995

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE COOPER SITES (AgHb-18 AND AgHb-19)

Gary Warrick

Pd. IIIb Neutral

Submitted to the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Toronto - January, 1983

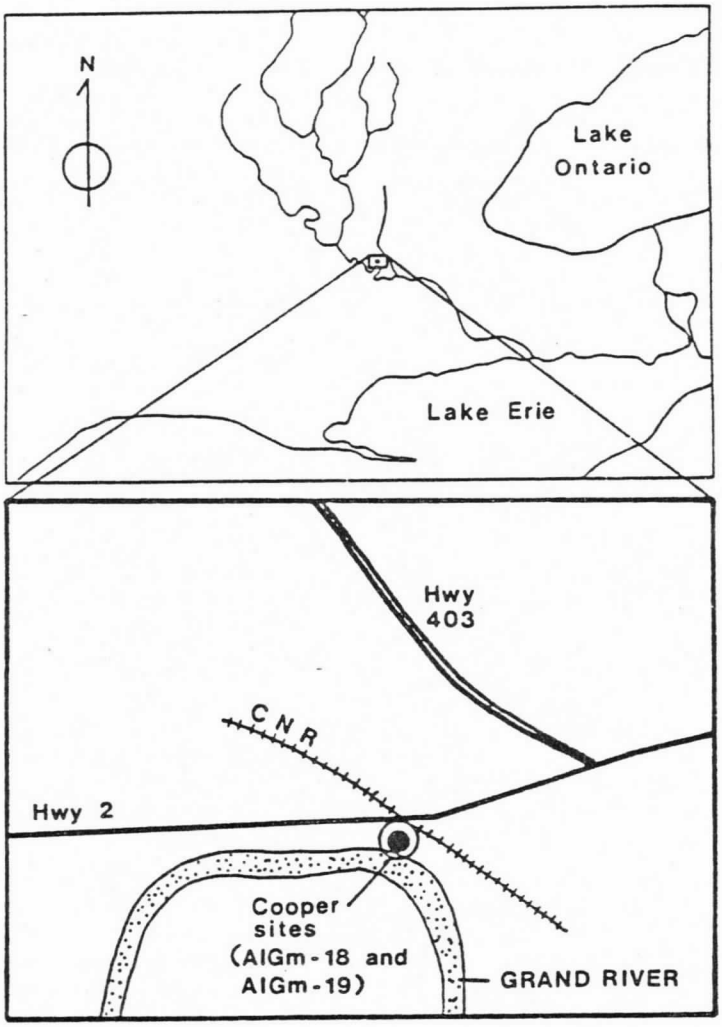

Figure 1. Location of Cooper sites

for the houses appear in Table 1 and feature data are summarized in Tables 2 to 4.

There is no difference in post mold size between the houses and feature type and contents are similar in both except for one class of material. Identification of gastropods (snails) from floated features showed taxa differences, relating to differences in depositional environment (I. Kenyon 1982 pc). A cluster analysis separated House 1 from House 2 features (see Figure 4). The collection

6 mm in diameter and 0.9 mm thick. It might be a 19th century artifact.

Copper wire

Two thinly-rolled tubes of copper were bent in slight arcs and are 25 mm long x 2 mm thick and 24 mm long x 1.2 mm thick and are both 1.5 g in weight. It is possible they were earring attachment wires.

Tinkling cone

A single cone of rolled copper, containing an organic thread, measures 20 mm long with a basal diameter of 6 mm. It is an example of a "tinkling cone" or "bangler" characteristic of late historic Neutral sites and may have adorned clothing or hair (Wright 1981:110, Lennox 1981:326).

Iron artifacts

Bracelet

This unusal artifact was manufactured from a single piece of iron wire (pointed at one end and 4 mm thick) and originally about 40 cm long. This wire has been coiled in an interlocking fashion forming a circle of 6 cm diameter with a 7 mm gap between the bent ends (see Figure). The raw material of this bracelet makes it unique, since Neutral ornaments were normally produced from brighter European metals (copper,brass or bronze).

Awl

A small bipointed awl was found in the burial fill and is bent in a slight arc, measuring 6 cm long. The thickness of the awl (4 mm) implies that a section of kettle bail was used for its construction.

Rings

Two small rings of iron wire (2 mm thick) were recovered. One is a fragment with an exterior diameter of 2.2 cm. The other is a loop of wire bent in an oval and 9 mm in diameter. Because of the 19th century disturbances, the assignment of these rings to the 17th century must be considered tentative.

Miscellaneous iron

Two additional iron objects were collected from the cemetery fill. A tiny piece of sheet scrap (0.3 mm thick) weighs less than 0.1 g. If it dates to the 17th century, a heavily-corroded disc measuring 1.1 cm in diameter and 3 mm thick is probably a rivet head from a copper kettle lug.

Glass beads

A total of 33 glass trade beads were recovered from the Cooper cemetery. Table 33 summarizes the metrics for the different bead classes. Beads are typed according to Kenyon and Fox (1982) but the corresponding Kidd (1970) types are also listed. Red tubular beads have three cross-section forms:

circular (10), triangular (4) and square (3). Samples of Cooper burial fill were subject to water-screening which facilitated the recovery of small glass beads (eg black hexagonal form).

Table 33. Glass trade beads

Bead type (Kenyon and Fox 1982:10)	Kidd classification	n Frag	n Comp	Length (mm) $\bar{x}$	Length (mm) s	Diameter (mm) $\bar{x}$	Diameter (mm) s
Red tubular	Ia1	-	15	18.3	6.8	4.3	0.7
	IIIa1	1	2	17.5	14.8	4.0	-
Red round	IIa1	-	6	1.3	0.5	2.7	0.5
	IVa1	-	3	5.7	0.6	6.0	1.0
Turquoise round	IIa40	1	2	3.5	0.7	4.0	-
Turquoise tubular	Ia14	-	1	6	-	4	-
Turquoise round/ striped	IIb56	-	1	5	-	5	-
Black hexagonal	Ic4?	-	1	1	-	2	-

Table 36. Comparing Glen Meyer exterior rim techniques

Technique	Van Besien	ONLY % RECORDED Goessens	Reid	Uren	Cooper
Plain	12.2	8.7	6.5	2.7	6.8
Cord/SO cord	14.9	3.2	4.4	1.9	7.7
Linear imp.	38.2	48.6	20.0	40.0	49.6
Incised	22.5	3.9	16.5	8.5	7.7
Punctate	0.8	2.6	-	-	7.7
Push-pull	-	-	5.6	36.1	3.4
Crescent stamp	1.0	5.9	16.1	1.5	1.7
Suture stamp	0.2	-	5.2	1.5	0.8
Cord stick	8.0	21.7	21.3	5.0	4.3
Other	-	-	3.5	-	10.2

Table 37. Ontario Iroquoian castellation %

Site	% of rims with castellations	Date estimate (years AD)	Reference
Van Besien	6.4	950	(Noble 1975)
Goessens	5.7	1000	(Wright 1966)
Reid	13.8	1300	(M.Wright 1979)
Cooper	16.2	1200	
Uren	15.4	1250	(M.Wright 1979)
Middleport	10.5	1350-1400	(Wright 1966)

Neutral cemetery

Glass trade beads are the most useful artifact class for dating historic aboriginal sites in the Northeast (I.Kenyon 1982 pc). On the basis of glass bead frequencies, the Cooper cemetery would date about 1640 - 1651 AD.

To explain, ignoring the selective bead collection by pothunters over the years, the Cooper cemetery assemblage is dominated by red tubular and round bead forms. The high percentage of red tubular beads and the lack of early forms (except for the single turquoise striped variety) consitute a late historic glass bead assemblage, falling into Kenyon and Fox's (1982:5) Period IIIb (ca 1635-50). Kenyon and Fox (1982) developed this temporal framework by analyzing the frequency and association of glass bead types in the graves of the Grimsby site. They produced a convincing seriation of Grimsby grave lots.

Table 38. Cooper cemetery glass bead types

Bead type	f	%
Red tubular	18	56.3
Red round	9	28.1
Turquoise round	3	9.4
Turquoise tubular	1	3.1
Turquoise round striped	1	3.1
Totals	32	100.0