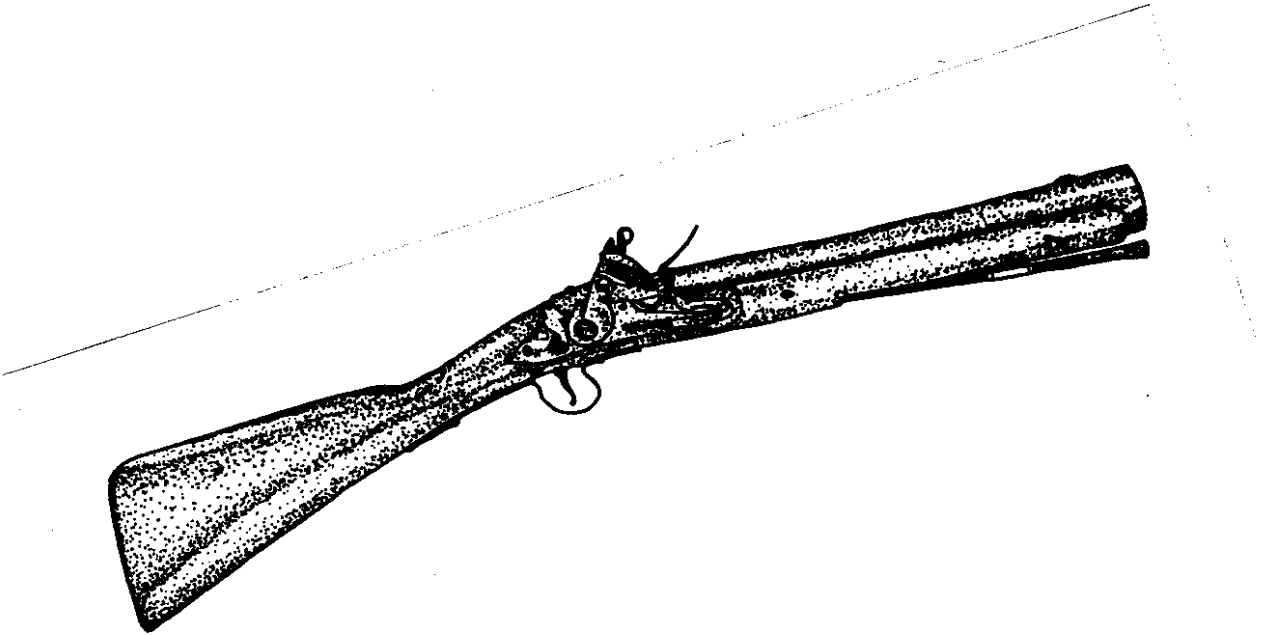


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**AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY YUCHI INDIAN TOWN,  
BRITISH TRADER OUTPOST, AND MILITARY GARRISON  
IN GEORGIA.**



**By Daniel T. Elliott and Rita Folsie Elliott**

LAMAR Institute

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Written by Daniel T. Elliott and Rita Folse Elliott

Illustrated by Rita Folse Elliott

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Richard, Martha, Mark, and Laura Kessler provided food and labor during the field excavation phase. Neil Kessler provided ground support, and taught us how to drive a golf cart. Ebenezer Elliott served as the site dog.

We were assisted in the laboratory phase by Mark Williams. Selected metal artifacts were cleaned and conserved by Southeastern Archaeological Services, Athens, Georgia under the direction of R. Jerald Ledbetter. All glass trade beads were analyzed by Marvin T. Smith. Faunal remains were analyzed by Karen G. Wood and Gwyneth Duncan. Photographs were produced by Marshall Williams, Mark Williams, and Dan Elliott. Artifact illustrations and site maps were prepared by Rita Elliott.

## Chapter I Introduction

It was on a hot July morning in 1736 when the German Baron Frederick Von Reck arrived on foot with his party at the Yuchi Indian village. Although several Indians rushed to greet him in hopes of receiving gifts, many others were busy preparing for the Busk, or Green Corn ceremony. Women and children cleaned out the debris from around their houses, while the men kept busy painting their bodies and decorating their hair. After a formal greeting with their King Senkaiachi, Von Reck found a suitable vantage point and prepared his sketch book and water colors. The tribe began to gather around an open large hut, as excitement hung in the air. Both the men and women smoked their clay tobacco pipes and spoke in a strange tongue. Suddenly, a group of young men began chanting and beating out a steady rhythm. The scene excited Von Reck as he thought how different these people were from those living only a few miles downstream in the town of Ebenezer. Hurriedly he began to sketch the scene on paper, but the movement and activity began to intensify, frustrating his attempts to completely capture all that he was witnessing. Within an hour more than a hundred people gathered on the bluff, creating a mass of frenzied excitement.

The festivities continued late into the night as Von Reck squinted by the firelight to add the finishing touches to his painting. He thought to himself that he would add many details in the comfort of his cabin back at Ebenezer. He lay down his sleeping pad beneath a large oak and lit up his pipe as exhaustion overtook him. On the mat beside him a drunken English deerskin trader snored loudly. All night he dreamed of the exotic scenes that he had witnessed earlier.

This was Mount Pleasant--the Yuchi Town as it might have appeared when the adventurer Baron Von Reck visited the town in 1736. The description of his visit described above is conjecture based on historical and archaeological facts. Von Reck left behind a diary and several fascinating watercolors and drawings of his visit, but most of what he witnessed went unrecorded. Reconstructing these events at Mount Pleasant now falls to the historian and archaeologist.

Two hundred and fifty two years after Von Reck's visit, on a cold March afternoon, the Yuchi drums on the Savannah River are silent. Light sleet begins to fall and the sounds of the hoot owl, echoing across the swamp, mingle with the sound of the archaeologist's spade as it cuts through the earth. Two chilled, but determined researchers labor to unearth and rediscover the lost Indian town of Mount Pleasant that Von Reck had described so vividly. One of them lets out an excited gasp as glass beads, pottery, and deer bones suddenly appear in the shaker screen. Elated, they both smile as they realize that the

important site indeed had been found., and now a new chapter in the Mount Pleasant adventures will be told.

## **The Task**

The goal of this project was simple--to find Mount Pleasant. This location was known from historical documents and maps, but had not been identified on the ground as an archaeological site. Several eighteenth-century maps depict Mount Pleasant, but it is revealed most clearly on William DeBrahm's 1757 map of South Carolina and Georgia. The portion of DeBrahm's map containing Mount Pleasant is illustrated in Figure 1. Mount Pleasant is located on the west bank of the Savannah River approximately forty miles north-northwest of Savannah, Georgia in Effingham County, Georgia.

At the request of the landowner, Richard Kessler, a survey was implemented to find the remains of Mount Pleasant and identify its archaeological potential. To achieve this goal, a three phase research strategy was chosen consisting of: (1) a review of documents and maps having relevance to a relocation of Mount Pleasant; (2) a systematic shovel test survey of areas identified as likely to contain the remains of Mount Pleasant; and (3) excavation of several test units to identify the integrity of the archaeological deposits and assess the potential for further research. Using these methods, the primary goal was achieved.

The historical research included a review of all references to Mount Pleasant in contemporary sources including: the *Colonial Records of Georgia; Detailed Reports on the Salzburger Emigration who Settled in America....Edited by Samuel Urlsperger*; early Georgia newspapers including *Georgia Gazette; Gazette of the State of Georgia; Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger*; and *Columbia Museum and Savannah Advertiser*; colonial land claims; grants issued in St. Matthews Parish; colonial plats in St. Matthews Parish; Effingham County plats; maps on file at the office of the Georgia Surveyor General; *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*; and Kristian Hvidt's *Von Reck's Voyage*. The archives of several repositories were visited, including the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah; Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries; and the Georgia State Archives. The information gathered from these sources was used to compile the history of Mount Pleasant in Chapters II through V.

Fieldwork began on March 1, 1989 with a two-person crew and was completed on March 13th. The project archaeologists, Daniel and Rita Elliott, were assisted in the field by four volunteers--Richard, Martha, Laura, and Mark Kessler. This site was officially recorded in the archaeological site files at the University of Georgia as Site 9Ef169, and



Mount Pleasant was recommended as eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

A total of 158 shovel tests was excavated along a 20 m interval grid placed along the bluff. Artifacts were found in 103 of these shovel tests, or 65 percent. This battery of tests defined the limits of the Indian town, as well as later historic resources. Six square meters were excavated in the vicinity of Shovel Test 103, and this area is probably the location of the Indian trader outpost and ranger garrison.

Rain and sleet plagued the project, but two weeks later our task was accomplished and the lost settlement of Mount Pleasant had been discovered and firmly identified. The results of this archaeological study is presented in Chapter VI. This chapter documents the tangible remains of Mount Pleasant, and it tells the part of the story that history has neglected to record. A simplified chronology of Mount Pleasant is presented in Table 1.

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**TABLE 1. Summary of Events at Mount Pleasant.**

| <b>YEAR</b>  | <b>EVENT</b>  |
|--------------|---|
| 1670 to 1737 | English traders pass through Mount Pleasant leaving no record.  |
| 1707 to 1716 | Appalachicola Indians live near Mount Pleasant.   |
| 1716         | Yamasee War forces Appalachicolans to flee to Spanish Florida.  |
| 1720 to 1740 | Yuchi Indians establish a town at Mount Pleasant.   |
| 1736         | Baron Von Reck visits the Yuchis at Mount Pleasant.   |
| 1738 to 1743 | Several British traders live at Mount Pleasant.   |
| 1739         | General James Edward Oglethorpe visits Mount Pleasant enroute to Coweta.  |
| 1741 to 1757 | Garrison established and Rangers occupy it during wars with Spain and France.   |
| 1758         | Fort abandoned.   |
| 1748 1758    | John Goldwire, Sr. resident of Augusta, moves to Mount Pleasant with his wife Sarah and their four children including: Sarah (born 1741), James (born 1747); John Goldwire, Jr., and one child whose name is unknown. |
| 1758         | John Goldwire receives his first colonial grant for land at Mount Pleasant, although the area is legally owned by the Indians.  |
| 1763         | Treaty with the Creek Indians results in cession; all Indians leave the area.   |
| 1769         | William King marries Sarah Goldwire (daughter of John, Sr).   |
| 1772         | James Goldwire (son of John, Sr.) marries Sarah Stuart, eventually have three children: Sarah (born 1773); James Little (born 1775); and John Goldwire (born 1779).   |
| 1774         | John Goldwire, Sr. dies, and his will (1775) left 1,200 ac in Georgia including the Mount Pleasant lands to his oldest son James. Also leaves property to several other descendants.                                  |
| 1780         | James Goldwire is killed during the American Revolution, at Beech Island near Augusta. The Mount Pleasant land eventually passes to his nephew James King.  |
| 1819         | Will of James King leaves a 1,285 ac plantation to brother William King, Jr.  |
| 1832-1837    | John Goldwire (son of James Goldwire and grandson of John Goldwire, Sr.), his wife Frances Goldwire, and Green Carruthers Goldwire are buried at Mount Pleasant.  |
| 1834         | William King, Jr. dies and by his will (1835) leaves his plantation to wife Margaret M. King and after her death to her son James. Both Margaret King and her son James died by 1839 and neither left a will.         |
| 1844-1896    | Benjamin Joseph Morel family buried at Mount Pleasant.  |
| 1989         | Archaeologists rediscover Mount Pleasant.   |

## Chapter II Indians

The Indian tribes associated with the Mount Pleasant vicinity include the *Appalachicolas* and *Yuchi*. Neither the *Appalachicolas* nor the *Yuchi* of these groups were native to this region, and it is not known what specific Indian tribes lived in the area prior to 1700. The area was probably abandoned sometime after 1400, and it may not have been occupied when Europeans first visited in the 1500s.

### **Appalachicolas**

The *Appalachicola* originally were settled along the *Appalachicola* and *Chattahoochee* Rivers. Spanish explorers may have encountered these Indians during the 1500s, but it was not until 1690 that the Spanish sent two Franciscan missionaries to the *Appalachicolas*. In 1703-4, the social order in the *Appalachee* region was severely disrupted by Col. James Moore's military campaign. Sometime after 1707, the *Appalachicolas* settled in the lower *Savannah River* area where they allied with the *Yamassee*. There were two villages of *Appalachicolas* in 1715 with a total population of 214. These *Appalachicola* were settled on the east side of the *Savannah River* a few miles downstream from *Mount Pleasant*. Some of the *Appalachicola* also may have lived at *Mount Pleasant* on the west side of the river. In 1716, the *Appalachicolas* had abandoned the *Savannah River* valley. Seven years later, the *Appalachicolas*' old town, on the *Savannah River* was converted for use as a ranger garrison by the *South Carolina* government. This fort, known as *Fort Prince George*, was occupied until at least 1742.

### **Yuchis**

The *Yuchis* are the Indian group most frequently associated with *Mount Pleasant*. Their town at *Mount Pleasant* was probably not the largest of the *Yuchi* towns, but it played an important role in the early colonial history of *Georgia*. At its peak, it contained no more than 100 Indians and probably existed for no longer than 25 years. After the town was abandoned, the *Yuchis* and *Creeks* continued to frequent the area until the late 1750s. Who were they *Yuchi*? What is their story?

They were called *Ani-Yusti* by the *Cherokee*, *Tahogalewi* by the *Delaware*, *Tamahitans* by the eastern *Siouans*, *Chisca* by the *Spanish*, and the *Round Town*

*People, Uchee, and Hogelogeas* by the English. Other names that have been linked to the Yuchi such as the *Rickohockans* and *Westo*, but researchers are not in complete agreement that these groups were indeed Yuchi.

The Yuchi were a very mobile tribe with settlements in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida, and consequently tracing their movements is very difficult. Most scholars agree that the Yuchi tribe heralded from the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina. The Yuchean language is unlike any other southeastern Indian tongue, and this distinctiveness indicates a high degree of isolation between the Yuchi and that of their neighbors. *Yuchean* language stock is unique in North America, and as distinct from *Iroquoian, Siouan, or Muscogean*, as are English and Russian. Their homeland in the southern Appalachian mountains provided the isolation necessary for some of the language differences that are apparent. Prior to the arrival of Europeans in North America, the Yuchi existed in near isolation for perhaps five thousand years.

In 1541 Hernando De Soto learned of a people known as *Chisca* who were skilled in metalwork, and he dispatched a contingent to investigate them. This journey was unsuccessful, but later contact is documented between the *Chisca* and the Spanish troops from Santa Elena [near present day Beaufort, South Carolina] commanded by Juan Pardo during the 1560s. These *Chisca* probably were Yuchi.

Two early maps, John Barnwell's map of 1715 and John Herbert's map of 1725, both show the Hogelogeas on the Savannah River north of Fort Moore near present day Augusta. Today, Uchee Creek in Columbia County, Georgia remains as a testament to the fact that the Yuchi and Hogelogeas were one in the same. The Herbert map also shows Hogelogeas living on the Chattahoochee River in the vicinity of present day Uchee Creek in Russell County, Alabama.

A settlement of Yuchi remained near Augusta until the 1750s, when they moved to join with the Creeks. The Yuchi also settled near Silver Bluff below Augusta, which later became the site of George Galphin's trading post. Neither the Barnwell map nor the Herbert map show Indian settlements at Mount Pleasant.

In a 1715 census, two towns of Yuchi were listed having a total population of 400 people. In a 1725 census, their population was listed at 530 souls. By the late 1750s the Yuchis had settled in villages on the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers. By the mid 1770s their population totaled more than 1,500 as estimated by the naturalist William Bartram, who visited their capital town was on the Chattahoochee River. The archaeological site of the town visited by Bartram was located in 1958 by archaeologist David Chase, and excavations were conducted at the site by Smithsonian Institution archaeologist Harold Huscher, Columbus Museum Archaeologist Frank Schnell, and David Chase.

John Swanton, a late authority on southeastern Indians, associated the *Westo* with the Yuchi during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The *Westo* were a fierce

group who captured Indian slaves from the Cherokee and other tribes. Like the Yuchi, the Westo had settlements on the Savannah and Chattahoochee Rivers. The British experienced a great deal of trouble with the Westo on the Savannah River, and they enlisted the aid of the Shawnee in reducing Westo aggressions. By 1680, the Westo population had been reduced until they were no longer a threat to the region. Chapman Milling, author of *Red Carolinians*, disagreed with Swanton as to the cultural affinity of the Westo, and he identified the Westo as distinct from, and enemies of the Yuchi. The identity of the Westo remains unresolved to the present day.

The Yuchis probably settled at Mount Pleasant sometime after 1725, although the precise date is not known. In the summer of 1736 Baron Philip Georg Frederich von Reck, one of the leaders of the Ebenezer settlement, visited the Yuchi village at Mount Pleasant and he recorded his visit in word and picture. His watercolors are the earliest depictions of Georgia's Native Americans and they contain valuable ethnographic information about the Yuchi people. He painted a portrait of their King, or *Mico*, *Senkaietschi*, and his wife. Von Reck also drew the supreme commander of the Yuchi Indian nation whose name was *Kipahalgwa*, although his place of residence was not given.

Von Reck also painted pictures of an Indian encampment and numerous Indians at Mount Pleasant, and was the first European to describe an Indian *Busk*, or green corn ceremony. In his depiction of the Busk, he shows a group of Indians near an open hut with several trade guns suspended from the eaves. Von Reck wrote on July 19th "*I went to Palachocolas and from there to Yuchi Town to ask the Indians to come to Ebenezer to shoot some game for the sick...*" and on July 28th he wrote

I went back to the Yuchi town to attend the busk, or annual Indian festivity. By water Palachocolas is twenty-five miles and Yuchi town thirty miles from Ebenezer, but by land Yuchi Town is twenty miles and Palachocolas is twenty-five...Their towns and dwellings are usually situated on a river...Their trade consists of skins, which they exchange for guns, powder, lead, rum, colors, mirrors, beads, woolen and linen cloth & c.

Mount Pleasant again is mentioned in October, 1740, when two villains from Fort Argyle sought refuge there: "*at a place called Mount Pleasant, or the Uchee Town (from some of those Indians inhabiting thereabout) on the River Savannah, and in the usual Place of crossing it to the Palachocolas: there the Rain had driven them for shelter into a hut.*" These two murderers were captured, put in jail, and later executed.

One writer described Mount Pleasant in 1740

Thirty miles above Ebenezer, on the Carolina side, lies the Palachocolas Fort. Five miles above the Palachocolas, on the Georgia side, lies the Uchee town (or Mount

Pleasant) to which about a hundred Indians belong; but few of them stay now in the town, they choosing rather to live dispersed. All the land from Ebenezer to the river briers belongs to those Indians, who will not part with the same, therefore it cannot be planted. One hundred and 44 miles above Mount Pleasant, on the Carolina side, is Silver Bluff, where there is another settlement of Euchee Indians; on both sides of the river are fields of corn planted by them.

The Yuchi were allied with the Lower Creek tribes, which included not only Creek Indians, but also the Hitchiti and Appalachicolas. This political alliance was not always pleasant. In 1746, according to South Carolina Governor Glen, a group of Creeks attacked the "Euchees" and *"killed six of them and carryed many others into slavery."*

Oglethorpe's 1733 treaty with the Indians for land on the lower Savannah River included no representatives of the Yuchi Nation. By July, 1736, however, Oglethorpe included the Yuchi in talks with the Lower and Upper Creeks. The Yuchi were identified at that time as friends of the Creeks and mutual enemies of the Cherokee.

In July, 1739, Oglethorpe embarked from Savannah on a journey to meet with the Indians at Coweta town on the Chattahoochee River. This trip, first by water and later by land, led him through the settlement of Mount Pleasant. The journal of Georgia Governor William Stephens recorded the trip in his journal

The General left us in the Forenoon, and proceeded up the River in the Cutter with Lieutenant Dunbar, Ensign Leman, and Mr. Eyre (a Cadet) his Attendants, besides Domesticks and menial servants: At the Euchie Town, about twenty-five Miles above Ebenezer, he purposed to quit the water, having appointed some of our principal Indian Traders to wait his coming there, with a Number of Horses, as well as for sumpture as Riding: and also some of our Rangers to assist; intending from thence to travel on to the Creek Nation & c.

The *Detailed Reports* of the Salzburgers at Ebenezer include numerous references to Yuchi and Creek Indians camping near their settlements. On March 28, 1741, Boltzius reported that a Yuchi family had been camping between Ebenezer and the plantations located to the south for one-half year.

Although most Indians had deserted the lower Savannah region by the mid 1740s, their continued presence in the area is recorded until the late 1750s. In September, 1756, eight European families of refugees from the Ogeechee area fled to Mount Pleasant following an Indian attack. As late as May, 1757, a few Indians remained near Mount Pleasant. William Moore, a resident of the Mount Pleasant vicinity, stated that there were "40 [Indian] gun men in his neighborhood near Mount Pleasant who were willing under his

*command*" to aid the Chickasaw.

A letter, dated June, 1751, from Governor Glen of South Carolina reported the movement of the Yuchis away from the Savannah River region: "*The Eucheas whom you also mention, did in like manner till lately live in this Province at Silver Bluff, but being a Tribe belonging to the Lower Creeks, they were called Home, when they broke out war with the Cherokees.*" Governor Glen's letter suggests that the Yuchi were no longer settled along the Savannah River by the 1750s, and had moved westward to join the Lower Creek tribes, most likely on the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers. Their resilience as a people is proven by the survival of the Yuchi people, their language, and their culture into the present day, in Oklahoma.

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## Chapter III Deerskin Traders

Mount Pleasant was an important river crossing along an Indian trading path that linked the Lower Creek tribes with Charleston. While most of the eighteenth century Indian traders worked outward from the Augusta vicinity, Mount Pleasant proved to be an important trading outpost. At least 15 British deerskin traders and their assistants called Mount Pleasant their home.

Trading networks between the British in Carolina and the Creek Nation were established shortly after 1670. Savannah played only a minor role in the flow of the deerskin trade, while Charleston remained the leading exporter. This situation persisted even though Savannah was much closer to Mount Pleasant than was Charleston. The deerskin trade was regulated by the Carolina and Georgia governments, and many Carolina documents relating to the trade still exist. Fewer documents regarding Georgia's regulation of the Indian trade have survived, however.

The Indian trade represented a substantial portion of the British colonial economy in Carolina. A trading factory was established at Appalachicola town in South Carolina approximately five miles downstream from Mount Pleasant following the Yamacree War. Deerskins were the primary export, and several million skins were traded during the eighteenth century. These hides were obtained through exchange of European items that had more flash than substance, such as glass beads, mirrors, glass, ornaments, buckles, and brass bells. More useful items, such as guns, powder, and shot also formed part of the trade, although British trade guns were notorious for their inferior quality. The British, unlike the Spanish, permitted the trade of weaponry. Alcohol was another item that was exchanged, although much of this trade was outside of the law. Rum and strong drink were not permitted in Georgia until the 1750s, but South Carolina was much more permissive in the use of strong alcoholic beverages. Residents along the Savannah River quickly learned that liquor was only a rivers'-width away. More than one Georgia settler drowned while returning home drunk from Carolina during this period.

The Indian trade also was important for colonial Georgia, and ambitious entrepreneurs wasted no time in establishing the deerskin trade. By July, 1735, sixteen Indian traders applied for licenses in Savannah. In June, 1739, Georgia Governor William Stephens recorded, "*Several Indian Traders began now to apply for Licences: some to obtain new, and some to renew their old ones.*" According to John Oldmixon there were 600 whites including traders, packhorsemen, servants, townsmen, and others who were dependant on the Indian trade business in Georgia by 1739. Augusta served as the center of deerskin trade for Georgia and most traders regarded Augusta as their base of operation. As a



deerskin trade factory, Mount Pleasant was second to Augusta in Georgia.

Georgia and South Carolina competed for the Indian deerskin trade, and it was reported that General Oglethorpe, acting as Georgia's Commissary for Indian Affairs, drove away Carolina traders operating within Georgia who were not licensed by him. Discord was recorded by the Salzburger pastors at Ebenezer between Carolina and Georgia Indian traders during early 1741. Some of the traders avoided this problem by obtaining licenses from both Georgia and South Carolina. Although unlicensed colonists were not permitted to trade with the Indians, exchanges of glass beads and wild game were reported at Ebenezer.

While many of the Indian traders remain anonymous in the historical record, several traders who lived at Mount Pleasant were identified by historical research. These British fur traders frequented Mount Pleasant on their journeys to the lower Creek tribes during the very early eighteenth and late-seventeenth century, but the early references to the trade provide no specific details regarding this place. Indian traders were reported near Mount Pleasant as early as 1712. Among the early traders who lived at Mount Pleasant was Thomas Wiggin [also spelled Wiggan]. In 1738 Thomas Wiggin was: "*supplying some Creek Indians [19 people] from Mount Pleasant with Provisions for their Journey to Charleston.*" Wiggin later became commander of the fort at Mount Pleasant (see Chapter IV).

Four other traders with 13 assistants listed Mount Pleasant as their primary residence in a 1743 inventory of Georgia Indian traders. The list included:

| TRADER      | ASSISTANTS | HORSES |
|-------------|------------|--------|
| Mr. Spencer | 3          | 16     |
| Mr. Gilmore | 4          | 20     |
| Mr. Barnett | 3          | 20     |
| Mr. Ladson  | 3          | 20     |

John Spencer, among those listed in the 1743 inventory, swore out an affidavit in 1752 stating that he was an Upper Creek Indian trader in the town of Mucklassies. Spencer also was licensed as a trader with South Carolina authorities. No references to the Indian traders Barnett, Ladson, or Gilmore were found by our research in the South Carolina records, and little else is known about them.

In 1752 Stephen Forest was listed by South Carolina as a trader in the Utchee town of Ausichee, probably located in present-day Russell County, Alabama. By that time, however, the Yuchi no longer lived at Mount Pleasant. As early as 1743, Forest warned

the Carolina government of bad feelings between the Lower Creeks and the Carolina Yuchi. In 1752, Forest had an assistant named Peter Randal. Randal's name appears in the early land grant records claiming the area along the lower Savannah River within five miles of Mount Pleasant. Perhaps Stephen Forest and Peter Randal were among the 16 unnamed assistants to the Indian traders who had been stationed earlier at Mount Pleasant.

Although the Indian trade at Mount Pleasant diminished during the 1760s, the location continued to be an important transit point for goods and services as indicated by a 1764 boat advertisement in the *Georgia Gazette*: "*To be sold by the Subscriber at Mount Pleasant, A New Boat, eight feet wide, and forty feet long, with a small cabin, and every thing necessary for immediate use. Robert Hudson.*" Vessels of this type transported goods both up and down the Savannah River during the eighteenth century. Mount Pleasant served as an important trading point for people headed north or south by both river and overland routes, and overland trade for those headed east or west. By the 1770s, however, Mount Pleasant's importance as a river crossing had been surpassed by more convenient ferrying points located both upstream and downstream.

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## Chapter IV The Fort

In December, 1717, the government of South Carolina reorganized the Company of Southern Rangers and their base of operation was transferred to the Savannah River. These rangers were stationed near Mount Pleasant, which at that time was considered territory belonging to Carolina. The Company of Southern Rangers were disbanded in June, 1718. In 1723, rangers built Fort Prince George near Apalachicola Old Town and this fort was maintained until 1742. Larry Ivers, an authority on eighteenth century military affairs, provides a description of the typical ranger from the early eighteenth century

Compared with smartly dressed British dragoons, the rangers of the southern colonies would have looked more like outlaws than soldiers. Rangers were normally required to outfit themselves with horses, saddles, bridles, weapons, clothing, and food. Their horses were small but rugged, bred in the colonies. The primary weapon was a flintlock carbine or a musket with the barrel sawed off short for easier handling on horseback. Two flintlock pistols were holstered in front of the saddle. Initially, only a sword was required to complement the three slow loading firearms, but by the end of the seventeenth century, rangers had begun to carry hatchets, which served as both weapons and tools on the forest trails. Clothing was usually the same civilian apparel worn by the English workingmen of the period. Rangers usually received good wages, paid in tobacco in Virginia and Maryland, in inflated paper currency in South Carolina, and later in bills of exchange in Georgia.

General Oglethorpe adopted the ranger system then in use by Carolina in the formation of the Georgia rangers. Larry Ivers provides a description of how the Georgia rangers were organized

He [Oglethorpe] stationed small garrisons of rangers in tiny forts "upon the passes of the River[s] and the Roads to the Indian Countrey...Those men having horses patrol about the Countrey, and thereby give alarms of Indian Enemies, intercept Spies & c." By 1739 Oglethorpe was also using rangers as mobile scouting and raiding forces, operating on horseback and in their scout boats. They were organized into troops that varied in strength from about twelve to twenty-five "men acquainted with Woods mounted on horseback[:] they not only carry advices through these vast Forests & swim Rivers, but in Action, by taking an Enemy in Flank or Rear, do great

Service...They also are of great service in watching the Sea Coasts, since they can swiftly move from one Place to another, and engage to advantage Men with wet arms & Accoutrements, before they can be able to form themselves after landing."

After his visit to Mount Pleasant in 1739, General Oglethorpe was impressed with the majestic site of Mount Pleasant and he authorized construction of a military garrison there for defense of Georgia. Oglethorpe's directive stated

Mount Pleasant is situated on the Georgia side of the River, almost opposite to Palachocolas Fort; it was once the Habitation of a Tribe of Eucheas, who deserted it a few years since, chusing to settle farther up; but a few of them frequent it still, with some vagrant Creeks among them, and one Thomas Wiggin, an Indian Trader, keeps stores there; who being of long standing, and one whom the General has confidence in; he ordered him to build a Fort there giving him command of twelve men, as a sufficient Guard against any mischievous attempts from the Indians of any kind; and it is a Pass on the Way betwixt this and Fort Augusta.

In February, 1741 General Oglethorpe authorized a commander and a dozen rangers to be stationed at Mount Pleasant. Commanders of this fort included Thomas Wiggin, John Barnard, and William Moore. The names of the enlisted men stationed there are not recorded. By definition, the rangers were often away from their garrison while covering the range. Their job was to aggressively patrol the frontier and confront hostile Indians or other opponents of the British Empire. Other military garrisons similar in character were established in Georgia, and included: Ebenezer on the Savannah River; Isle of Hope at the Skidaway Narrows, Fort Argyle on the Ogeechee River; and Mount Venture on the Altamaha River. More substantial garrisons were established at Darien, Frederica, and Savannah.

A Lieutenant Willey was listed at Mount Pleasant in February, 1741, but his residence at Mount Pleasant may have been short-lived. On March 30, 1741, Governor Stephens made no reference to Lieutenant Willey when he wrote in his journal about: "*Wiggins with his men at Mount Pleasant.*" In 1756, the Earl of Egmont recorded that Mr. Barnard had been: "*...made by Genl Oglethorpe Commander of Mount Pleasant and the Rangers there, in the place of Capt. Wiggins who died last Winter.*" An earlier reference, however, suggests that Barnard may have been in charge of the post even earlier. On February 24, 1744, Mr. John Barnard listed himself as commander of the Mount Pleasant garrison when he petitioned for a town lot in Savannah.

Many of the Georgia rangers were decommissioned in 1748, but rangers were stationed at Mount Pleasant as late as 1756. Mount Pleasant also served as a place of refuge for

settlers during the French and Indian War. A resident of the Mount Pleasant area, William Moore commanded 40 Indian gunmen during May, 1757. William DeBrahm's 1757 map of South Carolina and Georgia shows "*Mount Pleasant Ft*" in a location that corresponds with the present location of the Mount Pleasant site examined by this study (see Figure 1).

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## Chapter V The Plantations

Mount Pleasant was used by Indian traders, who had no legal claim to their land. Most of these traders followed the Indian migration west to the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers during the 1750s, since their occupation required close contact with the Indians.

The Indian trader and ranger commander Thomas Wiggin must have been pleased with the majestic location of Mount Pleasant. In 1741, he petitioned the Georgia Trustees for 500 acres of land "*on this side the river Savannah near Mount Pleasant,*" but the decision of whether or not to grant his petition apparently was delayed. No later references were found regarding his attempts to claim land at Mount Pleasant. A letter to General Oglethorpe in 1741 stated: "*Mr. Wiggins has brot a stock of cows and Young cattle lately from Carolina to Mount Pleasant.*" This letter revealed the concern held by some of Georgia's settlers for how the lands north of Ebenezer Creek were used. In 1741, Mount Pleasant legally was Indian land, however, and Thomas Wiggin had no rightful claim to it. Thomas Wiggin was dead by 1756, and he apparently never held a legal claim to land in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant.

The Salzburger colony at Ebenezer also desired the Yuchi lands north of Ebenezer Creek and a certain amount of antagonism existed between the Yuchi and the Salzburgers. General Oglethorpe wrote about this conflict in a 1736 letter.

They [Salzburgers] also turned their cattle over the River some of whom strayed away and eat the Uchees corn 20 miles above Ebenezer. But what vext the Uchees more was that some of the Carolina people swam a great Herd of Cattle over Savannah and sent up Negroes and began a Plantation on the Georgia side not far from the Uchees Town. The Uchees....sent up their King and 20 warriors

In 1741, the Trustees asked Colonel Stephens to buy land on the other side of Ebenezer Creek from the Yuchis so that the area could be settled by 50 Salzburgers. The Salzburger's hunger for Yuchi land continued into the 1750s as Reverend Boltzius wrote: "*Above Mount Pleasant is (as we are told) a very fertile and convenient Tract for a whole Body of People.*" Although the Creek and Yuchi Indians officially did not relinquish their claim to the lands, including Mount Pleasant until the treaty of 1763, white settlement north of Ebenezer Creek flourished throughout the 1750s and 1760s. The Bethany Colony was established by the Salzburgers in 1751 at Blue Bluff, several miles south of Mount Pleasant.

Many colonists made land claims in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant, but the one

associated with the Kessler property was John Goldwire. The movement of his family marked the beginning of plantation life at Mount Pleasant. Goldwire was among the original Georgia colonists sent over by the Trustees during the 1730s, but he left Georgia for Carolina soon after his arrival. During the 1740s, Goldwire was living in Augusta, but sometime after 1748 he moved his family to Mount Pleasant. In November, 1758, he was granted 100 acres "*at a Place called Mount Pleasant on the River Savannah where he then lived and had made considerable improvements.*" The grant reserved: "*for his Majesty's use one hundred acres round and adjoining the Place where the Garrison was formerly kept.*" This statement is very important for documenting the age of the archaeological site thought to be the fort, or ranger garrison, at Mount Pleasant. It also tells us that the Goldwires were already living at Mount Pleasant by 1758.

The fort at Mount Pleasant was no longer active in 1758, and the land where it was located could not be used by John Goldwire. Goldwire's petition for land noted that he had received 300 acres previously, and had a wife, four children, and two Negroes. Goldwire's warrant for the 100 acres at Mount Pleasant expired, but was renewed in 1759. Also in 1759, he petitioned for an additional 100 acres, and in his petition he noted that he was "*already granted 400 acres one hundred acres whereof lay near Mount Pleasant*" and he "*wanted 100 acres granted him near Mount Pleasant aforesaid.*" This petition stated that Goldwire had three children, and four negroes indicating a loss of one child and gain of two negroes since 1758. During the 1760s, Goldwire received additional grants for 500 acres in the area. By 1762 he had four children, six slaves, and a large herd of cattle. He reappears in the historical record through several newspaper notices for lost horses placed by "John Goldwire of Mount Pleasant" in the *Georgia Gazette* in 1765, 1767, and 1768.

Goldwire died a wealthy man on August 10, 1774. From his will we learn that he then had 37 slaves and over 3,000 acres of land in Georgia and South Carolina, in addition to money and other possessions. His will made no mention of his wife Sarah, and she is presumed to have died previously. He was survived by sons John, Jr., James, and daughter Sarah. Evidently John and Sarah Goldwire also had two other children who died prior to adulthood.

Goldwire left to his namesake, John Goldwire, Jr., a tract of land containing 300 acres, three Negro slaves named Tom, Caesar, and Prymis, and one half of his stock of cattle which were: "*ranging around Mount Pleasant.*" He left to his daughter Sarah King, if John Goldwire Jr. died without any lawful heirs, the use of the labor of ten slaves, use of a 300 acre tract, one half of his cattle and hogs, three horses, a carriage, and household furniture with the exception of his clock and mahogany tables. He left to his son James, 1,200 acres of land in Georgia and 500 acres in South Carolina, as well as 14 slaves, one half of his hogs and horses, and other possessions. He left to his grandson John King, nine slaves, 750 acres, and two horses. He left to his granddaughter Sarah King, a young

females slave named Bat. He left other gifts of money totalling £120 to Ann Goldwire (widow of his brother Benjamin) and her children Benjamin Goldwire, Mary Morell, Amy McGilvery, Joseph Goldwire, and John Goldwire.

While none of John Goldwire's original colonial plats were located by our research for his Mount Pleasant lands, an Effingham County plat does depict his first two parcels of land. The Mount Pleasant site is located on this plat on a portion of a 1,110 acre tract shown as formerly owned by James Goldwire and resurveyed for William King in 1825 (Figure 2).

James Goldwire was born in Augusta, Georgia in 1747 and moved to Mount Pleasant with his father. He married Sarah Stuart in 1772 and they had three children: Sarah, James Little, and John Wire. Although James Goldwire was identified as owner of the Mount Pleasant lands, his homesite was not located. James was killed at Beech Island, South Carolina in 1780 during the American Revolution. His family continued to live near Mount Pleasant.

Ownership of the area containing the Mount Pleasant site following the death of James Goldwire is not entirely clear, but the property remained in the Goldwire and King families. Before 1819 the plantation had passed to his nephew James King; then after his death to James' brother William King, Jr.; then to William's wife Margaret and their son James. The King family homesite was not located during the survey. The earliest plat of the area was drawn for William King (Figure 2).

Both the Goldwire and King families owned considerable acreage in Effingham County, and both owned many slaves. The 1820 census lists 35 slaves owned by Jonathan Goldwire as the estate of James Goldwire, and 28 slaves owned by William King. By the late eighteenth century, however, the original Mount Pleasant site had been abandoned. The area later was used as a cemetery and for agricultural purposes.

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## Chapter VI. Archaeology

### Research Methods

Shovel tests were placed at 20 m intervals and allowed the archaeologists to define the horizontal limits of the Mount Pleasant site (Figure 3). A total of 158 shovel tests was excavated, and 103 of these contained artifacts. In addition to the Indian town that was defined, five areas of historical interest were identified. These are shown on Figure 3 as Areas A through E. Six square meters were excavated in Area A, and one 50 cm x 50 cm test was dug in Area C.

Shovel Test 103 was placed in a rich eighteenth-century midden on a narrow point of land flanked by a steep slope. The test excavations focused on this area. Six contiguous 1 x 1 m test excavations were placed within this midden area oriented to magnetic north (Figure 4). Each test was excavated in 10 cm vertical levels. All soil from these excavations was screened through 1/4 inch screen, and soil samples were taken from each stratigraphic zone for fine screen analysis. Field records were maintained for each level of excavation. Soil profiles were mapped and photographed for each test unit (Figure 5). Selected levels were plan mapped, and distinct features were identified. All features were mapped, photographed, and excavated separately.

The analytical strategy for the artifacts was based on a modified version of Stanley South's Group-Class-Type taxonomy. Primary references utilized during the analysis were Ivor Noel Hume's *Artifacts of Colonial America*, Lyle Stone's *Fort Michilimackinac 1715-1781*, and Stanley South's *Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology*.

### The Indian Town

The Indian town at Mount Pleasant measured 360 m x 200 m as defined by the presence of historic Indian ceramics in shovel tests (see Figure 3). It is irregular in shape, hugs the bluff line, and centers around two deep gullies; each containing natural springs. The combination of a majestic view, sources of pure drinking water, well drained soils, and ready access to the Savannah River all combined to make this a choice site for human settlement.

A summary of the artifacts found by shovel testing is provided in Table 2. The artifacts most commonly found in the town were Indian pottery, European tobacco pipe fragments

**Table 2. Artifact summary, shovel tests.**

|  | TOTAL |
|--|-------|
| KITCHEN ARTIFACTS                        | 185   |
| CERAMICS-EUROPEAN                        | 27    |
| Coarse earthenware                       | 2     |
| Yellow slipware                          | 4     |
| Combed yellow slipware                   | 1     |
| Plain delftware                          | 8     |
| English blue and white delftware         | 3     |
| Delftware without glaze                  | 2     |
| Refined white salt glazed stoneware      | 2     |
| Gray salt glazed stoneware               | 1     |
| Green/brown lead glazed stoneware        | 1     |
| White molded salt glazed stoneware plate | 1     |
| Green glazed cream bodied ware           | 1     |
| Whieldon ware                            | 1     |
| CERAMICS-YUCHI OR CREEK                  | 147   |
| Plain                                    | 114   |
| Incised                                  | 3     |
| Brushed                                  | 15    |
| Plain rim                                | 9     |
| Notched applique rim                     | 5     |
| Punctated                                | 1     |
| CERAMICS-MISCELLANEOUS                   | 38    |
| Cordmarked                               | 5     |
| Stallings Island fiber tempered          | 4     |
| Residual                                 | 29    |
| OTHER KITCHEN ARTIFACTS                  | 11    |
| Dark green wine bottle glass             | 10    |
| Clear bottle glass                       | 1     |
| ARCHITECTURAL ARTIFACTS                  | 28    |
| Rosehead wrought nails                   | 5     |
| T-head wrought nails                     | 4     |
| Unidentified wrought nails               | 9     |
| Window glass                             | 1     |
| Daub                                     | 8     |
| Iron lock plate                          | 1     |
| ARMS                                     | 3     |
| Gunflint fragment                        | 1     |
| Lead sprue                               | 2     |
| TOBACCO PIPES                            | 39    |
| Pipe bowl                                | 15    |
| Pipe stem                                | 21    |
| Pipe bowl and stem                       | 3     |
| CLOTHING                                 | 3     |
| Glass beads                              | 3     |
| ACTIVITIES                               | 7     |
| Dark green bottle glass tools            | 3     |
| Iron fragments                           | 3     |
| Sheet brass fragment                     | 1     |
| ABORIGINAL LITHICS                       | 96    |
| chert flake tools                        | 1     |
| chert debris                             | 94    |
| quartz debris                            | 1     |

Table 3. Artifact summary, excavation block, Area A.

| Level                               | 1  | 2  | 3   | 4  | 5  | 6+ | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| <b>KITCHEN ARTIFACTS</b>            |    |    |     |    |    |    |       |
| <b>CERAMICS-EUROPEAN</b>            | 33 | 55 | 23  | 3  | 2  | 1  | 117   |
| Brown slipware                      | 8  | 9  | 8   | 0  | 1  | 0  | 26    |
| Yellow brown slipware               | 0  | 1  | 1   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 3     |
| Yellow slipware                     | 0  | 2  | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3     |
| Combed yellow slipware              | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Brown glazed refined redware        | 1  | 2  | 2   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 5     |
| Plain delftware                     | 3  | 8  | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 12    |
| Blue and white delftware            | 6  | 9  | 5   | 2  | 0  | 0  | 22    |
| Polychrome delftware                | 7  | 3  | 1   | 0  | 0  | 1  | 12    |
| Brown glazed cream colored ware     | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Jackfield earthenware               | 2  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3     |
| Astbury/Ralph Shaw ware             | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Astbury ware                        | 0  | 0  | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Refined agateware                   | 1  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2     |
| Burlem brown stoneware              | 0  | 3  | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 4     |
| Scratch blue salt glazed stoneware  | 1  | 4  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 5     |
| Refined white salt glazed stoneware | 4  | 7  | 0   | 0  | 1  | 0  | 12    |
| British brown salt glazed stoneware | 0  | 1  | 2   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3     |
| Gray salt glazed stoneware          | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| <b>CERAMICS-CHINESE</b>             | 4  | 9  | 5   | 1  | 1  | 0  | 20    |
| Plain porcelain                     | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Blue and white underglaze porcelain | 4  | 8  | 4   | 1  | 1  | 0  | 18    |
| Overglaze red decorated porcelain   | 0  | 0  | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| <b>CERAMICS-YUCHI OR CREEK</b>      | 17 | 90 | 178 | 45 | 20 | 16 | 366   |
| Plain                               | 13 | 69 | 121 | 33 | 20 | 9  | 265   |
| Plain, shell tempered               | 0  | 10 | 35  | 7  | 0  | 4  | 56    |
| Folded pinched rim                  | 0  | 3  | 1   | 2  | 0  | 1  | 7     |
| Folded pinched rim, shell tempered  | 0  | 1  | 1   | 1  | 0  | 1  | 4     |
| Incised                             | 0  | 2  | 0   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 3     |
| Incised with notched applique strip | 0  | 1  | 2   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3     |
| Brushed                             | 4  | 4  | 13  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 22    |
| Brushed, shell tempered             | 0  | 0  | 2   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2     |
| Punctate                            | 0  | 0  | 2   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 3     |
| Punctate, shell tempered            | 0  | 0  | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| <b>CERAMICS-MISCELLANEOUS</b>       |    |    |     |    |    |    |       |
| Check stamped                       | 0  | 1  | 1   | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3     |
| Cord marked                         | 0  | 2  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2     |
| Rectilinear complicated stamped     | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Residual aboriginal                 | 0  | 1  | 2   | 2  | 1  | 0  | 6     |
| <b>OTHER KITCHEN ARTIFACTS</b>      | 16 | 22 | 13  | 6  | 2  | 0  | 59    |
| Dark green wine bottle              | 6  | 14 | 10  | 2  | 1  | 0  | 33    |
| Light green medicinal bottle        | 0  | 3  | 2   | 3  | 0  | 0  | 8     |
| Wine goblet                         | 1  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 1  | 0  | 3     |
| Lead glass pitcher handle           | 1  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Clear bottle                        | 0  | 0  | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Clear lead glass                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Engraved bone knife handle          | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Iron knife                          | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Pewter spoon fragments              | 8  | 2  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 10    |

Table 3. Artifact summary, excavation block, Area A.

|                                  | 83 | 94 | 35 | 6  | 3 | 0  | 221   |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|-------|
| ARCHITECTURAL ARTIFACTS          | 83 | 94 | 35 | 6  | 3 | 0  | 221   |
| Rosehead wrought nail            | 30 | 15 | 9  | 2  | 1 | 0  | 57    |
| T-head wrought nail              | 11 | 19 | 3  | 1  | 0 | 0  | 34    |
| Level                            | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5 | 6+ | TOTAL |
| ARCHITECTURAL ARTIFACTS          |    |    |    |    |   |    |       |
| L-head wrought nail              | 7  | 4  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 11    |
| Unidentified wrought nail        | 34 | 54 | 22 | 1  | 2 | 0  | 113   |
| wrought iron spike               | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0 | 0  | 2     |
| Brass tack                       | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0 | 0  | 2     |
| Lock fragment, iron              | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| Iron hinge                       | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| CLOTHING                         | 7  | 22 | 6  | 2  | 0 | 0  | 37    |
| Pewter button                    | 1  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 3     |
| Brass button                     | 0  | 5  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 5     |
| Pewter eyelet                    | 0  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 2     |
| Glass bead                       | 2  | 9  | 4  | 2  | 0 | 0  | 17    |
| Brass tinkler cone               | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| Buckle, iron                     | 1  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 3     |
| Brass thimble                    | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| Bone awl                         | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 2     |
| Iron scissors                    | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| Brass straight pin               | 0  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 2     |
| TOBACCO PIPES                    | 30 | 60 | 64 | 10 | 5 | 2  | 171   |
| Kaolin pipe stem                 | 19 | 30 | 31 | 5  | 2 | 0  | 87    |
| Kaolin pipe bowl                 | 10 | 26 | 30 | 5  | 3 | 2  | 76    |
| Kaolin stem and bowl             | 1  | 4  | 3  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 8     |
| PERSONAL ITEMS                   | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 2     |
| Iron clasp knife                 | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| Glass mirror                     | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| ARMS                             | 19 | 19 | 8  | 2  | 0 | 0  | 48    |
| Spall gunflint                   | 8  | 8  | 2  | 1  | 0 | 0  | 19    |
| Blade gunflint                   | 2  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 3     |
| Local chert gunflint             | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| Gunflint fragment                | 1  | 1  | 2  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 4     |
| Blunderbuss barrel, iron         | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| Brass trade gun dragon sideplate | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| Brass triggerguard               | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| Lead musket shot                 | 0  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 0 | 0  | 3     |
| Small shot                       | 4  | 4  | 2  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 10    |
| Lead sprue                       | 1  | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 5     |
| ACTIVITIES                       | 8  | 9  | 11 | 5  | 1 | 3  | 37    |
| Flat iron fragments              | 2  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 4     |
| Unidentified iron object         | 1  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 4     |
| Brass fragment                   | 2  | 4  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 6     |
| Pewter fragment                  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 2     |

Table 3. Artifact summary, excavation block, Area A.

|                             |              |           |           |           |           |           |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Hickory nutshell            | 0            | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 3         | 4            |
| Peach pits                  | 0            | 0         | 10        | 3         | 0         | 0         | 13           |
| Polished antler fragments   | 2            | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 4            |
| <b>ABORIGINAL LITHICS</b>   | <b>6</b>     | <b>30</b> | <b>71</b> | <b>60</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>193</b>   |
| Pebble hammerstone          | 1            | 3         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 5            |
| Sandstone abrador           | 0            | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1            |
| Chert biface tip            | 1            | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 2            |
|                             | <b>Level</b> |           |           |           |           | <b>6+</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
| <b>ABORIGINAL LITHICS</b>   |              |           |           |           |           |           |              |
| Utilized chert flake        | 0            | 0         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 2            |
| Dark green glass flake tool | 0            | 1         | 2         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 5            |
| Chert debris                | 4            | 21        | 62        | 53        | 22        | 3         | 165          |
| Quartz debris               | 0            | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1            |
| Slate debris                | 0            | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1            |
| Dark green glass debris     | 0            | 2         | 4         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 8            |
| Firecracked rock            | 0            | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 1            |
| Fossilized fish bone        | 0            | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1            |
| Petrified wood debris       | 0            | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1            |

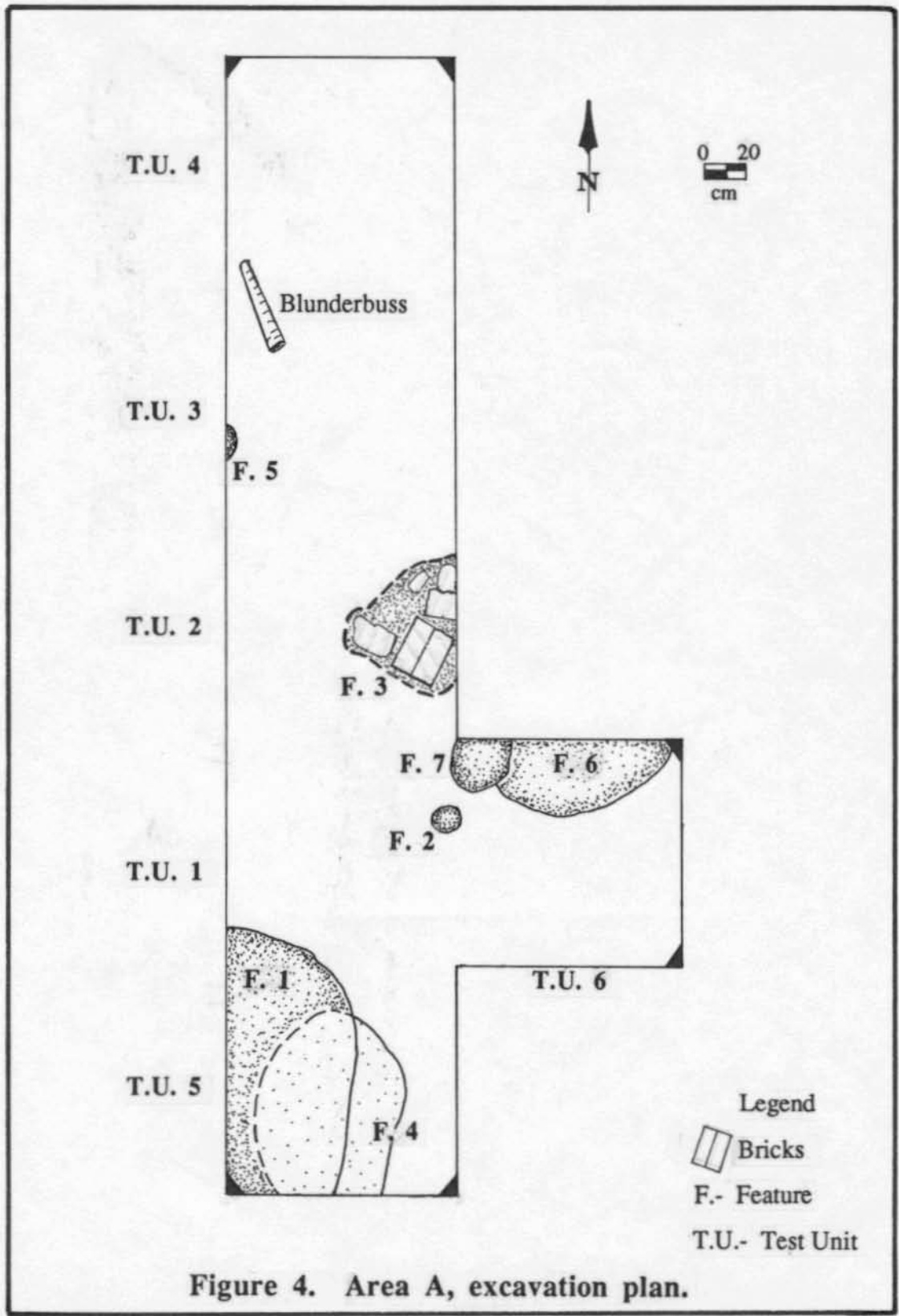
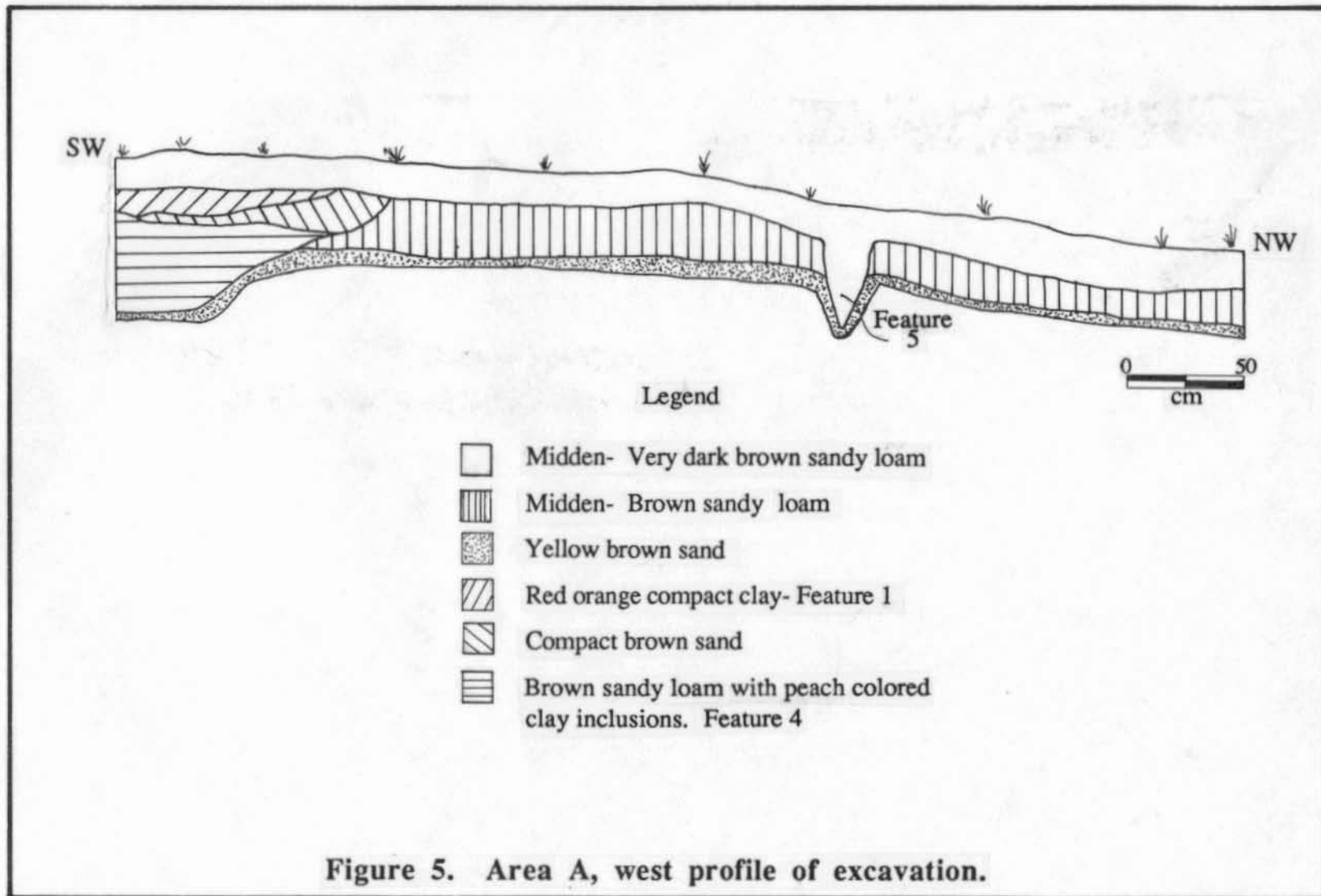


Figure 4. Area A, excavation plan.



and dark green wine bottle glass. Many of these artifacts provide clues as to when this area was occupied.

Clay tobacco pipes are an example of one type of diagnostic artifact. A method, developed by archaeologist J. C. Harrington, later modified by Lewis Binford and Kathleen Deagan, for dating clay pipestems is useful for dating sites from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A sample of 22 tobacco pipe stems collected from the shovel tests yielded a pipestem date of 1723. Although this sample is small, it suggests that the age of the village post-dates the Yamassee War (1715-1719). By the end of the war, the Appalachicolos had left the region. The Yuchi were documented as living on this site in 1736, but they may have moved into the area shortly after the Yamassee War. Most of the village debris is associated with the Yuchi occupation.

### **Area A. The Excavation Block**

The 6m<sup>2</sup> excavation sample from Area A at Mount Pleasant produced 1,276 historic and prehistoric artifacts. Seven features including one brick foundation, three pits, and three postmolds were identified. An artifact summary is provided in Table 3. Examples of some of the items that were unearthed are illustrated here.

Pottery manufactured in Europe is useful for dating archaeological sites because many production dates for European wares are known. Archaeologist Stanley South developed a method for calculating a date for an assemblage of ceramics for eighteenth century British colonial sites. This method is known as the *mean ceramic date*, or an estimate of the average date of the entire pottery assemblage. A sample of 73 dateable sherds from the excavations at Mount Pleasant yielded a mean ceramic date of 1750. A sample of 56 sherds from the upper soil zone yielded a mean ceramic date of 1751, while a sample of 14 sherds from lower zone yielded a mean ceramic date of 1745.

A sample of 94 tobacco pipestems from the excavations at Mount Pleasant, Area A yielded a tobacco pipestem date of 1737. A sample of 53 pipestems from the upper soil zone yielded a pipestem date of 1738, while a sample of 41 pipestems from the lower zone yielded a pipestem date of 1735.

Another artifact that is a sensitive time indicator is the glass trade bead. These beads were produced in Europe, and the date ranges of many have been identified by historical documentation and associated artifacts. Fifteen glass beads from the excavations were used to calculate a mean bead date in a method similar to the one used for dating ceramics. This technique resulted in a date of 1738 for the excavation block. A sample of eight beads from the upper soil zone yielded a bead date of 1736, while a sample of four beads from the lower zone yielded a date of 1725.



The close match between the tobacco pipe (1737) and glass bead (1738) dates is in contrast to the ceramic date (1750). This probably due to European ceramics being used almost exclusively by English occupants, while the beads and tobacco pipes could be associated with either English or Indian residents. This would account for the age differences between these various artifacts.

The artifact assemblage has a *terminus post quem*, or a date after which the site had to be occupied, of 1744 for the upper soil zone based on the presence of scratch blue salt glazed stoneware, and 1725 for the lower soil zone based on the presence of Astbury ware. Scratch blue salt glazed stoneware was produced from 1744 to 1775 and Astbury ware was produced from 1725 to 1750.

The artifact dates span a time range from 1735 to 1751 which closely corresponds to the historically documented period (1735 to 1757) when the site was settled by Yuchis, Traders, and Rangers. The artifacts that were discarded in this area probably represent the debris of all of three groups.

The upper, or more recent, zone contained a greater diversity of European artifacts than did the lower zone. The upper zone had nails, knives, goblets, gunflints, lead shot, gun parts, glass beads, wine bottles, metal buttons, pewter spoons, European pottery, and Chinese porcelain. The upper zone contained a higher percentage of domesticated animal bones compared to wild animal species. There also was a large amount of Indian pottery in the upper zone. Most of the artifacts in the upper zone probably are associated with the ranger garrison, although it also may contain debris left by the Indian traders and Indians. The commander of the fort, Thomas Wiggins, was himself an Indian trader, and it is likely that others among the rangers also were traders. Since the English were on friendly terms with the Yuchi, it is not unlikely that Indians provided the British with wild foods and meals prepared in Indian vessels.

The lower zone contained more tobacco pipe fragments, Indian pottery, and glass tools than the upper zone. There was more reliance on wild animals than domestic species in the lower levels. Peach pits and hickory nuts also were found only in the lower levels. Most of the artifacts in the lower zone probably are associated with the Indian and Indian trader occupation on the site. The association of Indian pottery, tobacco pipes, and wine bottle glass observed in the test excavation conforms to that observed in the shovel tests across the Indian village.

## **Area B**

This area is located beyond the limits of the Indian town (see Figure 3). The area was identified only by shovel tests, but several artifacts were found that lead us to believe that

this area contained John Goldwire's earliest Mount Pleasant house site, or that of one of his slaves. This area contained no historic Indian pottery, and it was isolated from the Indian village and fort. The ceramics from this area suggest an occupation sometime between 1759 and 1775. Whieldon ware was produced from 1740 until 1770, while green glazed cream-bodied ware was produced from 1759 until 1775. Both ceramic types were found in Area B. This area had a terminus post quem of 1759--one year after Goldwire received a grant for property north of this area. The presence of nails, daub or brick, and eighteenth-century window glass indicate that a structure had been present. A large rectangular cellar depression also was located in this area.

### **Areas C and D**

These two areas are located within the Indian town (see Figure 3) and both contained European and Indian artifacts. Both areas has a terminus post quem of 1720 based on the presence of refined white salt glazed stoneware which was produced from 1720 until 1805. Our tentative conclusion is that they both contained residences of the British Indian traders.

### **Area E**

A cemetery containing two family groups- the Goldwires and the Morels was located on the bluff near the southeastern end of the Indian town (see Figure 2). This graveyard contains ten marked nineteenth-century graves and at least four unmarked graves. Figure 5 shows the arrangement of graves within the cemetery and the numbered graves on this figure are keyed to the following grave information listed in Table 4.

The death dates for the Goldwire graves range from the 1832 to 1837, whereas those of the Morels range from 1864 to 1896. All of the marked graves date to the nineteenth century, but based on the lack of artifacts dating to that time period found during the survey, it is unlikely that anyone resided near the bluff during the nineteenth century. Several unmarked grave depressions were noted and these may contain earlier burials. No early to mid eighteenth-century tombstones are known to exist in Effingham County, and it was not until the very late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries that stones were used to marked graves in that region.

The John Goldwire buried in this graveyard was John Wire Goldwire who was the son of James and grandson of John Goldwire, Sr. At the time of John Wire Goldwire's death, the property was owned by William King, Jr. This burial spot probably had a history of

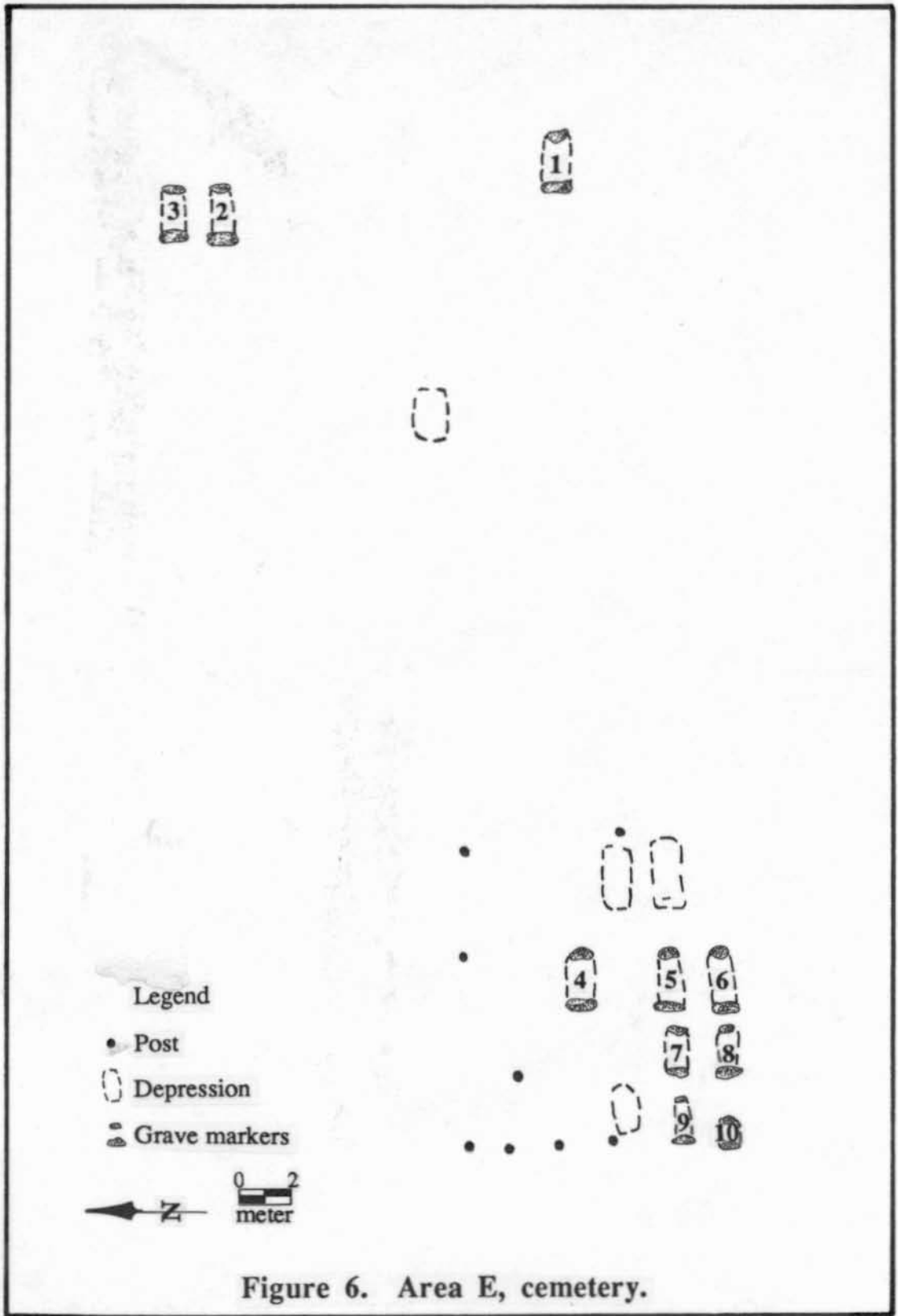


Figure 6. Area E, cemetery.

**Table 4. Area E, cemetery information.**

1. Rectangular marble headstone with inscription: *Sacred to the memory of Green Carruthers Goldwire who died May 16th 1837, aged 3 years*; plain marble footstone.
2. Rectangular marble headstone with inscription: *Sacred to the memory of John Goldwire who died June 14th 1832, aged 52 years*; plain marble footstone.
3. Rectangular marble headstone with inscription: *Sacred to the memory of Frances C. Goldwire who died March 12th 1834 aged 46 years and 5 months*; marble footstone with inscription: *F.C.G.*
4. Rectangular marble headstone with convex top and inscription: *Sacred to the memory of James Irvin Morel Born Feb. 6th 1844 Died March 31st 1864 Here Lies a Christian*; plain marble footstone.
5. Rectangular marble headstone with convex top and inscription: *Sacred to the memory of Alberti Cobb Morel Born Oct 18th 1851 Died June 26th 1874 Gone Home*; plain marble footstone.
6. Rectangular marble headstone with convex top and inscription: *Sacred to the memory of Sarah Gertrude Morel Born Aug. 20th 1850 Died July 15th 1874 Asleep in Jesus*; plain marble footstone.
7. Rectangular marble headstone with inscription: *Sacred to the memory of our precious mother Susan S. Morel Born May 3, 1823 Died Nov. 10, 1893 She walked with God and is not here for God took her*; above this inscription is a circle containing a sheaf of wheat; plain marble footstone.
8. Rectangular marble headstone with convex top and inscription: *Sacred to the memory of My dear Husband Benjamin Joseph Morel Born April 12, 1812 and fell asleep July 10, 1887*; this headstone also contains a hand with one finger pointing upward inside a geometric field; plain marble footstone.
9. Rounded marble headstone with inscription: *In memory of My Dear Husband Winfield S. Morel Born March 10, 1848 departed this life Aug. 7, 1896 Asleep in Jesus blessed Sleep from which none ever wake to weep*; marble footstone with inscription: *W.S.M.*
10. Rectangular marble headstone with convex top and inscription: *Susan A. Daughter of W. S. & F. A. Morel Born Feb. 15, 1883 Died June 20, 1883 Safe in the arms of Jesus*; marble footstone with inscription: *S.A.M.*

use as a family, or community, burying ground. Use of this area for a cemetery may have begun as early in the early eighteenth century, but the graves from the early period were not marked with tombstones. It is reasonable to surmise that fur traders, rangers, and John Goldwire, Sr. (who died in 1774) are be among those buried in this graveyard.

## **The Artifacts**

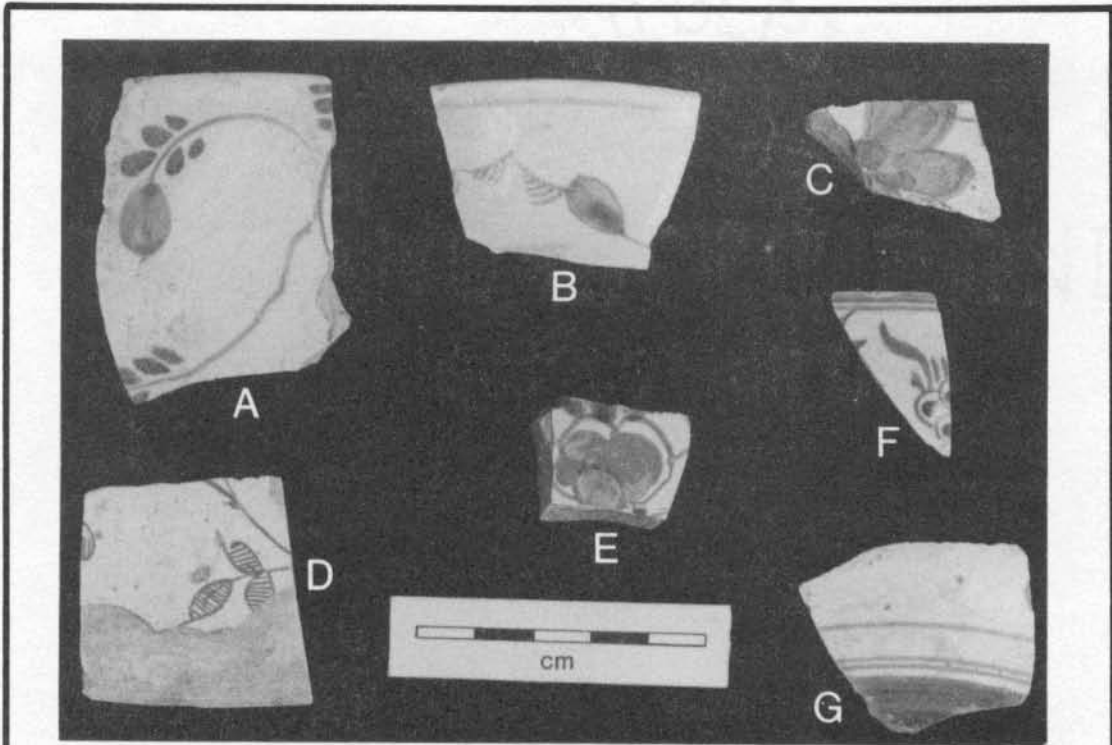
Kitchen related artifacts, or those artifacts used for the preparation and serving of food or beverage, were the most common type of artifacts found. This category includes fragments of Indian, European, and Chinese pottery, glass bottles, goblet, pitcher, spoons, and knives. Examples of kitchen related artifacts found in Area A are shown in Figures 7 through 12.

Twenty-four distinct vessels of European manufacture and nine imported Chinese vessels were identified in Area A. Imported pottery included 16 cups, seven bowls, one small plate, one teapot, one jug, and seven unidentified vessels. A minimum vessel estimate of imported pottery found in Area A is presented in Table 5.

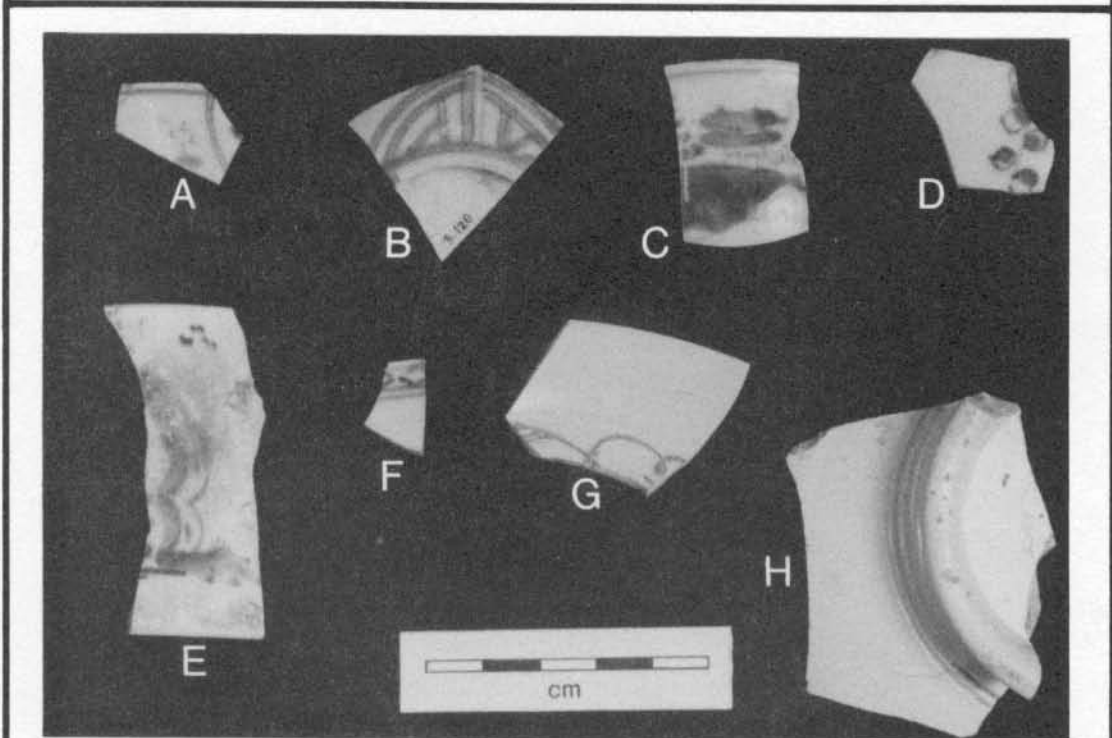
Porcelain was an expensive pottery ware during the early eighteenth century, and one might not expect it to be found on the rugged frontier. Archaeologist Stanley South has observed that porcelain is often found on frontier military sites, and he suggests that the use of porcelain as part of the tea ceremony helped to maintain social stratification within these settlements. By serving tea in fine china, the British colonists set themselves apart from the lower classes.

Fragments of one small plate were found during the excavations. Most food during the early eighteenth century was consumed in bowls. Plates were not common until after the mid eighteenth century and, even then, plates remained uncommon on sites occupied by lower class colonists. Pewter plates and wooden trenchers also were used for food service, but both are rarely found on archaeological sites. Pewter was recycled because of its value, and wooden trenchers are rarely preserved in a site because the wood decayed.

Indian pots were of two forms--jars and bowls. Jars probably were used more for storing foods, while bowls were used mostly as cooking and serving containers. The majority of the pottery sherds found at Mount Pleasant were not decorated. Some vessels were decorated by brushing or scraping, incising, punctation, or by the addition of a notched/pinched applique strips placed around the rims of jars and on the shoulders of bowls. These types of decorations appear on pottery that has been found on other eighteenth-century Yuchi and Creek sites along the Chattahoochee and Ocmulgee rivers.



**Figure 7. English delftware.**



**Figure 8. Chinese porcelain, scratch blue stoneware, and refined white salt glazed stoneware.**

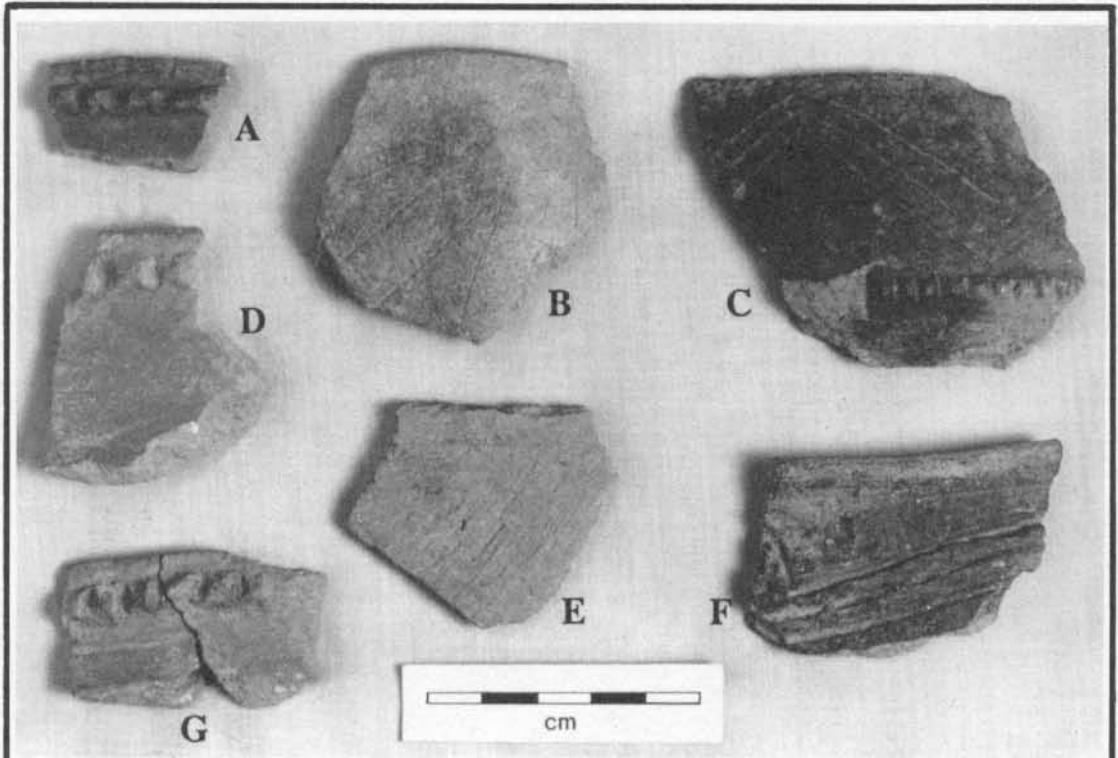


Figure 9. Indian pottery.

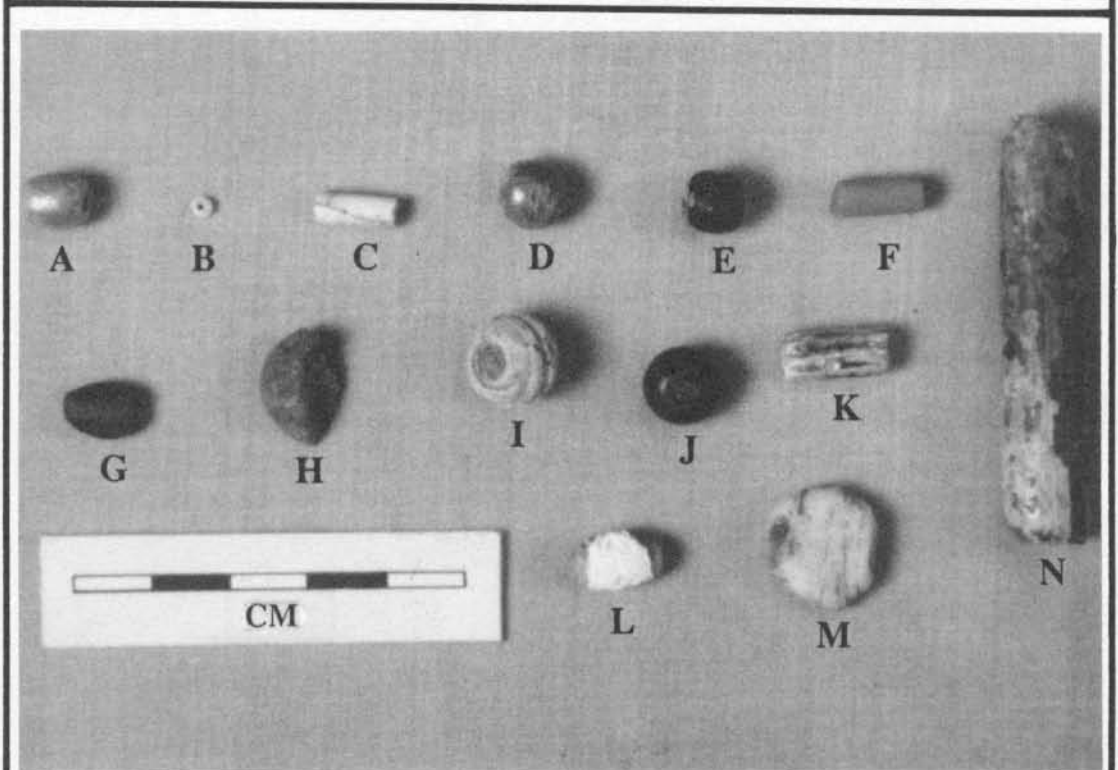


Figure 10. Glass trade beads.

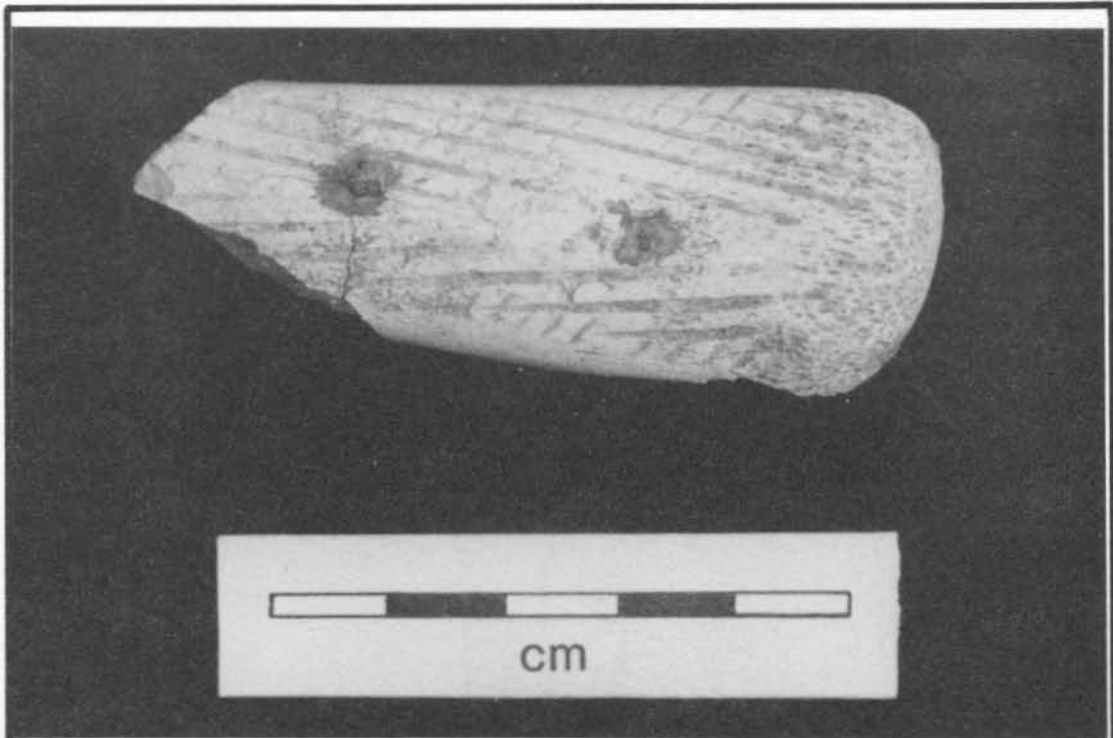


Figure 11. Decorated bone knife handle.

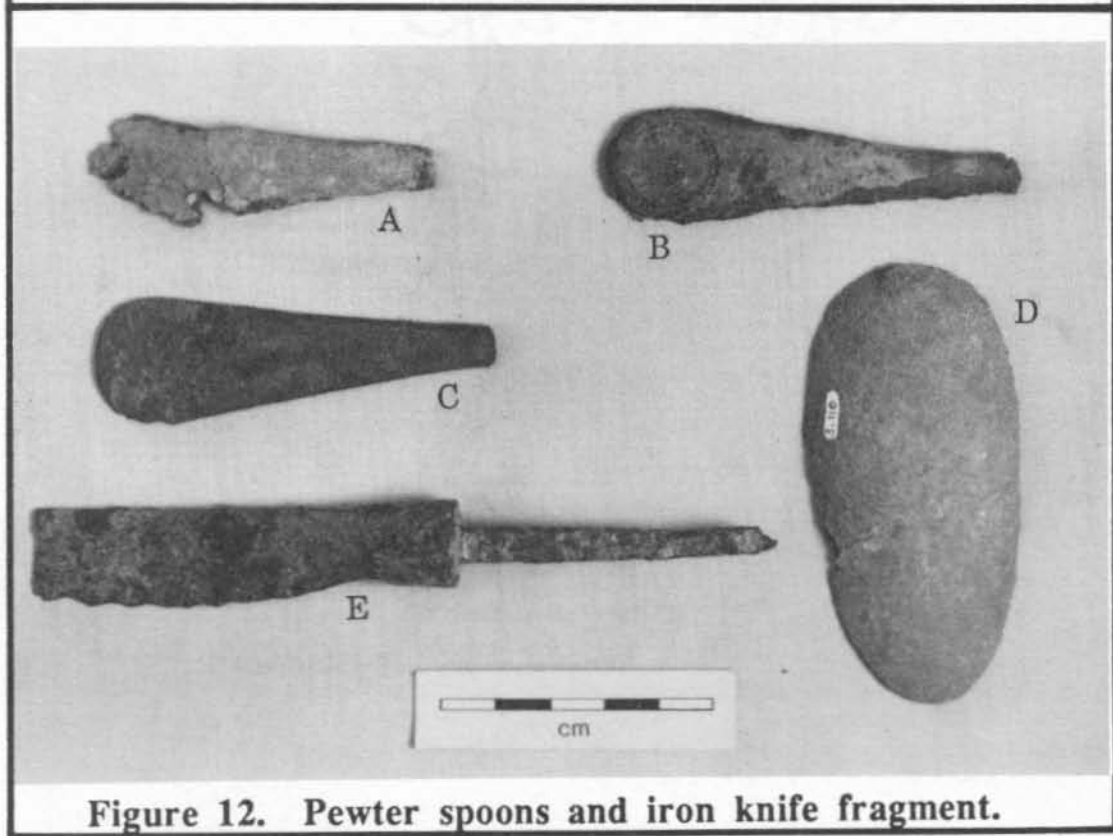


Figure 12. Pewter spoons and iron knife fragment.



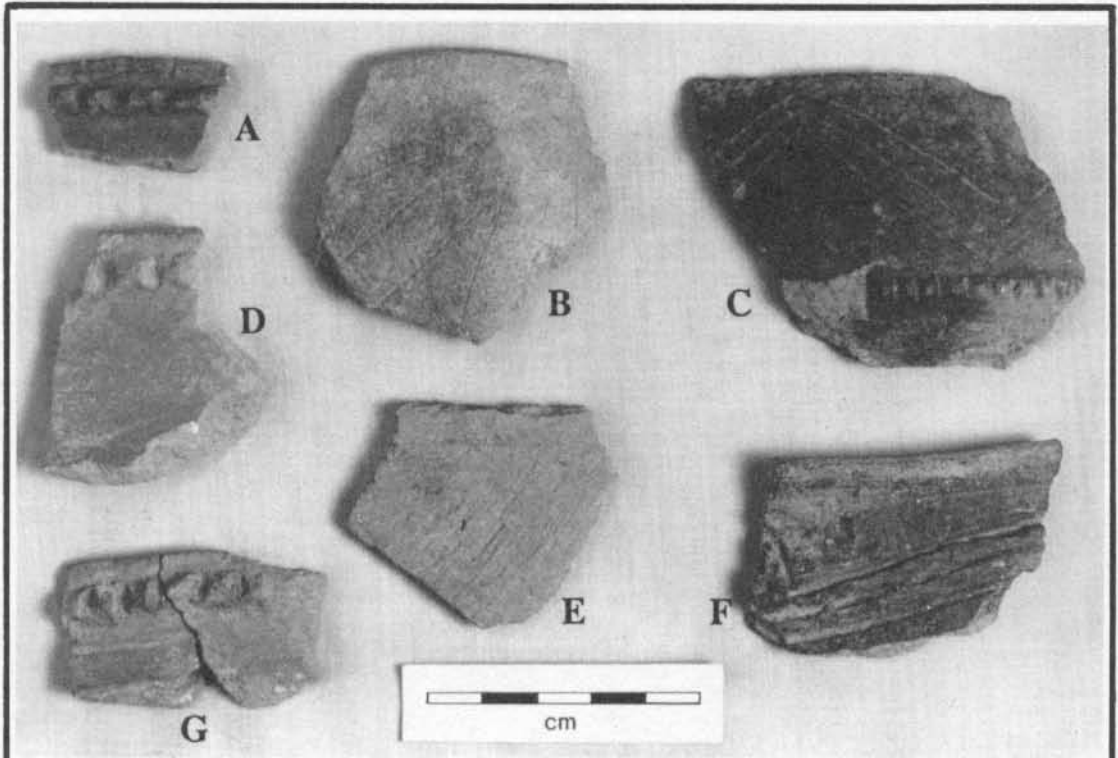


Figure 9. Indian pottery.

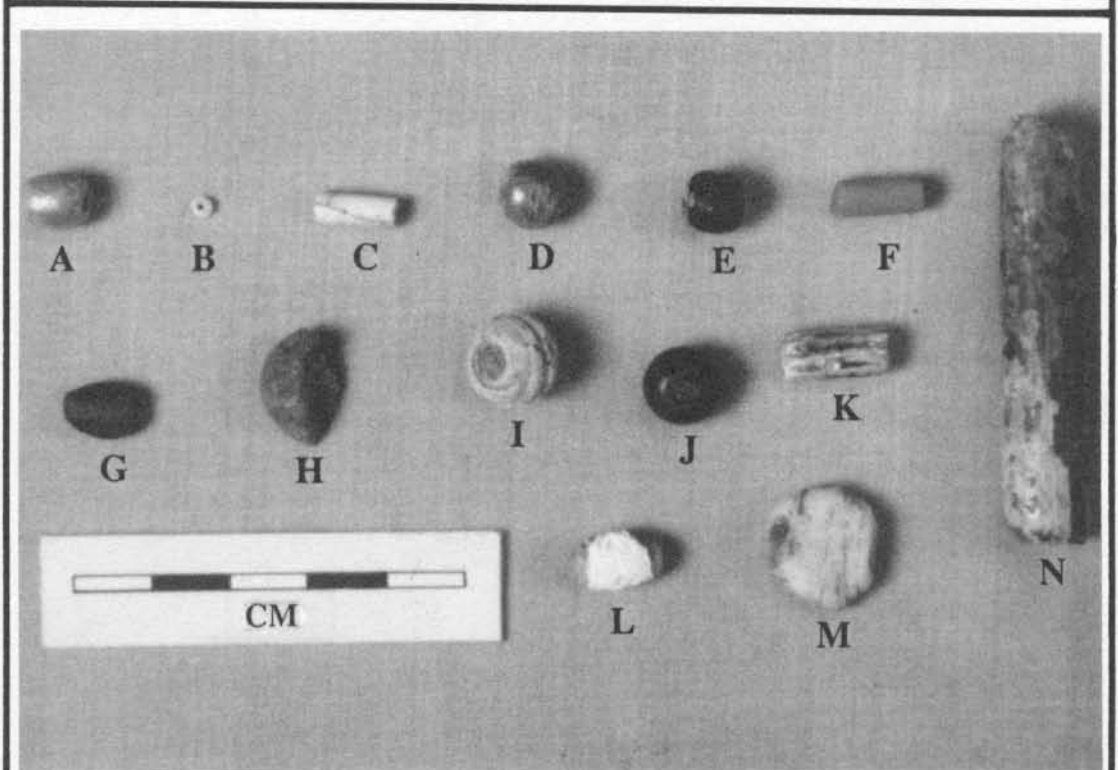


Figure 10. Glass trade beads.

**Table 5. Minimum estimate of imported pottery from Area A.**

**CUPS**

*English manufacture*

- 1 scratch blue stoneware
- 1 Burslem stoneware
- 3 refined white salt glazed stoneware
- 1 Jackfield ware
- 2 polychrome delftware

*Chinese manufacture*

- 7 blue decorated porcelain
- 1 overglaze polychrome porcelain

**BOWLS**

*English manufacture*

- 1 yellow slipware
- 1 scratch blue stoneware
- 3 blue and white delftware
- 1 polychrome delftware

*Unknown manufacture*

- 1 glazed redware

**PLATES**

*Chinese manufacture*

- 1 blue decorated porcelain

**TEAPOT**

*English manufacture*

- 1 Astbury ware

**JUG**

*English manufacture*

- 1 British brown stoneware

**UNIDENTIFIED VESSELS**

*English manufacture*

- 2 yellow slipware
- 1 brown glazed cream colored ware
- 1 refined agateware
- 1 plain delftware

*Unknown manufacture*

- 1 gray salt glazed stoneware
- 1 glazed redware

Indian pottery types from Area A were compared with those found in the rest of the Indian town at Mount Pleasant, as shown in the following table.

**Table 6. Comparison of Indian pottery frequencies.**

| <u>Pottery Type</u> | TOWN         |      | AREA A       |      |
|---------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
|                     | <u>Count</u> | %    | <u>Count</u> | %    |
| Plain               | 123          | 83.7 | 321          | 87.7 |
| Incised             | 3            | 2.0  | 6            | 1.6  |
| Brushed             | 15           | 10.2 | 24           | 6.6  |
| Applique strip      | 5            | 3.4  | 11           | 3.0  |
| <u>Punctated</u>    | <u>1</u>     | 0.6  | <u>4</u>     | 1.1  |
| TOTAL               | 147          |      | 366          |      |

Area A contained 20 distinct Indian pottery vessels including nine jars, nine bowls, and two similar vessels whose form is unknown. Thirteen of these vessels were sand tempered, while seven were shell tempered. Most of the sherds were too small to determine the vessel size, but measuring the rim diameter enabled archaeologists to make estimates for the overall size of three pots. One jar measured 30 cm in diameter, while two bowls measured 28 cm in diameter.

Brushing, while evidenced on 24 sherds, was not found on any rim sherds. Brushing was found on both sand and shell tempered sherds, although it was more common on sand tempered sherds. Incising was observed in nearly equal amounts on both jars and bowls, and it was used on both sand and shell tempered vessels. Incising was used in combination with notched applique strips. Applique strips on jars were placed below the rim, while on bowls these strips were located on the shoulder, or "carination" of the bowl. Applique strips were applied to both sand and shell tempered vessels. Round cane punctations also were used to decorate bowls.

Undecorated sherds were the most common type found in Area A. Sand tempered plain sherds outnumbered shell tempered sherds 265 to 56, or a ratio of almost 5:1. Shell tempering was in the minority on decorated sherds as well. A minimum vessel estimate of the Indian pots found in Area A is presented in Table 7.

Indian pottery vessel rims found elsewhere in the town include plain, incised, and notched applique jars, and plain and incised bowls. Both shell and sand tempered vessels were found elsewhere in the town, although sand tempering was more common.

**Table 7. Minimum estimate of Indian pottery from Area A.**

**JARS**

*Sand tempered*

- 1 with a plain flaring rim
- 1 with a notched applique flaring rim
- 1 with a notched applique rim and incised body
- 1 with a notched applique flaring rim
- 1 vessel with a notched applique straight rim

*Shell tempered*

- 1 with a plain flaring rim
- 1 with a notched applique flaring rim and incised body
- 1 with with a folded, excurve rim and incised exterior
- 1 vessel with a notched applique straight rim

**BOWLS**

*Sand tempered*

- 1 with a plain folded rim
- 1 with a cane punctated rim
- 1 with an incurvate rim and incised interior
- 1 with a notched applique strip on shoulder and incised body
- 1 with a notched applique strip on shoulder and incised body
- 1 with a plain incurvate flattened rim
- 1 with a plain incurvate rim

*Shell tempered*

- 1 with a plain, incurvate rim
- 1 with an incurvate rim and incised exterior

**UNKNOWN VESSEL FORM**

*Sand tempered*

- 1 brushed vessel

*Shell tempered*

- 1 brushed vessel

Other kitchen related items found at Area A include fragments of wine glass bottles, medicinal bottles, drinking goblet fragments, a glass pitcher, knives, and pewter spoons. Unlike most of the other kitchen artifacts, the wine bottle glass offers an interesting example of adaptation and tool modification.

The wine glass bottles were extremely fragmented and the larger pieces of dark green glass had been modified, probably by Indians, as cutting and scraping tools. Tools made from wine bottle glass also are found on historic Creek sites on the Chattahoochee River, but these tool types have not been studied in detail. Glass is chemically identical to and has similar properties to flint or chert. Since chert is not abundant in Effingham County, the Yuchi probably used every large fragment of wine bottle that they could acquire for purposes of tool manufacture. These glass tools probably were used for working wood or bone, and for scraping animal hides. Two modified wine bottle bases were found at a spring near Area A where they probably were used as drinking cups. These cups were left at the spring for communal use.

Other kitchen artifact types are useful for dating purposes. Drinking goblet styles changed throughout the eighteenth-century, and certain styles are useful for dating sites. The fragment found at Mount Pleasant is a style that was produced from about 1720 until the mid eighteenth century, further confirming the age of the Mount Pleasant site.

At least three distinct spoon handles were identified. One of these bore a partial maker's mark J G GOTT. A thorough search of published lists of European and American pewterers revealed no matches for the name Gott. One pewter spoon was decorated with a scalloped design on the top, and it had a circular maker's mark on the underside. A third spoon handle had a molded teardrop design on the top, and it had no maker's mark. A spoon bowl was found, but it had no decoration.

Several other small, unidentified, pewter fragments also were recovered from the site. Non-pewter metals included an iron knife blade that probably had been fitted in a socketed wood or antler handle. This knife blade had a width of 18 mm.

### **Architectural Artifacts**

Architectural, or building artifacts were found only in specific areas of Mount Pleasant notably Areas A, B, C, and D. Architectural artifacts were not generally distributed across the Yuchi town. Area A, the ranger garrison contained a variety of building materials including rosehead nails, T- head nails, rosehead spikes, an iron hook, a pin hinge, bricks, and a spring from a stock lock. The stock lock spring is similar to identified eighteenth-century locks. The total absence at Mount Pleasant of machine cut square nails which were invented in 1790 indicates that all structures on the site were built before 1800. Despite the

abundance of artifacts found at Area A, no window glass was recovered in that area. Had the buildings in this area had glass windows, they would have most assuredly left an archaeological trace. Window openings probably were secured with wooden shutters or hides.

A section of brick coursing was uncovered partially and extended into an unexcavated area. Bricks were not common on the Georgia frontier during the colonial period. They were not produced in the interior Savannah River region until 1750 when brick manufacture began downstream at Ebenezer. At the ranger garrison of Fort Argyle on the Ogeechee River, documents record the first use of bricks for chimneys in the barracks as early as 1741. Perhaps the same order resulted in bricks being supplied for similar uses in the Mount Pleasant Fort. While the artifacts and the brick feature show that at least one structure was present, the complete layout was not determined.

The fort at Mount Pleasant was probably similar to, but smaller than, Fort Argyle on the Ogeechee River, which has been identified archaeologically. Fort Argyle consisted of a rectangular enclosure with four diamond bastions on the corners, each guarded by a small cannon. The fort measured 110 ft square and had walls 8 to 11 ft high. The wooden walls of the fort were six inches thick, and this was flanked by an outer earthen breastwork. Within the fort were two rows of barracks, a block house, and a stable for 30 horses. Troop strength at Fort Argyle ranged from 15 to 35 rangers, while Mount Pleasant probably had fewer than fifteen rangers. A fortification 110 ft x 110 ft would fit almost perfectly on the point of land at Area A. The steep slope on three sides would have precluded the need for a moat surrounding the fort. The fourth more exposed side may have been guarded with a ditch or moat.

Area B contained a variety of architectural artifacts including rosehead nails, T-head nails, window glass, and daub or brick. This area also contained a rectangular cellar depression in association with wrought nails. The cellar and the architectural artifact scatter indicate that at least two eighteenth-century structures were present in this area.

Areas C and D also contained wrought nails and daub in sufficient quantities to indicate that each area formerly contained at least one eighteenth century structure. Because of the presence of European ceramics in these areas, they are suspected to be the houses of British fur traders.

## **Arms**

Artifacts in the arms, or weapons, group, were common at Mount Pleasant and included gun parts, gunflints, lead shot, and lead sprue, or residue from making lead balls. Gun parts included an iron English blunderbuss barrel, iron ramrod tip, British brass trade

gun "dragon" sideplate, and a brass triggerguard.

The gunflints found at Mount Pleasant include 19 English spall, one French spall, two French blade, and one local type. Examples of the gunflints are illustrated in Figures 13 and 14.

The blunderbuss of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was used for a variety of purposes. This weapon was the equivalent of a modern-day "sawed-off" shotgun. It was used on board naval vessels to thwart invaders since it was a well suited weapon for repelling attackers who were attempting to board. On land this type of weapon was used for sentry duty, crowd control, and for guarding doorways, stairwells, and narrow entrances. It would have been an excellent weapon for guarding the garrison at Mount Pleasant since it made a loud noise and did not have to be aimed carefully to find its target. The iron blunderbuss from Mount Pleasant consisted of the barrel section, although the breech end had jagged edges indicating the weapon exploded during use.

This weapon is similar, to George Neumann's Type M107 which was an English blunderbuss made between 1700 and 1710. The only difference between the Mount Pleasant blunderbuss and Neumann's type M107 is that the Mount Pleasant gun has a front sight, while M107 does not (Figure 15). Blunderbusses are not commonly found in archaeological literature, and this example from Mount Pleasant may be the first such weapon excavated in the Southeast.

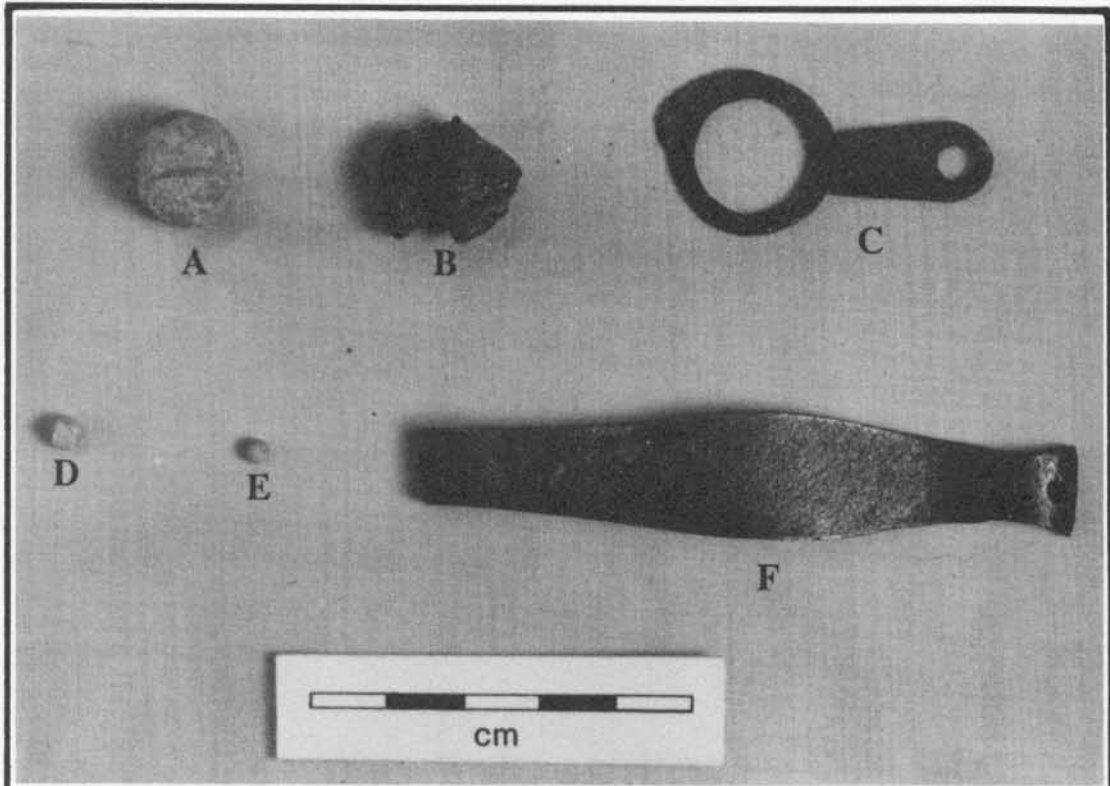
The "dragon" sideplate fragment shows a portion of the dragon's tail, and this specimen is similar to Thomas Hamilton's Type G, which is associated with British Indian tradeguns (Figure 16). Tradeguns were intended primarily for Indian use, although some British also may have used them. Similar examples have been excavated from Fort Frederica and other British frontier sites.

The iron ramrod tip is similar to a button headed iron rammer described by colonial gun expert Neumann who dates this type of ramrod to the period 1710 to 1760 (Figure 19). This date is consistent with the known occupation of the site.

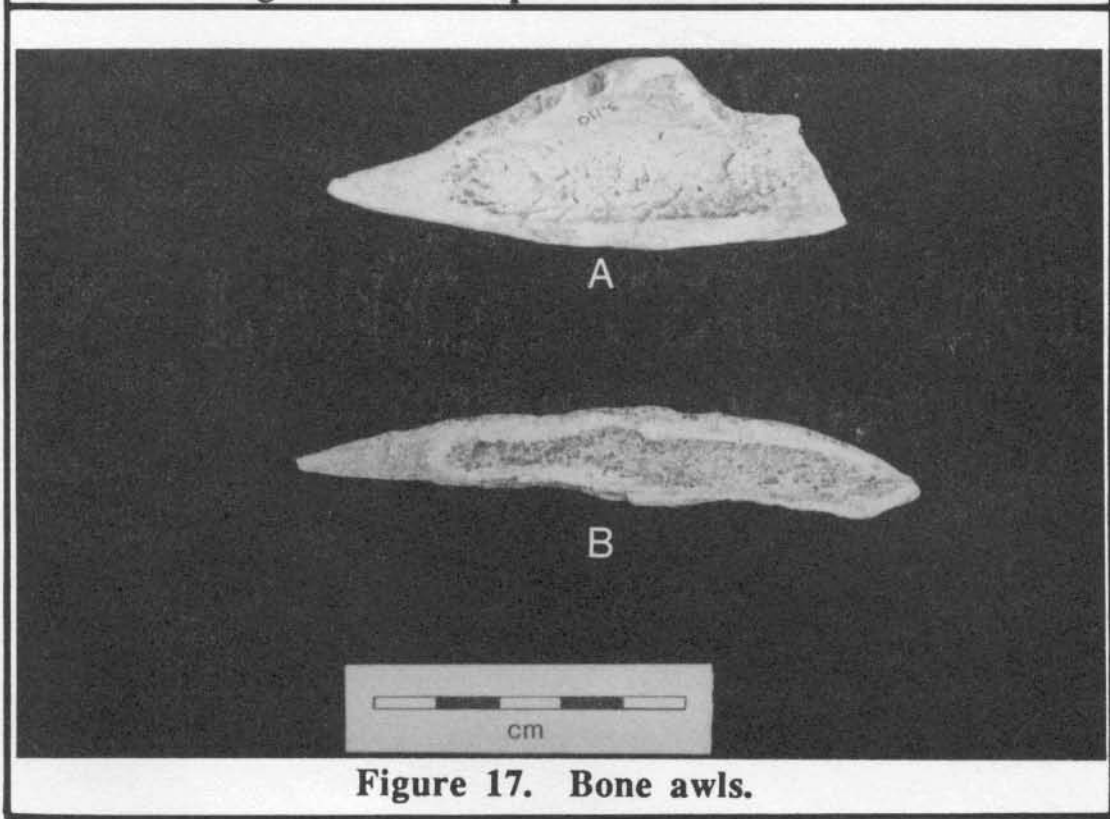
Most of the lead shot were small shot (11 to 20 caliber) that were fired as scatter shot. Two 60 caliber lead balls were found. Both of these balls were produced by being cast in a mold. One mutilated lead ball whose caliber could not be determined also was found. Examples of lead shot are shown in Figure 16.

## **Clothing**

A variety of clothing artifacts were found in Area A. Six metal buttons were found (Figure 18). This includes: four plain brass buttons, dated elsewhere in North America from 1726 to 1785; one pewter button with a Union Jack design of a style similar to buttons that date in North Carolina from 1726 to 1776; and a pewter button with a floral



**Figure 16. Gunparts and lead shot.**



**Figure 17. Bone awls.**



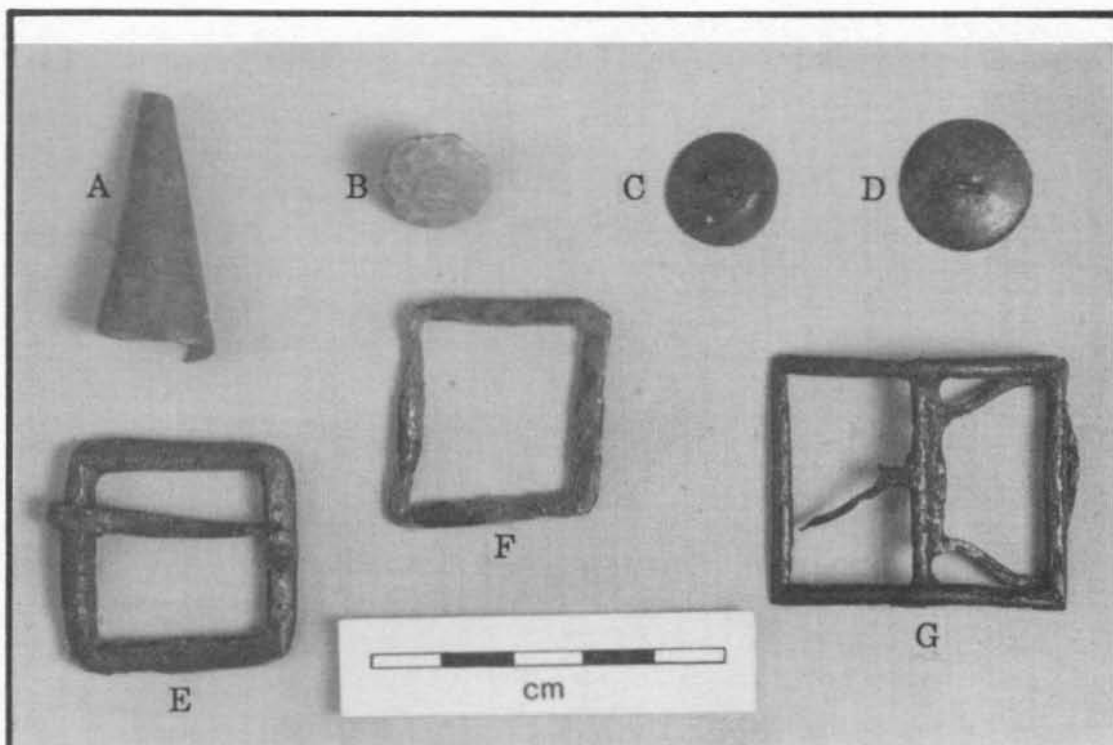


Figure 18. Clothing items.

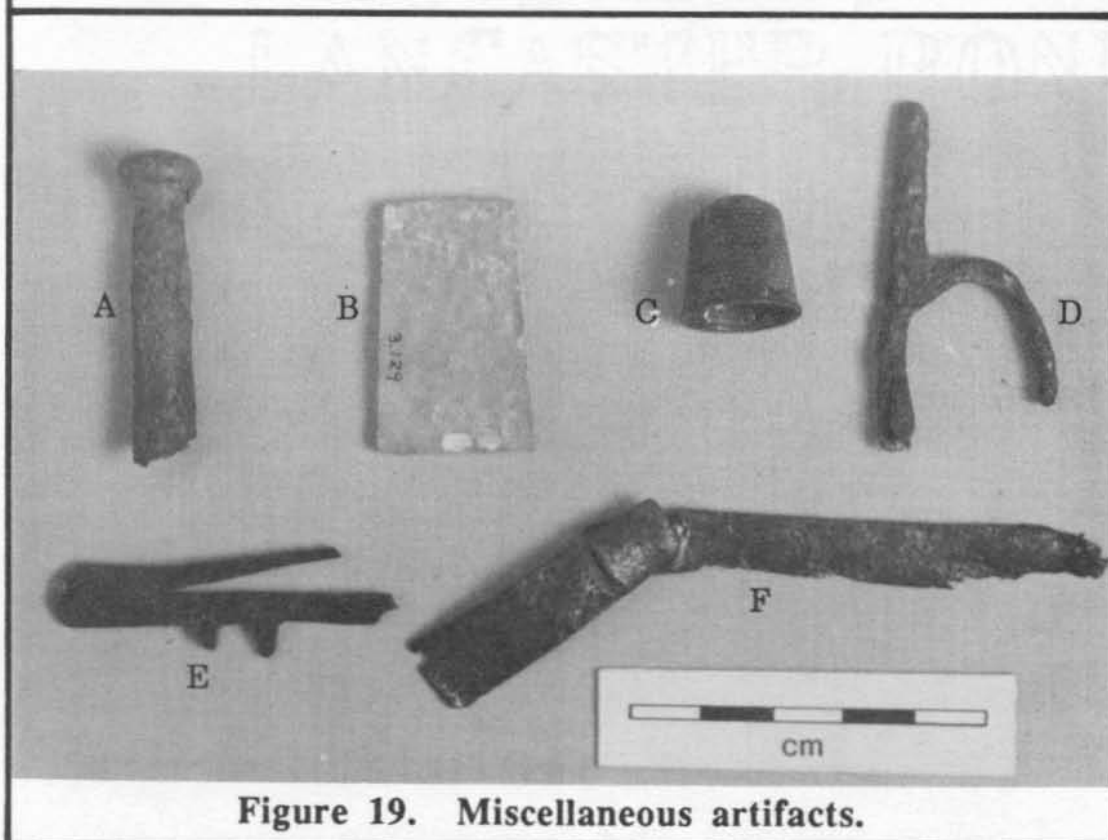


Figure 19. Miscellaneous artifacts.

design whose type was indetermined. One brass cufflink with a molded geometric design also was found. The age of the buttons is consistent with the known occupation date for the site. With the possible exception of the Union Jack example, all of the buttons found at Mount Pleasant were intended for civilian use. Rangers, however, usually were outfitted in civilian clothing.

Three buckles were recovered (see Figure 18). Two were eighteenth-century style shoe buckles, while the third may have been a small harness buckle. All of the buckles were made of iron. Iron buckles generally were used by poorer classes, while brass, tinned brass, and silver buckles were used by the middle and upper classes. Buckles were a frequent trade item with the Indians. Iron buckles have been found in historic Creek and Yuchi burials on the Chattahoochee River towns.

More than two dozen glass beads were found in Area A (see Figure 10). Glass beads were used in trade with the Indians and are sensitive markers for dating the age when a site was occupied. The glass beads from Mount Pleasant were analyzed by Marvin T. Smith, a noted authority on glass trade beads. Smith recognized two classes of beads based on their difference in their manufacturing techniques. There were eight types of drawn cane necklace beads and six types of wire wound beads. The fourteen bead types are listed in Table 8. Smith concluded "The beads from Mount Pleasant form a small, but interesting collection. Many of the types are common in widespread areas of the Southeast, but a few of the beads have restricted distributions suggesting that perhaps they were traded only by the English. Thus beads such as Types 1, 12, and 13 may prove to be good markers for eighteenth century English trade." Date estimates based on the small sample of beads from Mount Pleasant ranged from 1725 to 1738, closely paralleling the dates obtained from clay tobacco pipes.

One brass tinkler cone was found (see Figure 18a). This "funnel-shaped" piece, constructed from sheet brass, probably was attached by a leather or fur strip as dangling adornments on Indian apparel. These items are frequently found on eighteenth-century Indian and British fur trade sites. Other small pieces of scrap sheet brass also were found at Mount Pleasant.

Sewing items found in Area A include a brass thimble, part of a pair of iron scissors, and two bone awls (see Figures 17 and 19). The thimble and scissors were probably made in Europe, while the bone awls probably were made at Mount Pleasant perhaps by Indians. Both scissors and thimbles frequently were traded to the Indians, and thimbles were perforated and then used to adorn clothing in a manner similar to brass tinkler cones. Two pewter grommets also were found. Both were small and may have been used to lace shoes or other tight-fitting clothing.

**Table 8. Glass bead types from Mount Pleasant, Area A.**

| <b>Type</b> | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Diameter<br/>mm</b> | <b>Length<br/>mm</b> | <b>Figure 10</b> |
|-------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1           | Untumbled tubular transparent green cane necklace bead, simple construction.          | 9-12                   | 53-58                | N                |
| 2           | Untumbled tubular opaque baby blue cane necklace bead, simple construction            | 4.5                    | 11                   | F                |
| 3           | Tumbled spherical transparent Brite Navy cane necklace bead, simple construction      | 8                      | 7.5                  | D                |
| 4           | Tumbled spherical transparent medium blue necklace bead, simple construction          | 8.5                    | 8                    | A                |
| 5           | Clear/white tubular untumbled cane bead, compound construction                        | 4                      | 10                   | C                |
| 6           | Clear/white torus and barrel-shaped, tumbled cane seed beads, compound construction   | 2-2.5                  | 1-2                  | B                |
| 7           | Colorless/red/green tumbled barrel shaped opaque necklace bead, compound construction | 7                      | 8                    | E                |
| 8           | Chevron bead: blue/white/red/white, untumbled cane bead, compound construction        | 6                      | 13                   | K                |
| 9           | Subspherical black wound necklace bead  | 10                     | 8                    | J                |
| 10          | Spherical opalescent wound necklace bead  | 10-13                  | 10-11                | I                |
| 11          | Large, opaque medium blue wound necklace bead, fragment                               | U/A                    | U/A                  | H                |
| 12          | Transparent emerald green flattened wound necklace bead                               | 5-7                    | 9.5                  | G                |
| 13          | Opaque white flattened wound necklace bead  | 5.5-15.5               | 14                   | M                |
| 14          | Opaque white olive shaped wound necklace bead with eroded, floral inlay               | 7                      | 12                   | L                |

U/A- information unavailable

## **Personal Items**

Personal items found in Area A included a clasp knife, or "pocket" knife, and a small glass mirror (see Figure 19). The knife was similar to a modern day clasp knife. It has an iron blade with iron and brass parts on the handle. The glass mirror was a common Indian trade item.

## **Tobacco Pipes**

Clay tobacco pipes were widely used by both Indian and Englishmen at Mount Pleasant. Selected examples of clay tobacco pipe fragments found at Mount Pleasant are illustrated in Figure 20. Although all of the pipes were broken, many important clues about the site were revealed from this collection. Tobacco pipe stems can be used to determine the date that a site was occupied, as discussed earlier. For this type of analysis large quantities of pipe stems are necessary. The Indian town (1723) and Area A (1735-1738) tentative have been dated by the pipe stem date formula. Larger samples of pipestems are needed, however, to determine if these date estimates are accurate.

None of the clay pipes from Mount Pleasant had spurs, or heels, which is a trait commonly found on pipes dating after the mid eighteenth century. Two pipe fragments retained makers marks; one example bears the initials R T, while the other has the initials T D. Both initials have been found in other eighteenth century excavations. R T probably stands for Robert Taylor, Robert Tippett, or Richard Taylor of Bath, while the identity of T D remains a mystery. During 1989 excavations at New Ebenezer, T D pipes were abundant in a 1750-1753 context, although many of the New Ebenezer specimens had heel appendiges. No R T pipes were found at New Ebenezer, which suggest the R T pipe at Mount Pleasant may date to the first two decades of the eighteenth century. One pipe fragment had a molded design, and similar types were found at New Ebenezer in a 1750s context.

## **Bottle glass tools**

Several unusual glass bottle tools were recovered from Mount Pleasant. All were made from fragments of dark green wine bottles. Examples of these tools are shown in Figure 21. These tools fall into two broad categories: scrapers and drinking cups. The scrapers were found in various sizes and were worked both by bifacial and unifacial retouch. These tools probably were used for woodworking. Two cups were found made from wine

bottles. Both consisted of wine bottle bases that had been carefully worked to remove all the sharp edges. These two cups were found lying on the ground surface at a spring near Area A. All of the large fragments of wine bottle glass that were found at Mount Pleasant had been modified for use as tools. Only the smallest fragments were discarded unmodified. This suggests that the Yuchi considered glass a precious commodity that was to be fully utilized.

### **Pattern Analysis**

The proportions of artifacts discarded from each functional group creates a pattern that is useful in archaeological study. The pattern of discard left by English colonists is very different from that left by African slaves from the same period. Sites situated on the frontier leave a different pattern from sites that are in more developed regions. Artifact patterns of the Georgia Salzburgers at Ebenezer also varies from the British pattern. By studying these patterns, archaeologists hope to be able to identify people's ethnic identity from their discarded objects. Mount Pleasant has its own pattern, sort of a "fingerprint", that mark it as a unique site where British and Indians intermingled on the Georgia frontier.

The artifacts from the test units were grouped into Stanley South's functional categories for purposes of comparative pattern analysis. Mount Pleasant was known to be an Indian village, frontier trader's settlement, and later a military outpost, and a pattern exhibiting attributes of South's Frontier Artifact Pattern as well as his Carolina Artifact Pattern was expected. The Mount Pleasant artifact pattern differed from South's observed range in several respects. The tobacco pipe group (24.1%) and clothing group (5.1%) are higher than South's observed range, and the architecture group (30.8%) and the furniture group (0%) are lower than South's observed range. The kitchen, arms, personal, and activities groups were within his observed range.

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## Chapter VII

### The Beginning

Mount Pleasant experienced over a century and a half of turbulent, changing times. If only the soil could talk, it would tell of a wonderful myriad of stories. It might tell of cool, fall nights around an Indian campfire, echoing often-told tales of native myths; or of the daily events of Indian life punctuated by the celebration of eagerly awaited ceremonies. It might tell of an occasional heated exchange or dangerous brawl between a dishonest British fur trader and an angered Indian. It might remember the changing landscape as Indian villages dissolved into British fortifications, and then later into more permanent Anglo settlements in the form of huge plantations. It might tell of the struggles of Europeans to tame its wilderness; the victory of a successful crop or the immense sadness felt in the all-too-frequent deaths of family and friends buried in its cemetery. It might tell us of a restful period when its woods lay idle for a time and neither Indian nor Anglo settler disturbed its solitude. Yes, Mount Pleasant would have much to say, if only the hills and woods could talk.

But the soil can talk! Mount Pleasant has been patiently waiting to spin tales of long-forgotten events, tales that only can unfold beneath the archaeologists' trowel. Initial survey and preliminary excavations at the site indicate an enormous potential for many chapters of the Mount Pleasant saga, providing the artifacts, features, and context of the soil are read correctly, or in an archaeological manner. The beginning, or outline of this historical drama, has been recorded during the 1989 field season and ensuing laboratory analysis. Total excavation and analysis of the site will allow archaeologists the luxury of combining the work of all the field seasons to produce the grand culmination -- the story of Mount Pleasant.

What has preliminary research contributed towards this exciting adventure story? The storytellers (alias the archaeologists) have discovered the exact location of events on a scenic, narrow bluff adjacent to two springs and strategically overlooking an important river forty miles from the Atlantic Ocean. Historical research has documented the many motives involved in settlement of this area including habitation and exploitation of natural resources, trade, settlement, and farming. The literary characters have likewise been identified as two different groups of Indians, British fur traders, British soldiers, and South Carolinian settlers. The Indian population at Mount Pleasant probably never numbered more than 150 people, while the English population never exceeded two dozen. The variety of characters would please any aspiring journalist! Against the backdrop of

"who, where, and why," we can begin to fill in the gaps of "when and how." It falls to archaeologists to detail the actual plot, which can be the most elusive, but certainly the most interesting of all tasks.

Preliminary excavations revealed the beginnings of a complex plot, offering many useful details and fascinating tidbits about Mount Pleasant inhabitants. The primary Indian inhabitants at Mount Pleasant, the Yuchis, are a relatively unknown group. Excavations revealed that they made similar kinds of pottery vessels as Creek Indian groups. Evidence shows that it was quite likely that Indians not only lived around the fort, but also within it. It is even possible that Indian women living there made pottery to be used by the traders. Archaeological data reveals that the Indians in the area did not have many material possessions, but did use European goods when the opportunity presented itself. The Indians particularly enjoyed smoking tobacco in European clay pipes and learned to adapt other European materials to fit the needs of their own culture. One such example of this adaptation is evident in the discovery of wine bottle fragments. These European bottles were "worked" by the Indians into sharp, easily handled tools that were excellent for scraping deer hides or woodworking. This ingenuity and adaptability undoubtedly helped the Indians somewhat in their struggle to survive the onslaught of such a vastly different culture. Future excavations in the Indian town may reveal the urban planning employed by the Yuchi. Findings from Mount Pleasant can then be compared with other excavated Yuchi sites in Alabama and Tennessee, to see how these people's adaptation changed over time and space.

Excavations revealed the savvy of the English traders in bargaining for deerskins. Archaeologists uncovered a large number of decorative glass beads in Area A which were highly prized by the Indians and eagerly traded for deerskins. The traders had casks of cheaply made beads and other inexpensive trinkets for the sole purpose of exchange. Perhaps the Indians were not always bought so easily, however, as indicated by the discovery of a blunderbuss fragment. The blunderbuss had been used, possibly, to control a crowd of angry or drunken Indians, with the unexpected result of the gun exploding in the user's face. The Englishman's life was admittedly a difficult one, but archaeology reveals that the English at Mount Pleasant managed to enjoy a few of the luxuries of the day, including an occasional fancy stemmed goblet, porcelain dishes, and expensive ceramics imported from England. The savagery of the wilderness did not excuse the men from exercising European-based civilities such as eating with utensils instead of their fingers, and partaking in the totally British practice of formal tea services.

The diet, perhaps indicative of overall lifestyle, appears to have changed as their time at Mount Pleasant increased. The early diet of traders consisted of a larger amount of wild game than domesticated animals. The Indians, or traders, exhibited a preference for peaches not shown by the rangers. Later years reveal a trend towards domestic animals, particularly cows. Thus far, however, only a small sample of food bones have been

recovered. With larger samples of bone and plant remains from dateable refuse pits, the diet of the Indians, traders, and rangers can be better reconstructed.

In addition to information about lifestyles, excavations also revealed data about the structure of specific portions of the site. We know from historical documents that a fort existed at Mount Pleasant from about 1740 until 1757, but no physical descriptions of the fort survive. The location of the fort has been discovered, and soil stains, post holes, and bricks allude to the fort's layout, orientation, and internal character. The exact configuration of the fort and its internal composition remain to be determined during future excavations.

The period of Georgia history from 1733 until 1776 has received too little attention by scholars. Mount Pleasant represents an excellent opportunity to correct this deficit in our knowledge about the military frontier during this period. So many sites from this early period since have been destroyed, and this increases the research value of the Mount Pleasant site. It is well preserved and available for study. If properly excavated and reported, it may prove to be crucial for understanding our past.

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## Figure Identification

Figure 7. English delftware. A, B, C, and G are monochrome blue painted bowls. D is monochrome brown painted bowl. E is polychrome blue, green and brown bowl. F is polychrome blue and brown bowl.

Figure 8. Chinese porcelain, scratch blue stoneware, and refined white salt glazed stoneware. A through F are Chinese porcelain cups, G is scratch blue stoneware bowl, and H is a refined white salt glazed stoneware bowl.

Figure 9. Indian pottery. A, D, and G are notched applique jar rims. B and C are bowl fragments decorated by multiple-line incising, and C also has a notched applique strip on the bowl's shoulder. E is a vessel fragment of unknown form decorated by brushing or scratching. F is a jar fragment decorated by multiple-line incising.

Figure 10. Glass trade beads. See Table 8 for description.

Figure 11. Decorated bone knife handle. Obverse is decorated by shallow, parallel and cross-hatched incised lines, while the reverse is sawed flat. The handle was attached to the blade by two iron pins.

Figure 12. Pewter spoons and iron knife fragment. A, B, and C are pewter spoon handles, and D is a pewter spoon bowl. A and B bear makers marks. E is a one-piece socketed knife fragment.

Figure 13. English, French, and local chert gunflints. A and B are blade types made from French flint, C is bifacially worked and is made from local chert, while D through J are spall types made from English flint.

Figure 14. English gunflints. All are spall types made from English flint.

Figure 15. Blunderbuss, hypothesized reconstruction from the barrel found in Area A. Only the iron barrel was recovered during excavation.

Figure 16. Gunparts and lead shot. A, B, D, and E are lead shot, but B has been partially cut in half. C is a brass fragment of a dragon sideplate from a British Indian tradegun. F is a flattened brass triggerguard from a weapon of unknown type

Figure 17. Bone awls. Both A and B are made from a split fragment of an unidentified mammal longbone.

Figure 18. Clothing items. A is a "tinkler" cone made from sheet brass. B is a decorated pewter button. C and D are plain brass button fragments. E, F and G are iron buckle fragments.

Figure 19. Miscellaneous artifacts. A is an iron ramrod tip. B is a glass mirror. C is a brass thimble. D is an iron scissors fragment. E is a steel stock lock spring. F is a brass and iron clasp knife fragment.

Figure 20. Clay tobacco pipe fragments. A is a bowl fragment bearing a stamped T D design. B is bowl fragment with a molded relief floral design. C is a bowl fragment bearing a stamped --W design. E is a bowl and stem fragment bearing a stamped R T design. D and F are plain bowl and stem fragments that illustrate the absence of heels in the pipe collection.

Figure 21. Bottle glass tools. A and B are scrapers and C is a drinking cup. All are made from dark green wine bottle glass. C was found along with another similar specimen at a spring near Area A.