

THE MANYBERRIES CAIRN

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ABSTRACT

The Manyberries Cairn was discovered early in the 1960's and excavation was undertaken in August of 1965. The site proved to be a ^{rock} cairn constructed over ^{the} top of an ~~earthen~~ mound. The secondary burial occurred on the flank of the underlying mound and contained only a few flakes and bison skull fragments directly associated with it. The cairn was excavated in a ^{such a} ~~rather unprofessional~~ manner ~~such~~ that it is difficult to distinguish cultural layering, but a ~~mixture of~~ prehistoric ~~mixed layer~~ and an historic ^{artifacts} one seem to be indicated. ^{They} Both ~~layers~~ are situated at the border between the mound and the cairn. Nearly all of the artifacts recovered were found in this border line zone. Artifacts include projectile points, bifaces, drills, flakes, bone tools, pottery, trade beads, leather and wire.

in question had a rim, it does not follow that it was a rimfire cartridge since center fire cartridges also had rims. The center fire cartridge began replacing the rimfire cartridges about a decade after the introduction of the latter, or about the late 1860's.

The most probable date for the cartridge at present seems to be the early 1870's. The earliest possible date is 1854, while it could date into the 1900's.

C. Trade Beads - The trade beads found were of the 'seed bead' variety. They had a diameter of 2 mm, just over 1/16 of an inch, and were made of glass. Pink was by far the most common color. There were 320 pink beads, 42 black, 17 tan, five green and one blue bead. Interestingly, one pink bead shows a glass thread through its center with a melted knot at one end. The knot shows many air bubbles. Perhaps this represents the original manufacturers' thread on which beads were sold. In any case it is inflexible and easily broken.

The beads fall into W. Davis's (1972) category IIa, revised from K. and M. Kidd. This is a simple round bead of a single color. The beads fall into his VS (very small) size range.

The earliest mention of trade beads on the northern plains was made by Laroque (Davis 1972:16) who noted that

the Snake Indians in southern Montana possessed Spanish trade beads. During the early 1800's the Blackfeet received beads through indirect trade with the Salish via the Kutenai. The Snake also received beads from the coast at that time. The most popular colors during the early 1800's seem to have been blue and white. Through time the size of beads traded to the natives of North America ~~have~~ steadily decreased, apparently due to the requests of the purchasers. Thus the early beads were over an inch in diameter.

According to Davis (1972:43) 'Real Beads', also known as 'pony beads', were probably not used by the Blackfeet before 1831. These pony beads were usually about 1/8 inch in diameter. The real bead period gave way very gradually to a seed bead period. "The Seed Bead period among the Blackfeet began about 1875 with the adoption of a smaller sized embroidery bead" (Davis 1972:43). Another account, by Ewers (1968:96), confirms this by stating that "little seed beads [were] commonly employed in Plains Indian beadwork of the late nineteenth century".

The beads were used for many varied purposes by the native peoples. They were used to make necklaces, for trim on clothing, on the ears, in the hair, on ceremonial objects, and to outline quillwork, for example. The Blackfeet and Sioux had many glass beads in the early

1820's. The women prized them highly and wore red ones in their hair and yellow on their skin.

The main production center for beads in the 1800's was Venice. The beads at Manyberries were produced by a method known as the hollow cane, tube, or draw method. It can produce both pony and seed beads from the same glass tube. Through time, production processes improved such that regularity in the size of beads in a sample indicates a later age. The beads recovered from Level 1A show such regularity. As far as identification of beads with a certain manufacturer is concerned, the task is almost impossible. Company figures for one plant in Venice show 562 species some of which have subspecies (Davis 1972:59).

At the Sitting Crow Mounds, historic burials were dug into Woodland mounds along the Missouri River of South Dakota. Seed beads recovered from this site have been associated with the Santee Dakota and dated at from A.D. 1862 - 1890.

The size and regularity of the beads recovered from Manyberries indicate a minimal date of 1875 and there is no reason to discredit any date later than 1875.

D. Pottery - Two small irregular pottery fragments were recovered from the site. The catalogue does not record the location. Since the fragments are both labeled