

Additional Notes on the Albert Ibaugh Site

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INTRODUCTION

THE Albert Ibaugh Site has been the scene of organized and professionally directed archaeological excavations in 1955, 1957, and 1958. The first two sessions were co-operative efforts of the North Museum of Franklin and Marshall College and the Pennsylvania State Museum. The 1958 work was a project sponsored by the latter institution. Results of these activities are discussed in "A Susquehannock Cemetery: The Ibaugh Site," a paper printed in the *Susquehannock Miscellany* (Witthoft and Kinsey, 1959). Primarily, this paper deals with the first two field sessions because the findings of the recent work had not been fully evaluated. Now that the

cultural and skeletal materials uncovered in 1958 have been cleaned, restored, and catalogued, we are in a position to expand our knowledge of this site.

This second Ibaugh report presents nothing radically new, but it exploits the findings of the later excavation to a greater degree. It serves to provide a fuller range of Susquehannock cultural materials and mortuary customs as well as of European trade materials of the first two decades of the seventeenth century, and it likewise expands our information on the Shenk's Ferry component. Like the companion report it draws upon the experience of the 1955 and 1957 work.

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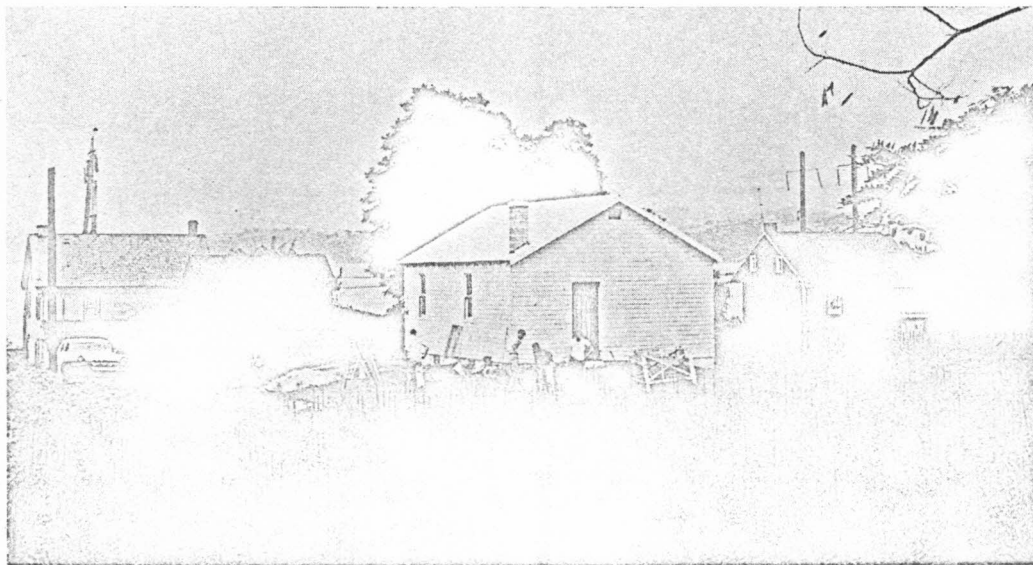


Figure 1. View of Ibaugh Site and Susquehanna River (facing west).

1625 (Witthoft and Kinsey, 1959, pp. 92-98, 117-119). Better analysis and a larger sample may permit a greater refinement in chronology.

Six steel knives or knife blades were found. One has a stag antler handle and was probably a dinner knife. The wooden-handled ones are typical hunting and general utility knives. One common chopping axe and two, perhaps three, celt-like chisels or scrapers were found. Probably the chisel was made from another tool. Knives are plentiful on Washington Boro sites, while chisels or scrapers and axes occur less frequently.

With the exception of one flat piece of kettle brass that was probably used as a scraping tool, all items of this metal were ornamental. An interesting association was noted for burial 3c. Two brass hawk bells were found resting against the left side of the skull at the occipital and lower parietal region. A stain on the skull attests to the long contact of the bells against the bone. It cannot be demonstrated that the bells were actually worn and not simply placed in the grave. If they were hair or ear decorations, then this is the first Susquehannock instance of such an association. One other hawk bell, a stray, was found during the excavations.

Three spoon bowls with no visible makers' marks were fashioned into pendants (Figure 7). They were found on top of one another located about twelve inches from burial 8c. Since this burial had disturbed a Shenk's Ferry pit, it was impossible, because of the general disturbance in the area, to determine whether these ornaments and a small pot actually belonged with that grave or whether an infant burial was present for which we found no trace of bone. Eric DeJonge, Curator of Folk History at the Pennsylvania State Museum, has identi-

fied the spoons as made of latten (also spelled laiton). This is a brasslike alloy which was cast and often hammered into thin sheets. He believes they date about 1600 because of the shallow, round bowls and that they might be of Dutch origin. The handles were removed, and the remaining tab was bent over a leather thong so that the ornament could be worn. Unfortunately, the lack of a handle prevents a more positive identification.

Burials 1c and 3c contained small brass scraps or clips associated with glass beads. These appear to have been ornaments decorating clothing or blankets. Burial 1c held a brass cone jingler that had a wooden plug inside it. A jingler from 12c has a bit of leather inside. The purpose of the wood is unknown, but it is not believed to be part of an arrow shaft. Most brass items were made by the Indians from kettles that were cut up for this purpose instead of putting them to a functional use.

Glass Beads (Figure 8)

European-made glass beads are the most abundant and varied trade items found at the Ibaugh Site. They range in size and shape from almost spherical and of pinhead size to the larger tubular types. Color, amount of translucency, surface texture, and the presence of one or more layers of glass are other variable features.

These features reflect European glass technology, and changing bead styles are correlated to changes in the glass industry. Each bead from this sample was made by the cane technique. This method involves stretching a molten tubular rod of glass and cutting it at various intervals. The small pieces are then placed in a tumbling mill until the rough edges are worn smooth.

It was believed that, if the beads were

TABLE 1
GLASS BEADS

<i>Type and Sample Size</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>Surface Color</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Surface Texture</i>
1a (1,871)	medium	subspherical	light blue	solid opaque	pitted & weathered
1b (67)	very small	subspherical	light blue	solid opaque	pitted & weathered
1c (1)	medium	subspherical	light blue w/ white stripes	solid opaque	pitted & weathered
2a (10)	small	subspherical	dark blue	solid opaque	pitted & weathered
3a (51)	medium	oval	blue	solid opaque	unweathered & shiny
3b (25)	small	oval	blue	solid opaque	unweathered & shiny
4a (168)	small	subspherical	white	solid opaque	slight pitting & weathering
5a (60)	small	subspherical	black	solid opaque	slight pitting & weathering
5b (73)	very small	subspherical	black	solid opaque	slight pitting & weathering
6a (6)	medium	flattened tubular	blue w/white stripes	three layers: blue, white, blue	slight pitting & weathering
7a (1)	medium	subspherical	red, white & blue	successive layers of blue, white & red	slight pitting & weathering
7b (1)	medium	tubular	red, white & blue	successive layers of blue, white & red	slight pitting & weathering
8a (81)	small	subspherical	dark blue	opaque surface w/ translucent core	slight pitting & weathering
8b (137)	very small	subspherical	dark blue	opaque surface w/ translucent core	slight pitting & weathering
9a (288)	small	subspherical	dark blue	translucent surface w/opaque core	slight pitting & weathering
10a (113)	small	subspherical	white	opaque surface w/ translucent core	slight pitting & weathering
10b (56)	very small	subspherical	white	opaque surface w/ translucent core	slight pitting & weathering
10c (1)	small	subspherical	white	opaque surface w/ translucent core	slight pitting & weathering
11a (14)	very small	subspherical	red	opaque surface w/ translucent core	unweathered & shiny
12a (18)	medium	subspherical	dark blue	three layers: blue, white, blue	slight pitting & weathering
12b (50)	small	subspherical	dark blue	three layers: blue, white, blue	slight pitting & weathering
12c (1)	small	subspherical	dark blue w/ white stripes	three layers: blue, white, blue	slight pitting & weathering

Total Samples = 3,093

sorted according to obvious and easily visible features, we might have the basis for a statistical approximation of the types in vogue at one particular period during historic times. The several varieties listed in Table 1 are in no way considered to be formal types. The table is purely a descriptive device which includes only those beads found in twelve flexed burials excavated by the Pennsylvania State Museum in 1958.

Obviously the most popular bead is the so-called "early blue" (types 1a, 1b,

and 1c). It comprises 62.5 per cent of the total sample. Although this particular bead is not a good indicator of time, it is the most common bead at the Washington Boro sites as well as at the Seneca sites of Factory and Dutch Hollow. The glass and color have weathered to a distinctive pale blue. These beads are sometimes iridescent and rather fragile, with many small air bubbles present as capillary holes. A few, from the larger Ibaugh sample, have white stripes, and there are several large ones of this type.

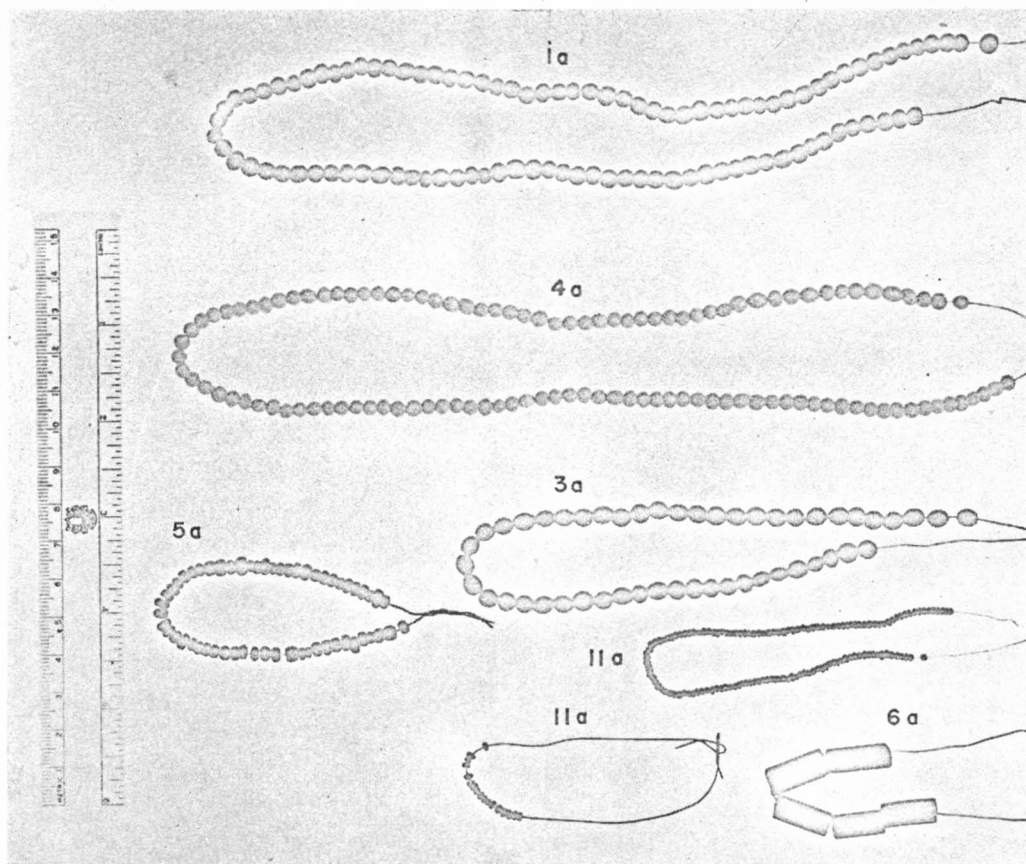


Figure 8. European Glass Beads from Ibaugh Site.

Type 9a is moderately popular and somewhat resembles the "early blues"; however, it has a translucent surface applied over an opaque core. The blue is darker and less susceptible to weathering. It occurs with a frequency of about 9 per cent.

The second most popular beads are the blue, white, or black solid opaque beads (types 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, and 5b), which when combined are 12.5 per cent of the sample. An interesting and important member of this group is 3a and 3b. It is a creamy blue oval bead with a shiny unweathered surface. Charles F. Wray of West Rush, New York, reports this bead to be present in limited numbers at the Cameron Site. It enjoys its greatest popularity at Factory and Dutch

Hollow (1590-1616). The bead definitely does not occur on sites after this period (Wray, 1959).

The other beads are present in such small numbers that the percentages for these seem unnecessary. Some additional comments, however, are in order. There are only two star or chevron beads (types 7a and 7b). The second of these is tubular-shaped, and it is the first of this kind known from the site. Chevron beads are made by building up successive corrugated layers of white, red, and blue glass. Another bead (type 6a) is represented by only six beads, and it is the first time that this flattened tubular bead has been excavated from a Susquehannock site.

Types 10a, 10b, 10c, and 11c have an

opaque surface applied over translucent greenish cores. They are only moderately common. The Coralline d' Aleppo, 11a, is uncommon. Types 12a, 12b, and 12c have three opaque layers of blue, white, and blue glass, and they are not abundant.

In a larger sample, all these beads from the 1958 excavations would have large and small duplicates as well as striped and polychrome counterparts. Some would be the so-called "melon" (or polychrome) beads showing at least three colors. These have an opaque background with inlaid colored strips. A few small white or blue tubular types with large holes are present. It should be observed that the general category of "seed" bead is often loosely applied to any of the small varieties but has not been utilized here.

The Ibaugh beads contrast sharply with those found at Strickler and Leibhart sites. There the common types are solid opaque brick red, white, or blue tubular beads. Black opaque "Roman" beads with a yellow or white inlay, some pale green or yellow corn beads made from a weak glass, small greenish-blue beads, and a type of Coralline d' Aleppo also occur at these later sites. Since the Washington Boro sites are the earliest sites in the lower Susquehanna Valley where glass beads have been found in quantity, the Schultz Site offers no similar basis for comparison.

A SHENK'S FERRY COMPONENT

Excavations in 1957 and 1958 revealed four midden-filled pits and a small disturbed feature containing cultural remains unlike Susquehannock material culture. Three fully extended burials were also excavated. In terms of material culture, location, and orientation of the extended burials, and the accompanying

mortuary offerings, it is apparent that these burials and refuse pits are the dead and the debris left by earlier residents on the site.

Similar burials and related cultural materials can be found on many small scattered sites in the Susquehanna watershed. The name used to distinguish this late prehistoric culture is Shenk's Ferry (Witthoft and Farver, 1952; and Witthoft, 1954). This term is derived from the small Lancaster County community of the same name where in 1931 Cadzow uncovered evidence of this culture (1936, pp. 43-61). There are no written historical documents pertaining to these people.

Three saucer-shaped, irregularly contoured, refuse-filled pits were quite shallow, measuring no more than twenty-four inches below ground surface. The largest pit (Figure 9), designated M-1, was of modest size, and in some parts there were thirty-two inches of midden accumulation. Upper levels of M-1 held debris that obviously postdated the material from the deeper portions. Below a twenty-four-inch surface depth the pit was undisturbed.

The large pit was cleared by three below-surface levels; twenty-four, thirty, and forty-four inches. The smaller pits contained proportionally less midden accumulation, but they were of the same irregularly oval outline with diffuse edges and an uneven bottom. Debris from the pits includes Shenk's Ferry pottery, a possible pottery disc made from a Shenk's Ferry body sherd, vertebrate skeletal remains, broken shell, fire-cracked river cobbles, fist-sized pieces of quartz and smaller quartz pieces, flint, and jasper spalls, mica schist fragments, hammerstones, and a quartz triangular arrow point. Pit M-2 had been disturbed by Susquehannock burials 6c and 8c.

depressed, the lower nasal sill edge is sharp and everted, and the septum is deflected. Probably the individual had a large nose.

Burial 13c cranium is strongly symmetrical with some asymmetry in the foramen magnum. Skull base is broad, and there is strong temporal bossing. A conspicuous boss is present at inion, and there is moderate parietal bossing and slight sagittal cresting. Supraorbital ridges are very slight, and the forehead is higher than that of the previously described cranium. Orbits are high, narrow, and subrectangular in form. Palate is high and ruggedly textured. The right canine fossa is not strongly developed. Long slender nasal bones are depressed, and there is an outward jutting nasal base. The nasal spine is sharp-edged and sharply everted. Possibly the individual had a long narrow nose.

The extended burial (Kent-Boyd) cranium is strongly symmetrical, and in vertical cross section the shape is moderately pentagonal. There is slight parietal cresting, while the temporal crests are high and moderately strong. The external occipital protuberance is strongly contoured, and the occipital crest is pointed. Supraorbital ridges are moderately prominent, and the mastoids are fairly large and well developed. The occipital condyles are slightly asymmetrical. The foramen magnum is large and ovate. The glenoid fossae are large, and the palate is high and roughly textured.

Unfortunately, the size of this skeletal sample is too small for comparative studies. However, it is felt that when larger collections of Susquehannock and Shenk's Ferry skeletal remains are available and studied, two physical types will be present. The Shenk's Ferry type will be large and rugged; the Susquehannock short and slender.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Ibaugh Site is one part of an extensive aboriginal cemetery which served the needs of a large Susquehannock village from about 1600 to 1625; this has been sufficiently demonstrated and discussed in the *Susquehannock Miscellany*. That publication also deals with the relationship of this site to others in the Susquehannock sequence. This second Ibaugh Site report has not altered any of our previous notions about the site. It has, however, enlarged our knowledge of Susquehannock and Shenk's Ferry burial customs and material culture.

A heretofore unknown glass-bead type (6a) has been added to the already wide variety of European glass beads. The probable use of hawk bells as hair ornaments is apparently new for Susquehannock, but this is not a surprising or a particularly significant trait. A Seneca pot, similar to the pottery from the Warren Site in western New York, now in the George Boyd Collection, has been removed from the site and has been called to my attention. This too is not surprising since a correlation of Seneca and Susquehannock sites is established on the basis of trade sherds as well as European trade items, especially glass beads, and Witt-hoft found Seneca potsherds of the same variety in the village site (Eschelman Site).

The observation that the Susquehannock was a small, slender physical type, while the Shenk's Ferry type is larger and more robust, reinforces present thinking on this subject. It is believed that a detailed study of Susquehannock and Shenk's Ferry skeletal remains will be an important contribution to local archaeology.

The most significant aspect of the 1958 excavations was the discovery of the midden-filled pits and extended burial