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CERAMIC STUDY OF WOODLAND OCCUPATION ALONG THE CLINCH AND POWELL RIVERS IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

— 1987 —

KEITH T. EGLOFF

RESEARCH REPORT SERIES # 3

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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by

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to a number of archaeologists who conducted fieldwork in southwest Virginia. Their published data and ceramic collections were extensively used during my study.

Foremost among them are Joseph L. Benthall and his research at Daugherty's Cave (44RU14), and Calvert W. McIlhany and his investigations at 44RU44. Both individuals are exceptional field archaeologists with considerable insights into research. The stratigraphic and radiocarbon data on various wares from these two sites provided a well documented sequence of Native American ceramics for southwest Virginia.

The pottery recovered by C. G. Holland from a wide selection of sites in southwest Virginia and the ceramics from Howard A. MacCord's excavations at 44TZ1 provided me with a substantial sample of sherds to analyze. William Porter, an avocational archaeologist, brought to my attention a collection of sherds representing various portions of the Woodland period recovered from a remote rockshelter, 44WS88.

Thanks go, too, to staff of the Division of Historic Landmarks. Beverly Straube printed the photographs, and E. Randolph Turner and Mary Ellen Norrisey Hodges offered helpful suggestions and assistance in editing the manuscript.

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INTRODUCTION

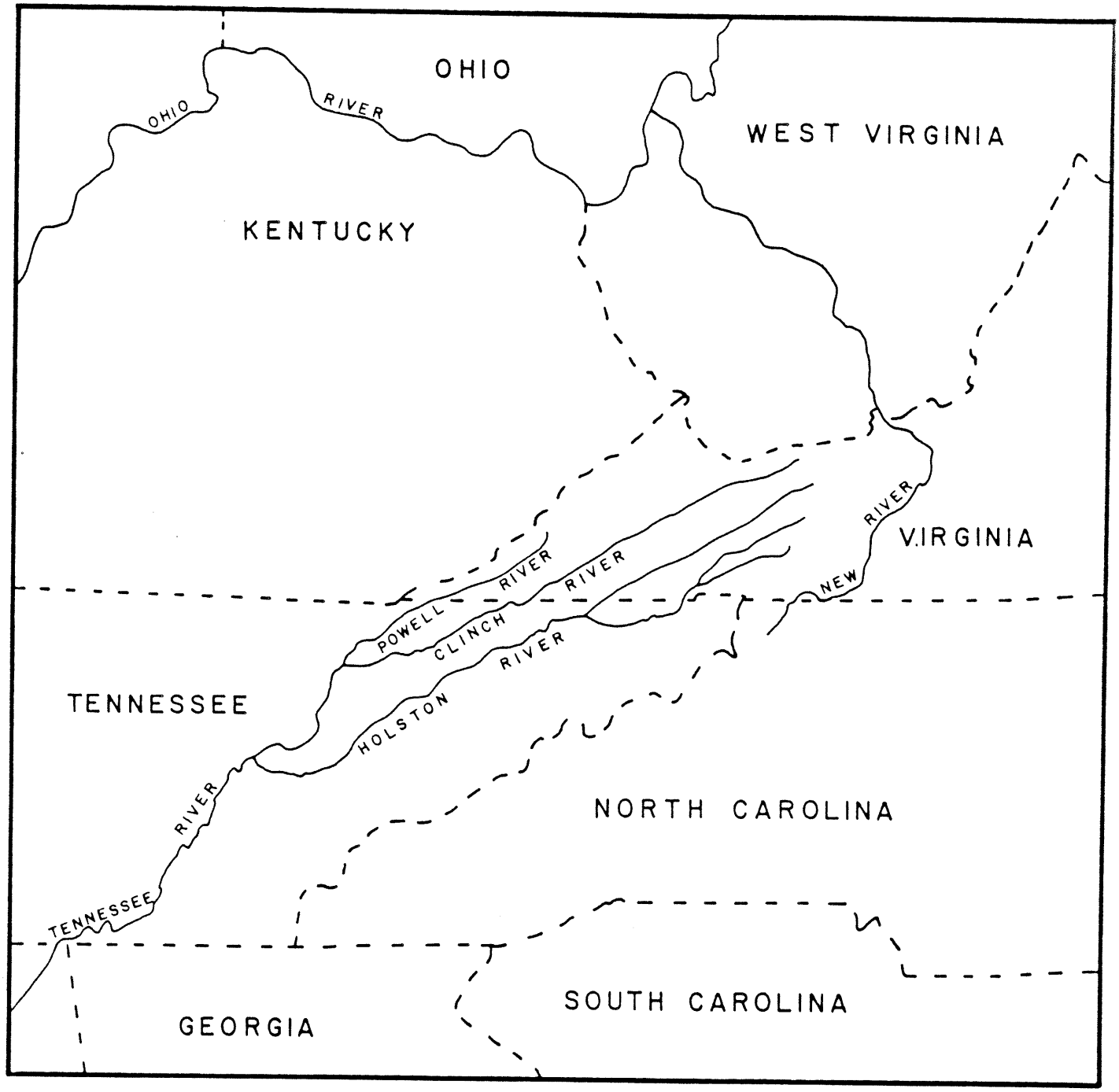
During May and June of 1978, the author received his first introduction to the Clinch River area of southwest Virginia when conducting excavations for the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks (VDHL) at the Crab Orchard site, an exceptionally well preserved Late Woodland village. The associated ceramics varied greatly in tempering agents and surface treatments, presenting an excellent opportunity for analysis and cultural interpretations. This large pottery collection with excellent provenience stimulated the author to initiate this ceramic analysis.

The first sherds analyzed for this study are from the Crab Orchard site. Sherd collections curated at the VDHL from sites along the Clinch and Powell river drainages then were studied for comparative purposes (Figure 1). As the analysis progressed, the author realized that comparing sherds from along a river system is an excellent geographical model for understanding Native American cultural development. Also included in the research is a reanalysis of sherds from Daugherty's Cave, a deeply stratified site (Benthall 1979), and from C.G. Holland's (1970) survey collections curated at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Over a period of six years a total of 12,011 sherds from 24 sites were analyzed for this study. All sites in Virginia within the Clinch and Powell river drainages which had ceramic samples curated at either the VDHL or the Smithsonian Institution were chosen for this study.

As the author's knowledge of ceramics from along the Clinch and Powell rivers increased, he wished to explain the pattern of ceramic wares in the following ways: 1) temporal placement, 2) spacial distribution as they relate to the environment, and 3) spatial distribution as an indicator of socio-cultural connectedness (sic) and interaction (Braun and Plog 1982:504-525).

In this study 'socio-cultural connectedness' refers to a high level of intensity of regional integration suggesting a socio-cultural unit, such as a tribe or chiefdom. 'Interaction' refers to the exchange of information between these socio-cultural connected units. The last approach is of special interest because it complements the author's increasing desire to document which ceramic wares represent indigenous people and which ceramics indicate outside cultures. Furthermore, the author is particularly interested in documenting the dynamic intermixing between a chiefdom level Mississippian culture from Tennessee and the tribal level cultures in southwest Virginia during the period A.D. 1200-1700.

In order to explain ceramic patterns in terms of cultural variables, the author brought into the analysis various fields of study. These discussions on historic documentation, environmental factors, site descriptions, and socio-cultural connectedness, interaction, and complexity will tie the data together in a more meaningful fashion.


OHIO
OHIO
RIVER
WEST VIRGINIA
KENTUCKY
RIVER
NEW
V.IRGINIA
POWELL
RIVER
CLINCH
RIVER
RIVER
TENNESSEE
HOLSTON
RIVER
NORTH CAROLINA
TENNESSEE
SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA

HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION

The only historic documentation of Native American settlement near the Clinch and Powell rivers in Virginia is a reference alluding to Cherokees at Long Island in the Holston River at Kingsport, Tennessee. Long Island, located just four miles south of the Virginia state line, was a prominent landmark on the Great Warriors Path and a logical meeting place. According to Cherokee tradition, Long Island was an ancient treaty ground, and in 1976 the City of Kingsport returned to the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians 3.61 acres of the island (King 1976:113-127).

Thomas Walker, a physician who became a surveyor for the Loyal Land Company, in a journal entry wrote of his 1750 expedition:

> In the Fork between Holston's and the North River, are five Indian Houses built with logs and covered with bark, and there were abundance of Bones, some whole Pots and Pans, some broken and many pieces of mats and Cloth. On the West Side of the North River is four Indian Houses such as before mentioned. We went four miles Below the North River and Camped on the Banks of Holston's, opposite to a large Indian Fort (Summers 1903: 798).

During Walker's travels through southwest Virginia he never saw a Native American or mentioned another village, although twice he saw evidence of Native Americans by their tracks. He tried to overtake and meet with them, since at this time the French and Indian War (1754-1763) had not started, and the settlers had friendly relationships with them (Summers 1903).

Long Island continued to be connected with events relating to the Cherokees. In 1757, Richard Pearis, a packhorse man, was operating a trading post at Long Island for the Overhill Cherokees. Later in 1760, a force assigned to chastise the Cherokees, commanded by Colonel William Byrd and subsequently by Colonel Adam Stephen, erected a fort near Long Island which was named in honor of John Robinson, a businessman in Virginia lead mines (King 1976:113-127).

During the last half of the 18th century, the early settlers never referred to any permanent Native American villages in southwest Virginia. However, they frequently mentioned hunting parties of people identified as either Cherokee or Shawnee (Summers 1903).

Clearly, historical documents and Cherokee tradition indicates that the Overhill Cherokees lives as far north as Kingsport, Tennessee. Therefore, the Cherokees, considered to be on the chiefdom level of socio-cultural development prior to European contact, are the best candidates for carrying Mississippian cultural traits into southwest Virginia.

But who were the indigenous Native Americans of southwest Virginia? The question remains unanswered. Besides possible areas occupied by the Cherokee, among the best candidates are Siouian groups, considered to be on the tribal level of socio-cultural development. These groups were encountered by John Lederer, a German traveler in 1670, and by Thomas Batts and Robert Fallam, in 1671, under commission from General Abraham Wood. They documented the villages of Saura, Sapon, and Totero in the region of the Blue Ridge in southwest Virginia. This hypothesis is supported by the close physical similarity between the two Late Woodland ceramics, Dan River Ware and Wythe Variant, found to the east and west of the Blue Ridge escarpment, respectively (Gardner 1980).

ENVIRONMENT

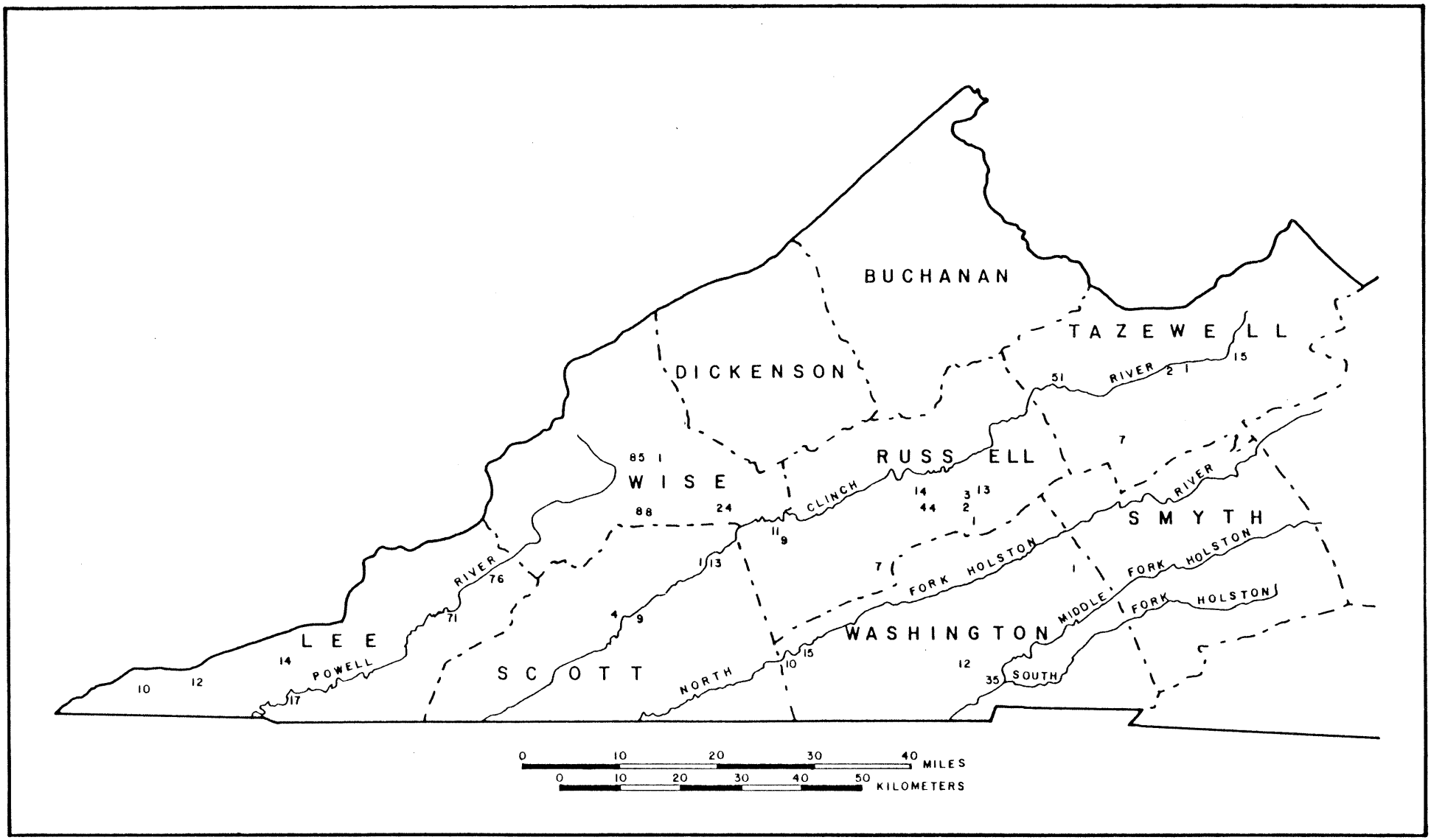
Archaeological research on the prehistory of the Ridge and Valley Province of southwest Virginia has shown that late villages as well as earlier Woodland occupations are located not only on floodplains, but also on gently sloping valley floors, ridges, hills and plateaus (Holland 1970: 114). This is explained by Bott (1981:38-45) in terms of two environmental conditions: 1) colluvial upland soils formed on gentle slopes from nearby limestone, sandstone, and shale are often potentially more agriculturally productive than the floodplain soils; and 2) gaps between formidable ridges or at the head of a major drainage create strategic links in regional trade and communication networks.

Bott focused research at 44RU7, a Late Woodland upland village located at the head of Big Moccasin Creek with direct access to the North Fork of the Holston River through Little Moccasin Gap (Figure 2). Agriculturally productive soils, like those at 44RU7, are rare in the mountains. The soils and location of four other upland Late Woodland villages, 44RU9, 44RU11, 44WG1 (Keywood), and 44WG12 (Sullins) were examined by Bott. Three of the five villages are 'gap' sites, and all are located on soils that are rated higher for agricultural productivity than the soils of three Late Woodland floodplain villages - 44WG10 (Mendota), 44WG15 (Osborne), and 44WG35 (Cornelius) - examined for comparison.

Of the 25 sites included in the present ceramic study, 20 are villages. Of those village sites 16 are located on ridges, plateaus, hill tops, or valley floors, and only the Scott County sites (44SC1, 4, 9, and 13) are located on a major floodplain along the Clinch River. Of the remaining 5 sites, 3 are rockshelters and 2, each less than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in size, are identified as hamlets.

The abundance of non-floodplain village and hamlet sites found in the study area is partly due to the morphology of the Clinch and Powell rivers in the Ridge and Valley Province. Both rivers throughout much of their length are extremely serpentine and well entrenched in rugged terrain, and have limited tracts of floodplain along their course. Also due to the serpentine, entenched and fast flowing nature of the rivers, travelers relying on water transportation in the mountains would have found it extremely difficult to journey except in one direction -- down river. Foot travel, therefore, became a major means of efficient transportation and communication, connecting villages along the gently sloping valley floors and through ridge gaps. For example, a section of the Wilderness Road ran from Moccasin Gap near the North Fork Holston River to Cumberland Gap mainly by way of upland valleys and gaps (Myer 1928). In fact, the trail passed near three village sites, 44LE10, 12, and 14. A second trail from New River via Bluefield, Clinch River valley, and Powell River valley, and then to Cumberland Gap probably followed upland valleys that gradually coalesced with each other, rather than running directly along the banks of the Clinch or Powell rivers. Apparently, the Ridge and Valley Province with its accompanying river and valley systems did not constitute a formidable obstacle that hindered contact, but rather channeled trade and communication along valleys and through mountain gaps.

In general, many environmental zones along the Clinch and Powell rivers were utilized by the Woodland people. Even the latest agriculturists made their villages, hamlets, and camps in settings that ranged from floodplain to colluvial upland soils to rockshelters located on high mountain ridges.


BUCHANAN
TAZEWELL
DICKENSON
RUSSELL
WISE
SMYTH
LEE
SCOTT
WASHINGTON
POWELL RIVER
CLINCH RIVER
NORTH FORK HOLSTON
MIDDLE FORK HOLSTON
SOUTH FORK HOLSTON
0 10 20 30 40 MILES
0 10 20 30 40 50 KILOMETERS

CERAMICS

The ceramics found in the Clinch and Powell valleys help to place in time and space the complex puzzle of interaction between the indigenous people and those people who lived outside the area, particularly in eastern Tennessee. For this study a ware is a grouping of pottery types of similar method of manufacture, paste, temper, and vessel form which occur in a particular locality at a particular time. A type is a class of ceramics of one ware which share the same surface treatment (Gardner 1980:24).

EARLY CERAMICS

Swannanoa Ware

Swannanoa Ware is a crushed-quartz to sand tempered pottery that was first described by Holden (1966) and later by Keel (1976:260-266) in Western North Carolina. Work conducted by William Porter (personal communication) in a rock-shelter (44WS88) near the Guest River uncovered the Swannanoa Fabric Marked Type beneath Long Branch Fabric Marked Type pottery (Figure 3). The ware, the earliest known in southwest Virginia, probably dates from ca. 600 B.C. The author knows of three other occurrences of this ware from McIlhany's (1983:32-35) excavations at 44RU44, and from Holland's (1970) surface collections at 44SC4 and 9. At these three sites, the temper ranged in size from a fine sand to a medium crushed-quartz, and included a few possible Swannanoa Cord Marked Type sherds. Watts Bar, a similar ware originally defined in eastern Tennessee, tends to be thicker with a higher percentage of crushed quartz (Lafferty 1981:307-314).

Long Branch Fabric Marked Type

Long Branch Fabric Marked Type along with three other limestone tempered types- Mulberry Creek Plain, Wright Check Stamped, and Bluff Creek Simple Stamped - were first defined by Haag (1939) from pottery found in the Pickwick Basin (1942:509-526) in northern Alabama. There the ware seemed associated with the Copena cultural complex. Long Branch Fabric Marked Type has been dated to as early as 350 B.C. (Lafferty 1981). A large sample of Long Branch Fabric Marked Type (Figure 4) derived from a stratum located below a feature radiocarbon dated to A.D. 302±70, was recovered by Benthall (1979:41-50) during the testing of Daugherty's Cave (44RU14). A few sherds of this type were noted from a rockshelter in Wise County (44WS85, VDHL files), from 44LE76 (VDHL files), and from Holland's (1970) collection from sites in Russell (44RU1, 2, 3A, 3B, 9, and 11) and Scott (44SC4, 9, and 13) counties.

Mulberry Creek Plain Type

A sample of Mulberry Creek Plain Type was excavated by Benthall (1979:41-50) at Daugherty's Cave, mainly associated with Wright Check Stamped and Bluff Creek Simple Stamped types (Figure 5). McIlhany (1983:32-35) may have identified this type from 44RU44.

Wright Check Stamped Type

Benthall at Daugherty's Cave uncovered a large sample of Wright Check Stamped Type radiocarbon dated to A.D. 302±70 from a feature associated with Level 4 (Figure 5). The type has been noted from two rockshelters in Wise County (44WS24, Rogers 1982:22, and 44WS85 VDHL files) from 44LE76 (VDHL files), and from 44RU44 (McIlhany 1983:32-35).

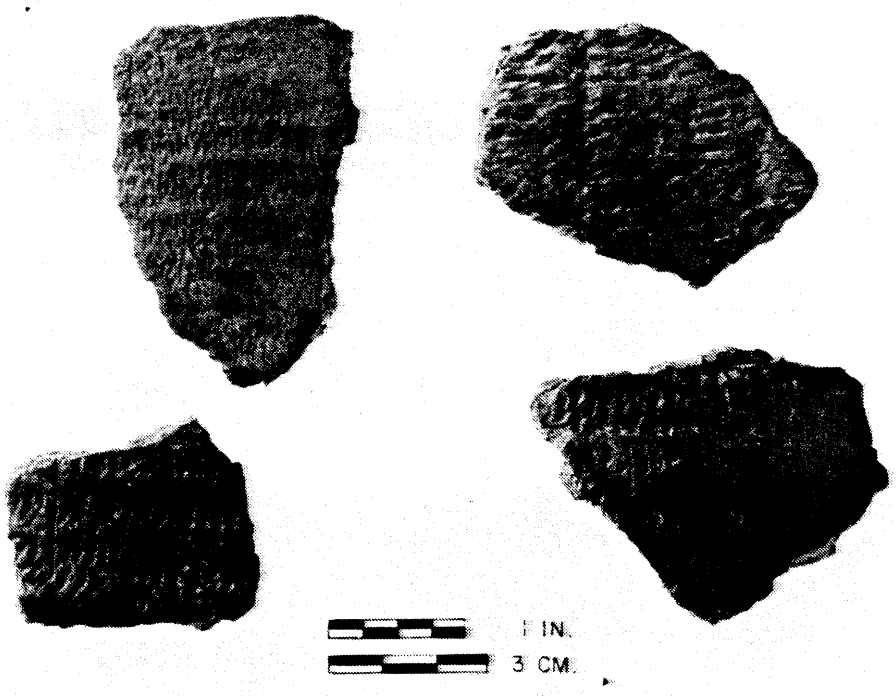


Figure 3: Swannanoa Fabric Marked sherds from 44WS88. Top left is a rim sherd.

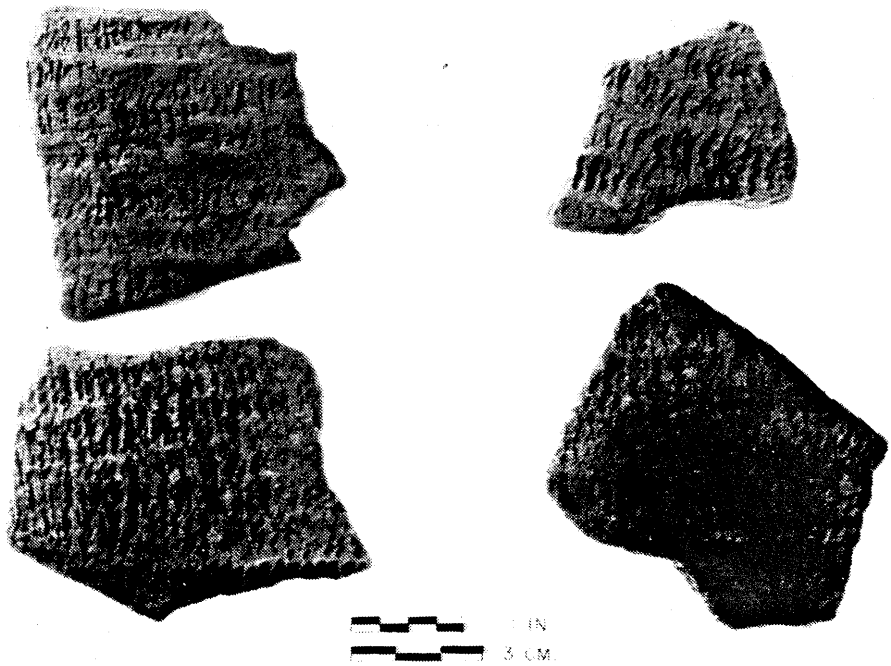


Figure 4: Long Branch Fabric Marked sherds from 44RU14. Bottom two sherds are incised.

Bluff Creek Simple Stamped Type

Bluff Creek Simple Stamped Type, produced with a carved wooden paddle, was recovered by Benthall (1979:41-50) at Daugherty's Cave associated with and slightly above Wright Check Stamped Type (Figure 5). The type was identified at two sites from Holland's (1970) collection (44RU2 and 44WS1), McIlhany's (1983:32-35) excavation at 44RU44, and Rogers (1982:22) work at 44WS24.

Connestee Ware

Connestee Ware is a sand tempered pottery that was first defined by Holden (1966) and later by Keel (1976:247-255) in western North Carolina. Recent work by McIlhany (1983) at 44RU44 has identified Connestee Simple Stamped (or brushed), Connestee Plain, and Connestee Cord Marked sherds from a context associated with cut mica (a mineral not native to southwest Virginia), polyhedral cores and blades, and radiocarbon dates of 515 ± 560 B.C., A.D. 180 ± 115, and A.D. 410 ± 80 (Figure 6). The accepted range for the ceramics is A.D. 100-600. Connestee Ware was identified from Holland's (1970) surface collections at 44LE14 and 17, and at 44LE76 (VDHL files).

Candy Creek Cord Marked Type

Candy Creek Cord Marked, a limestone tempered Middle Woodland type, was mentioned by Lewis and Kneberg (1946:102) in their Hiwassee Island report but was not formally defined until 1961 (Kneberg). Evans (1955:131) noted a similarity between Candy Creek and Radford wares, although now Radford Ware should be restricted to the Late Woodland Period. Chapman (1973) and Keel (1976:222) noted the association of Candy Creek Ware with Connestee Ware. McIlhany (1983:32-35) found the same association at 44RU44 (Figure 7). The Arrington site (44WG27) near Abingdon, Virginia, offers further evidence for Candy Creek Cord Marked Type (Bartlett 1980:35-48). At the Arrington site, dated A.D. 890± 160, 89% of the 1,021 sherds were cord-marked and limestone tempered while 9% were plain. No net-impressed sherds which would represent the later Radford Ware, were found. It is impossible, given a few body sherds, to distinguish Candy Creek Cord Marked from Radford Cord Marked. However, with a larger sample that includes rim sherds, the differences become evident. Candy Creek Cord Marked is undecorated with vertical rims, while Radford Cord Marked exhibits decorated flaring rims with strap handles and castellations. The accepted date for Candy Creek Cord Marked is within the period A.D. 100-900. Sites that contain Candy Creek Cord Marked include 44RU44 (McIlhany 1983) 44LE71 (McGuire and Geier 1984), 44LE76 (VDHL files), and a component of rockshelter 44WS24 (Rodger 1982:22).

Comments

The above ceramic types illustrate interaction between indigenous cultures in southwest Virginia and people living further to the south and west. Apparently the Ridge and Valley Province of southwest Virginia with its accompanying river and valley systems did not constitute a formidable obstacle that hindered contact, but rather channeled trade and communication, even as early as 1,800 years ago. Swannanoa Ware, mainly fabric impressed, followed in time by Long Branch Fabric Marked Type and Candy Creek Cord Marked Type represent the earliest Eastern Woodland Tradition pottery in southwest Virginia. As such, these wares may be seen as expressing indigenous pottery making in southwest Virginia.

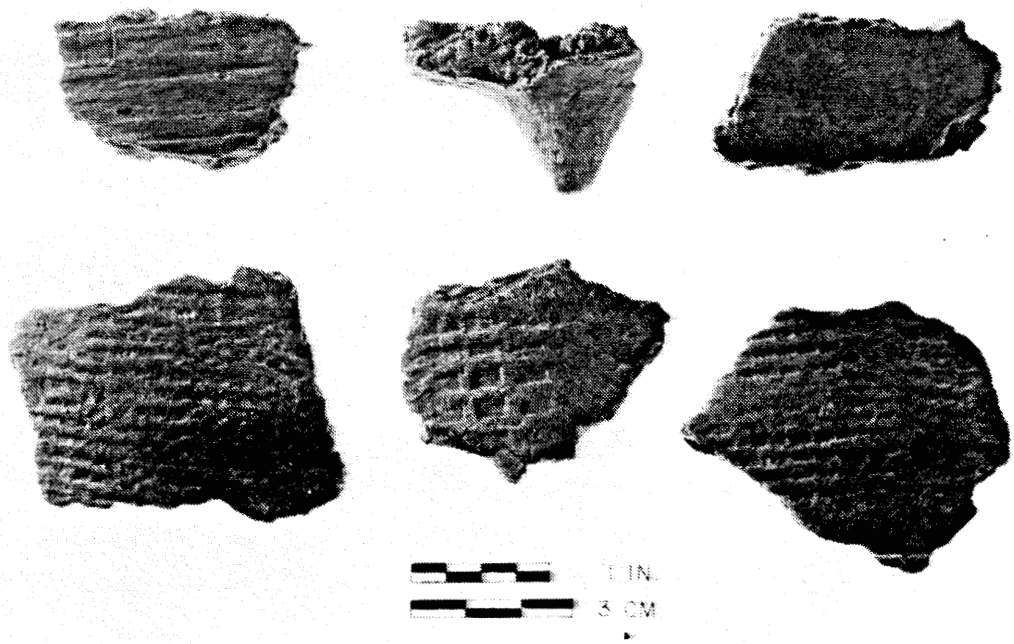


Figure 5: 44RU14 limestone tempered sherds. Top row left to right: Bluff Creek Simple Stamped, Wright Check Stamped tetrapodal, Mulberry Creek Plain. Bottom row: Wright Check Stamped.

Figure 6: Connestee Simple Stamped and Cord Marked (upper left) sherds from 44RU44.

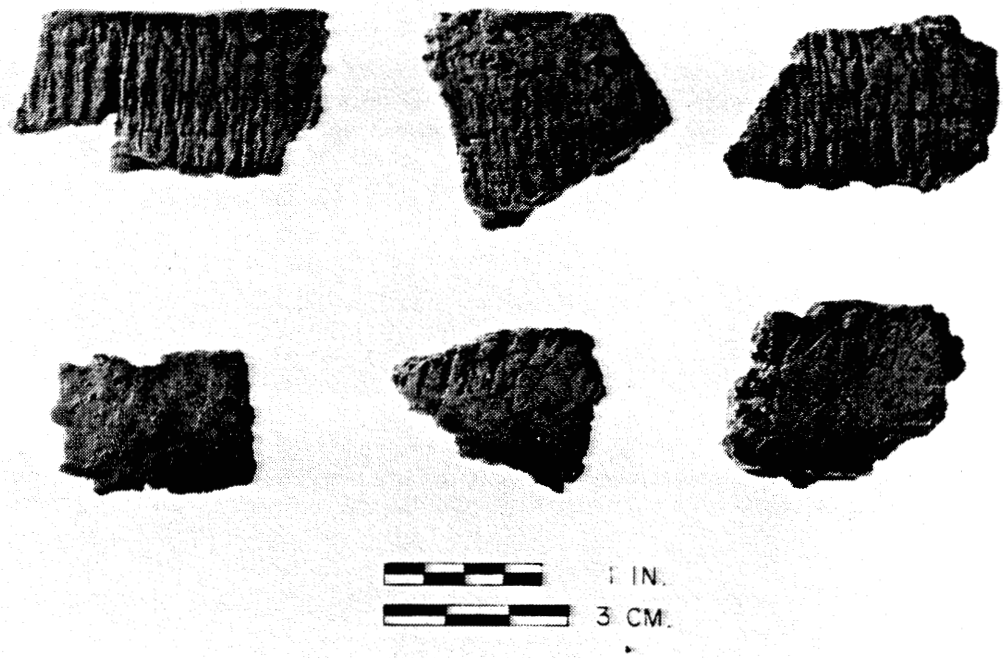


Figure 7: Candy Creek Cord Marked and Wright Check Stamped (lower left) types from 44RU44. Top row left and middle are rim sherds.

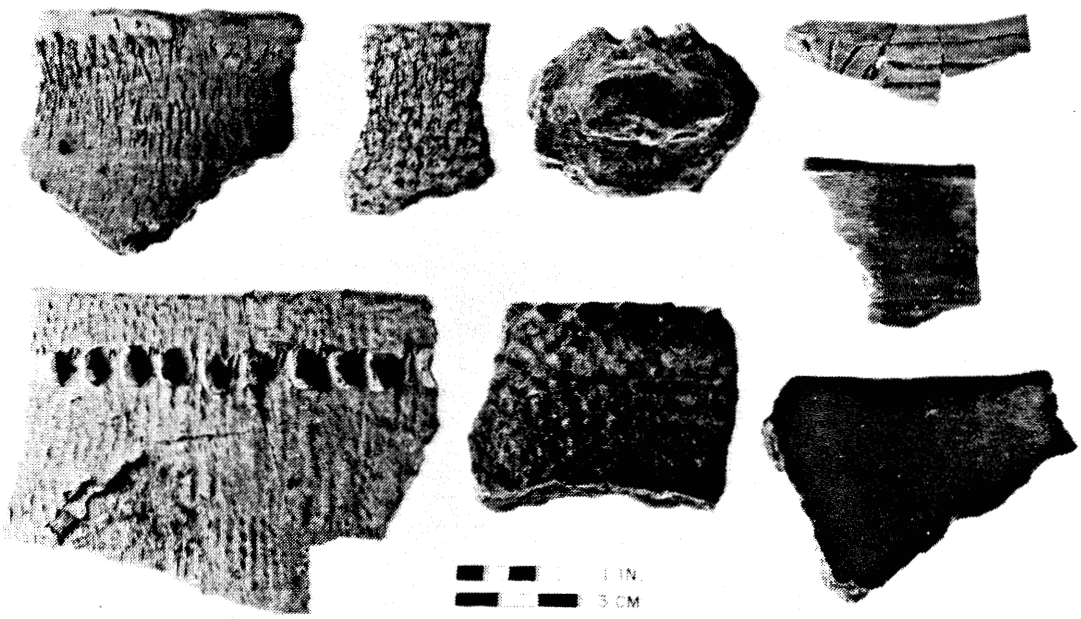


Figure 8: Radford Ware rim sherds from 44TZ1. Top row left to right: smoothed-over corncob over cord, corncob over net, castellation above strap handle, incised plain. Middle row: plain. Bottom row: cord, net, plain.

Wright Check Stamped, Bluff Creek Simple Stamped types, and Connestee Ware, illustrating the Southern Appalachian Stamped Tradition, demonstrate an intrusive expression of ceramics that entered southwest Virginia during the period A.D. 100-600. In fact, a strong case may be made for Connestee Ware, with its associated polyhedral cores and blades, and cut mica, as representing an actual movement of people into southwest Virginia. Dickens (1980:34-46) has suggested that the greater ceramic diversity at this time is indicative of a highly dynamic period in southeastern prehistory. Apparently, this cultural turbulence affected even the hinterland of southwest Virginia.

LATER CERAMICS

Radford Ware

Evans (1955:64-68) originally included five types within the limestone tempered ware: Knot Roughened and Net Impressed, Cord Marked, Fabric Impressed Plain, and Page Cord Marked. Holland (1970:64-67) added two other types to the series: Scraped and Stamped.

The author's identification of types within Radford Ware differs from the above. Page Cord Marked is a separate ware distributed mainly on the upper James and Shenandoah rivers and should not be subsumed within Radford Ware. Page has solely cord-marked surface treatments, whereas Radford is predominantly cord and net-impressed. Page commonly has added strips forming collared rims that are cord decorated. Radford seldom has thickened rims and never has cord decoration along the rim (Manson et al. 1944, Egloff and Hodges 1982:19-21). Radford Fabric Marked Type is equivalent to Long Branch Fabric Marked Type of the earlier period and should not be included within the Radford Ware.

The most diagnostic criteria for the presence of Radford ceramics is the combined occurrence of net and cord-marked surface treatment on vessels which may have constricted necks, strap handles, and limited decoration (Figure 8). These criteria restrict the ware's distribution mainly to southwest Virginia along the New and Tennessee river drainages, and mainly to the period A.D. 1000-1700. To the east, closer to the Blue Ridge escarpment and the Dan River region, net-impressed limestone and sand tampered ceramics are more common, but they decrease in frequency as one progresses west, particularly down the Tennessee River drainage into Tennessee or along the New River into West Virginia. Corncob Impressed Type, not previously recognized within Radford Ware, occurs on sites probably dating to the period A.D. 1500-1700.

There are certain limestone tempered net-impressed vessels in areas near southwest Virginia, particularly in areas further southeast, which do probably date from the late Middle Woodland period. Such sherds from the Wautaga Reservoir in eastern Tennessee were radiocarbon dated to A.D. 658 ± 152 and 680 ± 157 (Riggs 1985). Obviously, the inclination to surface treat a vessel with a net existed by the late Middle Woodland period, particularly to the east in the Piedmont of North Carolina where a net-impressed crushed-quartz type was defined as part of the Uwharrie Ware (Coe 1952:307-308). But in the Clinch and Powell river drainages, there is no firm evidence for net-impressed surface treatments (Radford Ware and Wythe Variant Dan River Ware) until the Late Woodland Period.

Pisgah Ware

Pisgah Ware was first described by Holden (1966) and later by Dickens (1976) for the Appalachian Summit region. The ware, which probably dates from A.D. 1000-1450, has a fine to coarse sand temper and four associated types - Rectilinear, Curvilinear, and Check Stamped, and Plain. The diagnostic thickened rims are highly decorated with parallel rows of short diagonal punctations (Figure 9). Holland (1970) and the author (VDHL files) observed the ware from nine sites in Lee (44LE10, 14, and 17), Scott (44SC4, 9, and 13), and Russell (44RU7 and 9) counties, and one rockshelter in Wise County (44WS24, Rogers 1982:22). The ceramics from southwest Virginia probably fall into the late subphase (ca. A.D. 1200-1450) of the Pisgah Phase.

Wythe Variant Dan River Ware

Wythe Variant of the Dan River Ware is distributed west of the Blue Ridge escarpment and occurs infrequently along the Clinch River. As the name suggests the variant has close physical similarities and perhaps cultural relationships to Dan River Ware found in the Piedmont of Virginia and North Carolina (Gardner 1980). The ware exhibits considerable variety in temper size from sand to small crushed quartz. The types identified by Holland (1970) and the author along the Clinch River in Russell (44RU7, 9, 11, 13, and 14), Scott (44SC4), and Tazewell (44TZ1, 7, and 51) counties included Cord Marked, Net Impressed, and Plain (Figure 10). Dan River Ware dates to ca. A.D. 1300-1700 in the Piedmont, while the Wythe Variant found along the Clinch River with its preponderance of net and plain surface treatments may date to post A.D. 1500.

LATE SHELL TEMPERED WARES

Earlier studies by Evans (1955:56-60) and Holland (1970:61-63) combined all types of shell tempered (gastropod and mussel) sherds into one series -- New River. In the present study, four wares with shell temper were identified: Limestone/Gastropod Shell Ware, Gastropod Shell Ware, Dallas Ware, and Mussel Shell Ware (Figure 11).

Limestone/Gastropod Shell Ware

During the analysis of sherds from the Crab Orchard village site, 44TZ1, the author was surprised to discover that a small percentage was tempered with a mixture of crushed limestone and freshwater gastropod shell, a composite temper noted by the author at a number of sites including the Keywood village site (44WG1) in Washington County. Furthermore, the similarity in surface treatment and the frequency and distribution across 44TZ1 of the Radford and the Limestone/Gastropod Shell wares has led the author to believe that both wares were made by people representing the same cultural tradition.

Gastropod Shell Ware

The Gastropod Shell Ware is similar to the Radford Ware and the Limestone/ Gastropod Ware in surface treatment, frequency, and distribution across the Crab Orchard village site (Figure 12). However, there are significant differences among the wares. An analysis of the temporal sequence of ceramics from 44TZ1 and from Daugherty's Cave, 44RU14, indicates that the Gastropod Shell Ware does not date as early as Radford Ware.

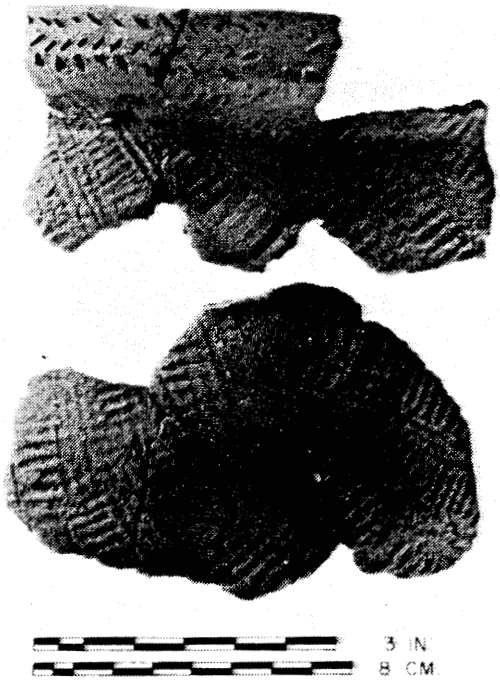


Figure 9: Pisgah Rectilinear Complicated Stamped sherds from 44SC13.

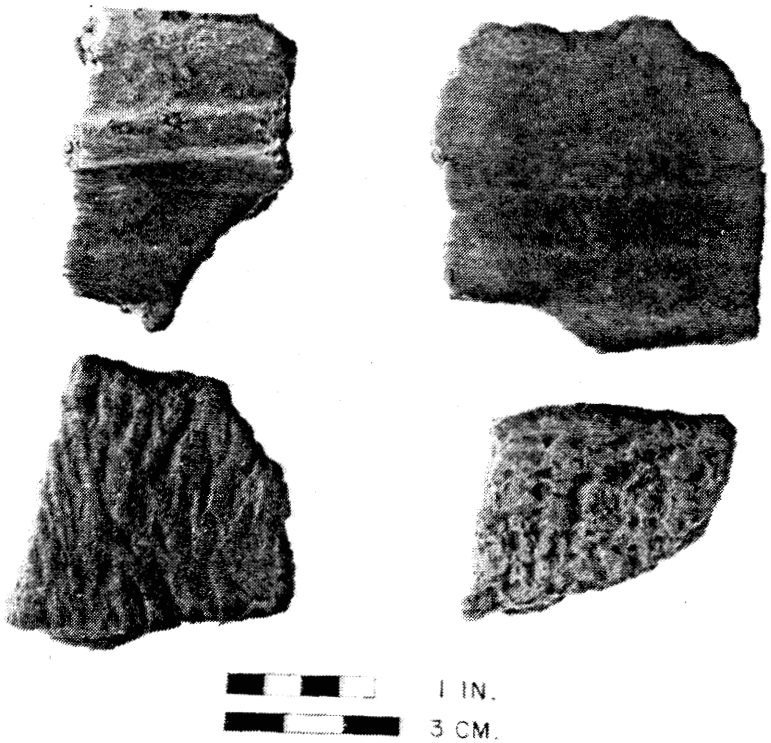


Figure 10: Crushed quartz tempered sherds from 44TZ1. Top row left to right: probably a Qualla 'L' shaped plain rim and Qualla Plain type sherd. Bottom row: probably Wythe Variant Dan River Cord and Net Impressed types.

Figure 11: Temper types in sherd profiles. Top row left to right: crushed quartz, no temper. Middle row: limestone, mussel shell. Bottom row: gastropod, Limestone/gastropod.

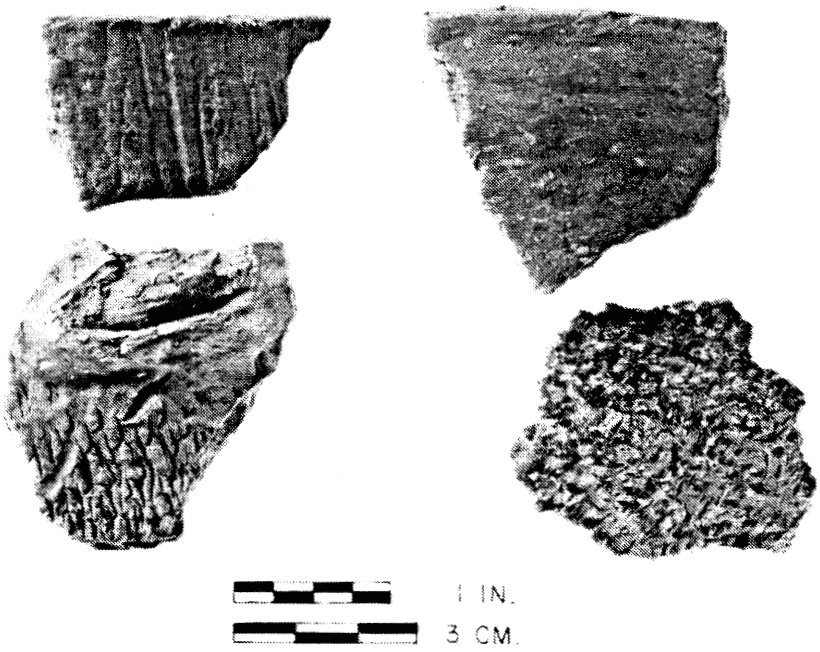


Figure 12: Gastropod Shell Ware from 44TZ1. Top row left to right: cord marked rim, plain rim. Bottom row: corncob impressed below area of strap handle attachment, net impressed.

It was commonly used relatively late in the Late Woodland period and declined in popularity with the introduction of Mussell Shell Ware. In general, the data suggest that during the latter stages of the Late Woodland period the same cultural group of people was tempering its vessels with either crushed limestone and/or gastropod shell and that the preference for one or the other did vary through time. The ware was identified by the author in Russell (44RU1, 3A, 3B, 7, 9, 13, and 14), Scott (44SC1, and 13), and Tazewell (44TZ1, 2, and 7) counties.

Dallas Ware

Dallas Ware, directly affiliated with Mississippian cultures in eastern Tennessee, exhibits mussel shell temper with cord-marked or plain surface treatments (Figure 13). Strap handles, lugs, incising, and notched fillets are characteristic of Dallas Ware which dates to the period of post A.D. 1300 (Lewis and Kneberg 1946:94-102). Dallas Ware was identified by the author in Lee County at 44LE10, 14, and 17.

Mussel Shell Ware

The Dallas Ware influence from Tennessee during the Late Woodland and Protohistoric periods was quite strong along the Clinch River. It blended in various ways with local ceramics, acquiring two new surface treatment techniques - net and corncob (Figure 14). This ware which exhibits predominately plain surface is in marked contrast to Radford, Limestone/Gastropod Shell, and Gastropod Shell wares which are predominately net and cord-marked.

A study of the historic Cherokee towns (Egloff 1967:44-46) of Settacco and Great Tellico along the Little Tennessee River in Tennessee revealed that 80% of the sherds are mussel shell tempered with plain or burnished surface treatments, and that 5% are mussel shell tempered with cord markings. Apparently, the Overhill Cherokee towns along the main trading path were dominated by the Mississippian Shell Tempered Tradition (Egloff 1967). This tradition reached even the headwaters of the Clinch River during the latter stage of occupation at the Crab Orchard site (44TZ1), a Late Woodland to Protohistoric village. The ware, which probably dates to the period A.D. 1300-1700, was identified by the author in Russell (44RU1, 3A, 7, 9, 11, and 14), Scott (44SC1, 9, and 13), and Tazewell (44TZ1 and 51) counties.

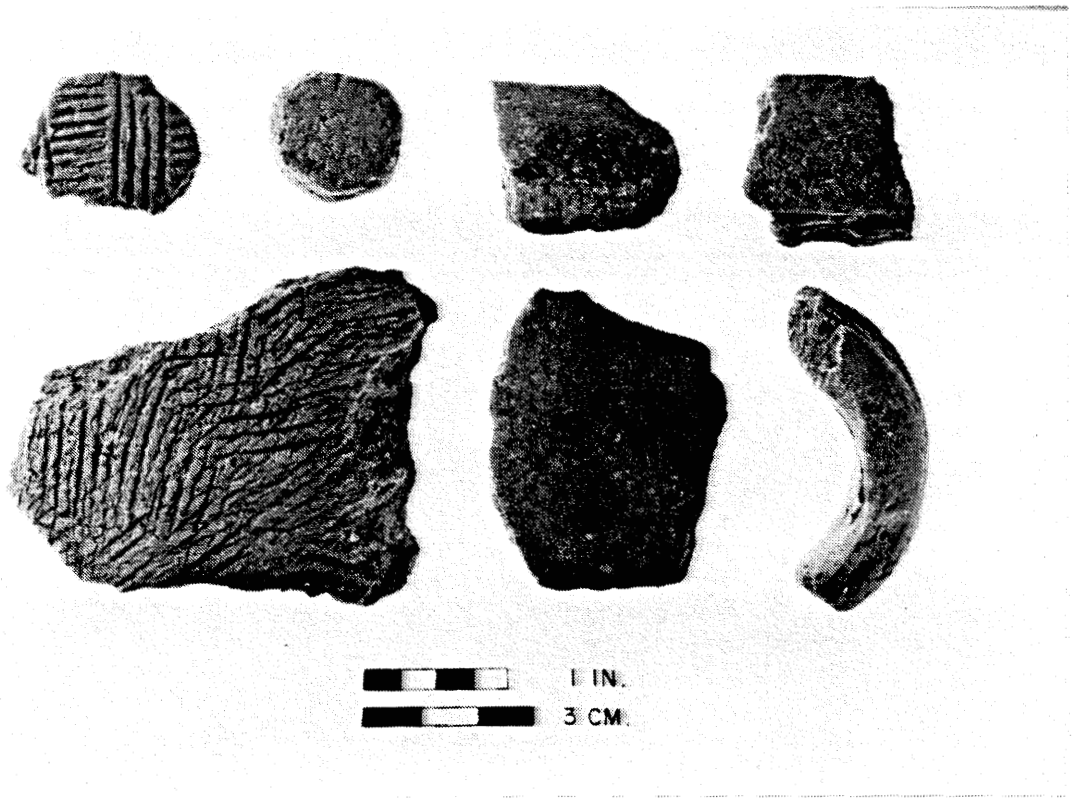


Figure 13: Sherds from 44LE10. Top row left to right: Pisgah Rectilinear Complicated Stamped, Dallas Plain discoidal and two folded rims. Bottom row: Dallas Cord and Plain types, and a strap handle.

Figure 14: Mussel Shell Ware from 44TZ1. Top row left to right: net impressed rim, incised plain rim, incised plain. Bottom row: cord marked, plain rim, smoothed-over cord marked rim.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS AND CERAMIC DATA

The type and size of a site and its location in a particular environment are all important factors in interpreting the relationship between ceramic distribution and socio-cultural connectedness, interaction, and complexity. In the following descriptions, the author gives particular attention to site size and type and certain geographic factors such as soil character and site location in relation to gaps and particular sources of water. In southwest Virginia along the Clinch and Powell rivers where floodplain soils are rare, village distribution suggests that colluvial upland soils, gaps, headwater settings, small streams, and springs become very important factors in determining village placement.

Throughout the presentation of ceramic data, the author stresses on the one hand, the ceramic wares and attributes that represent the indigenous socio-culturally connected people of the Clinch and Powell rivers, and, on the other,those that illustrate influences from outside the region. Swannanoa, Long Branch Fabric Marked, Candy Creek Cord Marked, Radford, Limestone/Gastropod Shell, and Gastropod Shell wares, and fabric, cord, and net-impressed surface treatments illustrate the gradual change through time of Eastern Woodland Tradition ceramics. Superimposed upon this rather complex picture of change and interaction within the Eastern Woodland Tradition are the effects of the infusions of the Southern Appalachian Stamped Tradition as represented by Wright Check Stamped, Bluff Creek Simple Stamped, Connestee and Pisgah wares, and the Mississippian Shell Tempered Tradition as illustrated by the Dallas and Mussel Shell wares.

Occasionally, a generalized statement on the intensity of interaction between the Southern Appalachian and Mississippian cultures of the southeast United States and the indigenous socio-culturally connected people of southwest Virginia is inserted into the presentation of ceramic data. Later, four levels of interaction between Mississippian/Cherokee and indigenous people are hypothesized: 1) a unit of cultural intrusion, 2) direct contact and mixture of people, 3) limited interaction, and 4) little or no contact with indigenous people.

Two methods of analysis were applied to the 12,011 sherds studied. From 44TZ1, only sherds larger than 1 square inch were studied. From the other sites, all the sherds, except very small ones where surface treatment could not be identified, were analyzed. In the ceramic tables, the sherds are identified by their repository, either SMTH (Smithsonian Institution, Holland's collection) or VDHL (Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks).

Lee County

44LE10

The Carter Robinson mound and surrounding village are located on a low ridge overlooking a small branch that flows 500 meters south into Indian Creek. The mound measures 3 to 4 meters high and is 35 meters in diameter. This study includes 31 sherds analyzed from Holland's collection and 33 sherds analyzed from the VDHL collection.

The sherds are overwhelmingly Dallas Plain and Dallas Cordmarked types with one example of a strap handle (Figure 13), and two examples of lugs - one circular and one elongated (Table 1). One Pisgah Rectilinear Complicated Stamped sherd came from the site, which is only 35 miles north of the substructure mounds investigated by Webb (1938) in the Norris Basin on the Powell and Clinch rivers.

44LE12

A substructure mound 90 meters in circumference at the base and approximately 6 meters in height, the Ely Mound, stands on a low ridge 100 meters north of Indian Creek. In the early 1870s the mound was tested with a central square and side trench by Lucien Carr, Assistant Curator of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. Carr (1877:76) noted the decaying stumps of a series of cedar posts, from which he surmised that the summit of the mound had been occupied by a building - possibly a rotunda or council chamber. By the examination of numerous historical references, Lucien Carr, in reporting on his excavations at the Ely mound, was one of the first individuals to link definitively the Native Americans at the time of European contact with mound centers. The Ely mound has not been plowed or disturbed since Carr's investigation and retains much of its original height. At the top of the mound, a slight depression which extends northwest to its edge probably represents Carr's excavation. The mound has an apron of soil fill that extends to the southeast, likely evidence of a ramp or series of steps ascending the mound. Since neither the mound nor the fields to the east and south were ever plowed by the present landowner, there is no known surface colletion of artifacts to study.

44LE14

This circular village, one acre in extent, is situated on a flattened depression one mile west of the headwaters of Sugar Run. No stream is nearby, but water is available from a spring. From Holland's (1970) collection, 67 sherds were analyzed (Table 1). The Middle Woodland period is represented by 16 Connestee Ware and 5 Candy Creek Ware sherds, while Mississippian cultural influence is represented by 27 Pisgah Rectilinear Complicated Stamped sherds and 19 Dallas Ware sherds including one strap handle.

44LE17

The one to two-acre village site is located on a lofty ridge bounded by the U-shaped loop of the Powell River 30 meters below. The Powell River is entrenched at this point and is not bordered by bottomland. Holland (1970:19) excavated two strata cuts. The first, Cut A, was dug to a depth of 40 cm. near the southwestern edge of the site, recovering 359 sherds. Cut B was placed 23 meters north and slightly east of the first cut at the center of a noticeable rise. Artifacts (only 34 sherds) were found in lenses to a depth of 61 cm. at which point a pavement of 5 cm. thick weathered limestone slabs covered most of the floor of the cut and extended into unexcavated areas. Beneath the pavement, there was a 5 cm. layer of black fill resting on the reddish clay subsoil. The charcoal from level 45-61 cm. was dated at A.D. 1210 ± 120 years. The author believes that the feature encountered by Cut B could be the base of a substructure mound. The rise in the field, the lensing of soil, the extensive network of limestone slabs, and the low density of sherds suggest a structure associated with mound fill. Only 49 sherds were analyzed from Holland's collection (Table 1). Connestee Ware is represented by two cord-marked sherds, Dallas Ware by 25 sherds including 2 strap handles, and Pisgah Rectilinear Complicated Stamped by 22 sherds.

44LE76

Island Field village site, approximately two acres in size, is located on a low ridge 250 meters west of Mud Creek which flows one mile north to the Powell River. The VDHL collection of 163 sherds was analyzed by the author for this study (Table 1). Long Branch Fabric Marked is represented by 3 sherds and Wright Check Stamped by one tetrapodal-support sherd. One example of Connestee Cord Marked was identified. However, the majority (158) of the remaining sherds are Candy Creek Ware, probably dating to within the period A.D. 600-900.

Russell County

44RU1

This village, 46 by 91 meters in size, is situated on a valley floor 100 meters west of Loop Creek and four miles from its headwaters. 117 sherds from Holland's (1970) collection (Table 2) were analyzed. The majority (76) of the sherds are Radford Ware, but 37 sherds are Gastropod Shell Ware with the same types and similar frequencies of surface treatments. This suggests a close cultural relationship between the two tempering agents - limestone and gastropod - and may represent the same cultural assemblage of people. Two sherds were identified as Long Branch Fabric Marked, while two other sherds are Mussel Shell Plain and represent a slight Mississippian influence.

44RU2

This one-acre village is located on a valley floor along Elk Garden Creek. A strata cut was excavated two feet in from the eroded bank of the creek, encountering charcoal flaked soil to a depth of 81 cm. This study includes 761 sherds analyzed from Holland's (1970) collection (Table 2). The majority of the sherds are classified as Radford Ware, including an unusually large quantity of net-impressed (437) and plain-surfaced (289) sherds, and 28 cord-marked sherds. The early period is represented by 4 Long Branch Fabric Marked sherds and 3 Bluff Creek Simple Stamped sherds.

44RU3

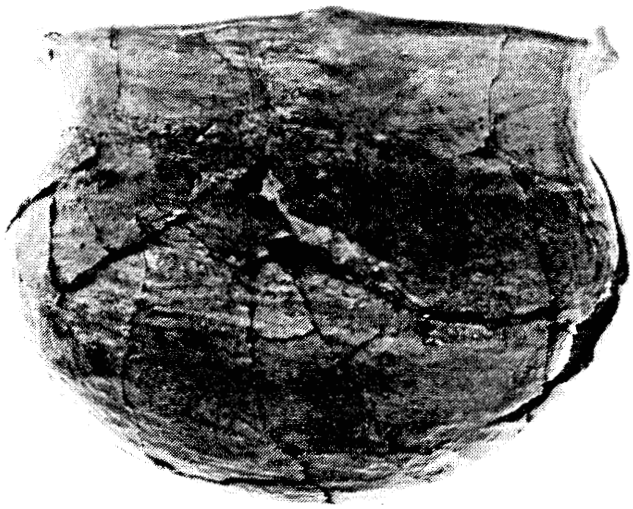
Elk Garden village site is just 350 meters north of 44RU2 on a valley floor along Elk Garden Creek. Holland's informant said that the site is actually two interlocking village circles. From Holland's (1970) collection, 270 sherds were analyzed from the southern circle, part A, and 155 sherds from the northern circle, part B (Table 2). The majority (293) of the sherds are Radford Ware, including 171 net-impressed sherds, 69 plain-surfaced sherds, 51 cord-marked sherds, and 2 corncob-impressed sherds. Gastropod Shell Ware comprised 128 sherds, while a slight Mississippian influence may be suggested by 2 Mussel Shell Plain sherds. The types and frequencies of the surface treatments of the limestone and gastropod tempered sherds are so similar that they may represent the same cultural assemblage of people. The early period is represented by 4 Long Branch Fabric Marked sherds.

Table 1

LEE COUNTY CERAMICS

	LE10 SMTH	LE10 VDHL	LE14 SMTH	LE17 SMTH	LE76 VDHL
Dallascord	20	20	11	10	
plain	11	12	8	15	
Pisgah rectilinear		1	27	22	
Candy Creek cord			2		119
smoothed					28
plain			3		11
Connestee simple			1		
check			1		
cord			5	2	1
smoothed			7		
plain			2		
Wright Creek					1
Long Branch					3
Total	31	33	67	49	163

Figure 19: Dallas Cordmarked vessel from 44SC13 (Fea. 15, pot 1).



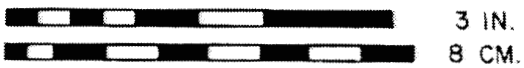


Figure 20: Qualla Plain vessel with four castellations above rim nodes from 44SC13 (Fea. 8, pot 1).

Other vessels include a shallow squarish bowl with nodes at the corners, and a globular bowl with opposing strap handles. One of the cord-marked vessels is too badly crushed to restore, while the second is a small globular jar with a constricted neck and finger pinching along the rim (Figure 19). The seventh vessel is a crushed-quartz tempered, plain-surfaced globular jar with four equally-spaced nodes along the rim over which are placed castellations (Figure 20). The vessel shape and temper is reminiscent of Qualla Ware associated with late Cherokee cultures in western North Carolina. It is doubtful that all seven vessels were made at the site. Nevertheless, the vessels' paste qualities and shapes were familiar and acceptable to the people at the village and suggest a strong cultural tie to people living to the south. The occurrence in moderate frequency of Mussel Shell Ware and Pisgah sherds at other nearby sites along the Clinch River indicates a movement of Mississippian/Cherokee peoples into the area mixing with local societies.

Tazewell County

44TZ1

The Crab Orchard village site is situated in an upland valley floor 200 meters south of the Clinch River, which at this point is nothing more than a small stream. Eleven miles to the northeast at Tiptop, Virginia, is the break between the headwaters of the Clinch River and the New River drainage. Extensive excavation on the Crab Orchard site began in 1971 when Howard A. MacCord of the Virginia State Library examined a strip through the center of the village prior to the construction of State Route 632 (MacCord and Buchanan 1980). In 1978, the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks engaged in archaeological excavation on a portion of the site that would be disturbed by construction of a proposed social service building (Egloff and Reed 1980: 130-148).

These investigations revealed a palisaded village 122 meters in diameter dated to A.D. 1570 ± 120 and 1610 ± 55 by two acceptable radiocarbon dates. The 1978 research uncovered three circular house units each approximately 7.6 meters in diameter, evidence of three palisades, a large 19.5 by 9 to 12 meter semi-subterranean structure, and assorted storage and burial pits. The house units are aligned 1.5 to 4.5 meters within the palisades, and spaced closely together, with only enough room to walk between. Small cylindrical, basket, and bell-shaped storage pits are located within the house units, while larger storage pits are situated near the semi-subterranean structure. The wide variety of burial pit types including simple pit, central chamber, and shaft and chamber, tended to be placed behind the house units near the palisade, rather than within the homes. However, two infant burials are located within a house unit. The area to the west of the semi-subterranean structure contained numerous shallow basin pits, likely used as borrow pits, whose soil and clay were used to construct and maintain the semi-subterranean structure.

This study includes 7,229 sherds examined by the author; 4,603 were from the 1971-1972 excavation and 2,626 from the 1978 investigations (Tables 6, 7, and 8). Sherds were drawn from a representative sample of chosen feature types from across the entire site (Table 9). The 38 units of analysis taken from the 1971-1972 investigations include 6 bell-shaped storage pits, 13 cylindrical/basin-shaped storage pits, and 19 burials. The 47 units of analysis chosen from the 1978 investigation include 2 bell-shaped storage pits, 6 cylindrical-shaped storage pits, 5 basin-shaped storage pits, 1 basket-shaped storage pit, 12 burials, 19 borrow pits, 2 hearth pits, and 1 unit of midden from the semi-subterranean structure. For detailed site maps and descriptions of the features, the reader should refer to MacCord and Buchanan (1980) and Egloff and Reid (1980:30-148).

Table 6

44TZ1 CERAMICS 1971-72 EXCAVATION

	C	N	CC	SC	SN	SCC	SO	P	B	I	Total
Limestone	1278	327	372	448	26	68	463	817	7		3806
sub. %	34	8	10	12		2	12	22			100
%	29	7	8	10		1	10	18			83
Limestone/ gastropod	60	3	11	23			15				112
sub. %	54	3	10	20			13				100
%	1			1							2
Gastropod	85	5	29	43		2	28	9			201
sub. %	43	2	14	22		1	14	4			100
%	2		1	1			1				5
Mussel	49	13	6	6			16	355	2	2	429
sub. %	12	3	1	1			4	79			100
%	1							8			9
Crushed quartz	20	5						20			45
sub. %	44	12						44			100
%											
No temper			1					6	2		9
sub. %			11					67	22		100
%											
Soapstone							1				1
sub. %							100				100
%											
TOTAL	1492	353	419	520	26	70	523	1187	11	2	4603
%	32	8	10	11		2	11	26			100

Key: C Cord Marked; N Net Impressed; CC Corncob Impressed; SC Smoothed-Over Cord; SN Smoothed-Over Net; SCC Smoothed-Over Corncob; SO Smoothed-Over; P Plain; B Burnished; I Incised.

Table 7

44TZ1 CERAMICS 1978 EXCAVATION

	C	N	CC	SC	SN	SCC	SO	P	B	CV	Total
Limestone	776	53	158	348	4	14	336	500	2		2191
sub. %	35	2	7	16		1	15	23			100
%	30	2	6	13		1	13	19			84
Limestone/ gastropod	3		4	1			1	1			10
sub. %	30		40	10			10	10			100
%											
Gastropod	87	1	21	19		3	34	18			183
sub. %	48	1	11	10		2	18	10			100
%	3		1	1			1	1			7
Mussel	29	23	5	8			4	130	2		201
sub. %	14	11	3	4			2	65	1		100
%	1	1						5			7
Crushed quartz	2	2					1	18		2	25
sub. %	8	8					4	72		8	100
%								1			1
No temper			4				1	11			16
sub. %			25				6	69			100
%											
TOTAL	897	79	192	376	4	17	377	678	4	2	2626
%	34	3	7	14		1	14	26			100

Key: C Cord Marked; N Net Impressed; CC Corncob Impressed; SC Smoothed-Over Cord; SN Smoothed-Over Net; SCC Smoothed-Over Corncob; SO Smoothed-Over; P Plain; B Burnished; CV Curvilinear Complicated Stamped.

Table 8

44TZ1 CERAMIC TOTAL

	C	N	CC	SC	SN	SCC	SO	P	B	I	CV	Total
Limestone	2054	380	530	796	30	82	799	1317	9			5997
sub. %	35	6	9	13	1	1	13	22				100
%	29	5	7	11	1	1	11	18				83
Limestone/ gastropod	63	3	15	24			16	1				122
sub. %	52	2	12	20			13	1				100
%	1											1
Gastropod	172	6	50	62		5	62	27				384
sub. %	44	2	13	16		2	16	7				100
%	2		1	1			1					5
Mussel	78	36	11	14			20	465	4	2		630
sub. %	12	6	2	2			2	75	1			100
%	1	1						7				9
Crushed Quartz	22	7					1	38			2	70
sub. %	31	10					1	55			3	100
%								1				1
No Temper			5				1	17	2			25
sub. %			20				4	68	8			100
%												
Soapstone							1					1
sub. %							100					100
%												
Total	2389	432	611	896	30	87	900	1865	15	2	2	7229
%	33	6	9	12		1	12	26				100

Key: C Cord Marked; N Net Impressed; CC Corncob Impressed; SC Smoothed-Over Cord; SN Smoothed-Over Net; SCC Smoothed-Over Corncob; SO Smoothed-Over; P Plain; B Burnished; I incised: CV Curvilinear Complicated Stamped.

The analysis from 44TZ1 revealed that 83% of the 7,229 sherds are Radford Ware (Figure 8). Defined types in the study in decreasing frequency are: cord-marked 35%, plain 22%, smoothed-over cord 13%, smoothed-over 13%, corncob-impressed 9%, net-impressed 6%, smoothed-over corncob 1%, smoothed-over net, and burnished. The emphasis on the attribute 'smoothed-over' allows the author to document the increased frequency of smoothed-over, plain, and burnished surface treatments on late Radford Ware. It is of interest to note the low percentage of net-impressed sherds and the higher percentage of corncob-impressed sherds (Figure 21).

During the analysis, the author was suprised to discover that 1% of the 7,229 sherds are tempered with a mixture of crushed limestone and freshwater gastropod shells. Furthermore, the surface treatments of the two wares, Radford and Limestone/Gastropod Shell, are similar in frequency and distribution across the site. This has led the author to believe that these vessels were made by people representing one cultural tradition. The same may be said for Gastropod Shell Ware which composed 5% of the collection (Figure 12). These similarities strongly suggest that people had an option and were tempering their vessels with either crushed limestone and/or gastropod shell.

Only 9% of the 7,229 sherds from 44TZ1 are Mussel Shell Ware (Figure 14). However, 74% of these, an overwhelmingly majority, exhibit plain surfaces, which suggest indirect Mississippian influences (Figure 22). One incised plain sherd is from the rim of a cazuela bowl.

Less than 1% of the 7,229 sherds analyzed from the site contain a crushed-quartz temper in their compact paste. Two sherds, exhibiting curvilinear complicated stamped design, are of the Qualla Ware (see Figure 23 for similar design), a late prehistoric to protohistoric ware associated with Cherokee sites in western North Carolina (Egloff 1967). More than half of the sherds, however, display plain surfaces and may be placed within the Qualla Plain type. One plain sherd, exhibiting an 'L' shaped profile below the lip (Figures 10 and 11 upper left), is similar to a Qualla rim profile described by Egloff (1967:46-51).

A few rather thin sherds with compact paste, probably from small vessels, contain no temper (Figure 24). Interestingly, the associated surface treatments - plain, burnished, and corncob impressed - suggest a late prehistoric to protohistoric date for this ware.

Appendages and decorations were found on only 108 of the 7,229 analyzed sherds (Table 10). Furthermore, a few of the sherds exhibit two attributes, for instance, strap handles and castellations (Figure 8), or folded rims and finger pinching. Only 56 strap handles were identified, 20 of which are limestone tempered with corncob impressions. Corncob impressions commonly are associated with appendages and decorated sherds. This evidence of a high frequency of corncob surface treatment near the neck and rim area of vessels supports the statement made by prior investigators that a de-kernaled corncob often was used to shape the neck area of large vessels as well as being a common surface treatment on small jars. Within the strap handle sample, six limestone tempered handles retain evidence of being attached to the vessel by a riveting technique. Measurements taken on 24 strap handles range from 8 mm. to 13 mm. in thickness and 18.7 to 34 mm. in width, with an average thickness of 9.9 mm. and an average width of 28.7 mm.

Only 8 examples of folded rims and 38 cases of finger pinching (Figure 8) were identified, mainly on the limestone tempered pottery. Examples of rim notching, incising, punctations, nodes, and appliques were identified rarely at the site.

Table 9

44TZ1 FEATURE TYPES

1971-1972 Excavation

Burials		Cylindrical/Basin-Shaped		Bell-Shaped
33	207	1	127	28
41	217	18	128	47
56	233	25	158	51
130	235	26	177	63
169	238	30	179	76
173	254	52	277	89
176	261	85		
180	269			
182	275			
195				

1978 Excavation

Borrow Pits		Burials		Cylindrical-Shaped
508B	534F	500A	514A	504A
508C	534G	508A	514B	504B
512C	538A	509C	515A	506B
519A	538C	512A	520B	506C
519B	538D	512D	534D	507B
520A	538E	513A	542A	509B
534A	538F			
534C	538H			
534E	541A			

Rasin-Shaped	Bell-Shaped	Hearths	Basket-Shaped	Midden
512E	507A	517B	505A	517A1-K1
512F	511A	517C		
512G				
513B				
516A				

Figure 21. Radford Corncob Marked vessel from 44TZ1 (Fea 162, Bur. 71).

Figure 22: Mussel Shell Plain vessel from 44TZ1 (Fea. 121, Bur. 47).

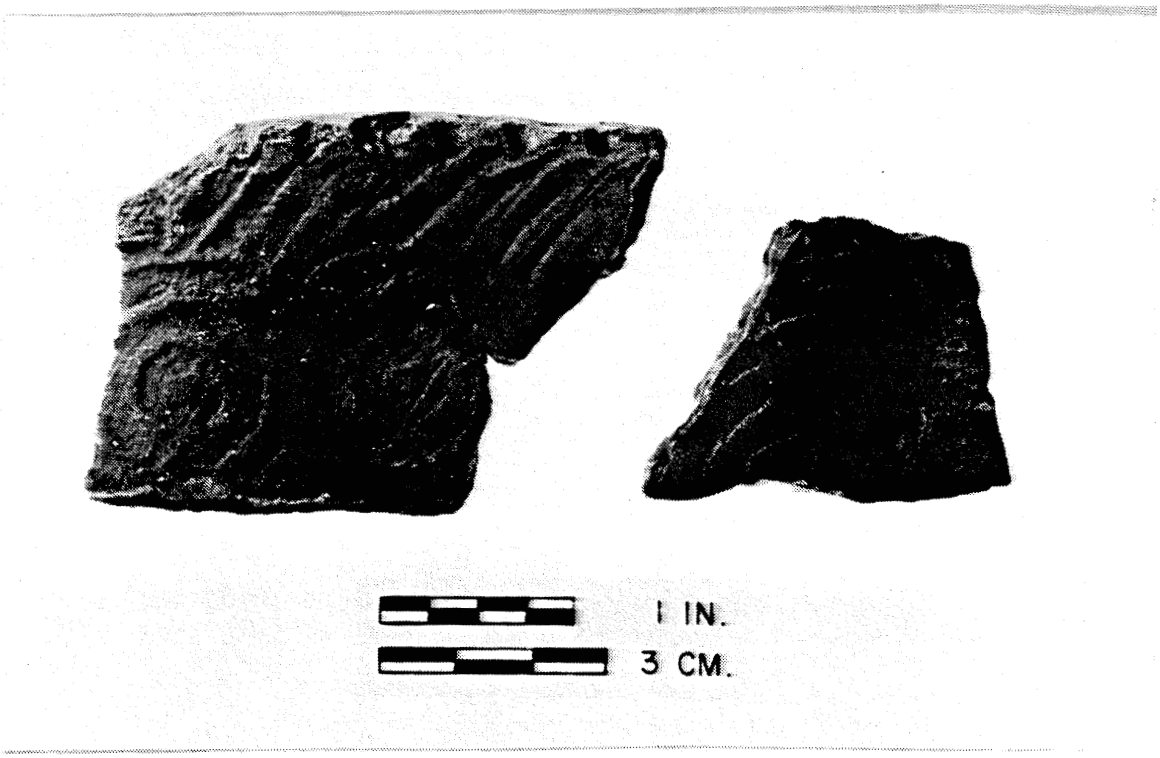


Figure 23: Curvilinear cimplicated stamped sherds from 44TZ1. Limestone tempered rim sherd on left, soapstone tempered on right.

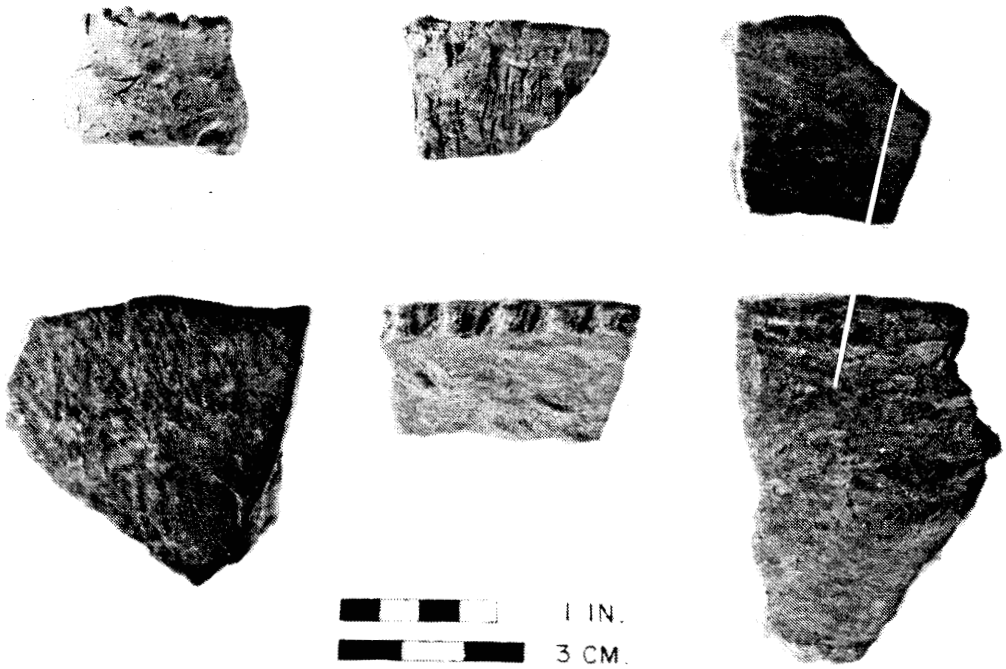


Figure 24: Temperless sherds, probably from small vessels, found at 44TZ1. Top row left to right: plain rim with notches, corncob impressed rim, plain. Bottom row: smoothed-over cord marked, plain rim with finger pinches, plain rim.

Table 10

44TZ1 APPENDAGES & DECORATIONS

	SH	CT	FR	FP	RN	IN	PU	NO	AP
Limestone									
cord	10	4	1	6		2			
net	1		2	7	1				
Corncob	20	3	1	8		1		1	
Plain	4		1	8			1		
Smoothed	17	6	1	6					1
Gastropod									
Cord				1					
Smoothed	1			1					
Mussel									
Net					1				
Plain	3				2				
Crushed quartz									
net			2						
plain				1					
TOTAL	56	13	8	38	4	3	1	1	1

Key: SH Strap Handle; CT Castellation; FR Folded Rim; FP Finger Pinching; RN Rim Notching; IN Incising; PU Punctuation; NO Node; AP Applique.

The analysis of ceramics from 44TZ1 was conducted initially to determine both the temporal sequence of ceramic types at the site and whether there existed a ceramic preferance between house units at the site. It was thought that a distributional analysis might show that various ceramic influences were associated with certain house units. The latter could not be investigated at this time.

However, an idea of the temporal sequence of the various ceramic types was obtained through the analysis (Table 11). Three key overlapping basin-shaped storage features, two bell-shaped storage pits, and a selection of borrow pits provide the sherds on which the sequence is based. The borrow pits located away from the village probably were filled with ceramics that represented the people living in the area prior to the settlement of the village because it is assumed that very little, if any, of the village debris reached the borrow pit area. Of the 12 borrow pits investigated, only 33 sherds were recovered. Three additional borrow pits, 534F, 534G, and 538A, contained no ceramics. All of the ceramics are limestone tempered and, except two corncob impressed sherds, are either cord-marked or plain.

The three overlapping basin-shaped storage pits, 512E, 512F, 512G, reveal an excellent ceramic sequence. The eight Radford Cord Marked sherds from the earliest pit, 512G, probably represent the early occupation of the village. Storage pit 512F and the latest pit, 512E, show the progression of ceramics used through the middle years of village occupation. With respect to surface treatment, net, corncob, and plain surface treatments increased in frequency while cord-marking decreased. Three new tempering agents -- gastropod, limestone/gastropod, and mussel shell -- were added to the original technology of limestone tempering.

Ceramics from the bell-shaped storage pits, 507A and 511A, probably represent the last occupation of the village. Net and especially plain surface treatments continue to increase in popularity. Plain vessels with either limestone or mussel shell temper predominate. Two new paste characteristics -- crushed-quartz temper, and no temper -- were added to the ceramic technology. Gastropod as a tempering agent is declining in popularity while mussel shell is increasing.

The ceramic data from the 82 features are presented in the Appendix. Future avenues of investigation include: 1) refinement in the ceramic sequence, and 2) interpretation of the ceramic variability across the site.

44TZ2

The Mays village site, 2 to 4 acres in size, is located on a gentle sloping hillside 150 meters south of the Clinch River and 850 meters east of 44TZ1. This study includes 353 sherds analyzed from Holland's (1970) collection (Table 12). The sherds suggest a local ceramic expression which includes limestone or gastropod temper with either cord, net, or plain surface treatments. The unusually high frequency of net-impressed sherds from a village so near 44TZ1, which produced predominantly cord-marked sherds, is notable.

Table 11

44TZ1 CERAMIC PERCENTAGES OF SELECTED FEATURES

	Limestone							Gastropod				L/G		Mussel			Qtz	No	
	C	N	CC	SC	SCC	SO	P	C	CC	SO	P	C	P	C	CC	P	P	P	Total
511A	21	12	6	20		20	94	3				1		5		84	11	5	282
%	8	4	2	7		7	33	1						2		30	4	2	100
507A	8	5	3	7		3	51	1								24			102
%	8	5	3	7		3	50	1								23			100
512E	87	1	22	54	3	47	44	5	2	3	3		1	1	3				276
%	32		8	20	1	17	16	2	1	1	1				1				100
512F	50		9	15		19	14	1	1										109
%	46		8	14		17	13	1	1										100
512G	8																		8
%	100																		100
534A-541A	14		2	7		6	4												33
%	43		6	21		18	12												100

Key: C Cord Marked; N Net Impressed; CC Corncob Impressed; SC Smoothed-Over Cord; SCC Smoothed-Over Corncob; SO Smoothed-Over; P Plain; L/G Limestone/Gastropod; Qtz Quartz; NO No temper.

44TZ7

The Ward's Cove village site is situated in a small valley floor near the headwaters of Maiden Spring Creek. A vertical-shaft cave, immediately adjacent to the village, has a stream running through it which could be used as a source of water. Holland (1970:41) heard that shell gorgets, one with an incised circle and another with a turtle design, were removed by collectors from burials at the site. This study includes 108 sherds analyzed from Holland's collection (Table 12). The temper and surface treatment of sherds from this site are similar in type and frequency to sherds from 44TZ2. Again this demonstrates the close physical, and presumably cultural, relationship between limestone and gastropod tempering and cord and net-impressed surface treatments on sherds that represent the indigenous culture of southwest Virginia during the Late Woodland period.

44TZ15

This hamlet occupation is located 100 meters north of a small stream in a narrow valley that joins the North Fork of the Clinch River 600 meters to the west. Postmolds were noted at the site, now covered by a subdivision. This study includes 51 sherds analyzed by the author (Table 12). The six corncob-impressed sherds from the sample suggest a ca. A.D. 1500-1700 date for the site, while the presence of solely Radford ceramics might indicate an indigenous group unaffected by Mississippian influence. Four sherds exhibit folded rims, an attribute rarely found along the Clinch River. Four other sherds display a looped-net surface treatment, the only examples identified in the study. Why were two rare ceramic attributes found at such a remote site?

44TZ51

This palisaded village site, approximately 2 acres in size, is situated on a promontory overlooking Little Town Hill Creek. The Clinch River, located 500 meters to the south, is 24 meters lower than the site. In 1982 excavations by local residents and later test excavations by the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks uncovered storage pits, hearths, a burial with an associated copper effigy pendant, and a palisade line. This study includes 210 sherds analyzed by the author (Table 12). The high percentage of Mussel Shell Ware and the plain and burnished surface treatments on the Mussel Shell and the Radford wares suggest a rather strong Mississippian influence occurring rather late in the Late Woodland period (Egloff and Turner 1984).

Wise County

44WS1

The site is a rockshelter located 2 ½ miles north of the Guest River in a heavily coal-mined region. This study includes 69 sherds analyzed from Holland's (1970) collection (Table 12). The occurrence of solely Radford Ware indicates that indigenous groups of people, with little or no Mississippian influence, inhabited the shelter.

Table 12

TAZEWELL AND WISE COUNTIES CERAMICS

	TZ2	TZ7	TZ15	TZ51	WS1
	SMTH	SMTH	VDHL	VDHL	SMTH
Mussel Shell					
cord				1	
plain				66	
burnished				13	
Gastropod Shell					
cord	1	5			
net	12	38			
plain	4	7			
Radford					
cord	29	5	7	1	28
net	268	44	33	10	24
corncob			6		
plain	39	8	5	101	16
burnished				11	
Wythe Variant					
net		1		1	
plain				6	
Bluff Creek					1
TOTAL	353	108	51	210	69

44WS88

Another rockshelter, this site is situated on the steep slope of a high mountainous ridge at an elevation of 3200 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the Guest River. It was tested by William Porter (personal communication) in the late 1960s, revealing a stratified sequence of ceramic wares from the entire Woodland period. An important contribution, Porter's work demonstrates that Swannanoa Ware occurred beneath Long Branch Fabric Marked Type, and therefore is the earliest pottery documented thus far for southwest Virginia. Furthermore, his work shows a high mountainous ridge being traveled even by the latest agriculturist people. Porter's report on his investigation is in progress.

SOCIO-CULTURAL COMPLEXITY

Southwest Virginia has been referred to as a cultural cross-roads, exhibiting a complex history of socio-cultural influences by way of Mississippian/Cherokee cultures to the south, Fort Ancient and Monongahela cultures to the north, and Dan River culture to the east. A study focusing on a smaller region, the Clinch and Powell rivers, may be able to document the spread of Mississippian/ Cherokee chiefdom cultures from Tennessee and their interface with the typically less complex, initially tribal societies of southwest Virginia.

A number of archaeological indicators which by themselves or in combination are characteristic of chiefdoms or ranked societies can be listed in order to understand better the processes of cultural interaction and increasing cultural complexity in southwest Virginia (cf. Turner 1983:280). These include:

1) Hierarchical settlement pattern. Examples would include a synchronic pattern of large, highly organized villages located in strategic environmental, agricultural, trade, and communication loci, and surrounded by smaller villages and hamlets.

2) Community organization. Examples would include evidence of stable, highly organized, and preplanned villages. Rank distinctions would be evident in variations of house size and placement.

3) Specialized construction. Examples would include substructure mounds, large communal structures, and communal storage facilities.

4) Variations in burial practices. Examples would include a wide variety of burial techniques and mortuary offerings, correlated by sex, age, and feature location, and indicating both ascribed and achieved statuses.

5) Rank-denoting artifacts. Examples would include exotic materials and motifs differentially distributed within and between settlements.

Such characteristics as noted above may be identified from sites along the Clinch and Powell rivers. Unfortunately, available data are sketchy, thereby inhibiting detailed analysis.

A possible series of substructue mounds along Indian Creek in Lee County may represent the main settlements of a hierarchical settlement system of a ranked society. Besides the Carter Robinson (44LE10) and Ely (44LE12) mounds, separated by seven miles, a local informant did indicate to the author that another mound may have existed approximately seven miles northeast of the Ely mound. This site would be north of 44LE17, a potential substructure mound on the Powell River.

A hierarchical settlement pattern is also addressed by Bott (1981:44-45) when he speaks of the floodplain-upland village dicotomy:

> If the upland villages had similar functions as, and were independent of, the floodplain villages, it would be possible to conclude that the late prehistoric societies of southwest Virginia were probably tribal or egalitarian. If, on the other hand, the upland villages served different functions from, and were closely connected to, the floodplain villages, then it would be possible to conclude that more complex, possibly rank, societies were probably evolving.

Turner (1983:275), by using variation in hamlet and village size, discusses hierarchical settlement patterns. He warns that even extreme variation in site size alone does not confirm the presence of chiefdoms. Furthermore, the entire question of hierarchical settlement pattern and village relationships must be seen within the larger context of two variables: 1) expanding populations in southwest Virginia, and the resulting intensified competition for a scarce resource - floodplain and upland agricultural land, and 2) strategically desirable village locations along trails and near fords and gaps.

The feature types, distribution, and structural rebuilding at the Crab Orchard village site, 44TZ1, indicate a rather elaborate stable community organization somewhat similar to a planned village. The palisade probably served as a visual barrier, as well as a protective wall, demarcating the extent of the planned center, much in the manner in which a boxwood hedge or a picket fence delineated a yard. Within the palisade, the plaza, homes, burials, and storage pits were arranged in a socially prescribed fashion that suggests a moderate degree of community organization and complexity. The semi-subterranean structure probably functioned as a public meeting house for secular and/or sacred activities. Associated large storage pits may have served the whole community or provided articles and goods for the activities which took place within the structure. The complexity of the community organization at the Crab Orchard site suggests at least a tribal society, perhaps evolving into a chiefdom.

The substructure mound at the Ely site and perhaps at the Carter Robinson site and 44LE17 are excellent examples of specialized communal structures. The same may be said for the semi-subterranean structure and the series of large, perhaps communal, storage pits adjacent to that structure at the Crab Orchard site. These features argue for a socio-cultural complexity minimally on the level of tribal societies. The substructure mounds are very strong evidence for a ranked society. The semi-subterranean building at Crab Orchard, constructed when the village was first planned, suggests that the local tribal society may have been evolving towards a chiefdom even before the later introduction of Mississippian related ceramics.

A wide variety of burial methods exists at or near the crab orchard site, including secondary, flexed primary, extended primary, and multiple primary, and burial in a vertical-shaft limestone cave. The burial pit types also vary and include simple pit, central chamber, shaft and chamber, and burial in abandoned storage pits. This suggests a rather diverse and perhaps elaborate mortuary complex, although firm evidence for ascribed status is lacking. Such evidence is largely restricted to looted burials elsewhere for which unfortunately only minimal data exist.

Throughout the Clinch and Powell rivers in southwest Virginia local informants have reported from burials gorgets made of marine shell with Mississippian motifs. Copper celt and effigy pendants, small black slate effigy pendants, and exotic ceramic vessels came from burials along the Clinch River. During his testing of the Ely mound, Lucien Carr uncovered shell ear pins and a gorget with a weeping eye motif, and a large bi-concave sandstone chunkie stone. These exotic artifacts, presumably with differential distribution, strongly suggest a ranked society.

Although the cultural tradition of southwest Virginia is undoubtedly Eastern Woodland, cultural infusion from the Mississippian/Cherokee societies from Tennessee, as further documented in the previous sections, deeply affected the evolving tribal societies. The evidence from southwest Virginia indicates various levels of socio-cultural complexity from examples of intrusive chiefdoms, to indigenous tribal societies evolving into chiefdoms, to tribal societies unaffected by intrusive chiefdoms.

CONCLUSION

Ceramic typology by itself involves sherds and not the people that made them. In order to discuss Native American people, the author has emphasized several environmental variables and the concepts of site distribution, socio-cultural connectedness and interaction, and levels of socio-cultural complexity.

Site distribution across the environment of southwest Virginia suggests a number of observations about the people:

1) Most of the ceramic types, many showing Southern Appalachian and Mississippian influence, are found even in the remotest rockshelters. Apparently, the people did not find the Ridge and Valley Province of southwest Virginia to constitute a formidable obstacle, but rather the mountain ranges channeled their trade and communication as early as 1,800 years ago.

2) The ceramic distribution shows that people occupied rockshelters and lived in hamlet and village settlements on ridges, hill tops, plateaus, gently sloping upland valleys, and floodplains during the Early through late Woodland periods. Apparently, all major environmental zones were being utilized by people throughout the Woodland period.

3) Many Late Woodland hamlets and villages are located on colluvial upland soils formed on gentle slopes from nearby limestone, sandstone, and shale. These soils are often potentially more agriculturally productive than the floodplain soils. As a result, agricultural groups had a wide range of environmental zones that they could settle.

4) Major villages located in small valleys, on ridges, hill slopes, and plateaus suggest that direct access to rivers or large streams for transportation, fish and shellfish, or drinking water was not essential. Transportation routes appeared to follow coalescing upland valleys and penetrated mountains through gaps. Apparently people found other sources for drinking water, such as springs. Small streams supplied sufficient quantities of fish and shellfish especially when supplemented with alternative sources of protein.

5) People placed some of their villages along overland trails that strategically connected a series of valleys through lesser or major gaps. These trails, in many cases, did not follow closely the major watercourses.

The temporal and spatial placement of ceramic wares developed in this paper similarly has raised a number of observations about the people of southwest Virginia:

1) The people of southwest Virginia first decided to accept a ceramic technology ca. 500 B.C. However, early cord-marked ceramics normally associated with Swannanoa Fabric Marked Type are rare in southwest Virginia.

2) Long Branch Fabric Marked Type was common in southwest Virginia before A.D. 300.

3) Wright Check Stamped, Bluff Creek Simple Stamped, Mulberry Creek Plain types, and Connestee Ware demonstrate a diverse expression of ceramic surface treatments entering southwest Virginia during the period A.D. 100-600, suggesting greater movement and interaction of people than occurred immediately before or after this period.

4) Candy Creek Cord Marked Type was popular with the indigenous people probably during the period A.D. 100-900. The type would be very difficult to differentiate in small surface collections from Radford Cord Marked Type.

5) Late Woodland net-impressed ceramics in both Radford and Wythe Variant ceramics probably represent the arrival of influences from people further to the east. During the period A.D. 1500-1700 corncob-impressed surface treatment was introduced apparently from the same direction.

6) The arrival of Pisgah and Dallas wares ca. A.D. 1200 from societies further south indicates another period of increased cultural interaction and even the intrusion of a different people, this time signaling the arrival of a chiefdom society.

7) People commonly used shell as a tempering agent for vessels in the last half of the Late Woodland period. Gastropod Shell Ware apparently was introduced first with little or no accompanying change to the rest of the ceramic technology. This suggests that gastropod shell was simply an alternative temper selected by the people for a small percentage of the Radford Ware vessels. On the other hand, when Mussel Shell Ware appeared slightly later, changes also occurred in surface treatments and decorations suggesting various degrees of direct interaction between the indigenous people and the Mississippian/Cherokee cultures to the southwest.

In general, the ceramics from the Clinch and Powell rivers in southwest Virginia dated to A.D. 1200-1700 suggest four levels of cultural interaction between the indigenous tribal people and the Mississippian/Cherokee ranked cultures of eastern Tennessee:

1) The Dallas and Pisgah wares found at Lee County sites indicate an actual cultural intrusion into the area of a tightly connected Mississippian/Cherokee chiefdom from Tennessee with little or no mixing with the local, tribally-connected peole.

2) The mixture of Pisgah and Mussel Shell wares with Radford and Gastropod Shell wares on sites located further north in Scott and southern Russell counties suggest direct contact between and social mixing of one or more Mississippian chiefdoms and the local people.

3) The frequent occurrence of Radford Ware with some Mussel Shell ceramics at the Crab Orchard village site near the headwaters of the Clinch River indicates an indigenous culture. This culture had limited interaction with Mississippian people, and then only very late in time.

4) Sites containing only the local Radford and/or Gastropod Shell wares, including earlier Late Woodland sites, or later sites located in the more remote areas and further north along the Clinch River drainage, suggest a tightly connected indigenous society with little or no direct contact with Mississippian culture.

APPENDIX

Key:

C	Cord Marked
N	Net Impressed
CC	Corncob Impressed
SC	Smoothed-Over Cord
SN	Smoothed-Over Net
SCC	Smoothed-Over Corncob
SO	Smoothed-Over
P	Plain
B	Burnished
I	Incised
CV	Curvilinear

44TZ1 CERAMICS FROM FEATURES

	Limestone									Limestone/Gastropod						Gastropod						
Features	C	N	CC	SC	SN	SCC	SO	P	B	C	N	CC	SC	SO	P	C	N	CC	SC	SCC	SO	P
1	40	11	11	15			16	7					1	2								
18	2	4	1					10														
25	8	6		1			7	21	1													
26	23	23	3	1			10	39	2													
28	2	2	1					23														
30	3	24	1	2	2		4	8														
33	39	1	12	14	1	4	12	18								6		2	5		2	
41	34	3	10	10		1	15	21		1						1	1		1		3	
47	4	5		1				4														
51	8	4	3	4		1	6	26														
52	7	4	2	9		1	3	73	1													
56	11	56		3	5		2	21														
63	3			6				1														
76	1				12																	
85	36	1	3	37			17	25														
89	35	50	1	10	1		10	139								2						
127	6	11	2	12	1		4	37		1						2						
128	1	8			1		3	20	3													
130	12	4	4	5			4	19														

44TZ1 CERAMICS FROM FEATURES

	Mussel								Quartz					No Temper					Soapstone	
Features	C	N	CC	SC	SO	P	B	I	C	N	SO	P	CV	CC	SO	P	B	CV	SO	Total
1																				103
18						2											2			21
25		1				2														47
26	9	2	2		6	27	2													149
28						1														29
30	3				3	7										1				58
33		1																		117
41						1										1				103
47			1			3			8											26
51						39		2												93
52					5	10										3				118
56	1					50														149
63																				10
76																				13
85						3														122
89	33	5	1	4		68						16							1	376
127						82														158
128	1				1	7			9			2								56
130																				48

44TZ1 CERAMICS FROM FEATURES

	Limestone									Limestone/Gastropod						Gastropod						
Features	C	N	CC	SC	SN	SCC	SO	P	B	C	N	CC	SC	SO	P	C	N	CC	SC	SCC	SO	P
158	5	5	3	5			1	14														
169	62		16	26		4	21	17								4		2			6	
173	48	2	6	19		3	15	16		2			1	2		3			3		8	1
176	24	16	7	11		1	9	7		4						3						
177	62	20	21	23			31	11		12		1	2	2		19	2	2	11			1
179	20	4	23	3	2	12	5	19								3	1		1			
180	86	5	29	22		6	25	33								4						
182	21		4	3		2	5	1		1									1			
195	31	5	13	5	1		14	8				1				2						
207	80	6	28	17		5	29	26		2		2		1								
217	100	6	44	11		8	27	24			1	1	2	1		2						
233	73	2	12	27		3	40	29		4	1			3		2		5	1		1	
235	16	2	8	4			12	14														
238	37	9	14	12		1	12	11		1		1	1	1		1		2	2			
254	154	5	32	44		10	41	31		8			2			20		12	9	1	7	2
261	52	7	11	26		3	25	14		1			2			1	1	1	4	1		
269	96	12	34	43		3	23	21		19		2	10	2		7		1	4		1	2
275	10		5	3			10	4		2	1	2	1			2		2	1			2
277	26	4	8	14			5	5		2		1	1	1		1						1

44TZ1 CERAMICS FROM FEATURES

	Mussel								Quartz					No Temper					Soapstone	
Features	C	N	CC	SC	SO	P	B	I	C	N	SO	P	CV	CC	SO	P	B	CV	SO	Total
158						4						1								38
169									2			1								161
173																				129
176		3	2	1		6														94
177						6														226
179						10														103
180																				210
182																				38
195	1	1												1						83
207	1																			197
217																				227
233										2										205
235																				56
238																1				106
254						2			1											381
261																				149
269				1	1	2				3										287
275																				45
277						3														72

44TZ1 .CERAMICS FROM FEATURES

	Limestone									Limestone/Gastropod						Gastropod						
Features	C	N	CC	SC	SN	SCC	SO	P	B	C	N	CC	SC	SO	P	C	N	CC	SC	SCC	SO	P
500A	13			3			5	5				1							1	1		
504A	33		5	9			6	11								6					1	
504B	6	1	1	4	2		3	5														
505A	15		1	3	1			2														
506C	2			1																		
506B	4		1	2			4	3														
507B	4	2		1				26	2													
507A	8	5	3	7			3	51								1						
508A	17	1	5	9			20	15								2		4		2		1
508B	18		5	6			2	6		1						2			3		2	
508C	59	5	23	24			25	28								10		6	5		8	1
509B	112	7	11	41	1		40	37					1			17		3	2		10	1
509C	1		3	2			6	3								1			2		1	
511A	21	12	6	20			20	94		1						3						
512A	2		2	5			1															
512C	2															1		1				
512D	1			3			5	2														
512E	87	1	22	54		3	47	44							1	5		2			3	3
512F	50		9	15			19	14								1		1				
512G	8																					
513A	22	1	3	1			3	6								2					1	
513B	77		17	20		2	39	24		1		3				3			1		6	

44TZ1 CERAMICS FROM FEATURES

	Mussel								Quartz					No Temper					Soapstone	
Features	C	N	CC	SC	SO	P	B	I	C	N	SO	P	CV	CC	SO	P	B	CV	SO	Total
500A																				29
504A													1							72
504B					1	10														33
505A					1															23
506C																				3
506B	1																			15
507B						4	2				1	6								48
507A						24														102
508A																				76
508B																				45
508C																1				195
509B																4				287
509C																				19
511A	5					84						11				5				282
512A																				10
512C																				4
512D																				11
512E	1		3																	276
512F																				109
512G																				8
513A																				39
513B																				193

44TZ1 CERAMICS FROM FEATURES

	Limestone									Limestone/Gastropod						Gastropod						
Features	C	N	CC	SC	SN	SCC	SO	P	B	C	N	CC	SC	SO	P	C	N	CC	SC	SCC	SO	P
514A				28												2						
514B	7						4	2								3		2				
515A	23	6	7	14			8	13						1			1					
516A	9	1	1	3			4	4														
517A1-K1	44	2	8	8		2	18	29														
517B			1				1															
517C	19	3	4	6			15	29														
519A	1																					
519B	4			3			2	13								16		2	4			11
520A	2		2	1												1						
520B	74	6	9	46		7	28	28								11			1		2	1
534A	3			2				4														
534C							1															
534D	14		7					1														
534E	2			2																		
538C	3		1																			
538D				1			1															
538E	2		1																			
538F	3						1															
538H				2			3															
541A	1																					
542A	3			2			2	1														

44TZ1 CERAMICS FROM FEATURES

	Mussel								Quartz					No Temper					Soapstone	
Features	C	N	CC	SC	SO	P	B	I	C	N	SO	P	CV	CC	SO	P	B	CV	SO	Total
514A																				30
514B																				18
515A			1			2														76
516A																				22
517A1-K1						4						1								116
517B									1											3
517C		1				1				1			1		1					81
519A																				1
519B																				55
520A																				6
520B	22	22	1	8	2	1			1	1						1				272
534A														4						13
534C																				1
534D																				22
534E																				4
538C																				4
538D																				2
538E																				3
538F																				4
538H																				5
541A																				1
542A																				8

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