INDIAN VALLEY FIELD

by

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This field is located on Raccoon Creek, just one mile west of the village of Zaleski, in Vinton County, Ohio. This terrace along Raccoon Creek is just above the flood plain, located on the eastern edge of the Zaleski flint deposits. From here, Raccoon Creek, which flows in a general southern direction toward its final destination of the Ohio River, turns a mile wide bend, where it flows north past the village of Zaleski toward Lake Hope, where it turns east again and eventually south toward the Ohio River. My friends and I call this place Indian Valley. It is at this bend in Raccoon Creek just south west of the village of Zaleski that the Zaleski flint goes under drainage. This is the eastern extent of the Zaleski flint vein. Just one mile east of the village of Zaleski the Upper Brush Creek Chert crops in the top of the ridges. One and a half miles south east of this site the Zaleski flint crops at its thickest across its entire field of extent. Also, less than two miles west of this site the Vanport ore, flint and limestone crop on the western side of the ridge. I also believe that this terrace is located in such a place that the game was drawn to this location and the pre-historic inhabitants didn’t have to go very far on hunts for game. Thus, the stage is set for the drawing of the Indians that occupied Indian Valley.

All of the above artifacts were found in the 1980’s and all were found in the same field. Material wise this collection is fairly typical of materials found in this part of Ohio. Zaleski black and gray flint being the most predominate. The larger artifacts being made of Zaleski flint. Local Vanport flint being the second most predominate. The remaining artifacts being made of local geological Brush Creek Chert (heat treated and natural), Flint Ridge, Carter Cave Flint, Jasper and Glacial Flint. The unusual material for this area is the Gray Coshocton flint found in the two projectiles directly above the hammer stone on the right side of the photo. The light gray football shaped object in the lower left corner is a sea shell fossil made of limestone. The broken piece of ceramic pipe located in the central portion of the bottom is probably from the grist mill that was located on the site. Please note that this site is presently covered with houses and is no longer plowed.