

WisArch News

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Archeological Society

Lizard Mound: Update to One of Wisconsin's Premier Mound Groups



Photograph by Andrew Jalbert

Aerial Photograph of Lizard Mound, Washington County. Now managed by the Wisconsin DNR, the site is one of the largest mound groups in the state to be open to the public and the subject of an article beginning on page 15.

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Wisconsin Archeological Society

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The editor appreciates the assistance of Peyton Flanders for help in formatting this issue.



Affiliated Organizations

Charles E. Brown Archaeological Society

The Charles E. Brown Chapter meets monthly (except the summer months) at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month, at the Wisconsin Historical Society Auditorium, 816 State Street in Madison, across from the Union, unless otherwise noted. Contact Joe Monarski at jrmonar@frontier.com.

Kenosha County Archaeological Society

The Kenosha County Archaeological Society meets on the second Saturday of the months of October, December, February and April at 1:30 pm at the Kenosha Public Museum, 550 First Ave., Kenosha, Wisconsin. Contact Donald Shelton at dgshelton@wi.rr.com. Information on events at the Kenosha Public Museum can be found at www.kenosha.org/museum/.

Milwaukee Meetings of the Wisconsin Archeological Society

Milwaukee meetings of the Wisconsin Archeological Society are held at the UW-Milwaukee Campus in either Sabin Hall or in the Union. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month during the academic year (September through May). Guest lectures begin at 7:00 pm. Contact Seth Schneider at treasurer@wiarcheologicalsociety.org.

Robert Ritzenthaler Society

The Robert Ritzenthaler Chapter meets on the second Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 pm, September through May. Meetings are held at Room 202, Harrington Hall, on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Campus. Contact William Wasemiller at william.wasemiller@sial.com.

Rock River Archeological Society

Monthly meetings of the Rock River Archeological Society are held on the third Wednesday of the month, from September through April, at 7:00 pm, at the Visitor's Center, Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. This facility is accessible via Highway 28 between Mayville and Horicon. The Rock River Chapter invites you to visit their weblog at <http://rockriverarch.blogspot.com>. Contact Julie Flemming at rras.president@gmail.com.

Three Rivers Archaeological Society

Meetings of the Three Rivers Archaeological Society had been held on the second Monday of every month (except July and August), alternating between the Macktown Living History Education Center (Rockton, IL) and venues in Beloit, Wisconsin at Beloit College and the Beloit Public Library. Currently Inactive.

UW-La Crosse Archaeological Club

The Archaeology Club provides a social and academic outlet for UW-La Crosse students interested in archaeology and/or anthropology. The Club provides speakers, field trips, and presentations. Contact Valerie Watson at watson.valerie@uwlax.edu.

Society Social at the Historic Indian Agency House a Success

Submitted by Jean Dowiasch

Members of the Wisconsin Archeological Society met at the Historic Indian Agency House (HIAH) in Portage for a day of excavating, atlatl throwing, blacksmith demonstrations, and tours of the HIAH on Saturday, August 13. Approximately 70 members of the public joined archaeologists Connie Arzigian (UW-La Crosse), Dan Joyce (Director Emeritus and Curator of Archaeology, Kenosha Museum Campus), Cindy Kocik (Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center), and John Wackman (retired) in their continuing efforts to locate the agency blacksmith shop. Historic artifacts recovered from the excavations help expand the historical understanding of how the Fort Winnebago Indian Agency functioned in the early 1830s. The nails reflect a wide range of construction techniques, including hand-wrought nails to modern wire and machine headed. The nails, along with window glass, fragments of mortar and plaster and flecks of white paint, may indicate some sort of residence or similar structure that postdated the initial Agency House use. Animal bones, including both bird and mammal fragments, as well as ceramics suggest kitchen midden debris. An 1865 5-cent piece was also recovered. Adam Novey, Executive Director of the HIAH, then provided the Society with an evening lecture on the site's history "Crossroads of Wisconsin History: Revisiting the Portage of 1832." Thanks to the HIAH for inviting the Society to join in their event and the Trails Lounge Supper Club for hosting the evening social.



Wisconsin Archeological Society Tent at the Historic Indian Agency House.

Ashton Jenks the 2022 Recipient of the Richard and Carol Mason Memorial Grant

Submitted by Cindi Styles

Congratulations to Ashton Jenks, the recipient of the 2022 Richard and Carol Mason Memorial Grant, awarded by the Wisconsin Archaeological Society to assist members enrolled in Wisconsin archaeological field schools. The grant is jointly funded by the children of Richard and Carol Mason and the Society, in memory of the Mason's significant contributions to Wisconsin archaeology. Ashton describes her experience in the following essay.

Thank You for the Richard P. and Carol A. Mason Grant

by Ashton Jenks

This summer I had the honor to attend Geté Anishinaabe Izhichigéwin (or “ancient Indigenous lifeways”) Community Archaeology Project (GAICAP), which is a project done in collaboration with the Red Cliff THPO office with the intention of answering their questions about their past. The field school also aids in Tribal Monitor training, in order to support more Indigenous participation in archaeology. I learned so much more than I thought a field school could teach, including cataloging practices, how to dig a shovel test without root clippers, how to take float samples from a feature, and even how to survive in a tent for six weeks, amongst so many other things. However, the thing that stuck out the most to me was the community aspect of the project. Seeing how what we were excavating was connected to real things today, and not just a piece of the past floating in an ambiguous situ, breathed life into the work. Through lectures on the disturbing ethics of the archaeology of the past as well as speaking with current Indigenous archaeologists, as well as watching the blossoming of the relationship my professors had begun to cultivate for years before I came to Red Cliff, I was also exposed to the fluidity of the history of archaeology itself. Additionally, I learned about real world jobs, such as CRM and other forest management duties such as fire line archaeology, that in my normal academic classes just hadn't been introduced to me before. As such, I am beyond honored and grateful to have received the Richard P. and Carol A. Mason Grant from the Wisconsin Archeological Society, as it has helped make something that was a formative experience all the more accessible.



Ashton Jenks

Regional Research

A DStretch Application for Pictographs at Elk Ledge Rock Art Site (47Ia-0169) Iowa County, Wisconsin

Robert “Ernie” Boszhardt
Driftless Pathways LLC
Lodi, Wisconsin

Elk Ledge rock art site (47Ia-0169) is located within a tributary valley of Trout Creek in Iowa County Wisconsin. Trout Creek descends from an east-west trending ridge to join the Lower Wisconsin River. The ridge divides drainages of the Lower Wisconsin to the north from the Pecatonica River of the Rock River system to the south and served as a military road to Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien during Wisconsin’s territorial period.

The ridge top rests upon Ordovician age Galena formation dolomite which is underlain by St Peters Sandstone. Erosion has exposed numerous sandstone outcrops in tributary headwaters such as Trout Creek. These outcrops include fissure caves, dome-shaped shelters, and ledges with slight overhangs, many of which were used by people for habitation and rock art. The area is currently farmed with forests in the steep valleys. Prior to American settlement the region would have been dominated by prairie and oak savanna, so that outcrops, shelters, and rock art would have been much more visible.

Elk Ledge was first recorded by David Lowe during his extensive 1986 rock art survey of this and adjacent valleys (Lowe 1987). During that survey he identified 35 shelters with evidence of past human use, including 23 with rock art, and subsequently continued the effort to ultimately report approximately 200 sites. The rock art in this region is dominated by petroglyphs, but Lowe also documented several pictographs. The art at Elk Ledge is situated on four vertical faces and consists of at least 25 carvings and four red-pigmented glyphs (Lowe 1987:358-366).

One pictograph was located on face 1 that Lowe described as “a small area of red pigment that has been damaged by the spalling of the rock” (1987:359). Two of the pictographs were located on face 2. One is a composite petroglyph/pictograph that “appears to be an antlered animal (elk?) with three diagonal lines across the face (Lowe 1987:360). He included a drawing of this glyph adding arrows to point out red pigment (see Figure 1 Top). The second pictograph on face 2 was “an indistinguishable area of red pigment” (ibid). The fourth pictograph was located on face 3 and was described as “a red painted anthropomorphic? figure” (ibid). Lowe also illustrated this pictograph within a drawing of the lower panel of face 3, which also contains multiple bird and turkey track petroglyphs (see Figure 2).

In February 2009, Katherine Stevenson visited the Elk Ledge rock art site and took nearly 20 pictures, which she shared with the author as digital (jpg) files on a compact disk. During a 2021 review of those pictures, ones that included pictographs were subject to DStretch; a rock art research tool developed by Jon Harmon that allows digital images to be manipulated through a series of decolorization levels. The results can enhance pictographs and has been successfully applied in Wisconsin at Gottschall Rockshelter (Boszhardt 2013, 2015), Tainter Cave (Boszhardt 2003; Schrab and Boszhardt 2016), the Geske Glyphs at Silver Mound (Boszhardt and Benden 2022a; Schrab and Boszhardt 2016), and the Konkle pictographs in SE Minnesota (Boszhardt 2016).

Stevenson's images of all four Elk Ledge pictograph areas were run through the DStretch Program. The results were mixed due in part to erosions between 1987 and 2009 and relatively low resolution digital photographs available in 2009.

Face 1 : Lowe reported this as a small red remnant damaged by exfoliation. This pictograph was not visible on Stevenson's 2009 photographs of this face, and DStretch was unable to bring clarity to what this glyph originally represented.

Face 2 – Upper (Figure 2). This is the possible elk pictograph/petroglyph identified by Lowe as having three diagonal lines across the face area. Stevenson took a closeup image of this glyph and several DStretch renderings clarified the red pigment substantially. These reveal four – five diagonal lines across the face area, a fairly distinct snout with three horizontal lines below the chin, which might represent an elk beard similar to a petroglyph at Gullickson's Glen (Boszhardt and Benden 2022b:62; Schrab and Boszhardt 2016). In addition, an area that Lowe drew as an indistinct blob in the abdominal area clearly shows in DStretch as a smaller quadruped. That smaller animal appears to face to the right, and may represent a calf or fawn nursing, similar to a nursing bison calf at Gullickson's Glen Rockshelter (Boszhardt and Benden 2022b; Schrab and Boszhardt 2016).

Face 2 Lower (Figure 3). Lowe described this as indistinguishable, but DStretch reveals this to consist of a human with upraised arms and an oval mark. Images of humans with upraised arms are commonly attributed to powerful shaman-like figures (Schrab and Boszhardt 2016:17, 62). It is possible that the oval mark indicates a bag such as a medicine bundle.

Face 3 (Figure 4). Lowe suggested that this pictograph was anthropomorphic and drew it as facing to the right with an extended hand. Stevenson's photograph of the adjacent thunderbird petroglyph did not capture all of this pictograph. The DStretch application reveals an oval "head" with an upward trending curved line that equates to the arm. Unfortunately, the hand area is missing from the picture. As Lowe drew the image, the body appears to be a narrow, tapered form.

In summary, DStretch applications enhanced early digital photographs of red pictographs at Elk Ledge Rock Art site. These add new insight into the face 2 pictographs including the apparent elk (Figure 5) and a human/shaman (Figure 6). It is likely that modern higher resolution digital images would produce clearer DStretch enhancements of the pictographs at this site, although

this may be countered by continual erosion. Over time, Lowe reported a handful of other sites with pictographs in that portion of the Driftless Area, and it is recommended that these also be revisited and digitally photographed for DStretch application.

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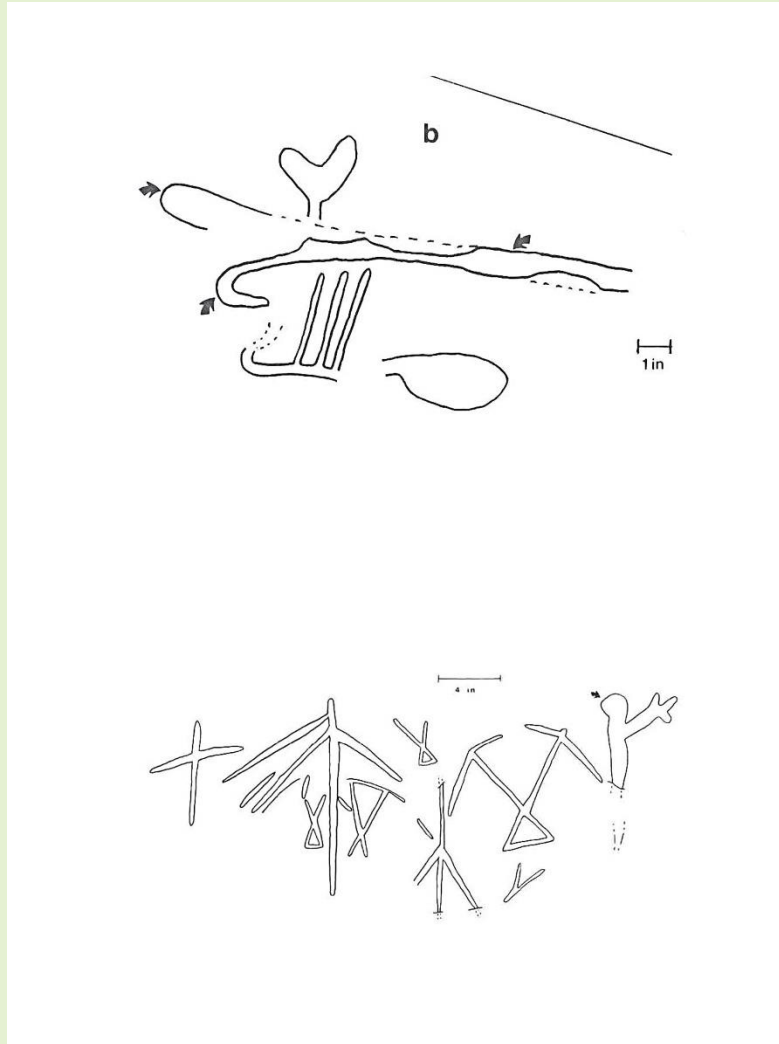


Figure 1: David Lowe (1987) drawings of composite pictograph/Petroglyph panels at Elk Ledge. Face 2-Upper (top) and Face 3 (bottom). Arrows point to areas of observed red pigment.



Figure 2: Face 2-Upper pictograph from 2009 Stevenson photograph (top) and DStretch of same in “yre” setting (bottom).

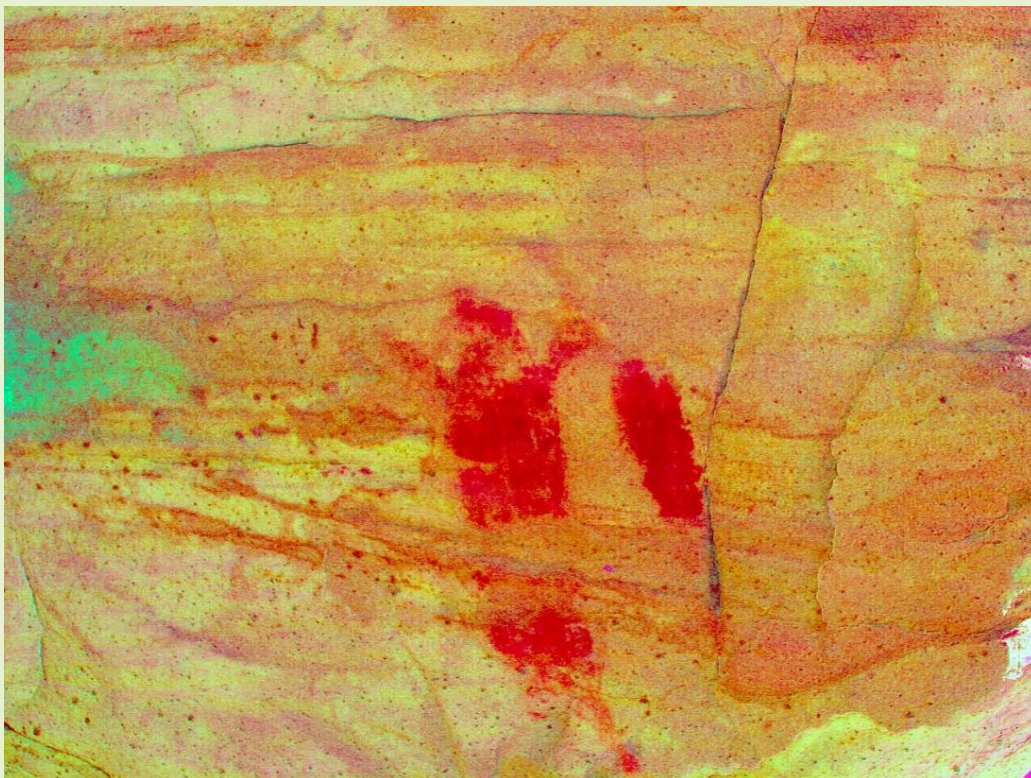


Figure 3: Face 2-Lower pictograph from 2009 Stevenson photograph (top) and DStretch of same in "lre" setting (bottom).

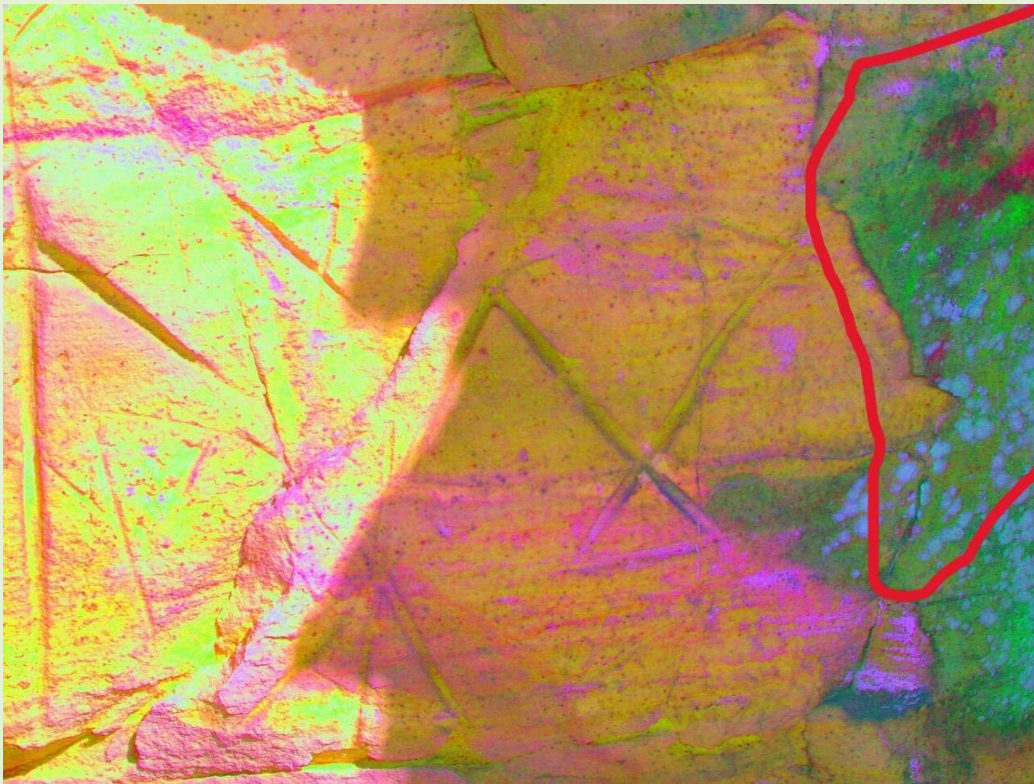


Figure 4: Face 3 partial pictograph from 2009 Stevenson photograph (at right side of top) and DStretch of same in yds setting (bottom).

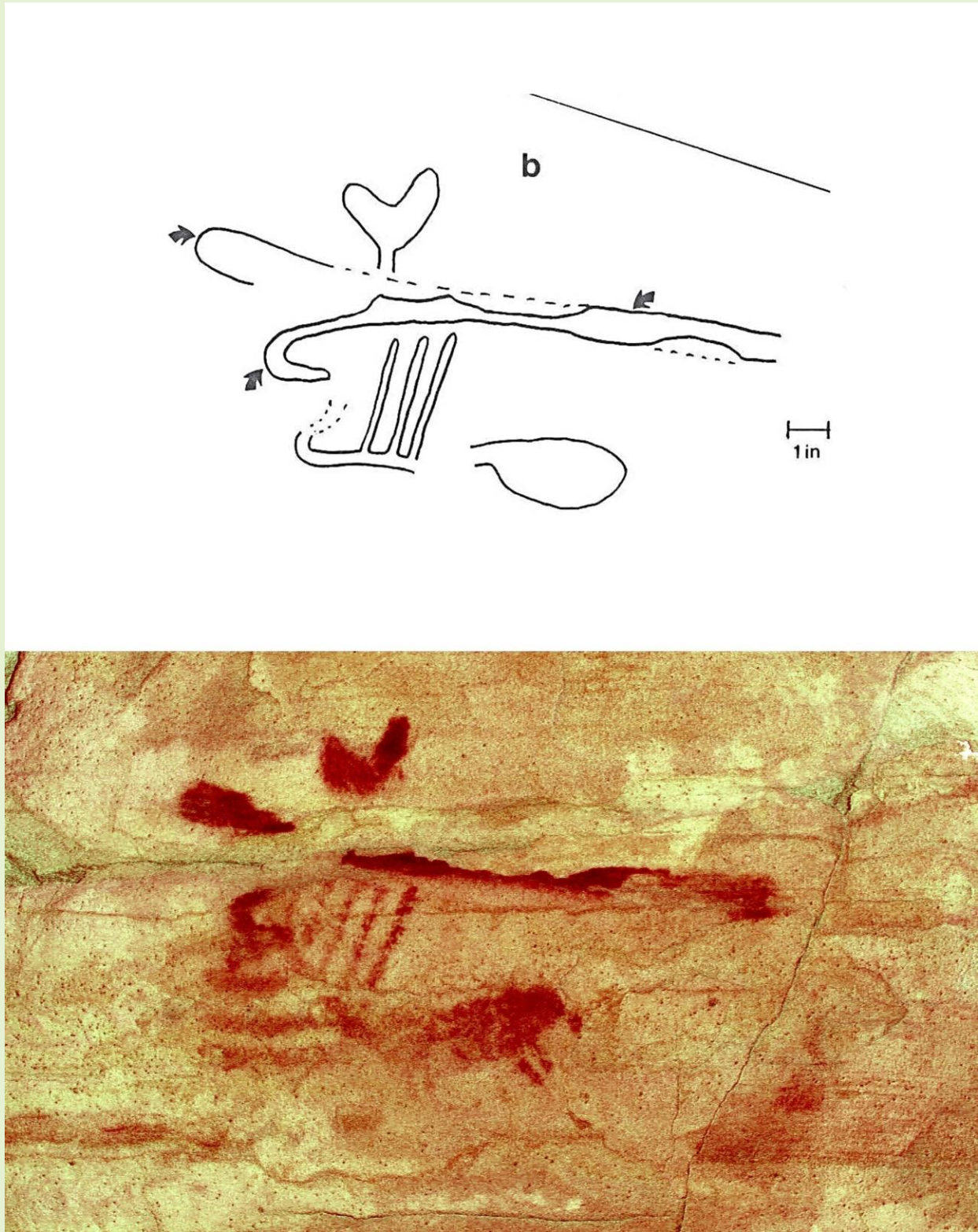


Figure 5: Comparison of Lowe's 1987 drawing and DStretch photo enhancement for Face 2-Upper pictograph.

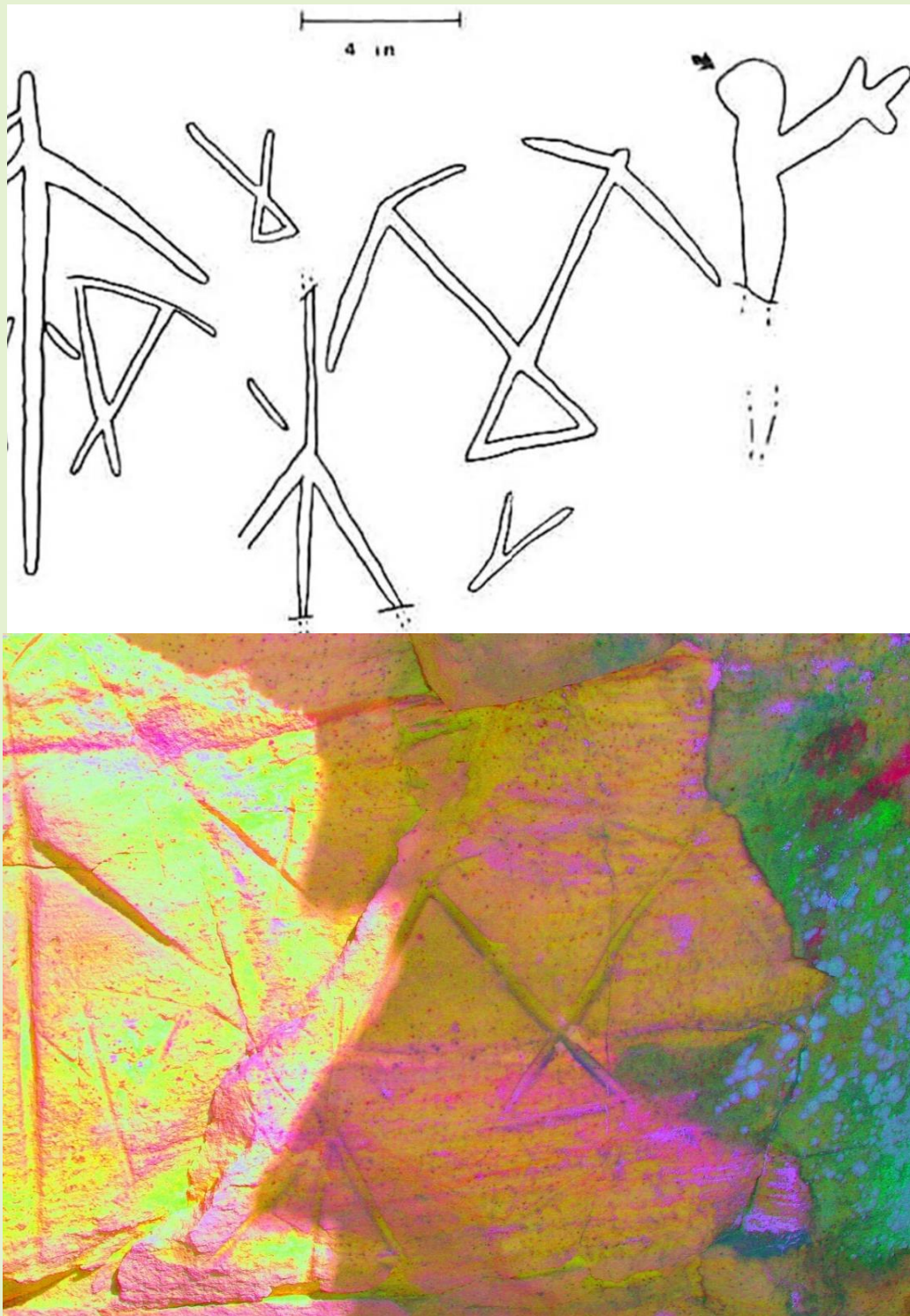


Figure 6: Comparison of Lowe's 1987 drawing and DStretch photo enhancement for Face 3 pictograph.

Lizard Mound: A National Register of Historic Places Update to One of Wisconsin's Premier Mound Groups

Kathryn C. Egan-Bruhy and Mark E. Bruhy
Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc.

In 2021, through Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) funding, Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (Commonwealth) conducted field documentation of Lizard Mound (47-WT-0001/BWT-0121) as part of the preparation of an update to the 1970 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) registration. As with many NRHP registrations prepared shortly after the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which established the National Register, Lizard Mound's documentation was brief and highly generalized. With a growing understanding of mound sites associated with the Effigy Mound ritual complex, the time seemed right to expand on Lizard Mound's initial NRHP documentation. This update, as requested by the WHS, called for both refined field documentation of site features and clarification of Lizard Mound's cultural context.

As it is known to many, Lizard Mound is a remarkable ceremonial center and cemetery, and as Lynne Goldstein has observed, it is considered to be "one of the best preserved and most diverse Effigy Mound groups in Wisconsin" (Goldstein 1993:217). Further, the lengthy record of Lizard Mound investigations is a reflective chronicle of the history of Wisconsin archaeology, one going back to the site's initial documentation in 1836 (GLO 1836).

Lizard Mound is located in Washington County, northeast of the city of West Bend. It has recently gone through a change of ownership, and as of January of 2022, it is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR); one of the largest mound groups in the state to be open to the public.

Lizard Mound's documented site features once included no less than 61 mounds (Figure 1). Largely as a result of agricultural activity, and as documented by Commonwealth's 2021 investigation, there remain 28 extant mounds (see for example, Figures 2-4), as well as a natural "conical mound" (Mound 19), preserved within Lizard Mound State land, with an additional three mounds on the private property to the east of the state property.

The History of Lizard Mound Documentation

As noted above, the site was first reported in 1836 when General Land Office surveyors produced a brief sketch of three mounds and penned a short note: "[a]long N. between 31 and 32 Note: from 38-56 chains and about 6 chains each side of the line are about 40 artificial mounds" (GLO 1836). Next, in the 1850s Increase A. Lapham, self-taught pioneer scientist whose influences continue to inform our understanding of Wisconsin history, visited the site. Along with county surveyor L. L. Sweet, they provided the first map of the site (Lapham 1855: Plate XI). Subsequently, circa 1885, Stephen Peet, clergyman and archaeologist, visited the site and reported that:

The locality in West Bend presents ... a very large group of animal effigies. These effigies are scattered promiscuously over the surface, once nearly covering with their massive forms the thirty acres of forest in which they are situated.

Some of them have been destroyed and the area has now been reduced to about twenty acres (1885:298).

In 1883, perhaps assisted by Stephen Peet, Professor H. P. Torney of Milwaukee, produced the most accurate map of the southern portion of the site to date (Torney 1883). The map contains some inaccuracies in mound orientation, and its style is somewhat whimsical in its depiction of mound forms (Rosebrough 2010:2401). Peet published his map of the mounds in 1890 although it was likely recorded circa 1885. This map illustrates mounds absent on Torney's map but also contains some inaccuracies.

In 1903, avocational archaeologist Alphonse Gerend (1903) submitted a brief report on Lizard Mound to the WHS. He stated that the conical mounds were six feet or less in height and 50 feet in diameter and he described one of the largest mounds, a "lizard," measuring 150 feet in length. He also noted that he had heard that a West Bend physician had a large number of skulls from the mounds.

During his second visit to the site in 1936, eminent Wisconsin archaeologist Charles E. Brown observed:

There are twenty-three mounds, all but two of which are in a woodlot, these latter mounds extending outside the woodlands to the edge of a cultivated field. All of the mounds are linear, conical and oval in form except five of these being effigy mounds (a turtle, a bird effigy and two panthers). The turtle is peculiar among many turtle effigies in having curved limbs, the two bird effigies have bodies of a long tapering form. The heads of the two birds are directed towards each other and are only a short distance apart. The heads of the two panther mounds are also directed towards each other. Some of the short linear or oval mounds are nearly five feet high with rather steep sides. . . They are near a creek which has its source in a spring and which is a tributary of the Milwaukee River (C. Brown 1936).

As clarified by Rosebrough (2010:2400) and noted above, the site initially included as many as 61 mounds. 26 linear, 16 panther effigies, nine conical, five long-tailed quadruped effigies, two goose effigies, one water spirit effigy, one tapering linear, and one club linear.

Avocational investigations were reported to have occurred throughout the first half of the twentieth century, often involving uncontrolled excavations, some reportedly resulting in the removal of human remains. It was, however, an avocational investigation that resulted in a remarkably detailed site documentation that has served as a basis for Commonwealth's NRHP update. Specifically, Kermit Freckman, longtime member of the Wisconsin Archeological Society, in association with the Milwaukee Public Museum, carefully mapped the site during the summer of 1941. Reporting his investigation in *The Wisconsin Archeologist*, Freckmann (1942) generated a detailed map of the mounds that were extant in 1941, numbered the mounds and provided detailed descriptions of their size, location and condition.

In 1960, Lee A. Parsons, of the Milwaukee Public Museum, excavated five mounds in the park: one panther effigy; one tapering linear; one linear; one oval; and one conical. Reporting his investigation in *The Wisconsin Archeologist*, he noted that the mounds appeared to have been looted but that intact features were found in Mound 18. Further, he reported that Mound 19, an oval, is a natural feature (Parsons 1960). Though seemingly natural, only future research will

determine how the mound was perceived or utilized by the site's Late Woodland occupants. Later, in 1989, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee conducted a field survey of the site area and in doing so, verified Freckmann's observation that there was no surficial evidence of the mounds to the west of the site (Koenings and Goldstein 1990).

The most recent notable archaeological investigation of Lizard Mound took place in 1992, when Commonwealth conducted archaeological survey and mechanical stripping through the western portion of the site in advance of natural gas pipeline development (Egan and Weir 1992). Their investigations were directed at identifying potential mortuary-related activities associated with the western mounds that had not been visible since the turn of the century. As a result, two flexed human burials and a pre-contact post mold were identified, along with small amounts of lithic debitage, Madison Cord Impressed ceramics, and a Madison Triangular point. Neither of the burials were found to be associated with mapped mounds and were assigned a separate site number 47-WT-0203. Rosebrough (2021) has posited that such non-mound burials may be associated with off-mound burial preparation and rituals. Unfortunately, this portion of the site has continued to be cultivated and likely lacks archaeological integrity. Commonwealth's investigation also found evidence of a Middle Archaic occupation.

In summary, as part of the NRHP update, Commonwealth was able to expand upon and refine the site's cultural context using the expansive and lengthy record of site investigations vis-à-vis more recent assessments of Effigy Mound ritual complex (cf. Rosebrough 2010, 2021). Secondly, field documentation relying on previous site descriptions, augmented by the analysis of aerial imagery and LiDAR topographic mapping, has resulted in a more refined documentation of Lizard Mound's spatial and morphological attributes. Importantly, it is acknowledged that our current characterization of Lizard Mound rests on the investigations and interpretations of many avocational and vocational archaeologists through the course of two centuries.

Site Description and NRHP Registration

As noted, Lizard Mound consists of 28 extant mounds, as well as a natural "conical mound" (Mound 19), preserved within Lizard Mound State property, with an additional three mounds on the private property to the east of the state land. Several of the mounds were looted historically and subsequently restored around 1950 (Parsons 1960:54). Despite these activities, with the establishment of public ownership in 1948, the site retains integrity and the potential to convey significant information regarding the Late Woodland Effigy Mound ritual complex. It was initially listed on the NRHP in October 1970 (National Register Reference No. 70000038). In April 1996 it was included as one of three mound groups, the largest and most intact of the three, comprising the NRHP archaeological district entitled the Washington County "Island" Effigy Mound District. Currently, the updated NRHP registration (Egan-Bruhy and Bruhy 2022) has been accepted by the Historic Preservation Office, WHS, and will be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register, National Park Service.

Regarding its period of use, the time of construction and utilization is based on mound morphology relative to other sites associated with the Effigy Mound ritual complex as it has been defined by Rosebrough (2010:16). Its period of use is further supported by cross-dating ceramics recovered through Phase I investigations within the site area including Madison ware (Egan and Weir 1992). Though limited excavations of some mounds were conducted by Parsons (1960), none of the excavated materials have been subjected to chronometric analysis. Pending future

investigations and analyses, however, it can be said that the Lizard Mound site was constructed and utilized by Late Woodland stage populations sometime between AD 750 and 1200, thus defining its period of significance. The societal affiliation of those who initially constructed and utilized the Lizard Mound site is defined as the Horicon and Kekoskee phases of the Late Woodland stage. The Horicon and Kekoskee phases are two of several distinct Late Woodland societies in southern Wisconsin who, through contact and information exchange, participated in the Effigy Mound ritual complex.

Based on Commonwealth's update which expanded upon contextual and morphological aspects of this important property, Lizard Mound is clearly a remarkable pre-contact Native ceremonial center and cemetery that is eligible for the NRHP, under Criterion D at the State level of significance, in the areas of prehistoric archaeology and religion. Achieving a more refined understanding of Lizard Mound, within the broader context of Late Woodland stage cultural adaptation, can address a series of important themes in prehistory that include effigy mound ceremonialism, socio-political organization, culture change, cosmology, and mortuary and funerary practices.

Lizard Mound Legacy and Stewardship

As it is widely understood and in summary, Lizard Mound is recognized as a significant archaeological site that holds the promise to address important research questions regarding one of the most dramatic and important episodes of Native history in Wisconsin. As a NRHP property and protected publicly-owned resource, Lizard Mound will continue to offer the potential to expand on our understanding of pre-contact, and perhaps post-contact, Native lifeways. Equally important, it is understood that Lizard Mound is held as sacred by the Ho-Chunk Nation, who consider themselves descendants of the effigy mound builders. Finally, Lizard Mound's accessibility provides the public a rare opportunity to both understand and appreciate the Wisconsin's rich Native history.

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Torney, H.P.

1883 Group of Mounds in Farmington Township, Washington Co., Wisconsin (Hagner). Map tracing on file in the Charles E. Brown Manuscripts, Box 44, in the Archives Division-Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

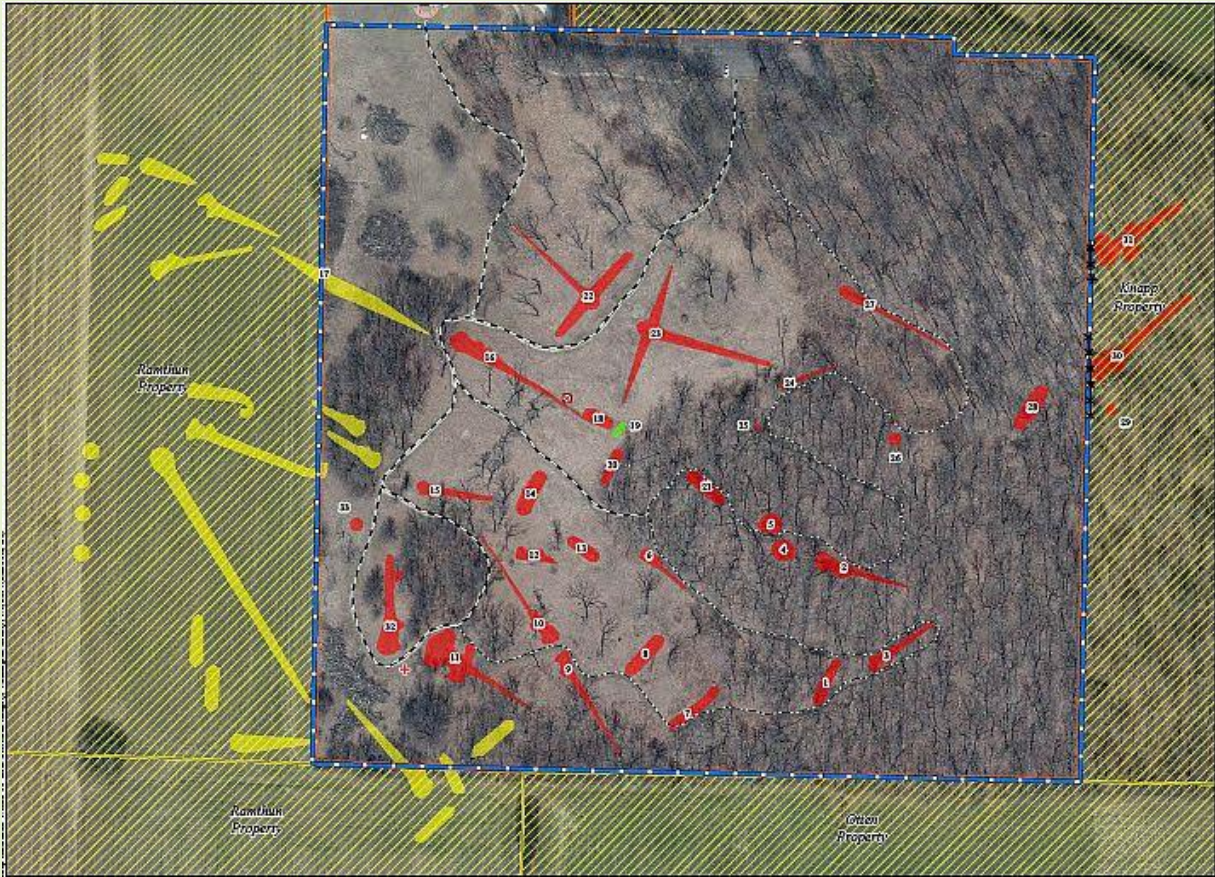


Figure 1. Map of Lizard Mound site (47-WT-0001/BWT-0121), (red extant mounds, yellow non-extant).



Figure 2. Photographic overview of Lizard Mound site (47-WT-0001/BWT-0121). Photograph courtesy of *Jalbert Productions*.



Figure 3. Photographic overview of bird mounds 22 and 23, Lizard Mound site (47-WT-0001/BWT-0121). Photograph courtesy of *Jalbert Productions*.

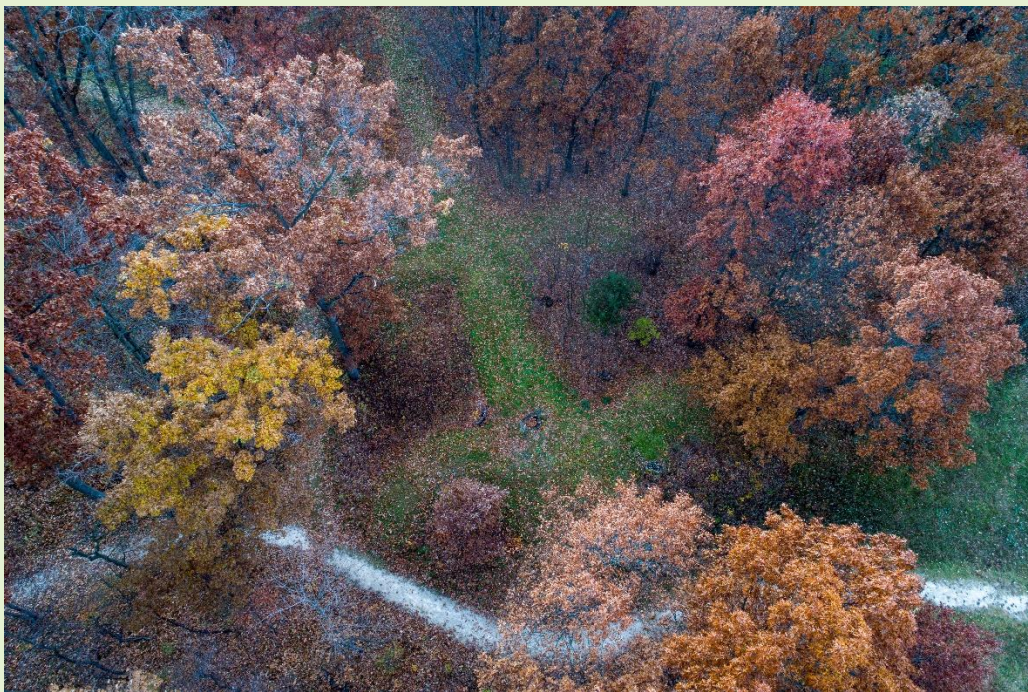
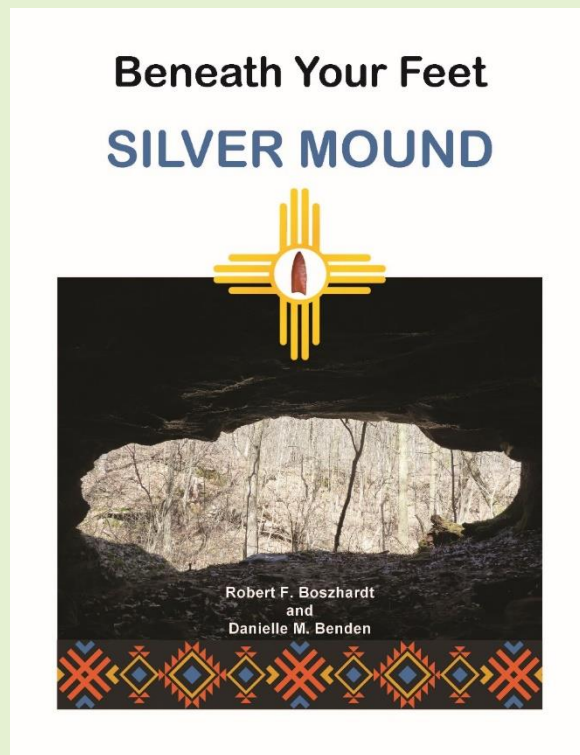


Figure 4. Photographic overview of “lizard” mound 11, Lizard Mound site (47-WT-0001/BWT-0121). Photograph courtesy of *Jalbert Productions*.



Driftless Pathways, LLC Publishes *Beneath Your Feet: Silver Mound*

Authors Robert “Ernie” Boszhardt and Danielle M. Benden, co-owners of Driftless Pathways, have recently published a new comprehensive summary of the geology, history and archaeology of Silver Mound, a major source of tool stone utilized by Native Americans for thousands of years. This is the second book in their “Beneath Your Feet” series. The first was on the Archaeology at Trempealeau, published in 2017. Filled with numerous color and black and white photographs and images, the book summarizes all aspects of Silver Mound. The seven sidebars provide added details on topics ranging from Flintknapping, to Native American Traditional Knowledge and Ways of Knowing, and Citizen Scientists. A few highlights of this book to this reviewer were that over 1200 quarry pits have been mapped, the intimate Native American symbolism found in rockshelters literally surrounded by quarrying and workshop activities, and the sheer depth of quarrying deposits that can make any excavation daunting. I found the authors’ use of a dream to describe a Native American journey to the mound in the distant past, and a vision of a tour of the mound in the future, to neatly frame the book’s content. The book envisions how future tours, enhanced by our research, can help us connect with those earlier Native American journeys. The authors lament of the lack of publishing of work conducted by universities in the 1960-1970s is to be commended. The glossary of terms and references for further reading are always appreciated. You can purchase a copy online by visiting their website. [website](#)

Archaeology News & Notes

Wisconsin Archeological Society Public Education Grant for 2022

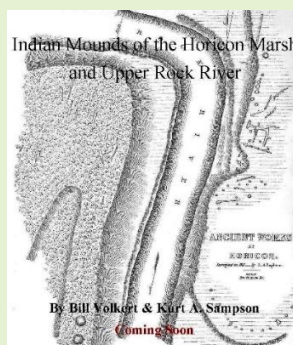
Submitted by Cindi Styles

The Wisconsin Archeological Society (WAS) is pleased to announce that the 2022 Public Education in Archaeology grant has been awarded to "Crossroads at Big Creek". Crossroads is a non-profit environmental restoration organization whose mission includes archaeological education projects for adults and school children. The WAS grant will help support a project for schoolchildren in the Door County School District and home-schooled children in the area. The project is run by professional archaeologists Randy Dickson and Robert Jeske and includes participation in an ongoing excavation with the schoolchildren as well as adult volunteers from the community. Participants will learn to make stone tools and try spear throwing with an atlatl. The archaeologists will also conduct a nature walk within the Crossroads lands to explain the environment and resources available to pre-contact Indigenous people in the Door County area.



Book on the Mounds of Horicon

Kurt Sampson sends a note of an upcoming publication. Titled: *Indian Mounds of the Horicon Marsh and Upper Rock River*, this 450-page book is authored by Bill Volkert and Kurt Sampson. The book should be out soon.



Upcoming Wisconsin Archeological Society Event

Submitted by Jean Dowiasch

Save the date for Saturday, October 29 to join the Wisconsin Archeological Society at Natural Bridge State Park in Sauk County. Activities will include tours of the Raddatz Rockshelter and more. More details coming soon on the Society's Facebook page.



A Second Site with Ice Age Human footprints discovered in U.S.

The salt flats of the Great Salt Lake Desert of Utah are the setting for the recent discovery of 88 adult and children's bare footprints. The trackways were identified on the Air Force's Utah Testing and Training Range and reported in the Fall 2022 *American Archaeology* magazine.

The finds were made by archaeologist with Far Western Anthropological Research Group. The tracks were preserved when sand immediately infilled the prints in a wetland and adjacent basin. They are thought to date to about 12,000 years ago based on a study of the areas geoarchaeology. It is hoped that further analysis of the print infills will identify any associated organic material that can be radiocarbon dated to confirm the age of when the prints were made. The site is located about one half mile from the Wishbone site, where a hearth, dated to about 12,300 years ago, contained evidence for the earliest use of tobacco in the world.

Trackways reported last year from the White Sands National Park in New Mexico have been dated to 23,000 years ago. Unlike the Utah finds, tracks of both human and animals were identified that indicated interaction between the two. The finds of trackways in similar settings suggest that there may be other sites in the Western U.S. where ancient use of the area by Native Americans is preserved.



The Lead Mining Community of Gratiot's Grove, Lafayette County, Investigated

An article titled "Understanding the Lead Rush" by Elizabeth Lunday, was recently published in the fall 2022 *American Archaeology* magazine. The author describes the ongoing research conducted at Gratiot's Grove, located just north of the Wisconsin-Illinois border. The community was founded in the 1820s and lasted barely a decade. It included cabins, smelters and a warehouse/general store and may have attracted up to 1500 settlers.

Since 2014, Syracuse University has conducted a field school at the site, directed by Guido Pezzarossi, Associate Professor in Anthropology and Cory Ritterbusch, Shullsburg's local historian. The study focused on Susan Gratiot, wife of Henry, and her desire to maintain her upper-class status. This desire is reflected in family letters and reinforced by the archaeological record. The team hopes to return to Gratiot's Grove to study not just the Gratiot's house site but also investigate the miner's experiences and track the impact the mining had on the environment.



Potential Mammoth Butchery site in the Colorado Plateau of New Mexico Dated to 37,000 Years Ago

A study published in the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* describes a butchered mammoth where multiple lines of evidence may indicate humans occupied the interior of North America 37,000 years ago.

The Hartley Mammoth Locality was identified by Mr. Gary Hartley while hiking a game trail and finding a tusk eroding out of the ground. Two seasons of hand excavation revealed bones of a young-adult female and a young calf, placed in a pile with the tusks placed on top. Only six microflakes were recovered during the excavation.

Besides using standard excavation techniques, the team of researchers also employed state-of-the-art methods that had not been employed previously in the study of ancient American sites, including high resolution computed tomography, proteomic analysis of bone collagen, environmental scanning electron microscopy and petrographic analysis.

A total of six AMS radiocarbon dates were obtained from a single long bone of the adult mammoth. These measurements were made on different bone collagen chemical fractions. The most "robust" age estimate is 38,900-36,250 calibrated years before present.

The authors find these results consistent with recent discoveries that also indicate early human settlement during or before the Last Glacial Maximum. They cite a number of sites in Mexico and South America

which date to this period, as well as the recent find of trackways in New Mexico dated to 23,000 years ago.

They discuss the lack of diagnostic tools found with the mammoths, which are often cited by critics. They suggest that Clovis or Upper Paleolithic stone tools were introduced by Native Americans around 16,000 years ago. Older sites, they reason, should not be expected to contain these diagnostics. The recent dating of the Clovis interval to a narrow window of only around 200 calendar years, is used to suggest that any older sites will be dated without the association with Upper Paleolithic stone tools.

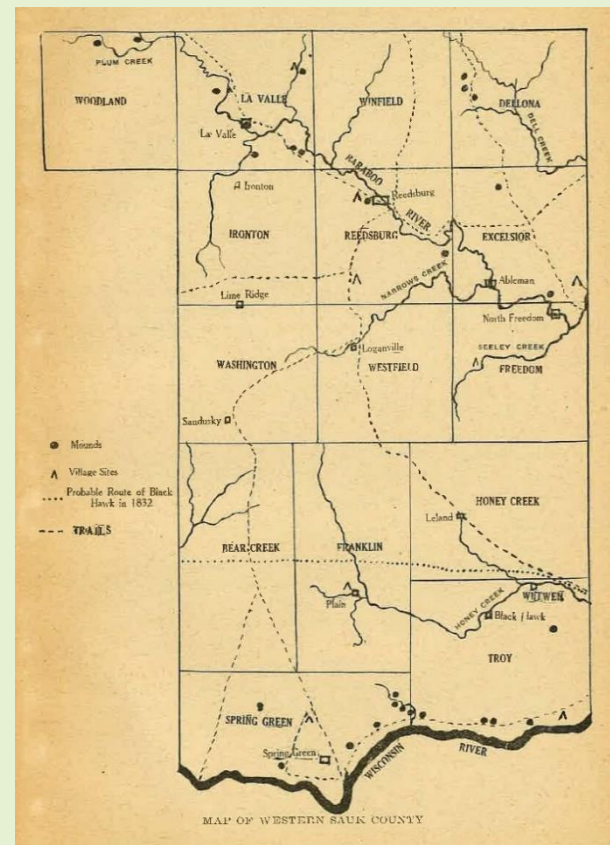
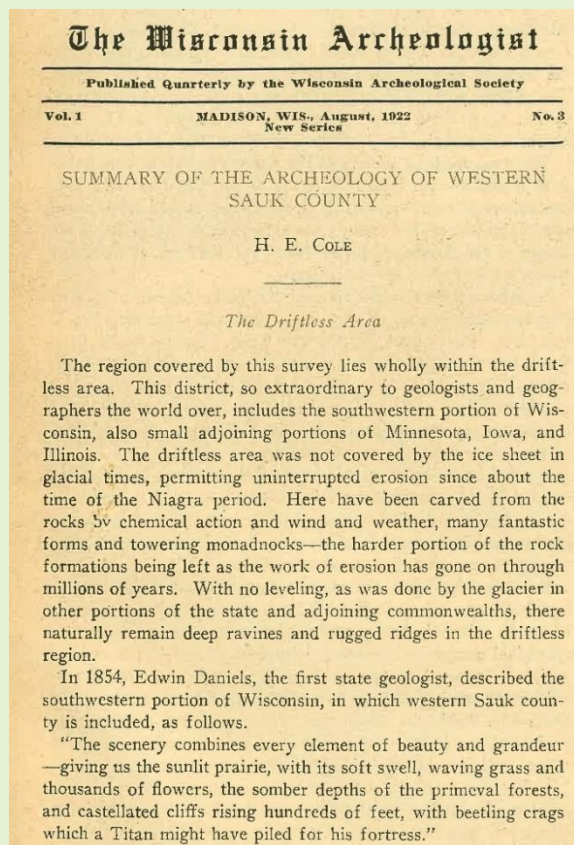
Based on the results of these studies the team concluded that the site resulted from human activities associated with the intentional butchery of two mammoths. They see this and several other sites as representing an early founding population who arrived in the Americas well before 37,000 years ago. A later population of Native Americans entered America and brought with it the Clovis Culture. This potential pre-Clovis site will require much additional analysis to verify these claims.



Back Dirt: 100 Years Ago in the *Wisconsin Archeologist*

The August 1922 issue of the *Wisconsin Archeologist* is devoted to a summary of the archaeology of Western Sauk County by H. E. Cole. Henry E. Cole was president of the Sauk County Historical Society until his death in 1928. A report on the archaeology of the eastern portion of the county by Dr. A. B. Stout, was published in the *Wisconsin Archeologist* in 1905. The 1922 report includes information of the Man Mound which had been located near La Valle on a high ridge more than half a mile west of the Baraboo River. This mound was located about twenty miles west of the only surviving man mound in the state, in Man Mound County Park. The La Valle group also included a bird and horned water spirit effigies and six oval or linear mounds. Cole concludes with a comparison between the eastern and western surveys, reporting that, while 135 mounds were found in the western survey, between 600 and 700 mounds were located by Stout in the eastern survey. Cole suggests this difference was the result of a greater population in the eastern area and the greater number of rivers and lakes that provided prime habitation areas. The western portion he suggested was more of a hunting ground.

In Archeological Notes, it is reported that visitors to “Aztalan Mound Park” have been quite numerous during the summer despite the fact that no permanent improvements have yet been made at the park. A large sign has now been erected and the Aztalan committee has “visited the park to consider the improvements necessary to fully encourage its use by the public”.



Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership for 2023!

Benefits of The Wisconsin Archeological Society:

- ✓ Receive *The Wisconsin Archeologist*, the longest continually published archaeological journal in the United States, and the *WisArch News*, the biannual newsletter filled with information about Society history and events.
- ✓ Participate in archaeological programs from around the state and the world.
- ✓ Get involved in Society field sponsored events such as artifact shows and site tours.
- ✓ Help raise awareness of Wisconsin's incredible archaeological heritage and preserve unique and irreplaceable sites.

Wisconsin Archeological Society Membership Information

Membership Category	Benefits		2023 rates
	Spring and Fall Newsletters	<i>The Wisconsin Archeologist</i>	
Individual	X	X	\$30
Family	X	X	\$35
Student	X	X	\$20
Senior	X	X	\$20
Associate	X		\$5
Sustaining	X	X	\$50
Donor	X	X	Minimum of \$100
Institutional (Libraries)	X	X	\$40

Highlight or Circle Your Member Level Choice

Mail this form along with your check to:

Wisconsin Archeological Society
UW-Milwaukee, Sabin Hall 290
3413 N. Downer Avenue
Milwaukee, WI, 53211

Please Include

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-mail address*: _____

You can also join via Paypal by visiting **The Wisconsin Archeological Society** on-line at:

www.wiarcheologicalsociety.org/membershiptypes

Please also find **Wisconsin Archeological Society** activities and information exchanges on



Do you have questions about membership?

Contact the society president at president@wiarcheologicalsociety.org

* Your e-mail will not be shared with any other organization. It is the means for distributing the *WisArch News* newsletter and facilitates Society related communications.