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Orr, Ellison

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Archives of Archaeology

Number 20

IOWA ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS 1934 TO 1939

(Ten Volumes)

by Ellison Orr

Volume III: Sundry Archaeological Papers and  
Memoranda, 1939.

EDITORS OF THE SERIES

David A. Baerreis, Chairman  
Stephen F. De Borhegyi  
Thomas A. Campbell  
John B. Rinaldo  
John J. Solon

University of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee Public Museum  
University of Texas  
Chicago Natural History Museum  
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**FOREWORD.**

The Papers - descriptive matter, maps, and photographs - which make up this Volume deal mostly with surveys and excavation work on village sites and mound groups along the Mississippi river.

Some of these give the results of work done years ago which I believe should not be lost as they in most cases have been the foundation for more systematic work done later.

In addition there are a few items and maps which I have desired to have convenient for reference, including a General Index of all Volumes.

Waukon, Iowa, Dec. 30th, 1940.

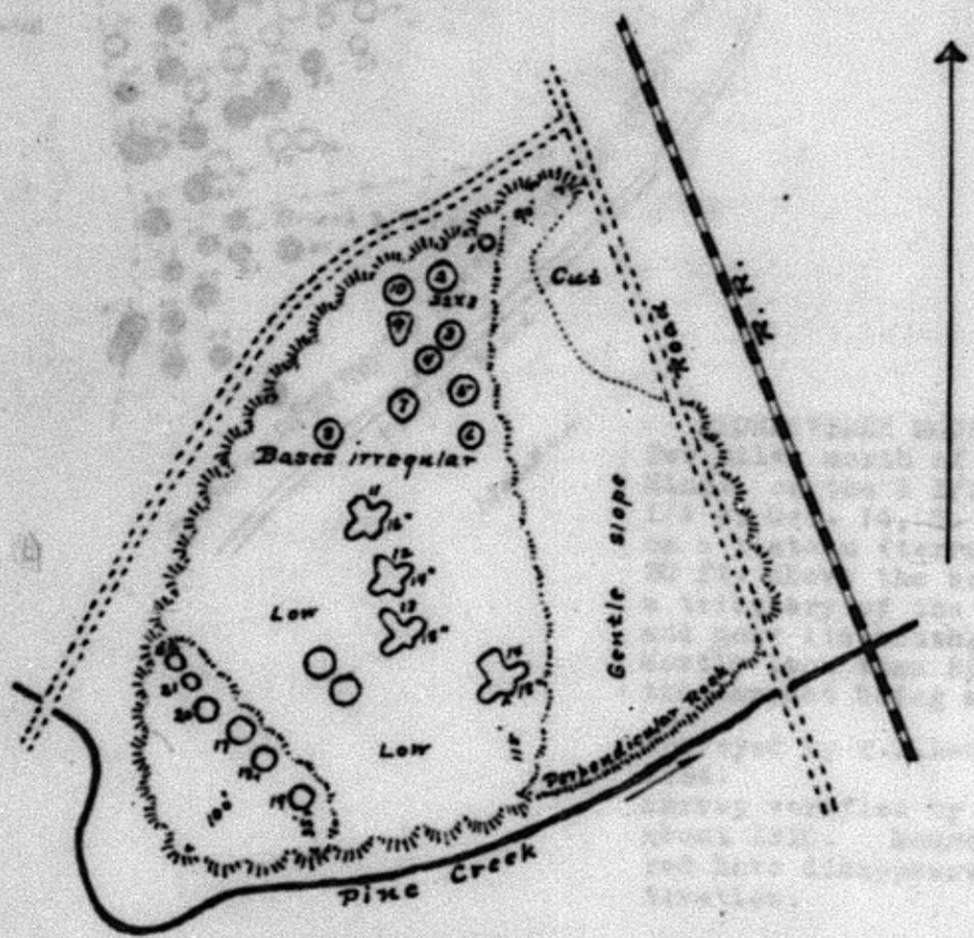
*Ellison Orr*



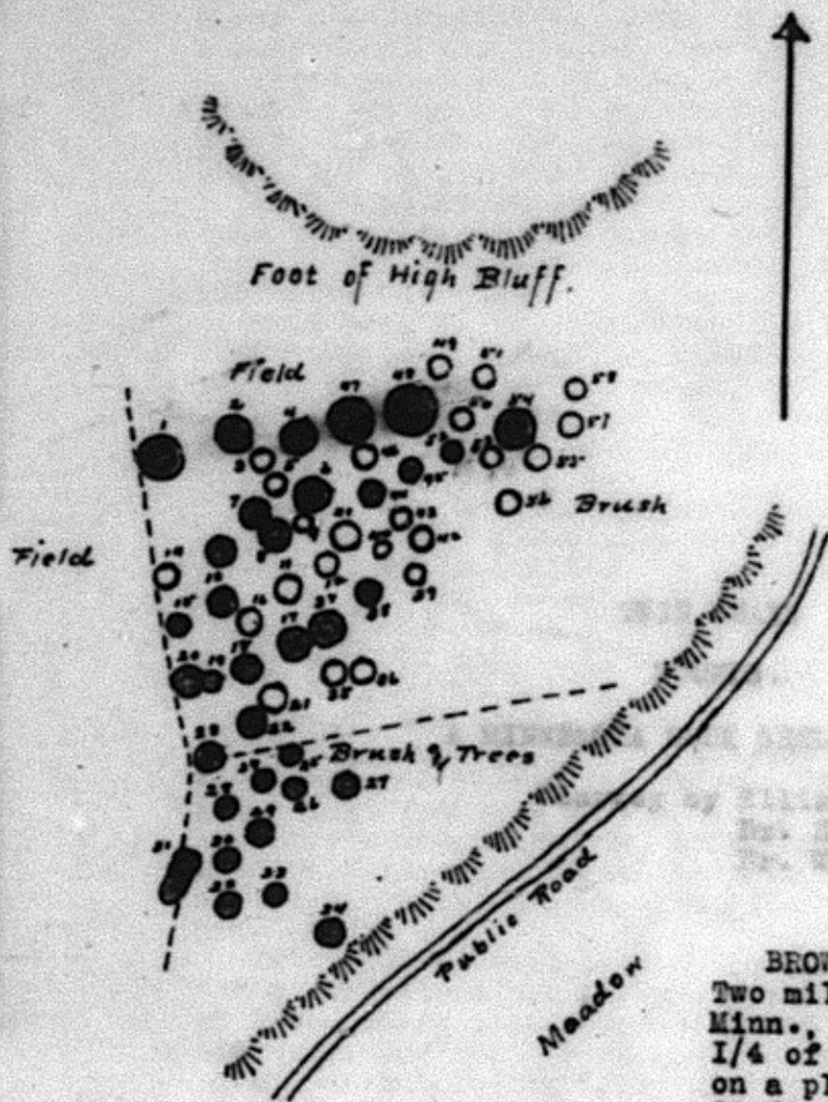
PINE CREEK GROUP of MOUNDS  
South of LaCrescent,  
Minnesota.

On Jordan Sandstone Terrace 50 feet above the  
Flood Plain of the Mississippi River, on the  
NE SW Section 15, T. 104, R. 4 west.

Survey by T. H. Lewis between 1885 and 1895.  
Verified by Ellison Orr about 1910







#### BROWNSVILLE MOUND GROUP

Two miles north of Brownsville, Minn., on the W 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 14, T. 103, R. 4, on a plateau (terrace) about 30 ft. above the bottom land of a tributary of the Mississippi, and near its mouth, Mostly less than 28 ft. in diam. the largest being 44 X 3 ft.

Surveyed by T.H.Lewis, July 2, 1884.

Survey verified by Ellison Orr about 1910. Mounds not colored red have disappeared under cultivation.

TWIN PEAKS MOUNDS.

At the site, the surface of the limestone rock which forms the base of the mounds is the horizontal level. The mounds are roughly oval, the mounds of limestone rock and sandstone fragments and other things scattered over the surface are broken up with small stones, fragments of shells, bones, and limestone rocks.

Along the surface of a wall, there is a narrow, shallow, shallow channel that is the limestone rock which forms the base of the mounds. The mounds are roughly oval, the mounds of limestone rock and sandstone fragments and other things scattered over the surface are broken up with small stones, fragments of shells, bones, and limestone rocks.

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**TWIN PEAKS**

**MOUNDS.**

**A MINNESOTA ROCK SHELTER.**

Survey by Ellison Orr  
Dr. Henry Field  
Dr. Warren Hayes

At the site, the surface of the limestone rock which forms the base of the mounds is the horizontal level. The mounds are roughly oval, the mounds of limestone rock and sandstone fragments and other things scattered over the surface are broken up with small stones, fragments of shells, bones, and limestone rocks.

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### Twin Peaks Mounds.

At New Albin, the valley of the Winnebago Creek coming down from the west, opens into that of the Mississippi river. Both have cut deeply into the geological formations of north-eastern Iowa and south-eastern Minnesota and their flood plains and terraces are bordered by precipitous, picturesque bluffs with many exposures of shale, sand, and limestone rocks.

About one-fourth of a mile from its mouth a tributary valley enters that of the Winnebago from the north. Between this tributary valley and that of the Mississippi is a five hundred feet high, and at its top, narrow divide.

At two miles north this tributary is so near the Mississippi that the crest of the divide has been cut away, making a gap or pass in the almost level line of the bluff tops, as seen from the river bottoms.

This pass is three hundred and forty feet above low water in the big river. From the bluff top on the north across the gap to the bluff top on the south, is about one-fourth of a mile.

Dividing the pass into about three equal parts, are the "Twin Peaks", two rounded, cone-shaped hills rising fifty feet above it.

Both peaks are crowned with rocky heads, that of the south peak resembling a medieval castle ruin built on the top of the flattened conical hill. Ruinous with cedar trees growing in the crevices in its sides and top.

The appearance to a castle ruin is not so apparent in the rocky peak of the cone.

On the eastern slope that leads from the flood plain up to the top of the cone of the south peak, at an elevation of two hundred and sixty feet, is a ledge of Jordan Sandstone, sixty feet long and twenty feet high, with a projecting shelf at about eight feet from its base.

Towards the south end, extending upwards from this shelf, is a vertical crevice something over ten feet high. Three feet wide at its entrance, it, at about twelve feet in, pinches out to a mere crack.

On the south wall of the crevice, just at the entrance and three feet above the floor and shelf, a basin-shaped oval area, 29 X 33 inches, has been hollowed out, which for some reason has withstood weathering and become somewhat hardened.

All around it the sandstone has crumbled away to a depth of from one to three inches.

On the oval are three "Turkey Tracks" or tepee petroglyphs, three crosses, and other marks made by cutting shallow grooves, 3/8 to 1/2 inch wide, in the face of the basin.

These were without a doubt the work of the Indian.

Midway between the two peaks is a fine symmetrical round mound, thirty-five feet in diameter, and from three and one-half to seven feet high, according to whether one views it from the west or from the east - as it lies just over the peak of the pass - on the beginning of the east slope.

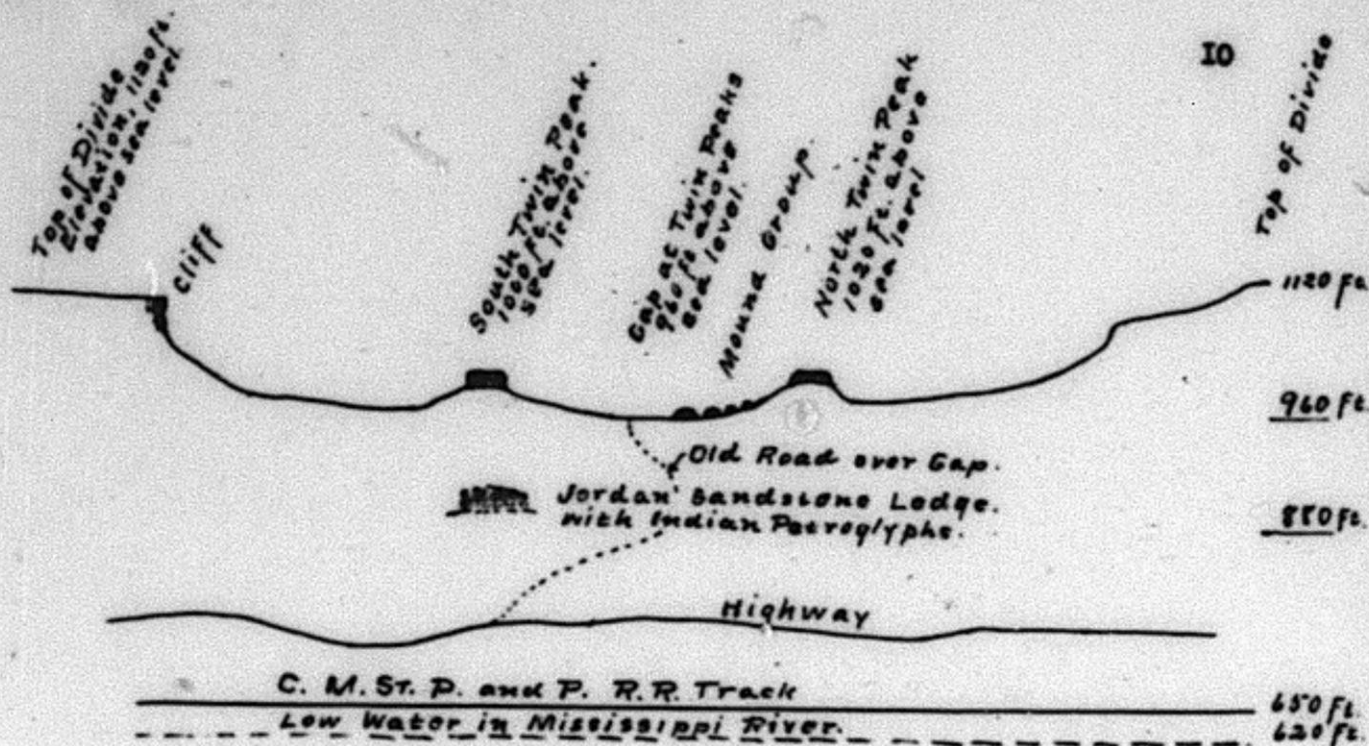
To the east of this along the ridge of the pass lie three rather obscure and much smaller mounds.

None of this group have been opened.

Round Mound on crest of gap between the "Twin Peaks", two miles north of New Albin.

Seated on the Mound from left to right are Mrs Field, Mrs Hayes, Dr. Hayes and Dr. Field., looking west.

Survey, May 5th, 1929.



PROFILE OF TWIN PEAKS GAP AS SEEN FROM THE FLOOD PLAIN OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

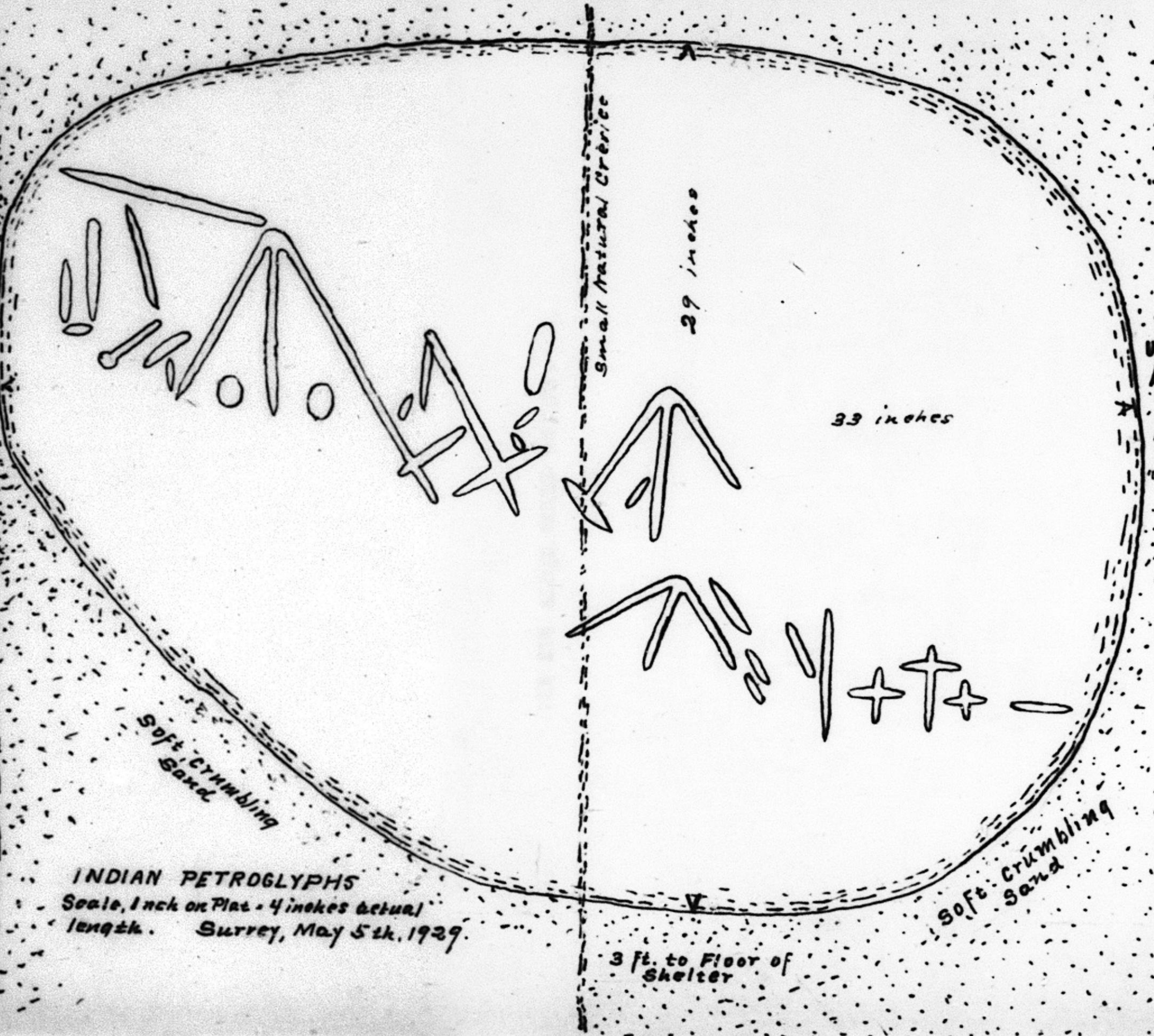
Elevations - Twin Peaks.

Average Elevation of the Bluff Tops and the General Level of the Onecta Peneplain.	1120 ft.
Elevation of Low Water at New Albin	620 ..
Elevation of R. R. Track at Twin Peaks	650 ..
Elevation of New Albin	..
Elevation of High Point of Minnesota Bluff	1120 ..
Elevation of South Twin Peak	1000 ..
Elevation of North Twin Peak	1020 ..
Elevation of Gap	960 ..
Elevation of Ledge of Jordan Sandstone	880 ..

II

Face of Ledge

Petroglyphs on S. wall of Crvice in Rock Shelter in Jordan Sandstone on E. Side of S. Peak of "Twin Peaks," 3 mi. N. of New Albin, Iowa. Figures made by cutting shallow Grooves  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide, in the Sand Rock.



Small Natural Crvice

29 inches

33 inches

UP

Soft Crumbling Sand

Soft Crumbling Sand

INDIAN PETROGLYPHS  
Scale, 1 inch on Plat. = 4 inches actual length. Surrey, May 5th, 1929.

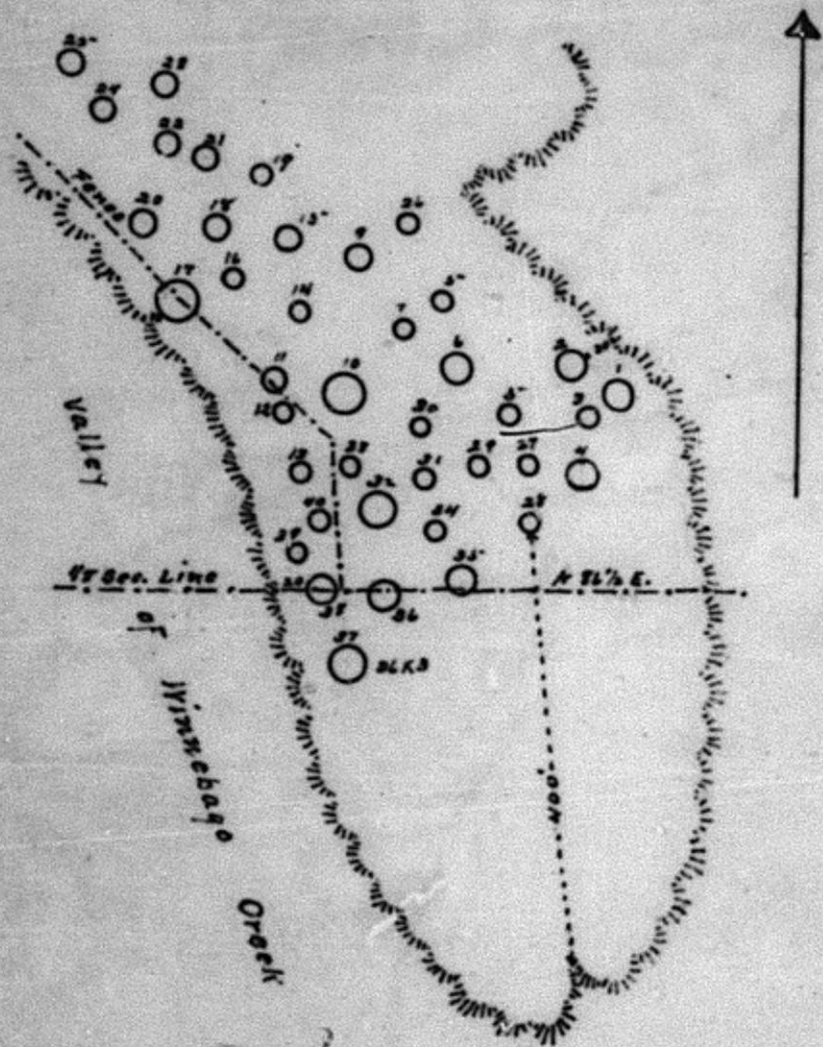
3 ft. to Floor of Shelter



**THE NEW ALBIN MOUND GROUPS.**

On a high ridge on the  
SE 1/4 of Sec. 20, T. 101,  
R. 4 West, South of Minn-  
negan Creek, are only two  
mounds, the outlines of  
a raised fort  
discovered by T. J. Lewis,  
Nov. 14, 1890.

MINNEGON CREEK MOUND GROUP  
On a 40 to 50 foot high terrace on  
the North side of Minnegan Creek  
on the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Sec.  
20, T. 101, R. 4 West, Minnesota,  
nearby Minnegan,  
about 1 1/2 miles north of New  
Albin, Iowa.  
Survey by T. J. Lewis, 1890.  
This group is now probably  
entirely destroyed by cultivation.  
(1945)



"On a high ridge on the NW 1/4 of Sec. 35, T. 101, R. 4 west, south of Winnebago Creek, are only just traceable the outlines of a ruined fort"  
 Surveyed by T.H. Lewis,  
 Apr. 22, 1892.

**WINNEBAGO CREEK MOUND GROUP**  
 On a 40 to 50 feet high terrace on the North Side of Winnebago Creek on the W 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 35, T. 101, R. 4 west, Houston county, Minnesota.

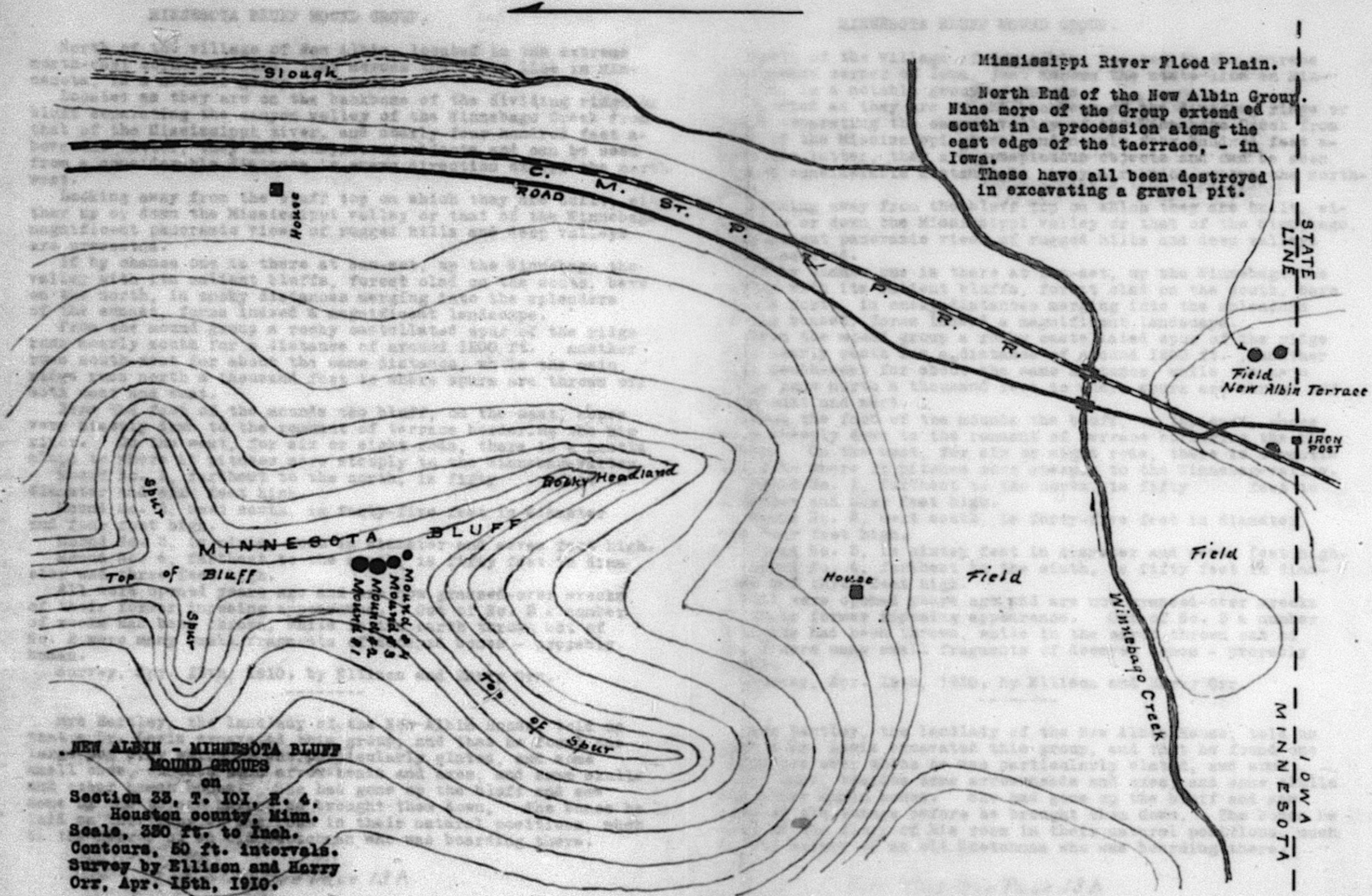
About 1/2 mile north of New Albin, Iowa.

Survey by T.H. Lewis, 1892.

This Group is now probably entirely destroyed by cultivation.

(1948)





Mississippi River Flood Plain.

North End of the New Albin Group.  
 Nine more of the Group extended south in a procession along the east edge of the terrace, - in Iowa.  
 These have all been destroyed in excavating a gravel pit.

**NEW ALBIN - MINNESOTA BLUFF MOUND GROUPS**

on  
 Section 33, T. 101, R. 4,  
 Houston county, Minn.  
 Scale, 350 ft. to inch.  
 Contours, 50 ft. intervals.  
 Survey by Ellison and Harry Orr, Apr. 15th, 1910.

Group of 40 Mounds - Lewis.  
 For Map of This Group see Page 13

## MINNESOTA BLUFF MOUND GROUP.

North of the village of New Albin, located in the extreme north-east corner of Iowa, just across the state line in Minnesota, is a notable group of Mounds.

Located as they are on the backbone of the dividing ridge or bluff separating the canyon valley of the Winnebago Creek from that of the Mississippi river, and nearly four hundred feet above the latter, they are conspicuous objects and can be seen from a considerable distance in every direction except the north-west.

Looking away from the bluff top on which they are built, either up or down the Mississippi valley or that of the Winnebago, magnificent panoramic views of rugged hills and deep valleys are presented.

If by chance one is there at sun-set, up the Winnebago the valley with its salient bluffs, forest clad on the south, bare on the north, in smoky distances merging into the splendors of the sunset, forms indeed a magnificent landscape.

From the mound group a rocky castellated spur of the ridge runs nearly south for a distance of around 1200 ft., another runs south-west for about the same distance, while the main ridge runs north a thousand feet to where spurs are thrown off both east and west.

From the foot of the mounds the bluff, on the east, slopes very steeply down to the remnant of terrace bordering the big river. On the west, for six or eight rods, there is a gentle slope to where it pitches more steeply to the Winnebago valley.

Mound No. 1, farthest to the north, is fifty feet in diameter and six feet high.

Mound No. 2, next south, is forty-five feet in diameter and four feet high.

Mound No. 3, is sixty feet in diameter and seven feet high.

Mound No. 4, farthest to the south, is fifty feet in diameter and three feet high.

All were opened years ago and are now grassed-over wrecks of their former imposing appearance. Out of No. 3 a number of rocks had been thrown, while in the earth thrown out of No. 2 were many small fragments of decayed bones - probably human.

Survey, Apr. 15th, 1910, by Ellison and Harry Orr.

Mrs Hartley, the landlady of the New Albin House, told us that a Dr. Lewis excavated this group, and that he found one large pot over which he was particularly elated, and some small ones, besides some arrow-heads and axes, and some skulls and other human bones. She had gone up the bluff and saw some of the things before he brought them down. The bones he laid on the floor of his room in their natural positions, much to the horror of an old Scotchman who was boarding there.

*For Map See Page 13A*

The doctor referred to was undoubtedly T. H. Lewis of the Hill-Lewis Archaeological Survey of the Mississippi river valley, who did work in Iowa in 1884, 1889 and 1892, and the results of whose work in Minnesota were included in the "The Aborigines of Minnesota" by H. H. Winchell and published by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1911.

As the doctor spent some time at New Albin and did more or less work up and down the Onyota valley which opens into that of the Mississippi just below New New Albin, we are inclined to believe that Mrs H's recollection is at fault, and that part of the material which she remembers seeing him have, especially the pottery, was not taken from the mounds but was dug up in the Onyota valley, where much pottery has been found in the graves of the people of the Onyota culture.



**Minnesota (Oneota) Bluff from the South-east.**

The high point at the upper right is the rocky terminus of the south spur of the general upland level of the bluff tops bordering the Mississippi on the west .

Its top is the same elevation as that of the south-west spur - shown at the upper left.- Twelve hundred feet to the north of the rocky promontory on the crest of the narrow ridge is the Minnesota Bluff Mound Group.

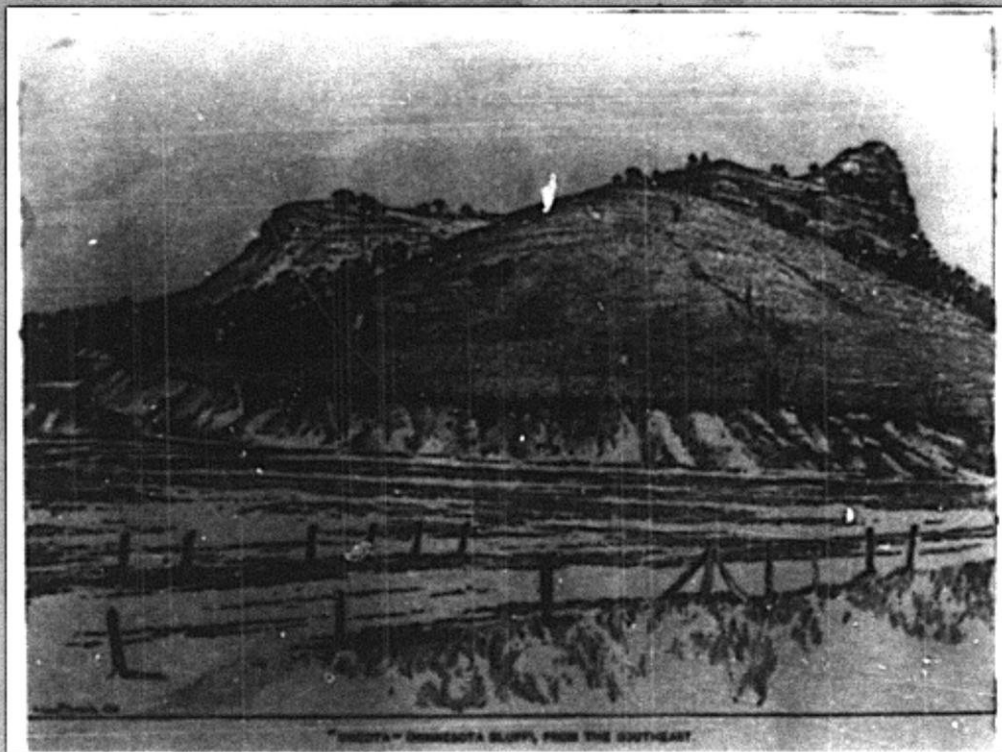
McGhee says of this bluff, page 204, Pleistocene History of North-eastern Iowa:

"- the 'Oneota' of the poor remnants of the Winnebago still lingering about its base."

And in a foot note: "The Indians about its mouth (The Upper Iowa) call the bluff flanking it on the north 'Oneota' and recognize the river under the same name."

Note the absence of trees.

The photograph of which the above is a copy was taken about 1876 - 1882.



**Minnesota (Oneota) Bluff from the South-east.**

The high point at the upper right is the rocky terminus of the south spur of the general upland level of the bluff tops bordering the Mississippi on the west .

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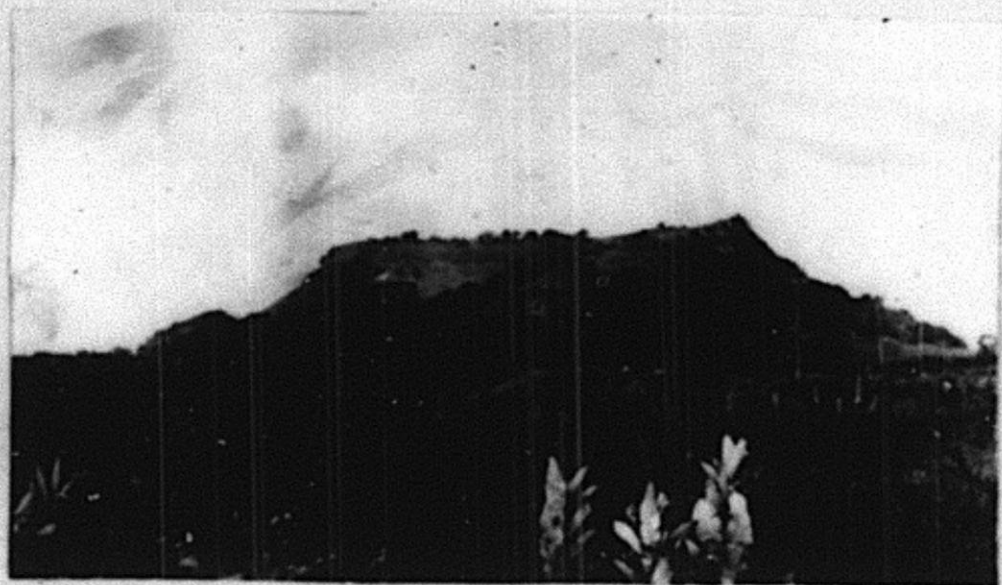
Note the absence of trees.

The photograph of which the above is a copy was taken about 1876 - 1882.

MINNESOTA - ONEOTA BLUFF, FROM THE SOUTH. ABOUT 1876 - 1882. PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAM ORR.



*Minnesota Bluff, From S.  
Note "Iron Post" marking State Boundary Line.*



Photograph of Minnesota (Oneota) Bluff, from the south. About 1930. Note the "Iron Post" set to establish the Iowa - Minnesota Boundary Line, 1831 - 32. Photograph by Ellison Orr.

### The New Albin Mound Group.

On page 85 of "The Aborigines of Minnesota, published by the Minnesota Historical Society, by Hill, Lewis, Brewer and Winchell, is a map of a mound group in a north and south procession along the east edge of the extensive terrace on which the town of New Albin is located.

Nine of these mounds were in Iowa, the remaining two were across the line in Minnesota.

Hill's description is as follows: "The New Albin Group on the south-west one-fourth of the south-east one-fourth of Sec. 35, T. 101, R. 4, and continuing south into Allamakee county, Iowa. On a plateau (terrace) 14 ft. above the marsh. This group embraces 11 tumuli, situated between the rail-road and the marsh (river bottom) to the east. But two of these are north of the state line. One is 55 ft. by 3 ft., and the other is flat-topped with a top diameter of 20 ft. The series, extending south-easterly, comes to the sand pit and has lost a portion of numbers 2 and 10. Numbers 3, 4, 5, and 9 have been excavated."

Surveyed by Lewis, June 24th, 1884. At present writing, 1914, all this group in Iowa has been removed in excavating sand and gravel from the "Sand Pit". Only the two in Minnesota remain and they have been nearly obliterated by cultivation.

*See Page 13A For Map.*

### The Winnebago Creek Mound Group.

On page 85 of the *Aberigines of Minnesota* published by the Minnesota Historical Society, by Hill, Lewis, Brower and Winchell, is a map of a mound group on a terrace on the north side of the Winnebago Creek, at the south-west base of the Minnesota Bluff north of New Albin.

The description given is as follows:

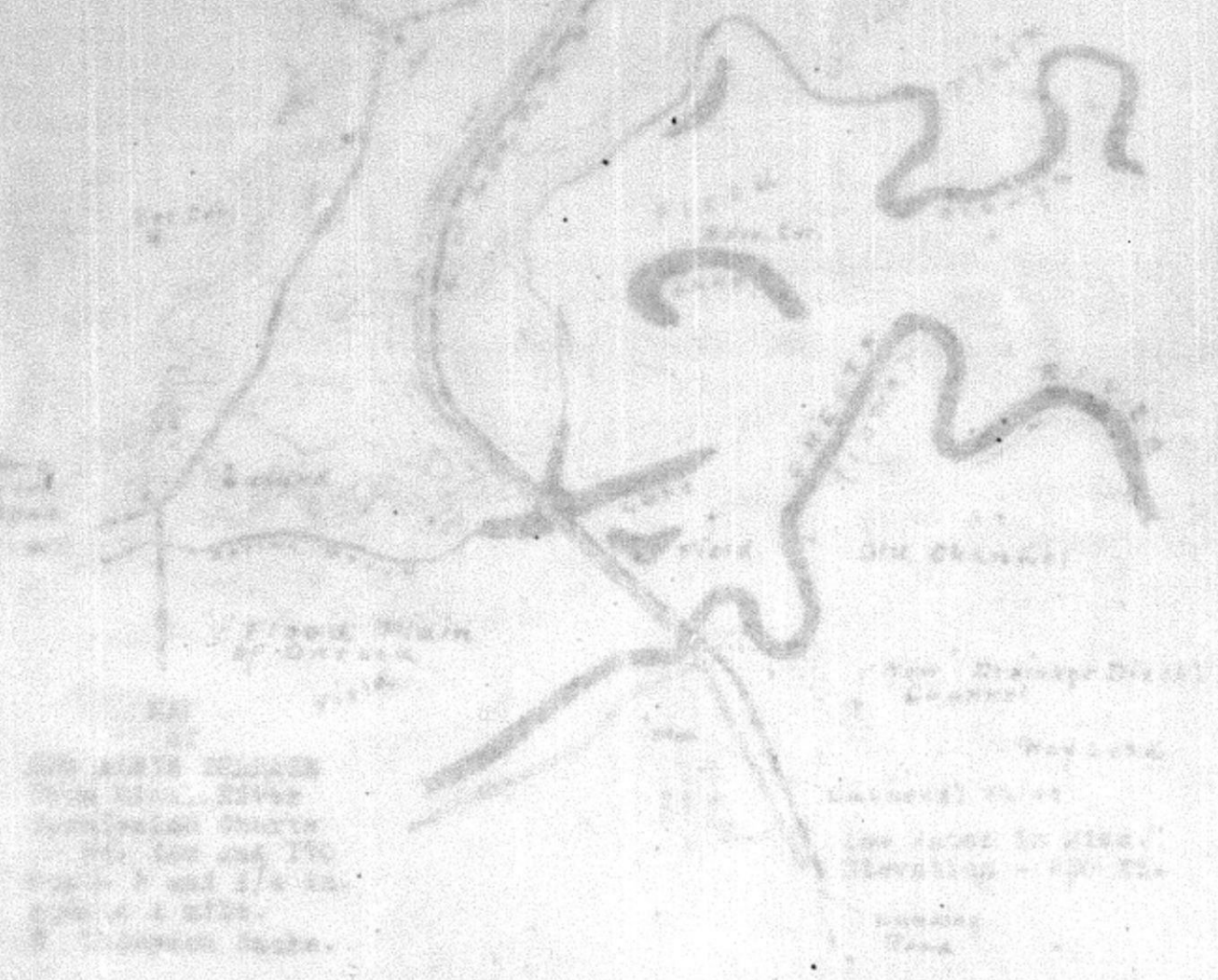
"Winnebago Creek Mounds. -  $\frac{1}{2}$  SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 35, T. 101, R. 4, on a plateau (terrace) about 22 ft. above the creek.

This group embraces 40 circular mounds of rather less than average size. They are scattered promiscuously over the plateau."

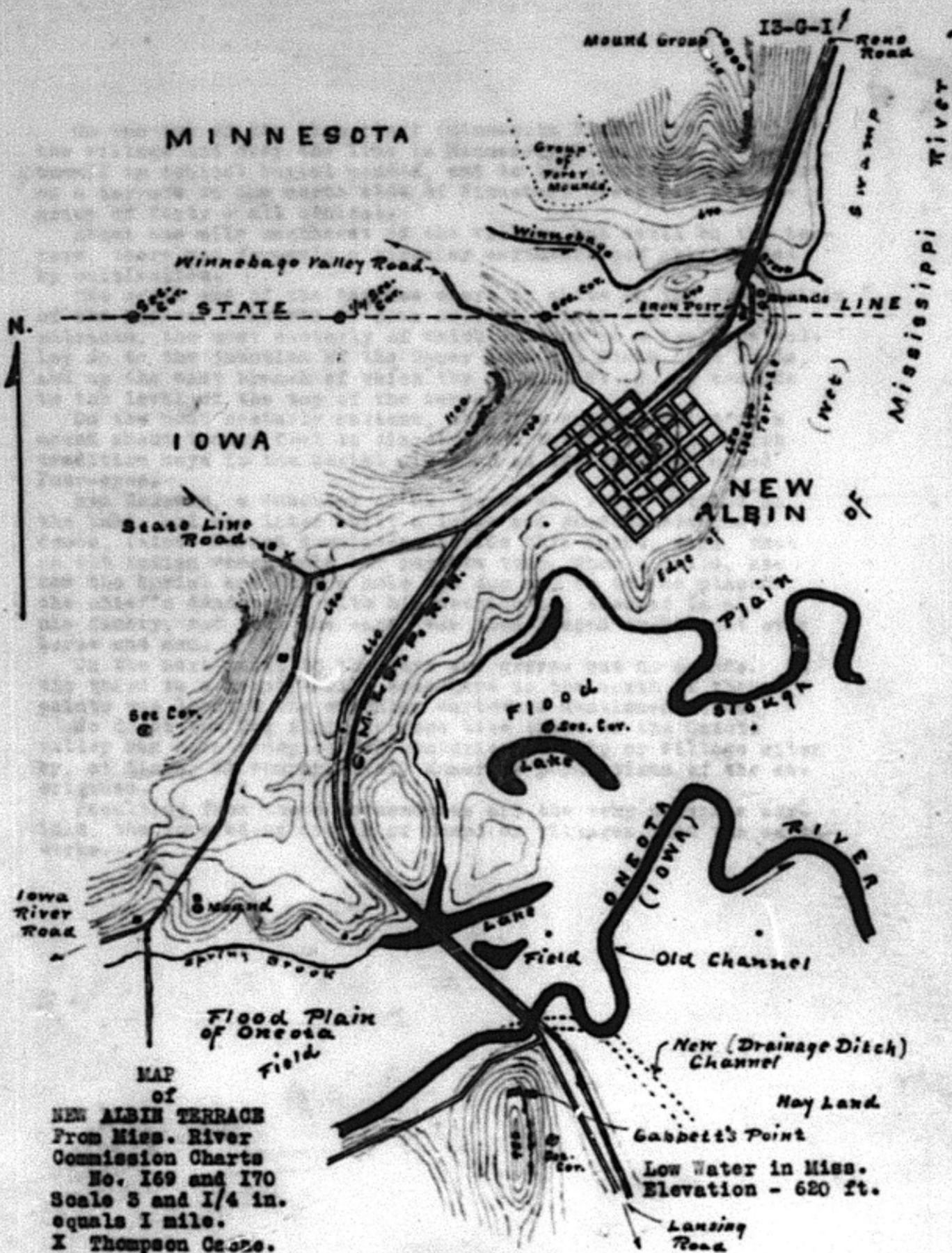
Now, in 1940, all of this group have probably been obliterated by cultivation.

On page 13-A is a general map showing the location of all the mound groups in the vicinity of New Albin.

*For Map See Page 13*







**MAP**  
 of  
**NEW ALBIN TERRACE**  
 From Miss. River  
 Commission Charts  
 No. 169 and 170  
 Scale 3 and 1/4 in.  
 equals 1 mile.  
 K Thompson Co.

On the top of the high bluff (Minnesota Bluff) just north of the village and over the line in Minnesota, is a group of four tumuli or conical burial mounds, and to the south-west of these on a terrace on the north side of Winnebago Creek, is a large group of forty - all conical.

About one mile southwest of the village but still on the terrace, there was formerly a circular earthwork now obliterated by cultivation.

The south end of the terrace where it abuts on the flood plain of the Onyota, consists of four salient points and three re-entrants, the most easterly of which extends as a drainage valley up to the junction of the Upper Iowa and State Line roads, and up the east branch of which the O. M. & St. P. Ry ascends to the level of the top of the terrace.

On the most westerly salient, near the extreme point is a mound about twenty feet in diameter and two feet high, which tradition says is the burial place of an Indian chief named Four-eyes.

Mrs Hausman, a daughter of Mr. Hayes who first settled on the land, and who later built a large and comfortable residence, (since burned down) close beside this mound, says, that an old Indian woman told her parents that, when a child, she saw the burial and that a hole was dug and in it was placed the chief's dead horse with him astride it, dressed in all his finery, and that the earth was then heaped around and over horse and man.

On the next point to the east are graves but no mounds. On the third is a mound, while somewhere to the north of these points was located the circular earthwork mentioned above.

No doubt the New Albin terrace like those of the Onyota valley has been occupied for centuries as camp or village sites by, at times, ~~EE~~ comparatively numerous populations of the aborigines.

Resulting from these occupancies are the very numerous burials, the covered-up debris of camps or villages, and the earthworks.-

## The Fish Farm Mound Group.

With perhaps the exception of the Fish Farm Mound Group - Yellow River Group of Iowa, the largest and most compact assemblage of earthworks, as well as the largest individual circular mound in all known Iowa, is located on a terrace of about five acres in area on the Fish Farm and near the center of the NE of the NE of Sec. 24, T. 15S., R. 5. E. west of the 21st P.M.

The public road from Leaning to New Albia runs along the foot of the bluffs just above the Fish Farm of the Mississippi River and close to the foot of this terrace and just below the north works.

Three mounds lie somewhat away from the remaining heavily-eroded of the group which cover about an acre along the river front of the terrace. The largest mound lies in an irregular row having a length of about 200 ft., and having a diameter of 250 ft., and nearly or quite leveling each stage, and with their circumferences at the bottom, running out to the edge of the terrace.

West of and close to this irregular row lie the remainder, scattered about haphazard.

All the mounds of this group are circular, the largest having a diameter of forty feet and a height of ten, the smallest a diameter of ten and height of ten, with the spaces of varying diameters and heights between.

**THE FISH FARM MOUND GROUP.**

**(Now the Property of the State of Iowa.)**

Except for the mounds in the center of the terrace, the area occupied by the mounds is covered with grass, other weeds and trees. The mounds are all covered with a few scattered oak, of all trees. One first growth white oak and a Hickory have a probable age of over one hundred years. The other trees are second growth oak, Hickory and maple, not more than half that age.

A large old white oak and the stump of a still larger one, stand on the site of Mound No. 3, a photograph of which looking east is shown, following.

These mounds were examined in 1888 by a party sent out by the Bureau of Ethnology, under Col. Harris. Dr. Charles Drennon, in the annual report of the Bureau for 1892-3 says that they were all typical mounds, and that they contained a central core of hard clay, covering decayed human bones, fragments of pottery and rude stone implements, and that there were generally two or more obelisks in a mound, which were placed horizontally side by side on the lateral surface of the mound.

All except eight of this group have been opened. One of No. 3 a number of limestone rocks had been thrown, but this appears to have been the only one containing stones.

A few pieces of gray tempered pottery have been placed by us at different times on the earth through out at about No. 11. Back of this group, on the terrace, as have pieces by different times, a few packed and unglazed stone articles.

### The Fish Farm Mound Group.

With perhaps the exception of the Red House Landing - Yellow River Group of Mounds, the largest and most compact assemblage of earthworks, as well as the largest individual circular mound in Allamakee county, is located on a terrace of about five acres in area on the Fish Farm and near the center of the NW of the NE of Sec. 26, T. 100, R. 4 west of the 5th P.M.

The public road from Lansing to New Albin runs along the foot of the bluffs just above the flood plain of the Mississippi river close to the foot of this terrace and just below the earthworks.

Three mounds lie somewhat away from the remaining twenty-seven of the group which cover about an acre along the river front of the terrace. The largest ones lie in an irregular row having a length of about 600 ft., and having a direction of N 35 W, and nearly or quite touching each other, and with their circumferences at the bottom, running out to the edge of the terrace.

Back of and close to this irregular row lie the remainder, scattered about haphazard.

All the mounds of this group are circular, the largest having a diameter of forty feet and a height of ten, the smallest a diameter of ten and height of two, with the others of varying diameters and heights between.

Except for the three lying apart from the others, the area occupied by the others is covered with sumac, other brush and trees, some of which are over a foot in diameter. (This area, now, 1940, is free of all brush, and except for a few scattering oaks, of all trees.) One first growth white oak and a hickory have a propable age of over one hundred years. The other trees are second growth oak, hickory and maple, not more than half that age.

A large old white oak and the stump of a still larger one, stand on the side of Mound No. 9, a photograph of which, looking east is shown, following.

These mounds were examined in 1882 by a party sent out by the Bureau of Ethnology, under Col. Morris. Dr Cyrus Thomas, in the annual report of the Bureau for 1883-4 says that they were all burial mounds, and that they contained a central core of hard clay, covering decayed human bones, fragments of pottery and rude stone implements, and that there were generally two or more skeletons in a mound, which were placed horizontally side by side on the natural surface of the ground.

All except eight of this group have been opened. Out of No. 6 a number of limestone rocks had been thrown, but this appears to have been the only one containing stones.

A few pieces of grit tempered pottery have been picked up by us at different times on the earth thrown out of mound No. 12. Back of this group, on the terrace, we have picked up at different times, a few pecked and chipped stone artifacts.

Dr. Thomas also states in the same report, page 31, "that upon a terrace below this group were found the remains of row of comparatively large burial mounds. A rail road line, now the C. M. St. P & P. R. R., having been carried along here, the larger portion of these works were destroyed, still enough remained to show that the height varied from 6 to 15 ft.; that they were composed chiefly of sandy loam similar to that around them; and that each had a hard core in the center of clay mixed with ashes, usually covering but a single skeleton."

"The relics found in these when opened consisted chiefly of stone axes, arrow and spear heads, and a few copper celts. In one which was 32 ft. in diameter and 8 ft. high and less injured than the others, was a circular vault, - built of flat unworked stones, laid up without mortar, gradually lessening as it ascended, and covered at the top with a single flat stone, contained a single skeleton in a squatting posture with which was a small earthen vase of globular form."

Not a vestige of this mound now remains except what may be the side of one at the edge of the rail road cut on the east side of the track.

If Prof Thomas' account of what these mounds contained is no more reliable than his map of the terrace on which is located the Lane Farm Mound Group, published in the same report, it must be confessed that, when the barrenness of other promising mounds opened in recent years is considered, one is justified in having a strong disbelief that so much material was found in them, especially after they had been riddled by the rail road construction work.

Survey of the Fish Farm Group, which is now the property of the State of Iowa, from which general and detail plats were made that are included in this paper, were made by Ellison and Harry Orr, Apr. 15th, 1910.

---

Mr. Bud Yeoman, whose home for years was the farm house next north of the Fish Farm Mounds, once told me that there was a large round mound on the top of the bluff south of that group.

We have, however, never had an opportunity to verify this.

If, as Dr. Thomas states, this group of mounds, ( he does'nt say how many ) contained the "relics --- consisting chiefly of stone axes, arrow and spear heads, ( of flint, ? ), and a few copper celts, " together with a vault covered with a flat arch of "unworked stones ---- gradually ~~ascending~~ lessening as it ascended, and covered at the top with a single flat stone, containing a single skeleton in a squatting posture with which was a small earthen vase of globular form," it is more than likely that he got this information from those who excavated the rail-road cut, ( as he says "the larger portion of the works were destroyed" before he could have seen them ), and it may not be altogether reliable.

Assuming that it was, then the findings, celts and spear heads, and especially copper celts, together with the single burial covered with a flat arch with the inclusion of a globular vessel, ( most probably rounded and not conoidal bottom ) would indicate a group of Hopewell mounds.

Apr. 28th, 1945



J. P. Conway, Charles F. Pye and others taking it easy on Mound No. 2 of the Fish Farm Mound Group.



Three of same party on Mound No. 9. Both of above photos looking south-east.

Oct. 31st, 1915.



Mound No. 12 in foreground, mound No. 17 in middle background. Mound No. 14 in front and to south of Prof. Charles F. Pye taking notes. Brush was cut off winter of 1913-14.



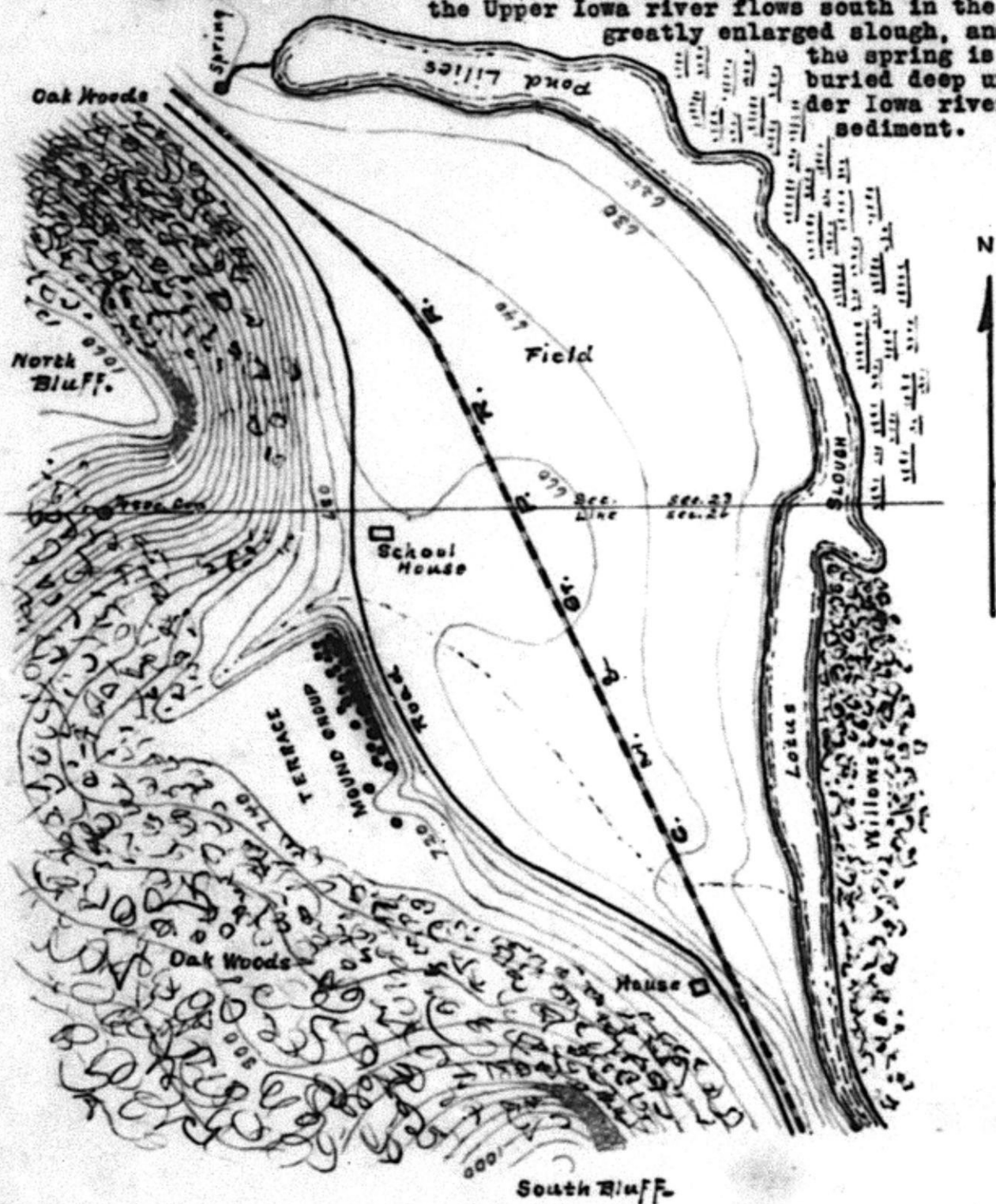
High bluff north of Fish Farm Mound Group of Mounds, from the Mound Group.

Both above photographs taken Oct. 31, 1915.

## PLAT OF AREA SURROUNDING THE FISH FARM MOUND GROUP.

(Copy of Survey of Apr. 15th, 1910.)

Highway, now (1940) hard-surfaced, parallels the railroad, the Upper Iowa river flows south in the greatly enlarged slough, and the spring is buried deep under Iowa river sediment.



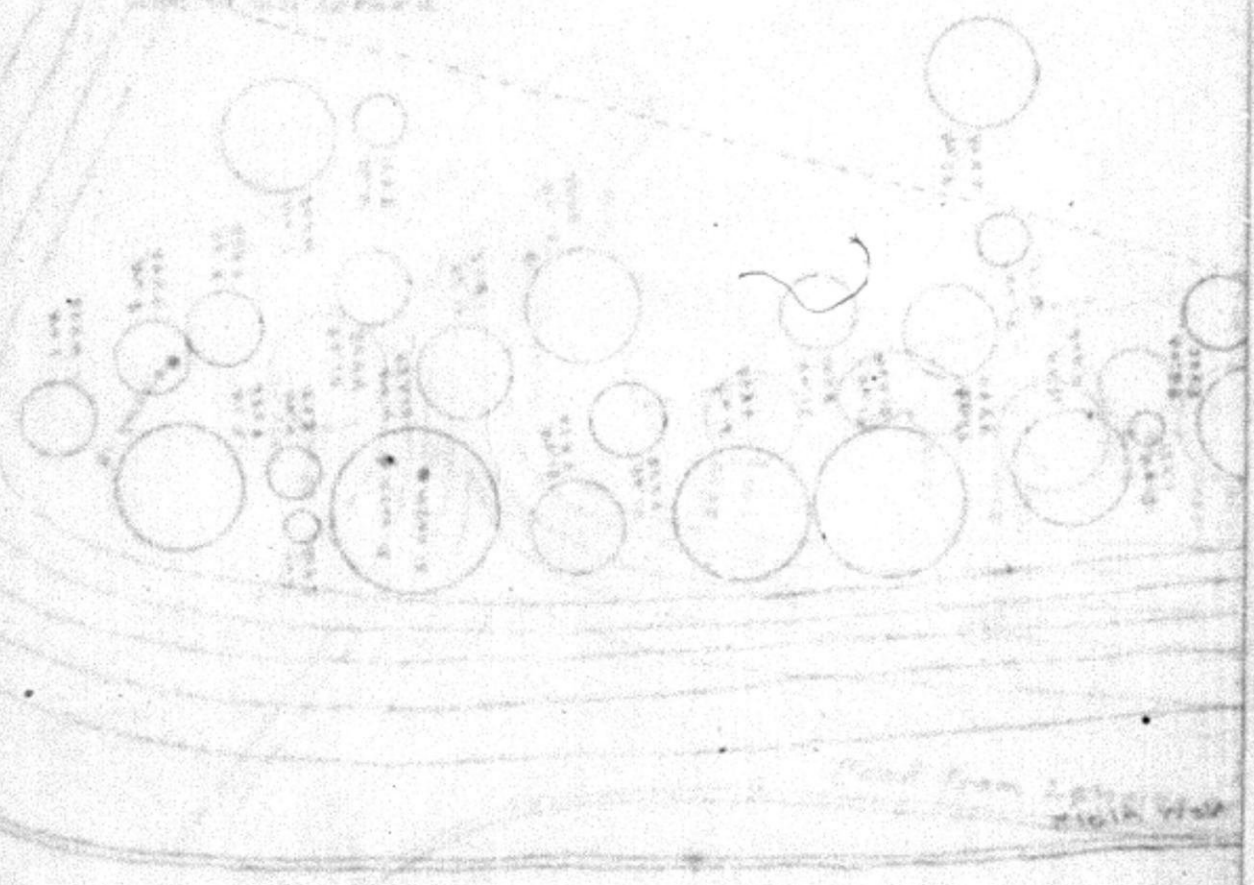
Scale, 1 inch 450 feet.



DETAIL OF FISH FARM MOUND GROUP.

12 1/2  
100 FT  
100 FT

36  
Main 2 1/2 miles from  
Plymouth, Pennsylvania  
NE corner of NE Sec. 36  
Twp. 10 N. R. 4 W. S. 22 E.  
Date of survey: April 11, 1910  
Plotted by J. M. F. [unclear]  
Scale: 1" = 100' [unclear]



From [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

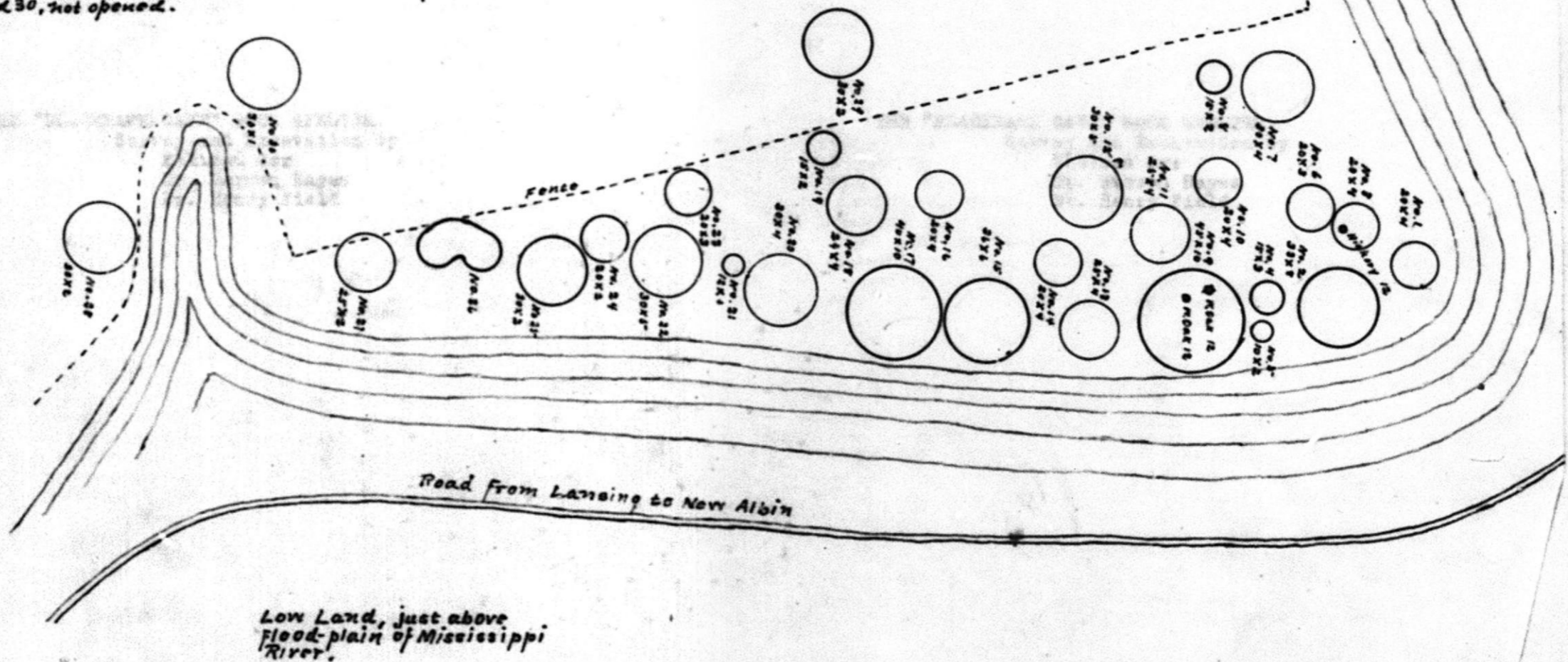
Foot of Bluff, 400 ft. High

Valley of Dry Run.

GROUP  
of  
30 MOUNDS  
Bench 50 Ft. above Flood  
Plain of Mississippi River,  
NE part of NW NE Sec. 26,  
Twp 100N, R. 4W of 5th P.M.  
Scale 1" = 50'. Survey Apr. 10, 1910.  
Mounds - 7, 10, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29  
and 30, not opened.

T  
E  
R  
R  
A  
C  
E

Field



Low Land, just above  
flood-plain of Mississippi  
River.

"Blackhawk's Cave" Rock Shelter.

In the very north-east corner of an unbroken valley east of the State of Iowa, where the valley of the Des Moines or Upper Iowa river, issuing from the west, descends on the other flood plain of the Mississippi, the Blackhawk following the river on the south and those forming the Missouri rise of the latter, terminate and unite in a bold rocky promontory one hundred and twenty-five feet in vertical height.

Along the base of this is a level belt of talus about fifteen feet wide, most of which is composed around the rock wall, in a mass of large rocks that at some time long ago have fallen from above.

A few feet west of these falling rocks, in some parts on the valley of the Des Moines river, is a "rock shelter" in the limestone cliff, fitting just along its face, seven feet in depth back into the rock, and four feet from the dirt floor to the roof.

From the level pit to the top the talus extends abruptly down to the flood plain of the two rivers, 200 hundred and fifty feet below.

Locally this shelter is known as "Blackhawk's Cave", and the promontory at Blackhawk's Point is believed to be it.

It is currently believed by the people of Wisconsin that Blackhawk, chief of the Sauk and Foxes, after the battle of Bad Axe, took refuge in this shelter, where his wife and all his children were killed. The story is told that he was seen on the east side of the river and that he was seen to enter the shelter with some of his followers.

**THE "BLACKHAWK CAVE" ROCK SHELTER.**

**Survey and Excavation by**

**Elison Orr**

**Dr. Warren Hayes**

**Dr. Henry Field**

It is in this shelter that the story is told that he was seen on the east side of the river and that he was seen to enter the shelter with some of his followers. There is presently nothing to the story or to the one that he and two of his followers, while hiding out, went up the Milwaukee River north-west of Bad Axe to some certain place, where leaving the other Indians, the chief took to flight. Most of them back he was without his rifle, which he had when he took to flight.

It is believed that they were all shot and that he buried them. How all this could be known, as there were no white men at that time and if there had been any white men they could have followed and killed him, is not clear.

Blackhawk himself, says in his autobiography, that after the battle he went to Prairie du Chien where he gave himself up to a Winnebago, while the writers of history have it that he was captured near the falls of the Wisconsin. Why he should go back home into the arms of his mortal enemies, which he had been fighting, is unexplainable.

The shelter, originally seven feet from the rock floor to the ceiling, and at the time of our excavation, been filled to a depth of three feet with fallen rock mixed with soil.

About fifty per cent of the whole was rock fragments, a part of which had fallen down from the sides and roof.

### "Blackhawk Cave" Rock Shelter.

In the very north-east corner of Allamakee county and of the State of Iowa, where the valley of the Oneota or Upper Iowa river, coming from the west, debouches on the wider flood plain of the Mississippi, the bluffs bordering the former on the south and those forming the western rim of the latter, terminate and unite in a bold rocky promontory one-hundred and twenty-five feet in vertical height.

Along the foot of this is a level bit of talus about fifteen feet wide, near the middle of which, it circles around the rock wall, is a mass of large rocks that at some time long ago have fallen from above.

A few feet west of these fallen rocks, in what would be the valley of the Oneota river, is a "rock shelter" in the limestone cliff, fifteen feet along its face, seven feet in depth back into the rock, and four feet from the dirt floor to the roof.

From the level bit in front the talus pitches steeply down to the flood plains of the two rivers, two hundred and fifty feet below.

Locally this shelter is known as "Blackhawk's Cave", and the promontory as Breckman's Bluff or Gabbett's Point.

It is currently believed by the people thereabouts that Blackhawk, chief of the Sacs and Foxes, after the battle of Bad Axe, just across the river in Wisconsin, where his tribe was all but annihilated, escaped across to the Iowa side of the river and for a short time secreted himself in the broken wild country round about, making especial use of this bluff and shelter at its base, as well as one at the top from which a wide look-out over the surrounding country is had.

It is to this tradition that the shelter owes its name. There is probably nothing to the story or to the one that he and two of his followers, while hiding out, went up the Winnebago Creek north-west of New Albin to some certain place, where leaving the other Indians, the chief rode on alone. When he came back he was without his saddle-bags which he had when he rode ahead.

It is believed that they contained gold and that he buried them. How all this could be known, as there were no whites there at that time and if there had been any Sioux about they would have followed and killed him, is not clear.

Blackhawk, himself, says in his autobiography, that after the battle he went to Prairie la Poudre where he gave himself up to a Winnebago, while the writers of history have it that he was captured near the Dells of the Wisconsin. Why he should go back there into the midst of his mortal enemies, which he had been fighting, is unbelievable.

The shelter, originally seven feet from the rock floor to the ceiling, had at the time of our excavation, been filled to a depth of three feet with fallen rock mixed with soil.

About fifty per cent of the whole was rock fragments, a part of which had fallen down from the sides and roof.

For a long time prior to the coming of the white man the valley of the Onoeta was claimed by the Sioux and this small shelter was evidently one of the places to which they resorted, and whatever other ceremonies took place there, they also feasted.

Not enough debris was mixed with the soil to indicate very extensive use. Probably only rare visits were made during a long period of time, for it must take a long time for three feet of rock and earth to accumulate in a cave situated as this one was.

Lieut Pike in his "Exploratory Expedition to the Source of the Mississippi" visited a Sioux village at the mouth of the Onoeta, on Sept. 10th, 1805.

A much traveled highway winds around the Brookman Bluff just above the flood plain of the river. In grading this some years ago several human skeletons were found, and in the roadside bank one of our party found, on the Sept. day that we cleared out the shelter, a small copper ornament.

One mile below on a small terrace is located the "Fish Farm Mound Group" of thirty-two round mounds - one of the finest groups of round mounds along the Mississippi and easily accessible from the highway.

The pottery of the Onoeta valley, except that found in the mounds, is preeminently Siucan. After rounding Brookman's Bluff down the Mississippi the pottery is of another type or culture, tempered with sand profusely decorated.

A few bits found in the earth that had been thrown out of one of the Fish Farm Mounds more than half a century ago by a party sent out by the Smithsonian that excavated some of this group, belong to this latter culture.



The foot of Brookman's bluff. Shelter just to the right of Dr. Hayes

**Material Recovered from the Blackhawk Shelter.**

**Excavated May 6th, 1929.**

**List Prepared by Dr. Henry Field, then of New Albin, Ia.**

**Bones of Black Bear.**

Half of a mandible, 8 and 1/4 inches long  
 Two halves of Mandible, 7 and 1/4 inches long. Mates.  
 Two halves of another Mandible, incomplete, 4 inches long.  
 Half of Mandible, 6 inches long.  
 Two nearly complete maxillae, upper jaw with teeth attached.  
 Five unattached cuspids or fangs.  
 More than eleven pieces of skulls.

**Bones - other.**

Many pieces of split long bones - probably of deer.  
 One nearly complete large vertebra.  
 Several molar teeth.

**Turtle Bones.**

One or two fairly large pieces of turtle shell with some attached bones.

**Fish Bones.**

A few rather large vertebrae.

In addition to the above there were innumerable fragments of unidentifiable bones.

**Shells.**

Many soft and old clam shells from the river. Fell to pieces on exposure. Some of these were charred by fire.

**Pottery.**

Three fairly large pieces. Siouan (Oneota) culture.

**Weapons and implements.**

One gray flint arrow-head, 1 and 1/2 inches long, 1 inch wide.

**Charcoal.**

Considerable quantities of both large and small pieces. some quite firm but mostly very soft.

Material Recovered from Blackhawk Shelter.

Excavation of Sept. 22 - 23, 1929.

List prepared by Dr. Henry Field then of New Albin, Iowa.

Bones.

Half of Deer (?) mandible, 8 inches long.  
 Large portion of deer (?) maxillae.  
 Joint end of bone, 2 and 1/2 inches in diameter.  
 Two complete short and robust humeri, 4 and 1/2 inches long. Mates.  
 Fifteen large pieces of split and broken bones, 3 to 5 inches long.  
 Eighteen slender bones, chiefly ribs, from different species of animals.  
 Seventy smaller bones and fragments of bones of all kinds - skull fragments and joints numerous.  
 One large joint with ball  
 Two large "wish bones", 1 and 1/2 inches long.  
 Seven thin plate like pieces of bone.

Antlers.

One tip 4 inches long.  
 One tip 2 inches long.

Teeth.

Four rather large molar teeth - (bear, ?)

Shells.

Two complete almost perfect clam shells.  
 One spoon-shaped part of a clam shell.  
 Twelve rather large pieces of clam shell.  
 Much other clam shell crushed beyond recovery.

Charcoal.

Many small pieces. Most charcoal too soft for recovery.  
 Several pieces of charred bone.  
 Several pieces of charred clam shell.

Flints.

Two rather large fragments with edges showing secondary chipping.  
 Four good flint flakes.

Pottery.

Twenty-five fragments of pottery saved. More went to pieces on exposure. In size runs from 1.2 inches up to 2 inches by three. About half has some ornamentation. Tempered with crushed clam shell. All Siouan (Oneota)

Some Field Notes Taken at the Second Excavation of the  
Blackhawk Cave.

Deer (?) jaw at 1 ft. below the surface of the earth floor  
of cave.

Breast bone of goose or turkey with other fragments of bird  
bones under a 4 inch flat rock, just back of center of cave,  
at 15 inches below the surface.

Clam shell and fragments of bone under 4 inch flat rock at  
same level.

Right and left humeri in what appears to be the remains  
of a fire, at 20 inches below the surface.

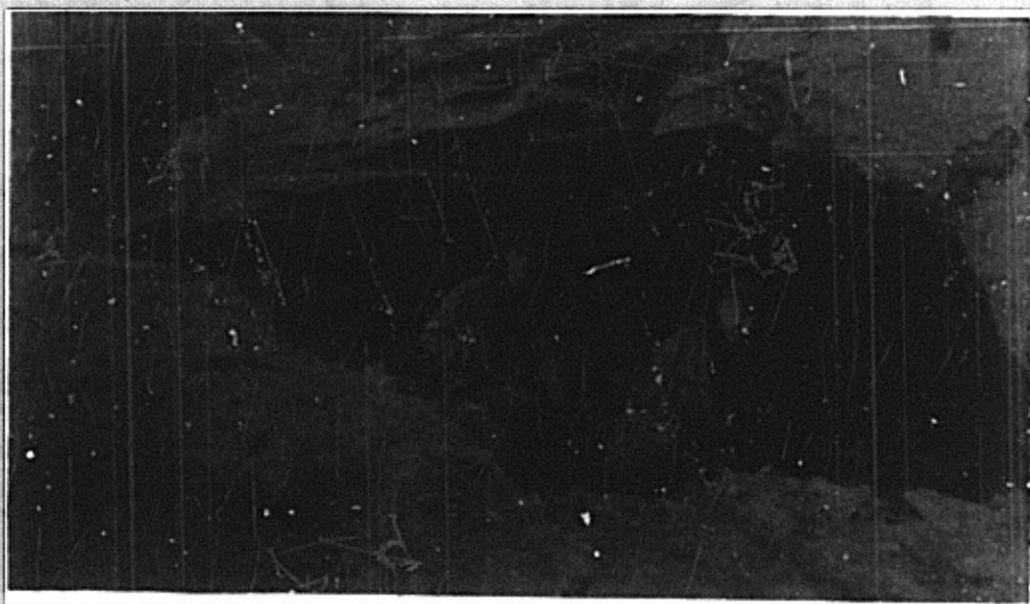
Large joint of bone; wish bones of geese and duck near  
center of cave; spoon clam shell; large bits of charcoal and  
and bone fragments at 2 ft. below the surface.

At center of cave opening - charcoal and a few small  
pieces of clam shell. Leg bone 1 inch in diameter and  
5 inches long; wish bone; and flint chip, at 30 inches below  
below the surface.

Two antler tips at 30 inches below the surface.

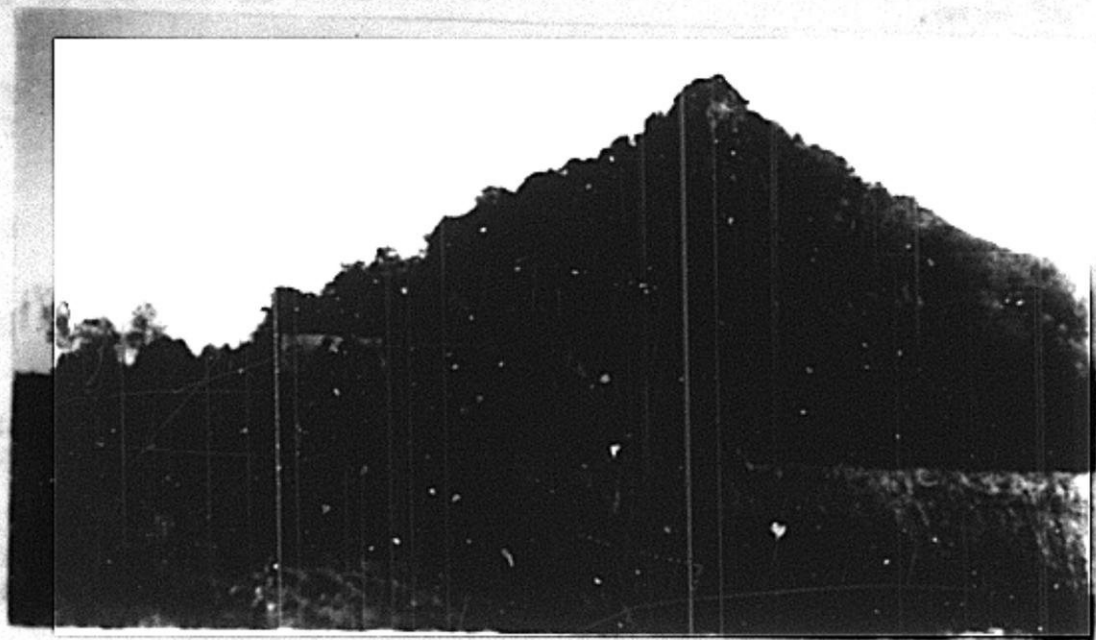
Scattering small fragments of pottery to a depth of 2 ft.  
No flint arrow heads or flakes.

Just above hard rock floor at a depth of 3 ft. below the  
surface, were charcoal, bone fragments and clam shell

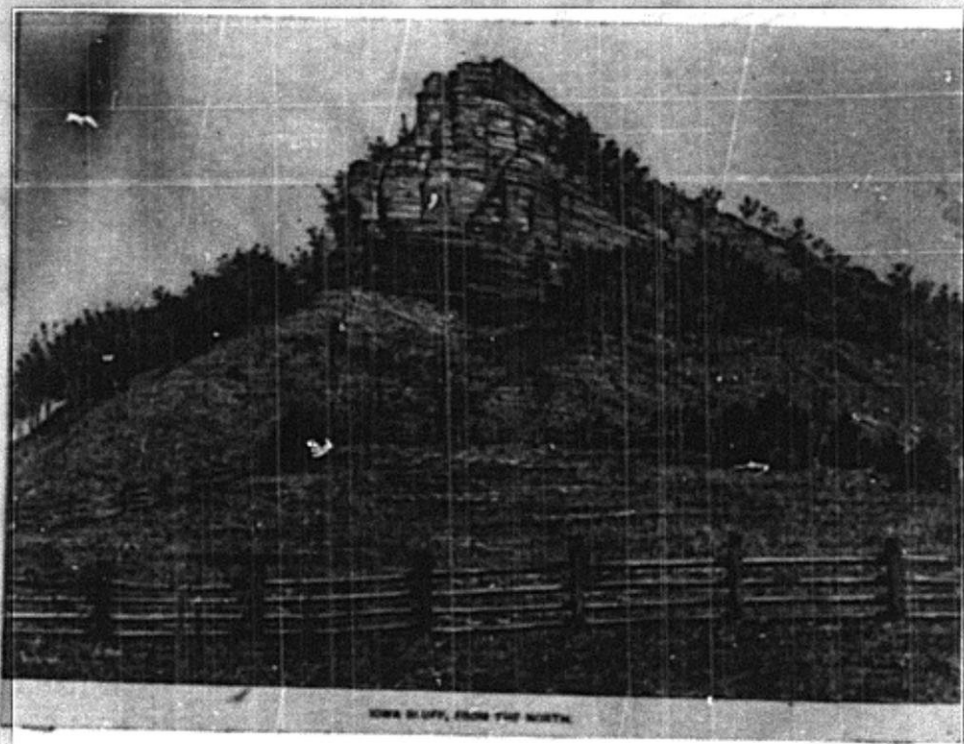


Dr. Hayes and Dr. Field excavating the Black Hawk Cave.





Photograph of Brookman's Bluff from  
the north. 1943  
Note difference in Tree Covering, as  
shown on following page, photograph  
of same bluff taken 40 years earlier.



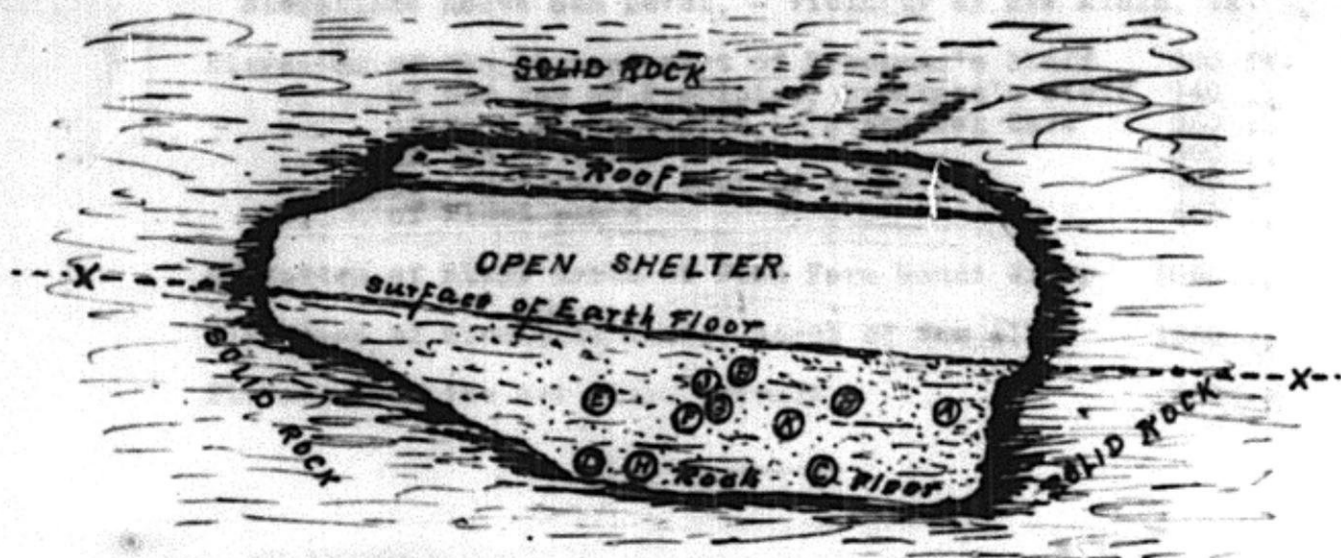
IOWA BLUFF, FROM THE NORTH

Iowa (Brookman's) Bluff, from a Photograph taken about 1876 - 1882.

See "Pleistocene History of North-eastern Iowa" by J. W. McGhee McGhee.

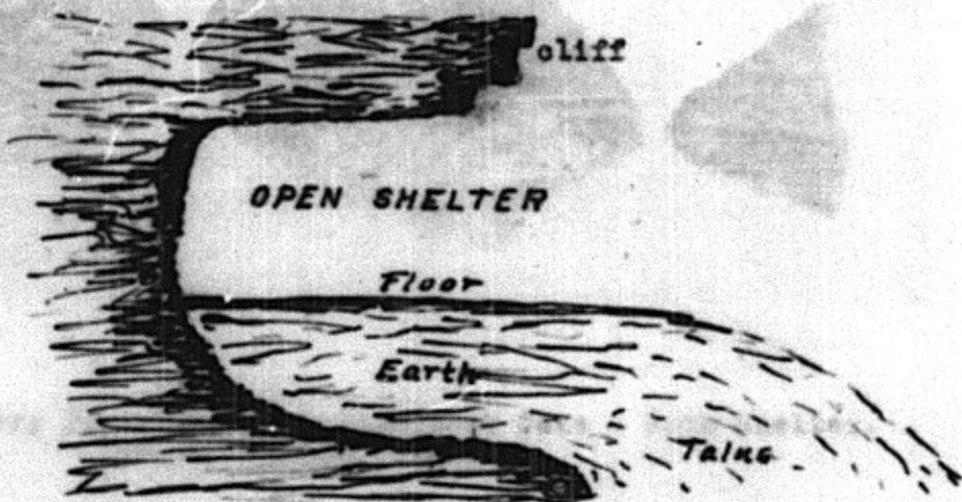
Note absence of trees on talus in foreground. This is now - 1940 - well covered with a growth of oak and birch.

The black spot at the bottom of the precipice is the Blackhawk Cave.



PROFILE (FRONT) OF BLACKHAWK ROCK SHELTER (CAVE)  
1/4 inch = 1 foot.

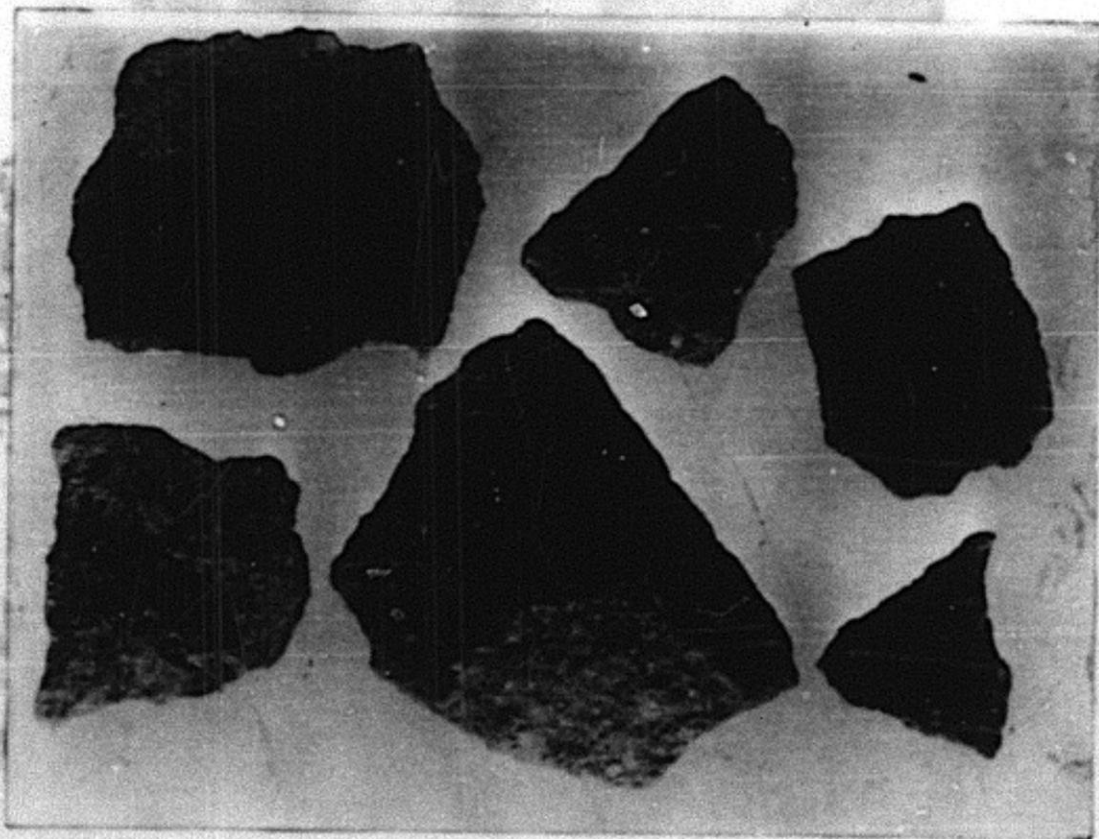
- A Locust arrow head, 1st excavation
- B bear jaws and fangs, 1st excavation
- C Spoon clam shell and 2 large bits charcoal, 2d exc.
- D small clam shell, small bits of charcoal and bone fragments
- E elk bone (?) joint
- F two antler points
- G wish bone of goose
- H long split bone
- J jaws of deer (2) 2
- K two short robust humeri
- X top of talus



Cross Section (front to back) of Blackhawk Rock Shelter.

## Elevations above Sea Level, - Vicinity of New Albin, Ia.

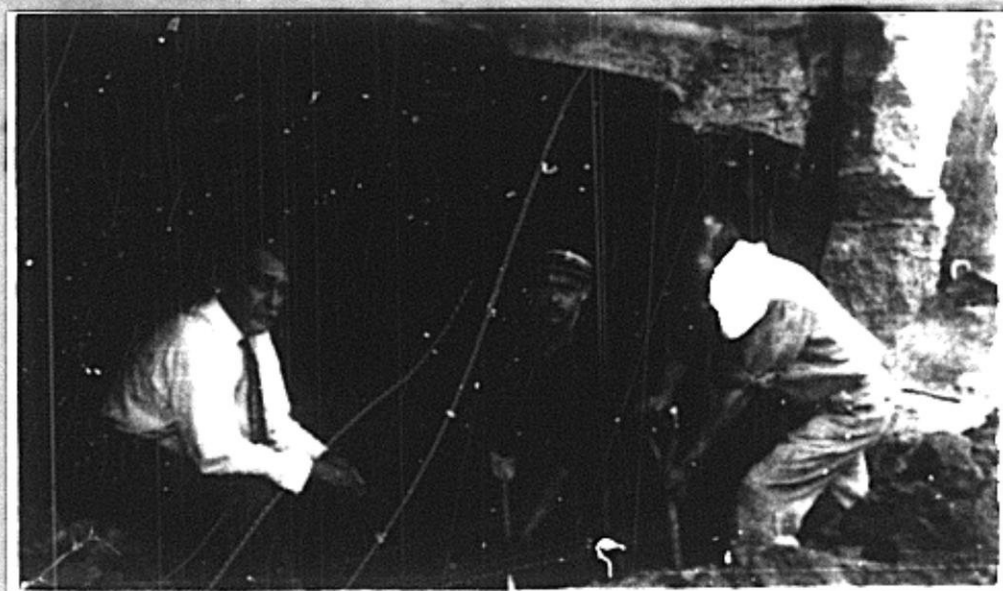
Elevation of the highest part of Brookman's Bluff	980 ft.
.. of the top of Precipice, Brookman's Bluff	940 ..
.. of foot of Precipice, - Blackhawk Cave	860 ..
.. of top of talus	860 ..
.. of log house at foot of talus	660 ..
.. of flood plain	635 ..
Elevation of Bluff north of Fish Farm Mound Group	1060 ..
Elevation of Minnesota Bluff, north of New Albin	1140 ..
Elevation of the New Albin Terrace	660 ..



Pottery Fragments from Blackhawk Cave - Rock Shelter.  
 Typical Siouan, (Oneota)



Mandibles and Fang of Black Bear. From Black Hawk  
Cave (Rock Shelter) One-half actual size.



How we helped to Excavate Black Hawk Cave - (Rock Shelter)

**Brockman's Bluff Mound Group.**

On the crest of a low ridge running south from Brockman's Bluff, between the valley of the Mississippi river and that of a dry run paralleling it on the west side and runs north into the Upper Iowa, is a group of four round mounds.

For a more complete description and map see pages 110 and 113 of Vol. IV.

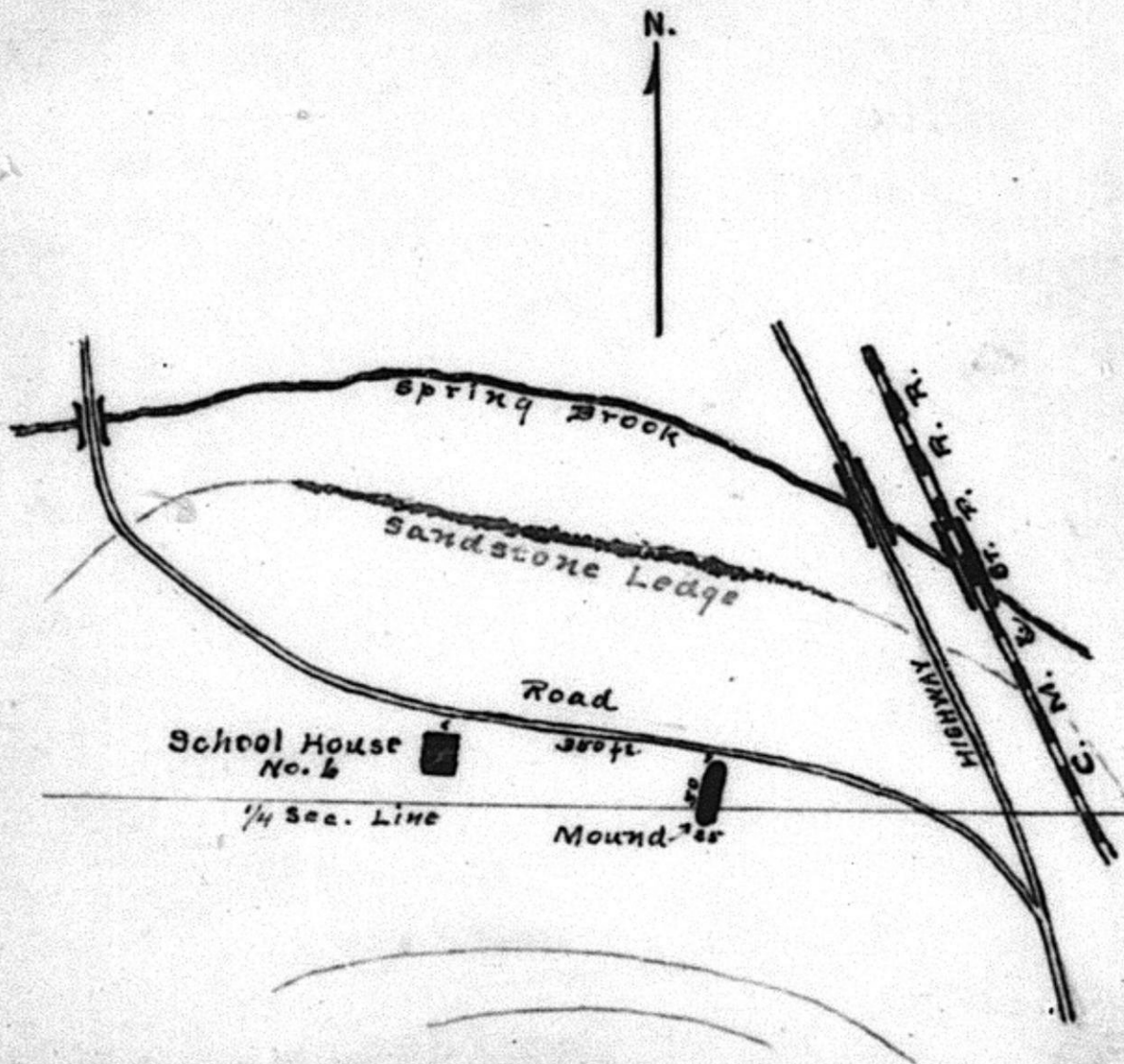
## LANSING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL No. 6. SINGLE MOUND.

Near the center of Sec. 12, T. 99, R. 4, the valley of a spring brook opens into that of the Mississippi river. A little south of this brook on the old Lansing - New Albin road, is the Lansing Township school house of District No. 6.

The south line of the school lot is the one-fourth section line east and west across section No. 12. Just over this one-fourth line, south of the old road and a couple of hundred feet south-east of the school house, is an obscure single mound.

To the north of this mound, across the old road, along the south side of the spring brook, is a vertical sandstone ledge, about seventy-five feet long and ten to twelve feet high, on which, T. H. Lewis, when he made his survey of north-eastern Iowa found a few petroglyphs.

Because of disintegration of the rock these have now entirely disappeared.





**THE CONWAY CAVE (ROCK SHELTER) MOUND GROUP.**

On the bluff top near the corner of sections 7 and 8, T. 99, R. 3 and 12 and 13, T. 99, R. 4, is the COWLES monument of the Mississippi River Commission's Triangulation Survey.

South-east of and below this, on the almost flat approach to the foot of the bluff, and west of the highway, is a string of three, or perhaps more, obscure round mounds.

The timber has been cleared off this but it has never been under cultivation and is now June grass pasture.

Doubtless at other places than the above there were other obscure groups on the terrace-like area between the river and the foot of the bluffs, as witness the School House mound, the Hemingway Group in Lansing, and on Section 34, T. 99, R. 3.

The first and last of these have been totally destroyed by cultivation.

**THE QUARRY (SECTION LINE) GROUP  
THE SOUTH LANSING GROUP  
THE KELLER GROUP**

**Pre-historic Indian Mounds in the Vicinity of Lansing, Ia.**

**For Map of the Quarry Group see pages 26, 27 and 30., Vol. VI;  
Of the South Lansing Group, pages 27 and 29 of Vol. VI; and  
of the Keller Group, pages 27, 28, 31, 33, and 34, Vol. VI.**

THE MOUNT HOSMER MOUND.



On the top of the south-east spur of the Mt. Hosmer Park and Picnic Ground, four hundred feet above the Mississippi river, at the very edge of where the bluff breaks off precipitously to the river below, is a pre-historic tumulus, twenty-five feet in diameter and two feet high.

The above photograph was taken from the north-west.

A few years ago at a gathering in this park when several hundred people were present, I was called on to give a talk on the archaeological work we were then doing in the state.

A small platform had been erected just south of this mound and many seated themselves on its sloping side.

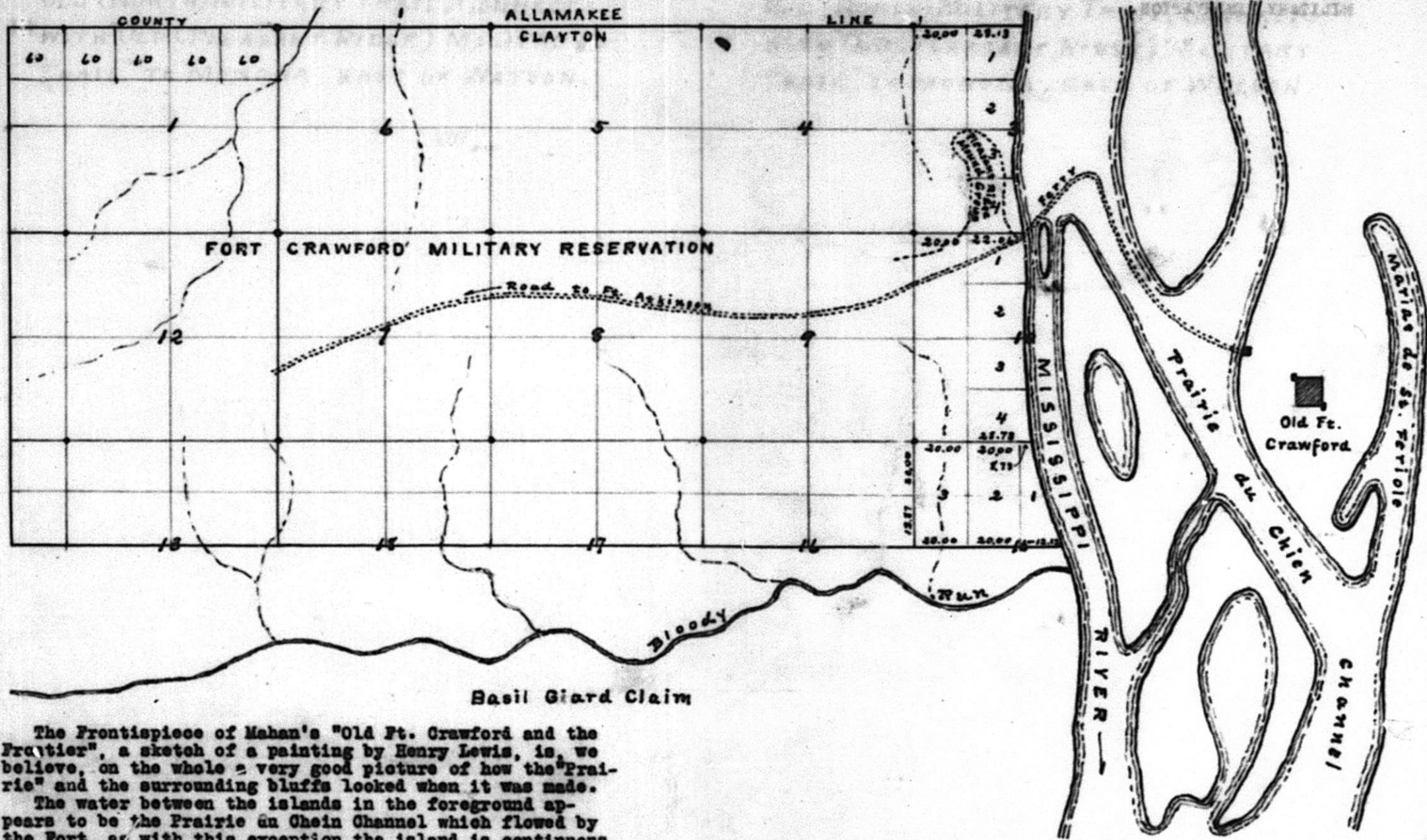
Before beginning I said to them, "If any of you folks are at all superstitious about walking over a grave or sitting on one, it might be well to move, as the little knoll that you are sitting on now is a pre-historic Indian mound covering what may be left of perhaps as many as half a dozen Indian burials."

It was amusing to see the alacrity with which some of them moved off. The point which I wished to bring out was, how little is generally known, and how few recognize an Indian mound when they see one.

After the exercises were over I was surprised to see how many had acquired an interest in that particular one.

**THE HEMINWAY PRE-HISTORIC INDIAN MOUND GROUP**

Located on the north part of the Heminway property on Lot 2 of Gov't Lot I, in the NW NE Sec. 29, T. 99, R. 3 west of the 5th P. M., Lansing, Iowa.



The Frontispiece of Mahan's "Old Ft. Crawford and the Frontier", a sketch of a painting by Henry Lewis, is, we believe, on the whole a very good picture of how the "Prairie" and the surrounding bluffs looked when it was made.

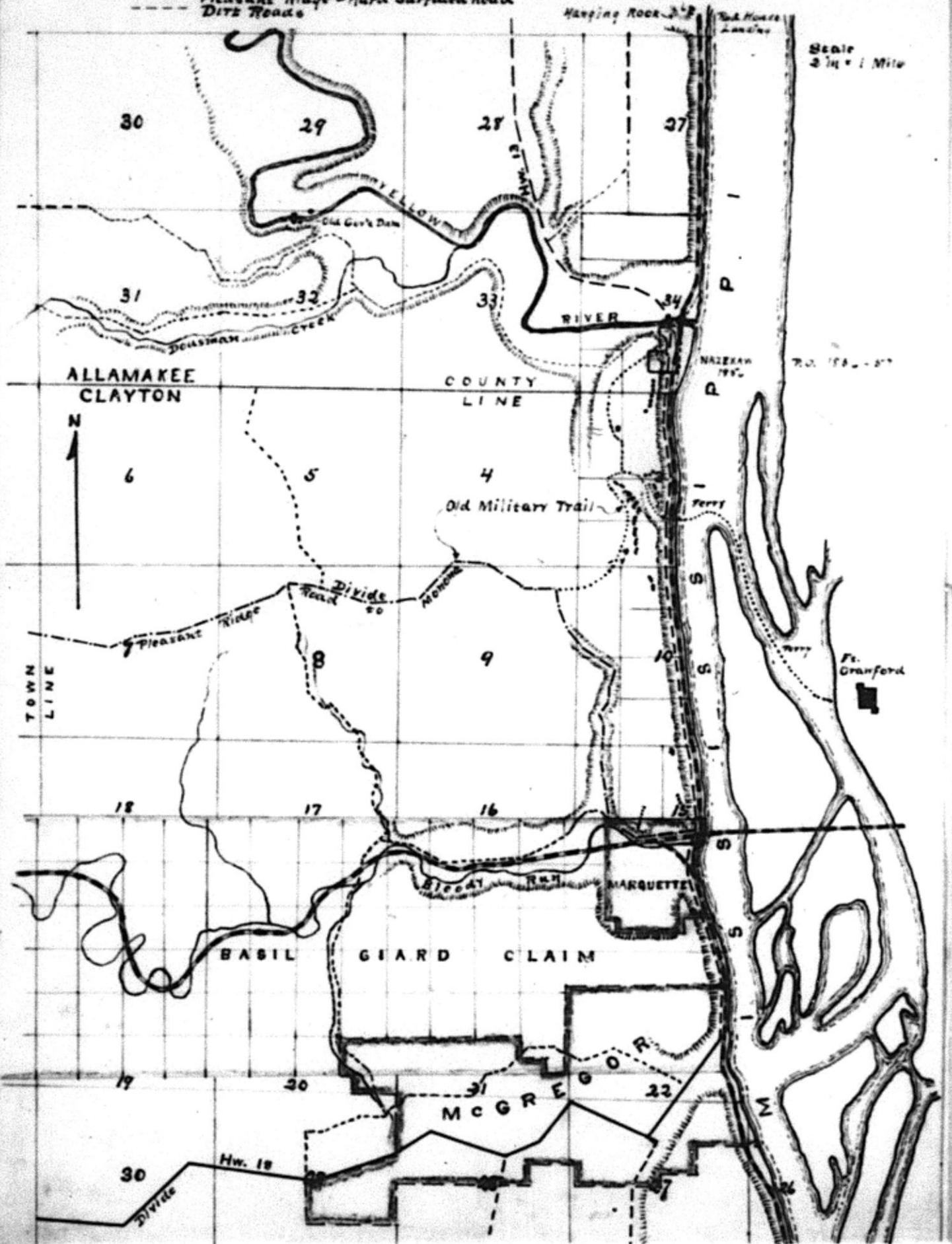
The water between the islands in the foreground appears to be the Prairie du Chien Channel which flowed by the Fort, as, with this exception the island is continuous from McGregor to Johnsonport.

It is just such a view as one would have looking down that channel "crossing", from the Pleasant Ridge Mound Group. Note the old French Fort in the right middle ground.

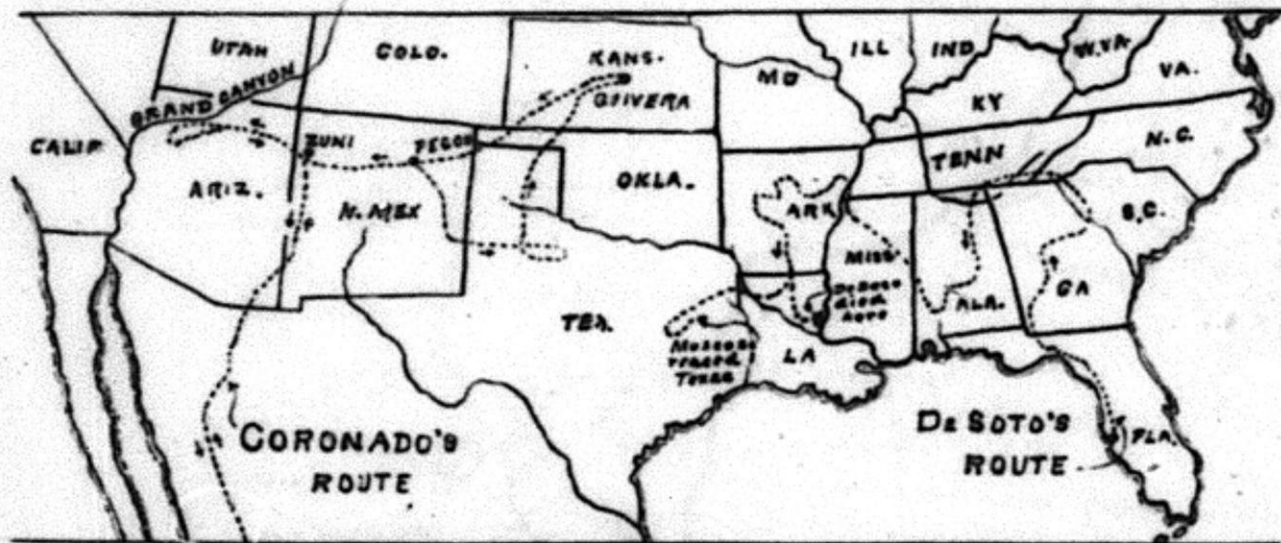
- C. M. St. P. R.Ry.
- Paved Road # 18
- Black Top Road # 13
- - - - - Pleasant Ridge - Hard Surfaced Road
- - - - - Dirt Roads

- ..... Old Military Road
- Property Lines

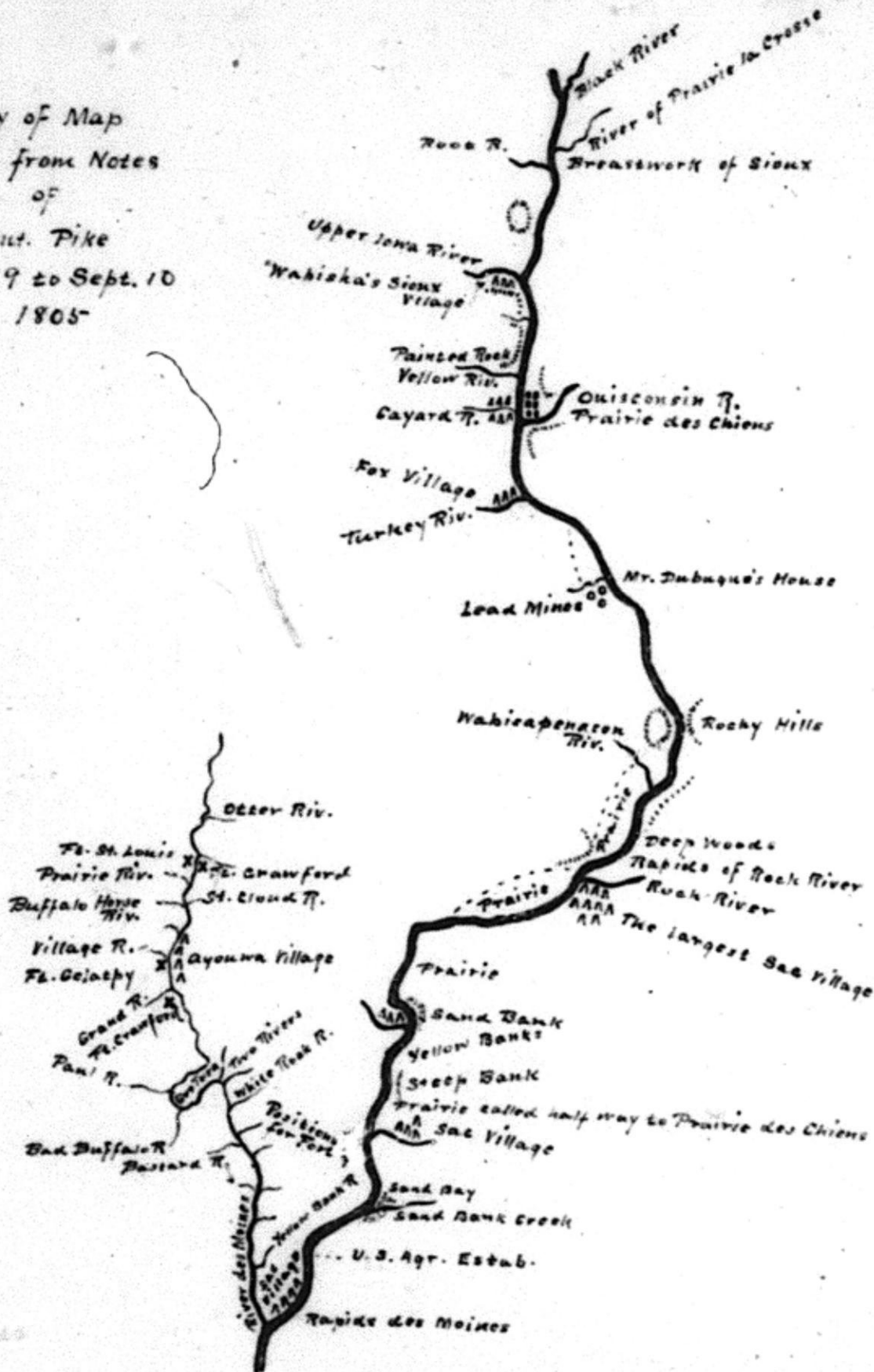
Scale 3/4" = 1 Mile



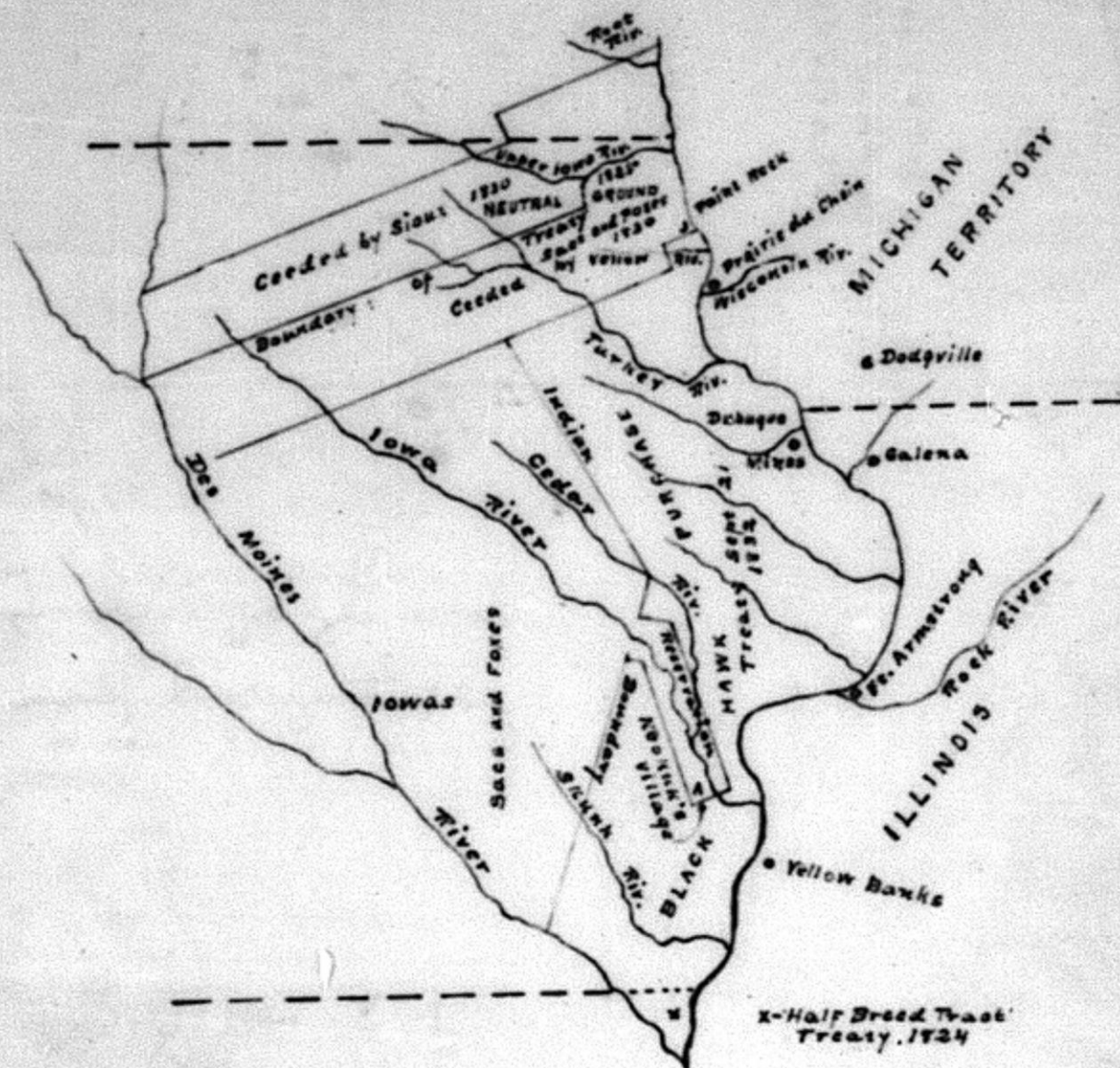
**ROUTE OF EARLY SPANISH DISCOVERERS IN THE SOUTH-WEST.**



Copy of Map  
 Drawn from Notes  
 of  
 Lieut. Pike  
 Aug. 9 to Sept. 10  
 1805

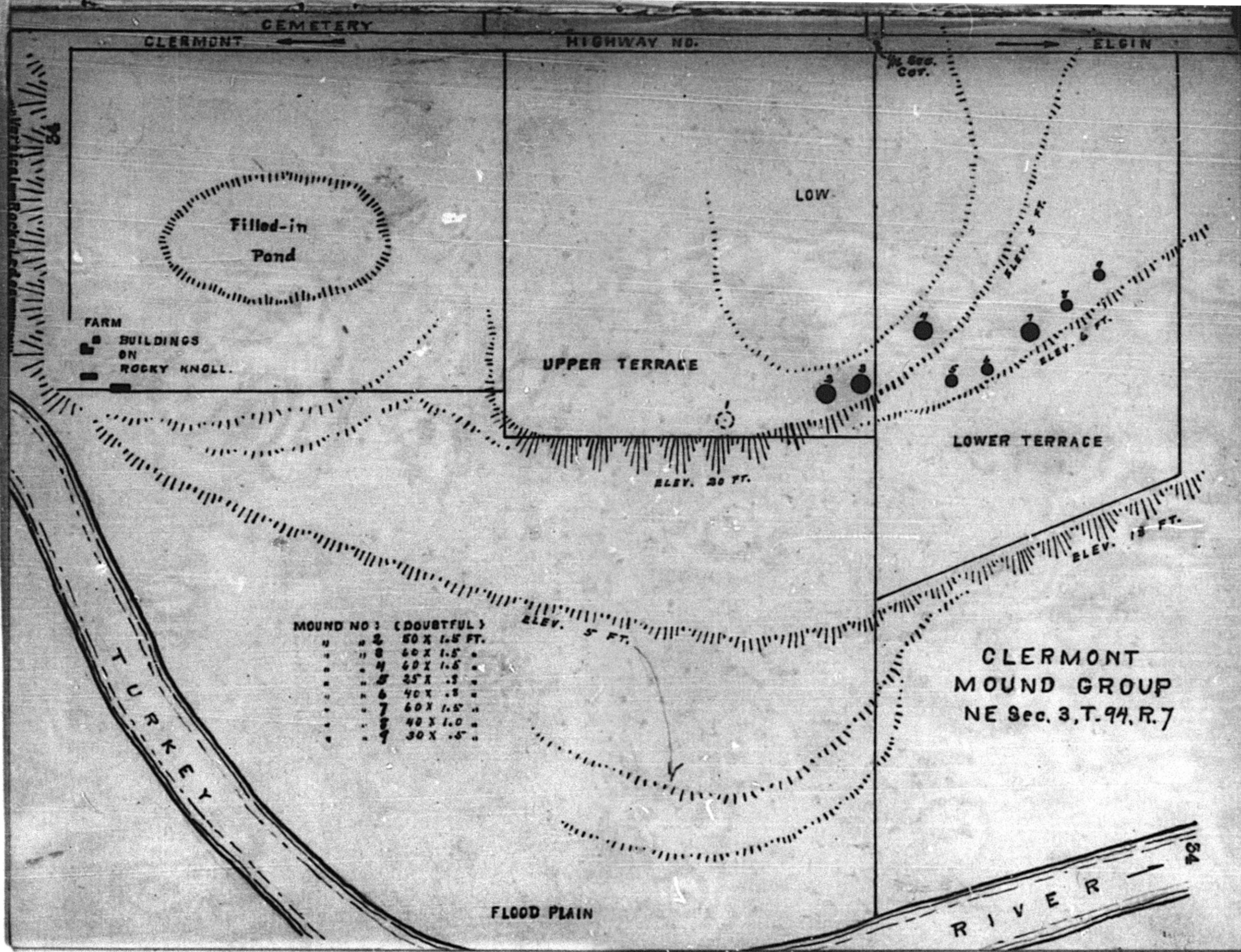






#### MAP

Showing Boundary Established Between the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux by the Treaty of 1825; The Blackhawk Purchase of 1822; and the Neutral Ground Cessions, 1830.



GEMETERY

CLERMONT ←

HIGHWAY NO.

→ ELGIN

Filled-in Pond

FARM  
 ■ BUILDINGS  
 ON  
 ■ ROCKY KNOLL.

LOW

UPPER TERRACE

ELEV. 30 FT.

LOWER TERRACE

ELEV. 13 FT.

MOUND NO.	(DOUBTFUL)	SIZE
2		50 X 1.5 FT.
3		60 X 1.5 "
4		60 X 1.5 "
5		25 X .5 "
6		40 X .5 "
7		60 X 1.5 "
8		40 X 1.0 "
9		30 X .5 "

ELEV. 5 FT.

CLERMONT  
 MOUND GROUP  
 NE Sec. 3, T. 94, R. 7

TURKEY

FLOOD PLAIN

RIVER

Vertical Rockledge

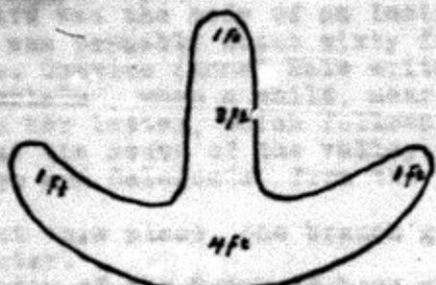
54

OUTLINES of EFFIGY MOUNDS

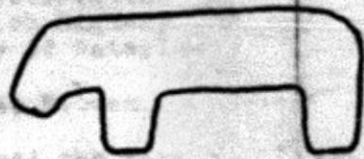
OR  
BLUFF TOPS and TERRACES of the MISSISSIPPI  
RIVER



No. 1, Yellow River  
55 x 3 ft.



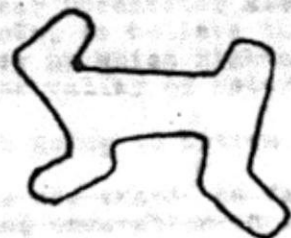
No. 3, Waukon Junction  
130 x 55 ft.



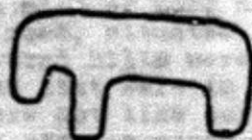
No. 11, Yellow River  
105 x 3 ft.



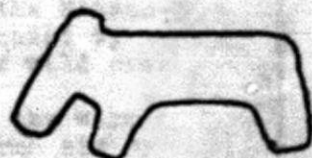
No. 111, Yellow River  
115 x 3 ft.



No. 114, Yellow River  
90 x 2 ft.



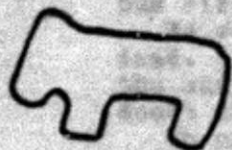
No. 1, Waukon Junction  
70 x 2 ft.



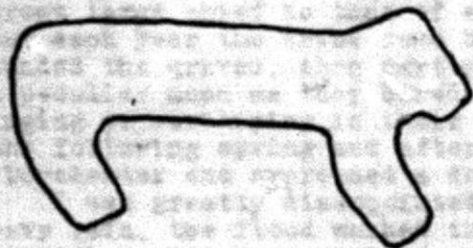
No. 11, Point Aux  
90 x 2 ft.



No. 117, Yellow R.  
70 x 2 ft.



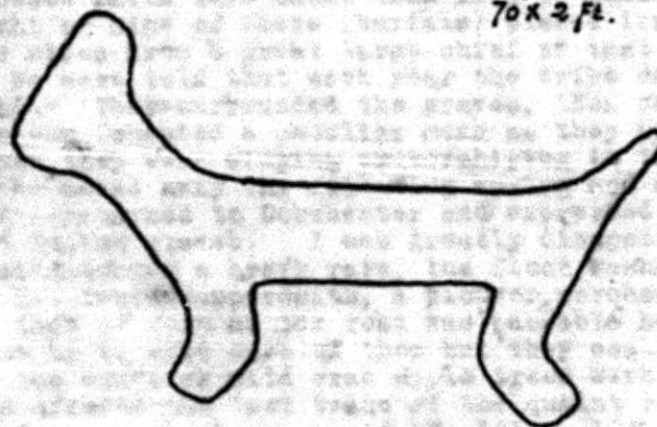
No. 115, Yellow R.



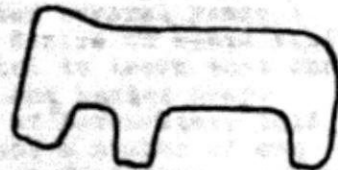
No. 116, Yellow River  
140 x 3 ft.



No. 110, Harper's Ferry  
50 x 2.5 ft.



No. 119, Guttenberg  
210 x 3 ft.



No. 118, Pike's Peak  
100 x 2.5 ft.

Scale, 1 Inch = Fifty Feet.  
Length and Height Noted.

### Historic Indian Tree Sepulcher.

The past summer (1940) while attending The American Institute of Nature Studies at McGregor Heights, a lady whose home is in the valley of the Volga river, in the south-west part of Clayton county, told me that when a little girl her father, on a short journey they were taking, showed her down in the valley - of the Volga - in a tree - she thought an elm - a bundle of cloth or skins in which he said was the body of an Indian. (1875)

She said that it was probably about sixty five years ago.

At my request Mrs. Charles (Anna) Hale writes me about being shown some Indian burials, when a child, near Dorchester Allamakee county. From her letter, which follows, we believe the place to have been at the mouth of the valley up which Highway No. 15 runs to Eitsen and Caledonia, from the valley of Waterloo creek.

The road forks at this place, one branch going to Eitsen, the other to Dorchester.

~~Mrs. Hale is a sister of the Reinbold boys who owned the farm at New Galena Bridge where we worked on mound excavation in 1934. ①~~

Mrs. Hale writes as follows:

"When I was a child we lived in the picturesque village of Dorchester in the north-east county of Iowa. There were many weird and beautiful places of interest which we children visited during our leisure time.

About a mile or more north-east of Dorchester on the Eitsen-New Albin road, situated in a low green valley surrounded by forest covered hills were the graves, in the midst of wild crab apple trees that were in bloom.

They were not like our graves, tucked securely in the warm earth, but straw-wrapped mummies suspended on platforms six or eight feet from the ground. The platforms were supported by crossed rails like those then used in making fences. There were eight or nine of these (burials) placed irregularly and of various sizes from a great large chief to that of a tiny babe.

We were told that each year the tribe came back to visit their dead. They surrounded the graves, then partly kneeling and facing the sun, chanted a peculiar moan as they bowed to the sun. No doubt they were singing or worshipping in their own way.

We moved away the following spring and after several years I again returned to Dorchester and expressed a desire to again visit the Indian graves. I was greatly disappointed to learn that one spring, during a heavy rain, the flood washed the bodies away.

Mr. Lewis Coppersmith, a pioneer merchant of Dorchester, told me that as soon as the road was passable he and a number of men went up to take care of them but they could not find them. A few of the sturdier wild crab apple trees were still there, but nature had effaced the last trace of the quaint resting places of the dead.

A. H. 1812 - 1940

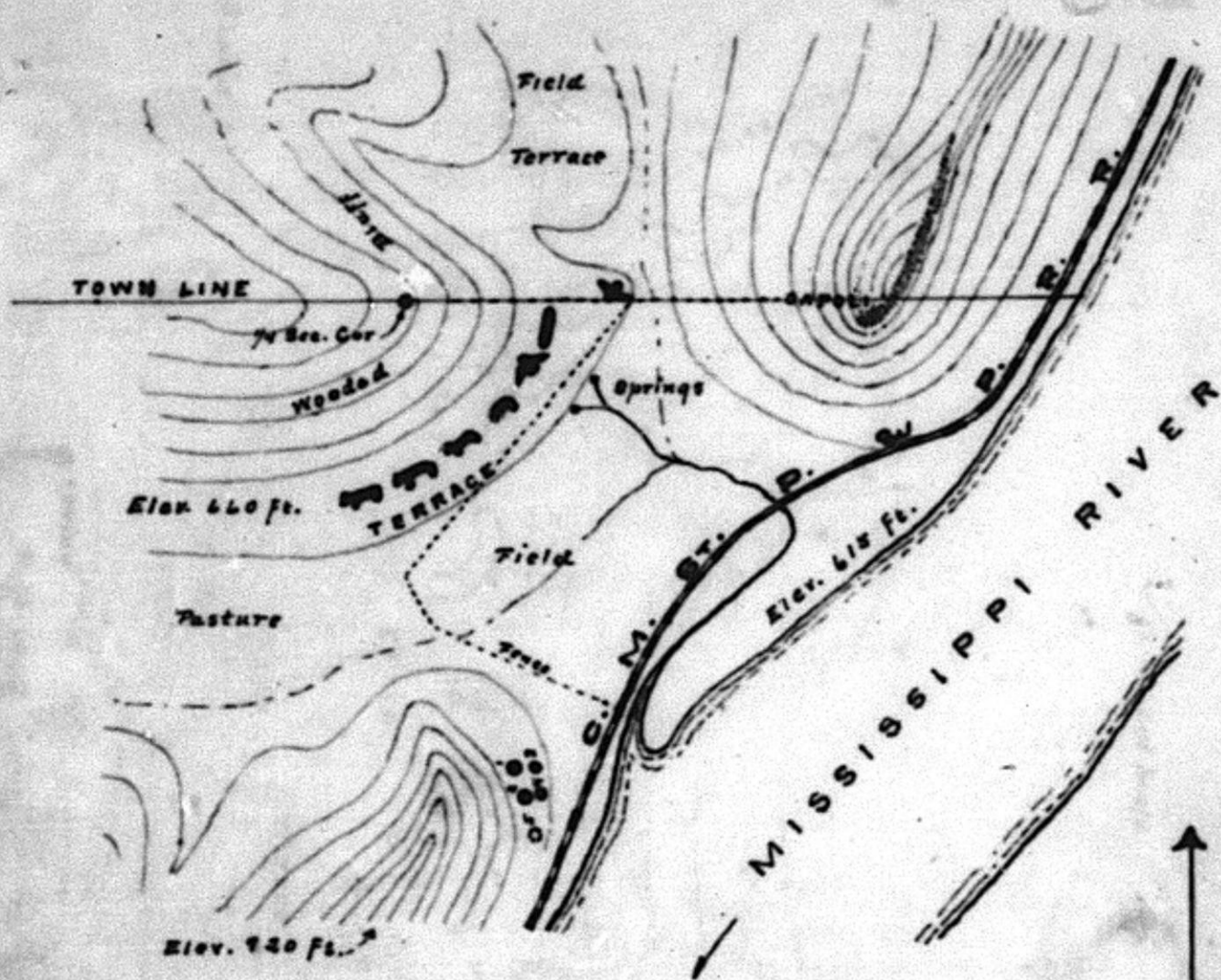
Haukon, Iowa, Nov. 1st, 1940.

① Mrs. Hale's maiden name was Smith. She was born 1870

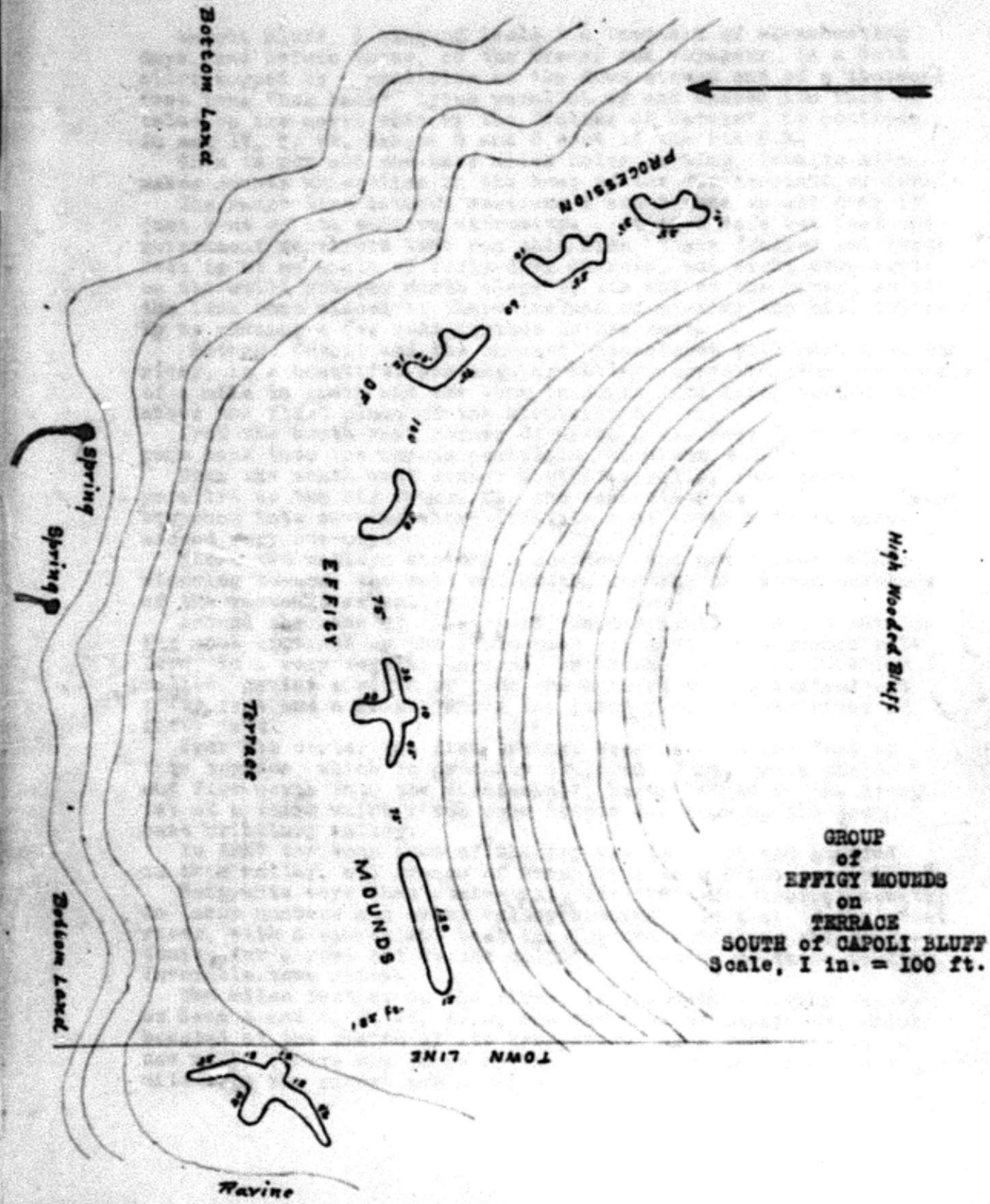


**CAPOLI BLUFF MOUND GROUP.**

Map of Capoli Bluff and Vicinity.  
 Scale, 50 ft. to inch.  
 Elevations given are the height above sea  
 level at Miami, Fla., on the Gulf  
 of Mexico. These are taken from the maps  
 of the Mississippi River Commission Survey.



Map of Capoli Bluff and Vicinity.  
 Scale, 660 ft. to Inch.  
 Elevations given are the height above the datum line at Biloxi, Miss., on the Gulf of Mexico. These are taken from the maps of the Mississippi River Commission Survey.



GROUP  
of  
EFFIGY MOUNDS  
ON  
TERRACE  
SOUTH of CAPOLI BLUFF  
Scale, 1 in. = 100 ft.

Capoli Bluff, ( ~~capoli~~ ) a landmark of steamboating days, and before these, of the trader and voyageur, is a bold cliff topped by a precipice at the down stream end of a thousand feet long "hog back", lying parallel to and washed its feet of talus on the north side, by the "Father of Waters", in Sections 12 and 17, T. 98, Ranges 2 and 3 west of the 5th P.M.

This is six and one-half miles below Lansing, Iowa, in Allamakee county which lies in the best of the "Switzerland of Iowa".

The range line between sections 2 and 3 runs up and over it just west of its eastern extremity. It is a safe bet that the government surveyors that ran this line, three hundred and forty feet up at an angle of forty-five degrees, and right down again on the still steeper north slope to its end at the river, cursed the luck that placed it there instead of missing the hill entirely by running a few rods farther to the east.

Between Capoli and the unnamed cone-shaped hill next down the river, is a beautiful rectangular valley, approximating one-fourth of a mile in width and the same in depth, its level bottom just above the flood plain of the Mississippi.

From the south-east corner of which, a narrower V-shaped valley runs back into the Onecota peneplain for about a mile.

From the south-west corner a similar valley runs westerly, parallel to the big river, for the same distance. Each of these branches into several short laterals that towards their heads ascend very steeply.

These two valleys enclose a rounded, and now wooded, bluff, widening towards the west and south, forming the south boundary of the rectangular valley.

Around the base of this bluff, on the north side and extending some distance up the south-east and south-west branch valleys, is a very regular terrace, or "bench" as it is locally called, having a width of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet and a height above the flood plain of the river of fifty feet.

Near its center two fine springs break out of the foot of this terrace, which is probably composed of St. Croix shales, and flow north into the Mississippi, being joined by the brooklet of a third which rises some little distance up the south-east tributary valley.

In 1857 the boom town of Chantry was laid out and platted in this valley, all traces of which have long since disappeared.

Emigrants were then coming into the trans-Mississippi country in large numbers and every valley opening into that of the great river, with a convenient boat landing and affording the opportunity for a road out to the uplands, appealed to those seeking favorable town sites.

Two miles farther up the river, in a somewhat larger valley on Secs 2 and 3, T. 98, R. 3, was the town of LaFayette, which boasted at the zenith of its prosperity, of a boat landing, a saw mill, (there are large springs in this valley about half a mile from the river) and a store.



But the boom died and now the oldest inhabitant thereabouts has but dim memories of a few abandoned buildings that have long since disappeared.

Two miles north of LaFayette, just south of the mouth of Flint Creek - now Village Creek - was Columbus, once for two years the county seat of Allamakee county. Above that is Lansing which alone has survived.

Viewed from the river, Capoli Bluff presents a bold striking picture, especially to the voyager coming up stream.

From there the great cone, rising three hundred and forty feet above the river and the valleys that hem it round on the east and south, appears to have been, as it were, struck on its peak by a gigantic cleaver and the river half sheared off for a hundred and fifty feet down and hurled into the river to be washed away by its flood.

In 1817, Maj. Stephen H. Long, U. S. Topographical engineer, kept a journal of a voyage to the falls of St. Anthony, from Prairie du Chien, which was afterwards printed in Minnesota Historical Collections, Vol. 2, 1889, in which he says:

"Just above this, (Cape Puant) is Garlic Cape, (Cape a'l'ale, which has been yankeed into Capoli) remarkable from the singularity of its appearance. In shape it resembles a cone, cut by a perpendicular plane passing through its apex and base.

Its height is about 450 ft. A little east (south) of its base is a fine spring".

The highest point of this bluff is actually but 340 ft. above the river according to the Mississippi River Commission Survey.

The Cape Puant mentioned was a bluff point lying somewhere between Paint Rock and Capoli, the exact locality of which can not now be determined because of insufficient data. Tradition has it that once an Indian battle was fought near there.

Beltrami, an Italian globe trotter, in 1883, in a table of distances between points of note on the Mississippi, up which he journeyed, has given in a book of travels published by him, mentioned Cap a'l'ale.

On the terrace following around the north end of the bluff south of the rectangular valley, and above the springs, is a procession of effigy mounds and one long embankment. With the exception of the latter none of these have an elevation of over one foot, and all are more or less incomplete.

When we remember other incomplete or inconspicuous small mounds, mostly along the Onecta river, and from which relics and usually incomplete skeletons have been taken, we are led to speculate whether these were erected by a people whose culture was in its infancy, and was perhaps being copied or learned from more advanced neighbors, or was their culture on the wane?

On preceding pages are general and detail maps of this group.

On a gentle slope at the foot of the high bluff across the rectangular valley to the south-east of Capoli, is a group of four low, round burial mounds. The most south-westerly one of these Fred Orr and ourselves excavated to a depth of three feet below the natural surface, in Oct, 1950, but found absolutely nothing in the interior to indicate human erection or occupancy. It was just a mound of yellow unstratified clay, and again we are led to speculate why it was built, for artificial it certainly was.

THE GREAT MOUND  
OF  
THE GREAT MOUND  
ON  
THE GREAT MOUND

Capoli Bluff, looking west from a point on the rail road a little to the north-west of the group of four burial mounds at the foot of the east bluff.

About one-half of the rectangular valley, - the north end in corn at the time the picture was taken, Oct. 1950, - is shown.

Out of the picture just to the right is the Mississippi river, while out of it to the left is the terrace and the two springs.

The Great Group of Prehistoric India Mounds on Harper's Ferry Terrace is a group of mounds of varying sizes and shapes, situated on a terrace overlooking the Potomac River. The mounds are arranged in a line, and are believed to be of the same general type as those found at other sites in the region. The mounds are made of earth and stone, and are surrounded by a low wall. The mounds are situated on a terrace overlooking the Potomac River, and are believed to be of the same general type as those found at other sites in the region.

**THE GREAT GROUP**  
**OF**  
**PREHISTORIC INDIA MOUNDS**  
**ON**  
**HARPER'S FERRY TERRACE**

This group of mounds is situated on a terrace overlooking the Potomac River, and is believed to be of the same general type as those found at other sites in the region. The mounds are made of earth and stone, and are surrounded by a low wall. The mounds are situated on a terrace overlooking the Potomac River, and are believed to be of the same general type as those found at other sites in the region.

A Description of the "GREAT GROUP"  
as it was first surveyed by T. H. Lewis, mentioned  
from his field notes.

In the late 80s of the last century, Alfred J. Hill, a civil engineer of English extraction, connected with the U.S. government land office at St. Paul, Minn., conceived the ambitious enterprise of surveying the pre-historic Indian earthworks of the entire Mississippi river valley, but more especially those of the state of Minnesota.

He first associated with himself in the undertaking, Mr. T. H. Lewis, also a civil engineer, and later, Mr. J. T. Brown. The funds to carry on the survey were furnished principally by Mr. Hill, who was known to the writer.

**FOREWORD.**

According to T. H. Lewis, there were in 1892, a "GREAT GROUP" of Nine Hundred Indian Mounds on a Terrace, half a mile wide and two and three-fourths miles long, lying between the foot of the bluffs and Harper's Channel, extending from the old white man's cemetery at the south end to the extreme north end of the terrace.

The Groups of Mounds, descriptions and maps of which form this paper, are in part remnants of this "GREAT GROUP".

Of the Nine Hundred only fifty-two now remain. The remainder have been wholly obliterated by cultivation.

Jan. 28, 1920.

Even in the ten years that have passed since the above was written, the Brush Patch Group, No. 5, has been all but destroyed, and others that were recognizable, greatly reduced.

Dec. 10 1940.

Ellison Orr

**A Description of the "GREAT GROUP"**  
as it was surveyed by T. H. Lewis, condensed  
from his field notes.

In the late 80s of the last century, Alfred J. Hill, a civil engineer of English extraction, connected with the U.S. government land office at St. Paul, Minn., conceived the ambitious enterprise of surveying the pre-historic Indian earthworks of the entire Mississippi river valley, but more especially those of the state of Minnesota.

He first associated with himself in the undertaking, Mr. T. H. Lewis, also a civil engineer, and later, Mr. J. V. Brower. The funds to carry on this extensive survey were furnished principally by Mr. Hill, who appears to have been possessed of considerable means, as he spent altogether on what would have been a monumental work had he lived to finish it, the sum of \$16,200.00. Lewis did the field work on a salary and expenses, working summers in the north and winters in the south.

During the years from 1885 to 1892 he worked for short periods along the Mississippi river from New Albin to the mouth of the Turkey river, but appears to have been interested principally in the effigy mounds and rock shelters, making complete surveys of but few mound groups.

His surveys of effigies appears to have been carefully made with a transit or compass and he was particularly careful to locate each one on its particular government subdivision.

Wherever he found rock shelters with petroglyphs on their walls he made rubbings of these.

He visited Harper's Ferry, Apr. 30th to May 6th, 1892, and in his field notes says that he counted 671 mounds in the "Great Group", and estimated that there were enough more that he did not count to bring the total up to 900.

This "Great Group", that from the little information that can be gathered concerning it, extended along the river (Harper's Channel) front for a distance of about two and three-quarters miles, northeasterly, with a width of somewhat more than one-fourth of a mile.

Of the large number of mounds comprising the group he appears to have surveyed accurately but four from his notes of which plats were made.

The most northerly of these lay on the low ground at the extreme north end of the terrace, on the SW SW Sec. 7, T. 97, R. 3 west. Of this effigy he says: "Bear mound, head to south. Just above overflow." This mound has been entirely destroyed by cultivation.

The next one, - another bear mound, - to the south, located on the NE NW Sec. 24, T. 97, R. 3 west, has also been destroyed. Of this he says: "Near the center of the west side of the Great Group in small timber."

After that came still another bear mound, on the NE SE Sec. 25, T. 97, R. 3 west, also now gone, of which he says: "About ten feet above the creek bottom. This is on the west side of the south end of the Great Group."

Continued on page 52.

Harper's Ferry Groups  
As They Now Are  
1930.

See Insert Below

Harper's Ferry Terrace, a sand bar of the Mississippi river when it ran, seventy feet deep from bluff to bluff, with the flood water from the melting Wisconsin glacier, two and three-fourths mile long and one-half mile wide at its widest part, lies in Sections 7 and 18, T. 97, R. 2 west, and Sections 15, 23, 24 and 28, T. 97, R. 3 west, extending from the bluffs on the west to Harper's Channel on the east, and having an elevation above the flood plain of the Mississippi river of forty feet at its southern extremity, gradually growing less till at the north end it is less than ten feet.

A part of the south end is cut off from the bluffs on the west and from the main part of the terrace to the north by a slough and a small brook, forming a high sand island except at low water, on the south-west end of which is located Mound Group No. 1, consisting of two linear and one round mounds and an effigy (bear) mound.

This group was not a part of the Great Group.

For descriptions and maps see Pages 78, 79 and 84, Vol. I and pages III to I22, inclusive, Vol. V Also Page 54 and 55 this Vol.

Mound Group No. 2 is a group of conical mounds along the river (Harper's Channel) front of the southern extremity of the main terrace. Jesse Harper, the first white settler on this terrace, and after whom Harper's Ferry is named, is buried in one of the mounds of this group. Several of the others also have intrusive white burials in them. The most southerly of this group is now washed away by the brook. In it at the original level of the ground, was a layer of river clam shells six to eight inches thick. See page 56 of this Vol. for map.

Mound Group No. 3 is located in the north-east corner of the town of Harper's Ferry and consists of six round mounds inside the town limits and three just outside to the north.

See page 57 of this Vol. for map. Also Pages 89 to I10, Vol. V.

Mound Group No. 4. See page 58 of this Vol. This is the "Big Mound." Also pages 70, 71, 73, 77 and 80, Vol. I.

Mound Group No. 5, the "Brush Mound Group", consists of fourteen round and four linear mounds located between the R.R. and the highway on the NE NW Sec. 24, T. 97, R. 3. See map, page 59, this Vol.

Group No. 6 is located in the field at the extreme north end of the terrace. The north part of this group is scarcely above high water in times of flood. The Luth (Hennessy) mounds, excavated 1936, is a part of this Group. See Vol. V, page/ I23 to I25, inclusive, and page 60 of this Vol. for descriptions and maps.

When the survey of Group No. 6 was first made, mounds 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Luth-(Hennessy) Group, because of the crop then growing on the area on which they are located, were not discovered. Mound No. 1 shown on the Luth-(Hennessy) plat, is one of the two mounds of Mound Group No. 7 of the remnant groups of the "Great Mound Group".

[Editor's Note: The comment printed below was inserted as an attachment to page 48 which precedes this page.]

As the terraces, - remnants of sand-bars in the Wisconsin post-glacial river, - had a quite uniform height of around forty feet above the flood-plain of the Mississippi river, it may be assumed that the post-glacial river did not exceed 50 ft. in depth.

Group No. 7 consists of two large almost obliterated mounds located on a low ridge of the terrace material between the rail-road and the highway at 540 ft. from the north fence line of the private road and 75 ft. from the west fence of the rail-road, at about 1000 ft. north-east from the corner to Secs 7 and 18, T. 97, R. 2 and Secs 12 and 15, T. 97, R. 3 west of the 5th P.M.

The north mound of this group - No. 1 of the Luth-Hennessy plat, was excavated by us in 1936. See page 124, Vol. V.

Group No. 8 is a round mound located 475 ft. east of the one-fourth section corner on the line between sections 23 and 24, T. 97, R. 3, the one-fourth section line running east between the north and south halves of section 24 crossing it. This was discovered by us in making a survey in 1914. It was then 60 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high.

Group No. 9 may be called the Gravel Pit, <sup>mound</sup> as it lies on that part of the terrace separated from the main portion by the valley cut through it by the creek coming down from the north along the foot of the bluffs, about half of the part cut off being now a large gravel pit excavated by the C. M. St. P. & P. R. R. for ballast, many years ago. For map see page 61 of this Vol.

Group No. 10 is the Joyce group of two round mounds on the bluff top in a field of the Patrick Joyce farm, on the SW SE Sec. 12, T. 97, R. 3.

Group No. 11, the Martell Group, is a procession of six round and one long mounds along the edge of the terrace in the west part of the NW of Sec. 18, T. 97, R. 3. For map see page 62 this Vol. and pages 81 and 85, Vol. I, and ~~pages 81 and 85 of Vol. I~~ for description and photos.

Group No. 12 - a group of two large mounds - lies on the bluff top west of the Evergreen Experimental Forest on the terrace below. The bluff top here has a direction of N 30 E, and the most northerly mound, No. 2, lies 35 ft. west of the edge on the highest part of the divide between the Mississippi valley and a ravine to the west and 350 ft. west of the north and south one-fourth section line through the center of Sec. 13, T. 97, R. 3 west, the south mound, No. 1, lying 250 ft. south 45 degrees west, seventy ft. from the edge of the bluff. This last mound was excavated two years ago by the owner, Mr. Cota, with a team and scraper, to a depth of perhaps two ft. below the natural level, but only scattering large limestone rocks were found.

Mound No. 2 of this group has never been disturbed except by cultivation.

Group No. 13 consists of two large mounds on the bluff top west of Harper's Ferry. For Map, Description and photographs see pages 72, 75, 76, 82 and 83 of Vol. I

Group No. 14 consists of a single large mound on a wide elevation of the terrace, near the eastern edge of same at about one-fourth mile north-east of the Big Mound, No. 4.



There is not the least evidence of any kind that this great group of burial places or monuments erected to the memory of the dead was an accompaniment to a village of long standing, as are our cemeterys to the towns and villages near to which they are located.

A tentative theory to account for such a field of the dead, is that parties of the aborigines came here from time to time, bringing with them the remains of their dead, from temporary resting places on platforms in trees or supported by poles, for final interment.

The "bundle burial", almost the only one used for final interment would seem to be supporting evidence of this.

After the ceremonies attendant on the placing the burials, the memorial mound was erected.

The camps of such parties would be very temporary and they would be soon gone. Indeed it might be supposed that these people would be even more averse to camping, a place set aside for the dead, for such is a mound group, than we would be.

Perhaps a year or more would intervene between each gathering with its resultant additions to the group.

Nine hundred mounds, even though spread over around 440 acres, as was the Great Group at Harper's Ferry, is an astonishing large number to be found in one group. I am unable to find any account of one that even approaches it. There is certainly nothing to compare with it elsewhere in Iowa.

In Winchell's Aborigines of Minnesota, the largest group plotted and described is an assemblage of mostly round mounds between Spring Creek and Cannon River, Minn., (the upper valley of which river was exceedingly prolific of mounds,) lies on three forties of Sec. 22, T. 113, R. 15 west of the 5th P.M.

It shows 226 surveyed and plotted and 50 to 75 others, estimated but not surveyed, in a corn field in the center of the group. A total of probably around 300.

Lewis, who made very extensive surveys of the Minnesota mounds, says that this constitutes one of the largest groups in the state.

This large group lies on a terrace on the south side of the rail-road, six miles west of Red Wing, Minn.

If the mounds were scattered pretty uniformly over the area on which they are found they would average about 2 and 1/2 mounds to the acre. The Harper's Ferry Group averages 2 per acre.

As the Fish Farm Group between Lansing and New Albin has 32 on an acre, and other small groups having as high an average are common, we must consider these large groups as scattering. They certainly were far from congested.

It is the bigness of the group as a whole that makes it unique and attracts our attention.

It would seem quite probable that the oldest mounds of the group may be very old. Assuming that one mound a year was constructed it would have taken well towards a thousand years. But there may have been more built each year, or again the last one built may have been as far back as the beginning of the 14th century. Who can tell.

To determine the amount of earth that it would be necessary to move in constructing this group of 900 mounds, we may safely make a fairly accurate estimate from an inspection of the mounds remaining.

This gives an average diameter for the round mounds of 50 ft., and a height of 27 inches, which would be an average of 19.6 cu. yards per mound, or a total of 17640 cu. yards for the entire group.

At current prices for moving earth today and for shaping and trimming, it would cost not less than \$5000.00 to do this work, using improved implements.

When we consider that this great yardage was moved by man and squaw power, the surface soil being scraped up with flint hoes or clam shells and carried in skins or baskets, we are impressed with the amount of labor involved and the time required to do it.

Beyond <sup>the site</sup> there is no village site on the Harper's Ferry terrace. It has been well searched over and it is more than usually barren of camp refuse.

No "good hunting ground for arrow heads" has been reported from the valleys of the three small tributary streams coming in here. The farmers and farm boys on the upland farms do not have any arrow heads or other Indian material and report such as being found only rarely.

In a gently sloping field north of the spring brook running along the north-east end of the terrace, by long hunting a small arrow head or bit of pottery may be found, or rather it might have been, for the western end of the Lynxville dam across the Mississippi now crosses (1940) this field where Lewis located some three or four long mounds, that long ago disappeared under cultivation.

*The Palimpsest for May, 1930, page 230, says that T. H. Lewis visited in 1892 the "prairie" or terrace on which Harper's Ferry now stand and found it "covered with mounds of which he surveyed 4 bear effigies and one long mound but in a penciled note in one of his field books he says: "This (Harper's Ferry) group consisted of 107 tailless (bear) animals, 67 birds, 98 embankments that were probably animals, 154 embankments (linears), and 240 round mounds the largest of which is now about 6 feet high. Total number of effigies in sight including surveyed (4), 276. Total number of mounds including surveyed, 671. Add 229 small round mounds (estimated) that have been destroyed by cultivation makes a total of 900 mounds of all classes."*

*Keyes comments: "This note is believed to be a record of the largest mound group ever erected by the pre-historic inhabitants of America."*

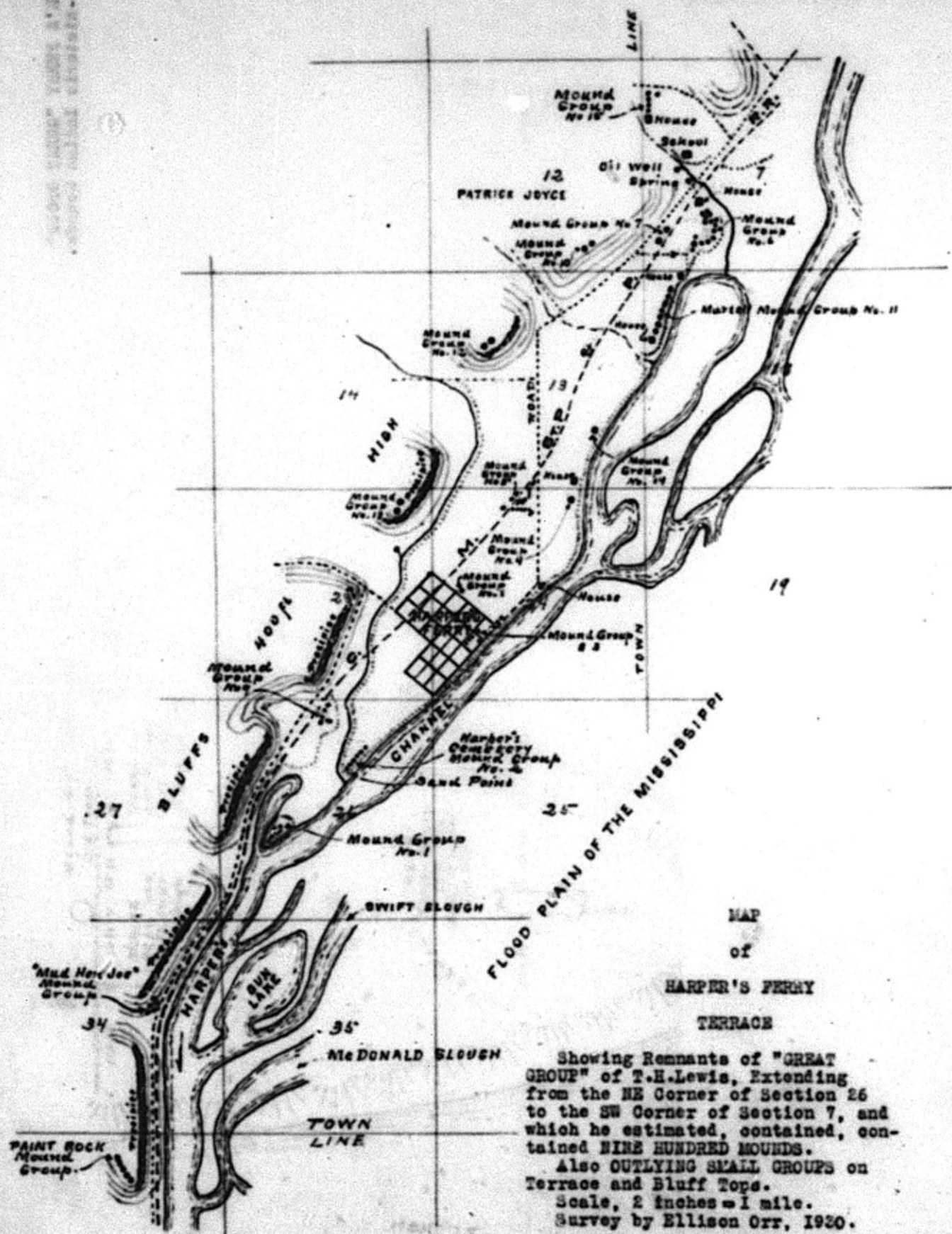
Continued from page 47.

The last one, also a bear mound, lay at the river edge of the terrace and to the north of what we have designated as Group No. 2, Harper's Cemetery Mound Group. He says of this group:

"Along the bank below there are twelve round mounds. (Now but six, the others having been washed away by the undercutting of the brook) Some have modern graves on them and all are more or less mutilated. About twenty-three feet above the slough, (Harper's Channel) and within two hundred and fifty yards of the south end of the Great Group."

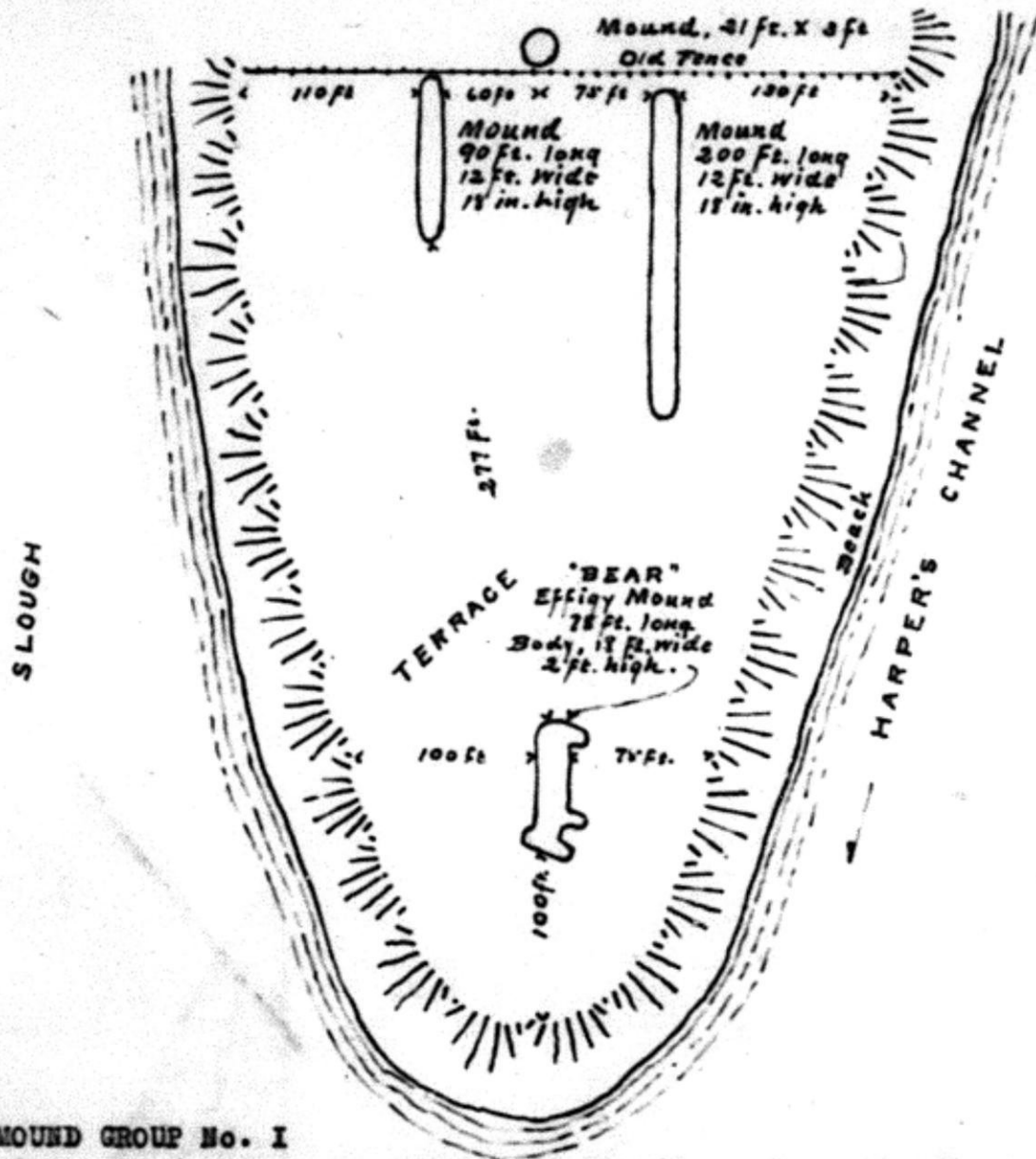
This last effigy can not now be even approximately located. A mound only 135 X 50 is difficult to locate when no trace of it remains.

The approximate dimensions on the ground for each of the four are close to 135 X 50. The height in each case is given as two and one-half feet.



MAP  
of  
HARPER'S FERRY  
TERRACE

Showing Remnants of "GREAT GROUP" of T.H. Lewis, Extending from the NE Corner of Section 26 to the SW Corner of Section 7, and which he estimated, contained, contained NINE HUNDRED MOUNDS.  
Also OUTLYING SMALL GROUPS on Terrace and Bluff Tops.  
Scale, 2 inches = 1 mile.  
Survey by Ellison Orr, 1930.



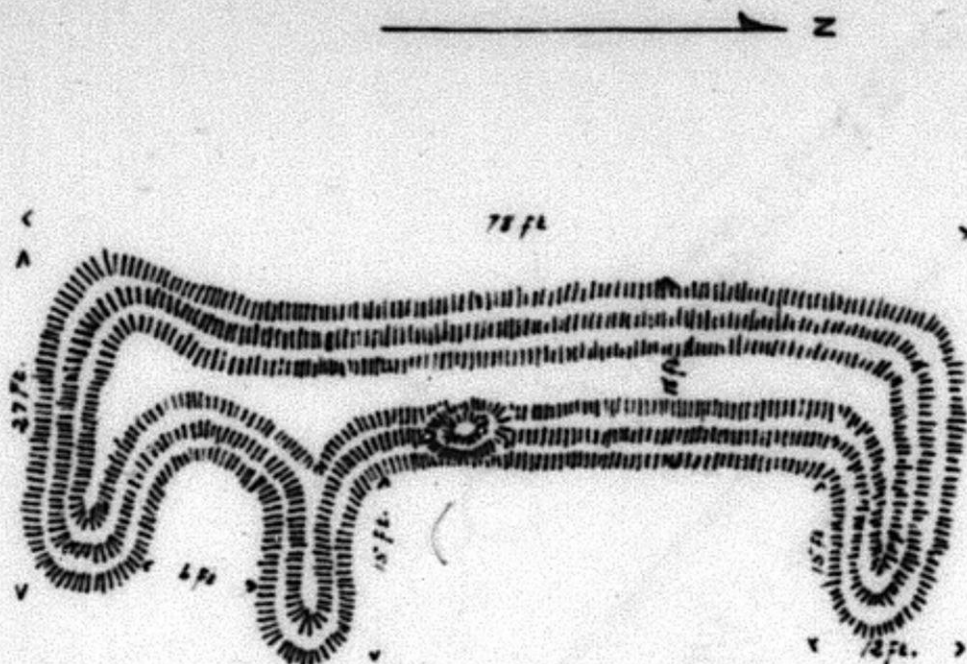
### MOUND GROUP No. I

At the southern extremity of High Sand Island south of Harper's Ferry Terrace. On the NE SW Sec. 26, T. 97, R. 3 west of the 5th P.M.

The surface of this island has an elevation of 25 ft. above low water in Harper's Channel.

The growth of stunted red oak and poplar trees that once covered this island, except for what grows on the steep sides, has been cleared off and its surface is now (1940) a grass covered pasture. The round mound is badly pitted, the long ones have a few small ones, and there is one in the bear effigy. Otherwise the group is well preserved.

On the sand beach under the point at the south-west end, I picked up in 1908, a fine quartzite spearhead. Survey about 1910.



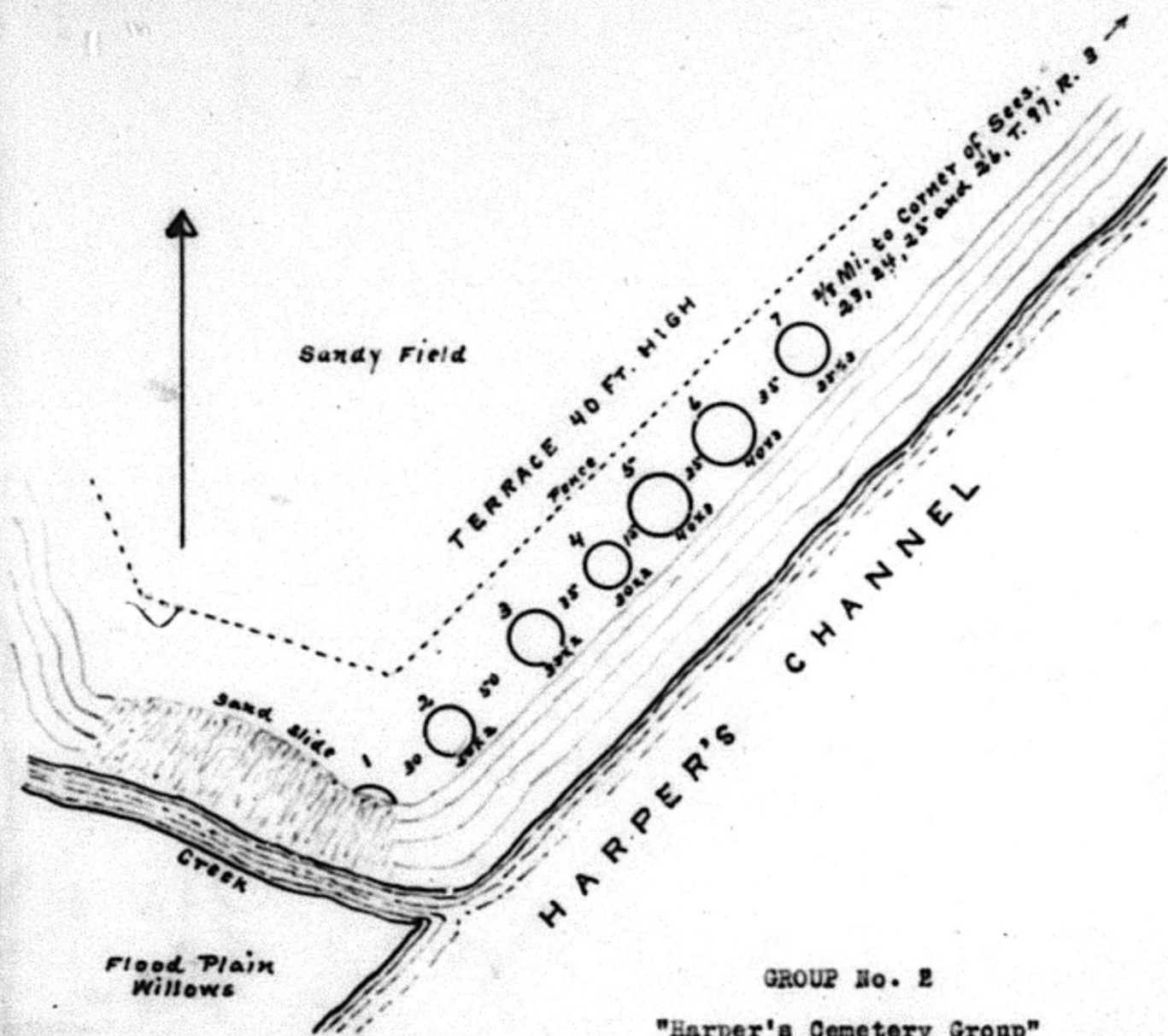
Detail of Effigy "Bear Mound" in Group No. I of Harper's Ferry Mounds. This Mound is 2 feet high with other dimensions as shown. It lies, head to the south, 100 ft. from the south end of the 25 ft. high, flat-iron shaped sand island, a terrace remnant, - lying just south of the "sand point" at the south end of the Harper's Ferry terrace. On NW SW Sec. 26, T. 97, R. 3.

Survey by Ellison Orr,  
1910



Spear-head of uncolored quartzite, 4.1 in. X 1.25 in.

Picked up by Ellison Orr, 1908 on sand beach at the south-west point of the high sand island. On NE SW Sec. 26, T. 97, R. 3. One mile below Harper's Ferry. Edges sharp and well serrated for quartzite.



GROUP No. 2

"Harper's Cemetery Group"

3/8 Mi. South of Harper's Ferry, Ia.

On Sand Point of Main Terrace.

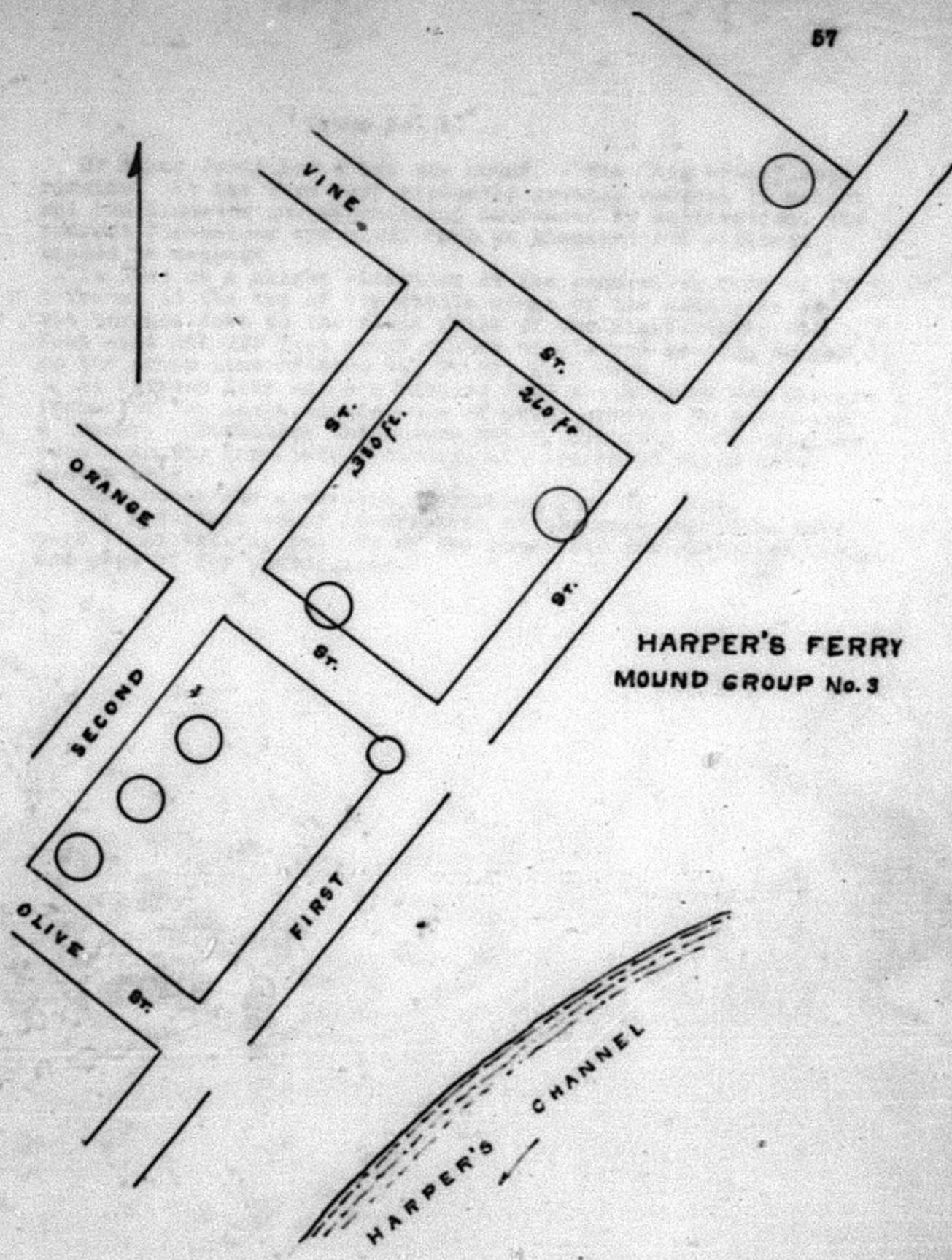
NE 1/4 Sec. 26, T. 97, R. 3

Scale, 1 inch 100 ft.

Distances and dimensions in Feet.

Survey by Ellison Orr, Apr. 7,

1924.



HARPER'S FERRY  
MOUND GROUP No. 3

HARPER'S CHANNEL



**Group No. 4.**

Of Mound Group No. 4 but one mound, - the "Big Mound", - now remains. It has been very evidently greatly reduced in height and its diameter correspondingly increased by cultivation. Its present dimensions are sixty feet in diameter and eighteen inches in height.

It lies on a slight elevation of the general surface of the terrace, at the top of the gentle slope of the east side of the terrace down to the flood plain of the Mississippi, 570 feet east and 133 feet south of the one-fourth section corner on the north line of Sec. 24, T. 97, R. 3 west.

At between five and six hundred feet north there are obscure traces of two large mounds, one of which appears to have been a linear. Doubtless there were other, probably many, smaller mounds in the immediate vicinity, all traces of which have disappeared.

This mound was excavated, beginning Aug. 23, 1934.

For a further brief description of the work than done, see page 71 of Vol. I, page 73 of the same Vol. for sketch of floor, and page 77 for photographs.

MOUND GROUP No. 5  
 HARPER'S FERRY, IOWA.

NE NW Sec. 24, T. 97, R. 3

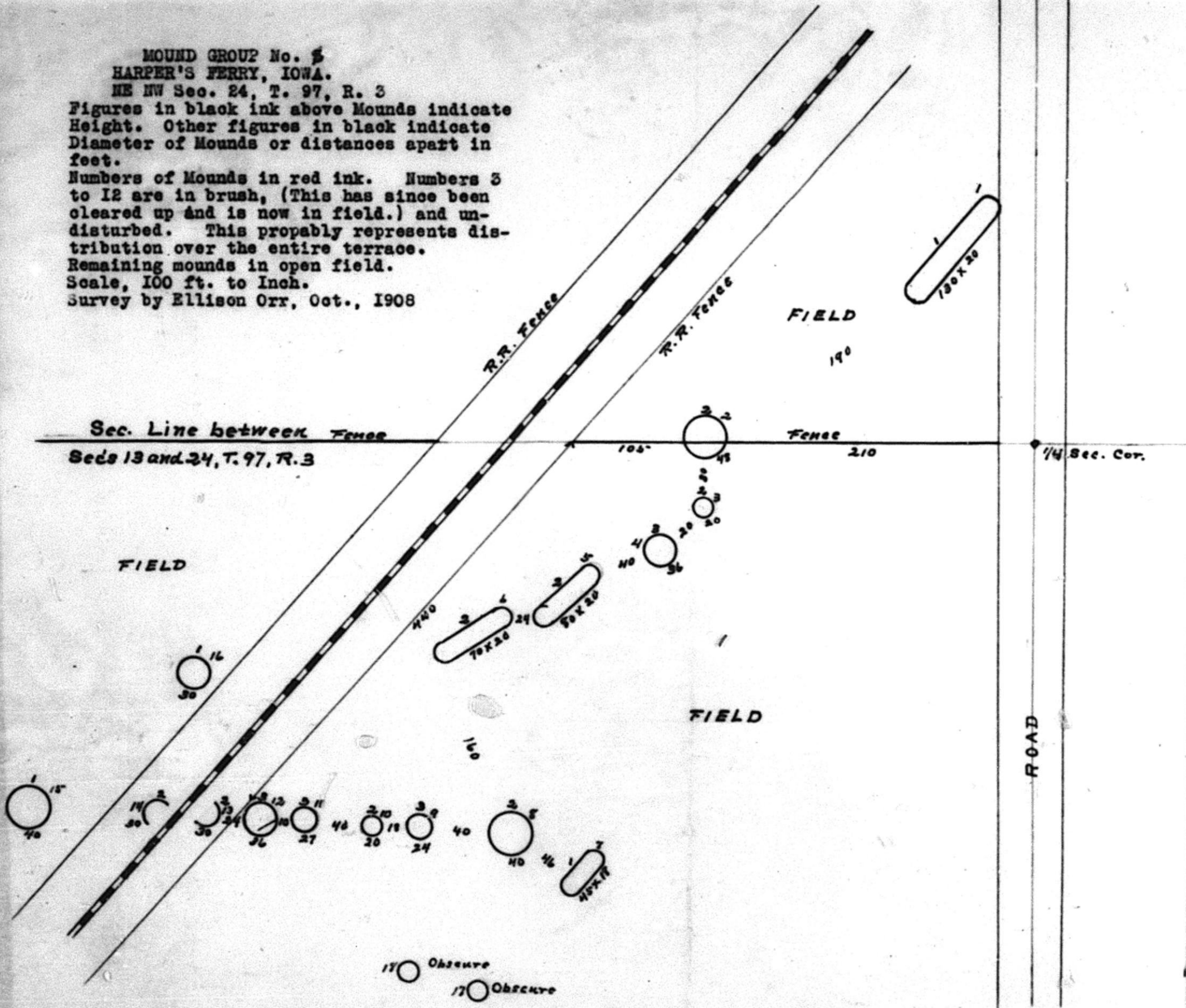
Figures in black ink above Mounds indicate Height. Other figures in black indicate Diameter of Mounds or distances apart in feet.

Numbers of Mounds in red ink. Numbers 3 to 12 are in brush, (This has since been cleared up and is now in field.) and undisturbed. This probably represents distribution over the entire terrace.

Remaining mounds in open field.

Scale, 100 ft. to Inch.

Survey by Ellison Orr, Oct., 1908



No. 17, Obscure

No. 18, Obscure

No. 19, Obscure

No. 20, Obscure

No. 13, 50'x15'

No. 14, Trace

No. 15, Trace

FIELD

SW SW Sec. 7  
T. 97, R. 2

SE SW Sec 7  
T. 97, R. 2

1/4 Sec. Line  
400 ft

No. 16, Obscure

No. 12, 50' long

No. 10, 45'x15'

No. 11, 20'x10'

No. 9, 45'x36'

N 70° E  
150'

No. 8, 30'x10'

Terrace  
Subject to overflow at low water

No. 21, 30'x24'

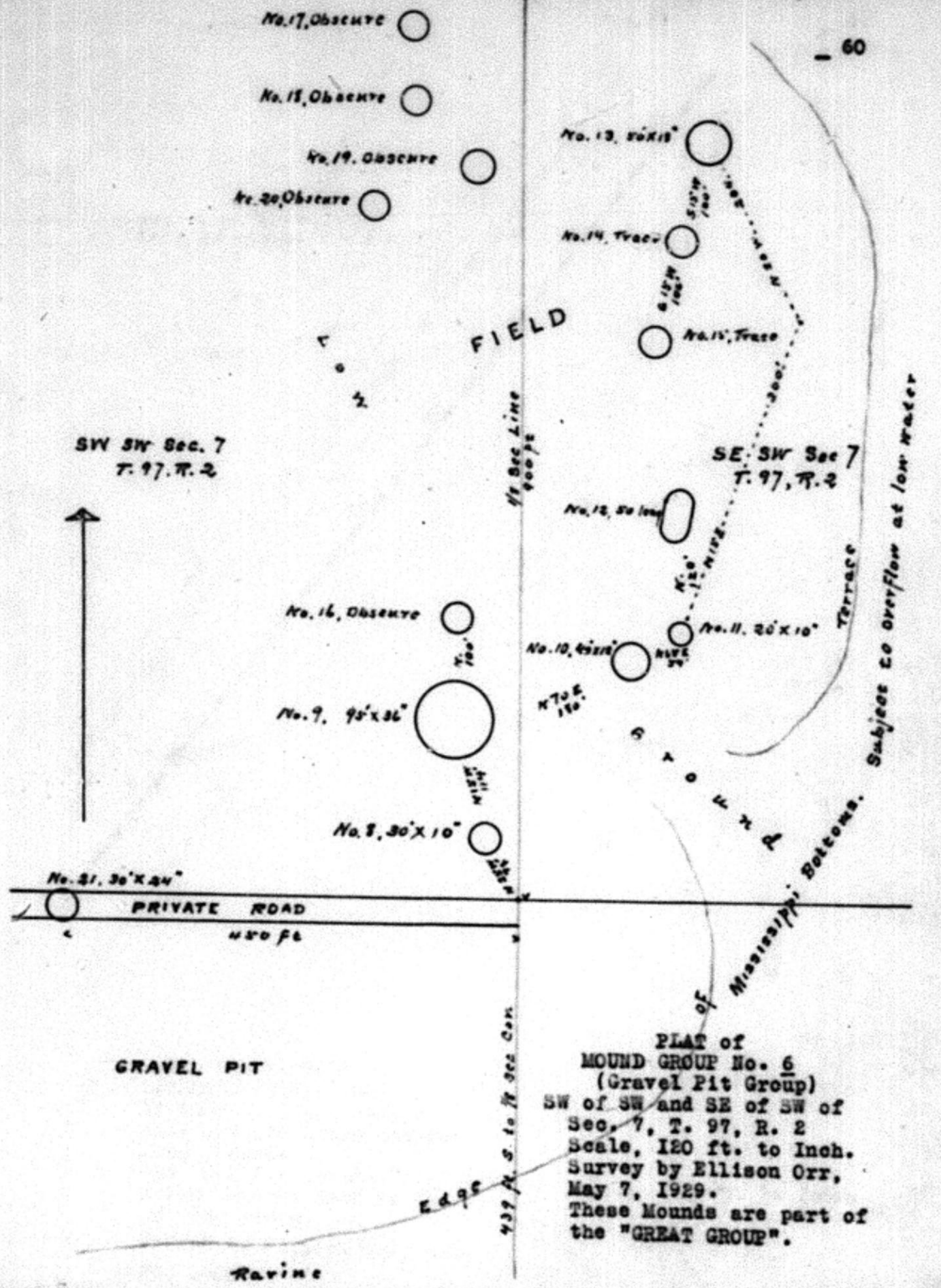
PRIVATE ROAD  
1450 ft

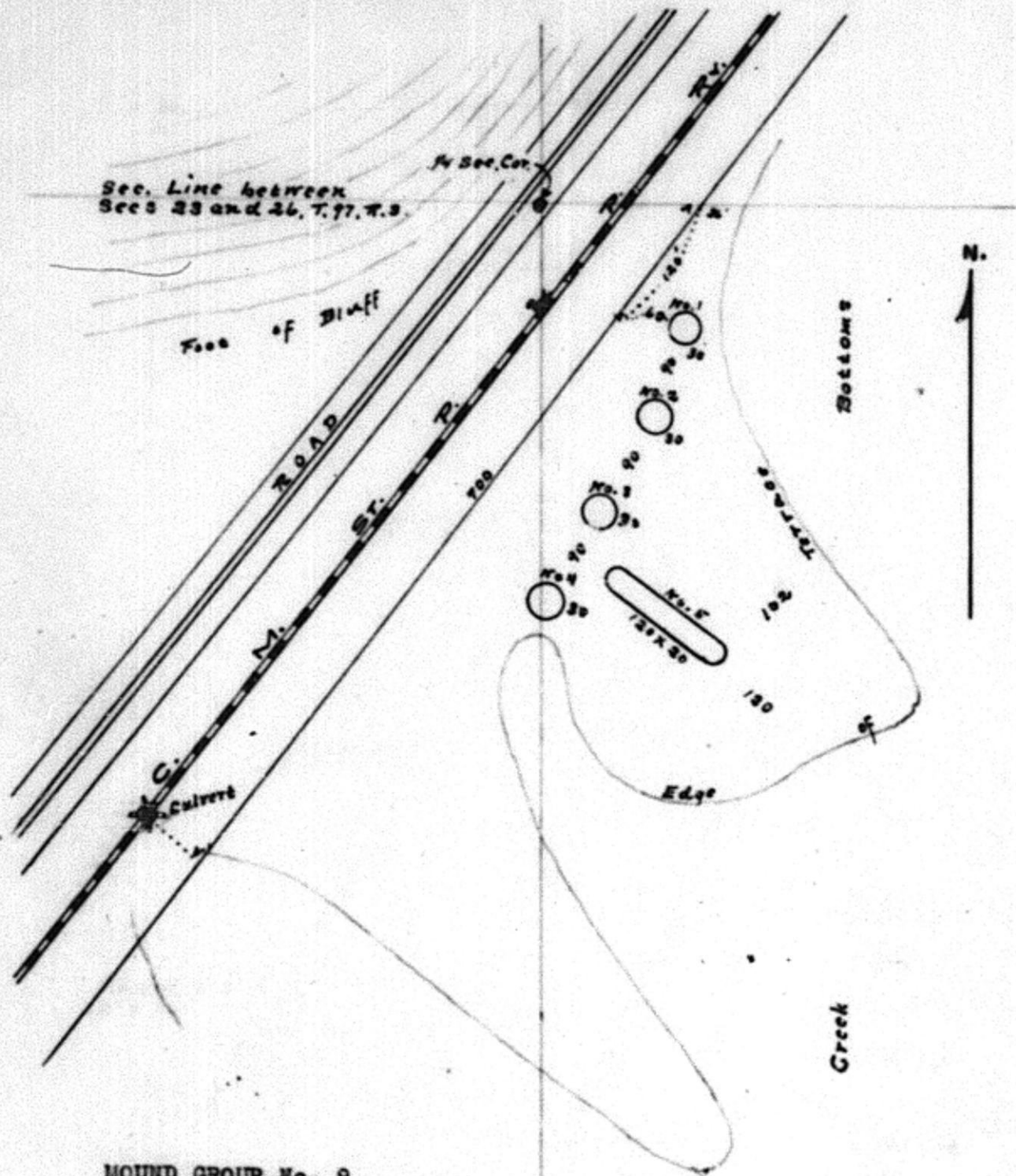
GRAVEL PIT

PLAT of  
MOUND GROUP No. 6  
(Gravel Pit Group)  
SW of SW and SE of SW of  
Sec. 7, T. 97, R. 2  
Scale, 120 ft. to Inch.  
Survey by Ellison Orr,  
May 7, 1929.  
These Mounds are part of  
the "GREAT GROUP".

Edge  
437 ft. S. to 1/4 Sec. Cor.

Ravine





**MOUND GROUP No. 9**  
**HARPER'S FERRY, IOWA**  
 NW NE Sec. 26, T. 97, R. 3  
 Four Obscure Round and One  
 Long Mounds.  
 The "Old R.R. Gravel Pit lies  
 a Few Hundred Feet to the S.  
 of this Group.  
 Survey by Ellison Orr, Mar.  
 26, 1930

Scale, 120 ft. to Inch.

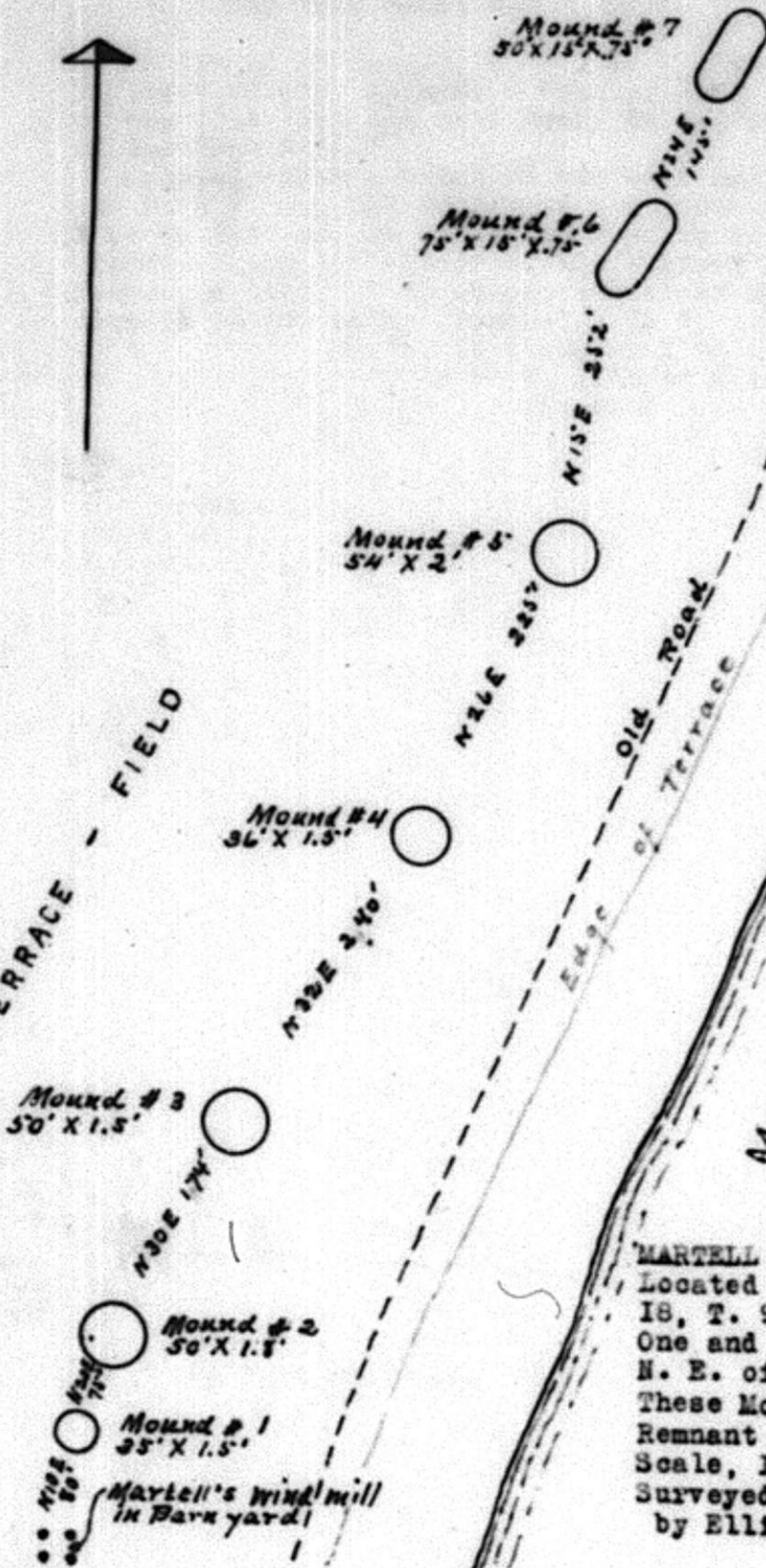
SW Corner of 3 Acre Lot, 6.30 ac. West  
and 3.16 1/2 ac. 2/3 of 1/2 P.C. Cor. on North  
line of NW Sec. 18, T. 97, R. 2.

3 Acre Lot

3.16 1/2

62

TERRACE - FIELD

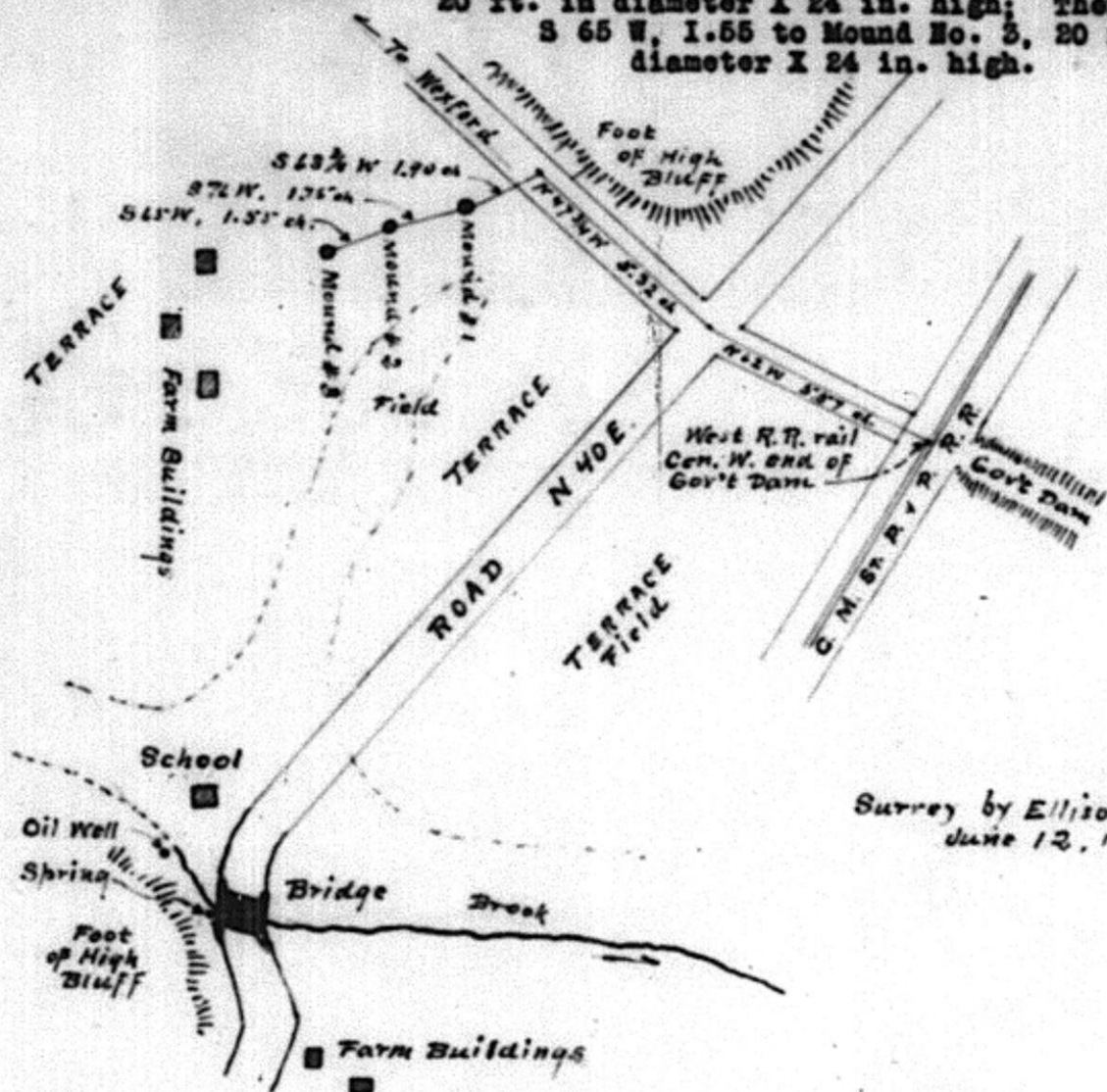


PLAT of  
MARTELL MOUND GROUP, No. II.  
Located on the NW NW Sec.  
18, T. 97, R. R. 2.  
One and three-fourths miles  
N. E. of Harper's Ferry, Ia.  
These Mounds are Probably a  
Remnant of the "GREAT GROUP."  
Scale, 180 ft. to the Inch.  
Surveyed May 7th, 1928  
by Ellison Orr.

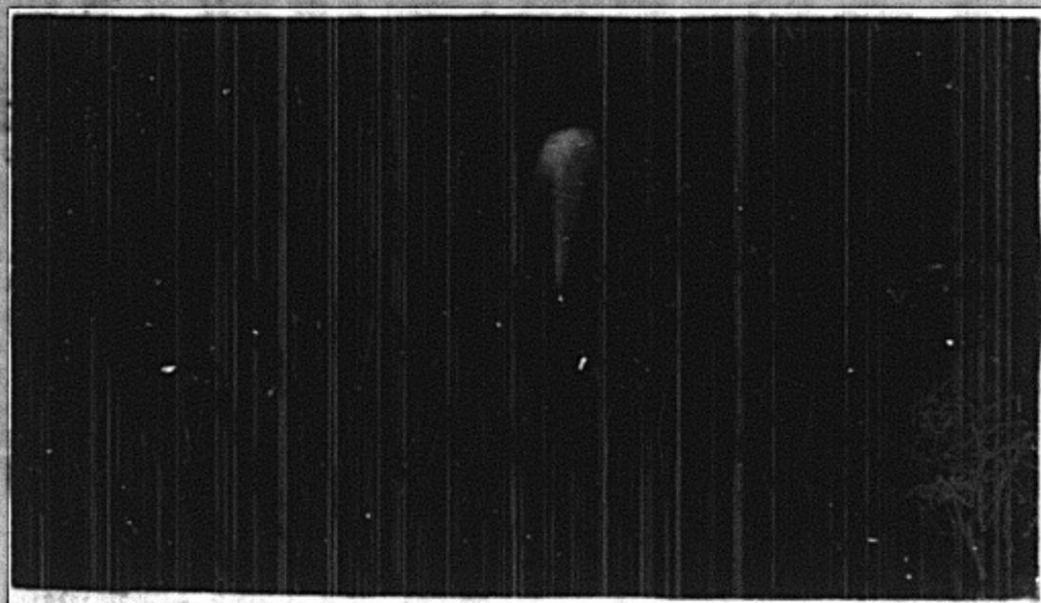
## THE "OIL WELL" MOUND GROUP.

On the SE NW Sec. 7, T. 97, R. 2 West of the 5th P.M., Taylor Township, Allamakee County, Iowa. On a terrace south of the road from Harper's Ferry to Wexford Church, and north of the "Oil Well."

Located, from a point on the west rail of the G. M. St. P. and P. R.R. and the center of the Government dam. Thence, N 62° W, 5.57 ch. to center of road up river which runs N 40° E; Thence, along the center of the Wexford Road, N 47° W, 5.32 ch.; Thence, S 63° W, 1.90 ch.; to center of Mound No. 1, 20 ft. in diam. X 18 in. high; Thence, S 76° W, 1.75 ch. to Mound No. 2, 20 ft. in diameter X 24 in. high; Thence, S 65° W, 1.55 ch. to Mound No. 3, 20 ft. in diameter X 24 in. high.



The "Oil Well" Mound Group.



*This Artesian Well is on NW SW Sec. 7, T. 97, R. 2, west. Photo by Ellison Orr, 1920. Looking south. Since then it has ceased to flow, the pipe having rusted out, the water flows away through the underground crevices in the rock.*

**"MUD HEN JOE" MOUND GROUP.**

This group lies on a narrow slightly sloping area, not a terrace in the proper sense of the word, along the feet of the high bluff north of the mouth of a small cooley which opens into the Mississippi river at about one and one-half miles above Waukon Junction, 2400 ft. north of the first highway crossing north of the Junction, - and on the west side of the rail road.

There are five round mounds, two of which lie wholly or in part on the right-of-way of the rail road, and the other three twenty-five feet outside. See plat following.

This group is named after Joe Gyron, - "Mud Hen Joe", - a French "river rat" who for a while kept hotel at Waukon Junction, then was caretaker of the cabins of the outing club on Mud Hen Slough, and finally before leaving the country, lived for two or three years in a shack on the alluvial and gravel fan at the mouth of the cooley, on the north side of which these mounds are.

This group was surveyed April 3d, 1924.

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This mound group was excavated, June 26th to July 7th, 1936. Highway No. 224, which along there on the east side of the rail road was changed to the west side and built to standard grade from Waukon Junction to Harper's Ferry, and the mounds entirely destroyed by the work.

For a complete description of the work of excavation, plats and photographs, see pages 161 to 174, Vol V.



High Bluff

High Bluff

Brush

Brush

Trees

HARPER'S CHANNEl

House

Alluvial Fan

HIGHWAY

C. M. ST. P. & O. R. R.

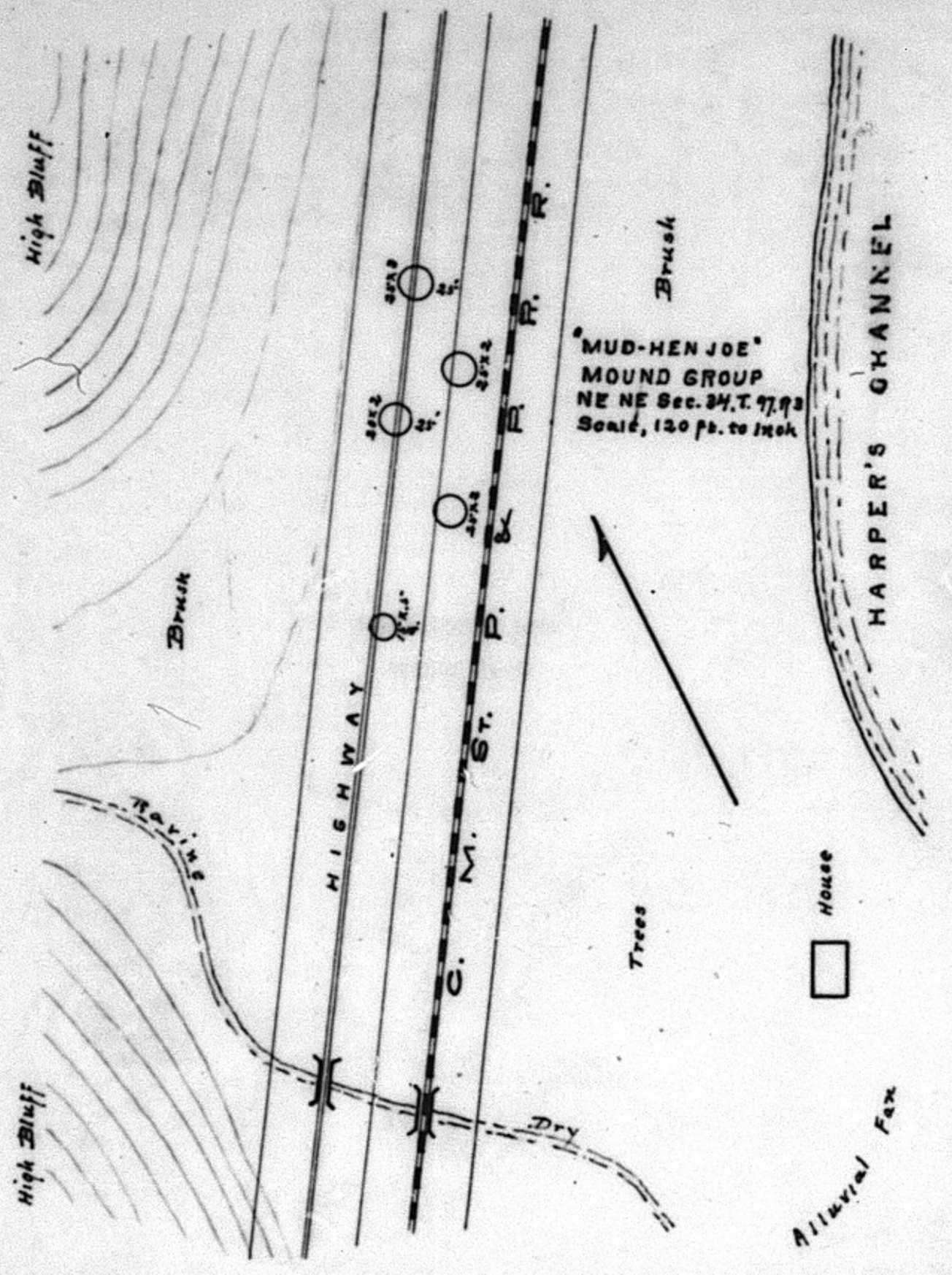
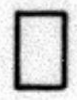
20x2

20x2

20x2

20x2

MUD-HEN JOE MOUND GROUP  
NE NE Sec. 34, T. 97, R. 23  
Scale, 120 ft. to inch



The Painted Rock Mound Group

The Painted Rock Mound Group is located on the north bank of the Mississippi River, about 10 miles north of the mouth of the river. It consists of a series of mounds and pits, some of which are still visible above the water level.

The mounds are of varying heights and are generally composed of sand and silt. Some of the mounds are still visible above the water level, while others are completely submerged. The pits are of various sizes and are generally filled with water.

The Painted Rock Mound Group is one of the most important archaeological sites in the area. It has yielded a large number of artifacts, including pottery, tools, and weapons. The site is also known for its unique rock art, which consists of various designs and symbols painted on the rocks.

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**THE PAINTED ROCK  
MOUND GROUP**

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### The Painted Rock Mound Group.

At eight and one-half miles from the site of the first Fort Crawford, near the C. M. St. P. R. R. Depot at Prairie du Chien, a deep ravine that heads at Paint Rock Church, two and one-half miles north, and from there runs due south, opens into the valley of the "Father of Waters", on the Iowa side of the river.

This is three-fourths of a mile north of Waukon Junction, Iowa.

On the north side of the meeting place of this ravine and the great river is a three hundred and fifty feet high promontory. The upper two hundred and sixty feet of this, on the river side is a sheer precipice from the foot of which a steep, cedar covered talus of loose rocks and earth slopes down to the river that washes its foot.

This precipice is the "Painted Rock" that has been noted as a landmark since back in prehistoric times. It was among the few well known and named places along the river mentioned by the earliest explorers and voyageurs in their narratives.

Among them, Major Stephen H. Long, who made a voyage in 1817 from Prairie du Chien to the falls of St. Anthony (Minneapolis) says at the beginning of his journal, when describing his departure from the Prairie;

"Passed Yellow River on our left about two miles above (P. du Chien) and about a mile farther up passed a bluff of considerable size called Painted Rock".

Of course he was in error in his estimates of distances as it is three miles from P. Du Chien to the mouth of Yellow river, and five and one-half from there to the Painted Rock.

On his return trip he says that he;

"Passed Painted Rock on the right of the river (The Iowa side) nine miles above Prairie du Chien, (this is about the correct distance) It has obtained this name from having numerous hieroglyphics on it, painted by the Indians. These figures are painted on a cliff nearly perpendicular, at a height of about twenty-five feet from its base. Whenever the Indians pass this cliff they are in the habit of performing certain ceremonies which their superstition leads them to believe efficacious in rendering any enterprise on which they may be engaged successful."

Henry R. Schoolcraft, who in 1820 came down the Mississippi to Prairie du Chien says that his party;

"halted for breakfast at the Painted Rock on the west shore."

In 1825, J. G. Beltrami, a judge of the royal court in Italy, made a journey to the source of the Mississippi river and in 1828 published an account of his voyage, with a map of the river. In this account he says: "Nine miles above the Prairie at a place where the savages pay their adorations to a rock which they annually paint with red and yellow, the Mississippi presents scenes of peculiar novelty."

He gives a table of short distances as they were then estimated from which we give the following:

"River Wisconsin to Prairie du Chien	6 miles
To Painted Rock	9 miles
To Cape Winnebago (Cape Puant, - the locality of which which is not now known	18 miles
To Cape a'l'ale Sauvage (Capoli)	10 miles
To Upper River Yawoha (Upper Iowa)	19 miles"

Some of these estimates are greatly in error and their principal value is to show that the places named were well known to the voyageurs that manned the boats.

Lieut Zebulon Pike, in his journal of a voyage from St. Louis to the source of the Mississippi river, says that on his return trip, on Friday, April 8th, 1806, he  
"stopped for breakfast at the Painted Rock."

Probably the first white men to see the Painted Rock were Pierre Radisson and his brother-in-law, Medard Grosseilliers. These men were wood rangers and free traders, out of favor with the civil and ecclesiastical authorities at Quebec. The treatment which they received from their own people drove them to the English at Boston where Radisson wrote a journal of their adventures from which it appears that in 1659 they ascended the Mississippi from the mouth of the Wisconsin to Lake Pepin, in which event it is fair to presume it would have been certain that they saw and noted a place as the Painted Rock.

Marquette and Joliet who came down the Wisconsin on an accredited and well organized journey of exploration, on June 17th, 1673, saw the river of which so much had been told them, the Messa-sepe, the Great River, and to them historians have given the credit of discovery. But as they turned down the river they could not have seen the Painted Rock.

During the more than a century and a quarter intervening between the discovery and the voyages from the accounts of which we have quoted, many trappers, traders and voyageurs must have passed the Rock and come to know it as a landmark.

More than one hundred and fifty years after its discovery, in the second quarter of the 19th century, the rising flood of settlers that had poured over the Alleghenies, reached the Mississippi river to be checked by it but temporarily.

And now again the Painted Rock became a place of importance, and this is the story of how:

As the northern Mississippi valley, west of that river, came into the complete possession of the United States after the Louisiana Purchase, a continued effort was made by the government to make peace between the warring Indian tribes inhabiting it. The Sioux in Minnesota were continually at war with the Chippewa on the north and east and the Sacs and Foxes on the south.

The efforts of the agents of the government finally culminated in a meeting and grand council of the tribes and the United States Government at Prairie du Chien, at which, on Oct. 19, 1825, a treaty was made between the Sioux on the north and the Sacs and Foxes on the south of the Upper Iowa river, in which both tribes agreed not to cross that river into the territory of the other.

As this did not stop the raiding a second treaty was negotiated at another council, held on July 30th, 1830, by which the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a twenty mile wide strip on the south side of the Upper Iowa, and the Sioux one of the same width on the north side.

The historian tells us that the Sioux, a large body of them, coming down the Mississippi from the north to attend this latter great council, stopped a day at Painted Rock, unpacked their finery, painted themselves and otherwise made ready to enter Prairie du Chien in their most imposing manner and with great pomp and ceremony, which they did the next day.

These sessions, a total of forty miles wide, and reaching from the Mississippi river, with the mouth of the Upper Iowa river as a starting point, extending south-westerly to the Des Moines river, came to be known as The Neutral Ground, on which both tribes were permitted to hunt but not to occupy.

In 1832, Capt. Nathan Boone, a relative of Daniel Boone, the great hunter and pioneer, was directed by the government to survey and establish the boundaries of The Neutral Ground, and the work was begun on Apr. 19th of the same year.

Beginning at the mouth of the Upper Iowa river he first ran a line up that river to the left fork - Trout Run - and from thence up that stream to north-west of Frankville, thence south-westerly to the Des Moines river, as agreed upon in the treaty of 1825, for a boundary between the tribes. Then from a point twenty miles north on the Des Moines river he ran parallel to the 1825 boundary line, north-east to the Mississippi river for the north boundary of the Neutral Ground.

Running a meander line of courses and distances for forty miles down the Mississippi river to get the point for the south boundary line, brought him exactly to the Painted Rock.

It was a strange coincidence that the starting point of this important south boundary line should be within a few rods of this rock, for long regarded by the Indians as mysterious or medicine place and by the whites as a landmark of note.

Here Boone established the beginning of the line by setting a post and marking in a proper manner three witness trees, and taking the distance and direction to the foot of the Painted Rock.

Capt. Boone says in his field notes of the survey that;

"From this corner a very noted rock about 200 ft. high bears N 31 W, 540 links distant and immediately at this place the trading road leading to the Red Cedar leaves the river. This road is known by the name of Rolet's Road.

The "Rolet Road" received its name from that of a free trader, Jean Joseph Rolette, who had had trouble with the commandant at Ft. Crawford at Prairie du Chien, and in consequence was banished from that post and forced to take up his residence near the Painted Rock where he remained over winter. This road climbed out of the river valley to the top of the divide near where now is Paint Rock Church, and following this divide through where Elon and the Makee school now are, and from thence north of Frankville, and mostly following the divides, to the Red Cedar river.

(Jean Joseph Rolette was born at Quebec in 1761 and died at Prairie du Chien in 1842. His body lies in the Old French Cemetery north of Prairie du Chien. Over his grave is a low enclosure of brick covered with a marble slab. His widow married Honore Dousman.)

At the foot of the Painted Rock the Jordan Sandstone has weathered away forming a "rock shelter" or shallow cave along the cliff for about fifty feet. This shelter is very irregular as to the distance which it extends into the cliff, and the height. Fifteen feet is about the greatest distance to which it undercuts and is perhaps the extreme height.

On all of its walls are a number of crude figures of animals and of strange symbolic figures, outlined by half-round grooves cut about one-fourth of an inch deep into the rock.

None of these figures occupy a space of more than two square feet.

Besides these there are on the huge hour-glass shaped sandstone pillar that terminates the south end of the cliff, hundreds of straight gashes from four to ten inches long, such as might be made by holding the edge of a stone axe or celt vertically against the face of the cliff and moving it up and down.

All of these, both the figures and the gashes, are the work of the Indian. The white man has also left his record there in the shape of initials, names and dates.

At twenty to thirty feet above the foot of the precipice, and above the rock shelter, a narrow shelf runs along the face of the cliff, above which are smears of red paint on the rock wall. There are other smears which may also once have been petroglyphs now all but obliterated.

Only two of these are now (1902) distinct enough to enable one to determine what they were probably intended to represent.

Each is a round smear of red, one being 12 and the other 19 and 1/2 inches in diameter. From either side of the smaller a straight horn extends upwards for 10 and 1/2 inches.

On the other the horns are curved inwards, extending upwards for the same distance as those of the smaller.

These smears of red and the red petroglyphs give to the cliff the name of the PAINTED ROCK.

There is a record, too, of a grim tragedy connected with the Painted Rock.

It is told that one, Methode, with his family of six, in March, 1927, went from Prairie du Chien up to Paint Creek to make maple sugar from the abundant maple trees that then grew along that stream, where all were treacherously murdered by the Indians.

In 1837, a discharged soldier from Ft. Crawford, one, Henry Johnson, "with a partiality for Indian wives", settled at the mouth of Paint Creek. He was the first actual settler in Allamakee county of whom we have an authoritative record.

The almost forgotten town of Johnsonport, two miles below the Painted Rock, was named after this man.

Wandering trappers and transient traders like Rolette undoubtedly were here much earlier, but theirs were only camps.

On the bluff top over the Painted Rock, on the divide between the deep, dry ravine on the south-west and the canyon of the father of waters on the east, and where the ground approaches the level of the general upland, is a group of four round mounds, back of which to the north is a 257 ft. long embankment.

From this high point one looks out on the miles and miles of jumbled bluff, river and island, wonderful in the ethereal beauty of their spring verdure; majestic in summer sunshine and storms; and stern as winter storms sweep over them in their frozen whiteness.

Then we turn to the enduring monuments of heaped up earth around us, erected by the people of a bygone age in memory of their dead, and wonder if the beauty and inspiration of it all appealed to them as it does to us.

And it is borne in on us as on the poet, that we

- "believe that in all ages

Every human heart is human,

That in even savage bosoms,

There are longings, yearnings, strivings"

and that they saw and chose this spot for its wondrous beauty.

Down in the dry valley to the west, on a glacial terrace remnant are two more long embankments.

Between the Painted Rock and the mouth of Paint Creek is probably the most imposing precipice along the entire Mississippi. A sheer wall of rock a thousand feet long and two hundred and fifty feet high from its foot at the top of the eighty feet high talus, it stands, so far as one generation can see, changeless through the years.

Hawks, falcons, and perchance eagles, once nested on its inaccessible sides.

Back from the top of the cliff the ground rises in a U-shaped rounded spur of the general upland peneplain, 50 ft. higher.

Along the top of this half mile long curving spur is a string of eight long embankments aggregating 1547 ft. in total length. Within this curve on the slope towards the river, at the north are two effigy mounds, a bear and an eagle.

At the end of the south-east arm of the spur is a group of three large round mounds along the edge of the upland where it breaks off sharply into the very steep bluff side.

Five hundred feet west of this point and group and above a ledge of rock, is a low mound, No. 4 on the plat, unique, except for the last mound to the east on the bluff north of the mouth of Yellow river, No. 33, in this that it has within it a deposit of burned earth.

Paint Rock from the river, looking south-west.



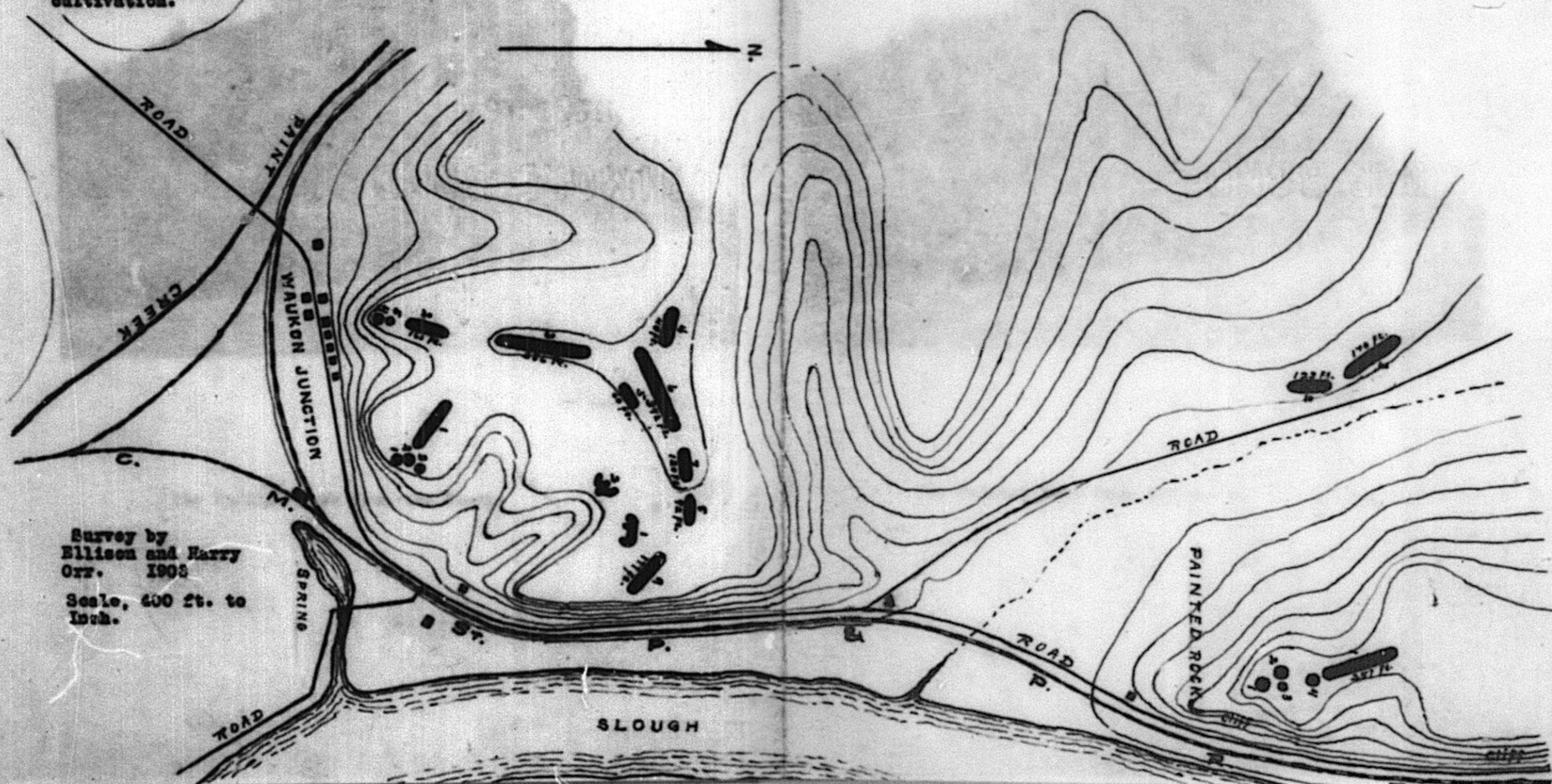
PREHISTORIC INDIAN MOUND GROUPS.

WAUKON JUNCTION GROUP.

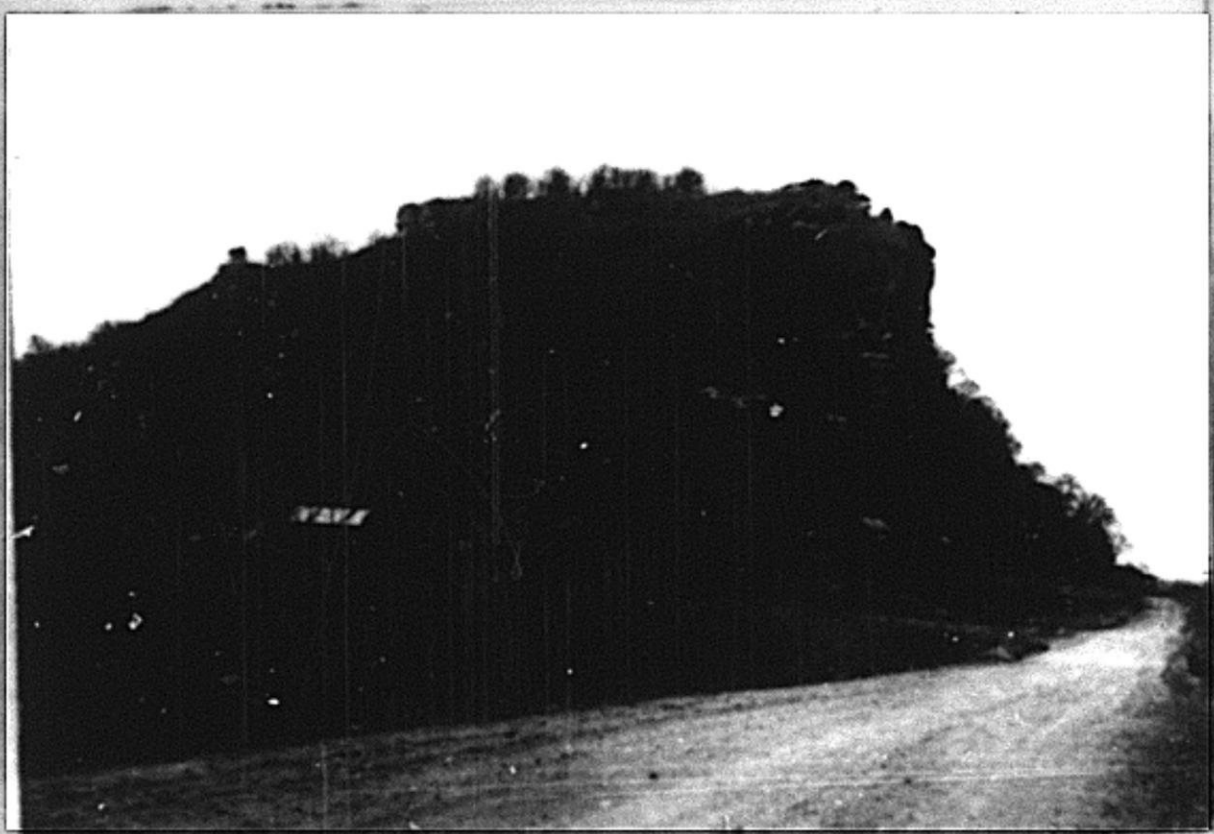
Mound No. 1, 36 ft. in diameter, 5 ft. high.  
 Mound No. 2, 53 ft. in diameter, 6 ft. high.  
 Mound No. 3, 50 ft. in diameter, 6 ft. high.  
 Mound No. 4, 40 ft. in diameter, 2.7 ft. high.  
 Mound No. 5, 22 ft. in diameter, 2 ft. high.  
 Height of linear earthworks, No. 1 to 9, 18 inches.  
 Widths of same, 18 to 25 ft. Lengths as noted.  
 Bear Mound No. 1, 75 ft. long, 18 inches high.  
 Bird Mound No. 2, 18 inches high, 100 ft. from tip  
 to tip of wing.  
 Both these effigy mounds now (1940) now destroyed by  
 cultivation.

THE PAINT ROCK GROUP.

Mound No. 1, 55 ft. in diam., 6.5 ft. high.  
 Mound No. 2, 62 ft. in diam., 7 ft. high.  
 Mound No. 3, 34 ft. in diam., 1 ft. high.  
 Mound No. 4, 40 ft. in diam., 3 ft. high.  
 Linear earthworks Nos 1, 2 and 3, 18 in. to 2 ft.  
 high, - 18 to 20 ft. wide, - lengths as noted.

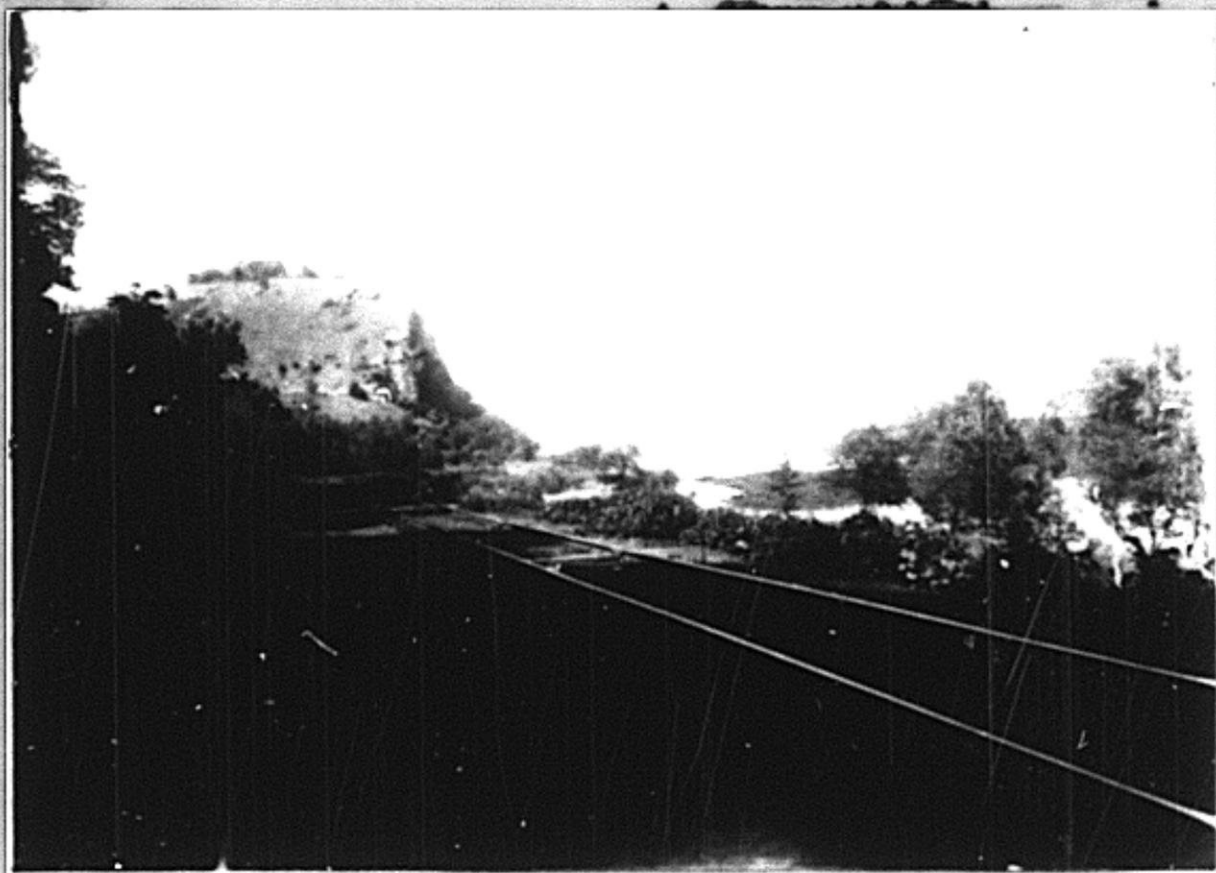


Survey by  
 Ellison and Harry  
 Orr. 1903  
 Scale, 400 ft. to  
 inch.



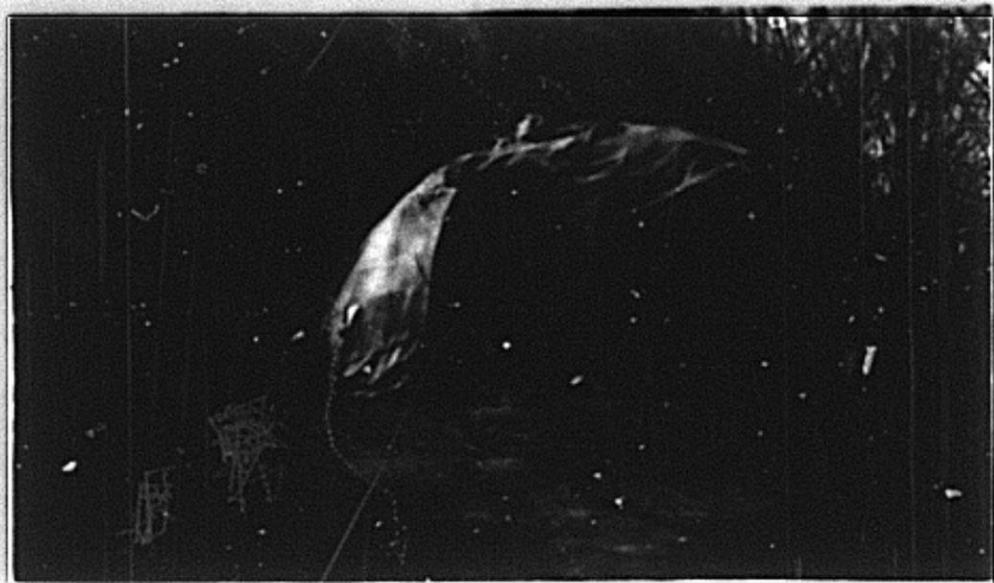
1940

The Painted Rock from the South.



1930

The Painted Rock - from the South.



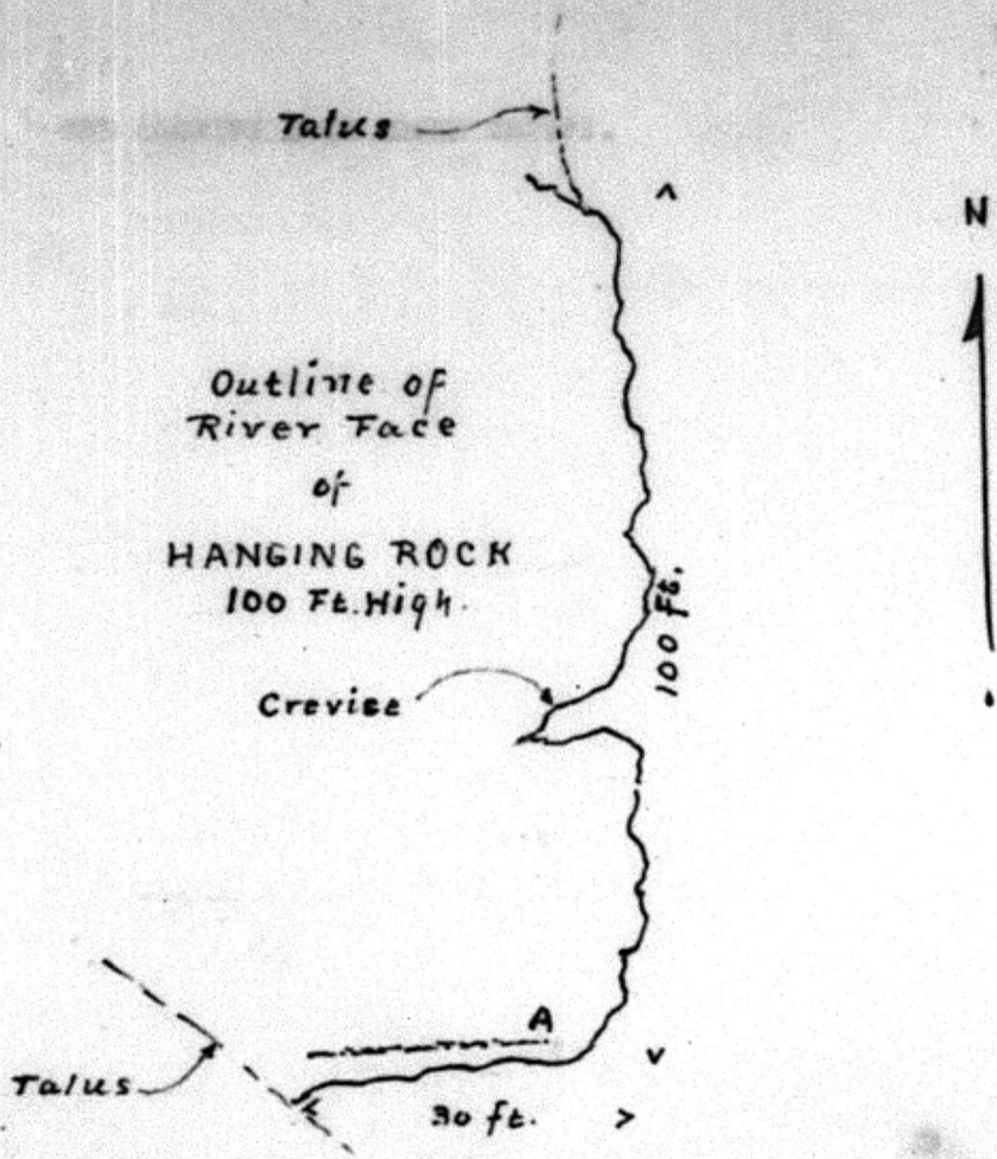
Winnebago Lodge.  
One-fourth Mile North of Waukon Junction.

1941

**THE HANGING ROCK MOUND GROUPS.**



THE "HANGING ROCK."  
The Precipice facing the Mississippi River. Looking  
South.



A - A six inch shelf - a hard rock stratum 12 ft. above the foot of the precipice, at 1 ft. above the east end of which is a circular petroglyph ( X ) inside of which is an arrow ( ? ) and two diagonal lines.

Four feet above this is a second petroglyph ( Y ) inside of which are three straight lines and a shallow ( 1/2 inch deep and 1 inch wide ) cup.

See tracings to left drawn to a scale of one foot to inch.

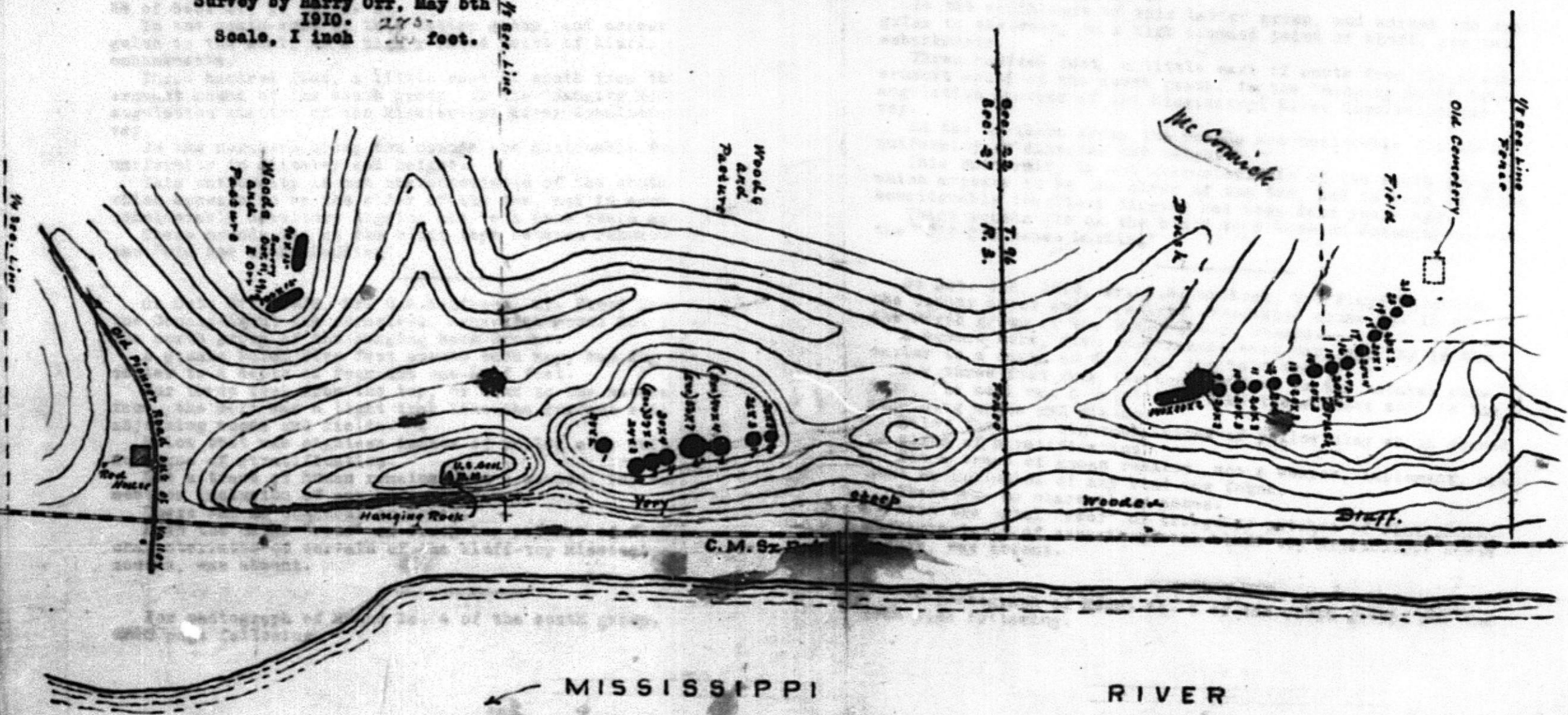
Directly above the shelf is a sub-hemispheric pocket with opening in the face of the cliff 15 ft. long and 3 ft. high, and depth of 3 ft. The petroglyphs are between this pocket and the east face of the precipice.

**HANGING ROCK INDIAN MOUNDS**  
 below  
**JOHNSONSPORT IOWA.**

on Secs 22 and 27, T. 96,  
 R. 5 west of the 5th P. M.

Survey by Harry Orr, May 5th  
 1910.

Scale, 1 inch 275 feet.





The Hanging Rock Mound Groups are two "string" groups of mounds lying along the peak of a sharp ridge between the canyon of the Mississippi river on the east and a deep, dry gulch on the west.

The north group of thirteen round mounds and one embankment is located on the SW SE of Sec. 22, T. 96, R. 3 west of the 5th P.M.

The south group consists of eight round mounds on the NW NE of Sec. 27, T. 96, R. 3.

To the south-west of this latter group, and across the dry gulch to the west, on a high rounded point of bluff, are two embankments.

Three hundred feet, a little east of south from the southernmost mound of the south group, is the "Hanging Rock" triangulation station of the Mississippi River Commission survey.

In the northern group the mounds are noticeable for their uniformity in diameter and height.

This uniformity is not characteristic of the south group which appears to be the older of the two, and in some of which considerable desultory digging has been done years ago.

These mounds lie on the bluff tops between Johnsonport and the "Old Red House Landing"

On Oct. 6th, 1918, Mr. C.E. Sandbeck, Mr. Floyd Laughlin, the County Agent and ourselves, excavated mound No. 15 of the north group of the Hanging Rock Groups.

A square hole, five feet across each way, was dug in the center to a depth of four and one-half feet.

For three feet from the top, or down to the natural surface, the soil was a light drab like the surface soil in the adjoining woods and fields.

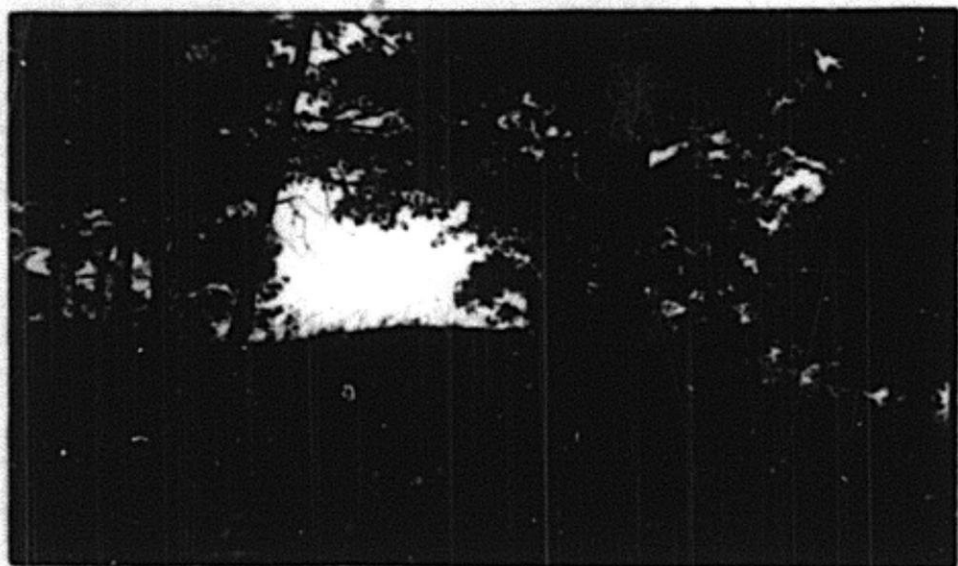
Below that was eighteen inches of yellow clay which showed no signs of stratification.

Not a trace of human remains, not a weapon, implement, ornament or inclusion of any kind was found.

There was no charcoal or ashes.

Even the usual "roof" of irregular patches of flat rocks, characteristic of certain of the bluff-top Mississippi river mounds, was absent.

For photograph of Mound No. 4 of the south group, see the ~~same~~ page following.



Mound No. 4 of the south Hanging Rock Mound Groups.  
Looking east towards the river. Oct. 5th, 1918.



The "Red House" - Yellow River mound groups lie for a half a mile along the tops of the bluffs north of the mouth of that stream and from there are scattered along the wide divide separating the Mississippi from a deep dry valley on the west, running south parallel to it.

They consist of five somewhat disconnected aggregations of mounds of the different types, and two isolated large round mounds, all located on the E 1/2 ~~of Sec. 27~~ of Sec. 27 and the E 1/2 of Sec. 34, in T. 96, R. 3 west of the 5th P.M., in Fairview township, Allamakee county, Ia.

A survey of these mounds with a transit and tape was made by Harry Orr, May 5th, 1910, and plat made by him a year or two later. This description was first written Nov. 26th, 1931

In the meantime that which, when the survey was made, was a wilderness of brush, has become a young forest or has been cleared off and is now in Blue grass pasture. The mounds that then lay in cleared land have been destroyed by cultivation.

On the plat of this survey distances apart and dimensions are noted in feet. Each round mound is indicated by our ordinary Arabic numerals; effigy mounds by Roman numerals; and long mounds or embankments by letters.

The bluff top or general upland Onesta peneplain on which these groups lie is three hundred and fifty feet above low water in the Mississippi river. The approach to it from both the Mississippi and Yellow rivers is very precipitous and is crowned at the top by fairly continuous cliffs of limestone.

Farthest west on the bluff that faces Yellow river on the north, are two strings of round mounds connected by an embankment. Each of the mounds is 30 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high, and the connecting embankments of each of the strings is 20 ft. wide and 2 ft. high. The two strings are separated by a gap of 75 ft., which is also the exact distance that the mounds of each string are from each other.

Five hundred ft. east of these two "dum-bell" groups is a bear effigy, # VII, from which a procession of nineteen round mounds extends almost due east along a spur of the bluff, terminating in a cluster, touching each other, of the three largest, at the extreme point of contact of the Mississippi and Yellow river bluffs.

The last one of this terminal cluster, # 35, is an especially interesting mound for the reason that it contains a very considerable covering, just below the forest humus, of earth burned red and resembling pieces of soft crumbly brick without tempering of sand. An account of a partial exploration of this mound follows this general description of the group.

Mounds #15 to 25 of this "procession" group have a quite uniform spacing of 35 ft. The remainder of the group, except the terminal cluster, of from 15 to 30 ft.

Three hundred north-east of the mound #15, the most westerly of the "procession" group, is a 195 ft. long embankment running north-east across a slight sag in the divide.

Here is the beginning of a somewhat irregular group of all three types of mounds, extending north-east for 600 ft. and then north-west for 1200 ft.. At the change in direction a 200 ft. long branch extends east to the point of a spur of the bluff top, consisting of one long embankment followed by a bear effigy.

Notable mounds of this group are the well preserved 140 ft. long bear effigy, #VI, the second mound from the south end, and the very uncommon effigy of a lynx or wild cat, #IV.

Because it contains this rare type it might be called the Wild Cat Group.

Three effigies, including the wild cat, and two long mounds, lay in the field north of the line between sections 27 and 34, and since the survey have been obliterated by cultivation.

Sixty ft. north of the wild cat was a bear, #II, and 800 ft. directly east of this at the end of a spur, is one of the isolated round mounds, #7.5.

Three hundred ft. north of the northern extremity of the Wild Cat Group was the beginning of the 250 ft. long embankment, which, with the lone small round mound, formed the Long Embankment Group, destroyed by cultivation since the survey.

North-east of this group are five round, one bear effigy, and one 90 ft. long embankment arranged in the form of a letter V, with the two arms running out eastwards on two rounded spurs. The most easterly of the mounds forming these two arms are the four largest of the Yellow River Groups..

This group might be called the "Red House Landing Group.

The remaining isolated round mound is found on a spur 700 ft. east of the north end of the Long Embankment Group.

All but a few of these round mounds of the Yellow River Groups have at some time been opened. In only a few cases, however, was the work done with anything like completeness.

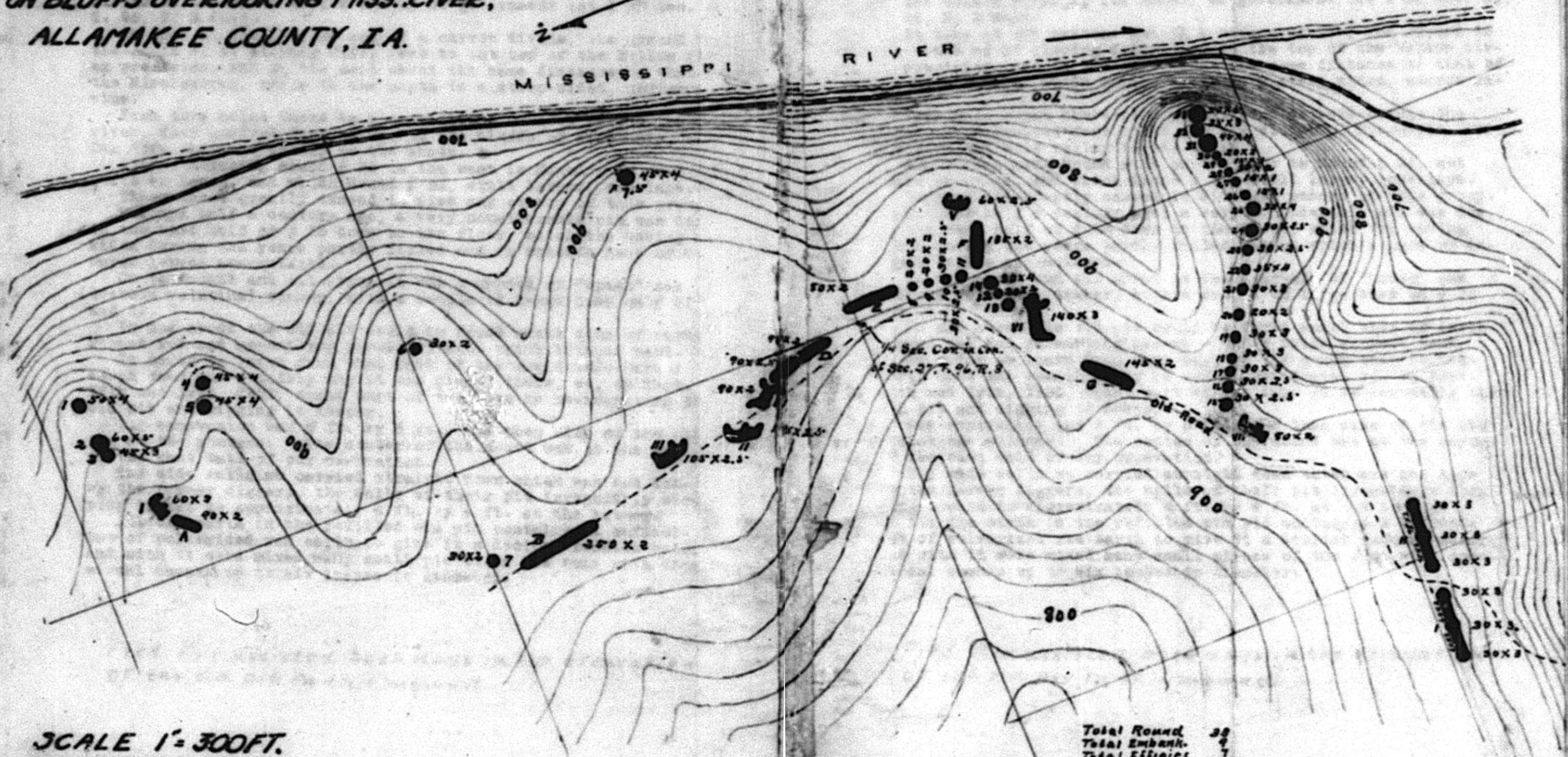
A few selected by someone competent to judge of the propable results, should be systematically excavated by removing the entire mound, and a complete record kept of the structure and contents.

The remainder of the mounds should be restored by filling the shallow old pits and preserved and protected by law.

MAP  
 of  
 YELLOW RIVER  
 PREHISTORIC  
 INDIAN MOUNDS  
 ON BLUFFS OVERLOOKING Miss. River,  
 ALLAMAKEE COUNTY, IA.

MISSISSIPPI

RIVER



SCALE 1" = 300 FT.  
 CONTOURS = 20 FT.  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL.  
 SURVEY BY HARRY ORB, 1902.

Total Round	38
Total Embank.	9
Total Effigies	47

A PARTIAL EXCAVATION OF MOUND No. 33  
of the "RED HOUSE LANDING - YELLOW RIVER MOUND GROUP."

Mound No. 33 is the last mound at the east end of the "procession of mounds" on the top of the bluff along the north side of the Yellow river at its mouth, on government lot I NE Sec. 34, T. 96, R. 3 west.

It lies at the extreme end of a narrow divide, the ground to the south of it sloping fifty feet to the top of the Yellow river precipice, and on the east about the same distance to that of the Mississippi, while to the north is a steep-sided, narrow ravine.

From this point there is a magnificent outlook across the river, four hundred feet below, to the bluffs of Wisconsin, and far down the wide valley to the south.

Almost touching Mound # 33 on the west is Mound # 32, not quite so large, and which Mound # 31, still larger, overlaps.

These three greatly exceed in size any others of this group.

Perhaps half a century ago, a very considerable pit was dug in the west half of # 33 down to the floor, which the caving sides during the years partly filled and in which a mass of decayed leaves accumulated.

On the mound and all about it was a growth of "brash" oak (*Quercus velutina*) timber, with a couple of large ones on # 31 and 32.

In and about the old pit could be found small bits of earth burned red and resembling pieces of soft brick without sand.

In order to learn from what part of the mound this burned earth came and possibly why it was placed there, we, on Sept. 12th and 19th, 1931, spent part of two days in reexcavating the old pit and digging it deeper.

Our excavation was 8 ft. by 8 ft., the then size of the old pit at the surface. The center of the mound was at the center of the east wall of our excavation.

The side walls we carried straight down which was not done by the former diggers, the walls of their pit irregularly sloping inward to approximately 4 ft. by 4 ft. at the bottom.

All the earth in the refilled old pit contained a sufficient of pulverized red earth to give it a decided reddish color, and with it were mixed many small pieces of the same with occasional chunks up to six inches in diameter.

*Fred Orr assisted both days in the excavation  
of the old pit in this mound*

Through this mixture were scattered fragments of human bones, the greater number being on or near the floor. Among these was one femur with the distal end missing; part of a humerus; half of a lower jaw without teeth; six pieces of skull; several parts of ribs and fragments of vertebrae.

Except where it had been disturbed in the earlier digging, the earth encountered by us was the ordinary yellowish or grayish forest soil of which all the bluff top mounds hereabouts are built up.

All the earth, including the refilling of the old pit, was thrown out of the one dug by us, except a bench along the foot of the east wall, 18 inches deep and as wide, consisting of a very hard grayish clay with which was mixed much disintegrated lime rock and rock fragments up to 6 inches in diameter. This was probably part of the original surface of rock residue - the floor of the mound, in which, in placing the burials, the builders of the mound had dug not more than six inches.

Except for this bench we cleaned out down to what was unquestionably the floor of the mound.

This floor was fairly level and approximately 7 ft. below the top of the mound at its center.

In the south-west corner of our excavation, at 4 ft. south and 7 ft. west of the mound center, and about 5 ft. below the surface immediately above it, - 2 ft. below the original natural surface, - we encountered the upper bones of the body of a skeleton lying directly on the disintegrated Onondaga limestone of the floor.

The skull was missing. As the old excavation had just reached this point it may have been removed by those who dug it. The remainder of the skeleton, which was that of a woman, was undisturbed and lay fully extended with head to the east.

The large arm and leg bones; most of the spinal column; parts of the scapulae; and some of the ribs, were fairly well preserved. The remainder, including the bones of the hands and feet, were dust.

The arms were flexed, the forearms lying across the body. Under the right humerus lay, crosswise of the arm, a bundle of seven slim awls, - No. 1025 of the collection.

In the not too good light in the pit we had at first mistaken these for an older bone not belonging to the skeleton, and when they finally fell apart and we recognized them for what they were, we found that in working about the skeleton we had broken off and lost part of four of them.

These awls were made from thin (1/20 inch) hollow-bird-bones having a diameter of one-half inch. From these a strip 3/8 inch wide and from five to five and one-half inches long, having a part of the joint at the butt end, and the other sharp-pointed, had been cut.



To the right and north of the woman was an undisturbed bundle burial. Judging by their size and generally masculine make-up, these werethose of a man. Most of the pelvis from which the sex might have been determined were gone.

Most of the skull; the lower jaw; both femora and humeri; and some fragments of the other large bones, made up the bundle.

If the bones were believed to be those of but one person by those that placed them there, then their knowledge of the human skeleton was poor as there was an extra humerus included in the bundle.

We looked carefully around these two burials but but found no other inclusions except the skulls.

As half of the mound and the hard one and one-half feet near the center lying east of the pit which we dug is still unexcavated, the principal burials may yet remain to be discovered.

Now as to the burned earth which prompted us to dig this mound:

In digging we found no trace of the material except in that part which had been excavated and refilled by the former diggers. There were ~~on~~ other no signs of fire, no charcoal, no burned bones.

As there ~~was~~<sup>were</sup> young cattle pasturing on the land where lie the Yellow river mounds, we concluded before we left to refill our pit enough so that there would be no danger of any of this young stock falling in and getting hurt.

In doing this we cut off somewhat the edges of the old pit at the surface and found that there was entirely around its rim, an irregular but nearly continuous stratum of the burned material, up to 6 inches thick, in places very compact and hard. Over it was a thin veneer of ordinary forest earth.

This then, so far as this mound is concerned, solved the question of the location of the burned earth when the mound was built.

As all other evidences of fire were lacking it apparently was made in some other place and brought there and spread over the top of the otherwise completed mound.

The few inches of ordinary forest soil above it was evidently a mixture of decayed leaves and wind blown dust.

About 1930, with the assistance of Fred Orr, I excavated a 5 X 5 pit in the center of Mound #7.5 of the Red House Landing-Yellow River Group, but found no burials or other inclusions.

On our way back to the cottage at Naukon Junction - we had come down the rail road to the Red House Landing at the Hanging Rock and up the old pioneer road to the level upland - we went out on the point of the bluff top south of the Landing to look over the mounds there which I had never seen - the R.H. Landing Group.

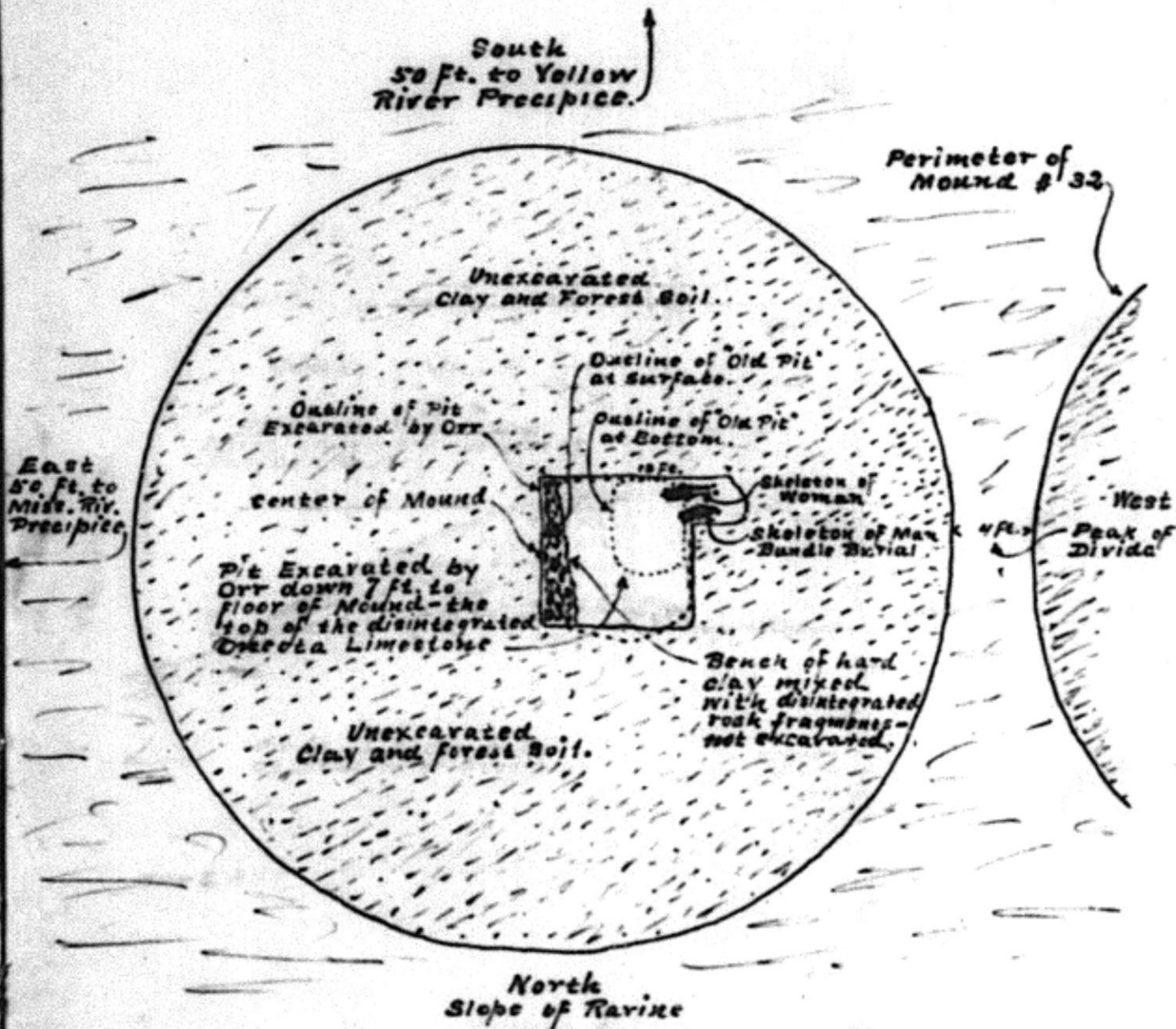
A considerable pit had been dug long ago in the center of Mound #8, and in this pit, and the heap of earth thrown out of it, there was considerable of the burned earth. We did not have time to determine by cleaning out the old pit, the original location of this earth.

## YELLOW RIVER MOUND GROUP.

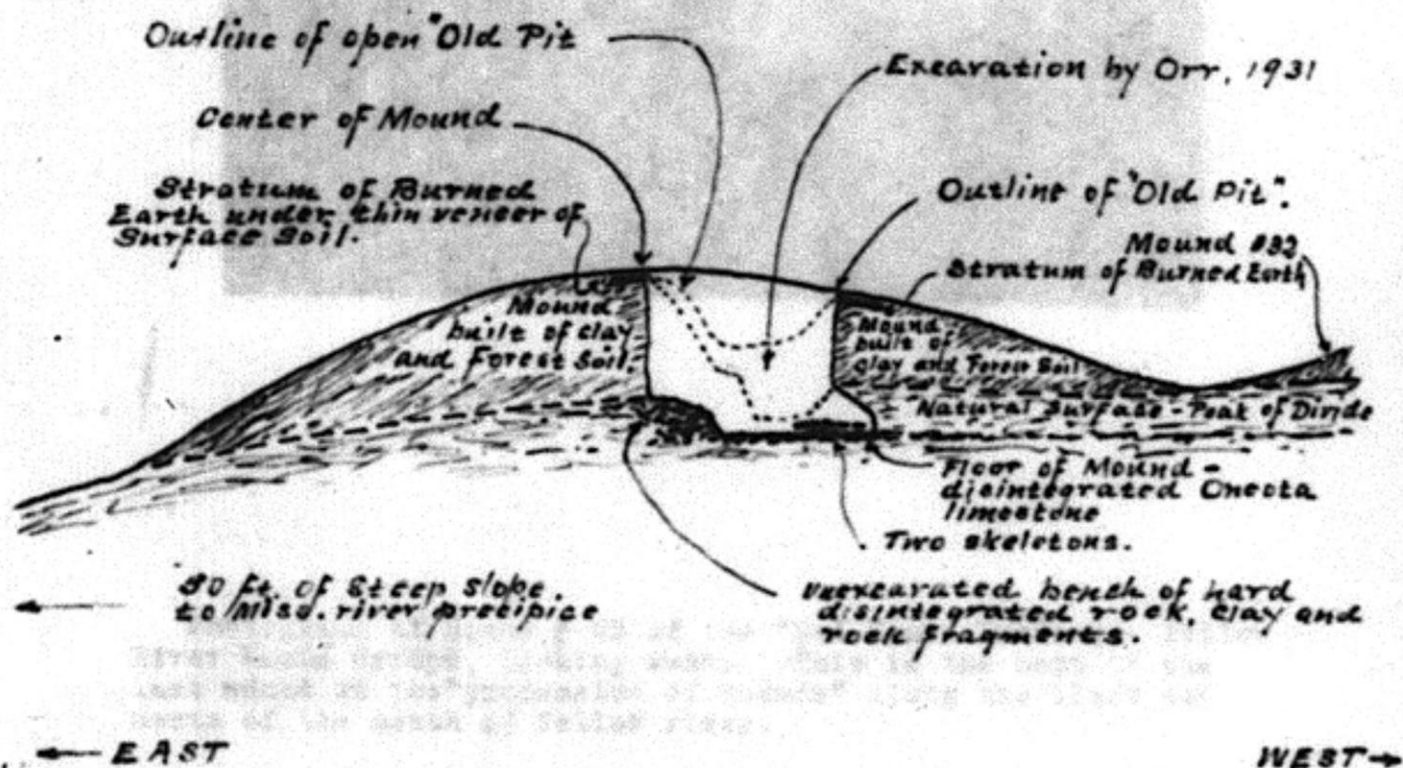
PLAN  
of  
MOUND No. 33

Showing Excavations.

South  
50 ft. to Yellow  
River Precipice.



EAST AND WEST PROFILE of MOUND No. 33,  
YELLOW RIVER MOUND GROUP.

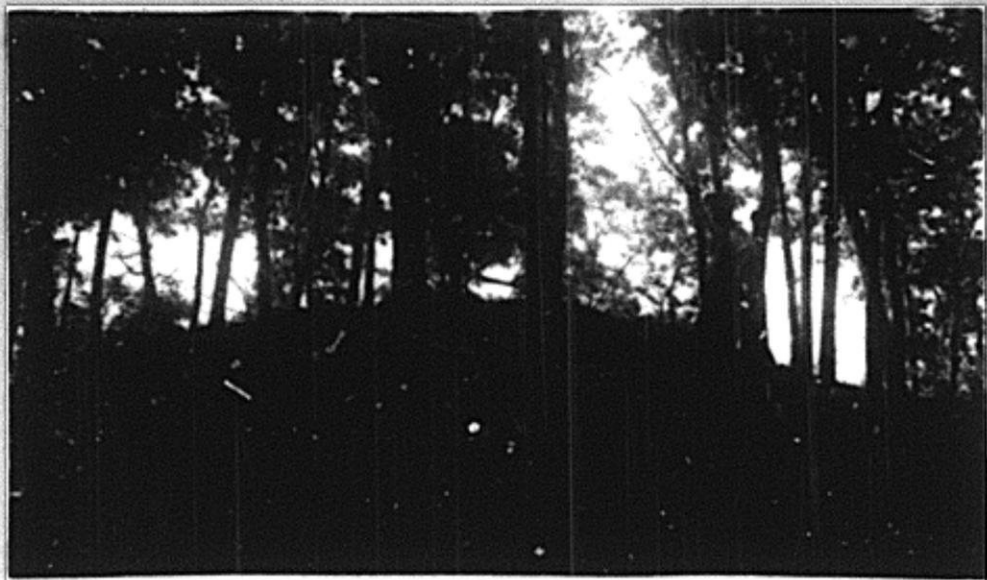


Scale, 5 ft. to 1 inch.

Survey, Excavation and Plat  
by Ellison and Fred Orr, 1931.

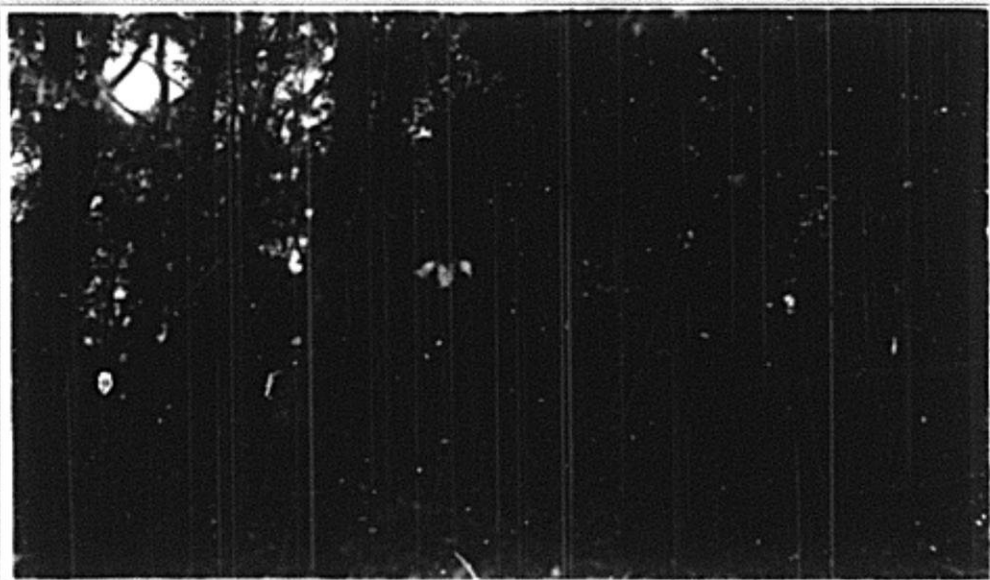


Photograph of Mound # 32 of the "Red House Landing - Yellow River Mound Group", looking west. This is the next to the last mound in the "procession of mounds" along the bluff top north of the mouth of Yellow river.



Photograph of Mound No. 33 of the the "Red House Landing" - Yellow river group of mounds, looking south. Sept. 5th, 1931.

Over this mound at its top was spread an irregular stratum of burned earth and over that a thin veneer of ordinary forest soil. A partial excavation discovered in the south-west part, at a depth of 5 ft., the skeleton of a woman extended at full length, beside which was the "bundle burial" of the skeleton of a man.



Photograph of Mound No. 33, looking west. Sept. 5th, 1931

THE MARQUETTE - YELLOW RIVER MOUND GROUPS.

### THE MARQUETTE - YELLOW RIVER MOUND GROUPS.

Along the bluff tops between the town of Marquette, formerly North McGregor, and the mouth of Yellow River to the north, are scattered nine groups of pre-historic mounds of all types.

Altogether there is a total of forty-three, and lying in pasture and brush land, all are well preserved. If we add to these the "couple of dozen", (Group #10) which Harvey Miner, the old county surveyor, said were once in the "old field on the bluff top south of the mouth of Yellow river", now obliterated by cultivation, and the sixty-three which T.H.Lewis says he found on the Masakaw terrace when he made his survey in 1892, we have a grand total of one hundred and thirty.

If these were strung along at regular intervals there would be less than one hundred and twenty feet between mounds from the bluff top north of Marquette to the bluff top north of Yellow river, the point of beginning of the Red House Landing - Yellow River Groups.

In this paper, following a general map showing the location of the different groups of the area, are maps of each separate group on a larger scale.

The field notes of the detailed survey of Group #9 have been lost and the detailed information regarding this group is not as complete as we would wish.

With this exception and that of Group #5, we believe that the maps give sufficient detail without further descriptive matter.

Group #5 lies on an outlier of St. Peter sandstone and on the gentle slope to the south leading up to the level of the general Galena-Trenton peneplain of Pleasant Ridge, stretching westward to Menona and beyond.

It is located on the NE SW and SE SW of Sec. 3, T. 95, R. 3 west of the 5th P.M., except the most southerly of the bird mounds, which is just over the line to the west on the SW SW of the same section.

The St. Peter outlier is now covered pretty completely with hazel and other young growth, the Galena-Trenton slope with young oak timber.

The "Old Military Trail" from the Mississippi river to Ft. Atkinson came up a steep ravine to the south-east of the sandstone spur, looped around the north end, and turning south, ran just west of the group up to the peneplain.

The beginning of this trail on the Mississippi has been marked by a bronze tablet set in a large block of limestone, by The Daughters of the American Revolution.

Somewhere on the bluff top - probably to the north of the sandstone spur, which is still a field, was the "Government Farm" on which garden truck and other farm crops to supply the garrison at Ft. Crawford at Prairie du Chien, were raised by the soldiers.

The group consists of ten bear and three bird effigies, to the north-west of which are two long mounds. Five of the bear and one of the bird effigies, together with the two long mounds, lie on the top of the St. Peter outlier. The remaining five bears on the Galena-Trenton slope with the two remaining birds at the top.

This is a noble group, the bears running from seventy to one hundred feet in length, with their outlines very distinct, and in every way well preserved.

Except for the two birds at the south end of the group, the space separating these effigies is everywhere less than their length.

All lie on their right side and face in a southerly direction.

Far up and down the Mississippi and up the valleys of the Wisconsin and Yellow rivers, the builders of these mounds could look out over a magnificent scope of rugged hills while far below the great Father of Waters flowed in silent Majesty.

From where and to where they knew not.

Truly it was a place from which they might offer up adorations to the Great Spirit and erect monuments in memory of their dead.

This group is without doubt the finest and most accessible group of effigies in Iowa.

This Mound Group #5, known as THE JENNINGS-LIEBHART or PLEASANT RIDGE EFFIGY MOUND GROUP, is very fully described as to location in Vol. III. For complete field notes of location surveys; line of levels run from the Mississippi river up the Old Military Trail; location, size and height of mounds; outline plats of each individual mound; and for further descriptive matter, see pages I48 to I83, Vol. III. All maps and plats drawn to a scale.





Group No. 1				
Mound No.	1	20	X	2 ft.
.. ..	2	20	X	3 ft.
.. ..	3	25	X	3 ft.
.. ..	4	25	X	3 ft.
.. ..	5	20	X	3 ft.
.. ..	6	20	X	3 ft.
.. ..	7	25	X	2 ft.
.. ..	8	25	X	2 ft.
.. ..	9	25	X	3 ft.

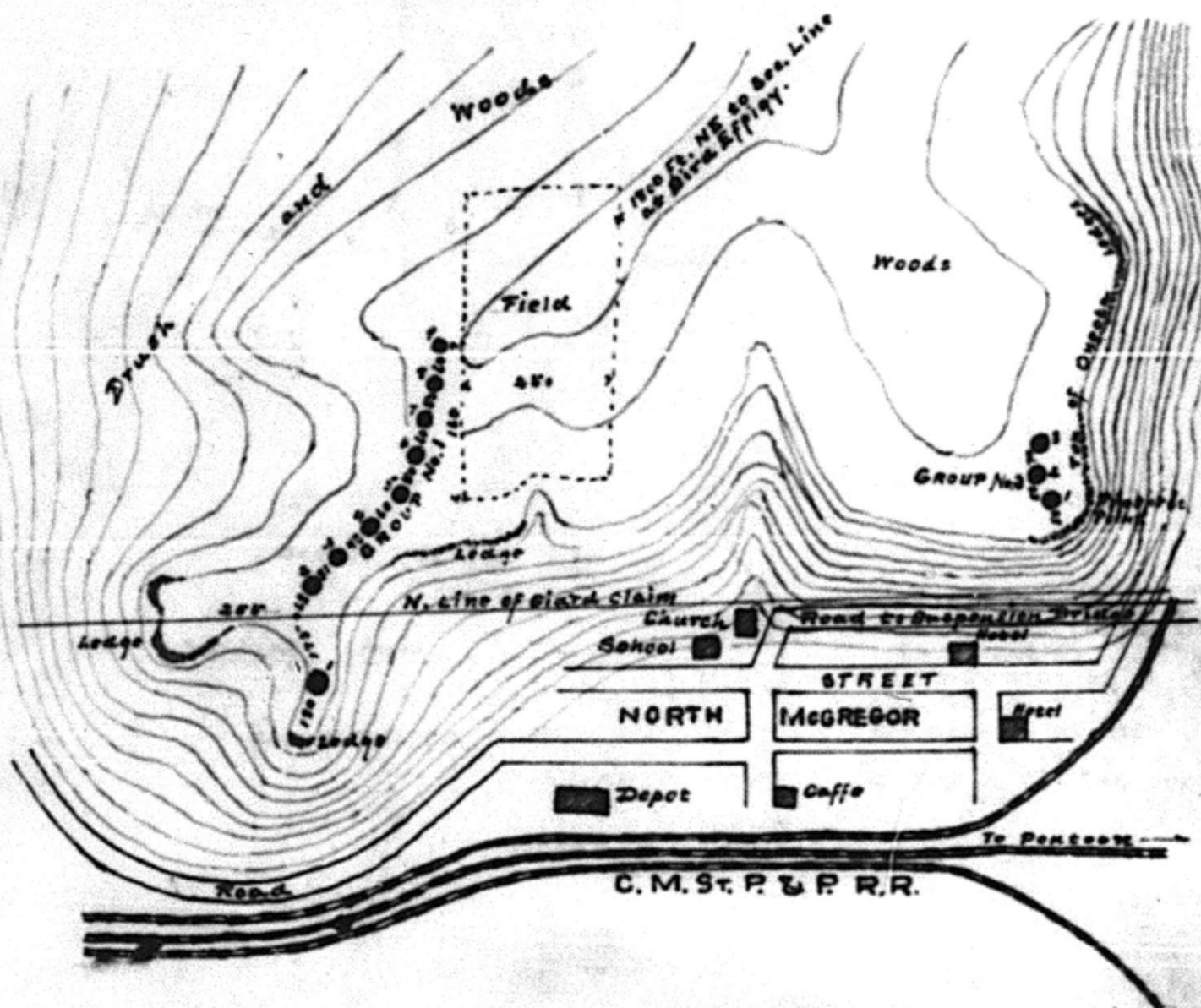
Group No. 2				
Mound No.	1	30	X	3 ft.
.. ..	2	25	X	3 ft.
.. ..	3	25	X	3 ft.

## DETAIL PLAT

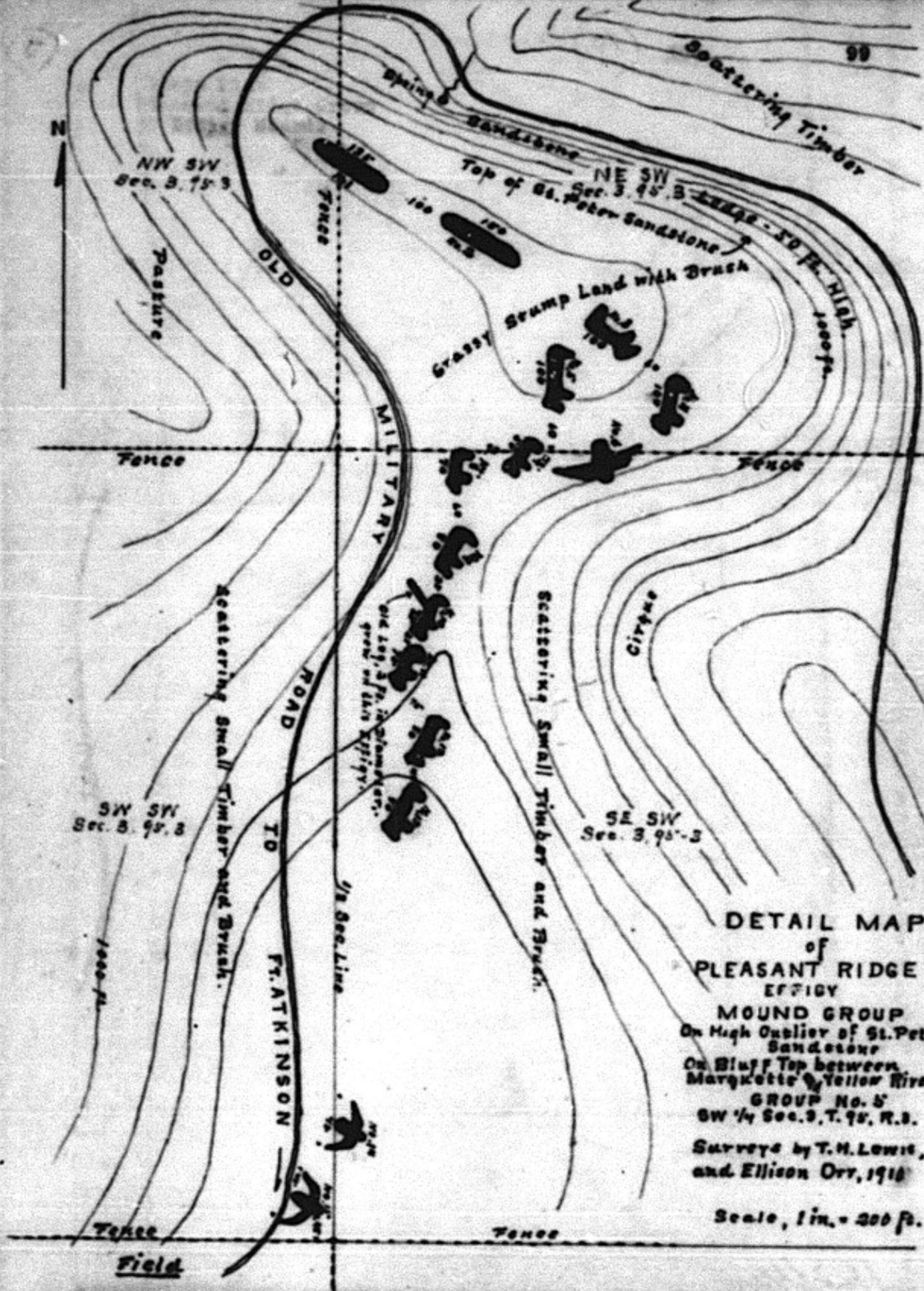
of

MOUND GROUPS No. 1 and 2.  
of MARQUETTE-YELLOW RIVER  
GROUPS.

Survey by Ellison Orr,  
1907







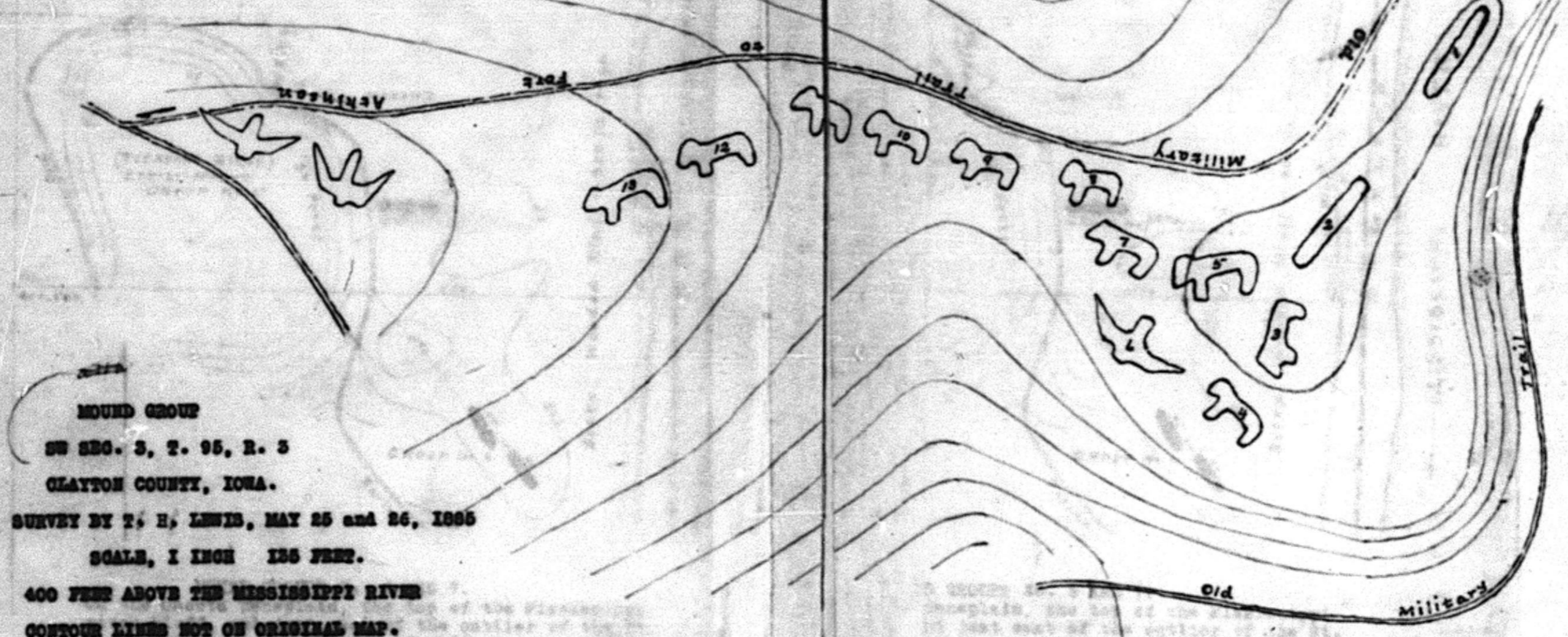
**DETAIL MAP**  
of  
**PLEASANT RIDGE**  
EFFIGY

**MOUND GROUP**  
On High Outlier of St. Peter  
Sandstone  
On Bluff Top between  
Marquette & Yellow River  
**GROUP No. 5**  
SW 1/4 Sec. 3, T. 95, R. 3.

Surveys by T. H. Lewis, 1899,  
and Ellison Orr, 1910

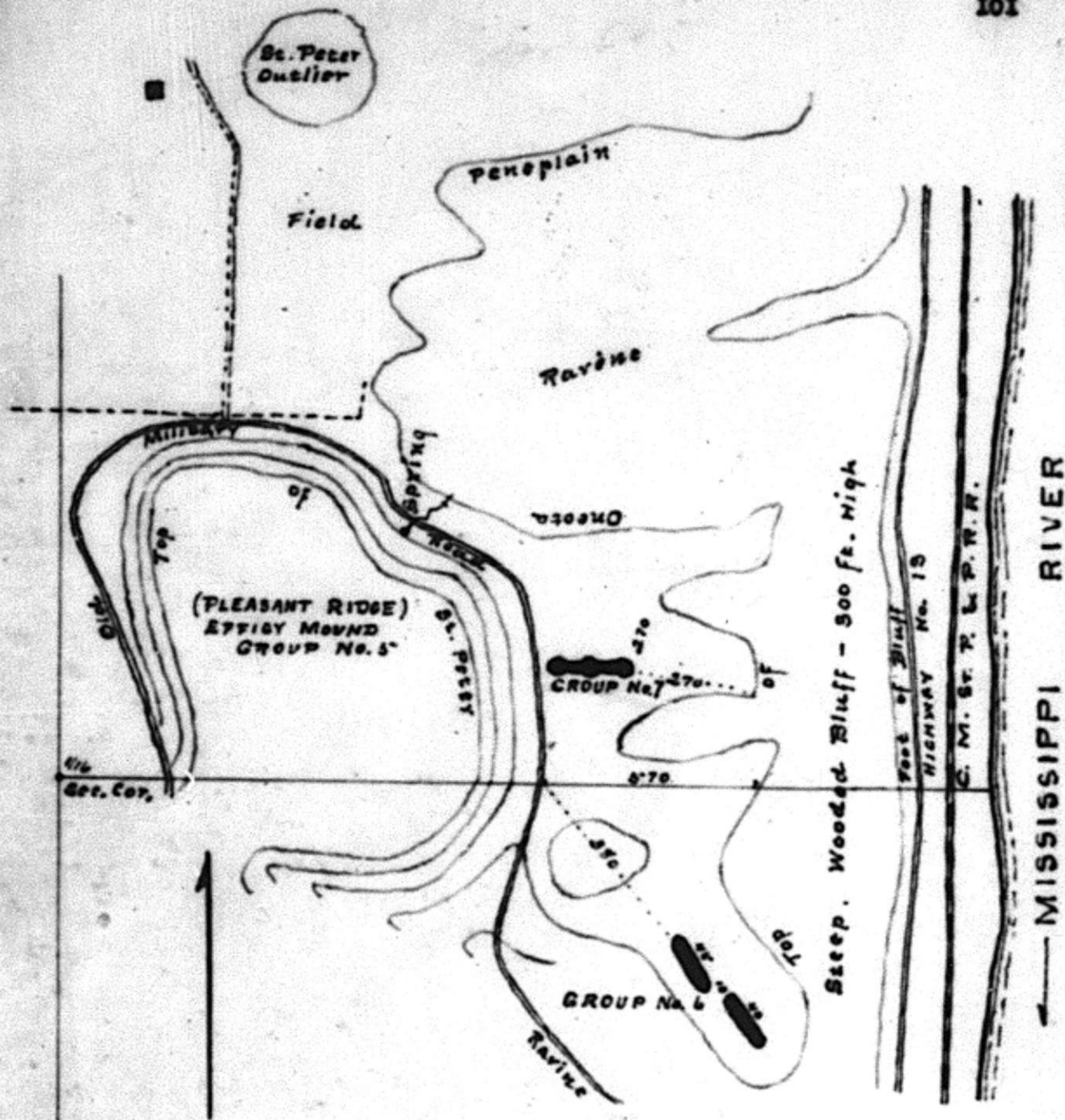
Scale, 1 in. = 200 ft.

Part of the  
of the  
of the



**MOUND GROUP**  
 SW SEC. 3, T. 95, R. 3  
 CLAYTON COUNTY, IOWA.  
 SURVEY BY T. H. LEWIS, MAY 25 and 26, 1885  
 SCALE, 1 INCH 135 FEET.  
 400 FEET ABOVE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
 CONTOUR LINES NOT ON ORIGINAL MAP.  
 TRACING OF PHOTOSTAT OF ORIGINAL MAP  
 CHARLES R. KEYS' COPIES, 1927.

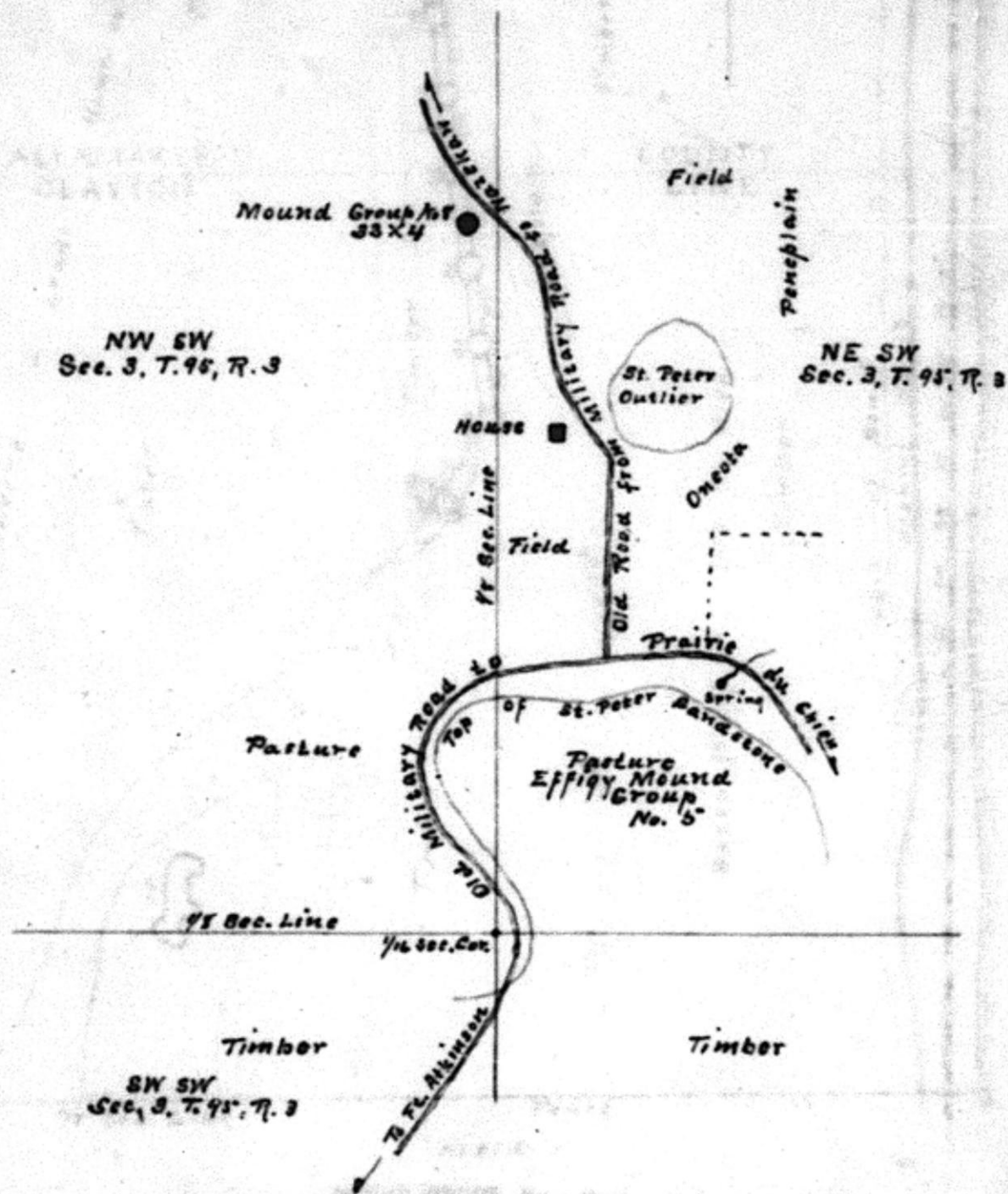
Old Military Trail

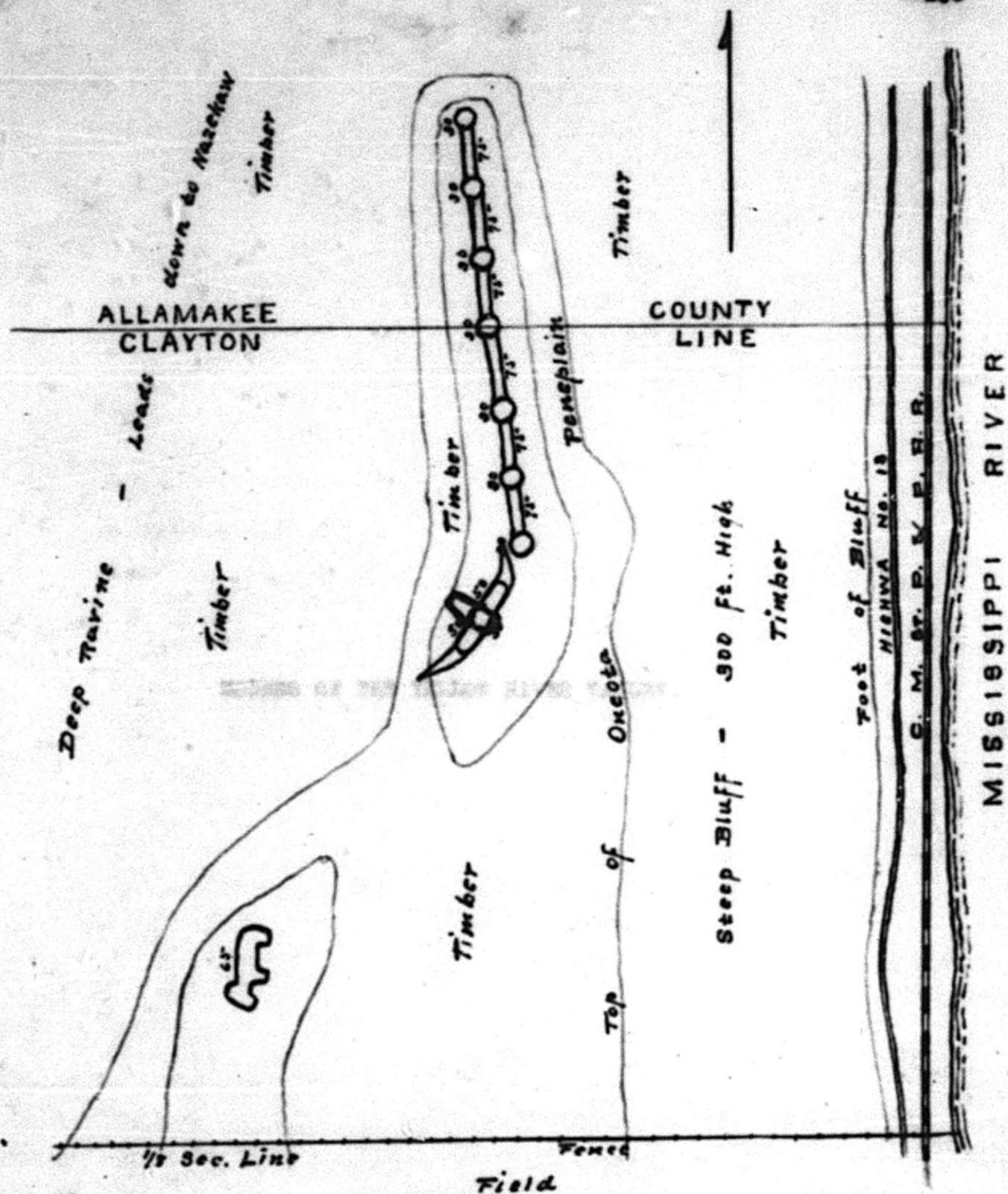


**MOUND GROUPS No. 6 AND 7.**

On the Onecota peneplain, the top of the Mississippi river bluff, and just east of the outlier of the St. Peter Sandstone, on the top of which is the north part of the Effigy Mound Group No. 5 - the Pleasant Ridge Effigy Group - on the SW 1/4 of Sec. 3, T. 95, R. 3 west of the 5th P.M.

Survey by Ellison Orr, May 16th, 1916.





**MOUND GROUP No. 9.**

On top of spur of bluff just south of the forgotten town of Hasekaw. On the Onkota penneplain. Top and sides of spur heavily wooded. On the SE SW Sec. 34, T. 96, R. 3, and the NE NW Sec. 3, T. 95, R. 3



**MOUNDS OF THE YELLOW RIVER VALLEY.**

### Yellow River Valley Mounds.

On a Terrace, cut into by three ravines, on the north side of Yellow river, on the NE SW Sec 34, T. 96, R. 3 west of the 5th P.M., was a group, according to T. H. Lewis who made a survey in 1892, of 63 mounds, three of which were bear effigies; eighteen, embankments; and the remainder, round.

Except for round, and long embankments in the brush south of Highway No. 13, and 2 round at the foot of the bluff on the north-east corner of the terrace, none of the others can now be located with anything like certainty.

From 1766 to 1768 Jonathan Carver had a trading post at the mouth of Yellow river, probably on this terrace.

Lewis in his reports of surveys calls this this the "Hasekaw Terrace Mound Group".

With one possible exception, except the three described above, no other mound groups are known in or along the valley of the Yellow river.

The one possible exception is this:

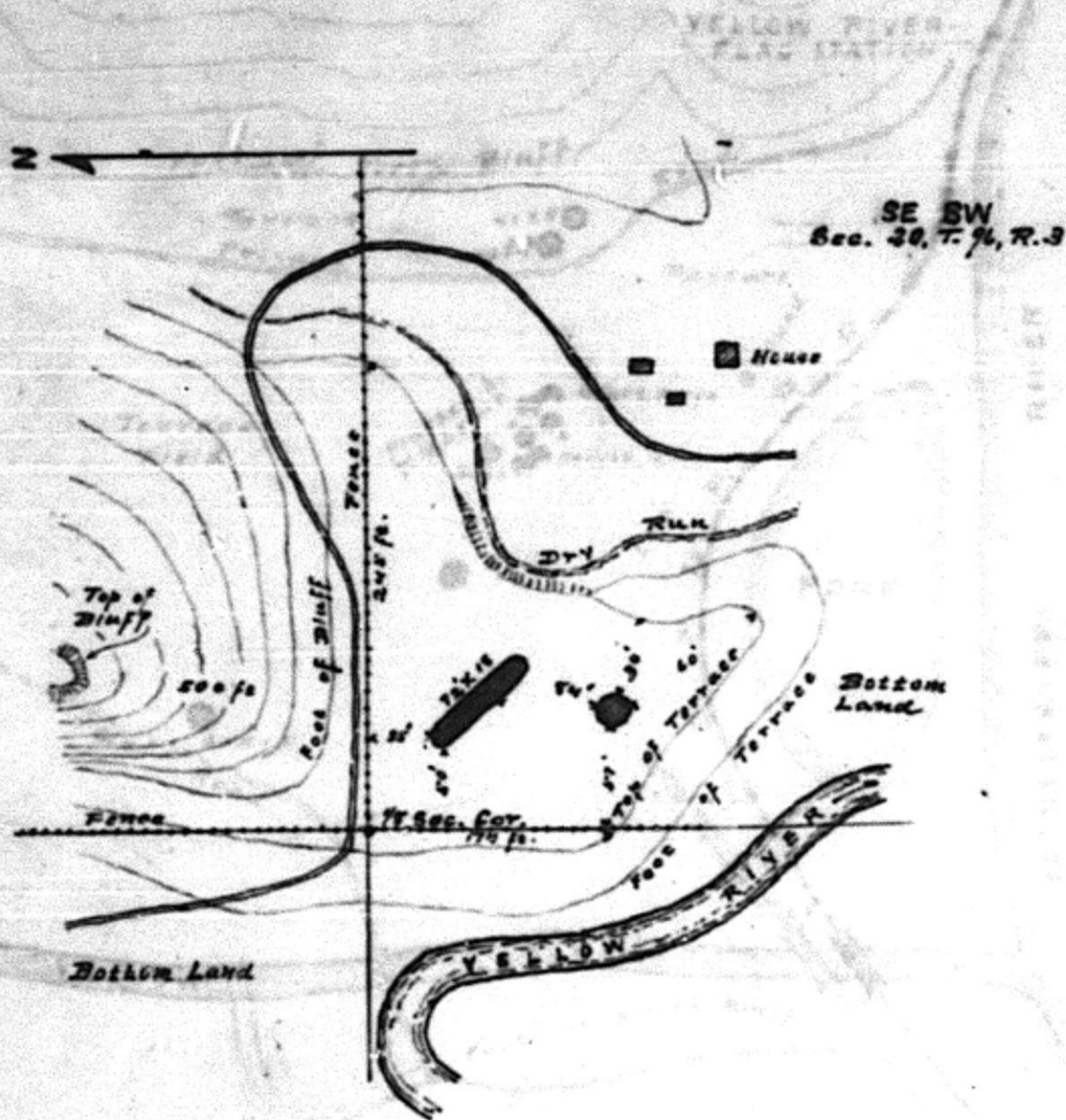
Over fifty years ago Mr. E. R. Livingood, the then owner of NE SW Sec. 3, and the NW of the SE of the same section, in T. 96, R. 6 west of the 5th P.M., on which is the "Rise of Yellow River", told me that there was an Indian mound on this land, in which in plowing he had found a crude stone axe, which he gave to me. In later years I looked for this mound but was unable to find it.

Although there are numerous traces of glacial outwash along Yellow river, there are, except the Hasekaw and the one on section 20, no glacial terraces on that stream, it is possible that there may have been, on the low spurs of the bordering bluffs, obscure mounds not recognized by the people living in in the valley, and long ago obliterated by cultivation.

1943.

Since the above was written we have located a group of 2 long mounds on the bluff top on the NW SW Sec. 28, T. 96, R. 3, and a group of 1 long and 1 round on an acre of terrace on the N. side of Yellow River in the SW corner of the SE SW Sec. 20, T. 96, R. 3 west of 5th P.M.

See map on page 106 of this Vol.



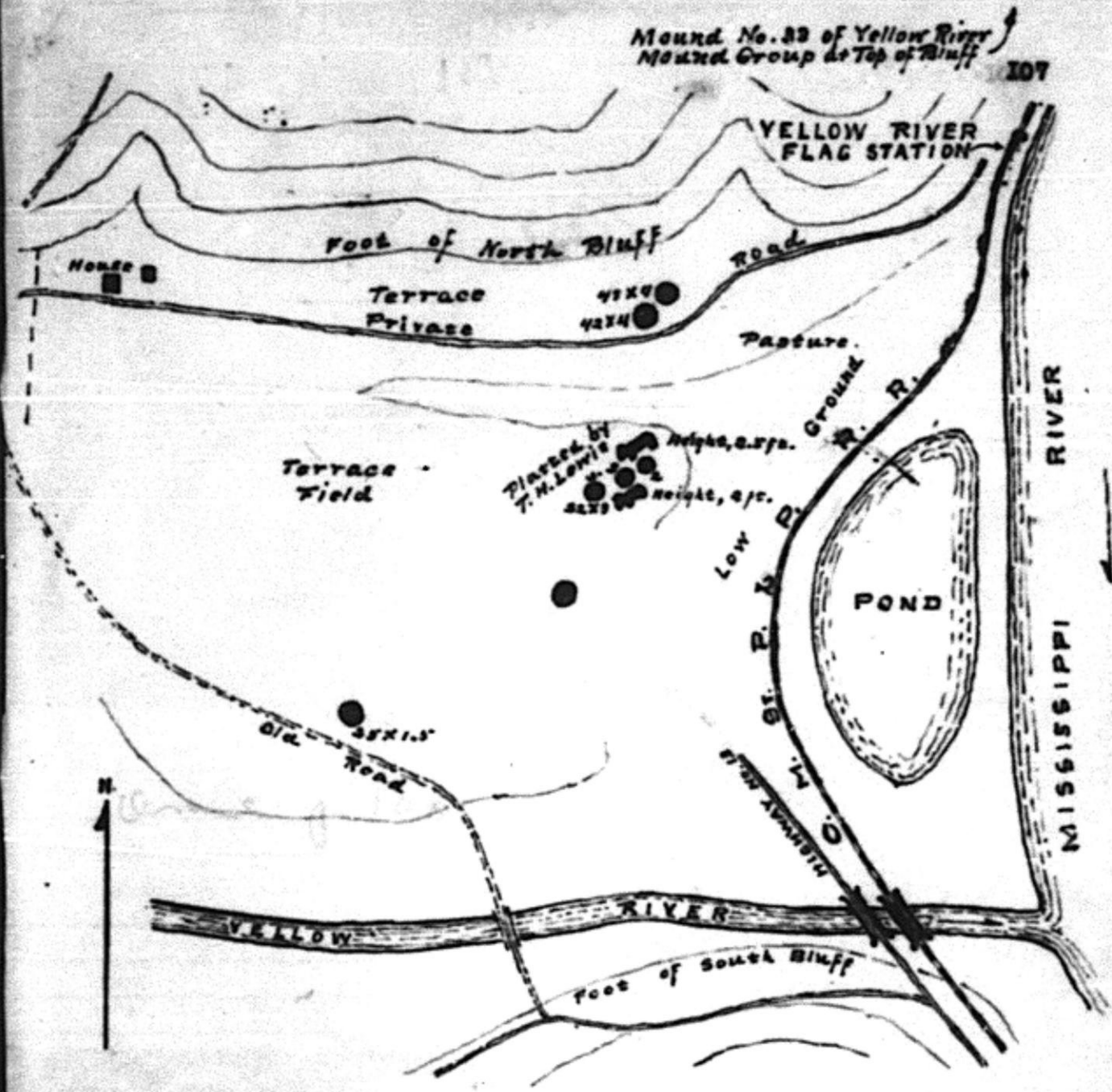
**YELLOW RIVER - OLD MISSION - MOUND GROUP.**

On a small terrace on the north side of Yellow river,  
about one mile south-east of the site of the Old Mission.

On the SE SW Sec. 20, T. 96, R. 3 west.

Survey by Ellison Orr, May 20th, 1917.

At the date of our survey, 1917, all were destroyed by the  
floodation except those which are shown.



See page 114, Vol IV

**HASKAW TERRACE MOUND GROUP**

On a terrace on the north side of Yellow river at its mouth. On the SE NW Sec. 34, T. 96, R. 3 west of the 5th P.M. T.H. Lewis, on May 7th, 1892, made a survey and plat of three round and two effigy mounds located on the extreme north east point of this terrace.

He says also that "There are 12 embankments, 6 club-shaped embankments and 89 round mounds, and I ruined tailless animal."

At the date of our survey, 1926, all were destroyed by cultivation except those which we show.

McGregor Heights' Mound Groups.

McGregor Heights is the collection, with long and three hundred feet high bluff facing between McGregor and Bonaventure and directly opposite the main mound in distance.

A number of mounds are visible and are arranged in a line of the bluff and especially facing the main mound on the side of the bluff.

Along the top of the bluff and all the lower part of the bluff are several mounds, some of which are very small.

In 1911, a survey was made of the mounds, the result of which shows that there were a number of mounds and several were very small and some were very old.

At the upper end of the bluff the mounds are arranged in a line of four or five mounds, and at the lower end there are several mounds.

One mound was fifty feet high and was located on the top of the bluff.

Eight mounds were located on the top of the bluff and were arranged in a line.

From this line the mounds were located on the side of the bluff and were arranged in a line. The mounds were located on the side of the bluff and were arranged in a line.

**McGregor Heights' Mound Groups.**

Five mounds were located on the top of the bluff and were arranged in a line. The mounds were located on the top of the bluff and were arranged in a line.

Eight mounds were located on the top of the bluff and were arranged in a line. The mounds were located on the top of the bluff and were arranged in a line.

One of the mounds in this group is the largest and is located on the top of the bluff.

There are many mounds and the number of mounds in this group is reduced to a number of mounds. The mounds in this group have been destroyed by the falling operations of the mounds of a mound group.

### McGregor Heights' Mound Groups.

McGregor Heights is the continuous, mile long and three hundred feet high bluff lying between McGregor and Marquette and directly opposite historic Prairie du Chien.

A number of cottages on the south end are occupied for most of the summer and especially during the mid-summer session of the Wild Life School.

Along the top of the bluff are six distinct groups of pre-historic Indian Mounds, that total in all, thirty-seven.

In 1912, assisted by the boy scouts of McGregor, we made a survey of these using a transit and steel tape, from which the general map following was made.

On the narrow ridge in which the north end terminates is a group of four round mounds, all of which have been opened. This is Group No. 1.

Four hundred and fifty feet south-east is Group No. 2 composed of two long mounds.

Eight hundred feet south of Group No. 2 is Group No. 3 consisting of three long and two round mounds.

From this last the three round mounds forming Group No. 4, lie directly west on the slope leading up from the Oneota peneplain, the general level of the bluff top, to the general upland plateau, one hundred feet higher.

Five hundred feet south of Group No. 4, down on the Oneota peneplain is Group No. 5, a string of four long mounds running east of south, back of which to the east is a parallel string of two.

Eight hundred feet to the south-east is a string of eight round mounds, running north and south, with five scattering a little to the north and four close around the south end.

No. 37 of this group is the cistern into which is pumped the city water supplying the cottages.

Since our survey was made the number of cottages has doubled and all the mounds of this last group have been more or less mutilated by the building operations or the making of a tennis court.



McGregor Heights.





### The McGregor-Pikes Peak Mound Groups.

The high bluffs south of McGregor, beginning with Point Ann, two hundred and fifty feet high at the level of the Onseta plain above low water in the Mississippi river, and three hundred feet high at the level of the top of the St. Peter sandstone, and terminating at the south end at Pike's Peak whose top is five hundred feet above the river, are cut into by two ravines with pocket valleys heading back more than half a mile from their opening into the big river.

In this, just north of Pike's Peak is the V-shaped ravine in which is located the "Pictured Rocks".

As a result we have, including Point Ann and Pike's Peak, five spurs running from the crest of this bluff, a high divide between a dry ravine paralleling it on the west and that of the Mississippi on the east, and terminating in high rocky cliffs and promontories.

On these are located six mound groups, while on a terrace in the most northerly ravine is a group of three small round mounds, Group No. 2.

Group No. 1, the Point Ann Group, is a scattered lot of four round mounds and a bear effigy, at the level of the top of the Onseta limestone, and a bear effigy and a long mound, fifty feet higher on the top of the St. Peter sandstone.

Group No. 3 lies on a small plateau at the top of the St. Peter and on the south side of the first ravine to the south, and consists of five round and one long mounds.

Group No. 4 has three long, one round, one bear effigy, and three round mounds connected by an embankment.

Group No. 5 consists of five round, two long, and three effigy mounds. The most westerly of these three effigies lies in a cultivated field and has been nearly obliterated. The remaining two to the east lay in pasture at the time the survey was made and were in a fine state of preservation.

They were certainly intended to represent the buffalo.

The hump was very prominent and the outline in general unmistakably of that animal.

They certainly represented a buffalo more than the so-called "bears" represent a bear.

Group No. 6 is a string of thirteen round and two long mounds lying along the ridge just north of the Pictured Rocks ravine.

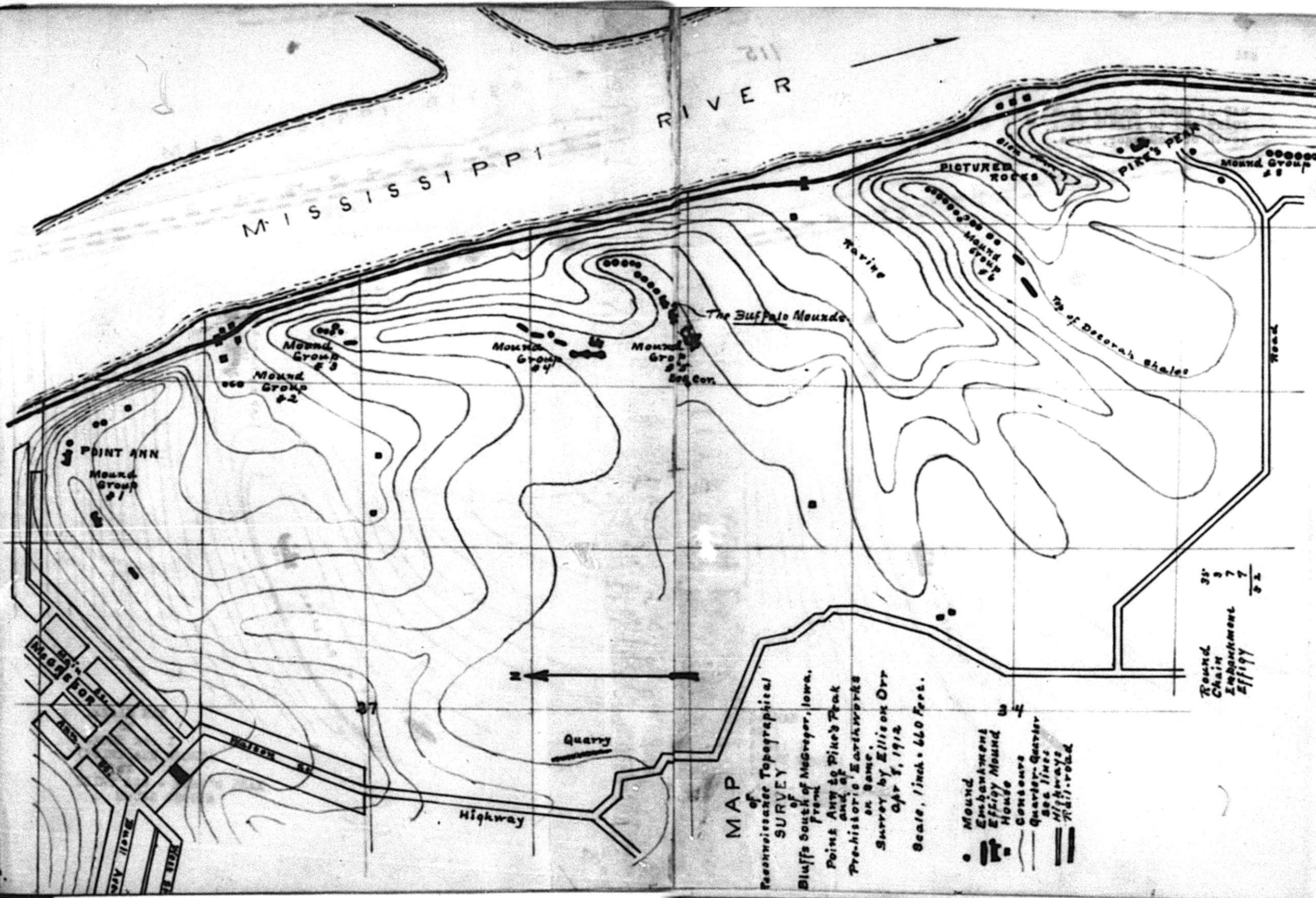
Group No. 7, the Pike's Peak Group, is a scattering lot of three round and one fine bear effigy, and to the south, nearly one-fourth mile, a string of seven round mounds.

When the survey of these mounds was made in 1912, they were all in cut over pasture land except the Pike's Peak Group which was in timber land. Except for some old small pits and the buffalo effigy in the cultivated field all were well preserved.

How they have been dealt with during the thirty years that have passed since then we do not know.

Waukon, Iowa Dec. 28th, 1940.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER



**MAP**  
of  
Pleistocene Topographical  
SURVEY  
Bluffs south of McGregor, Iowa,  
from  
Point Any to Pinedale  
and of  
Pre-historic Earthworks  
in same.  
Survey by Ellison Orr  
Apr. 5, 1912.  
Scale, 1 inch = 660 Feet.

- Mound
- ▭ Embankment
- ▭ Effigy Mound
- ▭ House
- ▭ Concessory
- ▭ Quarry-Quarrier
- ▭ Sea lines
- ▭ Highways
- ▭ Rail-road

Round	35
Chain	9
Embankment	7
Effigy	7
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
	92

McGregor  
 Main St  
 1st St  
 2nd St  
 3rd St  
 4th St  
 5th St  
 6th St  
 7th St  
 8th St  
 9th St  
 10th St  
 11th St  
 12th St  
 13th St  
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 41st St  
 42nd St  
 43rd St  
 44th St  
 45th St  
 46th St  
 47th St  
 48th St  
 49th St  
 50th St

Highway  
 Quarry

The Buffalo Mounds

PICTURED ROCKS

PIKE'S PEAK

Mound Group #8

Mound Group #2

Mound Group #4

Mound Group #5

POINT ANN  
 Mound Group #1

Ravine

Top of Decorah shales

Road

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

S. M. ST. P. R. R.  
ROAD

PRECIPICE

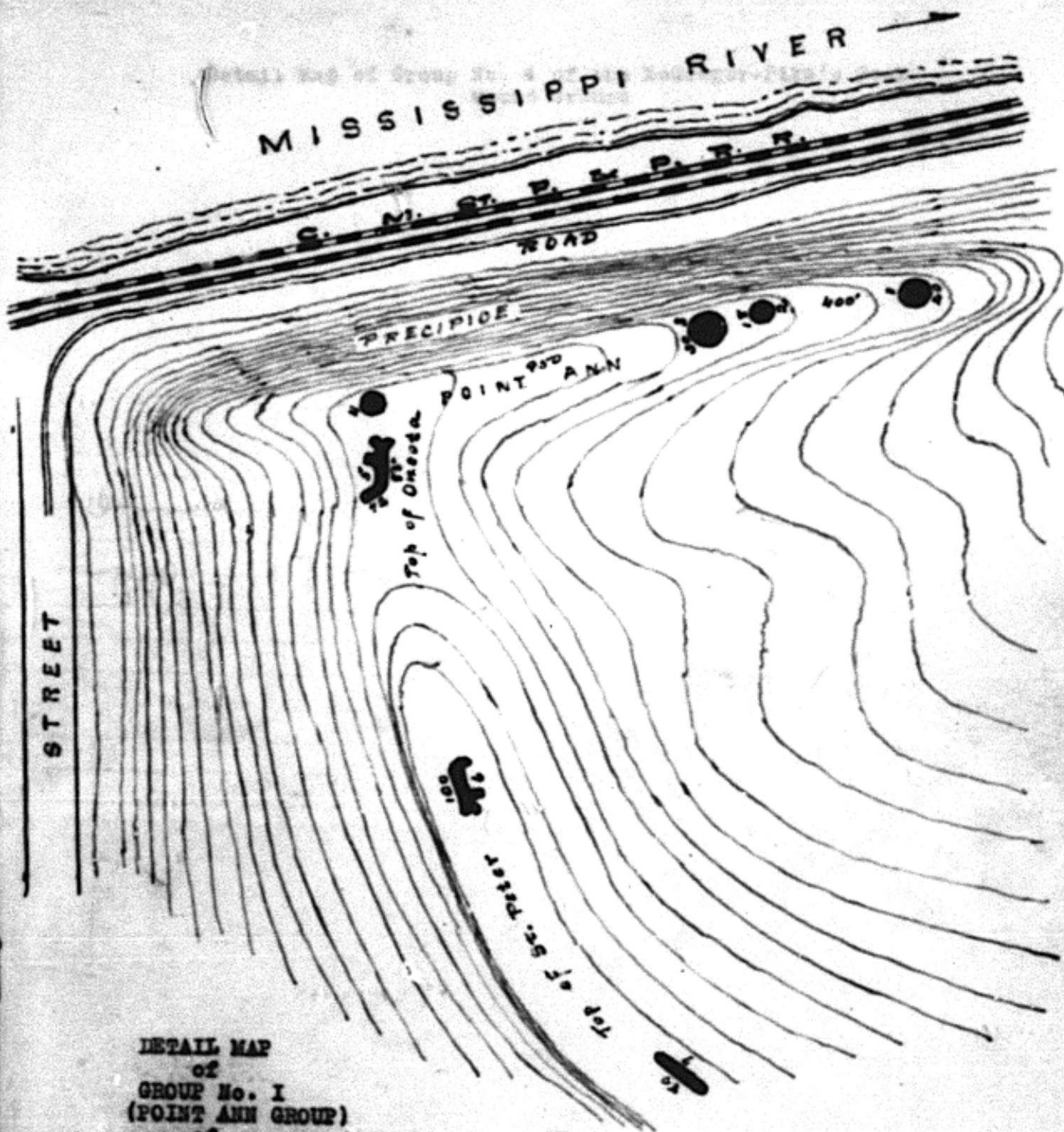
POINT ANN

Top of Onondaga

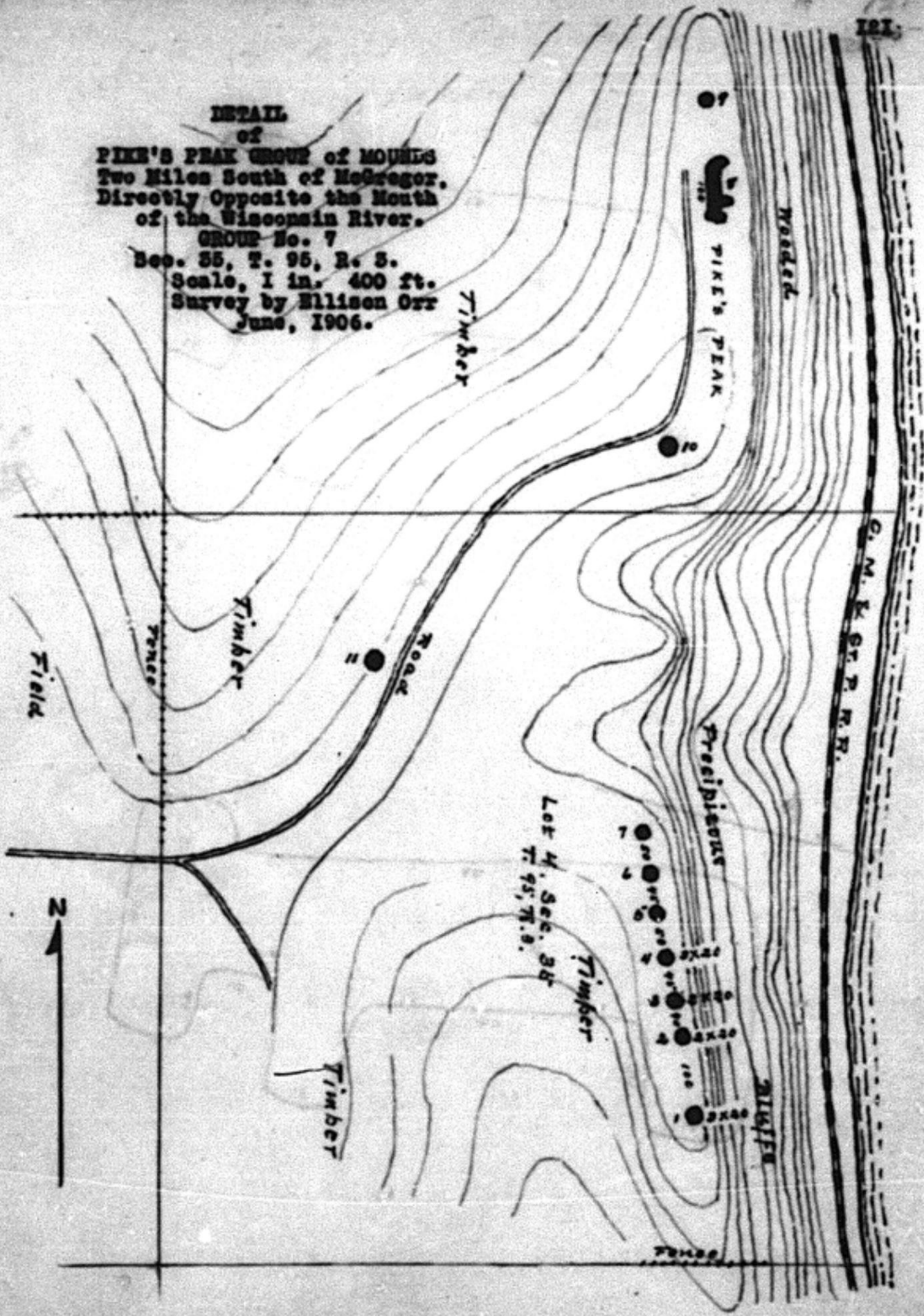
STREET

Top of St. Peter

DETAIL MAP  
of  
GROUP No. I  
(POINT ANN GROUP)  
of  
POINT ANN - PIER'S PEAK  
MOUND GROUPS

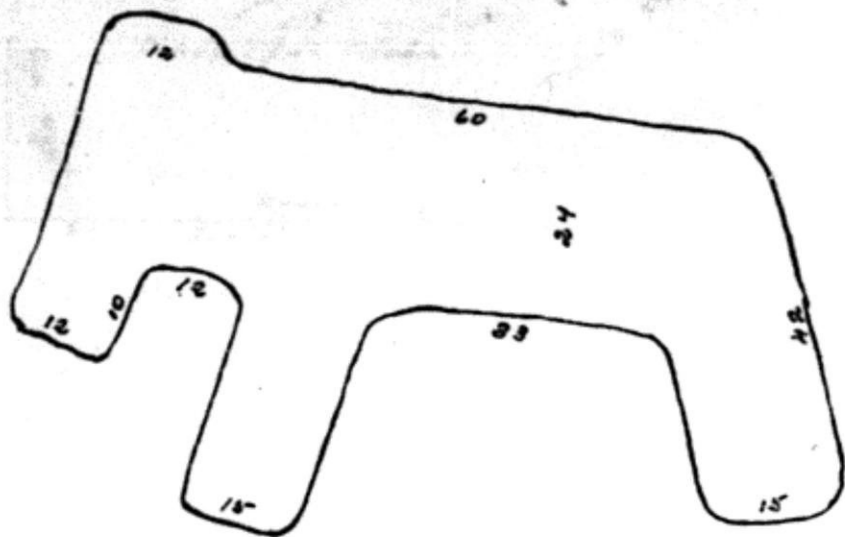


DETAIL  
 of  
**PIKE'S PEAK GROUP of MOUNDS**  
 Two Miles South of McGregor,  
 Directly Opposite the Mouth  
 of the Wisconsin River.  
 GROUP No. 7  
 Sec. 35, T. 95, R. 5.  
 Scale, 1 in. 400 ft.  
 Survey by Ellison Orr  
 June, 1906.

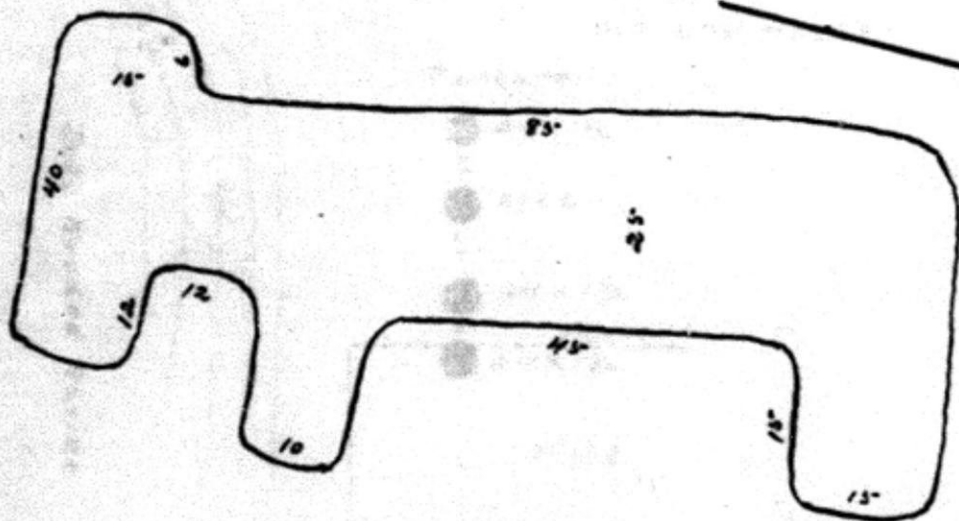


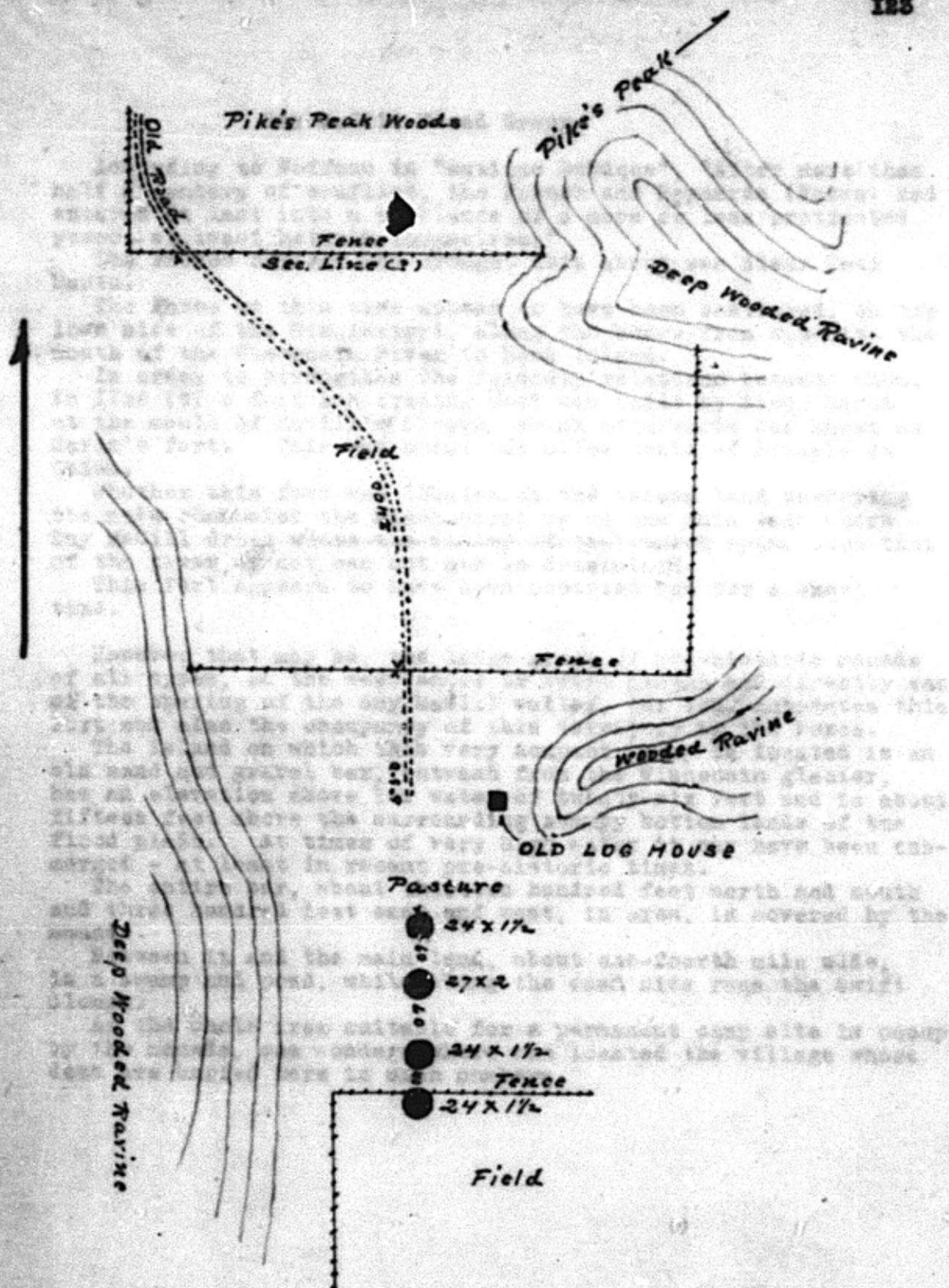
MISSISSIPPI RIVER

N.



N.





### Sny McGill Mound Group.

According to Hoffman in "Antique Dubuque", "After more than half a century of conflict, the French and Reynards (Foxes) had entered at last into a semblance of a more or less protracted peace—at least between themselves."

The French officer who brought this about was Sieur Paul Marin.

The Foxes at this time appear to have been scattered, on the Iowa side of the Mississippi, along the shore from opposite the mouth of the Wisconsin River to Rock Island.

In order to strengthen the friendly relations between them, in 1755 (?) a fort and trading post was built by Sieur Marin at the mouth of McGill's Slough, which afterwards was known as Marin's fort. This was about six miles south of Prairie du Chien.

Whether this fort was located on the island land bordering the main channel of the Mississippi or on the main land where Sny McGill Creek ~~where the valley of that creek opens into that of the river, or not,~~ can not now be determined.

This fort appears to have been occupied but for a short time.

However that may be, the large group of pre-historic mounds of all types, on the west shore of Swift Slough and directly east of the opening of the Sny McGill valley, for long antedates this fort and also the occupancy of this territory by the Foxes.

The island on which this very compact group is located is an old sand and gravel bar, outwash from the Wisconsin glacier, has an elevation above low water of twenty-six feet and is about fifteen feet above the surrounding swampy bottom lands of the flood plain. At times of very high water it may have been submerged - at least in recent pre-historic times.

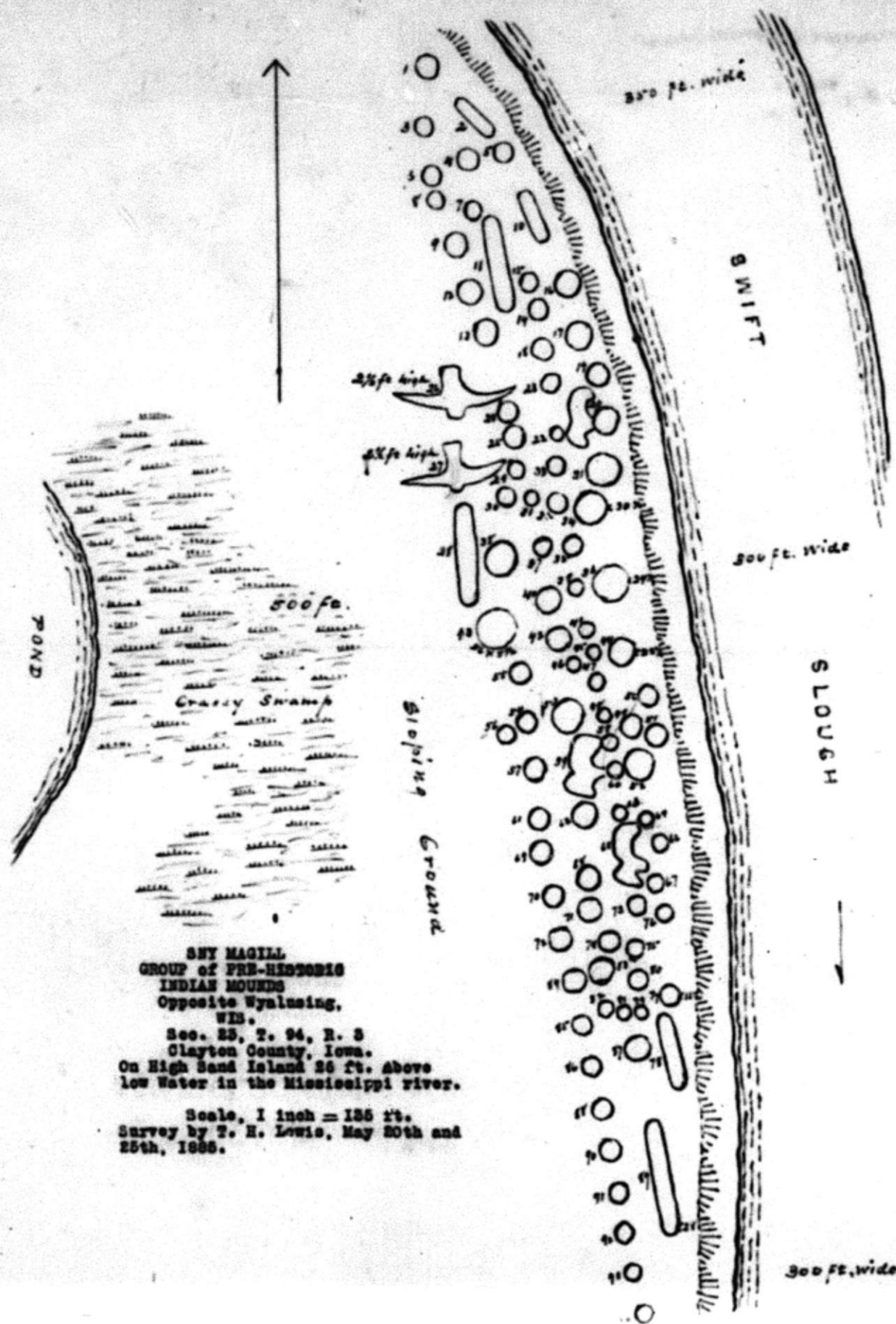
The entire bar, about thirteen hundred feet north and south and three hundred feet east and west, in area, is covered by the mounds.

Between it and the main land, about one-fourth mile wide, is a swamp and pond, while along the east side runs the Swift Slough.

As the whole area suitable for a permanent camp site is occupied by the mounds, one wonders where was located the village whose dead are buried here in such numbers.



South of ...  
...  
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



**SNY MAGILL  
GROUP of PRE-HISTORIC  
INDIAN MOUNDS**

Opposite Wynasing,  
Wis.

Sec. 23, T. 94, R. 3

Clayton County, Iowa.

On High Sand Island 26 ft. Above  
low Water in the Mississippi river.

Scale, 1 inch = 135 ft.

Survey by T. H. Lewis, May 20th and  
25th, 1885.



### HARVEY'S ISLAND MOUND GROUP No. I

The town of Guttenberg, Clayton county, Iowa, is built on a sand terrace about two miles long and half a mile wide, the surface near the river, of which, averages about twenty-four feet above low water in the Mississippi river. It is believed to be outwash from the melting Wisconsin glacier - a sand bar in the then greatly swollen river. There is a gradual but very gentle slope from the river front back to the foot of the bluffs. At high water there is always a lakelet along the bluffs.

Harvey's Island is a continuation to the north of the Guttenberg island, from which it is separated by what at low water is a swampy tract a half mile wide, containing a considerable lake and numerous ponds and sloughs. When the river is high this low land is mostly under water. This marshy lake extends north between the island and the bluffs to the main channel.

The surface of the island is about the same average height above low water as the Guttenberg terrace, and like it, well above the highest floods.

Along the river front of the Guttenberg terrace were once numerous round and a few linear earthworks, all of which, except a small group at the north end of the town, have been obliterated. Numerous skeletons have been dug up at different times by workmen excavating for cellars and drains.

Two were found in 1907 at respectively five and twenty-five feet from the river front. With one was found a double copper cross supposed to have been obtained from the French missionaries, while the bones of one arm of each were encircled by "brass bands on each of which was inscribed the word 'Montreal.'"

Just south of the farm house on Harvey's Island is a group of from four to six circular mounds, the exact number being hard to determine as they are now about leveled by cultivation.

One of this group (Group No. 2) must have been over forty feet in diameter.

About one-half mile north of the farm house, the only building except the barn on the island, on land belonging to Mr. Essman, and near the center of Section 32, T. 92, R. 2 west of the 5th P.M., is a large group of thirty-two circular, two linear, one animal, and a chain of five circular connected by embankments.

At the time the survey was made in 1906, the field was in crop for the first time, having been cleared and broken the previous year. These had consequently suffered but little change except that made by time. At least one linear and several circular mounds form a continuation of this group to the north of the field into a lot covered with small oak trees and brush. On account of the difficulty of making a survey in this brush these last were not platted.

This Group of thirty-two is Group No. I of the Harvey's Island mound groups.

Excavations six feet square were dug in two of the circular mounds to a depth of three feet below the natural surface, but they were absolutely barren, not a single relic of any kind, charcoal, or skeletal material was found.

Down to the natural surface and for a foot below, they were composed of the sandy black surface loam. Below that was the

stratified sand and gravel of the terrace. As at other places there were no ditches around any of the mounds of the group and no excavations in the vicinity from which the surface loam might have been taken to form them.

Animal Mound No. 1, is by far the largest effigy mound in Iowa so far as known. It is very similar in outline to animal mound No. IV of the Yellow River - Hanging Rock mounds but is more than twice as long, having a total length from tip to tip of two hundred and ten feet. We can only surmise what particular animal this mound was intended to represent, but to us it resembles a rabbit or wildcat more than any other animal.

The two mounds mentioned above are the only ones of that type known to us and now (1940) entirely obliterated by cultivation.

Linear mound No. 14 is 110 ft. in length, 25 ft. in width and 3 ft. high.

Linear mound No. 18 is 95 ft. in length, 25 ft. in width and 3 ft. high.

Each circular mound is 30 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high. The connecting embankments are 12 to 15 ft. wide and 1 to 2 ft. high.

Circular mounds 2, 3, 16, 17, 34 and 35 are each 30 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. high.

Circular mounds 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31 and 36 are each 30 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high.

Circular mounds No. 19 and 32 are 35 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high.

Circular mound No. 33 is 35 ft. in diameter and 1 ft. high.

Circular mound No. 24 is 40 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. high.

Circular mound No. 25 is 40 ft. in diameter and 4 ft. high, being the largest circular mound in the group.

Circular mound No. 30 is 20 ft. in diameter and 1 ft. high.

Circular mound No. 34 is 50 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. high, as is also No. 35.

On account of determining the exact point where the artificial work begins, and as the height may vary according to which side the natural surface is taken for comparison, only close approximate dimensions are given.

In the brush lot to the north and close to the edge of the terrace, so close in fact that part of some of them have caved off, there is a row of half a dozen low mounds, about fifteen ft. in diameter and not over one foot in height.

These mounds have the appearance of having been leveled more by time than the others of the group. A careful search was made at the places where they had caved off but no relics were found.

Much time was spent in searching the entire cultivated part of the islands for field finds, but with the exception of a few pottery sherds and a few of the commoner forms, crudely made, of arrow points and scrapers, no worked flint was found.

The island extends perhaps a half mile north of the most northerly mound of Group No. 1.

Surrey July 1st, 1907

## SOUTH GUTTENBERG MOUND GROUP.

Between the valley of Miner's Creek and that of the Mississippi river, where the former opens into the latter just below South Guttenberg, is a rocky ridge shaped like an inverted letter V and extending north and south for a distance of 1400 ft.

It is about 200 ft. wide at its base and 75 ft. high.

In places the rock backbone is almost level, north and south, the crest just wide enough for a good path.

At its south end it breaks off very abruptly. At the north end where the creek valley turns off towards the north-west, the bluff which is the continuation in that direction, widens and the crest rises steeply by a continuation of rocky ledges, for another hundred feet. The slope on the river side very steep, that on the creek side not so much so.

Continuing to the north it falls away and flattens out after which there is a moderate ascent to the general level of the tops of the Mississippi river bluffs, at about 300 ft. above the river.

In the flattened out depression of the crest, which was once a small field, is a nearly obliterated linear mound, No. 5, near to and parallel to the river face of the hill and having a north and south length of 100 ft.

Ninety feet south of this on the north slope is circular mound No. 4, with a diameter of 35 ft. and a height of 2 ft.

Eight feet south of No. 4 is No. 3, a circular mound, also on the north slope. This is the largest mound of the group, its diameter being 38 ft., and height, 4 ft.

Again 8 ft south from No. 3, is No. 2, also circular with a diameter of 30 ft. and a height of 4 ft.

Ten feet south of No. 2 is No. 1, circular, the smallest and the most southerly of the group, having a diameter of 24 ft. and height of 2 ft.

Numbers 1 and 2 are at the top of the high place reached by the ascent from the rocky dividing ridge described. Numbers 3 and 4 lie on the sloping north side of this high place.

At the foot of the slope on a flattened out level area lies the long earthwork first mentioned.

Small pits were dug years ago in numbers 1, 2 and 3.

---

No more mounds are found along the bluff tops for a distance of two miles or more to the north until the point is reached which is just above the picnic grounds and spring on the old Garnaville road where it starts to climb out of the valley.

Here in the edge of the field, which is cleared out to where the land drops steeply away, are obscure traces of a half dozen round mounds.

One and one-half miles north of Gattenberg in the valley of Brush Creek, a small stream heading near National, two and one-half miles north-west, opens into that of the Mississippi river.

Up this valley one-half mile from the bluff line of the river, on the south side and not far from the one-fourth section corner on the north line of Sec 31, T. 93, R. 2, is a terrace of several acres in extent.

This is under cultivation and the owner has, or had, (1920), a cigar box full of chipped pieces, about half of which were broken, that he had found on this field from time to time when cultivating it. This collection contains nothing unusual or noticeable and there are no pottery fragments.

This terrace was doubtless a camp or village site, and the absence of pottery in the collection due to the collector not being familiar with its appearance.

About a mile above Brush Creek is the beginning of a half mile wide terrace having a length of two miles, and on the WI/2 of Sections 20 and 29, T. 93, R. 2.

Near the south end of this is the Eckard's Flag Station of the C. M. & St. P. Ry, and at the north end, on the main channel of the Mississippi river that here begins a "crossing" to the Wisconsin side, is the site of the pioneer settlement of Frenchtown.

This terrace is a typical mound group site, but if there ever were any they have long since been obliterated by cultivation.

On one occasion when the ground was bare we spent an hour in looking over likely places but found nothing, and the people of the farm house on the terrace said that they had never found any.

MISSOURI  
OF  
1892 SURVEYED  
MOUND GROUP.

On narrow ridge between the valley of the Mississippi river and its tributary, Minnie's Creek, and east of Cooper and Rebeck farms in N. Gattenberg, Iowa.

Site of, above the Flood Plain of the river.

Mounds 1, 2, and 3, circular  
Mounds 4, 5, 6, linear forms.

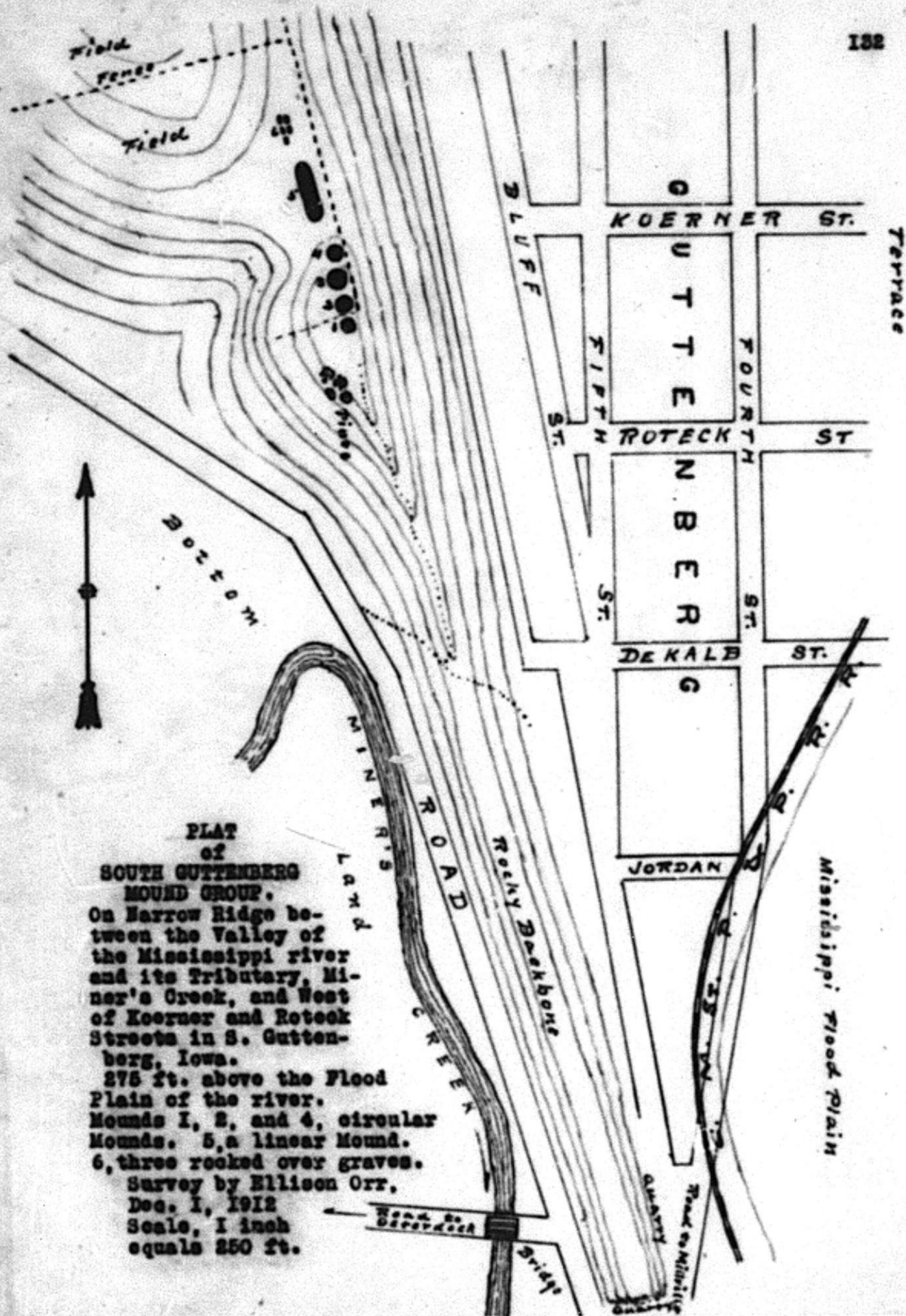
Mounds packed over stones.

Survey by William H. C.

March 1, 1911

Scale, 1" = 100'

Scale 250 ft.





HARVEY'S ISLAND  
MOUND GROUP No. 1  
Survey, July 1, 1907  
Scale, 1 inch equals  
150 ft.  
Survey by Ellison Orr

SCATERING ELM TIMBER

SWAMPY SLOUGH

Private Road

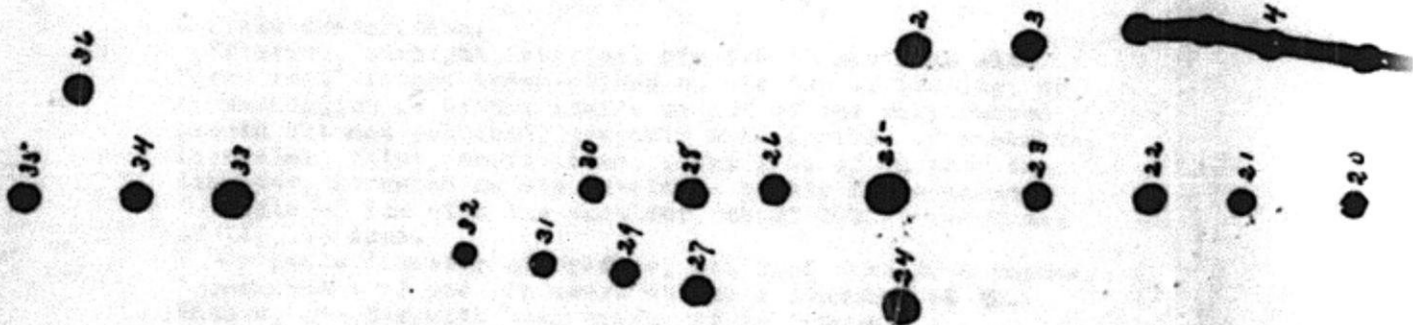
Bridge

Lane

( 310 ft. )

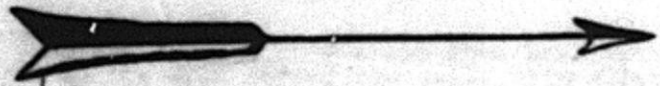


FIELD



MISSISSIPPI

Y'S ISLAND  
GROUP No. I  
July 1, 1907  
1 inch equals  
by Ellison Orr

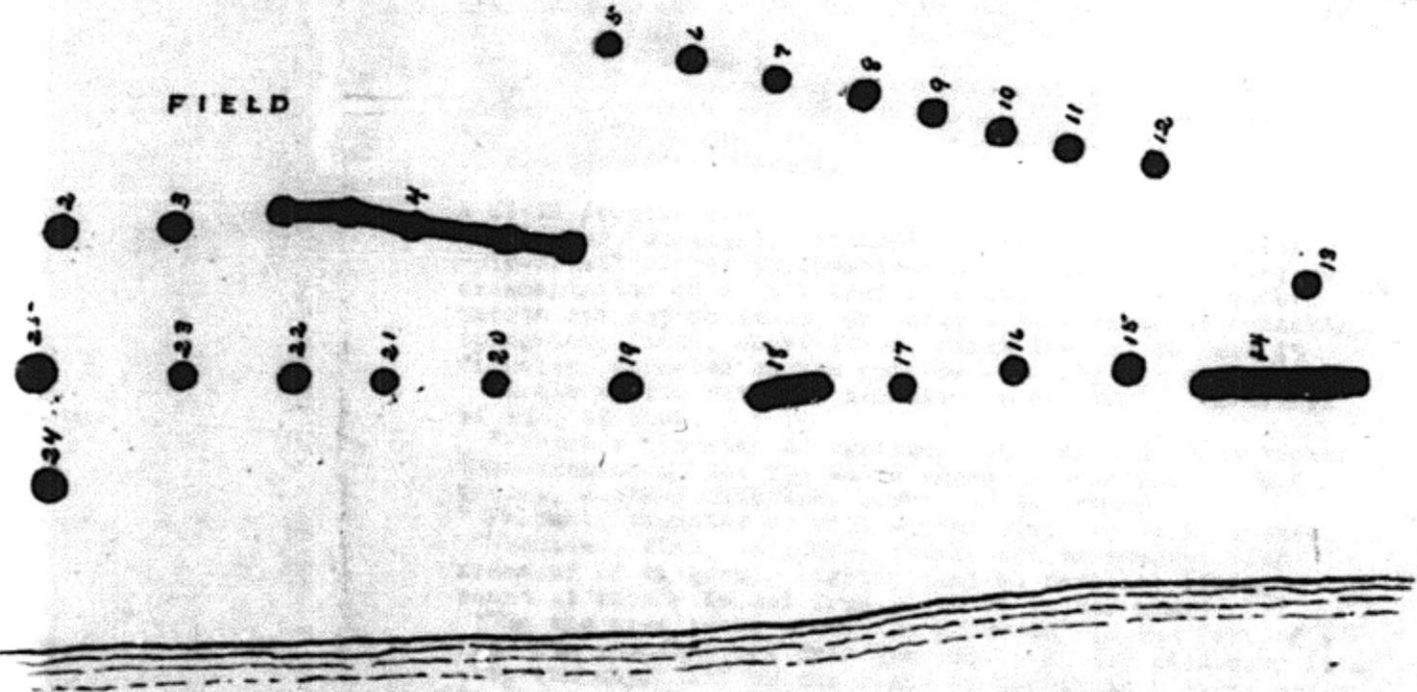


ENTERING ELM TIMBER

TIMBER

WAPY SLOUGH

Private Road



FIELD

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

## POTTERY

No.  
5171

Large shell (cell) tempered Oneota pot from the south one of the two pits at the east end of the small triangular terrace between the Burke school house and the road running south-west, on the NE SW Sec. 35, T. 100, R. 6 west of the 5th P.M. in Waterloo township, Allamakee county, Iowa.

Work on the road had removed some of the face of the terrace next to it and it was reported to us that the school children had found some "Indian pottery" in the black earth that had sloughed down from the top.

Stopping there April 30th, 1940 we found two pits, 25 feet apart north and south, 24 inches in diameter and 18 to 24 inches deep, had been out into.

In the south pit were the sherds of the "cell-tempered" pot, # 5171. It had been set right side up on the pit bottom, apparently whole, but the weight of the earth had crushed it flat. About one-half was gone - probably carried away by the school children. The bottom and most of the sides were so badly broken up and so soft - it had about the consistency of puddled clay - that it was difficult to save any of it. Such as we did had to be removed with great care and dried.

The unusual decorations - we have seen none before exactly like them - and the comparatively rare "cell-tempering," as well as the very large size - make the find one of considerable interest.

## A field description:

"Flaring, straight, vertical rim 1.5 inches high with "pie-crust" finger indentations on the top of the lip; no ornamentation on either inside or out of the rim; rubbed smooth but not polished, probably with a piece of buckskin; irregular, faint, short lines, about 1/20 of an inch in diameter, scrawled on the outside - hardly for ornament.

"Angle of rim with the shoulder, about 100°. Thickness of lip, .3 inch.

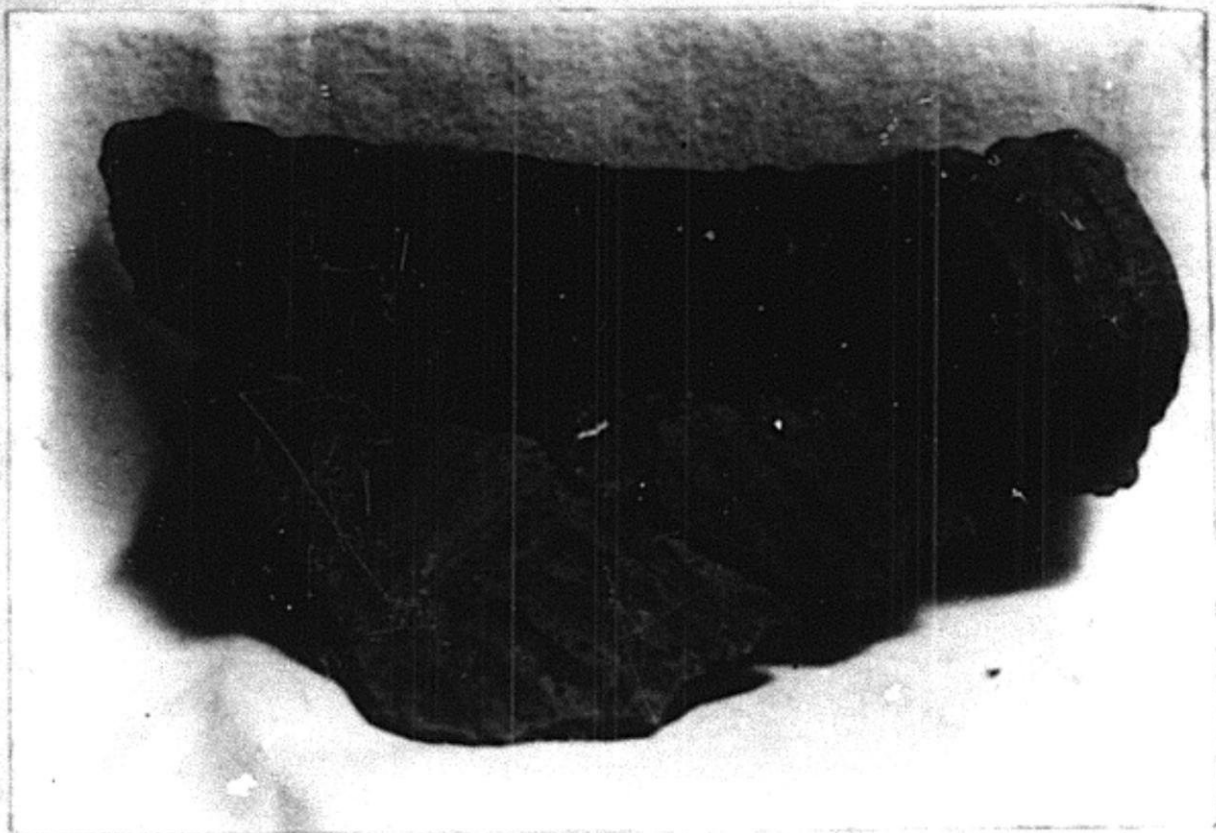
"Probable diameter of orifice, not less than 10.5 inches, (measurement of one rim sherd showed a diameter of 10.4 inches, another with less curve, of 16 inches.)

"Probable diameter of bowl at shoulder, 20 to 24 inches.

"Shoulder, flat, .2 inches thick, and ornamented with areas of diagonal, lightly trailed parallel lines, a scant .1 inch wide and from .3 to .4 inches apart.

"On one area these lines run about 45° to the left of a line run straight out from the rim. On the adjoining area they run about 45° to the right or nearly at a right angle to those running to the left.

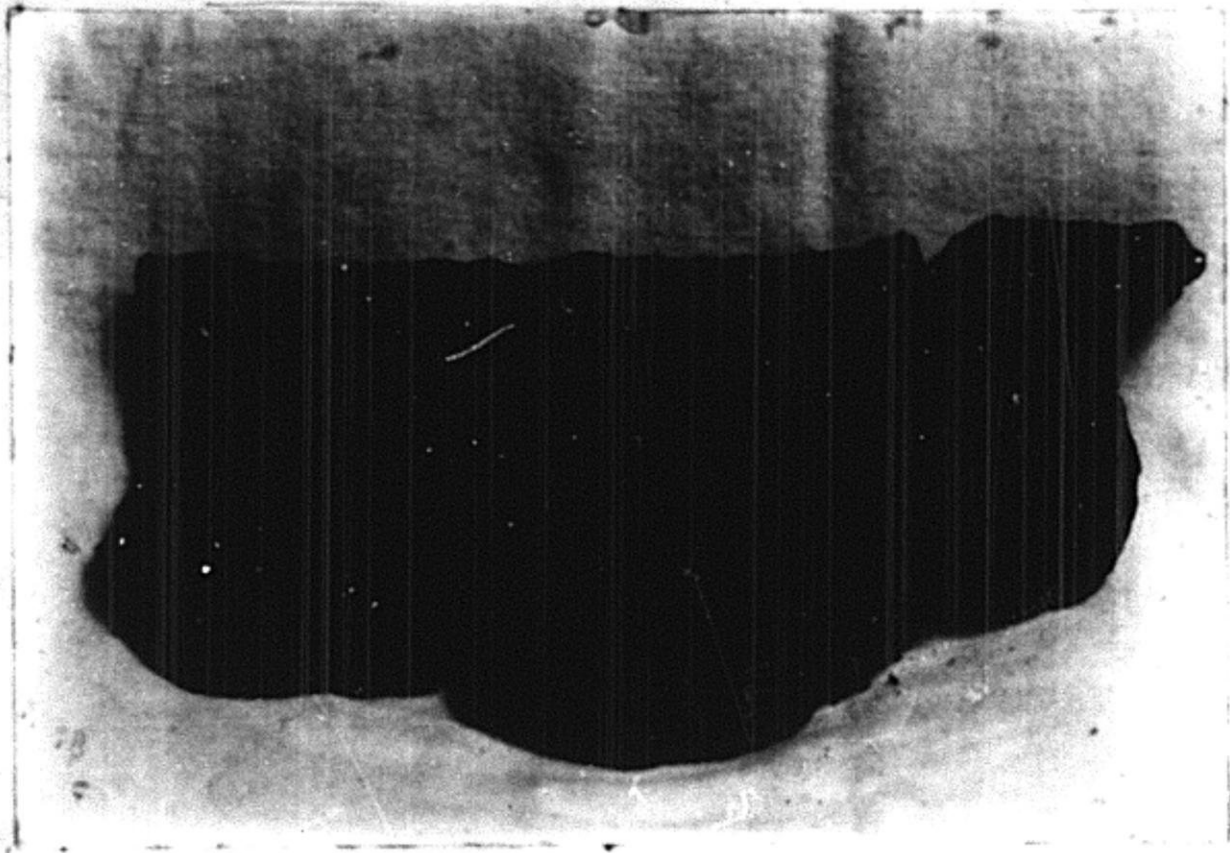
"Strap handle, 1.25 inches wide, with parallel sides, attached to rim below the lip and to shoulder at .75 inches from the base of the rim. Not riveted. Diameter of opening between the rim and handle, .7 inches horizontal, and 1.0 vertical. Color, a very yellowish brown



No. 513/

## POTTERY

- No. *School*
- 5154 In the north pit of the Burke terrace were the sherds of the rim and attached shoulder of a large flaked, shell-tempered Oneota culture pot. So much of the body as was still included with those in the remaining half of the pit still in place - about one-half had been removed by the grader - was broken into small bits.
- The flaring inch high rim, sharply tapering to a blunt edge at the top, was ornamented at the top on the outer edge of the lip by transverse "pie-crust" finger indentations but there was no ornamentation on the side.
- The angle of the rim with the body was about 115°.
- The shoulder was ornamented with trailed parallel lines, about .1 inch wide and .5 inch apart, running across the shoulder slightly diagonal to the face of the or side of the rim, apparently out to the junction of the shoulder and body, the incised lines of one area meeting those of the adjoining at an angle of 40°.
- Walls of the vessel, .3 inch thick.
- An apparently unusually large amount of finely crushed shell was used for tempering, except which in the center, has been largely removed by chemical action leaving minute rectangular cavities.
- Apparently this condition has given rise to the so-called cell-tempering.
- Attached to the outside of the lip and to the shoulder was two strap handles with parallel sides, 1.1 inch wide, with five ribs and four shallow intervals.
- The opening between the rim and handle was 1.3 inch vertically and 1.1 inch horizontally. Handle not riveted. Color of vessel, dark brown.
- Smoothed but not polished.
- An inspection of the fractured edges of the walls of Numbers 5157 and 5158 appears to indicate that they were built up by the addition of thin layers of material, giving the appearance of stratification.



No. 5182

Copy of Col. Morris' Map of "Group of Earthworks in Allamakee County, Iowa," except that hachures are replaced by contour lines. See pages 26 - 27, 1883 - '84 Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology.

According to this report there were at that time, (1882 - the mound area had then been under cultivation for fifteen years) six nearly parallel lines of mounds, the round 15 to 40 ft. in diameter, the oblong 50 to 100 ft. long.

The map shows eighty-one round and eight oblong .

In his excavations he found two types of burials - extended and bundled - in the mounds, and "under the surface of the plateau."

Much skeletal material, shell-tempered fragments of pottery, "but not a single entire vessel," and an immense quantity of charred and fractured bones.

He says; "strange to say, although careful search was made for them, less than a dozen arrow and spear heads were found, and these so rude as scarcely to deserve the name. A single true celt, three sandstones with mortar-shaped cavities, and a few muller stones used for grinding were obtained; also some fragments of deer horn, evidently cut round by some crude implement and then broken off, and several bone punches and awls."

Clam shells were found in the circular enclosure, (village site) and chert flakes were abundant everywhere.

With one exception his findings and conclusions agree substantially with ours, the result of our excavations of the mounds and enclosure in 1934 and '36.

He is of the opinion that there is conclusive evidence that the locality has been occupied at different times by at least two distinct tribes of peoples, differing widely in habits and customs.

He also concludes from the results of his excavations in the "circular enclosure" that it was a palisaded camp made by an older people, that after being driven out or abandoned by them, was occupied by another tribe for a long time and who did not depend on or use its embankment for protection.

The second occupants, he concluded were the builders of the mounds.

Our excavations showed no evidence of the occupation of the circular enclosure by more than one tribe, the makers of abundant shell-tempered pottery, the Oneota.

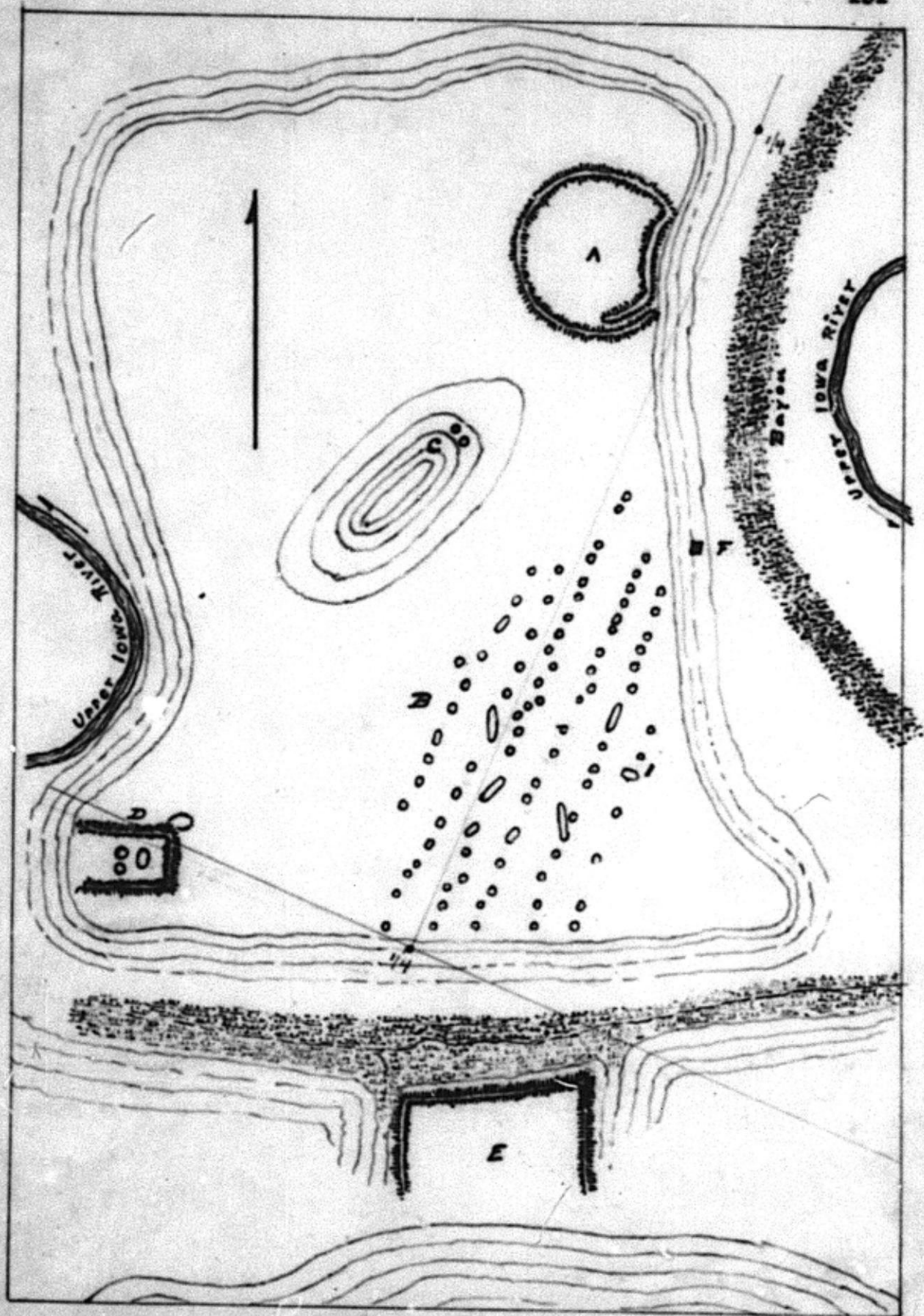
The mounds were very evidently built by an older people, the makers of grit-tempered pottery, whose burials in them were of the bundled burial type, and in which the later people - makers of shell-tempered pottery - intrusively buried their fully extended dead, with grave inclusions.

Though our findings and conclusions agree, except for the builders of the mounds and the number of tribes that had occupied the circular enclosure, in the main with those of Col. Morris, an actual survey shows his map, a copy of which follows, to be greatly in error.

Only the relative positions of the earthworks are at all accurate. See area, and detail maps of such of the mounds as can now be located, with full descriptions of our excavations and findings on pages 1 to 32 of Vol. VI of our reports.

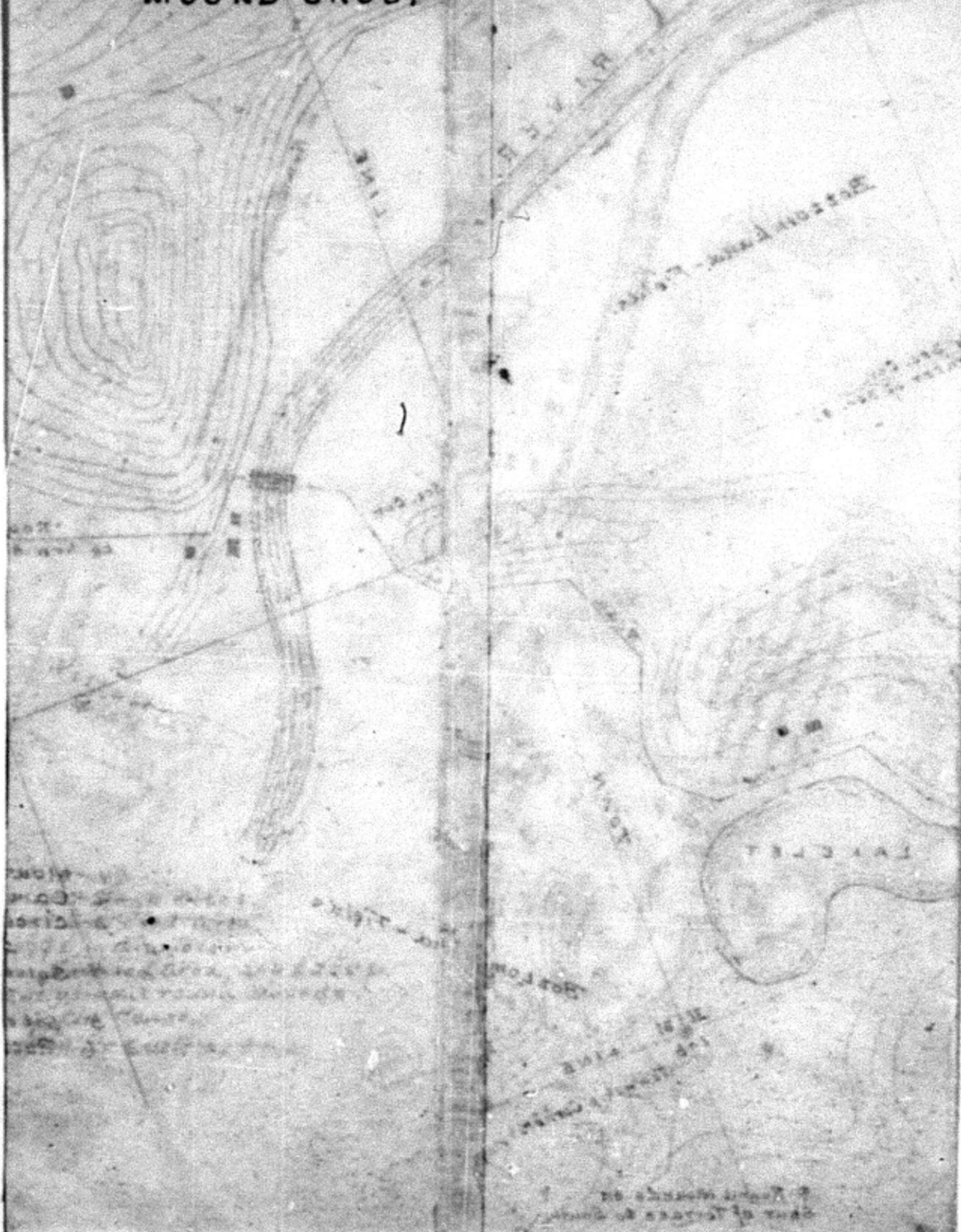
The rectangular enclosure, marked E on the Morris map, together with all of the eighty-nine mounds, except the twenty-three shown on our detail map, have been entirely obliterated by cultivation.





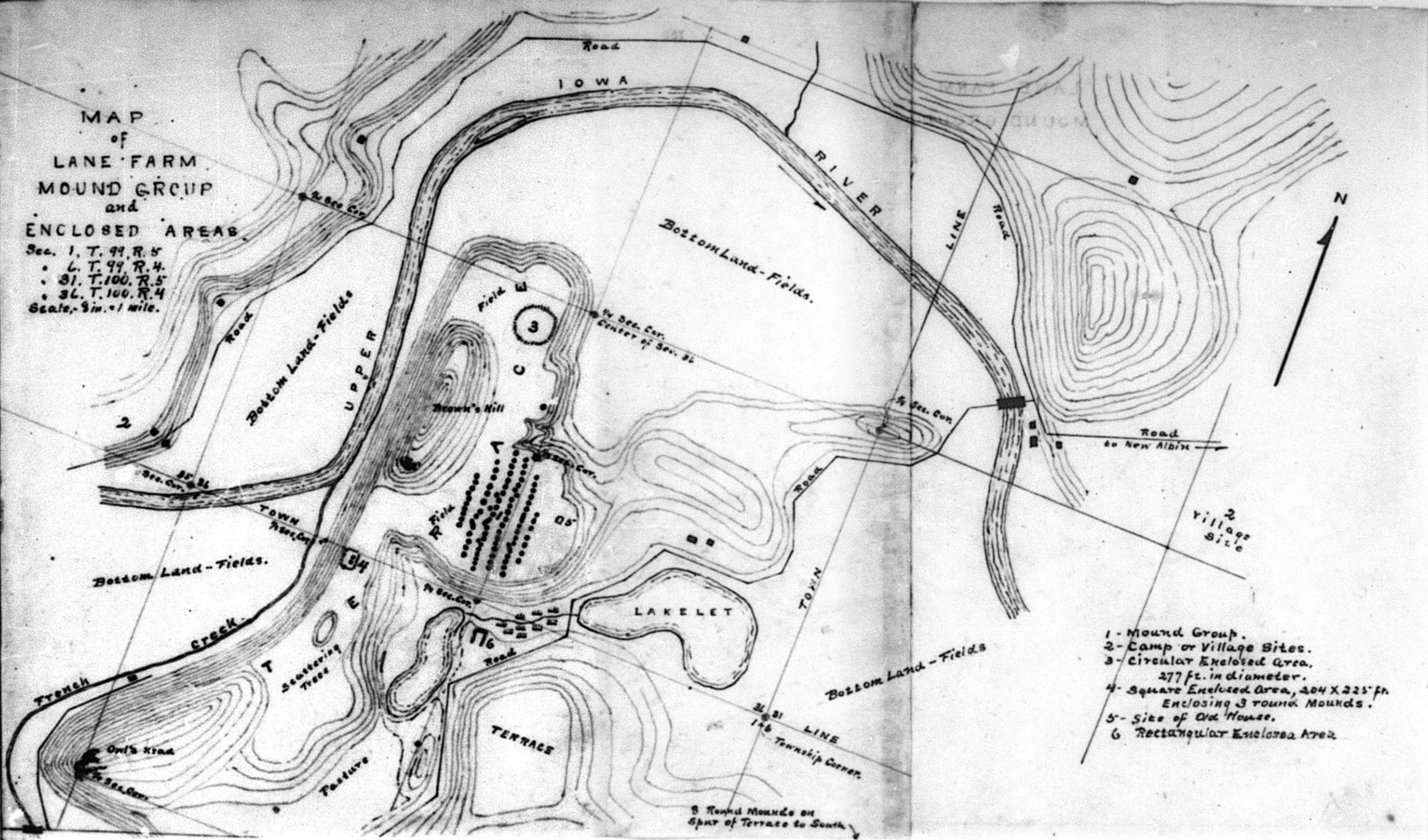
Group of Earthworks, Allamakee county, Iowa. (Copy)

# LANE FARM MOUND GROUP



MAP  
of  
LANE FARM  
MOUND GROUP  
and  
ENCLOSED AREAS

Sec. 1, T. 99, R. 5  
 • L. T. 99, R. 4  
 • 31, T. 100, R. 5  
 • 36, T. 100, R. 4  
 Scale, 9 in. = 1 mile.



- 1 - Mound Group.
- 2 - Camp or Village Sites.
- 3 - Circular Enclosed Area,  
277 ft. in diameter.
- 4 - Square Enclosed Area, 204 X 225 ft.  
Enclosing 3 round Mounds.
- 5 - Site of Old House.
- 6 - Rectangular Enclosed Area.

3 Round Mounds on  
Spur of Terrace to South

THE ORIGIN OF SOME POLISHED  
STONE ARTIFACTS.

American Antiquity, Vol. VI, No. 1, July, Page 70.

(Some may be polished by movement in running water or by grinding in potholes- showing "true random" scratches, or artificially by rubbing with an abraider, "ranked" or parallel scratches.)

"Scratches found on the surface of many stone artifacts have a "true random" arrangement, almost exactly resembling that found on the surface of stream boulders and pothole "grinders". Those on surfaces polished by mechanical methods are "ranked"- the scratches are arranged in parallel series, much like those on a sand-papered surface. "True random" can be produced mechanically only with devices such as a tumbling barrel, which was certainly not available in any neolithic group."

**Characteristic Features  
of the  
Woodland Pottery Culture  
From Barrett's Descriptions in Ancient Astalan.**

Located on the West Bank of Crawfish Creek, the west fork of Rock River, near the center of Jefferson county, Wisconsin.

Same as Lake Michigan culture except as below:

Body - sub-spherical with round, not conoidal, bottoms.

Rim - collared, square to octagonal.

A coarse ware running very large - up to 380 mm body, 15 inches, diameter, and 277 mm, 12 inches, mouth diameter.

Barrett says of the decoration this grit tempered pottery of both kinds:

"Whenever decorated at all, it bears almost exclusively cord-imprinted designs, and always in fairly simple linear and geometric figures on the rim of the pot. These consist of horizontal, vertical and oblique lines and combinations of them in great variety."

**Characteristic Features  
of the  
Lake Michigan Pottery Culture.  
From Barrett's Descriptions in Ancient Astoria.**

Located on the west bank of Crawfish Creek, the west fork of Rock River, near the center of Jefferson county, Wisconsin.

**Features:**

**Body** - sub-spherical with bottom usually concoidal; rarely angled at shoulder; tempering of coarse grit - as pulverized granite; and without handles.

**Neck** - short, vertical or flaring.

**Mouth** - round.

**Rim** - 70 % with more or less rudimentary collars; 10 % club-shaped in cross section.

**Lip** - square, rounded, sloping or thinned to a blunt edge.

**Decoration** - simple figures and patterns of cord decoration in straight, horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines on neck, rim and lip.

Entire body shaped by and covered with usually vertical imprints of a cord-wrapped paddle.  
A coarse, thick pottery, some vessels reaching a diameter of over 500 mm - 20 inches.

**ARCHAEOLOGY.**

"If we trace the history of mankind back to very ancient times we find that the record becomes more and more scanty and less intelligible until history fades into myth and tradition."

Of a still earlier age we have not even a tradition; it is pre-history. For this we must dig - literally "dig up the past." From what we find in destroyed or abandoned cities, on ancient camp sites, in rock shelters and caves, in burial places, on old and forgotten battle fields, and lost afield, we must create history.

### Man's Place in Nature.

"Man's Place in Nature, his whereabouts in time, is, and had always been his fundamental problem." Hawkins.

"Throughout the whole sequence of incalculable ages, physical, chemical and biological, laws have remained the same." Hawkins.

"A rhythmic orderliness pervades the Earth's history." Hawkins.

"There is an orderliness pervades the details of the Earth's History." Hawkins.

"There is an orderliness in nature that we can appreciate without knowing its origin or aim." Hawkins.

"In a world of seeming change and decay there are principles and processes that are eternal." Hawkins.

"Heredity and environment control our development." Hawkins.

"Life itself, transmitted from one generation to another, may be everlasting, but all living things are mortal." Hawkins.



### The O'Brien Rock Shelter. (Gelo Cave)

Characteristic of the heavy-bedded upper strata of the Oneota limestone formation in Allamakee county are occasional caves mostly in the vertical cliff faces along the Upper Iowa and Mississippi rivers.

These have a front opening of 15 to 50 ft. with corresponding less depths, and heights of from 2 to 8 ft.

They were formed apparently when the rock was laid down by the upward arching of strata forming a roof above a flat floor. The arch flattens out rapidly upward. In these formations when complete the roof is semi-globular, the space between it and the level floor being filled with soft unstratified material, washed out when the whole structure was in part broken off by the falling away of a section of the bluff face.

The resulting cliff caves are halves of the formations. They are usually inaccessible. Two can be seen near the tops of the precipices about one-half mile above the Painted Rock north of Waukon Junction.

A fine one is located near the top of the cliff on the NE SE Sec. 36, T. 100, R. 6 west of the 5th .M. that can be reached without much difficulty.

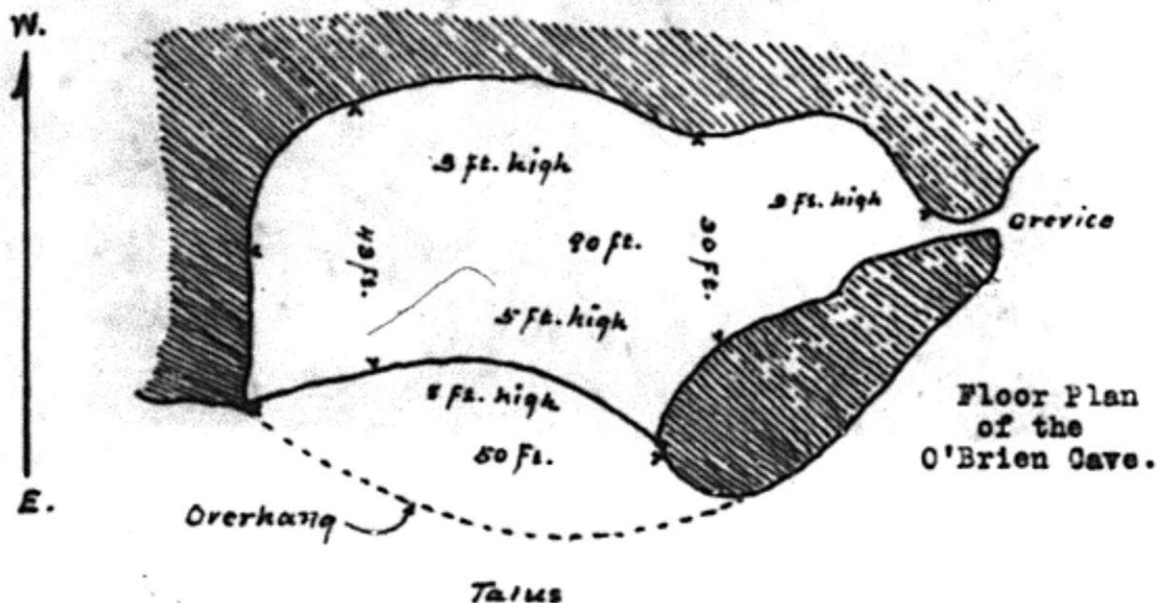
On a following page are sketches of the front and of the profile from front to rear of a typical cave.

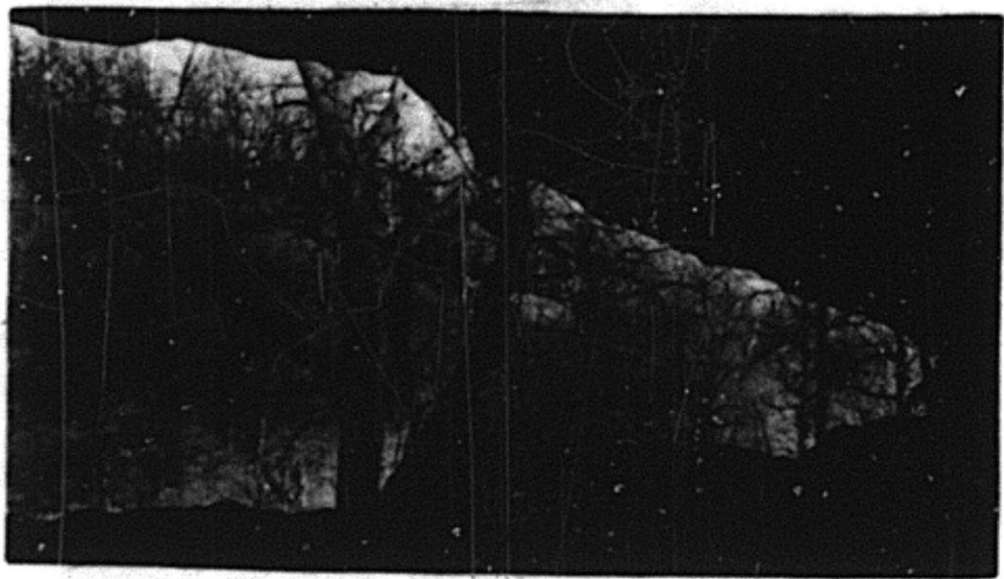
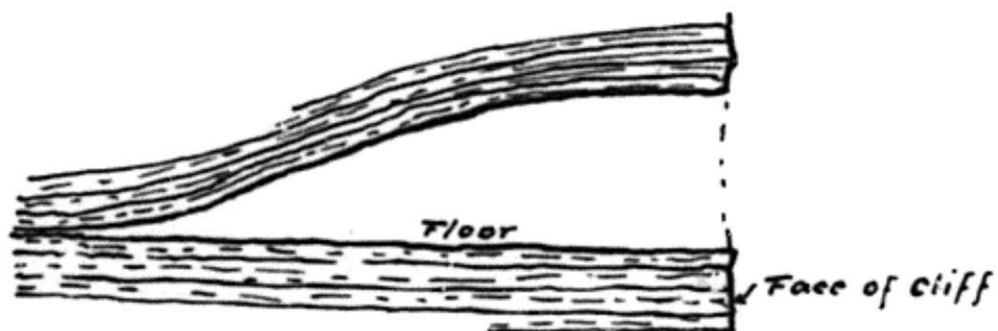
The O'Brien Cave, near the north side of the NE NW Sec. 8, T. 98, R. 4 in a low cliff - top of the Oneota - is the largest one of which I have any knowledge. The front opening is 50 ft. long and 7 to 8 ft. high, the cave extending back into the rock to a depth of 48 ft.

From the level of the narrow strip of bottom land of a dry ravine in front a 25 ft. high talus slopes up to the entrance.

The vertical rock face of the cliff extends above the roof for 10 to 15 ft. Above this a timbered gradual slope up to the Oneota penplain.

April 24th, 1930.

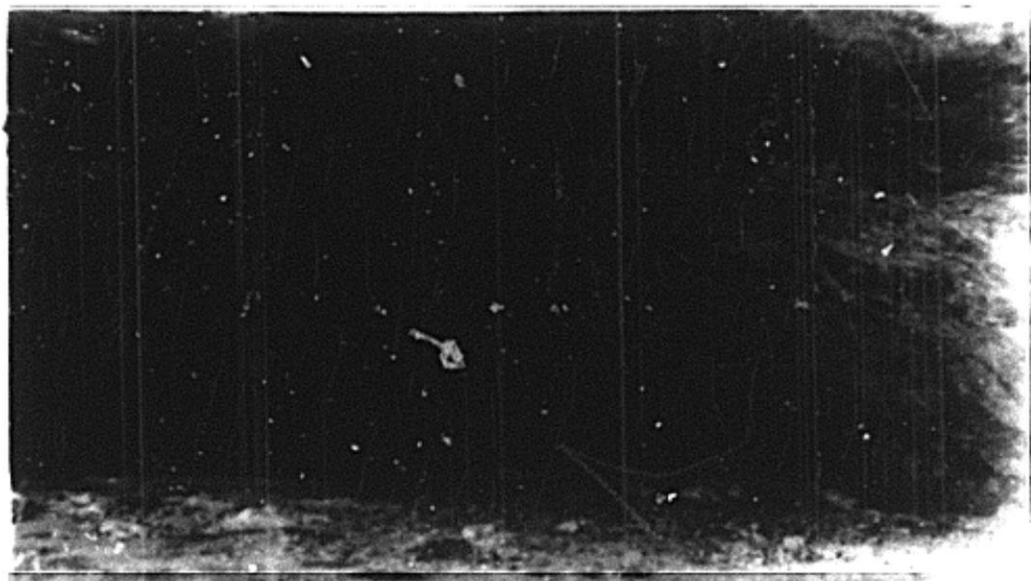




O'Brien Cave - Looking out from within the Cave.



O'Brien Cave. - Looking up the slope from the East.



O'Brien Cave - Picture of Roof and Back Part of Cave  
from within Entrance.

[Editor's Note: Pp. 161 through 165 contain excerpts from American Antiquity on Pamunky pottery manufacturing and a description of Tepe Gawra in Iraq and have been omitted.]

### Hafting of Celts.

In America the grooved axe and the celt were the standard chopping and cutting implements, performing that function by blows. Both were used as weapons in war as well as implements in carrying on the usual occupations of the aboriginal pre-historic peoples of America.

As to the material or method of manufacture of the celt there were two very distinct types. One, very rarely found, was made by flaking and chipping from flint or some similar stone, or quartzite. grooves

Axes are characterized by a partly or entirely around the implement at about one-third the distance from the poll to the bit. They and probably more than 99 % of the celts are made from diorite or some similar hard, tough stone, by roughing them out by pecking with another hard rock, shaping them better by grinding, and finally by sharpening and polishing the bit.

Of grooved axes there is an almost endless variety of shapes of one general type. Not so great a variety of shapes of the celt are found.

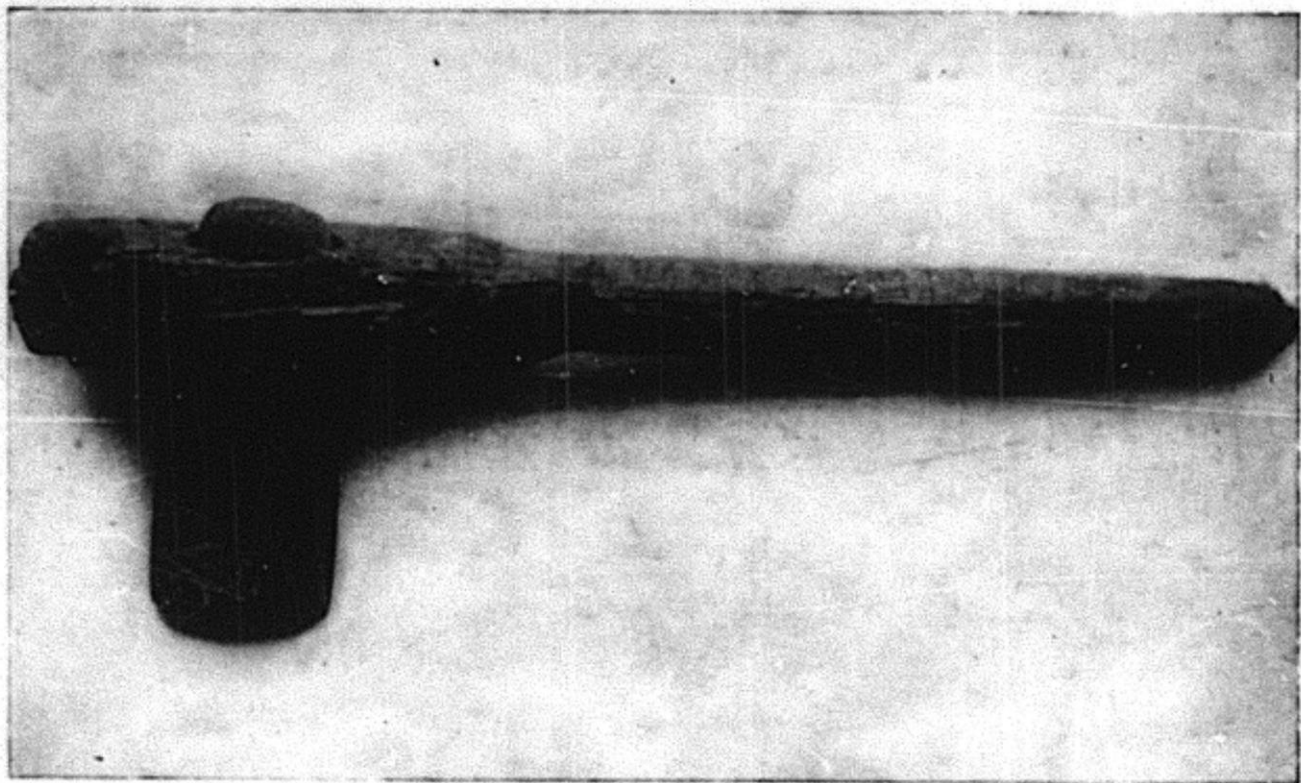
Axes were hafted or handled by twisting a wither or raw-hide handle around them in the groove, bringing the ends - each about 18 inches - together and winding them with raw-hide.

As to how celts were used, whether taken in the hand, or with an attached handle, there has been a difference of opinion. It seemed as if it would be difficult to attach a handle to the round body of a celt - celts were never grooved - but the occurrence of anything that might have been a handle was practically unknown.

However a very few cases are on record where celts have been found hafted as shown in a copy of a photograph on the following page, and this may well have been a common method of attachment.

It is quite likely that those found now are probably not less than 200 years old and some of them perhaps as many thousands. Only under very exceptional conditions would a handle of raw-hide or wood have lasted for one-half of the shortest period.

See Also 167-A.



ABORIGINAL AMERICAN POLISHED STONE HATCHET IN ITS ORIGINAL WOODEN HANDLE.  
Collection of Byron E. Dodge, Richfield, Genesee County, Michigan.



The Swiss Lake Dwellings.  
Stone Celt with Wooden Handle.

Among the attractions of Switzerland are the numerous lakes. At the time of the melting ice glaciers these were larger.

In the bays and sheltered places the primitive people of that time drove piles in the shallow water of the lake margins to support platforms on which their dwellings were placed.

Village refuse along with articles thrown or dropped into the water remained permanently on the bottom, - the latter were not recovered.

Of the many villages so built during the millenniums from the Old Stone Age through that of Bronze and of that of the beginning of Iron, many of these villages were burned and the charred remains of the houses and their contents came to rest on the lake bottom.

In the course of time, waters of the lakes receded and the village sites became marshes and peat bogs, covering their remains.

Among the thousands of articles that were recovered when the sites were discovered were celts - probably of the Old Stone Age - hafted as shown in the above illustration.

Through the millenniums the seasoned wood handle was preserved by the mud in which it was buried.

As the manner in which celts were used has been something of a conundrum to archaeologists we have copied the above illustration of one of those from the site of an ancient Lake Village site.

## EARTH LODGES MILLS Co.

Some Additional Information in Regard to Earth Lodges B and C, Mills County Group. Gained from Correspondence with Paul Rowe, Glenwood, Ia.

Nov. 1Xth, 1940.

When we worked at house site (earth lodge) excavation in the Mills county area in 1938 we were materially assisted, these and other evidences of occupation by pre-historic people, by two inmates of the Institution for the Feeble-Minded at Glenwood, Lee Swearington and Francis McDowell, especially by the latter who had before done much desultory digging on the farm connected with the Institution.

The results of this work, kept as a display at the Institution, were five nearly complete pots-Glenwood phase of the Nebraska culture - ; several celts; a number of bone implements; a large quantity of pottery sherds; not many nor very good chipped flint pieces; and a large number of hand-sized boulders.

Three of the whole pots were found in HSD, located at the edge of the flood plain of Horse Creek, on the north-west corner of the NW NW Sec. 24, T. 72, R. 43 west of the 5th P.M.

During the summer of 1938 McDowell partly excavated three sites, H3X-38, H3X-39 and H3L, the two first in SE NE Sec. 13, the last in SE NW Sec. 24. In none of these was the work systematically done, - they "just dug". Though we visited the work several times we got but little information of value, owing to their inability to carry out our instructions as to systematic digging. Their memory, too, was hazy as to location of finds, and their habit of covering up on one day what they had excavated the previous one obscured the record. One disarranged burial was found apparently at the floor level in H3X-39.

In 1940 Swearington appears to have done but little but McDowell, assisted by some of the other "boys" to whom he gave some small compensation, continued the work, excavating H3B and H3C, both in Sec. 13. Of the finds in H3B, which appears to have been mostly broken pottery, we have but little information except from correspondence with Paul Rowe who visited the excavation a few times during the summer.

The following is taken in part verbatim from his letters:

"Francis (McDowell) and Lee (Swearington) dug the "Hog House" site together. (This was H3B) I did not get there at any time when the work was in such shape that I could get a plan of it. It had many pits - I do not know how many. "Bone work from the site includes; one 4 X 1/2 in. crooked needle; the point of a fish hook; a blank from which two hooks would have been made, cut from the cannon bone of a deer; a double pointed cone - gorget (?); ten awls from 2 to 8 and 3/4 inches in length and from very slender to to 3/4 inch wide.



"Two bears fangs; a knife made from a shoulder blade; three shoulder blade digging implements - one of them large; two antler flaking implements; and a piercing implement, 8 and 1/2 inches long, of bone or antler, ornamented by a carved bird head on the end opposite the point."

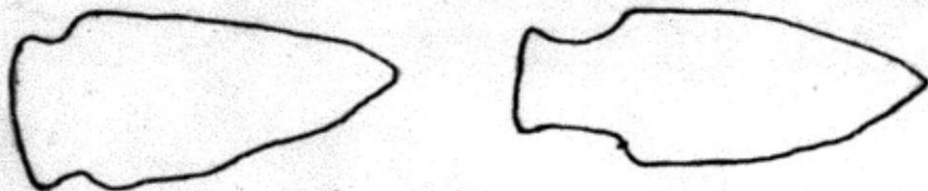
H3C appears to have been excavated by McDowell alone and he did a much better job than on any previous house, cleaning all the earth out of the house pit, uncovering the floor features - post holes, storage-refuse pits, etc. - enabling Rowe to make a plat of the plan, drawn to a scale.

This site is known to the "boys" as "the sweet potato house" site. It is located on a spur of the upland and some previous digging had been done by "relic hunters".

There was no clay plaster (daub) on the side walls of the house pit. "There was plenty of earth burned red", but plaster found by us on the walls of houses excavated in '38 did not color in burning.

The house was approximately 30 X 30 feet with square corners. Wall posts, as indicated by the post holes, were 3 to 4 inches in diameter, and spaced 12 to 17 inches apart. Interior posts and a few at the corners were 6 to 7 inches in diameter. The plat of the plan will show the location of all the posts, both wall and interior as well as storage-refuse pits and fireplace.

On the floor ~~was found~~ was found not so much broken pottery - grit tempered, round bottomed, unornamented except on the vertical, flaring, recurved and collared rims of which only a few were found; of flint there were a few lance and large poorly worked arrow-heads; a few bone awls; and much burned earth.



Roughly flaked lance heads from floor of H3C.

In the filled in earth above the floor was a small sherd of Woodland pottery, a shell bead, and two matched clam shells

Pit " 1 contained a lot of clean, hard gray ashes, 5 arrow heads, 1 drill and 3 scrapers, all roughly flaked.

Pit " 2 contained 12 hematite paint rocks and a couple of gallons of angular granite and quartzite pieces.

Pit # 3 - possibly only a post hole - contained 1 flat cylinder bead and half of an elbow pottery pipe, with extended base, split vertically lengthwise.

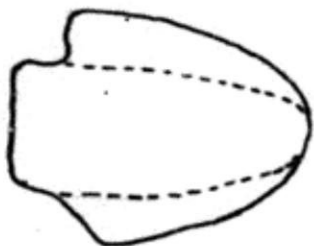
Pits 4 and 5 might also be post holes but each yielded several crudely flaked flints.

Pit # 6 is under the fence that crosses the site from east to west near its south side. In it was a scapula spade, much used, 12 X 6 and 3/4 inches, with two triangular notches cut in one edge before use ceased. Just above this pit was a 5 and 1/4 inch long bone awl.

From the fireplace came two fragments of horn (trumpet) shaped clay pipes, part of a shell pendant and the joint end cut off a deer's cannon bone.

Other inclusions from the floor were; a broken beaver's tooth; 2 fine lozenge shaped flint knives; part of a lance head; a lozenge-shaped knife from near pit # 1; a well made bone tool 9.4 inches long X .7 wide and .3 thick; found near the east end of the north house wall.

Rowe tells in his second letter of re-chipped broken Folsom flint, a field find from the Institution farm and gives an outline of it, which see below. Note that the long flake extends to what is now the point. It would appear that both point and base of the original piece had been broken off and both re-worked.



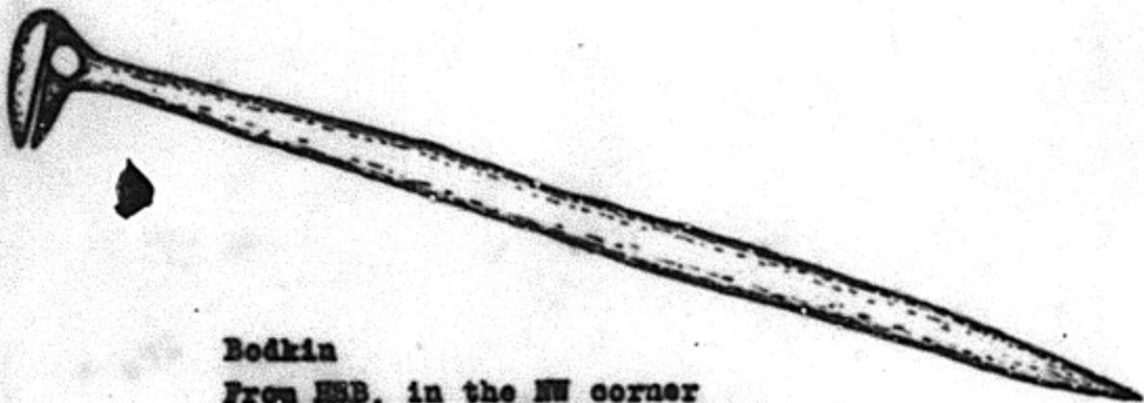
Outline of broken Folsom point,  
re-worked.  
Field find from the farm connected with the State Institution for the Feeble-Minded at Glenwood, Mills county, Ia.  
1940



Floor of House Site C showing post holes, storage-refuse pits and fire-place - at McDowell's left, from which the ash bed has been removed.

McDowell is holding a large rim sherd of the Nebraska phase pottery - very much the most common in all the Mills county area house sites - in his hands.

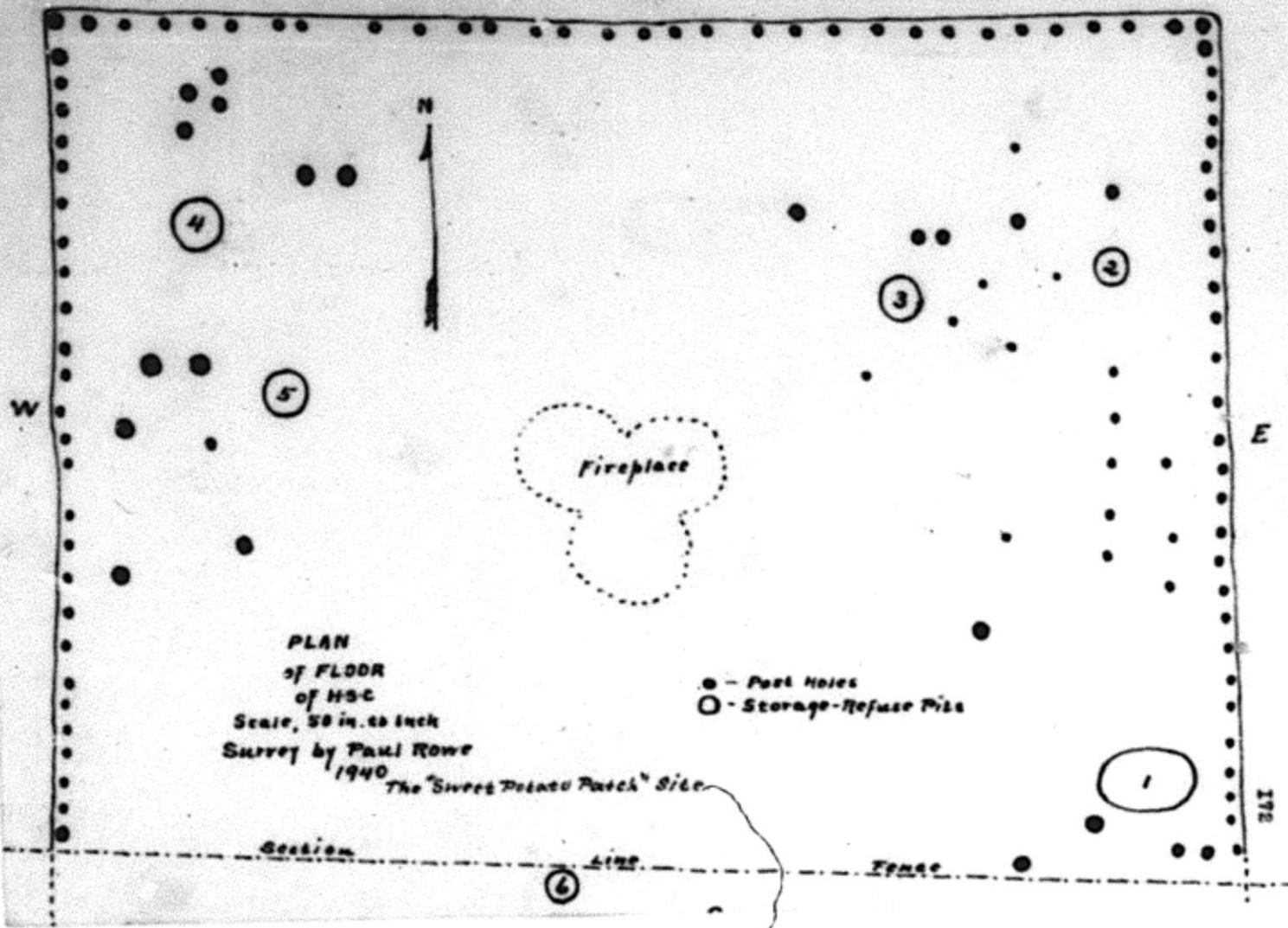
Looking east.



**Bodkin**

From HSB, in the NW corner  
of the NW NW Sec. 24, T. 72, R. 43  
west of the 5th P.M.  
Glenwood Earth Lodge area.

N.



PLAN  
 of FLOOR  
 of HSC  
 Scale, 50 in. to Inch  
 Survey by Paul Rowe  
 1940  
 The "Sweet Potato Patch" Side

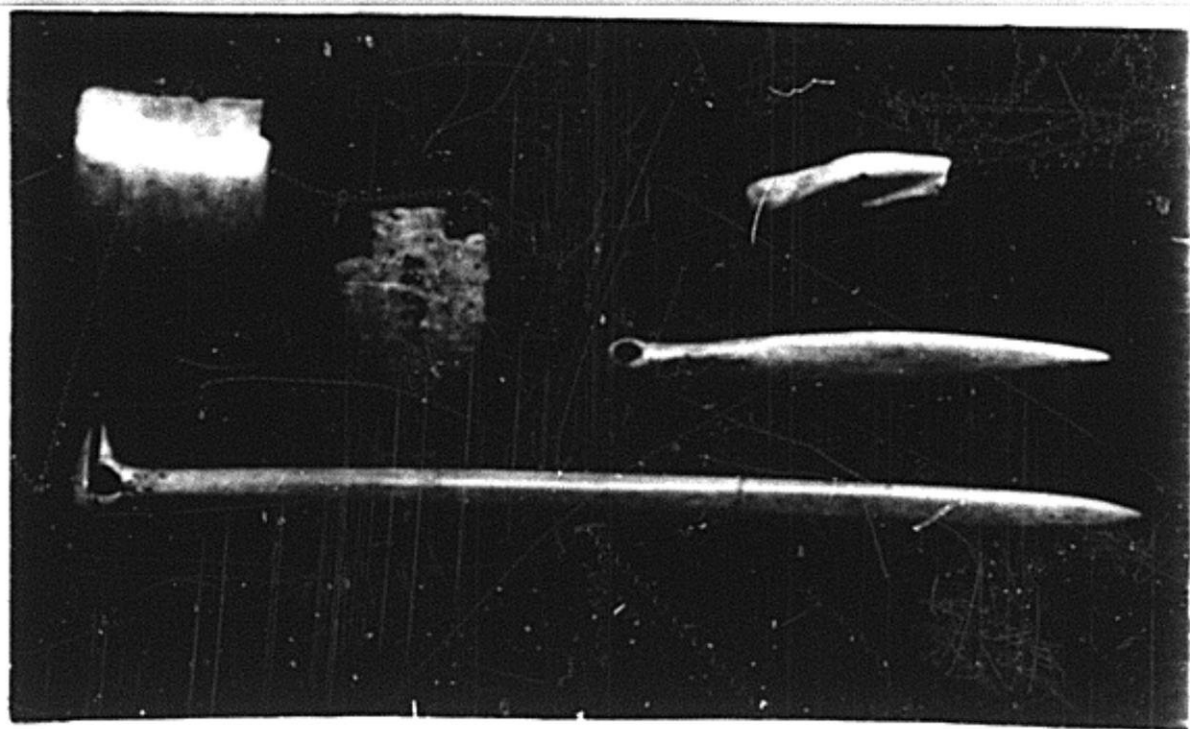
● - Post Holes  
 ○ - Storage-Refuse Pits

Section

Line

Fence

172



Pre-historic Bone Ornaments from Earth Lodges  
on the Farm of the Institution for the Feeble-minded at  
Glenwood, Iowa.

The long bodkin with the bird's head is from HSB, the  
"Hog House Site", and its actual length is Eight and one-  
half inches.

The wide awl (?) with a perforation at end is from  
HSX-39 - the lodge site nearest the garden greenhouse.

Other objects are from one or the other of these two  
sites - which one is not known.

Excavated by Francis McDowell during summers of 1938  
and 1939

House Site, "Dig No. 13."  
On the Farm of the Institution for the Feeble-minded  
Glenwood, Iowa.

House Site, "Dig No. 13."

On the NE NE Sec. 24, T. 72, R. 43 west of the 5th P.M., 400 ft. west and 100 ft. south of the corner to Secs 13 and 24, T. 72, R. 43 and 18 and 19, T. 72, R. 42, in the N and S road at 1/2 mile south of the greenhouse on the Institution farm.

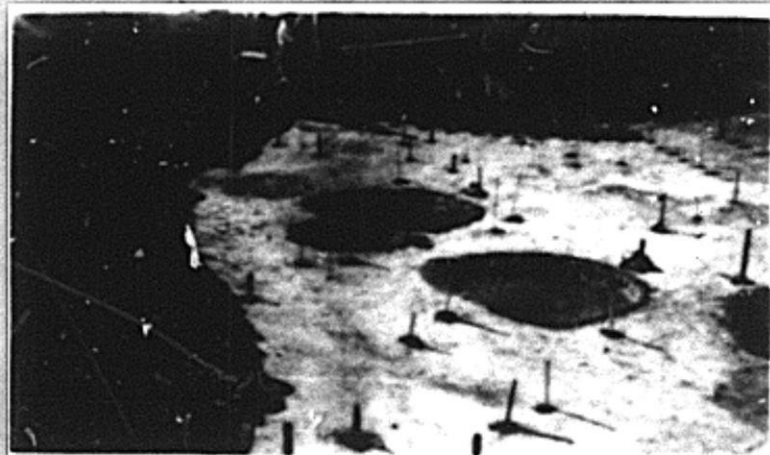
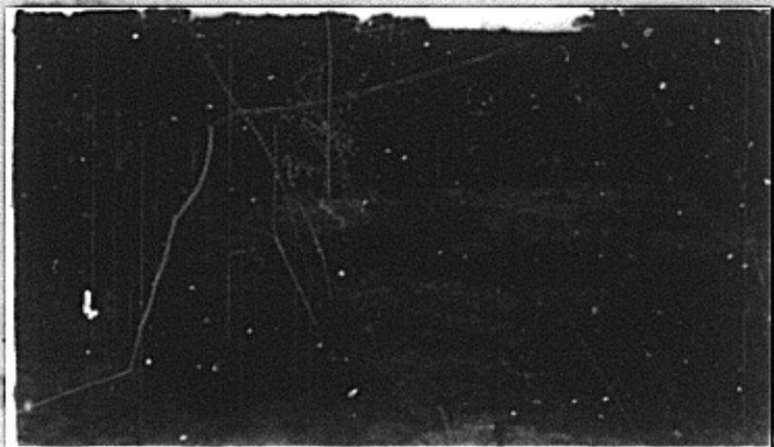
This H. S. was excavated during the summer of 1943 by Francis McDowell and Lee Sweaingen inmates of the Institution.

Paul Rowe visited the work several times while it was in progress. He made an accurate plat of the post moulds, the storage-refuse pits and the fireplace and wrote us in considerable detail about the material recovered which included nothing outstanding or unusual. The pottery which was all of the Glenwood culture and not enough of any one pot was found for a reconstruction. Worked flint could not be said to be common, and all bone inclusions was badly decayed. One good small arrow-shaft smoother was found, and one flint celt.

The average diameter was about 43 x 28 ft. and the depth, 26 inches. The fireplace was 26 inches in diameter. No entrance was located.

Photographs by Paul Rowe.

H.S. "Dig No. 13."  
Looking east.



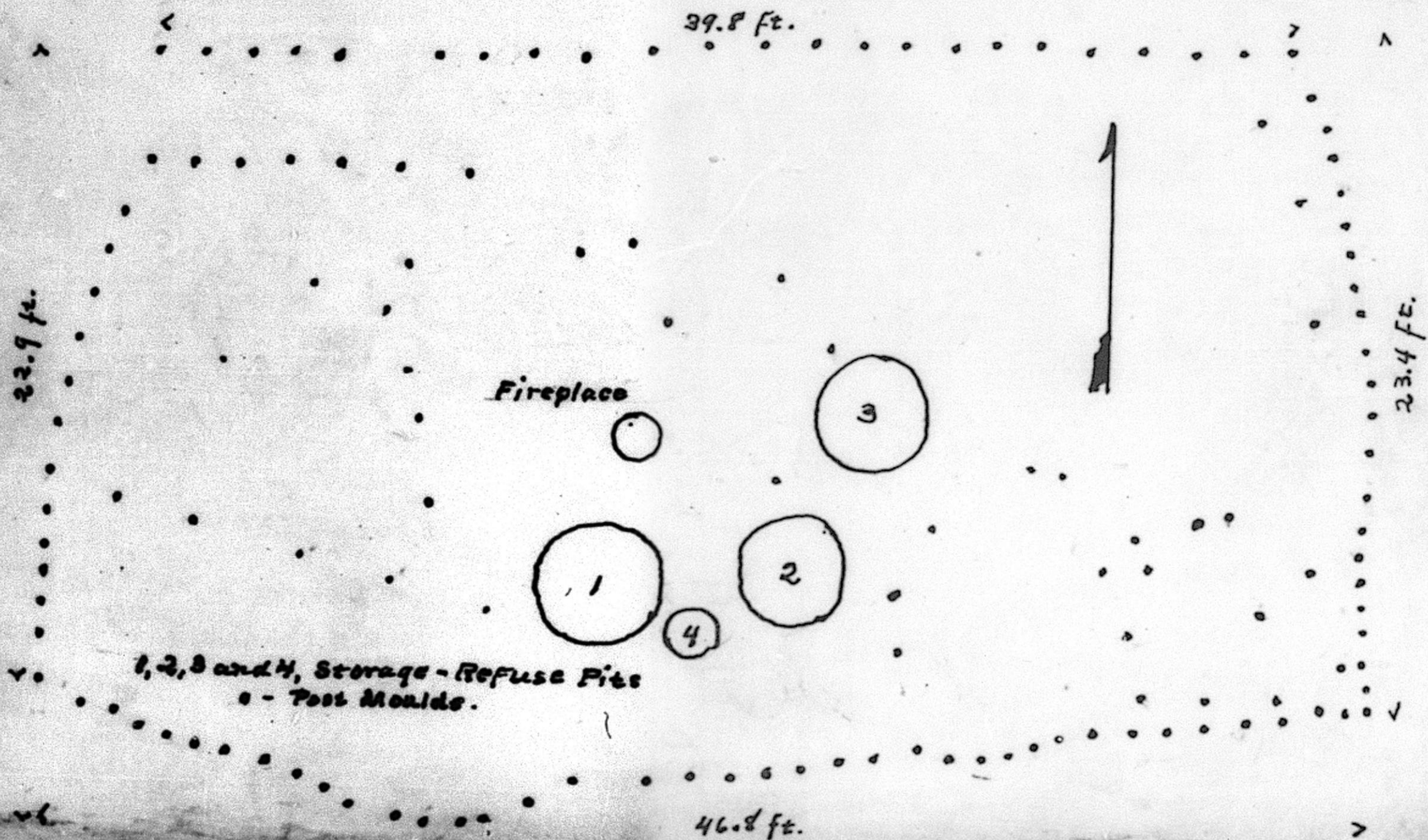
H.S. "Dig No. 13."  
Looking west.

# PLAT OF HOUSE SITE - "DIG NO 13"

By Francis McDowell & Lee Sweatingen

Survey by Paul Rowe.  
1943

Scale, 5 ft. to Inch.





Earth Lodge, H.S. - E  
On the Farm of the Institution for the Feeble-Minded  
Glenwood, Iowa.

NW NW Sec. 24



Four knives from cache N, with other objects. All from HS-E

**Earth Lodge - H.S.-E**

On The "Institution for the Feeble-Minded" Farm  
at Glenwood, in Mills county, Iowa.

On the NW NW Sec. 24, T. 72, R. 43 west of the 5th P.M.  
where the foot of the gently sloping north bluff and  
valley meet.

Excavated during the summer of 1941 by Francis McDowell

To be noted is the large number of flints, particularly  
arrow-heads; the "pyramid of lead; fragments of Galena;  
absence of chopping tools, - celts and axes; and for  
the variety of potsherds. Two pipes were found.

This site was indicated on the surface by the large num-  
ber of hand "niggerhead" boulders.

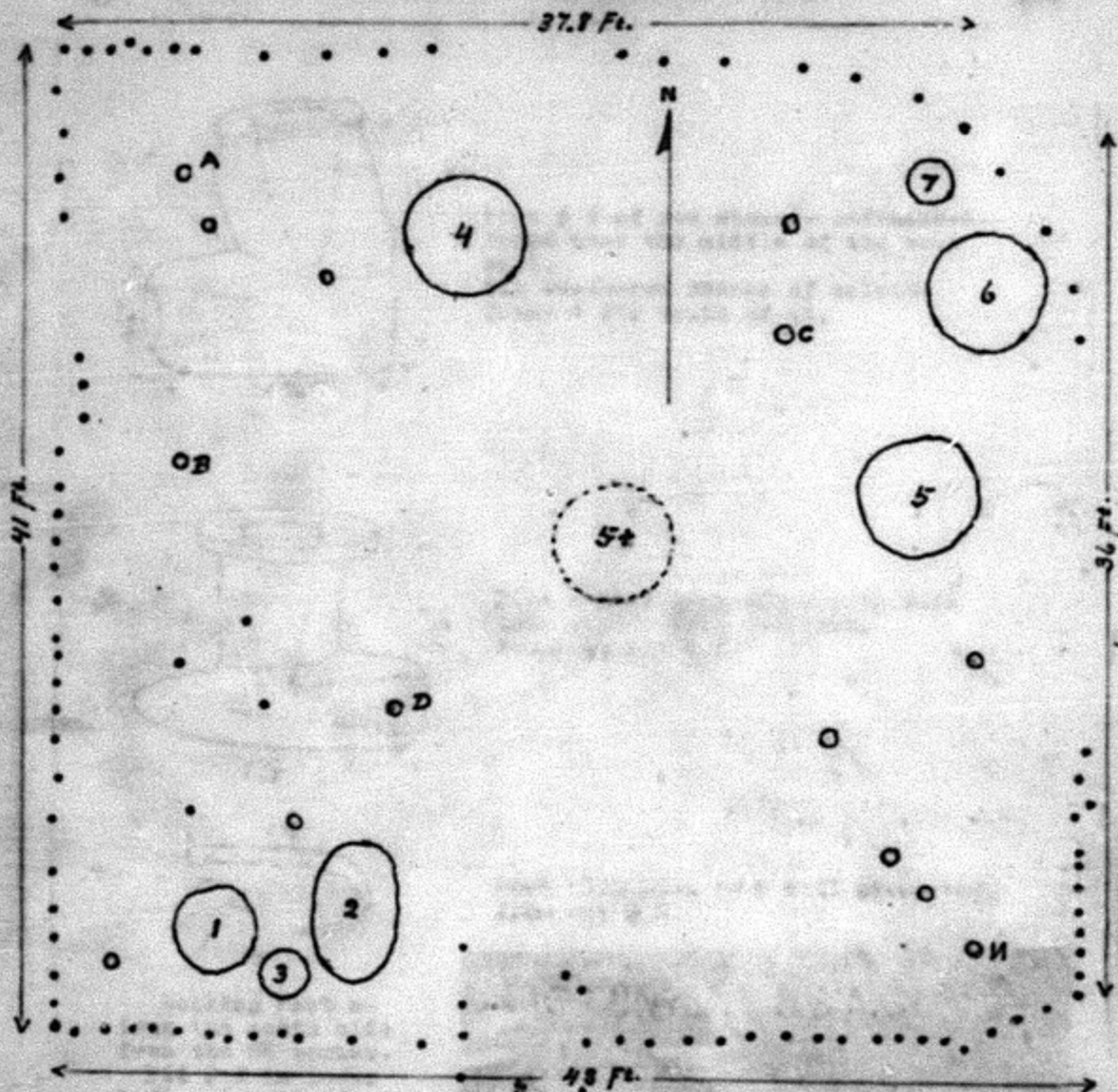
It is also to be noted that HS-D located like HS-E near the  
point of contact of the gentle slope of the bluff to the  
north with the level flood plain of Horse Creek was also  
very rich in its content of refuse and discarded mater-  
ial, three of the whole pots now in the collection of ma-  
terial recovered by Francis McDowell retained by the  
Institution being found in it.

If McDowell, to some extent assisted by Paul Rowe, were cor-  
rect in their location of post holes, then it might be  
concluded that the house had been old and unsafe, and  
that some of these were set to give additional support  
to the roof.

The "Big weathered chunks of calcite found near the west  
wall were also a very unusual find.

PLAN of HOUSE SITE - B  
By Paul Rowe. 1941.

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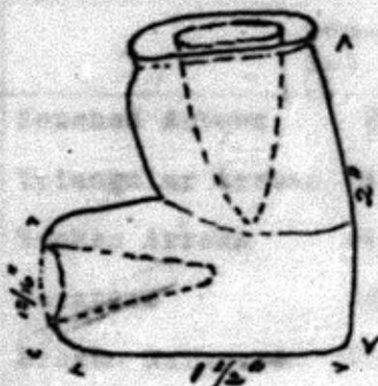


At Post D - a charred  
stump of post.  
Near Post B - a pipe -  $\frac{1}{2}$  I"  
At Post H - a cache of flints.  
At Post D - Abundant evidence  
of fire - probably of roof  
supports.  
At a little S. of Post D - a  
"pyramid of lead".

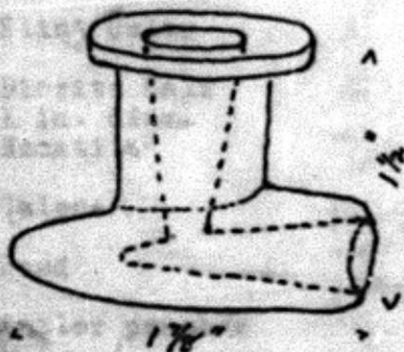
O - Large Post Hole.  
o - Small Post hole.

Pit # 1 - 42 in. X 32 in. X 36 in.  
Pit # 2 - 35 in. X 68 in. X 18 in.  
Pit # 3 - 24 in. X 24 in.  
Pit # 4 - 60 in. X 60 in. X 56 in.  
Pit # 5 - 60 X 60 X 56 in.  
Pit # 6 - 59 in. X 59 in. X 40 in.  
Pit # 7 - 24 in. X 24 in. X 18 in.  
Pit # 5+ - about 8 ft. in diameter

Scale - 60 in. to Inch.



Pipe # 1 of red stone - unfinished.  
Found near the middle of the west  
wall.  
Big weathered chunks of calcite  
found 4 ft. south of it.

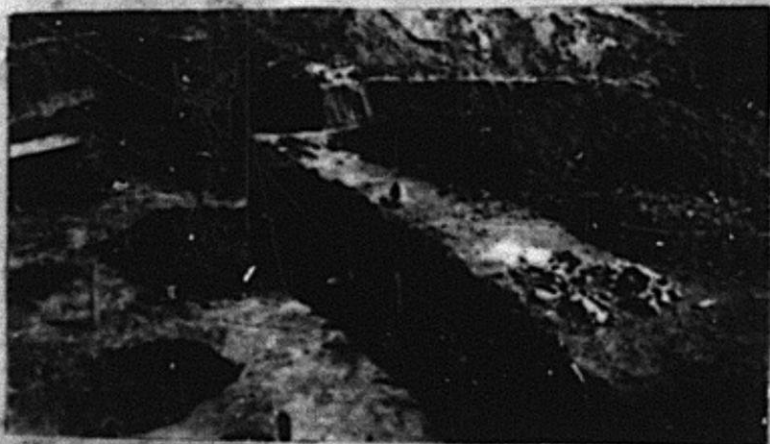


Pipe # 2 of gray stone with wide  
thin rim. Well finished.  
Found in Pit # 5.



Bone fish hook very well preserved.  
From Pit # 5.

Looking east a-  
long the south side  
from the SW corner.  
Pit # 1 in lower  
left and part of  
Pit # 2 back of it.  
SE corner in left  
background. En-  
trance at back center.  
Stakes indicate  
post holes.



Tabulation of Pre-Historic Material found in Storage- refuse  
Pits and on Floor of HS-B. By Paul Rowe.  
Excavated by Francis McDowell, 1941.

	Gene- ral	Pit # 1	Pit # 2	Pit # 3	Pit # 4	Pit # 5	Pit # 6	Pit # 7	Total
Notched Arrows	9	2			2				13
Triangular Arrows	21	10			5	1			37
Broken Arrows	19	6				3			28
Scrapers	29	6			9	9			53
Broken Scrapers	20	10	2		6	4	5	5	51
Knives					2	3	2		7
Broken Knives	19	14			8	29	4	3	77
Flint Celts	1					1	1		3
Diorite Ball 1 in. diam.	1								1
Hematite	17	4			5	5	4		36
Galena	13	1	1	1	1	1		1	19
Bead						1			1
Antler punches						2	1		3
Pipes, whole	1					1			2
Pipes, broken	1								1
Fish hook - bone						1			1
Awl - bone						1			1
Shoulder blades		3		1	1				3 2
Arrow-shaft straighteners	3	3		2			1	1	9 1
Pottery sherds red bowls									3
Pottery sherds orange bowl									5
Pottery - other									

Large number - Glenwood types

General - from all parts of  
excavation - mostly from floor

In response to our request for further information on some points, Mr. Rowe writes; ~~burned earth~~

That there was "Lots of ~~it~~ south-east from the center. In spots burned earth and charcoal was 8 inches thick."

That there was "No carbonized corn, seeds or other carbonized vegetable matter reported to him as found."

That animal bones were "fairly abundant but many badly decayed."

That "small nigger-head boulders were common especially in Pit " 4."

That "Many clam shells were found in Pit " I and some in all parts."

That the indications were "That the house was burned."