

THE ARCHEOLOGY OF AMADOR 23

by

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The only other historic material recovered were glass trade beads which were found throughout the excavated portion of the site. They were by far the most common in the vicinity of Burial #1 and were probably all associated with it at one time. Out of a total of 2,130 disassociated trade beads, 1,973 were found in near association with the burial. This count excludes those beads forming a part of the burial complement. The majority of beads were opaque white but these kinds were also encountered: (listed in order of frequency---#1 most frequent)

1. Long cylinders---red with yellow centers, 1.8cm. long, 1.1cm. diameter.
2. Round---red with white centers and red with black centers, 1.2cm. and .4cm. diameters, respectively.
3. Round---blue, .4cm. diameter.
4. Hexagonal---amber (rare), blue, white (rare), .5cm. diameter.
5. Round---transparent yellow (rare), .5cm. diameter.
6. Multi-faceted---green, 1.8cm. long by .8cm. in diameter.

All of the beads are weathered or patinated and some have been burned, especially the small blue beads (most are fused together in lumps).

BURIALS

Burial #1 was located at the base of the midden at a depth of 42 inches (measured to the temporal region of the skull). It was in a loose-flexed position, oriented southwest (skull)-northwest and lying on the left side. Although the burial was entirely within midden, the grave pit was dug into sterile soil to a depth of several inches. The actual outline of the grave pit or the manner in which it was dug could not be determined since the area was destroyed by the vandals before this information could be recorded. The depth of the burial and the nature of the complement suggest it was shovel dug.

The skeleton has been identified as that of a female about 20 to 25 years of age. The teeth are well worn although one wisdom tooth had not yet descended. The forehead is low and the supraorbital ridges only moderately developed. One rib is stained green. It may be a deposit left by chemical decomposition of the metal; however, none of the metal objects

found were closer than several inches to the rib. The bone is in good condition and almost all of the skeleton is present with the exception of some of the phalanges. The left fibula is pathological; four parallel smooth bands are partially circumscribed around it and descend at an angle. Their cause has not been determined, but it is fairly certain they do not represent breaks that have healed over. The midsection of the shaft (where the bands occur) is abnormally large when compared to the other and is spongy, although the epiphyses appear normal.

The grave complement for Burial #1 represents a blend between the aboriginal and the European. A total of 6,671 glass trade beads were scattered about the burial, but in only a few instances was a pattern evident. Apparently there had been a bead-covered garment or strings about the pelvic region because a line of 53 large red cylinder beads appeared to form the top row of such a garment or strings. Below this line were many smaller white beads also arranged in lines parallel to the red beads. In two other areas of bead concentration there was an orientation but these were isolated. There was no indication whether or not they were part of a garment or loose in strings. A breakdown of the bead types with the burial include the 53 red cylinders, 5,172 round white beads of all sizes, 395 red with white centers, and 1,051 red with black centers.

Also associated with the burial was a polished cobble pestle, an obsidian core (#84), two Haliotis ornaments (#'s 141, 143), and a burned bone artifact fragment (#122), probably an awl. The remainder of accompanying artifacts were of European origin: one brass thimble, a mirror, scissors, a knife, iron hinges and frame of a purse, a glass button, and a metal lid to a container. Bits of fabric still clung to the "purse" frame.

Burial #2 was removed by the vandals who left only the long bones lying on the edge of one of their digging areas. Unlike the bones of Burial #1, which were very recent appearing, those of Burial #2 were covered with a mineral accretion, suggesting that they had come from the lower levels of the site.

Burial #3 was found in the east wall of unit 1S6W at a depth of 20 inches; however, this too was not excavated in time to avoid being destroyed by vandals.

FEATURES

Feature #1 was an ash deposit located in the northern section of unit 2S6W and the southern section of unit 1S6W at a depth of 15 inches. The feature measured 16+ inches across and extended down to 29 inches in depth. Two distinguishable elements were evident: the light gray ash composing most of