" from Dr. Harold Marks. During our initial phone conversation, Dr. Marks offered me his father's collection. He recognized my connection with the Kent Island Heritage Society and hoped that some portion of his father's collection could be displayed in the future. After receiving the collection, I told him that I would write up the legacy of James Marks and his Love Point relics. This paper has attempted to do so. In many ways I find this opportunity somewhat ironic. It was the archaeology of Love Point that began my professional career in Middle Atlantic prehistoric research, and it is the archaeology of Love Point that will end my career in Middle Atlantic prehistoric research. Mr. James Marks should be commended for his contribution to the prehistoric archaeological record of the Chesapeake Bay. May you rest in peace, sir.

REFERENCES

Denny, Emily R.
1959 *Indians of Kent Island*. Stevensville, Maryland.

Kraft, Herbert C.
1976 The Rosenkrans Site, An Adena-Related Mortuary Complex in the Upper Delaware Valley, New Jersey. *Archaeology of Eastern North America* 4:9-49.

Lowery, Darrin L.
1992 *The 1992 Archaeological Survey of Kent Island*. Manuscript on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.
1993 *A Supplementary Report of the 1992 Archaeological Survey of Kent Island*. Manuscript on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.
2009 *Geoarchaeological Investigations at Selected Coastal Archaeological Sites along the Delmarva Peninsula: The Long-Term Interrelationship between Climate, Geology, and Culture.* Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of Geology, University of Delaware.
2010 Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Bay Hundred District within Talbot County, Maryland. Manuscript on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.
2020 Making the Most of Chance Submerged Finds: Offshore and Inshore. *Archaeology of Eastern North America*, 48: 1-22.
2021 *Legacy of a Vanished Island Landscape: The Story of Sharps Island (18TA446), Maryland*. Erosion and Archaeological Research Series Monograph #5, Chesapeake Watershed Archaeological Research Foundation, Tilghman, Maryland.

Moeller, Roger W.
1980 *6LF21: A Paleo-Indian Site in Western Connecticut, Occasional Paper Number 2*. American Indian Archaeological Institute. Washington, Connecticut.

Stearns, Richard
1943 *Some Indian Villages of Tidewater Maryland.* Natural History Society Proceeding No. 9, Baltimore, Maryland.

Wilke, S. and Thompson, G.
1977 *Prehistoric Archeological Resources in the Maryland Coastal Zone*. Manuscript on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.