



SCENE OF PREHISTORIC EXPLORATIONS, HARRISON COUNTY, IOWA.



Excavators, Harrison County, Iowa, prehistoric works.

Left to right—Rev. S. H. Cross, Dr. C. S. Kennedy, Frank Pick-
enbaugh, Robert F. Gilder, in charge,
Rev. C. S. Lyles.

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PREHISTORIC VILLAGE SITES OF HARRISON COUNTY, IOWA.

BY ROBERT F. GILDER.

About a mile south of the bustling city of Missouri Valley, Harrison county, Iowa, Prof. Bohumil Shimek of the State University of Iowa, found a large pile of fossil bones near a gravel pit where a number of men were at work. Prof. Shimek was at that time working out certain geological features of Harrison county for Calvin's geological survey of Iowa. The university professor secured the lot of bones and shipped several large cases of the fossils to Iowa City. Among the bones were portions of skeletons of primitive elephants, the sloth, musk ox, a giant horse and several smaller mammals. The find attracted considerable attention to Harrison county and also awakened a local interest which has extended in other directions, so that now there is an organized movement all over the county to secure the records of the past pertaining to its ancient fauna as well as such records of its extinct people as have and will be found and establish them in some public place where they will be available for study. This movement is being urged by some of the most prominent men in the county.

While it was pretty generally known locally that Harrison county was prolific in fossil remains the fact that unknown peoples had made a residence in the county was known to but few. But the truth is the county once probably contained more people than reside there today. It is quite likely that a complete archeological survey would result in establishing that fact beyond question.

I have made three archeological excursions into this county in the past three years. Although each has been brief I have

been able to secure a working knowledge of the archeological remains, a description of which, I believe, will not be devoid of interest.

Archeological remains in Harrison county can be divided into large mounds, smaller burial mounds, village sites and ruins of earth lodges, the latter not unlike in present appearance to numerous ruins on the west side of the Missouri river.

On my initial visit I examined a large mound situated on the south half of S. E. quarter Section 4, Range 79, Jefferson township. The base of the mound was nearly circular in shape and rested on the flood plain of Six-Mile creek. It measured 14 feet in height and 400 feet in diameter. Its surface was strewn with village refuse, chiefly potshards, pieces of flint and jasper, broken union shells and boulders, many of the latter showing the markings of fire and some an attempt to form into cutting or scraping implements. The boulders were recognized as having come from the drift. An excavation into the mound to a depth of three feet revealed flakes of charcoal and the same sort of material scattered over the surface. The pottery was very thick, its binder being chiefly disintegrated granite.

I was informed by Dr. Charles S. Kennedy of Logan, who conveyed me to the mound, that the land was once owned by his father, David W. Kennedy, who purchased the property from the original homesteader, two years after the latter had obtained possession. Dr. Kennedy said that twenty years prior to our visit the mound had been 15 feet higher and that every plowing brought to the surface similar refuse material.

The mound seemed to me to have been partially formed when the flood waters of the creek cut through a neck of land connecting it to a hill 500 feet to the southeast. But the greater portion was surely artificial and it had probably been used many years as a residence site. Although the mound was half surrounded by much higher hills, no evidence was found that they had been used as residence sites. This earthwork has been named the Kennedy Mound.



Orange colored pot with four necks (actual size), collection
of C. W. Lamb, Magnolia, Iowa. From a
photograph by R. F. Gilder.

Among the smaller earthworks may be mentioned six mounds in a row in Calhoun township, two in Magnolia township, two in Raglan township, and three singular earth structures within a half mile of Pisgah each about 30 feet high and 100 feet in diameter at the base. Where a row of mounds appears they are always on a true line north and south.

A slight excavation was made in one of the Raglan township mounds, sufficient only to determine it had been erected for mortuary purposes—human bones being found within two feet of the surface.

Four feet from the surface on the farm of Mrs. A. L. Merchant near Magnolia a finely made copper knife was found which has been examined by the writer. The knife has four cutting edges and is made of native copper ore. One end of the knife seems to have been subjected to the action of fire.

A miniature copper ax was found by Mr. J. E. Swalley near his home. In the head end there appears to have been a small hole drilled, but the bridge has been broken away. It is well made of copper ore.

C. W. Lamb has in his possession a very finely made hematite celt, $3 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches and a half inch thick, which he found in what is called "Pottery Gulch". A description of this canyon is incorporated in this report. So far as known the above are the only metal implements which have been found in Harrison county.

In the fall of 1911, in company with Dr. C. M. Barbeau, an anthropologist attached to the staff of the Canadian Geological Survey, with headquarters in the Canadian National Museum at Ottawa, I made another archeological reconnaissance into Harrison county and discovered ruins of permanent earth dwellings, five excellent examples being located. Two were about 30 feet in their longest diameter and three averaged 45 feet. A small excavation in one of the latter

brought to light flint chips and a few potshards, the latter being a rough, thick ware of reddish exterior with a crushed stone binder.

The fields in which the larger houses are located are in a long valley well-protected on all sides by lofty loess hills which shut off the cold north winds of winter and provide ideal corn ground. Wherever plowed fields appear potshards and flints are thickly strewn. This is the case the full length of the valley—about three miles. Through the valley, which nowhere exceeds a half mile in width, meanders a narrow stream, rising from a drift spring. Along this stream can be found several beds of dark-bluish glacial clay from which the pottery was probably made.

The pottery found on the surface in the valley differs materially from that from the house ruins. The former is a finely-decorated, thin ware with very little binder and indicates a culture much higher than that of the house ruins now found there. Whatever form of house the people of the higher culture used cannot be determined, but it seems probable the valley once contained a village of domiciles of a perishable nature. Such finished stone implements as have been found on the surface are of extra fine workmanship. These three ruins are in Section 15, N. W., N. E. and S. W., Raglan township on property owned by J. W. Maule and G. W. Hardy.

We also visited a deep canyon cut out of the bottom of a wooded valley near Magnolia, where a number of implements and considerable pottery has been found. Locally the canyon is known as "Pottery Gulch". In places its sides are eighty feet deep and nearly perpendicular. The gulch probably had its origin in a cloudburst. A small stream runs through the canyon and in its gravelly bed the implements and pottery are found. The whole canyon seems to be cut from mold that had been washed down from steep hills to the south, and the artifacts were probably washed in at the same time. On the north rim of the canyon a mile from its head are two well-defined shallow earth lodge ruins

about 30 feet in diameter. I located them in a search for the source of the artifacts found in the canyon. It is quite possible there are others in the neighborhood as their location is ideal for permanent homes. At the bottom of the canyon there are outcroppings of Aftonian gravels, and fossil mammal bones have been found there.

My last expedition in Harrison county was made August 1, this year (1912), when a party made up in Logan as guests of Dr. C. S. Kennedy made a trip to Pottery Gulch via automobile. The party comprised Rev. S. X. Cross, of Missouri Valley, Rev. C. S. Lyles, of Logan, Prof. Charles Benson, of Los Angeles, Cal., C. F. Peckenpaugh, of Logan, and Charles W Lamb, of Magnolia, and the day's work consisted of opening one of the lodge ruins found on a previous visit. Photographs of the ruin before operations were begun were made by Rev. Mr. Lyles who acted as official photographer of the expedition, and pictures were taken from time to time as the work progressed. Not a small part of the success of the exploration is due to Mrs. Charles L. Crow, of Logan, who prepared the dinner basket.

The ruin, as near as could be determined because of the irregularity of its outline, was 25 x 30 feet and a foot deep in its center. Wide trenches were at first opened in the southwest and north sides, eight feet from the outer margin. Trees from which roots extended in all directions grew in and about the ruin, and brush and brambles had to be removed before excavation was begun. The southwest trench was 8 feet long by 4 wide; the north trench was about the same size. The entrance to the ruin appeared well-marked at the southwest side. The floor was struck at 3 feet from the surrounding surface. The southwest ditch followed the house wall its full length and, both ditches being joined, it seemed that the original shape of the house had been rectangular. The house roof was thin, less than a foot, while over two feet of soil had accreted above the fallen roof. The floor was plainly marked, being composed of glacial clay which had apparently been tamped while wet and then partially cal-

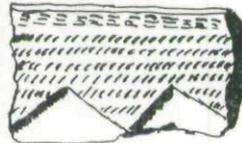
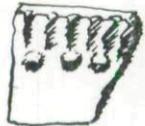
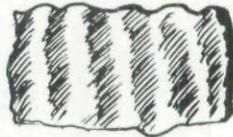
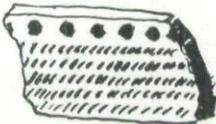
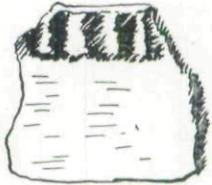
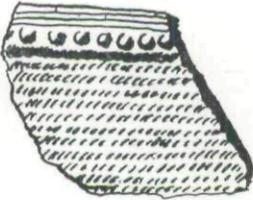
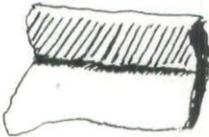
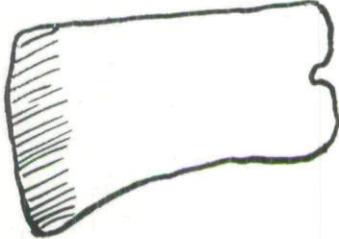
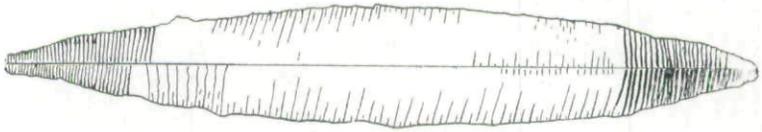
cined or dried by hot coals, as charcoal and partially baked earth were mixed through it. The floor averaged six inches in thickness. Small fires had been kindled in several places outside the central fireplace. The two ditches were carried completely around the ruin and a cross ditch run through toward the central fireplace.

Of artifacts very few were found and no cache proper was encountered, but small deposits of deer bones had been made at two points. A bone gouge or celt, photographed in place, could not be removed as although its whole form was seen it had disintegrated until it was a mere shell. Several large potshards of the coarse, reddish-orange sort and rim shards were secured, together with one flint scraper of conventional design, and many flint chips. A small quartz boulder, similar in material to quartz beads found in Nebraska ruins was also found.

Compared with similar-shaped house ruins on the Nebraska side of the Missouri river the Pottery Gulch ruin is very old. The land surrounding the ruin is almost level, but a slight slope upward to the north is noticeable, and although erosion probably aided in forming the soil accreted on the house roof, the principal accretion seemed to have been the result of decayed vegetal matter, and consequently very slow in forming.

All of the party with the exception of Professor Benson and the writer visited a row of mounds a quarter of a mile northwest of the ruin, on a high ridge. The mounds are in the midst of a thick wood and measured nearly 100 feet in diameter, the largest being 5 feet high. All have been dug into by unscientific explorers but it is not known that anything was secured. The writer has arranged to open at least one of these mounds later this year.

Surface finds in Harrison county have been chiefly made by Mr. Charles W. Lamb, of Magnolia, who has a large collection of one and two-grooved stone axes and celts. In material these are of diorite and greenstone and remind one of the axes found along the Mississippi river bluffs.



PREHISTORIC OBJECTS FROM HARRISON COUNTY, IOWA

Copper knife, four-fifths actual size, from farm of Mrs. A. L. Merchant.

Miniature copper ax, actual size, collection of J. S. Swalley.

Decorated rim shards, surface finds. Collection of Mr. Chas. W. Lamb, Magnolia

Notched and un-notched arrow and spear heads of superior workmanship and design are in the Lamb collection, and of pottery he has besides a large number of rim shards a small pot with four necks on which a conventional bird design and lines have been drawn with light blue pigment, blue dots forming a background. The ware is a rich orange and is unfamiliar to the writer who has not found similar material or design in the Missouri valley. The pot, which is of the size of a small teacup, has no counterpart in any collection I have seen, and it reminds one of the pottery of the pueblo region of the southwest. It was found near Mr. Lamb's home, on the surface, several years ago.

FIGHT IN FLORIDA, MO.

On Tuesday morning, July 22d, at daylight, Lts. Stidger and Hartman, with fifty men of the Third Iowa Cavalry, encountered the guerrilla Porter and his band 300 strong, at Florida, in Monroe county, after fighting near one hour our men were obliged to retire.

Out of Lt. Stidger's squad of twelve men, there were three missing, Henry Groges, supposed killed, R. Dunlap and Wm. Miller.

Wounded and brought in, Joseph Brinnegar, in the arm, David Miller, in the head, Wm. Clark in the hip.

Of Lt. Hartman's squad, missing, Garnet, Fuller, the two Kirkpatrick's, Henderson, Mineely, Lindsey, Carpenter, W. F. Bristow, (formerly a compositor in this office), Long, Fletcher and Creek.

Wounded and brought in, 1st Searg't Baldwin, in the arm; Corp. Jones, Palmer, and Hern, McBurney, the two Orndoffs, severely, and Charles Davis.

Our men fought desperately. Porter was on his way from the north. Major Caldwell started from Paris with all his force after him—result not known.—Fulton, Mo., *Missouri Telegraph*, July 25, 1862.

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