

Investigating Mid-19th Century Medical Practices in the Western Piedmont Region of North Carolina: The Kron Collection (31ST113)

Background Information

The Kron House Site is located in Morrow Mountain State Park, Stanly County, North Carolina. This historic archaeological site was a part of the Attaway Hill Plantation, which was owned by Dr. Francis Kron in the 1800s. In 1834, Dr. Kron purchased the 234-acre Attaway Hill Plantation and settled there with his family. He went on to establish a very successful business as the first doctor to practice medicine in the southern piedmont of North Carolina.¹ In the 1930s, the land that comprised Dr. Kron's plantation was acquired for the development of Morrow Mountain State Park, which opened to the public in 1939.² The State Park Service initiated the excavation of the Kron Site in 1957 with the purpose of locating the exact position of building foundations for the Park's reconstruction project. Stanley South, a consulting archaeologist, salvaged the artifacts in this collection from back-dirt taken from the excavation of Dr. Kron's cellar.³

Analysis

The Kron Collection contains more than 500 individual artifacts, the majority of which are complete or fragmented glass bottles. These bottles were used to store a wide variety of substances, such as medicine, food, and liquor. Bottle function was determined by assessing characteristics, such as lip shape, internal contents/residues, and manufacturer markings. It was determined that these bottles most commonly contained various forms of medicines, which were likely utilized by Dr. Kron in his medical practice. The artifacts date from 1790 to the mid-20th century. This timeline was determined through the examination of architectural nails as well as bottle color, lip shape, and manufacture method.

Citations

- ¹ Hargrove, Thomas. 1989 "An Archaeological Survey in Morrow Mountain State Park, Stanly County, North Carolina." Raleigh, NC: Archaeological Research Consultants, Inc.
² North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. "Morrow Mountain State Park History." Last modified 2015. <http://www.ncparks.gov/morrow-mountain-state-park/history>
³ South, Stanley. 1957 "Examination of the Material from the Kron Cellar at Morrow Mountain State Park, Stanly County, N.C." State Department of Archives and History.



1815-1845
Free-blown
Contents: Medicine



1845-1865
2-piece mold
Contents: Medicine



1860-1880
2-Piece Mold
Contents: "Ramon's Relief"
Medicine



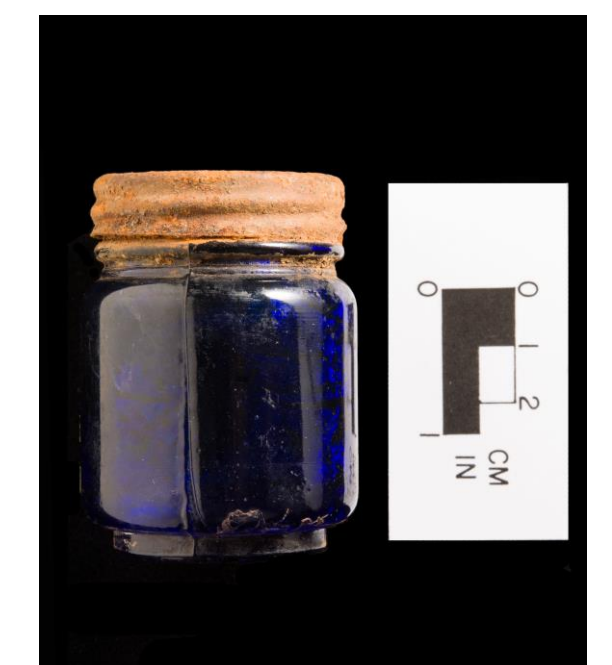
1880-1900
3-piece mold
Contents: Ink, slow pouring
liquids, liquor, or medicine



1895-1913
2-piece mold
Contents: Beer



1919-1920
Machine-made
Contents: Castor Oil



1910-1930
Machine-made
Contents: Vick's VapoRub