

OUR HERITAGE

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Very Early Lancaster County Artifacts

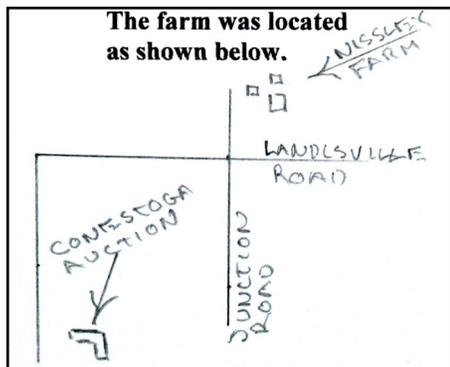


The Indian artifacts pictured above were all found in in the Manheim area. They were catalogued many years ago by Dr. Herbert Beck, director of the museum at Franklin and Marshall College. According to Dr. Beck, they represent periods in the Indian culture of 7000 B.C. to 1600 A.D. Our Ensminger Library has a copy of Dr. Beck's full artifacts report.

The Indian artifact (knife) pictured below was found on the Nissley Farm by Edward Joline when he was a young boy.



2 7/8 long



The farm was located as shown below.

Years ago, Manheim had a few collectors of Indian artifacts who searched the land for the ancient treasures. Francis Stormfeltz; Dad Myers; Elmer (Buggs) Engle; Richard (Dick) Graybill and Jay Blecker were those known to this writer. The two artifacts pictured below were found by Jay Blecker. The granite axe head is an exceptionally fine specimen and the smaller artifact Jay believed was formed for the purpose of smoothing and polishing arrow shafts. One side and the larger end are concaved. Jay considered the smaller item a very rare Indian artifact.



3" x 5"



1" x 1-1/2"

The three jasper arrow points pictured below were found at Washington Borough and are so marked with white letters. They are from a major collection of Lancaster County Indian artifacts.





Rhyolite Spear Point 4" long. The point was found in the McCall's Ferry area, Lancaster County.



Ancient Rhyolite Spear Point 3⁵/₈" long
Lower Susquehanna River Area



Pestle, 2³/₈ x 13"

The above pestle was formed from a river rock by a method known as pecking. The pecking process created a rough surface for grinding nuts, seed, etc. Above the label and to the right of it can be seen what most of the pestle's pecked surface looks like. The pestle was found in the Falmouth, Lancaster County area.



Black Chert

Bainbridge



Black Chert

Long Level



Washington Boro

Made in Manheim

The two cookie cutters pictured below were handed down in an early Manheim family. We know that at one time they were in the possession of a member of the Ensminger Family but, unfortunately, we do not know if they were made by Samuel Ensminger in his tinsmith shop or by one of the other Manheim tinsmiths. We do know that they are considered exceptional in size and form.



4⁵/₈" x 8¹/₂"



Elephant, 5" x 7"