The Archeological Campaign of 1937: Morehead Site

(Article begins on page 2 below.)

This article is copyrighted by History Nebraska (formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society). You may download it for your personal use. For permission to re-use materials, or for photo ordering information, see: https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/re-use-nshs-materials

Learn more about Nebraska History (and search articles) here: https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/nebraska-history-magazine

History Nebraska members receive four issues of Nebraska History annually: https://history.nebraska.gov/get-involved/membership

Full Citation: A T Hill and Paul Cooper, “The Archeological Campaign of 1937: Morehead Site,” Nebraska History 18 (1937): 345-346

Article Summary: This is one of a series of 1937 archeological site reports that can be accessed individually. The series includes: Ashland Site, Pawnee Creek Site, Cornish Site, Fontenelle Forest Site, North Plattesmouth Site, Majors Site, Williams Site, Heywood Site, Osborne Site, Whitten Site, Morehead Site, Indian Cave, McKissick Site, Conclusion.
practically unknown. While beads of this type have been found in Upper Republican burials, they occurred very rarely among large quantities of shell beads of an entirely distinct type, and are probably indicative of an influence from some other culture. As for armlets of this particular form, we are unaware of their occurrence elsewhere in sites thus far investigated. No village site was found in the immediate vicinity, although more careful search might reveal one. At the present time all that can be said is that here were buried the dead of some group whose identity we do not yet know.

PLATE XXIV—1

1. Indian Cave, Richardson County.

MOREHEAD SITE

A day was devoted to the investigation of a mound southeast of Nemaha. Situated on a point overlooking the Missouri River, the contours could not be exactly determined, but it had an elevation above the level surface to the south of about 10 inches and its diameter was probably not far from 35 feet. A trench was cut along the north-south axis for a distance of 18 feet, revealing the base of the moved earth to lie level at a depth of 32 inches beneath the highest point of the mound. Within
the disturbed zone bone fragments were sparsely distributed, nowhere in articulation or otherwise concentrated, and similarly scattered were rather numerous small shell disc beads and small unworked fragments of limestone, quartzite, and pumice. No pits or other disturbances appeared in our excavation below the general mound fill, and a pit put down to a depth of 5 feet showed only undisturbed soil. Although the area had been much disturbed by the activities of rodents, it hardly seems possible that the complete absence of individual burials can be thus accounted for, and the situation here apparently parallels that so frequently found in eastern Nebraska.

PLATE XXIV—2, 3
Petroglyphs on walls of Indian Cave.