

Iowa Archeology News



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Preliminary Findings from the Bowen's Prairie Historic Archaeological District Data Recovery Excavations

By Lynn Alex and Cynthia Peterson, OSA University of Iowa

The Bowen's Prairie Historic Archaeological District lying between the north and south forks of the Maquoketa River in northeastern Jones County, is the first historic archaeological district in Iowa. Survey and test excavation in 1995 identified a number of nineteenth-century archaeological sites eligible to the National Register of Historic Places because of their significance to local and regional history, their association with important early residents, and their substantial archaeological remains. In order to recreate the story of early Jones County, a team of historic archaeologists is in the process of gathering information from local residents, archival records, and the artifacts and structures found at five sites in the district. These five were selected because they cannot be avoided by the widening of U.S. Highway 151. The sites include one of the earliest homesteads in Jones County, portions of two early villages, a cheese factory, and a church.

Excavations were conducted by the Office of the State Archaeologist General Contracts Program and concluded in September 2001. The discovery of once-existing structures, abundant artifacts, and bone and charred plant remains will help in reconstructing the lives of the first Euro-American settlers. While maps, deeds, newspapers, and census records may indicate the history of pioneer families, their professions, and their land transactions, learning about the nature of their everyday lives, standard of living, and interactions with the outside world is greatly aided by archaeological clues.

Historical Background

Following the Black Hawk War in 1832, the U.S. Government established the Black Hawk Purchase, an area extending 50 miles west of the Mississippi River along the eastern border of the Territory of Iowa. Under this arrangement, resident Sac and Meskwaki were forced to relinquish 2.5 million hectares of land, which was then opened to Euro-American settlement. The area that is now Jones County was located at the center of the Black Hawk Purchase.

Early settlers were attracted here because of the proximity of good soil, water, land, timber, and building stone. Census records suggest that, while most of the first arrivals in the 1830s and 1840s were American-born, almost 10 percent were immigrants hailing primarily from Ireland, Canada, England, and Germany. In addition to farming, early local industries included flour, saw, and grist milling, and stone quarrying. The dairy industry became prominent in the 1870s.

The Old Military Road was a key transportation corridor through the area in the mid-nineteenth century. Regular stagecoach routes linked homesteads such as that of Moses Collins (archaeological site 13JN196) and villages like Bowen's Prairie (13JN152), Richland, and Prairie Springs (13JN203), providing impetus to their growth and expansion. These same communities later witnessed a de-

cline when bypassed by the first railroads. The relatively short interval of time during which sites on Bowen's Prairie existed provides a unique snapshot of nineteenth-century life on the frontier and the changes that accompanied the opening of the Iowa Territory and the establishment of Statehood.

The U.S. Congress passed a bill approving \$20,000 to construct a road from Dubuque to the northern border of the state of Missouri. The U.S. Military built the road, which was designed to pass through the county seats of justice. The Military or "National" Road ran west from Dubuque to Cascade and then south through Bowen's Prairie, Mount Vernon, Iowa City, and beyond. The road proved an impetus to the growth of those communities along its route. Current U.S. Highway 151 in Jones County follows and incorporates the route of the Old Military Road.

Bowen's Prairie Townsite (13JN152)

The townsite of Bowen's Prairie dates to the mid-nineteenth century. It was named after Hugh Bowen, reportedly the first settler in Jones County, who arrived in 1836. The Census of the Wisconsin Territory for 1836 also records the presence of Moses Collins, whose farmstead (13JN196) has been discovered and excavated in the project area. The village of Bowen's Prairie was first platted in 1853 by Otis and Harriet Whittemore and eventually included 30 blocks. The townsite extended on both sides of the Old Military or National Road.

At least two churches are associated with the townsite, First Congregational built in 1854 and the Methodist-Episcopal constructed in 1858. One cemetery still exists south of U.S Highway 151 and will be avoided by proposed road construction. Documentary evidence, oral history, and plat maps suggest the existence in the townsite of a stagecoach stop, blacksmith shop, post office, and general store. By the end of the century, the town was in decline, having been bypassed by the railroad that diverted settlement and business to nearby communities such as Cascade, Monticello, and Sand Spring. The closure of the post office in 1902 saw the landscape revert to farmland.

Archaeologists discovered evidence for the Congregational Church, parsonage, a barn or livery stable, post of-

fice and general store, rammed earth structure, and early cabin at 13JN152. The church was constructed in 1854 and utilized throughout the nineteenth century. Local residents dismantled the Congregational Church after it fell into disuse, and archaeological evidence of its existence is ephemeral. Remnants of a faint limestone alignment and mortar confirm its northern and western walls, and its eastern wall appears as a slight mortar stain. Artifacts found nearby include limestone, mortar, flat glass, wire and machine-cut nails, and white earthenware.

Adjacent to the church was a structure which oral history suggests was the parsonage. A limestone and mortar foundation, large refuse pit, two cisterns, and a privy were found in association with the parsonage. Artifacts here date from the 1860s-1920s. A barn foundation is present on the same city lot.

Also excavated within the townsite was the post office, depicted at this location on an 1890 map. A limestone foundation with a substantial basement, internal chimney, and load-bearing wall are still present. This structure had two stories and was divided into front and back rooms. The postmaster's family probably lived on one side of the building. The quantity and type of artifacts found is too abundant to represent either a house or post office alone and includes intact glass jars and bottles, metal pans, kerosene lamp parts, porcelain doll fragments, and hardware, suggesting the structure may have served as a general store as well. Six evenly spaced, limestone building piers, the remnants of a barn or livery stable, occur just to the south. Due east of the post office, a remnant of a

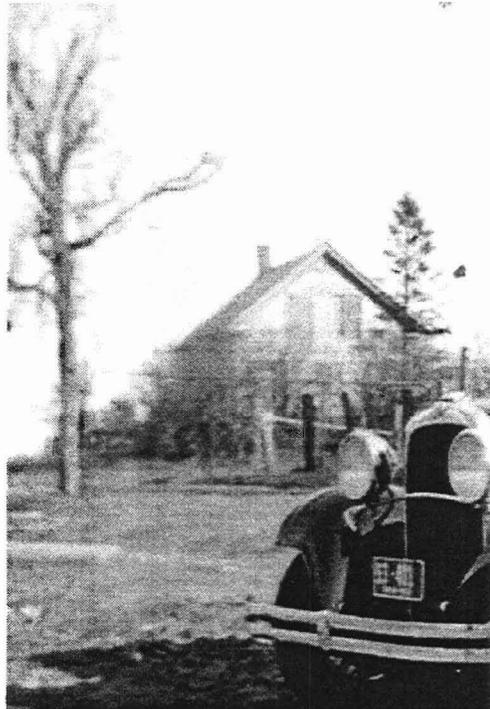
Bowen's Prairie road, "Church Street," was uncovered in the remains of a gravel lens mixed with coal and slag.

The cellar below a small, framed cabin was also excavated. Artifacts suggest a pre-1850s occupation. This may be the actual cabin of Barrett Whittemore. Finally, the most enigmatic feature at the site is a large, rammed earth structure, possibly a granary constructed during the 1870s.

Palmer or Oneida Cheese Factory (13JN168)

Stephen A. Palmer is identified as the proprietor of the Oneida Cheese Factory by 1878. He may have taken over an existing cheese factory at that location. By the early 1870s, dairying was a widespread industry in Jones County, and Bowen's Prairie became famous as a cheese-producing area during that period.

Structural evidence and artifacts found in archaeological excavation at 13JN168 confirm the function of the site.



Parsonage View Photo Courtesy of Art Burrichter

Limestone footing supports for the main building were uncovered as well as a large wooden trough slanting away to the northwest and drained by a partially preserved wooden drainage line. Two additional features found at the site include an unlined privy and small refuse pit. Bottle fragments filled the refuse pit, and the privy contained coins dating between 1842 and 1890. A clay-capped, steel-cased well and root or cooling cellar were also uncovered.

1870s Church (13JN169)

A pre-1875, intact, limestone foundation was identified at site 13JN169. The limestone foundation is believed to represent a church. Maps from both 1867 and 1875 docu-



Interior Chimney, Bowen's Prairie Post Office Site 13JN152

ment the presence of a church lying at the site location. Other features include a storage cellar below one end of the church, several post molds (thought to represent hitching posts), a cistern and a privy. Artifacts from the church include window and stained glass, nails, shoe leather, a bone-toothed comb, and sewing items. Stratified deposits within the privy included buttons, ceramics, building rubble, and a brass candlestick. The range of materials associated with the structure suggests its use from the 1830s to the 1870s.

Moses Collins Homestead (13JN196)

Moses Collins was one of the earliest settlers on Bowen's Prairie, appearing in the Wisconsin Census of 1836. Government Land Office surveyors record that by 1837 Moses Collins had established a house and farm at the location of site 13JN196 on an upland hilltop south of today's U.S. Highway 151. By 1853 he had sold all of the land where 13JN196 is located, and the property passed through a series of landowners before the close of the nineteenth cen-

tury. A structure reportedly stood at the site until 1915.

Archaeological investigation of the site, likewise, has produced a layered history of its use through time. Numerous features were encountered including the main living structure consisting of a limestone foundation with a full basement and an exterior addition. A summer kitchen, refuse pits, a large unlined, root cellar, an unlined privy with stratified fill, a limestone-lined well, a bell-shaped cistern, and a sheet midden were also excavated.

Early Outbuilding (13JN203)

Other community centers besides the village of Bowen's Prairie were established in the vicinity during the 1850s.

"Prairie Springs" is known only from a single deed and apparently consisted of a series of small lots situated south and west of the Bowen's Prairie townsite. Archaeological site 13JN203 is within the village of Prairie Springs and appears to represent one of at least six structures shown on an 1867 atlas. The site area was sold as a small lot in 1855 for \$70. Ten years later, it sold as part of a slightly larger property for \$354 and a year later was valued at \$500.

Archaeological investigation identified an intact, limestone foundation wall of a rectangular structure. Other features uncovered include a privy, limestone-lined well, collapsed well, wooden drainage tile, and small refuse pits. While the function of the main structure is not known, the artifacts and crude limestone mortar hint at its identity as a barn rather than a dwelling or commercial building.

Present Work

Lab technicians have been hard at work at the OSA processing the many artifacts, soil samples, and the paperwork generated during this summer's excavation. Over 600 soil samples are being subjected to water flotation. The resultant heavy and light fractions are being picked under a microscope for small faunal (bone) and botanical remains, which will later be identified to better understand dietary habits and site function of these mid to late 1800s sites.

Oral historical and archival research into the Bowen's Prairie vicinity is also ongoing. Tax and probate records, genealogical history, land transfers, land survey records, and census data are being synthesized into a comprehensive history of the area. Some of the historic contexts to be developed include the Military Road, early settlement of Jones County, and the dairy industry. Please check out the OSA website for further information: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/gcp/bowensprairie/index.html>

Central Iowa Chapter History

As early as April of 1989, Iowa Archeological Society Newsletter Editor Sheila Hainlin encouraged the IAS members in the central part of the state to consider forming a chapter. Discussions continued and in September of 1991 the Central Iowa Chapter had a preliminary organizational meeting was at the State Historical Building. Dr. John Bower of Iowa State University presented a program on the recent excavations at the Buchanan site. Dave Cook, John Bower, Marsha Miller Nancy Osborn, Fran Kurtz, Kathy Gourley and Sheila Hainlin were among the earliest promoters of the Chapter.

Election of officers and the official organizational meeting of the Central Iowa Chapter took place June 27, 1992 at the State Historical Museum. Officers elected were: President-Dave Cook, Vice President-Sheila Hainlin, Secretary-Fran Kurtz and Treasurer-Marsha Miller. Some of the early chapter meetings featured presentations on the Bash site by Jim Collins, OSA and Iowa Archaeology from a Geomorphic Perspective by Art Bettis, Iowa Geological Survey. In the spring of 1993 the CIC hosted a very successful IAS Annual Meeting and Banquet on Saturday May 8th at the Travelodge Motel in Clive.

In 1994 Dorothy Kelley assumed the office of President. During her tenure the chapter meetings featured not only Iowa related archaeology but also presentations on a wide range of topics including: Damage done to Iowa Cultural Resources by the Flood of '93, by Richard Fishel, OSA; Ancient Soils of the Southwest and Peru by Jon Sandor, ISU; The secret fraternal organization, Improved Order of Red Man, by Marge Kline; the Ancient Mayan City of Palenque, by Tim and Doug Bailey CIC members; and Archaeology in Mexico by Linda Foreman. Members had the opportunity for field trips to a variety of locations including: the Van Ness American Indian Collection and a walking tour of Lon and Ann Crosby's property, Webster City; Backbone State Park; Yellow Banks Park Indian Mounds; Kuehn Conservation Area and the Forest Park Museum in Dallas County; and the Madison County Historical complex in Winterset.

In 1997 Michael Heimbaugh became CIC President, Sheila Hainlin continued as Vice President, Nancy Heimbaugh was elected Secretary and Marsha Miller continued as Treasurer. Meetings continued to feature a wide variety of topics. These were presented with the much-appreciated assistance of professionals from Iowa universities and colleges, organizations such as the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Office of the State Archaeologist, and archaeologists from Berger & Associates, Bear Creek Archaeology and Consulting Archaeological Services.

In November of 1997/98 the CIC began work on the Lithic Tool Project. This goal of the project was to measure

and record the attributes of approximately 1000 artifacts (a portion of the lithic collections of the State Historical Society of Iowa) and create an educational comparative display and database. Museum Bureau chief, Jerome Thompson SHSI arranged for a workspace at the State Historical Building. Mark Anderson of the Office of the State Archaeologist conducted training sessions for the CIC members and compiled the data sheets into a permanent record. Members registered as museum volunteers and donated their time to complete the project. In October of 2000 the Central Iowa Chapter was the recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Award for this project.

In 1999 Jerry Baker became Vice President of the chapter and the rest of the officers remained the same. The CIC began the Living History Farms Pedestrian Field Survey that year. The purpose of the project was to conduct a survey the agricultural fields at the farms and record any sites that were found. Joe Anderson of Living History Farms assisted with the coordination of the Project. Douglas W. Jones acted as Project Archaeologist. Access to the farm's fields was coordinated around the farms' planting schedule. The field survey work was conducted during four springtime weekends over a period of three years. In addition to the systematic pedestrian field survey, two controlled surface collection grids were conducted. At the time of this publication plans were underway to do the laboratory processing and curation of artifacts at the State Historical Society of Iowa Museum Building in Des Moines. This was made possible by the cooperation of the State Historical Society of Iowa with the Central Iowa Chapter, Living History Farms and by an Academy of Science grant the chapter applied for and received.

The CIC seeks to involve its members in a variety of activities and events. A newsletter announcing upcoming



CIC Members Doug Jones, Norm Dille, Jerry Baker and Michael Heimbaugh with Mark Anderson, OSA at Governor's Volunteer Award Ceremony, October 2000.

meetings and events is written by the Heimbaughs and sent to members and other IAS chapters. The chapter holds an annual picnic in June for members, their families and friends. A number of members have demonstrated their flint knapping and atlatl throwing skills at Boy Scout camps Archaeology Month events state and chapter meetings. In August of 2001 the Central Iowa Chapter enjoyed getting together with the Southeast Chapter at Red Rock Lake.

Collections were displayed and lots of flint knapping and socializing were enjoyed. The Central Iowa Chapter looks forward to completing the work on the Living History Farms project. Opportunities are also being explored for additional work on the collections at the SHSI Museum Building. The chapter is very appreciative of the high level of involvement of the membership and the ongoing support of the many archaeological professionals and their organizations.

University of Iowa 2001 Field School in the Neutral Ground of Northeast Iowa

by Richard L. Fishel and John F. Doershuk

In June and July 2001, 10 students from Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin participated in a six-week field school conducted by the University of Iowa's American Indian and Native Studies Program and Department of Anthropology. Co-directed by the authors, both of the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), the field school focused on two possible 1840s Winnebago villages (13WH158 and 13WH174). These sites are located in the vicinity of Fort Atkinson in northeast Iowa and are important components of the "Neutral Ground" landscape, a U.S. Government-established buffer zone created to control regional indigenous populations. In 1830 a 40-mile-wide strip of land in northeast Iowa, termed the Neutral Ground (Figure 1), was established by the U.S. Government to separate two warring groups, the Dakota Sioux in the north and the Sauks and Meskwakis in the south. In 1837 a treaty was signed between the U.S. Government and the Winnebago, ceding all Winnebago land in Wisconsin to the

U.S. Government. This treaty forced the Winnebago from their Wisconsin homeland and moved them into the Neutral Ground. The first large-scale emigration of Winnebago into the Neutral Ground occurred in 1840, the same year construction on Fort Atkinson began. The main duty of this military post was to control the Winnebago and ensure that they did not return to Wisconsin. Construction of the fort was completed in 1842, but in 1847 another treaty relocated the Winnebago from the Neutral Ground into Minnesota. Having served its purpose, Fort Atkinson was decommissioned in 1849.

In addition to training in field archaeology methods, which included survey and testing at Chichaqua Wildlife Area in Polk County, Iowa, as well as excavations at sites 13WH158 and 13WH174, field school students heard lectures from Dawn-Makes-Strong-Move-a-Ho-Chunk representative of the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board in southwest Wisconsin and a member of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), Marie Pearson-Governor's Liaison for Indian Affairs in Iowa and a member of the Yankton Sioux, Leonard Bruguier-Director of the University of South Dakota American Indian Studies program and a member of the Yankton Sioux, Johnathan Buffalo-Historic Preservation Coordinator of the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa (Meskwaki), Joe Watkins-archaeologist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Oklahoma and a member of the Choctaw, Al Becker-Fort Atkinson Historical Society, William Green, Mark Anderson and Kari Sprengler-Office of the State Archaeologist, and Larry Zimmerman-University of Iowa American Indian and Native Studies Program. The field school students also visited numerous sites important in the history of the Fort Atkinson area, as well as Effigy Mounds National Historic Landmark, Gottschall Rock Shelter in Wisconsin, the Meskwaki settlement in Tama,

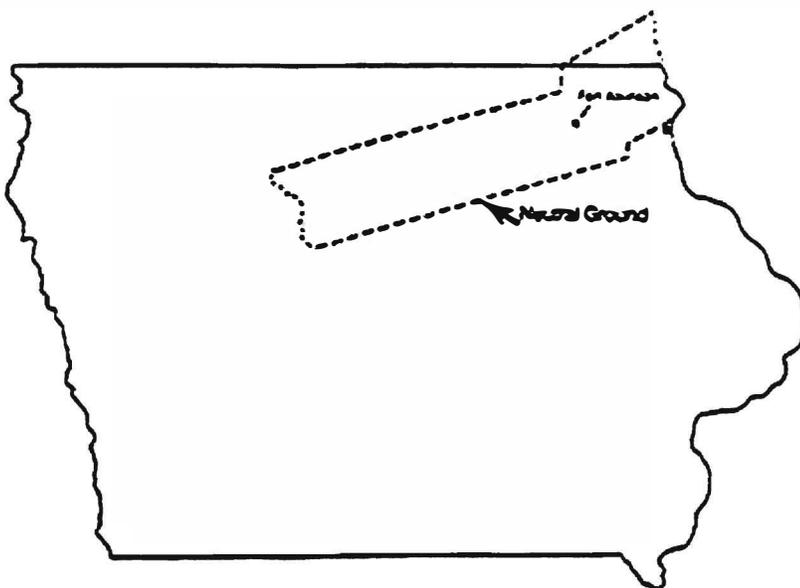


Fig. 1. Neutral Ground territory (from Peterson 1995).

Iowa, the Kickapoo Valley Reserve in Wisconsin, and OSA excavations at the Bowen's Prairie 1850s townsite near Monticello, Iowa.

The first two weeks of the field school, focused on data recovery at site 13WH174. This site was first recorded by the University of Iowa's 2000 field school (Peterson and Becker 2001) and is in proximity to an area shown on the General Land Office survey maps as an "Old Indian Village." Surface collections conducted by the 2000 field school recovered almost 450 artifacts, all of which suggest an occupation dating to the 1840s. Seventeen 1-x-1-m squares were excavated at 13WH174 and another pedestrian survey was conducted by the 2001 field school, resulting in the recovery of hundreds of artifacts. While this material has not yet been cataloged, some of the more interesting artifacts recovered include sandstone marbles and ball clay pipe fragments. Also recovered from the site were limestone, soft mud brick fragments, and nails.

The final four weeks of the field school focused on 13WH158, identified by Peterson (1995) as a "Subagency-era habitation." Historic sources indicate that a Catholic mission and graveyard, a trading post, and a Winnebago village should be in the vicinity of 13WH158. A pedestrian survey conducted by Peterson in 1995 recovered more than 120 artifacts, including ball clay pipe fragments and one glass trade bead. An additional pedestrian survey was conducted by the 2000 field school, which recovered more than 400 artifacts (Peterson and Becker 2001). Some of the more interesting artifacts from that survey include ball clay pipe fragments, a shell bead, a gunflint, and an iron arrowhead.

The 2001 field school conducted another pedestrian survey at 13WH158, recovering a plethora of artifacts from the site's surface. While this material is currently being cataloged and the exact counts and types of artifacts are not yet known, more than 60 ball clay pipe fragments, a gunflint, three white glass seed beads, and two cylindrical shell beads were recovered from the site's surface. Thirty-nine 1-x-1-m squares were excavated at 13WH158, resulting in the recovery of numerous artifacts and two

features. Approximately 100 glass and shell beads, gunflints, lead shot, and a yet unknown number of ball clay pipe fragments are among the more interesting items recovered from these squares. Also recovered from the site were limestone, soft mud brick fragments, and nails.

The first feature encountered at 13WH158 was represented by a pile of limestone, brick, and mortar located below the plow zone. While heavily damaged by plowing, this feature may have been a footing for a structure. Other isolated pieces of limestone were noted below the plow zone in the vicinity of this feature and may also represent structure footings. Unfortunately, plowing of this area has totally obliterated additional evidence of this structure.

The second feature encountered at 13WH158 was only partially excavated. It is a large pit measuring 550 cm (18 feet) across and extending 40-50 cm (15-20 inches) below the plow zone (Figure 2). In the center of the pit is a platform of limestone measuring 280 cm (9.2 feet) across and with a maximum thickness of 30 cm (12 inches). Below this limestone is a zone of burned material, which includes burned planks, timbers and logs, burned sand, and ash. Sand, which was not burned, had also been placed within the northern section of this feature, covering the area of burning not overlain by the limestone. Throughout the feature were found, among other items, nails, animal bone (some of which is deer but most of which has not yet been identified), a few 1840s ceramics, and a few ball clay pipe stems. Other than nails, several of which are hand forged but the majority of which appear to be machine cut, and charcoal, the feature contained a sparse amount of artifacts.

While the function of this feature is unknown at this time, it probably served as a roasting area. The size of the feature indicates a large number of people were involved and the faunal material recovered suggests that minimally deer were being prepared. It is thus likely that this feature represents the cooking facility for a large feast. It also appears, based upon the presence of burnt boards and the abundance of nails, that a structure was either demolished or scavenged to provide fuel for the fire. While it is unknown at this time whether the feature can be attributed to the Winnebago,

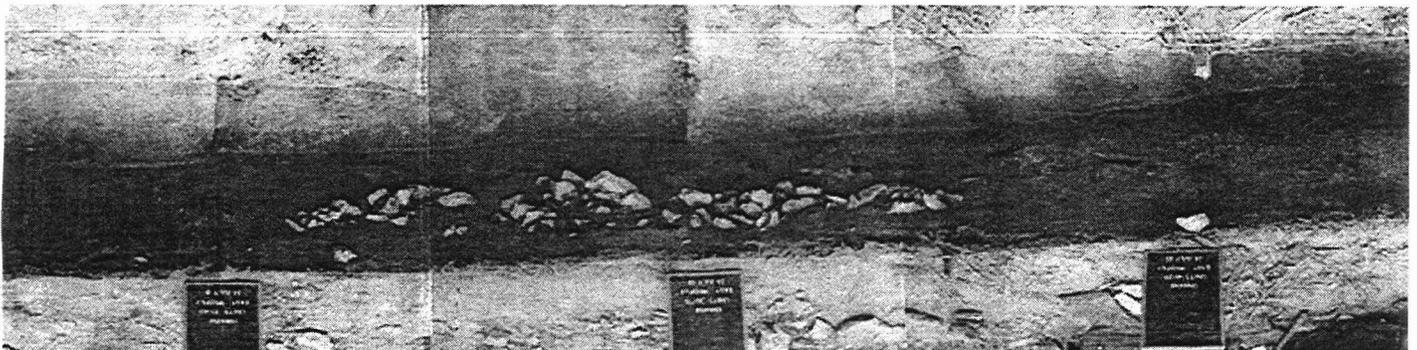


Fig. 2. Profile of possible roasting area at 13WH158.

the likelihood exists that they were somehow associated with events surrounding the feature. No artifacts which could have been only manufactured post 1840s were noted in the feature, or indeed from the site as a whole.

It is still not known whether sites 13WH158 and 13WH174 can be attributed solely to the Winnebago. During the 1840s, only four groups of people were allowed within the Neutral Ground: the Winnebago, government employees (i.e., military, subagency workers, and their families), traders, and missionaries. Due to the absence of military or religious items at 13WH158 or 13WH174, these two groups likely did not occupy either site.

Given the paucity of trade items at 13WH174, it is unlikely the site represents a trading post. The artifact assemblage at 13WH174, which includes limestone, soft mud brick nails, window glass, stoneware, and white-pasted earthenware, appears to represent an 1840s homestead instead of a Winnebago village. Due to the proximity of 13WH174 to Fort Atkinson, it is unlikely the site represents Euro-Americans who moved into the area immediately after abandonment in the late 1840s by the Winnebago and the military. These early settlers may have only had access to pre-1850s material, thus leaving behind an artifact signature reminiscent of an 1840s occupation.

Site 13WH158 may be an 1840s trading post located near a Winnebago village. Trade items recovered from the site include glass and shell beads, gunflints, ball clay pipes, and the iron arrowhead. An inordinate number of ball clay pipe fragments have been recovered from 13WH158. The OSA has collected more than 80 pipe fragments from the site's surface, the Fort Atkinson City Museum has approximately 40, and a local collector has in his possession a half-filled shoebox of pipe fragments from the site. It is plausible that the pipe stems were utilized as beads or personal adornments. Artifacts, which also suggest a trading post as opposed to a Winnebago village, include architectural debris such as soft mud brick, nails, mortar, and limestone.

The large size of the roasting facility at 13WH158

suggests the involvement of a large number of people. The only groups within the Neutral Ground in large numbers at this time were the military and the Winnebago. As previously mentioned, no military items have been recovered from 13WH158. Thus it is plausible that the large roasting facility at 13WH158 was perhaps the main cooking facility for a feast thrown for the Winnebago by the trader occupant.

Analysis of material from both 13WH158 and 13WH174 has just begun and is expected to yield important new information pertaining to Neutral Ground archaeology. Two of the field school students from the 2001 field school season and one from the 2000 field school season are patiently wading through the hundreds of bags of artifacts from both sites as part of an Independent Study class at the University of Iowa. The information gleaned from their work will be added to information collected during the 2000 field school's web site:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~ainsp/fschool/first.html>.

Plans are already in the works for the 2002 field school which promises to be as exciting and informative as the past field schools. Check the field school web site in the Spring of 2002 for more information.

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What are some public benefits of archaeology?

Teachers and students find that archaeology can help teach principles of math, science, geography, and logic as well as history and human diversity.

Avocational Archaeologists find the opportunity to make a direct contribution to research about the past.

Cultural Groups find that archaeology can contribute to the preservation of their history and traditions.

Community leaders find that archaeology can build community links in the present as well as the past.

From National Park Service web site:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/NR/publications/bulletins/archaeol.htm>

Honorary Lifetime Recipients for 2002

The 2002 recipients of Honorary lifetime memberships are Willis L. and Virginia K. Cuning of Des Moines and Ferrel Anderson of Davenport for their 30 years of active membership in the Iowa Archeological Society, and Shirley Smith of Cherokee, co-recipient of the Keyes-Orr Award along with her late husband Chuck. Congratulations and many thanks to these individuals for their dedication to the IAS and Iowa archeology.

2001 New Members

A warm welcome to the 55 new members of the Iowa Archeological Society!

Stephenie Abrahamson, Fertile
Danise Baldus, Shellsburg
Brenda Beier, Glenwood
Rick Bierman, Muscatine
Ms. Jan I. Blazanin, Waukee
Hank Bramman, Manchester
John Brandt, Cedar Rapids
Chad Burroughs, New Albin
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Jerry and Marilyn Finke, Kansas City, MO
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Rachel L. Forde, Marion
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Nic Gonwa, West Des Moines
Myrna Gray, Iowa City
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Meredith Low, Iowa City
Jess Mandel, Iowa City
Jim Martinek, Iowa City
Mary McMahan, Muscatine
Lorelei A. Meier, Des Moines
Milo Mendenhall, Des Moines
LaVonne Nielsen, Cherokee
J. K. Peck and M.A. Thirkettle, Coralville
Mike and Diane Quillin, Waterville
Cindy and Jim Schmit, Des Moines
C. Diane Shamon, Wilton
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Melanie Sparks, Iowa City
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IAS Announcements

Events-Education-News

New Bowen's Prairie Web Site

Lynn M. Alex

The Bowen's Prairie Historic Archaeological District lying between the north and south forks of the Maquoketa River in northeastern Jones County is the first historic archaeological district in Iowa. Archaeological investigations by the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) for the Department of Transportation under the direction of Cindy Peterson were conducted this past summer at five mid to late nineteenth century archaeological sites in the district. To learn more about the spectacular features and abundant artifacts found at these sites visit a new section of the OSA web page:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/gcp/bowensprairie/index.html>

Amy Marquardt, Young IAS Member, Presents at Midwest Archaeological Society Meeting 2001

Lynn M. Alex

Perhaps the youngest presenter at the recent Midwest Archaeological Conference, October 12-14 in La Crosse, Wisconsin was Amy Marquardt IAS member from Mediapolis, Iowa. Amy is a freshman high school student at Mediapolis High School and a Certified IAS member. Her paper, "Which Temper is Best for Pottery? Assessing Variation of Temper Strengths through Experimentation," was a PowerPoint presentation of Amy's continuing efforts to test the strength of prehistoric pottery made from different tempering materials. Amy has won recognition for her earlier research at both the regional and state levels of the Iowa Science Fair, and at the Iowa Academy of Science annual meeting. She has also presented at both Archaeology Day sponsored by the Southeast Chapter and the spring 2000 IAS meeting. A short article by Amy describing these earlier experiments appeared in Vol. 50, No. 2 of the Iowa Archeological Society Newsletter.

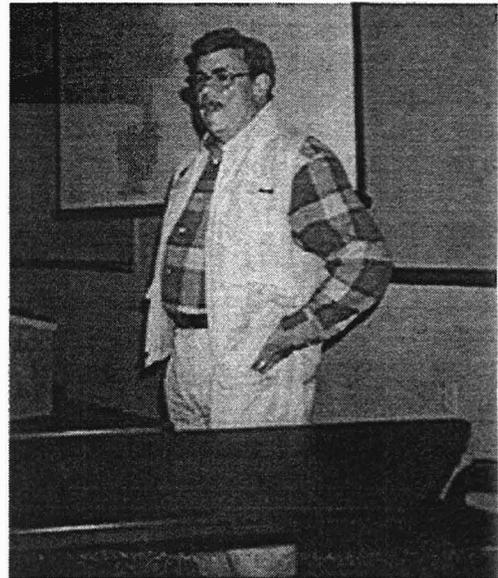
Amy is certified in the IAS Field Technician category and has also submitted ten site sheets towards her IAS Site Surveyor certification category. She has participated in a number of archaeological investigations in Iowa including the McKinney and Double Ditch sites.

These experiences place Amy well on her way to a future career in archaeology. We can all be proud of her accomplishments thus far.

IAS Fall Meeting

The Prairie Learning Center, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge was the site of the IAS Fall Meeting. The Central Iowa Chapter hosted the event Saturday, October 6th. Chapter members held flintknapping and beadwork demonstrations and artifact collections were displayed. Presentations on recent archeological projects included: "The Maxwell Site Findings," Joe Tiffany; "Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway Project," Christopher Schoen; "Aerial Photographs of Weed Park Mounds," George Horton; and "Bowen's Prairie Historic Archaeological District," John Doershuk. A poster paper on Fort Atkinson's Summer Field School completed the project presentations.

Pat Higby and Mark Anderson showed the audience how to make their own reproductions of artifacts to conclude the morning's activities. After lunch and some touring of the Prairie Learning Center, David Gradwohl gave the audience a stroll down memory lane with his delightful presentation "From Turin to 2001: Reflections on My Career in Iowa Archaeology." Mike Perry and Doug Jones led a large entourage on the the field tour to Hickory Hills Park South of Indianola to round out the day's full agenda.



Dave Gradwohl

"From Turin to 2001: Reflections on My Career in Iowa Archaeology"

Mark your Calendars!

The Southeast Chapter will host the IAS Spring Meeting Saturday, May 4, 2002 at Pioneer Ridge State Park near Ottumwa. An evening banquet is planned with Dr. William Green presenting on "Iowaville."

IAS Chapter News

Black Hawk Regional Chapter

James Collins of OSA spoke on *Gathering Some Hunting Data from the Carroll Rock Shelter* on September 5th. *The Earliest Americans: The State of Midwestern Paleoindian Research* was presented by Michael Shott, UNI on October 3rd. In November the chapter was shown two films. The first demonstrated the manufacture of bows and arrows and the second the use of the atlatl.

Contact Lisa Beltz

1804 W. Ridgewood Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 268-0865
Lisa.Beltz@uni.edu

Central Iowa Chapter

For Archaeology Month activities the CIC presented flintknapping, atlatl demonstrations and displayed artifacts at Living History Farms on September 8th. September 15th, along with the SHSI, the Polk County Historical Society, and the City of Des Moines the chapter sponsored the *Fort Des Moines II* presentation at the State Historical Bldg. as another Archaeology Month activity. *The Fall IAS Meeting at the Prairie Learning Center of the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge* was hosted by the Central Iowa Chapter. Members participated in flintknapping and beadwork demos as well as displaying their collections. Doug Jones led a training session on the *Laboratory and Curation Procedures for the Living History Farms' Artifacts* in November.

Contact Michael Heimbaugh

3923 29th St., Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 255-4909
paleomike@msn.com

Southeast Iowa Archaeology Chapter

Renewing Old Acquaintances and Exploring the Archaeological Past in Ottumwa and the Surrounding Area was the Archaeology Month event title for the meeting Saturday, September 8th. Meeting current and former SE Chapter members and sharing collections and recent finds was only a part of the theme of the day. A tour of the Wapello County Historical Museum artifact collection and exhibits, a noon lunch provided by the chapter, a visit to Chief Wapello's Grave Site near Agency, followed by a tour of the Fulton Museum near Selma, and a viewing of the artifact collection of Tony Sanders in Bentonsport rounded out the full day of activities.

Contact Bill Anderson

Box 51, 103 High St., Richland, IA 52585
(319) 456-3911

Northwest Chapter

The chapter has a new President, Mark Mertes, and La Vonne Nielsen is the chapter's new Secretary. The NW Chapter sponsored three activities during Archaeology Month. *Replicating Victorian Culture-Women and the Frontier Army* was presented by Todd Kapler, Cultural Heritage Consultants on September 23rd. The morning of September 29th Colleen Eck presented *Recording Archaeological Sites*. That afternoon Lynn Alex gave a presentation on the *Maxwell Site Findings*. The chapter continued work on the VanVoorhis collection in October and November.

Contact Linda Burkhart

Sanford Museum
117 E. Willow, Cherokee, IA 51012
(712) 225-3922
sanford@cherokee.k12.ia.us

Quad City Archaeological Society

The chapter conducted a small scale salvage excavation on a property where erosion was taking away the bank of Shadow Lake in mid September.

Contact Ferrel Anderson

1923 East 13th St., Davenport, IA 52803
(319) 324-025

Paul Rowe Chapter

Contact Dennis Miller

31126 Applewood Rd., Silver City, IA 51571
(712) 525-1007
Farming99@aol.com

Ellison Orr Chapter

As part of Archaeology Month, Joe Thompson presented *Archeology in NE Iowa: The Process and Results*. Cindy Peterson gave a presentation on *Archaeological Findings from an 1840's Trading Post Outside Fort Atkinson, Iowa* in September as well. In November *Joe presented 10,000 Years of Prehistory Along County Road H16 in Louisa County, SE Iowa*.

Contact Lori Stanley, (319) 387-1283

or Joe B. Thompson, (319) 387-0092

Orr Chapter, PO Box 511, Decorah, IA 52101
iasorrchapter@hotmail.com

Keyes Chapter

For Archaeology Month Christopher Schoen gave a presentation on *Ft. Des Moines II* and Keith Googin gave a flintknapping demonstration.

Contact Keith Young

11236 Co. Rd. E17, Scotch Grove, IA 52310
(319) 465-6393 or e-mail: wlibrary@netins.net



VOLUNTEER LAB WEEKEND AT OSA

This fall OSA's Public Archaeology program began a series of volunteer lab weekends to provide interested people a chance to do archaeological lab work and IAS members the opportunity to gain experience towards IAS Lab Technician Certification. Thirteen volunteers have attended each of the weekend sessions. Iowa archaeology is decidedly a beneficiary of these sessions. The volunteers screened soil samples from features at the Gast Farm Site (13LA12) and washed and sorted the contents. The samples were from the Middle Woodland (Havana) and Early Late Woodland (Wever) components researched by Mary Whelan and the UI in the early 1990s. Whelan and Lynn Alex were hosts of the sessions.

The next lab weekend at OSA, and the first for 2002, is scheduled for January 19 and 20, beginning at 9 a.m. During that time, participants will complete washing and sorting, and begin labeling artifacts. Interested persons need not sign on for both days. Work is from 9 a.m.—3 p.m. but is flexible with individual schedules. "Treats" are provided each morning and there is generally a short program over the noon hour. Participants may bring a sack lunch or take off to a nearby establishment.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Lynn Alex.

BOWEN'S PRAIRIE LAB WORK BEGINS

The OSA laboratory is bustling with activity, outdoor field season. Over twenty archaeologists have begun the lab phase of work on the Bowen's Prairie project. Currently they are cataloging the materials from three of the sites, in addition to working on flotation, data entry, background research at the Historical Society, site maps, artifact illustration and photography. Lab work will continue for at least 18 months.

A field crew of 43, led by OSA's Cindy Peterson, spent seven months excavating five of the sites within the Bowen's Prairie

historic archaeological district that will be impacted by construction along Highway 151 in Jones County between Cascade and Monticello. It is estimated that close to a million artifacts may have been excavated on this project alone and will be processed in the OSA lab.

NEW SPACE FOR UI- STANFORD SKELETAL COLLECTION

Since 1998 OSA has housed the UI-Stanford Collection, one of the nation's largest collections of documented human skeletal remains. Initial inventories have been completed, and all of the remains have been transferred from cloth bags to polypropylene boxes. Robert Franciscus (Department of Anthropology), Shirley Schermer, and William Green were awarded a National Science Foundation grant for curation and research. Green, Schermer, a lab furnishings supplier, and UI architects and facilities staff developed plans for lab and repository renovation. Construction, scheduled to be completed by February, recently started to expand the collection's storage space. The new space will be divided into a repository and laboratory for on-site research.

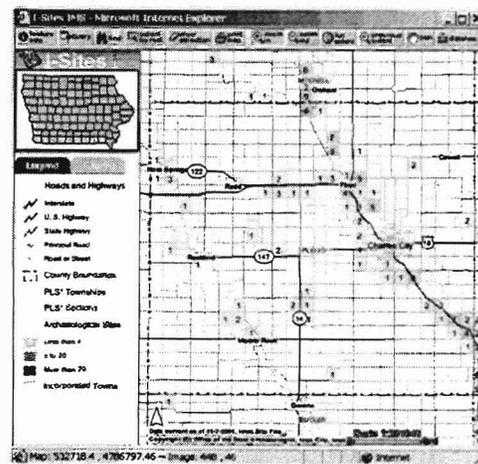
The Department of Anthropology and OSA acquired legal possession of this collection in 1998 from Stanford University's School of Medicine. This valuable collection of nearly 1,100 individuals comes from a pre-antibiotic and pre-modern health trend population amassed from the turn of the century through the late 1950s. The Department of Anatomy at Stanford University's School of Medicine systematically collected the skeletal remains of dissecting room specimens--either for the individuals who gave permission prior to death or for families who consented to their donation for research purposes. The Stanford Collection provides an important new resource for physical anthropologists given the rapidly shrinking availability of human skeletal material in the U.S., and adds significantly to the range of ethnic and regional variability in the nation's other major collections.

The collection is curated at OSA, and the Burials Program will have a multi-stage conservation and curation program that will make the Stanford Collection available to international scientists

through both on-site research and remote web-based information dissemination.

I-SITES NOW ON-LINE

The Geographic Information Services program at OSA announces I-Sites (<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/gisatosa/isites.htm>). The web site provides an on-line map of Iowa that shows the distribution of archaeological sites to the nearest 1-x-1 mile section against a familiar background of roads, cities, county lines, and USGS quadrangles. The map is interactive, allowing users to pan, zoom, measure distances, and even run simple queries of the mapped data. An online user's guide explains how to make full use of the site.



I-Sites is a collaborative effort involving three universities. Funding is provided by a grant from the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The internet map server is being developed at the University of Missouri by the Center for Agriculture, Resource, and Environmental Systems (CARES). Long term plans for maintenance and security are being developed at ISU's GIS Facility. OSA is creating the web pages that provide a front end for the map server, as well as maintaining its statewide coverage of known archaeological sites.

I-Sites is a work in progress and eventually, its interface will offer on-line recording of site forms, as well as site location mapping. I-Sites will also allow developers and managers to learn whether their proposed construction projects will affect archaeological sites. To follow our progress, visit the web site often.

OSA News is prepared and compiled by Julianne Hoyer (julianne-hoyer@uiowa.edu)

Archaeology Items of Interest

Books

The Seventy Great Mysteries of the Ancient World by Brian Fagan. 304 pages, 436 illustrations, Published by Thames & Hudson, 2001. Fagan divides his survey into “myth and legends, mysteries of the Stone Age, ancient civilizations, tombs and lost treasures.”

To Find the Right Book

The Museum Store, Iowa Historical Building: www.iowahistory.org. The proceeds support the State Historical Society of Iowa. Or to link to several sites go to **Archeology and Ethnography Publications** at: www.cr.nps.gov/aad/aepubs.htm. This site is a real source for a variety of topics including: *Archeology and Education: The Classroom and Beyond*, *The Antiquities Act of 1906 and Common Ground*, (known previously as Federal Archeology.

Calendar of Events

2002 Fort Atkinson Area Cultural Resources Field School. For dates and information contact (515) 281-0878, Diane.Ford_shivvers@dnr.state.ia.us.

Center for American Archeology 2002 Field School Programs.

April 8-May 17 - Past Lifeways
May 3-5 - Adult Ecology
May 21-25 - Adult 50+
May 28-June 1 - Adult
June 4-8 - Adult
June 11-15 - Adult
June 25 - July 20 - High School
July 9-July 20 - Jr. High
June 29 - Archeology Day
July 20 - Jr. Archeologist's Day

These programs are nationally recognized, educational and fun. For detailed information contact the Center for American Archeology, P.O. Box 366, Kampsville, IL 62053. Phone (618)653-4316 or contact by e-mail: caa@caa.archeology.org.

Managing Archeological Collections

This online technical assistance and distance learning effort covers all aspects of caring for “all kinds of archeological collections in all kinds of places.” The technical assistance is designed for those who need to learn more about preserving and managing archeological collections over the long term. The audience includes archaeologists, curators, cultural resources managers, and planners. Go to: www.cr.nps.gov/aad/collections/intro_course_pr.htm.

Editor's Note

Michael Shott's essay on radiocarbon dating in the last Newsletter issue referred to airplane crashes. The essay was written before the tragic events of 11 September, 2001 and in no way was intended as a reference to them.

Membership Information

Contact Membership Secretary, Iowa Archeological Society, University of Iowa, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, IA 52242-1030.

Membership Dues

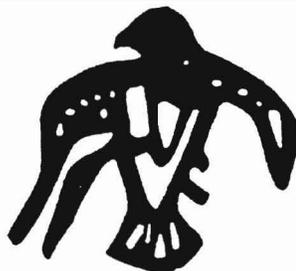
Voting:		Non-Voting:	
Active	\$15	Student (under 18)	\$7
Household	\$18	Institution	\$20
Sustaining	\$25		

Newsletter Information

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 Midwest. *Iowa Archeology News* is published four times a year.

All materials for publication should be sent to the Editor: Michael Heimbaugh, 3923 29th St., Des Moines, IA 50310. Phone (515) 255-4909. E-mail: paleomike@msn.com

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