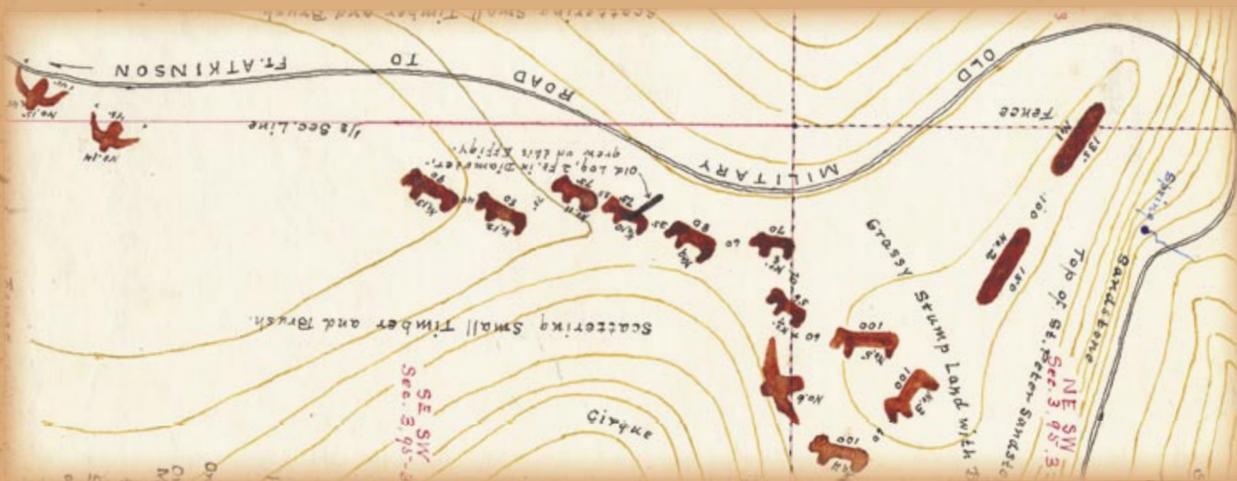


MARCHING THROUGH TIME 1000 - 100 - 60 - 50



THE "MARCHING BEAR" MOUND GROUP
EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Iowa Archaeology 2009

Marching Through Time 1000 - 100 - 60 - 50: One thousand years ago, the Late Woodland Indians were constructing magnificent Effigy Mounds in the upper Midwest of what is now the United States. The year 2009 marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the National Park Movement in Iowa, the sixtieth anniversary of the creation of Effigy Mounds National Monument, and the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist. To commemorate these interrelated events, the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist and the National Park Service have created this poster, which depicts the technological "march through time" as applied to researching and understanding Iowa's most visually impressive archaeological site: the "Marching Bear Group," located at Effigy Mounds National Monument in Clayton County. Background Image: Early survey by Theodore H. Lewis, 1892. Reproduced from T. H. Lewis' original field notebook. Image courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society. Top Left Image: Early map drawn by Ellison Orr in 1910. Reproduced from the Ellison Orr Collection. Image courtesy of the National Park Service. Center Photograph: Aerial photograph of the group, outlined in agricultural lime in 1978. National Park Service Photo. Top Right Image: LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) image of the mounds in 2007. Image courtesy of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Poster Design: Ken Block & Bob Palmer, National Park Service. Major sponsors for Iowa Archaeology - 2009 include Humanities Iowa, the Iowa Archeological Society, the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Association of Iowa Archaeologists.



Surveying Iowa's Past

1000 - 100 - 60 - 50

Theodore H. Lewis



Theodore Hayes (T.H.) Lewis conducted some of the earliest mound surveys done in Iowa. Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, Lewis worked for Alfred Hill on the Northwestern Archaeological Survey during the 1880's, whereby he conducted the field work in northeastern Iowa and sent his detailed notes back to St. Paul. There, Hill oversaw draftsmen and surveyors who translated the notes into measured drawings. These efforts led to the production of many superb maps of mound groups throughout the Mississippi valley.

The background image of the poster is a sketch made by Lewis in 1892 of the Marching Bear Mound Group. This sketch is the earliest known recording of this mound group.

Because many of the mounds that existed when Lewis was doing his survey work in the 1880s have since been obliterated or destroyed, the early sketches and maps have been invaluable resource in learning about mound groups and locations that are no longer visible to the naked eye.

Ellison Orr



Ellison Orr was born in McGregor, Iowa in 1857 and spent his childhood and early youth growing up on the prairies and timbered sloughs near the town of Postville in Allamakee County, Iowa. In many ways, his early life was fairly typical of the time. He was raised on a farm, he found entertainment in hunting, fishing, and exploring, and he learned to read and write in a one room country schoolhouse.

However, Ellison Orr was not typical, and one of the things that set him apart was his consummate dedication to recording his activities and the observations he made of the world around him. An accomplished surveyor, Orr began to map mound groups and other archaeological features in northeast Iowa in the late 19th and early 20th century. Working with his son Harry in 1910, he created the "Pleasant Ridge Mound Group" map (i.e. the Marching Bear Mound Group) that was used in creating this poster.

Shortly after retiring at the age of 73 from the local telephone company in 1930, Orr was hired as chief field supervisor for the State Archeological Survey. Dr. Charles Keyes, director of the office, secured funding through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Works Projects Administration to conduct a series of archaeological excavation and survey projects around the state. Had it not been for his mapping skills and interest in the past, much of what is now known about Iowa archaeology would have been lost forever.

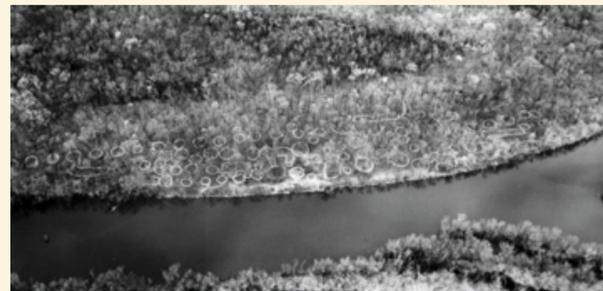
While reminiscing about his life in 1945, Orr wrote, without self-praise or exaggeration, that he had visited almost every archeological site in Allamakee, Clayton and Winneshiek counties of northeast Iowa. A lifetime of dedicated recordkeeping led to the creation of 15 volumes of reports, maps, drawings, photographs, diaries, correspondence, and other miscellaneous papers. Through time, these works have proven to be an absolute treasure to historians, archaeologists, ecologists, and everyday people who have an interest in the past.

The Work of R. Clark Mallam & James Mount

During the 1970's and into the early 1980's, Professor R. Clark Mallam and his Luther College Archaeological Center colleagues focused a significant amount of attention on recording and assessing the condition of mounds associated with the Effigy Mound Tradition in Northeast Iowa. Because of the mounds low relief, frequently no greater than one to one and one-half feet in height, they were exceedingly difficult to photograph. This led to an experimental project in

the early 1970's, where the Capoli Bluff Mound Group near Lansing, Iowa was outlined in agricultural lime and photographed aerially.

Professor Mallam and his colleagues continued to experiment with and perfect aerial mound photographic methods and techniques throughout the 1970's. In 1977, a partnership was established with the National Park Service – Effigy Mounds National Monument, whereby the mound groups within the Monument would be outlined and photographed. The result of this partnership was the creation of the most well-known photographs of any archaeological sites from within the state of Iowa.



Sny Magill Mound Group

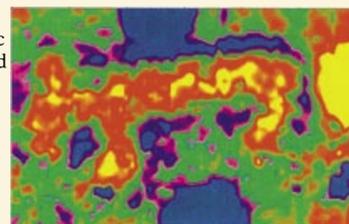
In addition to the Marching Bear Mound Group photo used to create this poster, images of other mound groups within Effigy Mounds National Monument were also made. In the case of the Sny Magill mound group, the photos indicated the existence of 97 mounds, which was more than had been recorded in earlier surveys.

In 1980, Professor Mallam and James Mount, Chief Ranger / Park Archaeologist at Effigy Mounds National Monument, published an article on their photographic research. In the article, Mallam and Mount argued that through looking at the mounds from an aerial perspective, the mounds themselves could be viewed as artistic creations which symbolically integrate prehistoric beliefs and values.

R. Clark Mallam was a Professor of Anthropology at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa from 1969 until his death in 1986, and James Mount was the Chief Ranger / Park Archaeologist at Effigy Mounds National Monument from 1976 until 1980.

Modern Methods of Investigation

When an archaeological site is excavated, its value as a scientific object of study is greatly reduced or destroyed. Archaeologists have long dreamed of having a "magic window" that would allow them to look into the ground to see what's there without having to destroy the site. Modern geophysics is moving archaeology closer to this dream.



Little Bear Effigy Mound

Geophysics is the study of the Earth by observation through its physical properties. Geophysical tools and techniques used by archaeologists today include magnetometers, ground-penetrating radar and LIDAR.

Magnetometers detect within the soil, tiny disturbances in the earth's magnetic field. These tiny differences can be caused by the presence of objects, or the soil being disturbed at some point in the past. Images of Effigy Mounds using this technique have identified what may be individual clumps of soil that were placed in the mound during construction, over 1,000 years ago.

Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) is a tool that uses radar pulses to "see" what is beneath the surface of the ground. This technique has been used to non-destructively identify burial mounds or other archaeological sites that are not clearly evident to the human eye.

LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is an optical remote sensing technology that measures properties of scattered light to find range and/or other information of a distant target. In archaeology, it can be used to identify and create images of archaeological sites. The "moonscape" image of the Marching Bear Mound Group on the front of the poster is a LIDAR image that was created in 2007.

1000 Years Ago...

About 1,000 years ago, the American Indians in Northeast Iowa were living in small groups, making fine, cord-impressed pottery, small arrowhead projectile points, and had begun to use a revolutionary new tool – the bow and arrow. Tools and other stone artifacts recovered from this period were mostly made from locally available materials, which suggest that the long distance trade of earlier times was no longer as common, or possibly as important as it had been to earlier people.

One thousand years ago was also the time of the effigy mound builders. Found in a geographical area that encompassed northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota, and eastern Iowa, the mounds typically took the shape of five basic forms, which included birds, reptiles (turtles and lizards); tailed (panthers and wildcats) and tailless (bears or buffalos) mammals lying on their side, and, on rare occasions, effigies made in a human form.

Within Effigy Mounds National Monument, there are thirty one effigy mounds currently known to exist, and all of these are birds or bears. Prior to the establishment of the Monument in 1949, early surveys, such as those discussed on this poster, documented the existence of additional effigy mounds that were later obliterated by agricultural practices. Modern technology, such as LIDAR, ground penetrating radar and proton magnetometers are currently assisting researchers in uncovering a whole series of tantalizing clues that may eventually lead to the identification of the "lost effigy mounds" that were long-thought to have been completely destroyed.

100 Years Ago...

Beginning in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a movement for the creation of an Upper Mississippi River Valley national park took hold. One hundred years ago, on April 6, 1909, the earliest known instance of official support for such a proposal came when State Representative George H. Schulte of Clayton County addressed the Iowa General Assembly in support of establishing a national park near McGregor:

... There is no grander river than ours. There are none of greater possibilities and where when many years have passed its beauty will be celebrated in poetry and song, and we hope to see a national park at the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi that will be unrivaled in its natural beauty. Here twenty thousand acres or more are awaiting to be called to serve the purpose for which I believe it was intended, to become the pleasure ground for the American people and remain such until time shall be no more. ...

Between 1915 and 1929, Congressional representatives from Iowa introduced legislation to create an Upper Mississippi National Park into the United States Congress no less than six times. An Upper Mississippi National Park feasibility study was finally authorized and approved on June 16, 1930.

In 1931, the National Park Service sent Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Roger W. Toll to conduct the survey mandated by the bill. The Toll Report, which was completed on October 8, 1931, did not support the establishment of a National Park on the Upper Mississippi River. Despite this setback, Toll's report did sow the seeds for the creation of a National Monument:

...Along the banks of the Mississippi River there are prehistoric mounds built by Indians and used as burial places. . . It seems desirable that some representative examples be preserved, since they are of great archaeological interest to the present and future generations. . .

Almost immediately, the National Park movement in Iowa became the National Monument movement. The Iowa Conservation Commission drew up a plan for establishing a National Monument to preserve the Indian mounds in the northeastern part of the state, and in October 1936, they submitted this plan to the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

If a National Monument were to be created, the National Park Service insisted upon a minimum of 1,000 acres, so the state of Iowa developed a plan to purchase or condemn the needed land. As a result of the Great Depression, a significant amount of the required land was owned by local banks, and the state was able to purchase this easily. By 1946 the state had title to just more than 1,000 acres for the Monument. At this time, state and federal officials reached agreement on the name of the new unit: Effigy Mounds National Monument. The stage was finally set. In anticipation of the proclamation creating Effigy Mounds National Monument, the 1950 federal budget included \$11,136 for the "administration, protection, and maintenance" of the soon to be created area. Finally, on October 25, 1949, President Harry S Truman signed the proclamation, creating Effigy Mounds National Monument. The goal of the movement that had lasted 50 years was finally achieved.

60 Years Ago...

At its creation on October 25, 1949, Effigy Mounds National Monument consisted of two areas: the Jennings-Liebhart tract (South Unit) and the Yellow River Unit (North Unit). Following the presidential proclamation, the NPS assumed management of an additional 204 acres, transferred by the state of Iowa to the federal government in 1951-1952. In 1955, the Des Moines Garden Club donated an additional 40 acres, containing Founder's Pond, to the monument.

In 1961, the 100-acre Ferguson tract was added to the monument. In 1962, the

Sny Magill property to the NPS, doubling the number of mounds within the monument. The Monument now encompassed 1,476 acres and contained 191 known prehistoric Indian mounds, including 31 bird and bear effigies.

In 1999, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation purchased an additional 1,000 plus acres, known as the Kistler-Ferguson Tract. On December 15, 2000, the Kistler-Ferguson property (now known as the Heritage Addition) was transferred to the NPS, increasing the total size of the monument to 2,526 acres.

Throughout the early 1950's numerous archaeological excavations of mounds within the park were undertaken. However, by the mid to late 1950's people began to question mound excavations, expressing concern about their long-term preservation. Mounds damaged in the past by the collection of artifacts and the removal of burials were rehabilitated. In 1959, the National Monument established a policy against further destructive investigations of the mounds, stating that in the future only non-destructive testing would be allowed.

By the 1970's the emphasis at the monument was rapidly shifting away from archaeological field investigations and moving towards preservation and interpreting the mound builder story. The passage in 1990 of The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) opened a new chapter in the history of the monument. This Act, requires federal agencies and museums that possess Native American human remains and cultural items to consult with lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian Tribes. Consultation and dialog that began in the 1990's led to the development of long-absent connections between the monument, its affiliated tribes and the living descendants of the Native American mound builders. So the story of Effigy Mounds National Monument, and the culture it celebrates, continues to unfold with the passing of each new decade.

50 Years Ago...

The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) celebrates its 50th birthday this year. On April 7, 1959, the 58th General Assembly created the position of State Archaeologist to be held by a faculty member in the "Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the State University of Iowa" (now known as the Department of Anthropology at The University of Iowa). The Iowa Archeological Society acted as the main lobbyist for the bill, and Reynold Ruppé on the University faculty was appointed as Iowa's first State Archaeologist.

Created to administer increasing numbers of archaeological salvage projects resulting from the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, the State Archaeologist at first received no state funds. Ruppé resigned in 1960, and Marshall McKusick replaced him as both a faculty member and as Iowa's second State Archaeologist. By 1971, the State Archaeologist had a full time assistant, part-time secretary, a laboratory in the Old Armory on the UI Campus, and a small amount of state funding via the University's General Education Fund. Activities included statewide salvage and research excavations, initiation of the OSA report series with number one The Davenport Conspiracy, and an educational film series with the first release "Exploring Old Fort Madison." Sites were recorded on paper forms, artifacts stored in paper sacks and boxes on temporary shelving, and reports written on typewriters.

Flash forward 38 years. Records on more than 23,000 sites are now maintained in a state-of-the-art Geographical Information Systems (GIS), 4 million artifacts are carefully curated in acid-free containers, and the results of dozens of projects are reported each year to professionals and the public alike. In 1976 the OSA was given statutory responsibility for investigating, preserving, and reinterring ancient human physical remains—the first such protective legislation in the country. A full-time associate director, secretary, and eight major programs assist to ensure the mission of the Office to develop, disseminate, and preserve knowledge of Iowa's human past through Plains and Midwestern archaeological research, scientific discovery, public stewardship, service and education. The Office of the State Archaeologist has come a long way—happy birthday!