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**MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**



Blendon's Landing Ceramics  
by Diane Adams, GVSC Anthro Lab

During the summer of 1969, a sample of the site of the former village of Blendon's Landing was excavated by Grand Valley State Colleges' Anthropology students. The site, 20-OT-13, is located on a bluff west of the Grand River approximately one-half mile south of M-45.

Although Blendon's Landing was occupied during the last century, little is known about the village. The only available information indicates that the village contained a large boarding house, general store, schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, saloon, ice house, brickyard and several cabins. A sawmill and a river boat shipyard were located on the river below the village. A steam tramway ran from the village to Bauer, about eight miles away. The tramway was used to transport lumber to the village where some was used in shipbuilding and the rest was sent to the sawmill to be made into boards (Adams, no date).

Carl Adams gives no date for the earliest settlement of the village. However, he does indicate the approximate dates when Blendon's Landing flourished and when it declined. The shipyard and sawmill were active in the mid-1860's when four schooners were built and the lumber was cut for the United States bark Morgan. The village had begun to deteriorate by the middle 1800's when a visitor commented that the buildings were old and dilapidated and were occupied by only a few Indian families. The reason for the village's decline is not recorded, but we can assume that it accompanied the end of intensive lumbering.

None of the buildings have survived at Blendon's Landing, and the site today consists of an open field with a few small trees and bushes. Traces of the old steam tramway and a pile of bricks on the floodplain below the village are among the few visible features which remain.

Three hundred and fifty-two ceramic sherds were recovered from the site. Of these, 70% or 246 sherds are undecorated, white paste earthenware. None bear a maker's mark or other identification. Thirty-six sherds, 10% of the total, are not identifiable owing to loss of glaze, discoloration or their extremely small size. (FIG. 1B)

The following is a summary of those sherds which seem to fit into David Brose's categories of ceramic types (Brose, 1967):

**Salt-glazed stoneware (53 sherds, 15%)**

Salt-glazed stoneware is a common utility ware with a granular glaze, which is mostly used for crockery. It has been produced in the U.S. since the 1740's and is still produced today. One sherd is marked with the words "---- ERMANN & CO. MILWAUKEE" inside a circle. This mark has not been identified. (FIG. 1A)

**Transfer printed ware (6 sherds, 1.8%)**

The approximate age of this ware can be determined by the clarity and color of the printed design. Ware manufactured after 1810 shows stippling and fine lines in the design. By 1828, the colors red, green, yellow, black and brown were used in printing. Two of the sherds found are white with blue printing. Four sherds are gray with black printed designs which show stippling.