The writer firmly believes that human beings wandered through these sections previous to the period when the North American Indian is supposed to have made his appearance. Whether these were the direct ancestors of the Indian or belonged to a distinct race that was exterminated is a moot point. It also seems plausible that some of the artifacts found in this region and attributed to the Indian were actually the work of much more ancient man. The fact that the Indian was still in the Stone Age culture when America was discovered may have led to this confusion. Some anthropologists are inclined to ascribe some of the stone artifacts so plentifully found in this region to an earlier, more primitive civilization. The whole question is an open one and existing data do not warrant dogmatic statements either pro or con. The matter is mentioned here solely for the purpose of suggesting that future observers may keep the problem in mind and be on the outlook for evidence.

In this connection a quotation from an article by A. F. Berlin, who was one of the most active anthropological investigators of the region, is pertinent. He found on Jeter (then called Lehigh) Island great numbers of artifacts. Of these he attributed nearly all to the North American Indian, but among them he found some that he regarded as older and properly classed as "Paleoliths."

"Paleoliths.—It will be proper to mention here first those rude objects of stone, which in the past have created and at the present time are causing so much attention. I succeeded after careful search in picking up, at different times from the surface eight of these implements, nor was I fortunate in obtaining any where the sand-diggers worked. I also watched carefully at the sand-wash but found none there. I infer from this that they are very rare on this island. Six of the objects found were made of quartzite, the seventh of yellow jasper. All represent the forms of the river-drift implements from England and France, as well as those discovered by Dr. C. C. Abbott in the gravel at Trenton. . . . Although rudely made, secondary chipping is shown plainly along the edges, from which one is compelled to infer that they were finished implements." (p. 13.) *

Indian Occupation

The region now embraced in Lehigh County, when first visited by white men, was sparsely occupied by the Lenni-Lenape (usually shortened to Lenape) or Delaware Indians, a branch of the Algonkians. According to their traditions they came from the west. This idea is in accord with the prevailing belief that the American Indian is of Mongolian ancestry and entered the continent by way of Bering Strait. From thence over a long period of years they spread throughout North, Central, and South America.

The Lenape Indians were divided into three tribes, two of which shared this area, with the limits of their respective claims indefinite. The southern division, the Unami, whose totem was the turtle and accordingly known as the Turtle Tribe, claimed the territory from what is now northern Delaware to the Lehigh River, or according to other beliefs to Kittatinny (Blue) Mountain. The Minsi tribe, with the wolf as their totem, occupied the headwaters of the Delaware and Lehigh rivers.