

ST. CROIX NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE:  
A Beginning in Historical Archeology

by John L. Cotter  
Regional Archeologist  
Mid-Atlantic Region  
National Park Service, U.S.A.

In July of 1796, Robert Pagan of the little village of St. Andrews on what is now the New Brunswick side of Passamaquoddy Bay, took a copy of Samuel de Champlain's map and proceeded up the Bay into the then named Scoodic River and thence a few miles to a little island known at the time as Doceas. Pagan then undertook what must be regarded as the earliest recorded instance of archeology applied at an historical site in North America for an expressed purpose. (1)

What made Robert Pagan's quest significant was the fact that the Treaty of Paris in 1783 had set the St. Croix River as the boundary between the newly-established United States of America and the remaining British maritime provincial land to the north and east. The British claimed that the Scoodic River was indeed the St. Croix, but the American contingent of the international boundary commission established to examine the facts of the matter maintained that the true St. Croix River was the Magaguadivic, a stream roughly parallel in course further up the coast.

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<sup>1</sup>Cotter, J.L. American Antiquity, V. 34, No. 2, April, 1969, p. 200.

sites.<sup>5</sup> The same yellowish color was noted in the Jamestown samples, which ranged from slightly smaller to considerably larger than the St. Croix example. The Jamestown yellow bricks were referred to as "Dutch bricks", since the Dutch of the period are known to have made such yellow bricks, but tests on the materials to determine the possible origin of the clay has not yet been made. No yellow bricks were observed in the two 17th century kilns at Jamestown, however, and the local clay, like that of St. Croix Island, does not burn yellow at moderate temperature.

The most numerous metal objects at the St. Croix settlement area were hand wrought nails. A Glass 100% complete balls or fragments were recorded, the complete balls being classified as follows: Bottle glass fragments total 452, all green in color, ranging from slightly less than 1 mm to 3 mm in thickness. The top half of a very thin, long-necked bottle has been reconstructed with a diameter of 8.3 cm around the rounded body and 2.6 cm around the neck. Thickness of the glass is slightly less than 1 mm. A second bottle section, a lower portion, has a similar body 8.5 cm in diameter, with a thickness of 2 mm. Some 29 fragments are of flat glass averaging 1 mm or less in thickness. It is possible that some or all of these flat pieces represent window glass.

A total of 51 glass beads comprise four types: (1) white tubular

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<sup>5</sup>Cotter, John L. Archeological Excavations at Jamestown, Virginia, GPO 1959, pasim

(24 beads) measuring 12 to 16 mm long, all but 1, 4 mm diameter, 1 is 5.5 mm; <sup>(2)</sup> blue spherical (25 beads), all but one, 6 mm diameter, one 4 mm; <sup>(3)</sup> blue tubular ( 1 bead fragment ) 5 mm diameter; and <sup>(4)</sup> green ovoid ( 3 beads), all 9 mm long, 5 mm diameter. <sup>(4)</sup> The majority of glass specimens were from the storehouse area and west of it, with some in the burial area ( 10 bottle, 3 window fragments--some possibly associated with the 19th century farmhouse).

Paragrap

Miscellaneous Metal Objects  
The following were likewise chiefly concentrated in the habitation areas  
At 125, -125: Two iron strap and Metal

The most numerous metal objects at the St. Croix settlement area were hand wrought nails. A total of 1005 complete nails or fragments were recorded, the complete nails being classified as follows:

- Small--under 4 cm in length--17%
- Medium--between 4 and 8 cm in length--32%
- At 525, 0: One iron projectile point and shaft fragment (possible cross bow bolt?), 2 positive and one possible iron lister points, 1 iron harpoon head and shaft fragment, 1 iron harpoon point, 1 iron fish hook, 1 iron door latch, 1 possible iron shutter hinge, 1 iron axehead, 1 piece of sheet copper, 1 unidentified copper fragment, 1 partial section of iron handle, 1 unidentified piece of lead.
- At 125, 55: Two unidentified iron objects