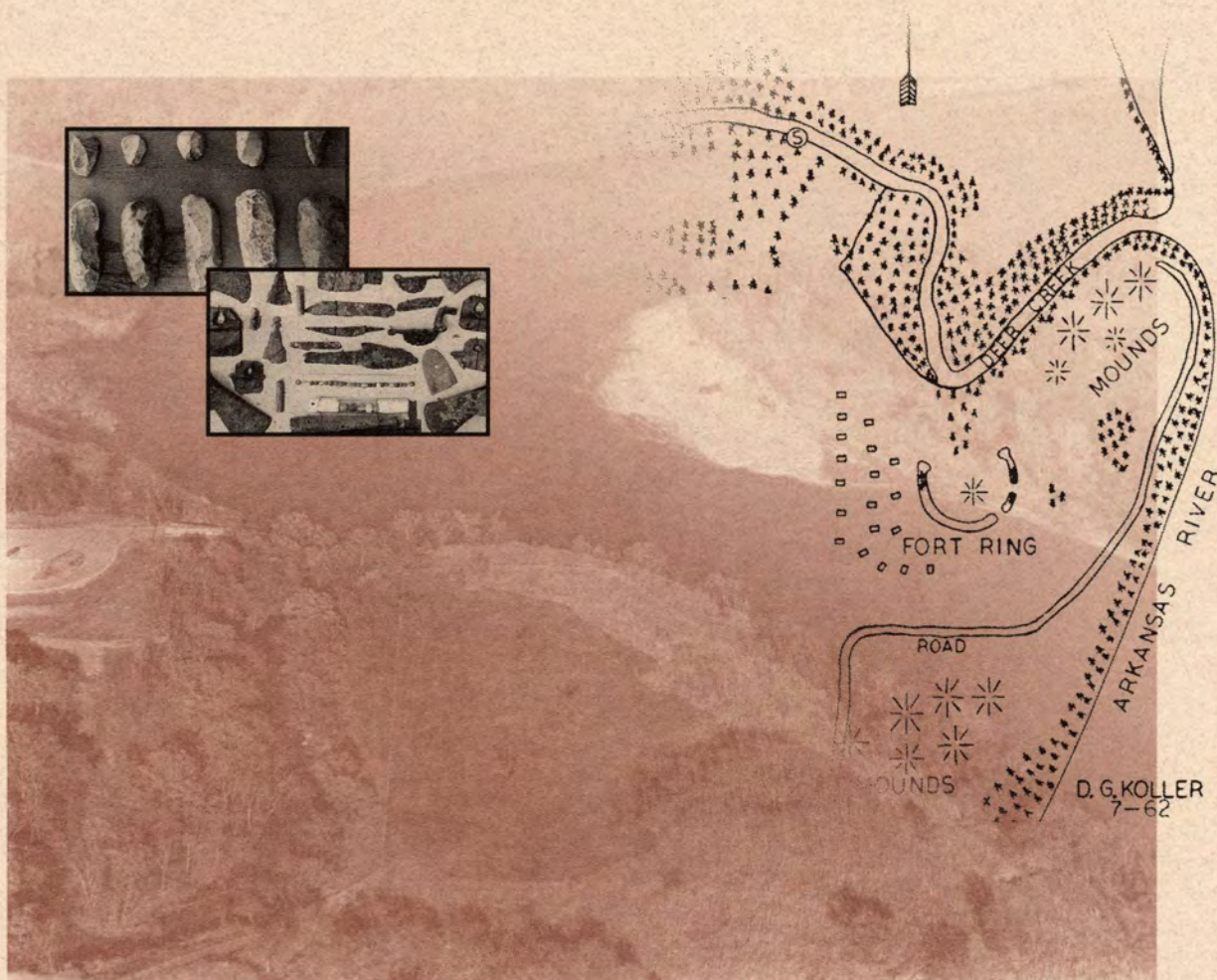


Ferdinandina: Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community on the Southern Plains



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FERDINANDINA: BIOGRAPHY OF A FRENCH-INDIAN
TRADING COMMUNITY ON THE SOUTHERN PLAINS

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Preface

With this third volume in the Robert E. Bell monograph series we are most pleased that it is a previously unpublished contribution by the series' namesake. Compiled in the late 1970s, this volume contains 50 years of correspondence and other documents pertaining to very important archaeological sites located along the Arkansas River in Kay County, Oklahoma. These two sites are known to archaeologists as Deer Creek and Bryson-Paddock. Artifact collections from both sites are very similar. They include native pottery; chipped stone tools, including numerous scrapers made from flint obtained nearby; a variety of bone tools; and an array of glass beads, copper kettle parts, flintlock gun parts, and worn-out iron axes and hoes. The native artifacts link the occupants of these sites to some of the Wichita people. The glass and metal artifacts are largely of French derivation and are of forms known to have been made during the early 1700s. In essence, the Deer Creek and Bryson-Paddock sites are locations where Southern Plains natives engaged in significant trade with Frenchmen, probably traders coming up the Arkansas River from Arkansas Post in southeastern Arkansas, if not from New Orleans. The many scrapers and bison bones at these two sites are believed to result from intensified bison hunting by these Wichita people, who were processing hides and meat as commodities to trade for desired tools (especially guns) and trinkets. On this basis, the Deer Creek and Bryson-Paddock sites comprise the first Southern Plains locations where Southern Plains natives began substantial relations with the French. These relations began significant changes in the lives and culture of the Wichita.

Some controversy surrounds interpretations of the Deer Creek and Bryson-Paddock sites. In part, this controversy has its beginning with the 1926 archaeological investigations at the Bryson-Paddock site. Organized and supervised by historian Joseph Thoburn, the 1926 excavations were undertaken within the historical thinking of that time. The artifacts attested to contact between French and Indians. However, subtle hints from other historians and a few documents led to the thinking that the French had established and maintained a trading post in north central Oklahoma. Thoburn and his field foreman, Otto Spring, observed surface clues that led them to believe there was a stockaded French trading post. Also, Thoburn and Spring learned of a mid-1800s English map that displayed the name "Ferdinandina" in the general area of north central Oklahoma. These observations subsequently became common knowledge that a few Oklahoma historians promoted to fact.

Meanwhile, archaeological work in Texas and Oklahoma in

the 1960s and 1970s led to a different opinion. Studies of French and Spanish documents and archaeological excavations at sites long both sides of the Red River caused archaeologists to conclude that French-Wichita relations did involve French traders, but not the construction of formal trading posts. Instead, the records and archaeological findings attest to Frenchmen visiting and living among the Wichita, who by the 1600s were building log palisade fortifications for protection from horse-mounted Apache, Comanche, and Osage raiders.

Dr. Bell's compilation of the correspondence, notes, and publicity about the Deer Creek and Bryson-Paddock sites and the existence of Ferdinandina provides an interesting background for archaeological, anthropological, and historical research on the dynamics of acculturation and change that occurred on the Southern Plains. These two sites are still important sources of information. As this monograph goes to press, the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University are working together on a combined archaeological field school for six weeks at the Bryson-Paddock site. Although damaged by farming and historic land use, this site still has much to tell us about Wichita cultural heritage during the tumultuous 1700s. Sadly, the Deer Creek site has yet to tell us much. It was purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, who then fenced the site to protect it from vandals. The Corps did fund brief non-destructive survey investigations of the site to help plan for informed archaeological excavations. These latter, however, never took place, even in spite of Wichita tribal interest in seeing the site developed as a center for their cultural heritage. Today, the Deer Creek site is overgrown with trees and brush, and, while those involved with "cultural resource management" may claim that the location is preserved, it is obvious to most scholars that the domestic and fortification contexts at the site are being badly damaged by roots, rodents, and pothunters. Hopefully, this monograph will serve to stimulate renewed interest and concern for this most significant site of the very early historic period for Oklahoma and the Southern Plains.

Don G. Wyckoff, Associate Curator of Archaeology,
SNOMNH, University of Oklahoma
Susan Vehik, Associate Professor of Anthropology,
University of Oklahoma
Michelle Barry, Graduate Student, Anthropology,
University of Oklahoma

Ferdinandina: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community

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I would like to extend my thanks to numerous individuals who have helped enormously in gathering the materials contained herein -- especially to the following persons: Donald W. Reeves for his efforts and information concerned with whether or not Thoburn actually dug at the Deer Creek site; Martha Blaine, custodian of the American Indian Archives at the Oklahoma Historical Society, for her interest and gracious assistance in examining the Thoburn archives; and Lynne M. Keller, who was also working through the Thoburn manuscript materials for research on the Spiro mounds and who noted items of interest regarding Ferdinandina and brought them to my attention. Here on the main campus of the University of Oklahoma, Jack Haley and John Ezell were helpful in my examination of the Otto Spring records contained in the Western History Collections. Finally, I am grateful to Phyllis Taylor for typing, retyping, and helping with the organization of the records.

Robert E. Bell
February 1979

Important Notice

The materials contained in this manuscript are derived from original letters, manuscripts, or newspaper clippings contained in the Indian Archives Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society or the personal files of Robert E. Bell, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma.

Any item that is to be utilized for publication must be approved for such usage by the archive authority concerned.

The following abbreviations are used to refer to specific sources for the materials:

OHS - Indian Archives Division, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

WHC - Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma Library, Norman, Oklahoma.

REB - Robert E. Bell personal files, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

PCM - Ponca City Museum, Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Ferdinandina: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community

Introduction

This is an archaeological chronicle concerned with two related French-contact sites on the western bank of the Arkansas River a few miles east of Newkirk, Oklahoma (Figures 1 and 2). These two sites, now known as the Deer Creek site (Ka-3) and the Bryson-Paddock site (Ka-5), were occupied by the Wichita Indians during the early half of the 18th century. European goods found at these locations indicate that French traders, presumably established at New Orleans or elsewhere in the Lower Mississippi Valley, were traveling up the Arkansas River into Oklahoma for exploiting the fur trade. Although French traders were also active along the Red River in southern Oklahoma, the known contact sites in Oklahoma on the Red River are later in time. In fact, the Deer Creek villages appear to represent the earliest French contact sites now known for Oklahoma and appear to date from the period between approximately AD 1700 and 1760. They also appear to represent the terminal objective of French trading parties traveling up the Arkansas River as far as the Arkansas state border. These two Wichita Indian villages represent the focal point for the initial thrusts of French traders into what is now the state of Oklahoma.

My first visit to these two sites took place in the summer of 1946. I was discharged from the army in the spring of 1946, and my wife and I took a three months summer vacation traveling throughout several states. I was interested in visiting some of the more famous archaeological sites and examining some of the widely scattered flint quarries throughout the Southwest and Plains states. Dr. Waldo Wedel of Smithsonian Institution told me about the flint quarries located near Hardy, Oklahoma, and suggested that I write to Mr. Bert Moore of Winfield, Kansas, who could act as a guide. This arrangement was made, and we had the pleasure of spending two days with Mr. and Mrs. Moore who took us to visit the flint quarries near Hardy, Oklahoma, and Maple City, Kansas. During this visit we were shown the Deer Creek site and the Bryson-Paddock site for the first time.

We also examined the large collection of specimens recovered from these localities by the Moore's over several years. I made some brief notes regarding the collection and submitted notes regarding my visit to Mrs. Virginia Watson at the University of Oklahoma. I was a graduate student at the University of Chicago at the time and had no idea that only one year later I would be appointed on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma.

I have chosen to present the information regarding these two villages by means of correspondence concerned with these locations. I am doing this for several reasons aside from my own long association with the two sites.

I believe that the reader will get a somewhat different perspective of archaeological work and activity; one that is not usually evident from most archaeological books. The subject of archaeology is of great interest to the public and there are a great number of publications dealing with this topic. Many of these are expensive "table top" volumes which illustrate archaeological finds of high artistic quality or unusual rarity. At the other extreme, we find technical, often boring, and detailed accounts about excavations which are essentially intended for other archaeologists rather than for the lay public. There are, of course, textbooks or intermediate publications that attempt to present archaeological information in a more popular fashion for the general audience, but very often these tend to emphasize "the romance of archaeology" with accounts of exotic expeditions, fabulous discoveries, and the excitement of uncovering ancient antiquities. While these are of great interest to the public, and consequently help in the public support for archaeology, they tend not to represent the discipline but rather perpetuate the public image that archaeology is a kind of scientific treasure hunt. In fact, the general public, as a consequence of obtaining its information chiefly from the media, associates archaeology with digging, the discovery of treasures of the past, and museums where

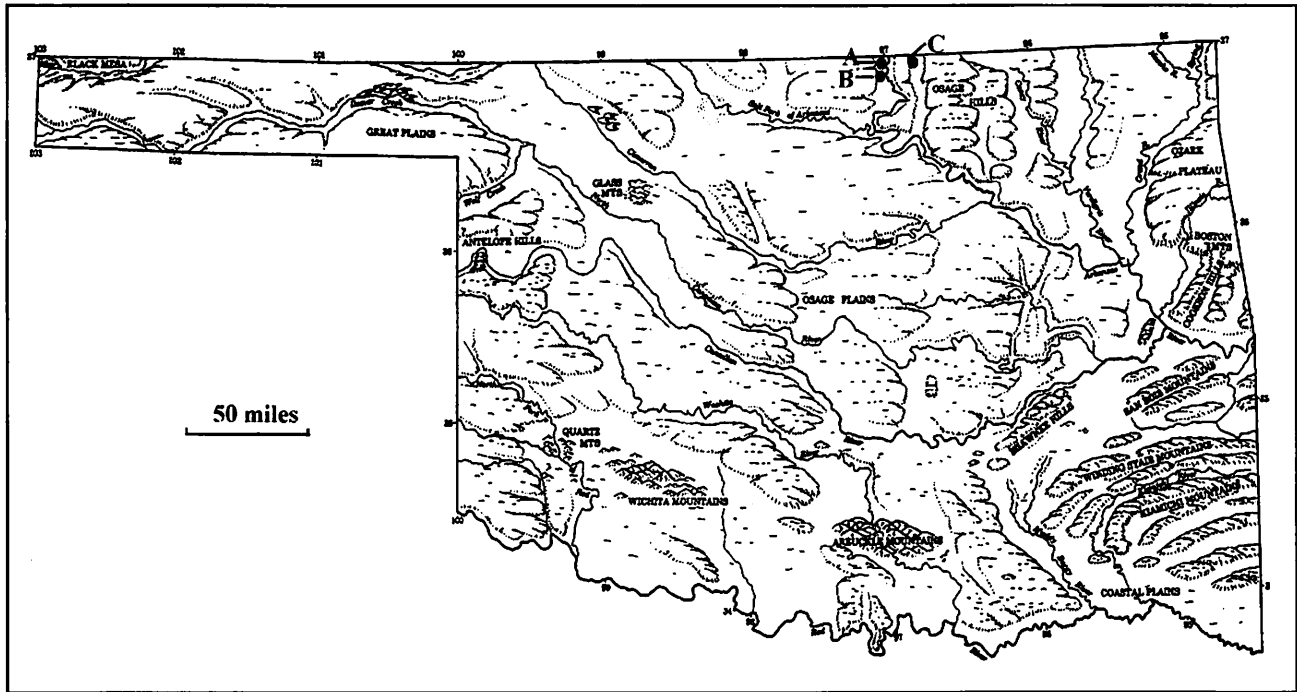


Figure 1. Locations of sites covered in this monograph: A, 34Ka5, the Engleking (or Ingelking) site; B, 34Ka3, the Deer Creek site; and C, the prehistoric flint (Florence chert) quarries in Kay County, Oklahoma, and Cowley County, Kansas. The Engleking site is now called the Bryson-Paddock site. Figure adapted from Morris et al. 1976.

such finds are displayed for public view. In addition, they usually reflect the opinion that most archaeological discoveries are made by chance, or that they are made by amateurs who report their finds to professional people.

This image tends to be unrealistic in terms of the actual work involved for most archaeologists. It does not show the preliminary work and planning, laboratory study or analysis, cooperative efforts, or background that usually leads to archaeological excavations and discoveries. For most archaeologists, rather little time is spent in digging, and the public announcement of some discovery by the newspapers or popular account rarely mentions the previous archaeological activity which made it possible.

In an effort to present a different view of the archaeologist at work, I have selected these two archaeological sites for consideration, the Deer Creek and the Bryson-Paddock site, known by the public as Ferdinandina. I have selected these because no excavation work has been done at the Deer Creek site and a public announcement of discoveries to be made there awaits some future newspaper or TV reporter.

The Bryson-Paddock site was partly explored by Joseph B. Thoburn in 1926 and minor excavation was completed during two seasons in 1974 and 1975. The fieldwork done by Thoburn and his field supervisor, Otto Spring, has never been published, and this information presented herein provides the only known documentation of that activity. The testing excavations of 1974 and 1975 have been reported and the references are included in the bibliography following the text.

I have chosen to present this biography by means of correspondence and excerpts from reports arranged in chronological order covering a span of time over more than 60 years. This correspondence is drawn from my own personal files or from the Indian Archives Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society or the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma. Some of the letters have been edited to remove paragraphs concerned with other matters; some trivia has been retained because it contributes to our better understanding of the times or individuals involved. I believe that the story presents an interesting, accurate, romantic, and frustrating account of the archaeological background associated with these two

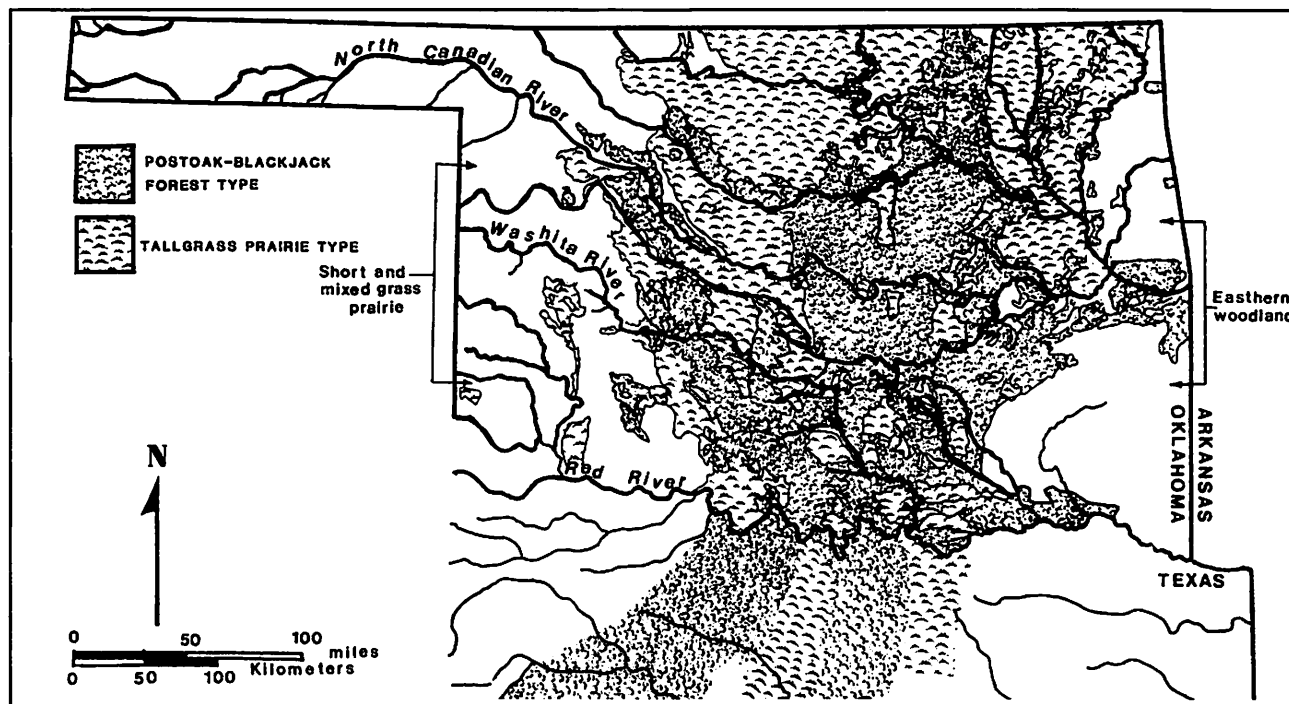


Figure 2. Nineteenth century vegetation regions near the Deer Creek and Engleking (Bryson-Paddock) sites.

archaeological sites. Similar biographies could be made for other archaeological sites, and by other archaeologists, as this situation is not unique but rather characteristic of most archaeological work.

The Deer Creek and Bryson-Paddock sites represent two significant sites not only for Oklahoma but for the whole of the Southern Plains. From current knowledge they appear to represent occupations by

the Wichita Indians at a time when the French were becoming engaged in trade with the native people of Oklahoma. Both of these sites are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Retired George Lynn Cross Research Professor
University of Oklahoma

Initial Historical Interest in Kay County Archaeological Sites

Early Oklahoma historian Joseph B. Thoburn (Figure 3) was interested in tracing such Southern Plains tribes as the Caddo, Wichita, and Osage back into prehistory. In the winter of 1913-1914 he visited and photographed the Craig Mound at the Spiro site in LeFlore County. Publicity of Thoburn's study of Oklahoma mounds stimulated contacts which led him to long abandoned Indian villages along the Arkansas River in Kay County of northern Oklahoma. However, as the following documents attest, his continued research led him to believe one of these sites might be an 18th century French trading post established among these villages.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Bert Moore (OHS)

Arkansas City, Kansas

Sept. 20, 1915

Mr. Joseph B. Thoburn

Norman, Okla.

Dear Sir:

I see in the Wichita Eagle that you and Dr. Perrine have been making explorations of the Indian mounds of Oklahoma. Northeast of Newkirk along the Arkansas River there are a number of those mounds from which I have a number of curios or relics. The majority of these mounds are located near a big Spring. They vary in size from about ten to forty feet in diameter.

Besides finding the flint implements I have found pieces of flint lock guns.

About one and one half miles from the above described mounds, there are other mounds. Within this group there is a double row of entrenchments partially encircling a natural depression. I was quite familiar with these places prior to the opening of this country for settlement.

If you are interested in these mounds, I would be glad to hear from you.

*Yours Truly,
Bert Moore
Arkansas City, Kansas
R.F.D. 2*



Figure 3. Joseph Thoburn at a dig in north-eastern Oklahoma. Photo courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society (Photo #21705.52)

Letter to J.F. Weaver from Joseph Thoburn (OHS)

*Norman, Oklahoma
July 27, 1917*

*Hon. J.F. Weaver,
Fort Smith, Arkansas*

Dear Mr. Weaver:-

Your letter, with enclosure (for which I thank you), is just received. I had been thinking for some time that I would try to write to you, though I am away from home and without much access to a typewriter much of the time and it has become such a habit for me to use a machine that I dislike to try to do much writing with a pen anymore.

I have been working in the northern part of the state recently—found some mighty interesting prospects up there—too interesting to hint at in any press interviews, at least not until I can get through with this reconnaissance work and find time to get to digging. By the way, I found an oil man up there who has generously agreed to meet all expense incident to excavations made in that country. Of course I am not advertising that from the housetops either. In fact, it is just as well to go hunting without the accompaniment of a brass band in my present business, at least part of the time. I lost all track of the Harvard man who was working with me—did not hear from him for several weeks—until the other day, when I received the cards announcing his marriage. I have just returned from a conference with him. He has his wife with him—I think we will travel in separate parties most of the time from now on, as I do not care to be mixed up with any honey-moon field trips. He seems opposed to this decision, possibly because he does not want me to find more locations than he does. This I am apt to do, as I do most of my scouting on foot while he likes to do his in a Ford car on a good road at 15 or 20 miles an hour.

Truly yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn

Letter to F.W. Stout from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
July 14, 1919

Mr. F.W. Stout,
Oswego, Oklahoma

My dear Sir:

Mr. R.O. Deming called at this office today and we had quite a chat over matters pertaining to local history and archaeology. He said that you were greatly interested in the prehistoric peoples of this country and that you have a fine collection of the vestigia thereof. I told him of my work along these lines but regretted that my collection was not at hand so that he might see it.

I told him of one village site in northern Oklahoma that is of especial interest to me. I am hoping that I may be enabled to do a lot of work there within the next eight months. If I can effect the necessary arrangements to enable me to do so, I would be glad to have you come and take part in the digging.

Mr. Deming can tell you something in detail of my description of the village site. When I was first there, two years ago, there was a man from Peabody Museum, Harvard University, with me. While I did not anticipate that he would return, I took no chances in regards to the matter, so I arranged with the owner of the property (who is a non-resident) for an exclusion excavation privilege.

If you ever have occasion to visit this section of the country, I would be pleased to meet you and compare notes.

There is but little evidence of prehistoric life in this (the central) part of the state. Eastern Oklahoma is a very rich archaeological field, there being not less than four well defined archaeological eras there. There is also an interesting field in the Western part of the state but I am not so well acquainted with it as I am with that of Eastern Oklahoma.

Yours Truly,
Joseph B. Thoburn
Secretary.

* * * * *

Letter to Bert Moore from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

July 23, 1919

Mr. Bert Moore
Arkansas City, Kansas

My dear Sir:

Nearly five years ago (September 20, 1915), I received a letter from you concerning certain small mounds near the bank of the Arkansas River, east and somewhat north of Newkirk, in Kay County, Oklahoma. Two years ago I visited the mounds in question and did some investigating there. In running through my accumulated correspondence recently, I came across your letter.

The group of mounds which I visited and examined was on the west bank of the River just south of the mouth of Deer Creek and near the big spring which you mention. I note that you state that, nearly a mile and a half distant from that village site, there is another group of similar mounds. I had forgotten your statement to that effect and I did not get to see the other group which you mentioned. I would thank you if you could give me some further information as to which direction they were from the Deer Creek village site they are to be found – whether up or down the River.

In my opinion, the Deer Creek village site dates from the French fur trading period – probably 150 to 180 years back. The entrenchment which you mention probably marks the site of a stockade trading outpost of the French traders from the lower valley of the River prior to the cession of Louisiana by France to Spain, in 1763. I found several battered iron axes, hatchets and hoes scattered over the village site as well as the bone and stone implements of the primitive native people.

I secured sufficient evidence to prove conclusively that the Indians of that village at the mouth of Deer Creek were of the same stock and probably descendants of the race which had once been so numerous in eastern Oklahoma some hundred of years before.

The great war put an end to our field-work for the time being but I hope that it may be resumed in the near future. I would like to continue the investigation of that particular field for a brief time and, if I am privileged to do so, I would be glad to have you meet me there and spend a day or two in helping to secure further knowledge of the interesting subject in hand. In the mean time, I trust that you may drop me a line and let me know definitely as to the location of the other group of mounds.

Sincerely yours,

(Joseph B. Thoburn)
Secretary

* * * * *

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Bert Moore (OHS)

Arkansas City, Kansas
Aug. 2nd 1919

J.B. Thoburn

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of July 23, I will say the mounds I spoke of are about one to one half miles northeast of the Deer Creek spring on the west side of the river on the hill above another spring I have visited them since writing you, most of the ground is in cultivation but the mounds are plainly seen. These mounds are smaller than the Deer Creek mounds and here you find many pieces of the red stone pipe instead of the clay or pottery pipes at those mounds. We have found some implements made of greenstone. I would be glad to meet you at the mounds and if you will give me

notice a few days ahead I am sure I can be there.

Before this land was opened for settlement I remember a mound about one half mile north of the spring it was made of large flat stones about two feet square these stones were set on edge forming a circle about fifteen feet in diameter and the center filled with clay and stone. I might say that the Deer Creek spring was used for winter headquarters by surveyors while surveying Oklahoma in the early seventies, a log cabin was built about fifty feet south of the spring it afterwards was used as a ranch house.

Hoping to meet you in the near future I am

*Yours Truly,
Bert Moore*

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Herbert Bolton (OHS)

*University of California
Department of History
Berkeley, California
Apr. 9, 1920*

*Professor Joseph B. Thoburn,
Oklahoma Historical Society,
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

My dear Professor Thoburn,

Thank you for your very interesting letter of April 2. To begin with, I am glad that my brief and somewhat offhand communication was of service to you. Your reporter had a clue to a matter of real historical interest, but he had the subject all distorted, and I am led to wonder whether he really had discovered documents in the Spanish archives, or had merely picked up a hint somewhere and made "copy" out of it. As a matter of fact, the documents in the Spanish archives bearing on the subject, so far as I know, are not at Madrid, as the paper said, but Seville.

Your field of research is very interesting and important, and your results are worthy of high commendation and appreciation. I, too, have been something of a pioneer, and I understand what you mean when you speak of the "real pleasure and satisfaction in being privileged to live up to the opportunities of a true pioneer."

*I am especially interested in what you say about the site of the old French trading post on the Arkansas River. Incidentally I have written of such a post among the Jumanos (Wichita) in that locality in various of my publications. You will find mention of it in my *De Mezières*, Vol. I, p. 47, a more detailed mention of it in my article on "French Intrusions into New Mexico, 1749-52," particularly page 394. Your discovery may be the clue which we need to determine the exact location of the Jumano (or Wichita) Indians with whom the French regularly traded on the Arkansas. Would you object to telling me the location where you found the remains, in order that I may try to fit it into my own findings based on other kinds of evidence. Gradually and bit by bit the whole story is being pieced together.*

With very best wishes, I am

*Yours very sincerely,
Herbert Bolton*

Letter to Herbert Bolton from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
April 14, 1920*

Dr. Herbert Bolton,
University of California,
Berkeley, California

Dear Doctor Bolton:-

Your letter of the 9th instant is received and its contents noted with interest.

In replying, first let me state that the Daily Oklahoman, of this city, published your account of "the Old Spanish Fort," so called, in its issue of last Sunday, as you will note by the enclosed clipping.

Since I wrote you last, I made some inquiries concerning this man Clift, at Lawton, who wrote the statement which I first sent to you. I find that he is not a newspaper man but is the proprietor of a cotton gin, rather interested in antiquities and occasionally given to writing stories in which he pieces out a modicum of hearsay or tradition with the resources of a resourceful imagination. Unfortunately, there are several other writers in Oklahoma who do the same thing and, if I take issue with them, they conclude that I am jealous. We have the material for a history of most fascinating interest without calling for the aid of such artists in "painting the sunset," as it were. Sooner or later, they put themselves out of the running, as he has done in this instance. Even the Oklahoman will be afraid of his stories hereafter.

In my previous letter, I stated that I had occasion to do some work in archaeology in the eastern part of this state. There are about twenty counties in this state which are included in that vast region throughout which and over which a very frequent and, indeed, almost constant landscape feature is the noticeably low, circular tumuli, commonly called "natural mounds," by the geologists. The province over which they are of common occurrence includes all of Eastern Texas (approximately one-sixth of the area of the state), Western Louisiana (over half of its area), the whole of Arkansas (except the most mountainous portions), about twenty counties each in Eastern and Southeastern Oklahoma and in Southern and Eastern Missouri and a narrow strip east of the Mississippi River, in the states of Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois. There are literally millions of these small mounds and they have long been a matter of puzzle and speculation to the laity who ride, drive, walk, plow, plant, cultivate and harvest over them from one year's end to another; likewise, they have been a source of endless dispute in the scientific world, and the archaeologists being anxious to claim them and the geologists being practically unanimous in scouting every suggestion of human agency. The matter of the cause or origin of these tumuli has been subject to numerous and extended discussions by the geologists. Not a few of them have written very, very learnedly to prove this, that or the other theory to account for these small mounds, without first having had recourse to the use of a spade, which would not seem to be altogether scientific. Strange as it may seem, apparently it was left for me to do the first systematic work in dissecting a number of these tumuli in order to read the riddle of their origin, though men more learned than I had frankly admitted their inability to solve the mystery. To cut a long story short, I found that each one of them is the ruin of a timber-framed, dome-shaped, earth-covered human habitation, hut or lodge. The culture of this prehistoric stock is entirely distinct from that of the true mound-builders, though not hitherto differentiated therefrom. Of course, I wrote a paper in which the matter was discussed as briefly as compatible with the importance of the subject. I never offered it for publication, though the Oklahoma Geological Survey and the American Geographical Society, of New York, both offered to print and publish it. About two months ago, the chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology, of the National Museum, asked me to submit the paper for examination. I did so, stating explicitly the conditions under which it might be published, namely that it should be printed in substantially the same form in which it was submitted and that any changes, alterations, or omissions should be made only with my consent. Yet, despite the conditions thus stated, he wrote to me after reading the paper, blandly informing me that he had sent it to the Bureau editor to be printed as an appendix to another paper, when the work upon which the latter was based had been done within the last two years by a man who had read my manuscript before doing the work. Inasmuch as he had seen fit to disregard my repeated request to return the paper in case it could not be used under the conditions stipulated in my letter of transmittal, I had to resort to rather extreme measures in securing its return to me. This was done and we will print and publish the paper here in Oklahoma City.

Now, I realize that compared to the work which remains to be done in this vast province, my work may be likened to the nibbling of a very small mouse on the edge of the crust of a very large pie—for not one man but many men, not one institution but a number of them, must collaborate in working out the problem in its fullest detail. I am strongly inclined to believe, however, that the whole of these countless ruins, scattered over nine or ten states, will be found to have been the result of people of a single ethnic stock, whose numbers have been decimated by famine or

pestilence before the beginning of the historic period. That it was the parent stock of the present Caddo tribes seems probable.

I trust that you will pardon the seeming digression of the two preceding paragraphs but they will serve to make plain to you my first interest in the site of the old French trading post, namely, because it was also the site of an Indian village, the domiciles of which seem to have been identical with those of the prehistoric stock which once dwelt through the province previously defined. If you will consult a map of Oklahoma, beginning at Red River, where St. Louis & San Francisco Railway ("Frisco") crosses that stream south of Madill, in Marshall County, and follow that railway line northward and eastward to Sapulpa and thence follow the main line of the same railway to the northeastern part of the state, you would at no point be very far from the western or northwestern boundary of this archaeological province in Oklahoma. There are isolated instances of such ruins, either in village groups or solitary, elsewhere in the state but investigation will prove that all or nearly all of these are of more recent date.

The site of the trading post and Indian village which I mentioned in my last letter is at least ninety or a hundred miles outside of the limits of the prehistoric prairie mound, or "earth-house" province. I had known for several years that there was an interesting village site there—in fact, one of the students of the University had brought in an interesting collection that he had gathered there—but I did not visit it until the summer of 1917. In addition to the horse-shoe-shaped trench which is suggestive of the site of a stockaded trading post, there are about sixty hut or lodge ruins, approximately two-thirds of which are in the form of small circular mounds and the others are in the form of hut rings or lodge circles, indicative of a depressed or excavated floor circle or else that the upper part of the structure had been finished merely by thatching with grass instead of carrying the earth covering clear to the top. Ten or a dozen of these mounds are in a cultivated field, the rest of them and all of the "hollow top" ruins being in a pasture which has not yet been broken up for cultivation. The culture of this aboriginal village can be proven to be of the same origin as that of the "earth-house" people of the eastern part of the state of a period four to six centuries anterior, yet it had assimilated certain features as a result of contact with other cultures during the intervening period, and, of course, had been subject to a marked deterioration as well. I hope to be privileged to do considerable more work upon this site in the near future. The site of this trading post and village is in Kay County, on the west bank of the Arkansas River, east of the town of Newkirk and about a mile and a half north. I have been intending to see what could be learned in regard to its history and your information contained in your letter is therefore illuminating. It increases my anxiety to get to work in that field. When I do so, I intend to make a survey and prepare an accurate topographical map and will be glad to furnish you with a tracing or any other data that may be available. To be sure, what I have regarded as the outlines of a trading post location may prove to be merely the ruin of a defensive earthwork made by the Indians, possibly under French direction, but careful excavation should reveal the facts in any event. But, however that may prove to have been, the French were there without question. I have even suspected that this was the place that the Villazur expedition from Santa Fe met its disaster, instead of on the Missouri or on the Platte. However, I am not going to state any surmises for facts. If I can aid you in any way or at any time, please feel free to command me.

Very truly yours,

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Secretary*

Letter to James Mooney, Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D.C. from Joseph Thoburn (OHS)

July 27, 1920

Dear Mr. (James) Mooney:

In the Spring of 1918—just about a year after this correspondence with Doctor Holmes, I wrote to him again, informing him that, in the mean time, I had found a Caddoan village site with numerous small mounds, about ninety miles outside the range of the province proper, situated on the west bank of the Arkansas River and only a few miles from the Kansas line; that scattered over this village site, along with the stone and bone implements of primitive man were the battered iron axes, hatchets, and hoes of the French traders of 150 to 180 years ago and suggesting that

possibly the Bureau of Ethnology might be willing to undertake some cooperative work in that particular field. Doctor Holmes referred my letter to the Chief of the Bureau, who wrote to me for further information. It was supplied and, in reply, came a letter which seemed rather patronizing in terms and which, so far as I was concerned, closes the incident—at least, I gave it no further concern.

*Faithfully yours,
Joseph Thoburn*

Note: The Doctor Holmes referred to here was W.H. Holmes, eminent archaeologist with the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Bert Moore (OHS)

*1007 E. 8th Ave.
Winfield, Kansas
Aug. 8, 1921*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Dear Sir:

When I find some Indian mounds or work done by persons in this part of the country before the settlement was made, I always feel like writing to you for an explanation. Have you on record any information as to some mining or prospecting having been done in the vicinity of the Deer Creek mounds about which I wrote you a few years ago?

Some speak of these as old Spanish mines, and others as Indian stone mounds. Extensive work has been done there by some people at an early date. One hill top is covered with loose flat rocks piled three or four feet deep & the space covered is about 80 by 900 ft.

Will appreciate hearing from you in regard to these.

*Yours truly,
Bert Moore*

Note: The Deer Creek mounds referred to are northeast of Newkirk, Oklahoma.

Letter to Bert Moore from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

August 19, 1921

*Mr. Bert Moore
Winfield, Kansas*

Dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter of the 8th instant arrived at the office during my absence on a field trip. I am always glad to hear from you.

In reply, I will say that, though I did not visit them, I was told of several well-like pits, near the edge of the bluff, which run down vertically from the surface and then have outlets running horizontally to the face of the bluff, near its foot. As reported to me, the walls of these pits showed the effects of intense heat. I was informed that they had been dug, about 1884, for the purpose of burning lime for use in the erection of the stone buildings at the Chilocco

Indian school - - which seemed such a reasonable explanation that I did not follow the matter any further.

I may have previously informed you that I had done some work on the village site which is located on the river bank, just south of Deer Creek. There are about forty mounds there – all of them domiciliary mounds, which is to say that each of them is the ruin of a timber-framed, dome-shaped, earth covered human habitation.

The places on the hill tops, where the rock have been piled up, are ancient flint quarries, whence flint or chert was secured for the purpose of making weapons and utensils for war and the chase. I saw several such quarries near the village of Hardy, in the northeastern part of Kay County, Oklahoma, and I understand that the stratum of limestone in which the nodules of flint, or chert, were interspersed, was overlaid by several other strata which had to be removed, and, of course, the individual stones were piled up. Similar workings are to be found in northeastern Oklahoma, in the old Cherokee country and, locally, are commonly called “the old Spanish mines.”

I do not know when I will ever get to do some more work in the Kay county area but, if I ever do, I will let you know about it in time so that you can drop in and not only look things over with me but also talk things over as well.

Sincerely yours,

*(Joseph B. Thoburn)
Secretary*

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Bert Moore (OHS)

*1007 East 8th Ave.
Winfield, Kansas.
Nov. 30, 1925*

*Mr. Joseph B. Thoburn,
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Dear Sir:

It was with interest that I read the article in the Wichita Eagle last week telling of the mounds at the mouth of Deer Creek in Kay Co. being known to be Ferdinandina post. Would be glad to go over the ground with you sometime and talk it over.

I was quite familiar with that part of the country before it was opened to settlement. Have you yet visited those mounds up the river, about one and one-half miles north of the mouth of Deer Creek? And is it possible that they were a Spanish post? I have read that the reason for the French abandoning their posts was because of the excessive tax imposed by the Spanish.

These, because of cultivation, are not well preserved.

*Yours truly,
Bert Moore*

Letter to Bert Moore from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
December 2, 1925*

Mr. Bert Moore,

Winfield, Kans.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter of the 30th ultimo is just received. No, I have never visited the mounds near the mouth of Deer Creek. I will be glad to meet you up there some time and not only view these things together but also to get acquainted and talk things over. The trading post was of French origin and was possibly abandoned about the time of the transfer of Louisiana from France to Spain, in 1763. We hope to get some details of the story of this trading post in the not distant future.

It is quite possible that we may do some excavating on that site between now and the first of April, next. Very little of it has been plowed—only two or three of the large mounds, the west being still in pasture and undisturbed, in which condition it should always be preserved. In case we do go there to do any work I will be glad to advise you of the fact and I am sure you will be pleased to have an opportunity to spend a day or two with us on the work. While there I could then visit the other site with you.

Assuring you that we are always glad to hear from you and hoping that I may have an opportunity to meet you some of these days, I am,

*Sincerely yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn,
Secretary.*

* * * * *

Letter to C.M. Sarchet from Bert Moore (OHS)

*Winfield, Kansas
Dec. 31, 1925*

*Mr. C.M. Sarchet
Ponca City, Okla.*

Dear Sir:

Some time ago I read an article written by you in the Wichita Eagle about Ferdinandino Post; to me it was very interesting as I have known of the place for several years. I have a collection of relics, which I got from the mounds before that country was opened for settlement.

I have written to and received several letters from Joseph Thoburn concerning that place, within the last ten years. Mr. Thoburn explained the origin of the mounds as well as the ancient flint quarries across the river which were known as the old Spanish mines.

After reading your article, I took the first opportunity, which was next Sunday afternoon, to visit the old post and saw it with more understanding than on previous trips there. Possibly you did not write all of what you saw. Have you seen the other mounds up the river? Also, the "slaughter pen" where the buffalo were killed? Excuse my imagination, for I would not have asked the latter question if had not thought you could be convinced by seeing it. I consider it to be one of the main reasons for the location of the post.

Would be glad to meet you and exchange ideas.

Yours truly,

Bert Moore

The First Archaeological Excavations at the Purported Ferdinandina Locality

As his interest in the Kay County sites increased, historian Thoburn realized that excavations at these sites might help resolve their cultural affiliation and age. As is evidenced from the following letters, attention and field work became focused on several different sites: ancient flint quarries, several stone-filled mounds (one apparently associated with human burials), and several likely village sites with Indian and 18th century French trade goods. Sometimes referenced in these letters is a location called the "slaughter pens", which most likely refers to the cliff at the Engleking location where it was thought bison were driven over and killed.

Letter to Bert Moore from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

January 27, 1926

Mr. Bert Moore
Winfield, Kans.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am in receipt by reference, from Mr. C.M. Sarchet, of your letter to him dated December 31, 1925. I saw him yesterday and he told me he had forwarded a letter to me, though I had been away several days and had not received it.

For your information I will say we are trying to arrange to do some work in Kay County during the course of the next six or eight weeks. If this be done, I should want you to come down and tell us what you know about the country around the mouth of Deer Creek. I am especially interested in what you say concerning the "slaughter pens" where the buffalo were killed. That is something that had escaped my notice.

Trusting that we may have the privilege of meeting at a date not distant and with the best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Joseph B. Thoburn)

Secretary

Letter to Frank Lucas from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
January 28, 1926

Mr. Frank Lucas
Ponca City, Okla.

Dear Mr. Lucas:

Last summer, when I was in Ponca City and Corb Sarchet called you over to see the collection of specimens which I had brought from the eastern part of the state, you told me that you would subscribe one thousand dollars in Mr. Marland's name. I did not accept the offer at the time, though I did not tell you why. The fact is, that in the summer of 1917, now nearly nine years ago, I had an interview with Mr. Marland in which he said he would underwrite the expenses for any archaeological work which we might do in Kay County. War had been declared a short time before and this put an end to our archaeological work for the time being. I have never taken the matter up with Mr. Marland since the war closed. Inasmuch as he expressed a willingness to aid in the work in Kay County, but not elsewhere, it did not seem fair to me to take advantage of his absence from the country and accept your offer for such a

subscription, and then use the proceeds elsewhere. I now understand that Mr. Marland has in prospect the establishment of a museum in Ponca City. In this connection I am writing to say that we have been planning to do some work in Kay County and I am wondering if it could not be arranged on a co-operative basis, thus giving the proposed new museum the benefit of sharing in the specimens gathered in the course of such an investigation. I wish you would think this matter over and let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

In case such an arrangement could be effected, we would like to do the work during the latter part of February and early March.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Secretary.*

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Frank B. Lucas (OHS)

*Ponca City, Okla.
January 29, 1926.*

*Mr. Joseph B. Thoburn, Secretary,
Oklahoma Historical Society,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.*

My dear J.B.

I have yours of the 28th concerning a conversation between you, Corb Sarchet and myself a little while back, concerning your work in Kay County,

I think you have me wrong when you say that I told you that we might subscribe a thousand dollars to the cause. I do not remember of ever having used such an amount because I figured, in my own mind, that if you put on a campaign up here to raise funds to continue your work that maybe a couple of hundred would be enough to put in. I did not know that Mr. Marland had ever talked to you about this work and that he had expressed a willingness to underwrite or assist in any manner, but I will say this, that if Mr. Marland is really interested in this matter I know that he will do his full share.

Mr. Marland is in the East and will not be home before April 1st. If you care to correspond with him direct you can reach him at the Plaza Hotel, New York. I will be very glad to assist you in any way that I can in this matter.

Yours truly,

Frank B. Lucas

Letter to Harry B. Robertson from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
January 30, 1926*

*Mr. Harry C. Robertson,
Blackwell, Okla.*

My dear Doc:

I did not call you up while I was at Ponca City for the reason that the roads were so bad that traveling with a car or otherwise was rather tedious. I had only a brief interview with Mr. Sarchet as the coach from Pawhuska was two hours late and I wanted to catch the first train out for Oklahoma City.

I have taken the manner of the Kay County work up with the proper parties and Mr. Sarchet thinks that we may be able to finance it wholly with contributions from that county. I hope to hear something further soon and will advise you of the results.

Will write you again as soon as I have something definite in regard to the matter.

I think the proposed new museum at Ponca City should have the effect of strengthening the proposition from our viewpoint.

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Secretary.*

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Bert Moore (OHS)

*Winfield, Kans.
Jan. 31, 1926*

Dear Mr. Thoburn:

Received your letter of Jan. 27 was glad to hear from you and was pleased to hear you are contemplating coming to Kay County soon, hope I will be able to meet you there. On March first the assessment of property begins here and it will be difficult for me to go except on Sundays.

Since Mr. Sarchet's article appeared in the Wichita Eagle giving Deer Creek a history, people knowing I am familiar with that part of the country, have been insisting that I accompany them on a trip there, among them some local college students which I can not longer refuse; and if conditions are favorable we expect to go next Sunday; if you could be in Newkirk on that day would call for you and take you with us. I hesitate giving my opinion on that which you have not passed on, especially on the slaughter pen on which I am confident, but which I have wanted you to discover for yourself being satisfied you would recognize it as you see it thus having two original opinions.

A bit of Oklahoma history in which you may be interested.

Concerning two government surveying parties working west one surveying their township of six miles to the north the other to the south both parties returning and camping on the boundry line over night for mutual protection. The party to the south had reached the Cimmaron River when they failed to return to camp for the night. The party to the north drove to Arkansas City, Kan. where thirty men volunteered to go in search of the missing party. With two wagon loads of supplies one man on horseback and the others afoot they made the trip of one hundred and fifty miles where they found the bodies of the entire party. They were buried there with the exception of one which was brought back to Arkansas City where it was buried and a monument erected bearing their names. Two of the volunteer party are still residents of Arkansas City, Kan. They are Thos. Baird and Henry Morosny. Mr. Baird is the one who related these facts to me. About ten years ago I read that a transit had been plowed up in that part of the country. Mr. Baird informed me that they hunted for the transit but was unable to find it. Hoping to see you soon.

I am yours truly,

Bert Moore

Letter to E.W. Marland from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
March 1, 1926

Mr. E.W. Marland,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Marland,

You may recall that, in the late spring or early summer of 1917, I had an interview with you in regard to funds for archaeological work. At the time you told me that you would be willing to underwrite the expense for work that might be done in Kay County. Our country having gotten fairly into the war shortly afterward, we had to discontinue all archaeological work. Except for a couple of seasons of one month each, four and five years ago, which I spent with an eastern archaeological party at work in the Texas panhandle and northeastern New Mexico, I did not have an opportunity to do any more in that line until during the past year. Last spring I organized a company of eight or nine young men, mostly college and university men, and engaged in excavation in the northeastern part of the state, dissecting a mound and also excavating the contents of an ancient cave dwelling. A much smaller party has continued the work and we are accumulating a fine lot of material pertaining to the culture of the Stone-Age people of Oklahoma.

I have been wanting to do some work in Kay County. I would like to take a small party of three or four men and spend a month, or possibly five or six weeks, working some mounds and ancient flint quarries and also locating and mapping the village and shop sites of that county. In as much as you are planning to establish a museum at Ponca City, I am wondering now if you would not be willing to renew the offer of nine years ago only putting it on a co-operative basis — that is to say, that there be an even division of the specimens secured. There will be many, many duplicates in any event. Many more, in fact, than any museum will need and we would be glad to work on such a basis. I would like to take this up now while we have the party organized and experienced men available to do the work both skillfully and expeditiously. I believe that it would be to the advantage of your museum to have the work done by Oklahoma men who understand it and who wish to have it coordinated with the work of other sections of the state.

If you are interested in this proposition and care to ask for further information, it will be gladly furnished.

Trusting that you will give it such consideration as it seems to deserve and assuring you that this Society would greatly appreciate the privilege of entering into such an arrangement on a co-operative basis, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn
Director of Research

Letter to Otto F. Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
March 26, 1926

Mr. Otto F. Spring,
Grove, Oklahoma

My dear Otto: -

I have your three letters. I am glad to be advised just as to the status of matters at that end of the line. I have only had time to go over the receipts hastily but so far as I could see they seemed to be o.k. I am glad to know that you paid by check.

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Marland, just received this morning. It will service to let you know that, so far as I am concerned, there has been no "stalling" about the Kay County project. While you need not show it to Glen, you

can let him know that you have some personal knowledge regarding the matter.

I have been much interested in what you have had to say concerning popular interest and publicity in connection with the work in Arkansas. I think you did well to avoid as much of it as possible. Too much publicity might have closed the gates of opportunity for other work in that field. At the same time, it would have profited us little if any at home. One of the reasons I have wanted to get into the Kay County field has been that it would throw the whole proposition into the lime light, with Sarchet pushing the publicity end of the game. Then, if I can get a committee organized, as I am trying to do, we will follow it up promptly with strong solicitations and try to get enough to keep the work going for another fifteen months. Of course, I think we had better buy a car — the other plan simply is not workable. With the Texas panhandle oils field coming in strong, and mostly Oklahoma men profiting by it, the time for raising such a fund should be right soon.

I note what you suggest concerning the purchase of a second hand slicker and will see what can be done about it. No, I never brought one away with me. I judge that the responsibility for its disappearance lies between Charlie Fields and Tom Stewart, with the chances about even as between them. I have learned that Tom had a record here, before he went over with us. I have not seen him in more than six months, though his account against us was never closed. I presume he found the balance would be the other way.

If we can close a deal for the work in Kay County and raise a reasonable fund for the continuance of the work, we can clean up every item of indebtedness and go on with the work for a year or more, by which time, I hope the society may have sufficient funds to continue it. I am very anxious to get at the Beaver County work as I am sure it must result in important discoveries.

Will write again in a day or two. Please return Mr. Marland's letter.

*Truly yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn*

Letter to Otto F. Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
April 17, 1926*

*Mr. Otto F. Spring,
Grove, Oklahoma.*

Dear Otto:-

I arrived home from Ponca and Winfield this morning. I hope that you received my letter written at Ponca yesterday and also that check, which went out in the same mail with the letter in which it should have been enclosed—it went under separate cover after I found that it had not been mailed.

I have heard nothing from the man at Tulsa in regard to the Illinois River cave. I will call him up by long distance phone this evening, so we will not be in doubt very long in regard to that proposition.

After writing to you yesterday, I called Doc up. I then went on to Newkirk on the bus. He picked me up there and drove me to Winfield, his mother and some friends going along. He is greatly elated with the Kay County prospect. He is willing to put his old car in on the job for the present, so I will not make arrangements for another car just yet.

I did not see much of the Academy of Science meeting at Winfield, for the reason that Doc and I went around to the court house there and called on the deputy county clerk, Bert Moore, with whom I have had occasional correspondences for several years. He has been familiar with that field for many years—since he was a boy, before the opening of Oklahoma to homestead settlement. From what he tells me, there are two village sites instead of one, the trading post evidently having been moved from the mouth of one creek to that of another at some time during its period of occupancy and activity.

I imagine that we will have a lot of visitors up there—from Winfield and Arkansas City as well as from Newkirk, Ponca City and Blackwell.

Replying to your suggestion, I will look up that garage bill and send it to you tomorrow. In case we are to go out to Kay County instead of the Arkansas line, I will have you ship the outfit direct to Newkirk instead of waiting for someone to come after it with a car. I believe you might offer Durham \$85.00 per month, if you think that is the thing to do, or, if you think he should have more, say so. You cannot pick up his like every day. I would like to give him an opportunity to see the other parts of the state if he can find it possible to get away for a time. I think I would have both of you come this way—so you could run down to Norman and he could have a chance to look over the collections here and then go from here to Newkirk. I would go along and see the work fairly started. I will have to draw some money for traveling expenses the first thing.

*Hastily Yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn*

Letter to Otto F. Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
April 27, 1926*

*Mr. Otto F. Spring,
Grove, Oklahoma*

Dear Otto:-

When I wrote and mailed a few lines to you a couple of hours ago, I fully expected to meet you at or near Newkirk, about Friday morning. Since then, I find that some internal complications have developed here in the office of the Society with the result that it seems inexpedient for me to leave until after the quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society, which convenes at 2 p.m., one week from today. It is therefore likely that it will be impossible for me to leave here before the middle or latter part of next week. Inasmuch as I have not concluded definite arrangements with Mr. Armstrong for the privilege of working on his place, east of Newkirk, and as I should do that before sending you there, I am writing again to suggest that you and Doc make your plans to go to Hardy and spend a few days seeing what you can learn or unearth around the flint quarries. Of course we had planned to do that anyway, during the course of our season in Kay county—and I wanted to be with you when it was done. But I guess you can put in a few days without me. Please keep me advised as to your locations and movements while there. Be sure to get a representative collection of photographic negatives; also make notes of all pertinent information. If possible, make sketch maps, showing locations, size, areas, with lines of quarters, sections, townships, ranges, etc., of each quarry in the district so that the latter may later be combined in a single map.

I know that both you and Doc have the initiative and the resourcefulness to put in your time to good advantage until I can join you for a few days. With best wishes for a safe journey, I am

Sincerely yours,

Joseph B. Thoburn

Letter to Otto F. Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
May 8, 1926*

Mr. Otto F. Spring,

Newkirk, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Spring:-

I failed to find Mr. Sarchet at the Ponca railway station last evening. I have written to him telling him that I wished him to wait until my return before his story on the trading and the subsidiary settlement put out. I told him that you would be in to see him in the course of the next few days. When you go, do not fail to take a collection of flint quarry specimens with you. If the weather is suitable and the roads are good, he might take his car and take you out to the flint quarries. For this reason, you should plan to be in Ponca in the fore part of the day. If you can get him to take you out and let you go over it with him, so that he can write a good story of it for the paper, you should do so by all means. For the rest, you need not discuss your present work until later. If any other newspaper men come around, just refer them to me for the time being, simply saying that, until the work is more fully developed, we do not care to be quoted, or make any statement.

I have asked Sarchet to go with you and introduce you to Mr. Blackard, Mr. Marland's personal accountant.

Recurring to flint quarry specimens, be sure that they are labeled "unfinished blades or implements" as the case may be. Hold your specimens from the trading post and subsidiary village site for exhibition later.

I am sending herewith a letter of introduction to Mr. Blackard. If you need more money on expense account, you may go and present this letter to him and draw fifty or seventy-five dollars. I will arrange for you to get a salary check after my return to that part of the country. In the mean time, if you need money personally, use part of the expense money and repay it when you get a salary check.

Hastily yours,

Joseph B. Thoburn

P.S. When you get settled, please advise me as to postoffice address and telephone addresses, if the latter be available.

* * * * *

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma

May 10, 1926

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Thoburn-

Yours of the 8th at hand.

Will go to Ponca tomorrow.

Will not have to have any money for my wife until the 15th anyhow so will not send her any until we get some pay.

Made several good finds today. One pipe nearly complete & several beads.

Will make up as good collection as possible from the quarry specimens and take along tomorrow.

Hastily,

Otto Spring

Will find out our nearest telephone. Engleking's do not have one.

Will get our mail for the present at the P.O.

Letter to C.M. Sarchet from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk Okla.
May 24, 1926*

*C.M. Sarchet
Ponca City Okla.*

Dear Mr. Sarchet-

Coming back from Ponca this morning we decided to go across the river and look at the grave I told you of over there.

After some search we found it. As others had been there digging the stone wall was entirely gone and the grave appeared only as a shallow depression filled with rocks. This had no appearance of being a grave but a small excavation brought up rotten pieces of bone.

As the time seemed to be very well suited for it's excavation we decided to postpone our dinner until supper time to dig it out.

There had been considerable digging done in the grave and all of the skeletons were scattered and none of the larger bones were there.

However there was some of it undisturbed along the edges and in the bottom. This earth contained many small bones. There was sufficient of this undisturbed earth to give a very good idea of the original condition of the grave.

It is some fifty feet back from the edge of the hill and on fairly level ground. The loose earth and rocks had been removed to a depth of some eighteen inches forming a pit about ten feet long by six wide and roughly oblong.

The skeletons had apparently been buried in a home-made casket these covered with the loose earth then with the rocks. From Mr. Bryson's story I judge that a low wall of rock was originally around the grave.

The charred condition of the bones and charcoal in the grave leads one to believe that the remains were burned after burial.

Carefully working over the earth and the rock fragments in the pit we made a number of interesting finds all of them makes quite an interesting collection. However unfortunately the former diggers seem to have taken most of the best there was there.

Our finds are-

*One small tin box of bright yellow paint
One hand wrought coffin handle
One large very rusty pair of scissors
One piece of lamp burner with date 1868
One piece of lock and key belonging to it
Three pieces of brass chain
One handle of an iron spoon
Two brass buttons
One large brass-headed nail
One brass bell
Number of glass buttons of several colors*

Ferdinandina: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community

Number of long cylindrical bone or ivory beads

Number of glass beads

Several turquoise beads in poor state of preservation

Many hand wrought iron nails

One arrow-head of flint

These indicate that the grave was not of great age but old enough to be interesting.

If you think best we will mail or bring these relics in to you at once. Let me know by return mail if you want them right away otherwise will bring them the next time I am in Ponca or give them to you when you come up next time.

Stopped and talked with the Bryson's this evening telling them we intend opening the rock mound near their house in the course of the next few days. They have a very pretty pair of large boar's tusks they dug out of one of the mounds here and said they would give them to me whenever I want them. They are fine specimens and I doubt ever finding more like them.

Will start the rock mound as soon as we finish the one we were working on when you were here and will let you know at once as to the developments.

Otto Spring

* * * * *

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Okla.

May 24, 1926

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn-

Just returned from Ponca. Received our checks all O.K.

Moore spent part of the day with me yesterday. Went down to look for the other rock mound but due to limited time did not find it.

Talking to Mr. Muirheid (?) I received a well preserved flintlock gun hammer that he plowed up on his place.

Sarchet misplaced his spectacles Saturday and came up expecting to find them here. However he found them in Ponca this morning.

We took a very interesting collection to Ponca with us and it should arouse quite a lot of interest.

Otto Spring

* * * * *

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma

May 24, 1926

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn

Went out to the grave across the river from our camp this afternoon and after finding it decided to dig it out.

It had been much disturbed but the former diggers had left quite a lot of interest. All trace of the wall was gone and the grave was only a rocky depression on the hill-top.

The grave dates apparently from about 1870 as a piece of a lamp or lantern burner bears a date of 1868.

Found a number of hand wrought iron nails and a hand wrought coffin handle. Also a number of beads of glass and turquoise and several of the long cylindrical ivory ones.

Also a flint arrow-head, brass buttons, a brass bell, some brass chain, a tin box full of very bright yellow paint, a large very rusty pair of scissors, a piece of rusty lock and a key.

The remains seem to have been burned after burial as most of the bones were charred and there was char-coal in with them. All of the bones were scattered.

There seems to have been more than one burial in this place. The grave had been dug to a flat ledge of rock about eighteen inches below the surface and was about ten feet long and six wide.

I wrote Mr. Sarchet the particulars as I thought he might be interested.

Otto Spring

5/25

Yours of the 24th at hand. Sure sorry to hear that permission to excavate on the Cowan place was refused. Probably Mr. Sarchet will be able to bring pressure to bear upon him through the Marland Oil Co. of Calif. and permission finally secured. He suggested that the other day. I rather expected it after the long delay.

However we have enough to keep us busy for the next few weeks and will be able to get a very good collection even if we do not get to work there.

I believe it is a matter of price with Cowan and a few dollars jingled in his hearing would change his mind.

The mound we were at work on still continues very interesting and larger than I figured so will not get started on the rock mound as soon as I expected.

I wrote to Glen as you suggested and as his other letter was written later than Beauchamp's letter I expect him to come right on over.

Went to the Creek a few minutes about nine o'clock last night and killed seven big carp the largest being of about seven or eight pounds.

O.F.S.

Letter to Otto F. Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
May 25, 1926

Mr. Otto F. Spring,
Grove, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Spring:

Your letter was received this morning. I am glad to know that Mr. Sarchet found his glasses. I hope that the specimens you brought down to Ponca City will make a good impression. I suppose you are beginning to work in the mound in the wheat field by this time, and I hope that it may meet with your expectations.

What about the other tent? We have the poles here, where is the tent? Will you need it when the other boys come? Let me hear from you at once so I may have the poles sent.

Let me hear from you as to developments from day to day.

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Research Director.*

Letter to Otto F. Spring from C. M. Sarchet (WHC)

*Chamber of Commerce
Ponca City, Oklahoma
May 26, 1926.*

*Mr. Otto Spring,
Box 223,
Newkirk, Okla.*

Dear Spring:

Your letter is very interesting, in regard to the grave across the river from your camp, and I am filing it for future reference. I do not think it is necessary to have these relics immediately -just let them alone until you make a trip here. I have a considerable story out already for next Sunday, provided it is used, and we cannot run these too close together. I would like, therefore, to hold this part of the story until a later date. Of course, if you find anything of immediate interest in the rock mound on the Bryson farm, I would like to know it. I had a letter this morning from Mr. Thoburn, written by J.D. Cowan of San Gabriel, California, in which he refuses permission to excavate on the old Camp Ferdinandina site. I think the best thing to do will be to go directly through the Marland company's representative in Los Angeles, and I believe this permission can be obtained in this way. I am going to write this letter to California just as soon as I find the proper person to address.

With best personal regards to you and "Doc",

Yours very truly,

C.M.Sarchet, Secretary.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto F. Spring (OHS)

*Newkirk Oklahoma
May 26, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Dear Mr. Thoburn:*

Yours of the 25th at hand.

The other tent is here but we could not haul the poles as we came in from Everton. Would like to have the poles at once and also the cots, tools, and chairs that should be with the poles. The cots should be repaired and sent as soon as possible as we are in bad shape for cots here.

I am told that Cowan is about the sort of a man that Slay of Snow-ball is. Won't even lease his land for oil for fear he will have a better price offered later.

Started the rock-mound this morning and tore a large hole in it today. It is composed of large and small rocks well fitted together. It is hard for both of us to handle some of them they are so large. Find an occasional chipped flint in the rocks and in the clay below and just before we stopped this evening found splintered bones almost entirely decayed. Most of the big slabs of rock are rayed around the mound steeply sloping away from the center.

I am quite convinced the mound is much older than the camp but it may turn out very interesting. Will get some very interesting photographs of it in section and if possible showing bones among the rocks. Am sure it is a grave but am afraid the skeletons will be too far gone to do much with.

Have a little more to dig on the mound we were on when you were here as it extends farther than the others but thought it best to examine the rock mound at once as the chances there seem to be better for a sensational find. Should reach the center of it tomorrow and would expect it to be of most interest. If it is very interesting Sarchet asked that I call him up.

Will add the results of our work in the morning before I mail this as we probably will not go in to town before noon tomorrow.

Otto Spring

Thurs. P.M. at P.O. This A.M. we continued on into the mound and find as we approach the center the slabs are very large and dip at a sharp angle toward the center. On the outside they dipped steeply away from the center then there is a place where they are approximately level. As some are about three feet on a side and six inches thick you can figure we get our share of trouble when we run into a bunch of the large ones.

Ran into a quantity of very badly decayed bones about half way up among the rocks. Apparently parts of a child's skeleton.

As we are taking about a third of the circumference of the mound I am inclined to believe it is constructed the same all over as on that third.

O.F.S.

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Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

*Newkirk, Oklahoma
May 28, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Thoburn-

Your note of the 27th at hand.

We had decided the grave to be of rather recent origin and had not contemplated digging any more of them. That is the only one there and the only one we have heard of however.

The rock mound is without question a cist grave. It had a low vault originally rudely arched but now fallen. In the vault was at least two interments as that is the number we have come on to so far. They are very badly decayed and crushed. Only a few bones are there and those barely preservable. There was a stone floor directly upon the clay subsoil.

As we progressed into the part that had been the vault the former structure was easily observable and we took a number of pictures that should show it very well.

Also with the human bones found part of the shoulder blade bone of a deer and a deer's vertebrae.

So far no relics other than some rude flints (two or three) and a rock with two or three lines scratched on it that was with the bones.

I had a letter from Sarchet indicating that he would take it up through the California Marland Oil Co. and try to obtain permission from Cowan.

Otto Spring

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Letter to J.K. Cleary from C. M. Sarchet (OHS)

*Chamber of Commerce
Ponca City, Oklahoma
May 28, 1926*

*Mr. J.K. Cleary, Pres.,
Marland Oil Co. of Okla.,
Ponca City, Okla.*

Dear Mr. Cleary:

You will perhaps recall my conversation with you Thursday morning in the office of Mr. Lowrance, in regard to securing permission for the Research Department of the Oklahoma Historical Society to make explorations on an 80 acre tract northeast of Ponca City, belonging to J. D. Cowan of San Gabriel, California. I am attaching herewith a letter from Mr. Cowan to the Society, which would indicate that he does not understand the real importance of this matter.

E. W. Marland, President of the Marland Oil company, is financing this research work in Kay county. He is doing this in order that some of the relics obtained may be placed in the state museum which he desires to build in Ponca City. To do this research work, J. B. Thoburn, who is research director for the Oklahoma Historical Society, has the services of two of the finest young men, both university graduates, that it would be possible to find anywhere. One of these is Otto Spring, Oklahoma University, and the other is Harry Robertson, Phillips University. Both have done much research work in other portions of the state under the direction of Mr. Thoburn. They are honest, capable, splendid young fellows in every respect.

In doing this research work, no damage results whatever to the land. They have already secured permission from John Ingleking, Mrs. Della Bryson, and other farm owners in that immediate vicinity, for these men to explore on their farms the Indian mounds which formerly constituted an Indian village. This will show you that the farmers and land owners, as a rule, are co-operating splendidly in making this research possible.

The mounds are simply turned over by Spring and Robertson. They commence at one edge of the mound and throw the dirt immediately back of them and work clear through, and when they get through the mound is in exactly

the same condition as when they started, thus leaving no injury to the land.

There seems to be an opinion in the minds of most of the farmers that there may be some buried money in that locality. This may be the reason for Mr. Cowan refusing to let the men explore on his land. If anything of that kind would be uncovered, of course it would go to the land owner, and there is no intention or desire on the part of the Oklahoma Historical Society to interfere with anything of this nature. Mr. Cowan has expressed the opinion in his letter that there has already been some research work done on his farm. If this is true, it has been done by people of that locality, as the Historical Society has done no research work whatever on this place, with the exception of a surface examination, in order to make certain that these Indian mounds do indicate a former Indian village there.

I believe, Mr. Cleary, that if one of your company's associates in Los Angeles would call on Mr. Cowan at San Gabriel, it might be possible for Mr. Cowan to have a proper understanding of this matter, and permission be secured to make explorations on his place.

Thanking you for your co-operation, which I know will meet with Mr. Marland's approval also,

Yours very truly,

C.M. Sarchet, Secretary.



Figure 4. Oklahoma Historical Society photo (#148.1) labeled "Rock pile apparently a grave on hill top north east of Newkirk". Whether this is the "mound across the river" (thus on the east side of the Arkansas River), the one mentioned on the Bryson property, or one on the Engleking property is uncertain.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk Oklahoma
May 31, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn-

Yours of the 30th at hand. Will be at the depot when the boys arrive if nothing happens to prevent.

As today was a holiday Mr. Moore and his wife spent the day with us. We worked on the mound we were on when you were here and made some good finds. The mound or rather deposit still continues although we are beyond where I had figured from the surface that it would end.

Found a pipe radically different from former ones today. It is a large almost hemispherical bowl set onto a small stem. It is almost perfect having only part of the stem gone.

Found two large elk points with bases cut off to form some sort of an implement.

Will start the mound nearest the gate next. It should be the best one in this camp.

Mr. Moore says that one fellow told of digging in the trench of the other camp and finding charred bases of wooded posts. I think it would be well to dig a trench across the one here.

Just had a letter from my wife saying my boy has just cut his foot rather seriously. Suppose it is not as bad as she thinks and it will get alright in a few days.

There should have been a bundle of shovels etc. with the other stuff. If it is not there will write to the fellow at Everton and have him look them up.

Mr. Moore says there is still another rock mound. Will try to locate it later.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

*Newkirk, Oklahoma
Tues. P.M. at P.O.
June 1, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Thoburn-

Enclosed find letter from Glen. Let me or him know at once about what to do about his coming on out.

Suppose having him come on out would be the easiest way to keep him quiet.

Am having very good luck in the big mound by the gate.

Sarchet was over yesterday evening. Will send him the prints of the rock mound as soon as I get them. Had them developed here as I figured you wanted it charged here anyhow.

The boys are doing well and seem to be enjoying it.

*Hastily,
Otto Spring*

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn-

We are doing exceptionally well in the mound by the gate.

So much small stuff I am going to get a screen and use it.

Found a number of fragments of some sort of cloth woven with brass or copper threads so that the cloth is preserved.

Found a good broken pipe that is very highly decorated.

Also some other slightly broken ones.

Small arrowheads are pretty numerous and of good workmanship.

Pottery is plentiful also.

Found a fragment of pipestone pipe.

Ran onto a very thick bed of ashes and tried photographing it

*Hastily
Otto Spring*

Letter to C. M. Sarchet from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk, Oklahoma
June 4, 1926*

*C. M. Sarchet
Ponca City Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Sarchet-

Enclosed find prints of exposures taken during excavation of the rock-grave. Unfortunately the photographer almost ruined the negatives but maybe you can use them.

In excavating in the large mound near the gate between the two pastures we ran onto so much small stuff that we secured a quarter inch mesh seive and are now using it. This cuts down the amount of earth we can handle but more than compensates us in the greater number of relics recovered.

Have made some very interesting finds lately. One a brass finger ring, also some fragments of cloth woven with copper wire.

Coming back from town the evening you were here we looked the camp over for your camera, not finding it we concluded one of the women must have carried it to the car.

Am hoping you will be able to come up while we are working on the mound we are now on. So far it is the best we have found here.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma

*Joseph B. Thoburn
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*Dear Mr. Thoburn-
 Yours of the 3rd at hand.*

Have been using a quarter inch screen since yesterday noon and I am very well satisfied with results. We cannot handle dirt as fast but get all of the stuff and find more per given time.

Found a brass finger-ring this morning. A sort of signet ring of fair weight with some sort of characters engraved on it.

We are finding a number of bone awls also a steel one well preserved and still sharp.

We are getting started on the mound and have a good lot of stuff already.

We found two parts of a small pipestone ornament or implement that is curious. It may be in the shape of a small cup a half inch in diameter with a handle on the side of it may be parts of a small pipe with a tiny loop on the edge of the rim. Have a fragment of one side with a handle on and a fragment of one side without a handle. Suppose we will find more of it.

Have several pipes in fair state of preservation one is highly decorated.

Found a prehistoric "Compact" as Allen called it. A large carved piece of red paint.

Found another nicely engraved gun ornament.

Have found several pieces of guns so far in this mound.

Otto Spring

Yours of the 4th at hand. Will mail Glen a check but of course, am taking chances of his spending it and not coming.

Stuff still coming good this A.M. Pipes sure are plentiful in that mound

Secured the boar's tusks and a very fine steel axe from Brysons. As a favor to them I wish you would mail me some of the Arkansas arrowheads at once so that I can give them a dozen or so. Considering their cooperation in letting us dig on their farm and giving us several fine specimens I think we should give them a few nice arrowheads. Mrs. Bryson has told me she would like very much to have a few.

I have the card stating the shovels are at the depot.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

*Newkirk Oklahoma
 June 7, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
 Oklahoma City Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn-

Yours of the 5th at hand. Have been of the opinion all of the time that we should be more careful of human remains found. Am doubtful of the advisability of using paraffin as you suggested. Using it last winter on wood I could only get it to penetrate by heating the wood above the melting point of the paraffin. This might have been due to the poor quality of the paraffin and gasoline also that we used.

Am also enclosing a report on the work at Hardy for your criticism. Will you attend to the reports to Marland or shall I?

I am also returning Moorehead's letter.

Mr. Moore tells me of a cave about four miles from here where a number of human bones were dug out by a fellow hunting treasure. Have also heard of the same place from others. It is on the other side of the river from us and just over the line in Kansas. Suppose it could be looked into and worked on and no-one know it is in the other state. It is only a few hundred yards across the line.

Mr. Moore and his wife spent most of the day with us yesterday.

We were flooded with visitors a good part of the day yesterday.

Stuff is still coming good.

Otto Spring



Figure 5. Screening excavated soil for artifacts at the Engleking site. Note location on high bluff with Arkansas River floodplain in background. This location matches well with the Engleking site (the Bryson-Paddock site as it is known today). Photo courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society (Photo #147.3).

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma

Joseph B. Thoburn
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn

Have been having good luck. We are finding a number of bone implements. A number that I cannot even suggest a use for.

Have had so much interest shown by the school teachers that visit camp. They all want a collection to show to their pupils. Might sell a lot of the common stuff we find and have found, in small collections for a dollar or so each and get something out of them. Meaning the specimens that you have too many of to show.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
June 10, 1926

Joseph. B. Thoburn
 Oklahoma City Okla.

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Just ran into a rather curious thing in the mound.

Yesterday to the north-west of the center of the main mound and west of the former excavation in the top we ran into loose earth in the bottom of the mound so started on down.

Just finished it to the bottom this noon. It was a pit six feet deep filled with loose earth like the mound and ending at the bottom on hard yellow clay. It is about four feet in diameter and circular. Found bones and implements as well as char-coal and pottery all of the way down. About half way down ran onto two skulls that I take to be coyote, one with lower jaw the other without. Found a lot of melted glass and a partially melted brass spring on the bottom.

Found what I call one of the rare finds, an almost complete glass arrow-head. Also found several queer broken bone implements.

Had the place figured out as a grave but it wasn't.

As there was a bowl of a pipe broken into three pieces and the pieces in place just over the pit I figure the pit dates from the time the mound was occupied.

Took some pictures of the pit when we got it cleaned out.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
June 12, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
 Oklahoma City Okla.

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Enclosed find the map of the Hardy flint workings. You will notice that the southern group of workings is below the correction line. Copies of the map should be made without the continuation of the section lines as this map shows them.

Had good luck this morning. Found a brass arrow-head, a gun trigger, and about a fourth of the circumference of the rim of a brass kettle with the iron handle or rather most of the handle on it. We were right that the one found the first day was a handle off of a brass kettle. Also found the usual run of stuff.

Whistler will return to the City tonight. Am certain he did not enjoy his bed on the ground.

Otto Spring

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Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto
Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
June 13, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Okla.

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Sarchet was up to the camp late last evening after I wrote you yesterday.

The Sarchets are figuring on leaving next Sunday on a prolonged trip to the west coast and Alaska. Probably he has already written you of that.

Talked with a lady yesterday who had been around the Armstrong place when it was first settled. She says they formerly found many things there on the surface and dug out skeletons there buried just below the surface. There was an extensive graveyard there she says.

We had many visitors yesterday. Most of them were very enthusiastic about our finds.

We seem to be nearing the end of the mound we were on when you were here. This mornings work did not net us very much.

Otto Spring

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Figure 6. Oklahoma Historical Society photo (#147.1) labeled as "Cache of storage pit under mound on Ingle-King place". Given its apparent depth this could be the pit described in Otto Spring's June 10, 1926, letter to Thoburn.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma
June 13, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Mr. Thoburn-

Yours of the 11th at hand.

The telegraph operator here tried to deliver the message to the grocery where we trade and did not go to the post-office.

Mr. Moore and his wife are here this P.M. He tells me that a Paul Miller of Winfield has an old map that belonged to his grandfather and is dated 1864.

It seems that it has a number of interesting things on it and among others it maps Camp Fernandino. As it names and maps the creeks and the Arkansas river more or less accurately and places the camp some twenty miles south of here it might pay to come on up and look that locality over. Mr. Moore would meet us at Ponca early Sunday morning next and we could look over the country east of there.

The map places the camp in a bend of the Arkansas with the river to the north and south of the camp.

Please answer me at once and if you think best I will go up and photograph the map and make plans for the trip Sunday with Mr. Moore.

The map was printed in England.

Moore says the Arkansas is mapped fairly accurately.

It might be we could get the owner to loan the map to the museum.

Otto Spring

Letter to Clark Wissler from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

June 14, 1926

Dr. Clark Wissler
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Doctor Wissler:

At present we have a small party at work in the field in Kay County, in northern Oklahoma. We have a very interesting field there, as it represents the primitive culture of the Stone Age Caddoan (Wichita--Towacaro) of just two centuries ago. In its primary contact with European culture (French) on the site and in the vicinity of the first trading post established in Oklahoma. We are securing a fine lot of stone and bone implements, the latter in almost perfect condition, together with considerably broken pottery, some of which is susceptible of restoration.

Our Society has no funds for carrying on this work and we are therefore forced to rustle for the money outside which is not always an easy proposition. We would be glad to enter into an agreement for a co-operative effort in this line if we can find an institution that would be interested.

*Sincerely yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn
Research Director*

* * * * *

Letter to Otto Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City Oklahoma
June 15, 1926.*

*Mr. Otto F. Spring,
Newkirk, Oklahoma.*

Dear Otto: -

Both of your letters of the 13th are received. Presumably both came yesterday p. m., but I was in El Reno and so did not have a chance to read them until the morning. I will see about the liquid cement at once. I presume the cots reached you, as they had been shipped before I called up the T. & A. Company. The expense bill was sent here but I am enclosing it herewith. I was glad to learn of Sarchet's plans. I called up Don Whistler and he will come up this afternoon and we will fix up his story for Sarchet, so he can work it over and mail it out before he leaves on his trip.

I am much interested in the story of the Miller map. Evidently, we should secure a photostat copy of it, at least. It would be mighty interesting if we should find that the old camp had still a third location in addition to the two already known. I think you had better plan to look into the matter next Sunday, whether I am there or not. I will try to be there if possible. Ask Mr. Moore to bring the map with him. It may be that the register of deeds or one of the abstractors of title, in Winfield, may have a photostat outfit and can make such a copy for you. Do not take the time to go to Winfield unless necessary--just call Mr. Moore up and arrange to have him secure such a copy for you or else bring the original with him when he comes to Ponca. It might be well for you to look over a Kay County plat book and get the lay of the land and of the roads before starting to look for such a site.

*Hastily yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn.*

P. S. I am returning your plat of the flint quarries herewith. I want you to take a pencil and sketch in the superficial outlines of the hills on which these quarries are located. We will then have it redrawn for the engraver. You may have to go over there again to do it. If so, get some more photographs, including two or three front views or perspectives of the hills and slopes leading up to them. In pencilling in the outlines of the hills, pay no attention to your lettering--that will all be taken care of in redraughting.

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Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk Oklahoma
June 16, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Yours of the fifteenth at hand. Also received the cement all O.K. The lack of cement had been delaying me



Figure 7. Oklahoma Historical Society photo (#167.2) labeled “Quarries near Hardy”, Ferdinandina archaeological excavations, Kay Co. This appears to be a view looking east the flint quarry pits a mile or so south of Hardy, Oklahoma.



Figure 8. Oklahoma Historical Society photo (#167.5) labeled “Quarry pit on hilltop near Hardy”, Ferdinandina archaeological excavations, Kay Co.

somewhat.

I am planning on a trip to Ponca City tomorrow. Should have gone sooner but have been busy. Let the expense money run clear out.

I wrote Moore and mailed it so that it should get to him in the morning asking him to have a photostat copy made of the map. Also telling him that it would be agreeable to go down on the Arkansas next Sunday.

Will keep you posted where to meet us and I think it would be well for you to go along if you can arrange it. Or maybe you can come on up here Saturday.

Am going to take a lot of stuff to Ponca tomorrow. I also have a small collection on display in Newkirk. Allan made some neat cards so it should make quite a good showing.

Will also give Sarchet a copy of my notes on the mound we are just finishing. Maybe he will want to give it a write-up.

The mound seems to be about done, Will start on the one just over the fence next.

Will probably not have time to start on the Hardy map until next week. Will probably go up there. Should have some more pictures anyway.

Am enclosing a check to you for the amount of receipts you sent making the amount to you unaccounted for \$15.00. That should help to avoid confusion by keeping that always the same.

Am also sending the money to the Okla. Tent and Awning Co. I guess it would have been cheaper to have bought new cots however I believe the covers are better than the one on new ones.

Looked over the wheat field after they cut it. Will have to get busy and locate the mounds in the plowed fields before the weeks start or we can not find them.

One or two of the larger mounds in the field would probably pay for the working.

P. S. I understand "Doc" complained to you of the way I have been treating him. I also am sure that he neglected telling you the reason for that treatment. You can find that out by asking any member of the party. Your orders to date as I understand them are that everybody works and does his share. Until I am told that "Doc" is to do nothing or he starts doing his share he will receive no better treatment from me.

I had intended talking the matter over with you and "Doc" but decided to give him another chance. However one member in a party doing nothing does much more than lose his own time.

However since you were here after a pretty considerable quarrel he has been doing better and if he keeps it up maybe we can manage to get along.

O.F.S.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma
June 16, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Ran into another pit yesterday. It was about twelve feet from the south side of the mound and about the center of the south extension on the mound. You remember that the mound we were working on when you were here had a sort of extension to the south.

This one was smaller and not as deep as the other but more prolific. It was four and a half feet deep, two feet ten inches in diameter at the floor of the mound and a foot larger in diameter at the bottom. It was circular and cistern shaped, decidedly larger at the bottom. The floor was level. The last eighteen inches down was mostly ashes.

About a foot from the floor of the mound we ran onto a very large iron axe. A very good specimen and the best so far. About a foot farther down in the north-west corner of the pit we ran into a small skeleton that I at first took to be that of a child until coming to the skull. It was that of some carnivorous animal about the size of a small dog. Possibly a large badger. At this level was also a large, complete, and good muller stone. The best of the three found so far.

On the floor of the pit was two of the hoes or trowels made of the shoulder blade bone of the buffalo. One being a very good specimen.

There was many large bones, including several whole buffalo ribs, in the pit.

The pits are very interesting, one never knows what might be found in one of them. Am certain some were passed up in some of the other mounds but I don't believe any more will get by.

Have decided that the south extension is a sort of alcove or joining room to the main mound. The main evidence being that a piece of decorated pipe was found in the south pit that fits onto part of one found in the northern part of the main mound. I would call that almost conclusive proof.

One buffalo rib had been broken before death and the break shows as a knotty place on the rib.

Found also several good beads yesterday. Monday we made one exceptional find, another brass arrowhead.

I notice that many of the large joints have been used for rubbing. It might be they were used as mullers. Have several that are quite large enough to grind corn with and are worn to oval in shape.

The earth in the pit was so loose that a shovel could be pushed into it to a depth of two feet.

Otto Spring

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Letter to Bert Moore from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
June 16, 1926

Mr. Bert Moore
Winfield Kansas

Dear friend Moore -

Just received the answer to my letter to Mr. Thoburn. Due to his being out of town he did not get to read it on schedule time.

He is very much interested in the map and would like very much to see it. He wants a photostat copy of it made if possible.

Could you arrange to have the copy made? If so send the bill to me here

If you still want to go Sunday let me know by return mail when and where to meet you and whether you want to go in our car. Mr. Thoburn will arrange to be with us if in any way possible.

Ran into another pit in the south end of the mound and made some pretty interesting finds. One a steel axe similiar to the large one you have but I believe larger.

Otto Spring

Letter to Olen Lane from W. P. Cassidy (OHS)

*512 A. G. Bartlett Building
Los Angeles, California
June 16, 1926.*

*Mr. Olen Lane
200 Bush Street,
San Francisco, California.*

Dear Olen:

Pursuant to your letter of June 7th, I called on Mr. J. D. Cowan at his home in San Gabriel. Taking your hint, I did not disclose to Mr. Cowan that I was connected with an oil company, but told him that I was from Oklahoma and that a friend of mine, connected with the Oklahoma Historical Society, had requested me to visit him and attempt to get permission for Mr. J. B. Thoburn, who is the Research Director for the Oklahoma Historical Society, to explore on his farm the Indian mounds which formerly constituted an Indian village.

Mr. Cowan immediately cross-examined me to find out if in any way this exploration had anything to do with geological work in connection with the oil industry. After I had eased his mind along these lines, he told me that on two previous occasions his farm had been gone over very thoroughly by men who claimed they were representatives of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and I informed him very emphatically that the Historical Society had done no research work whatsoever on his place, with the exception of some surface examination. He seemed to have the idea that perhaps some valuable treasure might be found and that he might be the loser, but I informed him that in the event anything should be found there of any value, he would of course still be the owner and that we would leave his farm in exactly the same condition as when we started on the work.

After some discussion, he stated that he intended to drive back to Oklahoma the latter part of the summer or the early fall, and that at that time he would get in touch with the Historical Society and allow them to do their research work, provided that he could personally be there when they opened up some of the mounds. He was very set on this kind of an arrangement, and I finally agreed that I would notify the proper authority to get in touch with him and find out exactly when he expected to arrive in Oklahoma, and that at that time they would do their research work.

I then asked him if he would sell his farm, or a portion of it, to the Society. He stated that he would sell all or none, and that he had it listed at the present time with a real estate firm in Ponca City at the rate of \$100.00 an acre; however, if the Society dealt direct with him he would sell it for that price, less the commission he would have to pay the real estate agent.

I would suggest that Mr. Thoburn immediately get in communication by letter with Mr. Cowan and find out from him just when he will arrive in Ponca City and make arrangements for his work.

If there is anything further that I can do in this matter, kindly call on me.

Best regards.

*Yours very truly,
MARLAND OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA
W. P. Cassidy.*

* * * * *

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from C. M. Sarchet (OHS)

Chamber of Commerce
Ponca City, Oklahoma
June 17, 1926

Mr. J. B. Thoburn
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Thoburn:

I have your letter written Wednesday with the Whistler interview enclosed, and am very glad to get this. I will hold it for a few days, waiting for the prints that you have to go with it. However, I will try to use it before Sunday, June 27, as I have the Chris Madsen story out for that day. Spring and Allen Williams were in my office this morning, bringing in some more display stuff, and then going on down to see Blackard at the Marland offices.

I called Mr. Cleary's office this morning, and I find that he did write to the other men at Los Angeles in regard to calling on the owner of the Camp Ferdinandina site. The only answer thus far seems to be an acknowledgement of Mr. Cleary's letter, stating that a man would be sent immediately to call on this owner. Mr. Cleary has gone east for the summer, and when this letter came his stenographer sent it on to New York and of course it is not possible for me to see it. However, the stenographer says that it was simply an acknowledgment. She is to let me know if anything else is received.

I will have my work in shape so that if you come up Saturday morning we can go up to the boy's camp for a while. We will have to return early as I am planning some on going to Pawnee for over Sunday.

Very truly yours,
C. M. Sarchet, Secretary

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Letter to John K. Cleary from Olen Lane (OHS)

MARLAND OIL COMPANY
OF CALIFORNIA
200 Bush Street
San Francisco,
June 17, 1926.

Mr. John K. Cleary, President,
Marland Oil Company of Oklahoma,
Ponca City, Oklahoma.

My dear Jack:

In connection with your correspondence regarding property owned in Oklahoma by J. D. Cowan, and upon which The Historical Society of Oklahoma desires to explore, I am enclosing herewith copy of letter received from W. P. Cassidy to myself advising the result of his interview with Mr. Cowan.

Cassidy informs me that Mr. Cowan would be perfectly willing to allow the society to make such excavations as they desire provided he is present to protect any values that might be uncovered, but he could not persuade him that his interests would be taken care of in his absence.

If the society is in a hurry to do this work, I might suggest that they offer to pay a portion of Cowan's expenses to Oklahoma, provided he could make the trip without waiting until the latter part of summer or early fall.

I am certainly happy to be of any assistance to you that I can, and may ask that you please call on me to render any service for you that it is possible for me to do.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly
OLEN LANE.

* * * * *

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma
June 19, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Yours of the 18th at hand. Am hoping that you will be able to be with us tomorrow.

Finished the mound in the corner yesterday and started on the one over the fence. As we have been having a lot of rain we are not having very good going. It has been disagreeably cold also.

While finishing the mound we found a pipestone pipe in pretty good state of preservation.

The new mound looks very interesting. Have made several good finds. One a steel hoe. Also found a very good brass arrow-head.

Otto Spring

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Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma
June 20, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Just returned from the trip with Mr. Moore.

Mr. Moore brought a print of the map with him. It is a very good picture of the part of the map we are particularly interested in. I am convinced that the camp is mapped as about where we were today. It also shows a number of interesting things over the rest of the state. Will try to figure how to send it to you without breaking it. Moore will get the negative the next time he comes down.

Collins, one of Marlands geologists and a friend of Mr. Moore, went with us today. He says to get them the map and they will make a full sized picture of it. Blackard told me the same so will try to arrange to borrow it.

After some exploring and false leads we came to a place late this evening that seems to be the right place.

There is a large spring coming out of a small cave in a low cliff. Above the cliff is a large low hill of gentle slope similar to the Armstrong place only not as high above the river. Between the spring and the river is a large bottom field. Over the hill is a creek emptying into the river. Across the creek two high points. There are several hundred acres

of fairly level high ground on the hill above the spring. A farm house and buildings occupies the space above the spring.

There are no mounds there but should there be any at a trading post?

After some talk with the owner he remembered having plowed up such things as beads, arrow-heads, celts, etc. but attributed the stuff to an old ranch house that formerly was on the same site.

He told of finding lead "slugs" as he called them.

I looked the ground around the house over hastily and saw every indication of indian as well as early white encampment. They have hauled away from one place three wagon loads of stones most of them having been burned.

The lady, Mrs. Hudsonpillar, gave me our best specimen so far I think a small charm for a catholic person I take it to be. It is an oval of bronze about three quarters of an inch long with an eyelet on one end. Around the print of the virgin on one side is printed "O HOLY MARY EVER VIRGIN AND CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN. PRAY FOR US WHO IMPLORE THY AID" 1830.

On the other side is a series of insigna surrounded with stars. It is pretty well worn. She found it where I figured the old encampment had been.

This is the two sides of the piece -



(Copy of rubbing from original correspondence.)

If possible I want to spend some time there with you.

Otto Spring

It is well that you did not accompany us as we had a hard day and I feel about all in as I guess you can tell by the mistakes in this letter.

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Letter to G. W. Blackard from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk Oklahoma
June 22, 1926*

*Mr. G. W. Blackard
Ponca City Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Blackard -

Since I was at Ponca City we ran into some expenses I did not figure on so will not have enough expense money to last until the end of the month by about twenty-five dollars.

I would appreciate it if you would mail the check to me as it will be inconvenient for me to make a trip to Ponca this week as I have several errands that will keep me busy for several days.

I, with Bert Moore of Winfield Kansas and Mr. Collins of your organization and their wives, spent Sunday

scouting on the north side of the Arkansas river above Ponca City. We saw some very interesting places and secured one very interesting specimen.

This is a sort of charm of bronze that must have been worn by a catholic priest. It has a prayer printed around the figure of the virgin on one side and some sort of insignia on the other. It is dated 1830.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk Oklahoma
June 22, 1926*

*Mr. Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Have been having fair luck this week. Due to heavy rains the mound has been very wet so that it is hard to find the stuff.

Found a pit this morning in the edge of the mound and in the south-east corner of the mound. It was five feet three inches deep, three feet in diameter at the old floor of the mound and five feet at the bottom. The lower part was full of ashes and bones. Only found one very highly decorated pipe broken on the edge of the stem and part of the bowl gone.

Kieth's folks are going to drive up here next Saturday to stay over Sunday. He is writing to his folks asking that they ask you to come with them. That would make a nice trip for you.

The mound we are now working on does not seem to be as prolific as the last one but we are doing pretty well.

We have been finding a lot of burned fragments that seem to be pieces of mud plastering on a partition. It might be the house burned down before it had been lived in very long accounting for the scarcity of bones.

Am afraid we will have to make arrangements for another car. "Doc" and Glen have spent the last week working on the old one and it sounds like it would not make it to town today.

Have had to use Glen's car several times when the old one was out of order or at Blackwell so have agreed to pay for having his battery fixed (\$6.50) for the use of it. Shall I pay that out of expense money or let "Doc" pay it.

Fenton seems to be enjoying his visit with us and would like to stay longer with us but cannot. He is a very good fellow to have around.

Kieth was quite sick Sunday due to an overdose of fried chicken Saturday night. He is all O. K. now.

Mr. Moore is planning on spending next Sunday with us and thinks he will bring the map with him. Am hoping you will be with us also.

If Sarchet wants to give the little charm a write-up have him write me and I will make pictures of it. I expect it would be a good idea to do that anyway.

Otto Spring

Letter to Otto Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City Oklahoma
June 22, 1926*

*Mr. Otto Spring,
Newkirk, Okla.*

Dear Otto:

Yours of Saturday and Sunday were both received this morning. I am much interested in your progress with the excavations. The finding of the pipestone pipe was interesting as it indicates barter with tribes farther north. I am interested to know what shape it is.

Your story of the search for the third site of Camp Ferdinandina is interesting. I have no doubt that you have stumbled on to the site. The fact that you found a spring of water there is in itself significant.

Without knowing anything definite in regard to this matter, I am surmising that this last is very likely to prove to be the third and latest of the three sites to be occupied in point of time. The fact that there are or were no mounds on the site is at least suggestive that the Indians employed by the traders there were Osage instead of Caddoans. The finding of the little Catholic charm tends to bear out this surmise. Indeed, there may have been a gap of some years between the occupancy of the last of the two posts further up and the establishment of the one on the site just located. It is interesting from a historical view point at least and I shall be glad to go with you and see it when I can find time to do so.

I did not think of suggesting that you secure the original map and have the Marland people copy it for you. If convenient, when this is done, I wish they would make two copies so that the Historical Society may have one as well as one for the Ponca City collection.

I shall write to Mr. Sarchet, asking him not to publish the story of this last find until I can see him and go over the matter with him. A letter from him informed me that he would not be able to get away from Ponca City on his northwestern trip as soon as he hoped.

I am glad you are taking Fenton Wheeler with you to Hardy.

*Sincerely yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn.
Research Director.*

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk Oklahoma
June 23, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Your letter with Mr. Beauchamp's enclosed received. Sounds as if he meant to spoil things. I guess I stand in line to lose what little household stuff I have. Unfortunately it is in a house belonging to Beauchamp.

Will write to Tom today telling him as well as I can how things are maybe it will help some.

Glen is still here and doing well. He is making every effort to make good with all of the party. I am sure that he realizes that his best way is to wait.

Have been finding several pieces of bright red mound-builder pottery all belonging to the same jar. It is highly decorated with a complicated design scratched on after burning. Might find all of it. Have five pieces so far. Suppose they carried it in after digging it out of some mound. It is like some of the ware found in the Reed mound.

Progressing toward the central part of the mound we seem to be getting into better going but so far the stuff has been far apart in this mound.

So far have not been able to get the car to operate so that I can go to Hardy. Wanted to take Fenton with me over there but am afraid I won't get to go before he must leave.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

*Newkirk, Oklahoma
June 24, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Yours of the 23rd at hand.

I wrote Tom at length yesterday asking him if he still wants to come over. Should hear from him in a day or so.

You spoke of Marland's allowance. Just how much must we keep within. It is pretty hard to keep the grocery bill under about \$25 per mo. per man. Then other expenses cause our total to run pretty high. Blackard or you have neither said what our limit is so I do not know whether we are running above it or not. At present due to letting Glen have what I did I am running short. Will get by until next week then will go to see Blackard if I can get the old car to operate.

Looking the ground over a little more carefully this morning and noting & marking each mound there appears to be at least a hundred mounds in the village. There are about ten more than I thought in the pasture.

Will go down after our checks next week. I think you should notify Blackard of the number & rate of each. I believe you should allow Keith enough for spending money. He is working hard.

I stopped and looked at the hilltop west of camp and found several rock filled depressions I take to be graves. Will look into some of them & see if they are ancient or modern.

Please let me know at once about how much we are allowed. Have been trying to keep expense down but they will run over \$200. this month.

Will send Tom some money as soon as I can and ask him to come on

Marland is in Europe.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

*Newkirk, Oklahoma
June 25, 1926*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Due to heavy rains when I could get the car to go and the car broke down the rest of the time I have not as yet made the Hardy trip. Fenton returned to the City last night. I wanted to take him over to see the flint quarries but did not get to.

A heavy rain last night made the mounds too wet to handle so we spent the morning leveling one of the mounds we have worked over.

Just finished locating and measuring the village to map it. There is about eighty discernable mounds. There is quite a large number more I am certain but they do not show up sufficiently to be noticeable.

There is two paths leading down to a spring southeast of the main part of the camp. We found pottery fragments around it. This spring comes out of a fissure in the rocks near the top of the cliff so they did not have to go to the bottom of the cliffs to get their water.

Glen wants to go over and volunteered to go for expenses on his car. That will be cheaper than Tom could come on the train. Tom would much rather come in the car anyway as he does not like to ride in a train.

After talking it over again we decided to wait for Tom's answer to my letter which should arrive the first of the week.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from C. M. Sarchet (OHS)

*Chamber of Commerce
Ponca City, Oklahoma
June 26, 1926*

*Mr. J. B. Thoburn
Research Director
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Dear Thoburn:

I note by your last letter that you are expecting to come to Ponca City about the middle of the coming week. I trust that you will do this, as I am planning to leave about July 9 on my Alaska trip and will be gone about a month.

I have a photo of the map showing Camp Ferdinandina. Moore made the mistake that everybody makes who has little knowledge of newspaper work, in that he tried to have the whole map photographed instead of bringing out the details of this immediate country. I thought perhaps you would be in a position to get this picture made as it would show up so much better and make so much larger cut than the present photo.

I have been having a great deal of trouble with the Oklahoman, as they try to force everything into the Times, and of course, the Tulsa World is never dependable.

I will be very glad to make the trip to the camp with you when you come up.

*Very truly yours,
C. M. Sarchet, Secretary*

* * * * *

Letter to Otto Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
June 26, 1926

Dear Otto: -

The enclosed letter came from Beauchamp this morning. I believe things will work out all right yet.

I expect to be in Ponca City Tuesday a.m. Will talk matters over in detail, then. Will try to get Sarchet to go with us out to see the new site. We have to ask Mr. Marland to increase the stipulated allowance (\$1,500) and go on with the work for a time.

Sarchet sent me a copy of a letter from California, where a representative of the Marland Company called on the owner of the Deer Creek site. He (Cowan) intimated that he would probably drive through to Newkirk in the latter part of August or early in September and that he would not be averse to us doing some work on his place if he could be there and see that everything was done all right. That might mean that we would have to shift back from Beaver County in rather short notice.

I think it will be all right to allow Keith something for his work--make it \$25.00 if you want to. I am surely glad to know that Glenn is doing so well. Also that you like Fenton Wheeler. I have not seen him yet but I know he must have enjoyed his brief vacation up there. I believe that it is quite all right to let Glenn take the trip to Grove--it will help things out all the way around. I certainly hope that Durham may see fit to come back with him.

Mr. Moore sent me a photograph of the map.

Mrs. Thoburn is to start to drive through to Manhattan, Kansas, Tuesday a.m. and I am going with her that far--to Ponca City. We will start in the "wee, sma' hours" of the morning.

*Best wishes to the bunch. Hastily yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn*

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Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk, Oklahoma
June 26, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

It seems that Armstrong is letting everyone else dig but us. One of the Fisher boys came out here a few days ago and said that he had recently dug up an iron kettle lined with pottery out of one of the mounds there.

I finished the map of the camp here and am enclosing it. The small mounds in the cultivated fields showed up as circles of lighter colored earth with bones and chips of flint. The long mound to the west of the entrenchment in the pasture seems to be the earth from the entrenchment. I picked a good time for finding the mounds as the wheat and oats had been recently cut and after a heavy rain.

Otto Spring

Letter to Dwight Anderson from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma

June 29, 1926

Mr. Dwight Anderson

Friend Dwight -

We have been in this locality digging on an old indian village site since soon after leaving Everton. This village was located close to an old French trading post and we find a number of the old things the French traded to them for buffalo robes. We find such things as glass beads, iron hoes and axes, brass beads and finger rings, etc. Have been having pretty interesting going.

One kid I have with me is very much interested in the work we done over there and would like very much to get some relics from over there. I left a corn grinder stone with the muller stone in the depression of it laying along the fence by your hog-pen, he will pay you for your trouble if you will put some sort of a crate around the stones and ship them here express collect. Also if the collection I left there for the Professor Baker is still there and you have no use for them he would also like to have them.

I am looking forward to spending the winter over in that locality and am pretty sure we will have easier going than we had last winter.

Give my regards to Mr. Brewer when you see him. I am hoping to get to take a trip through that part of the country in the near future.

If you send the stuff send it to me here and let me know what I owe you.

Otto Spring.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma

June 30, 1926

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Just received a letter from my wife saying they will drive through tomorrow so I suppose that will be too soon for you to come with them.

Stuff came out pretty good today. The mound seems to be better toward the center. Several pieces more of the mound-builder pot came out. About half of a small jar with handles came out together. It is in a few large pieces.

A long bead of bone different to any others we have found so far also came out.

The pictures of the map that I made are complete failures. The print does not show up. I am enclosing one of the whole map that shows some of it.

I am also enclosing one of Allan in the last pit we found. It shows the size of the pit fairly well.

Please don't forget to send the arrow-heads. Also to write to Mr. Bryson.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma

July 1, 1926

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Just received a letter from Tom saying that he is ready to come over so Glen will go after him. I am letting Kieth go with him as I think the trip will be great for him.

With the increased pay-roll and expenses we will only be able to go on the Marland funds about three weeks longer.

Have approximately figured out expenses for June as about \$266. The pay-roll \$362.50 above that cuts a large hole in the allowance. Will send the exact figures in a day or so. The car expense of some \$53. on the car besides the bill of \$28. which I have not paid made a good part of the expenses.

Dug out the treasure hunters hole in the mound today. Thought it to be a pit at first. The old boy must have been full of pep as he dug to a depth of about six feet.

Found two bone beads, part of a steel knife-blade and some more of the mound-builder pot. The common stuff also came out pretty fast.

Be sure not to forget about our limited funds and let me know whether other funds will be available.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma

July 7, 1926

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Glen and Tom arrived all O. K. last evening. Can handle quite a large quantity of dirt now.

We started on one of the small mounds along the fence on Engelking's yesterday evening and also on one in the Bryson oatfield this morning. We are not screening the one in the oats so we can work both places at once. We are finding a lot of stuff.

Found the signet off of a brass ring this A. M. It has a different inscription from the other. Similar to the Capitol english IN with some of the wavy lines around the characters.

Tom suggests the rings to be ornaments off of old guns and that he has seen similar ornaments on old guns. I believe that to be a logical suggestion.

Tom also says that he has seen arrows tipped with brass cones like those we are finding and that they were used commonly in the early days.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

*Newkirk, Oklahoma
July 8, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Dear Mr. Thoburn –

Just received a letter from my mother asking me to come to Tulsa and see her while she is there visiting my sister. As it has been several years since I have seen her I am planning on going over there next week end.

Yesterday evening a visitor told us of a man living near here having a collection of relics. After work Keith and I drove over to see them.

His name is J. J. Ramsey and he lives two miles north of camp along the west side of the river and just north of the mouth of Chillocca creek. His place is on a point of a hill between the creek and the river. The whole hill-top is covered with flint chippings and flints. It is by far the richest site I have seen in this country.

He has a fine collection of flints that he has picked up around his house. Of these about ten are very fine specimens. One is better than any flint we have found so far. It is a war spear or knife about six inches long and perfect. I think he has about a hundred good specimens. They all are of a culture different to these here. The culture seems to be the same as those found on the shop-sites of Delaware Co.

He has also dug out a number of skeletons near his house. Also he ran into an old fire-pit full of burned stones and char-coal and dug it out.

I am certain he would be willing to loan the collection but does not want to sell it. I told him I would have you talk it over with him when you come up here next time. He indicated to me that he would like to loan them to the museum.

He tells of a number of very interesting places in this vicinity. He came here before the race for claims and took the place he has now in the race. Of course we had to listen to a lot of treasure tales also.

I think his collection would be a very desirable acquisition even if we can only get it as a loan.

Stuff came out good yesterday and this morning. The mound we are screening seems to be rich. The one in the oatfield is turning out well but it would hardly pay for screening.

We have found two scrapers with their handles of buck-horn with them. I am cementing the blades to the

handles in the position we found them. They make interesting specimens.

We found one of the brass gun ornaments like the one Moore has this morning but it does not have much engraving on it. Also we found a very fine brass arrow-head.

I am told that there is another village of mounds on the east bank of the river opposite the Armstrong place.

Otto Spring

* * * * *

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
July 16, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Yours of the 13th with enclosed prints at hand.

Prints one and two were taken after we had finished excavating the first pit in the big mound next to the gate in Engelking's pasture. They show the size and depth of the pit pretty well.

Prints three, four and five were taken of the gang in action or same mound while you and Whistler were here.

Print six is of a thick bed of ashes in the eastern edge of the same mound. This bed was about four inches in thickness.

Mr. Lucas, his wife, and Mrs. Kohler of the Carnegie library of Ponca ate dinner with us here last evening. As I was busy cooking I did not have time to talk with Mr. Lucas but he seemed to be interested in our finds.

We finished the other of the two small mounds that are together along the pasture fence on Engelking. It did not turn out much of interest.

We started on a small mound well down toward the cliffs in Bryson's pasture and have it almost completed. It has turned out well so far. We found by far the best shoulder blade hoe so far in it. Also a very fine square bone awl. Also a number of other good articles.

Mr. Miller sent word by Moore Sunday that he had been too busy to take the map to Ponca to have copies of it made.

We found a number of pieces of the body of the image or doll whose head we found last Friday. We did not find enough to complete it but enough to show it's approximate size and shape. The body was a sort of oval about seven inches long by two wide. It does not appear to have had either arms or legs. It had had grass and sticks inside apparently to help hold it's shape until it was burned.

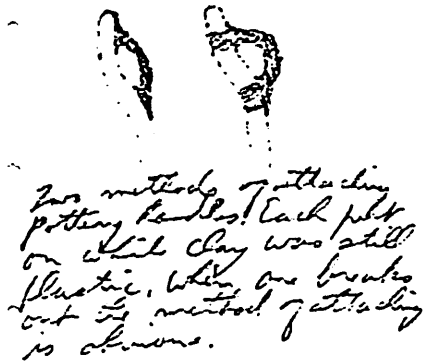
Last Friday we ran into where an old mud wall had fallen in a heap of fragments. We secured several pieces of the clay containing fragments of the wall. They make interesting specimens.

I am enclosing an article that I believe is only newspaper stuff. Would like to have your opinion of it.

Otto Spring

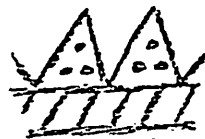
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Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)



Two methods of attaching pottery handles. Each put on while clay was still plastic. When one breaks out the method of attaching is obvious.

(Two methods of attaching pottery handles. Each put on while clay was still plastic. When one breaks off the method of attaching is obvious)



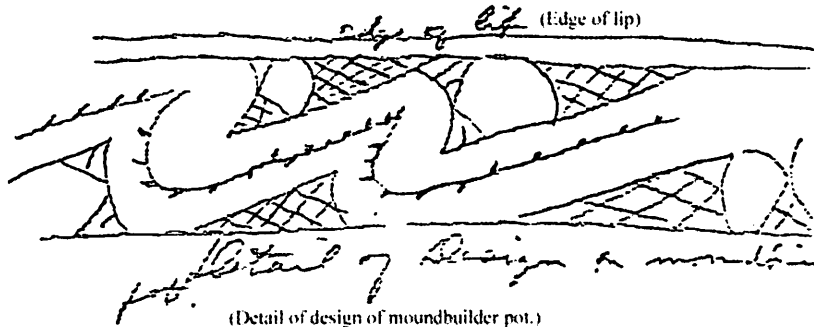
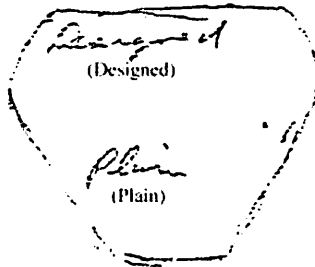
Design of impressed ??? around a small jar just below lip of jar. Put on while clay was plastic.

(Design of impressed ??? around a small jar just below lip of jar. Put on while clay was plastic.)

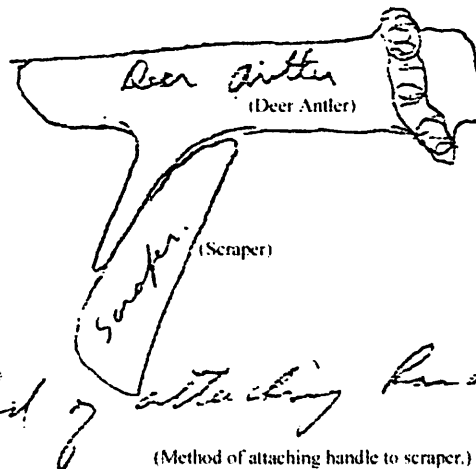


Design around small jar just below lip. Scratched on after firing.

(Design around small jar just below lip. Scratched on after firing.)



(Detail of design of moundbuilder pot.)



Method of attaching handle to scraper.

(Method of attaching handle to scraper.)

Drawings from original correspondence of Otto Spring letter of July 16, 1926. Captions added for clarity.

Newkirk Oklahoma
July 16, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Yours of the 15th at hand.

We have had but little of exceptional interest lately. We have only been duplicating former finds for the most part. The small image was exceptional. I had "Doc" write you about it and I suppose he gave a detailed description of it. I told you of finding parts of the body of it in my letter this morning.

I am sure that there has been no write-up on the mound-builder pottery found here. I am enclosing drawings of the shape and design as near as I can figure it out from the fragments I have. That should make an interesting article.

One interesting thing I notice in all of the mounds is the two methods of fastening handles on jars. Both methods being practiced in the same mound. Will try to make the difference plain in my diagram. The way they break shows the method used.

Am also diagraming the method used in putting handles on scrapers. We have three of the handles found with scraper in place.

Yesterday and today we have been working on some small mounds in the southeast part of the encampment. These are only a few inches high and can hardly be detected as being higher than the surrounding ground. I take them to be places where grass or other light houses have stood. The places are pretty prolific. Prospecting on a very small one this afternoon my shovel struck a bone which proved to be a very perfect bone hoe or gouge made of the shoulder blade bone of a buffalo. Found the spring out of a flint lock gun in another.

This afternoon we started on a larger mound near the pasture gate on Bryson. Soon after starting we found a perfect pipe. It is of rather clumsy workmanship and has not been used. I suppose it did not suit so was discarded.

We also found two of the polished and worked down sections of buffalo rib that seem to have been used as handles of some sort.

We have found several of the brass arrow-heads lately. One triangular one had been made of a thick plate of brass and was well worked down to a sharp edge and point.

Will write each evening and try to go into more detail than I have been.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk Oklahoma
July 18, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

In my letter yesterday I did not mention a number of fragments of burned clay we found together yesterday afternoon. I put them together last night and found them to be all of the parts of the head and most of the body of a clay doll or image. It is not of quite as good workmanship as the one found last week. Am enclosing the outline drawing of the specimen.

We have been finding a number of sections of highly polished buffalo ribs with rounded ends. We have been very curious about what they were used for. The explanation came out this morning. Part of one on part of a steel knife blade. My drawing may make it clear how they are made and used.

We started another mound in the oatfield this morning. Working two at once. The one in the cultivated field did not turn out well this morning but it looks good.

54 Ferdinandian: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community

Yesterday we found one of the bits of baked clay that is very peculiar in shape. It resembles one of the small iron counters used in the child's game of "Jacks". Have not been able to figure out any use for it.

The bits of baked clay are numerous and very curious. They must have been made by children in play. Some are round and may have been marbles.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
July 19, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Had a dull day yesterday. Due to it's being very warm we had but few visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore were down for a short time in the evening.

We dug a trench across the old entrenchment this morning. It seems to be as Mr. Moore said. That is worn down by dancing or riding over it as the yellow clay is immediately below the grass roots even in the middle of the ditch. He says that originally the circle was complete like it is where we see it now. We found nothing of interest.

The mound we are working on now is turning out pretty good. However all we found this morning besides the common stuff was the iron the flint strikes against on a flint-lock, the "Dog" (the piece that holds the hammer back inside of the lock of a gun) of a gun, and two brass bells.

We have an invitation to take dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Lucas at Ponca tonight which we are planning on accepting.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
July 20, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Kieth, Allan, "Doc", and I ate dinner with the Lucas' at Ponca last night. We had a very pleasant evening. They have a very beautiful and pleasant home.

The mound has only been turning out fair. Found one very good pipe yesterday afternoon. Also two whole glass beads.

This morning Kieth, Allan and I investigated the rock piles that I told you of on the hill-top west of the encampment. We found them to have every appearance of being graves but found no bones or other remains. We decided them to be graves from which all traces of bones had disappeared They were shallow pits full of loose black earth and rock fragments. They were about ten by five feet by eighteen inches deep. They were covered with flat stones carefully placed and a few inches higher than the ground around. One was oval in outline and had flat stones placed all over it like shingles. We dug out four of them.

These rock piles are quite common along the edges of the rocky hilltops near here. They might be guide-posts but more resemble graves.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Newkirk Oklahoma
July 21, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Okla.

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Yours of the 19th at hand.

I was quite sure that the article was a fake. The location of the supposed fire was even in the Cherokee rather than in the Creek nation.

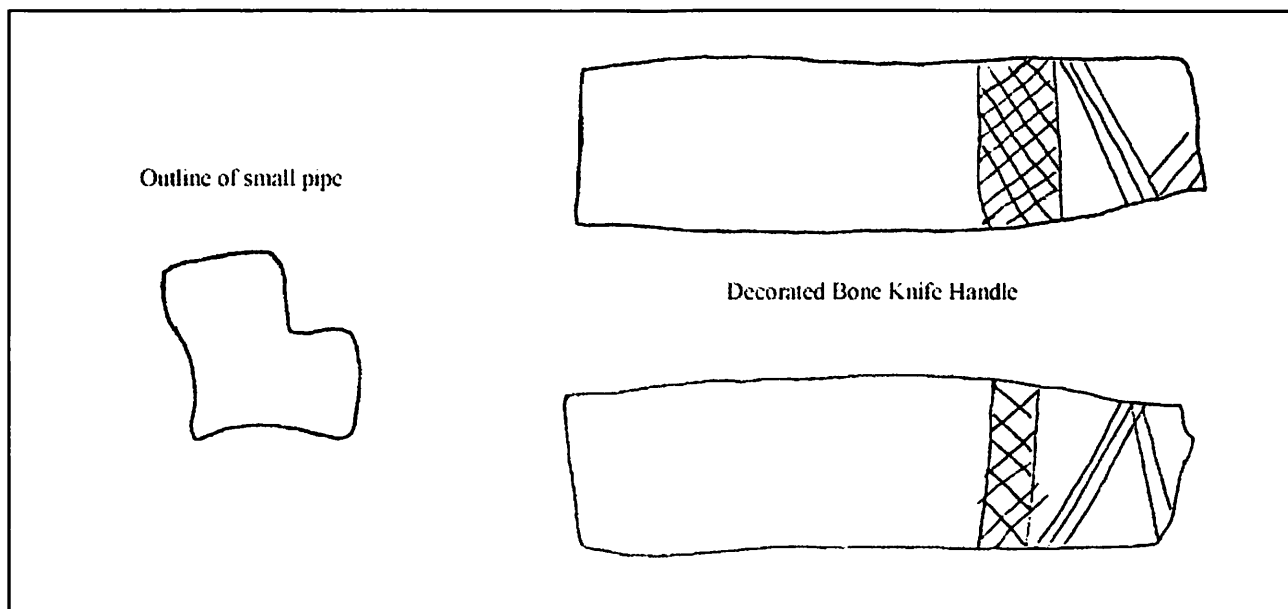
The mound is turning out well again. Yesterday evening we found a very small perfect pipe. It is even smaller than the other small perfect one we found in the large mound in the corner of Engelking's pasture. It also has never been used. I would think it to be too small to be used.

Also we found one of the bone handles for a steel knife with a complicated decoration. It is made from a section of buffalo rib.

This morning we found a steel knife blade. It is much like an ordinary small butcher knife and has had a handle fastened on with rivets through holes in the blade.

We took a number of pictures of the bluffs near camp this morning. Will send prints of them as soon as we get them made.

Otto Spring



Drawings from Otto Spring's July 21, 1926, letter to Joseph Thoburn.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
July 22, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Okla.

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Have not had much luck yesterday evening and this morning. We seem to be in the center of the mound and there are many small ash beds. These are usually only an inch or so thick and about a foot and a half in diameter. They seem to be throughout the thickness of the mound even almost at the surface.

We have found three very small glass beads. Also the half of a larger one decorated with six spiral black lines. These are three on each side of the bead.

We also found an oval of polished bone with a hole drilled in one end.

Should know pretty soon what we are to do as the first is drawing near.

We had a heavy rain last night which was very welcome as the ground was getting very dry and hard.

Otto Spring

Letter to Fenton Wheeler from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
July 24, 1926

Mr. Fenton Wheeler
Oklahoma City Okla.

Dear Friend Fenton -

Have neglected answering your letter for a long time but have been very busy.

We went into four of the rock piles on the hill top west a few days ago. They seem to be graves but all traces of the bodies have disappeared. We did not find anything.

We have been finding some pretty interesting stuff lately. Found two almost complete dolls or images. Also a lot of the usual and some unusual stuff.

Thoburn was up yesterday for a short time. He says things are looking pretty good for our work in the future. We are planning on going on to Beaver Co, from here about the first of August.

We sure have turned over a lot of dirt since you left.

I expect to spend a day or two in the City some time soon and will look you up if I have time.

Everything is about as usual here. We have another pup now. That is we have two now. "Silly" being still with us.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
July 24, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

We went by Lucas' as we left Ponca yesterday and brought the fragments of the large jar out with us. She also presented us with a nice lot of home made jam and jelly.

The jar is a very pretty piece of work but was badly broken. However we will be able to restore it nicely. Unfortunately a large section of it's top had been lost. As it is of entirely different color and texture from any that we have this will cause us some extra trouble. We have it all together excepting the part that was missing.

Kieth and I went to see about the Verbenas you wanted this morning. The place is entirely grown up to weeds but we found two shades of them at least. There are but few of them blooming now. Will be on the lookout for more. We are sending what we could find by parcels post today.

There is quite an extensive village or camp-site along the north side of Dry creek up to the corn field by Mr. Bruner's where the mounds are. It is of the same culture as the one on Ramsey. We only found several broken specimens.

We looked at the large mound near Bruner's house. It has the appearance of being artificial. It is pretty rich in the vestigia of an old camp.

We went to Chillocka creek fishing last night. In a very few minutes we caught four fish that made all we cared to eat for breakfast and dinner today.

We will spend tomorrow morning looking over the old campsite on Ramsey and the one around the spring I told you on west. Will let you know the results tomorrow.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

Newkirk Oklahoma
July 28, 1926

Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Have made but little progress in the mounds the past few days due to the excessive heat and the ground being so hard we can hardly work it. We have found practically nothing in what we have worked.

We went to Ramseys this morning. We looked the ground over carefully and tried to find the skulls he said he had buried near the gate. We could not find them.

We found several fragments of implements but nothing of value.

We went to see about the shell I told you of but the fellow has not been able to find it so far. He said he would find it and give it to us later.

We will level the mounds we have worked tomorrow. We should able to get them in good shape in one day.

I went over and looked the ground over around the spring where the old soldier camp was that I told you of. The old stone trough where it is said they watered their horses and kept their liquor is still just below the large spring. They had the water piped from the spring into the trough.

It is a circular stone trough about three feet deep and eight feet across outside and three or four inside. It is made of slabs of limestone cemented together with what seems to be a lime-sand mortar.

The owner of the place has found a number of old bullets but nothing else. The spot where the camp was has not been plowed They say the soldiers used the neighboring hills for targets in their rifle and cannon practice.

Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk Oklahoma
July 29, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City Oklahoma
Dear Mr. Thoburn -*

Yours of the 27th at hand.

We finished leveling the mounds this morning and will pack everything up in preparation to breaking camp. Will figure on going to Ponca City tomorrow.

We have the jar belonging to Mrs. Lucas about ready to take to her and figure on taking it as we go.

I am hoping that we here from you today so we will know what to do. It is getting to be "About that time".

I will not get to settle with Bryson as he is gone and will not be back for several days. He has been gone for some time. Will have to settle with him later.

Otto Spring

P.S. Did not hear from you. Better wire me tomorrow what we are to do as we should return to Grove Saturday.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (WHC)

*Newkirk, Oklahoma
July 30, 1926*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Thoburn -

Just finished up all business preparatory to making an early start in the morning.

We will leave the outfit with the Engelking's so we can get it later.

Our expenses ran well under the limit. I have not figured up the total as yet. If you have any small items send them to me before I turn in the final statement. I believe you paid for several bunches of pictures and a telegram or two

that should be charged to the expenses here.

I think you should have your \$1.87 also.

Grading the road near camp this afternoon they ran into a bunch of burials. They were buried about four feet deep along the creek bottom of Dry creek. So far they have struck nothing but the skeletons.

Otto Spring

Letter to Mrs. Oscar B. Jacobson from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

November 16, 1926

*Mrs. Prof. Oscar B. Jacobson
Norman, Okla.*

Dear Mrs. Jacobson:

I am enclosing a draft of a letter which is self-explanatory and I am wondering if I might impose upon your generosity to the extent of asking that you render the text of the same into French. If you can do this and send it to me, we will re-copy it on our stationery as we have a typewriter with the necessary accents. We would greatly appreciate such co-operation on your part and, I am sure, it would be of material assistance to us in the effort of enlisting the interest and active co-operation of the authorities in charge of the National Library in France.

Trusting that this may not seem to be in the nature of an overdraft upon your kindness and with kind personal regards to yourself and to Professor Jacobson, I am,

*Sincerely yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn
Research Director*

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Jeanne B. Jacobson (OHS)

*University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma
November 22, 1926*

My dear Mr. Thoburn:

It gives me pleasure to do this little translation for you and I shall be glad to be at your service if I can be useful to you in this or other matters. Mr. Jacobson and I follow with interest the splendid work you are doing, for which we congratulate you.

Our best regards go to you, Mrs. Thoburn and your lovely children. Has Mary gone back to India?

We brought back from Africa a collection of barbaric things, too barbaric in fact, but I suppose you would appreciate and enjoy them, and we hope you will come and see them when you are in Norman.

*Sincerely yours,
Jeanne B. Jacobson*

I find my typewriter jumps and misbehaves having suffered during our absence, please excuse the ugly work.

Letter to M. P. Roland-Marcel from Joseph B. Thoburn (OHS)

Joseph B. Thoburn
 Oklahoma Historical Society
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 December 21, 1926

M. P. Roland-Marcel
 Administrateur General
 Bibliotique Nationale
 Paris, France

Monsieur:

I address you for the purpose of asking the favor of some information which, I hope, may be found among the archives of the Bibliotique Nationale. As you may know, Oklahoma is one of the younger American commonwealths, having been admitted to the Federal Union less than twenty years ago. Originally, it was a part of the French colonial Province of Louisiana, which was purchased by the United States, in 1803. It adjoins the state of Arkansas on the west. The information of which I am in quest pertains to the commercial operations on the Arkansas River, during the fore part of the 18th century.

The first permanent French settlement on the lower Arkansas dates from 1724. As most of the early French settlers were from Canada, nearly all of their travel and transportation was by means of canoe navigation on the rivers. It seems that, within a few years after the establishment of the first settlement at the Post of Arkansas, trading outposts were established at several other points, farther up the river. One of these, sometimes designated as Ferdinandina, was located on the west bank of the Arkansas River, in the extreme northern part of Oklahoma, within a few miles of the boundary line between this state and the state of Kansas. We have located the site of this post, which has a picturesque setting.

During the past summer, we had a small archaeological field party at work, making excavations on the site of an Indian village which was evidently subsidiary to the trading post above mentioned and about two miles distant therefrom. The excavations consisted mostly of the dissection of small tumuli of domiciliary origin, i.e., the ruins of timber-framed, dome-shaped, earth-covered lodges or huts. In the course of this work, we found and secured not only an extensive collection of the stone and bone implements and fragmentary earthenware ceramic utensils of the primitive Stone Age native people but also much in the way of vestigia of the French traders from the lower river country. The collection as a whole, therefore, served to illustrate a primary contact between the culture of the Stone Age Caddoan peoples of that period and the European culture from France.

While we find occasional references to this French trading post on the upper Arkansas in the 18th century histories of neighboring regions, we have thus far been unable to secure any direct account of the post itself. We would like to know when and by whom it was established and how long it was occupied and operated as a commercial enterprise. As a rule, the bourgeois, factor, or manager of such a post made reports in writing to his principals or to the officers and directors of the trading company in whose service he was employed. Sometimes they even kept diaries or journals of daily happenings. I have wondered if it might not be that some such documents could have eventually found a repository in the French colonial archives of the Bibliotique Nationale?

If, happily, such should prove to be the case, it would unquestionably mean the addition of a very interesting 18th century chapter in the history of Oklahoma and also, what is not less important, it would give to the men of France a very definite part in the same, instead of one that is as yet mostly inferential if not almost traditional. Such a result would most certainly be interesting to us and, doubtless, to all students of Franco-American history as well.

If an investigation should result in disclosing the existence of such documentary material in the collections of your institution, we would thank you to inform us also as to the amount and character of the same, since we would probably wish to effect an arrangement for the transcription thereof, ultimately, so that it could be translated and published.

In conclusion, I will say that, when our investigations shall have been completed and the results published, it

will be our privilege and pleasure to forward a copy of the same to the Bibliotique Nationale, of France. Assuring you that any and all information along the foregoing lines would be greatly appreciated and hoping that this request may not be an imposition upon your generosity, I have the honor to be, with great respect, Monsieur,

*Sincerely yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn
Research Director.*

* * * * *

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Bibliotheque Nationale (OHS)

*Bibliotheque Nationale
Paris, France
January 6, 1927*

*Joseph B. Thoburn
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Sir:

In answer to your letter of last December 22nd, I have the honor of transmitting to you the information which I have been able to gather on the origins of the state of Oklahoma.

The vestiges of the routes of French traders in the present regions of Oklahoma and Arkansas are not easy to determine. The French especially followed the Mississippi. Nevertheless, the voyage of Des Coutures, whose map you will find below, contains a certain number of depots in the region of the sources of the Arkansas and its headwaters. La Verandrye, in his trip to the West, does not seem to have descended as far as the Arkansas.

A large number of maps of the rivers and streams of America may be found at Service Hydrographique de la Marine, 13 Rue de l'Universite. Almost all of these date from the 18th Century and are found in the manuscripts 4044/B and 4044/C of the library of that bureau.

I shall cite in the Recueil manuscript No. 4044/B the map representing the Mississippi between the 49th and 42nd parallels (Map No. 38), the course of the tributaries and the river, a map made by the Indian, Ochagac, where we find the Colorado River (Map No. 84).

The Recueil manuscript, No. 4044/C, contains numerous maps which have to do with Louisiana and contiguous regions (Carte Nouvelle de la Louisiane et Pais Circonvoisins, Carte No. 46, par F. Le Maire, 1716), etc.

The librarian, who is very obliging, is Commandant Vivielle.

At the National Library, the collection of Anville likewise contains manuscript maps of the 18th Century pertaining to the present United States. One of them (No. 8784) indicates the depots of the voyage of Des Coutures in the country to the east and to the west of the Mississippi. The Arkansas, not mentioned by name, is there represented to the south of the River of the Osages. One finds there the names of Cappa (Quapaw), Dotinga, Nausi, where Des Coutures made stops.

The map of the great geographer Guillaume de L'Isle (No. 8788) gives the "River of the Arkansas," of which the source is in the land of the Padoucas, and crosses the land of the Osages, the four villages of the "Paniassa" (Paniouassa), "Pamassa" and the "Menthous".

I sincerely hope that the above citations may be of some benefit to you in the research which you have undertaken and I beg of you, Sir to accept the assurances of my distinguished personal consideration.

*L'Administrateur general
de la Bibliotheque National*

Ferdinandian: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community
Letter to Otto Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
August 21, 1928.

Mr. Otto F. Spring,
Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Dear Otto:

A lot of water has run around the bend of the river since you were here and a lot of things have happened. I went to Winfield, Kansas and met Dr. Guthe, of the University of Michigan, of whose coming visit I had told you. He had been at Lyons, Kansas, to visit the Rice County field, which I paid a hasty visit, last September, and he was rather late in reaching Winfield. Our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Moore, went with me to show him the Kay County field. Naturally, he was greatly interested in all that he saw there. From thence, he came on to Oklahoma City the next day and we had a dinner for him that night. The next morning, I went with him to Norman. It rained all the time we were there, so all he had a chance to do there was to meet Professor Jacobson and look over the paintings that had been made by the three Kiowa artists. He left Oklahoma City for Tulsa, that evening and I met him there the next morning. We had planned to go from there to Muskogee and thence to Wagoner, Pryor and Grove via the mountain road. Unfortunately for this plan, a deaf suburbanite, who could not hear the honk of an auto horn, suddenly veered to the left in front of us, the collision resulting in two bent wheels on his car and a bent steering gear on that of Dr. Guthe. The three-hour job of securing repairs, in Muskogee, put the Grove trip out of the question, though we did drive, late in the day, to Wagoner, where we went out to the Grand River bottom, five miles east, and inspected one fine mound of rather large bulk and thirty feet high. After spending the night in Muskogee, my plan having been hastily changed, we left the next morning for Spiro. As we drove out of Muskogee toward the south, I said: "Doctor, you have been a professional anthropologist for ten or a dozen years, now," to which he replied in the affirmative. "And you have seen a number of mounds that date from prehistoric times?" "Yes, a whole lot of them," he answered. "Well, I am going to show you more mounds between now and noon than you have seen in all of your previous experience put together. He looked skeptical but, within an hour and a half, he owned up that the hundreds and even thousands then in sight far exceeded anything in that line that he had ever expected to behold. He was enthusiastic over the group of mound-builder mounds out on the river bottom, northeast of Spiro and below old Fort Coffee. He left me at noon, for Fort Smith, expecting to make Little Rock (his next scheduled stop) that evening. He was greatly pleased with his Oklahoma trip, stating that it had exceeded in interest and information anything that he had met in any of the states previously visited since starting on this tour--Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas.

Before he left, he expressed the hope that he might be privileged to come down and work with us some day. He informed me that, by an act of Congress, approved May 29th, last, the sum of \$20,000.00 had been appropriated to aid in state anthropological work on a cooperative basis, the Government matching state or institutional appropriations, dollar for dollar, up to a sum not exceeding \$2,000.00 for any one state in any single calendar year. I looked the matter up and saw to it that an application was formally filed by the proper officers of this Society, immediately after my return home. Such expenditures are to be made under the supervision of the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. We have had no reply as yet but we will see to it that the matter is followed up.

On the evening of the second instant, I left for another trip over east. I intended to go by way of Grove, and see Tom Durham. It was greatly disappointing in failing to make connections at Muskogee, so I had to content myself by writing to him, later in the day. After putting in Friday at Westville and Siloam Springs, I went down to Fort Smith, that evening and, on the following day, went to Little Rock, where I spent ten days in research work in the files of the old Arkansas Gazette. Returning, I spent last Thursday at Fort Smith in the same sort of work, on the Fort Smith Elevator. Friday, I was at Spiro, Scullyville, Fort Coffee, Shady Point, Panama and Poteau. I succeeded in seeing the negro on whose land the big mounds near Fort Coffee are located, and have a satisfactory understanding with him. In walking over the mound where I want to work, I picked up fragments of two ear-plug disks, several potsherds, a beautifully wrought bird-point 1 1/4 inches long but very thin and a fragment of a human cranium, right on the surface of the mound, which has been cultivated to some extent this year--all of which would tend to indicate promising results if we can get at it in a systematic way.

Of course I am swamped with accumulated work but I thought you would be interested to know something in

the way of recent developments--hence this hastily written letter. Will try to keep you advised of what follows. Best wishes,

Hastily,
Joseph B. Thoburn

P. S. I almost forgot to state that I had several very interesting visits with Mrs. Bernie Babcock, of the Arkansas Museum. I took a small collection of items from the Arkansas caves to her and she seemed to appreciate it as a mark of friendly co-operation on our part. She has assembled a really wonderful collection but seems to have little or no financial backing. She therefore appreciates encouragement from any source. Your letters had done her a great deal of good. She seemed to be afraid - that Arkansas archaeological remains had been gone through and that very thoroughly, by people and institutions from outside of the state. I assured her that all that had been gathered and taken away to be displayed elsewhere was but a drop in the bucket in comparison with what yet remained, so it cheered her up quite a bit.

Letter to Otto Spring from Joseph B. Thoburn (WHC)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
July 23, 1929.

Mr. Otto F. Spring,
Okmulgee, Oklahoma.
Dear Otto:

In beginning to discuss the Kay County village sites, I have briefly described the Deer Creek site. When I came to the upper site--the one which was worked by our field party in the summer of 1926, under your immediate supervision and through the kind co-operation of Mr. Marland, I find myself at loss to decide upon a name for it. We might hyphenate it and call it the Engleking-Bryson, or vice-versa and, yet, as I understand it, the Englekings do not own the land. I have also thought of calling it the Chilocco Creek site, or the Shoal Ford site, or Rock Ford site, or the Cliff Killing site. I do not like to act unadvisedly in the matter, however, as my own presence there, during the working period, was so limited that I do not care to take the initiative without the consultation and approval of someone else who has a right to be interested in the matter. We might even name it for our good friend, Bert Moore, who was the real discoverer and who first brought it to our attention. Personally, I incline to the opinion that the Cliff Killer village site, or the Ledge Trap village site would be distinctive as well as appropriate. At any rate, I would like to hear from you in regard to the matter.

I have another letter from Mrs. Bernie Babcock but have had no reply from my letter to Doctor Lane, of the University of Kansas, as yet. However, he may have gone far afield on a vacation, so that occasions no impatience on my part. I feel sure of a favorable response from him, in due time, wherever he may be.

Kindly let me hear from you in regard to the matter of a suitable designation for that village site, at your earliest convenience. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,
Joseph B. Thoburn

P. S. Had a brief letter from Tom Durham, yesterday.

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Otto Spring (OHS)

Okmulgee, Oklahoma
July 24, 1929

Mr. J. B. Thoburn

Oklahoma Historical Society
 Capitol Station
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thoburn:

Your letter of the 23rd at hand regarding the upper village site on the Arkansas River east of Newkirk.

I believe that the old crossing just above this village site was formerly known as the Black Dog Crossing of the Arkansas River. It might be that you would consider naming this site from the name of this old crossing as it is quite possible that the location of this village at this point was partly due to this convenient crossing on the Arkansas.

Of course, one of the main reasons for it being located here was the high cliffs over which the buffalo were driven in order to kill them; hence your suggestion of "Cliff Killer" village site would be appropriate.

I have forgotten the name of the small creek which empties into the Arkansas River just above where our camp was, but I believe you will find its name somewhere in the report on the work done there. I do not think the name of this creek should be applied to the site as the choosing of the location of the village probably had nothing to do with this.

If the village site is given the name of any person, it is, of course, right that Mr. Moore's name should be used, as he was the discoverer of the old village.

Yours very truly,
 Otto Spring

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Mrs. Bert Moore (OHS)

Winfield, Kansas
 March 26, 1931

Joseph B. Thoburn
 Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Mr. Thoburn:

We noticed with interest the recent articles in the local newspapers, telling of the new book published by Yale University, and that it recognizes the Arkansas Valley as an important archaeological center.

Several months ago, I attempted to get some definite information about "Fernandino", which, I learned, is of Spanish name. Then, I was advised by Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D.C., to write to the Hispanic Society of America, New York City, which I did. In their letter to me dated June 7, 1930, they stated that "Fernandino, Florida was founded by the Spanish in 1632."

Of course, we were pleased to learn those facts, but would like to know more about the place, since we know it was shown on early maps of north America.

Sincerely,
 Mrs. Bert Moore

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Mrs. Bert Moore (OHS)

Mr. Thoburn:

We drive down to the mounds east of Newkirk occasionally and Mr. Moore wishes me to tell you that Mr.

Engleking is plowing much deeper this year in the south part of the field and several new ash beds were brought to the surface, and the entrenchment shows quite plainly.

No doubt you read in the papers in 1929 about the fossil elephant which we found on our farm near Arkansas City. We gave it to the Kansas University - it took them ten days to excavate it. The late H. T. Martin and three boys from the college had charge of the work. Pictures of it were made by Paramount and shown all over the country. Mr. Moore joins in sending best regards.

(Mrs. Bert) Mary Moore

* * * * *

Letter to Joseph B. Thoburn from Dominion Archivist (OHS)

*Public Archives of Canada
Deputy Minister's Office
Ottawa
21 June 1934*

*Joseph B. Thoburn Esq.,
Box 67
Woodward, Okla.*

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of June 15, I may say that a very important collection of documents relating to French exploration of the Lower Mississippi Country was edited by Pierre Margry, under the title "Voyages des Francais sur le Grands Lacs et decouverte de l'Ohio et du Mississippi" (6 vols: Paris: 1879). There is also an account of the death of La Salle, published in the supplement to the Report of the Public Archives of Canada, 1899.

Trading operations into the Arkansas country were extensive after 1682, but it was the Louisiana colony rather than Quebec or Montreal, which provided the base of operations. The Public Archives has transcripts of the Colonial records of France. These contain many volumes of documents relating to Louisiana. They are open for consultation should you wish to examine them or send a person here to carry on any research.

Copies of such journals as those of La Harpe are to be found therein.

*Yours truly
Douglas
Dominion Archivist*

* * * * *

Letter to Otto Spring from Forrest E. Clements (WHC)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma
September 17, 1934*

*Mr. Otto Spring
1220 East Sixth Street
Okmulgee, Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Spring:

I have been on the west coast most of the summer and have delayed answering your letter of August 7 until I returned to the university.

I very much appreciate your offer to cooperate with us in archaeological work and hope that we may come to have a pleasant association along these lines. You say that you will be glad to furnish information regarding archaeological sites which are known to you provided they are worked under competent direction. I have no doubt but that you have seen a considerable amount of incompetent archaeological work but I think you can rest assured that anything we do will be done right inasmuch as this is the only place in the state where any formally trained archaeologists can be found.

In this connection I should like to call your attention to the Spiro debacle. As you probably know there existed a group of very large mounds about five miles from Spiro up to about a year ago when the mounds were leased to a bunch of "pot-hunters" who have systematically proceeded to destroy them. If the department here had known of the existence of the mounds it is extremely likely that we would have been able to save them and the very valuable scientific record which they contain would not have been lost. You can see from this the importance of letting us know the location of archaeological sites which we have not yet had time to locate for ourselves.

If the at present almost wholly unknown prehistory of Oklahoma is to become a matter of scientific record the archaeological work must be done by formally trained persons and published in the orthodox scientific journals before the relatively few sites have been irretrievably ruined. Scratching around can never be useful and is always damaging.

I expect to be in the eastern part of the state some time during the early fall and will stop in Okmulgee to see you and we can talk things over thoroughly at that time.

Again let me assure you that I very much appreciate your offer to cooperate with us and I am sure that your knowledge of archaeological sites in Oklahoma can be turned to good account.

Looking forward to seeing you within a few weeks, I am

Sincerely yours,
FORREST E. CLEMENTS

Documents Resulting from the 1926 Field Work in Kay County

A few newspaper accounts and unpublished manuscripts resulted from the 1926 excavations along the Arkansas River in northern Oklahoma. The newspaper articles reproduced here provide some background to the archaeological work and findings discussed in the preceding correspondence. Perhaps more useful to today's researchers are the manuscripts written by Otto Spring and Joseph Thoburn. To these previously unpublished reports have been added a few scene and artifact photos.

* * * * *

Newspaper Accounts (PCM)

The "101" Magazine
Volume One, Number Eleven
Official Publication C.S.C.P.A.
January 1926
Page 10

COLLECTORS TAKE VALUABLE RELICS FROM OKLAHOMA MOUNDS

by
C. M. Sarchet

Prehistoric women, at least those who were the women of the prehistoric men in this portion of America, did not wear their hair bobbed. There is sufficient evidence already unearthed in the way of hair ornaments by an expedition of the Oklahoma Historical Society to convince the most skeptical that this statement is true.

Of course these hair ornaments comprise only a small portion and are perhaps the least valuable of the many relics that have been uncovered by this expedition of which Secretary Joseph B. Thoburn is the head, an expedition that is bringing to light many articles of the greatest interest to the people of this state and the nation at large.

It is an easy matter to convince if it is possible for one to see for himself the work of this expedition and it was the writer's privilege to have this experience recently, an experience that would be interesting and beneficial to every citizen. The excavations in Egypt that resulted in the discovery of King Tut's tomb and the discoveries, equally as great in the vicinity of the City of Mexico have created world wide interest, yet in Oklahoma the recent discoveries of the Thoburn expedition have been just as remarkable from the standpoint of learning about the first families of America.

Oklahoma must keep on working, digging into these ancient mounds and digging out these prehistoric caves, if these relics are to be preserved for the state and nation and if the information regarding these first peoples are to be

obtained, for even now commercial collectors are jealous and working to secure these, taking them away from the state for private gain. In that one such commercial agent has boasted that he has made over \$200,000 selling these relics from the Oklahoma hills and caves, it is not an out-of-the-way figure at all to place the total sales value of the relics taken away thus far at more than half million dollars.

The archaeological expedition under Prof. Thoburn was sent over into Delaware county by the Oklahoma Historical Society some time ago for the purpose of conducting systematic researches among the prehistoric remains of that region. Delaware county is the second south from the Kansas state boundary and lying along the Arkansas western border. It is one of the most beautiful and scenic portions of the state, where the prairies are scattered and small in area, the rivers like mountain streams and the wooded portions extensive and appealing. This is a region where the skyline continues everlastingly in a blue haze and much wild life and the forest primeval still prevail.

The Oklahoma Historical Society has undertaken a meritorious work in thus seeking to unearth the story of ancient life in Oklahoma and the southwest and to preserve the same in the form of written records and museum exhibits. Up to this time several eastern institutions have caused some excavating to be done in eastern Oklahoma, and private collectors have been more or less active in the same field, but the public institutions of the state have been some-

what indifferent as to the scientific possibilities of such a line of investigation.

Moreover, the Historical Society is handicapped in such an effort in that it has not been generously supported as are kindred institutions in several of the other western states. Compared with the funds set aside by eastern institutions for such purposes, the present effort of the Oklahoma Historical Society is almost, literally, "financed on a shoestring." Indeed, had it not been for the generosity of a number of young men, who donated their labor, the results of the expedition and its work might have fallen short of what has been achieved.

The Thoburn expedition undertook to carry on excavations at two points in the vicinity of the town of Grove, one an ancient cave dwelling which is located on the north bank of Honey creek about three miles southwest of that town and the other a mound of the true mound builder type located near the mouth of Elk river six miles north of the town.

Both undertakings have been prolific of satisfactory result. The mound was not a large one, its original dimensions having been fourteen feet in height and forty feet in diameter at the base. More than half of its contents had already been excavated by collectors. The systematic excavation of the remainder has now been completed and has resulted in finding and securing a fine collection of specimens of ancient arts and crafts.

The gathering of such relics was not the sole purpose. Important as that indeed seems to be, it has not been allowed to overshadow the collection and recording of data and scientific information which is justly entitled to a place in human knowledge.

One of the most surprising of the phases in the story of the operations of the Thoburn expedition is the fact that right from the beginning of the work it was harried and harassed and annoyed by spies and night prowlers. This seemed the more surprising since the people of the community have seemed uniformly friendly, and no cause having been given for them to feel otherwise. That there has been an organized effort to discourage the members of the field party and thus defeat the purpose for which the party was organized is evident. The source of the inspiration of such hostile manifestations has been subject to much conjecture, but it is now believed to be due to the malevolent intrigue of commercial collectors of Indian relics who have long enjoyed almost a monopoly of the exploitation of such museum material in northeastern Oklahoma. All efforts to frighten or intimidate members of this expedition failed utterly, however, as there was not a single yellow streak in its organization.

Altho, as already stated, the work on the mound has

been completed, the amount of work to be done in the cave has continued to increase as it has progressed until at the present time it is known that several months will be required to complete it. To abandon the work at this time would be to invite its immediate resumption by the unskilled employees of commercial collectors. These are altogether lacking in the scientific knowledge or interest, and delve only for salable specimens, utterly regardless of the possibility of securing definite information which should be preserved.

If the Historical Society is to continue its work in this line, the meagre funds for such purposes will have to be supplemented by funds from other sources. Two of the young men who have been with the expedition are Otto F. Spring of Miami who is an Oklahoma University man, and Harry Robertson of Blackwell who has been physical director of Phillips University for two years past. Mr. Spring has long been interested in this line of work. Part of his boyhood and youth were spent at the town of Grove, where he worked with the University - Geological Survey archaeological expedition under Thoburn's direction in 1916. He has since been in the service of the Oklahoma Geological Survey. He and Robertson have alternated in working on the mound and in the cave and both command the confidence of Thoburn who is very strong in his commendation of the service they have rendered.

In the entire country at large there is perhaps not a more expert workman in the restoration of the broken relics, when such is necessary, than Mr. Spring. He takes a personal delight in rebuilding the broken relics and the results that he has attained are in themselves worth far more, even in a commercial way, than has been the entire cost of the Thoburn expedition so far. Both he and Robertson have made splendid records.

It was the good luck of the writer to be present when an unusually attractive piece of pottery, a good sized water bottle or vase, was discovered and unearthed by Robertson. It was so firmly embedded in the clay for so long a period--an untold period even before the coming of Columbus--that Robertson had to use the utmost caution and care not to harm it. It developed to be one of the best specimens of the kind yet found, decorated with a feather etching of the most attractive design.

In addition to the remains of the cave-dwelling and mound-building eras, eastern Oklahoma abounds in the earthworks and burial grounds of another prehistoric people, who tilled the soil for a livelihood and dwelt in timber-framed, earth-covered, dome-shaped huts or lodges. The site or ruin of each of these is now marked by a low, circular mound of earth. There are literally hundreds of these in the vicinity of the cave and the mound where this expedition has been at work. Thoburn did some work in these while he was connected with the University, 1913-

1917, and he is inclined to believe that much more work should be done in this investigation of the culture of these earth-house people, which he regards as more recent than that of either the cave dweller or the mound builder.

Blackwell Morning Tribune

June 1, 1926

EXPLORERS FIND INTERESTING RELICS AT TRADING POST SITE

PONCA CITY, May 31

Hound dogs as well as other animals, together with all manner of figures, perhaps symbolic and otherwise, are engraved on brass and copper pieces that are being unearthed at the present time by men employed under the supervision of Joseph B. Thoburn, who is in charge of all archaeological work carried on through the Oklahoma Historical society. Exploration is being conducted along the Arkansas river, twenty miles north of Ponca City, in the vicinity of Camp Ferdinandina, the first white settlement in all Oklahoma. Both men actively engaged in directing the exploration work are university men, Otto Spring of the University of Oklahoma, and Harry "Doc" Robertson of Phillips University.

The site of Camp Ferdinandina was discovered about nine years ago by Thoburn. While its existence was known, the exact site had never been determined. Lying out from this post and particularly north along the Arkansas river were the Indian villages, Pawnee, Wichita, or Caddo. Spring and Robertson are now working on an Indian village of thirty mounds. Originally surrounded by a deep trench, this village occupies land now included within the Ingleking and Bryson farms. Many interesting discoveries are being made and many interesting relics recovered.

Not far from this Indian village, still northward along the river and also included to a considerable extent within the Ingleking farm, is the old shop site of the Indians, the place where they wintered and manufactured the various crude tools that they used, chiefly of flint. Spring and Robertson have their camp today within the same shop site.

Nearby is one of the famous springs that abound along the river providing water sufficient for hundreds of Indians, while the river runs not over a 100 feet distant. Among the relics, just found there, is the lower millstone of a pair so frequently used among the very early settlers to grind meal.

This old shop site of the Indians was selected for winter quarters because of a rock bluff, forty feet in height that runs parallel with the river for almost three-quarters of a mile. It shields the shop from the winter winds. Legend has

it, and explorations confirm the legend, that the French traders with the aid of the Indians, rounded up the buffalo herds until they would get near the edge of this rock cliff; then frightening the animals, many of the buffalo in stampeding would be pushed over the cliff by those in the rear part of the herd. These would be killed by the fall or would be so badly wounded that they could be finished easily by the Indians. It was then the squaws' work to skin the buffalo, the hides of which, tanned into robes were desired so greatly by the French.

Camp Ferdinandina was established something over 180 years ago, according to Thoburn, by French traders who came up the Arkansas from trading posts near the Mississippi. This was a favored buffalo grazing area at that time, and it was for this reason that the site of this post was selected. They had blacksmiths with them, as is evidenced by the crude iron hoes and other implements, which are being unearthed from these Indian village mounds. In all but one of the mounds there have been numerous pieces of iron, brass and copper unearthed. The one mound evidently antedates the coming of the French as there is no indication whatever of the presence of white men.

The pieces of engraved brass and copper, together with copper cones, glass and other beads, and numerous other ornaments, were evidently made in France and other European countries, especially for the Indian trade then brought over and traded to the redskins for buffalo hides. There is evidence that the squaws raised patches of corn near the villages. One of the interesting relics recovered is a quantity of charred corn or roasting ears, still intact after many years; one piece of roasting ear show it roasted with the shuck on as it is still clinging to the cob.

The village of thirty mounds, where Spring and Robertson are now working, is only about a mile north of Camp Ferdinandina, where there is also a well-preserved Indian village outline. The more northern of the two may have been in existence prior to the coming of the French traders, continuing during the time of the French residence here. It was probably the summer camp of the Indians, who had their shop site underneath the rock cliff. Until recently there was a well-defined stomp ground in the village center. This has been destroyed by cultivation of the land; but

the Indian mounds are easily discernible. The mounds were originally Indian houses, with the earth thrown over a pole framework; later, when the poles rotted, the earth fell in, creating these mounds.

Judging from the hundreds of flint scrapers that are found in that vicinity, the trade in buffalo robes must have been extensive, as there are bushels of these crude skinning knives to be picked up. The comparative scarcity of arrowheads is pointed to as another evidence that the buffalos were stampeded over the top of the cliff and met death below.

Numerous Indian pipe bowls, pieces of pottery, gun flints, pieces of the guns used by the French, bone spades, stone hoes, hatchets and hammers, tomahawks, brass handles broken from kettles, hundreds of pieces of flint left when the Indians made their implements, bones of men and animals, some of them evidently dogs and numerous other relics are being uncovered.

Near this shop site is an old rock crossing of the river, which made it convenient for both the French and the Indians to ford, and across the river at this point is an old rocked or walled-in grave or mausoleum, not yet penetrated by the explorers. Not far distant from the Indian village is a rock mound, evidently a burial mound, which is to be unearthed in the near future, and which Spring and Robertson are anticipating will yield many additional relics. The work in this county is being financed by E. W. Marland, president of the Marland oil company, and many of the relics are to be placed in the museum which he is preparing to build at Ponca City.

While the farmers are cooperating splendidly with Thoburn and his men in permitting the exploration work to proceed, many of them are interested in the story that has been told for generations that there is \$80,000 in bandit gold buried somewhere in that area, and they are hoping that the explorers may uncover that also. Tradition has it that the gold is buried in a mammoth kettle.

The Wichita Eagle

June 22, 1926

WHISTLER PLEADS FOR SUPPORT OF HISTORICAL BODY

**Easterner Urges Aid for Oklahoma Society; Visits Camp
Near Ponca City**

Enthusied by Results

Ponca City, Okla., June 21.----The camp of the Marland archaeological expedition, now operating on the Arkansas river, 20 miles northeast of Ponca City, under the direction of the Oklahoma Historical society and under the immediate charge of Otto F. Spring and Henry C. (Doc) Robertson, has had an interesting visitor here in the person of Don Whistler, who is assistant curator of the American section of the museum of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Whistler is an Oklahoma product, being a native of Lincoln county. He is a member of the Sac and Fox Indian tribe and was educated at the University of Oklahoma. He has been with the museum at Philadelphia for two years past. He is spending part of his vacation visiting relatives at Norman and then goes to Arizona before returning to the east. He has spent several days at the camp of the Marland expedition and manifested great enthusiasm over the discoveries that are being unearthed there.

Although Mr. Whistler is now identified with an eastern institution, he has not lost any interest in what is being

done in kindred lines in Oklahoma. He seems to have kept in close touch with the work that has been done in the way of archaeological excavation and research under the auspices of the Oklahoma Historical society during the past year and is quite enthusiastic regarding the results. In discussing this work while here, he especially emphasized the importance of continuing such efforts in Oklahoma at this time. He expressed the opinion that Oklahoma people should see to it that the historical society should be properly and adequately supported in its efforts in such a line. In part, Mr. Whistler said:

"The population of Oklahoma not only includes more Indians and more people of Indian descent than that of any other state in the union, but the percentage of the same is due to increase with the continuance of interracial marriages. For this reason, if for no other, at least one such institution in the state as the Oklahoma Historical society should be enabled to gather and preserve complete in its library and museum thoroughly representative collections which will serve to illustrate the arts and crafts, life customs, culture, religious beliefs and rites, ceremonial prac-

tices and folk lore of the native American race. The historical society has made a good start on slender resources. Its quarters are badly overcrowded and congested--it needs more room and modern equipment and it should have much more liberal provision made for the continuance of its field work and collections.

Sooner State Is Wealthy

"In this connection I want to state that the great museum with which I am associated does not draw a single dollar from the treasury of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On the contrary, all of the funds for its maintenance expansion, new equipment and additional collections comes in the form of bequests, donations and gifts from wealthy citizens of the city and state. Oklahoma, has as much wealth, in proportion to its population, as Pennsylvania. It certainly has as many wealthy people, proportionately, as Pennsylvania-people who should appreciate the fact that great wealth brings with it obligations no less than opportunities and privileges. With an institution as efficiently directed and as keenly alive to the service which it seeks to render as the Oklahoma Historical society is, it should not have to be continually striving for the modest sums necessary to the successful prosecution of such enterprises as those in which it has been engaged during the past year.

"The Indian of today is 'traveling the white man's road.' Not many years hence, the traditions, customs and keepsakes of the Indian people will be but fading memories. The people of Oklahoma should see to it that the mementoes of Indian life, even of the period which has just ended, shall be preserved. Otherwise, in less than a century, it may be necessary for Oklahoma people including even those who

may still call themselves Indians, to go to the big museums of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington if they would study the arts and crafts and other evidences of Indian people, as a race, are not vanishing but their age-old customs and handicrafts and ceremonial life are fast disappearing.

Not Places of Amusement

"There is a prevalent opinion to the effect that museums are to be classed as places of amusement. This is erroneous, for the true museum is an educational institution. No one can question the fact that any person of even average intelligence can learn more from a personal inspection of an object than one can from reading a written description of the same. True education includes more than merely school buildings and curricula and instructors. The museum is an essential part of every well developed educational system. And, moreover, it is worthy of remark, in this connection, the true museum is not a junk shop, filled with all manner of curious but irrelevant specimens.

"As I have already stated, Oklahoma is not a poor state. Its men of wealth should appreciate the privilege of making the cultural future of the state their debtor. Indeed, they have an opportunity to render a real and lasting service as patrons of such a line of research that could scarcely be rated as less than monumental. Mr. Marland has set a good precedent in making possible the present excavations in Kay county and it is certainly to be hoped that other men of means, equally public spirited, may aid in continuing the splendid work thus begun, for Oklahoma is rich in other fields that would abundantly justify similar efforts at exploration."

KAY LANDMARK FADING FAST HISTORIANS SAY

Newkirk, April 2

The drouth is playing a grim trick on one of Oklahoma's oldest but unmarked historic landmarks--the old French trading post of Ferdinandino at the mouth of Chilocco creek in Northern Kay county.

What French traders and fur trappers found to be lush valley is showing more and more the effects of prolonged drouth, with the creek running low and once-abundant vegetation shriveled.

Two centuries ago, on the banks of the Arkansas river, Ferdinandino, whose old stockade marks are visible to the trained eye, was the home of the first white traders to follow the prairie trails and brave the perils of the middle west to establish a trading post northwest of what is now Newkirk.

Research is Lacking

Present-day maps carry no evidence the settlement of some 300 French traders, explorers, and Indians ever existed. But early histories recall the site existed from about 1740 to 1750.

While floods of the time have hidden Ferdinandino, researchers have ascertained the position of the site at a point between the place where the Arkansas river passes approximately five and three quarters miles east of U. S. 77 highway at the Chilocco Indian school.

The point is at the southwest juncture of section 13 in Dale township and the river, three miles east of the present Grey Noret community.

Although Ferdinandino is not forgotten by the Okla-

homa Historical society, it has not been marked due to lack of concrete-evidence showing location and time of operation. Observers say it would be necessary to send a researcher to the French archives in Paris to bring the past of Ferdinandino to light.

Site Near Cliffs

Later, the camp site used by the French was a favorite spot of the Caddoan Indians where they gathered to fan out on buffalo hunts. The area also produced a gray-white flint, used in weapons and domestic tools.

The site of Ferdinandino at that time was adjacent to cliffs which rose 20 to 30 feet in height, and it was the practice of the Indians to drive the buffalo over the cliffs to kill them.

There was a big spring near the creek, and it also was a favorite camping spot for early-day Indians, and later was used by whites. Before the land was settled, the spot also became notorious as a hideout for cattle rustlers.

The historic area is now included in the Grey Noret area of northern Kay county, a community named after an early settler. Records in the office of the county clerk in Newkirk show Graham M. Noret as having been a landowner in the neighborhood.

Dr. Thoburn unearthed a number of iron hoes and other implements and concluded that the establishment must have included a blacksmith shop. The expedition collected several bushels of stone picks or scrapers used by the Indians in preparing the buffalo hides so they would have com-

mercial value to the French traders.

Bert Moore of Winfield, Kansas, who has been interested in this Oklahoma site for 50 years, has collected a large number of metal-pieces, all finely engraved, which establish conclusively the date and European origin of the settlement. His examples of trigger guards, butt plates, flint lock mechanisms and other pieces of gun hardware have been submitted to experts and have been pronounced of French origin, and from the designs and scroll work are placed in the first half of the 18th century, supporting the 1750 date for the establishment of the trading post.

The origin of the name Ferdinandina (or Fernandino) is surrounded with enough uncertainty to warrant further research. Perhaps the post was named for the great grandson of Louis XIV of France, Ferdinand VI who became king of Spain in 1746. The region west of the Mississippi--Louisiana--was a French possession until the Treaty of Paris in 1763 which gave over the rule of this part of America to Spain. French Indian agents and trade still operated under the Spanish regime with the capital at New Orleans. If the trading post on the Arkansas in Kay county were named in honor of the Spanish king, it must have been someone jubilant over the fact that a Bourbon of France was now on the throne of Spain. All available evidence at present indicates that designation was made before or by 1750. On the other hand, this early trading post and first white settlement in Oklahoma could have been named for some unknown French trader or explorer by the name of Ferdinand though this does not seem plausible in the light of the facts.

Manuscript report by Otto Spring (OHS)

E. W. MARLAND KAY CO. EXPEDITION

report by
Otto Spring

Research explorations made along the Arkansas River North-East of Newkirk, Oklahoma by the E. W. Marland Kay Co. Expedition. During the months of May, June and July 1926 by the Field party of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Joseph B. Thoburn Directing the research.

Most of the work done here was done upon an old indian encampment or village site laying for the most part in the west ¼ of Sec.-- Twp --N, R--. The E.W. ½ Section line divides the site in nearly equal portions. The southern part being on the Della Bryson farm the northern on the Fred Engelking farm. See large scale map of Sec--.

Only about a third of the old encampment has been left undisturbed by the plow. From this portion and from descriptions given by men who were familiar with the camp before it was plowed conclusions must be drawn about the original condition of the encampment.

The work done on the encampment consisted of carefully going over and mapping it and the county surrounding, and excavating a number of the mounds, carefully preserving the specimens and data found.

Exploration on a similar encampment on the West bank of the Arkansas River two miles to the South-west on the J. D Cowan place and an other encampment gave some information as to the original condition of this one. The encampment on the Cowan place being almost entirely undisturbed.

A number of older men of the community herded cattle there before the land was open to settlement. Mr. Bert Moore of Winfield Kansas and J. J. Ramsey of Newkirk were quite familiar with the place as it originally was and much valuable information was secured from them.

Some valuable information was also secured from the men who first broke the ground there. F. L. Bryson of Newkirk breaking out the southern part and Mr. Thompson? breaking out the northern part.

The many visitors at the research camp added much to the store information.

This encampment seems to have been a more or less permanent village of at least eighty lodges built in and around an oval entrenchment or artificial depression on a hill-top. The village showing up now as a mound representing each lodge.

The mounds vary in height from a few inches to two feet and in diameter from twenty to about seventy feet. Most of them are circular but some few are oval or elongate.

In the fields now in cultivation the larger mounds can be seen but the smaller ones can only be located as circular patches of lighter colored earth mixed with flints, bone fragments and other vestigia.

It is supposed that in addition to the lodges that were permanent enough to have left a discernable mound there were in the village many temporary lodges only occupied during a period so short that insufficient refuse accumulated to appear as a mound.

Vestigia found indicates this encampment to have been at or near the French trading post "Camp Fernandina" established during the eighteenth century for the purpose of bartering with the indians for buffalo robes. These were presumably floated down the Arkansas river to Fort Smith, there to the Mississippi and New Orleans, and by ship to France.

The findings indicate it to have been near to rather than at this old post. The scarcity of lead bullets and only cut fragments of them found, and only fragments of flintlock guns usually suitable for attachment to the body as ornaments indicates the post to have been at some distance from the village.

Iron hoes and tomahawks of rather rough workmanship and bits of slag from a forge indicates the presence of a blacksmith at the post. As only rounded bits of the slag were found this would also indicate that the foraging was done at some distance from the village.

This spot was well chosen by the inhabitants as the site for this village, settled for the purpose of securing buffalo hides in quantities.

The upland prairie to the west of the Arkansas river comes to an abrupt end at the top of a line of precipitious cliffs bordering the west side of the Arkansas bottoms from the Mouth of Dry Creek to the mouth of the Deer Creek. These cliffs are higher to the north and the camp was placed toward the south end of them.

From the west the tree tops in the bottoms appear as bushes on the prairie.

The buffalo could be driven from their feeding grounds on the prairies and stampeded over the cliffs killing them easily in great numbers.

The scarcity of arrowheads to be found in and around the village indicates some other means of killing than with the bow and arrow. The great numbers of skin-dressing flints to be found indicates that robes were secured in such numbers that the buffaloes must have been killed in droves.

Other suitable campsites near springs and on high points along streams near which there are no cliffs yielded



Figure. 9. View east of the Arkansas River, its floodplain, and the bluff line near the Deer Creek site. This view shows the dramatic relief mentioned in Spring's report of the Marland expedition. Photo taken around 1966 by Meredith Sheets.

no specimens belonging to the culture of the village but the great abundance of vestigia there belonging to other cultures indicated them to be suitable camping places for any tribes not interested in killing buffalo in greater numbers than needed to supply their own wants. Evidently the line of cliffs had much to do with the selection of this spot as their village site.

The campsite to the south of the highest cliffs would remove the inhabitants from the offensive odors of many rotting buffalo carcasses. These same odors may have been the reason for the total absence of specimens of the village culture in the fields to the north of the cliffs.

Along the cliffs near the village are several springs of cold water that run throughout the year. Most of these break out near the bottoms of the cliffs.

The one nearest which the village was placed however breaks out in a crevass near the top of the cliff. There are still two trails leading down to this spring from the hill-top above. Pottery fragments are to be found around the spring and the trails leading to it. Evidently the inhabitants did not care to carry water from the spring at the bottom of the cliffs when it could be had near the top of the cliff.

A good view of the country in all directions is to be had from the hill-top on which the village was placed. This protected them against surprise attack and made it easier to locate herds of buffalo.

Just above the old village a rough rocky ledge across the Arkansas river made good crossing on this great river. This probably was a distinct advantage to the inhabitants.

The presence of corn mortars, charred corn-cobs and kernels, charred roasting ears with shucks on, and charred beans in the mounds indicates that they obtained part of their living by cultivating small patches of ground.

The evidence of tobacco pipes found indicates that they grew or obtained in trade tobacco. It is probable too that they grew their own tobacco.

The ground on the hill-top being too dry for the cultivation of their crops their farming ground must have been in the bottoms below the cliffs or the more fertile hill-top ground to the west of the village.

While corn does not grow very well on the upland in that vicinity now but does well in the bottoms it would indicate that they farmed the bottoms. However iron hoes and other implements have been found to the west of the village and not in the bottoms. Indicating they did their farming there.

The many fragments of bones of deer, buffalo, wild turkey, and other game in the mounds indicates they also lived by the chase.

As usual with all conspicuous prehistoric remains there are many local tales of fabulous wealth buried in and around the old village. This has in the past caused many of the mounds to be disturbed by treasure hunters. However in practically every case enough of the mound was left undisturbed to give our exploration enough data to indicate the method of its formation. Of course no such data was to be secured in those mounds that are in the fields now in cultivation. The mounds there were disturbed by the plow usually almost entirely to the bottom of the mound.

Data secured seems to indicate the mounds to have been formed in three ways.

Along the west side of the old entrenchment in the Bryson pasture there is a long oval mound. Limited excavations here showed indications that it is the earth thrown out of the ditch. It seems to contain no vestigia of any kind and is composed of yellow clay. Mounds at various places along the entrenchments seem to have been formed in the same way. However some of the mounds along the entrenchments are composed of black earth and contain flints, fragments and other vestigia. These being lodge sites.

It seems to have been the custom here as in other places of indian encampment to let ashes and other debris lay where they fell. These on continued occupation becoming of considerable thickness. In the village site such debris forms the greater part of the mounds.

Limited excavation in a large mound along the north side of the wash leading out of the village and well outside of the village pointed out that it is the ruins of a lodge covered thickly with earth or turf. The surface of this mound is barren clay and earth. The vestigia are buried well below the surface. They have a foot or more of barren earth above them. The mound is of large size and sits well away from the rest of the mounds. It seems to have been occupied over a brief space as there is but little of ashes and bones on the floor. The ash beds seem to be all on the old floor.

The remainder of the mounds investigated seem to be the ruins of lightly covered lodges. Most or all of the mound being composed of refuse material. These lodges were probably covered with turf rather than earth as there is no strata of earth representing the falling to ruin of the lodge.

The vestigia occur throughout the thickness of the mound and even on the surface. Ash beds also occur throughout the mound and in arched strata instead of horizontal.

In several mounds fragments of burned mud plastering was found. These indicate a division of the lodge into rooms. They also occur throughout the thickness of the mound indicating a rotting or burning down of the lodge and rebuilding on the same spot. This would indicate a more fragile structure than a lodge thickly covered with earth.

Pits were encountered in several of the mounds. These were circular pits several feet in depth and probably serving as kilns or fire pits as they were usually nearly full of ashes and charcoal. These will be taken up in detail later.

In every case the lumps of red and yellow clay were thrown to each side of the pit and showed up as patches and lumps of clay in the mound. The pits seem to have been dug after the mound had been lived on long enough for several inches of debris to accumulate.

These mounds seem to represent the accumulating debris of successive encampment on the same spot over a long period. The rebuilding of the lodge does not seem to have been preceeded by a leveling of the surface. The poles or other frame work of the lodge seem to not have been buried to any appreciable depth as great care was exercised by the explorers in watching for loose spots representing ancient post holes. No indication of such holes were detected.

The material of the mounds is identical with refuse material to be found wherever prehistoric men camp long enough in one place for refuse to accumulate.

Limited data on the mounds on the Cowan place indicates them to be the ruins of thickly covered earth lodges similar to the one along the north side of the wash. They seem to be made up of thick strata of ashes and refuse separated by thick strata of earth from the lodge covering.

It is probable that both thickly covered and thinly covered earth or turf as well as the grass and skin lodges were used in both villages at the same time. However the heavier structures seem to have predominated in the southern camp and the lighter in the northern. The mounds on the Cowan place are in general much larger being up to six feet high and a hundred feet in diameter.

All but a few rods of the old entrenchment have been destroyed by the plow but their path is plainly marked through the cultivated fields. An effort was made upon the part undisturbed to ascertain their nature. Much data concerning them was secured from men familiar with the place before it was plowed up.

There seems to have been one main oval trench with a shallower one outside and parallel to it. The trench leaving the East side of the small wash and making a long oval around the head of the wash coming back to the wash a hundred feet lower down on the other side of it. See large scale map.

The ditch where it is undisturbed shows up as a depression about eighteen inches deep and fifteen feet wide.

These trenches originally were worn bare evidently by trampling of feet in ceremonies or dances and were called "the old indian dance circles."

A trench was excavated across the main ditch. The bottom of the ditch was found to be hard yellow clay similar to the surrounding subsoil. There is no evidence of earth having been washed in. The sides of the ditch do not seem to have ever been perpendicular. It seems to have been worn out by traffic over the same place over a long period of time. The mounds to the sides of the ditch seem to have been thrown out but they might have accumulated as the earth was worked out of the ditch. That being the case however one would expect to find many artifacts in a mound so made around a place of ceremony. None were found in these mounds. More thorough examination of the mounds may bring to light many specimens.

There was no evidence of any disturbance below the surface in or on either side of the ditch. There does not seem to have been any wall of logs or other barricade connected with the trench unless it was one placed on the surface.

The entrenchments do not seem to have been continuous. There are one or two mounds sitting squarely in the main entrenchment.

At the Cowan encampment there is a similar and more pronounced entrenchment. It is interrupted also by mounds. One man tells of excavating in it and finding charred butts of the old log walls that had been along it.

The entrenchments seem to have been the center of the village. The largest mounds, denoting the most constant occupation, being along it and outside. A few small mounds are inside. A very large clump of sumac growing on black ground near the center of the oval indicates some sort of activity but excavation there brought nothing to light.

One interesting question is whether the location of the village was because of the French post being near or the French post being located near because of the villages. Evidence found indicates that the village was settled as a village after the coming of the French. As articles of European manufacture were found throughout all the mounds explored with but one exception. This mound one of large size in undisturbed pasture did not contain the large number of flint skin scrapers usual in the rest of them, and contained nothing of European manufacture. A half of a glass bead, seven scraps of iron and brass, and a brass butt-plate from a gun were found on or just beneath the surface.

Evidently this mound and possibly others was started before the coming of the traders. However it is probable that the village was of very small size before the coming of the French and only became populous after their coming gave the buffalo skins a value. One small mound in Dry Creek bottoms a half mile north of the village also seems to have antedated the village. This one is a few inches high and about forty feet in diameter colored light by the mixture of ashes with earth. Only a few flint chips are to be found there.

The French trading post seems to have caused the village to exist and the cessation of this post seems to have caused the desertion of the village. The absence of parts of cap and ball guns and other things of more modern workmanship indicates the desertion of the village soon after the opening of the 19th century.

The inhabitants during the 19th century seem to have camped in the bottoms near the springs rather than on the hill-top and seem also to have been transient camping but a short time in any one place.

The springs here and elsewhere along the Arkansas river seem to have been favorite camping places for the indians as well as the white men. Around any of them are to be found artifacts dating from prehistoric to modern times.

Around one large spring on the Hudsonpillar place 12 miles East of Ponca City there is evidence that it was a very popular camping place. Many objects brought in by early white men have been found around it. One bronze charm bearing the date 1830 was found near the spring.

This charm is oval with an eyelet for attachment on one end. It has the image of the virgin Mary on one side with date 1830 below and the words "O holy Mary Even Virgin and Conceived Without Sin. Help Us Who implore thy aid" printed around the virgin. On the reverse side is some sort of an insignia of crosses etc. surrounded with stars. This sort of charm is in use at present by those of Catholic faith almost identical with this old one.

This spring seems to have been a camping place at the time the village was occupied and may have been the site of "Camp Fernandina." An old map made by Lloyds of London about the middle of the 19th century gives the location of the camp at about this place.

It is probable that the rocky ledge across the Arkansas river just above the old village was a much used ford throughout all time until the modern bridges were placed across the river. It may have been the so called "Black-Dog" crossing mentioned in many of the old stories among the settlers.

The flint of which most of the flint implements found on the village sites and on other campsites nearby seems to have been procured from the old flint quarries near Hardy about fifteen miles from the old village.

As flints made of this seems to predominate on campsites apparently much older than the village these mines must have been worked since earliest times.

Occasionally specimens are found of other flints. These may have been secured by trade with other tribes. Some specimens have been chipped out of river pebbles evidently from the Arkansas river.

Numerous pieces of red catlinite or pipestone are to be found in the village. Some of these are nicely carved. Imperfect broken specimens alone seem to be present. These pieces indicate trade relationships with tribes to the north.

Fragments of a bright red polished pottery jar were found in one of the mounds. It had been decorated with a complicated design scratched on after the jar had been burned. The finish, workmanship and design of the jar were characteristically Mound-builder. Similar ware having been found in Delaware Co. It is evident that this jar was excavated by the persons who lived in the village from some mound to the east. It was evidently taken to the village complete and broken on the mound.

Evidently many of the objects secured in trade were worked over by the indians. Pieces of Flintlock guns were found that had been broken to suitable size for attachment to the body as ornaments. One brass ornament had been made into a scraping tool. One piece of heavy brass rod had been ground down into an awl. Several arrowheads had been made from pieces of brass.

Brass kettles seem to have been their chief use in being cut and rolled into beads and cone shaped rolls.

Steel knife blades were evidently fitted into bone handles.

Bits of steel seem to have been made into arrowheads.

Several ends of kettle handles were found and several loops for handles of brass kettles. However the handles found did not belong to the loops found being curved wrong. The handles belong to kettles with loops parallel to the circumference while the loops found are perpendicular to the circumference. This indicates two types of kettles only part of each having been found.

Miscellaneous notes by Otto Spring (OHS)

A number of graves were located in the vicinity of the old village site. These for the most part at least similar seem to belong to other than the inhabitants of the village.

About a half mile south-west of the old village a rock mound was located. It was a circular mound of rocks with the interstices filled with black earth. About forty feet in diameter and three feet high.

It stood in a field free from rocks and was itself so rocky that no attempt had ever been made to cultivate over it.

About half of the mound was excavated. This proved it to have been a rudely arched rock grave. The arch had fallen in upon the interments. The skeletons were almost entirely gone and only badly decayed fragments of bones could be found among the rocks.

The rocks were large slabs of limestone some so large that it must have taken several men to carry them to the mound. They were carried to the mound from a distance of at least a quarter of a mile.

The skull plates found were charred and blackened by burning.

No artifacts were found in the grave excepting some broken chipped flint implements. These seem to have been put there accidentally. There seems to have been at least three interments in the mound.

The badly decayed condition of the bones in ground similar to that on which the village sits-indicates the grave to be much older than the village. The bones in the mound in the village even if buried shallower are very well preserved. The chief interest in this grave is the size of the rocks composing it and the distance they had to be transported.

The original rock floor of the vault seems to have been placed upon the clay subsoil of the hill-top. The black surface earth seems to have been removed and placed over the vault. There is no evidence of disturbance below the rock floor.



Figure 10. Oklahoma Historical Society photo (#147.6) labeled "edge of excavation on mound on Ingle-King place". View shows accumulation of rocks as mentioned in Otto Spring and Joseph Thoburn reports.

A similar mound once stood on the hill-top to the south about a half mile. It was examined at an early day by Mr. Moore of Cornfield Kansas.

An effort was made to locate this one but cultivation of the ground has destroyed it.

It was originally about four feet high and thirty feet in diameter composed of yellow clay. The surface was carefully covered with slabs of limestone fitted in and the apex finished with a very large slab.

The man who took the claim on which it stood used the slabs of stone in building the foundations of his "claim shanty." Cultivation since has removed all trace of the mound.

A careful examination of the ground after plowing might locate the remains of the mound. It is probable that the interments are still undisturbed.

While breaking out the old village a number of skeletons were plowed out. These seem to have been buried shallow. It is not known whether they were in the mounds or around them. If they were in the mounds it may have been due to the house having fallen in upon the occupants.

One old lady tells of digging into graves just to the west of the village on the Cowan place and finding many relics when she was a small girl.

The two stories seem to indicate that the dead from the villages were buried in shallow pits in the ground nearby.

A grave was investigated on the hill-top to the east of the Arkansas river. Originally it had a low rough wall around it (it is said). All trace of this wall has disappeared.

* * * * *

Miscellaneous notes by Otto Spring (WHC)

Otto Spring documents - Western History Collections, O.U.

1 hand written page:

Friday - Finished small mound found burned clay item. Started 2nd mound South of oval mound on Bryson. Found lead and most of body of image or doll in fragments in grass roots, Also perfect pipe.

Saturday - Found steel knife with part of bone handle in place.

Monday - Frizzen and dog of a gun and two brass bells. Trench across the entire _____?

Tuesday - Central part of mound. Decorated knife handle of bone, frizzen - small. Bone bead. Small glass bead - very small perfect pipe.

Other side of same page:

Tuesday, July 6 Started mound along fence on Engelking. Started N.E. corner. Found a blue glass bead, pieces of brass, iron, etc. Scrapers.

Wednesday - Continuing into mound. Curved steel knife blade, scraper with antler handle, 3 1/2 glass beads, pieces of cast brass, cones, etc. Brass spring gouge blade. Signet of brass ring, pieces of glass, etc., part of handle of pot. Also started mound in outfield without screening. Fine pipe, also pieces of gun brass and holder for gun ram-rod.

Thursday - Engleking mound dug past center on North side about 1/2 of mound. All three pieces of fine pipe broken near center of mound. Head of owl or other fantastic image broken off at shoulders, two holes from-neck to under eyes. Made of baked clay. Hard burned and grey color. Powder pan and trigger flintlock, knife blade. Exceptional triangular arrowhead.

From outfield - brass arrowhead and decorated brass gun ornament.

Friday - Fancy gun ornament of iron, Middle to South

Saturday - South - nothing exceptional

Monday - rained

Tuesday - Two pipes one almost complete. Bone awls one small other large with point gone. Finished mound at noon. Started second mound just north. Pottery plentiful in N.E. corner.

Wednesday - Dug on into mound. Nothing showed up except breech-lock of flintlock.

Poor mound. Prospected mound along creek, nothing. Started mound to S.E. on Bryson. Small mound but _____. Whole shoulder blade hoe, long rod of iron. Large brass _____. Fine small flint from flint lock. _____ central part of small mound. Small square bone _____ of excellent workmanship.

Note: The lower left side of this page is torn away - hence the blank spaces above.

2nd handwritten page (one side only)

First mound - Plowed field. Strt (?) N.W. corner well out of mound. Mound plowed over considerably only two inches undisturbed earth. Well out side of mound some one hundred scrapers dug out by Clyde B. Lock of old gunlock with spring attached found in bottom. Iron hoe found near scrapers. Steel arrowhead in center. Many beads and cones of brass foil. Many scrapers. A few triangular arrowheads. Piece of gun ornament of engraved brass. In old fire beds a quantity of charred corn including fragment of charred roasting ear with shuck. Plowing brought up some broken hoes made of shoulder blade bones of buffalo. Due to plowing with the exception of old ash beds in center none of former structure of mound was to be noted.

Second mound - Undisturbed pasture along fence on Engleking place. Undisturbed except pit in top. Excavation start on South side not very prolific. Number of buffalo and deer bones found throughout mound. Out to N.E. corner six inches down. Evidentially old outside fireplace. Burned stones, ashes, etc. Iron hoe also. North side of mound cache of about 50 scrapers. Two turkey callers of thin hollow bones evidently from thigh of turkey. Number of thin polished bones curved with hole in end. West part of mound covered with yellow clay with vestigia beneath. Were under clay about 1/4 of lip with handle of brown jar found. One broken stone pipe of white stone found near center

About 1/3 of very highly polished yellow pottery pipe bowl decorated with three black lines painted around horizontally. Evidently buried in. Deepest part about 18 inches. No structure discernable. Many broken pipes. and scrapers. Several rolled brass beads and cones - piece of brass trigger-guard.

May 18, 1926 - third mound - Bryson farm. Undisturbed pasture. Small pit in middle. Started on downhill side (South). Due to decision that mounds could be worked better halfway excavation carried as nearly straight as possible. Many large fragments of pottery forming almost complete top of red jar with handle on each side. Also bulge inward pottery decorated with impressions about 1/4 inch which spiral to lip to right upward. 9 jar handles. Few nicely made scrapers. Several triangular arrowheads. No indication of white contact excepting on the surface. These 1/2 glass bead and brass gun butt plate. One cylindrical piece of burned clay evidently work of child. Deepest part about 1 ft. Mound evidently antedated white men. No evidence of structure. Mound of very similar colored earth so post holes not discernable. Pipes of clay smaller than others. Uphill (North) side covered with yellow clay.

Fourth mound - Near N.S. fence between pasture and wheatfield. Undisturbed excepting small pit in top. Bunch of buckbrush in center. Pit started down hill (N. E. corner) carried across. N.W. corner completely skeleton of coyote buried 1 ft. underground. Prolific. Many broken pipes and scrapers. Many hoes and shells. Most of pipes on N.E. half. N.W. half most of bone implements. These broken hoes of buffalo shoulder blades and curved polished bits of bone up to several inches long by 1/2 inch wide with hole in end. Several bone awls always with back finished conical. Many cones and beads of brass foil. One fine oblong shell bead, one clay bead, several glass beads. Two long spikes of iron about six inches long. Some deer horn handles or implements. One fragment of stem end of decorated clay pipe, one almost complete clay pipe with line around stem. One broken clay pipe decorated with zig-zag line of black apparently burned in on side of bowl. One held a granite pestle stone of pink granite. Old iron knife blade. Several pieces of old iron, piece of engraved ornament of brass from old gun.

Miscellaneous notes by Otto Spring (OHS)

J. B. Thoburn Collection

Indian Archives Division

Oklahoma Historical Society

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Page G-a AR-3; G-b

The grave showed as a shallow rocky depression along the edge of the top of the hill.

A roughly oblong pit had been dug to a depth of about eighteen inches to a level ledge of rock and the internments made upon the rock floor. The pit was about six feet wide and ten feet long.

Previous excavators had disturbed much of the contents of the grave but there was much of interest left.

The larger bones were not present. All bones there were either fragments of larger bones or small bones. Most of them had been charred. This indicates an attempt at cremation after burial.

There seems to have been more than one buried in this grave.

In one end charred bits of wood, a hand wrought iron handle many hand wrought iron nails, an old chest lock and it's key indicates that an old chest of some sort had been buried with the dead.

A small rusted tin box full of bright yellow paint, an old brass lamp burner, pieces of brass wire chain, a handle of an iron spoon, a large rusty pair of scissors, brass buttons, a brass headed nail, a brass bell, numbers of brightly colored glass buttons, many flint arrowheads completes the list of specimens found.

These indicate the grave to be later than the village only dating back about fifty years.

The loose earth seems to have been thrown on the bodies first then the pieces of limestone filling up the pit.

Exploration along the rocky hilltops to the west of the Arkansas river located a number of low piles of rocks along the edges of the hills.

Excavation in these disclosed a shallow pit filled with loose black earth mixed with rock fragments. These pits were of the right dimensions to be graves and usually about eighteen inches deep. They seem to have been graves from which all traces of the internments had disappeared. They were usually covered with loose rock. One was carefully covered with thin slabs of limestone and laid around the center like shingles.

No artifacts were found in these places but their location and appearance leaves little doubt that they were graves.

These evidently antedate the village as bones buried shallow in the village are well preserved.

In a dry cleft in a rock cliff opposite the old village a skeleton was found several years ago by an old treasure hunter. This had been that of an old man as the teeth were almost worn away. Also mice or other small rodents had built their nest in the hollow of the skull and had used part of his long white hair for the nest.

This was evidently the skeleton of a more recent person. The body had been pushed into a dry crevice under a ledge of rock.

The presence of the old village and the campsites around the springs caused considerable excavation for treasure in that locality.

One treasure hunter tells of finding six skulls with the rest of their bones buried in the cleft in the rocks about a half mile North of the village and just below the mouth of Dry Creek.

Several tales were told of finding skeletons buried along the bases of the slopes of the hills.

Insufficient information makes it impossible to know just to what period these internments belong.

Similar internments were encountered at a depth of four feet along the south bank of Dry Creek on the N.S. sec. line between Sec - and - by men to build a bridge across the creek at this point. There were buffalo and other bones with the internment. The decayed condition of the bones indicates this to also antedate the old village.

Page P-a

A point of high clayey land comes into the bottoms North of the mouth of Chillocca Creek and between the creek and the Arkansas river. It is about forty feet higher than the bottoms on each side. The land slopes gradually upward to the north and west into the upland prairies.

This higher ground with its view of the surrounding country and the large spring on the west side of the point made this a good place for encampment. The low rich bottom land to the South and east gave ample ground for cultivation of crops.

The whole top and sides of this point are thickly covered with vestigia of prehistoric encampment. In places flint chips make up, the greater part of the surface earth.

However the artifacts belong to another seemingly more ancient culture than that of the village to the south. Not a single specimen could be assigned to the culture of the village.

J.J. Ramsey has built his house upon this point and during the various excavations around his home has come upon a number of skeletons.

Page P-a continued; Page P-b

These were seemingly buried without paraphernalia and buried within three feet of the surface. Five were found in the same grave. The bones were in poor state of preservation indicating them to be quite old.

The artifacts found here are for the most part large, finely made flint knives, spearheads, perforators, scrapers, and arrowheads. One small celt of fine workmanship made of a light yellow stone was found here. Several small flints have been found here also. One of these is a small thin, round specimen with six notches chipped in it's circumference.

Ramsey dug out about a tubful of fire blackened rocks mixed with ashes and charcoal from a depth of about two feet on the top of the point near it's south extremity.- This must have been a fire place in which stones were being heated to be dropped into water to heat it.

The total absence of mounds on and around this point indicates those who lived there to have lived very much in the open and in easily transported lodges. Probably living in the open during warm weather and in skin lodges in cold or inclement weather. When the floor of such a lodge became encumbered with debris it could easily be moved to

another location. The size of the hilltop giving ample room so that it was not necessary to live long enough in one place for a mound of refuse to accumulate.

The great abundance of vestigia indicates this to have been camped on over a long period of time either intermittently or steadily.

Vestigia are to be found to a depth of several feet on the top of the hill. It is impossible to offer any explanation of this condition. Unless this earth and debris was carried in by the prehistorics. No condition can be offered at present that would cause deposition upon a narrow hill-top such that it would be covered to a depth of several feet in a few centuries. The opposite would naturally be the case.

While digging a post hole on the hilltop Mr. Ramsey came upon four fine flint knives together.

Several flints found on this hilltop by Mr. Ramsey are very remarkable specimens.

In several places on the hill, numbers of Mussel shells have been found together.

East of Arkansas City a few miles north of the old village are several mounds seeming to date from the time of Camp Fernandino. Excavation in one of them by Mr. Moore and others several years ago, brought to light the ordinary specimens found in those of the village. In the center was a pit filled with loose earth which on being excavated was found to be a grave. The skeleton was in good state of preservation.

Page with picture of rock graves at bottom; Unmarked page.

A number of graves were located in the vicinity of the old village site. These for the most part at least so far seem to belong to other than the inhabitants of the village.

About a half mile south-west of the old village age a rock mound was located. It was a circular mound of rocks with the interstices filled with black earth. About forty feet in diameter and three feet high.

It stood in a field free from rocks and was itself so rocky that no attempt had ever been made to cultivate over it.

About half of the mound was excavated. This proved it to have been a rudely arched rock grave. The arch had fallen in upon the internments. The skeletons were almost entirely gone and only badly decayed fragments of bones could be found among the rocks.

The rocks were large slabs of limestone some so large that it must have taken several men to carry them to the mound. They were carried to the mound from a distance of at least a quarter of a mile.

The skull plates found were charred and blackened by burning.

No artifacts were found in the grave excepting some broken chipped flint implements. There seems to have been at least three internments in the mound.

The badly decayed condition of the bones in ground similar to that on which the village sits indicates the grave to be much older than the village. The bones in the mounds in the village even if buried shallower are very well preserved.

The chief interest in this grave is the size of the rocks composing it and the distance they had to be transported.

The original rock floor of the vault seems to have been placed upon the clay subsoil of the hill top. The black surface earth seems to have been removed and placed over the vault. There is no evidence of disturbance below the rock floor.

A similar mound once stood on the hill top to the south about a half mile. It was examined at an early day by Mr. Moore of Winfield Kansas.

An effort was made to locate this one but cultivation of the ground has destroyed it.

It was originally about four feet high and thirty feet in diameter. Composed of yellow clay. The surface was carefully covered with slabs of limestone fitted in and the apex finished with a very large slab.

The man who took the claim on which it stood used the slabs of stone in building the foundations of his claim shanty. Cultivation since has removed all trace of the mound.

A careful examination of the ground after plowing might locate the remains of the mound. It is probable that the internments are still undisturbed.

While breaking out the old village a number of skeletons were plowed out. These seem to have been buried shallow. It is not known whether they were in the mounds or around them. If they were in the mounds it may have been close to the house having fallen in upon the occupants.

One old lady tells of digging into graves just to the west of the village on the Cowan place and finding many relics when she was a small girl.

The two stories seem to indicate that the dead from the villages were buried in shallow pits in the ground nearby.

A grave was investigated on a hill top to the east of the Arkansas river.

Originally it had a low rock wall around. All trace of this wall had disappeared. (It is said).

* * * * *

Thoburn manuscript (OHS)

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village site had been occupied longer than either of the others, as well as being more extensive in its area and in the size and number of its ruins, it was not found available for systematic excavations at that time, hence, arrangements were made for a series of excavations on the site of a village which had been located two miles north and east of the Deer Creek, on Sections 2 and 3, Township 26 North, Range 3 east of the Indian Meridian. For reasons explained later, this site has been tentatively named the

Buffalo Cliff Village Site

A small crew of six men, nearly all of whom had previously worked for the Society in cave and mound excavation, in the eastern part of the state, was employed on this work during the months of May, June and July, 1926. Otto F. Spring, who had extended experience in such lines of work, was in immediate charge of the work, it being impossible for the writer to be present much of the time, though he made a number of visits during the course of the season's work, which was known as the Marland Archaeological Expedition. Prior to the beginning of this work, Mr. Spring, with Harry C. Robertson, another member of the field party, spent ten days in the investigation of the chert quarries located in the vicinity of the village of Hardy, in old Kaw Indian reservation, in the extreme northeastern part of Kay County, east of the Arkansas River. From the specimens secured there, it was evident that the inhabitants of the Kay County Caddoan village sites had resorted thither for material from which to fashion their implements and weapons of stone. However, it seems likely that a more complete investigation would reveal the fact that these chert quarries dated from a pre-Caddoan period.

In the spring of 1926, through the generous co-operation of Mr. E.W. Marland, of Ponca City, agreed to finance a field expedition for the systematic excavation of the earth-house ruins on one of these sites. For the purpose of such excavation, the upper village site, located four miles south of the Kansas line and about one mile south of the mouth of Chilocco Creek, was selected. This site was on the river slope of a high hill which commanded a view of the valley for a

number of miles, both above and below. The upper end of this hill begins at the lower edge of the flood-plain of Dry Creek, where it merges with that of the Arkansas River. Thence this elevation parallels the river channel for a distance of approximately a mile, both extending in a direction nearly due south. From the top of the hill toward the river channel there is a sharp slope of approximately ____ degrees, this slope being practically uniform throughout the length of the elevation, though broken at one point by a ravine which has been eroded well back toward the summit of the same. For a distance of approximately three-fourths of a mile, the lower edge of this slope is suddenly terminated at the top of the practically perpendicular face of a ledge of massive limestone, averaging about forty feet in thickness. The entire surface of the hill, from the summit down the escarpment of the limestone ledge, was originally covered with prairie vegetation, while, from the foot of the ledge to the immediate bank of the river channel--a distance of from 100 to 300 feet, the rolling surface, somewhat interspersed with detached masses of limestone, was originally covered with a forest growth. Along the upper part of the limestone ledge, several small perennial springs of water burst forth, with others which break out of the ground below the foot of the same.

This village site was located on and around the southern extremity of this elevation, on section 2 and 3, Township 28 N., Range 3 E. 1. M., not over one-third of its area being situated on Section 2, the remainder being nearly evenly divided between the southeastern part of the northeast part of the southeast quarter-section. At least two-thirds of the area of the site has been under cultivation for many years past, with the result that traces of some of the smaller domiciliary mounds have nearly if not quite disappeared and most of the vestigia has been carried away or disintegrated. A ravine, or upland water-course, heads in the slope at the south end of the hill. Around the head of this depression, are to be found the traces of a circular trench, horseshoe-shaped in outline, with the opening extending across the course of the same, similar to the one already described at Deer Creek village site. The mounds are scattered on both sides of this ravine and at varying distances therefrom, as well as around its head.

The mounds do not seem to have averaged as large, either in diameter or in height, as those which are to be found on the Deer Creek site, though, otherwise, they were identical in appearance and formation. From the fact that some of these were very low in proportion to their diameter, it is inferred that such earth covers were unusually light, indicating a brief period of occupancy. That there were grass-thatched lodges in the village is also probable, though no attempt was made to locate the sites of any such structures. There still live in the vicinity several parties who were familiar with the village site as it was in the cattle range era, before the permanent settlement was made, in 1893. These have estimated the number of lodge sites, or mounds as high as eighty, which would indicate the presence of a considerable population--if all were simultaneously occupied.

Mr. Bert C. Moore, of Winfield, Kansas (deputy county clerk of Cowley County), who first brought this site to the attention of the writer, in doing so, expressed the belief that the occupants of the village might have constructed a V-shaped passage, or drive-way, with the wide end extending up hill and with both sides enclosed by a stoutly-built fence of timber and brush, at some distance north from the village, down which buffalo might be stampeded in considerable numbers, thus crowding the animals over the precipitous limestone ledge at the foot of the slope, the fall killing and maiming them in a wholesale way at a minimum of exertion, saving ammunition and obviating the necessity of transporting pelts and meat for varying distances from out on the open range. Such a method of killing buffalo in quantity is known to have been practiced by the Indians of the Upper Missouri and elsewhere in the Northern Plains regions, so it is not impossible that some of the aboriginal inhabitants of Northern Oklahoma may have resorted to the same means as the most economic and expeditious method of killing the animals for their hides. That this was not improbable seems to be indicated by the scarcity of arrow points among the vestigia would seem to bear out the assumption that some other means of killing buffalo must have been resorted to rather than by use of bow and arrows. The great abundance of the chert "turtle-back" skin-dressing picks bears evidence that the hide-dressing, robe-tanning industry must have been an extensive one. On other village sites, where the killing of buffalo and the dressing of robes was only to serve the needs of the people themselves, not only were the skin-dressing picks much less abundant but arrow points were much more common than they were on this Buffalo Cliff village site.

While the village site is distant approximately half a mile from the spot which is believed to have been selected for the construction of the cliff trap over which the buffalo are supposed to have been stampeded, in a direction somewhat west of south, it can readily be seen that prevailing winds, whether from the southwest or the northwest, would have carried the noxious odors of decaying buffalo carcasses in other directions, thus leaving the village free from annoyance of that score. On the other hand, there would seem to have been at least a possibility that, after the removal of the pelt and such meat as might have been wanted, each carcass might have been dragged into the channel of the river, only a little more than a stone's throw distant, and left to float away to some distant sandbar or drift pile. The practically entire absence of vestigia on the ground below the foot of the ledge at that point is probably not without its

significance in this connection.

The village water supply was undoubtedly secured from the nearest spring, which gushes forth from a crevice in the limestone ledge, near the top. The faint traces of two trails or footpaths leading down to this spring from the village site are still plainly discernable. Moreover, the occasional occurrence of pottery fragments, along these footpaths and about the spring, bear strong evidence of the visits of the maids and matrons of the village as its water carriers. This never-failing spring of clear, cold water, was not without its influence in the selection of a site for the village. Other and more copious springs were to be found at lower levels and at the foot of the massive ledge of limestone, but it is quite evident that the high spring was the favorite if not only source whence water was carried to the village.

As already stated, the hill top adjacent to the village site commanded a fine view in all directions. This was of advantage since it protected the village from surprise attacks by any raiding enemy. It also doubtless facilitated the location of buffalo herds which came within such a range of vision. The slope of the ground, on and near the village site, was such as to afford easy and rapid drainage, thus simplifying the problem of sanitation and health.

The presence of mortars, or metates, and mullers, used in grinding corn, and of cobs and kernels of corn and roasting ears with the husks still covering the ear and all in a charred condition, together with charred beans, in the ruined house mounds, all tend to indicate that the inhabitants must have obtained at least a part of their sustenance by the cultivation of small patches of soil. It is conceivable that these were located on the alluvial soil of the river flood plain, below the foot of the cliff, where there was much more fertility than on the upland prairie, with more natural moisture and less atmospheric evaporation, and where it would be comparatively easy to fence out the invasions of grazing wild animals. In addition to such evidences of agricultural industry, the presence of quantities of bones of buffalo, deer, wild turkeys and other game animals and birds and the bones and scales of fish from the river, bear unmistakable evidence of an even larger dependence upon the chase.

As in the cases of conspicuous prehistoric sites elsewhere, there seem to have been numerous local traditions of hidden wealth pertaining to the ruins of this Buffalo Cliff village site, with the result that there were many marks of the "buried treasure" hunter's spade on some of these mounds before it was brought to the attention of any scientific investigator. The failure of one "buried treasure" quest never seemed to dampen the ardor of the next one who felt so inspired since, invariably, the value of the long-concealed wealth never failed to grow with the years. At that, however, enough seemed to be left undisturbed in each mound to warrant a careful dissection of the same. Unfortunately, the mounds which were located in the land under cultivation were so nearly completely destroyed by the plow that there was but little left to dissect.

In addition to having been disturbed by imaginative "treasure" seekers, burrowing animals, such as coyotes, badgers, skunks, gophers and ground squirrels, have disturbed the contents of these mounds to a greater or less extent. It is as the result of such action that, in many if not most instances, more or less vestigia from the floor level may be found half way to the top of the mound or even on its surface. In one instance during the course of the season's work in the summer of 1926, the complete skeleton was found in the body of a mound, thus indicating that it had probably died in its burrow.

The vestigia secured in the dissection of mounds of this village site are practically identical in character with that which may be commonly found in the ruins of the earth-covered lodges of the Deer Creek village site, including those that are characteristic of both the more recent Stone Age Caddoan and the early Franco-American traders, one or more of whom were doubtless always to be found in or about the village. While unquestionably Caddoan, the culture had plainly gone through a marked deterioration in the course of three or four centuries since the arts and crafts of that stock had been at their best in eastern Oklahoma. This deterioration is especially noticeable in the pottery, which was found only in fragmentary condition and which lacked much of equalling in variety, design and artistic refinement the ceramic wares of the ancestral stock of the earlier period.

Among the other vestigia, there were numerous Caddoan burned clay tobacco pipes, nearly all of the conventional "double-cone" pattern which had been so characteristic of the Caddoan culture in its earlier occupancy of the lower valleys of the Arkansas and Red rivers as to warrant its selection as one of the type artifacts of that culture. (Nearly all of these were found in a fragmentary condition but all of the parts of a number of them, so they were easily restored, making perfect museum specimens.) The survival of this type of pipe among the people of the Paniouassa people, on the Middle Arkansas, for more than two centuries after their closely related kinsmen of the Panimaha (i.e., upper or northern Pawnee) and the Taovayas or Towiache (i.e., the Red River Pawnee, or Pawnee Pique) had aban-

doned the small clay pipe of their ancestors for a smaller stone pipe of an Algonquian pattern, is one of the interesting facts developed during the course of this particular investigation. Only twice during the course of the season's work were fragments of the small pipes of the pattern used by the cognate tribes on Red River and the Platte found on this village site, the inference being that these had been broken or lost by some visiting representative of those related peoples. But this will be considered more at length, later, in discussing the identity and antecedents of the Taovayas, or Towiache people.

In several of the ruined house mounds, there were found fragments of burned clay plaster, showing the imprint of the woven wattle-lath and giving evidence of the division of the lodge into two or more rooms, by means of such a plastered partition. The finding of similar material, by the writer, in the ruins of such a habitation in Leflore County, dating from a much earlier period, has been previously recorded in this paper. In that instance, the structure had been destroyed by an internal fire, as was probable in this instance also.

As the result of excavating beneath the floor level, in these domiciliary mounds on the Buffalo Cliff village site, caches, or storage pits, which had been emptied and refilled with earth, were found. The finding of similar pits beneath the floors of such ruins, on the Deer Creek village site and in the more ancient Caddoan domiciliary ruins in Leflore County, are recorded elsewhere. Incidentally, it is worthy of remark that, from the amount of wood ashes, bits of charcoal, broken and calcined bones, clam shells, broken stone implements and weapons, potsherds and other rubbish and refuse which seems to have been gathered up and dumped into the emptied storage pits, it is evident that the inter-spaces between lodges was carefully "policed" and cleared of such unsightly material before refilling the same with earth, hence the almost total absence of such vestigia on the surface of the average Caddoan village site. This absence of anything in the line of artifacts on the surface of the average prehistoric Caddoan village site has been one of the strong arguments against the theory that its mounds were of human origin.

Numerous fragments of red catlinite were found in the excavation of the ruins on this village site, but no perfect pipes or other artifacts of that material. However, the presence of that material under such circumstances and on that site seems clearly indicative of trade relations with the distant North, probably through the medium of the kindred Pawnee peoples of the Platte and Republican rivers. One of the most interesting items secured in the course of the season's work was a fragment of a thin earthenware bowl, or water-bottle, of a bright red color, highly polished, and decorated with a complicated design which had been etched upon the surface after the vessel had been burned in the kiln, this process of decoration being quite in contrast with the incised lineal decorations on the surface of the pottery of the Caddoan peoples, who performed that operation after the moulding of the vessel had been completed but before it had been kiln burned. It is significant that, when this fragment came to light, three of the members of the party who had belonged to the field party of the Oklahoma Historical Society in the summer of 1925, when they had helped to dissect a mound of the true Mound Builder type, instantly recognized and identified it, from its appearance and decoration, as being typical of the ancient culture with which they had become familiar, a year before. How a specimen of the ceramic art of the people of one of the mound building stocks came into the possession of the Caddoans of a comparatively recent time, is, of course, a matter for conjecture and does not need to be discussed here. The fact as stated would seem to be sufficiently interesting in itself.

A number of graves were located in the vicinity of the Buffalo Cliff village site. Some of these had been disturbed by relic hunters and other curiously minded folk many years before this expedition set forth on its tour of investigation. Some of these were doubtless Siouan (Osage) and hence, much more recent than the period of the occupancy of the village site. Others may have represented interments of deceased residents of the village, though, if so, the methods of sepulcher had undergone a radical change since the time of the prehistoric Caddoan era in Eastern Oklahoma, as all were on the upland, whereas, in ancient times, their burials were uniformly made in the sandy subsoil of certain fields (probably then under cultivation) on river and creek flood plains.

The Paniouassa, or Arkansas River Pawnee, which included the Wichita, proper, the Touacara (Towakony) and several other closely related tribes appear to have lived in the valley of the Arkansas and those of its principal tributaries throughout the period of French control in Louisiana. Between 1763 and 1800, they disappeared from that region, under circumstances concerning which history has as yet been unable to offer any definite details in the way of explanation. This matter will be discussed further, under the head of the Toavayas, Towiache, or Red River Pawnees, for, while the Paniouassa group, as such and under that name, completely disappeared during the forty years preceding the American acquisition of Louisiana, they did not become extinct.

The collection of specimens which was gathered by the Marland Archaeological Expedition, during the late

spring and early summer of 1926, is still packed and in storage. Ultimately, it is to be divided between the Oklahoma Historical Society and a local museum which has been projected for establishment in Kay County. Inasmuch as it contains many duplicates, two valuable and instructive collections will ultimately result from the activities of the expedition--collections which will not only throw new light on the more recent Stone Age Caddoan peoples and their culture but also upon the dawning of Caucasian history in the region which is now embraced in Oklahoma.

N. B. The Deer Creek site was discussed separately before I had the copyist start making carbon copies.

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Excavation report by Otto Spring (OHS)

*J. B. Thoburn Collection
Indian Archives Division
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

First mound excavated.

This mound was formerly one of the largest mounds in the village. It sat just outside the old entrenchment on the southwest side of the village. Due to cultivation over a long period of years it only showed up as a low rise of lighter colored earth mixed with many bone fragments, flints, and other vestigia. It must have originally been about forty feet in diameter and two feet high.

While plowing, just before excavation of the mound was started, Mr. Bryson plowed out several broken hoes or gouges made of the shoulder blade bone of the buffalo on the south side of the mound.

His plow struck a cache of flints in the north edge of the mound and on digging there he found about a hundred scrapers and large chips of flint in one place. In the bottom of the cache he also found the lock plate of an old gun with the spring still attached. Most of the scrapers were of large size.

Starting a trench in the northwest corner practically all of the mound was turned over to below the old floor level. The earth was not screened.

With the exception of a few inches in the higher parts of the mound all of it had been disturbed by the plow.

Digging just west of where the cache of scrapers was found a steel hoe and engraved gun ornament came to light.

In one of the old ash beds that had not been disturbed there was a quantity of charred corn including a fragment of roasting ear with shucks still in place.

One stem and a pipe bowl and an arrowhead also came from the central part of the mound.

Throughout the mound were many scrapers, beads and cones of brass plate, and fragments of rusty iron. Several triangular arrowheads were found here also. Also many fragments of clay pottery and clay pipes.

This mound is on the Bryson place about 200 yd South of their north line and 200 yds East of the Sec. line road to the west of the village. See large scale map of site.

Second mound excavated.

This mound sat in virgin pasture land on the Engelking place just north of their South line. It was to the northeast of the old entrenchment and in the N.E. edge of the old village. It was undisturbed excepting for a small pit in the center.

It was about thirty feet in diameter and eighteen inches high.

Excavation was started upon the south side and the entire mound handled without screening the earth. The mound was not as prolific as others in the village.

Seemingly outside of the mound upon the N.E. side and about six inches below the surface there was an old fireplace. It was full of ashes, charcoal, and fire blackened rocks. Near this place was also an iron hoe buried under about three inches of earth.

In the north edge of the mound there was a cache of about fifty scrapers buried a few inches below the surface.

The west part of the mound was covered with a layer of yellow clay above the middle of the deposit.

This clay was evidently that taken out of one of the pits beneath the mound as found in other mounds. This pit was not found.

There were many fragments of bones from deer, buffalo, and other animals throughout the mound.

A number of ash beds were encountered throughout the thickness of the mound. In some of these charred beans, corn, corn cobs, walnut hulls, etc were found.

Two turkey callers made of thin hollow bones came from this mound. They seem to have been made from some long thin bone of the turkey. They were cylinders three or four inches long and about 3/16 in diameter.

Several thin, curved pieces of polished bones came from this mound. They varied in length and when complete one end was rounded and had a hole drilled in it. They seem to have been beads or pendants.

About a third the circumference of a very highly polished clay pipe came from the center of the mound. It was finely made of yellowish clay and decorated with three black lines evidently burned in around its circumference. One almost complete pipe bowl came from N.W. corner of the mound. It is of black clay and different in form from any other found on the village. It was barely beneath the surface.

One broken white stone pipe came from center of mound. About a fourth of the lip of a brown jar with one handle came from beneath the clay layer in the western part of the mound.

There were many cones and beads of brass plate, fragments of iron and brass, fragments of pottery, broken pipes, triangular flint arrowheads, and scrapers throughout the mound.

One fragment of a trigger guard of brass came from the northern part of the mound.

A number of glass beads varying in size from very small to large were found in this mound and on it after rains had washed the surface. These were ordinary round and oval beads of blue and white glass.

On and just below the surface on the west side of the mound were many large fragments of limestone. A number of broken fragments of limestone corn mortars and pestles were in this mound.

Third mound started May 18 (1926)

This mound sits near the central part of the group of mounds to the southeast of the entrenchments on the Bryson place. It was about forty feet in diameter and a foot high. It sat upon a natural rise in the prairie which made it appear higher. It was undisturbed except for a small excavation that had been made in its center years ago by some curio or treasure hunter.

It was decided working from the downhill side to be the easiest method of handling the mound and this method was practiced on the rest of the mounds worked.

A trench was put along the downhill side, the south in this case, and the entire mound handled without screening the earth. The excavation was carried as nearly straight as practical.

This mound was also not prolific, except that it contained more than the usual number of pottery fragments.

Nearly all of the upper portion of a large red jar came out in fragments from the southeast corner of the mound. From these fragments the approximate shape could be seen. Above the bulge the surface was decorated with a series of shallow depressions about a quarter of an inch wide and about a quarter of an inch apart. These began just above the bulge progressing upward to the right to the lip. They seem to have been made with some sort of a shaping paddle wet with water and passed over the still plastic surface to have been put on before the handles were put on. Nine jar handles were found in this mound.

There were very few scrapers in this mound. These few were of better workmanship than common in the village.

There was no indication of white contact except a few specimens found on the surface. These were some glass beads and a brass plate from the butt of an old gun.

Several triangular arrowheads came from this mound.

The fragments of pipes found in this mound were of smaller pipes than commonly found in other mounds of the village.

In this mound was found the first of many peculiarly shaped bits of burned clay that from their oddity are judged to be the work of children at play. This one being a small cylindrical mass with rounded ends as if made by rubbing moist clay between the hands.

This mound seems to have been occupied for a long period before coming of the white man.

There were but few bones in the mound. This may have been due to the mound being older than others of the village causing most of the bones to have been decayed leaving no trace.

The earth making up the mound was less dark than that of other mounds. It was mostly yellow clay.

Several broken fragments of limestone corn mortars and pestle stones were scattered over the surface and in this mound.

A number of abrasive stones were scattered throughout this mound. These were usually oblong blocks of reddish sandstones with grooves worn on one or more sides. They varied in size from small to large. Most of those found were fragments. They seem to have been used in making bone needles and other implements requiring grinding.

Fourth mound excavated.

This mound sat on the south side of the wash and apparently just outside to the south of the old entrenchment and near where it joins the wash.

It was one of the largest of the village, being about forty feet in diameter and two feet high. It sat upon the edge of the slope toward the wash causing the debris from the mound to be scattered well toward the wash.

It had had a small pit excavated in its top. This was overgrown with a thick patch of buckbrush. Excavation was started along the northeast side and the entire mound worked over without screening the earth. It was very prolific, and it is unfortunate that the earth was not screened.

The downhill side was very prolific in larger specimens and bones. Many large buffalo bones were there.

In the northwest corner of the mound and about a foot below the surface was the complete skeleton of a coyote. Evidently it had died in its burrow in the mound.

A number of the curved flat bone beads or pendants such as those found in Mound No. 2 were found in the western half of the mound.

One very neat shell bead or pendant lay on the surface in the center of the mound. It was neatly made of a thick shell and highly polished.

A number of bone awls varying in length from an inch and a half to about five inches came from this mound, the left end of these being always finished conical, their cross-section being almost always triangular. They were made of the edge of some bone as a rib bone. One end always showing part of the cavity of the bone, the other two sides being natural surfaces of the bone.

One cylindrical bead of baked clay came from this mound. It being an ordinary long oval bead with a small hole through its greater length.

Near the center of the mound were two spikes of iron that seem to have been arrow or spear heads. They are slender and about six inches long. They seem to have been round, although they were so badly rusted their former shape couldn't be told with certainty.

One deer form handle belonging to a scraper came from this mound. Others were found in other mounds with scraper blade in place.

One large tobacco pipe was decorated with a heavy zig-zag line around its bowl. Another pipe had a single line cut around the stem. One fragment of pipe was found with a complicated design cut on it.

Fragments of pipes were common in this mound and several almost complete specimens were found here.

In this mound one half of a granite pestle stone was found. This is of a pink granite similar to granite of southern Oklahoma.

One old knife blade came from this mound, evidently from a knife very similar to a small, modern butcher knife.

Several engraved gun ornaments came from this mound. These were for the most part just fragments of the brass parts of guns.

Fragments of iron and brass were common throughout the mound. Scrapers and beads and cones of brass were also common. Several triangular arrowheads and several glass beads came from this mound.

Fragments of limestone corn mortar and pestles were plentiful in this mound. Most of these had apparently been burned.

Several flint implements were found here that seem to have been gun flints. These are square or oblong and vary considerably in size. Abrasive stones were also plentiful in this mound.

Fifth mound excavated started June 3

This mound sits in the south end of the Engelking place, their south line fence being on the southern edge of the mound. It is in virgin pasture land and was entirely undisturbed with the exception of a shallow excavation put into its top by some treasure hunter years ago.

The large size, peculiar shape, and position of the mound as well as the artifacts found indicates that this mound is the ruins of the domiciles of personages of more than ordinary importance among the ancient villagers. This mound is the easternmost of the village and varies in shape in that it has a sizeable extension to the south of the main circle. All other mounds in the village are circular or slightly oval in shape. The artifacts found are in general of better workmanship with fewer of the rougher implements.

The length N-S of the mound was 65 feet, width E-W of main circle 35 feet, width E-W of southern extension was 25 feet. The length N-S of the extension was 30 feet.

Positions of ash-beds over the entire mound indicated the mound to have been the ruins of at least two houses. The second built upon the ruins of the first.

Soon after starting it became apparent, due to the number of small artifacts found, that it would be advantageous to screen the earth in the mound. A 1/4 inch mesh screen was procured and all the earth in the mound passed through it.

A trench was excavated along the northeast corner of the mound, widened along the north and west sides and carried south through the mound taking its entire width.

Those working on the mound were Otto Spring, University of Oklahoma, Harry Robertson, Phillips University, Kieth Kahle, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Allan Williams, Oklahoma City; and Glenn Phillips, Grove, Oklahoma, Joseph B. Thoburn in charge of the work, and Don Whistler of Pennsylvania museum also spent some time on the mound.

About ten feet south-west of center of main circle of the mound soft earth and vestigia were encountered below the old floor line. Further excavation disclosed that there had been a pit in the old floor. This pit was six feet deep below the surface of the mound and four feet in diameter. The sides of the pit were vertical and the floor was level. The pit was circular.

About half way down there was two skulls of coyote or dogs. The lower jaws and two cervical vertebrae were with one but the skull only of the other.

Also in the pit were broken pottery, bones, melted glass, a partially melted brass spring, and a number of queer broken bone implements. The melted glass and the brass spring were in an old ash bed in the bottom of the pit. There was also a number of fireblackened rocks throughout the pit.

In the bottom of the pit was a quantity of almost rotted wood.

A second smaller pit was excavated southwest of the center of the south extension. This one was only four and a half feet below the surface of the mound, two feet, ten inches in diameter at the old floor and a foot larger in diameter at the bottom. It was cistern shaped.

In it was found a large steel axe, a small skeleton of a small flesh eating animal, broken pottery, two bone hoes, many bones, ashes and charcoal.

The steel axe was about a foot below the old floor line, the skeleton about six inches below the axe and the hoes on the bottom of the pit. The lower eighteen inches was mainly ashes and charcoal.

These old pits must have been old storage pits similar to our present day cellars.

This mound was particularly prolific and by using the screen almost all of the smaller specimens were recovered.

As in other mounds most of the specimens had been worked on the downhill side of the mound.

The artifacts, bone, ashes, charcoal and other vestigia were throughout the thickness of the mound.

Objects of pottery found.

Pottery pipes and fragments of pottery pipes were very abundant in this mound. All or practically all of the fragments of several fine specimens were found and the pipes restored. A number of pipes in this mound were exceptional. Several very large ones and one very small one was found here. Several fragments of highly decorated ones were found also.

Fragments of pottery jars were abundant in this mound. At least a bushel being found in it. These fragments are parts of a number of jars. Most of these jars were of large size but several are parts of small jars. One fragment of a small jar has a rather complicated decoration on it.

A number of large fragments of a large jar were found with holes drilled along their edges. It was suggested by Don Whistler of Pennsylvania museum that these were drilled for mending the jar in the way the Peruvian indians mend their broken jars.

The Peruvian indians in order to mend a broken jar drilled holes along the edges of the fragments and tied them together by means of a thong passed through the holes. Then by covering the breaks with pitch or some other similar gum the jar was again rendered watertight.

Fragments of a clay image of a coyote or other similar animal came to light while excavating in the south extension of the mound. This was a cylindrical mass of clay with the head worked out on one end. It was about two inches long. A small image of a snake's or turtle's head was also found in the main circle. The body of this image was not found.

A number of odd-shaped bits of moulded and baked clay were found throughout the mound. Their shapes indicate that they were made by children at play. Some being balls like marbles. They might be tests thrown into the fire by the pottery makers to try out pottery clay to see if it be satisfactory for the manufacture of pottery.

One whole and one broken cylindrical clay bead was found. These beads were about a half inch in length and a quarter inch in diameter with large holes through them.

Objects of stone.

A fragment of the stem of a Catlinite or pipestone pipe came to the screen from the last part of the mound.

Two fragments of the rim of a small Catlinite pipe or cup came from the northeast side of the mound. This object was of very neat workmanship. One of the fragments had a very small handle carved along the rim.

A stone pipe with upper part of bowl missing was unearthed in the eastern part of the mound. It is made of a light yellow fine-grained stone and is of very good workmanship.

Several pieces of earthy hematite came from the mound. This being the red paint of the indian. Several pieces bore polished surfaces where they had been used. There were several shades of red.

One whole and several broken muller stones. These stones were used to grind the corn in the stone mortars. All were made of the local light colored limestone. The complete one is roughly oval in shape and ten inches long, four inches wide, and one and a half inches thick. It came from the pit in the southern extension.

Several cup-stones were found in all parts of the mound. These are small rough stones having a cup-like depression on one or more sides used to hold one end of a drill while in use.

Abrasives were plentiful in the mound. These are oval or oblong pieces of dark red sandstone with one or more grooves on one or more sides. They were used in shaping bone awls and other implements.

Arrow-heads were numerous throughout the mound. Some eighty or ninety being found. All of these excepting one were triangular in shape and up to an inch and a half long. The one exception, probably obtained as a trophy in war or in trade, was of the ordinary notched hunting type and about two inches long.

Scrapers were also quite numerous but not as much so as in the other mounds of the village.

One broken flint knife came from the mound. It is made of a granular quartzite of light gray color.

Objects of glass obtained in trade with whites..

One very rare find made in this mound is a nearly complete arrow-head made of glass. The aging of the glass has given patina with a beautiful sheen.

Numerous pieces of glass were found. These are usually fragments of glass with greenish-blue patina. The most

common are clear glass but fragments of colored glass were also found. Some of the fragments have been ground down to an edge on one side and some are scratched.

Glass beads were common in all parts of the mound. Most of these were broken but a number were perfect. Three colors were found; white, clear, and blue.

Several pieces of melted glass were found. Several of these came from the bottom of the north pit.

Objects of brass.

These might be divided into two classes. Objects of European manufacture and objects of indian manufacture.

Of the first, findings were several pieces of brass gun ornaments and two sections of brass kettle lip, one with part of the iron handle still attached, and two coiled springs.

The second class consists of objects made of brass plate. This plate may have been the remainder of the brass kettles. These consist of-rolled beads, rolled cones, and arrow-heads.

Large numbers of the beads and cones of brass were found throughout the mound. Only two of the brass arrow-heads were found.

A number of pieces of brass plate were found. Apparently pieces cut out to be made into ornaments but not finished.

Objects of iron.

Several iron bolts and screws from guns were found throughout the mound. These seem to be hand wrought.

One large knife-blade was found near the surface in the center of the mound. This blade was much the shape of an ordinary medium sized butcher-knife. It had had a wooden handle fastened on with rivets through holes in the blade.

Two pieces of iron seem to have been steel arrow-heads.

One large steel axe was found in the south pit. This is a broad ring of iron with a long heavy blade attached. The whole axe is six and a half inches long.

Pieces of flint lock guns such as triggers, one fressno, several ornaments, one spring, and parts of the- lock.

Several iron wire finger rings were found. These were usually almost rusted out. They had been made of wires about the size of ordinary baling wire.

Small pieces of rusty iron were found throughout the mound.

Objects of bone.

This mound was very prolific in bone ornaments and implements.

A large assortment of bone awls was found throughout the mound. Most of these were straight polished shafts of bone pointed at one end and ground off cone-shaped on the other. Those were usually of triangular cross-section and vary in length up to seven inches.

One awl was made of the hock joint of a deer with the thin end shaped to a fine point and highly polished.

Another awl was made by polishing a splinter on the end of a broken bone to a fine point.

Several hoes or gouges were found that had been made by shaping the shoulder blade bones of the buffalo and

grinding the ends and edges of the bones to a sharp and polished edge.

One gouge was found made by shaping one end of a heavy tibia bone to a sharp flat edge. Several edges of similar tools were found that had teeth filed in them.

Several curved, flat, polished bones were found with a small hole drilled in one end. These were probably used as ornaments.

A number of large joints was found that seem to have been used as rubbing implements or as corn mullers.

A number of polished bones was found that seem to have been used as handles for iron or flint implements.

Sixth mound started June 19 (1926)

This mound sat just across the east-west 1/2 section line fence south from No. 5. It was also well outside of the old entrenchment to the east being one of a line of several mounds sitting in a curved line to the east and northeast of the entrenchment.

Numbers 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 being also of the seven mounds. The mound second from the south end of the line was not disturbed.

This mound sat in virgin pasture land on the Bryson place about fifty feet south of their north line fence. It was 64 feet east-west and 46 feet north-south, being decided oval in shape.

A trench had been dug through it east-west by some treasure or curio hunter. The mound was about 18 inches deep in its deepest part.

Excavation was started on the downhill (east) side, and the entire mound worked, passing the earth through a quarter inch mesh seive.

As usual the downhill side proved more prolific, and the opposite side was quite barren of objects of interest.

Soon after starting an iron hoe was found buried about eight inches beneath the surface in the central part of the last side.

A section of the bowl of a highly decorated pipe was near the surface in the northeastern part of the mound. The stem and part of the bowl of this same pipe were found at the bottom of a pit in the southeast part of the mound.

A black pipe, almost complete and of ordinary shape, was also in the northern part of the east side. It was about six inches below the surface.

In the southeast part of the mound a number of fragments of burned mound plastering were found at various depths in the mound.

In the southeast part of the mound a pit was encountered and dug out. It was 5 feet, 2 inches deep, 3 feet in diameter at the old floor line, and 5 feet in diameter at the bottom. The lower part was full of ashes and - bones, charcoal, etc. The stem and part of the bowl of a highly decorated clay pipe (mentioned above) were in the bottom of the pit.

Also, in the bottom was a very large fish-bone. The bone coming from just back of the head of a catfish. Its size indicated the fish to have been of very large size. Also, in the bottom was part of a quartzite "4 bladed penknife."

In the central and western part of the mound a number of fragments of a highly decorated red pottery jar were found. These all belonging to the same jar. It seems to be a piece of the ware used by the mound builders of eastern Oklahoma, evidently having been carried to the mound from there. It is a hard black ware with a thin highly polished surface of bright red. It is decorated with a complete design scratched on after burning.

One of the pieces of iron that holds the flint on the hammer of a flintlock gun came from this mound.

One deer rib found had been filed off and a ring filed around it near one end.

The mound also yielded an average number of scrapers, arrowheads, brass beads and cones, fragments of mortars and muller stones, etc., similar to those in previous mounds.

One steel arrowhead also came from this mound. The pit dug by the treasure hunter had been about six feet deep, three wide, and fifteen long. It was full of clay and mud that had evidently been washed in, the pit having been left open. He dug at least four feet into the hard yellow clay subsoil.

The fragments of a small gray jar with handles on each side were together in the southwest part of this mound.

Seventh mound started July 6 (1926)

This mound sits in virgin pasture on Engelking just east of their north-south pasture fence. It is the next to the last mound to the north end of the line of mounds running north-south along the east side of the village. It was about 40 feet in diameter and 18 inches high.

Excavation was started at the northeast side and the entire mound was worked over screening the earth. This mound was prolific in the ordinary vestigia as found in previous mounds. It also yielded several exceptional objects.

One scraper still in place on its antler handle came from the northeast part of the mound from a depth of about eight inches. One fragment of brass seems to have been molded or cast.

The signet off of a brass ring came to the screen from the northeast part of the mound. The character on the signet resembles somewhat the capitol English IN surrounded with wavy lines.

Near the center of the mound in a bed of ashes about eight inches below the surface was a doll's head of hard-baked clay. It was broken off at the neck. Other fragments were scattered in the mound completing about half the body. The clay had been mixed with grass or small sticks and these showed up as charcoal in the clay. Two small round charcoal filled holes representing sticks or grass stems ran through the neck into the head even with the eyes. The nose was the most striking feature of this image, it being almost a semicircle.

One exceptionally long perfect triangular arrowhead came from this mound.

Also, in this mound was a powder pan, trigger, and holder for ramrod of a flintlock as well as several ornaments.

One coiled brass spring came from this mound. This mound was also rich in more common artifacts such as beads, awls, etc. On the SW side of the mound a place was found where an old plastered wall had fallen in a heap. Interesting specimens of this clay plastering mixed with clay were secured.

Eighth mound started July 13 (1926)

This mound sat a few feet northwest of No. 7, being the last of the line of mounds along the east side of the village.

It was of small size being about thirty feet in diameter and a little over a foot high.

Excavation was started on the northeast side and the mound worked over screening the earth.

The mound yielded no extraordinary articles and but few of the ordinary being almost barren of vestigia. In the northeast side soon after starting a quantity of pottery fragments were found.

Ninth mound started July 14 (1926)

This mound sits well down toward the line of cliff to the southeast of the village and in the southeast edge of the group of mounds making up the southeastern part of the village.

It was a small mound showing up as a slight raise in the pasture. It was about twenty-five feet in diameter and a foot high.

Excavation was started upon the east side and the entire mound worked screening the earth. One very good hoe or gouge made of a buffalo shoulder blade bone was found here.

The mound was particularly rich in vestigia, turning out many of the ordinary artifacts. One small square bone implement of very good workmanship came from the central part of the mound.

One long rod of iron seems to have been the handle of an old shovel. One peculiar burned clay object came from this mound. It resembles one of the counters used in the child's game of "Jacks" with most of its joints broken off.

Tenth mound started July 16 (1926)

This mound is the south one of the line of mounds along the east side of the village. It sits on Bryson in untouched pasture land.

It was about forty feet in diameter but only about a foot high.

Excavation was started along its east side and the entire mound worked screening the earth.

It was fairly prolific in vestigia turning out a good quantity of specimens.

Just under the surface in the eastern part of the mound was a number of fragments making up the head and part of the body of a doll of crude workmanship.

The nose and part of the face was missing.

The piece of steel the flint strikes and the dog or catch that holds the hammer back of a flint lock gun came from this mound.

Two very small perfect pipes came from this mound. Neither of these had been used.

One almost perfect stone pipe of light colored stone came also from this mound.

Part of a steel knife blade with its bone handle in place came from...

(Part of the page is missing)

Eleventh mound started July 6

This mound is in the southwest part of the old village seemingly just inside the old entrenchment. It has been cultivated over a long period of years.

Excavation was started in the Southeast side and the mound worked without screening.

Cultivation had disturbed practically all of the mound.

It yielded but little of interest.

One small pipe was exceptional in shape.

One small brass arrowhead was of very good workmanship. It had been ground out of a fairly heavy piece of

brass.

One brass gun ornament had been made into a scraper. It had few decorated with engraved parallel lines.

Due to long cultivation there was little left in the mound.

Several . . . were partially excavated. While fr----- . . . to their barrenness about . . . interest.

(Part of the page is missing)

* * * * *

Small Notebook Found in Files - no date
O.H.S.; I.A. - Thoburn Collection

Dimensions of Mounds and House Sites on Deer Creek Village Site

*Mound No. 1: 27 ft. x 28 (ft.)
10° east of south
17 inches high*

*Mound No. 2: 26 ft. 6 in. x 30 ft.
21 inches high
hollow in center
12 feet wide and 20 inches deep
15° east of south*

*Mound No. 3: 23 ft. x 28 ft. 6 in.
10° east of south
19 inches high*

*Mound No.4(?): 23 ft. 6 in. x 23 ft. 6 in.
6 in. high*

*Mound No. 5: 22 ft. x 53 ft.
24 in. high
10° north of west*

*Mound No. 6: 37 ft. x 45 ft.
5° east of south
30 inches high*

*Mound No.7(?): 33 ft. 6 in. x 41 ft.
12 in. high
10° north of east*

*Mound No. 8: 31 ft. x 41 ft.
5 in. high
10° north of east*

*Mound No. 9: 31 ft. x 32 ft.
12° east of south
15 inches high*

Mound No.10: 23 ft. x 23 (ft.)

10 inches high

*Mound No. 11: 30 ft. x 32 ft.
10° north of east
30 inches high
disturbed by comparatively
recent excavation*

*Mound No. 12: 22 ft. x 22 (ft.)
12 inches high*

*No. 13: 41 ft. x 41 (ft.)
17 inches high and disturbed
by recent (comparatively) excavation*

*Mound No. 14: 38 ft. x 46 ft.
12° east of south
20 inches high*

*Mound No. 15: 31 ft. x 31 ft.
12 in. high*

*No. 16: 34 ft. x 34 (ft.)
23 in. high*

*No. 17: (Depression possibly a house site)
at N.E. end of trench circle.
31 x 22 ft.
18 in. deep
Major axis 10° s. of east*

96 ft. to No. 18

*No. 18: (Depressed house site)
32 feet x 25 feet
Major axis N & South
26 in. deep*

*50 feet from House site No. 18 to
No. 19 with no trench connecting.*

*No. 19: Depressed house site
32 ft. x 26 feet
Major axis 30° west of south
2 ft. 2 in. deep*

13 ft. from No. 19 to No. 20

*No. 20: Depressed house site
28 x 29 ft.
Major axis 10° south
2 ft. 3 in. deep*

*35 ft. from No. 20 to No. 15
31 ft. across No. 15
287 ft. around trench to House
site No. 21*

- No. 21: 32 ft. x 24 ft.
2 ft. deep
10° east of south
86 ft. from house site No. 21 to
end of trench*
- No. 22: Depression, possibly a cache or
storage pit
10 feet wide*
- No. 23: Depressed house site
29 ft. x 34 ft.
Major axis 15° north
17 in. deep*
- No. 24 Mound: 34 ft. x 30 ft.
20° W of
10 in. high*
- No. 25 Mound: 29 x 32 N & S
12 in. high*
- No. 26 Mound: 13 in. high
27 x 32 N & S*
- No. 27 Mound: Edge of cornfield
27 x 33 ft.
15 in. high*
- No. 28 Mound: In cornfield
20 x 20 ft.
10 in. high*
- No. 29 Mound: In cornfield
20 x 20 ft.
10 in. high*
- No. 30 Mound: In c.f.
39 x 45 ft.
18 in. high*
- No. 31: Small depression,
probably a cache pit*
- No. 32: Similar to No. 31*
- No. 33: Depressed house site
27 ft. x 27 ft.
20 in. deep*
- No. 34: Depressed house site
27 x 20 ft. N & S.
10 in. deep*
- No. 35: Depressed house site
24 x 24
8 in. deep*

No. 36: *Depression probably a small cache pit*

No. 37: *Similar to No. 36*

No. 38: *Mound in cornfield*
60 x 69 ft. N & S
3 feet high

No. 39: *Mound in c.f.*
33 x 39 N & S
12 in. high

Mound No. 40: *In cornf.*
72 x 81 ft. E & W
2 ft. 6 in. high

No. 41 Mound: *Edge of corn.*
60 x 90 N & S
2 ft. high

No. 42 Mound: 49 x 51 ft.
20 in. high

No. 43 Mound: 35 x 35
18 in. high

No. 44 Mound: 48 x 48
20 in. high

No. 45: *Depression probably small cache pit*

No. 46: *Depression similar to No. 45*

No. 47: *Depressed house site*
28 x 24 N & S
6 in. deep

No. 48: *Sunken house site*
29 x 30 ft.
8 in. deep

No. 49 Mound: 60 x 60 ft.
3 ft. 6 in. high

No. 50: *Depression probably*
small cache pit

No. 51 Mound: 20 x 20 feet
10 inches high

No. 52 Mound: 18 x 18 (ft.?)
6 in. high

No. 53 Mound: *On the fence line*
60 feet north of property line
39 ft. x 45 ft. E & W
15 in. high

Ferdinandina: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community

*No. 54: 60 ft. east 10° north of No. 52
30 x 30 ft.
12 in. high*

*No. 55 Mound: 18 x 18 (ft.?)
8 in. high*

*No. 56 Mound: On same line as 54
71 x 50 ft. N & S
2 1/2 feet high*

*No. 57 Mound: 35 x 40 E & W
18 in. high*

*No. 58 Mound: 31 x 27 N & S
10 in high*

*No. 59 Mound: 37 x 43 E & W
1 ft. high*

Renewed Archaeological Interest in the Ferdinandina Locality

Joseph Thoburn retired from the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1931 and died in 1941. Some historical interest in the purported French post was maintained in the 1930s and 40s, but archaeological interest did not reappear until 1946 when Robert E. Bell visited the locality with Bert Moore who was mentioned frequently and communicated with by Joseph Thoburn. As noted in the introduction to this volume, a twist of fate brought Dr. Bell to the University of Oklahoma in 1947, and he taught and conducted archaeological research from there until his retirement in 1980. Throughout those 33 years he maintained a strong interest in Wichita and Caddoan prehistory and history. As the following pages attest, soon after his appointment to the Department of Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma Dr. Bell was working to stimulate research in the Ferdinandina locality. In part, this was to resolve questions about whether the sites there really included a French trading post, but equally important was his recognition that these sites represented a critical link to understanding the cultural history of Oklahoma. Few other locations in the state allowed the possibility of tying descendants of Oklahoma's prehistoric people to historically recognized tribes. A further impetus for starting research in northern Kay County was the knowledge that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was planning to construct a large reservoir on the Arkansas River in that area. This construction and the resulting lake were believed to pose a real threat to the unprecedented archaeological record preserved in the Ferdinandina, or as archaeologists preferred to call it, the Deer Creek, locality. The following pages bear witness to a sustained concern for the documentation, study, and preservation of archaeological sites there.

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Charlie Steen (REB)

*National Park Service
Box 1728
Santa Fe, N. Mex.
2 Aug. 1951*

Dear Bob:

Here is a copy of the report I made on the Deer Creek site. It has been held up for several weeks because our photographer has been swamped and I wanted to include the photos of artifacts.

I hope that Deer Creek will not die a bureaucratic death and I intend to keep harping on the subject until something is done.

*Regards,
Charlie*

Memorandum submitted to National Park Service by Charlie Steen (REB)

*UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE*

*Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico*

July 27, 1951

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three

From: Charlie R. Steen, Archeologist

Subject: Report on the Deer Creek Site, Oklahoma

In 1941 Dr. Clark Wissler proposed to the Advisory Board of the National Park Service that the Deer Creek Site, Oklahoma, be considered as a National Monument. The Board, that year, approved the Deer Creek Project but nothing more has been done since to determine the desirability or practicability of including the site in the National Park System.

Neither the Director's Office nor the Region Three Office had any information on the site, nor was there any description of Deer Creek in the archeological literature available in Santa Fe. Consequently, it appeared desirable for me to investigate the site while on a survey trip to archeological areas in the Red and Arkansas Basins during June, 1951.

Fortunately, I stopped at the University of Oklahoma's excavations at the Tenkiller Ferry Reservoir project before going to Deer Creek; if I had not done so I would have gone to the town of Deer Creek and probably never would have found the archeological site. Dr. Robert E. Bell, of the University, told me where the site is located and urged that I also visit Mr. Bert Moore of Winfield, Kansas, who has a good collection of artifacts from the site. Bell called the Deer Creek site "probably the most important single-site in Oklahoma"; it is a proto-historic site, probably Wichita, which seems to have been used by the French as a trading center during the first half of the 18th century.

On June 23 and 24 I inspected the site, and visited Mr. Moore in Winfield, Kansas. Notes for the following descriptions and comments were made at that time.

Location

The Deer Creek Site is located on the west bank of the Arkansas River immediately below the mouth of Deer Creek. The site is approximately five and a half miles east and two miles north of Newkirk, Kay County, Oklahoma. Approximately four miles of the approach is on a good, graveled road, the remainder on a graded dirt road. The land is owned by Mrs. Jennie Seltzer and is farmed by Mr. Carl Miller who lives about three-fourths of a mile south of the site.

The site covers an area of perhaps two hundred acres, possibly somewhat more. It is on a sloping terrace which rises from the river bank. At the time of my visit the river was in flood, and was perhaps fifteen feet above normal water level; the terrace edge was approximately twelve feet above the flood. From the terrace edge the ground rises to a slight ridge whose crest is about 25 feet higher than the level at the river bank. The crest of the ridge is nearly a fourth of a mile from the river.

A strip of land, about 150 yards wide and adjacent to the river, has never been plowed--between that sod and a county road a fourth of a mile from the river, the land is now planted in wheat. Artifacts are numerous in the sodded area and in most of the wheat field, but the site ends somewhere east of the road. I asked the farmer who lives on the west side of the road about artifacts in his field, and he said that he rarely finds flakes or tools on his property.

At least one other similar site is located two miles up the Arkansas (and on the same side of the river) from Deer Creek. This site, described below, was partially excavated in 1925 and 1926 by Joseph Thoburn, of the Oklahoma State Historical Society.

History of the Deer Creek Site

There seems no reason to doubt the presence of a large Indian village, probably Wichita, at the mouth of Deer Creek at the beginning of the 18th century. Two miles north was another, smaller village, and there probably were others nearby. Except for Thoburn's work, no digging has been done at any of the sites and, consequently, our knowledge of them is meagre.

During the early years of the 20th century Deer Creek was identified with a trading post which is variously known as Ferdinandino, Ferdinandina, Fernando or Fernanda. The first spelling is that most often encountered.

Ferdinandino, by popular account and belief, was a combination military and trading post, established by the Spanish from Santa Fe to deter French expansion up the Arkansas River. The post was supposedly established in the

late 17th or early 18th century. The earliest appearance of Ferdinandino on a map, so far as I know, is on the Atwood map of the country west of the Mississippi River in 1849. On that map the post is located at the mouth of the Chikaskia River, on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas, and some twenty-five miles southwest of Deer Creek.

On the basis that Ferdinandino was actually located on the Arkansas at the mouth of Deer Creek, Joseph Thoburn in 1925 obtained excavation funds from former Oklahoma Governor E. W. Marland, of Ponca City, and applied to Mrs. Seltzer for permission to dig on her property. The request was refused and Thoburn began, late in the summer of 1925, to dig at the other, smaller proto-historic site two miles north of Deer Creek. The work was continued during the summer of 1926, until a newspaper article quoted Thoburn as saying that Ferdinandino was not located on the main Arkansas and that he was digging a site which probably reflected French influence rather than Spanish. This reputedly made Marland angry and funds to continue the excavations were immediately withdrawn and the job shut down. Since then no further work has been done at the sites.

Archeological Information

All the available published information on the Deer Creek site is contained in a few newspaper articles by Joseph B. Thoburn; the Chronicles of Oklahoma in an obituary for Thoburn, reprinted one of the articles in 1941. The articles appeared principally in the Wichita (Kansas) Eagle and the Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City).

Two groups of artifacts are available for study; the first is that collected on the surface of the Deer Creek Site by Mr. Bert Moore, the other is the collection from the smaller site made by Thoburn's excavations. The total is small.

The work at the smaller site was actually done by Mr. Otto Spring, who now lives in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The site covers 20 to 30 acres and was formerly a stockaded village. Aside from that, no description of the village or houses was published. At the conclusion of the dig the artifacts were packed and shipped to Oklahoma City.

A few years ago the faculty of the Chilocco Indian agricultural School (located north of Newkirk) established a small museum at the school. They asked for, and received, a representative collection of the artifacts from Thoburn's excavation. Another, smaller exhibit of the material is on display at a museum in the City Hall at Ponca City. Except for these, Thoburn's material is stored, unstudied, and mostly unpacked, in the basement of the Oklahoma State Historical Society's building at Oklahoma City.

The small amount of material I have seen seems to share characteristics of both the Henryetta Focus (Proto-Historic Red River Wichita) and the Kansas Paint Creek Culture. The more common Indian artifacts are:

Bison scapula hoe blades

Small triangular arrow points

Large snub nosed scrapers

Stone awls--both T-shaped and squared top

Pottery--heavy smoothed gray ware with a sand temper, in which are numerous angular quartz fragments. Jars with vertical handles.

Notched bone rasps

Obsidian--small quantity, apparently used only for arrow points

Elbow pipes, arms of equal length, made of both pottery and stone, a few of a fine grained red stone which may be catlinite.

Massive grooved stone hammers

Gun flints--native made; many seem to be re-fashioned projectile points or knives

Most of the stone artifacts are of a local chert which is found in formations of Florence limestone. Between Hardy, Oklahoma, and Maple City, Kansas, a few miles east of the river, are a number of large workshops at which great quantities of the worked chert have been found.

Artifacts of European manufacture found here include:

Portions of flint lock muskets including butt plates, trigger guards, hammers, fizzes and short lengths of barrel which have been put to use as tools.

Lead bullets

Brass buttons and hat ornaments

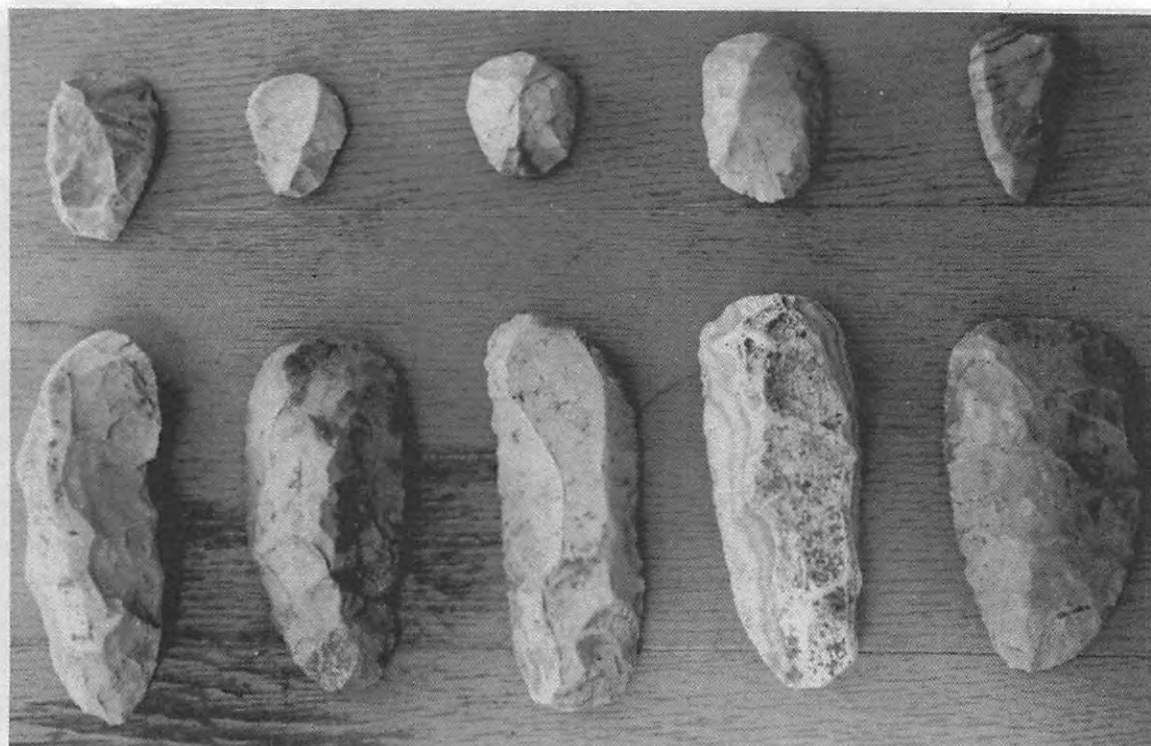
Glass beads

Tin tinklers

Steen Report Illustrations

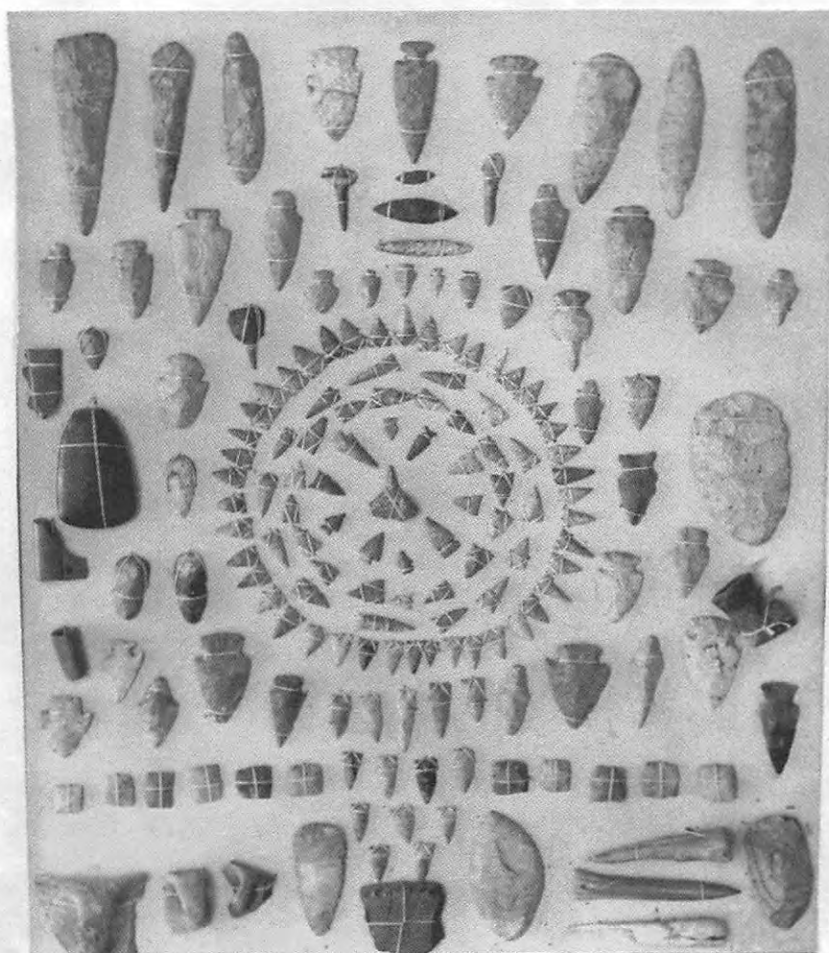


BONE AND ANTLER FROM DEER CREEK

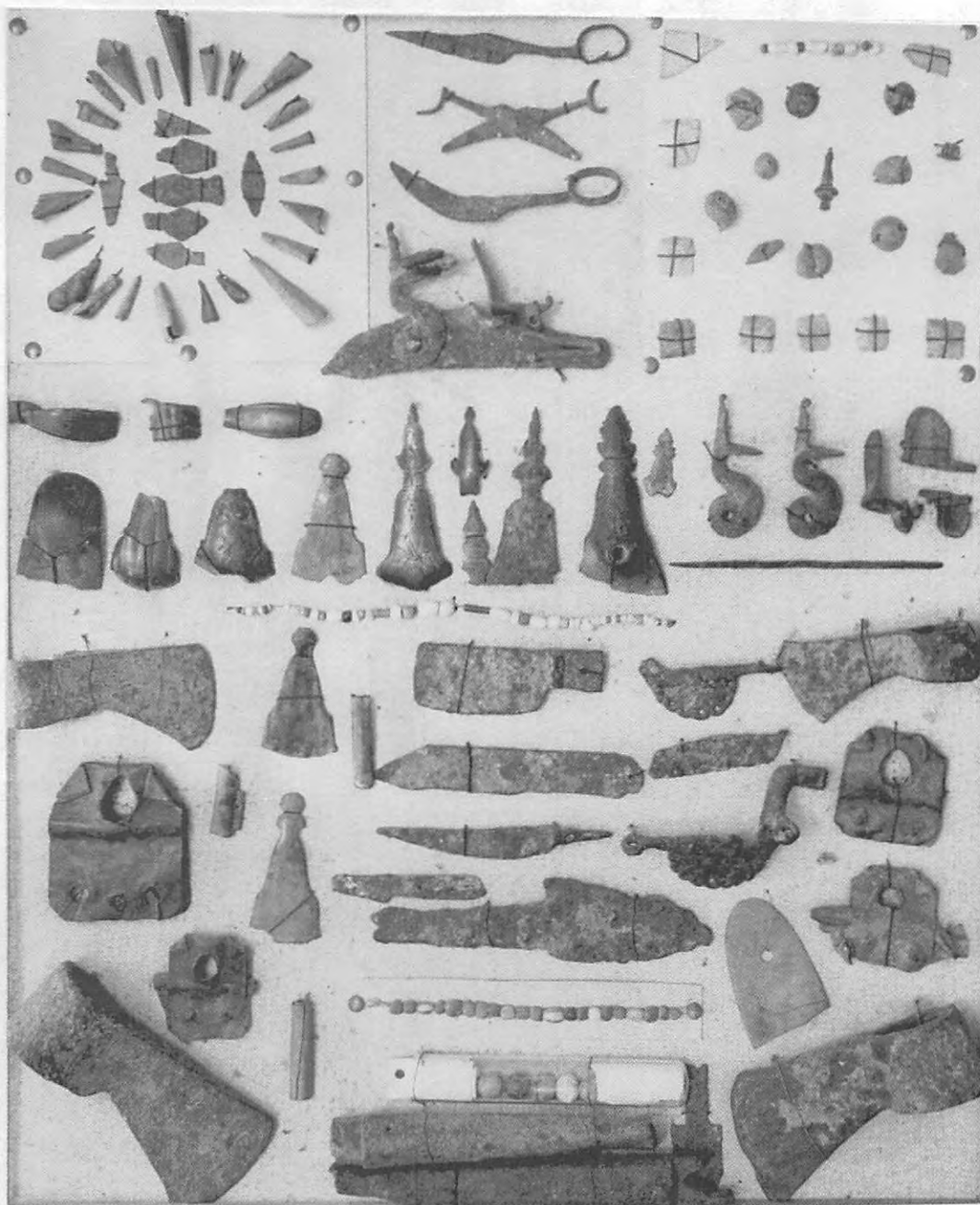


SNUB NOSED SCRAPERS. SCRAPER AT UPPER RIGHT IS OF ALIBATES FLINT. OTHERS ARE OF FLORENCE CHERT.

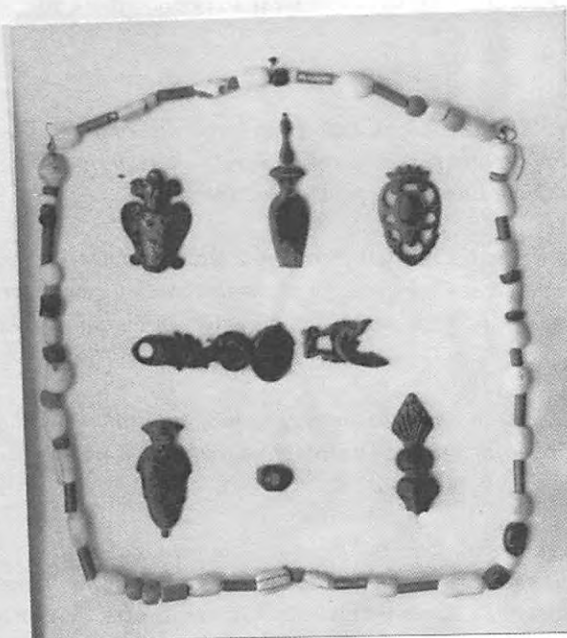
Steen Report Illustrations



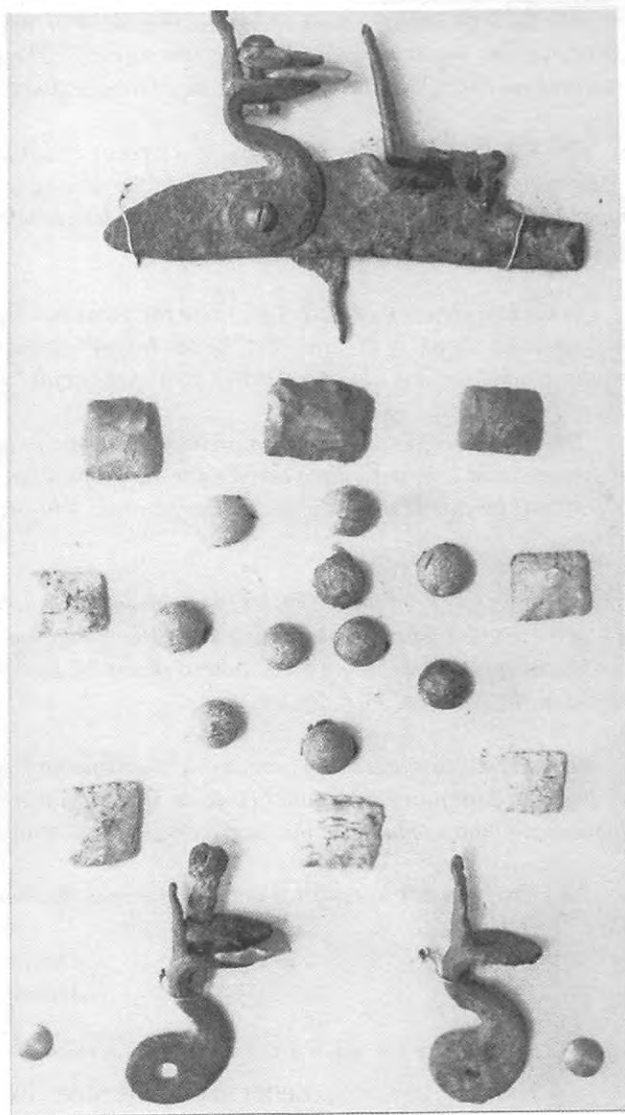
INDIAN ARTIFACTS FROM DEER CREEK
A FEW OBJECTS IN THE UPPER PHOTO ARE FROM OTHER SITES



EUROPEAN TRADE GOODS WHICH WERE COLLECTED
ON THE SURFACE OF THE DEER CREEK SITE



FRENCH MANUFACTURED HAT ORNAMENTS
AND BUCKLES AND ITALIAN GLASS BEADS



HAMMERS, FLINTS AND BALLS. THE
FLINTS ARE OF INDIAN MANUFACTURE.

*Iron as heads, knives and scissors
Iron and copper cooking vessels*

Arthur Woodward, of the Los Angeles County Museum, has studied the European artifacts in Mr. Moore's collection and has said that the materials all seem undoubtedly of French origin and can all be dated to the first half of the 18th century. A period from 1725 to 1750 seems to be indicated for the site, according to Mr. Woodward.

The site must have been abandoned before 1819, for in that year Captain Bell returning from the Long expedition to the Rocky Mountains, apparently camped one night across the river from the mouth of Deer Creek but made no comment about an Indian village.

Evaluation and Recommendations

The Deer Creek site seems undoubtedly to be of great archeological value, in that it is a large site, of a little-known and important period, and is unexcavated. The site apparently represents a relatively short period of occupation and should show a clear picture of local culture at the time Europeans first visited the area.

The European artifacts which have been recovered from the site indicate French traders from the Lower Arkansas or Mississippi. The large numbers of these articles also suggests that Deer Creek was an important trading center for a number of years. There is no surface indication of a permanent factory, or post, at the site, although excavation might well reveal one.

In the late summer, or early fall, when the grass has cured, I plan to return to the region, hire an airplane, and take a series of photos of the site from the air. It may be that features which are not visible from the ground will show from the air and we may also get a better idea of the actual size of the village.

Deer Creek is too important an archeological site to be pigeonholed. Its standing as a major unexcavated, un-pothunted site is in immediate danger, for the property owner is elderly and in poor health; I was told at the time of my visit that she was in the hospital. The next owner will probably not be so concerned with the site as Mrs. Seltzer has been.

The area has been proposed, and recommended, as a National Monument approved by the Advisory Board in 1941. If the site is excavated properly it will furnish important and interesting information on the first phases of trans-Mississippi expansion on the southern plains by Europeans. Properly developed, it would make an important addition to the National Park System.

An alternative suggestion, probably less satisfactory, would be to enter into an agreement with the owner and have the area designated a National Historic Site to protect it from vandalism. This might well prove even more difficult to do than to purchase the land outright for a National Monument.

An extra copy of this report is attached for your transmittal to the Director.

Charlie R. Steen
Archeologist

Letter to Charlie Steen from Robert E. Bell (REB)

March 14, 1952

Mr. Charlie Steen
National Park Service, Region 3
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Dear Charlie:

Your letter Of March 12 came in this morning. With your permission and approval, I will tentatively engage the University plane for our Deer Creek survey on March 30 or 31. You should be in Norman at this time, and we can hope

for good flying weather.

*Best wishes,
Robert E. Bell*

P.S. The plane is engaged for March 31, and if flying weather is bad we will go on April 1.

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Charlie Steen (REB)

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico*

April 10, 1952

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma*

Dear Bob:

While at Norman I told you of an 1861 map on which "Fernandina" was indicated. The map is entitled titled "Map of the United States of North America, Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia, Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica and St. Domingo, and The Bahama Islands". The map was issued as a supplement to the Illustrated London News, June 1, 1861. This is the earliest reference I have found to Fernandina and I have so far been unable to locate the sources from which this rap was drawn

Fernandina is located on the right bank of the Arkansas at the junction with that stream of a tributary called Sha-wa-kash-tash River. This is above the Salt Fork and at about the proper location for Deer Creek.

Several earlier maps which show Indian villages in that vicinity are reproduced in Paullin's Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States, Carnegie Institution, 1932. These are:

-The Bellin map, 1743, which Indicates villages of Les Mentous at about the proper spot.

-The deLisle map, 1718, which shows Les Mentous on the left bank of the river at about the mouth of either the Verdigris or the Illinois and, upstream, a village of Ouatchitas on one side of the river and opposite them Paniassa. deLisle also shows four villages of Paniassas above the junction of a river which might be the Little Arkansas.

-Several other maps which seem to have been drawn drawn by men who never visited the country and drew maps of the Arkansas River country from the above maps or other sources.

Early English maps of the Arkansas River country seem derived chiefly from French sources. I am enclosing a couple of photos of a map published in London, in 1782, by a man named J.O. Brew (same name but I doubt he's the same man). On this map the river sort of peters out early and "Mentos" is probably located in the Great Bend. The Brew map was drawn from both French and Spanish sources.

The Humboldt map of 1811 locates a Paniassus village at about the Deer Creek site, and, earlier, a man named John Senex indicated "Les Mentous" at the approximate location of Deer Creek. Most other early maps are so inaccurate in depicting topography that, although Indian villages are indicated on most, one gets the impression that the cartographer was merely filling in a few blank spaces.

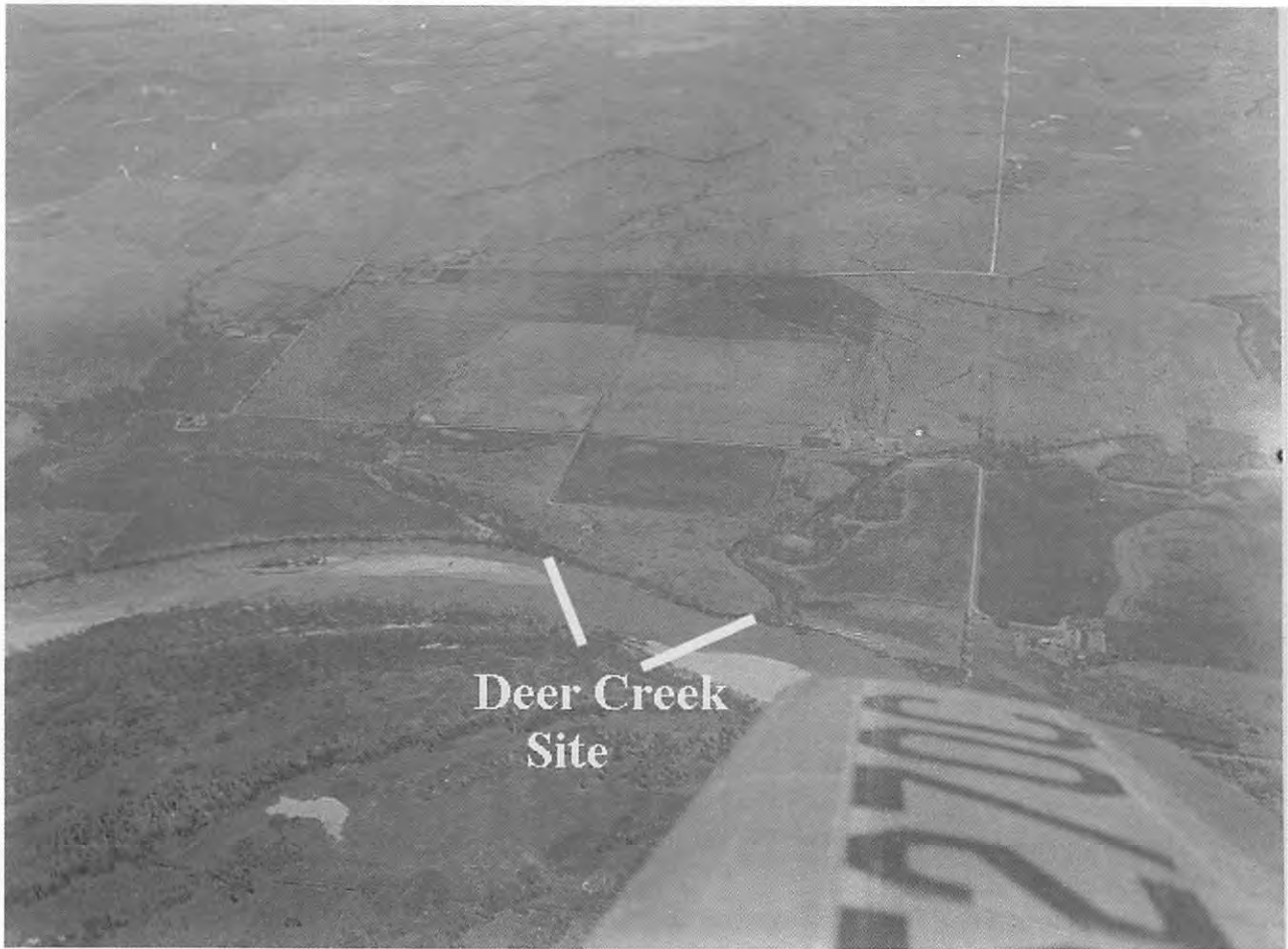


Figure 11. Aerial view to the southwest of the Deer Creek site (34Ka3). This photo's origin is not certain, but it probably is from the 1952 flyover by Dr. R. E. Bell and Charlie Steen.

The single Spanish map I have seen which portrays this portion of the country was probably drawn from French sources, at least for the country north of Texas. That is the map of Pedro Vial, 1787. Vial, who seems to have been the Spanish equivalent of Jacob Fowler in so far as individualized spelling is concerned, shows "Taoniache viera" on the Rio Nepeste, but the course of the river is so vague, and the symbol for the village so large, that there is no use trying to pin down the spot. All that is evident so far is that the French were quite familiar with the upper Arkansas early in the 18th century. It is probably one of those useless quests which a man will let himself in for occasionally but I'm still trying to find the person responsible for the name "Fernandina". The only place with that name which I have run across so far is that of a small and short-lived settlement north of San Saba--and I have mislaid the note I made of it and cannot, today, remember the reference.

I am enclosing prints of the pictures I took at Deer Creek the other day. I had the impression at the time that I took a dozen or more pictures, but; when I unloaded the films, found that I took only three each of black and white, and color. To make it worse, one of the black and whites is no good, and another is of the large circles south of Deer Creek. I hope you did better. The large circles may be low mounds for there is a dark ring around each as though dirt were thrown up from a ditch into the center of the circle. I am also sending you a print of the tomahawk-pipes from the Fordyce collection at Hot Springs; this includes the pike-headed pipe of which I told you.

My regards to all.

*Sincerely,
Charlie P. Steen
Archeologist*

Enclosures - 5 photos

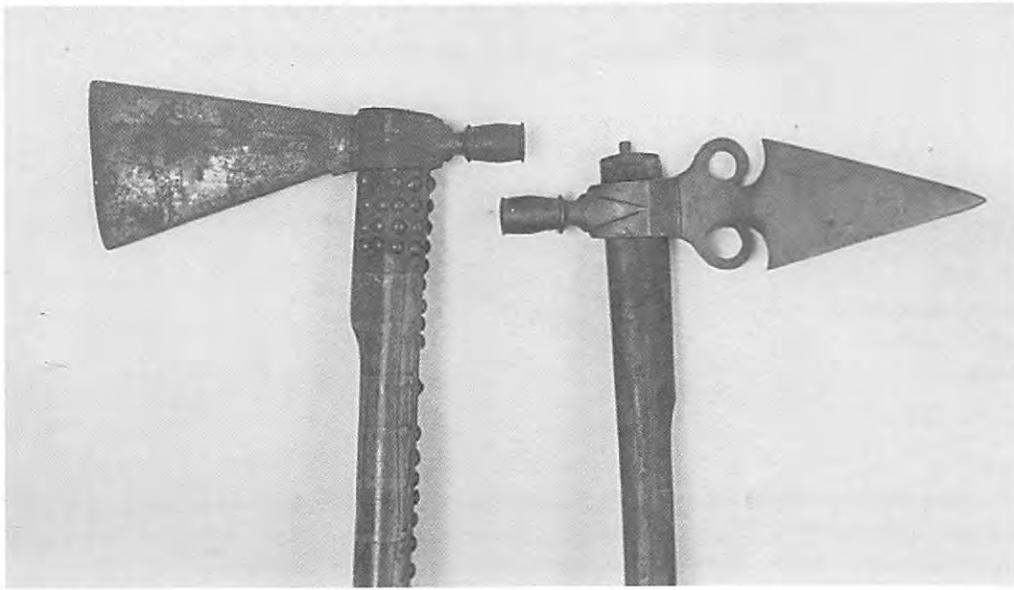


Figure 12. The photo of the tomahawk pipes mentioned in Charlie Steen's letter of April 10, 1952.



Figure 13. Aerial view southwest of the Deer Creek site. Photo courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Division of Archives and Manuscripts (photo #21760.4)

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Charlie Steen (REB)

National Park Service
Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico
May 14, 1952

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Bob:

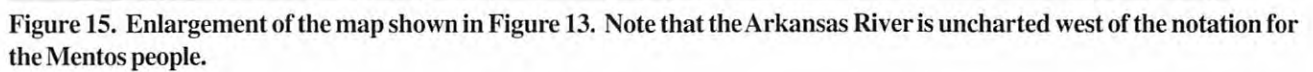
Here is a photostat copy of the Vial map which I promised Miss Harper. Will you please give it to her. I am also enclosing a couple of prints of the *Illustrated London News* map of 1861; I would like to know whether this is a copy of the Lloyd's of London map - 1857 - which Miss Harper mentioned. She may keep these.

The Ektachromes of the Deer Creek site I would like to have back but there is no rush. In these photos the dark line we thought might be a stockade line appears as an ancient channel. I wish now that we had flown quite a bit lower over the site.

Cordially,
Charlie R. Steen
Archaeologist



Figure 14. An early (1782?) English map of the Southern Plains, Southwest, and adjacent Mexico. The Deer Creek locality falls in the "Great Space of Land Unknown".



*Ponca City Museum
Ponca City, Okla.
July 14, 1952*

3 iron hoes
5 steel awls
7 bone pendants
4 bone turkey calls
2 hide-graining stones

4 gun flints
 5 metates
 1 large knife blade
 5 small knife blades
 12 or 15 pieces gun locks

 4 hide dressing tools
 4 brass arrowheads
 16 small flint arrowheads
 7 large flint arrowheads
 1 small ear corn (charred)
 7 pieces paint stone
 1 armour ornament?
 4 sandstone arrow smoothers
 broken steel knife, bone handle
 buffalo hip joint
 5 bone tools
 18 clay elbow pipes, varied condition
 1 straight clay pipe
 1 pipestone pipe
 2 clay dolls or effigies
 1 large, 2 small clay pots
 7 pieces clay pottery, includes 2 handles
 buffalo shoulder blade tools
 9 brass tinklers
 1 brass tube
 4 brass bells
 12 odd beads, native and European

We repeat our willingness to cooperate with your group, and look forward with real pleasure to your coming.

Fondly,
 Mrs. C. W. Arrendell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Charlie Steen (REB)

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Region Three
 Santa Fe, New Mexico

November 5, 1952

Dr. Robert E. Bell
 Department of Anthropology
 University of Oklahoma
 Norman, Oklahoma
 Dear Bob:

The reference to French Hunter's going from Louisiana Colony to the Buffalo Plains is to be found in "The Early Jesuit Missions in North America" by William I. Kip. This was published by Wiley and Putman, New York, in 1846; I believe there was a later edition in the 1870's or 80's, but I am not sure.

The reference will be found in volume 2, page 235 and is a quote from a letter written by Father du Poisson. If the University of Oklahoma library does not have this work, I will be glad to loan you my copy.

*Cordially yours,
Charlie R. Steen
Archeologist*

Letter to Charlie Steen from Robert E. Bell (REB)

November 20, 1952

*Mr. Charlie Steen
National Park Service, Region Three
P.O.Box 1728
Santa Fe, N. M.*

Dear Charlie:

Thanks for your reference concerning the Deer Creek site. I have not looked it up as yet, but simply have not had time to see whether the library has a copy or not. I am tentatively planning to visit the site the first weekend in December.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Charlie Steen from Robert E. Bell (REB)

December 10, 1952

*Mr. Charlie R. Steen
National Park Service
Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico*

Dear Charlie:

I went up to the Deer Creek site over the weekend. We picked some material and examined the slush pit trench. I am trying to get permission to dig there this summer. We also visited the site about three miles north where Thoburn did most of his excavating. From information from the history department by Miss Harper and Dr. Moorehead, I am becoming more and more convinced that these are the actual Wichita villages visited by the French in 1749. It seems very reasonable that they moved into this area from the north around the Great Bend in Kansas, settled here in Kay county, and later moved south to the Spanish Fort site in Texas. If we can raise the money and get permission to dig, I am planning on digging at the Deer Creek site during the summer. There are so many ifs involved, however, that I may wind up teaching here on the campus this season.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell
Chairman*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Charlie Steen (REB)

*United States Department of the
Interior
National Park Service
October 8, 1953*

*Robert E. Bell
The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology*

Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dear Bob

Will you send an invitation to join the Oklahoma Society to

Mr. William Dickerman, Jr.,

Route 4

Arkansas City, Kan.

He is a young man with an exceptionally nice collection in that each piece is marked as to its point of origin & it's spread out on shelves, not piled into cigar boxes. He has a large collection of stuff from the Arkansas City Country Club site, a little from Deer Creek, and some "archaic" looking stuff, see attached photo, from Grouse Creek, east of Ark. City. . . .

Regards,

Charlie (Steen)

* * * * *

Letter to Robert E. Bell from T. M. Hamilton (REB)

845 Eastwood

Marshall, Missouri.

February, 15, 1958.

Dr. Robert Bell

University of Oklahoma

Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Bob:

The University of Missouri has some gun parts from various Osage sites as well as a remarkable cache of gun parts and gunsmithing tools which were turned up by a roadgrader near a Little Osage village. Because of my interest in muzzle loaders, Carl has asked me to check this material and write up a report on it.

Now I am no collector or gun historian. My interest has been centered primarily upon shooting them, so I have photographed the parts and circulated them around among those who are really experts on the subject like Harold L. Peterson, Carl Russell, Charles E. Hanson, Jr., and Carlyle Smith. They are all extremely interested and are giving me remarkable cooperation for which I am very grateful. I have also written a lot of private collectors and have uncovered some other important material which is unpublished and needs to be written up. Some of these gun parts go back to the early 1600's. (This stuff is all in the East.)

When I saw Carl this week I suggested that perhaps we should broaden the scope of the report, while we were about it and include this additional material from out of state. Carl agrees with this since he realizes that it is badly needed from the archaeological point of view.

Charlie Steen was kind enough to loan me his negatives on Deer Creek and Spanish Fort and to send me copies of his reports on those sites. He also tells me that there is a lot of material from an excavation made years ago at Deer Creek now in the basement of the Oklahoma State Historical Society.

When I have the time, do you think it possible for you to make arrangements for me with the Society so I can examine this material? I cannot go this year, but I believe I could make it next winter. My reason for writing you now is to lay plans and also know whether I should count on including that material in the final report. I think it important to us here in Missouri because much of it is like ours.

Sincerely,

T. M. Hamilton.

* * * * *

Letter to T. M. Hamilton from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, OK 73069
February 26, 1958*

*Mr. T. M. Hamilton
845 Eastwood
Marshall, Missouri*

Dear Hamilton:

Your recent letter of February 15 regarding your interest in studying gun parts from various Oklahoma sites arrived a few days ago. The most extensive collections from Oklahoma are at the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City, although I feel that they would be most cooperative in permitting you to study the material. It would certainly be extremely important to include it along with that which you already have. I suggest that you write to Miss Muriel Wright, Oklahoma State Historical Society, Historical Building, Oklahoma City. If you explain to Miss Wright what you would like to do, I feel that they will be most cooperative and help you in whatever way they can. Good luck on your project.

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Muriel Wright from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, OK 73069
February 26, 1958*

*Miss Muriel Wright
Oklahoma State Historical Society
Historical Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Dear Miss Wright:

Mr. T. M. Hamilton, of Marshall, Missouri has written to me concerning his interest in a study of guns and gun parts used by early American Indians. He is familiar with discoveries made in Oklahoma at the site of Fernandina. In order to make his studies complete it would be very desirable if he could also examine the materials in your collection from this site. No doubt he will write to you regarding arrangements as to when he might examine the material.

I would like to urge your cooperation in helping him in this matter since this is an important locality and may add a great deal to his studies.

With best wishes and kind personal regards, I remain,

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Gareth Muchmore from Robert E. Bell (REB)

The University of Oklahoma

*Department of Anthropology**Norman, Oklahoma**October 16, 1958*

*Mr. Gareth Muchmore
Ponca City Indian Museum
Ponca City, Oklahoma.*

Dear Gareth:

I wish to thank you for your letter of October 10. I will certainly keep in touch with developments regarding the Kaw Reservoir and if construction becomes eminent, we will certainly plan to carry out rather extensive excavations at the Deer Creek Site.

I am also interested in your comments concerning Mr. Acton's discovery of similar sites along Little and Big Beaver Creeks. I realize, of course, that there were some smaller sites along the Arkansas just north of the Deer Creek Site itself. I have not examined nor heard about the ones which you mentioned. If you see Mr. Acton, you might tell him of my interest and that I would appreciate hearing from him regarding his discoveries.

You will undoubtedly be interested to know that we have discovered a similar site in western Oklahoma located in eastern Custer County. Surface material from this site indicated that it was occupied by the same people at about the same time.

It was a pleasure to hear from you and to know of your continued interest.

With best wishes.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Lathel Duffield from Robert E. Bell (REB)

April 19, 1960

*Mr. Lathel Duffield
Department of Anthropology
University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas*

Dear Lathel:

I have just received your recent letter regarding excavation at the Pearson site. I shall look forward to your report although realizing that the quantity of material discovered is very limited.

I sincerely hope that your excavation will give us new and additional information about the Wichita. A part of our difficulty I am sure rests in understanding what some of the early explorers meant by this term. Apparently not only were there the Wichita proper but several other groups which were included in the Wichita bands. Here Schmitt would include the Waco and Towakani. As to whether we can separate these archaeologically or not seems rather improbable to me.

I am hoping to be able to excavate at the Deer Creek site or related sites near Newkirk this summer. If we can spend such a season on these historic sites, it would help to clear up the Oklahoma picture. You neglected to enclose the survey and reprints. Will you please check and mail them along at your convenience.

*Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Gareth Muchmore (REB)

*The Ponca City News
Ponca City, Oklahoma
April 19, 1960*

*Dr. Robert Bell
Oklahoma University*

Dear Bob:

I have asked Dean Hoys of Albright's in Newkirk to open negotiations with Carl Miller for your excavations or other research on the Deer Creek - Camp Fernandini site. Hoys, who soon will become vice president of Security Bank here, says Miller is a good, solid and reasonable citizen and will cooperate with you. He says Miller has had difficulty only with folks who go bustin' in and walk on his crops without even asking by your leave; other than that, he is reasonable.

Also talked to Preach Acton, the game ranger, about Joe Love and the Beaver Creek sites, and he'll be glad to work with you in any way. Incidentally, I now have a windowful of Beaver Creek material at the News, with more promised. Looks older than Fernandini. No white influence visible. At least two widely separated cultures overlaid, from the contrast between the rough group and the well-finished group of flint artifacts.

Regards,
Gareth Muchmore

Letter to Gareth Muchmore from Robert E. Bell (REB)

April 20, 1960

*Mr. Gareth Muchmore
Ponca City News
Ponca City, Oklahoma*

Dear Gareth:

I received your letter this morning and want to thank you for your interest and prompt attention. I will await further work from either you or Dean Hoyer regarding working on the Miller farm. Also I can come up for discussion at about any time, and will be pleased to do so.

I have been trying to find out more information regarding Thoburn's actual work. From one account he dug chiefly on the Ingleking and Bryson farms. I am trying to find out if he left any records at the Historical Society, so hope they will have some maps or more precise information.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Preach Acton from Robert E. Bell (REB)

April 20, 1960

*Mr. Preach Acton
Route 2
Ponca City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mr. Acton:

As you know from talking with Mr. Gareth Muchmore, I am thinking about digging this summer on some of the sites in the region around Newkirk. I write Mr. Muchmore to ask his aid in securing permission for excavations on the Carl Miller farm at Deer Creek. This appears to be one of the important proto-historic villages of that area. If Mr. Miller grants us the permission, I would like to work at that locality.

Gareth also mentioned your knowledge and interest in the site on the Love property at the mouth of Chilocco Creek - which appears to be a similar occupation. There is also a similar site on the Bryson property just north of Deer Creek. These sites, too, are of interest, but I believe Thoburn worked them over in the 20's although I am not certain exactly where he dug. His account mentions the Ingleking and Bryson farms only. I know he did not dig at Deer Creek but am not sure about the Love site.

We are fairly well caught up on salvage work this summer and I can work outside a reservoir area on some materials of interest. Since our knowledge of these proto-historic sites is very limited, this would make a fine chance to work in your area.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

* * * * *

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Muriel H. Wright (REB)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Historical Society Building
Oklahoma City 5 Oklahoma
May 3, 1960

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Dr. Bell:

Your letter came some days ago, and we are glad to know that you continue your interest in the collections of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

None of Dr. J. B. Thoburn's notes or records of the 1926 archaeological work near Newkirk has ever come to light here in the Historical Society. However, there is his monograph in manuscript on "Northern Caddoan Peoples" which covers the subject of "The Paniouassa Village Sites in Kay County," some 14 pages in his discussion which you might like to see. The manuscript is here in the Editorial Department for we have thought that it might be published sometime. We would be very glad to have you look over this work by Dr. Thoburn.

It would be a fine thing if you could plan some excavating in the Newkirk area this summer. This should be done before the last vestiges of the old Caddoan village sites are inundated by another big dam and lake, which we hear is in the offing.

I shall be in the office this Friday, and every day next week until about Friday. I mention this because it would be a disappointment not to be here to see you when you come to the Building.

Sincerely,
Muriel H. Wright, Editor
The Chronicles of Oklahoma

* * * * *

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Meredith Sheets (REB)

901 E. Broadway
Ponca City
May 11, 1960

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Dept. of Anthropology
University of Okla.
Norman, Oklahoma
Dear Sir:

We have heard that you recently made a survey in Kay County with the intention of finding a site to excavate this summer.

We understand that you received permission to dig at several locations, but that you were unable to obtain a definite answer from Mr. Carl Miller.

Can we be of any assistance to you in acquiring cooperation from Mr. Miller or do you have another preference for a site?

We shall appreciate an answer from you concerning your intended activities in this area this summer.

Very truly yours,
Meredith Sheets
President
Kay County Chapter
of the O.A.S.

Letter to P. A. Acton from Robert E. Bell (REB)

The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma
May 13, 1960

Mr. P. A. Acton
Route 2
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Dear Preach:

Just a line to let you know developments as far as the summer's dig is concerned. I was up to Ponca City last Sunday for a visit with Muchmore, Miller and Bryson. We tried to find you but you were not at home.

Muchmore had not been able to contact Miller so I drove out anyway. Miller was not agreeable to digging but said we would have to clear with the guardian of the property owner. From his remarks, however, I felt that he wanted some payment for permission to dig. Muchmore is investigating and might raise some cash for a payment and perhaps he has talked to you by now.

I also talked with Mr. Bryson and his wife. He said you had already spoken with him and that he thought it would be fine. He did want, however, to check with his mother and sister who own part interest in the land. Bryson said he would notify either me by card or tell you for relay to me. Perhaps he has already done so by now.

This morning I phoned Muchmore to find out what was going on, and he has not talked with Miller but said you had talked with Bryson and that everything was all settled. Did you talk with Bryson after he spoke to his mother?

We will still see what Miller has to say but if he does not agree to our work we will plan on working on Bryson's place. We could camp in the pasture close to the trees we looked at, and dig in the pasture as well as on Pitts place to the north.

At any rate I am planning on coming to Ponca on Thursday, May 19th for a final check up. At that time I want to settle the matter if at all possible.

I greatly appreciate all the help that you have offered - without it, I am sure we could accomplish nothing. I will probably go to see Gareth when I arrive on Thursday and then can come out to your place or meet you somewhere.

Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell

* * * * *

Letter to Meredith Sheets from Robert E. Bell (REB)

May 13, 1960

Mr. Meredith Sheets
901 East Broadway
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Sheets:

I spent a day with Mr. Acton over a week ago and we looked at several sites in both Kay county and Osage county. I have added several to our survey record and know there are many others present that remain unrecorded. I was especially interested in looking at sites containing French contact materials for the possibility of the summer dig.

I have been especially interested in working on the Deer Creek site on Carl Millers property but have not been able to get permission as yet. Gareth Muchmore is working on it, with Acton, perhaps it will be possible yet. In the meantime, Acton and I have talked with Mr. Bryson about working on his farm, and at this date, this seems like the best opportunity. If we camp on Bryson's place we can also work in Pitts land just to the north.

At present I hope to come up to Ponca City next Thursday, May 19th for a final check with Bryson and/or Miller. I feel certain that we will be working in that area this summer and am very pleased that such is the case. This summer I am not obliged to work in a reservoir area and have some freedom in selecting a site - hence was anxious to work on one of the late contact sites. I may not get a similar chance for several years as new reservoirs are planned and will be about ready for work by next season.

We will establish camp on June 9th for work until August 3rd.

Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell

* * * * *

Letter to Muriel H. Wright from Robert E. Bell (REB)

The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma
May 20, 1960

Muriel H. Wright, Editor
The Chronicles of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma

Dear Miss Wright:

I received your letter several days ago, and had hoped to get up to see you before this, but have not been able to take the time. I want to come up to see the manuscript some time, but as we have had difficulty in securing permission to work in the Newkirk area, it is not so urgent.

I had wanted to work on either the Miller or Bryson property but have not been able to get permission. We do not have funds for payment to the landowner and permission without payment is not forthcoming. I am very sorry, as I had wanted to work one of the sites this summer. Now, we will have to shift our attentions elsewhere.

This area, however, is still of considerable interest, and I would like to know if you have in the Oklahoma Historical Society collections the materials excavated by Thoburn some years ago? If you have the collections, would it be possible for an advanced student to study them and write up a report on the material? Perhaps I could have someone work up a M. A. thesis on this specific material.

If the Kaw Reservoir is ever built, the Miller site will probably be destroyed. We will be able to work it, however, prior to flooding after the land has been purchased by the government. In the meantime, unfortunately, erosion is making surface features less and less obvious.

Let me hear from you at your convenience. With warm regards,

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Gareth Muchmore from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma
May 20, 1960*

*Mr. Gareth Muchmore
414 Virginia, N. E.
Ponca City, Oklahoma*

Dear Gareth:

I went with Preach Acton to visit Mr. Bryson and learned that after talking with his mother they do not want us working on the farm. They feel we will be there too long, and that too much damage will occur to the land.

We also stopped to see Carl Miller but he was in town so I talked with his wife. She said he could not grant permission as he was merely the leasee and that the owner was against any digging. Hence, I guess nothing further can be done at this time.

I deeply regret this outcome but do not see that anything can be done this late in the season, so am investigating other possibilities for a Washita River focus site or Fourche Maline site. I, and others, are very interested in these late French contact sites, and would like to work one of them for the information that could be learned. They will keep, however, and we can work them at some other time.

I greatly appreciate your help and keen interest in the situation Also the help of Preach Acton. With warm personal regards,

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Ferdinandina: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community

Letter to Charlie Steen from Bill Dickerman (REB)

*R. R. #2
Arkansas City, Kansas
November 12, 1961*

*United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
October 8, 1953*

Dear Sir:

I doubt if you will remember me. You were here in 1953 & took some pictures of some of my relics.

Has anyone ever thought of doing any excavating at the Kaw Co. Okla. site "Fernandina." I believe it to be quite an interesting site & should be quite rich in artifacts. I have found quite a lot of very interesting material there around the mounds. They bulldozed a "slush pit" for an oil well a few years ago.

I found a large metate, 1 large steel knife blade, several gun flints, arrowpoints, beads, broken pipe bowls, 1 fine bone awl, & many copper arrowpoints, & many other misc. items. Let me hear from you, I have thought of you many times over the years.

*Sincerely yours,
Bill Dickerman*

Letter to Bill Dickerman from Charlie Steen (REB)

*Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico
December 18, 1961*

*Mr. Bill Dickerman
R.R. #2
Arkansas City, Kansas*

Dear Mr. Dickerman:

I remember you quite well and a pleasant morning I spent with you looking at your collection. I took a number of photos of specimens in your collection and have those in my files.

Dr. Robert E. Bell of the University of Oklahoma will quite likely excavate at Deer Creek (Fernandina) sometime within the next few years. That site should yield a great deal of information concerning the late prehistoric period on the southern plains.

*Sincerely yours,
Charlie R. Steen
Regional Archeologist*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Donald G. Koller (REB)

1421 Prairie Lane
Derby, Kansas
July 27, 1962

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Director Dept. of Archaeology
Univ. of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

Early this week, I had the opportunity to talk to Miss Muriel H. Wright at the "Oklahoma Historical Society". The purpose of my visit was to discuss and determine, the extent of the archaeological work previously accomplished at the Bryson and Deer Creek site in Kay County.

All the articles appearing in the "Chronicles of Oklahoma" concerning Fort Fernandino were quite vague in this respect. It appears that no detailed record was kept of the work done in 1925 and 1926. As far as I have been able to find out, no extensive work has been carried out at the fort site.

Miss Wright suggested that I contact you concerning our common interest in Fort Fernandino, as she believes that you are planning at sometime to investigate this site further.

I have compiled all the articles dealing with the fort published in the Chronicle, also, the articles by Mr. C. R. Steen, Mr. George Shirk, and Miss E. A. Harper. During my numerous trips to the site, I have been able to locate and map most of the items mentioned in the above articles. It is my intention to supply Miss Wright with a detailed map and aerial view of the fort site for her use in a forth coming article to appear in the Chronicle.

In attempting to locate the exact site of Dr. Thoburns operation on the Bryson farm in 1925, I was denied permission to enter their property. Mrs. Bryson stated the following as her reason. "Sometime earlier this year a group from the University of Oklahoma were given permission to excavate on their land. After digging a number of holes, without apparent success, they failed to re-appear." It was therefore necessary for Mr. Bryson to use his tractor to fill in the holes.

There may be more to this story than I was told, but, she said that they were not going to allow anyone else on their land for this reason. Have you heard about this previously?

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours truly,
Donald G. Koller

Letter to Donald G. Koller from Robert E. Bell (REB)

The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma
August 28, 1962

Mr. Donald G. Koller
1421 Prairie Lane
Derby, Kansas

Dear Mr. Koller:

I have received your recent letter regarding the historic sites in Kay County, Oklahoma. We do hope to conduct some excavations in this region at some time in the future, but exactly when remains uncertain. We are very keenly interested in this region and the contact sites of the area.

I know of no records that were made by the Thoburn excavations except what is available in the Chronicles. To my knowledge no other work has been done except minor looting by various collectors or treasure hunters.

I am very much interested in your comments from Mrs. Bryson. I have been in charge of archaeological work at O. U. since 1947, and the University nor no one from the University has dug at the Bryson area. Whatever Mrs. Bryson was referring to was done prior to 1947 or it was done under a false representation. I would like to know when you spoke to her about this matter as I may wish to talk with her about it. We cannot afford to have her thinking O.U. would undertake such a trick.

It is my understanding that Thoburn dug almost entirely on the Bryson property years ago. He did not work at all on the Miller place nor the other sites to the north. As you perhaps know, there are several sites along the river which produce trade materials. As to whether or not any of them represent the old Fort Fernandino remains to be established through excavation. We have not worked the area for two reasons: we are busy with salvage work elsewhere, and the local land owners are hesitant to provide permission for the work. We do hope to work in the area before very long, however, as the Kaw Reservoir will probably destroy all of the sites.

You will find a number of persons in Ponca City who are very much interested in these sites. The Ponca City chapter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society is quite active and various members have collections from the region. You could contact Don Corbin, President, in Ponca City for further data.

You appear to be already familiar with the published material on the area. Until we can carry out some excavations, there is little to be added. If I can be of any help, do not hesitate to write again.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Donald G. Koller (REB)

1421 Prairie Lane
Derby, Kansas
7 September 1962

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Dept. of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

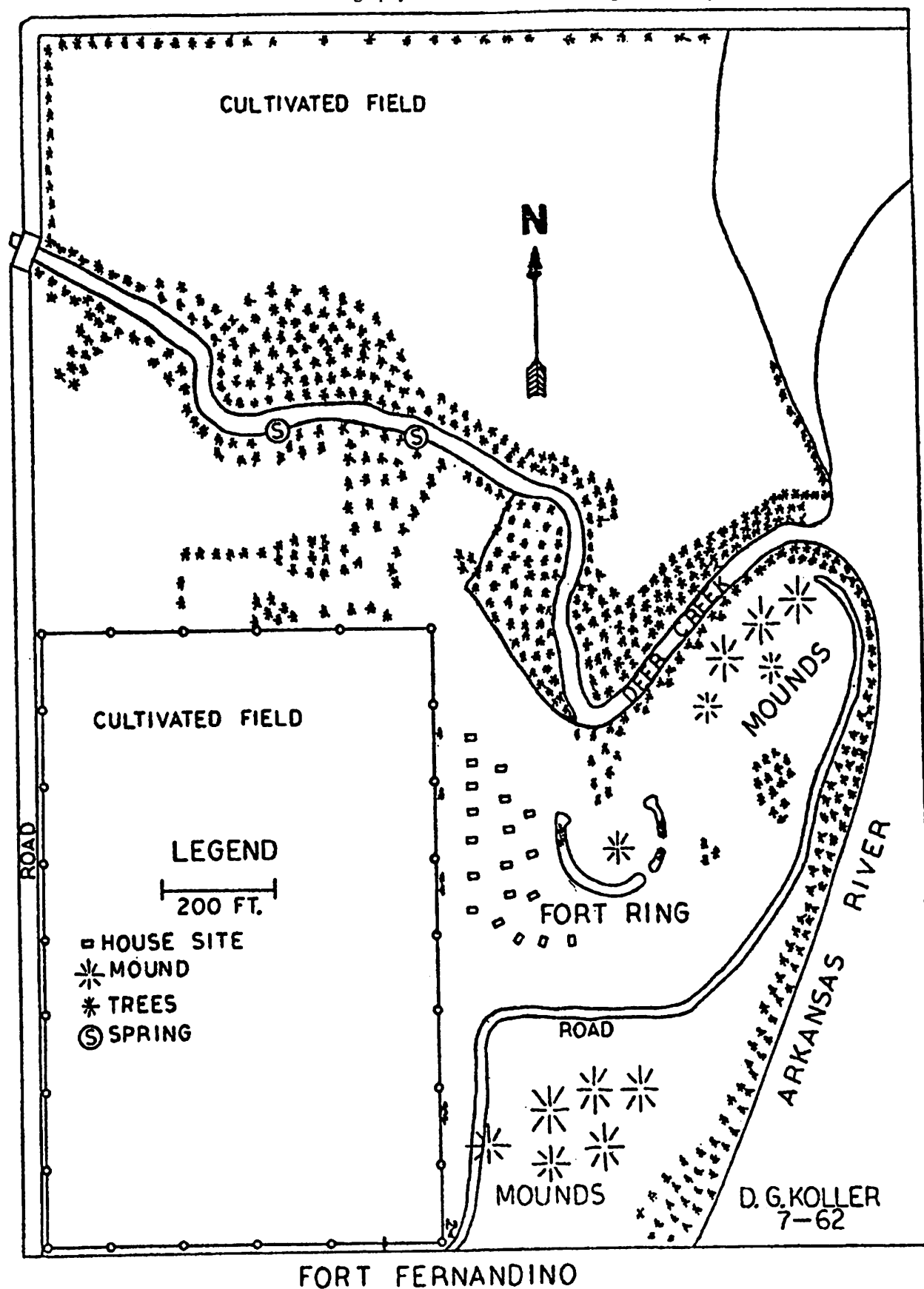
Dear Dr. Bell:

I was very pleased to receive your most informative letter concerning "Fernandina." I wish to thank you for taking the time to answer my letter.

Last Monday I had the opportunity to have a friend of mine talk to Mrs. Bryson. It now appears that she was referring to the 1925-26 Marland expedition. It seems hard to believe that they would remember this incident for so many years I'm sorry I didn't have the whole story before I mentioned it to you.

Enclosed you will find a map of the Deer Creek site which I prepared for Miss Wright. On a map of this size, I was only able to give a general description of the site. I don't know exactly how familiar you are with this site, but I would like to mention the outstanding features which appear on the map. West and south of the fort ring are approximately 40 low mounds and depressions which I believe mark the location of former house sites. The fort ring no longer forms a complete circle, only about 2/3 of the ring is now visible. At the mouth of Deer Creek, and south of the fort ring there are approximately 12 mounds 30 or 40 feet in diameter and 3 or 4 feet high.

Do you know if the Deer Creek site and the villages to the north have been assigned site designations? If so, I would like to know them. I am planning this fall, with Mr. Miller's permission, to completely survey the Deer Creek site. I believe that



D. Koller's sketch map mentioned in his September 7, 1962, letter to Dr. Robert E. Bell

a large scale' accurate map would be of great help for anyone not familiar with the site and especially if, at some time in the near future excavating would be permitted. If I am able to secure permission to survey, I will be glad to furnish you with a copy of the map. Do you feel that this map would be of any value at this time, I will be looking forward to hearing from you soon.

*Yours truly,
Donald G. Koller*

Letter to Donald G. Koller from Robert E. Bell (REB)

Sept. 24, 1962

*Mr. Donald G. Koller
1421 Prairie Lane
Derby, Kansas*

Dear Mr. Koller

I have received your recent letter of Sept. 7th regarding the Deer Creek site. The sketch map looks very good. You mentioned sending a copy to Mrs. Muriel Wright. I consider the map highly desirable and worth while, but hope you do not plan to publish it in the Chronicles. If you do, I would appreciate your reconsidering this point. We have learned the hard way that when maps of site locations are published, that in spite of antiquity laws, we do get a great deal of digging and vandalism. Enthusiastic but uninformed persons commonly destroy much of the evidence that is needed to properly evaluate the site. Publication in the Chronicles (of the map) would certainly result in some digging and numerous visitors to the Miller property. Too, I doubt if Mr. Miller would be very happy about it.

You mention that the low mounds may represent house sites. A few years ago, when an oil well was attempted on the farm, a dozer operator sliced one of these mounds in half with a wide trench. It contained chiefly buffalo bones and rubbish so the mounds are probably rubbish concentrations. This needs to be confirmed by excavation.

We have assigned numbers to some of the sites in that area but my listing is at our lab. I will send them to you later.

I wonder if you could tell me if you know of any sites in the region north of Wellington, Kansas? A collector mentioned one time a year or so ago that he had found historic contact materials at a site north of Wellington. From what he said, I judged that it was a site similar to those around Deer Creek. I am wondering if you have ever investigated that region. There could well be a number of similar sites in that region. Have you heard of them?

Let me hear from you,

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Leon Wall from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma
November 28, 1962*

*Dr. Leon Wall
Chilloco Indian School
Newkirk, Oklahoma
Dear Dr. Wall:*

I have been in touch with Mr. Arnold Cordiron of Ponca City regarding the collection of archaeological specimens from the Thoburn excavations on the Bryson property near Newkirk. I understand that the Chilloco Museum has

about one-third of the materials collected by the Marland Expedition under Thoburn's direction, but that most of the materials are not on display or in use most of the time.

We are quite interested in this material, partly because of some similar materials that have been recently discovered in Texas, and also because of the possibilities that the Oklahoma sites may be threatened by construction of the proposed Kaw Reservoir.

I would like to ask if we might either borrow this material for study, or if you prefer, if it could be given or placed on permanent loan to the Stovall Museum here at the University. We would be happy to receive the material in order to make a study of the specimens. This has never been done, and the information should provide considerable insights to Oklahoma's early history.

If some arrangements can be made for us to study the material, please let me hear from you. We can work out whatever arrangements would be most suitable with you and the Chilocco Museum.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell, Chairman
Curator of Anthropology at the
Stovall Museum*

Letter to Tulsa World from Otto Spring (REB)

*Okmulgee Oklahoma
Aug. 2 1963*

*The Tulsa World
Tulsa Okla.*

Gentlemen-

I note your article on the old French settlement of Fernandina in this mornings World. This is a shining example of how mis-information is preserved as history.

I had charge of the excavations there in 1926 by The Oklahoma Historical Society financed by Mr. Marland and wrote the reports of this work and still have my copies of these reports.

The main camp was East of Newkirk on the west side and near the Arkansas river. About three miles north still on the west side of the river was a smaller subsidiary camp. Both were only a group of the characteristic domicillary mounds. These mounds common all over the west were ruins of timber framed sod covered houses. There were no remains or traces of any other buildings and the sites were undisturbed when we arrived.

It is pretty certain that French men only came there and lived in these houses with indian women.

The north site on which we did most of our work was on a hill above the river and near the cliffs over which the buffalo were driven to cripple them. The mounds here were arranged around an oval with certainly no moat.

There were certainly other villages at that time to some extent at least connected with Fernandina. The eastern part of Okmulgee was one of these and there are still several of the mounds undisturbed here. Artifacts the same as those found at Fernandina are frequently found but of course not in the quantities we found them at Fernandina.

I believe I still have pictures I made of one of the old Lloyds maps of this area showing Fernandina.

The story of old Fernandina is very interesting and should be preserved as it was.

*Very Truly Yours
Otto Spring*

Letter to Newkirk Lions Club from Otto Spring (REB)

Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Aug. 2 1963

*Newkirk Lions Club
Newkirk Okla.*

Gentlemen,

I note an article in this morning's Tulsa World that you are figuring on restoring and preserving Camp Fernandina. I was in charge of the excavations there in 1926 and wrote the reports on this work and still have copies of these reports.

Fernandina is very interesting but I'm afraid it wasn't like the article said. This camp was established in the early 1700's for the purpose of collecting buffalo pelts for shipment to France. It is doubtful if any but male Frenchmen came over and these were probably renegades who only lived with the natives in their sod covered timber framed huts the ruins of which are the mounds at the old camp.

There were at least two main camps. The larger near the river east of Newkirk, the other on the Engleking farm on a hill about three miles north. This one was near the cliffs over which the buffalo were driven to cripple them.

We did most of our work at the northern site. The mounds here were arranged around an oval. There was no indication at either site of any building and there certainly was no moat. The sites were undisturbed when we arrived.

The natives at Fernandina evidently at least are mostly responsible for the flint mines near Hardy as scrapers are to be found at Fernandina in large numbers made of this flint.

There were of course other villages that traded with the French at that time. One of these occupied the eastern part of Okmulgee. There are right in town several of the mounds still undisturbed and one is likely to find artifacts like those we found at Fernandina but not in the great numbers as found there.

Very Truly Yours

Otto Spring

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Charlie Slovacek (REB)

Kay County Chapter

Ponca City, Oklahoma

Feb. 25, 1964

Dear Dr. Bell:

In the course of our pottery studies it became necessary to broaden our number of clay sources because we seemed to need a clay with a lower point of vitrification if we are to meet with much success with shell tempered wares.

The examination of shell tempered wares of local origin led us to the Miller site shell tempered wares that seem to have the best properties of available types. In our samples it seems to have an average hardness of from about 2.5 to 3.5 MOS scale, is very strong and is seldom weathered badly, (with our shell tempered firings to date to obtain a comparable hardness we were obliged to fire at or near 1600 and therefore calcined our temper and lost our test coupons to the pressures built when the calcined shell re-absorbed atmosphere moisture).

Upon examination of my supply of Miller site sherds we noted the small average size of the shell temper; and also the perfectly un-altered state of the shell particles.

This led us to grind smooth cross sections on some sherds and examine the paste with the binocular microscope; again we (Dr. Harwood and myself) were impressed by the small size and extremely thin cross section of this temper. This caused us to wonder if we were capable of grinding a shell meal this fine. This gave the impression of being largely of small elongated slivers. We found also one completely whole shell that I would guess to be about 5 microns across. We hope to photograph this sherd profile.

I then went to the Miller site and Mr. Miller informed me that a grey clay was present in the bank of Deer Creek directly northwest of the earth works. This was in the approximate middle strata of this exposure; 1, top-soil and a red sub-soil, 2, 6 ft. of weak limestone, 3, 3 inches of blue clay, 4 and 5, blue joint clays readily soluble when ground and kneaded, 6th, the first of many layers of red clays grading downward into hard red shales.

This clay has the look and feel of this pottery, this was very striking. Our 20 pound sample was washed by mixing in water to a thin soup and poured off thru screen wire, by repeating this process all the fines were removed and only large particles were left on the screen. This heavy material was composed of lime concretions, brachiopods, crinoids, coal with iron pyrite and one possible trilobite. It is not unreasonable to expect index microfossils to be present. These shells are still limey shells.

We immediately felt it probable that at least part of the shell temper in the Miller pottery is in reality fossil brachiopod shell and being natural to the paste that pots from this source can be identified perhaps under any occurrence by microscopic examination.

We propose to investigate this paste and temper further. Arnold feels that we can probably get help in this matter from Mr. Jim Osborn, a local micropaleontologist. We are also starting our standard modeling-firing tests with this paste.

Very best regards,
Charlie Slovacek
216 S 5th, Ponca City

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Charlie R. Steen (REB)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Jan. 17, 1966

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Bob:

I have a friend, a Swedish chemist, who is currently engaged in analyzing the ores and metal products from various sources of western Europe. Most of his work so far has been in the Baltic area but this summer he intends to extend his activities to France, England and the Iberian Peninsula. He says that he can now pretty well pinpoint the origin of many cast iron, copper, and even bronze pieces from archaeological or historic sites.

He would like to run some tests on European trade goods from American Indian sites to see whether he can trace the sources of the ores from which the metals were made. What he needs for the analysis is a scrap of metal no larger than 3 or 4 grams in weight. Do you have some small pieces of cast iron (no steel), or copper which you would like to have checked? If you have please send them to me and I will ship them off to Arrhenius.

Sincerely,
Charlie R. Steen
Regional Archeologist

Ferdinandina: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community

Letter to Charlie R. Steen from Robert E. Bell (REB)

University of Oklahoma
 Department of Anthropology
 Norman, Oklahoma
 January 19, 1966

Charlie R. Steen
 National Park Service
 Southwest Region
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Charlie:

I have received your recent letter regarding the availability of some iron or copper fragments from some of our Indian sites. I will talk to Don Wyckoff about this but could probably send some items from the Choteau Post excavations or from the trading post at Three Forks. I can also pick out some items from the Deer Creek site, which are from the old Thoburn collection. I will be visiting our lab at Spanish Fort on Friday and may be able to get some samples from this area. Can you suggest how many specimens might be appropriate for this study? Drop me a line, and I will then send you whatever seems to be a reasonable sample.

I have heard from the Grand River Authority regarding their construction in northeastern Oklahoma. I will be submitting to them an estimate of costs for the initial survey. They appear, however, to be cooperative at this point. With best wishes,

Cordially yours,
 Robert E. Bell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Charlie R. Steen (REB)

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service
 Southwest Region
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
 Jan. 27, 1966

Dr. Robert E. Bell
 Department of Anthropology
 The University of Oklahoma
 Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dear Bob:

I have one piece of iron and one of copper from the Bryson Site but nothing from Deer Creek. The important thing is to get metal from sites early enough so that it is pretty sure to be of European manufacture. Arrhenius did not set any limit on the quantity of material and I believe the tests are fairly simple, so send anything you would like to have tested.

Sincerely,
 Charlie R. Steen
 Regional Archeologist

Letter to Department of Anthropology from V. L. Slaven (REB)

R 2 Box 237
Dover, Fla. 33527
May 26, 1966

University of Oklahoma
Archaeology Department

Dear Sirs;

I am engaged in a detailed historic study of the early Oklahoma territory. I need more information on "Ferdinandina." The information that I need to know is; Exactly where is the location that it used to be on. What years was it in operation. Was it a trading post or just a camp grounds? If it was a trading post was it part of a larger company? Ferdinandina was established by the French in the mid 1730's near the present site of the Chilocco Indian School, as far as I now know. Can you tell me who owns the property now that it was on? And what part of the farm was the old trading post on?

Thank you for any and all help that you might give me on this matter.

Sincerely,
V. L. Slaven

Letter to V. L. Slaven from Robert E. Bell (REB)

June 2, 1966

Mr. V. L. Slaven
Route 2, Box 237
Dover, Florida
Dear Mr. Slaven:

I have received your letter of May 26th regarding your interest in Oklahoma history. You can find some information on Ferdinandina in the Chronicles of Oklahoma. There have been two or three articles published in this journal within the last three or four years.

At the present time our information about the site is very uncertain and awaits clarification. I suspect that it is actually a location of an Indian village where traders were bartering with the Indians. We plan to carry out some archaeological work at the site within the next two or three years. The construction of the Kaw reservoir threatens the site and we wish to salvage as much information as possible.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Gregory Perino (REB)

Thomas Gilcrease Institute of
American History and Art
Route 6
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106
July 12, 1966

Dear Bob,

For some time we have been considering trying to get funds sufficient to handle several months in the field. For the use of such funds we also needed a handy site. A member of our society is with the game and wildlife dept. and is in

charge of the Fernandina area. He is well known there and he also knows the site well. There are some parts of it which will be a wildlife refuge and other parts that will have construction such as roads and campsites on them. He suggested that we salvage these areas soon as possible. One of the Gilcrease board members is a member of the board of the National Geographic Society and he thinks he might get us such a grant if we can give him firm details of who will dig what, and where. Can we excavate a few acres of the Fernandina Site that will be lost either with or without some students of yours. (I will have to mention whether or not help will be hired locally or whether or not we will employ some students in archaeology; and also if this will be a cooperative project with you or any other institution. More money for early Wichita in this area will release money for such work in the south). At any rate let me know what we might do together or separately.

Otto Spring of Okmulgee sent a letter stating that there is a cemetery of later date across the river from Fernandina and it will be inundated. He says that they dug one grave there recovering items dating about 1885.

Sincerely,
Greg (Perino)

* * * * *

Letter to Gregory Perino from Robert E. Bell (REB)

July 18, 1966

Mr. Gregory Perino
Thomas Gilcrease Foundation
Route 6
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106

Dear Gregory:

I have received your recent letter of July 12th and will attempt to answer your questions.

Work in the Kaw Reservoir, including the Deer Creek site (Fernandina) will be undertaken starting next summer and probably continue for perhaps two or three seasons. I do not know what all we will be able to do in the area but know that we will not be able to do everything that might be done. I will be happy to discuss with you the possibilities of working out some arrangement where by the Gilcrease Institute would participate in the work in that area. Any such agreement that we might work out, however, would need to have the sanction of the National Park Service in Santa Fe. I do not see this as any difficulty, however.

I do not know how the National Geographic Society might react to supporting work in that area - possibly they would be interested. We should, however, work out an agreement as to what Gilcrease Institute would plan to do prior to contacting them about the matter. If they would support the Gilcrease phase of the work, that would be fine. I should point out to you, however, that they might support work at Fernandina, but I seriously question whether a fort or trading post existed at this spot. The historic evidence is limited and we know almost nothing about "Fernandina" and certainly do not now know that it is located at the Deer Creek site. The site may actually represent only an Indian village which was getting trade materials from the French. Only excavation will provide the answers.

Regarding the cemetery across the river from Deer Creek - the Engineers are obligated to remove graves from the area to be flooded. If this cemetery is as late as you state, they will handle it.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

* * * * *

Letter to Rex Wilson from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
September 24, 1966*

*Mr. Rex Wilson
Southwest Archaeological Center
Box 1562
Globe Arizona 85501*

Dear Rex:

Our primary problem for the coming budget is the Kaw Reservoir near Ponca City. Construction is under way and our report recommends work at several sites. The Deer Creek contact site is very important and will require much work. The total Kaw budget amounts to \$49,680. but we are doing two sites on this year's contract which will cut out \$2,340. and leave a need of \$47,340. The amount of work can probably not be done in one season so this could be partly met later. We also have an additional problem in that the Deer Creek site cannot be worked until it has been purchased by the Engineers. They have agreed to buy it as early as possible, however, and I would like to get this started in 67.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

* * * * *

Letter to Don G. Wyckoff from Rex Wilson (REB)

*United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southwest Archeological Center
Box 1562, Gila Pueblo
Globe, Arizona 85501
December 6, 1966*

*Mr. Don G. Wyckoff
University of Oklahoma River Basin Survey
University of Oklahoma Research Institute
1808 Newton Drive
Norman, Oklahoma 73069*

Dear Don:

The problem outlined in your letter of December 2 is a familiar one that continues to grow day by day. Regrettably there is not much we in government can do about it, but when the Corps of Engineers takes possession of the land on which the site is located, the Antiquities Act will apply and violators can be prosecuted by the U.S. Government.

Another unfortunate situation exists with little hope of relief in the foreseeable future. Although the Corps owns the land in question, they do not presently have power of arrest in reservoir areas and cannot enforce the provisions of the Antiquities Act. Perhaps they would be willing to cooperate in discouraging pothunting, but they have no authority to take a violator before a federal judge.

Unless the Antiquities Act is amended to grant enforcement authority to the Corps, there seems to me no practical alternative to enlisting the full support of the land owners and local law officials. In instances of pothunting, when no law enforcement official is available, you could gather evidence, e.g., license tag numbers, descriptions, photographs, and turn it over to the closest U.S. Marshall for action.



Figure 16. A view across the Deer Creek site (34Ka3) with low trash-filled mounds visible. Photo believed taken in 1965 or 1966 by Meredith Sheets.

Figure 17. View northeast across the Deer Creek site (34Ka3) with trash-filled mounds and “fortification ditch” showing. Photo taken in 1966 by Meredith Sheets.



Figure 18. View southwest across the Deer Creek site (34Ka3) showing the “fortification ditch”. Photo taken in 1966 by Meredith Sheets.

Sincerely yours,
Rex Wilson
Chief, Archeological Research

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Max Moorehead (REB)

Calle Tajo, 36
Sevilla, Spain
Dec. 6, 1966

Dear Bob:

I don't really have time to write a letter now, but I feel I should make a preliminary report of sorts on the odds and ends I have happened across that deal with the Taovayas. Actually I haven't gotten into any manuscripts on the subject, but one of the archivists here; Dr. Vicenta Cortes Alonso, has loaned me the semi-final draft of her doctoral dissertation, done some years ago from research in the archives of Sevilla, Madrid, Paris, and Washington, on the Indians of Southeastern United States during the second half of the 18th century. It is a 3-volume job (still unpublished), one volume being of text, one of bibliography, and one of documents. A few of the latter deal with the Taovayas, who were peripheral to her study, and I have typed off a copy of these items. However, before going to the trouble to search them out in the files and having them microfilmed, I have written to Elizabeth Ann to learn whether any of them have material beyond what she used in her M.A. thesis. I rather suspect that there will be very little, for many of these documents and the information in them have a familiar ring.

However, for your immediate edification and amusement I shall summarize the most interesting data therein contained:

In 1749 or 1750, according to his deposition at Santa Fe in the latter year, Felipe de Sandoval passed through the Taovayas villages on the Arkansas (Deer Creek?). He found them living in two spacious but contiguous towns enclosed with palisade and trenching. The houses were made of wood and grass. They grew corn, beans, and squashes. There were about 500 men in the two towns, all using firearms, although not very skillfully, with powder and ball being supplied by the French. They waged war on several nations, among them the Pawnee. They killed all of the prisoners they took and even ate some. Sandoval said that during the days he was with them he saw them eat a 15-year-old girl and an infant who they had captured. From the French they received crimson, glass beads, knives, muskets, ammunition, hats, cloth, and other trifles, and they displayed the French flag in the town with much affection. They had some horses which they obtained from the Commanche. (1)

In April of 1778 Athanase De Mezieres visited them for several days in their new location. He made a rather detailed description which, worse luck, rather makes it certain that the larger of the two Taovayas towns on Red River was on the Texas side:

"The nation of the Taovayas is divided into two precincts. One is established on the northern bank of the Red River, or River of Natchitoches, and the other, facing it, on the opposite margin. The former is composed of thirty-seven houses; the latter of one hundred and twenty-three."

Each dwelling had from ten to twelve beds, from which he made 'prudent computation' that there were more than 800 men, including youths, and that there was a very large number of women and children. They dressed in shirts, legging, and footwear of skins and had leather protective jackets (cueras), shields, saddlery, and field tends (tiendas de campaña).

Each habitation had four or five jars filled with maize, each measuring 4 1/2 bushels, and a large amount of beans and calabashes. They preserved the latter from year to year and dyed them curiously like petates. Also harvested melons, watermelons, and tobacco in abundance. They had copious springs which gave them fresh water for drinking and moistening their extensive fields. The river water was salubrious and attracted cattle (buffalo), which were always in sight of the towns and were slaughtered at all hours. The river also contained the best species of fish, but they did not relish them. Wood was at hand from the great woods (Cross Timbers?), which were 80 leagues long and from one to

two or more leagues wide, in which lived bear and peccaries (javalies). There was no scarcity of useful woods such as cottonwood (alamo), ash, elm, more (mulberry?), and black and white walnut (What, no blackjack or post oakes?). From the nearby quarries they obtained grinding stones for putting an edge on their hatchets, millstones, for grinding corn, piedra de blanca (soapstone?) for pipes, and flint for arming their arrows and striking fire. In the middle of the river was a deposit of fine salt that renewed itself as fast as they used it.

They were under perpetual pressure from the Osage, who waged a bloody war on them, from the Apaches (Lipan?) who continually bothered them, and from the Comanche, who under the guise of friendship, visited them repeatedly but always for the purpose of stealing. The Taovayas overlooked the Comanche grievances so as not to make more enemies than they already had.

Their government was democratic with even the women participating. The women cured, sewed and painted hides; fenced the fields, cared for the corn patches, and gathered the grain; cut and carried wood; prepared meals and built the houses; reared the children; and still found time to look after the repose and satisfaction of their husbands. The men occupied themselves only in hunting and war. Their chieftans were determined not by the prowess of their fathers but of themselves.

The Red River left the mountain chain of New Mexico four day's journey upstream from their villages, there being three branches which converged near them, the northernmost being that which carried salt and had little water except during flood season. Other rivers flowed into the Red making it navigable and in contact with St. Louis, New Orleans, and Natchitoches. (2)

De Mezieres named the two towns San Teodoro (after Teodoro de Croix, the Commandant General of the Provinces Internas) and San Bernardo (in honor of Bernardo de Galvez, Governor General of Louisiana). He considered their site to be the "master key" for controlling the friendly Indian nations to the north of Texas and for winning over the unfriendly Comanches and Osage. (3)

In 1778, Croix wrote a special report on Texas and its Indians in which he gave the total number of men in the Taovayas, Tawakoni, Iscani, and Eichita towns on the Brazos and Red rivers as 700. (4)

According to a census of 1783, based on that taken by Nicolas LeMathe in 1781, of the Nations of the North, the Taovayas had 123 houses, 615 men, 620 women, 670 boys, 230 girls, 15 male captives, 30 female captives, and 2 agregados (resident visitors?), for a total of 2,577. This was by far the greatest population among the Nations of the North (Orcoquisas, Bidais, Cocos and Mayeyes, Texas, Quichais, Tonkaways, Flechazos, Taovayas, Towakonies, and Avejaes (Panis-mahas), except the latter, who had 2,611 people. But this latter figure included 106 captives as opposed to the 45 of the Taovayas, leaving the latter with the largest population of their own people. (5)

Sources:

- (1) *Certificacion de la declaracion de Phelipe de Sandoval, que ha hecho el derrotero de la Valiza a Taos, y de cuenta de los pueblos de indios por los que ha pasado, su situacion y constumbres y sus relaciones entre si y con los franceses y espanoles. Santa Fe, 1 de marzo de 1750. Archivo Historico Nacional (Madrid), legajo 3882, expediente 2, documento 2.*
- (2) *De Mezieres to Com. Gen. Croix, No. 2, Taovayas, April 18, 1778. Cartas de De Mezieres en que relate su viaje a los Taovayaces habitantes de un hermoso terrano, dividido en 2 aldeas a ambos lados del rio Colorado, una de 37 y otra de 123 casas; cuenta sus utensilios, trajes, trabajos, hostilidades por los Osages y Apaches. Archivo Historico Nacional, Legajo 3883, expediente 9, documento 9.*
- (3) *De Mezieres to Com. Gen. Croix, No. 3, Taovayaces. April 19, 1778. In same.*

(4) *Croix, Relacion particular de cada una de les Jurisdicciones de la Provincia Texas o Neuvas Filipinas, y de les Naciones de Indios que le havitan. Chihuahua, September 23, 1788. In same, legajo 3883, expediente 9, documento 6.*

(5) *Cristobal Corvalan, Padron que manifiesta el numero de Yndividuos de que se componen cada una de les Naciones Gentiles situados al Norte de la Provincia de Texas con expresion de sus clases y sexos eclusos los parbulos. Arispe, May 15, 1783. Archivo General de les Indias (Sevilla), Papeles Procedentes de Cuba, legajo 2360.*

Yours,
Max (Moorehead)

Letter to Robert M. Black from Don G. Wyckoff (REB)

University of Oklahoma River Basin Survey
University of Oklahoma Research Institute
1808 Newton Drive
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
Dec. 8, 1966

Mr. Robert M. Black
Recreational Planning
Corps of Engineers
U. S. Army Engineer District, Tulsa
P. O. Box 61
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Bob:

In recent correspondence with our National Park Service representative, we have received the enclosed reply concerning the Deer Creek Site (Ka-3) problem.

In light of the various legal technicalities involved, is there a recourse available? If the Deer Creek Site could be put on purchasing priority, and subsequently purchased, couldn't the site area be posted as government property? This tangible evidence of interest and concern in this site should deter most pothunters from damaging the more obvious cultural features. Of course, concurrent with this action, the Kay County Chapter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society will be watching the site for any disturbance, and, as in the past, they would report any illegal activity to us. And, if necessary, any further action would be taken after consulting with the Corps.

As I stated in our telephone conversation, I think the main thing is to maintain some control over this most important site during the period of transition of private ownership of land in this reservoir to government ownership. Any tangible evidence of a concern for this site will warn those who might wish to destroy it or at least damage it for individual collections and concern.

Would appreciate any comments you might have on this matter. We are concerned about the site. It is a very important one in the Southern Plains, and our central location prevents us from being able to effectively watch and protect it from vandalism.

Sincerely
Don G. Wyckoff
Project Archaeologist

Letter to Sherman P. Lawton from Muriel H. Wright (REB)

December 16, 1966

Dr. Sherman P. Lawton, President

Oklahoma Anthropological Society
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73501

Dear Dr. Lawton:

Otto Spring of Okmulgee says that he has numerous notes on the Marland Expedition of 1926. He was in charge of the field that year. He says that he will be glad to furnish his notes to anyone who may be interested in preparing a paper on the excavation and finds that were made in 1926. He says that he has numerous photographs, too.

Sincerely,
Muriel H. Wright, Editor
The Chronicles of Oklahoma

* * * * *

Letter to Max Moorehead from Robert E. Bell (REB)

December 21, 1966

Max Moorehead
Calle Tajo, 36
Sevilla, España

Dear Max:

I have received your letter of December 6 together with the notes and comments regarding the Wichita in Oklahoma. This is very interesting material, and I appreciate your trouble in sending it on for my information. The Alonso manuscript sounds like an extremely interesting document. I am wondering if it might be possible to obtain a microfilm copy, if she has no immediate plans for publication.

Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell

* * * * *

Letter to Muriel H. Wright from Robert E. Bell (REB)

January 9, 1967

Muriel H. Wright, Editor
THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma Historical Society
Historical Building
Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma

Dear Miss Wright:

Your letter notes that Mr. Otto Spring has some notes and information regarding the Marland expedition of 1926. We would be very much interested in whatever information he has and I will write to him regarding the matter. Because of the Kaw Reservoir construction, which will take place soon, we will be obliged to carry out some salvage excavations at these sites. Consequently, I am quite interested in knowing anything available regarding earlier work in that area.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

* * * * *

Letter to Otto Spring from Robert E. Bell (REB)

January 9, 1967

Mr. Otto Spring
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Spring:

I have received a note from Muriel H. Wright at the Historical Society informing me that you have a number of notes and photographs regarding your participation in the Marland expedition of 1926. There has been relatively little written or published about the work done in Kay County; therefore, I would appreciate hearing from you and knowing what information you have available, and if you would like to provide it to the University for our manuscript collections.

We will be conducting some archaeological work in Kay County because of the construction of the Kaw dam. Consequently, I am interested in finding out as much as possible regarding the earlier work in this area. I am already familiar with the various reports by Dr. Thoburn that have been published in the Chronicles. I assume from Miss Wright's letter that you have additional information about the matter. Please let me hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Otto Spring (REB)

1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma
Jan. 11, 1967

Robert E. Bell
Norman, Okla.

Dear Mr. Bell:

In the spring of 1925 I took charge of the field party of the Okla. Historical Soc. in Delaware Co. During that spring and summer we excavated the Reed mound, Big Mouth cave, a rock shelter and other sites near Grove. During the following winter I with two of the party went to the Boston mountain region of Arkansas and worked in the great caves near Everton. In the spring we returned to Oklahoma and after a short visit to the flint mines near Hardy we settled down for the summer excavating at the site of the upper camp of old Fernandina east of Newkirk.

The specimens from old Fernandina were put temporarily in the library at Ponca and I suppose are now in the Marlin museum. There was no fort or walls there just a peaceful indian village collecting buffalo skins for trade with the French. We did not get to dig at the lower larger site but did look it over as well as several other small sites nearby. I found later there was a camp trading with the French at the same time in the eastern part of Okmulgee. A number of their old house mounds are still undisturbed here.

I have most or all of the copies of my reports letters etc. on this work and many negatives and pictures as well as many letters from Thoburn and others. Would be glad to have you look them over and keep what is worth preserving. You may find a lot of accounts of our work in the Oklahoman and Ponca City Times as well as other newspapers. The late Corb Sarchet wrote many of these.

There are many sites that should be investigated if one could find anyone qualified to see and report the true facts to be found there. It would be a shame to have many of them ruined as so many have been.

Very truly yours,
Otto Spring

Letter to Otto Spring from Robert E. Bell (REB)

January 19, 1967

Otto Spring

1220 E. Sixth
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Dear Mr. Spring:

I wish to thank you for your interesting letter of January 11 regarding your archaeological work. I would be very much interested in having your notes, clippings, photographs, and so forth or in having copies of them for our files. I am quite sure that you could provide considerable information regarding these activities which is not now available.

It is very difficult for me, however, to make the trip to Okmulgee and spend the time in copying this material. Would it be possible for you to send me what you have so that I could look it over and perhaps have copies made? I may also be able to arrange for someone to visit you and to get some notes and recollections regarding your activities. I feel that what you have is of importance particularly with reference to the excavations carried out near Newkirk.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

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Letter to Robert E. Bell from Otto Spring (REB)

1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma
January 22, 1967

Robert E. Bell
Norman, Okla.

Dear Mr. Bell

Yours of the 19th at hand. I was rather closely associated with Mr. Thoburn from about 1915 to 1930.

When I came to Okmulgee in the fall of 1926 I placed most of my reports letters etc. in the drawers of our secretary and they are still there after forty years. There must be about a thousand of them. Maybe you can find time to go through them sometime. I have always intended to go through them again but seems I never find time.

The sites of old Fernandina are interesting but as they had so little no great finds are to be expected. The old French archives mention another village on Cache creek that we did not have time to locate. Near the upper site we found a mound of earth under which was a crude chamber with a crude arch that had caved in made of very large slabs of stone that had been transported about a half mile at least. Only dug a little but seemed to have been a grave as we found some almost decayed teeth. This site should be investigated.

Very truly yours,
Otto Spring

* * * * *

Letter to Fred R. Harris from Robert E. Bell (REB)

January 31, 1967

Honorable Fred R. Harris
United States Senator from Oklahoma
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Harris:

There is another important locality in the Kaw Reservoir area near Ponca City. At the present time we have done

no archaeological work at this site, but it appears to be a very important one which was occupied in the early 1700's. It is often referred to as the site of Ferdinandina, which is believed to be a early French trading post established in Oklahoma. This identification remains unconfirmed at the present time, although extensive amounts of French trade materials are found at the site in question. If excavations substantiate the significance of this locality, it would certainly be a worthwhile site to consider for preservation. The Corps of Engineers has given this considerable thought and may be making some plans in this direction although at the moment I am not certain as to their conclusions.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Gregory Perino from Robert E. Bell (REB)

March 21, 1967

*Gregory Perino
Thomas Gilcrease Institute
Route 6
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106*

Dear Greg:

I thought I had better write regarding my coming visit to Tulsa on March 27. As I have not had time to talk with you regarding work in the Kaw Reservoir, I would like to discuss the matter with you and officials at the Gilcrease Museum, probably Mr. Rossi, sometime that afternoon, March 27. I can arrange to come to Tulsa in the afternoon and 4 o'clock would be a convenient time for this matter.

The salvage work to be done at Kaw Reservoir is essentially the River Basin Survey's responsibility. As you know, we welcome help from the Gilcrease Foundation, but our efforts must be coordinated very closely. I have discussed the matter with Don Wyckoff, and we are essentially designating certain work which can be done by the Gilcrease Museum. Our meeting, however, is necessary so that you and I will completely understand what is to be done and how our obligations can be fulfilled with reference to the National Park Service and the Tulsa Corps of Engineers' office.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Paul Rossi from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, OK 73069
April 3, 1967*

*Mr. Paul Rossi
Gilcrease Institute
Osage and Ozark Roads
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Dear Mr. Rossi:*

I greatly appreciate the interest expressed by the Gilcrease Museum in extending their aid to support archaeological salvage work in the Kaw Reservoir area in northern Oklahoma. This cooperation will make it possible to preserve a greater portion of our archaeological resources.

The archaeological work to be done within the Kaw Reservoir is under the direction of the University of Oklahoma River Basin Survey project in cooperation with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers District Office in Tulsa

and the National Park Service office at Globe, Arizona. Consequently, any work done in that area must be coordinated from this office to avoid duplication of effort and to utilize our resources most effectively.

The Kaw Reservoir includes a number of archaeological sites and a number of them must be tested or excavated prior to inundation or destruction from developments in that area. In consultation with Mr. Don Wyckoff of the Oklahoma River Basin Survey, it was believed that the most satisfactory cooperative arrangement would be to assign one specific project to the Gilcrease Museum. This would relieve us of one specific task and allow you more freedom in carrying out the research.

With consultation with Mr. Gregory Perino and Don Wyckoff, it appears that site Ka-5, the Bryson site, represents a satisfactory site designation for assignment to Gilcrease. This is an important site which must be excavated, it is extensive and has produced interesting material in the past, and will provide materials of interest to the Gilcrease Museum. The site is owned by Mr. C. P. Bryson, Rural Route, Newkirk, Oklahoma who lives on the location. It is situated in the SW¼ of the NW¼ Section 2, Township 28 North, Range 3 East. Any work done will need to be cleared with Mr. Bryson as I doubt if his land has been purchased by the Corps of Engineers up to this date.

Ka-5 includes an extensive occupation of the Wichita Indians during the period from 1700 to 1750, and is the scene of former excavations by Joseph Thoburn some years ago. There are numerous midden deposits and similar features still evident at the site. In addition, a possible buffalo-jump and artifact materials occur along the base of the low bluff which borders the main occupation on the east. Both the village and the bluff area should be investigated.

I would be happy to visit the site with Mr. Perino to point out certain areas that should be investigated or to provide any assistance that might be of aid. Also, I would like to point out the location of another site, Ka-21, which is located about ½ mile away from Ka-5, but which is not included in this agreement. I mention this fact only because both sites are located upon the Bryson property. Our assignment applies to the site area rather than to property holders. In fact, a portion of Ka-5 may extend northward onto another property owner and in this case would also be included as part of the site irrespective of the land owner.

I understand that the excavations will be directed by Mr. Gregory Perino and that they will be carried out sometime within the next 3 years. The work should be done with proper archaeological techniques and a written report covering the work and the findings should be submitted to this office. The recovered archaeological specimens are to become the property of the Gilcrease Museum, except possibly a small study collection of duplicates that may be required by the National Park Service or the University of Oklahoma.

Our own work in the Kaw Reservoir area will not start until this coming summer when two small sites located near the dam area are to be investigated. Additional work will probably extend over a period of from two to three years depending upon the construction activity.

If this arrangement appears satisfactory with your office, please let me know. I believe this cooperative arrangement will be beneficial to both institutions, as well as the State of Oklahoma, and I appreciate your interest and aid in this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Gregory Perino (REB)

Thomas Gilcrease Institute
of American History and Art
Tulsa, Oklahoma
May 23, 1967

Dear Bob:

We had hoped to begin work on the Bryson site by June 1st. so went up Saturday 20th. to see about getting permission. It rained all day and we waited until it let up some about 2 o'clock then went out from Ponca City only to find Mr. Bryson had gone to town. Consequently, we did not contact him. There seems to be some doubt in some peoples

minds that Bryson would permit digging as long as he owned the site. If so, we might try getting the pasture land to the north of the wooded area as it contains house sites and trash pits but has been excavated some by Thoburn, however, it is still good.

I would like to work there until it gets too hot and the ground has dried out, then come back in the fall after fall rains have softened the ground again. We should be able to put in about two months each time.

Can you give me some idea how we should proceed from here? I have two students who will work throughout the summer and who will be going to O.U. in the fall, and many local and Tulsa volunteers who will help on weekends. I have written to Otto Spring who worked with Thoburn, and asked him what portions of the site (Bryson) they excavated, and what he would recommend for us to check on - such details in topography no longer extant. He may recall some pertinent features we can look into or for.

*Sincerely,
Greg (Perino)*

P.S. The pasture land to the north is supposedly owned by someone else who is more friendly. We would not mind leasing some of the acreage if necessary.

Letter to Gregory Perino from Robert E. Bell (REB)

May 26, 1967

*Gregory Perino
The Thomas Gilcrease Institute
of American History and Art
Route 6
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106*

Dear Greg:

I have received your letter of May 23rd regarding the Kaw Reservoir excavations. I had wondered what was happening as I wrote Mr. Rossi a letter sometime ago suggesting what should be done. I also need a reply letter from him as representative for Gilcrease that the museum will do the work. Has he ever discussed the matter with you?

I do not know how Bryson may react to your excavations. It could be that he would want some payment for "crop damage." You need to talk with him about the matter to see what can be done. If he cannot be agreeable the work may need to wait until the Corps has purchased his lands.

On the other hand, the northern section of the Bryson site is owned by another party as you know. Perhaps you could start in this area if Bryson will not give permission.

I will do what I can to help you in a solution to the matter and hope that you can get started as soon as possible. I also need from the Gilcrease a statement that the Museum agrees to do the work as per my previous letter. The National Park Service and the Corps of Engineers places the responsibility for the salvage work in the Kaw area under the Oklahoma River Basin Survey. We will be obligated to do some work at the Bryson locality as a part of the salvage program. I am happy to have Gilcrease via Perino do this work as it makes the total task easier. Consequently, this arrangement is between institutions, not individuals. I need a commitment from the Gilcrease Museum, not Perino, as you might not be associated with the museum 6 months from now. On the other hand, Gilcrease would have an agreement with the ORBS, not Bell, which operates whether I am involved or not. It just happens that Bell and Perino are concerned in the actual working arrangement at the moment.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Ferdinandina: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community
Letter to Robert E. Bell from Anna Harwood (REB)

*Ponca City, Okla.
June 4, 1967*

Dear Dr. Bell

There's an unhappy situation up here - apparently Mrs. Bryson is doing her own digging of the Bryson site. She told Walt that she would never consent to anyone else doing it and that she was going to, before the government bought it. Greg wrote that he may be able to dig on the other part of the site, owned by someone else - - what should we do??? Greg said there was some fresh digging there, as of last Wednesday.

*Cordially,
Anna (Harwood)*

* * * * *

Letter to Anna Harwood from Robert E. Bell (REB)

June 8, 1967

*Anna Harwood
P.O.Box 536
Ponca City, Okla.*

Dear Anna:

I am considerably upset to learn that Mrs. Bryson is doing some digging at the site. Is she digging by herself, or does she have some helpers? I suspect that if she is working alone, that she will quit before too long and not do too much damage. I would be reluctant to try and apply the Antiquity Act in her case, and would prefer some alternative. She is bitter about some matter which I do not understand. Possibly someone well known to her in Ponca City might be able to discourage her activities, or if not, it would be very helpful to know what she is doing and what has been found, if anything. I suspect that if the weather is warm she will lose some of her enthusiasm, and perhaps quit on her own accord.

Greg wrote that he was having difficulty, but hoped to work on the site which is owned by someone else. I have not heard from him so do not know what progress he has made in this direction.

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

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Letter to Robert E. Bell from Gregory Perino (REB)

*Thomas Gilcrease Institute
of American History and Art
Tulsa, Oklahoma
June 19, 1967*

Dear Bob:

We spoke to Mrs. Goldie C. Herbert about digging on her place north of the Bryson site and it was all right with her if we dug but she has a German renter who also was to give us permission and he hasn't. When we visited him he seemed agreeable to our digging but wanted us to sign all kinds of papers protecting him if any of us were injured which we agreed to do but he has never sent the papers. His name is Greenhagen.

Sincerely,
Greg (Perino)

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Paul A. Rossi (REB)

City of Tulsa
Thomas Gilcrease Institute
of American History and Art
June 21, 1967

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
Dear Dr. Bell:

I'm sorry for the long delay in answering your letter concerning our proposed dig in cooperation with the university. For some reason I thought I had answered it long before this but was recently reminded that I had not. In any case, we at Gilcrease are delighted with the future possibilities in the field of anthropology and archaeology. I have long felt, as I'm sure you have, that our two institutions should have a closer relationship than has been evident even though I understand the climate in the past at Gilcrease has not been as favorable as it might have been. Fortunately this is behind us now.

I understand from Greg that there is some problem concerning the Kaw Reservoir Dig project. Trouble with a landowner I believe. I don't know whether he mentioned it to you or not but the Junior League of Tulsa has become quite interested in our anthropological program and the future plans for it here at the Institute and have made a small amount of money available for fieldwork so we are most anxious to begin as soon as possible. Although it is unfortunate that the Bryson site has not materialized to date we are hoping possibly you might have suggestions as to other sites in the immediate vicinity. Dan McPike will probably have called you to discuss this by the time you receive this letter.

Sincerely,
Paul A. Rossi, Director

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Rex Wilson (REB)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southwest Archeological Center
Box 1562, Gila Pueblo
Globe, Arizona 85501
June 27, 1967

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dear Doc:

Enclosed are two fact sheets which explain the major provisions of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These are for your possible use in your efforts to preserve the Deer Creek Site. As of the preparation of these data there had been no funds appropriated to implement the provisions of the Act. Further, it is expected that the first funds available

will be used to help the states conduct the necessary surveys and prepare state historic preservation plans, rather than for preservation projects. I hope the information will be of use to you.

*Sincerely yours,
Rex L. Wilson
Chief, Archeological Research*

* * * * *

Letter to Gregory Perino from Robert E. Bell (REB)

June 29, 1967

*Gregory Perino
The Thomas Gilcrease Institute
of American History and Art
Route 6
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106*

Dear Greg:

Just a note or two although I spent yesterday talking with Dan about excavation plans. I have your letter of June 19 and I am very sorry that you have been unable to work out some arrangements to dig at Bryson site. We will be obliged to wait until the Corps of Engineers has purchased land in the area and carry out the work at that time. I will assume that you and the Museum will be interested in working on Bryson whenever it is available.

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

* * * * *

Letter to Paul A. Rossi from Robert E. Bell (REB)

June 29, 1967

*Paul A. Rossi
Thomas Gilcrease Institute
Route 6
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106*

Dear Paul:

I have received your letter of June 21 regarding our agreement for some cooperative Archaeological research in Oklahoma. I am pleased to hear from you, and wish to extend my continued cooperation and support. Dan McPike and Mrs. Proctor were here yesterday afternoon and we spent some time talking about prospective excavations. In view of the landowner difficulties that have developed in the Kaw Reservoir, we will select some new locality.

I have highly recommended working in the area of Claremont Mound which is the location of an early Osage Village in Oklahoma. Dan has visited the locality and already has the wholehearted cooperation of the landowner. I also suggested that he also investigate two or three other possibilities.

With best regards,

*Cordially yours,
Dr. Robert E. Bell*

* * * * *

Letter to Glenn R. Orr from Robert E. Bell (REB)

November 16, 1967

Glenn R. Orr
2333 Flair Drive
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159

Dear Dr. Orr:

We have been cleaning the metal materials from the Newkirk site and now have a number of them cleaned and preserved. I thought you might like to come down and see them or perhaps watch the process in action. Most of the pieces have cleaned up very well and there are a number of maker's marks clearly shown on the metal. If you plan to come down, drop me a note so I can be expecting you.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

* * * * *

Letter to Rex Wilson from Robert E. Bell (REB)

The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
January 4, 1968

Mr. Rex Wilson
Southwest Archeological Center
Box 1562, Gila Pueblo
Globe, Arizona 85501

Dear Rex:

I am enclosing some reflections on the Oklahoma Archaeological Salvage Program in response to your letter of Dec. 6th. Don Wyckoff and I discussed the matter and this is essentially the results of our remarks. It includes budgets for 1968-69 as well as beyond that date, although the latter estimates are quite tentative. I hope this will be helpful.

Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell

* * * * *

Enclosure with letter to Rex Wilson (REB)

Excerpts from:

COMMENTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE WORK IN OKLAHOMA

Submitted Jan. 4, 1968

page 7, paragraph 3:

Our major effort for the coming year should be devoted to sites in the Kaw Reservoir near Ponca City. The sum of \$24,000. is recommended for this purpose. This will be for work at several important sites in the Kaw Reservoir area, but will not include the famous Deer Creek site which will be postponed until later. We would like to reserve the Deer Creek site until maximum effort can be directed toward a single project.

page 8, last paragraph:

Work must continue in the Kaw Reservoir area where nine sites will remain to be dug after the 1968 season.

This will include the Deer Creek site which is a major undertaking.

Letter to Rex Wilson from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
January 31, 1968*

*Rex L. Wilson
National Park Service
Southwest Archeological Center
Box 1562, Gila Pueblo
Globe, Arizona 85501*

Dear Rex:

I have made some progress with the governor's office regarding state support for the Spiro mound development. They are also interested in doing something with the Deer Creek site. I have urged Mr. Pritchett of the governor's office to write you or the Park Service office for some assistance in planning the area. Since a small museum structure is a part of their plans, I feel that someone knowledgeable in this area should help in the initial planning. If it is not proper for Pritchett to write to you for help, can you give me an address or someone that can be contacted?

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Rex Wilson (REB)

*United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southwest Archeological Center
Box 1562, Gila Pueblo
Globe, Arizona 85501
February 2, 1968*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
Dear Doc:*

I appreciate your keeping me advised on your progress with the governor's office in regard to state development of the Spiro and Deer Creek Sites. I am much encouraged. You can advise Mr. Pritchett that for planning assistance he should contact the Regional Director, National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office, P. O. Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Ask him to include background information on both Spiro and Deer Creek and a general idea of the kind of development the state would like to have in each of the areas. Mention should also be made as to cooperation you expect to receive from the Corps of Engineers, such as reconstruction of two of the Spiro mounds.

*Sincerely yours,
Rex L. Wilson
Chief, Archeological Research*

Letter to Rex Wilson from Dewey F. Bartlett (REB)

*State of Oklahoma
Office of the Governor
Oklahoma City
July 30, 1968*

*Mr. Rex Wilson
National Park Service
Globe, Arizona*

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Recently, I appointed an Indian Mounds Commission to help restore two significant historical sites in Oklahoma. These two sites, one in LeFlore County near Spiro and the other in Kay County near Kaw City, are the locations of Indian mounds and camp sites used by Indians in Oklahoma. The Indian Mounds Commission will attempt to restore these sites and build museums to house artifacts.

I have been working with Dr. Robert Bell, Head of the Anthropology Department at the University of Oklahoma as well as representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers and our own Industrial Development and Park Department. Dr. Bell has advised me that the National Park Service might be able to help us with the planning of the two museums and restoration of the Indian mounds' sites. I also understand from Dr. Bell that you are in Oklahoma City several times during the year. I would like very much for you to meet with Lt. Governor George Nigh, Chairman of the Indian Mounds Commission, and Edd Pritchett of my office, during one of your next trips to Oklahoma.

A copy of my press release concerning the appointment of the Indian Mounds Commission is enclosed for your information. I will appreciate your help with any advice, consultation or planning which you may be able to give us.

*Sincerely,
Dewey F. Bartlett
GOVERNOR*

Letter to Dewey F. Bartlett from Rex Wilson (REB)

*Southwest Archeological Center
Box 1562, Gila Pueblo
Globe, Arizona 85501
August 5, 1968*

*Hon. Dewey F. Bartlett
Governor of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105*

Dear Governor Bartlett:

Thank you for your letter of July 30 in which you ask our help in the planning for the development of the Deer Creek and Spiro Archeological Sites.

For many years we have recognized the significance of both these sites, not only to the archeological community but to all Americans, and we are pleased that your concern for their preservation and interpretation has prompted your appointment of an Indian Mounds Commission to develop them.

By copy of your letter and press release I am referring your request to Mr. Frank F. Kowski, Regional Director, Southwest Region, and am asking that he correspond with you and suggest ways in which the National Park Service can assist the Commission in this very worthwhile undertaking.

In accordance with your suggestion I will be most happy to meet with Lt. Governor Nigh and Mr. Pritchett the next time I am in Oklahoma City.

*Sincerely yours,
Rex L. Wilson
Chief, Archeological Research*

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN MOUNDS COMMISSION

From: E. Edd Pritchett

Subject: Progress Report

August 12, 1968

Lt. Governor George Nigh and I met last week to discuss the progress of the Indian Mounds restoration projects. Lt. Governor Nigh suggested that we send a progress report to the members of the Indian Mounds Commission concerning the status of our projects.

After our last meeting, Governor Bartlett met with representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers and requested that the Corps build the museum building and completely restore the Spiro site. Governor Bartlett also reiterated the state's commitment to operate the museum site after completion. We are presently awaiting a reply from the Army Corps of Engineers in answer to Governor Bartlett's request.

Following Dr. Bell's suggestion, we have written to Mr. Rex Wilson, National Park Service, requesting assistance in planning and consultation in developing the two projects. We have received a reply from Mr. Wilson. He stated that the National Park Service will be glad to help in the manner requested. Mr. Wilson is coming to Oklahoma City to discuss the project with us.

We also have been in contact with the Corps of Engineers concerning the preparation of an architectural design for the Kaw City (Deer Creek) site. This design should be submitted to the committee later this fall.

Lt. Governor Nigh suggested that we call another meeting of the commission later in August or September after we have received a reply from the Corps of Engineers concerning our request to construct the Spiro museum or following their completion of the design for the Kaw City site.

With the \$25,000 appropriated by the Legislature, we now have the funds and the assistance from the agencies necessary to begin the actual planning and development stage of these two projects.

We probably will not call another meeting until we receive additional information concerning decisions which will require the direction of the committee.

Letter to Dewey F. Bartlett from Carl O. Walker (REB)

*United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southwest Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501*

August 14, 1968

*Hon. Dewey F. Bartlett
Governor of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105*

Dear Governor Bartlett:

Thank you for your letter of July 30 asking our assistance in planning the development and restoration of the Deer Creek and Spiro Archeological Sites. Mr. Rex Wilson of the Southwest Archeological Center forwarded your letter to us for further reply. We concur with Mr. Wilson's comments on the importance of preserving such sites. Your appointment of an Indian Mounds Commission is to be commended.

To help meet the park and recreation needs of the Nation, the experience of the National Park Service in planning, developing, and managing parks and recreation areas is made available upon request to States and their political subdivisions. Such assistance is generally furnished on a programmed and reimbursable basis and consists of technical and advisory assistance on such matters as park agency organization; administration, planning, and the operation and maintenance of park systems; personnel training; historical and archeological programs; and general development planning.

On a recent trip to Oklahoma City Mr. Wilson and Mr. Warren Henderson of this office discussed development at the two sites with Mr. Bob Black of the Corps of Engineers. At that time it was agreed that the National Park Service would review and comment upon the existing Master Plan for the Spiro site and prepare a General Development Plan for the Deer Creek site. We would also hope that personnel can be available for aiding you in museum planning and restoration.

We suggest that you forward necessary planning data such as topography to this office when convenient. Please understand that due to the recent budget and personnel reductions it may be one month to six weeks before any work can be accomplished.

Thank you again for your letter.

*Sincerely yours,
Carl O. Walker
Regional Director*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Muriel H. Wright (REB)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
September 10, 1968*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73069*

Dear Dr. Bell:

Recently, I read where Dr. Wedel of the Smithsonian is thinking the site of Ferdinandina is north of the Oklahoma line in Kansas. This of course was the old theory held by historians and others of Kansas. I hope that you still have in mind investigation of the site in Kay County.

*Sincerely,
Muriel H. Wright, Editor
Chronicles of Oklahoma*

* * * * *

Letter to Muriel H. Wright from Robert E. Bell (REB)

September 13, 1968

*Muriel H. Wright
Editorial Office
Historical Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105*

Dear Miss Wright:

The Ferdinandina or Deer Creek site, located near Newkirk, will be investigated within the next year or two. We have rather extensive plans for excavation and hope to make a state park of this locality. The site itself will be situated on the edge of Kaw Reservoir, and the Corps of Engineers is cooperating in plans for development. I hope that our excavations will settle once and for all the final identification of the site.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

* * * * *

Letter to Carl Walker from Dewey F. Bartlett (REB)

*State of Oklahoma
Office of the Governor
Oklahoma City
September 20, 1968*

*Mr. Carl Walker
Regional Director
United States Department of the Interior
Southwest Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 86501*

Dear Mr. Walker:

I have received your recent letter in response to our request for assistance in developing a master plan for two Indian Mound sites in Oklahoma. I appreciate very much your interest in aiding us with this project.

I have asked Dr. Robert Bell, Head of the Anthropology Department at the University of Oklahoma, to forward this information of the topography of the sites.

If there is any other way we can cooperate with you, please let us know.

*Very truly yours,
Dewey F. Bartlett
GOVERNOR*

Letter to Carl O. Walker from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
September 27, 1968*

*Mr. Carl O. Walker, Regional Director
Southwest Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501*

Dear Mr. Walker:

At the request of Mr. Edd Pritchett of the Governor's Office, I am sending you the following items:

1 manila envelope containing one copy of the 1st Annual Report on Spiro Focus Research by Brown and Bell. This contains a map of the site and much other additional data regarding the Spiro site. This report is out of print and additional copies are not available so please conserve this copy.

1 cardboard map tube containing the following:

*Corps of Engineers map of the Kaw Reservoir area showing pool limits and location of the Deer Creek site.
USGS topo map of the Deer Creek site and immediate region.
Corps of Engineers development plan for the Spiro mounds dated March 1967.
Corps of Engineers development plan for the Spiro mounds dated March 5, 1968.*

We do not have detailed contour maps available for the Deer Creek site at this time although the Corps is preparing one in the immediate future. I trust these will be helpful to you. If you require additional information we will supply whatever is available.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Urban E. Rogers (REB)

*United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southwest Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
March 6, 1969*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
760 South Oval, #215
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73069*

Dear Dr. Bell:

Please accept our apologies for this tardy start for our assistance with the developments at Spiro and Deer Creek.

Enclosed are two sketch drawings, one suggesting alternatives to the proposed developments for Spiro, the other outlining our thinking in regard to Deer Creek. The Spiro Mounds Alternates are different road layouts which attempt to separate the Archeological site from the water oriented use. Our preference is Alternate 1 for simplicity. The

Museum is as suggested by the Corps of Engineers; a very appropriate structure.

The Deer Creek Site poses quite different problems including the fact that the site itself is two to six feet lower than the Reservoir Flood Pool. We will have to take this into account in our developments-possibly with dikes. The main development theme is a complete separation of modern and historic using the low ridge to separate the parking and museum from the site. By careful planning we feel we can accomplish this development theme.

We will appreciate your comments and suggestions for these two sites. Also, we would appreciate your forwarding a set of plans to Mr. Edd Pritchett

*Sincerely yours,
Urban E. Rogers
Acting Assistant to the Regional Director,
Cooperative Activities and Public Affairs*

* * * * *

Letter to Urban E. Rogers from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
455 W. Lindsey
Room 505A
March 12, 1969*

*Urban E. Rogers
National Park Service
Southwest Region
Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501*

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I have received your letter of March 6 together with the sketch drawings of proposed developments for the Spiro and Deer Creek sites.

I am sending copies of these drawings to Mr. Edd Pritchett in the Governor's office. I am also turning the rest of the material over to Mr. Don Wyckoff, director of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey, since the development of the programs will fall under his jurisdiction. If you have further communications regarding these developments, I suggest that you write directly to Mr. Wyckoff, Oklahoma Archaeological Survey, Stovall Museum, Norman, Oklahoma.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

* * * * *

Letter to Corps of Engineers from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
455 W. Lindsey
Room 505A
April 9, 1969*

*Corps of Engineers
Tulsa District
Box 61
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

Dear Sir:

In talking with your representative at the morning meeting of the Indian Mounds Commission at Oklahoma City, we discussed the problem of excavations at the Deer Creek site in Kaw Reservoir. As you know, we need to conduct archaeological work of a fairly extensive nature at this site well before completion of the reservoir. The owner of the property, Mr. Carl Miller, has been reluctant to grant us permission to carry out the excavations. Consequently, we were merely waiting until such time as the Corps purchased his property, after which we would initiate our excavations. It is my present understanding that your present plans do not call for acquisition of this land until sometime in 1973, and this seems to be too late in terms of the work that should be done at this locality.

I also understand, however, that you have some arrangement with Mr. Miller which provides access to his property and would be very much interested in attempting to make some arrangement with Mr. Miller for our archaeological work in the more immediate future. Perhaps, although you may not have purchased the property, we could complete some arrangements with the owner whereby our field work could be undertaken, perhaps as early as the summer of 1970. Since this site is one of two that is subject to planning and development within the state and since we have no actual field knowledge of the site itself, any planning for development cannot be seriously done until our excavations have been undertaken. Without the excavations we have no real basis for evaluating the site's potential and resources. This is the reason, in part, that an early access to the site for excavations becomes important.

I would appreciate your consideration of this matter and will be glad to consult with you or jointly with Mr. Miller, if that is deemed desirable. Please let me hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Martha Blaine (REB)

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
July 18, 1969

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dear Bob:

I have re-checked our collection of Deer Creek material. I think that what I have found was Dr. Thoburn's original collection of the 1920's. I have tried to bring together in one place here in the Museum storage area all of our archaeological material which previously had been scattered in various storerooms, but that is as far as I have been able to go with it. Identification and cataloging is yet to come. I hope that you will be able to come and see the Deer Creek material and other artifacts that we have, at your convenience. Presently, the Deer Creek material is stored in numerous small half-peck baskets, the kind that one used to be able to buy fruit in from roadside stands. I suspect these are the original containers which he brought back from the site. We have just had returned to us some trade gun materials which were on loan to Carl Chapman.

Last year, I tried to trace the Chilocco-Ferdinandina material which the Oklahoma Historical Society had loaned to the Museum there. I finally found that it had been sent to the University of Oklahoma. Sometime, I would like to check our inventory list against what you have.

Sincerely yours,
Martha Blaine

Letter to Martha Blaine from Robert E. Bell (REB)

September 25, 1969

*Martha Blaine
Oklahoma Historical Society
Historical Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105*

Dear Martha:

Your letter regarding the Deer Creek material came during summer about as I was leaving on vacation. I am glad to know that you have located the Thoburn collection from Deer Creek. I would like very much to see it sometime at your convenience. Perhaps I could come up to the city some afternoon to look it over.

You are equally welcome to come to Norman and see what we have from the Chilocco Indian school. There is not very much, however, as much of what was present was discarded by someone at the school. Most of what we have is not very helpful and is of interest only because it came from the Thoburn excavations.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Clarence Wright (REB)

Feb. 1970

*Robert E. Bell
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma*

Dear Dr. Bell:

Sorry I was so long in mailing this to you. I hope you will get some good from it. Parting with the Miller site is like parting with old friends.

I will miss the newspaper yearly write up (ha! ha!) in the Ponca paper about the Miller site, and the occasional pot holer from Kansas.

We have started a archaeology div. here. We are not under a state charter, as we are members of a rock group here. I will send you a copy of the rules we have set up here. Well, I said I would but don't seem to have them on hand. The rules seem to have the same content as the Oklahoma Society.

We have started a dig in Austin Co., near Bellview.

In the next two or three weeks I will make plates of the surface finds. I will send you a set, and I would very much appreciate your comments.

Give my regards to Mrs. Bell. We sure could use some of her cooking, when we have to stay over the weekend.

*Sincerely yours,
Clarence Wright
Houston, Texas*

Enclosure from Clarence Wright (REB)

Deer Creek inventory - Clarence Wright

Jessie West:
4 end scrapers
1 bone awl (picked up right after plowing
by the senior Miller)

Vergal McClure:
3 projectile points (Fresno)
1 clay pipe fragment

Cavin Terry:
1 brass metal tinkler
4 iron knife fragments
1 brass cup fragment
1 brass lock plate ?
1 iron main spring
1 iron whole sear
1 iron knife fragment
1 brass rod holder, fragment
6 gray gun flints
3 white tubular glass beads
2 small white glass beads

C. M. Wright:
2 oval white beads
3 oval blue beads
2 tubular white beads
3 bead fragments
2 glass fragments
1 brass scissor handle
3 brass tinklers
1 brass projectile point
5 brass fragments
1 iron awl
1 iron scraper
1 iron pot, damaged

Charles Presson:
1 sherd handle
4 clay pipes
2 bone tubes
1 projectile point
18 small triangular projectile points
46 small triangular projectile points
2 biface scrapers
4 side scrapers
105 end scrapers
9 thumb scrapers
1 hafted knife
5 knives
1 cup stone
1 expanding drill

Harve Mashburn:
15 brass or copper fragments
14 brass tinklers
1 brass stock pin
2 brass or copper rolls
1 brass gun part
1 brass ramrod end
1 brass gun part made into an awl
1 brass or pewter fragment
3 iron knives
1 iron scissors

Ferdinandina: A Biography of a French-Indian Trading Community

20 iron fragments
 1 iron hook
 1 iron U-shaped link
 7 iron gun parts
 1 stock plate
 1 iron pin (door hinge?)
 1 iron object ?
 1 large musket ball, lead
 1 small musket ball, lead
 8 gun flints
 3 stone pipes
 1 pipe stone with 2 holes
 1 glass knife
 1 glass scraper
 6 fragments of glass
 7 blue glass beads
 4 white glass beads
 1 white and blue striped bead
 3 oval white beads
 4 olivella beads
 2 tubular blue beads
 17 small white beads
 4 oval blue glass beads
 1 clear glass bead

Charles Sloveczek:

1 pottery rim sherd
 22 body sherds
 4 clay pipe sherds
 3 deer teeth
 27 bone fragments
 2 fragments of bone artifacts
 4 projectile points, unnotched
 1 projectile point, notched
 4 point fragments
 2 knives, not beveled
 2 thumb scrapers
 16 end scrapers
 12 side scrapers
 1 V scraper
 1 hammerstone
 1 oval blue glass bead
 1 tubular white glass bead
 2 pieces of glass
 1 brass tinkler
 4 fragments wire coil
 1 iron fragment

Don Corbin:

4 bits of baked clay
 3 bone awl fragments
 1 antler awl fragment
 1 bone fragment, toothed edge
 1 graver, flint
 1 Gary type point
 1 flint knife
 thumb scrapers
 end scrapers
 2 gun flints

2 small blue glass beads
 1 thick white glass bead
 1 very small white glass bead
 1 glass globular piece, unidentified
 1 thin glass mirror, incised line around edge
 2 glass fragments
 1 piece copper with square hole
 1 piece brass with line cut on it
 13 metal fragments
 3 tinklers
 3 pieces of brass wire
 6 pieces of iron
 1 brass wire awl
 stone manos
 basin shaped milling basin
 1 sandstone awl sharpener
 1 stone arrowshaft smoother
 5 fragments of ground stone

Norman Hiatt:

6 brass tinklers
 4 brass rolls
 3 lead musket balls
 3 gun flints
 1 fragment of pewter
 2 iron gun parts
 2 iron handles
 17 brass fragments
 4 brass gun parts
 10 iron fragments
 1 round brass piece with perforation
 2 scrapers
 1 button, 4 hole, square
 15 round blue glass beads
 4 white bead fragments
 30 small white round beads
 5 white glass tubular beads
 7 blue glass fragments, oval
 1 bone rasp
 4 bone awl fragments
 1 gar fish scale
 2 bone needles
 6 polished bones
 1 glass projectile point, Fresno
 3 glass fragments

Letter to Clarence Wright from Robert E. Bell (REB)

February 23, 1970

Clarence Wright
 3020 Midlane
 Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Clarence:

I have received your recent letter along with the inventory situation listing items found at the Deer Creek site. I am glad to have these for our files and appreciate the time and trouble that you have taken to collect this information.

Our plans for excavations are still delayed, and I doubt if we will work at the site for at least another year. We should initiate work in 1971 or 1972, however, as the constructions are continuing at the dam. The target date for completion is 1974 or 1975. It is still planned, of course, to convert the site into a state park along with a museum containing some explanation regarding the area. This planning, however, is impossible until after we have carried out some excavations.

I note that you are already involved in the archaeology of Texas, and that you have initiated an excavation near Bellview. I will be glad to help in any way that I can. Send up your pictures at any time, and I will tell you what I can about them. If you are up this way, you should drop around and see us.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

REB:bac

Letter to Rex Wilson from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
June 3, 1970*

*Mr. Rex Wilson
Southwest Archaeological Center
Box 1562, Gila Pueblo
Globe, Arizona 85501*

Dear Rex:

Our needs for the coming year will be chiefly to complete the work at Hugo and start at Kaw. We should try to do both of these if that is possible in 1971. The Corps plans to buy the Deer Creek site in the year 1971 and we can get started in 71 or 72. There are also other sites in Kaw that need attention. Burton knows what we need to do and can advise you on requirements.

Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Harold V. Brown (REB)

*Cimarron Valley Historical Society
Cushing, Oklahoma
14 July 1971*

Dear Dr. Bell:

Dr. Bell, this Society is, and has been, pushing for archaeological work to be done at "Ferdinandina". I have discussed this many times with almost all of our political leaders and have told Don Wyckoff that this should be done by his office in conjunction with your department (or vice versa) but this should be done. And I personally, as well as this Society, will bend every effort to see that great site is dug and better known.

*Yours,
Harold V. Brown*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Douglas H. Scovill (REB)

*United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Arizona Archeological Center
University of Arizona
P.O. Box 49008
Tucson, Arizona 85717
September 27, 1971*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
The University of Oklahoma
455 West Lindsey, Room 505A
Norman, Oklahoma 73069*

Dear Bob:

Thanks for the summary of archeological salvage needs in Oklahoma you sent with your September 2 letter. It came at an opportune time as I am currently working on our Fiscal Year 1973 budget.

We have programmed \$20,000. for the work in the Kaw Reservoir this year. Please send me a research proposal in the usual format so I may review it and get the contract going through the required administrative procedures. A word of caution is in order this year: do not anticipate receipt of the funds until I notify you that the contract has been signed and mailed from our Washington Office.

*Sincerely yours,
Douglas H. Scovill, Acting Chief
Arizona Archeological Center*

Letter to Douglas H. Scovill from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
October 18, 1971*

*Mr. Douglas H. Scovill
Arizona Archeological Center
University of Arizona
P.O. Box 49008
Tucson, Arizona 85717*

Dear Doug:

I am enclosing a proposed contract for our coming work this year at Kaw Reservoir. I hope this will be suitable, but if you have any questions, please write.

Thanks for sending Rex's address. Hope he is well settled working hard.

*Cordially yours,**Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Harold V. Brown (REB)

*Jim Thorpe Athletic Award Committee**Yale, Oklahoma 74085**19 Sept. 1972**Dear Dr. Bell:*

The Cimarron Valley Historical Society is going to take a field trip to Ferdinandina on Sunday Oct. 22nd. We will meet at Bills corner north of Stillwater at 10 A.M. We will eat lunch on the site. This Society has asked me to invite you to be with us on this fascinating historical and archaeological site, and we hope you can make it.

*Yours,**Harold V. Brown*

Letter to Harold V. Brown from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*September 28, 1972**Mr. Harold V. Brown**Jim Thorpe Athletic Award Committee**Box 246**Yale, Oklahoma 74085**Dear Mr. Brown:*

I have received your recent letter of September 19th regarding your proposed field trip to the Deer Creek site near Ponca City. I will not be able to join you although understand that Mr. Wyckoff does plan to go along on the trip. I am sure you will find him helpful and that you will enjoy looking at the site.

The site, as you perhaps know, is now property of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tulsa. If you have not already written to them regarding your intended visit, I suggest that you clear with the Corps for proper permission.

*Sincerely yours,**Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Mike Bureman from Don G. Wyckoff (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma**Oklahoma Archaeological Survey**1335 South Asp Avenue**Norman, Oklahoma 73069**October 13, 1972**To: Mike Bureman, Oklahoma Historical Society**From: Don G. Wyckoff, State Archeologist*

Subject: Proposal for initial archeological investigations at Deer Creek Site, Ka-3, Kay County, Oklahoma

The Site: *The Deer Creek Site (sometimes called Ferdinandina) represents one of the most significant cultural resources pertaining to the earliest European contact with Indian peoples on the Southern Plains. The site is believed to represent a fortified village of the Wichita tribe and was probably occupied in the early 1700's. This location appears to have been the scene of the earliest, sustained trade between Europeans (French) and native Indian populations on the Southern Plains. The site is of great importance to Southern Plains Indian heritage and to early history in the Plains. The site is a National Historic Landmark and is on the National Register.*

The Proposed Project: *No previous archeological study has been conducted on this site location, and it is planned that major archeological research, so necessary before any interpretive development, will be undertaken in 1974. At present, there is no detailed map of the site area, and such a map is needed before any major archeological field work can be conducted. It is therefore proposed that a thorough, detailed contour map be made of the site and its immediate surroundings. Concomitant with this mapping it is proposed to establish a permanent grid on the site which can be used to facilitate locating and mapping of all future archeological research at this site.*

Length of the Project: *The site covers at least 15 acres, and it is estimated that two men can complete the proposed work in 25 working days.*

Proposed Budget: 5 week work period \$2467.75

Salaries

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| Archeologist | \$1000.00 | |
| Field assistant | <u>500.00</u> | \$1500 |

Field expenses

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Per diem (2 men x \$15@/day x 25) | 750.00 | |
| Mapping supplies (paper, etc.) | 20.00 | |
| Grid supplies 15 sacks cement | 72.75 | |
| 300 1/2in. steel rods | | |
| Vehicle operation (\$25/week) | <u>125.00</u> | \$967.75 |

Letter to Byron Sudbury from Leonard W. Blake (REB)

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

August 6, 1973

2315 Tower Grove Ave
St. Louis MO 63110

Mr. Byron Sudbury
142A Ross Road
Eighty-four PA 15330

Dear Mr. Subury,

We are returning to you at your new address the corn from the surface of 34Ka3, the Ferdinandina Site, in a seperate package. Enclosed in this letter is a list of measurements of this corn, We shall be very interested in seeing a larger sample, when it is available from excavation.

Most of the corn that you sent is like that grown all over eastern and northern United States in proto-historic and early historic times. Another kind of corn with dented grains (kernels) entered the southern states from Mexico sometime in the 17th century. We have evidence of it in several historic accounts and in material from two Spanish Missions in Texas which date in the last half of the 16th century. We hope that you will pass along our interest to whoever will excavate the site or let us know who will do the job in order that we may contact them directly.

Thanks for the chance to see this material.

Sincerely,
Leonard W. Blake

Encl.

Enclosure with letter from Leonard W. Blake (REB)

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63110.

Ferdinandina, Deer Creek or Miller site (34Ka3), Kay Co., Oklahoma French Trading Post established A.D. 1719
Rec'd from Byron Sudbury, June, 1973.

Small Box

Small carbonized fragments of corn grains.

Vial No. 1

1-10 rowed cob, Grain Thickness 3.4 mm., Cupule Width 8.8 mm. Cupules fairly open, not narrow, but still a Northern Flint type cob.

Vial No. 2

Approximately 12 corn grains and fragments. 1 of these is from a 10 rowed ear and is 8.2 mm. wide. The others are about this size or smaller.

Vial No. 3

Approximately 6 or more corn grains and fragments. 1 of these is from an 8 rowed ear and is 9.7 mm. wide and another is from a 12 rowed ear and is 7.7mm. wide.

Vial No. 4

10 corn grains. 1 from an 8 rowed ear is 8.9 mm. wide, 1 from an 8 or 10 rowed ear is 8.2 mm. wide, 1 from a 10 rowed ear is 9.6 mm. wide and is either dented or from an immature ear. Another is from a 14 rowed ear and is 8.7 mm. wide.

Vial No. 5

Approximately 10 corn grains and fragments. 1 from an 8 rowed ear is 9.4 mm. wide and 7.3 mm. long. Another from an 8 rowed ear is 9.6 mm. wide and 8.4 mm. long and is from a dented or immature ear. Still another from an 8 rowed ear is 9.1 mm. wide and 7.0 mm. long. 1 from a 10 rowed ear is 7.8 mm. wide and another is 8.9 mm. wide. 1 from a 12 rowed ear is 7.2 mm. wide and 9.2 mm. long.

Letter to Charles Rohrbaugh from Otto Spring (REB)

1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
July 4, 1973

Charles Rorbaugh
Stillwater, Okla.

Dear Sir:

I note in this morning's paper you are doing some excavating on the Fernandina site north-east of Newkirk. I had charge of a party there for the Okla. Historical Society during the summer of 1926. Our finds are in the Marlin Museum at Ponca City.

The owner of the lower (main) site would not permit us to dig there. This one being lower will be covered by the

lake. There is a lot that should be done there before it is below the lake. It would be interesting to find the blacksmith place where the crude iron tools were made that are to be found in the Fernandina sites. The iron tomahawks are interesting as they were designed so they would not stick in the buffalo skulls.

When we were there it was easy to see why the buffalo herds could be herded over the cliffs just south of the upper site as mentioned in the old French records. The brush on the hilltops blended with the tree tops from below the cliffs so the cliffs were not visible from a few feet away.

We also did work on the flint mines near Hardy from which most of the flints found at Fernandina were obtained.

A half mile or so west of the Fernandina site is a large rock mound. It should not be under the lake but should be investigated. I just didn't have time to dig into it. I believe it is of older origin than Fernandina.

A fellow living at Winfield, Kansas brought down an old Boy's [Lloyds] of London map which I expect is the oldest map of that locality. The only town shown near there was Fernandina. I do not know what became of this map but it is a shame if it has been lost. I took a picture of it then and recently found the old negative among a lot of letters and records. This negative should be preserved and enlargements made and preserved.

There are many old graves along the edges of the hills near the Fernandina sites. Many date from the time of Fernandina but others are older.

Very truly yours,
Otto Spring

* * * * *

Letter to Marland Museum from Otto Spring (PCM)

1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Okla.
July 13, 1973

Marland Museum
Ponca City, Okla.

Gentlemen-

While I was excavating at the site of Fernandina East of Newkirk for Mr. Marland during the summer of 1926 a fellow then living in Winfield Kansas brought a map. It was made by Loyds of London about 1835 and showed Fernandina. It was probably the first map made of this locality. I do not know what became of this map.

I made a photograph of it and recently found the negative among my old records. Prints should be made of it and it and the prints should be placed where they will not be lost or destroyed. I would like to give it to some place that would do this.

I recently wrote to Mr. Rorbaugh who according to the Tulsa World is doing excavation there but received it back as unclaimed. Maybe you can see that he gets the letter.

Very Truly Yours,
Otto Spring

* * * * *

Letter to Delia F. Castor from Robert E. Bell (REB)

July 16, 1973

Ms. Delia F. Castor
 Ponca City Indian Museum
 1000 East Grand
 Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601

Dear Ms. Castor:

I have received your zerox copy of the letter from Mr. Otto Spring along with your note, thanks for writing. You should get the map to which Spring refers and I would be grateful to receive a copy when it is available.

As you know we are not working at the site to which he refers in his letter. The Deer Creek site (so called Fernandina) will be worked either next year or in 1975 depending upon available funding. We also plan to do some work at the mound which he mentions to the west. Thoburn, however, did dig in this mound and it is badly damaged. I hope that some information can be salvaged, however,

Thanking you for your attention,

*Sincerely yours,
 Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Ponca City Museum from Otto Spring (PCM)

*1220 E. Sixth St.
 Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
 July 24, 1973*

*Ponca City Museum
 Ponca City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mrs. Castor -

Your card at hand.

Since I was working for the Okla. Geologic Survey and for the Okla. Historical Society the materials collected were turned in to them.

In the case of Fernandina Marland was paying for this work so it was turned into them. I believe I turned in the specimens to their office or possibly to the Marland home. I suppose you have them in the museum.

I shipped the specimens we collected during the summer of 1925 to the Okla. Historical Society which was then in the Capitol. I believe I shipped about thirty boxes of specimens from the Arkansas Caves in during the winter of 1935-36. When I returned to the Historical Soc. later these boxes were still stored in a basement room in the Capitol near where the Okla. Hist. Soc. was then. I rather believe these boxes may still be there still not unpacked as I did not see any of this stuff in the museum when it was later moved to the new Historical Society building. There were many thousands of very interesting specimens including skulls & jaws of the old man who during the next to last ice age lived in the caves. He had but fourteen teeth per jaw. I showed some of them to my old teacher in the Geology Dept. at O.U., Dr. Decker, and he said they were another species of man.

Much of the material in the museum was lost (or sold) during the depression. I am sure this was due to the management then.

Under the now new management I hope the Okla. Historical Society will recover.

Mr. Thoburn's correspondence, records, etc was turned over to others to investigate and it is likely they still have it. There should be in these records many letters, reports etc. from me while working near Grove, Okla. summer of

1925 and near Everton, Arkansas winter of 1925-26 and at Fernandina summer of 1926.

I talked with Mr. Falconer last evening by phone. Jim will deliver the negative and a copy of the Chronicles of Okla. he says you do not have next Saturday according to his plans now.

I hope Falconer or someone can come over to go through what I have left of my old records. I probably won't find time to otherwise. I turned a lot of them over to O.U. several years ago but they probably have been lost there.

Otto Spring

The time I had our expedition out for the Okla. Geologic Survey was previous to the time it was shut-down by Governor Walton so the present one may not have the old records. C. W. Shannon was in charge then.

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Byron Sudbury (REB)

3215 Kennett Square
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213
October 2, 1973

Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dear Dr. Bell:

As my address confirms I am no longer in Oklahoma. I am attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. However, I am still a Sooner at heart.

Since Don told me that you would probably be editor of the Bulletin in his absence, I would like to inform you of the status of my work on the Miller Site Report. I am still very interested in completing my report. However, there is no hope of my working on it at all until next summer. Then, hopefully I will be able to put full time in on it in July and August, and get it completed. Thus, I am writing to see if it could be included in next years' bulletin? At this time, I am not able to say that I will definitely complete the report. However, I feel sure there is a good chance that I will be able to.

There is one other item of which I wish to inform you. On the July 4th weekend, 1970 (during field school), I found some charred corn in an ashy area that had been plowed up at the Miller Site (Ka-3), I showed it to Don, and he was surprised that there was corn there. Anyway, this summer I sent it out for identification and I thought that you might like a copy of the results, I am enclosing the letter and comment which Leonard Blake sent me, I hope this interests you,

I do hope that my report works out okay, both completion-wise and schedule-wise. I hope this letter finds things going well with you,

Sincerely,
Byron Sudbury

enclosure

Letter to Byron Sudbury from Robert E. Bell (REB)

October 18, 1973

Mr. Byron Sudbury
142A Ross Road
Eighty-four, PA 15330

Dear Byron:

I have received your letter of October 2 along with the information from the Missouri Botanical Gardens. I am glad to have this information with reference to corn from the Deer Creek Site.

Regarding your work on the Miller Site report, I will make no promises regarding publication in the Bulletin without seeing the manuscript. I would think, however, that your report would be quite satisfactory for the Bulletin, and I would like to consider it. The Bulletin for this year is currently in press, and I am not certain, regarding a deadline for next year's. We do, however, try to get copy to the printers sometime in August, although it has been September on occasions. Since you probably will not be able to furnish the report until the end of summer, I would just plan to submit it when the report is completed. If it is too late for the Bulletin of next year and is satisfactory, it could be used the following year.

I trust your work at the University of Pittsburgh is going along okay. I stopped in for a visit last spring briefly. Having the campus in the heart of the city would be quite different from Oklahoma. Thanks for sending the information about the corn.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

* * * * *

Letter to Larry Banks from Ronald C. Corbyn (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Archaeological Survey
1335 South Asp Avenue
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
December 11, 1973*

*Larry Banks, Archeologist
Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District
P.O. Box 61
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105*

Dear Larry,

As you are aware the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Historical Society and the National Park Service, is proceeding with the first phase mapping of the Deer Creek site, a National Landmark. A feasibility study by this agency indicates that more accuracy, less time, and money will be involved when a site of this scope is mapped from aerial photographs.

Realizing the importance of the site, Oklahoma Geological Survey personnel have also been cooperating with this agency, providing consultation and agreeing to assist with the drafting of a one foot contour map. As there is a great deal of time involved in the research behind the utilization of this technique we are asking for the guidance and assistance of as many concerns as possible to insure its success and use in the future in similar situations.

Recently Towana Spivey (of the Historical Society) and myself staked off permanent grid coordinates (with elevations) for the Deer Creek site and put down targets for aerial photography. We would like to know if the Corps of Engineers can provide the needed aerial photographs (stereo pairs) for the site. If this is possible we have all of the pertinent data for the needed flight and can furnish it anytime. Please let us know at your earliest convenience if your agency is willing to perform this task

Sincerely,
Ronald C. Corbyn
Acting State Archeologist

* * * * *

*The University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Archaeological Survey
1335 South Asp Avenue
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
December 13, 1973*

*Dr. Thomas R. Lyons
National Park Service, Chaco Center
P.O. Box 26176
Albuquerque, N.M. 87125*

Dear Dr. Lyons:

Recently Rex Wilson has provided me information on remote sensing, including some of your articles. I have been independently investigating the feasibility of having a one foot contour interval map made from a black and white stereo pair for the Deer Creek site ("Ferdinandina") in northern Oklahoma. The site, a National Landmark, was apparently a large Wichita village (around 20 acres) that was visited by the French in the 1700's. There is ground evidence for fortifications and a large number of house mounds (along with other unexplained surface irregularities).

In checking with the agencies utilizing photogrammetry in the state, it appears that we will have no problem getting the contour map made; however I have been unable to find anyone who can suggest the most logical course for utilizing other remote sensing techniques besides black and white stereo plotting. With the knowledge gained thus far, I am of the opinion that indeed full utilization of remote sensing for feature interpretation represents one of our approaches in excavation planning for this site, particularly in light of its size, physical condition, and national significance.

Grid coordinates for the site are already staked off at 100 foot intervals with elevations, and each 100 foot post is targeted for aerial photography. Before we have the site flown (which hopefully will be within two weeks) I would greatly appreciate any suggestions you might have on ways in which the additional remote sensing could be accomplished at the Deer Creek Site.

*Sincerely,
Ronald C. Corbyn
Acting State Archeologist*

Letter to Calvin R. Cummings from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, OK 73069
January 24, 1974*

*Mr. Calvin R. Cummings
National Park Service
Southwest Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 86501*

Dear Cal:

Regarding work at Kaw - we should be in the 4th phase of this work and this includes sites in the upper

sections of the reservoir. This includes a number of sites in addition to the Deer Creek site. Assuming funds equal to last year, I would suggest that we try to work the other sites rather than Deer Creek this coming summer. My reason is simply that Deer Creek requires much more funding, and I would prefer to do all of the work there at one time rather than to spend two seasons at the site. I fear for security reasons if we have an interval of inactivity. Do you have any opinions about this?

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Byron Sudbury (REB)

*3215 Kennett Square
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213
January 29, 1974*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
University of Oklahoma
455 W. Lindsey, Room 505
Norman, Oklahoma 73069*

Dear Dr. Bell:

Since you have never seen my Miller Site collection, and since I know of very few dart points from the site, I was wondering if you would be interested in seeing my dart points from the site. Also, I would be interested in your impression of their significance. If you would like to examine them, let me know and I will be more than happy to send them to you.

Due to my school schedule, I will be unable to resume work on my Miller Site report until this summer. Hopefully, I will be able to complete it in the time available then. I will keep you informed as August approaches. There is one thing I am wondering about. That is, when I submit the report to you, would you like to also have access to the specimens covered in the report? If I am aware of this ahead of time, I will be able to make the necessary arrangements.

*Sincerely yours,
Byron Sudbury*

Letter to Byron Sudbury from Robert E. Bell (REB)

February 19, 1974

*Mr. Byron Sudbury
3215 Kennett Square
Pittsburgh, PA 15213*

Dear Byron:

Regarding the Miller site collections, I am not sure that it is necessary that I examine any or all parts of the collection at this time. There may be some specimens which I should look at after I see your report. However, until that date I suggest that we wait and decide at that time.

Regarding the dart points from the site, I suspect that these do not properly belong with the historic occupation.

Some of them may represent scattered early Archaic specimens or simply collected items by the later people. It is really not possible to know for sure without some excavations.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Don G. Wyckoff from Robert E. Bell (REB)

July 15, 1974

*Don G. Wyckoff
NW 1107 Ritchie
Pullman, Wash. 99163*

Dear Don:

Hartley is working at Kaw and I went up last week for the first time. I had talked with him each weekend and knew he was not finding much. He has been testing below the bluff along the river below Bryson. He has also tested three of the small rock overhangs. Thus far he has about 3 broken points. I looked at the places and knew he was wasting his time so arranged for him to start on Bryson, which he expected to do today. I will go up again Thursday. The Corps now owns Bryson so there are no problems.

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Byron Sudbury (REB)

*123 Finley
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15206
July 23, 1974*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
455 West Lindsey, Room 505
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
Dear Dr. Bell:*

I am again writing you regarding my report on the Miller site (Ka-3). As it appears now, I will not be able to submit my report for the 1974 Bulletin. I have run into two major problems on it. First, the lack of availability of references in this part of the country, and the length of time it has required for me to have the needed photographs made (going on twelve months since I left the artifacts to be photographed).

If I can successfully overcome these two obstacles in the near future, I hopefully will be able to submit my final draft to you by January, 1975.

*Sincerely,
Byron Sudbury*

Letter to Martha Blaine from Robert E. Bell (REB)

Mrs. Martha Blaine
Oklahoma Historical Society
Historical Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Martha:

I received your two packages of zerox copies from Thoburn's records quite some time ago. I appreciate having these and my delay in writing in no way reflects my interest. I have been very busy all summer and do not seem to get any time.

This will be helpful but I hope there is some additional material in the way of notes somewhere. Some time when I can make it, I would like to look through whatever other material you might have and get a more complete picture of what all he did. Surely there are some more complete records than these.

Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Mr. Walther from Otto Spring (REB)

1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
July 30, 1974

Dear Mr. Walther:

Well, we arrived home okay last Tuesday and I guess I'm getting caught up so I have a few free minutes. Still having a terrible drought and no end in sight. Our country is not as badly burned as a lot of it we saw up that way, however.

I sure was sorry to see how the old sites of Fernandina have been destroyed. They should have been preserved, and this done at least forty years ago.

They were practically not disturbed when we worked there.

The field (now terraced) had never been cultivated and had been used as a pasture. The low mounds were plainly visible and from one to two feet high. I believe I counted and reported the number but have forgotten how many. I believe the oval they were around was some two to three hundred feet north-south and probably one hundred fifty feet east-west. The enclosure was probably a stomp ground.

The Plains Indians built sod covered, timber framed lodges and when they rotted down made a low mound. Sometimes as many as four or five were built on the original as the later ones rotted down and sometimes this made such a mound as much as five or more feet high.

Digging in these, of course, one finds the old fire pits and debris thrown on the floors or lost on them. Also usually one can find the holes where the supporting posts were set. Occasionally, one is found which fell on the occupants and the skeletons are found.

There is a picture of one of the lodges (those at Fernandina were not quite as complex) on page 101 of the "National Geographic" of July 1944. The ones at Fernandina did not have the covered entrance way, however.

I believe you could locate most of the mounds there in spite of the terracing with your metal indicator as all had ornaments, etc. of copper and most had implements and weapons of iron. There must have been a sort of black-

smith shop at the lower site as the iron tools were fashioned there.

There are many parts of the old flint lock rifles as they broke them up and made ornaments of the brass ornaments and trigger guards and the hammers and other small parts of iron on the rifles. I guess they worked the barrels into axes, etc., as we didn't find any.

The French traded them copper kettles, but they cut them up and made them into beads, etc. These were about the commonest specimens we found excepting, of course, the flint hide scrapers. These were in about every shovel full of earth in the mounds.

Glass beads were quite common, but were not too easy to find even if we (as we did) screened the earth through a 1/4 inch screen.

There was still some bones in the mounds then, but I expect they are mostly gone by now. Mostly buffalo bones broken to get the marrow.

On the burials along the breaks at the hilltops--those we dug in along the edges of some low hills in the bottom east of the river about opposite the upper Fernandina site. And just west of the highway (then) going north we found glass beads different from those in Fernandina and some large ivory beads. This was probably fossil ivory as I believe these burials were later than Fernandina. Didn't get to work on them but a little while.

It is a shame how our prehistoric remains have been destroyed by relic hunters and men not qualified to note and report what they found. One of the worst is the great amount lost in the Spiro mound as it was finally finished under the direction of one who, to say the least, knew nothing about what he was doing and did not know that he did not know.

I have been hoping to get away and go look over the many sites in which I worked in northeastern Oklahoma and parts of Arkansas and Missouri, but can't see how I can make it as I can't get anyone to work, and I just can't get caught up with it myself.

I hope you can find time to get over here. We have a little stuff of interest in our locality.

Otto Spring

* * * * *

Letter to Mike Becker from Ronald C. Corbyn (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Archaeological Survey
1335 South Asp Avenue
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
July 31, 1974*

*Mike Becker, Chief
Division of National Register Properties
National Park Service
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501*

Dear Mike:

I called yesterday and left word that the Deer Creek site map had been completed (with the archeological boundary) and that a copy would be sent to your office very soon. The map is the culmination of considerable communication with numerous parties (much of it unnecessary, in retrospect) about photogrammetry and its application in this case. Based on information gathered thus far I would volunteer that a logical Landmark boundary would be the county road on the west, Deer Creek on the north, Arkansas River on the east, and the intermittent stream (shown on the U.S.G.S. map) on the south. However, there are a few possible house-trash mounds showing up on the north side of Deer Creek that should be investigated fully prior to any development. If these areas turn out to be important to the story of the Deer Creek site, then the county road may be the best boundary on the north. Otherwise, as long as enough

time were allowed to test or excavate these areas beforehand, then Deer Creek would be the logical boundary.

The use of photogrammetry on such sites as Deer Creek has interesting ramifications. The setting of an archeological boundary was facilitated considerably by the 3-dimensional broad perspective on archeological features (using color stereo photos) and this perspective served as an important cross-check with ground level observations. In addition, with sites planned for excavation and/or development, this perspective represents an invaluable aid to planning.

Oklahoma (and probably other states) already has extensive black and white stereo photo coverage (by A.S.C.S.), which could be relied upon considerably for setting archeological boundaries. However, the nature of the Deer Creek site with its size (approximately 35 acres) and surface irregularities demanded stereo coverage at the lowest possible altitude for optimum topographic and archeological interpretation.

All of this is to say that I am very pleased with the project's results and that I am sold on archeological photogrammetry for use on more significant sites such as this one. If there is anything further that could be done to assist you on this, please get in touch. I hope to see you again soon.

*Sincerely,
Ronald C. Corbyn
Acting State Archeologist*

Letter to Martha Blaine from Robert E. Bell (REB)

September 12, 1974

*Martha Blaine
Oklahoma Historical Society
Historical Building
Oklahoma City, OK 73105*

Dear Martha:

During July and early August we did carry out some minor excavations on the Bryson site which is just north of Deer Creek. This is also the site which Thoburn excavated back in 1926. There are still some areas of the site remaining that are relatively unsearched and we did find a lot of scrapers plus some contact trade material. We will be getting it washed up before long and hopefully for a report within the next year. We do need to spend considerable time, however, on the Bryson property as the site itself is a very large one.

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Byron Sudbury (REB)

*123 Finley
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206
October 6, 1974*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
455 W. Lindsey, Rm. 505
Norman, Oklahoma 73069*

Dear Dr. Bell:

I was in Oklahoma briefly this summer (August) while on vacation, and attempted to stop by and see you.

Unfortunately, I just missed you, and I was unable to have another chance to get by to see you. There were several things I wanted to discuss with you at that time. As the passage of a month hasn't resolved the questions in my mind, I will submit them to you.

First, I wish to say that I have made noticeable progress on my Miller site report. While in OKC, I stopped by the OHSociety in hopes of examining some of the Thoburn documents regarding the Miller site and the Bryson site. I was allowed to see a portion of the materials, but was not permitted to copy any of them for reference materials. I was primarily working with Dr. MH Wright, and I met a Mrs. Blaine in the course of our discussion. I expressed my desire to contribute what I knew about the sites to archeology via the OAS bulletin in a report. However, I was given the unfortunate impression that Thoburn's work at the sites entitled the OHS to all information about it, and that it was essentially the private property of the employees of the OHS and not an important historical site to be known about, appreciated and shared by all. Anyway, I was given a rather bad impression of the OHS. I did mention that you were aware of my interest in the site, and that seemed to come as a surprise to them that anyone else was permitted to have an interest in the site. Regardless of that situation, I have made progress on my report. I have even taken leave of absence from Med school, and a part time job in order that I might spend more time on it.

I do have several questions which I wish to ask you. First, in the Chronicles of Oklahoma, Summer, 1963, on page 146 in the article by McRill, Thoburn is quoted as having known of a historic site two miles south of Miller on the east side of the river. I know nothing of this site. Are you aware of it? If so, could I please have the site name, number, and some information about the types of materials recovered from it as well as your opinion of its relationship to the Miller site?

Also, I have several items about the Miller site's status. First, I was wondering if you were going to be able to excavate there this fall? Also, I was wondering where the National Historic Landmark certificate is housed, and if it is at OU, could I have a xerox copy of it? Also, I write the National Park Service about the possibility of my obtaining a copy of the report submitted about the site in its consideration for the designation as a National Historic Landmark. I have yet to receive a reply, and I would like to have access to the information in that report. Very little has been written about the Miller Site, and I would like to have as much of the available materials to work with as possible.

Finally, I have several questions about the Miller site history as told by the maps. Maps such as the one in the Guebert site report (Good, 1972: 128) are usually interpreted as meaning the Bryson and Miller sites were located as Good indicates. Do you feel like this is an accurate location? I do accept that the two villages there are on the wrong side of the river. The two different tribes located just down the river seem to fit better; they also are at a more correct latitude although the early 18th century maps of the region usually are not at the correct latitude. Anyway, your opinion on this would be appreciated.

Also, if I am correct, the Pani are the Pawnee, and the Paniassa are the Wichita. I also feel that the spellings of Panianassas, Paniassa, and les Paniassa also refer to the same group. Is this correct? What of the Ouatchitas then--I assume that they are the Washita and not Wichita [there is a shortage of useful reference books here in Penna., or perhaps they don't exist at all; I can't find some things I need up here though .]. Also, have you run across the Caniaceous tribe before? Who were they?

My final question is about the enclosed photograph of an 1795 Arrowsmith map. To me, the Paniassas location looks excellent; what I am asking about is what is the White River? Very few of the maps have the minor tributaries labeled, but I have found two that have the White River in this location, and I can't place it. If you have an opinion or could make suggestions about this I would appreciate it.

Any other comments you care to make would also be appreciated. Your comments on the above items which I have detailed will be very valuable to me. There are times when I feel stumped, and there is no one here with whom I can consult about the matter. Thus, I have selected the most important and perplexing and presented them to you.

What I was trying to say on the maps above is if you look at Goods' map (128) on its own merits, it looks like the wrong location, but if you look at a little more accurate (later) map that still emphasizes what appears to be the major tributaries, it looks correct. The only thing different is essentially the placement of the latitudes.

I just reread my letter, and it is not as well organized and precise as I wanted it to be. However, I have put off writing it for 6 weeks, and I am anxious to get it out as soon as possible. So, instead of mulling over it for two weeks, I

will go ahead and send it.

Thank you very much for your help and patience. Both are much appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Byron Sudbury*

Letter to Byron Sudbury from Otto Spring (REB)

*1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
Oct. 7, 1974*

*Byron Sudbury
Pittsburg, Pa.*

Dear Mr. Sudbury:

Your letter of the 4th at hand. I'm glad to hear from anyone really interested in our past but few really are. I done more real work in our state than anyone else until I was forced for lack of funds to stop nearly fifty years ago.

I had charge of a party about a year for the Okla. Historical Society before we done the work at old Fernandina. We were there about four months. We did most of it at the Engelking site (now called Bryson) as the owner of the Deer Creek site would not let us work there. This site is on a hilltop above the river on the west side. It was pasture land and had not been disturbed. It consisted of an oval of twenty domiciliary mounds around a level space about a block long north and south. It was some 200 feet south of the Engelking house. I enclose an old photo of a storm showing the house from the fence corner along the road running between it and the Bryson house.

I took a day off a month or so ago and went up there. I was shocked. The field is now terraced and all trace of the mounds gone. The old Engelking house and outbuildings are gone and even the lane up to there place gone. The old fence corner is still there.

We excavated several of the mounds and found many thousands of artifacts. The most plentiful so common we only kept part of them were the flint scrapers used to press the buffalo hides. Also quite a number of glass beads traded to the Indians. We found a few arrowheads. Buffalo were driven over a cliff just south of the village to cripple them as mentioned in the old French reports. Evidently the gun barrels were made into very ingenious iron tomahawks with the blade curved so it would not stick in the buffalo skull. Evidently there was a rough blacksmith shop either there or at the lower site. We also found a number of steel blades set in bone handles evidently used in splitting the hides. The gun and ornaments and the hammer parts were used as ornaments. We found a lot of the gun flints. The French traded them copper kettles which they cut up and made into beads, etc. These were quite numerous.

There was a fellow from Winfield, Kansas brought an old Loyds map of about 1830 showing Fernandina as the only town in what is now Oklahoma. I took a picture of it and recently sent the negative to the Indian Museum at Ponca City. They may have enlargements of it by now.

After leaving there I put --- --- as a research chemist and had no time for archaeology. Recently I came across the edition of 1947 of the Chronicles of Okla. (21 years late) containing the account of our work at Fernandina. If you read it (copies should be available in any museum) it gives a good account. I sent my copy to the Indian Museum at Ponca City.

Previous to going to Fernandina we explored the old flint mines near Hardy where they got their flint. The Chronicles of Okla. gives my report on this in there Spring 1966 edition. Forty years late.

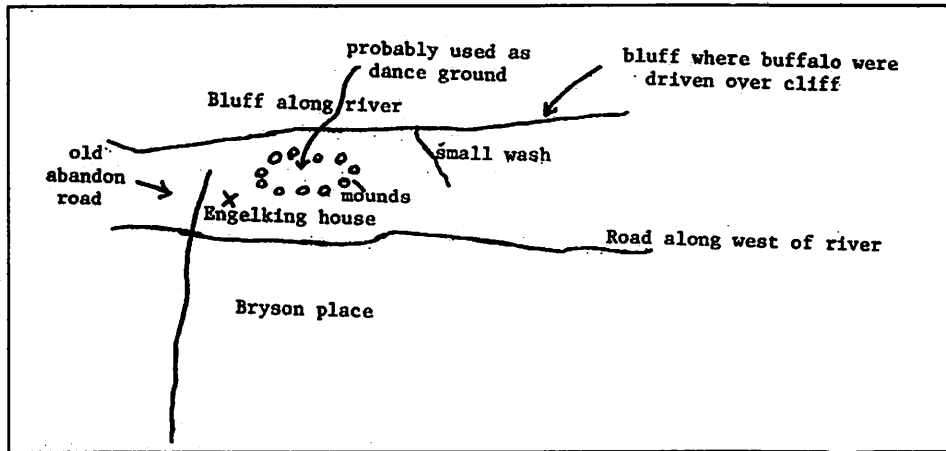
On my place here there was a village at the same time as Fernandina. When I started working my ground I found the same artifacts at Fernandina.

Below I sketch from memory the --- --- site.

Truly yours,
Otto Spring

I hope you can read this my typewriter went haywire.

Across the river some low hills with burials along ledge but specimens seem to be more recent date. Ivory beads and glass beads.



I don't believe Thoburn did any excavation in the Miller site in 1917. I was in about continuous correspondence with him then and we sponsored a trip to Big Mouth cave near Grove, Delaware County, in 1917. I was with him there most of the time even if "Elmer Fraker" in his report on this trip did not mention me. He was the only one of the party we had to apologize for with the people of Grove.

Otto Spring

Letter to Byron Sudbury from Robert E. Bell (REB)

The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, OK 73069
October 21, 1974

Mr. Byron Sudbury
123 Finley
Pittsburgh,, Penna 15206

Dear Byron:

I have received your letter of October 6th and will attempt to reply to your questions below.

Regarding another historic site 2 miles south of the Miller place on the east side of the river - we have nothing recorded for this locality and I know of nothing. I think we would have located it, if such a site existed.

I do not know how soon we will be excavating at Deer Creek. It is chiefly a matter of funding and this appears uncertain at this date. Possibly we will work during the coming summer, I don't know as it all depends upon when funds become available. When they are available, we will start work.

I do not know where the Historic Landmark certificate is located. Suppose the Park Service would have a copy. Try them.

I place little faith in the early maps as locations are almost impossible to establish with any degree of certainty. The scales are so small that accuracy is not possible; also many of the map makers were not too careful and had no

real knowledge of the areas concerned.

The term Panianassas is probably the Wichita proper. I am enclosing a copy of synonyms for the various Wichita tribes so you can see some of the problems in identifying specific groups.

*Don't know the White River except for the one in Arkansas. It seems too far east.
Best of luck in your work.*

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

* * * * *

Letter to Ponca City Museum from Otto Spring (PCM)

*1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
Oct. 28, 1974*

*Ponca City, Museum
Ponca City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mrs. Castor -

I was going through a box of old records (and I have a large amount of them) I came upon some old Chronicles of Okla. that I guess I received when I didn't have time to read. One happened to fall open showing a picture of Joseph B. Thoburn so I read it.

It is the winter 1946-47 edition. If you don't have it will loan you this one.

On reading it & notes I find why you have so few of the abundance of specimens we collected on the old Fernandina site. I could hardly believe that the museum there had so few. Probably less than we collected in one day and we worked there about four months.

I don't know who was responsible for the Marland Museum receiving so few as Mr. Marland financed the work. I don't know whether anything can be done to get more of the specimens at this late date but maybe it can be done. I expect as with the great quantity of specimens I sent in during the year before we dug at Fernandina someone managed to sell a lot of them but it would be hard to prove.

Be sure & read the "Chronicles of Okla" above mentioned.

Otto Spring

I have a few specimens mostly collected here of the same type as those at Fernandina as this was also a trading place or village of indians that traded with the French at the same time as Fernandina.

* * * * *

Letter to Ponca City Museum from Otto Spring (PCM)

*1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
Nov. 7, 1974*

*Ponca City Museum
Ponca City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mrs. Castor -

Yours of the 4th at hand.

Today I received a letter from Byron Sudbury 123 Finley Pittsburg Pa. 15206 formerly of Ponca City. He is interested in old Fernandina & said he had hunted for specimens on the old sites. I told him of you but probably you have met him. You may hear from him.

I'm sure many of the metal artifacts can easily be found with a metal detector. I believe some interesting finds can be found with the detector along the cliff south from the old village. It starts shortly after the small wash flows into the river valley and continues maybe a half mile. It seems to be the cliffs over which the old French reports state the indians drove the buffalo to cripple them.

I have several items either from Fernandina or from my place here which was a village at the same time. Also several beads from one of the graves along one of the small hills near the river across from Fernandina. I believe however they are of later date than Fernandina. We only dug in one a few minutes going over to Newkirk from where we were investigating their old flint mines near Hardy. Never found time to go back but I'm sure one could find a lot of glass beads & ivory (fossil) ornaments.

I should have all the "Chronicles of Okla." from 1927 when I was made an Honorary life member but probably didn't find time to read them. Will see that they are not thrown out if I can.

You should investigate what became of Corb Sarchet's records. He was head of the Ponca Chamber of Commerce then and wrote many articles in a lot of papers about our work there and elsewhere. I believe you will find in his articles who it was that had the old Loyds map showing Fernandina that I sent you a picture and the negative of. It sure would be interesting to get it.

Have been very busy. Crazy weather has made it difficult to get anything done & no one wants to work so have it all to do myself.

Will be glad to visit with Mr. Walther. I'm sure he will enjoy looking over the Museum here in the old Creek Council House.

*Very truly yours,
Otto Spring*

Letter to Byron Sudbury from Otto Spring (REB)

*1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
Nov. 15, 1974*

*Byron Sudbury
Pittsburg, Pa.*

*Dear Mr. Sudbury:
Yours of the 11th at hand.*

I am pretty sure the drawing you sent is either farther north or south of the location we worked.

The second section line N. of Newkirk's City limits goes directly to just west of the river to the road rambling north and south west of the river. Where it meets, this road is just west of the old Engelking house site and the corner post is still there. I took the picture from a few feet south of this post. The old Bryson house site is roughly 1/4 mile S.W. of this corner post. There was a site with a lot of large limestone blocks just west of the old Bryson barn that I wanted to investigate but didn't have the time. It may be the remains of an old french fort.

The site of the mounds has now been terraced so it would not be possible to locate the mounds accurately. They were only some two feet high. With a magnetic metal locator one should be able to fairly well locate them as there would be more metal artifacts where the mounds were then elsewhere.

I do not know what became of all the reports I wrote on the work there but like a lot of other things they have been put away or lost. Of course forty eight years later I can't remember a lot of it.

I would say we probably excavated six or eight of the mounds. We did not excavate on the level oval and I am sure there would be few if any artifacts there. It seemed to have been an old dance ground.

There were outlying mounds in most any direction from this main place. We did not excavate any of them. Since the natives built their turf covered - - - - - framed homes for many thousands of years probably many are much older than Ferdinandina. These mounds can be found in uncounted numbers all over the western plains just about any place. Of course one finds the post holes.

We found no burials except those along the slopes (edges) of the cliffs and the one we worked in a short time was of later date (evidently) than Ferdinandina.

The prehistorics did not carry out their trash but let it accumulate mostly on the lodge floor which accounts for most of the archaeologic specimens found.

They built their fires usually near the middle of their lodges and of course we found their remains as ashes and charred bits. We didn't find charred corn or corn cobs but they of course raised the small eared original corn usually six rows of small kernels such as we find in the dry caves and basket maker caves.

We found no coins or medallions. Most of the copper specimens are the fragments of copper kettles the French traded to them and they fashioned into ornaments. Also copper gun ornaments made into beads.

The grave sites east of the river are between the old highway N-S east of the river. They were along the edge of the hilltops a common place for burials (easy digging). The one we dug a little while in is a low hill between the old highway and the river. We found several glass beads and several of the long ivory beads manufactured probably from fossil ivory. I still have them-and intend giving them to the Marland Museum. The beads were not like those we found at Ferdinandina.

Will be glad to help in any way I can. Maybe if sometime you are back there I could go over there with you. The flint mines near Hardy from which they obtained their flint are interesting.

Otto Spring

Letter to Byron Sudbury from Otto Spring (REB)

*1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
Nov. 25, 1974*

*Byron Sudbury
Pittsburg, Pa.*

Dear Mr. Sudbury:

Yours of the 21st at hand.

You sent the old sketch that was with your last letter.

I might be wrong about the 2nd west road and it was the 3rd. The road meets the N-S road along the west of river at right angles with the old Bryson home just south west of the corner with a cultivated field between the N-S road and the Bryson home and lane leading to it.

The old Engelking house was east of the corner and there is an old lane leading to the bluffs of the river and

just north of the old Engelking home there are some remnants of the old home. This old land is only discernable and only a few hundred feet east from the corner to the bluff along the west side of the river.

All of the field where the old village was is terraced destroying the old mounds.

The burial I spoke of is on the east side of the river and just west of the N-S road east of the river. It was along the west side of a low hill just east of the river bottom and about across the river from the north Fernandina site. I have one ivory bead about 3/4 complete and three smaller fragments and one tubular (small) glass beads and two small globular shaped glass beads black. I'm pretty sure these are of later date than Fernandina. I intend giving them to the Ponca City museum. It would be easy to find more of these as we only dug a small bit when the found the grave one day as we drove to Ponca City from Hardy. There are others along the tops of the bluffs along the river but we didn't find time to investigate them. These hilltop graves (easy to bury those they wanted to bury) are quite common and some are quite ancient.

It is quite likely that there were more villages in that locality as elsewhere. My place in Okmulgee was one of them. It had not been cultivated and when I started cultivating it I found identical artifacts to those I had found at Fernandina. I have several of these.

It's a shame that more real work has not been done on the archaeology of our country. I do not believe any real work has been done since Thoburn and I quit.

Otto Spring

Report submitted to Larry Banks from Robert E. Bell (REB)

March 21, 1975

*Mr. Larry Banks
Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 61
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102*

Dear Larry:

I am sending, under separate cover, the information that you wanted for the various reservoirs.

*Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Kaw Reservoir

The fieldwork at Kaw Reservoir has been planned according to phases, with certain amounts of work scheduled for each phase. At the present time, Phase 4 fieldwork has been completed, thus leaving Phase 5 for the 1975 (and later) seasons.

Work remaining to be completed includes the following:

1. Reexamination and evaluation with possible testing at the following sites:

Ka-58 Ka-63 Ka-89

2. Sites which are to be tested for additional data and evaluation:

*Ka-11 Ka-57 Ka-76 Ka-121
Ka-37 Ka-64 Ka-83
Ka-42 Ka-65 Ka-87
Ka-56 Ka-75 Ka-90*

3. Sites to be subjected to minor or major excavation:

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Ka-2 | Ka-21 |
| Ka-3 (Deer Creek site) | Ka-88 |
| Ka-5 Bryson-Paddock site, tested in 1974 | Ka-91 Excavations in 1974 |
| Ka-20 | Ka-92 Excavations in 1974 |

Budgetary Data:

Budget estimates submitted to the National Park Service in 1971 were as follows:

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| Phase 2 | \$ 52,080. |
| Phase 3 | 100,430. |
| Phase 4 | 414,364. |
| Phase 5 | 4,500. plus |

Total \$571,374.

Funding provided from the National Park Service, including 1975, is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Phase 1 (1967) | \$ 7,500. |
| Phase 2 (1972) | 20,000. |
| Phase 3 (1973) | 40,000. |
| Phase 4 (1974) | 15,000. |
| Phase 5 (1975) | 45,000. |

Total \$127,500.

The budget request to the National Park Service in 1974 amounted to \$400,000.

1975 requirements \$400,000.

Approximately 22% of the total work has been completed.

Fieldtrip notes, Robert E. Bell

Fieldtrip to Kaw Reservoir - April 19, 1975

Ka-5 (Bryson site)

Walked in to Bryson and discovered that Mr. Paddock has about finished a house on his land. It appears to be situated along the southeastern or eastern edge of the site, however. A small trash mound appears to be present immediately behind the house but he did not bother it. Even though some dirt moving has taken place to build the house we found nothing in the cleared areas.

Mr. Paddock was at the house so we met him and talked about the summer's work. He agreed and is expecting us to be working in the area to the northwest from his house. He is very cooperative and appears somewhat interested. He has cut an access road from the section line east to his house so it will be easier to drive to the dig. We examined parts of this roadway but could see nothing in the way of debris. The field area is planted in wheat as last year. Paddock plans to use the house for a retreat from Oklahoma City and will be there from time to time. The gate will be locked and he will send us a key.

Robert E. Bell

Letter to Calvin R. Cummings from Robert E. Bell (REB)

April 22, 1975

Mr. Calvin R. Cummings
 United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service
 Southwest Region
 P.O.Box 728
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Cal:

John Hartley and I visited the Kaw Reservoir on April 19. We plan to carry out fieldwork at the Bryson site, Ka-5, and the Love site, Ka-2. As you know, the Bryson site was purchased by a man in Oklahoma City, Mr. Paddock. He gave us permission to work last summer and we tested one of the small trash mounds. At the time of our visit last week we were astonished to see that Mr. Paddock has built a house on the site. He plans to use it as a retreat when business affairs get difficult. A small trash mound is immediately adjacent to the house and other parts of the site are within a stone's throw of the front door. He was working at the time of our visit, however, and has granted permission to conduct excavations during the coming summer. We are very fortunate to be able to continue the work under the circumstances. I do not know if additional housing is planned but this is apparently about the last opportunity to do work at this site. We also visited the Love site to find that it is planted in wheat. The Corps of Engineers owns the eastern edge of the site but the best portion is across the property line on the Love land. We will contact him regarding excavation work after the wheat has been cut. I have not met Mr. Love, so do not know of his reaction to our pending fieldwork.

Cordially yours,
 Robert E. Bell

Letter to Don C. Wyckoff from Robert E. Bell (REB)
 April 30, 1975

Don G. Wyckoff
 NW 1107 Ritchie
 Pullman, Wash. 99163

Dear Don & Ruth:

I have funds from NPS this summer for work at Kaw. We are trying to complete work at Bryson and the Love site. There are some other odds and ends left, not counting Deer Creek, that I hope the Corps will pay for, but we have nothing final as yet. Banks would like to give Deer Creek to the Survey, if we could take it, and this sounds O.K. if I could get some commitment from the administration for operating. Have not examined this as yet. Larry said they could build a small building for a museum and labs, put a fence around the place, and we could operate it also as a fieldschool base.

I plan to work very closely with Hartley at Bryson during June. We will work Bryson for about 5 weeks and then shift to Love, I hope. Love, however, is planted in wheat and this may cause some problems. By the way, the Bryson place or the main site section, has been bought by a Mr. Paddock of Oklahoma City. When we visited the site about 2 weeks ago - Paddock has built a residence almost on the site location. He is agreeable for our work, however, so we will be working in his yard - so to speak.

Cordially,
 Robert E. Bell

Letter to Roy Reaves from Robert E. Bell (REB)

July 14, 1975

Mr. Roy Reaves
Interagency Archaeological Services Division
National Park Service
P.O.Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Mr. Reaves:

In response to our telephone conversation I am writing with regard to our current contract for work at Kaw Reservoir in northern Oklahoma (CX700040188).

This contract mentions fieldwork at 2 sites, Ka-5 and Ka-2, but initial work was to start, at Ka-5, and after sufficient village data were available, we were to shift to Ka-2. We have now completed 6 weeks of work at Ka-5 and at this date we are just beginning to obtain information upon the house patterns. We have materials from the middens, have found some cache or refuse pits, and located a house just 3 days ago. It is clear that work should be continued at Ka-5 in order to obtain a satisfactory sample from the site. Hence, I would like to request that we continue working at Ka-5, and that we eliminate Ka-2 from the contract requirements.

As additional funds become available, we can then conduct test work at Ka-2. As of last Sunday (July 13, 1965) Ka-2 was still in crops and fieldwork would not be possible at this time.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Larry Banks from Robert E. Bell (REB)

July 31, 1975

Mr. Larry Banks
Corps of Engineers
P.O.Box 61
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102

Dear Larry:

I am writing regarding the security at the Deer Creek site in the Kaw reservoir area. The excavations for the boat ramp has been cut at the mouth of Deer Creek. As a result access to the site from the north is easy and I am fearful that this will create extensive vandalism and damage to the archaeological site.

In view of this situation, I recommend that the archaeological area be fenced as soon as possible. Otherwise the site will likely be damaged as a result of development which will attract people to the locality. Since the site occupation is shallow, any disturbances to the soils will be detrimental and destructive to the resources. I would greatly appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Roy Reaves from Robert E. Bell (REB)

Mr. Roy Reaves
Interagency Archaeological Services Division
National Park Service
P.O.Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 81225

Dear Mr. Reaves:

We seem to have difficulty in talking to each other over the telephone so I am writing to let you know what I have done regarding Kaw reservoir, and also to ask you some questions.

I have prepared a proposal for work at Kaw to the amount of \$40,000. and it is being processed by the Office of Grants and Contracts at this time. Copies of this contract will be mailed out for your examination this week. I would greatly appreciate your prompt attention in handling this project as we would like to get started in the field on Sept. 1, 1975.

We completed the 9 weeks work at the Bryson-Paddock site in Kaw reservoir. The summer was very fruitful with a lot of cultural material plus two house areas and some cache pits to provide village data. The next contract should clear the remaining work at Kaw except for Deer Creek, and I am anxious to get these smaller tasks finished.

We can put a crew into the field as of Sept. 1, 1975 to work at Kaw. We can probably put crews out in the spring and certainly could next summer, but by next summer there will probably be other work to do.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Mary Elizabeth Good from Robert E. Bell (REB)

Sept. 16, 1975

Mary Elizabeth Good
208 Montclair
Tulsa, OK 74104

Dear Mary Elizabeth:

We obtained a fair sample of beads from Bryson-Paddock last summer. There are not a great variety and I guess that we have perhaps 75 to 100 beads from the excavations. We also obtained considerable trade material - knife blades, tinklers, gun parts, an axe blade, etc. Some glass fragments, copper wire, and other odds and ends. It is currently being washed and catalogued at the North Campus lab. No white ceramics at all. All of this should be a prelude to what we will find at Deer Creek.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Mary Elizabeth Good from Robert E. Bell (REB)

Sept. 24, 1975

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Good
208 Montclair

Tulsa, Okla. 74104

Dear Mary Elizabeth:

Regarding Bryson-Paddock - as far as I know the metal knives from the site are French. In fact about anything that can be identified appears to be French. Gun flints, however, appear to be local material. The glass fragments appear to be from small flat mirrors. We also found one small point chipped from a piece of this glass; it is almost bipointed or long leaf-shaped in form. This is odd as the flint points are typically Fresno types, simple triangular forms.

I do not know when we will be working at Deer Creek. The funds will come from the Corps of Engineers and they have nothing this fiscal year, perhaps next year, I don't know.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Otto Spring (REB)

1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
October 13(?), 1975

Robert E. Bell
Norman, Okla.

Dear Mr. Bell

I note your article in the fall 1975 Chronicles of Okla.

I guess I was the one who started the interest in Archaeology of our state during this century. The U.S. did a lot of work in the group of mounds north of Muskogee about 1872 and their report is a monograph in the Geologic library there.

I located a number of sites in Northeast Okla. and about 1914 I wrote Mr. Thoburn at O.U. He came to Grove and I showed him several of them. In 1915 he brought four students there and we dug in Big Mouth cave SW of Grove. The Okla. Geologic Survey sent me with a party in 1920 and we dug in a large rock shelter and two smaller ones in Woodward Hollow SW of Grove. I expect that two of these are now under Grand lake.

In 1923 our Archaeologic was passed on the Institutional bill for us to work continuously for the Okla. Historical Society and the Okla. Geologic Survey. Walton vetoed both on the basis that neither one had supported him for election. This was one of the reasons he was later impeached as the law was that he must veto or pass the bills in their entirety.

In 1925 I was in charge of the work in Big Mouth cave and the Reed mound in Grand river bottoms northwest of Grove for the Okla. Historical Soc. We obtained a very large quantity of specimens from both sites. That fall part of the party spent the winter 1925-26 with me in two caves in the Boston mts. of Arkansas and we made some very important finds. Men occupied these caves both during the next to last and the last glacier periods which of course makes them the oldest men so far found on Earth. The men during the next to last glacier period had but fourteen teeth per jaw and receding face lines. I showed some of them to Dr. Decker and he pronounced them another species of men.

During the summer of 1926 I had charge of the work at old Fernandina northeast of Newkirk for the Marland museum.

When I went out in the spring of 1925 I was supposed to be paid by the Okla. Historical Society and the expenses were to be paid by them. They asked me to pay the expenses and they would repay me. I think I received two or three checks and only two or three expense checks. Marland of course paid for the time in Fernandina.

I was forced to get another job as I still owed a lot of the expense costs and had paid practically all the wages I had received on them. I had lost everything including a nice set of household furniture. . .I finally paid all the expenses after I got another job totalling about 1740.00 besides my time.

I of course had no trouble finding employment and soon was very high in chemical research. Later I spent some time with Thoburn in the basket maker caves near Kenton. Later I was going to do some more work for the museum here but world war 2 put a stop to it. We were going to excavate the Spiro mound.

I can only feel bad about the great number of specimens I have turned in. Someone must have made a fortune selling them as very few were put out in the museum. I do not think anyone is qualified now to properly ascertain the age of those who formerly lived here. They even give the age of the moundbuilder as only a few hundred years ago. I wonder how many years it has been since the mammoth was made extinct. The moundbuilder was certainly here with them. The excavation of the Spiro mound was about the worst in history. I was there several times and the reports to say the least were absurd.

When the Dept. of Anthropology started at O.U. Dr. Brooks asked me to come and see them about me taking charge but I could not consider it because of the salary.

Very Truly Yours,
Otto Spring

Letter to Otto Spring from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Okla. 73069
October 14, 1975*

*Mr. Otto Spring
1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Okla. 74447*

Dear Mr. Spring:

Your letter arrived this morning. Glad to hear about your early work with Thoburn.

I am very much interested in the sites east of Newkirk. In fact, we did some work on the old Bryson place this past summer. I have been trying to find records and fieldnotes from the earlier work by yourself and Thoburn. Do you know if fieldnotes on this work exist? I have been unable to find anything at the Historical Society although they may still be there buried in some files.

Also I would like to have your reply on the following questions if it is not inconvenient for you:

- 1. Did you actually do any digging on the Miller farm or was your work limited to Bryson and Ingleking farms?*
- 2. Did you do any work on the Love farm - to the north of Bryson?*
- 3. You mention Fernandina - this is presumably one site. Which site do you think of as Fernandina?*
- 4. I see no evidence at present that a French fort or post ever existed at any of the sites. What evidence did you find for the existence of a French fort?*
- 5. Do you know if Thoburn or yourself kept any detailed records as to where you dug and what you found at each of these localities?*

All indications at this time indicate that the Bryson site is that of an Indian village which was trading with the

French coming up the Arkansas River from New Orleans. The main occupation appears to fall around 1725 to 1750.

Let me hear from you at anytime.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Otto Spring (REB)

*Otto Spring
1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
Oct. 15, 1975*

*Robert Bell O.U.
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma 73069*

Dear Mr. Bell

Yours of the 14th at hand. I turned in regular reports on our work to the Okla. Historical Soc. but I suppose they (as well as everything else) have been thrown out or lost (or sold). The report on Fernandina was in one of the Chronicles in the forties I believe.

The report on the Hardy flint mines is in the Spring 1966 issue.

Last fall I visited the Marland museum and could not believe they had only a few of the specimens from Fernandina. I went through the old Chronicles and in one about 1950 I found long lists that had been donated by Mr. Thoburn to the Chilocca Indian school. I sent this copy to the Marland museum to be returned at my request.

After Fernandina I was employed as a Research Chemist here and soon moved into my present home. It was on the old Meyers ranch pastureland and had never been cultivated. I soon began finding artifacts identical with those found at Fernandina. Nearby was the remains of an old stone structure, large hewn oblong blocks of sandstone. Nearby a domiciliary mound had a rough pavement of stones around it. I haven't been able to get anyone to investigate and I'm afraid it will all be lost. It must be the remains of one of the French forts up the Canadian I saw mentioned in recent articles.

Answering your Questions.

1-We worked mostly on the Engelking Bryson site. I suppose the Miller site is the one a couple of miles south which they wouldn't let us work on but a little.

2-I examined the north site but didn't work on it.

3-I think of the several sites as Fernandina. I suppose the blacksmith shop in which they fashioned gunbarrells into the iron tomahawks were there as we found no trace of it in where we worked.

4-There is a rough quarry between the two sites where someone cut out a lot of blocks.

5-I sent Mr. Thoburn detailed records of all our work but I guess they have been lost. I turned a lot of my copies over to OU with a lot of other stuff but I expect it was lost.(?)

The original records found from the old French trading companies from which we located Fernandina indicate it was established about 1710 and lasting about a hundred years. A fellow then living at Winfield Kan. brought down a Loyds map dated 1830 showing Fernandina the only town west of Fort Smith. I photographed it but recently gave the print and

negative to the Marland museum.

We worked a little on some burials across the river from Fernandina but they seem to date about the middle of last century. Most had long ivory beads and small glass beads.

*Very Truly Yours
Otto Spring*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from T. M. Hamilton (REB)

*1412 San Pablo
Lake San Marcos
California
January 27, 1976*

*Dr. Robert Bell
Dept. of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman.*

Dear Bob

I noticed some time ago that you had applied for a grant to excavate some of the historic sites near Deer Creek on the Arkansas, and I am wondering if you have some gun material I should know about. A study of the Tunica guns has been completed for Peabody, one on the Rhodes site for the Illinois State Museum and another for the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Money for publication of the last has been appropriated and they promise to have it out within a year.

As a result of the preliminary report published by Tong while still with the Museum of the Great Plains, much information has been accumulated and I am to start on a book, tentatively entitled "Guns on the Colonial Frontier" to be published by Shumway as soon as I get home. We will be leaving here probably February 16.

Do you have anything which I should know about, or have you any material which I might identify for you?

*Sincerely,
T M Hamilton*

Letter to T. M. Hamilton from Robert E. Bell (REB)

January 30, 1976

*Mr. T. M. Hamilton
c/o James R. Bailey
1412 San Pablo
Lake San Marcos, Calif. 92069*

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

We did some work at the Bryson site which is about a mile north of the Deer Creek site during the last two summers. We do have some gun parts from the dig and would be happy to have you look them over anytime.

We also have some material from Deer Creek that I doubt if you have looked at before. It was pothunted by an Oklahoma City man but he finally gave it to us for the museum. Mostly large axes or hoes, but some gun barrel sections.

Also, while I think of it, I loaned you some gun barrels the last time you were here so you could cut them and make measurements. If you are finished with them, I would like to have them returned.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from T. M. Hamilton (REB)

*Miami, Missouri 65344
March 25, 1976*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
University of Oklahoma
Dear Doctor:*

The three gun barrel fragments loaned me several years ago are being returned under separate cover. They will be insured. If you do not receive them within a reasonable length of time, please let me know so I can have the shipment followed.

The muzzle section from the M. Williams site has a bore diameter of .585 inches and you will note that the bore is slightly off center.

Catalogue #V450 has a bore diameter of .565 inches and measures 1 3/16" in front of the vent where it is no longer deformed from battering at the breech. It probably measured 1 1/4" at the breech originally.

The unnumbered fragment has a bore diameter of .590 inches and 1 3/8" across the flats at the breech.

The first and third of the above come well within the observed tolerances for the "calibre 28" French fusil de chasse as well as one of their two main trade gun bores.

The second comes within the tolerances for the "calibre 32", which was also a standard fusil de chasse and the other standard trade-gun bore.

Since the breeches measure well over 1 inch across the flats, I think there is no question that these are all from French guns. I have never seen a known English trade-gun which measured more than 1" across the flats, nor have I established the fact that the English made a gun in the .57" bore. Of course, these could have come from better grade English guns, but I think that a remote possibility.

Thanks for the loan of the fragments. Sorry I kept them so long.

*Sincerely,
T. M. Hamilton*

Letter to T. M. Hamilton from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, OK 73069
April 5, 1976*

*Ted M. Hamilton
Miami, MO 65344*

Dear Ted:

I have received your letter of March 25 and am pleased to hear from you. The three gun barrel fragments have also arrived, and they are at the north campus lab.

I appreciate having this information regarding the bore diameter. We have not done anything with the other barrels that you looked at although may want to examine them at a later date.

We all enjoyed your visit and opportunity to talk with us about trade guns. If you are in this area at any time, by all means stop by for another visit.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Gordon Atkinson from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
May 13, 1976*

*Dean Gordon Atkinson
Graduate College
Faculty Exchange*

Dear Dean Atkinson:

I wanted to submit to you a brief report on an aerial survey for remote sensing of archaeological features near Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Tom Love (pilot) and I, along with Chris Lintz (graduate student) made the flight on Sunday, April 25, 1976. We utilized 3 different films: Kodak color film for contact prints, Kodak color film for color slides, and Kodak infrared film (color) for slides. The films have been processed and I have had time to examine them briefly.

Two known protohistoric sites were photographed, the Bryson-Paddock site and the Deer Creek site. Both of these sites are attributed to the Wichita Indians for the period between A.D. 1700 and 1750. The Deer Creek site has a circular earthworks (ditch), low midden mounds, and other possible features. The Bryson-Paddock site is reported to have had a circular arrangement of small mounds.

Although no final assessment of the results can be made at this time, identified features show up clearly on both color and infrared pictures. Certain features appear more clearly outlined on the infrared.

There are also some suggested features that have been previously unidentified, but it remains to investigate them by an on-ground inspection. They may represent some archaeological feature or merely some other factor which was reflected on the film - such as a damp soil area. This remains to be determined.

Your support for this exploratory venture is greatly appreciated. I will advise you at a later date regarding further developments.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Newton Lamar from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, OK 73069*



Figure 19. Infrared photo looking south at the Bryson-Paddock (Engleking) site. Mr. Paddock's A-frame cabin in upper left center. Photo taken April 25, 1976.



Figure 20. Infrared photo looking east at the Deer Creek site. Photo taken April 25, 1976.

Mr. Newton Lamar
Box 998
Anadarko, OK 73005

Dear Mr. Lamar:

I am enclosing our report on the first season's work at the Bryson site located about one mile north of the Deer Creek site in northern Oklahoma. It is a second Wichita village in that area.

A copy of the Deer Creek site area is also enclosed in the front of the report. This is the map that I had for our meeting a few days past.

The other report by Byron Sudbury on the Deer Creek site was published in the Oklahoma Anthropological Society Bulletin, Vol. 24, pages 1 to 135. It was published last year. The article title is Ka-3, The Deer Creek Site An Eighteenth Century French Contact Site. I do not have a copy that I can give you but you can order this volume from:

*Mrs. Mel Phillips -
2217 Arlington Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73108*

I am not certain about the price but think it is about \$5.50 a copy.

We are presently preparing a report on the second season's work at Bryson and it should be available sometime this winter.

I hope you find these useful. I enjoyed our visit and will see you again when we are to meet with the Corps of Engineers on Oct. 26th.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Jack Wettengel (REB)

*Oklahoma Historical Society
Historical Building
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
March 23, 1977*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
The University of Oklahoma
455 West Lindsey, Room 505
Norman, Oklahoma 73069*

Dear Dr. Bell:

The proposal to fund an archaeological exploration at Deer Creek in Kay County is approved by me and I am ready to meet with you and the Corps of Engineers for further planning.

I hesitate to take on further administrative work due to a reluctance on the part of the legislature to increase our staff, but I am ready to burn some midnight oil in order to help in this project.

Please let me know when and where a planning meeting on Deer Creek will be held.

*Sincerely,
Jack Wettengel
Executive Director*

Letter to Jack Wettengel from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, OK 73069
March 31, 1977*

*Jack Wettengel
Oklahoma Historical Society
Historical Building
Oklahoma City, OK 73105*

Dear Jack:

I wish to thank you for your letter of March 23 indicating your willingness to handle the contract for archaeological work at the Deer Creek site. Your reply, however, has arrived somewhat late as the Corps has been very anxious to initiate some arrangements for this contract.

Consequently, Don Wyckoff and I had been in touch with Gage Skinner of the Park Planning and Resources Board to find out if they would consider serving in this capacity. One additional reason for considering them in this matter was the fact that the legislature had appropriated some funds to them for work at the Deer Creek site.

Consequently, they held a meeting on Wednesday, March 30, in consultation with Mr. Hesser, Don Wyckoff, Gage Skinner, Senator Grantham, and other legislators from the Ponca City area. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the project and felt that they would be best suited for handling the arrangements with the Corps of Engineers.

A final decision, however, will depend upon preference by the Corps of Engineers Office, and we should know something about their decision in the matter within the next few days. It is extremely important, however, that some additional planning and arrangements be made so that the Corps can commit the funds that they now have available. Otherwise, they will be lost.

I greatly appreciate your interest and your concern and willingness to cooperate in this matter. Regardless of what decision the Corps of Engineers might make, I hope that all of us can work together in an effort to produce, at the Deer Creek site, an historic locality which will be of much pride to everyone.

While I am writing, please let me also express my sadness and sympathy to you and the Oklahoma Historical Society because of George Shirk's death. I am sure that his leadership will be missed and that there will be difficulties in obtaining a suitable replacement.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Anthony Smith from Abe L. Hesser (REB)

*Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
500 Will Rogers Building
Oklahoma City 73105
March 31, 1977*

*Colonel Anthony Smith, District Engineer
Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 61
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101*

Dear Colonel Smith:

Yesterday I met with members of my staff, with State Archeologist Don Wyckoff, and with Senator Roy E. Grantham and Representative James Holt, to discuss the future exploration and potential development of the Deer Creek archeological site. As you are aware, this site is situated at the Traders Bend Public Use Area, Arkansas River, Kaw Dam Project.

There is a consensus that we are at an appropriate and indeed even critical stage in getting field work underway at the Deer Creek site, and in formulating some preliminary concepts for presentation and interpretation of the site to the public.

The Legislature has directed us to proceed in actively supporting the investigation and presentation of this significant cultural resource. Our Department can initiate this effort by expending line item funds now available to us, and by serving as the sponsor agency for funds made available by the Corps of Engineers. Of course, this later funding is critical to a successful program. Both the State Archeologist and Dr. Robert Bell, of the University of Oklahoma, indicate that substantial funds can be made available from the Kaw Lake Project. If this is in fact the case, I would like, at this time, to formally request that these monies be identified and made available to our Department, under contract, so that we might play a cooperative and a key role in the Deer Creek site.

Your assistance in the above request is deeply appreciated.

*Sincerely yours,
Abe L. Hesser
Executive Director*

Memorandum to Roy E. Grantham from G. Gage Skinner (REB)

*Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
500 Will Rogers Building
Oklahoma City 73105
March 31, 1977*

TO: Senator Roy E. Grantham

FROM: Mr. G. Gage Skinner
Division of Planning & Development
4020 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 250
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
(521-2975; 2904)

RE: Deer Creek archeological site, Draft of Resolution

RESOLUTION

INASMUCH as the Deer Creek Mound archeological site, situated on the Arkansas River, Corps of Engineers Kaw Dam Project, Kay County, is recognized as a major State and Regional cultural site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and

INASMUCH as the Deer Creek site merits preservation, scientific investigation, and development and interpretation to the people of the State of Oklahoma and to her visitors,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation be granted the authority to serve as the sponsor agency for the archeological exploration and subsequent interpretive development of the Deer Creek site, and to receive funds under contract with the Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, for said purpose.

Letter to Dewey F. Bartlett from Don G. Wyckoff (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Archaeological Survey
1335 South Asp Avenue
Norman, Oklahoma 73019
April 11, 1977*

*The Honorable Dewey F. Bartlett
United States Senate
140 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

Dear Senator Bartlett:

As you are well aware, the Oklahoma Indian Mounds Commission was formulated during your term as governor. Its goal was to plan and coordinate development of two significant archeological sites as interpretive parks. The two sites chosen for initial focus were the Spiro Mounds (LeFlore County) and the Deer Creek site (Kay County), both of recognized significance to Oklahoma's prehistory and early history. By happenstance, both sites were on properties owned by the Corps of Engineers.

- - - - -

Regarding the Deer Creek site, during the past 12 months a series of meetings have been held between the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, Dr. Robert E. Bell (George Lynn Cross, Research Professor in anthropology, University of Oklahoma), and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey staff. These meetings have centered on developing a comprehensive, responsible multi-phase approach to preserving, researching and interpretive development of this location. I must report the Corps representatives have been most cognizant of the need for a responsible program, one that protects and yet presents this site to Oklahoma's and the nation's citizens. Furthermore, the Corps personnel have been responsive to the local interest in seeing this site be made available for public visitation. As a result of our meetings, I believe there will be forthcoming a program that:

- 1. will maintain and preserve the cultural and contextual integrity of the site,*
- 2. provides for archeological research that will sample the variety of architectural and cultural remains present,*
- 3. will allow preparing a more formal research design geared to present and interpret this site to the public in a responsible manner.*

This proposed development program is certainly well within the Indian Mound Commission's goals. These goals were subsequently related to the Oklahoma legislature, and Senators Jim Hamilton and Roy Grantham worked hard to secure appropriations to the Oklahoma Park and Tourism Department to implement both sites' development. Corps plans for public used areas near the site were cleared (Section 106 review) by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation in 1974. These public use areas are now built.

As always, I truly appreciate your time, interest and support of Oklahoma's cultural heritage.

*Yours truly,
Don G. Wyckoff
State Archeologist*

Letter to Ponca City Museum from Otto Spring (PCM)

*1220 E. Sixth St.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
July 21, 1977*

*Ponca City, Museum
Ponca City, Oklahoma*

Dear Mrs. Castor -

Your letter at hand. I can't see why Mr. Falconer could not get me. My nursery is around my home and someone is always on hand to answer the phone. Several times the past week the phone has rung and no one on it. I called the repair service & they will check it.

I believe I have all the Chronicles of Okla. for many years. I have duplicates of one that had our article I wrote many years ago in it that was found about 1966 in Mr. Thoburn's records & had not been published.

I still have a lot of the old stuff accumulated over many years but seldom find time to look it over. I gave a lot of it to the University of Okla. but suppose it has been lost there.

I expect the records of our work on Fernandina were mixed & partly lost as Mr. Thoburn who was taking care of them was getting old. You should have prints of the many photographs I took there. I may have some of the negatives yet.

The Daily Oklahoman of that time had a number of stories about it written by Corb Sarchet then of Ponca City.

I had a lot of correspondence with the bunch who are figuring on making the upper site a National Park but I'm sure they are going to exaggerate the site. There was no indication of any stockade or fort there. Just a smoothed oval place I would-think of as their Parade ground surrounded by the remains of their dome shaped earth covered lodges.

Jim Wirtz will be home next week end and will bring the negative. I believe he would be better transportation than our present mail service. He will arrive in Ponca late Fri. evening & will take it to the museum Saturday.

I was to have been with the Dept. of Anthropology at O.U. when they started it but certainly could not afford to take it at the price offered.

It may be you can find time to come over some evening & we could explore the old records I still have. I would hate to not place any that should be preserved in a place where they would be preserved.

Otto Spring

Maybe I should go Thursday but Okmulgee is a long way from Vinita.

Letter to John Paddock from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, OK 73069
August 9, 1977*

*Mr. John Paddock
Paddock Pools
P.O. Box 12463
Oklahoma City, OK 73112*

Dear Mr. Paddock:

I am enclosing a copy of our report upon the fieldwork at the Bryson-Paddock site during the summer of 1975. We greatly appreciate your permission to continue work at the site and trust that you will find this published report of interest. If you have the need for a second copy, I will be pleased to send you another one. With best wishes and personal regards.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Sue Purvis from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology
Norman, Oklahoma 73019
September 6, 1977*

*Ms. Sue Purvis
Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District
P. O. Box 61
Tulsa, OK 74102
Dear Sue:*

Just a note to ask if you have been planning on fieldwork at the Deer Creek site (Trader's Bend) near Newkirk? I asked Don Wyckoff about it but he said that he knew nothing and suggested that I write to you.

In any case, I would appreciate knowing your thoughts and plans for the site at this time.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Weldon M. Gamel (REB)

*Department of the Army
Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 61
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102
Oct. 13, 1977*

*Dr. Robert E. Bell
Department of Anthropology
The University of Oklahoma
455 West Lindsey, Room 505
Norman, Oklahoma 73069*

Dear Dr. Bell:

This is in response to your letter of 6 September 1977 regarding the Tulsa District's plans for archeological work at the Deer Creek Site, Kaw Lake, Oklahoma. Preliminary studies are planned during FY 1978. It is our intention to investigate the shoreline adjacent to the site and also conduct test excavations inside the fenced portion of the site in order to provide data needed for development of future plans. In addition, we will be arranging for photogrammetric mapping of the site and an ethnohistorical study to supplement the archeological studies.

We appreciate your continuing interest in the Deer Creek site and welcome any comments or suggestions you might have. We would be pleased to discuss current plans in detail if you desire. Please contact Mr. Buell Atkins (918) 581-7857 or Ms. Sue Purves (918) 581-7864 if you favor additional discussion.

*Sincerely yours,
Weldon M. Gamel
Chief, Engineering Division*

Letter to Weldon M. Gamel from Robert E. Bell (REB)

*The University of Oklahoma
Department of Anthropology*

*Norman, Oklahoma 73069**November 8, 1977*

*Weldon M. Gamel
Department of the Army
Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 61
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102*

Dear Mr. Gamel:

I wish to thank you for your letter of October 13 in response to my questions regarding archaeological work at the Deer Creek Site, Kaw Lake, Oklahoma. I had thought that some studies would be undertaken earlier than you are now planning. Consequently, was somewhat concerned regarding your schedule for fieldwork in the area.

We are very much interested, of course, in development of the Deer Creek Site and in conducting any archaeological research that may be done there. Your suggestion to conduct some test excavations along the shoreline of the site is a good one. There are some areas which need to be stabilized as erosion is encroaching upon the site itself.

With regard to development plans, the excavation work needs to be done in order to formulate some plan for park development. There are several questions which one can ask and which can only be answered by some exploratory test work. The later planning can only take place after this test work has been completed. I have not thought about this in any detail nor do I have in mind at this time precisely what should be done. In my opinion, however, only minimal work should be done and only the areas of the site which were to be utilized in explanatory exhibits or development be excavated.

You mentioned an arrangement for photogrammetric mapping of the site. Perhaps you have forgotten, but we do have color aerial photographs of the site at the Archaeological Survey. These were made when Ron Corbyn was working for the Survey and from these photographs a six-inch contour map was prepared. The prepared contour map, however, was inaccurate and it did not show a number of features which were present on the actual surface. Consequently, Mr. Corbyn visited the site and made some initial corrections to the contour map. I mention this only to point out the fact that the contour map which we printed from the aerial photographs did not prove to be entirely satisfactory. I believe that it will be necessary to prepare a map of the site on the spot with standard instruments and I believe that this should be done. If you are not familiar with the present map and aerial photographs which we have, I am sure that we could make them available to your office.

I would also like to suggest that the entire site be divided up into a series of grid blocks for permanent reference. These should be blocks approximately 100 meters square, covering the entire site. Each block can be divided into similar units for the purpose of archaeological records. A permanent grid system of iron stakes set in concrete should make grid points on this established pattern. I would further suggest that this grid system, once established, that some sections of the site be reserved without testing or exploration until some future time.

There are, of course, some initial questions which must be answered before development can take place. One of these concerns the nature of the earth works at the site, the purpose of these earth works, and their extent. As to whether or not a trading post actually existed should also be determined. The location of house areas or living quarters and special activities localities within the site should also be established. Without this information it is not possible to formulate a plan for development as a State Park.

In short, we need to know the scope of the resources available in order to properly utilize them in development of the locality.

I will be happy to discuss with you or one of your representatives views as to what should be done in the way of preliminary work at the site.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*

Letter to Robert E. Bell from John P. Paddock (REB)

4201 N. Meridian
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Dec. 21, 1977

Dr. Bell:

Attached a chunk of ?. Magnet indicates iron. I have acid washed it and exposed what looks copper or brass. Might be part of tool forged from rifle barrel. Notice the crack. Anyway can you identify it?

I would like it back.

Sincerely,
John P. Paddock

Letter to John P. Paddock from Robert E. Bell (REB)

February 1, 1978

John P. Paddock
4201 N. Meridian
P.O.Box 12332
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Dear Mr. Paddock:

I have received your letter of December 21 along with the piece of metal which you found at the Bryson-Paddock site. I am sorry to be so slow in writing to you, but I was in the hospital for surgery right after Christmas and it has taken some time before I have felt very well.

I believe you are quite right in your assessment of this piece of metal. As you suggest, it is probably from a flattened rifle barrel. The Indians that inhabited the site were getting rifles from the French, but when the rifles would no longer work or were broken in some way, they commonly hammered the rifle barrel into flat sections of metal similar to this one which was made into a scraper. As you know, they used hundreds of flat scrapers for preparing buffalo hides. They much preferred, however, a scraper made from metal because of the additional weight. They would hammer out the metal into a flat piece, similar to the one which you sent, and the scraping edge was chisel like and slightly serrated so that it would work more effectively.

I believe that your specimen was one of these scrapers or fleshing tools, even through the scraping end has been damaged and is missing. You will note that the damaged end appears to start to flare out slightly into probably the thin scraping or working edge.

I also note that the specimen was found in the small mound immediately west of your house. I am returning it to you under separate cover along with my appreciation for your bringing it to my attention.

Cordially yours,
Robert E. Bell

Letter to Robert E. Bell from Stevan J. Cox (REB)

4165 El Molino
Chino, CA
March 21, 1978

Dr. Bell
Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Dr. Bell:

For several years I have been following the progress of the Ferdinandina site near Newkirk with the hope that a qualified organization would carry out an excavation. Recently, my brother, a resident of Newkirk, informed me that your Department would be carrying out such a project under a Corps of Engineers Grant.

I would like very much to be included on any such project if there are positions open. I am thirty years old, married, and have earned degrees in History and Liberal Studies with the intention of earning a Masters in anthropology. I have limited experience in archaeology but a growing enthusiasm for the field. Enclosed is a letter of recommendation from the instructor with whom I have worked for several years.

I hope you will consider me if the project is to start this summer.

*Yours truly,
Stevan J. Cox*

Letter to Stevan J. Cox from Robert E. Bell (REB)

April 25, 1978

*Stevan J. Cox
4165 El Molino
Chino, CA 91710*

Dear Mr. Cox:

I have received your recent letter indicating an interest in participating in the excavations at the Deer Creek Site near Newkirk.

We do eventually plan to conduct some excavations in this area although at the present time we do not have funds available for that purpose. The Corps of Engineers in Tulsa plan to have some excavation work done but as of this date no agreements have been reached in order to carry out the work.

I do not know at this time whether we will be in the field this summer or not. The excavations may be delayed for some time as the urgency of the situation is not great. The site is above high water level in the reservoir and is currently surrounded by a chain link fence to protect it from pot hunters.

Plans for development into a state park have been discussed but nothing final has been decided.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Bell*



Figure 21. Aerial photo of the Bryson-Paddock (formerly Engleking) site with John Paddock's cabin near the site's south end. The diagonal tree line marks the bluff along the site's east edge. Photo taken in 1979 by Jim Tribble.



Figure 22. Aerial view of the Deer Creek site (lower left center) and the Arkansas River. View north-northeast. Photo taken in 1979 by Jim Tribble.

**Newspaper Articles and Previously Unpublished Documents Relating to
1950 - 1979 Research in the Ferdinandina Locality**

The preceding letters document a resurgent interest in the Ferdinandina (Deer Creek) locality between 1950 and 1980. In part this interest was spurred by the threatened destruction of the vicinity's archaeological sites by construction of a major reservoir planned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District. However, occasionally implicated in the letters, and even more so in the following documents, a growing controversy was adding to the renewed interest. The controversy centered on the differing interpretations of historians and archaeologists. Some prominent Oklahoma historians tended to view and interpret Ferdinandina as a fort and trading post established and occupied by French people out of the New Orleans area. In contrast, archaeologists increasingly suspected the sites in the Deer Creek locality were dispersed Indian, most probably Wichita, villages, one (the Miller or Deer Creek site) of which was fortified. Moreover, archaeologists maintained the operating hypothesis that French traders visited, but did not permanently occupy, this site.

Newspaper Accounts (PCM)

The Daily Oklahoman

Sunday, September 30, 1956

pp. 14-16

OKLAHOMA RECLAIMS ITS PAST

*Relics of Fernandina, First White Settlement in State, Acquired
For Permanent Display, Recalling Days of French Pioneers*

by George Shirk

At least 11 flags have flown over the lands that are now the State of Oklahoma since that day during the mid-1700's that the French lowered for the last time the royal fleur-de-lys of France and abandoned to the surrounding Caddos the stockade and settlement on the Arkansas that they had to valiantly maintained for more than a score of years.

Historians have known for some time that the French established and operated somewhere along that river an extensive trading post and establishment known as Fernandina. The details, of course, are long since lost in obscurity, but students have been intrigued by this far outpost of Louis XIV which, without doubt, has now been definitely established, as the first settlement made by the white man within the boundary of Oklahoma.

Perhaps details of the post and its activities will some day be discovered in the mercantile records of some French port or customs house, but until such time, enough physical evidence is now at hand to engage the attention of scholars for many years.

Oklahoma is indebted to the late Bert Moore of Winfield, Kan., who, for at least 30 years devoted his holidays and vacations to a careful and rewarding search and exploration of a site six miles east of Newkirk, in Kay county, that has now been definitely concluded by most authorities

as the actual site of Fernandina. His collection grew to more than 5,000 pieces and were all gathered by him and Mrs. Moore at the site and each carefully catalogued and inventoried.

Through the generosity and understanding of Mrs. Moore, the collection in its entirety has now been returned to Oklahoma where it reposes in the Oklahoma Historical Society. There it will remain as a lasting reminder of the struggle of the French during the first half of the 18th century to bring civilization to the New World.

French influence has remained in Oklahoma in several ways, such as the place names Poteau and Verdigris, but with the return of the Bert Moore collection to Oklahoma, we now have on display the most important as well as intriguing exhibit of French culture.

Why did the French come to this spot and why did they leave? The answers comprise a most important chapter in the history of the Southwest.

With the turn of the 18th century, France and Spain each had vast colonial ambitions. Spain used its foothold in Mexico as the springboard into the Southwest through New Mexico. France used its access to the Mississippi to spread its influence through the river's basin. Situated as they are, the lands of Oklahoma were caught squarely be-

tween the rival designs of France and Spain.

In 1719, France commissioned two exploration parties to investigate the area of Oklahoma and to attempt to align the Indians with the French. Capt. Bernard de la Harpe came up the Red river from New Orleans and entered present Oklahoma in August 1719. At the same time, the other party headed by Claude Charles du Tisne left the Illinois country overland in the same general direction as the destination of La Harpe. Du Tisne traveled up the Missouri river as far as the Osage river and then followed the latter to some Osage villages located somewhere near the present western boundary of Missouri. After resting, he traveled "40 leagues" southwest to the villages of the Pani or Pawnee Indians. These tribes were of the same Caddoan stock as were the Tawakoni tribes with whom La Harpe was meeting.

Although the journals of Du Tisne are indefinite, most scholars conclude from present information that Du Tisne reached a spot in present Kay county where Deer creek enters the Arkansas, several miles southeast of Chilocco. On Sept. 27, 1719, so he wrote, Du Tisne concluded an alliance with his hosts and raised the white and gold royal flag of Louis XIV over their village.

From the physical evidence, the settlement comprised two villages, each covering an area of about 30 acres and with approximately a mile and a half separating them. About 40 mounds, which without doubt, are the ruins of timber-framed, dome-shaped, earth-covered dwellings, are still discernible at each location. The late Dr. Joseph B. Thoburn first visited the site in 1917 and upon excavating one of the mounds, found well-defined lines of sod representing the roof and the floor, with two layers of wood ash underneath, indicating that one building had been built upon the ruins of a previous structure.

It was beside the south group that the French erected their stockade. Whether it was constructed by Du Tisne on the occasion of his first visit, by him upon a later visit, or by the French traders following in his path, will perhaps never definitely be known. The outline of the stockade is plainly visible today. It was situated on a commanding location. Nearby was a fine perpetual spring emptying into Deer creek which supplied ample water. The bluff separating Deer Creek and the Arkansas river just prior to their confluence is high and easily fortified.

From the physical appearance today, the stockade was approximately 200 feet in diameter with the main gate at the southeast. As was customary, it was surrounded on the outside by a wide trench or dry moat. The soil removed in its construction was placed on the inside of the circular ditch to give greater height to the wooden stockade wall.

Much credence is given to the conclusion that this

was the spot visited by Du Tisne on his 1719 expedition by the fact that in his report he stated to Governor Bienville that two days' journey to the west and a quarter to the southwest was a fine salt mine. This corresponds to the distance from Chilocco to the Great Salt Plains in Alfalfa county.

Fernandina represents the farthestmost western outpost of French culture; and the distance between present Kay county and the Santa Fe region of New Mexico could truly be called the "No Man's Land" between these two great European powers. In impressing their influence on a colonial region, the French used the technique of establishing trading posts and traders acting as direct contact with the local tribes. The Moore collection gives complete evidence of the broad extent of these trading activities. Without doubt, prior to the coming of the French, the villages were engaged in the slaughter of the plentiful buffalo for necessary food and clothing. With the arrival of the European, it is logical that the French would establish headquarters in buffalo country. Now the buffalo became the "cash crop" for the Caddoan villages.

European contact opened for the Indian a hitherto unknown outlet for his commodity which would bring to him by barter all of the new and latest things from the Old World. Evidence indicates that a form of slaughter pen was erected and buffalo by the thousands were utilized to produce the furs and hides coveted by the Europeans.

The exact date of departure by the French will never be known. Possibly no one particular date could be assigned for the closing of Fernandina, but more than likely it fell into gradual disuse as the French influence waned. In 1763 Louis XV made a formal gift of all the area west of the Mississippi to Spain. With this, the political control shifted from the fleur-de-lys to the red and gold banner of the Spanish bearing the arms of Castile and Leon.

However, individual French remained in the territory in the employ of those in control under Spanish grants. But by then the importance of Fernandina as a center of European influence had passed. The stockade was no doubt in disrepair and the subsequent generations of Caddoan peoples lived on as before, uncertain as to the exact purpose and intent of the ruins they found in their midst.

The Moore collection is divided into two parts. One section is the artifacts from the Indian or Caddoan culture, and the other is the relics and remains from the white man's civilization. Each group is made up of thousands of items and will require the attention of students for many months before each piece is actually catalogued and placed upon final exhibit.

Being perhaps older in point of time, let us first go through the Indian portion of the collection.

The pottery is in two types. A few potsherds are of the decorated style so common among the Pueblo Indians. This points definitely to the fact that there was communication between Fernandina and the Indians around Santa Fe, as it is most unlikely that the decorated pottery was indigenous to the site. Most of the potsherds, of which there are hundreds, are of the Caddoan style with an incised decoration. This style of pottery was made by the ancient method of mixing ground up mussel shells with clay. The decoration was impressed into the pot by a stick or other implement.

Pipes for tobacco and for ceremonial use are much in evidence. Called "calumets" (from old French) by the traders among many tribes, these pipes formed an important part of the ceremonial life of the Indian. Most of the clay pipes in the collection have a tip or point on the lower front of the bowl. This design was peculiar to the Caddoan peoples and alone would be sufficient to establish the identity of the inhabitants of the mounds. A few of the pipes are made of pipestone found only at Pipestone National Monument in Minnesota. This indicates that the local inhabitants had communication with the tribes to the north, or else that the pipestone material was imported as an item of trade. Two highly decorated types of Aztec or Mayan culture were found. Their presence at Fernandina could only mean that they were imported via New Spain in commerce or trade.

The collection includes many hundreds of flint points and comprises one of the finest arrowhead collections in Oklahoma. All were removed from Fernandina locality. The points without the bottom shaft were for use in a blow gun. The various sizes of the conventional type arrowheads would indicate their use either for birds or for larger animals.

Several of the arrowheads in the collection are of a remarkable design, with multi-pointed shanks and one is in the design of a spread-eagle or "Thunderbird."

The collection includes flint and stone heads of hatchets, with the head dressed to mount into the wooden handle. Flint was also shaped into knives and into the long slender points for spears. From the quantity of points found at the site, it is certain that the settlement was quite extensive and existed over a long interval of time.

Other forms of Indian tools are included. Bones were fashioned into awls, and used as needles for sewing. The jawbone of a deer was found to be a handy tool for shelling corn.

The collection includes several metates and mullers used by the women in the grinding of corn. Unfortunately for the teeth of the native, grinding corn by this process resulted in the meal containing a full share of pulverized rock and dust. This ground off the teeth of the Indians al-

most as effectively as did the muller grind the corn.

By far the largest single item of Indian culture within the collection are the countless numbers of flint scrapers. These scrapers are vital in the dressing and treating of the buffalo hide. From the number of scrapers and hide-working tools of flint found at the site, it is obvious that a full-sized "buffalo factory" was in operation. The demand by the French for hides must have been indeed insatiable to require operations so extensive.

The source of flint was the flint quarry in northeastern Kay county near Hardy. The quarry there was so extensive that for many years it was referred to by travelers as an old Spanish mine. Only recently was it realized that the operation in fact was a flint quarry.

The collection contains another group of Indian artifacts that must be mentioned. There are several small handcarved stone figures or effigies. One appears to be an owl, and another is the head of a wolf or fox. The owl head, if that is what it is, was most probably a small idol or talisman, where the wolf's head was more probably a toy or a trinket.

Leaving the Indian artifacts, the relics from the white man's civilization are equally fascinating. Their character shows clearly several things: The white activity was extensive and lasted for some period of time, and Fernandina must have been a "wholesale depot" in the modern sense of the word for trade with the Indians.

The remains of wood-working tools tell their own tale and give clear evidence that the French were required to do much lumbering and log work. Logs were needed in quantity for the stockade and also for the rafts and floats needed in commerce. Rafts were used in great numbers to transport the hides and other articles down the river to New Orleans.

The woodworking tools in the collection comprise a number of wedges for rail splitting, axes, hatchets and the adze. The axes are the usual European implement of the 18th century. The same style axe is still in use in parts of Europe today and differs very materially from the American type. The American type hatchet or axe gradually evolved out of the pattern represented by the articles in the collection some time after 1750. The major distinction in the American model is the lengthening and thickening of the poll, the thinning of the blade and a modification of the eye from a round to an ellipse form.

All of the samples of the axe and the adze found at Fernandina have the round eye and the thick, stub-like blade, and are clearly of the European type. Some of the wedges are flattened and well worn, giving evidence of much use and indicating that in the splitting of the rails they were hammered with large rocks or objects other than the

conventional hammer. Worn-out or defective gun barrels were also used as woodcutting instruments. At least a dozen examples are shown. Discarded or otherwise unserviceable barrels were salvaged and put to further utility by using them as wood-cutting or stone quarry instruments. All show clearly this improvisation.

Perhaps the largest single group in the collection is that of gun hardware. The weapon in vogue at the time was the flintlock. The wooden gunstock of the period was highly decorated with carefully inscribed pieces of brass. Butt plates often contained a floral design. The trigger guards and ornamentation for the stock usually were decorated with intricate scrolls and other patterns.

As may be expected, such is the case with all the examples in the collection. Several pieces of brass ornamentation, long since separated from their rotted wooden stock, are decorated with the crown and the fleur-de-lys of France. Several complete flintlock mechanisms, with the side plate, frizzen and frizzen spring are present. They establish without doubt the age and character of the weapons.

The fact that Gun Hardware is the most extensive of all of the relics would mean that either many armed personnel were stationed at the site who were either rather careless with the care of their weapons or else that a large quantity of weapons was kept on hand for trading and for commerce, with a representative number being lost and discarded. It is less likely such an extensive assortment of weapons could have been left behind by the Indians; and it must be that the present relics were discarded by the white garrison. Remains of a blacksmith establishment were discovered. Several gunsmiths and artificers were without doubt among the French colony. Little did the gunsmith of that far off time know or realize that the refuse heap of broken and unserviceable hardware left behind him would become the treasure trove of today.

A fine assortment of lead pistol balls has been found and is included in the collection. Some show the marks of the mold and others show scratches and marks that were apparently caused by biting or chewing. The lead balls that were chewed were perhaps administered as an anesthetic to an individual while crude surgery was being practiced upon him. The custom of giving a wounded man a lead musket ball to chew upon while probing for an arrow or amputating an appendage was a common practice on the frontier.

Speaking of guns, the collection of gun flints is unsurpassable. The square pieces of flint used for pistol locks were believed by authorities not to be of European manufacture. They were probably made locally and fashioned out of native material. English flint makers turned out the best gun flints. The French during the 18th Century

frequently sent their rough blanks to England to be finished in good style. England being a long way from Fernandina, it is safe to assume that the Indians were commissioned to fashion the needed flints as a change from their accustomed arrowheads.

The large collection of pieces of scissors is curious. The scissors are too fine for use in working buffalo hide. The large number of broken scissor blades leads one to the conclusion that scissors must have been a popular article of trade.

Beads are one of the more important items in the collection. That the beads are of European origin is obvious. Indian beads are invariably fashioned from shell or from bone. The examples found in Fernandina, however, are of glass or porcelain. Authorities recognize this style of bead as dating from approximately 1720, as they are identical to beads of the type from other areas definitely dated as being of the late 17th Century. Some are blue, while others are white or red. Some are striped. Their superiority over the native product was no doubt instantly recognized by the Indian who, in-turn, was probably glad to exchange a buffalo hide or two for a colorful string.

Metallic articles of clothing trim were found in great numbers. A popular article of dress at the time was a tightly rolled brass or copper cone used as a tip for the lengths of thong hanging from leggings and shirts. Some of the brass cones in the collection could probably be used for tipping arrow shafts designed for fishing, but more than likely all of them at one time adorned the buckskin shirt or leggings of the visiting French.

A few hawk bells are in the collection of ornaments. Obviously not made locally, these were introduced into the region as an article of trade or as a jingle upon an European-made blouse or shirt.

Regarding uniforms, a few pieces of bronze require special attention. This metal was easily molded and was the type suitable for the making of helmets and articles of uniform. Several distinctive pieces of case bronze were without doubt from helmets or dress uniforms.

The collection contains a large assortment of copper and brass trunk hardware. The commerce of the time was shipped in caravans or large bales and leather bags. Each of these were locked and made secure with hardware. Some in the collection are mutilated and show evidence of violence. Perhaps some pirate of the prairie raided a caravan and in seeking the plunder violently opened the cases. That there are so many in the collection must mean that Fernandina was a central depot or a storage center for the commerce of the day.

The relative absence of harness hardware is not



Figure 23. European trade goods from the Deer Creek site (34Ka3) representative of those mentioned by George Shirk in his article. These specimens are from the collection curated at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Anthropology. Scales are in cm.

- Top left: musket barrel plugs and main springs;
- Top right: purposefully flattened musket barrel segments;
- Middle left: flash pans, a lock plate, and a segment of a strike-a-light;
- Middle right: musket lock plates;
- Bottom left: segment of a musket butt plate;
- Bottom center left: rim segments from copper (brass) kettles;
- Bottom center right: worn-out hoe; and
- Bottom right: hoe blade.

readily explained. The Indian of the period did not require metallic hardware in his use of the horse. So it is probably that there were no more metal bridles or horse hardware required than there were actual travelers, and that the saddles and bridles departed with the overland visitor. Only two pieces are included in the collection which could be clearly distinguished as pieces of a saddle or bridle.

It will be sometime before the entire collection is catalogued and arranged for permanent display. In the meantime, the knowledge that is has returned to Oklahoma is comforting to those anxious to see the history of the Sooner state preserved and enjoyed by all.

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REAL ESTATE DEAL

by George H. Shirk

More proof has been brought to light that Ferdinandina, the French trading post on the Arkansas river within the boundaries of present Kay county, was the first white settlement in Oklahoma. Articles and objects of European manufacture discovered by the Marland Archeological expedition in 1926 on the old Caddoan village site near the trading post on Deer creek, a branch of the Arkansas, as well as the same type articles picked up by other investigators here have been pronounced by authorities to date from the occupation of the Arkansas river region by the French early in the eighteenth century. Designs on some of the articles date from before the time of LaSalle in 1687; others originated in France about 1720, both found in the Indian trade in America for over half a century.

So well known were the operations at Ferdinandina that old maps prepared in Europe carry the name, or its Spanish form--Fernandino--dating from the eighteenth century. Lloyd's map printed in the late 1860s definitely lists the name of Fernandino situated on the Arkansas river immediately south of the present Kansas line in Kay county, along with well-known place names in Oklahoma.

The circumstances--as well as the site--of the first white settlement in the area now included in Oklahoma have always been a matter of much interest, and are surrounded with enough questions to make the subject intriguing.

The answers lie in the history of the French and the Spanish activities of the eighteenth century in the southwest. Spanish articles of trade were spreading eastward from the Santa Fe area to the tribes of the plains, and the French, having begun in the days of LaSalle, were extending their influence westward up the rivers of the Mississippi basin. The Spanish technique was the establishment of missions as centers of trading operations like those at Santa Fe and San Antonio. The French sought to gain control among the Indian tribes by direct contact of traders among them and by the establishment of trading posts at the Indian villages. Each method was backed by a small show of military force.

Oklahoma then became the "No Man's Land" be-

tween the areas of these two great European powers, and by 1750, the French had influence and control over many tribes, especially those of the Caddoan confederacy occupying the basins of the Arkansas and the Red rivers.

In March, 1682, LaSalle reached the Indian villages at or near the mouth of the Arkansas river. The next year, his lieutenant, Henri de Tonti, established Arkansas Post, which is still found on the maps near the mouth of the river in Arkansas county, state of Arkansas. This was the first French outpost in the Arkansas basin, and it was here that France extended her influence through the eastern half of Oklahoma, and effected alliances and treaties with many different tribes of the Caddoan confederacy.

Early in the eighteenth century, another development arose in France. John Law, the financial wizard, was called in to revive France's ailing monetary system. One of his schemes was the ambitious project of colonization of the Mississippi valley, and in 1717, his Mississippi Co. was granted control of the entire Arkansas river region. Although his financial scheme was doomed to collapse, its beginning stimulated interest in the area and brought on a period of intense French activity.

The company had granted to Capt. Bernard de la Harpe a tract of land high on the Red river, and he left New Orleans to take possession of his properties late in 1718. He entered what is now Oklahoma on Aug. 13, 1719, making his first camp near present Bokhoma, in McCurtain county. By the end of the month he had crossed the Canadian river near the present site of Eufaula. On September 3, he commenced a council with the chief of the Touacaras (Tawakonis), the principal tribe of the allied Caddoan tribes in this region that had sent large delegations to the Touacara village to meet La Harpe. Within a week, he had concluded a friendship alliance with all eight of the Caddoan tribes here on behalf of the French king. The site of the treaty ground is near Haskell, in Muskogee county. Since La Harpe and his men returned shortly thereafter to their base east of Red river in present Hempstead county, Arkansas, no trading post was then established north on the Arkansas river. However, it was in this same year that another French explorer coming down from the Illinois

country in the north laid the groundwork for what is now proving to have been the first permanent, white trading post in Oklahoma.

During the same time that La Harpe was coming north from Louisiana, Claude Charles du Tisne left Kaskaskia in the Illinois country on an expedition to the southwest. He traveled up the Missouri river to the Osage river, and thence proceeded up that stream "80 leagues"--a league is three miles--to the Osage villages near the present western boundary of Missouri. From there he went "40 leagues" in four days, southwest to the Pani (Pawnee) villages. These people were of the same Caddoan confederacy with which La Harpe was meeting, and were called the Pani Pique (Tattooed Pawnee) by the French traders from the Illinois. Du Tisne reported the country that he traversed to be both prairie and hilly, and that he crossed four rivers, one of which was the Arkansas. Although some writers have thought that the stream called the Arkansas by Du Tisne was in fact the Grand (or Neosho) river, yet the distance he traveled southwest was sufficient to have taken him to the real Arkansas at a point near where it now crosses the Kansas-Oklahoma line. He had some difficulty with the Panis (Pawnees) but eventually concluded an alliance and raised the flag of France in their village on Sept. 27, 1719. The Indians persuaded him not to go any farther to the west, saying that they had once been to a Spanish village--perhaps Taos, N. M.-- which was a month's journey away. In his report, Du Tisne says that from the Pani village two days' journey to the west and a quarter to the southwest was a fine salt mine. This corresponds to the approximate distance from the Ferdinandina site to the Great Salt Plains in present Alfalfa county.

In this same year (1719) the Spanish authorities sent an expedition from Santa Fe to drive the French back, but the fate of this expedition is still a mystery.

These two first expeditions brought on a flood of French explorer parties and journeys.

Lieut. Dumont, the "mathematician," on one of Capt. de la Harpe's later trips, reports of the 1721 expedition: "Some visionaries having assured the company of an emerald rock on the Arkansas river, Capt. de la Harpe was sent to look for it; we ascended the river for more than 250 leagues without being able to discover the pretended treasure, probably because it existed only in imagination; we advanced 50 leagues farther into the country, till De la Harpe resolved to retrace his steps. If we had not the good fortune to discover the emerald rock, we had the satisfaction of traversing a very beautiful country."

While at Arkansas Post in 1722, La Harpe learned that five Frenchmen from the Law Concession had ascended to the headwaters of the river to purchase horses, but had met death at the hands of some Osages. La Harpe on his

1722 trip went up the Arkansas nine days from Arkansas Post and then struck out over land "50 leagues west" to see if he could find the land that he had reached in 1719. When he returned from his trip he recommended the establishment of two different posts high in the Arkansas.

In 1746 France concluded a friendship pact with the Comanche and the Jumano tribes, and the last obstacle for use of the Arkansas as a route to the Spanish west was removed. At this time, the Caddoan tribes were referred to as the Jumano (Shumano).

By 1749 Frenchmen were appearing at the Taos Fair in New Mexico. The governor questioned three brought back to Santa Fe and it was found that all claimed to have come from Arkansas Post. They said they went up the Arkansas to the Jumano Indian village, then 150 leagues overland to the Comanche settlements, and from there down a route similar to that of the later Santa Fe trail in Oklahoma.

By 1750, French trading activities along the Arkansas were so extensive that it would be difficult to imagine that a permanent trading post had not been established in the Oklahoma region; and the type and character of the articles and objects of European manufacture brought to light at the Kay county site tend to prove that it was in this period that Ferdinandina was established. The old maps prepared in Europe carrying the name of this early trading post on the Arkansas river bear out this point.

For those interested in exact locations, the site is in the northwest quarter of section 15, township 25 north, range 3 east, about five miles east of Newkirk. Archeological investigation and excavations here were made possible by the generosity of the late Gov. E. W. Marland, in 1926, with Joseph B. Thoburn, of the Oklahoma Historical society, as director of the work. Dr. Thoburn had known of the old Indian village site here through some students from Oklahoma university who were interested in a number of mounds at this place, on the west bank of the Arkansas near the mouth of Deer creek. It was in the excavation of these mounds that the discovery of the site of the trading post came by accident. While historians had long known of the existence of Ferdinandina on the Arkansas, its exact site had never been definitely established. Dr. Thoburn was convinced that Marland expedition had brought to light the location of this early French trading post, and since that time, other nationally known historians have agreed.

The excavations in 1926 revealed that surrounding the post and extending along the Arkansas river were the Pani (Caddoan) lodges that formed the village. The region was an excellent buffalo grazing area in early times, and at this point on the Arkansas river, there was an excellent ford on the Indian trail leading down from the village.

The evidence uncovered sufficiently established that Ferdinandina had been an immense stockade, constructed of high upright logs or posts and with extensive protective earthwork. The trenches remaining after the earth was removed showed that the stockade must have been at least 250 feet in diameter. The trench outlining the post is still visible. Within the stockade where lived the traders and the garrison of soldiers, the Indian trading post was operated.

From the stockade and across the quarter of mile intervening to the river is a well-defined road, leading to the mouth of Deer creek where evidently were tied up the canoes and pirogues of visitors. Without doubt canoes and flat-bottomed boats cruised up and down the river and docked at the end of the road leading to the stockade.

Dr. Thoburn unearthed a number of iron hoes and other implements and concluded that the establishment must have included a blacksmith shop. The expedition collected several bushels of stone picks or scrapers used by the Indians in preparing the buffalo hides so they would have commercial value to the French traders.

Bert Moore of Winfield, Kansas, who has been interested in this Oklahoma site for 50 years, has collected a large number of metal-pieces, all finely engraved, which

establish conclusively the date and European origin of the settlement. His examples of trigger guards, butt plates, flint lock mechanisms and other pieces of gun hardware have been submitted to experts and have been pronounced of French origin, and from the designs and scroll work are placed in the first half of the 18th century, supporting the 1750 date for the establishment of the trading post.

The origin of the name Ferdinandina (or Fernandino) is surrounded with enough uncertainty to warrant further research. Perhaps the post was named for the great grandson of Louis XIV of France, Ferdinand VI who became king of Spain in 1746. The region west of the Mississippi--Louisiana--was a French possession until the Treaty of Paris in 1763 which gave over the rule of this part of America to Spain. French Indian agents and trade still operated under the Spanish regime with the capital at New Orleans. If the trading post on the Arkansas in Kay county were named in honor of the Spanish king, it must have been someone jubilant over the fact that a Bourbon of France was now on the throne of Spain. All available evidence at present indicates that designation was made before or by 1750. On the other hand, this early trading post and first white settlement in Oklahoma could have been named for some unknown French trader or explorer by the name of Ferdinand though this does not seem plausible in the light of the facts.

Tulsa Daily World

August 2, 1963

State's First White Settlement

FERDINANDINA RESTORATION SOUGHT

NEWKIRK -- Historic and sprawling Ferdinandina, the first temporary white settlement in Oklahoma, whose history goes back to 1719, will become one of Oklahoma's major tourist attractions if a move launched by Kay County residents is successful.

The shore line of the proposed Kaw Reservoir on the Arkansas River east of Newkirk will be near the edge of the old French trading post site high on a bluff overlooking the river.

Still visible where this tiny finger of civilization penetrated the wilderness long before the American Revolution are the outlines of the old French stockade and a circular moat which surrounded it.

Within the stockade, the traders built log cabins and a blockhouse, from which they could look out over the many Indian earthdwellings that still can be seen as countless low mounds over the village site.

With construction of the Kaw Dam and Reservoir nearing, Newkirk is beginning to beat the drums for preserva-

tion of the site and restoration of the historic center as a living landmark in the history of Oklahoma.

Backing the project are the Newkirk Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the Jaycees, along with W.F. Johnson, president of the Albright Title & Trust Co.; Frank Midgley, Jr., president of the Eastman National Bank; Lester French, automobile dealer; and brothers John and Roy Stuemky, partners in a Newkirk tire and supply firm.

They feel that no lake in Oklahoma has the tourist and historic potential that will surpass that of the lake to be formed by the Kaw Reservoir.

But the reservoir's flood control level will reach the edge of the site, which could be protected by a four-foot levee, Newkirk residents say.

Probably no one is better informed on the history of Ferdinandina than the Stuemky brothers, who have spent much time at the site and in researching its history.

"It has been established by historical records," they say, "that the first white man to see the site of Ferdinandina was French explorer Claud Charles du Tisne on his expedition to the southwest in 1719 from the mouth of the Osage River in what is now Missouri."

Furs and hides were floated down the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans from this region.

In 1926, the exact location of the post was revealed through the work of the Marland Archaeological Expedition directed by the late Dr. Joseph B. Thoburn. The project was financed by the late Gov. E. W. Marland of Ponca City.

Some 5,000 artifacts have been found at the

Ferdinandina site and have been divided among the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Chilocco Indian School museum, and the Indian Museum in the Ponca City Library.

These artifacts, Newkirk residents feel, would be a fine nucleus for a museum at the site where they actually were used and found.

The Ferdinandina collection is divided into two parts, one being objects of the French trade, and the other the objects and artifacts of Indian manufacture.

Ferdinandina was of such importance in early foreign trade that maps printed in England and Scotland before the Civil War in the United States still showed its location.

Tulsa Daily World

No Date

OLD FERNANDINA TALES ERRONEOUS

I note your article on the old French settlement of Fernandina in the Tulsa Daily World of August 2. This is a shining example of how misinformation is preserved as history.

I had charge of the excavations there in 1926 by the Oklahoma Historical Society, financed by Mr. Marland. I wrote the reports of this work and still have my copies of them.

The main camp was East of Newkirk near the Arkansas river. About three miles north was a smaller subsidiary camp. Both were only a group of the characteristic domicillary mounds....There were no remains or traces of any other buildings and the sites were undisturbed when we arrived.

It is pretty certain that French men only came there and lived in these houses with Indian women....There were certainly other villages at that time to some extent, connected with Fernandina. The Eastern part of Okmulgee was one of these and there are still several mounds undisturbed there. Artifacts the same as those found at Fernandina are frequently found but of course not in the quantities we found them at Fernandina.

I believe I still have a picture I made of one of the old Lloyds maps of this area showing Fernandina. The story of old Fernandina is very interesting and should be preserved as it was.

Okmulgee.

OTTO SPRING

Tulsa World

Saturday, September 21, 1977

Officials Give 'Little Credence' to Report

OKLAHOMAN SAY 'OLDEST MAN' FOUND IN 25

*by Bob Martindale
of the
World Staff*

OKMULGEE -

Otto Spring says he received little recognition and was never paid for uncovering the "oldest remains of man ever found on Earth."

Spring said he and two Grove men made the discovery in 1925 in the Boston Mountains near Everton, Ark.

"I shipped several apple crates full of the remains to the Oklahoma Historical Society but they were never put

on display. They are probably still in the basement of the state capitol," he said.

Don Reeves, Historical Society collections director, said the artifacts are not stored at the Capitol and are not in the society's collection.

After checking with University of Oklahoma officials, Reeves said Spring had sent some of his findings to state officials "but they were given little credence."

Reeves said the Historical Society does have old correspondence between Spring and Joseph B. Thoburn, director of research in 1925-26, regarding Spring's exploration.

Spring said he never sought publicity for his research over a half century ago but was jolted by a story buried on the back page of the May 17 Tulsa World.

"Hemisphere's Oldest Remains of Human Possibly Found," the headline read.

Quoting an archaeologist, the AP story said the remains found by a museum curator in the Southern California desert may have been uncovered last September by tropical storm Kathleen.

The remains were said to be over 100,000 years old and possibly "the oldest human remains ever found in the Western Hemisphere."

Nonsense, Spring said, laying aside the newspaper as his mind, still razor sharp at age 79, clicked back to his archaeology research days of the 1920s.

Authorized - but never paid - by the Oklahoma Historical Society, Spring said, he headed the three-man team working dry caves in the Boston Mountains.

"We found numerous skeleton remains of a man who lived during the third glacier period millions of years ago," Spring said, adding that Earth is now in its fifth ice age.

"This man was certainly the oldest remains of genus homous so far found. The geologic department of Oklahoma University - I let them have some of the skulls - said he was certainly of another species of homo than sapien, our species."

Spring said the skull had 14 teeth with wide jaws.

The Okmulgeean said he can back up his story with newspaper clippings in the Arkansas Gazette, which, he said, covered the exploration.

"Unfortunately, at that time there was very little interest in the geologic history of man," said Spring, who disagrees with Biblical scriptures.

He believes more remains could be found today in the Boston Mountains if an exploration attempt were made.

Spring says man originated in South America, spread through North America and from what is now Alaska migrated over a landbridge to Asia.

From there, he said, man went to Europe "where our people stayed in
(See Sooner on D-17)

Progress report to National Park Service (REB)

Excerpts from:
Summary Information Regarding the State of Oklahoma River Basin
Salvage Requirements.
Dec. 5, 1972

Robert E. Bell
Oklahoma River Basin Survey
Norman, Oklahoma

Kaw Reservoir (under construction)

Plans for the Kaw Reservoir are explained in the attached report #1 (KAW RESERVOIR, OKLAHOMA - ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS by R. E. Bell). This provides an overall research plan and budget according to 5 phases of development. At the present time we have completed Phases 1 and 2 and need funds for the implementation of Phase 3.

Phase 1

This has been completed and includes the initial survey of the reservoir plus excavations at two sites. The

following reports have already been submitted to the National Park Service:

The Archaeological Survey of the Kaw Reservoir, Kay and Osage Counties, Oklahoma by Don G. Wyckoff. General Survey Report No. 6, Oklahoma River Basin Survey, 1964.

The Hudsonpillar and Freeman Sites North-Central Oklahoma by Tyler Bastian. Archaeological Site Report No. 14, Oklahoma River Basin Survey, 1969.

Phase 2

This work was accomplished during the summer of 1972. Field excavations were conducted at Ka-77 and Ka-100. The site Ka-77 served as a replacement for site Ka-52 because of difficulties in securing permission for the excavations. Ka-52 should be examined after the land has been purchased by the Corps, probably along with Phase 3.

Other sites located in the lower section of the reservoir were reexamined and 3 sites were tested: Os-58, Ka-59, and Ka-101. In addition, a newly discovered site, Os-100, was also tested.

Laboratory cleaning, sorting, and analysis of this material currently in process.

Phase 3

This work should be accomplished during the 1973 summer season, and a copy of the proposal submitted to Douglas Scovill at Tucson in May, 1972, is attached (Attached Report #2).

In addition to the specific sites mentioned, however, Ka-52 should be investigated if the situation is favorable.

Attached Report #1

KAW RESERVOIR, OKLAHOMA - ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

R. E. Bell
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

December 31, 1971

The Kaw Reservoir is already under construction and flooding is to be anticipated either in 1975 or 1976; consequently, our archaeological salvage program in that area must be intensified. This statement is meant to provide the reader with information concerning what has been done, the problems that are faced, what should be done, what plans exist, and how much this will cost.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

The reservoir was subject to an archaeological survey during the period from December 1963 until November 1964, and a report upon the findings is available in the General Survey Report No. 6, Oklahoma River Basin Survey. This survey indicated the existence of 101 sites within the reservoir area, and these are found for the most part within the flood pool. No effort was made to locate sites peripheral to the reservoir area, and this is a deficiency in the survey data. Also, the survey is rendered less valuable because it did not include testing of the various sites, but relied only upon collected surface specimens. Consequently, the depth of occupational materials remains an unknown factor in almost all cases.

Upon the basis of this survey, Wyckoff recommended that some fieldwork be done at 15 of the identified sites. The choice made was influenced by a chronic shortage of funds for salvage work and the necessity to limit research to a minimal number of sites which were believed, on the basis of the survey, to be the most important. It is today clear that this estimate, made in 1965, is totally inadequate and that it must be revised upwards for two reasons: 1) increased costs, and 2) insufficient recovery of archaeological information.

Following our usual procedure of extending reservoir salvage work over several seasons to coincide with

reservoir construction activity, the fieldwork was visualized as being done in several phases. The priority for each phase depended upon the urgency of action because of site destruction, access to the property, availability of funds, or other similar limiting factors.

At this time, only the first phase of fieldwork beyond the initial survey has been completed for the Kaw reservoir. This first phase included the excavation of two sites which were situated in the lower end of the reservoir or close to the dam axis, a situation which demanded early attention. These two sites, Hudsonpillar and Freeman, were partially examined by Tyler Bastian in the summer of 1967, and the published report appears as Archaeological Site Report No. 14, ORBS 1969.

At least four additional phases of fieldwork are anticipated as follows:

Phase 2 - Lower section of reservoir area (1972)

Phase 3 - Middle section plus Beaver Creek arm of the reservoir area (1973)

Phase 4 - Upper section of the reservoir area (1974)

Phase 5 - Completion of work and preparation of a final summary report (1975-1976)

A more detailed outline of what is entailed in each phase, along with budget estimates, is presented later.

PROBLEMS THAT ARE TO BE FACED

There are a number of problems involved in the Kaw reservoir area which are unique for Kaw and some of which are common to all salvage situations.

(1). Our previous knowledge of the Kaw area is minimal. Outside of the early digging at the Bryson site by Thoburn, 40 years ago, there has been no archaeological work done in the area. Our knowledge as to what to expect in terms of cultural occupations could only be derived from private collections or extrapolations from nearby regions which are also poorly known. Without previous work, assessment of survey data is quite speculative and renders judgments as to what sites are most significant highly questionable.

As an example, Bastian's work in Phase 1 at the Hudsonpillar and Freeman sites suggests that the area contains an early Woodland manifestation that is related to the Custer focus in western Oklahoma, and that this may represent a transitional phase from a Woodland to a Plains Village way of life. Ramifications of this suggestion are important to both Kansas and Oklahoma far beyond the limits of Kaw reservoir, but if the reservoir contains data bearing on this problem, then it must be investigated. Such a situation could not be anticipated from survey data.

(2). The selection of significant sites presents numerous difficulties because, in actuality, all sites are significant and contribute to the knowledge of the region. Moreover, the significance of any site can often be determined only after excavation has been done.

It has been a policy in Oklahoma to attempt a selection of sites drawn from the entire time range represented by the occupations. If we are to understand the prehistory of the area, it is necessary to obtain information taken from the entire spectrum of the timespan which is represented. The Kaw reservoir area survey indicates a time depth of around 8000 years, possibly longer, ranging from Archaic, Woodland, Plains Villagers, and Proto-historic to Historic. Consequently, it is necessary to select sites believed to represent various segments taken from this timespan. The sites recommended for excavation have been chosen with this in mind, but excavation and analysis often necessitate adjustments or indicate gaps in the data. When the area is well known, sites may be selected with greater confidence, but when the region is unknown or poorly known as in the case of Kaw, it becomes very difficult to select sites representing specific time periods. As our knowledge of the area increases, better judgments can be made, but considerable flexibility in planning is required if one is to benefit from work done season to season. Site X may appear as unimportant in the Phase 1 stage of research, but the same site may become crucial in Phase 4 activities as a consequence of increased knowledge about the area. This clearly complicates long-range planning.

(3). Another difficulty arises in making an estimate of the amount of work to be done at any individual site.

Excavations frequently encounter superimposed deposits, features, burials, house patterns, and the like which necessitate a modification in excavation plans - a factor which always requires increased time and excavation funds. For example, if a 5 x 25-ft. test exploration is planned for one site and this trench happens to expose a house pattern, this will require expanding the work to include perhaps from four to five times as much effort as was originally programmed for the site. Or, it may necessitate expending all of one's resources in a single area when several should have been worked in order to properly evaluate the whole site area.

I am quite convinced that our excavations in the past at selected sites within the various reservoir areas have been too limited. Our sampling has not been adequate in terms of obtaining data on all aspects of the occupation - stratigraphy, house patterns, features, burials, activity areas, etc. This deficiency in data complicates any attempted reconstruction for the site or region.

Ideally, an important site should be completely excavated rather than merely sampled, but this appears unrealistic in terms of available budgets. Nonetheless, it is clear that a greater amount of excavation must be done at most sites selected for excavation. Many of the sites that have been done in other reservoirs within the state have perhaps 1% to 5% of the area sampled. At the Ka-73 site (Hudsonpillar, Kaw area) a total of 37 squares were dug. This represents a block of earth only 31 by 30 ft. square. At Os-59 (Freeman, Kaw area) some 45 squares were dug, an area measuring about 38 by 30 ft. square. The survey estimates the Hudsonpillar site alone as covering about 15 acres.

(4). There is increasing interest in settlement patterns and the ecological adjustment of prehistoric populations. To obtain this type of information, all sites must be investigated at least to the extent that they can be identified by cultural period. When excavations are limited to the larger sites alone, any picture of a settlement pattern becomes obscured and incorrectly interpreted. Moreover, there is an increasing interest in site variations (viz., camping sites, hunting stations, food-gathering localities, settlements, etc.), and these cannot be detected without a wider range of operations and investigation of a greater number of reported sites.

(5). The Kaw reservoir area includes a number of sites representing Proto-historic occupations during the early part of the 18th century. This represents a major locale for sites of this period within the entire Southern Plains. With the exception of Deer Creek (Ka-3), which is scheduled for preservation as a State Park, all of these sites will be lost by flooding or reservoir developments. Since this cluster of sites is of great interest to Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, specifically, every effort must be made to insure adequate archaeological work.

(6). Many of the problems mentioned above could be alleviated by proper funding for archaeological research in the Kaw area. The funding for archaeological work, however, also creates additional problems in so far as the research is concerned.

Throughout the operation of salvage work in Oklahoma over the past years, we have never had adequate funding for this research. Rather than having funds to implement a long-range research plan, the pattern has been that we receive a specified amount to do all salvage work within a specific reservoir. Consequently, we have been obliged to evaluate what is to be done, assign some matter of priority, and do as much as possible with the limited funds available. The situation has been further complicated by the fact that funds have become available only on an annual basis with no commitment of funds and no way of knowing how much may be available for the total project. This compounds difficulties in reservoir research and planning. When there are time limits, as in the case of reservoir construction deadlines, this can be very frustrating.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

Fieldwork in the Kaw reservoir should include a variety of activities including those listed below:

- 1). Search for additional sites located within the flood pool area which were not noted or reported on the original survey.*
- 2). Search for sites situated outside of the flood pool, but within the general reservoir area, which may be subjected to damage as a consequence of reservoir construction or development.*
- 3). The reexamination and/or testing of all sites known to exist in the flood pool area to assist in identification of cultural association and nature of the occupation.*

- 4). *Identification of peripheral sites situated outside the reservoir area and not subject to damage, but which would be helpful or necessary to understanding the prehistory of events within the reservoir area.*
- 5). *Conduct adequate excavations at a number of sites within the reservoir area to provide data for an archaeological history.*
- 6). *Prepare an overall report, summary, and interpretation of the prehistory of the Kaw reservoir area.*

PROJECTED PLANS

The archaeological research work for Kaw reservoir can be divided into a series of phases which proceed from one to the other for the next 5 years. These are outlined as follows:

Phase 1

This has been completed at this time and includes the initial survey of the Kaw reservoir area, plus excavations at two sites located within the vicinity of the Kaw dam site -Hudsonpillar and Freeman. Published reports upon this work have been presented to the National Park Service and the Corps of Engineers: General Survey Report No. 6, and Archaeological Site Report No. 4.

Phase 2

This is planned for the field season of 1972 (1971-72 fiscal year).

The fieldwork of Phase 2 is to be focused within the lower section of the reservoir area, chiefly from the dam site and northward around the towns of Kaw and Washunga.

This involves a reexamination of six sites for surface collections and reevaluation for possible testing in order to assess their significance.

Test pits are to be dug at 24 sites in order to establish the depth of cultural deposit, augment the specimen sample, determine the probable cultural affiliation and the type of site represented.

Two sites are to be subjected to excavations: Ka-52 (Scott site) and Ka-100 (Peel #2). These sites are believed to represent Archaic and Woodland occupations. A period of six weeks is allotted for excavations at these two sites in the hope that satisfactory cultural data can be obtained in that time period. Only through excavation can we tell if this is satisfactory or not.

Phase 3

This is planned for the 1973 season (1972-72 fiscal year).

This phase is concerned with the central section of the reservoir above the area covered by Phase 2 along the Arkansas River to the area of Sweetwater Creek. It also includes the Beaver Creek arm of the proposed lake.

Within this area, 17 sites are scheduled for a reexamination and evaluation for possible testing.

A total of 23 sites are to be subjected to test pits and additional examination to amplify our knowledge regarding the occupation at the site.

Three sites are to be subjected to excavations: Ka-41 (Vickery), Ka-10 (Von Elm), and Ka-62 (Spencer). The excavation time allotted is 65 days or 13 weeks.

It is also anticipated that the results from Phase 2 research will be available and will be used as a guideline to direct Phase 3 research. No budgetary considerations for emergency situations arising-out of work done under Phase 2 have been programmed into Phase 3.

Phase 4

This is planned for the 1974 season, although the amount of work to be done will obviously extend into 1975 (1973-74 fiscal year).

Phase 4 will be concerned with the remaining central and upper sections of the reservoir area.

There are three sites which should be revisited for reappraisal, and 13 sites which should be subjected to testing to determine occupational deposit and cultural affiliations.

There are eight sites to be subjected to excavation:

*Ka-88 (Smith site)
Ka-3 (Deer Creek site)
Ka-21 (Bryson Homestead site)
Ka-5 (Bryson site)
Ka-91 (Herbert site)
Ka-92 (Herbert Shelter)
Ka-2 (Love site)
Ka-20 (Hammons site)*

The total fieldwork time allotted is 17 days for testing and 310 days for excavations.

No budgetary considerations for emergency situations arising out of work done under Phase 3 have been programmed into Phase 4.

Phase 5

Phase 5 will be concerned chiefly with emergency excavations resulting from reevaluations or revisions in the research program resulting from inadequate data. It will also be concerned with the final preparation of a summary report dealing with the reservoir as a whole.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

To save some time in estimating budget costs, I have followed the Work Unit Costs presented by the Texas Archaeological Salvage Project Staff in their paper ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCE VALUATIONS, July 2, 1971.

| <i>Phase 1</i> | <i>Completed</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Phase 2 (1971-72 fiscal year)</i> | <i>\$ 52,080.00</i> |
| <i>Phase 3 (1972-73 fiscal year)</i> | <i>100,430.00</i> |
| <i>Phase 4 (1973-74 fiscal year)</i> | <i>414,364.00</i> |
| <i>Phase 5 (1974-75 fiscal year)</i> | <i>4,500.00 plus</i> |

Note:

I realize that only \$20,000. has been budgeted for the 1972 fiscal year, and that this is considerably less than the Phase 2 budget figure. We believe that we can get a substantial portion of this work done with this amount - all we can do is to try.

May 24, 1972

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE KAW RESERVOIR
KAY AND OSAGE COUNTIES, OKLAHOMARobert E. Bell
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

An assessment of the archaeological situation in the Kaw Reservoir area was submitted to the National Park Service dated December 31, 1971. This assessment presented a research plan designed to recover archaeological data from the reservoir over a period of several years. Each segment of the research was designated by phases, numbered Phase 1 through Phase 5. Phase 1 has been completed and Phase 2 is underway with fieldwork scheduled for the summer of 1972. Phase 3 of the project should be done during the field season of 1973, and is the next step to be followed in this research plan.

Phase 3 Research Plan (1972-73 fiscal year)

This phase is concerned chiefly with the central section of the Kaw Reservoir area extending from the region around the towns of Kaw and Washunga northward along the Arkansas River to the area of Sweetwater Creek. This will also include the Beaver Creek arm of the completed lake. This central section contains a total of 43 identified archaeological sites which have been reported in our Kaw Reservoir Survey. Of this total number of sites, 17 of them are to be revisited for surface collections and possible testing; 23 sites are to be subjected to test pits and additional examination, and 3 sites (Ka-41, Ka-10, and Ka-62) are to be subjected to excavations. This decision as to what should be done is based upon the current information available for the area. The results to be obtained from the Phase 2 studies, however, are not now available, and it is possible that new data might require or necessitate some modification of research effort. If new evidence suggests that a revision of the basic research design is desirable, it will be proposed at that time, otherwise the above outline of sites to be examined remains unchanged.

A period of 8 weeks is planned for examination and testing at 40 sites, and 13 weeks of excavations is planned for 3 sites. A proposed budget is attached with the Supporting Data information.

* * * * *

Report submitted to the National Park Service

OUTLINE OF PREVIOUS FIELDWORK IN THE KAW RESERVOIR AREA

This report represents the seventh report on archaeological research in the Kaw Reservoir area. This reservoir is situated in north central Oklahoma near Ponca City on the Arkansas River drainage. The completed reservoir will be approximately 35 miles in length and from 1 to 2 miles in width throughout much of its length. One major tributary, Beaver Creek, will form a branch embayment extending from Kaw City northward for approximately 10 miles. The reservoir was authorized by Congress in 1962, and initial construction work by the Corps of Engineers started in 1968. The target date for completion was 1975 or 1976, and at this time, the waters are beginning to accumulate behind the finished dam.

Archaeological considerations were of importance to the Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service, but these were secondary to construction of the reservoir. Consequently, it was necessary to identify the archaeological resources present in the area, and then to attempt the salvage of as much information as possible during the time and with the amount of money available. The Corps of Engineers, however, could not provide funds for this purpose, and the National Park Service had only limited funds for reservoir salvage work.

In 1962 our knowledge of the Kaw Reservoir locality was very limited. The only excavations in the area were those done by Thoburn (Wright 1947) at the Bryson site in 1926. This site produced numerous French and Indian artifacts attributed to the general time period of A.D. 1700 to 1750. This was, however, the only locality in Oklahoma

where such materials had been discovered.

Waldo Wedel (1942, 1959) had done some exploratory work in 1940 to the north of the Kaw Reservoir area in Kansas near Arkansas City, but relationships to the Kaw locality remained unknown.

The Kay County flint quarries (Gould 1898, 1899; Skinner 1957) near Hardy, Oklahoma, are within 15 miles of the reservoir and must have attracted numerous peoples into the region. The quarries and workshops, however, were and still are, poorly known, although exploitation of these resources ought to be reflected by sites along the Arkansas River valley.

The immediate need was for an archaeological survey of the entire Kaw Reservoir area to determine what remains were present within the proposed lake. The National Park Service provided \$300 for this purpose in June 1963.

As a consequence of this meager financial situation, arrangements were made with the Kay County Chapter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, located in Ponca City, to conduct the survey. Mr. Don G. Wyckoff of the Oklahoma River Basin Survey met with the chapter representatives, provided them detailed maps, and explained our objectives. The membership agreed to conduct the survey at their own expense under the direction of Mr. Walter Rosborough, who acted as project chairman and coordinator of the fieldwork.

Objectives of the survey were to locate and make surface collections from all prehistoric or historic sites within the Kaw Reservoir impoundment area. From this information, sites appearing to have greater significance would be recommended for excavation. The survey was to be limited to reservoir areas within the flood pool with special attention being placed on the lower elevations which would be under water at all times. No testing was to be done at the discovered sites as supervision was not possible with the funds available.

More than 30 members of the Kay County Chapter participated in the survey which started in December, 1963 and continued until November, 1964. During this period, Don Wyckoff made numerous trips to the reservoir area not only to consult with the survey parties, but to examine the various sites as they were discovered. A total of 101 sites were found by the survey and the accumulated information and evaluation was published by Wyckoff in April, 1965.

The sites recorded ranged from large villages covering several acres to small temporary camps or lithic workshops covering less than .5 acre. One rock shelter was reported, but the other 100 sites were all open localities. Artifacts found suggested a time range from the Archaic to 18th century historic occupations. Sites having components of Middle and Late Archaic, Plains Woodland, Late Prehistoric, and Early Historic periods were represented. Although Paleo-Indian projectile points had been found by collectors in the region, no specific sites from this time period were identified.

From the survey data and familiarity with many of the sites, Wyckoff (1965) recommended that 16 of the sites be excavated. This recommendation included sites believed to represent the complete time-span of occupation in the reservoir area.

Although preliminary plans for research work in the Kaw Reservoir area were being formulated in 1965, no detailed strategy could be finalized as the amount of funding to be made available remained unknown. Moreover, it was general policy of the National Park Service to allot funds only when site destruction appeared imminent, commonly only a year or so before the site would actually be destroyed. Such funding, in addition, normally did not meet archaeological budget requirements and fell far short of actual needs. Normally, a specified amount of money was received, and the expectation was that as much work as possible would be accomplished with the funds available. This always meant a reduction in fieldwork or laboratory activity.

No funds for excavation were available in 1966. By 1967 preliminary plans by the Corps of Engineers to initiate construction in 1968 necessitated the excavation of two recommended sites located in the area of the dam axis - the Freeman (Os-59) and Hudsonpillar (Ka-73) sites. Consequently, the National Park Service provided \$7342 and the University of Oklahoma provided \$1140 for research at these two sites.

A preliminary examination of the sites in the spring of 1967 indicated some destruction since the earlier survey. The Freeman site had been partly destroyed by an access road which crossed the area of surface debris concentration,

and a newly constructed farm terrace had damaged parts of the Hudsonpillar site. During the months of June and July, 1967, Tyler Bastian carried out excavations at these two sites, and his report was published in 1969 (Bastian 1969).

Excavations at the Freeman and Hudsonpillar sites indicated a more important and extensive Woodland occupation in the area than the survey data had indicated. Bastian (1969) identified a Middle and Late Woodland occupation with potential relationships to similar manifestations in northeastern Oklahoma and eastern Kansas. The materials also suggested to Bastian some relationship to the Late Plains Village cultures farther west (Custer focus) and thus supported the view that the Plains Villagers were derived from earlier Plains Woodland occupations. Since our knowledge of Plains Woodland occupations in Oklahoma was very limited, the Kaw data added new dimensions to the resources present in the Kaw Reservoir area.

No funding was available for work at Kaw during the years 1968, 1969, 1970, and 1971. In December, 1971, I submitted to the National Park Service a plea and plan for continuing salvage work in the Kaw Reservoir. The reservoir construction was proceeding rapidly, new roads were being built, areas were being used as barrow pits, wooded areas were being cleared, and it was essential to start work without further delay. In view of the estimated amount of time left and the fact that funding would be based upon an annual basis, I proposed that the work be done in a series of phases extending over the next four or five years. A number of assumptions were made in formulating this plan:

1. Sites located in the lower section of the reservoir area would be more susceptible to early destruction than those located some distance from the dam construction area.
2. Sites located within the conservation pool would be destroyed earlier than those within the flood pool.
3. Additional sites might be discovered which would merit consideration in the research effort.
4. Emergency situations might arise which would necessitate a modification in the field activities
5. Recommendations from the survey (Wyckoff 1965) for excavation of specific sites were reliable unless test exploration indicated otherwise.
6. Sites reflecting multiple cultural activities would be more significant than those manifesting single activity localities.
7. The amount of money for excavations would not be adequate to carry out a desirable research program, and priorities would have to be assigned to some sites over others.

It was anticipated that from 15 to 20 percent of the identified sites might be subjected to major testing or excavation. While all sites were considered to have significance, some sites were clearly more significant than others in terms of research objectives. Consequently, a number of guidelines were taken into account in terms of assigning a priority to sites for salvage attention:

1. Fieldwork plans should be sufficiently flexible to insure that excavations did not interfere or delay any construction activities. If reservoir developments necessitated clearance of specific sites or areas the fieldwork would be adjusted to accommodate these requirements.
2. Information should be collected from sites drawn from the entire time-span represented by the occupations present in the reservoir area. Since the cultural sequence for the area remained unknown, any cultural-historical reconstruction required data upon all periods of occupation.
3. Efforts would be made to obtain information regarding diverse cultural activities represented at any single site, and to obtain information upon site utilization within each limited time period.
4. Since no test work had been done at the survey sites, each site would be revisited for making surface collections and/or conducting tests to reassess the conclusions of the original survey. If testing revealed significant changes in the assessment, this would be taken into account when assigning priorities to fieldwork.

5. *As the fieldwork progressed, the accumulated data would be incorporated into the program so that specific archaeological problems arising as a result of completed fieldwork might be resolved through a realignment of the long-range planning.*

The following fieldwork plan was formulated:

Phase I: (1971)

This phase had been completed and consisted of excavations at two sites located in the immediate area of the dam axis.

Phase II: (1972)

This phase was focused upon the lower section of the reservoir area. This extended from the dam axis locality northward to include the areas around the towns of Kaw and Washunga. A total of 30 sites were to be reexamined for surface collections and/or testing, and two sites were to be excavated.

Phase III: (1973)

Phase III was concerned with the central portion of the reservoir from near Kaw and Washunga northward along the Arkansas valley to the area of Sweetwater Creek. It also included the Beaver Creek embayment area. A total of 40 sites were to be reexamined for surface collections and/or testing for reassessment. Three sites were to be excavated.

Phase IV: (1974)

This phase related to the upper section of the reservoir. The remaining section of the central area plus the upper portion of the reservoir were included in Phase IV. This included 16 sites which were to be reassessed by additional surface collections and/or testing, and eight sites which were to be excavated.

Phase V: (1975)

Phase V was to be concerned with carryover work that could not be completed according to schedule because of inadequate funding, or with emergency excavations necessitated by feedback from earlier work indicating inadequate data.

Although this plan of fieldwork was generally followed, budget restrictions required some modification in each phase. A general synopsis of each phase follows:

Phase II: 1972

The budget request submitted to the National Park Service for Phase II was for \$52,080. We received \$20,000 from the National Park Service and \$5,083 from the University of Oklahoma.

The fieldwork was conducted during the summer of 1972, and a report on the work was published by Rohrbaugh in 1973. Two sites were excavated, Ka-77 (the Gary Daniels site), and Ka-100 (the Glenn Peel site). Ka-52 had been scheduled for Phase II but failure to obtain the landowner's permission for excavations necessitated a change to Ka-100. Of the 30 sites which were to be reevaluated, four had already been destroyed. Ka-74 was destroyed by construction in the dam site area, Ka-30 had been washed away by flooding of the river, Os-81 had been removed by a barrow pit, and Ka-9, a blowout site, had been filled with dirt and leveled by the owner and was badly mixed. Nine sites were subjected to tests, four of them with a series of test squares, and five with small test holes to determine the depth of the deposit. Eleven sites produced a small amount of lithic scatter, but surface indications suggested that tests would not be merited. One site was not investigated because of the landowner's objections, and five sites could not be relocated, perhaps because of the heavy ground cover. In addition, two new sites were discovered during the season. None of the surveyed sites was recommended for additional work. Further results of this season's work can be found in Rohrbaugh's report (1973).

Phase III: 1973

The proposed budget for Phase III requested \$100,000 from the National Park Service. In a cost sharing contract, the National Park Service supplied \$40,000 and the University of Oklahoma supplied \$10,894 for the work.

Phase III fieldwork was conducted during the summer of 1973, and reports on the research were published by Rohrbaugh (1974) and Hartley (1974).

Three sites were subjected to excavations: Ka-10 (the Von Elm site), Ka-41 (the Vickery site), and Ka-62 (the Spencer site). In addition 30 sites were reassessed. Of these 30 sites, 23 were examined for surface collections and testing was not recommended. Five of the sites were tested, but the tests did not suggest that additional work was necessary. Two sites, Ka-99 (the Stockton site), and Ka-119 (the Butterfield site) appeared more important, and a series of test squares were dug at both sites.

Further detailed reports on the results of this research are published in Rohrbaugh (1974) and Hartley (1974).

Phase IV: 1974

Phase IV was concerned with the northern portion of the reservoir, and a proposed budget was submitted to the National Park Service for \$414,364. We received \$15,000 from the National Park Service and \$3,395 from the University of Oklahoma in a cost sharing contract. With this limited amount of money the planned fieldwork had to be reduced accordingly, and only three sites were subjected to excavations. These three sites include Ka-5 (the Bryson site), Ka-91 (the Herbert Shelter), and Ka-92 (the Greenhagen site). Work at Ka-5 was of an exploratory nature and considerable additional excavation would be necessary at a later date. A report on the 1974 season was published by Hartley in 1975.

Phase V: 1975

Phase V was considerably expanded from what was initially planned because of inadequate funding during the previous phases. The amount of \$400,000 was requested from the National Park Service and the total of \$85,000 was assigned to the Kaw project. On a cost sharing contract, the University of Oklahoma contributed the sum of \$9,610. The initial contract with the National Park Service was for \$45,000 but this was later increased by a supplemental amount of \$40,000 thus providing the \$85,000 total.

This work included excavations at six sites: Ka-5 (the Bryson-Paddock site), Ka-2 (the Love site), Ka-20 (the Hammons site), Ka-21 (the Bryson Homestead site), Ka-52 (the Scott site), and Ka-88 (the Smith site). Work at Ka-5 was a continuation of excavations started in 1974, and work at Ka-52, the Scott site, was now possible as the land had been bought by the Corps of Engineers.

A total of 16 sites in the upper section of the reservoir were to be revisited and examined for surface collections and/or testing. All of the fieldwork for Phase V has been completed, and the results of the research are presented in the following report with the exception of additional data on Ka-5, the Bryson-Paddock site, which is being published as a separate monograph.

Phase VI

Additional fieldwork at Kaw Reservoir remains unknown because of uncertainties in the funding situation. One site, Ka-3, the Deer Creek site, which is the largest village in the entire reservoir area remains untouched. The land is owned by the Corps of Engineers, and the site has been protected by the erection of a high chain-link fence which surrounds the presumed occupational area. A boat-launching ramp and picnic areas are scheduled for locations adjacent to the site, and suggestions have been made for development of the site as a State Park or Museum and Interpretive Center. The site is situated at the edge of the reservoir and can be preserved unless unforeseen flooding occurs in the area. Although much of the site should be preserved, some archaeological investigations are necessary to provide interpretive information about the village and its inhabitants. Archaeological planning, however, needs to be closely coordinated with possible future developments at the site.

Another unfinished task for work done in the Kaw Reservoir is the preparation of a synthesis and interpretive report for the entire reservoir area.

Report submitted to the National Park Service

PHASE Va FIELDWORK: 1975 PLANNING AND OBJECTIVES

Phase V fieldwork in the Kaw Reservoir has been financed by a cost-sharing contract between the National Park Service and the University of Oklahoma. The funding for Phase V was obtained in two parts which have been designated Phase V and Phase Va. The fieldwork included in Phase V was accomplished at Ka-5 during the summer of 1975 under the supervision of John Hartley. A report on the work and findings at Ka-5 is being prepared and will be published separately. The fieldwork for Phase Va was done during the months from September to December, 1975,

under the supervision of Wayne Young. The results of Phase Va are presented in this report.

Phase Va focused primarily on the northern section of the reservoir area. A total of 20 sites had not been investigated up to this time because of funding limitations. In addition, one site (Ka-52), located in the southern section of the reservoir, also needed attention as work had been postponed earlier because of objections by the landowner.

The available budget permitted 12 weeks of fieldwork for the examination of the 21 sites. Of this number, five sites had been recommended for excavation by the initial survey. With this as a basis for further planning, the following field program was formulated:

A period of 10 weeks would be allowed for excavations at five recommended sites:

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Ka-2</i> | <i>Love site</i> |
| <i>Ka-20</i> | <i>Hammons site</i> |
| <i>Ka-21</i> | <i>Bryson Homestead site</i> |
| <i>Ka-52</i> | <i>Scott site</i> |
| <i>Ka-88</i> | <i>Smith site</i> |

The actual amount of time spent at any single site would be determined in the field at the time of initial investigation. No previous test work had been done and the nature of the occupational deposit remained unknown, except for Ka-21, which was represented by a small mound. Consequently, the amount of work to be done at any single location would be determined after exploratory tests to establish the significance of the site. Sufficient work should be done to determine the nature of the occupation and the probable cultural relationship, but no single site should receive more than four weeks of excavation. The fieldwork plan was to remain flexible so that sites which proved to be more important could receive a greater amount of attention.

A period of two weeks was allotted to the remaining 16 sites. These were to be revisited for surface collections and reevaluation. If this new information suggested that testing should be done, tests would be accomplished, otherwise the site would be abandoned. Of these 16 sites, the initial survey suggested that eight of them merited some attention.

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| <i>Ka-11</i> | <i>Ka-64</i> |
| <i>Ka-56</i> | <i>Ka-65</i> |
| <i>Ka-58</i> | <i>Ka-83</i> |
| <i>Ka-63</i> | <i>Ka-121</i> |

The remaining series of eight sites appeared less likely to merit testing, but they would be reexamined and tested if that appeared to be desirable. These sites include:

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Ka-37</i> | <i>Ka-76</i> |
| <i>Ka-42</i> | <i>Ka-87</i> |
| <i>Ka-57</i> | <i>Ka-89</i> |
| <i>Ka-75</i> | <i>Ka-90</i> |

Within the two weeks of time available, these 16 sites were to be visited and surface material was to be collected. If the site appeared to offer information not already available from previous work, it would be tested to determine the desirability of further investigation. If further investigation appeared unnecessary, the site would be abandoned.

All of this work was accomplished during the field time available. In addition, one new site (Ka-147) was discovered, and it was also tested.

Fundamental to all decisions regarding whether a site should be tested or if further excavation should be done was whether or not additional work would provide new information or if it merely duplicated data already available.

The assumptions and guidelines mentioned in the previous section were also important in terms of decisions to continue or abandon the site.

A number of general objectives were kept in mind throughout the field season:

- 1. To complete the fieldwork, by December, 1975.*
- 2. To salvage as much information as possible with the limited amount of money available. The reservoir was almost completed and further work at sites which would be flooded would not be possible later according to the planned schedule.*
- 3. To determine the significance of each site and its eligibility for the National Register.*
- 4. To attempt to locate additional sites which may exist but which were not discovered by the initial survey.*
- 5. To obtain information from local collectors regarding sites or specimens found at known sites within the reservoir area.*
- 6. To obtain information regarding the various activities taking place at an individual site - resource procurement, features, house structures, burials, etc.*
- 7. To obtain charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating and establishment of the time perspective.*
- 8. To obtain additional information on Plains Village occupations, if available, and especially on potential ancestors for the Proto-Historic Wichita occupations.*
- 9. To obtain additional information on Archaic occupations which are not well represented by earlier work in the area.*
- 10. To obtain supplementary information on occupations identified in work of previous seasons.*
- 11. To obtain information from the mound site (Ka-21) which is the only known example of a mound from the reservoir area.*
- 12. To obtain additional information on the Woodland occupations and their activities in the Kaw Reservoir area. Earlier work at Freeman, Hudsonpillar, and Von Elm sites has brought significant advances in our understanding of Plains Woodland occupations in Oklahoma and the Southern Plains.*
- 13. To obtain evidence for exploitation of the nearby Kay County flint resources.*

Details of the Phase Va fieldwork and analysis of the findings constitute the main body of this report.

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**General Assessment of the Archaeological Situation at the Deer Creek Site and
Recommendations for Continuing Research and Development.**

Robert E. Bell
January 1980

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This report represents a considered evaluation with recommendations for continued research at the Deer Creek site in Northern Oklahoma. It offers comments on information supplied to me by the Corps of Engineers as listed below:

Preliminary Report on Soils Work at the Deer Creek National Landmark
Archaeological Site, Kay County, Oklahoma by Donald Lee Johnson, June 1, 1979.

Preliminary Report on Soils Work at the Deer Creek National Landmark
Archaeological Site, Kay County, Oklahoma by Donald Lee Johnson, October 20, 1979.

Historical Assessment of the Deer Creek Site, Kay County, Oklahoma by Mildred Mott Wedel, 1979.

A Ground-Penetrating Radar Survey at the Deer Creek Site (Ka-3), Oklahoma by John Weymouth and Rob Huggins, September 1979.

I have also drawn on past experience from excavations conducted at the Bryson-Paddock site, the Longest site, studies of Wichita history, and over 30 years of familiarity with the Deer Creek site itself. I trust that the following information will be useful.

I do not have a final report on the results of the soil studies conducted at the site, but I have received two brief preliminary statements.

Soil studies indicate that two of the radar anomalies reported are geological in nature as suggested by Bevans. They are represented by a dense clay layer which is buried in some portions of the site.

The suggestion of a deeply buried cultural zone is indicated by some core samples. This locality should be tested by excavation to determine without question the presence or absence of an older occupation in the site area. Although it is not currently known, it would not be surprising to find a buried occupation in this locality as the reservoir area has been inhabited since Archaic times (or earlier). The site's location overlooking the river and the availability of a nearby spring make it a desirable location for such habitation.

Core samples taken from the mounds indicate a weak division between the trash mounds and the underlying soil. While this may vary from one mound to another, it indicates the need for caution in determining possible site stratigraphy.

Suggestions of a thin cultural deposit in areas between the mounds and over sections of the site imply a short habitation period at Deer Creek. This emphasizes the importance of the care and protection of the site surfaces which have not been disturbed by cultivation in the past. The use of vehicles or any vegetation clearing procedures that disturbs the surface soils at the site should be avoided.

Comments on the Historical Background Research by Mildred M. Wedel

This work is a scholarly effort to pull together the available historical information regarding the Deer Creek site in northern Oklahoma. In spite of much search and critical evaluation of the available documents, our knowledge regarding the history of the site remains unsettled and subject to many uncertainties. It seems likely, moreover, barring unforeseen discoveries of currently unknown records, that our picture will not be substantially improved in the future, as far as historical documents are concerned.

What is clear, however, is the fact that Deer Creek represents one of two twin villages (Bryson-Paddock representing the other one) that was visited by at least two French groups in 1749 and 1750. That the Indians represented were Wichita cannot be doubted, but it is not clear which of the various Wichita subdivisions are actually represented. The early white visitors reported the presence of houses made of poles and grass and that the inhabitants were living in two towns. The villages (houses?) were fortified by an entrenchment with poles and earth containing openings. There were from 75 to 125 dwellings represented which housed around 300 to 500 warriors. It is quite clear that the sites were not official posts or forts, but essentially they were contact locations for Indians and French traders involved in gathering skins, bear grease, meat, etc., for transport down the Arkansas River to New Orleans.

Wedel suggests that the important period for trade between the French and Wichita at Deer Creek was concentrated during the interval from 1747 or 1748 to 1756 or 1757, a period of roughly ten years. Around 1757 the site was abandoned and residence was taken up on the Red River in southern Oklahoma. Although Deer Creek was dominated by Indians, French hunters were established here for the purposes of hunting and obtaining hides and meat products in exchange for trade goods.

At the present time, it is not known if the two villages were already established by the time of French contact or if the French persuaded the Wichita to move there from elsewhere for convenience in trading. Field work at the Bryson-Paddock site suggests that the occupation is limited to the period of French contact. Whether this is also the case at Deer Creek remains to be determined.

In addition to the obvious searching for ditches, embankments, fortifications, and house structures, the archaeologist should probably consider the following questions:

- (1) Is the apparent ditch feature similar or related to the council circles found on Wichita sites in Kansas?
- (2) Can one find evidence for areas used in salting meat for shipment?
- (3) Can one find any exceptionally large fire hearths or areas which may have been used in smoking meat or rendering bear grease?

Whether or not the circular ditch at Deer Creek is similar to those found in Kansas can only be determined with excavation. The historical accounts speak of a ditch as part of a fortification although the surface indications show a

horseshoe-shaped ditch, open at the north end and facing Deer Creek. The fortification is also reported as having openings and present surface indications show a discontinuous ditch area. The ditch appears to be part of a fortification construction but it is hard to visualize a fortification in which one section remains open permitting easy entrance. Only excavation will reveal if the ditch is part of a fortification system and if it is accompanied by post constructions forming a stockade and moat complex, if it resembles the Kansas council circle, or if it was a horse corral or some other kind of feature.

Salt may or may not have been important to the inhabitants. If meats were salted and dried in certain sections of the site, it seems unlikely to me that any evidence of the salt would remain in the soils after this long a period of time. In addition, Mr. Miller, who formerly owned this site, normally kept cattle in the site area. He commonly placed blocks of salt on the site for his cattle, and this might influence any attempt to locate specific working areas in which salt was an important factor.

The use of large fires for smoking or rendering lard (bear grease) may well be found and this would be most helpful in understanding the village settlement pattern and activity areas. The presence of meat drying racks nearby or in association with the large fire places would be especially helpful.

As there are two large villages, Deer Creek and Bryson-Paddock, it would appear that each village might well represent different subdivisions within the Wichita tribe. With the availability of cultural data from both sides, it may be possible to identify differences and perhaps associate them with known historic groups.

Assessment of the Ground-Penetrating Radar and Magnetic Survey

These two prospecting methods were applied to limited sections of the Deer Creek site for the purpose of locating subsurface features. In some areas, the two methods were applied to the same localities, but in others only one method or the other was used. Consequently, not all of the results can be used for comparing the anomalies indicated by the two methods. Since our knowledge regarding the value of these methods at the Deer Creek site remains exploratory, comparisons between the results and ultimate establishment of "ground truth" for the recorded anomaly has priority.

Before attempting any assessment of the results, however, it is worthwhile to consider the kinds of subterranean features that might be picked up by these methods. The Deer Creek site is similar to the Bryson-Paddock site located about 1 ¾ miles to the north and to the Longest site located on the Red River in southern Oklahoma. Some excavations have been conducted at each of those sites in the past (Bell, Jelks, and Newcomb 1967; Hartley and Miller 1977). The surface features of these sites include evidence for a ditch with embankment and scattered trash or refuse mounds. Excavations have produced post holes and house patterns with hearths from former structures, scattered refuse pits, burials, and sheet midden deposits. All of these features contain trade materials derived from the French, and metal objects may be encountered in almost any locality.

Since the Deer Creek site has remained uncultivated and, consequently, surface features are essentially unchanged, careful examination of the surface will note the ditches, embankments, trash mounds, and some low oval or circular depressions. The significance of these depressions remains unidentified at present, but the contour map of the site illustrates the locations of these surface features.

Our concerns, however, are with remains underneath the surface which are not obvious from the studies of the topography. Features that one would expect to be present, based on work elsewhere, include post holes from structures, meat drying racks, raised granaries, fences, or other constructions, fire hearths, cache or refuse pits, burial pits, large stones such as metates, and pieces of metal. Metal items include iron, copper, and brass in various sizes, but the larger items such as iron gun barrels, iron axes, and iron hoes are likely to be most sensitive to the prospecting methods.

In order to make useful comparison of the two methods, I have taken the information supplied in the two reports and plotted the anomalies on a contour map of the site. Although there is some margin for error in exact locations of some anomalies, this margin is probably within one or two meters and does not detract from relating the anomalies to surface contours. The following table lists the various anomalies as reported by the underground radar survey and the magnetic survey for comparison of their results.

Radar anomalies

- R1 - Noted as a piece of metal perhaps 40 cm deep. This location is to the south of a mound but could be in a thin mound edge. No obvious surface features. It may possibly be interference from the barbed wire fence immediately to the west.
- R2 - Location is off the mound but could be within the mound edge. Depth is listed as 1.3 m which seems deep in this area. Possibly caused by the barbed wire fence as in the case of R1. Could be related to R1 and not from the fence.
- R3 - A piece of metal, possibly at the surface or up to 30 cm deep. This is close to the north edge of a fisherman's roadway and could be associated with this feature. It lies outside the indicated mounds.
- R4 - Piece of metal or a rock around 90 cm deep. Appears west of a mound but could be in the mound edge.
- R5 - Two objects in the mound at a depth of 80 cm. This appears to be in the pot hole dug into the mound.
- R6 - Probably a piece of metal about 60 cm in depth. Lies on the western side of the mound.
- R7 - Weak but possibly a stone in the mound; lies on the edge of the pot hunters' pit; depth .7 to 1. m.
- R8 - Two or more metal objects about 60 cm in depth. Appears in area between the mounds. Possibly related to M6.
- R9 - Two or more metal objects about 90 cm deep. Associated with R8. This is close to M6.
- R10 - Complex, depth 80 cm to 1.2 m. Possibly the fence. Similar to M3.

While this table presents detailed information regarding each of the anomalies so that they can be compared, it is useful to make some summary comments where that is possible.

The total number of radar anomalies reported totals 43; of these 31 were not covered by the magnetic survey. There are a total of 32 anomalies reported by the magnetic survey and 13 of these were not covered by a radar transect. Consequently, the number of anomalies which refer to the same subsurface source is limited.

The area which was most closely examined by both methods is designated the M blocks. Within the M blocks, radar picked up a total of 7 anomalies while the magnetic survey picked up 9 anomalies. Of these, 5 of the anomalies appear to represent the same source although 2 of the magnetic responses are weak. The radar noted 2 anomalies which were not picked up by the magnetic survey, and the magnetic survey picked up 6 anomalies which were not noted by the radar system. The 2 items noted by radar but undetected by the magnetometer are suggested as representing either metal objects or rocks. The 6 items noted by the magnetic survey but not by radar are mounds (5) and iron or burned rock (1).

The S blocks were partly covered by both survey methods. Three transects of the radar equipment crossed the magnetic survey area in the S blocks. Within this area the radar picked up 3 anomalies while the magnetic survey picked up 12 anomalies. The 3 radar anomalies are also represented by magnetic anomalies and may reflect the same source. There are 2 magnetic responses that were not picked up by the radar although the traverse crossed the area. Both of these are believed to represent dirt fill, either from the embankment or a filled drainage ditch. There are 6 magnetic anomalies that were not covered by the radar transects; these are believed to represent embankment fill (3), iron (2), and burned rock (1).

Within the Y blocks which were covered by the magnetic survey, there are 3 transects from the radar equipment. Within this area the radar picked up 2 anomalies and the magnetometer picked up 11 anomalies. One of the radar anomalies was also marked by the magnetic survey, but the other one, a geological clay lens, was not noted on the magnetic survey as would be expected. Of the remaining 10 magnetic anomalies, 3 were not picked up by the radar although one

transect crossed over the area; 7 magnetic anomalies were not covered by radar and include probable pieces of iron (2) and trash mounds (5).

The remaining items include 31 anomalies which were noted by radar but which were not covered by the magnetic survey grids. These anomalies include metal (7), metal or rocks (1), tree roots (2), unidentified (2), rocks or soil contrast (8), refilled ditch (2), refilled pits (5), and geological (4).

In considering the above information it is clear that the two methods have not noted the same anomalies. Although there are some similarities, some anomalies were picked up by radar and others by the magnetic survey. It is understood that differences in the technique should bring about some differences in the anomalies noted, but one method is certainly better for some things than the other. Although the radar survey did pick up some pits or refilled areas, it did not locate or indicate anomalies in known disturbed areas such as the ditch and embankments. It is also of little help in establishing the locations of the trash mounds, even when evident on the surface. One test, Grid 7, although located in a complex area as far as earth constructions are concerned, apparently did not pick up any anomalies as no results are reported. There are no anomalies reported for Line 1, Grid 2A or Grid 6, so I suppose the results are negative. Radar appears to be helpful in locating rocks, geological features, and pits, but in most cases these areas were not covered by the magnetic survey to compare joint results.

The magnetic survey information appears most helpful in delimiting the trash mounds, ditches or embankments, burned areas, and metal. It should be useful in locating trash mound locations that have been leveled or which are not apparent from surface contours. One problem with the anomalies reported by the magnetic survey is that the source of the anomaly is not identified, so it is not clear as to what had been located. Some anomalies noted by the radar survey were not picked up by the magnetic survey or vice versa. Some of these, such as the geological horizons, are understandable because of the different techniques; some metal items may be too deep for the magnetic survey or too close to the surface for the radar transect. Nonetheless, such differences do occur in the results. Both methods need refinement in distinguishing between background noise (fence) or equipment malfunctions and subsurface anomalies.

I believe that the general results to date are most helpful in pointing out general areas where cultural activity took place, but that the usefulness of either method can only be determined after careful ground truth to determine what is represented by the anomalies reported. With this information, the anomalies can be reevaluated in terms of known sources creating the anomaly and refinements in interpretation of the radar or magnetic data become possible.

I would recommend that selected grid areas be examined in detail by each of these methods to determine the anomalies present within that restricted area. This area should then be examined by archaeological techniques to determine the source and cause for the anomaly represented. The resulting information will make it possible to determine the effectiveness of the radar and magnetic methods and enable greater reliability in the prediction of subsurface features elsewhere.

Recommendations for Further Work at the Deer Creek Site

I am making a number of suggestions regarding what should be done at the Deer Creek site location. These suggestions take into account the results of recent investigations of soils and prospecting methods, and seek to provide information about the site which presently remains unknown. These suggestions are aimed at obtaining a maximum amount of information with a minimum amount of subsurface disturbance.

The Deer Creek site has received much attention and publicity, mostly by historians or lay persons who accept it as the "first white settlement in Oklahoma." The names Fernandina and Ferdinandina are associated with the site, and speculative writers commonly describe it as a French fortified stockade and post established on the frontier for trading with the local Indians. This is an exciting idea, but when the site remains unexplored, what is the basis for such an idea? Present information suggests that Deer Creek was an Indian village site where French traders came to obtain skins, meat, and animal products in exchange for European trade goods. Some Frenchmen may have lived in the village from time to time, or permanently, and certainly they influenced the residents of the village. Their role, however, remains the subject of much speculation and only additional research can resolve some of the questions. For example, was the village fortified and what was this fortification like? Are there any indications of French structures or indications that the French actually lived on the site? Does the archaeological evidence support remarks offered by early visitors to the locality? It is only with additional work and research that some of these matters can be clarified.

The following suggestions are offered with the understanding that some of them should have priority as later

work should take into account what has been learned during these preliminary activities. The research design will obviously become more complex as our knowledge regarding the site increases in content. As some things become established beyond question, for example, the purpose of the ditch area, other more penetrating questions can be formulated.

If the site is to be developed and presented to the public, it is essential to know what resources exist in the site itself. As these become known, an intelligent program for development and interpretation of the Deer Creek site can be produced.

(1). Preparation of a revised or new site contour map.

The present contour map that was prepared by R. Corbyn for the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey (1974) is not satisfactory. This map was prepared from aerial photographs, but upon receiving the draftsman's copy, it was obvious that many of the surface features on the site were not noted. Consequently, Mr. Corbyn took the map and visited the site where he sketched in the surface features which are now shown on his map of 1974. This difficulty with the map is partly a result of utilizing a 1 foot contour interval, although for some reason or another elevation differences of more than 1 foot were often not indicated on the initial map. An examination of the map will clearly show that most of the trash mounds, the ditch, and embankments are not indicated by contour lines.

The surface contours of the site are important in indicating the nature of potentially disturbed areas and for indications of human activity, hence an accurate map of the surface is essential.

I recommend that the site be resurveyed and a new accurate map be prepared. This should be done using a 15 cm contour interval covering the areas where surface features are indicated on the existing Corbyn map. This essentially includes the area now enclosed within the Corps fence. A contour interval of more than 15 cm will not detect apparent surface features which are important to the sites topography. The river banks and other sections of the site area, outside the fence or lacking surface features, would be satisfactory with a larger contour interval if that is deemed desirable and more economical by the surveying crew. Possibly the Corbyn map of these areas could be integrated into the revised and corrected contour map.

This map should be coordinated with the grid points that have already been established by the Corps of Engineers, not with those placed by Corbyn as his are not oriented to the cardinal directions.

(2). Establishment of a permanent grid system for the precise location of site artifacts and features.

As one consequence of exploratory work with radar and magnetic surveys, a grid system has already been initiated by the Corps of Engineers. Some permanent datum stakes have been placed in the ground and this grid system appears quite satisfactory. It is based on a grid system of 50 meter squares along north-south and east-west coordinates. This grid system should be extended to include all areas of the site within the fenced area where there are indications of cultural features on the present Corbyn map. If necessary, it can be extended at some later date to include other surrounding blocks.

At the present time, permanent grid points have been established at only a few specific points, and the other grid points are represented by temporary stakes. I recommend that each of the grid points marking the corners of the 50 meter grid blocks be marked with permanent datum points to insure reliability in site records. If possible, a metal pin mounted in cement should be placed accurately at each of these grid points, flush with the ground surface so that it will not be disturbed. If possible, the metal pins should be non-magnetic so they will not affect possible magnetic prospecting equipment.

The placement of these datum points should be done so as to keep soil disturbances to a minimum. It would be highly desirable that an archaeologist or soil specialist be present to observe the soils for any possible clues regarding the site when these grid pins are installed.

With this grid system installed, it will be possible to record site information in detail with reference to any of the grid blocks. Surface specimens, test work, details of surface features, or similar information can be drawn on large scale maps for each grid block as part of a permanent record. Different investigative systems can be assured of congruent site examinations, and an accumulated site record can be maintained for each of the blocks in detail.

The grid blocks should have some standard method of designation. The current Corps map merely indicates the

corner pin numbers according to the distance from a zero point and does not indicate the grid block. The traditional archaeological method for designating the block is to use the pin located in the SOUTHEAST corner of the block, but this can be cumbersome at times and result in errors. Nevertheless, some method of designating the grid blocks needs to be utilized. Rather than grid coordinates, the magnetic survey assigned letters to the various blocks, and this has some advantages because of the simplicity in recording.

I hold no preference for any special system for designating names for each of the grid blocks, but I do recommend that each grid block be given a systematic designation for permanent reference. This system should be simple and easily understood to avoid possible errors in recording and record keeping.

The records for localities or finds made within the grid block can be located by some standardized procedure for subdividing the block, probably based on 1 meter squares. This might be done by establishing a grid system within the grid block or merely by numbering the individual squares in numerical sequence. In any case, I highly recommend that locational data for the site be established for the grid system and that it be used consistently, without modification, for all future work.

(3). Recommendations for site conservation.

The Deer Creek site presents one with a difficult dilemma because of the desirability of preserving the site and because of our ignorance regarding the site contents. If one is to develop, interpret, and appreciate the significance of the site, it is necessary to destroy portions of it through archaeological research. While such research will recover much desired information that is necessary, it is certainly true that advances in the field and recovery techniques will continue to expand and become more sophisticated in future years. In addition, information about problems or questions which cannot now be anticipated may lie available in the Deer Creek deposits. Consequently, it is recommended that selected portions of the Deer Creek site be set aside or reserved for future research.

Utilizing the established grid block system which is to be superimposed over the site, I recommend that numerous selected blocks, or portions of blocks, be entirely restricted from any subsurface research and that they be conserved for the future. These prohibited sections of the site should be selected so as to include all variations of features that can be recognized from the surface. This would include sections of the ditch or ditches, embankments, depressions, trash mounds, open areas between mounds, and other cultural areas which may be suggested by non-destructive subsurface prospecting. Most of these areas can be selected at this time, but additional choices may be desired after the completion of projected studies.

A major portion of the site should be so restricted, perhaps 75 to 80 percent of the total area. The remaining portion would represent the available areas for subsurface archaeological work designed for maximum recovery with minimal disturbance. These should be carefully selected from the available areas for the purpose of answering specific questions regarding the site resources and characteristics.

(4). Investigation of a possible buried occupation at the Deer Creek site.

Some of the soil sample cores suggest that a buried occupational zone may be represented at the Deer Creek site. This is not to be associated with the historic occupation but may represent an older occupation present on the same site locality. Such an occupation might be expected, but if true, it has remained unidentified because of the overburden and depth of the deposit.

I do not have the soil information providing the exact core location or depth of this suspected anthropic soil, but I recommend that a test pit, 2 meters square, be placed in the area concerned to determine whether or not an earlier cultural occupation is present at the site. This test pit should be placed in the area from which the cores were taken, but in a locality which does not appear to such as mounds or similar surface disturbances.

A test pit of 2 meters square is recommended to facilitate working conditions in excavating to a possible depth of 8 feet. In addition, if a cultural zone is present, the opportunities for recovering diagnostic cultural materials will be improved by excavating a larger area. The surface area and top levels will provide some information regarding the historic occupation and should receive special attention during excavation. Excavation by 10 cm levels is recommended. In case features representing the historic occupation are encountered during excavation of the upper levels, the decision to continue the deep test or shift it to an adjacent locality must be made. If the feature is one that might be preserved for possible future developments, it should not be destroyed by penetrating through the feature to investigate soils at a greater depth. On the other hand, shifting the test sounding to another locality runs the risk of uncovering other historic

Radar anomaliesMagnetometer anomalies

| | | |
|-------|--|---|
| R1 - | Noted as a piece of metal perhaps 40 cm deep. This location is to the south of a mound but could be in a thin mound edge. No obvious surface features. It may possibly be interference from the barbed wire fence immediately to the west. | Not covered in the survey |
| R2 - | Location is off the mound but could be within the mound edge. Depth is listed as 1.3 m which seems deep in this area. Possibly caused by the barbed wire fence as in the case of R1. Could be related to R1 and not from the fence. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R3 - | A piece of metal, possibly at the surface or up to 30 cm deep. This is close to the north edge of a fisherman's roadway and could be associated with this feature. It lies outside the indicated mounds. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R4 - | Piece of metal or a rock around 90 cm deep. Appears west of a mound but could be in the mound edge. | <u>M Blocks</u> In magnetic survey but no anomaly marked in this locality. Noted as 2 m east of a small anomaly. |
| R5 - | Two objects in the mound at a depth of 80 cm. This appears to be in the pot hole dug into the mound. | This falls within anomaly M8 (*) which shows a piece of iron and other anomalies present. |
| R6 - | Probably a piece of metal about 60 cm in depth. Lies on the western side of the mound. | There is a weak anomaly at this point but it was not marked. Possibly R4 and R6 were too deep. |
| R7 - | Weak but possibly a stone in the mound; lies on the edge of the pot hunters' pit; depth .7 to 1. m. | This is located in M8 (*) anomaly which shows a piece of metal and other anomalies present. |
| R8 - | Two or more metal objects about 60 cm in depth. Appears in area between the mounds. Possibly related to M6. | No marked anomalies here but it is close to M6 (**). M6 is possibly a small pocket of mound soil or a fire hearth. |
| R9 - | Two or more metal objects about 90 cm deep. Associated with R8. This is close to M6. | Does not agree with radar survey but there are some small anomalies in this area. |
| R10 - | Complex, depth 80 cm to 1.2 m. Possibly the fence. Similar to M3. | M3 (***) has anomalies here which are probably iron. Suggests that the response is not the fence. |

Radar anomalies

Magnetometer anomalies

Not indicated by radar survey.

M1 - Marks one of the mounds; some variations suggesting pot hole activity. Negative monopole activity; falls within the mound and may indicate soil differences.

Not indicated by radar survey.

M2 - Negative monopole activity; falls within the mound and may indicate soil differences

M3 - see above (***)

Not indicated by radar survey.

M4 - Not clear if this is a buried mound, part of the mound in M7, or a geological feature. Response is similar to mounds.

Not indicated by radar survey.

M5 - Farm road runs thru this area; adjacent to a mound. May be an extension of the mound that has been leveled by the road.

M6 - see above (**)

Not indicated by radar survey.

M7 - This is the south edge of one of the mounds.

M8 - see above (*)

Not indicated by radar survey.

M9 - Normal dipole near surface; iron or burned rock; probably not a hearth.

R11 - Noted as possibly tree roots, depth 60 to 90 cm. Located in one of the mounds.

Not covered in the survey.

S Blocks

R12 - Weak, possibly rock or ditch fill; depth 90 cm. This is one of Corbyn's grid stakes; iron pin in concrete.

S8 - Strong, non-normal dipole; coincides with Corbyn's grid point (*).

R13 - Weak, possibly a rock; 90 cm deep. Inside ditch area but no obvious feature. Between S4 and S5.

Possibly related to S4 or S5. S4 shows two anomalies; one is probably iron; S5 is confused from possible malfunctions.

R14 - Likely rock at depth of 1.2 m. Falls in S3 anomaly. No obvious surface features.

S3 - Region of several anomalies; an activity area of significance. Hearth suggested but not at R14.

Not indicated by radar survey.

S1 - Probably the course of drainage ditch which has been filled in. No surface feature.

Not covered by radar survey.

S2 - Small non-normal dipole; probably near surface iron. At edge of filled drainage ditch.

R13 - Possibly related to this but looks too far away.

S4 - Sizeable non-normal dipole; probably iron; two minor anomalies also, one north, one south. No surface features.

R13 - Possibly associated with this along western edge.

S5 - Region of low values; two monopole anomalies present; possible malfunction of magnetometer - needs rechecking.

Radar anomalies

Radar survey came close but did not cover this spot.

Not covered by radar survey.

Not covered by radar survey.

Not covered by radar survey.

Radar survey apparently crossed this area but picked up nothing.

Outside of radar survey line.

R15 - Weak; 2 or more items; .9 m edge of 2nd western embankment.

R16 - Rock or soil contrast; 80 cm depth. In mound area as well as 2nd western ditch complex.

R17 - Trench fill; depth 80 cm max. Falls in bottom of ditch, inner circle.

R18 - Metal, at or near surface; 50 cm.

R19 - Indistinct pattern; not metal; depth 1.2 m. Off small mound but close; also close to fisherman's road.

R20 - Soil or rock contact; depth 1.3 m. Close but apparently off a small mound.

R21 - Possibly bottom of refilled ditch; depth 1.1 - 1.4 m. Off mound, no visible features.

R22 - Soil or rock contrast in mound; depth 1.2 m. This falls within a mound.

R23 - Refilled pit; circular or oval shaped; depth 1. to 1.2 m. No obvious feature on surface.

R24 - Metal item; compact and elongated; depth 60 cm. Picked up on 3 traverses. No obvious surface feature.

R25 - Near surface metal; depth 80 cm. No obvious feature on surface.

R26 - Possible refilled pit; depth 80 cm. Noted on two traverses. No obvious surface feature.

Magnetometer anomalies

S6 - Non-normal dipole; probably surface iron but could be heated rock.

S7 - Low point surrounded by slightly high values; possibly a burned rock. No surface feature.

S8 - see above (*); Corbyn's grid pin.

S9 - Edge of mound and on ditch embankment (east side). Possibly an internal feature in the ridge.

S10 - Within mound on ditch embankment. Similar to S9.

S11 - Located in embankment fill; not very strong anomaly. May be related to S12.

S12 - Monopole region; weak; falls within embankment fill.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Radar anomalies

- R27 - 60 cm wide refilled ditch at least 2 m long; depth 80 cm. Noted on 6 traverses; starts at surface and extends to 80 cm underground. Close to mound edge.
- R28 - Possible refilled pit; 80 cm deep. Close to R27 and noted on three traverses. Close to edge of mound.
- R29 - Refilled pit, depth 90 cm to 1.4 m. Not covered in the survey. 1.4 m. Oval shaped pit and noted on four traverses. No obvious surface features.
- R30 - Possible refilled pit; depth 80 cm. One traverse. Contour map suggests possible mound not marked.
- R31 - Possible cluster of stones; depth 80 to 90 cm. No obvious surface feature.
- R32 - Metal or rock; depth 90 cm. Situated on edge of mound.
- R33 - Possible geologic stratum dipping to NW; depth 1.3 to 2 m.

Magnetometer anomalies

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Not covered in the survey.

Y Blocks

This falls within Y1 of the survey. An activity area with several anomalies but some iron on the surface.

Not covered in the survey. (Not in Y Block).

In the Y grid but not noted.

Not noted but traverse should have crossed this area.

Y2 - Low point on 3 or 4 grid points.

Not covered by radar traverse.

Y3 - Small dipoles; possibly near surface iron. No obvious surface features.

Not covered by radar traverse.

Y4 - Small dipole; possibly near surface iron. No surface features.

Traverse of radar should have crossed this area.

Y5 - Low point on 3 or 4 grids. No surface features evident.

Radar traverse should have crossed this locality. Nothing indicated.

Y6 - A column of low values suggesting a linear feature; possibly a path, wall or foundation. Appears to be a significant structure but could be a recording error; should be reexamined. No surface features evident.

Not covered by radar traverse.

Y7 - High reading related to Y1 or perhaps associated with mound of Y10.

Not covered by radar traverse.

Y8 - High region as part of Y1.

Not covered by radar traverse.

Y9 - High region as part of edge of Y1. No obvious surface feature.

Not covered by radar traverse.

Y10 - This reflects the lobed mound shown on the map.

Not covered by radar traverse.

Y11 - Associated with south edge of mound.

Radar anomaliesMagnetometer anomalies

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| R34 - Possibly geological; depth 1.5 m. No surface features. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R35 - Small piece of metal near surface; depth 90 cm max. At or near mound edge. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R36 - Complex area; possibly due to tree roots or structures in mound; depth .5 to 1.4 m. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R37 - Partly geological; covers about 11 square meters; some effects from fence corner; depth 1.0 to 2.6 m. No surface features indicated. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R38 - Probably stone; possibly soil; depth 90 cm. No obvious feature. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R39 - Horizontal stratum, probably geological; depth 1.1 to 1.7 m. No obvious features here. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R40 - Probably stone approximately 1.2 m wide; depth 1.3 m. In flat area shown on map. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R41 - Possibly stone; depth 1.3 m. Perhaps in fill along north side of flat area. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R42 - Probably stone .6 m wide. Possibly in fill of flat area. | Not covered in the survey. |
| R43 - Geological, rock outcrops nearby. | Not covered in the survey. |

features which would necessitate a similar decision. If important historic features are found in the initial test, the decision to continue the test or shift it to another locality should be determined by an "on site" conference by representatives of the Corps and the archaeologists concerned. Any alteration of the initial testing plan because of discovered features would involve additional field expenses that need to be considered.

The test is designed to determine if a buried cultural zone is present at the site or not. If such a cultural zone is present, an effort to determine the horizontal extent of the deposit should be made by collecting soil cores from the vicinity of the test pit. Hopefully, if such a zone is present, the cultural period may be identified; if not present, a reevaluation of the soil core data should be attempted. The presence or absence of a buried occupational zone at the site is important in terms of plans for site development and interpretation.

The test pit should be refilled and the surface restored to its original condition.

(5). Recommendations for archaeological test explorations.

Five test areas are recommended for exploratory investigation of the site by archaeological techniques. These total 732 squares of 1 meter by 1 meter. This amounts to less than 1.0 percent of the total site area. The following test locations are suggested:

A) An east-west trench, 2 meters in width, including the squares within the area from Zero North 148 to West 66 North 148 to West 66 North 150 to Zero North 150. This includes a trench 2 meters wide and 66 meters long.

The purpose of this trench is to determine the nature of 3 features shown on the Corbyn map which would be crossed by this trench: the two possible ditches, and a linear-like feature evident on aerial photos. It should provide information regarding the ditch-like features and any associated embankments or constructions, such as a stockade, associated with the ditches.

B) An east-west trench, 2 meters in width, including the squares within the area from North 100 East 85 to North 100 East 20 to North 102 East 20 to North 102 East 85.

This trench is placed in this position to determine the nature of the eastern arc of the ditch area and the associated embankments, as well as to explore a portion of the area contained within the enclosure. This trench also includes the southern portion of the magnetic survey included in the S blocks.

C) An east-west trench, two meters in width, including the squares contained within the area from North 200 East 75 to North 200 East 50 to North 202 East 50 to North 202 East 75.

This trench is intended to provide a cross section of a linear flattened feature paralleling Deer Creek to the north of the ditch enclosure.

D) A large grid block 12 by 20 meters contained in the area marked by grid points North 180 East 150 to North 180 East 138 to North 200 East 138 to North 200 East 150.

This block is designed to explore the site area in the northeastern portion of the occupation. It is placed to include parts of one trash mound plus an adjacent area in which no obvious surface features are present. Both radar and magnetic surveys indicate considerable cultural anomalies in this general region of the site, so sub-surface features can be expected.

E) A large grid block 12 by 15 meters contained in the area marked by grid points South 50 West 50 to South 50 West 62 to South 35 West 62 to South 35 West 50.

This block is designed to examine the site area in the southwestern portion of the occupation. It includes part of one trash mound as well as areas adjacent to the mound.

It would also be desirable to test one of the depressed areas of the site to determine what type of feature is represented. The present Corbyn map, however, does not indicate any of these potential features except those associated with the ditch enclosure. When a new contour map is prepared, the location of some of the potential features may be evident and possible testing can be considered at that time.

This test work should be done with hand tools by horizontal stripping following the surface contour. Excavation levels should not exceed 10 cm arbitrary levels, which can be used unless test work indicates natural stratigraphy within the deposit. If natural stratigraphic zones can be observed, these should be followed in areas where this is possible. Soil studies, however, suggest that clearly delineated cultural zones are not to be expected.

Each test area should be cleared uniformly over the entire grid before additional levels are excavated. This is to insure a uniform surface for observation and photographs of the exposed surface. I would also recommend that when each surface is exposed over the block or trench, and prior to initiating the next level, the exposed surface be systematically examined with a metal detector for purposes of locating, in advance, any prospective metal objects that might be encountered in removing the next layer of the deposit. This alert to potential metal artifacts can be taken into account by the excavator and may be helpful in recovering fragile associated data or improving conservation of finds. This procedure should be followed throughout the test work upon completion of all levels.

It seems likely that, except for areas containing features, the occupational deposit will be thin and limited to the top 25 cm. Features such as ditches or cache pits which have been dug into the occupational surface will require complete excavation to the necessary depth.

It is to be anticipated that features will be found that are not entirely contained within the test areas. These are to be examined, mapped, and photographed as normal procedure, but any such features exposed are *not* to be pursued into adjacent squares without special permission from the Corps.

All items which are found *in situ* are to be exposed and properly mapped within their respective grid. Items recovered by screening or during the archaeological research are to be located within the correct 1 meter block. This information is necessary for the determination of localized activity areas within the site.

It is recommended that representative samples from the excavated areas be "water washed" to obtain all cultural material from the soil matrix. It is known that small glass trade beads are present on the site, and these are not likely to be recovered without this process. While it may be desirable to use this method throughout all of the tested areas, it adds to the cost and some sampling procedure should serve in providing suitable data. The use of "water washing" techniques involves the transport of the soil matrix to a suitable location, the collection of soil residues which take extensive laboratory time in analysis, and the need for substitute soils for refilling of the test areas.

The areas that are not "water washed" should be screened with a quarter inch mesh hardware cloth. Some samples of suitable soil might be screened with window-screen mesh for comparisons in recovery techniques. Flotation samples should also be collected, especially from features or areas suggesting intensive cultural activity. Soil samples should be collected for potential utilization in resolving problems arising with interpretation of the site deposits.

All of the proposed test trenches and areas should be carefully examined by both underground radar and a magnetic survey in order to correlate the results of excavation with the results of these surveys. One test area which includes the southern edge of the S blocks has already been done, but the others require this initial preliminary work prior to the testing. The prospecting methods should not only include the test areas themselves, but an area of at least 3 or 4 meters around the entire periphery. These data will be helpful in situations where incomplete features are encountered during the testing, but which were not completely exposed because of grid limits.

All of the test areas should be refilled, leveled, and the surface restored to the original condition existing at the time of excavation.

A Summary of Recommendations for Further Archaeological Work at the Deer Creek Site

- (1) Preparation of a revised or new site contour map.
- (2) Establishment of a permanent grid system for the precise location of site artifacts and features.
- (3) Recommendations for Site Conservation.
 - a) Elimination of vehicle traffic within the site area.
- (4) Investigation of a possible buried occupation at the Deer Creek site.
- (5) Test excavations.
 - a) Investigation of the western ditch area.
 - b) Investigation of the eastern ditch area and the enclosure.

- c) Investigation of the north linear feature.
- d) Investigation of NE site area including mound and open area.
- e) Investigation of the SW site area including mound and open area.

Recommendations for Site Stabilization

First, I would like to acknowledge the fact that I know very little about this subject, and believe that members of the Corps can offer more useful advice in this regard. I do know, however, that erosion, unless checked, threatens the Deer Creek site deposit.

There are several small and incipient gullies encroaching toward the site along the Arkansas River bank. One of these has penetrated beyond the fence which was installed by the Corps to protect the site from vandalism. These gullies require some treatment or stabilization to prevent their continual growth and expansion. I suspect that some of them are the result of fishermen climbing up and down the bank for access to a favorite fishing hole which is to be found in the Arkansas River at this point.

I believe that these present gullies should be filled in with earth, perhaps after stabilizing the banks with a vinyl polymer solution. The filled in areas can be leveled off to comply with the present surface adjacent to the gully and the soils held in place with some type of plastic or fiber mat which would permit vegetation to become established on the newly created surface. I believe that the erosion can best be held in check by a rich plant cover rather than exposed soils.

At the present time, the banks along the Arkansas River and Deer Creek appear to be in relatively stable condition. The impact from the reservoir impoundment, however, especially during times of high waters may initiate erosion along these areas. At present the trees and existing limestone slabs act to protect the Arkansas bank surfaces, but the high waters may alter this situation by displacing the stone slabs or undercutting some of the trees and brush. This area, as well as that along Deer Creek, should be monitored periodically to note any modifications caused by the changing water level. If such changes take place, the banks should be protected by a carefully placed rip-rap mantle.

Another area of erosion is located at the northern section of the site in the vicinity of grid stake Zero North 200. This drains toward Deer Creek and is partly a result of damage from cattle walking across the area to obtain water at Deer Creek. This might be treated in a similar manner to those mentioned above but will require more attention as it is larger in size. Perhaps the sides can be sloped, stabilized and covered with matting to assist in obtaining a fresh vegetative cover.

There are also 3 gullies located in the area immediately north of the fences area to the west of Deer Creek. Some of these are quite deep and, if erosion continues, they will continue eroding southward and southwestward toward the site. Although not of immediate threat, something should be done to inhibit further erosion within these areas. These also occur within the general recreational and picnic area and merit some attention for that reason, if for no other.

I believe that most of these eroded areas are a consequence of human or animal traffic which killed the grass cover permitting run off to initiate soil displacement. If the areas can be restored and a hardy grass cover established, it should stop or minimize additional erosion. This should also be kept in mind in terms of developing walkways or paths for site inspection during future development.

Recommendations Regarding Site Development and Interpretive Programs

The development of the Deer Creek site is important because the public is entitled to know why the site has been placed on the National Register and why it is considered by archaeologists and historians to be significant in American history. Although this importance can be strongly supported by current historical documents referring to the site in accounts of French exploitation of Louisiana and the opening of the western frontier, there are many questions about the site that cannot be answered without some archaeological work. For example, is the ditch structure that is visible on the surface part of a fortification or did it serve some other purpose? Is there any evidence for constructions indicating a French trading post and permanent French residence at the site, or was it merely visited by the French from time to time for purposes of trading? The answers to these and other relevant questions are not presently available and cannot be supplied without archaeological research within the site itself. Consequently, it is not possible to present an interpretation of the role played by the Deer Creek site when this must be based on facts which have not yet been discovered. Since this is the case, it is difficult to suggest a developmental plan without knowing the kinds of resources contained within the site that would contribute to that plan. Moreover, it is likely that as a better knowledge of its role in history and our interpretation of what happened is subject to change as new data become available. Any interpretation of the site done today will undoubtedly require revisions and modification 10 or 20 years from now, if for no reason other than

improvements in archaeological recovery techniques. Hence, it seems obvious to me that any developmental or interpretive plan now presented should be flexible and subject to modification in order to accommodate increased knowledge. Such a plan must also preserve the integrity of the site so that it can be enjoyed, appreciated, and understood by the public for generations to come. Necessary archaeological work should be minimal, designed to provide maximum return for the destruction and expenditure involved, and large areas of the site should be reserved as an "archaeological bank" for the future.

In consideration of these restrictions, I am offering the following suggestions for development at the Deer Creek site:

(1) That the research or recommendations presented earlier in this report be accepted and implemented.

(2) That an interpretive center or visitors center be constructed at some location off the site but close by. This center would serve for interpretive exhibits relating to the site, as a repository for materials recovered from excavations, and for display of museum materials. This center should blend in with the local setting and not infringe upon the integrity of the site.

(3) This center should contain a large scale model of the Deer Creek site as it currently exists for purposes of explanation and interpretation. This model can depict areas where archaeological work has been completed and interpretive exhibits and displays can supplement this model. As new information becomes available or new excavations are completed, the new data can be incorporated into the model thus keeping it and the supporting exhibits current with increased knowledge about the site.

(4) At this time, I recommend that the site itself be left as it is without any effort at restoration or reconstructions until some time in the future when that might become desirable. The site area should be cleared of brush and small trees, planted in grass, and maintained as a parkland area so that surface features are clearly seen. Pot holes existing in some of the mounds should be filled in to conform to the original contour. Unobtrusive signs should mark special areas of interest that are coordinated with the interpretive center scale model for orienting the visitor and making his visit more meaningful. I would discourage the preparation of special pathways unless pedestrian traffic initiates erosion or otherwise appears to be damaging to the site.

(5) Comment; I believe that plans for development and interpretation of the site should include consideration by the living Wichita Indians now concentrated in the vicinity of Anadarko, Oklahoma. Since the site represents an early occupation by Wichita Indians and relates to their history, they have an interest in the site and its development.

I do not know what role the Wichita might like to take in this regard, nor how this cooperation might be implemented. I do think that the Wichita need to be kept informed of plans for development and that they should be offered the opportunity of input, approval, or objections to plans that are being considered. It is important to continue a spirit of good will and cooperation which currently exists and to maintain that relationship in all future planning.

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