Newsletter of the
Iowa Archeological Society
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Winter 2010

Iowa's First Archaeological Conservancy Site

The Woodfield Twin Earthlodge Site, P. 3

Inside This Issue

Above: Excavations at 13ML102 in 2008 (OSA)

Left: Reconstructed earthlodge, 1978 (Michael Scullin)

Potawatomie Flintknapping Machine in Iowa?

Clement L. Webster
"Ancient Mounds in Iowa and Wisconsin."
Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1887:598-602.

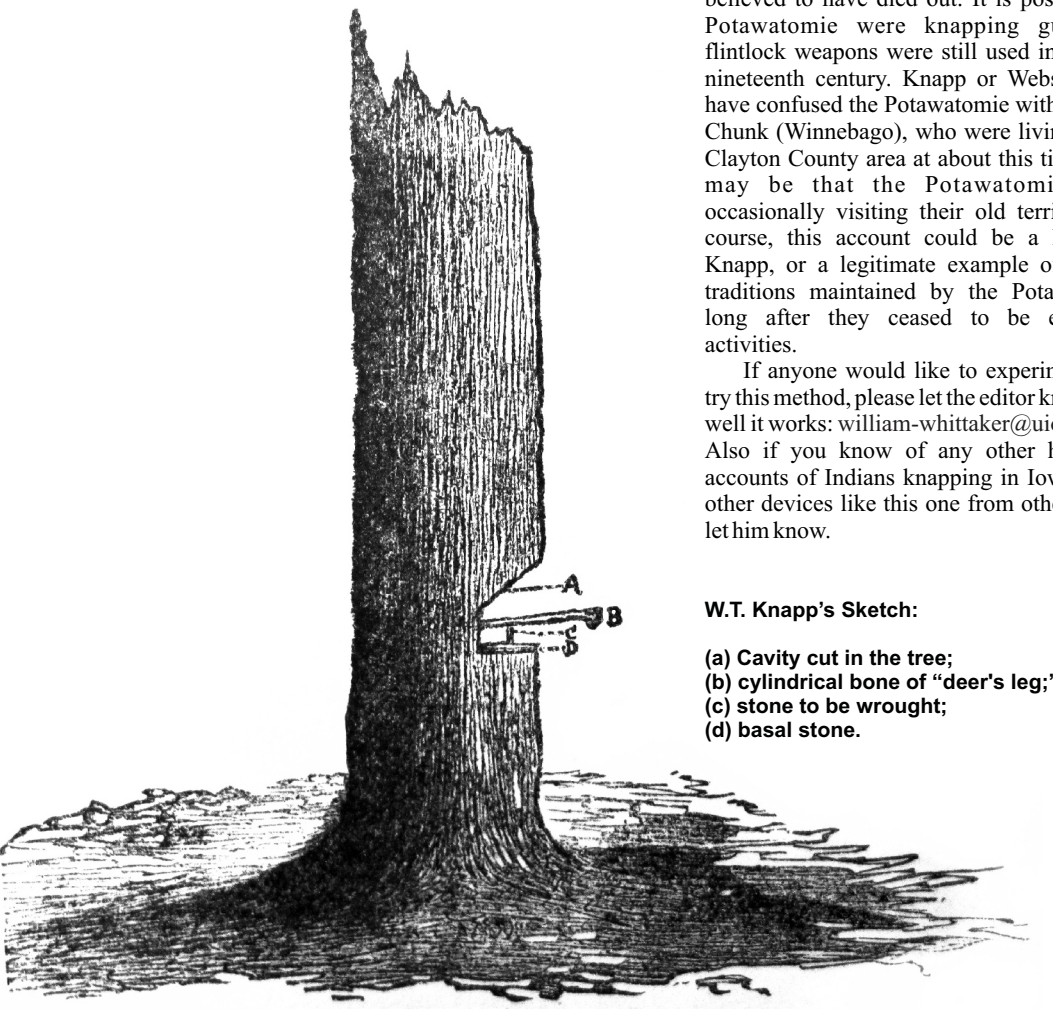
Method of Flint-Chipping.

Some years ago Dr. [W. T.] Knapp, while making a reconnaissance of "Twelve-mile Island," in the Mississippi near Guttenberg, Iowa, made the acquaintance of a roving band of the Pottawatomie Indians who were encamped for the time on this island. While among them he witnessed the process of flint arrow-point manufacturing as carried on by this band, and as the writer has not observed a description of this process in print before, a short account of it is given here.

A tree from 12 to 20 inches in diameter was selected and a large notch or cavity 6 inches in depth was made in one side of the trunk at a sufficient distance from the ground to allow a person occupying a sitting posture on the ground to work this "instrument" with facility. The upper portion or roof of this cavity sloped obliquely downward, the far side was perpendicular, the and the bottom horizontal. On the bottom of this cavity a small even slab of rock of some hard material was placed. A short distance above this rock a small hole or notch was made in the farther side of the cavity. Into this notch was inserted the "leg bone of a deer," and under was placed, edgewise and resting on the basal rock below, the piece of stone to be wrought, this possessing the quality of conchoidal fracture. The implement was then deftly worked out by pressure of the carefully manipulated cylindrical bone.

The size of the instrument to be wrought was regulated by moving the specimen farther from or nearer to the outer margin of the basal rock.

This description may be further illustrated by the following cut from a rude sketch of the "instrument" by Dr. Knapp.



W.T. Knapp's Sketch:

(a) Cavity cut in the tree;
(b) cylindrical bone of "deer's leg;"
(c) stone to be wrought;
(d) basal stone.

Editor's note: According to the 1900 federal census and the 1895 Iowa voters census, William T. Knapp was a dentist living in Charles City who was born in Clayton County, Iowa in 1854. This suggests he witnessed the Potawatomie knapping in the 1870s long after the Potawatomie were officially removed from the Mississippi valley in 1838, and more than a century after flintknapping was believed to have died out. It is possible the Potawatomie were knapping gunflints; flintlock weapons were still used in the late nineteenth century. Knapp or Webster may have confused the Potawatomie with the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), who were living in the Clayton County area at about this time, or it may be that the Potawatomie were occasionally visiting their old territory. Of course, this account could be a hoax by Knapp, or a legitimate example of hidden traditions maintained by the Potawatomie long after they ceased to be everyday activities.

If anyone would like to experiment and try this method, please let the editor know how well it works: william-whittaker@uiowa.edu. Also if you know of any other historical accounts of Indians knapping in Iowa, or of other devices like this one from other states, let him know.

Jim Nepstad New Superintendent of Effigy Mounds National Monument

National Park Service

James A. Nepstad, currently Chief of Planning and Resource Management at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (NL) in Wisconsin, has been named the Superintendent of Effigy Mounds National Monument. Nepstad, a 27-year National Park Service (NPS) veteran, will report for this new position on January 2, 2011.

"Jim's extensive experience with professional level planning, environmental and cultural compliance, and his leadership style will serve him very well at Effigy Mounds." said Ernest Quintana, director of the NPS 13-state Midwest Region. "We are delighted that he has accepted this position and welcome him to the Superintendent ranks within the Midwest Region." Quintana added.

"I'm honored to be moving to Effigy Mounds, and excited by the prospect of working with the staff and magnificent resources there," Nepstad said of this new assignment. "I grew up in the Mississippi River valley. It's a very special place, and the mounds tell us that people have felt that way for a long, long time. I'm especially eager to hear from the tribes and local communities - those with the deepest roots and the strongest ties to this incredible place."

Nepstad joined the NPS in 1983 as a park ranger at Wind Cave National Park (NP), South Dakota, before serving as a computer specialist at Mammoth Cave NP, Kentucky. He returned to Wind Cave NP as a cave management Specialist in 1989, then became management assistant at Apostle Islands NL in 1998. Nepstad moved to his current position at Apostle Islands in 2002, and has served in acting superintendent assignments at both Apostle Islands NL and Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Nebraska.

At Apostle Islands, Nepstad was responsible for all of the park's National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) activities, and authored the park's Superintendent's Order outlining when and how this

Continued p. 6

Plum Grove Historic Site: Volunteers Needed for Lab

Volunteers are invited to help with processing materials from excavations at Plum Grove, the historic home of Robert Lucas, Iowa's first territorial governor. The work will include sorting and inventorying and may include some washing of artifacts from the 1844-1944 period. The lab is in Macbride Hall on the University of Iowa campus. Hours available will be between 8–5, M–F. Please contact:

Cynthia Charlton,
319-646-2538
cyncharl@netins.net

The Mystery of the Double Earthlodge

An Unusual Earthlodge Site is the Archaeological Conservancy's First Iowa Preserve

Josh McConaughy
Archaeological Conservancy

The beautiful Loess Hills of southwest Iowa, which rise above the flood plain of the Missouri River, have a rich archaeological history. The Glenwood Culture inhabited the area surrounding the town of Glenwood from about A.D. 1200 to 1400. These people built and lived in hundreds of earthlodges as they cultivated the rich soils of the region's scenic valleys.

The earthlodges were semi-subterranean buildings built with wattle and daub walls, the roofs were rounded or hipped, supported by tree trunk-sized posts. The entire structure was covered with a layer of earth, creating a durable and well-insulated building. There are over 300 known earthlodge sites in this area, sometimes occurring in clusters but also as single units. Each cluster might have been occupied by a distinct kin-based group.

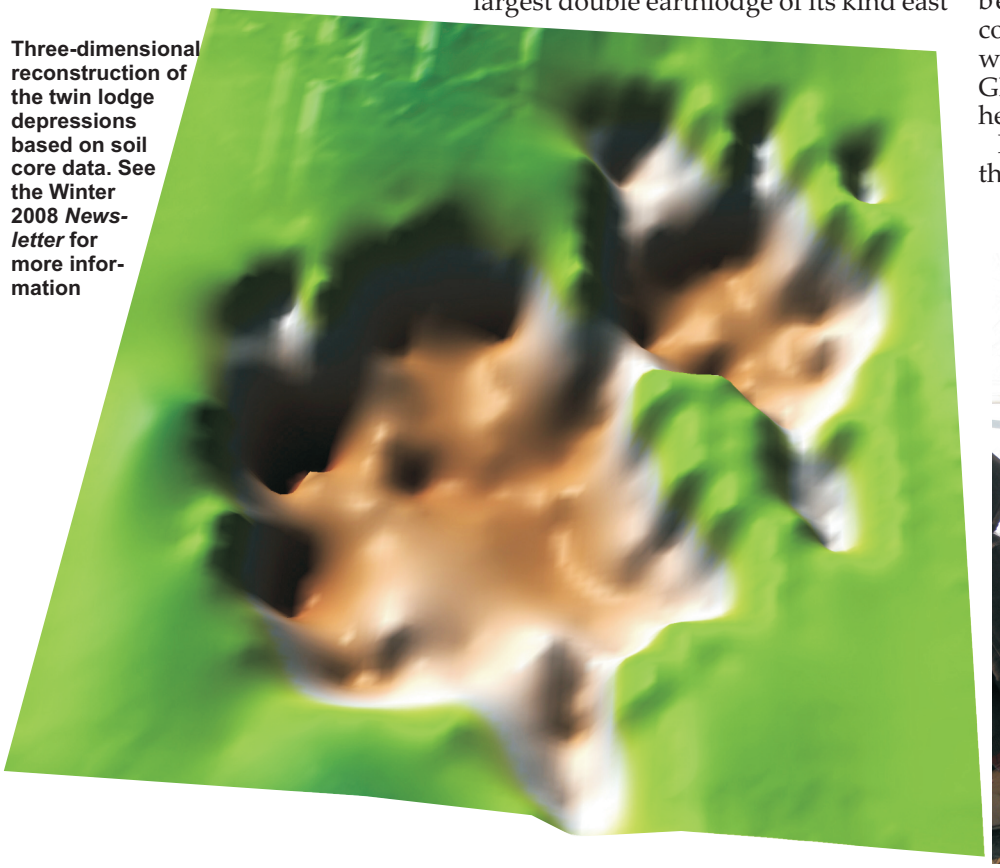
An earthlodge site north of Glenwood caught the attention of archaeologists and the Conservancy because of its distinctiveness. Known as the Woodfield Earthlodge site (13ML102), it is the largest double earthlodge of its kind east of the Missouri River. The main lodge measures about 46 feet by 40 feet while the smaller lodge is 33 by 23. Both earthlodges have an entryway pointing south.

It's possible these two structures were occupied sequentially. More charcoal was found in the smaller than the larger lodge, suggesting that it may have been burnt and the larger lodge was built to replace it. But if both structures were used simultaneously, the smaller structure may have served as a subordinate building, perhaps providing storage.

Test excavations by the OSA yielded hundreds of pottery sherds, charcoal, stone tools, and floral and faunal remains. The Woodfield Earth Lodges site has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and John Doershuk, the State Archaeologist of Iowa, would like to nominate it for National Historic Landmark status.

Using emergency funds, the Conservancy purchased Woodfield Earthlodges, its first Iowa preserve, from Oak Ranch Developments. The earthlodges are located on land that's being developed for residential construction. With more research, we will be able to better understand how the Glenwood Culture lived and flourished here more than 800 years ago.

For more information on the site, see the Winter 2008 *Newsletter.*



Three-dimensional reconstruction of the twin lodge depressions based on soil core data. See the Winter 2008 *Newsletter* for more information

Excavation in freezing weather, 2008

Where Were the Chemin des Voyageurs?

Bill Whittaker and John Doershuk

The Chemin des Voyageurs, or "Voyageurs' Trail", was an intertwined series of pathways that ran across northern Iowa used for moving trade goods between the Mississippi and the Missouri river systems. Known from early fur trade period maps, the Chemin is far older, likely dating well back into prehistory. Several eighteenth century maps show trails associated with the voyageurs; each trail follows different routes, diverging especially on the western end. The approximate area of modern Iowa is highlighted on these images. Both of these maps and many others pertaining to Iowa can be found on the Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov.

The 1718 Guillaume Delisle map shows a trail running nearly straight west from the mouth of the Wisconsin River ("Ouisconsing R."). Delisle was geographer to King Louis XV of France, having studied under Jean Dominiqué Cassini, the patriarch of four generations of scientists and cartographers and the person after whom the Cassini spacecraft is named. Delisle depicted the trail as passing south of the Okoboji region near Ioway villages ("Aiaouez au Paoutez"), across the Little Sioux ("R. des Aiaouez"), and on to a large Omaha/Ioway ("Maha" / "Aiaouez") village cluster along the Big Sioux, probably the Blood Run site area (13LO2).

1718 Guillaume Delisle map, Chemin traced in red.

1798 Philippe Bauche map, Chemin traced in red.

In contrast, the 1798 map by Philippe Bauche shows two trails, one running from the "R. des Kicapou", (the Upper Iowa River which was for a time known as the Oneota River), to the Ioway/Baxhoje and Otoe villages along Lake Okoboji and Spirit Lake ("les Aiaouez, Paoute et Otoctata"). The second trail runs from the mouth of the Wisconsin to a spot along the Missouri well south of the Little Sioux mouth, north of a "Panibousa" village. The name Panibousa is not used by other explorers, and may be Pawnee or Arikara, or a related group.

Other sources mention the Chemin, for example, in "A History of Old Fort Atkinson, 1840-1849," Sigurd Reque provides the following account:

> General Clark selected Nathan Boone for the survey. Nathan Boone was the youngest son of Daniel Boone…The field notes of the survey of the Neutral Line and the Neutral Ground have fortunately been preserved and the course taken by Boone can be easily followed…The road referred to was then known as Rolette's Road, a successor to the "Chemin der Voyagers" [sic], or "Road which French travelers take," shown by Vermale on his "General Map of Louisiana or of the Mississippi", 1717…Delisle's maps indicate this road even earlier... In 1718 this road led directly from the Wisconsin to the Ioway village on Lake Okoboji…This "trace" or road Boone found to be a little less than eight miles from the mouth of Trout Creek, and crossed the above creek a few rods south of the present McKay schoolhouse in Frankville Township. This is one of several places where this old "trace" is known to have passed in Winneshiek County.

The 1837 Ioway map often associated with No Heart (NahjeNi ŋe) *(Newsletter,* Fall 2007), shows extensive Ioway use of a broad area primarily west of the Mississippi. Although drafted from a native cartographic perspective, rivers and villages are evident on the map. Although the dotted lines likely depict migration routes, these routes probably followed existing trails, including the Chemin. The depiction of cultural memory of landscape, incorporating aspects of both time and space onto a flat dimension, makes it difficult to ascertain the time depth represented although it seems reasonable to assume that pre-European contact elements are illustrated. Analysis of the sequence of Euroamerican maps covering Iowa from the earliest French to later American versions, including Pownall 1786, Cary 1806, and Brue 1815, shows first an increasing knowledge of the landscape as similarly depicted by the Ioway map and then, as American influence was exerted, a decrease before knowledge of Iowa was gained. The earliest French depiction (1700) of what became the Chemin des Voyageurs was a simple dashed line leading seemingly nowhere before it was co-opted from its Native origins as depicted in the 1718 Delisle map. Pownall (1786), an American cartographer, completed the Europeanization of this probable Native trail labeling it "French Route to the Western Indians." But by the early nineteenth century, American cartographic knowledge of this feature had eroded to simply a "path" and then finally, a distortion of a landscape and trade route well known to the Ioway and their Oneota ancestors as a Native trade and travel route. The existence of well-established prehistoric trade relations across northern Iowa explains how small amounts of European-origin goods may have arrived at Oneota village sites like Gillett Grove (13CY2),

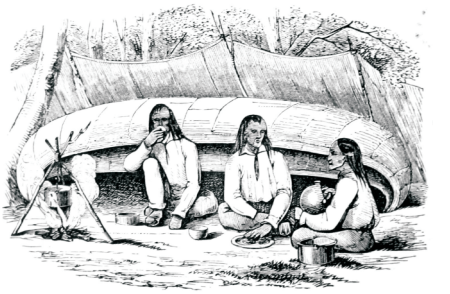


Illustration of a Voyageur camp (Barber and Howe 1865)

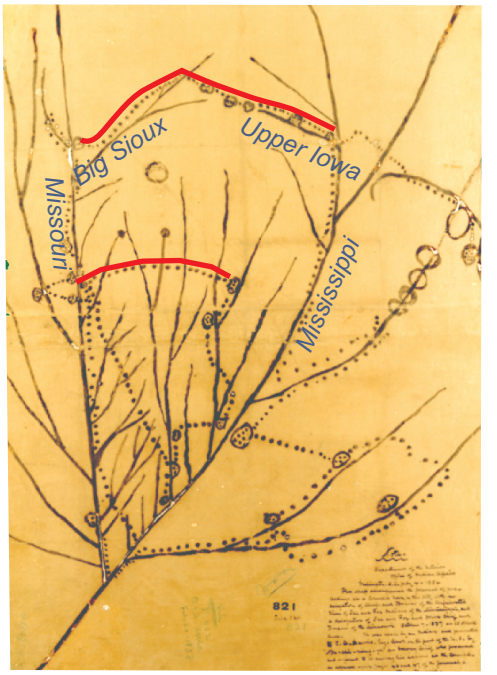
Milford (13DK1), and Wanampito (13BM16) long before any French trappers appeared in the vicinity.

So where did the Chemin des Voyageurs run? In general, the earliest maps of trails in Iowa that allow reasonable georeferencing to modern maps are the Government Land Office (GLO) public lands survey maps made from the 1830s to 1850s. Unfortunately trails were mapped inconsistently, stopping and starting almost randomly, depending if the surveyor bothered to map them. Recent digitization of the GLO map trails (discussed in the Winter 2009 *Newsletter*), allows for some educated speculation about the routes. It can be assumed that if the trails still remained at the time of European settlement, they would have been used by settlers and possibly mapped in the GLO. Since there was more or less continuous human occupation of the region from the oldest maps until the GLO surveys, it is reasonable to assume that existing trails were used by all.

Two possible trail groups can be seen in the general expected areas of the Chemin des Voyageurs trails, one group running roughly from the mouths of the Wisconsin and Bad Axe rivers westerly near the Iowa-Minnesota border to the Lake Okoboji area. The second route starts in the same general area, but curves around or through the Fort Atkinson area. The Army Road leading from Prairie du Chien to Fort Atkinson built in the 1840s may have run on the old Chemin trail.

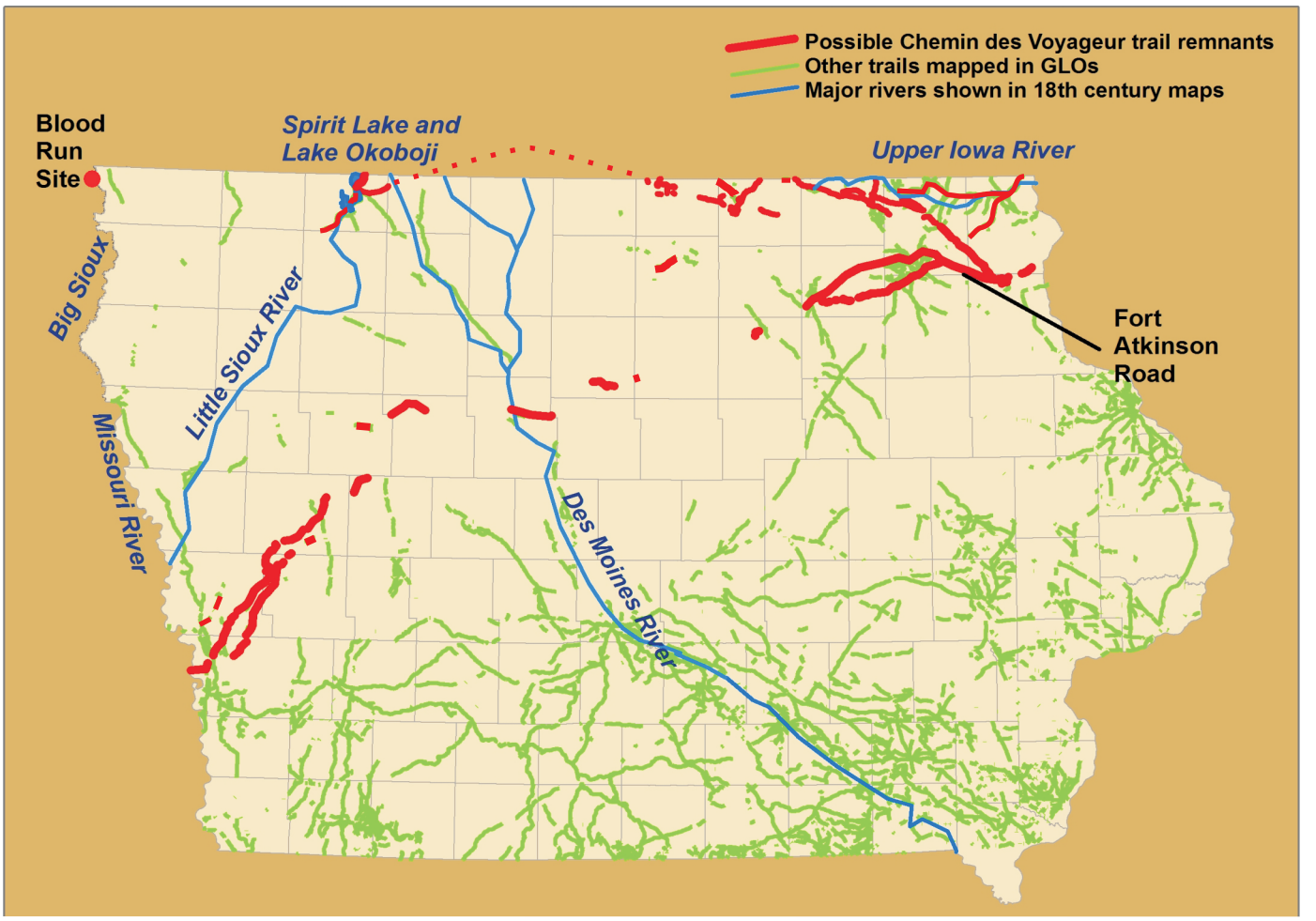
Both trails become harder to trace in the center of the state, where the trails would have been harder to find and follow on the swampy Des Moines Lobe. Both the eighteenth century maps and the GLO maps suggest there was not one trail, rather multiple inter-braided trails that travelers would choose between, depending on the season and how wet the year had been. While based on educated guessing, areas along these possible trail remnants may be locations to look for protohistoric and Oneota sites.

Cynthia Peterson contributed several useful comments and insights into the history of the Chemin.



Above: Ioway map of 1837, showing migration routes that may follow the Chemin.

Below: Possible Chemin remnants can be seen in GLO maps.



The Saga of Buzz's Eskimo Pipe

Dale Clark

This story starts a long way from here in the Arctic. Sixty-three Distant Early Warning radar sites were set up in the late 1950s during the Cold War to warn of an airborne invasion of North America coming from "over the North pole" from Russia. The line of radar stations stretched across the Arctic from northern Alaska, through Canada, and on to Greenland and Iceland. On average, the line is about 200 miles from the Arctic Circle and 1,400 miles from the North Pole.

These radar stations were completed in adverse conditions: blinding snow, hurricane force winds, and temperatures so cold that thermometers often don't work.

Buzz James was one of the lucky few to serve as maintenance personnel on these radar stations. Buzz traveled in all kind of conditions to service these most important radar stations. One day Buzz was traveling to a radar station and he noticed a group of Eskimo hunters and their dog sleds in the distance. As Buzz watched the Eskimos he wasn't watching where he was going and drove into a very large crack in the polar ice. The vehicle came to a stop and there Buzz sat in the middle of the Arctic without any way to get out. Buzz was lucky that day, the Eskimo hunting party saw him drive into the crack; he was just as interesting to them as they were to him. Buzz made his way over to the hunting party and stayed with the Eskimos for a few days until he made contact with his own group. The hunting party made temporary housing out of blocks of snow and ice and everyone slept together, even the dogs were allowed to share the bed. When Buzz came home to Ringgold County he brought with him a well-used walrus tusk Eskimo pipe.

Buzz enjoyed archeology with a couple of friends from southern Iowa, Herb Sovereign and D. E. "Pid" Pidcock. In the 1970s all three were active in the local Iowa Archeological Society chapter and discussed finds and artifacts at meetings. After Buzz died, Herb became the new owner of the Eskimo pipe. Over the years Herb and Pid became very good friends and documented many Indian campsites together in Ringgold and Decatur counties. We lost another valuable resource to southern Iowa archaeology when Herb Sovereign died.

D. E. "Pid" Pidcock

After Herb died, Pid talked to Herb's wife about Herb's collection and she ask Pid if there was anything that he would like to have. Pid told her that he liked the old Eskimo pipe, so she gave it to him; it became one of Pid's most prized possessions. Pid is known far and wide for his fascinating stories about local history and his archeological finds. Over the years Pid enjoyed showing the pipe to anyone interested and retelling the story of how this Eskimo pipe made its way all the way from the Arctic to Southern Iowa.

New EFMO Supervisor, continued from p.2

work is to be done. He and his staff have reviewed nearly 200 park projects and assisted in accomplishing millions of dollars worth of historic preservation work, all in compliance with the NHPA.

Nepstad has also negotiated increasingly complex annual agreements with local Ojibwe tribes over the exercise of treaty rights within Apostle Islands. By implementing the agreements gradually and incrementally, trust emerged, and subsequent negotiations proceeded smoothly.

While at Wind Cave, Nepstad carried out a series of innovative, multi-year dye traces to monitor the flow of water from the surface to the underlying cave, resulting in the redesign and repaving of the visitor center parking lot to prevent untreated runoff from impacting the cave. Also, for the first time in the park's history, he consolidated all survey data for one of the world's largest cave systems, entering it into an extensive database that allowed unprecedented three-dimensional visualization of the cave's complexity.

A native of Onalaska, Wisconsin, Nepstad is a University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate with a B.S. in Mathematics. His wife, Deborah, a Trempealeau native, is a teacher in nearby Washburn. Together, they are the parents of two daughters, Jennie and Danielle, ages 20 and 18.

Nepstad has received numerous performance and achievement awards, for accomplishments ranging from cave mapping to overseeing the first Wilderness Study performed by the NPS in 20 years. Named a Fellow of the National Speleological Society in 1992 in recognition of his pioneering cave mapping efforts at Wind Cave, Nepstad received the organization's Certificate of Merit in 2002 for advancing professional cave management at the park.

Established in 1949, Effigy Mounds National Monument preserves more than 200 American Indian mound sites built along the Mississippi River between 450 B.C. and A.D. 1300 including 31 effigy mounds in the shapes of birds and bears, as well as conical, linear and compound mounds. These mounds are examples of a significant phase of mound-building culture, commemorating the passing of loved ones and the sacred beliefs of these ancient peoples. The site offers superb panoramic views of the surrounding river country.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

IAS Spring Meeting 2011

The 2011 Spring meeting is planned for Saturday, April 9, 2011 at the the Wickiup Hill Learning Center, Toddville, Iowa, near Cedar Rapids.

Nominations Sought for Charles Keyes-Ellison Orr Award

The Keyes-Orr Award is presented to individuals in recognition of outstanding service to the Iowa Archeological Society and in the research, reporting, and preservation of Iowa's prehistoric and historic heritage. The award is representative of the degree of cooperation that should exist between professional and lay archaeologists if archaeology is to succeed as a discipline supportive of a broad range of interests and talents.

The major criteria for the award:

> Involvement in the Iowa Archeological Society in support of research and service undertaken in furthering its goals

> The learning and employment of accepted and standard procedures for the acquisition of knowledge

>The use of this knowledge to further public educational programs concerning Iowa's prehistoric and historic heritage

Nominations should be sent by mail or e-mail to:
Michael Heimbaugh
3923 29th St.
Des Moines, IA 50310
paleomike@msn.com
515-255-4909

Please include supporting information for nominations submitted.

Support Offered for New or Resurrected IAS Chapters

Are you and others you know interested in starting a new IAS chapter or resurrecting a defunct chapter? If you need assistance developing your chapter, the IAS Board will assist you. For details, contact Mike Heimbaugh, contact info above.

Central Iowa Chapter Publications Support Project

Thanks to those who have purchased CIC caps for this project. There are still caps for sale at $10.00 per cap ($15.00 for shipping).To date the Central Iowa Chapter has donated $400.00 to the IAS for publication expenses.

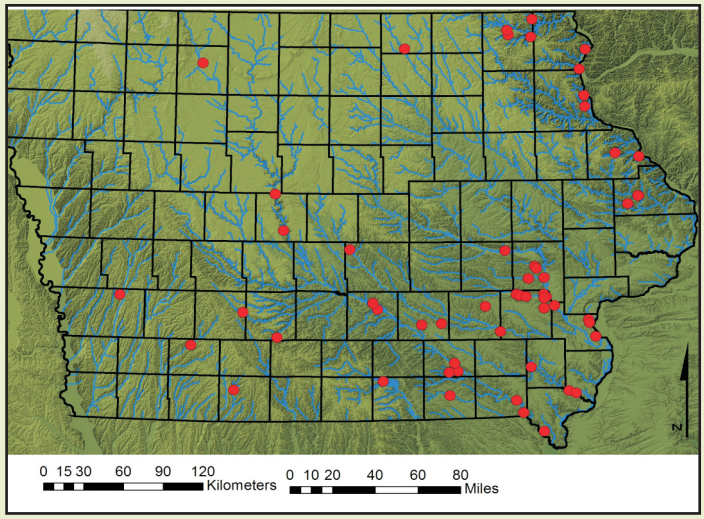
A special thanks goes to those who have made additional donations: Mark Stenson, Dennis Kellogg, Jerome Thompson, Don Raker, Molly Ketchum, Norm Dille, Steve Kroeger, Joe Tiffany, Tom Williams and Jeff Ulch.

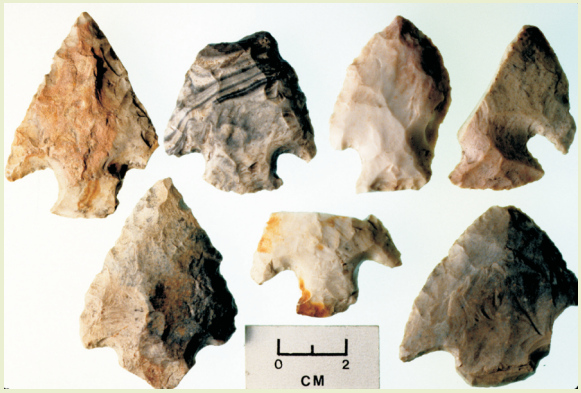
If donations have been made and not listed, or if members wish to purchase caps, please contact Nancy Heimbaugh, 515-255-4909 or paleomike@msn.com.

Iowa Archeological Society chapters, academic and research institutions, and professional cultural resource management companies are encouraged to contribute updates of their activities to Reports from the Field; send them to william-whittaker@uiowa.edu

Distribution of Snyders Points in Iowa

This map shows only sites in Iowa that have Snyders points listed on Iowa Site File forms. Snyders points date to the Middle Woodland Period, ca. 200 B.C.-A.D. 300. Note the general absence of Snyders on the Cedar, Turkey, and Waspsipincon rivers. w.w.





Snyders points from the Gast Weaver Site (13LA12), Bill Green, 1992

Iowa Archeological Society
The University of Iowa
700 Clinton Street Building
Iowa City, IA 52242-1030

What's the Point?

Daniel Horgen

Identify the artifact shown life-size here. This point was discovered in Davis County, Iowa, near Lake Wapello. This point is from the Harvey C. Quigley collection and was donated to the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History in October 2003. The point measures 7¼ inches in length with a maximum width of 2¼ inches. This large expanding stemmed point is characterized by pronounced barbs and ears that flare outward away from the stem without interrupting the fine shape of the blade. The stem exhibits grinding along the sides and base. These types of points are normally very well made.

Send your responses to Daniel Horgen at daniel-horgen@uiowa.edu. Answers will be listed in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The projectile point illustrated in the last issue of the Newsletter is classified as a Reed, dating from the Late Woodland Period to the Late Prehistoric (about A.D. 800 to A.D. 1200) with a range extending to more recent times on the Plains. Reed points are rather common across the eastern Great Plains from Oklahoma to Iowa and are normally associated with pottery and agriculture. These small, true arrowheads can be difficult to distinguish between other Late Woodland and Late Prehistoric side-notched projectile points primarily due to the variation of base types, size and placement of the notches, and numerous typologies assigned to the class. No correct responses were given, however Maria Schroeder's guess of a fish effigy, if it was turned on its side, was a pleasant insight.

The chert type of the Reed point is Croton chalcedonic, also called Warsaw chalcedonic. Croton chalcedonic chert has a milky or waxy appearance and is fairly translucent. It can be confused with Burlington chert, although it is typically more translucent and lacks the fossil inclusions that are common in Burlington chert. Croton chalcedonic chert is abundant along the Skunk River valley in central and southeast Iowa.

About the IAS

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.

Membership

Contact Alan Hawkins, IAS Membership Secretary, at the University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street, Iowa City, IA 52242-1030.

Dues

Voting	
Active	$25
Household	$30
Sustaining	$35
Non-Voting	
Student (under 18)	$14
Institution	$35

NOTE: Dues reflect $5 increase for 2011

Newsletter Information

The *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society* is published four times a year. The Newsletter actively seeks short reports and essays on Midwest archaeology, Native Americans, early Iowa history, paleontology, and related topics. All materials for publication should be sent to editor Bill Whittaker, University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1030. E-mail: william-whittaker@uiowa.edu.

IAS website:
www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS