

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: G. K. NEUMANN, Indiana University

Mr. J. C. Householder, Indianapolis, was elected chairman of the section for 1945.

An Archaeological Survey of Monroe County

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A few years ago in answer to a request for information the statement was made that whatever Indian material had been found or collected in Monroe County was without published record. We were told that someone should work toward this end. As a side line to business and field trips we started listing the locations of sites on a topographic map or plat book, filling out a sheet of descriptive data for each site, and making a surface collection of artifacts.

Monroe County lies southwest of Indianapolis in the group of counties bounded by the East and West Forks of White River. It is approximately rectangular in shape, extending twenty-four miles north and south, by seventeen miles east and west. On the north it is bounded by Morgan County; on the east by Brown and Jackson; on the south by Lawrence; and on the west by Greene and Owen counties. The county lies below the glacial boundary and contains little level ground.

Originally the whole of this county was heavily wooded. Even today there is much land in forest and more is being acquired by the state for forest preserves. Farmers are realizing, more and more, that much of the land must be grazing land. Also it should be remembered that practically all of these sites have been under cultivation from forty to one hundred twenty-five years. Since we covered only the ground that had been under cultivation at one time or another, the number of sites reported must not be taken to mean the number of existing sites in the county. These facts make it imperative that this survey if to be finished must be done without further delay.

Sites range from the lowest point above high water to the highest point in the county, with an elevation difference of around 400 feet. The rock strata in this county slope to the southwest at the rate of one foot per hundred. Since there are chert-bearing strata both underlying and overlying the Salem limestone (Indiana Oolitic) which outcrops from the northwest corner of the county to the middle of the south county line, numerous outcroppings of chert appear. Although chert was the most widely used in this area by the Indians, it should be stated here that there was extensive use of non-local stone.

Monroe County consists of four east and west tiers of three townships each, or a total of twelve. Marion, Washington, Bean Blossom, Bloomington, and eastern Richland are drained by Bean Blossom Creek

and its tributaries. This creek enters the West Fork of White River at the extreme northwest corner of the county. Benton, Salt Creek, Polk, eastern Clear Creek, and southeastern Perry townships are drained by Salt Creek and its tributaries, which enters the East Fork of White River in Lawrence County. Perry, eastern Van Buren, eastern Indian Creek and western Clear Creek townships are drained by Clear Creek which enters Salt Creek a quarter of a mile before it leaves the county at its southern boundary. Northwestern Richland township is drained by Raccoon Creek which enters the West Fork in Owen County. Western Van Buren and southwestern Richland are drained by Richland Creek which enters the West Fork in Greene County. Indian Creek, a tributary of the East Fork drains western Indian Creek and southwestern Van Buren townships.

In Bean Blossom township we have as yet no sites, and in Washington to the east, only one.

Marion township, in the extreme northeast of Monroe County has three sites (68;85;87) while in Benton, the next township to the south there are five (40;41;44;58;84). One of these locations furnished a full-grooved axe indicating Shell Mound, Adena, or Greene County Woodland relationships; while a bilunate type banner-stone found there has not as yet been associated with any known culture. At another of the locations a cache blank of Wyandotte flint similar to those from the Hopewell site was found.

In Bloomington township, there have been six locations recorded (35;43;45;62;93;94) at one of which was found a three-quarter grooved axe of Woodland affinity.

Richland has one site (28) where again was found a full-grooved axe pointing to Shell Mound, Adena, or Greene County Woodland.

In Van Buren, the next township to the west, there are fifteen locations (3;4;5;31;37;38;39;49;52;53;54;55;56;57;104). One very productive site (56) yielded an elliptical gorget of a general Adena horizon tentatively dated as 900-1200 A.D.; a developed Adena gorget; and a curved base platform pipe indicating a developed Ohio Hopewellian relationship dated perhaps to the late thirteenth century (1200-1300 A.D.). On site 52 a triangular point indicative of the Mississippi Pattern was found.

Perry township located east of Van Buren contains the greatest number of locations with a total of twenty-five (7;13;18;22;23;25;B 26;27;30;33;60;61;63;64;68;69;70;71;74;78;90a&b;98;100;101). Three of these sites are of special interest: No. 71 with stemmed points indicating Adena and Shell Mound; No. 22 with stemmed points and a cylindrical pestle characteristic of Shell Mound; and No. 64 with five Adena type gorgets. Site 90 yielded another Mississippi projectile point.

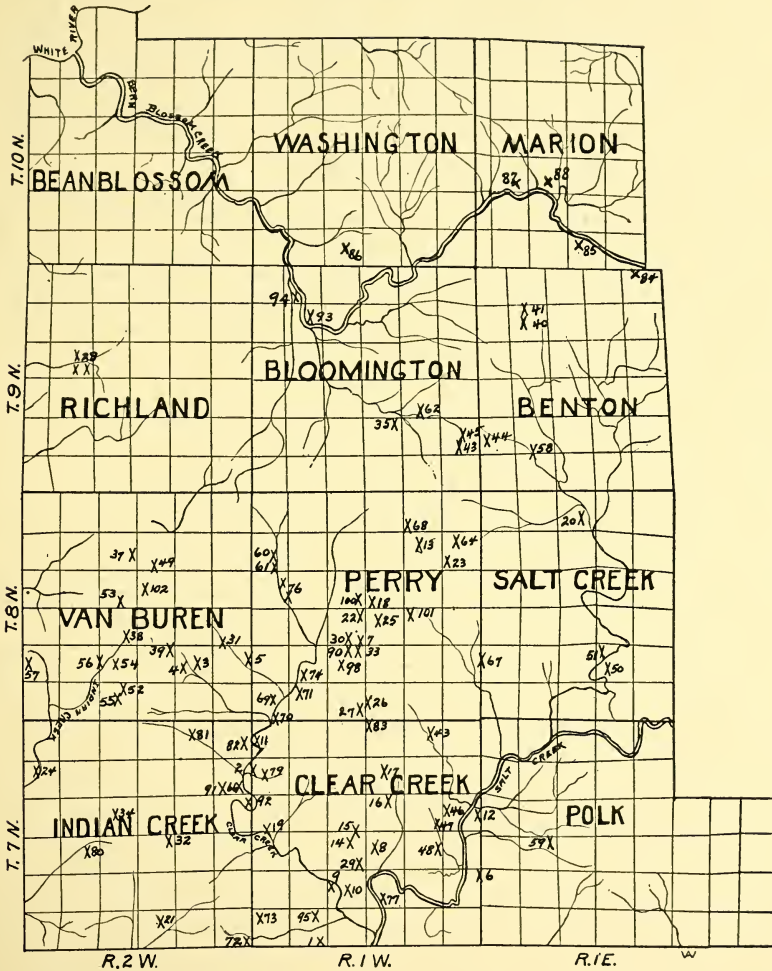
In Salt Creek township to the east there are four sites (20;50;51;67) producing generalized Woodland points, and one (50) a Mississippi arrow-head.

In Polk township the most southeastern in the county we have two sites (59;6).

In Clear Creek, the next township to the west there are twenty-two sites (1a,b,c;8;9;10;11;12;14;15;16;17;19;29;42;46;47;73;77;79;83;95). One of these yielded projectile points of Shell Mound type; another furnished points of general Woodland and Hopewellian types.

To the west in Indian Creek we have located thirteen sites (2;21;24;34;42;66a&b;72;80;81;91;92) at one of which (80) bannerstones of both

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Hopewellian and Shell Mound types have been found, while a fourth Mississippi point comes from site 91.

Due to the fact that the artifacts represent solely surface material and that only a limited area is considered here, the conclusions dealing with cultural affiliations are necessarily only suggestive at this time:

(1) As only one Folsom point has been reported from Monroe County, this complex is probably poorly represented. An explanation may be found in the fact that this complex, being part of a plains culture, may have skirted this wooded region keeping to the north to reach Ohio.

(2) Artifacts characteristic of the Shell Mound people appear in this county but as yet cannot be clearly differentiated from generalized Woodland material to which the majority of the artifacts belong. Shell Mound sites are found both toward the south and southwest of this region along the Wabash, Ohio, and White Rivers.

(3) The Adena and Hopewellian manifestations, which follow chronologically, appear in Greene County to the west. Pure sites of related material have so far not been identified in Monroe County. The absence of these entities can be correlated with the absence of mounds and pottery. The answer lies in the excavation of the sites yielding the developed Hopewellian artifacts.

(4) Four sites (50;52;90;91) have yielded small thin triangular projectile points, typical of Upper and Middle Mississippi sites. Judging from the presence of Upper Mississippi (Fort Ancient Aspect) sites in Marion, Ohio, and Dearborn counties these points probably can be classified as belonging to this complex. The nearest large Middle Mississippi site is the Angel site near Evansville. Here again the answer awaits excavation of these sites.