

Report on Progress at Angel Mounds During 1939

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A preliminary report of progress during one of the several seasons required for the completion of a large archeological project must obviously be an inventory rather than a cultural synthesis. The Angel Mounds Site proving the rule rather than an exception, the following is a catalogue of pertinent data revealed by the first year's investigations.

Accurate surveying has substantiated early reports of features long ago erased from view by cultivation. Aerial photography has also contributed much toward a review of these features.

Excavation has proceeded successfully with gain counted by specimens and much data, equally valuable even if less tangible.

Ceramics, especially, point to an affinity with tribes living far to the south and southeast. Physical types, as represented in skeletal material, bear out the lead provided by pottery.

House sites, with remnants of the clay daub used for plastering the walls together and with fireplaces and small cache pits filled with maize, maize cobs, nuts, and seeds, provide an insight to a personal phase of aboriginal life in southern Indiana.

Charcoal found in the excavations has been recovered, treated, and stored with the hope that by dendrochronology it may be made to provide dates for occupancy of the village.

Although conclusions at this stage of the investigation are out of the question, it seems justifiable to state that Angel Mounds will be one of the most prolific village sites in the state; that the occupants carried with them a culture at least reminiscent of tribes in the southeast and Gulf States region; that the occupants were agricultural, highly sedentary, and animated by the accomplishments that go with permanency; that Angel Site was the center of government from which civil, economic, and religious decrees radiated to a community of sites, many of which have been found on the river terraces nearby.