

H. 452

# MANUAL FOR SENECA IROQUOIS ARCHEOLOGY

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EARLY HISTORIC SENECA SITE SEQUENCE

VILLAGE SITES

APPROXIMATE DATES

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

WESTERN HUNTOON	EASTERN REED	1710-1730 1710-1730	CATLINITE AND SLATE ERA WIRE WOUND BEAD ERA NO JESUIT MATERIAL
SNYDER-McCLURE		1687-1710	CATLINITE AND SLATE GROWTH OF ENGLISH INFLUENCE
WHITE SPRINGS		1687-1710	MANY JESUIT RINGS, MEDALS WIRE WOUND BEADS START
✓ ROCHESTER JUNCTION		1675-1687	DENONVILLE EXPEDITION 1687
KIRKWOOD		1675-1687	GREENHALG'S VISIT 1676
BOUGHTON HILL		1670-1687	WAR WITH THE ILLINOIS 1680
BEALE		1670-1687	SUSQUEHANNAH DEFEATED 1675 ROUND MONOCHROME BEAD ERA
DANN		1660-1675	TUBULAR BEAD ERA SUSQUEHANNAH WAR BEGINS 1660
	MARSH	1650-1670	GALINEE'S VISIT 1669
	FOX	1650-1670	RESPIRATORY EPIDEMIC 1662 DUTCH SURRENDER 1664
POWER HOUSE		1645-1660	FIRST JESUIT MISSION 1656 HURON WARS 1642-1649
	STEELE	1635-1650	FIRST WAMPUM BELTS FIRST FIREARMS DUTCH TRADE ERA
LIMA		1625-1645	
BOSELY MILLS		1625-1645	GROWTH OF DUTCH INFLUENCE
	WARREN	1615-1635	FORT ORANGE, ALBANY, NEW YORK 1624
	CORNISH	1615-1635	
DUTCH HOLLOW		1600-1625	
FEUGLE		1600-1625	FIRST DIRECT TRADE
FACTORY HOLLOW		1590-1615	POLYCHROME BEAD ERA DUTCH TRADE STARTS 1609
CAMERON		1575-1600	
	TRAM	1565-1590	INDIRECT TRADE ERA
ADAMS		1550-1575	FIRST TRADE GOODS EUROPEAN EPIDEMICS FORMATION OF LEAGUE
RICHMOND MILLS		1500-1550	TRANSITION TO HISTORIC ERA
BELCHER		1500-1550	END OF PREHISTORIC ERA
GENESEE VALLEY SITES			
BRISTOL VALLEY SITES		1300-1500	PREHISTORIC ERA

## EARLY COLONIAL GLASS AND CERAMIC BEADS (1550-1625)

European explorers discovered glass beads were a desirable trade item with the American Indian. These beads, today, are fine time indicators for the archeologist. While it is true that certain glass beads were brought to different parts of the New World at different times, the mere presence of these beads indicate the Indian's Historic contact.

Practically all of the early trade beads had their origin in the famous glass factories of Morano, Italy. In later Colonial times, other manufacturers in Holland, and Jamestown, Virginia set up glass factories to make beads for Indian trade.

There were two main methods of making glass beads. Cane beads were made by melting rods of glass together, blowing a bubble of air into its center and then stretching it out into long tubes. These were then cut into shorter lengths making the common tubular beads. If round beads were desired, these tubes were tumbled in drums, while they were still hot, until they became rounded in shape. The wire wound bead was made by winding a syrupy string of molten glass around an iron rod or nail until the desired size was acquired in a round or oval shape. To further change these beads, they could be pressed in a mold giving a faceted or other form.

Cane beads, composed nearly all of the early Colonial glass trade beads. Wire wound varieties followed later, and became the dominant bead shortly after 1700. Cane beads again replaced the wire wound types after 1750.

Certain beads were acquired by the Seneca in chronological sequence; some being available in large quantities for a specific time, while others appeared only in the very early or very late Colonial period.

The first few beads the Seneca acquired were probably traded to them by Indians living nearer the sea coast and not by direct trade with Europeans. These primary beads probably changed hands many times on their way inland to the Seneca and may have taken years to complete the trip. The early historic Seneca villages of 1550 to 1575 never had more than a handful of glass beads to share with their many inhabitants. Necklaces of this period seldom have more than two or four glass beads and these are usually mixed in with a basic shell or brass bead necklace.

Among the original trade beads to reach the Seneca was a thick oval shaped ceramic bead with a dark blue glazed surface and a design of white lines and dots applied on the surface. This is an excellent time marker even though it was never numerous and was gone by 1600. The first round glass cane beads were pea size green and blue beads, that often were unable to survive the four hundred years in the ground. Many disintegrated to a sugary powder. A very few round red cane beads, some with black stripes, and an oval green cane bead with white stripes, were being worn by the Seneca between 1550 and 1575.

Another interesting early bead was a tubular cane bead, rectangular in cross section, with a core of clear glass, a middle layer of white glass and a surface layer of blue glass. This variety first appeared about 1575 and disappeared in the early 1600's.

Between 1575 and 1600, a creamy colored cane bead became the dominant Seneca bead. This cane bead appeared in several shapes, with tubular and oval being most common. A rare variety was round in shape and had blue flush eyes (circular bits of blue glass pressed into the sides of the bead).

After 1600, varieties and quantities of glass beads increased tremendously, indicating direct trade between the Seneca and the European. Between 1600 and 1625, round polychrome cane beads reached their height of popularity. Among the important varieties at this time were: round blue and white seed beads, many with clear glass cores - marble size red and black beads with stripes of white, blue, and red - "mellon" beads of blue glass with white stripes and cores of clear and white glass - star or chevron beads of blue, green, or red polychromes with a star like cross section at the end of the bead - flush eye beads - fused beads (the seconds of the bead manufacturers tumbling barrels) - polychrome beads of many different colors and combinations of colors.



## MID COLONIAL GLASS TRADE BEADS (1625-1675)

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The dominant round polychrome glass bead varieties of the early historic period (1550-1625) were replaced in the 1625-1675 period by a preponderance of tubular cane beads. By 1640, half inch long tubular red and tubular blue glass cane beads were by far the most numerous glass bead the Seneca had. The sharp, unfinished ends of these beads must have cut and broken many a necklace of beads for their unhappy owners. This may be one of the reasons why so many beads are found on the surface of villages of this time period. A few long tubular polychrome beads and twisted tubular varieties were also present in lesser numbers.

A few round polychrome cane beads of the 1550-1625 period lasted through to the 1640's. These were mainly the remnants of the earlier trade beads that had escaped being buried or lost. The giant star or chevron bead that first appeared prior to 1600 lasted until 1670, but was extremely rare at all times. Large marble size round polychrome cane beads, especially black with white stripes and red with white stripes were common components of all large necklaces.

Some of the interesting bead types that the Seneca acquired between 1640 and 1660 were: the rare imitation yellow corn kernel bead, the flattened polychrome bead made from a reheated and flattened marble size polychrome, the "Roman" style round pea size cane bead with a wavy line pressed into the bead's surface, a few small yellow wire wound beads and larger oval green wire wound beads.

Between 1660 and 1675, short tubular cane beads, most with well finished or ground ends, some monochrome and some polychrome, of numerous varieties became the dominant beads. Short tubular red, black, and white cane beads, some varieties with stripes of red, black, and brown were very common. Long tubular "bugle" beads, many with polychrome stripes are excellent time markers of this period. One of the rarest beads, the "imitation gold" short tubular cane bead is another important time indicator at this time (1660-1675).

Seed beads, tiny round cane beads of white, yellow, green, red and blue coloring became quite common by 1670. Some necklaces contained many thousands of these seed beads. The seed beads found on Seneca sites before 1700 were worn as necklaces and it wasn't until after 1700 that they began to be used as designs sewn on clothing.

In summary, the mid Colonial period was the time when tubular glass beads of both polychrome and monochrome varieties reached their height of popularity. Glass beads were numerous and apparently readily available from the fur traders. The Seneca during this period were both rich and powerful. This fact is reflected by the quantities and quality of their ceremonial caches and their lavish gifts to the dead.

Individual necklaces of this period are sometimes striking examples of their owners imagination and ingenuity. Simple strings maybe of one single bead type, while more elaborate strings may have groups of similar beads or haphazard mixtures of many bead types alternating with glass, pewter, or brass shoe buttons. Some have pendants and tassels of other beads or ornaments.

Beads were also used as components of earrings and bracelets, again strung according to the whim of the owner.

Beads were worn by both sexes and by individuals of all ages. The most elaborate displays were, however, usually the possessions of young women and children.

## LATE COLONIAL GLASS BEADS (1675-1800)

By 1675, bead styles were changing again. The dominant tubular varieties so common from 1640 through 1670 were rapidly replaced by simple round monochrome pea size cane beads. Solid red or black beads were monotonously dominant. A few pea size white, green and blue beads were about the only other varieties other than seed beads of exactly the same colors.

The pea size round red cane bead has an interesting variation. Some have a core of a light green glass in transmitted light, that looks black in reflected light. Without holding the bead up to the light the bead has the appearance of having a black core surrounded by red glass.

The round black cane bead also was varied by having three white flush eyes pressed into the sides of the bead. Along with these flush eye beads, there may occasionally be round black beads with a single white line pressed into their circumference.

Around 1700 and just shortly thereafter, another radical change took place in glass bead styles. The cane beads, dominant from 1550 to 1700, were quickly replaced by a number of wire wound bead varieties. The wire wound bead remained the dominant bead until nearly 1750. The most common of these being a creamy white "opalescent" bead ranging from pea to large marble size. Other wire wound varieties of this 1700 to 1750 period were amber colored, light yellow, and dark blue. All of these also occurred in molded "facetted" octahedral shapes.

Wire wound beads were replaced by the return of cane beads in 1750. Short tubular black, white, and blue, along with small round white and black seed beads were the most common glass beads between 1750 and 1800. In lesser quantities were small yellow and green seed beads. These seed beads mark the beginning of ornamental embroidery bead work on clothing, jackets, leggings and moccasins.

An important bead variety at this time was a small molded black glass bead of irregular shape, used entirely for necklaces. A few wire wound bead types were also present. Most numerous among these was a small oval cream colored bead and its counterpart in a molded irregular shape. At first glance these are easily mistaken for shell beads.

After 1800, glass beads became even smaller. Round seed beads range in size from pin head to two millimeters. These were predominantly white in color, with a few red, blue and black varieties. These were the embroidery beads of this late period. A few small oval wire wound beads, light green, white and blue in color, were the only necklace beads. Apparently the interest and use of beads changed to clothing embroidery. Following 1800, the embroidery of clothing by designs of various colored beads, grew tremendously in popularity.

In summary, beads are excellent time indicators. Styles changed rapidly, either influenced by the Indian's desires or by the whims and economics of the manufacturer. The early polychrome beads were costly and time consuming to produce. Later monochrome types were less expensive and easier to make. Another factor adding to the rapid style change, was the Indian's tendency to use the beads as fast as he obtained them. The Indian often buried large quantities or lost numerous bead types and styles, leaving few if any to be handed down to the next generation.

Beads also served as money. They were a handy medium of exchange that was easily stored and readily exchangeable anytime and anywhere. Their value was demonstrated by the looting of the Seneca burials by the Denonville expedition in 1687. The looters carefully removed wampum and glass beads while discarding the native pipes and combs.

1550-1820

ARROWPOINTS

Triangular flint points	1550-1700
Pre-Iroquoian points in burial caches	1550-1640
Triangular brass points	1640-1700
Triangular brass points, perforated	1660-1700
Glass arrowpoints	1675-1700
Leaf shaped flint points	1675-1700

BONE BEADS

Tubular bird bone	1550-1575
Deer toe	1550-1680
Round (not native made)	1670-1710

GLASS BEADS

Cane Varieties

(Round Polychrome)	
Star: blue, red, or green	1600-1620
Gooseberry	1575-1620
Melon (blue and white striped)	1600-1620
Flush eye (blue on white)	1565-1590
Flush eye (red on blue)	1600-1620
Flush eye (white on black)	1680-1700
Striped, red, black, blue, yellow	1600-1660
Seed, cored or striped	1600-1620

(Tubular Polychrome)	
Bugle type	1640-1660
Rectangular, cored	1580-1640
Short, striped	1660-1675
Yellow, straw, green stripe	1640-1660

(Round Monochrome)	
Red	1670-1700
Black	1670-1700
Green	1680-1700
White seed, very tiny	1750-1820

(Tubular Monochrome)	
Creamy white	1575-1600
Red	1650-1675
Blue	1640-1670
Yellow (imitation gold)	1660-1675
Bugle, straight or twisted	1660-1675
Corn shaped	1650-1675

Wire Wound Varieties

Large round opalescent	1710-1730
Large round, amber or blue	1710-1730
Large round "faceted"	1710-1730
Small yellow	1650-1660
Molded green	1650-1670
Molded black	1750-1780
Oval white	1780-1820

BONE, ANTLER, AND TEETH

Bone awl	1550-1650
Bone needles	1550-1650
Bone fish hook	1550-1650
Bone harpoon	1550-1640
Human skull rattle	1550-1575
Large antler harpoon	1670-1720
Antler figurine	1550-1620
Antler maskette	1590-1640
Antler hair comb, few teeth	1550-1620
Antler hair comb, many teeth	1620-1750
Bone cootie comb	1640-1750
Bear molar foot effigy	1550-1575
Multiple drilled teeth	1640-1660

BRASS TOOLS AND ORNAMENTS

Spiral shaped pendant (rolled sheet brass)	1550-1590
Ring shaped ornament (rolled sheet brass)	1550-1590

BRASS TOOLS AND ORNAMENTS (continued)

Sheet brass finger ring	1550-1590
Jesuit rings, I.H.S. and L + heart	1650-1700
Jesuit rings, religious scenes and dignitaries	1660-1700
Ornamental ring with engraving	1720-1750
Ornamental ring with glass setting	1670-1750
Seal ring	1750-1800
Wooden crucifix, brass figure	1660-1700
Brass crucifix	1700-1730
Brass religious medal	1680-1730
Brass spoon	1650-1700
Tomahawk pipe	1780-1820
Arrowpoint	1640-1700
Hawk bell	1670-1700
Sleigh bell	1670-1700
Pins	1670-1700
Wire bracelet	1650-1700
Bracelet, decorated	1750-1820

SILVER

Seal	1675-1700
Earring	1770-1820
Bracelet	1800-1820
Gorget	1800-1820
Ring	1800-1820
Cross	1780-1820

CROCKERY

Delft ware pitchers	1660-1700
Delft ware dice and pendants	1640-1700
English spatterware	1750-1820
English featherware	1800-1820

FLINT

Triangular point	1550-1650
Leaf shaped point	1670-1700
Native gun flint	1640-1700
European gun flint, spall type	1640-1780
European gun flint, prismatic type	1780-1820
Prehistoric flints in burial caches	1550-1640

GLASS

Beads of all types	1550-1820
Mirror in iron compact box	1640-1700
Rectangular glass mirror	1750-1820
Burning glass or magnifier	1660-1700
Prunts from stems of glasses	1640-1700
Arrowpoints made from rum bottles	1680-1720
Rum bottles (English)	1700-1820
Onion bottle (English)	1700-1820
Perfume bottle	1800-1820

IRON

Firearm (snaphaunce)	1640-1650
Firearm (dog lock)	1640-1650
Flint lock musket (conventional)	1650-1820
Large trade axe	1550-1720
Small belt axe	1750-1820
Iron pail	1670-1700
Draw shave	1670-1700
Smokers companion	1670-1700
Mirror box (small, round)	1640-1700
File	1670-1820
Large carving knife	1550-1600
Bone handled iron knife	1640-1700
Folding pocket knife	1650-1750
Paring knife	1670-1750
Scissors	1650-1700
Wire bracelet	1650-1700
Fish hook	1650-1670
Awls, straight or off set	1640-1700
Claw hammer	1770-1820
Nail or spike	1750-1820
Tomahawk pipe	1800-1820