

Wisarch News



The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Archeological Society

Volume 12, Number 2. Fall 2012

Celebrate 110 Years of the Wisconsin Archeological Society



Chapter Presidents, Directors, and Advisors

Joe Monarski
Dick Mason
John Broihahn
Sara Pfannkuche
Robert Nurre
Jeremy Cobble
Andy Feldpausch

The Wisconsin Archeological Society in 2013 will be celebrating its 110th Anniversary as one of the nations oldest, and continuous running archaeological organizations in the country. In the soon to come spring 2013 newsletter we will highlight some of the activities being planned around the state .

Key Elected Society Officers

President : Kurt Sampson
ksampson2@wi.rr.com
President Elect: Open
Secretary: Jake Pfaffenroth
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Treasure: Jake Rieb
wastreasury@gmail.com

The Wisconsin Archeological Society has a new webpage home:

www.wiarcheologicalsociety.org

Please renew your membership for 2013.

WAS Committees & Chairs

Preservation of Sites

Chair : Robert Nurre
Kurt Sampson
Jeremy Cobble
John Broihahn

Mark Bruhy
Amy Rosebrough
Thomas Sutter

Editorial

Chair: Kent Dickerson
Joe Tiffany
Vicki Twinde-Javner
Kathy Stevenson

Programs

C0-Chairs: Mark
Bruhy & Katie Eagan
Bruhy

Committees and Chairs Continued:

Awards

Chair: Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt

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Robert Nurre

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Kurt Sampson (ex-officio)

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Heather Walder

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Amy Rosebrough

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Nominations & Elections

Chair: John Broihahn

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Mark Bruhy

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Kurt Sampson (ex-officio)

Multi Media

(Facebook & Website)

Chair: Jake Pfaffenroth

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Kurt Sampson 9ex-officio)

Thomas Pleger

Thomas.pleger@uwc.edu

Education Outreach

Chair: Jaremy Cobble

jcobble@excel.net

Anyone interested in joining any committee please contact the committee chair listed directly or WAS President Kurt Sampson.

A message from the President Kurt A. Sampson

Dear Wisconsin Archeological Society members, board or directors, and advisors,

Happy holidays and happy new year to you all. I would first like to start by thanking Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt for all his hard work and great leadership over the past two years in helping to guide the Wisconsin Archeological Society back to a healthy state. Ernie has recently been appointed to chair the awards committee, and has been working hard to clarify society requirements for nominations of both the Ritzenthaler and Lapham awards. I would also like to thank everyone else who was involved in any aspect of the society including all the WAS chapter presidents, committee chairs, directors, and advisors. Without your work and support the society cannot function at a high level. I look forward to working with everyone on the many challenging and exciting issues that we will face in the coming years. I would also like to welcome our newest chapter of the Wisconsin Archeological Society in La Crosse. This chapter is the first entirely student run chapter at UW-La Crosse and MVAC. Our society spring meeting is slated to be held in La Crosse this spring. The date and details of this spring meeting will be announced shortly after our 2013 budget and round table meeting next Saturday, January 5th. A spring 2013 newsletter is already in the works and will highlight the proceedings from the 2013 budget meeting, planning for our 110 year anniversary events, and meeting for this next year.

We had a very successful fall meeting held in Fort Atkinson at the Hoard Museum. Some of the highlights from this meeting are as follows: A reevaluation of the mission of the Wisconsin Archeological Society, a proposed increase in funding to both the Preservation of Sites Committee and the WAS Research Awards, and the development of a new Educational and Outreach Committee to be chaired by Jaremy Cobble. These are just a few of the many issues that were discussed in the fall round table discussions. Many of these issue we will vote upon at the upcoming Budget meeting. I encourage all voting board members to please make arrangements to attend this January 5th meeting.

Kurt Sampson

Finding Lost Mounds with the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder

By: Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt

Introduction

The use of aerial photographs for archaeological research has been practiced for decades. Until recently, aerial photograph analysis required having physical access to the desired print images through repositories such as the Robinson Map Library at UW-Madison, and visual examination with the aid of magnifying glasses and stereoscopic viewers for three dimensional perspectives. Recently, the first statewide series of over 38,000 black and white aerial photographs for Wisconsin were scanned, digitized and made available for free internet access in the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder (*WHAIfinder*) at <http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/>. This user-friendly tool greatly facilitates potential research into Wisconsin's landscape for the period between 1937 and 1941.

The Finder provides a searchable map of the state so one can zoom into specific locations and identify corresponding available air photos. Alternate search methods include addresses, place names, geographic names, or by entering Township/Range/Section. Typically the 1937-41 images were produced from flight transects that produced overlapping coverage, so specific locations may often be viewed from slightly different angles on adjacent images. Searching the Finder for specific locations will bring up thumbnail images of all photographs that cover that area. Each image is labeled with original flight transect and image number along with the date taken. Individual photos can be downloaded as small and large jpps to higher resolution extra-large tifs with the latter set approximating 25-35 mb each. Downloaded pictures can then be re-opened in graphics programs such as Adobe Photoshop or Power Point for zooming in and out, cropping, adjusting brightness and contrast levels to enhance surface features and soil shade contrasts, and adding markers and labels. Depending on the quality of the original aerial photograph, vegetation cover, season taken (e.g. leaf off or on), soil conditions, and other factors, it is sometimes possible to observe archaeological features such as mounds, including some that were already under cultivation.

Below are a few examples of positive results from informal experimentation with the *WHAIfinder* over the past year. These include both extant and plowed mounds, part of the Aztalan stockade while under cultivation, and quarry pits. Some of the observed mound features were previously known, but in one case distinctive effigy mound stains were discovered at a site where no mounds had been previously recorded. At other site locations where I anticipated seeing mounds or mound shadows, nothing was observed, probably due as much to unsatisfactory conditions at the time of the aerial photography flyovers.

Results

Diamond Bluff (47Pi0002): One of the most spectacular examples of visible mound features that can be found in the *WHAIfinder* are remnants of the extensive complex at the Diamond Bluff site in Pierce County. Theodore Lewis mapped 396 mounds on this outlier Pleistocene outwash terrace in 1887 and suggested at least another 150 that were already under cultivation. Hard copies of 1939 aerial photographs were used in conjunction with historic maps and accounts by Christopher Svec (1987) to document the gradual plowing of most of this group with the exception of the northwest tip of the terrace. That portion of the June 20, 1939 *WHAIfinder* image (Roll 5, Exposure 21) is reproduced here as Figure 1. It shows approximately 40 extant mounds at the western tip of the Diamond Bluff Terrace, including the famous Panther Mound #26 that was excavated by Moreau Maxwell and the Wisconsin Archaeological Survey in 1948 and found to contain early varieties of Upper Mississippian pottery (Rodell 1991). In addition, numerous lighter soil colored ovals and circles represent mound shadows in the adjacent cultivated field, many of which correspond with pre-cultivation survey records of Theodore Lewis from 1887 (Svec 1987).

Aztalan (47Je0001): The *WHAIfinder* air photos that cover Aztalan in Jefferson County were taken on July 27, 1937 when the site remained in cultivation long after Increase Lapham's mid 19th century mapping and some years after Samuel Barrett's 1919 and 1930 excavations (Barrett 1933), and well before becoming a state park. The 1937 coverage of Aztalan can be found on Roll 10, Exposures 863-865. Exposure 864 is most centered on the fortified village. Zooming in on the site reveals a right angle line as a lighter soil stain which corresponds exactly to the northwest corner of the stockade as mapped by Lapham and partially excavated by Barrett (Figure 2). The north end of the stockade can be seen eastward all the way to the Crawfish River. In addition, a lighter rectangle inside the northwest corner may depict the northwest pyramidal mound.

Neale Mounds (47Mq0049): The *WHAIfinder* air photos for the area encompassing the Neale Mound Group in Marquette County were taken on April 22, 1938 a mere 10 years following mapping and excavation by Will McKern and the Milwaukee Public Museum (McKern 1928). The top left map in Figure 3 is a facsimile of McKern's published map of the mounds. The central image is on Roll 12, Exposure 985 and zooming in on the site area reveals shadows of at least nine mounds in the eastern most cultivated field (see Figure 3, bottom). These include the long straight tail of a panther (Mound 7) a smaller quadruped (Mound 5), and a fairly clear outline of a two birds (Mounds 4 and 6) and others that appear as slighter soil stains in the generally dark soils of this field. Other mounds, including a circular enclosure, that were mapped by McKern to the west are not clear in a lighter colored field, while a cluster of conical and effigies is also difficult to see in a partially wooded area at the very west end of the complex.

Page Point Village (47Mq0142): Looking further east along the south shore of Buffalo Lake on Roll 12 exposure 986 revealed a distinctive light stains in the form of panther and an adjacent partial linear or panther tail with a sharp hook in a cultivated field (Figure 4). These clear mound stains correspond with previously reported Page Point Village site (47Mq0142), which was described as a "continuous camp site based on a 1918 survey by Samuel Barrett. Notably, the Archaeological Site Inventory record for this site made no mention of mounds. Based on the clear evidence of effigy mounds on the 1938 air photo, a site update notice has been submitted to the State Archaeologists Office to add burial site status. Other possible mounds including two conical, a linear, and an oval are visible in uncultivated areas immediately to the west.

Silver Mound (47Ja0021): Finally, air photos taken on April 28, 1939 (Roll 4, Exposures 79 and 80) encompass Silver Mound, source of Hixton Silicified Sandstone (Carr and Boszhardt 2010) in Jackson County. Examination of these revealed at least one cluster of probable quarry pits in cultivated fields (Figure 5) that are adjacent to localities where pristine aboriginal quarry pits remain in woodlots today. These appear as dark rounded stains and are similar to prehistoric quarry pits first seen in air photos at the Grand Meadow chert source in south-central Minnesota in the early 1980s (Trow 1980).

Summary and Conclusion

Certainly, indications of many additional prehistoric and early historic archaeological features were captured on the 1937-1941 statewide air photos of Wisconsin. Because these are now readily available via the *WHAIfinder* program, access and digital enhancing to clarify the nature of some features is very feasible and convenient for research. Some of the features encountered will already be known from other documentation, while new discoveries such as the effigy mounds at 47Mq0142 remain untapped. If you do explore this research tool and encounter archaeological features it is important to report them to the State Archaeologist's Office at the Wisconsin Historical Society so that they can be added to the statewide database of archaeological knowledge. Also, everyone should be aware that all burial sites in Wisconsin are protected by Wisconsin's Burial Law (Statute 157.70), and all sites on any public land are covered under Statute 44.47(4) (see <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/archaeology/osa/> for further information).

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Finding Lost Mounds with the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder

By: Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt

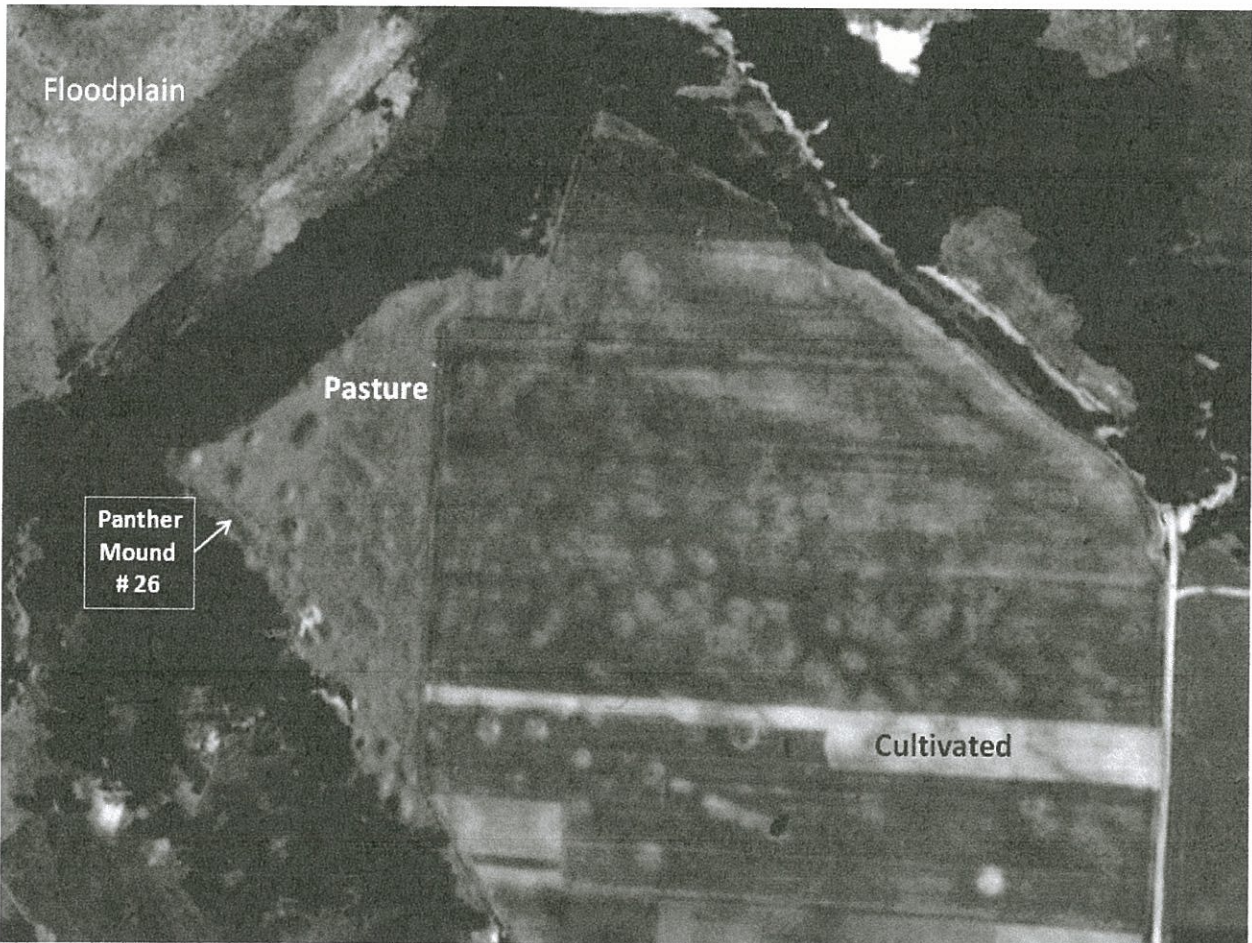


Figure 1: Extant and plowed mound features at the northwest end of the Diamond Bluff site as revealed on enlarged, cropped, and contrast enhanced June 20, 1939 WHAIfinder image (Roll 5, Exposure 21).

Finding Lost Mounds with the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder

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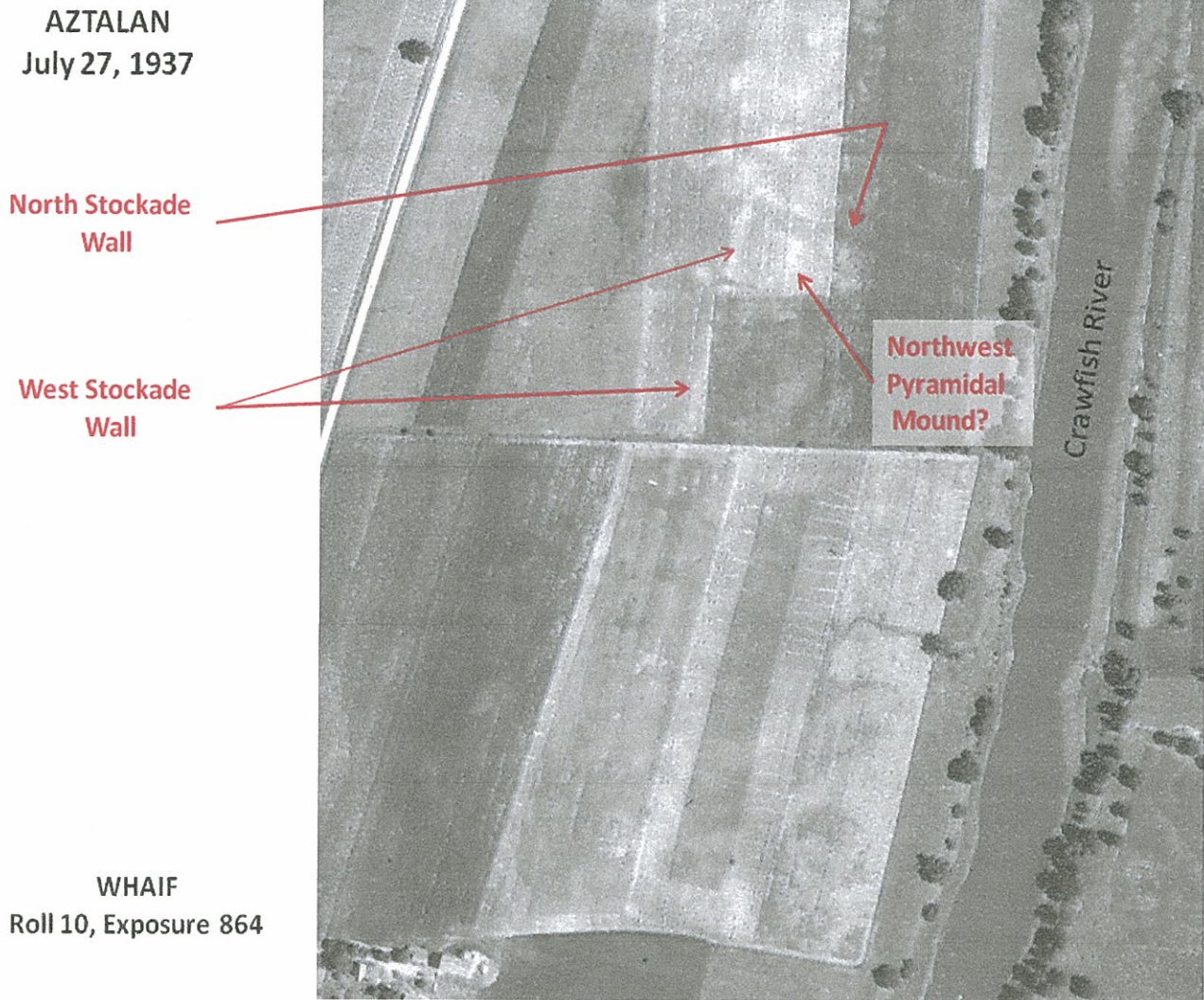


Figure 2: Northwest corner of the Aztalan Stockade in crop field on enlarged and cropped WHAIFinder image from July 27, 1837 (Roll 10, Exposure 864).

Finding Lost Mounds with the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder

By: Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt

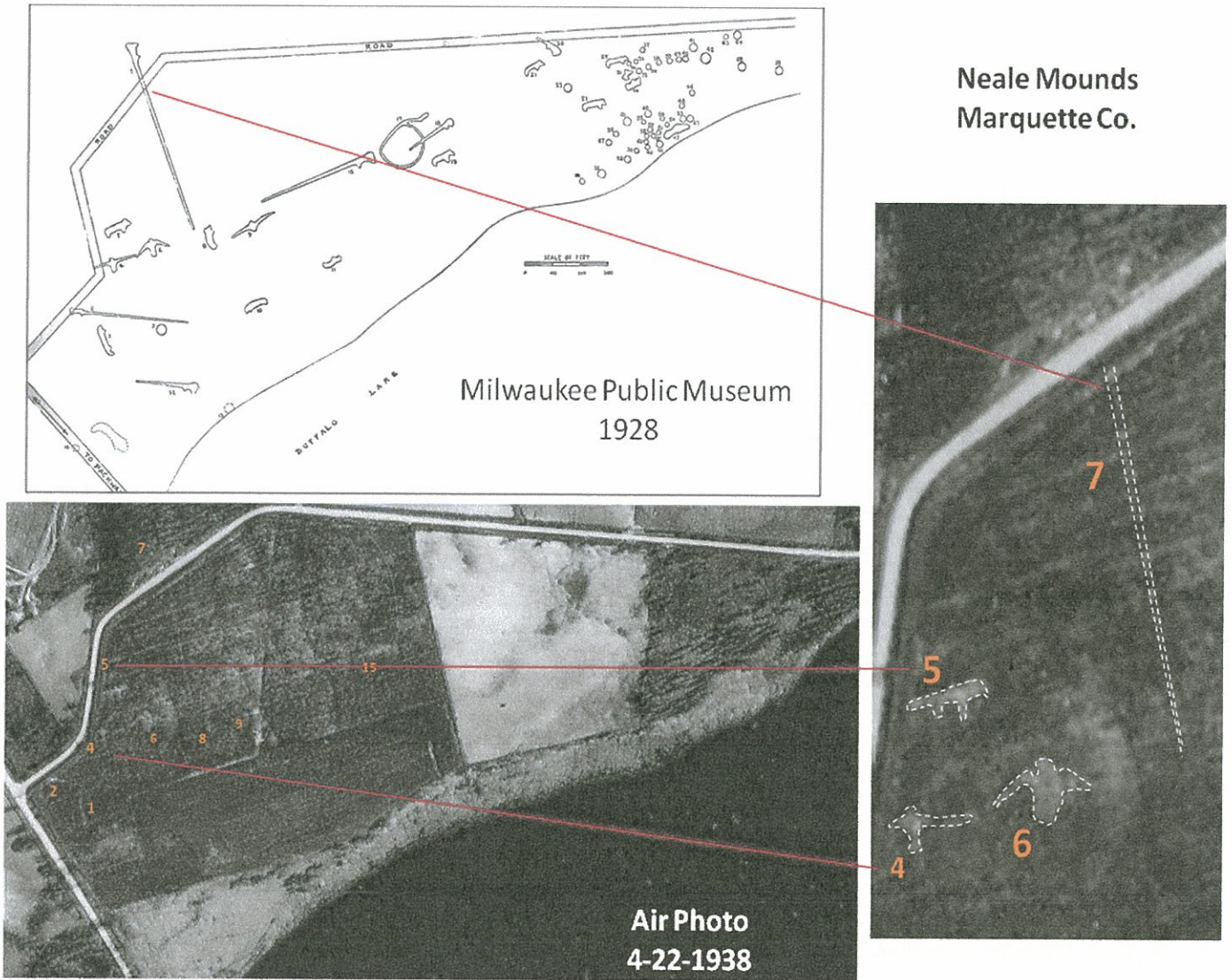
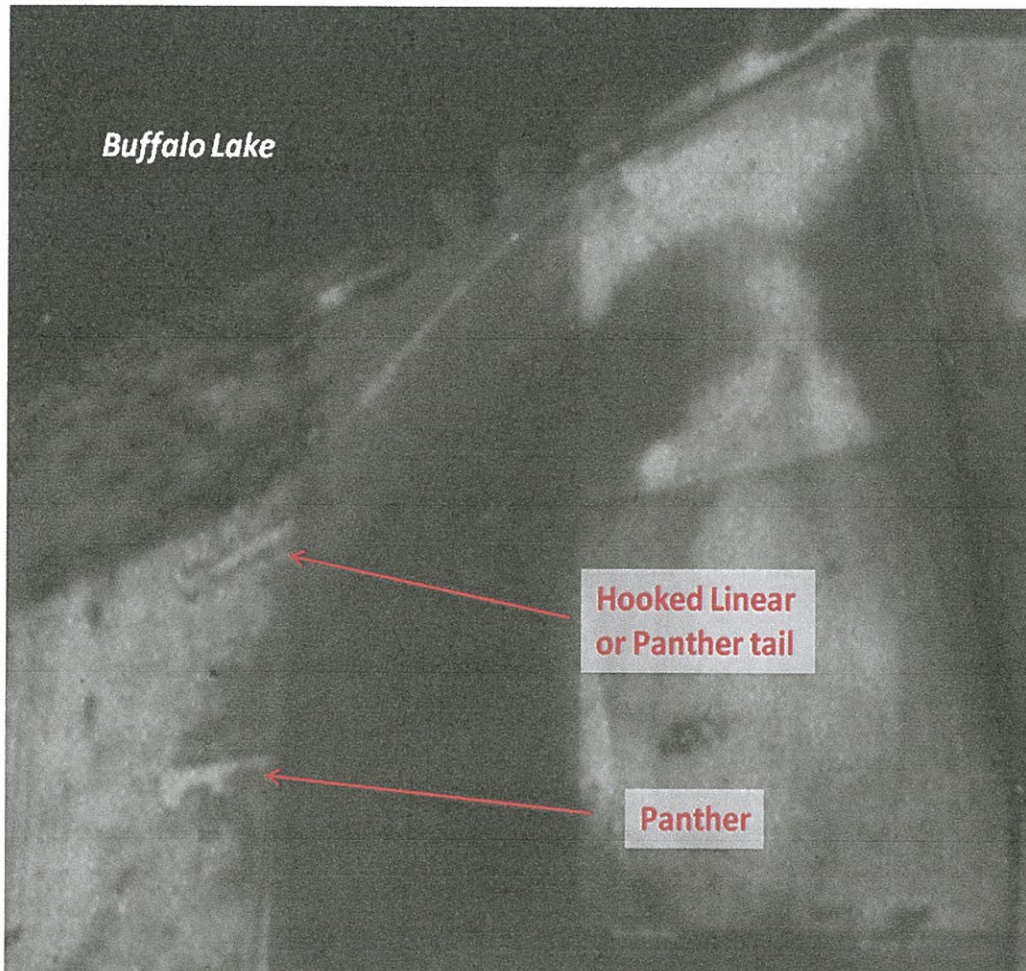


Figure 3: Mounds shadows in cultivated field at the Neale Mound Group evident in enlarged, cropped and contrast enhanced version of an April 22, 1938 WHAIfinder image (Roll 12, Exposure 985).

Finding Lost Mounds with the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder

By: Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt



1938 air photo (Roll 12, Exp. 986) showing probable unreported mounds. at 47Mq0142

Figure 4: Previously unreported effigy mounds in cultivated field at the Page Point Village site on enlarged, cropped, and contrast enhanced version of WHAIfinder image (Roll 12, Exposure 986) also

Finding Lost Mounds with the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder

By: Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt



1939 air photo (Roll *, Exp. *) of fields adjacent to Silver Mound in Jackson County with a cluster of probable aboriginal quarry pits outlined in red.

Figure 5: Cluster of probable aboriginal quarry pits in cultivated field adjacent to Silver Mound on enlarged and cropped WHAIfinder image taken April 28, 1939 (Roll 4, Exposure 80).

Archaeology at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin: The Missing Years

by Marlin F. Hawley, Museum Archaeology Program, Wisconsin Historical Society

In their admirable history of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, *Clio's Servant*, Clifford L. Lord and Carl Ubbelohde, present a curious elision when it comes to the history of archaeology at the Society. Lord, the Society director from 1946 to 1958 and Ubbelohde, for three years Lord's research assistant and ultimately co-author of the book, were, obviously, deeply knowledgeable of the Society's history and inner workings. Yet, in terms of archaeology, the pair leap from Charles E. Brown, who had anchored archaeology from his arrival in 1908 to his retirement in 1944, to this statement:

The Society's once great interest in archaeology also revived. At the suggestion of Professors William W. Howells and David Baerreis of the [UW] anthropology department, the Society established an anthropological fellowship in 1949, held alternately for a few years by Robert Hall and Warren Wittry (Lord and Ubbelohde 1967:450).

The implication is that the Society in the years from 1944 to 1949 lacked in archaeological expertise. Whatever the reason for their omission, nothing could be farther from the truth. Anchoring the discipline in those years were Suzanne Whitelaw Miles and Mary D. (Kneil) Sward, both curators of anthropology.

Charles E. Brown, autodidact, pioneering folklorist, archaeologist and museum builder, was lured from the Milwaukee Public Museum in 1908 by the Society's director, Reuben Gold Thwaites. Upon his arrival in Madison, Brown took control of museum, then mostly a hodgepodge of everything from coins and Native American artifacts of all kinds to rocks and fossils. Under his direction, the museum began an aggressive collection campaign, it purged inappropriate materials, added casework and lights and maps and labels. Simultaneously, Brown, a principal in the founding of the Wisconsin Archeological Society, served as its secretary, edited *The Wisconsin Archeologist*, collected data, travelled, surveyed, dug, taught, lectured on the radio, and led in preservation of the state's beleaguered effigy mounds. In short, Brown was a dynamo and through his twin roles for the two societies, from 1908 until his retirement, he was *the* face of public archaeology in Wisconsin.

At the time that Brown retired, the Society had a new director, Edward Alexander, who sought to reverse the corrosive effects of the depression years, setting into motion a sweeping program of modernization. As part of the process, Alexander proposed a detailed inventory of the Society's collections and, to that end, in October 1945 hired Suzanne W. "Sue" Miles, a University of Chicago master's candidate, to direct the inventory of its anthropological holdings. The job was intended to last only as long as it took to complete the project, after which time the Society would no longer employ an anthropologist. At least that was the plan.

Alexander left in 1946, and was shortly replaced by Clifford L. Lord. Whatever plans Alexander had had where archaeology was concerned, these began to change under Lord's tenure. In all likelihood, his hand was forced a bit: in the immediate post-war years archaeology underwent a resurgence in the state; several colleges and the UW hired archaeologists, who at the suggestion of Wisconsin archaeology's elder statesman, W.C. McKern, formed the Wisconsin Archaeological Survey in 1947. Lord was interested in strengthening the Society's ties to the University and to that end quickly recognized the Survey. With Baerreis and Howells, he co-signed its articles of incorporation. In any event, under Lord's tenure Miles was permitted time away from inventory. In 1946, she conducted an archaeological survey of the newly created Point Beach State Forest for the Wisconsin Conservation Department. Although a report on the work has yet to be found, the survey quite probably represents the first professional archaeological work in the state by a woman. Before resigning in 1947 to write her thesis—she then taught at the UW from 1948 to 1950—she drafted a preservation and interpretation plan for the Kingsley Bend Mound Group in Columbia County and advised the Calumet County Park Commission on mounds in and near a proposed park in the county. All the while, she assisted UW students in the use of the anthropology collections, even as she researched copper tools in the Hamilton Collection for a paper of her own, "A Reevaluation of the Old Copper Industry," published in *American Antiquity* in 1951. Robert L. Hall (email to Hawley, October 15, 2010) remembered that Miles "was like a mentor for Warren Wittry and myself" and Robert W. Nero (2001:15-16) warmly recalled her generous assistance and encouragement, as well.

Miles' successor was Mary D. Kneil, a recent graduate from Beloit College. Hired in May 1947, she remained on staff until early 1949. She married in the summer of 1947 and thereafter was Mary Sward. Although her official title was senior clerk, her duties included many of those subsumed under the curator of archaeology and ethnology position vacated by Miles. While tasked variously with inventory, cataloging, exhibit preparation, and museum tours, her background in archaeology did not go unnoticed or unappreciated. In August 1948, construction near Madison cut into a mound at the Outlet site and at the request of the Survey, Sward was dispatched to direct a small crew of UW students to salvage the interments. When Robert Nero found a suspected clay mask associated with one of the burials, Sward appealed to the Survey for assistance. Baerreis was unavailable and Andrew H. Whiteford (1948), her professor at Beloit, stepped in to complete the excavations. Because of the suspected mask, the dig received national attention, all of it positive, which had to have greatly pleased the Society's administration. The dig, incidentally, was undoubtedly the first in the state directed by a woman. Like Miles before her, Sward was a trailblazer.

While neither had, perhaps, the impact on Wisconsin archaeology that Brown had or that Hall and Wittry would have, Miles and Sward creditably discharged their duties, in addition to expanding the role of women in the Wisconsin field. Before her untimely death from cancer at 44 years, Miles received her doctorate from Harvard and became a respected Mesoamericanist (Proskouriakoff 1968). For Sward, her departure from the Society in 1949 ended her career in anthropology, though she never lost her love of different cultures. She settled in Napa, California and passed away in early 2012 at the age of 85.

Acknowledgments

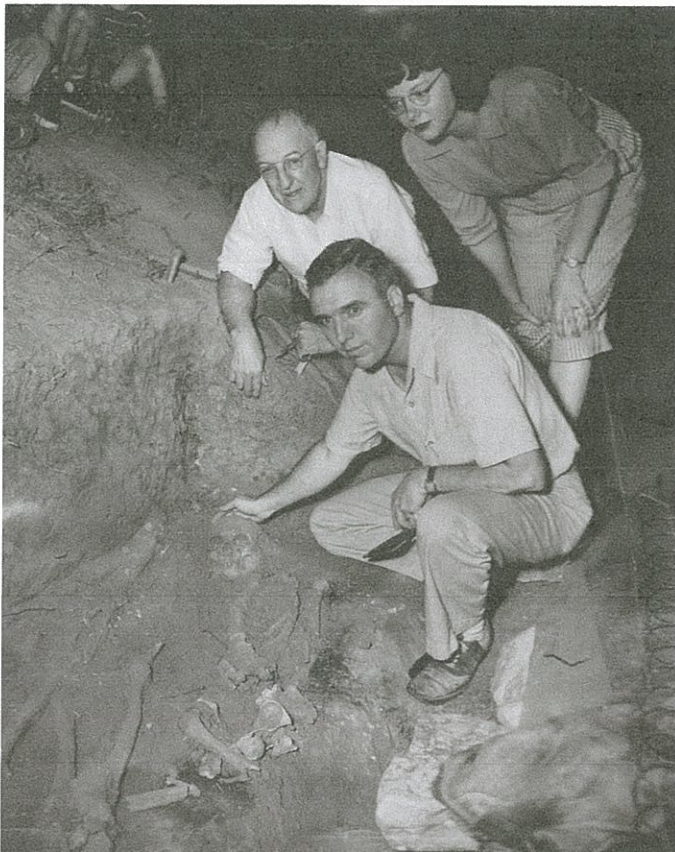
I would like to thank the late Bob Hall for information on Miles and Sward. Cindy Olsofka and Elizabeth Mueller provided access to family photographs of Aunt Sue and Thomas Kneil and Jen Sward images of Mary Sward.

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1951 A Reevaluation of the Old Copper Industry. *American Antiquity* 16(3):240-247.
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2001 *The Site: A Personal Odyssey*. Natural Heritage Books, Toronto.
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1968 Suzanna Whitelaw Miles. *American Anthropologist* 70(4):753-754.
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1948 A Report on the Outlet Site on Lake Monona. *The Wisconsin Archeologist* 30(1):22-35.



Suzanne W. "Sue" Miles



Mary D. (Kneil) Sward

At the Outlet Mound site excavations in 1948.

Wisarch News

The Wisconsin Archeological Society has donated \$ 500 .00 to the Friends of Aztalan State Park matching Grant program for the Elizabeth Parker Matching Fund. Total donation to Aztalan State Park will \$ 20, 862 . These funds will help further the cause of site preservation and the construction of an eventual visitors center at the park.

The Wisconsin Archeological Society has also donated \$ 500.00 to the Wisconsin State Historical Society for the propagation of Wisconsin archeology Month in May.

Back Dirt Photo: (100 Years Ago) : This photo was first published in the *Wisconsin Archeologist* in 1910 ,in Volume 9 No. 1.



Stone Chamber in a Burial Mound at Fox's Bluff, near Madison.

Treasury Report
Fall 2012 Meeting (Hoard Museum)
Prepared by Treasurer, Jake Rieb

Recent Financial Activity:

- Total monies stand at \$58,772; up from \$52,538 at the spring meeting.
- We have spent about half of annual budget of \$8940, with \$4429 expenditures so far, including estimate for 93(1) printing.
- In June, I filed our IRS Form 990-N for non-profit organization.
- Also in June, I renewed our P.O. Box for \$86 (annual).
- In July we paid \$192 for our new website hosting services (new annual cost).
- We are on the verge of paying for the first issue 2012 journal printing. Just waiting on final printing (estimated to be about \$3100).

Merchandise/Back-Issue Sales:

Net sales of \$2,725 so far for the year (after \$511 expenses). Major portion of these sales were due to efforts of Sue Brown and Jeff Behm at Ritzenhaler Chapter meetings; and the efforts of Rob Nurre and Jaremy Cobble at society events. In recent months this income has dropped dramatically (almost to zero) due to the end of our back-issue sales drives. Also we have depleted our merchandise inventory. don't expect much more to be added to this total by the end of the year.

Current Membership:

Current membership is up 33 people since spring meeting, now at a total of 377 members (income \$7640).

46 Associate Level: (includes La Crosse, TRAS, CEB, KCAS)

331 Journal Level: 181 Individual, 30 senior, 38 student, 15 family, 3 donor, 7 sustaining, 57 institutional

(Comparison) 2011 year end membership number was 348.



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| Membership Category | Benefits | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| | Spring and Fall Newsletters | The Wisconsin Archeologist | |
| Individual | | | \$20 |
| Student | | | \$15 |
| Senior | | | \$15 |
| Associate | | | \$5 |
| Sustaining | | | \$50 |
| Donor | | | Minimum of \$100 |
| Institutional (Libraries) | | | 30 |

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