

THE CLARKSON SITE (13WA2)
An Oneota Manifestation in the Central
Des Moines River Valley

by

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ABSTRACT

This study presents the investigation and analysis of the material culture remains from the Clarkson site (13WA2), a double-component archaeological site located within the flood control pool of Lake Red Rock in northeastern Warren County, Iowa. Excavation of the site was conducted by personnel from the Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory in 1966. The primary component at the site is the residue of a prehistoric Oneota occupation attributed to the Moingona Phase and dated by radiocarbon assay to circa A.D. 1250. A more recent component, constituting the historic remains of the late 19th and early 20th century Euro-American village of Clarkson, overlies the Oneota materials.

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shoulder and a portion of the face, including the nose and upper teeth. The doll is white with molded features; the lips and the sock and shoe are tinted with color. The doll is hollow molded, with mold lines running up both the front and back of the leg. The length of the foot is 22 mm.; the width is 11 mm. The distance from the bottom of the foot to the knee is 38 mm. The teeth had been formed as a separate unit and then set into place behind the upper lip.

Also found was the torso of a small china (porcelain) doll of the type known to collectors as "Frozen Charlotte." Most "Frozen Charlottes" were manufactured in Germany from the 1840s or 1850s until the turn of the century and were so popularly inexpensive in America that they were often called "penny dolls" (Fox 1974: 289; Johl 1946: 235; St. George 1948: 41; Young 1967: 155). The example from 13WA2 is solid and has been molded in one piece, with mold lines running up each side of the body. The appendages are non-movable. The doll has no clothing or adornment of any kind. The present height of the doll (minus head and feet) is 42 mm.

Clothing accoutrements

Buttons Three different buttons were found at 13WA2. One is a two-hole white mussel shell button, 22 mm. (7/8 inch) in diameter and 2 mm. in thickness. It is chipped and the surface has begun to erode. Another is a molded two-hole hard rubber button, 18 mm. (3/4 inch) in diameter and 2 mm. in thickness. The button is dull red in color and has been damaged by exposure to heat along one edge. The third button is of milk glass, bi-conical in shape with a self-shank (Peacock 1972: 123); it is 10 mm. (3/8 inch) in diameter and 7 mm. in thickness. One edge has been chipped away.

Bead A single multi-faceted clear red glass bead was recovered from the surface, 14 mm. in length and 5 mm. in diameter. The facets are irregular, having been cut rather than molded. The bore is 1 mm. wide and passes off-center through the bead, suggesting that the bead was not machined but had been made by hand.

Bone ornament A portion of an oval decorative carved bone object was found and is presumed to have been part of a hair ornament, brooch or fancy buckle. The portion remaining consists of a rosette surrounded by leaves and flowers, all carved in relief on a flat or slightly curved bone, and retains a natural white to gray-white bone color. The upper surface has been covered by a clear lacquer. The approximate reconstructed dimensions are 40 mm. x 44 mm. with a thickness of 5 mm. The surface of the ornament has begun to crack and the piece is slightly warped.

Buckle A decorative brass buckle cover was found, embossed with an emblem of an ax and mallet, handles crossed, on a field of branches. The buckle cover is rectangular, 75 mm. x 52 mm., and has a slot along one edge for attachment to a belt.

Sewing accoutrements

Thimble A silver thimble, covered entirely by dimpling except for a fretted band around the circumference near the opening, was found; it had