

#### A Cultural Sequence and Chronology for Northern Illinois and McHenry County\* Years Historical Ago BP **Cultural Period** Date Sites Cultural Development Times Present McMillan Farm Mechanized Agriculture and Transportation The Hollows Historic Land Pioneer American Powers/Walker Farm Cessions Settlements Revolution Matheny/Bird Farm Proto-historic New Lenox European Mixed Trade Economy Movable Type New Lenox 500 1,500 Hunting / Printing Press Gathering A.D. Robinson Reserve Fur Trade Washington Irving Aztec & Inca Empires City of Cahokia Bantu and Monks Chiefdoms McGraw Mounds Macktown 1,000 1,000 Woodland Expansion of Islam A.D. Corn Agriculture Effigy Charlemagne Alden Golf Course 11-Mh-125 Mounds Bow and Arrow Regional Trade and 1.500 500 A.D. Ritual Maya Civilization Centers Horticulture Roman Empire Permanent Pottery Christianity 2,000 0 Dwellings Annual Greek City-States Mound Making Seed Egyptian Pyramids Building Crops Macktown Cultivated Stonehenge 11-L-674 Great Wall of China 4,000 Semi-Diverse 2,000 Construction Begins B.C. Permanent Tool Kits Harapan Civilization McGraw Villages (Indian Plain) First Cities Garrison Hunting / (Mesopotamia) 6,000 4,000 Gathering Archaic Atlatl Native Plants B.C. Gazebo and Animals St. Boniface 8,000 6,000 B.C. Alden Golf Course 11-Mh-124 10,000 8.000 Bow and Arrow Hawk's Nest Temporary Seasonal Settlements Domestication of 12,000 10,000 Spears Sheep, B.C. Hunting Ice Age Mammals Goats and Grain Pre-Clovis?

## The Archaeology of McHenry County

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### Introduction

McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD or the District) has a longstanding commitment to understanding and preserving archaeological resources. In 1973 and 1974 the Foundation for Illinois Archaeology conducted a survey to provide the District's Board of Trustees with information on possible archaeological sites in McHenry County, thereby enabling the Board to consider these sites in planning land acquisition and utilization.

The results of that survey are bound in three volumes of text, photographs, maps, and field survey information. Archaeologists searched historical records, interviewed artifact collectors and photographed their collections, and walked over identified sites whenever possible. All of the artifacts photographed or collected during field walkovers were described in detail, and sites were placed in rough chronological sequence based on artifact analysis (primarily projectile points). The surveyors did not engage in any excavations. Their purpose was to provide an inventory of archaeological information in McHenry County, not an in-depth exploration of a given site. Thirty-nine sites were filed with the Illinois Archaeological Survey (IAS). These, added to the 20 sites already recorded by the IAS, brought the total of reported McHenry County sites to 59.

A second purpose of the survey was to increase the historical awareness on the part of present day residents of McHenry County. Archaeological surveyors shared their interpretations with individuals who provided collections of artifacts for study and who provided data on site locations. The first edition of Prehistoric People in McHenry County communicated the results of that survey to the population at large. Since 1975, MCCD has continued to support archaeological research and preservation in a number of ways. The District has conducted updates of the original survey. Residents of McHenry County are encouraged to notify the District if they have unrecorded collections or site information, or if they have made additions to previously recorded collections. Materials found by private individuals remain the property of those individuals. The District is interested in photographing such materials and in recording their locations. An additional 34 sites had been reported to the IAS by 1988, at which time MCCD published the second edition of Prehistoric People in McHenry County. This booklet has been in print for over a decade and distributed to residents, municipalities, and land developers who work in McHenry County.

Since 1988, numerous archaeological surveys have been conducted within the county due to local, state, and federal regulations. These surveys have identified over 250 more archaeological sites, including Historic Period sites (post A.D. 1700 up until 50 years ago), which were poorly represented in the archaeological record of McHenry County. As of December 31, 2003, 379 archaeological sites have been recorded in the county.

In addition to collector surveys, the District supports systematic archaeological survey on District property. Although the 1973-74 countywide collector survey by the Conservation District is unique within Illinois, collector surveys provide only part of the information needed to document where sites can be found. For example, collectors usually search in plowed fields and in areas where sites are known to occur; sites in wooded

areas are seldom found. Many collectors pick up only materials that are easily recognized as tools (primarily "arrowheads"). Sites represented by stone chipping debris or small pieces of pottery are easily overlooked. Collector surveys generally do not provide information on where sites are **not** located even though such information is necessary for both archaeological research and land management. Systematic surveys conducted under the supervision of qualified archaeologists can help correct these biases and give a more complete picture of prehistoric and historic lifeways.

An excellent example of systematic survey is the work done at Coral Woods Conservation Area, near Marengo. In 1982, archaeologists and volunteers from the Sauk Trail Chapter of the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology (IAAA), a statewide organization for avocational and professional archaeologists from the Center for American Archeology Fox Valley, examined over 300 acres of forest-covered glacial moraines. Twelve prehistoric and one historic archaeological site were discovered during the course of this survey. Although an Indian village prominently mentioned in early historic documents was not located, the survey has provided detailed information on upland prehistoric settlements. In recent years the District has sponsored surveys of other recently purchased lands prior to planting prairies or reclaiming wetlands; for example, surveys at Glacial Park and at the Prairieview Education Center.

The District also provides educational information to schools, private organizations and individuals interested in archaeology. An important focus of its educational program is an emphasis on site preservation. Too often the public believes that any site discovered should be excavated. That is not true. Archaeological sites are non-renewable resources and when a site is excavated it is destroyed. Archaeologists do not excavate a site unless there is a need to do so. For example, a site may be endangered by modern construction or may have the potential to solve a particular question about how people lived in the past.

When archaeologists excavate a site for information about past lifeways, they usually excavate only a sample of the site. This ensures that scientists in the future will have the resources to answer new questions with improved techniques. Responsible archaeology is truly a conservative endeavor. As the profession has developed and matured, archaeology has become increasingly oriented toward maximizing the information and understanding gained from cultural materials while preserving such materials as much as possible. Excavating sites without a good reason and permission is often referred to as pot-hunting or looting.

Whenever possible, archaeologists excavate sites in very precise ways, using special techniques designed to recover information on a wide range of materials. These include very small plant and animal remains such as charred seeds, wood, nut, and bone fragments in addition to the more familiar stone tools and pottery sherds. Archaeologists pay particular attention to the context in which cultural materials are recovered. Often the position of artifacts within soil layers provides clues about the time of site occupation, and the spatial relationship among different kinds of artifacts provides clues to human activities. Every step in the excavation process is documented with detailed notes, maps, and photographs. In most cases an archaeologist spends more time writing than digging.

Excavation is only one step in doing archaeology. Archaeologists are responsible for properly washing, sorting, cataloguing, analyzing, and publishing the results of their work. Most importantly, an archaeologist does not work alone, but in cooperation with other archaeologists and scientists from other disciplines. Rarely can a single person do justice to the large amounts of information which can be gained from even a small excavation. McHenry County Conservation District informs the public about the necessary rigors of excavation and discourages individuals from excavating archaeological sites without qualified supervision. After all, excavating a site with a trowel and shovel destroys it as thoroughly as excavating it with a bulldozer.

Collecting artifacts from the surface of the ground also removes evidence of archaeological sites. However, archaeologists and collectors usually find surface materials in situations where artifacts have already been disturbed—in plowed fields and eroding out of stream banks or road cuts. Even then, it is important to record information, draw sketch maps, and take photographs of a site to document the circumstances of artifact recovery. The finds should be brought to the attention of McHenry County Conservation District. The District, in turn, will contact archaeologists to gather information needed to record, evaluate, and conserve the site. Sites cannot be protected if they are not recorded.

Of course, it is illegal to collect on other people's property, including all public property, without permission. McHenry County Conservation District encourages responsible activities sponsored by avocational archaeological societies. These activities include lectures on various aspects of archaeology, field trips to archaeological sites and museums, and field experience under adequate supervision by qualified archaeologists. In a field situation volunteers are expected to abide by the ethics and standards of the IAAA.

## What are Cultural Resources?

Cultural resources, both human-made and natural physical features associated with human activity, are representations of our past. They are in most cases finite, unique, fragile, and non-renewable. Tangible remnants of our past tie us to our biological and human history, giving us a sense of who we are, how we got here, and where we are going. Yet in the rapid urban expansion of the modern world, these cultural resources are disappearing at an ever-increasing rate.

Recognizing the human need for knowing the past, both the United States Congress and the Illinois Legislature have passed laws protecting cultural resources. These acts resulted from the recognition that our finite and non-renewable prehistoric, historic, and paleontological resources provide valuable opportunities to study human behavior and history. It is the intention of these laws to conserve and protect resources through careful management policies; objects, sites, districts, and landscapes should be preserved for the inspiration of present and future Americans.

The earliest United States law protecting cultural resources is the Antiquities Act of 1906, which states that it is the responsibility of the federal government (Secretaries of Interior,

Agriculture, and War) to preserve American Antiquities on federal land. Over the years, a number of acts, such as the Historic Sites Act of 1935, the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) have protected and preserved cultural resources on federal lands and on federally sponsored projects. Since 1989, new federal and state laws have been passed that strengthen not only the protection of known cultural resources but encourage the identification of previously unrecognized cultural resources as well. Among these are the Illinois Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 1989, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act [NAGPRA] of 1990, the Revised Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act of 1992, and the Illinois Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act. In Illinois, most projects requiring state licenses, approvals, or permits are reviewed by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA). An archaeological reconnaissance survey is often part of this review. Since 1992, the number of archaeological surveys in McHenry County, as well as across the entire state of Illinois has increased dramatically. As the number of surveys increase, so do the number of archaeological sites discovered and recorded.

As of December 31, 2003, 26,457.4 acres (6.7%) of McHenry County have been surveyed during projects reviewed by the IHPA; another 9,624 acres (2.4%) have been surveyed without review (Figure 1). Although the number of archaeological sites within the county has increased due to the mandatory review of projects by the IHPA, an accurate interpretation of prehistoric and historic settlement patterns in the county has not been established. Collectors, who usually search in plowed fields and in areas where sites are known to occur, identified the earliest recorded sites within the county. Most of these early sites were located along rivers or near wetlands. Sites were found where people thought they should be. Currently, most newly recorded sites within the county are found during professional archaeological surveys. Most of these surveys have been conducted in the uplands to assess cultural resources along narrow corridors of land prior to road and pipeline construction and for large and small tracts of land prior to industrial and residential development. The majority of these surveys have been concentrated within the eastern half of the county as well as in the Harvard and Marengo areas (Chemung and Marengo Townships). It is not surprising to note that few sites have been recorded within the west-central portion of McHenry County, an area where development has been slower and where fewer systematic surveys have been done. Therefore, the settlement pattern of prehistoric and historic people in McHenry County, best represented by site location, is often a product of where surveys are conducted rather than on the actual distribution of sites across the landscape.

In addition sites occupied for only brief periods of time are more apt to escape detection and are often completely disturbed by agricultural practices, erosion, and unregulated land modification. Although these brief occupations occurred throughout prehistory, their loss is especially vexing in early prehistory when small groups of nomadic hunter/gatherers moved frequently across the landscape, leaving few traces of their activities. It is not surprising then that few of their sites have been found and that archaeologists have limited knowledge about their lifeways.

## McHenry County Environment

The McHenry County landscape greatly influenced how and where people lived. Over the past 12,000 years, that landscape has varied greatly. It is essential to have a basic understanding of the geology, landforms, climate, and vegetation found in McHenry County to understand how people interacted with and adapted to their surroundings. The term "B.P." stands for Before Present and is used below. For archaeologists, geologists, and other scientists who measure time, the present is conventionally set at A.D. 1950.

McHenry County, located approximately 20 miles west of Lake Michigan, incorporates 611 square miles. The county is divided into two watersheds: the Kishwaukee River in the west and the Fox River in the east. Elevation across the county varies between 730 ft. within the Fox River basin and 1,190 ft. northeast of Harvard near the Wisconsin border. The present landscape has been shaped principally by continental glaciers during the Pleistocene, especially during the most recent glaciation, the Wisconsinan. Deposits from this glacier buried older bedrock deposits and filled in large portions of the river valleys.

Bedrock in McHenry County includes Silurian dolomite deposited 400 million years ago and Ordovician limestone and dolomite deposited 450 million years ago. Both types of bedrock were formed when shallow seas covered the interior of the United States. These seas were not stable; at times northern Illinois was near the seashore and at other times far out to sea.

Starting 1.65 million years ago, continental glaciers began to form from centers in eastern and central Canada. Mean annual temperature was lower than today (4 to 7 degrees Celsius or 7 to 13 degrees Fahrenheit), and winter snows did not completely melt during the summers. Over time, the weight of ice and snow forced the glaciers to flow southward into the northern reaches of the United States. There were four major advancements of continental glaciers during the Pleistocene: Nebraskan, Kansan, Illinoian, and Wisconsinan. Each glacial advance is named for the farthest extent of its advance. Between glacial advances, periods of warmer weather occurred in which the continental glaciers dissipated. The last glacial maximum in eastern North America was during the Wisconsinan glaciation 20,000 B.P. After 15,000 B.P. the ice began to melt. We do not know at this time whether we are currently in the middle of an interglacial following the Wisconsinan glaciation or if the Ice Age is actually over.

Although the northern Illinois landscape was modified by both the Illinoian and Wisconsinan glaciations, the effects of the Wisconsinan glaciation, starting approximately 75,000 years ago, are the most apparent in McHenry County. Glaciers scoured the lands they traversed and transported rock debris and soil scraped from the surface to new locations. These deposits were released where glaciers melted or where they were carried by glacial meltwater. Erosion and deposition created by the glacier reshaped the land creating moraines, kames, drumlins, eskers, rivers, lakes, and kettles (often fens, marshes, and bogs before filling with sediment); many of these features can be found at Glacial Park. End moraines, such as the north-south trending Marengo Moraine (part of which can been seen in the Marengo Ridge Conservation Area), are places where glaciers stopped their forward move-

ment, began to melt, and dropped their load of boulders, silts and sands. Some sediments were carried away from the moraines by glacial meltwater, creating outwash deposits. Occasionally glacial meltwater became dammed forming lakes, such as Glacial Wonder Lake, a larger body of water than the current man-made lake. The preponderance of glacial landforms across the county places McHenry County in the Northeastern Morainal Division of Illinois.

Climate in McHenry County has varied greatly in the past 15,000 years. Average temperature in July adjacent to a glacier's edge was approximately 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) lower than it is today in McHenry County. As glaciers melted, summer temperature began to increase. By about 6,000 years ago, it reached 2 to 4 degrees Celsius (7 to 14 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than it is today in the west-central United States. Precipitation decreased throughout the Great Plains and Midwest; after 9,000 B.P. drought conditions were common across the Great Plains. This period of dryness is often referred to as the hypsithermal. Chemical analysis of stalactites in the caves of northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin indicate that drought conditions reached northwestern Illinois by 5,900 B.P. Present day climatic conditions were established over eastern North America including McHenry County by 3,000 B.P. and have remained consistent, but not static, since. Slight changes in climate occurred but were short-term leaving no long lasting physical impressions. For example, dendrochronological studies across eastern North America have identified periods of drought as well as periods of greater warmth and cold, the most famous cold period recorded being the "Little Ice Age" beginning around A.D. 1300.

As climate shifted in McHenry County following the retreat of the glaciers, so did the vegetation. The best clues to the climate and vegetation in the county come from pollen cores taken from Volo Bog in Lake County and Nelson Lake in Kane County. When the glaciers first retreated from McHenry County, tundra vegetation—shrubs, mosses, and lichens—covered the county. As the glaciers continued their retreat and temperatures increased, the tundra was replaced by spruce forest (by 10,000 B.P. or perhaps earlier) and then briefly (for about 1,000 years) by a pine-ash forest which in turn was replaced by a mixed deciduous forest of oak, elm, hickory, maple, basswood, sycamore and mulberry. As the effects of the hypsithermal reached McHenry County, approximately 6,000 years ago, trees that thrived in cool, moist conditions are no longer represented in pollen samples and grass pollens increase; a patchwork of drier oak-hickory forest and prairie developed. This patchwork remained in place into the Little Ice Age.

McHenry County General Land Office (GLO) plats, drawn from notes written by surveyors between 1832 and 1838 prior to federal land sales, indicate that the county comprised near equal areas of prairie and timber. GLO notes describing neighboring Kane and Lake Counties suggest that some areas marked as timber on the GLO plats were likely savannas with stands of trees, primarily oaks, and drought resistant undergrowth. True forests, primarily oaks with few open areas, were found along rivers and larger streams. GLO plats also show many of the larger wetlands in the county.

Resources available to the inhabitants of McHenry County varied with changes in climate. Tundra would have provided few plant materials for human consumption, but would have provided food for herds of caribou and for now extinct elephants. Mesic forest vegetation would have yielded a diverse array of foods—acorns (oaks), nuts (hickory, hazel, walnut), and fruits (cherries, blackberries, raspberries, and grapes). Oak savannas would have more limited food resources given that fewer types of trees were present and that the prairie grass understory provided few resources that could be eaten by humans. Deer, small mammals (including squirrel, fox, and raccoon), and birds would have been available in both these plant communities. Oak savannas may have been important for their horticultural potential as well. Widely dispersed trees would have been easier to clear than forest, and the understory, less dense than the grasses on true prairie, would have been easier to till by Native Americans or pioneer

Although prairie landscapes provided few plants that were consumed by humans, herbaceous plants such as ragweed, goosefoot, sunflower, Amaranth, and sumpweed found around the forest/grassland boundaries were used by Native Americans. Deer, bison (a late arrival in McHenry County), elk, coyote, and rabbit could be found in this environment.

Large and small wetlands were probably the most productive and most easily harvested food resource zones for prehistoric people. Tubers, including bulrush, duck potato, and American lotus, would have been especially important in the spring when other foods were not available. Cattail and possibly wild rice would have been available as well. Fauna associated with marsh edges and river shores include deer, raccoon, beaver, muskrat, turtles, and waterfowl. Migratory waterfowl would have been especially plentiful in the spring and fall. Rivers and creeks provide fish—perch, bullheads, catfish, sunfish, bass, drum, gar, and pike. Many species of freshwater mussels would have been available as well. One of the best examples of a shellfish processing site is located along the Rock River in nearby Winnebago County.

# Cultural History of McHenry County

The following is a brief cultural history of McHenry County, from the first documented evidence of human presence until the midtwentieth century. It is based on a review of archaeological literature, information derived from the original collector survey, yearly updates to the survey, systematic survey and excavation within the county, and recent archaeological studies from surrounding counties. References for this cultural history and for the preceding discussion of McHenry County environment are listed in the References section at the end of the booklet.

As of December 31, 2003, 379 sites were recorded with the Illinois State Museum (ISM), the institution that now manages the state site files. Some of these sites were occupied many times throughout prehistory and some have both prehistoric and historic occupations. Some contain only a very few artifacts (fewer than five) and some hundreds or even thousands. Those containing few artifacts are often called isolated finds and usually contain

little information about past lifeways. Some sites from the historic period appear to be dumps; items brought into the site from some unknown location. The isolated finds (32 prehistoric and 14 historic) and historic dumps (10) have not been included in this culture history. In addition, not all sites can be assigned to a specific time period; they can only be characterized as general prehistoric or historic (Figure 2). The rest of the sites have been placed into more specific time periods because of the characteristic tool types present. Similar types of tools have been recovered from archaeological contexts which have been dated using radiometric techniques.

#### **Prehistory**

Although people probably entered North America from Asia at least 20,000 years ago, evidence for their presence in the Midwest before 12,000 B.P. is lacking. From the time of the initial entry into the county until the arrival of the Europeans in the seventeenth century, the archaeological record shows evidence for continuous population growth and changing social adaptations to new developments in both the natural and social landscape.

#### Paleoindian Period (12,000-10,000 B.P.)

The first inhabitants of northern Illinois and McHenry County arrived shortly after the southern border of the Wisconsinan ice sheet retreated into Wisconsin, some time before 12,000 years ago. These people, the Paleoindians, were nomadic bands of hunter/gatherers who lived in small groups and travelled over large territories. Their sites are most often identified by the presence of fluted points like the Clovis point in Plate 1. These tools were typically very well made and were used as spear points and knives. Fluted points have been found throughout the United States. Other artifacts found from this time period include stone scrapers and gravers, and bone tools. No sites from this time period in northern Illinois have been dated by radiometric means. Two sites containing fluted points and four isolated fluted points have been found in McHenry County (Figure 3).

Although large game such as extinct forms of bison and elephant were hunted by Paleoindian groups on the western Plains, there are no documented kill sites east of the Mississippi River. Evidence for butchering and a few stone tools have been found in association with mammoth remains from the Hebior and Schaefor sites in southern Wisconsin, but whether these animals were hunted or scavenged is unknown. Available evidence suggests that Paleoindian groups followed a seasonal migratory cycle, relying on deer, small mammals, and vegetation for most of their food supply. One consequence of this highly mobile lifestyle is that little trash accumulated in one spot, making the location and identification of Paleoindian sites difficult. Sites are usually located on high river terraces or in upland areas on wet-

PLATE 1: Paleoindian Clovis Point



5.9cm x 2.5cm

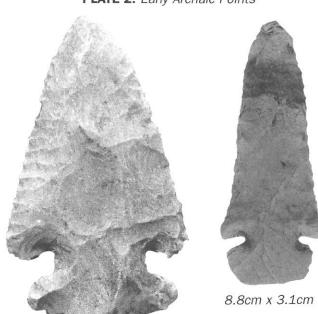
land edges. These locations did not flood, offered easy access to aquatic plant and animal resources, and served as vantage points for locating larger game.

At this time very little is known regarding the actual distribution, subsistence pattern, and social organization of the Paleoindians in northern Illinois. Our best information comes from the Hawk's Nest site (11-L-344) in Barrington Hills, just east of McHenry County. Repeated surface collections and limited excavations at the 11,000 year old site have yielded close to 200 chipped stone tools, including fluted point preforms, end and side scrapers, and gravers along with stone tool making debris. These stone items are made from many different kinds of chert, some of which were collected up to 350 miles away. The distinctive kinds of tools found and their distribution across the site suggest that the site was repeatedly used as a transient camp during extended, seasonal hunting forays. Weaponry manufacture suggests the site was used to prepare for hunting. Large numbers of side and endscrapers recovered suggest that the site also functioned as a transient residential location occupied by a mixed group of foragers including women and children, where butchery and hide working activities were also conducted.

#### Archaic Period (10,000-3,500 B.P.)

The long Archaic Period was a time of transition in the Midwest. After the final retreat of the glaciers, subsistence pursuits adjusted to the changing natural environment as coniferous forests were replaced by deciduous forests and as the prairie expanded

PLATE 2: Early Archaic Points



13.0cm x 8.0cm



18.0cm x 6.0cm

**PLATE 3:**Middle Archaic Point



8.8cm x 5.5cm

eastward from the Great Plains. Human population densities gradually increased, mobility decreased, resource exploitation and technology became more diverse and localized, and social organization became more complex.

During the Archaic Period, hunting focused on whitetail deer as the primary source of meat. A variety of smaller animals and fish were also collected with increased emphasis on aquatic resources throughout the period. Plant foods including tubers, nuts, and seeds became increasingly important subsistence items. Some native plants, such as goosefoot,

sumpweed, and possibly native squash or gourd, may have been domesticated during the latter part of the Archaic. Domesticated dog has been identified archaeologically elsewhere in Illinois.

New tool types were developed including new forms of projectile points, the chipped stone adze, groundstone tools, copper tools, stone mortars for processing plants, and ornaments from bone, shell, and copper. The first cemeteries in Illinois appear during the middle of this long period and later graves were occasionally covered with low earthen mounds. Toward the end of the Archaic Period, groups had established particular territories within which camps were moved to exploit the seasonally available natural resources. Networks for the exchange of resources within and between regions also developed by the end of the Archaic.

Although the various changes mentioned above were probably gradual, archaeologists usually divide the Archaic Period into three parts. The Early Archaic (10,000-8,000 B.P.) is separated from the preceding Paleoindian period primarily by the conspicuous lack of fluted points. Large spear points or knives with corner notches or deep side notches and beveled edges are found at

Early Archaic sites (Plate 2). Sites from this time period are fairly common, with the same general geographic distribution seen for Paleoindian sites. Eighteen sites with Early Archaic occupations are recorded in McHenry County (Figure 4). A small, Early Archaic campsite (11-Mh-124) was partially excavated in Alden Township. One Hardin Barbed projectile point, several point preforms broken during manufacture, and stone tool chipping debris were recovered from this site which overlooks a large wetland. Although no flora or fauna was recovered from the site, it is reasonable to believe that a small band of hunter/gatherers camped at the site to harvest wetland resources and make stone tools. Most of the site has been preserved within the Oak Grove Golf Course.

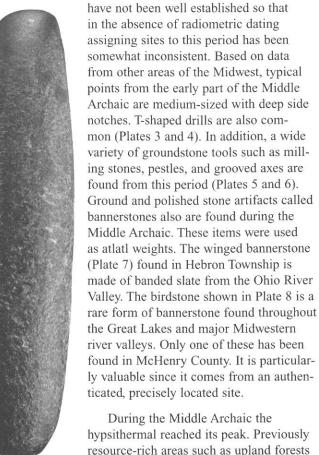
Until recently archaeologists knew very little about the Middle Archaic

**PLATE 4:** Archaic T-shaped Drill



7.5cm x 2.9cm

PLATE 5: Archaic Pestle

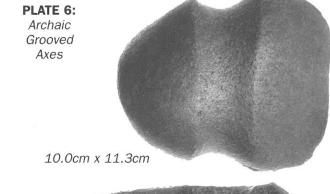


15.1cm x 3.4cm

During the Middle Archaic the hypsithermal reached its peak. Previously resource-rich areas such as upland forests and wetlands were replaced throughout much of Illinois by dry prairie which

(8,000-5,000 B.P.) in northern Illinois.

Characteristic point types for this period





11.9cm x 17.5cm

is not very productive for human needs. Some researchers suggest that this drying of the upland environment (at least in central and southern Illinois) triggered the movement of people to the main river valleys. Because of the rich resources available on the river floodplains, people settled into larger, more permanent villages. Sites such as Koster and Modoc in west-central and southern Illinois appear to



5.8cm x 6.3cm

support this scenario for increasing sedentism during the Middle Archaic. Foods utilized during the Middle Archaic included deer, small mammals, fish, migratory waterfowl, a wide variety of

**PLATE 8:** Archaic Birdstone



6.3cm x 3.0cm

nuts, and some domesticated plants such as squash (*Cucurbito pepo*). There is some question though about the severity of the hypsithermal in northern Illinois especially in Lake and parts of McHenry Counties. Wetlands may have become smaller at this time, but still would have provided adequate

food resources so that uplands continued to be attractive subsistence areas.

Four radiocarbon dated Middle Archaic sites have been excavated in northern Illinois, two in Lake County, one in DuPage County, and one in Cook County. The Gazebo site (11-Du-38), a partially unplowed site on what would have been a low, forested rise at the edge of a seasonally wet upland depression,

contains a substantial Middle Archaic occupation with at least eight deep sidenotched points. The site, at the middle of the Fermilab accelerator ring, was partially excavated in 1971 and in 1988. During the latter testing project less than 2.0 grams of charred wood and nutshell fragments were recovered from near a concentration of fire-cracked rock. In 2002 an AMS radiocarbon date of 5,890 B.P. was obtained for the nut shell fragments. The majority of the site is preserved. The multicomponent Garrison site (11-L-337) in Lake County is also located on a low rise adjacent to what would have been a marsh or slough in the past. It is perhaps the most extensively excavated and reported unplowed site in northeast-

**PLATE 9:** Archaic Matanzas Point

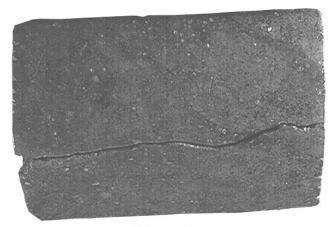


4.4cm x 2.1cm

ern Illinois. A radiocarbon date of 5,312 B.P. was obtained from a nutshell recovered from a hearth or roasting pit. A shallow side-notched Matanzas point was found in the same feature (Plate 9). Most of the site was destroyed by residential development, but a small portion has been saved and marked with a plaque. St. Boniface (11-Ck-210) was a large multicomponent plowed site on what would have been a forested upland ridge south of a large marsh, prehistorically. The site was recorded in 1983 based on artifacts in the possession of local collector. By the time professional archaeologists gained access to the site only a small portion remained. One smudge pit was excavated and dated to 5,903 B.P. No projectile point was found in the feature. These three sites attest to the use of upland and wetland resources during the hypsithermal.

Finally, McGraw Farm (11-L-386), an Archaic and Woodland mortuary and habitation site, located on a prominent glacial kame overlooking the Fox River, was excavated in 1996. Eleven Late Middle Archaic burial features were excavated. Two contained unburned skeletons, two contained both unburned skeletons and cremations, and seven contained cremated remains only. Burials include articulated skeletons, fully extended and tightly flexed, as well as one bone bundle. Three of the four burial pits contained the remains of three to seven people each with more than one type of burial. Infants, children, adolescents, adults, and elderly adults were represented, and burial treatment was not restricted by age. Analysis of the bones indicated that these people had the varied diet typical of hunter/gatherers and generally good health. No evidence for warfare was found. An AMS radiocarbon date

**PLATE 10:** Archaic Bannerstone



7.8cm x 5cm

of 5,120 B.P. was obtained from charred wood fragments from a grave containing a Matanzas point (Plate 9), and one of the cremations contained a Middle Archaic style bannerstone made of green pipestone quarried in the Sterling, Illinois area over 100 miles to the west (Plate 10).

Fourteen sites with Middle Archaic occupations have been found in McHenry County (see Figure 4). None have been excavated by professional archaeologists.

The Late Archaic (5,000-3,500 B.P.) is a period in which a number of trends seen earlier (e.g., increased population,

PLATE 11: Archaic Stemmed Point



11.5cm x 4cm

decreased mobility, domestication of plants) continue. In addition, several technological innovations were introduced most notably the manufacture of pottery. Typical projectile point styles in the Late Archaic were often smaller than those in the Middle Archaic and had stemmed bases (Plate 11). A trade network was developed during the Late Archaic, along which artifacts and raw materials such as galena and copper were exchanged. These traded materials often were deposited in burials. Resources utilized during the Late Archaic include all those mentioned for the Middle Archaic, with an increasing trend towards the domestication of seed plants such as goosefoot (lamb's quarters, Chenopodium sp.) and sumpweed (Iva annua). The Late Archaic is well represented in northern Illinois, with numerous habitation and a few burial sites reported in Lake, Cook, and Will Counties. At one likely Late

Archaic burial site in Will County, ground and charred goosefoot seeds were deposited in a grass container with the burial of an elderly man.

A relatively large number of Late Archaic sites have been located in McHenry County (see Figure 4). Late Archaic sites tend to be larger and contain more tools and debris than sites from any preceding time period. Late Archaic sites are often found in upland areas near wetlands and creeks as well as in the main river valleys.

#### Woodland Period (3,500-1,000 B.P.)

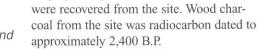
The Woodland Period was a time of major changes in food choices and social organization in the Midwest. Like the Archaic, the Woodland is divided into three parts. Formerly the Early Woodland (3,500-2,100 B.P.) was separated from the Archaic by the use of pottery. However, in the southern Midwest pottery was manufactured as early as 4,550 B.P., well within the Late Archaic. Late Archaic/Early Woodland pot-





tery tends to be thick and porous with fiber or coarse grit temper (Plate 12). Other than the increasingly common use of pottery, there is little difference between the Early Woodland and Late Archaic in terms of technology or patterns of settlement and subsistence. Hunting and fishing remained focal subsistence activities. While nuts continued to be an important food item, seeds played an increasingly important role although plant cultivation did not account for the bulk of subsistence calories. Sunflower may have been added to the list of domesticated plants at this time. Information from the Lower Illinois Valley and the Mississippi River in Illinois suggest that Early Woodland groups focused on river bottom resources during at least part of the year. At the Macktown site (11-Wo-256) in Winnebago County, Early Woodland people harvested shellfish from the Rock River; they processed these resources on the river floodplain and maintained campsites on the river bluff. A small Early Woodland campsite (11-L-674) on a small wooded rise along what would have been a linear marsh in prehistoric times was recently excavated in Lake County. Over 1,600 pieces of stone tool manufacturing debris, a straight stemmed Kramer projectile point, and fire-cracked rock

PLATE 13: Early Woodland Point



Early Woodland sites are identified by the occurrence of the first pottery vessels and by particular forms of projectile points and other stone tools and the construction of substantial earthen burial mounds. Straight stemmed points and Waubesa/Adena contracting stem points, referred to as "beaver tails" by collectors, are common during the Early Woodland (Plate 13). Seventeen sites in McHenry County have occupations that date from the Early Woodland (Figure 5). None of these sites have been excavated by professional archaeologists.

5.9cm x 2.5cm

During the Middle Woodland Period (2,100-1,600 B.P.), settlements in the

Midwest tended to concentrate along broad river valleys. Burials were placed in mounds often on nearby bluffs, possibly serving as territorial markers. Sites were occupied for longer periods of time during the year and by greater numbers of people than in preceding periods. Subsistence activities focused on harvesting the abundant seed plants of the floodplain as well as raising some native domesticates. Deer, fish, and a variety of small mammals and birds were also important food resources.

The Middle Woodland is most notable for the extensive use of conical burial mounds, geometric earthworks, and a wide-spread trading network known as the Hopewell Interaction Sphere. Artifacts and raw materials, such as obsidian from the Rocky Mountains, copper from northern Michigan, mica from the Appalachians, shark teeth and marine shells from the Gulf of Mexico, and a wide variety of stone tool raw material were exchanged throughout most of the eastern United States. Centers for this activity were the Scioto River Valley in south-central Ohio and the Illinois River Valley in west-central Illinois. Along

PLATE 14: Middle Woodland Points





5.9cm x 2.5cm

import, was not an important part of the diet at this time. Northern Illinois, while not a central focus of the Hopewell phenomenon, has a large number of Middle Woodland village and mortuary sites along major rivers. In addition to exotic goods, Middle Woodland sites are often identified by the presence of Snyders and Kramer points, grooveless axes or celts (Plates 14 and 15), and grit tempered pottery that was better made and more often decorated than Early Woodland varieties. Fourteen sites in McHenry County have occupations that date from the Early Woodland (see Figure 5). None of these sites have been excavated chaeologists.

the lower Illinois River, Middle Woodland

settlement systems consisted of a number

of functionally differentiated site types

including regional centers, base camps,

small seasonal camps, and mortuary sites.

Subsistence activities changed with horti-

culture becoming a major supplement to

the hunting/gathering lifestyle. Goosefoot,

tant domesticated plants. Corn, a tropical

sumpweed, and sunflower were impor-

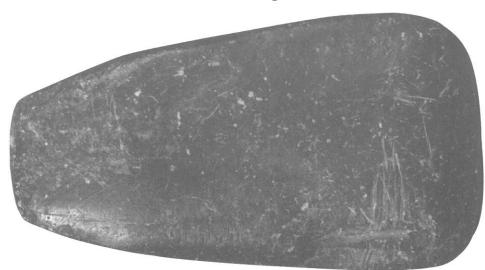
by professional archaeologists.

During the late Middle Woodland and early Late Woodland, trade of long distance materials came to an end, mortuary activities became less complex, and settlement patterns changed. There appears to have been a radical reorganization of social and economic systems in the Midwest, the impetus for which is currently unclear. Thin-walled, cordmarked ceramics and Steuben points mark this transitional time. One site (11-Mh-125) from the Late Woodland Period was partially excavated in Alden Township. The site is an undisturbed habitation in which ceramics and a Steuben point were found with wood charcoal radiocarbon dated to about 1,640 B.P. or A.D. 419 A variety of stone tools (including thumbnail scrapers associated with hide processing and a denticulate which may have been used for shredding plant fibers), dense concentrations of stone chipping debris, and fire-cracked rock were also recovered from the site. The site is on a knoll overlooking what would have been a wetland when the site was occupied. Most of the site has been preserved within the Oak Grove Golf Course.

The Late Woodland (1,600-1,000 B.P.) in southern and central Illinois was a period of increasing dependence on corn as a dietary supplement. However, Late Woodland groups in northeastern Illinois, like closely related groups in Wisconsin, relied on corn to a lesser extent. The uncertain number of frost-free days for growing the strains of corn available during this period, and the presence of plentiful wetland resources probably made corn less important to the occupants of the area than to people farther south. Late Woodland groups in northern Illinois remained basically hunter/gatherers with some use of domesticated plants.

Throughout the region, Late Woodland appears to have been a period of population growth and expansion with settlements no

**PLATE 15:**Middle Woodland Ungrooved Axe



18.0cm x 9.0cm

longer restricted to river valleys but found in a variety of topographic settings. The hierarchy of sites present during the Middle Woodland disappeared and Late Woodland settlement systems apparently consisted of small seasonal villages and associated support camps.

The Hopewell Interaction Sphere of the Middle Woodland Period was no longer a part of the social and economic lives of Midwesterners; there was a general return to the use of local resources for tool manufacture. Pottery was typically grit-tempered and harder and thinner than Middle Woodland pottery. The bow and arrow was introduced during this time, and small, triangular, notched, arrow points were a common tool type (Plate 16).

Burials continued to be placed in mounds but these were generally low, large, loaf-shaped mounds rather than the conical mounds of the Middle Woodland. In Wisconsin, eastern Iowa and northern Illinois from A.D. 700 to about A.D. 1000. Late Woodland people created ceremonial complexes consisting of animal and human-shaped earthen effigy mounds, as well as linear and small conical mounds along major river lakes and wetlands. Although most effigy mounds contain burials, these complexes have added meaning as maps of Native American ideological and social structure—the division of the universe into upper and lower worlds and division of social groups into clans. Several of these Effigy Mound sites close to McHenry County are the turtle mound groups on the Beloit College campus in Beloit, Wisconsin; the panther mounds near Jefferson, Wisconsin; and the turtle mound in Rockford, Illinois. Most of the few effigy mounds reported in northeast Illinois have been destroyed.

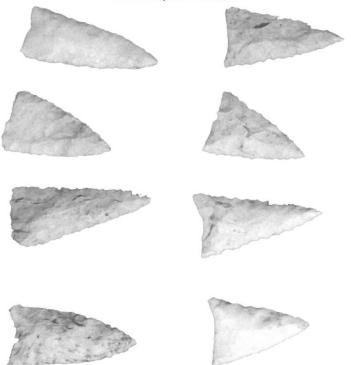
The McGraw site mentioned above contained three Late Woodland burial features with the remains of at least 10 people; all of the burials were primary interments. The low incidence of infection and anemia compared to contemporaneous burial populations in west-central and southern Illinois suggests that the McGraw Late Woodland people ate a variety of foods; hunting and gathering as well as agriculture were part of their subsis-

tence regime. However, the rate of dental caries suggests that these McGraw people had a high carbohydrate diet probably related to the consumption of corn. Several Late Woodland/Mississippian triangular projectile points were found in the burial pits. The Late Woodland burials were radiocarbon dated around 1,060 B.P. The nearby Hurd site (11-L-710) contains a Late Woodland fall hunting and harvesting encampment. Similar projectile points and ceramic wares were recovered from both sites, although radiocarbon dates from Hurd are somewhat more recent. Finding different site types from the same general time period in the same locality is critical for understanding the subsistence, social, and ideological organization of a culture.

Twenty Late Woodland sites have been reported in McHenry County (see Figure 5). None of these have been excavated.

It should be noted though that many Woodland sites probably are not recognized as such. Ceramics are often not recovered from sites because frost action quickly destroys pottery (especially the thicker, older, Early and Middle Woodland wares). Sites which do not have pottery are often assumed to be Archaic. Since some projectile point styles are found in both Early Woodland and Late Archaic context, many sites which are called Late Archaic may actually be Woodland sites. At the other end of the Woodland Period, many projectile points characteristic of Late Woodland are also found during the Mississippian Period.

PLATE 16: Mississipian Points



Avg. 2.8cm x 1.4cm

#### Mississippian Period (1,000-450 B.P. or A.D. 1000-1600)

Two types of Mississippian occupations have been identified in Illinois; Middle Mississippian and Upper Mississippian. Middle Mississippian sites tend to occur along well-established rivers with wide, fertile floodplains, and reliance on cultivated plants appears to have been substantial. Upper Mississippian sites, on the other hand, tend to occur along young creeks and rivers without broad floodplains and near wetlands where reliance on cultivation may have been less intense.

Middle Mississippian peoples achieved the greatest level of cultural complexity in the prehistory of the United States. The river valleys were densely occupied, and the settlement systems included permanent towns surrounded by smaller villages and farmsteads. Exchange networks and new systems of political control extended throughout much of the eastern United States. Mississippian subsistence was characterized by an increasing reliance on cultivated plants, particularly maize and squash. Beans enter the archaeological record for the first time in the Midwest late in the period. Deer was the most important animal resource although migratory waterfowl, elk, bison, fish, and raccoon also made varying contributions to the diet. In the St. Louis area at the site of Cahokia this Mississippian development may have reached urban proportions. Larger Middle Mississippian sites can be recognized by burial mounds with ritually slain and processed individuals, burials with substantial amounts of grave goods, substructure mounds, astronomical features (such as the Woodhenge at Cahokia), craft specialization, a variety of house forms, pottery styles, arrow point types, and stone hoes. Smaller sites contained similar house forms, pottery, and stone tools. Although major Middle Mississippian sites are located along the middle and lower segments of the Illinois River Valley, as well as at Aztalan and several other sites in southern Wisconsin, there is no evidence for Middle Mississippian occupation in northern Illinois.

Upper Mississippian peoples were probably more dispersed across the landscape than the Middle Mississippian peoples and apparently lived in smaller villages and farmsteads along rivers in the regions west, north, and east of the Middle Mississippian concentrations. In northeastern Illinois, two types of Upper Mississippian sites known as Langford and Fisher/Oneota have been identified primarily by their distinctive ceramics; both types of sites have been well documented and are known to overlap in time and space. Both Langford and Fisher/Oneota are found along the Upper Illinois River. Fisher/Oneota sites, identified by the presence of shell-tempered pottery, are also found in the Chicago Lake Plain area of Cook County and northwestern Indiana where soils tend to be very fertile but water-saturated. In contrast Langford sites, identified by black grit tempered pottery, extend up the Des Plaines, DuPage, and Fox Rivers near prairie/forest boundaries. However, recent studies suggest political, rather than ecological considerations determined the distribution of Langford and Fisher/Oneota sites. In addition, ongoing studies at the Hoxie site south of Chicago suggest that the relationship between Fisher ceramics and Huber ceramics is unclear. While many archaeologists feel that Huber ceramics are an outgrowth of Fisher, others now posit that the two are separate, and that Fisher ceramics are related to wares found further east in Indiana and perhaps Ohio.

Many Langford sites in lowland and upland settings within these young river drainages have been partially excavated. These sites represent different aspects of the Langford settlement system—small resource procurement sites, base camps or small villages with associated burial facilities, and a village with earth lodges. Four of the most extensively excavated sites from this period are the Washington Irving site in Kane County, the Robinson Reserve site in Cook County, the Cooke site also in Cook County, and the Reeves site in Will County.

Subsistence remains from these sites show that hunting whitetail deer, fishing, horticulture (primarily corn and squash and some native small grass seeds), and marsh resources were important subsistence items. Given the environmental setting of most Langford sites, one archaeologist suggests that the cornhill technique of cultivating cleared forested plots was used and that the main agricultural tool was the digging stick; in contrast Fisher/Oneota groups probably planted crops in raised beds or small hills using bison scapula hoes. Langford houses appear to have been small, single family structures while Oneota groups lived in multifamily longhouses as well as smaller forms. Langford burials are usually flexed and placed in mounds. Oneota burials in contrast are often extended and placed in individual graves under their houses.

Triangular arrow points similar to those used in the Late Woodland have been used to identify the nine sites with Upper Mississippian occupations in McHenry County (Figure 6). None of these sites have been excavated and their attribution to the Upper Mississippian is questionable.

#### Proto-historic Period (A.D. 1600-1763)

The nature and extent of Native American occupation in northern Illinois immediately prior to European contact is obscure. Until the mid 1990s little was known about Native American settlement between A.D. 1600 and 1673, when Marquette and Joliet traveled through the area. Although French explorers encountered several Native American tribes at the end of the seventeenth century, archaeologists do not know how long before contact these tribes resided in the areas where they were met. Conflicts between Native American tribes and westward moving Euro-Americans caused groups around the Great Lakes to leave their traditional homelands. Warfare and disease decreased the native population and villages frequently contained members of more than one tribe.

In the Chicagoland area the New Lenox site provides us with the best information for understanding the transition from fully prehistoric to proto-historic (and possibly historic) lifeways. Over 340 features (including a burial, hearths, and processing, storage, and trash pits), several incomplete structures, and three complete structures were uncovered. The whole structures include an Oneota longhouse, a 5m x 7m semi-subterranean burned structure with post holes around the perimeter, and a large enclosure measuring 24m x 16m with double walls on two sides. Features contained well-preserved plant and animal remains, European trade goods (brass, iron, seed and necklace beads), and several types of ceramic vessels. Seventeen radiocarbon dates ranging from A.D. 1278 to A.D. 1666 have been obtained from pit features. A newly described pottery type which contains character-

istics of local Oneota ceramics and non-local wares found at sites (in Indiana and Ohio) seems to substantiate historic accounts of intermingling among Native American groups in the Midwest as early as the seventeenth century. Similar proto-historic ceramics are found elsewhere in Illinois and Missouri.

## McHenry County History

#### Native Americans in the Historic Period (A.D. 1673-1832)

The Fox and Kickapoo Indians passed through the Fox Valley during the early eighteenth century, but did not establish villages. Members of other nations, for example Ottawa, Miami, Menomonie, and Winnebago, are noted within mixed villages during the historic period. The Fox River was the eastern boundary of the Mascouten between 1655 and 1679, and was the border between the eastern and western Mascouten bands between 1679 and 1735. The Mascouten were a semi-sedentary Algonquianspeaking tribe who had fled west from Michigan under Iroquois attack. In 1682 some Mascouten settled between the Fox and Des Plaines rivers, in the Round Lake area. They relied on a mixed economy of corn agriculture supplemented by summer bison hunts and winter deer and bear hunts. Their settlement pattern consisted of a large summer village within lake shore or river floodplain forests and scattered fall/winter camps. Canoes were utilized after 1728 when the Mascouten became involved in the fur trade. Political and military troubles with the French, the Ottawa, and the Potawatomi resulted in upheaval. The Mascouten then shifted to the south and east, eventually consolidating with the Kickapoo, while the Potawatomi extended their territory from Wisconsin into northeastern Illinois.

By 1820 the Potawatomi had achieved their greatest territorial expansion, with over 100 known villages within their tribal estate. Like the Mascouten, the Algonquian-speaking Potawatomi utilized a large summer village and scattered winter camps. Their lifestyle was a mixture of agriculture and hunting/gathering. Fishing was a major subsistence activity and villages were generally located on river or lake shores. As the southern Potawatomi gained access to horses and the prairies, they gradually shifted to a bison hunting economy. Shortly after the ill-fated (for the Indians) Black Hawk War of 1832, most of the Illinois-southern Wisconsin Potawatomi, fully oriented to the prairie economy, relocated to western Iowa. The northeast Illinois area was then settled by Euro-Americans with the few scattered remnants of Native American groups leaving the area by 1840.

A number of historic Indian sites and Indian trails were noted and recorded by early white settlers in McHenry County; several are noted on Albert Scharf's map of Indian villages and trails. Some of these trails became wagon routes, and eventually major roads. For example, Illinois Route 31 follows portions of the Lake Geneva trail and Illinois Route 176 follows the Belvidere-Waukegan trail (Figure 7).

#### **Euro-American Settlement in the Historic Period**

The Black Hawk War of 1832 was a pivotal event in the settlement history of northern Illinois. From April through August, Sauk and Fox, with the assistance of a few Potowatomi, Winnebago, and Kickapoo under the leadership of the aged Sauk

Indian Black Hawk, resorted to armed force to resist the United States policy of Indian removal. William J. McHenry, Albert Sidney Johnston, Winfield Scott, Zachary Taylor, Jefferson Davis, and Abraham Lincoln were among the 5,200 regular army, 9,000 Illinois Militia, and volunteers engaged in putting down the resistances. The Black Hawk War officially closed with the Treaty of Fort Armstrong under which Native American settlement and political control within the region was eliminated. Land sales from the Public Domain in McHenry County (then part of Cook County), began after the close of the war. When McHenry County separated from Cook County on January 16, 1836, the new county honored the memory of the recently deceased Illinois pioneer, soldier, and legislator William J. McHenry.

Recollections by the earliest settlers of Coral Township allude to an aboriginal village consisting of 10 to 15 bark-covered wigwams, a conical council house some 14 ft. (4.3m) in diameter, a 7.0 acre corn field planted in hills, and a mounded burial ground on land settled by Elijah and Mary Humphrey Dunham. The Native Americans returned in the spring of 1836 to find the bark from their homes salvaged for Euro-American "shanties," and although a Mr. Hamilton had absconded with their copper cooking pot, the corn stored within subterranean pits was safe. Various histories indicate that the settlers not only looted items from the village, but also opened graves recovering beads, silver breast pins, and pipes.

The Stephen H. Long Expedition to the source of St. Peter's River visited on 13 June 1823 a small Native American village called "Wakesa" in the vicinity of Coral Township. The village of Kakekesha (Crow) "chiefly inhabited by Menomones, with a few Potawatomis who have intermarried with them" consisted of four, bark-covered lodges with an estimated population of 60 and associated corn-fields. One residence measured 20' long by 15' wide with a 12' clearance at the center. Benches along the side, covered with skins are identical to those described by the settlers.

Elijah (b. 1784 in NY) and Mary Humphrey (b. 1791 in CT) Dunham settled with their children near Coral Corners, a crossroads community, in the spring of 1836. Public Domain land purchases note that Elijah purchased the W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 8 in Coral Township in 1839. By 1862 the Dunham family had purchased the rest of the section from a Mason Hicks and had built two residences—Elijah and Mary's home near the intersection of Dunham and Coral Roads and that of their son Artemis farther north along Dunham Road (an extant Greek Revival residence, circa 1856, following the marriage of Artemis to Mariah G. Benson). Review of the available information suggests that the burial ground mentioned by early settlers was west of Elijah and Mary's home, that is, west of Dunham Road and north of Coral East Road and that remnants of the village could be on either side of the road in the vicinity of Elijah and Mary's home.

Shovel probe and pedestrian survey conducted by the Center for American Archaeology within a portion of the McHenry County Conservation District's 235-acre Coral Woods failed to identify the historic Native American village, nor were any burial mounds identified. The area surrounding the Elijah and Mary Dunham homestead has not been investigated; the area east of Dunham Road is privately-held agricultural fields while the area west of the road is privately-held non-agricultural land.

The Gillilans may have been the first permanent Euro-American settlers in McHenry County. In 1834 Samuel (1792-1837) and Margaret (1793-1890) Gillilan staked a claim in Algonquin Township. They arrived with eight of their nine children as well as helper Edward Rutledge and bachelor brothers Alonzo and Morris Cutler in November of 1834 (Table 1). John Gillilan (1811-1889) joined his brother the following year and settled nearby. When the land was put up for sale by the government, widow Margaret Gillilan purchased land in Sections 22, 25, and 27 of the township.

As early as 1835, pioneers had established two settlements in what is now McHenry County, the Virginia Settlement (now Ridgefield) centered around Section 25 of Dorr Township and Pleasant Grove (now Marengo) along the Chicago to Galena Road (now U.S. Rt. 20) in Section 36 of Marengo Township. By 1885 McHenry County included the following villages: Alden (Alden Twp.); Crystal Lake, Cary Station, and Algonquin (Algonquin Twp.); Blivin's Mills, Spring Grove, and English Prairie (Burton Twp.); Big Foot, Lawrence, Harvard, and Chemung (Chemung Twp.); Union, Coral, and Harmony (Coral Twp.), Woodstock and Ridgeville (Dorr Twp.); Huntley Grove, Huntley (Grafton Twp.); Greenwood (Greenwood Twp.), Kishwaukee Station (Hartland

Twp.), Hebron (Hebron Twp.); Marengo (Marengo Twp.), Ostend, Ringwood, West McHenry, McHenry, and Johnsburg (McHenry Twp.); Crystal Lake Station, Nunda, and Barreville (Nunda Twp.); Richmond, Solon, and Solon Mills (Richmond Twp); South Riley (Riley Twp.); and Franklinville (Seneca Twp.).

Public transportation within rural Illinois in the first half of the nineteenth century included stage lines connecting Chicago with Galena (via U.S. Rt. 20) and Chicago with Rock River and Lake Koskonong (U.S. Rt. 14), among others that traversed McHenry County. John A. Kennedy (b. 1821 in NY) established an inn for stage travelers along the northwest stage line from Chicago to Rock River (see 11-Mh-243 in Table 2). Early railroad service

into McHenry County included the Galena and Chicago Union in 1854 (with stations at Huntley, Union, and Marengo), the St. Paul and Fond du Lac (later part of the Chicago & Northwestern) to Woodstock in 1855 and Harvard in 1856, and the Fox River Valley Road (later the Elgin & State Line Railroad) in 1855.

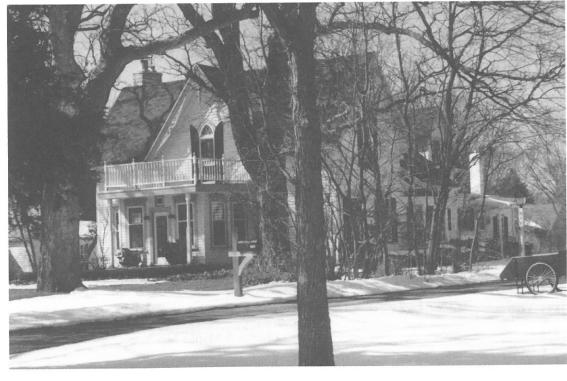
In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries McHenry County was situated within the "Greatest Dairy District on

Earth." Centralized, factory-based cheese production flourished during the Civil War followed in time by butter production and transport of fluid milk to urban areas through about 1920. Research suggests that the first cheese factories in McHenry County were established in 1866 at Richmond, Hebron, and Huntley and followed in 1867 by factories at Marengo, Greenwood, Union, Woodstock, and Riley (see Stewart Brothers Cheese and Butter Factory [11-Mh-245] in Table 2); 53 factories were present in 1884. There were four butter and cheese factories in Dunham Township prior to the establishment of the Borden plant in neighboring Chemung at the turn of the twentieth century. Fred L. Hatch (b. 1 November 1848, d. 7 July 1929) in 1873 built the first silo in the United States on his parents' (Lewis and Mandana Cole Hatch) farm near English Prairie in Section 8 of Burton Township. Farming remains an important industry in McHenry County as it was in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

To acknowledge and record examples of residential architecture in the county, MCCD and MARS, Inc. documented 30 of the "best" historical properties as identified by the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission. Each property was photographed, architectural styles were identified, and sufficient

#### PLATE 17:

West elevation of the circa 1860 Carpenter Gothic residence of E. L. and Mary Pomeroy.



background information was collected to complete and submit site forms to the ISM (Table 2). Of the fifteen sites noted in Table 2 for which lithographs are available, the best example of site integrity—where the lithographic appears to match the present site condition—is 11-Mh-238, the circa 1860 Carpenter Gothic residence of E. L. and Mary Pomeroy at 160 Pomeroy Avenue in Crystal Lake (Plates 17 and 18).

Continued on page 22

**Table 1.** Early settlers in McHenry County by township.

Arrival (Year, Month)	Nativity (State, Co.)	Settler(s)	Comments
Alden Twp.			
1836, fall	NY	Nathan & Darius Disbrow	Sec. 15, Darius d. 1849 in Milwaukee
Algonquin Twp.			
1834, November	WV, Pocahontas	Samuel & Margaret Gillilan	1 yr. Champaign Co., OH; Aunt to Uriah Cottle (see Dorr Twp.)
1835	WV	John & Belinda Gillilan	brother to Samuel
1837 latest	MA, Berkshire	Andrew B. & Rhoda Cornish	ferry license 1837; parents of Andrew H.
Burton Twp.			
1836, June	England	Jonathan & Mary Wary Imeson	Sec. 13 then Sec. 18; lithograph
1836, June	England	Thomas & Alice Wary	
1836, June	England	Stephen & Catherine Lawson	
Chemung Twp.			
1829/38	VT	Wesley & Elizabeth Diggins	Trading post at Harvard 1829-31? ; State Rep., 1831-38 in IN
1832	VT	William & Julia Hart	Deacon Hart started Congregational Ch.
1836	PA	George & Lucinda Payne Trimble	sold PD purchase (Big Foot) f-i-l Christopher Payne (1st settler Batavia)
Coral Twp.			
1834	PA, Bedford	Richard B. & Evaline Simpkins	1833 in IN; step-bro. A. B. Coon
1835, November	ОН	William Hamilton	d. near Harmony? spring 1836
Dorr Twp.			
1834, fall	VA, Nicholas	Uriah & Martha McClure Cottle	1832 to IN; 1835 with Wm. Hartman, Chas & Jno. McClure, & Christopher Walkup formed "Virginia Settlement"
1835	VA, Nicholas	James & Eveline Dufield	brother m. a Cottle
1835, October	at sea>WV	Christopher & Sabrina Walkup	Greenbriar Co., WV; 1833± to IN
1835	VA	William & Agnes Hartman	donated land for Presbyterian Ch. 1839
1835, May	VA	John L. & Martha Post Gibson	
1835	VA	Charles & Martha McClure	
1835	VA	John & Margaret Walkup McClure	dau. of Christopher & Sabrina Walkup
Dunham Twp.			
1836	VT	John & Abigail Diggins, Jr.	father of Orson C.
1837	NY	Orson C. & Jennette Diggins	Jeannette Stewart
1836/7	VT	Jason N. & Clarinda Jerome	
1839, spring	NY	William & Mary Blystone Carmack	son Abram-Old Settlers' Assoc.

 Table 1. continued
 Early settlers in McHenry County by township.

Arrival (Year, Month)	Nativity (State, Co.)	Settler(s)	Comments
Grafton Twp.			
1834	•,	Grinnell	sold to Lewis Holdridge
1838	MA or NH	Prescott & Lucy Geer Whittemore	
Greenwood Twp.			
1833	England	Henry & Ann McQuinn Weston	to Winnebago Co. then IA
Hartland Twp.			
1842 latest	Ireland	John & Catherine Quinlan	settled late 1830s
-	Ireland	Patrick M. Dunn	
=	Ireland	P. W. Tower	d. 1847
-	Ireland	A. "Whiskey" Smith	
1837	Ireland	Wm. & Catherine Donnelly Fanning	
1836, December	Ireland	Francis & Catherine Short(s)	
1836	MA, Hampshire	Alvin & Eliza White Judd	to Dorr Twp. 1842
1836	NY	James Judd	
1838	NY	John S. & Lucinda Pierce	
1839	Ireland	John & Ellen Nolan Gilles	
Hebron Twp.			
1836, May	VT	Dr. Josiah & Hannah Giddings	Black Hawk War, Joseph Naper's Co. of Major Nathaniel Buckmaster's Odd Battalion of mounted volunteers (Pvt.); Old Settlers' Assoc.
1836, May	VT	Eli Whitney & Mary Bringham	1833 at Naperville
1837	MA	Bela H. & Harriett Tryon	1827 to NY; 1836 to Milwaukee
Marengo Twp.			
-	t <del>a</del>	Oliver Chatfield	
1835, September	NY	Calvin & Mary Ann Hance Spencer	"Spencer's House" 1837 GLO notes
1836, fall	-	A. B. Coon	step-bro. Richard Simpkins
	t <del>a</del>	Porter Chatfield	
Ξ.	VT	Russell & Cynthia Diggins	
1836, fall	-	Richard Simpkins	see Coral Twp. above
-	:-	Moody B. Bailey	
McHenry Twp.			
1837 latest	MA, Worcester	Christy G. & Mary Pierce Wheeler	preacher, doctor, Recorder of Deeds, tavern owner, merchant, postmaster; Christy d. 1842, widow to KS

Table 1. concluded Early settlers in McHenry County by township.

Arrival (Year, Month)	Nativity (State, Co.)	Settler(s)	Comments
1836, October	NY	Henry W. & Ursula McLean	12' x 16' log cabin with John McLean & William L. Way
1836, October	NY	John & Susannah V. McLean	
1836, October	NY	William L. Way	
1837	VT	Dr. Luke Hale	
Nunda Twp.			
1835, December	NH, Cheshire	George & Sylvia Beckley Stickney	Sec. 20, farmer & fruit grower
1836, June	NY, Herkimer	Samuel & Laura Terwilliger	Sec. 7, Ridgeville PO, farmer & dairyman
1836	RI	Benjamin Macomber	Sec. 6, d. 1861 aged 93
1836?	MA	William & Minerva Holcomb	d. 1858
1837	VT, Windsor	Isaac & Anne Erwin Griswold	related to Holcomb?, d. Lake Co.
1837	CT	Charles & Elizabeth Patterson	d. 27 July 1859, Sec. 26; 1872 lithograph of mill & store
Richmond Twp.			
1837, May	PA, Lycoming	Wm. & Eliz. Bodine McConnell	1836 to MI; Scottish descent; 1st cheese factory in twp.; state rep. 1870-72; postmaster; lithograph
1837, fall	Scotland	Alexander & Sally Miller Gardner	to Canada->Dundee->Richmond
1837, fall	Scotland	David Gardner	1st sawmill & grist mill in Co. with brothers Alex. & Wm.
1837, fall	Scotland	William & Ann Brodie Gardner	carpenter, Civil War vet.
1837	CT & VT, Wash.	R. R. & Louisa Johonnett Crosby	dau. of Peter & Sarah Wheaton Johonnett; father in household 1860
Riley Twp.			
1833, March	NY	Allen & Lorraine Sisson	Old Settlers' Assoc.
1836	NY, Cazenovia	T. Whitman Cobb	
1836	NY	F. B. & Amy Foy	
Seneca Twp.			
1835	-	E. Pettit	sold to Sponable
4	IN	John Belden	
-	CT, New London	Jedediah & Sarah Jones Rogers	d. 1853 McHenry Co.

f-i-l = father-in-law, Wash. = Washington; Note that West Virginia separated from Virginia in 1863 over the issue of slavery. Some birth nativity noted as "VA" may now be WV.

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**Table 2.** Thirty historic Euro-American architectural sites recorded during the MCCD historic sites project.

Site #	Age and Style	Name Associated	Address, City	Lithograph?
Algonquin Twp.				
11-Mh-238	1860 Carpenter Gothic	E. L. & Mary Pomeroy	160 Pomeroy Ave., CL	
11-Mh-239	1874 Queen Anne	Teckler House	25 S. Walkup, CL	-
11-Mh-254	1867 Italianate/Goth. R	C. S. Dole Mansion	401 Country Club Rd., CL	-
11-Mh-267	1860 Carpenter Gothic	James & Sarah Crow	648 Leonard Parkway, CL	-
Burton Twp.				
11-Mh-240	1863 Greek Revival	Robert & Eleanor Richardson	9407 Richardson Rd., SG	
11-Mh-241	1862 Italianate	Franklin & Emily Cole	Main St., Burton	
Chemung Twp.				
11-Mh-242	1838 Carpenter Gothic	Rodolphus & Lydia Hutchinson	10308 Rt. 14, Harvard	-
Greenwood Twp	) <b>.</b>			
11-Mh-244	1862 Upright & wing	Lewis B. & Margaret Peatt	3920 Greenwood Rd., Wd	
Hartland Twp.				
11-Mh-243	1853 Greek Revival	John A. & Laura Kennedy	17817 Rt. 14, Wd	
Hebron Twp.				
11-Mh-245	1880 Italianate	Stewart Bros.	Vander Karr Rd.	-
11-Mh-246	1862 Greek Revival	John & Harriett Stewart	11201 Vander Karr Rd.	
11-Mh-247	1872 Italianate	Seth & Salina Lewis	301 Main St., Marengo	
11-Mh-248	1872 Italianate	Charles H. & Jane Hibbard	413 Grant Hwy., Marengo	-
McHenry Twp.				
11-Mh-249	1860 Greek Revival	The Count's House	3803 Waukegan Rd., McH	
11-Mh-250	1889 I-House	Barbian Homestead	1501 N. Riverside Dr., McH	-
11-Mh-251	1878 Church	Miller/Muller Chapel	Wilmot & Ringwood Rds.	-
Nunda Twp.				
11-Mh-252	1849 Classical Rev.	Samuel & Laura Terwilliger	Mason Hill & Cherry V.	-
11-Mh-253	1856 Italianate?	George & Sylvia Stickney	1904 Cherry Valley, BV	
11-Mh-255	1858 Greek Revival	Holcombville School	Crystal Springs & Walkup	-
11-Mh-256	1856 Federal	John B. & Mary Jane Walkup	5214 N. Walkup Ave., CL	
11-Mh-257	1858 Federal	Col. G. A. & Henrietta Palmer	5516 Terra Cotta Ave., CL	=
Richmond Twp				
11-Mh-258	1852 Greek Revival	W. A./John McConnell	6119 Broadway St., R	
11-Mh-259	1872 Greek Revival	Geo. & Amanda Purdy	NE Broadway & Covell, R	

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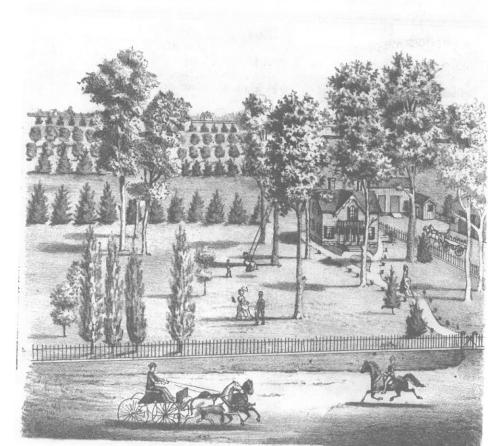
**Table 2.** concluded Thirty historic Euro-American architectural sites recorded during the MCCD historic sites project.

Site #	Age and Style	Name Associated	Address, City	
11-Mh-260	1865 Italianate	Charles & Sally Cotting	5512 East Mill, R	Lithograph?
11-Mh-261	1844 Vernacular	Charles Cotting's #90	10328 Main St., R	
11-Mh-262	1862 Greek Revival	Wm. & Elizabeth McConnell	6102 Broadway St., R	-
1-Mh-263	1872 Greek Revival	Wm. & Mary Smailes	5601 George St., R	
1-Mh-264	1900 Queen Anne	Lucien Bonaparte Covell	5805 Broadway St., R	
1-Mh-265	1886 Second Empire	Sarah Gibbs	10313 West St., R.	-
1-Mh-266	1850 Georgian	William & Ann Gardner	4219 W. Solon Rd.	-

BV=Bull Valley, CL=Crystal Lake, SG=Spring Grove, McH=McHenry, R=Richmond, Wd=Woodstock, Greek Revival= Greek Revival in original form, Goth. R=Gothic Revival. See Glossary for an explanation of Site Numbers.

#### PLATE 18:

Lithograph dated 1872 showing an overview of the E. L. and Mary Pomeroy residence and grounds.



RES.OF E.L.POMEROY.

The most dramatic change in the number of sites recorded in McHenry County is in the number of Historic Period sites. In 1988 only five historic period sites had been recorded; by the end of 2003 there were 178 historic sites. As development moved out of urban centers into the countryside, and as old structures within urban areas were taken down to make way for new, archaeologists and the general public came to realize that historic homes, farmsteads, factories, schools, mills, post offices, and other structures are also finite resources worthy of investigation and, if possible, preservation. The District has taken an early lead in this effort. In the late 1980s the Sauk Trail Chapter, aided by the Conservation District, excavated a Euro-American dairy farm at the Hollows Conservation Site near Cary, Illinois. The site has provided valuable information about the lives of Euro-American settlers in McHenry County from the end of the Civil War until the early twentieth century, a period poorly represented in written historical records. The standing structure survey described above is another District project that has added to our knowledge of nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture. More recently, archaeological investigations at the 1854 to 1990s occupied Powers/ Walker house at the District's Glacial Park has provided important information on household use of yard space, and answered the mystery of the secret basement room. (It was not a room at all, but rather a large builder's trench dug for the

#### PLATE 19:

Blue transfer printed cup fragment from a mid-19th century privy at the Powers Walker House.



first addition to the house.) Among the artifacts recovered at the site were tableware (Plate 19) and clay pipe fragments (Plate 20), whole and bottle fragments, buttons, coins, medallions, nails and other metal objects, and toys.

Historic sites in Illinois are divided into six occupational periods, Colonial (1673-1780), Pioneer (1781-1840), Frontier (1841-1870), Early Industrial (1871-1900), Urban (1901-1945) and Post War (1946 and later). The earliest sites in McHenry County date from the Pioneer Period. Three sites built during this period have been identified. Only one,

the Matheny/Bird Farmstead (11-Mh-115), was occupied for a short period of time. The other two sites were habitations from the Pioneer Period into the Post War Period. Single occupation sites like Matheny/Bird are rare, but provide us with an important picture of past lifeways restricted to a narrow slice of time and usually one family. John B. and Margaret Matheny, Upland Southerners within the Virginia Settlement, occupied 11-Mh-115 from 1849 until 1854. Historic documents and artifacts recovered from the site suggest that they enjoyed a higher economic status than their New England neighbors, and that dietary preferences and farming practices do not conform to the expectation archaeologists have for the Upland South ethnic group

Most historic sites first built during the Frontier Period, the

Early Industrial Period, or the Urban Period were also occupied for long periods of time. Population and agricultural census records, early county histories, and other archival documents show that while a few of these farmsteads were occupied by a single extended family through time, most were occupied by a series of unrelated families. Some families owned their property, others were renters or tenant farmers. Some families were American born, others were immigrants. Some were financially well off, others struggled to make ends meet. The archaeological deposits left behind by each set of site

#### PLATE 20:

Clay pipe fragment from a mid-19th century privy at the Powers/Walker House.



occupants can provide informati of the many different types of particular contain discreet, intact deposits a particular set of site occupants. I pations are mixed with those from McMillan Farmstead in Nunda T mixing. In this situation, archaec site from documents than from the contained of the mixing of the many different types.

## Summary

McHenry County has been home years. Archaeological sites from a American prehistory are found wisites are located on private lands a McHenry County residents have a tarchaeologists to examine collection their property and in allowing archaeologists. Information derived for along with information from sites and surrounding counties, provide not only for archaeologists but for links with our past and with the past McHenry County. Archaeological es and need to be conserved for fu

The McHenry County Conserve preserve these sites and to use their ment of the residents of McHenry among the District, professional are avocational archaeologists, have preserve tion about the prehistory of the country more to be done and learned rently investigating prehistoric settle Residents of McHenry Country are these effort by notifying the Conserve logical materials they may have, an Chapter. Further information can be McHenry Country Conservation Dis

## References

The authors have used a wide variety of references in preparing this booklet. These include primary and secondary sources, many of which are unpublished, out-of-print, or highly technical. A complete listing of the references used for this booklet can be found on the MARS, Inc. web site (www.Midwestarch.net). This web site also has a list of references commonly used to identify prehistoric and historic artifacts (including historic house styles). In addition to the readings listed below, three journals routinely contain articles relevant to Illinois archaeology-Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology (official journal of the Midwest Archaeological Conference, Inc.-www.midwestarchaeology.org), Illinois Archaeology (journal of the Illinois Archaeological Surveyvirtual.parkland.edu/IAS/mainnenu.htm), and The Wisconsin Archaeologist (journal of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society-www.uwm.edu/org/WAS). Local libraries have computers you can use to access these web sites.

The following books are readily available in local libraries or can be obtained through interlibrary loan. Some may also be purchased from the Illinois State Museum, the University of Illinois, local bookstores, and from book selling web sites.

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## McHenry County References

#### **Plats**

Selected McHenry County plats are available at local libraries within the county. The Woodstock Public Library has a good selection. An extensive collection of McHenry County plats, ranging from 1862 through 2004, is available at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. Pre-settlement plats (1838-1840) drafted by the General Land Office (GLO) are available for viewing on the internet at <landplats.ilsos.net/Flash/Welcome. html> In addition to the GLO plats, MARS, Inc. referred to the following for this booklet.

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## Websites

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Archaeology Awareness
www.illinoisarchaeology.org
Information about archaeology programs, sites to visit,
suggested readings and other activities having to do with
Illinois archaeology.

Center for American Archeology www.caa-archeology.org Educational programs and books on Midwestern archaeology.

Illinois Archaeological Survey (IAS) www.virtual.parkland.edu/IAS/mainmenu.htm Organization of professional archaeologists.

Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology (IAAA) www.museum.state.il.us/iaaa Organization of avocational archaeologists.

Illinois State Archives
www.library.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/
databases.html
Contains databases for the Public Domain and death,
marriage, and veteran records.

National Park Service (NPS)
www.cr.nps.gov/archeology.htm
Discoveries by National Park Service archeologists and
their partners.

Society for American Archaeology (SAA) www.saa.org National organization of professional archaeologists.

Society of Historical Archaeology (SHA)
www.sha.org
National organization of archaeologists studying the
historic era.

Wisconsin Archeological Society
www.uwm.edu/Org/WAS/
An organization made up of individuals with interest in
Wisconsin's historic and prehistoric past.

#### **Local Organizations**

McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD)
www.mccdistrict.org
Preserving and restoring natural areas and open spaces
for the educational, recreational and environmental benefit
of present and future generations.

McHenry County Historical Society (MCHS)
www.mchsonline.org
Identify, preserve, present and promote the history of
McHenry County.

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society (MCIGS) www.mcigs.org
Fosters an interest in genealogy and preserves early
McHenry County records.

Algonquin Historic Commission
www.algonquin.org/History%20Commision/home.
html
To foster research, development and preservation of
Algonquin's history.

City of Johnsburg Homepage www.johnsburg.org/abjohn.htm The history of Johnsburg.

#### Museums

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site www.cahokiamounds.com Take a virtual visit to the World Heritage site.

Chicago Historical Society
www.chicagohs.org
Visit their museum without leaving home.

Field Museum
www.thefieldmuseum.com/
A virtual tour of the exhibits at the museum.

Illinois State Museum

www.museum.state.il.us

Describes museum programs with link to Dickson Mounds Museum.

www.museum.state.il.us/muslink

Has extensive information about archaeology and related topics.

#### **Additional Information**

Breaking News in Anthropology
www.tamu.edu/anthropology/news.html
Links with all the major archaeology articles in the media.

Center for the Study of the First Americans
www.centerfirstamericans.com/
All the latest information on the earliest North Americans.

## Glossary

**AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) dating**—a radiometric method of dating small samples of carbon (less than 0.3 grams).

**archaeological site**—A geographical location with evidence for past human activity.

artifacts—Any product of human manufacture or manipulation.

**atlatl**—Spear thrower. A mechanical device used as an extension of the human arm to hurl darts or spears.

**Aztalan**—A Middle Mississippian settlement in southern Wisconsin.

**bannerstone**—Ground stone symmetrical object used as an atlatl weight.

**birdstone**—A specialized form (bird or bird's head) of Bannerstone.

**B.P.**—Before Present. A dating convention established when the radiocarbon technique for dating organic material was developed (1948). The present is set by convention at A.D. 1950.

**beveled edge**—A steeply flaked edge. During the Early Archaic period projectile points often have beveling on one side of the tool edge.

**Cahokia**—Largest Middle Mississippian archaeological site in North America. It is located in southern Illinois east of St. Louis.

**chert**—A microcrystaline quartz stone used for making chipped tools. In McHenry County this stone is found in gravels deposited by the glaciers. Chert is another word for flint. Other microcrystaline stones used for tools are jasper, chalcedony, and agates.

**collectors**—People who pick up artifacts from the ground surface as a hobby or avocation. Collectors are important sources of information for archaeologists. Ethical collectors do not excavate without supervision and always have permission to walk the lands from which they collect.

**denticulate**—A stone tool with a saw-tooth edge that may have been used for shredding plant material.

**Early Archaic**—Term used for the time period from 10,000 to 8,000 B.P. and the way of life from that time period.

Early Woodland—Term used for the time period from 3,500-2,100 B.P. and the way of life from that time period.

Effigy Mound—Cultural tradition dating between A.D. 700-1300. Animal-shaped effigy mounds are built during the Late Woodland/Mississippian periods in northwestern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Animals frequently represented are turtles, birds and mammals.

**Euro-Americans**—Americans of European descent and Europeans who immigrated to North America after A.D. 1492.

**fluted point**—A type of chipped stone point characteristic of the Paleoindian period. As a last step in the manufacture of these

well-made tools a stone flake is removed from one or both sides. This flake is removed from the bottom or base of the tool and extends toward the tip creating a groove or channel. Archaeologists are unsure about the function of this channel. It may have served as an aid in attaching the stone point to a shaft.

**General Land Office**—Federal agency established to survey and sell land from the public domain.

**goosefoot**—A weedy plant producing edible seeds that was cultivated during the Woodland Period. Lamb's quarter is another common name for this plant.

**graver**—A tool used to groove, slot or engrave wood, bone, antler and shell.

**groundstone**—Tools manufactured by pecking and grinding, or tools used to peck or grind other materials.

**Historic**—Term used for the time period since European contact with Native Americans. In northern Illinois, it is generally considered 1673, when Marquette and Joliet passed through the area.

Hopewell Interaction Sphere—A network of trade and exchange which flourished in eastern North America during the Middle Woodland time period (2,100-1,600 B.P.). Major centers for these activities were the Scioto River Valley in Ohio, and the Illinois and Mississippi River Valleys in Illinois. Materials exchanged included shells and shark teeth from the Gulf Coast, copper from Michigan and Canada, mica from Georgia, galena from Illinois, obsidian from Wyoming, and many kinds of cherts from throughout the Midwest. These materials were made into distinctive artifacts, many of which were deposited in graves or tombs within large burial mounds.

horticulture—Use of gardens for production of foods. It does not include the clearing of large tracts of land as in agriculture.

**hypsithermal**—A climatic period (8,700-5,000 B.P.) when temperature was higher and there was less rainfall than there is today. It resulted in an expansion of the prairie and a decrease in forests in Illinois.

**kill sites**—Archaeological sites with evidence for human hunting and butchering of large game such as mammoth or bison. Some kill sites in the Great Plains contain hundreds of bison skeletons.

**Langford**—A name given to Upper Mississippian grit-tempered pottery and the people who made that pottery.

Late Archaic—Term used for the time period from 5,000-3,500 B.P. and the way of life from that time period.

Late Woodland—Term used for the time period from 1,600-1,000 B.P. and the way of life from that time period.

**lithics**—Raw materials (primarily chert) for making stone tools, the stone tools themselves and the debris from their manufacture.

**looting**—The illegal or unethical removal of archaeological materials from a site. Looting usually removes the scientific importance of the artifacts by obliterating information, and often destroys an irreplaceable archaeological site; also called pothunting.

**Middle Archaic**—Term used for the time period from 8,000-5,000 B.P. and the way of life from that time period.

**Middle Mississippian**—The way of life practiced by groups of Native Americans living in parts of the central and southern Midwest from 1,000 B.P. until contact with Euro-Americans.

**Middle Woodland**—Term used for the time period from 2,100-1,600 B.P. and the way of life from that time period.

**mounds**—Man-made monuments made of earth which are used as cemeteries or as platforms for buildings. They were built during the Woodland and Mississippian time periods.

**Native Americans**—Americans of Asian descent who immigrated to North America during or immediately after the Wisconsinan glaciation.

**non-renewable resource**—Something of importance that cannot be replaced once taken or used. Gas and oil are examples of non-renewable energy resources. Archaeological sites are non-renewable cultural resources.

**Oneota**—A name given to Upper Mississippian shell-tempered pottery and the groups who made that pottery.

**Paleoindian**—Term used for the time period from 12,000 to 10,000 B.P. and the way of life represented during that time period.

Pleistocene—The geological epoch beginning approximately 1.6 million years ago that is usually referred to as the Ice Age. It includes the four major advances of ice sheets to partially cover Illinois (Nebraskan, Kansan, Illinoian, and Wisconsinan) and interglacial periods. The last major glacial advance, the Wisconsinan, ended in our area about 12,000 years ago.

**pot-hunting**—The illegal or unethical removal of archaeological materials from a site. Pot-hunting (potting) usually removes the scientific importance of the artifacts and often destroys an irreplaceable archaeological site. Also called looting.

**preform**—A stage in the manufacture of bifacial stone tools such as projectile points or knives. Preforms range from crudely shaped, thick items to well shaped, thin, almost completed tools. Preforms for projectile points may simply lack hafting elements.

**projectile point**—A tool which is used as the end of a spear or arrow. Can be made of metal, stone or bone. Most examples found by archaeologists are made of stone and have stems or notches which made attaching to the shaft easier.

**Proto-historic**—Time period between Mississippian occupations and European contact with Native Americans. In northern Illinois, the latest Mississippian site is dated to approximately A.D. 1500, and European contact began in A.D. 1673.

radiometric—Techniques used to date an object or site in chronological years. These dates are expressed in years before present, set by convention to 1950. The age of an object is established by measuring the rate of decay of certain radioactive isotopes. Carbon fourteen is one method of radiometric dating. In this method the decay of radioactive carbon is measured in organic material such as bone or wood.

**Scharf**—Albert Scharf was an amateur archaeologist who located and mapped many prehistoric and historic sites during the early 1900s in the greater Chicago area. He identified 12 villages and mounds in McHenry County. Most of these have been destroyed by urban development.

**sedentism**—The process where nomadic peoples settle into more permanent villages, thereby changing many aspects of their lifestyle.

sherd—Fragment of a pottery container or figure.

**site numbers**—Site numbers have three components: a state number (11 for Illinois, the 11th state in the United States, alphabetically), a county designation (Mh for McHenry County) and a sequential number assigned to sites as they are reported.

**site preservation**—Conserving archaeological sites by protecting them from destruction. Destruction can come from natural causes such as erosion, or from man-made causes such as construction or pot-hunting.

**smudge pit**—A shallow pit filled with corncobs, dried animal dung, rotten wood and sometimes other plant material which when burned produced dense clouds of smoke. Animal hides were stretched over the pit to smoke—one step in a series of processing activities before the hide could be used for clothing.

**sumpweed**—A weedy plant producing edible seeds that was cultivated during the Woodland Period.

systematic archaeological survey—A way to look for archaeological sites in which: 1) the amount of land surveyed is defined; 2) the amount of effort used to find sites is defined; 3) all of the land is surveyed in the same manner. This method provides information on where sites are not located, as well as where they are located.

**Temper**—Fiber, sand, stone grit (of various sizes), or shell added to clay to prevent ceramic vessels from cracking during firing.

**Upper Mississippian**—The way of life practiced by groups of Native Americans living in parts of northern Illinois, northern Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa from 1,000 B.P. until contact with Euro-Americans.

**Wisconsinan**—Last glacial period (approximately 75,000-12,000 B.P.), when climate was much cooler than today and ice sheets covered major portions of North America.

Figure 1. Surveyed Areas in McHenry County

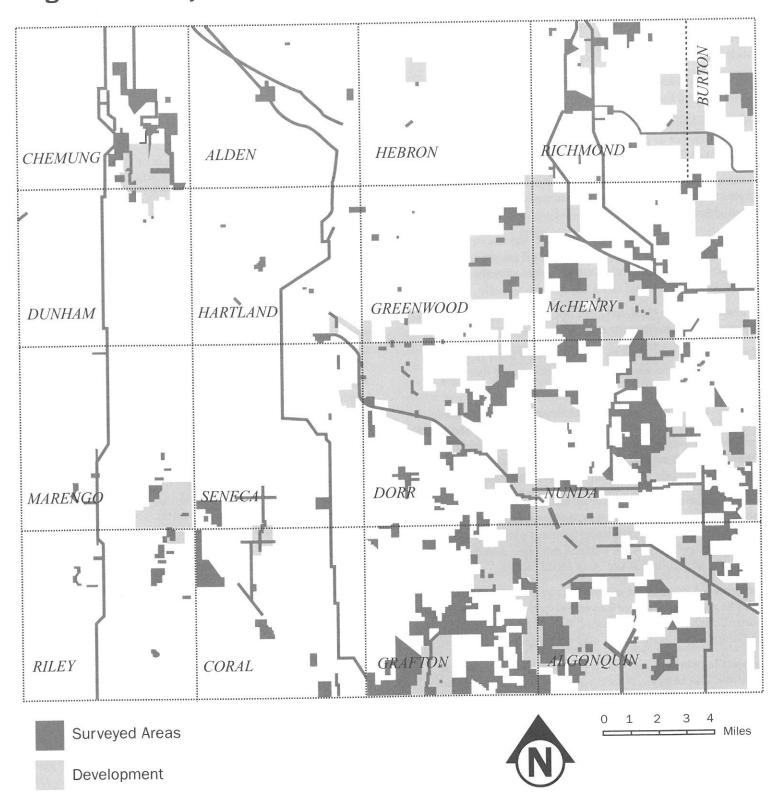


Figure 2. Distribution of General Prehistoric and Historic Sites

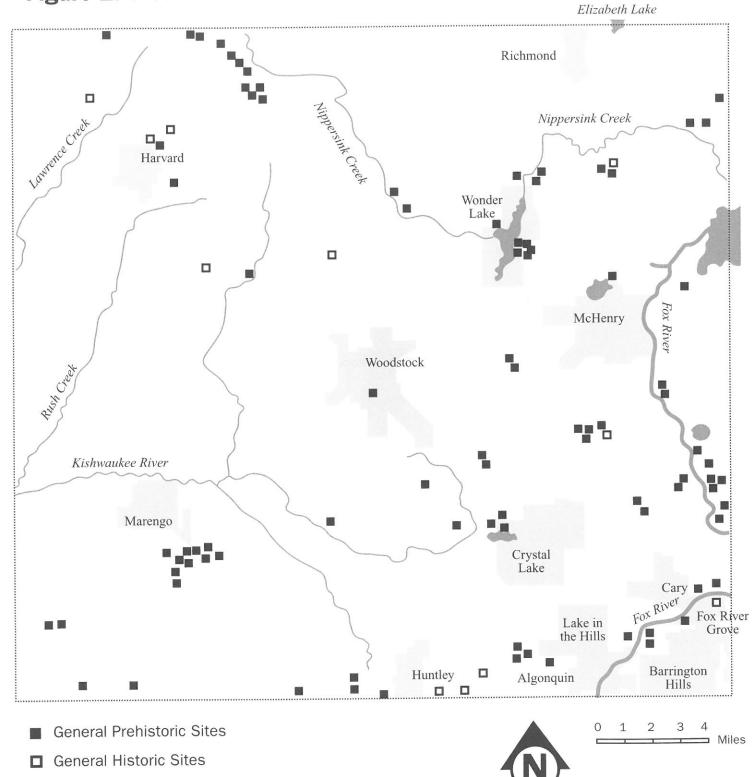


Figure 3. Distribution of Paleoindian Sites and Isolated Finds

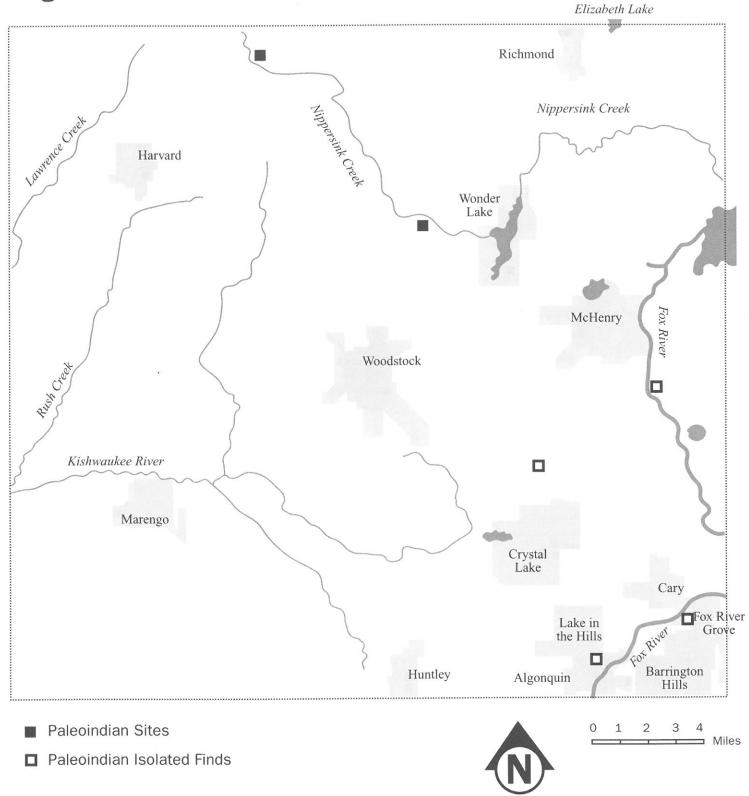
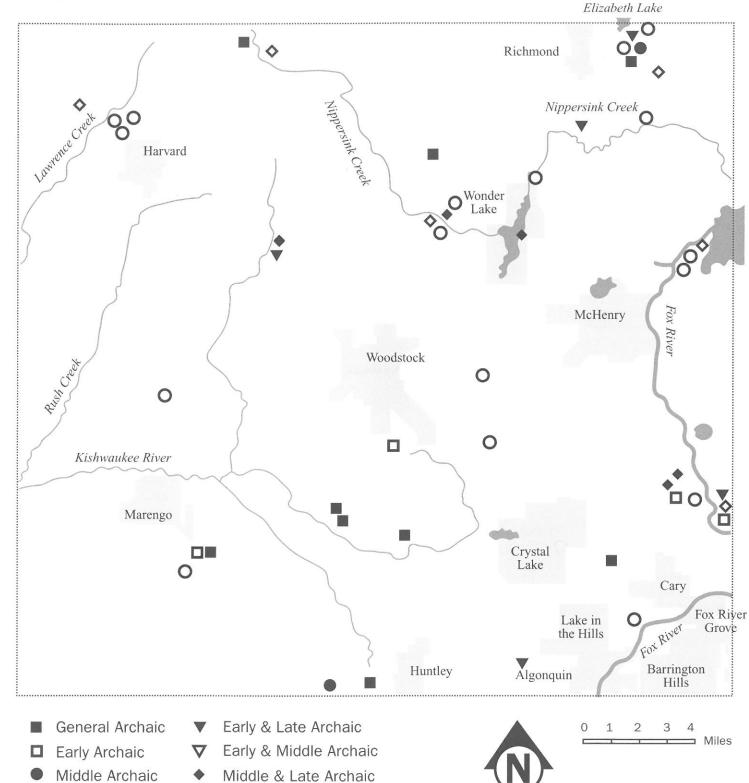


Figure 4. Distribution of Archaic Period Sites



- Early, Middle & Late Archaic

O Late Archaic

Figure 5. Distribution of Woodland Period Sites

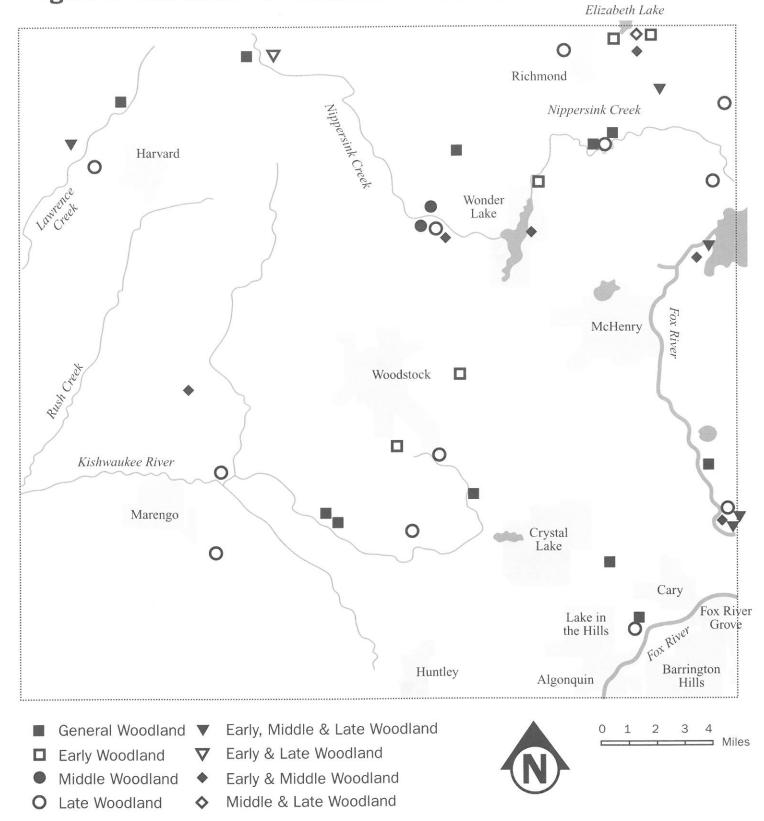


Figure 6. Distribution of Mississippian Period Sites

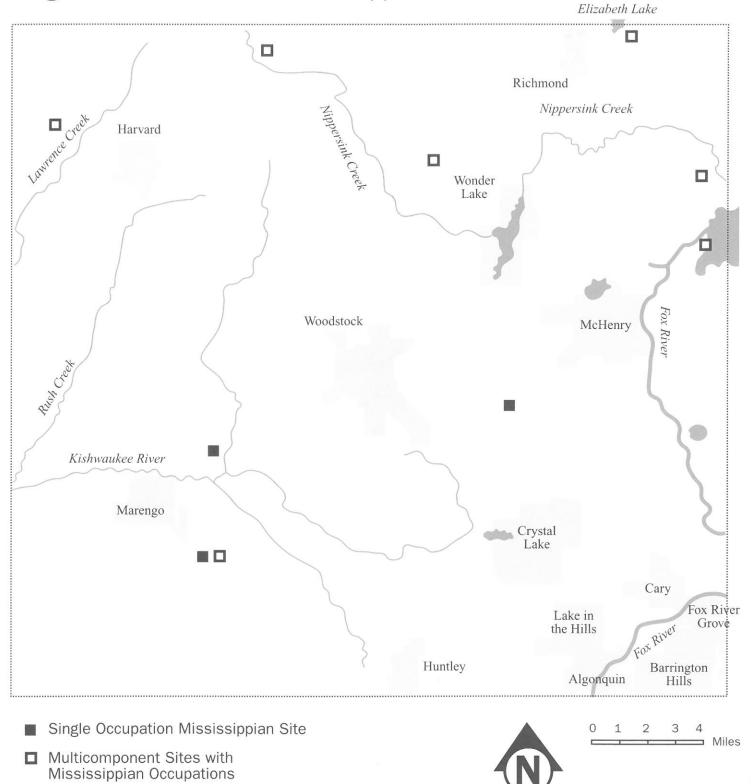


Figure 7. Major Indian Trails in McHenry County

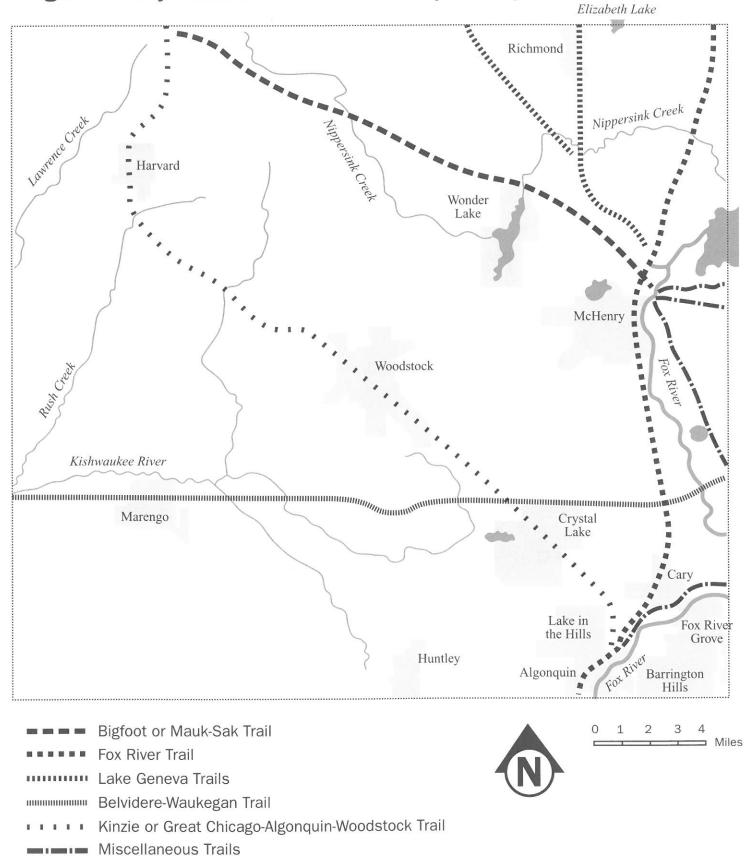
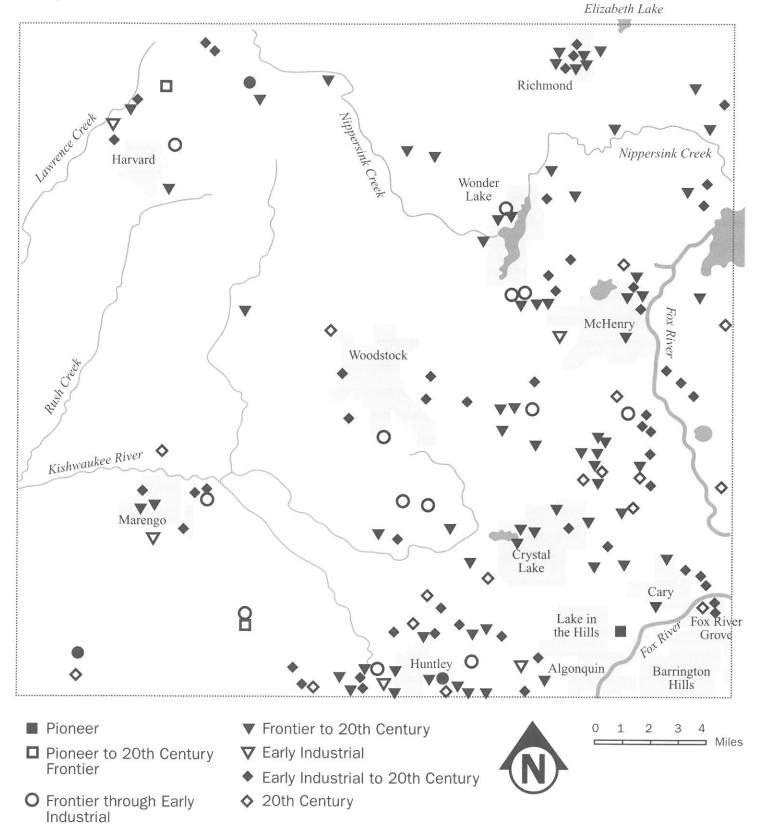


Figure 8. Distribution of Historic Period Sites



"McHenry County has been home to humans for over 10,000 years. Archaeological sites from all time periods of North American prehistory are found within the county....These sites represent links with our past and with the past of the original occupants of McHenry County."

—from The Archaeology of McHenry County



McHenry County Conservation District 18410 U.S. Highway 14 Woodstock, IL 60098 www.MCCDistrict.org



