

CHENANGO-CHAPTER-NYSAA

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The Thurston site is located on a high gravel shoulder on the nothwest corner and adjoining the famed Pratts Hollow glacial kame area. Oneida Creek from its source in Peterboro Swamp rushes down the western ridge, over Stockbridge Falls and flows south and east of the site, turns north to flow eventually into Oneida Lake. It is probable that this is the Onneyuttenage visited by Van den Bogaert in 1634.

This site was selected by the Chenango Chapter for excavation and study in 1960. At that time digging arrangements were made with Otis Marshall who also owns the adjacent Marshall (Munnsville) site. We have enjoyed the continued interest and cooperation of Mr. Marshall and his son Tom Marshall who now operates the farms. Otis Marshall has a real concern about the preservation of Indian material and was influential in getting the Herbert Bigford local collection into the Colgate University Museum at Hamilton.. This material and information has already been used by archeological researchers and will be used to a minor extent in this study.

Planned excavation was conducted actively through 1961-1962 and has continued to a lesser degree to date. All records were consolidated into one and this information will be the basis of this report. Nearly the entire site had been previously dug which made the present effort difficult.. Our investigation has been limited by labor supply and unfavorable dry digging seasons. We have not found all the physical evidence we would have liked as will be evident in the accompanying map of operations. (Plate 1)

The occupied area had been tilled for some time, in most areas this tillage reached the subsoil. A certain amount of erosion at the sloping edges of the field had placed an overlay or removed the occupation mantle entirely. In some of the hollows the layer deposited was eighteen to twenty-four inches in thickness. Springs still emerge in at least two places about thirty feet below the crest, springs that must have been ample in Indian times.

The site material fits well into the general estimate of the date of the village as 1625-1640. Iron axes, knives and articles of scrap brass fit, there are no gun parts, but one lead ball was recovered from a house pit. A snuff box cover from a grave bears the date 1634. The trade beads are styles generally terminating within the range set^{up} by best authorities on these articles.

Pottery types are of expected patterns except for a few aberrant forms which will be described later. A limited typology will be given of glass beads and of pottery rim sherds.

One complete house pattern, (Plate 2) fragments of another, many isolated sections of stockade lines, a roasting pit, a possible moat and scattered post molds constitute the settlement features. The scattered post molds evidence the presence of structures over much of the somewhat level summit area. We were aware that there were at least two burial plots adjoining the village but we have not yet re-dug them in an attempt to locate remaining graves, if any. They have been known and thoroughly dug in past years.

(1) Bigford Collection, Colgate University Museum, Hamilton, N.Y.

Beads were not too abundant on this site, possibly because we dug no graves and all middens had been well searched by many previous workers. The following typology will best show the range:

Bead Typology for the Thurston Site

Amount	Description	Number from " Oneida Bead Sequence "
3	Bone beads	
3	Stone disc beads	
1	Clay disc bead (Plate)	4
6	Shell disc beads	
3	Metal disc beads	
36	Tubular shell (wampum)	
1	Tubular catlinite	
20	Small white, milky core	#2
4	Round, translucent blue	#7
3	Flush-eye, two on white background	#11
3	Oval, opaque black	#12
2	Oval, opaque purple blue	#13
1	Long oval, with white spirals	#15
8	Star beads	#16
2	Oval, brick red with three blue centered white stripes	#22
1	Oval, eight red stripes on grey background	#32
1	Large oval, candy stripes, six blue stripes edged with white on red background	#33
5	Round, small, opaque blue	#35
10	Round, solid red	#36
1	Small round, six salmon stripes on white	#38
3	Oval, translucent blue	#40
1	Oval, opaque black	#41
1	Flattened, opaque white	#43
1	Oval, translucent green with three brown stripes	#45
1	Round, translucent blue with four white stripes	#46
20	Oval, opaque blue with three white stripes	#47
1	Large oval, six white stripes alternating with six yellow stripes separated by purple, red core ringed with white	#49
2	Tubular, opaque white cane	#50
4	Tubular, opaque red cane	#52
4	Buttons, black with metal eye	#53
1	Round, red with black core	#60
1	Tubular, opaque blue cane	#82

(1) Pratt, Peter P., Oneida Iroquois Glass Trade Bead Sequence 1585-1745, Fort Stanwix Museum, Rome, NY 1961