

REPORT ON THE INDIAN SITE
AT THE "FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH", ST. AUGUSTINE

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FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH PARK,

REPORT ON THE INDIAN SITE AT THE "FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH", ST. AUGUSTINE

The site now designated as SJ-31 is located in the northeast corner of a lawn near the entrance of the "Fountain of Youth Park". The 1951 testing, however, included most of the twenty-one acre development which may be found on Magnolia Avenue at the foot of Myrtle Street in the city of St. Augustine, Florida. (Federal Writers' Project, 1937, p. 55.) This area would fall outside of the environs established for old St. Augustine, but within the area considered by some to have been the location for the landing of Ponce de Leon in 1513. (Anonymous, 1945)

Too narrow
all of path

note
mural
wall of

? ??

Although signs of the Indian occupation of this property were said to have been noticed about 1870 by H. H. Williams, then owner, the definite discovery of this village site and burial ground was made April 13, 1934. (Present owner (personal communication) Excavation was conducted by Mr. J. Ray Dickson who had participated in archaeological work for seven years for the University of Chicago and for the Dickson Mound Museum at Lewistown, Illinois (Dickson, n.d.). Mr. Dickson was contacted by Mr. Walter B. Fraser, current owner of the property, and recommended by Mr. M. W. Stirling (Communication from M. W. Stirling to Walter B. Fraser, June, 1934).

sp.

how

carry over

day?

Later in 1934, the work was inspected by M. W. Stirling, Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Mr. Stirling examined six burials, especially mentioning four (Stirling, n.d.). These included two female skeletons, one about twenty-one, the other of early middle age. He also mentions the remains of a ten year old child and those of an adult male.

years old,

Mr. Vernon Lamme, then State Archeologist, with two assistants from the Tallahassee office excavated in 1935 on the site of the Indian village near the burial ground.

what fits

CEMETARY DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The burial ground is near the edge of a salt marsh facing the open bay. (Dickson, n.d.) Sea level, according to Mr. Dickson, was fifty-seven inches below the surface. ^{and} Some of the burials ^{were} ~~are~~ below high tide. Water gave some trouble during the excavation and ^{now} adds to the difficulty of preservation of the ^{bones} ~~relics~~ in situ.

creak means low or high tide

The main portion of the ^{cemetary} ~~site~~ covers an area forty by eighty feet in the northeast corner of a lawn extending over an acre and a half on the "Fountain of Youth" grounds. In addition, a trench was begun which was intended to surround the entire burial ground. At forty yards south of the main part, skeletons were still being found (Ibid.).

more

X

~~EXCAVATION OF THE SITE~~

The greater part of the following information concerning the excavation ^{and report} ~~and findings~~ of this site is taken from the field notes of Mr. Dickson, ~~and from his report~~. Any Material extracted from other sources will be credited to them.

if note

Concerning the soil encountered, Mr. Dickson speaks of the yellow, undisturbed sand with a covering of darker earth. Mr. Lamme reported in 1935 that the upper levels of soil to the depth of from ten inches to three feet was "typical kitchen midden". At three feet he encountered solid oyster shell (Lamme, 1935)

The upper ten inches of soil had been disturbed by cultivation, and
~~The destruction of parts of some burials~~ ^{disturbance} ~~has been brought about by the~~ ^{was}
 setting of orange trees. ~~The present covering, where undisturbed,~~ ^{At} ~~is the remaining~~ ^{not developed}
 area is covered by grass and shrubbery. J

A log structure has been built over the major concentration of burials, which are left exposed as excavated. The building is a copy of one pictured in the famous engravings of Theodore de Bry, which in turn were made from Jacques Le Moyne's paintings of the Florida Indians of 1564. (Lorant, 1946, p. 30).

not relevant

Insects
Diseases
7 young

pro-
ant males

first pushed north along the
from the baseline



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11. 11

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Fig. 2. Number plan of ten foot squares.

L.C.

DEPTH OF BURIAL

Since the burials are all presumably intentional and intrusive, too much emphasis should not be placed on depths in individual cases. It may be conceded, however, that skeletons imposed on other relatively undisturbed burials are later in time. In this cemetery, there is a great deal of evidence pointing to the use of the location as a burial ground over quite a period of time.

The following ~~chart~~^{table} shows the relative depths of the sixty-seven burials upon which the record was available.

depth	16"	17"	18"	19"	20"	21"	22"	23"	24"	25"	26"	27"	28"	29"	30"	31"	32"	33"	34"	35"	36"	37"	42"	5"
number	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	4	6	7	1	3	1	14	3	4	1	3	1	4	1	1	1

(Table 1. Depth of Burial.)

An examination shows
The pattern ~~is~~^{to be} far from perfect, but the concentration ~~is~~^{is} from twenty-three to thirty-six inches. *majority of interments now*
The most frequent ~~depth~~^{in depth} of burial was thirty inches below the surface.

mean 3? mode 3? fourteen
Within this range ~~44~~^{fourteen}, or nearly 25.5% were found at a depth of thirty inches.

Separate
Glass
Shell
etc.

Glass BEADS FROM SJ-31

Since beads were more numerous at this place than in most Florida sites, an attempt will be made to list and describe them fully. Many of the beads were associated with the burials of children and had, apparently, been around the neck. Although no stringing material remained, the position of the beads in series would suggest their use as a necklace. Burials sixteen and twenty-four both shell beads and some made of glass. (Dickson, n.d.)

Loc
all
burials
- away
where

There were two distinct types of beads. (Ibid) The shell beads, apparently of Indian make, were either a small disc ground from shell and perforated (Ibid) or a barrel shape (Dickson, 1934, p. 6.). The other type is described by Mr. Dickson as "several kinds of manufactured beads, no doubt traded to the Indians by Europeans". (Dickson, n.d.) Elsewhere he describes them as trade beads and of glass material. (Dickson, 1934, pp. 6 and 7.) According to statements made at the time of discovery, these beads were yellow and blue. (Science Service, 1934.)

at some

However, upon personal ^{study} inspection of beads preserved from the burials, the author of this paper found them much more colorful and varied than noted at the time ^{of discovery}. In the case of very small and fragmentary beads, the numbers quoted below had to be estimated. Doubtless some have been destroyed, others lost. These listed were examined in May, 1951 both at the museum at the "Fountain of Youth" and, in the case of individual specimens chosen for type study, at the Anthropology Laboratory, University of Florida.

BEADS FROM THE BURIALS

TYPE	NUMBER SAVED
Seed beads	273
Gooseberry beads	36
Cornaline d'Aleppo type	35
Chevron beads	30
Polychrome beads of black, red and white.	2
Dark blue spherical	5
Dark blue ellipsoid	1
Dark blue ellipsoid with red stripes	1
Light blue ovaloid	2
Rice like	15
Metal cylinders	5
Clear glass ellipsoid	1
Amber beads	2
Jet bead	1
Shell beads	77
Miscellaneous fragments	83
Amber	7
Bright blue	13
Lavender	16
Others (nondescript)	47
Total	569

Place
in and
see.

26

reorganized
Reading

DESCRIPTION OF BEAD TYPES

SHELL BEADS.

Seventy-seven Indian shell beads are available for examination. These are now very chalky and apt to crumble at a touch. This writer does not doubt that many were not distinguished from the plentiful amount of shell in the soil of the burials. Others saved at the time have probably disintegrated. poor

Besides the oblate disc and barrel shapes mentioned by Mr. Dickson, there are spherical, ellipsoid-circular, oblate-circular and various cylinder types.* The last two are generally the smaller, most being one-eighth inch or smaller in diameter. The others range down from a three-eighths inch diameter and/or profile.

AMBER BEADS.

Beads made of various gums are found in Indian sites but are not common. (Orchard, 1929, pp. 75-76.) They were easily made, but this is counteracted by their indurability. The examples from the burials at this site are oblate-circular in shape. The larger of the two is about eleven-sixteenths ^{11/16} inches in diameter. The smaller is about three-eighths and, having been split in half, reveals its color as dark amber. The outer surface of both is covered with a dun colored patina.

METAL BEADS.

It may be assumed that item #4 in the Smithsonian report was included in the five metal cylinders now in the collection at the "Fountain of Youth". Bad
Describe

* Beck, 1928, was used as the authority for terms describing shapes. In hyphenated descriptions the first word denotes profile, the second perimeter.

Since this is my only foot note, could I put it in () to be included in the text. JS

intro statement to
beads
with text.

Although identified as "European sheet copper rolled to form beads", there is a chance that these are "tinklers" favored by the Indians as audible decoration on their garments. possibly
probable.

SEED BEADS.

The very common flattened sheres (oblate-circular) known as seed beads were used for creating designs and are rather small, ^{ranging} from a sixteenth to an eighth of an inch. ~~They were given and sold to the Indians in all parts of America and were measured in bunches strung together. (Orchard, 1929, pp. 82 & 89.)~~ Although seed beads were made in practically any color, ~~(plus clear, black and white)~~ ^{was} Blue, both light and dark, were the fashion at the "Fountain of Youth". Some of the miscellaneous fragments were probably from seed beads as they are in a fragile condition, crumbling at a touch. embroid

CHEVRON BEAD.

So called by manufacturers, they were also known as "star beads" (Orchard, 1929, pp. 83-85.) and sun beads (Beck, 1928, p. 65.). The glass canes from which these were made were built up of concentric layers of colored glass divided by opaque white glass worked into zigzags (chevrons) twelve in number. The most common coloring, beginning from the outer layer, is cobalt blue-white-brick red-white. There is sometimes another color in the center, at this site pale green. The size may vary from two and a half inches to one-fourth inch in length. Those at the "Fountain of Youth" ranged from one-half inch to one-fourth inch. The thirty specimens examined differed just as widely in shape, since they included barrel, cylindrical and oblate forms. The larger specimens tended to be rather irregular. Al-

though the perimeter is generally circular, the ends of the barrel shaped ^{specimens} ~~have the appearance of being~~ ^{been} faceted, shaping to a pyramid at the perforations.

Chevron beads have been found in Europe and Africa as well as in North America. (Haldeman, 1877, pp 302-305.) In North America, they have been reported from Hawikuh, New Mexico; Santa Barbarbera, California; Lima, N. Y.; the Susquehanna; Ontario, Canada and Florida. (Orchard, 1929, 83-85.) The Florida locations, as known to this author, are Black Hammock (Harrison, 1877, p. 305.), the Goodnow Mound (Griffin & Smith, 1948, p. 14.), Seven Oaks Mound in Pinellas County (Ibid., p. 28.) and this site.

more
20 set
them

GOOSEBERRY BEADS.

Oblate-circular beads of clear glass were striped with white to represent gooseberries. (Orchard, 1929, p. 87.) These have been found in Michigan and Louisiana. A Florida site which reports specimens is the Goodnow Mound, Highlands County, Florida. (Griffin & Smith, 1948, p. 29.) Those at this site, F. of Y., measure about three- sixteenths inch through the perforation and are slightly larger in diameter. Nine of them are whole, but there about twenty-five fragments. It is doubtful if the number would be greatly reduced by joining these. ^{total of example} ^{attempting to fit these together}

TYPE RESEMBLING CORNALINE D'ALEPPO.

The true Cornaline d'Aleppo is "Indian red" with a center of greenish black, yellow or white. (Orchard, 1929, p. 87.) The "Fountain of Youth" specimens are blue with a white core but resemble Cornaline d'Aleppo in form. The shape is oblate-circular with the white inner section extending into

view at each perforation, which is rather large. In fact the opening extends over about half of the quarter inch diameter. Thirty-four were saved from the burials.

JET BEAD.

The single example found here is a faceted bead of the type called "twisted square". The five sided facets which point to one end are rotated forty-five degrees with reference to the facets which point to the other end, in technical terms, a truncated tetragonal trapezohedron. (Beck, 1928, p. 17). The two opposing perforated facets are squares while the remaining eight are pentagonal. The color, of course, is black.

LONGITUDINALLY STRIPED BEADS.

These were found in two variations. Two specimens are black with thin white stripes and broader red ones. The shape is spherical with a diameter of three sixteenth of an inch. The other is a red striped, dark blue, ellipsoid-circular bead about a quarter of an inch long.

MISCELLANEOUS GLASS BEADS.

In addition to the beads discussed above, there ~~were~~^{are} others of less striking appearance. Five are dark blue spherical beads. Also dark blue is one ellipsoid. Another of the same shape is clear glass. Two a bit irregular as to perforation are generally ellipsoid-circular in light blue. Fifteen, which are about the size and shape of rice grains, may be porcelain.

X no!