

During the summer term of 1969 the site of the former Village of Blendon Landing ~~was~~ excavated by Grand Valley anthropology students. The site, officially designated 20 OT ⁷ 3, is located on a bluff on the west side of the Grand River approximately one-half mile south of M-45. Records indicate that fifteen pits were opened, although the coordinates of pits number 1, 2, 4, 616, and 628 have been lost and therefore they are impossible to locate.

Although Blendon Landing was occupied during the last century, very little historical information is available. 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 shipyard were located on the river below the village. A steam tramway ran from the village to Baur, about eight miles away. The tramway was used to transport lumber to the village, where some was used in the building of ships and the rest was sent to the sawmill to be made into boards.

No date is given for the earliest settlement of the village. However, two dates indicate the approximate time when Blendon Landing flourished and when it declined. The shipyard and sawmill were in operation in the mid-1860's when four schooners were built and the lumber was cut for the United States bark Morgan. Blendon Landing had begun to deteriorate when a visitor in 1882 commented that the buildings were old and dilapidated and were occupied by only a few Indian families.¹ The reason for the village's decline is not recorded.

None of the buildings have survived in Blendon Landing and

the site today is an open field with a few bushes. Traces of the old steam tramway are ~~the only~~ ^{AMONG} ~~visible~~ ^{few} features which remain.

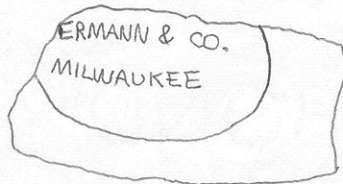
CERAMICS

My analysis of the ceramic sherds found at Blendon Landing is based on descriptions of ceramic types given in David Brose's "An Introduction to Dating Historic Ceramics in Michigan". Three hundred and fifty-two 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, were not identifiable owing to loss of glaze, discoloration, or the extremely small size. ~~of the sherds.~~

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

Salt-glazed stoneware (53 sherds, 15%)

Salt-glazed stoneware is a very common utility ware with a granular glaze, which is mostly used for crockery. It has been produced in the United States since the 1740's, and is still produced today.² One sherd was impressed with the mark: .. ERMANN & CO. MILWAUKEE



Transfer printed ware (6 sherds, 1.8%)

The approximate age of transfer printed ware can be determined by the clarity of the printed design and the colors used. Stippling and fine lines indicate that the ware was manufactured

after 1810. By 1828 the colors red, green, yellow, black, and brown were used in printing the design.³ Two of the sherds found are white with blue printing. Four sherds are gray with black printing. The black printed sherds have stippling in their designs.

Common yellow (5 sherds, 1.4%)

Common yellow consists of a coat of yellow ~~color~~ ^{PIGMENT} covered with a transparent glaze. Prior to 1826 the ~~color~~ ^{PIGMENT} was brushed on. After 1826 dry pigment was used, which eliminated the brushmarks found on the older ware.⁴ None of the five sherds show brushmarks.

Edgeware (4 sherds, 1.2%)

According to Brose, edgeware was most popular in southern Michigan from the late 1820's to 1850.⁵ Two of the sherds have a blue feather edge, one has a plain blue edge, and one has a plain brown edge.

Blue banded (2 sherds, .6%)

Wares with a machine-applied blue band around the rim are dated from 1820-1840 in southern Michigan.⁶

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No. of sherds</u>
White paste earthenware	70.0	246
Salt-glazed stoneware	15.0	53
Transfer printed ware	1.8	6
Common yellow	1.4	5
Edgeware	1.2	4
Blue banded	.6	2
Unidentified	<u>10.0</u>	<u>36</u>
	100.0	352

The ceramic sherds found at Blendon Landing seem to indicate that the first white settlement there took place no earlier than the late 1820's.

GLASS

(686 fragments) Nearly all are clear or pale green window and bottle glass fragments. A few dark green and brown bottle glass fragments, one clear cork-type bottle neck, and four small pieces of milk glass were also found. None of the bottle glass fragments are large enough to be identified.

BUTTONS

(4 buttons) The four buttons that were found don't provide much information. Two are small, badly rusted metal, one is mother of pearl, and one is a modern plastic shirt button.

CLAY PIPE

(38 fragments) One large fragment consists of part of the side of the bowl which faces the stem. It is marked with the initials "T.D." surrounded by a circle of stars.



These initials were originally marked on pipes made by Thomas Dean of Bristol, Thomas Darkes of Broseley, and Thomas Dormer of London. Fifteen varieties of the "T.D." pipe continued to be produced after these makers had died, and they are found

on sites dating from 1700 to the mid Nineteenth century.⁷

TEXTILE

(418 fragments) Three hundred and twenty fragments consist of cement or mortar, and the other 98 fragments are of brick. They are concentrated in two areas: adjacent pits 601 and 610, and pit 604.

METAL

(557 fragments) Whole and partial fragments of square nails of various sizes predominate in this category with 425 examples. One hundred twenty-two fragments were too small or rusted to be identified. One 2 in. latch, one small hook, two door hinges, four modern round nails, and two small buckles were also found. The metal fragments are also found in large concentrations in pits 601, 610, and 604. The presence of concentrations of both textile and metal artifacts in these pits suggest that structures once stood on these two locations.

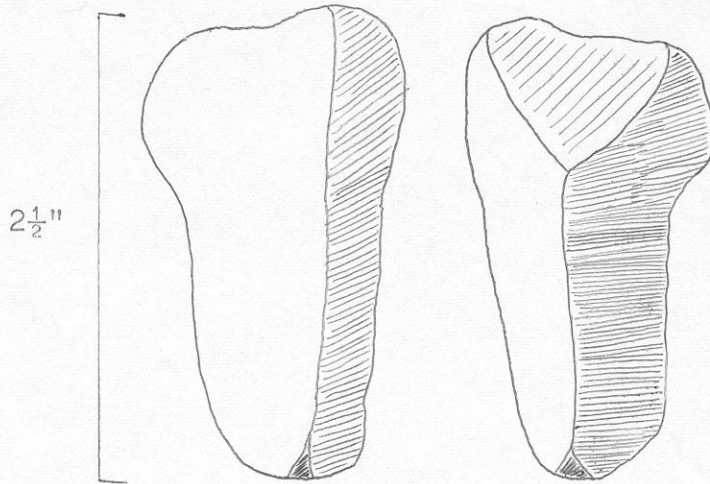
FAUNAL

(72 fragments) Fifty-eight bone fragments were too small to be identified. One bone has been identified as a bird ulna, and another, found in pit 4, has tentatively been identified as a human femoral cap. Twelve small snail and clam shell fragments were also found.

LITHICS

(69 fragments) These include six small pieces of charcoal, and fifty-five flint and chert chips which may be waste from tool

making. One rock appears to be a ground stone tool which may have been used for working hides or grinding.



The artifacts found at Blendon Landing provide some information about the site. They suggest aboriginal use of the site, possibly as a camp. They also suggest that ^{HISTORIC AMERICAN} ~~white~~ occupation of Blendon Landing began no earlier than the late 1820's. More excavation may serve to round out the picture of both Indian and white occupation at Blendon Landing.

REPRESENTS CONCENTRATIONS OF :

- CERAMICS ■
- GLASS ■
- METAL ■
- FAUNAL ■
- TEXTILE ■
- LITHICS ■
- CLAY PIPE ■

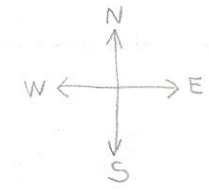
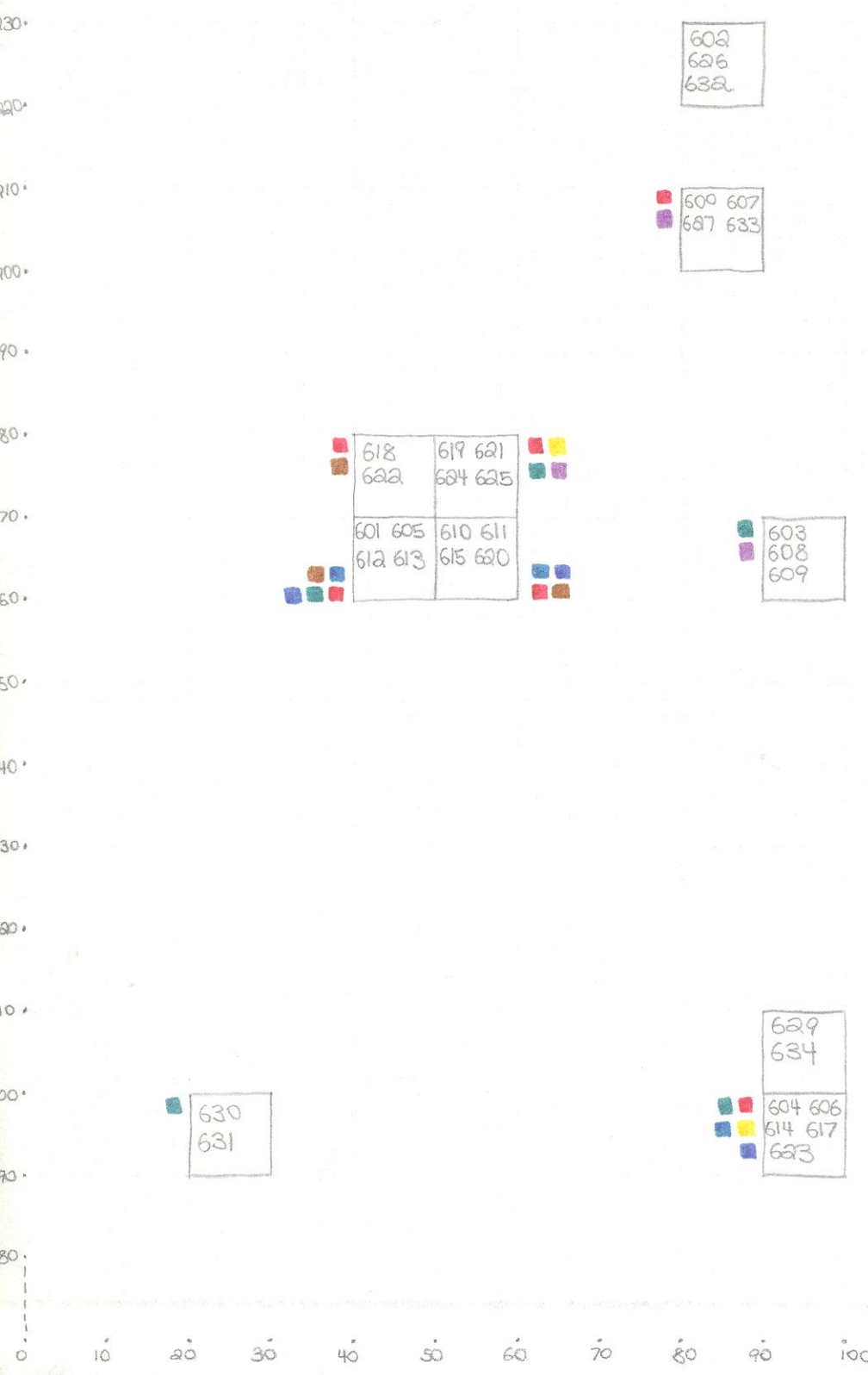


Chart showing layout of pits and the numbers they were assigned.
 No co-ordinates were given for pits 616, 628, 1, 2, and 4.