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GARDNER, P.S.
AN ANALYSIS OF DAN RIVER CERAMICS
FROM VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA

by

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A Thesis submitted to the faculty of
The University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in the Department of
Anthropology.

Chapel Hill
1980

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PAUL S. GARDNER. An Analysis of Dan River Ceramics from Virginia and North Carolina. (Under the direction of JOFFRE L. COE).

Based on an analysis of the ceramic assemblages from three excavated sites in Virginia and one surface collection in North Carolina, a revised classification using a modification of the type-variety method is proposed for Dan River ceramics. The classification utilizes three hierarchical categories: ware, type, and variety; and one integrative unit: the variety group, which crosscuts types and varieties. Two temporally significant varieties of the Dan River types, recognizable by differences in temper, are defined. In addition, the types of the Wythe Series are demoted to varieties of Dan River types. Formal definitions of Hillsboro Ware and two tentative component types are proposed, and a brief justification of their separation from Dan River Ware is offered. Finally, an argument is made that Dan River Ware dates no earlier than AD 1300, and speculations concerning the practice of strict patrilocal residence by the Dan River people are criticized.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the course of producing this thesis I have greatly benefited from the assistance, counsel and encouragement of a number of people. Chief among these have been the members of my graduate committee: Drs. Joffre Lanning Coe, Richard A. Yarnell and Donald L. Brockington. I am further indebted to Dr. Coe, who put the facilities of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at my disposal, and to Dr. Yarnell for providing space for the ceramic analysis.

I am also grateful to the Virginia Research Center for Archeology for making the ceramics from the Buzzard Rock and Leggett Sites available for study. Wayne Clark, Celia Reed, Mary Ellen Norrisey and Keith Egloff were all particularly helpful in this regard. Dr. Clarence Geier of James Madison University provided the Bessemer Site ceramic collection.

I also wish to thank my friends in the Department of Anthropology, particularly Paul Green, Dave Moore, Bill Oliver and Stephen Potter, who assisted me in less formal but equally appreciated ways by providing encouragement, moral support and, on occasion, even scholarly dialogue. Bill Oliver also provided invaluable assistance in producing the photographs.

Finally, I wish to thank my wife Ruth, firstly for
undertaking the Augean task of typing the manuscript, but more importantly, for her companionship and love that provides the ultimate inspiration for all of my endeavors.
CHAPTER I:
Introduction

In 1903, in his pioneering work on the prehistory of the eastern United States, William H. Holmes wrote (1903: 142):

Two tribes of Siouan stock, the Tutelo and Catawba, and perhaps others not so well known, inhabited parts of northern Georgia and western Carolina, and a small area in south-central Virginia, and it is probable that much of the confusion observed in the ceramics of these sections is due to this occupation.

While Holmes is probably a bit too southerly in his placement of the Siouan groups, and the relationship of the archeological materials and the historically documented groups of the Virginia-North Carolina region is problematic, the confusion he observed in the ceramics of the region was certainly real enough then, and exists to a lesser but still troubling extent even now.

The purpose of this thesis is to ameliorate some of the confusion surrounding the classification of Dan River Series ceramics, a ware of the Late Woodland Period with a broad distribution across central and western Virginia and North Carolina. A type-variety system of classification will be employed in order to allow the recognition of finer scale spatial and temporal variation in the Dan River types,
while at the same time displaying in the classification the close relationships between Dan River ceramics and other Late Woodland period ceramics of the region. The conceptual background of the type-variety system of classification will be discussed, and its usefulness for Mid-Atlantic archeology will be evaluated. Finally, based on archeological evidence, historical accounts, and ethno-graphic analogy, speculations about the social organization of the groups making Dan River ceramics will be offered.

Background to the Problem

In the same work as quoted above, Holmes (1903: 142) wondered if the remains of the various societies of the North Carolina-Virginia region were sufficiently distinctive to allow the groups to be recognized archeologically. This question has been of continual interest to students of the region's prehistory and has spurred much research. About ten years before the Holmes monograph, Gerald Fowke surveyed the James River Valley from Cape Henry to its upper reaches in order to identify the tribes formerly inhabiting the Piedmont and Appalachian Highlands of Virginia, and to establish their relations to groups in tidewater Virginia and in the Ohio River Valley (Holmes, 1894). Fowke failed to demonstrate the identity of any group but did establish that affiliations existed between western Virginia and the Ohio Valley, and between the eastern Piedmont and the Tide-water (Fowke, 1894).

In the 1930's David I. Bushnell of the Smithsonian
Institution made several forays into the Piedmont of Virginia in an attempt to identify the archeological remains of the Siouan groups encountered by John Smith during his explorations into the interior of Virginia (Bushnell, 1930; 1933; 1935; 1937). Given that the prehistory of Virginia was almost entirely unknown at the time, it is hardly surprising that Bushnell met with little success in recognizing sites of the historic period, and instead, examined primarily sites of the Archaic Period which, unknown to Bushnell, predated by several millennia the sites he was seeking.

Also in the 1930's the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, under the direction of Dr. Joffre L. Coe, began investigations of the prehistory of the North Carolina Piedmont using the direct historical approach. In 1936 the historic Indian town of Keyauwee was excavated (Coe, 1937). In 1938, historic period villages of the Occaneechi and Saponi, and a reputed historic period village of the Sara, were excavated. Excavations of historic period Siouan villages continued with the excavation of eighteenth century villages of the Saponi and Occaneechi (Coe, 1964: 6), and continues to this day with excavation at Sk^6, a seventeenth century Sara village (Wilson, 1977). The site that was reputed to be that of the seventeenth century Sara, Rk^1, is especially pertinent to this study, as it is the type site for Dan River ceramics.

Dan River ceramics were described by Griffin (1945) and Coe (1952) and were formally defined by Coe and
Lewis (1952). Briefly, the Dan River Series was defined as having a hard, gritty paste with a temper of sand and crushed quartz; surface treatments of primarily net impression, cord marking and smoothing; flared rims; notched lips; and incised or punctated decorations on the neck (Coe and Lewis, 1952; for a revised definition of Dan River Ware see Chapter III). At this time its temporal range was thought to be AD 1625-1675 and its geographic range along the Virginia-Carolina border in the central Piedmont (Coe and Lewis, 1952).

Three years after the definition of the Dan River Series, Evans produced a monographic study of prehistoric pottery from Virginia that included the definition of the Clarksville Series (1955: 49-54). Unfortunately, the Clarksville Series is extremely similar to the Dan River Series. Evans noted that Dan River and Clarksville sherds appear identical superficially, but he listed three traits which he said distinguished them. Dan River sherds possess nicked or notched lips vs. the folded rims of Clarksville; the net used to impress Clarksville pottery is coarser than that commonly used on Dan River pottery; and Dan River ceramics are more frequently incised (1955: 136).

Interestingly, although Evans avows the ability to sort Dan River sherds from Clarksville sherds, he lists not one Dan River sherd from his entire state-wide survey. The sites in the Dan River drainage, which would be expected to produce Dan River sherds, do not; rather, their ceramic assemblages are composed of Clarksville
types and earlier wares. Evans seems to have set a general pattern for Virginia archeology in this regard, for after this time sherds which fall within the Dan River-Clarksville spectrum are almost always referred to as Clarksville.

In 1970 another monograph on Virginia ceramics (Holland, 1970) was an exception to the general pattern, as it listed Dan River, but not Clarksville types. This is not too surprising, as the study area dealt with western Virginia, and Dan River ceramics tend to have a more westerly distribution than Clarksville. Holland's work added a further complication to ceramic classification with the definition of the Wythe Series. Like the Clarksville Series, the Wythe Series seems to be morphologically indistinguishable from the Dan River Series, except that it has as temper, sand, as opposed to a mixture of sand and crushed quartz. The most distinctive feature of the Wythe Series is its spatial distribution which, according to Holland (1970: 73), is entirely west of the Blue Ridge.

One might ask how three series so similar could be maintained in one state without some revision or clarification forthcoming. A few researchers have recognized the confusion in the classification and have called for revision (MacCord, 1968; 1971b; Carter and MacCord, 1968; Hranicky, 1974), but little has been done.

One factor which has contributed to the maintenance of confusion is the basic orientation of much archeological research in Virginia. Seemingly, few excavations are
undertaken as problem-oriented research. Rather, most sites are excavated either as cultural resource management projects or as diversions for local amateur archeological societies. Neither of these approaches particularly lends itself to the study of problems regional in scope. Furthermore, if the goal of a ceramic analysis is merely to provide a descriptive label for the ceramic assemblage, as it seems to be for much amateur-oriented and cultural resource management projects, then it matters only little whether the analyst chooses Wythe Series, Clarksville Series, or Dan River Series as the label, since the three series have such a large zone of morphological overlap and no demonstrated temporal separation. The general spatial separation of the three series -- Wythe west of the Blue Ridge, Dan River in the Piedmont Uplands, and Clarksville along the lower Dan and Roanoke -- has long been obscured by the site reports of typological lumpers (cf., Evans, 1955; Gravely, 1976; MacCord, 1968; 1971a; 1971b; Carter and MacCord, 1968; Benthall, 1969; 1971; Collins, 1971).

Statement of the Problem

From the above historical background, one problem is immediately apparent: there is a lumper-splitter dichotomy among typologists working with the Late Woodland Period ceramics of central and western Virginia and North Carolina. Type and series definitions have proliferated, but the criteria necessary and sufficient to recognize the various types and series have remained vague. This
lack of rigor and standardization in typology has resulted in considerable confusion and greatly hinders inter-site comparisons. This thesis will offer a revised taxonomy for Dan River ceramics using a type-variety approach. It is hoped that the ability to formulate taxa at different levels of inclusiveness which this approach offers will satisfy both lumpers and splitters. Also, an explicit statement of the sorting criteria for each taxon in the classification will be offered in order to increase the rigor and standardization of the ceramic classification. This will hopefully aid inter-analyst communication and inter-site comparison.

The second problem to be dealt with concerns the chronological placement and spatial distribution of Dan River ceramics. Regardless of the particular appellation by which it is known, it seems that pottery identical or extremely similar to the Dan River Series has been found in contexts which predate AD 1625-1675, and from areas outside the central Piedmont along the Virginia-Carolina Border, the area originally proposed as its geographical range (Coe and Lewis, 1952). In fact, the spatial and temporal placement of the Dan River Series has become so inclusive that its usefulness as a tool for cultural-historical analysis has greatly diminished. In order to ameliorate this situation, the ceramic collections from four sites yielding Dan River pottery will be analyzed and tentative varieties of the Dan River types
proposed with the expectation that the varieties will prove to have a more restricted temporal and spatial placement than do the types to which they belong.

The Sites (Figure 1)

Ceramics from three sites in Virginia and one from North Carolina were analyzed. The collections were selected to represent a broad distribution in both space and time.

Of the collections examined, that from the Bessemer Site (44Bo26) is the most distant from the Dan River "core area" (Figure 1). The Bessemer Site is located west of the Blue Ridge on the James River in Botetourt County, Virginia (Geier and Moldenhauer, 1977). The site is not dated, but Geier suggests it is Late Woodland to Protohistoric. The portion of the site which was to be destroyed by highway construction was excavated by a crew from James Madison University. Excavation involved removal of the plowzone with heavy machinery, then excavation of subsoil features, of which there were twenty-eight. No palisade line was noted in the area uncovered, and only one burial was found. Ceramics were of the Dan River and Radford Series, and projectile points were predominantly small triangular points.

Undoubtedly the most interesting feature found at Bessemer was the posthole pattern of a longhouse measuring fifty feet by twenty feet. The posthole pattern is somewhat dispersed along its north and west sides, but Geier states the house pattern to be clear and distinct (Geier
Figure 1: Locations of Certain Dan River Sites Mentioned in the Text
and Moldenhauer, 1977: 19). Such longhouses were previously unknown to western Virginia in general, and to Dan River sites in particular, where round houses are the rule (Wilson, 1977; Clark, Norrisey and Reed, 1978; Benthall, 1969). Geier postulated that the longhouse was seasonally occupied during the summer and early fall, since the lack of a hearth within the structure suggested to him that it was unheated. However, since the site had been plowed (Geier and Moldenhauer, 1977: 9), it seems more convincing to believe that any hearths that might have existed were plowed away along with the original living floors.

The Leggett Site (44Ha23) is located on the Dan River in Henry County, Virginia. Heavy machinery was used to expose features which were then excavated. Two dates are available from the site: AD 1155 ± 100 and AD 1495 ± 80. It has been suggested by the excavator that the later date is more likely correct (Wayne Clark, personal communication), an opinion with which I agree.

The Buzzard Rock Site (44Rn2), also west of the Blue Ridge (Figure 1), is located on the Roanoke River in Roanoke County, Virginia (Clark, Norrisey and Reed, 1978). This site has produced the earliest radiocarbon dates associated with Dan River ceramics. Charcoal from three storage pits at this site has been dated at AD 1010 ± 75, AD 1030 ± 135, and AD 1110 ± 75. Except for the probably inaccurate date of AD 1195 ± 100 from the Leggett Site, which also has a date of AD 1495 ± 80 (see above), these are the only radiocarbon dates associated with Dan River
ceramics to predate the fourteenth century AD (Clark, Norrisey and Reed, 1978: 4, Figure 9). The Buzzard Rock dates are all the product of one laboratory, and it is tempting to invoke laboratory-introduced error to explain their anomalous position, especially since the Buzzard Rock ceramics are unlike any eleventh century ceramics yet reported from the area, but are quite similar to Dan River ceramics of ca. AD 1500. Furthermore, the site also produced numerous Clarksville and Caraway points, which in North Carolina are markers of the late prehistoric to historic period (Coe, 1964).

The Buzzard Rock Site was excavated to salvage information before the site was destroyed by highway construction (Clark, Norrisey and Reed, 1978). Heavy machinery removed the plowzone so that time and effort could be concentrated on excavations of features. Forty-four features, including a distinct circular house pattern six meters in diameter, were found. In addition, another less distinct circular house and a possible longhouse were also uncovered, and two additional circular houses were posited on the basis of the juxtaposition of fired clay hearths, storage pits, areas of depressed middens, and incomplete posthole patterns. In my opinion, however, the site map shows only the first house and a portion of a palisade line to be convincing. The ceramic collection contains small numbers of Radford, New River, Grayson and Hillsboro Series ceramics as well as the predominating Dan River
Series. Projectile points are overwhelmingly small triangular points.

The final ceramic assemblage analyzed was that from site Skv6, located on the Dan River in Stokes County, North Carolina. This assemblage was included in the analysis in order to provide material which should date to the most recent segment of the Dan River phase. This site has not been systematically excavated but has been heavily looted by relic collectors throughout the years. Local legend has it that the site yields numerous trade items of European manufacture. Unfortunately, the field from which the collection was made is quite large and the scatter of artifacts across it quite extensive; thus it cannot be assured that the ceramics come from the same portion of the field that has yielded historic material; and certainly it would be a mistake to think that all the sherds from the surface are associated with the historic trade items. In fact, my analysis indicates that the bulk of the pottery probably predates the historic period. There is, however, a considerable amount of material which I feel is representative of the historic period.

In total the four sites studied yield 2952 sherds, excluding body sherds less than 1 inch square, and rim sherds less than three-fourths of an inch square.
CHAPTER II:
Typology: Concepts and Methodology

Before presenting the results of a typological analysis of Dan River ceramics, it seems appropriate to present a brief discourse on the nature of typology. In particular, I wish to examine two of the more problematic aspects of typology: first, the question of the extent to which the analyst's types correspond to those of the original artisan; and second, the question of how to recognize the proper boundaries of a type. Following this I will present a short discussion of the type-variety approach to ceramic analysis along with a justification for its use in this study.

General Concepts

There are probably nearly as many definitions of the concept 'type' as there are archeologists making use of the term. As I conceive of it, a type represents a group of objects, none of which are necessarily identical, but which are sufficiently similar so that they can be conceived of as being alike. Central to this definition is the idea that a type comprises a group of objects which exhibit considerable variability, but which seem to be oriented about some common norm. Considerable debate has taken place among archeologists as to the significance of the norm of a type.
One group within the discipline states that the norm of
the type represents the idealized form of an object which
the artisan making the object attempted to replicate in the
real world (Deetz, 1967: 45). If one accepts this view of
the type norm's representing an idealized form, or "mental
template," as Deetz terms it (1967: 45), then it follows
that there is considerable correlation between the types of
the archeologist and the types of the original artisans;
hence the archeologist's types can be said to be "real."
It can be argued that the goal of an archeologist classifying
a body of material should be to discover these "real"
types. An early exposition of this view was given by A.D.
Krieger, who stated that the procedure of classifying into
types began with

...the sorting of specimens into major
groups which look as though they had been
made with the same or similar structural
pattern in mind (Krieger, 1944: 279, empha-
sis in original).

Similar views on the correspondence between the types of
the archeologist and the types of the artisan have been ex-
pressed by a number of archeologists since Krieger (cf.,
Taylor, 1948: 130; Ritchie and MacNeish, 1949: 98;
Spaulding, 1953: 305; Smith, Willey and Gifford, 1960: 332;

There is, however, an equally numerous and equally
vocal group of archeologists who dispute that types are
natural entities which exist in artifact collections,
awaiting discovery. Undoubtedly the most strident of this
group was John Otis Brew, who proclaimed:

...'types' are not 'found.' The student does not 'recognize' a type, he makes it and puts the object in it. Objects do not 'belong' or 'fall into' types, they are placed in types by the student (Brew, 1946: 46, emphasis in the original).

Brew evidently felt that recognizing the mental template lying behind a type was virtually, if not absolutely, impossible (1946: 57). Many archeologists would agree with Brew that the types formulated by archeologists are only dim reflections of the artisans' mental templates, but most seem to agree that at least some of the similarity which the objects in a type evince is due to the artisans' striving to conform to a shared idea of the proper form of the object (cf., Ford, 1954a, 1954b, 1962). This was made explicit in one classic archeological treatise in which it was stated that the norm of a pottery type represented "...the consensus of community opinion as to the correct features for this particular kind of vessel" (Phillips, Ford and Griffin, 1951: 62).

While it can be accepted with reasonable confidence that the norm of a type represents a shared mental template, it is not necessarily true that the variation within the type results solely from the failure of the artisans to perfectly replicate the type. Variation within the type can also result from change through time and across space (Ford, 1954b: 45). If one restricts the scale of analysis to a single complex of artifacts produced at one site during a brief period of time, spatial and temporal variation will
be of minor importance. Types should be relatively homogeneous and fairly accurate reflections of shared community standards. However, if the type collection defined from the first collection is augmented with material from other sites, a more heterogeneous collection should result. As the size of the sample increases, it becomes increasingly difficult to know what variation is due to spatial factors, what is due to temporal change, and what is due to the artisans' failure to correctly replicate the idealized form of the object (Phillips, Ford and Griffin, 1951: 63).

Although types of this sort, containing cultural, spatial and temporal variation, are perhaps less accurate reflections of mental templates than are "discovered" types, they are certainly no less useful. Since they can be created in such a way as to occur at several sites, and since they do evince change through time, they are eminently suitable for the study of cultural history. They have, in fact, been termed "historical types" (Spaulding, 1954: 393), or "historical-index" types (Steward, 1954: 54).

The spatial and temporal variation which makes historical-index types useful tools also makes them difficult entities to define. In particular, it is difficult to decide where along the continuum of variation to draw the dividing line between two types. One can hope that the type will have some natural boundary in space, time or form, but this is not likely to be the case (Ford, 1962: 14, 27; Phillips, Ford and Griffin, 1951: 63). It has been
suggested that types should be defined in such a way that they are just different enough to be recognized consistently and with confidence (Ford, 1962: 15); but the general consensus is that types should be defined in any way, and at any scale of inclusiveness, that suits the purpose of the investigator (Brew, 1946: 65; Hill and Evans, 1972: 253).

One result of this flexibility in defining type boundaries has been the creation of a plethora of types which differ greatly in their degree of inclusiveness: some types have been defined in such a way as to represent a quite limited range of forms restricted to a small geographical area and to a brief period of time; other equally valid types include objects that are quite varied in form and which are widely distributed across space and through time. Since units of either scale will be termed a "type" in a strict typological scheme, difficulties in communication and comparison result.

One solution to these problems has been to devise a hierarchical system of classification which includes units of varying degrees of inclusiveness. Such a system was developed for Southwestern pottery in the late 1950's. The Wheat, Gifford and Wasley scheme had seven categories (1958). The basic unit was the type as it was conceived of in the Southwest: that is, a class of pottery alike in every particular (cf., Colton, 1943). The most inclusive category was the ware, a large grouping of stylistically varied types that are similar technologically and in method
of manufacture, and which has little spatial or temporal significance. A category more limited than that of the ware was the sequence, which consisted of types which show an evolutionary development one from another. Another category was the series, which was a group of types, all within one ware, which occur together within a limited geographical area, but without being placed in time. The variety, the smallest category proposed by Wheat, Gifford and Wasley, was expected to ameliorate the problems which had resulted from the creation of too many types that were only slightly different. The variety, as they defined it, differed from its related type in only minor particulars of style, spatial distribution, or temporal placement. A type did not include its varieties in the Wheat, Gifford and Wasley system, since objects with a type were alike in every particular. A type, plus its related varieties, was given the name type cluster. The final category in the Wheat, Gifford and Wasley system was the ceramic system, which was a group of type clusters related in design style, surface manipulation, and general technology. This category was thought to represent a class of pottery used by a people of a certain archaeological culture, in a certain area, during a certain time period. It differs from a ware in its increased emphasis on spatial and temporal significance (Wheat, Gifford and Wasley, 1958).

Not surprisingly, such an ambitious system of classification provoked considerable discussion and debate.
Phillips announced general support for the system but suggested a significant modification; namely, that a type should include its varieties. This change was accomplished by promoting the category "type" to the level of the Wheat, Gifford and Wasley "type cluster." A variety was defined as a subunit of a type which differed from the type to which it belonged in terms of minor particulars. This modification was widely accepted, and Phillips' version of the Wheat, Gifford and Wasley scheme has since been widely used under the rubric of the "type-variety system" (cf., Sabloff and Smith, 1969; Phillips, 1970; Toth, 1975).

Phillips favored the type-variety system for the advantages it offered as a working tool of analysis. He saw these advantages as threefold: the ability to create classificatory units of several scales of inclusiveness without labeling each a 'type'; the ability to revise classifications with a minimum of confusion by promoting varieties to types, or by demoting types to varieties; and the possibility of easing communication problems between typologists by offering the category of 'variety,' which was useful to the area specialist but need be of no concern to other researchers (Phillips, 1958).

Other researchers have favored the type-variety system for what they considered its behavioral implications. Smith, Willey and Gifford praised the type-variety system for providing a way of recognizing "...ceramic units which approximate those in vogue among the prehistoric populations
under study" (1960: 331). The type, they felt, was the unit which most clearly reflects cultural phenomena, but both types and varieties were, in their opinion, "...realities within the cultural configuration of their origin..." (Smith, Willey and Gifford, 1960: 332). Gifford continued this line of reasoning and argued that types were the product of individuals or small groups within a society (1960: 342), and were representative of ideas that were acceptable, not only to the potter who made the particular object, but also to most others within the society (Gifford, 1960: 342-343). Varieties, on the other hand, were said to represent the potter's individual ideas or, at most, ideas shared with only a few others (Gifford, 1960: 343). As one might expect, numerous archeologists have questioned whether types and varieties can be correlated with social groups with any such exactitude (Hammond, 1972; Phillips, 1970: 23). I share such skepticism.

Other archeologists have seen in the type-variety system a means of combining positive aspects of both attribute analysis and of typology (Sabloff and Smith, 1969). In particular, Sabloff and Smith addressed the criticism that typology is too arbitrary, since different classifiers can type the same body of material in different ways if they select different attributes on which to base their classifications (cf., Wright, 1967). Sabloff and Smith proposed a hierarchical scheme for pottery classification in which each category in the hierarchy was based on
particular attributes (1969). In the system they proposed, a ware would include pottery with similar paste and surface finish; their type would include pottery similar in form and decoration; and the category variety would be based on minor but significant variations within the type, such as decoration, form, design style or temper. In addition, they proposed a category of ceramic group which would include closely related types with consistent form and color and all within the same ware (Sabloff and Smith, 1969).

By so limiting the range of attributes that the sorter could examine at each stage of classification, they expected to remove most of the variation introduced into typology by individual sorters' basing their classifications on diverse attributes. Hence they expected that different classifiers studying the same body of material using their system would create the same types, varieties, wares, and groups (Sabloff and Smith, 1969).

Increased rigor in a classificatory scheme is not necessarily beneficial in all cases, however; Sears criticized the type-variety system as overly rigid and less useful than the flexible general typological approach as used in the Southeastern United States, even before the Sabloff and Smith refinement (1960). Another researcher criticized the Sabloff and Smith system in particular for "pigeon-holing" sherds on the basis of set attributes, and thereby running the risk of placing into separate types closely related sherds which share a number of "non-critical"
attributes (Hammond, 1972).

By now it should be apparent that archeologists do not agree on what comprises an ideal classification system, and I will not presume to offer one. Since classification should be a means to an end rather than an end in itself (Rouse, 1960), it seems doubtful that any ideal classification can be developed for archeology until all archeologists agree to study the same problems. Since this situation is no more likely than it is desirable, the search for an ideal classification system seems best abandoned. Rather, each archeologist should choose the method of classification which best suits his purpose, and be content to let other archeologists choose the methods they deem most appropriate for their purposes.

Adaptation of the Type-Variety Method

The purpose of the study I have undertaken is to discern meaningful patterns of variation within the established Dan River types, in hopes of increasing the usefulness of the types as tools for the study of historical and cultural relationships. At the same time I wish the classification to indicate the high degree of similarity between Dan River pottery and other Late Woodland Period ceramics of the Virginia-North Carolina region. I have selected a version of the type-variety system as the means to achieve this end, as it has been demonstrated to be an efficient and effective way of establishing spatiotemporal frameworks, delineating patterns of cultural interaction, and
facilitating interanalyst communication (Ball, 1979: 830). Additionally, it has been said to be the method which permits expansion and refinement of classification with the least amount of disruptions to pre-existing classifications (Phillips, 1970: 26). Like Brockington, I make no claims as to the universal applicability of the type-variety method, but rather state only that I consider it appropriate for this study (1974: 35).

For an analysis of Dan River ceramics, none of the established versions of the type-variety system seemed ideal. The version used in the Southeastern United States by Phillips (1970) and others (cf., Toth, 1975) was deemed insufficient since it used but two taxonomic categories: variety and type. I, however, wished to employ a dendritic classification in which higher level categories are utilized in order to indicate the similarities which exist among ceramics classified into the more specific lower level categories.

The version of the type-variety method which I have employed is most similar to that discussed by Sabloff and Smith (1969) and utilized by Smith (1971) and Brockington (1974). Like the Sabloff and Smith (1969) version, the type-variety method which I have used employs the three hierarchical categories of ware, type and variety. Not surprisingly, a method devised for use in Mesoamerica could be employed in the Middle Atlantic United States only after modification. In particular, the attributes used to define each of the categories have been altered since the Dan
River ceramics have fewer attributes with spatial and temporal significance than do typical ceramics in Mesoamerica. Also, the category of "group" used by Sabloff and Smith has been replaced by the category "variety group." It is a measure of the utility of the method, however, that the modifications are minor and essentially of detail.

The ware is the most inclusive of the hierarchical categories and represents a class of ceramics which have a general similarity in regard to method of manufacture, paste, temper, and vessel forms and which have a continuous, but often broad, distribution in space and through time. A ware represents "the state of the art" in ceramic manufacture for a particular region for a particular period of time.

A type is a class of ceramics all of one ware and which share the same surface treatment. This definition allows the maintenance of continuity with previous definitions of Dan River types and also allows the use of a "rule of sortability" specifying that types should be recognizable on the basis of sherds of average size (cf., Phillips, 1970: 26). The spatial and temporal distribution of a type may be as broad as the ware of which it is a component or be somewhat more restricted.

A variety is a class of ceramics all of one type but which evince minor but significant variation from the norm of the type. Any attribute which varies from the type norm can be used as the basis of a variety definition
provided the variety so created has utility for the study of some problem of interest. However, variation in attributes so conspicuous as to allow recognition from an average body sherd generally merits the creation of a new type (cf., Phillips, 1970: 26). To be useful tools for cultural historical research, varieties should represent specific temporal or areal variation in the norm of the type; hence it follows that the temporal or spatial distribution of a variety should be less than that of the type to which it belongs.

A variety group differs from the above three categories in that it is not a branch of the dendritic hierarchy; rather, it is an integrative unit which crosscuts types and varieties. The variety group is a group of varieties of different types which differ only in regard to surface treatment, which consistently occur together in archeological context, and which can be assumed to be the product of a cultural group at a particular period of time.

It should be apparent that if the word "types" is substituted for "varieties of different types," then the above definition fits the concept of "series" as it has been used in the Southeastern United States (Sears and Griffin, 1950a). The concept of series is a useful one in my opinion, and I have chosen to retain it even at the expense of creating such a cumbersome term as "variety group." The label "series" was not used for the category as it is already well established as referring to a group of types -- to attempt to change its meaning now
would create nothing but confusion.

It should perhaps also be pointed out that the category I use to refer to a group of types -- ware -- does not fit the definition of series, since ware has no restriction that the component types be coeval. One advantage of using surface treatment as a criterion for type definitions is that types can then be easily seriated, since the popularity of the various treatments changes through time. It is at least theoretically possible, however, that the popularity of a certain surface treatment might have declined to such a point that the type ceased to be made before a certain other type of the same ware was first manufactured. Hence, the contemporaneity of types within a ware cannot be assumed.
CHAPTER III:
Analysis: Procedures and Results

Analytic Procedures

The procedure followed in classifying the ceramic collections conformed generally to those suggested by Krieger (1944: 279-282). Ideally, the ceramics from all four of the sites studied would have been placed together and the entire assemblage of sherds sorted as one group. Unfortunately, a lack of space precluded this approach; rather, it was necessary to sort the collections from each site separately. It is not felt that this procedure has biased the classification in any significant manner.

A further difficulty was encountered with the Bessemer collection. The original investigator sorted this collection using a vessel approach. Individual sherds thought to belong to the same vessel were bagged together and, with few exceptions, curated without the sherds' being labeled as to vessel number. This precluded consolidating the entire collection into a single pile; instead it was necessary to classify the sherds one bag at a time. A few sherds were kept out as reference sherds to which the sherds being classified could be compared. This procedure, and the fact that the collection was a quite small one, are
felt to have kept the classification sufficiently standardized.

The procedure followed in classifying the collections from Sk\textsuperscript{V6}, Leggett and Buzzard Rock was to place the sherds from each site into a common pile and then proceed to subdivide the pile into strongly contrasting groups. Subdivision of the resulting groups continued until a point was reached where no further subdivision was feasible. At this time the subgroupings were compared one to another to verify that the sorting had been consistent. If it appeared that the distinction between the subgroups was so slight as to preclude successful replication of the sorting, the subgroups were recombined. For example, an attempt was made to divide the sand tempered sherds from the Buzzard Rock site into two subdivisions based on the amount of temper present in the paste. The range of variation within each group so created was greater than the difference between the two groups. Since many sherds could be placed into either group, it was decided to combine them into a single pile.

After insuring that the subgroups could be consistently sorted, their spatial distributions were examined, and an attempt was made to determine if they co-occurred meaningfully with other attributes. It was at this stage that most subgroups were recombined, as they appeared to represent merely minor variants of some larger group. An example can be taken from the Dan River net impressed type. Throughout the sorting these sherds were subdivided into
groups with knotted nets, looped nets, or undeterminable nets. It was thought that this division would have temporal significance, with knotted nets occurring more frequently during later times; but this could not be documented, due in part, no doubt, to the small number of sites and the larger percentage of undeterminable net sherds. Since no temporal or spatial trends or any co-variation with other attributes could be demonstrated, these three groups were lumped into a common "net impressed" category.

Although most subdivisions did not produce groups that could be formulated as types or varieties, the divisions did produce considerable information concerning individual attributes which crosscut the types and varieties. Attributes of rim sherds were given particular attention. For each rim sherd, an index card was made out on which the attributes of temper, surface treatment, rim form, lip form, lip decoration, neck decoration, and interior treatment were recorded along with the provenience of the sherd. In addition, the sherd, the rim profile and the lip treatment were sketched on the front of the card, and a tracing of the interior circumference of the rim was made on the back. A card was made for each decorated body sherd as well, on which were recorded the sherd's provenience, temper, surface treatment, interior treatment and type and location of decoration along with a sketch of the sherd. While construction of the cards was a tedious process, they proved a more convenient subject of comparison than the sherds
themselves.

**General Description of Dan River Ware**

In order that the type and variety definitions might be kept succinct and free of obfuscating detail, but the range of variation within the ware made known, a general discussion of some key attributes of Dan River Ware will follow.

**Paste and Temper:** It has long been noted that the Dan River Series includes pottery with considerable variety of temper. Lewis (1951) first stated that the characteristic temper of the Dan River types was crushed stone, but in the formal definition of Coe and Lewis (1952) this was changed to read a mixture of river sand and crushed quartz. Holland (1970: 44) attempted to split the Dan River types into two subdivisions based on the size of the temper particles but abandoned the attempt due to difficulties in sorting consistently. Evans (1955: 50) attempted unsuccessfully to make the same subdivision within his Clarksville Net and Fabric Roughened type, a type which includes much material that can easily be classified as Dan River.

Some of the variation in temper seems due to change through time. Coe (1964: 33) conceives of a Uwharrie-Dan River-Caraway ceramic tradition in which the favored temper changes from the crushed quartz of the Uwharrie Series (Coe, 1952), to a mixture of crushed quartz and river sand in the Dan River Series (Coe and Lewis, 1952), to the very fine particles of sand of the Caraway Series.
My analysis indicates that the Dan River types from the Dan River basin can be divided into two variety groups on the basis of temper that mirror this trend in the reduction of temper size.

One group from SkV6 and the Leggett Site has a temper of crushed quartz and sand and fits the original type definitions of Coe and Lewis (1952) (Plate 1, bottom, left). The most distinctive attribute of the variety group, Dan River var. Dan River, is the rough, gritty texture of the sherds, which results from the inclusion of large amounts of sand temper. The size of the sand particles ranges from 0.5 mm to 1.5 mm with the majority about 1.0 mm. The size of the crushed quartz varies from 1.5 mm to 8 mm with the majority around 3 mm in size. Some sherds appear not to have received the crushed quartz temper, but are included in this variety group on the basis of their rough, gritty texture (Plate 1, bottom, right).

Also from SkV6 and the Leggett Site, there are a large number of sherds which correspond to the Dan River type definition except that they lack the inclusions of crushed quartz. The only temper used was river sand which ranges from 0.5 mm to 2 mm in size. The amount of temper is less than that of the var. Dan River group and hence has a relatively smooth texture (Plate 1, middle, left). This variety group I term Dan River var. Stokes.

Although the chronological control in this study is not all that one might wish, it is suggested, based on Coe's
Plate 1. Sherd Cross Sections Showing Representative Tempers

top left: Hillsboro Ware
top right: Unclassified crushed quartz tempered sherd
center left: Dan River Ware: Stokes Variety Group
center right: Dan River Ware: Wythe Variety Group
bottom left: Dan River Ware: Dan River Variety Group
bottom right: Dan River Ware: Dan River Variety Group
conception of a Uwharrie-Dan River-Caraway ceramic tradition, that variety group Dan River predates variety group Stokes; the former being more Uwharrie-like, the latter more Caraway-like.

Another ware similar to Caraway was noted from Sk56 and the Leggett and Buzzard Rock Sites. Like Caraway, this ware has a fine sand temper (Plate 1, top, left), and exterior surfaces that are burnished or stamped. I have classified this material as Hillsboro Ware (cf., Coe, 1952), choosing Hillsboro over Caraway primarily on the basis of a body sherd (Plate 11, b, left) from Buzzard Rock which suggests the peculiar combination of cazuela bowl and flared-rim jar shape that Coe illustrates as from the Hillsboro Focus (1952: fig. 166: R).

There is another Dan River temper variant that is deserving of note. From Sk56 there are 27 sherds which are identical to Dan River Ware in all characteristics, excepting their shell temper. Two shell-tempered sherds were found at Rk51 (Lewis, 1951), and six were found at the Koehler Site (Coleman, 1976). This use of shell as temper probably represents the produce of stimulus diffusion from the Ohio Valley and/or the New River area of western Virginia.

The classification of these sherds points out some of the difficulties inherent in attempting to produce a rigorous, hierarchical typology. In western Virginia, the ceramic classification has been so devised that each
series has its own distinctive temper (Holland, 1970). If such a system as Holland's were to be employed, these sherds would be set off from the grit-tempered Dan River material at the level of series. Similarly, if Phillips' "rule of sortability" (1970: 26) were adhered to rigidly, these shell-tempered sherds would be set off as a separate type, since they differ in an attribute sufficiently distinct to be recognized on an average body sherd. If one accepts that ceramic typologies are strictly arbitrary creations of the analyst, then it does not matter to which taxonomic level (series-type-variety, etc.) these sherds are assigned.

It is my belief, however, that, insofar as possible, a classification should reflect the intrinsic relationships within the material being classified. Other things being equal, the more attributes two objects share, the more exclusive the category they should be placed into, regardless of how visible to the archeologist are the attributes on which they diverge. I think it is more appropriate to classify these shell-tempered sherds at the level of variety. However, since they are but twenty-seven in number and derive from a surface collection, I have not formally defined a shell-tempered variety group of Dan River Ware. If future work provides a larger sample with some definite archeological context, a formal definition might be in order, but to offer one now would be quite premature. In Table 10 these sherds are enumerated as
unclassified shell-tempered ware.

Finally, the paste and temper of the Wythe Variety Group should be noted (Plate 1, center row, right). In those attributes the Wythe Variety Group is not sortable from the Stokes Variety Group material; both have a hard, compact texture without pronounced grittiness, and both are tempered with fine to medium sand. The reasons for proposing Wythe as a separate variety group are given in its formal definition.

Surface Finish: Before discussing the surface treatments characteristic of Dan River Ware it is necessary to discuss what treatments are not characteristic of it. First among these is fabric-impression. The literature in Virginia concerning fabric-impressed ceramics is unclear due to the use of the term as a generic label for impressions made by any sort of textile, as in the phrase "fabric roughened" (cf., Geier and Moldenhauer, 1977). It is better to restrict this term to refer to impressions made by a plain-plaited fabric (cf., Miner, 1936 for an illustration of this weave).

Fabric impression is generally recognized to be among the earliest surface treatments in the Southeast and generally predates the Late Woodland Period (Sears and Griffin, 1952b). While on the coast of North Carolina fabric-impressed pottery was used into the historic period (Loftfield, 1976), this does not seem to have been the case in the mountains or the Piedmont. Keel reports fabric impression as the surface treatment of a small
number of Connestee Series sherds (1976: 254), but the treatment is totally absent from vessels of the Following Pisgah phase, ca. AD 1000 - AD 1500 (Dickens, 1976). In the Piedmont, fabric impressions are common on Badin and Yadkin vessels (Coe, 1964), but absent from Uwharrie vessels (Coe, n.d.). This is significant since Dan River ceramics are considered to have developed from the Uwharrie styles (Coe, 1952; 1964: 33). Most pertinent to a study of Dan River ceramics is the superposition of ceramics observed at site Va^33. Here, Coe found fabric-impressed and cord marked Roanoke Series sherds to be stratigraphically prior to the Clarksville Series, which lacked a fabric-impressed type (Coe, 1964: 100). The Clarksville Series is, I feel, a component of Dan River Ware.

All things considered, it seems most likely that Dan River Ware postdates the manufacture of fabric-impressed vessels. Fabric-impressed sherds are, however, commonly found at Dan River sites. Such sherds were found at Sk^6, Buzzard Rock and Leggett (Plate 14). Generally the paste of fabric-impressed sherds differs markedly from Dan River Ware, and never do they comprise a significant percentage of the ceramic assemblage. It seems most reasonable to consider the fabric-impressed sherds as belonging to an earlier occupation of the sites and which became inadvertently incorporated with Dan River material during the Dan River occupation of the site. In this regard they are like the ubiquitous Archaic Period projectile points which inevitably comprise part of the lithic assemblage of Dan River phase
sites, and no more a part of the Dan River complex.

Other surface treatments not considered part of the Dan River complex are burnishing and paddle stamping. In the classification I propose, these treatments are considered characteristic of Hillsboro Ware. In a sense this separation is somewhat arbitrary, as it is assumed that Hillsboro Ware is at least partially coeval with the Stokes Variety Group of Dan River Ware, and it is not unlikely that both wares were made by the same people. Certainly the two wares are part of the same ceramic tradition; the Hillsboro Ware developing from the Stokes Variety Group of Dan River Ware.

The two wares do diverge in what I consider to be a number of significant attributes. Burnishing and paddle stamping were adopted from the Southeastern culture area, as was the cazuela bowl shape, which was also combined with the flared rim of the Dan River jar to create a vessel of distinctive form (Coe, 1952). By the time of the occupation of the Hillsboro Site, the net-impressed surface treatment so characteristic of Dan River Ware had been entirely abandoned, and decorative elements were changing as well (Coe, 1952: 311). So pervasive a change in ceramic style warrants the creation of a separate ware.

The total number of Hillsboro Ware sherds is quite small, amounting to only 65 burnished and 21 stamped pieces. The burnished type is almost certainly under-represented, especially from the SkV6 surface collection, due to the
sherds' losing their luster through exposure to the elements. I found it largely impossible to sort burnished sherds from smoothed sherds except in those cases where the vessel surface was marked with burnishing facets. The paddle stamped sherds were more easily recognized but are even smaller in number. In size they are also small; no complete paddle patterns could be recognized. Check stamping (Plate 11) occurred on 8 sherds; a concentric circle stamp was used on at least two sherds (Plate 11, c).

Between the demise of fabric impression and the advent of burnishing and paddle stamping, there was in use a number of surface treatments which are characteristic of Dan River Ware. Of these, net-impressed (Plates 2; 6; 8; 9, a) is the most frequently reported. A good deal of variation is noted in the type of net used and in the method by which it is applied. Usually the net is crumpled or wrapped repeatedly around the paddle so that a casual inspection of the impressions it leaves does not reveal individual net elements (Plate 6, a, b). A further difficulty is added when a looped net is used, but so stretched that the loops align themselves into tight rows (Plate 9, a, right). The rows of loops tend to leave deeper impressions in the surface of the vessel and mimic cord marking. One can usually detect the weft strands connecting the rows of loope provided the vessel surface was not smeared during manufacture or eroded after disposal. At the Bessemer Site, this type of surface treatment was the most commonly
used, and smearing and erosion were epidemic; hence a large number of sherds were classified as having an unidentifiable surface treatment. It is thought, but cannot be demonstrated, that the vast majority of these sherds are net-impressed.

As well as could be determined, the looped nets are all of a plain looped construction (cf., Miner, 1936 for a drawing of this weave; Plate 5, a, this volume, shows a clear impression of this sort of net on a corncob-impressed sherd). The net strands vary in diameter from 1 mm to 4 mm with the great majority about 2 mm in size.

The knotted net strands are also about 2 mm in size with perhaps some tendency to run a bit finer than the looped nets, but still the range of variation is large. The diameter of the knots is about 2.5 mm - 3 mm, and the knots are generally spaced from 4 mm to 7 mm apart. Frequently, however, the net is haphazardly applied, making weave recognition quite difficult.

Another surface treatment characteristic of Dan River Ware is cord marking (Plate 3, b, c; 7, c, d; 10, c). This surface treatment spans the Piedmont ceramic traditions from the Badin Series to Dan River Ware (Coe, 1952; 1964). By Dan River phase times cord marking was considerably reduced in popularity and declined even further (Coe and Lewis, 1952). The cords are generally 2 mm to 2.5 mm in diameter, with a range of about 1 mm to 4 mm. The cord twist is predominantly S in the collections I studied, but
Z twists are not unknown. The cords are generally closely wrapped around the paddle with little overlapping and few gaps between the cords. Usually the paddle is neatly applied to the vessel so that the cords run perpendicular to the rim or slightly oblique to it. Rarely, the paddle edge is applied to the vessel leaving impressions suggestive of a plaited fabric or a cord-wrapped dowel (Plate 3, b).

Smoothed surfaces (Plate 4) increased in popularity throughout the Dan River Phase (Coe and Lewis, 1952). As a rule, the quality of the smoothing is rather low, wiping marks are commonly visible and, not infrequently, underlying textile impressions are still faintly visible (Plate 4, a). Bowls seem to be more frequently smoothed than do jars.

Brushing (Plate 3, d-e) is very much a minority treatment, not a major component of any Dan River complex with which I am familiar. The surface treatment consists of the haphazard scraping of the vessel surface with a serrated tool.

Corncob impressions (Plate 5) are also a minority ware. The high percentage of rims and necks in this type suggests the use of a corncob as a tool for forming the rim of the vessel rather than as a deliberate attempt to finish the surface of the vessel. However, some body sherds are included (Plate 9, b, left), so some use of a cob as a tool for treating the surface is implied. Coe and Lewis (1952) consider corncob impressions to have increased in
popularity through time. In this analysis, however, corn-cob impressed sherds were absent from SkV6, presumed to include the latest material in the collection, and at Leggett were more numerous in the Dan River Variety Group than in the supposedly later Stokes Variety Group. It is interesting to speculate, albeit on essentially no evidence, that corncobs were first used as a tool for rim formation and later were adapted as a tool for treating the vessel surface.

**Interior Scraping:** Just as the Uwharrie-Dan River-Caraway ceramic tradition evinces a trend toward the use of a finer temper, it also shows a trend in the reduction of the scraping of the vessel interior with a serrated tool. Dan River Ware is intermediate between the predominantly scraped Uwharrie Series and the seldom scraped Caraway Series (Lewis, 1951). This trend is well demonstrated in the SkV6 surface collection. Here, a ware tempered with sparse amounts of crushed quartz and similar to the Uwharrie Series has interior scraping on 71.3% of its sherds (Plate 15, b, d). The Dan River var. Dan River material is scraped on 54.3% of its sherds, and the Dan River var. Stokes material is scraped on 22.3% of its sherds. Finally, only 2.9% of the Hillsboro Ware material had scraped interiors. From the Leggett Site, the collection does not support this trend: 22.2% of the var. Dan River material is scraped, 26.6% of the var. Stokes material is scraped, and one of the four Hillsboro Ware sherds was scraped. That
the Leggett material does not demonstrate this trend is not particularly surprising, as it is approximately thirty miles downstream from SkV6, and that much farther from the Uwharrie "heartland" on the Yadkin River (Figure 1).

A west to east decrease in the incidence of interior striations is apparent if wares rather than variety groups are compared. Sherds with interior striations make up 42.6% of the Dan River Ware from SkV6, 27.5% of the Dan River Ware from RkV1 (Lewis, 1951: 227), and 24.1% of the Dan River Ware from the Leggett Site.

Geographical distance from the Dan River seems to correlate with a decrease in the incidence of interior striations as one moves northward as well. Again, comparing wares, one finds that interiors scraped with a serrated tool are present on 10.7% of the Dan River Ware from the Koehler Site, located near Martinsville, Virginia on the Smith River, a tributary of the Dan River (Coleman, 1976). Further north, on the Roanoke River, Waselkov found striated interiors on 2.5% of the Dan River Ware sherds from 44Fr2 (1977). Still further north and across the Blue Ridge of Virginia, the Dan River Ware from the Buzzard Rock Site and the Bessemer Site contained no sherds with the bold striations typical of the Dan River basin material, and only a handful of sherds on which the interior smoothing was insufficient to obliterate completely all signs of scarping. No exact count of these sherds was taken, however.

Admittedly, eight sites do not make much of a
distribution map, and chronological control is lacking; but still, the differences between the Dan River drainage material and the Roanoke and James River material is rather marked, and the presence of a stylistic discontinuity between the two areas seems reasonable enough. A larger number of sites would go a long way in clarifying this trend.

Decoration: Dan River decorative motifs are rather limited, and quite widespread across space and persistent through time (Table 1). They are, in fact, one of the most distinctive features of Dan River Ware, particularly the notching of the lip, and the band of finger pinching, or fingernail punctations placed around the neck or shoulder of the vessel (Plate 3a, right). Occasionally, angular punctations produced with some small tool (Plate 5, c) circular punctations made with a hollow bone or stem (Plate 7,a, right) or incised (usually trailed) lines (Plate 7,b, right) were placed along the neck. Coe (1952: 3) states that incisions and punctations increased in popularity from Dan River into Hillsboro times, and the credulous reader may find some support for this in regard to circular punctations and incision in Table 1. Of course, the dubious nature of inferences drawn from four sherds hardly needs mentioning.

As well as notched, Dan River Ware lips were often left plain, were occasionally paddled with the same paddle used to treat the vessel exterior, and were rarely punctated
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|                  |           |                        |                     |                       |                |          |        |
| Hillsboro Ware   |           |                        |                     |                       |                |          |        |
| Bussard Rock     | 2 (100)   |                        |                      |                       |                |          | 2 (100) |
| Sk'6             | 2 (100)   |                        |                      |                       |                |          | 2 (100) |
| **TOTAL**        | 2 (100)   | 2 (100)                 |                      |                       |                |          | 4 (200) |

**Table 1:**
Dan River Ware and Hillsboro Ware Decoration
with a circular punch (Tables 2 to 5).

**Vessel Form: (Tables 2 to 6, Figure 2)**

The clearest picture that can be drawn from a tabulation of vessel forms from the four sites studied is that Dan River Ware is composed primarily of constricted neck jars with flared or vertical rims, and bowls. The transition from the vertical rim Uwharrie vessels to the flaring rim Dan River vessels (Coe and Lewis, 1952) is not mirrored within Dan River Ware from the Dan River Variety Group to the Stokes Variety Group (Table 6). This may be due to sampling error, as only 59 rim sherds are available from the Stokes Variety Group. One sherd with a castellated rim was observed from the Bessemer Site (Plate 9,a,right).

Five Dan River vessels with thickened rims (Plate 6, b) were observed in the sample. Two were from the Buzzard Rock Site (Table 3), two from the Bessemer Site (Table 2), and one from the Leggett Site (Table 4). Thickened rims are a hallmark of the Clarksville Series of the Piedmont of Virginia (Evans, 1955; Coe, 1964: 100), but are also common to the Radford and New River Series of western Virginia (Evans, 1955; Holland, 1970), and the Pisgah Series (Dickens, 1976) and Qualla Series (Egloff, 1967) of western North Carolina. They also occur sparingly at a number of Dan River sites (Lewis, 1951; Holland, 1970: Plate 10d; Waselkov, 1977).

All things considered, rim thickening is probably not a sufficient criterion for the recognition of any type or
Figure 2. Vessel Rim Profiles

Jars:

A. Dan River net impressed var. Stokes
B. Dan River net impressed var. Wythe
C. Dan River net impressed var. Stokes with thickened rim
D. Dan River net impressed var. Dan River
E. Dan River net impressed var. Wythe
F. Hillsboro burnished

Bowls:

G. Dan River smoothed var. Stokes
H. Hillsboro burnished
Figure 2: Vessel Rim Profiles
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<td>Notched</td>
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<td>Punctated</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>43</td>
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Table 5: SkV6: Vessel Form and Lip Decoration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIETY GROUP</th>
<th>Mythe</th>
<th>Dan River</th>
<th>Stokes</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>Hillsboro Ware</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td>Constricted Neck:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rim: Flared</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>53.5</td>
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<td>48.4</td>
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<td>37.1</td>
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<td>Vertical</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40.7</td>
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<td>Incurved</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wide Mouth:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowls:</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>100.1</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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Table 6: Vessel Form
variety of a type. Rather, it is a prime example of a mode; that is, an attribute or cluster of attributes which crosscuts types and varieties, but which displays significance in its own right (Smith, Willey, and Gifford, 1960: 331). The significance of rim thickening is that it evidently indicates an influence from the Midwest (Dickens, 1976: 200; cf., Griffin, 1943), which helps explain its more frequent occurrence in the western areas of North Carolina and Virginia than in the more easterly Piedmont. The Clarksville Series seems anomalous in this regard as it was first noted from the lower Roanoke River area (Coe, 1964: 100). However, this is area occupied by the Tutelo and Saponi after they left their homeland at the base of the Blue Ridge in Virginia some time between 1671 and 1701 (Mooney, 1894: 38). It seems reasonable to infer that they may have brought the idea of a thickened rim with them.

Appendages: One sherd, which appears to be the point of attachment of a strap handle, and one split lug, possibly from a Dan River Ware vessel, were found at the Buzzard Rock Site. Dan River vessels with strap and loop handles are not uncommon finds (cf., Lewis, 1951; Coe and Lewis, 1952; Gravely, 1967; Carter and MacCord, 1968; Benthal, 1969; Coleman, 1976; Waselkov, 1977). Like thickened rims, strap and loop handles are derived from the Midwest (Lewis, 1951: 296, 306; Coe and Lewis, 1952). Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine from the published
site reports or the small sample of appendages from Buzzard Rock the temporal placement of Dan River Ware vessels with appendages.

**Formal Definitions:** There follow brief formal definitions of Dan River Ware and its component types and varieties, and of Hillsboro Ware and two tentative component types. The reader is referred to the original Dan River type definitions of Coe and Lewis (1952).
DAN RIVER WARE

Background: Morphologically, this is essentially the Dan River Series of Coe and Lewis (1952), although expanded to include pottery tempered with sand as well as with a mixture of sand and crushed quartz. Further discussions and descriptions of Dan River pottery can be found in Griffin (1945), Lewis (1951), Coe (1952), Holland (1970), Coleman (1976), and Waselkov (1977). The Clarksville Series of Evans (1955) and the Wythe Series (Holland, 1970) are included under Dan River Ware.

PASTE:

Method of Manufacture: Coiling or annular rings.

Temper: River sand, or a mixture of river sand and crushed quartz. Size of sand particles varies from 0.5 mm to 1.5 mm. Size of crushed quartz ranges from 1.5 mm to 8 mm.

Texture: Paste is compact, not friable. Often gritty.

Hardness: No Mohs scale measurements were taken as hardness is rarely of diagnostic value (Phillips; Ford and Griffin, 1951: 70 n. 8). Sherds are generally hard and compact.

Color: Ranges from buff to black with most sherds some shade of brown. Firing clouds common.

SURFACE FINISH: Exterior: Net Impressed Brushed Cord Marked Smoothed Corncob Impressed

Interior: Scraped with serrated tool or smoothed.
DAN RIVER WARE

DECORATION:

Lip: Usually notched or plain, occasionally shows impression of textilewrapped paddle, or rarely, punctations.

Neck: Usually a horizontal band of finger pinching or fingernail punctations. Less frequently used are trailed lines and circular or angular punctations.

FORM:

Rim: Usually everted in jars, straight or incurved in bowls. Occasionally castellated.

Lip: Flattened or rounded.

Body: Deep globular jars and bowls.

Base: Conoidal to rounded.

Thickness: Vessel walls: 4-13 mm (average 7 to 8 mm).

Appendates: Rare use of lugs and strap or loop handles. More common in the Blue Ridge region of Virginia.

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE: Predominantly in the Dan River Drainage Basin, but in Virginia also found on the Roanoke River, upper James River, New River, and traces in the Holston River and Clinch River drainage (cf., Holland, 1970: Fig. 31).

CHRONOLOGICAL POSITION: Probably ca. AD 1300 to ca. 1725. The beginning date is particularly unclear.
DAN RIVER WARE

Dan River Variety Group

Background: This variety group is equivalent to the Dan River Series (Coe and Lewis, 1952). The types defined by Coe and Lewis now become the established varieties of the type.

Geographical Range: The central Piedmont along the Virginia-Carolina border.

Chronological Position: Marker of the earlier segment of the Dan River Phase, but dates are unclear. I suggest ca. AD 1300 to ca. AD 1550.

Dan River Net Impressed var. Dan River (Plate 2)

Sorting Criteria: Temper is coarse river sand or a mixture of river sand and crushed quartz. Sand particle size ranges from 0.5 mm to 1.5 mm; quartz size ranges from 1.5 mm to 8.0 mm. Sherds without the crushed quartz receive larger amounts of temper.

Texture is gritty but compact, not friable.

Other Paste characteristics, Form, and Decoration as defined for Dan River Ware.

Surface Finish: Malleation with a net-wrapped paddle. Construction of the nets is quite variable. Both knotted and looped nets are used, sometimes neatly applied but quite often haphazardly.

Frequency: Leggett: 222
Skü6: 167
Plate 2. Dan River Net Impressed var. Dan River

A. Leggett Site

B. Sk^v6
DAN RIVER WARE

Dan River Variety Group

Dan River Cord Marked var. Dan River (Plate 3, a-c)

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Form, Decoration, Texture see Dan River Net Impressed var. Dan River.

Surface Finish is by malleation with a cord-wrapped paddle. Cords are 1 mm to 3 mm in diameter with most being about 2.5 mm. Cords are S and Z twist and are generally arranged perpendicular or slightly oblique to the rim with little overlap.

Frequency:

Leggett: 94
Sk6: 43

Dan River Smoothed var. Dan River (Plate 4)

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Form, Decoration, Texture see Dan River Net Impressed var. Dan River.

Surface Finish is smoothed. Quality of the smoothing is variable but never reaches burnishing. Wiping marks are often apparent, and occasionally underlying textile impressions are still faintly visible (Plate 4, a).

Frequency:

Leggett: 13
Sk6: 51

Dan River Brushed var. Dan River (Plate 3, d-e)

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Form, Decoration, Texture see Dan River Net Impressed var. Dan River.

Surface Finish is by scraping with a serrated tool. Usually underlying textile impressions are visible.

Frequency:

Leggett: 5
Sk6: 29
Plate 3. Dan River Ware

A. Dan River cord marked var. Dan River. Sk$^V_6$
B. Dan River cord marked var. Dan River. Sk$^V_6$
   (Note impressions by paddle edge.)
C. Dan River cord marked var. Dan River. Leggett
D. Dan River brushed var. Dan River. Leggett
E. Dan River brushed var. Dan River. Sk$^V_6$
Plate 4. Dan River Smoothed var. Dan River

A. Leggett

B. Sk^6
DAN RIVER WARE

Dan River Variety Group

Dan River Corncob Impressed var. Dan River (Plate 5)

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Form, Decoration, Texture see Dan River Net Impressed var. Dan River.

Surface Finish: The vessel bears the impressions of a corncob, and superficially appears as if it has received numerous fingernail ticks. Usually the impressions are restricted to the rim and neck area of the vessel, suggesting that the corncob may have been used to form the rim of the vessel, rather than as a deliberate means of finishing the surface of the vessel. This is supported by one vessel fragment which clearly shows corncob impressions over net impressions (Plate 5a).

Frequency: Leggett: 10
Plate 5. Dan River Corncob Impressed var. Dan River

A. Leggett
B. Leggett
C. Leggett
**DAN RIVER WARE**

**Stokes Variety Group**

**Background:**
This is a sand tempered variety of Dan River Ware. It includes the Clarksville Series of Evans (1955).

**Geographical Range:**
The central Piedmont along the Virginia-Carolina border.

**Chronological Position:**
Uncertain. Later than Dan River var. Dan River and earlier than, and likely partially coeval with, Hillsboro Ware. Probably ca. AD 1550-AD 1725.

**Dan River Net Impressed var. Stokes (Plate 6, a, b)**

**Sorting Criteria:**
- **Temper** is medium to fine river sand.
- **Texture** is hard, compact and not as gritty as var. Dan River.
- Other Paste characteristics, Form and Decoration as defined for Dan River Ware.
- **Surface Finish:** Malleation with a net-wrapped paddle. Both knotted and looped nets were used. Application was sometimes neat, more often haphazard.

**Frequency:**
- Leggett: 120
- SkV6: 333
Plate 6. Dan River Net Impressed

A. var. Stokes. Leggett

B. var. Stokes. Leggett
   (Note thickened rim.)

C. var. Wythe. Buzzard Rock
DAN RIVER WARE

Stokes Variety Group

Dan River Cord Marked var. Stokes (Plate 7. c. d)

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Form, Decoration, Texture as for Dan River Net Impressed var. Stokes.

Surface Finish: Malleation with a cord-wrapped paddle. Cords are 1 mm to 3 mm in diameter with most being about 2.5 mm. Cords are S and Z twist and are generally arranged perpendicular or slightly oblique to the rim with little overlap.

Frequency: Leggett: 28
Sk\(\text{v}^6\): 9

Dan River Smoothed var. Stokes (Plate 7, a)

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Form, Decoration, Texture as for Dan River Net Impressed var. Stokes.

Surface Finish: Roughly smoothed. Wiping marks are still visible on many sherds and a burnished finish is never attained.

Frequency: Leggett: 5
Sk\(\text{v}^6\): 96

Dan River Brushed var. Stokes

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Form, Decoration, Texture as for Dan River Net Impressed var. Stokes.

Surface Finish: Scraped with a serrated tool. Underlying surface treatments may still be visible.

Frequency: Leggett: 3
Sk\(\text{v}^6\): 2
Plate 7. Dan River Ware: Stokes Variety Group

A. Dan River smoothed var. Stokes. $\text{Sk}^6$
B. Dan River smoothed var. Stokes. Leggett
C. Dan River cord marked var. Stokes. Leggett
D. Dan River cord marked var. Stokes. $\text{Sk}^6$
DAN RIVER WARE

Stokes Variety Group

Dan River Corncob Impressed var. Stokes

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Form, Decoration, Texture as for Dan River Net Impressed var. Stokes.

Surface Finish: Surface bears the impressions of a corncob which appear superficially as fingernail ticks. Impressions on rims and necks may occur incidentally when a cob is used to form the rim. On the other hand, Plate shows a body where the cob seems to have been deliberately used to finish the vessel.

Frequency: Leggett: 3
DAN RIVER WARE

Wythe Variety Group

Background:
This is a sand-tempered Dan River Ware of western Virginia. It includes material formerly classified as Wythe Series (Holland, 1970) and as Clarksville Series (cf., Benthall, 1969). At the present time its principal distinguishing feature is its geographical range, as it cannot be sorted morphologically from the Stokes Variety Group, although it does have a smaller frequency of scraped interiors, and possibly a greater frequency of appendages and thickened rims. It is given a separate status due to its geographical distance from the Dan River basin, and because it may be temporally prior to the Stokes Variety Group. Hopefully further research will determine formal sorting criteria and allow this "catch-all" variety group to be split into temporally significant variety groups.

Geographical Range:
The western portion of Virginia, especially on the upper Roanoke River, upper James River, and the New River.

Chronological Position:
The Buzzard Rock Site has radiocarbon dates of AD 1010 + 135, AD 1030 + 75, and AD 1110 + 75 (Clark, Morrissey and Reed, 1978), all of which I reject as too early. Holland (1970: 81) reports a date of AD 1330 + 120 for charcoal associated with Wythe Series pottery from site Pu9 on the New River. This seems somewhat more reasonable, but the use of the variety group probably continued long after this.
DAN RIVER WARE

Wythe Variety Group

Dan River Net Impressed var. Wythe (Plate 6, c: 8; 9, a)

Sorting Criteria: Temper is fine to medium river sand, ranging from 0.5 mm to 2 mm in diameter. Inclusion of quartz up to 4 mm in size is rarely seen, but this seems to be accidental inclusion. Temper makes up from 5% to 20% of the paste.

Texture is hard, compact and not particularly gritty.

Other Paste characteristics, Form and Decoration as defined for Dan River Ware.

Surface Finish: Malleation with a net-wrapped paddle. Looped nets greatly outnumber knotted nets. Application is generally haphazard.

Frequency: Bessemer: 227
Buzzard Rock: 823

Dan River Cord Marked var. Wythe (Plate 10, c)

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Texture, Form, Decoration as for Dan River Net Impressed var. Wythe.

Surface Finish: Malleation with a cord-wrapped paddle. Paddle is generally neatly applied, but overlapping cords are not uncommon. Cords are either S or Z twist and range from 1 mm to 3 mm in diameter.

Frequency: Bessemer: 16
Buzzard Rock: 18
Plate 8. Dan River Net Impressed var. Wythe Bessemer
Plate 9. Dan River Ware: Wythe Variety Group

A. Dan River net impressed var. Wythe Bessemer

B. Dan River corncob impressed var. Wythe Buzzard Rock
Plate 10. Dan River Ware: Wythe Variety Group

A. Dan River smoothed var. Wythe left. Buzzard Rock right. Bessemer


C. Dan River cord marked var. Wythe left. Buzzard Rock center. Bessemer right. Bessemer
DAN RIVER WARE
Wythe Variety Group

Dan River Smoothed var. Wythe (Plate 10, a, b)

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Texture, Form and Decoration as for Dan River Net Impressed var. Wythe.

Surface Finish: Hand smoothing after malleation of coils. Wiping marks are often evident.

Frequency:
Bessemer: 7
Buzzard Rock: 42

Dan River Brushed var. Wythe

Sorting Criteria: As only one sherd was noted, sorting criteria will not be offered.

Frequency:
Buzzard Rock: 1

Dan River Corncob Impressed var. Wythe (Plate 9, b)

Sorting Criteria: Paste, Texture, Form, and Decoration as defined for Dan River Net Impressed var. Wythe.

Surface Finish: Surface was roughened with a corncob. Impressions resemble fingernail ticking. Cob may have been used to form the rim of the vessels as well as for finishing exterior surfaces.

Frequency:
Buzzard Rock: 15
HILLSBORO WARE (Plate 11)

Background: This ware seems to have developed from Dan River Ware, but shows influences from the Southeastern Culture Area (cf., Coe, 1952). No variety groups are defined as sample size is too small to allow determination of sorting criteria.

PASTE:

Method of Manufacture: Coiling or annular rings.

Temper: Fine river sand rarely exceeding 1 mm in diameter. Some sherds appear untempered.

Texture: Hard, compact paste. Very well made and smooth to the touch.

Hardness: No Mohs scale measurements were taken as hardness is rarely of diagnostic value (Phillips, Ford and Griffin, 1951: 70 n. 8). Sherds are hard and compact, never friable.

Color: A wide range from buff to black with most some shade of brown.

SURFACE FINISH: Exterior: Burnished
Check Stamped
Complicated Stamped

Interior: Smoothed or burnished.

DECORATION:

Lip: In the sample studied all were plain. Coe (1952: 311) mentions notched lips.

Neck: Incised or trailed lines, circular punctations.
HILLSBORO WARE

FORM:
Rim: Usually flared in jars.
Lip: Flattened or rounded.
Body: Cazuela bowls and hemispherical bowls noted. One sherd suggests the combination of cazuela bowl and Dan River Ware jar illustrated by Coe (1952, fig. 166R).
Base: None noted.
Thickness: Burnished sherds are thin: 4 mm to 6 mm. Stamped sherds are thicker: 6 mm to 12 mm. Sample size is small.
Appendages: None noted.

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE:
Widespread across the Piedmont of North Carolina and Virginia and into the Blue Ridge of Virginia.

CHRONOLOGICAL POSITION:
Historic Period, ca AD 1650-AD 1725.

Hillsboro Burnished var. unspecified (Plate 11, a, b)

Sorting Criteria: Surface Finish: Exterior has a hard lustrous finish from rubbing leather-hard clay with a pebble. Burnishing facets are often visible.
Paste, Decoration, Form, Appendages as defined for Hillsboro Ware.

Frequency:
Buzzard Rock: 13
Leggett: 4
SkV6: 48
HILLSBORO WARE

Hillsboro Stamped var. unspecified (Plate 11, c-d)

Sorting Criteria: Surface Finish: Exterior malleated with a carved paddle. Types based on paddle design should be defined when sample size warrants.

Paste, Decoration, Form, Appendages as defined for Hillsboro Ware.

Frequency: SkV6: 21
Plate 11. Hillsboro Ware

A. Hillsboro burnished. Sk^6

B. Hillsboro burnished. Buzzard Rock

C. Hillsboro stamped. Sk^6
(Note concentric circle designs.)

D. Hillsboro stamped. Sk^6
(Note check-stamped designs.)
Plate 11
CHAPTER IV:
Discussion

A discussion of the Dan River chronology cannot be delayed further. The most vexing problem in Dan River archaeology must be faced. Evidence for the dating comes from two sources: radiocarbon determinations, and associations of Dan River material and objects of known date, especially European trade goods.

The terminous date for the Dan River phase occupation along the Virginia-North Carolina border is reasonably well established. Excavations underway by the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at site SkV1a in Stokes County, North Carolina, have revealed a historic period Dan River village thought to be the site of Upper Saura Town and which has produced numerous glass trade beads, the Old World cultigen, watermelon and the peach (Wilson, 1977), and two pairs of scissors dating from 1624-1650 based on comparable items from Jamestown, Virginia (Wilson, 1977 citing Coe, personal communication). An analysis of the pottery from this site has not been undertaken, but a cursory examination of a small number of sherds shows them to be Dan River var. Stokes and Hillsboro Ware.

By 1715, however, the Sara were supposedly located 170 miles from Charlestown, South Carolina (Milling, 1940: 220),
possibly at the site of the Town Creek Indian Mound in Montgomery County, North Carolina (Wilson, 1977). When William Byrd, et al. surveyed the Virginia-North Carolina boundary in 1728 no occupied Indian villages were noted along the Dan River, although abandoned fields attributed to the Saras were seen (Byrd, 1967: 206, 208). In 1733, Byrd surveyed near the confluence of the Irwin River and the Dan River and mapped the location of an abandoned Saras village. According to Byrd, the Saras had abandoned the area around 1703 to join with the Keyauwee (1966: 398).

The dates for the exodus of the Saras given by Byrd cannot be taken too literally, however. While Byrd found no occupied Indian villages along the Dan River, he did find fields of "...a Sweet kind of Grass, Almost knee-high..." Byrd considered this old field to be an abandoned Saras corn field (1967: 208). If Byrd is correct in this assessment, the presence of grass, a marker of an early stage of plant succession, suggests that the area had been abandoned more recently than Byrd supposed.

Excavations of the Saras village mapped by Byrd in 1733 were undertaken by the Research Laboratories of Anthropology in 1938. This site, denoted RK^1, is the type site for Dan River pottery. While the major occupation of the site is now thought to date no later than the sixteenth century (Wilson, 1977), based on the presence of Pee Dee Series sherds and a lack of European trade items, a later occupation of the site is suggested by the presence of thirteen
Catawba Burnished sherds from the plowzone and level 1 (Lewis, 1951: 216, Table 1).

All things considered, the dates given by Byrd (1967) and quoted by Milling (1940) are probably fairly accurate for the abandonment of the Dan River basin by the majority of its aboriginal inhabitants, although some occupation by small groups is suggested by the Catawba sherds at Rk^1 and the grass fields observed by Byrd (1967) near the Saura village. Without quibbling over exact years, it can be stated with reasonable confidence that the terminal date for the Dan River phase in the Dan River basin was ca. AD 1700-1725.

While the associations of Dan River Ware with historic trade material at the Koehler Site (Clark, personal communication) and at Sk^1a firmly place its manufacture in the historic period, and its associations with Pee Dee Series sherds at Rk^1. date it to the period prior to AD 1600, cross-dating with items of known date offers no help beyond this. The strap handles found on Dan River pottery and thought to derive from the Ohio River Valley have a long period of use there. Griffin illustrates strap handles on vessels from each of his four Fort Ancient Foci (Griffin, 1943: Plate 4 - Baum cord marked; Plate 23 - Feurt Incised; Plate 39 - Anderson cord marked and incised; Plate 65 - Madisonville cord marked). This represents a period of use spanning the centuries from AD 950 to AD 1750 (cf., Prufer and Shane, 1970: 257). Strap handles undergo stylistic change during that period of time, and future work may be
able to establish connections between Dan River handles and those from dated Fort Ancient components. This avenue of research looks promising.

A number of radiocarbon dates from Dan River Sites in Virginia have been acquired. From the Koehler Site (44Hr6), which produced trade material, there are dates of AD 1305 ± 70; AD 1340 ± 70; and AD 1405 ± 55. From the Box Plant Site (44Hr23) there is a date of AD 1330 ± 60, and from the Dallas Hylton Site (44Hr20) there is a date of AD 1315 ± 60 (Clark, Norrisey and Reed, 1978: 41). While the dates from Koehler are difficult to reconcile with the trade material there, overall the dates seem to be credible evidence for fourteenth century Dan River occupations in the Dan River basin.

On the New River, Holland (1970: 29) reports a date of AD 1330 ± 120 for a pit containing Wythe Series (viz., Dan River var. Wythe) sherds. Other dates are less clear. The Leggett Site has two dates -- AD 1155 ± 100 and AD 1495 ± 80 -- that do not overlap within the first sigma range (Clark, Norrisey and Reed, 1978). The overlap in the second sigma range is in the period from AD 1335 to AD 1355. Clark (personal communication) reports that a preliminary analysis of the pottery suggested the later date to be more likely correct. I tend to agree with this assessment but think AD 1495 ± 80 may be too late, given the large percentage of cord marked (20.3%) relative to smoothed (3.0%) surfaces on Dan River Ware sherds.
The dates from the Buzzard Rock Site are the most difficult to reconcile. The clustering of the dates is impressive: AD 1010 \pm 135, AD 1030 \pm 75, and AD 1110 \pm 75 (Clark, Norrisey and Reed, 1978: 41). Yet the formal characteristics of the artifacts found there do not support the date. The projectile points found in the excavations are overwhelmingly small triangular points which were classified as Clarksville triangular, Pee Dee triangular, and Caraway triangular (Clark, Norrisey and Reed, 1978: 59). All of these, as well as the Pee Dee pentagonal points also found there, are in North Carolina hallmarks of the late prehistoric to historic periods, ca. AD 1500-AD 1700 (Coe, 1964: 49, 108, 121).

Likewise, the pottery from the Buzzard Rock Site does not resemble any eleventh century assemblage of which I am aware. The Clark Site (44Pkl15) has a date of AD 1015 \pm 55 on the crushed quartz tempered Grayson Ware (Plate 15, a) considered ancestral to Dan River Ware in Virginia (Clark, 1976; Holland, 1970), yet the Buzzard Rock Dan River material does not resemble Grayson to any significant extent. In fact, the small size of the temper is more similar to that of the Stokes variety group material from North Carolina rather than that of variety group Dan River.

The Buzzard Rock Wythe group resembles late Dan River material in its surface finishes as well. On the Dan River Ware of North Carolina the use of cord marking declines throughout the Late Woodland Period as net impression and smoothing increases (Coe and Lewis, 1952). If this trend is applicable to Virginia, a high percentage of Dan River
Ware sherds with cord marked surfaces would be expected, but this is not the case -- cord marking appears on only 1.8% of the Dan River sherds from Buzzard Rock, net impressing on 83.6%, and smoothing on 4.3%.

Although I have no wish to be Procrustean in my attempts to pigeonhole the Buzzard Rock Site into a North Carolina-derived cultural-historical framework, it seems to me that the Buzzard Rock Site can be considered in only two ways: either the inhabitants of the site were very much the avant-garde of the Dan River culture in terms of lithic and ceramic styles, and had achieved a nearly clean break with the styles of their cultural predecessors approximately two centuries before any other Dan River site is known; or, the formal similarities between the Buzzard Rock lithic and ceramic complexes and the late prehistoric Dan River complexes in North Carolina are the result of temporal proximity, and the eleventh century radiocarbon dates are in error. The second alternative seems the more reasonable, especially since the dates are the product of one radiocarbon laboratory and thus subject to the same laboratory-induced error.

While it is traditional to support arguments for the relative datings of sites by the presentation of seriation graphs, the use of seriation does not seem appropriate for a study of this problem. In order for seriation of ceramic types to produce a reliable chronology, all factors, other than change through time, which influence the relative
popularity of the types must be eliminated from the collection being studied (Dunnell, 1970). Two factors other than temporal differences influence the collections with which I have to deal. The first is the fact that the surface collection from Sk^6 likely represents a span of time not comparable to the time spans represented by the excavated collections from the Buzzard Rock, Leggett, and Bessemer Sites. In fact, it is highly likely that the Sk^6 collection represents the product of more than one occupation. Hence, any direct comparison of the percentage composition of the collections by types is misleading (Dunnell, 1970: 311).

Second, it cannot be assured that the people living on the upper Roanoke and James Rivers and those living on the Dan River shared the same cultural values about the proper way to make pottery. There is a very real possibility that certain styles had differential acceptability in the two areas. Coe and Lewis (1952) point out that the groups in Virginia were more isolated from the influence of the Southeastern Culture Area than were the groups on the Dan River, and hence they retained cord-marking and net impressing as dominant surface treatments after the groups on the Dan River had switched to smoothed finishes. Furthermore, the presence of Radford Series and New River Series sherds at Bessemer and Buzzard Rock makes it even more unlikely that they were participating fully in the same ceramic tradition as the groups on the Dan River. Since a seriation of collections
produced by groups with differing ideas about proper ceramic styles cannot be inferred to be a chronology (Dunnell, 1970: 311), seriation can add nothing towards a solution of the Buzzard Rock Site dilemma.

Radford Series and New River Series sherds are common finds on Dan River sites in the western part of Virginia. The Bessemer collection contains 82.1% Dan River Ware, and 17.6% Radford Series sherds. The Buzzard Rock Site has 89.3% Dan River Ware sherds, 5.0% New River sherds and a trace of Radford sherds. The Shannon Site on the New River produced 72.7% Radford Series sherds, 22.5% Clarksville Series (viz., Dan River Ware) sherds and 4.8% New River Series sherds (Benthall, 1969). This mixture of different wares has spurred much speculation about the social organization of the societies responsible for these mixed assemblages.

The conceptual chasm which yawns between artifacts and social organization is a broad one, and I hesitate to leap it. I will, however, offer a few general comments on the matter, more as cautions to others than as serious efforts to reconstruct prehistoric social systems.

It has been suggested that the mixed ceramic assemblages at Dan River sites are the product of societies practicing patrilocal residence (cf., Clark, Norrisey and Reed, 1978: 53). Geier and Moldenhauer (1977: 120) contrast the diverse ceramics with the homogeneous lithics of the Bessemer Site and state:
While this is certainly speculative, it is possible that the diverse ceramic patterns (at the Bessemer Site) reflect social tendencies in which women from different social units would marry into the Bessemer society, while male occupants would remain resident. Patri-local residence may be indicated.

Superficially, the diverse ceramic patterns and the homogeneous lithic assemblage of the Bessemer Site might seem to indicate patrilocal residence. However, a little more reflection on the matter shows the situation to be much more ambiguous. Virolocal residence, if followed strictly, would increase the social distance between men of different villages. If one accepts that projectile points are made by men, one would then expect to see stylistic differences in projectile points from different villages. This is exactly opposite of what one does see, however. The Late Woodland Period is typified throughout the Piedmont of Virginia and North Carolina by small triangular projectile points which are highly similar in form.

The widespread occurrence of a homogeneous lithic assemblage and the co-occurrence of different pottery wares at the same sites does not seem, then, to be the result of the adherence to patrilocal residence rules. This is hardly surprising, as rarely do societies at a non-state level of organization have rigidly prescriptive residence rules (Fried, 1975: 21).

It seems more likely, judging from ethnographic analogs and the widespread distribution of ceramic and projectile point styles, that the prehistoric societies of the Virginia-
North Carolina Piedmont were rather loosely structured, tribal level groups with no rigidly prescribed residence rules. As typical of tribal level societies, there was probably fairly free passage of individuals from one community to another, both as marriage partners and as individuals (cf., Sahlins, 1968; Southall, 1970; Fried, 1975).

This is supported by evidence from the historic period. Lawson's narrative seems to indicate that in historic times there was considerable travel between villages by the Siouan peoples of the Carolina Piedmont. At numerous villages Lawson saw visitors from other communities (1967: 39, 42, 53, 54, 64). Myer (1928) documents an extensive aboriginal trail system criss-crossing the Virginia-North Carolina Piedmont and connecting it with outlying regions. Not surprisingly, given the presence of Fort Ancient-derived strap handles on Dan River Ware and of net impressed sherds in the Midwest (Lewis, 1951), a number of these trails connect the Virginia-Carolina Piedmont and the Ohio River Valley (Myer, 1928).

In general, it seems likely that the aboriginal societies inhabiting the Virginia-Carolina Piedmont were rather loosely bounded units sharing a common culture and language. (Admittedly, this statement is highly inferential: our knowledge of the aboriginal language is restricted to three vocabulary lists and a number of society names (Swanton, 1936), and our knowledge of the aboriginal culture is limited to material remains. On the other hand, even less evidence
exists to support a contrary view.)

If the inference as to the nebulous nature of the aboriginal social boundaries is correct, it has important implications for archeological research. First, attempts to equate prehistoric archeological sites with specific, named groups of the historic period (cf., Benthall, 1969) are doomed to failure, as traits which remained specific to one group throughout a long period of time are unlikely to be found. Furthermore, such attempts at categorizing prehistoric sites produce little of benefit. As Southall has said,

The representation of adjacent, stateless societies as a neatly discrete series of named units is to misunderstand and misrepresent them (1970: 45).

Second, the relatively free unstructured social interactions such as visiting or trading between peoples of separate groups will tend to homogenize their material cultures, making the recognition of archeological correlates of any structured social interactions, such as wife-exchange, difficult to recognize.

Third, the nebulous boundaries of the aboriginal social groups will likely be reflected by the nebulous nature of archeological typologies. Sharply demarcated types are unlikely to be found. The blending and recombination of attributes from different areas into new types is to be expected, especially since loosely bounded groups, having little need to symbolize group solidarity through the use of a common style, are generally tolerant of stylistic innovation (Hodder, 1979).
The type-variety method with its hierarchical categories is well adapted to the study of tribal level societies. Wares can be formulated to correspond with the large-scale tribal society and variety groups can be formulated to correspond with subgroups within the larger group. The close interrelationships among the subgroups are then designated by their sharing a common ware name, an advantage not possible with separate series (cf., Wythe Series vs. Dan River Series, Holland, 1970). Types and varieties can then be used as temporally significant, formally recognizable subunits of wares and variety groups, respectively.

It can be argued that the type-variety method does nothing more than the standard typological method except change the names of the units (cf., Ford, 1962). Granted the type-variety method is conceptually quite similar to the typological method, I do not consider this a handicap, however, as the typological approach has been proven to be a useful tool for archeological research (Sears, 1960; Whallon, 1974). I have, in fact, created my classification in such a way that as to facilitate comparison with standard typologies, and to facilitate the promotion of the lower level categories (varieties and variety groups) to higher level categories (types and series) in the event that such a promotion seems warranted.

At the present time I feel a series status is not warranted for either the Wythe or Stokes Variety Groups. First, they have only a poorly understood temporal
significance; this is particularly true of the Wythe Variety Group, and both seem to blend imperceptibly into the Dan River Variety Group. Given the problems with the sample from which they were defined, their formulation at any level is possibly premature. This points out, however, one great advantage of the type-variety method over the typological method: whereas type definitions are too often considered to be writ in stone, and types once formulated tend to develop a life of their own (Phillips, Ford and Griffin, 1951: 61) -- varieties are always considered subject to revision, and the system is so devised as to allow revision with minimal strain. Thus a classification can be presented to point out gaps in the data, to suggest relationships not clearly visible in pre-existing classifications, or to aid research into some specialized problem without fear of creating typological Frankensteins. Thus the way is cleared to follow the advice of Brew (1946: 65):

As archaeologists we must classify our material in all ways that will produce for us useful information. I repeat, we need more rather than fewer classifications, different classifications, always new classifications, to meet new needs.
APPENDIX

The tables which follow give the results of the analysis of ceramics at the Bessemer Site, Buzzard Rock Site, Leggett Site, and Sk^6. Ceramics are listed by ware, types, and varieties, and their distribution by feature is given where applicable. For descriptions and definitions of the Grayson, New River, and Radford Series ceramics, the reader is referred to Evans (1955) and Holland (1970).

A general description of the unclassified sherds follows.

BESSEMER SITE:

"Unclassified"

One simple stamped sherd with a temper of sand and river gravel. Particle size ranges from 2.5 mm to 4 mm. The thongs used to wrap the paddle were from 3 mm to 4 mm wide and were spaced 3 mm apart.

BUZZARD ROCK SITE:

Unclassified A

One fabric impressed body sherd. Fabric is plain plaited with weft strands about 1 mm in diameter. Warp appears to have been about 3 mm in diameter. Temper is fine sand, 0.5 mm to 1 mm in diameter.
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| Surface    |                  | 5    | 13  | 15       | 34            | 1        |      |    | 2        |                |              |          | 37           |

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| TOTAL       |                  | 16   | 227 | 7        | 67            | 317      | 20  | 8   | 3        | 136           | 68          | 1    | 1            | 386 |

Table 7: Bessemer Site: Distribution of Pottery by Provenience Unit
Plate 12. Radford Series

A. Radford cord marked. Bessemer
   top left: body sherd with fingernail punctations
   top center: two thickened rim sherds with cord impressed decorations

B. Radford smoothed. Bessemer

C. Radford net impressed. Bessemer
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Table 8
Buzzard Rock Site:
Distribution of Pottery by Feature

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Unclassified B
Nine sherds with an unidentifiable surface finish, one cord marked sherd and one net impressed sherd which deviate from the bulk of the Buzzard Rock material in having a paste containing large amounts (approximately 25%) of coarse sand temper, 1 mm to 4 mm in size with the majority 2-3 mm. These sherds could be classified as Dan River var. Dan River on the basis of paste.

Unclassified C
Sherds with no visible temper. Three have orange exterior and interior surfaces and a grey core. One of these is the rim of a bowl. A possible lug of this paste also was noted from Feature 24. One smoothed sherd of pipe clay from Feature 30.

Unclassified D
One sherd with untempered chalky paste. Paste resembles that of some of the New River Series sherds but no shell, or holes left by leached shell are evident.

Unclassified E
Two cord marked, one simple stamped, body sherds. Gritty texture, no visible temper. Resembles Dan River var. Stokes. More petrous, compact paste than var. Wythe.

Unclassified F
One thick (12 mm) body sherd, gritty paste with no visible temper. Unidentifiable surface treatment.

Unclassified G
Shell tempered, simple stamped sherds.

LEGGETT SITE:

Unclassified 1
(Plate 13, c) Four cord marked body sherds. Sherds are 10 mm - 11 mm thick and have a sugary, petrous paste. Cords are 1 mm in diameter and show little overlapping. One sherd has a row of linear punctations.
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<th>DAN RIVER VARIETY GROUP</th>
<th>DAN RIVER WARE:</th>
<th>HILLSBORO WARE</th>
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Table 9: Leggett Site:
Distribution of Pottery by Feature
Plate 13. Unclassified Sherds from the Leggett Site

A. "Unclassified 3." Simple stamped, grit tempered
B. "Unclassified 2." Thin ware
C. "Unclassified 1." Thick, petrous body sherds
D. "Unclassified 4." Sherds with no visible temper
   left: smoothed-over cord marked
   right: cord marked
Plate 14. Unclassified Fabric-Impressed Sherds from the Leggett Site
Unclassified 2  (Plate 13, b) Eight thin sherds (2.5 mm - 4 mm). The thicker specimens may be Dan River, although the paste is of a finer texture. The thinner specimens would seem to be non-functional.

Unclassified 3  (Plate 13, a) One simple stamped body sherd with a fine (0.5 mm - 1.0 mm) sand temper. Thong impressions are greatly smeared but are distinguishable from cord on the basis of their rectangular cross section. Thong width is from 2.0 mm - 3.0 mm.

Unclassified 4  (Plate 13, d) Sherds with a smooth buff-colored paste with no visible temper. Surface treatments are cord marked (2 mm dia.), smoothed over cord marked and unidentifiable. The smoothed sherd has a band of circular punctations.

Unclassified 5  (Plate 14) Ten plain-plaited fabric impressed sherds. Warp is from 3 mm - 5 mm, weft about 2 mm in diam. Paste ranges from sand to a mixture of sand and crushed quartz. The three rims are all from wide mouth jars.

SkV6: "Sparse Quartz Ware"  (Plate 15, b, d) As the name implies, this ware is tempered with small amounts of crushed quartz. Temper makes up 3% or less of the paste. The sherds are hard and compact, not friable. The crushed quartz temper is reminiscent of the Uwharrie Series, but the coarse looped and knotted nets of Uwharrie (Coe, n.d., 1952) are not used to finish the vessels, a finer net being preferred (Plate 15,d). Nets are variable in construction but are not distinguishable from the nets used to finish Dan River Ware vessels from the same site.

This ware may represent a regional or temporal variant of the Uwharrie Series, but this cannot be
### Table 10: Sk^V6 Ceramic Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface Treatment</th>
<th>DAN RIVER WARE: DAN RIVER VARIETY GROUP</th>
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<th>DAN RIVER WARE: STOKES VARIETY GROUP</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cord</td>
<td>Net</td>
<td>Smoothed</td>
<td>Brushed</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>%</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>48.3</td>
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<th>HILLSBORO WARE</th>
<th>&quot;SPARSE QUARTZ WARE&quot;</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Burnished</td>
<td>Check stamped</td>
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<td>Curvilinear stamp</td>
<td>Unident. stamp</td>
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<td>Subtotal</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>11.6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
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<th>UNCLASS. WARES</th>
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<td>Shell tempered</td>
<td>Quartz tempered</td>
<td>Steatite tempered</td>
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<td>Subtotal</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
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TOTAL COLLECTION SIZE = 837
Plate 15. Crushed Quartz tempered Sherds

A. Grayson Series. Buzzard Rock
   
   left: unidentifiable surface treatment
   center: Grayson cord marked
   right: Grayson smoothed

B. Interior of "Sparse Quartz Ware" with bold striations and steatite sheen

C. "Unclassified Crushed Quartz" sherd with unidentifiable surface treatment

D. "Sparse Quartz Ware" with impressions of fine knotted net, and bold trailed line
established at this time.

The interiors of two sherds exhibit a sheen from rubbing with a steatite pebble (Plate 15, b).

**Unclassified Shell Tempered Ware**

Twenty-seven shell tempered sherds identical to Dan River var. Stokes except for the shell temper. Probably the result of stimulus diffusion from Ohio River Valley. A larger sample may allow formulation of a shell tempered variety group.

**Unclassified Crushed Quartz Tempered Ware**

(Plate 15, c) Fifteen sherds tempered with moderate to heavy amounts of crushed quartz. Three rims are all from wide mouth jars.

**Unclassified Steatite Tempered Ware**

Twelve sherds indistinguishable from Dan River Ware except for the use of particles of steatite, 1 mm - 3 mm in size, as temper. The significance of this variation is questionable.
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