Andrew J. Webster

Slicing through Our Past: Knives and Other Flatware at the Collier Lodge Site 12PR36

Results of the Collier Lodge Flatware Analysis Project

Senior Thesis

Dr. Mark R. Schurr, Advisor
Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame

Abstract:

The Collier Lodge in Northwest Indiana served many functions in its diverse history, including a restaurant and inn near the private hunting grounds of the famed Kankakee Marsh. Among the material culture are many knives and other types of flatware. Through stylistic analysis and comparison, as well as dating information obtained via archaeological context, this project aims to learn more about the flatware of Collier Lodge and see how this adds to the general knowledge of the site. It goes on to consider the benefits and challenges of flatware analysis, especially the limited amount of comparative material available, and proposes some solutions to this dilemma for future researchers.

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Acknowledgements

This project would not have been possible without the generous help, support, and time of many people and institutions. Although it may be impossible to individually name each person who influenced me during my two-year adventure with Collier Lodge, I would like to express my appreciation to those who I can.

First, I would like to thank my advisor, Dr. Mark Schurr. His field school regularly opens up archaeological opportunities for interested students at Notre Dame and other schools. He spent a great amount of time with me planning and giving advice on how to conduct this project. Outside of this research, Dr. Schurr has helped me realize which direction I would like my life to go and has helped me steer it in that direction. It is through his patience and generosity that this project has become possible.

I would also like to thank all the faculty and staff of the Anthropology Department of the University of Notre Dame, all of whom have supported me and all their students in our undergraduate endeavors. Thank you for providing the facilities and opportunities for undergraduate fieldwork! I would especially like to extend my gratitude to Dr. Deb Rotman, who created an indispensible site history narrative for Collier Lodge as well as gave me places to look for more information, and to Dr. Ian Kuijt, who pushed me to go farther with my research and present it at the Society for American Archaeology Conference in April of 2012. Funding for the conference presentation was provided through the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts' Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, at the University of Notre Dame.

This list of acknowledgements would not be complete without saying thanks to John Hodson and all the members and volunteers of the Kankakee Valley Historical

Society. Their hard work made these excavations possible. To all of my Collier Colleagues, thank you for all your support, teamwork, and most of all, friendship that has lasted long after the last shovel of earth has been sifted through. I feel very blessed for having the privilege of working at your sides.

Finally, I would like to thank my family for all the love and support they have given me over the years. I would not have been able to realize my dream of becoming an archaeologist without them. I am grateful to know that they will always be at my side no matter where this adventure in Archaeology leads me.

Introduction

Over the past two summers, I have been part of a community of faculty, students, and volunteers that has conducted excavations at the Collier Lodge Site (12PR36) in northwest Indiana. Collier Lodge has an extensive site history ranging from prehistoric Native American camps to a nineteenth century lodge. Among the many artifacts found over the past few years, the historic artifacts intrigued me the most. I wanted to know what life was like at Collier Lodge back when Indiana was just in the infancy of its statehood? What could this tell us about life in the rural Midwest throughout the nineteenth century?

In order to answer these questions, I decided to focus my research on the numerous pieces of flatware found from past excavations. The Collier Lodge flatware analysis project seeks to add a comprehensive analysis of the numerous historic flatware artifacts unearthed during the nine years of excavations to the broader story of Collier

Lodge. I believe that this flatware can play an important role in understanding the history of a building that was both a hunting lodge and a restaurant.

The collection mainly consists of knives, but there are some forks and spoons as well. I hope to determine what types of flatware were being used at the Collier Lodge site. When do they date to? What different functions did they serve? Given Collier Lodge's function as an inn near private hunting grounds, were any of these knives used for hunting or are they mainly culinary in nature? Why were they discarded? Overall, what role did these artifacts play in the lives of those associated with Collier Lodge in the nineteenth century? Answering these questions will grant us new clues as to how people lived in this geographical and historical context.

In the end, while I was able to learn some information about specific pieces of flatware, it became difficult to apply this information to knowledge of daily life in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This was due in part to the poor condition of many of the artifacts but also in part to the lack of comparative materials. At this point, the project changed focus to the benefits and challenges of flatware research.

On a personal level, this project has allowed me to conduct my own research and use my discoveries to add to our collective understanding of a place that will always hold a special place in my heart.

Background

Archaeological data from the nine years of excavations at Collier Lodge have been compiled into site reports (Schurr 2006, Schurr 2011a). These provided me with information about the artifacts I was analyzing, such as their dimensions and

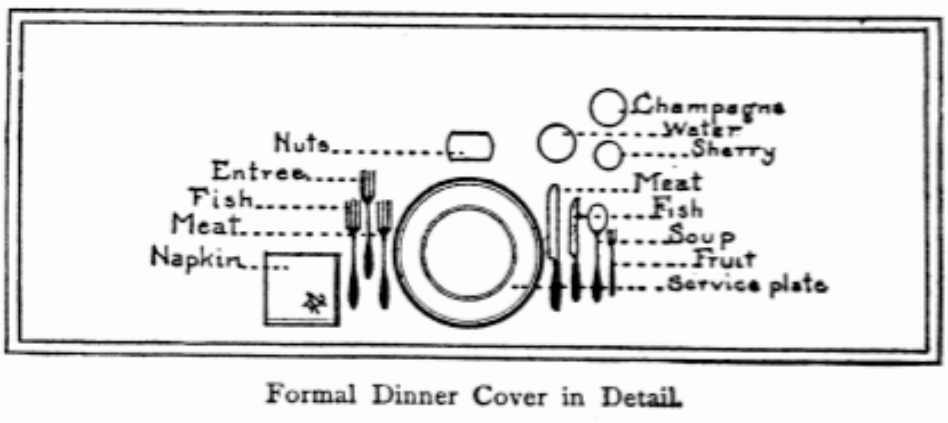
archaeological context. The site reports also formed the basis from which I was able to locate all of the flatware included in this project.

Collier Lodge has also been mentioned in many historic publications and periodicals, and these references have been compiled into a narrative which has become the leading source of information regarding site use and the history of Collier Lodge (Rotman 2009, Rotman 2006). The nomination for Collier Lodge's inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (Schurr & Rotman 2009) also provided me an in-depth look at the significance and function of Collier Lodge and places like it in the history of this country.

While the above documents have proved invaluable resources for understanding the site context of Collier lodge, none goes into detail about the flatware unearthed during excavations there. In fact, very little has been written about historic flatware in the Midwest during the nineteenth century at all. What few books I have been able to find often can at best provide only an overview. There are, however, a few notable exceptions, which follow.

Table Service (Allen 1924) offers a detailed look into place settings and dining etiquette in the early twentieth century. It was written specifically for women, especially maids and waitresses, to understand proper etiquette regarding cooking, cleaning, and other domestic chores. It has been useful in gaining a basic understanding how the different types of flatware in the Collier Lodge collection would have been typically used in this time period as well as learning more about the dining customs of the time. Unfortunately, it does not go into much detail at all about specific styles of flatware.

However, it does provide diagrams of table settings from which we can contextualize flatware as it was used in the early twentieth century.



Formal Dinner Cover in Detail.

Figure 1: Formal Dinner Cover inDetail (Allen 192

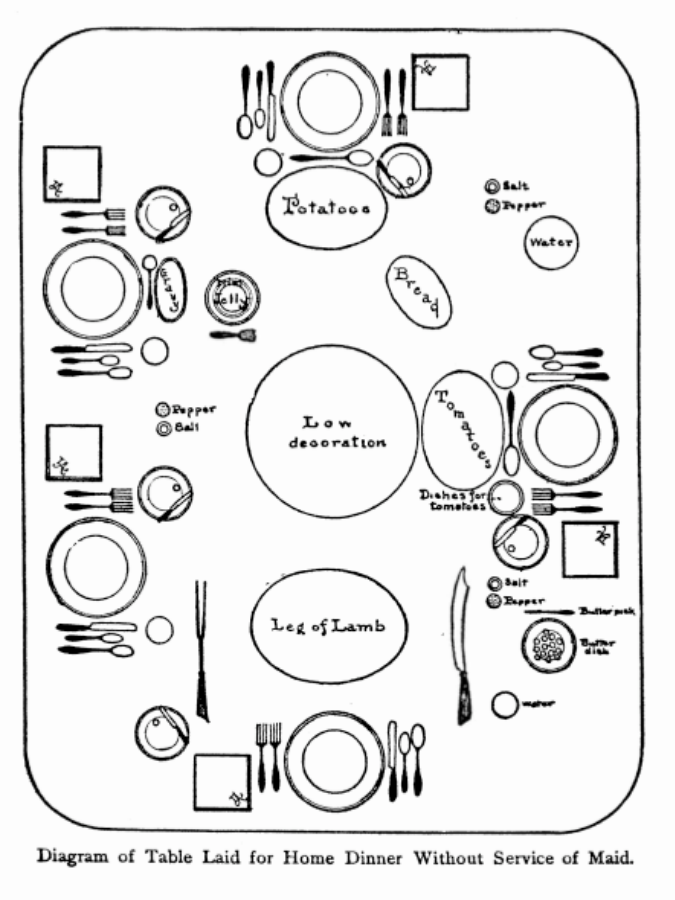


Diagram of Table Laid for Home Dinner Without Service of Maid.

Figure 2: Diagram of Table (Allen 1924:6)

As can be seen from these diagrams, a formal dinner setting, the most elaborate table setting, includes a variety of different types of flatware. This includes three similarly sized forks: one for fish, one for the entrée, and one for meat, as well as one smaller fork for fruit. One spoon is used for soup, and two different knives are used as well, the larger one for meat and the smaller for fish. Still larger knives and spoons were used to serve the food.

American Knives: The First History and Collectors' Guide (Peterson 1958) is an essential resource to the beginning knife researcher. It begins by giving an overview of knife terminology in layman's terms, complete with multiple detailed diagrams. It then provides very detailed descriptions with photographs of the different types of knives used in America throughout its history, starting with the explorers and ending in the mid-twentieth century. It also contains a useful appendix that gives contexts to many typical engravings found on various American knives. This book was useful not only for dating various knives but also for learning about cutlery companies through their inscriptions. In addition, it provided the proper terminology for which to formally discuss the properties of knives.

Composite Table Cutlery from 1700 to 1930 (Dunning 2000) is, to my knowledge, the most research that has been done on common historic cutlery. In the introduction, Dunning articulates one of the problems that I have found when conducting research on historic cutlery: "The early manufacturing technology of steel table cutlery has been documented for many years… As well, there are several publications on fine quality cutlery… With a few exceptions, however, cheaper quality cutlery has been largely ignored" (Dunning 2000:32). This lack of publication presents a challenge when trying

to determine the dating or significance of various types of cutlery, as I have attempted in this project. Dunning also concludes that while dating eighteenth century cutlery is based primarily on stylistic grounds, nineteenth and twentieth century cutlery is more difficult to date stylistically as the changes are primarily technological. He gives a number of changes in production methods in the nineteenth century that could conceivably be tracked in the Collier Lodge collection if the knives were complete. However, the site's collection of knives consists primarily of blades with few remains of any bolsters or handles, where these technological changes could be most greatly seen. Furthermore, from 1870-1920, Durring concludes that there were very few large technological changes in cutlery production. Unfortunately for us, this date range is when we believe many of the artifacts in the Collier Lodge collection come from. Assigning a more precise date within this half-century based on technology is therefore near impossible.

Other published work is also minimal. All searches led me to believe that while much is being written about ceramics, very little is being written about flatware. Flatware finds at particular archaeological sites are sometimes discussed in brief in their respective site reports, as will be discussed later in the paper. When they are mentioned, it is rarely in enough detail to contribute to a comparative project. This may be because of the lesser number of flatware found at other locations in comparison to the larger number of flatware discovered at Collier Lodge.

Collier Lodge: Historical Context

Geographically, the Collier Lodge site is situated along the banks of the old Kankakee River. In the past, this was an area of wetlands along the Grand Kankakee Marsh, some 500,000 acres in size and teeming with wildlife. The Collier Lodge site is located at a narrowing of the river, an ideal place for a crossing. Prehistorically, Pottawatomie and other Native American tribes used the site to camp before or after making a river crossing (Rotman 2006). The area was first introduced to Westerners when the French explorer Robert de La Salle navigated down the length of the Kankakee River to the Illinois River. This paved the way for French fur traders and other pioneers to set up camps in the area.

The first permanent settlers were J. Sherwood and his family who arrived around 1834. They established a ferry service at the crossing and built a bridge, which burnt down one year later (Rotman 2011). Around this time, a log cabin is thought to have been constructed at the site (Schurr & Rotman 2009). The cellar of this cabin is known in the site reports as Feature 25. Over the years, the land changed hands between many pioneer families, with multiple unsuccessful attempts at constructing a long-lasting bridge at the crossing. Finally, in 1863, Enos Baum built a successful bridge (Rotman 2006). The bridge has since been replaced, but all subsequent bridges have carried his name. The construction of Baum's Bridge made the area an important travel route, as it was for a long time the only bridge for miles (Schurr & Rotman 2009). Settlers in these times would have mainly been farmers, hunters, and trappers (Rotman 2006).

Over time, word spread of the famed Grand Kankakee Marsh and the area began to attract hunters and sportsmen from around the country. By 1855, a railroad station had

been built in nearby Kouts, allowing for an even larger influx of visitors. Lured by reports of huge game payouts, many members of the upper class came to the region for the sport of hunting, including three presidents. For the elite classes, hunting was viewed as a social enterprise, an activity that showcased the status and prestige of Victorian Society (Rotman 2006).

In the marsh's early years as a tourist destination, many visitors were hosted in the homes of local farmers, but by the last quarter of the nineteenth century, so many visitors were coming to the area to hunt that the local population could not sustain them all in their private homes. Great lodges owned by private hunt clubs were erected all along the Baum's Bridge area to house their members. Game was plentiful, and these luxurious lodges stood in contrast to the simpler dwellings of the locals (Rotman 2006). The land near Baum's Bridge, including the cabin, continued to be used by travelers and sportsmen. In 1898, the present Collier Lodge was built on the site, over the location of the log cabin, now demolished. The demolition and subsequent backfilling of the cabin produced an influx of historic artifacts around the borders of Feature 25, the cellar.

Purchased in 1904 by Flora Collier, the lodge was unique to the area in that it was not used solely to house members of a private hunting club (Rotman 2011). A multifunctional family enterprise, the lodge was a public inn, restaurant, and general store in a place where most lodges were exclusively private (Rotman 2006). Its multifaceted nature made Collier Lodge a successful business venture in the early twentieth century.

The boom of this area began to come to a close in 1916 when the Kankakee River's course was changed and the Great Marsh was drained to control flooding and increase farmland (Rotman 2006). With the scores of hunters no longer flooding in every

hunting season, the Collier Family changed business plans. Even though the marsh was dried up and hunter traffic was much less than it used to be, Baum's Bridge still represented an important travel route through the region. Using this to their advantage, the Colliers focused their efforts on running the lodge as a general store, where travelers could buy supplies and provisions during their journey (Rotman 2006). When Flora passed away in 1925, the Lodge continued running as a store under her husband Elwood and son Jim. Elwood died in 1943, and Jim in 1952. After Jim's death, the lodge passed from owner to owner until John Hodson, the current owner and President of the Kankakee Valley Historical Society, purchased the land in 1999 as an effort to preserve this unique part of the area's history (Rotman 2011).

Methods and Procedures

Excavation Procedures

Excavations at the Collier Lodge Site (12PR36) took place during nine 3-week summer sessions from 2003 to 2011. The dig represented a collaboration between volunteers from the Kankakee Valley Historical Society under President John Hodson and students from field schools at the University of Notre Dame under Dr. Mark Schurr and, in 2011, Indiana University-South Bend under Dr. Josh Wells.

Every year, participants met to discuss which units should be opened during the session. Units were generally chosen under the guide of Dr. Schurr and were based on geophysical surveys, past excavations, and student interest. Units measured a minimum of one square meter and a maximum of two square meters in area.

All units were excavated by hand using shovels and trowels. Levels were established at an arbitrary depth of 10 cm unless an archaeological change in soil color or artifact concentration required the creation of a new stratigraphic level. All excavated soil was sifted using quarter-inch screens unless a high concentration of small faunal artifacts called for a water screening. Larger artifacts, including most of the flatware included in this analysis, were often removed by hand as piece plots and their exact provenience recorded. All recovered artifacts and objects were documented in a field specimen database along with their archaeological context. Artifacts were then cleaned and processed between field seasons both onsite and in laboratory facilities at the University of Notre Dame. Over time, all artifact records were compiled into an extensive Microsoft Access Database.

Research Methods

The first step in my research was to use past site reports and the artifact database to physically locate all instances of forks, knives, and spoons found in the nine years of excavations at Collier Lodge. I then measured and photographed each artifact and placed this information in my own flatware database. From the size and shape of each artifact, I was able to estimate its function.

The largest portion of my research time was devoted to determining a date range for every artifact. I accomplished this utilizing a variety of techniques and reference materials. If the artifact had a textual engraving, I traced it back to its company of origin (Peterson 1958). This gave me clues as to the age of the artifact, especially if the company in question was short-lived. It also allowed me to learn about artifact origin and trade by researching where each cutlery company was located. If the artifact was

patterned, I could often determine a date by using several websites devoted to the collecting and/or selling of historic flatware.

Archaeological context also became an important part of the dating process. The deeper an artifact was found, the less likely it was to be disturbed. Using depth as well as comparison to nearby artifacts, I could determine a dating range for the collection. Other artifacts useful for dating purposes included pottery types, especially fine earthenware (Schurr 2011a), nail styles (Nagy 1989), and even shotgun shells (Steinhaur 2011). When these methods were not available, I used an artifact's proximity to other artifacts to estimate its date. Sometimes, two artifacts had the same measurements, leading me to believe that they were of the same pattern. In these cases, I could determine the dating of both of them as long as I had information about one of them. I rarely used only one of the above methods when dating a particular object. In most cases, a variety of techniques were used in order to come up with a final date range.

Dating metal cutlery presents some unique challenges. The final date ranges given are estimates based on both archaeological context and, in some cases, patterning and company information. These do not often tell us the same thing: archaeological context will give us an estimated discard date but patterning and company information tell us when a particular type of flatware was first produced. Because of its durable and reusable nature, the date of manufacture and date of discard of an artifact could potentially be decades apart. Dating based on the technological techniques outlined in Dunning's study (Dunning 2000) can be very limited due to the incomplete nature of most of the artifacts found at the site. Given the nature of the artifacts and difficulty of

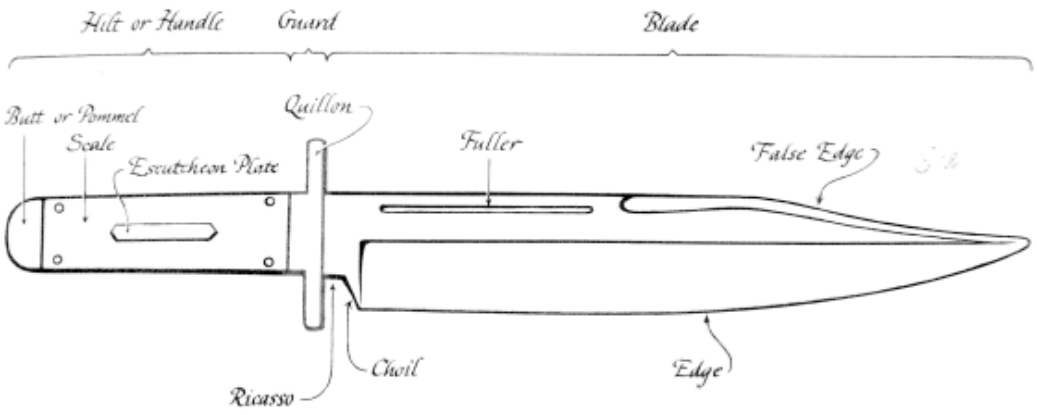
assigning an accurate date, the date ranges that follow are best approximations of when each artifact could have been in use.

The Artifacts

Following is an analysis of each of the artifacts included in the project. In total, 25 pieces of flatware and cutlery were analyzed: 17 knives (named A-Q), two forks (named R-S), and six spoons (named T-Y). This represents the total assemblage of flatware artifacts collected during the nine seasons at the Collier Lodge site. In some cases, very precise information regarding the origins, function, and dating of an artifact could be determined. In other cases, very little could be learned about the artifact. Much of the preliminary information was obtained from the Collier Lodge Artifact Database. Each artifact is listed with its name (a letter) as well as its catalog number in the artifact database. They are sorted by year found, then catalog number. For reference, Feature 25 is thought to be the cellar of the cabin built on the site around 1840 and later filled in. Many artifacts were found in this area, but sometimes they are out of their primary context due to backfill and construction.

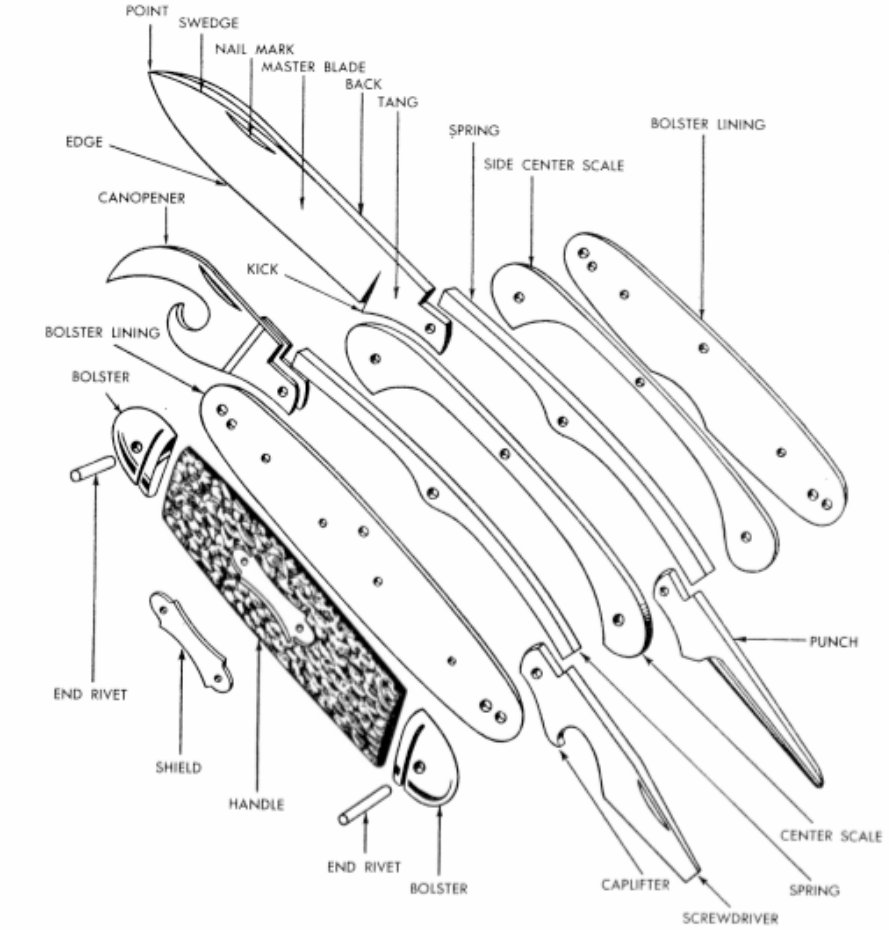
The Knives

When describing the knives, the following diagrams from Peterson 1958 provided a useful reference point for the appropriate terms.



Terminology of the knife.

Figure 3: Terminology of the Knife (Peterson 1958:1)



The parts of a pocketknife. REPRODUCED FROM The Cutlery Story by LEWIS D. BEMENT. COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED CUTLERY INDUSTRIES.

Figure 4: The Parts of a Pocketknife (Peterson 1958:4)

Knife A (2004.1221)

Reconstructed Length: 11.8 cm
Width: 2.1 cm
Weight: 21.1 g

Figure 5: Knife A

Knife A is an iron knife blade broken into two parts with a serrated edge and rounded point. Its pictured coloring is not original; since its recovery it has been treated with electrolysis and covered in paraffin for conservation. Unfortunately, this knife was not found in the artifact database, so not very much other information can be gained from it. Its size and serrated edge suggest that it could culinary in nature, and the serrated edge hints to a sawing use, perhaps for something like bread or vegetables. Without archaeological context, it is difficult to determine a date range for this artifact.

Knife B (2004.1902)

Length: 4.5 cm
Width: 2.0 cm
Weight: 7.4 g
Unit: E 79-81 N 81-83
Level: 2
FS: 57

Figure 6: Knife B

Knife B is a small fragment of an iron knife blade. Because of its fragmentary nature, it was difficult to determine much about this knife. Due to its shallow depth and its proximity to a mixture of different types of artifacts, it is thought that this knife was found in a mixed trash dump, making dating difficult. Not enough of the knife survives to produce an accurate estimate as to its function.

Knife C (2004.2084)

Length: 17.2 cm
Width: 2.5 cm
Weight: 42.62 g
Unit: E 90-92 N 75-77
Level: 4
FS: 58

Figure 7: Knife C

Knife C is an iron knife blade with a mildly serrated edge and a pointed tip. Its size and knife type suggest that it was most likely used in a culinary nature, perhaps as a butchering knife. Its size and shape does make it one of the more likely candidates for a hunting knife, although the fact that its edge is serrated detracts from this possibility, as most hunting knives do not have serrated edges.

Given the amount and diversity of artifacts found near the knife, it is thought that Knife C was deposited in a historic trash dump. Some of these artifacts were very useful in producing a date estimation for this knife. A shotgun shell labeled "UMC New Club No. 12" dates to 1867-1911 and another labeled "Winchester Repeater No. 12" was in use from 1896-1938 (Steinhaur 2011). This produces a final date range of 1896-1911, right during the busiest use period of Collier Lodge. This date is further confirmed by the presence of a Schlitz beer can. Schlitz beer was in business from 1849-1982 and became the world's top beer producer starting in 1902 (Tremblay & Tremblay 2005).

Knife D (2004.2086)

Handle Length: 8.1 cm
Handle Width: 1.2 cm
Blade Length: 2.2 cm
Blade Width: 0.9 cm
Weight: 26.72 g
Unit: E 79-81 N 81-83
Level: 2
FS: 57

Figure 8: Knife D

Knife D is a pocket knife found in the open position. Parts of one blade remain intact and extended. Since its discovery, it has been treated with electrolysis and covered in paraffin for conservation. The blade is believed to be iron, while the bolster is of an unknown material. Three copper-colored rivets hold the blades in place and at one time allowed them to pivot. As a pocket knife, Knife D functions as a multipurpose tool.

The knife was found in a disturbed area near the surface that featured a large variety of mixed artifacts, especially construction materials and small amounts of both historic and prehistoric pottery fragments. This artifact array and the general complexity of the knife leads me to believe that this was a modern trash dump. The knife may have been dropped during one of the many construction or demolition events that occurred in the late twentieth century at Collier Lodge.

Knife E (2004.2436)

Length: 5.8 cm
Width: 1.4 cm
Weight: 15.96 g
Unit: E 79-81 N 79-81
Level: 1
FS: 34

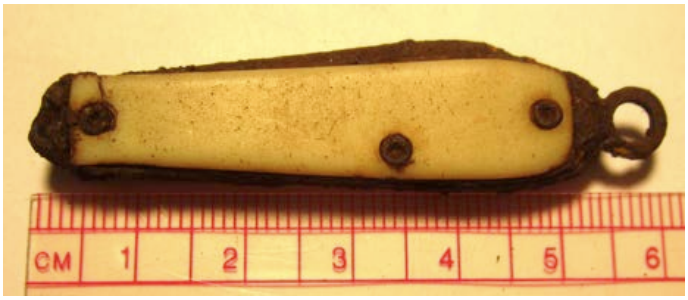


Figure 9: Knife E

Knife E is a pocketknife with a plastic bolster and 2 rusted iron blades inside. Three metal rivets hold the blades in place. An iron key ring on the outside allows for easy transport. It was found in the first 10 cm of soil with an extremely large number of other artifacts, including an iron fish hook and both historic and prehistoric pottery. Due to its design and archaeological context, Knife E is most likely a modern drop.

Knife F (2006.192)

Length: 10.0 cm
Width: 2.3 cm
Weight: 6.1 g

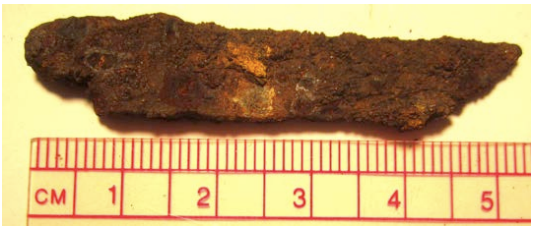


Figure 10: Knife F

Knife F is a relatively small, heavily rusted iron blade with a rounded edge and pointed tip. Due to a previous data entry error, the exact archaeological context for this knife is impossible to determine, making dating unreliable. The blade may have part of a pocket knife, but with the heavy presence of rust it is difficult to determine much more about this knife.

Knife G (2006.441)

Length: 5.0 cm
Width: 1.6 cm
Weight: 5.4 g
Unit: E 79-80 N 83-85
Level: 2
FS: 453

Figure 11: Knife G

Knife G is an iron knife blade fragment with parts of a metal handle. Due to its fragmentary nature, not much can be determined regarding its function. The heavy amount of rusting even makes it difficult to ascertain if the knife's edge was originally serrated or smooth. It was found near the surface with a mix of artifacts, including a railroad spike as well as historic and prehistoric pottery. The knife was found near Feature 25 (the cellar of the old cabin) but at a depth before the feature would be very defined. Its proximity to the surface, archaeological context, and limited remaining size makes Knife G difficult to date.

Knife H (2008.1505)

Handle Length: 10.2 cm
Handle Width: 1.7 cm
Blade Length: 13.1 cm
Blade Width: 2.0 cm
Weight: 85.6 g
Unit: E 81-83 N 86-87
Level: 4 Feature 30
FS: 896

Figure 12: Knife H

Figure 13: Knife H Detail

Knife H is a long brass table knife in relatively good condition. The handle features a dotted border and a small leaf pattern at its edge. It was found in Feature 30, the same feature that produced Spoon T and Spoon U. Feature 30 consisted of a dense mortar layer with various historic artifacts that may have all been from a kitchen. It is associated with Feature 25, the cellar, and is thought to have been a historic trash pit. Knife H was found one level above Spoon T, in the same unit and zone. Spoon T's design was dated to 1867, meaning that stratigraphically Knife H must date to 1867 or after.

Knife I (2008.1670)

Handle Length: 8.2 cm
Handle Width: 2.2 cm
Blade Length: 7.7 cm
Blade Width: 1.5 cm
Weight: 59.4 g
Unit: E 81-83 N 88-89
Level: 7-C
FS: 1010

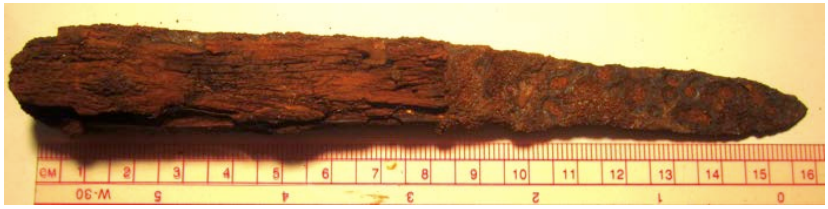


Figure 14: Knife I

Knife I is an iron knife with wooden handle, in poor condition. It is thought to be a pocket knife and some metal rivets survive. The blade has a flat blade with a spear-style pointed tip. This knife could have been used for hunting or for a variety of other tasks, given its simple yet multipurpose nature.

Knife I was found deep below the surface near Feature 25 with a small amount of historic artifacts. The presence of a cut nail fragment pushes the date before 1890 (Nagy 1989). Among them were some hand painted floral, green, and black whiteware sherds that date to 1830-1855 (Schurr 2011a). Confirming this date range are two pennies, one from 1838 and the other from 1848, that were found one level above this knife.

Knife J (2009.823)

Length: 14.0 cm
Width: 2.5 cm
Weight: 28.5 g
Unit: E 80-81 N 88-89
Level: 5-A
FS: 1094

Figure 15: Knife J

Knife J is an iron knife blade with a serrated edge and rounded tip. The shape of its tip suggests that it is a table knife, as this rounded-tip style of knife was the common form of table knives in the eighteenth century (Dunning 2000). Knife J was found

internal to Feature 25 along with two types of pottery that date from 1805-1855: blue, red, and yellow hand painted whiteware as well as green hand painted pearlware (Schurr 2011a). However, its archaeological context was mixed, as it was also found with two prehistoric pottery sherds and both wire and cut nails. This raises doubts about to the validity of these dates. Also, the knife was found four levels above Knife N, which dates to around 1835. Therefore, a more accurate date range for this knife may be 1835-1855, but because of the mixed context, nothing is certain.

Knife K (2009.954)

Length: 7.0 cm
Width: 2.0 cm
Weight: 20.3 g
Unit: E 79-80 N 85-86
Level: 11 Feature 31
FS: 1175

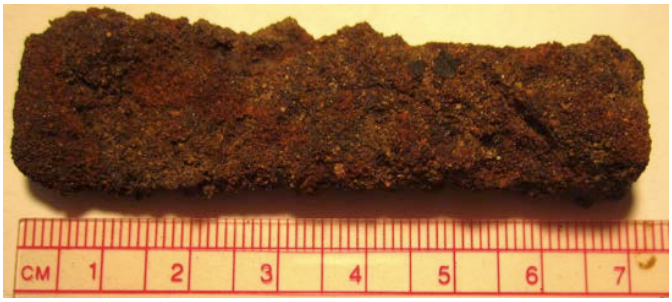


Figure 16: Knife K

Knife K is a fragment of a knife handle in very bad condition. Not much can be said about its function. The knife was found deep in Feature 31, a brick and historical artifact concentration internal to Feature 25, the cellar. Dating is difficult due to the lack of nearby datable artifacts, but it is estimated that this knife could date back to 1835-1840, based on its condition, depth, and proximity to the cabin that was built around that time (Schurr & Rotman 2009). This date range also correlated with pottery found with Fork S two levels deeper in the same unit and zone.

Knife L (2009.1112)

Reconstructed Length: 7.2 cm
Width: 1.4 cm
Weight: 7.6 g
Unit: E 76-77 N 84-85
Level: 2
FS: 1287

Figure 17: Knife L

Knife L is a small, stainless steel blade with an iron handle that may have at one time connected to a larger, non-metal handle. "*Stainless* GENEVA FORGE U.S.A." is inscribed on the blade. The knife was found with many modern mixed metal artifacts The inscription has been traced to Ecko Products company, founded in 1888 in Chicago, IL. The company purchased Sta-Bright Products Corp., a New Haven, CT stainless steel company in 1943, and started producing its GENEVA FORGE line in the 1960s (Gant 1997). Therefore, this knife must date to the 1960s or after, which makes sense given its appearance and proximity to the surface.

Knife M (2009.1137)

Length: 18.2 cm
Width: 2.6 cm
Weight: 49.6 g
Unit: E 80-81 N 86-87
Level: 5-B/5-F
FS: 1302

Figure 18: Knife M

Knife M is a large iron knife blade with a rounded tip and a smooth edge, similar to Knife N. Its form suggests to us today that it is a table knife, although it may have been used historically for eating meat (Allen 1924). It is listed as being in level 5-B but its provenience reveals that it is on the border of 5-B and 5-F. During this level, Zone B

disappeared and Zone F covered most of the unit. No other metal or pottery artifacts were found in 5-B, yet 5-F yielded a normal amount of artifacts, so it is these artifacts that I consider when dating this knife.

The knife was found internal to the boundaries of Feature 25 with cut nail fragments, moving the date to pre-1890 (Nagy 1989). One large piece of sponge print whiteware was found nearby. It was blue and red with a red hand painted line and dates between 1835 and 1860. This correlates well with Knives N, O, and P which have a similar design.

Knife N (2009.1139)

Length: 19.5 cm
Width: 2.6 cm
Weight: 67.9 g
Unit: E 80-81 N 88-89
Level: 9-C
FS: 1304

Figure 19: Knife N

Knife N is a large iron knife blade with a rounded tip and a smooth edge, similar to Knife M although more oxidized. Its form suggests that it is also a table or meat knife. It was also found internal to Feature 25, the cellar. Cut nail fragments push the date to before 1890 (Nagy 1989). The knife was found with a variety of different historic pottery sherds with varying dates of use. These include: green and red hand painted whiteware (1805-1855), blue sponge print pearlware (1835-1860), blue transfer print pearlware (1795-1830), flow blue pearlware (post 1835), blue edgeware (1795-1845), and annular hand painted with green lines whiteware (1820-1850) (Schurr 2011a). Although these dates cover a variety of time periods, they draw the conclusion that the knife would have

been in use after around 1835. This correlates well with Knives M, O, and P, all of which have a similar design.

Knife O (2009.1234)

Length: 23.0 cm
Handle Width: 1.9 cm
Blade Width: 2.6 cm
Weight: 67.5 g
Unit: E 80-81 N 86-87
Level: 6-F
FS: 1372

Figure 20: Knife O

Knife O is a large iron knife blade with a wooden handle with two rivets. It has a straight edge and rounded tip. Measurements suggest that it may be the same type of knife as M, N, and P, only with its handle intact. Therefore, Knife O is the most complete of the similar knives M, N, O, and P. Like knives M and N, it was also found internal to Feature 25, the cellar. The nearby presence of cut nails dates the knife to before 1890 (Nagy 1989). It was found with two different types of historic pottery that date from 1805-1855: green hand painted pearlware and red line hand painted soft paste porcelain (Schurr 2011a). This correlates well with the date of around 1835 for the similar knives M and N, all of which coincide with the construction of the cabin at the site (Schurr & Rotman 2009)

Knife P (2010.981)

Length: 11.8 cm
Handle Width: 1.9 cm
Blade Width: 2.5 cm
Weight: 55 g
FS: 1559

Figure 21: Knife P

Knife P is an iron knife blade fragment with a two-rivet wooden handle. The handle's design and measurements suggest that it may be the same type of knife as Knife O, which in turn may be the same as Knives M and N. The knife's FS number does not appear in the field forms, so no further archaeological context could be determined. Based on its similarities to Knives M, N, and O, Knife P may also date to around 1835.

Knife Q (2011.904)

Length: 19.5 cm
Width: 2.6 cm
Weight: 67.9 g
Unit: E 80-82 N 89-91
Level: 9-T
FS: 1716

Figure 22: Knife Q

Knife Q is an iron knife blade with no remaining handle. Its pointed tip suggests that it may be hunting in nature, although it could also be a butchering knife. Without the complete knife its function is difficult to determine. Knife Q was found in a zone of historical artifacts thought to be near the corner of Feature 25. The only datable artifact included in its vicinity was a blue transfer print whiteware sherd dating to 1795-1820. This date range puts Knife Q very early in the sites historical history, but due to the lack

of other datable materials as well as possible disturbances to the stratigraphy, this knife may very well be from a later period, perhaps the cabin-era of the 1840s.

The Forks

Fork R (2004.3158)

Length: 8.6 cm
Width: 1.9 cm
Weight: 12.8 g
Unit: E 90-91 N 80-82
Level: 3
FS: 71

Figure 23: Fork R

Fork R is an iron three-tined fork. 1.5 tines survive. It is relatively heavy for its size with a thick handle. Not enough survives to find a definitive shape or pattern for dating purposes, so nearby artifacts had to be relied upon. It is buried with 2 datable shotgun shells. "UMC smokeless No. 12" dates to 1867-1911, and "Winchester New Rival No. 12" dates to 1897-1929 (Steinhaur 2011). This would give the fork a date of 1897-1911, right when Collier Lodge was in full operation. However, its proximity to the surface as well as its large variety of mixed iron and pottery artifacts suggest that this may not be the fork's original context. Still, it is far from Feature 25, the cellar, and the disturbances associated with backfilling the cabin, so these dates could prove accurate.

Fork S (2009.1066)

Length: 8.2 cm
Width: 1.0 cm
Weight: 7.5 g
Unit: E 79-80 N 85-86
Level: 13-A
FS: 1245

Figure 24: Fork S

Fork S is an old, small, two-pronged iron fork with the remains of a wooden handle. It was found very deep in the vicinity of Feature 25, the cellar. While both cut and wire nail fragments were found in the vicinity, suggesting a mixed context, different types of historic pottery dated to 1835-1840. These included red transfer print whiteware (1829-1840), blue and red sponge painted pearlware (1835-1860), and red line hand painted pearlware (1805-1855). If the fork has the same primary context as the pottery, its date would be near the building of the cabin, although the nearby mixed nails mean this can never be known with certainty.

The Spoons

Spoon T (2008.1514)

Length: 21.0 cm
Basin Width: 3.2 cm
Handle Width: 2.2 cm
Weight: 45.6 g
Unit: E 81-83 N 86-87
Level: 5 Feature 30
FS: 899

Figure 25: Spoon T

Spoon T is a serving spoon found in the vicinity of Feature 25, the cellar, with Spoon U and one level down from Knife H. It has GERMAN SILVER inscribed on its back. German Silver is a material similar to brass common in flatware (Sackett 1983).

Feature 30, the feature in which Spoon T was found, was a historic trash pit with many artifacts thought to belong to a kitchen. The pattern has been identified as "1867" by Roger Bros. 1847 brand (Brewster's Antiques N.d.). The 1847 is a brand first started by Roger Bros. in 1852 (Rainwater & Redfield 2007). All of this, plus matching dimensions, lead me to believe that this spoon was first produced in 1867.

Spoon U (2008.1524)

Length: 20.2 cm
Basin Width: 4.5 cm
Handle Width: 2.9 cm
Weight: 39.7 g
Unit: E 81-83 N 86-87
Level: 5 Feature 30
FS: 922

Figure 26: Spoon U

Spoon U was found with Spoon T and one level below Knife H in Feature 30, the historical trash dump with many kitchen-related items. It is a large and heavily rusted iron serving spoon, with no discernible writing or pattern due to the rust. Due to its common form and lack of discernible dating characteristics, archaeological proximity must be relied upon in order to date this spoon. Since it was found with Spoon T, their dates may be similar. Therefore, I have assigned a date of post-1867 to this spoon.

Spoon V (2008.1654)

Length: 8.6 cm
Basin Width: 4.5 cm
Weight: 34 g
Unit: E 76-78 N 85-86
Level: 3
FS: 1006

Figure 27: Spoon V

Spoon V is a heavily rusted iron serving spoon basin with no remaining handle. It was found internal to Feature 25, the cellar of the cabin. Archaeological context is very mixed and it was found close to the surface, so it most likely was not found in its primary context. With no other nearby flatware or distinguishing characteristics, an estimate had to be made. The only other spoon in the collection with a 4.5 cm basin was Spoon U. If these similar measurements mean that Spoon V has the same design as Spoon U, then logically the date for Spoon V would also be after 1867.

Spoon W (2008.1832)

Reconstructed Length: 14.5 cm
Handle Width: 1.4 cm
Weight: 3.9 g

Figure 28: Spoon W

Spoon W is a modern plastic spoon. As it was not metal, it was not included in any database, so no information is known about its context. It is included in this study to demonstrate the site's continued use to this day as well as the disturbance of modern and plastic artifacts in the upper regions of soil due to construction.

Spoon X

(2010.819)

Length: 15.1 cm
Basin Width: 3.3 cm
Handle Width: 1.2 cm
Weight: 25.2 g
Unit: E 84-86 N 92-94
Level: 2
FS: 1412

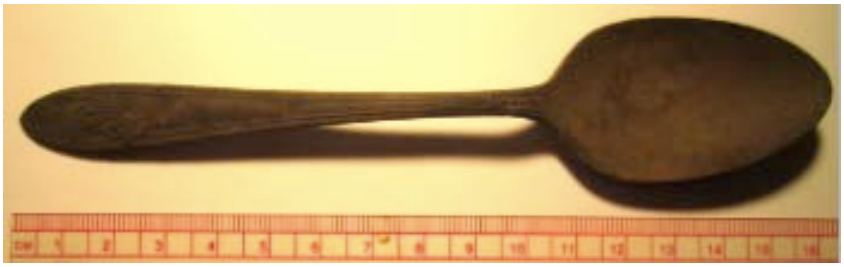


Figure 29: Spoon X

Figure 30: Spoon X Detail

Spoon X is a brass spoon with a small flowered pattern on the handle. Inscribed on the back are the words "TUDOR PLATE ONE COMMUNITY" which has been reconstructed as "TUDOR PLATE ONEIDA COMMUNITY." It was found near the surface away from Feature 25, the cellar, so knowledge that can be gained from archaeological context is limited. The pattern has been identified as "Queen Bess II", first produced by Oneida Cutlery (Oneida, NY) in 1946 (Brewster's Antiques N.d.). This makes sense given its proximity to the surface. Therefore, this spoon is a more modern drop than most others at the site.

Spoon Y (2011.384)

Length: 11.0 cm
Handle Width: 1.7 cm
Weight: 19.3 g
Unit: E 83-85 N 94-96
Level: 3
FS: 1685

Figure 31: Spoon Y

Figure 32: Spoon Y Detail

Spoon Y is a brass spoon handle with no remaining basin found near the surface away from Feature 25, the cellar, as well as the lodge. The handle features a flowered pattern. The back bears an inscription that was revealed under a microscope to say "SIMEON L. & GEORGE H. ROGERS COMPANY." Although the pattern could not be successfully dated, the inscription proved very useful in dating this spoon. The Simeon L. & George H. Rogers Company was founded in 1900 and was taken over by William A. Rogers Limited in 1918, followed by Oneida in 1929 (Silver Fox Antiques N.d.). This dates Spoon Y to between 1900 and 1918.

Interpretations

The following are various representations of the data in tables, charts, or maps to help understand more about the 25 artifacts included in this study. They will be analyzed in more detail later in this report.

Artifact Index		
Knives	**Forks**	**Spoons**
17	2	6
A-Q	R-S	T-Y

Table 1: Artifact Index

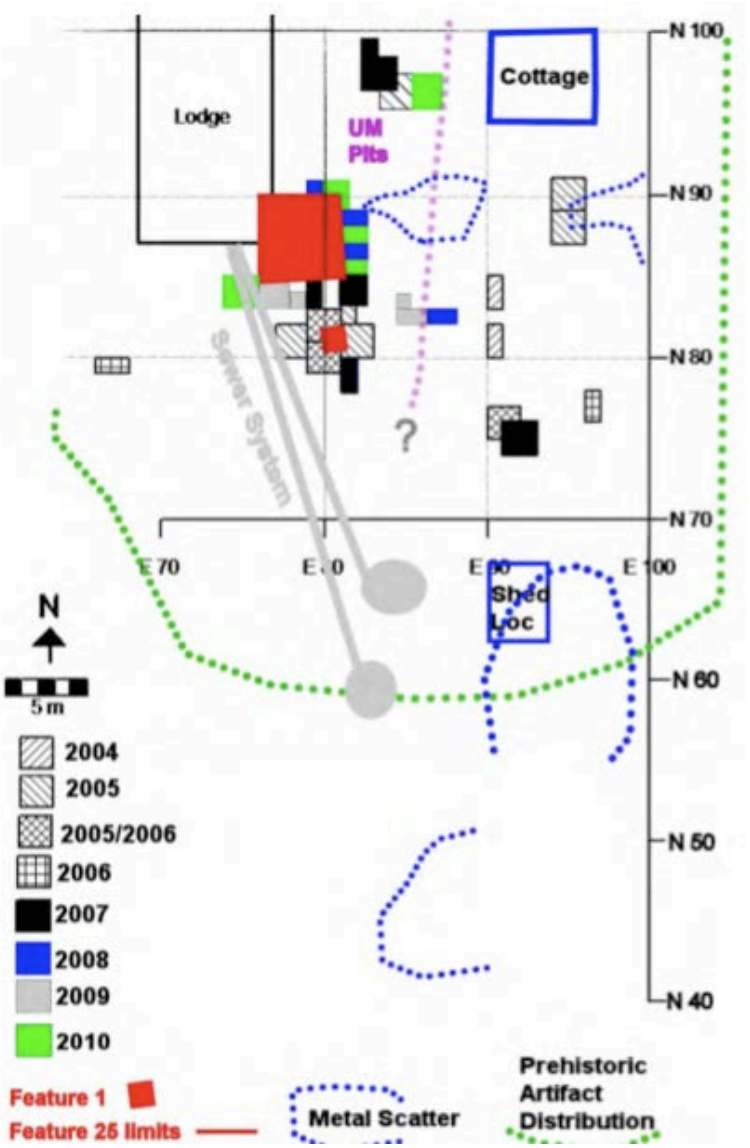


Figure 33: Excavation History (Schurr 2011c:2)

This figure shows the history of excavations through the 2010 season. The large red square is Feature 25, the cellar to the cabin.

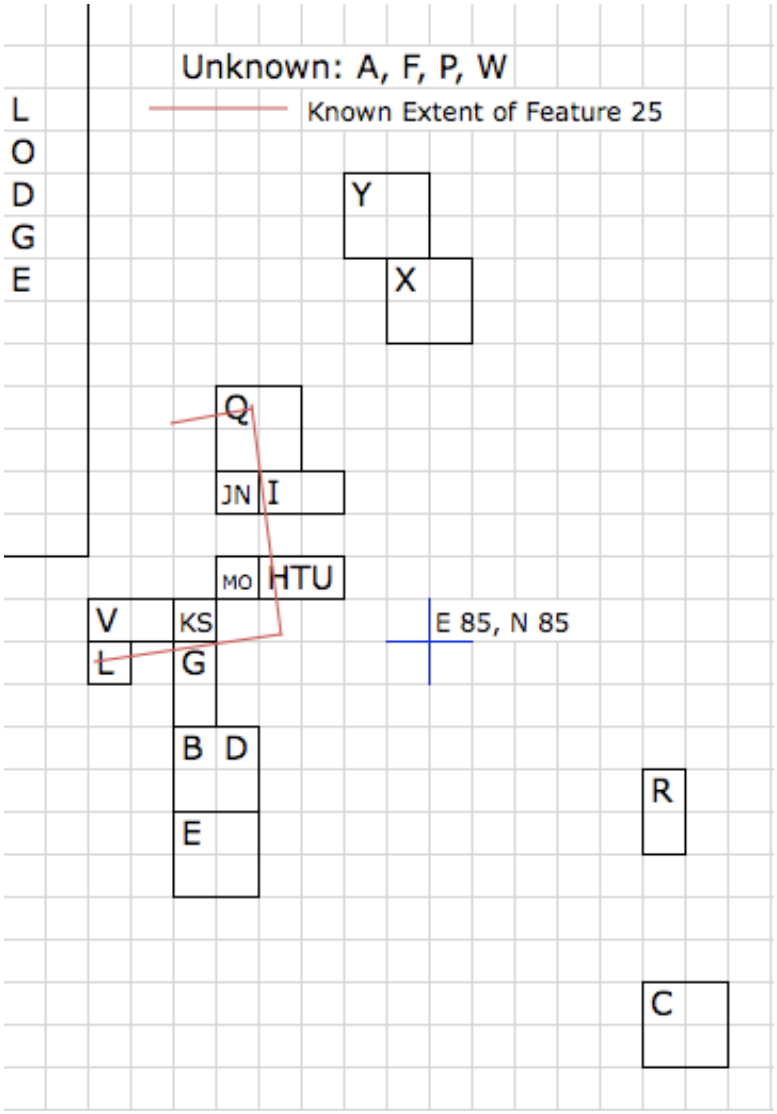


Figure 34: Artifact Location

This figure shows the location of the units in which each artifact was found in relation to the Lodge and Feature 25, the cellar of the cabin.

Unknown: AFPW

Level	Knives	Forks	Spoons
1	E		
2	BDGL		X
3		R	VY
4	CH		
5	JM		TU
6	O		
7	I		
8			
9	NQ		
10			
11	K		
12			
13		S	

Table 2: Artifact Depth

The above table shows the depth at which all artifacts included in this study were found.

Material	Knives	Forks	Spoons
Iron	ABCDE FGIJKL MNOPQ	RS	UV
Brass	H		TX
Stainless Steel	L		
Wood	IOP	S	
Plastic	E		W

Table 3: Artifact Material

The above table represents the different material composition of the artifacts. If an artifact was made of more than two types of materials, it was listed under both of them.

Knives	Small blade (s)	FGL
	Pocket (s/m)	DET
	Pointed tip / serrated edge (m)	C
	Pointed tip / smooth edge (m)	Q
	Round tip / serrated edge (m)	AJ
	Round tip / smooth edge / table (l)	HMNOP
	Unknown	BK
Forks	2-pronged (s)	S
	3-pronged (m)	R
Spoons	Plastic (s)	W
	Standard (m)	XY
	Serving (l)	TUV

Table 4: Artifact Type and Size

The above table organizes the artifacts by type and size (s=small, m=medium, l=large). Also worth noting, the best candidates for hunting knives are Knives C, I, and Q.

Years	**Meyer's Period**	**Collier site Use**	**Knives**	**Forks**	**Spoons**
Pre-1840	Pottawatomie	Hunters/Traders	Q		
1840-1880	Pioneer	Cabin	HIJK MNOP	S	TUV
1880-1910	Rancher & Recreationist	Lodge	C	R	Y
1910-1936	Reclamationist & Resorter	General Store			
1936-present	--	Varied	DEL		WX
Unknown	--	--	ABFG		

Table 5: Meyer's Periods

Alfred Meyer, in writing his history of the Kankakee Marsh area, defined four historic periods through which to think about what life in the area was like. His periods are: the "Pottawatomie's Kankakee" (pre-1840), the "Pioneer's Kankakee" (1840 – 1880), the "Rancher and Recreationist's Kankakee" (1880 -1910) and the "Reclamationist's and Resorter's Kankakee" (1910 – 1936) (Meyer 1936). These historic

periods correspond nicely with the different periods of site use at the Collier Lodge site, namely: early hunters and traders, the cabin, the hunting lodge, and the general store, respectively. This chart organizes the artifacts into the period that their dating estimate most closely represents.

Civil War (1861-1865) Dating			
Type	**Pre-Civil War**	**Post-Civil War**	**Unknown**
Knives	IJKMNOP	CDEHL	ABFG
Forks	S	R	
Spoons		TUVWXY	

Table 6: Civil War Dating

A different way to think about dating, this table organizes the artifacts by date either before or after the American Civil War.

Discussion

To synthesize, I'd like to reflect on some of the information presented in the charts of the previous section. First off, as can be seen in Table 1, many more knives than forks or spoons combined were found over the 9 field seasons. What can this tell us? Perhaps knives were more likely to be taken outside of the lodge or cabin, and thus more likely to be lost. Due to its status as a hunting lodge and restaurant, a greater proportion of knives may have just been necessary in order for operations at the lodge to run smoothly. Other knives could have been used at the cabin for the skinning of animals. However, there are also a large number of table/meat knives (Table 4).

For whatever reason, more knives with round tips and smooth edges were discarded than any other type of flatware. One possible explanation is that this could

have been the most common piece of flatware at the site 150 years ago. Many of these knives are in good condition, so the discarding of broken knives cannot be an explanation for the number of knives recovered. Etiquette books from around the time period of the lodge tell us that more knives than spoons are necessary in a formal place setting, but also that even more forks are necessary than knives (Allen 1924). Thus, it would appear that if anything, a large number of forks should have been recovered!

The lone two forks that were recovered, however, are both in bad condition. It appears that forks were discarded only after they proved not functional. This brings us back to the question of the knives. Could it be possible that they were just lost? Or were some of them forgotten in the chaos surrounding the construction and demolition of the cabin? Either way, it just doesn't make much sense to lose, forget about, or discard usable flatware that was in good condition. Unless more clues develop in the archaeological data, I think this strange phenomenon will remain a mystery.

The spoons are also a mix between good condition and bad condition. Notable here is the large number of serving spoons that were discarded, only one of which was broken. Were they lost and forgotten as well? Or did some new cutlery sets replace them and some of the knives once the cabin was demolished and the lodge built? It remains a mystery. Contextually, however, flatware was often found in historic trash dumps or other heavy concentrations of historic artifacts, hinting at the fact that their disposal was purposeful or at least part of a larger collection of disposed artifacts.

As can be seen in Figure 34, most of the historic flatware was found near Feature 25, the cellar to the cabin. Although this suggests a pattern, it is important to keep in mind that by far most of the excavations at the site took place in the vicinity of Feature 25

(Figure 33). The distribution of artifacts therefore makes sense given the excavation pattern. It is important to note that artifacts associated with Feature 25 can be associated with one of a few different time periods. Obviously, some of the artifacts could be from the 1840s, the time period in which the cabin was built. However, at some point the cabin was demolished and filled in to make way for the construction of the lodge. In this time (around 1890-1915), we find more historic trash pits in the area that used to hold the cabin and its cellar (Schurr 2011a). It is thought that this second wave of artifacts came from the inhabitants of the site and lodge using the pre-exiting pit at the location of the old cabin to dump unwanted materials, among it some flatware.

With regards to depth (Table 2), it is difficult to establish a pattern. More knives were found in the top layers of soil, but in general the knives span many different levels. The shallow concentration may be related to the disturbance created by constructing and backfilling the cabin, or it could be due to the fact that not many units were excavated to the deeper levels. Once again, the distribution makes sense.

As per the forks, one was found very shallow and the other very deep. Because of this small sample size, not much can be learned from this fact. All six spoons, however, were found in the first five levels of soil. This also makes sense, as the spoons dated on average later than the knives, and thus would have been discarded later.

Table 3 shows us that the overwhelming majority of flatware at the site was made of iron. This should come as no surprise, as iron and then steel were very common flatware materials in this time period for the pioneers (Dunning 2000). If the wealthy sportsmen brought expensive silverware with them, they certainly did not leave them at the lodge. As a public inn and restaurant and not an expensive private hunt club, it makes

sense that no silver artifacts were found at Collier Lodge. Overall, the material distribution presents nothing out of the ordinary for this historical and social context.

One of the more surprising conclusions that can be gleaned from Table 4 is the there is no clear evidence that any of the knives were used for hunting, even though this was a lodge on famous hunting grounds. Perhaps hunting knives were highly valued by their owners, who took extra care not to lose them. If they were lost or broken, it may have been in the marsh while on the hunt, not at the lodge. Still, one would expect to find more evidence of hunting at the site, and while we have many instances of shotgun shells and fishing tackle, for example, we have no certain evidence of hunting knives. Of the knives that were recovered, it is possible that Knives C, I, and Q could each have been used for hunting, but all of them could have just as probably been used for culinary purposes such as butchering, as well. The lack of hunting knives remains one of the biggest surprises of this analysis. Interestingly, the only two knives found at Jamestown were also not hunting knives or daggers; they were butcher knives (Peterson 1958).

Table 5 makes clear to us that the vast majority of flatware artifacts found at the site were dated to the "Pioneer's Kankakee." This coincides with the presence of the cabin at the site, not the lodge. In fact, 4 times as many flatware artifacts were dated to the cabin era than the lodge era. This is strange, because one would think that the lodge would require much more flatware than the cabin. Perhaps there was indeed more flatware at the lodge and it was either not discarded or discarded elsewhere. The backfilling of the cabin may have presented a primary opportunity to dump old, unwanted flatware, especially if the upcoming restaurant at the lodge was to require new, coordinated flatware for its guests, although this is speculation and still does not

adequately account for the amount of perfectly useable flatware that was found in these dumps. It is also interesting that the only one of Meyer's periods from which we do not have an instance of flatware is the same period that coincides with the lodge being operated mainly as a general store. The need for flatware would have been understandably less in this era compared to the lodge's previous days.

While using Meyer's periods can help to give a broad representation of the different date ranges of the artifacts, its use as an analytical tool is limited because of the large group of artifacts that fall into one period, from 1840 to 1880. To better grasp the temporal subdivisions of artifact use, Table 6 divides the flatware into either before or after the American Civil War (1861-1865). The Civil War presents a fitting midpoint from which to contextualize artifact dating. The site's pottery record shows that there was a large concentration of pottery dated up to the 1850s and another from the mid-1880s and following (Schurr 2011a). This 30-year gap dates to a time where it is thought that the site housed a sawmill but not necessarily human settlers (Rotman 2009). This gap is also reflected in the flatware assemblage: we have no artifacts from the Civil War years and very few possible from the surrounding years. The knives and forks seem to be split evenly before and after this gap, but interestingly, all six spoons recovered have been dated to after the Civil War era. Most of these were serving spoons as well. Could these spoons be related to the restaurant that was on site during the lodge years? Spoon Y almost certainly is, but two other spoons (W and X) come from a later period and the remaining three (T, U, and V) could potentially date to before the lodge. It remains a mystery why we don't possess more flatware from the restaurant era.

So what can all of this tell us about life in the rural Midwest during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? First of all, flatware was treasured, but not to the point where it was always saved for future use. Many times, it was discarded even in good condition, showing that access to new flatware must have been relatively easy and not terribly expensive. This means that a larger trade network with nearby cities such as Chicago or cities out East where many pioneer settlers came from would have been well established. These people would not have been as isolated as we sometimes think.

We also can conclude that the knife was an important tool in the mid to late eighteenth century. In the pioneer life, a tool that could be used for hunting, cooking, and eating, as well as other tasks, would be highly valued. Thus it may have been more common of a tool than other types of flatware during this time period.

Times of flux present more opportunities for artifacts to be left behind, either purposefully or accidentally. Thus we have the most flatware artifacts from a time when a cabin was being built and then demolished, and the land was changing hands multiple times. Times of change present opportunities to lose or discard objects, presenting distinct patterns in the archaeological record.

Comparative Framework

As I stated earlier, doing a project on historic flatware comes with some unique challenges. One of these challenges is the overall lack of comparative material. Flatware is not found in great numbers, if at all, in many eighteenth to twentieth century sites. When it is found it is not often subject to an extensive analysis. For example, in the nine seasons of fieldwork at Collier Lodge, the most analysis done on the 25 recovered pieces

of flatware has been a mere mentioning of certain pieces in the site reports. This was one of the reasons I decided to take on this analysis project.

This phenomenon is not unique to the Collier Lodge site, but appears to be present in all area historic sites. Take for example the case of Fort Knox II, a large military site in southwest Indiana, which was at peak use between 1803 and 1813. According to Gray's archaeological report (Gray 1988), 34 utensils or utensil fragments were recovered during archaeological excavations. A few of them are briefly described in terms of the materials they were made out of, but no analysis is carried out on the flatware, even though conclusions were drawn from some glass artifacts and tea set pieces, for example. A short description of some of the more complete pieces of flatware is hardly enough to use in a comparative study.

Raymond Nagy does a slightly more comprehensive description of flatware in his study of metal artifacts at the Trombley House site (20BY70), a historic home built in 1837 in central Michigan. His descriptions of the three pieces of recovered flatware are more complete and include an archaeological context with the unit and the depth at which each artifact was found recorded. He concludes that they may be from the 1830s (Nagy 1989). This is a step in the right direction, as someone could start a comparative study with this information. However, that person would most likely need to visit the artifacts in person to obtain measurements and patterning information.

The Elam site (20AE195), an eighteenth century fur trading outpost and alter a nineteenth century residential site in southwest Michigan, has no mention of any flatware in its site reports, despite an extensive amount of historic metal artifacts found (Jeakle

1992). Many sites simply do not have flatware turn up on the archaeological record, making comparative studies difficult.

It appears that little work on flatware has been done at an institutional level as well. Collaboration with Bill Wepler, a curator at the Indiana State Museum, turned up only one site in the state with instances of flatware that the museum had information on (email with Bill Wepler, February 29, 2012). Wepler agrees that there is not much information on historic flatware readily available to the interested researcher.

Flatware: Where Do We Go from Here?

So where does this leave us with regard to flatware analysis? At present, it appears that in depth research is not entirely possible for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, there is a lack of analytical work being done on flatware at individual sites. Secondly, there is a lack of communication and publication about flatware on a trans-site basis.

Flatware (and many other metal artifacts) therefore do not receive as much attention in the academic community as do ceramics and lithics, for example. Part of this may be due to the nature of metal. Ceramics change rapidly over time with the style of the day, have a relatively small use period, and preserve well in the archaeological record. Metallic flatware changes less often, is used for longer periods of time, and does not always preserve well in the archaeological record. But this doesn't mean that flatware has nothing to offer the archaeologist. At a historic hunting, residential, or culinary site, cutlery represents an important part of past everyday life. Understanding these artifacts can shed light on the domestic culture of the time period.

At present, there lack adequate resources to unlock the full learning potential of flatware. So what can we do to alleviate the current situation? One possibility is to look at the established traditions of ceramic and lithic analysis for inspiration. Our knowledge in both of those fields is based off of years of collaborative research. There are longstanding studies that use a very large amount of data and are written by experts who have devoted considerable time to specific research in the field. These studies, such as Lofstrom et. al's *A Seriation of Historic Earthenwares in the Midwest, 1780-1870* (1982) have become comprehensive guides from which archaeologists can date recovered pottery based on material and patterning. A comprehensive analysis of flatware such as this would certainly help future cutlery research projects.

Before such a comprehensive analysis would be possible, there needs to be more of a collaboration of data between similar regional sites. As we have seen, at present, most information about flatware is buried within site reports, and most of that is incomplete. A more collaborative project would be beneficial, such as the one taken on by the Florida Museum of Natural History. They offer a comprehensive, searchable online database containing descriptions, photos, and context for all historic ceramics in its extensive collections (Florida Museum for Natural History, n.d.). This is an invaluable resource to a researcher interested in Floridian pottery. Similar databases exist for lithic artifacts, such as www.projectilepoints.net (U.S. Projectile Point Identification, n.d.) These offer stylistic lists of lithic technologies with information about dating, culture of origin, and geographic dispersion. Databases like these two would be great in constructing a collaborative knowledge base for flatware.

Sharing collaborative information and creating a database has never been so easy in this day and age. One possibility for archaeologists would be to create an online academic wiki about flatware. A wiki is an online database that anyone can collaboratively edit. This would work well for any type of artifact, but it is flatware that I am currently concerned with. A flatware wiki would be an online community where researchers could post artifact data from their excavations online for everybody to use. This would include, measurements, descriptions, context, and photos so that anyone could conduct research on these artifacts remotely. Over time, stylistic guides and information on cutlery companies and manufacturing techniques could be added to make the database more comprehensive. This does not necessarily have to be unique to flatware. Each flatware page can link to site page containing relevant historical and archaeological information on the archaeological site in question. Imagine all site reports and data from every site ever excavated in one online database, searchable by date or location. Information for in-depth comparative analysis studies on any topic would be only a few clicks away.

In this new millennium, the internet has revolutionized how we learn and communicate. Why not make use of its full potential and create a new way of conducting archaeological research?

Conclusion

For a truly comprehensive understanding of an archaeological site, all types of artifacts must be considered, not just the traditional few. For it is exactly with these peculiarities that each site's unique history can be revealed. I have tried to present as

comprehensive of an analysis as possible of the flatware at Collier Lodge in order to learn more about its unique history. It is my hope that this research adds to our understanding of this site as well as presents challenges for future flatware studies. With more collaboration, we can take archaeological discoveries to an entirely new level and contribute even more to the knowledge and understanding of our past.

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