

'Possibilities of Aztalan Unlimited' Museum Director Tells Historians

WORK MUST BE DONE WHILE PIONEERS CAN HELP US OUT

"The possibilities of great historical work for the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society are almost unlimited," declared Charles E. Brown, director of the state historical museum, to an audience of 50 at the second meeting of the society last night in the high school band room. "The surface has only been scratched."

"Much remains to be collected in the way of pioneer diaries, maps, letters, surveys, prints, old photographs, wills, deeds, and books to establish the background of this neighborhood," said the archaeologist. "Landmarks must be preserved and marked, the folklore of the region must be collected, and steps taken for the construction of a public park system at Aztalan."

"What is most important," emphasized Mr. Brown, "is that this work must be done before the pioneers who possess the first-hand knowledge are gone."

Steps have been taken which will insure the safe-keeping of the old Baptist Church at Aztalan until such time as funds are available for the carrying out of the plans of the society, Mrs. Peter White, president of the society told the group.

The museum director told his audience that even the Aztalan site is but partially explored. "We know that a village as populous as Aztalan must have had a large cemetery, but we haven't found it. Some day we will and it will be a big find."

The work which remains undone and which will contribute such a great amount to the historical background of the region and of the state constitutes the challenge faced by the newly-organized historical society. To meet the challenge, the society will be assured of the aid of the 38 other historical associations in the state, Mr. Brown said.

Representatives of other groups, Mrs. Zeida C. Ivey of the Ft. Atkinson Historical association, Walter Bubbitt, Milwaukee, chairman of the Aztalan Mounds Park committee, and Charles G. Schoewe of the Wisconsin State Historical society, also spoke. **Several Financial Plans**

"There are several ways in which the financing of the Aztalan museum project may be handled," Mr. Bubbitt pointed out. "The federal government will put up as much as 50 per cent in the financing of roadside parks with 10 acre extent. There is a wayside park bill in the state legislature which may provide funds for the setting up of an Aztalan park."

"The tourist business in Wisconsin is the fourth greatest industry in the state. The recently-opened Cave of the Mounds and the reconstructed fort at Prairie du Chien have shown the great drawing power of the historical site. The same can be true of Aztalan," Mr. Bubbitt explained.

Other methods of financing include public corporations, private corporations, or combination public-private corporations in which the private shares are gradually released to the community.

Hubert Jaycox of Whitewater and Judge Charles Rogers of Ft. Atkinson described the old Aztalan Church and promised to donate objects now in the possession of members of their family or in their own collections. Mr. Jaycox now owns one of the original marble-based lamps used to light the church, while Mr. Rogers has access to valuable documents pertaining to Aztalan.

ATTENDS FUNERAL AT RIVER FALLS

1947

Mrs. A. E. Spitzer attended the funeral of her brother-in-law, W. J. Griffey, 79, at River Falls, Monday. He died Friday, May 23.

Mr. Griffey at one time operated the Milford and Townline cheese factories near here.

We still have the lone pussy willow on our desk to remind us that there's hope for spring soon even tho the temp was down below that zero mark Wednesday a.m. The pussy willow was found some weeks ago by Charles Jacobs Jr. and many people have commented on the brave little pussy with its soft grey buds.

1949

THURSDAY, JAN. 20, 1944

Lake Mills

OLD DEE-HI PLANT SOLD



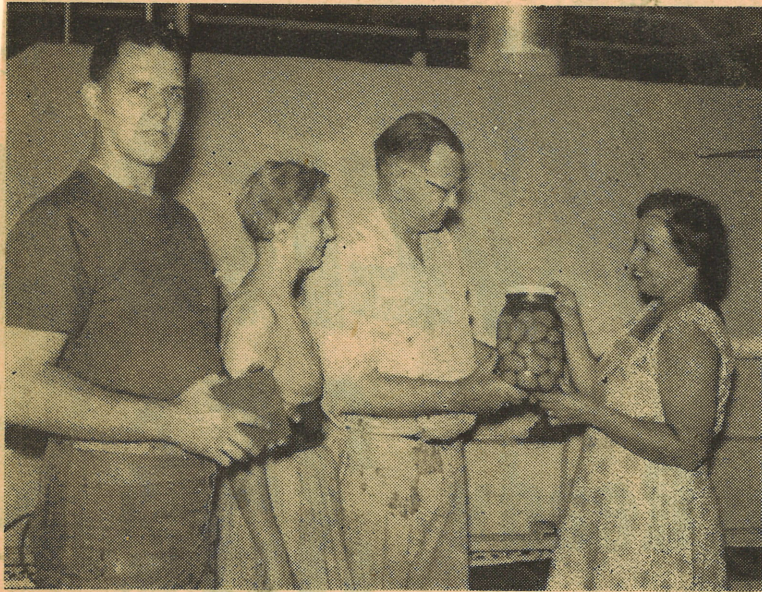
Sale of the old Dee-Hi building on Water street to the Mueller Automobile and Implement Co. was announced this week. The sale was made by Chicago owners of the property, and includes building, equipment, and nearly an acre of land.

Necessary remodeling work and removal of the old milk powdering equipment was under way this week, in preparation for using the plant to house the implement company's business.

Roland Weber, manager of the Mueller Automobile and Implement Co., said that the new quarters would be occupied as soon as the repair work is completed, the firm moving from its present location on South Main street.

August 1958

THE LEADER GETS FIRST JAR OF PICKLED EGGS FROM BALL-O-SUNSHINE



On Wednesday of last week, after months of planning, the machinery at Ball-O-Sunshine Products Co. finally started running.

Presenting the first jar of 36 aggs to the Leader is President of the newly organized firm, Einar B. Schon. Left to right on the above photo are Wesley Schon, first vice president and general manager, Mrs. Dorothea Eising, secretary-treasurer; Einar B. Schon, president, and Mrs. W. J. Erlandson who accepted the eggs on behalf of The Leader. Not shown on the picture is Mrs. Einar B. Schon, who is second vice president in charge of production.

BLACKHAWK TRAIL IS TO BE MARKED

Legislature Authorized Tablets and Memorials to Mark Famous Chief's Trek in Dodge County and State

The historic retreat trail of famous Blackhawk, one of the noblest of the Indian leaders of North America, will soon be marked by appropriate tablets and other memorials that will be erected in southern Wisconsin by mandate of the state legislature.

Blackhawk and his band of Indians fled through Lake Mills and a marker in the City park calls attention to the fact.

The governor has approved a \$2,500 appropriation that will be used by the Wisconsin Historical society to establish the trail followed by Blackhawk and his defeated warriors through southern Wisconsin more than a century ago after his defeat by the U. S. army and territorial militia.

The bill was supported by historical society leaders in the legislature.

The defeat of the Indians in the Blackhawk war in 1832, a campaign in which Abraham Lincoln participated, removed one of the last barriers to the swift settlement of what was then Wisconsin territory, and led to the early development of the state.

Now the state which the Indian leader resisted bravely on behalf of his primitive people is spending of its resources to perpetuate his memory and that of his gallant last stand.

Blackhawk and his bands of native warriors retreated northward from Illinois along the Rock river, and in Dodge county turned westward through Sauk and Richland counties.

That trail and the sites of historic interest along it will be permanently marked by the Historical society under the new law.

CHANGE OF DATE FOR SOCIAL AT AZTALAN

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society met on August 18th, and because of a conflict with the band, it was decided to have the ice cream social on Thursday evening, August 28th. At the meeting of the board, Albert Kracht was appointed as general chairman for the social, with Miss Mary Seward heading the food committee and Mrs. Kitty Larson and Mrs. Ray Griesemer in charge of grounds and arrangements.

As part of the entertainment feature, it was decided to have some exhibits pertaining to Aztalan and the culture of that period. Those in charge of exhibits are Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hanson, Paul Cranefield, Mrs. Gertie Wagner, and Mrs. William Duckert. B. C. Engsborg was appointed to look after lighting arrangements.

The food committee announced that because of the cooler weather now prevailing, coffee, hamburgers, and doughnuts will be served as well as ice cream and cake.

Music and entertainment for the evening was placed in charge of Dorothy Yandre and Dave Davis.

As Mrs. Taylor recalled the warmth of that spring in '98, along comes George Cross Sr., who is in his 80's and says that "Many years ago the weather was much colder. . maybe not exactly 50 years ago, but before the turn of the century.

"People think it's cold now, but it sure isn't like the good old fashioned winters. These zero spells aren't at all like it used to be. Why I recall when it was nothing unusual to have 35 degrees below zero in southern Wisconsin. . . It even got so cold six feet below that we couldn't dig a grave all winter long. . ."

And even though it was "below" Wednesday, March 10, Mrs. Victor Taylor recalled how—just 50 years ago her brother, the late Theodore Smith and the late Robert Brock got the gold rush fever and headed that day for the Klondike in Alaska.

And in those days going to Alaska wasn't as simple traveling as now. Alaska then seemed to be at the end of the world and only the most daring and brave in heart set forth to the far away land. "A half century ago," said Mrs. Taylor, "the weather was mild and the ground was soft and muddy. Everywhere one could see and feel the approach of spring.

Historical Society Hears of Early Moravian Church

91-1944

The Rev. H. T. Kant, pastor of the local Moravian church the past 10 years, outlined the history of the church from its earliest days in 1457—telling of years of religious persecution, how the church was founded in America and how the first churches began in Wisconsin—at the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical society meeting Friday at the L. D. Fargo Public library.

"The Moravian church, one of the first Protestant religions, dates back to the year 1457, long before the Reformation of 1517, when a small band of people met in a castle of ancient Europe to worship," he stated.

"In the Lititz castle the first Christians, followers of John Huss, formed a Brotherhood and set up rules of religion. This group was also known as the Unitas Fratrum or Unity of Brethren.

"Even today the Moravian church is also known as the 'Brethrens', especially in Europe. The name of Moravian church is used in America because another religious group has taken the name of Brethren.

Persecutions Start

"After a while, a hostile king came to govern the ancient land of Moravia and imprisoned all the Brethren. Many were persecuted and beheaded. Thus for a time this earliest religious movement was suppressed. The climax of the persecution came with the Battle of White Mountain in 1621 when the church was almost wiped out. The last bishop of this first movement, or ancient church, was Comenius. In 1710-1720 it was believed the wars and persecution were effective enough to suppress all Christianity.

Revival of Worship

"But in 1772 another great religious movement began when Count Zinzendorf, a great leader, worked with a co-operative Danish king and his court to once more revive Christianity. In 1772, Herrnhut, a religious colony, was founded by Zinzendorf.

"At this time the church spread rapidly through Germany, Holland, Switzerland, British Isles, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Greenland.

"Bringing Moravianism and Methodism to America were the earliest missionaries when the colony of Georgia was settled in 1735. Crossing the Atlantic ocean in the same ship were John Wesley, who founded the Methodist church in America, and a group of Moravians. They became close friends and worked together in the States.

"Early Moravian settlements in America were in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin—especially in Brown, Door, Wood and Jefferson counties when Scandinavian and German settlers started churches.

"John Fett preached the first Moravian sermon in Wisconsin in Milwaukee in 1849 when the city had a population of 18,000. Also active in establishing churches was Otto Tanck, a wealthy Norwegian Moravian, who built the first cottage in Wisconsin and which still stands today as a historic landmark.

Johann Kaltenbrun

"Father of the Moravian church in southern Wisconsin was the circuit rider and preacher, Johann G. Kaltenbrun, grandfather of Mrs. John Joeckel, Lake Mills. The Rev. Kaltenbrun established about 30 missions during his 41 years of work. He forded the Crawfish river on a horse to reach Lake Mills during those early days and braved the wilderness to reach early settlers on Sunday mornings. His long career came to an end when he was 91 years old in 1895," stated the Rev. Kant.

One of the first churches in this area was established at Ebenezer. It was in the Ebenezer parsonage that the Rev. Kant was born during the pastorate of his father there. Later the Watertown Moravian church was started, and as the "city daughter outgrows her country mother," so the Watertown church has grown to a large congregation.

"Preaching services were held at Aztalan from 1858 to 1860 and at Milford, North Salem, Oakland, Newville, Lake Mills, Johnson Creek, Mamre and other places," stated the Rev. Kant.

"The first Moravian church in Lake Mills stood near the present Tom Neubauer home, College street. The Neubauer home served as the first parsonage. The Rev. John Kilian was the first pastor and the first service here was held in 1856, although Lake Mills served as a preaching place as early as 1853 by the Rev. Kaltenbrun.

"A new location was purchased at College and Madison streets and the second church was built in 1870. The present church was built in 1898."

The Moravian church, with its sincere gospel, continues to grow. Several years ago a church was started in Madison and now plans are being made to start a parish in Milwaukee.

The Rev. H. T. Kant observed his 10th anniversary in Lake Mills this month.

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LAKE MILLS, WISCONSIN

**TELL OF OLD HOMES,
LOG CABINS AT 1951
HISTORICAL MEETING**

The January meeting of the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society was held in the home of Mrs. Theodore Haverkate, Mr. Albert Kracht presiding. Attention was called to the Annual Founder's Day dinner to be given by the State Historical Society in Madison on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Two new members were taken into the society: Mrs. Peter Longstreet and Miss Lizzie Schimming.

After the business was completed, Miss Ruth Potter talked to the group about Old American homes. Remembering the society's newly acquired log cabin, built in 1846, of New England heritage, Miss Potter outlined some of New England's pioneer history, from 1620 through expansion into the State of New York, and the permanent settlement of much of early Wisconsin by descendants of New England's daring Pilgrims and Puritans.

Miss Potter told of some of the lovely early New England homes for which lumber was brought from England, all cut, ready to set together. Many of these were so sturdily and well built that they still stand today. Even in log cabins of later pioneer descendants were preserved early New England's ways of living,—her unprecedented interest in education; her godliness which brought the Pilgrims and Puritans across the great ocean to this haven.

Facts related from a pamphlet published by the State of Connecticut at its Tercentenary Celebration in 1935, describing Colonial methods of construction and furnishings, quite startlingly resembled methods of building and furnishings used in many of our pioneer homes in Wisconsin, showing their lineage.

After the meeting, Mrs. Haverkate and Miss Elsie Schuyler served delicious coffee and sandwiches to the guests.

Next meeting of the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society will be held at the home of Mrs. Leone Griesemer in Ft. Atkinson, who has invited the society to be her guests Friday, Feb. 16th.

Last Vestiges of Old Aztalan Are Viewed by Tour Group Sunday

The wind swept over the mounds of the ancient Aztecs, Sunday, but the interested group of 25 persons did not become dismayed by chill breezes. Gathering around speaker Albert Kracht, members and friends of the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society were told of inhabitants who dwelt on the banks of the historical Crawfish river 1,000 years ago.

Came From Mexico

Not to be confused with the American Indian, the Aztecs are believed to have travelled from Mexico via the Mississippi river, up the Rock river to Jefferson, thence along the Crawfish river to the site of the famous earthworks at Aztalan.

Here they built many mounds, truncated pyramids, and a huge walled city. Red brick clay was used for walls, and at regular intervals, tall watch towers stood high above the ancient walls, explained Mr. Kracht, whose home archaeological authorities stayed while excavating some years ago.

The 500-foot long refuse heap, seven feet in depth, borders the river. The tourists ended their pilgrimage at the famous refuse spot and found some of the Aztalan brick, potsherds, and clam shells.

The ancient Aztecs lived on the picturesque site many years, apparently, as proven by the length and depth of the debris heap, the numerous bones and clam shells.

Hope to Re-build City

Because Aztalan remains the foremost archaeological site in the United States, the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society is well aware of its significance to posterity. It is the hope of all those vitally concerned with saving this historic spot, to eventually re-build the city as it stood during the day when feudal barons reigned in Europe, and long before Columbus discovered this continent.

Ceremonial Mounds Alone Remain

While walking over the many acres of the Aztalan site, one cannot help but conclude that even though man vanishes from old cities, nevertheless, one of the most lasting evidences of his culture is his religion. The long series of ceremonial mounds still stand, even though levelled by the farmer's plow. The ancient walled city has crumbled and been burned, the wooden post holes are filled, but the mounds still dot the horizon.

When the American Indians came, years later, their religious mounds, too, remained when all else vanished. Across the river from the site of the ancient walled city, a few rods to the south in the woods, is a lizard-shaped mound, such as the American Indian

used for burial and religious purposes. Thus, in later years the American Indian also left his marks along the Crawfish banks.

A Third Race Arrives

Still later, a third race came to make their homes at Aztalan. When the first white men came to this vicinity, they preferred the river site to all places around here. The navigable waterway, the roadway to the western Wisconsin lead mining district, marked Aztalan as the home of the first settlers. Thus, a third time, Aztalan grew. A Baptist Church was built and here our forefathers worshipped. But for a third time, Aztalan fell. The railroad completely missed the once thriving settlement, and today it is known as the "four corners". But again, the old church remains, a monument to the religious life of the once teeming city. It is this church which is being restored today. On Sunday several persons were busy painting the interior.

Thus with the restoration of the early church, and the Indian ceremonial mounds, the historical society will have perpetuated man's most permanent monument, his faith in a Supreme existence.

In touring the famed site last Sunday, the members of the group realized more fully the valuable treasures of the historical past contained at Aztalan.

Among those who went on the escorted tour were Mr. Quamm, Madison; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Michel, Miss Ruth Potter, Mrs. Herbert T. Kant and sons Harry and Kenneth, the Rev. and Mrs. Emil Suemper, Ebenezer; Frederick Zimmerman and son, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schmidt and Milton, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Erlandson and Patsy, the Rev. and Mrs. Robert T. Wilkowske, John Lieret, Miss Anita Zentner and Walter Bubbett, Milwaukee; Mrs. Everett Pease, Mrs. E. Lewis and daughter, Watertown; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Morgan and Joyce and Milton, and Robert McIlreth, Kenosha.

PICTURES OF AZTALAN DIGGINGS SHOWN AT ANNUAL SOCIAL

Highlight of Friday's 11th annual social at Aztalan was the showing of colored slides which told of the extensive excavations or diggings of the last three years.

Arranged by the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical society the social annually draws hundreds of persons from near and far who gather to enjoy a tasty outdoor supper, visit the attractive little museum, view the scenery, listen to music and witness a program.

Rebuild Mound

Preceding the showing of the pictures, Warren Wittry of the State Historical society told of this summer's work in re-building the southwest Pyramidal mound.

The mound measures 71 feet square at the base, with a flat top 40 feet square. The sides slope at 15 degrees. When completed it will be very similar to the original mounds, Wittry explained.

Palisade Next Year

The restoration of the Mound marks the first step in what is hoped will be an eventual replacement of at least part of the walled city itself. Mr. Wittry said that plans are underway to start building a small part of the palisade next year. He invited his listeners to watch the progress, since the restoration will be most interesting.

Early Descriptions Studied

Descriptions of the mounds were recorded by N. F. Hyer in 1836 and Increase Lapham in 1850. Erosion and a century of the farmer's plow have taken about five feet from the height of the mound. A temple for worship was placed at the top of the truncated mounds.

How Archeologists Work

In his interesting commentary during the picture showing, Robert Hall, graduate student at the University of Wisconsin explained many details of the work of archeologists. How they proceed with care in scraping the earth, how every "feature" is recorded on maps and graphs and the materials themselves are taken to a laboratory to be further analyzed and examined.

Largest Bowl

Pottery fragments or potsherds are carefully separated into two groups—the shell tempered and grit tempered. The former are relics of the Middle Mississippi culture of walled village fame, and the grit tempered is from the American Woodland Indian. Fragments of the largest Indian bowl ever found in Wisconsin were found at the Aztalan site. Hall said.

City of 10,000 Posts

The findings of post holes in the sub-soil always interested the diggers. In some instances the entire post remained quite intact and was found to be tamarack. In all 10,000 posts supported various walls, of which there were four in some places. Whether the walls were rebuilt as the city grew, or if they were built simultaneously for protection, has not been determined.

over

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Arrow heads of the Middle Mississippi culture and the Woodland Indians were shown, the former being smaller and notched, the latter of somewhat larger size and usually not notched.

H. A. Schmidt spoke briefly prior to the program and Harry Haverkate arranged the loud speaking system so all could clearly hear the program. A committee of women members of the society served food cafeteria style.

A bus load of Milwaukeeans came to attend the social as they have the last three years. Although the weatherman predicted showers, and Milwaukee and Waukesha experienced a heavy downpour during the day, the 11 year record of "no rain on Aztalan social day" was kept intact.

Historical Society Picnic Held at Aztalan

A pleasant outing was enjoyed by members of the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical society Friday when about 45 members and friends met at the State Park at 6 o'clock.

A birthday cake with lighted candles was served in honor of Robert Tasker's birthday anniversary.

Barbara Stroede played the accordion and Andrea Wolff sang several songs. Hostesses were Mrs. Robert Pfister and Mrs. William Wolff.

July 1958
VFW Hard Time Party

Aztalan Indians Were One of Four Prehistoric Wisconsin Cultures

July - 1958

The Aztalan Indians—that mysterious tribe who built a palisade, rectangular homes, truncated mounds and ate their neighbors belonged to the Middle Mississippi culture, one of four types peculiar to Wisconsin's earliest days.

Culture Defined

Archeologically speaking, the word culture doesn't refer to the refinement of the mind as we generally consider the word, but rather refers to the habits and customs of a people.

Thus cannibalism was a part of the Aztalan culture, and although the idea seems shocking to present day folks, in the light of modern atomic weapons, perhaps those ancients weren't so utterly destructive.

Dramatic Chapter

Nevertheless the folks who travelled the waterways all the way to the Crawfish at Aztalan gave Wisconsin one of its most dramatic chapters of aboriginal history. Apparently they came from Cahokia, Ill., where artifacts most closely resemble the Aztalanian background.

There Were But Four

Only four definite prehistoric cultures preceded the white man. These are the Middle Mississippi of Aztalan fame, the Upper Mississippi, the Hopewellian and ancient Woodland.

Ancient vs. Historic

The ancient Woodland group gave rise to our present tribes or historic Woodland and tribes descended therefrom are the Menomoni, Chippewa, Sauk, Fox and Eastern Sioux.

Here about 500 A. D.

Both the Ancient and Hopewell natives dwelt here several centuries after the birth of Christ—about 500.

The Hopewellians apparently died out completely, leaving no counterpart in modern times. Their greatest concentration was in Ohio.

However as recent as 1948, but ten years ago, an ancient Hopewell grave was found in Madison near Lake Monona. The Hope-

tribes.

Latest Was Aztalan

The latest and of whom we know, perhaps the least were the Aztalanians or Middle Mississippi culture and the approximate date of their activities was about the time Columbus discovered America or in the year 1500.

Mexican Customs

Although their Mexican background has been questioned, W. C. McKern, director of the Milwaukee Public Museum writes they were "an amalgamation of Mexican customs and Southeastern Indian ways."

He believes they were definitely Mexican in art and design and culture and very likely are the ancestors of the Seminoles, Nuskogean, Creek and Natchez of Mississippi since these tribes have the "customs and ways of living" of our former Aztalan neighbors.

The center of the Middle Mississippi tribes, in which we are deeply interested since they dwelt nearby, was in Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Central Illinois. The only location found in all Wisconsin is at Aztalan. Thus it served as the northernmost outpost of this strange tribe, which so intrigues present day archeologists who are determined to find more connecting links with the dim past as they scoop up and analyze and give carbon tests to artifacts found at the Crawfish river site.

Cong. Tewes Suggests Fort Atkinson Be Place of Ag. Hall of Fame

Location of a national Agricultural Hall of Fame in Wisconsin has been urged by Congressman Don Tewes (R-Waukesha).

In a letter to the chairman of the site selection committee for the Hall of Fame, Tewes endorsed the bid of Fort Atkinson, Wis., to become the host city. Fort Atkinson, located in Jefferson County is the only Wisconsin city among the 18 which have made informal bids to date.



Restored Southwest Pyramidal Mound.

The Northwest Pyramid Mound At Aztalan Contained a Crematorium

The truncated Pyramidal mounds at Aztalan, built during the stone age, have a story to tell as archeologists keep digging, exploring, comparing notes and gathering facts.

The southwest mound, first to be restored, had three buildings situated upon its brow. These were built at various stages, and there has been considerable conjecture as to the purpose. Were they ceremonial? Civic centers? Or did they house chieftains? The earth doesn't tell us the purpose, but post holes do tell us they once stood there.

An Important "Find"

The second mound, somewhat smaller than the southerly one, revealed a story of great importance within the last several years.

For here was found a box-like structure in which 11 dead were placed and then burned. Archeologists call it the crematorium at Aztalan.

Folklore Tells of Northern City

Could this discovery in 1954 by the State Archeological Survey serve as a connecting link with the olden Aztec tribes of Mexico from which Aztalan got its name? Some think Nathaniel Hyer jumped at conclusions when he named the site "Aztalan."

He was aware that according to ancient Aztec folklore they had a wonderful city north of the 42nd parallel along a beautiful river.

No Cemetery

It was known that some Aztec tribes cremated their dead, and until 1954 no evidence of cremation had been found. Neither was there a cemetery . . . only the mute evidence that they practiced cannibalism. Of the two truncated mounds, restored thus far, the second one has proven of unusual archeological importance with the recent discovery.

Three Stages

The Northwest mound was constructed in three building stages and the box-like structure which was burned with 11 bodies was

on the stop of the second stage. The crematorium measured 12 feet long and five feet wide and was rectangular with rounded corners.

The walls and roof were built in the manner of the Aztalan dwelling houses. Support posts were set in the ground along the edge.

Woven Mat Fragments

When the crematorium was completed, the entire floor was covered with a large mat, possibly woven of cattail rushes.

Eleven individuals were placed on the mat, ten with the skulls in a southwest direction. The 11th individual was a bundle burial at the end of the pit.

A few objects were then placed in the grave, being a pottery vessel, two examples of textiles and some hickory nuts.

A Roaring Holocaust

After the 11 were placed in the structure, the entire grave was burned. It was built expressly for that purpose, leaving the badly charred bones.

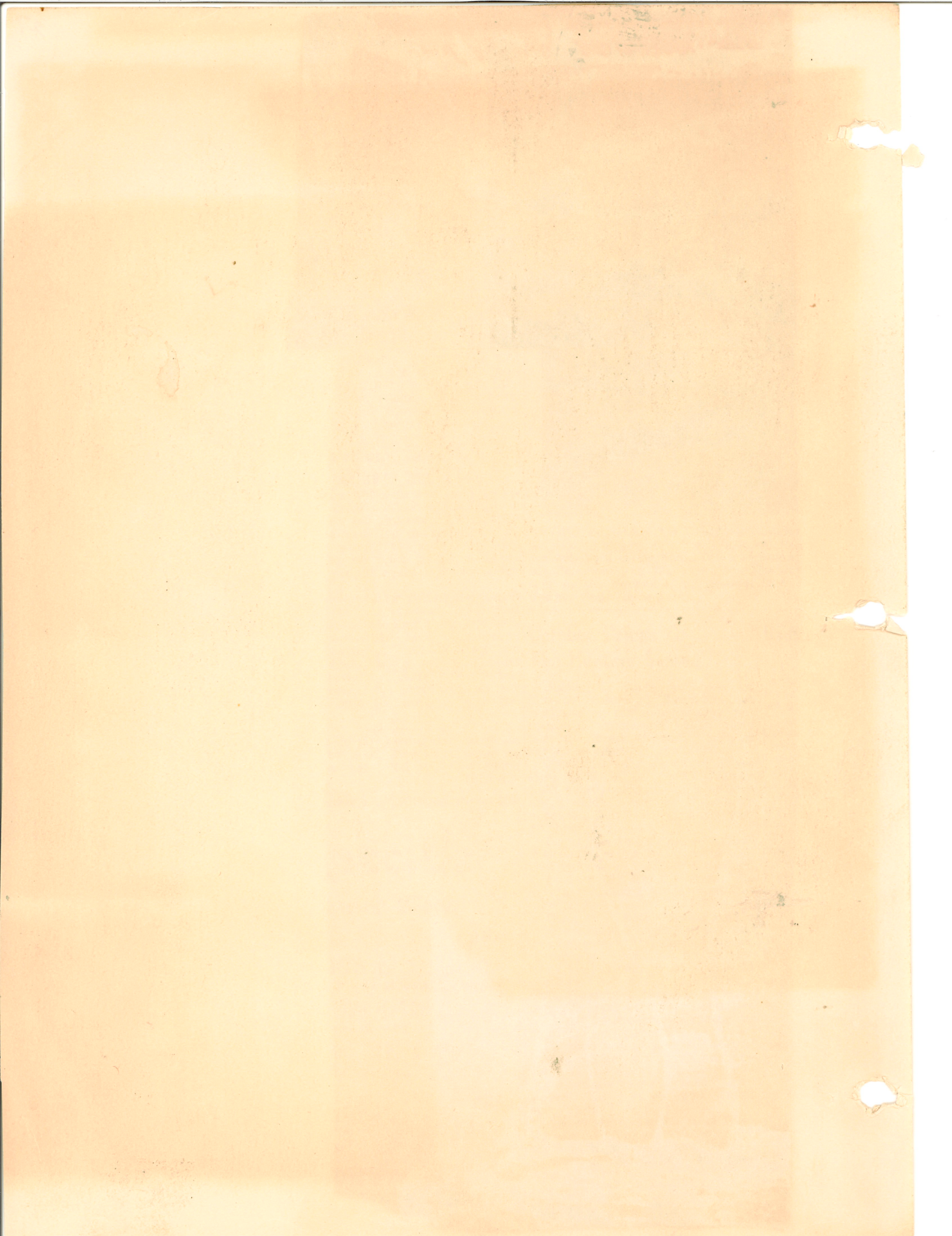
After the fire, the final stage of the pyramid was built, providing protection from the air and weather so that archeologists were able to study the remains.

Held Its Mystery

Thus the northwest mound, for over 500 years held its secret — that the Aztalan Indians did burn some of their dead in a similar manner of the Aztecs. No general burial ground was ever found at Aztalan. There's the famous "Indian Princess" who was bedecked with hundreds of beads—in a lone grave to the rear of the museum. A few individual burials were found, generally in flexed position, but these possibly were Woodland graves of a later date.

They Ate Them

Most often, the human bone were found mixed with elk, deer and other bones in refuse pits and were treated in similar fashion. They were cut into convenient cooking lengths, to fit into kettles, and broken in to eat the marrow.



The Aztalan Museum



Located at Aztalan, 3 miles east of Lake Mills on County Trunk B.

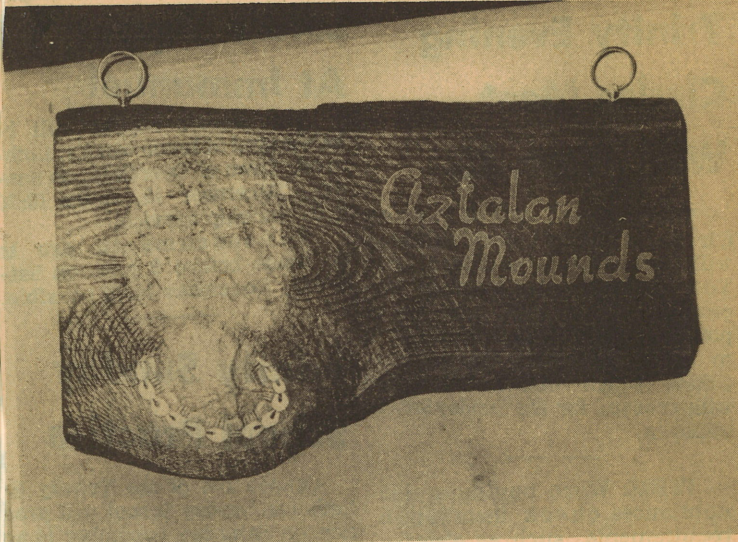
Aztalan Census of 1840

An early census of the United States dated 1840 lists a total of 242 heads of families and gives the total number of people residing in Jefferson county as 914. The early census of the Town of Aztalan included present towns of Aztalan, Milford, Lake Mills and Waterloo.

The following pioneers were listed as heads of families in the 1840 census on the town of Aztalan: Edward Abee, Eligu L. Atwood, John Atwood, Isaac Atwood, Kelly Atwood, Benjamin Babcock, Morgan L. Bartlett, George Benton, James C. Brayton, Jeremiah Brayton, Thomas Brayton, William Brayton, Hugh Briggs, John M. Brown, Chester Bushnell, Barney V. Chambers, Joseph D. Clapp, Mark R. Clapp, Ebenser Crocker, Joseph Ed-

wards, Oliney Edwards, George Farmer, Stephen Fletcher, Nathan L. Foster, Hopestill Foster, David Fuller, Charles Genburg, Stephen Hawks, George Hebard, Elisha Holt, David R. Hyer, Walter Hyer, Barak Ingram, Reuben M. Kean, Joseph Keyes, Johnson King, Elisha Lamphear, George Lamphear, Frederick Landt, Dudley Little, Johnathan Lyman, Jr., James L. Manville, John Merriam, Rupell M. Nevins, Benjamin Nute, Jared F. Ostrander, James Payne, Delucinia Pellett, Henry Pellett, Silas Stiles, James Thayer, Royal Tyler, James Williams, Samuel Wright.

Now, 128 years later, it wonders how many families in the area can trace their roots back to the pioneers.



English Couple Names New Home - "Aztalan Mounds"

A rather interesting story for Aztalan devotees concerns Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hall of Wimborne, England. Mr. Hall is General Manager of Flight Refueling Ltd., a licensee of Hamlin, Inc., this city.

While visiting here for the Hamlin sales meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Hall were quite fascinated with Aztalan Mounds and made several trips there, collecting all the literature available, plus any Indian lore concerning the tribe.

Mrs. Ronald Ferguson comments, "We were really amazed when we visited the Halls in England last June to find that they had decided to name their new home 'Aztalan Mounds.' Most every house throughout England has a name of some kind, and this was their choice. The week after we returned home, I was in the park on Town and Country Day and saw for the first time the wood paintings done by Edna Lindemann. I asked her if she thought it possible to do an Aztec Indian on wood, along with the lettering, 'Aztalan Mounds.' After extensive research at the local library, with the assistance of Mrs. Wollenberg, she said she would attempt it. The result was very successful. The

Aztec Indian, with his turquoise jewelry and bright feathers, is most colorful, and the overall effect of the plaque is just lovely. Mr. Ferguson and I are having it shipped air mail to England as a Christmas gift to the Halls. It has three coats of protective seal on it and will withstand the elements; however, I believe that it will be placed in a recessed doorway. All in all, it will be a unique gift and I'm sure the Halls will be the only Europeans with a home named 'Aztalan Mounds;' or it might be safe to say that it will be the only one all over the world!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS AT DAVIDSON HOTEL, SEPT. 19 1958

A report of the summer's activities will be given by Albert Kracht and Barbara Stroede at the September 19 meeting of the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society at the Davidson Hotel, Lake Ripley.

Robert Ferry will tell of the Phillips and Ferry families.

The committee in charge will be Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Harrison Haight, Mrs. Frank Kenzler and Mrs. Sara Davidson.

Tear Down Old Log Home to Make Room for New Highway 30

Work on tearing down the house on the former John Willsey farm, now owned by Edwin E. Mueller, is going ahead according to instructions received from the County Highway Department.

When the siding was taken off of the two-story house, it was found that the center wing was an old log cabin. The huge logs, about a foot or more in diameter, were held together with clay in which straw had been mixed. Most likely the straw was used to hold the clay intact.

"It certainly has done the work throughout the years," stated a spectator as he looked at the "mortar", which is still firm and as solid as cement.

Meissners Buy Farm

It was in 1888 that William Meissner and his family moved into the two-room log cabin which had a small lean-to attached for a kitchen. For about 36 years the Meissner family lived in the home and tilled the broad acres. At that time there were 77 acres, later a part was sold until there were 60 acres. The new super-highway took approximately 14 acres, and now there are only 46 acres left of the land.

The Meissners had four children, Ernest, who died only a few years ago; Ida, Otto, and Hattie, who is Mrs. Frank Heller, Adell street.

Remodeled in 1902

In 1902, after living in the log cabin for 14 years, William Meissner decided to enlarge and remodel the house.

Two Wings Built

The log cabin part was covered with modern siding, and a large two-story wing was built on to the front. There was no basement under the new addition, but there had been an excavation under the log cabin. Also in 1902 the kitchen part of the log cabin was removed and a new kitchen wing built towards the rear. The Meissners always kept the home nicely painted and took pride in the appearance of their farm home. A picture taken of the home many years ago, shows the fine, sturdy building, with the porches and barns in fine repair.

Sold to McCammons

Mr. Meissner had purchased the log cabin from a Mr. Henning. A nephew to the Hennings, William Finder, lived there with his relatives. Just who built the old cabin is not known at present. In about 1924, after living there for 36 years, Mr. Meissner sold the farm to the McCammons who lived there several years. Then the land changed hands quickly to the Consalbachs and to the John Willsey family who lived there for about four years, until they moved to Albion where the Willseys have retired. About five years ago one of the barns was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. One by one, the buildings have disappeared and the once attractive home became run down and shabby.

Now the highway authorities have deemed that the new super-highway will run right through the house, and a notice has been sent to the owner that the house must be moved or torn down by the middle of September.

To Salvage Lumber

The rafters and the siding of the house are being taken down by Max Kelch, local contractor. The wood is being saved and a home will be built for the Mueller family.

"We spent many eventful years in that house," stated Mrs. Frank Heller to a Leader representative. "After the log cabin part was remodeled and covered, it was very warm and comfortable in the winter time. Of course, the front part, where there was no basement, was cold during severe weather."

Oldest House?

When Ben Crump, life-time resident of this vicinity, was questioned about the house, he said, "I have asked several of the old-timers if they remembered when it was first built and it seems that none remember the actual building of the log cabin. I think you can safely say that it must be one of the oldest homes in the vicinity."

Thus one of the familiar landmarks to all the old-timers will be taken down, and where the early settlers once lived, a streamlined highway will carry many cars each day.

The log cabin—one of the very first houses in this district, with hand-hewn logs, primitively held together with mud and grass—will give way to the modern era of speed. It has been the opinion of some members of the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society, that inasmuch as the house is one of the oldest in this vicinity, that the log part would be worthy of reconstruction and placed near the Aztalan Church.