

# THE FALCON



THE NEWSLETTER FOR HOPEWELL CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK Fall/Winter 1996-1997

## General Management Plan

The draft General Management Plan is scheduled for a 30 day public review and comment period beginning in late September. Its release represents the culmination of over two years of work by the park staff and a variety of other National Park Service professionals from the Service's Denver Service Center and Midwest Archeological Center. A number of people and organizations have been actively involved in its development, including Native Americans, the professional and amateur archeological communities, the State Historic Preservation Office and representatives from all levels of government.

Copies of the draft will be available for review and comment at the park's visitor center and administration building and in Chillicothe at the Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library and the Quinn Library at Ohio University-Chillicothe. Tribes, organizations, government agencies and individuals involved in developing the draft General Management Plan will be provided copies for review.

The park staff and planning team sincerely appreciate the contributions, interest and involvement of those who helped make the draft a comprehensive guide for the park's future management and development.

For more information, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (614) 774-1126.

## Current Research

Archeological research is an essential activity and major responsibility for Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. Research provides the information necessary to protect and preserve Hopewellian archeological sites, and it helps us to understand and interpret the life and times of Hopewellian peoples.

Our research efforts over the past year have focused on three Hopewellian centers in Ross County. Two of these centers—the Mound City Group and the Hopeton Earthworks—are owned and managed by the National Park Service as units of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. The third center—the Spruce Hill Works—is privately owned, and is being considered for possible inclusion in the park.

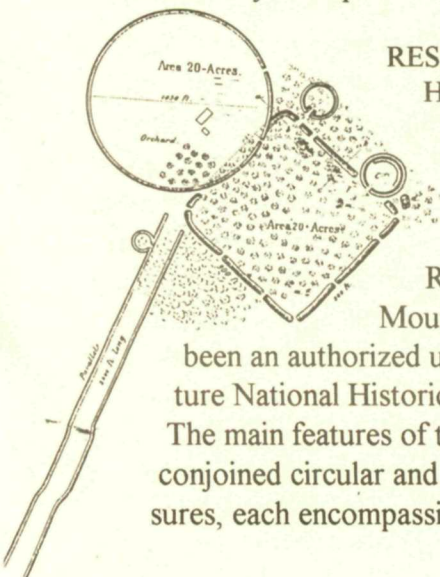
### RESEARCH AT THE MOUND CITY GROUP

Our work at the Mound City Group was prompted by plans to install a set of eight new interpretive signs along the nature trail that encircles the mounds and earthworks at the site. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, requires us to avoid or mitigate any damage to archeological resources as a result of activities such as these. In this case, we had no way of knowing whether archeological resources might be disturbed by the sign installations. Although the Mound City Group has been the focus of archeological investigations for almost 150 years, previous research has focused almost exclusively on the mounds and earthworks themselves, with little or no attention paid to identifying archeological resources that may lie outside the earthworks.

Consequently, we conducted small test excavations where each of the signs will be

installed to determine whether any archeological resources might be disturbed by the sign installations. In each case, we found abundant archeological evidence of the use of the Mound City Group as the site of a U.S. Army training camp during World War I—Camp Sherman. All of our test units contained debris relating to this occupation (especially, nails, glass, coal and cinders). At several locations we found evidence of grading, cutting and filling resulting from the construction and demolition of the camp. In some cases we found prehistoric artifacts (flint chips and broken pottery) that had been disturbed by the Camp Sherman occupation. However, at one location we found that a railroad bed constructed during the Camp Sherman era had effectively sealed and protected a deposit of prehistoric debris from further disturbance. The kinds of artifacts contained in this deposit (flint chips, pottery, charcoal and animal bone) suggest that this area had been used as a trash dump by a nearby Hopewellian household.

As a result of these investigations, we can be certain that archeological information will not be destroyed by the installation of new interpretive signs, and we have found that important archeological remains from both the Hopewellian and Camp Sherman occupations remain intact outside the earthwork walls at the Mound City Group.



### RESEARCH AT THE HOPETON EARTHWORKS

The Hopeton Earthworks, located across the Scioto River opposite the Mound City Group, has

been an authorized unit of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park since 1980. The main features of the site consist of conjoined circular and square earthen enclosures, each encompassing nearly 20 acres, and

a set of parallel linear embankments stretching for nearly half a mile toward the Scioto River. Originally, the walls of the square enclosure stood nearly 12 feet high, and the circular enclosure and linear embankments stood between two and five feet high. Altogether, the site ranks among the largest of the Hopewellian earthwork centers, and represents a truly monumental investment of labor in public architecture.

Despite the great size and complexity of the Hopeton Earthworks, the site has received relatively little archeological attention. There are a series of important 19<sup>th</sup> century maps of the site, but little else is known about the age, duration, or function of the site, or the range of activities that may have been conducted there. Very little of the surrounding land has been systematically surveyed to identify nearby habitations or other activity areas. We do know that the site has suffered greatly from more than 100 years of cultivation and erosion—in places the earthworks are entirely obliterated—but we don't know just how much of the site may yet lie undisturbed beneath the surface. Our investigations over the past year represent a few small steps toward answering these most basic of questions.

During the spring, we intensively surveyed some 80 acres in the cultivated fields surrounding the earthwork walls. We discovered and mapped the locations of numerous habitation sites and other activity areas representing some 6000 years of Native American and Euroamerican occupation. Hopewellian artifacts (primarily projectile points and lamellar blades) were found at many widely scattered locations, with one notable concentration. Future investigations of these Hopewellian occupations outside the earthwork walls will provide a more comprehensive picture of Hopewellian life.

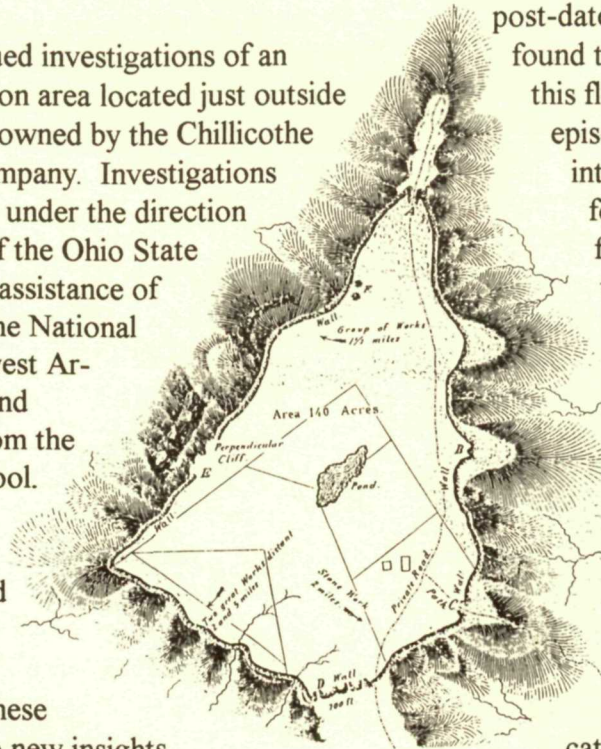
Early maps and aerial photographs of the

Hopeton Earthworks show two small circular enclosures along the eastern edge of the square enclosure. Cultivation and erosion have entirely obliterated any surface evidence of these features. Over the summer we experimented with advanced remote sensing devices to search for any buried remnants of the southernmost circular enclosure. We experimented with a resistivity meter which measures the resistance to an electrical current flowing between two metal probes inserted into the ground at 1 meter intervals. We successfully located a buried remnant of the circular enclosure, apparently because the construction of the enclosure had altered the electrical properties of the soil.

We also continued investigations of an Hopewellian habitation area located just outside of the park on lands owned by the Chillicothe Sand and Gravel Company. Investigations were begun last year under the direction of William Dancy of the Ohio State University. With the assistance of archeologists from the National Park Service's Midwest Archeological Center and students and staff from the Milton Hershey School, we identified and excavated several additional trash-filled cooking or storage pits at this location. Further analysis of these materials will lead to new insights into the everyday life of Hopewellian peoples. The cooperation of Mike Hamm and the gravel company have been most appreciated.

Our final investigations at the Hopeton Earthworks focused on a segment of the earthwork wall at the northwest corner of the square enclosure. Our investigations proved that much of the wall remains intact, despite years of

cultivation and erosion. The original ground surface beneath the wall appears to represent a prairie soil. Further soil analyses should be able to determine this conclusively. It may be that Hopewellian architects sought out prairie openings for their constructions to avoid extensive forest clearance. At the base of the wall we discovered evidence that fires had been kindled atop a thin lens or floor of sand. Samples of charcoal from these fires will be submitted for radiocarbon dating. These dates will help us to understand whether the Hopeton Earthworks were constructed and used at the same time as other Hopewellian centers such as Mound City, or whether the Hopeton Works pre-dated or post-dated other earthwork centers. We found that the remainder of the wall above this floor was constructed in two major episodes, using a brownish soil for the interior of the wall and a reddish soil for the exterior of the wall. This finding indicates that the labor invested in earthwork construction may have been spread out over a period of time. The particular soil colors used may have had a symbolic meaning to the Hopewellian builders of the wall.



#### RESEARCH AT THE SPRUCE HILL WORKS

The Spruce Hill Works were first described in the early 1800s as a stone-walled fortification ringing the brow of a prominent hill overlooking the Paint Creek valley southwest of Chillicothe. Subsequent investigations at other hilltop enclosures in southern Ohio such as Fort Ancient and Fort Hill have determined that many of these were constructed during the Hopewell period for ceremonial, rather than defensive purposes. In 1987, the National Park Service began to consider whether the Spruce Hill Works might be significant enough to warrant

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protection and preservation as a unit of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, or by some other means. However, virtually no systematic scientific investigations had been conducted at the site, and many questions remained. There was even some question as to whether the "stone walls" were human made at all. Legislation enacted in 1992 directed the National Park Service to conduct further studies of the site to answer these questions and to explore options for preservation if warranted.

During the fall of 1995, we surveyed the site and conducted limited test excavations near one of four openings or "gateways" at the southern end of the site. We found the encircling band of sandstone blocks to be in much the same condition and configuration as when the site was first described. Our excavations recovered fragments of a single prehistoric pottery vessel and a Hopewellian flint bladelet. These results suggested that this hilltop enclosure was made and used by Hopewellian peoples some 2000 years ago. However, to determine conclusively whether the stone enclosure was human made would require further excavations in the enclosure itself.

We returned to the Spruce Hill Works this summer to more closely examine the enclosure. An excavation trench placed across one of the openings along the southern margin of the site produced conclusive evidence that the enclosure had been constructed by Hopewellian peoples. The stones themselves lay atop wind-blown silt soils, a situation that could not occur naturally. Furthermore, we found that the bulk of the enclosure was constructed of small, rubble-sized stones, with the outer surfaces being faced with larger blocks, perhaps to stabilize the structure. Deep within the wall we found another Hopewellian flint bladelet, most likely dropped or discarded by one of the builders.

Another intriguing feature of the Spruce

Hill Works is the occurrence of several concentrations of burned, fused and glazed rocks and fired clay. The temperatures needed to produce these effects have led many to speculate that these may relate to some high temperature technology such as iron-making. There is no evidence that prehistoric Native Americans ever experimented with these technologies, however 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Euroamericans are known to have constructed simple iron furnaces in southern Ohio and elsewhere. Unfortunately, our efforts to determine the origin of these materials on Spruce Hill have not yet met with success.

The park wants to express its sincere appreciation to Edward and Mary Emily Steel, owners of the Spruce Hill Works, for their friendship, hospitality and efforts to protect and preserve the Spruce Hill Works for future generations.

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### **Hopewell Culture Photography Contest**

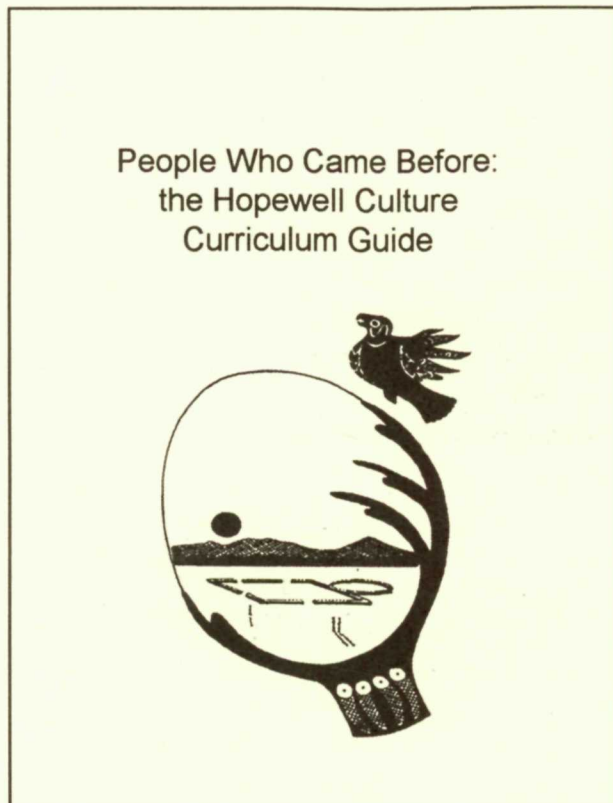
The Photography Contest continues. Photographers of all makes and models are invited to enter the Hopewell Culture Photography Contest. To enter the contest, call the park at (614) 774-1126 for information and a entry form. Photographers have less than a year, until April 1, 1997, to take their photographs. Suitable material for entry includes scenes and pictures of the mounds, earthworks and visitor programs at the park. All entries must be turned in to the Mound City visitor center by April 1, 1997. As entries are turned in they are featured in the museum. The winners will be announced and prizes awarded during National Park Week 1997. In addition winners will be featured in an exhibit in the Mound City Visitor Center museum. So whether you have a point and shoot or a Hasselblad, bring your shutterbugging instincts to Hopewell Culture National Historical Park to capture the park through the seasons.

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**"People Who Came Before:  
the Hopewell Culture Curriculum Guide"  
Coming soon to a school near you!**

Nearly two years of effort on the part of National Park Service employees, educators and volunteers is drawing to a close this fall. In September the "People Who Came Before: The Hopewell Culture Curriculum Guide" will be tested in schools in Ross County, Columbus and parts beyond. This curriculum guide ties into the Ohio social studies curricula and is keyed to proficiency test strands and learner outcomes. However, the scope of this guide goes well beyond the borders of Ohio, tying into topics and issues relevant to social studies curriculum and archeological concerns throughout the



region. Hopewell Culture National Historical Park developed this curriculum guide to help teachers meet some of their mandated curriculum while making teachers and students aware of

the rich cultural history found here in southern Ohio. The park has developed current activities and lesson plans for teachers to use both in the classroom and at the park. The guide is targeted at fourth through sixth grade classes stressing the skills and learner outcomes teachers are to cover. The completed guide will be available for wide distribution early in 1997.

Hand in hand with this guide, traveling trunks are being developed which draw from lesson plans found in "People Who Came Before." The Mead Fine Paper Division has generously provided Hopewell Culture National Historical Park with a grant to develop these traveling trunks. Traveling trunks are educational resource kits the park will make available to teachers and provide the out-of-classroom experience for students who cannot make field trips to the park.

In April the park tested two prototype trunks. One, the Living Map, ties the Hopewell trade network into the social studies strands. The other, Hopewell Tool Time, emphasizes critical thinking skills in a hands on experience. Both kits were well received by teachers. The park is currently seeking a professional source to create the Living Map.

Many thanks to the Mead Corporation for their continuing support of the park's educational projects.

For more information about the traveling trunks or to arrange to use one in the classroom, contact the park at (614) 774-1126.

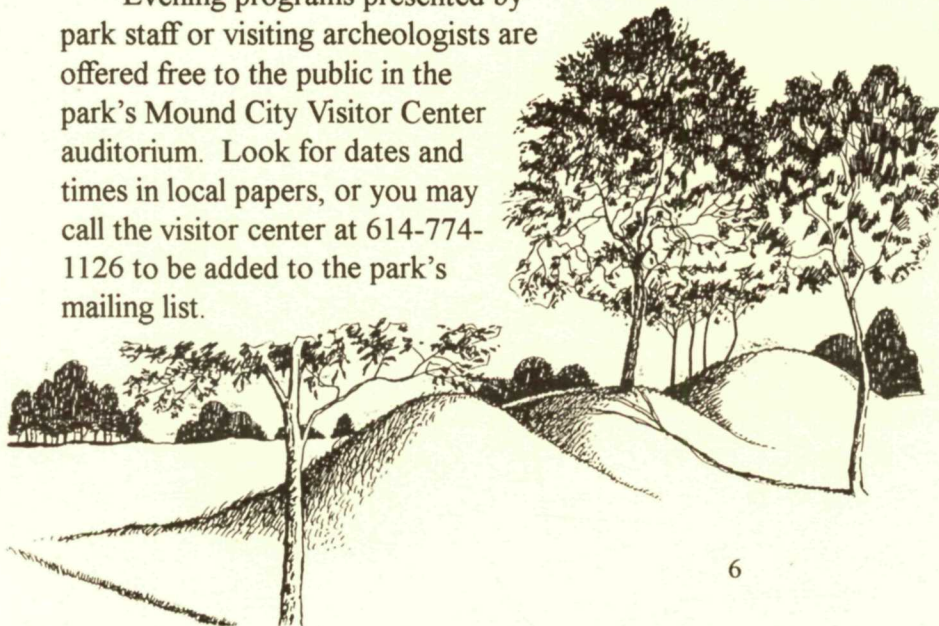
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## New Brochures, Signs and Programs

The park has developed several new information brochures and trail signs during the past year. The self-guiding brochure "Edible and Medicinal Uses of Native Plants Found at Mound City" identifies approximately 30 plants found along the park's nature trail and gives a brief description of how Native Americans and European settlers used the plants. Also along the nature trail are eight new signs that describe how the landscape at Mound City has changed during the period of human habitation from the end of the last ice age to the present.

An annotated plant check list, a bird check list and brochures on the anatomy of a mound, Hopewellian diet, other archeology sites in southern Ohio, and National Park Service areas in Ohio are available at the information desk. The first in a series of brochures on the historical tribes of Ohio will be available at the visitor center in October. Informational cards on Hopewellian and Adena artifacts such as the Adena Man, the Berlin tablet, the Low tablet, birdstones, Hopewell effigy pipes and the Hopewell duck pot are provided when reproductions of these items are purchased at the visitor center.

Evening programs presented by park staff or visiting archeologists are offered free to the public in the park's Mound City Visitor Center auditorium. Look for dates and times in local papers, or you may call the visitor center at 614-774-1126 to be added to the park's mailing list.



## Archeology Day

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park celebrated its third annual Archeology Day on August 24. This day featured a variety of activities that focused on the archeology of the park and the Woodland Indian traditions historically associated with the Scioto valley.

Visitors participated in activities such as Native American storytelling and games. The park archaeologist Bret Ruby and archeological technician Scott Troy assisted visitors with artifact identification. Other archeological attractions such as Sunwatch and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History sponsored exhibits.

Volunteers and park staff were busy. Cammy Bair, a Cherokee, demonstrated traditional beadwork, while park archeologist interpreter Tori Saneda assisted visitors with creating pots and explained the importance of pottery to both Native Americans and archaeologists. Don Secondine, a Penobscot-Delaware, shared both his storytelling abilities and his talents of flutemaking and silver working. Many others offered their time and talents developing exhibits and presenting programs. Many thanks to all who made this day a success.

National Parks throughout the country celebrated this day as Founders Day-the 80th anniversary of the creation of the National Park Service. As part of this nationwide celebration, entrance fees at national parks were waived for the day. The celebration of Founder's Day gave the National Park Service the opportunity to invite all park visitors to enjoy their national parks.

*Illustration from new signs:  
Mound City prior to the 1850s*

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## Junior Rangers

The Junior Ranger program continues to be very popular with visitors between the ages of 7 and 14. Hundreds of Junior Rangers have been added to the ranks. Here are some of the letters they have written to the Superintendent:

Dear Superintendent,  
I liked the overlook of the Scioto River. It's so quiet and its a good place to "hide from the sun." If I had a choice I would stay here all day.  
Andrea, age 11

Dear Superintendent,  
I really enjoyed Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. The agriculture was really beautiful and educational.  
Junior Ranger Danny, age 10

Dear Superintendent,  
I liked the part when we got to answer questions and get a badge.  
Rebecca, age 9

Dear Superintendent,  
I liked everything. I didn't know what it was till my Mom and Dad showed me. I went on the tour, it was neat too. I hope its there for my kids too.  
Melissa, age 9 1/2

Dear Superintendent,  
It was cool man. Don't let them destoy it please.  
P.S. I like the hat mound the best.  
Trudie, age 11

Dear Superintendent,  
I am quite dismayed at Congress for its attack against the national parks. I pray that they come to their senses and realize the parks are a great and wonderful resource to be cherished, not abandoned.  
Conor, age 13

Dear Superintendent,  
My favorite thing was looking at the foods the Indians ate on the nature walk. To make the park better I would like to help mow and rake and plant grass seed. Tell people to bring bug spray.  
Rachel, age 6

Dear Superintendent,  
I like pushing the buttons to hear them explain so I don't have to read it.  
Amy, age 11

Dear Superintendent,  
I was very impressed by the neatness. I only have one suggestion. You should rope off the mounds to protect them from younger children. Keep up the good work.  
Nathan, age 13

Dear Superintendent,  
This park is a great place to learn about the past and what brought us to today. I love the view of the river best.  
Jenna, age 8

Dear Superintendent,  
I liked the sound of the rapid waters of the Scioto River and I liked the sound of the wind blowing through the trees.  
Joe, age 8



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## News from Eastern National

Eastern National Park and Monument Association is a non-profit cooperating association that offers for sale books and other items about the Hopewell culture, Native Americans, natural history and National Parks.

Several new items were added this summer. Some of the new items include a travel guide CD-ROM entitled "Everywhere U.S.A.", new books such as "Indian Why Stories" and "Folklore of Birds" and a new video on Cahokia. A new children's book, "Dear Children of the Earth", has been very popular and the disc "Archaeology of Ross County" is back in stock. We continue to seek new items on Native Americans, archeology and the National Park

Service. If you have not visited the park recently, be sure to stop by. Books make excellent holiday gifts.

Profits from the sale of items by the cooperating association are returned to the park and assist with funding park programs. Donations from Eastern National Park and Monument Association have recently paid for new nature trail signs, information brochures, Junior Ranger badges and library books. For a complete list of sales items or to order books by mail or phone, please call the park at (614) 774-1126.

Eastern  National

PARK & MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

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Hopewell Culture  
National Historical Park  
16062 State Route 104  
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(614) 774-1125

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

