

7-2008

## Archaeology on the Road: July 20–26, 2008

Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa

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## Flintknapping

Kevin Verhulst will be demonstrating flint knapping at each overnight stop.

*The 2008 route is 471 miles long and we will pass an average of 1.4 archaeological sites every mile we ride.*

If you see this . . .

ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE ROAD



ASK ME

on someone's t-shirt you can ask the wearer questions about archaeology

## The Lincoln Highway

Although broken up into several sections throughout the route, we will peddle a total of about 88 miles of the old Lincoln Highway, the first U.S. transcontinental highway. Overnight stops along the Lincoln Highway include Missouri Valley, Jefferson, and Ames.





## KICKOFF - MISSOURI VALLEY

### Artifact Road Show, Flintknapping Demonstration, and Tarkio Valley Sloth Display

On the opening evening of RAGBRAI in Missouri Valley, Sarah Horgen (Museum of Natural History, The University of Iowa) and Daniel Horgen (Office of the State Archaeologist, The University of Iowa) will present an "Artifact Road Show" where people are invited to bring prehistoric artifacts for identification, and learn the best way to care for their collections. No appraisals will be given for any artifacts brought to the program. A traveling exhibit

from the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, featuring the Tarkio Valley Giant Sloth site near Northboro in Page County, will also be on display along with actual fossils from the excavation. A flintknapping demonstration performed by Kevin Verhulst (Office of the State Archaeologist, The University of Iowa) will introduce visitors to the art of making chipped stone tools similar to those created by prehistoric Iowans. Samples of local raw

materials found in western Iowa that were commonly used by prehistoric peoples will also be on display, on loan from the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist's Lithic Raw Material Comparative Collection.

**Presenters:** Sarah Horgen, UI Museum of Natural History, and Daniel Horgen, Office of the State Archaeologist

**When:** 4:00pm, Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Campground C & D, Missouri Valley



**The Ice Age sloth reconstruction** (*Megalonyx jeffersonii* or "Jefferson's Ground Sloth") also known as "Rusty" is located in the museum's Iowa Hall, which is a 500 million year timeline exploring the natural and cultural history of our state.



The Tarkio Valley Giant Sloth was found with two juvenile sloths and is the second most complete skeleton of this species in the world!



## DAY 1 - MISSOURI VALLEY TO HARLAN

*The first roads in Harrison County were trails established by the various Native American groups who lived in or traversed the area, and many were still easily visible when the first Euro-American settlers moved into the county. Among the early travelers through Harrison County were members of the Mormon migration, gold seekers, and westward bound wagon trains.*

### “Archaeology of the Western Iowa Region: Connections with Identified Sites in Shelby and Harrison Counties”

Western Iowa has been the subject of formal archaeological investigations since the late 1800s. From the first reports of the late prehistoric Central Plains earthlodges in Glenwood in the 1880s to the Turin Man discovery in 1955 this region is known for its major archaeological discoveries. The unique character of the Loess Hills provides the setting for a long and varied Native American occupation. Investigations conducted in the last 50 years in Harrison and Shelby Counties have recorded a number of prehistoric sites. These sites have contributed to the greater understanding of the prehistoric occupation of this area.

Presenter: John G. Hedden Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist

When: 4:00pm,  
Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

Where: Main  
Campground, Harlan

Of the known shipwrecks in the Missouri River, the most famous is the **Bertrand**, which sank in 1865 near DeSoto Landing while en route to Montana. Thought to have gold, whiskey, and large amounts of money aboard, the Bertrand's location was sought out by many but she was not discovered again until 1968. The remains were found 28 feet beneath the surface, and 10,000 cubic feet of cargo were unearthed. No gold was recovered from the wreckage, but the thousands of ordinary goods recovered paint an extraordinary picture of frontier life. The cargo is currently housed in the Bertrand Conservation Laboratory at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge near Missouri Valley.



### The Bertrand Excavation



Photos courtesy of David Gradwohl



## DAY 2 - HARLAN TO JEFFERSON

### “A Walk Back Through Time”

People have lived in Iowa for at least 13,000 years, which is about 650 generations. For this presentation, the participants will take a walk back in time, where each step represents one generation. After the first 25 paces get us to the time of Columbus, we will continue traveling back in time, stopping every couple thousand years to talk about what it would have been like living in Iowa at that time. We'll develop an appreciation for how Native Americans adapted to the land, and changed their ways of life through time. Wear sturdy shoes as we will cover about half a mile, walking and talking as we go!

Presenter: Joe Alan Artz,  
Office of the State  
Archaeologist

When: 4:00pm,  
Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

Where: Greene County  
Historical Museum,  
219 East Lincolnway,  
Jefferson



Eureka Bridge, Jefferson

The 81 mile journey from Harlan to Jefferson takes us past 37 recorded archaeological sites and brings us back for one of our longest stretches along the old Lincoln Highway. We meet up with it again in the town of Scranton, just 8 miles west of Jefferson. As we peddle along what was the first transcontinental highway, we'll see remnants of gas stations and roadside motels from the early twentieth century, as well as Lincoln Highway markers that still dot the landscape. About 3 miles west of Jefferson we come to the North Raccoon River, and the historic Eureka Bridge that spans it. This beautiful 5-arch concrete bridge was erected along the Lincoln Highway in 1912 and is still in use today. While we make an overnight stop in Jefferson, we will continue along the old Lincoln Highway for another 9 miles on Day 3, en route to Ames.



## DAY 3 - JEFFERSON TO AMES

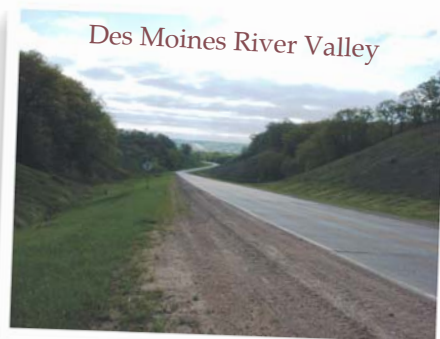
As you come down into the Des Moines River valley, you ride across a landscape that has long been home to Iowans. It is the area that contains the highest density of archaeological sites along the route. Sites here span the millennia of prehistory. Who left all these sites? Perhaps as long as 13,000 years ago, it was the **Paleo-Indians** that lived and hunted on land only recently vacated by the ice sheets of the latest glaciation. From 9000 to 3000 years ago, **Archaic** period hunters and gatherers ranged

across the valley, utilizing the rich array of resources. In the following **Woodland** period, from 3000 to 1000 years ago, Iowans were using pottery, were more sedentary, and even beginning the plant domestication that led to the agriculture that now dominates our state. A **Late Woodland** pottery style called "Saylor ware" was named after the area we're traveling through. Burial mound sites are found in the Des Moines valley including Boone Mound, the largest mound site west of the Mississippi. By

the **Late Prehistoric** period people in the valley had begun settling in small villages and intensified the cultivation of crops, including corn. By the late 1800s it was the **Euro-American** settlers who occupied the valley and left the remains of historic archaeological sites. In the 1970s, led by researchers from Iowa State University, extensive archaeological work related to the proposed Saylorville reservoir provided the impetus for the recording of many of the valley's sites.

*Currently there are over 23,000 recorded archaeological sites in Iowa.*

*Of these, 671 are within a mile of the 2008 route.*



## “Archaeology of a Horse Bonebed at Memorial Union, Iowa State University”

In late March of 2006 contractors working on improvements to the Iowa State University Memorial Union unearthed several pits containing tightly packed large animal bones, mostly belonging to horses, and an assortment of metal and glass artifacts. Matthew G. Hill, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at ISU, served as the



Photo courtesy of Matt Hill Patrick Brummel, former ISU student digging bonebed.

principal investigator on a nine-day dig at the site. In his presentation, Dr. Hill will discuss the discovery, excavation, and results of this effort to unlock a previously undocumented piece of Iowa State’s rich history.

When: 4:00pm, Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Where: The Campanile Room of the Iowa State Memorial Union, 2229 Lincolnway, Ames

### Burial Protection

In 1908 antiquarians dug into site 13BN29, a burial mound in Boone County, uncovering the human remains of 5 individuals. Because of this and other occurrences like it, Iowa, in 1976, became the first state in the nation to enact a law to protect ancient burials. Nationally, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 or NAGPRA as it has become known, now protects by law, the disinterment of Native American burials, as well as provides a process for returning Native American cultural items and human remains to culturally affiliated Indian tribes.



Boone Mound

To learn more about NAGPRA, go to: <http://www.nps.gov/history/nagpra/>.



## DAY 4 - AMES TO TAMA/TOLDEDO

### “Recent Historical Research into Sauk and Meskwaki Locations in Iowa”

Other than the government-sanctioned settlements, the nineteenth-century locations of Sauk and Meskwaki sites are poorly documented in Iowa. Recent historic research provides new insights into a few important Meskwaki and Sauk locations, including Quashquame’s Village near Montrose (ca. 1700–1840s); the Wishecomaque Village Cemetery in Des Moines (1843–

1846); a Sauk and Meskwaki ceremonial area of the 1840s and 1850s associated with prehistoric mounds in what is now downtown Des Moines; and historical evidence for the Meskwaki maintaining a village or villages along the Iowa River northwest of the current Settlement in the 1840s and 1850s. If time and interest allow, recent excavations at Fort



Des Moines No. 2 will be discussed; this was the military post which oversaw the Meskwaki and Sauk, 1843–1846.

Presenter: Bill Whittaker, Office of the State Archaeologist

When: 3:30-4:15pm, July 23, 2008

Where: Main Campground, Tama

### Meskwaki Settlement near Tama-Toledo

In 1856, the Meskwaki petitioned Governor James Grimes to become a trustee for the tribe in their purchase of 80 acres along the Iowa River bottomland in Tama County. The \$1000 paid included donated annuity payments, and the proceeds from the sale of horses, jewelry, and timber from the newly purchased plots. Today the Meskwaki own over 7000 acres near Tama. Over 1000 people are enrolled tribal members. The Meskwaki settlement, located four miles west of Toledo, Iowa, includes a Tribal Center containing the program and administrative offices and the Tribal Council Chambers; a Settlement School, an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center, and a Youth Center and Family Services building. The pow-wow grounds are located next to the Iowa River on Highway E-49, the Old Lincoln Highway, and three miles west of Tama, Iowa. The Meskwaki Casino and Hotel Complex and Meskwaki Trading Post are tribal-owned businesses situated along Highway 30.







## DAY 5 - TAMA/TOLEDO TO NORTH LIBERTY

*The home and trading post of the first known Euro-American settler in Johnson County is still preserved, 173 years after he built it. John Gilbert's Trading Post to the Meskwakis may not be standing, but it is still in evidence as archaeological site 13JH775, which lies partially in timber and partly in a cultivated field. Although only four test units, measuring about 3 by 6 feet total, have been excavated there, 10,024 artifacts were found! These include beads, bone buttons, gun parts, animal bones, and broken bottles.*

*Of the 18 counties that the 2008 route passes through, Johnson County, in east-central Iowa, has the greatest number of recorded sites, currently at 1253.*

*Artifacts from the Aicher Mound group in Johnson County represent the oldest collection in the State Repository.*

**Woodpecker Cave** (site 13JH202) is actually a rock overhang nestled in the valley of a small stream flowing into the larger Iowa River, a place that provided shelter as well as access to a wide variety of resources. The site was found when archaeologists were looking for sites that might be flooded by the creation of the Coralville Reservoir in the late 1950s. In the top layer, archaeologists recovered 40 stone tools, pottery, and bone tools, as well as shell and bone remains of animals used for food. The pottery found was similar to that found at Effigy Mound sites, suggesting that the site may also be of similar age, over 1000 years old. A second deeper layer had tools that must have been even older. The materials found during excavation are now

housed at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C.



Woodpecker Cave, North Liberty



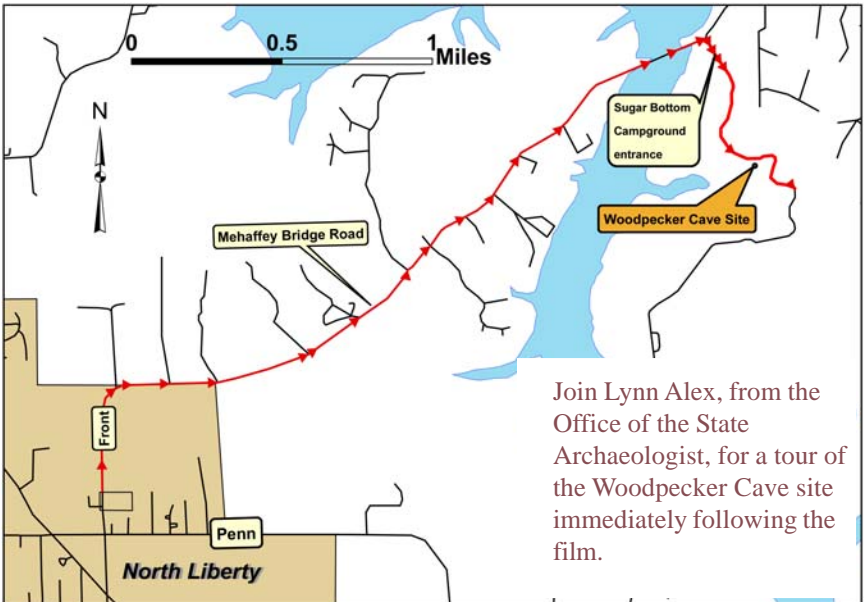
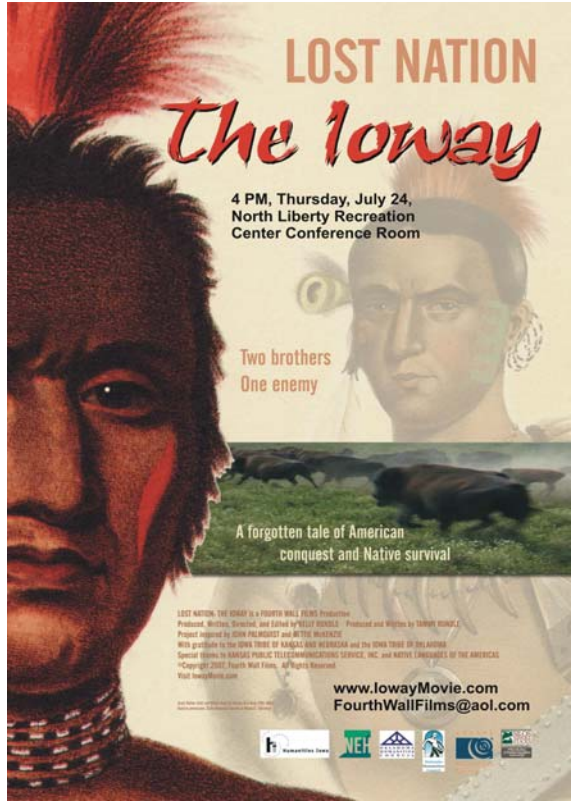
*Lost Nation: The Ioway* tells the dramatic true tale of two brothers' struggle to save their people from inevitable American conquest, and the Ioway's current fight to reclaim and maintain their unique Native history and culture.

Presenters: Kelly and Tammy Rundle, Film Makers

When: 4:00pm, Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>

Where: North Liberty Community Center, Conference Room, 530 W. Cherry Street

(Booth next door at the North Liberty Community Library, 520 W. Cherry Street)



Map created by Colleen Eck



## DAY 6 - NORTH LIBERTY TO TIPTON

### “How did they get around? Transportation through time in Cedar County and beyond”

We think nothing of the variety of modern travel options when we wish to go somewhere. We are likely familiar with the various modes of transportation from our time and that of our grand parents and even earlier forebearers. Whether for fun or necessity, we all need to be able to move about our world, in different weather conditions and

changing seasons. But what about prehistoric peoples? From hunting, to trading, to seasonal camps, or yearly relocation, prehistoric peoples

used multiple way of getting around. This presentation will examine the variety of transportation methods used by both historic and prehistoric peoples in Cedar County and beyond.



Mark Anderson, teaching student how to use an atlatl.

Presenter: Mark Anderson, Office of the State Archaeologist

When: 4:00pm, Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

Where: Old Cedar County Jail, corner of Lynn and 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Tipton

### On the Road . . .

About four miles from Tipton, along a small creek, is archaeological site 13CD2. Here, the Meskwakis returned every spring from about the 1840s until the 1870s, camping along the creek and making maple sugar. Today, only a few artifacts can still be found at this site. Artifacts found there have included broken pieces of glass, fire-cracked rocks (hearth or campfire rocks), a spile (tree-tapper) holder, and a trap part. This site is located in a farm field. No maple trees remain.

Moving south from the maple sugaring site about 15 miles was an 1830s Meskwaki village (site 13CD14). This village was fortified to protect the villagers from a possible attack by the Sioux. No such attack ever occurred at this particular village. Directly across the Cedar River from the village was a trading post, archaeological site 13CD13. The village is within a cultivated field today. The trading post is in timber and protected by two landowners who are thrilled to have such an interesting site on their property.



## DAY 7 - TIPTON TO LE CLAIRE

**“The Mississippi Valley: Native American Homeland from the time of the Glaciers to the Black Hawk War”**

Ferrel Anderson, President of the Quad Cities Archaeological Society and lifelong resident of the Mississippi Valley, will paint a picture with a slide program of human life in the great valley from the earliest times to the tragic end of Native American presence with the Black Hawk War of 1832. Scott County in Iowa and its neighbor across the Mississippi in Illinois, Rock Island County, were the center stage for Indian settlement and life throughout this period, and contain many landmarks commemorating their presence. Enjoy the adventure of the finding 13,000 year old Clovis spear points of the Paleo people who hunted the mammoth, to the



The Mississippi Valley

archaeological excavations of 2,000 year old landmarks such as the Cook Mound Group which revealed the exotic materials and artifacts typical of a culture named the Hopewell that is still an enigma today. We will end the saga with the excavations of a Sauk Indian village site that was occupied from 1790-1810 and with historical accounts by the military and the

earliest settlers that give us a more complete picture of how these people lived and how they coped with the tidal wave of American settlement.

Presenter: Ferrel Anderson, President of the Quad Cities Archaeological Society

When: 2:00pm, Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>

Where: Le Claire Community Library, 323 Wisconsin Street

*The Rummells-Maske site in Cedar County, contained a cache of stone spear points (Clovis style) dating to the end of the Ice Age, more than 10,000 years ago.*



# The Iowa Archeological Society

## Purpose of the Society

- To unite those interested in the archaeology of Iowa.
- To foster cooperation among professional and amateur archaeologists.
- To promote the study, investigation, and interpretation of prehistoric and historic remains in Iowa.
- To provide for the dissemination of knowledge and research in archaeology and related disciplines.
- To encourage the recording and preservation of sites and artifacts.
- To develop a constructive attitude toward these cultural resources through education and public involvement.

## Society Activities

The IAS meets twice a year in the spring and fall at locations throughout the state. The meetings are a venue to learn about Iowa's rich and interesting past through workshops, site reports, and special presentations. At the spring meeting, the Society presents the Keyes-Orr Award to an individual whose contributions to the IAS and Iowa archaeology are particularly meritorious.

The Society also offers occasional supervised excavations and field trips. An Archaeological Certification Program gives members the opportunity to learn how to discover and record archaeological sites, assist in excavation and laboratory activities, and preserve Iowa's archaeological heritage for the future.

Six active local chapters based in Cherokee, Decorah, the Quad Cities, Keokuk, Des Moines, and Cedar Falls offer presentations, news of current events, outreach activities, and opportunities to share discoveries.

## Benefits of Membership

In addition to Society activities, all members receive two publications:

- *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society*, published annually, carries reports of recent investigations conducted in Iowa, and
- *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society*, published quarterly, offers short articles, notices of upcoming activities and events, and local chapter news.

The Office of the State Archaeologist also maintains an email list-serve to announce events of interest to members.

**Learn More....** [www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS](http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS)

