
NEWSLETTER
of the
IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 6

McGregor, Iowa

September, 1952

The Newsletter has not appeared for some time. There are several reasons for this. One of the foremost has been a lack of news, and when enough news did accumulate, the Editor found that he was too pressed for time to get one out. As a result, this Newsletter will summarize the Society's doings for several months.

SPRING MEETING

The Iowa Archeological Society held its second Annual Spring Meeting at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee, Iowa, Sunday, May 18, 1952. The meeting was a very interesting one, with a well rounded program that was enjoyed by all. The meeting opened with a business meeting of the society in which officers were elected for the coming year. The officers elected were as follows:

President: Dr. H. P. Field, Decorah, Iowa

Vice-Presidents: W. D. Frankforter, Sanford Museum, Cherokee, Iowa
Lowell S. Miller, Davenport Public Museum,
Davenport, Iowa
S. L. Cohagan, Henry T. Grout Historical Museum,
Waterloo, Iowa
Paul R. Rowe, Glenwood, Iowa
J. J. Kennedy, Effigy Mounds National Monument,
McGregor, Iowa

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. A. I. Mason, 2307 B Ave., N. E., Cedar
Rapids, Iowa

Editor: Wilfred D. Logan, Effigy Mounds National Monument,
McGregor, Iowa

A discussion of the question of articles of Incorporation for the Society, and a reading of a trial set of articles of incorporation resulted in a proposal that the articles be revised and submitted to the members of the Society at a later date. As was decided at the meeting, these will be mimeographed and mailed to you at an early date. When they are, read them carefully, and be sure to

vote as to whether or not you approve of them. The trial set of articles were given to Mr. Don Hankens of Cherokee for revision. Mr. Hankens has made several good suggestions concerning them which will be reflected in changes in the original set of articles.

Following a luncheon at the Hotel Lewis in Cherokee, the members of the society returned to the Sanford Museum, where they heard a paper by Mr. Clinton Lawyer of Curlow, Iowa, on the "Arikara Indians". This was followed by a paper by Dr. Wesley R. Hurt, Jr., Director of the W. H. Over Museum, Vermillion, South Dakota. Dr. Hurt gave an interesting talk, illustrated with color slides on "South Dakota Archeology". After Dr. Hurt's talk, the members of the society were taken on a short field trip to a Mill Creek village site north of Cherokee. Here, Dr. Hurt and Mr. Logan reconstructed briefly the picture of life on a Mill Creek village site. The members of the society picked up surface material, most of which was turned over to Mr. Frankforter for the collections of the Sanford Museum.

This meeting was a very successful one. Those of us who attended owe the Northwest Chapter of the Iowa Archeological Society, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Frankforter, and the Sanford Museum a vote of thanks for their efforts in making this meeting a successful event. Dr. Hurt is to be thanked for joining us at the meeting and for a most interesting presentation of archeological research in South Dakota. Much of what Dr. Hurt had to say bears directly on the archeological picture in Northwest Iowa. His work is of especial interest to members in that region. Mr. Lawyer is to be thanked for his presentation of Arikara history. Mr. Lawyer's enthusiasm is of the type which is needed in our organization.

ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN NORTHEAST IOWA

From the middle of May through September 15 of this year, the National Park Service has carried on a series of archeological excavations in and near Effigy Mounds National Monument. The work was carried out by Mr. Paul L. Beaubien, Archeologist, Region Two Office, National Park Service, Omaha Nebraska, and by Wilfred D. Logan, archeologist, Effigy Mounds National Monument. Mr. Beaubien made extensive excavations in the Sny Magill Mound Group south of McGregor, and in addition, excavated a mound east of headquarters at Effigy Mounds National Monument. Mr. Logan excavated Mound 33 atop the bluff northeast of Monument Headquarters. In the Sny Magill group five mounds were excavated. One of these was a bird effigy mound, while the other four were conical mounds. A few additional tests were made in an attempt to find village sites. The excavations brought to light much interesting information. Pottery from two of the conical mounds indicated a relationship to Hopewell. This pottery was fairly soft and fragile, and grit-tempered. The color was reddish-brown. The vessel shape was probably wide-mouthed with a conoidal base and a slight shoulder. The lip of the pot was rounded. The decoration was carried out in zones beginning at the rim. These decorations had been applied while the clay was still wet with a variety of implements -- single cord impressions, cord-wrapped sticks, and dentate stamping had been employed. In one of the mounds two large leaf-shaped blades were found along with three arrow points and many spherical copper beads. This mound also contained many burials concentrated in a small area. These lay on a layer of red ocher paint. Red ocher paint surrounded the leaf-shaped blades and copper beads as well. One mound turned out to be a garbage heap made by whites in historic times. Egg shells and an old medicine bottle were among the objects in this refuse heap. Another mound contained two burials and three small triangular points.

In Effigy Mounds National Monument itself, two mounds were excavated. In one, two undisturbed burials were found, one of which had a copper breastplate

associated with it. Fragments of coarsely woven cloth were found on the breastplate preserved by the copper salts. The other burial had three tubular copper beads in association with it. The other mound excavated within the monument contained badly preserved parts of seven skeletons in a rectangular pit dug below the original soil surface. In the middle of this pit was another copper breastplate. It, too had fragments of textiles preserved on its surface.

Over a period of several months, members of the Iowa Archeological Society in northeast Iowa have been carrying on a small excavation in Spike Hollow Rock Shelter near Waterville, Iowa under the direction of Mr. Logan. Dr. Field, Mr. C. E. Chase, Dale Henning, George Kjome and John Hodgson, all of Decorah, and Mr. Stan Bechtel of Monona, all have participated in this project at one time or another. The deposits in the shelter were shallow, but produced much interesting information. The only actual superposition of material to be noted was the obvious one of Oneota pottery over Middle and Late Woodland pottery. The Middle and Late Woodland material, however, was all found in the same layer, and showed no vertical separation. A series of contracting and parallel-sided stemmed projectile points, side-notched and corner-notched points were associated with the Middle and Late Woodland pottery. Ultimately, a report on this work will appear in the Journal.

RECENT COMMUNICATIONS

In July, Mr. Maurice O. Leonard sent the editor tracings of a cache of ten large projectile points from Valley Township, Section 21 near Guthrie Center, Iowa. These points, one of which is illustrated below (Fig. 1), are all very similar in shape and size. They are side-notched, and of a size and shape which indicate that they may be associated with the Archaic cultures in Iowa. They show similarity to points found near Potosi, Wisconsin in an Old Copper site. Points like them were found at Starved Rock in Illinois and in Graham Cave in Missouri. Wherever they have been found, they have been associated with relatively early cultures. We might expect to find them on a similar time horizon in Iowa. The point below is actual size:

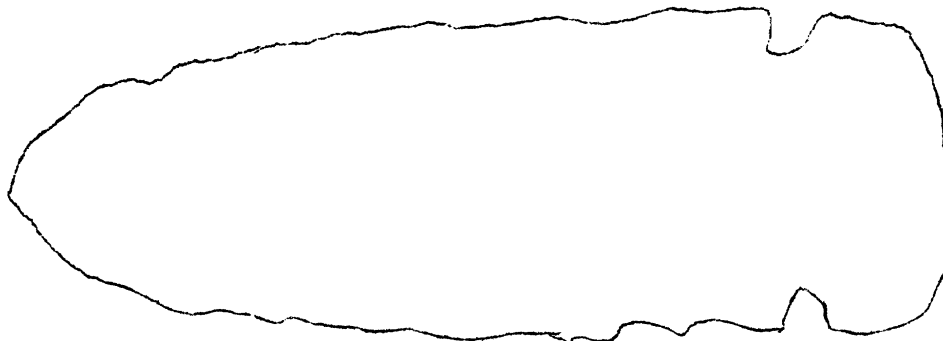


Figure 1

If any members have similar points in their collections, and have good information on them, that is -- where they were found, location of the nearest water, other materials found on the same site, etc., the editor would appreciate receiving such information together with tracings of the points and any other artifacts found on the same site with them.

Mr. Myrtle L. Jones, Custodian of Ledges State Park, has sent a tracing of a similar point which he found in the State Park area. This point is illustrated below (Fig. 2). This point is also of a type which has been found in pre-pottery or Archaic sites elsewhere in the Middle West:

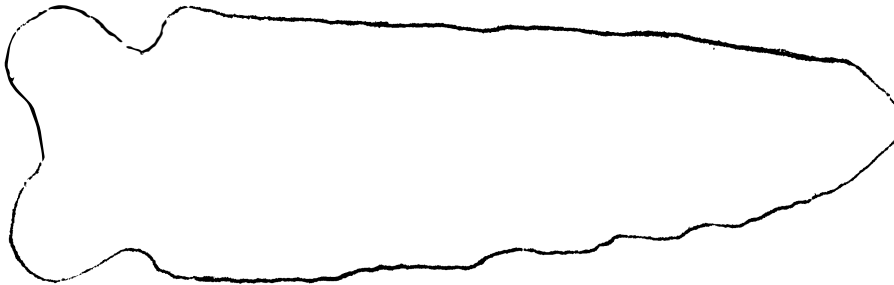


Figure 2

Mr. Paul R. Rowe of Glenwood, one of our Vice-Presidents, and an active member of the society, sends us a drawing of a "Thunderbird", made in shell, which was found on the Green farm near Glenwood during the Missouri River flood this spring. This interesting shell ornament is illustrated below:

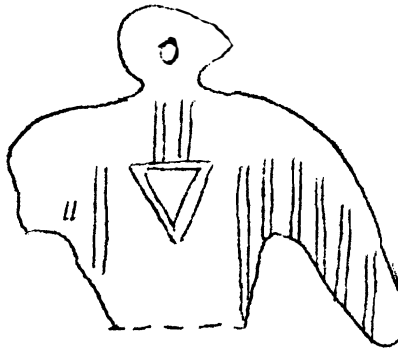


Figure 3

NEW MEMBERS

Since the beginning of the new fiscal year the following new members have been welcomed to the Iowa Archeological Society:

Aboriginal Research Club of Detroit, Royal Oak, Mich., Norman W. Beck, Columbia, Illinois, Chester H. Bragg, South Bend, Ind., Dr. W. L. Brosius, Detroit, Michigan, Ralph Browning, Verona, Missouri, John Burmeister, Preston, Iowa, Earl

Cheesbro, Niota, Ill., Maurice O. Leonard, Guthrie Center, Iowa, Mark B. Ford, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Dale L. Fritcher, Nashua, Iowa, Fred Gluck, Davenport, Iowa, Iowa Masonic Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Clarence Ohlson, Cherokee, Iowa, Peabody Museum Library, Cambridge, Mass., St. Joseph Museum Society, St. Joseph, Missouri, Dr. C. J. Schneberger, Clinton, Iowa, Miss Viola Schwarz, Decorah, Iowa, Mrs. Ann Severson, Decorah, Iowa, Mr. Gale Singleton, Wapello, Iowa, H. O. Waltermeyer, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Earl Williams, West Des Moines, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Wright, Decorah, Iowa.

The society appreciates such active support. Our membership is rising monthly. Not a little of the credit for this is due to our energetic new Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. A. I. Mason, of Cedar Rapids. She is doing a fine job in carrying on the membership drive, but she cannot work single-handedly. Don't fail to give her assistance. If you know someone who you think would be interested in our organization, tell him (or her) about it, and let Mrs. Mason know who to send membership information to. She will be glad to supply membership blanks to you, or to anyone you might wish to have join our organization. Don't forget her address:

Mrs. A. I. Mason
2307 B Avenue, N. E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

EXPLANATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR OPERATION OF THE SOCIETY

Mrs. Mason informs us that there has been some misunderstanding of the renewal of memberships at the end of the month of June. Our society, at the present time, operates on a fiscal yearly basis. Memberships are due on July 1 of any given year, and are in effect until the following July 1. Memberships paid any time within this year from July to July entitle the members to all the publications of the society for that year. In other words, a member who joined the society in January, 1953 would be entitled to all of Volume 2 of the Journal (which began with the July issue), and all of the Newsletters from July, 1952 to July 1953. At some time in the future, it is hoped that we may be able to change our program in order to operate with the calendar year. The fiscal yearly program of operation came about due to the fact that our society got under way in July of 1951. Volume 1 of the Journal had only three numbers in it. This was due to the fact that we had nothing to publish in the July issue. If you have felt that your membership dues should not be paid at the time notices were sent in July, we hope that the above explanation will clear up the difficulty for you.

THE ELLISON ORR FUND

You will recall that in Volume 1, No. 2 of the Journal we mentioned that Dr. H. P. Field had started a fund for extra illustrations in the Journal. He called this the Ellison Orr fund in honor of his friend, the late Ellison Orr of Waukon. Contributions to this fund have been a little slow. To date we have had three contributions: Dr. H. P. Field, Dr. Warren Hayes of Waukon, and Miss Jennie Whittaker of Ames.

Your editor is particularly interested in seeing this fund grow, for the cost of printing is high, and the cost of cuts higher still. Line drawings, such as have illustrated Mr. Rowe's article, are less expensive than half-tone engravings, however, such illustrations are not as effective in illustrating pottery, for example.

Only half-tone engravings from good photographs illustrate such things well. For this reason your editor would especially appreciate any contributions to such a fund, for he would like to see the Journal show constant improvement.

JOINT MEETING OF THE NORTHEAST IOWA CHAPTER
AND THE IOWA SOCIETY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

The Northeast Chapter of the Iowa Archeological Society and the members of the Iowa Society of the Archeological Institute of America will hold a joint meeting at Effigy Mounds National Monument and the McGregor Heights Hotel, Saturday, October 4. This is not a regular meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society, but all society members are cordially invited to attend. A short program and luncheon will be held at the McGregor Heights Hotel. This will be followed by a field trip to Effigy Mounds National Monument. This should be a good outing. Plan to come if you possibly can, for the Fall colors in the McGregor area should be at their height at this time. You will get an opportunity to see some magnificent scenery in addition to visiting an interesting archeological site.

The date of the Annual Fall Meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society is tentative as yet. Your Secretary-Treasurer will notify you of the time. It will be held at the Davenport Public Museum in Davenport, Iowa. The Davenport Museum is fortunate in having extensive and outstanding collections of material from a wide variety of archeological sites. Be sure to keep the Fall Meeting in mind, and plan to attend when final notification takes place.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Members whose address has changed during the past year should notify the secretary-treasurer in order that they will receive the Journal and the News-letter regularly. The editor would also like to remind you that if you have any news, send it on to him. Newsletters will not be so few and far between if more news of society members and their activities is channeled to the editor.

PUBLICATIONS

The editor has been asked to announce that he has a supply of applications for membership in the Society for American Archaeology. This is the organization which puts out American Antiquity. In addition to four issues of American Antiquity each year, a Memoir is sent to members. Membership in the Society for American Archaeology is \$6.00 per year. It is a very worthwhile membership, for the journal, American Antiquity is a very high quality publication containing articles on the latest developments in American Archaeology. Any member of the Iowa Archeological Society who is interested in joining the Society for American Archaeology may obtain an application blank by writing to your editor at Box K, McGregor, Iowa.

By this time all of you should have received an announcement from the University of Chicago Press concerning a pre-publication offer for Archeology of the Eastern United States, edited by Dr. James B. Griffin of the University of Michigan. Your editor would like to urge those of you who are strongly interested in Eastern U. S. archeology to take advantage of this offer. Such books go out of print rapidly and are quite worthwhile. Your editor has seen several of the articles contained in this volume while they were in manuscript form before they were published, and he feels safe in saying that this is an important work.

The editor has also been asked to announce that the Plains Archeological Conference is open to membership for amateur archeologists. Membership dues are \$2.00 per year, and should be paid to Mr. Franklin Fenenga, Laboratory of Archeology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Plains Conference publishes a Newsletter, and the Proceedings of the annual Plains Archaeological Conferences. Since much of the material reported in these publications has a bearing on Western Iowa, members in that part of the state in particular may be interested in membership in this organization.

Your editor hesitates to place himself in the position of plugging his own publication, but the Missouri Archaeological Society has recently published Memoir No. 2, which is entitled: "Graham Cave, an Archaic Site in Montgomery County, Missouri", by Wilfred D. Logan, with an Appendix: "Recent Excavations in Graham Cave", by Carl H. Chapman, University of Missouri. Since the cost of publication of this report was quite high, the Missouri Archaeological Society is desirous of selling individual copies of the Memoir to non-members. The price per copy of this paper is \$1.00. Copies may be obtained by writing to Carl H. Chapman, Secretary, Missouri Archaeological Society, Room 15, Switzler Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

That is all for this time -- remember the meetings, and don't forget to give your secretary-treasurer full cooperation in the membership drive. She's doing a wonderful job for us, but she can't do it alone.