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The Archaeology of Iowa City

William E. Whittaker

Office of the State Archaeologist

Iowa City

lowa City's archaeological sites are generally unremarkable. We lack the exoticness of other regions, the Glenwood earthlodges in southwest lowa, the Mill Creek fortified villages of northwest lowa, the effigy mounds of northeast lowa, or the huge, complex prehistoric villages along the Mississippi in southeast lowa.

Compared to other parts of the state along major rivers, the archaeology of Iowa City did not cause much excitement among its early residents. A 19th century county history noted two mound groups in what is now Iowa City (Anonymous 1883), a fairly typical entry in any county history. Even Ellison Orr and Charles Keyes, who recorded sites in every nook and cranny of Iowa, recorded no new sites in Iowa City, and only a handful in Johnson County.

Given the low expectations for lowa City, there are a remarkable number of sites recorded. In the 5 km radius around the Old Capitol there are 2.64 sites per km (Figure 1). You would have to look at the Glenwood region, where earthlodges are sometimes literally stacked on top of each other, or the Mines of Spain region, where hundreds of early historic sites blur together, to find a region with more sites.

Why does lowa City have so many sites? The largest reason is the location of the Office of the State Archaeologist, the office that maintains site records. Our staff finds a lot of sites during their everyday life, and

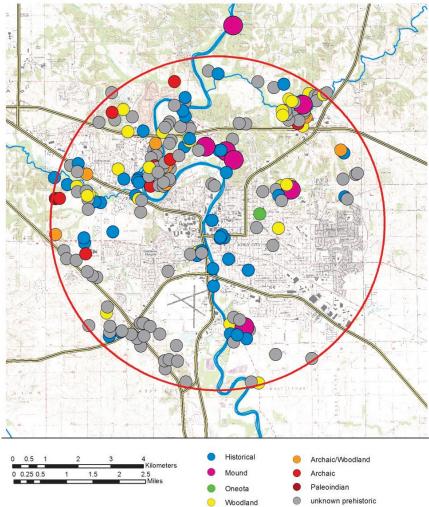


Figure 1. Sites in Iowa City study area, coded by period (see Table 1). The Aicher Mound Group, north of the circle, is included because it may extend into the study area.

hears about the location of even more from friends and colleagues. This is also true of associated departments, like Anthropology, Geoscience, the Geological Survey, the State Historical Society, and the Natural History Museum, all of them hear about archaeological sites and funnel that information to the OSA. The academic environment of Iowa City helps as well; the public is much more trusting of state government, since they or someone in their family likely works for it, so there is little reluctance to share site information. There may not be much interesting archaeology out there, but we hear a lot about it. In much of the state, there is a deep-seated suspicion of state government, and cooperation is somewhat less likely. The final factor is the growth of the lowa City region that occurred during the golden years of professional cultural resource management, beginning in the 1970s. Federally mandated archaeological survey preceeded many infrastructure developments near Iowa City as the area expanded. In Johnson County, 10,560 ha have been formally surveyed, 0.7 percent of the whole county. Most of the rest of the state did not grow like Iowa City over the past 40 years, and therefore it had fewer surveys.

Last year, a UI employee sent a photo of a Klunk point she found in her garden to the Department of Anthropology (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Iowa City Klunk point.

Matt Hill, a professor there, whose 5-year-old is great friends with my 5-year-old, forwarded it to me. I soon realized that the woman who sent it in was the lady who lived a few blocks from me who let me pick her sour apples a few years ago when I had a cider press. As soon as I made the connection, she was, predictably, quite friendly and chatty, and the isolated point was recorded as archaeological site 13JH1433, adding a bit of information about the distribution of Late Woodland sites to the record. The string of events that led to the recording of the site was pretty unlikely to happen in any other place in lowa.

This paper will give an overview of the abundance of ordinariness in Iowa City. Johnson County has a outlandish number of sites, around 1400, so I had to make a smaller sample. I decided to create a 5-km radius around the Old Capitol and

just look at those sites, which numbered 208. Table 1 presents a breakdown of the sites by general age, and Figure 1 shows sites by time period.

Paleoindian (13,000-10,500 years ago)

The Paleoindian period included the first few millennia of human habitation of Iowa; it probably involved highly mobile hunters and gatherers. There are three possible Paleoindian sites in the study area, 13JH287, 446, and 701. Site 13JH287 (Benn and Vogel 1996) contained a possible Late Paleoindian Angostura point

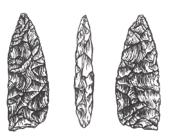


Figure 3. Possible Angostura point from 13JH287 (Benn and Vogel 1996:127, courtesy Bear Creek Archaeology).

(Figure 3). Site 13JH446 was reported by a collector to have had a Paleo point, but this point has never been evaluated. Site 13JH701 is the only possible Paleoindian site to be excavated, but almost all artifacts came from the plow zone, including one possible lanceolate point (Figure 4; Blikre et al. 1997).

The Paleoindian sites in the study area are typical of Paleoindian in Iowa. In the whole state there has never been an unambiguous intact Paleoindian feature excavated with appropriate Paleoindian radiocarbon dates or diagnostic artifacts.

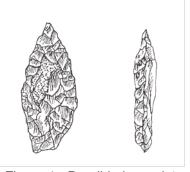


Figure 4. Possible lanceolate point from 13JH701(Blikre et al. 1997:67, courtesy Bear Creek Archaeology).

Archaic (10,500-2,800 years ago)

During the Archaic period in Iowa, humans showed decreasing range, increased localization, and grew more sedentary, with evidence of house basins and human burials. The Archaic period constitutes the vast majority of prehistory. There are numerous Archaic sites in Iowa City, mostly isolated points and a few unexcavated scatters, but two sites are worthy of discussion.

Edgewater Park (13JH1132). In Coralville, just north of the Marriott along the Iowa River, the OSA excavated a site in 2005 that dates to the Late Archaic period, ca. 3,800 years ago (Figure 5; Whittaker et al. 2007). Edgewater is important because of its timing, it is younger than eastern U.S. sites where there is confirmed evidence of domestication, but older than sites in Iowa with evidence of domestic plants. More than



Figure 5. Edgewater Park, 13JH1132, excavations (courtesy OSA).

4,000 years ago domesticated plants appear in the southeast U.S., with the oldest confirmed horticulture in Iowa ca. 3,000 years ago at the Gast Spring and Sand Run sites.

This small site had some organic preservation, and included a central hearth and activity areas, including deer processing, lithic reduction, and discard areas (Figure 6). The excavated soils, associated with a buried A horizon, were wet-screened. The lithic, flora, and fauna all suggested a late summer or fall occupation perhaps after having spent time in the center of the state, traveling down river to winter closer to the Mississippi. The most interesting find was the presence of little barley and maygrass, plants not native to the local area but which were known to be later domesticates. This suggests the people at Edgewater were involved in the earliest stages of domestication, the movement of plants to new areas.

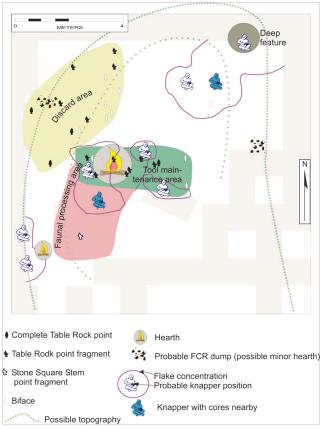


Figure 6. Edgewater Park, 13JH1132, schematic map, based on activity areas (courtesy OSA).

Conklin (13JH1306). The Late Archaic Conklin site was excavated in 2009 during an expansion of Oakdale Blvd. near Coralville along the Iowa River (Scott et al. 2009). The site was generally not screened, rather artifacts were pieceplotted while they appeared during shovel skimming. A possible house basin was tentatively identified on the basis of increased bioturbation disturbance. No usable radiocarbon dates were obtained, but a Tipton point suggest an age of 2,500-3,500 years ago (Figure 7). Organic preservation was poor, with no useful floral specimens obtained from flotation. This site was provisionally interpreted as a fall nut processing habitation based on lithic types present.

This type of excavation result is fairly common at Archaic sites, there are typically not a lot of distinct features, probably because they were not used intensively and the long period of time between abandonment and excavation.



Figure 7. Conklin, 13JH1306, bifaces (courtesy Bear Creek Archaeology).

Woodland (800 B.C.-A.D. 1250)

The Woodland period is known for domestic plants, pottery, and mounds, all things which actually appeared at the end of the Late Archaic, and for increasing numbers of more sedentary communities occupying defined territories. The shift away from hunting and gathering to agriculture was slow, and wild foods would always be important to Indians. The Woodland period in Iowa City is even less understood that the Archaic. There are several mound groups recorded near Iowa City, presumably Woodland or Late Prehistoric in age, only a few of which survive, and only very limited excavation has occurred. All mounds in Iowa are now protected by law, and excavation is no longer allowed.

Woodland Excavations

Napoleon (13JH250). Although 13JH250 was originally investigated because of its connection to the early trading town of Napoleon (Fishel et al. 1996); excavation in 1996 revealed it contained Archaic, Early Woodland, Middle Woodland, Late Woodland, and Oneota artifacts (Figure 8), but its features were likely associ-



Figure 8. Projectile points from the Napoleon Site ,13JH250 (courtesy OSA)

ated with a sizable Middle Woodland site (Withrow 1998). Fifteen pit and hearth features were excavated (Figure 9), as well as a possible house. The site was interpreted as a Middle Woodland base camp focused on riverine resources. Identified bone included deer, elk, beaver, fish, turtle, and birds. Flora included nuts, grapes, mulberry, raspberry, chenopod/amaranth, and knotweed; the diet of the Middle Woodland in lowa City was not all that different from the Late Archaic, 2000 years earlier. *Dee Norton (13JH1402)*. The Late Woodland Dee Norton was excavated in 2011 by the UI in Hickory Hill Park (Whittaker and Beck 2011). Named for an early benefactor of the park, the site was found by auger testing and explored by five 1-x-1 m test units



Figure 9. Napoleon Site, 13JH250, excavated feature (courtesy Louis Berger Group).



Figure 10. Excavations at the Dee Norton Site, 13JH1402 (courtesy UI Anthropology).

(Figure 10). A buried A horizon lies beneath postsettlement slope wash, and this buried A horizon contained Woodland ceramics and lithics, including a notched triangular point (Figure 11). This site might have been misrecorded in 1960 as the Jack Musgrave site (13JH28). Musgrave was



Figure 11. Artifacts from the Dee Norton Site, 13JH1402 (courtesy UI Anthropology).

a local collector who donated a box of ceramics to the University (Figure 12); gave only a vague description of the site location. Creek "Ralston straight back of cemetery", but it is plausible that the

location he gave was the same as the Dee Norton site.

Mounds Sites

Mounds were used by Woodland and Late Prehistoric Indians to bury their dead, their presence was occasionally noted by early settlers in Iowa, by the time serious effort were undertaken to record them in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, most had probably been



Figure 12. Selected ceramics from the Jack Musgrove collection, 13JH28 (courtesy OSA).

destroyed. There may have been 115 mounds or more standing near lowa City in 1900; there are only about 20 left. Outside of the 5-km research area, 17 or so stand north of town at 13JH1. Within the study area, three or four remain at the Hinrichs-Berger group, and one south of town at 13JH251.

Aicher Mound Group (13JH1). The Aicher mound group was first noted as a group of 50 mounds in the 1883 county history, which implies that it covered the entire bluff in this area. Several were excavated by a Mr. M.W. Davis, a druggist, in 1863–1864. Davis found many graves, all facing to the west, covered with ash. One of the skeletons was a child buried with a ceramic jar, "on one side were some rude markings, as if a ring with two cross lines and some dots had been drawn with a fine pointed stick when the clay was soft, and then straight marks made from the ring outward in one direction, and this is supposed to have been designed to represent the sun. The top of the vessel was narrowed to a neck, then a head fashioned on it which has some *possible* resemblance to a turtle's beak" (Anonymous 1883:289-290). This vessel in the Keyes' collection, it was donated in 1928 by Davis' grandson; it is shell tempered and decorated in Late Prehistoric Oneota (e.g. Gradwohl 1973:29). Davis also apparently excavated a ceramic bison effigy with one of the graves (Webster 1889:595-596), again, supporting a Late Prehistoric Oneota occupation. By 1949, the number of mounds decreased to 17-19, depending on who you read.

Hinrichs-Burger Mound Group (13JH12). This mound group is the first I ever mapped in detail, done with Bryan Kendall in 2007. The earliest published report (Webster 1889) suggests that at least 14 to 16 mounds

may originally have existed. By 1904 only eight mounds and two partial mounds were visible when mapped by Benjamin Shambaugh of the State University of Iowa and later Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa (Ward 1904). Unpublished excavations by Reynold Ruppé during the 1950s recovered no diagnostic artifacts. A small number of diagnostic artifacts in the repository of the Office of the State Archaeologist suggests a Late Woodland cultural affiliation. In 2007, only a few of the mounds were clear, most had been blurred into a long linear ridge, and one mound-like feature was not in the correct location, Mound B, based on the Shambaugh map (Kendall and Whittaker 2007).

Randall (13JH32). This was a mound on the north end of town, excavated in 1960 by UI students led by Bob Brower, but no prehistoric artifacts were found. This mound was likely part of the Terrell Mill group, 13JH1333. There is supposed to be a letter report from Brower on file at the OSA, but this was not found.

Mound 13JH251. This is an isolated intact mound (Artz 2001). This mound may be associated with the nearby 13JH250 Middle Woodland site.

Slavata mound group (13JH1332). This group of two mounds was already disappearing under the plow when it was first noted in 1903 (Ward 1904:54). The likely area around the mound group was extensively modified with the construction of the Hickory Hill Park Dam, and the mounds probably stood in the field to the east of the dam. A small knob north of the dam was investigated in 2011, but did not appear to be cultural (Whittaker and Beck 2011).

Terrell Mill Mound Group (13JH1333). This mound group may have contained as many as 20 mounds in 1883 when it was owned by the Englert family (Anonymous 1883:289). Ward (1904:20-22) noted six or more conical mounds in this area. He gives descriptions of all of them, and suggests that they once extended to the southeast along the ridge. In 1904 they were in an unplowed area. By the 1930s a road was built over the area. By the 1960s the area was a subdivision of houses. There are some suspicious rises around the houses of the area, but these have not been investigated archaeologically.

Riley Mound (13JH1387). This was an isolated conical along Rapid Creek, noted by Ward (1904:55). It was destroyed long ago by plowing (Kendall 2010).

Lost Mound Groups. There are four mound groups near lowa City that are not recorded as archaeological sites because their location information is poor. Most of these were included in Ward's study (1904). There is no clear evidence for these mounds on the 2009 lidar survey. As previously mentioned, the 13JH1 mound group may have extended farther south than it currently is mapped.

Grizel Mounds- 15 or more mounds along Rapid Creek bluffs, north side.

Sunier Mound-Isolated mound along Rapid Creek terrace, north side.

Aicher Mounds II- group of four or more mounds along Rapid Creek east of its mouth, not to be confused with 13JH1.

Pryce Mounds- 5 or more mounds along west side of lowa River north of town (Ward 1904; Webster 1884).

Why were there no mounds recorded in downtown? In downtown lowa City, there are nice, prominent bluffs overlooking the lowa River, seemingly ideal for mounds; however, no early account mentions mounds down-



Figure 13. Truncated bluff surface, shown as dark line on profile wall, below about 10 feet of fill at 13JH1436 (courtesy OSA).

town. One clue comes from the excavations at the new School of Music site, corner of Burlington and Clinton, where the original buried bluff top was preserved about 10 feet below the grade of Clinton Street (Figure 13). This remnant soil is severely truncated, but there is no evidence of plowing. If this is typical, it is possible that the bluff edge in downtown was an erosional surface, and any mounds constructed there would not have endured. It is also possible that the narrow floodplain near downtown was not attractive to Woodland or Late Prehistoric people, who seemed to prefer the rich resources of broad floodplains and terraces, like those found to the north and south.

Late Prehistoric (A.D. 1250–1700)

The Late Prehistoric period saw the widespread adaptation of maize agriculture, resulting in larger village sites; these are the villages noted by the earli-

est European explorers in the region. In eastern Iowa these are typically classified as Oneota, although there is evidence of Great Oasis ceramics, a western Late Prehistoric type, at Woodpecker Cave near Coralville Lake. Late Prehistoric sites can be surrounded by ditches or stockaded embankments, but there is little evidence of this in east-central Iowa.

In fact, there are surprisingly few Late Prehistoric sites in this part of Iowa. There were possible Late Prehistoric Oneota burials at 13JH1, discussed above, and a few Oneota ceramics were recovered from 13JH250 (Withrow 1998) and 13JH775 (Peterson 1997a) but no demonstrably Oneota features were identified. Three years ago an Iowa Citian called our office looking for information about a catlinite elbow pipe he had found as a boy on Market Street, and later donated to the Museum of Natural History. This pipe was not found in the museum collections but its findspot is now recorded as site 13JH1415. It is the best evidence we have for any Late Prehistoric occupation in town. However, catlinite elbow pipes can also date to the protohistoric or historic Indian periods, so even this is questionable.

One possible explanation for the dearth of sites is that Late Prehistoric peoples tended to nucleate at larger village sites, and the narrow floodplain in downtown lowa City did not afford them the broad floodplains and terraces they seemingly preferred for their agricultural fields. The area around Rapid Creek may hold Late Prehistoric sites, given the broad floodplains in these areas, but there have been no formal surveys of theses areas. The complex riverine system south of lowa City likely also hides Oneota sites, as evidenced by the few Oneota artifacts at 13JH250 and 13JH775.

Protohistoric and Historic Indian (A.D. 1700–1843)

European trade goods arrived in Iowa before Europeans; this is called the Protohistoric period. During the Historic Indian period, European and American traders had direct contact with tribes, and the U.S. Government gradually pushed Indians through and out of Iowa. Most Historic Indian archaeological research has focused on the area around Napoleon Park, where trading posts were built to be close to the Meskwaki who lived in this area, 1830s–1843. Peterson (1997a) provided an excellent historical summary of this period. Among the leaders of the Meskwaki in this area was Wacochachi, ["Wa-ko-sha-shi"] whose enigmatic "talking paper" is well-known (Musgrove and Musgrove 1974). At the tiny hamlet of Napoleon, the first courthouse in the county was built. The general layout of the area was



Figure 14. Drawing of the first courthouse in Johnson County.

published in 1883 in a crude map (Anonymous 1883:207) that has not proved to be an effective guide to finding sites, nor have GLO maps, which show the locations of Poweshiek's and Wapashashiek's villages, but they have not been found archaeologically, despite several attempts (Peterson 1997a).

Site 13JH250 was originally explored because of its likely association with the early town, including the first courthouse (Figure 14), but no trace of the courthouse was found. A large sewer project in the late 1990s near Napoleon led to the survey and discovery of several sites. There have been several locations south of town where early historic Indian material have been found.



Figure 15. Excavations at Napoleon Park, 13JH743 (courtesy OSA).

Napoleon Park (13JH743). Excavated in 1997 Peterson (1997b) found a limestone-lined fire pit and a cellar within the townsite of Napoleon (Figure 15); artifacts dated between 1837 and 1850, and these features were possibly part of the first American farm in the county. A few Middle Woodland-era artifacts were found below the early historic deposits, these artifacts are probably related to the Middle Woodland 13JH250 occupation.

Gilbert's Second Trading Post (13JH761). This location was noted by early settlers as the likely location of Gilbert's second post (1835–1838). A limited survey found artifacts from this time period (Peterson 1997a:127). Test excavations in 2003 in a small portion of the site encountered a few artifacts from the time period, but no features (Blikre and Vogel 2004).

Gilbert's American Fur Company Trading Post (13JH775). This is an early historic or fur trade site (Figure 16), dating 1835–1837 (Peterson 1997a). Four test units were excavated in 1996, encountering several pit features. Trade goods, including beads, mirrors, a compass, silver foil, pipes, jaw harp, brass, a strike-a-light, and gun parts, including English and French flints, were found (Figure 17).



Figure 17. Beads and jaw harp from Gilbert's Trading Post, 13JH775.

School of Music (13JH1336, Feature 2). At the School of Music Excavations in 2013 (Clinton and Burlington streets),



Figure 16. Drawing of Gilbert's Trading Post, 13JH775.

the OSA exposed a small early historic foundation (Figure 18). Artifacts from this foundation dated to the 1830s or 40s; among them was a cluster of dozens of drawn beads, tucked in foundation stones (Figure 19). Current interpretation is that this feature may have

been a claim cabin. There is circumstantial evidence that it was built by John G. Morrow in early 1839; Morrow purchased his land from Samuel Bumgartner, who was an acquaintance of John Gilbert, providing a tenuous link to Gilbert's trading post.

Hubbard Park (13JH1440). An isolated tiny trade bead was recovered from flotation of a topsoil A horizon in 2014, but no other trade material was recovered.

Historic American Sites (1830s-present)

American settlers invaded Johnson County beginning in the 1830s; and Iowa City was designated open to property claims in 1839, although there were a few claims made before then (Shambaugh 1893). The archaeology of Historic American sites in Iowa City focuses on early historic sites occupied before the Civil War and later sites associated with historically significant persons or activities.

There is a plethora of late historic sites in Iowa City. This is largely because of all the professional surveys that occurred in the area; due diligence requires professional archaeologists to record all sites, including the ubiquitous Late Historic



Figure 18. School of Music, 13JH1436, Feature 2 foundation (courtesy OSA).

farmsteads and trash dumps, sites that an amateur archaeologist would not bother with. However, only a handful of historical sites have been excavated in Iowa City, two as part of academic excavations, two as part of CRM excavations.



Figure 19. Drawn bead cluster, School of Music, 13JH1436, Feature 2 foundation (courtesy OSA).

Plum Grove (13JH311). Originally excavated because it was the home of Robert Lucas, the territorial governor of lowa and the former governor of Ohio, Plum Grove has almost no features relating to the Lucas occupation. Far more interesting are features related to later occupants, such as a trench filled with cattle and swine butchering scraps (Figure 20), and a large cistern filled in when the house was sold to the state in 1943 (Figure 21). Archeological excavation began in 1974 when Thomas Charlton started his archaeology field school there, a tradition that he continued on and off until his death in 2010. A long trench containing bone was excavated four times over 30 years, in 1978, 1997, 2006, and 2008, perhaps a record for the most number of times an archaeological feature has been re-excavated (Charlton et al. 1988; Reynolds et al. 2011; Whittaker 1999). This trench provided evidence of the integration of late-19th century farmers into larger



Figure 20. Plum Grove, 13JH311, bone trench (courtesy UI Anthropology).

economic systems of production; the systematic mass slaughter of livestock, apparently in one event, reveals the farm was directly supplying butchered livestock to larger markets.

Pest House (13JH1398). Thomas Charlton also excavated the early-20th century Pest House in 1973-1974. This was a county-run facility for people thought to have communicable diseases. Although no report has been completed, his notes and

artifacts are on file at the UI Anthropology Department. This site, in Hickory Hill Park, was re-exposed and mapped in 2011 (Whittaker and Beck 2011).

School of Music (13JH1436). In the block where the UI School of Music is under construction, construction workers encountered several historical features that were investigated by the OSA in fall of 2013. These include



Figure 21. Plum Grove, 13JH311, cistern (courtesy UI Anthropology).

numerous late 19th and early 20th century cisterns and a well. Most spectacular were an early historic foundation with glass trade beads, Feature 2, discussed above, and an 1850s-60s privy (Feature 4). This privy

above, and an 1850s-60s privy (Feature 4). This privy contained alternating fecal layers rich in seeds and had an astonishing amount of lamp glass (Figure 22). The presence of so much lamp glass indicates a date



Figure 22. School of Music, 13JH1436, Feature 4 privy (courtesy OSA).

after the railroad arrived in Iowa City in 1856, since it is unlikely that anyone would ship so much lamp glass by stagecoach. Speculatively, the abundant lamp glass may be a result of the 1856 abandonment of the nearby Presbyterian Church after it burned, or the 1868 renovation of the church before its transferal to the State Historical Society, which occupied it from 1868-1882, before reverting back to church property.

Hubbard Park (13JH1440). While trenching for new recirculating water lines in 2014, construction workers exposed several historic features. Most were investigated after the trench was complete, including foundations and cisterns. Some of these foundations were associated with a buried topsoil (Ab horizon), which covered most of the park. Feature 7 was a line of limestone rock that crossed the trench, and was associated with the buried topsoil. Hasty excavations of the associated Ab horizon revealed that it

was embedded with artifacts ranging in age from the Archaic period to the 1850s (Figure 23), with most coming from the 1830-1850 period. Realizing that further trenching would destroy more of this Ab soil, an archaeological excavation grid was superimposed over the trench route. These excavation units exposed more of the Ab surface and got a greater collection of artifacts. Several coins were found, dating from 1833 to 1851. It became clear that the Ab surface was capped by flood deposits (Figure 24), it was historically known that this part of town was devastated by a massive flood in 1851. Several features were found, including two possible foundation remnants that date to the pre-flood episode, as well as plow scars in areas of the Ab soil.

In fall 2014, OSA and UI researchers returned to explore other areas of the park. Soil coring and auger testing identified areas of the block that have extremely disturbed soils and other areas that contain intact



Figure 23. Hubbard Park, 13JH1440, trade token and Archaic point (courtesy OSA).

buried deposits. Soil coring, combined with deep auger tests, found areas of intact buried A horizons in the south and east part of the park. Data recovery concentrated on three areas thought to have potential to yield significant archaeological deposits: the northeast corner of the block and two areas on the south edge of the block. Mechanical means removed modern fill soils, typically exposing the underlying Civil War-era (or earlier) yard middens, fills, or features. Archaeologists then hand-excavated test units to sample or fully excavate these strata or features.

Excavation in the north identified yard middens, a house foundation, privy, refuse-filled pits and a root cellar (Figure 25), all pre-dating the Civil War. In the south part of the park, in an area with intact buried soils that are likely in the backyards of the smaller rental cottages, features included privies and a substantial (10-foot deep) possible basement along the lot



Figure 24. Flood deposits on top of Ab horizon at Hubbard Park, 13JH1440(courtesy OSA).

line between what was once 17 N. Madison St. and 100 W. Iowa Avenue. This feature contains predominantly 1840s artifacts, including hundreds of ceramic fragments representing more than a dozen different ceramic styles. Numerous animal bones found here will be used with soil seed flotation to determine the diet of early occupants, and the other artifacts can tell us about their everyday activities and relative wealth.

Conclusion

lowa City contains a stunningly high number of sites, but archaeologically, lowa City is probably typical of much of eastern lowa. If you were to take any random segment of any medium-sized river valley and survey it extensively, you likely would find the same sorts of sites: a few mounds, a few small scatters of prehistoric artifacts, some early historic sites, and a bazillion late historic sites. One thing that sets lowa City apart from the

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Figure 25. Feature 22 root cellar at Hubbard Park, 13JH1440(courtesy OSA).

rest of the state is the abundance of these sites, and this is due to the peculiar combination of factors in Iowa City- the OSA, the University, and growth that leads to professional survey.

Like the rest of Iowa, we have a few sites with Paleoindian artifacts, but no excavated features. The two excavated Late Archaic sites were small encampments along the Iowa River (Edgewater Park and Conklin), one had circumstantial evidence of the earliest stages of plant domestication. We have two excavated Woodland sites: the Middle Woodland Napoleon site south of town with good feature preservation and provided insight into Woodland lifeways. The Dee Norton site has potential to inform about the Late Woodland, with artifacts on a buried A soil. We once had more than 100 mounds in and near lowa City, but they have trickled to 20 or so, destroyed by the plow and development, with only four or five in town. Oddly, no significant Late Prehistoric habitation sites have been excavated near lowa City, but there are possibly some north and south of town along the Iowa River. Historic Indian trading sites are known south of town, near Napoleon Park, but the location of known Indian villages have not been found. Several historic American sites have been excavated in town, shedding light on the earliest settlers.

lowa City's intensive archaeology can tell us something about sites that may be in lowa. The 2.64 sites/km is a conservative estimate of the number of sites in lowa City since only a small portion of town has been formally surveyed, even if there are a lot of sites identified by informants and

historical records. If the rest of the state was investigated as intensively as lowa City, and had the same density of sites (a dubious assumption), there would be 14 times as many sites recorded in lowa, 384,762 instead of 26,000! Obviously, this back-of-the-envelope math is speculative, but suggest the number of recorded sites in lowa is a small fraction of what can be found.

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Table 1. Sites by period in the study area.

-	
Period	n
Historical	43
Mound	7
Oneota	1
Woodland	28
Archaic/Woodland	7
Archaic	8
Paleoindian	3
unknown prehistoric	<u>110</u>
_Total	207

Note- the few sites with multiple components were lumped with their most substantial occupation, for example the Napoleon site, 13JH250 contained Archaic, Woodland, and Oneota artifacts, but most features were Woodland, so it was classified as Woodland. Likewise, most prehistoric sites have Late Historic surface components, but they were classified as prehistoric.

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

Editor's note: The deadline for 2015 nominations was April 10th, but please consider making a nomination for 2016.

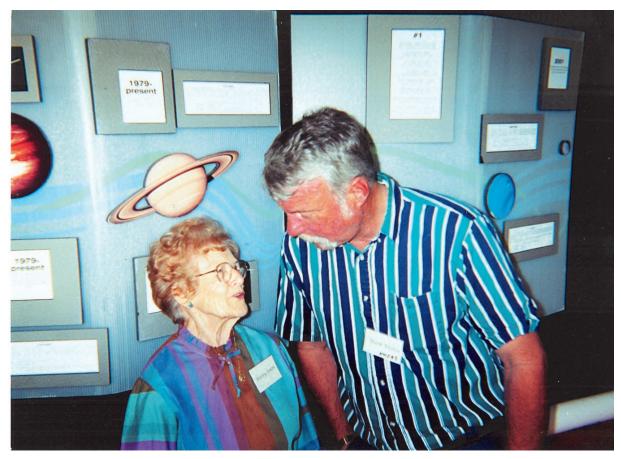
Shirley L. Smith (1912–2014)

Dale R. Henning

historical or archaeological, in many ways.

I first met Chuck and Shirley in 1956, when enrolled Shirley Smith. as a beginning graduate student in a University of lowa archaeological field training course focused on the Phipps Mill Creek site. We made the lower level

Shirley L. Smith passed away on December 23, 2014, of the Sanford Museum our 'home', using kitchen and a few days shy of her 102nd year. Shirley was a long laboratory day and night and enduring the delights of -term mainstay of the Northwest Chapter, Iowa Ar- canvas Army cots set up in the school building across cheological Society (NWIAS), first she was secretary- the street. We students immediately became part of treasurer, then became Chapter treasurer in 1970, the Museum community and were regularly invited to serving until 2007. She and her late husband, C.H.D. gatherings in Cherokee homes, a real delight. Many (Chuck) Smith, were early members of the lowa Ar- weekends, Chuck was more than generous with recheological Society and were founders of the NWIAS freshments from his fully-stocked refrigerator and chapter. They remained actively engaged in both or- Shirley was always ready with various edibles while ganizations as long as health would allow. State-wide we sang lustily at their player piano late into the night. recognition came for the Smiths in 2001 with presen- What fun! I mentioned different personalities; Chuck tation of the IAS Keyes-Orr award in recognition of was always dominant and 'up front', saying (blustering their outstanding service to the IAS as well as their with emphasis) exactly what he thought on any subcontributions in research, reporting and preservation ject. Shirley was low-key, never critical, obviously of lowa's cultural heritage. Possessed of very differ- preferring to remain in the background. My last visit ent talents and personalities, Chuck and Shirley Smith with Shirley was at the 50th anniversary of the Sanserved the causes of cultural preservation, whether ford Museum; she was the same as always, kind, caring, interested in those around her and, still Treasurer of NWIAS! I join those who have fond memories of



Shirley Smith with Mark Mertes in 2001 at the Sanford Museum 50th Anniversary.

W. D. "Frank Frankforter

Director of the Sanford Museum & Planetarium (1951–1962)

Duane Anderson

ford Museum in 1962, seven years before I replaced Frank arrived the place was empty. No collections, no his successor (John Vincent) as director in late 1966. library, no policies, no activities, no staff, and not Gone, and forgotten, you might think... Not so. As much money. What to do? Frank seized on the upsoon as I arrived in Cherokee I found myself standing coming Cherokee County Centennial (1956) as an under Frank's very long extended shadow. I lived in organizing principle. The word went out that the muhis house, I drove his Jeep, I sat in his chair at the seum wanted historical objects to preserve and disoffice, I became friends with his army of volunteers, play—utilitarian objects, clothing, farming tools, mediand I benefited greatly from the educational programs cal implements, musical instruments, geological speciand research collections that Frank left behind when mens, Indian artifacts, and old photographs. As the he moved to Michigan to become the assistant and museum's storage areas filled up, volunteers catalater director of the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

Master's Degree from a monumental if not legendary including parades, lectures, and demonstrations. As I figure named Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz at the University will discuss below the experience Frank gained of Nebraska, Lincoln. It was under Schultz that Frank through these activities served him well when he learned to chase ancient bison, root around in Ice Age moved into the ethnically diverse and potentially turgravel, and skid to a stop whenever he passed an out- bulent environment at Grand Rapids, Michigan in crop of "blue clay" left behind by a passing glacier 1962. lowa.

vice on anything, I would have to ask for it. It wasn't tered at the Sanford Museum. that he didn't want to help; he just didn't want to be in Early work with the new state archaeologist, R.J. did it was..."; "Frank would never have...").

something exciting and fun. Under Frank's guidance his lowa colleagues. ground up. It was no wonder he was held in such of lowa's past. high esteem long after his departure.

fessional to develop the newly constructed Sanford Smith and Shirley Smith, Cliff Chapman, Ruth and

I really didn't know Frank very well. He left the San- Museum and to run lowa's first Planetarium. When loged specimens, designed exhibits, wrote labels, pre-Frank came from Nebraska where he received his pared newspaper articles, and planned special events

some 20,000 years ago. Frank's interest in geology While Frank was well liked and successful as a dyled naturally to an interest in Early Man, and thence to namic community leader, in his heart of hearts he was Archaic, Woodland and Late Prehistoric cultures in a field person. Joe Beals once told me that Frank's view of life was calibrated on the basis of how many My best shot at seeing Frank was when he and his field seasons he had left. He rarely passed up an opwife Glea and growing family stopped to stay with portunity to get out of the office and explore the geolfriends in Cherokee when they were on their annual ogy and archaeology of the region. He was one of the summer pilgrimage to the "Ranch" in Nebraska. It be-founders of the Iowa Archeological Society (1951) and came clear fairly early on that if I wanted Frank's ad- soon established the Northwest Chapter headquar-

a position of telling me how to run the museum. It Ruppé focused on excavations at the Phipps Site, a made me wonder what it would have been like for deep Mill Creek site where some of the first environ-John Vincent during those intervening years because mental studies in the Midwest were conducted. Emechoes from the "Frank years" could still be heard phasis gradually shifted to Late Paleoindian and Arloud and clear in both the Museum and in the commu- chaic sites with the discovery of "Turin Man" buried nity at large ("Frank always said..."; "The way Frank deep in the windblown dune deposits at Turin in Monona County (featured in Life Magazine in May, I don't mean to make it sound like Frank ruled with an 1955). Subsequently, Frank and crew explored the iron hand or that he was in any way dictatorial. Frank Hill Site in Mills County and later conducted excavawas so interested in everything and so enthusiastic tions at the 8,500 year old bison kill at the Simonsen that people just naturally gravitated toward him—they site near Quimby. Frank kept up his interest in Iowa wanted to be involved, to help; to learn; to be part of archaeology and frequently answered questions from He received the Keyes-Orr the people of Cherokee expanded their interests and Award from the Iowa Archeological Society in 1999 in built their organizations and their traditions from the recognition for his contributions to our understanding

After Frank moved to Michigan his dedicated ama-Frank was hired by Meyer Wolff, chairman of the Mu- teurs continued on-in some cases for over five decseum board in 1951. Meyer wanted a museum pro- ades. Joe and Bertie Beals, Charles H.D. "Chuck" Phil Thornton, Earl Brewster, and Merle and Virginia Simonson were among many others who continued to be driving forces when I was in Iowa (1966-1986).

In 1962 Frank's family had expanded to the point that he needed to find a better paying position so he moved to the Grand Rapids Public Museum in Michigan to become the assistant director. In 1965 he was promoted to director where he served until he retired in 1988. He was active on the national level with the American Association of Museums (now the National Alliance of Museums) and the Grand Rapids Public Museum became the first museum in the nation to be accredited by AAM (he wrote and told me how pleased he was when he learned that Sanford Museum had become lowa's first accredited museum in 1972). For all practical purposes Frank's departure from Iowa marked the end of his career as a field worker and the beginning of his life as very successful and well-regarded full-time administrator.

Once Frank arrived in Grand Rapids he drew heavily on his organizational experience in Iowa working with the archaeological and historical societies and the Cherokee County Centennial. He began working with ethnic groups including different immigrant communities as well as Native Americans. He simply let various groups meet and organize their own committees to discuss their unique histories and plan activities, events, and collections acquisition projects that were relevant to them and the preservation of their heritage. In time Frank became nationally known as an advocate for community engagement.

Frank was instrumental in the development of a number of innovative facilities within the Museum including the Blandford Nature Center, Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium, and the Native American heritage exhibition program. Beyond the Museum Frank was involved in the development of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum & Library, the Van Andel Museum Center, and Norton Mounds National Historic Landmark.

After his retirement Frank lived to see the ground-work he had laid culminate when the Grand Rapids Public Museum celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2004. Frank died in Grand Rapids on November 4, 2014 at the age of 94 leaving a legacy that has touched the lives of thousands of people locally, regionally, and nationally. We're lucky lowa was his first stop.

Acknowledgement:

Special thanks to David Gradwohl for aiding and abetting and for reading and improving a draft of this tribute.



Frank (center with bison scapula hoe) working at the Museum with R.J. Ruppé (left) on plans for an exhibition of artifacts from excavations at the Phipps Site.



Frank (left) shown at the Phipps Site talking to a local collector about projectile points in his collection. One of Frank's traveling exhibit panels appears in the background.

Two New Books from the University of Iowa Press

The Archaeological Guide to Iowa

William E. Whittaker

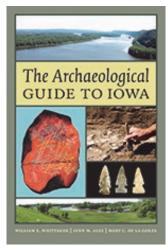
Lynn M. Alex

Mary C. De La Garza

lowa has the reputation of being one big corn field, so you may be surprised to learn it boasts a rich crop of recorded archaeological sites as well—approximately 27,000 at last count. Some are spectacular, such as the one hundred mounds at Sny Magill in Effigy Mounds National Monument, while others consist of old abandoned farmsteads or small scatters of prehistoric flakes and heated rocks. Untold numbers are completely gone or badly disturbed—destroyed by plowing, erosion, or development.

Fortunately, there are many sites open to the public where the remnants of the past are visible, either in their original location or in nearby museum exhibits. Few things are more inspiring than walking among the Malchow Mounds, packed so tightly it is hard to tell where one ends and the other begins. Strolling around downtown Des Moines is a lot more interesting when you are aware of the mounds, Indian villages, and the fort that once stood there. And, although you can't visit the Wanampito site, you can see the splendid seventeenth-century artifacts excavated from it at Heery Woods State Park.

For people who want to experience lowa's archaeological heritage first hand, this one-of-a-kind guidebook shows the way to sixty-eight important sites. Many are open to visitors or can be seen from a public location; others, on private land or no longer visible on the landscape, live on through artifact displays. The guide also includes a few important sites that are not open to visitors because these places have unique stories to tell. Sites of every type, from every time period, and in every corner of the state are featured. Whether you have a few hours to indulge your curiosity or are planning a road trip across the state, this guide will take you to places where lowa's deep history comes to life.



264 pages, 39 maps, 92 b&w images, 51 color plates \$29.95 Paperback or eBook

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Dubuque's Forgotten Cemetery

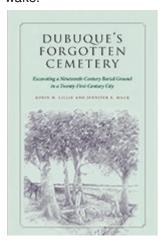
Robin M. Lillie

Jennifer E. Mack

Atop a scenic bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and downtown Dubuque there once lay a graveyard dating to the 1830s, the earliest days of American settlement in lowa. Though many local residents knew the property had once been a Catholic burial ground, they believed the graves had been moved to a new cemetery in the late nineteenth century in response to overcrowding and changing burial customs. But in 2007, when a developer broke ground for a new condominium complex here, the heavy machinery unearthed human bones. Clearly, some of Dubuque's early settlers still rested there—in fact, more than anyone expected. For the next four years, staff with the Burials Program of the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist excavated the site so that development could proceed.

The excavation fieldwork was just the beginning. Once the digging was done each summer, skeletal biologist Robin M. Lillie and archaeologist Jennifer E. Mack still faced the enormous task of teasing out life histories from fragile bones, disintegrating artifacts, and the decaying wooden coffins the families had chosen for the deceased. Poring over scant documents and sifting through old newspapers, they pieced together the story of the cemetery and its residents, a story often surprising and poignant. Weaving together science, history, and local mythology, the tale of the Third Street Cemetery provides a fascinating glimpse into Dubuque's early years, the hardships its settlers endured, and the difficulties they did not survive.

While they worked, Lillie and Mack also grappled with the legal and ethical obligations of the living to the dead. These issues are increasingly urgent as more and more of America's unmarked (and marked) cemeteries are removed in the name of progress. Fans of forensic crime shows and novels will find here a real-world example of what can be learned from the fragments left in time's wake



270 pages, 6 maps, 2 drawings, 10 b&w photos \$27.50 Paperback or eBook

James M. Collins Retires from OSA

John F. Doershuk

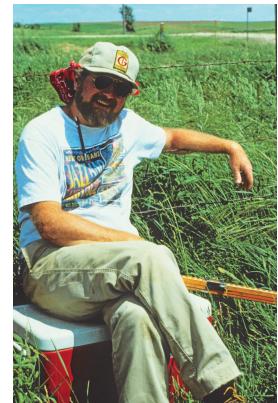
following):

"...and knowing too that Steve Lensink was the acting State Archaeologist—and given the fact that Steve happened to be standing at the time with "This Individual" and with the commonality that "This Individual" and I had just presented papers in the same session—and thinking, given our then unordinary circumstances, that it might be worth considering moving back to lowa with my little family someday, I screwed up all my courage, circled a few times, then stepped squarely out of character, and introduced myself to Steve and "This Individual," reminding Dr. Lensink that we had spoken on the phone once or twice when I had previously worked in Iowa for Dale Henning at Luther College. To my great relief, both Steve and "This Individual" greeted me as "a hale fellow, well met" and we enjoyed a pleasant conversation. I count this as a major turning point in my life because shortly thereafter "This Individual" was hired as the research archaeologist on the staff of the OSA. A few months after that the OSA advertised a couple of other positions, for which I applied. I can only assume that by introducing myself so unnaturally that day in Toronto, I gave "This Individual" a face to place with my application. And through a stroke of luck, I was eventually hired."

Along with his publications and conference papers Jim has authored or co-authored a staggering 272 technical reports on projects in countless venues across the state. In the process, Jim recorded at least 307 archaeological sites in 44 counties, a significant

Jim Collins joined the University of Iowa Office of the contribution to the database! Jim conducted many State Archaeologist (OSA) staff in 1988 as a member important projects while at the OSA, including mitigaof the Highway Archaeology Program and proceeded tion excavations at the Dolomite Ridge Site to quietly but effectively become a prolific contributor (13DB428) in Dubuque County and Buck Creek to Iowa archaeology. Jim, who retired from the OSA Mounds (13CT34 and 13CT36) in Clayton County, in early April, 2014 has for years been thoughtfully extensive Phase II investigation of the Bash Site thinking and writing about Iowa archaeology in venues (13MR228) in Marshall County, and multiple projects like the Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society, An- over an extended period in Hardin County associated nals of Iowa, and Midcontinental Journal of Archae- with Iowa Department of Transportation improveology. Jim has also been a frequent presenter at ar- ments to Highway 20 and especially the crossing of chaeological conferences at the state, regional, and the Hardin County Greenbelt along the Iowa River. In national levels, including his memorable retrospective 2004, Jim's Hardin County efforts led to the Hardin "This Individual—Bill Green" delivered on the occa- County Historic Preservation Commission and Hardin sion of the Iowa Archeological Society's presentation County Conservation Board awarding the OSA, and in of the 2002 Keyes/Orr Award to Bill. Jim's description particular Jim and several colleagues, an award recin this presentation of his combined relief and joy at ognizing his "Outstanding work in assisting with the being hired into the OSA in 1988 is worth repeating Hardin County, Iowa, Archaeology/Paleontology Rehere (substitute "Bill Green" for "This Individual" in the sources Management Plan for Public Lands and Education Program."

> In retirement, Jim maintains an office at the OSA in the role of an adjunct research associate. While he has spent plenty of his recent energy on hunting and fishing pursuits, Jim continues his thoughtful consideration of Iowa archaeology topics and I'm sure we'll be seeing new publications in the not too distant future—in the meantime, congratulations on retirement, Jim!



Jim Collins at the Bash Site, 13MR228.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Daniel Horgen Office of the State Archaeologist Iowa City

Discovered: Louisa County, Iowa.

Measurements: 1 ½ inches in length with a maximum width of ¾ inch.

Notes: These small to medium sized points exhibit a variety of stem morphologies (see right).

Send your responses to Daniel G. Horgen at: daniel-horgen@uiowa.edu.

Answers will be listed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Last Issue's Point: The specimen illustrated in the previous article (see below) is classified as a Madison. These types of points were originally named the Mississippi Triangle by Edward G. Scully in 1951. They also have been named Fresno in the Plains. They post date the similar Levanna style point in the northeast. These small unnotched points are usually half as wide as they are long forming an isosceles trian-



gle; however, specimens have been recovered as wide as they are long forming an equilateral triangle. Craftsmanship varies from extremely well made to simple retouched flakes that somewhat resemble a triangle. These are true arrowheads that were used for hunting and warfare. They are associated with Late Woodland cultures and are found on virtually every Mississippian site in the Midwest. The date range is approximately A.D. 800 to the beginning of the Historic Period.

This specimen is made from Oneota chert, which outcrops in northeast Iowa and adjacent areas of Wisconsin and Minnesota. This material is cream to grey in color and often has a mottled appearance.

Dan Boddicker, Larry Van Gorden, Gary Stam, and Jimmie Thompson submitted correct responses. Matt Kaufman submitted the related response of Levanna.

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Editor's Note: At the suggestion of Dean Schwarz, a photo of the point from the preceding issue will be included in these articles.



Madison point from previous issue

Registration for Joint Annual Meeting Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology and the Iowa Archaeological Society

May 2-3, 2015

Black Hawk College Building 1, room 306 35th Avenue and 70th Street, Moline, Illinois

We invite you to attend this joint annual meeting of the IAAA and the IAS. We have prepared an excellent slate of speakers and tours of special sites in the QC area that are outstanding examples of prehistoric sites and historic sites that figured prominently in early American history and the Black Hawk War. Our featured speaker, Douglas Owsley, PhD, is nationally renowned, both in anthropological and layman realms. He was the principle scientist for the study of Kennewick Man and litigant in the efforts to seek permission to study the remains which lead to the definition of "Native American" in the "Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act". He will speak about the scientific study of Kennewick Man and early Man in the Americas.

The venue for the meeting is expected to accommodate all of the expected number of attendees, but the draw of our featured speaker might result in more attendees than expected, especially at the local level. I encourage you to register as early as possible so that we know the level of attendance, and can make accommodations as necessary. We will follow the policy of IAAA and IAS first, and every one else as "first comefirst served".

Schedule Summary

	ochedule odminary	
Saturday, May 2,	2015	
8:30-9:00	Registration (with refreshments)	
9:00-10:30	Business Meetings	
10:45-11:45	Presentations	
11:45-1:00	Lunch at College Cafeteria	
1:00-3:00	Presentations	
3:15-5:00	Featured Presentation	
7:00 PM	Caravan tour: burial mounds, Saukenuk Village, Black Hawk's Home Site.	
Sunday, May 3, 2	015	
9:00 AM	Moline chert quarry tour	
11:00 AM	Albany Mounds and Lauren Young Mound Group tour	

Registration will take place in the Lobby of Building 1, main entrance. The registration fee of \$25 will cover the costs of the dinner-lunch, refreshments, featured speaker expenses, and miscellaneous expenses. Those who wish to only attend the featured speaker address will be charged \$10.

Please fill out the registration form below:
Name(s)
Address:
Telephone number: email
Registration fee: (\$25 X number in party) = Featured speaker fee: (\$10 x number of attendees) = Total:
Make checks out to the "Quad Cities Archaeological Society"

Please RSVP to Claire Flanagan, 5556 Charter Oaks Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722, (563) 332-6253, seeflan@gmail.com or Ferrel Anderson, 1923 East 13th St, Davenport, IA 52803, (563)324-0257, andersonfe@msn.com. Email replies are requested if payment is to be made at the door.

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



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CALL FOR ARTICLES AND PICTURES

The IAS Newsletter needs articles. Do you have something you'd like to share with the membership? Did you take photos at any of the meetings or field trips? Do you have a collection, individual artifacts, or a site that you would like to highlight? Let the newsletter editor know.

Email: Lowell@BearCreekArcheology.com

US Mail: Lowell Blikre

Bear Creek Archeology

P.O. Box 347

Cresco, Iowa 52136

NOTE THE CHANGE:

COMBINED SPRING MEETING
Iowa Archeological Society and
Illinois Assoc. for Advancement of Archaeology
Black Hawk Junior College, Moline, IL
Meeting Saturday and Sunday
May 2 and 3, 2015

Please consider presenting your recent interesting projects or discoveries Contact Ferrel Anderson 563-324-0257; andersonfe@msn.com http://www.museum.state.il.us/iaaa/

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please contact the IAS Membership Secretary:
Alan Hawkins
The University of Iowa,
Office of the State Archaeologist,
700 Clinton Street Building,
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1033,
(319) 384-0989,
alan-hawkins@uiowa.edu

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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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 the Newsletter Editor:

Lowell Blikre

Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.,

P.O. Box 347 Cresco, IA 52136

Lowell.Blikre@gmail.com

When submitting articles, please provide text, captions, tables, and figures separately. All photographs should be at least 300 dpi. Graphics should be high-resolution tiff or eps files or be scan-ready paper copies.

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