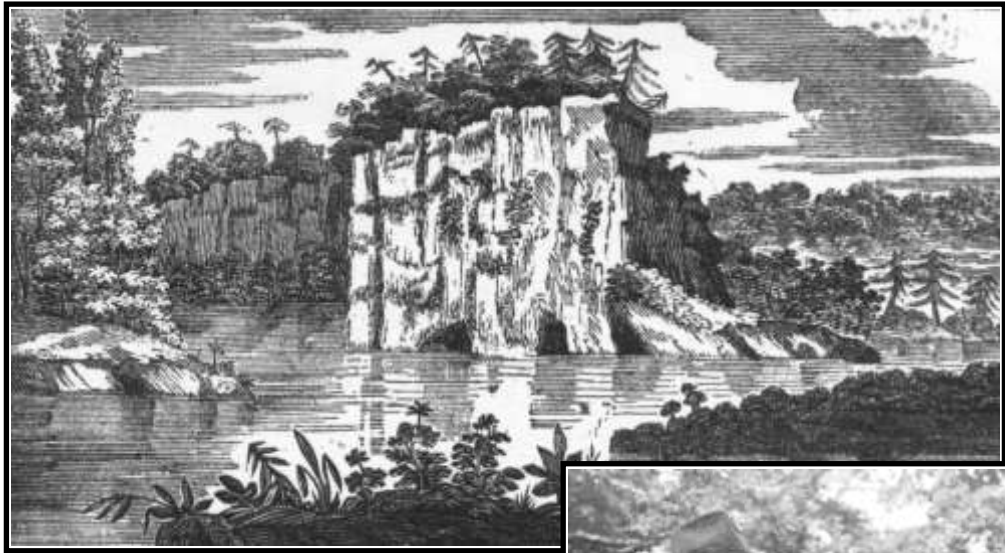


**FRENCH FORT, TRADING POST, OR FORTIFIED INDIAN VILLAGE:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE NEWELL SITE,  
STARVED ROCK STATE PARK, LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**



Fever River Research  
Springfield, Illinois

1999

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Fever River Research  
Springfield, Illinois

for  
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Springfield, Illinois

1999

*COVER: The upper image illustrates Starved Rock as depicted in Wiggins (1831). This illustration was adapted from Schoolcraft (1825). The middle image is Frank (left) and Jack (right) Newell in 1947 at the Newell Site, nearly 15 years after they had terminated their investigations at this site. This photograph was taken by one of the University of Chicago/Illinois State Museum researchers working with the Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition. The bottom photograph illustrates one of the blue and white “Man-in-the-Moon” beads reportedly recovered from the Newell Site (Illinois State Museum Collections).*

## ***ACKNOWLEDGMENTS***

Many individuals have contributed to the success of this project. Foremost, I would like to thank Dr. Harold Hassen (Cultural Resource Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources) and Mr. Jon Blum (Public Service Administrator at Starved Rock State Park) for their assistance. During the early phases of this project, the work was administered by the Illinois State Museum Society. I would like to thank Dr. Michael Wiant (Chair of Anthropology at the Illinois State Museum) for his assistance in coordinating the field work, for initiating several interesting conversations regarding the significance of the Newell Site, and assisting in many ways too numerous to mention. I also would like to thank Dr. Terrance Martin (Curator Anthropology Section, Illinois State Museum) and Carol Pigati (Illinois State Museum Society) for their assistance with access to the Newell Collection. I greatly appreciate Marjorie Schroeder (Illinois State Museum Society) for identifying the ethnobotanical remains from the flotation samples as well as editing the original draft of the report. Additionally, I would like to thank Dr. Dale Henning, Dawn Harn, and DeeAnn Watt for their assistance. Dawn and DeeAnn conducted the initial shovel testing strategy and also assisted with the backfilling of the site.

Field and lab crew members from Fever River Research included Catherine Boatner, Clyde Mansberger, Jr., Cynthia Phillippe, Robert Rothman, and Christopher Stratton. Robert Hickson (Center for American Archeology) produced the topographic map of the site. William Flesher, also of Fever River Research, inventoried the artifacts from the excavations and prepared the artifact tables. Christopher Stratton and Victoria Sonne produced the digitized drawings used in the report.

We also greatly appreciate the insights of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Newell (grandson of the elder John “Jack” Newell who initiated the field work at the Newell Site) regarding the site investigations and artifact collections. Discussions with Dr. Margaret Brown (Illinois Historic Preservation Agency), Dr. Robert Hall (University of Illinois--Chicago), Dr. John Walthall (Illinois Department of Transportation), Dr. Mark Esarey and Joseph Phillippe (both of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency) and Joseph Craig have also contributed to our understanding of this site and time period. We greatly appreciate Drs. Brown and Walthall for allowing us to include the Newell Collection artifact inventory within this report. Dr. Harold Hassen of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources contributed significantly to the “Chronology and Evaluation” section of the report.

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## ***INTRODUCTION***

In the 1860s, a local avocational historian and professional surveyor named Daniel Hitt mapped an "ancient earthworks" which was located on the bluffs overlooking French Canyon, a small tributary of the upper Illinois River in the vicinity of Starved Rock. At that time, Hitt described the "Old Fort" as an embankment with a ditch on the inside and suspected it of having been enclosed with palisades. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the "Old Fort" site became the focus of amateur archaeological investigations conducted by a nearby Utica family (the John Newell family). Located adjacent to Starved Rock State Park, the site was easily accessible to the relatively new class of auto-tourists that visited the park during the late 1920s and early 1930s. During this period, the Newell family gave guided tours of the site, constructed a small log cabin near the site to house the family's artifact collection, and actively promoted the "Old Fort" site as the location of Fort St. Louis --much to the dismay of numerous individuals who believed the site of Fort St. Louis was located on top of Starved Rock. Due to the activity of the Newell family at the "Old Fort" site, this archaeological site has been named the Newell Site (11LS206).

Recently, the Newell family's artifact collection, which consists of a varied assemblage of prehistoric and historic artifacts, was donated to the Illinois State Museum. This artifact assemblage includes an impressive amount of late-seventeenth- and/or early-eighteenth century artifacts (such as gun parts and trade beads) that were reported to have been collected from excavations at the Newell Site.

Unfortunately, our understanding of the 1930s excavations at the Newell Site is vague. Although many individuals visited the site and participated in the excavations, few notes or photographs of the investigations have survived to the present day. What little information we have regarding these activities comes from the Newell family papers which were donated to the Illinois State Museum. Similarly, our understanding of what the "Old Fort" Site represented is unclear. Since the Newell family first began excavations at the site, professional archaeologists have been intrigued by it. Some professional archaeologists believe that this site represents a short-term trading post occupied by French traders and dates from the first decades of the eighteenth century (circa 1700-1720) whereas other archaeologists believe that the site may represent a fortified historic Indian village (cf., Hall 1991, Walthall 1993). Over the years, the professional community's varied interpretations of this site have been based on very limited information such as contemporary newspaper articles, circumstantial archival information, and interviews with the family.

Situated on land recently purchased by the State of Illinois, the Newell Site is currently located within the confines of Starved Rock State Park and under the management of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Starved Rock State Park is a large, 2,632-acre, heavily dissected parcel of land that runs approximately 7.3 miles

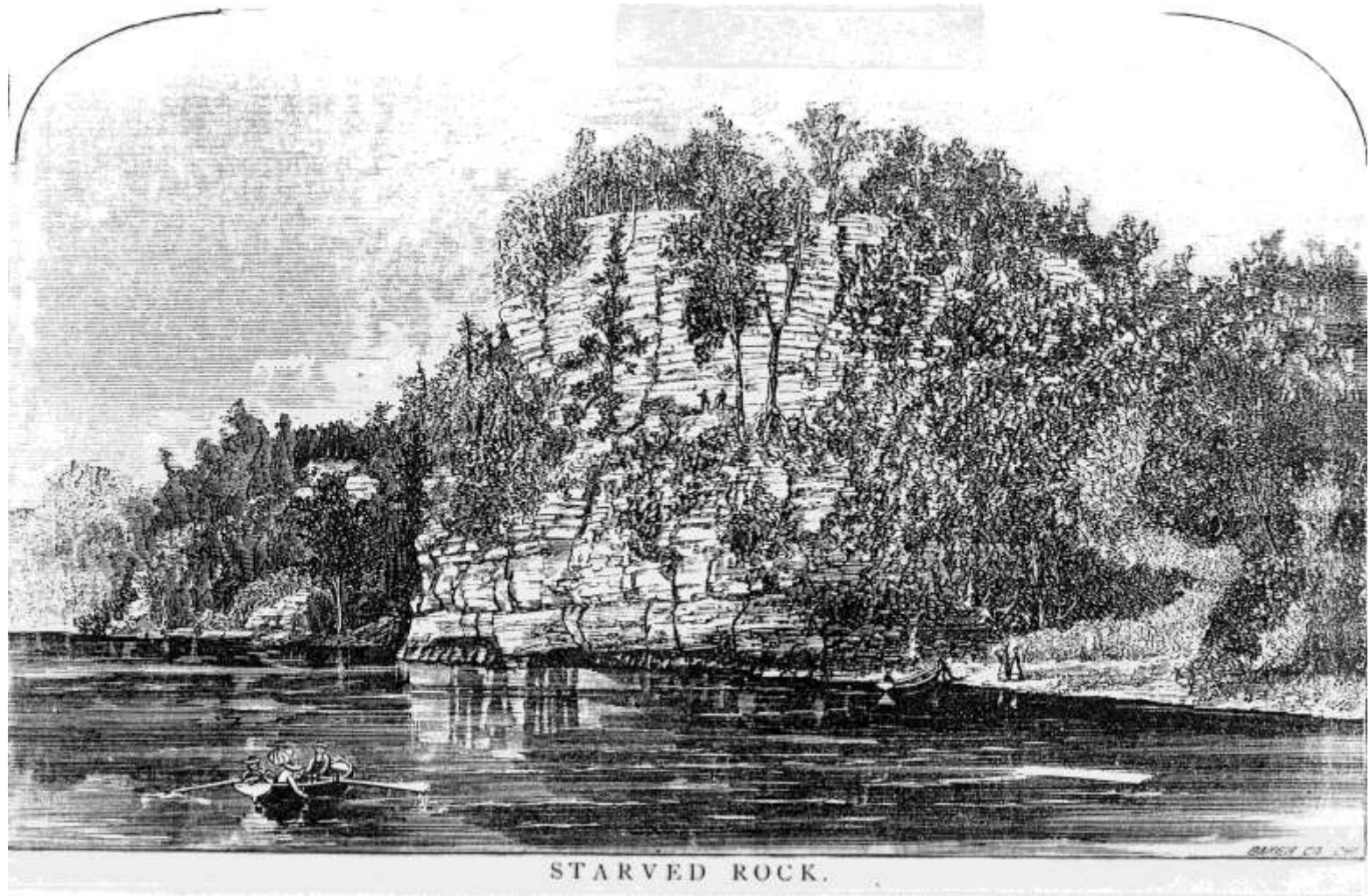


along the left bank of the Illinois River.<sup>1</sup> Now that the Visnikar property (and the Newell Site) is under state ownership, professional archaeologists have had the opportunity to scientifically investigate the "Old Fort" site. Historical archaeologists from Fever River Research (Springfield) under subcontract with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR, Springfield) and the Illinois State Museum Society (ISMS, Springfield) conducted archaeological investigations of this site. These investigations, which were funded by the IDNR, ultimately were aimed at determining the potential National Register of Historic Places eligibility of the Newell Site. To address the potential National Register of Historic Places eligibility of this site, we hoped to answer several specific questions, such as 1) what types of features the Newell family might have been excavating at this locale, 2) what subsurface remains might still be intact at this site (i.e., its archaeological integrity), and 3) whether these subsurface remains (if present) have the potential to contribute to our understanding of this transitional period in Illinois history.

The following report not only describes the results of the current archaeological investigations, but summarizes our current understanding of the archival record relating to this site, gives a detailed description of the Newell artifact collection currently located within the collections of the Illinois State Museum, and makes recommendations as per the site's National Register eligibility.

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<sup>1</sup> Sauer et al. (1918) and Ferguson (1995) contain excellent descriptions of the immediate project area and include discussions of the region's climate, geology, geomorphology, landforms, and soils, as well as water, floral, faunal, and lithic resources within the region.



**Figure 1. Starved Rock in the 1870s (Kett 1877: frontispiece).**

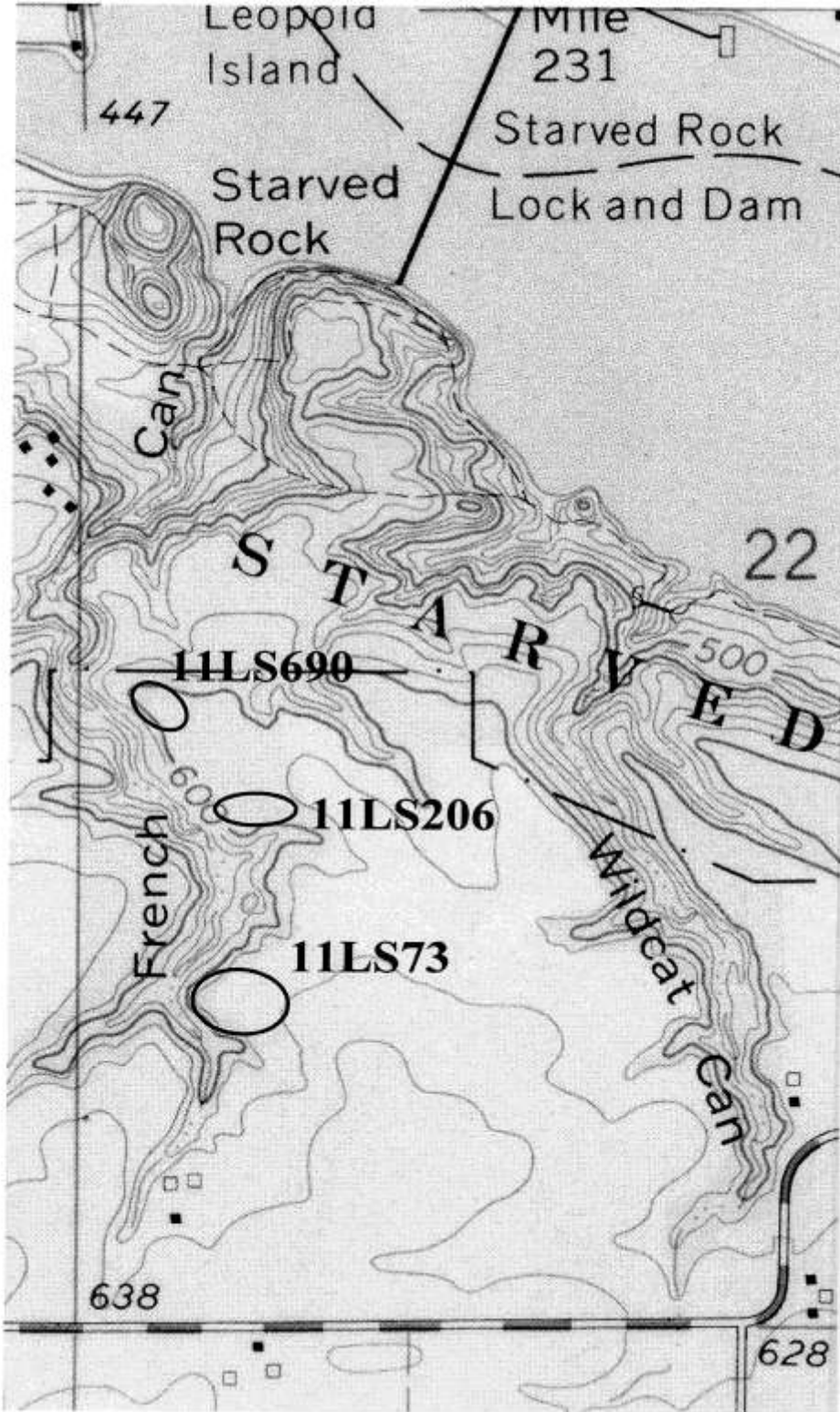


Figure 2. Location of the Newell Site (11LS206). Also note the location of sites 11LS73 and 11LS690.



Figure 3. Land ownership in the vicinity of the Newell Site during the 1930s (Brock and Company 1929:73). The Newell Site was located on the James A. Mitchell property which is located immediately south of Starved Rock in Section 22.

## ***A CHRONOLOGY AND EVALUATION OF EXTANT REFERENCES TO THE NEWELL SITE (11LS206), LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS***

Since its discovery during the middle-nineteenth century, the low earthen enclosure currently known as the “Old Fort” or Newell Site has been interpreted variously as Fort St. Louis (by the Newell Family during the 1930s), as an ancillary stockade or fortified post contemporary with Fort St. Louis (Hagen 1950), a fortified French trading post that post-dates Fort St. Louis (Brown 1974; Walthall 1993), and a historic Indian village (Hall 1991). Unfortunately, the primary documentary information regarding this site is limited to nonexistent. There are no direct seventeenth- or eighteenth-century references to the site in the extant French documents dating from the period circa 1680 to 1725. There are documents, though, that may be used to present a circumstantial case for the presence of French traders in the Starved Rock region during this period. Similarly, there is substantial documentation to suggest that various historic Indian groups were living within this immediate area during this period. However, there are no references that discuss a second French trading post near Fort St. Louis. The various archival and more contemporaneous references relevant to the Newell Site are cited and discussed below, the intent being to evaluate these references in light of the current knowledge of the Newell Site.

In 1678, René-Robert Cavelier (the sieur de La Salle) received a patent from Louis XIV for the trade in buffalo hides in that region of New France located south of Montreal (Hall 1991:14). In the spring of 1683, Cavelier (otherwise known as La Salle) and his men finished construction of a fortified outpost within the upper reaches of the Illinois River. As Hall (1991:14) states, “La Salle was able to capitalize on Indian desire for trade and fear of Iroquois raids to assemble about him at one time a would-be empire of perhaps twenty thousand Indians in an area centering on what is now La Salle County, Illinois.” The Illinois tribes (such as the Kaskaskia and Peoria) located in this region at the time of contact with the French were joined by other Algonquian-speaking tribes (such as the Miami, Piankashaw, Wea, and Shawnee) (see Thwaites 1900 and Parkman 1869). Since the middle-nineteenth century, the sandstone outcrop known as Starved Rock has been interpreted as the location of La Salle’s Fort St. Louis (Parkman 1869; Hall 1986, 1991; see also Jelks 1982; Westover 1984, 1986).<sup>2</sup>

The fortified outpost known as Fort St. Louis was positioned across the river from the Grand Village of the Kaskaskia-Illinois Indians.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, several other Indian

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<sup>2</sup> Whether the summit of Starved Rock was the location of La Salle’s Fort St. Louis is still a somewhat contested point with some archaeologists still questioning the validity of this interpretation (see Westover 1986). It is not the point of this report to argue one way or the other that La Salle’s Fort St. Louis was indeed located on the Rock.

<sup>3</sup> This archaeological site, also known as the Grand Village of the Kaskaskia and the Zimmerman Site, is the focal point of the Grand Village of the Illinois State Historic Site (which is administered by the Historic Sites Division of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency) (see J. Brown 1961; M. Brown 1975.; Rohrbaugh et al. 1998).

groups relocated to this area due to the presence of the French soldiers and the protection they afforded. The French cartographer Jean-Baptist Louis Franquelin's 1684 map CARTE DE LA LOUISIANE OU DES VOYAGES DU S<sup>R</sup> DE LA SALLE illustrates the multiple Indian Villages surrounding Fort St. Louis area during the years immediately prior to 1684. The cartographer identified this region of the Upper Illinois River Valley as the "COLONIE DU S<sup>R</sup> DE LA SALLE" (Temple 1975:Plate LIX).<sup>4</sup> This map depicts the would-be empire of La Salle with his fort and surrounding Illinois Indian villages. Unfortunately, the Temple (1975:Plate LIX) copy of this map is practically illegible for our area of interest. Parkman (1869) illustrates the relevant portion of this map. Of special interest to the Newell Site investigations is the location of a village of two hundred Shawnee (Chaouenon) warriors (hommes) located immediately south of the fort, potentially within that area occupied by the Newell Site. Franquelin published a second map (entitled CARTE DE L'AMERIQUE SEPTENTRIONNALLE) in 1688. As Tucker (1942:4) noted, Franquelin's 1688 map "is basically a variant of the 1684 map with some alterations."<sup>5</sup>

In 1685, a year after the publication of Franquelin's first map, another French cartographer by the name of Minet published the map CARTE DE LA LOUISIANE (See Tucker 1942: Plate VII).<sup>6</sup> This map illustrates multiple Indian villages near an unidentified fort located within the Starved Rock vicinity. This map also identifies the region as the "HABITATION DE M<sup>R</sup> DE LA SALLE." Identified on this map, immediately adjacent to the "Fort" (Fort St. Louis), Minet identified "les chaouenons" which is the eighteenth-century French word for Shawnee (Tucker 1942:3-4). Tanner (1987:32, Map 6) indicates that the Shawnee village adjacent to Starved Rock was occupied from 1683 to 1690.

LaSalle's trading empire was not to come to fruition. In an effort to find the mouth of the Mississippi and found a southern colony, La Salle was murdered in 1687 by his own men, in what was later to become Texas. Due in part to raids by the Iroquois, the French had a difficult time keeping the Indian allies in the upper Illinois River valley, and in 1692, the remaining Illinois removed down river to Lake Peoria. It was at that location during the spring and summer of 1692 that Tonti, La Salle's first in command, constructed a second Fort St. Louis (which was known as Fort Pimitoui; see Emerson and

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<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately, the original map, formerly in Paris, has been lost (Tucker 1942:4). The copy illustrated in Temple (1975: Plate LIX) is from Francis Parkman's copy of a 1784 version which is currently housed at the Winsor Memorial Map Collection, Harvard College Library (Temple 1975:1). The copy reproduced in Temple (1975) is very small and difficult to discern that area around Fort St. Louis. Tankersley (1992:124-125) provides a redrawn version of both the 1684 and 1688 versions of this map.

<sup>5</sup> The original of the 1688 Franquelin map is in Paris. A photostatic copy of the original is in the collections of the Division of Maps, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. (Tucker 1942:4).

<sup>6</sup> The original of this map is in Paris. A photographic copy is available in the Karpinski Collection of the Illinois State Historical Survey, University of Illinois, Urbana (Tucker 1942:3).

Mansberger 1991).<sup>7</sup> With the removal of the French and their Indian allies to Lake Peoria, the fortification at *Le Roche* essentially was abandoned. St. Cosme passed through the region in 1699 and mentioned that “Le Vieux Fort” was “a rock about a hundred feet high at the edge of the river where M. de la Salle built a fort, since abandoned... (Parkman 1869:288). Nonetheless, that region around Starved Rock became the home for many Peoria-Illinois during the early-to-middle-eighteenth century, potentially representing a winter camp for many of the Peoria living at Lake Peoria (See Esarey 1997). It is suspected that during the period circa 1693 through the first decades of the eighteenth century, the Peoria may have used La Salle’s Fort St. Louis for their own protection. The exact date of its destruction is not known.

In May 1698 and again in May 1699, royal edicts forbade trade at all of Quebec’s western posts. Tonti’s post at Lake Peoria and its agency at Chicago were exempt from this order, but were allowed only two canoe loads of goods a year from their Illinois post (Faye 1945:41-42). As such, profits for Tonti’s Illinois Company were low during this period. Late in 1699, Pierre Lemoyne d’Iberville had succeeded in establishing a post (Fort Mississippi) near the mouth of the Mississippi River. Establishment of Iberville’s Louisiane colony effectively divided control of the New World French territory into two districts with Lake Peoria (and Tonti’s Illinois Company) being in a potentially contested region between the two districts. Tonti immediately petitioned the King for trade privileges in Iberville’s new Louisiane territory along the Mississippi River. During the summer of 1701, Tonti traveled to Fort Mississippi in hopes of obtaining news of his petition, only to find out that it had been denied.<sup>8</sup>

In the meantime, back at Lake Peoria, La Forest was granted a commission as a captain (in May 1701) which required him to return to Quebec. This he did in 1702, which resulted in the abandonment of the post at Lake Peoria. Nonetheless, La Forest “continued to send out annually two canoes of trade goods to De Liette’s station at Chicago and perhaps to the Illinois” (Faye 1945:41). In the summer of 1701, the French King also created a monopolistic trading company for western Canada which was based in Detroit. This trading company was prohibited from trading within the Indian villages, and as such, all trade within western Canada by edict was supposed to be carried out from Detroit and De Liette’s post in Chicago. In 1704, the King officially withdrew permission for La Forrest and de Liette to conduct trade within the western territory, presumably forcing both to leave the region.

Faye (1945:43) suggests that “in a year that appears to have been 1705 the Coiracoentann and three smaller tribes” separated from the Peoria at Lake Peoria and

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<sup>7</sup> Tonti was assisted in this venture by his business partner Francois Daupin de la Forest and his cousin Pierre de Liette (see Faye 1945:38-39).

<sup>8</sup> At that time, the King appointed Tonti a salaried position as a Lieutenant at Iberville’s fort on Mobile Bay. He died of yellow fever at this post in the summer of 1704 (Faye 1945:41). Other accounts suggest that Tonti returned to the Starved Rock fort and died at that location (see Matson 1874, 1882).

relocated to Starved Rock.<sup>9</sup> At that time, these tribes became known as the Illinois of the Rock. Although La Forest and his men had removed from the region, it appears that there may have been an occasional Frenchman in the Starved Rock area during these years. In August 1711, Father Marest, a missionary stationed at Kaskaskia, descended the Kankakee and Illinois rivers, and upon drawing “near the [Peoria] Village, they sent one of their number thither to give notice of my arrival. The greater part of the men ascended to the Fort, which is placed upon a rock on the bank of the river. When I entered the Village, they fired a volley from their muskets in sign of rejoicing... I was *invited with the Frenchmen* [italics added] and the Illinois chiefs to a feast...” (Thwaites 1900, Vol. 66:287). Marest’s reference “to the Frenchmen” suggests that La Salle’s Fort St. Louis may have been still standing, that it was occupied by the Peoria, and that there may have been some French traders in the region living with the Illinois at this time.<sup>10</sup>

Due in part to their siding with the French against the renegade Fox in 1712, the Governor of Quebec granted the Illinois at the Rock a request for a trading post. Late in the summer of 1712 Pierre de Liette was ordered to the Illinois (Faye 1945:44). According to Faye (1945:44), de Liette functioned “only as a sort of special commissioner to the Illinois, without troops to command.”

These were turbulent times for the Illinois. In 1714, Fox warriors killed and/or captured seventy-seven Illinois. As a result, in July 1715, the King of France (through the Governor of Quebec) ordered a military garrison to the Illinois. Accordingly, one sergeant and eight privates were assigned to the Illinois garrison. In the spring of 1716, de Liette and these men set out to reestablish Fort Illinois at Lake Peoria.<sup>11</sup> This garrison remained at Lake Peoria until sometime shortly after May 1719. It was at that time that troops from Louisiane (under the direction of Pierre Duqué de Boisbriant) arrived in the Illinois Country to establish the “Post of the Mines” which was later named Fort de Chartres (in present-day Randolph County). With the presence of the Louisiane troops in the Illinois Country the Governor of Quebec recalled de Liette “with his garrison of Lake Pimiteoui,” ending the presence of the Quebec garrison in the upper Illinois river valley (Faye 1945:44-45, 49).

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<sup>9</sup> Zitomersky (1994:98-99) questions the accuracy of Faye on the 1705 date.

<sup>10</sup> Thus, there is a reference to Frenchmen at Starved Rock after the formal abandonment of the post by La Forest. There is no mention of any site other than the village which was “placed upon a rock on the bank of the river” (Thwaites 1900, Vol. 66:287). The interpretation that this is Starved Rock is derived from Marest’s description of the distance from Kaskaskia. According to Zitomersky (1994:96, 111) between 1712 and 1722 there are specific references in the documentation to Illinois at “the rock” suggesting that the Starved Rock vicinity was occupied continuously between 1711 and 1722.

<sup>11</sup> There are no references in the literature to a “Fort Illinois” (Duane Esarey personal communication 1998). It is unclear if de Liette reestablished Fort St. Louis at Starved Rock or at Lake Peoria. When ordered out of the district, his garrison appears to have been located at Lake Peoria (Faye 1945:49). According to Esarey (personal communication), there are no further references about de Liette in the literature after this date.



Guillaume Delisle's 1718 map CARTE DE LA LOUISIANE ET DU COURS DU MISSISSIPI (Tucker 1942: Plate XV) indicates the relative abandonment of the Upper Illinois region by the Illinois. This map illustrates the "Ancien Village des Illinois" along the north bank of the Illinois River as well as "le Rocher" along the opposite (southern) bank. The map also illustrates the Peoria ("les Pimitoiu ou Peoria") located along the eastern shore of present day Lake Peoria ("Lac Pimitoiii") (Tucker 1942:6). No other cultural features are indicated in the region of the Newell Site.<sup>12</sup>

The French explorer Charlevoix visited Starved Rock in September, 1721. At that time, Charlevoix (1766:Letter XXVII, page 151) visited the site of the fort and noted that "Here are still some remains of palisades because the Illinois formerly made an Intrenchment here." Later version (Charlevoix 1923:200??) noted a slightly different interpretation --"Some remains of a palisade are seen on it, the Illinois having formerly cast up on an embankment here..." What is more interesting, though, is that Charlevoix had contact with French traders living among the Illinois at this time. He stated that "I found some French here... who were trading with the Savages" (Charlevoix 1766:Letter XXVII, page 151). Although he does not mention anything about the Newell Site location, the interaction with French traders is intriguing and suggests that there were Frenchmen in the area with the Illinois at that time.

The next spring (May-June 1722), Legardeur Delisle (a French army officer) and twelve soldiers escorted Renault up the Illinois River in search of a copper mine reputed to have been located in the upper reaches of the valley. Upon arriving at "Pemitewy", Delisle noted that "The Indians of this place had gone to make their village with those of the Rock..." (Faye 1945:54). On Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, Delisle and his men "reached the village of the Rock... The water being too low, we were unable to go up in front of the said village, which obliged us to camp in the meadow that is on the right, on the same side as the village, about a quarter of a league away" (Faye 1945:55). Although Faye (1945:43) states that the Illinois were living "on the river terrace just below the crag known today as Starved Rock," Delisle's journal makes no reference to the exact location of this village (except that they were located up against the bluffs). Delisle does note that "M. Renaud [Renault] went to walk along the bluffs that are over against the village and on which there is a fine meadow, in order to see if he could not see some evidence of a mine. He came back in the evening without finding anything" (Faye 1945:56). Renault's walk should have taken him in close proximity to the Newell Site. It is intriguing that the journal does not mention either French traders in the Starved Rock region or the presence of another trading post near Starved Rock. Remember, one year earlier, Charlevoix mentioned his encounter with French traders in the area of Starved Rock.

In the year 1722, due in part to threats by the Sauk and Fox Indians to the north, the Illinois abandoned their Peoria and Starved Rock villages and relocated to a village on the Mississippi River (Zitomersky 1994:101). The Peoria-Illinois occasionally returned

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<sup>12</sup> The original Delisle map is located in Paris. A photostatic copy of the original is located in the Ayer Collection, Newberry Library, Chicago (Tucker 1942:6).

to the area through the middle eighteenth century culminating in the circa 1769-70 siege by the Potawatomi that led to the name Starved Rock.

In 1755, Dr. John Mitchell published a map entitled A Map of the British And French Dominions in North America which illustrated several features in the upper reaches of the Illinois River valley relevant to our discussion. On the north bank of the river was the “Ancient Villages of the Illinois Destroyed by the Iroquois” and the “Fort of the Illinois.” Located on the south side of the river was Starved Rock which was labeled “The Rock/ or Rocher/ ? fr. Ft. St. Joseph.” It is odd that the map maker placed Fort St. Joseph (and not Fort St. Louis) at this location. It is suspected that this may have simply been a cartographic error, incorrectly placing Fort St. Joseph along the Illinois River (Temple 1975: plate LXX).

One of the last eighteenth-century references to Fort St. Louis was that of Sieur Passerat de la Chapelle. Chapelle was a French soldier that was stationed at Detroit during the beginning of the French and Indian War. Chapelle’s journal describes his retreat (with over 200 French soldiers, Canadian militia, and *coureurs de bois*) from Fort Detroit in late 1760 to the upper Illinois River valley. In fear of the advancing British forces, La Chapelle had hoped to “make winter quarters” at Fort St. Louis, and in the spring, continue towards New Orleans. After a hard, forced march, La Chapelle and his troops stumbled to the location of Fort St. Louis only to find it no longer was extant. La Chapelle’s account notes that “When the detachment arrived at the site of Fort St. Louis, great discouragement appeared among the men. There was no fort; it had been burned a long time ago....” La Chapelle continued by noting that “the site of old Fort St. Louis, situated on the left bank of the Illinois River, did not offer any natural means of defense against a possible attack of the English coming from the east. I reconnoitered the right bank of the river and chose a place, slightly elevated, situated down the river from the mouth of Fox River, almost opposite old Fort St. Louis.” It was at that location that La Chapelle and his men established their winter camp and constructed a temporary fortification (known as Fort Ottawa) (Kellogg 1935).

Unfortunately, the nineteenth- and twentieth-century records relating to the Newell Site and the surrounding area are just as perplexing as the earlier seventeenth- and eighteenth- century records. During the early nineteenth century (1820), the well known explorer and scientist Henry Schoolcraft, enroute to Chicago along the Illinois River, ventured to the top of Starved Rock where “on gaining the top of this rock we found a regular entrenchment, corresponding to the edge of the precipice... We found upon this elevation broken muscle [sic] shells, fragments of antique pottery, and stones which had been subjected to the action of heat, resembling certain lavas” (Schoolcraft 1825:320). Although Schoolcraft does not mention the earthworks at the Newell Site, on continuing up river, he does describe the remains of an Indian village on top of Buffalo Rock as well as an earthen enclosure “located on the plain... completely encompassed by a ditch and a wall, the remains of which are still conspicuous, and the whole extent of the lines is easily traced” (Schoolcraft 1825:321-22). Schoolcraft included a woodcut illustration – apparently one of, if not the earliest views of this prominent landmark-- of “ROCK

FORT, ON THE ILLINOIS” in his manuscript. Shortly thereafter, several fleeting references were made to Starved Rock (Flint 1828; Flagg 1838), none of which made reference to the Newell Site. In 1831, an illustration very similar to Schoolcraft’s was copied and published in The Monthly Repository and Library of Entertaining Knowledge (Wiggins 1831:338) which was accompanied by a two-page account of the “Rock Fort On The Illinois River.”

The first significant mention of the earthworks at the Newell Site occurred immediately after the Civil War. In August 1867, Colonel Daniel Hitt surveyed the remains of a low earthen embankment which he identified as an Indian “fort” immediately south of Starved Rock.<sup>13</sup> Colonel Hitt was the first private owner of the property on which Starved Rock is situated, having purchased this land from the Federal government in June 1835 (Tisher 1956:40-41). Along with the Ottawa Academy of Science, Hitt actively pursued efforts to legitimize Starved Rock as the location of Fort St. Louis. During Francis Parkman’s 1867 tour of the Starved Rock vicinity, it was Hitt who served as Parkman’s guide. Based on Parkman’s comment (see below), it is suspected that the map of the “Old Fort” published by Baldwin (1877) was created shortly before or after Parkman’s visit to the region in 1867.<sup>14</sup> At this same time (1867), the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers published a map of the Illinois River valley. This map clearly identifies “Starve [sic] Rock” as well as “Old Fort St. Louis”. It is interesting to note that “Old Fort St. Louis” is positioned on the bluff overlooking Starved Rock (Deiss 1990, 1991; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers 1867).

In 1869, two years after his trip to the Illinois valley, Francis Parkman published his La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West.<sup>15</sup> Within an unnumbered footnote in the book, Parkman discussed Starved Rock in detail and specifically discussed the location of the “Old Fort” (Newell Site), which was shown to Parkman by Colonel Hitt. Parkman (1869:296, footnote 2) noted that

The Shawanoe camp, or village, is placed on the south side of the river,

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<sup>13</sup> Hitt also mapped several other aboriginal sites within the region (see Baldwin 1877). The August 1867 date for the creation of the Hitt map has been taken from Tisher (1956:40). Unfortunately, we do not know how this date was determined by Mr. Tisher. It is interesting to note that Tisher included a map of the “Old Fort” with reference to what appears to be the well discussed by the Newell family. This is one of the only maps available for the site that illustrates the relationship of the earthen embankment and the well.

<sup>14</sup> In latter life, Daniel F. Hitt was described as a “rough and a ready character, with an acid and sometimes profane tongue...” (Tisher 1956:40). See also Warvelle (1897:105-106) and Tischer (1956:40) for information relating to Colonel Hitt’s life. Hitt’s obituary was published in the May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1899 Ottawa Republican-Times which noted the “Passing of [a] Pioneer”. Unfortunately, Hitt appears to have written little about his research at the “Old Fort” and other sites that he mapped. A check of Colonel Hitt’s papers (which are filed with the Illinois State Historical Library) by Harold Hassen and Mark Esarey revealed no correspondence or notes about his work at this site. Also, as part of this research, Jon Blum contacted Curt Simonson (a descendent of Col. Hitt) about Hitt’s personal papers. No additional information regarding this site was found as a result of this work.

<sup>15</sup> See Wade (1947) for information relating to Parkman’s personal and academic life.

behind the fort [Fort St. Louis]. The country is here hilly, broken, and now, as in La Salle's time, covered with wood, which, however, soon ends in the open prairie. A short time since, the remains of a low, irregular earthwork of considerable extent were discovered at the intersection of two ravines, about twenty-four hundred feet behind, or south of, Starved Rock. The earthwork follows the line of the ravine on two sides. On the east, there is an opening, or gateway, leading to the adjacent prairie. The work is very irregular in form and shows no trace of the civilized engineer. In the stump of an oak-tree upon it, Dr. Paul counted a hundred and sixty rings of annual growth. The village of the Shawanoes (Chaeuenons), on Franquelin's map, corresponds with the position of this earthwork. I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. John Paul, and Colonel D. F. Hitt, the proprietors of Starved Rock, *for a plan of these curious remains* [italics added] and a survey of the neighboring district.

The plan of the "curious remains" mentioned by Parkman (as cited above) was not included in Parkman's published history. The publication of this site map did not occur until Elmer Baldwin published his History of La Salle County in 1877 (see Figure 8; Baldwin 1877:338). Baldwin (1877:55), while discussing Starved Rock and Fort St. Louis, simply noted that "the outline of another fort or outwork is plainly seen on the bluff, about a half a mile south of Fort St. Louis, and near the edge of the prairie." Accompanying Baldwin's short note about the "Old Fort" was the survey (or map) of the earthworks that has been attributed to Colonel Hitt.<sup>16</sup>

A few years later, the historian Nehemiah Matson published a regional history entitled French and Indians of Illinois River (Matson 1874). In this book, Matson described the "Relics of Antiquity" found within the Upper Illinois River district –the first of which was the "Old Fort" that had been mapped by Colonel Hitt during the 1860s. As noted below, Matson is one of the first to reference the possible French origin of this site. Borrowing significantly from Parkman, Matson (1874:172-73) states that

In the river timber, about one-half mile southeast of Starved Rock, are the remains of an ancient fortification, known as the Old Fort, and on land belonging to Mrs. Gabet, is still to be seen the remains of an ancient fortification. This work of antiquity is located on a level piece of ground, at the intersection of two ravines, and consists of low, irregular earthworks. These earthworks follow the course of the ravines on two sides, forming zigzag lines, with an open gateway at the east, fronting the prairie. These lines enclose about one acre of ground, of an oblong shape, and is now covered with large trees. This old relic appears to have been only a temporary fortification, consisting of a ditch, an embankment, and

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<sup>16</sup> As mentioned above, Parkman appears to attribute this early map of the Newell Site to Colonel Hitt. Similarly, Osman (1895:77), besides reproducing the map of the "fort" that was published in Baldwin (1877), noted that "the map... [was] made, I believe, from a survey by Col. D. F. Hitt, for many years the owner of Starved Rock..."

perhaps palisades.

There are various opinions about these old earthworks. Some believe they were erected by the French while in possession of Fort St. Louis, and intended as a summer fort to protect themselves from the Indians while raising a crop on the adjoining prairie. But this is not probable, as the prairie near by shows no marks of having ever been cultivated, and protection from the Indians was unnecessary, as they always lived on friendly terms with them. It could not have been the work of the French, for it exhibits no signs of civil engineering, and neither history nor tradition give any account of it.

A few years ago a large burr oak tree was cut within the fortification, and near the heart of it was found imbedded a rifle ball, which, according to the growths, must have been put there more than a century ago. There are a number of large trees growing on the embankment, which shows the fortification to be very ancient, and is in all probability the work of the Mound Builders.

About two hundred yards northeast of this old fort, by the side of a small ravine, a coal bank was recently opened by James Bain, but on account of the thinness of the vein it was found unprofitable to work. This vein of coal was close to the surface, only a few feet under ground, and near the place where it was opened is a large cavity in the earth. On examining this cavity or excavation, it was found that the coal had been taken out and the embankments on either side, caused by throwing out the dirt, are now covered with trees. This work must have been done centuries ago, and some believe by the occupants of the fort above described.<sup>17</sup>

Several years later, Matson published a second book entitled Pioneers of Illinois (1882) and reiterated this same story, albeit in slightly different terms.

On the river-bluff, one half-mile south of Starved Rock, are the remains of an ancient fortification, known as the Old Fort, and consist of low, irregular earthworks. This relic of antiquity is located on level land at the intersection of two ravines, and on two sides follows the curve of the hill above the ravines in zigzag lines, with an open gateway to the east, fronting the prairie. These lines enclose about one acre of ground, which

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<sup>17</sup> Located immediately to the northeast of the Newell Site is a large, deep, often water-filled depression that is often referred to as a “quarry.” No reference has been found linking quarrying activity to this particular landscape feature. It is interesting to note that Matson changes his interpretation of this landscape feature with the publication of his second edition of his book. In Matson’s first account (as cited here), he suggests that this coal mine was “opened up” by a Mr. Bain within the recent past (probably during the early to middle nineteenth century). Matson’s later account (as cited below) notes that this mining activity “must have been done centuries ago, and some believe by the occupants of the fort above described” (Matson 1882:196). If we are to believe Matson, this “quarry” might represent rather ancient coal mining activity.

is of an oblong shape, and is now covered with large bur-oak trees. This appears to have been only a temporary fortification, consisting of an embankment with a ditch on the inside, and perhaps enclosed with palisades. There are many large trees growing on the embankment and in the ditch, which is conclusive evidence of its great antiquity....

At what time this fort was built, by whom, and for what purpose, will in all probability forever remain a mystery. It could not have been built by the French, for it shows no signs of civil engineering, and neither history nor tradition gives any account of it. Some people believe it was built by the French while in possession of Fort St. Louis, and used as a summer fort to protect themselves from the Indians while raising crops on the adjoining prairie, but this is not probable, as they always lived on friendly terms with the natives, and therefore needed no protection. Jacques Mette and Hypolite Pilette inform me that their ancestors lived at Fort St. Louis, the former a soldier, the latter a trader, and are positive that no out fortification could have been built by the French without constituting a part of their family-traditions. This fort in all probability is the work of people who possessed the country many centuries ago, known as Mound Builders, as many similar relics are found elsewhere.

About two hundred yards northeast of the old fort, by the side of a small ravine, is a shaft of coal near the surface, only a few feet underground. On examining this shaft a few years ago it was found that the coal had been taken out for some distance, and the embankment on each side of it, made by throwing out the dirt on the coal, is now covered with trees. The work must have been done many centuries ago, and most probably by the occupants of the old fort near by (Matson 1882: 195-196).<sup>18</sup>

A little over a decade later, Eaton Osman (1895:77-78) republished Baldwin's map of the "Old Fort" and, borrowing heavily from previous sources, noted that the "Old Fort" was most likely not constructed by the French but represented the remains of the circa 1682-1690 Shawnee village represented on the Franquelin map. Osman (1895:77-78) noted that

On the bluff about twenty-four hundred feet south of Starved Rock, at the junction of two ravines, as shown by the map on the following page [a copy of Hitt's map as published by Baldwin 1877] the faint and disappearing remains may be said to be still visible of an old earthwork of irregular shape.

Much learned conjecture, not omitting, of course suitable reference to the Aztecs and dates not long subsequent to the Noachian period, has been put

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<sup>18</sup> For information on Matson, see Haberkorn (1960).

on paper touching the origin of this so called fort, which even the French are credited with having built, though its usefulness to them can hardly be conjectured; but the truth seems to be that it is the remains of a stockade, perhaps, erected by the Shawanoe Indians when they resided there as a part of La Salle's famous settlement of 1682-3. A reference to the Franquelin map... shows the location of two hundred cabins of the Chaouenon at the point where these remains are found.<sup>19</sup> La Salle, says Parkman, "undoubtedly supplied Franquelin with materials" for this map. And Parkman also says: "The Shawanoe camp, or village, is placed on the south side of the river, behind the fort (Starved Rock). The country here is hilly, broken, and now, as in La Salle's time, covered with wood, which, however, soon ends in the open prairie. The village of the Shawanoes on Franquelin's map corresponds with the position of this earthwork."<sup>20</sup>

For the next twenty years or so, little reference was made to the "Old Fort" located up French Canyon. Sometime during the middle 1920s, a local Utica family became interested in the site and begun the commercial exploitation of this archaeological site.<sup>21</sup> Under the direction of John "Jack" Newell, Sr. and his son John "Frank" Newell, Jr., the

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<sup>19</sup> Osman (1895:77) incorrectly refers to the Franquelin map's reference to 200 cabins located within the Shawnee village south of Fort St. Louis. This map notes the presence of "220 h" or "hommes" which more correctly would translate to mean 200 men or inhabitants?

<sup>20</sup> The second edition of the Osman book is dated 1911. For some reason, the story relating to the "Old Fort" was dropped from this later version of the book.

<sup>21</sup> The commercial exploitation of an archaeological site was not unknown in Illinois during this period. Starved Rock became Illinois' second state park in 1911 and the State of Illinois (Department of Public Works and Buildings) actively marketed Starved Rock for both its historical and natural significance. By the 1920s a hotel, dance pavilion, bathing pool, automobile garage, trails, and playground had been established at the park. Of particular interest was the development of an "auto tourist campground" which had been constructed on the bluff overlooking the hotel (near the present day lodge). This auto tourist campground included a shelter house with hot and cold showers, laundry rooms, and toilets as well as tables, benches and cap stoves and was described as "an experiment in human welfare" (Ferguson 1995:103; Department of Public Works and Buildings 1924:7, 22). Starved Rock State Park clearly drew a number of tourists to the region. A model for the commercial exploitation of archaeological sites in northern Illinois had already been established by the Dickson family of Lewiston. During the late 1920s, the family excavated several burial mounds, constructed a make-shift shelter over the exposed remains, and opened them to the paying public. The first archaeological investigations by the Dicksons were conducted February 1927. By 1928 exhibits had been set up for the public, and by the early 1930s, the site was known as a unique tourist attraction—one that the Newell family may well have been familiar with. It is this model of commercial exploitation of an archaeological site that the Newells may have been emulating.

family conducted excavations and permitted tours of their excavations. This program of excavations, which may have been initiated as early as 1926, intensified during the period 1931-33. To the dismay of the staff at the adjacent Starved Rock State Park, the Newell's claimed that the "Old Fort" represented the remains of La Salle's Fort St. Louis. Due in part to the numerous tourists that visited the site and observed the artifacts on display, and the fact that this smacked strongly at the authenticity of the state's claim that La Salle's fort had been located atop Starved Rock, their investigations became the focus of numerous newspaper articles from across the state. It appears that the family's investigations at this site came to a quick halt during late 1933. The Newell family's excavations at the site are covered in detail in the following section of this report.

A photograph published by Charles Paape in the late 1930s appears to represent the location of the Newell Site. In his booklet entitled Starved Rock: History and Romance in the Heart of the West (Paape 1958:18, originally published in 1938), Paape published a picture of a wooded pasture along a valley edge (presumably along the upper reaches of French Canyon and in the vicinity of site 11LS206). The caption for this picture noted that this was "THE SITE OF A FORTIFIED INDIAN VILLAGE." The photograph caption also continued and noted that "At the head of French Canyon is the site of the Shawnee village that was occupied in the time of La Salle's occupation of Starved Rock." Although this photograph appears to have been taken only a few short years after the Newell family's excavations, it does not illustrate any ground disturbance or back-dirt piles one would have associated with these activities. It is interesting to note that Paape (1958:18), like Osman (1895) associated the site not with the French, but with the Shawnee. This photograph may have been a late 1930s attempt to defuse the Newell's claim that the "Old Fort" represented Fort St. Louis.

In 1947, John McGreger (representing the Illinois State Museum) and Kenneth Orr (representing the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago) initiated a joint, multi-year research project of the Starved Rock area known as the Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition. In a progress report after the first season's field work, McGreger and Orr (1947:n.p.) acknowledged the Newell family and state "Mr. And Mrs. John Newell of Utica were most cooperative in allowing us to examine their important collection of historic European materials from the Newell Site, and in sharing their knowledge of the area."<sup>22</sup> This same heavily edited, typewritten draft report noted that

Following the University of Illinois excavation [of 1929-1930], John Newell and his son John, Jr., of Utica, both of whom had served as excavators for the University of Illinois excavation, conducted an independent dig at the Newell Site (Fig. \_\_\_) during 193\_\_\_. This site, a palisaded settlement at the head of Frenchman's Canyon, one half mile south of Starved Rock, yielded quantities of European materials in addition to some aboriginal artifacts (p. \_\_\_). Their carefully preserved

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<sup>22</sup> A slightly later report (representing a re-write of the previously mentioned report) acknowledged the Newells kindness for allowing the "repeated examination" of their collection (McGregor and Orr 1948:n.p.).



finds represent a valuable collection of early European articles (McGreger and Orr 1947:note 2 page 8).

The June 1949 summary report of their archaeological investigations contains a slightly different version of the Newell Site description. Orr (1949:23) noted that

The site of a fortified village located at the head of French Canyon (Fig. 1) was in large part excavated by John Newell of Utica and his son in the early thirties. The collection from this excavation, now in their possession, contains an abundance of early European materials, but only a few aboriginal objects. The Indian materials represented several periods. The fortified village might represent: (1) a European settlement of the Period of Fort St. Louis or later, or (2) an Indian fort such as the "Fort of the Miami," or "Fort of the Shawnee" which appears on maps of the Fort St. Louis period. My own hunch, based on the profusion of European goods and scarcity of aboriginal items at an earlier period of acculturation between the two, and the absence of reference to such a village in the documents relating to Fort St. Louis, is that this was the village of French traders and Jesuits who administered to the Kaskaskia following removal of Fort St. Louis garrison in 1693.

This latter typewritten report on file at the Illinois State Museum contains a sketch map of the various archaeological sites discussed by Orr (1949) within the Starved Rock vicinity. Included on this map is the "fortified village" excavated by the Newell family and clearly identified as the "Newell Site." Besides introducing a new interpretation of the site (that of a trading post), Orr (1949:figure 1) clearly places the Newell Site at the location of Hitt's "Old Fort" as well as IAS site 11LS206." This is one of the best indications that the Newell's were at the "Old Fort" site identified by Hitt.

One of Orr's field notebooks records details about the Newell's artifact collection. This list of material, as described by them (and cited from Hall 1991:25-26), included one whole gun barrel, three partial barrels, five "flint holders" (hammers), five triggers, ten flintlock hammers (batteries), two gunstock butt plates, fifteen flintlock springs, four trigger guards, three powder pans, one lock plant [sic] with "flint holder (hammer) attached", ten ornamental pieces from gun "butts" (stocks), several hundred musket-balls (lead) of various calibers, thirty iron knife fragments, eight iron axes (one whole), one iron nail (13mm-wide and 7-mm thick), fourteen fragments of brass or copper kettles (some with rivets and lugs), 100 copper "tinkling cones", copper bracelets of both rolled and drawn wire, six copper or brass rings with designs (two marked "IHS"), fifty "white, globular glass beads ("bristol" beads), two black, octagonal rosary beads, thirty elliptical white porcelain beads (varying sizes), fifteen blue glass beads with star and half-moon designs inlaid in white (Orchard's 'beads made for the Morrish trade'), twenty-five octagonal blue glass beads, five elliptical polychrome beads, and one raspberry-shaped blue glass bead. According to Hall (1991:26), a second report by this research team added "a copper triangular projectile point, buckles, scissors, thimbles, and rings with

religious symbols” (IHS, TY, small hearts, arrows, etc.) to the list (Hall 1991:25-26). According to Hall (1991:26), the latter report conveyed “the erroneous impression that the Newells’ historic materials were excavated at a site on the Lovers Leap/Eagle Rock bluff.”<sup>23</sup>

Citing Parkman, Keller (1949:14) suggests that there were French traders occupying the Starved Rock area during the early-eighteenth century. Keller (1941:14) noted that “Fort St. Louis of the Illinois was afterwards reoccupied by the French. In 1718, a number of them, *chiefly traders, were living here* [italics added]; but, three years later, it was again deserted, and Charlevoix, passing the spot, saw only the remains of the palisades.” Unfortunately, Keller does not give a reference for Charlevoix, and there seems to be no documentation to support the 1718 date given by him.

Richard Hagen, archaeologist with the Division of Architecture and Engineering (State of Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings) had the opportunity to investigate the archaeological remains located on top of Starved Rock. Hagen, writing in 1950 and arguing that Fort St. Louis was, indeed, on top of Starved Rock, noted that

Even today one can meet residents of Utica, Illinois, who claim that the Fort was on a bluff at the head of French Canyon, or on Lover’s Leap, or at various other locations up and down the river.

One claim for the location of Fort St. Louis, however, must merit attention for the reason that it is based upon archaeological evidence. It is that of John and Jack Newell of Utica, who excavated a palisaded settlement at the head of French Canyon...these are mentioned here only to point up that by employing archaeology the Newells were able to lend credence to their claims (Hagen 1950:9)

Further on within the body of his report, Hagen made additional reference to the Newell excavations.

The Indian materials are somewhat scanty, but, like the collection from Starved Rock, represent many periods or many groups inhabiting the site contemporaneously. The abundant European material includes many gun parts and several hundred musket balls of various calibers. There are iron nails, axes and knives, and brass artifacts such as kettles, projectile points, buckles, scissors, thimbles and bracelets. The beads are varied: large white glass “Bristol” beads, raspberry-shaped beads, spherical and elliptical beads of porcelain, and polychrome beads, all these being types similar to those from Starved Rock. One type peculiar to the Newell Site is a discoidal blue glass bead with a star and crescent inlaid in white; while a notable lack in the collection is the seed bead, although this lack may be

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<sup>23</sup> A search of the Illinois State Museum records for the Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition could not locate the original documents cited by Hall (1991).

due to the method of digging (no screening) (Hagen 1950:51-52).<sup>24</sup>

Mr. Newell believes that his site, and not Starved Rock, is Fort St. Louis. However, the greater part of the documentation and the available archaeological evidence, with nothing to disprove them, would justify the assumption that the Rock was Fort St. Louis –which then leaves the problem of identifying this important Newell Site. We can make several guesses, remembering that the historical documents are sometimes completely lacking in reference to something which we now consider an important problem. This may have been (a) a European stockade contemporaneous with Fort St. Louis, a structure within which trade goods could be stored, or an extension of the settlement around the fort; or (b) it could have been a settlement hinted at in the documents, where French traders and Jesuits traded [traded?] with such Kaskaskias as remained after the fort garrison left in 1693 and with the Iroquois and other peoples moving in and out of the area during the period; or (c) an Indian structure erected with European fort features, which might be the “Fort of the Miami” or the “Fort of the Shawnee” referred to on very early maps. The last seems a reasonable hypothesis, realizing that the preponderance of European goods over Indian at the site, and the very luxuriousness of those goods, would demonstrate a dating of a time by which the inhabitants would have been in sufficient contact with the French to have accumulated and assimilated European items to a point such as the latter’s archaeological abundance would argue (Hagen 1950:52-53).

At about this same time (in October 1953), the State of Illinois printed a new brochure for Starved Rock State Park. Although not mentioning it by name, this brochure made reference to the Newell Site. This brochure stated that “at the head of French Canyon, just off of the park property, are to be found the remains of the Shawnee village which flourished in the time of La Salle” (State of Illinois 1953:n.p.). Although the brochure is probably referring generally to the archaeology of the Starved Rock area, it continues by noting that “many French and Indian relics have been recently uncovered by scientists.”

In writing a short history of Starved Rock, a local historian and writer (Tisher 1956:40-41) noted that it was Colonel Hitt who had identified the “Old Fort” south of Starved Rock and that “he [also] located a ‘well’ to the north of the ‘parapet.’” Tisher (1956) included a poorly executed map that indicated the location of this well in

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<sup>24</sup> Hagen’s reference to the Newells lack of screening is of interest as the current field research employed screens (1/4” hardware cloth). During the course of the present investigations, soil from several piles of dirt presumed to represent back-dirt from the 1930s investigations was screened and yielded no eighteenth-century artifacts.

relationship to the previously mapped earthen embankment.<sup>25</sup> By the middle 1950s, confusion regarding the “Old Fort” was still flourishing. Tisher (1956:40) noted that “what [the “Old Fort”] was used for, who built it and for what purpose has never been determined. Modern archeologists might find the answer, *if amateur diggers have not destroyed much of it* [italics added] and then add still more to the already fascinating lore of the park, so rich in Indian and French history.”

In June 1962, Dr. Robert Hall (University of Illinois at Chicago) interviewed John “Jack” Newell, Jr. about the investigations at the “Old Fort” site. Additionally, Hall visited the site of the investigations with the elder Newell (Hall 1991:24). Although not published until the early 1990s, it was through Hall that we have gained many insights into the Newell’s excavations at the “Old Fort” site. According to Hall (1991:24), the Newell Site represents “either a fortified Indian village or a stockaded trading post of the early French period.” Hall noted that “the site had not been accounted for by existing historical documents nor eliminated as a possible adjunct of Fort St. Louis itself.” Using tree ring information from a 160-year-old black oak tree located within the stockade line ditch provided by Baldwin (1877), Hall determined that the burning of the old “Fort” would have been “some time prior to 1717” (Hall 1991:27). Hall continues by stating that “depending in part upon whether the engraving by Rand McNally took into consideration the delay between the gathering of the data and its actual publication by Elmer Baldwin (1877), the Newells’ fort could actually have been contemporary with Fort St. Louis, as was once suspected...” (Hall 1991:27). It should be added that, assuming that the oak tree was cut and studied by Colonel Hitt during the Parkman visit (1867), and the tree took a couple of years to get established after the abandonment of the earthworks, the date of the abandonment of the earthworks might easily be pushed back to a pre-1705 date. Dr. Hall concluded that the Newell Site conforms to “a fortified village occupied by non-Illinoisian Indian allies of the French at Fort St. Louis during the period 1683-92, or by the Peoria-Illinois in the latter part of the period 1692-1722” (Hall 1991:28). Hall concludes by noting the significance of the Newell Site and by stating that “the extent of the excavations by the Newells was limited enough to suggest that much probably remains for scientific investigation, enough certainly for a surer identification of the site’s inhabitants” (Hall 1991:28).

In the early 1970s, Dr. Margaret Kimball Brown interviewed John “Frank” Newell, Jr., examined the artifacts in the possession of the Newell family, prepared a manuscript describing the artifacts, and provided a brief interpretation of the site (Brown n.d.). It was Margaret Brown who completed the original Illinois Archaeological Survey (IAS) site form for this site (Brown 1974). In reference to the artifact collection, Brown (n.d.) noted that

the collection examined had not only European manufactured articles but

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<sup>25</sup> It is interesting to note that Hall (1991:25) noted that Jack Newell stated that the well (which was three feet in diameter and 14 feet deep) was located in the center of the enclosure and not 204 feet north of the enclosure as suggested by Tisher (1956).

prehistoric artifacts, particularly projectile points. Some of the prehistoric materials may have come from other locations nearby, but all historic artifacts are said to have been found *within the embankment*. The aboriginal materials range in time from Archaic to Historic (*italics added*).

Brown (n.d.:1) also stated that “It was stated by Mr. Newell that additional boxes containing nails, broken glass, seed beads, etc., were in an attic in Utica, Illinois. These boxes were not seen by the author.” Presumably, at this time, these additional items were in John “Jack” Newell, Sr.’s house. Although Brown (n.d.:32) further concluded that the artifacts could have originated from either a Historic Indian encampment and/or a French trading post, she identified the site as a “French trading post (?)” on the I.A.S. site form. Additionally, Brown concluded that (based on Hagen 1950) the location of Fort St. Louis was definitely on top of Starved Rock (Brown n.d.:32). Brown (n.d.:33) also noted that “the large amount of iron scrap, cut fragments of iron bars and cut gun barrels suggest the possibility of a forge.” However, Brown concluded that “a European trading settlement seems most likely, but *the period is not certain as few of the artifacts allow for accurate dating.*” Brown (n.d.:33) further noted that “the artifacts would seem to suggest a post-1693 occupancy of the site, probably by a trading post or at least a wintering point for traders.” As Brown (n.d.:33) notes, and we emphasize in this report, “no information exists in the historical record concerning such a post though, so this must remain a hypothesis awaiting further confirmation or contradiction.”

During the Spring of 1990, avocational archaeologists (Mark Madsen, Jerol Hanlon, Lester Marszalek, and Dale Owen) surveyed the “Old Fort” in French Canyon. These surveyors noted the presence of prehistoric materials along both the west and east sides of the entrenched drainage. Of particular note, the surveyors identified a group of sixteen “circular mounds” (which they suspected had been looted) across the drainage immediately to the west of the “Old Fort” site. Although the surveyors found abundant prehistoric materials (including two Snyders Points), they recovered no historic materials (Madsen and Hanlon n.d.:170-177).

In the early 1990s, Dr. John Walthall (Illinois Department of Transportation) became interested in the Newell Site and the associated artifact collection. At that time, Walthall contacted Francis Newell (grandson of John “Jack” Newell, Sr.) and arranged for the transfer of the Newell artifact collection to the Illinois State Museum for study. As the Newell artifact collection contained materials from several sites, Dr. Walthall removed only those materials that he suspected as belonging to the “Old Fort” site, leaving a wide range of prehistoric materials with the Newell family. In cooperation with Margaret Kimball Brown, Walthall elaborated on Brown’s earlier inventory of the Newell collection (Brown n.d.). The combined and revised Brown and Walthall document has been presented as an appendix of this report.

About this same time period, Dr. Walthall authored an article describing the thirty Jesuit rings that had been found in Illinois over the years. Nine of the thirty rings discussed by Walthall were reported to have come from the Newell Site (Walthall 1993).

Discussing the Newell artifact collection, Walthall (1993:499) stated that “the collection consists of large quantities of French trade material, as well as cut and worked metal debris, which indicates the former presence of a smith at the site. Taken as a whole, the data at hand indicate that the Newell Site represents a French outpost, which by artifact comparisons can be firmly dated to the first quarter of the eighteenth century. The written record, however, suggests that these components were abandoned by 1720.” In yet another location within this same article, Walthall (1993:499) states that “in 1711, the year before the outbreak of the Fox War, a group of Peoria, *accompanied by French traders* [italics added], moved back up river to Starved Rock (Thwaites 1900 Volume 66:287). The Peoria occupied the summit of Starved Rock and a nearby terrace that has been referred to as the Hotel Plaza site (Schnell 1974). *A fortified outpost* [italics added], known as the Newell Site, was constructed during this period 1.5 km up French Canyon from the Rock (Hall 1991).”

Dr. Walthall’s (1993:499) reference to the Peoria being accompanied by French traders apparently comes from Thwaites (1900 Volume 66:287) which references Marest’s encounter with the Peoria Indians and Frenchmen at Starved Rock (See earlier discussion). Walthall (1993) also appears to cite Hall (1991) when he describes the Newell Site as a “fortified outpost” constructed during “this period”. Although “this period” is left undefined by Walthall (1993), the date of 1711 is referenced earlier. Hall (1991) does state that the Newell Site could have been occupied by the Peoria between 1692 and 1722, and does suggest the fortification could have been burned before 1717 (based on the analysis of the oak tree rings). But Hall (1991) does not say when it may have been constructed and does not suggest the French had anything to do with the site.

Walthall (1993:499) places the date of abandonment for the Newell Site at circa 1720. This date appears to have been based on his interpretation of the accounts of the Charlevoix and Delisle visits to the area in 1721 and 1722, respectively. Walthall (1993:499) noted that

The French troops in the area, commanded by DeLiette, were recalled to Canada in 1719, and Quebec was forbidden to establish any other post in the Illinois Country, which had been transferred to the jurisdiction of the newly formed Louisiane Colony (Faye 1945:45).<sup>26</sup> The Peoria came under increasingly furious attacks by the Fox, and when the area was visited by Charlevoix in September of 1721, the Peoria had sought refuge on an island in the Illinois River. In the 1761 publication of his travel journals, Charlevoix related that he crossed over the river and climbed to the summit of Starved Rock, where he recorded the presence of a deserted and decaying Indian village (the 1711-1720 Peoria settlement). Delisle traveled to the Starved Rock area the following year (1722) and records that the Peoria of the Rock abandoned the area that year, fleeing south to seek refuge among the Illini living near the French garrison at Fort de

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<sup>26</sup> Dr. Walthall’s reference to Faye (1945:45) in this citation should be Faye (1945:49).

Chartres (Faye 1945).

The absence of any references in the historic accounts of a second French fort or trading post weakens Walthall's interpretation of the site as a French occupation. This is especially true since Hall (1991), looking at the same collection, concluded it was not French but Native American. The work of Zitomersky (1994) and Esarey (1997) provide much detail that at the time would have made Walthall's 1993 discussion clearer.

By the middle 1990s, several authors began to make reference to the Newell Site. In 1994, Douglas Kullen, citing Hall (1991), described the Newell Fort as producing evidence of a palisade surrounding an Indian village dating from around 1717-1722 (Kullen 1994:13). Similarly, Judith Franke's (1995) French Peoria and the Illinois Country, 1673-1846 contains several references to the Newell Site. Regarding the history of the upper Illinois River valley, Franke (1995:29) noted that, between 1703 and 1711, Delliette (de Liette) "was the only French agent in the area." Unfortunately, this manuscript does not contain footnotes nor references, and the source of this statement is unclear. Franke (1995:29) continues by noting that the years 1712 through 1720 were turbulent times for the region. At that time, both the French fur trade and safety of the Illinois Indians were being threatened by incursions of the warring Fox Indians. According to Franke (1995:29), "in 1715, the Governor of Québec gave Delliette eight soldiers and a sergeant to reestablish a fort on the Illinois. *This post may be that identified by archaeologists as the Newell Fort* at Starved Rock. In 1719, however, Delliette was again at Peoria... [italics added]." Franke (1995:29) is the first to suggest that the Newell Site may represent a fortification occupied by de Liette between 1715 and 1719. Unfortunately, she offers no references for her conclusions.

At a latter point in her book, Franke (1995:72) states that "there was a French military post under the command of Delliette in the area [of the Rock] from about 1716 to 1719. This post may have been on the Rock itself, or it may have been at the location known to archaeologists as the Newell Site." Franke (1995:72) gives a less-than-stellar description of the site. She notes that the site was "encircled by a trench" as opposed to a low earthen embankment. Additionally, Franke (1995:72) noted that "around the outer limits of the enclosed space were 21 buildings which had been destroyed by fire." This contradicts Hall (1991) which placed the structures on the inside of the earthen enclosure. Although it appears that this description may have originated from Hall (1991), Franke (1995:72) provides no references.

Franke (1995:72) summarizes by stating that "the character of the objects found is consistent with identification of the site as a French military or trading post dating to about 1711 to 1720, perhaps the post commanded by Delliette." In yet another location, Franke (1995:88) suggests that the Newell "Fort" may represent the fort established by Delliette in 1715 and abandoned in 1720. Franke's interpretation is heavy in speculation with no references provided to support any of the claims about the placement of the de Liette fort or the function of the Newell Site.

In his manuscript “Seasonal Occupation Patterns in Illinois History: A Case Study in the Lower Illinois River Valley”, Duane Esarey (1997:188-191) evaluated the movement of the Peoria Indians between the years 1706 and 1717. He made no reference to a French trading post in the Starved Rock region during these years. Similarly, Esarey (1997) agrees with Zitomersky (1994) on the occurrence of aboriginal settlements at Starved Rock during this period.

In 1998, Harold Hassen and Mark Esarey examined the Colonel Hitt archival collection in the Illinois State Historical Library. No references to the Newell Site were noted and the collection failed to provide any additional information.

Finally, the most recent reference relevant to the “Old Fort” or Newell Site occurs in the recent draft report entitled Archaeological Investigations of the Grand Village of the Illinois (Rohrbaugh et al. 1998). In that report Emerson references the return of the Peoria-Illinois to the region and states that “they were present in the area when Deliette *re-established a fort on Starved Rock in 1714 and remained in the general area after the fort was abandoned in 1718* [italics added]” (Rohrbaugh et al. 1998:9). Unfortunately, there is no extant historic documentation establishing that Deliette re-established a fort at Starved Rock between 1714 and 1718 (see previous discussion).. Although a post appears to have been established among the Peoria at this time, it originally was not garrisoned and its location on Starved Rock is questionable.

In conclusion, it is unlikely that the origin and use of the Newell Site will be documented in the historic literature. Clearly, there are many historic references to both Frenchmen and Native Americans in the vicinity of Starved Rock during the late eighteenth and early eighteenth centuries. Unfortunately, none of these references are clear to what may have been located at the “Old Fort” site, otherwise known as the Newell Site. As many previous authors have noted, the answers to who built the site, when it was constructed, and what it was used for, must ultimately depend upon the analysis of the archaeological data.



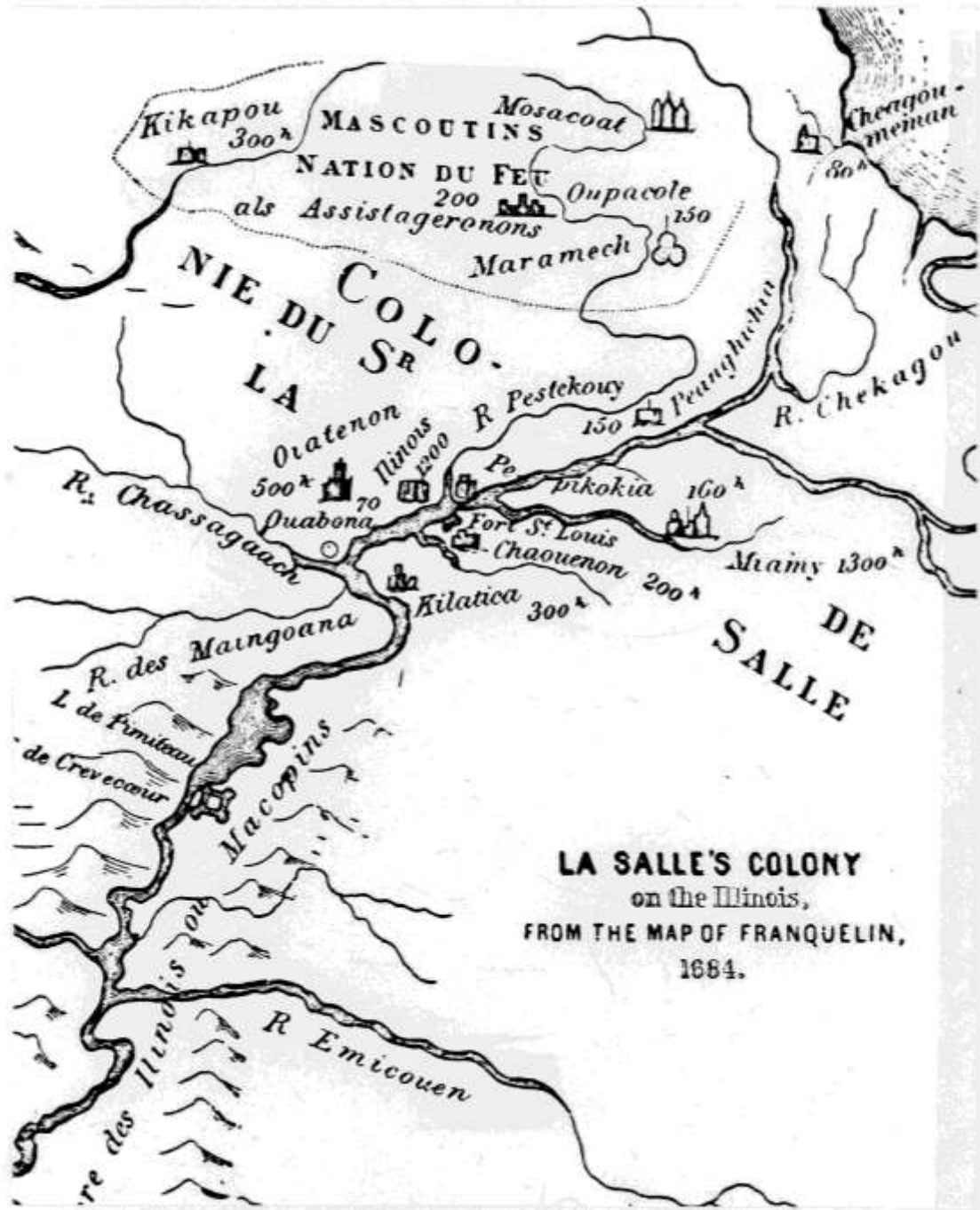


Figure 4. Detail of the Franquelin (1684) map illustrating the upper Illinois River colony and fort established by La Salle (as redrawn for Parkman 1869:294-95; See also Tucker 1942: Plate LIX).



Figure 5. Detail of the Franquelin (1688) map illustrating the upper Illinois River Valley and La Salle's Fort St. Louis (Tucker 1942: Plate XIB). Although this map is barely legible, Franquelin's earlier map (dated 1684) is even worse. As such, we have presented Tankersley's redrawn versions of both maps in the following figure.

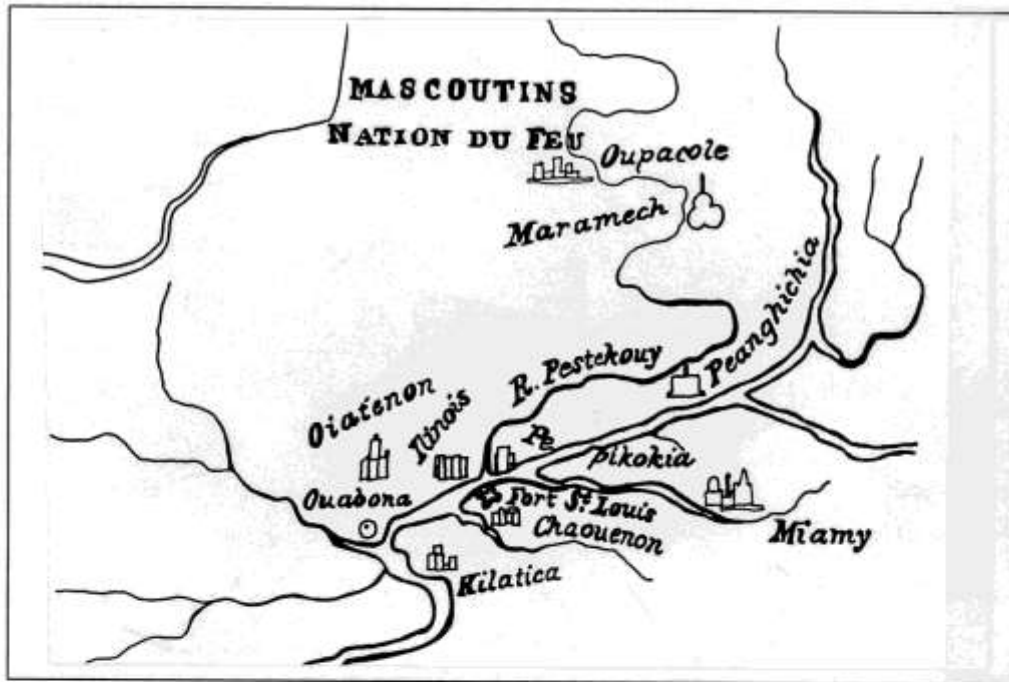


Figure 6. Detail of Franquelin's 1684 (top) and 1688 (bottom) maps illustrating the upper Illinois River valley, La Salle's Fort St. Louis, and agglomerated Indian villages (from Tankersley 1992:124-125).



Figure 7. Detail of the Minet (1685) map illustrating the upper Illinois River Valley and La Salle's Fort (Tucker 1942: Plate VII).

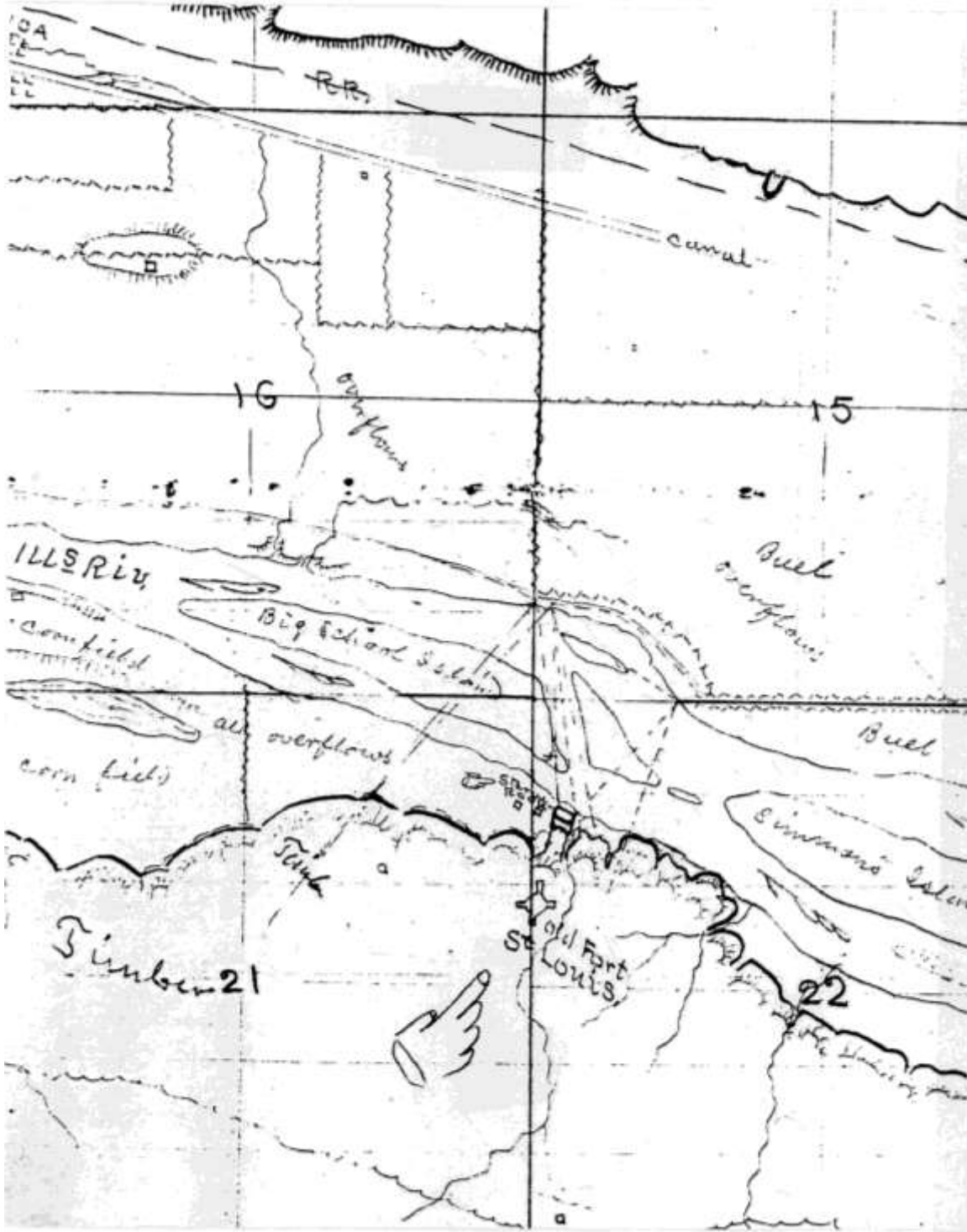


Figure 8. Detail of 1867 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers map illustrating the upper Illinois River valley near Starved Rock. Notice location of hand pointing to “Fort St. Louis” (Deiss 1990, 1991; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers 1867). Note that the “Old Fort” or Newell Site is not illustrated on this map.

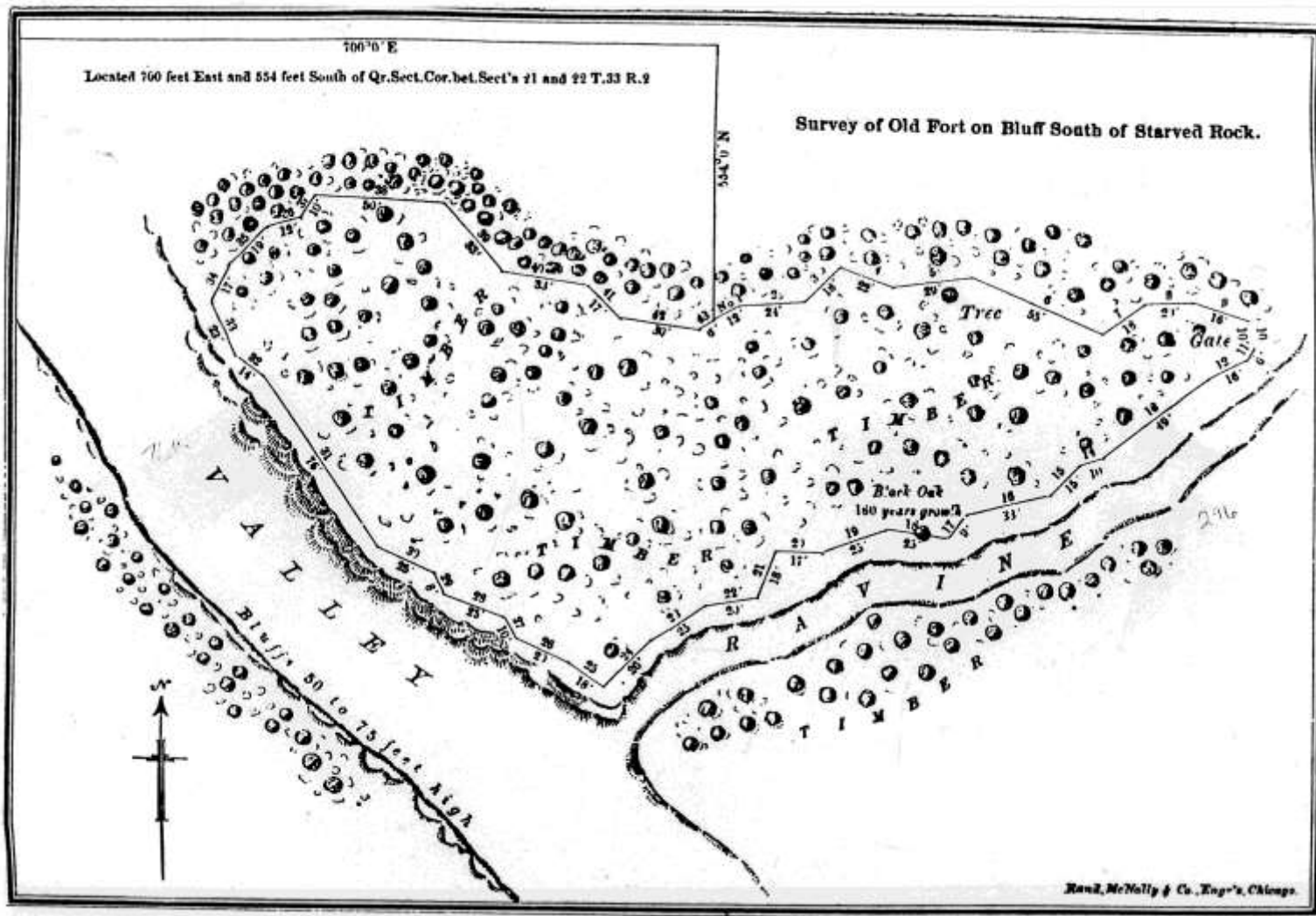


Figure 9. "Survey of Old Fort on Bluff South of Starved Rock" as drawn by Colonel Hitt (Baldwin 1877:339).

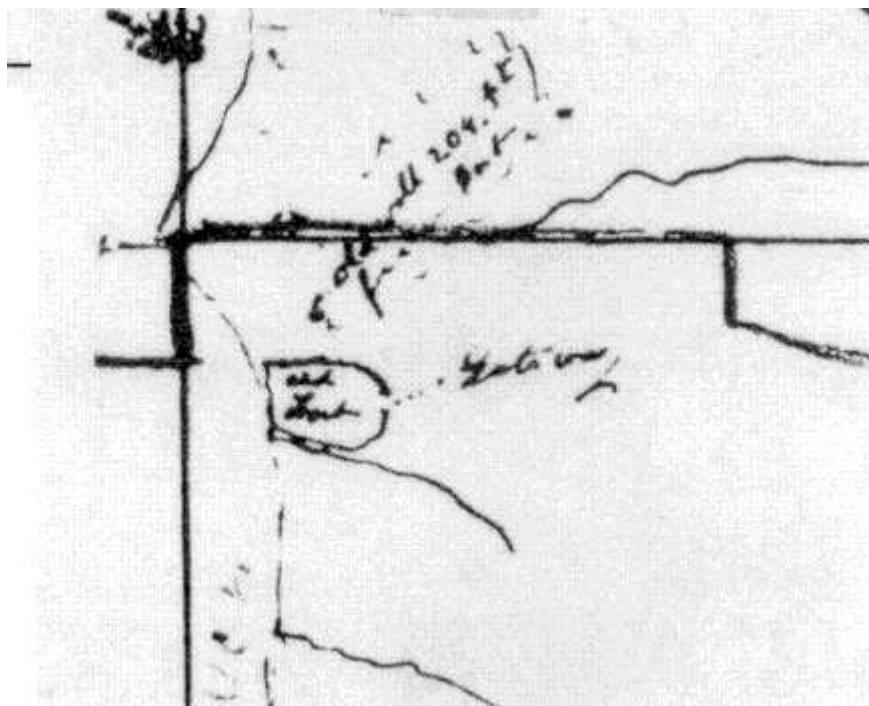
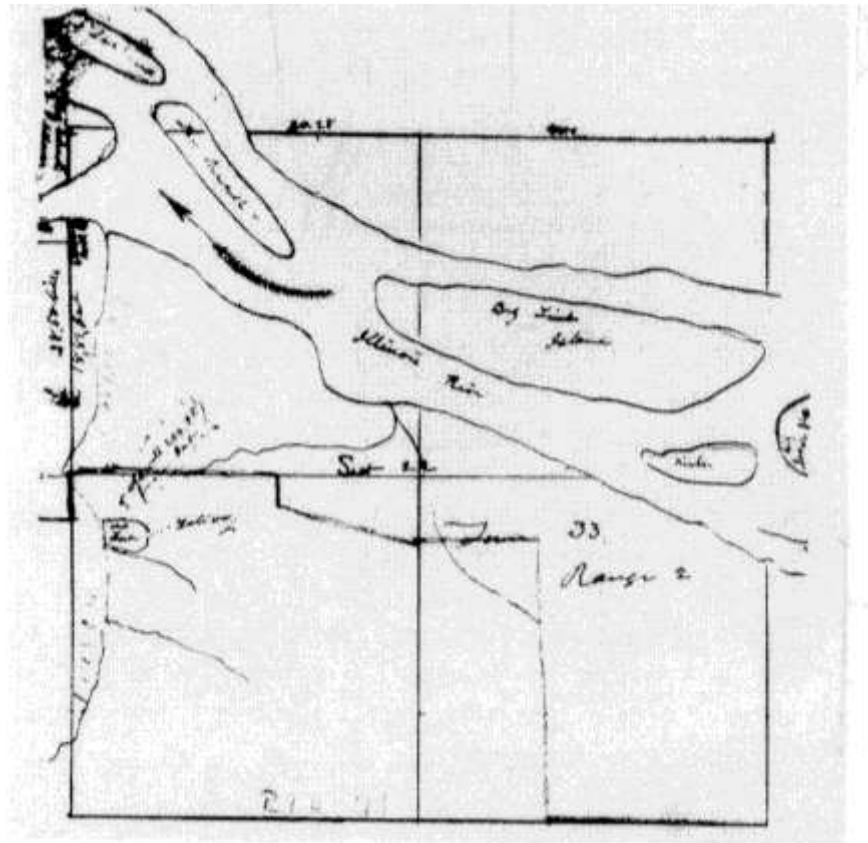


Figure 10. Detail of map prepared by C. Tisher (1956:19) illustrating the “Old Fort” in relationship to the “gateway” as well as the “Old Well 204 ft. from the Fort.”

## THE NEWELL FAMILY INVESTIGATIONS

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, under the direction of John “Jack” Newell, Sr. and his son John “Frank” Newell, Jr., the “Old Fort” identified by Colonel Hitt near Starved Rock State Park was excavated by avocational archaeologists. Jack Newell was from nearby Utica, and had obtained a lease from the local landowner (a Mr. James Mitchell) to excavate the “Old Fort” site for ten dollars per year (Hall 1991:24).<sup>27</sup>

Exactly when the Newell family began exploring the “Old Fort” site is unclear. Most references to the Newell’s work at the site suggest that their investigations were conducted during the early 1930s (circa 1931-33). In an interview with Robert Hall, Jack Newell implied that the work did not begin until sometime after late 1929; as he noted, they began “looking for a location to find arrowheads to sell for a profit during the depression. In looking for places to dig he eventually went to the Lovers Leap bluff next to Starved Rock, to the “Gorbet” farm (Corbin farm), and then to the enclosure at the head of French Canyon, which was owned by James Mitchell...” (Hall 1991:24).<sup>28</sup>

Although the elder Newell suggests that he began excavating at the site during “the Depression,” a letter from 1926 within the Newell collection suggests that the family may have been excavating at the site much earlier than the early 1930s. This letter, which was from a Mr. Ed Shannon (1817 North Kimball Avenue, Chicago) was addressed to “My dear friend Mr. Newell” and was dated November 5, 1926 –nearly three years prior to the economic crash of October 1929 and the beginning of the Great Depression. Mr. Shannon was writing to inquire if the Newell family was still working the “Old Fort” site (“...let me know if you are still at *the Fort*, how has the luck been, I hope good”), and if they were, he would be over “in a week or two” to assist them. Mr. Shannon also recommended two books (one authored by a Mr. Parrish and entitled Historic Illinois and the other one entitled The Romance of Early Illinois) on Illinois history that he thought would have been pertinent to Mr. Newell’s research.<sup>29</sup> Shannon’s opening remarks “After so long of a time will keep my promise to you...” infers that Shannon met the

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<sup>27</sup> James Mitchell’s son Edwin married Elizabeth Newell (Jack Newell’s daughter). Correspondence during the early 1930s suggest that Frank was unmarried and enjoying the notoriety that the site gave him, especially with the young ladies.

<sup>28</sup> See Ferguson (1995) for descriptions of all three sites which are currently located within the boundaries of Starved Rock State Park. The Corbin Farm Site has been formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>29</sup> I suspect that Mr. Shannon was confused and was referring to the single book by Randall Parrish (1858-1923) entitled Historic Illinois, The Romance of Earlier Days. This book was published in 1905 by A. C. McClurg and Company of Chicago and contained approximately 50 illustrations relating to Illinois history. On a small scrap of paper, one of the Newells also scribbled a reference to “Atwood’s History –3 Vol.” (Newell Collection, Illinois State Museum). Also in the Newell Collection is a newspaper clipping for a “want ad” (presumably placed by the Newells) which notes “Wanted To Buy: Histories of La Salle County: especially Baldwin’s. Call Phone 197-2.”



Newell's at some earlier period, and suggests that the Newell family may have been investigating this site prior to the summer of 1926.<sup>30</sup>

It is interesting to note that the Newell's investigations of the "Old Fort" site seems to have intensified during the period 1931 to 1933 –immediately after the culmination of Dr. Kelly's 1929-1930 research and fieldwork in the Utica region. Jack Newell was not unfamiliar with archaeological methods, having worked earlier with Dr. A. R. Kelly (then with the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana) at the Plum Island site and Utica Mound Group –two substantial sites located immediately nearby (Hall 1991:24).<sup>31</sup> According to Hall (1991:24), Jack's son John, Jr. (Frank), "laid out the site in squares and [the] excavation proceeded using pointing trowels, whisk brooms, ice picks, and tiling shovels, techniques they had apparently learned from working with Dr. A. R. Kelly... ."

According to Jack Newell, artifacts were not sold from the site, and funds were raised by placing a hat next to the excavation unit for donations from visiting tourists (Hall 1991:24).<sup>32</sup> Entries in a small weekly (?) journal from 1933 indicate that the Newell's charged a ten cent "donation" per person to view the excavations.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> As Shannon wrote his letter in November 1926, it is not unreasonable to suspect that his reference to an earlier period of time might only refer to sometime during the spring or summer of 1926.

<sup>31</sup> Professional archaeological investigations at the Utica Mound Group (11LS1), which is a large Middle Woodland mound and village complex located immediately west of Utica across the river from Starved Rock, were conducted during the summer and/or fall of 1929 by a Mr. Percy Hodges (who was working under the direction of Dr. Warren K. Moorehead, then working for the University of Illinois). Work at this site was completed during the winter of 1929 by Dr. Kelly (Henriksen 1965:1). Kelly also worked the following spring at the Plum Island Site (11LS2) from June through September 1930 (Fenner 1963:3). The Plum Island Site is a large, multi-component village located on an island immediately in front of Starved Rock (Kelly and Cole 1931; Fenner 1963).

It is interesting to note that the Newell's investigations at the "Old Fort" site did not intensify until the period 1931 to 1933 –which is immediately after Dr. Kelly's work in the Utica region. It may be that the Newell's had worked with Kelly the previous two field seasons (1929 and 1930), only working intermittently on their own prior to the 1929 field season. As Kelly did not return to the region in 1931, the Newell's were left to fend for themselves financially after that point –thus they intensified their work at the "Old Fort."

<sup>32</sup> Starved Rock became a state park in 1911. During the first couple of decades of the twentieth century, the park was the focus of many informational booklets and tour guides (cf. Amell Publishing Company 1912; Bennett 1919;Graham n.d.; Hammond 1894; Illinois Valley Railway 1905; Jessup 1906; Loomis 1910; Rhodes 1914; Wright 1901). It was at this same time that Edgar Lee Masters wrote his Starved Rock (Masters 1919).

<sup>33</sup> Within the Newell Collection are several small pieces of scrap paper (many from old flour bags) that contain one of the Newell's daily (?) tallies. Also present is a small, hand-stitched notebook from the latter half of 1933 which contains a series of weekly (weekend?) entries. Together, it appears that the Newells took in, on average, one to three dollars per day (or weekend?). Their total for July 4, 1933 (which was \$6.00) represents one of the highest noted in the papers. The Newells apparently were keeping track of the paying and non-paying visitors to the site. Generally, these notebooks are arranged in two columns with each column subdivided into an "A" (for Adult) and "K" (for Kid or Child). One of these columns was

Additionally, it appears that the two entrepreneurs printed and sold post cards of their excavations. A receipt in the collection notes that they ordered 200 post cards (for the sum of \$6.00) from the Snap Shot Shop in nearby Peru. In yet another location, they note that they “sold 6 cards” at a nickel each. As correspondence in the collection suggests, these post cards apparently were also sent to various businesses and individuals to promote and draw visitors to the site.

Through the course of these investigations the Newell family met many new friends with similar interests.<sup>34</sup> Letters within the Newell Collection attest to the numerous people who were visiting the site during this period and becoming intrigued by what the Newells were doing at the site. One such letter to Frank and John was from Dwight “Irish” Hurd, a “fellow archaeologist” from Villa Park (dated August 4, 1932). It’s author inquired

Well, dopes how is the digging coming along? Have you dug up any rifles or parts of them since we left? As soon as I got home I started to tell my pals of the two dopes I met up at Starved Rock! But I also told them of the kind of work you are doing, and of Ft. St. Louis, and then to a few trusted pals about Starved Rock. Right away they wanted to go out there. So, we figured to come out there next Tues. (Aug. 9)...

Several black and white photographs of visitors posing at the “log cabin” at the site date from the summers of 1931 and 1932 are present in the Newell Collection. Some of these photographs represent pictures of Jack and Frank Newell taken by the tourists and later sent to them.<sup>35</sup> One of these photographs indicate the presence of a tent pitched on-site adjacent to the log cabin. One such letter was simply addressed “The Diggers/ Fort St. Louis, Ill./ Near Starved Rock.”

By the early 1930s, the Newell’s activity at the “Old Fort” site began to catch the attention of both the local and state media. In August 1932, the Chicago Daily Tribune carried a short note on “Fort St. Louis” written by J. E. March, Justice of the Peace which stated

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often marked “Good” (indicating a paying visitor) and associated with a dollar amount. The second column was often marked “Back” and/or “Bad.” No dollar amounts were associated with these visitors. On one scrap of paper is noted “Free/ 3 boys/ 3 girls” and what may represent “3 Service Men”.

<sup>34</sup> Within the collection are several letters and business cards from the many visitors that came to the site and became intrigued by the Newells’ investigations. Although these are mainly from northern Illinois, some came from as far away as the east coast and Colorado.

<sup>35</sup> This cabin was a small log structure that appears to have been located at the site. Whether this cabin was present prior to the Newell’s investigations or constructed by the family to store tools is unknown. The photographs of this structure document a building in various stages of disrepair, and indicate that the logs were fairly deteriorated and that the roof was constructed of a combination of planks and slab wood –as if it had been only recently constructed. One picture indicates that the roof was not present on the one side.

Utica, Ill., Aug. 20. –I have wondered why the attention of tourists has not been called to an historic spot in Illinois called Fort St. Louis, located on state route 7A, one mile east of Starved Rock entrance. Visiting this spot recently I find that two men are working there steadily excavating the site of what is claimed to be old Fort St. Louis. A most interesting collection of Indian, French, and early settler relics are on exhibition (Newell Collection files).

It was probably during this period that the Newell family began to commercialize their activity at the “Old Fort” site. During the spring of the following year (May 1933), Frank Newell purchased 1,000 business cards (for the price of \$1.50) that taunted tourists to “VISIT FORT ST. LOUIS” and giving them directions in relationship to the entrance of Starved Rock State Park. Three different varieties of these business cards have survived (Newell Collection, Illinois State Museum; see Figure 16). One notes that “EXCAVATIONS NOW IN PROGRESS/RELIQS BEING FOUND DAILY” while the another notes that “Relics on Display/Old Log Cabin Also On Fort.” In the four corners of two of the cards are the words INTERESTING, HISTORICAL, LOGICAL, and EDUCATIONAL which highlight the apparent reasons for visiting the site. By late summer 1933, Frank Newell was sending pictures of his “log cabin” with his business card and a letter to various businessmen (such as Mr. H. W. Lukins of the Streator National Bank and Mr. Gary Brignall of the Lite Soap Company of Aurora) probably in an effort to drum up visitors to the site.

At about this same time, the Newell family placed a large sign along the hard road (State Route 7A) directing tourists to their site. This sign was placed near the intersection of Route 7A with the entrance to Starved Rock State Park (which was located approximately one-quarter mile or 80 rods west of the entrance to the Mitchell property). A portion of the apparent text of this sign was written on a page of an old ledger book found in the Newell collection. It reads “SEE/ FORT ST. LOUIS./ ESTB. 1673 BY FRENCH/ FATHER MARQUETTE AND HENRI TONTI/ 80 RODS EAST/ TURN...” Apparently, visitation to the site was good. Another page of this ledger book contains the handwritten text of a tour of the “Old Fort” site (See Appendix I for complete transcription of this tour). This text may have been prepared to help train guides to assist in the management of the site when the Newell family was not present.

On July 28, 1933, the Chicago Daily Tribune's *Voice of the People* carried a second letter to the editor on “Fort St. Louis” which was written by Anthony Cefaratti and William Heymans. This letter stated

Chicago, July 21. –We have just returned from a week's stay at the Starved Rock State park. By chance we happened to visit a place called Fort St. Louis, located near the upper end of French canyon just off of route 7-A, east of Starved Rock entrance. While staying at the rock we spent most of our time watching the men excavating the site of the old fort. During this stay we saw them unearth many French as well as Indian

relics. Ever since the day of our first visit to the fort we have wondered why it has not been drawn to the attention of tourists. We also have thought it peculiar that the celebrated fort is reported to have been located atop the rock, since they have never found any proof of this in relics or documents. We think that the men working here have uncovered sufficient proof to disprove the statement that the fort was located on the rock (Newsprint dated July 28, 1933, Newell Collection).

Another slightly later issue of the Chicago Daily Tribune carried a rebuttal to Cefaratti's and Heymans' July 28, 1933 letter to the editor. This rebuttal, which was written by Robert Kingery, stated that

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 12. –Some days ago there appeared in the Voice of the People a short letter advising that relics were being uncovered on the site of Fort St. Louis off the Starved Rock State park property. The state of Illinois very carefully investigated the matter before erecting on the top of Starved Rock itself, within the park property, a bronze tablet stating that La Salle built his fort on the rock. It is possible that the site being advertised by private owners near Starved Rock State park as the location of Fort St. Louis was a burial ground not far from the fort itself or some other location of great historic interest. It should not be advertised and marked as the site of Fort St. Louis. Proof that we have not misrepresented things is to be found in volumes of documents starting with an explicit description from none other than La Salle himself. We do not want people to believe that we have erected a marker without thorough investigation by the Illinois State Historical library and society (Undated newsprint, Newell Collection).

Kingery continued by citing La Salle's description of the fort and its setting atop a prominent rock outcrop such as that represented by Starved Rock. Kingery was the Director of the State of Illinois' Department of Public Works and Buildings, and ultimately was the one responsible for the authenticity of the state's restoration and historic interpretation program that was in full force at this time. Heyman cut Kingery's rebuttal from the Chicago newspaper and sent it to the Newell family along with a short, handwritten letter that noted

I just found an article in the 'Voice of the People' by a fellow that disagrees with the article we put in. I am enclosing it. What do you think of it? I hope you are having lots of luck and will show these bright people something about Fort St. Louis (Undated letter, Newell Collection).

By this time, things apparently were beginning to heat up for the entrepreneurs working at the "Old Fort" site. On August 15, 1933, an unidentified newspaper carried a short story entitled "VANDALS WRECK SIGNS ALONG 7A NEAR STATE PARK." This article, which alleged that the Newell's sign was destroyed by state workers, states

that

Two private owned signs on private property along Route 7-A in the vicinity of Starved Rock state park have been torn down and wrecked. One of the signs was the property of John Daeck, owner of the Deer Park filling station at Deer Park corners. Another sign which contained misinformation was owned by parties who claim they have discovered the real location of Fort St. Louis. Both were torn down between darkness and daybreak.

It is represented that men employed by the state appeared at the refreshment stand of Arazio and E. Epstein, across the highway from Starved Rock tourist camp armed with a flash light Friday night. The light was thrown upon a large sign standing on Epstein's property. One of the Epstein brother's appeared and ordered the men off his ground. Daeck says his sign, which was erected at considerable expense, was torn down and broken into pieces (August 15, 1933 newsprint, Newell Collection).

The reference to the "misinformation" on the sign clearly indicates that the reporter was not supportive of the Newell's project.

A day later, on August 16, 1933, the Ottawa Daily Republican-Times carried a commentary similar to that written by Kingery. This commentary, entitled "The Twisting Of History For Gain," stressed the "misinformation" being spread by the Newell's in their commercial venture. This unsigned letter noted that

Considerable misinformation concerning the location of Fort St. Louis, built by Henry de Tonti under the direction of La Salle, French explorer, has been spread through the press of the state this year, in an effort to promote a private enterprise. Private parties have uncovered on private property what in all probability was a stockade, used by early fur traders in the vicinity of what now is Starved Rock State park. This, the public is told, was Fort St. Louis. It is not probable that the state of Illinois would place a bronze tablet atop Starved Rock designating it as the site of the fort erected by La Salle's expedition and named to honor Louis XIV without having investigated the authenticity of the story.

After the late summer of 1933, no other news articles or letters were found regarding the Newell family's work at the site of the "Old Fort." Perhaps the state's attempt (both through the press --and if we are to believe the press, through late-night strong-arm tactics to destroy signage) to refute the Newell's claim that the "Old Fort" site represented the remains of Fort St. Louis were effective, and it would appear that the Newell's no longer conducted excavations at the site after the fall of 1933. The last entry in the small ledger book used by the Newells to record the number and amount of donations during the later half of 1933 was dated September 17, 1933 --and may represent

the last day that tourists visited the site with the Newell family.

A large, framed, black and white photograph of Jack and Frank Newell at the “Old Fort” site was found in the University of Chicago’s Starved Rock Collection which is housed at the Illinois State Museum. This photograph, which was taken in 1947, depicts a considerably older father and son visiting the site for the benefit of the University of Chicago’s and Illinois State Museum’s joint Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition. Similar black and white photographs of the Newell artifact collection (taken while in glass cases presumably within the Newell house) are currently in the Newell collection. These well-worn photographs may also date to the same time period, having been taken by the Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition research team. Log books written by Kenneth Orr suggest that the research team visited the Newell family on several occasions and gleaned a wide range of information regarding the archaeology of the region from the family (cf. Orr 1948a, b).

According to Jack Newell’s testimony, the family excavated approximately two-thirds of the entire “Old Fort” site between the summer of 1926 and the fall of 1933 (Hall 1991:24).<sup>36</sup> According to Hall (1991), the Newell’s excavated “the entire outline of the enclosure.” Unfortunately, the Newell’s left behind very little documentation regarding their investigations. Two portions of what appears to represent a single, relatively indecipherable map are present in the Newell Collection.<sup>37</sup> This hand drawn map, which was not drawn to scale, indicates the presence of an outer line (presumably representing the low earthen embankment or palisade) with several linear measurements noted along that line. An opening in the one end, which probably indicates the “gate” indicated on the Baldwin (1877) map, was simply marked “10 ft.” Drawn inside this outer line are two small rectangles and one large polygon. The large polygon appears to represent another “palisade” located within the eastern half of the enclosure (assuming that the gate was located on the east side of the structure). As Hall (1991:2) noted, Newell claimed that “one-quarter of the whole stockade line, the part on the northwest, was double with the walls ‘3 rods’ (49.5 feet) apart.” Hall (1991:25) interpreted this to mean the stockade had been rebuilt, and thus, this large polygon (albeit not on the northwest side of the enclosure) may represent the original enclosure location. The two smaller rectangles (one indicated as being 17’ by 51’ in size, the other 15-16.5’ by 20’ in size) were located along the northwest “corner” of the enclosure. Unfortunately, this map is very difficult to decipher (See Figure 17).

One of the more fruitful sources of information regarding these investigations was the multiple oral interviews conducted by Margaret Brown (Brown n.d.) and Robert Hall (Hall 1991) with members of the Newell family. Both Jack and Frank Newell were

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<sup>36</sup> John “Jack” Newell, Sr. was interviewed by Dr. Robert Hall in June 1962 when Mr. Newell was 82 years old (Hall 1991:24). At that time, Hall observed “a small cabinet of historic artifacts from the fort site, and visited the site with Newell himself.”

<sup>37</sup> The larger sheet appears to represent the eastern three-quarters of the “Old Fort” site as drawn by Hitt. The smaller sheet appears to represent the western end of the site.

interviewed by these researchers. Insights into the character of the site were obtained from these interviews. According to Hall (1991:25)

the entire outline of the enclosure was excavated by the Newells. Below the surface this outline was represented by a trench whose fill was three to four feet deep and about three feet wide but said to have been without evidence of individual postholes. Newell said there was a gap in the enclosure trench at the east end, an 'entrance,' which he remembered to be about fourteen feet wide; Colonel Hitt's plan records a ten-foot gap in the surface indications of the enclosure at the same point. Newell said that one-quarter of the whole stockade line, the part on the northwest, was double with the walls '3 rods' (49.5 feet) apart (Hall 1991:25).

As mentioned above, Hall (1991:25) interpreted this statement to indicate that the stockade had been rebuilt sometime during its use. Hall (1991:25) continued by stating that

Newell further noted that he excavated twenty-one houses within the stockade, each rectangular in outline, formed into a "circle" and set apart from the stockade line "a short distance." Twenty-one houses, each say, twelve by eighteen feet in dimensions, would occupy only 4,536 square feet, about one-tenth of an acre. Jack Newell's son John showed me the distribution of houses within the enclosure by placing eight marks on a copy of Colonel Hitt's plan in a pattern roughly concentric with the outline of the stockade line. The houses were said to have been destroyed by fire. In the center of the stockaded enclosure was a round feature three feet across and fourteen feet deep, called by the Newell's a 'well.' (Hall 1991:25).

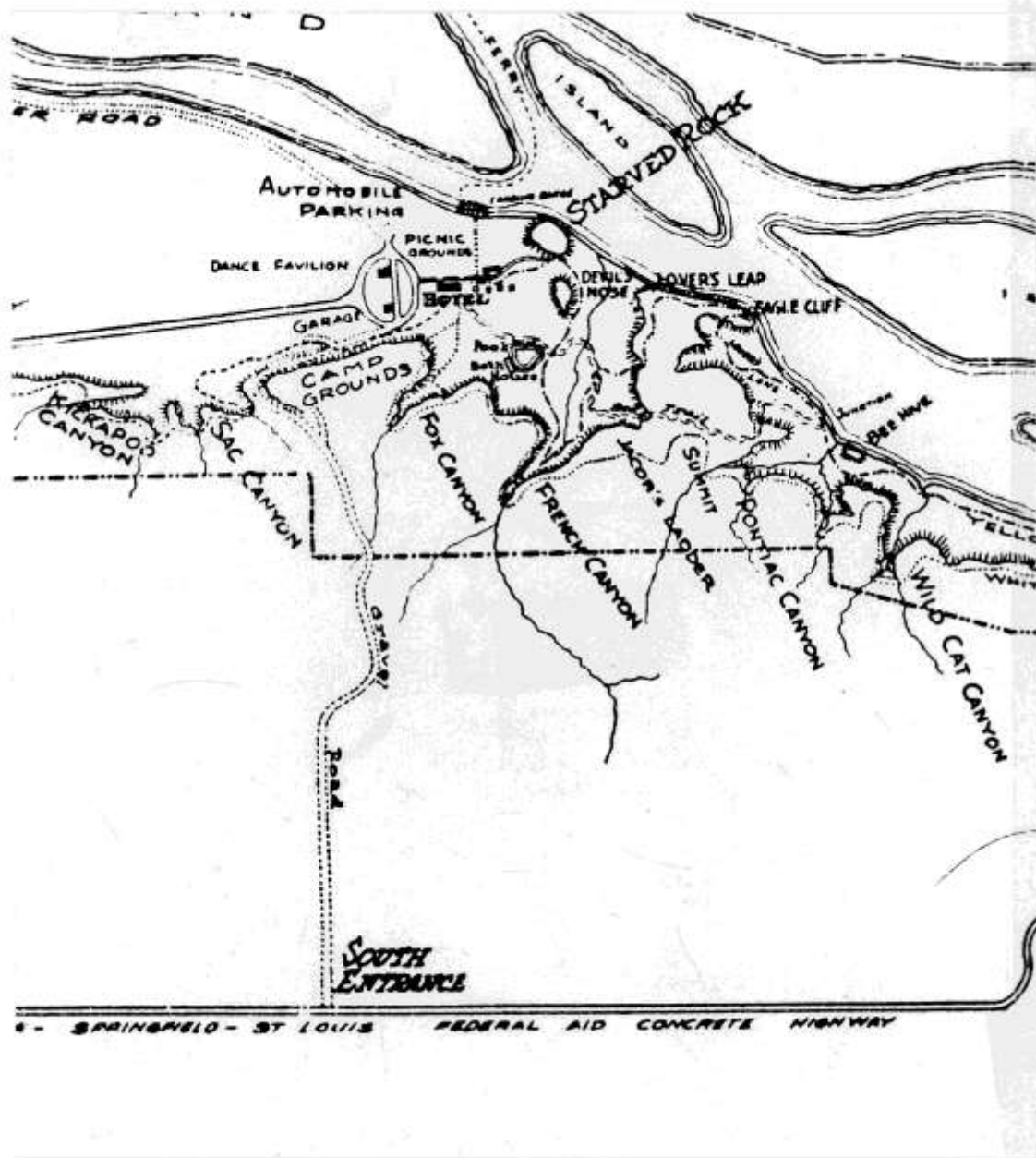


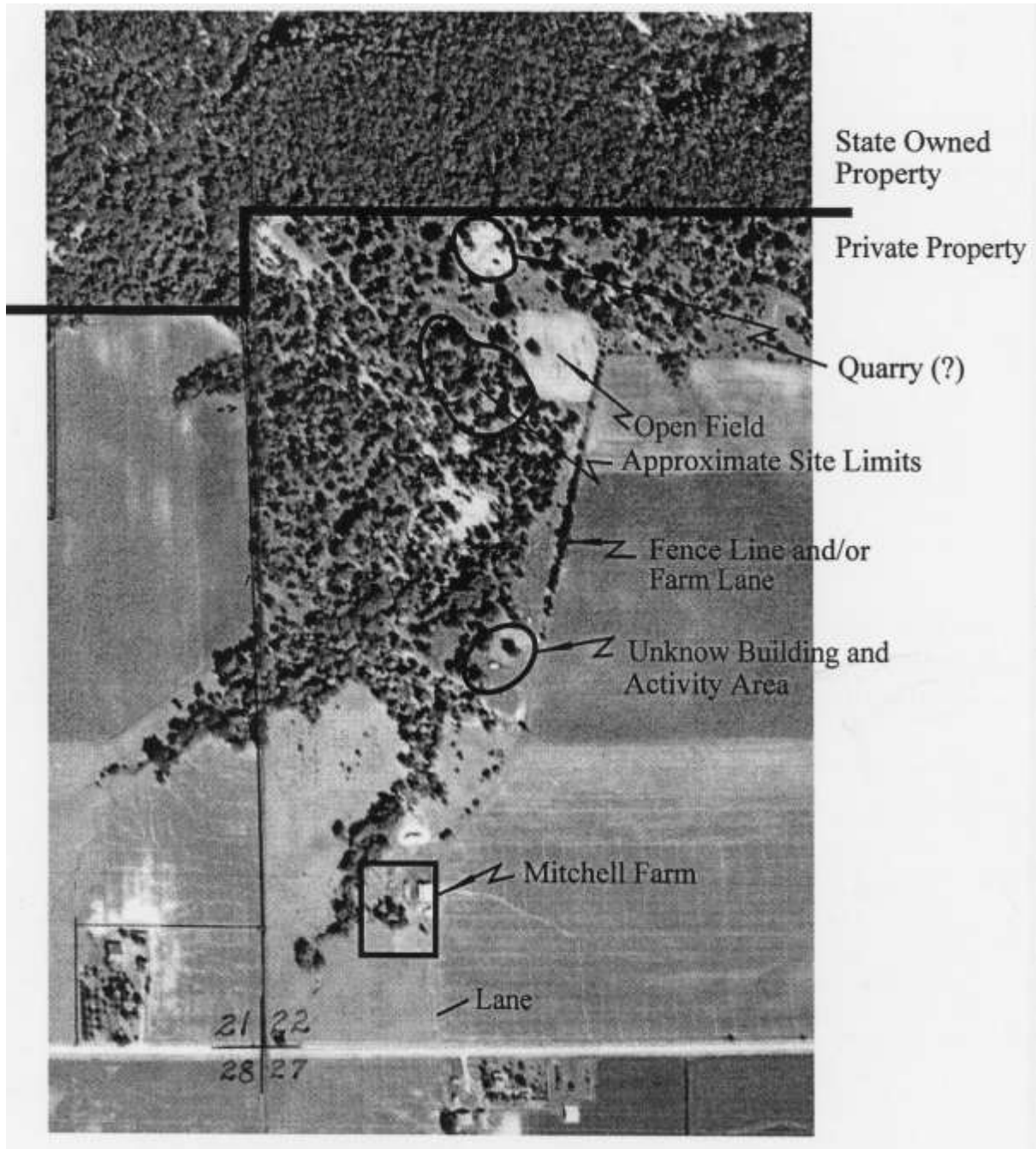
Figure 11. Starved Rock State Park and the French Canyon vicinity in 1924 (State of Illinois 1924). Archaeological site 11LS690 was located nearly adjacent to state property and fits well with Brown’s (n.d.) statement that the Newells were excavating “partly on state land.” It is of interest to note that the trails at this time were in a slightly different configuration in this area with the site (11LS690) much more accessible to the public today than it was in the late 1920s and early 1930s.



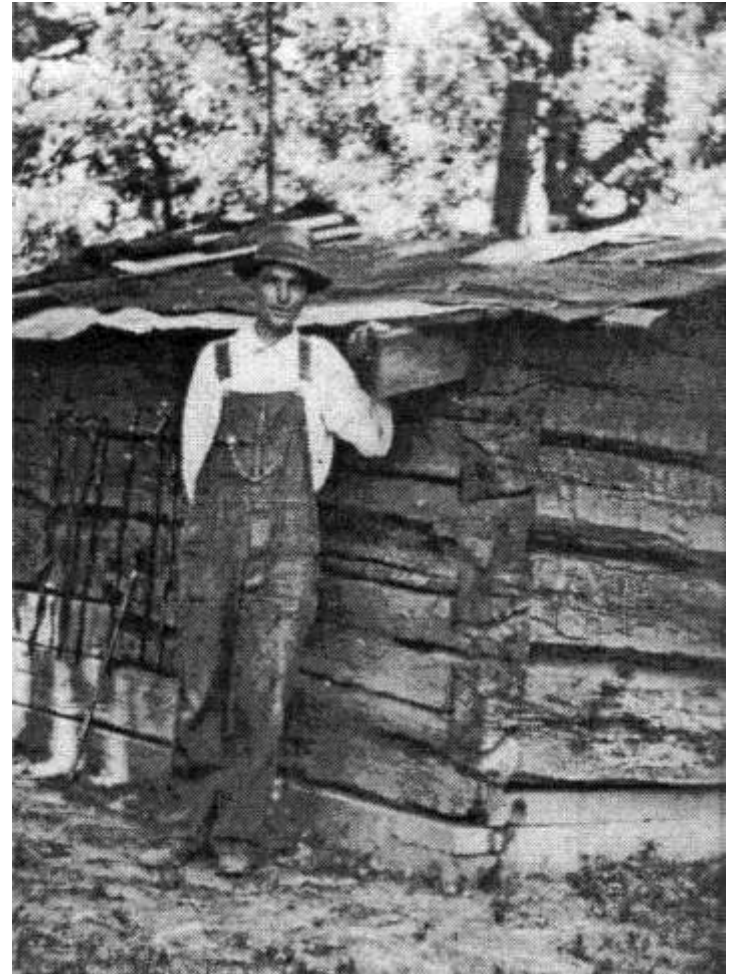


THE SITE OF A FORTIFIED INDIAN VILLAGE

**Figure 12.** This 1930s photograph potentially represents site 11LS206 and the area investigated by the Newell family. This photograph indicates the condition that the site was in when the Newell family conducted their investigations. Note the mature forest, lack of undergrowth, and lack of ground disturbance typically associated with excavations (Paape 1958:18).



**Figure 13.** Detail of 1939 aerial photograph illustrating landscape features in the vicinity of the “Old Fort” site (USDA 1939). The sharp contrast in vegetation outlines the boundaries of the state park lands. The bright areas in the woods immediately outside the park lands indicates the presence of recently disturbed grounds.



**Figure 14. Two circa 1932-33 photographs of Frank and Jack Newell in front of the “log cabin” located at the “Old Fort” site (Newell Collection, Illinois State Museum). The left photograph appears to document a very young Frank (on the left) with his father Jack (on the right). The right photograph is believed to be an image of the father, Jack.**



**Figure 15. Photograph of considerably older Frank (left) and Jack (right) Newell at the “Old Fort” site in 1947, presumably taken by one of the joint Illinois State Museum and University of Chicago’s Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition’s crew (Newell Collection, Illinois State Museum). This photograph was taken approximately 15 years after the previous images of the father/son team presented in Figure 14.**

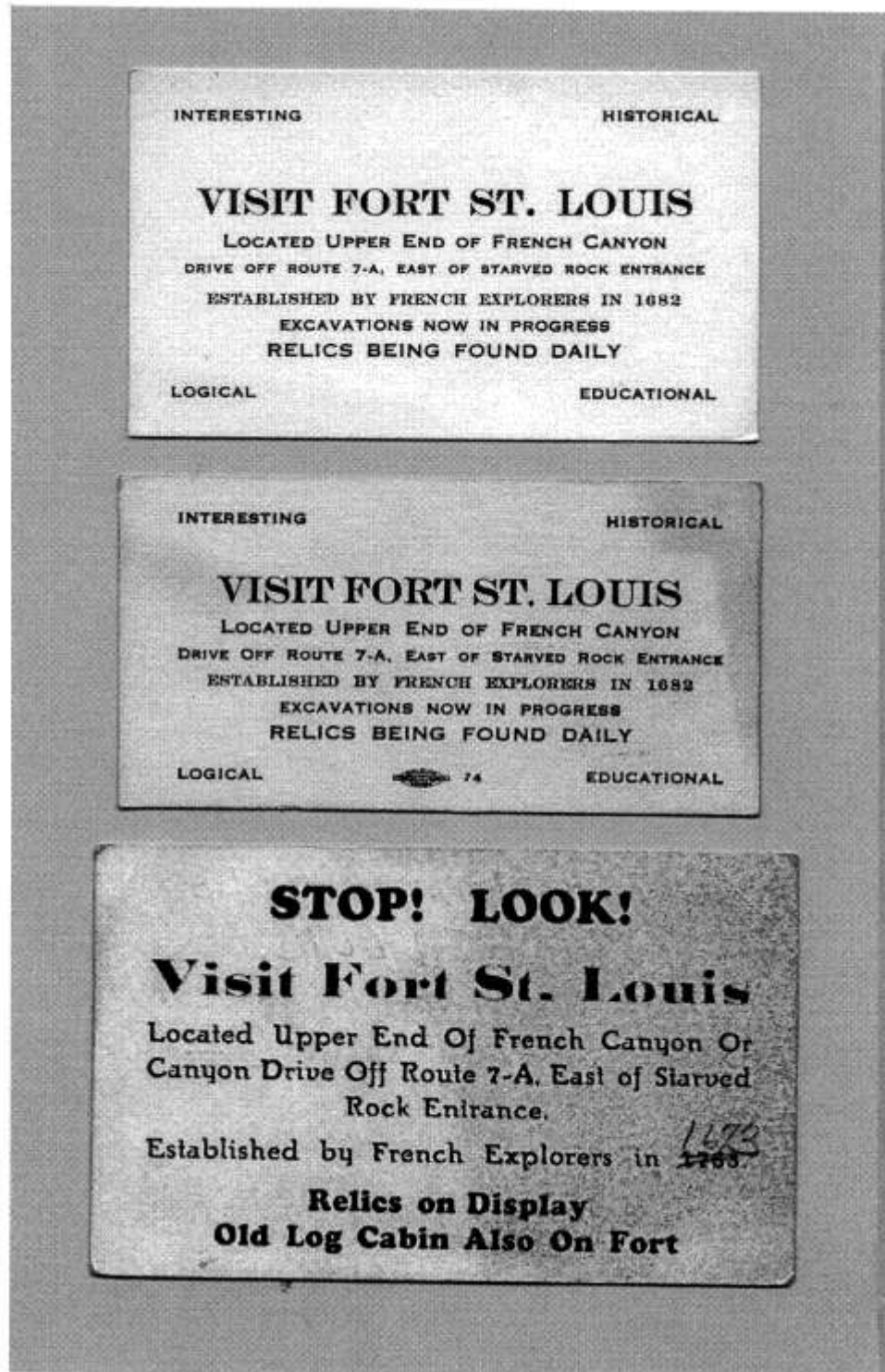


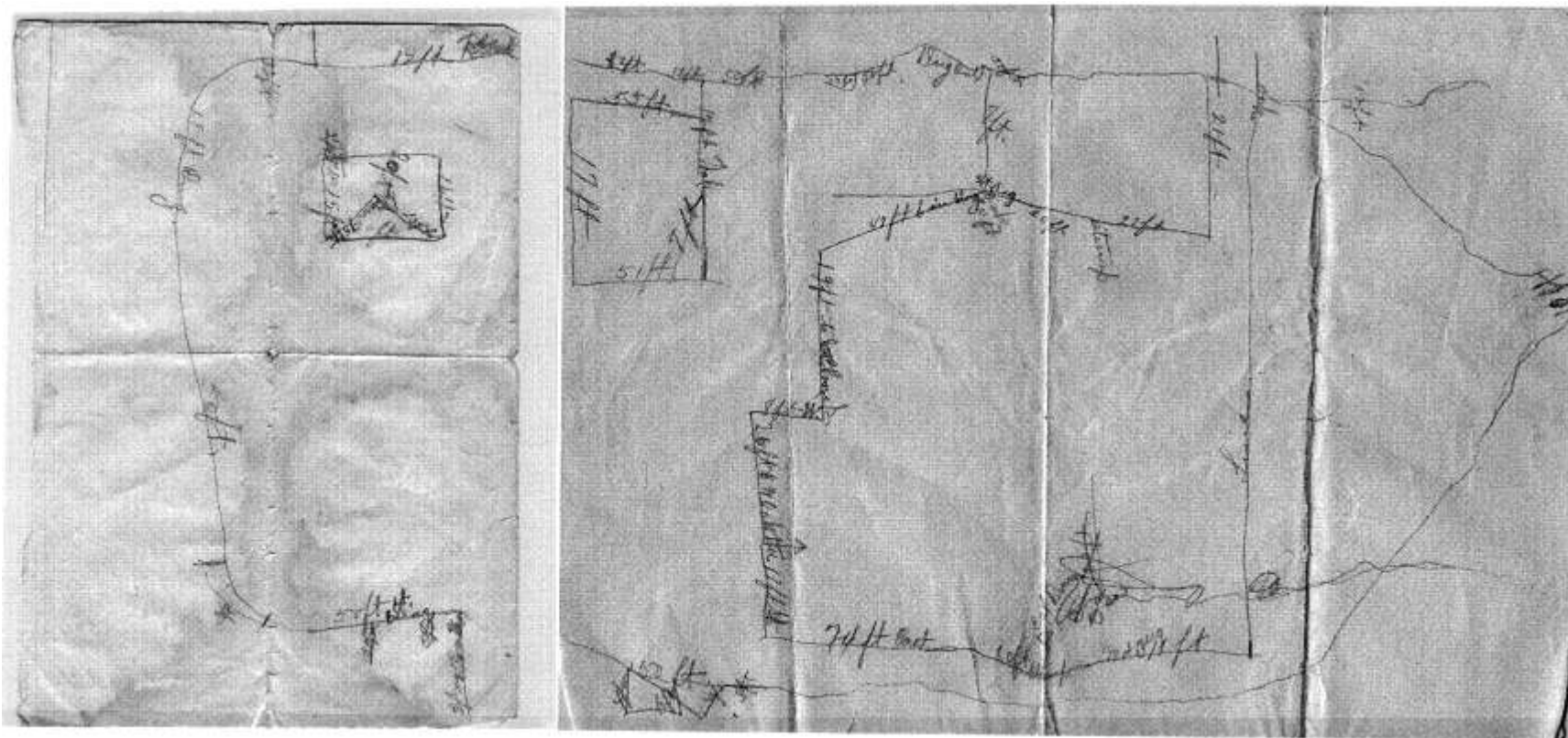
Figure 16. Three different styles of business cards used by the Newell family advertising their excavations at the site of La Salle's Fort St. Louis (Newell Collection, Illinois State Museum).



**Figure 17. Circa 1931-33 photographs of Jack Newell, the log cabin, and visitors to the “Old Fort” site (Newell Collection, Illinois State Museum). Note the presence of the canvass tent pitched on site in the top photograph. Based on the direction of the shadow cast by the cabin, there is some thought that the upper photograph may represent a reversed image. Unfortunately, we do not know where this cabin was located in relationship to the “Old Fort” site.**



**Figure 18.** A single photograph of an archaeological feature exists in the Newell Collection. This photograph is of a partially excavated skeleton. Unfortunately, it is not known whether or not this feature was located at the “Old Fort” site or, even if it was excavated by the Newells (Newell Collection, Illinois State Museum).



**Figure 19. Sketch map of the “Old Fort” enclosure illustrating the location of the “stockade wall” as excavated and drawn by either Jack or Frank Newell (Newell Collection, Illinois State Museum).**



## ***THE NEWELL'S ARTIFACT COLLECTION***

After Jack and Frank Newell completed their archaeological investigations of the “Old Fort” site, many of the artifacts within their collection were stored in glass display cases within their home. Photographs of the Newell’s artifact collection in these display cases are present in the Newell papers and were apparently taken by the Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition. During the early 1970s, Margaret Kimball Brown visited the family and noted that many additional artifacts were apparently being stored in boxes within the attic of the family’s Utica home. While at the Newell family home, Dr. Brown inventoried the historic artifacts from the display cases and, later produced a written description of these items.

In the late 1980s, John Walthall became interested in the Newell Site and contacted the family. By that time, both John “Jack” Newell, Sr. and his son John “Frank” Newell, Jr. had passed away and the artifact collection was in the possession of Frank’s son Francis Newell who resided in nearby Ottawa. Through Dr. Walthall, portions of the family’s artifact collection (those items believed to have originated from the “Old Fort” Site) and miscellaneous archival materials (including limited newspaper accounts, photographs, correspondence, and notes) were transferred to the Illinois State Museum for further study. Shortly afterwards, Dr. Walthall expanded on M. Brown’s earlier inventory of the Newell collection, including the addition of numerous photographs.

During the course of the current investigations, representatives from Fever River Research contacted Mr. Francis Newell (Ottawa) and arranged for him to sign a “Deed of Gift” form (deeding the artifacts to the Illinois State Museum) for the artifacts that he had given previously to Dr. Walthall. These artifacts are now the property of the State of Illinois and comprise the Newell Collection. The inventory of this collection, as prepared by Drs. Brown and Walthall, is presented as an appendix to this report.

## ***RESULTS OF THE 1996-97 INVESTIGATIONS***

In the spring of 1994, the 152-acre (61.5 ha) Visnikar property was purchased by the State of Illinois for inclusion into Starved Rock State Park. Shortly after purchase, the Visnikar property was surveyed by staff of the Illinois State Museum Society (Ferguson 1995). In conjunction with that work, the Illinois State Museum Society contracted with Fever River Research to conduct investigations at a site (11LS206) that has variously been referred to as the Old Fort site, the Newell Site, and the Newell Fort site.

At the time the Visnikar property was purchased by the State of Illinois, there was some confusion as to the location of the archaeological site identified as 11LS206, which was formally listed in the spring of 1974 with the Illinois Archaeological Survey by Margaret Kimball Brown. In 1974, the site was identified as lying in the NW1/4, SW1/4, SW1/4 and SW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4, Section 22 (Township 33 North, Range 2 East). It is interesting to note that, at that time, Dr. Brown noted that the site was situated *partly on state land*. Dr. Brown also tentatively identified the site as a French Trading Post. The original legal description assigned site 11LS206 placed it approximately 600-700' south of the location of the "Old Fort" as identified on the nineteenth-century Hitt map. Similarly, the original legal description on the IAS site form placed the site over 1,300' south of the 1930s state property line. Recently, researchers at the ISM have suspected that the legal description associated with the original site form was incorrect, and the site identified by Dr. Brown as a potential "French Trading Post" was actually located within the NW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 Section 22 which corresponds with the location of the "Old Fort" as identified by Hitt.<sup>38</sup> As such, the legal location for site 11LS206 was modified in May 1994 to reflect the latter location (Ferguson 1994). A large, moderately dense lithic scatter is located within that area originally associated by Dr. Brown with site 11LS206. This site, which was first recorded with the IAS by Geoffrey Low for the University of Illinois (Chicago) in 1971, was identified as archaeological sites 11LS73, 11LS74, and 11LS75. As a result of the recent ISM survey of the Visnikar property, these three sites have been redefined as a single site and identified as 11LS73 (Ferguson 1994, 1995).

The work described in this report was located along the eastern ridge overlooking French Canyon within the SW1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 and the SE ¼, NW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4 of Section 22. This particularly location is that area identified by Hitt as the site of the "Old Fort" and suspected as being the location of the Newell family investigations. Although the work described in this report was initiated in late 1996, the onset of a cold and wet November put a premature stop to this work, which was not completed until late

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<sup>38</sup> Ferguson (1994) incorrectly notes that the location of this site is the SW1/4, NW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 22 when it should read the SW1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 and the SE ¼, NW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4 of Section 22. In Ferguson (1995:209), she notes that "it appears that the site designated as Newell Fort (11-LS-206) is mapped incorrectly in the IAS files. 11-LS-206 should be moved nearly a quarter mile north of its present mapped location. Field reconnaissance during May 1994 indicates that features associated with the fort exist to the north. The location of these features also matches published maps showing the locations of the fort (Baldwin 1877)." To continue to complicate the issue, Ferguson (1995:294) incorrectly places site 11LS206 on the maps –she places the site several hundred feet north of its actual location.

May 1997. As discussed earlier, the main objective of this archaeological research was to determine the potential National Register of Historic Places eligibility of the Newell Site. More specifically, the objectives of these investigations were to determine: 1) whether this was the location of the Newell family investigations, 2) what types of features the Newell family might have been excavating, 3) what subsurface remains might still be intact at this site (its archaeological integrity), and 4) whether these subsurface remains (if present) have the potential to contribute to our understanding of this transitional period in Illinois history.

### Pre-Fieldwork Site Inspection

Prior to the initiation of the field work, we had walked the project area intensively over multiple occasions. Several distinctive landscape features were apparent during these field inspections, and included prominent piles of topsoil scattered along the ridge (both in the interior areas as well as along the slope edge), the appearance of a possible soil berm along the slope edges, multiple depressions (isolated as well as clustered), and the presence of low-density cultural deposits (predominately lithic debitage) along the slope edge. The scatters of lithic debris were located near each end of the prominent ridge located in the project area and overlooking French Canyon. Additionally, multiple felled tree trunks, many partially covered by the dirt piles, were scattered along the slope edge.

### Intensive Survey

We initiated the field work at this site by shovel testing the entire ridge identified as the possible location of the Newell Site. This work was conducted under the direction of Dawn Harn (Illinois State Museum Society) with the assistance of Fever River Research personnel. Shovel tests were excavated on a 10-meter grid. All shovel tests were excavated to sterile subsoil and screened through ¼” mesh hardware. Although we initially intended to water screen the soil from the shovel tests, the debris density was so light in these areas that we decided not to water screen these deposits. This change in strategy allowed us to shovel test a much broader area. The majority of this work was conducted by the Illinois State Museum Society field archaeologists with the assistance of the Fever River Research crew.

The shovel testing strategy isolated two scatters of lithic material that were consistent with our earlier perception of lithic debris distribution. With this information, we defined two archaeological sites based on the lithic distribution. The north concentration has been assigned the Illinois Archaeological Site designation 11LS690 while the southern concentration, which was that area associated with the Hitt earthworks, retains the original Illinois Archaeological Survey site number (11LS206). Both sites contained only lithic debris; no prehistoric ceramics nor eighteenth-century artifacts were located at either site.

During the initial survey process, we also used a metal detector and scoured the

entire ridge at a fairly close interval. Although the Newell collection contains a substantial amount of metal (iron gun parts, brass kettle lugs, etc.) which should have registered with the metal detector, except for an occasional nineteenth-century, machine-cut nail, little metal was encountered during the metal detector survey. It is of interest to note that the shovel testing strategy, metal detector survey, and the multiple inspections of the eroded slope edges failed to locate any historic material consistent with that present within the Newell collection. During the initial phase of the field work, we prepared a detailed site map of the project area which attempted to place the various landscape features in perspective to one another area. This base map was prepared by Robert Hickson of the Center For American Archeology (Kampsville).

*The Northern Site (11LS690).* This site is located at the point of a narrow ridge spur approximately 600' (200m) north/northwest of 11LS206. This site was defined on the basis of a light scatter of lithic debris identified on the surface as well as within 25 positive shovel tests (see Figure 22). Near the tip of the ridge spur, the surface visibility, although poor (less than 20%), was sufficient to allow us to identify a light scatter of lithic debris. Throughout the remainder of the site, the surface visibility was very poor and the site limits were determined by shovel testing. A total of 25 positive shovel tests were excavated within the limits of this site. Based on the distribution of positive shovel tests, the site appears to be approximately 120m (east/west) by 75m (north/south).

The lithic debitage from 11LS690 was represented predominately by primary and secondary flakes. A utilized biface was recovered from one of the shovel tests. This biface probably served as a rough knife edge and not as a recognizable projectile or specialized tool.

Surface features identified at this site indicated at least two episodes of prior excavation had been conducted at this locale. What appear to represent three unfilled excavation units (approximately one-meter or three-feet square) were found along the crest of the ridge. Although we do not know who excavated these test units, the square nature of these holes suggest that they were excavated by an individual trained in archaeological methods, and it seems unlikely that these units would have remained visible as test squares if excavated in the 1930s by the Newell family. Although we had questioned whether these excavation units might not have been excavated by Dr. Stuart Struever, who tested a multitude of sites in this area during the late 1950s and 1960s, conversations with Dr. Struever suggested that he had not excavated them (although he apparently had visited the Newell Site). Conversations with Dr. Robert Hall indicate that he had not excavated in this area either (Hall, personal communication).<sup>39</sup>

The more substantial excavations at this site are located within the central core of the site. Located within this area are several deep, more-or-less round, irregularly shaped pits that appear to have been excavated along the center, or immediately down slope of the center, of the ridge. Immediately downslope from these pits (along the eastern side)

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<sup>39</sup> It is also of interest to note that similar excavation units were noted in the woods along the valley slopes at nearby site 11LS73.

are several low back-dirt piles representing the soil removed from the excavation of these pits. Whoever excavated these holes made a concerted effort to remove the back-dirt a respectable distance to the east. Unfortunately, although we suspect that these large holes pre-date the smaller excavation units, we do not know who excavated them. As will be discussed later, it is interesting to speculate that these excavation units may date to the work conducted by the Newell family during the 1930s.

*The Southern Site (11LS206).* This site is a small, low-density lithic scatter located in that area identified by Hitt as being surrounded by a low earthen embankment. Lithic debris was found in a limited number of shovel tests (n=4). Three of the positive shovel tests were located near the point of land formed by the two drainageways. In this same area, located along the valley slopes and near the base of a prominent tree, we located a dense concentrations of lithic debris, as if it had been redeposited in this area. Also a single shovel test located 60m north yielded a single flake. The distribution of lithic debris in this area did not appear to conform to that area identified by Hitt as being enclosed by an earthen embankment. Based on the limited surface information – particularly the low artifact density and the substantial distance between positive shovel tests, it is difficult to determine the limits of this site.

The quality of lithic debitage recovered from the surface of this site contrasts with that recovered from the nearby site located immediately to the north (11LS690). At the northern site, the flakes on the surface are large and struck from cores of better quality lithic material than that used at the southern site. At the southern site, the debitage consists of smaller flakes, many having been struck from small pebble cores (potentially utilizing a bipolar technique).

### Subsurface Testing

During the 1996 field season, we hand excavated 10 test trenches. These trenches were approximately 0.60m in width and totaled approximately 74.5 linear meters (or 45.5 square meters). Nine of these trenches were located within the south site (11LS206), and a single within the north site (11LS690). Our efforts (as defined by the IDNR) were concentrated at the south location, as this was the area that Hitt had mapped the suspected earthworks during the nineteenth century. Additionally, the limited archival record strongly suggested that this was the area that the Newell family had been excavating –or at least interpreting.<sup>40</sup> As such, we focused our attention on the southern concentration in

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<sup>40</sup> During the waning years of John “Jack” Newell, Sr’s life, he discussed his excavations with both Margaret Kimball Brown and Robert Hall. Both of these individuals noted that the location of 11LS206 was the location of the Newell excavations. Additionally, found within the Newell papers was a page from a notepad which tallied a series of numbers. This series of numbers corresponds exactly to the dimensions given by Hitt referencing the various earthwork sections around the perimeter of his map of the “Old Fort”, suggesting that Mr. Newell was determining the circumference of the Old Fort to compare with his excavations. This dimension was also used within the written guide to the Newell Site (see Appendix I) and strongly suggests that the site that the Newell family was *interpreting*, the “Old Fort” identified by Colonel Hitt, and archaeological site 11LS206 are all one and the same. Due, in part, to the manner in which the

hopes of identifying features previously investigated by the Newell family.

*The North Site (11LS690).* Excavations at the north concentration focused on the excavation of a single trench (Test Trench 7; which was 4.1m long by 0.6m wide) through the center of a deep circular depression. Our excavation trench documented that this large depression (identified as Feature 11; which was one of several in this area) was a deep, irregular pit of unknown function, and that a very small portion of the feature fill may have been undisturbed at the base of the pit. The general character of the feature fill suggested that it had been excavated within the present century. Although only a hypothesis, it appears that this feature may represent a deep basin-shaped pit that had been filled with relatively sterile (and sandy) soil lacking cultural mottling that was later re-excavated to nearly the bottom of the original pit (and never backfilled).

One hypothesis regarding this site is that the central area (represented by the pitted topography) was stripped using a horse and a slip with the backdirt being piled around the eastern edge of the site. This scraping activity may have proceeded to a depth of approximately two feet at which point the subsurface features became apparent. At that time, the features were identified and partially excavated by the “avocational” archaeologists with the backdirt being piled around the exposed features. Based on the excavation of Feature 11, the very base of some of these features may still be intact – albeit difficult to get at under the present conditions.

*The South Site (11LS206).* It was our objective to assess the integrity of this archaeological site as well as to determine if this was indeed the area that the Newells had been excavating. Our excavation strategy consisted of excavating a series of long, narrow trenches across the site. These test trenches were positioned in hopes of intersecting evidence of the low earthen embankment identified by Hitt during the nineteenth century. A total of 70.3m of test trench (0.60m in width) was excavated the first season. An additional 56.9m of test trench was excavated during the second season.

With this strategy, we had hoped to not only assess the potential for subsurface features in undisturbed areas of the site but also assess the character and potential origin of the many disturbances (dirt piles as well as depressions) located across the site. The results of the first field season were frustrating. Our excavations within two of the deep depressions were inconclusive. One of the depressions (Feature 4) was an irregular pit of unknown origin, and we were not able to reach the bottom of the second depression (Feature 1). The excavations placed within the earthen mounds at the site (Test Trenches 4 and 8) indicated that these landscape features did not contain prehistoric artifacts. On the contrary, several late-nineteenth- and/or early-twentieth-century items (such as milk glass canning jar lid liners) were found in these mounded deposits suggesting that they

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artifacts were curated over the years by the Newell family, this does not necessarily infer that the artifacts presently within the Newell collection were recovered from 11LS206 or Hitt’s “Old Fort”.

date to a very recent time period.<sup>41</sup> Nonetheless, our excavation trenches did locate several small features that clearly date to a late prehistoric or very early historic period.

At the end of the 1996 field season, several questions remained unanswered. Although we had encountered a couple of bead fragments and a potential historic or proto-historic Indian feature, we surely did not have the same caliber of site as that investigated by the Newell family during the 1930s. Where had all the historic artifacts in the Newell collection come from? What was the function of the deep pit discovered in Test Trench 2? Did this pit represent a large aboriginal storage structure (cache pit) for agricultural products (particularly corn) such as those in use by historic Indian groups? Was the “ridge and swale” feature (Feature 6) that we had encountered in Test Trench 9 an anomaly, or did it potentially represent remains of the earthworks mapped by Colonel Hitt during the middle nineteenth century? With these questions in mind, we returned in the early summer of 1997 in hopes of answering some of these questions.

The features investigated during the course of these investigations are described below, and the artifact inventories from these features are included in Appendix IV. Although we had not located an historic Indian village or French occupation of the caliber that we had suspected the Newell family had been investigating, we had located intact subsurface features and artifacts from the appropriate time period (fragmentary remains of two large, white beads identical to others in the Newell Collection).

Feature 1 was a large-diameter, extremely deep pit located in Test Trench 2. During the course of the first season’s excavations we were not able to reach the bottom of this feature having only excavated a trench through the center of it. As the continued excavation of this feature without shoring was unsafe, we terminated our work on this feature for the time being. Although the function of this feature was unclear, we left the first field season thinking that we might have encountered a deep storage (or cache) pit.

The subsequent excavations of Feature 1 during the 1997 field season, which were conducted in hopes of locating the base of this feature, proceeded to a depth of 2.4 meters below the existing surface. From that point, post hole diggers were used to excavate a 20cm diameter core down another 1.2 meters. Unfortunately, even at this depth, we had not reached the base of this feature. These excavations documented that this feature is a nearly perfect circle 2.0 meters in diameter with straight sides and that it extends at least 3.6 meters below the existing surface, cutting through rock at its base. The fill within this feature consists of predominately topsoil fill with an occasional artifact present. Although a couple of pre-nineteenth century artifacts were encountered in this fill (a single white seed bead and a possible honey-colored gun flint fragment), the majority of

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<sup>41</sup> The origin of the soil in these low mounds is not known. One hypothesis is that they represent back dirt deposited by the early twentieth-century “archaeologists.” If indeed these mounds represent back dirt piles, they may have been deposited by a horse and slip. The location of the large c-shaped back dirt pile located at 11LS206 is immediately north of the concentration of depressions and east of a large low depression. It does not take much imagination to suspect that the dirt came from one of these two areas –if not both.

the artifacts found in this feature were machine-cut nail fragments. Towards the base of the excavations, large slabs of siltstone, which appear to represent the in situ bedrock, were encountered along the sides of the shaft. Although we were not able to determine the function of this feature, it is our opinion that this represents a recent (nineteenth century?) well or coal mine shaft. In support of the mine shaft interpretation, a layer of coal was identified outcropping from the sides of the adjacent valley edge suggesting that coal deposits were located within 30-40' of the surface.<sup>42</sup>

Feature 2 was a shallow, straight-sided, flat-bottomed, oval pit found in Test Trench 3. This pit measured 1.57m in length by an unknown width and extended to a depth of approximately 60cm below the existing ground surface. The artifact density was extremely light with very little charcoal and burned soil mottling being present. Fill within this feature was a mottled yellowish brown silty clay contrasting slightly in color and texture to the surrounding subsoil. A single flotation sample of soil taken from the base of the feature yielded a single corn kernel and a glass seed bead suggesting a proto-historic or early historic origin for this pit. Although the function of this feature is unknown, it is suspected as being a shallow storage or processing pit.

Feature 3 was an irregularly shaped, shallow basin located at the southern end of Test Trench 4. This pit was located beneath a mound of dirt located near the break in slope leading to the valley below. The fill in this feature, which was a silty clay loam, was a dark brown color that contrasted dramatically with the surrounding soil. The fill contained some lithic debris, an occasional small and highly weathered fragment of muscle shell, small burned sandstone fragments, a Madison-style projectile point, and moderate amounts of burned soil ash, and charcoal mottling. While troweling the surface of the feature, a small fragment of sheet copper was uncovered. Although suspected as originating from the surface of this feature, this small fragment of sheet copper may have originated from the base of the mound of dirt overlying the feature.<sup>43</sup> This shallow pit measured approximately 2.30m north/south, was asymmetrical in section, and basined in quickly. Along the south edge of the feature, near the base, bright orange soil indicated in situ burning had taken place within this basin. The presence of the sheet copper and triangular point is suggestive of a late prehistoric, proto-historic, or even an early historic aboriginal occupation. The determination of the source of copper (and potential presence of European materials and/or brass) would be of interest in assisting with a possible date for this feature –the analysis of which has not been conducted. The flotation sample from this feature exhibited very small amounts of corn kernels and common garden bean.

Capping Feature 3 was one of the more prominent mounds in the project area.

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<sup>42</sup> This is consistent with Sauer et al. (1918). Arguing against the coal mine theory, there was no evidence found along the adjacent slopes indicating the presence of slope or adit mines. Such mines are the most easily worked in this setting. It is also interesting to note Matson's 1874 and 1882 discussion of coal mining adjacent to the site (see quote cited earlier in text; Matson 1874, 1882). Matson implies that some form of mining at this location may have been conducted many years earlier, and that the "quarry" that we have identified north of the site may have been related to this coal mining activity.

<sup>43</sup> A similar fragment of rolled sheet copper was found deep within the fill of Feature 1.



The objectives of excavating this particular test trench was to assess the age of this landscape feature. The excavations documented that this pile of topsoil was fairly recent, containing such late-nineteenth-century material as milk glass canning jar lid fragments and machine-cut nails. Excavations of Test 5 in another one of the mounds yielded similar results. As such, the piles of dirt ringing the edge of this site, many of which partially cover downed trees, appear to have been deposited during the very late-nineteenth, if not the early-twentieth century.

Feature 4 was a large, shallow depression located at the north end of Test Trench 5 and immediately south of a large low mound of dirt. This feature appears to represent a tree disturbance.

Features 5 and 9 represent concentrations of lithic debris embedded in the underlying subsoil. Feature 5 was located towards the northern end of Test Trench 6 while Feature 9 was located in the northern end of Test Trench 14. Feature 5 represented an area approximately 1.8m long in the trench that contained a slight concentration of lithic debris that extended into the underlying subsoil 10-20cm. Similarly, Feature 9 consisted of a concentration of debris that was loosely scattered over an area approximately 1.8m in diameter and concentrated in a smaller area of approximately 40-50cm in diameter. Over 80% of the debris was recovered from this smaller area and within a thin lens only 5-8cm thick. This feature represents a single episode of primary lithic reduction.

Feature 6, which has been interpreted as a shallow trench-like feature, was identified in the center of Test Trench 9. This feature was approximately 90cm wide, oriented in a roughly east/west direction, and extended to a depth of approximately 50-55cm below the existing ground surface. The fill in this feature was an organic-rich, dark brown silt loam with minor amounts of charcoal mottling. In the base of the feature, two badly decomposed fragments of mussel shell were recovered. It is interesting to note that the area immediately north of this feature contained no topsoil within a band approximately one meter wide. The excavation of this test trench indicated that the subsoil in this area was “mounded up” and appeared to be parallel with Feature 6. No evidence existed to suggest that the ridge had been created by re-depositing the soil on top of a older ground surface. As such, the mounded subsoil could be interpreted as the base of a badly eroded embankment with Feature 6 representing an interior ditch.

With the thoughts that Feature 6 represented the remains of a low earthen embankment and interior ditch, we excavated a second test trench (Test Trench 12) in hopes of locating the continuation of this embankment and associated ditch. This second test trench was located parallel to and approximately 4.1m east of Test Trench 9. As suspected, a similar linear depression (Feature 7) was identified in this test trench. As in Test Trench 9, a “mounded up” area of subsoil was located in a band immediately north of the feature. In this case, an area approximately 1.6m wide contained no topsoil. As such, it was suspected that Feature 7 was an extension of Feature 6 and represented the remains of the shallow interior ditch described by Colonel Hitt.

Feature 8, a shallow linear depression with evidence of very light in situ burning and minor amounts of charcoal mottling, was located in Test Trench 13. Immediately to the west and on the adjacent slope an old, heavily weathered, felled tree is present and partially covered with dirt –suggesting that over-bank deposits were placed along slope within the recent past (during the early years of this century?). This feature may represent the western edge of the ditch and embankment identified by Hitt.

Feature 10, located along the southern edge of Test Trench 14, represents a shallow depression filled with organic topsoil with minor evidence of in situ burning located along its outer or southern edge. Two small flakes were associated with the feature.

It is interesting to note the similarity between Features 3 (Test Trench 4), 8 (Test Trench 13) and 10 (Test Trench 14), both of which are shallow depressions with evidence of in situ burning located along the slope edge. Associated with these features is evidence of over-bank deposits having been deposited along the slope edge during the recent past (potentially during the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries). Do these features represent forest clearing and burning activities (i.e., the grubbing of trees and burning of timber) associated with the conversion of this field to farming? Historically, although we know that this land was used as a hog lot and pasture land, there is little evidence to suggest that it was ever row cropped. If we also recognize that Features 6 and 7 represent the remains of a low earthen ridge with an interior ditch filled with similar deposits (albeit lacking the evidence of the in situ burning), it is easy to interpret these features as the heavily eroded embankment and ditch mapped by Colonel Hitt in the 1860s.

The artifacts recovered during the course of the 1996 and 1997 investigations were predominately prehistoric and/or proto-historic lithic debitage with minor amounts of European trade goods (such as glass beads, potential sheet copper, and a small fragment of what appears to have been a gunflint manufactured from non-local materials). Although the amount of material in the Newell Collection that has been attributed to this site fills several boxes, the number of historic European trade items recovered during the course of our investigations practically could be counted on one hand.

The glass beads found during the course of our investigations were of two varieties. Fragments (n=3) of one or two large, white, spiral-wound necklace beads (similar to others present in the Newell Collection) were recovered from the surface deposits of Test Trench 1. Additionally, a single seed bead was found in the fill of the deep cylindrical pit identified as Feature 1, as well as in the base of the flat-bottomed, straight-sided pit identified as Feature 2. A piece of sheet copper was found on the surface of Feature 3 as well as within the depths of Feature 1. Although trace mineral analysis has not been done on the copper scraps recovered from the site, it is suspected that they probably represent native material. Further analysis of this material should be conducted at a future date to determine if non-local/European copper was used in the

manufacture of these items. The potential gunflint is a small fragment of worked honey-colored flint that may represent the remains of a shattered gunflint. It was found in the deep cylindrical shaft identified as Feature 1.

Although no prehistoric ceramics were found at this site, an abundance of primary and secondary lithic reduction flakes were recovered from the features at 11LS206. Clustering of chert reduction areas was evident at the site (see Features 5 and 9). This material was recovered predominately from two lithic concentrations, one each being located in Test Trenches 6 and 14. This material was found embedded in the underlying subsoil (5-10cm beneath the contact between the topsoil and the underlying subsoil) and probably represents relatively early prehistoric deposits that pre-date the proto-historic and/or historic occupation identified at this site. The material found in these lithic concentrations suggest different short term procurement occupations engaged in gross reduction of chert to more usable and portable forms with the selection of a wide range of local materials. Assessing the lithic material recovered from the surface of the site, it appears that some of the larger, bedded material was used for larger core tool blanks and preforms. The smaller cobble source material was utilized for small scrapers, awls and the like. Some bipolar technologies appear to have been used on this smaller material as well. The only diagnostic projectile appeared to be a Madison-style which was found in Feature 3 (and potentially associated with the proto-historic and/or historic component at this site). A drill midsection was the only other formalized tool found in this test area.

**Table 1  
Test Trench Summary**

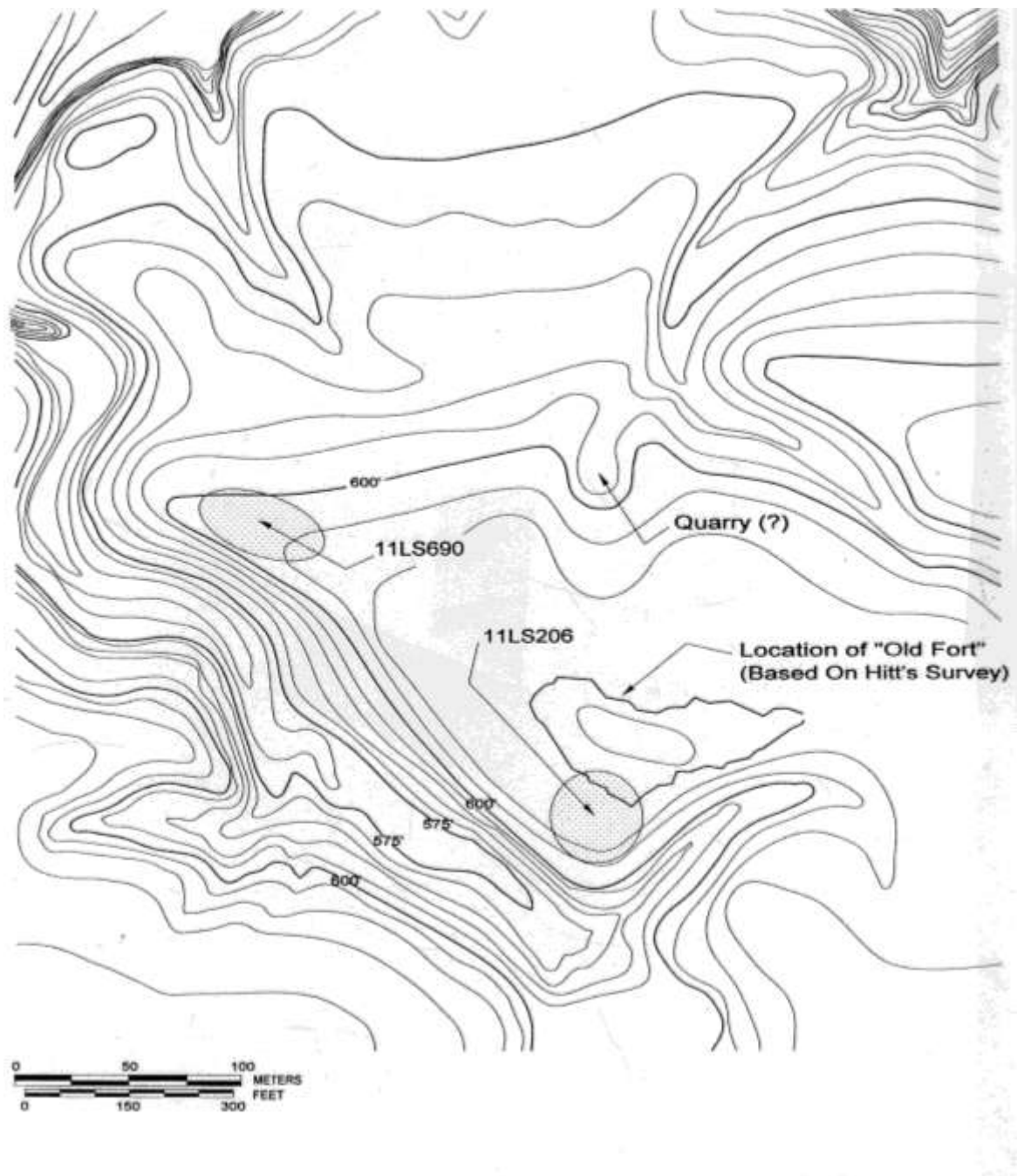
Trench Number	Length	Comments
1996		
1	6.1 meters	Located between two depressions, two beads recovered
2	5.9 meters	Centered over deep depression (Feature 1)
3	12.8 meters	Extension of Trench 2, located pit (Feature 2)
4	4.5 meters	Trench through mound fill, encountered Feature 3
5	6.4 meters	Centered on depression, near base of mound, north edge of site
6	11.3 meters	Encountered Feature 5 (lithic concentration)
7	4.1 meters	At site 11LS690, centered over edge of large depression
8	1.5 meters	Through low mound
9	12.5 meters	Encountered ridge and swale feature (Feature 6)
10	9.3 meters	Along edge of depression
	<u>74.4 meters</u>	
1997		
11	21.0 meters	Along west edge of site
12	11.6 meters	Encountered ridge and swale feature (Feature 7)
13	7.2 meters	Encountered shallow trench with in situ burning (Feature 8)
14	11.5 meters	Encountered lithic concentration (Fea. 9) and trench (Fea. 10)
15	5.6 meters	Between 11LS206 and 11LS690
16	2.7 meters	Centered over shallow depression; root disturbance?
	<u>59.6 meters</u>	

**Table 2  
Features Uncovered During the Newell Site Investigations**

Feature Number	Location	Description	Site
1	Trench 2	Deep, circular pit/shaft	11LS206
2	Trench 3	Oval, flat bottomed, shallow pit	11LS206
3	Trench 4	Shallow, irregular pit (with in situ burning)	11LS206
4	Trench 5	Irregular pit	11LS206
5	Trench 6	Lithic concentration	11LS206
6	Trench 9	Ridge and ditch	11LS206
7	Trench 12	Ridge and ditch	11LS206
8	Trench 13	Shallow trench/pit (with in situ burning)	11LS206
9	Trench 14	Lithic concentration	11LS206
10	Trench 14	Shallow, irregular pit (with in situ burning)	11LS206
11	Trench 7	Large, deep pit	11LS690

**Table 3**  
**Lithic Debitage From 11LS206 and 11LS690**

	Decortification Flake n (gms)	Primary Flake n (gms)	Secondary Flake n (gms)	Tertiary Flake n (gms)	Cores n (gms)	Block Shatter n (gms)	Core Rejuvenation Flake n (gms)	Utilized Flake n (gms)	Tools n (gms)	Biface n (gms)
<b>LS206</b>										
Surface	27 (189.0)	85 (279.0)	101 (144.0)	24 ( 5.0)	2 ( 37.0)	58 (108.0)	5 ( 20.0)		5 ( 10.0)	1 ( 3.0)
Shovel Tests		2 ( 2.5)				1 ( 4.0)				
Trench 1			1 ( 2.0)	2 ( 0.5)						
Trench 2		1 ( 9.0)								
Trench 3	1 ( 5.0)	11 ( 55.0)	11 ( 6.0)	17 ( 2.0)		5 ( 63.0)	1 ( 6.0)			
Trench 4	2 ( 12.0)	6 ( 29.0)	18 ( 9.0)	16 ( 2.5)		10 ( 3.0)		1 ( 2.0)	1 ( 2.0)	1 ( 18.0)
Trench 5			1 ( 3.0)			1 ( 1.0)				
Trench 6	4 ( 14.0)	25 ( 63.0)	30 ( 21.0)	27 ( 4.0)	1 ( 4.0)	44 (126.0)		1 ( 4.0)	1 ( 10.0)	
Trench 9									1 ( 5.0)	
Trench 10		11 (386.0)	5 ( 15.0)		6 (286.0)	6 (138.0)				
Trench 11		4 (210.0)	5 ( 4.0)						1 ( 8.0)	
Trench 12					1 ( 14.0)					
Trench 13		1 ( 2.0)								
Trench 14		11 ( 63.0)	10 ( 26.0)	3 ( 0.5)	1 ( 57.0)	26 ( 18.0)				
Trench 15					1 ( 45.0)					
Fea. 1	2 ( 5.0)	5 ( 14.0)	3 ( 1.0)					1 ( 1.0)		
Fea. 2	1 ( 1.0)	2 ( 1.0)				1 ( 61.0)				
Fea. 3	1 ( 4.0)	11 ( 43.0)	22 ( 4.0)	33 ( 6.0)	2 ( 30.0)	18 ( 12.0)		1 ( 6.0)		1 ( 1.0)
Fea. 5	6 ( 51.0)	13 ( 47.0)	13 ( 9.0)	12 ( 2.0)	3 ( 51.0)	17 ( 66.0)				
Fea. 6									1 ( 2.0)	
Fea. 9	8 (202.0)	75 (652)	48 (222.0)	5 ( 1.0)		27 (750.0)	4 ( 88.0)			
Fea. 10	1 ( 9.0)		1 ( 0.5)	1 ( 0.1)			1 ( 5.0)			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53 (492.0)</b>	<b>263 (1855.5)</b>	<b>269 (466.5)</b>	<b>140 ( 23.6)</b>	<b>17 (524.0)</b>	<b>214 (1350.0)</b>	<b>11 (119.0)</b>	<b>4 ( 13.0)</b>	<b>10 ( 37.0)</b>	<b>3 ( 22.0)</b>
<b>Ls690</b>										
Surface	3 ( 76.0)	5 ( 23.0)	33 ( 50.0)	14 ( 8.0)		2 ( 21.0)	1 ( 6.0)			1 ( 12.0)
Shovel Tests	8 ( 92.0)	30 ( 77.0)	85 ( 98.0)	22 ( 13.0)	1 ( 5.0)	14 ( 73.5)	1 ( 6.0)			2 ( 16.0)
Trench 7	1 ( 7.0)	2 ( 2.0)								
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12 (175.0)</b>	<b>37 (102.0)</b>	<b>118(148.0)</b>	<b>36 ( 21.0)</b>	<b>1 ( 5.0)</b>	<b>16 ( 94.5)</b>	<b>2 ( 12.0)</b>			<b>3 ( 28.0)</b>



**Figure 20. Location of archaeological sites 11LS206 and 11LS690 in relationship to 600-foot contour line. The placement of the “Old Fort” is based on Hitt’s nineteenth-century survey (Baldwin 1877) which places it centered on a slight topographic rise. Although the legal description places the site at this location, it would fit the topographic setting better if it was positioned slightly to the west. The gateway is located to the east.**

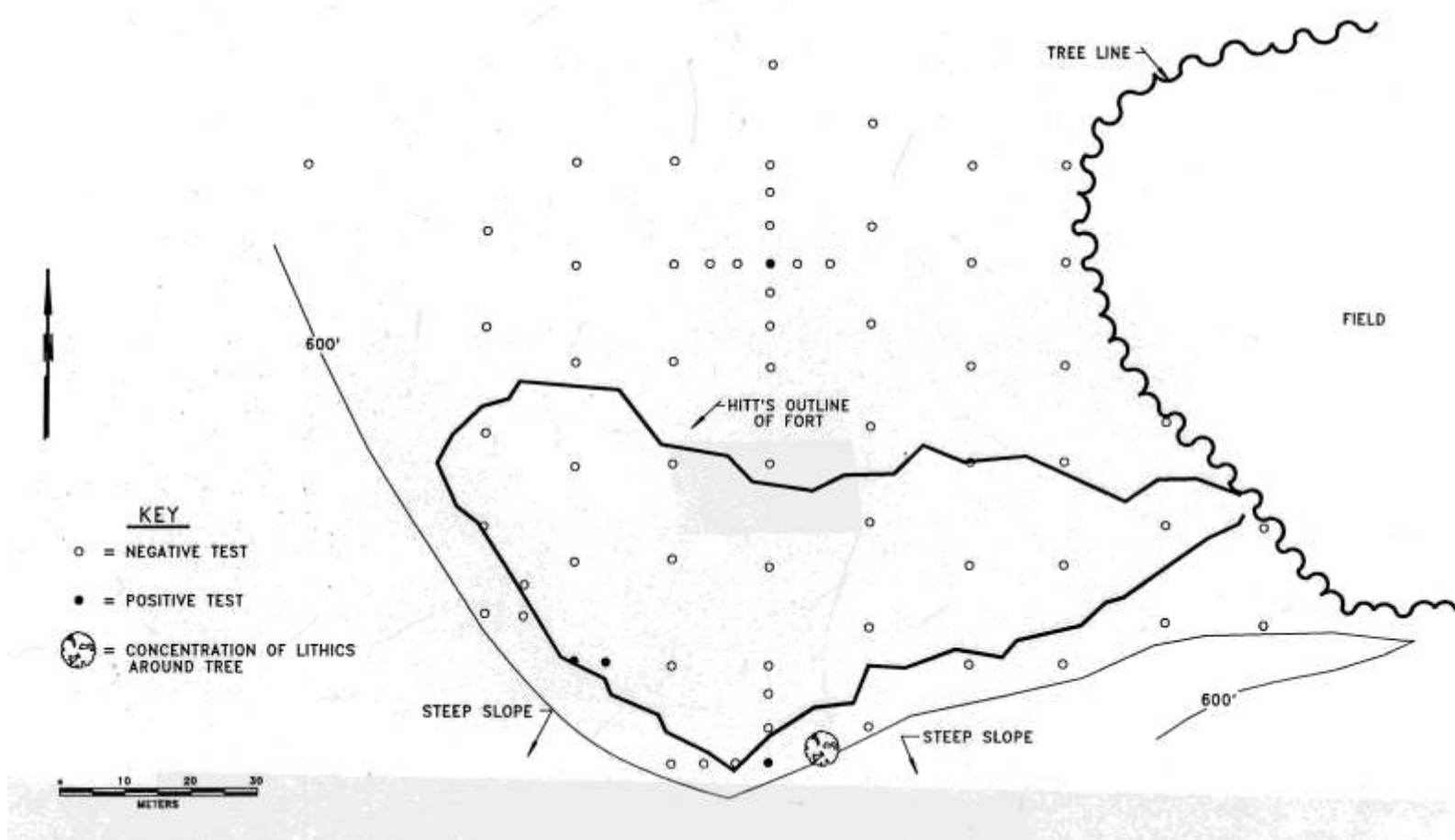


Figure 21. Sketch map illustrating the location of positive shovel tests at 11LS206. In this figure, the location of the “Old Fort” is based on a “best fit” to the topography, and not to the legal description given by Baldwin (1877).

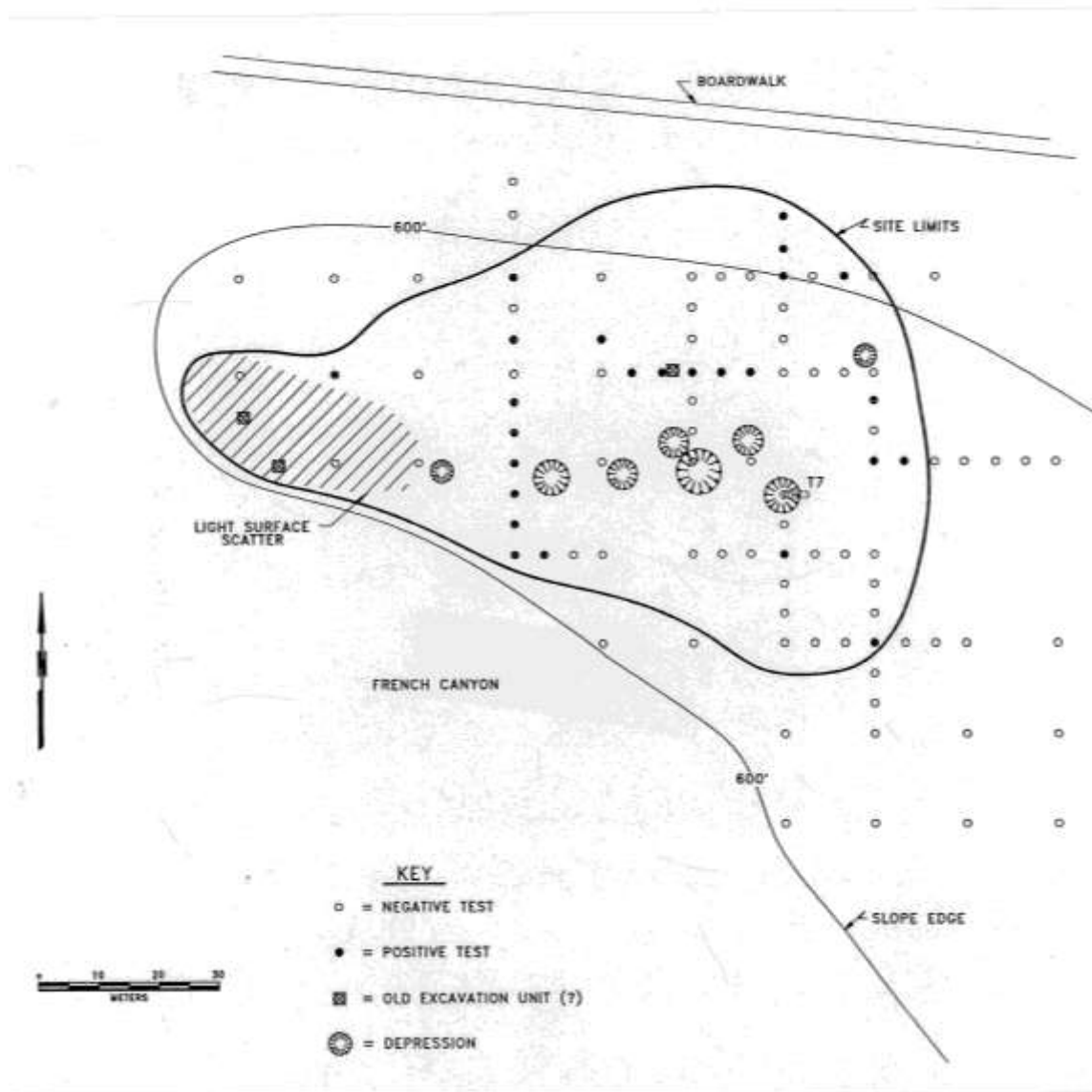


Figure 22. Sketch map illustrating location of positive shovel tests at 11LS690. Note the approximate location of Test 7.



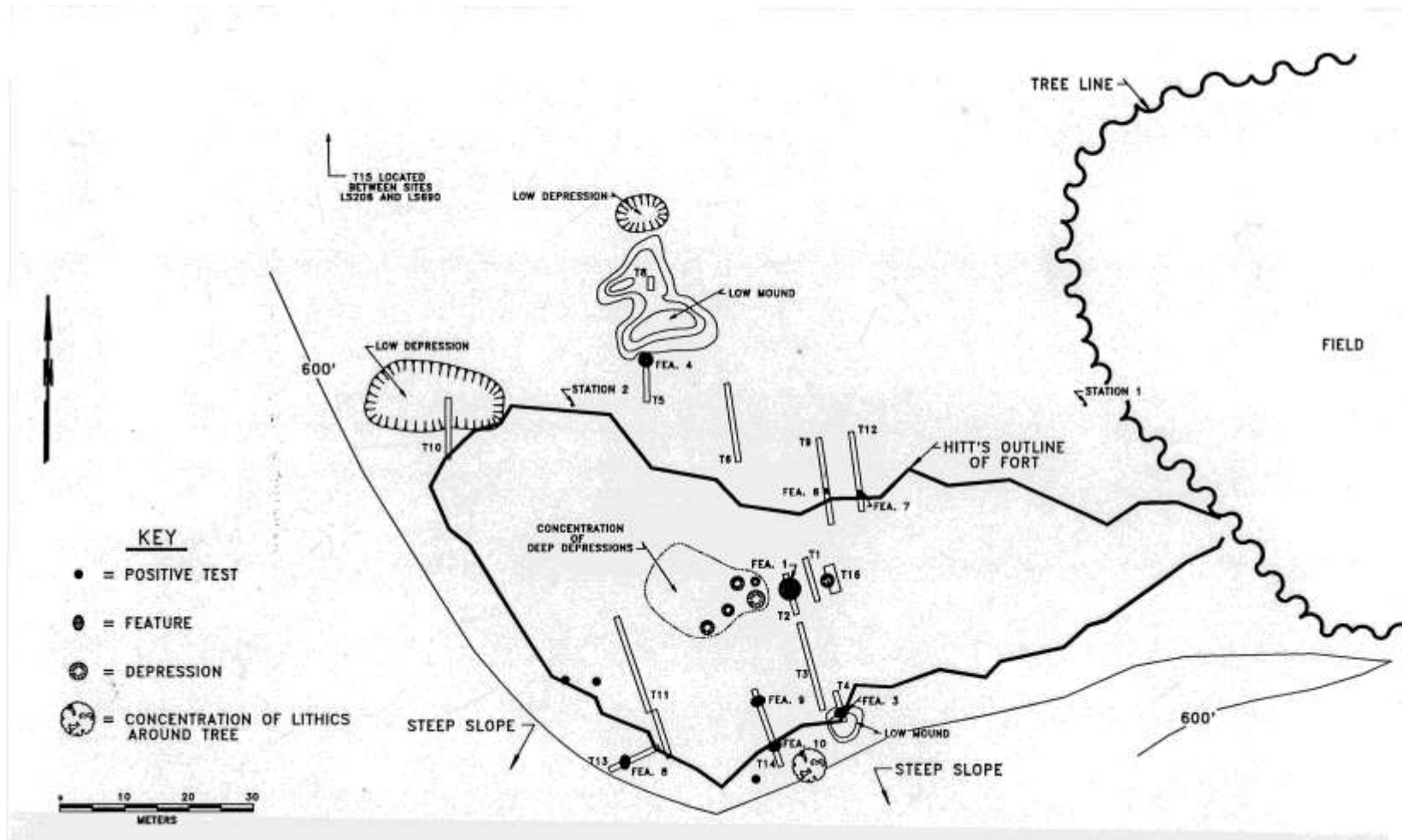
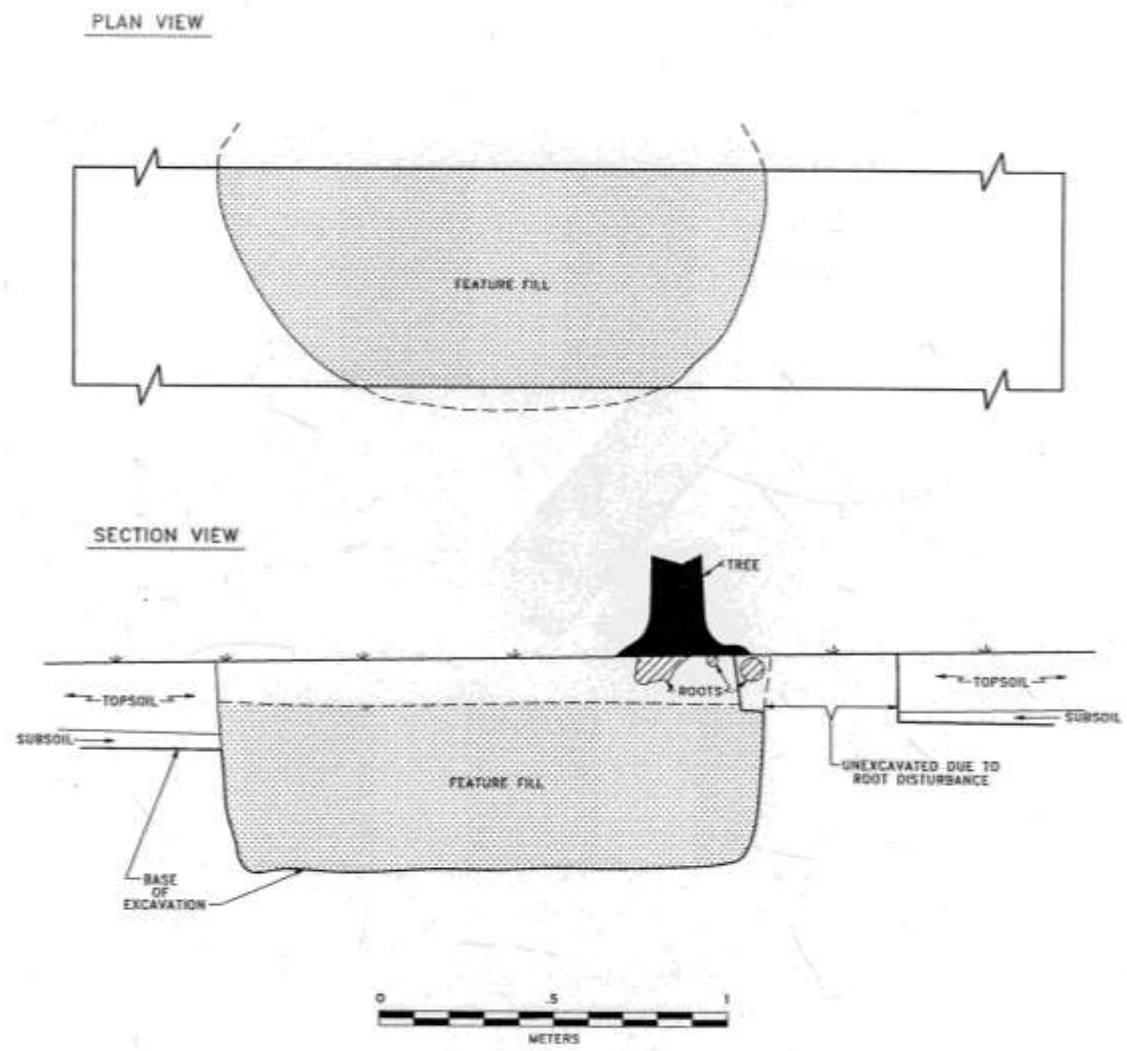


Figure 23. Site map of 11LS206 illustrating the location of test trenches and features (1996 and 1997 investigations). The heavy dark line represents the outline of the “Old Fort” as mapped by Colonel Hitt. Note the close correlation of Features 6 and 7 (located in Test Trenches 9 and 12, respectively) with this documented earthwork.



**Figure 24. Plan and profile detail of Feature 2 (flat bottomed pit).**

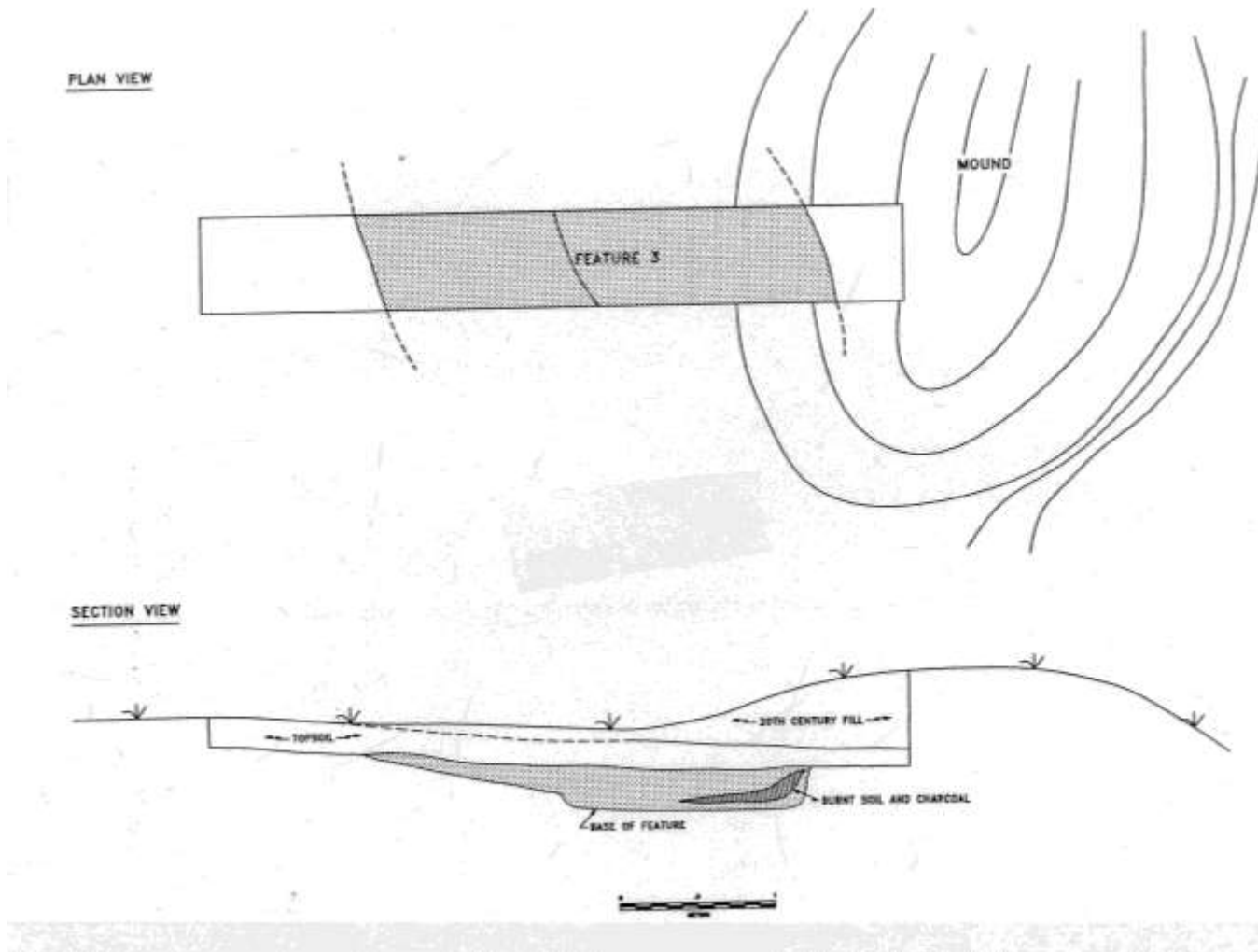


Figure 25. Plan and profile detail of Feature 3 (irregular basin/trench).

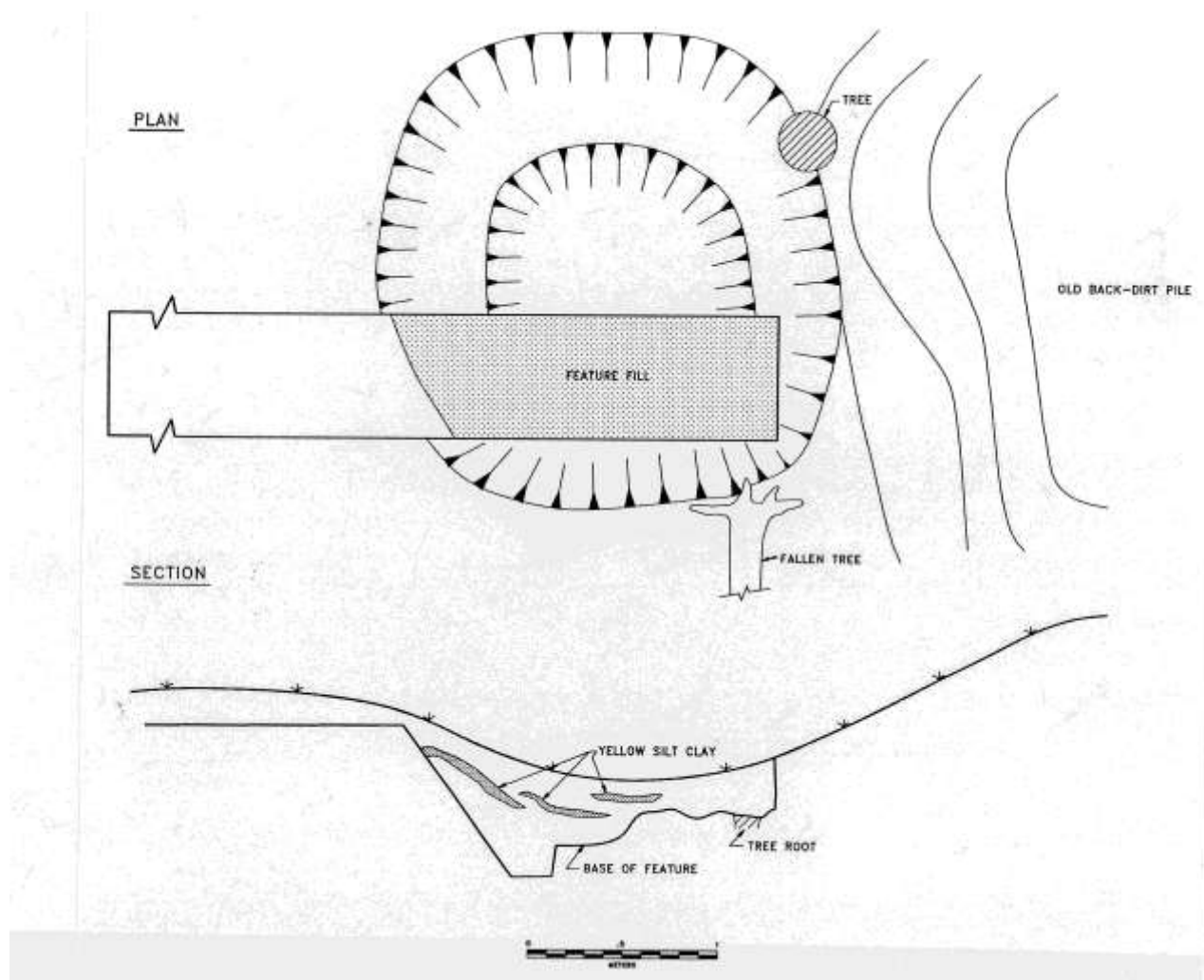


Figure 26. Plan and profile detail of Feature 4 (irregular pit; modern?).

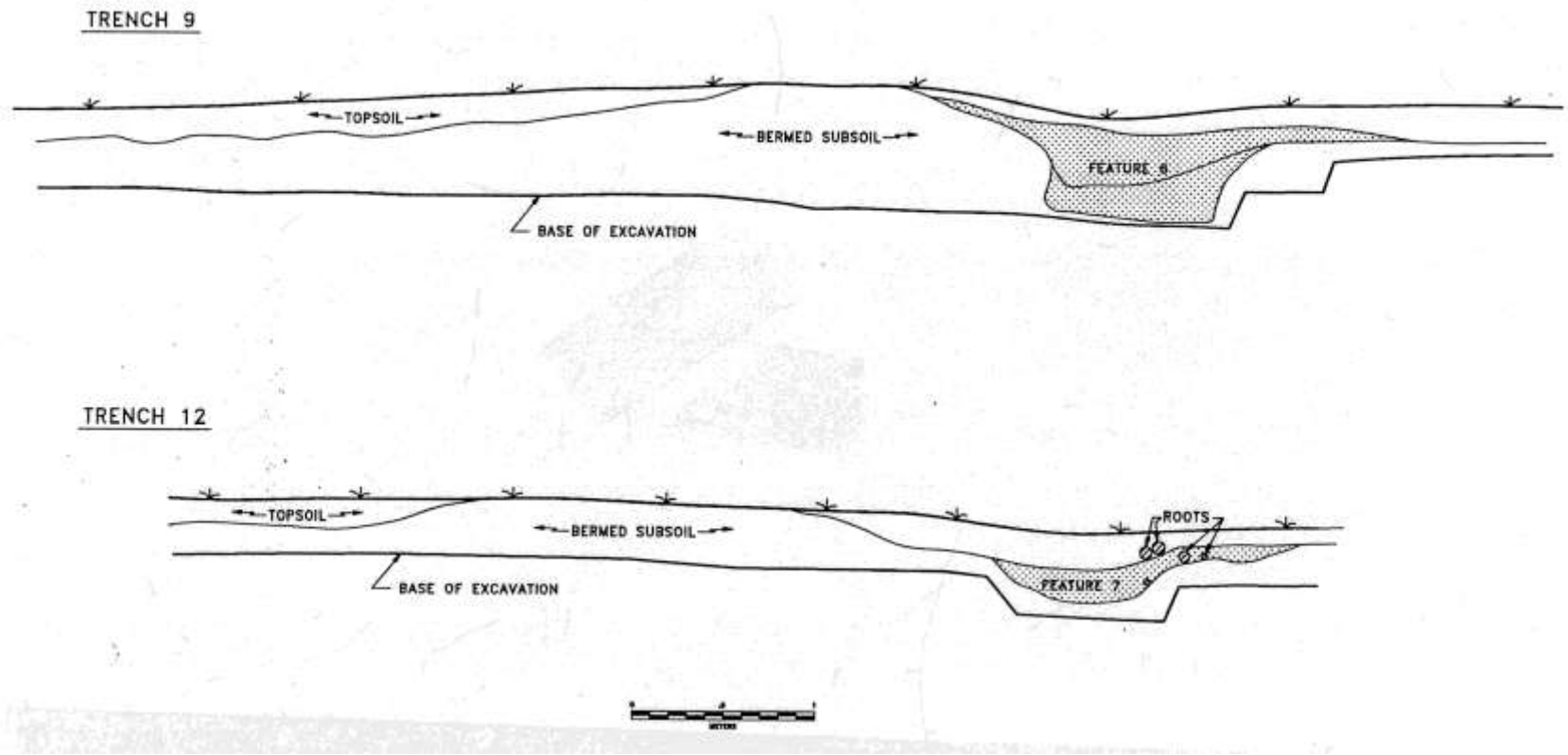


Figure 27. Plan and profile details of Features 6 and 7 (potential earthen berm and ditch).

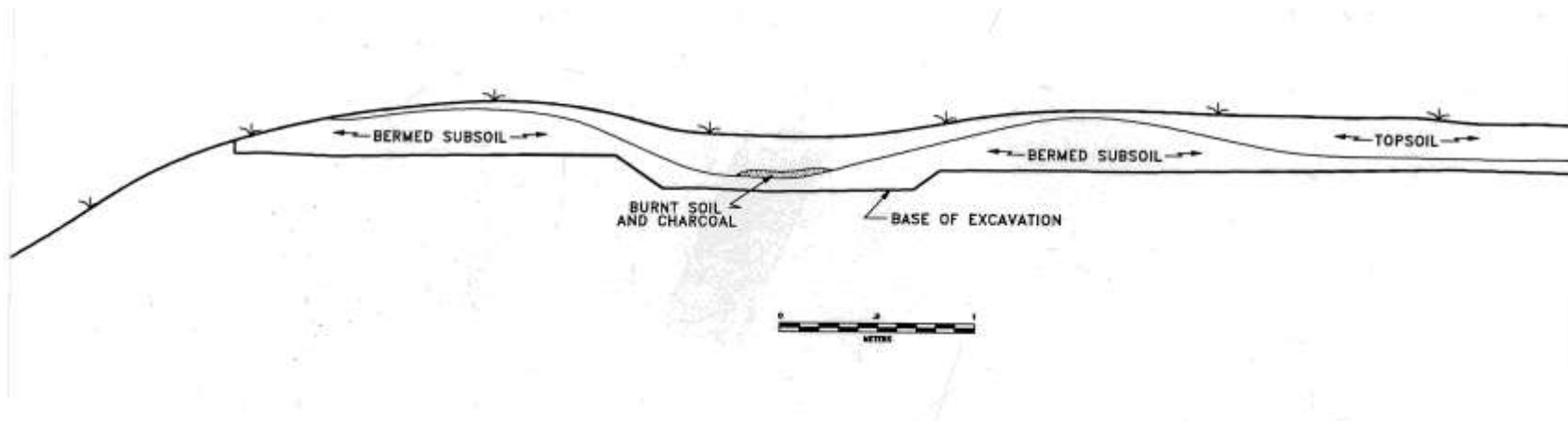
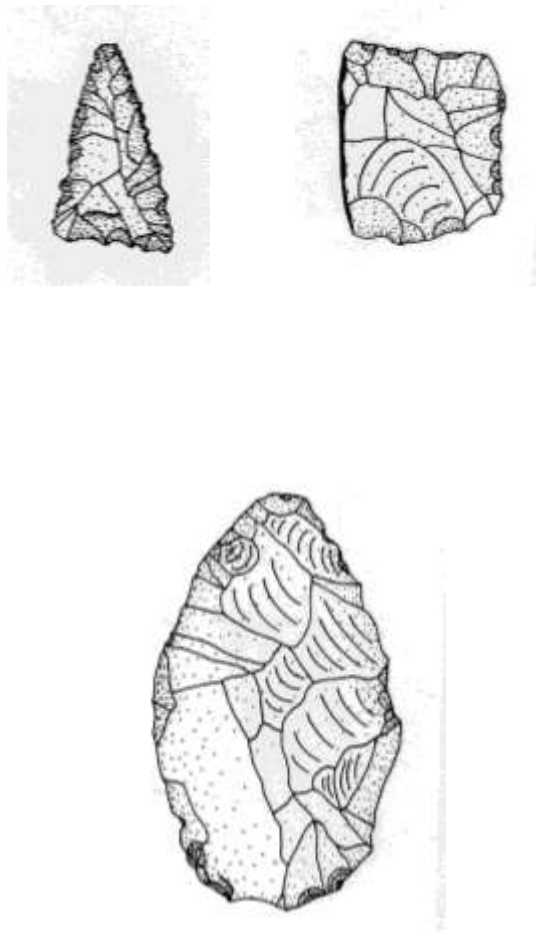


Figure 28. Profile of north wall of Test Trench 13 illustrating Feature 8, a potential berm and ditch (with in situ burning).



**Figure 29. Miscellaneous artifacts recovered from the 1996-97 investigations. Top row from site 11LS206. Top left, Madison-style point from Feature 3 (Lot 10); Top right, potential gunflint manufactured from local chert (Lot 14, Test Trench 6); Bottom, biface recovered from shovel test at 11LS690. All artifacts are actual size.**

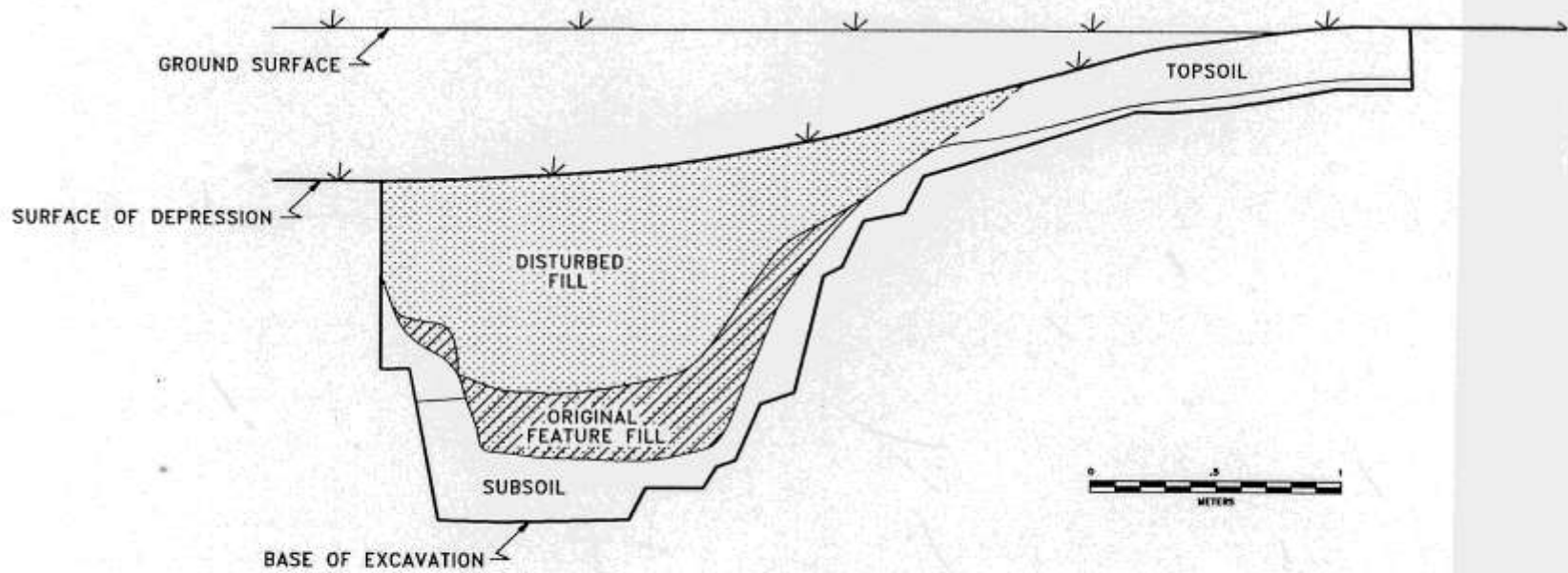


Figure 30. Profile detail of test trench 7, located at 11LS690



## ***SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS***

The recent research at the Newell Site has contributed dramatically to our understanding of this site (11LS206), as well as the work that the Newell family conducted during the 1930s. But, as with most archaeological projects, the current research at the Newell Site generated many questions, some of which are difficult to answer with any degree of certainty. The work conducted at the Newell Site has raised several very basic questions regarding the site, the investigations conducted by the Newell family, as well as the artifacts within the Newell Collection. These questions, which are discussed below, include:

- 1) “Why does the Newell Collection (as presented in the appendix) differ so dramatically from the artifact assemblage recovered from the 1996-97 excavations?”
- 2) “What do we know about the ‘Old Fort’ site (11LS206)?”, and “What does this site represent?”
- 3) “Is archaeological site 11LS206 significant and potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places?”

### Why does the Newell Collection (as presented in the appendix) differ so dramatically from the artifact assemblage recovered from the 1996-97 excavations?

Clearly, the quantity and quality of the artifacts recovered by the Newell family during the 1930s is considerably different from those artifacts collected during the course of the 1996-97 archaeological investigations. The Newell Collection consists of substantially more seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century artifacts than that recovered during the course of the recent investigations. Our current investigations recovered a very limited number of non-native artifacts (consisting of only a couple of bead fragments, rolled copper fragments, and potential gun flint). Considering that the Newell family excavated over multiple seasons with fairly large numbers of individuals, it is not surprising that the quantity of materials differs so dramatically. It is somewhat puzzling, though, that the assemblage recovered during the 1996-97 investigations is so poorly represented by non-native materials –in contrast to that of the Newell Collection.

Several potential explanations come to mind. First, we may not have been excavating in the same area as the Newell family. Another possibility is that the Newell family was extremely thorough at what they did, completely excavating the site and leaving few artifacts behind for us to recover. Similarly, the Newell family may have been excavating different types of features –house basins and trench fill which may have contained higher artifact densities –than the current investigations encountered. These explanations are discussed in detail below.

Several pieces of information strongly link the Newell family’s investigations to

Hitt's "Old Fort" site (11LS206). Jack Newell personally took Robert Hall to the location of 11LS206 and stated that that was the location that they were excavating. Hitt's legal description (as noted in Baldwin 1877) places the "Old Fort" site at this location, and the topography fits Hitt's map remarkably well. In the late 1940s, Kenneth Orr appears to have visited the site with both Jack and Frank Newell. Orr (1949) included a map of sites in the Starved Rock vicinity and placed the "Newell Site" at the location of 11LS206. Similarly, Tisher (1956) contains a map indicating the location of the "Old Fort" at this same location. Additionally, several pieces of information in the Newell Collection suggest that the Newells were interpreting the Hitt's "Old Fort" site. On one scrap of paper in the Newell Collection, one of the Newells add a series of numbers that correspond exactly with the multiple sections of the earthworks as listed on Hitt's map of the "Old Fort." The Newells use this same number to interpret the circumference of the earthworks that they were excavating. The Newells describe the palisade trench as having "muscle" shells within the fill of this ditch. Similar features (complete with weathered mussel shell) were uncovered at site 11LS206.

It would seem reasonable to suggest that the Newell family was, indeed, excavating at Hitt's "Old Fort" site which corresponds with the location of site 11LS206. But, we must ask ourselves, were the Newells only excavating at the "Old Fort" site? It seems unlikely. Based on her interviews with the Newell family, Dr. Margaret Brown (n.d.) noted that the Newell family was excavating a site that was located "partly on state land." Conservatively over 125m from the park property line, the "Old Fort" site is well removed from what would have been the state property line at that time. On the contrary, site 11LS690 is located immediately adjacent to state land (less than 30-40m from the state property line) and could have been interpreted as being "partly on state land" at the time she interviewed Mr. Newell. Based on the disturbed character of site 11LS690's surface, there appears to have been far greater excavation activity at this site than at the more southern "Old Fort" site (11LS206). It would appear that the Newells may have excavated at both 11LS206 as well as 11LS690. As sites 11LS206 and 11LS690 are located along the same upland ridge, it is very possible that the Newell family conceived of both sites (11LS206 AND 11LS690) as one and the same site.

With this in mind, we must ask ourselves, "Were the artifacts in the Newell Collection coming solely from the "Old Fort" Site, or were they being collected from multiple sites within the immediate area?" Although the Newells claim that the artifacts within this collection originated from the "Newell Site" (which we equate with 11LS206), it is very possible that they may have originated from both 11LS206 as well as 11LS690. Similarly, it is possible that artifacts from contemporary historic Indian villages within the immediate area could have been incorporated into this collection, either intentionally or inadvertently. Unfortunately, we do not have any way to ascertain whether the material in this collection originated solely from 11LS206 or not. With regard to the Newell Collection, we must not equate the artifacts from this collection as having originated solely from Hitt's "Old Fort" site –the site and the artifact assemblage are two independent data sets.

Jack Newell was an avid artifact collector who noted that he had been looking around for sites to collect. Jack Newell clearly had a well-rounded knowledge of the archaeological sites in the surrounding area and a special curiosity for sites from this early historic period. In the late 1940s, Kenneth Orr noted in his field notebook that he and John McGregor had consulted with the Newells regarding their knowledge of the immediate area –and that the Newells had provided information on other aboriginal sites in the French Canyon area to the researchers. In one location, either Jack or Frank Newell noted the presence of burials in French Canyon (Orr 1949). We must not underestimate the Newells' ability to collect [and interest in collecting] early historic Indian materials from a variety of nearby sites all along the upper Illinois River valley. What better location to collect early historic Indian artifacts than within a 50-60 mile radius of Starved Rock –an area occupied by as many as 10,000 to 20,000 Indians in the years 1680-1690? Additionally, during the 1930s, many significant early sites may have been available to the Newells that today no longer exist (such as sites inundated by the construction of the nearby lock and dam, and the quarrying activity that has been so active in the region both at nearby Utica and on top of Buffalo Rock).

Miscellaneous pieces of information in the Newell Collection, suggests that the father and son team were collecting artifacts from a wide range of sites in the region. Several newspaper clippings in the Newell Collection reference other early historic sites (such as potential missionary burials in Rock Island, and the potential discovery of La Salle's ship *The Griffin*). A partial page of a daily ledger in the Newell Collection from June 25 (of an unknown year) makes reference to Fort Creve Couer being located "½ mile from river, owned by German Farmer. Mound on place. No Relics." The next entry, potentially making reference to a fellow collector's comments about the "Man-in-the-Moon" beads in the Newells' possession, notes "Canton 8 miles from Lewiston. Beads found with moon but he never seen them." As such, we would suspect that both Jack and Frank were avid collectors, seeking out other contemporary sites to add to their growing and very significant collection of early historic artifacts.<sup>44</sup>

Assuming that the artifact collection did originate from the "Old Fort" site, the collection has undergone significant attrition over the years –with a prominent loss of the prehistoric materials once present in the collection. This loss of artifacts began many years ago. Brown (n.d.:1) noted that "It was stated by Mr. Newell that additional boxes containing nails, broken glass, seed beads, etc., were in an attic in Utica, Illinois. These boxes were not seen by the author." Presumably, at that time, these additional items were in Jack or Frank Newell's house, and it does not appear that these items were incorporated into the present collection. Similarly, discussions with Mr. Francis Newell indicate that he has given some of the artifacts to interested parties, further reducing the

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<sup>44</sup> In a letter dated March 9, 1999, Margaret K. Brown noted that "it is not surprising that you consider that some of the material [from the Newell Collection] came from elsewhere. Even if most of the 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> century artifacts were from the 'fort' I never felt all the prehistoric materials were."

size of the collection.<sup>45</sup> When the collection was removed from the Newell family's house by Dr. Walthall and deposited with the Illinois State Museum, much of the prehistoric materials still in the family's possession was left behind.

The degree that the collection has been reduced in size is evident when one looks at the lack of prehistoric artifacts as well as nails presently in the Collection. At one time, the materials in the Newell collection contained a wide range of prehistoric as well as historic artifacts, attesting to the Newell's extensive collecting activities. Photographs of the Newell Collection, while still in the family's possession and potentially dating to the late 1940s, illustrate the wide range of prehistoric materials in their personal collection. In 1948, Kenneth Orr (with the Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition) visited the Newell family and inspected their collection of artifacts noting the presence of numerous prehistoric pottery sherds in the collection –all attributed to the Newell Site. On July 21 of that year, Orr entered an entire page of notes (which were entitled "Pottery From The Newell Site") in his daily log. At the bottom of the page, Orr noted that "there are 2 other boxes (1' x1' x 4") of pottery which Newell's [sic]will get out for examination" (Orr 1948b). According to Orr's notes, Early Woodland, Middle Woodland, Late Woodland, and Upper Mississippian sherds, all originating from the Newell Site, were present in the collection. Today only a handful of prehistoric sherds, representing five sherds from a single vessel, are present within the collection. Similarly, the photographs of the Newell Collection presumably taken by the Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition noted the presence of a wide range of prehistoric lithic artifacts –very little of which exists in the collection today.

A similar fate has fallen on the nails once present in this collection. When M. Brown inspected the collection, she noted the presence of 20 nails. At that time Brown (n.d.:18) suspected that more nails were in storage at another location. She also noted the paucity of these items and suspected that differential selection had occurred in the collection process. Currently, the Newell Collection includes only 12 nails (several of which are machine-cut varieties typical of the nineteenth century).

As Brown (n.d.) correctly points out, the collection also contained an abundant amount of nineteenth-century material (such as nails and "kaolin" clay pipe fragments). If we again look at the nails from this assemblage, this point is driven home. Many of the artifacts from within this assemblage probably did not come from an eighteenth century context --if indeed they originated from the "Old Fort" Site at all. Nails from an early eighteenth-century context should all be of the forged variety. Inspection of the nails in this collection by this author indicated that of the twelve nails still present in the collection, only three were of the forged variety, and six of these nails were not attributable to any specific type. Of more significance is the fact that the remaining three nails were clearly machine-cut varieties that date from a post-1790s (and probably a nineteenth-century) context.

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<sup>45</sup> Of particular note, the catlinite effigy and a single "man-in-the-moon" bead were given to a collector from the Kankakee/Bourbonnais area who had approached Mr. Newell to appraise and buy his collection (Frances Newell, personal communication).

The presence of nineteenth-century artifacts within this collection suggests that the family had collected and/or excavated a nineteenth-century component typical of an early pioneer farm family. With this in mind, I find it difficult to accept the fact that a “large amount of iron scrap, cut fragments of iron bars and cut gun barrels” were recovered from a late seventeenth or early-eighteenth-century context at this site. If indeed, this material was recovered from this site, it may have been recovered from a nineteenth-century context. As such, it is difficult to accept that “a blacksmith with some ability to mend guns may have been at the site or visited there with some regularity...” as both Brown (n.d.:33) and Walthall (1993:499) suggest. With this in mind, I would also question the association of the architectural items in the collection (such as the locks, latches and hinges) with the eighteenth-century component. Unfortunately, these items are often associated with early pioneer sites, making it difficult to associate this material with the eighteenth-century component excavated by the Newells. As such, there is no conclusive evidence for the presence of an eighteenth-century blacksmith based on the existing collection.

If we are to assume that the artifacts in the Newell Collection all originated from Hitt’s “Old Fort” site, why did we uncover so few items? How were Jack and Frank able to find so much material, yet we uncovered so little? According to the Newells, the artifacts within their collection originated predominately from two feature types –house basins and the perimeter ditch. According to the Newells, the family excavated over 20 house basins at this site (Hall 1991). Unfortunately, we could not find any evidence of the excavated house basins at the “Old Fort” site. In contrast, several large depressions, potentially representing the remains of the excavated house basins were noted at 11LS690. Similarly, the Newells claimed that many of the artifacts in their collection originated from within the perimeter ditch, and that they had excavated nearly all of this ditch. Although we did identify what we interpret as the perimeter ditch, we were not able to uncover similar artifacts from this context. As it is suspected that the Newell family did not employ screens in their excavation strategy, it seems unlikely that they would have so successfully mined this feature –as well as the site as a whole-- of artifacts. Our efforts to screen the suspected backdirt from the Newell excavations resulted in finding no eighteenth-century artifacts.

Another possibility is that the Newells recovered many of the artifacts within their collection from the bottom of deep storage or cache pits that may have been present at the site (or nearby sites such as 11LS690). When La Salle returned to the Grand Village in 1680 looking for Tonti, the village had been decimated by the Iroquois, and he noted that “the graves were all demolished, and the homes of those of the dead who had been buried were taken from their trenches and scattered over the field. The holes where the Illinois hid their effects when they go hunting were all open. Their kettles and their pots were all broken...” (La Salle 1680 as cited in Hagen 1950:74). Parkman (1869:157) also describes caches or covered pits in which the Indians stashed their corn. These features were readily visible as shallow depressions to the early pioneers that settled the region. As the local historian Matson (1874:37) noted regarding the aboriginal “caches or

subterranean store house, for depositing corn,” ...“the remains of these caches were plain to be seen in the early settlement of the country, and in a few instances these relics still exist.” As such, Jack and Frank Newell may have been able to walk through the pasture in and around the “Old Fort” site and pick out depressions that represented the isolated storage pits used by the early inhabitants of this site. As Brown and Sasso (n.d.) suggest, these cache pits may also have been located outside of the earthen embankment –such as at the location of 11LS690 (and surrounding other sites), and the evidence of extensive digging at the latter site gives credence to this interpretation.

As originally documented in the 1940s, the Newell Collection contained a wide range of materials indicative of a complex multi-component site. Even after removing the obvious nineteenth-century artifacts from consideration, this assemblage does not represent a tightly-dated, short-term, early eighteenth-century component. M. Brown (n.d.:32) states “even [when] discounting the obvious nineteenth century artifacts” ... “dating and identifying the Newell Site presents a problem as it is not certain that the historical materials are all from a single occupation.” When discussing the gun locks in the collection, Brown (n.d.:33) noted that they were generally of the Type C variety and that they dated from the very late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. In contrast, the gun flints were of the Type A variety and potentially post dated this period. Dr. Esarey (Illinois Historic Preservation Agency) noted that the historic assemblage, as represented by the current Newell Collection, appears to document a 1710s through 1740 occupation (Esarey, Letter dated April 1, 1999).

What do we know about the ‘Old Fort’ site (11LS206)?”, and “What does this site represent?”

Based on the documentary record (particularly the Hitt map) and the recent archaeological investigations at the 11LS206, we can make some general statements about the “Old Fort” Site. First and foremost, it would appear that the low earthen embankment with interior ditch (or barrow) that was mapped and/or described by Hitt in the late 1860s was not a creative design by the nineteenth-century surveyor. Physical evidence, albeit limited in scope, was found to suggest that this cultural landscape feature was indeed present. Although, today, little remains to indicate that this earthen enclosure (and associated barrow or ditch) was ever present, linear depressions filled with organic-rich deposits containing mussel shells and mounded subsoil suggests that this enclosure did exist, enclosing an area of approximately 0.85 acres. Evidence of in situ burning within the ditch along the south and west sides of the enclosure may represent the destruction of the facility by fire. Unlike the Newell excavations, our excavations found few artifacts associated with the interior ditch. What little that we did find (triangular point, sheet copper, and both corn and bean cultigens) suggest an association with a very late prehistoric or early historic occupation. Additionally, there is strong evidence to suggest that it was this artifact-filled ditch that the Newell family spent considerable amount of time excavating. Unfortunately, this earthen enclosure has very little integrity today.

Besides the enclosing earthwork and ditch, we also documented the remains of contemporaneous interior features. A single, undisturbed storage pit (Feature 2) was noted within the interior of the enclosure. This shallow, flat-bottomed pit contained very little debris. A flotation sample taken from the base of the feature yielded the remains of a single corn kernel and a white seed bead. Although other numerous depressions (such as Feature 1) located near the center of the enclosure may represent the remains of looted, deep storage or cache pits, this interpretation has not been proven or refuted by the current research.<sup>46</sup> As Brown and Sasso (n.d.) and others (i.e., Mainfort and Sullivan 1998) note, it is unfortunate that few sites of this type have been investigated with controlled excavations. As such, our work at the “Old Fort” Site is of significance and lends insights into the use of these structures.

If indeed, the low earthen enclosure mapped by Colonel Hitt was real (i.e. it represents a cultural landscape feature created by previous inhabitants), what does it represent in terms of past human activity? What was the function of this earthen enclosure? Other low earthen embankments and/or enclosures are common in northern Illinois –particularly along this stretch of the upper Illinois River valley— with several other examples appearing within the literature (cf. Kullen 1994). Trained as a surveyor, and interested in regional history,<sup>47</sup> Hitt mapped several sites along the Illinois River that he referred to as Indian or mound builder’s *forts*. The three “Indian forts” mapped by Hitt were located at Marseilles (mapped by Hitt in June 1876), north of Wedron along the Fox River (at the mouth of Indian Creek; surveyed by Colonel Hitt in June 1877), and near Starved Rock. Both Matson (1882:199-202) and Wright (1901:12) published descriptions and maps of these “forts.”

Two other “prehistoric forts” were mapped in the immediate area by W. Hector Gale in the early 1880s (Gale 1883). These two sites were situated along the nearby Fox River Valley approximately eight miles north of Ottawa, near the small town of Wedron. The easternmost earthworks had previously been mapped by Hitt in 1877. Although Gale found human remains in the western-most mounds, he insisted on interpreting the sites as “forts”. Excavations at this same site by Northern Illinois University appear to confirm that this site represented a series of distinct low conical burial mounds dating from the Late Woodland period (Agran 1974). Scientific exploration of the eastern-most “fort” has never been conducted. Another similar earthwork, the Comstock Trace, was located at Higginbottom Woods along Hickory Creek (See Kullen 1994). On fairly limited information, Kullen (1994) suggests that the earthworks at Higginbottom Woods represents a Huber Phase enclosure associated with an adjacent habitation site and that the enclosure had a non-military and/or ceremonial function associated with the

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<sup>46</sup> Sauer et al. (1918) notes that the landform upon which the site is situated is formed of Carbondale Formation (predominately shale, limestone, and sandstone) which contains one workable coal bed (the LaSalle No. 2). It is also possible that these deep “pits” could have been associated with early coal mining activity.

<sup>47</sup> As Tisher (1956) noted, Hitt had “a well developed bump of curiosity.”

Midewiwin ceremonialism. Similar low earthen embankments were documented in northwestern Indiana along the tributaries of the Kankakee River (McAllister 1932).

But what was the function of these low earthen enclosures? Brown and Sasso (n.d.), like the nineteenth-century antiquarians before them, take the view that these structures represent fortifications. As these authors note, inter-tribal social strife (warfare) had a long history in this region and escalated with European contact with many groups adapting by constructing some form of fortifications.<sup>48</sup> Palisaded and earthen defensive enclosures extend into the prehistoric period and are well represented in the literature. Brown and Sasso (n.d.:33) note that the impact of Europeans into the New World “lead to a diversification of pre-existing patterns of intergroup raiding and warfare” which in turn lead to “even greater visibility of defensive works.” They continue by noting that “archaeologically, we see the commonplace though not ubiquitous construction of embankment enclosures during the early historic period” and note their presence at several locations. Brown and Sasso (n.d.:31) note that these earthen enclosures

are generally small in size... [and] tend to be circular (or more properly “C-shaped”), although a few with simple geometries are known. Presumably these fortified places were strongholds belonging to a dispersed population scattered nearby. A large portion of all such small enclosures are probably Oneota since many small, low-banked earthworks of simple geometry have been recorded in areas where late prehistoric habitation sites are found

Brown and Sasso (n.d.) illustrate the size distribution of 35 documented earthen enclosures that they assign to an Oneota context. Of these 35 enclosures, approximately 27 (or 77%) fall below one hectare in size with the majority of these enclosures averaging less than 0.5 hectare in size, and the largest enclosure approximately 19 hectares in size. At approximately 0.35 hectare in size, the “Old Fort” mapped by Colonel Hitt near Starved Rock and identified as site 11LS206 falls nicely within this size distribution.<sup>49</sup> Brown and Sasso (n.d.) also note that many of these enclosures appear to have an interior midden associated with a domestic component.

Many individuals have commented on the fact that the “Old Fort” or Newell Site was a palisaded Indian village. Unfortunately, no evidence was found during the course of our investigations to indicate that a palisade was indeed present. The integrity of these landscape features was so poor, though, that the evidence of a palisade trench might not

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<sup>48</sup> Brown and Sasso (n.d.:33) state that this “vulnerability led to a shift in settlement locations and probably encouraged the development of communal hunting.”

<sup>49</sup> The Highlands Site (11GR100) may represent one of the smaller examples of this site type. This site consists of a 12.5m diameter, C-shaped ditch approximately 1.1m wide at its greatest. Assuming that the ditch was located on the inside of an earthen embankment, the enclosure would have enclosed a circular area of slightly less than 0.005 hectares. Craig and Vorreyer (1999) believe that this structure represents a small ditch located around a single domestic structure (Craig and Vorreyer 1999).



have been preserved. Similarly, no direct evidence of a palisade exists in the archival record regarding this site. The lack of a palisade trench does not preclude the fact that these structures may still have functioned in a defensive manner. Such earthen enclosures may have been complemented with a more expedient abatis or obstruction created by weaving together a variety of felled trees, saplings, and brush. Upon returning to the Grand Village in 1680 and finding that it had been decimated by an attack of the Iroquois, La Salle made reference to the expedient fortification that the Iroquois intruders had constructed. He stated that they “had made a rude fort of trunks, boughs, and roots of trees laid together to form a circular enclosure; and this, too, was garnished with skulls, stuck on the broken branches, and protruding sticks...” (Parkman 1869:192-93). In yet another location, Parkman (1869:213) notes that the Indians constructed a “rude redoubt, or fort, of the trunks of trees and of the posts and poles, forming the framework of the lodges which escaped the fire... .” Such an expedient abatis may have been incorporated into the structure of the “Old Fort” and identified as 11LS206.

Earthen enclosures, such as the great earthworks at Newark (Ohio), have also been interpreted as ceremonial structures. As Mainfort and Sullivan (1998:5-6) note, many geometrical earthworks (particularly those associated with Middle Woodland Hopewell) have been interpreted as enclosing sacred space. Morgan (1952, as cited in Mainfort and Sullivan 1998:6) commented that

These geometrical enclosures were used as centers by the Hopewell peoples for social, religious and burial purposes. Their sacred character is testified to by the achieving of privacy by walls and connecting passageways, their symbolic form, and their use for burial of important personages in the group.... Although the hill-top enclosures have been termed “forts,” it is evident that they were used as ceremonial centers as well as for defense.

Mainfort and Sullivan’s Ancient Earthen Enclosures of the Eastern Woodlands (1998) notes that interpretations of these enigmatic enclosures have

relied on two standard interpretations..., designating them as ceremonial sites or forts. Only within the past few decades have we begun to understand the wide range of variation in the physical characteristics of enclosures and the equally varied purposes for which they were built (Mainfort and Sullivan 1998:preface).

Belovich (1998) explores both the sacred and defensive aspect of Early Late Woodland enclosures in northern Ohio. Similarly, Kullen (1994), as noted above, suggests that the enclosures in Illinois were associated with Midewiwin ceremonialism. Milner and O’Shea (1998) suggest that the Late Woodland enclosures in northern Michigan functioned as both a communal meeting place as well as trade center. Unlike the examples cited by Milner and O’Shea (1998), the enclosures in the upper Illinois Valley do not appear to have been situated in geographically marginal locations –on the contrary,

they appear to have been situated within a densely settled region during the period circa 1680-1690.

The presence of habitation related features and domestic debris within the interior of the earthen enclosure at the Newell Site would suggest that this enclosure did not function as an enclosure of sacred space, but instead functioned as a defensive structure potentially enclosing habitation space. Besides the enclosing earthwork and ditch, we also documented the remains of contemporaneous interior features. A single, undisturbed storage pit (Feature 2) was noted within the interior of the enclosure. This shallow, flat-bottomed pit contained very little debris. A flotation sample taken from the base of the feature yielded the remains of a single corn kernel and white seed bead. Although other numerous depressions (such as Feature 1) located near the center of the enclosure may represent the remains of looted, deep storage or cache pits, this interpretation has not been proven or refuted by the current research. Lithic concentrations found at the site probably date from an earlier prehistoric period. Nonetheless, it is suspected that some of the lithic debris recovered from the surface of the site probably was associated with the late prehistoric or early historic component. If one were to accept the Newell's interpretation, shallow hearths and house basins were also present at the site. If one accepts the Newells' interpretation, they apparently excavated a series of house floors within the interior of this enclosure. Unfortunately, we were not able to find evidence of these structures and question the ability of these excavators to recognize such features should they have been present. Artifacts recovered during the course of our investigations at this site –albeit in redeposited contexts— include several bead fragments (both seed bead and necklace beads) as well as a possible gun flint. These items are consistent with the items reportedly recovered from the site by the Newells.

Our investigations indicate that the earthen enclosure was associated with a late prehistoric, proto-historic, and/or early historic Indian habitation. As Brown and Sasso (n.d.) suggest, this site probably was associated with a dispersed village that used this compound for protective measures. Although earlier prehistoric features were uncovered outside the earthen embankment, we were not able to determine if the historic period features extend to the outside of this structural feature. Evidence of extensive excavations at nearby 11LS690 (probably conducted by the Newell family) raises the question about the possibility of contemporaneous, outlying structures being in close proximity to the earthen enclosure –as suggested by Brown and Sasso (n.d.). Other, as yet undefined contemporaneous outlying sites (representing the remains of single house sites) may be located in close association to this earthen enclosure.

#### Is archaeological site 11LS206 significant and potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places?

Ultimately, our research was designed to determine if the Newell Site was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places is based on four broad criteria which are defined by the National Park Service and used to guide the evaluation process. These criteria state:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In Illinois, generally, recognizing archaeological sites with a historic Indian component has been difficult. Due in part to the short-term nature of sites occupied by proto-historic and historic Indian groups, they are difficult to recognize within the archaeological record. Although the material recovered from these sites is often characterized by substantial European-derived artifacts (manufactured from iron, brass, and glass) that contrast dramatically with earlier aboriginal materials, these sites have not been recorded in numbers consistent with what the archival record suggests, and the surface signatures of these sites are often negligible. The recent survey of Starved Rock State Park isolated only four sites from this period (Ferguson 1995:5). As Ferguson (1995:5) notes,

part of the reason for the apparent low number (four) may be due to our inability to recognize their signature during survey, despite the use of a metal detector. Another reason is that the low representation may be more apparent than real. This period represents only 2% of the Holocene (10,000 years B. P. to the present). Two percent of the total number of sites in the park (173) is 3.5 sites. We have evidence for four sites from this period, which is about what would be expected given the relative length of the time period compared to the Holocene.

If the Newell Site (11LS206) is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, it would be eligible as per Criteria D and its likelihood to yield information important in prehistory and/or history. Eligibility must be determined based on in situ remains and not upon the supposition that the Newell artifact collection originated from this site. Clearly, at one time, this site had the potential to contribute to our understanding of the early historic period (ca. 1680-1730) in Illinois. Our research has

indicated that subsurface prehistoric and/or early historic features are indeed present at this site, *and* that extensive disturbances have occurred over the years at this site dramatically impacting the integrity of these features. These disturbances have nearly obliterated evidence of the low earthen embankment and associated ditch. What was once a prominent part of the site (the low earthen embankment and interior ditch) has all but disappeared from the site through overgrazing by hogs, and subsequent excavations by either the Newell family, early miners, or both. Our research also has indicated though, that aside from the extensive disturbances that have occurred at the site, intact subsurface features dating from the late prehistoric and/or early historic period are present and have the potential for contributing to our understanding of this elusive time period. Unfortunately, no features suggesting a French Colonial component were uncovered at 11LS206.

Ultimately, with the present state of knowledge regarding this site, although we suspect that the site is potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, it is impossible to nominate the site because it is difficult to determine the site limits and thus prepare a National Register of Historic Places nomination form for this property. Although it would be tempting to nominate that area enclosed by the Hitt map, we do not know if this enclosure encompasses the entire site. On the contrary, current research by Brown and Sasso (n.d.) on sites of this type suggests that the earthen enclosure may only represent a small portion of a much larger site. With this in mind, the site may actually extend all along this ridge to nearby 11LS690. More fieldwork would be necessary to determine this. Additional research should also focus on the copper items recovered from this site during the 1996-97 investigations. Does this material represent native or non-native copper?

Similarly, we were not able to conclusively determine the association of the Newell artifact collection with site 11LS206. Although we suspect that a majority, if not, all of this material originated *from the vicinity* of site 11LS206, we have suspicions that some of this material may have originated from nearby contemporary sites (such as 11LS690). Nonetheless, the Newell Collection remains a significant assemblage of early contact-period artifacts from Illinois, and the story of the Newell family's efforts to commercialize the archaeology of the region during the early 1930s is an interesting footnote to our state's (and profession's) history. With this in mind, site 11LS 206 may even be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as per Criterion A (history).

Ultimately, we believe that Hall's 1991 interpretation is worth re-emphasizing – that the Newell Site (also known as the “Old Fort” Site) conforms “to what one might expect of a fortified village occupied by the non-Illinoisan Indian allies of the French at Fort St. Louis during the period 1683-92 or by the Peoria-Illinois in the latter part of the period 1692-1722” (Hall 1991:28).

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APPENDIX I

NEWELL'S PRINTED TOUR OF FORT ST. LOUIS  
(CA. 1932-33)

[HANDWRITTEN TEXT ON LINED PAPER FOUND  
IN THE NEWELL FAMILY PAPERS;  
CAPITALIZATION AND PUNCTUATION HAVE BEEN EDITED]

This is the Gateway of Fort St. Louis. You will notice the breast works of the trench runs out on both sides at this point.

This is the trench as we found it, but my father can remember thirty years ago when it was approximately 2 ½ to 3 ft in depth.

But as the pigs or hogs have grazed this ground for past thirty years it has gradually been filled in.

This is a hole you can see. Is all black dirt. This hole is the middle of the trench. Across from this is a hole dug by us in the breast works. It is as you notice soil that has been thrown up here.

This is a small strip we have dug up of the trench to the approximate depth and within as you can see...

You will evidently note the irregularity of the trench. This was so as the Indian could stand in one end of the trench and slaughter the French soldiers.

This is a hearth or fire pit used by the French. Notice the charcoal and ashes. Also the quantity of oyster and clam shells found in these pits.

Notice how this trench runs to a point in this particular place so as the French could look into the ravine as not to let any enemy crawl up on them.

Notice how the trench runs in V shape here. That is supposedly so as they could watch the Ravine that runs South.

Note in this hearth you will see a piece of sappling [sic] root has been cut out .... On this root and it was cut out to preserve the rust on it.

In this hearth or fire pit will be seen numerous clam and oyster shells as well as charcoal. 4 large beads were found in the bottom of this pit.

Please step to the display case and see the implements and numerous other items that have all been found inside this fort.

And questions that visitors would like to ask will be answer[ed] by any of the attend[ants?] at the best of their ability.

APPENDIX II

MISCELLANEOUS DESCRIPTIONS OF THE NEWELL SITE  
(FROM NEWELL COLLECTION PAPERS)

Account 1

Basswood in South Trench 14 ft West. 18ft. East. 22 ft. North to Cabin. 21 ft South of Oak on North Side. 7 ft from White Oak from North trench stump east of White oak to East corner 21 ft.

Account 2

19 x 50 +12 = 962 ft cicum.

386 ft through

132 ft

N and S < 150 ft

N to S from White

Oak at upper end 133 (?) ft

from Dead Oak to

South side 112 ft

Account 3

small stump 12 ft west to another fire pit on Breast works. 35 ft dug to west 7 ft from Second Oak & 11 ft N & E of stump in trench on south west side. 111 ft dug out total

Account 4

South trench from red [horse??] to nob on north side of first oak on south breast works to west 23 ft. 8 ft from oak N & E taper 45° --8 ft fire pit 16 ft to second tree west [?] kettle under root of oak on breast works 25 ft from root of second oak to fire pit on south breast works ... 7 foot from fire pit North & East.

APPENDIX III

LOT PROVENIENCE  
NEWELL SITE (11LS206) INVESTIGATIONS

<u>Lot Number</u>	<u>Provenience</u>
1	General Surface (Metal Detector Survey)
2	Trench 1
3	Trench 2
4	Trench 2 (Feature 1, Area A)
5	Trench 2 (Feature 1, Area B)
6	Trench 3 (North End)
7	Trench 3 (South End)
8	Trench 3 (Feature 2)
9	Trench 4
10	Trench 4 (Feature 3, Level 1)
11	Trench 4 (Feature 3, Level 2)
12	Trench 4 (Mound Fill at South End of Trench)
13	Trench 5
14	Trench 6 (General)
15	Trench 6 (South End)
16	Trench 6 (North End)
17	Trench 6 (Feature 5)
18	Trench 7 (IAS Site 11LS690)
19	Trench 7 (Feature 11) (IAS Site 11LS690)
20	Trench 8
21	Trench 9
22	Trench 7 (Feature 11 soil sample)
23	Trench 9 (Feature 6; ridge)
24	Trench 9 (Feature 6; swale)
25	Trench 10
26	Unassigned
27	Surface (around tree; south slope)
28	West slope (off site; chert sample)
29	Surface (11LS206; along west slope)
30	Surface (11LS690)
31	Surface (11LS206; along south slope)
32	Trench 11
33	Trench 12
34	Trench 13
35	Trench 14
36	Trench 14 (Feature 10, Scraped surface)
37	Trench 14 (Feature 10, Level 1)
38	Trench 14 (Feature 9)
39	Trench 15
40	Feature 1 (Near Base of Excavations)

APPENDIX IV  
LOT INVENTORY  
NEWELL SITE (11LS206) INVESTIGATIONS

Lot 1

- 2 primary flakes (4 gm)
- 4 secondary flakes (8 gm)
- 2 cobbles (2 gm)
- 1 flake scraper (light notching; 8 gm)
- 1 broken scraper? (2 gm)
- 1 flake awl/scrapper tool (3 gm)
- 1 sandstone (13 gm)
- 1 metal collar (1 7/8" outside diameter; 1" inside diameter; set screw in side)
- 1 storage tank Underwriters plaque (embossed: "UNDERWRITERS'  
LABORATORIES, IN.../ INSPECTED/ INSIDE STORAGE TANK/ FOR OIL  
BURNERS/ METAL NO 14 U. S. GAGE NO C\_499668"

Lot 2

- 1 bifacial thinning flake (2 gm)
- 2 tertiary flakes (0.5 gm)
- 1 sandstone (9 gm)
- 2 glass bead (11.5mm x 10.3mm diameter; 2.61mm center diameter)

Lot 3

- 1 primary flake (heat treated?; 9 gm)
- 2 burnt earth ( 5 gm)
- 1 charcoal (0.5 gm)

Lot 4

- 1 primary flake (1 gm)
- 2 secondary flakes (1 gm)
- 3 tertiary flakes (1 gm)
- 3 pebbles (3 gm)

Lot 5

- 1 primary flakes (4 gm)
- 3 secondary (13 gm)
- 1 broken flake (1 gm)
- 4 wood charcoal (5 gm)
- 1 cobble (2 gm)
- 1 gunflint (honey color; 2 gm)
- 1 utilized flake (micro-lithic knife; 1 gm)
- 2 machine cut nails (fragmentary)
- 1 machine cut nail (2 1/2" long)

Lot 6

- 5 primary flakes (23 gm)
- 8 secondary flakes (5 gm)
- 7 tertiary flakes (1 gm)



- 1 core rejuvenation flake(6 gm)
- 9 broken flakes (2 gm)
- 3 chert block shatter (59 gm)
- 8 pebbles (16 gm)
- 1 shale (41 gm)
- 1 shell fragment (2 gm)
- 1 charcoal (.2 gm)
- 1 copper piece (1 gm)

Lot 7

- 1 decortification flake (5 gm)
- 6 primary flakes (22 gm)
- 3 secondary flakes (1 gm)
- 10 tertiary flakes (1 gm)
- 14 broken flakes (3 gm)
- 7 cobbles (58 gm)
- 2 chert block shatter (4 gm)
- 1 copper sheet (1.5cm x 1.9cm; 1 gm)

Lot 8

- 1 primary flake (1 gm)
- 2 tertiary flakes (1 gm)
- 1 chert block shatter (61 gm)
- 1 fire-cracked rock? (290gm)
- 2 pebbles (2 gm)
- 3 shells (4 gm)
- 2 wood charcoal (0.5 gm)

Lot 9

- 2 decortification flakes (12 gm)
- 6 primary flakes (29 gm)
- 13 secondary flakes (7 gm)
- 14 tertiary flakes (2 gm)
- 10 broken (4 gm)
- 6 chert block shatter (1 gm)
- 2 cobbles (2 gm)
- 1 sandstone (0.5 gm)
- 1 utilized shatter (2 gm)
- 1 biface blank fragment (18 gm)

Lot 10

- 1 decortification flake (4 gm)
- 10 primary flakes (41 gm)
- 17 secondary flakes (2 gm)
- 26 tertiary flakes (4 gm)

- 21 broken flakes (14 gm)
- 13 chert block shatter (10 gm)
- 2 core fragments (30 gm)
- 1 primary flake awl (6 gm)
- 28 burnt earth (18 gm)
- 25 sandstone (53 gm)
- 16 charcoal (3 gm)
- 28 pebbles (14 gm)
- 1 shell (.1 gm)
- 1 projectile point (small triangular Madison-style; 1 gm)

Lot 11

- 1 primary flake (2 gm)
- 5 secondary flakes (2 gm)
- 7 tertiary flakes (2 gm)
- 5 chert block shatter (2 gm)
- 6 burnt earth (5 gm)
- 8 sandstone (12 gm)
- 19 pebbles (18 gm)
- 8 wood charcoal (5 gm)

Lot 12

- 5 secondary flakes (2 gm)
- 2 tertiary flakes (0.5 gm)]
- 2 broken flakes (0.5 gm)
- 4 chert block shatter (2 gm)
- 1 shell 92 gm)
- 1 drill mid-section (2 gm)
- 2 coal (small)
- 1 wood (small)
- 2 pebbles
- 1 tooth (small; fragmentary; 1 gm)
- 1 milk glass canning lid (embossed: "...C CAP")
- 1 window glass (aqua)

Lot 13

- 1 secondary flake (3 gm)
- 1 chert block shatter (1 gm)
- 1 bone (0.5 gm)
- 7 wood charcoal (10 gm)

Lot 14

- 3 decortification flakes (12 gm)
- 12 primary flakes (small; 28 gm)
- 11 secondary flakes (8 gm)

- 11 tertiary flakes (2 gm)
- 41 broken flakes (10 gm)
- 16 chert block shatter (66 gm)
- 1 bipolar core fragment? (4 gm)
- 1 utilized flake tool (4 gm)

Lot 15

- 5 secondary flakes (6 gm)
- 6 broken flakes (1 gm)
- 6 chert block shatter (16 gm)
- 2 bipolar flakes with helical scars (11 gm)
- 1 utilized shatter scraper (10 gm)
- 1 sandstone (5 gm)
- 1 shell fragment (.1 gm)

Lot 16

- 1 decortification flakes (2 gm)
- 11 primary (24 gm)
- 14 secondary (7 gm)
- 16 tertiary (2 gm)
- 14 broken flakes (5 gm)
- 20 chert block shatter (44 gm)
- 1 pot lid (1 gm)
- 8 cobbles (21 gm)

Lot 17

- 6 decortification flakes (51 gm)
- 13 primary flakes (47 gm)
- 13 secondary flakes (9 gm)
- 12 tertiary flakes (2 gm)
- 9 broken flakes (1 gm)
- 17 chert block shatter (66 gm)
- 3 core fragments (51 gm)

Lot 18

- 1 decortification flake (7 gm)
- 2 secondary flake (2 gm)
- 1 sandstone (72 gm)
- 1 shell fragment (.1 gm)

Lot 19

- 1 hammerstone (214 gm)

Lot 20

- 6 metal edging (3 to 10" long)

- 2 miscellaneous sheet metal
- 6 wood charcoal

Lot 21

- 1 red sandstone (42 gm)
- 1 cobble scraper (5 gm)

Lot 23

- 1 broken bifacial scraper (2 gm)

Lot 24

- 17 wood charcoal (12 gm)
- 2 shells (15 gm)

Lot 25

- 11 primary flakes (386 gm)
- 5 secondary flakes (15 gm)
- 6 cobble cores (large; 286 gm)
- 6 chert block shatter (138 gm)
- 4 chert cobble source material (464 gm)

Lot 27

- 14 decortification flakes (96 gm)
- 59 primary flakes (146 gm)
- 71 secondary flakes (90 gm)
- 10 tertiary flakes (3 gm)
- 47 broken flakes (47 gm)
- 2 core rejuvenation flakes (4 gm)
- 3 utilized secondary flakes (4 gm)
- 1 core fragment (11 gm)
- 1 bipolar wedge (3 gm)
- 53 chert block shatter (78 gm)
- 6 shell (3 gm)
- 13 pebbles (27 gm)
- 1 bottle glass (clear)

Lot 28

- 1 primary flake (11 gm)
- 1 slate-like flake (242 gm)

Lot 29

- 4 decortification flakes (32 gm)
- 5 primary flakes (35 gm)
- 13 secondary flakes (41 gm)

- 2 cobble core rejuvenation flakes (11 gm)
- 2 broken flakes (2 gm)
- 1 miscellaneous chert cobble (9 gm)
- 1 miscellaneous stone (3 gm)
- 1 utilized primary flake (7 gm)
- 1 cobble core (4cm x 4cm x 1.5cm; 26 gm)

Lot 30

- 3 decortification flakes (76 gm)
- 5 primary flakes (23 gm)
- 18 secondary flakes (35 gm)
- 14 tertiary flakes (8 gm)
- 1 core rejuvenation flake (6 gm)
- 18 broken flakes (14 gm)
- 2 chert block shatter (21 gm)
- 1 calcite bone (2 gm)
- 1 sandstone (3 gm)
- 1 bifacial thinning flake (large; 15 gm)
- 1 bifacial core tool blank fragment (12 gm)

Lot 31

- 9 decortification flakes (61 gm)
- 20 primary flakes (87 gm)
- 17 secondary flakes (13 gm)
- 6 tertiary flakes (2 gm)
- 1 core rejuvenation flake (5 gm)
- 13 broken flakes (16 gm)
- 5 chert block shatter (30 gm)
- 3 chert cobbles (9 gm)
- 1 utilized secondary flake (2 gm)

Lot 32

- 4 primary flakes (21 gm)
- 5 secondary flakes (4 gm)
- 1 broken flake (3 gm)
- 1 block shatter scraper (8 gm)

Lot 33

- 1 bipolar core (small cobble; 14 gm)
- 2 shells (fragmentary; 3 gm)

Lot 34

- 1 primary flake (2 gm)
- 1 cobble (1 gm)
- 1 sandstone (0.5 gm)

- 2 wood charcoal (1 gm)
- 1 burnt earth (1 gm)

Lot 35

- 11 primary flakes (63 gm)
- 9 secondary flakes (23 gm)
- 3 tertiary flakes (0.5 gm)
- 1 bifacial thinning flake (3 gm)
- 4 broken flakes (1 gm)
- 26 chert block shatter (18 gm)
- 1 core (57 gm)

Lot 36

- 1 decortification flake (9 gm)
- 1 secondary flake (0.5 gm)
- 1 burnt earth (6 gm)
- 1 wood charcoal (0.5 gm)

Lot 37

- 1 core rejuvenation flake (5 gm)
- 1 tertiary flake (.1 gm)

Lot 38

- 8 decortification flakes (202 gm)
- 75 primary flakes (652 gm)
- 48 secondary flakes (222 gm)
- 5 tertiary flakes (1 gm)
- 18 broken flakes (25 gm)
- 4 core rejuvenation flakes (88 gm)
- 27 chert block shatter (750 gm)
- 3 cobble source material (100 gm)

Lot 39

- 1 cobble core (45 gm)

Lot 40

- 1 copper sheet (2 ½" long x 1" wide; 1.1mm thick)
- 1 machine cut nail (4 ¼" long)
- 1 machine cut nail (2 ½" long)
- 3 machine cut nail fragments
- 2 carbonized cob? (6 gm)
- 1 glass bead (white; 2.21mm x 3 mm)

## *APPENDIX V*

### *Catalogue of the Newell Collection*

*by*  
*Margaret Kimball Brown*  
*and*  
*John Walthall*

#### Introduction<sup>47</sup>

The Newell Site (11Ls206) is located in La Salle County in northern Illinois and lies partly in Starved Rock State Park and partly on private land. The site is above French Canyon on the 600-foot contour line. Presently the land is heavily wooded but in the 1930s when the site was dug it was in pasture and farm land. No professional work has been done here; the material was excavated by a local family: John Sr., John, Jr., Frank, and Elizabeth Newell.

A very brief description of the site prior to their work was obtained from the Newells. The site is said to have been defined by low (ca. one to two feet) earthen embankments enclosing an area of about one acre. The artifacts are presently in the care of John Newell, Jr., and were examined at a private home. The materials are not arranged in any particular order and no conservation or repair had been done. It was stated by Mr. Newell that additional boxes containing nails, broken glass, seed beads, etc. were stored in an attic in Utica, Illinois. These boxes were not seen by the author.

The collection examined had not only European manufactured articles but prehistoric artifacts, particularly projectile points. Some of the prehistoric materials may have come from other locations nearby, but all historic artifacts are said to have been found within the embankment. The aboriginal materials range in time from Archaic to Historic. These were photographed during examination of the collection, but time constraints precluded any analysis of them.

The site has been known for many years, but no illustrations or descriptions of the artifacts have been published other than a few contemporary news articles. Since there is no locational data other than occurrence within the embankment, the materials are discussed only in descriptive terms. The quantities of material classes and the dimensions are given in order to facilitate comparisons with other historic sites.

#### Glass Beads (n=637)

Some 637 beads were present in the Newell collection. The total glass bead sample consists of 173 seed beads (27%), 206 drawn necklace beads (32%) and 258 wound necklace beads (41%). A number of the larger necklace beads were broken. In general, the bead count includes broken specimens which retained half or more of their original form. The beads

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<sup>47</sup> This introduction was written by M. K. Brown in the early 1970s. The remainder of the text was adapted by J. Walthall in the early 1990s from M. K. Brown's 1970s manuscript.

were classified utilizing the system devised by Kidd (1970). The classification system established by Brain (1979) for the Trudeau Site materials in Louisiana was not used in the study of this collection since the major occupation of the Newell site took place during the period when the Illinois Country was a part of Canada. After 1718, the governing of the Illinois country was turned over to the Louisiane Colony and subsequent major supply lines were via New Orleans and the Mississippi River.

Since beads reaching the Newell outpost were being shipped from Canada there should be similarities with the shipment of beads sent to Fort Michilimackinac and to Green Bay. We have therefore cross-referenced the Kidd classification with those of Mason (1986) for the beads from Rock Island at the mouth of Green Bay, and Stone (1974) for the beads recovered at Fort Michilimackinac. Mason utilized the Kidd classification but also assigned numerical designations to each of his bead varieties. Mason's number system is given in Tables 1-3 when appropriate. In order to provide a basis for further comparison, the bead varieties found at the Newell outpost were also correlated with the numerical system employed by Good (1992) for beads from the 1719-1765 Illini occupation at the Guebert site in Randolph county. Color photographs of most of the bead varieties found at Newell are contained in the reports by Good (1972), Stone (1974), and Mason (1986).

The data provided in Table 4 indicate that of the 29 varieties of glass beads found at the Newell site, 18 of them were present at Guebert, 21 at Rock Island during Period 3 (1670-1730), and 19 were present at Fort Michilimackinac. Major differences in the presence/absence of particular varieties occur in the polychrome drawn necklace series, and in the monochrome wound necklace series. Comments are provided below for each of the bead series recognized in the Newell collection.

*Drawn Monochrome Seed Beads* (n=173; See Table 1). The majority of the seed beads from the Newell Site (n=150) are white beads that are composed of an inner layer of opaque white glass and an outer layer of clear glass. The remaining seed beads in the Newell collection include 22 blue beads and one black bead. Neither screening nor flotation were employed during the excavation and it is likely that the seed bead sample is biased since dark colored beads would be more likely to be overlooked.

This is the most common bead variety of the eighteenth-century French trade (Walthall and Benchley 1987:55). No historical documentation exists concerning the initial period of use of the small seed beads in embroidery and clothing decoration by the Illini. During the second half of the eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth century, glass seed beads were combined with fragments of porcupine quills by western Great Lakes Indians in decorating garments and accessories (Pope 1977). Deliette (Quaife 1947:121-122), writing of the Illini in the late-seventeenth century, relates that the Illini women "... work well with porcupine quills, with which they trim their gala moccasins. The Potawatomi and Ottawa furnish these to them, for there are no animal of this sort among them." D'Artaguiette, writing in 1722 (Mereness 1916:73), stated that the Illini "...women occupy themselves with housework, in sewing... and the rest of the time they do porcupine work, which is very well known in France (where a good deal of it has been sent). In return their husbands leave them the say as to the buying and selling."



**Table 4.**  
**Seed Beads in the Newell Collection.**

<b>Drawn Monochrome</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Mason</b>	<b>Kidd</b>	<b>Stone</b>
White Compound	150	107a	23	IIa13/14	CI,SB,T1,Va
Blue	22	92	31	IIa31	CI,SA,T1,Vf
Black	1	69	18	IIa7	CI,SA,T1,Va
Total:	173				

Sources: Good 1972, Mason 1986, Kidd and Kidd 1970, Stone 1974.

Based upon archaeological data, decoration of clothing with sewn patterns of seed beads apparently began in the first quarter of the eighteenth century and became widely popular during the second quarter among the Illini. One of the burials found atop Starved Rock (Feature 35), which is likely contemporary with the Newell site occupation, was accompanied by over a thousand white compound seed beads. The burial of a child at the River L'Abbe mission site on Monks Mound, which dates between 1735 and 1752, contained nearly 6,000 seed beads which had been sewn on a jacket of wool or buckskin. This garment had been fringed with brass tinkling cones (Walthall and Benchley 1987: 35).

*Drawn Monochrome Necklace Beads (n=195; See Table 2).* Eight varieties of drawn monochrome necklace-size beads were in the collection. Of the 195 specimens in this sample, 79% (154) are a variety of opaque white oval beads. Overall, the beads in the Newell collection indicate a preference toward white beads. Including the wire-wound off-white necklace beads, white beads comprise some 71% of the total collection. Other monochrome colors in the drawn necklace bead sample include blue, black and red. The one black oval bead which is faceted has not been reported in any other regional collection. It is likely that this is not a trade bead, but rather may have been a part of a rosary.

*Drawn Polychrome Necklace Beads (n=11; See Table 2).* Although often illustrated (c.f. Quimby 1966), polychrome necklace beads represent a distinct minority of the beads distributed in the French fur trade. Of the six sites in the Illinois Country which yielded large collections of beads, only 4% of the 4,359 necklace beads recovered were polychrome (Walthall and Benchley 1987:55). Similarly, only 5% of the drawn necklace beads at the Newell site were polychrome (Table 2, IB 1-4). None of the four varieties of these beads were found at all three of the sites used for comparison. For example, the white tubular beads with yellow and red stripes were found only at Newell and Rock Island as were the white oval beads with blue and yellow stripes. Walthall and Benchley (1987: 57) have noted that "white monochrome drawn beads (especially seed beads) were a staple of the French Middle Historic Period trade, the importation of complex or compound polychrome beads appears sporadic and perhaps confined to small lots or specific types or mixed lots of diverse types."

*Wound Monochrome Necklace Beads (n=238; See Table 3).* Wound monochrome necklace beads comprise nearly half of the total Newell bead collection. By far, two types dominate the sample. One type is an off-white to pale-blue to clear spun bead which exhibits

a continuum of shape variation between round and oval. Length ranges from 8 to 19mm and the diameter between 8 and 17mm. These beads are dated 1700-1750 and were very popular, perhaps due to their resemblance to large freshwater pearls (Mason 1986:193). The second type of bead, a large faceted necklace form, constitutes 36% of the wound monochrome beads. These beads have pressed facets and range in size from 8 to 17mm in diameter. At the Newell site they are found in three varieties, blue (n=78), clear (n=6), and amber (n=1). The amber and aqua spindle-shaped beads have not been recognized in regional collections. They are donut-shaped but have convex faces. One measurable amber specimen is 10mm in diameter and 15mm in width at the center.

**Table 5.**  
**Drawn Necklace Beads in the Newell Collection.**

<b>A. Monochrome</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Mason</b>	<b>Kidd</b>	<b>Stone</b>
1. Opaque White	154	96-98	24	Ila15	CI,SA,T1,Va
2. Opaque White	14	106	22	Ila13	CI,SA,T3,Va
3. Black Donut	10	165	18	Ila7	CI,SA,T10,Va
4. Blue Tubular	10	122	5	Ia19	CI,SA,T5,Vb
5. Blue Oval	3	56	41	Ila57	CI,SA,T1,Vb
6. Red Oval	2	129	15	Ila2	--
7. Lt. Blue Oval	1	88	36	Ila42	--
8. Black Faceted	1	--	--	--	--
Subtotal:	195				
<b>B. Polychrome</b>					
1. Striped Tubular	3	--	11	--	CI,SC,T8,Va
2. Blue Stpd. Oblong	3	138a	50	Iib7	--
3. Red Stpd. Oval	3	--	44	Iib21	--
4. Striped Oval	2	--	51	Iib8	--
Subtotal:	11				
Grand Total:	206				

Sources: Good 1972, Mason 1986, Kidd and Kidd 1970, Stone 1974.

*Wound Polychrome Necklace Beads (n=18; See Table 3).* Only two varieties of polychrome wound necklace beads were present in the Newell collection. One, a black (dark burgundy) bead with white, wavy stripes around the circumference, was represented at Newell by a single example (Table 3, IIB1). Only two other beads of this variety have been reported in the Illinois country, one from the Kaskaskia Illini component at Guebert (Good 1972), and one from the nearby site at Starved Rock (Walthall and Benchly 1987:57). Such beads are more common in collections from the lower Mississippi Valley (360 were recovered at the Trudeau

site) and these beads may be strongly associated with the lower Louisiane deerskin trade (Brain 1979:112).

**Table 6.**  
**Wound Necklace Beads in the Newell Collection.**

<b>A. Monochrome</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Mason</b>	<b>Kidd</b>	<b>Stone</b>
1. White round/oval	136	48-54	77	WIc2/3	CII,SA,T6,Vb
2. Blue Faceted	78	7	91	WIIc11/12	CII,SA,T1,Vb
3. Clear Faceted	6	6	--	WIIc3	CII,SA,T1,Vh
4. Amber Faceted	1	--	87	WIIc5	CII,SA,T1,Vh
5. Blue Tub. Faceted	1	2-3	--	--	--
6. Blue Raspberry	2	25	96	WIId6	CII,SA,T2,Va
7. Peacock Blue Donut	3	44	--	WIId3	CII,SA,T11,Vf
8. Amber Donut	2	45	79	WIId1/2	CII,SA,T11,Vc
9. Amber Oval	3	--	71	WIc5	CII,SA,T11,Vd
10. Amber Spindle Donut	2	--	--	--	--
11. Aqua Spindle Donut	2	--	--	--	--
Subtotal:	238				
<b>B. Polychrome</b>					
1. White on Black	1	75	--	--	CI,SC,T3,Vg
2. Man in Moon	17	--	101	WIIIc1	CII,SA,T5,Va
Subtotal:	18				
Grand Total:	256				

Sources: Good 1972, Mason 1986, Kidd and Kidd 1970, Stone 1974.

The second variety of polychrome bead found at the Newell site is the rare "Man in the Moon" bead (Figure 32). The seventeen found at Newell represent the largest number reported from a single site in the western Great Lakes region. These large beads, which measure 16 x 18mm, have a crescent moon with a face and a star on the obverse, and a shooting star and two stars on the reverse. Beads of this variety have been reported from four sites other than Newell. Five were recovered at the Rock Island site (Mason 1986: Color plate 4, no. 101) in Period 3 (1670-1730) contexts, eight were found at Fort Michilimackinac (Stone 1974: Figure 49, mm, nn), three were reported at Fort St. Joseph in extreme southeastern Michigan (Hulse 1977:97), and several were recovered from the Old Birch Island site in Ontario (Greenman 1951: 55; Pope 1977:52, nos. 49-50). These beads have not been reported from lower Louisiane. Their distribution in the western Great Lakes indicates that they were dispersed as part of the Canadian fur trade. Their recovery at sites which have good dated French occupation indicates a temporal range of 1700-1725 for their appearance. An even more restricted date may be offered. Their presence at Fort Michilimackinac, occupied in 1715, at Fort St. Joseph where the major French component began in 1717, and at

Newell where the French component is terminated prior to 1722, suggest that these unusual “Man in the Moon” beads may have been distributed to western outposts, perhaps in a single trade season, between 1715 and 1720.<sup>48</sup>

### Ornamental Metal Objects

*Plain Rings (n=2).* Both of these specimens are plain, wedding-band type rings of brass. One is 5mm wide and 19mm in diameter; the other is 3mm wide and 10mm in diameter.

*Jesuit Rings (n=9; See Table 4).* A total of nine brass finger rings, commonly referred to as Jesuit rings, were reported from the Newell site (Figure 31). Two of the rings are plain brass bands with a flat interior surface and a convex exterior. The other seven rings have a band and decorated bezel cast together. Three of these have octagonal bezels, five have round bezels, and one has a heart-shaped bezel. In Illinois, Jesuit rings have been recovered from six eighteenth-century sites. These 31 rings have been discussed in detail in Walthall (1993). See also Cleland (1972), Wood (1974), Stone (1974), and Mason (1976) for comparative examples.

*Bells (n=4).* These are all flushloop-variety, brass hawk bells. Three are crushed and no measurements could be obtained; the other is a medium-size bell 13 mm in diameter and 18 mm in height. See I. Brown (1976, 1979) for comparative examples.

*Buttons (n=2).* One brass button, cast in two pieces, has the loop soldered on. The crown which is plain and dome shaped measures 2mm in height and 10mm in diameter. This button corresponds to Stone’s Class II, Series B buttons. The other button has a brass domed crown and a perforated wooden back. The crown is decorated with a central circle and radiating triangular points. This button is 22mm in diameter and corresponds to Stone’s class III, Series A, possibly T5. For comparative material. See Stone (1974: 54-55).

*Bracelets (n=8).* These simple C-shaped bracelets are made from plain brass wire which ranges from 2-3mm in diameter (Figure 33). These specimens have the following diameters (mm) : 40, 45, 47, 50, 55, 64, 65, and 73. Similar brass wire bracelets and a brass wire neck circlet were recovered in association with Feature 35, a bundle burial found atop Starved Rock (Hagen 1950). See also Hulse (1977: 121).

*(Figure 34) Cones (n=83).* Two shapes of tinkling cones occur in the collection. One type (conical) was formed by rolling the cut sheet blank into a conical shape. The metal overlaps all along the edge of the tinkler, and the cone is even at the base. The other type (expanded base) is much wider proportionately at the base and has a triangular basal projection. Fifty-nine tinklers are of the conical type, eighteen are expanded base, and six are fragmentary. The conical tinklers range in size from 16mm to 51mm in length, and from

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<sup>48</sup> Lorenzini (n.d.) has documented these beads at 18 sites within the eastern United States including New York State, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Alabama and Ohio. Recently, these beads have been recovered from Old Mobile (Alabama) and San Augustine (Florida). The San Augustine beads were found in a tightly dated 1698-1719 Spanish Colonial context (Bense October 26, 1998 HISTARCH list serve) –F. Mansberger

5mm to 13mm in width; the expanded base form ranges in length from 27 to 41mm and in width from 10 to 22mm. For comparative material see Jelks (1967: 91), Good (1972:90), Stone (1974: 133), M. Brown (1974: 31), and Walthall and Benchley (1987: 71).

**Table 7.**  
**Jesuit Rings in the Newell Collection.**

<b>Ring</b>	<b>Ring Type *</b>	<b>Plaque Shape</b>	<b>Decorative Technique</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Plaque Dimensions</b>
1	IHS II	Oval	Embossed	Plain	10x9mm
2	IHS II	Oval	Embossed	Plain	10x9
3	Ave Maria II	Round	Engraved	1 Ridge	10x10
4	Abstract	Oval	Engraved	3 Ridges	10x7
5	Abstract	Round	Engraved	Plain	10x10
6	Heart Plaque II	Heart	Engraved	Plain	11x8
7	Octag. Impressed	Octagonal	Impressed	Plain	12x15
8	Octag. Impressed	Octagonal	Impressed	Plain	13x16
9	Octag. Impressed	Octagonal	Impressed	Plain	11x12

\*After Wood 1974

#### Firearms/ Munitions (Figures 35-37)

*Locks (n=3).* Lock 1 is 16.6 cm in length, uncleaned, and has the flash pan, frizzen spring, sear and sear spring in place. The pan was removable and is attached by a tang with a screw hole at the rear. The powder trough is parallel-sided and there is a low flash shield. The length of the upper leaf of the frizzen spring is 42 mm and the lower 35 mm. The maximum width of the plate is 30 mm. The bottom is moderately curved. Lock 2 has two side screw holes visible and the flash pan, frizzen, frizzen spring, main spring, tumbler, tumbler bridle, and spring are present. There is a square washer in the hole for the cock attachment. The frizzen has a rounded back and top, and the pan is covered by the frizzen. The main spring upper leaf is 37 mm long, the lower 83 mm. The sear arm is 23 mm in length and the sear spring upper leaf 23 mm in length; the lower leaf is broken. The upper leaf of the frizzen spring is 39 mm long and the lower 45 mm. The tumbler is bridled. Lock 3 is small, probably from a pistol. The cock, frizzen, flash pan, frizzen spring, main spring, tumbler, sear, and part of the sear spring are present. The main spring upper leaf is 27 mm, the lower 56 mm. The comb of the cock is 6 mm wide with a groove. The tumbler has a bridle. For comparative material see Hamilton (1968, 1980).

*Frizzens* (n=10). All of the frizzens have curved backs with rounded tops, although there is some variation in the shape of the curve. Lengths range from 38 to 44 mm and widths from 20 to 28 mm. For comparative material see Noble (1983: 215-216).

*Frizzen Springs* (n=12). These are small V-shaped springs which were mounted on the outside of the lockplate. All complete specimens were designed for an exposed frizzen spring screw. Lengths range from 27 to 41 mm. For comparative material see Noble (1983: 216).

*Flashpans* (n= 3). These pans, which serve as a receptacle for a priming charge of black powder, all have shallow grooved and rounded interiors. The pans have round ends and a low flash shield at the rear. All of the pans have a width of 28 mm and the overall lengths are 34, 40, and 42 mm. For comparative materials see Tordoff (1983: 354) and Noble (1983: 224-225).

*Tumblers* (n= 11). All tumblers are uncleaned which made observation and measurement difficult. Tumblers generally had two notches on their drums to stop the cock at half-and-full-cocked positions. Two of the specimens in the collection do not have such notches and appear to be gunsmith blanks. For comparative materials see Tordoff (1983: 353) and Noble (1983: 241-242).

*Mainsprings* (n= 7). The mainspring, largest of the three lock springs, is asymmetrical in form since the bottom arm is almost twice the length of the lower arm. Length of complete specimens are 55, 82, 85 and 87 mm.

*Sear Springs* (n= 3). The sear spring was the smallest of the three lock springs. Two of the specimens in the collection were complete. The upper leaf was measured from the center of the screw hole to the center of the bend; the lower leaf from the center of the bend to the end. The upper leaf on these examples were 21 and 22 mm and the lower leaf, 28 and 27 mm. For comparative material see Tordoff (1983: 353-354) and Noble (1983: 2247-228).

*Cocks* (n= 6). The cocks in the collection appear to have flat bases with beveled edges and a vise screw with a slotted head. Although in at least two instances there are indications of a step on the face of the comb, the amount of corrosion present made it impossible to be certain. Overall length of these cocks or hammers are: 62, 73, 74, 74, 75 and 78 mm. For comparative material see Hamilton (1960: 166-167), Tordoff (1983: 351-351), and Noble (1983: 210-211).

*Cock Upper Vise Jaw* (n= 3). None of these specimens are notched and all have a hole for the cock vise screw. Lengths of these parts range from 26-29 mm and widths from 23-26 mm.

*Triggers* (n= 10). Three of the triggers have a curved tang and three have a straight tang. The remaining specimens are broken. Lengths of the complete triggers are: 43, 44, 47, 48, and 52 mm.

*Trigger Plates* ( $n= 2$ ). Both of the trigger plates are iron. One is 41 mm long with a slot 22 mm in length. The other is 61 mm long with a slot 22 mm in length. For comparative material see Tordoff (1983: 348-349) and Noble (1983:240-241).

*Rampipes* ( $n= 5$ ). There are two brass and three iron rampipes in the collection. One of the iron rampipes is an intermediate or upper pipe, tubular with a flange and a hole for pinning. The length is 28 mm, the exterior diameter is 12 mm. Two of the iron rampipes are terminal or lower rampipes. The length of the complete one is 70 mm and the diameter is 11 mm. Both of the brass rampipes are terminal or lower rampipes with a flange. The ends are ridged on both and one has an octagonal exterior shape. The finial is broken in one, the length of the complete specimen is 70 mm. Both of these brass pipes have diameters of 10 mm. For comparative material see Hulse (1977:231), Tordoff (1983; 345-346), and Noble (1983: 225-226).

*Barrels* ( $n=8$ ). One 50 cm long section of barrel includes the breech plug. The barrel is octagonal in cross section for 22 cm to the sight and then round. The bore of four cut barrel fragments could be measured with calipers. These barrels measured 20 mm in exterior diameter and had interior diameters of 14 mm, 15 mm and 15 mm. These measurements suggest that these barrels were from fusils of 34-calibre. Three barrel fragments have flattened ends and may have been used as tools.

*Gun Screws* ( $n= 7$ ). These screws are highly corroded and no attempt was made to determine their exact function. Screw heads ranged in diameter from 19 to 18 mm and in length from 41 to 46 mm.

*Buttplates* ( $n= 12$ ). All of the buttplate specimens in the collection are fragmentary, some represented only by finials. Both iron and brass plates are represented. The iron plates are represented by three fragments. Two fragments represent plates broken at the heel and the third specimen is a tang with a frond (potted plant) shaped finial. One of the plates is crude and was perhaps locally made. There are four broken brass plate fragments and four fragments of tangs with Type C frond (potted Plant) finials. Three of the finials are well cast, while the fourth is comparatively crude. For comparative material see Hamilton (1960, 1980), Noble (1983: 208-209), and Hulse (1977: 215-222).

*Sideplates* ( $n= 6$ ). Two of the sideplates are iron while the remaining fragments are brass. The iron sideplates are represented by one nearly complete example that lacks an end screw hole. It is curved, 13.9 cm long and 2 mm thick. The other iron plate is broken near the midpoint and has a crude filigree design. The brass sideplate fragments represent portions of four Type C plates. These parts include two central oval medallions, one monster head and several portions of foliate loops. For comparative material see Hamilton (1968: 6-9).

*Escutcheon* ( $n= 1$ ). One escutcheon or thumb plate is present in the collection. This example is made of cast brass and its designs are well executed. It is 34 mm long and has three loops on one side; the other side is broken. The design elements include a central oval or cartouche, a crown above and a human face (satyr?) below. This escutcheon is from a Type C fusil of high quality (fusil fin). For comparative material see Noble (1983: 213-215).

*Trigger Guards (n= 5).* There are four trigger guards of iron and one of brass in the collection. One of the iron guards is bent, broken, and is missing its front tang. The lug mount on this guard is present, and a “chevrolet” design is present on the underside of the bow. The rear finial is concavo-convex and is incomplete. Another bent and broken iron guard is similar in design with a sharply pointed “chevrolet” design on the underside of the bow. There are two fragmentary iron bows, one with part of the tang remaining. The single brass guard is represented by a rear tang and finial. The shape of the finial indicates a Type C fusil. For comparative material see Hamilton (1968: 8; Figure 4B).

*Gunsight (n= 1).* This rear sight is cast brass and is 44 mm long with a central longitudinal groove. Its width is 15 mm. For comparative material see Noble (1983: 231).

*Gun Worms (n= 4).* There are four fragmentary cork-screw-like iron coils in the collection which functioned as gun worms. These coils, attached to a rod, were used in removing wadding from the gunbarrel. These examples range in length from 14 to 45 mm and from 8 to 10 mm in diameter.

*Vent Pick (n=2).* Vent picks, made of iron or brass, were used to clear the vent, or touch hole, of carbon encrustation after firing. Such picks were long wire rods with one iron end pointed and the other end looped to receive a chain for attachment to the gun stock. There are two iron picks in the collection. The one complete specimen measures 12.9 cm in length and its loop still retains several links of iron chain. For comparative material see Noble (1983: 243 and figure 46D).

*Balls and Shot (n= 81).* There are eight examples of shot measuring 3 to 6 mm in diameter. The 73 musket balls, eight of which exhibit teeth marks, range in diameter from 7 to 17 mm. Sixty-seven percent have diameters from 12 to 16 mm (.50 to .60 inches) which is the most common sizes of musket balls found at eighteenth century French colonial sites. For comparative material see Hamilton (1979: 209) and Noble (1983: 267-270).

*Gunflints (n= 79; Figure 39).* The classification system devised by Stone (1974) was used in the analysis of the Newell site gunflints. A total of 71 flints (90%) were series C, Type 1, Variety a, which are spall gunflints with a wedge shape and ranging from grey to brown in color. Thirty-six of these appear to have been used with a fire steel and are much battered. Measurements were not obtained for these latter specimens. The 35 measurable gunflints range in length from 15 to 29 mm and in width from 19 to 28 mm. Two gunflints are Series A, Type 1. One complete example measured 25 mm by 26 mm. Four specimens are native-made bifacial spall type gunflints, ranging in length from 19 mm to 25 mm and in width from 17 to 27 mm. One gunflint had been shaped and reused as a scraper. Another gunflint had been made into a triangular arrowpoint, 23 mm in length. Similar triangular points made from French gunflints have been observed in collections from the Guebert and Kolmer Illini village sites in Randolph County. For comparative material see Stone (1947), Hamilton (1979), and Noble (1983).

## Iron Implements



*Awls* ( $n= 8$ ). Square sectioned awls of various sizes are common tools recovered at regional French colonial sites. Five of the awls in the collection are double pointed and range in length from 75 to 97 mm. Two have a single point and are 91 and 103 mm in length. One other awl is broken and is represented by a mid-section. The diameter of these awls varies between 3 and 4 mm. For comparative material see Stone (1974: 155-159).

*Axes* ( $n= 11$ ). The iron axes appear to have been made by the lamination method (Jelks: 1967:26). Only one complete specimen is present (Figure 40). The eye is 51 mm high and the iron 8 mm thick. The blade is 116 mm long. The remaining axes are fragments of either eyes or blades. The eyes range in height from 42 to 51 mm. Thickness of the iron at the join with the eye varies between 6 and 18 mm. For comparative material see Jelks (1967), Fleming and Walthall (1978), Stone (1974: 297-298).

*Fleshers* ( $n= 11$ ). Employed in the scraping and preparation of hides for tanning, these tools have a flared blade and a long shaft. Several of these implements appear to have had a wooden handle attached to the shaft for easier grasping (Figure 41). The length of the complete fleshers (3) varies between 17.5 and 17.8 cm and the blade width ranges between 47 and 87 mm. For comparative material see Mainfort (1979: 375).

*Knives* ( $n= 35$ ). Two basic types of knives are present in the collection, clasp or folding knives and case or sheath knives (Figure 40). There are 31 uncleaned blade or blade fragments of folding or clasp knives. The knives have been classified according to the system devised by Stone (1974: 265-271). Class I, Group I, Type I, Variety a - Clasp Knives of this variety have a blade back which is straight near the hinge and are often slightly concave near the point. Some 25 of the specimens have this "standard" blade shape. Most of these blades have broken points. Complete blade lengths range between 13.2 and 14.7 cm. Class I, Group I, Type I, Variety e - These are blades with a sharply tapered, hawk bill shape point. The four blades of this shape vary in length from 10.5 to 12.3 cm. The remaining clasp knife blades are fragmentary midsections and cannot be classified as to variety.

There are fragments of five case knives and a single handle. The handle is made of bone and is decorated with an engraved herringbone pattern. It has two holes for attachment pins. Two of the knife blades are portions of mid sections and cannot be classified. The other blades can be assigned to the following types/ varieties based upon Stone (1974: 269-271). Class II, Series B Type 1 knives as those which forms both the blade and the tang for the handle. Series B knives have a tang which is of the same thickness as the blade. Type 1 blades have a straight back and edge and no bolster. Varieties are distinguished on the basis of blade-heel shape. Two of the blades in the collection are of this type, one is a Variety b blade 14.6 cm long and the other is a Variety g blade 10 cm in length. For comparative material see Stone (1974: 269-271), Nern and Cleland (1974: 9-12), and Hulse (1977: 296-314).

*Files* ( $n= 2$ ). There are two file fragments in the Newell collection. The blades of both files are broken. The blade width of one specimen is 20 mm and it is plano-convex in cross-section. The tang is rectangular, 36 mm long and 7 mm wide. The other file has a 40 mm wide blade and rectangular tang 35 mm long and 15 mm wide. For comparative material see Stone (1974: 304) and Noble (1973: 172-173).

*Fork (n= 1).* There is a single three-tined fork in the collection. The handle is broken but is present. The handle has a flattened, rounded end and is 62 mm in total length. For comparative material see Stone (1974: 175-177), Nern and Cleland (1974: 15), and Noble (1983: 181-182).

*Kettle Bails (n= 6).* There are fragments of at least six kettle bails or handles in the collection. These consist of curved iron rods with looped or curled ends which pass through holes in the lugs of the brass kettles. For comparative material see Stone (1974: 171).

*Kettle Hooks (n= 2).* These are S-shaped iron rods used to suspend a kettle over a fire. The most complete specimen measures 14 cm in length, and is made from an iron rod 13 mm in diameter. For comparative material see Stone (1974: 189-190).

*Needle (n= 1).* This is a large needle, perhaps used in sewing buckskin or other hides. The needle is curved, the point is triangular in cross-section and the eye is flattened. The needle measures 15 cm in length. For comparative material see Stone (1974: Figure 85, A and I).

*Punches (n= 2).* These two tools are square to rectangular in cross-section and taper down to a point. In length they measure 10 to 11 cm. For comparative material see Noble: (1983: 294).

*Scissors (n= 6).* Two pair of scissors are complete (Figure 42). The first is 13.5 cm long with finger loops 33 mm long and 25 mm wide. The blades are 78 mm in length. The loops are not centered over the handles, but are fixed to the exterior face. The loop is part of the handle, drawn out and curved back over the exterior. The second pair is 11.5 cm long with two loops 26 x 21 mm. The loops are centered over the handles and are brazed on. The blades are 68 mm long. A scissors half is 11.1 cm long with a loop 23 x 19 and a blade 63 mm long. The three other specimens are blade fragments. For comparative material see Hulse (1977: Figure 76) and Noble (1983: 296).

*Strike-a-lights and/or Firesteels (n= 3; Figure 42).* Two of these firesteels are oval in shape, measuring 80 and 54 mm in length and 32 mm in width. The third specimen is a handle fragment of a rectangular or D-shaped firesteel. For comparative material see Stone (1974: 176-188) and Nern and Cleland (1974: Figure 14E).

*Handles (n= 5).* These iron objects are handles for skillets or other cooking vessels. Several have flattened ends and were perhaps modified after being broken for reuse as hide scrapers.

*Iron Projectile Point (n= 1).* This projectile point is made from a single, flat piece of iron. The triangular point measures 21 x 21 mm. The tang is 30 mm long. For comparative material see Stone (1974: Figure 113C-D), and Nern and Cleland (1974: Figure 1A).

*Miscellaneous Iron (n=92).* There are many iron fragments that were not identifiable because of poor preservation. Several flat, plate-like fragments are likely portions of iron

kettles. Some of the other pieces are bars and other scrap which may have been associated with smithing activities.

#### Chest Hardware (Figure 43)

*Lockplates (n=5)*. There are portions of five lockplates from chests in the collection. Only one lockplate is complete enough for measurement; it is rectangular in shape and measures 67 mm long by 47 mm wide. For comparative material see Stone (1974) and Nern and Cleland (1974: Figure 1A).

*Hasps (n= 3)*. These three hasps correspond to Stone's Series A, Type 1 which are defined as permanently joined hinged elements with a strap which is rounded or flared at the proximal end. Lengths of the two complete straps are 62 and 80 mm. These straps are nearly identical to those illustrated by Stone (1974: Figures 115 A-B, 116A-B) from Fort Michilimackinac). See also Nern and Cleland (1974: Figure 1D).

*Handle (n= 1)*. This handle is a simple form made from an iron rod with its ends bent in 90-degree angles. The handle is 80 mm long. For comparative material see Stone (1974: Plate 120A) and Nern and Cleland (1974: Figure 1E).

*Key (n= 1)*. This is a small chest key with an un-notched blade. The key measures 57 mm in length. For comparative material see Stone (1974: Plate 136E) and Nern and Cleland (1974: Figure 1B).

*Staples (n= 2)*. These are square ended staples made of flat sheet iron. The shanks on these fragments taper to a point. For comparative materials see Stone (1974: Figure 142B) and Walthall and Benchley (1987).

*Brass Tack (n= 1)*. This tack is 11 mm long and has a round head 6 mm in diameter. There is a pattern of cast, raised dots around the circumference of the head. For comparative materials see Nern and Cleland (1974:4-5) which describes a chest found at the Gros Cap Site in Michigan. This chest had a leather covering decorated with brass tacks identical to that described here. In fact, the furniture and the parts in the Newell collection are so similar to the Gros Cap specimens that it appears likely that they are derived from chests of the same style.

#### Architectural Hardware (Figure 44)

*Latch Bar Catch (n=1)*. This piece of door-latch hardware has a point on one end and a V-shaped head on the other. The pointed end was driven into the door frame to secure the latch. For comparative material see Stone (1974: Figure 147F) and Hulse (1977: 180).

*Thumb Lift (n= 1)*. This object, which is bent, has a flat, oval plate on one end and a V-shaped head on the other. According to Stone (1974:235) these pieces of door hardware "are hinged at the center and extend through the door to permit lifting the latch from the opposite door side. For comparative material see Stone (1974: Figure 147 A-B).

*Door Hooks* ( $n= 2$ ). These are L-shaped hooks which have an eye on one end for attachment to an eye screw or staple. They were looped over a receiving ring in order to secure moveable doors or shutters. One specimen is made from flat sheet iron, and the other is made from an iron rod. For comparative material see Stone (1974: 235).

*Nails* ( $n= 20+$ ). There are fragments of a minimum of 20 hand-wrought nails in the collection. In a recent interview with John Newell, he stated that many more nails were originally found but that only “a few” were saved. The nails which retain their heads are all of the rose head type, that is, the round nail head exhibits four to five hammer blow marks. For comparative material see Stone (1974:229).

*Spikes* ( $n= 2$ ). These are large nails, rectangular in cross-section. One complete specimen has a rose head and measures 90 mm in length. The shank has maximum dimensions of 13 mm x 8 mm. For comparative material see Stone 1974: 229-233).

*Key* ( $n= 1$ ). This specimen is a large door latch key, measuring 11.2 cm in length. A portion of the blade is broken. For comparative material see Stone 1974: 225-229).

### Brass Implements

*Spoon* ( $n= 1$ ). This brass spoon has a broad, near rectangular, end to the handle. There is a cast decorative frond pattern at the handle apex. The bowl is split and bent. This specimen has the same form as an example illustrated by Brain (1979:186) from the Trudeau collection. See also Stone (1974:184) and Smith (1965: Figure 29).

*Thimbles* ( $n= 2$ ). One thimble is crushed and unmeasurable (Figure 33). The other is 18 mm high and 13 mm wide at the base. For comparative material see Stone (1974: 162) and Noble (1983: 326).

*Coil* ( $n= 1$ ). This specimen is a coil of solid brass wire. The coil measures 20 mm in length and 9 mm in diameter. While this coil resembles a gun screw it more than likely was made to serve as an aboriginal ear or hair ornament. Such coil ornaments have been reported in mortuary contexts at a number of sites including Zimmerman and Starved Rock. For comparative material see J. Brown (1961), M. Brown (1975), Hagen (1950), Nern and Cleland (1974), and Brain (1979:196).

*Wire* ( $n= 13$ ). There are two types of brass wire in the collection. First, there is a solid wire, round in cross-section, which varies from 1 to 4 mm in diameter. The wire bracelets in the collection were manufactured from this type of wire. Second, there is a locally made wire which was produced by rolling a narrow strip of sheet brass, at times characterized by a B-shaped cross-section. The eight fragments of this wire range in diameter from 3 to 5 mm. For comparative material see J. Brown (1961), M. Brown (1975), Hagen (1950), and Brain (1979:193).

*Kettles* ( $n= 9+$ ; *Figure 45*). There are a minimum of nine brass kettles represented in the collection. Identifiable fragments include bail attachments, rolled rim strips, and patches. The bail attachments, or lugs, are all folded sheet brass (Brain’s Type A, Variety 1). These

lugs exhibit a wide range in size, from 35 mm x 36 mm to 90 mm x 151 mm, indicating a variety of kettle sizes. The rectanguloid patches are sheets of brass riveted onto damaged kettles in order to effect a repair. Some of these patches even had patches. For comparative material see Brain (1979: 164-180).

*Triangular Sheets (n= 2).* These are sheets of kettle brass cut into small triangular forms. Similar specimens, except with punched perforations, have been found at aboriginal sites where they have been interpreted as arrow points or decorative dangles. One of the Newell examples measures 29 mm x 14 mm. For comparative material see Mason (1986: 202-203).

### Galena/Lead

*Galena Ore (n= 54).* These pieces of lead ore range in size from small cubes to walnut-size chunks weighing up to 0.5 kilograms. The large number of pieces of lead ore found suggests the possibility that some simple smelting was conducted, perhaps on an experimental basis, during the occupation of the site. The nearest sources of galena ore are in the Mississippi Valley in the area of southeastern Missouri and northwestern Illinois. For comparative material see Walthall (1981).

*Lead Cross (n=1).* A single molded equal-arm lead cross is present in the collection (Figure 33). This cross, which has not been trimmed, measures 17 mm x 18 mm. Such simple ornaments and brooches are known to have been locally produced in stone molds. See Walthall and Benchley (1987: 60-61).

*Lead Sprue (n= 5).* These are fragments of melted lead which are waste products of casting musket balls in a gang type mold. For comparative material see Norris (1988: 209-210).

*Lead spillage (n= 22).* These are pieces of melted lead which were spilled during the process of smelting galena or making ammunition.

*Lead Flint Patch (n=1).* There is one lead flint patch fragment in the collection. These patches were used to hold the gunflint in place within the jaws of the fusil cock. This example is 34 mm long and 1 mm thick.

### Stone

*Whetstones (n= 3).* There are three pieces of fine sandstone which have ground surfaces and appear to have been used for sharpening edged implements. Half of a bi-pointed specimen appears to have been made from non-local lithic material. This latter specimen is a standard European form of whetstone still in use. For comparative material see Gums (1988: 123).

*Smoking Pipes (n= 12).* Pipes of both claystone (mudstone) and catlinite are present (Figure 46). Bowl fragments of 7 vasiform pipes are all made from soft claystone. Two of the bowls are decorated with incised lines placed both perpendicular and parallel to the rim.

The most complete bowl measures 32 mm in height and 21 mm in outside diameter. There are three complete catlinite pipes and fragments of two others. The three whole catlinite pipes are of the Micmac form. The smallest is 23 mm high and the largest is 42 mm high. One other fragment is from a round bowl Micmac pipe. Three fragments represent pieces of a square bowl elbow form with a flanged stem. Such stone pipes are known from both aboriginal contexts (Mason 1986: 156-163) and from European components (Hulse 1977: 352-360; Noble 1983:311-314).

*Catlinite Pendants (n= 5; Figure 46).* There are three shapes of catlinite pendants in the Newell collection (triangular, rectanguloid, and abstract effigy). Three triangular pendants each have a suspension hole drilled near their apex. Two have concave bases and one has a convex base. They measure 16 to 22 mm in length. One pendant is rectangular in shape with a concave base. This specimen has a hole drilled from the apex of its concave base longitudinally to the middle of the straight opposite end. A single example is an abstract effigy form. This pendant is long (23 mm) and narrow (8 mm), and appears to be an abstract version of a beaver effigy (See How 1971: Figure 21 and Nern and Cleland 1974: Figure 15). See discussion in Walthall and Benchley (1987: 74-75).

*Effigy (n= 1; Figure 47).* This catlinite piece, which is unfortunately no longer in the collection, was studied by Margaret Brown in 1972. The illustration in this volume was based on a photograph made in 1949 and a cast made by Brown. The effigy was carved in the round and measured 39 mm in length, 31 mm in maximum height, and 7.5 mm in thickness. The animal portrayed is a dog or horse with its head turned back over the shoulder. There is a perforation in the center of the body. A line runs from the neck across the center of the body and down the hind leg. There are notches on the front leg. The eye is indicated by a hole and the nose and the mouth by lines. The small upright tail is notched. The reverse is similar. Although other catlinite effigies have been reported (How 1971), no specimens similar to the Newell effigy are known.

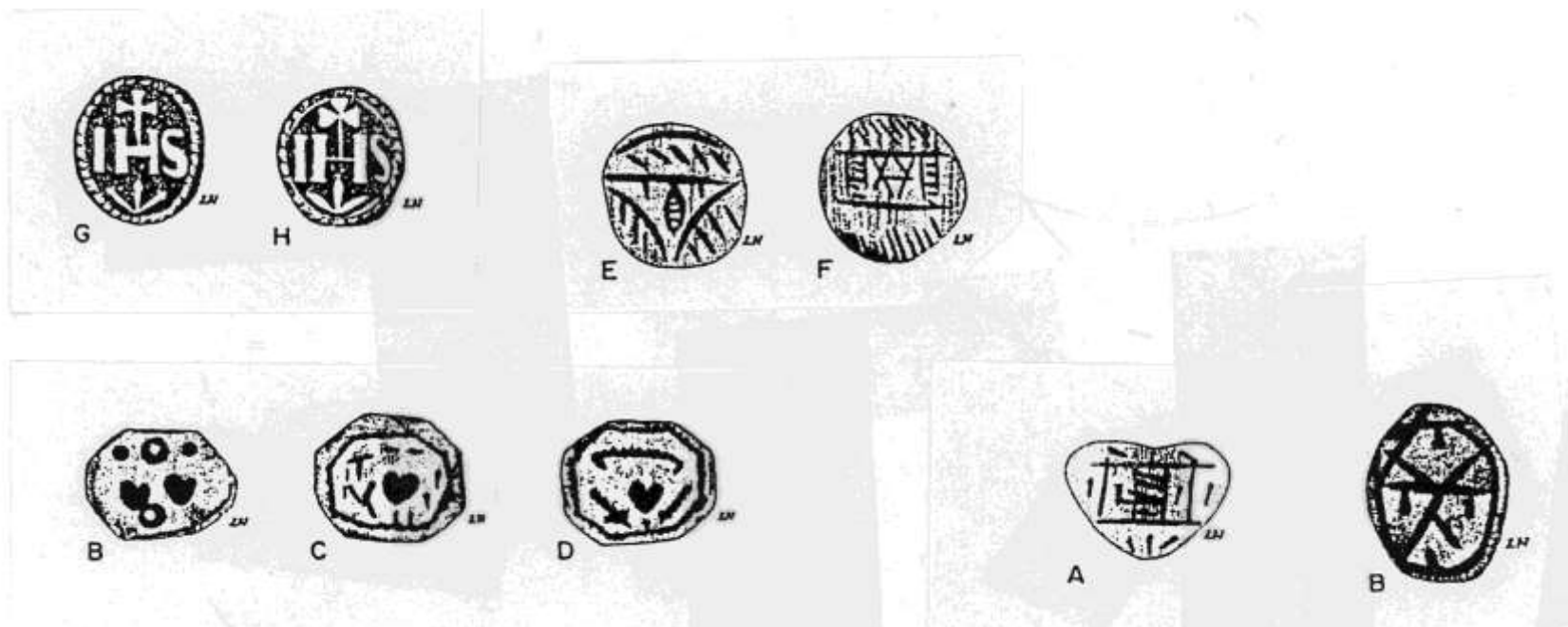


Figure 31. Jesuit rings from the Newell Collection (from Walthall 1993).



**Figure 32. Man-in-the-Moon bead from the Newell Collection.**



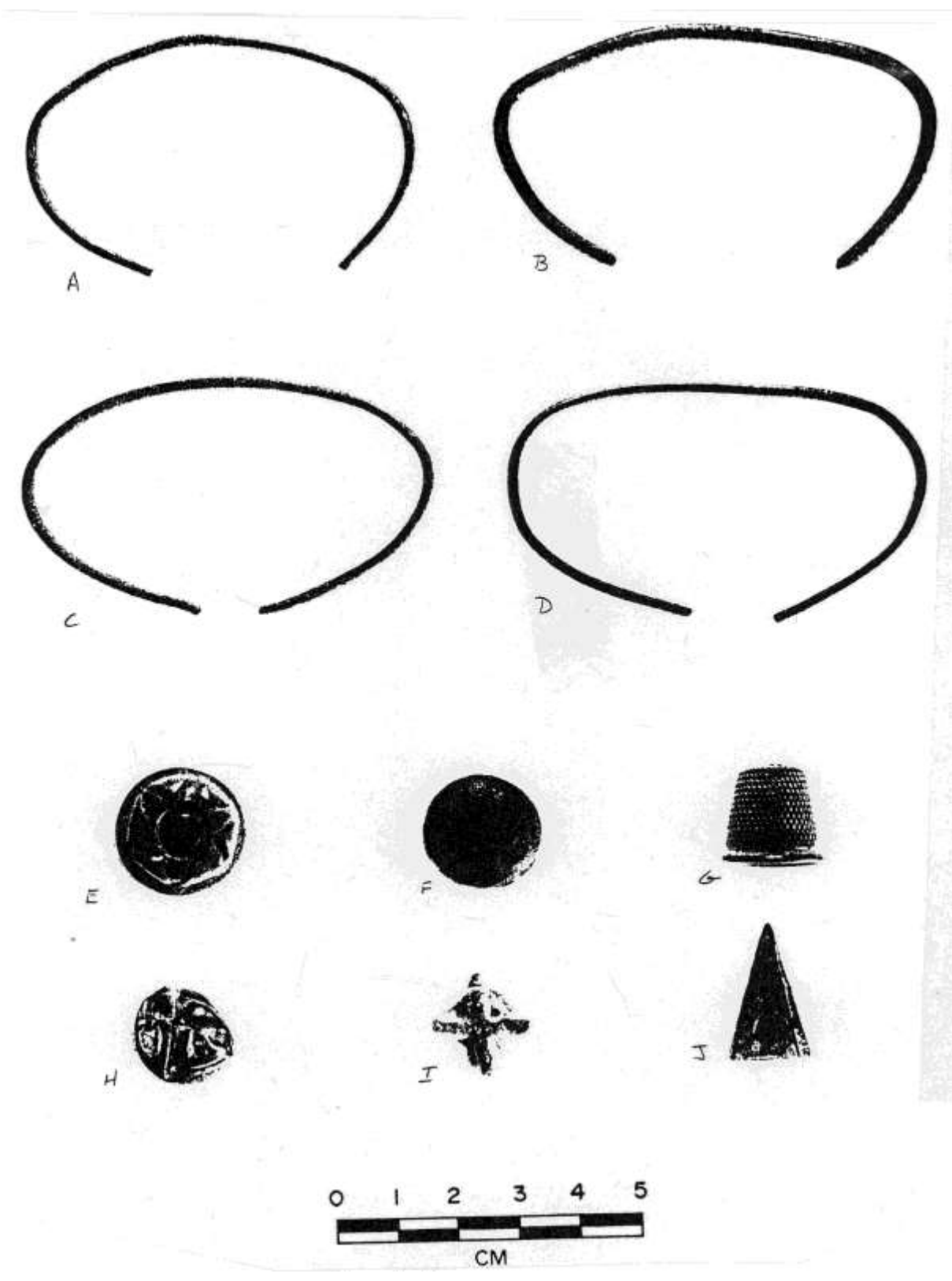
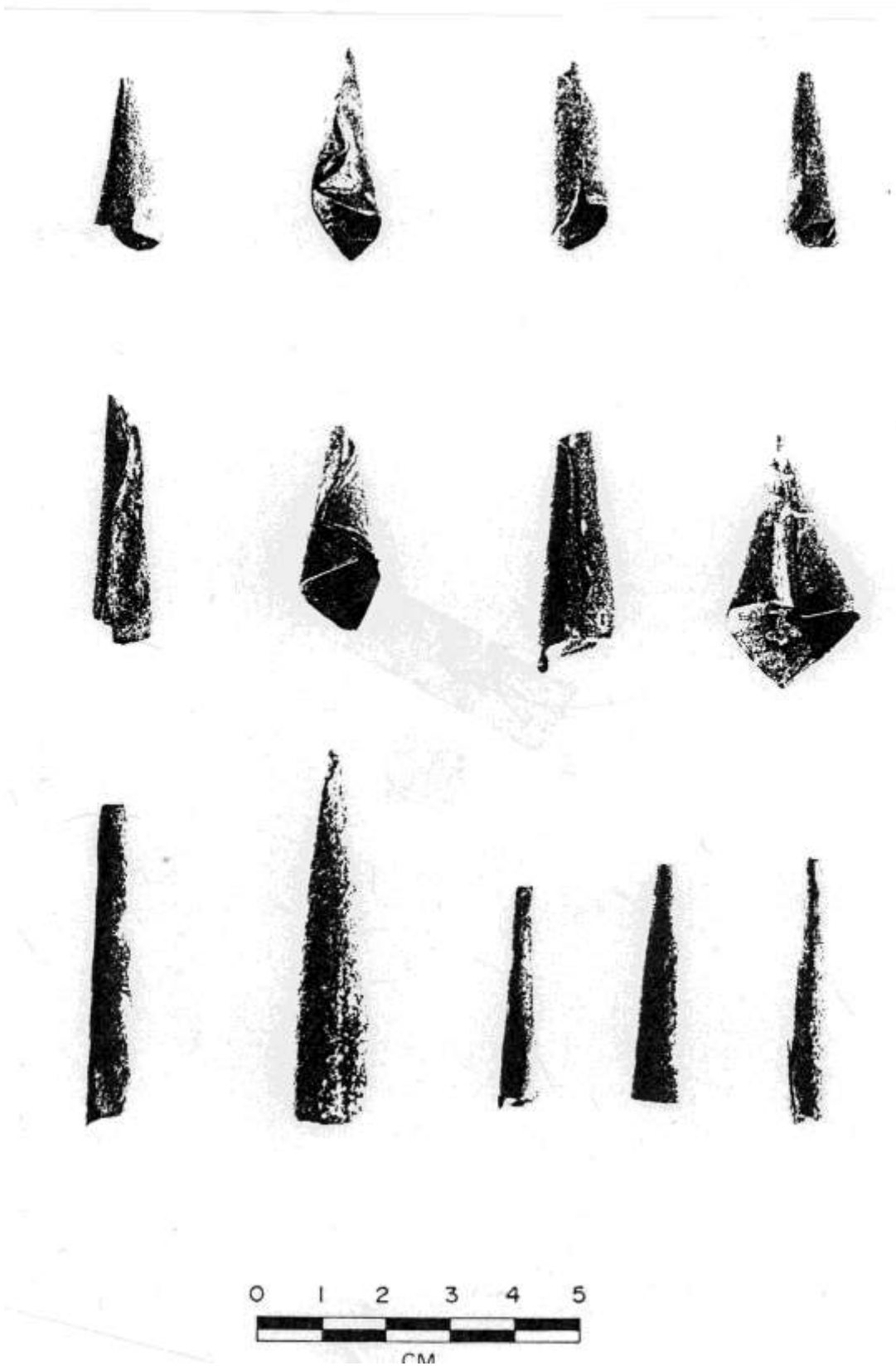


Figure 33. Bracelets, buttons, thimble, bell, lead cross, and point from the Newell Collection.



**Figure 34. Tinkling Cones from the Newell Collection.**

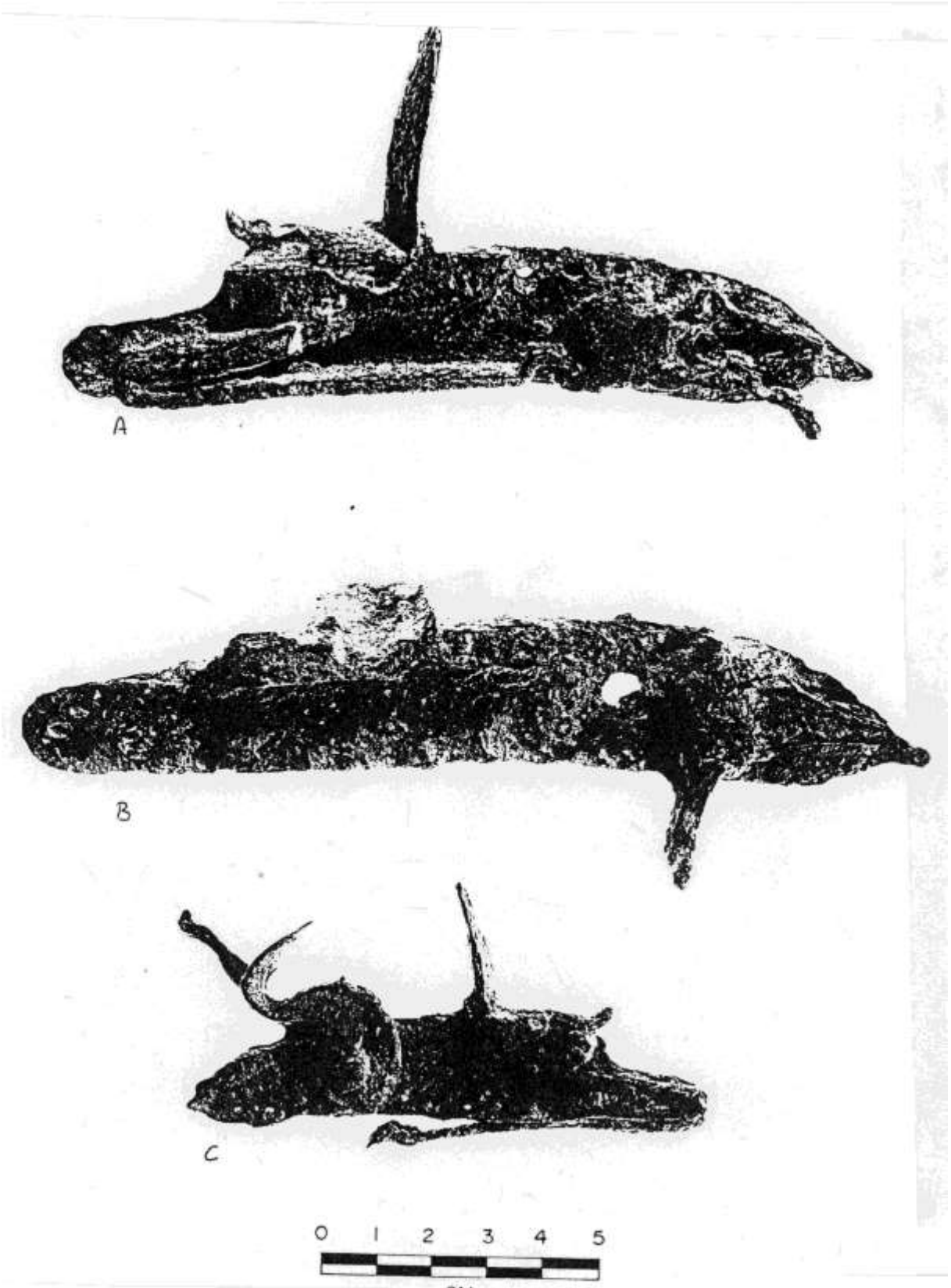


Figure 35. Lock plates from the Newell Collection.

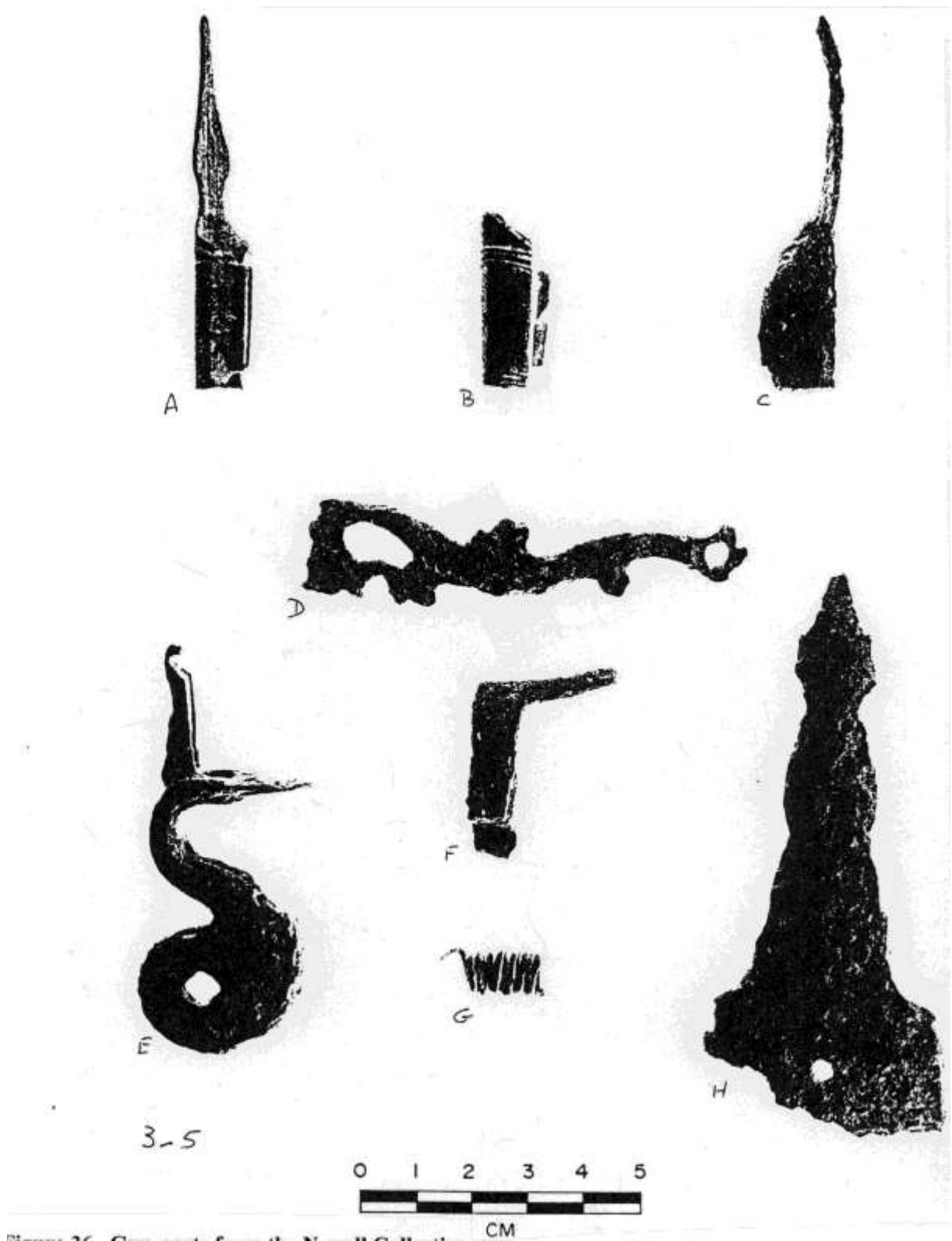


Figure 36. Gun parts from the Newell Collection.

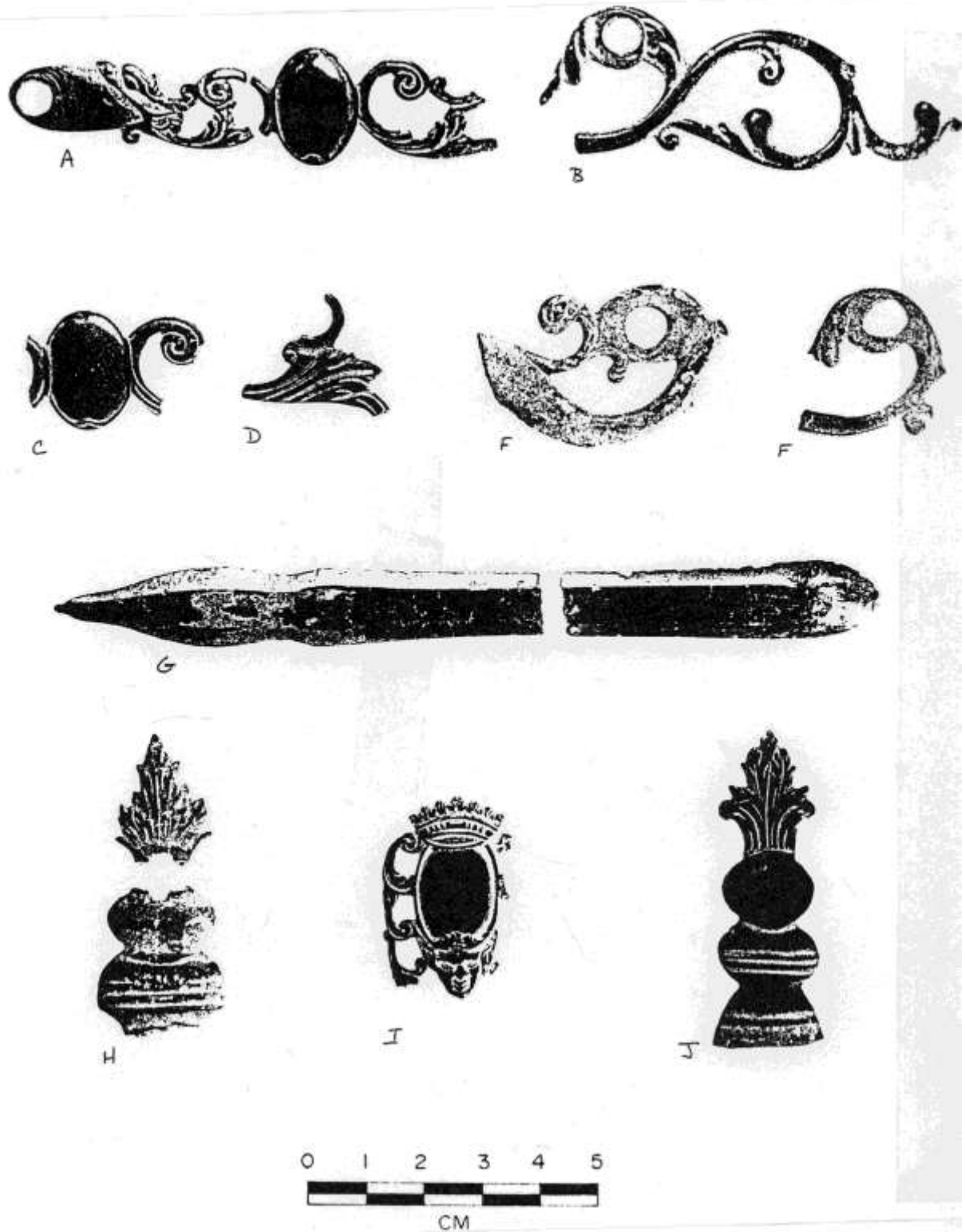


Figure 37. Gun furniture from the Newell Collection.

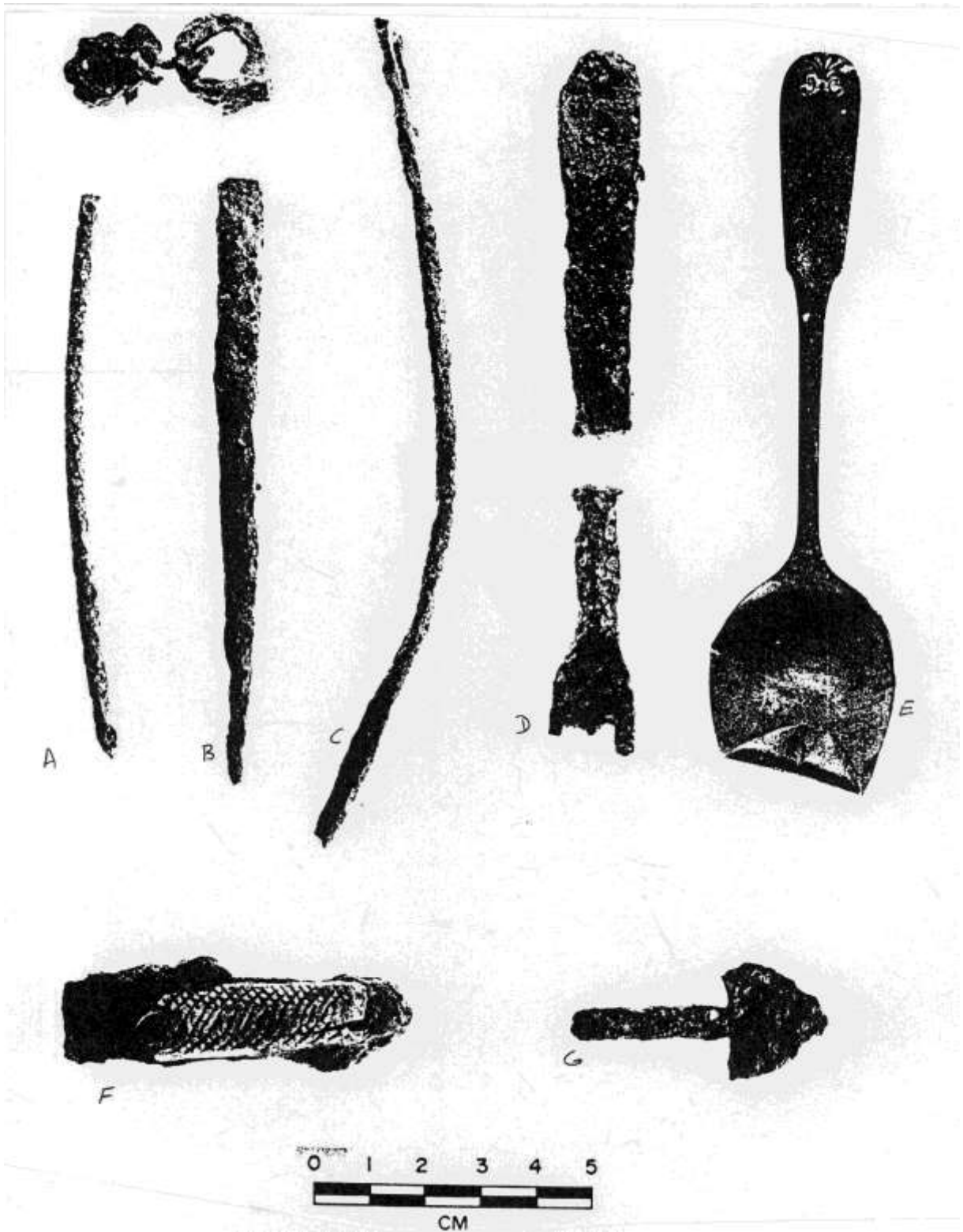


Figure 38. Iron implements from the Newell Collection.

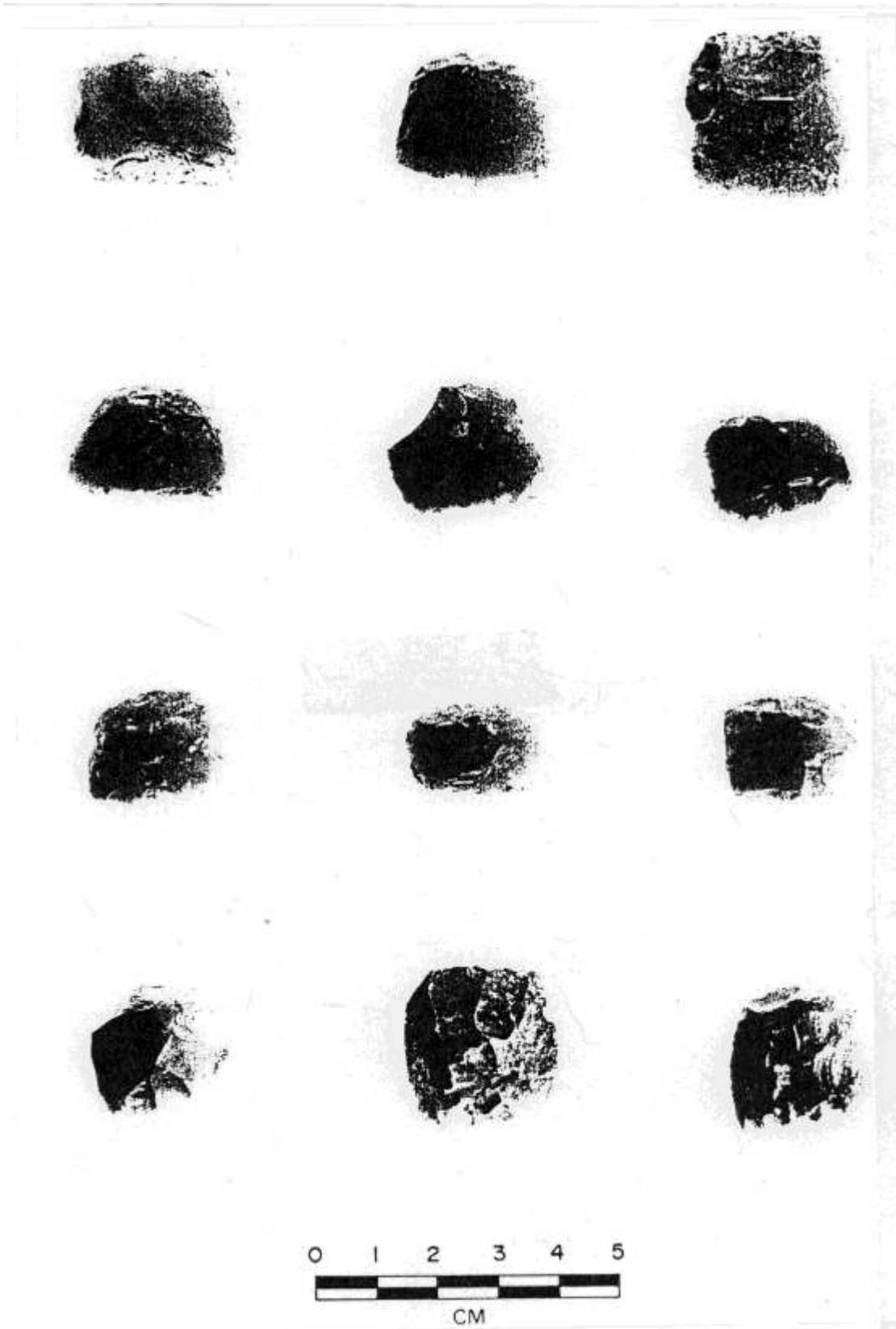
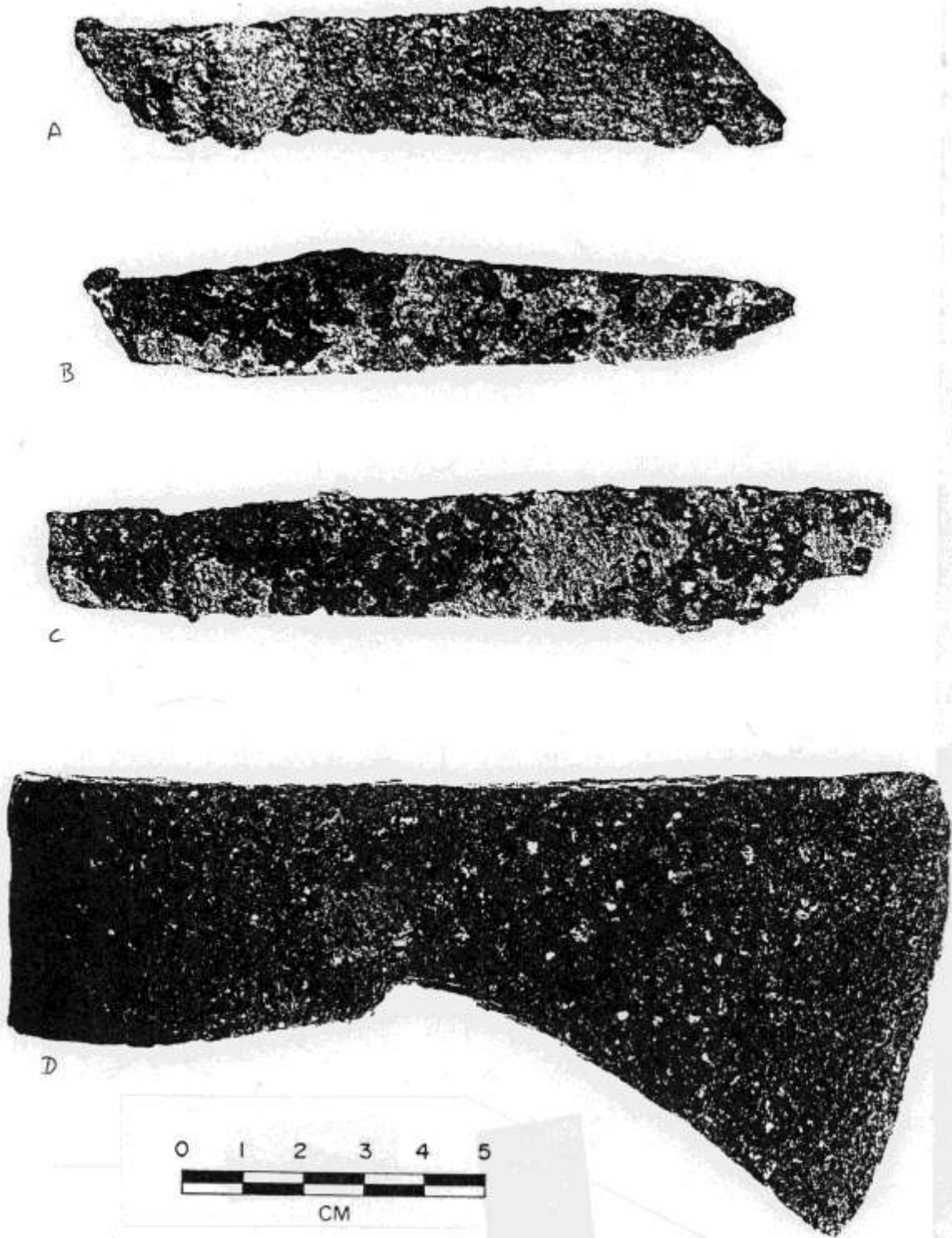
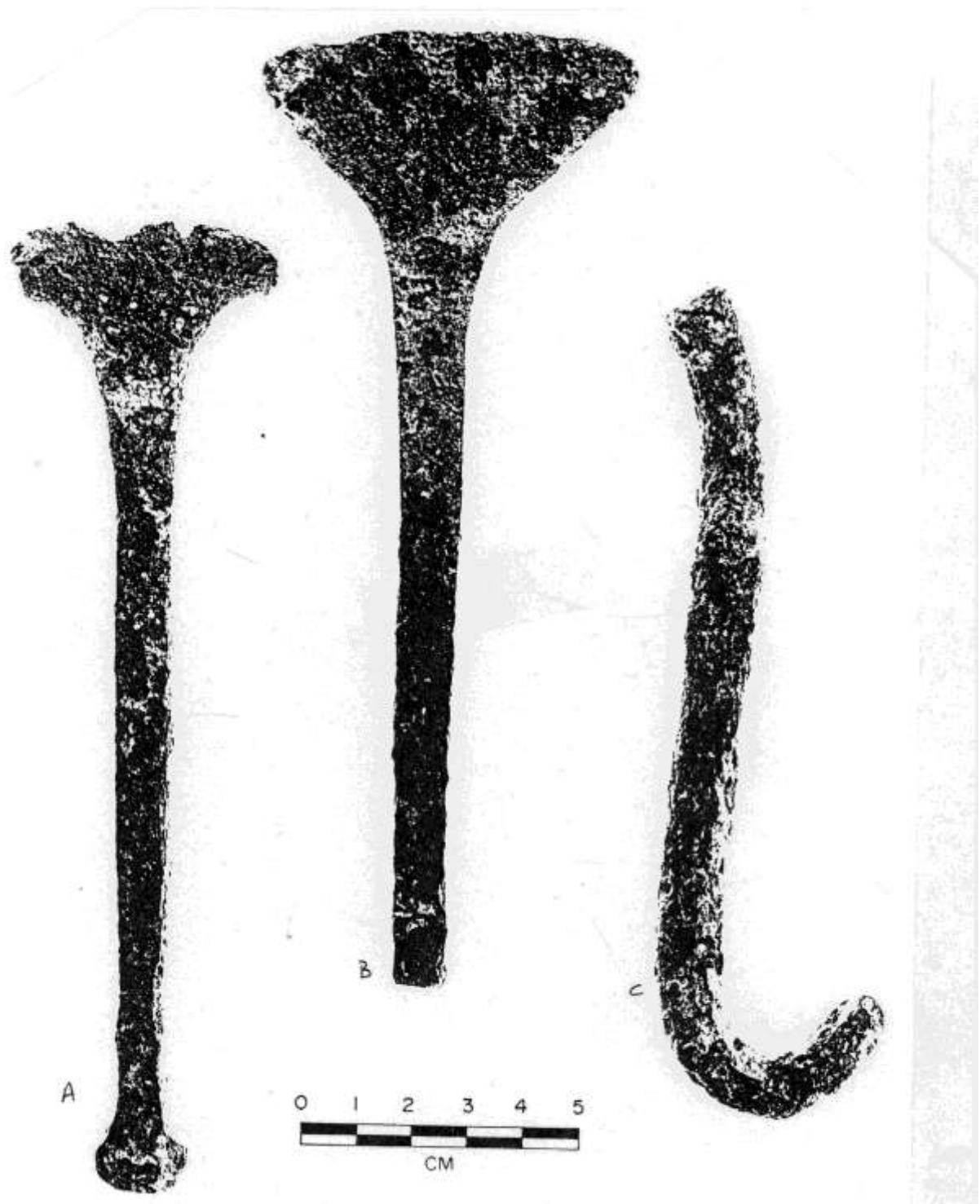


Figure 39. Gun flints from the Newell Collection.



**Figure 40. Iron knives and ax from the Newell Collection.**





**Figure 41. Iron fleshers and hook from the Newell Collection.**

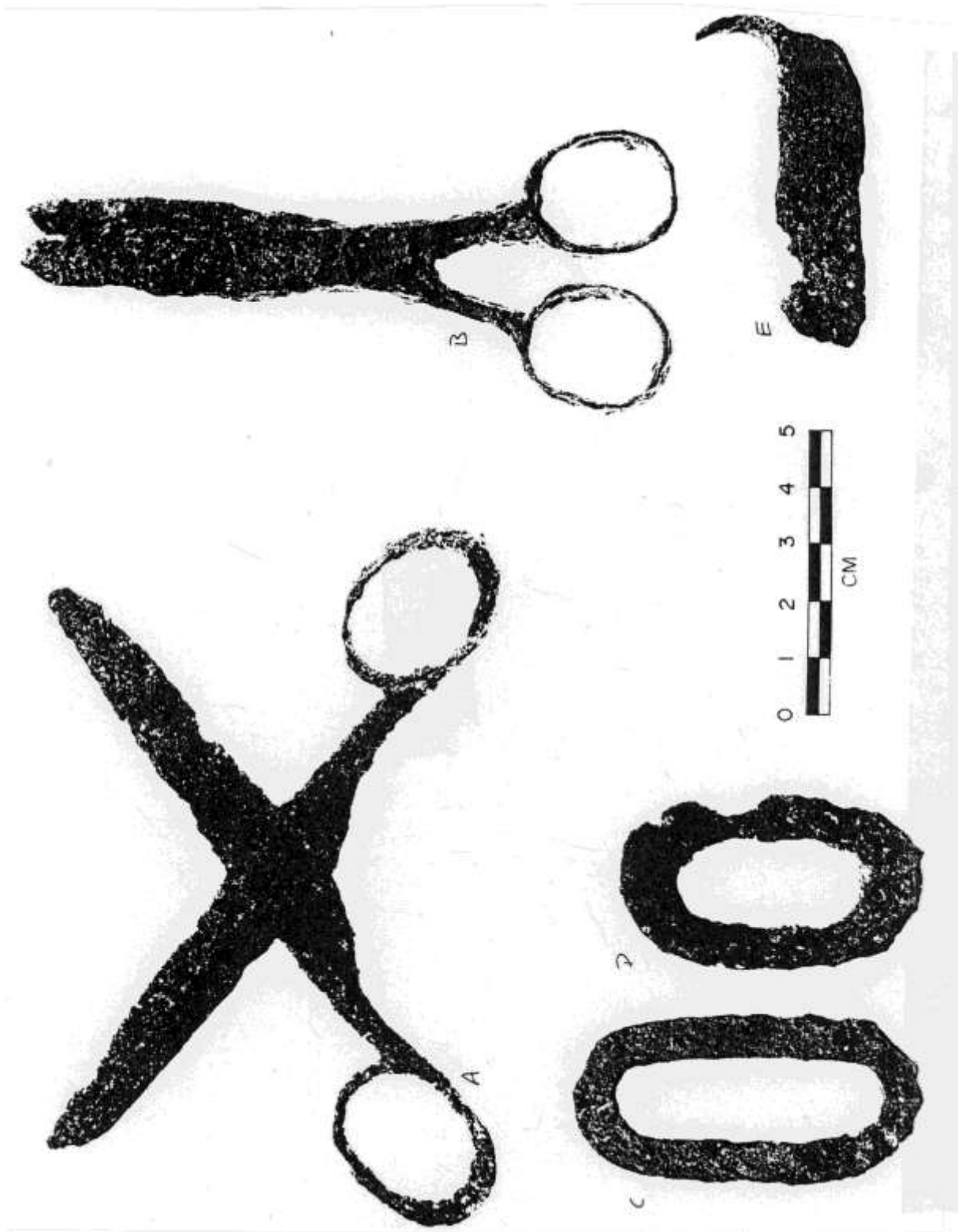


Figure 42. Iron scissors and fire steels from the Newell Collection.

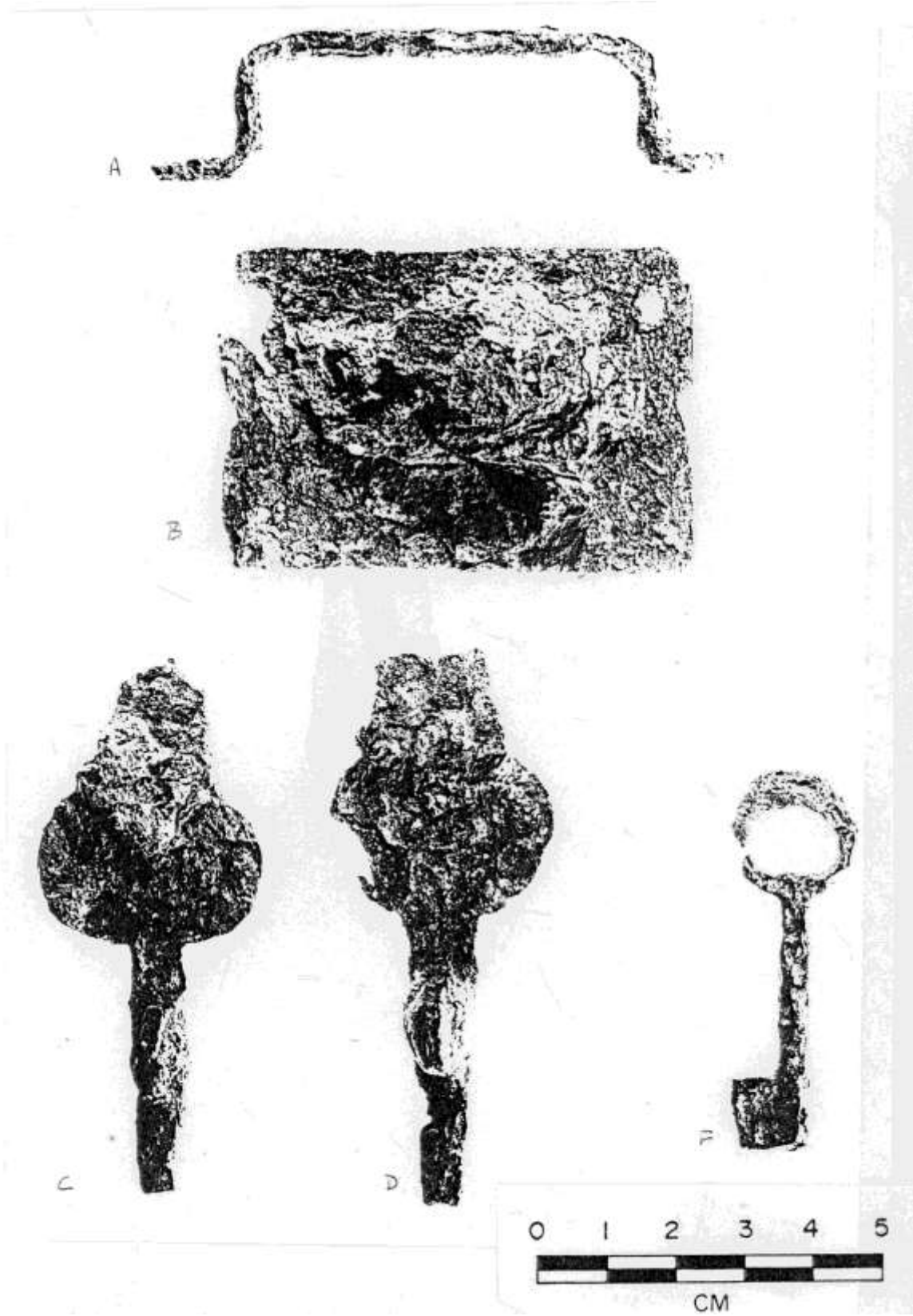


Figure 43. Chest hardware from the Newell Collection.



Figure 44. Architectural hardware from the Newell Collection.

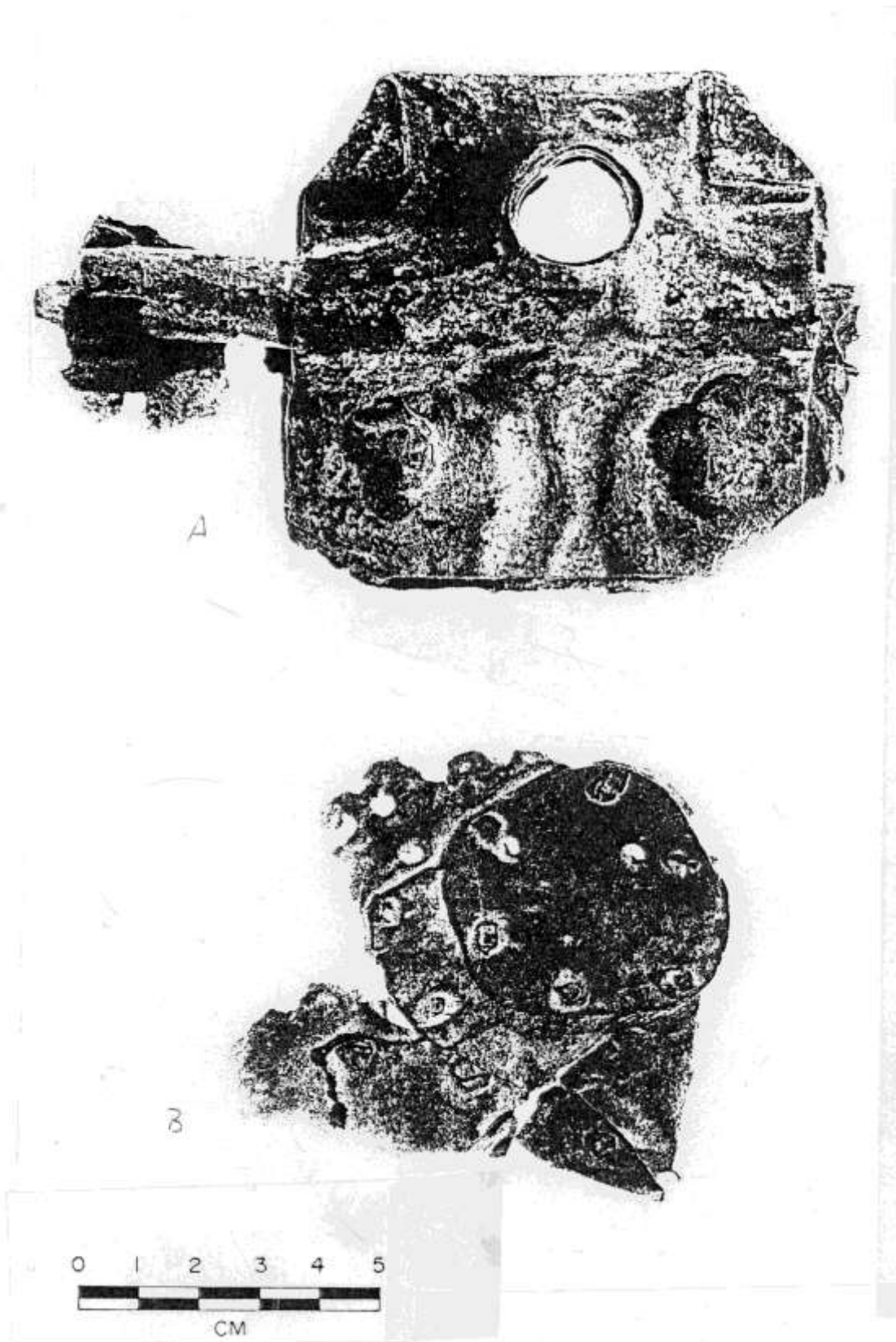


Figure 45. Brass kettle lugs from the Newell Collection.

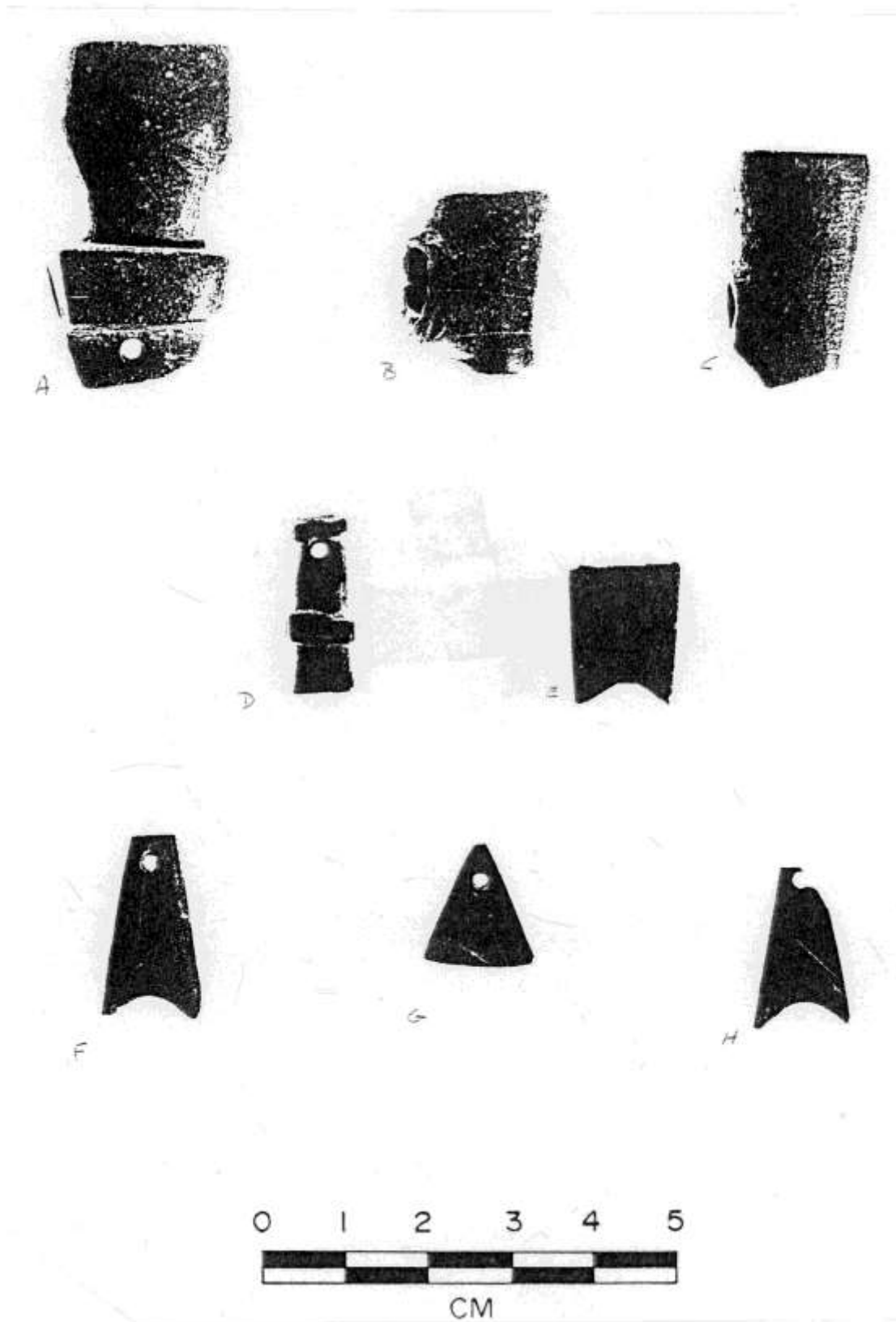
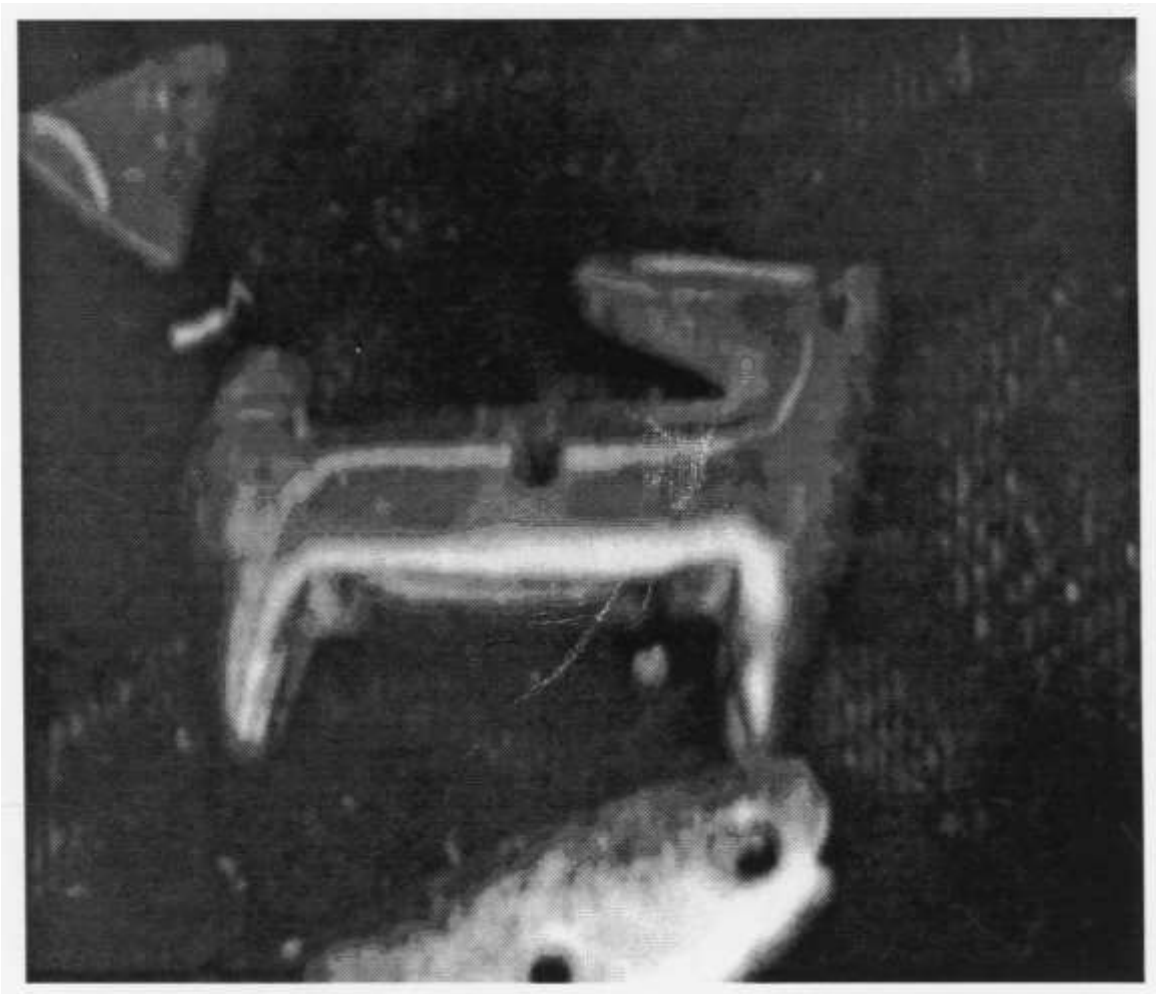


Figure 46. Catlinite pipes and pendants from the Newell Collection.



**Figure 47. Catlinite effigy from the Newell Collection (enlarged detail from circa 1948-50 photograph probably taken by the Kaskaskia Archaeological Expedition) (Illinois State Museum Collection).**