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HISTORIC

MATERIAL

20SA24

Plate II

quarter of the Eighteenth Century Sir William Johnson's Papers indicate that the preferred clasp knife had developed a long narrow blade and a curved handle (Haggerty 1963:93-115). The period of popularity and aboriginal demand for the type of clasp knife found at the Valley Sweets Site is from 1760-1775.

Beads

1035 Tubular White Shell Beads

100 + Opaque white glass beads

The tubular opaque white glass beads have been major items in the Indian trade for hundreds of years. Such beads have been used in Europe for even longer. White opaque glass beads with indications of hot-tumbled squaring, like those from burial "C" were found in Amsterdam in association with kaolin pipes which were dated 1610-1650 and stoneware with Dutch coats-of-arms dating 1630-1640 (Van Der Sleen, 1963:262). This type of bead had been traded to the Iroquois by the Dutch at New Amsterdam as early as 1667 (Gov. Dongan: 1687). This same style glass bead was used in trade as late as 1850 with the Indians on the Columbia River in Oregon (Woodard 1965:34).

The shell wampum beads from burial "D" are made of Quahog (*Venus mercenaria*) or "hard clam" shell. This was determined by their reaction in hydrochloric acid and their relative hardness (1.5-2.0 on the Mohs scale). Also, the parabolic purplish growth rings are characteristic of this type of shell (Peter P. Pratt: personal communication). The uniform outside diameter and even, centered drilling under microscopic examination indicate that these beads are of European manufacture. Since wampum of non-aboriginal manufacture was available in the New York area as early as 1650 (Orchard, 1929), or possibly 1630 (Peter P. Pratt: personal communication) there seems to be no way that either of the two bead types found in these burials at 20 SA 24 can be used as chronological indicators.

The results of artifact analysis from these 5 burials (C-G, Fig. 1) would give a date which must be post-1760 on the basis of English trade silver but which seems to be pre-1780 on the basis of stylistic change in the silver. The presence of the copper cup and the two circular copper broaches, artifacts of a base metal which were replaced by their silver counterparts soon after the occupation of the British in 1760, argues for a date relatively soon thereafter. The style of the clasp knives which date 1745 or 1750 to 1775 would narrow the probable date of these burials to the period 1760-1775.

It may be possible to date these burials more closely than early within that fifteen year period. The similarity of burial practice, uniform placement and precise orientation of these five burials indicates that they were contemporary. The similar state of decomposition and excellent agreement of trade-goods indicates that death was almost certainly a contemporaneous occurrence for all five