

Caves and Rock Shelters of Eastern Iowa

Geoarchaeology of Iowa

Field Trips

- April 13
- April 27

Rock Shelters Vs. Caves



Usage

Caves and rock shelters have been used from Early Paleo-Indians through Late Woodland periods

- Seasonal
- During travel
- Rituals



Primary factors

1. South-facing slopes
2. Near water
3. Access to other resources (foraging, relatives, stone, game)

Complications - Geoarchaeological Record

- Number of occupations (single vs. multiple)
- Past humans dug pits in cave floors, disturbing primary stratigraphy, leading to questionable stratigraphy



Whitewater Canyon, Jones Co.



Hadsfields Cave, Jones Co.

- Late Woodland
- North fork Maquoketa River
- 30 by 12m
- 10/50 degrees C/F
- Rare:
 - Contained corn
 - East-facing
 - Morning sun and protection against northwesterly wind

Horse thief Cave, Johnson, Co.

- Wapsipinicon State Park
- Late Woodland



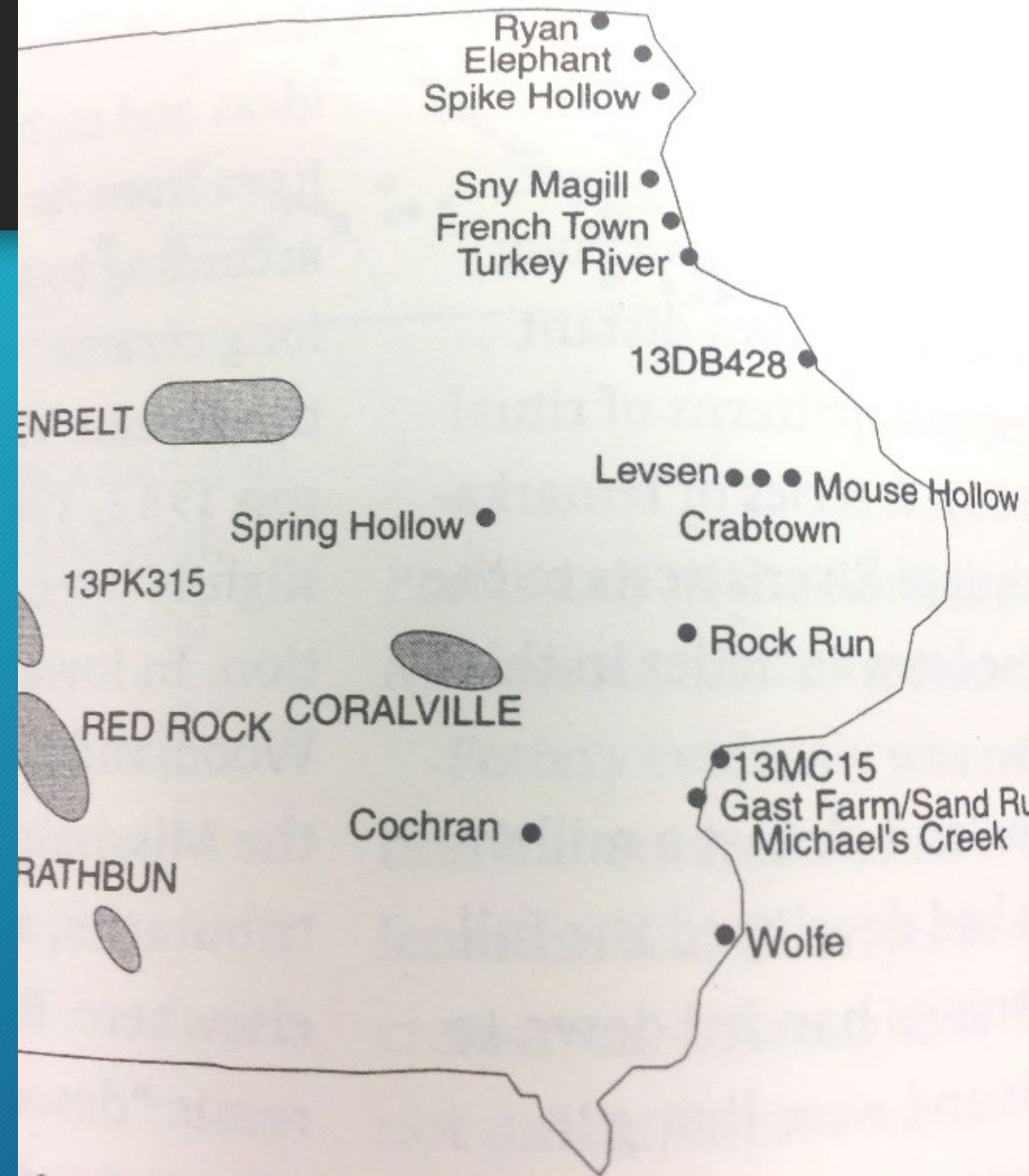
Ginger Stairs Rock shelters 1 and 2, Linn Co.

- Palisades-Kepler State Park
- Late Woodland
- Maintained
 - Subsistence living/hunting and gathering supplemented by cultivating plants

Woodpecker Cave, Johnson, Co.

- Great Oasis Culture , after Late Woodland
- Near Coralville and Sugar Bottom
- Iowa's first prominent corn farmers

Jackson County, Iowa



Crabtown Rock Shelter, Jackson, Co.

- Near Emeline, NW of Maquoketa
- Likely single occupation site
- Scorched animals bones
 - Mostly white-tail deer
- Large flint flakes
- Pottery

Mouse Hallow Rock shelter, Jackson, Co.

- Also near Emeline, NW of Maquoketa
- Loose ash
- A multi-occupation site
- Mixed bone, wood and pottery fragments
 - Rare for Northeast Iowa, shell-tempered pottery, resembling Ramey Incised of Cahokia

Levsen Rock Shelter Jackson County, Iowa

Near Canton Iowa

Dusty fine grained sediment and ash
Flint chips, burnt bone, fire cracked
limestone, pottery

Extensive archaeological record,
PaleoIndian to Woodland

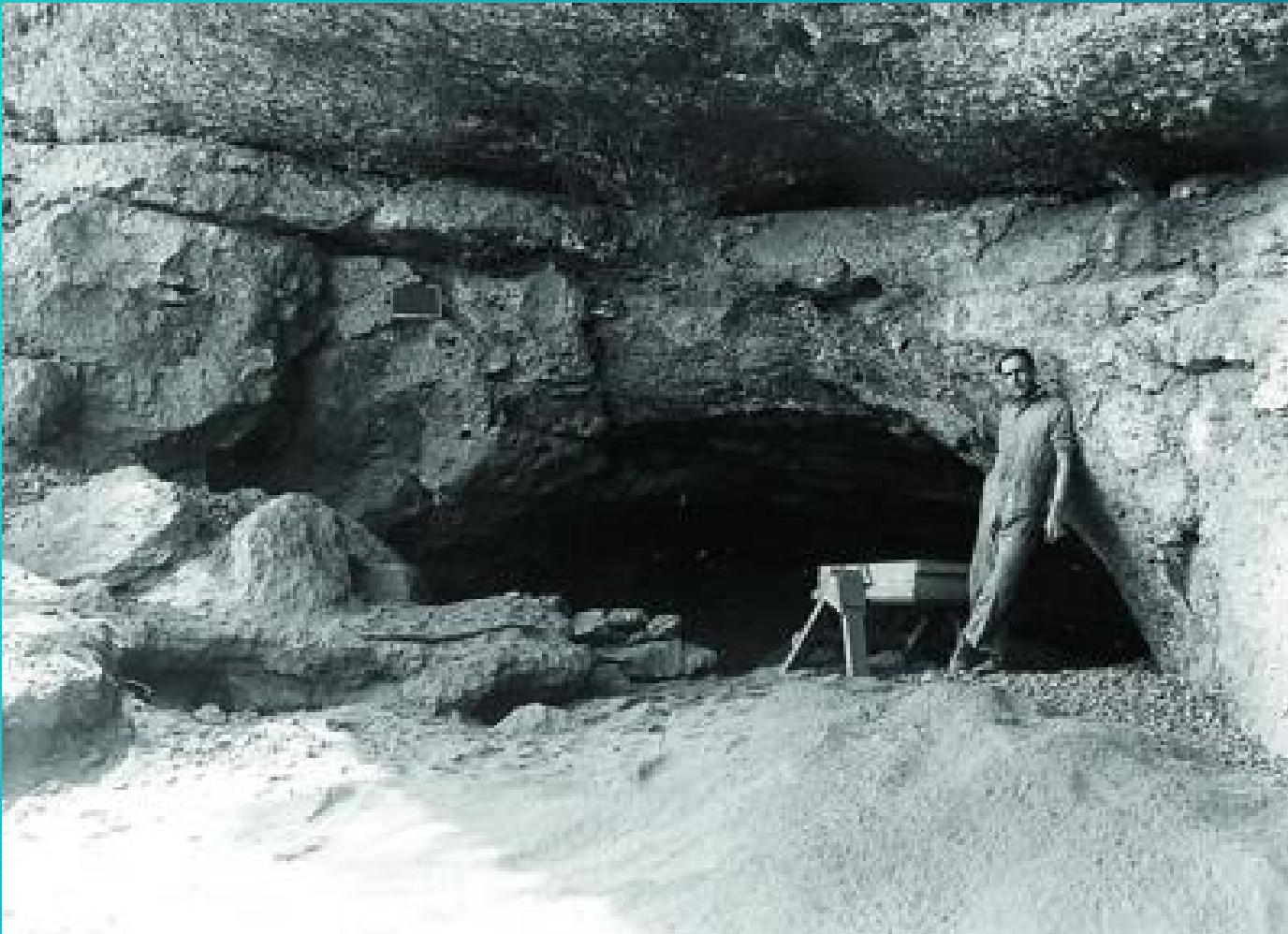


Table 14. Inventory of artifacts from three Jackson County sites

Artifact type	Sites		
	Levensen	Mouse Hollow	Crabtown
<i>Paul Sapere</i>			
Pottery:			
Madison Cord-Impressed			
Rim	136	11	11
Body	503		99
Single-cord decorated, collared rim sherds		3	
Single-cord decorated pot with squared orifice with nodes on outer rim		12	
Ramey Incised		18	
Spring Hollow Plain	169	13	28
Spring Hollow Cordmarked			
Rim	5	5	18
Body	1,027		
Havana Cordmarked			
Rim	16		16
Body	1,527		
Plain sherd with bosses on upper rim		1	
Naples Stamped	64		4
Levensen Stamped	21	1	
Lane Farm Stamped	28		1
Black Sand Incised	2	3	3
Havana Zoned	23		
Neteler Stamped	3		
Naples Stamped (ovoid variety)	6		
Fettie Incised	3		3
Plain surfaced sherd with annular punctates on exterior surface		1	
Plain surfaced sherd with semicircular punctates		1	

Woodland
Sites in
Northeastern
Iowa



Seeberger Rock Shelter

