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https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita/vol2021/iss1/19
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Introduction and Site Setting

The Patton or Pea Patch site (41HS825) is an ancestral Caddo settlement with several habitation areas and an associated cemetery on an alluvial terrace (255 ft. amsl) of Arms Creek (Figure 1), a northern-flowing tributary to Big Cypress Creek in the Lake O’ the Pines area of the East Texas Pineywoods. It is known that Buddy C. Jones, later to become a professional archaeologist, located and excavated at the site in 1964, including the investigation of a total of eight burials with a number of funerary offerings (Perttula et al. 2014). Since Jones’ work, it is also known that extensive digging of more Caddo burials (believed to be ca. 88 or more burial features) from this Late Caddo

Figure 1. Map of the Patton site based on notes by Buddy Jones, with habitation areas and associated cemetery area.
period (ca. A.D. 1430-1680) Titus phase community cemetery has taken place by a number of individuals (Perttula 2012:Table 13-3).

At least one of the burials at the Patton site definitely dates to Historic Caddo period times (post-A.D. 1680) because a European glass bead was found inside one of the vessels (No. 20) in Burial 3 excavated by Buddy Jones. This is an oval (12.8 x 9.3 x 4.3 mm in length, width, and thickness; 2003.08.1926) blue bead (Perttula et al. 2014:Figure 88). Other collectors have apparently also recovered glass beads from the site from burials (Patti Haskins, July 2013 personal communication).

The burials investigated by Buddy Jones and others at the Patton site occurred in a number of east-west rows. Presumably the bodies of the deceased were laid in the graves in extended supine position with their heads facing west, as this was the predominant form of burial treatment for Big Cypress basin Titus phase Caddo peoples (Perttula 2012:393). Funerary offerings would have included ceramic vessels, “stone tools, as well as perishables such as baskets and wooden implements” (Perttula 2012:393).


Context of the Turquoise Beads

In March 1985, an ancestral Caddo burial was excavated at the apparent southern end of the Patton site cemetery by Donnie Jones. In this burial were 300 turquoise beads that had been placed at the head of the burial, likely all in a necklace. The turquoise beads from the Patton site are blue to gray in color, and are flat and disk-shaped, with a central drilled hole (Figure 2). They are quite small, ranging from 2.5-3 mm in diameter and 0.7-1.0 mm in thickness.

Other funerary offerings in this burial were a Bailey Engraved olla (Figure 3), a Harleton Appliqued jar, a miniature Taylor Engraved bottle (Figure 4), a Simms Engraved carinated bowl, and a bowl holding a green glauconitic clay pigment.

Turquoise artifacts manufactured in the Puebloan Southwest (see Hull et al. 2014; Thibodeau et al. 2015; Hedquist et al. 2017) are among the rarest of artifacts found in ancestral Caddo sites in East Texas. Crook and Perttula (2018) note that only seven Caddo sites in the region are on record as having turquoise artifacts, including beads and pendants, and the Patton site is the eighth such site (Figure 5). Two of the sites date to the Middle Caddo period (ca. A.D. 1250-1440) and the others are Late Caddo period
in age, dating after ca. A.D. 1440 to ca. A.D. 1690. One of these sites is also affiliated with the Titus phase, the Turquoise site (41WD586) in the Sabine River basin (Crook and Perttula 2018:22). The main corridor in which turquoise artifacts moved into East Texas was along the Red River corridor, then by Caddo trails into East Texas (Figure 5).

**Chemical Sourcing of the Turquoise Beads from the Patton Site (41HS825)**

Plans were made in early 2020 to source three of the turquoise beads (Figure 6), but the COVID virus derailed those plans, because the laboratory at the University of Arizona where the sourcing was to be done has been closed since March 2020. It is not known when the Patton site can be done. The sourcing work is to be done by Dr. Alyson M. Thibodeau (Dickinson College, Carlisle,

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Donnie Jones for access to three turquoise beads for the lead isotope sourcing study. Lance Trask and Brian Wootan prepared the figures for the article, in several cases from original photos taken by Donnie Jones.
Figure 5. East Texas counties with sites that have turquoise artifacts.

Figure 6. Three turquoise beads from the Patton site necklace selected for lead isotope sourcing.
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