

Heckleman 2011: Cleveland Archaeological Society Summer Internship
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As the recipient of the Cleveland Archaeological Society's Summer 2011 Internship in Archaeology, I was afforded a wonderful and unique opportunity to develop my skills in archaeology. I spent the first five weeks of the internship working with Dr. Brian Redmond at the Heckleman site alongside the participants of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's (CMNH) Archaeology-in-Action program. Located in a farm field, the Heckleman site is prehistoric settlement outside the small town of Milan, Ohio. Following the completion of the field season, I then spent three weeks working in the lab at the CMNH on a project under the supervision of Dr. Redmond.

To begin our first week in the field, all participants new to the Heckleman Site, as well as the rules and procedures of fieldwork with the CMNH, participated in a morning orientation. During this time, Dr. Redmond gave an overview of the history of excavation at the Hecklman site while Brian Scanlan and Jim Bowers explained the process involved in recording information in the field and the function of each tool we would be using, respectively. Afterwards, the group divided into smaller crews, each with its own unit to tackle.

During this first week, I worked with Char Shryock, Becky Daresh, and Tatiana Bohush in unit 502N503E. While a bulldozer had removed a majority of the plowzone from the area we were to investigate, we still needed to remove the upper layer of dirt that had been compacted and marked with tread tracks. To accomplish this, we used flat shovels to shave the top layer down until the floor became more level and amenable to troweling. Following a proper troweling using pointed mason trowels, as well as a clean sweeping; afterwards, the unit floor was photographed and mapped. A large feature (11-02) covered the southern third of the unit; unfortunately, this proved to be the remnants of excavations conducted by Orrin Shane in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In addition to Shane's unit, there was another smaller feature (11-03) that later proved to be a wide, deep postmold in the middle of an ovoid pit. We spent the remainder of the first week investigating unit 502N503E.

The second week in the field brought not only fresh faces to the site, but also the opportunity for me to explore the task of supervising. Prior to this season, I had little experience in formally supervising a field crew and was nervous about assuming a new role. The members of my new group were mostly individuals with very little prior experience with excavation and I enjoyed teaching them the basics of troweling, mapping, and discerning artifacts from the countless strangely shaped rocks one encounters when sifting. After troweling and mapping the floor of unit 502N506E, we identified fifteen possible post molds (PPMs), as well as several zones and a portion of the Feature 09-18, a trench identified during previous excavations. Throughout the week, we investigated the PPMs and positively identified four features, including Feature 11-12, medium pit feature with a heavy concentration of charcoal at its center. To finish out the week, we opened and prepared a new unit.

During the third week, my group investigated the PPMs and zones of unit 502N509E, which had been opened at the end of the previous week. In addition to the continuation of Feature 09-18, four other features were excavated in the unit. One of the more interesting was Feature 11-19, a shallow basin containing pottery and shale layered upon one another and carefully removed by Marsha Rine. Feature 11-17, a large and multi-layered pit, too proved intriguing as it was excavated. The complicated feature yielded a variety of artifacts, including pottery, flint flakes, burned animal bone, and a broken biface. Because 11-17 was so large (approximately 140cm wide and almost 50cm deep), our group finished the week working together to fully excavate the feature.

The fourth week was fairly quiet as we were missing several regular participants, leaving us with a comparatively small field crew. For the week, our group worked in unit 505N515E, which contained almost forty PPMs. The large number of PPMs proved useful, as several positive postmolds aligned with the outline of what appears to be a structure. In addition to the numerous postmolds, the unit also contained several zones. Unfortunately, many of these promising zones proved to be rodent burrows masquerading as possible features. This phenomenon was largely attributed to the presence of Dan Pugh, as rodent disturbances tend to appear wherever he chooses to excavate. Although we found more than enough evidence of rodent activity in this unit, we did excavate Feature 11-37, which proved to be a large post-pit similar to the one found during the

first week in 502N503E. Dan and I worked together to excavate and map this feature, which reached almost a meter below datum.

Our fifth and final week in the field proved particularly hectic as we sought to accomplish all of our goals before closing the site for the year. Adding to the general chaos induced by the upcoming end of the season was the addition of several new individuals to the field school, leaving us with the largest group of the program. The extra people proved helpful in preparing and investigating several new units. During this week, my group exhausted the features in 505N515E before turning to several other units, including 502N515E and 505N512E. These units had been opened during the previous week but were not quite finished. In 505N512E, Alison Zimmerman and Marsha Rine excavated Feature 11-39, another large post-pit discovered below an expansive midden layer. Along with the other post-pits found during previous weeks, 11-39 may have served to support a possible structure. During this week, our group also opened two new 3X2m units: 502N518E and 505N518E. Within these units was the continuation of postmolds associated with the possible structure. Additionally, Michelle Neudeck discovered Feature 11-52, a shallow basin containing multiple layers of pottery, while excavating a PPM on the final day. Due to time constraints, the pottery was quickly removed and will be examined more closely in the lab at the CMNH. To finish out the day, everyone pitched in to prepare the site for the close of another season. Afterwards, we convened in Milan for a final dinner as a field school.

My first week in the archaeology lab of the CMNH in fact did not begin in the lab. Instead, Brian Scanlan and I spent Monday at Heckleman where we processed the remaining flotation samples taken during the final weeks of the field season. Analysis of flotation samples can prove especially informative when conducting further research on a particular feature. The following day saw my integration into the daily routines that occur within the lab. Besides being my first day, Tuesday also featured a slew of individuals who volunteer their time each week to help clean and inventory artifacts. The volunteers are a lovely group of individuals who served as a source of fascinating conversation and I greatly enjoyed our interactions during my time at the Museum.

My own project examined the artifacts associated with a particular feature excavated during the second week of this summer's field season. Feature 11-09, a large

ovoid pit, contained a high concentration of potsherds painstakingly removed by Tatiana Bohush and Sydnee Cooke under the supervision of Brian Scanlan. Interestingly, the artifacts collected from this feature were overwhelmingly potsherds, with the exception of a worked siltstone fragment and several pieces of fire-cracked rock. While not personally involved with the excavation of this feature, I witnessed the effort and dedication of those responsible for its investigation. Although we experienced generally good weather throughout the summer, there were several days affected by rain. Unluckily, one of these days occurred during the excavation of Feature 11-09. Nonetheless, Tatiana and Sydnee persevered, despite chilly temperatures and puddles (fed by a consistent drizzle) that required constant management lest the water spill into their excavation.

In examining the pottery collected from 11-09, I hoped to reconstruct the potsherds into a more complete vessel. Before I could proceed with this, I had to clean and inventory all of the artifacts associated with this feature. Using a combination of dry brushing and gentle washing, I removed the soil from the sherds. Afterwards, I stabilized the pieces using an adhesive solution that would allow the sherds to withstand the reconstruction process. I then counted, weighed, and numbered each piece according to catalog number. The potsherds fell into two categories: cord-marked and fabric-impressed. While I did work with the cord-marked pieces a bit, I focused on reconstructing the fabric-impressed vessel, as there were a great many more of its pieces present than those of the cord-marked vessel. I first reconstructed what remained the vessel's rim before moving onto the neck and body of the vessel. In the end, it seems that the base and lower body of the vessel separated from the rest and were not found in the feature. Likely dating to the Middle Woodland period, the thick-walled vessel was likely associated with food preparation before being broken.

I cannot begin to acknowledge the importance of this internship on both my education and my experience as a student of archaeology. I would like to thank the Cleveland Archaeological Society and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for their investment in this program. Additionally, I am grateful to Dr. Brian Redmond for working with me this summer and Ann DuFresne for introducing me to the ways of the lab. I enjoyed the experience of working on a new site and furthering my knowledge of

Ohio archaeology, as well as developing my leadership skills through supervising and teaching participants of the Archaeology-in-Action program. Prior to this summer, I had never worked with a museum and appreciated the chance to become acquainted with a new facet of archaeology. My time in the museum also allowed me to further my lab skills, as I had relatively little experience processing and studying artifacts in a lab setting prior to this internship. In addition to developing my skills in both the field and lab, I have also met a variety of individuals with diverse interests in archaeology and have formed new friendships as a result. The skills and experiences I have gained through this internship will have far-reaching significance as I finish my degree in archaeology at the College of Wooster this year and in the years to come as I pursue higher education and a career in archaeology. I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the program and am grateful to have had the opportunity.