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MISCELLANEOUS SERIES NO. 24

INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS

EDITED BY F. W. HODGE



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RELATING TO THE
AMERICAN ABORIGINES

CHEROKEE AND EARLIER REMAINS ON UPPER TENNESSEE RIVER

BY
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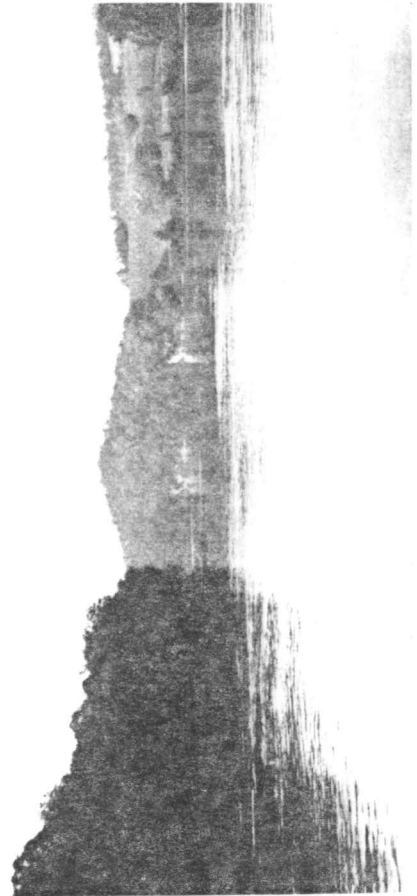
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PL. I

HARRINGTON—CHEROKEE REMAINS




TYPICAL SCENE ON UPPER TENNESSEE RIVER

9178

Tenn. between Little Tenn. +
Hiwassee rivers

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	<p>coming of the whites, to accumulate so much refuse, it was finally abandoned soon after their arrival.</p> <p>Stopping work on this site at the owner's request, as before related, we finished the mound excavation which had been suspended, and then proceeded to Bussell's island, formerly known as Lenoir island, which lies directly in the mouth of Little Tennessee river, part of whose waters run to the east and part to the west of it. To do this, we had merely to pull our houseboat across the narrow eastern channel to the island, along which we coasted until we found a suitable place to tie her up again—certainly an easy and convenient way to move camp. The lower end of the island, as seen from down-stream, is shown in pl. XVIII.</p>
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<p>IV. LENOIR OR BUSSELL'S ISLAND</p> <p>FORMER EXPLORATION</p> <p>HE expedition of the Bureau of Ethnology, under Mr Emmert, who conducted its work about Lenoir City, gained its best results from two mounds which in Emmert's time (1887) stood on Lenoir (at present called Bussell's) island. Both have now disappeared, hence it is interesting to note that the first was "very symmetrical, the base almost an exact circle 100 feet in diameter and 6½ ft. high," and that it contained 14 skeletons, all of them in an extended position, according to the published plan, but that few aboriginal objects were found with them—merely some sheets of mica and a stone knife. One adult skeleton, heading in a direction different from the rest, had blue-glass beads about its neck, while a child, lying apart from the others. ✓</p>	
AND MONOGRAPHS	

far as the results of our work are concerned. Harlan I. Smith thinks that such objects, of which he found a number during his excavations at May's Lick, Kentucky, were used in constructing snares to make the noose run easily,⁵⁹ but the writer found a number of bone beads in at least two cases near the necks of skeletons during the work on Tennessee river, in such a position that their use as necklaces could hardly be



FIG. 52.—Pearl beads, Mainland village-site. (Diameter of largest, 0.4 in.)

doubted. A plain specimen is shown in fig. 53, and an ornate one, made from the lower leg-bone of a turkey-cock, is seen in pl. LXXVIII, c.

Such were the beads of truly aboriginal character; but there were also found, as before related, a few graves of the colonial period which contained beads of white men's material or make. Under the first head may be mentioned those of sheet-copper of European origin (fig. 54), per-

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haps pieces of kettles, which vary in length from 0.2 in. to 1.2 in., and in diameter from 0.1 in. to 0.3 in., all of them made by cutting out an approximate rectangle of sheet-copper and rolling it into the form of a hollow cylinder. These were often strung in alternation with beads of glass.

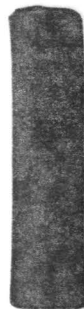


FIG. 53.—Bone bead, Hiwassee island. (Length, 1.6 in.)



FIG. 54.—Beads of sheet-copper, Lenoir or Bussell's island. (Length of a, 0.5 in.)

The glass beads, of European origin, are white, dark-blue, and light-blue in color, with a few purplish ones which may originally have been red. In size they vary from less than 0.1 in. to more than 0.2 in. in diameter for the more or less globular

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252	CHEROKEE REMAINS
	<p>sorts, which are in the majority. The few cylindrical examples measure about 0.2 in. by 0.5 in., and are red in color, with four white, longitudinal stripes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PENDANTS</p> <p>As might have been expected, most of the pendants found were made of marine shells; one had been a fine circular gorget with scalloped edges on whose disintegrated surface may still be seen traces of an incised decoration, the "triskele" (pl. LXXXI, <i>a</i>) frequently found in eastern Tennessee. Another type of which we obtained a number is shown in <i>b</i> of the same plate; these are always plain.</p> <p>We were not successful in procuring any examples of the mask type of shell gorget, also well known, from this region, but a number of good specimens of these were found by Messrs Barnes and Benham during their digging on Hiwassee island, some of which may still be seen in Lieutenant Benham's collection, along with a well-preserved specimen of the "triskele" gorget.</p> <p>Whatever other people or peoples may</p>
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PENDANTS	253
<p>also have used the triskele, mask, and rattlesnake types of shell gorgets, the writer is convinced that the Cherokee owned and wore many of them, whether they actually made them or not. His reason for this belief lies in the fact that not only were they discovered in Cherokee graves by Messrs Barnes and Benham but that Mr Moore found them associated with a series of artifacts, which the writer from his own studies considers typically Cherokee, on a site near Citico creek⁶⁰ in the vicinity of Chattanooga; and MacCurdy⁶¹ reports them so associated at the Brakebill mound near Knoxville.</p> <p>Worn with a string of sheet-copper and glass beads was the circular, plain, shell gorget seen in pl. LXXXII, <i>b</i>, found with the remains of a child at Lenoir or Bussell's island, as was the pendant (<i>a</i> of the same plate) made from part of a marine bivalve shell; while on Hiwassee island were unearthed a number of pendants like <i>g</i>, made from whole but diminutive conchs. When we mention the fact that small, flat fragments of conch-shell, not an inch in</p>	
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