CHAPTER V

MATERIAL CULTURE

INTRODUCTION

The artifacts recovered during excavations at the four sites have been previously discussed in Chapters III and IV. The purpose of artifact discussions in those chapters was to assist in the identification of feature and site functions. In this chapter the artifacts have been examined as a group, to reveal something of soldier life on Folly Island.

Pattern recognition has been a primary method of analysis in historical archaeology (South 1977). However, after considerable deliberation, the authors have carefully avoided the temptation to establish a "Civil War Camp Artifact Pattern" using the data from Folly Island. This decision was based on the nature of the sites excavated.

As has been discussed previously, the entire project area, was (and is) an archaeological site. The sites, as previously bounded, were actually loci within the larger historical site, which could be more accurately defined as a large winter camp. What SCIAA investigated during its work were specialized activity areas, including a cemetery, a possible sutler's trash dump, a stable area, and several well localities. Only a small sample of the refuse pits, latrines, and other camp features in the project area were investigated. Therefore, a valid sample, from which a valid artifact pattern could be discerned, awaits further work.

ARTIFACT CATALOG

Instead of an artifact typology by material type, the artifacts from Folly Island have been organized as a functionally-oriented artifact catalog (Smith 1983:33) (Table 5.1).

The analyses of three other classes of material are discussed in the appendices. The skeletal materials are discussed in Appendix A, the faunal (bone) materials are discussed in Appendix B, and oysters are discussed in Appendix C. Furthermore, the raw counts of artifacts are provided in Appendix F. Finally, it must be noted that the nature of the artifact assemblage makes the discussions within each functional category below very unbalanced. For instance, the recovery of only three ceramic plate sherds precludes a detailed analysis of that artifact category.

Table 5.1: Folly Island Artifact Catalog

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Clothing</th>
<th>E. Indulgences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Military</td>
<td>1. Alcoholic Beverage Containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Civilian</td>
<td>a. Ale Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Whiskey Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Wine Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Arms</td>
<td>2. Tobacco Pipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Ammunition</td>
<td>F. Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Accoutrements</td>
<td>G. Work, Architecture, and Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Personal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Jewelry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pocket Knives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Writing Implements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Toothbrush</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Kitchen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Food Preparation and Consumption</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Food Storage, Preservation, and Shipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A: CLOTHING

A.1 Military

Military clothing-related artifacts from Folly Island were overwhelmingly representative of the U.S. Army regular issue uniform. However some state-issue buttons were recovered from 38CH964 and others have been recovered by collectors from the project area.

United States Army uniforms of the Civil War period are well documented, not only by formal regulations, but by unofficial sources as well. Photographs are a particularly rich source of information on uniforms. These include thousands of studio portraits, which must be considered somewhat idealized, and more candid camp and campaign photos, including those of combat dead. Quartermaster contracts, inventory records, and the personal narratives of veterans are also important sources. Numerous documented examples of uniforms are extant for study, as are many excavated clothing-related artifacts (Phillips 1974, 1980). These sources, considered together, form a consistent and coherent picture of uniform use, and permit meaningful generalizations regarding archaeologically recovered clothing hardware as was demonstrated in Chapter III.

The primary component of a U.S. Army Civil War period uniform was a dark blue coat or jacket. Uniform shirts were not used at the time. For infantry enlisted men, the coat took one of two forms. These were the dress coat (also called the uniform coat or frock coat) and the sack coat (also called the fatigue coat or the four-button blouse). The dress coat was a long, nearly knee-length wool coat, fastened in front with nine eagle buttons, the stand-up collar fastened with an iron hook and eye (Figure 5.1). Two or three small eagle buttons adorned each sleeve, and some dress coats had two large eagle buttons adorning the back at the waist. If the coat was fitted for brass shoulder scales, the shoulders of the coat had two small brass strips and two brass studs sewn into the fabric for attachment of the scales. Thus, archaeologically, a fully trimmed enlisted man's dress coat might be represented by as many as 11 large eagle buttons (Figure 5.2), six small eagle buttons (Figure 5.3), a hook and eye set (Figure 5.8), and four shoulder scale attachments (Francis Lord, personal communication March 1989; Lord 1970: 18, 23, 28; Todd 1974: 52, 55-57).

The Army intended that the 'uniform coat' serve not only for dress, but as the general uniform for most duties including active campaigning. In practice, however, veteran units usually wore the flannel sack coat as their basic uniform (Figure 5.4). Intended for fatigue duty, the sack coat was shorter, lighter, roomier, and featured an open collar. It was fastened in front by only four large eagle buttons, and featured no other durable hardware. Veteran soldiers of all branches and officers of all ranks, including some general officers, wore sack coats (Lord 1970: 21, 22; Todd 1974: 52, 57-58; McAfee 1981: 10-15).

Enlisted men of cavalry and horse artillery often wore the 'uniform jacket,' a short wool jacket fastened in front with 12 small eagle buttons. Unmounted troops occasionally wore jackets, just as mounted troops sometimes wore sack coats. The regulation overcoat and various non-regulation items such as vests and capes also employed small and large eagle buttons (Todd 1974: 52, 54; McAfee 1982: 6-11).

Officers of all branches wore a wide variety of coats and jackets, some non-regulation, but normally company grade officers wore nine-button uniform coats, while field grade officers wore double breasted uniform coats with two rows of eight or nine large eagle buttons each. Officer's shoulder boards (Figure 5.5) and rank devices were of embroidered metallic thread or stamped brass simulating embroidery (Francis Lord, personal communication March 1989; Lord 1970: 15; Todd 1974: 51; Phillips 1974: 95).

During the early part of the War, many state volunteer regiments in U.S. service retained various state militia uniforms and regalia. Most common were uniform and equipment components using state seals or acronyms (e.g. "SNY" for "State of New York" and "VMM" for "Volunteer Maine Militia"). As these items wore out they were usually replaced by standard U.S. issue material. Many officers, however, retained state buttons on tailored uniforms, and apparently New York continued to issue state material well into the War (Figure 5.21 and J). The New York jacket, which was typical of northern state-issue uniforms, was a short wool jacket fastened with eight large New York state seal buttons (Lord 1970: 52-75; McAfee 1982: 14; Albert 1976: 202-203).

Federal issue uniform trousers were of sky blue wool. They featured nine, four-hole, tinned-iron buttons (Figure 5.6). Five buttons were found on the fly and two each, front and back, for attaching suspenders (Francis Lord, personal communication March 1989; Todd 1974: 58-59).

Standard U.S. Army headgear was the Model 1858 Army Hat (Figure 5.1). This was a wide-brimmed, tall-crowned black felt affair that actually saw little use in active service. Paralleling the replacement of the dress coat by the sack coat, the Army Hat was overshadowed by the M1858 Forage Cap (Figure 5.4). This was a light, informal cap of the type that is commonly (and incorrectly) called a kepi. Hardware on the forage cap included a small brass frame buckle on the chin strap, and two small eagle buttons that secured the strap on either side (Figure 5.3). The forage cap was the most commonly worn headgear of the war, although many officers and Western Theatre veterans preferred nonregulation, black felt, brimmed hats. Whatever the variety of hat or cap, they...
Figure 5.1: U.S. Army model wearing dress or uniform coat, Model 1858 Army Hat, and rifle-musket accoutrements. The hat insignia designate "Company A, 1st Infantry Regiment." (Smithsonian Institution).
Figure 5.2: Large uniform buttons.

A. U.S. enlisted, backmark "SCOVILLE MFG Co. WATERBURY," (38CH920, Burial 4).
B. U.S. enlisted, backmark "WATERBURY BUTTON CO," (38CH920, Burial 4 or 6).
C. U.S. enlisted, backmark "EXTRA QUALITY," (38CH964, Feature 10).
D. U.S. enlisted, backmark "EXTRA QUALITY," (38CH920, Burial 4).
E. U.S. enlisted, no backmark, (38CH920, Burial 3).
F. U.S. enlisted, no backmark, (38CH964, CMDS #13).
G. U.S. enlisted, no backmark, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
H. U.S. enlisted, no backmark, (38CH964, Feature 9).
I. New York, backmark "WATERBURY BUTTON CO. EXTRA," (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
J. New York, backmark "EXTRA QUALITY," (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
Figure 5.3: Small uniform buttons and forage cap hardware.

A. U.S. enlisted, backmark "EXTRA QUALITY," (38CH920, Burial 4 or 6).
B. U.S. enlisted, backmark "EXTRA QUALITY," (utility cut, SE corner of Indian Ave. and Road "B").
C. U.S. enlisted, backmark "EXTRA QUALITY," (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
D. U.S. enlisted, backmark "EXTRA QUALITY," (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
E. U.S. enlisted, white metal back missing, (38CH920, Burial 4).
F. U.S. enlisted, no backmark, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
G. U.S. infantry officer, no backmark, (38CH964, Feature 11).
H. U.S. infantry officer, no backmark, (38CH964, 5 x 6M block).
I. Model1858 Forage Cap strap buckle, (38CH964, Feature 9).
J. Remains of leather forage cap strap, side buttons backmarked "SCOVILLE MFG CO," (38CH920, Burials 3 and 4).
Figure 5.4: U.S. Army model wearing flannel sack coat and Model 1858 Forage Cap. (Smithsonian Institution).
generally bore the insignia originally prescribed for the Army Hat. For enlisted men, these included stamped brass company letters, regimental numerals, and branch of service insignia (Figure 5.5). Officers’ hat devices were usually of embroidered metallic thread, or stamped brass simulating embroidery. Photographs reveal that insignia were commonly dispensed with entirely (e.g. Howell 1975: 9-16; Phillips 1974: 75-94).

Other issued articles that left behind durable diagnostic artifacts include drawers and rubber blankets (Figure 5.7). U.S. drawers utilized varying numbers of four-hole white glass buttons (Figure 5.6). The rubber blanket (commonly called the “poncho”) had 12 small brass grommets around its perimeter, and several tinned-iron buttons similar to trouser buttons, to facilitate use of the blanket as a tent component (Francis Lord, personal communication March 1989; Lord 1970: 42-43).

The familiar U.S. Army eagle button of the Civil War period originated with specifications issued in 1851 and 1854. After 1854, eagle buttons with branch of service initials (I=Infantry, A=Artillery, C=Cavalry, etc.) in the shield were to be worn only by officers. Enlisted men, regardless of branch, were to wear a ‘general service’ button with the American flag motif in the shield (Figure 5.2). These specifications remained in effect until 1875 (Albert 1976: 38-41).

At Folly Island, large and varied collections of military clothing-related artifacts were recovered, especially from 38CH920 and 38CH964 (Table 5.2). These collections obviously represent entirely different forms of deposition. The 38CH920 material was deposited as part of the dead soldier’s effects during burial. The 38CH964 and 38CH965 artifacts presumably represent incidental loss and discard in camp. Also included in this table are white glass buttons, often recovered from 19th century sites, and found both on civilian and military clothing. Examples of military buttons recovered archaeologically at Folly Island are illustrated in Figures 5.2, 5.3, 5.6.

Figure 5.5: U.S. Insignia and other militaria.

A. Cartridge box plate, backmark “HUNTER,” (38CH964, CMDS #20).
B. Enlisted company letter “F,” (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
C. Officer’s regimental number “8,” (38CH964, Feature 16).
D. Stencil scrap number “5,” adapted for use as regimental number, (38CH920, Burial 5).
E. Fragment of officer’s shoulder strap of gilt, false-embroidered stamped brass, (38CH964, CMDS #2).
F. Fragment of enlisted shoulder scale or epaulette, (38CH964, Feature 10).
Table 5.2: Military Clothing-Related Artifacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTIFACTS</th>
<th>38CH920</th>
<th>38CH964</th>
<th>38CH965</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle buttons, large</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle buttons, small</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle infantry buttons, small</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York buttons, large</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-hole iron buttons</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-hole white glass buttons</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooks</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber blanket grommets</td>
<td>52*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage cap buckles</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder scale parts</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer's epaulette parts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headgear insignia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This figure does not include an undetermined number of grommets in fragments of intact rubber blanket material

Figure 5.6: Utility and civilian buttons.

A. Four-hole white glass, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
B. Four-hole white glass, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
C. Four-hole white glass, (38CH920, Burial 16).
D. Four-hole white glass, defective, (38CH920, Burial 11).
E. Four-hole white glass, (38CH920, Burial 16).
F. Four-hole white glass, decorated with radial lines, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
G. Four-hole white glass, domed, (38CH920, Burial 16).
H. Four-hole black glass, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
I. Four-hole black glass, (38CH964, Feature 10).
J. Four-hole black glass, domed, (38CH920, Burial 13).
K. Four-hole tinned iron, (38CH920, Burial 2).
L. Four-hole tinned iron, (38CH920, Burial 3).
M. Two-hole pewter with gray paint, (38CH964, CMDS #22).
N. Four-hole bone, (38CH920, Burial 16).
O. Four-hole bone, (38CH964, Feature 10).
P. Four-hole bone, (38CH920, Burial 9).
Q. Hard rubber with brass shank, backmark "N.R.CO. GOODYEAR'S PT.," (38CH920, Burial 17).
R. Two-piece brass, no backmark, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
S. One-piece brass, backmark "PLATED," (38CH964, Feature 9).
T. One-piece brass, gilt, backmark "PLATED," (38CH920, Burial 8).
Figure 57: U.S. Army model wearing rubber blanket or poncho with grommets.
Since eagle buttons and iron trouser buttons were the most numerous buttons on issued Union uniforms, it would be safe to assume that the Folly Island assemblage is representative of Union Army camps elsewhere. Additional military button varieties recovered from the project area were noted in private collections. These varieties are listed below (Table 5.3) (Torrey McLean, personal communication December 1988; Robert Bohrn, personal communication June 1988).

Insignia recovered during SCIAA and CAS excavations included an enlisted man’s company letter “F,” an officer’s false-embroidered regimental number “8,” a portion of an officer’s false-embroidered epaulette, and the sheet brass number “5” (Figure 5.5). Private collectors have found a variety of insignia, including enlisted men’s company letters and regimental numerals, officer’s infantry and artillery insignia, and officer’s false-embroidered shoulder boards (Torrey McLean, personal communication December 1988; Robert Bohrn, personal communication June 1988).

Table 5.3: Varieties of Buttons From Private Collections, Folly Island

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle, Infantry, large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle, Artillery, large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle, Artillery, small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Navy, small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York, small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island, large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island, small</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Insignia recovered during SCIAA and CAS excavations included an enlisted man’s company letter “F,” an officer’s false-embroidered regimental number “8,” a portion of an officer’s false-embroidered epaulette, and the sheet brass number “5” (Figure 5.5). Private collectors have found a variety of insignia, including enlisted men’s company letters and regimental numerals, officer’s infantry and artillery insignia, and officer’s false-embroidered shoulder boards (Torrey McLean, personal communication December 1988; Robert Bohrn, personal communication June 1988).

A.2 Civilian

Numerous civilian clothing articles supplemented the uniform, including shirts, underwear shirts, vests, and suspenders. The shipments of material donated to the 55th Massachusetts while on Folly Island included many types of civilian clothing (Appendix D). Such articles were represented in the archaeological record by a wide variety of two and four-hole buttons, of black glass, bone, pewter, and rubber, shanked buttons of brass and rubber, and various metallic suspender buckles (Table 5.4). Note again, that some or all of the white glass buttons listed in Table 5.2 could have come from civilian clothing. Examples of civilian clothing items are illustrated in Figures 5.6 and 5.8.

A. Leather shoe heel fragment with brass nails, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
B. Iron suspender buckle, (38CH920, Burial 3).
C. Brass suspender buckle, (38CH920, Burial 4).
D. Iron eye from hook and eye fastener, (38CH920, Burial 11).
E. Silver bar pin, (38CH964, Feature 9).
F. Fragment of rubber blanket with brass grommet, (38CH920, Burial 2).

Figure 5.8: Miscellaneous clothing-related artifacts.
TABLE 5.4: Civilian Clothing-Related Artifacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTIFACTS</th>
<th>38CH920</th>
<th>38CH964</th>
<th>38CH965</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four-hole black glass buttons</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-hole pewter buttons</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-hole bone buttons</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat brass buttons, 1-piece</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brass buttons, 2-piece</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard rubber buttons, shanked</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspender buckle, iron</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspender buckle, brass</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5.5: Arms-Related Artifacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTIFACTS</th>
<th>38CH920</th>
<th>38CH964</th>
<th>38CH965</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musket percussion caps</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S..54 cal. bullet, unfired</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S..577/.58 cal. bullets, unfired</td>
<td>97</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S..577/.58 cal. bullets, fired</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S..577/.58 cal. bullets, extracted</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S..577/.58 cal. bullets, carved</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S..69 cal. bullet, carved</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S..577/.58 cal. Pritchett bullet, unfired</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musket cartridge box tin</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musket cartridge box “US” plate</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery friction primer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. ARMS

B.1 Ammunition

Military weapons were represented in the Folly Island collection by ammunition and cartridge box components (Table 5.5, Figure 5.9). The majority of these artifacts were recovered from 38CH964, although several specimens of interest were found at 38CH920 and 38CH965. No gun parts or implements were recovered during SCIAA excavations.

Like Civil War uniforms, U.S. arms and associated material from that period are well documented and have been intensively studied. This is not merely a reflection of the widespread popular, antiquarian, and scholarly fascination with the Civil War. The 1850s and 1860s were a revolutionary period in the history of arms technology, and thus, in warfare itself. The Civil War period witnessed the development of breech-loading, metallic cartridge weapons of essentially modern design, as well as the ultimate refinement of muzzle-loading weapons for infantry; the rifle-musket. The Folly Island small-arms-related materials were all artifacts of the very brief, but remarkably sanguinary, career of the rifle-musket.

The rifle-musket (as distinct from the musket, the rifle, and the rifled musket) was a muzzle-loading, percus-
tion-cap primed long arm, that fired a distinctive, hollow-based conical bullet with great accuracy. It was adopted by most major western powers in the 1850s, and was obsolete by 1865. Its complex technical evolution is outside the scope of this study but summaries can be found elsewhere (v. Fuller 1958, Thomas 1981).

All but two of the Folly Island bullets fell into the .577/.58 cal. range (Figure 5.9). This bore size accounted for most of the rifle-muskets used by both sides in the Civil War. Two rifle-musket types overwhelmingly dominated the other varieties in U.S. service. These were the regulation U.S. M1855/61 Springfield, cal. .58, and commercial copies of the British M1853 Enfield, cal. .577. The 55th Massachusetts Infantry was armed with Enfields. The slight difference in caliber between these weapons did not require the manufacture of two different sizes of bullets. According to U.S. Ordnance Dept. records, "...no cartridges are made of .58 Calibre, they are all of .57 Calibre, which makes them answerable for the Enfield musket of .57 and the American muskets of .58 Calibre" (Thomas 1981: 72). The standard U.S. bullet was a refinement of the French "Minie Ball," and might properly be called the

Figure 5.9: Ammunition.

A. U.S. .54 caliber rifle-musket bullet, unfired, (38CH964, CMDS #3).
B. U.S. .577/.58 caliber rifle-musket bullet, unfired, most common pattern, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
C. U.S. .577/.58 caliber rifle-musket bullet, unfired, variant with bulbous ogive, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
F. U.S. .577/.58 caliber rifle-musket bullet, extracted, (38CH965, EU3).
G. U.S. .577/.58 caliber rifle-musket bullet, fired (?), with ramrod mark on ogive, (38CH964, CMDS #10).
I. U.S. .69 caliber rifled musket bullet, carved, (38CH964, CMDS #14).
J. U.S. (?) rifle-musket bullet, carved, (38CH964, Feature 16).
K. U.S. (?) rifle-musket bullet, carved, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
L. U.S. (?) rifle-musket bullet, carved and shaped to form a fishing sinker, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
M. Percussion cap, head embossed with reversed "R," (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
N. Friction primer, missing serrated pull wire, (38CH964, CMDS #1).

"THE BEST EVER OCCUPIED"
U.S. Burton pattern Minie bullet (Figure 5.9). Numerous minor variations of the bullet exist, but all are essentially cylindro-conical, with hollow bases and three grease-grooves near the base. These bullets were pressed in dies (not cast), rolled in paper cartridges with their powder charges, and packaged ten each in paper wrappers. Twelve percussion caps were included in each wrapper (Thomas 1981: 4-10).

One .54 cal. and one .69 cal. Burton pattern bullet were found at 38CH964 (Figure 5.9). By 1864 the Union Army used almost exclusively rifle-musketts of .577/.58 cal. Earlier in the War, however, various weapons of .54 and .69 cal. saw use. The .54 cal. weapons included M1841 U.S. rifles, and .54/.55 cal. Austrian rifle-musketts. The .69 cal. weapons were mostly smooth bore muskets that had been rifled (hence rifled-muskets) and used rifle-musket bullets rather than spherical musket balls (Thomas 1881: 23).

Two unfired Confederate .577/.58 cal. bullets were associated with Burial 11 at 38CH920 (Figure 5.9). Both are Confederate-made copies of the Pritchett pattern bullet used by the British in Enfield rifle-musketts. This distinctive, smooth-sided bullet was one of numerous varieties, including the Burton pattern, manufactured or imported by the South (Thomas 1981).

A range of alterations were noted on nine bullets from the project area. Three .577/.58 U.S. bullets were fired, while two showed signs of being extracted from the barrel. One of the extracted bullets was removed by use of the regulation extraction screw, while the other was removed using a barrel cleaning-worm, which was effective if the bullet was not tightly seated. Four bullets from 38CH964, including three .577/.58 specimens and the single .69 cal. example, were carved (Figure 5.9). Three of these appear to have been whittled with no object in mind, while the remaining creation was obviously a fishing sinker. A soldier of the 3rd New York, stationed on Folly Island in 1864, reported the use of bullets for fishing sinkers (Longacre 1984: 132). Carved bullets are commonly found on Civil War sites, and many examples have been reported in collector and archaeological publications (Phillips 1974: 191-196; Phillips 1980: 133-137; Coryell 1978: 30-31; Braley 1987: 33).

An artillery friction primer was recovered from 38CH964 (Figure 5.9). These sheet brass tubes were used to fire Civil War cannon. A lanyard was hooked to a serrated wire that ran through the top of the friction primer. To fire, the primer was inserted in the gun's vent hole. When the lanyard was pulled, the serrated wire ignited an explosive mixture in the tube, firing the main propellant charge in the cannon barrel (Manucy 1949: 26-27). The Folly Island specimen was missing the wire, and was probably an artifact of the 3rd U.S. Artillery, Battery "E," or the 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. Both of these units possibly camped in near 38CH964 (see Chapter IV, Appendix E).

B.2 Accoutrements

Accoutrements here are defined as those elements of a soldier's equipment related to his weapons. For a U.S. infantryman armed with a rifle-musket (Figure 5.1), this equipment included a waist belt with oval "U.S." buckle, which carried the percussion cap box and bayonet scabbard, a cartridge box and plate, and a cartridge box shoulder belt and plate (the "sling," worn over the left shoulder) (Sylvia and O'Donnell 1978: 20, 209-211). Two accoutrement parts were recovered at 38CH964.

Portions of a badly broken cartridge box tin were found in the refuse deposit in the 5 x 6 m block at 38CH964. Normally, a cartridge box contained two of these tinned, sheet iron compartments, each holding 20 rifle-musket cartridges. Also, a U.S. cartridge box plate was recovered during the controlled metal detector survey at 38CH964 (Figure 5.5). These plates were fabricated of embossed sheet brass, with the back filled with lead alloy. They were identical to the waist belt buckle, except for the attachment devices on the back. The pattern recovered at Folly Island dates to 1839 and 1841 (Gavin 1975: 3-15). This specimen was die stamped "HUNTER" on the reverse. No "Hunter" has been identified among the contractors or inspectors of period accoutrements who often back-marked plates. The stamp could be an owner's mark, although one collector thought he had seen other specimens (Torrey McLean, personal communication 1989).

A number of accoutrement plates recovered from the project area were noted in private collections. These included examples of all three regulation U.S. plates; the waist belt plate or buckle, the cartridge box plate, and the circular shoulder belt plate, or "eagle plate." Of particular interest were two examples of the "SNY" (State of New York) version of the waist belt plate (Gavin 1975: 3-15, 27-29; Torrey McLean, personal communication 1989; Robert Bohrn, personal communication 1988).

C. PERSONAL

Personal items are defined in this study as those items normally in the personal possession of an individual soldier, excluding clothing, kitchen, and indulgence-related material (Smith 1983). The SCIAA excavations recovered only a small number of personal items.

C.1 Jewelry

A finger ring of black, hard rubber was found at 38CH964 (Figure 5.10). The ring is whittled, and appears to have been made from a portion of some other object, possibly a smoking pipe shank. An aqua, flat glass oval was recovered from 38CH964. This is thought to be a locket face, although it may be an eyeglass lens.
C.2 Pocket knives
Fragments of two similar brass pocket knife frames were recovered from separate features at 38CH964 (Figure 5.10). Phillips (1974: 158) states that pocket knives are common finds on Civil War sites, and illustrates specimens similar in size and shape to those from Folly Island.

C.3 Writing Implements
Two complete iron or steel pen tips were recovered at 38CH964. In addition, heavily corroded iron fragments were found that probably represent several additional specimens. Phillips (1974: 103) illustrates similar varieties.

Inkwells were issued by the military, and could be regarded as issued supplies. However, they were also bought for personal use and the authors have included them under personal items in this artifact catalog. Three complete glass inkwells and fragments of a fourth were found at 38CH964 and 38CH966 (Figure 5.11). Interestingly, two of the three complete specimens were recovered from pothole backfill. Varieties included two, eight-sided “umbrella” ink wells and two domed, “igloo” style ink wells. Both umbrella wells were pontil marked, and one specimen has a base mark “N,” partially obscured by the pontil scar. The igloo wells exhibit two-piece mold marks, and are embossed around the body “J.M. & S.” Similar ink wells are illustrated by Phillips (1974: 57, 62; 1980: 47).

C.4 Toothbrush (?)
A portion of a well-finished bone handle, found at 38CH964, was probably a toothbrush fragment (Figure 5.10).

D. KITCHEN
Kitchen items were divided into those objects used for food preparation and consumption, and containers used for food storage, preservation, and shipment (bottles, jars, and cans). Alcoholic beverage and medical bottles were not included in this class.

Figure 5.10 Personal items.
A. Brass pocket knife frame, (38CH964, Feature 11).
B. Bone toothbrush (?) handle, (38CH964, Feature 11).
C. Carved bone object, unidentified, (38CH964, Feature 10).
D. Carved hard rubber ring, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
E. Hard rubber smoking pipe with ceramic bowl insert, (38CH920, disturbed context).
D.1 Food Preparation and Consumption

Sherds of ceramic plates, saucers, and serving vessels usually make up a significant portion of the artifact assemblage from a historic site. In SCIAA's excavations at Folly Island, ceramics were conspicuous by their virtual absence (excluding stoneware ale bottles discussed below). Only three whiteware sherds were recovered, including one plain, one blue shell-edged, and one blue transfer-printed sherd (Figure 5.12). Although the eccentric nature of the Folly Island artifact assemblage does not lend itself to objective suggestions of patterning, this lack of ceramic tableware was not surprising. Civil War soldiers, both officers and enlisted men, ate and drank from tinned, sheet iron vessels. Not only were these items regulation mess gear (not necessarily a consideration among officers), but they were far more practical in camp and on the march than bulky, fragile ceramics. Among thousands of camp photographs observed by the authors, ceramic tableware was rarely seen. A pattern that might be drawn from several archaeologically excavated Civil War campsites would be that the quantity of ceramic tableware would be larger at sites close to civilian population centers than at rural isolated campsites like Folly Island. It is reasonable to assume that a permanent military position (garrison, fort) near a city would contain significantly more ceramic tableware than a temporary or seasonal camp in a rural area (v. Phelps 1979: 41-46, 65-70, for the possible influence of looting on this pattern).

Several examples of nondisposable tinned iron ware were recovered at 38CH964. Most, unfortunately, were very poorly preserved. A sheet iron handle (Figure 5.12) was probably from a regulation mess cup (Lord 1963: 170; Phillips 1974: 147). A badly crushed ration can, upon cleaning, revealed two bale attachment holes demonstrating reuse as a cooker, cup, or bucket (Phillips 1980: 178). Fragments of a badly decomposed sheet iron vessel were found that represented a rectangular pan or tray, about 27 x 20 cm, and 4 cm deep. It was formed from a single piece of sheet iron. A rectangular sheet iron strip was found that may have functioned as either a colander or a grater. It might have been made from a flattened ration can. This object was perforated with numerous small holes that left one face of the sheet very rough. Finally, a U.S. M1858 canteen and two canteen stoppers were recovered (Figure

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**Figure 5.11: Ink wells.**

A. "Umbrella" ink well, (38CH966, Locus B, Feature B-3).

B. "Umbrella" ink well, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).

C. "Igloo" ink well, embossed "J.M. & S.", (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
While ceramic tableware was uncommon in the Civil War mess, glass drinking tumblers were not. Photographs often show tumblers supplementing the tinware at officers' mess tables, and broken tumblers are often encountered by collectors (Brett Cullen, personal communication 1989). Fragments of a clear, lead glass tumbler were recovered from 38CH966 (Figure 5.14), and evidence of bottle cutting to create tumblers was found at both 38CH964 and 38CH966 (Figure 5.15). At least five bottles were represented in this group, including one brown whiskey, two free-blown wine bottles, and two dark olive-green ale bottles. Each had been crudely scored, possibly with a file, and then broken by percussion or thermal shock. The brown whiskey bottle specimen appeared to be a finished tumbler, with the cut edge partially smoothed with some abrasive.

A small number of food preparation and consumption implements was recovered. Two fragments of a large, iron, two-tine meat fork were found at 38CH965 (Figure 5.12) (Phillips 1974: 145). Several fragments of individual mess forks were recovered. These were of the common, three-tine variety with two-piece bone or wood handles (Figure 5.12) (Phillips 1974: 145). A large brass serving spoon of ornate civilian pattern was found broken and discarded in Feature 11, 38CH964 (Figure 5.12). The spoon was apparently silver plated at one time, as the back of the handle exhibits a row of imitation hallmarks.

**D.2 Food Storage**

This category includes those containers, ultimately disposable, in which food was packaged for storage, preservation, and shipment.

In the mid-19th Century, nonresealable jars and bottles were widely used in the commercial packaging of many kinds of foods, chiefly vegetables and fruits. A large portion of the *Bertrand* cargo (1865) consisted of culinary bottles and jars (Switzer's Class V, Switzer 1974: 43-66).

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**Figure 5.12: Kitchen-related artifacts.**

A. Civilian brass spoon bowl, (38CH964, Feature 11).
B. Civilian brass spoon handle, (38CH964, Feature 11).
C. Iron meat fork fragment, (38CH965, Feature 1).
D. Iron utensil handle (from "C7"), (38CH965, Feature 1).
E. Iron mess fork, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
F. Blue-edged whiteware plate sherd, (38CH966, Locus C, surface).
G. Small "S" hook, (38CH964, loose association, Feature 16).
Figure 5.13: U.S. Model 1858 Canteen.
A. U.S. M1858 canteen, non-excavated example, with cover, strap, stopper, and chain.
B. U.S. M1858 canteen body, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
C. Canteen stopper with cork preserved, (38CH964, Feature 11, well barrel fill).
D. Pewter canteen spout, (vicinity of 38CH966, Locus A, private collection).

Figure 5.14: Tumbler and beaker bases.
A. Base of lead glass tumbler, (38CH966, Locus A, EU 1).
B. Base of clear glass hospital beaker, (38CH966, Locus A, EU 1).
Although foods in glass containers were apparently not issued by the army as rations, they nevertheless saw widespread consumption by Civil War soldiers. Sources would have included sutlers, grocers, and packages from home (Appendix D). Phillips (1974: 56-60; 1980: 36-45) illustrates a wide variety of glass food containers removed from Civil War campsites. Identical examples have been excavated from Federal refuse deposits by Phelps (1979: 56-58).

Examination of several large private collections recovered from southeastern military campsites revealed that culinary bottles and jars were common finds, comprising, subjectively, perhaps a third of the glass containers recovered (Brett Cullen, personal communication 1989; James Ivers, personal communication 1988). They were not nearly as common in the archaeologically recovered SCIAA assemblage from Folly Island.

Many of the non-diagnostic aqua and dear glass fragments in the SCIAA Folly Island collection may represent culinary containers. Even after intensive mending, however, only a few such containers were identified. A large class of four-sided, ornate, wide-mouthed containers commonly called "cathedral bottles" found at the Bertrand site were represented at Folly Island by only two small fragments. Examples from the Bertrand contained a wide variety of foods, including pickles, pickled vegetables, honey, and tamarinds (Switzer 1974: 50-57). The common plain, cylindrical jar or wide-mouthed bottle was represented by one reasonably complete specimen in the Folly Island collection (Figure 5.16) and several fragments. Phelps (1979: 58) illustrates a similar example. Comparable bottles from the Bertrand, but with "blow over" rather than folded finishes, contained horseradish (Switzer 1974: 64). One possible ketchup bottle was reconstructed from the Folly Island assemblage (Figure 5.16), and one or two additional specimens were suggested by fragments. Very similar bottles from the Bertrand contained ketchup (Switzer 1974: 48). Portions of two mustard jars, one clear glass and one translucent white glass, were recovered. Neither was reconstructable, but one base is illustrated (Figure 5.16). The type is well known. Switzer's (1974: 49, 50) Bertrand examples contained Bordeaux mustard. Phillips (1974: 56-58; 1980: 42, 43) illustrates numerous varieties from Civil War sites.

Figure 5.15: Cut bottles
A. Bottom of brown whiskey bottle, (38CH964, Feature 9).
B. Top of free-blown wine bottle, (38CH964, Feature 16).
C. Bottom of free-blown wine bottle, does not mend with "B" (38CH964, Feature 16).
D and E: Tops of dark olive green ale bottles, (38CH966, Locus A, surface).
specimen is also illustrated by Phelps (1979: 58).

Tinned, sheet iron cans were another method of storing food during the Civil War period. "Tin" cans came into widespread use in the 1860s. Hermetic sealing of cans was patented in 1810, and the British army first used canned rations during the Napoleonic War (Busch 1981: 95-96).

Food cans in use during the Civil War period were mostly of the hole-in-cap technology. These cans were manufactured with a large hole in the top to facilitate filling. After filling, the top was closed by soldering-on a plate, or cap, which had a small vent hole in its center. This allowed the filled can to be heated, and then the excess air and moisture vented, before the small hole was sealed with solder (Rock 1984: 99).

Cans encountered on Union Civil War war sites may include both canned rations, issued by the commissary department, and commercial canned foods obtained from sutlers or other sources (See Appendix D). A great variety of foods were canned. One supplier for the Union Army listed sweet corn, chicken, turkey, duck, goose, and beef, among other items (Rock 1984: 102). Lord (1969: 58-59) mentions canned milk, sardines, tomatoes, oysters, cranberry sauce, peaches, and lobster among sutlers' stores.

Food cans were well represented in the SCIAA Folly Island artifact assemblage. Unfortunately, the can collection was in extremely poor condition. Substantial deposits of cans were present in two large, potted features. The delicate sheet iron from these features was thoroughly fragmented, eliminating most vessel attributes (see 5 x 6 m Block, 38CH964, and Feature 1, 38CH965). Several crushed or badly decomposed cans were found in undisturbed features, but only one completely intact can was recovered (Figure 5.17). Even this specimen was almost completely rusted, and beyond permanent conservation. This intact can was 10.6 cm (4.2 in) tall and 8.9 cm (3.5 in) diameter. Its top had been crudely removed, probably with a knife. Other can remains that could be reasonably

Figure 5.16: Food and medicine bottles.
A. Mustard jar base, smoky white glass, (38CH965, Feature 1).
B. Food jar, aqua glass, (38CH965, Feature 1).
C. Condiment bottle, aqua glass, (38CH964, Feature 9).
D. Jamaica Ginger bottle, aqua glass, embossed "F. BROWN'S ESS. OF JAMAICA GINGER PHILADA," (38CH964, Feature 9).
E. Panel medicinal, aqua glass, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
measured included a specimen 8.9 cm (3.5 in) tall and 8.4 cm (3.3 in) in diameter, and another 12.7 cm (5 in) tall and 8.4 cm (3.3 in) in diameter. All diagnostic top fragments exhibited "hole-in-cap" technology.

E. INDULGENCES

This class includes artifacts related to drug use. The SCIAA Folly Island assemblage reflects the use of alcohol and tobacco.

E.1 Alcoholic Beverage Containers

Alcoholic beverage bottle fragments comprised the largest group of artifacts recovered from sites 38CH964, 38CH965, and 38CH966. This observation cannot be expressed statistically, as most bottle fragments are not strictly diagnostic regarding their use. It is probable, however, that the great majority of fragments of stoneware, olive-green glass, and brown glass were the remains of alcoholic beverage bottles. Of some 20 completely reconstructed bottles, all were alcoholic beverage forms, and many more were represented by diagnostic necks and bases. Although the refuse-containing features investigated by SCIAA cannot be considered a representative sample of the variety of features at Folly Island, those that have been sampled strongly suggest that large amounts of alcohol were consumed by personnel camped in the vicinity of the project area. Further, this conclusion would be drawn even if 38CH966 (the bottle dump) had not been investigated, as features from 38CH964 and 38CH966 contained many alcoholic beverage bottles.

The availability of alcohol to officers and enlisted men on Folly Island is a complex subject. The use of drugs, especially alcohol, throughout the long history of warfare has been documented by military historians (v. Keegan 1976: 326). Consumption of alcohol by Federal soldiers may have been somewhat more prevalent on Folly Island than elsewhere, for a variety of reasons. These include the boredom of a long, isolated and static occupation, combined with the fatigue and fear associated with inglorious but dangerous labor in the siege lines. Also, the poor quality of the drinking water available on the barrier islands may have contributed to this consumption (See Chapters II and IV).

Sutlers, normally the source of non-issue consumables, were normally prohibited from selling alcohol to enlisted men (Eldredge 1893: 986). This regulation, however, seems to have been widely ignored. An officer of the 104th Pennsylvania, assigned to enforce regulations on incoming sutler shipments to Folly Island, made some interesting and conflicting observations in his journal:

"A non-commissioned officer... came with an order for 4 boxes of wine and bought 11. The provost-martial seized his whole lot and I suppose they will be

Figure 5.17: Tinned iron food can (38CH964, Feature 11).
confiscated.

I had 4 bottles of ale given to me one of which I kept myself and distributed the rest among my men.

The Provost-martial General by order of Genl. Gilmore seized goods of a Mr. Clark Sutler, ... and have arrested him - goods consisting of ale, wines, etc.

I sold my mocking bird Dick for $60 to Sutler of 62 Ohio Volunteers. Rec'd four barrels of ale in payment... I have turned over to our Sutler one barrel ale.

Cargo of sloop Golden Rod confiscated and unloaded at wharf. I had to be very sharp to keep detail of 56th Regt. Pena. Volunteers from all getting drunk. They broke open a number of barrels of bottled ale and started the sider barrels to leaking... A great many boxes were stolen - of wine... One of Capt. Holmes men boasted that he stole three boxes. The Capt. discovered one box and appropriated it to his own use.

Mr. Clark, sutler on Golden Rod was released last evening having been compelled to work on fortifications at the front... the whole of his ales, wines, and cider were confiscated” (Marple 1863: 19-20).

Other important sources of alcoholic beverages were boxes sent by family or friends to individuals, and shipments donated to units by aid societies. The record of donations to the 55th Massachusetts (excerpted, Appendix D) is particularly revealing. Along with Bibles and dressing gowns are listed wine, cider, rum, and whiskey.

Alcohol was also about the only pain remedy available to the regimental surgeon beyond various derivations of the opium poppy. Regimental hospitals maintained large stocks of liquor, chiefly whiskey, issued by the army. These stocks were readily accessible to officers, but enlisted men required a “prescription.” General issues of whiskey to a regiment sometimes followed “…a strenuous march, heavy fighting, or in cold, rainy, or snowy weather” (Lord 1963: 58-59). The regimental historian of the 127th New York recalled that on Cole’s Island the regiment was supposed to have whiskey sufficient to “…afford each soldier a gill or two each day, presumably for medicinal purposes and chiefly to go against the effect of the miasma from the marshes, but much of the whiskey... was in some way diverted, with the result that the soldier lost his antimalarial medicine, with the exception of about one gill per month” (McGrath 1898: 82-83). The authors had the opportunity to peruse a regimental surgeon’s book from the 54th Massachusetts, and alcohol and opium were the usual prescription.

In the following discussion, references are made to Switzer’s (1974) typology for bottles from the 1865 wreck of the Bertrand. Although an excellent source of information for Civil War period bottles, Switzer’s typology is unfortunately only applicable to fairly complete specimens. A given top variety might occur on bottles with several major basal variations, for example, such that use of a Bertrand Class number would create a false association. Furthermore, many examples were recovered by SCIAA that had no direct parallels among Bertrand specimens.

E.1A ALE BOTTLES

Glass and stoneware ale bottles dominated the SCIAA alcoholic beverage bottle assemblage from Folly Island. Site 38CH966, Loci A and C, consisted almost entirely of broken ale bottles, and they were heavily represented at 38CH964 and 38CH965 as well. As suggested above, references to ale are fairly common among primary sources from the siege of Charleston. No references to beer, stout, or ginger beer were seen among the many primary historical sources consulted.

Pasteurizing of beer did not begin until 1873. Thus ordinary beer, as it is known today, was unsuitable for bottling in the 1860s because of its very short shelf life. Ale is a dense, bitter beer with undecomposed sugar content and an alcohol content sufficient to preserve the beverage for extended periods (Switzer 1974: 9). Switzer’s (1974) typology places ales, beers, and stouts in his Class 1, although only ale was actually identified in the Bertrand collection. All of the bottles from the Folly Island collection which were identified as ales, were either identical to Switzer Class I specimens, or were similar in size and overall form to those specimens.

Switzer’s Class I, Type 1 was comprised of stoneware ale bottles. Ceramic was not a common bottle material in the United States, and most examples from Folly Island probably were imported. According to Kendrick (1971: 69) such bottles commonly filled the holds of cotton and wheat freighters returning from Britain.

A wide variety of stoneware ale bottles were recovered by SCIAA. Most common were cream colored bottles with a brown (Switzer calls it yellow-ochre) slip covering the upper half of the vessel. These included both shouldered (Figure 5.18), and unshouldered (Figure 5.19) varieties with much variation among tops. Similar bottles have been recovered from many Civil War sites (Phelps 1979: 46; Phillips 1980: 39; Trinkley 1986: 231). The Folly Island specimens were often stamped near the base, and 20 different marks were noted: A, B, C, D, E, G, H, J,
Two unidentified types of stoneware bottles were recovered that were probably ale bottles. The first variety resembles an unshouldered example like those discussed above, but it lacks the brown slip and has an unusual top (Figure 5.18E). Only one example was recovered. The other unknown type (Figure 5.18D) is a gray bodied, alkaline glazed bottle similar in form to a 20th Century beer bottle. One complete and several fragmentary examples were recovered.

The remainder of the Folly Island ale bottles are of varying shades of dark, olive green glass, fitting Switzer’s Class I, Type 3. Seemingly endless variations exist among these bottles (reconstructed examples are illustrated in Figure 5.20). All appear to be products of Ricketts ‘3-piece mold’ technology. No examples that appeared free-blown or molded in a two-piece mold were observed. Figure 5.21 illustrates the wide variety of bottle necks recovered that were probably from ale bottles. Base varieties included examples that were pontil-marked, and others that were crudely molded with push-ups or formally molded with plates. Those molded with push-ups were often embossed, and eleven variations of these marks were noted (Table 5.6).

Table 5.6: Embossed Marks
Dark Olive-Green Ale Bottle Bases
- “Ricketts Bristol”
- “W & JG”
- “Woolfall”
- “Woolfall Manch”
- “p” (facing center)
- “p” (facing away from center)
- “GB”
- circle with six rays
- circle with eight rays
- St. George’ cross
- raised dot
in addition to basal marks, shoulder fragments were found embossed with a crown motif. this same design was illustrated by Phelps (1979: 48).

One complete bottle and one bottle neck could not be identified but may have contained ale, or some other alcoholic beverage (Figure 5.22A and B). They were included here as they were quite different from wine and whiskey forms in collection, and they shared several attributes with glass ale bottles. Both were dark olive-green glass, appeared to be made in three-piece molds, and had crude push-ups and lip varieties similar to ale bottle forms. Neither was shouldered, and both were much larger than the known ale bottle forms.

**E.1B WHISKEY BOTTLES**

No reconstructable whiskey bottles were recovered by SCIAA. Many examples were represented by fragments, however, and a partial specimen is illustrated in Figure 5.22F. All of the Folly Island whiskey bottles appear to fit Switzer's (1974) Class III, Type 4. The examples recovered from the Bertrand contained bourbon whiskey. Additional examples have been reported by Phelps (1979). All were made in three-piece molds, with relatively flat, plate-molded bases. Typically, these bottles had a liquid capacity of 24 oz. Four color varieties were found at Folly Island, including amber, brown, olive-green, and dark green. Two examples were embossed on the base, one with six evenly spaced raised dots, another with "ELLENVILLE GLASS WORKS." Ellenville examples were found on the Bertrand (Switzer 1974: 32) and in the Union Army site near New Berne, N.C. (Phelps 1979: 55). One whiskey bottle shoulder fragment was recovered embossed with the commonly seen Rickett's "PATENT" mark (Jones and Sullivan 1985: 29).

**E.1C WINE BOTTLES**

Wine bottles in Folly Island assemblage include both major forms, the unshouldered "champagne" style and the fall, shouldered style, both still in use today. The "champagne" style bottles (Switzer Class III Type 2) were well represented by fragments, but no reconstructable or complete examples were found. Incomplete examples are

![Figure 5.19](image-url)

**Figure 5.19**: Stoneware ale bottles, brown and white unshouldered varieties.

- A. Brown and white stoneware ale bottle, (38CH964, Feature 9).
- B. Brown and white stoneware ale bottle, (38CH964, Feature 9).
- C. Brown and white stoneware ale bottle, (38CH964, Feature 10).
- D. Brown and white stoneware ale bottle, (38CH965, Feature 1).
- E. Brown and white stoneware ale bottle, (38CH964, Feature 9).
- F. Brown and white stoneware ale bottle, (38CH965, Feature 11).
- G. Brown and white stoneware ale bottle, (38CH964, Feature 1).
- H. Bottle neck from brown and white stoneware ale bottle, (38CH968, EU2).
illustrated in Figure 5.22D and E. All were mold made, turned in the mold, and had a liquid capacity of 28 oz or 12 oz. Shouldered, free-blown wine bottles (Switzer Class III, Type 3) were equally common, and one intact specimen was recovered (Figure 5.22C). This bottle had a liquid capacity of 25 oz. All wine bottles were green or olive-green, in shades noticeably lighter than that of ale bottles.

E.2 Tobacco

Use of Tobacco by soldiers on Folly Island was represented by a complete, hard rubber pipe and two small fragments of white clay pipes. Phillips (1974: 135-137; 1980: 166-169) illustrates numerous examples of smoking pipes recovered from Civil War contexts. These include both ceramic and hard rubber varieties.

The hard rubber pipe (Figure 5.10) was recovered by Carolina Archaeological Services from a disturbed context at 38CH920. It may well have been buried with one of the soldiers interred in the Brigade cemetery. The pipe features a white ceramic liner in the bowl, and the stem retains traces of the “Goodyear’s Patent 1851” mark usually seen on hard rubber items of the period.

F. MEDICINE

Little evidence of medicine or medical related activity was recovered in the Folly Island artifact collection, except for an unknown percentage of the alcohol bottles discussed above. Artifacts relating to medical activity, of course, probably would be concentrated in the vicinity of regimental and post hospitals, and none of these localities were investigated by SCIAA.

The artifacts recovered included the base of a clear glass beaker and commercial medicine bottles. The beaker (Figure 5.14B) was originally thought to be a fine, thin-walled tumbler. However, examination of a collection of Civil War material recovered from the wreck of the Maple Leaf (1864) revealed a complete medical beaker with an identical base (Keith Holland, personal communication 1989). The commercial medicine bottles recovered could...
legitimately be classed under “indulgences” as they probably contained no effective drugs other than alcohol. Portions of two aqua glass, unembossed panel medicinal bottles were recovered, one of which was substantially reconstructed (Figure 5.16E). These are of the form commonly associated with “patent medicines” (Fike 1987). A single example of an essence of ginger bottle was reconstructed (Figure 5.16D). This small, aqua bottle was embossed “F. Brown’s, Essence of, Jamaica Ginger, Philada,” on four lines. According to Fike (1987:16) Jamaica Ginger was popular during the last half of the 19th century and was seldom bottled in any shape other than that seen in Figure 5.16. Very popular as an alcohol substitute on military posts, this product was an alcoholic extract of ginger used for flavoring and medicine. An example identical to the Folly Island bottle is illustrated in Phillips (1980: 45).

G. TOOLS, ARCHITECTURE, AND TRANSPORTATION

This broad and miscellaneous category includes a variety of artifacts that were used by the soldiers on Folly Island to complete tasks, shelter themselves, or move materials from one location to another.

G.1 Tools

Four large iron or steel tools were recovered at 38CH964. These included an axe head, two shovels, and a large “S” hook. The iron axe head (Figure 5.23) was a common 19th century form called the “Ohio Pattern” (Herskowitz 1978: 80; Russell and Erwin 1865: 203). Phillips (1974: 154) also has illustrated this axe form and he noted that it was the most common recovered from Civil War sites. This suggests that the pattern may have been the regulation U.S. Army axe, but any marks that might have identified the Folly Island specimen as such have been obliterated by corrosion.

Two shovel blades were recovered. One, a round-bladed shovel, was in such a poor state of preservation that it could not even be measured with any confidence. A square-bladed “flat” shovel (Figure 5.23) was reasonably well preserved. Russell and Erwin (1865: 292) picture examples similar to both shovel types from Folly Island. The “S” hook (Figure 5.23) is far too massive to have been related to cooking or used as a well-bucket suspension. It is possible that it was used to move artillery.

G.2 Architecture

Nails and brick fragments were the only architectural
artifacts recovered in the Folly Island excavations. Small quantities of brick and mortar fragments were found in several contexts at 38CH964, but not in sufficient numbers to suggest chimneys or other structures (see Features 14 and 15, 38CH964). The presence of bricks and brickbat was noted on the field forms during excavations but individual pieces were not counted.

Nails were very common in several contexts at 38CH964. They were overwhelmingly in a poor state of preservation, and therefore, were not formally analyzed here. All identifiable examples were machine cut nails, appropriate to the Civil War period. It is important to note that many of these nails probably were used and recycled during their use in the winter camp. For instance, many probably were originally from shipping or storage containers. The containers could have been burned as camp-fire fuel or reused for various needs in camp, like tent supports, or even as components in some architectural unit.

G.3 Transportation

Site 38CH964 yielded a number of artifacts related to horse or horse-drawn transportation. These probably derive from the 1863 occupation of the area by Battery E, 3rd U.S. Artillery. Some, however, may be from infantry officers mounts, quartermaster teams, or similar sources.

Two horseshoes were recovered archaeologically, and two others were found hanging in trees where they had been placed by collectors (Figure 5.24). Four bit-curb chains were found; three were made of brass and the other was made of iron (Figure 5.24C). These fit the regulation U.S. pattern and are similar to examples illustrated in

![Figure 5.22: Miscellaneous alcoholic beverage bottles.](image)

A. Bottle neck of unidentified dark olive-green glass bottle, possibly a large, unshouldered ale, with closure wire, (38CH965, Feature 1).
B. Unidentified dark olive-green glass bottle, possibly a large, unshouldered ale, (38CH965, Feature 1).
C. Free blown olive-green wine bottle, (38CH964, Feature 10).
D. Body of blown-in-mold dark green "champagne" style wine bottle, (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
E. Upper portion of mold blown dark green "champagne" style wine bottle, (38CH965, Feature 1).
F. Partial reconstruction of amber whiskey bottle, (base, not shown, is embossed "ELLENVILLE GLASS WORKS."). (38CH964, 5 x 6 m block).
Phillips (1974: 77). An artillery bit rosette (Figure 5.24) was found at Folly Island and was identical to one illustrated in Phillips (1974: 80). A watering bit may be represented by a fragment of light iron chain with a T-bar (Figure 5.24E). Collectors have reported numerous horse related artifacts in the same vicinity or at 38CH964 (Robert Bohm, personal communication 1989).

A wagon or artillery carriage wheel was represented by the heavy iron hub casing found (Figure 5.24). A small iron pintle (not illustrated) was recovered that may be an element of wagon hardware, or may belong in the architecture category. As noted above, the large "S" hook may have had a transportation function.

G.4 Storage Containers (Barrels)

This final category of artifacts includes the well-preserved barrels recovered at Folly Island. Wooden barrels were an important bulk-container type during the Civil War period and were employed primarily in the storage and shipment of foods and beverages. With the major exceptions of hard bread ("hard tack") and canned food, which were boxed, most ration foods were barrelled. Alcoholic beverages including ale and whiskey were often barrelled rather than bottled, and even bottles were sometimes packed in barrels. Barrelled goods mentioned in historical sources from Folly Island and Morris Island include flour, sugar, apples, eggs, pork, pigs feet, ale, wine, and cider (Jackson & O’Donnell 1965: 107, 117; Marple 1863: 20, 23, 26).

Civil War encampment areas often contained large numbers of empty barrels which were recycled not only as containers, but they were also altered or disassembled to serve a wide variety of other functions. Camp photographs typically reveal surplus barrels in a wide variety of adaptive re-uses, including chimneys and wells (Miller 1911; Davis 1983). In addition to the archaeologically confirmed well linings, several other secondary uses for barrels are historically documented. Maj. General David Hunter’s “General Orders No. 40” (Appendix D) recommended that soldier’s bunks be constructed of barrel staves laid perpendicularly along parallel, elevated poles. Quartermasters were to provide the staves. Fox, among others, also shows the use of barrels as chimneys, a common Civil War practice (Figure 2.4, Billings 1887: 117).
55-56). A private collection of Folly Island artifacts includes an iron barrel band bent into a handled coil, presumably for use as a grill (Torrey McLean, personal communication 1988.)

Although barrels of the mid-19th century retained their familiar ancient form, they were no longer an entirely handcrafted product. The Industrial Revolution spurred the partial mechanization of barrel-making, and by the 1850s, use of steam powered saws and drills had supplanted handcrafting of less complex elements (Kilby 1971: 151). The barrel industry was still divided into two major specializations, dry and wet cooperage. Dry coopers made barrels adequate to hold non-liquids such as sugar and flour. Normally the wood used in ordinary dry cooperage was cheap, soft, and second hand. The most skilled dry coopers crafted dry-tight barrels, which contained products such as butter, soap, syrup, and gunpowder. Metal hoops were used for the better barrels, and split hazel, coiled elm, or wire for the cheaper ones (Kilby 1971: 49). Wet coopers made barrels for wine, whiskey, ale, sauces, and jam. The wood, normally oak, used for these casks was much harder than for dry cooperage (Kilby 1971: 70).

It is impossible to know what the contents of the recovered barrels were prior to their re-use as well liners. The two nearly intact barrels recovered during Phase III well excavations in the Federal camp include examples of both dry and wet cooperage. The smaller barrel, recovered from 38CH964, was evidently the product of dry-cooperage (Figure 5.26A). This barrel was hooped with wicker only, with three bands each at top and bottom. A soft wood was indicated and no bung was present. These traits suggest a dry barrel, which may have contained sugar or flour. The remnant of the second barrel that was fitted over the upper one-third of the Feature 11 barrel (see Chapter IV) suggests a cask of similar size, perhaps hammered in place for a tight fit. The larger of the nearly intact barrels, from Feature B-3, 38CH966, was clearly made for liquid storage (Figure 5.25 and Figure 5.26B). This barrel was well crafted of hardwood staves, hooped with both iron and wicker bands, and included a bung. The iron bands recovered from Feature 13, 38CH964, were quite similar to
those from the Feature B-3 barrel. Additional fragments of iron barrel band were recovered from a number of other proveniences at sites 38CH964 and 38CH966 (see Appendix F).

**SUMMARY**

The artifact assemblage from Folly Island testifies to the isolated, tedious, and spartan existence experienced by the soldiers during the siege of Charleston. Few comforts and amenities were represented in this assemblage, which, excluding the glass and ceramic bottle fragments, mostly consisted of military issued items. Personal affects and civilian artifacts were practically nonexistent. Alcoholic beverages, despite official sanctions, must have been widely consumed. While the artifacts excavated and reported here were from selected features, it is likely that the sample collected is representative of assemblages that would be found in more systematic excavations of similarly isolated sites. This hypothesis would be worth further investigation at Folly Island and other barrier islands in South Carolina.

![Figure 5.25: Barrel well liner, (38CH966, Locus B, Feature B-3).](attachment:image.png)
Figure 5.26: Barrel well liners.
A. Barrel, (38CH964, Feature 11). B. Barrel, (38CH966, Locus B, Feature B-3).