

iowa archeological society

newsletter

Vol. 38 no.3

1988

Issue
127

INTERVIEW WITH IOWA'S NEW STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST



Archaeologist Bill Green contemplating midwestern archaeology in a test pit.

William Green was appointed state archaeologist in late May, 1988, by the Iowa State Board of Regents. A Chicago native, Bill received his undergraduate training in anthropology at Grinnell College. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In July, 1987, he joined the Office of the State Archaeologist as its research archaeologist, filling the position long held by Joe Tiffany.

Some IAS members are already acquainted with Bill through his recent Turkey River project in which he visited several sites and collectors in northeastern Iowa.

OSA staffers are excited by Bill's plans for the Office and the state. They are convinced he will continue the traditions established by Duane Anderson.

In an interview, Bill responded to questions posed by the Iowa Archeological Society.

IAS: How and when did you get interested in archaeology?

BG: When I was a freshman in high school, I read Ceram's *Gods, Graves and*

Scholars, I took an experimental Social Studies course dealing with prehistory, and I worked after school for an anthropology journal. I became interested in all fields of anthropology but decided on archaeology in my senior year when I got a chance to go on a dig.

IAS: What are your particular research interests?

BG: I am interested in several topics in midwestern archaeology. I enjoy studying culture contact situations and processes of pioneer settlement, both historic and prehistoric. I am concerned with reconstructing past economies and environmental conditions through analysis of plant remains. Actually, there are few midwestern archaeological topics that I'm *not* interested in!

IAS: Where have you worked on archaeological excavations?

BG: Illinois, Wisconsin, England, Israel, Mexico (for a week), and now Iowa.

IAS: What impressed you most about the Iowa job?

BG: First, its location at a major university. This affords opportunities in terms of labs and libraries, for example, and interactions with students and colleagues, that are rare in other units of state government. Second, the relatively high level of state and university support for the OSA and its activities — compared to other states — was a positive factor. Third, there is a good working relationship between the OSA and Indians in Iowa regarding burial sites and human remains. Fourth, the excellent staff and its record of accomplishments reflect high standards of professionalism and expertise that are indispensable to archaeological programs. Fifth, the almost unbelievably well organized OSA repository and archives made it easy to "learn the ropes" and get to work right away.

IAS: Iowa has a strong tradition of public archaeology and educational programs. Professional and amateur archaeologists have close working and personal relationships. What plans do you have for public archaeology?

BG: I see public education and involvement in archaeology, and general outreach work, as some of our most important functions. "Iowa's P.A.S.T." was a successful program; we will update it and provide expanded teacher training through a program Steve Lensink is organizing. We will continue to manage the IAS certification program. We will be lending materials for educational displays and presenting talks to various groups. We will be inviting IAS members and others to participate in surveys and excavations, and we hope to set up a laboratory class for the public. The OSA publications program will continue and grow. We hope to set up a regional archaeology program in which we will become more accessible to people in different parts of the state.

IAS: Can a big city boy be happy in Iowa?

BG: No problem! I enjoyed my years at Grinnell and I have had a great time over the past year in Iowa City and exploring other parts of the state.

IAS: What will be the roles of the various OSA staff members?

BG: There has been a long transition period since Duane announced his resignation. The staff weathered the inevitable uncertainty very well, and they continue to do excellent work. Steve Lensink is responsible for most grants and contracts, basic research on several topics, editing the *IAS Journal*, and the educational program I just mentioned. Shirley Schermer directs the burials program. Carl Merry is responsible for the Highway Archaeology Program, which includes

survey archaeologists Jim Collins, Kris Hirst, Mark Mehrer and Mike Perry. Deb Zieglofsky manages the site file and other OSA records and collections, our librarian Marianne Ryan manages the documents collection, and editorial assistant Bob Burchfield works on the publications program. Patti Streicher and Linda Vesely help keep things organized for the Highway program and the OSA in general, respectively. IAS members can contact me or any of these staff members for assistance or information.

IAS: *What do you like to do when you're not doing archaeology?*

BG: I enjoy reading, bicycling, 'playing' guitar, and traveling. But lately it seems that archaeology is all I do!

IAS: *What can amateur archaeologists contribute to Iowa archaeology?*

BG: Amateurs have contributed some of the most important information: thousands of site locations, records of diagnostic artifacts, reports on endangered sites. IAS members — especially those who have participated in the certification program — can continue this tradition by staying in touch with the OSA or local archaeologists to share information. And I mean share in the sense of a two-way exchange; OSA and other professionals must help amateurs, students, and the public to understand the meanings of their artifacts or the sites they wish to preserve or investigate. So, I believe that by reporting sites and collections, amateurs can help with research and preservation and with their own development as knowledgeable laypeople.

IAS: *What projects are you working on now?*

BG: It's getting difficult to keep track of all the work here! I'm examining plant remains from a Glenwood earthlodge in Mills County as part of an Iowa Science Foundation-supported project. I have just finished the Turkey River basin survey report, which covers many topics on northeastern Iowa archaeology. I am trying to finish up some of my Wisconsin and Illinois work dealing with Mississippian and Late Woodland cultures. I am getting several manuscripts (by other archaeologists) ready for

publication in the OSA *Report* series and elsewhere.

IAS: *How does Iowa compare with other states in terms of what we actually know about its prehistory? Do we know it all? Is there anything left to study that hasn't been studied before?*

BG: There is so much left to study it's hard to know where to begin. But we do know the basics of culture history in most parts of the state, and intensive studies with subsistence analyses, radiocarbon dating, etc., have been conducted in some areas. Iowa archaeologists are looking at a wide variety of questions, from relatively basic topics of typology and classification to complex studies of cultural dynamics and ideology. Geomorphological studies are more fully integrated with archaeology in Iowa than in most other places. Iowa is an exciting place in which to work because of the diversity of archaeological approaches people have taken. Also, the presence of both Plains and Eastern Woodlands cultures in the state affords great research opportunities. What we need, in my opinion, are concerted efforts to tackle specific archaeological problems, perhaps through a series of seminars or coordinated research.

IAS: *The state archaeologist wears many hats. He's a scholar, an administrator, a professor. How do you manage to juggle so many hats and get so much work done?*

BG: I guess we'll see how good I am at juggling. In previous positions, I was involved in research, teaching, writing, editing, administration, and public outreach; now I try to do all of these things in one position. I believe the keys are organization, commitment, and communication.

IAS: *Do you have a special message for IAS members?*

BG: IAS members constitute the "front line" in reporting new sites and new discoveries. The OSA will continue to support and assist the IAS. Please let me know what you believe the OSA can or should be doing in this respect. In return for your help, we will continue share our knowledge to help you get more out of

archaeology and to help you advance the causes of archaeological conservation and research.

[The following article is reprinted with permission from The Messenger, Fort Dodge, IA, April 7, 1988.]

Lions Club honors historian NATTE...

By Walter B. Stevens
Editor Emeritus

Roger Natta, a government and history instructor at Iowa Central Community College and its predecessor for 23 years, is the 1988 winner of the Lions Club Community Service Award.

Natta, 49, received the trophy emblematic of the honor at the Wednesday noon Lions Club meeting.

First given in 1945, the Lions Club award goes each year to the individual, organization, institution or corporation contributing most for the benefit of the community.

Natta, President of the ICCA Education Association in 1986-87 and coordinator and teacher of the career option program, is one of two faculty members now serving on a search committee studying applications for the presidency of the college.

As Fort Dodge's unofficial historian, Natta has compiled a vast fund of information on the early history of the community and its citizens. In his talk to Lions Wednesday, he discussed early day politicians and the fre swinging campaigns they waged. He recalled that Jett Wray of Fort Dodge was the first woman nominee of a major political party to run for Congress. That occurred in 1922.

In 1977 and 1978, Natta was director of the Fort Museum and Pioneer Educational Institution in Fort Dodge. During the summers, he started a pioneer garden featuring such items as squash, tobacco, artichokes, corn, herbs, etc. That

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

experiment led to a call on his talents and experience to set up a native American garden at Living History Farms in Des Moines.

He has served as president of the Iowa State Historical Society and as a director of the Iowa Archeological Society. He's a charter member and longtime officer of the Webster County Historical Society. In 1983, he received a certificate of merit from the Iowa Historical Society for overall achievement.

A native of Sibley, Natte earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State Teachers College (now University of Northern Iowa) in 1960 and then taught for two years at North High in Des Moines. He served in the Peace Corps as a teacher and administrator in Liberia, West Africa, for 30 months, earned his master's degree from UNI and then returned to Fort Dodge to join the Junior College faculty in 1965.

A widower, Natte has two daughters, Mindy and Tresia.

Duane Ulstad, chairman of the selection committee which also includes the Rev. George Den Hartog and Dr. Vernon Krambeck, made the presentation and listed Natte's achievements.



From Messenger photo by Fred Larson

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DAVENPORT, IOWA APRIL 10, 1988

The annual business meeting was called to order by President Ferrel Anderson at 10:10 am in the auditorium of the Putnam museum. Secretary Terry Walker read the minutes from last year's annual meeting in Ames, and Ferrel read the minutes from the board meeting in March.

The Treasurer's report showed that as of April 5, there were 195 members with dues paid through 1988. There is \$6011 in the savings account and \$2243 in the checking account.

There was no report from the Newsletter Editor, but Ferrel mentioned that material is needed and that the deadlines for submitting items are as follows: mid-January for the February issue, mid-April for the May issue, mid-July for the August Issue, and mid-October for the November issue.

Journal Editor, Steve Lensink, reported that the 1987 journal is in final printing. The "1st" final draft was poorly done and had to be redone. Steve explained the new format which allows more print per page, hence, each issue is thinner and less expensive. The 1988 journal is devoted entirely to historical archaeology featuring Plum Grove in Iowa City. Steve also plead for articles for 1989.

A change in the bylaws was next discussed. Ferrel asked why the annual meeting is held in the spring. Steve Lensink mentioned that there is competition with other meetings in both the spring and the falls. Kay Simpson added that there might be problems with private contractors attending a fall meeting because it would come at the end of the federal fiscal year, a busy time. More discussion on the bylaws changes will come later, Ferrel indicated.

Concerning other meetings, LeRoy Pratt announced the upcoming meeting of the Historical Congress in Des Moines sponsored by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs in June.

Regarding membership, Ferrel had some questions about the bylaws and articles of incorporation. Dick Slattery proposed that the Board of Directors work on the problems and Ferrel concurred.

Dave Whitmer suggested that the IAS incorporate something on liability into the bylaws as well.

Because Jerry Phillips was unable to attend the meeting, no report on his membership committee was made.



Ferrel Anderson at IAS meeting, April 1988.

Photo by Dick Slattery

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Nomination Committee - Dick Slattery presented the following slate of officers and directors for 1988-1989:

ELECTIONS RESULTS

PRESIDENT: Ferrel Anderson
V. PRESIDENT: Dave Carlson
SECRETARY: (Marilyn Mittelstadt was appointed to fill the remaining year of Terry Walker's term)
TREASURER: Deb Zieglofsky

Board of Directors: 1988-1991

Dennis Miller
Yvonne Chadek
Terry Walker

No other nominations came from the floor. Chadek/Lensink motioned that the slate be voted on as presented. The motion passed.

2. Ferrel briefly discussed the need for more chapters and a revision of the bylaws to require chapter members to also be IAS members.

3. For the 1989 annual meeting, Ron Wilson, UNI Museum Director, and the Blackhawk Chapter extended an invitation to hold the meeting in Cedar Falls. The motion to accept the invitation was made by Nancy Osborn/Jim Pilgrim and passed.

4. Regarding a fall meeting, suggestions to meet in Cherokee, Red Rock Reservoir, Pella, or Northeast Iowa were made. The most popular location seemed to be in the northeast as part of an effort to start a chapter there.

5. Yvonne Chadek made a request for a display at Elderfest on July 16 at Kirkwood College. The pros and cons of a manned versus an unmanned booth were discussed as well as having someone give a slide presentation. Ferrel said that a committee would be formed to decide the matter.

6. Chapter reports were given by Terry Walker from the Northwest Chapter, Steve Lensink from the Keyes Chapter, and Ferrel Anderson from the Quad Cities Chapter.

7. Kay Simpson talked about several nominations being made to the National Register of Historic Places and that a field trip would be made in May to Allamakee County.

8. Bob Bryant asked if the IAS ever makes presentations to the Iowa Association of County Conservation

Boards. Kay Simpson then mentioned that we also need better ties with county and city commissions.

9. Resolutions were read by Ferrel to thank our hosts and others. Slattery/Chadek motioned to accept them. The voting was unanimous.

10. Motion to adjourn was made by Slattery/Pratt.

1988 ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENT:

Ferrel Anderson
1923 E. 13th Street
Davenport, IA 52803
(319) 324-0257

VICE PRESIDENT:

David Carlson
Route 1, Box 113
Otho, IA 50569
(515) 549-3478

SECRETARY:

Marilyn Mittelstadt
1200 East 7th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-6790

TREASURER:

Deb Zieglofsky
315 East Lawn, OSA
Iowa City, IA 52242
(319) 335-2389

DIRECTORS 1988-1991:

Yvonne Chadek
Route 2
Mt. Vernon, IA 52314
(319) 895-6053

Dennis Miller (Reelected)
Route 1, Box 37-A
Silver City, IA 51571
(712) 525-1007

Terry Walker (Replaced M.J.
Hatfield) Sanford Museum
117 East Willow
Cherokee, IA 51012
(712) 225-3922



IAS spring meeting, April, 1988.
Photo by Dick Slattery

DIRECTORS 1987-1990:

Roger Natte
2340 19th Avenue N
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 576-7201

Jerry Phillips
Greebrier Apts., Apt. 91
Council Bluffs, IA 51501
(712) 323-6202

Mary Helgevold
1901 Ave. F
Hawarden, IA 51023
(712) 552-2646

DIRECTORS 1986-1989:

Dick Slattery
4106 El Rancho Drive
Davenport, IA 52806
(319) 391-2965

Shirley Schermer
1008 N. Angus
Maquoketa, IA 52060
(319) 652-4256

John Palmquist
Route 1, Box 158
Stanton, IA 51573
(712) 829-2694

JOURNAL EDITOR:

Steve Lensink
Office of the State Archaeologist
Eastlawn
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA, 52242
(319) 335-2390

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Sheila Hainlin
1434 44th St.
Des Moines, IA 50311
(515) 279-5315

FIELD OBITUARY

H.P. FIELD, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dr. H.P. Field, President Emeritus of the Iowa Archeological Society, died at age 85 December 26, 1987 after a brief illness. Henry Paul Field was born August 6, 1902, in Forest City, Iowa, the son of Julius and Lese Field. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1925 with a D.D.S. (dentistry) degree. He practiced dentistry for 58 years, the first four in New Albin, then moved his practice to Decorah and retired in 1983.

Dr. Field was one of the founders of the Iowa Archeological Society (1950), was our first Vice President, then later served as President. He was named President Emeritus at the Society's 30th anniversary meeting at McGregor in 1980 and, at the same time, was presented the Keyes-Orr award. Those who attended that meeting probably recall his banquet address which was filled with characteristic droll humor. Because he had been admonished to "keep it short" by Mrs. Field, he regaled his audience with an introduction of no less than twenty minutes followed by a well-defined 15 minute address and...concluding remarks. It was not a minute too long.

In addition to his archaeological interests, Dr. Field maintained great enthusiasm for regional paleontology and was an avid collector of historic documents. He was a frequent speaker on history who exuded his interest in northeast Iowa's settlement period. In addition to active membership in the IAS, he was a long-time member of the Decorah Chamber of Commerce, Symra (Norwegian Literary Society), the State Dental Association, the Winneshiek County Historical Society and was a member and past vice-president of Decorah's Porter House Museum Board. He was a very popular volunteer tour guide at Vesterheim, the Norwegian-American Museum at Decorah during his later, semi-retired years.

An avid collector of prehistoric artifacts, fossils and historical documents from northeast Iowa, he

was careful to donate selected portions of his collections to Effigy Mounds National Monument, the Office of the State Archaeologist and to Luther College for curation and use by future scholars.

Society members who knew Henry Field knew him as a friend and broadly-based scholar. We enjoyed his candor, directness and sense of the ridiculous in all of us, including himself. His joy of living was happily shared with many of us; we are richer by far because of the sharing.

Selected publications by H.P. Field:

1920 Where the Indian Camped. Village site discovered on Allamakee's "desert" Wallace's Farmer, Vol 54, No. 40.

1930 A Prairie Part for a Prairie State. Wallace's Farmer Vol 55, No 38.

1951 Ellison Orr--1957-1951. Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society. October, 1951

1952 The Diet of the Prehistoric Indians of Northeast Iowa Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society. January, 1952.

Message from the President. Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society. July, 1952.

Lynn Alex Sends Thanks to Society

Deb Ziegrowsky forwarded the following note from Lynn Alex:

June, 1988.

"Please relay my thanks to members of the Iowa Archeological Society for their memorial to Bob. Many of them are old and longtime friends of ours, and I don't think of Iowa, or our life there that I don't think of the Society.

This is still so hard to believe, and for many of our friends, it's unimaginable to think of Plains archaeology and Bob not being a part of it. I hope to make some contributions for him - he had several things he was working on and was excited about. Perhaps we'll be able to complete some of his unfinished Iowa material as well."

Thank you sincerely,
Lynn Alex
Sturgis, South Dakota



Henry P. Field (1954 photo)

SOCIETY NEWS

NEW MEMBERS SINCE MARCH 22, 1988

Gerda Preston Hartman, Dubuque
Lisa Ash, Elgin
Dr. Mary Whelan, Iowa City
Jean O. Kaelber, Coralville
Kay Loeffelholz, Iowa City
Brian Smith, Erie, IL
E. Wynona Irwin, Rock Island, IL
Floyd Mansberger, Rock Island, IL
Harry Galley, Rock Island, IL
R.H. Mittelstadt family, Storm
Lake
Susan Patterson Hill, Crawfordsville
Bob Bryant, Calamus
Jess Fields, Baldwin
Randal Faber, Ames
Mark Wagner, Newton
Jacon Nimrod, Decorah
Peggy Miller, Fairfield
Claudia Gosnell, Sigourney
Illinois State Museum, Springfield,
IL
John Dwight Fair, Cedar Rapids
David W. Godby, Unionville

SPECIAL OFFER FOR IAS MEMBERS!

For just \$5, IAS members can purchase Mildred Mott Wedel's landmark work "Oneota Sites on the Upper Iowa River" which was

published in 1959 in the Missouri Archaeologist.

Wedel reports on the archaeological excavations conducted by Charles R. Keyes and Ellison Orr at seven Oneota sites in Allamakee County in 1934 and 1936. Her monograph is recognized as a major contribution to the study of Oneota in Iowa. Not only are the seven sites described, a major portion of the report analyzes the cultural features and artifacts associated with Oneota all over the state. Over 35 figures are included featuring site and artifact photos.

The IAS Board of Directors seized the opportunity to buy 100 issues last fall. Copies were offered for sale at the annual meeting in Davenport. Now copies are available by mail. Send \$5 to Deb Zieglowsky, Treas.; Iowa Archeological Society, 315 Eastlawn, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242 to receive your copy by return mail.

Don't miss this chance to add to your library another splendid volume on Iowa archaeology.

CALENDAR:

October 14-16, 1988 - Midwest Archaeological Conference, University of Illinois and the Chancellor Inn, Champaign, IL.

April 5-9, 1989 - Society of American Archaeology meetings, Atlanta, GA.

April 21-22, 1989 - Iowa Academy of Science, Storm Lake, IA.

April 1989 - Iowa Archeological Society Annual Meeting, Cedar Falls, IA.

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 archaeology of Iowa and the Mid-west.

The Newsletter is published four times a year. All materials for publication should be sent to the editor:

Sheila Hainlin
1434 44 Street
Des Moines, IA 50311

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

VOTING	NON-VOTING
1. Active \$10	1. Student (under 18) \$7
2. Household \$17	2. Institution \$10
3. Sustaining \$25	
4. Benefactor \$250 minimum	

SEND DUES TO:

Deb Zieglowsky
310 Haywood Drive
Iowa City, IA 52240-1051

IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
Eastlawn
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 303
Iowa City, Iowa

Contents: Printed Material