ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

ARKANSAS POST NATIONAL MEMORIAL

William A. Westbury

Archaeology Research Program
Southern Methodist University
ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF ARKANSAS POST

by

William A. Westbury

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ABSTRACT

A literature search was made for materials relating to the past history, archaeology, ethnology, and ethnohistory of Arkansas Post. Excellent collections of maps and copies of original documents were located at the University of Arkansas Library in the Special Collections Section.

Further research yielded the locations of similar document collections spread throughout the United States, Spain, France, and England.

Finally, suggestions are made concerning future work at Arkansas Post.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When it came time to put the final report together one is always left in a quandry as to those persons who should be placed in the acknowledgements. In this instance, the problem is not who should be acknowledged but in what order.

The first individual to be acknowledged is Hester A. Davis of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. While I was in Fayetteville, she made all records and collections available to me for perusal. The second person on my list would have to be Sam Sizer who is head of Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Library. Sam has been working with Arkansas Post materials for several years and was a unlimitless source of data.

Thanks also go to the National Park Service for their help throughout the study. Dr. Thomas Lyons of the Chaco Research Center at the University of New Mexico provided aerial photography of the Post. Mr. Ronald J. Ice reviewed the manuscript twice and we want to thank him for his thoughtful input. Mr. Calvin R. Cummings was a helpful guiding force during the entire project.

Thanks must also go to the staff who typed and edited the report and put up with a grouchy and less than patient author.

Finally, a debt of gratitude must be given to S. Alan Skinner, Principal Investigator, who gave me the chance to work on the project and saw it through to its final completion.
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INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1975 the National Park Service contracted with the Archaeology Research Program at Southern Methodist University to do an Archaeological Assessment of Arkansas Post (fig. 1). The purpose of the report was to place in a condensed form all information concerning the history, archaeology, and ethnology of the Post itself as well as the area surrounding it. Recommendations were also to be made for future work at the Post.

The mass of historical and ethnological data for the Post was found to be overwhelming in quantity but somewhat deficient in quality. While many people visited the Post, very few describe the area from a scientific viewpoint. Of the ethnohistorical accounts of the Quapaw who inhabited the area, again, there are few good descriptions of these peoples. Those available have been included in the text.

Past archaeological research at the Post has been hit and miss with the exception of Walker's excavation of the bank building. Summaries of the various findings of the excavators have been included in the report. I have not included artifact lists from the various excavations since this would necessitate a lengthy listing but tell us little or nothing about the potential of future work at the post. The location of the various collections has been included in the report for anyone interested in seeing the materials which have been excavated in the past.
FIG 1. Arkansas Post. Broad lines and blocks indicate excavated areas, trenches, and features.
The environment of Arkansas Post has changed considerably during the last 200 years. Land has been cleared and plowed; locks and dams have been built; the shoreline has been modified by river action; and the Arkansas River has been channeled. Land surrounding the post has been leveled and turned into rice paddies. In short, the area has been modified greatly since the arrival of the first settlers.

The surface of Arkansas County is underlain by Pleistocene alluvium from 100 to 180 feet which rests on strata of Eocene Age. The Eocene strata are estimated to range in thickness from about 2,600 ft in the northwestern to about 4,500 ft in the southeastern part of the county. The underlying Cretaceous strata are estimated to range in thickness from about 400 to more than 1,000 ft, with the greater thickness in the southeastern part of the county (Spooner 1935:258).

The soils of Arkansas Post consist of a parent material of loess 1 to 8 ft. thick overlying an older alluvium. This loess was originally part of the older alluvium brought into the area during the glacial period. When the area was considerably drier, the loess was blown from the streambeds and deposited at higher elevations on top of the old alluvium. The thickest accumulation of loess marks the areas of soil formation around Arkansas Post. These soils are named the Grenada series and are classified as Grenada silt loam. This moderately well-drained soil has six horizons. The surface layer is a 5 inch thick unit of dark grayish-brown to brown silt loam. The uppermost 15 inches of subsoil is dark-brown to yellowish-brown silt loam or silty clay loam; the middle part is light brownish-gray to light gray silt loam; and the lowermost part, beginning at a depth of about 27 inches, is a firm brittle fragipan of light-gray to dark brown mottled silty clay loam. Included with this soil are a few spots of Calloway, Crowley, and Calhoun soils.

The soil is strongly acid or very strongly acid throughout. Natural fertility is moderate, and the organic-matter content is medium. Roots and water easily penetrate as far down as the firm, brittle, fragipan which restricts further penetration. The available water capacity is moderate. Runoff is slow, and excess water is a moderate hazard (Maxwell and others 1972:13).

The elevation of Arkansas County, a slightly undulating plain, varies from 215 ft msl in the north to 150 ft msl in the south. Much of the northern section of the county is open grass prairie; prairie frequently occurs in interstream and flood plains areas. Slightly lower in elevation than the prairie are timberlands and cultivated tracts. These undulating areas intertongue and border prairie areas. The White, Arkansas, and Mississippi Rivers are bordered by the largest plains which mark much of the southern portion of Arkansas County.
Arkansas County has hot humid summers and mild winters. Below freezing periods are brief, and subzero temperatures are rare. Snowfall is less than 4 inches, and the snow usually melts within 24 hours. Precipitation is adequate for farm crops, averaging 53 inches annually. Sixty percent of the 53 inches falls in winter and in spring, and heavy rain is most likely in spring.

Summer rainfall is erratic, often falling during thunderstorms. Thunderstorms occur on about 50 days per year but ordinarily are not accompanied by damaging winds. Short droughts are frequent in Arkansas County, and summer droughts may last a month or more. In some years droughts severe enough to injure seedlings and shallow-rooted crops occur in April, May, and June. In most years at least one 15-day drought will occur between June and September. These short droughts damage but do not kill the crops. In 1930 and again in 1954, severe drought caused widespread crop damage ranging from reduced yield to failure. Drought days on which well-drained soils have little or no available water in the upper 12 inches are most common in August, September, and October. During the hottest part of the summer, evaporation of water from the soil averages one-third inch a day.

Spring wetness is common and interferes with planting most seasons. The delay may be several weeks in a particularly wet season. Early spring crops may be damaged by late frost. These must be replanted. Dry weather in late summer and fall is favorable for harvesting but not for fall seeding or the growth of pasture plants. Seldom does early fall frost damage the quality or yield of summer crops. Small grain sown in autumn remains vigorous enough for grazing throughout the winter.

The growing season is long since more than 60% of the year is free from frost. U. S. Weather Bureau records from Stuttgart indicate an average growing season of about 228 days. The average date of the last 32° reading in spring is March 23, and the average date of the first in fall is November 6 (Maxwell and others 1972:68).

BIOTA

Arkansas Post is located on an escarpment above the Arkansas River. It is a Woodland area surrounded by a Wetland area (fig. 2,3). The Wetland area developed considerably since the channelization of the Arkansas River and the increasing conversion to rice farming in the area. Changes in the fauna and flora inventories in the area during the last two centuries are unknown. A biotic inventory of the area needs to be made. The following flora and fauna inventory is compiled from many sources all of which predate the channelization of the river and the dramatic increase in rice cultivation during the past two decades.
FIG. 2 - Wooded Area at Arkansas Post. The Remains of Confederate earthworks have been cleared in this area.

FIG. 3 - Wetland Area at Arkansas Post.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flora</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortleaf Pine</td>
<td><em>Pinus echinata Miller</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loblolly Pine</td>
<td><em>Pinus taeda L.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Longleaf Pine</td>
<td><em>Pinus palustris Miller</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slash Pine</td>
<td><em>Pinus elliottii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baldcypress</td>
<td><em>Paxodium distichum (L.) Rich.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cottonwood</td>
<td><em>Populus deltoides Bartr.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Cottonwood</td>
<td><em>Populus heterophylla L.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Willow</td>
<td><em>Salix nigra Marsh.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Walnut</td>
<td><em>Juglans nigra L.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecan</td>
<td><em>Carya illinoensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Hickory</td>
<td><em>Carya aquatica</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutmeg Hickory</td>
<td><em>Carya myristicaeformis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butternut Hickory</td>
<td><em>Carya codiformis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shagbark Hickory</td>
<td><em>Carya ovata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shellbark Hickory</td>
<td><em>Carya laciniosa</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mockernut Hickory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Hickory</td>
<td><em>Carya texana</em></td>
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<td>American Hornbeam</td>
<td><em>Carpinus caroliniana</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>River Birch</td>
<td><em>Betula nigra L.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>White Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus alba L.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus stellata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overcup Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus lyrata Walt.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Chestnut Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus michauxii Nutt.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Red Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus falcata Michx.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherrybark Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus falcata var.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pin Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus palustris Meunchh.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuttall Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus nuttallii Palmer</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shumard Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus shumardii Buckl.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus nigra</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus phellias</em></td>
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<td>American Elm</td>
<td><em>Ulmus americana L.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Slippery Elm</td>
<td><em>Ulmus rubra</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Winged Elm</td>
<td><em>Ulmus alata</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Planertree</td>
<td><em>Planera aquatica</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugarberry</td>
<td><em>Celtis laevigata</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Mullberry</td>
<td><em>Morus rubra</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Magnolia</td>
<td><em>Magnolia grandiflora</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweetgum</td>
<td><em>Liquidambrata styracifbra</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Sycamore</td>
<td><em>Platannus occidentalis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Plum</td>
<td><em>Prunus americana Marsh.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td><em>Cratagus species</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeylocust</td>
<td><em>Gleditsia triacanthos</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterlocust</td>
<td><em>Gleditsia aquatica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacklocust</td>
<td><em>Robinia pseudoacacia</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Holly</td>
<td><em>Ilex american</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaupon</td>
<td><em>Ilex vomitoria</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hercules-Club</td>
<td><em>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Flora

Chinaberry Melia azedarach
Silver Maple Acer saccharinum L.
Boxelder Acer negundo L.
Red Buckeye Aesculus pavia L.
Devil’s Walkingstick Aralia spinosa L.
Flowering Dogwood Cornus florida L.
Blackgum Nyssa sylvatica
Water Tupelo Nyssa aquatica L.
Common Persimmon Diospyros virginiana
Gum Bumelia Bumelia langoiosa
Swamp Privet Forestiera acuminata
White Ash Fraxinus americana
Green Ash Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Carolina Ash Fraxinus caroliniana
Pumpkin Ash Fraxinus tomentosa
Northern Catalpa Catalpa speciosa

Mammals

Golden Harvest Mouse Reith rodontomys fulvescens aurantius
Southern White-footed Mouse Peromyscus leucopus leucopus
Rhoads Cotton Mouse Peromyscus gossypinus megacephalus
Southern Golden Mouse Peromyscus nutallii flammeus
Illinois Wood Rat Neotoma floridana illinoensis
Woodland Pine Vole Microtus pinetorum nemoralis
Common Muskrat Ondatra zibethicus zibethicus
Norway Rat Mus Musculus
House Mouse Canis niger Gregory
Mississippi Valley Red Wolf Vulpes fulva
Red Fox Ursus americanus
Wisconsin Gray Fox Urocyon cinereoargenteus ocythous
American Black Bear Procyon lotor
Raccoon Mustela frenata primulina
Missouri Weasel Spilogale intereupta
Prairie Spotted Skunk Mephitis mephitis mesomelas
Louisiana Skunk Lutra canadensis interior
Interior Otter Lynx rufus rufus
Eastern Bobcat Odocoileus virginianus
White-tailed Deer
Reptiles

Spotted King Snake Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki
Black King Snake Lampropeltis getulus nigra
Grahams Water Snake Natrix grahamii
Plains Garter Snake Thamnophis radix

Obviously this is not a complete listing of reptiles to be found at Arkansas Post. It is a listing of only those which have been reported in the literature to date.

Birds

This listing includes those birds which pass through the post area during their annual migrations as well as those indigenous to the area.

White Pelican Pelecanus erythrorhynchos
Double Crested Comorant Phalacrocorax auritus auritus
Water Turkey Anhinga anhinga leucogaster
Snowy Egret Leucophoyx thula thula
Little Blue Heron Florida caerulea caerulea
Black-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli
Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nyctanassa violacea violacea
American Bittern Ixobrychus exilis exilis
Eastern Least Bittern Botaurus lentiginosus
Wood Ibis Mycteria americana
Whistling Swan Cygnus columbianus
Common Canada Goose Branta canadensis canadensis
Hutchin's Goose Branta canadensis hutchinsi
Lesser Snow Goose Chen hyperborea hyperborea
Blue Goose Chen caerulescens
Common Mallard Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos
Black Duck Anas rubripes
Gadwall Anas strepera
Baldpate Mareca americana
American Pintail Anas acuta tzitzihoa
Green Winged Teal Anas carolinensis Gmelin
Blue Winged Teal Anas discors
Cinnamon Teal Anas cyanoptera cyanoptera
Shoveller Spatula clypeata
Wood Duck Aix sponsa
Ring Necked Duck Aythya collaris
Canvas-Back Duck Aythya valianeria
Greater Scaup Duck Aythya marila
Lesser Scaup Duck Aythya affinis
American Golden-Eye Bucephala clangula americana
Birds

Buffle-Head
Ruddy Duck
Hooded Merganser
American Merganser
Red-Breasted Merganser
Turkey Vulture
Black Vulture
Sharp-Shinned Hawk
Coopers Hawk
Eastern Red-Tailed Hawk
Harlan's Hawk
Northern Red-Shouldered Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
American Rough-Legged Hawk
Golden Eagle
Southern Bald Eagle
Marsh Hawk
Osprey
Duck Hawk
Eastern Sparrow Hawk
King Rail
Virginia Rail
Sora
Yellow Rail
Black Rail
Semipalmated Plover
Mountain Plover
Kildeer
American Golden Plover
Black-Bellied Plover
American Woodcock
Upland Plover
Spotted Sandpiper
Eastern Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellow-Legs
Lesser Yellow-Legs
Pectoral Sandpiper
White-Rumped Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Stilt Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Avocet
Wilson's phalarope

Bucephala albeola
Oxyura jamaicensis rubida
Lophodytes cucullatus
Mergus merganser americanus
Mergus serrator serrator
Cathartes aura septentrionalis
Coragyps atratus
Accipiter striatus velox
Accipiter cooperii
Buteo jamaicensis borealis
Buteo harlani
Buteo lineatus lineatus
Buteo swainsoni Bonaparte
Buteo lagopus s. johannis
Aquila chaysaetetus canadensis
Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus
Circus syaneus hudsonius
Pandion Haliaeetus carolinensis
Falco peregrinus anatum
Falco sparverius sparverius
Rallus elegans elegans
Rallus limicola limicola
Porzana carolina
Coturnicops noveboracensis noveboracensis
Laterallus jamaicensis pygmaeus
Charadrillo hiaticula semipalmatus
Eupoda montana
Charadrius vociferus vociferus
Pluvialis dominica dominica
Squatarola squatarola
Philohela minor
Bartramia longicauda
Erolia melanotos
Tringa solitaria solitaria
Totanus melanoleucus
Totanus flavipes
Erolia melanotos
Erolia fusciollis
Erolia minitilla
Micropalama limantopus
Ereunetes pusillus
Ereunetes mauri Cabanis
Recurreirostra americana Gmelin
Stegamopus tricolor
Birds

Ring-Billed Gull
Least Tern
Royal Tern
Caspian Tern
Black Tern
Eastern Mournig Dove
Yellow Billed Cuckoo
Southern Screech Owl
Great Horned Owl
Northern Barred Owl
Florida Barred Owl
Long-Eared Owl
Short-Eared Owl
Chimney Swift
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird
Kingfisher
Southern Flicker
Southern Pileated Woodpecker
Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Red-Headed Woodpecker
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker
Southern Hairy Woodpecker
Southern Downey Woodpecker
Eastern Kingbird
Northern Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Acadian Flycatcher
Violet-Green Swallow
Tree Swallow
Rough-Winged Swallow
Northern Cliff Swallow
Northern Bluejay
Fish Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-Breasted Nuthatch
Eastern Winter Wren
Carolinian Wren
Short-Billed Marsh Wren
Eastern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Eastern Robin
Wood Thrush
Gray-Cheeked Thrush
Eastern Ruby-Crowned Kinglet
Starling
Northern White-Eyed Vireo

Larus delawarensis Ord
Sterna albirrons antillarum
Thalasseus maximum maximum
Hydroprogne caspia
Chilidionias surinamensis
Zenidura macroura carolinensis
Coccyzus americanus americanus
Otus asio asio
Bubo virginianus virginianus
Strix varia varia
Strix varia georgica
Asio otus wilsonianus
Asio flammeus flammeus
Chaetura pelagica
Archilocous colubris
Megaceryle alcyon alcyon
Colaptes auratus auratus
Dryocopus pileatus pileatus
Centurus carolinus carolinus
Melanerpes erythrocephalus erythrocephalus
Sphyricus varius varius
Dendrocoptes villo sus audubonii
Dendrocoptes pubescens pubescens
Tyrranus tyrannus
Myiarchus crinitus boreus
Sayornis phoebe
Empidonax virescens
Tachycineta thalassina lepida Mearns
Iridoprocne bicolor
Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis
Petrochelidon pyrrhonta albigrons
Cyanocitta cristata bromia Oberholser
Corvus assifragus Wilson
Parus carolinensis carolinensis
Purus bicolor
Sitta carolinensis cookei Oberholser
Troglodytes troglodytes hiemalis Vieillot
Thryocichla ludoviciana ludoviciana
Cistotheros platensis stellaris
Mimus polyglottos polyglottos
Toxostoma rufum rufum
Turdus migratorius migratorius
Hylocichla mustelina
Hylocichla minima minima
Regulus calendula calendula
Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris
Vireo griseus noveboracensis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birds</th>
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<td>Red-Eyed Vireo</td>
<td>Vireo olivaceous</td>
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<td>Black and White Warbler</td>
<td>Mniotilta varia</td>
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<td>Prothonotary Warbler</td>
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<td>Northern Parula Warbler</td>
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<td>Myrtle Warbler</td>
<td>Dendroica coronata coronata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cerulean Warbler</td>
<td>Dendroica cerulea</td>
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<td>Kirtland's Warbler</td>
<td>Dendroica kirtlandii</td>
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<td>Maryland Yellow-Throat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hooded Warbler</td>
<td>Wilsonia citrina</td>
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<td>English Sparrow</td>
<td>Passer domesticus domesticus</td>
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<td>Bobolink</td>
<td>Dalichonyx oryzivorus</td>
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<td>Southern Meadowlark</td>
<td>Sturnella magna argutula</td>
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<td>Sturnella neglecta Audubon</td>
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<td>Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus</td>
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<td>Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus</td>
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<td>Agelaius phoeniceus fortis Ridgeway</td>
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<td>Rusty Blackbird</td>
<td>Euphagus carolinus</td>
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<td>Boat-Tailed Grackle</td>
<td>Cassidix maxicanus major</td>
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<td>Eastern Cowbird</td>
<td>Molothrus ater ater</td>
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<td>Summer Tanager</td>
<td>Piranga rubra rubra</td>
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<td>Eastern Cardinal</td>
<td>Richmondena cardinalis cardinalis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigo Bunting</td>
<td>Passerina cyanea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Goldfinch</td>
<td>Spinus tristis tristis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Savannah Sparrow</td>
<td>Passerculus sandwichensis savanna</td>
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<td>Eastern Henslow's Sparrow</td>
<td>Passerherbulus henslowi susurrans Brewster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson's Sparrow</td>
<td>Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni</td>
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<td>Eastern Lark Sparrow</td>
<td>Chondestes grammacus grammacus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slate-Colored Junco</td>
<td>Junco hyemalis hyemalis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Chipping Sparrow</td>
<td>Spizella passerina passerina</td>
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<td>Clay-Colored Sparrow</td>
<td>Spizella pallida</td>
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<td>Harris's Sparrow</td>
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<td>White-Crowned Sparrow</td>
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<td>Podilymbus podiceps</td>
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<td>Little Green Heron</td>
<td>Butorides virescens virescens</td>
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<td>Coot</td>
<td>Fulica americana Gmelin</td>
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<td>Bob-White</td>
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<td>Prairie Chicken</td>
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<td>Icterus spurius</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore Oriole</td>
<td>Icterus gallula</td>
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<td>Migrant Shrike</td>
<td>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</td>
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<td>Western Parula Warbler</td>
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Birds

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<tr>
<th>Louisiana Waterthrush</th>
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<td>Hooded Warbler</td>
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<td>Redstart</td>
<td>Setophaga ruticilla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Robin</td>
<td>Planesticus migratorius achrusterus</td>
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The preceding information on the flora and fauna of Arkansas Post is sketchy. One of the first projects in the future should be a complete inventory of the flora and fauna of the Post area.
HISTORICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ARKANSAS POST ENVIRONS

Very little has been written by the early travelers into the area concerning the environs of Arkansas Post. One of the first accounts is that of Captain Philip Pittman who visited the area in 1770. Pittman (1770:82) states,

There are about eight families without the fort, occupied by as many families, who have cleared the land about nine hundred yards in depth; but on account of the sandiness of the soil, and the lowness of the situation, which makes it subject to be overflowed, they do not raise their necessary provisions. These people subsist mainly by hunting, and every season send to New Orleans great quantities of bear's oil, tallow, salted buffaloe meat, and a few skins...The river Arkansas is generally esteemed to be in the most moderate climate of any part of Louisiana, and the lands six leagues reckoned as fertile.

The next description was written in 1793 and is an excerpt from Pedro Rouseau's Diary (165-166):

Sunday, February 3, 1793. Northwest wind. Stiff breeze—very cold. The Fort of Arkansas is situated in the middle of a hill (cote) that overlooks the Arkansas River, which may be forty-five feet in height when the river is low and six feet when it overflows. It forms a horseshoe that may be a half league on the river and extends to the north. At a half league to the north of the river there is a large prairie that follows the shore (cote), which extends as far as the Illinois, according to what has been told me by the inhabitants of Arkansas. There are several inhabitants around the prairie who sow wheat there, which I have seen as very beautiful. The Fort of Arkansas is surrounded by round stakes of white oak protected against carbine shots. It has a bastion on the east side and another on the west in which are mounted a cannon of four (sic) and two swivel guns. In the fort there is a house, barracks (quartier), and a warehouse covered with shingles. Above the fort there are about thirty houses, with galleries around, covered with shingles, which form two streets. Below the fort there are about a dozen quite pretty houses (or plots) of four by four arpents, where (sic) there are very beautiful fields of wheat on the highland. And below the highland all the lands are flooded. The savages appear very docile and very attached to the Spanish. There are three villages, each governed by its chief. The sun being good, I have observed the latitude of the fort with the octant—which is thirty-four degrees, six minutes, north.
This would seem to indicate quite a change in the subsistence base at Arkansas Post in the short time of twenty-three years. The next report on the Post is in 1803 and was written by Paul Alliot Lorien. He states,

...some of the inhabitants are engaged in the fur trade with the savages who live on the bluffs of that river, giving them in exchange the merchandise to which they are accustomed. The inhabitants of the country raise indigo and cotton and the food necessary for their sustenance. They rear many hogs, cattle, and fowls. The place is also the abode for a few hunters (131) (Lorien: 131).

In March 1817 the Missouri Gazzett (September 6, 1817) published this account of a French traveler in the area which would seem to indicate that Arkansas Post was indeed flourishing:

I have been obliged to remain at the Post of Arkansas on account of the rising of the river, and the difficulty of procuring a light boat to ascend it; but this week's delay has not been lost. I have visited a great proportion of the lands situated between White River, the St. Francis and the Arkansas, and have seen immense prairies. The largest is nearly one hundred miles in circumference, its soil of middling quality. The smaller, which is a Spanish cession is not yet confirmed, would be extremely desirable for any one who could stock it with two thousand head of cattle, but would not be suitable for a colony. Nearly all the inhabitants of the Arkansas Post and its environs, are French; many of them very amicable and sociable. All unite in wishing for us as neighbors, unless it be a few who live by hunting and trading; but the greater part have given up this mode of life for the cultivation of the land.

More than one hundred families have within very few years, established themselves here, as squatters at one hundred and fifty, two hundred, and even three hundred miles from this post, on the beautiful banks of the Arkansas. There the lands are on an admirable fertility for the production of cotton, tobacco, indigo, rice, maize, vines, fruits and vegetables. This is without doubt, the most beautiful and agreeable part of the U. States, both in temperature of climate and fertility of soil.

Vegetation is gigantic; the cypress, the cedar, the white oak, the plumb (sic) tree, the cherry, the sassafras, the
mulberry for silk worms, for above all the indigenous olive flourish here. I do not know if this beautiful tree which rises to the height of one hundred feet, and whose fruit I have seen, will produce oil equal to that of Province; but I am confident it will answer well for the manufacture of soap, the tanning of leather, for burning &c. &c. I believe this discovery is my own, and that it will be a valuable acquisition to the country. I think also, that the olive of Europe would most assuredly succeed here. Modder, indigo pecoon, fit for dying red, the yellow tree, the lemon tree, which produces and excellent lemon &c. all flourish here with care or culture. I cannot enumerate all the varieties of the vine among which... (is) the prune grape, which the Indians call Focco, the mountain grape, ripe in June, the red, the white, the black, the violet &c.

A manufactory of shanois (sic) leather and a tannery established here, would speedily insure independence. Fine Buffalo skins, whose hair would make excellent mattresses, &c could be purchased at seventy five cts. A cruel war is carried on against these poor animals, solely for their fat. The flesh is more delicate than that of our best oxen. Fish are caught, game killed, and wild fruits procured without difficulty: and vegetables of every kind succeed well.

In 1819 the Post of Arkansas was described by E. Dano (1819:283), thusly:

The post or town of Arkansaw, is about 45 miles from the junction of the river with the Mississippi. This is one of the earliest settlements in Louisiana having been commenced more than a century past. Hunting and trade with the Indians having chiefly constituted the employment of the inhabitants; who, till, of late, were mostly French, and the descendants proceeding from an intercourse between French and Indian. A large proportion of the land surrounding the settlement is so low and flat, as to be subject to inundation. The buildings in the town, erected by the French, are ordinary and seem to be in a state of decay; but of late emigrants and recent settlers have diffused a commercial spirit among the people, and the place begins to assume a new appearance.

The first true scientist to visit the area was Thomas Nutall who made two visits to Arkansas Post the first in February of 1819 and the second in January of 1820. Nuttall (1821:71-72) described the area around Arkansas Post as follows:
Crossed Oak Swamp - Species principally Quercus lyrata, Q. macrocarpa (over-cup oak); Q. phellos (the Willow oak); Q. falcata (the Spanish oak); and Q. palustris (the swamp oak), with some red and scarlet, as well as black and post oaks on the knolls, or more elevated parts. In this swamp, I also observed the Nyssa aquatica, N. pubesceus (Ogechee lime, the fruit being prepared as a conserve) as well as N. biflora, and Gleditscia monosperma. After crossing the horrid morass, a delightful tract of high ground again occurs, over which the floods had never yet prevailed; here the fields of the French settlers were already of a vivid green; and the birds were singing from every bush, more particularly the red bird, Loxia Cardinallis, and the blue sparrow, Motacilla Dialis. The ground appeared perfectly whitened with the Alyssum bidentatum. The Viola bicolor, the Myosurus minimus of Europe, (probably introduced by the French settlers) and the Houstonia serpyllifolia of Michaux, (H. Patens or Mr. Elliott) with bright blue flowers, were also already in bloom.

On his return to Arkansas Post in 1820 Nuttall noted that the town had grown due to the naming of Arkansas Post as the territorial capital.

The next traveler of note to visit the Post was Timothy Flint who visited the area in May of 1819. In his The History and Geography of the Mississippi Valley published in 1833 he had the following to say about Arkansas Post.

The post is a small village on the north bank of the Arkansas, about fifty miles above its mouth. The position is a kind of bluff bottom, on a fine bend of the river. The soil is poor but the situation pleasant. The overflow of the White river approaches within a short distance of the Arkansas; and the swamps of both rivers can be seen from the court house below the village at the same time. Directly above the village, a bayou is occasionally inundated. The descent of the bench, on which the village is situated, to this bayou, is marked with some of those striking red pillars of earth where the lighter soils have been washed away, and left these singular columns of clay standing (Flint 1828:584).

In 1821 General Thomas James visited the post just after Little Rock had been named the new capital. James (1916:100) states:

Dense and heavy woods or valuable timber lined both sides of the river, both below "EauPost" and above as far as we
went, and the river bottoms which are large and
covered by extensive canebrakes, which appeared
impenetrable even by the rattlesnake. Small fields
of corn, squash and pumpkin, cultivated by Indians,
appeared in view on the low banks of the river.

The relocation of the territorial capital from Arkansas Post to Little
Rock signaled the beginning of the end for the community which has first
been settled by Tonti in 1686. William E. Pope (1895:66-67) stopped at
the Post in 1832 and some years later wrote a description of it which
goes as follows:

The post of Arkansas is distant from Little Rock
about 125 miles, and when I first saw it in 1832,
the original part of it presented a very forelorn
and desolate appearance. The settlement at the Post
was scattered over a considerable area, extending
back from the river to Grand Prairie. Many of the
houses erected during Gov. De Villement's adminis­
tration were still standing and were built after the
French style of architecture, with high pointed roofs
and gables and heavy exterior timbers, and high
chimneys. The old houses presented a sad but inter­
esting picture to look upon. In many instances the
tall chimneys had fallen down, and trees of consider­
able size were growing through the roofs and chimney
places. There were, however, a few modern buildings,
situated near the bank of the river, among them two
brick-houses, one of which was the store and ware­
house of the opulent Frederic Notrebe (1884:234-35).

In the late 1830s G. W. Featherstonhaugh (1844) visited the post and
reported on its condition:

We were only about three miles from the ancient French
settlement of "Poste d' Arkansas when we landed and
walked to it through woods filled with loftly cotton­
wood trees, with an undergrowth in many places of white
dog-wood and red bud. This place, which is on the left
bank of the Arkansas, is situated on the edge of an
extensive prairie, and consists of a few straggling
houses, principally occupied by some decendents of the
ancient French settlers, who live in the comfortless
way that the same class does at Carondelet...

The banks of the river, which are about eight feet
high here, are crumbling down with a rapidity that must,
more or less, attract the attention of the settlers and somewhat alarm them; the descending floods undermining them on one hand, whilst the banks, saturated with the land springs and superficial waters tending to the river, become at length too heavy, tore their adhesion, and are precipitated an immense masses to the bottom. The Arkansas forms a beautiful sweep for two or three miles, where the settlement is, and exposes a deep section of the partly colored banks, in which I observed a seam of calcareous matter towards the bottom of the left bank, composed of broken-down shells, but it was only about three inches thick. I examined the neighborhood for several miles, and found the country a dead flat, with a few stunted trees growing here and there, and the land so cut up by broad channels or gullies made by the rain, that even within 300 yards of the settlement they had been obliged to construct bridges over them.

In 1832 Washington Irving stopped briefly at Arkansas Post while returning from his travels in the west. Irving noted that the post was

...a decayed, ruinous place - old Spanish wooden building, with piazza - outhouses - French buildings, with casement - piazzas (McDermott 1944:168).

Irving also stated that the Americans had settled to the north of the old village. It would appear by this time that the original area around Arkansas Post had been deserted and that the settlers in the area had moved into the town of Rome or to the Town of Arkansas further north. Certainly by the arrival of the beginning of the twentieth century the only population center in the area was at the Town of Arkansas and not at Arkansas Post. It is more than likely that Arkansas Post had for all practical purposes been abandoned before the confederates established Fort Hindman on the site. The historians of the 42nd Ohio describe Arkansas Post as follows:

The Fort was a heavy, bastioned earthwork, built upon the site of an old Government trading post, the mart for many years of traffic with the Indians. A group of old-fashion brick buildings with an orchard and a cleared space of perhaps a hundred acres, constituted all that was left of Arkansas Post until the Confederates took possession of it early in 1862 and built Fort Hindman at the head of a long or bow curve in the river (Mason 1876:171).
The first permanent European establishment on the lower reaches of the Arkansas river was made by La Salle's lieutenant Henry de Tonti in 1682. Ten of the men with Tonti requested permission to remain at the site which was to become known as Arkansas Post. Tonti (1693:150) states in his memoirs,

When we were at the Arkansas, ten of the Frenchmen who accompanied me asked for a settlement on the River Arkansas on a seigniory that M. de la Salle had given me on the first voyage. I granted the request to some of them. They remained there to build a house surrounded with stakes. The rest accompanied me to Illinois in order to get what they..

The next mention of Arkansas Post is found in Joutel's Journal telling of his arrival in 1687 with his troops. Joutel had been with La Salle and after his death had tried to make his way back to Canada. He states,

We fet out again to come to the Village, and by the Way met with very pleafant Woods, in which, there were Abundance of ftately Cedars. Being come to a River that was between us and the Village, and looking over to the further Side we difcover'd a great Crosfs, and at a fnmall Diftance from it, a Houfe built after the French Faftion.

It is eafy to imagine what inward Joy we conceiv'd at the Sight of that Emblem of our Salvation. We knelt down, lifting up our Hands and Eyes to Heaven, conducted us fo happily; for we made no Queftion of finding French on the other side of the River, and of their being Catholicks, fince they had croffes (Joutel 1714:151).

There is also a chance that the post was abandoned temporarily, for Joutel seems to imply that there was some sort of agreement among the Frenchmen to leave the post at this time.

This abandonment appears unlikely, however, for Tonti in a deed dated November 26, 1689 gave to Father Dablon, then Superior of the Canada Missions, a tract of land on the Arkansas River a little east of his fort (Shea 1852). This mission was to have been established in 1690 and two chapels built and a cross fifteen feet in height erected. Tonti visited the area again in 1693 and in 1698 when he brought with him a number of Jesuits who were seeking favorable locations for missions along the Mississippi. Where they established these missions is unknown, but they were not likely in the vicinity of Arkansas Post since Father Buesson de Cosme (1698) in a letter dated 1698 states,

We remained two days and a half in this village, and after planting a Cross in it, which we told the savages was to be
the sign of our union, we left on the 30th of November
(December) for their other villages, about nine leagues
distant from this one. We were deeply grieved to have to
part with Monsieur de Tonty, who was unable to come with
us for various reasons.

Little is known concerning the next twenty years. Walker (1971:2-3)
states,

During the mid-1690s, following France's issuance of very
stringent regulations governing the Indian trade, a number
of French traders deserted to the English. Most of them
got to South Carolina, where a small (some 10%) but
influential segment of the population was French Huguenot.
Couture who was among these traders, arrived in Charleston
before 1696. There he encouraged the English to establish
a trade with the Quapaw and other Indian tribes of the lower
Mississippi Valley. The first recorded trading expedition
form Charleston to the Quapaw at the mouth of the Arkansas
was led by Colonel Thomas Welch in 1698. The second
expedition, which is believed to have been guided by Couture,
arrived at the mouth of the Arkansas in February, 1700.
Members of this trading party apparently remained in the area
for some time, for in May of that year the French explorer
Pierre Charles Le Sueur, who was then on his way up the
Mississippi, encountered one of the traders at a Quapaw
village. This trader asserted England's claim to the Missis­
sippi Valley and boasted that the English would soon monopolize
the Indians trade of the area. Whether or not the English
were successful in capturing the Quapaw trade is unknown, as
there is little record of either English or French activity in
the immediate area during the period from 1700 to 1720.

Since Tonti had taken the Jesuits downriver with him in 1698 in order to
locate sites for missions, it seems highly unlikely that the area was
abandoned by the French for the next twenty three years but this remains
to be seen.

The next settlement to be established on the Arkansas River was the John
Law Colony, which was established in 1721 by the Compagnie des Indes.
This colony was not to last for long, however, for it was visited in 1723
by Deron D'Artaguette who noted in his Journal (p.56),

We embarked from there in a little pirogue to to the
settlement of M. Low, which is a quarter of a league distant
by water from this village. We arrived there at 11 o'clock
in the morning. We did not notice anything in particular.
There are only three miserable huts, fourteen Frenchmen and
six negroes, whom Sr. Dufresne, who is the director there for
the company employs in clearing the land. Since they have
been on this land they have not even been able to raise Indian
corn for their nourishment, and they have been compelled
to trade for it and send even to Illinois for it.

D'Artaguiette also states that he and his men went that afternoon to
Arkansas Post which consisted only of a hut for the Commandant Sr. La
Boulaye and a barn which served as lodging for the soldiers stationed
there. The area was also inhabited by many Frenchmen, who had left Law's
Colony which was on the wane almost from its beginning. A letter dated
February 25, 1725 from the Superior Council of Louisiana to the General
Directors of the Company of the Indies states,

We have not thought it advisable, Gentlemen, to execute your
orders in the matter of the abandonment of the Arkansas both
on account of the safety of the voyageurs and on account of
the indespensable necessity of provisions for the convoys of
the Illinois and in that we have acted on the statement that
Mr. de Boisbriant made to us about it as you will see by the
minutes enclosed herein (Rowland and Sanders 1929:270).

An interesting note is that apparently the Company had already sent someone
to the area of Law's Colony in 1720 since when La Harp, who was hired in
1721 to organize a post on the Arkansas River, reached a village on the
Arkansas he found M. de la Boulay residing there on orders from M. Bienville.
This letter states,

On orders sent up by the Company and confirmed by the
Commissaries by their letters of last April the twenty-sixth,
to organize a post on the river of the Arkansas (we) have
thought it advisable before making a considerable establish­
ment there to send a detachment there to explore it under the
command of Mr. Bernard La Harpe, who has offered to go there,
inasmuch as he is here on salary from the Company without
compensation. For this purpose we have appointed him to command
the said detachment and (he) will follow orders that will be
given to him in special instructions. Signed Bienville,
Denergier and Delorme (Rowland and Sanders 1929:264-65).

La Harpe suggests that M. de la Boulay had been residing in the area since
September of 1722. Stephens and Bolton (1917:389) relate that La Harpe
reestablished Arkansas Post. Whatever, the civil authorities in New
Orleans seem to have been working hand in glove with the Compagnie des Indies.
Law's Colony was officially abandoned by the Company in 1727. It was in
this same year that Father Du Poisson reached Arkansas Post so that it
seems possible that La Harpe established a post apart from that of Law's
Colony, or possibly it was established in the same location for the Indians
at the post claimed that the Frenchmen which M. Law had sent to them gave
them many presents and that they would expect the same of the Jesuit
priest. At this time there were thirty Frenchmen at the post (Shea:1855-
474).
Also in this area during the same time period, Father Pierre Francois Xavier de Charlovoix (1761:245-46) made a trip down the Mississippi River and in November of 1721 wrote the following observations:

At length, I arrived at the first village of the Arkansas on the second of December about ten o'clock in the morning. The village stands in a small meadow on the western bank of the Miffipippi. There are three others within the space of eight leagues, every one of which contains a nation or particular tribe, and in one of the four there are even two tribes, but all of them are comprehended under the general name of the Arkansas. The Indians inhabiting the village where I am now revisiting are called ouyapes. The western company have here a magazine, or warehouse at which goods are soon expected, and they likewise a factor here who is very uneasy at being obliged to wait for them fo long.

The river of Arkansas, which is said to have its rise at a great distance, discharges its waters into the Miffipippi at two mouths, about four leagues from each other. The first is about eight leagues from hence.... It is difficult to get up the river of the Arkansas, on account of the great number of rapids and the water being in many places so shallow that travellers are obliged to drag their pirogues.

The river divides at the distance of seven leagues above the second and last of its mouths, and at the distance of two leagues only above the first. A fine river, called the White River, which comes from the country of the Osages, falls into it. Two leagues higher up are the Torimas, and Topingas, who inhabit one village. Two leagues further up are the Southouis. The Kappas are situated a little higher up (245-46). The separation of its branches is made at seven leagues above the second, and the smallest of its two mouths but only as two leagues above the first. It receives a fine river that comes from the country of the Osages and which they call La Riviere Blanche. Two leagues higher are the Southouis. The Kappos are a little further.

An interesting note at this point is that there is a Frenchman on the river who is working for the Western Company. The problem to be figured out is what company is the Western Company. Is it the same as the Compagnie des Indies or is it some other Fur Trading Company on the Mississippi. Certainly from the observations of the Father he should be in the vicinity of Arkansas Post as the Kappos and Southouis are spoken of earlier in relationship to their close location to the earlier settlements of Arkansas Post. The Western Company of which the Father speaks is probably the John Louis Western Company whose posts were visited by D'Artaguette in 1722-23.

Thus apparently three separate operations were on the Arkansas in the early years of the eighteenth century. The Compagnie des Indies established the
John Law Colony, Bernard Le Harpe reestablished Arkansas Post, and the John Louis Western Company has traders and posts in the area. It should be noted that the Compagnie d'Occident was the parent Company of the Compagnie des Indies, and the latter did not become known by that name until 1720.

There is a gap between 1721 and 1731 concerning the viability of the French post on the Arkansas River. According to Walker (1971) the French Crown again established a post on the Arkansas River in 1731 fortifying it with a garrison of 14 soldiers. In 1733 Perier wrote to the Minister Count de Maurepos that the Arkansas Indians under the leadership of Sieur de Coulanges had been making war upon the Chickasaw for two years. This statement would also seem to indicate that there had been some sort of French military presence on the Arkansas in 1731. Apparently the French settlements at the time were also being threatened since in May 1733 Bienville reported that 11 hunters had been killed on the Arkansas by the Osage (Rowland 1927:201). In 1734 Bienville and Salmon transmitted a report on the condition of Arkansas Post to Maurepos:

They consists of a wooden house on sleepers thirty-two feet long by eighteen feet wide, roofed with bark, consisting of three rooms on the ground floor, one of which has a fire place, the floors and ceilings of cyprus, a powder magazine built of wood on sleepers ten feet long and eight feet wide, a prison built of posts driven into the ground, roofed with bark, ten feet long, by eight feet wide, and a building which serves as a barracks, also of posts driven into the ground forty feet long by sixteen wide, roofed with bark (Rowland and Sanders 1932:84-85).

They also stated that there was no reason to build a stockade there since the garrison consisted of only twelve men.

In 1737 with the defeat of D'Artaguette eight men were added to the contingent at Arkansas Post. The following year in October Father Vitry noted that there were only twelve men and an officer located at the post.

By 1739 the post had fallen into ruin; and the only people there were Father Avond, a Jesuit missionary, and three other settlers. How long Father Avond was at Arkansas Post in unknown, but it could have not been for long for he was in New Orleans in 1742. Apparently the post was in operation in 1745 for Father Laurent baptized 3 white children, one the Commandant's daughter, in that year on his return trip to the Illinois Country. At this time there were twelve settlers in the area according to the census of 1746 (Delanglez 1935). Again in 1748 a Jesuit missionary was assigned to Arkansas Post and at this time the post had a garrison of 12 men along with 12 other inhabitants of the area (Delanglez 1935:442).

The area was still in a state of unrest for in 1750 Father Vivier wrote the following letter:

One hundred leagues above the Natchez are the Arkansas, a
savage nation of about four hundred warriors. We have near them a fort with a garrison, where the convoys ascending to the Illinois stop to rest. There were some settlers there in the month of May 1748, the Chicachats, our irreconcilable foes, aided by some other barbarians, suddenly attacked the post; they killed several persons, and carried thirteen into captivity. The rest escaped into the fort, in which there were at that time only a dozen soldiers. They made an attempt to attack it, but no sooner had they lost two of their people than they retreated. Their Drummer was a French deserter from the Arkansas garrison itself (Thwaits 1900:217).

Vaudreuil wrote to Rouille the following letter in September of 1749 concerning the attack at Arkansas Post.

This country unhappily being surrounded by Indians, while I was busy frustrating the evil designs of the revolted Choctaw and preventing their incursions in the lower colony, the Chickasaw and Abihka came to attack the upper colony. May 10 they attacked the French settled at the Arkansas, killed six men and made eight prisoners, both women and children...

In 1751 a new post was established on the Arkansas River. This post was under the command of M. de la Houssaye who was to remain as commandant of the post until 1753 when he was relieved of command and replaced by Sieur de Reggio. There is a possibility that Sieur de Reggio established a new post further up the river for in a letter dated July 14, 1754 Kerleric and D'Auberville give that impression as follows:

By your letter of the twenty-seventh of November last which accompanied the king's estimates for the expenses of this colony for the years 1752, 1753, and 1754, you informed us that two reasons have determined the total suppression of the funds which have been asked both for the work to be done at post of Kaskaskia and for a fort to be constructed at the Arkansas. The one reason was that the king has not yet given his approbation to the plans for these works; the other that His Majesty wishes to make a general arrangement for everything that concerns the different posts of this colony.

We do not know, Monseigneur, what may have been the reasons which have prevented your being informed by Messeurs de Vaudreuil and Michel concerning the rebuilding of the fort or the abandonment of the post of the Arkansas in 1752 and even of its removal (blank in MS) leagues higher up river.

However it may be, that establishment and transfer have none the less been made and the works in consequence paid in due time. We beg you therefore to be good enough to order the necessary funds.
According to Holder (1971:4):

The available historical evidence seems to indicate that the post was moved downstream sometime during the French and Indian War, 1755-1763, but neither the date of the move nor the location of the new fort are known. It appears that the garrison remained relatively strong during the War, for there were fifty soldiers stationed there in 1755; 37 in 1758; 40 in 1759, and 31 in 1763.

Louisiana was ceded to Spain by the Treaty of Fontainebleau in 1762, but it was not until 1771 that a permanent Spanish Governor arrived. The French were to continue the administrative duties in the area until 1769.

M. Dabbadie (1763-1764:164) noted in his journal in August of 1763 that:

M. DeCabaret, captain of the new companies, destined to replace M. Moncherveau at the Arkansas set out as at the same time to reach his destination.

In January 1764 Arkansas Post was reprovisioned, and in the same month he noted that:

I received news from the Arkansas. M. Cabaret informs me that a party of Osage savages came there to bring a calumet of peace and a belt of wampum demanding peace with the French and Quapaw (Dabbadie 1763-1764:174).

All during this year, Dabbadie was trying to convince the Indians that the English would treat them as well as the French had in the past, and in June of 1764 he again sent provisions to the Garrisons on the Arkansas and the Illinois.

In September of 1764 Dabbadie received his orders concerning the cession of the colony to the Spanish. In January 1764 he had written to the commandant of Arkansas Post the following letter:

To M. de Cabaret de Trepi, at the Arkansas, January 25, 1764: I notify you of the arrival of the English here, where they are preparing to ascend to the Illinois. Their convoy is to be of eight or nine boats which will carry four hundred and fifty men to relieve the French garrison. I recommend that you procure them the assistance they may need, especially warning them of the activities of the Indians of which you may have knowledge. Warn your Indians that the English are now our friends and that the intention of the great emperors is that we live in peace (Dabbadie 1763-1764:233).

The unsettled state of affairs is shown in his reply to the minister dated September 30, 1764:
I received the tenth of this month, by way of Santo Domingo, the dispatch with which you honored me the twenty-first of April last, to which were joined the act of cession to the King of Spain, of all that part of Louisiana which remains to us, and of the island and town of New Orleans, the act of acceptance by his Catholic Majesty and the letter of the king, containing the different arrangements that I shall have to observe in turning over to the commissary or governor of his Catholic majesty this colony when he presents himself to take possession...I received, my lord, at the same time as the first dispatch, the one you did me the honor to write the thirteenth of May last. Although I received news a few days ago from Havana, I have no knowledge of the arrival of vessels which are to transport the troops destined to come to take possession of this colony.

I shall occupy myself with arrangements for my departure as soon as I shall have placed the Spanish governor in possession. But whatever pains I may take to carry out your orders; my departure from this colony cannot be as prompt as you think. The English are not yet in possession of the Illinois, where I still keep a garrison of forty men, which I can relieve only on the arrival of the Spanish governor, whose views about the establishments which we have in the Illinois, on the right bank of the Mississippi, on the Arkansas River, at the Natchitoch, and other posts of this colony I must know. This evacuation will require at least three months; and if one finds there on the part of the Indians as much difficulty for the Spanish as for the English, this operation will require much discretion. I am warning the Indians, who express some uneasiness at it, that Spanish blood and French blood make only one; but it will be a question of making that talk count, to use the Indian idiom; and for that it will be necessary that the Spanish adopt French practices in the government of the Indians (Dabbadie 1763-1764:316).

Dabbadie in his letter worries about the shifting allegiance of the Indians to the English and the troops which are still stationed in the colony. He also worries about the French settlers who for one reason or another will want to remain in the colony and about the expenses which the crown will incur while awaiting the arrival of the Spanish regime.

Dabbadie was not to live to see the Spanish take over the Louisiana colony for he died in February of 1765. He was replaced by M. Aubry who was to govern the province until 1769 even though Ulloa had arrived in March of 1766. Ulloa received his commission directly from the King with certain provisions stated:

Don Antonio de Ulloa, captain of my royal navy. Noting your intelligence, zeal, and behavior, I have named you as governor of the province of Louisiana, ceded to me by the Most Christian King, my cousin, and consequently added to my crown. You will take possession of this province by virtue of the orders of this Soverign
which will be sent to you by my Secretary of State with the respective instructions by which you will be guided in everything.

I have decided that in this new acquisition, for the present, no change in the system of its government shall be undertaken and, consequently, that in no way shall it be subject to the laws and practices observed in my dominion of the Indies, but that it shall be regarded as a separate colony, even with respect to all trade between them. It is my will that, with the same independence from the Ministry of the Indies, its Council, and other tribunals connected with it, everything pertaining to it shall go through the Ministry of State, and that you shall give an account to me, only through this channel, of what happens relative to your duty, and that you shall receive your orders, instructions, and all that pertains to the government and administration of that new independent dominion from this ministry.

I assign to you six thousand pesos salary per year which will be paid from the allotment set aside for that province. Your receipt for this amount will be honored by the Treasurer or other minister entrusted with my royal treasury, from whom you receive the salary. Such is my will, and notice shall be taken of this decree in the general accounting offices for the disbursement from my royal treasury, and by the Council of the Indies.

Given at Aranjuez, May 21, 1765. I The King

(Kinniard 1949:II:1)

Grimaldi, who was Secretary of State, had little advice to offer Ulloa, but he sent with him 30 commissions for those French officers who had transferred to the Spanish Crown. Apparently Ulloa had trouble convincing the French troops to enlist in the services of Spain, for in May of 1766 Grimaldi told him to pay them the same wages that the Spanish troops were receiving and to try to get those whose enlistments were up to reenlist since this would be cheaper than sending more soldiers from Europe. Because the French troops would not enlist under the Spanish Crown and due to the fact that Ulloa had arrived with only ninety troops he refused to take formal possession of the province, M. Aubrey was to remain in command of the colony while the expenses were to be assumed by the Spanish Crown. In 1768 Ulloa notified Grimaldi that there were fifteen men at Arkansas Post as was the case in 1770 when the post was under the command of Desmazelieres. In 1768 Ulloa was forced to leave New Orleans due to popular unrest against the Spanish regime. He went first to Cuba and from there to Spain leaving Loyola in charge of the colony. In 1769 Loyola was replaced by Alexandro O'Reilly who arrived with troops to reestablish Spanish authority over the colony. O'Reilly arrived in New Orleans in 1769 with over 2,000 troops and immediately reestablished order in the province and required all those of French extraction to take a loyalty oath to the Spanish crown. In 1770 O'Reilly completed his mission in the province and installed Louis de Unzaga as governor of the province. Once he had returned to Spain, O'Reilly wrote a letter to Grimaldi on September 30, 1770 setting
forth his opinions on the defense of Louisiana. He states:

I repeat my idea that Louisiana does not merit defense in time of war, and that its fate will be determined in times of peace. If the King had there the troops necessary for its defense, the English would withdraw theirs in order to employ them where they could do us the most damage, without our being able afterwards to employ against them the forces we had there, on account of the lack of people in Florida and the distance from their other colonies. Therefore, I think that the governor of Louisiana should be, instructed to obtain frequent news of what is occurring in Pensacola and Mobile (which will be very easy for him).

The detachment at Arkansas, aided by the Indians of the vicinity, can always defend itself, and, when necessary retire to Natchitoches.

Madrid, September 30, 1770.

All during this time of Spanish occupation of the Western half of the Louisiana province, they were having trouble with the regulation of the commerce of the English traders on the East bank of the Mississippi. All trade with the Indians was supposed to go through Spanish hands. During this time, Arkansas Post became the center for trade with the Arkansas (Quapaw) Indians and other lesser tribes in the area, and the population of the area continued to increase. The census of 1771 for Louisiana showed 32 white males, 30 white females, 9 Negro male slaves, and 7 Negro female slaves at Arkansas.

In 1772 Captain de Leyba arrived to assume command of the post. He was followed in 1775 by Josef de Orieta who commanded the post until the following year when he was replaced by Captain de Villiers. In 1778 de Villiers was ordered by Governor Galvez to move the post to a more suitable location. This new fort may have not been built until 1781 for in that year in July, de Villiers wrote the following to Governor Galvez:

Sir: I am sending back the messenger La Prose whom M. Miro despatched to me by way of the Ouachita on the 22nd of May, last. He is accompanied by four Arkansas whom I am allowing to go down at the request of the great chief Angaslkha who is sending you a calumet in congratulation for the conquest of Pensacola. You will also be much pleased to receive from him news of the Illinois and to learn that everything is quiet here. I have received this news the 5th of this month by a piroque loaded with food that Don Francisco Cruzat sent me, and it was high time for this because my garrison had only enough for three days. The inhabitants had been out of food for a long time, and I had to help them all. On the same day I was vexed to see my couriers, whom I had sent to the Illinois on the 22nd day of June, return. However, on the 7th of this month, having joined all the packets together, I sent our two Arkansas and two Kaskaskias. The latter came in the food
piroque and assured me that they had to go by land to the Illinois in fifteen days. This pirogue went back also at the same time, and I sent to the commandant of that place a copy of the letter from the government which informs me of the capture of Pensacola.

On the second of this month there arrived at this post four Americans and the son of my interpreter, who had been held as a prisoner with his father at Natchez. They had left there sixteen days ago. The Americans were former residents of this post and I knew them. Upon their arrival they turned over to me several letters from the rebels and requested me to open them. The one which I include here comes from Stilman who knows particularly well all the environs of this post. He and several of these bandit chiefs having fled to the Chickasaws have sworn an oath between themselves to spare nothing to capture my post. Of this, one of the Americans here has been a witness.

The very next day all the inhabitants gathered to point out to me that it would be well to build a fort capable of holding their families in case of a raid by the Chickasaws joined to the bandits living with them, and they offered to make the stakes for the stockade themselves. I have taken advantage of their good will, since I also deemed that this was a good chance to construct a fort in this post which will cost the King little and will last long. It is made of red oak stakes thirteen feet high, with diameters of 10 to 15 or 16 inches, split in two and reinforced inside by similar stakes to a height of six feet and a banquette of two feet. Thus I have built a reinforced stockade around all the necessary places, including a house 45 feet long and 115 feet wide, and a storehouse, both serving a lodge my troops, and around several smaller building, all of them built at my own expense when I arrived here. The openings for the cannon and swivel guns are covered with sliding panels which are bullet proof.

Although I am quite sick, as I spare myself little, I hope that within twelve days the King will have here a solid post capable of resisting anything which may come to attack it without cannon. I even doubt whether they can take us without making a breach. I have not dared to undertake to make a moat, which is really quite necessary, for fear of increasing the expense. After having been refused the sum of forty piastres by M. Piernas for the purpose of paying for a pirogue, I should have undertaken no work of any kind had not the inhabitants helped me.

Several of the returned hunters, together with my soldiers, gives me about 70 men, but my principal guard consists of Indians scouts behind the post towards the White River. I
thought it was too exposed, ... (Balthazar de Villiers
July 11, 1781).

Spain had entered the American Revolution on the side of the Americans in 1779, but the war was not to touch Arkansas Post until 1783. In 1782 Lieutenant de Villiars replaced Captain de Villiers as commandant of Arkansas Post only to have Dubrueil arrive later in the year to assume first in command. On April 11 at 2:30 A.M. Lientenant de Villiars and his wife, who were residing outside the post, were awakened by having their front door latch shot off and they became prisoners of James Colbert and his Chickasaw allies. War had come to Arkansas Post. Colbert was unable to take the post, and only De Villiars and his wife, two of their servants, and several townspeople were taken prisoner. The assault on the stockaded post failed to achieve any results. The next day the Spanish caught up with Colbert, and he released almost all of his prisoners after a promise of random by de Villiars. For his defense of Arkansas Post, Captain Dubreuil was made an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel; and de Villiars, realizing that his military career was over because of his capture, soon retired from the army. In 1787 Captain Joseph Valiere was stationed at the post and reported that all of the cannon were useless.

Flooding on the Arkansas River in 1787 left the stockade only 18 inches from the riverbank, and in 1788 the stockade was taken by the river.

In 1790 Captain Ignace Delino de Chalmette arrived to take over the command of Arkansas Post. Delino de Chalmette arrived to see a post which was eroding into the river. Due to increased tension with the Americans and the Chickasaw, a new post was constructed in 1791. This post erected by the local inhabitants consisted of a Commandant's House, barracks, kitchen for the commandant, a bakehouse for the barracks, flag pole, and two sentry boxes. It was called San Carlos III.

The Treaty of San Lorenzo gave America the right of free navigation up the Mississippi and access to the post of New Orleans. American presence on the river placed more pressure on the Spanish, and in 1795 Charles de Villemont arrived to establish a new post on the Arkansas, Fuerte de San Estavan de Arkansas.

In 1796-97 Victor Collot made a trip down the Mississippi and Ohio River on behalf of France and the United States. His observations on Arkansas Post are as follows:

At the mouth of White River is a small post of three men, which is a detachment from that of the Arkansas. The object of this post is to stop the entrance of this river, but it can be of no use with respect to the navigation, because when the waters are low, it is separated from a channel by a great sandbank which extends more than two miles. A passage might, therefore, be effected by keeping to the left side of the river, without being seen by the post, which it must be also observed has no means of resistance.
Two ill-constructed huts, situated on the left, at a distance of seventy-five miles from the river of the Arkansas, surrounded with great palisadoes without ditch or parapet, and containing four six-pounders, bear the name of fort. The garrison entrusted with its defense, consists of a captain and fifteen men, three of whom, as we have already mentioned, form a detachment at the mouth of the White River. At the time we passed, and engineer had been sent to the post on the Arkansas with orders to build another fort or block-house (Collot 1826:30-40).

Under the terms of the Treaty of San Ildefonso, Spain agreed to cede the territory of Louisiana back to France. This was accomplished in the following year by the treaty of Madrid. The administration of the colony was to remain in Spanish hands until 1803 when a French governor assumed office in New Orleans. Later in the same year the Louisiana Territory was purchased by the United States. Francisco Case y Luengo, the Spanish commandant transferred the post to James B. Many, the representative for the United States. The transfer was effected and the following inventory made.

Inventory of San Estevan

Inventory of the edifices and effects belonging to his Catholic Majesty which exist in the fort of San Estevan de Arkansas; and which I, the Captain of the Regiment of Louisiana Don Francisco Casa y Luega delivers by superior order of the United States of America, Don Santiago Many, authorized by the Colonial Prefect, to receive them in the name of the French Republic.

One stockade, with two doors, banquettes, and esplanades, two bulwarks, with four loopholes, each one in a normal condition.

One house for the Commandant, 36 feet long, by 16 wide, with two galleries, two closets at the ends of that on the back, two apartments, one double clay chimney; covered with shingles; the whole of in a very bad condition.

One barracks, 50 feet long by 20 wide covered with shingles, planked on top, with a double clay chimney, and at the end a division which is used as a prison.

A storehouse supported on props, 45 feet long by 20 broad; covered with shingles; with a division for the war supplies. It is in a poor condition.

A kitchen for the use of the Commandant, 20 feet long by 12 broad; covered with shingles; in normal state.

An earthen oven near the fort; in normal condition.

One flagstaff in good condition.
The locks, keys, hinges, and latches respectively, for each building; in normal order.

And since these are the only buildings and effects belonging to His Catholic Majesty, of which I make delivery to the above mentioned Don Santiago B. Many, I close this inventory which I signed with him in the fort of San Estavan de Arkansas, March twenty-three, one thousand eight hundred and four.

Francisco Casa Y Luega
James B. Many
(Houck:1909:2:341-42)

Arkansas Post was now under the control of the United States as was the whole of the Mississippi Valley.

In 1805 the United States Government opened a fur trading post at Arkansas Post. John B. Treat was to be the factor at the fur factory. While Treat liked the location and had nothing but praise for the Indians, he didn't think much of the local inhabitants. He wrote to Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War that:

Although between sixty and seventy families were living in Arkansas, only one well was located in the town, "the people being too indolent to sink wells." (Peake 1954:15)

In the spring of 1810 the Arkansas Fur Factory was closed because it had been operating at a loss. The government factory could simply not compete with the local traders who were able to trade whiskey to the Indians. Between 1804 and 1819 the political boundaries within the Louisiana were in a constant state of flux. All of the area north of the present state of Louisiana was known as the Louisiana District. In 1805 the name was changed to the Territory of Louisiana, and in 1812 it was changed again to The Territory of Missouri. In 1813 the Territory of Missouri underwent a change in structure and was divided into two counties with the area which comprises present day Arkansas and Oklahoma becoming Arkansas County. This territory became known as Arkansas Territory in 1819. The town of Arkansas Post was the county seat from 1813 until 1819 at which time it became the territorial capital. At this time Arkansas was visited by the naturalist Nuttall (1821:72) who found that:

The town, or rather settlement of the Post of Arkansas, was somewhat dispersed over a prairie, nearly as elevated as that of the Chicasaw Bluffs, and containing in all between 30 to 40 houses. Ther merchants, there transacting nearly all the business of the Arkansas and White rivers, were Messrs. Braham and Drope, Mr. Lewis, and Monsieur Notrebe, who kept
well-assorted stores of merchandise, supplied chiefly from New Orleans, with the exception of some heavy articles of domestic manufacture obtained from Pittsburgh.

Nuttall (1821:72) goes on to state that:

The poverty of the land in the immediate vicinity of this place, will probably operate as a perpetual barrier to its extension. The encroachments of the river upon the precipitous and friable bank in front of the town, and the enlargement of the ravines by which it is intersected, renders the site altogether precarious, and prevents the practicability of any thing like a convenient landing for merchandise.

Even though Arkansas Post was the territorial capital, had a newspaper (The Arkansas Gazette), and was still a trading center, it was not to last. In 1821 the territorial capital was relocated to Little Rock, and this move signaled the beginning of the demise of the town. In 1819 the Town of Rome was platted to the North of Arkansas Post, but Rome was to see little development. In 1818 the town of Arkansas was plotted north of the town of Rome, and it was in this area that settlers were to remain until the late 1800s. In 1836 Arkansas became a State, and there was a resurgence at Arkansas Post when a branch of the Bank of the State of Arkansas was established at Arkansas Post. However, by 1843 the newly found prosperity had died, and the Bank was closed. The main merchant at Arkansas Post until the time of the Civil War was Frederic Notrebe who operated a plantation, trading house, and cotton gin. Like many persons following the Civil War, the Notrebe family was destitute after losing all of their holdings.

In the 1840s the railroads came to Arkansas and passed to the north of Arkansas Post. This was truly a fatal blow to the Post. In 1855 DeWitt was named the county seat and the area of Arkansas Post fell still further into oblivion. Little was to be seen by a traveler at Arkansas Post who noted in 1856 that "The town at the Post of Arkansas has gone to decay but a few remaining, the County seat having been removed (Bearass 1964:Part 1, 10).

In 1861 Arkansas Post was to become a hive of activity with the construction of Fort Hindman by the Confederate forces. In 1863 the Fort was taken by Union forces under the command of General John A. McClernand. At this time the few remaining buildings were destroyed by the Union attackers. Little occupation of the area occurred after this except for some few individuals who settled north of the Post area where the present day Park center is located.

In 1929 the area became a State Park and in 1960 it became a part of the National Park System when it was designated at The Arkansas Post National Memorial on July 6, 1960.
Little is known of the Quapaw historically. The early French travelers seemed more concerned with the Natchez to the south of the Quapaw and with those other Indians hostile to them. These accounts will be included following an overview taken from Swanton (1952:213-14):

Before the French became acquainted with this tribe (in 1673) the Quapaw had lived on Ohio River above its junction with the Wabash, and that portion of the Ohio was known as Arkansas River by the Illinois from this circumstance. It was formerly thought that the Pacaha or Capaha met by DeSoto in this part of Arkansas were the tribe in question, but it is not probable that they had left the Ohio then, and the name Capaha, the form on which the relationship is supposed to be established, is probably incorrect. In 1673 Marquette visited them and turned back at their towns without descending the Mississippi any further. LaSalle in 1682, Tonti in 1686, and all subsequent voyagers down and up the Mississippi mention them, and they soon became firm allies of the French. Shortly after Marquette's visit they were ravaged by pestilence and the Ukakhpakhti village was moved further downstream. A few years later and before 1700 the people of Tontigua moved across and settled with those of Tourima, and still later all of the towns moved from the Mississippi to the Arkansas. Le Page du Pratz (1758) encountered them about 12 miles above the entrance of White River. Sibley (1832) found them in 1805 on the south side of Arkansas River about 12 miles above Arkansas Post. By a treaty signed at St. Louis, August 24, 1818, the Quapaw ceded all their claims south of Arkansas River except a small territory between Arkansas Post and Little Rock, extending inland to Saline River. The latter was also given up in a treaty signed November 15, 1824, at Harrington's Arkansas Territory, and the tribe agreed to live in the country of the Caddo Indians. They were assigned by the Caddo a tract on Bayou Treache on the south side of Red River, but it was frequently overflowed their crops were often destroyed, and there was much sickness, and in consequence they soon returned to their old country. There they annoyed the white settlers so much that by a treaty signed May 13, 1833, the United States Government conveyed to them 150 sections of land in the extreme southeastern part of Kansas and the northeastern part of Indian Territory, to which they in turn agreed to move. February 23, 1867, they ceded their lands in Kansas and the northern part of their lands in Indian Territory. In 1877 the Ponca were brought to the Quapaw Reservation for a short time, and when they removed to their own reservation west of the Osage most of the Quapaw went with them. Still later the lands of the Quapaw were allotted in severalty and they are now citizens of Oklahoma.
Population. - Mooney (1928) estimated that in 1650 the Quapaw numbered 2,500. In 1750 Father Vivier stated that they had about 400 warriors or about 1400 souls. In 1766, however, the British Indian Agent, John Stuart, reported that they had but 220 gunmen. Porter estimated that the total Quapaw population in 1829 was 500. In 1843 it was 476. In 1885 there were 120 on the Osage Reservation and 54 on the Quapaw Reservation, and in 1890, 198 on both. The census of 1910 gave 231, but the Indian Office Report of 1916, 333, and that of 1923, 347. The census of 1930 returned 222.

The first description of the Arkansas Indians is given by Father Marquette in 1673. Marquette's account, entitled The Voyages and Discoveries of Father Marquette in the Valley of the Mississippi, prepared for publication by Father Claudius Dablon in 1678, was first translated by John Gilmary Shea and included in Shea's Discoveries and Explorations of the Mississippi (1852). It was also included in a work entitled Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Vol. 1, 1903 (H. W. Beckwith, editor). It is this edition which has been used for Marquette's descriptions.

We embarked next morning with our interpreter preceded by ten Indians in a canoe. Having arrived about half a league from Akamsea (Arkansas), we saw two canoes coming toward us. The commander was standing up holding in his hand the calumet, with which he made signs according to the custom of the country; he approached us, singing quite agreeably, and invited us to smoke, after which he presented us some sagamity and bread made of Indian corn, of which we ate a little. He now took the lead, making us signs to follow slowly. Meanwhile they had prepared us a place under the war-chief's scaffold; it was neat and carpeted with fine rush mats, on which they made us sit down, having around us immediately the sachems, then the braves, and last of all, the people in crowds (Beckwith, editor 1903:36-37).

We then ask them what they knew of the sea; they replied that we were only ten days' journey from it (we could have made this distance in five days); that they did not know the nations who inhabited it, because their enemies prevented their commerce with these Europeans; that the hatchets, knives, and beads, which we saw were sold them, partly by nations to the east, and partly by an Illinois town four days' journey to the west; that the Indians with fire-arms whom we had met, were their enemies who cut off their passage to the sea, and prevented their making the acquaintance of the Europeans, or having any commerce with them; that, besides, we should expose ourselves greatly by passing on, in consequence of the continual warparties that their
enemies sent out on the river, since being armed and used to war, we could not, without evident danger, advance on that river which they constantly occupy.

During this converse, they kept continually bringing us in wooden dishes of sagamity, Indian corn whole, or pieces of dog flesh; the whole day was spent in feasting.

These Indians are very courteous and liberal of what they have, but they are very poorly off for food, not daring to go hunt the wild-cattle, for fear of their enemies. It is true, they have Indian corn in abundance, which they sow at all seasons; we saw some ripe; more just sprouting, and more just in the ear, so that they sow three crops a year. They cook it in large earthen pots, which are very well made; they have also plates of baked earth, which they employ for various purposes. The men go naked, and wear their hair short; they have the nose and ears pierced, and beads hanging from them. The women are dressed in wretched skins; they braid their hair in two plaits, which falls behind their ears; they have no ornaments to decorate their persons. Their banquets are without any ceremonies; they serve their meat in large dishes, and everyone eats as much as he pleases, and they give the rest to one another. Their language is extremely difficult, and with all my efforts, I could not succeed in pronouncing some words. Their cabins, which are long and wide, are made of bark; they sleep at the two extremities, which are raised about two feet from the ground. They keep their corn in large baskets, made of cane, or in gourds, as large as half barrels. They do not know what a beaver is; their riches consisting in the hides of wild cattle. They never see snow, and know winter only by the rain which falls oftener than in summer. We eat no fruit there but watermelons; if they knew how to cultivate their ground, they might have plenty of all kinds (pp.37-38).

The next contact with the Arkansas Indians was in 1682 and is detailed in the Proces Verbal of LaSalle entitled "Of the Taking of Louisiana, at the Mouth of the Mississippi, by the Sieur de la Salle, in the 9th of April 1682". This document is also found in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Vol. 1, 1903, pp. 106-13 (H. W. Beckwith, ed.).

On the 12 of March, we arrived at the Kapaha village of Akansas. Having established a peace there, and taken possession, we passed, on the 15th, another of their villages, situated on the border of the river, and also two others, farther off in the depth of the forest, and arrived at that of Imaha, the largest village in this nation, where peace was confirmed, and where the chief
acknowledged that the village belonged to his Majesty. Two Arkansas embarked with M. de la Salle to conduct him to the Talusas, their allies, about 50 leagues distant, who inhabit eight villages upon the borders of a little lake (Beckwith, editor:1903:109).

La Salle's Lieutenant Tonti also wrote a memoir of their trip down the Mississippi River. Although he suggested that they contacted the Arkansas Indians in 1681, it in reality may have been a year later in 1682. His memoir was not written until 1693 and is entitled "Memoir Send in in 1693, on the Discovery of the Mississippi and the Neighboring Nations by M. de la Salle, from the Year 1678 to the Time of His Death, and by the Sieur de Tonty to the Year 1691". The document was originally published in a work entitled Discovery of the Mississippi by Thomas Falconer in 1844. It was also included in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Vol. 1, 1903, pp. 128-164, H. W. Beckwith (ed).

M. de la Salle sent back one of them with presents to his village, so that, if they had taken Prudhomme they might send him back, but we found him on the tenth day, and as the Chikasas did not return, we continued our route as far as the village of Cappa, 50 leagues off. We arrived there in foggy weather, and as we heard the sound of the Tambour we crossed over to the other side of the river, where in less than half an hour we made a fort. The savages having been informed that we were coming down the river, came in their canoes to look for us. We made them land, and sent two Frenchmen as hostages to their village, the chief visited us with the calumet, and we went to see the savages. They regaled us with the best they had, and after having danced the calumet to M. de la Salle, they conducted us to their village of Toyengan, eight leagues from Cappa. They received us there in the same manner, and from thence they went with us to Toriman, two leagues further on, where we met with the same reception.

It must be remarked here that these villages, the first of which is Osotony, are six leagues to the right descending the river, and are commonly called Akancas (Arkansas). The three first villages are situated on the great river (Mississippi). M. de la Salle erected the arms of the king there; they have cabins made with the bark of cedar; they have no other worship than the adoration of all sorts of animals. Their country is very beautiful, having abundance of peach, plum and apple trees, and vines flourish there; buffaloes, deer, stags, bears, turkeys, are very numerous. They have even domestic fowls. They have very little snow during the winter, and the ice is not thicker than a dollar. They gave us guides to conduct us to their allies, the Taencas, six leagues distant (Beckwith, editor 1903).
Many of the accounts given by Tonti agree with those of the process Verbal of La Salle so it is more than likely that the visit in the above passage was in 1682.

Tonti states that they visited the Arkansas Indians upon their return upriver but he does not describe them. In 1686 Tonti again returned to the area in search of LaSalle and established a post among the Arkansas Indians, but he does not describe them in any manner at this time.

The next description of the Arkansas Indians is that of Joutel who was with La Salle on his last voyage down the Mississippi River in 1684. La Salle was murdered by his men in March of 1687. Henri Joutel and the other members of the party separated from the murderers and made their way back to Canada arriving in Quebec in August 1688. Joutel's Journal was originally printed in French in 1713 and in English in 1714. I have used the March of America Facsimile Series, Vol. 31, University Microfilms, 1966.

Joutel (1966:155-61) and his men had succeeded in reaching the post which Tonti had established the year before and it was the Indians near the post which they described.

The Nation of the Accancea's confifts of four villages. The first is call'd Otfootchave, near which we were; the second Toriman, both of them feated on the river; the third Tonginga; and the fourth Cappa, on the Bank of the Mif sippi. Thefe Villages are built after a diferent Manner from the others we had feen before, in this point, that the Cottages, which are alike as to their Materials, and Rounding at the Top, are long, and cover'd with the Bark of Trees, and fo very large, that feveral of them cam hold two hundred Perfons, belonging to feveral Families.

The people are not fo near as the Cenis, or the Affonis in their Houfes, and fome of them lie on the Ground, without any Thing under them but fome Mats, or a dreß'd Hide. However, fome of them have more Conveniences, but the Generality has not. All their Moveables confift in fome Earthen Veffels and oval wooden Platters, which are neatly made, and with which they drive a Trade.

They are generally very well fhap'd and active; the Women are handfome, or at leaft have a much better Preference than thofe of the other Villages we pafs'd thro' before. They make Canoes all on one Piece, which are well wrought. As for themselves they are very faithful, good natur'd, and Warriors like the reft.

The 25th, the Elders being afsembled, came to fee us, and told the Sieur Couture, that they defign'd to fing and dance the
Calumet, or Pipe; because the others had fung it, some of them to the late Monfieur de la Sale, and the rest to Monfieur Tonty, and therefore it was but reasonable they should do the same to get a Firelock, as well as the others. Monfieur Cavelier was inform'd of it, and it was requisite to consent to it, to please those Indians, because we stood in need of them.

The Ceremony began with Monfieur Cavelier, who was led under the Arms and seated on a Hide, without the Cottage. The Forks, the Skins laid on it in Honor of the Pipe, the Singing as loud as they cou'd roar, both by Men and Women, and all the other Ceremonies were observ'd, as I have mention'd them before; so that Monfieur Cavelier being weary of them, he caus'd the Chief to be told, that he was out of order and defir'd his Nephew might be put in his Place, which was done accordingly, and they spent the whole Night in Singing, In the Morning they perform'd some other Ceremonies, not worth relating.

The Solemnity being ended, by every Man's smoking of the Pipe, then Indians took it, with some Bullocks Hides, and Goats and Otters Skins, and a Collar made of Shells, all which they carry'd to our House, and we gave them a Firelock, two Axes, six Knives, one hundred Charges of Powder, as much Ball, and some Strings of Beads for their Wives.

We embark'd on a Canoe belonging to one of the Chiefs, being at least twenty Persons, as well Women as Men, and arriv'd safe, without any trouble, as a Village call'd Toriman, for we were going down the River. We propos'd it to these people, or rather demanded it of them to confirm what had been granted us by the others, and they referr'd giving us their Anser till the next day; for they do Nothing without consulting about it, and we having brought a Sack of Indian Wheat, from the French Mans House, defir'd the Chief to cause Women to pound it, for which we would give them Something. Immediately he made a Sign to his Officers to go call them, and they went as readily.

There were seven or eight of those Officers always about him, stark naked and bemear'd, some after one fashion, and others after another. Each of them had three or four Calabashes or Gourds, hanging at a Leather Girdle about their Waists, in which there were several Pebbles, and behind them hung a Horse's Tail, so that when they ran, the Gourds made a ratling Noise, and the Tail being borne up by the Wind, stood out at its full Length, so that Nothing could be seen more ridiculous; but it behooved us to take Heed of shewing the least Smile.
The remaining Part of the Day was spent in going with the Sieur Couture to see the fatal River so much fought after by us, called Colbert, when first discover'd, and Miffipii or Mechaffipii by the Natives that were near us. It is a very fine River and deep, the Breadth of it about a quarter of a League, and the Stream very rapid. The Sieur Couture assured us, that it has two Branches or Channels, which parted from each other above us, and that we had pass'd its other Branch, when we came to the first Village of the Accances's, with which Nationan we still were.

The 28th, the Chief and the Elders being assembled, they granted our requests. We were to part, in order to be entertained in several Places, where we took Notice of some particular Ceremonies, which we had not seen among the other Nations. One of them is, that they serve up their Meat in two or four large Dishes, which are set down before the two Principal Guests, who are at one End, and when they have eaten a little, those Dishes are show'd down lower and others are served up in their Place, in the same Manner; so that the first Dishes are served at the upper End and thrust down lower as others come in.

He who treats, does not sit down with the Company, nor does he eat, but performs the Part of a Steward, taking Care of the Dressing and of the Placing of the Meat serv'd up; and to the End he may appear the finer, he never fails to besmear himself with Clay, or some red or black Colouring they make use of.

The 29th, we set out from that Village, and embark'd on two Canoes to cross the Miffipi. The Chief and about a Score of young Folks bore us Company to the next Village call'd Tonningua, seated on the bank of that River, where we were receiv'd in the Chief's Cottage, as we had been in the others. The Elders treated us in their Turns, and the Descriptions before given will serve for this Place, there being but little Difference between them and their Neighbors.

The 30th, we set out for Cappa, the last Village of the Accancea's, eight Leagues distant from the Place we had left.

We were obliged to cross the River Miffipii several times in this Way, because it winds very much, and we had some foul Weather, which made it late before we could reach Cappa. A great Number of Youth came to meet us, some of them conducted us to the Chief's Cottage, and others took Care of our Baggage, which was restor'd to us very honestly. We found the Elders waiting for us; a great Fire was kindled to dry us, and the Cottage was lighted by several burning Reeds, which they make use of instead of Flambeaus; after which we were serv'd as in other places.
The 31st, we receiv'd Vifits from the Elders. Their Difcourse ran upon the War they defign'd to make, thinking to ingage us in it, and we return'd the fame Answer as we had done to the others, that we would foon return with all Things we ftood in need of. We ask'd a Man of them, which was granted, and the Day ended in Feafting.

We would willingly have fet out the Firft of August; but the Chief came and told us, it could not be, becaufet the Women had not pounded our Corn, which was however done; but they made ufe of that Pretence to oblige us to ftay, and to have Leifure to give us fome Diverfion, after their Manner. Accordingly, about Ten in the morning, the Warriors and Youth came together to Dance. They were drefs'd after their beft Manner, fome of them wearing Plumes of feveral Colours, wherewith they adorn their Heads, others inftead of Feathers, had two Bullocks Horns, and were all befmeard with Clay, or Black and Red, fo that they really look'd like a Company of Devils or Monfters, and in thofe Figures they danc'd as I have defrib'd it, fpeaking of the other Nations.

On the second of August Joutel left the Arkansas for the country of the Illinois. During this trip four of the Arkansas Indians accompanied him, and he describes some more of their cultural practices. The first description related his killing of a buffalo on the seventh of August.

We proceeded on, continually undergoing the fame Toil, till the Seventh, when, we faw the firft Bullock, we had met on our way fince our coming among the Accannea's. The Indians, who had a great Mind to eat Flefh, made a Sign to me, to go kill it. I Purfu'd and Shot, but it did not fall, the Indians ran after, kill'd, and came to tell us it muft be parch'd, or dry'd, which was accordingly done. I muft here take Notice of a Ceremony our Indians perform'd when they came near the Bullock, before they flead him.

In the firft Place, they adorn'd his Head with fome Swans and Buftards Down, dy'd red, and put fome Tabacco into his Nostrils, and between the Clefts of the Hoofs. When they had flead him, they cut out the Tongue, and put a Bit of Tabacco into its Place; then they ftuck two Wooden Forks into the Ground, laid a Stick acrofs them on which they plac'd feveral Slices of the Flefh, in the Nature of an Offering. The Ceremony being ended, we parch'd or dry'd the beft Parts of the Beaft and proceeded on our Journey (Joutel 1966:162).

The next two ceremonics were observed on the 19th when Joutel's party passed the mouth of the Houabache River.

The 19th, we came to the Mouth of the River, call'd Houabache, faid to come from the Country of the Iroquois, towards New England. That is a very fine River, its Water extrodinary clear,
and the Current of it, gentle. Our Indians offer'd up to it by Way of Sacrifice, some Tobacco and Beef Steaks, which they fix'd on Forks, and left them on the Bank, to be dispos'd of as the River thought fit. We observ'd some other Superstitions among those poor People, one whereof was as follows:

There were some certain Days, on which they fasted, and we knew them, when after as they awak'd, they befmeared their Faces and Arms, or other Parts of their Bodies, with a slimy Sort of Earth, or pounded Charcoal; for that Day they did not eat till Ten or Eleven of the Clock at Night, and before they did eat they were to wipe off that Smearing, and had Water brought them for that Purpofe. The Occasion of their Fasting was, as they gave us to understand, that they might have good Success in Hunting, and kill Abundance of Bullocks (Joutel 1966:163).

Father Pierre de Charlevoix was the next visitor to the Indians on the Arkansas. He visited them in 1721. His description of his travels was published in English in London in 1761. For the purposes of this report I have used the March of America Fascimile Series, vol. 36, University Microfilms, 1966. This is a copy of his work which was entitled Journal of a Voyage to North America. Father Charlevoix went down the river to New Orleans and sailed from there by ship to Europe. Therefore we have his brief descriptions gathered while going downriver.

At length I arrived at the first village of the Akanfas on the second of December about ten o'clock in the morning. This village stands in a small meadow on the western bank of the Miffiffippi. There are three others within the space of eight leagues, every one of which contains a nation or particular tribe, and in one of the four there are even two tribes, but all of them are comprehended under the general name of the Akanfas. The Indians inhabiting the village where I am now revifting, are called Ouyapes. The western company have here a magazine or warehouse at which goods are soon expected, and they have likewise a factor here who is very uneasy at being obliged to wait for them so long.

The river divides at the distance of seven leagues above the second and last of its mouths, and at the distance of two leagues only, above the first. A fine river, called the White River, falls into it. Two leagues higher up are the Torimans and Topingas, who inhabit one village. Two leagues farther are the Southouis. The Kappas are situated a little higher up. This nation was very numerous in the time of Ferdinand de Soto, nor had they much decreased when M. de la Sale discovered the Miffiffippi. Opposite to their village may be seen the melancholy ruins of Mr. Law's grant, of which the company now remain the proprietors.
I found the village of the Ouyapes in the greatest defolation. Some time ago, a Frenchman passing this way was taken ill of the small-pox: the infection was at first communicated to a few of the Indians, and soon after to the whole canton. The burial-place appeared like a wood of flakes and posts newly erected, on which was suspended almost every thing in use among these barbarians.

I pitched my tent pretty near the village, and all the night I heard nothing but weeping, in which the men joined as well as the women, incessantly repeating the word nibabani, as I have heard it among the Illinois, and pretty much in the same tone. The evening before, I saw a woman weeping over her son's grave, and pouring a great quantity of fagamity upon it. Another had lighted a fire beside a neighboring tomb, probably in order to warm the deceased person.

The Akanfas are reckoned the largest and handsomest men of all the Indians of this continent, and are called by way of distinction les beaux hommes, or the handsome men (Charlevoix 1966:246-48).

The next description of the Arkansas Indians is not until 1819, almost 100 years later. Many travelers went up and down the Mississippi River, but none of them described the Indians in detail until Thomas Nuttall did so in his book entitled A Journal of Travels into the Arkansas Territory, During the Year 1819. This work was originally published by Thomas M. Palmer in Philadelphia in 1821. I have used the March of America Facsimile Series, vol. 63, University Microfilms 1966 as a source for this report.

The aborigines of this territory, now commonly called Arkansas or Quapaws and Osarks, do not at this time number more than 200 warriors (p. 82).

In a council held with the Quapaws some years ago, concerning the boundaries of the lands which they claimed, a very old chieftain related to the agent, that at a very remote period his nation had descended the Mississippi, and after having proceeded in one body to the entrance of a large and muddy river (the Missouri), they had there divided, one party continuing down the Mississippi, and the other up the miry river. The descending band were checked in their progress by the Kaskaskias, whose opposition they at length subdued. In their further descent they were harassed by the Chicasaws and Choctaws, and waged war with them for some considerable time, but, at length, overcoming all opposition, they obtained the banks of the Arkansas, where they have remained ever since. Some of them, reverting apparently to the period of creation,
say, that they originally emerged out of the water, but made many long and circuitous journeys upon that element, previous to their arrival on the banks of this river.

As their language scarcely differs from that of the Osages, Kanzas, Mahas, and Poncas of the Missouri, it is presumed that these sprung from the band which ascended the Missouri.

The complexion of the Quapaws, like that of the Choctaws and Creeks, is dark, and destitute of any thing like the supreous tinge. The symmetry of their features, mostly aquiline, often amounts to beauty, but they are not to be compared in this respect to the Osages, at least those of them which now remain.

They employ artificial means to eradicate that pubescence from their bodies, which is, indeed naturally scanty. The angle of the eye is usually elongated, but never turned up exteriorly, as it is said, in common with the Tartars, by Humboldt, to be the case with the Mexicans.

Although they may be said to be taciturn, compared with Frenchmen, their passions are not difficult to excite.

As hunters they are industrious, but pay little attention to agriculture; and pleased by intercourse with the whites, they are not unwilling to engage as boatmen and hunters (pp. 82-84).

The social regulations, as well as the superstitions entertained by the Quapaws, are no way materially distinct from those which are practiced by their eastern and northern neighbors. The most simple testimonies of attachment, without the aid of solemn vows, are thought sufficient to complete a conjugal felicity, which, where all are equal, in wealth and property, can only be instigated through the desire of personal gratification or mutual attachment, and can but seldom be attended with that coldness and disgust, which is but too common, where this sacred tie is knit by avarice. Neither is this contract controlled by any unnatural and overruling policy. The obligation to decorum and the essential ties of society are not abandoned by the Indian, in consequence of this being freed from that perpetual restraint, which appears to have been the requisite in civilized society. The father can recall his daughter from the habitation of one who has rendered himself odious to this child. The husband can abandon the wife who has made herself obnoxious to his house and family. They are only united by the bonds of mutual esteem and reciprocal friendship; they will of course, endeavour to deserve it of each other, as affording a gratification to themselves no less than to their parents and relatives.
As the marriage is never ostentatious, or strictly ceremonious, so its disavowal, when not induced by any thing flagrant, is not a matter to alarm the repose of society. The male children go with the father, the females attend upon the mother. Children, however begotten, are dear to a society ever on the brink of extermination.

That many ceremonies, more than the celebration of a frugal and sober feast, are constantly practised by any of the natives of this country, is much more than satisfactorily provided. Among the Quapaws, I have been informed, that the husband, on the consummation of his marriage, presents his wife with the leg of a deer, and she, in return, offers him an ear of maize, both of which are so many symbols of that provision against the calls of necessity, which they are mutually accustomed to provide.

The young and unmarried women of the Quapaws, according to a custom equally prevalent among many other tribes of Indians, wear their hair braided up into two parts, brought round to either ear in a cylindric form, and decorated with beads, wampum, or silver. After marriage these locks are all unfolded, the decorations laid aside for her daughters, and her hair, brought together behind in a single lock, becomes no longer an assiduous object of ornament. According to the History of the Costume of all Nations, this manner of braiding the hair appears to have been equally prevalent among the women of Siberia, Tartary, Turkey, and China. As an expression of the greatest grief and misfortune, anciently practised by many other nations of the world, I have amongst the aborigines of the Missouri, not unfrequently seen both men and women shave away their hair. It is not, however, I believe, practised by the Quapaws and Osages.

The ideas of supernatural agency, entertained by the Arkansas, are very similar to those which prevail among the natives of the Missouri. Every family, for example, chooses it penates, or guardian spirit, from among those various objects of creation, which are remarkable for their sagacity, their utility, or power. Some will perhaps choose a snake, a buffaloe, an owl, or a raven; and many of them venerate the eagle to that degree, that if one of those birds should happen to be killed during an expedition, the whole party immediately return home. The large feathers of the war-eagle, which they consider talismanic, are sometimes distributed throughout the nation, as sacred presents, which are expected to act as sovereign charms to those who wear them.

The cure of diseases, though sometimes attempted with rational applications, is not unfrequently sought, among the Quapaws, and many other natives of the continent, in charms and jugglery.

As to the future state, in which they are firm believers, their ideas are merely deduced from what they see around them. Their heaven for hunters is at least as rational as that of some of our own fanatics.
For some considerable time after the interment of a warrior and hunter, his grave is frequented with provision, which if still remaining after a reasonable lapse of time, is considered as a sure presage that the deceased has arrived at a bountiful hunting ground, and needs no further supply from the earth.

The Quapaws, though no greater proficients in music than the rest of the Indians, have, however, songs appropriated to love, to death, and to battle, but which are merely so many simultaneous effusions of the heart, accompanied by rude and characteristic airs and dances.

It is hardly necessary to detail the dress of the Arkansas, which scarcely, to my view, in any respect, differs from that of the Delawares, Shawnees, or Chipeways. Its component parts are, as usual, moccasins for the feet; leggings which cover the leg and thigh; a breech-cloth; an overall or hunting shirt, seamed up, and slipped over the head; all of which articles are made of leather, softly dressed by means of fat and oily substances, and often rendered more durable by the smoke with which they are purposely imbued. The ears and nose are adorned with pendants, and the men, as among many other Indian tribes, and after the manner of the Chinese, carefully cut away the hair of the head, except a lock on the crown, which is plaited and ornamented with rings, wampun, and feathers. Many of them, in imitation of the Canadian French, wear handkerchiefs around their heads, but in the manner of a turban. Some have also acquired the habit of wearing printed claicoe shirts next to the skin.

The younger Indians, as I am informed, notwithstanding the neglect of renewing their dress, are so partial to cleanliness of the skin, that they practice bathing both winter and summer (pp. 86-89).
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Villages:
Imaha
Tongiqua
Tourima
Ukakhpakhi
Uzutihi
Taken from Hodge (1959) and other Historical Sources.
Arkansas Post has had a long and varied historical impact on the history of explorations in the Mississippi Valley. It was the site of the first French settlement on the lower Mississippi Valley and as such was important to the area both politically and economically. It was the center for the western fur trade in the late seventeenth and early and mid part of the eighteenth centuries. It also functioned as a deterrent to both English and Spanish expansion in the area during the latter half of the eighteenth century. Following the cession of the area to Spain in 1762, it became an important post in the closing of the river to American commerce by the Spanish crown. Arkansas Post also marked the northern limit of the Spanish holdings on the Mississippi River. Following the purchase of Louisiana by the United States Government in 1804, the post continued to prosper since it remained an important trading center for the fur trade as well as a center for river traffic on the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers. During the American Civil War, the post again became important to the Mississippi Valley in that control of it allowed for the control of the Arkansas River both at its mouth and upstream.

Archaeologically, the post is of importance in that it is the meeting point of three distinct European cultures - the French, Spanish, and English. Arkansas Post provides the archaeologist an ideal laboratory to look into the interactions of these cultures over an extended period of time. Excavations at the post should be designed to provide insights into construction techniques, both civil and military. Excavations should also give us an insight into life on the frontier in the early part of the eighteenth century and later times when the area became less isolated and more cosmopolitan. Excavations at Arkansas Post also should provide us with a detailed look at a typical river town of the early part of the nineteenth century. Intensive field work should also provide the archaeologist and the historian a picture of the flow of trade up and down the Mississippi River from New Orleans to the Post and from St. Louis to the post and back again. We should be able to ascertain the amount of trade originating from the home countries of each ethnic group which occupied the Post. These trade patterns will in turn give us a closer insight into the actual economic and political events which occurred in the Mississippi valley through time. Again, Arkansas Post is unique in the Mississippi Valley in that it is the one site where we have the inter-meshing of three distinct cultures in the area. It is also of particular significance in the Bicentennial Year in that it is the only site west of the Mississippi River in which a Revolutionary War battle was fought. Future work at the Post should enable the archaeologist to put together a more precise picture of the political, economic, and military operations of the three major powers who were in the Mississippi Valley in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
The first archaeological work done in the area of Arkansas Post was done by Edward Palmer under the direction of Cyrus Thomas who published these efforts in a report entitled *Report of the Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology*. This was the twelfth annual report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and concerned field work done in 1890 and 1891. Thomas had the following to say about the site.

Fig. 148 represents an ancient fort on what is known as the "Turner Place." It is near the Arkansas River, which formerly ran within 400 yards of this fortification. Although evidently constructed by whites its history is unknown to the people of that section, who have the usual tradition of its being the work of DeSoto and his army. It was probably built by the French to protect a trading post. As confirmatory of this theory there is a ridge near by on which are found the indications of houses such as were built by the whites.

Trees a foot through were cut from it twenty-two years ago; but Dr. Palmer was informed by Mr. Bezzell, who lives nearby, that thirty-six years ago the trees now growing on the new-made lands along the river, some of which are 3 feet in diameter were small saplings.

The fort is square, measuring 150 yards from side to side. On the west side extends a graded or covered pathway a distance of 250 yards, ending near the former bank of the river. The height of the wall of the fort is at present 4 feet. In one corner, as shown in the figure, is a hole 6 feet deep supposed to be the site of the magazine.

The articles picked up here from time to time and found in the process of cultivating the soil belong to the days of the first settlement of the country and to very modern times. They are thimbles, pipes, broken dishes, parts of pistols and guns, pieces of silver coin, probably used as gun sights, a Chinese coin, a toy pistol of stone, articles of Indian origin, stone bullet molds, etc. The remains of an old forge were uncovered here a few years ago (Thomas 1894:237-39).

This site was not found again until 1971 when it was located by Burney McClurkan of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey. McClurken's report indicated that the site belonged in the first half of the eighteenth century and more likely to a time period of 1735-1750 (McClurken 1972:32). Looking at the illustrations in the report, I can see no material which has not been found at the Fortress of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, which has a
time span of 1722-1758. The site contains both Spanish and French ceramics of the time period and English and French wine bottle fragments. Unfortunately the Mississippi River rose over 20 feet in December in 1971 and removed what was left of the fort.

Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951) were the next people to work in the vicinity of Arkansas Post. They were not concerned with the area which we know now as Arkansas Post, but they did attempt to identify the Quapaw villages mentioned in the historical records. They found no evidence of European contact on any of the sites which they thought might have possibly been the location of these villages.

The first work within the confines of the present Memorial was performed by Dr. Preston Holder in the fall of 1956 and spring of 1957. Holder succeeded in locating the remains of several structures which he believed dated between 1751 and 1804. He found what he considered evidence for the French Post which was constructed in 1751, the first and second posts of San Carlos which were built in 1779 and rebuilt prior to 1787, the third Fort San Carlos III which was built in 1787, and two brick structures belonging to the early part of the American Period of occupation.

Holder found over 150 sherds of French faience, the majority of which are Rouen. Noel-Hume (1970) feels that these materials date from a Revolutionary War context when found in North American sites in the United States. Holder also found five sherds of Puebla Blue on White which he felt might have been evidence for the Spanish occupation of the site. Again this type of ceramic runs into the nineteenth century, and I do not believe 5 sherds warrant the assumption the site of the late Spanish occupation was located.

The next work to be done in the area was carried out under the direction of Rex L. Wilson in 1966. Wilson using the historical data then available delineated several structures. Only one of them could be proven. Wilson thought that he had located

1. Frederick Notrebe's Cotton Gin,
2. Notrebe's residence and store,
3. Notrebe's Warehouse,

The only building which has been documented positively is the Arkansas Post Branch of the Bank of the State of Arkansas. All of the materials which Wilson found during the course of his excavations date to the end of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth. None of Wilson's statements concerning the identity of the structures he found have been substantiated either historically or archaeologically except for the bank building.
In 1970 John W. Walker excavated the Bank of Arkansas. His findings correlated well with the historical specifications for the construction of the building and lent added proof to the hypothesis that this structure was indeed the Bank building.

According to Walker (1971:25):

Complete excavation of the structure uncovered trenches showing that the exterior dimensions of the structure were 30 feet 8 inches by 60 feet 8 inches, precisely the measurements specified in the invitation for the bids.

There is little doubt that Walker found the Bank building at Arkansas Post. Thus we had the first building located on a known lot and documented both by archaeological and historical information.

In 1971 the University of Arkansas held its field school at Arkansas Post with the excavation being under the direction of Dr. Michael Hoffman and Pat Martin then a graduate student at the University. During this time they attempted to locate the remains of Montgomery's Tavern located on Block 27. The tavern is of historical significance in that it was the location of the first meeting of the Arkansas General Assembly in 1820. These excavations, while not delineating any buildings in the lot, did delineate several areas which seem to have been surrounded by palisade lines. The material found in the course of the excavations would seem to indicate that Martin was in the correct area for the location of Montgomery's Tavern. Further research in this area should be able to define his conclusions more strongly.

The last work performed at Arkansas Post was carried out by the author in 1974. Excavations were carried out north of the pond to determine whether or not the proposed visitors center would destroy anything of archaeological significance. Only in one area was evidence of a significant nineteenth century occupation found. This was in an overflow lot. Excavations there revealed a hearth and possible fence lines for an early nineteenth century structure.

An attempt was made to delineate Main Street, but it was unsuccessful. Judging from aerials made available subsequent to the excavations it may be possible to locate Main Street in an area further to the north of the 1974 attempt.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK AT ARKANSAS POST

Before any excavation is undertaken a survey should be made with a resistivity meter of the whole area south of the pond in an attempt to locate lot lines and street boundaries. Since these were usually circumscribed by fences and palisades they should become evident on a resistivity survey.

A protonmagnetometer survey should also be made over the area which is now underwater where Fort Hindman and Fort San Carlos were located. While it is highly unlikely that any significant portions of these structures are still intact, it is conceivable that anomalies which may be the remains of sunken river craft, jetties, or docks which were part of the River Post of Arkansas Post will come to light.

Following the magnetometer survey, an effort should be made to locate Main Street. The aerials in combination with the resistivity survey should allow this to be done with relative ease (fig. 4). Once Main Street has been located, further test excavations should allow one to delineate all of the streets that made up Arkansas Post. This should be done with markers above ground indicating the lot corners.

Following this each individual block can be excavated in its entirety. In the past excavation had proceeded on a hit and miss basis with the results being somewhat disappointing to say the least. The simple outline of a living structure tells us little about the daily events in a community. Kitchens, wells, privies, and smoke houses must be found and delineated to give both the archaeologist and the historian, as well as the general public, an insight into the lifeways of their forebearers.

A reexcavation needs to take place in the area of Holder's excavations. His conclusions are far too tenuous to locate any of the French or Spanish occupations in the area which he designated. If Martin (1971) is correct in his assumption that Holder's finds are in actuality lot lines and Spanish land grant markers, the whole question of the location of the Spanish and French occupations of the area has to be reopened. Therefore the following priorities should be followed in the event of any future work at Arkansas Post.

1. Magnetometer and Resistivity surveys of both the land and the water area.

2. Delineation of street system based on archaeological testing, aerial photography, and the results of the magnetometer survey.

3. Excavation over an extended period of time of several blocks in the area of the town. Notrebe's complex of buildings probably are those which would furnish both the archaeologist and the public the most information for the money spent.
FIG. 4. Aerial Photograph of Arkansas Post.
4. An extensive and intensive reexcavation of the areas in which Holder worked.

5. A survey along Lake Dummond and Big Island in order to locate the earlier posts which were established down-stream from where the present post is located and acquisition of the property by the National Park Service if possible. We have already lost one post to the river (Ft. Deshea), and further loss should be prevented if at all possible. Faye feels that several of the posts are in the vicinity of Lake Dummond and this should be one of the primary areas of interest. If feasible, further excavations should take place at the Menard Mounds site in order to be sure as to the possibility that Tonty's first post was located there.
MATERIALS FROM ARKANSAS POST

Holder, Preston

Collections from Holder's excavations in 1955 and 1957 are located at the Arkansas Archeological Survey, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Wilson, Rex

Collections from Wilson's excavations in 1966 are located at the Arkansas Archeological Survey, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Walker, John

Collections from Walker's excavations in 1968 are located at the Arkansas Archeological Survey, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Martin, Pat

Collections from Martin's excavations in 1971 are located at the Arkansas Archeological Survey, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Westbury, William

Collections from Westbury's excavations in 1974 are located at the Department of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

Arkansas Post County Museum

A few documents as well as artifacts picked up over the years on the post are located at the Arkansas Post County Museum, Gillett, Arkansas.

All of the collections from Arkansas Post contain basically the same materials, i.e., ceramics dating from the last part of the eighteenth century and the first quarter of the nineteenth. Generally, they are of English manufacture; however, Holder's excavations did contain a few pieces of Spanish and French wares which may date of the mid part of the eighteenth century.

Generally the ceramic collections are made up of creamwares, pearlwares, banded wares, and stone wares covered with various glazes. No collection has distinctly identified any particular time period or specific cultural component on the site. Eighteenth century French faience has been found side by side with pearlwares and ironstone which are distinctly later in time. The collections while not particularly large have yet to be analyzed in any great detail.

These contain typed copies of the original documents and translations of them. A few concern the settlement at Arkansas Post.


These contain the journal of M. Dabbadie as well as various letters which concern Arkansas Post and its inhabitants.


This collection contains letters and journals covering both Arkansas Post and the Quapaw.


Contains copies of documents relating to trade and political changes in the Illinois country.


By far the best work on the changes in land ownership and individual holdings at Arkansas Post, the report also covers the towns of Rome and Arkansas as well as Spanish land grants and public buildings in the area.


This volume contains translations of many of the writings and journals of Marquette, LaSalle, Hennepin, Tonty, and G. R. Clark - all of whom influenced the settlement of the lower part of the Mississippi Valley.


Descriptions of the countryside and the various peoples which Bossu met on his journey, this volume basically is a written travelogue.

Charlevoix's journal of his travels in the interior of North America are described. His descriptions of the Quapaw who lived near Arkansas Post are excellent and provide a first hand account of a few Indian lifeways and customs.

Dano, E., 1819. Geographical Sketches on the Western Country Designed for Emigrants and Settlers: Being the Result of extensive researches and remarks to which a summary of all the most interesting matter on the subject.

Dano gives a brief description of Arkansas Post and its environs.


Faye gives a detailed history of Arkansas Post from its settlement by Tonty to its final demise. This is possibly the best account of Arkansas Post written to date.


A brief view of Arkansas Post and its environs is given.


An excellent collection of translations of early documents which relate to the settlement of the Mississippi Valley.


An intensive ethnography of the Quapaw is in this volume. It is not particularly in great detail but seems to contain almost all of the information available on the Quapaw from historical sources.


These volumes contain a few documents which related to Arkansas Post such as the Inventory for Fort San Estevan.

This journal relates Joutel's attempts to find LaSalle. His relation to the cultural practices of the Quapaw is detailed, and a wealth of ethnological information is given.


These three volumes contain translations of many Spanish documents and letters relating to the Spanish administration of the lower Mississippi Valley.


This is a well referenced work on the Spanish in the Mississippi Valley and their problems with the Americans over control of the Mississippi and the lands west of it.


Nuttall's journal contains a wealth of information on both the flora and fauna of Arkansas as well as an unbiased account of the lifeways of the Quapaw.


This is the definitive work on the U.S. Factory System. It concerns all of the factories and not just those in Arkansas. Little information on the aboriginal inhabitants is found in this volume, but the trade lists and fur values are of invaluable use to the Historic Archeologist.


This volume contains many translations of Journals of early travelers in the Mississippi Valley.


These three volumes contain many documents and letters which relate to Arkansas Post and to John Law's Colony.


These volumes contain translation of early travelers into the Mississippi Valley. They are in abundant source of historical and ethnological information.


The three bulletins listed above contain virtually all of the more important ethnographic and ethnological information on the Quapaw.


__________, 1905. The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents, Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers.

The volumes which were edited by Thwaits contain a wealth of ethnographic and ethnological data as well as information on the terrain through which the Jesuits traveled on their journeys.

Walker's excavations led to the first positive identification of a building at Arkansas Post. His excavation in conjunction with the historical record left no doubt as to the particular function and identification of the building he excavated.


Excavations were conducted in four areas within the park confines in order to determine whether construction in these areas would damage any archaeological sites. Only in one area were remains of the first quarter of the nineteenth century found. Efforts were also made to locate Main Street. They were not successful.


Wilson's excavations located four nineteenth century structures which were identified tentatively as: 1) a cotton gin operated by Frederick Notrebe, 2) Notrebe's residence and store, 3) Notrebe's Warehouse, and 4) the Arkansas Post branch of the Bank of the State of Arkansas. Only one of the structures, the Bank, has been positively identified.

Ford excavated outside the present bounds of the Arkansas National Memorial. The Menard Site contained little in the way of seventeenth century artifacts, but Ford felt that the site could be the location of Tonty's first post.


Holder's excavations at the Menard Mound Site led him to the same conclusions as Ford, i.e., that the site had an historic Quapaw component and could easily be the site of Tonty's first post.

His excavations within the present confines of the National Memorial uncovered a system of trenches and a few ceramics which could date to the latter half of the eighteenth century. On this basis he concluded that the trench systems encountered were probably fortification trenches for a series of palisades constructed during the early part of the 1750s and 1780s.


On the basis of artifact collections collected on the surface and from amateur collections, this site seemed to be a mid-eighteenth century site of French occupation. It later was washed away by the River.


An area thought to be in the vicinity of Montgomery's Tavern was excavated. A large trench complex was found along with a wide range of artifacts dating to the first half of the nineteenth century. The artifacts found suggest that the site of Montgomery's Tavern was found.
The following budget is given only as a guide as to what the author believes should occur at Arkansas Post in the future. It is in no way a strict timetable of events. It is, however, what I believe to be a feasible plan for future work at the Post.

Phase I of the budget, the faunal and floral inventory of the Post, should be accomplished as soon as possible. This phase of the operations should last at least a year in order to get a total picture of the biota of the Post area.

Following the advent of the faunal and flora inventory, Phase II should begin in the spring of the year. The magnetometer and resistivity surveys of the site should be completed early enough to allow the archaeologist to use their results in planning Phase III of the project.

Phase III of the project can follow as soon as the results of Phase II are known and incorporated into a program of excavation. These excavations should allow the archaeologist to produce a final report in Phase IV which would put forth the potential usefulness or waste of excavation time and monies at Arkansas Post.
Phase I
Fauna and Floral Inventory,
One Year at Arkansas Post

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>178 trips @ $40.00/trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On Campus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,120.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate students (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 hours/week x 16 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ $2.00/hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-May 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On Campus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$320.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Undergraduate students (2) |
| 10 hours/week x 16 weeks |
| @ $2.00/hour |
| Sept-Dec 1977 |
| **On Campus** | **Off Campus** |
| $640.00 | $640.00 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vertebrate Biologist, Senior Investigator 6 weeks 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,083.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Botanist, Senior Investigator |
| 3 months 100% |
| $1,800.00 |

| Research Assistants (4) |
| Botany, Vertebrate, Invertebrate, and Fish 3 months 100% |
| $6,000.00 |
| **On Campus** | **Off Campus** |
| $9,883.00 | $9,883.00 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indirects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On Campus 48.4% x $640.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On Campus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$309.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Off Campus 27.3% x $7,120.00 |
| **On Campus** | **Off Campus** |
| $2,253.52 | $2,253.52 |
Phase I (cont'd)

On Campus

Equipment

Sterozoom microscope with field stand, Ao Series 565, with auxiliary 2x lens attachment
Model 565c-DL (2) $ 1,218.00

Vacuum pump, portable (3) 176.17

Large, folding Sherman live traps (4) 4,400.00

Metal holding cages (16) 1,230.00

Animal balance (1) 120.00
Subtotal $ 7,144.17

Supplies and Services

Glassware, including slides $ 1,000.00

Photographic supplies, film, processing 400.00

Chemicals, fixatives 1,000.00

Nets, waders, misc. 1,000.00

Botanical supplies, mounting paper 1,000.00
Subtotal $ 4,400.00

Total Phase I Costs $31,409.93
Phase II

This phase of the operations will entail a land resistivity survey before the advent of the field season. A protonmagnetometer survey should also be made of the water area around the Park itself. This should enable the Archaeologist to delineate pertinent features for future excavations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>On Campus</th>
<th>Off Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salaries</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeologist</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ $1,000/month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrument Operator</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 days @ $50/day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 hours @ $4.00/hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typist</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 hours @ $4.00/hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Diem (2)</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 days @ $25/day</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,200.00</td>
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</table>

| **Indirects**          |           |            |
| On Campus 48.4% x $3,200.00 | $1,548.80 |            |
| Employee Benefits 10% x $1,700.00 | 170.00    | $1,718.80 |

| **Supplies and Services** |           |            |
| Printing Fees            | $300.00   |            |
| Miscellaneous Office     | $400.00   | $700.00    |

| **Total Phase II Costs** |           | $5,618.80  |
Phase III

This phase of the operations will consist of 3 months of intensive excavations based on the results of the resistivity and magnetometer surveys in conjunction with the historical data available.

**Off Campus Salaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Hours/Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>1/2 month @ $1400/month</td>
<td>$ 700.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Archaeologist</td>
<td>3 months @ $1,000/month</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Archaeologists (2)</td>
<td>3 months @ $500/month</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Technician</td>
<td>3 months @ $500/month</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Assistants (3)</td>
<td>1,440 hours @ $2.50/hour</td>
<td>3,600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Diem (9)</td>
<td>$540 @ $25/day</td>
<td>13,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laborers (10)</td>
<td>60 days @ $2.30/hour</td>
<td>$11,040.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$36,340.00</strong></td>
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**Indirects**

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off Campus</td>
<td>27.3% x $36,340.00</td>
<td>$9,920.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>10% x $8,200</td>
<td>820.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,740.82</strong></td>
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**Supplies and Services**

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<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles (3) $50/week plus</td>
<td>$8,100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>$.18/mile (ca. 15,000 miles)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Office and other</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Phase III Budget (cont'd)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Off Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camera (1) 35 mm</td>
<td>$ 280.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camera (1) 120 mm</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alidade and Plane Table</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 980.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Phase III Costs         $57,660.00
Phase IV

This phase of the operations will cover the analysis and report preparation and should be completed 1 year from the termination of field season.

On Campus

Salaries

Principal Investigator $1,400.00
@ $1400/month

Research Archaeologist 9,000.00
9 months @ $1,000/month

Typist
250 hours @ $3.50/hour 875.00

Secretary
@ $600/month 600.00

Draftsperson
@ $500/month 500.00

$12,375.00

Indirects

On Campus 48.4% x $12,375.00 $5,989.50

Employee Benefits
10% x $12,375.00 1,237.50

$ 7,227.00

Total Phase IV Costs $19,602.00
PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIAL,
DEPOSITS, ARCHIVAL COLLECTION

United States - Government National Archives

Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
1800-1824, Washington, D.C.

Record Group 107, Records of the Office of the Secretary
of War, Washington, D.C.

Department of State - Miscellaneous Letters

United States - Illinois

University of Chicago Library
Ethno-History Collection
Chicago, Illinois

Illinois State Historical Library
Springfield

Newberry Library
Ayer Collection
Chicago, Illinois

United States - Louisiana

Department of Archives
Louisiana State University Library
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

AGO Military Archives
Louisiana Military Department
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans

Bibliotheca Parsoniana
Rosa Park
New Orleans

Department of Archives
New Orleans Public Library
New Orleans
Howard-Tilton Memorial Library
Tulane University
New Orleans

Louisiana Historical Society
New Orleans

Louisiana State Museum
New Orleans

United States - Missouri

Missouri Historical Society
Jefferson Memorial
St. Louis

St. Louis University Library
St. Louis

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES WHICH HOLD MATERIAL RELATING TO
ARKANSAS POST AND THE SETTLEMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

France

Bibliotheque Nationale
Collection Renaudot
Collection Arnoul
Collection Clairambault
Collection Margry

Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

England

Public Record Office
London, England
Spain

Archivo General de Simancas
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