

iowa archeological society
newsletter

Vol. 41 No. 1

1991

Issue 137

**NEWS FROM HERE
.....AND ELSEWHERE**

By Dick Slattery
President, Iowa Archeological Society

1991 Annual Meeting

The local big news item is the 41st IAS Annual Meeting to be held Saturday March 23, 1991, at the Iowa State University Memorial Union, Ames, Iowa. The morning and afternoon will feature reports from both amateurs and professionals on topics of general interest to all those with an archaeological inclination. In the late afternoon there will be an important general business meeting including the election of officers and board members.

Saturday evening we will have our banquet highlighted by our good friend, Dr. Duane Anderson who will be our guest speaker. For those newcomers, Duane is now the Director of the Dayton Museum in Dayton, Ohio, and formerly State Archaeologist of Iowa for many years.

We all are looking forward to seeing him and learning of his work in Ohio. (Please note that the IAS meeting will be March 23rd, not the 21st as was erroneously reported in this column in Newsletter 136.)

1991 Field Schools

Please note the announcements for two 1991 IAS field schools. One is at the Gast farm in Louisa County and the other at the Buchanan site near Ames, Iowa.

These opportunities to participate in a real hands-on archaeological experience are open to all members of the Society. Work together with experienced archaeologists and feel the thrill of discovery while learning the techniques of the professionals.

**ARCHAEOLOGY Reports on
New Find in China**

Most of us have read or heard of the now famous discovery in 1974 of the 2200 year-old life-size terra-cotta army of some 7000 warriors found near Xian buried with their weapons, terra-cotta horses, wooden carts and chariots. This army was meticulously made to protect Quin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China, during his life in the "spirit world."

Now a similar discovery has been made at the tomb site of Jingdi, the fifth Emperor of the Han Dynasty (157-141 BC). This site is only 25 miles from the Quin tomb and army. It is reported that the Jingdi terra-cotta figures consist of tens of thousands of sculptures depicting people, horses and carts but, unlike the life-size army of Quin, these human figures are only about 24 inches tall. They are no less amazing since the features of the soldiers of both armies are individually modeled. The tomb is a complex of underground vaults 13 feet wide and 950 feet long. Some of the 24 vaults opened by archaeologists were plundered in antiquity but others are intact.

Source: *Archaeology*, Nov-Dec 1990, p. 26.

Job Opportunities in Illinois?

A news item published in the December 3, 1990 Quad-City Times reported a new

element in archaeology as practiced in Illinois. Recently enacted state laws require that sites be surveyed by archaeologists before state or local public building projects can proceed. Also, private projects requiring state permits are also subjected to the new regulations.

A result has been an increase in the number of archaeological surveys conducted. For the six weeks beginning October 1 more than 800 surveys had been initiated. Only 181 survey projects had been reported for the same period during 1989.

**More archaeological news from
the Quad-City Times**

This news brief, from the October 2, 1990, issue, noted that drugs ranked Number 1 in international illegal traffic and that in the Number 2 slot were artifacts stolen from archaeological sites.

**SAGERS COLLECTION
IS CATALOGED**

By John L. Cordell and William Green
Office of the State Archaeologist

The Office of the State Archaeologist, under a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is cataloging the Paul Sagers archaeological collection. This collection consists of numerous artifacts from documented sites and undocumented field finds mainly from Jackson County, Iowa.

All specimens were cleaned, cataloged, restored where possible, and most were photographed. All of Sagers' notes and maps, and all publications on the collection were reviewed.

CATALOGING PROJECT IN PROGRESS

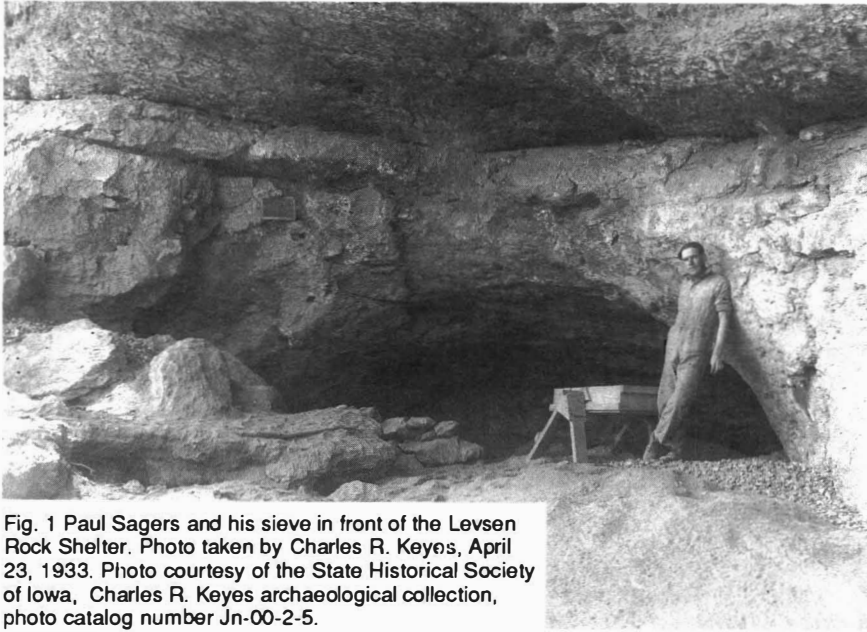


Fig. 1 Paul Sagers and his sieve in front of the Levensen Rock Shelter. Photo taken by Charles R. Keyes, April 23, 1933. Photo courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Charles R. Keyes archaeological collection, photo catalog number Jn-00-2-5.

The collection from the Levensen Rock Shelter contains the largest number of artifacts, over 7,500. Pottery represents over half of the collection. About 1,300 lithics and 1,400 faunal remains (34 animal species represented) comprise the rest of the collection. The Levensen Rock Shelter is the type site for much Eastern Iowa Middle Woodland pottery.

Upon completion of the project, the collection will be returned to and displayed at the Sagers Museum at Maquoketa Caves State Park in Jackson County, Iowa. The collections from Levensen and other sites will be available for detailed study and analysis.

The Iowa Humanities Board accepts applications for public humanities projects by nonprofit organizations and institutions. Archaeological lecture series and educational programs have been funded in the past. Small grants of \$300 to \$1500 are available; cash or in-kind match must be provided. Deadlines for small grant applications are March 1, May 1, July 1, and September 1. Contact Kenneth Garcia, Iowa Humanities Board, Oakdale Campus, Iowa City IA 52242 (319/335-4153).



Fig. 2 A partially restored Prairie Incised (formerly Spring Hollow Incised) vessel from the Levensen Rock Shelter. Photo courtesy of the Office of the State Archaeologist, OSA catalog number JK4-47.

A CHILD'S GARDEN OF ARCHAEOLOGY

A Kid's Eye View: Sixth Graders' Impressions of an Archaeological Dig

by Joe Alan Artz
Office of the State Archaeologist

On September 26, 1990, the sixth grade class from Douds Elementary School in Leando, Iowa, got a special treat. Their teacher, Jane Graf, took them on a field trip to visit an archaeological excavation in progress on the outskirts of town. On a sunny autumn afternoon, the 24 kids piled off the school bus and

passed through an open gate onto a grassy bit of land on a low terrace of the Des Moines River. For the next hour, they got a firsthand introduction to field archaeology.

The site they visited, 13VB607, was one of two sites being investigated as part of a Phase II testing project conducted by the Highway Archaeology Program, under contract to the Van Buren County Engineer. Art Hoppin and I took a break from the testing of the second site, 13VB104, to conduct the tour, leaving our fellow crew members, Clark Rogers, Sean Bode, and Jack vanHecke, to keep hacking away at a rather belligerent B soil horizon.

We split the class into two groups. Art led one group to a picnic table on which was arrayed an artifact collection belonging to the sites' landowners, Denis and Ila Ritz. Art and Denis explained to the kids what the artifacts could tell us about the age of sites and about prehistoric ways of life. Meanwhile, I led the second group to an open 1 x 1 meter test unit. I showed them the tools of the trade (trowels, skimming shovels, and screens) and did my best to explain the basics of stratigraphy. Then the two groups traded places, and Art, Denis, and I repeated our spiels.

Kids. You're never sure how much of what you tell them actually sinks in until

you hear them tell it back to you in their own words. We adults generally suspect that little penetrates unless it has something to do with MTV or Ninja turtles. We're often wrong. It wasn't hard to tell that these kids from Douds Elementary had more on their minds than Nintendo scores. They were eager, attentive, and jumped right in with some great questions. I found out just how perceptive they'd been a few weeks later, when Jane Graf sent me her students' written impressions of the visit. Following are some of my favorites.

"I went down to the sight thinking that all this stuff was very easy. I came back and whoa! I learned about what the Indians used arrowheads for. They used them for getting their meals. I also learned that you can see pieces of pottery. I thought it was really fun" (Renee Brown).

"I learned that an archaeologist just doesn't dig, he or she writes" (Robert Orr).

"I thought that you can go anywhere and dig up a place and you can find something. But you have to find a place by a body of water and a good hunting place" (Von Chounlamany).

"What I remember most about the dig were the phases. In phase 1 they find the site then they dig postholes, in phase 2 they start the actual digging, in phase 3 they dig the whole site" (Scott Graff).

"What I thought was neat is the tools. This one shovel was shaped funny. In one [hole] we could see the levels of dirt. [Joe] told us about the different shades of soil" (Catherine Megrath).

"I liked the lines [layers] in the holes and I was impressed with the arrowheads

and how old they said everything was" (Sherri Moore).

"We got to see all kinds of artifacts. I learned all kinds of things about the things Indians used. Joe and Art explained really good. I enjoyed it. Archaeology is cool!" (Joshua Cocherell).

My thanks to Jane Graf, not only for bringing out her kids, but also for preparing them so well for the visit. The enthusiastic support of Jackie Ebling, principal of Douds Elementary, is also acknowledged. Thanks are also due Ila Ritz, who was a great help in arranging a schedule for the field trip. Finally, I'm grateful to both Denis and Ila for sharing their artifact collections. The Phase II investigations at 13VB104 and 13VB607 will be reported in Volume 14, Number 2, of the Highway Archaeology Program's Project Completion Report series.



Fig 1 Excavations being conducted in the area of the porch at the 1833 Colonel Davenport House at the Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois.

DAVENPORT EXCAVATION

EXCAVATION AT DAVENPORT HOUSE SITE

By Marlin R. Ingalls
Office of the State Archaeologist

In April of 1990 archaeological excavations were conducted at the Colonel Davenport House, on the Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois, for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Colonel Davenport Society. The historic archaeological excavations were requested by the Illinois Historic Preservation and the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the ongoing restoration of the house. Excavations were conducted by architectural historian and historical archaeologist Marlin R. Ingalls of the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) with the assistance of OSA archaeologists Bob Thompson and Raymond Tinnian and volunteers provided by Cliff Hehmayer of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Restoration Committee.

The historic archaeological excavations at the Colonel Davenport House were conducted in order to determine whether an earlier porch may have predated the present structure. The excavations provided archaeological evidence of the original porch as evidenced by a 1854 lithograph etching of the house. The original porch was thought to have been replaced by the present porch prior to 1864.

The Colonel Davenport House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, constructed of logs in the Georgian style, is located at the north side of Rock Island overlooking the Mississippi River. Colonel Davenport, born in England, originally accompanied the United States troops, sent by the War Department, to build Fort Armstrong in 1815. The Fort was one of a series of military posts built to reestablish United States control of the Upper Mississippi after brief British occupation during the War of 1812. A few miles downstream from Rock Island, near the mouth of the Rock River was the camp of the Sauk warrior Black Hawk and his party known as Black Hawk's British band.

Davenport, considered an Englishman by the Sauk, Mesquakie, and Winnebago Indians of the region, quickly recognized the opportunity an Englishman would have in trading with these Indians who had fought for the British. He soon resigned his post sutler position and established a successful trading business with the Indians. By the time the settlers arrived George Davenport had secured a network of trading posts and agents throughout the region. Eventually he formed a partnership with Russell Farnham. They then merged their trading business with John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company at St. Louis in 1826.

Individualist

George Davenport was a rugged individualist and frontiersman. He operated his trading store at Rock Island out of a double log cabin. Being a man of action he piloted the *Virginian* through the treacherous upper rapids of the Mississippi River near Rock Island. The *Virginian* has been credited with being the first steamboat to travel the upper Mississippi River to Rock Island in 1823.

During the Black Hawk War of 1832 George Davenport earned the rank of Colonel while serving as a volunteer quarter-master at Fort Armstrong, and he profited greatly from the war. He and his partner were awarded two payments of \$20,000 by the federal government to settle a credit debt that the Sauk and Mesquakie Indians had owed the traders. Treaty negotiations for the end of hostilities and the Black Hawk Purchase in Iowa was conducted at his trading post and at Fort Armstrong during that same year.

Mansion

In 1833, a year after the conclusion of the Black Hawk War, George Davenport finished erecting his mansion on the north shore of Rock Island. His house became the meeting place where early developers gathered to plan the communities that are today Rock Island, Davenport, LeClaire, and Port Byron. As

an entrepreneur, George Davenport actively participated in lead mining, steamboating, railroading, and land speculation. The plans for the first railroad to cross the Mississippi into Iowa was devised at his home.

On July 4, 1845, Colonel George Davenport was murdered in his mansion on Rock Island by bandits seeking gold. Davenport had been alone at his house when the bandits arrived. His family had gone to the village of Rock Island for a Fourth of July celebration and he had remained behind because he had felt ill. He was shot during the robbery and the cries of his suffering carried to town. Concerned citizens responded but he died of his injuries after describing his murderers, one of whom was eventually caught, hanged and buried on the island.

After the Colonel's death the family continued to reside at the estate until the late 1860s. The government took title with the establishment of the arsenal and the house was temporarily used as an office and storehouse. The house eventually fell into disrepair and decay. In 1906, the Old Settlers Association of Rock Island County sponsored the first repairs to the building. Restoration of the house is still being sponsored by the Colonel Davenport Society and the Army Corps of Engineers. Our 1990 excavations have assisted in this restoration effort.

CRAWFORD OBITUARY

Gene Crawford, an IAS member for the past 20 years, died January 18 at his home in Kalona. He was 53.

Gene worked at the University of Iowa printing service which is where our newsletters are printed. He joined the Society in 1971 and attended many meetings. He participated, with his daughter Melody, in the Coralville Reservoir shoreline survey in the early 1980s.

The IAS conveys its deepest sympathies to Melody and the Crawford family.



OSA NEWS

A SPECIAL SECTION OF THE IOWA
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARIANNE RYAN MOVES UP AND OUT

After nearly two years as Office of the State Archaeologist Documents Curator, Marianne Ryan has taken a full-time position in the Government Publications section of the University of Iowa Libraries. Marianne also will continue teaching in the U of I School of Library and Information Science and will be working toward her Ph.D. there.

Marianne's excellent work at the OSA was marked by significant progress in many areas of the Documents Collection, especially the cataloging of hundreds of books and other documents. She also provided assistance on hundreds of inquiries from archaeologists and the public. Her accomplishments are striking in light of the fact that the Documents Curator position is only 15 hours per week. Her cheerful demeanor and helpful attitude will be missed, as will her organizational skills. OSA staffers will especially miss Marianne's "beyond-the-call-of-duty" accomplishments: setting up monthly OSA seminars, coordinating duplicate-book sales, and organizing terrific holiday parties.

Best wishes to Marianne in her new job!

NEW STAFF MEMBER: HUGH DAVIDSON

Welcome to Hugh Davidson, who started in January as an architectural historian with the Highway Archaeology Program. Hugh most recently served as a National Register Planner for the Missouri State Historic Preservation Program, evaluating buildings, structures, and sites for National Register eligibility. Hugh has an M.A. in anthropology from Colorado State University and a second M.A. in American Studies from the University of Wyoming, making him a qualified archaeologist and architectural historian. Hugh will conduct research on historic buildings and farmsteads affected by proposed transportation projects statewide.

Along with fellow archaeologist-turned-architectural historian Marlin Ingalls, Hugh provides the Highway Archaeology Program with anthropological expertise in studies of standing structures.



Three-year-old Carolanna Marie Artz helped document a historic foundation during her dad's recent Phase II project in Van Buren County. 'Lana is 97 cm tall.

LYNN ALEX AND JULIANNE HOYER REJOIN OSA

Two faces familiar to many Iowa Archeological Society members have returned to the Office of the State Archaeologist.

Lynn Alex, author of the popular and acclaimed book *Exploring Iowa's Past*, moved back to Iowa from South Dakota in August of last year. Lynn worked at the OSA in the 1970s as an IAS field school supervisor and as Project Archaeologist for the *Iowa's P.A.S.T.* educational project. She returns to the OSA as an Adjunct Research Archaeologist. Her principal tasks initially are to complete reports on several South Dakota projects. One of Lynn's goals is to write her Ph.D. dissertation in 1991.

Julianne Hoyer, also a veteran of the Iowa's P.A.S.T. project of 1976-1978, has replaced Marianne Ryan as OSA Documents Curator. Julie's experience in archaeology includes participation in the 1976 field school led by Lynn Alex. Her graduate degrees are in teaching and library science, and her *Teacher's Guide to Iowa Prehistory* remains -- along with Lynn's book -- an essential element of public archaeology in Iowa. Julie is responsible for maintaining and expanding the OSA Documents Collection and for assisting users of the collection.

Both the OSA and the IAS are fortunate to have Lynn and Julie back on board.

PUBLICATIONS & PAPERS

Jim Collins' book *The Archaeology of the Cahokia Mounds ICT-II: Site Structure* was recently published by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA). The volume, based on the author's 1985-86 excavations, provides detailed descriptions and interpretations of household and community patterns and their relationship to the evolution of Cahokia's political organization. The Cahokia site, located near St. Louis, is one of only five sites in the United States to be listed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Order from the IHPA, Old State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

Shirley Schermer co-authored a paper entitled "The Dubuque Lead Mining District," presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting. Jim Collins presented programs on Iowa River Greenbelt archaeology in Hardin County to the Ackley Rotary Club, the Iowa Quaternary Studies Group, and the Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board. Kris Hirst and Joe Artz also gave programs to the Iowa Quaternary Studies Group, Kris on use-wear experiments and analyses of shell tools and Joe on Northern Plains alluvial chronologies.

Bill Green presented a talk on "Archaeobotany in Iowa" at the annual meeting of the Iowa Natural History Association.

1991 FIELD SCHOOLS; CALENDAR

FIELD SCHOOLS 1991

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:

A two-week field school opportunity for IAS members is being formulated in conjunction with the University of Iowa field school for 1991. The IAS period will probably be in June. The 1991 fieldwork will be a follow-up of the 1990 season in Louisa County. Specific dates and other details will be provided later by Bill Green, Iowa State Archaeologist.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY:

Field school opportunities for IAS members will be available the last week of June and the first week of July, 1991. This will be in conjunction with the six-week Iowa State University course June-July. Excavation will be at the Buchanan Site near Ames. The work is a continuation of a comparative research project connected with a site in Poland. John Bower, ISU anthropology professor, will have more specific information available later.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Corps of Engineers 1991 volunteer excavation in South Dakota will be July 20-28. The site is located on a Missouri River terrace and contains deposits from the Middle Archaic through the historical period.

For more information contact Becky Otto or Rich Berg at:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
215 N. 17th St.
Omaha, NE 68102
or call:
(402) 221-3070 or (402) 221-4603.

CALENDAR

March 23, 1990 Iowa Archeological Society Annual Meeting, Iowa State University, Ames will be in conjunction with the Central States Anthropological Society.

April 19-20, 1991 Iowa Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Loras College, Dubuque.

IAS SPRING MEETING

The details for the 41st IAS Annual Meeting are rapidly being formulated. As the arrangements now stand we will meet on Saturday, March 23, 1991, at the Iowa State University Memorial Union, Ames, Iowa. Our meeting will be in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society (CSAS) which will also meet at the Memorial Union. However, their meeting will be for the period March 21-24. We will be provided a free room for the entire day and evening Saturday to conduct our programs and banquet. A modest registration fee will cover IAS expenses plus a small contribution to the CSAS. In return, IAS attendees will be free to sit in on any CSAS programs presented.

A special announcement was mailed to all IAS members detailing the program and motel accommodations. This is shaping up to be an excellent meeting. Plan early so we can have a record attendance.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES VOTING:

1. Active	\$15
2. Household	\$18
3. Sustaining	\$25

NON-VOTING:

1. Student (under 18)	\$7
2. Institution	\$20

SEND DUES TO:

Deb Ziegrowsky-Baker
616 7th Avenue
Coralville, IA 52241

Reminder!

Have you paid your dues for 1991?

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 St., Des Moines, IA 50311.

Iowa Archeological
Society
Eastlawn
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242



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