

# The Flint Nodule

*The essay "The Chisel Stone" should be read first for a better understanding.*



## WIKIPEDIA: Flint

Flint is a sedimentary cryptocrystalline form of the mineral quartz that occurs in chalk or marly limestone. Flint was widely used historically to make stone tools and start fires. It occurs chiefly as nodules and masses in sedimentary rocks.

Flint breaks and chips into sharp-edged pieces, making it useful for knife blades and other cutting tools. The use of flint to make stone tools dates back hundreds of thousands of years.

During the Stone Age, access to flint was so important for survival that people would travel or trade to obtain flint. Flint Ridge in Ohio was an important source of flint and Native Americans extracted the flint from hundreds of quarries along the ridge. This "Ohio Flint" was traded across the eastern United States and has been found as far west as the Rocky Mountains and south around the Gulf of Mexico.

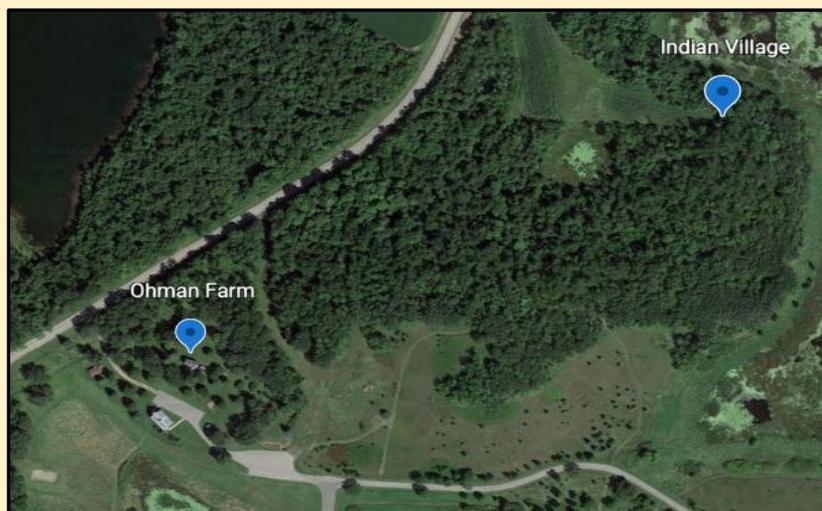
When struck against steel, flint will produce enough sparks to ignite a fire with the correct tinder, "flint" has lent its name as generic term for a fire starter.

I have searched numerous farm fields since the late 1960s for Indian relics, frequently discovering pottery, arrowheads, knife blades, hide scrapers, and broken stone tools. The same gray flint that makes up the Flint Nodule is the chosen stone material for toolmaking in Minnesota. Before discovering this Flint Nodule in the fall of 2022, I had never found one at an Indian habitation site. The Flint Nodule didn't hold much interest, so I merely put it away to examine it later.



The Flint arrowheads/knife blades are made from the same type of gray-colored flint as the Flint Nodule. (*Artifacts from my collection.*)

The Flint Nodule was found on private property, just north of Runestone Park, next to a cornfield under the shade of trees where only sparse vegetation grew. It was a surface find discovered on black soil and void of any other lithic material other than this 2-pound 2 oz. Flint Nodule and a few feet away 3-pound 7 oz granite Chisel Stone. (*Essay: [The Chisel Stone](#)*). This part of the field has not plowed for several years. I believe the plowing brought both stones to the surface. The stones were found at the site of the Indian village the 1362 Expedition spent time. Just west of the village site were probably Indian mounds plowed over about a hundred years ago. Indian mounds are typically located next to a village.

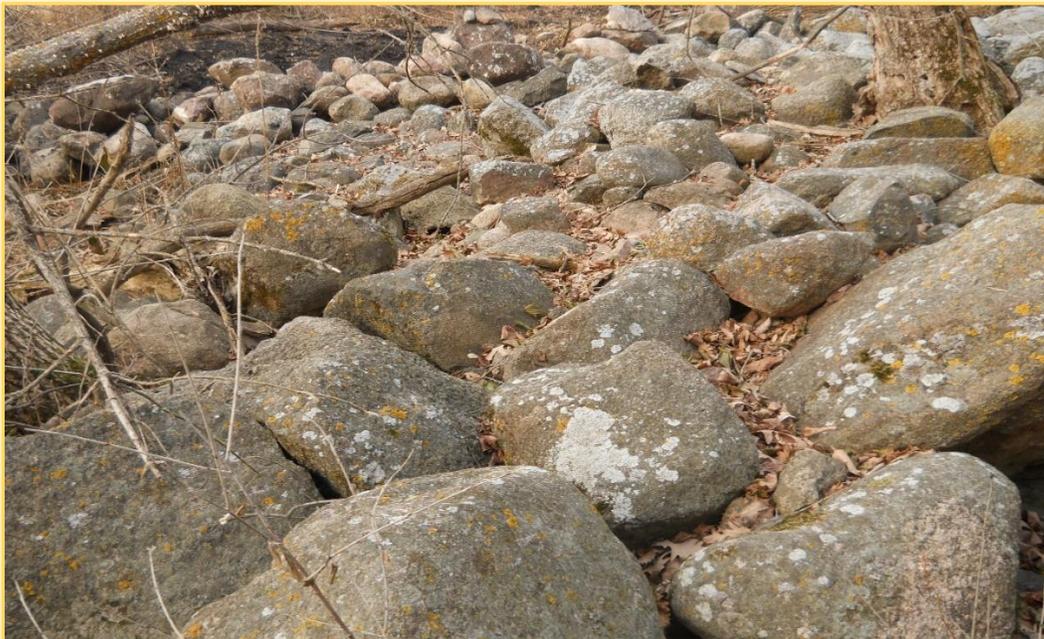


The Flint Nodule was found at about the GPS coordinates:  
**45.815380, -95.665714**

I got to inspect the Flint Nodule a few weeks after discovery. It was cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner with detergent for several hours at the time, I thought the Indians would be making tools from this Flint Nodule. Flint nodules would typically be broken into smaller fragments by the toolmaker by smashing them between two boulders. Then making arrowheads, knife blades, hide scrapers, etc. out of the flint fragments using the Pressure Flacking technique. (YouTube: [Pressure Flacking](#))

During the last glacial period, which ended about 12.000 years ago, the Flint Nodule was transported here by the glacial ice sheet. Along with boulders, rocks, stones, pebbles, etc., and deposited on the Minnesota landscape. All have the same surface wear, that can be seen in the photo.

This glacial smooth wear is seen on most of the Flint Nodule surfaces. But I observed something peculiar about the wear on the surface. The Flint Nodule contained some areas with newer surface wear. I next used a magnifying glass to look at the areas where small chips had been removed. No smooth glacial wear was present. They appeared new and fresh, not worn smooth.



Along the base of Runestone Hill are glacial rocks and boulders that came from the clearing of the land on Runestone Hill.

The newly removed chips could not have been made by natural forces but by human hands. Therefore, striking it with another stone was pointless because doing so would remove tiny chips that would be unusable for any tool. I then understood a steel chisel that inscribed the grooves in the Chisel Stone could also create sparks and fire by striking this Flint Nodule.



While conducting research for the essay Claim Stones. I obtained an early medieval steel chisel from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, which is presumably comparable to the 14<sup>th</sup>-century chisel used by the Expedition. I then conducted a cutting-edge scientific experiment! I clutched the Flint Nodule in one hand and held the thousand-year-old medieval steel chisel in the other hand and struck the chisel on the Flint Nodule. The results "**SPARKS.**" (Still working after 660 plus years!) So, this Flint Nodule was not used for making stone tools but intended to create **Sparks** that could ignite a **Fire.**

(YouTube: [How heathens make fire with FIRESTEEL](#))





## The Flint Nodule Hypothesis

The Indians saw this steel chisel as "**Magical**," in the eyes of the Indians. Performing feats, they had never witnessed before. There is a high probability the Kensington Runestone was cut from a slab of sandstone and inscribed on this Indian village site that is a ten-minute walk to Runestone Hill. The Expedition's members doing the sandstone cutting and inscription would have an audience. They probably would show the curious onlookers that hitting this "**Magical**" steel chisel against the Flint Nodule with would create **Sparks** that could ignite a **Fire**.

The Flint Nodule and Chisel Stone, found next to one another, had come into contact with a steel chisel. Something only the Expedition possessed.

**The Flint Nodule, Chisel Stone, Indian Village Site, Kensington Runestone, and the 1362 Expedition are all associated with each other.**

## The Flint Nodule is Definitely Associated with the 1362 Expedition

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