THE CAMERON SITE, AN ONEIDA VILLAGE RONALD R. COTTRELL

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The Cameron Site, an Oneida Iroquois village, is designated in the New York State Site System as Ond 8-4. Dr. Peter Pratt in his article, Oneida Iroquois Glass Bead Sequence, and Gilbert Hagerty in his article, The Iron Trade Knife in Oneida Territory, both refer to this site as the "Wayland-Smith Site". (Pratt, 1961, P. 6) (Hagerty, 1963, p 98) This village rests in Oneida County, New York with a second, more recent, Iroquois Site about two miles away. To the best of my knowledge, the late Herbert Bigford of Earlville, New York was the first to locate and excavate at this village. Since then, much material has been removed and very little information has been published about the site and its contents. The purpose of this report is to record my limited work there this past season. An attempt has been made to describe my observations as accurately as possible. It should be stated that most of the material recovered was out of context because of previous digging. In this report all illustrations are actual size, the only exception is the site map. The site map was drawn from the topographical quadrangle with some details added.

Some amateurs and collectors in this area have the opinion that this site has been depleted from the many seasons of random digging. Thirty beads, thirty-five metal artifacts, ninety-three stone or flint tools, and one hundred and eighteen pottery sherds were recovered in my excavations there. This is just a rough count, but it might be said that work on this site is quite worthwhile, no so much materially as on other villages that are not so well known, but the fact that few features were recorded shows that site needs a great deal of further excavation to make a report complete.

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SETTING

The generalized shape of this site is an elongated circle that is oriented east and west. Protection is afforded by deep ravines on the north and south sides of the living area. These ravines have made the northern and southern slopes, for all practical purposes, inaccessible. It might also be noted that the plane of the site is also slightly lower than nearby elevations.

Water is available year-round from several sources. It was noted that the stream in the southern ravine now went dry during the mid-summer months. The stream in the northern ravine still flows at all times. Oneida Creek is directly west and is near enough to be used as a practical source of water, fish and game animals. In general, the west and of the site is substantially lower in elevation than is the east end. This helped provide better drainage.

This site has never been plowed but random digging between the trees has made surface hunting between these for small artifacts profitable and practical.

METHODS EMPLOYED

The artifacts found this past season were from surface hunting and screening of the back fill of a few of the hillside refuse dumps. Many of these middens were previously dug without screening the fill. Therefore, smaller artifacts like projectile points, beads and broken bone tools were

left behind, along with scrap metal, bone refuse, and pottery sherds. Occasionally areas were encountered where the last three or four inches of topsoil were left undisturbed. These areas however, were the exceptions. The same might be said for areas where workers in the past found digging slow and tedious i.e., around the bases of older trees.

I reworked some of these features with a large half inch mesh screen left on the site, and searched the fill for beads and small points. Approximately two hundred and seventy-five quare feet of surface area was removed from the hillside slopes, mostly from the northern side of the site. Differences in material were noted from area to area and will be mentioned later. References to the site map included in this report will reveal the approximate locations of the areas worked.

p.13

GLASS BEADS: Plate XI

A total of 21 glass beads was recovered. Twelve of these were easily matched with the beads illustrated in Oneida Galss Bead Sequence (Pratt, 1961) The remaining 9 beads I could not fit into Dr. Pratt's descriptions. The "Wayland-Smith Site", or Cameron site he has dated at 1570 to 1595. About half of the glass beads found this past season conform to the ones he has illustrated for the same site, so I am sure the booklet is quite accurate. The other beads I have shown might have been unknown to him, be unusually rare, or for lack of description I couldn't type them. To help standardize the description I followed the techniques he used to describe them. Perhaps in this way these descriptions will be more meaningful. An attempt was made to illustrate the glass beads in color. Most of the translucent beads had a light color corrosion on them. This was removed by abrasion, then they were drawn in color all under the same lighting conditions. Below is a table about the beads:

A	B	C	A	B	C
1	1	19	9	2	20
2	1	24	10	1	x
3	1	26	11	1	x
4	1	18	12	1	17
5	2	x	13	1	x
6	1	x	14	1	x
7	1	x	15	1	x
8	1	16	16	1	22

p.14

In the table above, column A lists the number of the bead type as it appears in the illustrations in this report. Column B lists the number of each type of bead I found this season on this site. The column C May be used to refer to Dr. Pratt's work, Oneida Iroquois Glass Trade Bead Sequence. (Pratt, 1961) The numbers given in this column are the numbers Dr. Pratt assigned to the different styles or types of glass beads. An X was substituted in column C. when a cross reference to Dr. Pratt's work could not be made.

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
White on opaque blue 22 white stripes.

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Opaque black with 3 red and 3 white alternate stripes

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
White on red-brown. 17 white stripes

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Opaque Deep red and deep blue on opaque blue gray. 3 red. 3 white alternate stripes

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Translucent dark blue (monochrome).

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Translucent light blue. color thin with 2 tint of green

VS: RECTANGULAR
CS: OCTAGONAL
Translucent Blue-green. Surface has 8 diagonal grooves.

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Opaque red stars around eyes. Translucent 12 white stripes on blue. Peaks of stars mark ends of white stripes.

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Translucent deep blue or purple with 8 white stripes.

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Translucent deep blue or purple with 6 white stripes. Flattened eyes.

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Translucent dark blue; green cast in strong white light. 4 opaque white stripes placed equidistant on bead.

VS: OVAL
CS: OVAL
Opaque red stars around eyes. Translucent blue with 12 white stripes. Same as #8 only elongated and lighter in color.

VS: PEANUT SHAPE
CS: ROUND
Translucent light blue. Might be a second of bead #6 (Monochrome).

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Opaque baby blue color (monochrome).

VS: OVAL
CS: ROUND
Buff or tan opaque (monochrome).

VS: OVAL Circular & Irregul.
CS: ROUND to OVAL & Irregul.
Opaque Brick red with 3 white stripes equidistant on bead. Within the white stripes are blue stripes.

Plate XI Shell and Glass Beads

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