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EXPLORATORY EXCAVATIONS AT FORT SPOKANE
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by

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EARTHENWARE

Only twelve fragments of earthenware were found. These included six without decoration, two decorated, two ale bottle fragments, one crockery fragment and one piece showing the hand of small human figure. The earthenware all appears to be of English origin. One of the decorated fragments is a portion of a Willow pattern plate. The earthenware hand probably is from a miniature figure playing the accordion. The color of the hand is pink. The scarcity of earthenware here would mean that there was little of it used in comparison to the more common Chinese porcelain. The exportation of porcelain was in full bloom long before the founding of this fort. The exportation of English earthenware was in its infancy in the early part of the nineteenth century.

CLAY PIPES

Nine fragments of clay pipes were uncovered. Two of these were bowls, one with a marking which unfortunately could not be read. The remainder were pieces of broken stems.

GLASS

Only eighteen fragments of glass were found. These included window glass, dark green rum bottle and a small piece of a glass tumbler.

TRADE BEADS

Thirty six beads of ten different types were found. Beads were one of the major items of trade in the Pacific Northwest. Blue beads especially were considered the most valuable. At Fort Spokane the blue pony bead measuring about one eighth inch in diameter was the most common. All beads were either blue or white in color. None of those found were similar to the ones at Fort Vancouver. Beads were all hand made and came from far away Italy, from the little town of Murano, just outside Venice. Beads are valuable as a means of determining the age of sites because the change in bead fashions is fairly well known. However, in the case of Fort Spokane, beads are dated by the site and this information will be valuable as more archeological work is done at historic trading posts, especially where the period of occupation was short as at this site.

METAL OBJECTS

Hand wrought square nails were the most common metal objects found. In all, seventy parts or whole nails were cataloged. All of these were slightly different in method of manufacture from those found at Fort Vancouver, some being flat rather than square. The heads of those from Fort Spokane were usually larger and more flattened.

Two broken two-tined iron forks (Fig. 1, A) came to light in the southeastern portion of the interior of the fort. One of these,