

iowa archeological society

# newsletter

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The year 1986 has brought sorrow, change and challenge to our Society and its members. First, we were shocked and saddened by the death of R. Clark Mallam, professor of anthropology, Luther College, past editor of our Journal and a dear friend to many of us. We were further saddened by the passing of our long time member, Herb Sovereign.

Next, Ruth Thornton retired after 27 years of dedicated service as treasurer for the IAS. At this same time Dave and Lori Stanley were forced by outside work pressures to resign from the Newsletter editorship. Duane Anderson picked up the "ball", brought us up to date and, before leaving for Ohio, assisted our new Board appointed editor, Sheila Hainlin to take over.

We welcome Sheila and through our efforts hope that she will never run out of copy. To assure this, keep sending in those articles and items of interest.

Finally as if Duane's leaving were not enough, we are now about to lose Joe Tiffany who is moving to California this December. As it is presently arranged, Steve Lensink, appointed our 1987 Journal Editor, will become acting State Archaeologist after Joe leaves.

Joe Tiffany has been a faithful member of our Society for some ten years and has managed our Certification Program, acted as field director on at least four field schools, has contributed extensively to our Newsletters and Journals and presented numerous programs to our Society chapters. Joe will be sorely missed.

In light of all of the above we do have a challenge. I am sure we will meet it through the continued efforts of the membership to pitch in where needed. As a gentle reminder, one of our obligations is to pay our 1987

dues promptly so that our new treasurer, Terry Walker, can avoid mailing costly reminder cards.

Lastly, I wish to thank all those hard working IAS volunteers who helped out on the blood Run field school dig this past June. Your valued assistance provided much greater coverage to the archaeological survey of this huge site.

Richard Slattery

## TRIBUTE: DUANE ANDERSON

Our former State Archaeologist, Dr. Duane Anderson, or "Duane" as we all know him, is now residing in Dayton, Ohio and is the Executive Director of the Dayton Museum of Natural History. On September 13, 1986 a group of some 50 of his co-workers and friends, including Native Americans, wished him well at a reception held at Eastlawn Building in the O. S. A. library, Iowa City.

Those of us who witnessed the tribute to Duane by the Native Americans were most deeply impressed by the spoken words and prayers of Louie Moves-Camp, an Oglala Sioux medicine man and a teacher at Santee, Neb. Maria "Running Moccasins" Pearson presented Duane a beaded medallion and Don Wanate, from the Tama Settlement, gave him a decorative quilt. Duane was particularly honored for his efforts in preserving Indian burial grounds and for this work Duane later received an Indian name in a solemn ceremony held at Mankato, Minn. This honor is rarely given to a non-Indian and is therefore considered the highest possible tribute. After such an impressive presentation, many of us, who also felt deep gratitude, stood momentarily in humbled silence until the informal handshaking suddenly broke the spell.



Louie Moves-Camp and Duane Anderson

Now, with the reception only a memory, I will thank Duane on behalf of the Society for his untiring support. Only those who worked closely with Duane and his staff can really appreciate the many ways in which he assisted our Society and furthered its growth. To list a few: President 1970-1976; was primarily responsible for initiating our IAS field schools for the last ten years; established our Certification Program; educational opportunities; the Public Archaeology

(speakers) Program; computerized our mailing list and bulk mailing of our Newsletters, Journals and announcements; acted as office of record; assisted with tax problems and much, much more. Equally important was just being a phone call away to advise and assist your president and other officers of the IAS when needed. We are saddened by Duane's departure, however, we wish him and his family the very best in Ohio.



Duane Anerson and Don Wanatee

Richard Slattery, Pres. IAS

## IOWA-POLAND PROJECT

Results of the First Season of Fieldwork (1985) Under the Collaborative Research Agreement Between Iowa State University (ISU) and the Institute for the History of Material Culture (IHMC), Polish Academy of Sciences

by John Bower

### INTRODUCTION

The agreement mentioned in the title of this report was formalized by the participating organizations in 1984; it established a long term, cooperative archaeological research program focused on comparative studies of late Pleistocene and early

Holocene hunting-gathering cultures in Poland and the United States. In addition, the agreement stipulated that fieldwork should be performed on opposite sides of the Atlantic in alternate years, beginning with a field season in the United States during summer, 1985. Thus, in June and July of that year Dr. John Bower of ISU and Dr. Michael Kobusiewicz of the IHMC spent approximately six weeks at various locations in Iowa and Illinois conducting reconnaissance and test excavations aimed at identifying sites for intensive data collection; they also carried out analytical studies of previously collected lithic assemblages from various Archaic sites. This report summarizes the results of those investigations.

### LABORATORY RESEARCH

The research team felt that it should devote a substantial amount of effort to typological studies of lithic assemblages representing the cultural stages embraced by the project, namely Paleoindian and Early-Middle Archaic. We were convinced that such work would not only yield relevant data but would also help sharpen our perception of the basic research issues with which our venture is engaged. (The lack of clear definition was, in part, a consequence of the fact that comparative, archaeological research of the type envisioned for this project is essentially unprecedented.) With these goals in mind, especially the latter, we decided to schedule the typological studies ahead of the fieldwork. While artifacts from sites in central Iowa, western Iowa and northeastern Illinois were examined, by far the most intensive study was devoted to Middle Archaic assemblages from horizons 8 and 10 at the Koster site, central Illinois. The reason for concentrating on the Koster assemblages was that they constituted the best samples available to us, in terms of quantity and variety of specimens, as well as integrity of the collections. The major accomplishment of the laboratory research on the Koster assemblages was the production of a "Dynamic Technological Classification System," along the lines pioneered by Dr.

Romauld Schild, that will accommodate late Pleistocene and early Holocene lithic materials from both Poland and the United States, thus providing a framework for direct comparison. A paper describing these studies is currently in preparation.

### FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The program of reconnaissance and test excavations was aimed at identifying sites of high potential for intensive research. The criteria for evaluating the sites included (in descending order of importance) good preservation of ecofacts, evidence of a varied round of activities, and waterfront location. The concern with ecofact preservation is related to the project's overarching emphasis on the question of adaptation. This question, together with logistical considerations, shaped our interest in habitation sites, as opposed to kill (or other specialized) sites. The waterfront criterion arose from two considerations: the fact that the sites likely to be excavated in Poland are located along erstwhile bodies of water, and the desirability of controlling as many variables as possible in the projected comparative analyses. Of course, the typological characteristics of cultural material were also considered.

Seven sites were carefully examined, two in central Iowa and five in northeastern Illinois. One of the sites in central Iowa, located on the northeastern margin of the city of Ames, appears to meet most, if not all of the criteria for "high potential"; the other, located about 20 km southeast of Ames, is apparently a bison kill site with excellent bone preservation but otherwise less promising characteristics. Both of the sites in Iowa probably represent the Middle Archaic stage.

Of the five sites examined in Illinois, three were deemed worthy of test excavation. One is located on the property of Pat and Ronald Hartmann of Elgin, another is in the middle of Hoffman Estates (and was imminently threatened by construction), and the third is on property owned by Dorothy and Floyd Watpler of Alden and farmed by Dwight Sphar. The tests generally

involved probing with a posthole "auger" to depths up to 70 cm below the surface at regular intervals along a series of transects laid out across the surface of each site. (In one case, presently to be discussed, small test trenches were also dug.)

Briefly, what the tests revealed was that the site on the Watpler's land may have the highest potential for intensive work. It is a "waterfront" site along the edge of a 5 x .5 km basin (now a peat bog) with excellent bone preservation; however, site function is unclear, and the probes (which included three small test trenches) did not expose substantial concentrations of cultural material or food debris. Moreover, judging from the typological characteristics of surface artifacts and a radiocarbon date from an elk bone retrieved from the upper layer of the peat, the site may be of Late Archaic affinity.

The results of reconnaissance and test excavations can be summarized as follows; several--at least three--sites have been identified that might be suitable for extensive excavations which are scheduled for 1987; however, additional information is needed before a final selection can be made. At present, we are inclined to believe that the best prospect may be the site on the Watpler's land or another, more concentrated occurrence in the same basin.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the many individuals and organizations that facilitated our work in 1985. Research funds were provided through the generosity of the LSB Leakey Foundation, IREX (International Research Exchange), ISU, and IHMC. Laboratory facilities and artifact collections were made available by the Office of the State Archaeologist (Iowa) and by Northwestern University. The landowners and tenants whose names appear earlier were exceptionally receptive to our studies and very generous with information relevant to our work. We are also extremely grateful to all the people who were helpful to the project in ways too varied to mention; at the risk of

inadvertently omitting names, we should like to credit (more or less in the order in which they were contacted) Dave Ballard, Art Bettis, Steve Lensink, Charles Markman, Bill Harrison and David Kives. Finally, we wish to extend a special note of thanks to two individuals without whose unstinting cooperation and helpful guidance the project could not have succeeded: Jim Brown and Bob Joslin-Jeske.

#### REVIEW OF

*Historical Archaeology: A Guide to Substantive and Theoretical Contributions*. Edited by Robert L. Schuyler. Farmingdale, New York: Baywood Publishing Company, Inc., 1978.

This volume is divided into five sections: emergence and definition of a new discipline; subfields of historical archaeology; substantive contributions; theoretical positions; and future trends. Thirty-five separate articles, selected for their variety and their clarity in promoting these themes, make up the volume. The time span covered and the geographical orientation both offer broadly based interpretation. Together the articles offer an interesting, significant, and indeed exciting introduction to an analysis of the subject. Such well known authorities as Lewis Binford, Ivor Noel Hume, Bernard Fontana, and J. C. Harrington are joined with talented graduate students in a truly winning combination.

It is with delight that the reader can move from gravestone symbolism in 17th century New England to 18th century military fort design to 19th century British administration in Australia to Mexican missions to Mormon town plans in one sitting. The greatest value in the volume is the coupling of theory with case studies, a feat not often attempted. Few among us are equally skilled at the intellectual disciplines of history, anthropology, archaeology, and architecture. But this volume does help us to bridge these gaps, and to combine features from each discipline into an identifiable whole. Research skills from each complement the others and in collaboration they provide a

foundation upon which to build more comprehensive generalizations. Fontana suggests an interesting coupling of definitions, Bowen discusses and analyzes a familiar yet little used documentary source, while Harrington and Binford utilize the common place in material culture. But all of them reach greater understandings of ways of life in the past. Interdisciplinary research is more simply portrayed in Brown's narrative about a project exploring a 17th century farm in Rhode Island, which uses oral as well as documentary and artifactual references.

A review of a book which consists of thirty-five separate and independent parts is difficult to compose. To deal with each part in turn would be intolerably tedious and redundant. To deal with all collectively is impossible. So selection for emphasis is the only viable plan. Taking that as our hypothesis, it seems to me that sections 1, 3, and 5 are better than 2 and 4. They are better in the sense of variety of selection, clarity of writing, and overall usefulness and applicability for further substantive study. The other two sections are interesting in a speculative way, but fit together less easily as a unit. They are thought-provoking, but lead to further discussion and debate rather than positive action. Of course this is not bad, and is what they intend, and why they were selected. What it does mean is that the book does not find a realistic balance between the practical and the theoretical. I am glad that the attempt was made, and it will help to improve future volumes on the same subject, but it does not quite make it. While greatly useful in its consolidation of periodical and scattered literature, its scope is too ambitious. Divided differently, and published as two separate volumes, it would be more acceptable.

Regardless of any deficiencies or faults, it's a welcome book and is one of the best attempts at grappling with an important field of enquiry. And I really do like the variety of including the study of a French colonial fort in the Great Lakes with medieval archaeology and Islamic excavations. This kaleidoscope of time and place is really good. Our thanks to the editor

for his imagination and his attempt to gather an unwieldy subject matter into an encyclopedic guide. Where he fails it is due to faulty sequencing, and where he succeeds, clearly the majority of the book, he is on the cutting edge of something great.

Loren N. Horton  
Iowa State Historical Department

## OBISDIAN STUDY TO BE PUBLISHED

Remember the plea in the 1978 issue of the Newsletter for obsidian found in Iowa? Well, the results will be published in *American Antiquity* later this year. The article, written by Duane Anderson, Joe Tiffany, and Fred Nelson, reports on 31 samples from Iowa sites. Using trace element analysis, the authors found: 1) 74% of the obsidian originated at the Obsidian Cliff Quarry in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming; and 2) in contrast with earlier midwestern studies where obsidian was found in ritual contexts on Middle Woodland sites, the Iowa Material is associated with a broader temporal range and on sites where ritual use is not evident. In presenting these results, a discussion is provided on the analytical methods used, along with a summary of previous research on midwestern obsidian finds. Society members who helped with the study include Kenneth and Marie Brown, David Carlson, David Gradwohl, Arlo Johnson, Marilyn and Ray Mittelstadt, Mel Rath, and Terry Walker.

## BLOOD RUN FIELDWORK: 1986

Fifty-eight volunteers from the Iowa and the South Dakota Archeological Societies, the Sierra Club, students from Luther College, Augustana College (Sioux Falls) and the University of Iowa participated in the 1986 research at the Blood Run Site.

Surveying and testing was done to determine limits of the site and to sample the quantity and types of cultural material over various portions of the site. This included grid surface



Dick Slattery and others

collecting and shovel testing. Salvage of storage pits in the area disturbed by gravel operations continued.



Adrian Hannus with students

In addition to the field work, a series of evening lectures was presented on the archaeology and the prehistory of the area. These lectures were open to the public.

Preliminary results are that the mounds at Blood Run appear to have been constructed primarily with rock and gravel fill. Several plowed-down mounds were identified on the basis of

concentrations of rock and gravel found in the surface collections.

The present northern and eastern boundaries of the site need to be expanded based on the extent of cultural material recovered during the surface collections.

Evidence of village occupation was confirmed for the bottomland of Area A (west and below mound Group A, bounded by Blood Run Creek and Big Sioux River).

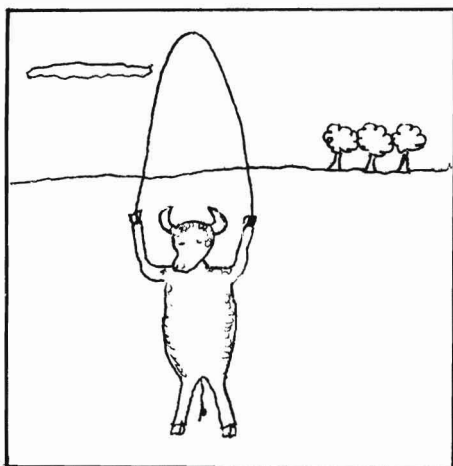
Material recovered included two glass trade beads, a considerable amount of pipestone including two pipe blanks, pottery, flakes, points, scrapers, etc.

Dale Henning, at the Fall meeting, said that the excavated material is currently being analyzed at Luther College.

## 1986 Blood Run Site IAS volunteers

Jim Andre, Estherville  
Richard Bauer, Sheldon  
Dennis Brady, Muscatine  
Kate Brady, Muscatine  
Andy Brenner, Sheldon.  
Karen Bumann, Battle Creek  
Louis Eisner, Muscatine  
Sheila Hainlin, Des Moines  
Heather Hanzlick, Shenandoah  
Greg Helle, Estherville  
William Heusmann, Des Moines  
Noni Hooper, Marshalltown  
David Hudson, Coralville  
Kelly Huggins, Des Moines  
Mary Huggins, Des Moines  
Mike Hunter, Cedar Rapids  
John Jensen, Rolfe  
Jim Kling, Bettendorf  
Fran Kurtz, Des Moines  
Marvin Ludolph, Walker  
John McLure, Iowa City  
Mark Minger, Anamosa  
Ben Minger, Anamosa  
Jerome Phillips, Council Bluffs  
James Pilgrim, Clinton  
Loren Schutt, Iowa City  
Richard Shepard, Indianola  
June Silliman, Mt. Vernon  
Robert Thompson, Rolfe  
Gudrun Vogel, Marshalltown  
Lori Wilker, Cedar Rapids  
Don Williams, Sioux City  
Pat Williams, Sioux City  
Michael Wright, LeMars

## INCITES: Buffalo jump



## Through Other Eyes:

By Jerome Phillips, Council Bluffs

I worked at Blood Run a portion of two summers, 1985 and 1986. There is a haunting there and you can feel its ancient ways in your gut. I am an amateur and while I recognize the scientific and historical significance of Blood Run, I must confess that when I look at Blood Run, I see it through eyes other than my own. Blood Run is making a connection with the past and with people not unlike me - people who lived, loved, struggled and ultimately left on the face of the earth what Thoreau called a mindprint. I fervently hope that we have the vision and resolve to preserve Blood Run so that future generations can stand where I have stood and feel what I have felt.

## Grandma, What Did You Find?

By Fran Kurtz, Des Moines

In the months that have passed, I have had time to reflect on my three weeks at Blood Run last Summer. As a novice, I was most eager to observe, listen and learn all that I could about the mechanics of a dig. Interesting site activity and excellent lectures

fulfilled that aspect. What I didn't anticipate was the generosity and the patience of those more experienced than I. At the very outset I discovered there was a common denominator of enthusiasm and respect shared by volunteers, students and staff alike. Immediately I felt a part of a worthwhile endeavor.

Now fall has come and colored those lovely mounds and fields. Soon they will lay beneath the chill of winter snows, but I shall be warmed by my memories of a most enjoyable and rewarding experience.

In answer to the queries of my grandchildren, I reply that I found much more than I expected at Blood Run.

## FALL MEETING

The fall meeting, Sept. 19-20, at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, went swimmingly. It was maybe better if one knew how. Excess rain covered the Blood Run site so that it might temporarily have been called Flood Run. The area may not have seen so much standing water since the Pleistocene. And so the Saturday site tour had to be cancelled. However, the Friday afternoon reports progressed as scheduled and were varied and interesting.

Dick Slattery described rock art and its place in the spiritual lives of its practitioners. Slides of Mid-western and New Mexican examples illustrated the variety.

Steve Lensink reported on research of two species of crayfish in the diet of the Glenwood Culture.

South Dakota's state archaeologist, Bob Alex, described the 1986 discovery of a cave site in the Black Hills. Alex suggested that occupation could have spread over a major portion of the Holocene.

Tim Nowak, archaeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, told of the recent work at the old army post of Ft. Randall. The project is expected to continue for a couple years. And is dependent upon volunteers, 120 of them in 1986.

Iowa State Senator Rich Vande Hoef, from Harris, Iowa, summarized efforts

by the state to acquire the National Landmark Blood Run.

Dale Henning reviewed the investigation of the Blood Run Site and described the geography and development of Oneota culture.

A dozen or so IAS members attended.

The Friday dinner and the buffalo banquet on Saturday were very tasty.

## Dear Society Members,

It is my privilege to aid in the production of the Newsletter, a voice of the Society. Reading and thinking about archaeological matters caters to longstanding interests of mine.

Another benefit is that through putting together the Newsletter I gain better acquaintance with you. That process had already begun during the three-plus weeks I worked at Blood Run. And it continued at the Fall meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you as you send me articles, photos, announcements and other bits of news so that the Newsletter may speak. Within a year I expect to have received at least a paragraph from every member. Yes? Or will I have to come get you?

Preparing this issue has been an interesting challenge.

See you at the annual meeting April 4-5, 1987, in Ames.

Sheila Hainlin

1434 44 St.

Des Moines, Ia. 50311

## GARDEN BEDS IN BLACK HAWK COUNTY

By William T. Billeck

Garden beds or ridged fields are prehistoric agricultural features that are most common in Wisconsin and Michigan but have not been reported in the literature or *site files for Iowa*. The ridges have been suggested to alleviate frost damage. The tops of the ridges were found to be a few degrees warmer than the furrows during



CR 248

periods of potential frost damage, thereby extending the growing season and increasing the likelihood of a productive harvest (Riley and Freimuth 1979). While reviewing the Charles Keyes files at the State Historical Society, I came upon a field description of garden beds in Black Hawk County by Keyes, and a photograph sent to Keyes by John C. Hartman in 1928. The garden beds were reported to be on the north side of the Cedar River on a south sloping terrace, about 200 m west of the Indian Lake site (13BH1), an Archaic to Late Woodland habitation, near La Porte City, Iowa. Keyes (1941) indicated that the garden beds were "the only case of the kind in Iowa, as far as I know, that had escaped the white man's plow." A cursory inspection of the area north of the Mill Creek Lange Site, 13OB7, along Waterman Creek in northwestern Iowa revealed features that also may be garden beds (Duane Anderson personal communication: 1986). These potential ridges will be further documented in the future.

Keyes described the garden beds in 1927 as a series of parallel north-south trending ridges on a slightly sloping bank, south of a cultivated field. The ridges are 3-5 inches high, 20 inches wide, 3.5 feet apart, and cover an area of 80 x 120 feet (Keyes 1927). A shallow series of ridges can be seen running diagonally across the photograph below the fence.

By 1941 the garden beds were almost completely destroyed (Merz 1941:4). A field visit to the reported garden bed location on August 31, 1986, revealed that an access road and a series of cottages and lawns have removed all surficial evidence of the garden beds. Garden beds are surface features that are easily destroyed. In Iowa, it is likely that many garden beds have been destroyed by the extensive cultivation in the state. Any beds that still exist would be found in native prairie or timber. Garden beds have also been subjected to rapid destruction in nearby states. In a recent attempt to relocate 50 previously recorded garden beds in eastern Wisconsin, only seven sites remained (Moffat 1979:231).

Garden beds are poorly placed in time but most likely date to after the widespread adaptation of agriculture after A.D. 900. A few garden beds have been dated. An extensive ridged field has recently been discovered at the Oneota Orr Phase Sand Lake site near LaCrosse, Wisconsin (Gallagher et al. 1985). Oneota sherds have also been recovered during the excavation of garden beds at the Lasley's Point site in Wisconsin (Peske 1966:191-192). The Black Hawk County garden Beds cannot be assigned to a cultural period. If the garden beds are associated with the nearby Indian Lake site, a Late Woodland affiliation may be indicated. Oneota components have been identified in north and central Black Hawk County, but they

have not been reported in the vicinity of the garden beds.

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#### Annual membership dues are as follows:

##### VOTING

1. Active - \$10
2. Household - \$17
3. Sustaining - \$25
4. Benefactor - \$250 minimum

##### NON-VOTING

1. Student (under 18) \$7
2. Institution - \$10

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