

THE MARSHALL SITE MSV 7-2

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Chenango Chapter, NYSAA BULLETIN
Chenango Chapter NYSAA

The Marshall Site is located approximately one mile southwest of the village of Munnsville, N.Y. on a small knoll about one hundred feet above the valley floor. Oneida Creek flows northwest of the site. This site is an historic Oneida site which until now has only been mentioned as existing in past archaeological literature. Our limited work has covered two seasons of surface hunting in the Spring and the partial but thorough screening of one of the midden areas. (Plate 2, Area 4) To the north of the site, three-fifths of a mile lies the well known Thurston Site, Mav 1-2. (Plate 1)

Archaeological material indicating the village area is scattered over a couple of acres with no definite concentration to be located. The village area has been under cultivation for many years and no excavations have been made there.

The site was no doubt selected for its defensible position in relation to its surroundings. Fairly steep banks are located on all sides. The nearby Quarry Site, Msv 4-2, which supposedly is the next in the Oneida sequence has steep banks only on one side. This suggests the introduction of the gun which might account for the relative physical position of that site. However, the Marshall site had been selected with a need for a more defensible position. Thus, the absence of gun parts on the Marshall site would not at this time be surprising.

Because of the relative size of the flat surface of the top of the knoll, we suspect that the village cornfield for the Marshall site was also there, adjacent to the village.

It is generally thought that the villages of the Iroquois were moved every ten to twenty-five years. According to Dr. Marian White, " These areas*of natural food resources provided food for generations (*surrounding areas for hunting, fishing and collecting) whereas the soil and wood resources around the village itself were soon depleted. Every 10 to 25 years the village moved to a new location only a mile or two from the old. There the longhouses were constructed and the entire village surrounded by a palisade. The corn was planted nearby and the cemetery area set aside." (White, 1967, p. 9)

Little is known of the site and no systematic excavations have ever taken place to the writer's knowledge. McNeish in 1952 called the Marshall site the Munnsville Site. Most of the middens have been dug many times over the years. To our knowledge none of the material remains with one small exception.

(8)

This is the late Herbert Bigford collection which is now in the Anthropology Department Museum of Colgate University. The site is on a farm formerly owned by Otis Marshall and presently owned by his son, Tom Marshall. The Marshalls have been very cooperative in the past and have a genuine interest in the Oneida prehistory and history. Mr. Otis Marshall and other locally interested people were financially responsible for securing the Bigford collection for Colgate University a number of years ago. Many members of the Chenango Chapter have used the collection for research purposes on a number of occasions through the courtesy of Colgate University and especially of Dr. John Longyear of the Anthropology Department.

Upon asking many of the older collectors and amateur archaeologists in the area for material or information on the site, we found that nothing is known of the site in an archaeological sense. John Stillman informed us of a Mr. Tackabury who lived near Clockville and died in the late 1950's. Mr. Tackabury used to surface hunt and collect from the Marshall site. His collection contained many axes and a number of strings of beads. We understand his collection was later sold.

The late Herbert Bigford drew a map of this site which we have used with a few slight changes. (Plate 2 of this report)

The following features are located on the map: six pits, two burial loci, A and B, and five apparent midden areas. Burial locus A showed one grave and burial locus B showed approximately 10 or 11 graves. The contents of the graves are listed below; only five could be found at Colgate and are shown on Plate 3. There appears to be a heavier percentage of native materials to trade items when we look at the burial material.

- Burial # 2 3 Bone Effigies- Human Type - " September Morn "
- Burial # 3A 1 Very Small Child's Iroquois Pot
- Burial # 3B 1 Complete Iroquois Pot
 - 40 White Shell Wampum
 - 7 Purple Shell Wampum
 - 3 Dark Gray or Black Wampum
 - 1 Shell Crescent
 - 12½ Round Opaque Blue Beads With Three White Opaque Stripes
 - 1 Round to Oval, Light Grayish-blue Bead With Six Opaque Red Stripes.
 - 1 Round Red Opaque Bead With Three White Opaque Stripes With Three Black Opaque Stripes on the White Ones.
- Burial #8 1 Bone Spoon
 - 1 Lead Animal Effigy
 - 1 Round Opaque Black Bead With Twelve White Opaque Stripes
- Burial # 11 2 Fragments of Bone Combs, Both Different
 - 18 Drilled Elk Teeth

Shell Items: 1 shell disc, 1 shell bead, 2 shell crescents, 42 white wampum, 7 purple wampum, 3 dark grey or black wampum.

Bone Items: $\frac{1}{2}$ needle, 1 broken needle (2 holes present), 1 awl, 1 piece of a bone harpoon, 2 comb fragments, 18 drilled elk's teeth, 1 undrilled elk's tooth, 1 spoon, 3 bone figurines. (Pl.3)

Iroquois Pottery Sherds Nineteen unmarked sherds and three marked sherds were found. Two complete pots from the burials were included in the Bigford collection. We believe the larger of the two pots is of the Thurston Horizontal type. (Plate 3) MacNeish describes the Thurston Horizontal as a " decoration consisting of two to seven horizontal lines in the middle of the collar. Above the horizontal lines is a band of closely spaced vertical lines and there is a similar band below." MacNeish, 1952. p. 66)

"Often on pots of this type from historic sites there are human effigies under the castellations. The head is round with facial features fairly distinct, the body is short and rectangular, with usually closely spaced horizontal lines crossing it. The arms extend out and downward from the body and are indistinct; they are crossed by horizontal incisions, legs extend straight down from the body. Often the lower legs extend below the collar, legs are crossed by horizontal incisions." (Ibid) The above description by MacNeish describes the pot accurately. The sherd to the right of the three on Plate 5 would nicely fit MacNeish's description for Genoa Frilled type.

Chevron Bead; We would be remiss in this article if we did not mention one of the most unusual finds on the Marshall site. It is a large, 40 mm long and 26.7 mm diameter , blue star or chevron bead reported by Stanford Gibson in the Chenango Chapter Bulletin about three years ago. To our knowledge, no small blue star beads have ever been recovered from the Marshall site. (Gibson, 1973, p.11)

Beads, Glass Trade: A total of 35 beads were found on this site, of which there were eighteen different types. There were nine bead types that were found both on the Marshall site, Msv 7, and the Thurston site, Msv -1. A complete glass bead listing is given of the the thirty-five beads known to us at present in Appendix I. Percentages will be given for each bead as as well as classification according to Dr. Pratt's numbering system and that of Mr. Kenneth Kidd.

On the next page is a table which shows the percentages of round beads, the percentages of cane beads and the total number of beads for any of the sites that are listed. It was interesting to observe that the earlier the site, the greater the percentage of round beads to cane beads. The later the site, the greater the percentage of cane beads to round beads. We believe that this trend is probably present on every site in the Oneida territory after trade was established. One current exception which is now

Beads (continued)

under investigation is the percentage for the Blowers, Ond 1 , site which does not fall into the pattern. But as our work there is not completed at this time, we can only speculate as to the reason for the irregularity.

Table on Bead Percentages

Site	Name	Date, Pratt,	Date, Pratt Revised	% Round,	% Cane,	Totals
OND 8	Camerons	1570-1595	1570-1595	97.39	2.60	728
OND 1	Blowers	1595-1625	1595-1625	98.42	1.58	317
MSV 1	Thurston	1625-1637	1625-1637	93.45	6.54	107
MSV 7	Marshall	1637-1642	1637-1640	82.85	17.14	35
OND 3	Sullivan(Moot)	1677-1710	1660-1677	67.10	32.90	2597
OND 5	Upper Hogan	1710-1745	1677-1685	60.20	39.80	1490

Conclusions:

During the last two years the writers have excavated over one hundred and twenty-five square feet of midden area which is shown as Number 4 on Plate 2. This midden has been dug many times in the past and almost no diagnostic material remains. Through the process of screening with a one-quarter inch mesh hardware cloth, a few of the smaller artifacts were recovered.


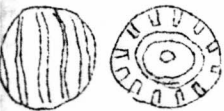


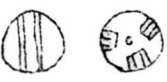
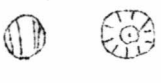





As suggested in a recent Chenango Chapter Bulletin by Gilbert Hagerty, much of the trade material on the Oneida sites is now missing and records are sketchy to say the least. (Hagerty, 1975, Introduction) That is possibly why our surface examination of Marshall's yielded so little.

The new dates which Dr. Peter P. Pratt has proposed for this site are from 1637 to 1640. It is our feeling that much research must be done to find the Marshall site's spot in the Oneida sequence. It is hard to believe that the Marshall site was just a cornfield for the Thurston site as some people have suggested. You would not expect to find that many midden areas and burial loci on the Marshall site if it was only used as a cornfield.

There is a remote possibility that the Marshall site and the Thurston site may have existed at the same time but the percentages of round beads to cane beads would say not. Not enough information is yet available to safely confirm or to deny this.

The following collections were used in this report: Monte Bennett, Walter Bennett, Herbert Bigford, Fred Chesebro, Douglas Clark, Richard Cole, Stanford Gibson, Louis Kupris Jr., and Theodore Whitney. We would thank everyone who loaned us articles for this study.

MSV -7
Appendix I

No.	Drawing	Description	No.	%	Pratt	Kidd
1		Round Opaque Blue	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7.14		11a40
2		Round to Oval-Opaque Black w/ 12 opaque white stripes- opaque white line around an opaque purple center	1	2.86	57	11b13
3		Round opaque blue with 3 white opaque stripes	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	41.43	47	11b56
4		Round to oval-opaque light greyish blue with 6 opaque red stripes	1	2.86		11b61
5		Round opaque red with three white opaque stripes with 3 opaque black stripes on the three white ones. Dark core	1	2.86	48	
6		Round opaque red with ten fine black opaque stripes -black opaque center	1	2.86		
7		Round opaque red with three white opaque stripes with one blue stripe on each white stripe	1	2.86	22	11b61
8		Round White Opaque	1	2.86	43	11a13
9		Round opaque light blue	2	5.71	35	11a43
10		Round white opaque with clear see through center	1	2.86	2	
11		Brown-very soft glass- can be reduced to powder with handling 5 ridges make resemble blossom	1	2.86	56	

MSV - 7
Appendix I (cont)

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