

Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

August 2016



This month's artifact comes from the Big Cypress Wetlands Survey. This collection is in the beginning stages of artifact processing- many of the artifacts are still being washed! While artifact washing can seem mundane, it gives us a peek into the collections so we know what to expect when cataloging and accessioning the items. During washing we noticed a silver-plated spoon that was remarkably well-preserved.

After cleaning and inspecting the spoon, we were able to find a maker's mark along the handle which stated, "ONEIDA COMMUNITY RESILANCE PLATE." Through research we determined the spoon was manufactured by the Oneida Community, one of the earliest joint-stock companies in the United States. The pattern was called "Bridal Rose" and was mass-produced in New York in 1911. The spoon was likely ordered as a set during the early 1900s by someone living on the reservation.

