

# newsletter



# From the Editor

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

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The Newsletter is published four times a year. Questions about your subscription should be addressed to the Office of State Archaeologist, Eastlawn, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia. 52242. All materials for publication should be sent to the editor.

Thanks to all of you who wrote comments about the new format of *Newsletter* #97. Your support is encouragement to continue the upgrading project for this publication.

One result of the "new look" is a wealth of material for Issue #98. It has been a pleasant problem to find room for everything this time. If your article does not appear in this issue, please be patient as we will run it soon.

There are several articles in Issue #98 that have been prepared by lay members of the Society. The purpose of this *Newsletter* is to share news and information about Iowa archaeology among our members. Since the *Newsletter* is also distributed widely across the nation and even internationally, we can also distribute our knowledge and discoveries throughout the world. As your editor, I will present your information in the best possible format. Please do your part by giving me something to print. I believe the Iowa Archeological Society will prosper and grow if we continue to work at the goal to identify and preserve the rich archeological heritage of Iowa.

There has been a significant increase in membership since our last printing. A full list of the new members will appear in the next issue, but we want to extend a welcome to all of you. If you would like to contribute anything to the *Newsletter*, please send the material to the editor. We will be delighted to hear from you.

Gary L. Valen, Editor

## New Members

Robert Ver Straeten, Des Moines  
Thomas Stafford, Ankeny  
Valeria Wilson, Clinton  
Westwood Middle School,  
Smithland  
Lawrence Conrad, Macomb, Ill.  
Wayne Hughes, Hamilton  
Darryl Eid, Wever  
Rebecca Hoepfner, Des Moines  
LeRoy Sailors, Knoxville  
Troy Smiley, Ames  
David Deluhery, Dubuque  
Illinois State University Library,  
Normal, Ill.  
Dr. John Cole, Cedar Falls

## Site Survey Reports

The following amateurs have reported sites since *last June*.

Gary Austin - 35 sites  
D.E. Pidcock and Herb Sovereign -  
23 sites  
John Palmquist - 1 site  
Duane Miller - 22 sites  
Jerry Grant - 7 sites

# From the President

November 5-8 the State of Iowa was honored to be the host for the 38th Plains Conference. The Conference was held in Iowa City as scheduled and was extremely well attended. It may seem presumptuous for an Iowan to say the Conference was a great success but from my observations no other conclusion could be reached. I was pleased to see many of our non-professional I.A.S. members in attendance. Those who attended their first Plains Conference, as well as the rest of us, experienced an exciting, rather overwhelming

experience. A Plains Conference may be likened to a comet which rarely passes within sight of earth. No one I talked to could remember the last time it was held in Iowa and no schedule has been computed as to when it will arrive in our state again. Next year I am told it will be held in Bismark, North Dakota. Hope to see you there.

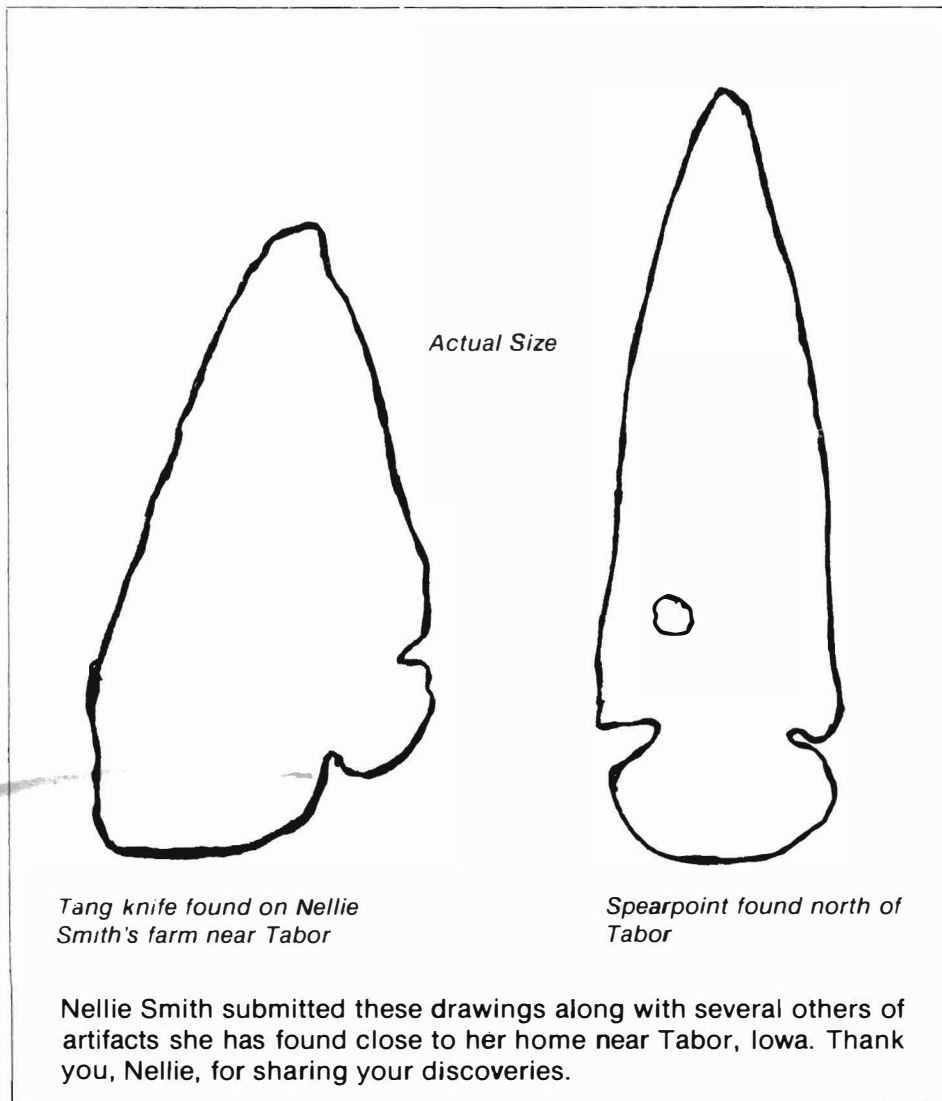
What a pleasant surprise we all had when we received our 30th anniversary Newsletter, #97! Without further embellishment, Gary Valen, our Newsletter editor,

deserves applause from the entire membership for the magnificent job he achieved on this first issue from our new publisher, Simpson College, Indianola. With a superior publication as this, our membership should show a dramatic increase. This trend has already begun according to an end of October report received from Ruth Thornton, our Treasurer and chairperson for membership. She reports 525 1980 paid members including 168 new memberships. It is expected that a number of additional new memberships were realized as a result of the "I.A.S. display table" at the Plains Conference. Here, recent copies of our Journal were on sale plus copies of the latest Newsletter. *The Society welcomes all new members to share with us their interests and activities in Iowa Archaeology.*

Our next major event is the I.A.S. Annual Spring Meeting to be at the Putman Museum, Davenport, Iowa, April 25-26, 1981. Mark your new calendars now.

Richard Slattery, President

*The illustration on the cover of this issue is the work of Mesquakie artist Wayne Pushetonequa. We received such a good response from last issue's cover, we decided to use another. The drawing illustrates the close relationship between Native Americans and bears. See the article by George Horton on page 4 of this issue.*



*Tang knife found on Nellie Smith's farm near Tabor*

*Spearpoint found north of Tabor*

Nellie Smith submitted these drawings along with several others of artifacts she has found close to her home near Tabor, Iowa. Thank you, Nellie, for sharing your discoveries.

# Effigy Mounds

By George Horton

## Introduction:

Clark Mallem has encouraged me to write a short article on the Effigy Mounds. For years Clark and I have talked about how different cultures would view the Effigy Mounds, why a Roman or Aztec mind could not even contemplate building an effigy mound. However, in our society the building of an earthen effigy to promote McDollar MacBear Burgers is feasible.

## Birds & Bears

Someday an archeologist, with a trowel, will tell us the story of the Effigy Mounds. He will tell us when in time they were built, how they were built, and much about the builders themselves. But, why they were built may be an unanswered question. After seeing the Effigy Mounds and discussing the 'why' question with Clark, a figure of 80% of the Effigies are birds and bears and that 50% just bears was given to me. This aroused my amateur interest and drove me to answering the 'why' question to my own satisfaction.

To the Mesquakie and other lake tribes, the Bear Clan is the guardian clan of the tribe. The Bird Clan is a gatherer of information, an overseer and a protector. Together the birds and bears worldwide are the biggest symbol of spring and rebirth. Even today, in western Europe and

Siberia, spring ceremonies are held surrounding the birds and bears.

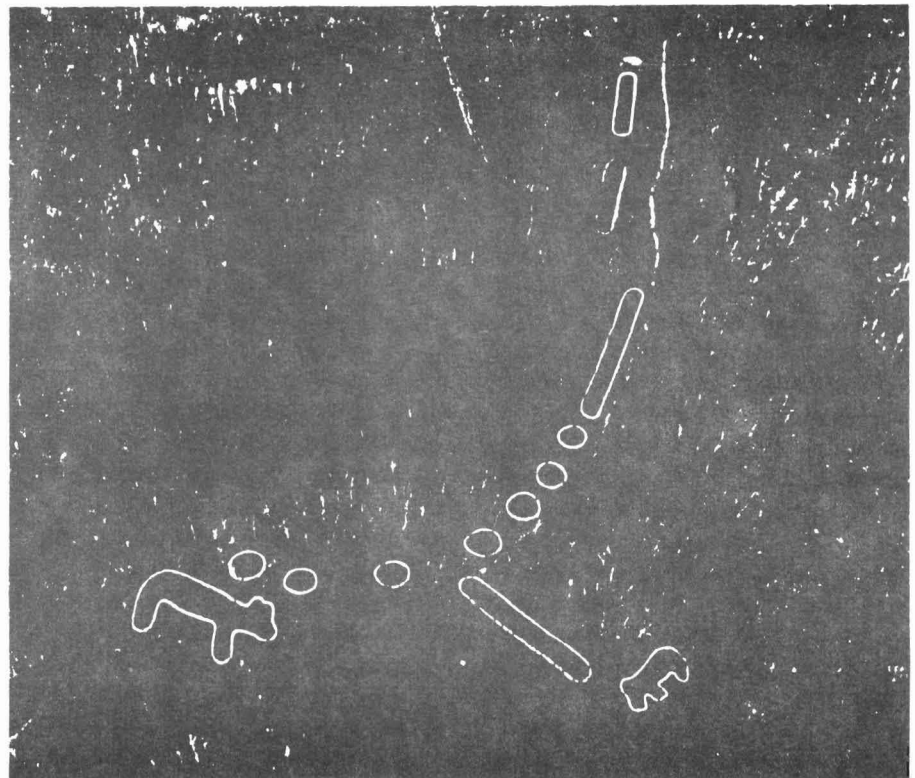
This leads me to believe the building of the mounds could be a spring community religious rite. After building, with the blessing of a Religious Leader, the mounds started their long term function.

The Effigy Mounds are placed with mortuary mounds. They face off the bluffs toward rivers and lakes, the pathway of man and spirits. Thus, the effigies could act as guardians built to protect and guard a certain area; a lake, village

or a burial mound group, from other groups of people or unseen Spiritual Forces.

At certain times more effigies were added. The mounds were rebuilt and given offerings (tobacco, food and ritual prayer) to carry on their vital functions.

I feel the Effigy Mound builders knew no alien way of thinking. They thought the mounds would be respected by intruders because the symbols of the bird and bear are universally respected. It worked because the Effigy Mounds were not destroyed.



Great Bear Mound Group  
North Unit  
Effigy Mounds National Monument

# McKinney Oneota Village Site

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*The 1980 Iowa Archaeological Society Field School*

By Richard G. Slattery and Joseph A. Tiffany

The 1980 I.A.S. Field School at the McKinney site was another huge success. Although the field season lasted only 3 weeks, the 24 I.A.S. members who participated again contributed over 1500 hours of labor to the project. This season's participants and their hometowns are listed in Table 1. This year we also had 9 members working on site survey, field and lab certification projects. Photographs of this year's excavation are shown on page 6.

Many of the test pits excavated last year revealed intersecting storage pits and a complex subsurface stratigraphy. It seemed imperative to us that a larger area needed to be opened adjacent to the most productive test pits so that better insights into the distribution and density of these subsurface features could be made. The 1980 excavation focused on this objective. We also hoped that in opening a larger area, we might expose house structures, as well.

Although we originally planned to excavate a 15m square area, the abbreviated field season, the size of the crew, the 52cm overburden on the site and the excessive heat in July limited our excavation area to 42 square meters. Even so, we

were able to expose 25 more storage pits, map their horizontal distribution and profile the stratigraphy over the entire excavated area.

Some preliminary findings from this summer include:

- 1) More evidence of utilization of the site area by Woodland groups. This is reflected in the recovery of additional Woodland pottery and a  $\frac{3}{4}$  grooved axe;
- 2) The stratigraphy was clarified to the extent that we feel this

portion of the village was intermittently used over an extended period of time as a specialized storage area;

3) Again, substantial amounts of floral and faunal remains were recovered and processed from the excavated storage pits. These data can be used to provide a better understanding of Oneota economy. Analysis of data will continue this fall. Further progress reports will be forthcoming.

Those of you who spent the month of July in Iowa are well aware of the fiercely hot days from July 12-20. There were several days we heard reports of over 100°. The rest were in the high nineties. All of those I.A.S. members who volunteered and even returned to dig in such heat deserve the highest praise and a top grade for dedication. Our thanks to you for making the 1980 Field School a success. We would like to extend our special thanks to the Dean McKinney family, Gary Spitsnoogle and to Dave and Beverly McCully who again made our stay in the Toolesboro area a pleasurable experience. We also want to acknowledge the assistance we received from John Haeffner and the Department of Education of the University of Iowa, the State Historical Society and the State Preserves Board.

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**Table 1: Participants in the 1980 Field School**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Eddie Block	Muscatine, Ia.
James Cox	Clinton, Ia.
Louis Eisner	Mt. Pleasant, Ia.
Beverly Gorlick	Cordova, Ill.
Jerry Grant	Ottumwa, Ia.
James Hill	Iowa City, Ia.
Katherine Johns	Hillsboro, Wis.
Verlan Johns	West Branch, Ia.
Roger Johnson	Bellevue, Ia.
Judy Kirchner	New Lincoln, Ia.
Tim Koester	Knoxville, Ia.
Roger Natte	Smithland, Ia.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Robert Page	Davenport, Ia.
Jim Pilgrim	Colona, Ill.
Perry Ross	Muscatine, Ia.
Mary Rodgers	Omaha, Neb.
Mary Ruschmeyer	Blue Grass, Ia.
Loren Schutt	Lone Grove, Ia.
William Stepka	St. Paul, Minn.
Sally Veal	St. Paul, Minn.
Eddie Vega	Iowa City, Ia.
Robert Wehrle	Donnellson, Ia.
David Wolfe	Iowa City, Ia.
Dan Zwiener	Fort Dodge, Ia.

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*Above: Three quarter grooved axe from the McKinney site.*

*Top Right: Hard work in the hot sun.*

*Middle Right: Intersecting storage pits during excavation.*

*Lower Right: IAS Visitor's Day. See anyone you know?*



# Van Buren Dovetails

A Review by Don Spears

In the February 1972 issue of the *Newsletter* (#63) a report was made about points found in southeastern Iowa. These points have been named "Van Buren Dovetails" by the finders, seekers and owners of these highly prized artifacts.

By using this localized name, several persons have been critical of the report because they feel the "Van Buren" point is a "St. Charles" point. At the time the

article was published, a few line drawings or photos were available to this writer. After the report was printed, I received a copy of *A Guide to American Indian Points* by R.E. Bell. On page 82 and plate 41 there are 8 different line drawings of the "St. Charles" and each has a different form.

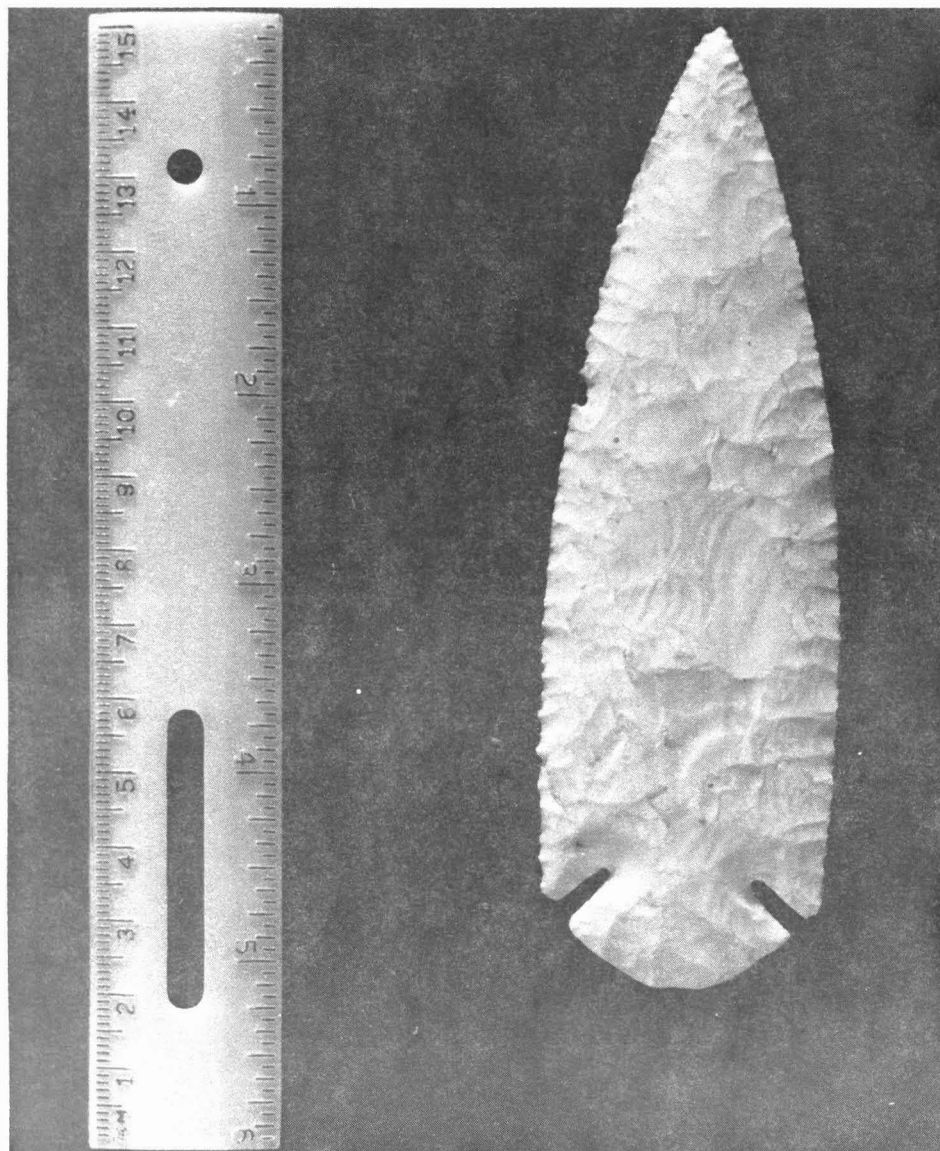
There are many other forms of dovetails found in the area described in the article, plus several other fine "Van Buren" specimens that have been found in Henry County, Iowa. I maintain that the name local people use for

this particular variety is most fitting and descriptive. When called by this name, there will be no mistake about the point. There are a dozen or more of these points that appear to be very much alike and in fact look as if one flintnapper made them all. I would caution against use of the name "Van Buren" point on other varieties of dovetails.

The name "St. Charles" is a catch all phrase just like "Adena" and "Agate Basin" types. These terms are used by many professionals and non-professionals to describe their finds. In one publication a "Thebes" point is called "St. Charles."

In some instances the words "similar to" or "like" should be used rather than the word "type" in describing points. In addition when certain points are basally thinned, an appearance of fluting occurs and this causes the appearance of a Paleo trait. This is not a good indicator as basal grinding can also be found on later artifacts.

There is much to be done on artifact classification, dating, and the naming of these materials. Right now all that remains of a great number of sites is a box or a handful of artifacts picked up and stored by the finder. It would be a beneficial project to develop a permanent record of these articles in order to provide the basis for proper classification of point distribution in this country.



A Van Buren Type Dovetail

Karl Weiss Site, Wappello County, Iowa  
13WP102

# The Milford Oneota Site: A Progress Report

By Lise S. Tatum

Two summers ago, in 1978, the I.A.S. conducted a field school at the Milford Oneota site (13DK1) in Dickinson County, northwest Iowa. The event was held in conjunction with a summer field Institute offered as a cooperative effort with the Office of State Archaeologist, Department of Anthropology and Department of Social Studies Education, The University of Iowa.

In addition to I.A.S. members the crew included students from The University of Iowa, St. Olafs College, the University of South Dakota and two groups of Iowa public school teachers enrolled for workshops in archaeology and Iowa prehistory. (Many of these teachers have become I.A.S. members and have applied for field and lab certification.)

Despite considerable rain, wind, hail and flooding that required a daring rescue of the water screens, three occupation areas were excavated at the Milford site. After two years of artifact sorting, mapping and analysis, this early historic site has yielded a wide variety of data related to ethnohistoric and archaeological problems.

The Milford site is located in a horseshoe bend of the Little Sioux River approximately 4½ miles south of west Lake Okoboji on land owned by Richard Kaiser of Milford, Iowa. The site has been known for many years. Charles Keyes surveyed the area in 1921 and his surface collection from what he called the "Big Bend" site is now part of the Keyes collection at the State Historical Society.

More recently Darrell Frericks, I.A.S. member from Lake Park, has carefully collected and catalogued surface material from the site, some of which is on display at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee, Iowa. Darrell also helped us locate the three occupation areas that were excavated in 1978.

The primary goal of the excavation was to gain some insight into Oneota subsistence in the prairie environment of northwestern Iowa during the cool, moist Neo-boreal climatic period that lasted from

approximately A.D. 1550 to 1880.

Special attention was paid to the recovery of the remains of food animals used by these Oneota people as well as micro-mammals such as moles and mice which shared the area with the human occupants. These small animals indicate that at the time the site was occupied the local environment was cooler and moister than present, and similar to that found today in southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. There was probably a more dense forest cover on the valley walls at





the time although soil analysis indicates that the site area on the upland was covered by prairie grasses, not trees.

Without doubt, bison hunting was a predominate activity at the Milford site. Cranial and post cranial elements from a total of 26 bison were recovered from two major excavation areas. Six deer and two elk were also represented.

Although large limb bones were most abundant, hoof cores, teeth, lower leg bones and skull fragments suggest that these animals were killed close at hand.



By aging the deer and bison from tooth eruption and wear patterns, it became evident that the kills were made in the late summer and fall.

The deep trash deposits also suggest that the site was occupied or re-occupied for a fairly long period of time. In addition to bison, deer and elk, the Oneota diet included turtles, five species of fish, clams, beaver, skunks, otters, birds and domestic dogs. A single cache pit, milling stones and a few charred kernels of corn indicate that some gardening was

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*Far Left, Top: University crew housed at Clay County fair grounds.*

*Far Left, Bottom: our one and only cache pit.*

*Left, Top: Workshop participant excavating bison bone, South Concentration.*

*Below: Moving back dirt, East Concentration.*

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practiced, perhaps in the river flood plain near the site. However, no house remains were identified.

Another aspect of the site is its ethnohistoric importance. In an article published in the *Journal of Iowa Archaeological Society*, Mildred Wedel (1979) has documented the movement of Oneota people from eastern Iowa, after French contact, to the western lakes region. These people, undoubtedly the loway, left their villages on the Upper Iowa under pressure from their enemies, the Mascoutens, Fox and others, and settled in the Little Sioux River region about 1688.

During the 1978 excavations, we recovered a number of French trade items including glass beads, copper, gun parts, gun flints and two Jesuit finger rings. The pottery from the site is most similar to the Oneota style, Allamakee Trailed, found in eastern Iowa. Almost without doubt this site was occupied by the Oneota/loway people who moved into the area in 1688 and remained for perhaps 10 years before moving further west to the Big Sioux River region.

Finally, analysis of the site has revealed that when they moved to western Iowa, they no longer followed the pattern of sedentary village life, gardening and only seasonally hunting bison away from their permanent villages in eastern Iowa. Although analysis is not complete, the data from the Milford site suggests that they adapted to the western prairie region, living in perhaps long term seasonal camps and hunting locally available bison as the predominant source of food.



# Reminiscences of Historic Indians

Submitted by Mary Jane Hatfield

*(As told by Paul Pearson, Indiana Twp, Marion County. Supplemental information from History of Marion County, Union Historical Co., Birdsall, Williams, & Co., 1881.)*

On May 1, 1843 new lands in Iowa were opened for settlement. In Marion County these new lands extended to a boundary line known as the Red Rock line, which took its name from the red sandstone bluffs along the Des Moines River a short distance above the village of Red Rock. The line was surveyed in the fall of 1843.

Nelson Hill and his wife arrived in Marion County in the fall of 1844. On October 11, 1845 the land West of the Red Rock line was due to be opened for settlement, so Nelson settled close to the line. He and his wife brought with them oxen, a milk cow, half a dozen chickens, and winter wheat. They spent their first night in Indiana twp on the prairie North of Cedar Creek. Like many of the first settlers who were accustomed to the forests back East, he found the prairie inhospitable. The next morning he continued South. As he came over the ridge north of Cedar Creek, he saw not only the rolling wooded hills but also many spires of smoke rising out of the trees. This was his first contact with what was later to be called the Little Indian Village. Nelson settled about 40 rods from the village.

The Little Indian Village was located in the wooded hills at the almost convergence of 3 creeks; Middle (in the Melcher quadrangel map it is called Carruthers), Hickory, and North Cedar, in section 33, Indiana twp, Marion County. According to Paul the creeks were much bigger in the past than they are now. Even

within his lifetime he has noticed a difference. The creeks never used to get out of their banks but a 2" rain will put them out now. Back then it could rain and rain and seldom flood.

The men were hunters and makers of tools. Nelson figured that certain of the men must have been better hunters than others. Since deer were no longer found near the village the men, 2 per canoe, 1 canoe per creek, would take their 4 canoes up or down the 4 creeks. It was always the same 8 men who went. And they always

came back with deer. Once the canoes reached the village the men's work was done. The women would drag the deer to the village and prepare it.

The Indians learned to shoot bows and arrows at a very early age. Paul relates the story of how Nelson would visit the village. He would sometimes drive a stake into the ground and split the end sticking a coin into it. The small boys of the village would then shoot the coin out of the stick and get to keep it. The amazing thing to Nelson was not that the boys

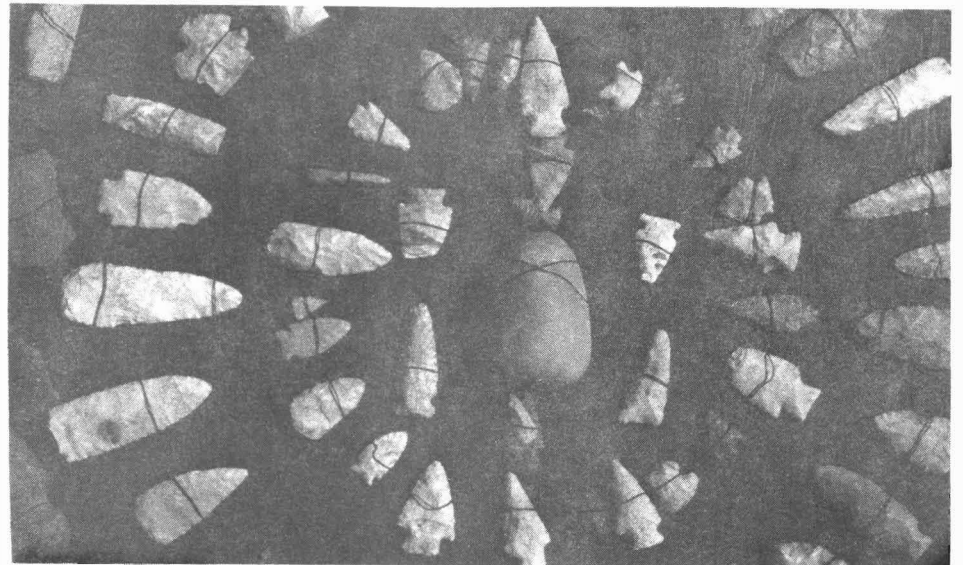
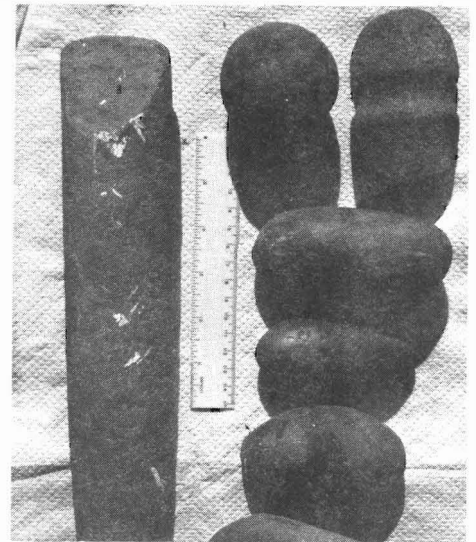
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*Right: Pestle and other stone tools from the Paul Pearson collection.*

*Below: Paul Pearson Collection. Cedar Creek, Indiana Township, Marion County.*

*Far Right: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pearson of Knoxville, Iowa.*

*Photos by M.J. Hatfield*



seldom missed but that if the coin landed in the brush and weeds the Indian boys didn't need to search for the coin. They'd just run right over and pick it out of the brush.

The Indians raised corn, squash, and beans, and ate a lot of deer, muskrat, and fish. Fish was a staple because it could be caught with ease all year long. The Indians made fish traps by driving stakes into the water. Indians also ate dogs and would sometimes offer to trade something to a settler for a particularly butterball puppy. Dogs were wrapped with

grass and set afire singeing off the hair. They were then boiled with corn and beans. However, the Indians didn't feed dog to the whites. The whites were given venison.

In 1845 Nelson took his first wheat to the mill. Red Rock mill didn't open until 1847 so he went to Eddyville, some distance away. He was several weeks in returning as the creeks were swollen and he couldn't cross. His wife was left behind but she had no trouble with the Indians. In fact, in all the time that the Indians were at the

village there was never any unrest with the whites. They were peaceable at all times.

Another incident that Paul relates is of the Hill family eating dinner on a warm day with the door open. Next thing they noticed was an Indian sitting in the room grinning. No one had seen or heard him enter.

The village got smaller and smaller as the years went by. The Indians would leave for awhile but a few would come back until finally none returned. This was in the mid 1870's.

### **Marion County - Indiana Township**

Nelson Hill - farmer and stock raiser, Sec 33, P.O. Attica, is a native of Ohio, and born in Monroe County, on the 24th day of May, 1817. He was taken by his parents when quite young to Indiana, where he resided until 5 years old, then emigrated to Montgomery County, remaining until 1844; emigrated to Iowa, and located in Marion County, entering his land from the government. The hardships and privations he endured were many. He married Miss Eliza Stover, Feb. 23, 1837. She was a native of Highland County Ohio; died in 1860, leaving 4 children. His second marriage occurred in 1861, to Mary A. McElerth, a native of Indiana, born in Shelby County. Their family consists of seven children: Rufus A. Quintillian, John H., James E., Ollie May, Wesley L., and Franklin O.

*(Pg. 783, 784 History of Marion County, Des Moines, Union Historical Co., Birdsall, Williams & Co. 1881.)*



# Plum Grove

## Historic Archaeological Field School Dig

By Richard Slattery

Plum Grove is the name of the house and grounds of Iowa's first Territorial Governor, Robert Lucas. The site is located within Iowa City limits on the east side of the Iowa River near the south central part of town. The grounds include about 4 acres surrounding the house, all of which is set aside as a historical landmark. The home is open to visitors. The site dates from 1840-1940.

The field school excavation, directed by Steve Lensink, Department of Anthropology, University of Iowa, took place at the site of a former barn which stood on the property until 1940. The outlines of the barn perimeters were located even though there apparently had been no stone or brick foundation.

The most notable structure unearthed within the limits of the barn excavation was a large, beehive shaped cistern (see photo) some 14 feet deep. The walls were very well constructed of brick and masonry. At the bottom was a flat limestone rock cemented to the floor at the center. Perhaps this was to protect the concrete floor from damage due to dropping a heavy bucket?

The field school was a real success. No more pleasant surroundings could be found for a

dig. Plenty of shade, green lawns and necessary conveniences plus the in-town location.

Those I.A.S. members participating in the dig and the time donated by each is listed below. It should be noted that all hours contributed are qualifying experience for certification as *Field Technician*.

For more information on this, write or call Dr. Joseph A. Tiffany, Office, State Archaeologist, Eastlawn, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. Phone (319) 353-5177.

I.A.S. Member	No. Hours
Yvonne Bigelow	40
Verlan R. Johns	40
Katheene Johns	40
June Silliman	40
Loren Schutt	40
Richard E. Bauer	40
Elmer C. Heller	40
Sheila W. Hainlin	40
Laurie E. Robinson	32
Richard Slattery	8
Total	360



Above Right: Plum Grove Excavation, June 1980.

Below Right: Plum Grove cistern, June 1980.

Photos by Richard Slattery

# More on the Davenport Conspiracy

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By Ralph W. Dexter  
Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

For over a decade in the late 19th century "The Davenport Conspiracy" (McKusick, 1970) involved many leaders of American archaeology. Under the leadership of the Rev. Jacob Gass, members of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, Davenport, Iowa, "discovered" unique inscribed tablets and elephant (i.e. mastodon) pipes, in addition to other animal effigies, presumably made by the "Mound Builders."

Gass published his results between 1877-1882 (See bibliography in McKusick, 1970). Many anthropologists, including L.H. Morgan, thought the artifacts were genuine. Dr. E. Foreman at the U.S. Bureau of Ethnology, however, questioned them. His stand was immediately repudiated by Spencer F. Baird, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, apparently to keep peace between the Bureau and the Academy. Nevertheless, in 1883 Henry W. Henshaw, archaeologist at the Bureau, made a violent attack on the claims. It was so bitter that his attack backfired.

Many archaeologists supported Gass and the Academy largely through sympathy. Charles E. Putnam, president of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, wrote a pamphlet in 1885 in defense of the "discoveries," which was reprinted in the Academy Proceedings the following year (Putnam, 1886) with quotations from scientists who supported the claims or who gave moral support to the Academy.

F.W. Putnam (no apparent relation to C.E. Putnam), Curator

of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University, was a member of the Davenport Academy and had lectured there 28 September 1883 on "Altar Mounds and Their Contents." He was among the archaeologists who wrote in defense of Gass and his colleagues (also included were Daniel Brinton, Edwin Davis, Alexander Winchell, Max Uhle, Stephen Peet, J.P. MacLean, Willis DeHass, etc.). Some of the letters were read at the Academy meeting 28 August 1885, and some were published "somewhat at random" (Proceed. Davenport Acad. Nat. Sci. 4: 300-319. 1886.), but F.W. Putnam's letter was not included. However, he received the following reply from C.E. Putnam who wrote 14 June 1885—

"—the paper of Mr. [H.W.] Henshaw [U.S. Bureau of Ethnology] sent forth to the world with the endorsement of the great Smithsonian Institution is in no sense an original investigation, it is made up entirely from mere newspaper and magazine gossip, and is, as you intimate, written from the low level of a vulgar, personal libel. - - the distribution of our pamphlet has brought us a large number of letters, highly commendatory of its tone and statements, and strongly condemning the paper of Mr. Henshaw as unscientific and wholly unworthy of being included among the publications of the Smithsonian Institution."

C.E. Putnam thought the matter was a conspiracy by the Bureau of Ethnology to destroy the Davenport Academy. Not only did moral support for the Academy come from many persons as mentioned above, but several professional journals (*Amer. Antiquarian*, *Amer. Nat.*, *Amer. Jour. Sci.*, *Nature*, *Iowa Hist. Record*, etc.) also lamented the situation (Proceed. 4: 334-341. 1886), all influenced largely by the personal attack of Henshaw as shown so well by McKusick (1970) and the review of his work by Fowler (1971).

Cyrus Thomas, Director of Archaeology at the Bureau of Ethnology, became the leader of those who fought the claims of Gass and his co-workers over a decade. Finally, he succeeded in rejecting the genuineness of certain artifacts generally believed to be of great antiquity (Thomas, 1894). F.W. Putnam, like others who rallied in defense, was fooled because Henshaw was so vitriolic that he injured his own case. Archaeologists turned against him for purely personal rather than scientific reasons. While he was later proved right, he was too abrasive, and delayed the truth for many years.

Later it was learned that the suspect artifacts had been manufactured by the janitor and some unscrupulous members of the Academy, which became the victim of a double conspiracy. First, certain members conspired to fool the Rev. Gass with manufactured frauds, and second, President C.E. Putnam became

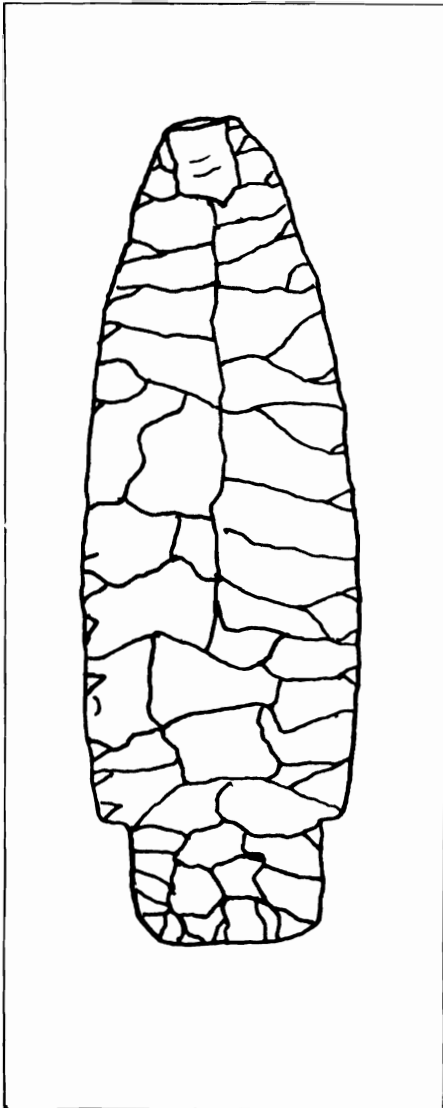
(continued on page 14)

# Scottsbluff Point

By Harold E. Carr

This Scottsbluff point was found in southwest Iowa by the late Kenneth Agnew in the early 1960's. It was found on a high ridge east of the Nodaway River in Adams Count. An Agate Basin point was also found on this site.

The Scottsbluff point must be quite rare in Iowa, I have never found one nor do I recall seeing this type in the numerous collections from this area. I felt for this reason this point might be of interest to the members and perhaps bring some comments.



The Scottsbluff type projectile point has been named from examples found at the Scottsbluff bison quarry near Scottsbluff, Nebraska.<sup>1</sup>

The wide distribution of this type from Texas to Canada suggests considerable antiquity which is supported by radiocarbon dates from various sites in the Great Plains, ranging from 7,000 to 9,500 years.<sup>2</sup>

The Scottsbluff point represents some of the finest workmanship to be found and this point is no exception. The flaking is random and the cross section a thick oval. The stem base and edges have been lightly ground. The point is light brown and made of a fine grained fossiliferous type chert and I have seen other old points from Iowa made of this type flint. (Probably Nehawka Flint—Ed.)

Note the impact fracture that occurred when the tip of the point was broken off. This point evidently sustained a hard direct blow. The unusually convex blade edges show no sign at all of being resharpened and must indicate what an original Scottsbluff point was like. I think this interesting feature alone makes this rare point somewhat rare even among its own type.

<sup>1</sup>. Barbour and Schultz, 1932.

<sup>2</sup>. *Guide to the Identification of Certain American Indian Projectile Points*, by Robert E. Bell.

Scottsbluff - Type 1  
Actual Size

## The Davenport Conspiracy

(continued from page 13)

fearful of a conspiracy against the Academy by the Bureau in Washington. Unfortunately, some prominent American archaeologists were drawn into a controversy that got out of hand.

I am indebted to the family of F.W. Putnam for use of his private papers deposited in the Archives of Harvard University.

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# From Our Readers

## Iowa Archaeological Society Certification Program Annual Report

By Joseph A. Tiffany

During the 1979 year I received 33 information requests on the I.A.S. Certification program. The number of requests was up 500% over last year and represents a 60% increase in total requests since the development of the program in 1976. The recent rise in interest in the Certification program is due of the success of the I.A.S. Field School over the past two years, and to broader public awareness of the program made possible by press releases I sent out last fall.

Twenty-nine people signed up for certification last year. The category breakdown is as follows: 1) Lab Technician, 6; 2) Field Technician, 25; and 3) Site Surveyor, 10. Overall, these represent a substantial increase over last year.

Thirteen people were certified in 1979 and are listed as follows (Table 1). There are also 53 people presently working towards certification in one or more of the three certification areas.

The Iowa Archaeological Society's Certification Program is the most successful project ever undertaken by the membership. With future field schools providing the training opportunities and chapter and state research projects providing the possibility for involvement of certified members, the certification program can only get better and better!

## National Historic Landmark Sites

By Dale R. Henning

The Whittrock Phipps and Blood Run sites are being investigated pertinent to re-checking their site margins, condition and the evaluation and location of materials recovered from the surface of each. This work is being done as part of a cooperative venture between the Division of Historic Preservation and Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. Each site will be visited, re-mapped if necessary and the collections from each will be

visited (given permission) and evaluated. The project is designed to bring the data on each of these Landmark sites up to date.

If you have material from any (or, all three) of these sites, or know of someone who has many or even a few pieces from Wittrock, Phipps (both Mill Creek sites) or Blood Run (an Oneota site), please inform me and I will follow up on the information. Your cooperation can provide an invaluable service to this important project. Please write:

Dale R. Henning  
Dept. Soc/Anthro/Soc Work  
328 Larsen Hall  
Luther College  
Decorah, Iowa 52101

**Table 1: Certified I.A.S. Members, 1979**

Name	Certification		
	Lab Technician	Field Technician	Site Surveyor
Cameron, Doug	X	-	-
Grant, Jerry	X	X	-
Carr, Dick	X	-	-
Miller, Duane	-	-	X
Moeller, Annette	-	X	-
Morrow, Toby	-	X	-
Natte, Roger	-	X	-
Page, Jim	-	X	-
Page, Robert	-	X	-
Pyvich, Donna	-	X	-
Schermer, Shirley	-	X	-
Schutt, Loren	-	X	-
Young, Marcy	X	X	-

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