

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH REPORT 12

**NORTHERN ONTARIO
FUR TRADE
ARCHAEOLOGY:
RECENT RESEARCH**

**Edited by
C.S. "PADDY" REID**

Toronto

Historical Planning and Research Branch
Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation
1980

MARTIN'S FALLS

AN ANALYSIS OF ARTEFACTS FROM
MARTIN'S FALLS HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY POST, EjIp-1

By

Rosemary P. Vyvyan

North Central Region

Historical Planning and Research Branch

Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation

1978

CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	141
<i>Martin's Falls</i>	141
<i>The Archaeology</i>	142
The Artefacts	144
Ceramics	144
Glass	155
Builder's Hardware	160
Household and Personal Items	175
Aboriginal Artefacts	185
Faunal Remains	185
<i>Summary and Conclusion</i>	185
<i>Bibliography</i>	186

pp. 139-188

1782-1923

MARTIN'S FALLS

Clay Pipes

The clay pipes from Martin's Falls consist of eleven stem fragments, one complete bowl, and four fragmentary bowls. They are all made from unglazed white clay (Figure 90).

Two of the pipe stem fragments have tipped mouth pieces and one other fragment is stamped with the letters "RA. . ./ . . IC". It may have been manufactured by Thomas William Ford who worked in the Ratcliff area of Stepney from 1826 (Walker 1971).

Three of the five pipe bowls bear discernable analyzable characteristics; the other two are small and do not. The most complete bowl is badly water-worn but it appears to have been a human effigy pipe (Figure 89). The other two bowl fragments have complete spurs and each spur is marked with a "T" and "F" on respective sides. These were probably made by Thomas Ford. According to Walker,

"A number of Fords made pipes in various locations in London, most of them in East London, last century and at least three of them are known, on the evidence of marked pipes found on Hudson's Bay Company sites, to have exported to North America. The longest-lived and most important of these firms was that successively known as John, Jesse and Thomas, and Thomas Ford of Stepney, recorded in business from 1823 and 1909. Jesse and Thomas took over in 1826; from 1876 to 1876 the firm appears as Ford and Company, and from 1880 until its closing it is listed as Thomas Ford, probably representing a third generation." (Walker 1971: 23)

Buttons (Figure 9)

The only button found at Martin's Falls is flat on the surface and has a wire eye. It appears to have had a pattern stamped on the surface; however, it is made from iron and rust has obscured the pattern.

Beads (Figure 9)

The five beads from Martin's Falls are made of glass. Three of these are sub-cylindrical seed beads, each of a different colour. One has an opaque white core with a transparent red outer covering, another is transparent blue, and the third is transparent green. There is one wire-wound, barrel-shaped bead of transparent red glass with applied yellow glass dots and hand-painted white alternating loops. The fifth bead, representing a third variety, is an oblong shaped specimen made from white glass paste with a hand-painted blue alternating loop pattern.

Guns and Gun Parts (Figure 93)

There are four lock plates with pans from Martin's Falls. On one (B-268) the name "WILSON" appears. Another specimen (B-269) has several remaining parts which include the pan, cock, sear spring, and tumbler. This more complete lockplate has visible character lines engraved around its perimeter and the name "BARNETT" is stamped just below the cock.

TABLE 45 – BEAD DESCRIPTIONS

Catalogue Number	24A	24B	24C	259	260
Type	Seed	Seed	Seed	Oblong	Wire Wound
Maximum Length	1.5 mm	1.7 mm	1.2 mm	10.4 mm	9.5 mm
Maximum Diameter	2.0 mm	2.3 mm	2.0 mm	8.7 mm	8.2 mm
Bore Diameter	0.5 mm	0.6 mm	0.5 mm	2.6 mm	2.3 mm
Shape	Subcylindrical	Subcylindrical	Subcylindrical	Oblong	Barrel
Core Colour	Opaque <i>white</i>	-	-	-	-
Outer Colour	Red	Blue <i>tsp.</i>	<i>tsp</i> Green	White	Red
Design	-	-	-	Blue alternating loops.	White alternating loops with yellow dots.
	<i>IVa</i>	<i>IIa</i>	<i>IIa</i>	<i>WIIIb *(f)</i>	<i>W IIIb</i> <i>more modern</i>
	<i>recent</i>				

MARTIN'S FALLS

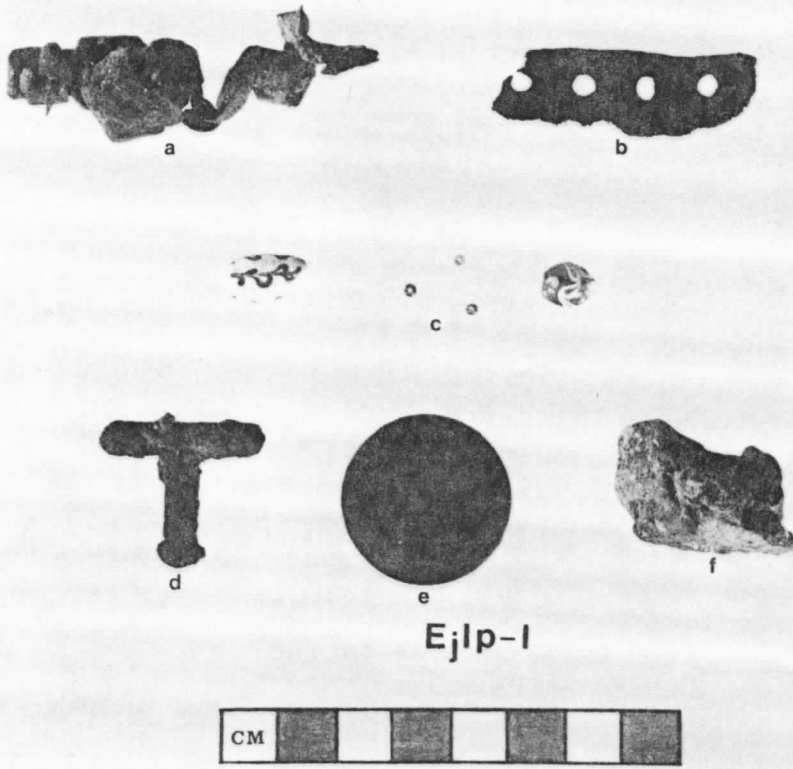


FIGURE 91

Miscellaneous Artefacts

- a. birch bark fragment.
- b. leather.
- c. beads.
- d. "T" bar or cross fragment.
- e. metal button.
- f. brick fragment.

NORTHERN ONTARIO FUR TRADE ARCHAEOLOGY

SECTIONS OF THE BEADS


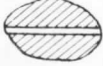








No.	Transverse	Longitudinal	Colour
260			red with white alternating loops and yellow dots
259			white with alternating loops
T.P. 24a			red with opaque core
b			blue
c			green

FIGURE 92

Sections of the beads

Concerning gun manufacturers, Hanson (1955) has said that Wilsom became the principal supplier for the Hudson's Bay Company during the 1760-1820 period. Apparently the Wilson firm first made guns for the Hudson's Bay Company in 1731 and filled their last order in 1822. Hanson also states that the Barnett firm supplied most of its guns to the North West Company prior to 1800 and in later years it became the North West Company's major supplier.

A slight interpretational problem arises in explaining the occurrence of a predominantly North West Company type of gun at a Hudson's Bay Company post. The close proximity of the posts of the two companies combined with the intricate individual hand-to-hand trading patterns among the Indians and company employees suggests that the chance of recovering a North West Company gun at a Hudson's Bay Company post and *vice versa* is not remote.

The Barnett gun at Martin's Falls may have originated at a North West Company post and transferred from one trader to another until it met its end at a Hudson's Bay post or it may have been manufactured by Barnett for the Hudson's Bay Company, although that firm distributed in the main through the North West Company.