

A CAMPSITE OF THE
RETREATING MEXICAN ARMY
APRIL, 1836
41WH91, WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS

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Site 41WH91

Class abbreviations:

b	misc. brass objects
c	bullet casing, modern
C	shotgun shell casing, modern
G	gun part (flintlock musket)
h	harness parts
H	horse or mule shoe (spanish-style)
i	unidentified iron piece
I	iron tool fragment
k	buckle, iron
K	buckle, brass
m	unidentified metal
n	wire nail or unclassifiable nail
N	machine cut ("square") nail
r	ring (closed or open)
s	lead shot (canister & musket)
o	other metal object
p	personal object (button, etc.)
P	personal military item (Shako plate, medallion, etc.)
w	wire
x	ceramic ware, modern
X	ceramic ware, old

INTRODUCTION

This report gives the results of an Archeological survey and excavations of a campsite which was occupied by the retreating Mexican Army late April, 1836. The site is located approximately four miles west of the town of East Bernard on the southwest side of the Middle Bernard Creek in northeastern Wharton County, Texas. In August, 1996, Bruce Badger, owner of the property where the site is located, found a solid iron cannonball while in the process of constructing an earthen water tank. Verification of the cannonball was made by Houston Archeological Society member, Gregg Dimmick .

Gregg Dimmick and Ed Person, using metal detectors, located additional artifacts including lead musket balls and several musket parts. The artifacts and site location were reported to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas. This site was designated as the Badger Site and assigned the trinomial 41WH91 by T.A.R.L.. Permission was granted by Bruce & Susan Badger to allow the Houston Archeological Society to do further investigation.

Participants in this investigation include: Travis Alverez, Ed Bader, Travis Badger, Charles Boyle, David Brandes, Frank Brezik, Jr, Ryan Bubela, Bill Csanzi, Gregg Dimmick, C.R. Ebersole, Read Ebersole, Harold Grahman, Dick Gregg, Sue Gross, Sue Hamlin, Jose E. Hernandez, Yanina Hernandez, Joe D. Hudgins, Terry Kieler, Dan Keyes, Sheldon Kindall, Gene Marik, J.P. Marik, Beverly Mendenhall, Raymond McCausland, Don McReynolds, Janet Murcko, John H. Noser, John Nuckols, Tom Nuckols, George Owens, Etta Palmer, Jim Palmer, Tom Palmer, Lee Patterson, Ed Person, David Pettus, Gary Ryman, Bob Shelby, Jeanette Siciliano, James Smith, Roy Whitney, and John Wicke.

Field work at 41WH91 began on September 14, 1996 and continued through November 9, 1996. This report has two parts. Part I covers details of the April 28-29, 1836 Mexican Army camp site located on the southwest side of the Middle Bernard Creek. Part II will cover details of other sites in the immediate area which were occupied by the Mexican Army from April 30-May 9, 1836.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In researching the historical events that are relevant to site 41WH91, the writers found a conflict in dates. All of the sources agree on the dates involved except for early reports from General Filisola (1837). General Urrea points out in his diary (Casteñeda 1928:257) that Filisola's dates are incorrect by one day. Filisola himself corrects this error in his later writings. The correct dates are used in this report. The writers would like to state that errors and discrepancies were noted in certain translations of the original Mexican documents and recommend that copies of the original documents be obtained for serious research.

APRIL 21: On this date in 1836, a Mexican force, under the Supreme Commander, General Antonio López de Santa Anna, was defeated at the battle of San Jacinto by the Texian Army under the command of General Sam Houston. On this date, two other large forces of the Mexican Army were encamped nearby. One group, consisting of 1,408 men, was at a location on the west side of the Brazos River called Old Fort (near present day town of Richmond, Ft. Bend County, Texas). The second group, consisting of 1,165 men, was under the command of General Jose' Urrea. They were situated near the small settlements of Columbia and Brazoria (present day Brazoria County, Texas) (Filisola 1837:30).

APRIL 23: The news of General Santa Anna's defeat reached the Mexican forces at Old Fort . General Vincente Filisola, who had been Santa Anna's second in command, was with the group at Old Fort, and assumed supreme command of the remaining Mexican Army. General Filisola issued an order for General Urrea to bring his troops to a location known as Mrs Powell's dwelling (Filisola 1837:40).

APRIL 25: Filisola's orders were carried out and all troops had converged at the home of Elizabeth Powell. They camped on Turkey Creek (near present day Kendleton, Ft Bend County, Texas). Mrs Powell's was reported to be five leagues (one league =2.68 miles) from Old Fort. General Filisola called for a meeting of the general staff and sought their opinions regarding a plan of action. They agreed unanim-

agreed unanimously that it was necessary to recross the Colorado River, re-establish communications with the Mexican Government and await aid from Mexico (Filisola 1846:233-234).

The combined Mexican forces now numbered 2,573 men and consisted of 2,196 infantrymen, 307 cavalrymen, and 70 artillerymen (Filisola 1837:30). General Filisola's reorganization of the army gave second in command to General don Jacuín Ramírez y Sesma (Filisola 1837: 19). General Antonio Gaona commanded the first division which constituted the Morelos battalion, Gaudalajara battalion, Guanajuato battalion and three pieces of artillery. The second division, under the command of General Eugenio Tolsa, was comprised of the Zapadores battalion, Primero activo de Mexico battalion, Queretaro battalion and three pieces of artillery. The reserve division, under the command of General Jose' Urrea, included the Jimenez battalion, San Luis battalion, all the cavalry units (Dolores, Tampico, Presidiales, Cuautla and Ausiliares de Guanajuato), and two pieces of artillery (San Luis battalion log, 1836).

In addition to the soldiers there was a large number of non-combatants who were sometimes referred to as "camp followers". They included women, muledrivers, wagon train drivers, boys and sutlers (de la Peña 1997: 22). In addition there were some 1,200 mules traveling with the army (Filisola 1837: 231).

APRIL 26: The three brigades started their march with General Urrea, with his brigade covering the rear. After two leagues they abandoned the road that went to San Felipe de Austin. After one more league they encountered one branch of several that form the San Bernard river system (Map Figure 1). Only half of the troops had crossed this branch when the sky darkened and the rain became what can be described as a deluge (Filisola 1849:214).

APRIL 27: "The 27th dawned with persistent rain. Nevertheless, the march continued much later in the day, but we had traveled no more than five miles when we had to camp, it being impossible to cross the second Bernardo, which was greatly swollen. On this day we made our way through the mud, so the march was as laborious as it had been the day before..."(de la Peña 1997:160).

While camped near the second branch (West Bernard Creek) three Texian soldiers entered the Mexican camp to deliver a message. It stated that General Santa Anna was alive and was being held prisoner (Castañeda 1928:258).

APRIL 28: One of General Urrea's scouts recommended to General Filisola that, as they could not cross the second of the Bernardos, they should turn back to the same little house where they had camped on the night of the 26th. The scout reported that there was a crossing on a road called Contrabando in that vicinity, which would take them to the Colorado River at a point called Atascosito (near present day Columbus, Colorado County, Texas). This was the same crossing the Mexican Army under General Santa Anna used on his trip east. Filisola gave up his original plan to cross the Colorado at Cayce's (near present day Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas) and proceeded to Atascosito.

General Filisola (1837:19-20) stated "...not able to ford the stream, we counter-marched, with the right wing in advance, by the same road that we had come the day previous, and encamped on the right bank of the centre rivulet of the San Bernard (Middle Bernard Creek)..."

APRIL 29: De la Peña (1997:165) stated, "...our misfortunes reached their limit. The wagons had been delayed since the previous day, and some of our sick who were in them died for lack of medicine and nourishment their condition required....The vanguard began to leave at eight in the morning, but by ten-thirty the rear guard still had not been able to march. Before the march began, armaments, munitions, nails, quick matches of rope, and other appurtenances of the artillery had been thrown into the creek to lighten the load on the wagons..."

EXCAVATION DETAILS

The Badger site, 41WH91, consists of several acres covered with grass. The only logical solution to locate additional metal artifacts was use of metal detectors. Bruce Badger was kind enough to mow this tall grass before our work began. It was decided to record only horizontal measurements, with the exception of two (2) 1 meter square pits (see Artifacts), as the area had been cultivated numerous times in the past.

Pin flags were placed over each detected object. Using a transit and tapes, each artifact was recorded as to distance and angle from a previously established datum point. Each artifact was given a number before being placed in a paper bag which had the number, angle, and distance written on it. This same information was recorded on a separate form by the transit operator. In the event several artifacts or a cluster of artifacts were located, a single number was given to the cluster. This method facilitated the translation of the information to maps (Figures 2-7) {artifacts key for maps: page iv}. Artifacts found during initial investigation by Gregg Dimmick and Ed Person are not shown.

Four areas: A,B,C, and D had to be established due to the overall size of this site. All artifacts were cleaned and photographed. Selected iron artifacts were treated by electrolysis. Due to the severe oxidation of iron artifacts, measurements taken by the recorders are only approximates of their original size. After completion of all work, the artifacts were returned to the land owners.

ARTIFACTS

Artifacts found on this site, relating to the Mexican Army, were identified by Samuel P. Nesmith, Kevin R. Young & Stephen L. Hardin. Artifacts include musket parts from the British .75 caliber India Pattern Brown Bess flintlock musket, lead musket shot, insignia, spanish-style horseshoes, canister shot and other military related artifacts. {Flintlock musket drawing (Figure 9) and mechanisms of a flintlock musket (Figure 10) are shown.}

Lockplates

Two heavily oxidized iron lockplates from the India Pattern British Brown Bess musket were found in area A and one in area D. One lockplate in area A had all mechanisms present, except for the hammer and frizzen (Figure 10). A second lockplate in area A had only the hammer missing (Figure 11). The single lockplate found in area D had only the frizzen and frizzen spring attached (Figure 12). All other mechanisms were missing. This lockplate was the least oxidized of the three. After cleaning, the wording "BARNETT (top line) London (underneath)" could be seen stamped into the lockplate (Figure 13). The wording begins 1.3 cm from bottom edge and lies mid-way between the hammer attachment and the frizzen spring. Barnett was one of several private contractors that manufactured India Pattern muskets in London in the early 1800s (Darling 1931:52). The three lockplates measured approximately 17 cm in length and approximately 3.1 cm in width.

Brass Ramrod Pipes

Two ramrod pipes from the India Pattern British Brown Bess musket were found in area C. One was a middle ramrod pipe 4.5 cm in length (Figure 14). The other was a terminal ramrod pipe 11.5 cm in length (Figure 15). The letter "c" is stamped on the top of the tang of the terminal ramrod pipe.

Brass Trigger Guards

Three brass trigger guards from the India Pattern British Brown Bess musket were recovered. One trigger guard found in area A has part of the front tang missing and the rear tang is broken at the screw hole (Figure 16). A second trigger guard was found in area B and has the rear tang broken at the screw hole but the front tang is present (Figure 17). The third trigger guard was found in area C and has the rear tang broken at the screw hole and is bent downward. The front tang is complete with the iron sling swivel and pin in place (Figure 18).

Brass Nose Caps

Two brass nose caps from the India Pattern British Brown Bess musket were found in area C. They both measure 2.5 cm in length and 2.5 cm in width. One nose cap is slightly bent and is missing the brass pin that is used to attach it to the stock. The other nose cap is unscathed with brass pin in place (Figure 19 A,B).

Brass Sideplate

A brass sideplate from an India Pattern British Brown Bess musket, 10 cm. in length, was found in area A. The two holes at each end of the sideplate (Figure 20) held lock screws that ran laterally through the stock to hold the lockplate in place.

Iron Hammer

A reinforced iron hammer, 8.5 cm in length, with cap and cap screw missing, was found in area A. Hammers on the India Pattern muskets had a swan neck design until 1809. After this date the design was changed to the reinforced type (Darling 1931: 50) (Figure 21).

Iron Bayonet Socket

An iron bayonet socket, 10.2 cm in length with the shank attached, was found in area A. The socket has a reinforced collar at the proximal end and the locking slot is visible. The shank is set back slightly from the

distal end of the socket. The triangle bayonet, that would have been attached to the shank, is missing (Figure 22). The pattern of the bayonet socket is consistent with the Brown Bess style.

Musket Balls

Six lead musket balls, ranging in size from 1.7 to 1.8 cm in diameter and 25.7 to 26.7 grams in weight, were found in area A. One lead musket ball, measuring 1.7 cm in diameter and 27 grams in weight, was found in area B. These measurements indicate about .69 or .70 caliber. Casting seams can be seen on all seven musket balls, suggesting they were cast in a worn bullet mold. Three of these musket balls are illustrated in Figure 23 A-C. Five smaller lead shot were found in area B. Three measured .8 cm in diameter and were 3.5 grams in weight. Two lead shot measured 1 cm in diameter and were 5 grams in weight. Six small lead shot were found in area C. These were .96 cm in diameter and weighed 5 grams. The casting seam can be seen on some of the shot. One lead shot has a casting sprue attached. These smaller shot range from .30 to .40 caliber and may represent Mexican buckshot (Figure 24).

Canister & Canister Shot

Canisters were sheet metal cylinders filled with small lead or brass balls, loosely packed. When shot from a cannon, the effect of the canister shot was similar to a shotgun blast.

Found scattered throughout area A were seven (7) lead canister shot measuring approximately 2.17 to 2.24 cm in diameter and weighed from 63.4 to 65.1 grams; plus five (5) lead canister shot, approximately 2.38 to 2.4 cm in diameter, weighing from 83.7 to 103.7 grams. Six (6) lead canister shot, measuring approximately 2.17 cm to 2.24 cm and weighing 63 grams to 65 grams were found in area C, plus a brass canister shot, approximately 2.52 cm in diameter and weighing 65.5 grams (Figure 25). None of the canister shot were perfectly round, possibly due to faulty bullet molds. Casting seams can be seen on most of the lead balls, and also on the brass ball. Partially filed casting sprues are visible on many of the canister shot (Figure 26).

A concentration or cluster of lead canister shot was found in area A near the surface. Further investigation with metal detectors, indicated that more metal objects were buried deeper. Consequently a 1 meter square test pit, referred to as pit A, was excavated over the cluster. The excavation was conducted in 10 cm levels to a depth of 40 cm. All artifacts found were left in place and the surrounding soil was passed through 6 mm mesh screen. The results revealed three distinct cylindrical features (Figure 27, 1-3).

Feature 1 consisted of a cluster of sixty-six (66) lead canister shot in a vertical position. These canister shot ranged in diameter from approximately 2.17 to 2.24 cm and weighed 63.4 grams to 65.1 grams. One lead canister shot, found near the top of feature 1, was embedded in a fragment of wood (Figure 28). This fragment of wood possibly represents part of the wooden disc that was placed over one end of the canister. All lead shot have casting seams and many have remnants of the casting sprue. After the canister shot was separated and counted, the soil in and around the features was passed through 3 mm mesh screen. The results revealed seventy-two (72) pieces of thin oxidized metal fragments which made up the sides of the canister (Figure 29).

Feature 2 consisted of fifty-five (55) lead canister shot that lay in a horizontal position. This canister shot measured the same as the shot in Feature 1. Thirty-five (35) thin fragments from the walls of the canister were found in the fine screening. A remarkable aspect of Feature 2 was that the metal bottom of the canister had remained intact with twelve (12) canister shot in situ. The canister bottom was slightly distorted due to the weight of the soil, giving an approximate diameter measurement of 9 cm (Figure 30).

Feature 3 consisted of twenty-nine (29) lead canister shot in a vertical position; similar to Feature 1. However, the lead shot in this feature were larger than those in Features 1 and 2. Canister shot in Feature 3 were 2.38 to 2.64 cm in diameter, and weighed 83.7 to 103.7 grams. Filed casting sprues and casting seams were present on all shot. Different size canister shot are illustrated in Figure 31 A,B.

Solid Iron Cannon Balls

Two solid iron cannon balls were found in area A. The first cannon ball was found by the landowner, Bruce Badger, while constructing an earthen water tank. The other was found by Gregg Dimick during the initial testing of the site (Figure 32). Both cannon balls are severely oxidized and exact measurements were difficult to obtain. Approximate diameters for both are 9 cm and weigh 2.7 kilograms (approx. 6 lbs).

Iron & Brass Buckles

A total of five (5) brass buckles and two (2) iron buckles were found (Figure 33, A-E). One brass buckle in area A, and one in area B, measured 3 cm x 2 cm. Three smaller brass buckles, found in area C, measured 2.5 cm x 2 cm. None of these buckles have tongues, nor is there any indication that tongues were ever present. These type of brass buckles may have been used on Mexican cartridge boxes (Haecker & Mauck 1997: 157). One small iron buckle, with tongue attached, measured 3 cm x 3 cm, and was found in area A and a larger iron buckle with tongue attached in area B. The larger buckle measured 4 cm x 5.4 cm.

Spanish-style Horse or Mule Shoes

Eight (8) spanish-style horse or mule shoes of various sizes were found on the site. Four were found in area A, two in area B, two in area D. Two (2) shoes from area A are 11.5 cm in length (toe to heel) and 8 cm in width; measured at the widest point. Both branches taper toward the heel and measure 3.4 cm in width. Four (4) square nail holes are in each branch. Both shoes show considerable wear at the toe (Figure 34 & 35). A third shoe found in area A measures 11.5 cm from toe to heel and is 10 cm wide; both branches are 4.5 cm in width and each branch has three (3) square nail holes. A badly worn nail head is visible in the upper right area of one branch (Figure 36). A fourth shoe found in area A was severely bent. Approximate measurement is 11 cm. from heel to toe; the branches measure 3.5 cm in width with four (4) square nail holes in each branch.

One shoe from area B is 11 cm in length from toe to heel and 11 cm at the widest point. Both branches are 4 cm wide with four (4) nail holes in each branch. The other shoe from area B measures 11 cm from heel to toe and 10 cm in width; both branches are 3 cm wide with four (4) square nail holes in each branch.

A shoe found in area D measures 11 cm from toe to heel; 10.5 cm wide, with each branch measuring 2.5 cm in width and four (4) square nail holes present in each branch. The other shoe found in area D had part of both heels missing. The width of this shoe measured 8 cm and both branches are 3 cm in width with four (4) square nail holes in each branch. Two nail heads are visible in one branch with one nail head in the opposite branch of this shoe. One complete shoe nail, 2.4 cm in length, was present in this shoe (Figure 37).

Spanish-style horse and mule shoe nails appear as being clubbed-headed and could protrude as much as .5 cm above the surface of the shoe. They are rectangle in shape and square at the corners, and beveled at the point (Simmons & Turley 1986:66).

Brass Flag Staff or Guidon Base

A conical shaped brass base for a flag staff or guidon was found in area B (Figure 38). The flag or guidon was carried by mounted troops with the pointed distal end designed to fit into a leather holder attached to the side of a saddle stirrup. The proximal end of the base is rounded and measures 2.5 cm in diameter. The overall length of the artifact is 8.5 cm and weighs 155 grams. A small round hole is on one side of the base, .75 cm below the proximal end. The head of an iron pin, approximately .5 cm in diameter, that held the wooden staff to the base is visible, although badly oxidized.

Gilded Brass Mexican Eagle

A gilded brass Mexican eagle was found in area A (Figure 39). The eagle is facing left and standing in a patch of prickly pear cactus leaves. The wings are spread and curved downward. Its height is 3.5 cm, width 3 cm, and weighs 7.7 grams. On the reverse side are two small raised

posts; approximately .3 cm in length. One is located near the head of the eagle; one near the base (Figure 40). The eagle is probably from a cockade on the side of a field grade officer's bi-corn hat.

Brass Cross-Belt Plate

A rectangular shaped brass cross-belt plate with "clipped" corners was found in area C (Figure 41). The plate was designed to secure the crossed shoulder belts on the front of the Mexican Army infantryman uniform during the early 1800s. It appears to be hand made, due to the slightly uneven sides. The overall measurement is 6.5 cm x 4.7 cm with .3 cm thickness and weighing 78.8 grams. On the face of the plate is a scrolled letter "M". Below the letter, and .5 cm above the bottom edge, is a small round hole believed to have secured the chain for the musket vent pick. On the reverse side of the plate are two raised fasteners, each 1 cm in length and .3 cm in width. These are located near the top and bottom edge of the plate. Each fastener has a small round hole near the top, possibly designed to fasten the plate to the shoulder belt. The letter "M" on the plate may either stand for the Morelos battalion which comprised part of the 1st division commanded by General Gaona, or may represent the Primero Activo De Mexico Battalion.

Brass Shako Plates

A shako plate is a very thin brass plate sewn to the front of a felt or leather hat (shako), worn by the Mexican infantrymen in the early 1800s. Two (2) brass fragments from shako plates were found in area A.

One of the two fragments from a brass shako plate is very thin, nearly triangular, 2.5 cm high and 3 cm wide with no lettering (Figure 42). The other fragment is 3.2 cm high and approximately 3.8 cm wide with rounded rim along the outer edge and smaller raised rim below which apparently went around the entire plate. A raised letter "M" is near the top of this plate. On the side not broken, are two round holes that were used to sew the plate to the shako (Figure 43). Similar oval plates have been found elsewhere in Texas with Mexican eagles.

Brass Granaderos Plate

Two (2) broken pieces of the same plate were found approximately 30 cm apart. The top part of the plate measures 2.7 cm in height, and approximately 8.2 cm in width. There is a very small raised rim that extends around the partly damaged edge. Near the bottom of this plate are slightly raised letters, "BN 1" (Figure 44). The bottom piece measures 4.5 cm in height and is approximately 9 cm wide. A small rim can be seen around the edge. Two small holes to sew the plate to the shako are on each edge. The top edge bends slightly downward where the break occurred. At the top edge of this plate piece are two lines of raised letters. "GRANADE" is on the first line with "ROS" below (Figure 45). This plate is probably a cartridge box plate which was sewn to the leather flap.

Knife or Sword Blade Fragments

The distal end of an iron knife or sword blade was found in area A. There is a slight upward curve of the blade. The distal end of another iron blade was found in Area B; it also has a slight upward curve to the point.

Square Nails

Several hundred square iron nails were found in area A. Fourteen (14) square nails were found in area B; twelve (12) in area C. Metal detectors located individual nails, as well as large clusters of nails. In area A, near the excavated canister features, were clusters of badly oxidized nails too numerous to accurately count or measure. Nails, that were not as badly oxidized, ranged in length from 5 to 7 cm. As noted in this report, nails were one of the items the Mexican Army discarded to lighten wagon loads before leaving the morning of April 30, 1836 from the camp on the Middle Bernard Creek.

Iron Rings

Five (5) iron rings were found in area C. Two (2) of the rings are open ended (Figure 46 A,B). The larger of the two measures 7.8 cm in diameter. The smaller ring measures 3.3 cm in diameter. The diameter of the other three (3) iron rings from area C are 6 cm, 5 cm, and 6.5 cm (Figure 47 A-C). The smaller ring has an iron tongue attached.

Iron Tools

Two (2) spanish-style firmer-gouges were found in area A. They are described as simple, half-rounded chisels used for making channels and hollowing (Simmons & Turley 1986:78). One chisel has a pointed half-rounded, concave blade 9 cm in length. The iron base, 6.5 cm in length, is square in shape and was apparently hafted to a wooden handle. It tapers to a point at the proximal end (Figure 48). The other iron chisel has a half-rounded concave blade; however the distal end is blunt rather than pointed. The blade length is 11.5 cm and the square iron handle is 6.5 cm in length and tapers to a point at the proximal end (Figure 49).

Ceramics

Twenty-one (21) ceramic fragments were found in area A. Three (3) fragments were found in a shovel test while removing an iron horseshoe fragment found by a metal detector. A decision was made to excavate a one meter square test pit over the shovel test area, referred to as pit B. The excavation was conducted in 10 cm levels to a depth of 30 cm and the soil was passed through 6 mm mesh screen. The results yielded seven (7) rim fragments and eleven (11) basal fragments. These twenty-one fragments were from a dish or a platter; identified as green edge ware dating 1800-1840 (Pollan 1997).

Iron Pot Fragments

Twenty-seven (27) fragments of one or more iron pots were concentrated at two locations in area C. Four (4) additional iron pot fragments were found in area D. Fragments from area C consisted of four (4) rim, seven (7) basal, and sixteen (16) body fragments. All fragments were approximately .5 cm thick. A handle was attached 1 cm below the rim of one fragment. Three (3) iron pot legs, 7 cm in length, half-rounded in shape and slightly tapered from top to bottom, were also found. One leg was attached 2 cm from the edge of a basal fragment. Based on the curvature of the rims and basal fragments, the pot(s) are estimated to have been approximately 25-26.5 cm in diameter. It was not possible to determine the height of the pot from the fragments.

Brass Button

A plain-face brass button, 1.8 cm in diameter with a brass shank still attached, was found in area A. On the back side, and in a circle around the shank, are the letters "E.T. MOORE EXTRA RICH" (Figure 50).

Personal Items

Personal items include a two-prong iron fork (Figure 51); iron blade from a straight razor; two iron handle pocket knives; one iron ladle handle; two scissors (Figure 52), all found in area A.

Modern Artifacts

In all areas of 41WH91, modern artifacts were found. They include fence staples, barbed wire, shotgun shells, .22 caliber lead shot, aluminum cans, surveyor's stake, and modern nails.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

Historical records indicate the Mexican Army, under the command of General Vincente Filisola, began their retreat on the morning of April 26, 1836 from a point referred to as Mrs. Powell's dwelling. This army consisted of 2,573 troops, 1,200 mules and a number of non-combatants referred to as camp followers.

The vanguard of the army reached the San Bernard River about noon that same day. They were met by a sudden, severe rainstorm which continued unrelenting for the remainder of the day and throughout the night. The waters of the San Bernard River began to rise rapidly, making it difficult for the rear guard of the army to cross.

On the morning of the 27th, the army continued their march to the West Bernard Creek, but couldn't cross because of high water. On the 28th, General Filisola ordered the army to counter-march, following the same route traveled the previous day. They camped on the southwest bank of the Middle Bernard Creek.

On the morning of the 29th, General Filisola ordered the army to march to the Atascocita Crossing on the Colorado River. Before departure, he ordered all dispensable items to be abandoned due to the very muddy terrain. This included heavy armaments, munitions, artillery tackle, nails, canvas, camp utensils and a variety of personal possessions to lighten all the wagons' loads.

Artifacts discovered by the Houston Archeological Society, located at site 41WH91, includes spanish-style horse or mule shoes, flintlock musket parts, lead musket balls, lead and brass canister shot, camp utensils, square nails, items from Mexican uniforms, insigna and other items. It is the writers' opinion that the Badger site (41WH91), located on the southwest side of the Middle Bernard Creek, is the location of the retreating Mexican Army campsite on the 28-29th of April, 1836.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writers would like to thank Stephen L. Hardin, Samuel P. Nesmith and Kevin R. Young for volunteering their time to identify the majority of the artifacts found on the site. We want to thank Dick Gregg for producing the maps showing the location of the various artifacts found throughout the site; Lee Patterson for photographing the artifacts used in this paper; Harold Graham who sketched the artifacts; and Merle Reue Hudgins who edited, redressed and typed this paper. We especially want to thank Bruce & Susan Badger, Algernon & Mary Lou Badger, and Jim & Margaret Blackert for their cooperation and patience in allowing the Houston Archeological Society members to gather the archeological information necessary to publish this paper.

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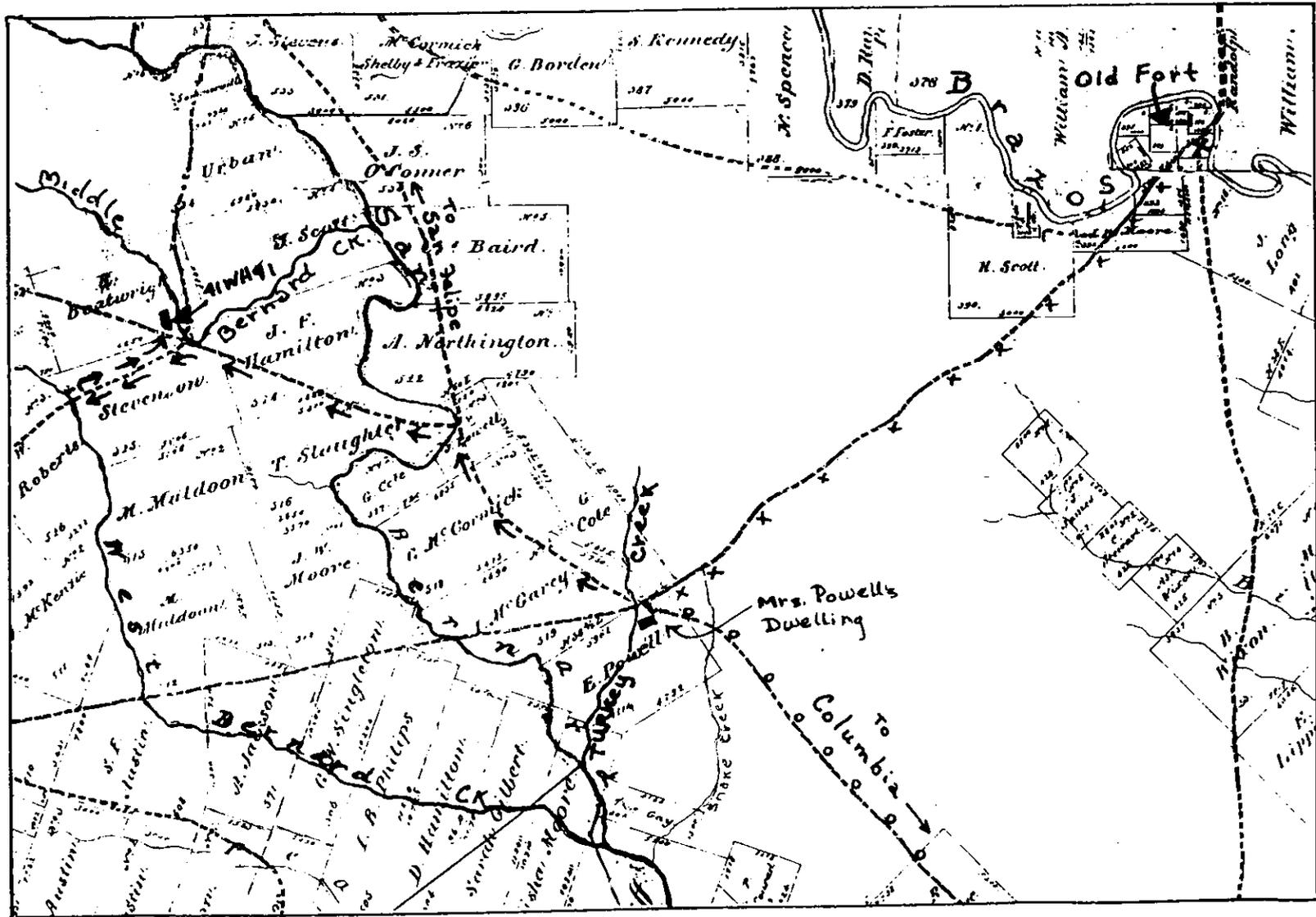
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CONNECTED MAP OF AUSTIN'S COLONY
 Commenced by S.F. Austin, 1833
 Completed by J.F. Perry, 1837
 Projected by J. P. Thomas & Gail Borden

- × Fisiola's Retreat Route
- Urrea's Retreat Route
- ↑ Combined Mexican Army Retreat Route
- = Established Trails

Figure 1

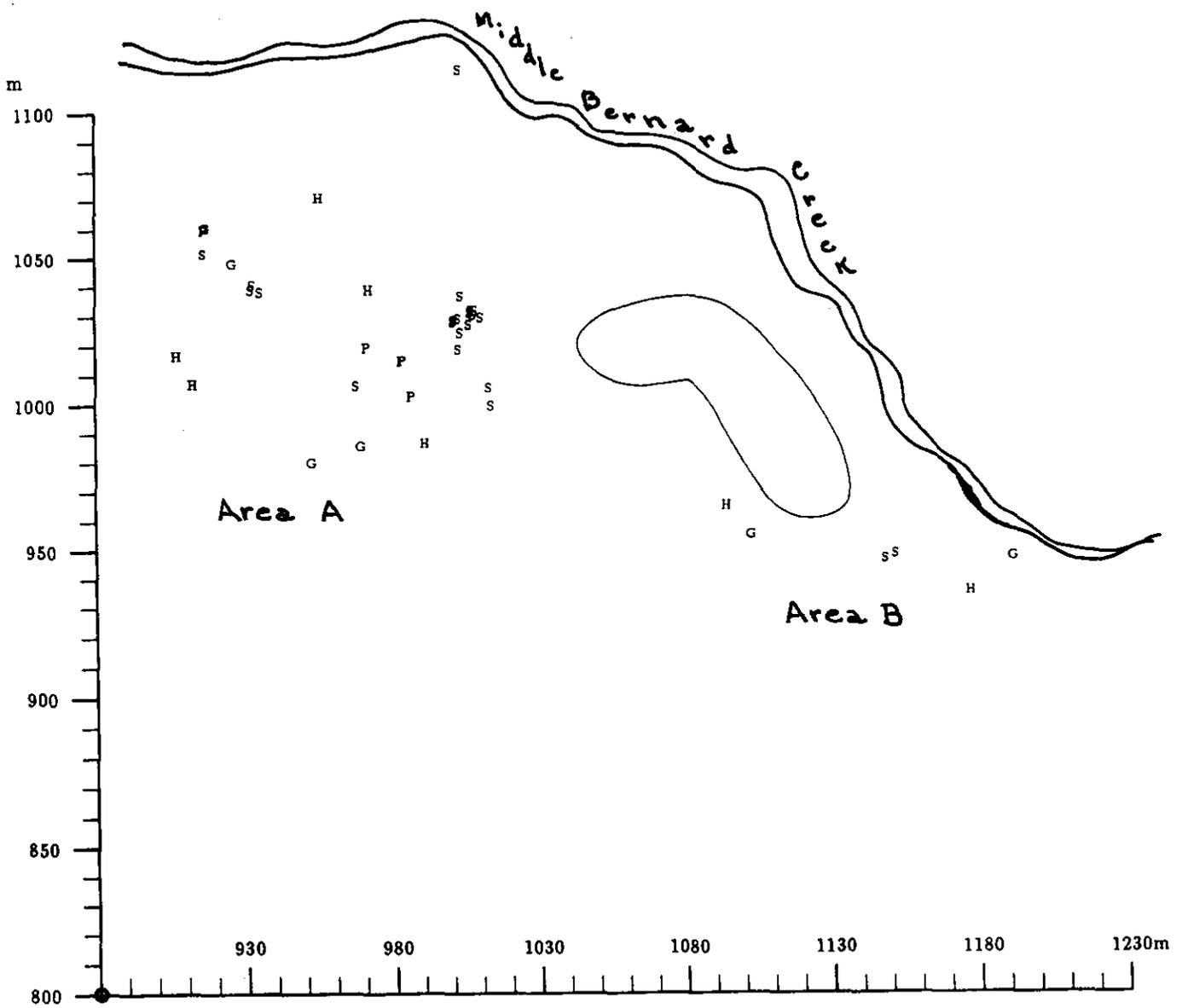


Figure 2: Military Artifacts Areas A & B
 gun parts (G), lead shot (S), personal items (P), Spanish-style horseshoes (H)

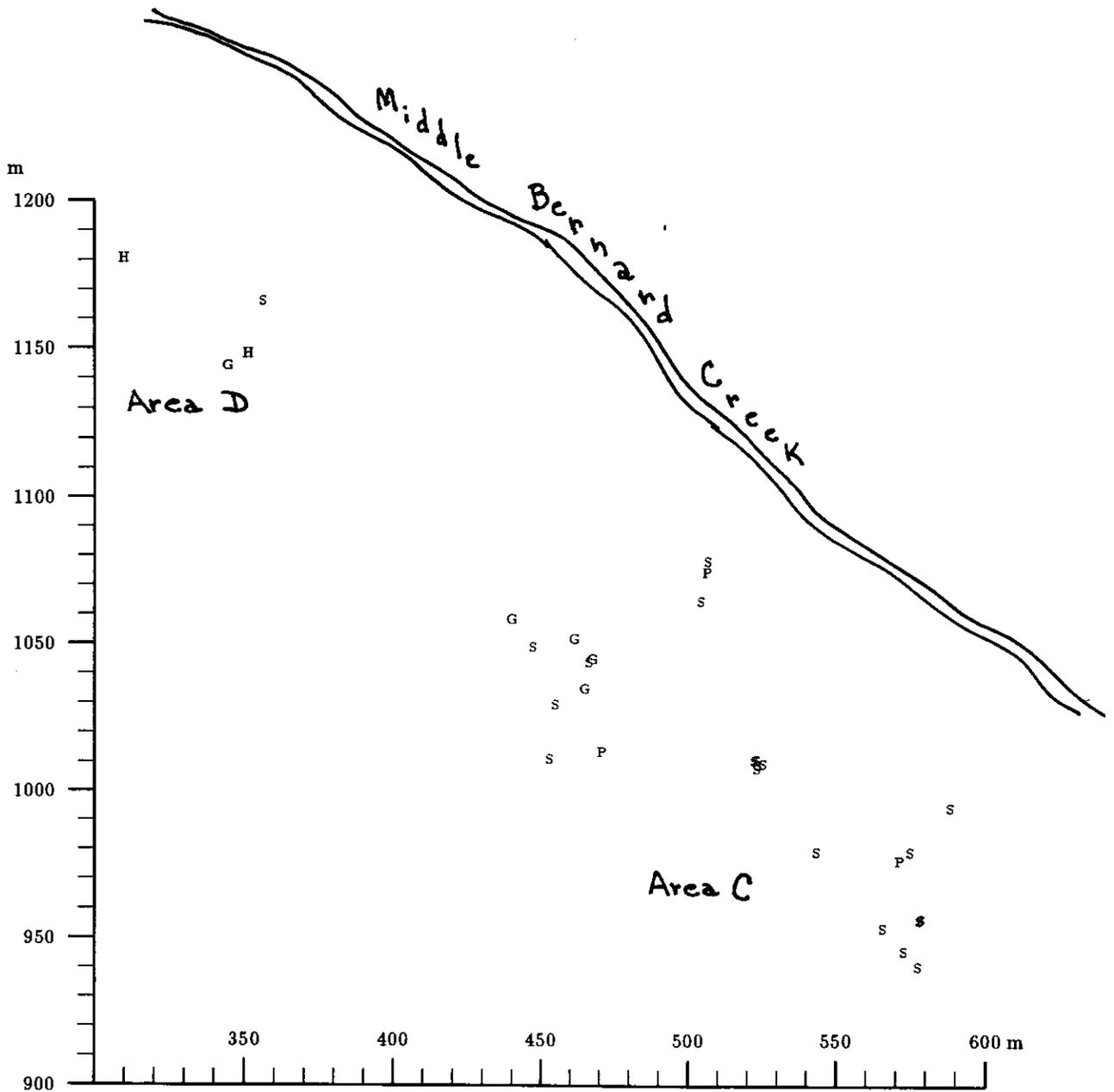


Figure 3: Military Artifacts Areas C & D
gun parts (G), lead shot (S), personal items (P), Spanish-style horseshoes (H)

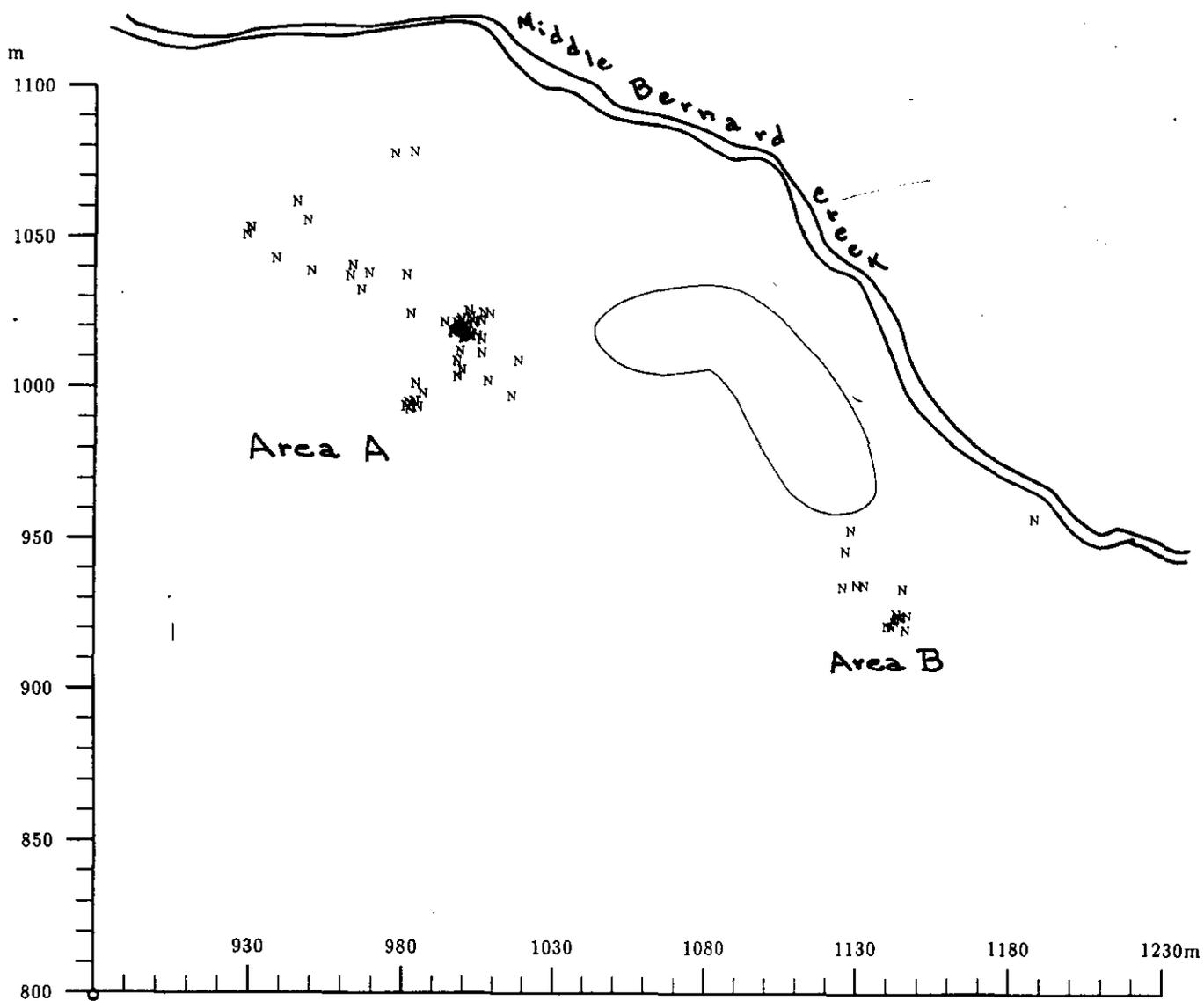


Figure 4: Square Nails - Areas A & B

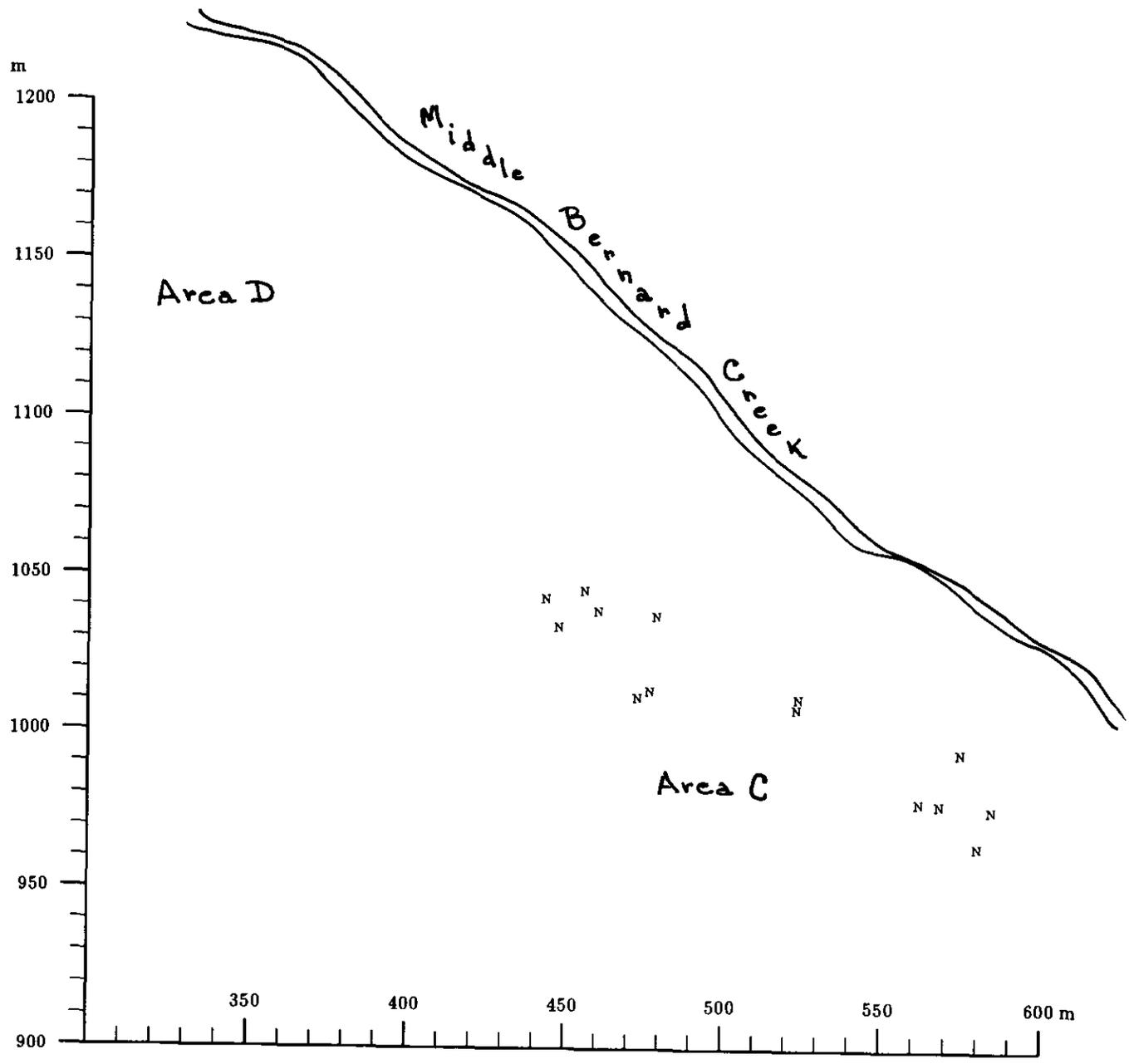


Figure 5: Square Nails - Areas C & D

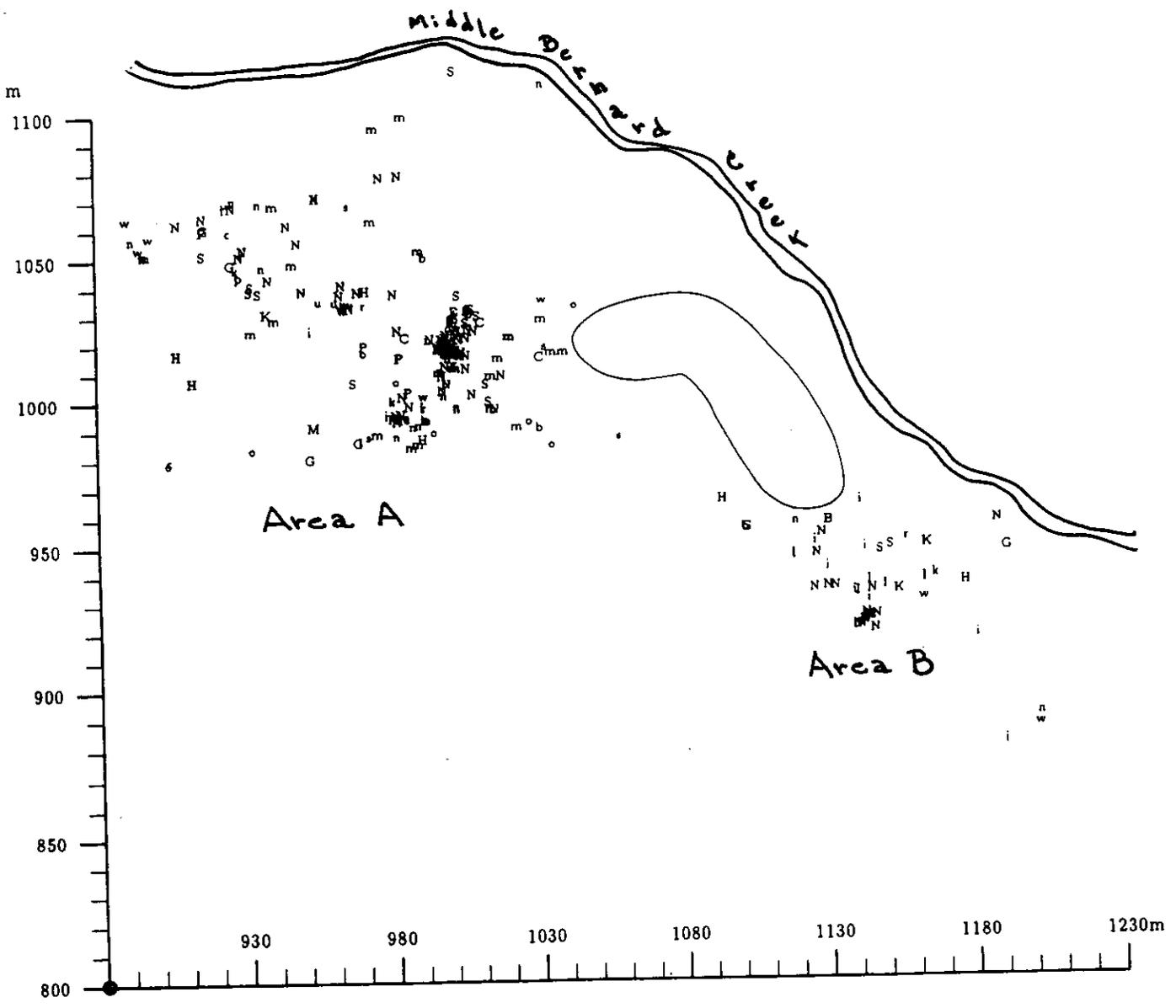


Figure 6: All (256) Artifacts - Areas A & B

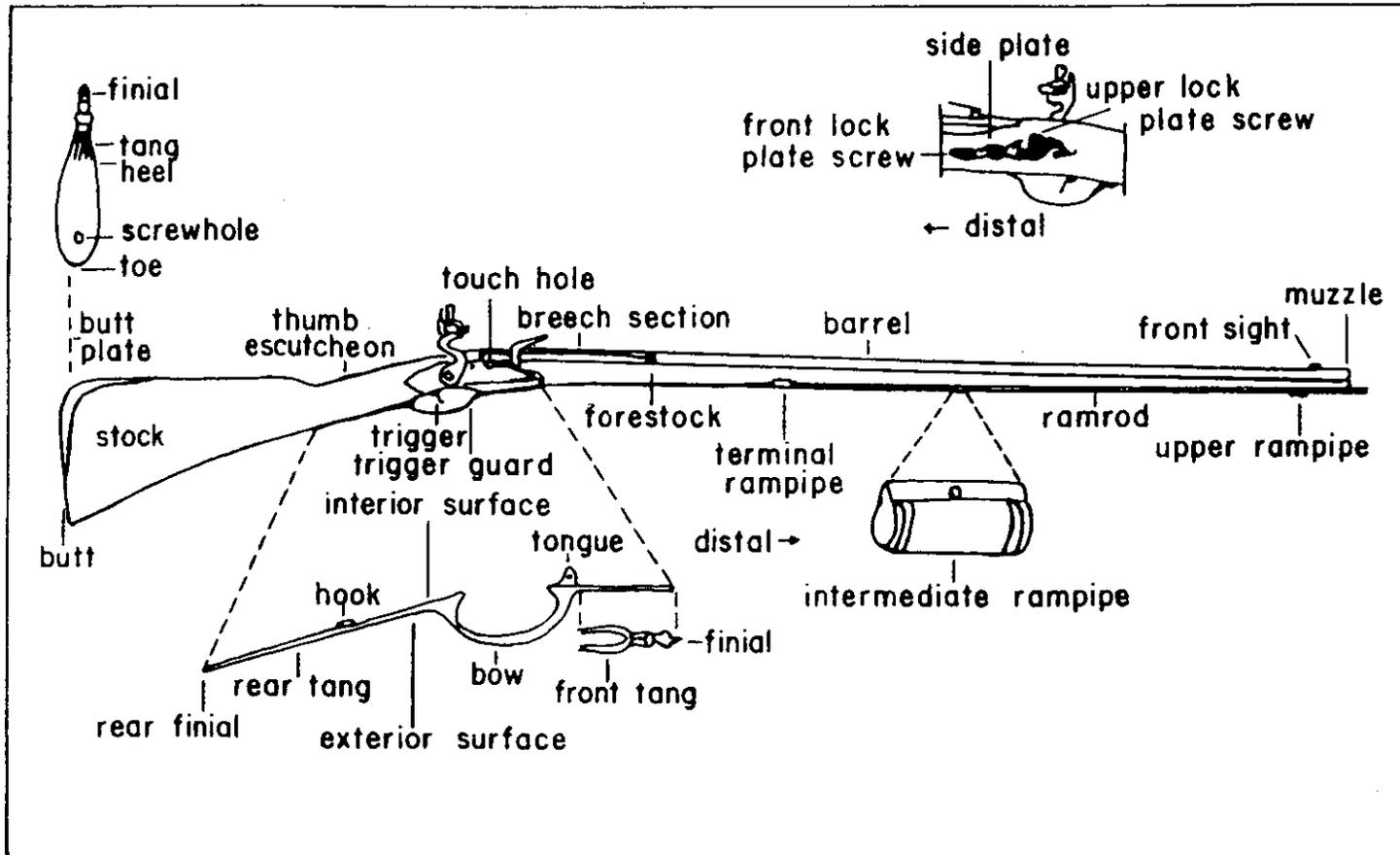
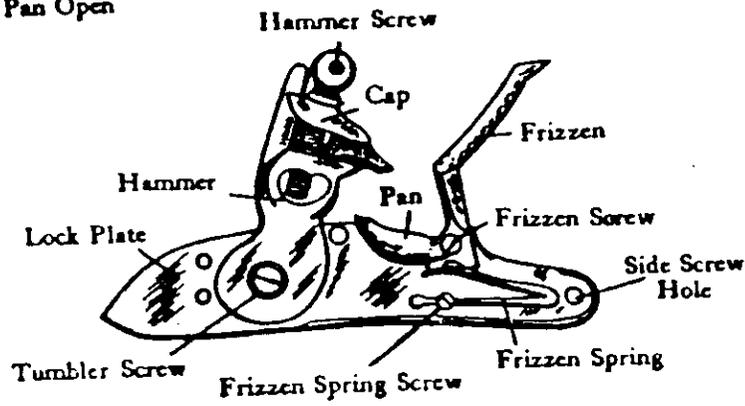


Figure 8. Drawing, parts of a flintlock musket by Jay C. Blaine (Harris et al., 1965).

Front View
Pan Open



Interior View at Full Cock
Pan Closed

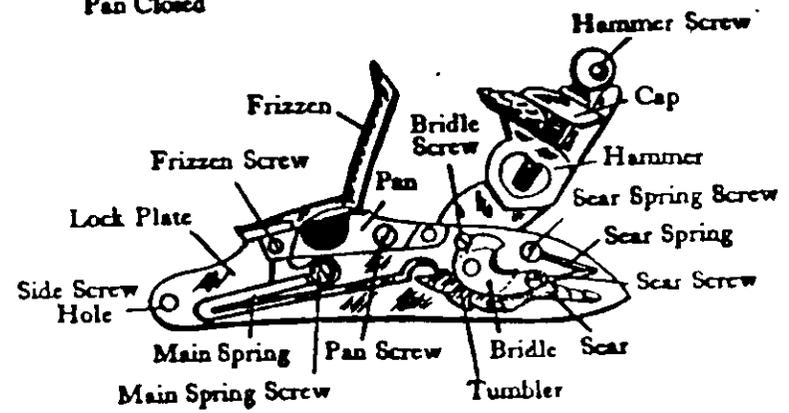


Figure 9: Mechanism of flintlock musket
From *U.S. Martial Pistols & Revolvers*, Maj. Arcadi Gluckman, U.S. Army

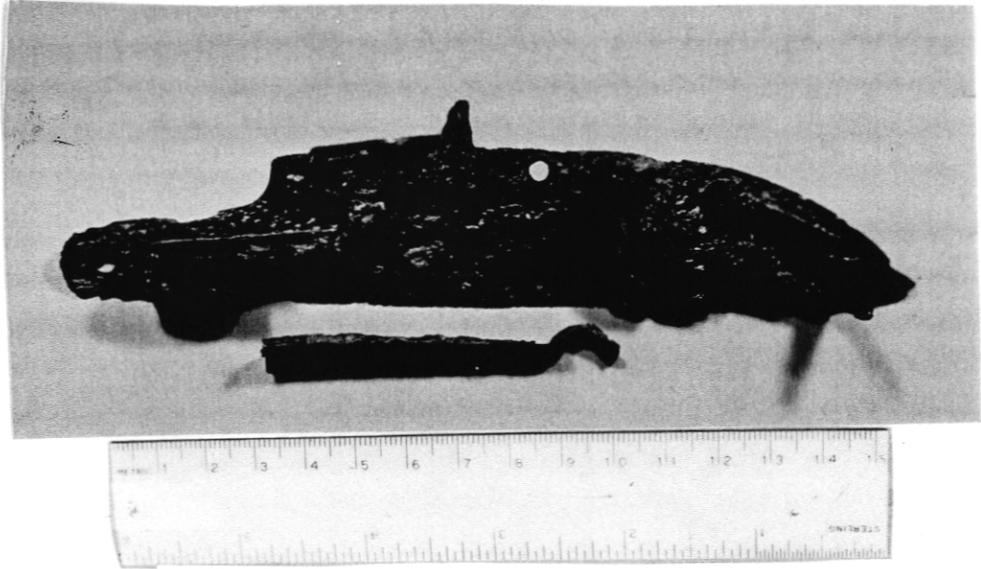


Figure 10: Lockplate (hammer & frizzen missing)

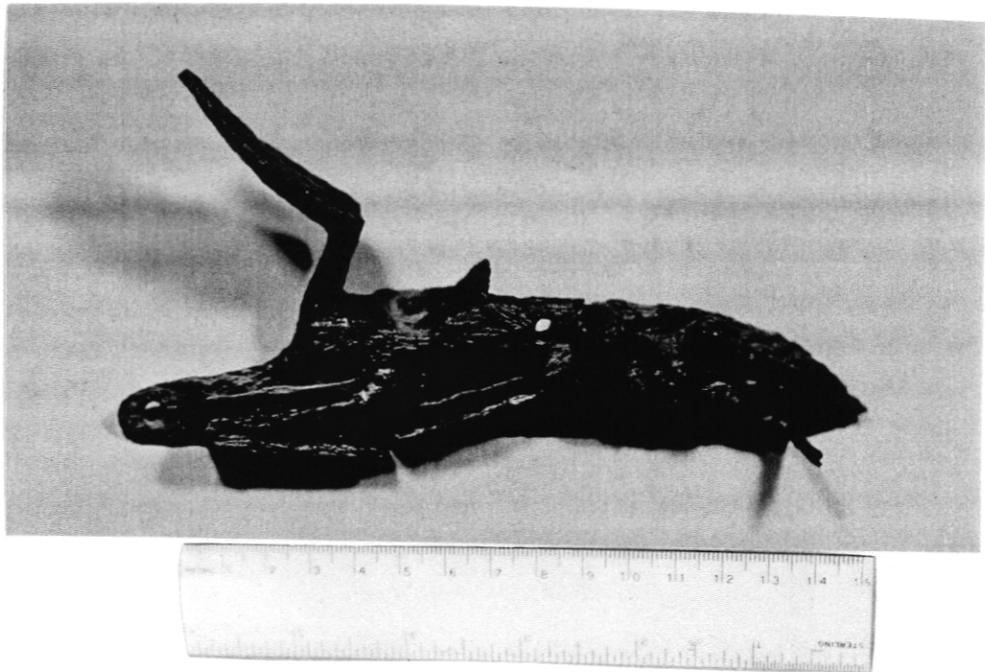


Figure 11: Lockplate (hammer missing)



Figure 12: Lockplate (only frizzen & frizzen spring remaining)

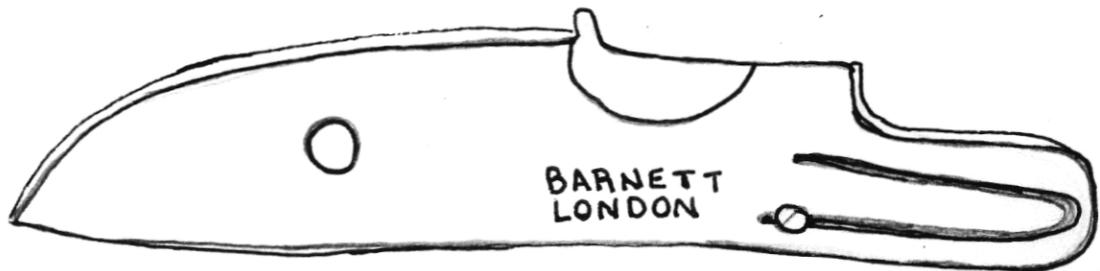


Figure 13: Lockplate Drawing of Figure 12

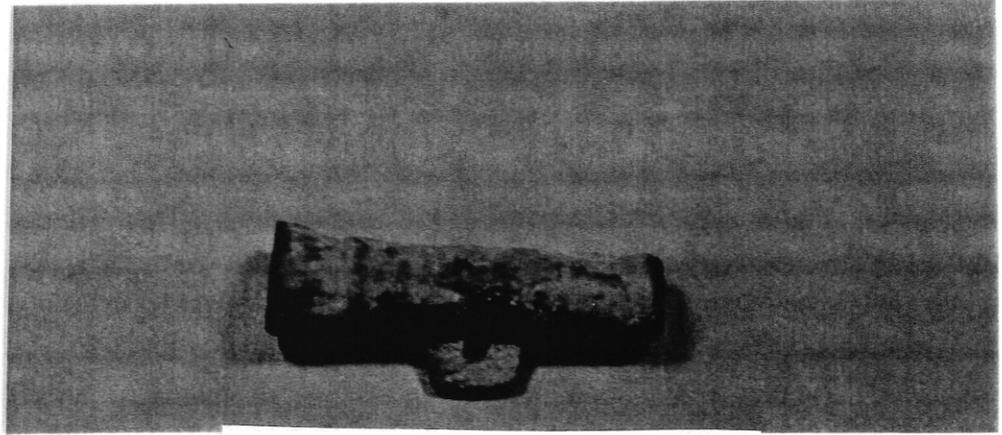


Figure 14: Brass Middle Ramrod Pipe

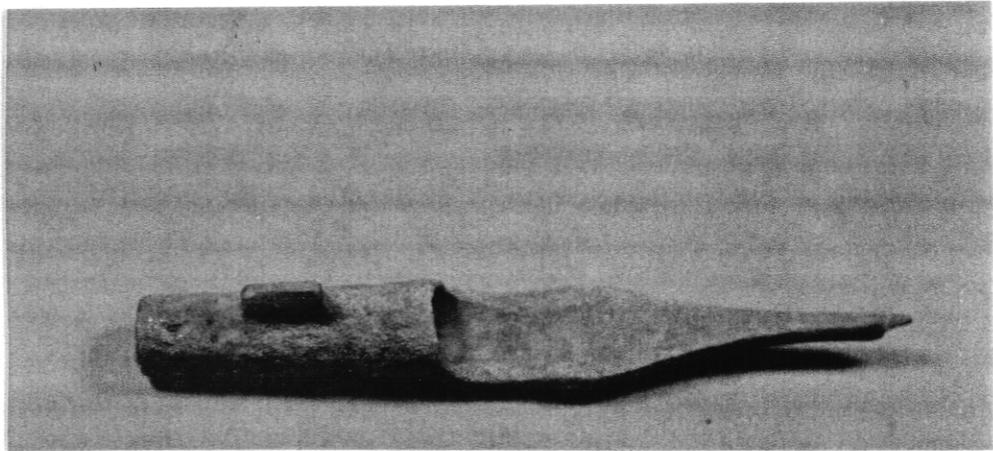


Figure 15: Brass Terminal Ramrod Pipe

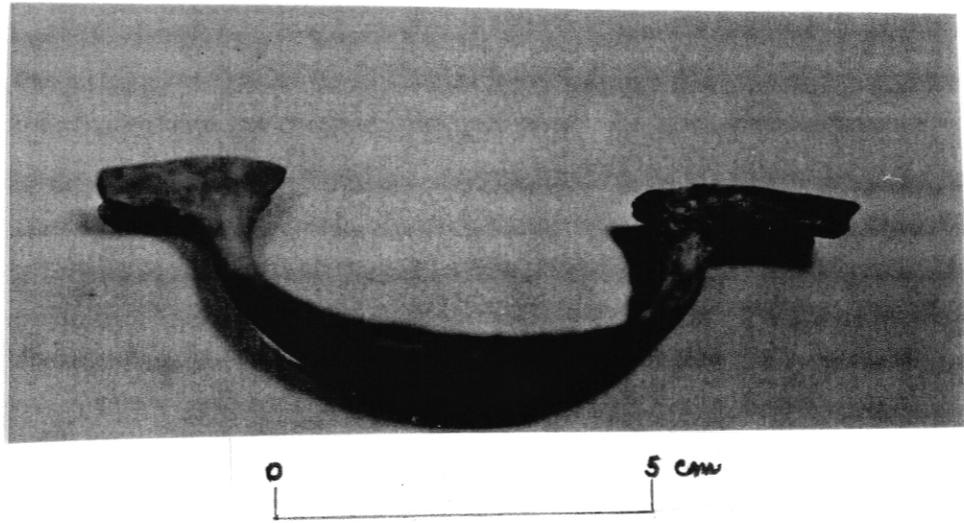


Figure 16: Brass Trigger Guard (part front tang missing; rear tang broken at screw hole)

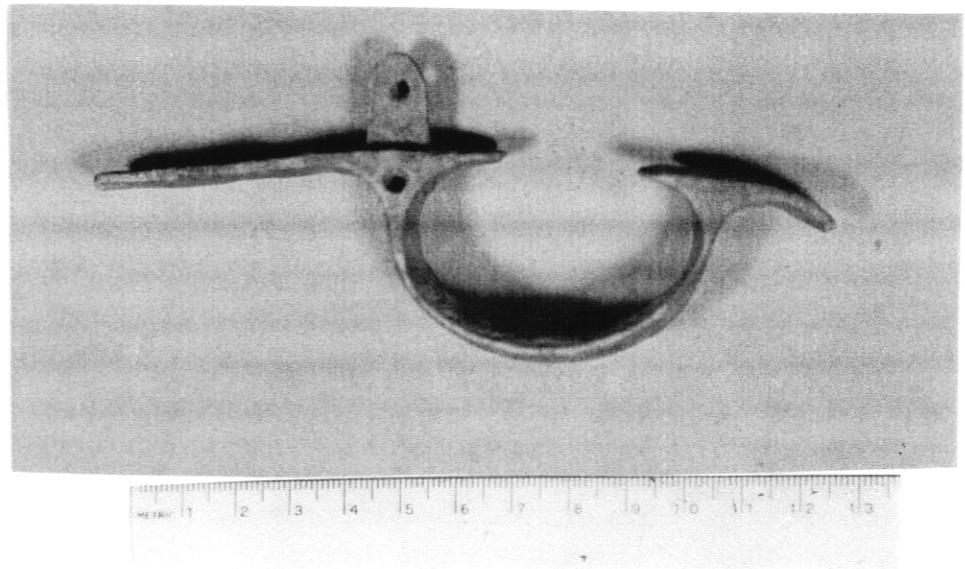


Figure 17: Brass Trigger Guard (rear tang broken at screw hole; front tang present)



Figure 18: Brass Trigger Guard (rear tang broken at screw hole; front tang complete, with iron sling swivel & pin in place)

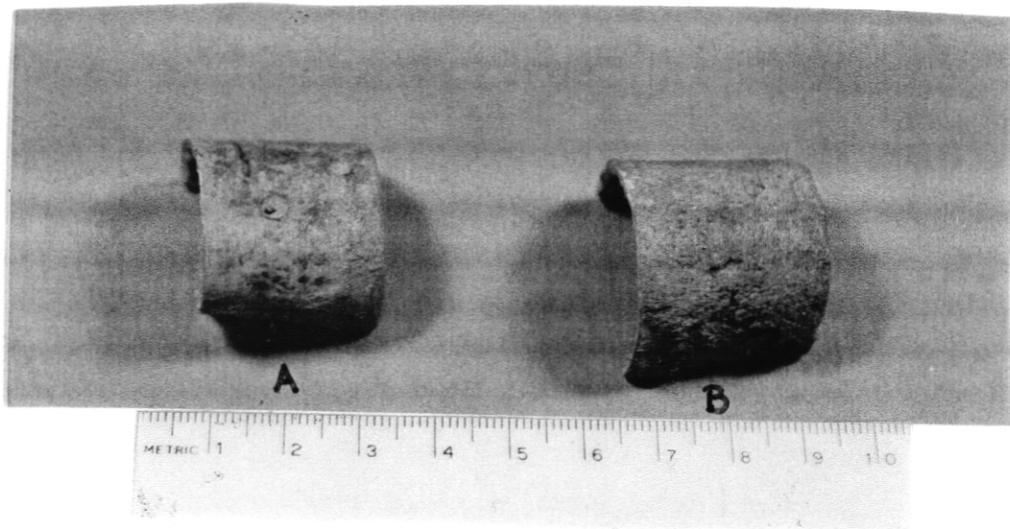


Figure 19: Brass Nose Caps (A - slightly bent; brass pin missing
B - unscathed; brass pin in place)

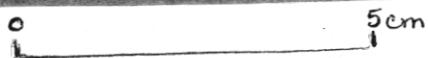


Figure 20: Brass Side Plate

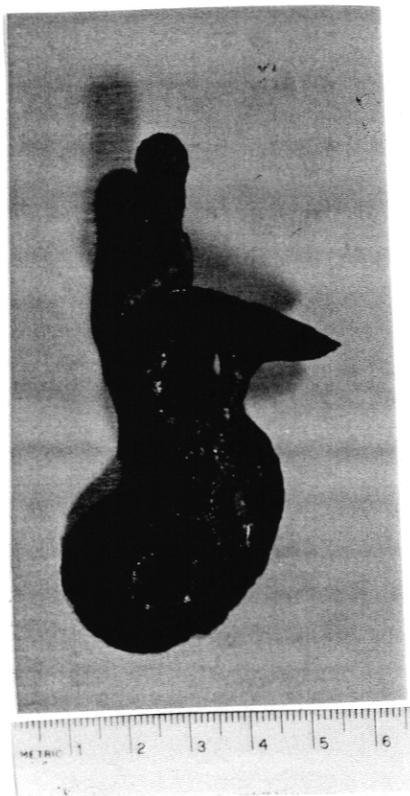


Figure 21: Iron Hammer

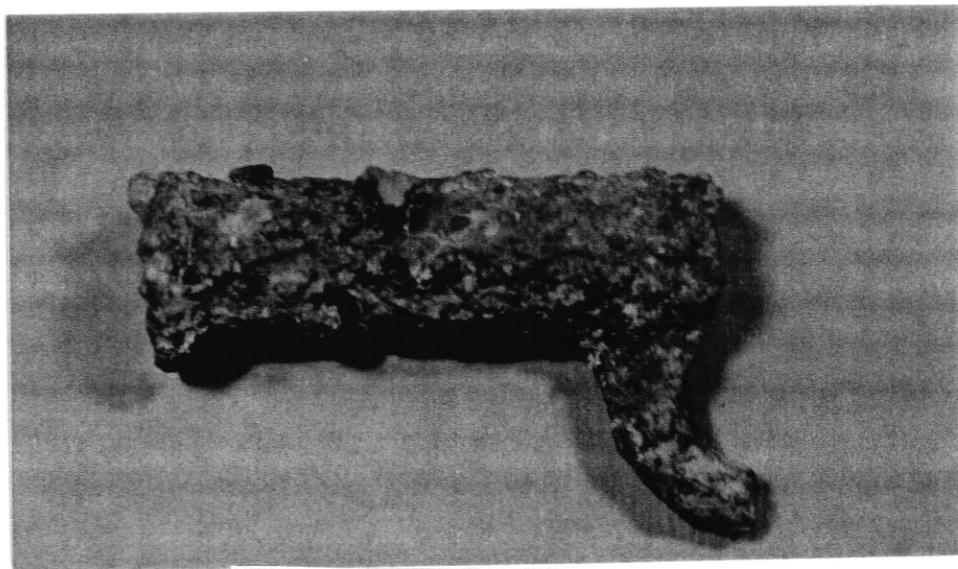


Figure 22: Iron Bayonet Socket

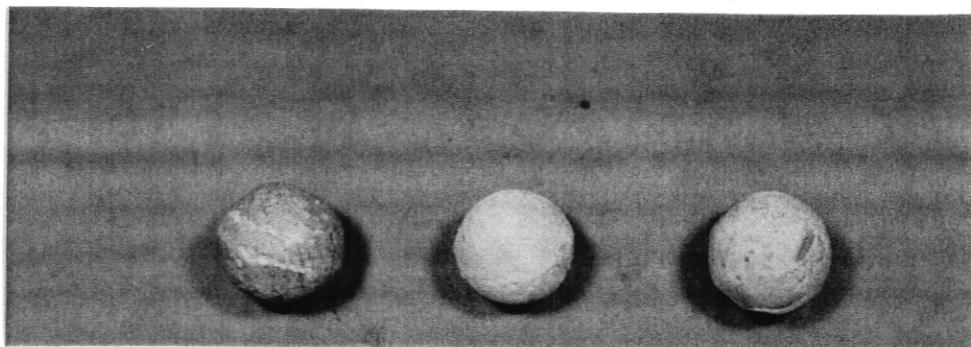


Figure 23: .69 or .70 Caliber Lead Musket Balls

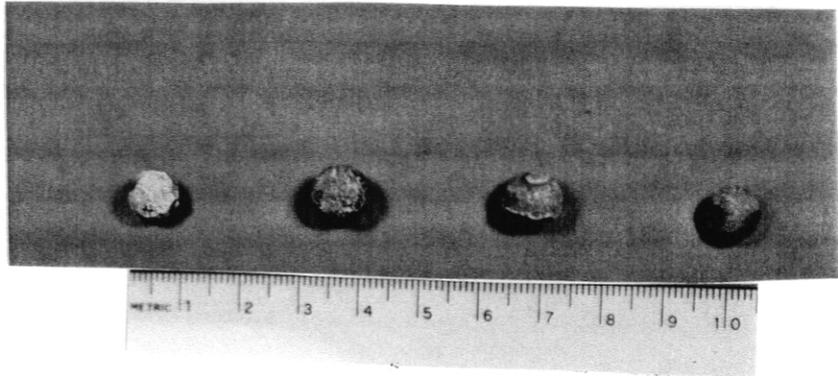


Figure 24: .30 to .40 Caliber Lead Buckshot

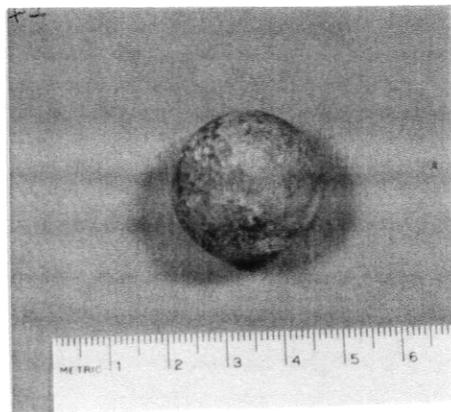


Figure 25: Brass Canister Shot

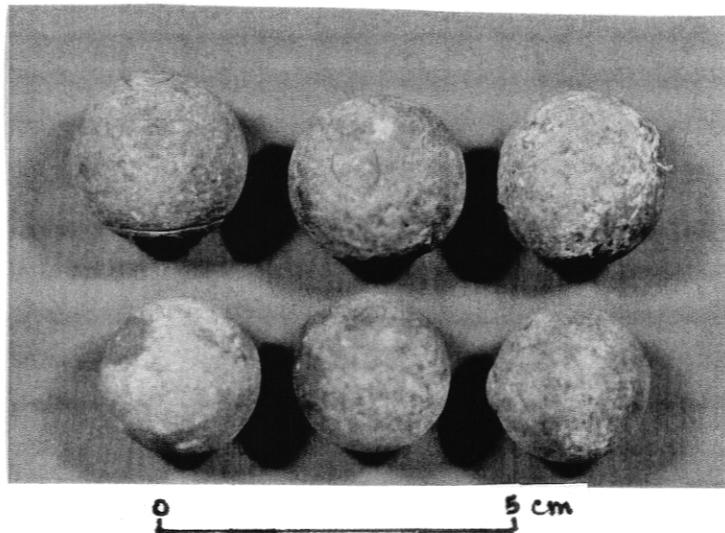


Figure 26: Lead Canister Shot

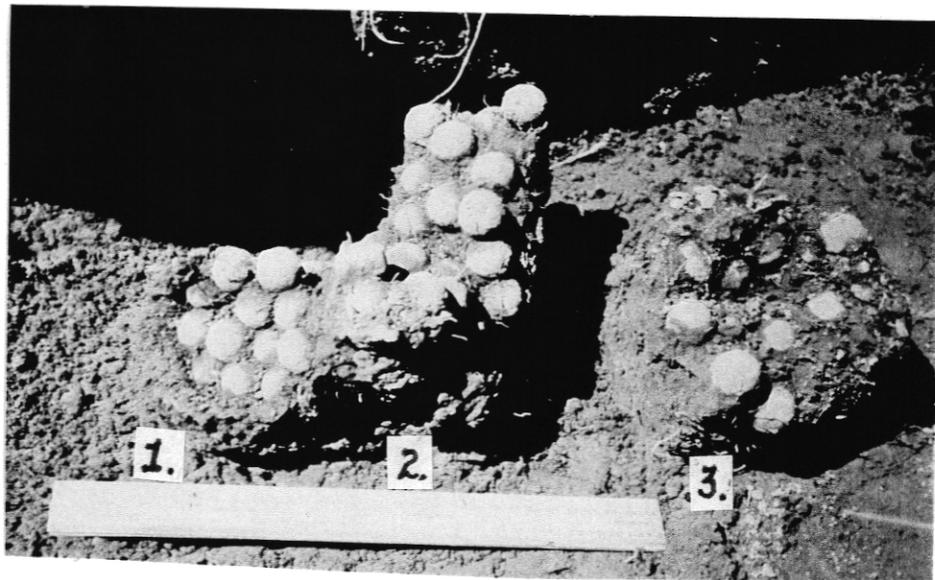


Figure 27: Clusters of Lead Canister Shot in Situ

- Feature 1 - Sixty-six Lead Shot (63.4-65.1 grams) in vertical position
- Feature 2 - Fifty-five Lead Shot (63.4-65.1 grams) in horizontal position
- Feature 3 - Twenty-nine Lead Shot (83.7-103.7 grams) in vertical position

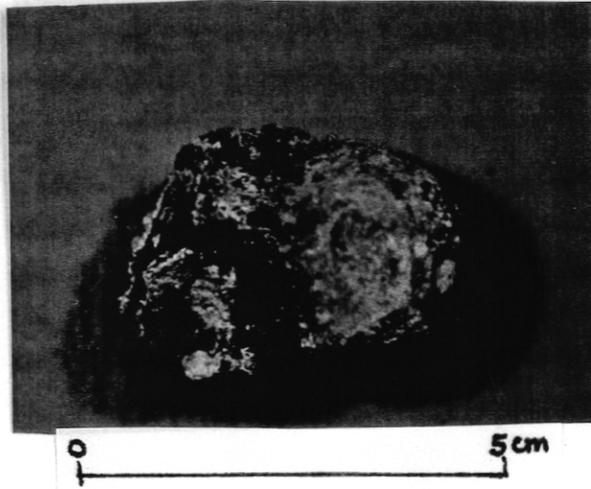


Figure 28: Lead Cannister Shot Embedded in Wood Fragment

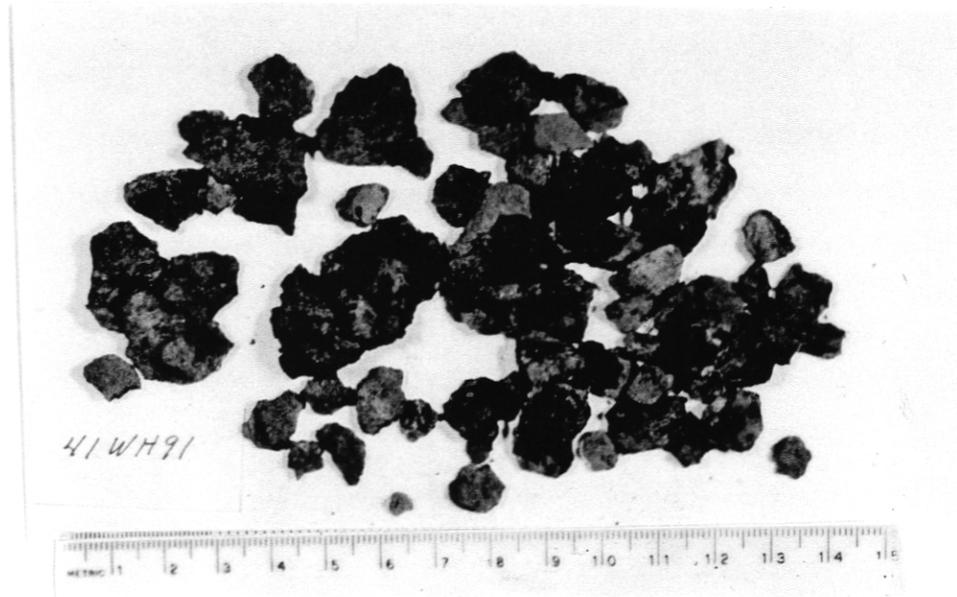


Figure 29: Oxidized Metal Fragments From Cannister

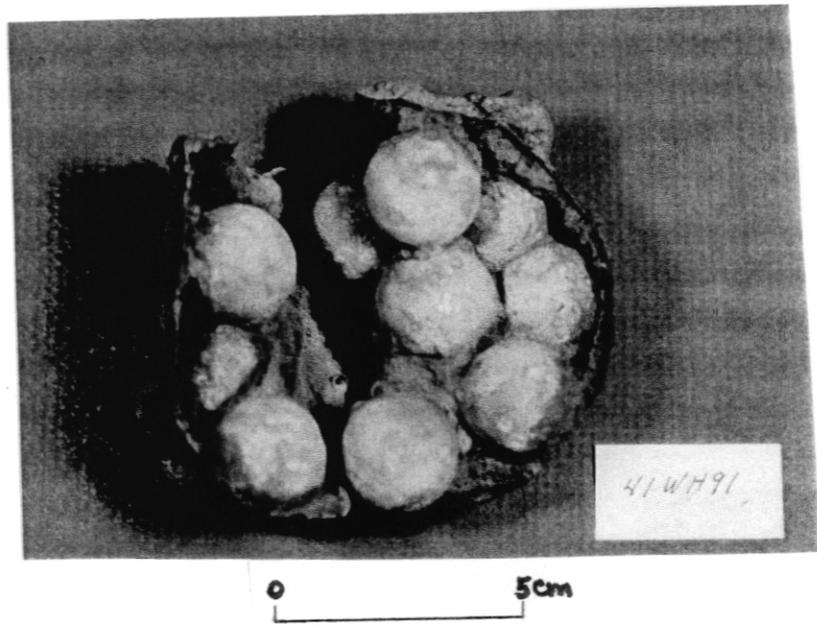


Figure 30: Cannister Bottom Containing Twelve Lead Shot in Situ

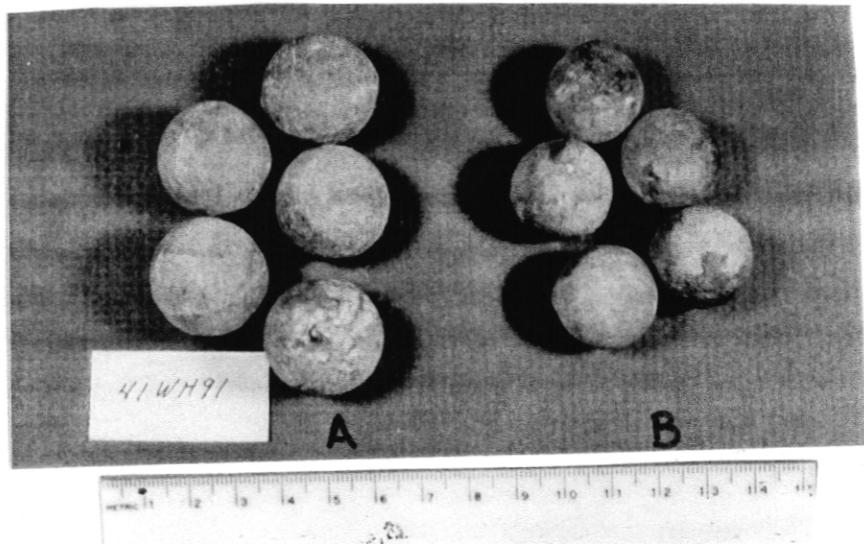


Figure 31: Lead Cannister Shot

A. 2.38-2.64 cm. diameter; 83.7-103.7 grams weight

B. 2.17-2.24 cm. diameter; 63.4-65.1 grams weight

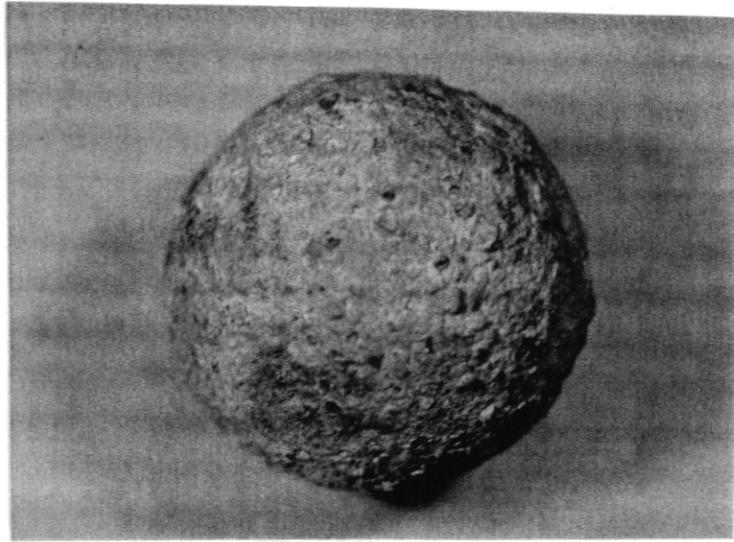


Figure 32: Solid Iron Cannon Ball

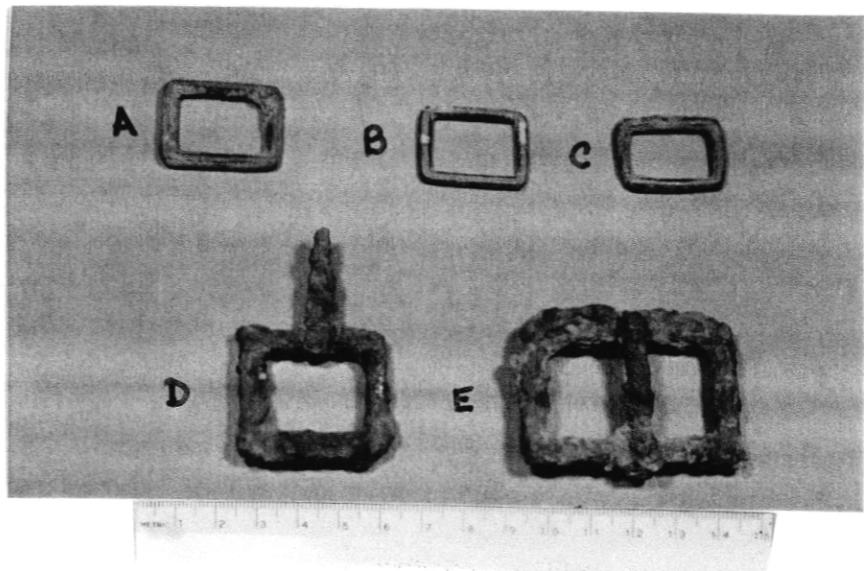


Figure 33: Iron & Brass Buckles

- A. - Area A brass buckle (3 cm x 2 cm)
- B,C - Area C brass buckles (2.5 cm x 2 cm)
- D - Area A iron buckle (3 cm x 3 cm)
- E - Area B iron buckle (4 cm x 5.4 cm)

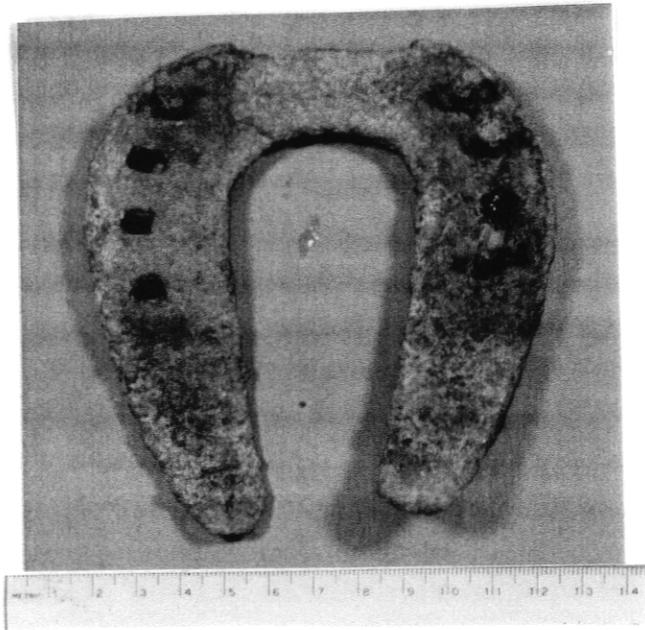


Figure 34: Spanish-style Horse or Mule Shoe
(four square nail holes in each margin)

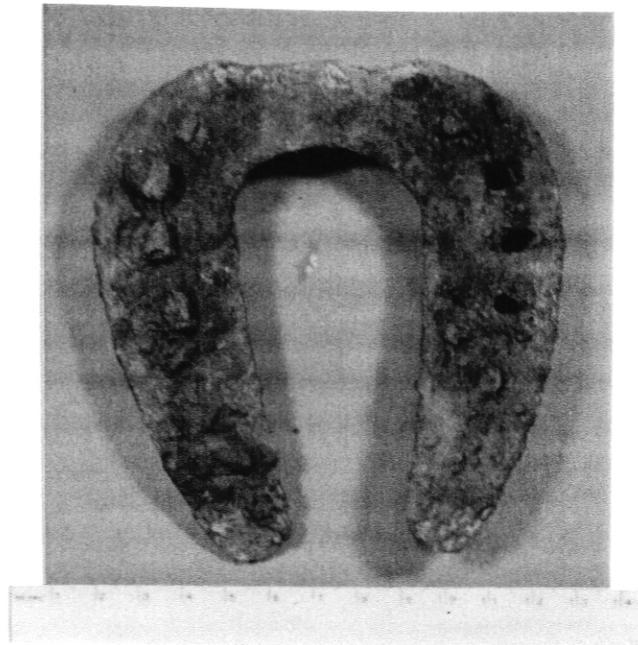


Figure 35: Spanish-style Horse or Mule Shoes
(four square nail holes in each margin)



Figure 36: Spanish-style Horse or Mule Shoe
(three square nail holes in each margin)

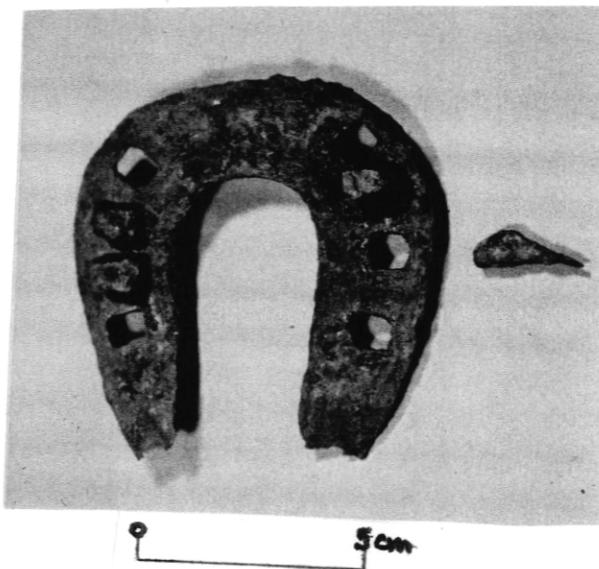


Figure 37: Spanish-style Horse or Mule Shoe
(four square nail holes in each margin
with individual shoe nail to the side)

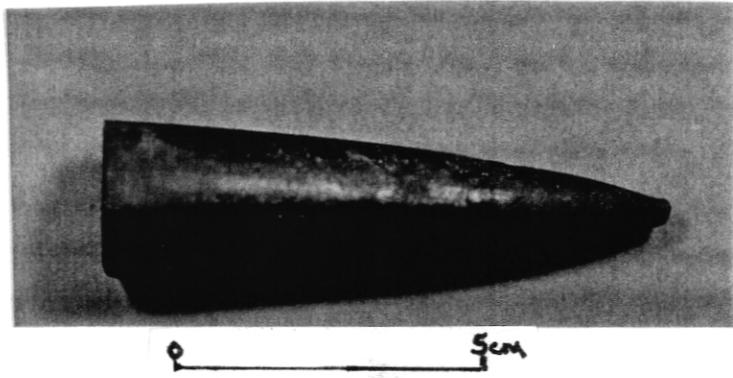


Figure 38: Brass Flag Staff or Guidon Base



Figure 39: Gilded Brass Mexican Eagle



Figure 40: Reverse Side of Gilded Mexican Eagle

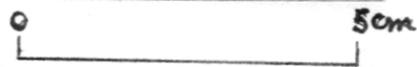


Figure 41: Brass Cross-belt Plate

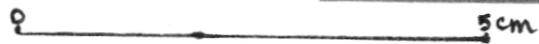
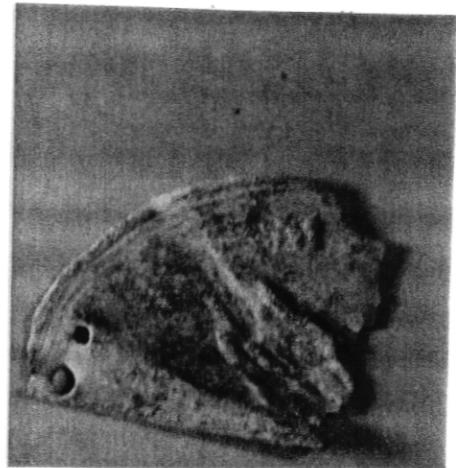
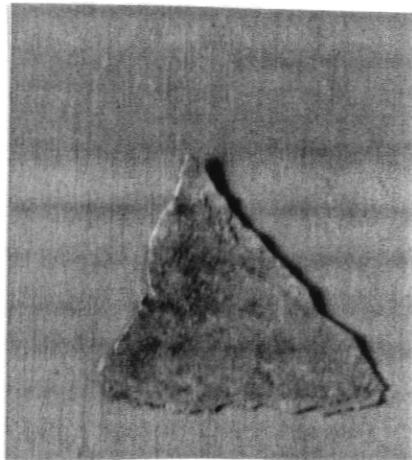


Figure 42: Triangular Fragment of Brass Shako Plate

Figure 43: Fragment of Brass Shako Plate (letter "M" near top of plate)

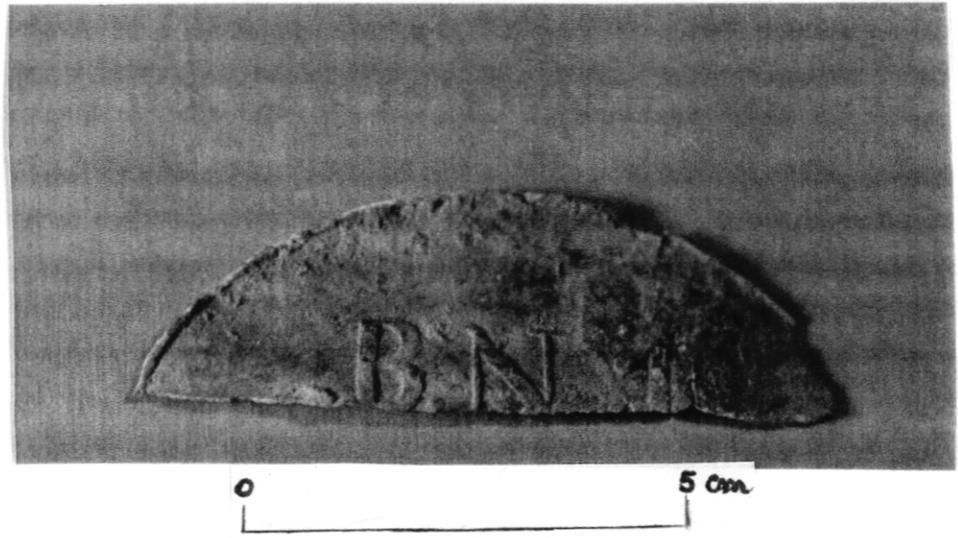


Figure 44: Fragment of Oval Brass Plate (raised letters "BN1" near bottom of plate)



Figure 45: Fragment of Oval Brass Plate (raised letters "Granade" above letters "Ros")

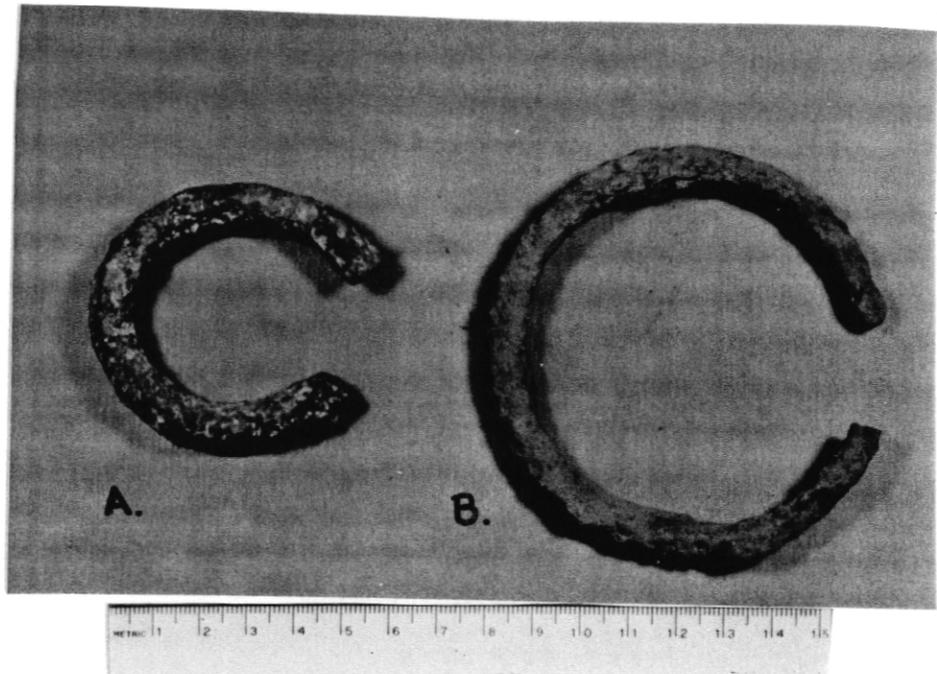


Figure 46: Open Ended Iron Rings

A - Smaller iron ring (7 cm in diameter)

B - Larger iron ring (9 cm in diameter)

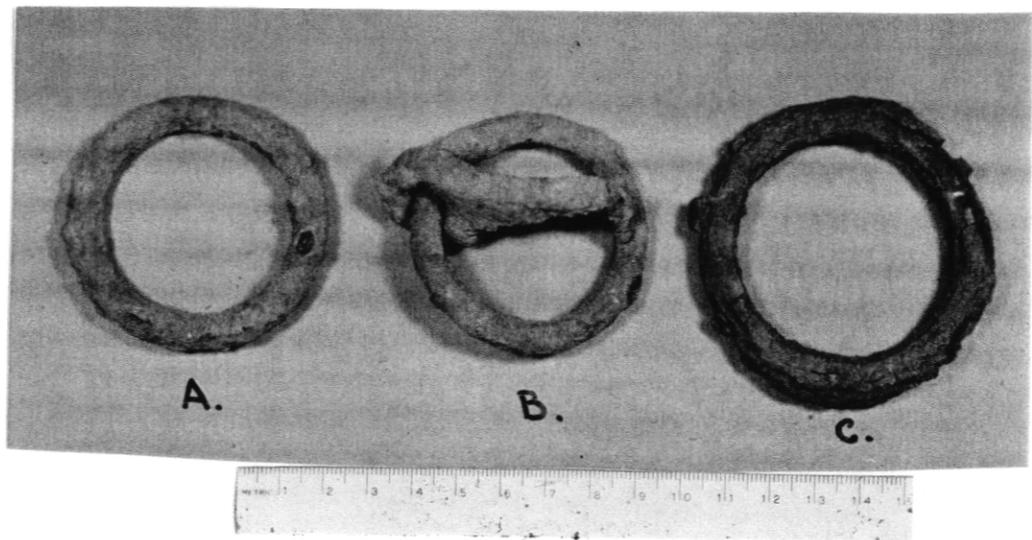


Figure 47: Iron Rings

A - Iron ring: 5.8 cm diameter

B - Iron ring: 5.4 cm diameter, with tongue attached

C - Iron ring: 6.7 cm diameter

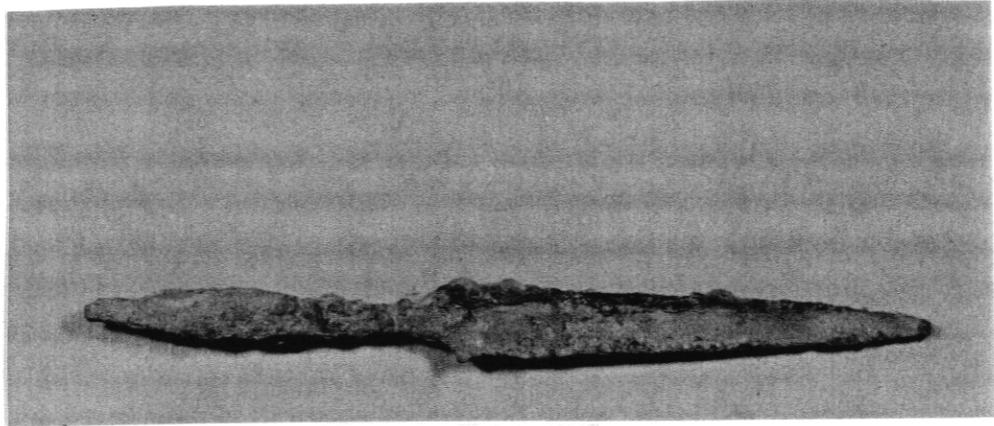


Figure 48: Iron Tool (chisel with pointed blade)

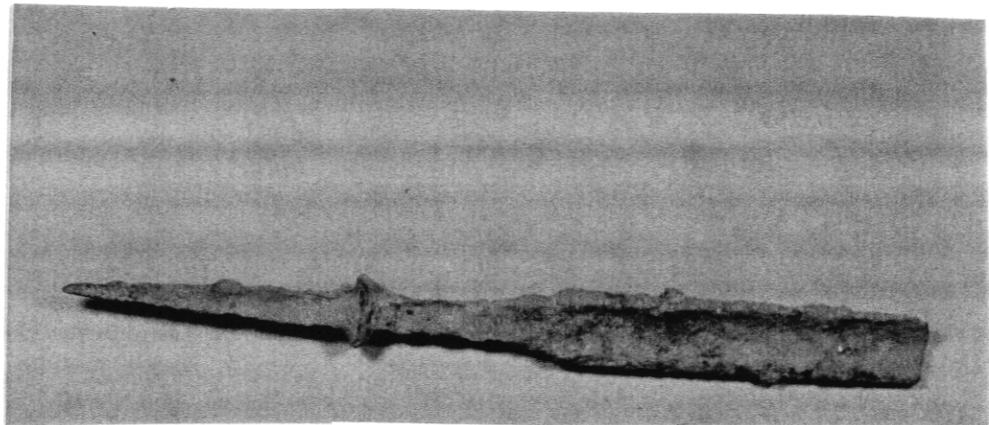


Figure 49: Iron Tool (chisel with blunt end)

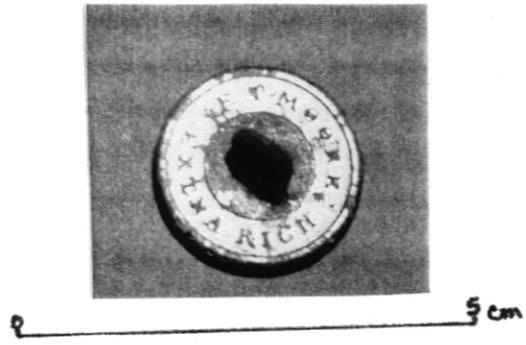


Figure 50: Brass Button

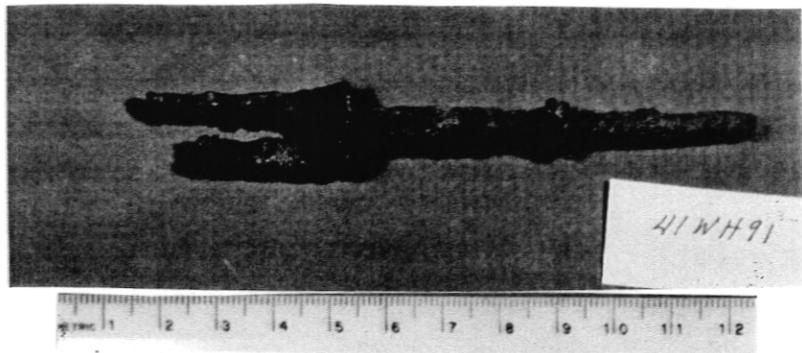


Figure 51: Personal Item (two-prong iron fork)

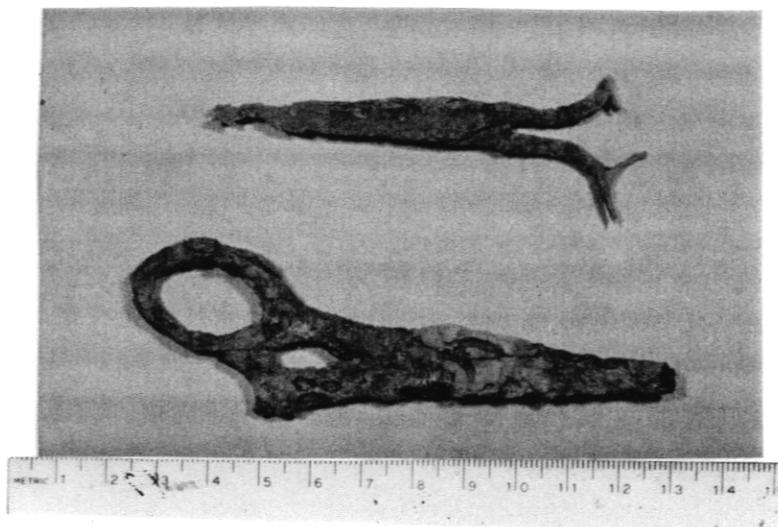


Figure 52: Personal Items (two pair of scissors)