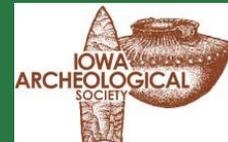


Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society

Fall 2018, Issue 243, Vol. 68 No. 3



Est. 1951

Thursday, May 24, 1951—THE CLAYTON COUNTY REGISTER, Elkader, Iowa—Page Four

Archeologists Formed Iowa Society Sat.

**Assisted by Wisconsin
Group at 2-Day Meet;
Proclaim Marching Bear
Mounds as Outstanding**

The Iowa Archeological society was formed by a group of enthusiasts at a two-day meeting at McGregor last Friday and Saturday.

They were assisted in the organization by 13 members of the Wis-

consin Archeological society from Milwaukee, who accompanied them on a conducted tour up the old military trail north of Marquette to the Marching Bear mounds which were proclaimed to be "equal to or better than any mounds in the country."

Dr. Robert H. Ritzenthaler, director of the anthropology department of the Milwaukee public museum, spoke at the Sunday afternoon session.

Officers elected were: Superintendent Wm. J. Kennedy of Effigy Mounds National Monument, McGregor, president; Dr. Henry P. Field, Decorah, vice-president, and Clifford E. Chase, Decorah, acting secretary-treasurer. A full time archeologist to be stationed at Effigy Mounds in the near future will automatically become secretary-treasurer of the society.

The Iowa group plans to incorporate and will issue a quarterly publication to be called the "Iowa Archeologist." The secretary-treasurer of the organization will be editor of the publication.

Mr. Kennedy is anxious to have a larger membership and pointed out that it is not necessary to be a professional archeologist to belong. "Anyone interested in Indians and the preservation of Indian antiquities is welcome," he said.

The next meeting of the Iowa Archeological society will be some

time in October either at Iowa City or Mt. Vernon, according to Mr. Kennedy.

Janee Becker of the Iowa Department of Transportation came across this article while conducting research into an area in Clayton County and Brennan Dolan sent it in. It is reprinted courtesy of The Clayton County Register.

In this Issue:

An Early Bow from Southern Iowa.....	2
Membership Dues Announcement	3
Collectors' Heyday : 1920s-1960s	4
David G. Stanley Retires	6
What's the Point?.....	7
Membership Information	8

AN EARLY BOW FROM SOUTHERN IOWA

Dale Clark

The bow has elicited interest among American archaeologists beyond identification criteria and brief general comments on presumed hunting efficiency. Decay of wood is produced by just a few conditions, moisture, oxygen, and suitable temperature. Removing any one of these will prevent decay. But in Midwestern sites conditions are much more likely to promote rather than prevent decay, and only rarely have organic portions of bows and arrows been preserved. For that reason, the major burden of identification has focused on the stone arrow tip, only one part of the complete weapon.

Generally speaking, the presence or absence of the bow and arrow as a method of prehistoric hunting practice employed by the occupants of prehistoric sites has been based on the size of the projectile points found at them. Only small, lightweight stone tips were used as arrow points. But the truth is that both large and small projectile points prove adequate when used with a bow.

There are many different dates out there for when the bow and arrow appeared in North America. In the Plains, small side-notched projectile points thought to represent arrow tips appear by A.D. 200 in the northern part and farther south, the earliest radiocarbon dates range between A.D. 1000 to 1600. Around A.D. 700, small triangular points suddenly appear across the Midwest and Southeast and along the Mississippi, the earliest dates are around A.D. 700 to 800.

Is it possible to find a bow made of wood here in Iowa? Yes, I found this one (Figure 1) along the Wayne and Lucas county line on a prehistoric site. At first, I did not realize what I had found, and it remained this way for about a year or so. One afternoon out artifact hunting, I picked up what I thought was an unusual walking stick. All artifact hunters know how important a walking stick is for balance, flipping rocks and reducing the time spent bending over to see what's on the ground ahead of you. After the artifact hunt I brought the unusual stick home and hung it in the garage without any study but occasionally looking at it from a distance. In the fall of 2017 I took a closer look. The piece of wood showed evidence of being carved, wider in the middle area and tapered to the ends. One end seems to be forked and the other end has a small piece missing, apparently broken. The center area shows its age by the decaying and age cracks throughout. The piece is a little over 4 feet long and is bowed in the middle.



Figure 1. Bow found by Dale Clark. Notice how the limbs are shaved to a round form, wider and thicker in the middle area. A part of the midsection is missing because of the rotting of the wood. One end is forked and the other end has been broken.

I had my doubts about it being a bow so I contacted the University of Iowa. They told me that it would be extremely rare, so it probably is not a bow but bring it with me the next time I was in the area. I took it to be identified and it turned out to truly be a bow. The age is the question now. I have found multiple age groups of artifacts in this area, all the way from Paleoindian to Historic. The particular site it was found on did not have historic artifacts, but just across the river was a multicomponent historic and prehistoric site. After having it identified, I was curious if others would find the same opinion. So, I took it to a Hawkeye Archeology show in northeast Iowa and the general consensus, among several bow makers, artifact hunters and collectors was that it is a bow, and that it was carved with a metal object and not a stone tool. It also was found to be made of wood from the walnut family. So, with these opinions, I have to form a story about the bow. It is made of walnut, it was shaved and formed probably by a knife or draw knife in historic times and was not completely rotted away like a prehistoric bow would have been, but it is a bow. Finding an ancient wooden bow is practically unheard of in our region. This find is rare, and where does a rare find need to be housed? Where people can view it (Figure 2). So, the new home of the bow is at the Prairie Trails Museum in Corydon, Iowa. It will be displayed in the area where prehistoric artifacts are present even though it probably is a historic artifact, just above the Iowa Archeology Timeline poster. The Prairie Trails Museum has a large display of local artifacts, both historic and prehistoric that were found by several artifact hunters and donators and this bow will continue to be part of saving our local history.



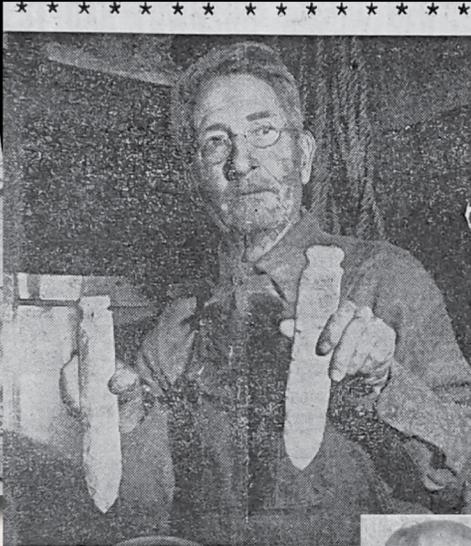
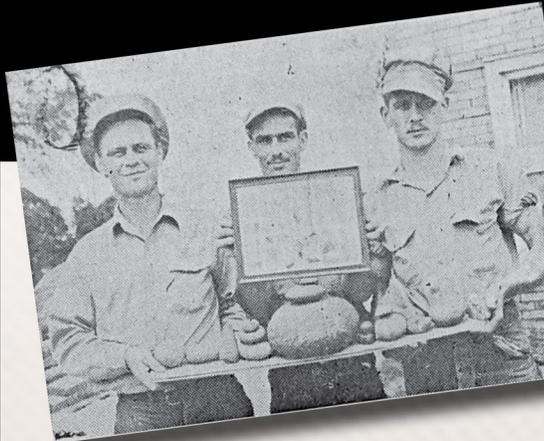
Figure 2. Dale Clark holding the bow in its display rack. This is how the bow will be displayed at the Prairie Trails Museum in Corydon Iowa. The walnut and ash wood display rack are made from trees in the county where the bow was found.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNOUNCEMENT

Yearly dues have increased by five dollars for all of the membership categories, except for student memberships which have been kept at the same price.

See the back page for the new membership dues amount.

Flashback



OH LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!
While David J. Conn of Boone, Ia., road contractor, was directing the making of a road through Dolliver park the other day, he ran across an old Indian hammer head. The stone was about six feet below the surface, and was exceptionally well shaped.



Collectors' Heyday: 1920s–1960s

By Bill Whittaker

While mining old Iowa newspapers for information to use in the Historic Indian Location Database, I frequently came across articles which featured large photos of people displaying artifacts. Sometimes it would be a boy smiling at an axe, or perhaps an older woman in front of elaborate displays of hundreds of points. Occasionally the photos would be more sinister, such as a group of kids proudly holding bones dug from a mound.

These photos are usually of little use for archaeological research. Once in a while there would be enough information in the accompanying article to either record a site or update a known site, but most of the time no real context was given for the artifacts.

These photos began appearing in small town newspapers in the 1920s, when newspaper photography became common, and continued through the 1960s. It's obvious why a local paper would run these snapshots, they were visually appealing, easy to make, somewhat newsworthy, and were interesting to the local readers, who probably knew the subjects personally.

After the 1960s the photos became much less common. The following years saw the death of many small-town papers as the newspaper industry shrank and consolidated, and larger regional papers would not use valuable page space for these kinds of photos. Artifact collecting also probably diminished as large sites with surface artifacts were picked over, and cultural and legal changes led to the end of digging mounds and burials.

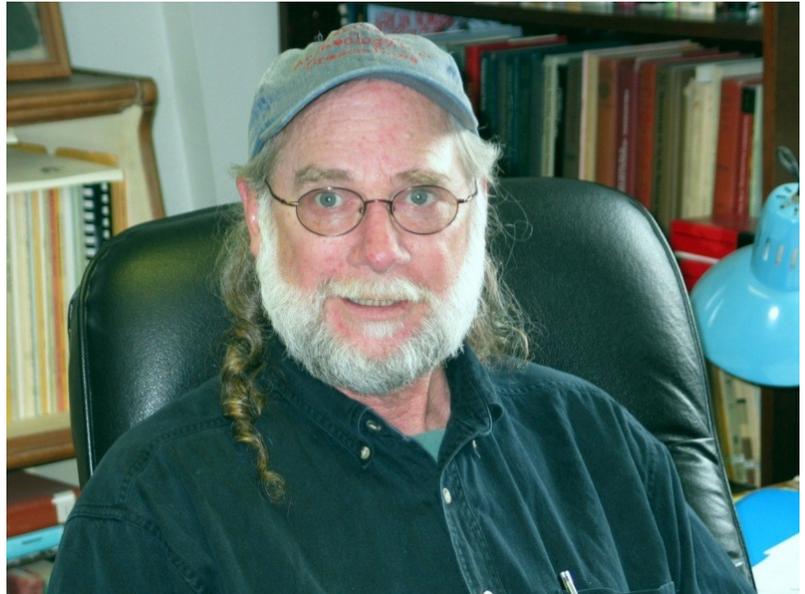


Collecting Indian relics has been a fascinating hobby



DAVID G. STANLEY RETIRES

There was a significant change to one of Iowa's archeological contracting companies early this year when Dave Stanley, founder of Bear Creek Archeology, retired. Dave began his archeological career in the mid-1970s after completing active duty in the US Navy. After his Naval service, Dave attended Luther College where he was involved in the mound surveys headed by Clark Mallam as well as other projects. After obtaining his master's degree from Northern Illinois University in 1983, Dave and Lori Stanley established the Highland Cultural Research Center, located in northeastern Iowa. Five years later, he started Bear Creek Archeology to compete for archeological contracts and to allow the Highland Cultural Research Center to focus on grant-funded projects.



Over the years, business at BCA grew, allowing Dave to hire several archeologists as full-time employees and to provide many others with their first field experiences. Under his leadership, BCA conducted over 2,400 projects. Regardless of how busy the company was, Dave encouraged his people to be active within the archeological and historic preservation community, including supporting the Iowa Archeological Society. As part of his commitment to preservation, Dave has been a member of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission for over 20 years and has initiated several projects to record the area rural schoolhouses.

In 2017, Dave decided to retire from BCA, leaving the company in the hands of one of his long-time employees. Since then he has remained active with the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission and has been reinvigorating the Highland Cultural Research Center to pursue his research interests. Free from the daily requirements of running a company like BCA, Dave can concentrate on upgrading his audio equipment, expanding his already vast collection of albums, and cheering on the Cubs.



Dave Stanley, with one of his least-practical field vehicles.

Thanks for all you've done for us and congratulations on retirement Dave. Don't pick up any hitchhikers.

WHAT'S THE POINT

LOWELL BLIKRE

For this installment, I'm submitting three points that were recently recovered in close proximity to each other during excavations in the Cedar River valley. These points were found quite deep below surface and all are presumed to be part of the same occupation.

Description: All three of these have moderately to heavily ground bases. The nearly complete point is 2.8 cm long, 1.9 cm wide, and 0.6 cm thick. The deep red color is believed to be due to heat-treatment and there is a small break at the tip. The more complete broken point is 2.3 cm wide and 0.7 cm thick, and the smaller basal fragment is 2.7 cm wide and 0.5 cm thick. Neither of the broken points appear to be heat-treated.

Let me know what you think.

If you have any points that you would like the membership to try to type, send me a picture and I'll include it a future issue of this column.



Last Issue's Point: The point from the previous issue (see below) has been typed as a Sedalia lanceolate, due to its size, irregular flaking pattern, and the excurvate blade edge. The point elicited responses from Dennis Sievers, Dick Conrad, Dan Boddicker, Jim Zalesky, Matt Kaufmann, Paul Naumann, and James Schmuecker. Some of these first interpreted it as a Paleoindian lanceolate type, until I responded to each that it was associated with a radiocarbon date of around 2290 BC. Dick Conrad and Matt Kaufmann both had a first response of Sedalia and Paul Naumann typed it as another similar Late Archaic lanceolate, a Red Ochre. After learning the associated radiocarbon date, Jim Zalesky and Dennis Sievers typed it as Sedalia and the others chose similar Late Archaic lanceolates.



Thanks to everyone to replied. I look forward to hearing from the readers about the set of points shown above. As a bonus to anyone still reading, the points from this issue are associated with older radiocarbon dates than the Sedalia point from the previous issue.

Contact me via email at: lowell@bearcreekarcheology.com

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CALL FOR ARTICLES AND PICTURES

The IAS Newsletter always 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
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Cresco, Iowa 52136

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 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.

Nominations should be sent by mail or e-mail to:

Mike Christensen
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mchristensen45@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Contact the IAS Membership Secretary:

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Voting	
Active	\$30
Household	\$35
Sustaining	\$40
Non-Voting	
Student (under 18)	\$15
Institution	\$40

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit, scientific society legally organized under the corporate laws of Iowa. Members of the Society share a serious interest in the archaeology of Iowa and the Midwest. The Newsletter is published four times a year.

All materials for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor:

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IAS WEBSITE

<http://archaeology.uiowa.edu/iowa-archeological-society>