

AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OF  
STARKE COUNTY, INDIANA

by  
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*Indianapolis*  
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**STARKE COUNTY  
INDIANA**

## TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

**S**TARKE COUNTY, Indiana, is in the northwest section of the state, bounded on the north by La Porte and St. Joseph counties, on the south by Pulaski County, on the east by Marshall County, and on the west by La Porte and Jasper counties.<sup>1</sup> The northwest boundary of the county is formed by the Kankakee River. Its eastern boundary is eighteen miles in length, and its southern boundary is twenty-four miles. The county has a total area of 314 square miles, or 200,960 acres. This includes about two thousand acres of water surface.

The surface of the county is predominantly flat and smooth, characteristic of an old lake plain. Sand ridges and hills, which are a common occurrence, and a slight morainic belt in the southeast section of the county are the only pronounced irregularities.

These sand ridges and hills are believed to be of glacial origin. This great accumulation of sand probably was derived from the adjacent ice lobes—the Lake Michigan ice lobe bordering the area on the north, and the Erie-Saginaw lobe on the east. Much of the sand was probably brought into the Kankakee basin by glacial streams that discharged through the St. Joseph River during the melting of the ice to the north. This sand, throughout the area, is very fine textured and is believed to have been deposited by streams with rather sluggish currents.

The sand ridges roughly form three irregular belts extending in a general north-south direction. They are in no place continuous and are frequently broken by smooth areas. The majority of these sand ridges are approximately ten feet high or less. Many are only slightly elevated above the plain. The more prominent ridges often attain a height of thirty to forty feet and frequently rise abruptly out of the marshland. The average width of the ridge belts is approximately one to two miles.

One belt of ridges occurs along the eastern boundary of the county. It extends from Eagle Lake north to St. Joseph County. Several prominent isolated hills and a rather continuous rolling

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<sup>1</sup>E. J. Grimes, Wendell Barrett, and T. M. Bushnell, "Soil Survey of Starke County," in *Indiana Geological Report*, 1915, pp. 156-59.

area about Koontz Lake are to be found in this section. Another belt, consisting of a series of long, disconnected ridges, extends from Ora in a northwest direction to Knox. It roughly parallels the outer border of the morainic belt to the east. The third belt is to be found east of North Judson and extends from the Pulaski County line north to the Kankakee Marsh. The surface is gently rolling, consisting of a series of low, irregular swells or ridges.

The morainic belt occurs in North Bend Township. A high ridge east of Bass Lake is its most prominent topographic feature. To the east of this lies a level plain, interrupted only by low mounds. In the southeast corner of the county gaps between the morainic undulations are filled with prominent sand ridges.

The area comprising the remainder of the county is made up of monotonous, level sand and muck areas. These are interrupted only by an occasional isolated sand ridge or swell.

The drainage of the greater part of Starke County is into the Kankakee River. The Tippecanoe River, however, which enters and leaves the county in North Bend Township, forming a small northern loop, drains small sections of North Bend and California townships.

The average elevation of Starke County is about seven hundred feet above sea level. The Kankakee River has a fall of approximately fifteen inches to the mile. This stream formerly overflowed its banks at regular intervals and flooded the bordering broad flatlands. The river, now dredged and straightened, flows freely through an artificial channel.



## HISTORICAL SKETCH

THE FIRST WHITE inhabitants of what is now Starke County were primarily missionaries, traders, and trappers. The Indians they encountered were the Potawatomi. By treaty in 1832 all the area comprising Starke County was ceded by this tribe to the government. The land was surveyed in the years from 1833 to 1835.

The first permanent white settlement within the area of the present county was made about 1840 near the present town of Ober, and was known as the Osborn Settlement. Its site was then a part of Marshall County. As late as 1851 there were but few permanent inhabitants in the region. Starke County was organized in 1852. Originally it measured eighteen miles square, but subsequently its boundaries were changed, the section northwest of the Kankakee River being annexed to La Porte County.

## THE SURVEY

**I**NVESTIGATION OF sites by the archaeological field survey was limited to surface collecting. No excavations were undertaken. Effort has been made to describe sites which have been destroyed but about which information is available from local sources. Also sites which it was impossible for the survey to visit for one reason or another are described as far as possible on the authority of local inhabitants.

Locations of the sites described in the text can be found on the accompanying township maps. The county map provides further orientation. Data giving more exact locations are on file in the Indiana Historical Bureau. The Congressional township system has been adopted as the survey unit for the locations of the various sites.

All the archaeological sites have been classified according to general type. Five classes have been used and are explained below. If a particular archaeological feature does not occur in one of these five divisions, it is fully explained in the accompanying text. In many cases this classification has been applied to sites only on the basis of surface evidence, and it is natural to expect that it has been applied arbitrarily in some cases. The following are definitions of the groupings of archaeological features found throughout the county by the survey:

*Camp*—An area of limited habitation. Surface evidence is only found in a relatively small area. The majority of these sites were only temporary hunting camps in the marshland.

*Village*—A larger area of habitation, showing indications that it was used over a longer period of time. A ceramic complex is usually in evidence. Surface material is frequently found in quantity and over a wide area. Village sites differ from camp areas mainly in extent and amount of habitation debris.

*Earth Mound*—An artificial structure of earth raised in this area by the Indian mainly for burial purposes. The mounds are frequently low-domed structures and are found singly or in groups.

*Cemetery*—An area used for the deposition of the dead by the Indian. Cemetery sites frequently are found near the larger habitation sites and are usually located upon high ground.

*Cache*—A collection of artifacts and other materials probably hidden away for future use by the Indian. Artifacts found in caches may be either finished or semifinished.

Each site or archaeological feature was assigned a number by the survey. St.<sup>v</sup> indicates a Starke County habitation area, whereas St.<sup>o</sup> indicates a Starke County earth mound.

The term "village debris" used throughout this report specifically refers to quantities of fire-cracked rock, usually of igneous origin, and flint chippings. In some cases charcoal and animal bones are found in village debris. In the majority of the sites investigated, materials found in the village debris were foreign to the immediate area.

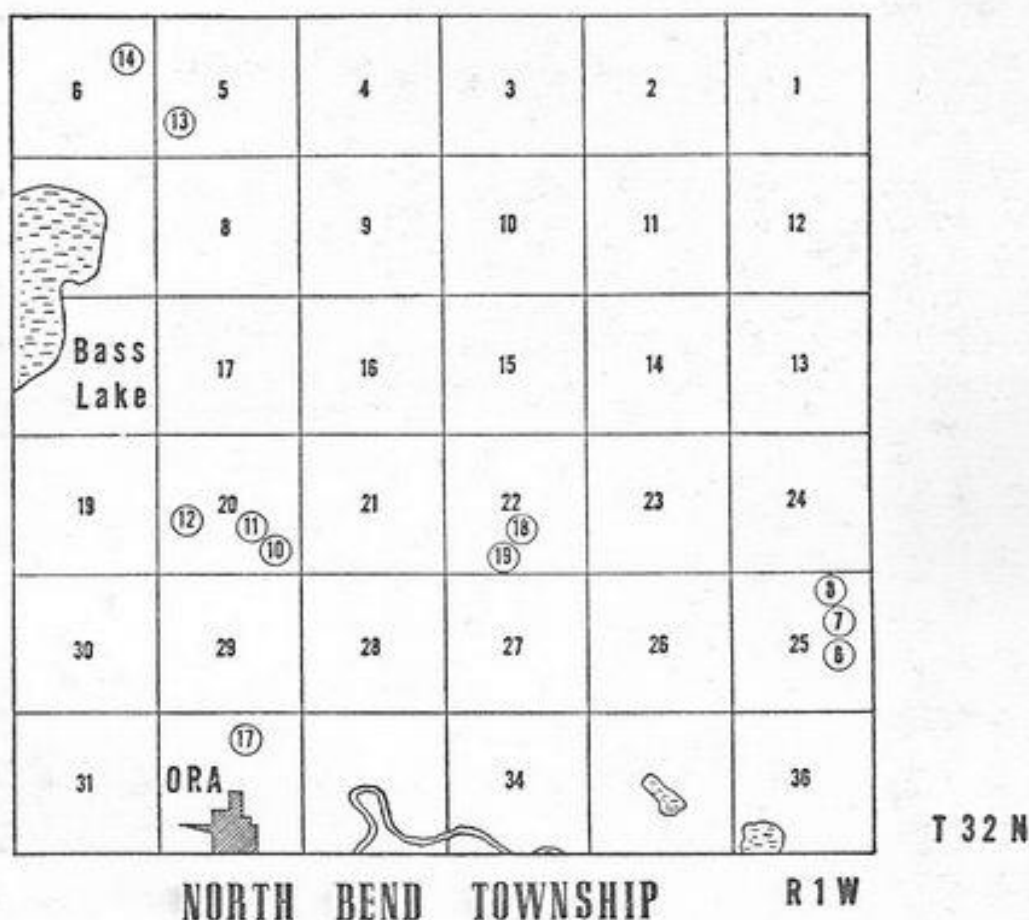
### North Bend Township

North Bend Township is found in the extreme southeast section of the county. No large village sites were noted here, and the only traces of Indian occupation seem to be small hunting camps. Bass Lake is the principal water feature of the township. Two other lakes exist, Hartz and Rothernal, but these are quite small. Doubtless these lakes saw considerable Indian activity, but due to the fact that today they are in a resort area, evidences of Indian occupation probably have been to a large extent obliterated. This also made it impossible for the survey to make an examination of this area. The Tippecanoe River makes a sharp northward bend in the south-central section of the township, and then runs in a southerly direction where it finally meets the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County.

St.<sup>v</sup>6 Camp. This site was located upon a large sand ridge. The area of Indian occupation was not large and therefore may be termed a camp rather than a semi-sedentary village. Several sites exist in close proximity along this ridge, but as concentrations of fire-cracked rocks, charcoal, and flint chips were found in isolated groups, each will be described as a separate site. Broken projectile points, scrapers, and plain-surface pottery fragments were reported to have been found on the site in the past. Material found by the survey consisted of the following:

- 2 humpbacked scrapers
- 3 plain grit-tempered sherds
- 1 broken corner-notched projectile point
- 1 lanceolate projectile point
- x lithic samples

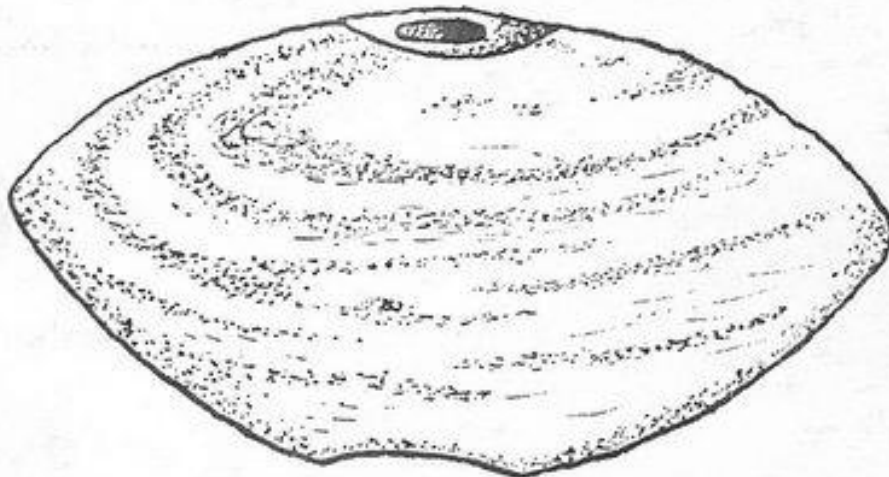




St.<sup>y</sup>7 Camp. This site is just north of St.<sup>y</sup>6 on the same sand ridge. Considerable wind erosion has made several large sand blows which uncovered much village debris. Evidences of charcoal were noted at the time of inspection by the survey. This site, as well as St.<sup>y</sup>6 and St.<sup>y</sup>8, overlooks an old lake bed which has long since been drained. The sand ridge at this point is partially covered by timber and it is possible that a portion of this site is grown over. Material reported to have been found previously consists of expanded-base and straight-shanked flint drills, large flint scrapers, thumbnail scrapers, projectile points, and cord-marked grit-tempered pottery fragments. No material was found by the survey outside of the usual village debris.

St.<sup>y</sup>8 Camp. This seems to be the largest of the group of three sites located on the sand ridge overlooking the old lake bed. This site is not as subject to wind erosion as the other two and a portion of it is under cultivation. Like the other two sites, it seems to have been a temporary hunting camp rather than a village. The most notable of the artifacts reported from this site were large

fragments of a pottery vessel which had been uncovered by wind erosion of the sand. A portion of this vessel has been restored. Its surface is cord marked and it has a straight rim with cord-wrapped-stick impressions on the inner lip. The fragments of this vessel are now in the possession of Charles Faulkner, of Culver, the finder. Other artifacts found previous to the survey include side-notched and corner-notched projectile points. The only material found by the survey was a T-shaped flint drill.



Reconstruction of Banded-slate Bannerstone from St.<sup>v</sup>10

St.<sup>v</sup>10 Camp. Sites St.<sup>v</sup>10 and St.<sup>v</sup>11 are located on a very badly eroded sand ridge. Here again both seem to be temporary hunting camps. Judging by the materials found on the site it would appear that it had been occupied by more than one culture. Artifacts found previously include notched projectile points, triangular points, scrapers, and straight-shanked drills. At the time of investigation by the survey the sand in several places throughout the site showed sign of being burned by an intense heat. Artifacts recovered by the survey include:

- 1 broken side-notched projectile point
- 1 fragment of winged banded-slate bannerstone

St.<sup>v</sup>11 Camp. Judging by the amount of village debris this was only a temporary campsite. It was located on the same sand dune ridge as St.<sup>v</sup>10. The site seemed to have a great abundance of fire-cracked rock. Some of the rock indicated a long and intense subjection to heat. The source for these fireplace rocks probably was an adjacent field where an abundance of glacial boulders could be had. One corner-notched projectile point was the only object reported found previously on the site. Artifacts found by the survey include:

- 1 broken projectile point
- 1 lanceolate point
- 1 fossile crinoid stem bead (?)

A full length hole was present in the crinoid stem, and it is possible that it was used as a bead.

St.<sup>v</sup>12 Camp. Seemingly this was a small campground. The site was in a sand blow near timber. No report of material being found here could be had, and the only signs of Indian occupation discovered by the survey were fire-burned rock and flint chips.

St.<sup>v</sup>13 Camp. This site was located approximately three quarters of a mile from Bass Lake on a sand dune. It was quite small, and six grit-tempered, cord-marked pottery fragments were the only material found at the time of investigation by the survey.

St.<sup>v</sup>14 Village. Large amounts of village debris covered this site and it seems to have been used much more extensively than as a temporary hunting camp. Although part of the site is in cultivation, most of it has been subject to extreme wind erosion which has formed large sand pits. No material was found by the survey, although grit-tempered, cord-marked sherds and notched projectile points were reported as having been found there previously.

St.<sup>v</sup>17 Camp. This site was found to be quite small and the village debris limited. It was situated on a large sand dune which would have made an ideal campground. It is probable that a lack of water was the reason for the limited Indian occupation. No material was found by the survey, and no information could be had regarding material found there previously.

St.<sup>v</sup>18 Camp. A small camp was located on a sand hill. It is possible that a portion of this camp is covered by a near-by stand of timber. No material was recovered by the survey, although several notched projectile points were reported to have been previously found. The survey was informed by the owner that this site had been extensively surface hunted by local collectors.

St.<sup>v</sup>19 Camp. This site is located on the same wind-eroded ridge as St.<sup>v</sup>18. It also seems to have been a temporary camp covering a limited area. Notched projectile points have been found here previously, but no artifacts were recovered at the time of investigation by the survey.

## Washington Township

Extensive sand hills are found throughout this township and consequently campsites were fairly numerous. The waters of the Kankakee Marsh covered considerable sections of the township, and in many cases the marsh was bordered by these low sand hills. Wind erosion of these hills has been extensive, revealing signs of former Indian occupation. Besides the waters of the Kankakee Marsh, the principal water course of the township is the Yellow River which flows its entire width. As low swampy land frequently bordered the river, Indian campsites are usually found back away from the stream on higher ground. The only other water of note is Eagle Lake in the northeast section of the township.

St.<sup>v</sup>9 Camp. Here on a wind-eroded sand hill is evidence of a camp. Some timber was near by, and it is possible that a part of the site is covered by vegetation. Fragments of pottery and projectile points were reported to have been found in the past. The following objects were found by the survey:

7 cord-marked, grit-tempered sherds

18 plain, or with no apparent decoration, grit-tempered sherds

x lithic samples

St.<sup>v</sup>15 Camp. This is a small but very interesting site located on a low rolling sand hill. A variety of objects were reported to have been found on this site in the past, including grit-tempered, cord-marked pottery fragments, one broken rectangular two-hole gorget with sides constricted, notched projectile points, thumbnail scrapers, and triangular projectile points. At the time of investigation by the survey, wind erosion had uncovered several oval, basin-shaped fire pits on the site. The charcoal had been reduced to a fine waxy matter and each fire pit displayed a heavy accumulation from long use. Village debris was considerable throughout the site, and the following objects were recovered by the survey:

1 broken triangular projectile point

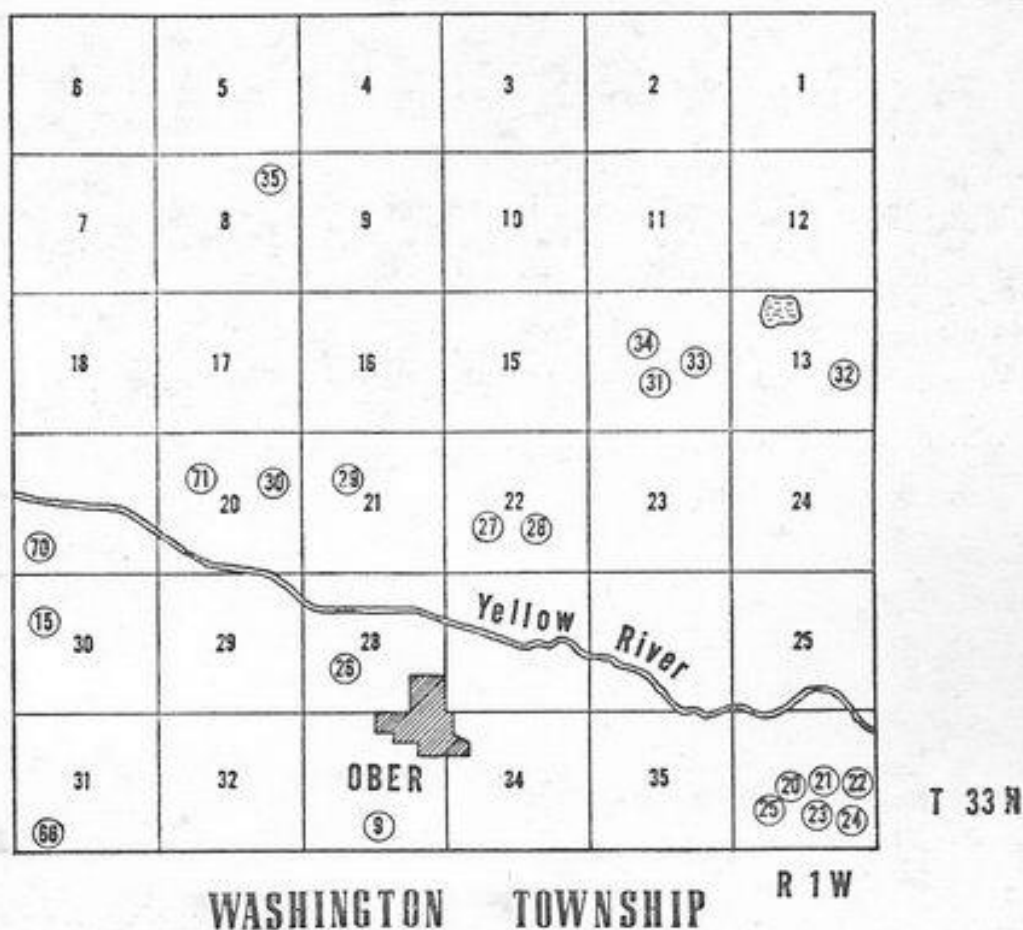
2 grit-tempered cord-marked sherds

1 undrilled slate gorget

1 fragment of a large oval-shaped flint blade

The cord marks on the pottery fragments found by the survey had been impressed on both sides of the sherds.





St. 20 Camp. Along this large flat sand hill a series of five small campsites was found. Each covers a limited area and village debris of fire-cracked rocks and flint chippings is very concentrated. At this site the fire-cracked rocks in several cases were found grouped together, suggesting their use as fireplace liners.

St. 21 Camp. This is the largest of the series of small campsites on this particular sand hill. Village debris was very heavy, especially fire-cracked rocks, but was in a small concentrated area. Many of these fireplace rocks showed signs of long and intense heat. Their source was an adjacent field, now under cultivation, which contained quantities of glacial boulders. This cultivated field was also investigated, but no signs of Indian occupation were apparent.

St. 22 Camp. Once again a strong concentration of debris in a limited area constituted the remains of this site. No archaeological material, with the exception of fire-cracked rock, flint chippings, and spalls, was found in any of the five sites on this sand hill.

St. 23 Camp. Here is a less heavy accumulation of debris than



at St. 21 and St. 20, but enough to designate this site as a distinct and separate camp. It is partially covered by timber as a reforestation measure and is not severely wind eroded.

St. 24 Camp. This was the last site on this low rolling sand hill to be investigated. It was partially covered with timber and grass, and erosion was not too extensive.

St. 25 Village. This site was situated upon a big rolling sand hill, only the tip of which has been wind eroded. The rest is thickly covered with timber, and it is very probable that a portion of this site and possibly others are to be found under this forest cover. A very large and concentrated amount of debris of fire-cracked rocks and flint chippings was found. The section of the hill on which the site was situated had been very badly wind eroded into a large sand blow. Artifacts found at the time of investigation by the survey include:

- 9 cord-marked, grit-tempered sherds
- 1 straight-stemmed projectile point
- x baked "sand daub" objects (?)
- x lithic samples.

The pieces of "sand daub" were found in a tight concentration uncovered by the wind. They are more or less oval in shape and do not seem to have any particular form. All seem to be made of a sand paste. Their relationship with this archaeological site is questionable.

St. 26 Camp. A sand hill covering a large area was investigated, but outside of a series of small campsites little evidence of Indian occupation was found. This area would have made an ideal campground but for some reason it was not extensively used by the Indian as far as the survey could determine. A lack of water possibly would account for this. Little debris was found, and the only objects recovered by the survey were three grit-tempered plain sherds.

St. 27 Village. Many concentrations of debris over a wide area constitute this site. It is located on a badly wind-eroded sand hill which is partially covered by timber. Village debris was not particularly heavy anywhere on the site. Objects found by the survey include:

- 1 broken tri-notched projectile point

- 1 fragment of a lanceolate flint blade
- 1 broken straight-stemmed projectile point
- 3 grit-tempered plain sherds

St. 28 Camp. A small camp with a limited amount of debris was located upon a rolling sand hill. The owner of the site reported that projectile points were the only artifacts known to have been found there. The site was investigated by the survey and was not found to be extensive. A broken triangular projectile point and a retouched flint flake were collected.

St. 29 Village. This site seems to cover a wide area and have a large amount of village debris of fire-cracked rocks and flint chips and spalls. Therefore, it might appear that it should be termed a semi-sedentary village rather than a small hunting camp. It is located on a gently rolling sand hill, and outside of a few sand blows wind erosion was not extensive. Although the site was investigated carefully, no pottery was found. Artifacts recovered are as follows:

- 2 straight-stemmed projectile points
- 1 broken side-notched projectile point
- 1 broken corner-notched projectile point
- 3 triangular projectile points
- 1 fragment of a lanceolate projectile point
- 1 retouched flint flake
- 2 notched scrapers

St. 30 Village. A large flat sand hill is the location of this site which has been subject to extensive wind erosion and at present is being reforested with pine trees. This prevented thorough investigation. Village debris seemed to be scattered over a wide area and indicated that the site may have been a semi-sedentary village rather than a hunting camp. No archaeological material outside of village debris was found by the survey.

St. 31 Camp. A shortage of water seems to account for the noticeable absence of extensive village debris at this site. It was found to be very small and located upon a flat sand hill. Artifacts found by the survey include:

- 1 triangular projectile point
- 1 corner-notched projectile point
- 1 fragment of a stemmed projectile point
- 1 fragment of a lanceolate blade

St.<sup>v</sup>32 Village. The location of this site was upon a badly wind-eroded rolling sand hill. Heavy concentrations of fire-cracked rock and flint chips and spalls were found throughout the site which covered a considerable area. The only object recovered by the survey was a large humpbacked scraper.

St.<sup>v</sup>33 Camp. A small hunting camp was apparently located upon a badly eroded sand hill. Village debris was considerable, and at the time of investigation by the survey several small concentrations of fire-burned rock seemed to indicate the original position of fireplaces.

St.<sup>v</sup>34 Camp. A very large area of sand was found and investigated which disclosed the location of this site. The entire area seems to have been used as a temporary campground, as small concentrations of debris were found intermittently throughout. In one corner the sand forms a prominent hill overlooking a former lake bed. The main area of occupation was found upon this hill which is only partially wind eroded, and it is possible that a portion of the site is still under the surrounding vegetation. The village debris of fire-burned rock and flint chips was numerous and at the time of investigation an oval-shaped bed of charcoal was found. Many of the flint chippings gave indications of being worked, and some may have been used as ribbon knives or scrapers.

St.<sup>v</sup>35 camp. This site was located upon a rolling sand hill overlooking the now drained area of the Kankakee Marsh. Small concentrations of village debris over a large area seem to indicate that this site was never extensively used. Although the area is badly eroded into a series of sand blows, it is partially covered with timber and it is possible that more areas of Indian occupation may be located here. A fragment of a notched projectile point was found at the site.

St. 66 "Trail Marker" Tree. This is an oak tree which may have been bent as a sapling so that a lower branch took root and grew to form a "U" with the trunk. Such trees are alleged to have served as Indian trail markers. However, since they are found so frequently and many are not very old, it is more likely that they are the result of natural causes.

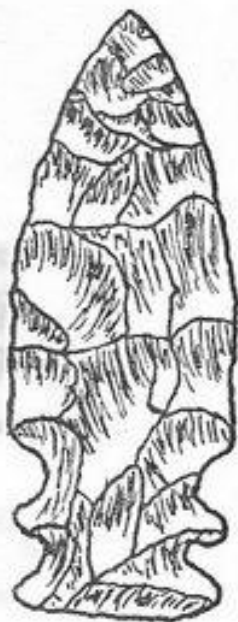
St. 70 Cache. A cache of seventy-eight flint blades was reported to have been uncovered just south of the Yellow River in low muck ground. A village site (St.<sup>v</sup>15) is to be found not far from this cache.

St.<sup>o</sup>71 Earth Mound. A dome-shaped mound yielded a skeleton of a child and several objects of flint upon excavation. The mound is well preserved in a large area of timber. A pit in the top of the mound gives evidence of former excavations. As far as could be determined from local sources, the mound has only been dug into once.

### Oregon Township

Oregon Township lies in the extreme northeast section of the county. The entire township is well into the Kankakee Marsh, with relatively few places of high ground. Consequently, areas of Indian habitation were limited. Besides the backwaters of the Kankakee Marsh, the only major body of water is Koontz Lake. This lake is a resort center, and while its exploration for sites was limited, it is believed that there was considerable occupation of the area in prehistoric times.

St.<sup>o</sup>36 Village. A heavy concentration of fire-cracked rock and flint chippings found on a flat, wind-eroded sand hill was investigated by the survey. Village debris covered a considerable area and the following objects were found:



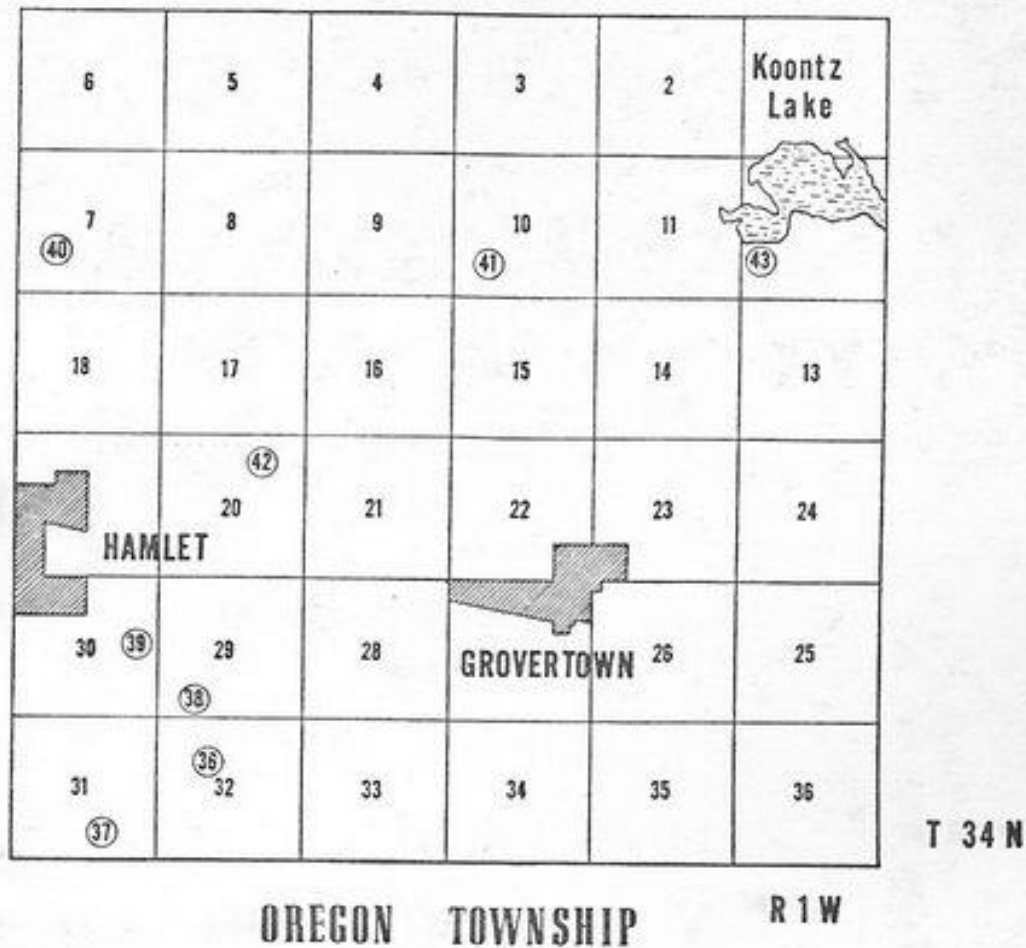
Reconstruction of  
Double Side-notched  
Projectile Point from  
St.<sup>o</sup>36

- 1 side-notched projectile point
- 1 broken tip projectile point
- 1 double side-notched projectile point

The double side-notched projectile point seems to be exotic. However, all three of the artifacts found seemed to be manufactured from the same kind of flint or chert, and it is possible that they may be culturally related.

St.<sup>o</sup>37 Village. The site seemed to cover a large area with small amounts of fire-cracked rock and flint chips scattered intermittently throughout. The owner reported that projectile points had been found in the immediate area. Judging by the general characteristics of the site, it is very possible that more evidence of Indian occupation lies under a bordering area of timber and grassland. A small basin of charcoal was noted at the time of investigation but it is





possible that this is of recent origin. Artifacts found by the survey include:

- 2 triangular projectile points
- 1 broken side-notched projectile point
- 2 flint drills
- 1 tip of a broken projectile point
- 1 flake scraper
- x lithic samples

St. 38 Village. A large hill area of grassland was investigated and was found to have signs of Indian habitation. The hill had never been subject to wind erosion until recently, but now two sand blows are beginning to reveal fire-burned rocks and other signs of Indian occupation. The village debris noted seemed to be scattered over a wide area and it is possible that a fairly large site exists here.

St. 39 Camp. A small sand hill rises suddenly above the sur-



rounding Kankakee Marsh and upon it a small site was found. Village debris was not particularly abundant and probably represents a temporary hunting camp. The only artifacts found at the time of investigation were two side-notched projectile points.

St.<sup>v</sup>40 Village. The site occupies a prominent sand-loam hill locally known as "Coon Ridge." A commanding view of the marshland is had from any angle, and the hill is the only high ground above the marsh waters in the immediate area. It is probable that a large semi-sedentary village exists here, but since the site was under cultivation at the time of investigation, no attempt was made to explore it completely. In one corner of the hill a small sand blow had developed, and eight plain grit-tempered sherds and the tip of a broken projectile point were found.

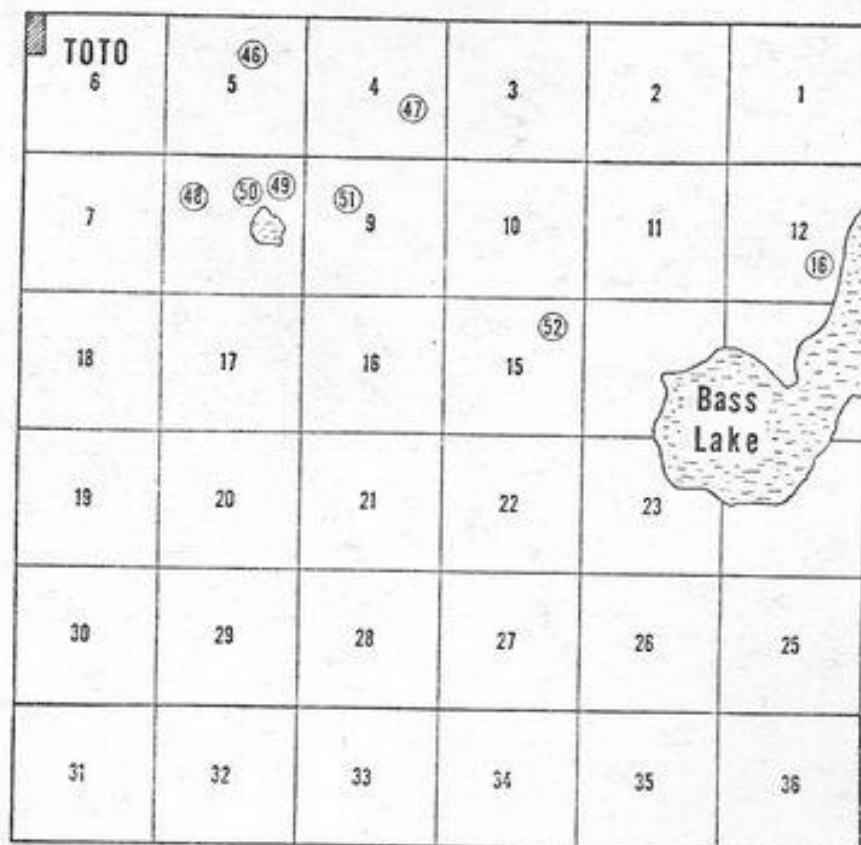
St.<sup>v</sup>41 Camp. On a low sand hill, partially wind eroded, an area of Indian occupation was found. Debris was found scattered intermittently over a wide area but was concentrated heavily in only one place. A portion of the site is planted in pine trees as a means of preventing further wind erosion. A triangular projectile point was found at the time of investigation.

St.<sup>v</sup>42 Village. Considerable fire-cracked rock and flint chips were noted in a series of sand blows giving evidence of a camp or possible small village. A portion of the site was still in grassland and is not as yet wind eroded.

St.<sup>v</sup>43 Camp. This was the only site found at Koontz Lake, a resort area. The high ground near the lake was known to have been suitable for Indian occupation and more sites undoubtedly existed here. St.<sup>v</sup>43 is located on a slightly eroded hill containing considerable glacial till. A fragment of a triangular projectile point was the only artifact found. The hill was mostly in grass and therefore no estimate of the size of the site could be ventured. Village debris, however, seemed to be scattered over a wide area.

### California Township

Although no rivers flow through California Township, two lakes, Bass and Round, seemed to have attracted the Indian. The former is the largest lake in the county, whereas the latter is small and swampy. The area by Round Lake was probably particularly favorable for Indian habitation because of its many sand hills. Other



## CALIFORNIA TOWNSHIP

R 2 W

sections of the township were well into the Kankakee Marsh, and areas of archaeological interest were almost totally lacking.

St. 16 Camp. Because Bass Lake is a major resort area, this was the only site in its vicinity accessible for study during the summer survey. The area immediately surrounding the lake was swampy and sand hills suitable for Indian occupation limited. Evidences of St. 16 were found in a series of sand blows on a hill which commands an impressive view of Bass Lake. Judging by the amount of fire-cracked rock and flint chippings, the site seems to have been a hunting camp rather than a semi-sedentary village. Artifacts found include:

- 1 side-notched projectile point
- 1 tip of a large projectile point
- 1 plain grit-tempered sherd
- x lithic samples

St. 46 Village. What appears to have been a large semi-sedentary village was found on a high sand ridge. Village debris was

heavy over a wide area. Thousands of large glacial boulders were scattered over the site—all split and discolored by fire action. In some cases the original positions of the fire places could be seen from the concentrations of these fire-cracked rocks. Many pieces of fractured banded slate were noted. This beautiful lithic material seemed to be far more common on this site than on any of the others investigated. Much of the area is under reforestation, and part of the sand ridges is in grassland and was never subject to wind erosion.

St.<sup>v</sup>47 Village. Numerous fire-cracked rocks and flint chippings indicated an area of Indian habitation. The site was upon a rolling sand hill, now in a series of "blowouts" adjacent to a former marshland. The owner of the site reported that numerous projectile points had been found there. A fragment of a notched flint object was found by the survey at the time of investigation.

St.<sup>v</sup>48 Camp. This site was located upon a partially eroded sand hill not far from Round Lake. It is possible that a portion of it lies under a near-by woodland area. Three grit-tempered, plain sherds were found at the time of the survey.

St.<sup>v</sup>49 Village. A village site was located upon a high loam hill overlooking Round Lake. The site is entirely under cultivation and is not on a sand hill. It seems to cover a considerable area and numerous artifacts have been found there in the past. It is debatable if this site has any connection with the earth mounds (St.<sup>o</sup>50) on the northwest shore of the lake. Artifacts recovered include:

- 1 corner-notched serrated projectile point
- 1 fragment of a lanceolate blade
- 1 triangular projectile point
- x lithic samples

St.<sup>o</sup>50 Earth Mound. Newspaper accounts describe an excavation of a burial mound on the north shore of Round Lake in 1931.<sup>2</sup> This earthwork is called by local people the "moon" or crescent mound because of its distinctive shape. It is probable that the mound was originally circular, but due to natural causes or human activity

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<sup>2</sup> See Knox *Starke County Republican*, November 25, 1931 ("Indian Burial Mounds Are Excavated at Round Lake"), and December 2, 1931 ("Round Lake Excavations Reveal Burial of Indian Chief"); and Plymouth *Daily Pilot*, November 28, 1931 ("Indian Mounds Discovered").

it has become crescent shaped. At the time of investigation by the survey the mound was approximately 4.5 feet high, not subject to erosion, and was well preserved except for several pits in the top, the results of previous excavations. The mound is in a stand of timber on high ground bordering the lake and has never been subject to cultivation. Another smaller and less distinguishable mound is said to exist to the northwest of the "moon" mound, but was not found. It apparently had a circular shape and was termed the "sun" mound. Both mounds seemed to have been low, circular-domed structures typical of the mounds of northern Indiana. Several burials were reported to have been found by persons who had dug into the "moon" mound. Artifacts were reported to have been found, also, including an arrowhead in one of the skulls. A portion of the material from these mounds is now in the collection of the Northern Indiana Historical Society in South Bend.

St.<sup>v</sup>51 Village. A village area in a sand hill overlooking the former Kankakee Marsh was found in a series of "blowouts." The badly wind-eroded hill disclosed a heavy concentration of fire-cracked rocks and flint chips and spalls. This site was hunted extensively by local people for projectile points and other Indian artifacts.

St.<sup>v</sup>52 Camp. A sandy loam hill overlooking what was formerly a section of the Kankakee Marsh was the site of a former village or camp. The area was entirely plowed but showed very slight wind erosion. It is possible that a portion of the site may yet exist under a near-by wood lot.

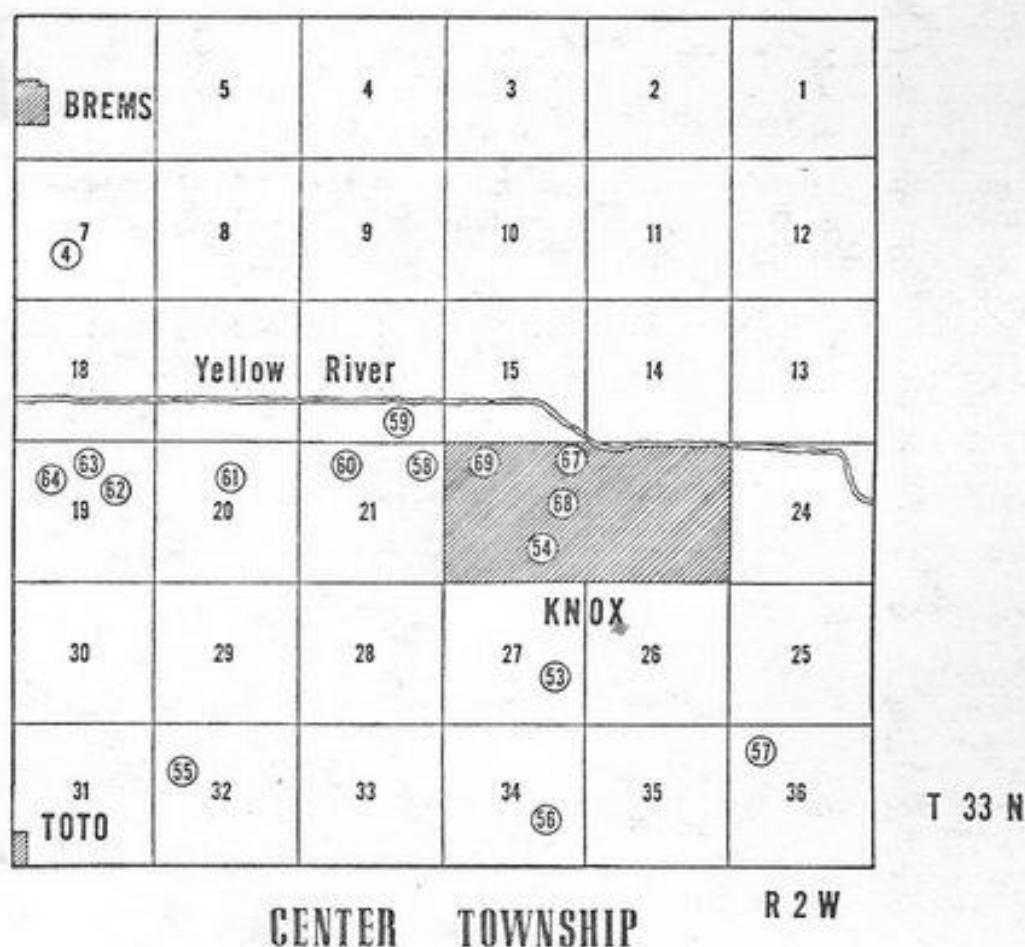
The following objects were found by the survey:

- 1 worked block of flint (scraper?)
- 1 grit-tempered plain sherd
- 1 flint scraper or knife
- 1 corner-notched projectile point
- 1 retouched flint flake

### Center Township

The Yellow River is the main body of water in this township. Great expanses of marshland bordered the river on both sides and thus Indian camps and villages were well away from the actual river in many cases. Toward the north and west of the township the area was well into the Kankakee Marsh, with only a few scattered sand-hill islands rising above the water.





Like many large towns in Indiana, the city of Knox was built upon an area of considerable Indian occupation. Several mounds have been reported to have existed in the city itself, and probably a village also was situated there at one time or another. Judging by the presence of a large expanse of high ground bordering the Yellow River, the former presence of earth mounds and village sites is entirely possible. The area is now residential or commercial, and any earth mounds or other traces of Indian existence there have been destroyed and record of them almost totally lost.

St. 4 Village. Locally called "Indian Hill," this is one of the largest and most extensive Indian village sites of the county. It is situated on a high sand ridge, not far from the Yellow River and commands an impressive view of the surrounding marshland. A portion of the site is in an extensive area of sand blows, whereas other sections are grassland and neither eroded or under cultivation. The section of sand blows is one of the largest and most spectacular examples of wind erosion to be found anywhere in that



part of the country. The site is well known to local residents as a good source of prehistoric artifacts, and numerous collections have been made from it. The finding of a burial here in 1938 was reported in the *Knox Republican*, April 20, 1938: "A skeleton, believed to be of an Indian, was found Friday by Clarence Robbins. Only the back of the skull was sticking out of the ground when discovered. Several war points were found by the skull, possibly indicating that war arrows had been buried with the body. Indian Hill was a high point on Jackson's Island before the dredging of the Kankakee."

It would appear from the quantity of material found on this site, that it was extensively used by one or more culture groups. Pottery fragments seemed to have been most abundant. Many of the sherds were marked and probably are related culturally to the Goodall Focus, first identified in neighboring La Porte County. The ceramic traits of this particular site would seem to link it with the Middle Woodland Hopewell complexes of the Illinois Valley. Flint chips and spalls were found throughout the site by the thousands. Of the material found in the past, little was available for study by the survey. A grooved ax, a double-pitted hammerstone, and a fragment of a slate ax were among the items reported to have been found there. The following objects were found by the survey:

#### *Lithic*

- 3 corner-notched projectile points
- 1 corner-notched projectile point with serrated edge
- 5 scrapers (oval shaped)
- 2 triangular projectile points
- 2 humpbacked scrapers
- 1 side-notched projectile point
- 1 tip of a broken projectile point
- 2 lanceolate blades

#### *Ceramic*

##### Grit-tempered body sherds:

- 80 plain sherds
- 43 cord-marked sherds
- 2 crosshatched sherds
- 1 cord-marked sherd with cord-marked design on inside

- 1 zoned and dentate-stamped sherd
- 2 zoned sherds with dentate stamp
- 1 punctated sherd

Grit-tempered rim sherds:

- 7 cord-marked sherds
- 1 dentate-stamped sherd
- 2 plain sherds
- 1 punched sherd

St.°53 Camp. Upon a flat and badly eroded sand hill a camp or possible village once existed. Fire-cracked rocks were not heavy anywhere on the site, but were found over a considerable area. Numerous projectile points were reported to have been found there in the past by local residents.

St.°54 Earth Mound. An early history of Starke County lists a number of mounds, including one in the city of Knox at the northeast corner of Main and John streets.<sup>3</sup> This site mentioned is in a residential district and the mound completely destroyed. No further information of the mound or its contents could be found.

St.°55 Earth Mound. The same volume on the early history of Starke County lists another mound in section 32. No evidence of the mound was found by the survey, and it is possible that this structure may have been obliterated by cultivation or other human action.

St.°56 Camp. Wind erosion on a sand hill overlooking an adjacent former marshland is beginning to disclose evidence of a former Indian campground. The hill, mainly grass covered, is beginning to show signs of wind erosion in several sections, and considerable quantities of flint chips and fire-cracked rocks are being uncovered.

St.°57 Camp. Evidences of Indian habitation were found in a blowout upon an extensive rolling sand hill. Village debris was considerable but in a limited area and probably represents a campsite.

St.°58 Camp. A sand hill overlooking the bordering marshland of the Yellow River was the site of a camp. The entire area

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<sup>3</sup> John N. McCormick, *A Standard History of Starke County Indiana* . . . (Chicago and New York, 1915), p. 30.

was under cultivation and wind erosion was slight. Artifacts recovered by the survey include:

- 1 bi-pitted hammerstone
- 1 T-shaped drill
- 1 grit-tempered sherd showing zoned design
- 3 plain grit-tempered sherds
- 2 cord-marked grit-tempered sherds
- 2 stemmed projectile points
- 1 flint scraper

St.\*59 Village. A prominent hill near the Yellow River was the site of a village area. Many artifacts from here are represented in the Ted Drews collection, including a large piece of galena.

St.\*60 Village. Extensive village debris of fire-cracked rock and flint chippings marks the presence of a former village. A portion of the site is in a series of sand blows. Numerous artifacts from here are represented in local collections. The following were found by the survey:

- 1 grit-tempered cord-marked sherd
- 1 stemmed projectile point
- 1 fragment of a corner-notched projectile point

St. 61 Cache. Some years ago a cache of twelve stone axes was uncovered near a former island which rose above the surrounding marshland bordering the Yellow River. A small stand of timber still marks this island site which is now surrounded by cultivated fields.

St.\*62 Camp. This site occupies a sand-loam hill, and limited debris would lead one to conclude that this was a camp area. A farmhouse once occupied the site. Artifacts found at the time of the survey include:

- 2 grit-tempered cord-marked sherds
- 1 stemmed projectile point
- 1 notched scraper
- 1 serrated triangular projectile point

St.\*63 Village. A village area which apparently had contact with the white man was located upon a series of low sand-loam hills which once rose above the swamp waters of the Yellow River. Numerous artifacts from this site are in the Ted Drews collection,

including several grooved axes. An iron pipe ax of European origin was also found. The survey recovered the following items:

- 2 pitted hammerstones
- 1 fragment of a stem of a white clay European trade pipe
- 8 plain grit-tempered sherds
- 8 cord-marked grit-tempered sherds
- 1 sherd cord-marked on both sides
- 1 granitic adz
- 3 corner-notched projectile points
- 1 flint drill
- 1 straight-stemmed serrated projectile point
- 6 scrapers
- 1 oval-shaped blade

St. 64 Village. A hill, which was formerly an island above the swamp waters bordering the Yellow River, was the site of an extensively used village area. Artifacts have been found on this site in past years, many of which are now in the Ted Drews collection. Artifacts found by the survey include:

- 2 lanceolate-shaped blades
- 1 full-grooved ax
- 1 triangular projectile point
- 3 straight-stemmed projectile points
- 4 corner-notched projectile points
- 2 flint scrapers
- 2 tips from broken projectile points
- 4 grit-tempered cord-marked sherds
- 8 plain grit-tempered sherds

St. 67 Cemetery. In the city of Knox a cemetery was unearthed years ago during excavations for a sewer system. The site occupies a high sand hill not far from the Yellow River. Seven burials in flexed position, reportedly covered with sheets of mica, were uncovered. The records of the Congressional survey state that a group of ten to twelve mounds were located in about the same area, and it is probable that these are connected with the above burials.

St. 68 Earth Mound. The City News Agency just south of the courthouse in Knox occupies the site of a former mound. Several burials and artifacts were found upon excavation for the Agency building.



St.<sup>69</sup> Village. What is apparently a village site is located near the water tower just west of the city of Knox. Several artifacts including a banded-slate tubular pipe and a portion of a knobbed lunate bannerstone are represented in the Ted Drews collection.

### Davis Township

Davis Township at one time presented a picture quite typical of the Kankakee Marsh. The Kankakee River at its western border meandered sluggishly through the center of miles upon miles of monotonous swampland. Here and there a low hill or sand ridge rose above the water level, and it was upon these places of high ground that the Indian had his camps and villages. Areas of high ground suitable for Indian occupation were scarce in this township and few archaeological sites were found.

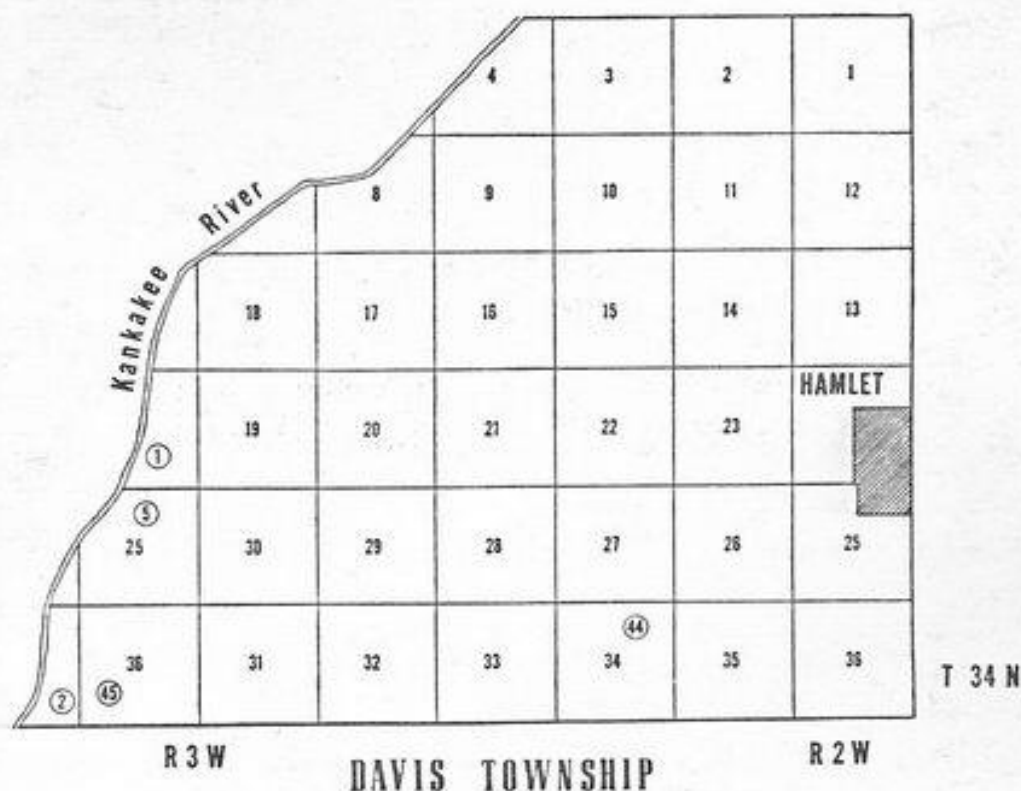
St.<sup>1</sup> Village. Upon a low hill bordering the Kankakee River was situated an extensive village site. The entire site is at present under cultivation with no erosion. It has been particularly productive of artifacts and numerous collections have been made from it. Many items from here are represented in the collection of H. S. Dickinson, of South Bend, including a slate birdstone found on a small knoll at the northern edge of the occupation area.

St.<sup>2</sup> Village. Widely scattered village debris gives evidence of an area of former Indian occupation. Rolling topography characterizes the site with sections of it being sandblows or uneroded loam soil. The site has been hunted extensively for artifacts, and numerous collections have been made. Among the village debris were noted charcoal, large animal bones, and bits of metal and porcelain, all of which may or may not be contemporaneous with the Indian occupation of the site. Pottery fragments were noticeably absent, and this factor may have cultural significance. Among the artifacts found by the survey are:

- 2 grit-tempered plain sherds
- 1 fragment of the stem of a white clay European trade pipe
- 1 fragment of the bowl of a white clay European trade pipe
- 1 side-notched projectile point

St.<sup>5</sup> Village. This site may be merely an outlying area of St.<sup>1</sup>. As St.<sup>1</sup> was a large village site, this is entirely plausible. Although very few artifacts have been found here, a double-pitted hammer-





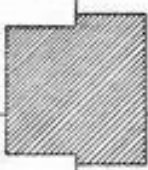
stone and a few broken projectile points were reported. A three-quarter-grooved ax and half of a winged bannerstone were found at the time of investigation.

St. 44 Camp. This site is on a partially eroded sand hill overlooking the marshland. Village debris was not concentrated and it is probable that the site covered only a limited area. A few projectile points have been found here in the past, and a fragment of a large corner-notched projectile point was found by the survey.

St. 45 Village. From reports gathered from the owner of the site it appears that an important and large village once occupied this area. Doubtless much of the site is covered by forest. It seems to have been particularly productive of material, and numerous projectile points and a full-grooved ax are in the possession of the owner. A few years ago a cache of seven large oval flint blades was uncovered by the plow in the immediate vicinity of this site.

#### Wayne Township

Although no significant lakes or streams exist in Wayne Township, a considerable part of it was once covered with the waters of the Kankakee Marsh. In the northern sections of the township

6	5 <sup>(87)</sup>	4 <sup>(75)</sup>	3	2	TOTO 1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18 <sup>(74)</sup>			15	14 <sup>(76)</sup>	13
<sup>(73)</sup> 19			<sup>(72)</sup> 22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	<sup>(77)</sup> 34	35	36
WAYNE TOWNSHIP					R 3 W
					T 32 N

extensive hills and ridges of sand are found. Whenever these sand uplands are bordered by the marshland, Indian encampments are frequently found.

St. 72 Village. Several blowouts on a high sand ridge gave evidence of a former Indian encampment. Fire-cracked rock and flint chippings are scattered over a considerable area, and it is probable that a village once existed here.

St. 73 Camp. Wind erosion in a series of sand blows uncovered a concentration of fire-cracked rock and flint chips. As the debris was limited and in a concentrated area, a temporary hunting camp probably existed here.

St. 74 Camp. A small, badly eroded sand hill overlooking a former marshland was the site of an Indian encampment. As the debris was limited, the site probably represents a hunting camp.

St. 75 Village. A village site which covered a considerable area was located upon a bluff overlooking a marshland. The site was

situated upon a sand-loam hill and was entirely under cultivation. Objects collected by the survey include:

- 1 broken corner-notched projectile point
- 1 flint scraper
- 10 grit-tempered cord-marked body sherds
- 18 plain grit-tempered body sherds
- 1 cord-marked grit-tempered rim sherd
- 1 plain grit-tempered rim sherd

St. 76 Camp. Although much of the site was in pasture to retard wind erosion, a series of blowouts gave evidence of Indian habitation. Judging by the amount of debris found, a hunting camp was once located here. Artifacts found include:

- 1 pitted hammerstone
- 1 fragment of a lanceolate blade
- 1 grit-tempered cord-marked sherd

St. 77 Camp. A sand hill overlooking areas of marshland gave evidence of Indian habitation. Judging by the amount of fire-cracked rocks and flint chips a small hunting camp once was situated here.

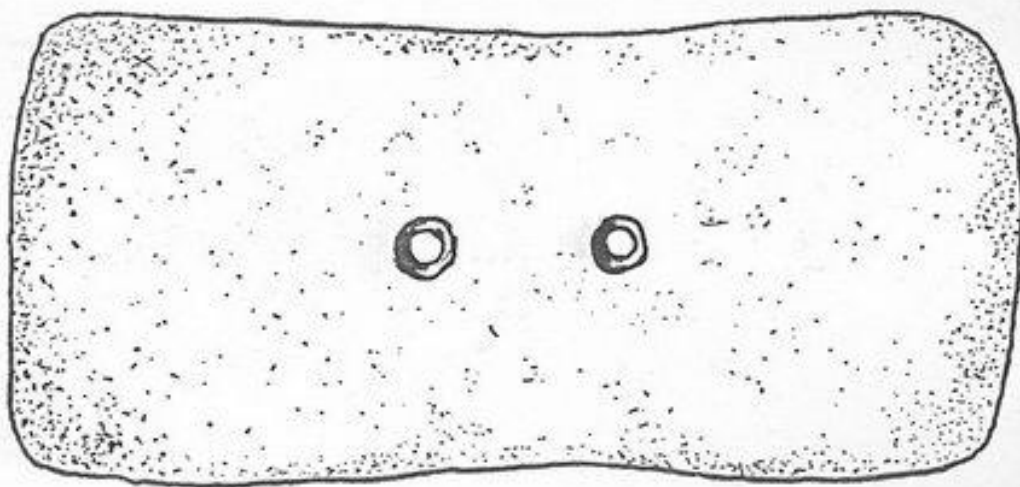
St. 87 Village. Considerable debris over a wide area indicates that this was the site of a semi-sedentary village. The site itself is situated upon a sandy hill which rises abruptly above the extensive surrounding marshland. Among the artifacts found are:

- 1 granitic cupstone having two depressions
- 5 grit-tempered sherds with a punch-and-line motif at the rim, all part of one vessel
- 3 plain grit-tempered sherds
- 1 side-notched projectile point
- ~~1 lanceolate-shaped projectile point~~

### Jackson Township

Both of the two major rivers of Starke County, the Yellow and the Kankakee, flow through Jackson Township. Most of the township was originally in the Kankakee Marsh, with few areas of high ground suitable for Indian habitation. Several sections of

the original marshland are yet to be seen throughout the county—the most notable in the Kankakee State Game Preserve.

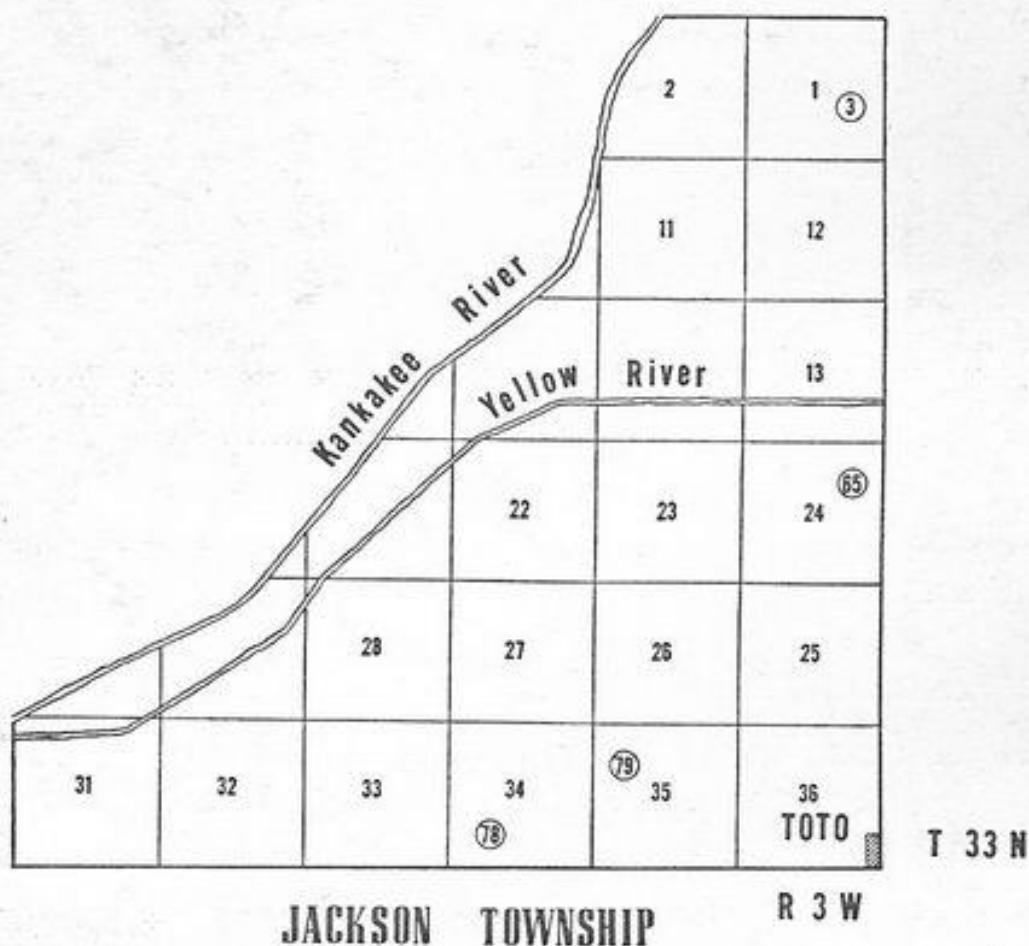


Reconstruction of Slate Gorget from St. 3

St. 3 Village. This constitutes one of the more interesting and impressive sites visited by the survey. At present a railroad cut and a man-made sand pit bisect it. Wind erosion is now rapidly destroying the remainder of the archaeological area. At one end of the sand pit, just below the humus line, considerable quantities of large pottery fragments and other artifacts are being uncovered by the action of wind and rain. Although very little of the habitation area is exposed for investigation, the numerous sherds and other artifacts lead one to believe that a semi-sedentary village rather than a hunting camp existed here. Across from the railroad cut, in a stand of timber, wind erosion is starting and an occasional projectile point or large pottery fragment is uncovered. This is evidence that a portion of this site yet exists under this vegetation cover. The varied materials collected at the site include:

- 2 corner-notched projectile points
- 1 fragment of a straight-stemmed projectile point
- 1 side-notched projectile point
- 1 tri-notched projectile point
- 1 broken tip of a projectile
- 1 lanceolate blade
- 1 straight-shanked drill
- 1 fragment of a large rectangular red slate gorget
- 37 plain grit-tempered body sherds
- 24 cord-marked grit-tempered body sherds





- 2 grit-tempered sherds illustrating line-and-punctate design
- 1 grit-tempered sherd with a portion of a notched design
- 1 body sherd, grit tempered, with cord marking on both sides
- 1 cord-marked grit-tempered rim sherd with outflaring rim
- 2 plain grit-tempered rim sherds
- 2 cord-marked grit-tempered rim sherds with notching on rim

St. 65 Village. A village site was reported to have existed upon a high hill overlooking the bordering marshland of the Yellow River. Numerous artifacts have been gathered from this site by local collectors.

St. 78 Camp. Wind erosion upon a low sand hill overlooking marshland disclosed the remnants of a camp area. Minute particles of pottery lay scattered about the site in great numbers. Flint chips

were also abundant with a semi-translucent, blue-gray type predominating. Samples of sherds and flint chips were collected.

St. 79 Camp. This site occupied a high prominent hill overlooking the waters of the Kankakee Marsh. Although glacial till mixed in with the fire-cracked rock and other village debris prevented the determination of the extent of the site, there were no signs of its having been extensively used and it was thus termed a campsite. A side-notched projectile point was collected at the time of investigation.

### Railroad Township

With the Kankakee River as its northern boundary, Railroad Township lies well into the vastness of the Kankakee Marsh. At the town of English Lake, a sizable body of water by the same name was once to be found. The lake and surrounding area was a gathering place for wildlife in historic as well as prehistoric times. The town of English Lake, once a fashionable resort area, was a mecca for naturalists, hunters, and fishermen.

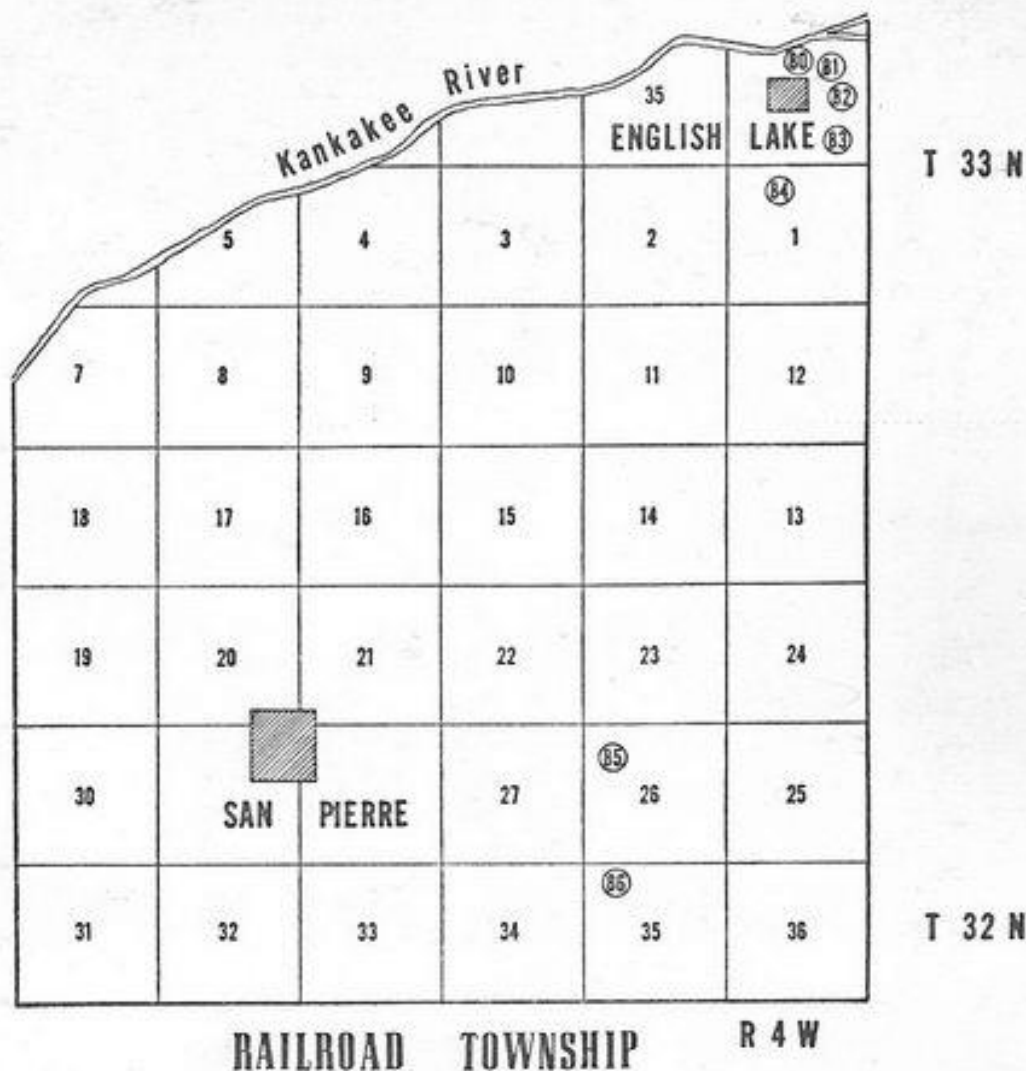
St. 80 Cemetery. Some years ago excavating activities uncovered an Indian burial ground. This cemetery probably overlooked English Lake and was connected with one or more of the Indian villages in the immediate vicinity.

St. 81 Cemetery. Another cemetery next to English Lake was uncovered during recent bulldozing activities. Two skeletons were disclosed. No artifacts were reported to have been found with the burials. Skeletal material from one of the burials was available for study.

St. 82 Village. An apparently large village area was situated next to English Lake on a series of low hills above the waters of the marshland. Numerous artifacts have been collected at this site in past years.

St. 83 Camp. A sand hill rising abruptly out of the surrounding marshland was the site of a hunting camp. The site although not far from English Lake extended a good distance into the marshland. Artifacts collected by the survey include:

- 3 cord-marked grit-tempered sherds
- 5 plain grit-tempered sherds



- 1 grit-tempered body sherd with line design
- 2 straight-stemmed projectile points
- 1 corner-notched projectile point
- 1 flint scraper
- 1 straight-shanked drill

St. 84 Camp. A hunting camp was located upon a high sand hill in the extensive marshland approximately one mile from English Lake. Although of limited area the site gave signs of being extensively used. Objects found include:

- 2 plain grit-tempered sherds
- 1 cord-marked grit-tempered sherd
- 2 straight-stemmed projectile points
- 1 corner-notched projectile point

St. 85 Camp. A low eroded sand hill disclosed the remains of a hunting camp. Indications are that the site was probably never extensively used. Only a flint scraper and fragments of two projectile points were found by the survey.

St. 86 Camp. On a partially eroded sand hill the remains of a hunting camp were noted. Village debris of fire-cracked rock and flint chips were found in a limited area, and the site was probably never extensively used.



## CONCLUSIONS

FROM THE MATERIAL gathered at the sites and that which was observed in several collections, it is apparent that the Indian inhabited Starke County at least from Early Woodland times up to the period of European contact. Sites which yield no or very little pottery, large crude flint blades and projectile points, and simple problematical forms would seem to suggest a horizon below Early Woodland. This is purely hypothetical, and clear evidence that any site in the area was occupied prior to Early Woodland has not been found.

Trait lists from sites in the area are confusing and somewhat misleading, because more than one culture frequently occupied the same site at different time periods. This is readily understood when one considers the terrain and the scarcity of high ground above the marshland suitable for human habitation. As is the case with most archaeological areas, no definite culture manifestation could be determined for a great portion of the sites studied. From the sites which do yield diagnostic traits, it is possible to form an opinion regarding the cultural group or groups which once occupied a particular site.

Several sites throughout the county, such as St.<sup>v</sup>1, St.<sup>v</sup>5, St.<sup>v</sup>64, and St.<sup>v</sup>69, seem to show an Early Woodland complex. The presence of the tubular pipe, birdstone, grooved ax, and various forms of the bannerstone indicate this.

Middle Woodland is also found widespread throughout the county. The best material trait for this complex is the decorated pottery fragments. Corner-notched projectile points, when found with typical Hopewellian sherds, further substantiate this cultural relationship of a particular site. The pottery fragments show typical zoned and dentate-stamped motifs as well as the crosshatched rim design so common to Woodland Hopewell. All the sherds examined seem to show carelessness in manufacture and lack of uniformity in design. This might represent a cultural degeneration of Middle Woodland. The burial group reportedly covered with sheets of mica (St. 67) constitutes a good Hopewell trait. It is probable that many of the mounds observed throughout the county would be of Middle Woodland origin.

Late Woodland and the period of European contact is indicated mainly by the presence of triangular projectile points and European trade articles. Among the sites possessing these traits are St.<sup>v</sup>37, St.<sup>v</sup>63, St.<sup>v</sup>29, and St.<sup>v</sup>2. The first European contact that the Indian had was probably with La Salle about 1679. Some contend that Marquette in 1675 may have passed through this area but this has never been proven. The Indian of the area continued making pottery and stone objects until the arrival of the white fur trader. Thereafter, the ancient skills of pottery making and stone craft were abandoned. On the sites showing signs of European contact a degeneration in the manufacture of pottery or its absence was noticeable. Although the area undoubtedly was inhabited by a great number of historic tribes, the Miami and later Potawatomi probably represent the most numerous of the historic Indian groups of the area.

From the extent of the majority of the sites and the natural terrain, one concludes that to the prehistoric Indian the major attractions of the area comprising Starke County were hunting, fishing, and trapping. The vast Kankakee marshland was the home of great varieties of wildlife including valuable fur-bearing animals and migratory water fowl. Many of the camp areas used by the Indian were probably occupied only in the winter. Even the larger of the village sites were semi-sedentary. No site investigated by the survey gave indication of being a permanently occupied, year-round village. In the winter access to the marsh for the purpose of trapping could be easily had over the ice. In the summer months the marshland would be insect infested. Furthermore, the Woodland peoples who were here were an argicultural group, and the sand hills upon which most of the camp areas are found are almost useless as agricultural land.

Lithic material from which stone objects were manufactured was secured locally as well as imported from distant areas. The varieties of flints and cherts from which projectile points, drills, scrapers, and other chipped stone objects were made, originated almost entirely in southern Illinois. The sources were either limestone outcroppings or glacial till exposed in stream beds. Lithic materials as well as cultural manifestations seem to have come into the region through the Illinois River Valley. While much of the flint and chert were imported from distant areas, materials for the ground-stone objects were found locally in glacial till. A vast quantity of glacially rounded granitic rocks could be easily had

for the manufacture of grooved axes, celts, hammerstones, etc. Nodules of banded slate from which the various problematical forms were made were also secured locally in glacial till.

An important and interesting factor to consider in relation to the cultural movements in the Kankakee marshland is the St. Joseph-Kankakee portage, one of the most important portage trails of the North American Continent. It connected the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Joseph River with the waters of the Kankakee-Illinois-Mississippi river systems, and must have been heavily used by the Indians of the Starke County area.

A total of eighty-seven archaeological sites were investigated during the period of the survey. Many of the sand ridges and hills upon which archaeological sites are found retain a cover of natural vegetation and have never been subjected to either erosion or cultivation, and undoubtedly there are still sites to be discovered and examined.