

HOFFELMEYER HILL SITE
Andrew County, Mo.

23 AN 46

On the afternoon of November 20, 1975, Mr. Ralph Stanton of ~~2501 N. Leonard Road~~, called the St. Joseph Museum regarding Indian spear points just dug out in the process of basement excavation for a house that he is building. The call was referred to me and Mr. Stanton said that he would come to the museum within the hour. He brought two of the points with him. They were large and side-notched with rather rough flaking and made of light colored chert. They measured 8 1/2 and 9 inches in length.

Mr. Stanton is building the house for his own use and the location is on the Hoffelmeyer Hill (Route 2) on K Highway north of St. Joseph, Mo. The construction site is just north of the John Hoffelmeyer home on the north end of the narrow north-reaching loess hill that extends northward from where K Highway turns westward down into the Missouri River bottoms, thence northward along the west side of the bluff towards Amazonia, Mo. Dillon Creek flows southwestward along the north side of the hill and is crossed by K Highway to the west of the site. The Stanton property description is as follows: Part of the east 1/2 of the west 1/4 of the SE quarter of section 7, township 58 north, range 35, Andrew County, Mo.

While a contractor was digging a water line trench into the SW corner of the house with a back-hoe, a cache of four or possibly five large side-notched Indian spear points were unearthed. (#1 on attached map) The machine first struck a covering of several pieces of limestone that the operator and those present estimated was one foot beneath the present grass level of the hill. The point of discovery was 45 feet west of the summit of the hill. At approximately one foot beneath the stone covering the back-hoe scoop brought up the spear points. The points, when first seen, were side by side in the top of the scoop load with loosened soil falling away to expose them. They were all pointing southward and those present, including Mr. Stanton, believe that their original

position in the ground before being lifted to the surface was the same. That is, side by side and all pointing southward. They were quite sure of this, they said, because of the manner in which the back-hoe picks up its load from underneath.

Some polishing shows on the two points that were brought to the museum. According to Mr. Stanton, two other large points are in possession of others that were present. The possible fifth point, thought to have been seen as it slipped from the scoop into loose dirt, could not be located at the time by those present nor later by ourselves. The limestone pieces covering the spears ranged in size from about six inches to one foot or so across. They were not of slab rock but irregular in shape and possibly from the stream bed to the northward. They were not fire reddened. They are being saved by the owner for display in his yard. There is a visible limestone outcropping across the creek to the northwestward about one mile away.

A rather recent previous experience in identification of some similar points from another find (Atchison County, Mo. - August, 1973) provided a basis for prompt tentative identity of the large Hoffelmeyer Hill points. This previous experience was with the identification of large points that were unearthed by grading machines on Highway I-29 right-of-way during construction near Rock Port, Mo. Those points were brought to the St. Joseph Museum by Missouri State Highway officials and later with the assistance of J. Mett Shippee were labeled Old Copper Culture. (That site, after preliminary salvage work by the St. Joseph Museum was described and reported to the Missouri Archaeological Society and has been designated 23-AT-21 or Rock Creek site and further excavation is pending) The Hoffelmeyer Hill points are very similar to the Atchison County Rock Creek site points and appear to be from the same Copper Culture people. (See Shippee Research Series, #2, 1964, pages 27 & 29)

On Friday, November 21, a visit to the location was made (Don Reynolds) and the site examined and some dirt sifted in search for the possible fifth point. It was not found. Blizzard conditions prevented further work that day. Permission was granted by the owner for further digging but it must be done the next morning (Saturday) since the dirt contractor was scheduled to do grade work over the week-end. Help was solicited from the St. Joseph Archaeological Society and members were contacted for field work at the site the next day.

On Saturday morning, November 22, the weather cleared and local society members Fisher, Punzo and Barlow were on hand to assist. We went to the site to further search through the soil removed from the trench looking for the fifth point and also to be on hand if grading was done. We also enlarged the trench area where the points were discovered. Nothing more was found in water line trench walls. Scattered pieces of fire-reddened limestone and one small piece of charcoal were picked from the exposed surface along the top of the east wall of the house excavation at a depth of one foot below the grass line. An effort to probe the surface of the hill to the south (marked for grading) proved futile because of frozen topsoil and dry ground underneath. The machine operator did not come and no Saturday grading was done.

Monday November 24, grading work began again and continued through Tuesday the 25th. Several feet of bank to the north of the house was removed to the north edges of the hill to enlarge the yard area. One fireplace (#2 on map) was inadvertently scooped out by the machine, but upon discovery of material in the scoop, was scattered by the operator to be examined. The concentration amounted to some 40 pounds of fire fragmented and reddened limestone, red fired clay and hardened fired mud balls. ^{IS COMPOSED FIRED LIMESTONE?} This fireplace was located just north of the NE corner of the house and was about one foot below grass level. Most of the material from this fireplace was saved and brought to the museum for further study. (An attempt was made to keep a steady watch on the dirt removal during

both of the final days of grading work in spite of the bitter cold. It should be stated that in spite of necessary haste to get the job finished before a predicted snow storm, both the property owner Mr. Stanton and the machine operator, cooperated fully to the extent of exercising caution in the work and slowing the operation at times to spread some scoop loads for closer examination. This was much appreciated.)

On Tuesday, November 25, the grading work was done to back-fill the south wall and level the ridge to the south of the house adjacent to the spear cache site. This ridge area immediately south of the house was graded down approximately 12 inches at the center. During this operation the last of the two fireplaces was discovered. At a point some 75 feet east of the cache site and on the opposite or east slope of the hill, the dozer scoop sheared the top of a concentration of fired limestone. (#3 on map) The uppermost limit of this concentration was six to eight inches beneath the grass level and the fireplace was in depth an additional twelve inches. The area covered was 24 by 30 inches. Excavation showed no particular arrangement of the hearth stones and produced no charcoal. Troweling and subsequent probing in the bottom of the pit indicated virgin soil. The stones were returned to the pit and covered for sentimental reasons as per wishes of the owner. The location is 21 feet south of the house and 5 feet east of the north-south line of the east wall.

The Hoffelmeyer people located on the land in 1864 and Mr. John Hoffelmeyer was born there. In their early years, the site area was an orchard, then for awhile was planted in corn or alfalfa. In recent years it has been pasture land.

Mr. Stanton has the two points that he brought to the museum. He will try to get the other two returned if possible. If not permanently so that they can be kept together, at least for awhile until they can be measured and photographed together.

Noting the depths, there could, possibly, be a connection in time between the spear cache and the fireplaces. Especially the fireplace on the northeast of the house (#2) which was at the same depth as the stones covering the spear cache. The fireplace on the south may have been slightly more shallow by a few inches.

It appears that this Hoffelmeyer Hill spear cache is similar to those isolated caches mentioned by Shippee and also to that discovered by Black on his tobacco farm hilltop north of Rushville, Mo. where several large blades were found in a cache beneath limestone rocks. (The St. Joseph Museum has color slides of these blades)

It is hoped that the spear points from the Hoffelmeyer Hill site here described will be placed in the St. Joseph Museum at some future time.

A site number will be attached to this report when assigned by the Missouri Archaeological Society.

*On Jan 21st the permission from Jones
by last of the owner of the point was obtained*

After several conversations with owners Ralph Stanton and Quentin Ketchem during the winter and early spring of 1975-76, it became apparent that there was very little chance that they (or the third owner, John Rhodes) would in the foreseeable future consent to donate their spear points to the museum. Stanton and Ketchem did, however, agree to loan their points to be copied and Mr. Ketchem used his influence in persuading the third owner John Rhodes to loan his point. By June 21 the four originals were in hand and as per agreement were taken by Don Reynolds the next day directly to Allen Eichenberger at Saverton, Mo. where Mr. Eichenberger would make duplicates for the University of Missouri for the St. Joseph Museum. Arrangements had been made with Dave Evans and Dr. Carl Chapman of the Missouri Archaeological Society at the university.

On September 5, Don Reynolds returned to Saverton, Mo. and picked up the four originals and four sets of beautifully executed replicas from Mr. Eichenberger. On September 10, the original and a replica of his point were returned to Quentin Ketchem. On September 13, two originals and a full set of four replicas were returned to Mr. Ralph Stanton. On September 16, the point belonging to Mr. John Rhodes and a replica of it were returned.

The St. Joseph Museum has two complete sets of four spear points, one set of which will eventually be used for exhibit purposes. The other set will be distributed to the owners of each matching point if ever they should donate the originals to the museum. Otherwise they will be kept for study and comparison purposes. Two extra points are left from the full set (two of which were given to Rhodes and Ketchem) and may be sold for cost, \$8.00 plus transportation charges to help defray the total expense.

COPPER CULTURE TYPE POINTS (4)

Found in a cache north of St. Joseph, Mo. by Ralph Stanton during digging of basement on what is known as Hoffelmeyer Hill 4 miles northwest of St. Joseph on K Highway. Property location: Part of the east 1/2 of the west 1/4 of the SE quarter of section 7, township 58 north, range 35, Andrew County, Mo.

These side notched cream colored points measured 8-1/2", 9", 8-3/4" and 8-7/8" respectively and were found side by side one foot under a limestone slab covering which was one foot beneath the present surface of the hill.

Two fireplaces were uncovered by grading of the hilltop 75' from the spear cache at one foot depth. Lack of charcoal. Occupation level limestone rubble strata at one foot level between spear cache and fireplaces.

No site number has been assigned

Owner of property:

Mr. Ralph Stanton

Route #2

St. Joseph, Mo. 64505

These four points are on loan to the St. Joseph Museum, St. Joseph, Mo. for the purpose of having acrylic resin reproductions made for future display.

November 5, 1976

Mr. Allen Eichenberger
Saverton, Mo.

Dear Allen:

I am sending slides, front and back, of the three Osceola or Copper Culture points that I mentioned knowing about. If you think they would make good castings, I believe we can borrow them for awhile. They were found in a cache near Forrest City, Mo.

We would like to have copies of them for future exhibits and if you and Dave are interested would be happy to pay part of cost as before. Mentioned these points to Dave some time ago but have had no reply. Missed seeing everyone at the meetings. Hard to be in two places at once, but sometimes think I might be.

Just a month or so ago we went to Lamoni, Iowa to see and help rib a 40 ft. (!) birch bark freight canoe for a trip down the Mississippi River. Pioneer Crafts students at the college there, under the direction of a Ron Livingston, have built several authentic bark canoes, one of which we purchased for the museum. We spent two days with them. They, soon after we were there, left with the 40 footer, headed for the upper Mississippi to start the long trip down to New Orleans. Eight or nine lads in buckskin. Haven't heard of them since. Did they go by your front door?

Let me know about the points.

Best regards from the Mrs. and I. We can imagine that your scenic riverside home is even more beautiful now that Jack Frost has done his duty.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js

If you wish you may keep one or the other of the spear slides.

J. Allen Eichenberger
Box 14
Saverton, Missouri 63467

November 15, 1976

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Don:

It was good to receive your letter and to see the slides, including the one of the big birch bark canoe. The canoeists did come by our place and stopped at the entrance of Camp Oke-Tipi where the Girl Scouts were in session. I saw the girls coming down the hill and going over to the river bank but thought it was just another of their activities and did not check to see what it was. Sorry I missed the boys from Lamoni.

I am certain that we can handle the casting of the three large points a little later- say early spring. I am presently involved with the Lehner Site tools- nine of them to complete a full coverage of that mammoth kill site.

If I should fail to write by April you might check with me again.

Sincerely,

Allen

I am keeping one slide and returning the other two.

September 29, 1976

Mr. Allen Eichenberger
P. O. Box 14
Saverton, Mo. 63467

Dear Allen:

Enclosed please find check in the amount of \$80 as contribution toward cost of reproduction of our Hoffelmeyer Hill points.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js
Enc. check

We have discussed the cost of reproducing the Hoffelmeyer Hill points with Allen and want to contribute something towards this cost. We are sending a check along to him as soon as we can get it cleared. We certainly do appreciate the cooperation of all of you in making museum copies of the Hoffelmeyer cache.

I should mention that another side-notched spear cache has come to our attention. It was discovered eight or ten years ago on a farm northeast of Oregon, Mo. during the construction of a farm pond. Have been up there to see them, and except for being a bit wider, they are of the same type as the Hoffelmeyer Hill points. There are three of them and they are in no immediate danger of getting away from the area at present, but thought it best to ask if you may want them copied. Allen is interested. We would like copies, and I feel that the farm family that owns them would loan them if they were given a copy of each. We are interested in these large, showy points and intrigued with the mystery of these caches and the people that cached them. Will keep my eyes peeled for such and get any facts associated. Not much

Dr. David R. Evans
Sept. 28, 1976
Page 2

September 28, 1976

Dr. David R. Evans
15 Switzler Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, Mo. 65201

Dear Dave:

Allen Eichenberger has finished with his reproduction of the four Hoffelmeyer Hill spear points and they are now at the St. Joseph Museum. We intend to use them some time in the future for exhibition when our local Indian displays are changed. We are certainly quite pleased with Mr. Eichenberger's work and had the opportunity to see more of it and to visit with him when we were at Saverton to deliver the originals. He is certainly a fine craftsman.

Dave, I don't know if I sent a copy of the Hoffelmeyer Hill notes along to you or not. Our secretary, June Swift, has put them into form somewhat more readable and I am thinking that the information sent to you as of June 29 was abbreviated so am enclosing the full information (meager though it is) for use with your copy points.

We have discussed the cost of reproducing the Hoffelmeyer Hill points with Allen and want to contribute something towards this cost. We are sending a check along to him as soon as we can get it cleared. We certainly do appreciate the cooperation of all of you in making museum copies of the Hoffelmeyer cache.

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Mr. David R. Evans
Sept. 28, 1976
Page 2

hard information around it seems on this point and people. Mett mentions them in his writings. He told us later not much has been done with this group.

Well anyway, thanks again. Hope you had a good fishing season. I didn't.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js
Enc.

P.S. This account is not a writing for publication or the Newsletter as you mentioned. Not enough facts for popular interest and too much non-professional rambling around! You can pick at it for a possible single paragraph if you wish though.

Mr. Shippee
3622 Russell Rd
Kansas City, Mo. 64117



Mr. Don Reynolds
St. Joseph Museum
11th & Charles St.
St. Joseph, Mo.
64501

~~OVER~~

September 28, 1976

Mr. Mett Shippee
3622 Russell Road
Kansas City, Mo. 64117

Dear Mett:

I am sending to you a replica of one of the four Hoffelmeyer Hill cache points. We had them copied by Allen Eichenberger and received back four sets. Two sets were for the museum, one and a half sets for the owners and that left two odd ones, one of which you are getting. Mike Fisher bought one (at cost plus transportation charges) and I bought the one you have. I could not see that we really needed the two extra odd copies and thought you might like one. Also it was a real shrewd (?) way to extract some dough out of Fisher and myself to apply towards the total cost of duplicating the spear cache. I thought Allen Eichenberger did a swell job. But then he always does.

Hope you and the Mrs. are feeling well and keeping busy. Probably getting the house chinked up for winter. Damn, I dread it!

We have closed the doors at the Pony Express Stables. The tourists have about all gone home, but we had a good year with an increase in attendance. Had folks from all over the world again.

Maude and I came back from Texas by way of New Mexico last July. Had fun playing with the Indians but came home broke but happy. Would like to spend a whole couple of months down around New Mexico and Arizona some autumn.

Thanks again Mett for your letter and comments on the Lehr site. Maybe we can get some of Mike Fisher's diggers up there next spring and look for house remains in the draw to the south.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds

From the Desk of

August 30, 1976

ALLEN EICHENBERGER

Dear Don:

I am practically through
with the casting and ready to return
the four large points and the casts.

We will look forward to seeing you
whenever you find it possible to come.

Sincerely,

Allen



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA

College of Arts and Science

Department of Anthropology
American Archaeology

Room 15 Switzler Hall
Columbia, Missouri 65201
Telephone (314) 882-8273

Friday Night

Dear Don:

I am sorry not to have been here to see you and to deliver the casts and originals but they are all packed (except for your museum copies) and ready to go.

I had expected to be here working with my son on stone work but now we find that he does not have the day off. He asked me to go with him to his lab. at Cannon Dam and since we have so few opportunities to do things together, I have decided to go.

In the tall box are three extra sets of casts. Two sets will be needed to supply each owner with casts to round out a collection of the four points. The third set is made in the hope that the owners will either now or later let you have the originals for the museum in lieu of copies.

The points on the blue background are the ones that I consider to be the best and are for your museum display. You can pack them in the top of the tall box. There is packing handy.

Including the University copies and one set for myself, I made 48 castings. Most of these may be seen on the rack back of the fan in my work room. I was fortunate in not having any rejects in this number of castings but at that my average daily output was less than one.

I will look forward to seeing you and Mrs. Reynolds at the Fall Meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Allen'.

August 5, 1976

Mr. Allen Eichenberger
P. O. Box 14
Saverton, Mo. 63467

Dear Allen:

Thank you for the notes to keep us informed of progress in casting the spear points. We have as yet had no expressions of concern from the owners, but I have just dropped them a line to also keep them posted.

I believe that we will just leave the originals at your place until the copies are completed and then pick up all at one time. Especially since coloration is made easier when the originals are in hand. This has been explained to the owners.

As things stand now, I will make a quick trip down to pick them up so whenever they are completed drop a card.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js

August 5, 1976

12 HOPES

Mr. John Roach
Route 6
St. Joseph, Mo. 64504

Dear Mr. Roach:

Just to bring you up-to-date on the casting of the spear points. I have received two notes from Allen Eichenberger at Saverton, Mo. who is doing the work for us and the University of Missouri.

As sometimes can be expected, delays do occur and realizing that we estimated a little more than a month for the copying to take place, I thought I had better drop you a line. In the first note July 11 from Allen Eichenberger he says, "from time to time I will plan to keep you informed on the progress of the casting. It was necessary to have a special flask made to accommodate the large points. This has been completed and one (of the 4) molds has been poured. I see no real problems, but for these large points more than the usual amount of time will be needed." He goes ahead to explain that he and his wife had been called away to Illinois for a time.

On August 3 I received another note from Mr. Eichenberger in which he states, "the casting of the 4 Oseola points is coming along fine. I have 8 more sets to go, 32 casts. I can get these out at the rate of one or two a day. The originals could be released if you should have someone over this way. However, if there is no rush on the part of the owners, it would be better to have the originals for copying color rather than working from the completed casts."

I think that since Mr. Eichenberger would rather keep the originals until the casting is completed for coloration, it would be best to pick them all up together later. I hope this is agreeable even though it may take a little longer. As soon as he has completed his work we will make arrangements to get them and return them to you along with your copies.

Thanks again for your willingness to loan your originals for this purpose. I will keep you posted and will telephone you as soon as the points are returned.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js

August 5, 1976

Mr. Quentin Ketchem
Route 3
St. Joseph, Mo. 64505

Dear Mr. Ketchem

Just to bring you up-to-date on the casting of the spear points. I have received two notes from Allen Eichenberger at Saverton, Mo. who is doing the work for us and the University of Missouri.

As sometimes can be expected, delays do occur and realizing that we estimated a little more than a month for the copying to take place, I thought I had better drop you a line. In the first note July 11 from Allen Eichenberger he says, "from time to time I will plan to keep you informed on the progress of the casting. It was necessary to have a special flask made to accommodate the large points. This has been completed and one (of the 4) molds has been poured. I see no real problems, but for these large points more than the usual amount of time will be needed." He goes ahead to explain that he and his wife had been called away to Illinois for a time.

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Thanks again for your willingness to loan your originals for this purpose. I will keep you posted and will telephone you as soon as the points are returned.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js

From the Desk of

August 3, 1976

ALLEN EICHENBERGER

PO Box 14
SAVERTON, MO. 63467

Dear Don:

The casting of the four Osceola Points is coming along fine. I have eight more sets to go- thirty-two casts. I can get these out at the rate of one or two a day.

The originals could be released if you should have someone over this way, however, if there is no rush on the part of the owners it would be better for me to have the originals for copying color rather than work from the completed casts.

I have been wondering and did not think to ask when you were here if anything else was found on the site that could help to determine the time period to which the four points belong. Typologically they seem to be ~~early~~ Archaic. One observation- I believe the chert from which they were made had been fire tempered.

Allen

Middle

From the Desk of

ALLEN EICHENBERGER

July 11, 1976

Dear Don:

From time to time I will plan to keep you informed on the progress of the casting so that you can inform the owners in case they need ~~re~~insurance.

It was necessary to have a special flask made to accommodate the large points. This has been completed and one mold poured. I see no real problems but for these large points more than the usual amount of time will be needed.

Dorothy and I just returned from a 3-day trip to Galena, Illinois. I had no idea that there were so many tourist attractions there- many old houses similar to the one on your letterhead, the Grant home, lead mines, etc. We enjoyed the trip very much.

Thanks for the information regarding the cache.

Allen

August 5, 1976

Mr. Ralph Stanton
Route 2
St. Joseph, Mo. 64505

Dear Mr. Stanton:

Just to bring you up-to-date on the casting of the spear points. I have received two notes from Allen Eichenberger at Saverton, Mo. who is doing the work for us and the University of Missouri.

As sometimes can be expected, delays do occur and realizing that we estimated a little more than a month for the copying to take place, I thought I had better drop you a line. In the first note July 11 from Allen Eichenberger he says, "from time to time I will plan to keep you informed on the progress of the casting. It was necessary to have a special flask made to accommodate the large points. This has been completed and one (of the 4) molds has been poured. I see no real problems, but for these large points more than the usual amount of time will be needed." He goes ahead to explain that he and his wife had been called away to Illinois for a time.

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Thanks again for your willingness to loan your originals for this purpose. I will keep you posted and will telephone you as soon as the points are returned.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js

June 29, 1976

Dr. David Evans
15 Switzler Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, Mo. 65201

Dear Dave:

I took the four Hoffelmeyer Hill Cache points down to Allen Eichenberger at Saverton last Thursday, June 24. He will have site information with them, but am sending copy of same along for your files also.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds
Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js
Enc.

June 29, 1976

Mr. J. A. Eichenberger
Saverton, Mo. 63467

Dear Allen:

Enclosed herewith please find information as promised on the Hoffelmeyer Hill spear points.

Mrs. Reynolds and I certainly enjoyed our visit to your area and home and appreciated seeing your workshop and some of your copies. We had a safe trip home, the first few miles of it through the old river road to the north from your place. Reminded us of poet Eugene Fields' "leafy aisles" where he described our local Lovers Lane here in St. Jo. (We didn't stop) Too bad they can't keep it up any longer, but one can see why.

Drop me a card when the points are completed and I will know then whether or not I will pick them up or not. I do have reason to be near your neck of the woods before very long on another matter, so maybe will kill three birds with one stone.

Best regards from all.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js

Enc.

P.S. I am also sending a copy of the information to Dave Evans.

23

COPPER CULTURE TYPE POINTS (4)

Found in a cache north of St. Joseph, Mo. by Ralph Stanton during digging of basement on what is known as Hoffelmeyer Hill 4 miles northwest of St. Joseph on K Highway. Property location: Part of the east 1/2 of the west 1/4 of the SE quarter of section 7, township 58 north, range 35, Andrew County, Mo.

These side notched cream colored points measured 8-1/2", 9", 8-3/4" and 8-7/8" respectively and were found side by side one foot under a limestone slab covering which was one foot beneath the present surface of the hill.

Two fireplaces were uncovered by grading of the hilltop 75' from the spear cache at one foot depth. Lack of charcoal. Occupation level limestone rubble strata at one foot level between spear cache and fireplaces.

~~No site number has been assigned~~

23 AN 46

Owner of property:
Mr. Ralph Stanton
Route #2
St. Joseph, Mo. 64505

These four points ~~are~~^{WERE} on loan to the St. Joseph Museum, St. Joseph, Mo. for the purpose of having acrylic resin reproductions made for future display.

June 24, 1976

Mr. David R. Evans
Missouri Archaeological Society
University of Missouri
15 Switzler Hall
Columbia, Mo. 65201

Dear Dave:

We have finally gotten the four Copper Culture (?) spears from Hoffelmeyer Hill back together again and will get them down to Allen Eichenberger for copies so that they may some time be exhibited here in the museum.

We will need three copies of each point (the one for the St. Joseph Museum and the other two to satisfy lending owners). Mr. Eichenberger said that he thought that this number would be possible but said that since a mold is capable of turning out only about ten copies and your department needs 8 that we might need to prevail on your generosity for the third set.

We understand from Mr. Eichenberger that there will be an expense on our part, although he did not know the amount. I expect to drive down to Saverton this week end if I can make all connections. The proud owners of the points are squeamish about mail or commercial carriers so to appease them I agreed to carry them down myself.

I will get together a condensed account of the finding circumstances, location, etc., soon and send it down to go with your copies.

Best wishes for good fishing and a cool summer.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js



Saint Joseph Museum

11TH AND CHARLES STREET

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI 64501



Director: Richard A. Nolf
Assistant Director: Don L. Reynolds

Date June 21, 1976

Side notched projectile points loaned to the St. Joseph Museum
11th and Charles Street, St. Joseph, Mo. to be copied in acrylic plastic

Accession # 76.17.1a Length 8 1/2" Identification features Black speckled -
Black lines - one at center edge - one diagonal at point

Owner: Ralph Stanton, Route 2, St. Joseph, Mo.

Returned - Date 9-13-76 Ralph A. Stanton

Accession # 76.17.1b Length 9" Identification features Speckled pink on
point half - light pink base half - pink fossil circle one side near base

Owner: Ralph Stanton, Route 2, St. Joseph, Mo.

Returned - Date 9-13-76 Ralph A. Stanton

6-21-76 Accession # 76.18.1 Length 8 3/4" Identification features Pink coat - paint, base
Base corner chipped off

Owner: Quentin Ketchem, Route 3, St. Joseph, Mo.

Returned - Date 7/14/76 Quentin Ketchem

6-21-76 Accession # 76.19.1 Length 8 7/8" Identification features Pink striped tips
Horseshoe shaped marking at base (right side) - dark fossil mark at
center same side - See slide Shows faint

Owner: John Roach, Route 6, St. Joseph, Mo.

RHODES #1 EASTON

Returned - Date 9-16-76 John D. Rhodes

These points were found in a cache November 20, 1975 by Ralph Stanton, Quentin Ketchem and John Roach during the excavation of a water line trench into the basement for a new house Mr. Stanton was building on Hoffelmeyer Hill 4 miles north of St. Joseph, Mo. on K Highway. Location as follows: Part of the east 1/2 of the west 1/4 of the SE quarter of section 7, township 58 north, range 35, Andrew County, Missouri. Hoffelmeyer Hill is one of the chain of loess river bluff hills on the east, or Missouri side of the Missouri River.

According to the finders, the spears were laying flat, side by side, and all pointing to the south. They were 12" beneath a covering of limestone slabs which were 12" beneath the surface of the hill. (24" total depth of spears)



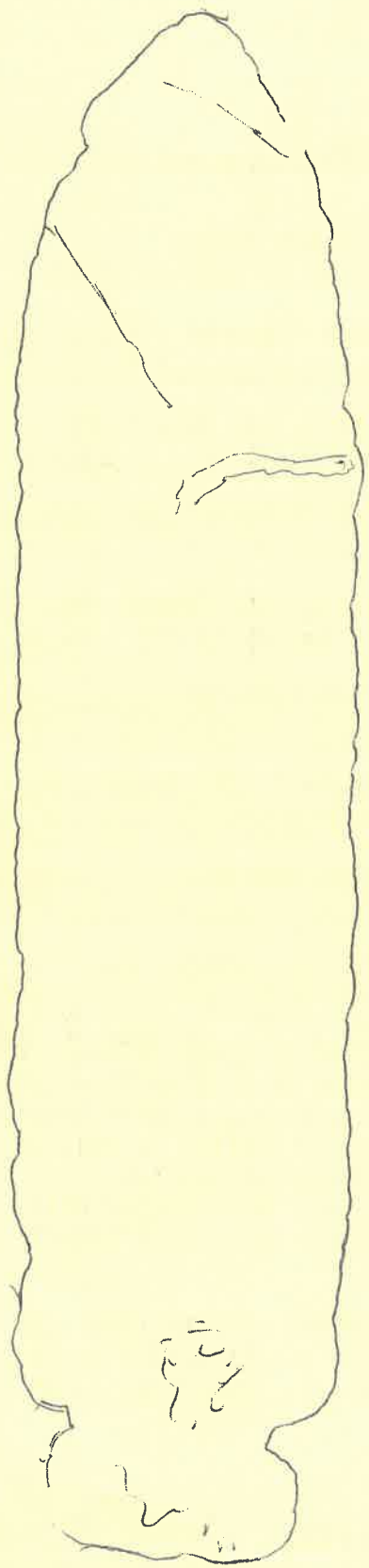
Pony Express Museum

Extension of the St. Joseph Museum

914 PENN STREET

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI





Page 2

During the excavation fist size and smaller pieces of burned, reddened and decomposed limestone was exposed in a strata 12" below the hill surface. Two fireplace concentrations of reddened stone were found nearby. No burials exposed. No other artifacts. Traces of charcoal in fireplaces but not of sufficient amount for carbon 14 testing.

Additional information as to location, natural surroundings, landowner, etc., available from the St. Joseph Museum, 11th and Charles St., St. Joseph, Missouri.

John Rhodes

Quentin Kitchen

Edgely Station



816/232-8471

Saint Joseph Museum

11TH AND CHARLES STREET

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI 64501



Director: Richard A. Nolf
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Received of _____,
side notched _____ inch long spear point to be delivered
to Missouri University technician J. A. Eichenberger at
Saverton, Mo. and copies made in acrylic plastic for display
in the St. Joseph Museum. The original points will be
returned to the owners as soon as they are returned from
the laboratory. A copy of the point loaned by you will
be provided at no cost to you.

Signed _____

Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

Date _____

HOFFELMEYER HILL SITE
Andrew County, Mo.

On the afternoon of November 20, 1975, Mr. Ralph Stanton of 2501 N. Leonard Road called the St. Joseph Museum regarding Indian spear points just dug out in the process of basement excavation for a house that he is building. The call was referred to me and Mr. Stanton said that he would come to the museum within the hour. He brought two of the points with him. They were large and side-notched with rather rough flaking and made of light colored chert. They measured 8 1/2 and 9 inches in length.

Mr. Stanton is building the house for his own use and the location is on the Hoffelmeyer Hill (Route 2) on K Highway north of St. Joseph, Mo. The construction site is just north of the John Hoffelmeyer home on the north end of the narrow north-reaching loess hill that extends northward from where K Highway turns westward down into the Missouri River bottoms, thence northward along the west side of the bluff towards Amazonia, Mo. Dillon Creek flows southwestward along the north side of the hill and is crossed by K Highway to the west of the site. The Stanton property description is as follows: Part of the east 1/2 of the west 1/4 of the SE quarter of section 7, township 58 north, range 35, Andrew County, Mo.

While a contractor was digging a water line trench into the SW corner of the house with a back-hoe, a cache of four or possibly five large side-notched Indian spear points were unearthed. (#1 on attached map) The machine first struck a covering of several pieces of limestone that the operator and those present estimated was one foot beneath the present grass level of the hill. The point of discovery was 45 feet west of the summit of the hill. At approximately one foot beneath the stone covering the back-hoe scoop brought up the spear points. The points, when first seen, were side by side in the top of the scoop load with loosened soil falling away to expose them. They were all pointing southward and those present, including Mr. Stanton, believe that their original

On Friday, November 21, a visit to the location was made (Don Reynolds) and the site examined and some dirt sifted in search for the possible fifth point. It was not found. Blizzard conditions prevented further work that day. Permission was granted by the owner for further digging but it must be done the next morning (Saturday) since the dirt contractor was scheduled to do grade work over the week-end. Help was solicited from the St. Joseph Archaeological Society and members were contacted for field work at the site the next day.

On Saturday morning, November 22, the weather cleared and local society members Fisher, Punzo and Barlow were on hand to assist. We went to the site to further search through the soil removed from the trench looking for the fifth point and also to be on hand if grading was done. We also enlarged the trench area where the points were discovered. Nothing more was found in water line trench walls. Scattered pieces of fire-reddened limestone and one small piece of charcoal were picked from the exposed surface along the top of the east wall of the house excavation at a depth of one foot below the grass line. An effort to probe the surface of the hill to the south (marked for grading) proved futile because of frozen topsoil and dry ground underneath. The machine operator did not come and no Saturday grading was done.

Monday November 24, grading work began again and continued through Tuesday the 25th. Several feet of bank to the north of the house was removed to the north edges of the hill to enlarge the yard area. One fireplace (#2 on map) was inadvertently scooped out by the machine, but upon discovery of material in the scoop, was scattered by the operator to be examined. The concentration amounted to some 40 pounds of fire fragmented and reddened limestone, red fired clay and hardened fired mud balls. ^{DECOMPOSED FIRED LIMESTONE?} This fireplace was located just north of the NE corner of the house and was about one foot below grass level. Most of the material from this fireplace was saved and brought to the museum for further study. (An attempt was made to keep a steady watch on the dirt removal during

both of the final days of grading work in spite of the bitter cold. It should be stated that in spite of necessary haste to get the job finished before a predicted snow storm, both the property owner Mr. Stanton and the machine operator, cooperated fully to the extent of exercising caution in the work and slowing the operation at times to spread some scoop loads for closer examination. This was much appreciated.)

On Tuesday, November 25, the grading work was done to back-fill the south wall and level the ridge to the south of the house adjacent to the spear cache site. This ridge area immediately south of the house was graded down approximately 12 inches at the center. During this operation the last of the two fireplaces was discovered. At a point some 75 feet east of the cache site and on the opposite or east slope of the hill, the dozer scoop sheared the top of a concentration of fired limestone. (#3 on map) The uppermost limit of this concentration was six to eight inches beneath the grass level and the fireplace was in depth an additional twelve inches. The area covered was 24 by 30 inches. Excavation showed no particular arrangement of the hearth stones and produced no charcoal. Troweling and subsequent probing in the bottom of the pit indicated virgin soil. The stones were returned to the pit and covered for sentimental reasons as per wishes of the owner. The location is 21 feet south of the house and 5 feet east of the north-south line of the east wall.

The Hoffelmeyer people located on the land in 1864 and Mr. John Hoffelmeyer was born there. In their early years, the site area was an orchard, then for awhile was planted in corn or alfalfa. In recent years it has been pasture land.

Mr. Stanton has the two points that he brought to the museum. He will try to get the other two returned if possible. If not permanently so that they can be kept together, at least for awhile until they can be measured and photographed together.

Noting the depths, there could, possibly, be a connection in time between the spear cache and the fireplaces. Especially the fireplace on the northeast of the house (#2) which was at the same depth as the stones covering the spear cache. The fireplace on the south may have been slightly more shallow by a few inches.

It appears that this Hoffelmeyer Hill spear cache is similar to those isolated caches mentioned by Shippee and also to that discovered by Black on his tobacco farm hilltop north of Rushville, Mo. where several large blades were found in a cache beneath limestone rocks. (The St. Joseph Museum has color slides of these blades)

It is hoped that the spear points from the Hoffelmeyer Hill site here described will be placed in the St. Joseph Museum at some future time.

A site number will be attached to this report when assigned by the Missouri Archaeological Society.

After several conversations with owners Ralph Stanton and Quentin Ketchem during the winter and early spring of 1975-76, it became apparent that there was very little chance that they (or the third owner, John Rhodes) would in the foreseeable future consent to donate their spear points to the museum. Stanton and Ketchem did, however, agree to loan their points to be copied and Mr. Ketchem used his influence in persuading the third owner John Rhodes to loan his point. By June 21 the four originals were in hand and as per agreement were taken by Don Reynolds the next day directly to Allen Eichenberger at Saverton, Mo. where Mr. Eichenberger would make duplicates for the University of Missouri for the St. Joseph Museum. Arrangements had been made with Dave Evans and Dr. Carl Chapman of the Missouri Archaeological Society at the university.

On September 5, Don Reynolds returned to Saverton, Mo. and picked up the four originals and four sets of beautifully executed replicas from Mr. Eichenberger. On September 10, the original and a replica of his point were returned to Quentin Ketchem. On September 13, two originals and a full set of four replicas were returned to Mr. Ralph Stanton. On September 16, the point belonging to Mr. John Rhodes and a replica of it were returned.

The St. Joseph Museum has two complete sets of four spear points, one set of which will eventually be used for exhibit purposes. The other set will be distributed to the owners of each matching point if ever they should donate the originals to the museum. Otherwise they will be kept for study and comparison purposes. Two extra points are left from the full set (two of which were given to Rhodes and Ketchem) and may be sold for cost, \$8.00 plus transportation charges to help defray the total expense.

NOT TO SCALE

(GRADE AREA)

NEW ROUTE K HIGHWAY

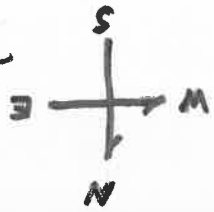
OLD K HIGHWAY

JOHN
HOFFELMEYER
HOUSE

Hoffelmeier Hill

STANTON
HOUSE

#1
(SPEAR CATCH)
#3
(FIREPLACE)
#2
(FIREPLACE)



September 21, 1976

Mr. Allen Eichenberger
September 21, 1976
Page 2

Mr. Allen Eichenberger
Saverton, Mo.

Dear Allen:

The spear points are at last all returned to their owner's hands and we will need worry no more. The last point was the one belonging to the Indian fellow (John Rhodes) and was last because we have been unable to reach him at home or by telephone. He has just been married again and on a honeymoon, and now home but with a silent phone number. I guess he wanted to be left alone for awhile. He finally remembered his spear point and called to inform us of his new status and phone number.

The two points owned by Mr. Stanton also took awhile to deliver since he, too, had marriage problems (only he was divorced) and we sort of lost track of him temporarily since no one has been at his new home over the spear discovery site. I guess I must admit that I am a little put out at having to chase these fellows down, especially when they were in such a hurry to get their points back and so doubtful of the safety of Uncle Sam's mail. Must remember that they did cooperate. Anyway it was worth all of the trouble and time.

The replica points are superb. As Mr. Ketchum, the third owner, said when he looked at his original and then at the copy, "I don't believe it!" He said that about all you left off was the dirty spots.

It is very doubtful that we can acquire the originals for our collections. It seems that there are standing offers of at least a hundred dollars each for them, not to mention the ego of the ownership. The latter will maybe lessen with time, but the value will probably not.

We have learned of another cache of spears north of St. Joseph that were unearthed from a considerable depth. Will look into this later.

Don Repapine, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Repy Repapine Museum

P.S. I don't believe I ever answered your question as to associated information concerning the cache. Very little, I'm afraid, which seems to be as usual for such finds. No carbon. Will send along a copy of my day to day notes for your record since you are interested. I am sure you will like to know more about these people wherever they were.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA

College of Arts and Science

Department of Anthropology
American Archaeology

Room 15 Switzler Hall
Columbia, Missouri 65201
Telephone (314) 882-8273

September 24, 1976

Mr. Don Reynolds
St. Joseph Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Don:

It is good to know that all of the points are safely returned and that everyone is satisfied with the casting results. I had hoped that you might have a chance to obtain the originals for the museum but with the high prices being paid for artifacts it becomes more and more difficult. It is hard to believe but recently a Dovetail Point no larger or finer than the one we have been casting, sold for \$600.00. Paul Sellers who made the sale is well known to me and quite reliable. In addition to the Dovetail Point he sold an axe for \$250.00.

Regarding your contribution to the Development Fund to defray part of the casting expense I would suggest that it be on the basis of no more than \$5.00 a point. This, I am certain would be satisfactory with everyone concerned. As for the extra points, they are yours to dispose of as you think best.

It is good to have the detailed information about the Cache find and I will keep it for my record, assuming that you sent a copy to Dave Evans for the survey. Also, keep in mind that we would be interested in copying any other significant finds from your area including the other possible Cache from north of St. Joseph.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Allen'.

J. Allen Eichenberger
Research Archaeologist

I would gladly repay you
for this replica of a big point.
I'm curious as to what Allen
charges.

How and where were these found?
And by who? It seems quite a story to add
to those of the finding of all such big points.

September 30/1976

Dear Don:

Your letter with the slide of the 4 big blades
came yesterday and this A.M. the point arrived
in excellent condition. I marvel at Eichenberger's
marvellous work in making these replicas.
Needless to say, I am thrilled to own one and am
thinking of archeologists who should be aware
of these big points which just have to be
ceremonial objects. There must have been a
cult or lodge back in those prehistoric days
that had sachems or medicine men who
operated on the hilltops along the Missouri River.
In Research Series #2 I have sketched several
of them. On both sides of the river, up your way
there have been provocative caches of them
found and I think they represent a most
intriguing problem for archeologists to work on.
The Old Copper culture of S.W. Wisconsin seems
to be the nearest or most similar manifestation
to arrive at an estimate of the time that they
were operating. Dates for them run from
A.D. 300 (mound dug by Curtis in 1878 ~~of~~ of Harvard
in Platte Co.) The charcoal was recovered by me
in 195? from the center of the mound as it was
being demolished 6" at a time by an earth-

moving behemoth. There really was no close association there but up in Wisconsin the charcoal at the site seems to have been a more representative sample. Your site up the new highway might have been a really good one to arrive at a date. I suppose that site is gone now. Too bad. Our very famous and smart professionals are too damn blockheaded to operate intelligently. They could have got plenty of Highway money to have dug that site you tried to investigate. Three Meko Hill sites here have been dug this season and over \$50,000⁰⁰ was available at each. The one on Meko Hill paid off partly but the other two were really not worth investigation. These graduate punks sent out to lead a digging party just don't have the experience to test a site.

Some day I'm going to suggest that the K.C. Museum get a new director and make Gregg Stock the archeologist with lots of money to operate. I believe he has the brains to get the exploration done. You could too Don with only that to do and plenty of cash.

Gregg's Museum people have a nice Osage Indian room now that cost plenty. Come down & see it. Some other new rooms are worth seeing. The old Long mansion is really being worked over with about $\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars. It is regional history now. No prehistory. Say hi to Maude & the Fishers. Mett

University of Missouri - Columbia



Room-15-Switzler Hall
Columbia, Mo. 65201

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
Department of Anthropology
American Archaeology

Telephone
314-882-8273

P.O. Box 14
Saverton, Mo. 63467

314 221 8194

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum & Pony Express Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Don:

Sorry I missed you the other day- we finished our work out at Cannon Dam rather sooner than I had expected and arrived home about a half hour after you left.

Dorothy tells me that you inquired about the cost of the Hoffelmeyer Hill point casting and wanted me to write. Silicone rubber for the molds was right at \$75.00, Epoxy for 48 casts- \$48.00, paper cups, pigments and sundry items \$15.00 and 2/3 of my 1/4 time University salary for two months- \$243.00. (Assuming that 1/3 of my University time was spent on other things) This makes a total cost of \$381.00 or about \$8.00 per cast.

Now, we do not expect you to pay anything like \$8.00 per copy and as a matter of fact you are not obligated to do anything other than what you want to do. But if you do want to help, it should be in the form of a donation and check should be made out "University Development Fund For American Archaeology". Check should be sent to me for delivery so that it will show as resulting from my work. ✓

I was glad to have your circulars and to learn more about the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums. I will make a greater effort to drive over that way, especially as my brother-in-law wants to make the trip too after looking over the circular.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allen".

J. Allen Eichenberger
Research Archaeologist

Keep me informed as to any additional casting of items that you think should be replicated for the University cast collection.