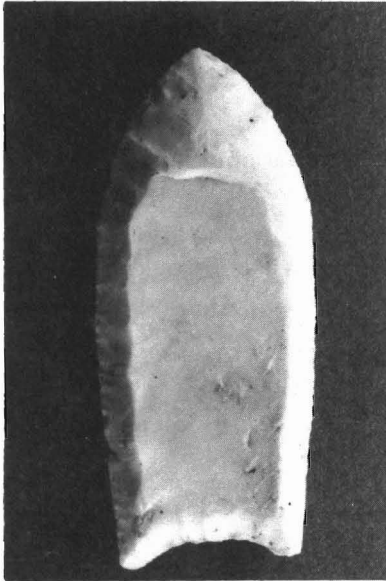


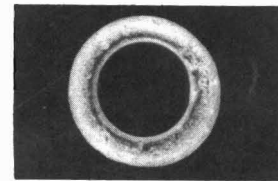
# NEWSLETTER

July 1978

Number 89



All the finds  
shown are  
actual size.

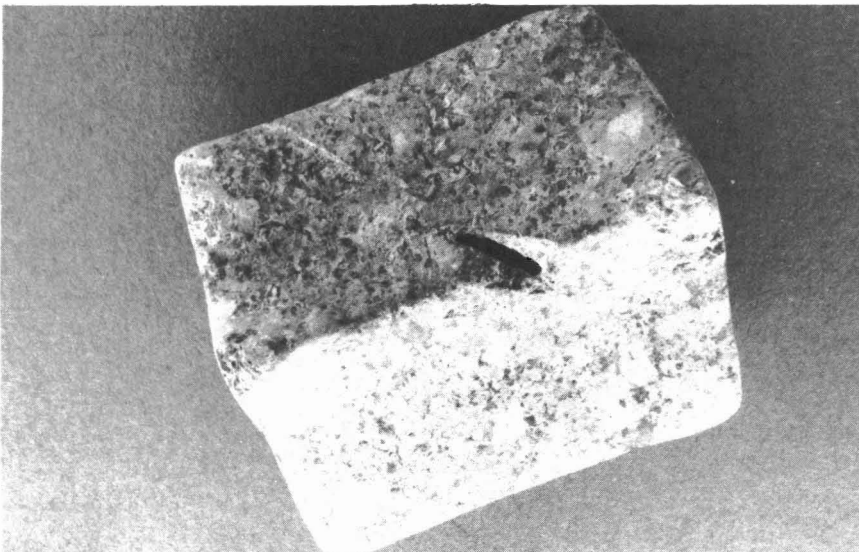


## ARTIFACTS FOUND BY MITCHELL ALLEN, COLUMBUS JUNCTION

PERFECT FOLSOM POINT, (above left) fluted on both sides. The find is of interest, being one of the few true Folsom points in the state. Mitchell found this point as a boy some 50 years ago in Sec. 32 T75N R4W Southeast of Columbus Junction.

STONE "RING" (above right), made of a black fine grained rock. The function of this item is unknown, but no wear can be seen on the inside margins of the hole that would indicate the item was suspended. It is definitely not of natural origins. Any ideas?

WINGED BANNERSTONE, (left), perfect except for a small nick caused by modern cultivation. The item is unusual in that it is "saddle shaped" when viewed from the side. Mitchell made this find in April of 1978. The artifact dates from the Archaic period.



Our thanks to Mitchell Allen for sharing his finds with us.

EVIDENCE OF PREHISTORIC EXPLOITATION OF THE AMES PEAT BOG

A PRELIMINARY APPRAISAL OF

13 SR 153

David N. Ballard, Jr.  
1978

Statement of Purpose

The Ames Peat Bog, designated 13 SR 153 by Gradwohl and Osborn (1972: 115-116) has been known for its faunal, flora and geomorphological factors for over a century. In more recent years, evidence of prehistoric exploitation of the peat deposit and its flora and faunal resources has been found. This paper reviews the deposit's flora and faunal resources, describes and appraises evidence of prehistoric exploitation and appraises the sites potential for future investigation.

Ecological Setting

Location and description: The Ames Peat Bog is located along the course of two tributary valleys on the left margin of the Skunk River Valley, northeast of Ames, Iowa. The valley in which the peat formed is approximately 1/2 mile long. Width of the valley floor varies from 150 feet where it merges with the Skunk River flood plain, to 250 feet below the confluence of the right and left tributary valleys. Near the deposit the valley walls are steeply inclined and vary from 20 to 50 feet in height. Upstream from the deposit, the valleys narrow and disappear as prairie water sheds. The peat deposit covers approximately 20 - 30 acres. The valley floor is flat and featureless with the exception of a terrace remnant at the base of the left tributary valley's wall and several ridges thought to be former beaver dams (Gwynne 1942: 351-357). Two deeply incised stream channels bisect the valley floor exposing 4-8 feet of alternating and varying horizons of fine silty peat, fibrous peat and cross bedded sands underlain by glacial drift. Nodules and blocks of blue/gray chalcedonic chert, hetrogenous dolomitic chert and tan/gray cherts are common in the glacial drift and stream gravels.

Flora resources: Prior to artifacial drainage, Rammel (1930: 402-409) lists the following vegetation as common to the deposit, valley slope and adjacent areas.

<u>Adjacent Areas</u>	<u>Valley Slope</u>	<u>Peat Deposit</u>	
Red and White Oak	Bur Oak	Willows	Rice Cut Grass
Ironwood	Slippery Elm	Marsh Marigold	Sedge
Shagbark Hickory	Large Toothed Aspen	Louseworth	Rush
Butternut	Basswood	Turtle Head	Ditch Stone Crop
Hop-hornbean	Hazel	Monkey Flower	Iris
		Greater Lobelia	Orchid
		Reed Grass	

Faunal resources: Since the latter part of the nineteenth century the Ames Peat Bog has been known as a repository of numerous B. Bison remains (Beal 1903: 122-124 and Pammel 1930: 402-409). Between 1971 and 1977, the present writer observed and collected bison bones eroding from stream banks at depths from 2-6 feet in articulated or semi-articulated positions. Adult, juvenile and fetal remains are present suggesting a spring or summer internment of the animals. A large number of animals may have entered the peat deposit from the north indicated by a concentration of bones at the base of the right tributary valley incline. To a lesser extent, deer, elk and beaver remains occur in the deposit (Gwynne 1942: 351-357). Smaller species represented by **skeletal** remains includes: water fowl, fresh water mussels, snails, and fish. Presently the deposit and adjacent areas are the habitat for numerous small mammals: rabbits, raccoons and squirrels.

#### EVIDENCE OF PREHISTORIC EXPLOITATION

Possible evidence of a bison kill or drive: The present writer as well as Gradwohl and Osborn (1972: 115-116) have observed blank flakes eroding from the right tributary stream's bank in close proximity to bison bones raising the possibility of a prehistoric bison kill or drive. Although coincidental, it is interesting that the blank flakes are eroding in the area where the greatest concentration of bison remains occurs. At the present none of the bison bones collected exhibit recognizable butcher marks and an association between the blank flakes and bison bones can not be demonstrated.

Evidence of a prehistoric habitation or activity area on the peat deposits left shore: A relatively large quantity of archaeological material has been collected in the left tributary stream's bank and channel at a locality where the stream is eroding and undermining a narrow terrace at the base of the left valley incline. Diagnostic cultural material is limited but suggests two cultural traditions.

A Middle Woodland affiliation is indicated by a sand/grit tempered, tool insized and noded rim sherd along with a sand/grit tempered, cord roughened body sherd. An earlier occupation possibly Archaic is suggested by a large ovate bladed side notched projectile point.

Activities conducted were diversified. Cherts of the same types occurring in the stream channels were knapped into stone impliments. Although the sample is limited, initial and secondary lithic processes are represented by cores, shatter, decortication flakes and blank flakes. Thermal alteration of chert may have been conducted evident by the presence of thermal shatter and heat treated debri. Eleven of the eighteen chipped stone artifacts exhibit characteristics of thermal alteration.

Butchering and hide preparation is indicated by the presence of end scrapers, thin bifaces, retouched and utilized flakes along with charred mammal bone fragments and a bird bone with a possible butcher mark.

#### SUMMARY AND APPRAISAL

The Ames Peat Bog formed a habitat for aquatic and terristrial flora and fauna which prehistoric groups exploited over a long period of time. Evidence of a habitation or activity area of Archaic and Middle Woodland affiliations directly associated with exploitation of the faunal resources present at the peat deposit has been found. Inferences based on materials collected indicate birds and mammals were hunted and then butchered, consumed and processed into hides along the deposit's left shore. Chert nodules and blocks occurring in the deposit were collected and fashioned into impliments at the habitation or activity area.

Although not demonstratable at the present time, a bison kill or drive may have taken place in the right tributary valley. The relationship between the two possible activity areas is unknown, but it is conceivable animals killed in the right tributary valley were butchered along the left shore.

Preservation of organic materials in the peat deposit makes 13 SR 153 a unique and valuable archaeological site for the investigation of Archaic and Woodland subsistance patterns in the Upper Skunk River Valley. Preliminary investigations also indicates 13 SR 153 is archaeologically complex with two cultural horizons and two or more activity areas. Considering these factors, 13 SR 153 should be preserved for an inter-disciplinary study.

SUMMARY OF MATERIALS COLLECTED  
ALONG THE TERRACE REMNANT

The materials collected have been classified into descriptive categories employing accepted archaeological terminology which reflects the form and in some instances the function of the finished implements and various stages or processes in the lithic technology as reflected by lithic debris. The identification of heat treated lithic material is based on a comparative sample of experimentally heat treated cherts from the Upper Skunk River Valley. A 20/40 power stereo microscope was used in examining artifacts for wear and retouching.

Ceramics

- (1) Tool sized and noded rim sherd. Abundant and coarse sand/grit temper.
- (1) Cord roughened body sherd. Abundant and coarse sand/grit temper.

Lithic Artifacts

- (1) Side notched projectile point. Ovate blade and straight base. Basal grinding is not present. Dimensions: L 6.7 cm., W 4 cm., thickness .9 cm.
- (6) Thin bifaces segments. (1) is a midsection with parallel contracting edges, exhibits characteristics of thermal alterations. (2) are ovate bladed with convex bases. (3) are small fragments, all exhibit characteristics of thermal alteration. Five exhibit possible wear marks.
- (1) Thick biface. Extensively percussed flaked and exhibits possible wear marks on one edge. Dimensions: L 4.5 cm., W 6.5 cm., thickness 2.3 cm.
- (3) End scrapers. (2) are thin and flat, (1) exhibits characteristics of thermal alteration. (1) is thick and keeled, exhibits characteristics of thermal alteration.
- (3) Retouched flakes. (1) All are blank flakes and (2) exhibit characteristics of thermal alteration.
- (3) Utilized flakes. (1) blank, (2) secondary decortication flakes. All exhibit characteristics of thermal alteration.
- (1) Unclassified triangular block of chert with limited bifacial retouch at the intersection point of the angles forming the triangle.

Lithic Debris

- (2) Regular cores, (Gradwohl and Osborn 1972:33)
- (6) Irregular cores (Gradwohl and Osborn 1972:33)
- (4) Core fragments (Gradwohl and Osborn 1972:33). (2) exhibit characteristics of thermal alteration.
- (4) Primary decortication flakes (White 1963:5)
- (8) Secondary decortication flakes (White 1963:5) (4) exhibit characteristics of thermal alteration.
- (36) Blank flakes. Includes flakes struck by percussion from

- prepared platforms and bifacial retouched flakes.  
(15) exhibit characteristics of thermal alteration.  
(21) Shatter (Binford and Quimby 1963:278). (4) exhibit characteristics of thermal alteration.  
(4) Thermal shatter (Purdy 1975:131-141).

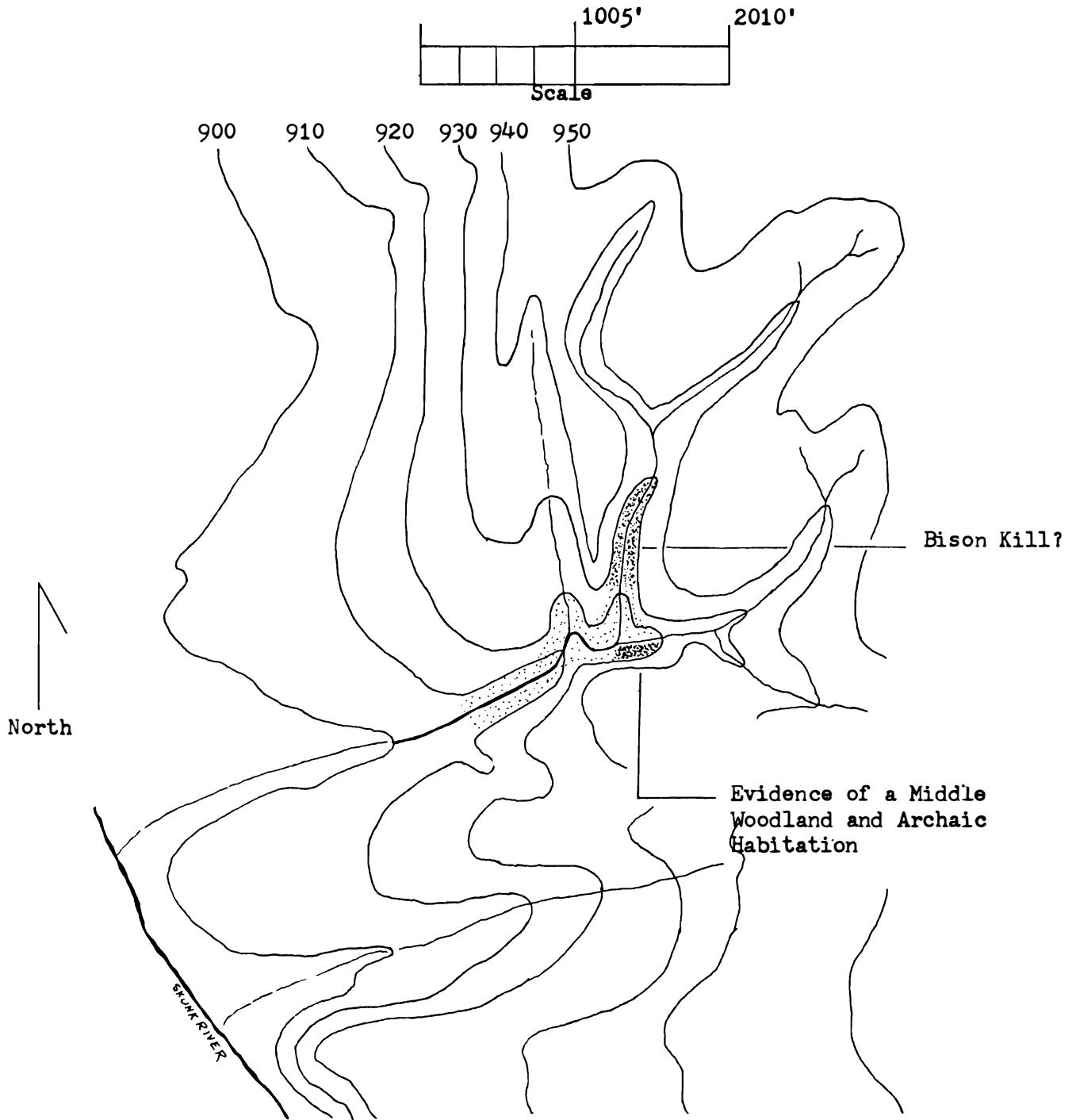
Modified Faunal Material

- (1) Bird bone with a possible butcher mark.  
(2) Charred mammal bone fragments.

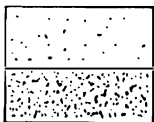
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Figure 1. 13 SR 153, The Ames Peat Bog and Surroundings



Legend



Peat Deposit

Evidence of Prehistoric Human Activity

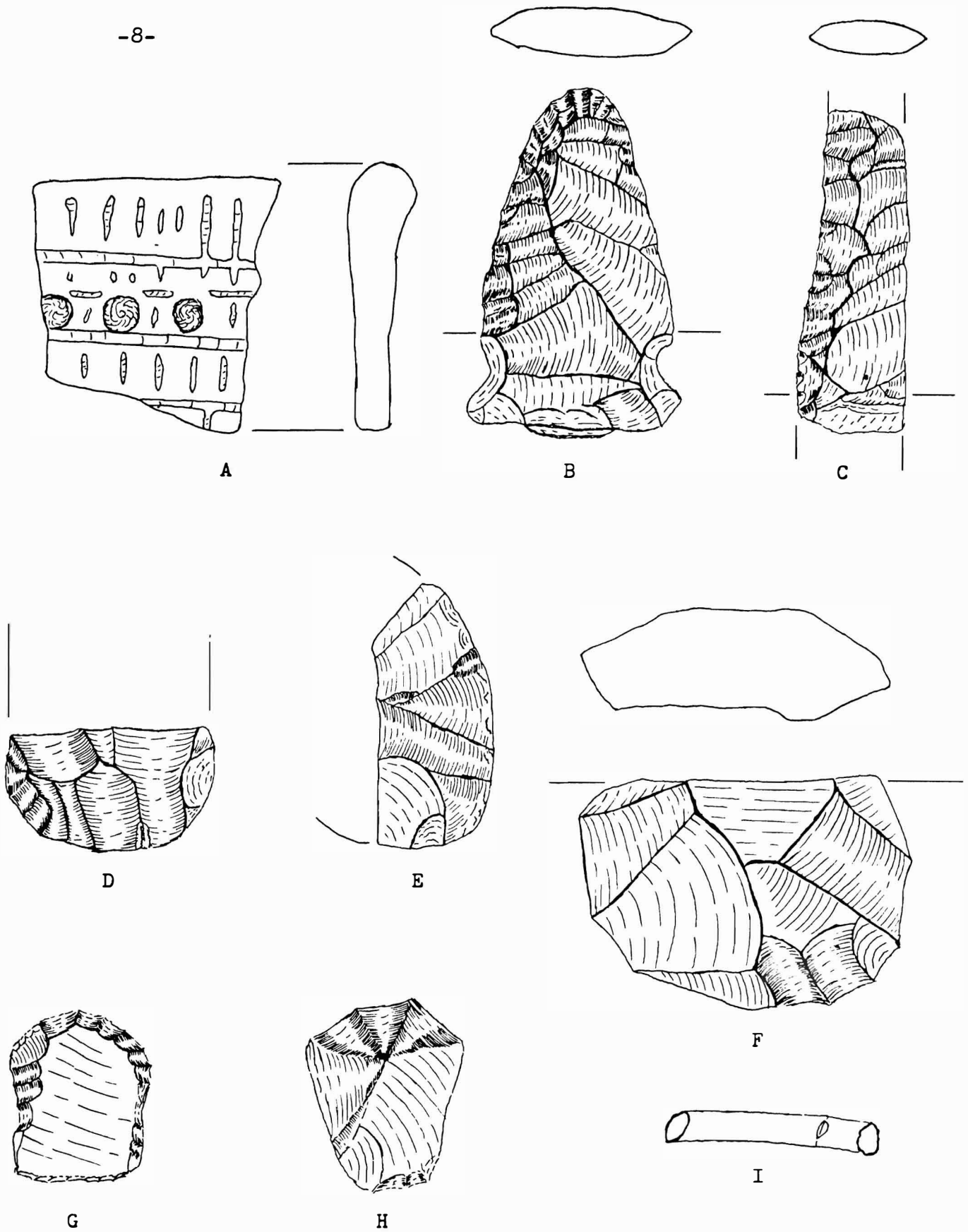


Figure 2 Artifacts from the Ames Peat Bog, 13 SR 153

A. Sand/grit tempered tool incised and noded rim sherd; B. Side notched projectile point; C-E. Thin biface segments; F. Thick biface; G-H. End scrapers; I. Bird bone



A STUDY OF THE END SCRAPERS FROM THE CHAN-YA-TA SITE (13BV1)

Sue E. Erickson

While I was working for my Iowa Archaeological Society lab certification in the Office of State Archaeologist, I became particularly interested in stone artifacts. I pursued this interest by studying some end scrapers from the Chan-ya-ta site. I examined the wear patterns on the tools and their working lengths in order to determine how they were used. I also looked for evidence of hafting.

BACKGROUND

Chan-ya-ta is a Mill Creek site located near Brooke's Creek in Buena Vista County (Tiffany 1978: 19). This was a good place to set up a community. There were ample amounts of tillable soil, wood, water, and large game animals (Tiffany 1978: 22). Tiffany (1978: 23) suggested the possibility that Chan-ya-ta was an offshoot village established as a result of population pressure in the parent community. The radio-carbon dates indicate that the village existed sometime between A.D. 960 and A.D. 1078 (Tiffany 1978: 138).

The inhabitants of Chan-ya-ta were primarily hunters and agriculturalists but they also engaged in fishing and gathering wild plants (Tiffany 1978:10). The faunal remains recovered indicated that Chan-ya-ta inhabitants relied on bison for food, clothing, and bone tools (Tiffany 1978: 48). The bison were probably killed near the village and the processing of products from the animals took place within the village (Tiffany 1978: 51).

WEAR PATTERNS

The first aspect of each scraper I examined was the degree of wear on the working edge (Fig. 1). Using a microscope, I looked for polish and rounding on the working edge. I recorded the amount of wear as sharp, intermediate, or dull.

It has been suggested that end scrapers were used as burins, chisels, and choppers as well as scrapers. Semenov (1964: 85) refuted these ideas. The wear traces on the end scrapers he studied did not indicate that they were used for anything but scraping. The wear patterns were located on the lower surface of the working (retouched) edge. If they had been used as cutting tools, the upper surface would also indicate wear. The heavy wear and breakage characteristic of chisels and choppers was also absent. The working edges were rounded. It has been suggested that this is to prevent piercing the skins being worked upon. With this evidence in mind, Semenov believed that end scrapers were a specialized tool used only for processing hides (1964: 85).

An analysis of the Chan-ya-ta material led me to agree with Semenov. The scrapers did not exhibit the heavy wear which would be apparent if they had been used for cutting, chiseling or chopping. Most of the scrapers I studied (83.3%) were in the intermediate range. Only 16.6% of them were dull. Had they been used for chopping or chiseling, none of them would have been sharp or intermediate. The chopping action would have caused more breakage of the edge.

The shape of the end scrapers also shows that they were not used for chopping or chiseling. Other tool shapes would be better suited for these activities. An experienced flint knapper could easily make a tool for these other purposes. Other stone tools found at Chan-ya-ta indicating special functions like the graters, perforators and chopping tools support this assumption.

Since it is apparent that end scrapers were used for treating animal skins the next questions I posed were: what kind of skins were processed (wet or dry), and what specific

action was performed on these skins (burnishing, smoothing, defleshing, or dehairing).

Semenov (1964: 84-85) suggested that polish on the working edge indicated that wet skins were processed. Most of the scrapers from Chan-ya-ta exhibited some degree of polish. If Semenov is correct, the people who lived at Chan-ya-ta must have used end scrapers on fresh, wet hides.

#### WORKING LENGTH

The working length of an end scraper is the area which was flaked to form the working part of the tool (Fig. 1). Anderson (1973:36;60) correlated working length with the type of work done on a skin. According to his analysis of scrapers from the Brewster site, end scrapers with a working length between 0.1 and 5. mm were used for defleshing or dehairing. For this type of work the end scraper needed a wide, sharp edge.

Anderson (1973:36;60) went on to suggest that a working length between 5.1 and 25.0 millimeters indicated the end scraper may have been used for softening or burnishing. These actions required a more rounded edge. Asymmetrical blades also indicate these functions. Anderson believed that end scrapers used for softening and burnishing were hand held.

Using Anderson as a model, I placed the end scrapers from Chan-ya-ta into classes according to working length (Fig. 2). About 36.1% of them fell into Anderson's first category. (For simplicity's sake I classed the scrapers I studied in the range of 1.0 to 18.9 mm. Their actual working lengths fit much better in this range.) From this information I can suggest that since only about one-third of the end scrapers were used for defleshing or dehairing, these were not the major hide processes going on in the village. Most of the defleshing and dehairing must have been done at the kill site.

The major hide processing activities at Chan-ya-ta seem to have been softening and/or burnishing. Approximately 63.8% of the working length measurements were between 5.0 and 18.9 mm. There were also more asymmetrical end scrapers in this category (55.4% of all asymmetrical end scrapers at the site). It seems that all these hide processing activities occurred at Chan-ya-ta, but the major emphasis was on softening and burnishing and not defleshing.

#### HAND HELD OR HAFTED

One of the major questions I sought to answer in my analysis was whether or not the Chan-ya-ta end scrapers were hafted. I examined the sides of each tool in search for polish or wear to determine if a scraper had been hafted. These traits were examined because thongs used to secure a handle on an end scraper causes wear and polish on the side of the artifact. The sides may also have notches which were blunted to prevent cutting of the leather binding.

Although blunting and wear on the sides of end scrapers is the major evidence of hafting, symmetrical shape may also indicate that a scraper was attached to a handle. Only 4.2% of the Chan-ya-ta end scrapers were blunted. Only one of the blunted end scrapers was asymmetrical. Perhaps this supports the contention that there is a correlation between blunting and symmetry. Since so few of them were blunted, I can suggest that most of the Chan-ya-ta end scrapers were hand held.

All of the end scrapers in my sample fit well in the hand. Semnov (1964:87) stated that even very small scrapers could easily be used without a handle. Elongated end scrapers were probably used directly (Semenov 1964:87). The extra length made a handle unnecessary. The average length of the Chan-ya-ta end scrapers was 28.2 mm. One scraper was 53.3 mm long. The smallest was 17.2 mm long. Since the end scrapers were fairly long, I can conclude like Semenov, that they were not hafted.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

With further study more information could be obtained about the function and manufacture of end scrapers. A more intensive examination of the traces of wear on the working edge would help explain more about the use of end scrapers. An examination of the flakes found at the site could shed light on how specialized end scrapers were.

The best way to check the results presented here for accuracy is to try some experimental archaeology. End scrapers could be flintknapped and then used on different materials and for different functions. The resulting wear could then be examined to see if they duplicate my results and Semenov's. The end scrapers could also be used hafted and without a handle to see if this variable causes a difference in the pattern of wear.

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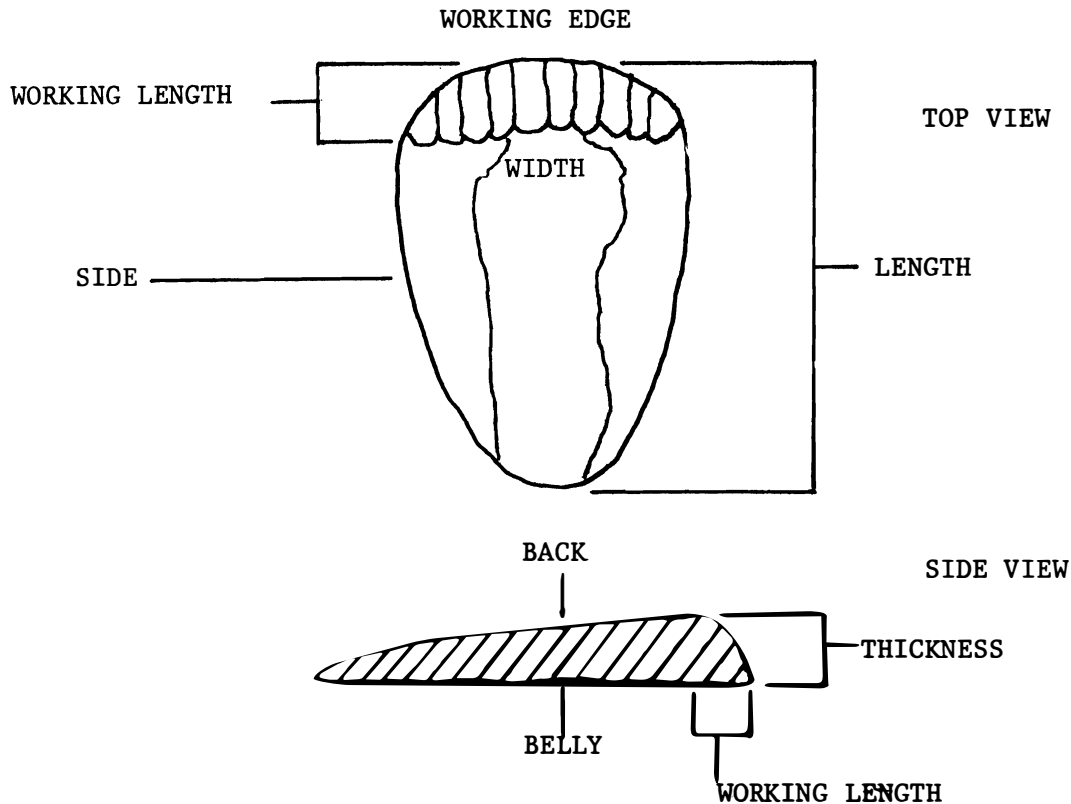


Figure 1. Terms used to describe parts of the end scraper.

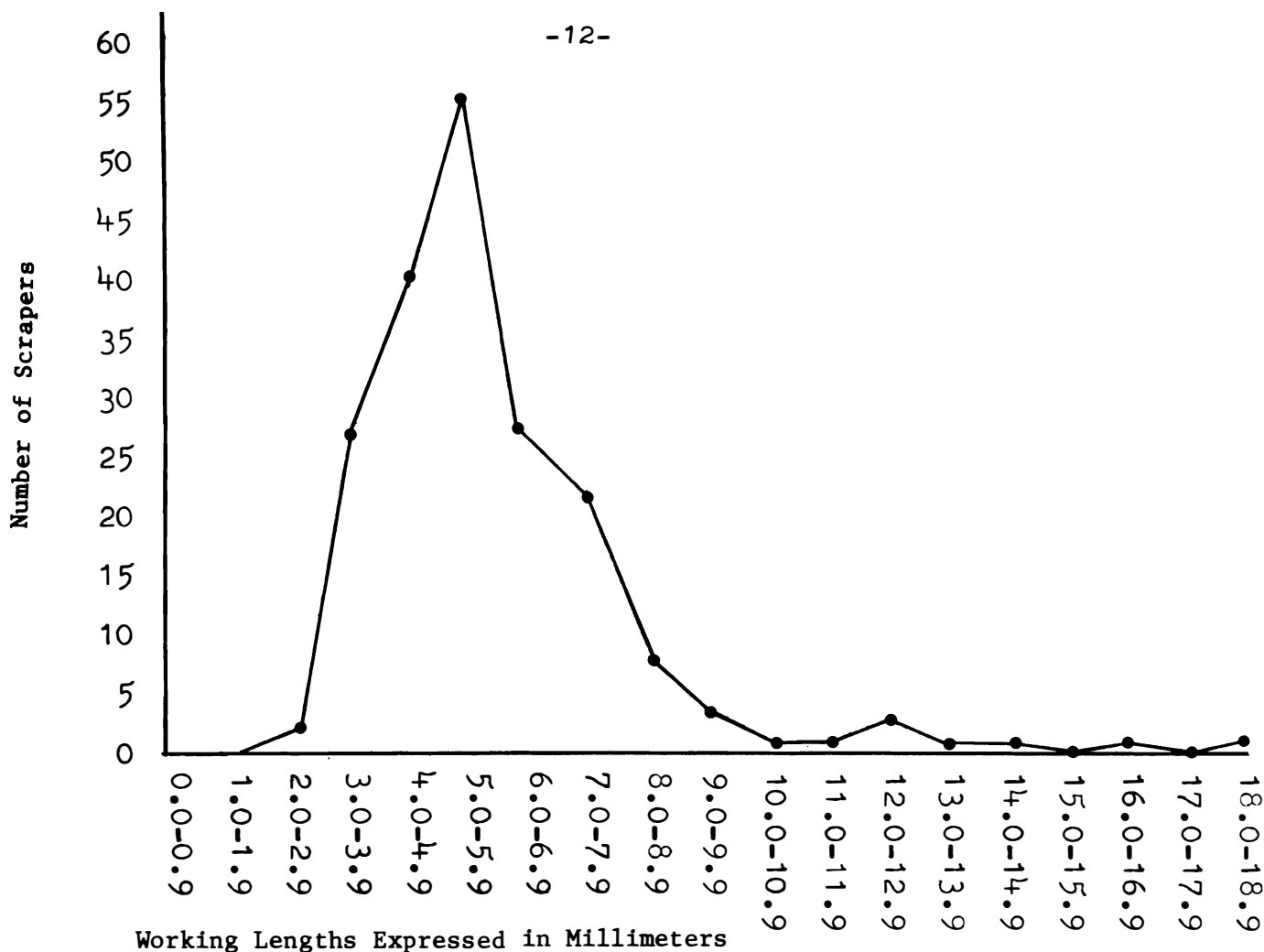


Figure 2. Graph showing the distribution of classes of working lengths according to the number of scrapers analyzed.

#### IOWA OBSIDIAN SOURCES TRACED

During the last year or so Dr. Fred W. Nelson, Department of Chemistry, Brigham Young University, has analyzed six obsidian flakes from Iowa. By studying the trace element composition it is possible to tell if Iowa specimens came from known source areas. Three specimens were submitted by John Hotopp from an excavation in Lyon County (13L015). One flake was submitted by Lynn Alex from the Poison Ivy (13LA84) in Louisa County. Most recently two specimens from sites in Webster County (13WB135 and 13WB325) were donated by David Carlson, Central Iowa Chapter, and sent in by the OSA.

It is interesting to note that all six flakes appear to have come from three different sources in Yellowstone National Park. All three Lyon County specimens and the one from 13WB325 all appear to have come from Geyser Creek, Yellowstone. The Lyon County and Webster County finds were associated with Woodland sites which is not surprising since obsidian was widely traded in Hopewellian times. The flake from 13LA84 is problematical in that it appeared in an Oneota context. The possibility of mixing with Hopewellian materials in the close proximity during aboriginal times has been raised. Certainly obsidian would be out of place on an Oneota site.

Please keep your eye out for Iowa obsidian with good provenience data. We plan to follow up on all cases possible in the hope that some general patterns will emerge.

Duane C. Anderson  
State Archaeologist

To the Editor:

May 25, 1978

A member of your Society handed me a copy of your April Newsletter with a request for comment on Jean Hawkin's letter and Fell's book.\*

I believe that Mr. Fell does not imply that the Celts and Phoenicians are the original settlers only that they discovered (from their viewpoint) explored and carried on a more or less extensive trade with the people we call Indians.

On the basis of his introduced evidence, his theories seem to me to be quite reasonable. He does not claim, as Hawkin's letter states, that the Mounds are of ancient European origins, only that there is indisputable evidence of European contacts, as shown by the plate discovered in the Davenport Mound at a time when it has been generally believed that the known world was that of the Mediterranean shores and the near East.

Besides the evidence of the inscribed stones and the "root cellars" of Vermont the Phoenician inscriptions here and in Oklahoma, the far Southwest and Central and South America indicate considerable travel and exploration.

I also have on loan a book "Unexpected Faces in America" by a German born author whose name I forget, which shows photos of images of people who were unmistakably African, Semitic and a few Oriental. Most of these images are in museums and were collected from Central and South American and Mexico.

It seems, most improbable that the people who originally infiltrated this country -as present theory teaches-from across the Bering Sea-could have imagined so accurately the facial features and head dress of a Semitic merchant or dowager or an African black.

It may be that these contacts would explain the mound building culture which does not seem to have endured very long as a copy of West European burial mounds. It would also explain the temple pyramids and advanced cultures of Central American Indians.

Having no knowledge whatever of ancient writing or languages, it seems to me that Fells reached a little far out in some of his translation of Ogam but I'm not saying he is wrong.

To me Fell's book offers a logical explanation for a lot of things I've been wondering about. It should be read by anyone interested in American archaeology, not only because of it's implications but because there are likely many more undiscovered inscriptions that might be found if one knew what to look for.

It seems to me that the history of America before Columbus should be rewritten.

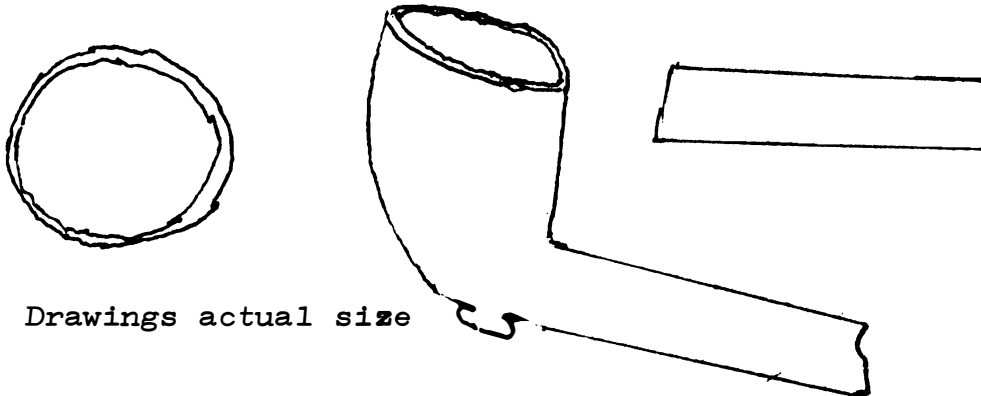
George Baker  
Selma, Iowa 52588

\* America B.C. by Barry Fell, copyright 1976

TRADE PIPE DISCOVERED AT FREDERIKA, IOWA

Mark Block of Waterloo sent the following sketch of a trade pipe he found in a field near a lime quarry at Frederika, Iowa. A number of sources identify this type of pipe as a European trade item as early as the late 1600's but also manufactured well into historic times. The surface of the piece is extremely smooth and a chalky white in color. I should mention that a homestead existed here in the late 1860's although identical fragments have been found many miles away and in locations where no homesteads were known to have existed. Prints from the colonial period have depicted pipes of this type and McKusick has some discussion with photos in his publications.

This site has yielded a variety of artifacts, most of which are somewhat crude. Also, some representation of triangular points exist, a few of which are amazingly minute.



Drawings actual size

Thank you for your contribution, Mark. Have other pipes of this type been found in the state? I have one in my collection that was found on a multi-component site near Ackworth, Iowa.

Mitchell Allen responded to our call for information about paleo projectile points and ornamental artifact that have been located in the state (front page). I would like to continue those requests and add trade pipes to the list. Let us hear from you!

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

At this writing I am at the 1978 Summer Field School, Milford, Iowa, south of Lake Okoboji. As previous Newsletters have stated, this excavation is a joint endeavor with the Departments of Anthropology, Geology and Social Studies Education at the University of Iowa, the Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa, and the Iowa Archaeological Society. Each of these participants provided funds to make this season's field school a success. The site in process of excavation is an early contact Oneota village. (See Educational Series No. 6.)

The occurrence of an occasional piece of metal or glass bead among typical pre-contact shell tempered pottery sherds and triangular chert projectile points adds a new dimension of interest to the dig.

I am pleased to report many IAS members signed up for varying periods of time to experience a supervised field excavation. This qualifying experience may be applied towards certification, a tangible benefit of participating for several days or a week in the excavation of a site. However, the experience of living with others and sharing in the everyday exchange of information, the joys and hardships inherent in any field dig are valuable adjuncts to the certificate itself.

If you missed this field season and would desire a field school next summer, let your secretary know your feelings on this subject. If you participated, we would also like to have your comments and suggestions. Write Patricia Williams, Rt # 1, Hinton, Iowa 51024.

The fall meeting is planned to be held in Vining, Iowa. Specifics on time and place will be announced.

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MISSING PERSON

We need an address for Clarice De Christina formerly of 3826 4st Ave. No., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.

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Thanks to the contributors for this issue. We appreciate your support!

The Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit, scientific society legally organized under the corporate laws of Iowa. Members of the Society are amateurs and professionals with a serious interest in the archeology of Iowa and the Midwest.

The Newsletter is published four times a year. The reprinting or use of any material in the Newsletter is forbidden without the consent of the Society.

Editor: Gary L. Valen, 711 N. E St., Indianola, Iowa 50125

The material for the next Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Sept. 15.

NEW MEMBERS

Barry Abbott	Iowa City	Dr. & Mrs. Paul Kersten	Ft. Dodge
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Joe Beals	Cherokee	Edwin Kral	Cedar Rapids
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Have you paid your dues?

The new membership year begins with this Newsletter. Please send your dues to Mrs. Ruth Thornton, 326 Otsego St., Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

\$5.00	Active
15.00	Sustaining
4.00	Junior

**1978 FALL MEETING WILL BE IN VINING ON  
SATURDAY OCT. 14th., 9 A.M. til 5 P.M.  
D.G. SPEARS, CHAIRMAN  
SPECIAL NOTICE**

IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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