

NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF MAN
MERCURY SERIES

MUSÉE NATIONAL
DE L'HOMME
COLLECTION MERCURE

ISSN 0316 - 1854

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF CANADA

PAPER No. 123

COMMISSION ARCHÉOLOGIQUE
DU CANADA

DOSSIER No. 123

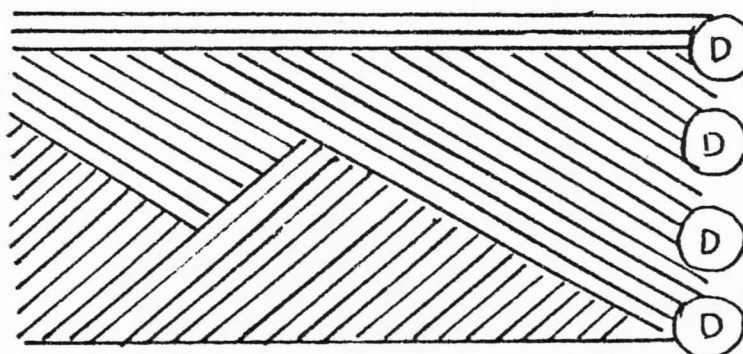
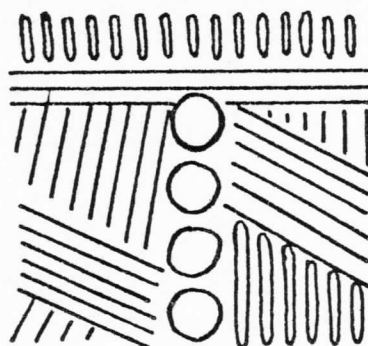
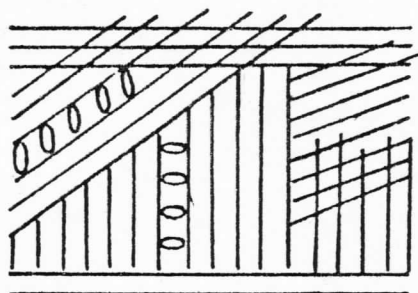
ISSN 0317 - 2244

THE BECKSTEAD SITE-1977

JAMES F. PENDERGAST

APPENDIX:

FAUNAL ANALYSIS OF THE BECKSTEAD SITE (B1Ft-1) A.C. D'ANDREA,
J. PROCOPIO, J.D. ACKERMAN, AND A. CLEMENTS



ABSTRACT

This a detailed account of excavations on the Beckstead St. Lawrence Iroquoian village site which took place in 1977 as a result of the site being threatened by a road-widening project. After quoting from the earliest references to the site by the settlers and an explanation of the excavation plan the author describes and discusses the archaeological features. The embankment, palisade, portions of four longhouses and the open village areas between the longhouses are examined. The orientation and width of the longhouses and the incidence of bunk-lines are compared with other St. Lawrence Iroquoian data. There is a detailed description of the artifacts recovered together with a discussion of their provenience and significance in a St. Lawrence Iroquoian context. The pottery sample is analysed using pottery types on the basis of both rimsherds and vessels. It is also analysed using ceramic attributes also on the basis of both rimsherds and vessels. The results of these analyses are compared. The 1977 pottery sample is compared with that recovered in 1962 and both are compared to the samples from the Salem and Grays Creek sites. Ceramics and pipes are used to compare the facets of village life which took place in the longhouses and the village open areas. An attempt is made to ascertain the sequence in which the longhouses were constructed on the basis of the wall post-mold patterns. Human burials are described in detail regarding their location and orientation which is compared with other St. Lawrence Iroquoian data.

RESUME

L'auteur présente un compte rendu circonstancié des fouilles pratiquées au site du village iroquoien de Beckstead, dans la vallée du Saint-Laurent. Celles-ci eurent lieu en 1977 parce que les travaux d'élargissement d'une route menaçaient l'existence du site. Après avoir cité les plus anciennes références faites par les colons et expliqué le plan des fouilles, l'auteur décrit et étudie les structures archéologiques.

EUROPEAN ARTIFACTS

Glass Bead

A single blue glass bead (Cat. No. 122) was recovered from the ploughzone in Square 4, vide Table 56). Approximately 5.25 sq. m. of House 1 lie within the boundaries of Square 4 as does about one half of the open village area between the south ditch and House 1. It is not possible to attribute this bead to archaeological features in either of these areas.

Thomas Kenyon in his Glass Beads paper, Part 2 (n.d.) describes this bead, his Type 20, as follows:

"Heptagonal, three layer construction; outer layer transparent ultramarine blue, middle layer translucent light blue, inner layer transparent ultramarine blue; twenty-one facets, site G."

He explains that "On the Lower Grand River sites, beads with ground facets are the predominant type, composing 78% of the total number of necklace beads. The facettted beads come from both Six Nations and European sites, which range from c. 1820 to c. 1870 in date On types 15 to 20, facets are hand ground on the corners of the beads, but in the beads' centre leaving part of the original longitudinal facetting. The grinding may be uneven, so that the facettted corners range from being symmetrical to irregular when viewed end on. Lengths are generally shorter than the diameters. On most of the facettted beads the flat ends are produced by simply breaking the glass cane, but a few specimens have ends ground perpendicular to the line hole Facettted beads continued to be popular in the late 19th and 20th centuries but these later styles were moulded unlike the ground beads described here".

Ian Kenyon, Field Archaeologist Southwestern Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, London examined the specimen from Beckstead and advised me as follows:

"The bead unquestionably dates to the 19th century. Facettted beads of this general type have almost a world-wide distribution; they seem to have been particularly popular in the Indian trade, notably on the west coast. Although the facettted beads may occur in almost any colour, blue is the most popular. The milky, translucent core of the Beckstead specimen is quite typical. As you can see from the enclosed article describing beads from the Grand River, there are some minor variations with

regard to the number of facets and type of core structure. Your specimen is identical to #20.

Most of the Grand River specimens are surface finds, but the Croker and Hunter beads were excavated from features with good context. Both the Croker and Hunter sites date to c. 1830-45. The identity of the Hunter site occupants is presently uncertain. Croker was a white man who was married to a Delaware. John Young Jr. was also white, but his mother, who lived on the adjoining lot was Iroquois. The Davis site is part of the Mohawk village near Brantford. Styres was a Cayuga family who lived on the site until the early 1950's. The two specimens from the Middleport site curiously duplicate the Beckstead situation. Middleport is, of course, a prehistoric site, but in the early and middle 19th century it was also the location of an Onondaga village, whose occupants were presumably the source of the two surface finds listed in the article.

As the above data suggest, the facettled beads seem to be most common in the 1825-1850 period, and they tend to be found on native-related sites. George Head in his "Forest Scenes...." (1829) gives a good description of native people in the vicinity of Lake Simcoe wearing what are likely the facettled beads:

"They had silver ornaments in their ears, a necklace each of blue beads, and quantities of scarlet serge disposed about their dress instead of riband."

The bead from Beckstead, then, cannot have any connection with the St. Lawrence Iroquois component, but it may indicate the presence of a 19th century Indian encampment (a maple sugar camp?)."

Discussion

The blue glass bead recovered at Beckstead is very similar to that found at Roebuck by Wintenberg (Cat. No. VIII-F-10260) in the muck surrounding one of the springs at the site (Wintenberg 1936, p. 62). In his opinion it "is unlike any of the glass beads from seventeenth century Iroquois sites in Ontario and New York and was, therefore, probably dropped quite recently".

Upon examination the Roebuck specimen meets the criteria set by Thomas Kenyon (ibid.) for his Type 19. It is identical to the type 20 bead recovered at Beckstead with the exception that Type 19 is constructed in two layers: the outer layer being transparent ultramarine blue and the

inner layer translucent light blue. Both beads have 21 facets. The views expressed by both Thomas and Ian Kenyon support Winterberg's opinion that the Roebuck bead is "quite recent".

It is of interest to note that local lore, related to the author by a deceased uncle who lived nearby, describes how the Iroquois from St. Regis came to the area not far north-west of Williamsburg to pound ash in the spring of the year prior to the mid 1930's for as long as could be remembered. The area was known to local residents as 'Hochelaga'. Possibly both the Roebuck and Beckstead beads reflect the use of these areas by the St. Regis Band for one reason or another for a long period of time. This association with the Williamsburg area may be the basis of the erroneous claim by the St. Regis Band to be closely related, "ancestors" was the word used, to the inhabitants of the Beckstead village site. Current widely held opinion regarding the distinctly separate and in-situ origin of the Mohawk and other Six Nation Iroquois and the St. Lawrence Iroquoians does not support this claim by the St. Regis Band.

It is unfortunate that an error has crept into the 1977 Beckstead catalogue to the effect that two blue glass beads were recovered. The second is in fact the Roebuck specimen which, having been removed from that collection for comparison, was erroneously included in the Beckstead catalogue. There is but one blue glass bead in the 1977 Beckstead assemblage.

European Features

European features were exposed in Squares 7, 8, 9 and 16. Although they are not related to the Iroquoian village described, at times Iroquoian and European artifacts were intermingled in these areas. The European features were excavated by Parks Canada where the resultant records and European artifacts are held.

Possibly these European remains are associated with "the so called unfinished mill in that locality" mentioned by the "old resident" clergyman whose description in Croil's 'Dundas' (1861) constitutes the earliest record of the site.

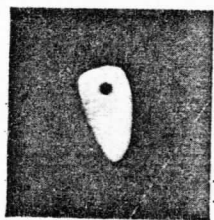
It should be noted that the residents of the site have long been in the habit of dumping their refuse, including coal ashes, on the site particularly in the vicinity of the house. This has been ploughed-in

Plate 14

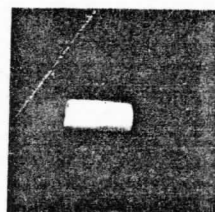
- A. Blue heptagonal glass bead recovered from Square 4 ploughzone.
Cat. No. 122. Table 56, Serial 16.
- B. White quartz pendant biconically perforated, excavated in the area between House 2 and House 3, Square 7, pit Feature 53.
Cat. No. 2069. Table 56 Serial 13.
- C. White marine shell collumella wampum-type tubular bead, excavated in House 2, Square 6, pit Feature 11.
Cat. No. 2719. Table 56 Serial 14.
- D. Black steatite discoidal bead tubularly perforated, excavated in the area between the south ditch and House 1, Square 4, pit Feature 140.
Cat. No. 3897. Table 56 Serial 12.
- E. Black steatite discoidal bead biconically perforated, excavated in House 3, Square 10, pit Feature 201.
Cat. No. 3701. Table 56 Serial 11.
- F. Gritty brown mudstone discoidal bead biconically perforated, recovered from the surface.
Cat. No. 720. Table 56 Serial 3.
- G. Gritty red mudstone discoidal bead biconically perforated, excavated in test trench No. 1.
Cat. No. 703. Table 56 Serial 2.



A



B



C



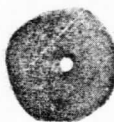
D



E



F



G