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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE WEISS
RESERVOIR OF THE COOSA RIVER IN ALABAMA

PART II

by

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1963

two bone handled forks.

European Ceramics

Pottery manufactured by Europeans appeared at Ce 80, Ce 101, and Ce 173. The complex at these sites indicated a date of circa 1830 for the features associated with the pottery. The following ceramic types were identified and dated by Dr. Charles H. Fairbanks of Florida State University from the material collected in the basin. The dates indicate the peak of popularity for the type.

Banded Ware (Dendritic Ware) 1820-1830

Blue Feather Edged Ware 1820-1835

Blue Spot and Pink Splatter Ware 1790-1830

Blue Transfer Printed Ware (Blue Willow Design) 1800-Present

Cream Ware (Not Specific)

Direct Painted Ware (Similar to Worchester) 1800-1840

Pink Transfer Printed Ware 1800-Present

Saltglazed Stoneware-Nineteenth Century

Sepia Transfer Printed 1800-Present

Glass Trade Beads

Glass beads appeared at three sites in the Weiss Basin: Ce 73, Ce 101, and Ce 173. The beads found at the last site mentioned were from the surface. At Sites Ce 73 and Ce 73X1, beads were associated with six burials and one other feature, as well as being found on the surface and in the plow zone. At Ce 101, beads were found on the surface and with five burials and one other feature.

All of the bead types referred to here were defined by DeJarnette and Hansen (1960) in the Childersburg Site report. Approximately half of the beads found were small seed beads in the colors black, blue, green, and yellow. A considerable number of the blue and green seed beads found with Burial 6, Ce 73, and Burial 1, Ce 101X2, were "faceted." Seed beads

TABLE 54

Occurrence of Beads in the Weiss Basin Reservoir

BEAD TYPE	Ce 73						Ce 73X1		Ce 101X1	Ce 101X2				Ce 101X4		Ce 173
	Burials						Burial	Feature	Feature	Burials				Burials	Surface	
	4	5	6	7	8	Miscellaneous	13	3	1	1	4	11	Surface	1	6	
ALABAMA SEED BEADS																
Color Black			X													
Color Blue (Translucent)			X							X			X			
Color Green			X													
Color Yellow			X													
ALABAMA WHITE BARREL										X					X	
CARNALINE d' ALEPPO RED																
ON GREEN BARREL																
Bright Red Exterior													X			
Dull Red Exterior													X		X	
CHILDERSBURG OPAQUE LIGHT																
BLUE OVAL	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
FORT MOORE TRANSLUCENT																
WHITE STRIPED BARREL			X													
FORT MOORE WHITE STRIPED																
SPHERICAL			X					X								
MISCELLANEOUS	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X

decorated in the style of Carnaline d'Aleppo (red exterior, green interior) and "gooseberry beads" (white stripes on a translucent yellow glass) were also found.

Most of the remainder of the beads were made of various shades of translucent blue or green glass. These beads are oval or spherical in shape. Many of them fit the description of Childersburg opaque light blue oval.

A small number of the beads found were decorated in an "intaglio" style, with either an inlaid glass or a "slipped" design. Stripes and other decorations were used in this manner.

The occurrence of types named in the Childersburg Site report is shown in the chart below. A more complete description and classification will appear in a later publication.

Conclusions

Ethno-historical evidence suggests that the Creek Indians inhabited the area of the upper Coosa prior to circa 1750. After these groups moved south—in order, perhaps, to be closer to the centers of trade with the Europeans—the Weiss area was left unpopulated for a short time. During the latter part of the eighteenth century, various groups, principally Cherokee, moved into the area in response to population pressures elsewhere. This second phase of the Historic Period was brought to a close by removal in 1830.

The two phases of the Historic Period seemed to be marked by a slight change in the complex of the trade materials found. During the first half of the eighteenth century, the complex included a large number of beads, reworked brass ornaments, hawk bells, knives, and axes. These articles probably declined in importance during the second historic occupation that dates from 1775–1830. The greatest change, however, occurs around 1815 with the introduction of European ceramics. These are the only certain marker for the well documented Cherokee occupation.