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D. L. DeJARNETTE & A. T. HANSEN.

1960. The Archaeology of the Childersburg Site,  
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Beads.--There were 54 types of glass beads found at Ta-1. The size and shape of all the types are shown in Plate 13. The beads were described, classified, named, and type-numbered in the Course of the present study. This job involved applying to beads, with some adaptations, the accepted procedure used in the Southeast for typing pottery. The first word of the name is geographical and denotes a locality where the type occurs. The other words are descriptive and indicate the color and shape of the bead. Figure 3, Chapter V, gives the name and type number of the beads.

Bottle (Plate 10 A & B).--It is dark blue glass, showing iridescent from age. The bottom of the bottle had been pressed in to form the characteristic "pinch bottom," a practice common among manufacturers of containers which were used for wine or other spirits traded with the Indinas. The "pinch bottom" gave the illusion that the volume of the container was greater than was actually the case. This indentation, however, was produced as a result of the hand-blowing method of manufacture in which the iron pontile rod was fixed to the base during forming.

#### Metal Objects

Metal objects found at Ta-1 were of iron, brass, silver, and lead. They have been described and classified under letter types as follows:

Musket Ball Type A (Plate XII E 4 & 5).--It was of lead and spherical in shape. The surface had undergone heavy oxidation. Ridges on the ball indicate that it had been made by casting.

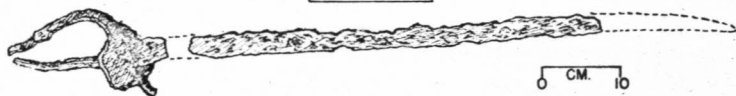
Brass Button Type B (Plate XII G 3).--It was in conical shape in halves. The back half, containing the eye, being attached to the front half with a small overlapping crimped flange. The decoration is confined to the front cone and consists of concentric bands of embossed hachures.

Strap Keeper Type C (Plate XII D 2).--This specimen consists of oval links of brass placed close together on the leather strap near the buckle. The end of the strap, after it was buckled, was secured in this oval link keeper.

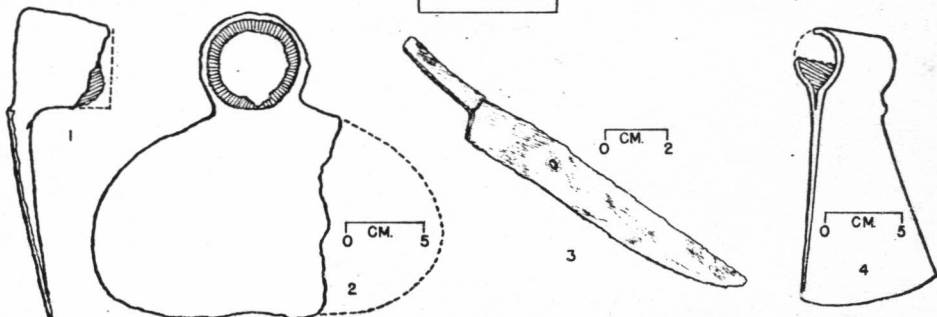
Bracelet Type D (Plate XII F 5).--This bracelet was formed



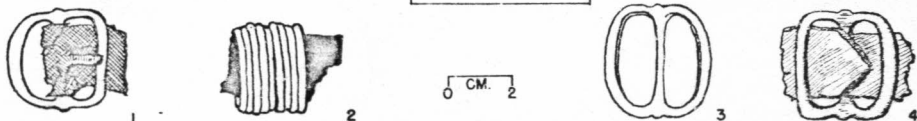
A GUN



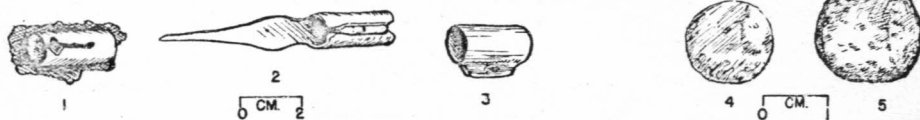
B SWORD



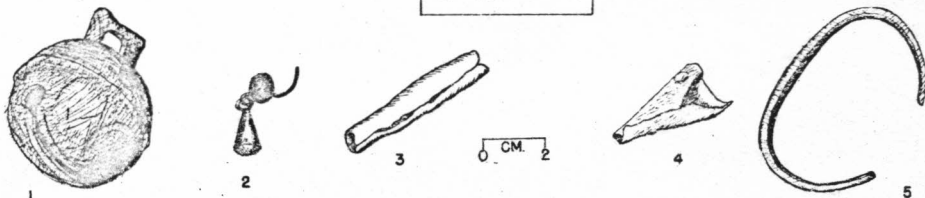
C IMPLEMENTS



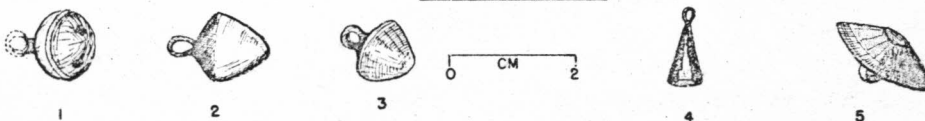
D BELTS



E GUN PARTS



F ORNAMENTS



G ORNAMENTS

PLATE 12

of light weight brass wire which was cut and bent to conform to the shape of the wrist.

Buckles Type E (Plate XII D 1, 3 & 4).--These were made of brass, and in some cases parts of the leather strap were preserved threaded through the buckle.

Brass Kettle Type G.--Several pieces of this vessel were found which indicated a container approximately 25 cm. in diameter and 18 cm. deep. Two "eye-type" receivers for engaging the handle were welded on and projected above the rim.

Brass Conical Dangles Type H.(Plate XII F 4).--These dangles appear to have been made by the Indian, himself, from scrap pieces of brass obtained from the trader, or possibly salvaged from other unserviceable brass objects.

Iron Dangle Type I (Plate XII G 4).--A very small conical-shaped thin iron with a small loop at the apex for attachment, probably the type used as an ornament for infants.

"Hawk Bell" Button Type J (Plate XII G 1).--This tiny brass bell is only 1.3 cm. in diameter. It is true "hawk bell" type. Only the small and light bells should be called "hawk bells", since the name is derived from the early falconry custom in Europe of fastening tiny bells on the legs of the hawk. Strips of light leather with bells attached are fitted to the legs of the hawk to help locate the bird wherever it might alight.

Iron Hoe Type M (Plate XII C 1 & 2).--This mattock-type hoe has a wide blade and a round "eye".

Iron Axe Type N (Plate XII C 4).--This axe has the same type "eye" as the hoe in Type M.

Silver Ring and Droplet Type O (Plate XII F 2).--This ring was probably used as an ear ornament. It was found near the right ear in Burial Number 1.

Brass Bead Type P (Plate XII F 3).--This specimen was probably manufactured by an Indian from sheet brass, since it is of the same type made of sheets of native copper that is found in aboriginal sites.

"Redding" Bell Type Q (Plate XII F 1).--This large heavy brass spherical bell is 3.9 cm. in diameter. It is made by "weld-

Gun flints made by Indians.--Dr. Arthur Woodward,<sup>2</sup> who examined the flints, thinks that they are not of the type manufactured in England and France for trade with the Indians. The European gun flints, according to him, were made by first forming a long thin blank of flint with beveled edges and then striking off from this blank the individual gun flints with very little secondary chipping. Thus, the European gun flint would have a distinct rectangular shape with a flat side and a ridged side. In addition to the method of manufacture, the European gun flints differed in the material used. Woodward says that the material used at the Brandon Flint Works in England was usually black flint and that used by the French had a waxv-type lustre. The gun flints found at Ta-1 do not fit the above descriptions for either method of manufacture or the material used.

The flints cannot be dated except to say that they were historic improvisations by Indians of European flints. Presumably by the time they were in use, dwellers at Ta-1 were already sufficiently dependent on firearms to induce them to invent a home-made substitute for a part of their new weapons that required periodic replacement.

Shell beads.--Beads of this type made from the columella of the conch shell are found in every horizon from the Archaic through the Late Historic and offer no help in dating the site.

Flint projectile points.--The time period for these points is indeterminant.

Bone implements.--The types from Ta-1 make very poor time markers and like the columella shell beads have been found in every horizon from the Archaic through the Late Historic.

Steatite vessel fragments.--The presence of steatite vessel fragments in the site could indicate a brief early occupation of the site by peoples of Archaic time, from 6500 B. C. to 1500 B. C.

Taken together the Indian materials point to a time span of from late seventeenth century to early eighteenth century. This

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<sup>2</sup> Interview with Dr. Arthur Woodward, Curator Emeritus of Archeology, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, August 6, 1957, Washington, D. C.

dome design which occurs on furniture and hardware during the Queen Anne Period (1702-1714) is analogous to the designs occurring on the brass buttons (Types B, Bb and CC). The brass button with glass inlay top (Type S) has been placed by Woodward in a period from 1780 on into the early nineteenth century.

The silver ring and droplet (Type O) was identified by Watkins as belonging to the eighteenth century or earlier. According to Watkins, drops were popular as early as the seventeenth century, but it is not unusual for objects of this type to be handed down from one generation to another.

The Redding brass bell (Type Q), in Watkin's opinion, could be early eighteenth century. The decoration which occurs on the bell can also be found on silver which dates back to the seventeenth century.

Glass beads.--The time period for the site based on the analysis of the glass beads is bracketed somewhere between 1600 and 1825. These dates were established by classifying all the beads found on the site--those from surface collections, burials, features, and other excavations. In some instances, a type may be represented by hundreds of specimens, and in other instances by only a single specimen. Figure 3 gives a list of the bead types with their dates of occurrence and other pertinent remarks.

Trade objects associated with burials.--All the trade material found in burials has been listed on the accompanying chart. The earliest limiting date has been established from the chart. It is obvious in an association of objects in the same grave that the object manufactured at the latest date would establish the earliest time limit in which the burial could have been made. In other words, the body in a given burial pit could not have been interred prior to the date on which the latest objects accompanying the burial were manufactured even though "older" objects might be present in the same grave. Some of the earliest bead types, the decahedrals, could have been passed down from one generation to another. The older types, in fact, generally show extreme wear on their edges where they had rubbed against others on the same string; and, in a few instances, older beads were found

on the same "string"<sup>5</sup> with beads which have been dated at a much later time period. There is also the possibility of older type beads entering trade channels at a later date than when they were manufactured. According to Woodward, large casks of beads made in Italy for trade with the American Indians during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are still stored in Italy. Obviously, some of the earlier types could have trickled into Euro-Indian commerce even during the later stages of the activity.

Figure 4 shows the trade material associated with the ten burials (Burials Numbers 8 and 10 had no accompanying artifacts). It will be noted that the earliest limiting data for any one of the ten burials is 1700 A. D.

The essential information abstracted from Figure 4 is as follows:

| Burials | Date |
|---------|------|
| 9       | 1700 |
| 4       | 1730 |
| 2,3,5   | 1750 |
| 1,6     | 1760 |
| 7,11,12 | 1775 |

The above shows that of the ten burials, eight have the earliest limiting date ranging from 1750 to 1775.

The dates from the historic materials, especially those critical items that give earliest possible dates to the burials, confirm the general time placement indicated by the Indian materials. But the historic items give more precise results and set the occupancy of Ta-1 within a narrower time range. The burials concentrate between 1750 and 1775. The other evidence would seem to extend the occupancy from 1700 to 1825.

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<sup>5</sup> The string, of course, had long decayed, but its former presence could easily be inferred in an undisturbed burial.

| Type No. | Type Name                                      | Date      | Remarks  |
|----------|--|-----------|--|
| 1.       | Childersburg White Oval                        | 1760-70   | Occurs also in black   |
| 2.       | Georgia White Cylindrical                      | 1750 plus | False wampum also in white, black, purple, or blue   |
| 3.       | Alabama White Seed                             | Indet.    | Smaller seed beads came in seventeenth cen.; required special needle   |
| 4.       | Childersburg Black Oval                        | 1760      |  |
| 5.       | Childersburg Opalescent Pink Oval              | 1700-1800 |  |
| 6.       | Childersburg White Flat-Oval                   | 1700-1800 | Made round and then flattened while still plastic  |
| 7.       | Talladega White Intaglio Oval                  | 1775-1800 | Traders' "Fancy beads" inlaid with glass of different color  |
| 8.       | Georgia Translucent Blue Cylindrical           | 1775-1825 | Bugle bead (clear) not opaque like wampum, sometimes very long   |
| 9.       | Georgia Black Cylindrical                      | 1750-1825 |  |
| 10.      | Talladega Gold Inlay Flat-Oval                 | 1700-1800 | "Fancy bead" later types color not imbedded but only in surface slip   |
| 11.      | Childersburg Translucent White Plano-Convex    | 1760-1800 |  |
| 12.      | Alabama Black Seed                             | Indet.    | Not time indicator comes in early, lasts up to present time  |
| 13.      | Childersburg White-on-Green Teardrop           | 1775-1800 | Variant of No. 7   |
| 14.      | Georgia Milk Spherical                         | 1700-1800 | Varies in size   |
| 15.      | Georgia Milk Oval                              | 1700-1800 | Called "pigeon eggs" in trade  |
| 16.      | Talladega Translucent Milk Pentagonal          | ca. 1755  |  |
| 17.      | Childersburg Black Spherical                   | 1750      | Type sample shows wear on side indicating long use   |
| 18.      | (Probably an eroded type 17)                   |           |  |
| 19.      | Tallassee hatchee Transparent Decahedral       | 1600      | Could be style of De Soto's time. Faceted by hand pressing not grinding. Found on seventeenth century sites in Mexico, New Mexico, Florida. Ground facets came later |
| 20.      | Fort Moore Transparent Nodular                 | 1730-1760 | "Bunch of Grapes" found at Fort Moore and Tukabahchee, also in purple  |
| 21.      | Childersburg Translucent Green Spherical       | 1775-1800 |  |
| 22.      | Childersburg Small Milk Plano-Convex           | 1760-1800 | Variant in size of type 11   |
| 23.      | Tallassee hatchee Translucent Yellow Flattened | 1700-1800 | Might be flattened from extreme wear from type 26  |
| 24.      | Tallassee hatchee Translucent Blue Decahedral  | 1600-1700 | Faceted same as No. 19-color variant   |



| Type No. | Type Name                                      | Date      | Remarks   |
|----------|--|-----------|---|
| 25.      | Alabama White Barrel                           | Indet.    | Step larger than seed bead  |
| 26.      | Tallassee hatchee Translucent Yellow Spherical | 1700 plus |   |
| 27.      | Alabama White Spherical                        | Indet.    |   |
| 28.      | Childersburg Black Barrel                      | Indet.    | May be same as No. 17 with wear on sides  |
| 29.      | Childersburg Translucent Green Oval            | 1775-1825 | Also in dark blue, crystal, amber, topaz  |
| 30.      | Fort Moore Translucent White Striped Barrel    | 1700-1800 | "Gooseberry" bead from Fort Moore, Ga. 1740's.  |
| 31.      | Alabama Translucent Blue Seed                  | Indet.    |   |
| 32.      | Columella of Conch Shell                       | Indet.    | Aboriginal manufacture  |
| 33.      | Alabama Turquoise Seed                         | Indet.    |   |
| 34.      | Fort Moore White Striped Spherical             | 1700-1800 | Variant of No. 30 "Gooseberry" type   |
| 35.      | Alabama Opaque Buff Seed                       | Indet.    |   |
| 36.      | Tallassee hatchee Translucent Amber Decahedral | 1600-1700 | Pecos in New Mexico   |
| 37.      | Talladega White-Yellow Inlay                   | 1700-1750 | Large beads tend to be earlier  |
| 38.      | Childersburg Transparent Spherical             | 1775-1800 |   |
| 39.      | Talladega Blue on White Oval                   | 1600-1800 | Inlay ranges red-blue and white stripes; spiral to straight lines. Pseudo types made in 19th century                  |
| 40.      | Childersburg Transparent Oval                  | 1775-1800 | Same as no. 38  |
| 41.      | Childersburg White Elongate Oval               | 1775-1800 | Variant in blue   |
| 42.      | Childersburg Medium Black Spherical            | ca. 1750  |   |
| 43.      | Childersburg Opaque Blue Oval                  | Indet.    | Probably variation in size  |
| 44.      | Childersburg Opaque Blue Spherical             | Indet.    |   |
| 45.      | Childersburg Opaque Buff Oval                  | 1775-1825 |   |
| 46.      | Carnaline d'aleppo Red and Green Barrel        | 1685-1825 | Range New York through South, varies in size from seed to 1/2 inch. At Ocmulgee Trading Post. Probably same as No. 41 |
| 47.      | Childersburg Opaque Light Blue Oval            | Indet.    |   |
| 48.      | California Small Buff Oval                     | 1700-1800 | Southern California and New Mexico  |
| 49.      | Childersburg Translucent Dark Blue Oval        | 1775-1800 | Color variant of No. 41   |
| 50.      | Childersburg Black Rounded Cylindrical         | Indet.    |   |
| 51.      | Tallassee hatchee Transparent Decahedral       | 1700      | Faceted, iridescent from age  |
| 52.      | Same as type 1)                                |           |   |
| 53.      | Alpine Translucent Blue Seed                   | Indet.    |   |
| 54.      | Talladega Angular Teardrop                     | 1750      |   |
| 55.      | Plains Large White Seed                        | 1800      | On Plains ca. 1820-30's called Pony Trader because traders came in on horses  |

Fig. 3 --Bead types with approximate dates  
(dates determined by Woodward)

## BURIALS

Dates

Type No.

TYPE NAME

| 1   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5   | 6   | 7   | 9 | 11  | 12  |           |    |  |
|-----|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----------|----|--|
| x   | x |   |   |     | x   |     | x |     | x   | Indet.    | 3  | Alabama White Seed                             |
| (x) |   |   |   |     |     |     |   | x   |     | 1760      | 4  | Childersburg White Oval                        |
|     | x |   |   |     | x   | x   |   |     |     | Indet.    | 25 | Alabama White Barrel                           |
|     | x | x |   |     | x   |     |   |     |     | 1700-1800 | 30 | Ft. Moore Translucent White Striped Barrel     |
| (x) |   |   |   |     |     |     |   |     |     | 1750      | 17 | Childersburg Black Spherical                   |
|     |   | x |   |     |     |     |   |     |     | 1700-1800 | 34 | Ft. Moore White Striped Spherical              |
|     |   |   |   | (x) |     |     |   |     | x   | 1750      | 2  | Georgia White Cylindrical                      |
|     |   |   |   |     | x   | x   | x |     |     | 1600-1700 | 36 | Tallassee hatchee Translucent Amber Decahedral |
|     |   |   |   |     | x   | x   |   |     |     | Indet.    | 12 | Alabama Black Seed                             |
|     |   |   |   |     | x   |     |   |     |     | Indet.    | 28 | Childersburg Black Barrel                      |
|     |   |   |   |     | x   |     |   |     |     | Indet.    | 31 | Alabama Translucent Blue Seed                  |
|     |   |   |   | (x) |     |     |   |     |     | 1760-1780 | 52 | Childersburg White Oval                        |
|     |   |   |   |     | (x) |     |   |     |     | 1775-1800 | 21 | Childersburg Translucent Green Spherical       |
|     |   |   |   |     | x   |     |   |     |     | 1700      | 51 | Tallassee hatchee Transparent Decahedral       |
|     |   |   |   |     |     | (x) |   |     |     | 1700-1800 | 14 | Georgia Milk Spherical                         |
|     |   |   |   |     |     | (x) |   |     |     | 1700-1800 | 15 | Georgia Milk Oval                              |
|     |   |   |   |     |     |     |   | x   |     | 1760-1770 | 1  | Childersburg White Oval                        |
|     |   |   |   |     |     |     |   | (x) | (x) | 1775-1825 | 8  | Georgia Translucent Blue Cylindrical           |
|     |   |   |   |     |     |     |   |     | (x) | 1775-1800 | 7  | Talladega White Intaglio Oval                  |
|     |   |   |   |     |     |     |   |     | x   | Indet.    | 53 | Alpine Translucent Blue Seed                   |

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This investigation began as an effort to determine if a site selected by the De Soto Commission as the location of COOSA really was the site of the community by that name visited by De Soto in 1540. In working toward an answer, historical references to COOSA were reviewed. Then, COOSA was placed in archeological perspective. This was necessary since the community came into history only at the moment of De Soto's brief stay. The initial historical records were his party's scantily written reports. Archeology, drawing on a background of data on the prehistory of the Southeast, seemed to afford the sole approach to the question as to whether any designated spot could have been the place where COOSA was situated.

The location of COOSA, i. e., the location decided on by the De Soto Commission, was given the archeological label of Ta-1. The site was excavated. The collections and records of the dig were subjected to the usual archeological description and classification.

The next step was to use the materials from Ta-1 to determine as closely as possible the period of occupancy of the site. Nothing in the cultural remains resembled in any clear and convincing way the cultural remains that COOSA, existing in 1540, would be expected to have left. The expected remains were inferred from archeological research in the Southeast at sites that bracket 1540.

To make the answer more definite, the dating of the Ta-1 findings was undertaken. Many Indian items were indeterminate as to time, but gun flints and a pottery pipe were historic while pottery and some architectural remains linked Ta-1 with Ocmulgee Fields, an historic site in Georgia dated from 1685 to 1716.

Modest success in dating objects of European origin indicated a somewhat later time and apparently fixed the period of occupation more precisely. The evidence suggests 1700 to 1825, with 1750-1775 being the span during which most of the burials occurred.

The Indians who lived at Ta-1 were not only historic; they seem to have been both Colonial and post-Independence.

Could Ta-1 have been Coosa? The evidence clearly suggests that the site of the community De Soto visited is somewhere else. Of the alternative answers mentioned in Chapter 1, "probably not" is the answer the thesis gives.

The findings of the thesis have a number of implications that go beyond the original question. The McKee Island remains, on the basis of pottery comparisons with Ta-1, are a good deal later than has been supposed. The Ocmulgee Fields pottery types probably persisted for several decades after 1716 when the Trading Post and the village connected with it were abandoned. The dated European items should aid other archeologists who have occasion to dig historic sites or dig through historic levels in prehistoric sites.

It may be noted that the writer and other archeologists who have tended to assume McKee Island sherds were ca. 1540 have, in a sense, been using conclusions of historians to date their findings. This led them to discount the meaning usually attached to technical similarities such as that between the McKee Island and Ocmulgee Fields Trading Post materials.

For historians and ethno-historians who undertake to locate communities along the routes of the earliest European explorers, the point appears to be plain. Unless the historical records are quite complete and quite explicit, archeological checks are probably called for before final decisions are made. If Ta-1 is not COOSA, as the archeological data suggests, is McKee Island the TALI of De Soto? Much digging, much analysis, much dating will have to be done before the travels and stops of explorers can be traced with something approaching certainty.

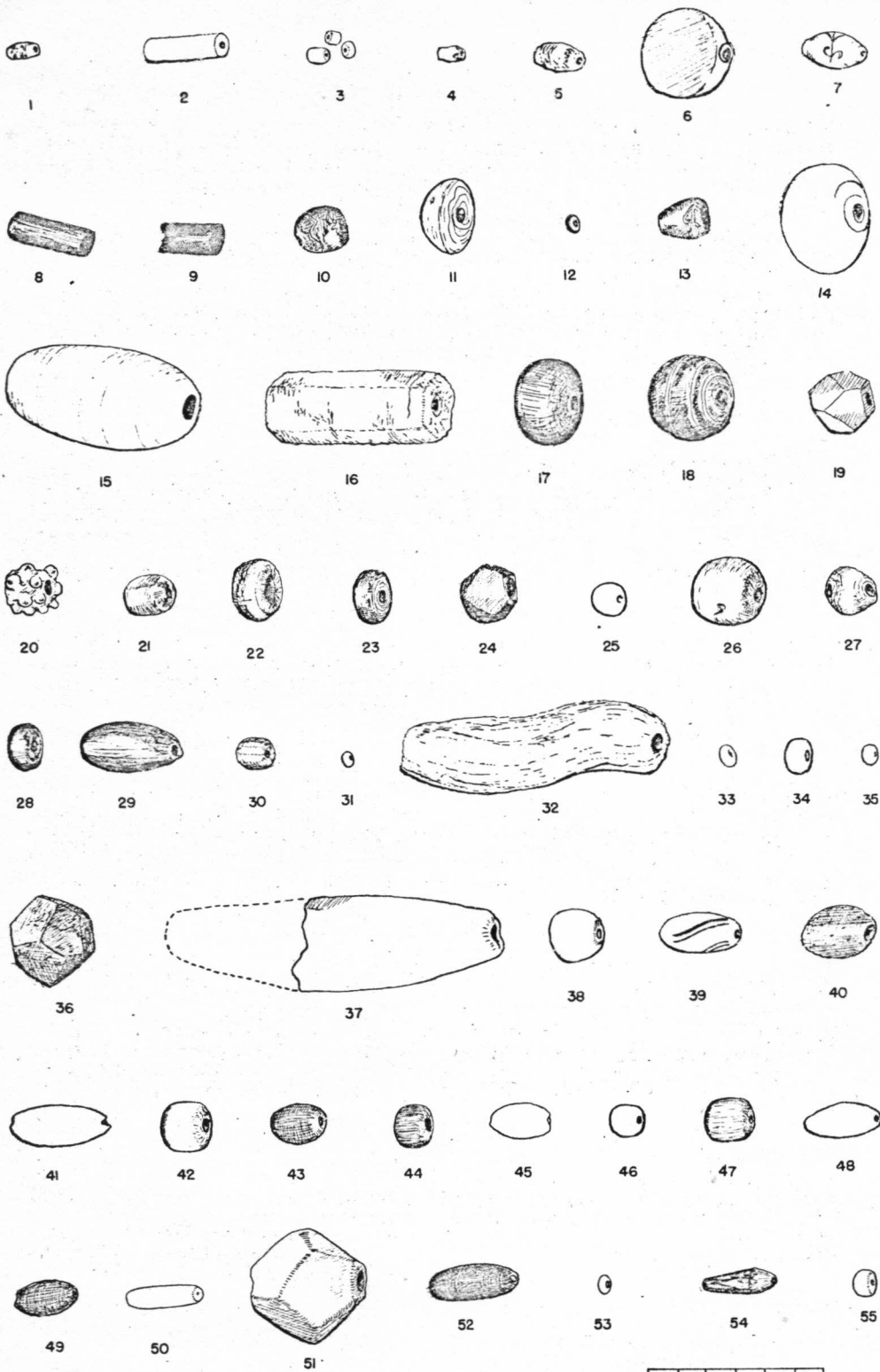


PLATE 13