

MORE DATA ON HOPEWELL SITES IN PEORIA REGION

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This paper gives a preliminary list of objects found at the Rench Village site, north of Mossville, and gives a few comparisons with collections from the Clear Lake and Steuben village sites, all Hopewell sites of the general Peoria region. It also reports several unrecorded items from Clear Lake and Steuben sites. Collections were made by Anson M. Simpson, and by Mr. and Mrs. George Schoenbeck, members of the Peoria Academy of Science.

RENCH VILLAGE SITE

Rench Village, listed as site No. 3 in the Peoria Academy survey, is about four miles north of Mossville, Peoria County, in Medina Township, sec. 15, T. 10 N., R. 8 E. It consists of about 20 acres of flat bottomland at the base of the bluff and north of Dickison Run, a small creek. It is part of the farm owned by Mrs. Bertha Purcell of Mossville, occupied by Floyd Rench, and present use includes plowed fields, a vegetable garden, and a chicken yard. Indian mounds are located on the Sturm property on the bluff north of the Rench Village site. The Dickison Mounds are about two miles to the east and the Mossville Village site is about three miles to the south.

The village and mounds were visited by Fay-Cooper Cole and a group from the University of Chicago in 1941. Survey sheets are in the files of the University of Chicago and the Illinois State Museum at Spring-

field. A brief report on the site, by A. M. Simpson, was given at the 1944 meeting of the Illinois Academy of Science at DeKalb, Illinois.

It has been reported that the owner made an early collection of material from the Rench Village site which he sold to a Peoria dealer. Simpson made his first collection in 1937. The Schoenbecks joined in surface collecting the same year, and several years later undertook a limited amount of excavating. About fifty trips have been made, the last of which was on May 1, 1949. Other collectors from the Peoria Academy of Science include Leroy Elliott, Virginius Chase, Bob Poehls, Almon Buis, Dr. Dan Morse, and D. Morse, Jr.

Excavations have covered an area of perhaps 120 square feet to a depth of about 5 feet—a limited area in comparison to excavations at Clear Lake. The upper depth was mostly bare of material, but several burials were found, and scattered among the village debris were human bones, including skulls and jaws. One skull was found by itself; there was one partial skeleton of a human embryo. At another location one adult burial occurred at a depth of only 18 inches, with village material all around. A thin rough slab of stone, four to five inches in diameter, lay beneath the skull.

Part of the skeletal material from Rench Village, together with material from Clear Lake and Sister Creek



Photograph by Barclay Photo Co.

RENCH VILLAGE SITE

FIRST Row :

- Rim of Bossed, Channeled, "Brushed" pottery.
- Sherd of polished, thin, limestone-tempered Hopewell pottery with "brushed" marks in the zoned areas.
- Rim of thin, polished Hopewell with "brushed" marks placed horizontally.
- Rim of polished gray, incurved, similar to Marksville Plain.
- Shell spoon, with hinge removed.
- Shell hoe, perforated.

SECOND Row :

- Types of points.

THIRD Row :

- Pendant.
- Pipe bowl, highly polished.
- Stone artifact, with polished tip.
- One-half of polished stone ball.
- Copper bead or bangle.
- One-half pendant, unfinished, with two perforations—one from each side but not meeting.
- Grooved stone maul.
- Stone with two inverted cone-shaped pits.

CLEAR CREEK AND STEUBEN SITES

FOURTH Row :

- Pipe from Clear Lake site.
- Pottery artifact, sectioned into six sections by rows of punctates, from Clear Lake.
- Chert ball, with many little planes on surface, Steuben Site.

Hopewell Mound, was given to Thorne Deuel, Director of the Illinois State Museum, for a study of Hopewellian remains.

Collections from the Rench Village site include pottery rims, body

sherds, and pots; shell artifacts and refuse; stone items; chert artifacts and scraps; bone artifacts, refuse, and burials; copper bead or bangle; carbonized corn, corn cob, and acorn; charcoal and mica.

POTTERY

All pottery is Woodland, Hopewellian, and cord-decorated, with the exception of one Mississippian rim and two sherds. Like the Steuben pottery, it is simpler than that from Clear Lake, lacking richness of variation in decoration. The fine Hopewell is poorly represented, and the cord-decorated is present in only small amounts. Cord-decorated and Mississippian sherds were collected only from the plowed surface; the other types were found both on the surface and in the excavations. Pottery fragments included 313 rims, hundreds of body sherds, and portions of nine pots, two of which have been projected.

Dentate stamped¹ is the dominant type, mostly of simple decoration. Punctate ware, dominant at Steuben, ranks second at Rensch Village. Ware showing the cord-wrapped paddle-edge stamps, abundant at Clear Lake, is scarce here as at the Steuben site. The proportion of Woodland cord-roughened undecorated pottery is larger at Rensch Village than at Clear Lake. The boss, found frequently at Clear Lake, is infrequent here as at Steuben site. The cord-decorated ware lacks certain distinguishing characteristics of the Clear Lake pottery and seems closer to that of the Knoche Village, an almost pure Maples Mills site.

The dentate-stamped pottery collected includes 106 upper rims and 50 lower rims. Most designs are the simple repeated stamp. The rocked dentate stamp and the snowshoe appear once each. Six rims are odds.

¹ Designated by Cole and Deuel, in "Rediscovering Illinois," as type No. 2, and by James B. Griffin, Curator of the Ceramic Repository, University of Michigan, as Naples Dentate-Stamped.

The crescent stamp is found in three upper rims and one lower rim.

The punctated ware, consisting of 91 upper rims and two lower rims, has mostly the simple two and three punctates, applied unevenly on both cord-roughened and smoothed surfaces. Single punctates decorate the outer edge of the lip on 35 of the rims. Several rims are odds.

Woodland cord-roughened pottery, with the cord-roughening extending to the lip, is represented by 36 rims, all of which are undecorated except two that have bosses. Plain smooth rims, undecorated, number 33; two of them are sand-tempered, similar to a Clear Lake ware.

Bar-stamped pottery is represented by two upper rims that show a plain bar stamp on a smooth surface.

Incised pottery included 11 upper rims, six lower rims and other sherds. Three upper rims, two lower rims, and two body sherds are similar to Cole and Deuel's No. 1 type or Black Sands incised, in which the incising was over cord-roughening, with boss and punctates. Two upper rims and four lower rims were similar to Griffin's Morton incised type of ware. Six upper rims and 21 sherds are unclassified.

The cord-wrapped-stick stamp (Cole and Deuel's term) appears on only eight rims, three of thin ware and five of heavy ware. This stamp is such as could be made by the edge of a cord-wrapped-paddle and is termed by the writer the corded-paddle-edge stamp.

Some 28 body sherds show designs on alternate areas or in zones, such as are described for Cole and Deuel's No. 2 type pottery or Griffin's Havana zoned.

Representatives of the finer Hopewell pottery and imitations included 14 rims and 11 body sherds. Hopewell channeled rims show horizontal incising or "brushing" and rocked incising. Imitations are of Hopewell cross-hatched incised and the rocked stamp, such as can be made with the raw edge of a broken clam shell. One limestone-tempered polished thin body sherd has incised and "brushed" zoned areas. One rim is smooth, polished, and incurved, similar to Markville Plain.

Pot portions, sufficient to project the whole form, are mostly undecorated cord-roughened, both plain and punctate, but including two that are different. One is a ware not previously reported in Illinois, so far as the writer knows. The fragments show a channeled bossed rim bearing horizontal "brushed" markings and a body on which the same markings were applied vertically to a smooth surface. The marks are parallel grooves, long, straight, narrow, and shallow, such as might be made by a three- or four-tined fork with closely spaced sharp-cornered flat tines about 1/16 inch wide. The lip is rounded; diameter of mouth was 12 inches. The pottery is about 1/4 inch thick and seems similar to Cole and Deuel's No. 2 or Woodland Plain ware in paste, tempering, etc. Two similar sherds were found at Clear Lake.

The second was a roughly made, seemingly barrel-shaped pot. It had two irregular rows of punctates on the rim and zigzag incisions on the body.

There were four cord-decorated rims, all with decoration on the inner side of the lip but only one with it

on the outer rim. Tempering material includes a little of the black sharp-angled hornblende; most is other grit. One rim bears the ear or node but not on a raised point.

The Mississippian ware comprises one rim and two sherds. The rim is red-painted, smooth, curved such as that of a low bowl, and has a hole in it, made when the bowl was made and painted red, an unusual feature. One sherd is smooth and rather thick, the thinner sherd has been leached of its tempering.

The Rench Village pottery complex, as known to date, seems closer to that of the Steuben site than to the Clear Lake. Factors considered are the simplicity of the dentate stamp design with its lack of variation or elaboration; the importance of the punctate ware; and the scarcity of the corded-paddle-edge decoration and of the boss.

SHELL ITEMS

Shell items include a number of large clam shell hoes, shell spoons, clam shells packed with soil containing many fish scales, many refuse clam shells, and a large number of snail shells.

The hoes have a 3/4-inch round hole in the center, and a portion of the hinge has been smoothed off at the top. Bottoms are often worn down. These have been found at Clear Lake, Steuben, and the Sister Creek Whitnah Hopewellian village also, as well as at Mississippian villages. Spoons were made from another species of shell, thin and smooth. Hinges were removed or smoothed down, and the dark surface on the back was partially removed. One spoon has a finely scalloped edge.

The clam shells packed with soil and fish scales are thought to have been used to scrape scales from fish. Similar ones were also found at Clear Lake. The refuse clam shells were found all over the village. Snail shells, all of the same species, were found in lots of 20 to 50 at a number of places in the excavations.

COPPER

The only copper found was a cone-shaped bead or bangle of rolled sheet copper. A string of copper and shell beads was reported found about 1922 on the Charles Gauwitz farm across the road, probably a part of the Rench Village site.

STONE ITEMS

Pitted stones, showing shallow rough peckings in the center on one or both sides, are numerous. A few stones have cone-shaped holes with smooth walls. Holes are about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep.

There were 30 celts, counting both whole and broken portions. Axes are represented by one blade, broken off at the groove. There are two grooved mauls, round or oval granite boulders encircled by grooves about an inch wide.

There are the usual ball-shaped pecking stones, which are found at almost all villages; but the gouge, flat on one side and convex on the other, is rather rare. Several sandstone sharpening stones were found, their straight grooves worn shallow or deep.

There was one whole pendant and eight portions. One unfinished pendant has two borings from opposite sides, in the usual way, but they do not meet; edges and sur-

faces are only partly smoothed. Clear Lake excavations have yielded fewer pendants than Rench Village, but the Steuben site is represented in the Schoenbeck collection by 16 portions.

A rare item is half of a polished stone ball, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. The broken surface is also somewhat polished, particularly on the higher areas, as though from handling or smoothing. Another unusual item is a small oblong stone, two inches long, one side of which is flat and the other ridged, and which has a flat polished tip. Its name and use are unknown. There were also several roughly shaped flat blades, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick, shaped around three edges and broken on the other. The only pipe found is half of a highly polished bowl.

CHERT

Chert items included points, scrapers, flake knives, drills, and a bird effigy. Points are abundant, as they are at Steuben. Types of points include Woodland, Hopewell, Red Ocher, Maples Mills, and Mississippian. The smallest is $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, the largest is $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches, but the average is $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches long. The bird effigy is of white chert and is similar to two found at the Steuben site (one by the Schoenbecks and one by Elliott). Drills are winged. There are three types of scrapers, and chert scraps are plentiful.

BONE

Bone items, aside from burials, include several broken beamers; a few awls, both single and double pointed; and a quantity of animal bones—deer, elk, beaver, dog, fish,

and turtle. There were portions of large and small antlers, some of which had been cut. Two antler tips had been shaped to a point.

VEGETABLES REMAINS

Carbonized corn kernels were excavated in two places; some of them had small remnants of cob attached. Charcoal and a carbonized acorn were also found.

MICA

Material excavated included a two-inch fragment of mica.

UNIDENTIFIED

A fragment of material $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick and about three by five inches in size, badly deteriorated, somewhat resembles old leather or hide. It has not been identified.

CLEAR LAKE SITE

An unusual item from Clear Lake Village is a pottery disk, $\frac{5}{16}$ inch thick and $1\frac{3}{16}$ inch in diameter, which has a punctate design on each side. Lines of circular punctates mark one surface into six sections, as a pie is cut; a line of punctates outlines the circumference of the

other face. The side wall is smooth but the two faces are rough.

Another recently collected item is an incomplete or broken disk pipe bowl, $2\frac{3}{16}$ inches in diameter with a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch stem hole centered in the disk. This brings the total number of Clear Lake pipes to seven, which represent at least five types.

The "Brushed" ware that is reported in this paper for the Rench Village site is also here reported for the Clear Lake site. Several grit-tempered sherds were identified some years ago by Griffin, but have been overlooked in the list of types reported.

Sherds of small-sized buff-colored sand-tempered pottery with thinned and rounded lips are reported for the Clear Lake site. The surface is plain; decoration includes an irregular gashing or incising, a low horizontal "welting," and notches, but most of the sherds are undecorated.

STEBEN SITE

For the Steuben site there is reported a marble-like object, $\frac{11}{16}$ inch in diameter, that appears to be of white chert. The surface consists of many small planes. It was found on the plowed surface.