

Descriptions of Indian artifacts
an Oral History

Charles Battin, Interviewee
Of Ohio, Illinois

Interview Date: July 27, 1975

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Starved Rock Library System History Collection

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Q: Hello. This is Norma Kreiger speaking. I am now in the home of Mr. Charles Battin of Ohio. Hello Mr. Battin

A: Hello

Q: I see that you have collected over a lifetime a marvelous collection of Indian artifacts. We will talk about that a little bit. First of all, Mr. Battin, could you tell me how old you are?

A: Eighty-eight.

Q: Eighty-eight years old. And how long have you lived here in this home here?

A: We've been here--well this is seventh year--in town.

Q: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ And you moved here from

A: Well from the where is north of town, but before that we were living just across the county line where Jerry Connors(sp?) are now

Q: Where Jerry Connors live. I see. Mr. Battin, how old were you when you first took an interest in Indian lore?

A: I was either 16 or 17, I was--started in when I was plowing in a field and turned over an arrowhead, and saw it and got off and that sort of thing just began.

Q: That's where it all started. Is that the one--the very first one on one of these boards?

A: I imagine it is but I don't know which one it is because I found a lot of them right in that same field, it could be any of several..its on these boards

Q: You don't know which one it is. Well I have never at any time in my life seen such a marvelous collection and I see those over there--we haven't even a beginning of it ~~xxxx~~ right here. Where are you most apt to find arrowheads?

A: Well, now I have that note in there ~~xxx~~ in the notations about where your likely to find them in this country because around here, north of Ohio is wooded area with potholed scattered around in the fields and that's where you'll find them there. Then later on, when we down north of Walnut that it is in the old Winnebago swap area and there were a couple of ~~xxxxxxx~~ temporary campsites there. And we also picked them up here and there where they'd shot things.

Q: Now you're speaking very well--very knowledgeably about the location of these campsites of the Winnebagoes and the other Indian campsites. Did you study up on this and read up on this?

A: Oh, I've read up on this ever since I was 17 or 18 years old articles read and there, wherever I could find some.

Q: I think that's wonderful. Now the composition--you have a note here on composition. That is you mean of the various arrowheads are made out of different types of stone?

A: Oh yes. There's--they run all the way from well I don't know what. Now this isn't an arrowhead here but it's a kind of a granitoid material. Generally speaking, in this country, they're either flint or shale and most of the better ones are flint. But uh, they can be flint or shale;

A: And there are exceptional ones like this that are uh, stones that's out of my line.

Q: This is such a beautiful thing in shades of brown and tan and gold, do you know what that one is?

A: I--it's a sard, I think.

Q: Sard?

A: Sard. This one here came from the gravel pit right at the north edge of peoria.

QA: For goodness's sake.

A And I also have one on one of these boards that came from Covington Ohio near,-- my mother found that when she was a little girl that was the only one that she'd found.

Q: Now in glancing over these boards, as I say, you have them so beautifully mounted, glancing over these, I happened to know there is such a thing as a black, coal black. Do you have many--well, now here are some dark colored ones.

A: Yes, there's some dark ~~xxxx~~ colored ones, --so far as coal black is concerned, there's one that comes pretty close to being coal black in a shale but aside from that we have a couple of really dark flints, ~~xxxx~~ they're on one of these boards, but I --somewheres....

Q: Aren't the aren't the well the shapes on these just artisitic as wellas... of course that isn't what they were aiming for, but how beautifully they're done. They are just lovely.

A: Thats one thing now that a lot of these uh, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ illustrations you can see shows belonging to certain periods. Now here's one up here what they call a later woodland.--I have one or two of those, but then they're also those are comparatively recent times and down here it shows them running up to five and six thousand years ago. That I think is from an article in Geographical Magazine.

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PLACE Battini Home

DATE July 24, 1975

Charles F. Battini

(INTERVIEWEE)

(for _____)

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PLACE Batton House

DATE July 24, 1975

Charles F. Batton

(Interviewee)

(for _____)

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STARVED ROCK LIBRARY SYSTEM

January 12, 1976

Mr. Charles Battin
Ohio, Illinois 61349

Dear Mr. Battin,

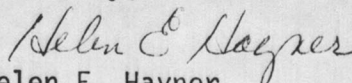
We wish to thank you for the Oral History tape interview which you made with Norma Krieger describing your vast collection of Indian artifacts.

This taped interview has been processed and is now a part of the Starved Rock Library System collection. Your tape along with 44 others is available through your local library. We have not as of yet made a transcript of your tape but it will be done at a later date. We feel at this time listening to the tape itself instead of reading a verbatim transcript is more in keeping with our program.

We encourage you to make use of the Oral History collection of the Starved Rock Library System as it affords an exciting way in which to learn of our past and our present from those persons like yourself who have taken part in the making of a history of our people. Your personal contribution has made this collection possible.

If you have any questions or comments on the Oral History Project we would be most happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Helen E. Hayner
Coordinator - Oral History Project

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