

MENARD SITE: THE QUAPAW VILLAGE OF  
OSOTOUY ON THE ARKANSAS RIVER

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thickness, averaging about 1 cm., and of various sizes from 3 to 5 cm. in diameter. The shapes are very irregular, suggesting that they are fragments from larger circular and rectangular forms. One or two edges usually show wear, as does one or both of the flat sides.

Only one sandstone shaft smoother was found (Pl. 29qq). The worn groove is distinct.

Among miscellaneous stone objects are a disc-shaped fragment of claystone and a thick block of granite with battered surfaces. One quartz crystal, a used piece of silica slag (probably from burning grass), a dully polished stream pebble, and four hammerstones were also included in the stone work. One of the hammerstones shows slight central pitting (Pl. 29tt).

Parts of six ground-stone celts were found (Pl. 29uu, ww). Five of these were large and oval in cross-section, so far as could be determined from the poll and bit fragments. The sixth celt was small, rather flat, and rectangular in section, a form usually very late in the Lower Mississippi Valley Region.

One perforated stone pendant was found (Pl. 29vv). This is a thin, oval-shaped pebble that is similar to the two illustrated by Moore as having come from the Menard Site.<sup>1</sup>

#### HORIZONTAL PROVENIENCE OF STONE WORK

The great majority of all types of stone tools was found in the sections of trenches that cut into the flanks of the small mounds marked D and F on the map (Fig. 3). Trench 8, in which the house pattern was revealed, also shows significant numbers of artifacts in the squares on the north edge of this small rise. This distribution and shallow deposition suggest that most of these tools are related to the latest phase of occupation.

#### BONE TOOLS

Despite the large quantities of animal bone in the midden deposits, including numerous fragments of antler, only four pieces of bone were found showing evidence of workmanship.

A badly decayed section of the ventral plate of a turtle shell lay in Burial 22 over the elbow. Although no evidence of workmanship existed and the specimen could not even be saved, this

may be part of a turtle shell rattle.

Another small fragment of a ventral plate was sorted out of the level collections. A hole had been drilled near the edge.

A small antler tine from a collection 6 to 9 inches deep showed evidence of cutting.

Another antler tip has a socket at the base (Pl. 25y). This was in a cache, or bundle, which also contained a beaver incisor, three Willow Leaf blades, and an irregular flint fragment. These were near Burial 14, but not clearly associated with it.

#### EUROPEAN TRADE GOODS

Very small quantities of items of European manufacture have been described by each of the investigators who have worked at Menard Site. In a letter to the Bureau of American Ethnology, dated 1881, Edward Palmer described a metal cross discovered a short time before by a local citizen who was digging into the top of Mound A. This cross was remembered and described in some detail by a relative of the Menard family interviewed by Phillips in 1940.<sup>2</sup> Phillips' remarks are quoted below.

Of the 160 burials uncovered by Clarence Moore "Near Menard Mound," 10 were accompanied by trade goods. These are discussed in detail in a later section.

The 1958 field party found even scantier evidence of European contact than that recovered by Moore. A thoroughly charred boar's tusk was excavated from what appeared to be an undisturbed fireplace 1 foot below the surface in Trench 1.<sup>3</sup>

In Trench 3, a single blue seed bead made of glass was found in one of the large post holes described above.<sup>4</sup> There was no associated burial. This bead may have been displaced by Moore's excavations or construction activity. However, there is no doubt but that the bead dates from the period of early French contact.

Burial 21, discovered in Trench 8, just outside the south wall of the house found in this area, was the flexed skeleton of an adult male only 0.3 feet beneath the sod. Three small seed beads made of green glass and one made of blue glass rested in the pelvic region, near the right femur. At the feet of this skeleton was a shell-

<sup>2</sup> Phillips, MS, 17.

<sup>3</sup> This fired area is located N250-255, W95-100, El. 102.3.

<sup>4</sup> Location N190, W56.6, El. 99.73.

<sup>1</sup> Moore, 1908, 492, Fig. 3.

tempered bowl, with a broad band of red slip around the rim, of the type Old Town Red Filmed (Fig. 5d).

The paucity of trade goods accompanying burials at Menard contrasts markedly with the relative abundance of items of European manufacture found at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians near Natchez, Mississippi, and at the historic Tunica village near the mouth of Red River in Louisiana.<sup>1</sup> However, this difference in quantity is to be expected. The sites lower down the Mississippi represent the period from 1720 to 1730 when the French were firmly established in the Lower Mississippi Valley and were receiving goods directly from France by sea. All the trade goods for de Tonti's modest establishment at the Arkansas had to be brought from Canada by canoe. Jean Couture and his companions were so pressed for supplies that Joutel's party left them powder and other supplies as they passed through on their overland trip from the Texas coast. It is understandable that the meager list of trade goods from Menard consists of small light beads and

metal ornaments; heavier items, such as brass kettles, wooden chests with iron fittings, and firearms have not been found.

#### FAUNAL REMAINS

Animal bones were relatively abundant in the Menard Site refuse deposits. The collection was submitted to the Department of Mammalogy of the American Museum for identification. Mr. George G. Goodwin, who has examined the collection, gives the following list:

- Opossum
- Raccoon
- White-tailed deer (80 per cent)
- Domestic pig
- Horse tooth
- Clam shells
- Drumfish and other fish
- Turkey and other birds
- Soft shell turtle and others
- Bison (rare)

Moore states that on the nearby Wallace Site bison bones were abundant.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ford, 1936, 61, 137; Quimby, 1942.

<sup>2</sup> Moore, 1908, 492.