

DATA BOX

309

309 - A LATE 19TH CENTURY MIDDEN
FROM THE LA CLOCHE FUR POST SITE

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INTRODUCTION AND EXCAVATION PROCEDURE

The La Cloche fur post site (CaHm-1) is located on the north channel of Lake Huron. Several fur posts operated there in the 18th and 19th century. The site is now managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a park reserve.

In 1975, the regional archaeologist for the Ministry of Culture and Recreation initiated a series of rescue operations at La Cloche, in order to stabilize damaged structures and eroding archaeological deposits (Conway, 1975). Our preliminary field work was limited to a few days, so a crew of Experience '76 archaeologists was brought to La Cloche again to act upon planning recommendations derived from the 1975 study.

Six specific problems were defined before work began. These goals were:

- to sift the bulldozed areas between the junior ranger cabins to retrieve historic artifacts which were being trampled
- to make several stratigraphic profiles of the historic hillside midden (structural feature #7) which would aid in interpreting its depositional history
- to stabilize parts of the eroding midden with plywood
- to excavate several rescue units in the ramp area
- to sift through the eroding hearths on the upper raised beach
- to clear brush and photograph more historic building foundations

These goals were accomplished during eighteen man days of work in the summer. The ramp area excavation and upper raised beach hearth salvage involved mainly a Middle Woodland prehistoric component. They are reported in a separate paper which accompanies this volume.

The usual whims of fate applied to this dig as they do to so many. We cleared several obscure building foundations of brush with assistance from the junior rangers. After the walls were exposed, a detailed photographic record was made in colour and black and white film. However, the film was stolen later in the trip, during a break-in of our truck in Sudbury. The field notes and artifacts were spared.

STRUCTURAL FEATURE #7

A large post-Confederation midden (1865 A.D. - 1890 A.D.) has been designated as structural feature #7 in the building inventory of the

DOMINO (1)

Half of a bone domino has one sunken dot on one panel, and a plain panel (Figure 29A).

PORCELAIN DOLLS (3)

Parts of dolls are not uncommon at the Hudson's Bay Company fur post sites. At La Cloche we found a plain foot (Figure 29B) and a complete leg. The latter is 5.5 cm long with a black, overglaze painted shoe area and a bow and ribbon painted in pink below the knee (Figure 29C).

Another moulded porcelain fragment is thought to be part of a doll's head.

GLASS BEAD (1)

A small barrel-shaped bead is white and 0.6 cm long. It falls into type W1c1 classification (Kidd and Kidd, 1970:62).

EYELETS (5)

Five tiny brass eyelets, probably from a shoe, were also retrieved. Leather is still attached to them.

LEATHER SHOES (2)

Parts of two shoe heels are composed of four or more leather plies and numerous headless nails.

LEAD PENCIL (1)

A worn lead pencil was found in the midden (Figure 29D).

FIREARMS

Parts of guns and their associated paraphernalia were not very common in structural feature #7.

GUN SHELLS (6)

There are brass casings from two centre fire rifle shells. One is stamped with W. R. A. Co. 30 W. C. F. (Figure 30A). The other rifle casing is corroded and shorter (Figure 30B).

Three shotgun shells are marked in separate manners (Figures 30C and 30D). The first has E inside a shield, N 12 LONDON. Another, DOMINION CROWN N^o 12 indicates a twelve gauge shell for the second example.

The third shell has REMINGTON UMC N^o 12 NITRO CLUB.

One short brass casing has two rim fire percussion marks.

MUSKET BALL (1)

The lead ball is 1.4 cm in diameter.