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Dutch Hollow, an Early Historic Period
Seneca Site in Livingston County, New York

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The flood of trade beads which came into the Seneca country during the 15 years or so which intervened between the close of occupation at the Adams site and the establishing of the Dutch Hollow village is in part recorded at the Cameron site. It seems to have been attended by a waning interest in, but not complete replacement of, the older native devices, some of which, perforated animal teeth, for example, persist into the post-Denonville period.

At Dutch Hollow the following native bead types occurred in small numbers with the dead; they are also reported, but in quantities unknown, from the village refuse: tubular beads, made from the long bones of various large birds, chiefly the wild turkey, (Pl. 16, figs. 3, 12); large, rectangular, red slate beads (Pl. 15, fig. 2), and one of gray steatite, flattened on two sides, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length, from the village area (State Museum collection); massive shell beads, made from the conch columella (Pl. 15, fig. 3); perforated canine teeth of the elk (Pl. 17, fig. 2), dog, wolf (Pl. 16, fig. 3), and bear (Pl. 9, fig. 5), all of which are also represented in the Museum collections from the village area. Of particular interest, from the latter source, is the bear molar with one root detached, the other perforated, to create the semblance of a human foot, shown in Pl. 9, fig. 8. This quite specific trait is a diagnostic marker for the Richmond Mills and related sites.¹

Considerably more numerous among the native made beads than those of bone and stone, are the discoidal and wampum beads of shell. The former occur in two diameters, large and small, both apparently made from marine shells, and are illustrated, respectively, in Pl. 15, figs. 4, 7; Pl. 16, figs. 8, 11, 13, 16, and Pl. 17, figs. 4, 5. One very large and thick example from the refuse, one inch in diameter, three-sixteenths of an inch thick, is in the State Museum. Beads of this kind have been found on the Richmond Mills site and they are also present in the early historic Erie site at Ripley, N. Y.²

All the wampum found on the site is indubitably of Indian manufacture, as the lack of uniformity in all respects indicates. It is of fair abundance in the graves. The length range is from about one-eighth to one-half inches (Pl. 15, fig. 7; Pl. 17, figs. 4, 5; Pl. 18, fig. 3).

Great variability characterizes the glass beads, all of which are, however, cane made. They range from large "star beads"³ (Pl. 15, fig. 3, bottom center), through sundry styles of polychromes (e.g., Pl. 15, figs. 1, 3, 5) and single color (e.g., Pl. 18, fig. 2) spherical, oblate spheroidal and elliptical forms, to small "seed" beads (e.g., Pl. 17, fig. 3).⁴ While a very small number of a twisted elongate type, rectangular in cross section occurred (Pl. 17, fig. 1), cylindrical forms were not in evidence, another proof along with the predominance of polychrome styles, that Dutch Hollow pertains to the early, rather than to the middle historic period.

I am much indebted to Mr. Kenneth E. Kidd of the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology for the further description which follows.

¹ Parker, 1918, Fig. 12, 3, 4.

² Parker, 1907, Pl. 14.

³ Orchard, 1929, pp. 83-84, Pl. XII.

⁴ This is a rather confusing term widely applied by collectors to the small spheroidal multicolored glass beads which appear in considerable numbers a little before the Dutch Hollow period and increase in incidence with time.

Glass Trade Beads from Dutch Hollow

by KENNETH E. KIDD

The glass trade beads from Dutch Hollow represent a fragment of those which were poured into the hands of the Senecas by the French and the English during their long courtship of the Five Nations. A cursory inspection of the whole series leaves the impression that during this long period stylistic changes were numerous. In fact, the best available series for the Five Nations as a whole (if not for a vastly larger geographic area than the Iroquois habitat) is derived from Seneca territory. Local archeologists, of whom C. F. Wray of West Rush is outstanding, have attempted a chronology of the Seneca sites, and it is upon the consensus among them that any classification must stand at present. It may err in detail, but it is doubtful if it is wrong in any of its major assumptions. However, the point is mentioned here for this reason: the dating of beads in this area is currently based on internal evidence, whereas the ideal would be to use external evidence, which is not yet available. Any conclusions reached must be regarded with this in mind.

In the presently accepted chronology, then, Dutch Hollow is placed about third in the historic sequence, with only the Adams site (including the Tram site) and Cameron earlier. It is believed to be coeval with Factory Hollow, and earlier than Warren, Powerhouse, Dann, etc.

The beads from Dutch Hollow may be characterized as small and round. The most striking exceptions to this are the tubular beads (Pl. XVII, fig. 1), a type which begins to appear here but becomes dominant at later sites such as Dann.

Star Beads. One of the first types to be introduced to the Indians, the star (or chevron) varies greatly in size and shape, and from place to place. At Dutch Hollow it is either fairly large, as in Pl. XV, 3, or small (XVI, 1). They occur chiefly in blue and white, the extent to which the bead has been ground to shape greatly altering the pattern which shows on the surface. In Pl. XV, 4, for example, the beads have been ground very little on the sides so that the latter are striped but the ends show the star effect.

Melon Beads. Conceptually very much like the star beads are the "melon" beads, provisionally so-called. These are specimens having a body of a solid colour, such as red or blue, into which have been laid strands of one or more contrasting colours (Pls. XV, 1, 3-7; XVI, 1, 2, 4, 6; XVII, 2; XVIII, 3). Frequently the inlaid stripe is bordered with white or some other colour which sets it off from the background so that most of these beads show at least three colours. For instance in Pl. XV, 3, there are beads with red ground and a blue stripe bordered with white, a red stripe bordered with white, and a white stripe bordered with black. A few have simply one inlaid and contrasting colour, without a border, as seen in Pl. XV, 1. Others again have enough stripes of inlay to cover one half the surface of

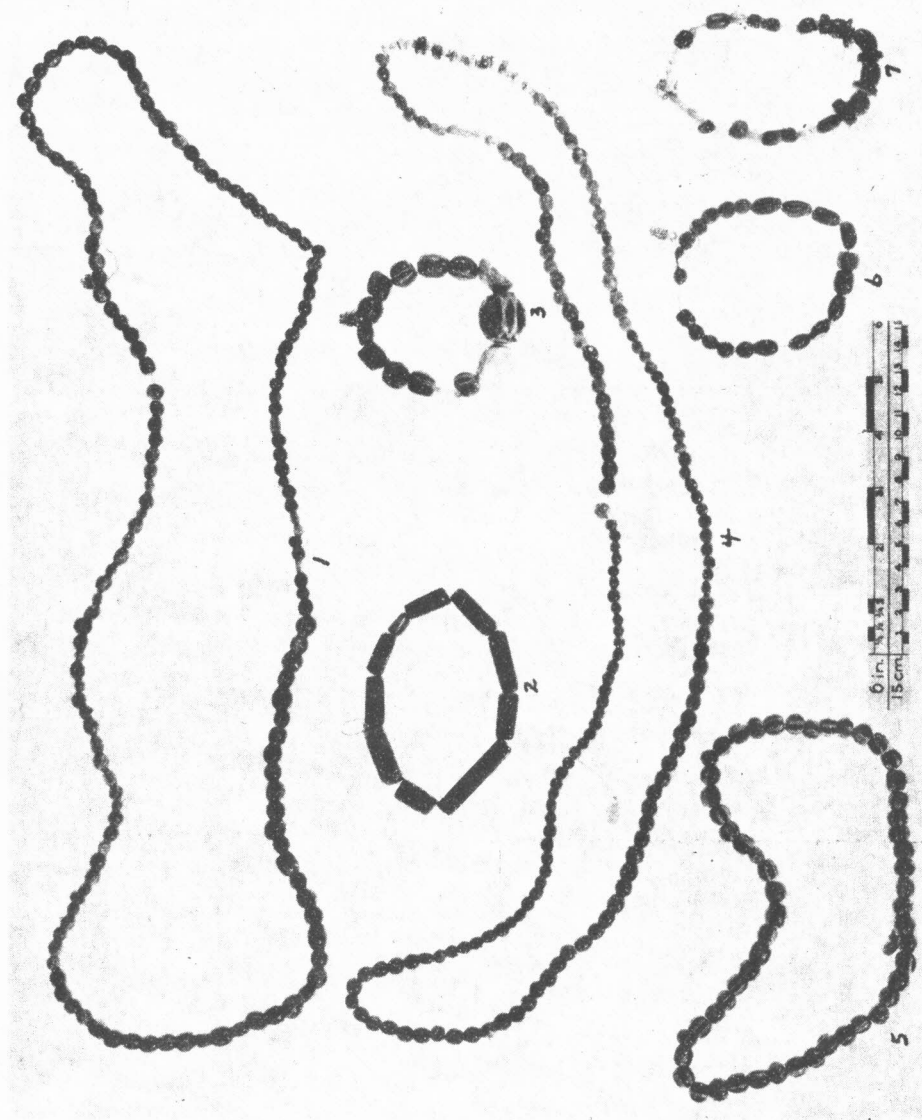


Plate 15. Glass, stone and shell beads from Cemetery 1. 1, glass (AR 27755), burial 8; 2, red slate (AR 27874), burial 68; 3, large polychrome glass and marine shell (AR 27864), burial 62; 4, glass and discoidal shell (AR 27845), burial 60; 5, glass (AR 27762), burial 19; 6, glass (AR 27757), burial 9; 7, glass, discoidal and tubular shell (AR 27912), burial 75.

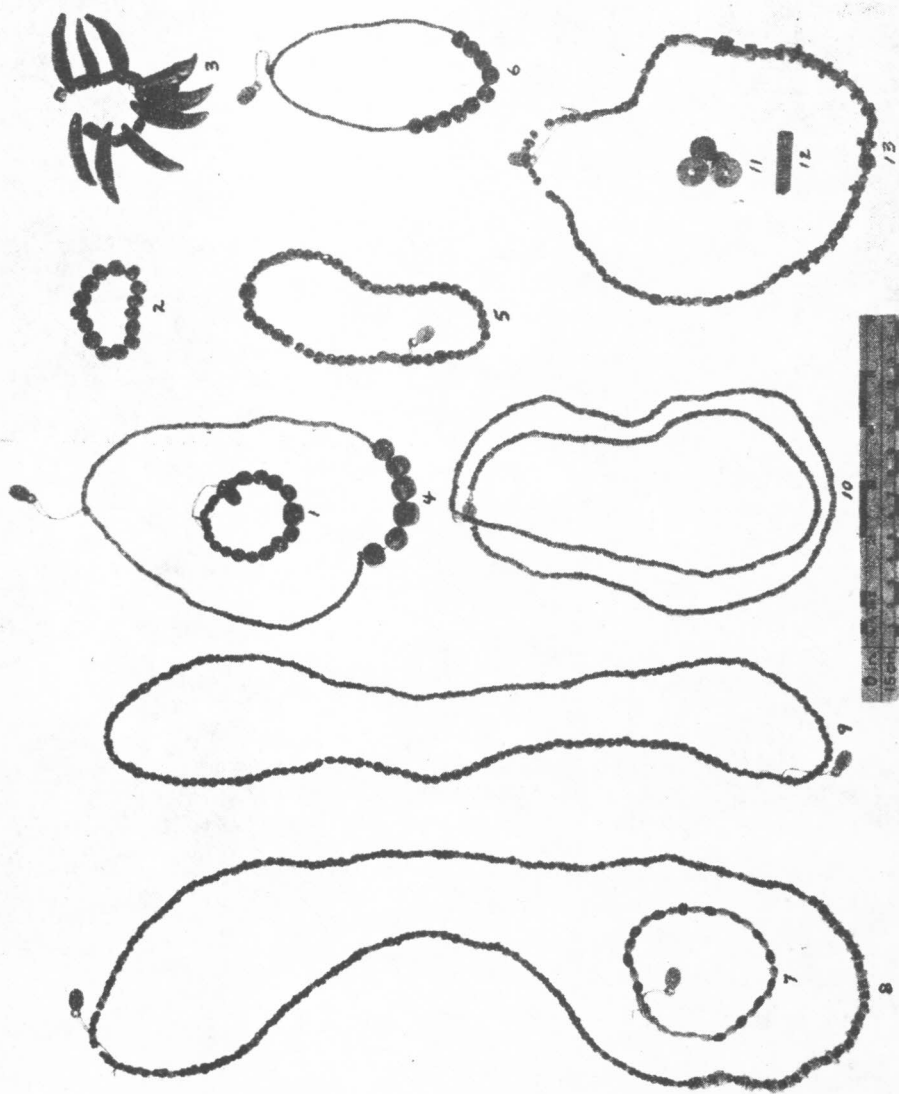


Plate 16. Glass, shell and bone beads from Cemetery 1. 1, glass (AR 27778), burial 23; 2, glass; 3, perforated canine teeth of wolf and tubular bone beads (AR 27796), burial 39; 4, glass (AR 27870), burial 67; 5, glass (AR 27764), burial 20; 6, glass (AR 27772), burial 26; 7, glass (AR 27758), burial 12; 8, glass and discoidal shell (AR 27903), burial 73; 9, glass (AR 27867), burial 63; 10, glass (AR 27918), burial 34; 11, large discoidal shell (AR 27880), burial 69; 12, tubular bone bead (AR 27909), burial 74; 13, glass and discoidal shell (AR 27792), burial 38 a and b.

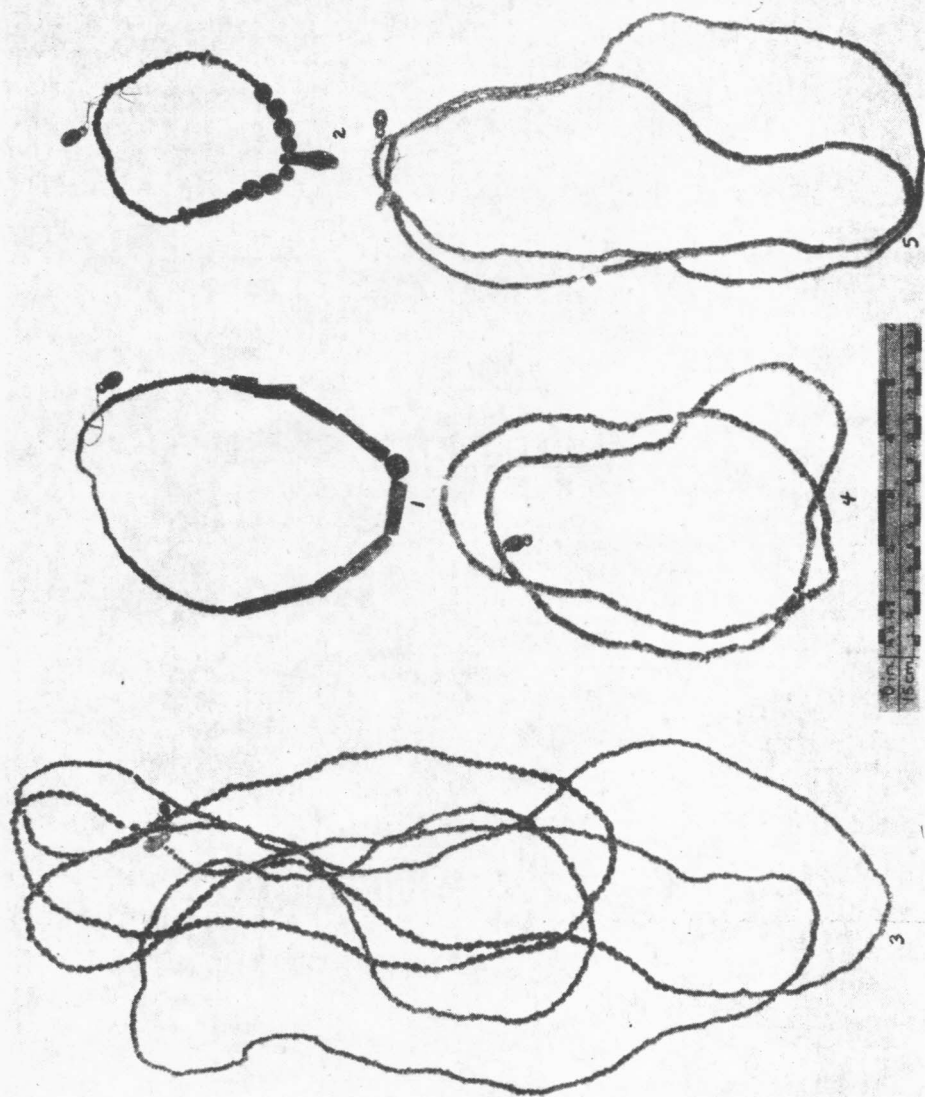


Plate 17. Glass and shell beads from Cemetery 1. 1, glass (AR 27753), burial 5; 2, glass, discoidal shell and perforated elk canine (AR 27910-11), burial 74; 3 glass (AR 27844), burial 60; 4, 5, small discoidal shell and native wampum (AR 27765), burial 22; (AR 27884), burial 69.

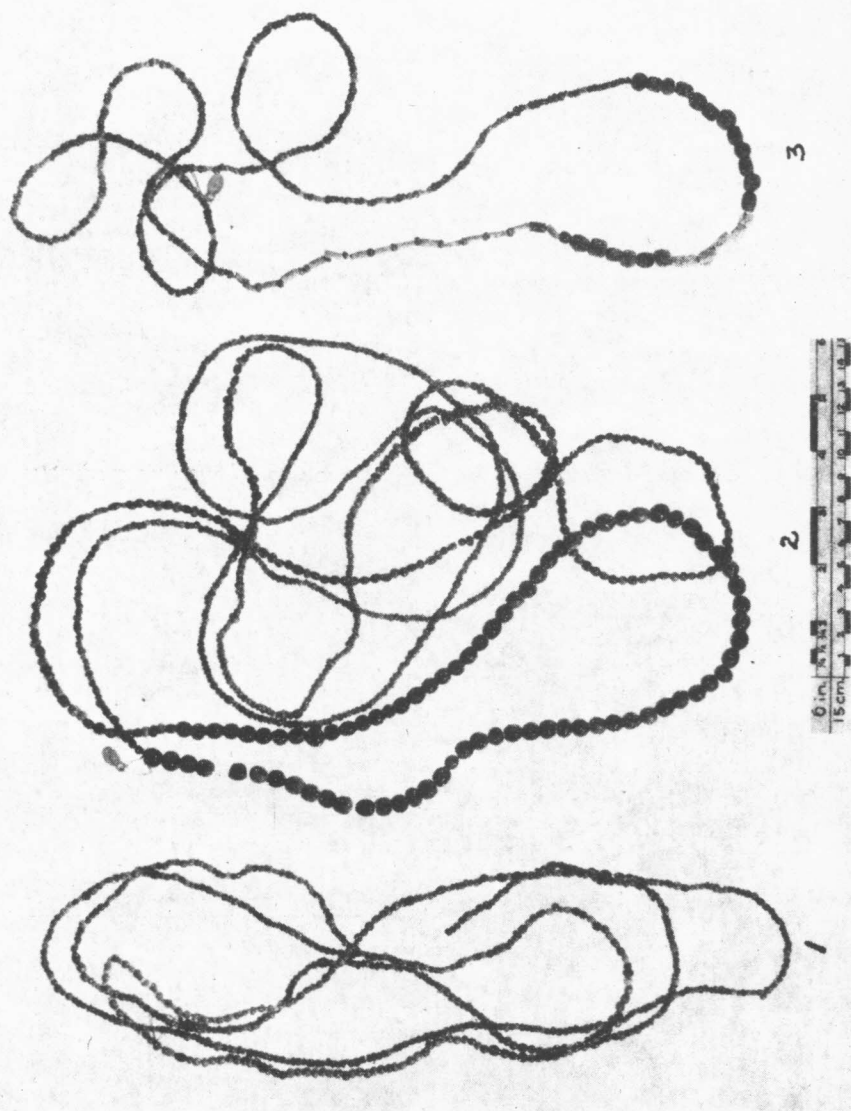


Plate 18. Glass and shell beads from Cemetery 1. 1, glass (AR 27852), burial 60; 2, glass AR 27883), burial 69; 3, glass and native wampum (AR 27875), burial 68.

the bead, creating the effect of a striated surface. In Pl. XV, 3, 5, there are blue and white beads of this sort. Still another sub-type is that in which very fine inlays have been made, and the bead twisted while molten, so that the final effect is that of a small spiral. Good examples are present in Pl. XV, 1; XVI, 2, etc. An unusually attractive result of the "melon" technique occurs when a white translucent glass is inlaid with stripes of an opaque or milk white, as in Pl. XV, 7.

Seed Beads. A third principal type found at Dutch Hollow and perhaps numerically the most important is the seed bead. These are always small, with a tendency to an annular as contrasted with a globular shape, and are generally self-coloured in opaque white, red or blue (Pls. XVI, 4, 6, 8-10, 13; XVII, 2, 3; XVIII, 1-3). Some of them have a core of transparent green or colourless glass. They are seldom more than 2 mm. in diameter. A very few seed beads have inlaid stripes like the melon beads, but seldom in more than one colour.

Miscellaneous Types. It will be noted from the illustrations that a number of other types occur at Dutch Hollow. The small oblong beads occur sparsely, and are predominantly pale green, opaque and self-coloured (Pl. XVI, 7, 13). A few are semi-translucent blue. Another type is the solid-colour globular, which is characteristically a dull red (Pl. XVIII, 2). The last significant type is the tubular bead (Pl. XVII, 1) which has been made by cutting or breaking long canes which were usually square in cross-section and which were either straight or twisted spirally. They are generally a monochrome, either a blue, bluish green or dull red, the latter probably in imitation of the native bead of red slate. A few are round in section.

From the evidence at hand the beads from Dutch Hollow appear to be predominantly of the seed and globular forms, with only a sprinkling of the tubular shape which becomes dominant at certain later sites. The star or chevron is conspicuous, but chiefly in small sizes, and not cut as extensively as is the case in later times.

As for the point of origin of the trade beads, nothing very informative can be stated at the moment. Popular tradition has it that they originated in Venice, or more properly at Murano, an island adjacent to and under the suzerainty of Venice where all the glass-making industry of the state was centered. While this may be true, it seems unlikely in view of the widespread knowledge of glass manufacture throughout western Europe at the time. On the other hand, it is altogether likely that most of the glass beads which were brought to America in the decades or century following the discovery were of Venetian origin, and quite possibly this includes many, or even all, of those from Dutch Hollow. Other possible sources, it seems to me, are Holland, England and France.

A much more intensive study now under way should further illumine not only the origin of beads, but the order in which they were brought to the North American continent and their dispersion amongst the Indians.