



Number 10

April 1953

SPRING MEETING IN AMES APRIL 26

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR SPRING MEETING IN AMES WHERE ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE OUR GROUP HAVE BEEN MADE BY PROFESSORS R. W. PRECKENRIDGE AND CHARLES S. GYNNNE OF IOWA STATE COLLEGE. RESERVATIONS MUST BE SENT TO THE FORMER, AT THE ADDRESS BELOW, AS SOON AS IS POSSIBLE. WE ARE TO MEET IN THE MEMORIAL BUILDING ON THE CAMPUS, AND WILL EAT TOGETHER IN THE PINE ROOM, DIRECTLY OFF THE COMMONS, WHICH IS THE CAFETERIA DINING ROOM. THOSE ATTENDING WILL GO THROUGH THE LINE, AND THEN TAKE THEIR TRAYS TO THE PINE ROOM WHICH HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR US. LET'S SHOW OUR THANKS TO OUR AMES FRIENDS BY TURNING OUT IN NUMBERS, FOR A WONDERFULLY WORTHWHILE MEETING AT WHICH A FINE PROGRAM IS PLANNED. MAKE UP A PARTY FROM YOUR TOWN AND MEET US THERE AT NOON, SUNDAY, THE 26th OF APRIL! THE ADDRESS TO MAIL RESERVATIONS IS:

Professor R. W. Breckenridge
2236 Storm Street
Ames, Iowa

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Hats off to the Northwest Chapter! Under the able leadership of Chairman Chuck Smith and W. D. Frankforter, Director of the Sanford Museum in Cherokee, the Northwest Chapter of our Society has undertaken a thorough survey of archeological sites in Northwest Iowa. This is a difficult, but extremely praiseworthy undertaking. A coordinated project by the members of a regional group such as this is a significant and worthwhile contribution to science. Their work will be important in the preservation and recording of archeological material for future Iowans, and for researchers to utilize in gaining a fuller understanding of Iowa's prehistoric Indians.

The newsletter sent out by this Chapter in March was most worthwhile, and we extend deserved commendation for an outstanding job.

RESEARCH PROJECT

The editor of this Society's publications is interested in getting information on pottery and artifacts from sites in the following counties: Mitchell, Howard, Floyd, and Chickasaw. If any of you know the locations of sites in these counties, and have collections of material from them, the editor would appreciate your contacting him about them. In the section below on "Archeological Site Surveys", you will find a list of the data that would be helpful. Not all of it is necessary, however. If you have photographs of material from sites in this area, copies of them would be appreciated also. Send any such information to the following address: Mr. Wilfred Logan, Box K, McGregor, Iowa.

Before proceeding to a discussion of Archeological Survey, the editor feels it necessary to make a brief announcement concerning the JOURNAL. The joint issue that was promised sometime ago is now in press, and should be in the mail shortly. Another issue will go to press as soon as this double issue is out, and by our July issue we should be back on our regular publication schedule.

HOW TO CONDUCT AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND REPORT LOCATIONS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

An Archeological Site Survey is the first step in archeological exploration of any locality. It gives the investigator good overall data on the number of sites in an area, and the culture periods represented. It is useful in a number of ways. Two of these, quoted from Heiser's Manual of Archeological Field Methods* are as follows:

".....the prosecution of a site survey affords experience in archeological method and does not result in the destruction of potential information which invariably accompanies any kind of excavation.

"The site survey provides the information the archeologist needs in order to choose a particular site for excavation. By use of these data he can tell which sites have been least disturbed, at which sites the owner is receptive to excavation work, which sites are in greatest danger of destruction, and in many instances the survey will offer clues to the culture represented at the site."

For the purposes of the members of the Iowa Archeological Society, we need not go into details on equipment carried by professionals in making an archeological survey. The average layman or amateur archeologist does not carry such equipment with him when he goes into the field. The following may be found to be of use, however, even on what is merely an afternoon outing:

1. A supply of paper bags.
2. Pencil and notebook or Archeological survey sheets
3. A county map showing township, range and section numbers.
4. A camera and film.

* Heiser, 1949, pp. 1-2.

The paper bags are to contain material picked up from the surface of any site located. Material from one site should be kept separate from that of another by using separate bags. THIS IS IMPORTANT for material from several sites would be almost worthless as information if mixed together. The name of each site should be written on the sack of materials from it. The pencil and notebook or survey sheets are for recording material pertinent to the site while in the field. The County map is useful in getting on-the-spot locations of sites. The camera is used in photographing the site to aid in future identification of the spot. If the landowner or tenant has any material collected on the site, this should be photographed if possible, and filed with the data on the survey sheet.

An attempt should be made to duplicate to a certain extent, information regarding the site's location, the site name and the name of the landowner by placing it on the sack or on a survey sheet. If survey sheets are not available the following information should be recorded in a notebook under the name of the particular site:

1. County---The name of the county should appear with the site name. The county name should also be written on sacks containing collections from the site.
2. Site Name---This will probably take the name of the landowner or former owner. It may also be taken from a local landmark on which the site may be located or near which the site lays.
3. Site Number---Members of our Society need not worry about assignment of numbers unless they wish to keep a separate set of site numbers for convenience in keeping their own records. In sending survey information to the editor for the Society's permanent files, the number will be given to the site when the data is filed in order to keep the record for each county coordinated.
4. Location---This should give the location of the site with relationship to towns, roads, highways or farms. It should give the quarter of the quarter section in which the site is located, and the section number, township number and range number.
5. Present Landowner---An effort should be made to find out the name of the landowner of each site. If the landowner is not the person living on the land, the tenant's name should also be recorded. Addresses should be obtained in either case. If any information may be obtained as to former owners, this would be helpful. One important point to remember in any case is that you should obtain the owner's permission before going on his land to seek sites. Landowners have troubles enough without trespassers. Getting permission beforehand will insure a better attitude toward you and toward the Iowa Archeological Society.
6. Description of Site---A brief description of the site, giving type of site and any pertinent information that you observe should be recorded. Types of sites would be somewhat as follows: Workshops--places that have obviously been used as flint-chipping stations; Villages--sites in river drainages, open fields, hill-tops, etc., where pottery and/or arrow and spear heads, scrapers, and other artifacts are found will probably be habitation sites-- that is, campsites or villages, and should be recorded as such; Rock Shelters--and Caves; Mound Groups. The description of the site should also tell the extent of the site, estimating acreage, if possible.

IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Archeological Survey Record Form

County _____ Site Name _____ Site Number _____

Location _____

_____ $\frac{1}{4}$ of _____ $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section _____; Township _____, Range _____

Present Owner _____ Address _____

Description of Site _____

Cultivation _____ Erosion _____

Previous Excavations _____

Vegetation on or near site _____

Location of Water supply _____

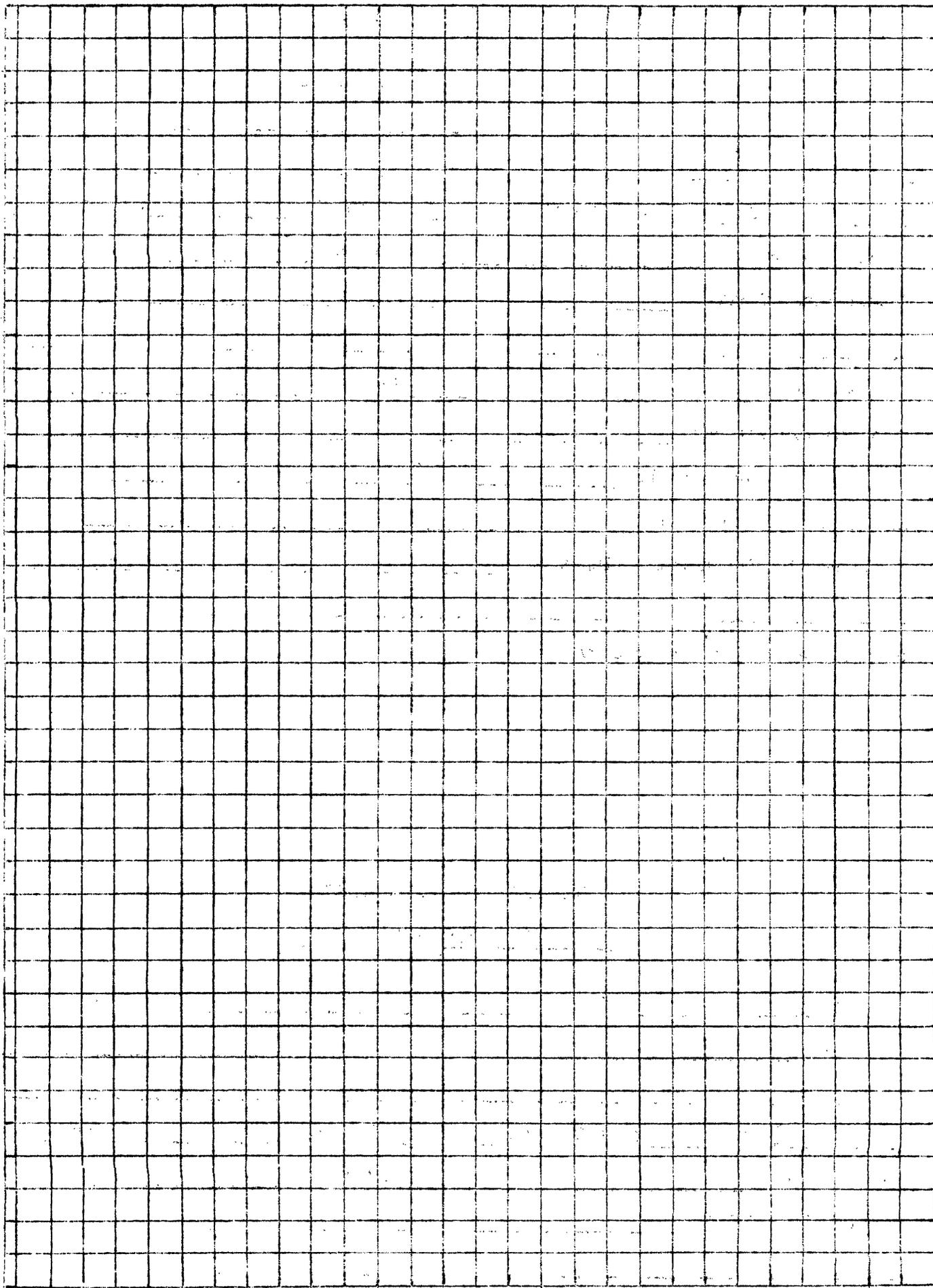
Landmarks to aid in relocating site _____

Surface material found by surveys:

Material reported as belonging to the site:

Remarks:

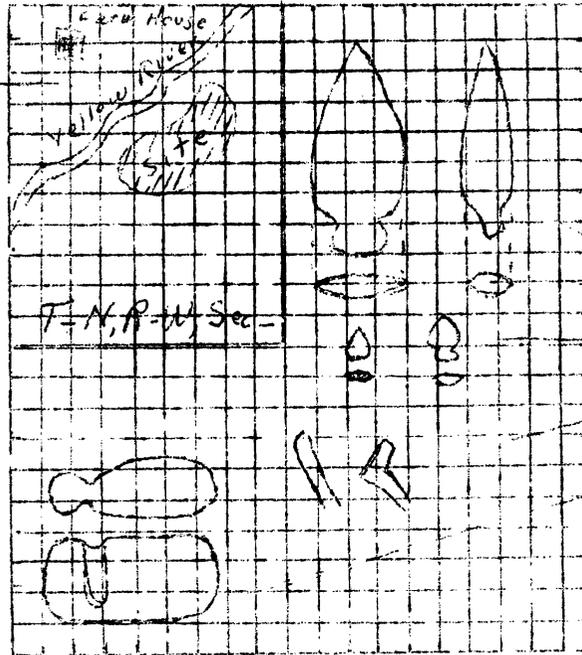
Recorded by _____ Date _____ Photo _____



7. Cultivation and Erosion---If the site has been cultivated over, or if erosion has taken place, an estimate should be made of the amount of damage. In the case of cultivation, a talk with the landowner should be of use, in that he may be able to give you information as to how long the site has been under the plow.
8. Previous Excavations---If previous excavation has taken place, an effort should be made to find out who did the work, the amount of care he exercised, and where any collections from the excavations may be located. An effort should be made to determine the extent of the excavation, and in the case of mere vandalism, how much damage has been done--in other words, how much area remains from which information could be salvaged if more carefully controlled excavation were carried on.
9. Vegetation on or near site---A summary of the type of vegetation on the site should be given. If part of the site is in prairie grass and part of it a farm crop, then it is obvious that the grass portion of the site will be more important than the cropped section, since there will have been less disturbance.
10. Location of Water Supply--- Give the location of the nearest good water supply and the distance from the site if possible.
11. Land marks---Record and describe any landmarks that might help in relocating the site.
12. Surface material found---List the types of artifacts found as to general classes--that is: projectile points (spear and arrow points) scrapers, knives, flakes, pottery, ground stone tools such as grooved axes, (3/4 grooved and full-grooved) celts, arrow-shaft smoothers, hammerstones, anvilstones, mortars and pestles, etc.
13. Material reported as coming from site---List any material from other collection reported as having come from the particular site under investigation. Obtain photographs, if possible.
14. Remarks---Write down any remarks concerning the site that seem pertinent. This may be personal observations as to the probable culture period or it may note certain classes of artifacts significantly missing or represented. Anything, for that matter, that seems to have some importance in relationship to this particular site.

We have made several references to "Archeological Survey Sheets" in the above directions for noting data. Along with this NEWSLETTER we are sending you a sample copy of survey forms designed to be used by members of our Society. You may have as many as you need simply by requesting them from your editor whose address is given elsewhere in this issue. It is advisable to fill out at least two copies of such forms for each site. One copy should be kept with your own collections from the sites as part of your permanent record. The other copy should be mailed to your editor, since his files are the Society's permanent records of archeological sites and materials. If you are a member of one of the regional Chapters, a copy of the survey form should be placed in your Chapter's files. It will be noted that the back of the survey blank is a grid sheet. On this you should record two sets of information--a map of the section the site is in, showing location of the site and the nearest water supply. You may also sketch in any important landmarks. On the remaining space place photographs or outline drawings of artifacts from the site. If necessary, add another sheet of paper to complete the artifact and pottery drawings, making sure that the type of artifact and its size is perfectly clear. Make any notations as to descriptions of the material on the sheet, indicating which artifacts illustrated are being referred to. On the next page is shown a completed survey sheet.....

Scale drawing of section, showing site location and nearest water supply, and farm house.



Artifact drawings and pottery rim cross-sections.

The front of the form will be filled out with the proper information according to the instructions given earlier. In drawing stone artifacts, it is best to lay the arrow-head, or whatever type of artifact it might be, on the squared paper and trace around it with a pencil. This gives an indication of relative size. Cross sections should be indicated. In the case of pottery, photographs are always best, but if they cannot be obtained, describe the sherds as best you can, and draw some indication of the sherd showing decoration, if any. In the case of sherds from the rims of pots, a drawing of the rim in cross-section should be included. Information as to tempering (whether grit-tempered or of mussel-shell, for example) should be noted. In another issue of the NEWSLETTER we hope to take up pottery description in more detail as an aid to reporting such material from our Iowa sites. The same will be done for artifact types.

REPORTING SITES AND MAINTAINING A SURFACE COLLECTION AND FILE OF INFORMATION ON IT

By far the most valuable service members of the Iowa Archeological Society can render, and one of the obligations of each member of the Society is to work for the preservation of archeological sites and information. The one way in which every member can serve, either individually or as part of a Chapter organization, is by maintaining a complete and accurate record on the material he picks up from the sites in his own locality. Report the sites to the editor for the Society's Central File of Archeological Sites for the State of Iowa. Keep your own record, either on duplicate survey sheets, or in the form of a catalogue.

A simple catalogue involving a minimum of effort would take the form of a loose-leaf notebook. Other materials needed to keep an accurate record of your sites, etc., would include a bottle of India ink and a fine-point writing or drawing pen. With these, a number is placed on each artifact and piece of pottery collected. Each piece should have a separate number--or, if you wish, material from each site may be assigned the same number. The numbers may simply begin 1,2,3,4, etc. In the catalogue, the material should be described under the assigned number.

This listing should give the site name and location, the type of artifact and a brief description of the piece or pieces carrying this number. Dimensions of the piece should be included. This gives a record of the material which will be of value in any further investigation of the site. It insures that material from one site will not become mixed with material from another, even if artifacts and pottery from several sites are studied at the same time. This type of catalogue will serve you well for material from surface surveys. Such a record is not difficult to keep as long as it is kept up to date.

GET YOUR RESERVATION IN FOR APRIL 26th AT AMES!

More information will come to you in later issues of the NEWSLETTER, regarding archeological surveys, catalogues, etc. Doubtless, information which would be helpful to you, individually, has been overlooked, so if any member has suggestions as to ways in which you handle such procedures, or if you have questions which have not been resolved in this brief discussion, please write to us about them. Summer is coming up. Many of you will be revisiting favorite sites, and some will no doubt look over new ones. REPORT THEM FOR INCLUSION IN OUR SOCIETY FILES, AND REMEMBER YOUR CATALOGUE. Get one started and keep it up to date. Only by doing this can we discharge our obligation to preserve Archeological information for present-day scientists, and for future Americans who will be interested in the life of our prehistoric Indians. All of us who are interested in Archeology, either as professionals, amateurs or laymen are morally obligated to preserve sites and information for the future. The sites are fast going. Though our own Society is small, we can do a little toward slowing this loss of information by carrying on a State-wide survey, and carefully recording the information we gather.

In line with the remarks in the preceding paragraph, the editor recommends the article by Dr. Carl E. Guthe, "Twenty-five Years of Archeology in the Eastern United States" in the recently-published book, "Archeology of Eastern United States" edited by Dr. James B. Griffin. This article excellently summarizes the present status of archeology east of the Rockies, and deals briefly but thoroughly with the relationship of professional and amateur archeologists, as well as with the need for Societies such as our own. The various chapter groups of our Society might well discuss this article at some future meeting.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Cole, Fay-Cooper, and Thorne Deuel
1937 Rediscovering Illinois, University of Chicago Press
- Guthe, Carl E.
1952 Twenty-five Years of Archeology in the Eastern United States, in Archeology of Eastern United States, James B. Griffin, Editor. University of Chicago Press.
- Heiser, Robert F.
1949 A Manual of Archeological Field Methods, Millbrae, Calif.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"Woodland Sites in Nebraska", Nebraska State Historical Society Publications in Anthropology, Number One, by Marvin F. Kivett.

This is a report of the excavation of several Woodland Culture sites in Nebraska. Of especial interest to members of this Society since the material described and illustrated is related to much of the Iowa Woodland Culture material. 102 pages. Nebraska State Hist. Society, Lincoln, Nebr. \$2.00.