

# Stone, Pearce and Griffiths – Curious Crazes

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### **1–3 - Oxo tins used as containers for flints**

Containing flints found at Velwell Farm, Rattery, Yalland Farm and Beer Head

“What can be more delightful... than hunting for pre-historic man’s flint implements?” This is how Captain Stone described his hobby in the Moorside Mercury in November 1926. Luckily for modern archaeologists he took his hobby seriously. The tins have notes indicating where flints came from and when they were collected.

F.H.S. Stone Collection

### **4 - Captain Stone’s illustration of ‘celts’ from Frittiscombe**

1932

Pen, ink and watercolour

### **5 - Flint pick**

6,000–11,000 years old

Found at Frittiscombe, near Slapton

F.H.S. Stone Collection

## **6 - Flint axehead**

4,000–6,000 years old

Found at Frittiscombe, near Slapton

Captain Stone sketched these tools shortly after they were ploughed up in 1932. At that time stone axes were sometimes referred to as 'celts'. In fact the tool on the left is a pick used by hunter-gatherer people shortly after the end of the ice ages. On the right is a polished flint axe used by farming people some 4,000 years later.

F.H.S. Stone Collection

## **7 - Captain Stone's sketchbook with illustration of axe from Yalland Farm**

1932

Pen, ink and watercolour

## **8 - Flint pick**

6,000–11,000 years old

Found at Yalland Farm, Dartmoor

Captain Stone noted this find with great excitement: "I saw in a moment what it was, one of the finest implements that I had got on the edge of the 'Moor', the find must be called Mr Smerdon's as he first picked it up and on his land too."

F.H.S. Stone Collection

## **9 - Captain Stone's sketchbook**

Pen, ink and watercolour

One page shows a group of surface finds from Beer Head, Devon.

F.H.S. Stone Collection

## **10–12 - Flint scrapers**

4,000–6,000 years old

Found at Beer Head, East Devon

These roughly flaked scrapers were picked up by Stone's son on a flint-hunting trip to Beer Head. They helped him identify the source for flint used for some of the tools he found in Devon.

"I have often wondered when out in the fields hunting for flint ... where pre-historic man got the fine black & grey flint to make the said implements from as I knew of none near this part."

F.H.S. Stone Collection

### **13-15 - Flint microliths**

6,000–11,000 years old

Found at Dalwood and Stockland, East Devon

It takes a beady eye to see such tiny slivers of flint in a field. Microliths were fitted into wood or bone handles to make tools or hunting weapons.

Nan Pearce Collection

### **16-18 - Leaf-shaped flint arrowheads**

5,000–6,000 years old

Found at Stockland, East Devon

Flint arrowheads were used by the first farming peoples and are found all over the East Devon countryside. The number of such finds suggests that hunting remained an important activity even after people started growing their own crops and raising stock.

Nan Pearce Collection

## **19-20 - Barbed and tanged flint arrowheads**

3,500–4,500 years old

Found at Stockland, East Devon

These arrowheads are the characteristic hunting tool of the Bronze Age. Flint was still used for arrowheads, despite the fact that other tools, such as axes, were being made from metal.

Nan Pearce Collection

## **21 - Flint adze, axe or pick**

6,000–11,000 years old

Found at Stockland, East Devon

Nan Pearce has found unusually high numbers of microliths and axes at a site near Stockland. These tools were used by people living after the end of the ice ages and suggest that they set up camp in the area.

Nan Pearce Collection

## **22 - Smith and Beck's Student's Microscope, No. 752**

1850s

The compound microscope opened up a whole new world to the enquiring Victorian naturalist. Those who could afford such an instrument were privy to “never before seen” images. This particular style of microscope came highly recommended by William Benjamin Carpenter in his book *The Microscope: and its Revelations* (1856).

## **23 - Microscope slide preparations of lower plants**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century

Taken from a 28-drawer cabinet of natural science slides, this drawer includes many by professional 'preparators', some of whom were awarded medals for the excellence of their work. Slides could be purchased from dealers who specialised in microscopy or directly through advertisements in natural history magazines.

## **24 - Sea beech**

*Delesseria sanguinea*

Collected in Torbay, Devon

The common name of this red seaweed comes from its resemblance to a leafy shoot of beech leaves. It is commonly found on both coasts of Devon in shady rock pools and below the low tide mark.

## **25 - Algae Danmonienses, Volume 4**

Mary Wyatt

Mary Wyatt worked for Mrs Griffiths. She learned how to identify and prepare seaweed specimens and applied her knowledge in *Algae Danmonienses* which was published in four volumes, plus a supplement.



## **26 - Setaceous Griffithsia or woolly halurus**

*Halurus flosculosus*

From Torbay, Devon

When Mary Wyatt prepared this volume, this species was referred to as *Griffithsia setacea*. It was named for Mrs Amelia Griffiths by the Swedish botanist, Carl Adolph Agardh. However, this name is no longer accepted as it had already been named *Conferva flosculosa* in 1778. Recently it was moved to the genus *Halurus*.

## **27 - Pepper dulse**

*Osmundea pinnatifida*

From the coast of Devon, probably Torquay

This plant is the pepper dulse which features as a spicy ingredient in Scottish cooking.