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During the last few months, there have been several widely known collectors that have passed. Some of you may have known them, Don Ham, Floyd Ritter, and Lonnie Hartline. These long-time collectors were always willing to help mentor younger collectors to meet other collectors and/or acquire relics that they may not be aware were available.

Don Ham from North Carolina authored "Birth of a Culture" which showcased artifacts that he had acquired during his life. He was always welcoming younger collectors into his house or appreciated being invited to visit other's collections.

Floyd Ritter from Illinois was a collector that had many interests beyond artifacts. Floyd was also a collector of guns, knives and most everything a man could want. To go to Floyd's house was a treat. Artifacts that never went to a show, were handled, and drooled over.

I had a very close relationship with Lonnie Hartline from Oklahoma and considered him a mentor to me. I would go to his house and spend hours handling artifacts and learning from his experience, things to look for and things to avoid. After handling artifacts for hours, we would go fishing or artifact hunting for the rest of the day. For several years we would go to Texas to screen for artifacts along with other collectors that he would introduce me to.

Another mentor to me was Dick Savidge from Pennsylvania. At the first show that I displayed artifacts, I had a few frames of relics that I had collected from Arkansas & Oklahoma. There wasn't much real interest since it was a Pennsylvania show. It was Dick that came over to my table and asked me to tell him about what I had. This started a long relationship that I cherished, again being guided on my path of collecting. Dick always had a box of bannerstones that he would bring over to me to see if I might want to add to my collection. Whatever he brought with him was usually sold within minutes after my selection.

I've had opportunities to visit other long-time collectors and passed on the opportunity due to schedule, kids, or just things. I regret not having made the connections as many have passed within a few years. It is through these mentors that you can learn the intricacies of collecting of which you may not have been aware. Most long-time collectors enjoy the visitation as they may not have as many opportunities to enjoy the hunt as when they were younger.

In reflecting on the nature of these relationships I've been fortunate to have, I think it's important to try to find that common ground within the world of collecting that allows the passing of knowledge. New collectors want to learn, and experienced collectors do have a wealth of knowledge to be shared. If possible, be a mentor to younger collectors coming into the hobby.

Damon

# Three Atlatls

By John M. Selmer

Over the years, I thought it would be nice to have an atlatl (aka spear thrower) display in my collection. Atlatls act as a lever to help propel the dart through the air with more accuracy and force than you can by just using your arms. Atlatls consist of three (3) components: a handle, a bannerstone/weight, and a hook/spur. The components are fastened together on a wood shaft with a binding agent and lashing. The wood shaft is almost never found because it is highly perishable, and it decays away over time. The antler and bone components are almost as rare. The bannerstone/weights are found more often because they are stone, but they are still not common. Figure 1 is from the *Texas Beyond History* website and illustrates the different components of the atlatl and dart. Not all atlatls had separate handles. Many times, the handle/grip was built right into the wooden shaft as shown in the figure.

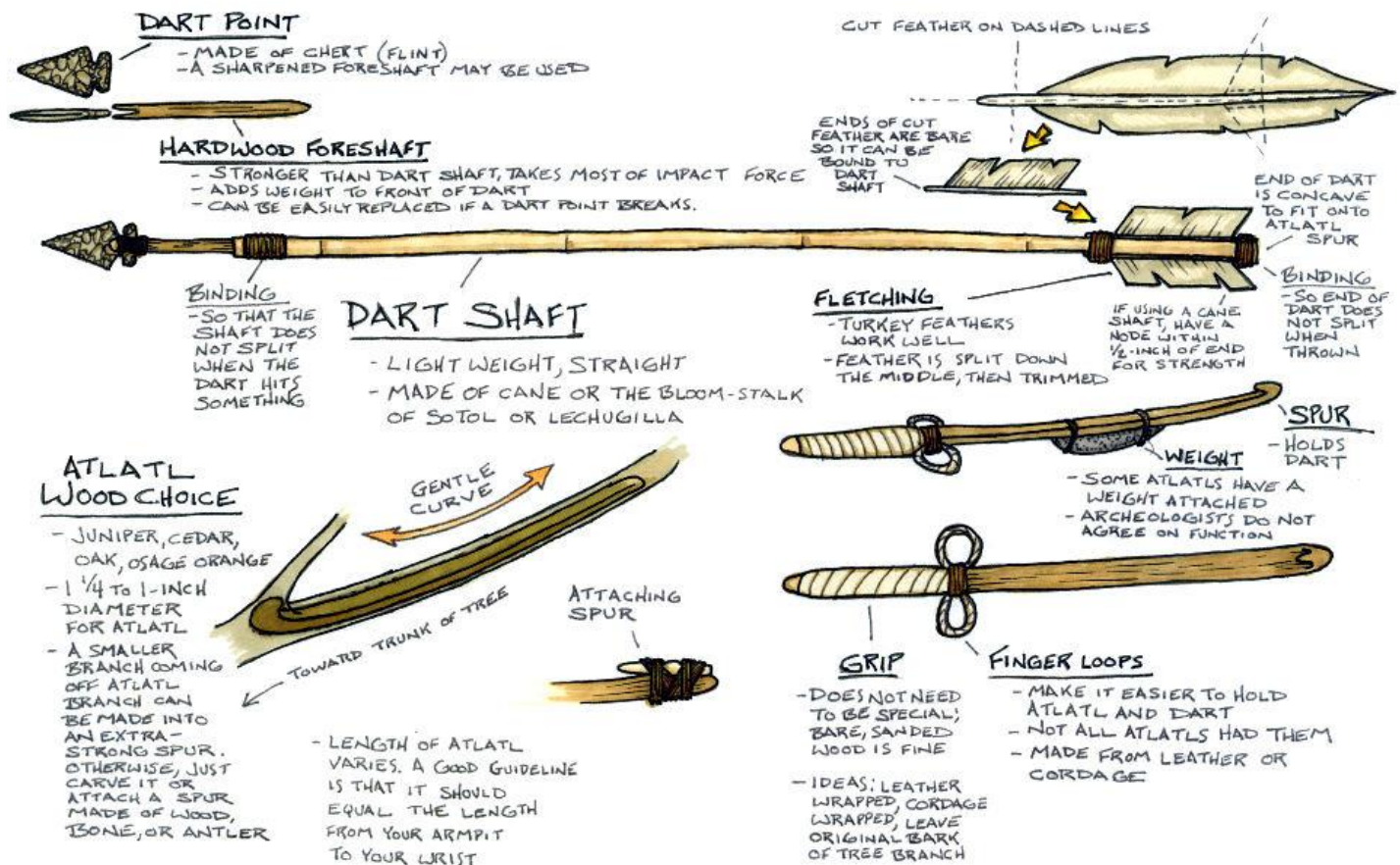


Figure 1. Atlatl and Dart Components (Drawing by Jack Johnson)

Associated or related atlatl sets (where each component was found at the same site at the same time) are extremely rare and tend to be pricey. I've bid on a few atlatl sets at auctions but I never felt comfortable going all in to be the high bidder. I always had a nagging suspicion the set may have been married together at some point in time (where each component was found at a separate site and maybe even by different finders) and that information was lost as the atlatl moved from collection to collection. Even if it was a married set, I always thought the atlatls looked great as a display and that they were educational. Eventually that got me to thinking maybe I could put together a married set for a more affordable price. So I set out to find the three components which would complement each other in a display frame. And, of course, one set turned into three sets... Figure 2 displays the three atlatls in the Selmer collection.



**Figure 2. Atlatls (Spear Throwers)**

The three antler handles on the left side of the picture were found by Art Gerber at the Crib Mound in Spencer County, Indiana and are pictured in his book: *The Art Gerber Story - A Lifetime of Collecting Along the Ohio River*. They are from the Archaic cultural period (8000 to 1000 BC). The top handle is 3-1/8 inches long and has a touch of old wood putty restoration at the base. Art's handwritten collection catalog number is AG.SB76. The middle handle is 3 inches long and Art's collection number is AG.SB377. The bottom handle is 3 inches long and Art's collection number is AG.SB372.

The hardstone bannerstone with heavy caliche deposits at the top center is a personal find of mine from a private ranch in New Mexico. It was found at a Basketmaker site (1500 BC to 750 AD) and is 2-7/8 inches long. The well-defined drilled and grooved claystone atlatl weight at the middle center is from the Western Archaic cultural period (8000 BC to as late as 1000 AD) and is 2-3/4 inches long. It was found near The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon along the Columbia River by Charles Hall in the mid-1960s. It was previously in the Tom Gingerich collection. This particular atlatl weight is one of only two known examples of this type. The pinkish brown granite loafstone at the bottom center is from the Archaic cultural period and it is 2-7/16 inches long. It was found in Stewart County, Tennessee. It is a panel bannerstone which was anciently salvaged into a loafstone. After the bannerstone broke length-wise along the hole in ancient times, it was smoothed out along the edges of the break and then deeply grooved around the center to facilitate its attachment to the wood shaft. It was then tied onto the atlatl like a loafstone. It was previously in the Brandon Vanderver collection.

The Archaic antler hook/spur at the top right was found in Davidson County, Tennessee and was previously in the Fred Geyer collection. This hook/spur is a rare style and has some minor ancient damage to the back end. It is 1-7/8 inches long. The finely crafted bone Western Archaic atlatl hook/spur at the middle right was found on the Washington/Oregon border. It is 1-1/8 inches long and was previously in the Dwight Wolfe collection. The Archaic antler tine atlatl hook at the bottom right was found at the Crow Site on the west side of the Green River in McLean County, Kentucky by Donny Beumel. It is a classic atlatl hook and is completely intact with no damage. The cut and grooved lashing area at the socket for

attachment to the wood shaft is unique. Based on the descriptions in David Lutz's book: *The Archaic Bannerstone, Its Chronology and Purpose From 6000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.*, I believe this hook is the "Indian Knoll" type. It is 5-1/16 inches long. It was previously in the David and Aaron Kilander collection.

In the future it would be nice to have an atlatl set in my collection which wasn't married like these three sets but in the meantime, I will enjoy what I have. I really, really like all of them. They are awesome.

References:

- 1-Gerber, Arthur Joseph, *The Art Gerber Story - A Lifetime of Collecting Along the Ohio River*, Photocraft, Inc., 2007, pages 252 and 253.
- 2-<https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net>
- 3-Lutz, David L., *The Archaic Bannerstone, Its Chronology and Purpose From 6000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.*, Hynek Printing, 2000, pages 44 - 50.

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### I HAVE TO BELIEVE THEY'RE RELATED by Gary L. Fogelman

I'm not sure of the exact year but it was in the late 1970's or early 1980's when I made an interesting find on one of my 'backwater' sites. Most of my sites were river sites and they produced the most, and varied, artifacts in form, color, and cultures. It makes sense as the big waterways were traversed by everyone. I also hunted some sites along some of the feeder streams such the Chillesquaque and the Big and Little Muncy creeks. Some of these I don't remember how I found, perhaps through word of mouth but, back then farmers turned their fields every spring and some I'm sure I discovered simply by stopping and checking them out.

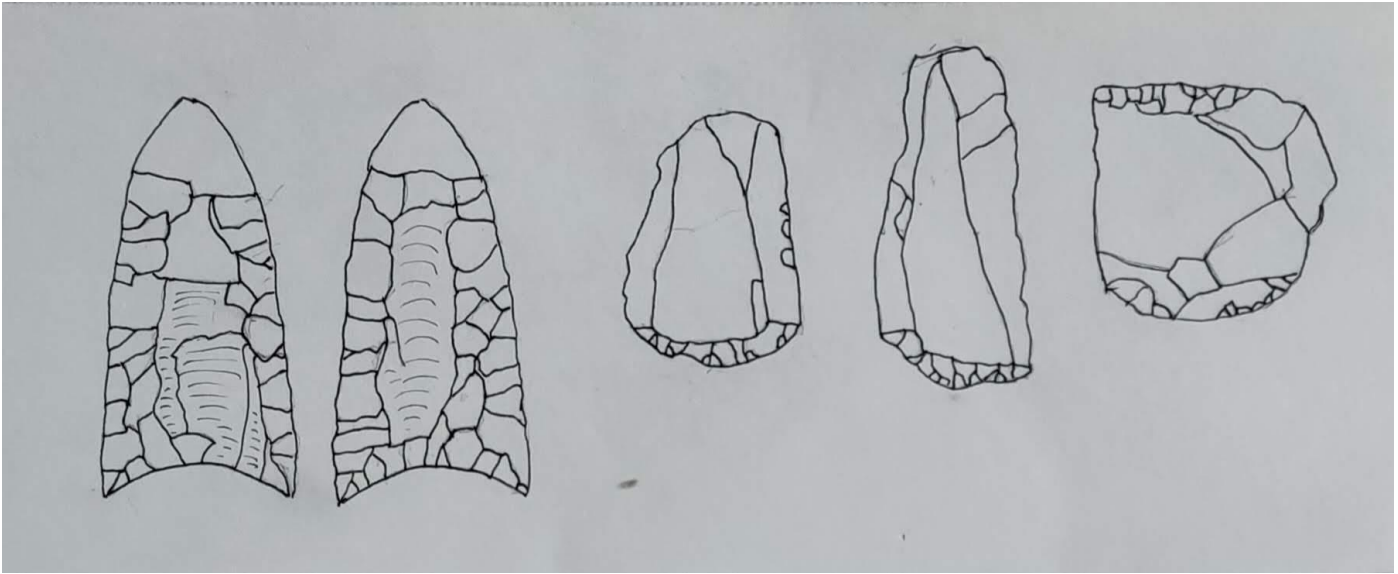
This may have been the case with the McClain Site (36LY188) on the Little Muncy Creek. The Little Muncy curls and weaves its way through the terrain until eventually joining with the Big Muncy between Clarkstown and Muncy. The McClain Site isn't hard to find or recognize that it may have been a place where early people would have camped. At this spot the Little Muncy comes out of the foothills and flows towards a prominent ridge where it is rebuffed and flows along the base of the ridge for a short time. It then curls back and makes a loop and then loops again as it's forced between ridges until finally finding its way to the Big Muncy. In this first loop sits a prominent hilltop that virtually begs to be checked out. So, I did, and it was immediately evident that earlier people had indeed used the place. I found that there were some Archaic form points to be found there, though not in great abundance. The presence of Archaic styles is the dominant feature on all these backwater sites. The presence of earlier and later cultures, while sometimes evident, are scant and sporadic.

However, it was on one of these earlier hunts that I picked up what at first seemed to be a big Levanna triangle. A closer look would reveal that it was much more. It turned out to be a triangular fluted point that would fall into the Redstone category, i.e., a triangular fluted point widest at the base with an acute tip. Interestingly, for a southern type found more in the Alabama/Tennessee region, this specimen was made of blue Upper Mercer flint from Ohio. Shortly after recovering the Redstone point, my access to the site was curtailed. After that the site was left to go to grass and I haven't seen it turned over since the early 1980's. I gave it a drive-by every year just hoping.

The hoping paid off this spring as on my annual drive-by, I noticed that the field had been plowed over. I was also pleasantly surprised when I saw a young man working on his farming equipment there and stopped by to see what the situation was. I introduced myself and explained that years ago I walked

the hilltop looking for arrowheads and asked if I might still be allowed to do so. When he said "I don't know why not" I was overjoyed, as you might expect.

The Redstone point was missing a bit of the tip which could have been from farming practices as it exhibited a snap-type break and not an impact fracture. I hoped against hope that, perhaps, at some time, I might recover the tip, but beyond that, I wondered if there could be more Paleo material there. And, indeed, there was. During my fourth visit back, after a decent rain, I recovered two very interesting endscrapers. One is a beautiful, classic Paleo form made from blue Upper Mercer Flint and the other, while being a bit more clumsy, is made from exotic material and very much akin to a grayish brown Coshocton.



Over the years, I kept maps of the sites where I plotted my finds to see where the bulk of the finds occurred. I went back to the map to plot some recent finds, including six Archaic points, and it was then I noticed that years ago I made note of another Coshocton endscraper. When I located the piece in the frame, it was also blue Upper Mercer. Back then, Coshocton and Upper Mercer were lumped together. The above drawings show the four pieces found. They were recovered over a considerable area of the site, so it seems very early folk inhabited the area for a while. What the terrain looked like at that time and how these pieces made their way to Little Muncy Creek, apparently from Ohio, would be interesting to know. Of course, I plan to visit the site again when conditions are conducive and look forward to other potential Paleo period finds.

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### Paul P. "Pete" Hanzlick Jr.

21 - THE PH ASSEMBLAGE - 36LH



It is with great sadness we inform you of Pete's passing on June 19, 2022 (age 75). Pete worked for Crest Flooring in Allentown for 31 years prior to retiring in 2019. He was an avid Philadelphia Eagles and Cincinnati Reds fan. He also was a prolific Native American artifact collector in Lehigh County, PA. Over the course of 30 years, he collected thousands of artifacts and tools. He has nine personal find fluted artifacts pictured in the Fogelman's *The Pennsylvania Fluted Point Survey*. Condolences to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

## At the Corning, NY Show 2022

### The Ellsworth C. Cowles 'Red Bird' Birdstone

Tim Tuttle has a wonderful red banded slate birdstone in his collection which was originally found around 1912 while workers were digging a sand trap at the Shepard Hills Golf Course in Waverly, NY in Tioga County. Mr. Cowles acquired the birdstone shortly after it was discovered when he was only 12 years old. It stayed in his collection until 1990. Tim spent years searching for it and was able to track it down in 2017 when he was able to acquire it. The golf course is only 30 miles from Tim's house.

On the right is a picture of Dick Cowles (seated and 98 years young) and Kurt Cowles (standing) who are Ellsworth's son and grandson visiting the birdstone at the Corning, NY show. You can read more details about the birdstone in the article Tim wrote for the *Central States Archaeological Journal*, Volume 68, July 2021, Number 3.



*I'm very grateful to John Selmer for providing the photos and stories from the Corning Show. There were many memorable moments throughout the day but, the details surrounding the Ellsworth Cowles birdstone are a great example of how an artifact or collection can connect a family through the years. John has often mentioned, and rightly so, how important it is to preserve the history and background of a piece not just for the current owner but also future collectors.*

*Editor*

## Corning Show 2022



At the show, awards were given out- Gary Fogelman received an appreciation award for all the years being the publisher & editor of Indian Artifact Magazine and for being a mentor to so many collectors.

Dean Thomas- Historic artifacts

Pam & Steve Fleck- Family and personal finds

Jim & Carolyn Bowles- quartz artifacts

Mike Bauman- Slate, cache, and large knives

Bob Hiler for his personal finds

Derek Prindle for his ancient New York Pipes

**7 TH ANNUAL  
BERKS COUNTY PA  
I.A.C.A.N.E.  
INDIAN RELIC  
SHOW**

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# IACANE SHOWS FOR 2023

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### MARYSVILLE RELIC SHOW

Marysville Lions Club  
Route 11/15, 15 Park Drive, Marysville, PA 17053

**Saturday APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Damon Thayer 410-490-7411

E-mail: [tandainc@aol.com](mailto:tandainc@aol.com)

### INDIAN STEPS MUSEUM SHOW

Indian Steps Museum  
205 Indian Steps Rd, Airville, PA 17302

**TBD**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Adam Amspacher 717-479-6921

E-mail: [Adam.Amspacher@gmail.com](mailto:Adam.Amspacher@gmail.com)

### LEHIGH VALLEY RELIC SHOW

Schnecksville Fire Company  
4550 Old Packhouse Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078

**Saturday JULY 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Roy Knieriem 215-416-7438

E-mail: [rknieriemjr@gmail.com](mailto:rknieriemjr@gmail.com)

### ROASTING EARS OF CORN FESTIVAL

Museum of Indian Culture  
2825 Fish Hatchery Road, Allentown, PA 18103

**AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

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### CORNING, NY RELIC SHOW

Crystal City VFW Post 524  
281 Baker Street, Corning, NY 14830

**Saturday SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Tim Tuttle 419-343-9412

E-mail: [Tecumsehtj@aol.com](mailto:Tecumsehtj@aol.com)

### BERKS COUNTY RELIC SHOW

Leesport Farmers Market  
312 Gernants Church Road, Leesport, PA 19533

**\*\*SUNDAY\*\* OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Roy Knieriem 215-416-7438

E-mail: [rknieriemjr@gmail.com](mailto:rknieriemjr@gmail.com)

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- I'll retrieve on-line version myself.

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