
NEWSLETTER
OF THE
IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 1

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THE SOCIETY'S FIRST NEWSLETTER

Greetings! The Iowa Archeological Society opens what is hoped will be a successful run of publications with the mailing of this Newsletter. Those of you who have shown your interest in furthering constructive archeological work in Iowa by your membership in the society may look forward to receiving regular monthly communications from your editor in the form of a Newsletter. However, if we are to continue to give our members society news and the thoughts of the members on archeological and society matters, you must send such material to us for publication. Be sure to write to your secretary-treasurer at any time when you have news of your activities or interesting information or thoughts about the life of Iowa's prehistoric Indians.

INTRODUCING OUR OFFICERS

We think that this, the first society Newsletter, is a good place and time to introduce the society's present officers, since those of you who have joined the society after the election in May may not be acquainted with them.

Your president is Mr. William J. Kennedy, Superintendent of Effigy Mounds National Monument near Carquette and McGregor, Iowa. Mr. Kennedy, a native of the state of Washington, is an employee of the National Park Service. Before he came to Effigy Mounds National Monument, he was stationed at Grand Canyon National Park as a Ranger. Mr. Kennedy is a graduate of the School of Forestry of the University of Washington. While at the Grand Canyon, Mr. Kennedy (who is called "Joe" by his friends) became familiar with the Indians living thereabout, and has acquired quite a store of knowledge about the Hopi, Navajo and Navasupai Indians living in that section of Arizona. Mr. Kennedy was not unfamiliar with Iowa before moving here. Iowa was the home of his grandfather, who taught at Grinnell College some years ago.

Your vice-president is Dr. W. P. Field of Decorah, Iowa. Dr. Field is a graduate of the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa, and is a practicing Dentist. He has been interested in the archeology of northeast Iowa since 1927, when he began collecting material from archeological sites around New Albin. Dr. Field's original home was a farm near Forest City, Iowa. While he was

living in New Albin, he met Dr. Ellison Orr of Naukon. A strong friendship grew up between the two men which resulted in the preservation and recording of much of northeast Iowa's prehistory.

Your secretary-treasurer, who also edits your publications, is Mr. Wilfred D. Logan, Archeologist at Effigy Mounds National Monument. Although born in Nebraska, Mr. Logan grew up in northern Oklahoma where he was able to observe many groups of Indians at firsthand. Although he was interested in archeology and anthropology as a boy, he did not study them formally until 1948 at the University of Missouri. Here he studied under Mr. Carl H. Chapman, secretary-treasurer of the Missouri Archeological Society. Mr. Logan received his Bachelor's degree in Journalism at the University of Missouri in 1948 and his M. A. in Anthropology from the same institution in 1950. He has completed all of the requirements for the Ph. D. in Anthropology, with the exception of the thesis, at the University of Michigan. During the summer of 1950 he was Assistant Instructor in Anthropology and Assistant Director of the Summer Field Session in Archeology at the University of Missouri. He is a member of the Missouri Archeological Society, the Society for American Archaeology and the American Anthropological Association.

While we are introducing officers of the society we should say a word about Mr. C. E. Chase of Decorah. Mr. Chase is Chairman of the society's Publications and Publicity Committee. He was acting secretary-treasurer of the Iowa Archeological Society until the arrival of Mr. Logan at Effigy Mounds National Monument in June. Mr. Chase is an employee of the Telephone company in Decorah, whose interest in archeology was stimulated by his friendship with the late Dr. Orr. Study of archeology is not Mr. Chase's only hobby. In addition he is a licensed ham radio operator, and he does photography and lapidary work. His interest in the welfare of the newly-launched Iowa Archeological Society has been deeply appreciated, and his work in filling in the secretary-treasureship until Mr. Logan's arrival has been a great aid to the society.

These are your officers at the present time. If you want any more information about them, they will be glad to supply it. Write to them whenever you have a suggestion or a problem concerning the society.

DEATH OF DR. CHARLES R. KEYES OF MOUNT VERNON

The Iowa Archeological Society was sorry to hear of the death of one of Iowa's greatest researchers in archeology. Dr. Charles R. Keyes, State Archeologist and Professor of German at Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa died at his home on July 23.

Dr. Keyes' death represents a great loss to Iowa and to Iowa Archeology in particular. The Iowa Archeological Society, its officers and members, regret the loss of Dr. Keyes and extend their sympathy to his family and relatives.

ARCHEOLOGICAL NEWS

On June 25 Mr. Chase and Dale Henning of Decorah took Mr. Logan on a short trip around northern Allamakee County to familiarize him with some of the archeological sites in that area. They were accompanied by Darrel Henning and William J. Kennedy Jr. Among the sites visited were such famous Oneota and Woodland sites at the New Galena terrace, the O'Regan bench, the New Albin "Y" and the

Little Desert.

On July 11 Mr. Logan made a trip to Missouri where he visited the University of Missouri's Summer Field Session in Archeology. He spent some time excavating at an Archaic or pre-pottery site with Mr. Chapman and members of the Field Session. This site, Graham Cave, is a very interesting one in Central Missouri. The earliest deposits in the cave will probably date from a period around 3000 to 4000 years ago. A report on this site will appear in the memoir series of the Missouri Archeological Society sometime early in 1952.

While enroute to Missouri, Mr. Logan stopped at Mount Vernon to talk over some of the affairs of the Iowa Archeological Society with Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Professor of Sociology at Cornell College. He stopped in Iowa City to talk over similar matters with Dr. David B. Stout, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the State University of Iowa. Dr. Stout has been active in the formation of the Iowa Archeological Society, and has given valuable aid to the present officers. On the return trip from Missouri, Mr. Logan spent some time in Davenport, Iowa with Mr. E. Whittlesey of the Davenport Public Museum.

Mr. Kennedy, Superintendent of Effigy Mounds National Monument wishes to announce to members of the society that a new trail is nearing completion at the National Monument, and may be used to see the mounds north of Monument Headquarters overlooking the Yellow River. In addition, he says that a series of interpretive signs have been placed along the trail to and from the mounds which will describe the mounds and give information about them. Signs marking native trees, shrubs and wild flowers add an additional interest to the trail.

Although Effigy Mounds National Monument does not have a museum as yet, several generous gifts of artifacts and pottery have been made to the Monument. In the Fall of 1950 the late Dr. Orr donated his extensive library to the National Monument. He also donated a part of his collections of archeological material. A more recent acquisition is the gift of several whole pots, ground stone artifacts and arrow points, made by Mrs. Asbjorn Olsen of McGregor in the name of her late husband, Mr. Asbjorn Olsen. These fine gifts, Mr. Kennedy says, will form the nucleus of collections for the museum which the National Park Service plans for this interesting archeological area.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The plans for the Fall Meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society are tentative as yet. However, the meeting will probably be held in Iowa City, according to present plans. Members will be notified through the Newsletter of final date for the meeting, and of what the program will be.

The plans for the first issue of the journal of the Iowa Archeological Society are moving along nicely. The first issue should be out by mid-October. Since we do not have an archeological paper for the first issue, the material contained will be primarily historical, reviewing past work in Iowa archeology.

The Iowa Archeological Society began its first membership drive during July. We received enthusiastic response. The society now has 247.10 in the treasury. This will carry us through the publication of the first issue of the journal and through several months of the year. We would like to express our thanks to all new members for their cordial reception. We are particularly indebted to Mrs. Florence Keyes Mitchell of Mount Vernon, Mrs. Faye Brice MacMartin

of Tama and Mr. Henry Frankel of Des Moines for their generous contributions of Life Memberships to the Society.

The favorable way in which the society was received is exemplified by the letters several of the new members enclosed with their membership forms. We are taking the liberty of quoting several such letters below:

W. D. Frankforter, Sanford Museum, Cherokee, Iowa: "Mr. Stiles thought we would be interested in joining your group and I would like to assure you that we are. I am very happy to find that such an organization has come into existence."

S. L. Cohan, Henry T. Grant Historical Museum, Waterloo, Iowa: "I think this is a movement in the right direction. . . I am happy to be a part of this organization. . . ."

George F. Lindsley, Tripoli, Iowa: "It is to be regretted that Iowa hasn't had an organization like this many years ago. . . . So much of prehistoric interest has been lost through ignorance and carelessness."

We feel that with such interest as these three quotations exemplify the Iowa Archeological Society will be a worthwhile organization in the state. Another new member, Mr. Clinton Lawyer of Curlew, Iowa, has offered to submit his notes on the excavation of a village site in western Iowa for a future issue of the society's quarterly journal. Village site material in this part of the state holds much of interest for the archeologist due to its apparent relationship to archeological materials in the northern Plains.

YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society needs material each month on current archeological events in Iowa. We want to be able to keep our members posted on the activities of other such institutions in other states in the future, but the bulk of the news should be news of our members. Museums may avail themselves of space in our newsletter for the announcements made on coming displays and programs. Members should write of their activities to the secretary-treasurer, or to Mr. C. E. Chase, Decorah, Iowa, Chairman of the Publications and Publicity Committee. If you have any news or thoughts concerning the prehistoric occupants of Iowa, send them to us immediately for publication in next month's Newsletter.

CONTINUING NEED FOR INCREASED MEMBERSHIP

Although the membership drive for the society has met with a lot of enthusiasm, we cannot relax now. The present status of the society is one in which a vigorous action to recruit new members is necessary. We should have at least 60 new members to put our society on a firm basis for the first year. Your secretary-treasurer is enclosing a membership blank with this issue of the Newsletter. If you have not paid up your dues, use the enclosed blank and do so as soon as possible. If you have, pass the blank on to any friend who would be interested in membership in the Iowa Archeological Society, and who would be interested in reading the publications. If you know any fairly large number of people who have an interest in archeology, your secretary-treasurer would appreciate receiving a list of their names and addresses.