

WisArch News

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Archeological Society

The Life and Times of an Oneida County Stump Farmer



Modern Stump Farm near Argonne, East of Rhinelander.

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Wisconsin Archeological Society

www.wiarcheologicalsociety.org

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Affiliated Organizations

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Kenosha County Archaeological Society-Kenosha: **Donald Shelton**, dgshelton@wi.rr.com

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Rock River Archaeological Society-Horicon: **Julie Flemming**, rras.president@gmail.com

Three Rivers Archaeological Society-Beloit: *Currently Inactive*

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Nominations and Elections Committee: **Seth Schneider**, sethschneider@icloud.com

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Preservation of Sites Committee: **Rob Nurre**, rob.nurre@gmail.com

WAS Awards Committee: **Cynthia Styles**, cydstil@newnorth.net

Editorial Staff *The Wisconsin Archeologist* (journal)

Constance M. Arzigian, carzigian@uwlax.edu

Katherine P. Stevenson, kstevenson@uwlax.edu

Vicki L. Twinde-Javner, vtwinde-javner@uwlax.edu

Newsletter Editor

Norm Meinholz, norman.meinholz@wisconsinhistory.org

The editor appreciates the assistance of Amanda Jones and Jacque Dinnes for their help in formatting this issue.



A Message from the President

From the desk of the President

Winter is knocking at our back door here in Wisconsin or what Shakespeare referred to as the time “... When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang, Upon those boughs which shake against the cold, Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.” (Sonnet LXXIII). Another year has nearly passed and for many of us, it has been a trying time. I hope that this Newsletter finds you and your friends and loved ones in good health and ready for the rigors of a Wisconsin winter. As you are all aware, the Covid 19 pandemic put a full damper on the Spring and Fall activities that the Society had planned and although that was disappointing, it does set the stage for future events to look forward to. The board has been busy preparing for 2021 with plans A and B for each event whereby Plan A would be an in-person experience and Plan B would be an online synchronous or asynchronous event. Hopefully, we will be able to have events that are in-person and involve active participant engagement, but there are so many variables involved, we will not know for sure until very close to the event itself. Some of you may have noticed an increased social media presence and if you are on Facebook, don't forget to like us <https://www.facebook.com/Wisconsin-Archeological-Society-342079691405>.

On a personal note, I will not be running for President for this upcoming term, I will instead be running for Vice President. It has been a pleasure to serve you all in the capacity of President and it certainly has been an eye-opening experience for me. As I look back over the last two years, I have come to understand how important the Wisconsin Archeological Society is and how important it is going to be to get more people from our membership involved. Over the next two years, I am hoping that those out there reading this will take the opportunity to serve on committees and answer the call for participation when it comes. Although we are one of the oldest archaeological societies and have one of the longest running archaeological publications in the United States, that is not a guarantee of the survival of the organization. The pandemic has made it difficult for us to live up to our mission statement, but Covid will not last forever and we look forward to getting back to some version of normal in the upcoming years. In the meantime, enjoy the Newsletter and keep yourself safe!

Sincerely,

George W. Christiansen III

President

Wisconsin Archeological Society



Affiliated Organizations Information

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 jmonar@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 8:00 pm. Contact Rob Ahlrichs at ahlrichs@uwm.edu.

Robert Ritzenthaler Society

The Robert Ritzenthaler Society 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, rras.president@gmail.com

Three Rivers Archaeological Society

The Three Rivers Archaeological Society meets 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.

Collaborative Archaeology Project Receives Tribal Heritage Grant

By Heather Walder

This fall, a community-based collaborative archaeology program, *Geté Anishinaabeg Izichigéwin Community Archaeology Project* (GAICAP) based in Red Cliff, Wisconsin, was awarded a multi-year Tribal Heritage Grant. Co-directors of GAICAP include Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Marvin Defoe, North Dakota State University Assistant Professor John Creese, and UW-La Crosse Lecturer Heather Walder. The \$50K award will allow GAICAP to investigate several areas of land within the Red Cliff Reservation in 2021 and 2022, while training tribal monitors, community members, and undergraduate field school participants in professional survey and excavation methods.

Community outreach is a major part of this project, which has been working collaboratively in Red Cliff since 2017. Funding for the Tribal Heritage Grant program is made available by the Historic Preservation Fund and is administered by the Department of Interior National Park Service. Read the full [press release from Red Cliff here](#).



THPO Staff and Interns, Red Cliff community members, and undergraduate students learned about flintknapping at a Traditional Foodways and Technology workshop in 2019.



Undergraduate students in the GAICAP archaeological field school lead public outreach and youth programming, like this one at the *Ginanda Gikendaasomin* library in Red Cliff.

Regional Research

Louis C. Miller – Stump Farmer Malvern, Pelican Township, Oneida County, Wisconsin

By Brian A. Diel



Figure 1. Modern Stump Farm near Argonne.

The Cutover of Northern Wisconsin consisted of fields of stumps following the logging era (Figure 1). Among this vast swath of land, people began to settle and small communities sprang up. One of Oneida County Wisconsin's now forgotten ghost towns, established in the Cutover, was a small rural community named Malvern (Figure 2). Located eight miles east of Rhinelander Wisconsin, it sprang up during the heyday of the logging industry, shortly after the Milwaukee, Lakeshore and Western Railway, Co. built a train spur from Monico to Rhinelander in 1882. Malvern came to be named in honor of a more obscure battle during the Civil War, the Battle of Malvern Hill in Virginia. (Sennet 1908:97). The name is perhaps fitting for a community that no longer exists and is now obscure itself. Louis C. Miller and his stump farm, the focus of this writing, would go on to become one of the community's early residents and earliest farms.

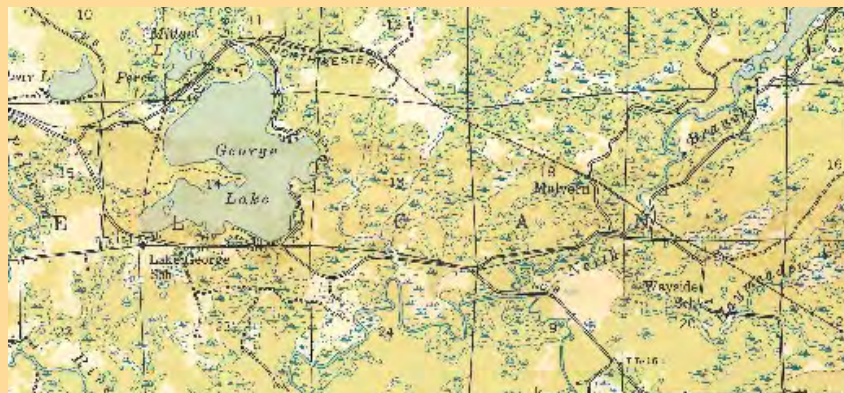


Figure 2. Malvern located on the Rhinelander 15-Minute Quadrangle, 1949 Edition.

The area's earliest visitors were Native American's. Writings from early surveyors and timber cruisers talk of Native American foot trails that were present in the proximity of the eventual rail line and first highway through the area. Even though Malvern lies along the shores of the North Pelican and Pelican rivers, it was likely quicker to travel on foot than it was by canoe from the nearby villages to the area rice beds and wild cranberry bogs, primarily due to the meandering, rocky and shallow nature of these rivers. Native Americans living on Pelican Lake spoke of a camp site that was one day's journey down the Pelican River as they traveled to the Wisconsin River for seasonal migration. French explorers, trappers and missionaries surely traveled these waters and trails as well.

Then came the surveyors of the U.S. Government and the lumbermen of the late 19th century. The first logging in the area occurred during the winter of 1857-1858. In proximity to Rhinelander, "the heaviest growth of white and Norway (red) pine in the state lay tributary to the Wisconsin river." (Jones 1924:105). This belt of timber was described as 18 miles wide and 40 miles long. The first sawmills were built in Rhinelander in 1882 and 1883, with many more being built over the following years.

With the lumbering and sawmilling industries came the railroads. The railroad spur extending through the Malvern area was built at the urging of the founding fathers of the community, located eight miles west, and known originally as Pelican Rapids (Figure 3). As an incentive to gain rail access for the budding saw milling industry in the small city, community industrialists promised to name the growing metropolis after the railroad's President at the time, Frederick W. Rhinelander. That apparently worked and the city as we now know it came to be. In 1886 Rhinelander became the seat of the newly formed Oneida County government.

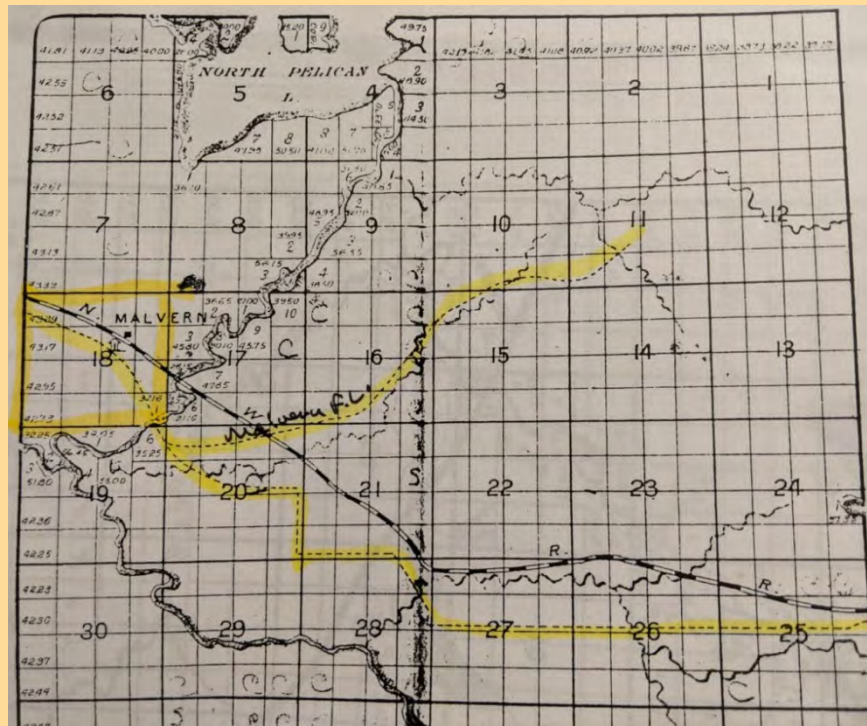


Figure 3. 1905 Plat Map with Road Located South of the Railroad Tracks near Malvern.

In 1893, the Chicago and Northwestern railroad purchased this rail line, expanded services and established a covered train platform on the north side of the tracks in downtown Malvern. The site of Louis's forthcoming cabin is now known as uptown Malvern, at least according to this author. The train stop was just east of the intersection of the current North Pelican Lake Road and the old railroad grade that now serves as driveways for current residents.

Soon to follow were the stump farmers. They came by the thousands, lured by inexpensive farmland, optimistic thoughts of the area's agricultural potential by state and federal agricultural experts, politicians and smooth-talking land speculators. The vast majority of those who farmed the cutover came during the late 1890's through the 1940s. Louis C. Miller, applied for a land grant under the U.S Homestead Act, application #8929, recorded January 20, 1898 in the Wisconsin land office in Wausau (United States General Land Office 1898). Louis was 27 and single at the time. Somehow, he was able to find 126 acres that were not owned by a logging company or early land speculator. Most early cutover farmers had to purchase their land, and at prices that could exceed 10 times the per acre price of \$1.25 as charged under the Homestead Act of 1862 for parcels of 160 acres or less and \$2.50 an acre for parcels 80 acres or less. Post-World War I land prices for "fine cut over land" were advertised at \$10 to \$20 an acre (Jones 1924:111). This was quite a tidy profit for the few like Louis who were able to homestead their land.

Louis was born in Osborn, Wisconsin near Appleton, on February 8, 1871 to German immigrant parents, Charles and Mary Mueller. The 1880 census shows he was 9 at the time and his father's occupation was farming (United States Bureau of the Census 1880). Louis surely learned the ropes of farming during his childhood and knew what he was up against, as a single man about to carve a farm out of the cutover land of Northern Wisconsin.

On April 5, 1898, Louis began clearing a one-half acre building site and started building his cabin, small barn and hay shed (Figure 4). His cabin was completed by April 20, 1898, likely thanks to help from neighbors which was common during these times. Unlike the bold thoughts by some to this day that early Americans settled and tamed the wilderness on their own, most did not. They relied on others for help building cabins, barns, land clearing, etc. and in return, helped others when they needed a hand. A very typical mindset brought from Europe by early immigrant farmers and settlers.



Figure 4. Location of the Louis C. Miller Cabin.

Louis’s cabin is described as “a log house, 1.5 stories high, and 18 x 26 feet in size with a shingle roof, 2 floors, 2 doors and 6 windows”. Also built was a log barn 12 x 16 feet in size, along with a log hay shed 12 x 12 feet in size and “a good well with iron pump”. Iron well casing and fittings along with a broken clay fired jug have been recovered in the well pit indicated on the site map (Figure 5). There is no mention of an outhouse, but it is assumed he had one. It appears to possibly be located immediately south and behind his cabin which was typical of the time. A door latch was recovered at the Northeast corner of the cabin depression and a wood or coal stove door and numerous Ringle clay bricks (manufactured in Ringle, Wisconsin east of Wausau), were recovered at the opposite end of the cabin at the bottom of the cabin depression, and centered on the back wall (Figure 6).

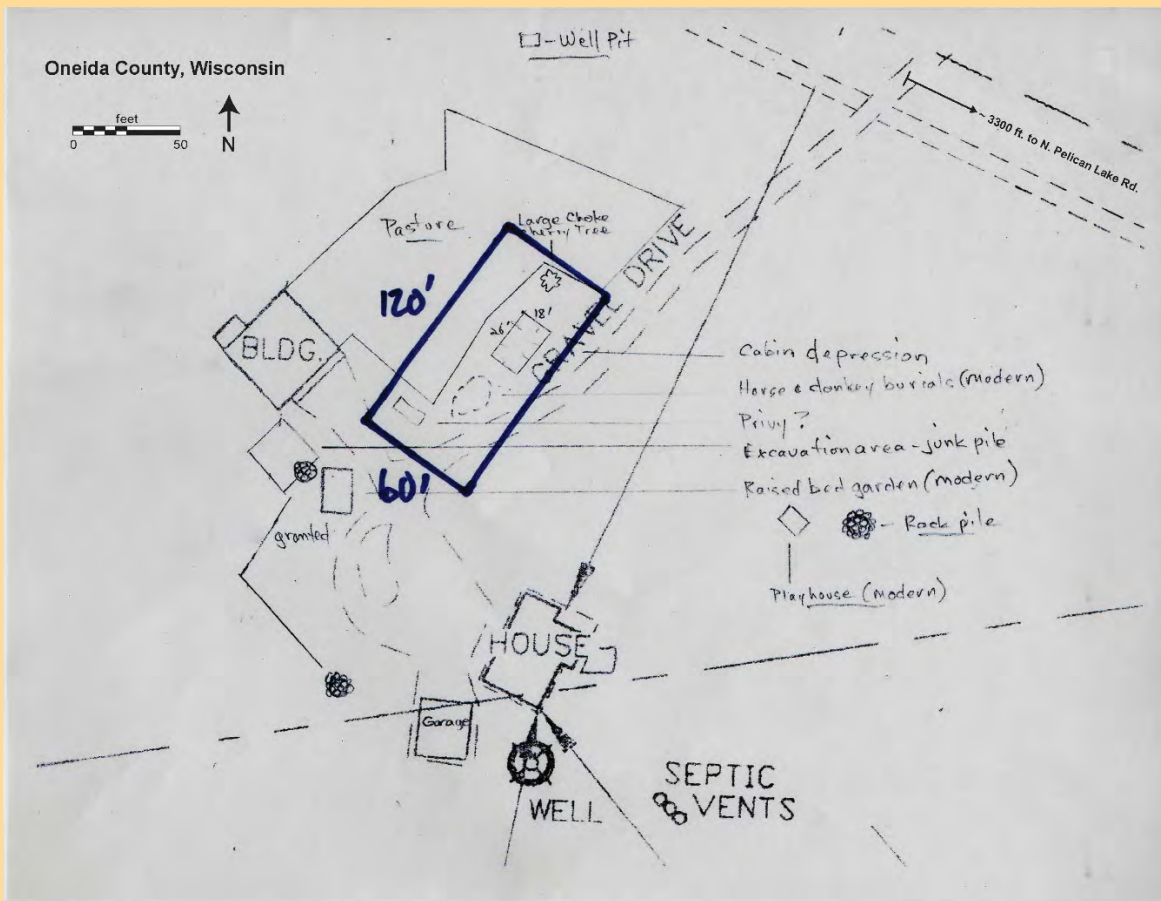


Figure 5. Map of the Louis Miller Stumpfarm Homestead (47ON331) Site.



Figure 6. Ringle Brick and Metal Artifacts, Louis Miller Stumpfarm Homestead Site.

It is assumed the cabin was built over a root cellar as foundation stones and mortar are still present along the perimeter of the cabin depression which is currently about 5 feet deep and overgrown with trees and vegetation (Figure 7). The area of the depression matches the 18 x 26 feet description in his report. Numerous historical artifacts have been recovered in and around the cabin site, to include: rings from a wooden barrel, hand forged nails, three pronged fork, part of a harmonica reed, bits of a ceramic cup and plate, double edged axe head, various rifle or pistol shell casings from calibers of the period and parts of two different wood or coal stoves that the author hopes to identify in the future (Figures 8-10).

It is most likely the land Louis homesteaded had been logged prior to his arrival. The heyday of logging the pine was mostly over by the early 1900's. A right-of-way and track map from 1917 by the Chicago and North Western Railway shows stump fields on the surrounding land and a farm crossing near the site of his cabin. It also shows an active logging camp approximately three miles to the East along the tracks. Louis mentioned in his Homestead report "being away for 3 months in the winter of 1900 to 1901 for a temporary absence, working in a logging camp" with "no other absences except a few days or a week on business several times" over the course of his 5 years of homesteading the land (United States General Land Office 1898, 1903, 1904).



Figure 7. House Depression at the Louis Miller Stumpfarm Homestead Site.



Figure 8. Stove Parts from the Louis Miller Stumpfarm Homestead Site.



Figure 9. Stove Parts from the Louis Miller Stumpfarm Homestead Site.



Figure 10. Various Metal and Ceramic Artifacts from the Louis Miller Stumpfarm Homestead Site.

Many early subsistence farmers spent their winters working in area logging camps. Even though the heyday of the pinery logging was mostly over, the industry and sawmills switched to maple, birch and other hardwoods when the pine ran out, and area logging camps existed into the early 1930's. As the attempts at farming land with poor soils and a short growing season began to wear on many farm families, many stump farmers went on to stop farming and work full time at the area logging camps and sawmills.

Per Louis's Homestead report filed May 8, 1903, he cleared a total of 25 acres, fifteen for growing crops. The area cleared is still visible in a 1938 aerial photo obtained from the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, (courtesy of Bob Winat, Rhinelander office). It is also visible as a non-wooded area along with the dairy farms to the west on a USGS topographical map from 1949.

Numerous rock piles have been located around his cabin site and other areas of his property. Three are documented on the site map. Modern dirt moving and pasture planting projects undertaken by the author confirm there are still plenty of rocks to harvest in the areas he originally cleared. This property sits on and around a glacial esker, near a terminus of the Langlade glacial lobe, with large glacial erratics also scattered about. An abundance of rocks was something commonly reported by area stump farmers.

The report goes on to say Louis grew crops for 5 seasons. Per official county agricultural records, the primary crops grown in Oneida county at the time were potatoes, hay/forage and cereal crops in that order. Hay/forage was mostly timothy and clover, but also mentioned was a noticeable amount of "prairie grasses". Wild sedges/grasses that grow mostly in seasonally wet and open areas and harvested in the fall and winter when the wetlands dried or froze were called hay meadows. This wild hay was used primarily to feed cows and oxen as horses find it less desirable. Proximity to hay meadows was an important reason for the placement of early logging camps. Of note, the previously mentioned logging camp, just a few miles east of Louis's farm, is in an area with numerous hay meadows. Oats and rye were the primary cereal grains planted in the county at the time.

No information is available as to the livestock Louis owned. As a minimum, he surely had a horse or team of horses for travel and farming. It is possible he had an ox for pulling a plow and/or eating as was common for sustenance farmers in those days. A hand forged horse or oxen hitch part was recovered near his cabin site.

Diary production was also very prevalent in Oneida County and in the immediate area of Louis's farm. The 1910 census shows Louis living just west of his homestead as a boarder with an area dairy farmer, his wife and another boarder (United States Bureau of the Census 1910). At this time Louis listed his occupation as "laborer – odd jobs" but still owned the land he homesteaded. Due to the small size of Louis's barn and hay shed and the poor quality of his soils, it is assumed he did not have a dairy operation and the crops he grew were primarily hay and cereal grains. This is further evidenced by the hay/grain sickle blade recovered on site and because the only barbed wire recovered to date has been near his cabin along the old tote road. It is doubtful he pastured more animals on the non-cleared acres (between the stumps). The reason he moved over to live at the neighboring dairy farm is unclear. The author speculates it is likely due to the poor quality of the soils on his land, a cabin fire (virtually no evidence of logs, shingles, etc. exist currently), or perhaps Louis found that farming and working in logging camps was not for him.

On April 14, 1904 United States of America President, Theodore Roosevelt (or his authorized representative) signed the official land grant to Louis. He had met his 5 years of “homesteading” as required under the “To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain” Act, approved by Congress on May 17, 1862 and signed into law by President Roosevelt on May 20 of that year. Louis went on to purchase the rest of the northwest quarter of Section 18 under the Swamp Lands Act in 1904 and bought/sold other nearby parcels during his 20+ years of owning his original parcel of homesteaded land.

At this time, Malvern had grown to include a US Post Office (which may have been located in a mercantile building with saloon per local elders), other neighboring farms and homesteaders, and a one room school house located just south of the train platform along the road that appears south of the track on the 1905 plat map. Local elders recall attending the “new school” that was built sometime between 1921 and 1923 and named the Wayside School. It was built near the wayside on then Hwy 14. The remains of the former tote road from Monico to Rhinelander that existed before Hwy 14 was built, lies just south of and parallels the railroad grade through Louis Miller’s entire quarter section of property.

On February 25, 1920, Louis granted a power line easement to E. A. Forbes, owner of the Rhinelander Power and Light Company. Mr. Forbes was a founding father of Rhinelander. He also built the power dam for the Rhinelander Paper Company, and another hydro dam just south of Rhinelander at Hat Rapids on the Wisconsin River. The power line easement states it was to be built north of the railroad ROW. Telegraph/electrical/telephone poles that are cut off low to the ground are still evident to this day, but they lie south of the railroad grade. Also found are blue glass insulators, long sections of thick copper wire and lots of railroad spikes, rail connectors, etc. Perhaps the pole stumps located by the author were for the original telegraph lines that typically followed rail lines.

Louis sold his farm in Malvern in March of 1920 while living in International Falls, Minnesota, and moved back to the area sometime after the 1920 census. Louis never married or officially had children. He went on to spend his later years living with the widowed wife of the nearby dairy farmer he boarded with per the 1910 US census (United States Bureau of the Census 1910). Her name was Augusta. The 1930 US census shows Louis living in the City of Rhinelander, occupation listed as “none”, with Augusta living with him, her occupation listed as “housekeeper” (United States Bureau of the Census 1930). He and Augusta were still living together according to the 1940 census (United States Bureau of the Census 1940). His occupation is still listed as “none” and hers still “housekeeper”.

Louis Died March 28, 1941 and was buried near his sister who still lived in the Appleton area. He lays at rest in the Highland Memorial Park Cemetery in Appleton. Augusta died November 20, 1950 and lays at rest in the Forest Home Cemetery, Rhinelander.

The life of the early stump farmers was one of hard work. Building a homestead and clearing ground of rocks and stumps was just the start. It also included planting crops, tending to livestock, preparing enough firewood to last the winter, in addition to all the things that come with daily living. Most stump farmers had wives and children to help with these tasks. It would have certainly been a much tougher job for a single man like Mr. Miller to make a go of it.

Most of the archaeological work done by the author involved light excavation, sifting and metal detecting the site. When we bought this property, we chose the same spot Louis called his home. Much of his original pasture and pasture grass were still evident and not fully grown in with trees and

vegetation. We soon expanded and restored much of what he had originally cleared to use for horse and donkey pastures. Much of the ground we tilled soon grew in with pasture grass that surely came from his time here.

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to Joy Vancos, who researched and obtained copies of all the Homestead Act and Census data from the life and times of Louis C. Miller and Kerry Bloedorn, local historian and Director of Pioneer Park Historical Complex, Rhinelander. I would like to thank Ryan Howell for his help through this process. Thanks to his guidance and encouragement, this site is now officially recorded, and this paper and history piece has been written. I would also like to thank Norm Meinholz for his suggestions and guidance in writing this article. Thank you Ryan and Norm and I hope you enjoyed this trip through the past!

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United States Bureau of the Census

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- 1903 Manuscript Homestead Proof-Testimony of Witnesses May 8, 1903. Section 18, T36N R10E, Oneida County, Wisconsin. Available at the Library-Archives Division, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison.
- 1904 Manuscript Homestead Certificate No. 4774, Granted to Louis C. Miller, March 1, 1904. Section 18, T36N R10E, Oneida County, Wisconsin. Available at the Library-Archives Division, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison.



The View from Platte Mound on a Fall Day.

Archaeology News and Notes

The Age of Clovis Now Dated between 13,050 and 12,750 Years B. P.

A paper by Waters et al., published in the October 21, 2020 journal *Science Advances*, has reassessed the age and duration of Clovis based on the most current archaeological information and modern radiocarbon dating methods. An evaluation conducted by Waters and Stafford in 2007 had determined that Clovis dates between 13,000 and 12,600 calendar years B. P. (before present). The current reassessment is based on dates from 10 sites which were unavailable in 2007 and major advances in radiocarbon dating technology which has improved its accuracy.

The proposed Clovis chronology is based on 32 radiocarbon ages from those 10 sites, all of which contain diagnostic Clovis points. The earliest Clovis sites, dating at 13,050 cal. Years B.P., are contemporaneous with two non-Clovis complexes: the Western Stemmed Tradition in western North America and the Fishtail Point Complex in South America. Both of these complexes are characterized by stemmed, not fluted points.

The authors conclude that Clovis technology developed south of the continental ice sheets and originated in the earliest sites in North America. They suggest that people were in the Americas by 16,000 to 15,000 cal. years B.P. and that the Clovis technology was developed by these earlier people.



Late Pleistocene Human Footprints Preserved at White Sands National Park, New Mexico

An article by Bennett et al., in Volume 249 (2020) of *Quaternary Science Reviews*, describes a “remarkable”, more than one and a half kilometer human trackway. The trackway records an out-and-return journey by an adolescent or small adult female, carrying a child in at least one direction.

The tracks were created in a playa lake deposit and preserved by unique properties of the sediment and the infilling deposit. Two parallel trackways were documented. The north-bound tracks are overprinted by giant ground sloth tracks and the south bound tracks overprint onto Columbian mammoth tracks, attesting to the Late Pleistocene association.

The authors suggest the two sets of tracks were likely made by the same individual and the presence of a child is indicated along one journey. No reaction by the mammoth to the human or the human tracks is indicated. The giant sloth trackways do interact with the human and suggest the sloth may have risen onto its hind legs before continuing on. They describe this action by the sloth as passive and not an active interaction that results from being stalked or hunted.



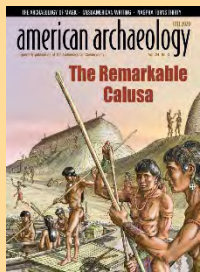
Concealed Shoes as Possible Folk Magic near Marxville, Dane County

An article by Gayle Keck in the Fall 2020 issue of *American Archaeology* entitled “Spells, Charms, Curses, and Concealments” discusses the archaeological signature of folk magic on certain Euroamerican sites. The increasing recognition of common objects as representing tools of magic is a result of additional site information, the recognition of concealment methods and continued research into the historical record. Most of these objects are related to apotropaic magic or items, as M. Chris Manning states, “intended to repel evil, witchcraft, mischievous or malignant nonhuman beings, disease and injury, fire, lightning and hailstorms, infertility, bad luck, and general misfortune”. She adds that these objects can also conversely attract prosperity and good luck.

Shoes were commonly concealed in and around houses to ward off evil spirits. An old shoe contains your very essence and a powerful force that would attract the evil and trap it in the shoe and away from living beings. Manning has documented more than 600 individual pieces of footwear from at least 250 sites across the U.S.

The concealment of shoes was recently documented at a multi-component site investigated by the Museum Archaeology Program of the Wisconsin Historical Society during a WisDOT sponsored site

evaluation associated with proposed road improvements to Highway 19 near Marxville in northwestern Dane County. The mechanical removal of the plowzone from the site uncovered a line of 7 shallow postmolds, each of which contained from 1 to 3 shoes or boots at their base. The shoes were dated to the early 20th century and the post line is interpreted as a fence line not a building. Could the placement of worn-out shoes in the bottoms of a line of posts at this site reflect a practice of folk magic or simply a unique method of discard?



Shoes in Feature at Dane County Site.

First Book in Midwest Archaeological Perspectives Series Published

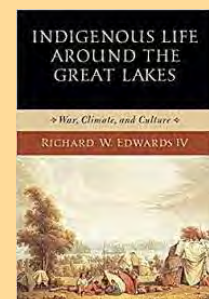
The Midwest Archaeological Conference Inc. and the University of Notre Dame Press have published the first book in their Midwest Archaeological Perspectives series: *Indigenous Life Around the Great Lakes: War, Climate, and Culture* by Richard W. Edwards IV. The book is a detailed analysis and interpretation of the lives of the eleventh through fifteenth century A.D. Oneota inhabitants of the Koshkonong Locality in southeastern Wisconsin.

After placing the Koshkonong Oneota in a regional setting of changing environments, and social and demographic changes, the sites in the study area are described and compared with other Oneota, Middle Mississippian and Late Woodland site across the region and as far south as the American Bottom in Illinois. The origin of Oneota, typically ascribed to some form of reaction to Middle Mississippian presence, is seen as inadequate to explain the extent of Oneota development.

Theoretical considerations of risk management are an important aspect of the book as it is used to explain and discuss why and how Oneota shifted to a settlement subsistence system that was focused on maize agriculture. An interesting discussion is presented on strategies to lesson risk and how those strategies can be observed archaeologically.

Several methods of analysis were employed to determine how the Koshkonong Oneota responded to these changes. This included paleoethnobotanical analysis of both Koshkonong and regional sites. To determine the relative importance of plants and meat in the diet an ingenious method involving the study of stable carbon isotopes in dog remains from the sites was employed. The use of dogs as proxy is based on the assumption that dogs have a unique bond with humans that led to feeding the dogs a similar diet.

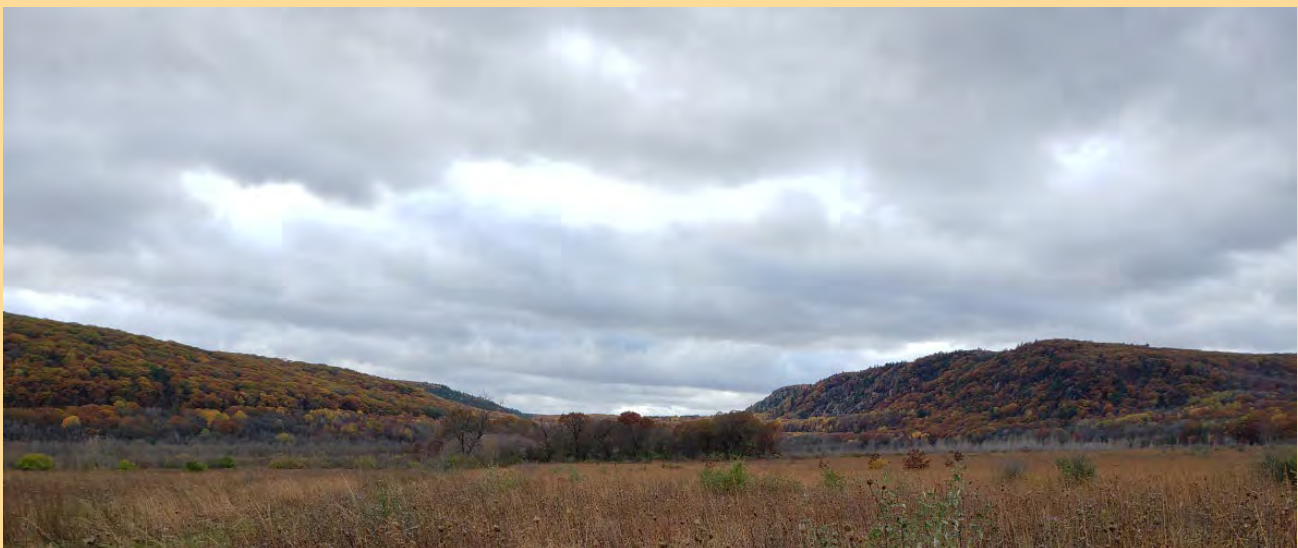
The author concludes that the greatest threat faces by Oneota people living in the Koshkonong Locality was perceived attack by other groups. The response to this threat is reflected in the subsistence and settlement systems and reflects intensive resource acquisition. The author asserts that these people were clearly maize agriculturalists as cultivated crops accounted for a majority of the calories in the diet while meat accounted for significantly less. The sites that make up the Koshkonong Locality managed risk by sharing food and labor as well as defense when needed. The author concludes that the Oneota living at the Koshkonong Locality “appear to be the most defensive and insular of the contemporaneous Oneota groups examined”.



Fall Views at Devil's Lake State Park



Photograph courtesy of Seth Taft



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

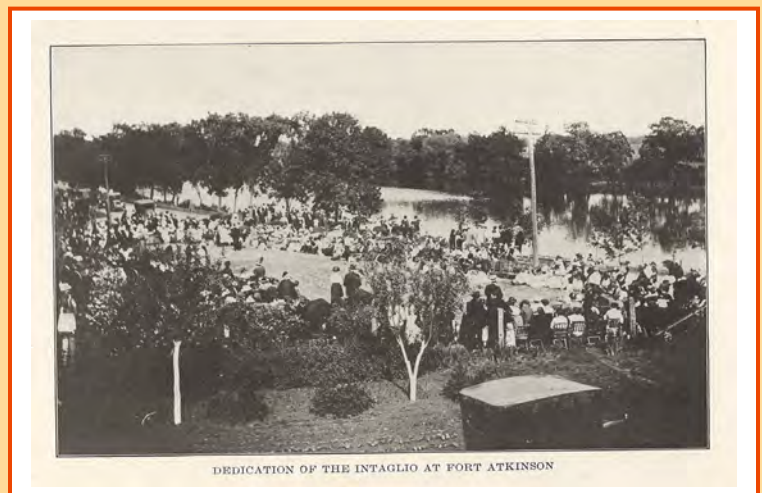
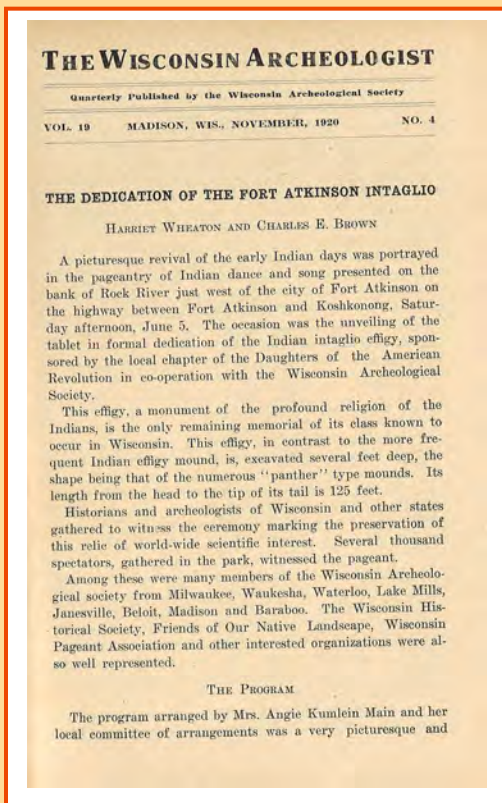
The November 1920 issue of *The Wisconsin Archeologist* is devoted to a report on the June 5, 1920 dedication of the Fort Atkinson Intaglio. The event was the unveiling of a tablet to formally dedicate the intaglio, which was sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) in cooperation with the Wisconsin Archeological Society. Several thousand spectators, including many members of the Wisconsin Archeological Society, gathered in the park to witness the pageant.

Intaglios are an effigy form (primarily water spirits) where the shape is excavated into the ground, or the reverse of a mound that rises from the ground. They are interpreted as “effigies of lower-world animals created by excavation into the lower world (Birmingham and Rosebrough 2017:139). The 125-foot Panther Intaglio, the last remaining in Wisconsin, is located in a small city park along Highway 106 and the northern side of the Rock River in Fort Atkinson.

The dedication program began with the arrival of a line of birch bark canoes carrying Indians from a camp on the opposite shore of the Rock River. After landing at the park shore they proceeded to the intaglio where they outlined its form with flowers. This was followed by Native American singing and various ceremonies accompanied by appropriate musical numbers by the James Orchestra of Ft. Atkinson. The program continued with a number of addresses presented by several prominent citizens including: Mrs. George Dexheimer, regent of the D.A.R.; Publius L. Lawson, chairman of the State Landmarks Committee of the Wisconsin Historical Society; and Dr. S. A. Barrett, vice-president of the Wisconsin Archeological Society. The Ho Chunk Chief Many Thunders delivered an Indian oration.

Birmingham, R. A., and A. L. Rosebrough

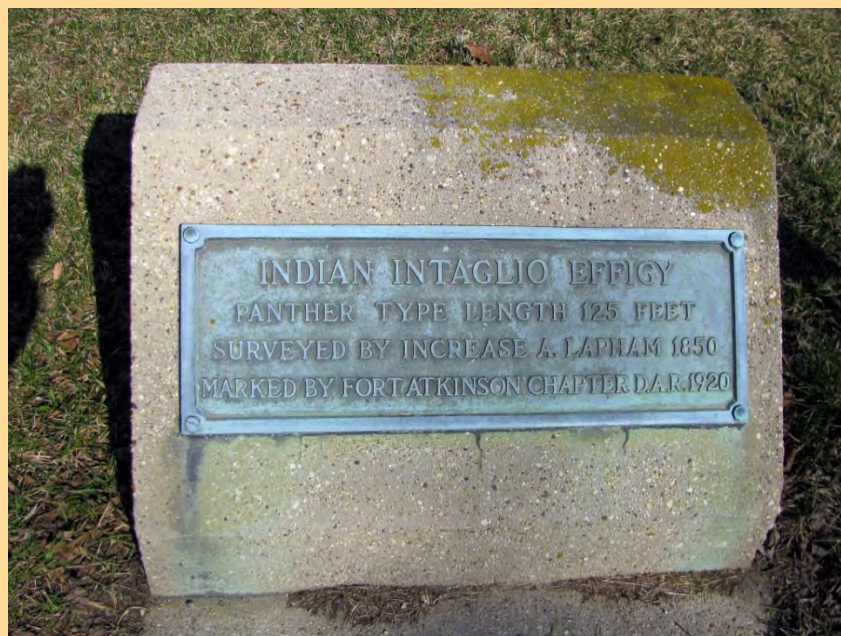
2017 *Indian Mounds of Wisconsin*, second edition. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison.



Recent Photographs of the Intaglio and Tablet



June 2008 Photograph courtesy of John Broihahn, wisconsinhistory.org



Photograph courtesy of Andrew Khitsun, www.wisconsinmounds.com



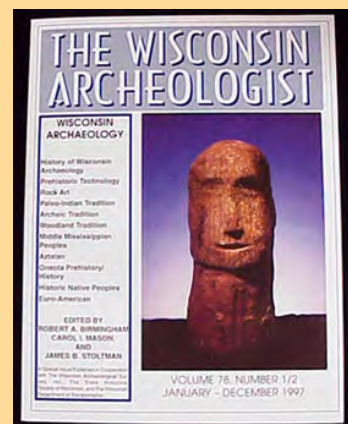
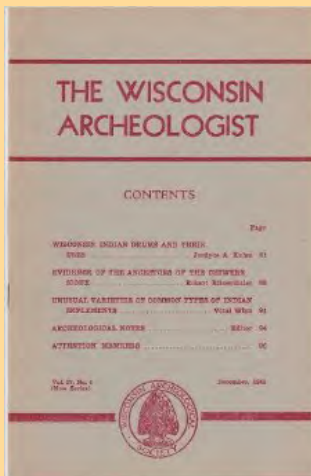
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