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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 3, 2015

Iowa's unique archaeological history comes alive this summer, as the authors of a newly released book, "The Archaeological Guide to Iowa", tour the state, bridging the past to the present. This event is free and open to the public, with a stop in Des Moines on the west banks of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers – site of at least three late prehistoric villages and Fort Des Moines No. 2 – on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 3:00 pm. This site is located at the north end of Principal Park and the MLK Bypass in downtown Des Moines. As part of this special presentation, author Bill Whittaker will serve as guide for an urban archeology tour.

William Whittaker, Lynn Alex, and Mary De La Garza of the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) created a one-of-a-kind guidebook on 68 important archaeological sites across Iowa, for people who want to experience Iowa's archaeological heritage first hand. Iowa has the reputation of being one big cornfield, so it might be a surprise to learn that Iowa boasts a rich crop of recorded archaeological sites as well - more than 28,000 at last count.

Sites of every type, from every time period, and in every corner of the state are featured in this book. Learn about Iowa's cultural history timeline and what archaeology can tell us. Examine authentic and replica artifacts from all periods of Iowa's past. Gain an author's insight into creating, "The Archaeological Guide to Iowa," visit with the authors, and purchase a signed copy of the book.

About the Authors

William E. Whittaker is a research archaeologist at the OSA. The author of many scholarly articles on Iowa archaeology and history, he is also the editor of *Frontier Forts of Iowa* (Iowa, 2009) and the *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society*. Thousands of his photographs of the remains of small Iowa towns have been published online by the Iowa Digital Library and the University of Iowa's Digital Studio for the Public Humanities.

Lynn M. Alex retired in 2013 as the education and outreach program director at the OSA. During her long career in archaeology, she worked in sites near and far, from North American Plains to the European Arctic. In addition to book chapters, articles, and reviews, she has authored two books, *Exploring Iowa's Past* and *Iowa's Archaeological Past* (Iowa, 2000). She is a current member of the Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board. She resides in Iowa City, Iowa.

Mary C. De La Garza is a program director at the OSA. She develops applications that assist with archaeological research and manages all research data. Previously she was the systems administrator at Mercy Housing in Denver, Colorado. As a public affairs officer with the U. S. Navy in the 1980s and 1990s, she traveled the world, landed in Iowa, and is now its happy captive. She has a passion for archaeology and geology and wishes every little girl had a backyard full of dirt to dig in. She makes her home in Long Grove, Iowa.

This tour is sponsored by the University of Iowa Office of Outreach and Engagement, in partnership and special assistance from the IHRC&D.

The IHRC&D is a 501(c)(3) corporation serving Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk and Warren counties for the purpose of improving the quality of life through economic development and resource conservation. A major initiative is a partnership with the University of Iowa to foster the capacity of our arts organizations, cultural entities and historical societies/sites and to thereby improve the lives of Iowa citizens.

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