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HISTORIC ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION
OF THE GUNTERSVILLE
BASIN, ALABAMA

by

VICTOR KEITH FLEMING, JR.

A THESIS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... ii

LIST OF FIGURES..... iv

INTRODUCTION..... 1

Chapter

 I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND..... 6

 II. SITE DESCRIPTIONS..... 15

 1MS32..... 15

 1MS100..... 27

 1MS91..... 38

 1MS121..... 43

 1MS147..... 43

 III. ARTIFACT DESCRIPTIONS..... 45

 Bracelets and Rings..... 45

 Brass Bells..... 45

 Iron Hoes..... 50

 Trade Axes and Iron Celts..... 50

 Shell Beads..... 57

 Firearm Parts..... 61

 Glass Beads..... 62

 IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS..... 79

BIBLIOGRAPHY..... 90

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		
	1. Alabama Base Map.....	2
	2. Historic Indian Sites, Guntersville Basin.	4
	3. Siltstone Pendant from 1MS100.....	30
	4. Brass and Iron Wire Bracelets.....	30
	5. English and French Brass Bells.....	46
	6. Close-up of 17th century bell.....	46
	7. English and Spanish iron hoes.....	51
	8. Flattened musket barrels.....	51
	9. English and French trade axes.....	54
	10. Sequence of conversion of axes to celts...	54
	11. Buckskin preserved by copper salts.....	59
	12. European-manufactured shell beads.....	59
	13. Guntersville Basin bead chart.....	63
	14. Bead distributions, 1MS32.....	76
	15. Bead distributions, 1MS91.....	77
	16. Bead distributions, 1MS100.....	78

INTRODUCTION

A series of dams was constructed on the Tennessee River in northern Alabama during the second quarter of the 20th century, and federally financed archaeological salvage projects were conducted in the areas to be inundated. These Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) sponsored projects were supervised by Dr. William S. Webb of the University of Kentucky. For 20 months (in 1938 and 1939), Webb directed the archaeological salvage in the Gunter-ville Basin of North Alabama (Figure 1). During this project excavated materials were taken to an archaeological laboratory in Birmingham, Alabama where they were processed and studied. Field and laboratory technicians for the project were supplied by the Works Progress Administration (WPA); supervisory personnel by the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

A comprehensive report on this work has not been published. A manuscript on the Gunter-ville Basin excavations was submitted to the Bureau of American Ethnology for publication in 1941, but the entry of the United States into World War II prohibited publication. Later, the manuscript was returned to Webb and Wilder who then published an abbreviated version through the University of Kentucky Press (Webb and Wilder 1951). An additional portion of

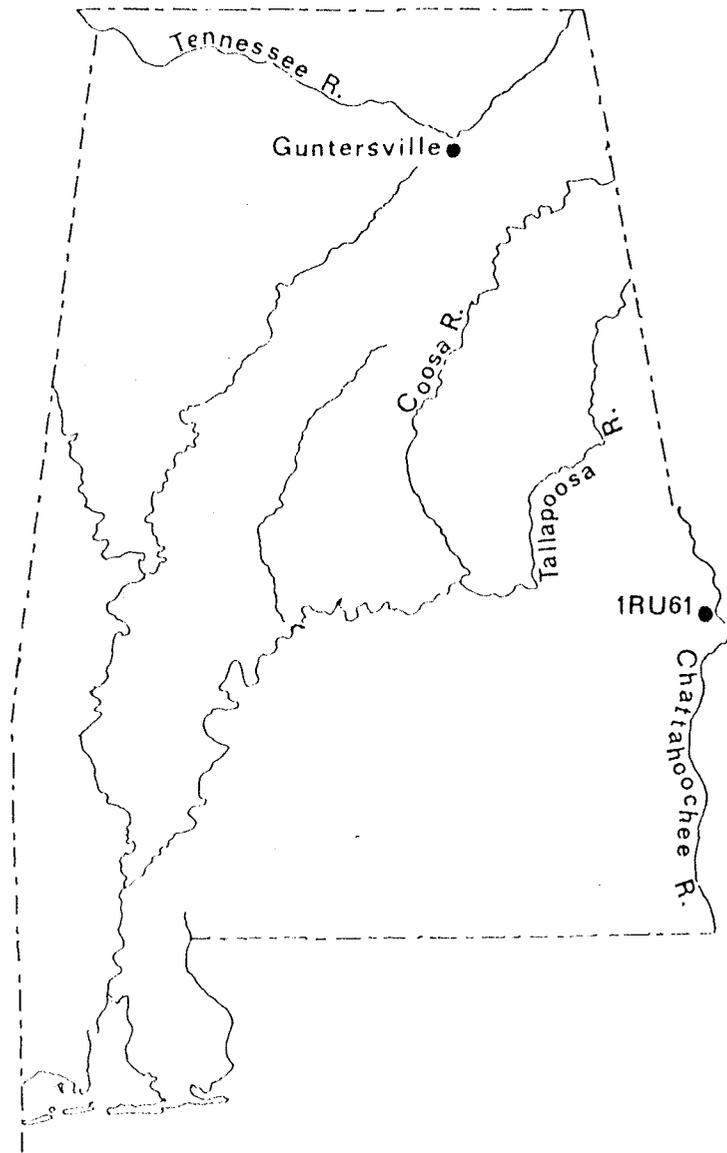


FIGURE 1

ALABAMA
BASE MAP

the original report which contained an analysis of the ceramics, was published by the Geological Survey of Alabama in 1952 (Heimlich 1952). These two documents provide an overview of the work but by no means constitute a thorough study of the materials. Webb and Wilder conceded as much in their foreword by expressing "... regret that circumstances have prevented a restudy and revision" (Webb and Wilder 1951:v).

This thesis reports the restudy of a small portion of the material and information obtained during Webb's Guntersville excavations (Figure 2). It covers the historic components of five sites: (1) the McKee Island Site (LMS32), (2) the Columbus City Landing Site (LMS91), (3) the Law's Site (LMS100), (4) the Pine Island Site (LMS121), and (5) the McDonald Site (LMS147). The site numbers listed above are not, of course, those which were originally assigned. The original numbers have been converted to the Smithsonian trinomial system which is far easier to handle than its predecessor. In the old system, for example, the McKee Island Site was designated Ms^v32. The superscript was used to designate the kind of site; a "v" standing for village, an "o" for mound, "c" for cave, and "f" for workshop. This system was difficult to use for two reasons: (1) the superscript characters were hard to position during report preparation and (2) the superscript assigned during survey often proved to be misleading. The Smithsonian trinomial system avoids both problems by

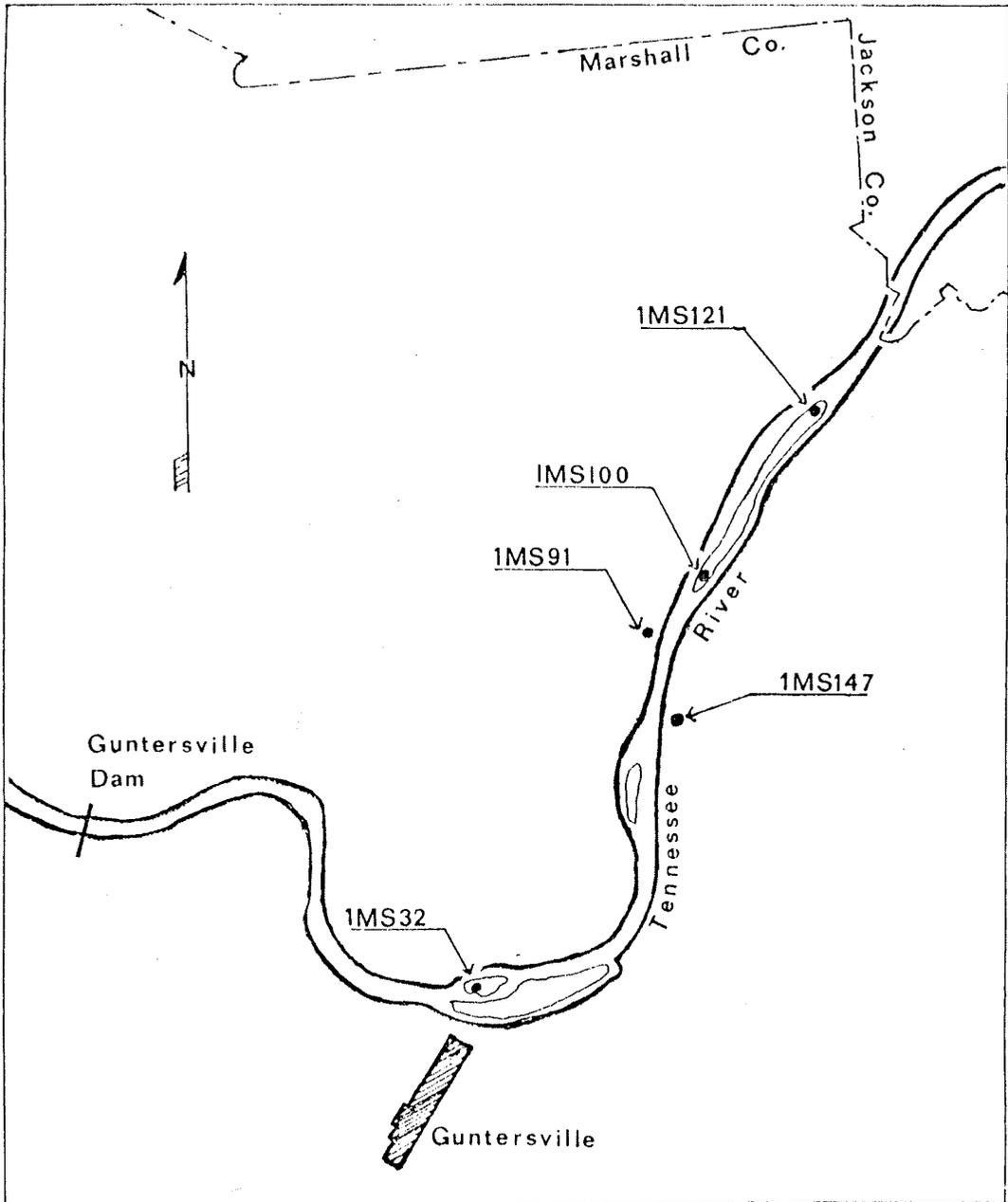


FIGURE 2
HISTORIC INDIAN SITES
GUNTERSVILLE BASIN, ALABAMA



designating a state number (1), a county abbreviation (MS), and a site number (32).

There were four reasons for restudying the Gunter-ville Basin materials. First, I wanted to evaluate the proposition that the early historic inhabitants of the area spoke a muskogean language and made pottery identified as the McKee Island Series. Second, I wanted to identify, if possible, those archaeological remains left by the region's Cherokee inhabitants. Third, I wanted to determine if there were archaeological indicators of DeSoto's trek through the area, and fourth, I wanted to determine if significant new information could be extracted from materials excavated almost 40 years ago.

Strict laboratory procedures were adopted for the re-study. The artifacts and records from each site were first examined and the materials of unquestioned historic provenience were isolated. These items were then identified and, if possible, were dated and assigned to an English, French, or Spanish source. Then, items which were made and or used after the 1836 Indian removal were excluded from the corpus of specimens at hand. This latter move limited the source of data to those objects and/or observations that pertained to the aboriginal use of a site. To be more specific, it excluded almost all materials but those contained in burials.

CHAPTER I

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The historical record for the Gunter'sville Basin begins with Hernando DeSoto who is thought to have passed through the general vicinity of northern Alabama during July, 1540. That expedition has significance for this study only because Swanton (1939) locates portions of De Soto's route in the Gunter'sville Basin. Specific identifications are of Pine Island (LMS100 and LMS121) as the site of Coste and McKee Island (LMS32) as the site of Tali (Swanton 1939:204, 206, 208). In spite of Swanton's study, there is not one piece of archaeological evidence at either island that would support the claim. This also holds true for the later expeditions by Spanish explorers during the 16th century.

The potential for direct European-Indian contact was strengthened following the establishment of St. Augustine and the founding of Spanish posts and missions along the Georgia-Carolina coast in 1566-1568, but the potential went unrealized. The Spanish moved closer to the Gunter'sville Basin when they established the Apalachee missions in western Florida between 1633 and 1655 (Boyd et al 1951: 133). Between 1566 and the founding of Charles Town in 1670, the Spanish had unencumbered access to the tribes of

the interior. Nevertheless, the sole evidence of any Spanish trade in the Gunter'sville Basin consists of several iron hoes with distinctive lugged eyes that are found only in areas of Spanish contact within the 1650-1715 date range (Morrell 1965:54).

The founding of the English colony at Jamestown in 1607 also had little, if any, effect upon the inhabitants of the Gunter'sville Basin. If any trade were initiated, it was certainly of an indirect type effected through intervening peoples. But, again, the artifact record does not verify contact with Virginia. Even the glass beads found in the Gunter'sville Basin date to post-1670 (Quimby 1966:84). There is no record of any Virginia colonists reaching the Tennessee Valley until 1673 (Alvord and Bidgood 1912:51 and Fairbanks 1974:36).

After Charles Town was established in 1670, European, i.e., English, penetration of the Southeast proceeded quite rapidly. In 1671, the famous Carolina frontiersman and explorer, Dr. Henry Woodward, was directed by the Lords Proprietors to explore the country behind Charles Town. Within three years, Woodward had established a trade agreement with the Westo Indians that dominated the Carolina trade policy for 6 years. A Spanish report in 1675 of four Englishmen on the lower Appalachicola River indicates, however, that the English were exploring beyond the Westos. English-Westos relations gradually deteriorated and led to the Westo War in 1780. By 1783, the Westos were decimated

and the country to the south and west of Charles Town opened to trade (Crane 1956:20-21). Within a year, the Indian trade, though primarily in slaves, was Carolina's "...chief source of wealth and which was becoming the essential instrument of English expansion in the south" (Crane 1956:24).

The French were also expanding their trade down from Canada at this time. Soon the French and English were trading in the same areas. The probability is good that by 1688, some Coureurs de bois from Canada as well as Carolina traders were familiar with the middle course of the Tennessee River (Fairbanks 1974:44).

The rapid expansion by the Carolina traders first concentrated on the Creeks, but by 1690, some traders had gone onward and established a brisk trade with the Chickasaw (Alvord 1920:122). Others were trading as far west as the Mississippi River. This, however, was via the overland route and not the Tennessee River (Crane 1925:67). Also, the Canadian French were reporting by 1693 that British traders were on the lower Ohio River. These traders were apparently coming from the southern colonies by the easy routes of the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers (Alvord 1920:101). Even though these Carolina traders have not received the historical acclaim of their Canadian French counterparts, they were "...pioneers of English enterprise matching in audacity the Canadian Coureurs de bois" (Crane 1956:39).

This rapid geographical expansion of the Carolina Indian trade had a major effect on international events. It was the presence of English traders adjacent to the Mississippi River that, more than any other factor, led to the French settlement of the lower Mississippi. The French view was that such a course of action was absolutely essential if New France was not to be lost. There was some justification for that viewpoint since, by the time France took possession of the lower Mississippi and the adjacent Gulf Coast, the English traders were well established among the interior tribes (Crane 1956:45-47).

The French presence on the lower Mississippi by no means ended English encroachments in the area. In the same year that Biloxi was established, 1699, Carolina sent a party of traders via the Cherokee region and the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers to the Mississippi. By February of 1700, this party was at the mouth of the Arkansas River where it encouraged the Quapaw Indians to raid other tribes for slaves (Crane 1956:47). Even as late as 1720, the French were in a general war against the Chickasaw who were still openly trading with the English (Fairbanks 1974:63).

The expanding Carolina Indian trade threatened Spanish control of western Georgia and Florida. The presence of English traders on the Chattahoochee River was viewed with alarm, for if the Spanish lost control of that area, the Apalachee missions were vulnerable to attack. The Spanish

responded with a punitive expedition in 1687 against the Apalachicolas for aiding and concealing English traders. When this did not stop the trade, Fort Apalachicola was built on the Chattahoochee in 1689. Within a year, the majority of the Apalachicolas left to relocate on the Ocmulgee River in central Georgia where trade could be continued. As a consequence, the fort was abandoned as useless in 1691 (Kurjack and Pearson 1975:201-202). As the Spanish had earlier feared, the Apalachee missions were destroyed in 1704 by a combined force of English and Creeks (Griffin 1952:133).

The Tennessee Valley was well known to both French and English traders in the early 1700's. In 1701, a group of Canadians went up the Tennessee River to trade at Charles Town. During their trip, they encountered an English trader who was established at Tali for the trading of slaves (Fairbanks 1974:81). This is the earliest documented account of an Englishman actively trading in the Tennessee Valley. Since, however, the English were trading with the Chickasaw by 1690, it is reasonable to assume that they were trading in the Tennessee Valley before 1700.

The success enjoyed by the English traders was due to several factors above and beyond their persistence and courage. Deerskins played a major role in the Indian trade and they were worth more in England than in France or Spain. Hence, the English could well afford to pay higher prices without risking their profits. The Indians

as could be expected, responded favorably (Crane 1956: 115). Then again, the English rewarded individual initiative; the French and Spanish did not. The French trading system was managed by trading company monopolies.

"France, till the end of its experiment on the continent of America never completely freed its colonies from a system that crushed the initiative of individuals by a too close supervision and stunted their energy by robbing them of the hope of financial rewards" (Alvord 1920:60).

Agriculture and conversion were the main goals of the Spanish; goals they never really pushed beyond the coastal mission provinces (Crane 1956:7, 39).

When all three European trade systems were compared, the inevitable result was that the Indians turned to the English whenever possible. The English responded by ranging far in search of profit. They tended, however, to quite naturally concentrate in those areas where the maximum profit could be realized. These prime areas were central Georgia and Alabama and on the eastern slopes of the Appalachians (Fairbanks 1974:225).

The Gunterville Basin on the Tennessee was an economic backwater while trade boomed to the south. Its potential as a westward route was never realized since the great trading route from Carolina to the Chickasaw was an overland route well to the south of the Tennessee Valley (Fairbanks 1974:224-225).

Fairbanks has documented a pre-1720 occupation of the Gunterville Basin by Muskogean-speaking groups. Specifically, these were the Koasati and Caskinampo, the

latter identical with the Koasati or closely related to them (1974:56). A manuscript map from the British Museum, dated 1715, shows the Koasati still on the Tennessee near a French trading post, and French sources of 1716 also discuss a trading post with the Caskinampo (Fairbanks 1974:59-61). With both English and French sources agreeing so closely, it seems likely that at least part of the Koasati/Caskinampo were still in the valley early in the 18th century.

If they were still present, it is probable that in 1712 the Koasati/Caskinampo were at least temporarily joined by portions of the Yuchi who originally resided on the Hiwassee River. In that year, a Carolina trader reported that the Yuchi were leaving their settlement and going to the French. An additional contingent of Yuchi probably arrived in 1714 when the Cherokee, at the instigation of two Carolina traders, pillaged the Yuchi village of Chestowe on the Hiwassee (Fairbanks 1974:58-59).

The Koasati/Caskinampo and Yuchi could not have remained in the Gunter'sville Basin very long after 1715. In 1716, the Yuchi were living in a village among the Lower Creeks (Crane 1956:134). The Koasati/Caskinampo settled among the Upper Creeks (Fairbanks 1974:65). The date for their movement probably was no later than 1716 since that was the year the Creeks, having suffered in the "Yamassee War" and under attack by the Cherokee, moved their Ocmulgee villages back to the Chattahoochee River. This latter move

was part of a general consolidation of villages and amalgamation of several diverse groups into what was thereafter called the Creek Confederation (Cotterill 1954:20-21).

After the Guntersville Basin was abandoned, it was not re-occupied for over 60 years. During those years, the Tennessee Valley served only as a hunting ground and river route. Both the Creeks and the Cherokee hunted in the Tennessee Valley, but residual ownership was retained by the Creeks. When the Cherokee finally moved into the Guntersville Basin around 1780, they first obtained the permission of the Creeks (Fairbanks 1974:230-231). This contradicts Swanton's claim that the Creeks were driven from the Tennessee Valley after being defeated by the Cherokee at the battle of Taliwa in 1755. Fairbanks, however, has provided sufficient documentation to verify residual ownership of the Tennessee Valley by the Creeks.

By 1790, there were two substantial Cherokee villages in Marshall County, Alabama; one at the site of Guntersville and the other 6.4 kilometers south in Brown's Valley (Street 1907:210). There was a small mixed Cherokee/Creek settlement called Coosada on the south bank of the Tennessee River at Larkin's Landing. Melton's Village, now the town of Meltonsville, was also small and was inhabited by a band of Creeks (Duncan and Smith 1969:17-18). None of these sites were excavated during the Guntersville Basin salvage project.

The Indian population of the Guntersville Basin was not great during the Cherokee period. Street lists the total Indian population of Marshall County as four or five hundred (1907:210). While resident in Marshall County, the Cherokee gradually abandoned village life and resettled on farms like their American neighbors. Some had extensive land holdings and were successful farmers and slave owners. The very wealthy had brick homes, the less well off had frame houses, while the poorer Indians made do with log cabins. Cherokee acculturation did not, however, protect them from removal to the west in 1837 and 1838. By 1839, the Indian occupation of the Guntersville Basin was ended (Street 1907:209-210).

CHAPTER II
SITE DESCRIPTIONS

THE MCKEE ISLAND SITE (1MS32)

McKee Island was located in the Tennessee River about 400 meters above Guntersville, Alabama. It was approximately 1.2 kilometers in length and had a maximum width of about 600 meters (Webb and Wilder 1951:26).

Swanton believed that McKee Island was the site of the Indian village of Tali which was visited by DeSoto in 1540 (1939:204). The artifacts recovered during excavations neither prove nor disprove Swanton's claim. A logical assumption would be that by the time DeSoto would have reached Alabama his veterans would have long since discarded excess baggage and retained only those items necessary for daily living and combat. It is doubtful if direct evidence for DeSoto's visit will ever be found in Alabama.

The excavations at 1MS32 were under the supervision of Charles G. Wilder whose research design first called for a surface collection of artifacts followed by the cutting of a control trench. The control trench ran east and west along a low ridge down the center of the island. Additional exploratory trenches were

extended out from the main trench at irregular intervals. The complete site could not be excavated due to time limitations; however, the excavations revealed a uniform midden layer of 0.3 to 0.5 meters in depth. The midden layer was composed largely of sand blackened by charcoal and occupation (Webb and Wilder 1951:28).

There are certain respects in which 1MS32 does not conform to the standard model for the historic period. The following characteristics are key elements in that model for northern Alabama:

1. Burials should be found in a flexed position.
2. House walls should have been made from posts set either individually or in trenches.
3. The McKee Island Ceramic Series should be found in association with the historic occupation.

None of the above elements were, to my surprise, present in the historic component at 1MS32. All of the historic burials, which were identified by the presence of items of European manufacture, were in an extended position. Secondly, the houses appear to have been of semi-subterranean construction. The final surprise was that not once was any European trade material found in direct association with the McKee Island Ceramic Series.

In only two cases, Burials 15 and 27, were ceramics found in historic burials. Burial 15 contained two items, one being an undecorated, plain shell jar and the other a plain shell bowl with nodes on the rim. Burial 27 had a single plain shell bowl. Both of these forms are very widespread and cannot be assigned solely to the McKee Island Ceramic Series. Noded vessels, for example, were also found in the Dallas and Mouse Creek cultures (Lewis and Kneberg 1946:105). The McKee Island Ceramic Series was definitely present but was not in association with historic materials. The only testable statement that can be made regarding these two classes of artifacts is that both are present on the same site and are stratigraphically close which indicates little temporal separation.

The earliest description of the house patterns at McKee Island was by Clarence B. Moore (1915:281-285). Based on his statement that large trees were present, Moore obviously described the site before the upper levels were completely churned up by later intensive plowing. Moore stated:

"Along the middle part of the ridge are various sites once occupied by wigwams, all circular so far as we could determine, except one which was square. The sites were marked by depressions and had been surrounded by small embankments, but as the ground had been under cultivation in the past, exact measurements were not obtainable. Putnam describes sites of this kind, 'circular ridges of earth', which were investigated by him in middle Tennessee and which, unlike ours, contained objects of interest. Graves of children only were found by him in these sites.

One of our circular depressions, 32 feet in diameter, was 11 inches below the surrounding level, which perhaps included part of the original embankment. Digging in this site disclosed a fireplace,

about centrally situated made up of three layers of burnt clay showing the level of the fireplace had been raised from time to time. Another circular site, 24 feet across, also had a fireplace in the center, approximately, as did still another depression 30 feet in diameter and 1 foot 9 inches deep.

The largest site, 52 feet square, was 1 foot 8 inches below the level around it, part of which was made up by the surrounding embankment, which was 10 inches in height, so that the actual depth of the site below the general level was also 10 inches. In none of the sites was any burial encountered; nor in the largest one, though carefully dug over, was any fireplace discovered, but it is possible that what was sought is beneath a large tree growing about centrally in the depression." (Moore 1915:282)

By the time Wilder excavated at LMS32, all trace of these depressions had been destroyed by plowing. Not even a pattern of post molds remained. Since, however, the depressions noted by Moore mark the uppermost level of the site, they must also represent the last occupation. Based on the contents of the burials, the last occupation was by an Historic period group that had some form of trade or contact with Europeans between 1670 and 1720.

In those burials with historic trade artifacts and in which enough osteological material remained to permit a determination of position, the dead were placed on the back in a fully extended position. Except for some children, all historic burials had the head to the west. Infants and some children had the head oriented to the north or south. A similar complex of burial practices is represented by some burials at LMS100 where at least one semi-subterranean structure can be inferred (Webb and Wilder 1951:139).

Most items of European origin at LMS32 were found within burials, but some were found in the midden layer without recorded associations. These items included European axes, pieces of iron, an iron knife blade, part of a flattened gun barrel, and brass bells. Only a single piece of scrap brass was recovered from the midden which was unusual considering the many brass objects in the burials. Another unusual point is that none of the archaeological manifestations designated as "features" contained any items indicating contact with Europeans.

Historic Burials

I studied only those burials for which an historic period provenience has been definitely established by the presence of articles of European origin. These burials, except for those of a few children and those cases where too little osteological material remained to make a determination, were all buried on the back in a fully extended position with the head oriented to the west. Additional extended burials may date to the historic period but, for one reason or another, do not contain European trade goods.

Burial 1. Only a few fragments of the skull remained in this burial, but the archaeological laboratory in Birmingham tentatively identified the remains as a male about 24 years old. The orientation of the pit and the method of deposition were not apparent. The artifacts consisted of four glass beads.

Burial 7. The osteological material in this burial was badly decayed. No age or sex determination was ever made because no bones reached the laboratory. Glass beads were the only artifacts in association. No notation was made in the burial records as to the direction in which the pit was oriented.

Burial 8. Only a few fragments of leg bones remained of this burial which was an extended burial with the head toward the west. No age or sex determination was made because no bones reached the laboratory. Glass beads were found in what had probably been the neck area and around the upper right arm. These two bead groups were lumped into the same field specimen. From the burial record it does appear that most of the beads were in the neck region.

Burial 13. The bones of the lower extremities were totally decayed and the remainder were badly decayed. The age at death was about 5 to 6 years. The head was oriented to the north. There were 223 glass beads around the neck and

"...a loin cloth of fabric with brass clips had been placed in the pit. Red ochre, of which slight traces were found, had been placed on the body. The body had next been covered with bark. This bark had virtually decayed but fragments remained. The area which it had originally covered was discernable by the mold" (Webb and Wilder 1951:29).

Burial 16. The bones of this badly decayed skeleton never reached the Birmingham laboratory, so no age or sex determination was ever made. There were 1,134 glass beads

around the neck while 15 were around one arm and 136 around the other. A plain shell jar and a plain shell bowl with a noded rim were also in association. The body was buried in an extended position with the head to the south and probably was that of a child.

Burial 20. All the bones of this 1 to 2 year old child were badly decayed. Copper stains were noted on the right clavicle and left humerus. Around the neck were 126 marginella shell beads and a strip of brass had been placed on the chest region. The records identify this skeleton as "possibly female." It was in an extended position with the head to the west.

Burial 21. This was a female about 25 years of age. It was near the surface and had been disturbed by plowing. The only artifacts in association were seven brass tinkling cones. No determination as to orientation of the pit was made.

Burial 22. The records identify the badly decayed osteological material as having possibly been an adult female. The skeleton was in an extended position with the head to the west. Forty-one glass beads were in association.

Burial 23. The remains of this 4-7 year old child were badly decayed. On the chest were two concave brass ornaments. A Spanish style iron hoe was included in the burial. This hoe was quite worn and was a suitable implement for a child. Iron bracelets were also present. The

records indicate that this child was a female, a reasonable identification since the hoe is associated with women among Southeastern Indians. Internment had been in an extended position with the head to the north.

Burial 26. This was one of the more elaborate burials in terms of the number of artifacts included. All bones were much decayed and the feet were entirely decayed. The laboratory was able, however, to judge it a male about 30 years old. The man had been placed in the usual extended position with the head to the west. Stone tools were represented by five flint side scrapers and four "Guntersville" and one "Madison" type projectile points. (An additional point was missing.) The four iron axes found in the pit are best described as "celts". Two were made by breaking off the "eye" of an iron axe and flattening and sharpening it. The second two axes were minus their "eyes" and were usable only as celts. All four may have been used as scrapers. Other items included two iron knife fragments, a bracelet of rolled sheet brass, a brass bell, and four iron wire bracelets. At the knees was an elbow pipe made with a sand tempered clay similar to Ocmulgee ceramics (Jenkins 1976:personal communication). The body had been placed in a bark lined pit and the bark mold was still quite visible at the time of excavation.

Burial 27. This burial contained the badly decayed bones of a child aged 2-3 years. The skeleton was extended with the head to the north. The plain shell bowl in the pit represents the second association of pottery

with an historic burial at McKee Island. Part of the bark in which the body had been wrapped had been preserved by the copper salts from a brass armband. There were two rawhide thongs decorated with sheet brass clips with one thong at the pelvis and the other at the right knee. Thirteen concave brass disks with a perforation in the center were recovered along with 327 glass beads. The child had been buried in an extended position with the head to the north.

Burial 31. This burial contained a child aged 5-6 years which had been placed in an extended position with the head to the west. The osteological material was badly decayed and the remaining vertebrae showed stains from copper salts. A brass armband was around the right humerus. Other items of brass were seven concave disks and 3 tinkling cones. The glass beads in the burial were identified by Black as types traded by the English (1939: Letter on file at Mound State Monument). The final item was a large whelk shell (Busycon perversum) 27.3 cm in length and a maximum diameter of 17.2 cm (Curren 1976: personal communication).

Burial 32. This was a female of about 25 years of age. The inclusion of a Spanish style hoe substantiates that identification. Other European artifacts were the remains of iron bracelets around both humeri, 3 perforated concave brass disks, and blue glass beads. The glass beads were not available for study. The body had been placed in the usual extended position with the head to the west.

Burial 41. This extended burial of a child of about 8 years of age had the head to the west. The only artifacts were glass beads.

Burial 42. The osteological material was badly decayed but represented an adult female of about 28 years of age in an extended position with the head to the west. The variety of artifacts from this pit was quite extensive.

"This burial pit had been lined with cane. The body was clothed with a fabric loin cloth, and an animal skin shirt with copper clips was placed on the cane. Ornaments on the body were glass beads, two pod amulets, and two brass bells. Placed on the pelvis over the skin shirt was a pile of red ochre. Also placed in the pit as intentional offerings were a dog, iron axe, and a bundle of arrows. The body and associations had then been covered with a layer of bark." (Webb and Wilder 1951:31)

The pod amulets were not available for study.

Burial 44. This was a male about 35 years old whose feet are described in the records as "missing"; however, they may have simply decayed. The robustness of the skeleton is reflected in its description in the records as having "very large bones". The burial position was extended with the head to the west. The most unusual item was a clay pipe in the form of a bat-like effigy. A stone pipe was also included. Glass beads and the remains of three brass "collars" or gorgets were in the neck region. Nine brass bells in a fabric sack had been placed at the knees. In the same area were two flint side scrapers, 15 flint end scrapers, one lanceolate projectile point or knife, one stemmed point, and 17 flint spalls. The presence of red ochre was noted in the pelvic region.

Another brass bell was located beside the left femur. The remains of fabric were preserved in the neck region by the action of copper salts. Webb and Wilder (1951:32) list a "dog head" as being in the burial; however, a notation in the field specimen record at Mound State Monument indicates that this was a bobcat skull. This animal skull was not available for study. A piece of buckskin decorated with copper clips was also recovered. The body had been interred in an extended position with the head to the west.

Burial 48. This was the disturbed burial of a child, aged 4-5, which had been buried in an extended position with the head to the west. Only a few teeth remained and the only artifacts were glass beads.

Burial 49. The badly decayed skeleton in this pit was that of a child, aged about 3 years, which was in an extended position with the head to the north. A brass bracelet was around the right arm and a brass collar or gorget, along with glass beads, was around the neck. Another brass item was a small shield-shaped gorget with three perforations. A "Guntersville" projectile point, a rawhide thong decorated with copper clips, and pieces of buckskin decorated with similar clips were also recovered. Webb and Wilder report the presence of seeds in this burial but these were not available for study.

Burial 55. In this burial, a child aged 4-5 years had been placed in an oblong pit, probably in an extended

position, with the head to the west. Only a few teeth and small skull fragments remained. Twenty glass beads constitute the only artifacts.

Burial 59. The age and sex were never determined because no osteological material reached the laboratory. The body had been buried in an extended position with the head to the west. Five glass beads were the only artifacts.

Burial 60. This was a female, aged about 22, in an extended position with the head to the west. There were 221 marginella beads near the right arm and glass beads were recovered from the neck region. Under the skull were the remains of an animal skin that had been decorated with small copper clips. The salts from the clips had preserved the skin and also stained the occipital region of the skull.

Burial 61. This male, aged 45-50 years, had been placed in a bark lined pit in an extended position with the head to the west. Two brass armbands were around the humeri and, through the action of copper salts, had preserved small pieces of fabric on the inside of the bands. Copper salts were also responsible for preservation of two small pieces of split cane and bark that had lined the pit.

Burial 63. Only the bones of the face and a portion of a tibia remained of the skeleton of this approximately 4 year old child. While the exact position could not be determined, the head was to the south. The only artifacts

were 289 glass beads.

Burial 64. Most bones of the skeleton were present; however, this burial was badly disturbed by the placement of Burial 65. The osteological material was that of a male of 36-55 years of age. A brass collar or gorget was the only artifact.

Burial 65. The skull of this 36-55 year old female was crushed and quite decayed. The other bones of the body were greatly decayed. The body had been placed in an extended position with the head to the west. On the chest was an undecorated shell gorget with two perforations. Copper beads or clips were in the neck region and an iron bracelet was between the knees. A comparison of the age, sex, and location of this burial and Burial 64 suggests the possibility that the placement of these two interments was intentional.

THE LAW'S SITE (1MS100)

The Law's Site was a village area about 610 meters north of the southern end of Pine Island and on the western side of the island (see Figure 2). The site was located on the natural levee immediately adjacent to the river bank. Prior to the excavations the levee had been extensively undercut by the river, leaving very steep banks. The site had been under cultivation for a considerable length of time with corn being the last crop. The surface indications of past occupations were the

scattered shells in the dark clay loam of the midden. These shells were derived from a small shell mound near the middle of the site which had been covered by latter additions to the midden layer (Webb and Wilder 1951:136).

The process of excavation began at the eroded face of the natural levee. The face was cut back by a combination of vertical and horizontal slicing until the crest of the levee was reached. Thereafter, the work was carried out on a rather broad front by peeling off layers 1 foot (0.3 meters) deep (Webb and Wilder 1951:137).

Of the several remains of structures uncovered, Structures 1 and 5 had the most obvious significance to this study because both appear to have been of semi-subterranean construction like those at 1MS32. Structure 1 was the later of the two; however, during construction its floor was placed lower than that of Structure 5. In the process, the southeast wall of the latter was obliterated. In discussing Structure 5, Webb and Wilder stated that the

"... shells of the mound, Feature No. 76, were banked against the northwest and southwest walls of this structure as though the builders had dug through the shell midden and placed the floor of the house on soil instead of a layer of shells. There is a possibility that these people helped to contribute to the shell midden and banked some of the shell against the western wall of this structure."
(1951:139)

Taken together, these statements are the basis for the inference of semi-subterranean construction for these two structures. The chronological separation between the two structures need not have been great since Structure 5 had been destroyed by fire.

In addition to artifacts of European origin recovered from burials, a number were found either in midden pits or scattered through the occupation debris. These artifacts were separated into those of probable aboriginal use and those datable to after the removal of Indians from Alabama. In the latter category were items like patent medicine bottles, steel bolts, machine-cut nails and ceramics that indicated an occupation at least as late as the end of the 19th century.

One artifact from 1MS100 that was quite unexpected was an engraved siltstone pendant (see Figure 3). This pendant is 75 mm long, 26 mm in maximum width, and 9 mm thick. The perforation has been drilled from both sides and is approximately 3 mm wide. The unexpected element is the engraved design which represents the thunderbird in a fashion common to the Great Lakes area. Examples of items from that area bearing this thunderbird design are illustrated by Mallery (1893:484) and Quimby (1966:73).

The pendant was without recorded associations with other artifacts which leaves the reason for its presence open to question. The origin of the design, however, in an area controlled by the French in the late 17th and early 18th century suggests that the pendant was brought to the Gunterville Basin by Frenchmen or accompanying Indians. It could date to 1701 when a group of French Canadian Coureurs de bois traveled up the Tennessee River to trade at Charles Town (Fairbanks 1974:81). An

Figure 3. Siltstone pendant from 1MS100 engraved with a design common in the Great Lakes region

Figure 4. Brass wire bracelets (A) and Iron Wire Bracelets (B)

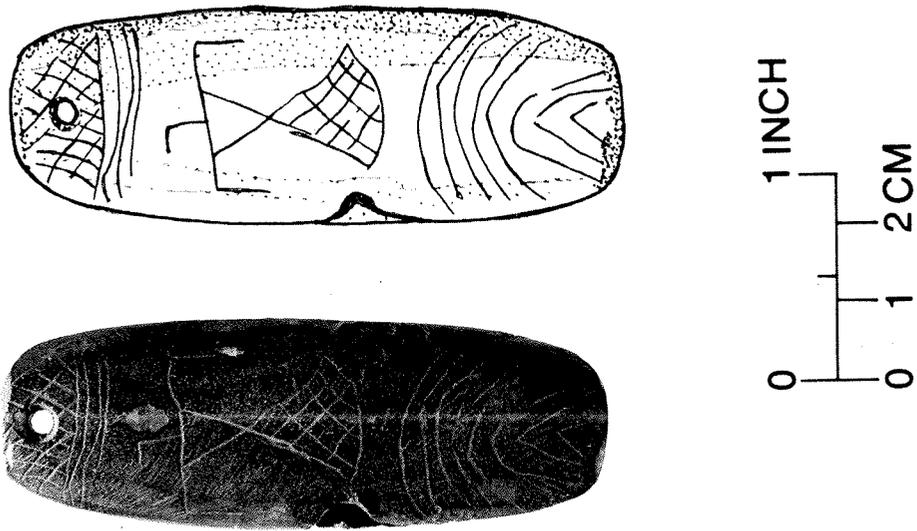


FIGURE 3

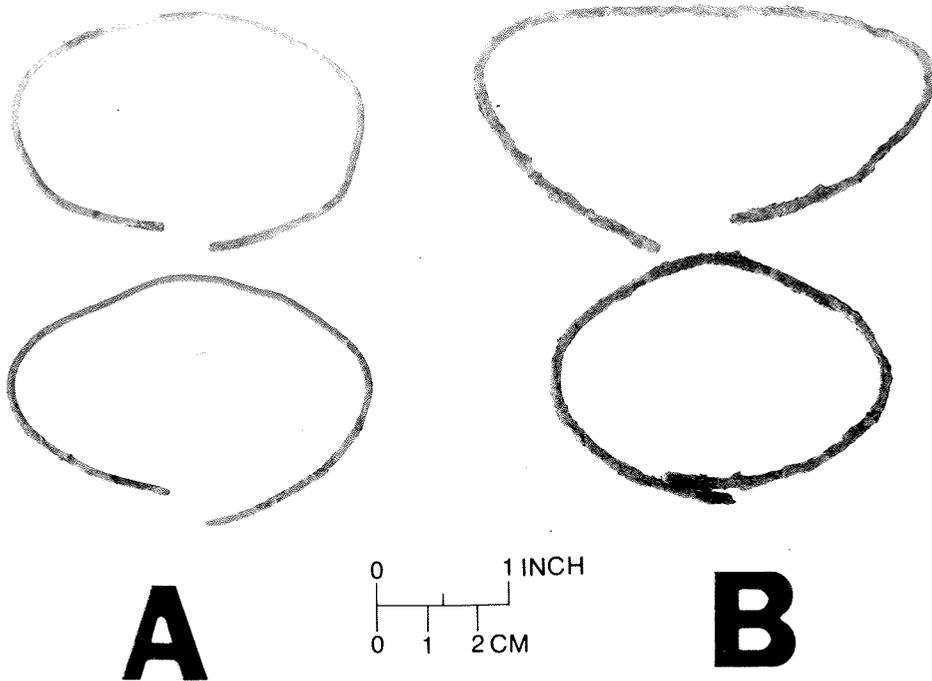


FIGURE 4

additional possibility is that it could date to some time after 1710 when French traders were established in the Gunter'sville Basin (Fairbanks 1974:61).

Certain factors tend to favor the date of 1701 for this pendant. First, the only other artifacts at 1MS100 that can be classified as French are two trade axes. Secondly, it can be assumed that the post-1710 traders came from the Louisiana colony and not from Canada. This assumption, coupled with the dearth of French artifacts and the pendant's design, all point to the earlier date. The much higher frequency of French artifacts at 1MS91 also indicates that it was the site occupied after 1710 while 1MS100 was abandoned.

Of the 74 burials excavated at 1MS100, 22 had artifacts showing definite historical contact. In those burials where the position of the skeleton could be determined, 7 were flexed and 6 were fully extended. In the latter category, all 6 had heads oriented to the west.

Historic Burials

Burial 1. Only 2 ribs belonging to an infant remained. The artifacts were glass beads, a "Gunter'sville" projectile point, and a brass collar or gorget.

Burial 3. This was a disturbed burial with only a few cranial fragments remaining. The Birmingham laboratory did estimate that the material represented a male about 25 years old. The glass beads listed in the records for this burial were not available for study.

Burial 4. This female skeleton, aged about 25, had a healed fracture of the center shaft of the left clavicle. The body had been placed in the grave on its back with the legs drawn up into a partially flexed position. Five bone beads, varying in length from 90-95 mm, were along the right side of the skeleton in two rows. These had probably slid from the chest during interment. Glass beads were also present in the pit.

Burial 5. This male skeleton, aged 36 to 55, had a healed fracture in the center shaft of the right clavicle. The body had been placed in a partially flexed position. There were two brass bells that had been made by the casting process which indicates English manufacture. Glass beads, one flat copper bracelet, and at least 4, possibly 5, fragmentary iron wire bracelets were also in the pit.

Burial 6. The partially flexed skeleton in this pit belonged to a male about 30 years old. The records list a shell gorget and wire bracelets for this burial; however, these items were not available for study. A single Type 21 glass bead was in direct association with the skeleton while in the earth fill above the skeleton were two Type 1 beads.

Burial 8. The sex of this adult could not be determined because the osteological material was too fragile to recover. The records do indicate a fully flexed position. There were six brass wire bracelets with the burial. There

were also the fragmentary remains of an estimated 20 iron wire bracelets. Glass beads and 16 bells of cast brass were also recovered.

Burial 9. This burial, containing the remains of a male about 38 years old, was in a disturbed condition. Glass beads, several fragmentary iron bracelets, and copper clips were the artifacts in association. The copper clips were similar to those used to decorate buckskin; however, in this case, no buckskin was preserved.

Burial 10. The skeleton had been disturbed but the records indicate identification as a female aged 25-30. The pieces of iron wire in association are believed to have comprised 3 bracelets.

Burial 13. Like the previous two burials, this one was also disturbed. Only the skull remained but it provided an age determination of about 3 years. Glass beads and two fragmentary shell gorgets were the only artifacts.

Burial 15. The pit contained the skeleton of a male, aged 36-55, that had been buried in an extended position with the head to the west. Glass beads and a very large number of fragments of iron wire bracelets were in the pit. The pieces of iron wire were measured and, assuming an average length of 210 mm per bracelet, it appears that approximately 85 bracelets had been worn at the time of burial. Webb and Wilder identify the skeleton as female, probably the mother of Burial 16 since the two were together. The burial records list the sex as male.

Burial 16. This child was in the same pit as Burial 15. Only a few fragments of bone remained; however, an age of about 2 years was estimated at the Birmingham laboratory. Two shell columella beads and glass beads were recorded as being in association. The glass beads were not available for study but may have been included with the beads from Burial 15.

Burial 17. Dental caries were noted in the teeth of this approximately 1 year old child. The beads recovered were of both copper and glass. There were fragments of iron wire that represented an estimated 12 bracelets. There were 3 circular, concave ornaments of sheet brass whose diameters were 68, 70, and 38 mm respectively. Another brass ornament of sheet brass was doughnut-shaped with a total diameter of 125 mm. The two shell pins, probably hair or ear ornaments, each had a knob on one end and a point on the other. The final items were two brass tinkling cones.

Burial 31. A child about 2 years old had been buried in this pit in a partially flexed position. The items buried with the child were glass beads and two concave copper ornaments.

Burial 41. Dental caries were noted in the teeth of this approximately 40 year old male. There were also copper stains on the frontal and parietal bones. On the right wrist were approximately 10 iron wire bracelets and a copper armband. On the other wrist was another armband.

A third copper armband, fragmentary but restorable, was also present. There was a limestone pipe placed with the burial that had been carved in the form of a woodpecker's head. Other items included a small glass mirror, a chipped piece of clear quartz, a lump of red ochre, and 12 "Guntersville" type projectile points. Six pieces of split cane and several small pieces of buckskin had been preserved by the action of copper salts. Four bone flakers and 2 knobbed bone pins were the final items reported but these were not available for study. The burial position was partially flexed.

Burial 43. This approximately 25 year old male was buried in a partially flexed position. The burial records at Mound State Monument indicate extreme frontal deformation of the skull. A "lead button" was reported on the burial record, but this item never reached the Birmingham laboratory. Seven cast brass bells, a small glass mirror, a lead musket ball, 2 grams of red ochre, and 2 copper wire bracelets were recovered. Included also were the fragmentary remains of over 25 iron wire bracelets, glass beads, and the skull of a dog.

Burial 46. The remains of this approximately 24 year old male were buried in an extended position with the head to the west. Iron objects consisted of 17 wire bracelets and 1 harness buckle. The buckle, like all harness buckles, is not accurately datable (Noel Hume 1969:88). There were also 2,196 glass beads.

Burial 48. This was also an extended burial with the head to the west. The osteological material indicated a child of 4 to 5 years of age. Glass beads and 2 shell pins were the only artifacts. The pins each had a knob on one end and a point on the other.

Burial 56. The records for this burial provide an unusually large amount of information about the clothing and burial practices of the historic inhabitants of this site. The pit contained the skeleton of a 3 to 4 year old child who had been buried in an extended position with the head to the west. The child had apparently been dressed in a jacket, breech clout, and leggings all made of buckskin. The buckskin was decorated with copper clips that had preserved fragments of the clothing as well as leaving copper stains on nearly all of the long bones. Further, the burial records indicate "... evidence that the grave had been lined with a mat and the child wrapped in a woven cloth and the rest of the mat placed above the child entirely encasing the child in the mat." The woven cloth had a herring-bone weave and was painted in some design using colors of red, yellow and black. The copper artifacts in this burial were two fragmentary bracelets as well as 247 of the clips used to decorate the buckskin. In addition, over 3,100 glass beads were also recovered.

Burial 69. In this pit a male aged 25 to 35 years had been buried in an extended position with the head to the west. Four brass bells of 17th century English design

were the most datable artifacts. All of these bells had relatively unworn surfaces that were still rough from the casting process. Two had been encased in small skin bags and one of these bells had a composite of the initials "NR" or "NB" beside the slot. At least 5 iron bracelets had been worn at the time of burial and a few small pieces of split cane remained of the mat in which the corpse presumably had been wrapped.

THE COLUMBUS CITY LANDING SITE (1MS91)

This site was 14.5 kilometers upstream and on the opposite side of the river from Guntersville, Alabama (see Figure 2). The first reported white settler at Columbus City was a Mr. Chandler who arrived in 1760. The community's heyday started in 1885 with a land boom that led to the building of four hotels, a large sawmill, a cotton gin and the enlargement of the steamboat landing. Within a few years the boom died, much of the town burned in 1897, and was almost deserted soon after (Webb and Wilder 1951:113).

The American occupation of the site had a significant impact on the archaeology of Columbus City Landing. For example, one Indian mound, designated 1MS92, was never excavated because for many generations it had been the Chandler family burial ground. At the landing itself, sheet erosion, no doubt speeded up by the recent commercial activity and cultivation, had left only a thin midden

deposit. Artifacts collected from the surface were a combination of items datable to Middle Woodland, Historic Indian, and to circa 1890. For these reasons, I took special care during this present analysis to verify the provenience, if any, of historic artifacts. As examples of items rejected were steel knives and forks with riveted and incised bone handles that date to the mid-18th century (Noel Hume 1969:182). In this case, the records indicate only that these items were recovered from the long trench cut across the excavation unit. These pieces of cutlery probably relate to the Chandler family's occupation of the site.

In spite of the thinness of the midden layer, excavations revealed that the original village area had been quite extensive and had once been surrounded by a double-walled palisade. Efforts by the archaeologists to trace this palisade led to the opening of a second excavation unit which was found to contain a large number of Middle Woodland burials. Because of the importance of these burials, each excavation unit had its own section in the published report and each had its own burial numbering system.

In Unit I, the burials were "... concentrated in a small area covered by a shallow shell midden located just outside the stockade" (Webb and Wilder 1951:115). Ten of the 56 burials in this unit contained historic trade material while only 1 of 156 in Unit II had such definitely

identifiable material. However, an additional burial, Burial 9, probably also dates to the historic period based on a comparison with other burials in the Gunter-ville Basin.

Historic Burials, Unit I

Burial 25. This was an oval pit containing the poorly preserved skeleton of an approximately 2 year old child in a fully flexed position. The beads in this burial were of both glass and shell. The shell beads show slight faceting and have perfectly drilled holes. These are probably "wampum" beads manufactured by European colonists for the Indian trade (Herman 1956:22). Some of the shell beads are rather amorphous in form and are matched in shape by three purple glass beads (see Figure 12). According to Herman, similar glass beads were made as imitations of the wampum beads (1956:23). The three brass bells in this burial are dissimilar in size and style with two being of French manufacture and the other English. All show evidence of having been "polished" with an abrasive material. There were also 9 small animal effigies cut from thin sheet brass with the most common shape resembling either a turtle or a beaver. Another effigy of the same type was recovered from 1MS100.

Burial 43. Burial 43 was also that of a child of 2 to 3 years of age which had been placed in a fully flexed position. There were 48 shell beads placed with the child that are probably European-made wampum. Thirteen show

slight faceting and have perfectly straight holes. Eight brass bells were recovered from the pit but were not available for study. The two metal bracelets were made from rolled sheet copper and had a diameter of about 2.5 mm. A circular, concave copper ornament and 5 small pendants of very thin sheet brass were the final items from this burial.

Burial 44. A female of about 39 years of age was buried in this pit in a fully flexed position. Glass beads, 2 flat bracelets of sheet brass, and 2 knobbed shell pins comprised the artifact assemblage.

Burial 45. The osteological material from this pit came from a child aged about 3 years that had been buried in a fully flexed position. There were two brass bells, one complete and the other missing the lower half. These were identical to French bells found at Fort Michilimackinac, Michigan. There were also two shell pins of the knobbed variety common in the Guntersville Basin.

Burial 50. This burial contained the largest number of artifacts of any at this site. The records list the remains as being of a female of about 19 years of age. This sex determination is questionable in view of the male-oriented artifacts recovered. The single metal axe was of the English type and, based upon differential pitting of the blade, still retained its steel bit. Other metal items were a fragmentary copper armband, a bracelet of thin, rolled copper, brass clips of the kind used to

decorate buckskin, and a 135 mm wide brass disk. The latter still retained fibers from a string that was run through the small hole in the center of the disk. The two finger rings in this burial were made by bending thin bands of sheet copper to fit the finger. A brass tinkling cone was apparently made from the same copper stock as the rings. The final items were 272 glass beads and a slightly flattened lead musket ball. While there was no direct evidence that this ball was the cause of death, it is a possibility.

Burial 55. The very fragmentary remains in this pit were estimated to be those of a 4 year old child. Glass beads and fragments of about 2 iron wire bracelets were the artifacts.

Historic Burials, Unit II

Burial 5. The skeleton was that of a male, aged about 23, who had been interred in a partially flexed position. The small trade axe present was probably of English manufacture. Items of sheet copper were a bracelet and a finger ring. The remaining material consisted of glass beads and two knobbed shell pins.

Burial 9. I cannot unequivocally state that this was an historic period burial; however, the flat copper bracelets are identical to those in other definitely datable burials in the Gunter'sville Basin. Other items in the pit were 1 small piece of split cane and several small, very

fragmentary pieces of buckskin that had been preserved by copper salts. The osteological material was that of a child aged about 1 year.

THE PINE ISLAND SITE (1MS121)

There does not appear to have been a significant historic Indian occupation on the upper end of Pine Island, the location of 1MS121 (see Figure 2). There were no historic burials recorded at the site and only one artifact, a Spanish-style hoe with a lugged eye, could be conclusively dated to the period prior to 1836. As for the iron hoe, only the lugged eye and a small portion of the blade remained. A number of other artifacts, such as machine-cut nails, pieces of a cast iron pot, and portions of a hinge, all indicated that the site was occupied or used by American farmers after the Indian removal.

THE MCDONALD SITE (1MS147)

The entire historic assemblage from this site was found in an oval pit listed in the records as Feature 42. The items included a brass button, a trapezoidal brass pendant, a broken brass trigger guard, and two triangular copper pendants. The brass button was the most datable item from this site. Walthall has described it as being

"... round, 31 mm in diameter and 1mm thick, and has a small ring soldered into the center of the reverse side. The obverse side has been polished and engraved with a line forming a circle 1.5 mm from the outer edge. Between this inner circle and the outer

edge of the button are a series of dots spaced .5 mm apart." (Walthall 1973:485)

Buttons of this type were common in the latter part of the eighteenth century and continued in use into the early nineteenth century (Noel Hume 1969:92).

The small amount of material, and its limited spatial distribution led Walthall to conclude that a small social unit, perhaps only a nuclear family, camped at this site (1973:495). It is most probable that the camp was used by Indians or Americans during the Cherokee occupation of the Gunterville Basin between 1780 and 1836.

CHAPTER III

ARTIFACT DESCRIPTIONS

BRACELETS AND RINGS

Hemings and Deagan (1973:20) classify iron bracelets and rings as British trade items while Quimby (1966:72) indicates that C-shaped bracelets of various gauges of brass wire were French. The issue is not entirely settled, however, since Woodward (1965:2-3) quotes manifests that show that iron and brass wire was imported by both the English and the French.

The metal rings in the Guntersville Basin sites were very crudely fashioned from sheet brass or copper and appear to have been of aboriginal fabrication. No iron rings were recovered. The C-shaped brass wire bracelets were all approximately 2 mm in diameter and average about 180 mm in length. The iron bracelets, though quite corroded, appear to have been made from iron wire of about 2 mm in thickness. The average length approximates that of the brass bracelets. The iron bracelets outnumber those of brass by a factor of 15 to 1.

BRASS BELLS

The bells from the Guntersville Basin all fall into a single class: the so-called sleigh bells, rumbler bells, harness bells, or hawk's bells. The latter term, however,

Figure 5. Brass bells of English manufacture (A)
and French manufacture (B)

Figure 6. Enlargement (2X) of 17th century bell
from 1MS100 (see extreme left bell, Fig-
ure 5)

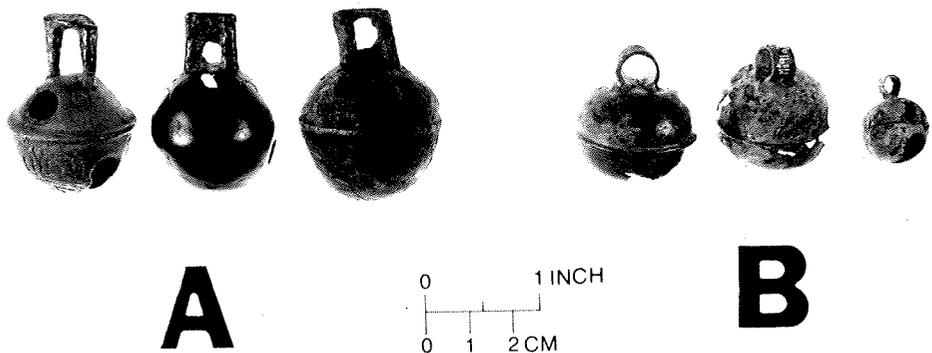


FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6

should be applied only to the very smallest bells since only the small ones could be used by falconers on their birds. Noel Hume described this category of bell as "a ball-shaped object containing a loose iron ball, with a slot at one side and an ear for suspension opposite it" (1969:59). Two distinct methods of manufacture were used in making the bells from the Gunter'sville Basin. The first involved casting the bell and the second method required fabrication from sheet brass.

The cast bells represented an English manufacturing technique. The two hemispheres of the bells were cast and then brazed together. The "ear" or loop was made from a brass rod bent into an angular doorway shape or from a flat piece of brass stock with a hole pierced through it. The loop was then attached by brazing. One bell, from Burial 57, LMS100, with the initials "W G" beside the slot, dates to the 17th century (Noel Hume 1969:59). Another bell (Burial 69 at LMS100) had a composite of the initials "NR" or "NB" beside the slot. This bell's design also conforms to Noel Hume's description of 17th century bells.

The bells fabricated from sheet brass appear to represent French manufacture. The two hemispheres, after being shaped, were either brazed or soldered together. The ear or loop on these bells was made from brass wire or a very narrow strip of sheet brass which was also brazed or soldered to the top of the bell. All sheet brass bells in the Gunter'sville Basin are identical to bells found at

Fort Michilimackinac, Michigan in an 18th century French context (Stone 1974:134, 138).

A common characteristic of the bells from the Gunter'sville Basin is that most were apparently kept shiny by rubbing with an abrasive material. This is easily detected under a low power microscope. Many of the cast bells were originally decorated with scroll designs, but these were often worn away from the abrasive. It should be pointed out that this abrading was not done during cleaning of the bells at the Birmingham laboratory. All bells are still heavily tarnished except in certain unobtrusive spots where they were filed down during laboratory identification of the metal.

No particular significance is placed in the various sizes of bells found in the Gunter'sville Basin since it was customary to make bells in varying sizes for different musical notes. One English foundry produced at least 32 different sizes (Noel Hume 1969:59). French bells were represented by one example each of sizes 14 mm, 15 mm, 21 mm, and 25 mm. Among the English bells, certain sizes were more common, as can be seen in the following percentages:

23 mm	9.1%
27 mm	18.2%
39 mm	9.1%
41 mm	36.3%
44 mm	27.2%

IRON HOES

Both Spanish and English iron hoes were recovered from the Gunterville Basin. French hoes, such as those recovered from the lower Mississippi Valley (Quimby 1966:70) were not found. All recovered hoes show considerable use and, when found in burials, are restricted to female burials and usually adult females.

The Spanish hoes are characterized by a metal lug on top of the eye (Figure 7). L. Ross Morrell has identified this lugged hoe as a type appearing only in areas of Spanish trade and dates it to between 1650 and 1715 (1963:54).

The English hoes conform to Noel Hume's description (1969:275) of:

"the eye always round, the socket leaning slightly forward, and the blade describing approximately one third of a circle. The most striking feature of this tool was a V- or wedge-shaped reinforcement formed over a swage and extending from the eye to about half the length of the blade."

None of these hoes had any visible maker's initials which increases the probability of 17th century manufacture (Noel Hume 1969:275).

TRADE AXES AND IRON CELTS

Trade axes are common on aboriginal sites dating to the historic period. They usually had small bits and lacked the distinct poll found on modern axes. These axes were made primarily of iron but had a steel bit that retained a sharp cutting edge and could be resharpened many

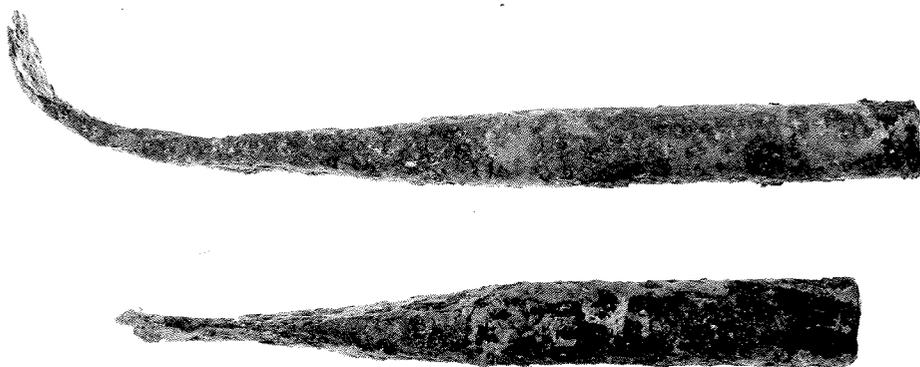
Figure 7. English round-eyed hoe (left) and Spanish lugged-eye hoe (right)

Figure 8. Musket barrels flattened for use as fleshers



0 1 INCH
0 1 2 CM

FIGURE 7



0 1 INCH
0 1 2 CM

FIGURE 8

times (Kauffman 1972:18). The steel bits on these trade axes, if not worn away, will show differential pitting when compared to the iron portion. The pitting on the steel is usually much smaller (Kauffman 1972:94).

In his recent study of American axes, Kauffman pointed out that it is possible to distinguish between English trade axes and those made by the French and the Dutch. "The sides of English axes are flat, while those of the French and Dutch have round holes with a strap around the handle forming a big round eye." (Kauffman 1972:13). The flat sides of the English axes produce a more elipsoidal eye such as that seen on axes from Jamestown (Cotter 1958:174-175). From Fort Michilimackinac, Stone (1974:301) shows axes with the round eye associated with French axes. Axes of both types are found in the Gunterville Basin, and these date to the late 17th and early 18th centuries (Figure 9):

The later English trade axe, which was apparently made during the first half of the 18th century, is absent from the Gunterville Basin. This axe was transitional between the earlier trade axe and the felling axe of today. In making that later trade axe, the eye was flattened and squared to form an embryonic poll and the eye was changed to more of a triangle than an ellipse (Kauffman 1972:23). The absence of this form of axe is taken as another indicator that the Gunterville Basin sites were occupied no later than the early 18th century.

Figure 9. English trade axe (top) and French trade axe (bottom)

Figure 10. Conversion of trade axes to celts;
flat celt from eye of an axe (A);
wedge-shaped celt from eyeless axe (B);
sequence of conversion (bottom row)

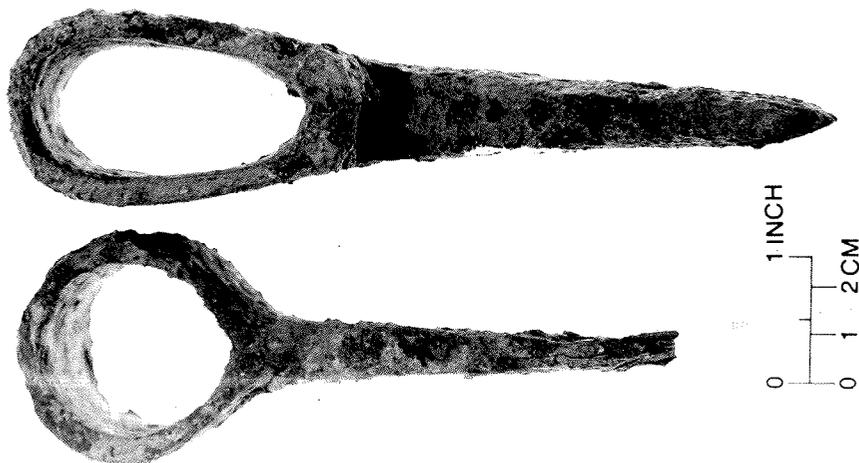


FIGURE 9

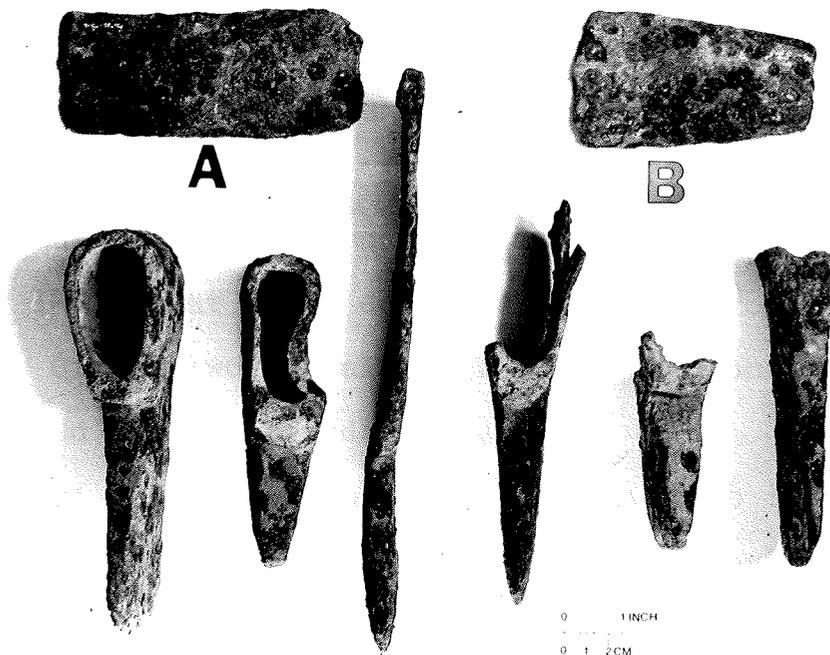


FIGURE 10

Several of the axes from the Guntersville Basin, especially those from LMS32, show considerable wear. On some axes the steel bit was worn away, with some having blades worn down almost to the eye. These axes were all English and none were recovered, either in burials or in the midden deposit, that could be described as "unused". This may be an indicator that trade with the English had been interrupted during the occupation of that site.

In addition to heavy wear, some axes from LMS32 were quite altered in form. Alterations involved removal of the eye and grinding the remainder of the axe into a celt shape. The strap of iron that had formed the eye was flattened, sharpened, and, in effect, turned into a celt shape. Figure 10 shows the sequence of these operations. In Figure 10, the celt designated with an "A" was made from an axe eye, and the one designated with a "B" was ground down from an eyeless axe.

Not all of these celt forms may have been used as axes but may have been used as scrapers instead. It was noted at LMS32 that stone scrapers were found only in male burials. Of the two burials at LMS32 with stone scrapers, only one had the flattened axe eyes.

It must be pointed out that several sites in the Southeast are believed to have been occupied prior to 1670 because of the presence of iron celts. It has been hypothesized that pieces of iron may have been traded from tribe to tribe from some spot on the coast where Europeans were

present or had been shipwrecked. An example of a site dated by this method is the King Site on the Coosa River in Georgia (Smith 1974:66). While the dates for these sites may be correct, the presence of modified trade axes in the Gunter'sville Basin should be taken into account when assigning dates to site components with iron celts.

SHELL BEADS

The shell beads from the Gunter'sville Basin that date to the historic period were most likely made by Europeans for the Indian trade. These beads are called wampum, wampumpeake, or peake in the literature. These beads had fixed values set for them and had a definite role in trade. All over Canada prices were quoted for various goods not only in numbers of beaver skins but also in wampum beads (van der Sleen 1967:118). In 1634, wampum was considered legal tender by the colonial governments of Massachusetts and Connecticut (Herman 1956:22).

Wampum was "usually tubular and made from the round clam (quahog, Venus mercenaria) or spiral-shaped shells commonly called coccles or periwinkles (especially Sycotypus canaliculatus and Fulgar cerica)." (Herman 1956:21) Wampum was used in the Northeast prior to the arrival of Europeans but there was a tremendous increase in the amount of wampum in circulation after Dutch and English colonists began manufacturing it (Herman 1956:22). The beads were made by the thousands with the aid of steel bores and other machinery with the hole being much narrower

and straighter than those of aboriginal manufacture. The beads were blue, if from young clams, or dark violet if made from older clam shells (van der Sleen 1967:118).

In the sample from the Guntersville Basin, the colors have faded from the beads but most have minute tool marks and the smallest sizes are often faceted from filing. The beads fall into three categories:

1. The largest size, normally represented by a single example per burial, is a flattened sphere approximately 2.5 mm long and about 2.5 cm by 3 cm in cross section. The holes are about 3 mm wide.

2. The middle size beads vary from 8 to 15 mm in length with slightly over half of the examples being exactly 15 mm long. Diameters cluster around 12 mm and the holes average 2 mm in width. The holes are drilled perfectly straight.

3. The smallest and most common size are all almost exactly 5 mm in length and width and have a distinct barrel shape. The holes are drilled perfectly straight and all are about 1 mm wide, with the width variations appearing to be the result of wear.

In Burial 25, 1MS91, there were, in addition to wampum beads, 3 glass beads that appear to be copies of the middle-size wampum beads (see Figure 12). These glass copies are a very deep violet and have 3 white longitudinal stripes. Had the shell beads retained their color, it would have been hard to distinguish them from a distance. Except for their somewhat amorphous shape,

Figure 11. Fragments of buckskin preserved by copper salts from decorative copper clips

Figure 12. Necklace of European-manufactured shell wampum beads and imitation wampum beads of purple glass (center)

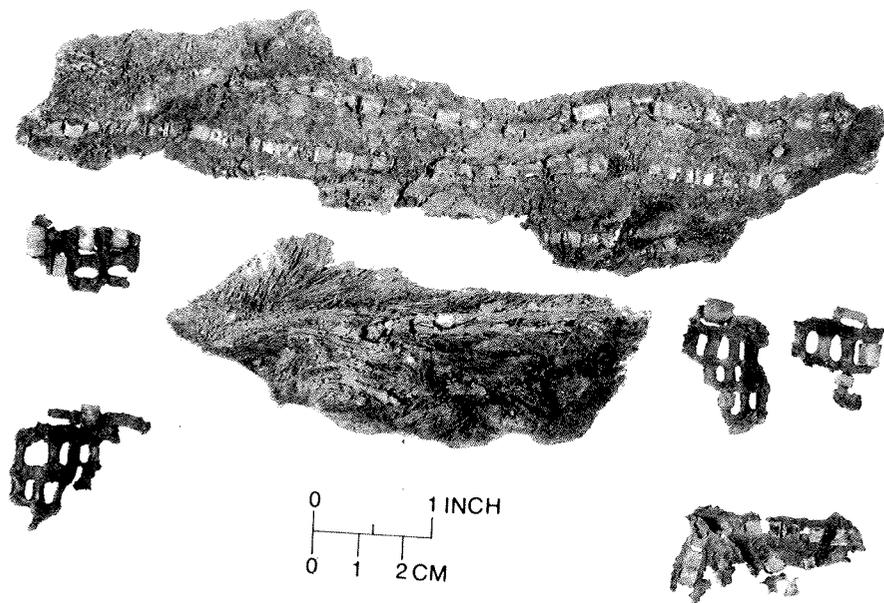


FIGURE 11

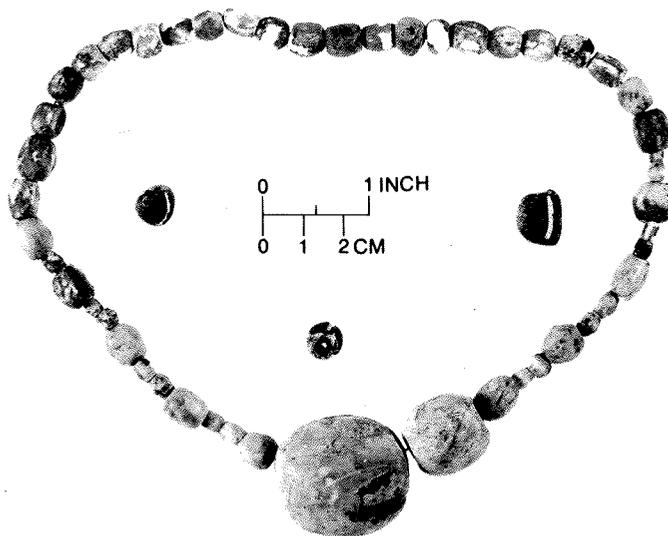


FIGURE 12

these glass beads can be classified as Type 23 trade beads.

The various plain shell gorgets recovered in historic contexts in the Gunter'sville Basin also may be of European manufacture. Arthur Woodward has reported that shell gorgets from the historic burial at the Bynum Mounds in Mississippi were probably made at Pascack, New Jersey in the wampum factory of the Campbell Brothers (Cotter and Corbett 1951:15). The gorgets from the Bynum Mounds, however, date to the period from 1820 to the mid-1830's, which is about 100 years later than those from the Gunter'sville Basin. Nevertheless, the possibility of European manufacture should not be ignored.

FIREARM PARTS

The remains of firearms were not numerous in the Gunter'sville Basin. These weapons were represented by a gun lock from a musket, a hammer from a flintlock musket, a broken brass trigger guard, several pieces of ornamental brass, and several pieces of gun barrels.

The musket lock, which came from 1MS100, was cleaned by electrolysis and identified as being of the dog lock variety (Green 1963:74). The principal period of popularity for the dog lock was 1625-70 and it was rare on English muskets after 1715 (Noel Hume 1969:313).

The flintlock hammer, also from 1MS100, was from the variety of lock that superseded the dog lock and which could be carried at a half-cock position. This type came

into general use in the last quarter of the 17th century and was standard until the development of the percussion cap in the 19th century (Noel Hume 1969:213-214). This type hammer is still being used today on modern reproductions of the flintlock.

All of the barrel fragments had been flattened on one or both ends (see Figure 8). This practice is known to have been followed by Plains Indians to convert pieces of useless barrels to fleshers (Hamilton 1960:126). This is the most likely explanation for the flattened barrels from the Gunter'sville Basin. One of the barrels was from 1MS32 and 3 were from 1MS100. All them, though heavily corroded, are approximately 20 mm in outside diameter with bore diameters of about 15 mm.

GLASS BEADS

Glass beads are an artifact category around which a body of literature has only recently begun to emerge. That body of information is not yet unified and at present there exist several very diverse classificatory systems for beads. The taxonomic system used in this paper is viewed as a temporary expedient in the absence of a continental-wide synthesis. The system chosen is an adaptation of the one used by Good (1973). Its primary virtues are ease of use and a minimum of verbiage. The use of a color photograph (see Figure 13) which is keyed to brief descriptions permits the replacement of words

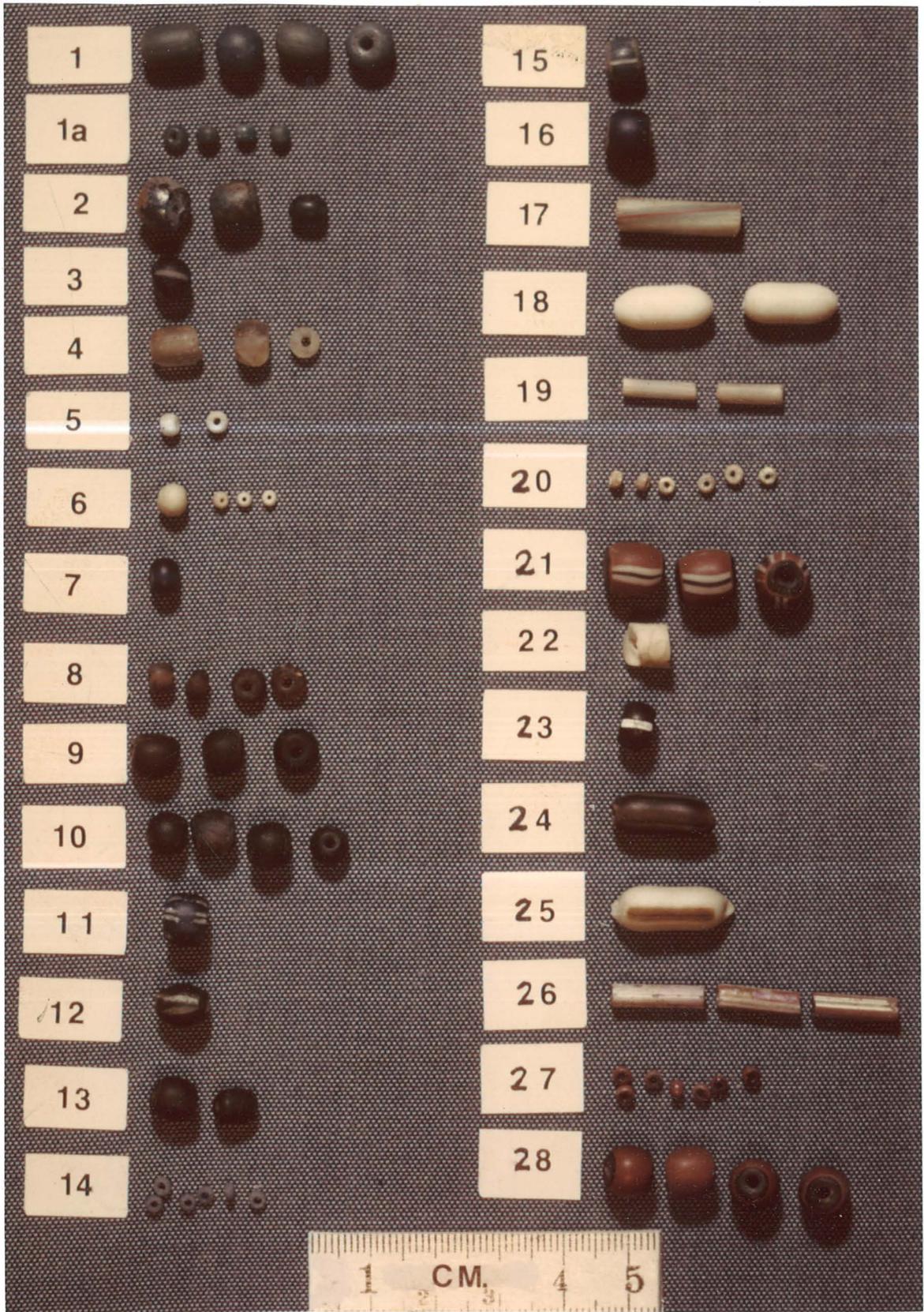


FIGURE 13
GUNTERSVILLE BASIN BEAD CHART

with a visual image. The system used in this paper also provides a cross-reference to the systems used by Good and that of DeJarnette and Hansen (1960).

The latter system was devised by DeJarnette for his study of the Childersburg Site in Alabama. Since it was the first regional classificatory system for glass beads, it has since been used by several authors. The system has, however, been criticized for using local place names for beads that have a continental-wide distribution (Cotter 1961:574). DeJarnette has also pointed out this deficiency and recommended that a different taxonomy be considered (1976:Personal Communication). The cross references contained in this paper permits DeJarnette's classificatory system to be tied in with studies on both a regional and continental basis.

Among the elements borrowed from Good (1973) is the use of the Munsell Color Chart (Munsell 1926). This will ensure reference to exact colors in the event the colors in Figure 13 are not accurate or should fade. An additional borrowed element is that measurements are not given in the descriptive data since a scale is provided on the color plate.

Beads of the historic period were manufactured by two basic methods. The first involved introducing a bubble of air into a blob of molten glass and then quickly stretching the mass into a hollow cane. The air bubble, which was also stretched out, created the hole in the bead. The hollow cane was broken into individual beads that were

further processed to remove sharp edges, polish the bead, etc. In the second manufacturing technique, the beads were created individually by wrapping a thread of molten glass around a revolving mandrel or wire until the desired size was achieved. The mandrel or wire, when removed, left the hole in the bead (van der Sleen 1960:23).

During both processes, additional layers of the same or different colors were added if desired. Striped beads were made during the hollow cane process by inlaying rods of glass longitudinally in the original molten mass before it was drawn out (Good 1973:96).

Beads have been described using the following three construction categories:

1. Simple. These beads are composed of a monolithic, structurally undifferentiated mass of glass. Both hollow cane and mandrel-wound beads are found in this category.

2. Compound. These beads have two or more concentric layers, one over the other. These are usually hollow cane beads.

3. Complex. Within the Gunterville Basin sample, complex beads are those that have decorative designs made by glass rods impressed to form stripes. Beads from other areas often have other forms of decoration.

All of the beads in this study conform to the beads classified by Quimby (1966:85-87) as dating to the period 1670 to 1760. The Gunterville Basin assemblage probably dates to the early part of that period since only a portion

of Quimby's representative types were recovered. The Childersburg Site, which dates to as late as 1775, did have many of the additional types not found in the Gunter-ville Basin. Based on other historic artifacts and records, the bead assemblage from the Gunter-ville Basin can be dated from approximately 1670 to 1720.

Bead descriptions

Type 1.

- a. Characteristics: opaque, robin's-egg blue, round, or barrel shaped, simple construction, fine longitudinal striations, minor variation common among specimens
- b. Color: Munsell bluish Blue-Green 7.5 B/G 6/4
Munsell Blue-Green Blue 10 BG 5/4
Munsell purplish Blue 7.5 B 4/6
- c. Correlation: Good; nos. 88, 89, 90, 91
DeJarnette; Opaque Light Blue Oval

Type 1a.

- a. Description: seed sized, robin's-egg blue, doughnut-shaped, simple construction, fine longitudinal striations, often has light-colored patina
- b. Color: Same as Type 1
- c. Correlation: Good; nos. 92, 92b
DeJarnette; Alabama Turquoise Seed

Type 2.

- a. Description: translucent, royal blue, barrel-shaped, mandrel-wound, simple construction, surface smooth and glossy
- b. Color: Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5
PB 4/12
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 76
DeJarnette: Weiss Transparent Light Blue
Spherical

Type 3.

- a. Description: translucent, dark Yale blue, barrel-shaped, complex construction with three evenly spaced white stripes inlaid parallel to axis
- b. Color: Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5
PB 3/10
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 29; DeJarnette: none

Type 4.

- a. Description: clear, slightly frosted, barrel and round shaped, mandrel-wound, simple construction
- b. Color: clear glass
- c. Correlation: Good: no 47
DeJarnette: none

Type 5.

- a. Description: small, opaque white, barrel-shaped, compound construction
- b. Color: white
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 109a
DeJarnette: none

Type 6.

- a. Description: opaque, round, simple construction
- b. Color: cream white
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 111
DeJarnette: none

Type 7.

- a. Description: translucent, royal blue, round, mandrel-wound, simple construction
- b. Color: Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5
PB 3/10
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 46
DeJarnette: Weiss River Spherical

Type 8.

- a. Description: translucent, amber-colored, barrel-shaped, simple construction
- b. Color: Munsell yellowish Yellow-Red 7.5
YR 6/8
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 9.

- a. Description: opaque, dull black, barrel-shaped, simple construction
- b. Color: black
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 164
DeJarnette: Childersburg Black Barrel

Type 10.

- a. Description: translucent, Yale blue, tubular to barrel-shaped, simple construction
- b. Color: Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5
PB 3/10
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 58
DeJarnette: Bradford Ferry Blue Spherical

Type 11.

- a. Description: opaque, blue with paired white stripes, barrel-shaped, complex three layered construction (blue inner layer, white middle and blue outer layer), flattened ends
- b. Color: Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5
PB 3/10
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 12.

- a. Description: translucent, Yale blue, olive-shaped, complex construction with four equally spaced white stripes inlaid parallel to the axis of the bead

b. Color: Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5⁷⁰

PB 3/10

c. Correlation: Good: none

DeJarnette: none

Note: This is possibly only a variation of Type 3

Type 13.

a. Description: translucent, emerald green,
barrel-shaped, simple construction

b. Color: Munsell yellowish Green 2.5 G 4/6

c. Correlation: Good: variation of no. 36

DeJarnette: none

Type 14.

a. Description: opaque, blue, doughnut-shaped,
simple construction

b. Color: Munsell purplish Purple-Blue 7.5

PB 4/8

c. Correlation: Good: no. 70

DeJarnette: none

Type 15.

a. Description: opaque, peacock blue, barrel-
shaped, complex construction with three
evenly spaced white lines, minute longi-
tudinal striations

b. Color: Munsell purplish Blue 7.5 B 4/6

c. Correlation: Good: none (but resembles no.
90a except for having white lines)

DeJarnette: none

Type 16.

- a. Description: opaque, purple, barrel-shaped, compound construction with purple inner portion, a thin white center layer and purple inner layer. No recorded associations
- b. Color: Munsell Purple 3.6 P 3/8
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 17.

- a. Description: opaque, white, tubular, complex construction with three longitudinal stripes each composed of a red stripe flanked by two blue stripes, fibrous appearance caused by many small longitudinal bubbles
- b. Color: white
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 18.

- a. Description: opaque, white, elongated with slight central constriction, simple construction
- b. Color: white
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 98
DeJarnette: none

Type 19.

- a. Description: translucent, tubular, lavender-colored, fibrous structure produced by many small longitudinal bubbles, simple construction.
- b. Color: Munsell reddish Purple 7.5 P 7/4
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 20.

- a. Description: small, doughnut-shaped, translucent, green, mandrel-wound, simple construction, cream-colored patina obscuring surface
- b. Color: Munsell Green-Yellow Green 10 GY 4/4
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 21.

- a. Description: opaque, brick red, barrel-shaped, complex construction with a core of translucent pale green glass, an opaque red middle layer and a very thin clear glass surface layer, longitudinal white stripes have a narrow black stripe in the center. This bead is a variety of the beads commonly called Cornaline d'Alleppo.

- b. Color: Munsell yellowish Red 7.5 R 4/6
- c. Correlation: Good: none (but similar to no. 126). DeJarnette: none

Type 22.

- a. Description: opaque, white, crazed or cracked surface, surface somewhat frosted, tubular construction, made to imitate shell wampum
- b. Color: cream white
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 119
DeJarnette: Georgia White Cylindrical

Type 23.

- a. Description: opaque, black, barrel-shaped, complex construction with three evenly spaced white longitudinal stripes
- b. Color: black
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 24.

- a. Description: translucent, amber-colored, elongated olive shape, complex construction with four inlaid white longitudinal stripes
- b. Color: Munsell Yellow-Red 10 YR 6/10
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 25.

- a. Description: opaque, white, complex construction with three longitudinal stripes composed of a center of blue flanked by brick red stripes, extended olive shape
- b. Color: dull white
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 26.

- a. Description: translucent, tubular, complex construction with green inner layer, center layer of red and outer layer of clear glass, three longitudinal stripes each composed of a red stripe flanked by two white stripes, This is a tubular version of the Cornaline d'Alleppo.
- b. Color: Munsell yellowish Red 7.5 R 5/6
- c. Correlation: Good: none
DeJarnette: none

Type 27.

- a. Description: small, opaque, brick red, barrel-shaped compound construction with translucent green core, brick red center layer and thin outer layer of clear glass. This is a form of the Cornaline d'Alleppo.
- b. Color: Munsell yellowish Red 7.5 R 4/6
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 127a
DeJarnette: none

Type 28.

- a. Description: opaque, brick red, barrel-shaped, compound construction with translucent green core, a middle layer of brick red and a thin outer layer of clear glass. This is a form of the Cornaline d'Alleppo bead.
- b. Color: Munsell yellowish Red 7.5 R 4/6
- c. Correlation: Good: no. 127
DeJarnette: Cornaline d'Alleppo Red and Green Barrell

		BEAD TYPES →																TOTALS	
		1	1a	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	TOTALS
B U R I A L N U M B E R S	2	3										1							4
	7	7			1							4							12
	8	374																	374
	13	216			1	2						4							223
	16	1283			1							3							1287
	20																		0
	21																		0
	22	30										1	10						41
	23	4											1						5
	26	28		175	4	1	1	1	3	5	87								305
	27	309								16		2							327
	31		97	4				1	144	16	6	135			5		1		409
	32																		0
	41		50																50
	42	31			2					3	3			1	1	1			42
	44	43		5					13		3					3			67
	48	245							1	3									249
	49	28	20										21						69
	55	15				1				2		3							21
	59	5																	5
	60		25														10		35
	61																		0
	63	289																	289
64																		0	
65																		0	
68	109	2						42		3				1	2			159	
*																		1	
TOTALS	3019	194	184	9	4	1	2	203	45	106	181	1	2	11	10	1	1	3974	

* Not associated with a Burial

FIGURE 14
BEAD DISTRIBUTIONS, 1MS32

BEAD DISTRIBUTIONS, 1MS91

FIGURE 15

	BEAD TYPES →																TOTALS	
	1	1a	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14-22	23		24-28
25	371										52			1		3		427
43																		0
44	199	468					2	1039	9									1717
45		611	27				112	42										792
50		272																272
55		89																89
5	889		4	1						1				1				896
9																		0
TOTALS	1459	1440	31	1	0	0	114	1081	9	1	52	0	0	2	0	3	0	4193

BURIALS



BEAD TYPES →

	1	1a	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	TOTALS
B		290																												290
U																														0
R		246	174			81								182					1	2	57									743
I		276																												276
A		2																				1								3
L		26																												26
S		74							4										89			11		1	1	1				181
																														0
V		3	4								334									2										343
		45													1															46
																														0
		5	387																											392
		205																												205
																														0
																														0
		2037																								5	315			2357
		2195																		1										2196
		781																												781
		7571				3														65								172	7811	
		1008																		3										1011
																														0
																														0
																														0
TOTALS	82	5073	174	0	0	3	81	0	4	0	334	0	0	0	183	0	0	0	151	2	57	12	0	1	1	6	315	0	172	16651

FIGURE 16
BEAD DISTRIBUTIONS, 1MS100

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In his synthesis of Alabama archaeology, Walthall has defined the Crow Creek Phase for the proto-historic occupation of the Guntersville Basin and the McKee Island Phase for the historic period (n.d.:In Press). The McKee Island Ceramic Series of shell tempered wares was common to both phases. The dividing line between the two phases occurs with the introduction of European trade goods.

For the inhabitants of the Guntersville Basin, the earliest possible contact with Europeans was in 1540 when the DeSoto expedition is thought to have passed through northern Alabama. This present study turned up no archaeological evidence that could be attributed to that expedition or any other of the 16th century Spanish expeditions. It is doubtful that any such evidence will ever be found in Alabama. Arguments about routes aside, a soldier can be expected to both march and fight if his individual load exceeds approximately 16 kilos (35 pounds). Once the weight of armor and arms is subtracted, the Spanish soldier would have had little load space left for discardable items.

All datable artifacts and historic records indicate that substantial contact with Europeans did not begin until after Charleston, South Carolina was settled in 1670.

That date could be realistically moved up to 1680 since it was after the latter date that the Carolina trade system began its great expansion. All evidence suggests that the sites in the Gunter'sville Basin were abandoned by approximately 1720. There was no additional significant aboriginal occupation of the area until after 1780 when the Cherokee began moving into the vicinity. Unfortunately for this study, the Cherokee settlement pattern put their major occupational sites outside the area of the WPA excavations of the 1930's.

The major analytical problems in this study revolved around 1MS32 and the equivalent occupation at 1MS100. In several respects, these occupations do not conform to the usual conception of the archaeology of northern Alabama. The unusual factors include the lack of association with the McKee Island Ceramic Series, the extended burials, and semi-subterranean houses.

For many years it has been axiomatic that the McKee Island Ceramic Series dates from the proto-historic to the historic. The validity of that axiom has been proven in numerous excavations. For example, 1MS91 and part of 1MS100 have that series in association with occupations from both periods. Further south, a single sherd of McKee Island Cord Marked pottery was recovered from Fort Appalachicola on the Chattahoochee River in a Spanish context that dates from 1689 to 1691. DeJarnette has reported the association of McKee Island ceramics

and European trade artifacts at sites that date up to 1700 in the Coosa River's Weiss Basin (DeJarnette 1973). The association has also been documented at the Childersburg Site (1TA1) which dates as late as 1775 (DeJarnette and Hansen 1960:61).

In all of the sites cited above, the burials were flexed. Flexed burials appear to be the method used by those Muskogean-speaking peoples who are usually referred to as Creeks. With that in mind, other cultural groups were considered as possible originators of the extended burials in the Gunterville Basin.

In searching for a parallel cultural complex for the 1MS32 historic burials, the first group considered was the Shawnee. The Shawnee were at one time found on the Cumberland River but sometime after 1700 a band of that tribe was living as part of the Creek confederacy (Swanton 1946:184). An examination of Shawnee burial practices indicates that extended burials were common; however, the consistent orientation to the west was lacking (Hanson 1966:73).

Another possibility investigated were the Cherokee who were present in the Gunterville Basin at the time of the Indian removal in the 1830's. Swanton (1946:81) says that the Cherokee buried their dead in both flexed and extended positions. The historic burials at 1MS32 could be Cherokee but the historical and archaeological evidence does not support such an identification. The Cherokee did not move into Alabama until after about

1780 and did not establish villages in Marshall County until 1784 (Fairbanks 1974). Further, the historic artifact assemblage at 1MS32 and 1MS100 dates to 1720 or earlier.

The archaeological phase in which the burials and houses match those at 1MS32 and part of 1MS100 is the Mouse Creek Phase in Tennessee. This phase was described first by Lewis and Kneberg and was distributed along the Hiwassee River (1946:14). The presence of European trade goods in some Mouse Creek burials indicates that the phase extended from the proto-historic into the historic.

Mouse Creek dwellings were partly underground with the floors excavated to a depth of 18 to 24 inches (46 cm to 60 cm). The outline of the building was roughly square and had a floor space of 36 to 63 square meters. The walls were of log construction and banked with clay (Lewis and Kneberg 1946:14).

Mouse Creek graves were dug large enough so that the corpse could be placed on its back in a fully extended position and the head was generally placed to the west. The common burial practice was to wrap the body in cane mats and, at times, to place log or bark covers over the burial. Grave offerings were not elaborate and normally consisted of beads, pins, and other ornaments that formed part of the clothing (Bauxar 1957:415). All of these elements, with the exception of the log coverings, mirror those at 1MS32 and the extended burials at 1MS100.

The extended burials at 1MS32 and 1MS100 also resemble burials in Russell County, Alabama, at the Abercrombie Site (1RU61). Clarence B. Moore reported that some of the burials with European goods were in a fully extended position on the back (1907:153). Peter Brannon also excavated several burials at the Abercrombie Site that were extended on the back and which contained European goods (1909:190-191). These burials were intrusive into the earlier Lamar component at Abercrombie (DeJarnette 1975:19). The descriptions of the European trade goods at this site compare favorably with those at 1MS32 and 1MS100 (DeJarnette 1975:174).

The discussion of historic burials at the Abercrombie Site has additional implications for this study. The site is not far from a stream called Uchee Creek and a smaller tributary called Little Uchee Creek. An adaptation of an 1818 map of historic Creek Indian villages shows the village of Uchee not far from the location of the Abercrombie Site (DeJarnette 1975:9). This village has not been definitely located on the ground by archaeologists (DeJarnette 1975:19-20) but its existence in the area is verified by Bartram (Van Doren 1952:312) and by Swanton (1952:174). These references place the Abercrombie Site with its extended burials in an area which is historically associated with the Yuchi tribe.

The Yuchi were rather late arrivals to the area. Swanton places two movements of Yuchi to Russell County, Alabama, in the vicinity of Uchee Creek. The first was

in 1715 from the Hiwassee River and between 1729 and 1740 from the Savannah River area. The Yuchi left the Hiwassee River area in 1714 after their village of Chestowa was destroyed by Cherokees at the instigation of two white traders (Fairbanks 1974:58).

The significance of these accounts lies in the identification of the Yuchi as the historic manifestation of the Mouse Creek Phase by Lewis and Kneberg (1946:14). The archaeological similarities among Mouse Creek, the components at 1MS32 and 1MS100, and at Abercrombie tends to substantiate the identification. The historic occupation at 1MS32 and the extended burial component at 1MS100 probably represent part of the migration of a Mouse Creek/Yuchi group from the Hiwassee River area to Russell County, Alabama.

To infer a migration from archaeological evidence, certain criteria should be met. Rouse has stated these as:

"... 1), identify the migratory people as an intrusive unit in the region it has penetrated; 2), trace the unit back to its homeland; 3), determine that all occurrences are contemporaneous; 4), establish the existence of favorable conditions for migration; and 5), demonstrate that some other hypothesis, such as independent invention or diffusion of traits, does not better fit the facts of the situation." (1958:64).

The first four criteria have already been met by evidence presented previously in this paper. Only criterion number 5 requires additional discussion since it is, as it rightfully should be, a difficult hurdle to cross. In this discussion, however, criterion number five is assumed to refer not to an infinite number of

hypotheses but only to competing hypotheses. The most viable competing hypothesis is that the components under discussion at 1MS32 and 1MS100 represent one of the Muskogean-speaking groups that for convenience are called Creeks.

For the historic component at 1MS32 and its companion at 1MS100 to be identified as Creek, it would have to be assumed that through independent invention, diffusion or some other process, the group had abruptly and totally abandoned the usual Creek burial practices and house form. This does not appear likely. The two components at 1MS32 and 1MS100 are too radically different from the other historic components in the Guntersville Basin, the Weiss Basin on the Coosa River, the Childersburg Site, and all sites except Abercrombie in the Walter F. George Basin on the Chattahoochee River. The historic components in these other areas all conform to the expected norm for Creek groups.

There may be disagreement over the identification of the two components with the Mouse Creek Phase and the Yuchi. There is even some controversy over whether Mouse Creek can be considered an independent cultural entity. There should be no argument, however, over the existence of the following at 1MS32: 1), the last aboriginal houses were of semi-subterranean construction; 2), the historic burials were placed on the back in a fully extended position and, except for some children, oriented with the

head to the west; 3), the historic occupation cannot be directly associated with the McKee Island Ceramic Series; and 4), the historic component at 1MS32 and part of 1MS100 represents a site-unit intrusion into a contemporaneous Creek culture area.

Additionally, I believe that, in the final analysis, the identification of the historic component at 1MS32 and its equivalent at 1MS100 as Mouse Creek/Yuchi does not invalidate but only adds to the accepted cultural sequence in the Gunter'sville Basin. The components in question are believed to represent an interim Yuchi presence during their known movement in 1714-1716 from the Hiwassee River region in Tennessee to Russell County, Alabama. The historic Creek occupants of the Gunter'sville Basin had probably already left the area as part of the Upper Creek's consolidation on the Coosa River.

A relative chronology needs to be developed if a satisfactory model is to be presented for the historic occupations of the Gunter'sville Basin. This cannot be done in the case at hand by noting changes in artifact style since all sites are chronologically close. A relative chronology can be developed by comparing and combining the artifactual evidence with known historic events. This treatment is presented below:

a. 1MS32. A proto-historic occupation of this site is indicated because the McKee Island Ceramic Series is present but is not associated with the historic component.

Since the proto-historic Creek-type burials lack English trade materials, the site had to have been abandoned by its Creek related inhabitants prior to 1670. The Mouse Creek/Yuchi occupation dates possibly as early as early as 1712 but probably to 1714. The lack of French trade goods and the extremely worn condition of the English axes indicates that neither European country had traders in the area in 1714. The site was abandoned again in 1715 when the Yuchi moved south.

b. 1MS100. This site apparently also had a proto-historic occupation by a Creek related group who used the McKee Island Ceramic Series and who buried their dead in a flexed position. The presence of English artifacts is evidence that the occupation extended into the historic period. The virtual absence of French trade items is indicative of abandonment during most of the time the French traders were present in the 18th century. The Yuchi apparently found the site still unoccupied when they settled a small group there in 1714.

c. 1MS91. The extensive erosion and other physical changes caused by the American occupation in the late 19th century obscures much of the sequence at this site, A definite Creek component is obvious along with the association of that component with both English and French artifacts. The stockade was probably built by the French since the historic Creek burials with French artifacts were outside the wall. Since none of the French items were traded to

the Yuchi, neither the French nor the Creek inhabitants of 1MS91 were present in 1714. The French, based on the historic record, would not have been present earlier than 1700 with 1710-1712 being more likely.

d. 1MS121 and 1MS147. These two sites, based on the available archaeological evidence, had no significant occupations during the historic period. The artifacts indicate occasional, short term occupations by small groups throughout the period between 1670 and 1836.

The above narrative summarizes the data relating to the historic sites in the Gunter'sville Basin. Because this data is crucial to any proposed model, consideration was given to areas of potential refutation of the model to be proposed. The first area would be advancement of proof of error in assigning a French or English origin to the artifacts discussed in this paper. The second source of potential refutation could come from a major synthesis on glass trade beads that might also disprove the trade relationships discussed within the model.

Taking all of the above factors into consideration, a model for the proto-historic and historic periods in the Gunter'sville Basin is proposed. The primary inhabitants during both the proto-historic and historic periods were a Creek group known to the later English as the Koasati and to the French as the Caskinampo. They were probably organized into a single political unit and occupied possibly two, but more likely only a single village at any one time.

Prior to 1670, the village was, at various times, at 1MS32, 1MS91 and 1MS100. The last proto-historic occupation was at 1MS100 where, sometime between 1670 and 1700, the people began to engage in trade with the English from Carolina. When the French arrived in about 1710, the village had moved or was moved to 1MS91. The French built a stockade, which the English reported as a "fort," and the Indians lived and buried their dead outside the walls. Prior to 1714, the French departed and the Koasati/Caskinampo moved south to join the Upper Creeks on the Coosa River. In 1714, a group of Yuchi were driven from the Hiwassee River area and settled in the Gunter-ville Basin. They remained no later than 1716 before moving south to Russell County, Alabama, and becoming integral parts of the Creek Confederacy. After the departure of the Yuchi, the Gunter-ville Basin remained empty except for hunting and raiding parties who moved through the area. In 1768, a Mister Chandler settled at 1MS91 and other American settlers and traders gradually trickled into the region. After 1780, a small number of Cherokee settled in Marshall County, Alabama, but they occupied locations outside the area flooded by the waters behind the Gunter-ville Dam. The Cherokee remained until removed west after 1836.

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