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Meskwaki Symposium

Johnathan Buffalo

THE MESKWAKI NATION Historical Preservation Office recently announced receipt of a grant from Humanities Iowa, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in support of a Meskwaki Symposium scheduled for April 4–5, 2008. The Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa will provide matching funds for this celebration of tribal heritage to be held in the Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel Veteran's Convention Center, Tama. Academic scholars of Meskwaki history, archaeology, culture, and language will present their research to the tribal community and the general public.

Scheduled speakers include: Jeffrey A. Behm, Lenville J. Stelle, R. David Edmunds, Cindy Peterson, Judy Daubenmier, Douglas Foley, Kathy Gourley, and Jerome Thompson. Jonathan G. Andelson and Johnathan L. Buffalo will moderate a panel discussion, and Robert Sessions will serve as the humanities evaluator. This is a great opportunity to bring together all the researchers of the tribe.

—*continued on page 2*

Original painting by Charles Pushetonequa, courtesy of IAS members George and Midge Horton. The painting will be featured on the cover of a forthcomming issue of the Wisconsin Archeologist dedicated to the papers presented at the last Meskwaki symposium held in 2003 at Effigy Mounds National Monument.

Inside This Issue

IAS members may remember a similar symposium in 2003 hosted by Effigy Mounds National Monument as part of Iowa Archaeology Month. Presentations made at that event by some of these same scholars have been submitted for publication as an entire volume of the *Wisconsin Archeologist* due out this spring. The 11 papers reflect a blend of current archaeological, ethnohistorical, and native perspectives concerning the history of the Meskwakis from their origins east of the Great Lakes to their removal from and ultimate return to Iowa. An interactive CD-ROM on Meskwaki culture and history created by Mary Bennett of the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Meskwaki Nation Historical Preservation Office, which was announced at the 2003 symposium, recently received a Leadership in History Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.

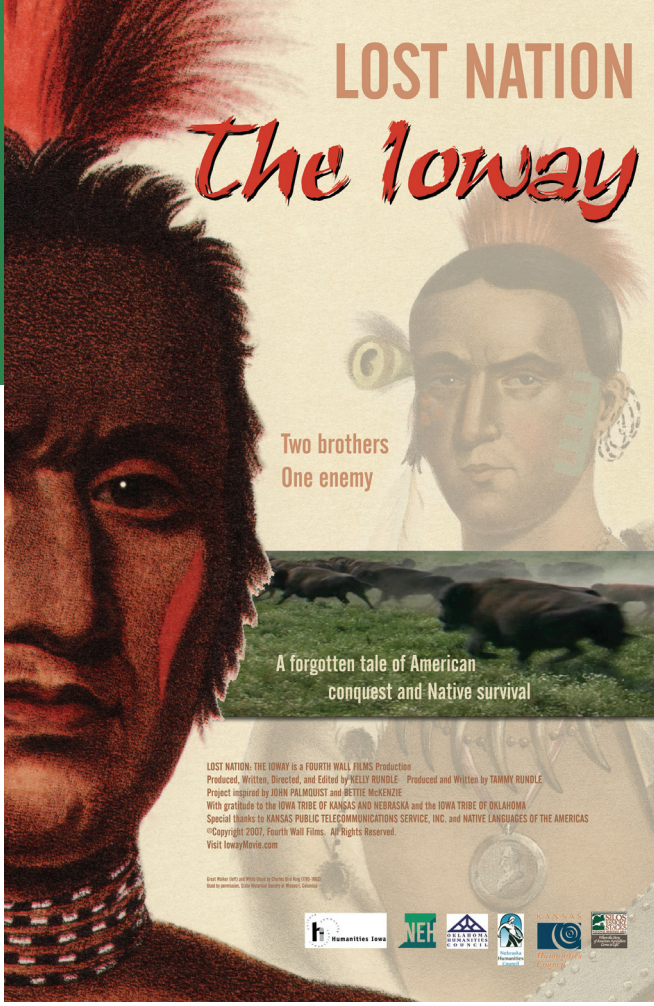
For additional information on the upcoming Meskwaki symposium, contact: Johnathan L. Buffalo or Christina Blackcloud-Garcia, Historical Preservation Assistant, Historical Preservation Office, Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa, phone 641-484-4678, fax 641-484-4321, e-mail *cblackcloud@meskwaki.org*, web site *www.meskwaki.org*.

The *Wisconsin Archeologist* is available to members of the Wisconsin Archeological Society. Copies of the upcoming volume of papers from the 2003 Meskwaki Symposium may be available for purchase. Contact Lynn M. Alex, volume editor, for more information.

The CD-ROM on Meskwaki culture and history is available at a cost of $19.95. Contact Mary Bennett, State Historical Society of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1806. It will also be available for sale at the Casino gift shop during the symposium.

Meskwaki casino and hotel near Tama.

A New Documentary Brings the Ioway Back to Iowa



Gail Barels

VERY FEW IOWA CITIZENS know how their state got its name. Some people were taught that Iowa was named for the Iowa River in eastern Iowa. Only a few know that it was named after the once-native Ioway tribe.

Apache, Cherokee, Iroquois, Crow, Shoshone—these are a few of the tribes that students mention when asked the question, "Which Indian tribes lived in Iowa before settlement?" Others name the Sioux (Dakota and Nakota), and they are correct, for these peoples did occupy areas of northern Iowa. Most know the Meskwaki, who the Ioway invited to live in eastern Iowa after the French and allied tribes forced them westward. Other presettlement tribes in Iowa were the Otoe, Missouri, Winnebago, and Omaha. These tribes, along with the Ioway, are rarely mentioned, probably because by the time most settlers arrived the Ioway had left the land that bears their name. Few later settlers had contact with the tribe, and today even fewer Iowans know of their existence.

A new documentary film by Fourth Wall Films hopes to enhance Iowa's sparse knowledge of its namesake. The film, *Lost Nation: The Ioway*, was shown throughout Iowa during this past October. Nearly two hundred tribal members attended the film premiere at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines. This is believed to be the largest group of Ioway in the state since their removal in the 1800s. Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center was privileged to be one of the first screening locations, with an attendance of nearly 225 people for the showing.

Why did the Ioway leave Iowa and where are they today? By the time the earliest settlers arrived in Iowa in the 1830s and 1840s, the Ioway were already feeling the pressure of westward Euroamerican movement. The Meskwaki and the Sauk fought for space in the eastern areas of the state. The Sioux were fighting the Ioway in the northern and western sections of the state. This forced the Ioway to move their main villages into northern Missouri.

Today, the Ioway have two tribal land areas. The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska is located near White Cloud, Kansas. The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma is located near Perkins, Oklahoma.

What can people learn about the Ioway from this new documentary? *Lost Nation: The Ioway* relates the history of this Indian nation as it roamed the Iowa landscape for centuries. Footage of Ioway historic sites, powwows, photographs, documents, and

This program is supported by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The views and opinions expressed by this program do not necessarily reflect those of Humanities Iowa or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

artifacts highlight a culture that once dominated parts of the Midwest. Interviews with historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, and Ioway elders help to tell their dramatic, almost forgotten story.

One particularly fascinating interview features commentary by archaeologist Bill Green. He discusses a rare historical, hand-drawn map detailing the movements and locations of permanent Ioway village sites. The map was used in treaty negotiations with the U.S. government. The map clearly shows the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and their tributaries.

The Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa chose this map for the 2007 Iowa Archaeology Month poster as a way to honor the Ioway Nation and to coordinate with release of the new film. The poster's title is *Baxoje* (bah-kho-je), the name the Ioway call themselves in their language. These posters were distributed to tribal members from both the Oklahoma and the Kansas and Nebraska reservations, and were available to audiences at the film showings.

Intrigue, conflict, and murder were also a part of Ioway history. Filmmakers Tammy and Kelly Rundle highlight the struggles and conflicts of the Ioway tribe during the early 1800s. Throughout the first third of the nineteenth century, tribal leaders went to Washington, D.C., to negotiate with the U.S. government. An 1836 treaty moved the tribe to a reservation in Kansas and Nebraska. Should the Ioway have signed treaties ceding their land in Iowa? One leader, White Cloud, believed cooperation with the American government was best. Another leader and White Cloud's adopted brother, Great Walker, regretted signing the treaty and the loss of the land. The tribe split, and later White Cloud was murdered.

Producer Tammy Rundle said,

> We hope the film will help to restore this chapter of Iowa's rich heritage to public consciousness. We can't change events from long ago, but we think viewers will relate to the courage and perseverance of the Ioway as they struggled with forces that changed their lives forever.

The 56-minute film will be available on DVD in August 2008. The DVD will feature additional scenes and other features including an alternative soundtrack in the Ioway language with English subtitles. Broadcasts on midwestern PBS stations are planned for 2009.

For more about the film and Tammy and Kelly Rundle, go to *www.iowaymovie.com* Additional information on the Ioway can be found at *www.uiowa.edu/~osa*.

Turning a Challenge into an Opportunity for Students to Learn about the Past

State School Board Members Learn About Archaeology at Glenwood

Glenwood elementary, middle, and high schools students told firsthand of their archaeological experiences over the past two years to members attending the Association of School Boards annual conference in Des Moines in November. Accompanied by three of their teachers, elementary school principal Kevin Farmer, and Glenwood School Superintendent Stan Sibley, the four students manned a booth at a special show-and-tell session designed to highlight projects and programming at schools throughout Iowa. The booth featured large posters and a revolving PowerPoint program. Both described student participation in excavations at 13ML590 during 2006 and in a special two-day archaeology camp for sixth graders this past September. Excavation Director Jason Titcomb displayed some of the Middle and Late Woodland artifacts recovered in last year's project, and Lynn Alex answered questions about the archaeology camp which she conducted along with two other OSA-staffers, Chérie Haury-Artz and Mary De La Garza.

The booth, *Turning a Challenge into an Opportunity for Students to Learn about the Past*, displayed the history of 13ML90 from its original discovery by local avocational archaeologists to the excavations conducted in 2006. Afterwards, the site was destroyed in the construction of the new Glenwood High School. The project proved an example of conflict resolution between the local school administration, concerned with any delay in the construction of the new high school, and state officials protecting the interests of the site. When the State Historic Preservation Office found that the school construction did not required compliance with the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, archaeologists and school officials worked together to design a unique opportunity for student learning as part of limited site excavations. The sixth grade archaeology camp this past fall was an extension of the 2006 project and may become a permanent part of Glenwood's annual elementary school science camp. Interested parties on all sides plan to cooperate again this summer in presenting a paper on the project at the World Archaeological Congress in Dublin, Ireland.

—Lynn M. Alex

Glenwood student presenters Brady Wheeler (left), Wyatt Lewis (center), Brad Roenfeld (right), and Sarah Hubner (not shown).

Cornell College Archaeological Field School

Mark L. Anderson and John F. Doershuk

From May 7–30, 2007, we taught a Cornell College course for 11 students called "Introduction to Archaeological Field Methods." The course was held on the 84-acre property of Paul and Jennifer Morf in rural Linn County. This property encompasses several intermittent tributaries and a portion of the upper reach of Spring Hollow, a drainage running through the south unit of Palisades-Dows State Preserve. The portion of Spring Hollow within the Preserve was the location of previous Cornell College archaeological field schools in 2002 and 2005. Details on these excavations will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society*.

Joel Johnson, a long time friend of the Morfs, introduced one of us (Mark) to them at the Cedar Valley Rock and Gem Show, held in Cedar Rapids during late March, 2007. Joel knew of a unique projectile point found on the Morf property. Paul Morf stopped by the show and showed Mark a well-crafted, undamaged Atalissa point made of Knife River Flint. He said it was found in the dirt floor of the garage he and friends were remodeling! Mark and Paul had a brief discussion about archaeology in general and specifically east-central Iowa. Paul expressed an interested in learning about sites on his land and invited the Office of the State Archaeologist to investigate. Arrangements were made for a meeting with Paul on April 7, 2007. Mark met Paul, Jennifer, and friend Joel for a walk-about of the farm, which appeared to Mark ideal as a combination research and student training area.

The following Saturday, both of us returned to the Morf's, despite unseasonably cold weather, to conduct preliminary testing of the higher potential locations. We did a quick walking tour and surface inspection of parts of the property and then moved on to conduct some test excavations. With the exception of a small area of grubbing and clearing for the expansion of upland prairie, there was no cultivated or other exposed ground for surface collection. Hence, all work involved subsurface testing. We were able to excavate multiple bucket auger tests in four high-potential locations. Although no artifacts were recovered with the exception of a couple of historic artifacts from recent historic era fill, several areas were identified as promising locations for the planned field school.

Morf property is located west of the Dows Observatory.

The Cornell course began with students spending the first few days in the classroom reviewing Iowa prehistory and culture periods, archaeological theory and methods, artifact types and classifications, geomorphology and soils, and excavation types and techniques. Initially, we planned to test three areas of the Morf property including the north ridge, the eastern portion of the ridge containing the farmstead, and a lower-lying bench-like area immediately east of the farmstead. Testing began on the ridge east of the farmstead with a series of 50-x-50-cm shovel tests. A pair of transects was established, and students began working in groups learning how to manage an excavation unit using shovels. Soils were excavated in 10-cm levels from the current ground surface and the matrix passed through standard ¼-inch, wire mesh screen. The end of the first day was almost too good to be true when one of the student groups recovered the blade portion of a projectile point. This point is made of heat-treated chert, possibly Maynes Creek, and likely belongs to a Late Archaic type.

Excavations continued with a total of 21 shovel tests excavated along this ridge to depths of 40 cm. Just a few additional artifacts, all chert flakes, were recovered. The point and flakes, along with the original Atalissa point found in the garage remodeling, confirm the presence of a Late Archaic (3000–1000 B.C.) occupation in the farmstead vicinity. We have recorded this portion of the property as site 13LN898.

The north ridge was tested next by the students. Using a pair of transects positioned 20 m apart, students excavated 34 50-x-50-cm shovel tests placed along each transect at 10-m intervals. The easternmost of these units were essentially void of any cultural material with the exception of some twentieth-century artifacts including window and bottle glass fragments, ceramic fragments, and the odd bits of unidentifiable metal. These discoveries demonstrated to the students how agricultural activities can scatter historical debris. This debris was likely distributed in the area during transit to a trash dump located in the ravine below the east end of the ridge.

As shovel testing progressed to the west along the north ridge, chert flakes began to appear in Test Units 23–25 and 31–34. Several large reduction and bifacial thinning flakes were recovered from Test Units 31–34 which we designated as site 13LN899. With the appearance of these flakes, the students were able to practice more careful troweling skills. No additional cultural material or stratigraphic differences, however, were discovered.

The Late Archaic point. recovered on the first day.

The flakes recovered from Test Units 23–25 were notably smaller than those from 13LN899, and we decided to record this area as site 13LN900. Test Unit 23 in particular was unlike the others excavated on the


Excavating Test Unit 23.

north ridge. The original 50-x-50-cm test yielded a couple of flakes and a few pieces of charcoal in the upper 20 cm. Charcoal stains became clearer once the unit reached a depth of 30 cm, and it appeared that a potential feature was extant along the south wall. The unit was expanded to 1 x 1 m, and excavation continued in 10-cm levels. Test Unit 23 ultimately yielded a possible posthole and an apparent pit feature, complete with several grams of charcoal. These emerging features gave the students a chance to do some careful hand excavation as well as detailed mapping and recording. Both features were bisected for profiles, half of each being removed as bulk soil samples while the remaining portions were excavated and screened. Sufficient charcoal to submit for a radiocarbon date was recovered. Hopefully, we will get this done later in the winter.

The third area tested was located well southeast of site 13LN900 at a lower elevation on a bench-like area along the east side of an intermittent tributary east of the farmstead. Students used bucket augers to excavate nine test units to depths of 150–200 cm. A couple of historical artifacts were recovered in the upper levels of two bucket auger tests. Otherwise, they were all devoid of artifacts. The nine auger tests did indicate that this area contains at least 1 m of historic-age Camp Creek Member sediments over a buried surface, likely a Gunder Member deposit dating to the middle Holocene. Although the digging was hard work (as several students attested!), it provided an excellent learning opportunity in geomorphology regarding alluvial processes and landform alteration.

Posthole (right) and pit feature (top). Subsequent cross sections confirmed the initial identifications.

Time allowed a fourth test area to be established after Paul and Jennifer told us that they were planning an addition to the north side of their home. Once Iowa One Call marked the electrical and gas lines, the students laid out several 1-x-1-m units and began excavation. This area yielded lots of historic debris ranging from recent plastic items to stoneware fragments dating to the late nineteenth century. Significant amounts of limestone gravel and metal artifacts were recovered along with several larger limestone blocks and some large pieces of wood. Hand excavation exposed in situ several planks of milled wood complete with large nails. We hypothesized these may represent a part of a former outbuilding or perhaps a porch. This final area of investigation was designated site 13LN901.

To wrap up their training, we had the students properly backfill all excavation units and ensure that no equipment was left behind. They came to the OSA for their last day of class to clean and put away equipment, organize artifact bags, create an inventory for later lab work, and submit their final papers.

A second season spent at the Morf property would be useful to 1) test the tall grass prairie area west of the house for potential upland sites, 2) test within the lower-lying drainage basin portions of the property for potential buried sites, and 3) conduct further testing along the north ridge, especially around site 13LN900, to check for additional features and collect additional charcoal samples. Effort spent reviewing the artifact assemblages and sites within the lower drainage basin of Spring Hollow and a search for potential relationships among the newly discovered sites on the Morf property would also be worthwhile.

Positive results achieved by the 2007 school season on the Morf property include:

- continuation of 80 years of archaeological research in this area begun by Charles R. Keyes and Cornell College,
- extension of on-going research to survey the entire Spring Hollow drainage basin, and
- collection of comparable data on erosion and deposition in the highly dissected upland of east-central Iowa.

Recovery of information on the characteristics of upland occupations in the area will be useful in addressing the following questions.

- Are they the large, low-artifact-density sites as identified in the Iowa Site File, or is this a result of cultivation?
- How are upland sites related to sites located farther down the drainage?
- What are the differences in lithic raw material resource utilization?

All in all, the 2007 Cornell College field archaeology class helped fill in some of the missing pieces in the culture history of a portion of the Cedar River drainage. It also gave us an opportunity to involve private citizens and landowners in archaeological research.

Remains of wood planks in the area of the planned addition.

The GeoGLO Project: Twenty-First Century Access to Nineteenth Century Maps

John Hall and Joe Alan Artz

THINGS HAVE BEEN BUSY in the Geographic Information Program at the Office of the State Archaeologist this year, as we complete the third of five phases of the GeoGLO project. The GeoGLO project is an effort by the University of Iowa Libraries, the Iowa Geological Survey, the Geographic Information System Support and Research Facility at Iowa State University, and OSA to digitize, georeference, mosaic, and publish the complete township archive of the original General Land Office (GLO) survey plats of Iowa. It's a monumental task that will soon provide an electronically published, seamless mosaic of the township plats of the entire state of Iowa available to the public.

Between 1832 and 1859, surveyors from the GLO worked their way east to west across Iowa—measuring, mapping, and dividing the land into mile-square sections and six-mile-square townships. Every land deed in Iowa is traceable to its initial GLO survey record. The surveyors also mapped rivers, prairies, forests, settlements, farmsteads, and trails. Archaeologists often use these maps to locate historic sites.

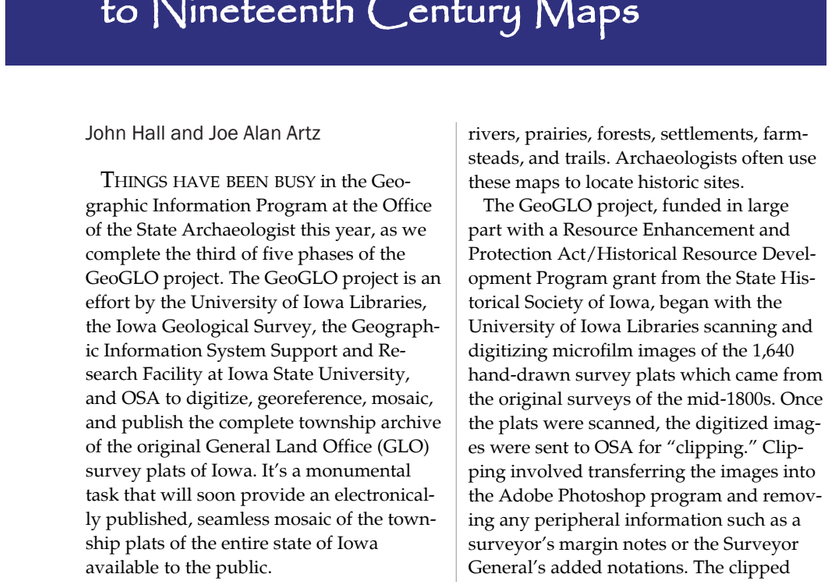
The GeoGLO project, funded in large part with a Resource Enhancement and Protection Act/Historical Resource Development Program grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa, began with the University of Iowa Libraries scanning and digitizing microfilm images of the 1,640 hand-drawn survey plats which came from the original surveys of the mid-1800s. Once the plats were scanned, the digitized images were sent to OSA for "clipping." Clipping involved transferring the images into the Adobe Photoshop program and removing any peripheral information such as a surveyor's margin notes or the Surveyor General's added notations. The clipped images were then saved to a separate file, leaving the original GLO maps and peripheral information intact.

The current phase of the project involves georeferencing the clipped GLO maps to United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle topographic maps. Using ArcGIS software, each clipped township image is placed over a base layer topographic map, and the township and section corners of the GLO map are manually aligned or georeferenced to the section corners of the underlying USGS map.

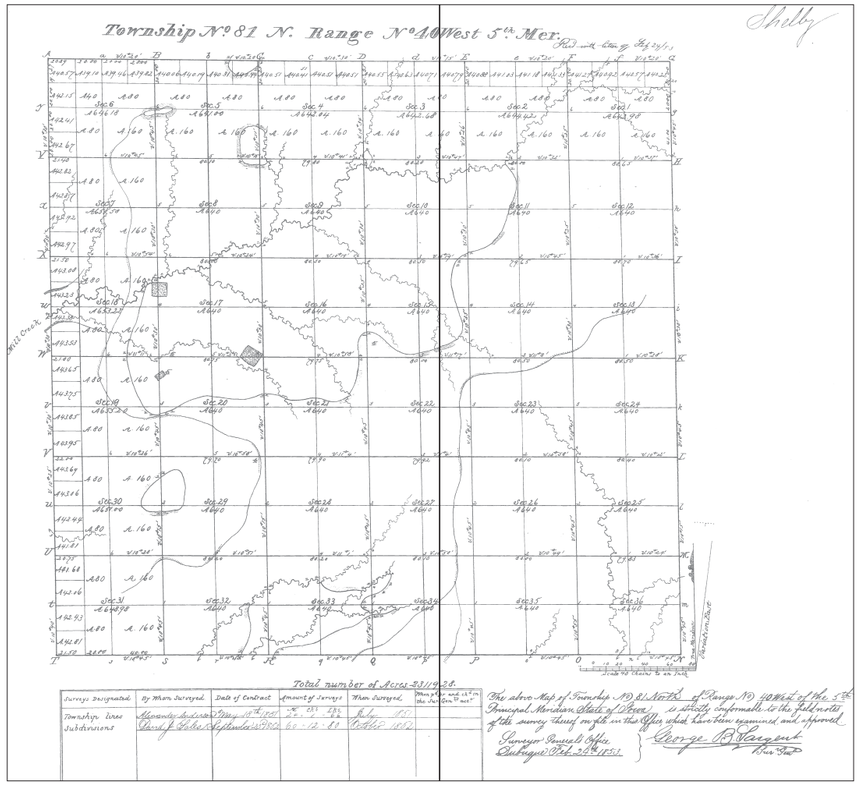
GLO surveyor in the mid-1800s

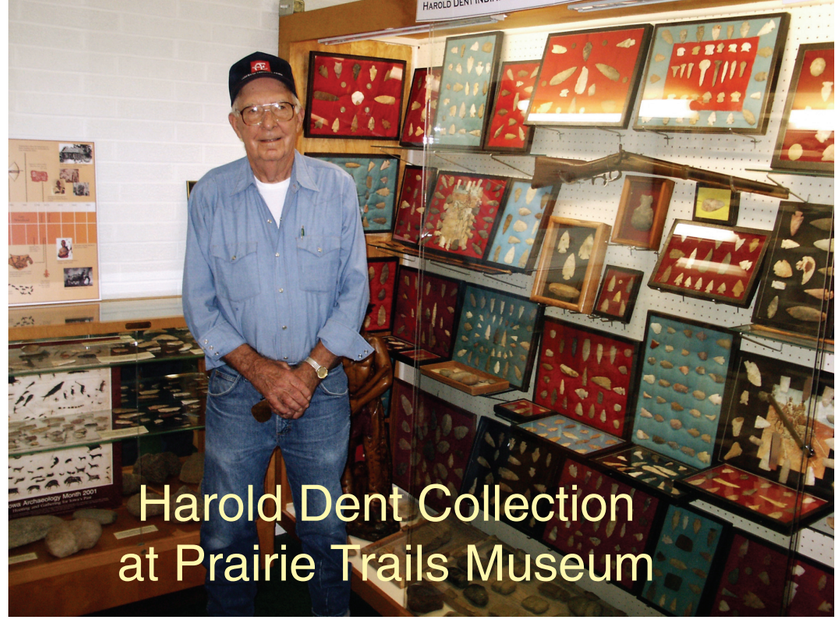
During phase four of the project, the Iowa Geological Survey will take the georeferenced images and connect or mosaic them together, creating a seamless statewide map of Iowa based on the original 1,640 individual survey plats. Once this is completed, the georeferenced GLO maps may be downloaded from Iowa's Natural Resource GIS Library (*www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgislibx*). The statewide mosaic also will be sent to and published on Iowa State University's Iowa Geographic Map Server (*ortho.gis.iastate.edu*). This will allow users to locate their geographic area of interest on the USGS topographic map, and then add the georeferenced GLO image layer and view the original survey for that area. The original survey plats, nonclipped and nongeoreferenced, will still be available at The Iowa Heritage Digital Collections website (*iowaheritage.lib.uiowa.edu*).

When completed, the GeoGLO project will have translated microfilm images of individual GLO plats, which are difficult to view individually let alone side-by-side, into an easily accessible, seamless mosaic of the entire state. These images provide snapshots of mid-nineteenth century Iowa showing Native American villages and fields along with Euroamerican dwellings, farms, roads, communities, and businesses. As a result of this project, these cultural and natural features become linked to our twenty-first century landscape, creating a valuable tool for historians both public and private alike.



Sample General Land Office survey plat of Township 81 North, Range 40 West, 5th Meridian.





Michael J. Perry

LIFELONG CORYDON RESIDENT Harold Dent recently donated his large artifact collection for exhibit at Corydon's Prairie Trails Museum. Artifact hunting was a 50-year hobby for Dent, who is still very active at age 81 and a reliable volunteer at the museum. He is looking forward to sharing stories of his hobby with museum visitors as they view the results of his many miles of walking. Harold personally found most of the material exhibited in the new display in the southern Iowa counties of Wayne and Decatur, and in the neighboring counties of Putnam and Mercer in Missouri. His career with Anderson Erickson Dairy took him throughout the region, and many of the sites he collected were first spotted from the high driver's seat of his milk truck. Harold's favorite sites were in the valleys of the Chariton, Weldon, and Grand rivers. Like many large collections, the points he recovered span nearly the entire range of North American prehistory, from late Paleoindian through Late Prehistoric. He is especially proud of several Dalton points and a corner tang knife, all local finds, and a gray chert chipped-stone hoe found in the Fort Leonard Wood area of south-central Missouri.

Harold recalls with fondness his association with Joe Artz of the OSA, who visited the Dent home while conducting a survey for a local highway improvement project in the spring of 1990. Harold credits Joe's influence in helping him make the decision to donate the collection to the museum, and a framed personal letter from Joe stands next to the exhibit case. At first Harold was reluctant to make the donation, but a few words from Joe cinched it. Knowing that Harold never bought or sold any artifacts, Joe asked, "You know what makes this collection special?"

"What?" replied Harold.

"Every one of these artifacts was picked up with this thumb and this finger," Joe said pointing to the thumb and forefinger of Harold's right hand.

Although he has no idea how many specimens he found, Dent's donation more than triples the size of the museum's collection of local prehistoric material, filling an 8-foot-wide by 7-foot-high glass front case. Most of the points are arranged in 40 display frames each holding up to 40 specimens. Two sets of manos and metates and about two dozen axes and larger celts wired to framed boards stand on the floor of the case. The collection may easily total one thousand pieces. Museum Director Brenda DeVore expects the exhibit to attract much interest. To help museum visitors get a sense of the time depth represented by the artifacts, Brenda arranged for the acquisition of a poster-size copy of OSA's colorful *Iowa's Archaeological Timeline* to be mounted near the Dent exhibit. The Prairie Trails Museum is located on Highway 2 at the east end of Corydon and is open daily April 15 to October 15. Visit their web site at *www.prairietrailsmuseum.org*.

Recording Archaeological Sites *Is* Important!

John F. Doershuk
State Archaeologist

WHY DO I think it's important that *everyone* record their site locations with the OSA? Dale Clark, longtime IAS member, says it best:

> The single most important thing that has been passed to me by the Pidcocks* is that the documentation gives an artifact a history and allows you to learn about each artifact and how it fits into the puzzle that we call life.

By "documentation" Dale means the locational data and other information on context—topography, drainage, ground cover, and previous disturbance—that gives an artifact find its character and comparative value for learning about how past people used the Iowa landscape. For me Dale's insightful comment—and the Pidcock's wisdom—really sum up the importance of documentation and hence recording sites.

I'm aware that some people are reluctant to record site locations for fear that use of their own property might be restricted. Actually, I hope all of you are recording, at least for your own purposes, your find locations. Perhaps I can convince you that recording these locations with the OSA is a win-win scenario. Here's some correspondence I recently exchanged on the matter that helps to explain the implications of site recording. Names are fictional and locational details omitted to protect confidentiality.

Related information is available in two OSA pamphlets:

The Archaeological Steward: Documenting Collections and,

Iowa Archaeology and You: Protecting Iowa's Archaeological Resources for the Future.

*Thelma and D. E. "Pid" Pidcock have been IAS members for nearly 40 years and have recorded over 130 sites.

September 25, 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Dear Mr. Iowa:

I understand your concerns and appreciate that you are at least willing to consider sharing the location of your discovery. I believe many people all across the state have similar concerns.

First, I must state that I wish listing a site in our records meant they were truly protected from harm. Archaeological sites are nonrenewable resources—once gone, there is no new supply (nobody is making axes like the one you found anymore!). I also wish it were possible to insure that every landowner's rights could also be protected as they desired. As it happens, the fact that an archaeological location is included in our records gives it precious little, if any, real protection from destruction—planned or accidental—and as many landowners will tell you, the larger society can constrain everyone's dreams. I can assure you, however, that by state law all artifacts found on your property belong to you as the landowner. I can also assure you that, again by law, archaeological site locations are confidential and not subject to Iowa's open records requirements.

Most activities a private landowner might contemplate involving substantial ground disturbance and thus potential disturbance to an archaeological site, such as building a swimming pool, grading a new driveway, getting a cable installed, or even subdividing property, are not regulated or permitted in any fashion that requires compliance with any laws governing archaeological sites. This means the presence of the axe you discovered, even hundreds of similar axes, wouldn't restrict these sorts of development. This is why many archaeological sites have been—and continue to be—destroyed with no recordation of any sort.

An exception is the accidental discovery of human remains as these *are* protected by Iowa Code (*www.uiowa.edu/~osa/burials/generalinfo.pdf*). Even so, the presence of human remains is often dealt with by professional removal and reburial at a protected location after suitable consultation with agencies and tribes as appropriate to the situation.

Let me also be clear on another matter: if an archaeological site is *not* recorded in the Iowa Site File, it does *not* preclude it from posing restrictions on future ground-disturbing activities. This is because decisions about archaeological resources are only partly based on the known record. Also important is what exists "out there" on the landscape whether exposed on the surface or buried in the ground. Specifically, federally funded or permitted projects such as cell towers, highways, wetland impacts, to name but a few types, are typically required to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Such compliance usually starts with a records check of OSA's files *but then*—regardless of whether anything is recorded in our files—continues with a field survey of the planned project impact area. A field survey of this sort would identify the source of your axe, assuming there are other related materials to be found.

This latter idea is an important point worth considering: "assuming there are other related materials to be found." If the axe you found proved to be the *only* archaeological item in the immediate area (for example within 100–200 feet of the point of discovery), then I can assure you there will be no restrictions of any kind from an archaeological perspective on future use of the area simply because there is no remaining archaeological context—the axe was moved and there is nothing else. *Even so, we would still want the information in the Iowa Site File* as a record of where there once was an archaeological deposit as these data are very informative regarding understanding how people in the past chose to settle the landscape. We estimate that at least 25 percent of all the recorded archaeological site locations we have in the Iowa Site File have been completely destroyed and exist only on maps and drawings, in photographs, and in the recovered artifacts themselves. So recording a site in our file is a form of preservation that continues regardless of landscape changes.

If, on the other hand, the axe you found is one of hundreds or even thousands of other artifacts, perhaps representing a dense village deposit, then a Section 106 field survey will surely discover the location regardless of whether the site is recorded in our file. Sometimes these surveys occur only shortly before planned construction activities or when design plans are pretty well set. Discovery of a large, significant archaeological site can then be upsetting to project plans if an expensive re-engineering effort or mitigation excavation becomes required.

However, if such an archaeological site was "on the map" ahead of time, the pre-survey records check—which often happens much earlier in the planning stages of a project—would reveal the information and perhaps lead to a simple realignment or some other accommodation in the project that would avoid impact, preserve the nonrenewable resource, but also allow the project to proceed. I prefer to see such win-win situations! As an extension of this example, if a project were proposed in your area that you wished wouldn't occur, the recorded presence of an archaeological site might serve as a useful tool for leveraging project realignment.

All in all, I believe strongly that our society benefits from knowledge about the past—each axe location that is recorded is another small piece of the very large and very complex puzzle about where we came from and why—and we need all the help with this we can get! Congress, in its wisdom, passed the NHPA because it was convinced that historic preservation is in the best interest of the people. Take a look at the National Park Service website for more on this idea: *www.nps.gov/archeology*.

Lastly, you might be interested in the following website, I-Sites, the on-line version of the Iowa Site File: *kodiak.gis.iastate.edu/isites*.

This is a map program that you can use to navigate to your location so you can get a sense of how many archaeological site locations have been previously recorded in your area—or perhaps how few.

Please let me know your thoughts or if you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,
John F. Doershuk

September 26, 2007

Dear Mr. Doershuk:

I was surprised, while viewing the I-Sites map, at how few artifacts have been located near our farm.

We have discussed your previous e-mails and have decided to allow you to record in the Iowa Site File the location of the axe we found. This axe was located in a hay field which overlooks (approximately 300 yards from) the Des Moines River. This field is on our farm, which has a legal description as follows:

The SW¼ of SW¼ and the west ten acres of the N½ of Government Lot 6. All in Section X, Township YYN. Range ZZE.

The finding of this axe head has really spurred my interest in Indian artifacts. I plan on checking this hay field (as well as the rest of my farm) further, after the cattle have grazed the cover off, later this fall. I will let you know if any other items of interest are located.

Thanks for taking the time to discuss this matter with us. If you need any further info regarding this find, let me know.

Sincerely,
Mr. Iowa

September 27, 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Dear Mr. Iowa:

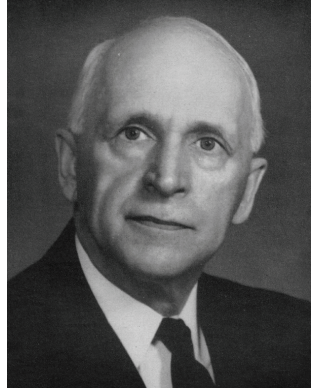
Wonderful! Thank you for contributing to our knowledge base about the past. I hope to have the opportunity to meet you and your wife at some point. I'll let you know if I'm in the area.

We will start with a small site area, probably just an area around 30 feet in diameter centered at the location you specify. I've attached a file with two map views of your property—please confirm I'm in the right place. Does the little white hand—the mouse pointer—designate the axe find location well or should it be moved? If you can mark the map digitally and send it back it would be great, or you could print it, mark the location, and mail it to me. In the future we will have an Internet-based interactive map that will greatly simplify for everyone the communicating of site locations.

If you find more items at a later date in the vicinity, just let me know and we can expand the boundaries accordingly or add another site definition to the file. Remember, you don't need to collect everything! It is okay to leave items in place as it preserves the context and association of the finds. If you do collect materials, especially if from different landforms or parts of your property, keep them in separate containers and put a card in with locational information (such as the legal description; the more precise, the better).

Thanks again for recording your artifact find in the Iowa Site File!

Sincerely,
John F. Doershuk



Keyes-Orr Award
Call for Nominations

The Charles R. Keyes–Ellison Orr Award committee will consider nominations from IAS members for the 2008 award. The recipient will be announced at the annual spring meeting in Des Moines. According to the IAS Bylaws, the award is presented to an individual in recognition of outstanding service to the Iowa Archeological Society and in the research, reporting, and preservation of Iowa's prehistoric and historic heritage. Since 1977, 42 individuals have received the award.

The name of a nominee should be submitted to a member of the Keyes–Orr Award committee. The committee consists of the previous year's recipient and IAS Board members serving the third year of their term. Contact Steve Lensink (2007 Keyes–Orr Award recipient), *steve-lensink@uiowa.edu*; Jerry Baker, *jerboa@msn.com*; Chad Burroughs, *chad.burroughs@ubc.biz*; Dale Essick, *dessick@pcsia.net*; or Molly Ketchum, *mollyketchum@hotmail.com*, to suggest the name of a worthy nominee. Please tell the committee member why you think the suggested individual is deserving of the award.

What's the Point?

Identify the artifact shown here (life size). Dale Henning received this point from a friend while in high school! It's from 13WH3, the Airport site in Winneshiek County, and is made of Galena chert.

Send your responses to Lynn Alex at *lynn-alex@uiowa.edu*. Answers will be listed in the next issue.

Last issue's point was from a private collection and found in the Soap Creek area of Davis County. Mark Anderson, OSA's resident lithic expert, places the point within the Late Archaic suite of points and suggests that while it is likely related to Sedalia and Nebo Hill types, specific features indicate it is a McKean type point. So, Gary Stam who suggested the point was a Sedalia type is right on!

Public Outreach and Education along the RAGBRAI Route

July 20–28, 2008

The Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) has proven to be an immensely successful annual activity that excites and unites people from Iowa as well as the Midwest—and even internationally—in a statewide event with tremendous public appeal and exposure. The OSA proposes to use RAGBRAI as a vehicle for educating the general public about Iowa archaeology while assisting the IAS in promoting the Society and recruiting new members.

In effect an "Iowa Archaeology Week," linking to RAGBRAI 2008 offers OSA and IAS a ready-made method of reaching tens of thousands of Iowans to highlight current archaeological research within the state. This traveling public outreach program will replace Iowa Archaeology Month as OSA's major outreach event for 2008. The goals are to bring Iowa archaeology to those involved in RAGBRAI (both interested riders and community members), to highlight various aspects of archaeology throughout the state, and in doing so, to involve as many IAS members as possible as both organizers and participants in the archaeological presentations.

We propose to sponsor a team of OSA riders who will participate in RAGBRAI. These riders and support staff—the target number is 12—will provide a visible focal point in their "Team Iowa Archaeology" shirts for the archaeological programming events which will occur at each overnight stop along the route. IAS participation will be focused at each of the seven host communities that will serve as overnight stops along the RAGBRAI route. The educational emphasis will be on the local archaeological resources of each host community. In addition to evening events, daytime programming for local libraries, children's summer camps, historical societies, or other appropriate venues will be offered as a companion set of activities.

Evening programming may include artifact road shows, technology demonstrations (e.g., flintknapping, weaving, and ceramic production), presentations on area archaeology, site tours, and informational handouts at a booth or table. Handouts may include fliers outlining area archaeology, IAS brochures, posters, and other promotional materials such as shirts, bandanas, and wrist bands. Local IAS members, OSA staff, and volunteers will distribute these materials, present programs, and discuss local archaeology with interested RAGBRAI riders and the general public—at no charge. It is expected these activities will encourage an interest in Iowa archaeology and increase IAS membership.

IAS members, OSA staff, and associated volunteers who ride the route should be willing to engage in conversations that promote and discuss archaeology with interested riders and community members at the overnight stops and along the route. The OSA riders will carry and distribute pamphlets on local archaeology as well as other handouts. They will also direct RAGBRAI participants to the IAS and OSA information booth and evening events. IAS members associated with the host communities will be particularly valuable volunteers who may also consider providing evening support for the OSA riders and presentation teams, e.g., places to pitch tents, access to showers, and meals.

The OSA hopes to partner with the IAS and its local chapters and members as well as a variety of state and local organizations (State Historical Society of Iowa, Association of Iowa Archaeologists, libraries, county conservation centers, and museums) to make this a successful venture. For more information, please contact the OSA's Iowa Archaeology/RAGBRAI Committee co-chair, Cindy Nagel (*cindy-nagel@uiowa.edu*). Note: Route selection is announced in late January. This will be when intensive planning and organizing activities will need to commence.

—John F. Doershuk

OSA News

Meet Melody Pope, OSA's New General Contracts Program Director

Ask Melody Pope how she'd spend a day on a time-travel vacation, and she'd likely answer, "In an ancient Mississippian or Near Eastern farm field." Such a response reflects Melody's archaeological experiences in both the United States and Iraq, as well as her professional interests in the social and economic context of prehistoric technology.

A native of southern Indiana, Melody joined OSA in August to head up a two million dollar program with a permanent staff of five, and part-timers whose ranks sometimes swell to fifty or more. She replaced former GCP Director John Doershuk when he became Iowa's new State Archaeologist, and she says he left some pretty big shoes to fill. Fortunately, she and John share a similar philosophy of providing high quality cultural resource management (CRM) services to both public and private sector clients. She takes seriously the trust that clients place in the GCP, expressing an obligation to use their dollars wisely with project results that substantially contribute to Iowa archaeology. She feels that OSA's position within a university setting both encourages and supports such an aspiration. She'd like to expand GCP's research-based funding and offer students experiences and training similar to what she encountered in her own career in academia and CRM. A recent grant proposal submitted to the University of Iowa requests support for a microwear analysis lab at OSA that would provide services to clients as well as a facility to train students in one of Melody's own specialties.

Melody has always had her own feet planted in both the academic and the applied world. Serendipity as much as anything led her into the field of CRM. As a youngster, she credits her grandfather's interest in history as inspiring her own. Early trips out west created a fascination with Native American history, and the buckets of artifacts family members collected in the Ohio valley introduced her to the archaeological record. She decided to major in anthropology at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, motivated by the prospect of blending a life outdoors with a fair degree of creativity. Making "A's" in her first anthropology classes didn't hurt either. While finishing her B.A. she worked in the Glenn A. Black Laboratory and conducted a variety of surveys and excavations. Her first large CRM project, centered on a large reservoir in southern Indiana, came just before graduation. Before entering graduate school at Binghamton University in New York three years later, she served as a field and laboratory assistant and lithic analyst for the Center for American Archaeology at Kampsville, Illinois. Under the mentorship of George Odell, she became well versed in both stone tool typology and technology. These experiences motivated her interests in lithic analysis, particularly questions about the function of stone tools in the context of prehistoric economic distribution systems.

At Binghamton Melody honed her expertise in lithic studies alongside other specialists conducting microwear analysis. Her M.A. thesis was a microwear analysis of stone tools from late prehistoric (circa A.D. 900–1250) Moundville sites in the Black Warrior valley of Alabama. This research and her contacts with graduate students working in the Near East resulted in an invitation in 1987 and 1990 to join Binghamton University's excavation of the Uruk Mound at Abu Salabikh, Iraq, and later the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq for excavations at the site of Jemdet Nasr. She completed a microwear analysis of fourth-millennium B.C. Uruk period lithics from Abu Salabikh as a way to understand craft specialization and political control over goods and exchange.

Her time in Iraq provided her first trip beyond the United States and her first overseas archaeology. The experience showed her the value of working in a variety of field and cultural settings. She says that until the final season, just prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the region was open to research and welcomed outside scholars. The Abu Salabikh lithic collection formed the basis for her doctoral dissertation, completed in 2005.

Melody considers it fortunate that she has always been able to find employment in archaeology, even during her graduate studies. When asked if other jobs proved beneficial to life as an archaeologist, she acknowledged that it was actually the reverse. Being an archaeologist once secured her a job at a horse farm when the prospective employer learned she was an experienced shoveler. While in Bloomington she also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity.

A newcomer to Iowa, Melody has already kayaked the Maquoketa and is excited about other outdoor pursuits including hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing. Having learned guitar as a child, she picked it up again during the final throes of completing her dissertation and for a while played in an old-time music group. She sees lots of opportunities to continue her personal research interests west of the Mississippi, applying lithic expertise to the study of Iowa sites and collections, and helping to answer questions about technology in the context of changing social and economic contexts. Perhaps a visit to a Mill Creek farm field may be in her virtual vacation future.

—Lynn M. Alex

Conservation Award to Thompson

Jimmie Dean Thompson of Ames, Iowa, was recently presented with the Olav Smedal Conservation Award. The award was initiated in 1988 by *The Ames Tribune* to honor Olav Smedal, who spent 22 years as an outdoor writer and 17 years as the outdoor editor for the paper. The award seeks to honor those who, by their actions or communications, have done the most to accurately present to the public of central Iowa excellence in the conservation of the natural resources and outdoor pursuits representing the highest standards of ethics and sportsmanship. Preference is given to candidates, who, as volunteers, exhibit excellence in providing public information, leadership, and involvement.

Letters of endorsement on behalf of Thompson's nomination were provided to the Award Committee as a testimony not only to his efforts in the conservation of natural resources but also to Iowa's cultural resources. Over the past four decades, Thompson often reported on threats to archaeological properties in the central Iowa area, particularly construction that threatened to impact sites. His efforts are particularly meritorious with regard to the documentation and recording of newly discovered sites. The state site records database indicates that Mr. Thompson voluntarily provided information on close to 200 archaeological sites. Thompson is responsible for clarifying and correcting information relating to a good number of poorly or improperly recorded sites as well. The testimony of David Gradwohl, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Iowa State University, succinctly summarizes Thompson's contributions to the conservation of Iowa's cultural heritage:

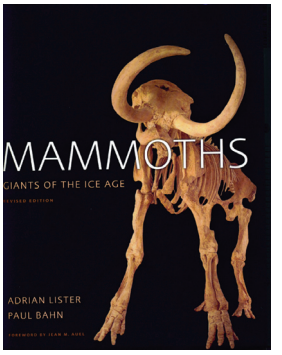
> While I was director of the Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory (1964-1994), Jimmie Dean Thompson was very helpful in showing us his archaeological collections from sites in the Skunk River Valley and Squaw Creek Valley, loaning us some artifacts to inspect for comparative purposes, and informing us of new sites he had located. I also know that he shared valuable information with the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City. He has had a genuine interest in, and concern for, the preservation of cultural and historical resources in Story County.
>
> —Lynn M. Alex

Note from the editors. The four 2007 issues of the *Newsletter* were released quarterly. Since we did not assume our new duties until late winter of 2007, the Spring issue was delayed until April, pushing this final Winter issue into 2008. We plan to produce all four issues within the upcoming calendar year, so members should expect to see the Spring 2008 issue in their mailboxes by March.

Annual Spring Meeing

The annual spring meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society is scheduled for May 3, 2008, at the Des Moines Area Community College Campus in Des Moines. Details to follow in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

Book Notice



Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age by Adrian Lester and Paul Bahn, University of California Press, Berkley and Los Angeles, revised (3rd) edition, 2007.

The 2007 *Newsletter* began and now ends with news from the Ice Age. A wonderful, big volume, *Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age* by paleontologist Adrian Lester and archaeologist Paul Bahn, first published in 1994, is now out—revised and enhanced. Its copious photographs, paintings, and line drawings alone would improve most coffee tables, but it also offers a meaty overview of the evolutionary and natural history of these enticing creatures with fascinating side stories of their discovery, effect upon Late Pleistocene humans, and finally extinction.

The first section of the book provides a timeline of mammoth evolution, a comparative look at the various species worldwide, and a review of what we know about their global dispersal. The identity and relevance of North American forms—*Mammuthus columbi* and *Mammuthus primigenius*—to Paleoindian culture is of particular interest to *Newsletter* readers.

The authors emphasize that we know more about the physical appearance and natural history of mammoths than any other prehistoric animal. This is do to the stunning preservation of their bones, teeth, tusks, hide, hair, soft parts, and even byproducts such as dung and stomach contents found freeze dried in permafrost, embalmed in tar, stuck in sinkholes, and even embedded in volcanic mudflows. The second part of the book describes many of these amazing discoveries including the most recent—a Siberian baby woolly mammoth named Yamal found just this year, the most complete carcass of any prehistoric animal yet found.

The book makes clear how scientific technology—CAT scans, X-rays, and microscopes—is expanding our understanding. We can learn an animal's age, sex, size, weight, DNA sequence, whether it walked on swollen feet, sported brown or black hair, suffered parasites or tooth decay, and enjoyed a full stomach when it died. Computer simulations and mathematical modeling can even test the affects of human hunting and climate change on mammoth survival.

I still get chills when I consider that our remote ancestors witnessed and documented these amazing animals. Paleolithic and Paleoindian artists were intimately familiar with the mammoth. From carved, engraved, and polished objects of ivory, bone, and teeth, to three dimensional sculptures, and finally to the stylized silhouettes, detailed paintings, and pictographs on cave walls and rock faces, the mammoth was third only to the horse and bison as the subject of early art. The final section of the volume examines the human-mammoth connection, including the effect of predation on their demise.

The book ends with two of my favorite things—a nice glossary and maps showing the distribution of mammoth discoveries and related archaeological sites. This is just a terrific resource!

—Lynn M. Alex

Membership Information

Contact the Membership Secretary, Iowa Archeological Society at The University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1030.

Membership Dues

Voting	
Active	$20
Household	$25
Sustaining	$30
Non-Voting	
Student (under 18)	$9
Institution	$30

Newsletter Information

The Iowa Archeological Society is a nonprofit, 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. The *Newsletter* is published four times a year. All materials for publication should be sent to Editors Lynn M. Alex and Stephen C. Lensink, The University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1030. Email: lynn-alex @uiowa.edu or steve-lensink@uiowa.edu. When submitting articles, please provide text, captions, tables, and figures separately. All digital photographs should be at least 300 dpi at full size. Graphics, if supplied digitally, should be high-resolution tiff or eps files. Paper versions of articles and photos are also acceptable.

IAS web site

www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS/iashome.htm.