

Archaeological Investigation
of the
Marquette Mission Site,
St. Ignace, Michigan, 1971:
A Preliminary Report

by

Lyle M. Stone



Reports in Mackinac History and Archaeology,
Number 1

MACKINAC ISLAND
STATE PARK COMMISSION

© 1972

5,000 copies

ornamental object, from the Lasanen Site. One small specimen of copper mail was recovered from the buried humus and charcoal zone at the Marquette Mission Site. This specimen consists of a strip of leather to which rows of individual, narrow (2.1 to 2.5 mm wide) copper bands had been clamped. Copper mail has also been found at two other St. Ignace area sites: Gros Cap (Quimby 63:53) and Richardson (Greenman 1958: 28). The presence of copper mail at these three sites and its absence from Fort Michilimackinac (1715-1781) indicates that it dates from the late seventeenth or very early eighteenth centuries.

Beads

Two glass necklace beads were recovered from Feature 2. Similar specimens have been found at other sites in late seventeenth and early-to-mid eighteenth century contexts. One of the beads is of hollow-cane manufacture, round, and is brown in color. This bead type has been classified by Stone (1970:298) as Class I, Series A, Type 3, variety d and has also been reported by Pratt (1961:15) and Bell, Jelks, and Newcomb (1967:141). The second bead is also of hollow-cane manufacture, round, purple in color, and has nine longitudinal white stripe insets. Similar specimens have been reported by Stone (1970:312-313) as Class I, Series C, Type 4 necklace beads, and by Webb and Gregory (1965:20), Bell, Jelks, and Newcomb (1967:142), and Quimby (1966:192-196).

Grooming

Toothbrush (Figure 17)

Two bone toothbrush handles were recovered, one each from Feature 4 and the redeposited sand and gravel zone. The one complete specimen was 157.2 mm long and had a curved longitudinal cross section. The bristle end of the handle had 74 holes, two edge rows of 18 each and two center rows of 19 each. Brose (1967:68) has reported nearly identical specimens from 1886-1895 contexts at the Custer Road Dump Site on Mackinac Island. Both specimens from Marquette Mission were marked: one had the words *Quality Fine Paris* and the second, *Extra-Fine Paris*.

Activities (Recreation)

Pipes, Kaolin

Two kaolin pipe bowl fragments were recovered from disturbed contexts. Neither specimen is diagnostic of a particular period of manufacture.

Pipes, Aboriginal (Figure 15)

One stem fragment of an aboriginal, trumpet-shaped pipe was recovered from Feature 2. Quimby (1963:53, 56) reports similar specimens from

the Gros Cap Site near St. Ignace and maintains that these pipes are of Huron style. Quimby's date of 1710-1760 for the Gros Cap Site is not incompatible with an early historic occupation (ca. 1660-1720) suggested for one component of the Marquette Mission Site.

Marble

One white clay toy marble (20.4 mm diameter) was found in the disturbed sand and gravel zone. This type of marble is common at both eighteenth and nineteenth century historic sites.

Clothing and Clothing Accoutrements

Buttons (Figure 18)

Three white glass buttons were recovered from disturbed contexts. Two of the buttons (15.3 mm diameter and 17.4 mm. diameter) had four holes; the third button (14.2 mm diameter) had two holes and an edge which was painted green. These buttons appear to date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Shoe Leather

Nineteen leather fragments, apparently from a single shoe were found in Feature 4. The largest specimen is a heel and partial sole section. The heel is impressed with the number 5.

HOUSEHOLD CONTEXT OF UTILIZATION

Preparation and Consumption of Food

Ceramics, European

A total of 209 European ceramic fragments were recovered; of this total, all but two appear to be diagnostic of a mid- to late-nineteenth century assemblage. This assemblage is divided for descriptive purposes as follows:

(*Earthenware*) (Figures 19, 20, 21, 22, 23)

The majority of earthenware sherds recovered (192 specimens) were ironstone china (111 specimens). Of this total, 17 specimens represented the Tea Leaf pattern of the A. J. Wilkinson Company, England. These pieces, representing 2 saucers, 2 plates, 1 plate rim, 11 cup sherds, and 1 large serving bowl, were produced between 1880 and 1895, based on the Wilkinson symbol style and signature content. The 17 Tea Leaf specimens were recovered from Feature 4 (11 specimens) and from disturbed and redeposited sand and gravel zones (6 specimens). The remaining 94 sherds were white, undecorated ironstone china, representing cups, plates, and bowls, which were recovered from Feature 2, Feature 4, and from disturbed sand and gravel zones.