

4-16-1937

## Summary of Pleistocen Finds in North America

Ele Baker

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm\\_anthropologist](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm_anthropologist)

---

### Recommended Citation

Baker, Ele. "Summary of Pleistocen Finds in North America." *New Mexico Anthropologist* 1, 3 (1937): 41-46.  
[https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm\\_anthropologist/vol1/iss3/8](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm_anthropologist/vol1/iss3/8)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Mexico Anthropologist by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

to determine once and for all the exact nature of these implements and their occurrence and their relationship to other materials found in workshops with reject material in other areas.

Joe H. Toulouse, III

#### SUMMARY OF PLEISTOCENE FINDS IN NORTH AMERICA

Up until 1927 evidence of man older than Basket Maker II was very scanty. Finds had been made previous to this, but due to the lack of associated evidence, they were not given much attention. Then with the finding of an entirely different type of projectile point associated with an extinct species of bison near Folsom, New Mexico, the finds of ancient man started on an upward trend. People became Folsom Point conscious; even amateurs started on the search for ancient man. Due to this extensive searching on the part of Anthropologists, pot-hunters, and interested amateurs a number of new points have been found that are of an age comparable to the Folsom culture. These finds are represented by the Yuma points, Abilene points, Silver Lake points, Pinto points, and Gypsum Cave points. This, of course, has added more terms for the poor archaeologist to remember, but it is about the only sensible way for these different types to become known to all with the least amount of difficulty and confusion. It might be said that they are of comparable age to the best of our knowledge, if this be so, why do we not call them Pleistocene and eliminate all this bothersome terminology? So far the term "Pleistocene" is not being used to cover all these types, and it should not be used this way in the future, because these different types do represent different cultures and they must be segregated. It would be just as wrong to do this, as it would be to lump the Seri and Eskimo together and call them Recent.

These finds have been placed at an age, by competent geologists, somewhere between 10,000 to 15,000 years old, with the exception of the Abilene finds, which have been placed in the Sangamon interglacial by M. M. Leighton. The Wolf Creek find has also been placed somewhat older. The points found there are somewhat Yuman, but do not portray an ideal type of it. The bison found there is also an extinct type and differs from the bison found with the Folsom culture. The Wolf Creek bison is a flat-horn type and has been given the name Bison Figginsi. This find was made prior to the Folsom find, so the men in charge were not expecting any artifacts, and unfortunately these were not retained in situ. Consequently, this very valuable find has not been given very much publicity, let us hope that more of its nature will turn up in the near future.

Of these ancient cultures, human skeletal remains in direct association are now the most sought for. These finds bearing closely on the problem than any of the others are the Minnesota Woman, Brown's Valley Man, recovered by Jenks, and Homo novismundus obtained by Figgins from the Cimarron Valley of New Mexico, near the Folsom site. The Minnesota Woman's extreme antiquity has been rudely disproved by Geolo-

gist and Physical anthropologists alike. Brown's Valley Man is probably the type of the Minnesota Woman. The Former was associated with six Folsomoids which gives it the advantage over the other two. Homo novusmundus had no associations of artifacts or fauna, so we are still wondering what ancient man really looked like. Is he a Pitecanthropus in appearance or is he very much like the modern Indian ?

So much for discussion, now to get down to the main body of the paper, which is to list the main finds and certain information concerning them.

#### FOLSOM SITES

Location-- Colfax county, New Mexico, about eleven miles west of Folsom, New Mexico.

By Whom Reported-- Fred J. Howarth and Carl Schwachheim of Raton, New Mexico, in 1926.

By Whom Worked-- Colorado Museum of Natural History under the direction of Frank Figgins and Dr. Barnum Brown.

Human Skeletal Material-- None

Artifacts-- All typical Folsom points

Faunal Association-- Extinct species of bison which have been termed Bison taylori and Bison Oliverhayli.

References:

1. Cook, Harold J. "Glacial Age Man in New Mexico." Scientific American, July, 1928.
2. Cook, Harold J. "New Geological and Paleontological Evidence Bearing on the Antiquity of Man in America." Natural History, Vol. 27, no. 3, May-June, 1927.
3. Figgins, J. D. "The Antiquity of Man in America." Natural History, Vol. 27, no. 3, May-June, 1927.

#### CLOVIS LAKE DEPOSITS

Location---Between Clovis and Portales, New Mexico.

By Whom Reported---A.W. Anderson and George Roberts of Clovis New Mexico, in 1932.

By Whom Worked---University Museum of Philadelphia and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, under the direction of Edgar B. Howard.

Human Skeletal Material---None

Artifacts---Yuma, Folsom, and Folsomoid points.

Faunal Association---Mammoth and bison bones in direct association. Camel and horse bones have been found here but not in direct association with the artifacts.

References:

1. Howard, Edgar B. "Evidence of Early Man in North America." Journal of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Vol. XXIV, nos. 2-3, 1935.

#### CONKLING CAVE

Location---Lower slope of Bishop's Cap Peak in Southwestern New Mexico.

By Whom Reported---Roscoe P. Conkling of El Paso, Texas, in 1928 or '29.

By Whom Worked---Los Angeles Museum, under the direction of Dr. Chester Stock.

Human Skeletal Material---Two human skulls and other various

bones of human skeletons. 43  
Artifacts---None.  
Faunal Association---Extinct species of horse, camel, sloth,  
and cave bear.

References:

1. Davis, Watson. "Prehistoric Man in America." Current History, March, 1930.
2. Stock, C. "Quaternary Antelope Remains from a Second Cave Deposit in the Organ Mountains, New Mexico." Los Angeles Museum Publication, No. 2, May 1930.
3. Conkling, R. P. "The Discoveries in the Bone Cave at Bishop's Cap, New Mexico." West Texas Historical and Scientific Society Bull. 44, no. 4, Sul Ross Teachers College, Alpine, Texas, 1932.

BURNET CAVE

Location---About 26 miles in an air line west of Carlsbad, New Mexico, along the eastern side of the Guadalupe Mountains.

By Whom Reported---R. M. Burnet of Carlsbad, New Mexico, in 1930.

By Whom Worked---University Museum of Philadelphia and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, under the direction of Edgar B. Howard.

Human Skeletal Material---Several skeletons in upper layer representing a culture similar to the San Juan Basket Maker. None in association with the Pleistocene material.

Artifacts---One Folsomoid in the Pleistocene horizon.

Faunal Association---One Musk-ox, deer, and extinct species of horse and bison.

References:

1. Howard, Edgar B. "Caves Along the Slopes of the Guadalupe Mountains." Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological and Paleontological Society, Vol. 4, Abilene, Texas, 1932.
2. Howard, Edgar B. "Evidence of Early Man in North America." Journal of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Vol. XXIV, nos. 2-3, 1935.

HOMO NOVUSMUNDUS

Location---On the Cimarron River about 8 miles east of Folsom New Mexico.

By Whom Reported---J. C. McKinley of Branson, Colorado, in 1935.

By Whom Worked---Removed by McKinley and report made by J. D. Figgins.

Artifacts---None.

Human Skeletal Material---One human skeleton.

Faunal Association---None.

References:

1. Figgins, J. D. "New World Man." Proc. of the Colo. Museum of Natural History. Vol XIV, no. 1, July, 1935.
2. Roberts, Frank H. H., Jr. "New World Man." American Antiquity. Vol. II, No. 3, January, 1937.

LINDENMEIER SITE

Location---About 25 miles north of Ft. Collins, Colorado, near the Wyoming line.

By Whom Reported---Discovered by Judge C. C. Coffin and

his son, A.D. Coffin and reported to the Smithsonian Institution by Major R.G. Coffin, a geology professor at Colorado State College.

By Whom Worked---Greater part done by Smithsonian Institute under the direction of Frank H.H. Roberts, Jr., The Colorado Museum of Natural History has sunk a number of pits to determine the extent of the site.

Human Skeletal Material---none.

Artifacts---Folsom points, side scrapers, snub-nosed scrapers, graters, one worked piece of bone, flake knives, rubbing stones and hammer stones.

Faunal association---Extinct bison (Bison taylori, Bison oliverhayii and possibly Bison occidentalis). Last season, of which there is no report as yet, camel and horse bones were found.

References---

1. Roberts, Frank H.H., Jr. "A Folsom Complex, preliminary report on investigations at the Lindenmeier site in Colorado." Smithsonian Misc. Coll., Vol. 94, no. 4, June, 1935.
2. Roberts, Frank H.H., Jr., "Additional information on the Folsom complex, report on the second season's investigation at the Lindenmeier site in northern Colo." Smithsonian Misc. Coll., Vol. 95, no. 10, June, 1936

#### DENT COLORADO

Location--- Weld county, Colorado, near Dent, Colorado

By whom reported---In 1932, Michael Ryan, Jr. reported the presence of large bones, near Dent, Colo., to Father Conrad Bilgery, S.J. of Regis College, Denver. Upon doing a little work at the site, Father Bilgery found a projectile point in the bone bit, and immediately reported it to the Denver Museum.

By Whom worked---First by Father Bilgery, then the Colorado Museum of Natural History.

Human skeletal material---none

Artifacts---Two Folsomoid points.

Faunal association---Remains of 12 individual mammoths.

References---

1. Figgins, J.D., "A Further Contribution to the Antiquity of Man in America." Proceedings of the Colo. Mus. of Nat. Hist. Vol. XII, no 2, August, 1933.

#### ABILENE CULTURE

Location---Several finds around in the near vicinity of Abilene, Texas, on Elm Creek and the Clear Fork of the Brazos.

By Whom reported---By Dr. Cyrus N. Ray of Abilene, Texas. He was the first to realize their importance and report on them.

By whom worked---Cyrus N. Ray, E.B. Sayles, and M.M. Leighton.

Human skeletal material---none.

Artifacts---Hearths, percussion flaked core tools. The tools are the so-called Abilene point.

Faunal association---None. Through geology Leighton has placed this culture in the Sangamon interglacial period.

References---

1. Leighton, M.M., "Geological Aspects of the Finding of Primitive Man, Near Abilene, Texas." Medallion Papers, No. XXIV, Gila Pueblo Globe, Arizona, 1935
2. Sayles, E.E. "An Archaeological Survey of Texas." Medallion Papers, No. XVII, Gila Pueblo, Globe Ariz., 1935

LORE WOLF CREEK SITE

45

Location--- Near Colorado, Texas.

By Whom Reported--- Nelson Vaughan in 1924

By Whom worked--- By Colorado Mus. of Nat. Hist., under the supervision of H.D. Boyes and Nelson Vaughn

Human Skeletal Material--- None.

Artifacts--- Two Yuma like points. A third point was found but was lost in the field.

Faunal Association--- Extinct species of bison, Bison figgensi.

References

1. Cook, Harold J. "Definite Evidence of Human Artifacts in the American Pleistocene."
2. Cook, Harold J. "The Antiquity of Man in America."

SCOTTSBLUFF BISON QUARRY

Location--- At the base of Signal Butte on "Spring Creek" near its junction with "Kiowa Creek".

By Whom reported--- E.E. Barbour and C. Bertand Schultz.

By Whom Worked--- Barbour and Shultz.

Human Skeletal Material--- None.

Artifacts--- Yuma points and aberrant forms.

Faunal Association--- and extinct species of bison, Bison occidentalis.

References

1. Barbour, W.H., and Schultz, C. Bertand. "The Scotts-bluff Bison Quarry and Its Artifacts." Nebraska State Museum, Bull. 34., 1932.
2. Lugin, A.L. "The Pleistocene Geology of Nebraska." Bull., 10 Nebraska Geological Survey, Second Series.

GYPSUM CAVE

Location--- 16 miles east of Las Vegas Nevada.

By Whom Reported--- John Perkins of St. Thomas, Nevada.

By Whom Worked--- A joint expedition of the Southwest Museum of Los Angeles and the Calif. Institute of Technology, under the direction of W.R. Harrington.

Human Skeletal Material--- None in association with the Pleistocene material.

Artifacts--- Flint dart points; crude wooden dart-shafts, decorated with painted designs; and burnt sticks.

Faunal Association--- Ground sloth, two species of camels, dire wolf, and one species of horse.

References---

1. Harrington, W. R. "Gypsum Cave Nevada". Southwest Mus. Papers, No. 8

PINTO BASIN SITE

Location--- Pinto Basin, California.

By Whom Reported--- E.W.C. Campbell, and W.H.C of Twenty Nine Palms, California.

By Whom Worked--- The Campbells with the geology worked out by David Scharf, and the artifacts described by Charles A. Amsden.

Human Skeletal Material--- None.

Artifacts--- Projectiles represented by the Pinto and Silver Lake types, scrapers, choppers, graters, and knives. A few Gypsum Cave types have also been found here. With the Pinto type metates and manos are found.

Faunal Association--- Bones of horse, camel, bison and mammoth occur in and around these sites where the artifacts are found. None are found away from these campsites. On this one cannot say it is a definite association, but there is something to draw some conclusions.

#### References

1. Campbell, E. W., and Campbell, W.H. "The Pinto Basin Site Southwest Museum Papers, no. 9, 1935.
2. Campbell, E.W. "Archeological Problems in the Southern California Dec rts.", American Antiquity, Vol.I, no. 4 April, 1936.

#### Minnesota Woman

Location--- Pulitan Rocks, Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

By Whom Reported--- Road maintenance crew in 1931.

By Whom Worked---A.E.Jenks.

Human Skeletal Material--- One human skeleton.

Artifacts--- None.

Faunal Association--- None.

#### References

1. Jenks, A.E. "Discoveries in Minnesota Prehistory" Minnesota History, a quarterly magazine. Vol. XVI, 1935.

#### BROWN'S VALLEY MAN

Location--- Near Fertile Minnesota, in Brown's Valley.

By Whom Reported--- William H. Jenson of Brown's Valley,

Minnesota in 1934.

By Whom Worked---A.E. Jenks of the University of Minnesota.

Human Skeletal Material--- Skull and fragments of one skeleton.

Artifacts--- Six folsomoids.

#### References

1. Jenks, A. E. " Discoveries in Minnesota Prehistory", Minnesota History, a quarterly magazine. Vol. xvi, 1935.

Not nearly all of the bibliography has been given on this material, those most pertinent to the material has been listed in order that one can get the main facts concerning these finds with the least difficulty. For further bibliography one may look in the bibliography listed by Howard in his report; " Evidence of Early Man in North America ". Howard's bibliography is the most complete of any report on Ancient Man in North America.

Ele M. Baker

#### Tiwa Notes

Three members of Tiwa have been making a surface survey of the Hummingbird site, a short distance from the Rio Puerco. At the present the work has been mainly of a preliminary survey of the ruin. A large amount of surface pottery has been collected and also a varied assortment of artifacts. Detailed classification of the pottery will not be attempted, but merely descriptions and percentages recorded.