

**ONEOTA SITES
ON THE
UPPER IOWA RIVER**

by

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IRON OBJECTS AND GLASS BEADS

Both iron objects and glass beads are definite indicators of contact between the Oneota people and European missionaries or traders.

Iron objects

Iron articles occurred at only three sites. A much rusted "large handmade nail" (Orr, 1936), 8 cm. long, had been placed on the chest of Burial 4, Woolston site. At the Lane Enclosure an iron fragment (Ae19-936, Fig. 17), probably part of a knife blade, was found in Trench F. It was in association with a concentration of over a hundred shell tempered sherds, mostly undecorated body pieces, but including some rims and handles of several Oneota pots, along with a fragment of antler, part of a sandstone arrow smoother, and a chunk of hematite. Surface depth was 30 inches. This was probably either a cache pit or a part of the refuse heap that lay just east of the circle.

At the O'Regan cemetery a badly corroded iron knife blade (Ae12-469, Fig. 18) occurred along with ear coils with Burial 133. With Burial (?) three iron pieces had been placed against pottery vessel 558. Two of the pieces were long, thin and twisted, one a 19 cm. straight length, and the other a 23.5 cm. curving length. An iron bracelet and other articles were found with burials here before the controlled excavations began (Orr, n.d.)

Glass beads

Glass beads occurred with three O'Regan burials. With Burial 116, in addition to two brass ear coils, there were three blue opaque glass beads, 7 mm. in diameter. The third was elongated but approximately the same size. With Burial 120, at either ear and on the chest, were complete and fragmentary specimens of ten blue spherical beads. Size varied, but the largest was 6 mm. in diameter. A flint chip was the only other grave association. In the chest area of Burial 124 were two blue-purple spherical glass beads, 5 mm. in diameter.

Glass beads have been reported from the Weymiller terrace and Burke's mound also. They were definitely in association with Oneota burials at the Flynn cemetery on Bear Creek.

POTTERY

Pottery was found at all the sites described in this report, either in village use or placed beside burials. No other objects made of clay were found. Secondary modification of sherds is described later.

The sample on which this discussion of Upper Iowa River Oneota pottery is based reflects directly the type of sites excavated. While it does not show the

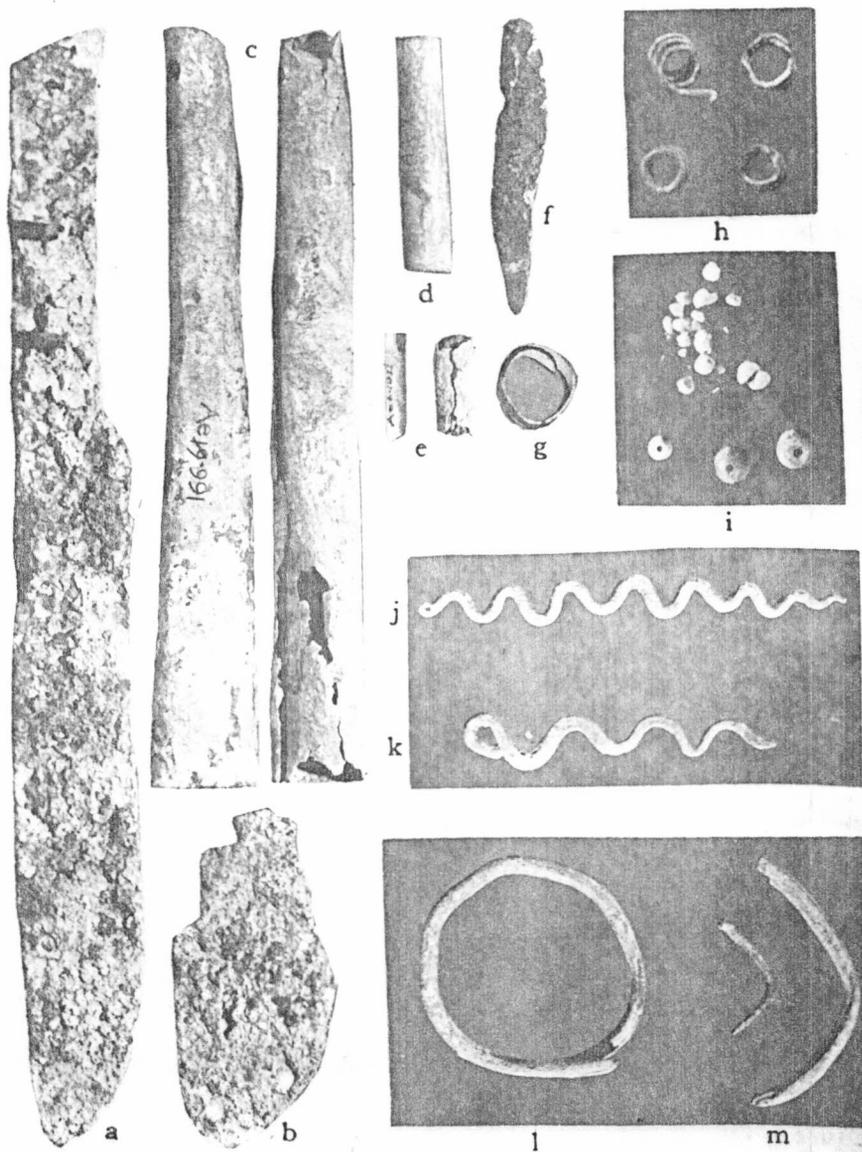


Figure 17. Iron, Brass/copper artifacts and glass beads

(a, b. Iron, 13 Ae12-469, 13 Ae19-936 c. Ear ornaments, 13 Ae5-991 d. Rolled metal tube, 13 Ae19-531 e. Rolled metal bead, 13 Ae6-1021 f. Metal object, 13 Ae13-485 g. Metal ring, 13 Ae19-1074 h. Metal ear coils, 13 Ae6-1025 i. Glass beads, 13 Ae12-458, 461, 464 j, k. Metal serpents, 13 Ae5-982, 13 Ae19-1078 l. Metal bracelet, 13 Ae19-1070 m. 13 Ae19-1074)