AN ANALYSIS OF THE EUROPEAN ARTIFACTS FROM CHOTA-TANASEE, AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY OVERHILL CHEROKEE TOWN

A Thesis

Presented for the

Master of Arts

Degree

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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December 1977

ABSTRACT

Description and analysis of over 67,000 European artifacts and aboriginally modified European artifacts from Chota-Tanasee (40MR2-40MR62) provides a basis for future studies of similar European artifacts from Overhill Cherokee sites in the Little Tennessee Valley.

Dated European artifacts provided a means to construct a chronology of features and burials. Only 40 of 1086 features and two of 114 burials were dated to one of four periods of European economic and political influence. Thirty features and one burial date to the Colonial period corroborating accounts of Chota-Tanasee's size and importance during the mid-18th century. Too few features and burials date to the Contact, Revolutionary ~~of~~ OR Federal periods making meaningful comparison of the period inventories impossible. The chronology must be expanded to include data from other Overhill Cherokee sites.

Acquisition and use of European artifacts was considered within European functional contexts. Dense space and association analyses failed to demonstrate 18th-century European contexts for European artifacts at Chota-Tanasee. This suggests that features do not reflect activity areas or that mid-18th century Cherokee culture had not yet adopted such contexts. The difference of artifact distributions of features associated with eight house units showed no pattern regarding the use or acquisition of European artifacts. Burials associated with these houses indicate that 89 percent of individuals aged 12 years and younger have grave goods while only 33 percent of individuals 13 and

older have grave goods. Similar European goods tend to occur with the burials within each house.

Comparing the Chota-Tanasee European artifact inventory to those of 18th century European frontier sites reveals little similarity. Developing an Aboriginal Frontier Artifact Pattern would permit the comparison of contact Indian sites as well as their comparison with 18th century European frontier sites.

Comb

Three fragmentary examples of double edged, fine toothed bone combs were recovered. These were in common use during the 18th century and are present on trade lists after about 1750. Similar combs are illustrated by Stone (1974: 139).

Straight Razors

Straight razors appear in the trade records about 1750 and continue to appear through the Federal period (see Table 1, page 12). Based on the seven examples from Chota-Tanasee, straight razors never became popular at the site. The average length of the specimens is 122 mm.

Glass Bead Group

Glass beads totaled 61,780 from the six field seasons at Chota-Tanasee. Of these 31,226 are from burials. The analysis used here is a slightly modified version of the Kidd and Kidd (1970) bead typology. In the analysis of the Chota-Tanasee sample less emphasis was placed on subtle variations in bead shape and color than by Kidd and Kidd. Some types particularly in Class II, for example, grade from spherical to oblong. Using Kidd and Kidd's typology a new type would be created for each of these variations in form. The differences in the Class II beads probably reflect differences in craftsmanship rather than intended differences in form. For this reason, many Chota-Tanasee beads were classified as a single type rather than a multitude of types.

Bead colors in the Chota-Tanasee sample also tended to be grouped. Many colors in the Kidd typology are so similar that differences from bead to bead are negligible. In many cases patination or slight unintentional differences in glass color used in manufacture are responsible for subtle color differences between beads.

The beads recovered from Chota-Tanasee are listed in Table 8. The Kidd and Kidd type number is used where applicable. Elsewhere the classification is carried to the type group only.

By far the most frequently found beads are the IIa types in the less than 2 mm and 2-4 mm size groups, which are commonly termed seed beads. Seed beads totaled 50,931 or 82.4 percent of the total sample. Interestingly, White, Lamp Black and Robin' Egg Blue seed beads totaled 36,606 or 71.8 percent of the seed bead sample. Lamp Black and White are the predominate colors among all types of beads found at Chota-Tanasee. Preliminary analysis of beads from Tomotley and Milaoquo suggests that black and white are also the predominate colors at these Cherokee sites. Since trade records are inconsistent regarding bead colors being traded, it is difficult to tell whether the large quantities of certain styles of black and white beads are the result of Cherokee preferences or greater availability of those beads.

Little success has been achieved in establishing bead chronology in the southeastern United States. An exception is the multilayered chevron beads, Type IIIk. These are commonly associated with 17th century occupations (Quimby 1966). Two chevron beads were recovered from Chota-Tanasee, which raises the possibility that chevron beads may

TABLE 8

CHOTA-TANASEE TRADE BEADS

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
Ia	2		Lamp Black					
		639	Opaque	6	616	15	2	-
Ia	3		Light Gray					
		187	Clear	1	22	162	-	-
Ia	4		Oyster White					
		1	Clear					
		18	Translucent	-	18	-	-	-
Ia	5		White					
		685	Opaque	2	371	308	4	-
		20	Translucent	-	20	-	-	-
Ia			Pale Blue					
		4	Opaque	-	4	-	-	-
		3	Translucent	-	-	-	-	3
Ia			Lemon Yellow					
		2	Opaque	-	2	-	-	-
		1	Translucent	-	1	-	-	-
Ia	7		Light Gold					
		1	Opaque	1	-	-	-	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
Ia	9		Brite Mint Green					
		2	Clear	-	2	-	-	-
Ia			Light Aqua Blue					
		2	Clear	-	2	-	-	-
Ia	3		Aqua Blue					
		1	Clear	-	2	-	-	-
Ia	14		Robin's Egg Blue					
		12	Opaque	-	2	9	1	-
		4	Translucent	-	2	2	-	-
Ia	15		Brite Blue					
		83	Clear	5	67	9	2	-
		148	Translucent	-	53	93	2	-
Ia	16		Shadow Blue					
		11		-	1	9	1	-
Ia			Cerulean Blue					
		1	Clear	-	1	-	-	-
Ia			Brite Dutch Blue					
		23	Opaque	-	2	19	2	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
Ia	19		Brite Navy					
		3	Clear	1	2	-	-	-
		540	Translucent	-	540	-	-	-
Ia			Light Cherry Rose					
		1	Clear	1	-	-	-	-
Ia	21		Rose Wine					
		3	Clear	-	2	1	-	-
Ia			Amethyst					
		2	Clear	-	1	1	-	-
Ia	22		Dark Rose Brown					
		2	Translucent	-	1	-	1	-
Ib			Light Gray with White Stripes					
		1	Clear	-	1	-	-	-
IIa	1		Redwood					
		1	Opaque	-	-	-	1	-
		4	Translucent	3	1	-	-	-
IIa			Scarlet					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	1	-
IIa	7		Lamp Black					
		13085	Opaque	1607	11146	228	104	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIa	8		Black					
		2	Opaque	-	-	-	2	-
IIa	9		Light Gray					
		393	Clear	61	293	35	3	1
IIa	11		Oyster White					
		96	Translucent	68	20	2	6	-
IIa	13		White					
		23701	Opaque	2849	19632	393	758	69
IIa	15		White					
		1		-	-	1	-	-
IIa	16		Pale Blue					
		21	Opaque	6	12	1	1	1
		1	Translucent	1	-	-	-	-
		5	Clear	2	2	-	-	1
IIa			Lemon Yellow					
		34	Opaque	6	27	1	-	-
		25	Translucent	-	25	-	-	-
		5	Clear	-	4	1	-	-
IIa	17		Light Gold					
		24	Opaque	8	16	-	-	-
		4	Translucent	-	4	-	-	-
		33	Clear	26	6	1	-	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIa	18		Amber					
		1	Translucent	-	1	-	-	-
		2	Clear	-	2	-	-	-
IIa	23		Brite Mint Green					
		140	Opaque	28	110	2	-	-
		23	Translucent	-	21	-	2	-
		213	Clear	127	53	3	-	-
IIa	26		Apple Green					
		87	Opaque	-	67	18	2	-
		69	Translucent	-	68	-	1	-
IIa	27		Emerald Green					
		17	Opaque	-	17	-	-	-
		4	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
IIa	28		Dark Palm Green					
		37	Opaque	-	37	-	-	-
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
IIa			Teal Green					
		2	Clear	-	2	-	-	-
IIa	32		Turquoise					
		5	Translucent	-	5	-	-	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIa	33		Light Aqua Blue					
		6	Opaque	1	4	1	-	-
		39	Translucent	14	18	1	6	-
		15	Clear	1	13	1	-	-
IIa	36		Aqua Blue					
		225	Opaque	-	13	5	203	-
		13	Translucent	-	13	-	-	-
		6	Clear	-	6	-	-	-
IIa	40		Robin's Egg Blue					
		11653	Opaque	11	9734	62	1845	1
		1661	Translucent	482	1145	18	16	-
IIa	43		Brite Blue					
		573	Translucent	-	554	11	8	-
		908	Clear	185	700	3	20	-
IIa	44		Cerulean Blue					
		88	Translucent	43	10	-	24	2
		65	Clear	28	29	1	7	-
IIa (round)			Brite Copen Blue					
		5	Translucent	1	4	-	-	-
		108	Clear	9	96	2	1	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIa	46		Shadow Blue					
		907	Opaque	2	861	34	10	-
		3	Translucent	-	3	-	-	-
		1	Clear	-	-	-	1	-
IIa (round)			Brite Dutch Blue					
		15	Translucent	-	15	-	-	-
		1	Clear	-	1	-	-	-
IIa	48		Dark Shadow Blue					
		15	Translucent	-	15	-	-	-
IIa	52		Ultramarine					
		18	Translucent	-	17	-	1	-
		7	Clear	-	2	1	4	-
IIa	55		Brite Navy					
		56	Translucent	-	56	-	-	-
		186	Clear	98	78	7	3	-
IIa (round)			Dark Navy					
		35	Clear	-	35	-	-	-
IIa	58		Light Cherry Rose					
		36	Opaque	-	35	1	-	-
		4	Clear	3	1	-	-	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIa (round)			Amethyst					
		4	Opaque	10	4	-	-	-
		114	Translucent	36	78	-	-	-
		70	Clear	10	58	2	-	-
IIa	61		Dark Rose Brown					
		7	Translucent	-	7	-	-	-
		31	Clear	2	24	-	-	-
IIb			Oval Lamp Black with Three Redwood Stripes					
		2	Opaque	-	-	1	1	-
IIb	10		Lamp Black with Three White Stripes					
		2	Opaque	-	2	-	-	-
IIb	12		Lamp Black with Four White Stripes					
		40	Opaque	5	20	8	7	-
IIb			Lamp Black with Five White Stripes					
		5	Opaque	-	-	-	5	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIb	14		Lamp Black with Three Groups of Paired White Stripes					
		11	Opaque	-	11	-	-	-
IIb	18		Light Gray with White Stripes (12-16)					
		2079	Clear	-	314	1739	44	-
IIb	21		Oval White with Three Redwood Stripes					
		2	Opaque	-	-	1	1	-
IIb	26		Oval White with Four Brite Blue Stripes					
		9	Opaque	-	-	2	7	-
IIb	27		White with Three Groups of Three Brite Navy Stripes					
		1	Opaque	-	-	-	1	-
IIb	28		Oval White with Three Groups of Three Brite Blue Stripes					
		3		-	-	-	2	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIb	32		White with Two Redwood and Two Brite Blue Alternating Stripes					
		5	Opaque	-	1	1	3	-
IIb	33		White with Three Redwood and Three Dark Palm Green Alternating Stripes					
		152	Opaque	-	152	-	-	-
IIb	40		White with Two Redwood, Brite Navy and Two Dark Palm Green Stripes					
		7	Opaque	-	-	-	7	-
IIb	43		White with Six Redwood and Six Brite Blue Alternating Stripes					
		10	Opaque	-	8	2	-	-
IIb			Oval White with Three Redwood and Three Brite Blue Alternating Stripes					
		2	Opaque	-	-	-	2	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	>
IIb			Oval Maple with Six White STripes					
		2	Translucent	-	-	1	1	-
IIb			Dark Palm Green with Two Redwood Stripes					
		1	Translucent	-	-	1	-	-
IIb			Teal Green with Twelve to Sixteen White Stripes					
		328		-	-	328	-	-
IIb			Turquoise with Four Redwood Stripes					
		1	Opaque	-	-	-	1	-
IIb			Dark Navy with Three Groups of Three White Stripes					
		2	Translucent	-	-	-	2	-
IIb	71		Dark Navy with Two White, Two Redwood Alternating Stripes					
		1	Translucent	-	-	-	1	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIbb			Oval White with Three Redwood Stripes Outlined by Brite Blue Stripes					
		14	Opaque	-	3	-	11	-
IIbb	13		Oval White with Three Brite Blue Stripes Outlined With Redwood					
		43	Opaque	-	2	1	40	-
IIbb	15		Oval White with Three Lemon Yellow Stripes Outlined by Brite Blue					
		1	Opaque	-	-	-	1	-
IIbb			Oval White with Three Brite Blue Stripes Outlined by Brite Blue and Dark Palm Green					
		3	Opaque	-	-	-	2	1
IIbb	25		Oval Robin's Egg Blue with Three White Stripes Outlined by Redwood					
		3	Opaque	-	-	-	3	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 -10	> 10
IIbb	27		Dark Navy with Three Redwood Stripes Outlined by White					
		5	Translucent	-	-	-	5	-
IIb'	3		Oval Lamp Black with Three Twisted White Stripes					
		5	Opaque	-	-	-	5	-
IIb'	6		Oval White with Six Twisted Redwood Stripes					
		11	Opaque	-	-	1	10	-
IIb'	7		Oval White with Three Groups of Three Twisted Brite Navy Stripes					
		21	Opaque	-	-	17	4	-
IIb'			Oval Emerald Green with Six Twisted White Stripes					
		1	Translucent	-	-	-	1	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIbb'			Oval White with Three Redwood Stripes Outlined by Brite Navy					
		1	Opaque	-	-	-	1	-
IIj	5		Lamp Black with White Swirl Inlay					
		23	Opaque	-	-	-	-	23
IIj	5		Lamp Black with Lemon Yellow Swirls					
		10	Opaque	-	-	-	-	10
IIIa	1		Redwood, Exterior Color Apple Green, Interior					
		2	Opaque	-	1	1	-	-
IIIa	2		Redwood, Exterior Color White, Interior Color					
		4	Opaque	-	2	-	2	-
IIIk			Exterior in: Brite Blue, White, Redwood, White, Brite Blue					
		1	Opaque	-	-	-	-	1

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
IIIk			Six-sided, Exterior in Redwood, White, Redwood, White, Apple Green					
		1	Opaque	-	-	-	-	1
IIIbb	3		Redwood Exterior with Four Black Stripes Outlined in White, Lamp Black Interior					
		30	Opaque	1	20	5	4	-
IVal			Redwood Exterior Lamp Black Interior					
		54	Opaque	-	36	16	2	-
IVa	5		Redwood Exterior Apple Green Interior					
		1258	Opaque	96	947	49	166	-
IVb	4		Redwood Exterior Lamp Black Core with Three Groups of White Stripes					
		1	Opaque	-	1	-	-	-
WIb			Lamp Black					
		87	Opaque	-	-	1	51	35

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
WIb	1		Light Gray					
		2	Opaque	-	-	-	-	2
		10	Translucent	-	-	-	1	9
		62	Clear	-	-	-	5	57
WIb	2		White					
		41	Opaque	-	6	4	5	26
		8	Translucent	-	-	-	-	8
		27	Clear	-	27	-	-	-
WIb	3		Pale Blue					
		2	Opaque	-	-	-	-	2
		81	Translucent	-	-	-	2	79
		10	Clear	-	-	1	2	7
WIb			Lemon Yellow					
		5	Translucent	-	-	-	1	4
WIb	6		Light Gold					
		39	Translucent	-	-	-	-	39
		2	Clear	-	-	-	-	2
WIb	7		Amber					
		35	Translucent	-	-	-	-	35
		3	Clear	-	-	-	1	2
WIb			Apple Green					
		1	Translucent	-	-	-	-	1

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
WIb	9		Dark Palm Green					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIb	10		Light Aqua Blue					
		1	Translucent	-	-	-	-	1
WIb	11		Robin's Egg Blue					
		1	Opaque	-	-	-	-	1
WIb	12		Brite Blue					
		25	Translucent	-	-	-	-	25
WIb			Shadow Blue					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIb	15		Ultramarine					
		1	Translucent	-	-	-	-	1
WIb	16		Brite Navy					
		3	Translucent	-	-	-	-	3
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIc			Oval Light Gray					
		22	Translucent	-	-	-	-	22
		4	Clear	-	-	-	-	4
WIc			Oval White					
		1142	Opaque	-	441	694	7	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
WIc			Oval Oyster White					
		22	Translucent	-	-	-	-	22
WIc	2		Oval Pale Blue					
		49	Translucent	-	-	-	1	48
WIc			Oval Lemon Yellow					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIc			Oval Apple Green					
		18	Translucent	-	-	-	-	18
WIc	9		Oval Aqua Blue					
		1	Translucent	-	-	-	-	1
WIc			Oval Robin's Egg Blue					
		3	Opaque	2	1	-	-	-
		6	Translucent	-	-	-	-	6
WIc			Oval Brite Blue					
		22	Opaque	-	-	-	-	22
		1	Translucent	-	-	-	-	1
WIc			Oval Shadow Blue					
		1	Opaque	-	1	-	-	-
WIc			Oval Light Cherry Rose					
		1	Opaque	-	-	1	-	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
WId			Lemon Yellow					
		2	Clear	-	-	-	-	2
WId	4		Amber					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WId			Aqua Blue					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	1	-
WId			Brite Blue					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIIb			Lemon Yellow					
		16	Clear	-	-	-	-	16
WIIb			Apple Green					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIIb			Dark Palm Green					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIIc			Light Gray					
		90	Clear	-	-	-	46	44
WIIc	3		Pale Blue					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIIc			Lemon Yellow					
		6	Clear	-	-	-	6	-

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
WIIc	4		Light Gold					
		20	Translucent	-	-	-	20	-
		5	Clear	-	-	-	3	2
WIIc	5		Amber					
		12	Translucent	-	-	-	-	12
		33	Clear	-	-	-	5	28
WIIc			Dark Palm Green					
		3	Clear	-	-	-	3	-
WIIc			Robin Egg Blue					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIIc			Brite Blue					
		4	Translucent	-	-	-	-	4
		18	Clear	-	-	-	3	15
WIIc			Light Cherry Rose					
		1	Opaque	-	-	1	-	-
WIIc	13		Amethyst					
		7	Clear	-	-	-	7	-
WIId	1		Light Gray					
		2	Clear	-	-	-	1	1
WIId	3		Light Gold					
		2	Clear	-	-	-	-	2

TABLE 8 (continued)

Type	Number	Sample Glass	Color and Glass	Sample by Diameter (mm) < 2	2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
WIId	4		Amber					
		2	Clear	-	-	-	-	2
WIId			Apple Green					
		3	Clear	-	-	-	1	2
WIId			Brite Blue					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	1	-
WIId			Cerulean Blue					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIIf			Pale Blue					
		1	Clear	-	-	-	-	1
WIII			Round Lamp Black with Silver Overlay					
		183	Opaque	-	-	183	-	-
WIII			Oval White with Inlay Brite Blue or Redwood Floral Design Around Midsection					
		77	Opaque	-	-	76	1	1
WIII			Oval Lamp Black with Guild Floral Design Around Midsection					
			Opaque					

have also been traded in the 18th century. The analysis of beads from Toqua, Tomotley, and Mialoquo will certainly aid in the development of a bead chronology for the Overhill Cherokee.

Tobacco Pipe Group

Kaolin pipes were traded to the Cherokee throughout the 18th century and sample of this trade was found at Chota-Tanasee. There are 383 pipestem fragments, 381 pipebowl fragments and 38 stembowl juncture fragments. Although pipe fragments are plentiful, pipes bearing maker's marks or designs are rare. There are only three bowls with maker's marks and only three having decorated bowls. All three initialed pipebowls have an "R.T.," while the decorated bowls have floral designs. Although there is no indication from trade records, it is possible that a plain pipe was manufactured specifically for the Indian trade.

The pipestem dating formulae developed by Binford (1972) and Heighton and Deagan (1972) were used to date the Chota-Tanasee sample. Although the validity of pipestem dating techniques have been criticized, they are accurate enough to be used within the context of the four historic periods established for the Overhill Cherokee. Table 9 summarizes the pipestem dating conducted on the Chota-Tanasee sample.

The pipestem date for the entire site is 1751.65 using the Binford formula and 1745.20 employing the Heighton and Deagan formula. Dividing the pipestem sample according to geographic boundaries designated on Timberlake's map (Williams 1927), produces a Chota date