

J.M. Adovasio at Meadowcroft Rockshelter. Heather Mull

# THE GREAT JOURNEY

By J.M. Adovasio

In the March 2006 issue of *National Geographic*, there is an intriguing cover story titled “The Greatest Journey” by James Shreeve. In this synoptic article, Shreeve summarizes the current state of knowledge derived from DNA studies about the migration(s) of anatomically modern humans — *Homo sapiens sapiens* (that is, us) — from our apparent African homeland to

remote points around the world. In the article, he observes:

For decades, first Americans were thought to have arrived around 13,000 years as the Ice Age eased, opening a path through the ice covering Canada. But a few archaeologists claimed to have evidence for an earlier arrival, and two early sites withstood repeated criticism: Meadowcroft Shelter [sic] in Pennsylvania, now believed to be about 16,000 years old, and Monte Verde in southern Chile, more than 14,000 years old.<sup>1</sup>



Carbonized plaited basketry fragments and rim from Meadowcroft.

Mercyhurst College



I stopped reading at this juncture because I was one of these anonymous “few archaeologists” who believed in a pre-13,000 BP entry. [BP means before the present, which for scientists is 1950.] Additionally, I was and remain the principal investigator of Meadowcroft Rockshelter, and I analyzed the perishable plant fiber artifacts from Monte Verde.

My reading pause was occasioned by much more than my mere participation in these two projects. Instead, my mind focused on the phrase “two early sites withstood repeated criticism.” Indeed, I thought with a mixture of quiet, relict anger — tinged with weary sadness — if the writer only knew how much criticism and how long it was leveled.

But this contribution is not about the roles of Meadowcroft or Monte Verde in demolishing the myth of a relatively late human arrival in the New World, which was once thought to be signaled by the appearance of a genuine North American invention: the Clovis projectile point. Instead, I wish to provide a very personal account of how I became connected with both Meadowcroft and Monte Verde and the incredible serendipity inherent

geology, paleontology, and archaeology texts instead of the usual “See Spot Run” fare. I decided to attend the University of Arizona to pursue anthropology before I was out of grade school and, in fact, matriculated to that institution in 1962.

At Arizona, I was fortunate to encounter one of the great figures of American archaeology, Emil Haury, who first introduced me to the realm of prehistoric material culture studies in a seminar called “Prehistoric Technology.” In that class, I fondled my first prehistoric basket. Concurrently, I took classes from the late Clara Lee Tanner, a renowned scholar of prehistoric and ethnographic southwestern material culture, who exposed me further to the world of plant-fiber-derived artifacts. After three years, I earned my B.A. in anthropology and then spent another year in graduate school without developing any focal interest either in a chronological time period, cultural stage of development, or part of the world. Throughout my Arizona years, I entertained an undeveloped interest in Pre-Dynastic Egyptian prehistory, but fate would take me in a very different direction.

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# *A Personal Odyssey*

in my personal, and now 33-year-long great journey.

As recounted in *The First Americans*, a book I co-authored with Jake Page, I wanted to be an archaeologist almost as far back as I can recall.<sup>2</sup> My highly-educated mother basically programmed me for that career trajectory by teaching me to read at an early age with primers composed of history,

academia (at least as a student) and secured a teaching position at Youngstown College in my hometown of Youngstown, Ohio. While at that institution, which would evolve into a major middle-sized university, I helped develop an anthropology and archaeology specialization within the sociology department but remained uncertain of my archaeological interest.



After two years at Youngstown College, I resumed my graduate career and elected to pursue North American prehistory at the University of Utah. There, I became a thrall of the legendary archaeologist Jesse D. Jennings, the Dark Lord of the Desert, and my budding career took a series of wholly unanticipated twists and turns.

Upon my arrival in the domain of the Dark Lord, I learned that the University of Utah had just completed a major excavation at a deeply stratified rockshelter site called Hogup Cave in far northwestern Utah. Its excavator, Mel Aikens, a former thrall of the Dark Lord who had just completed his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, would be in residence.

In my first year, I was assisting Aikens in his analysis of the huge chipped stone assemblage from Hogup Cave when one of those career shaping events occurred that went wholly unrecognized by me. In addition to being packed with whole and broken lithic tools and the byproducts of their manufacture and refurbishment, Hogup Cave was replete with so-called non-durable artifacts like string, netting, and basketry. As there was no one at Utah with any experience in the analysis of such stuff, Jennings, who had already decided I might be too restive for his ungentle tutelage, suggested I should develop an expertise in the analysis of these materials, especially basketry. He further observed that if I did not choose to pursue this particular career path, I should look elsewhere for a graduate degree. Suffice to say, I developed an acute interest in prehistoric basketry, while a variety of projects exposed me to the intricacies and nuances of rockshelter and cave excavation.

Here it is probably useful to insert that rockshelters and caves — so-called “closed sites” because they are not exposed to the elements — often served as veritable magnets for prehistoric and historic populations. Because they provided protection from the weather, they were frequently visited and

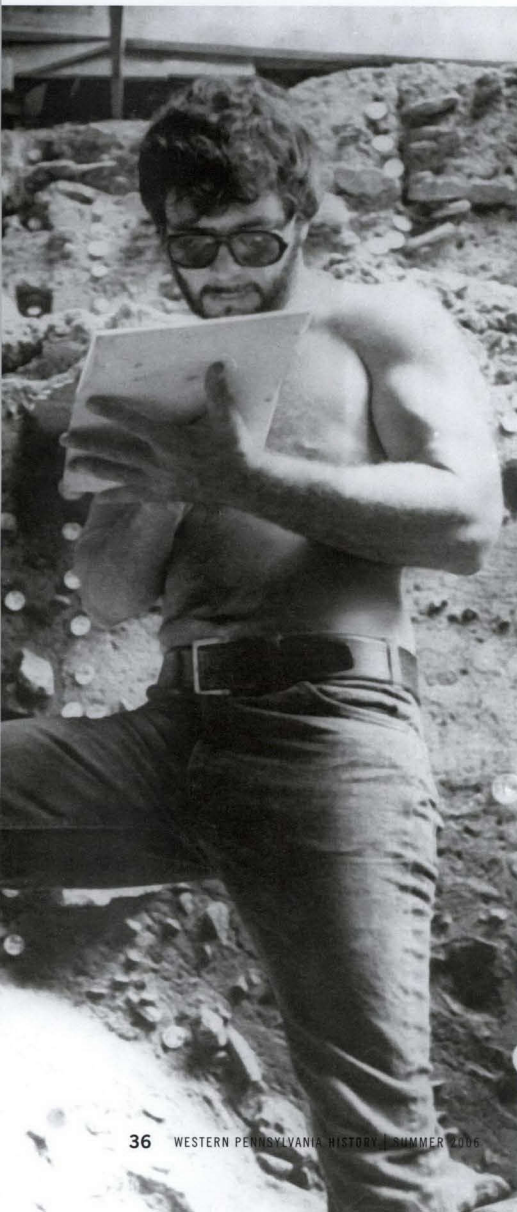
revisited and became part of what some archaeologists call the “marked landscape.”

Because of their repeated visitation and their often complicated geologic and sedimentologic history, rockshelters and caves are among the most difficult sites to excavate. Their complexity requires rigorous attention to detail and complicated excavation and documentation protocols, and Jennings was the recognized master of this arcane archaeological specialization. While the Dark Lord often stated that there was no “Jennings” school of archaeology, he was, in fact, only half right. Yes, there was no theoretical position or interpretation bias linked exclusively to him. However, there remains to this day a Jennings methodological orientation that he imparted to all of his students — one that I carried in later years to a closed site far removed from the arid deserts of northwestern Utah.

After completing the Hogup Cave basketry analysis<sup>3</sup> Aikens suggested I reanalyze the substantial corpus of basketry from Danger Cave, a pivotal site in Utah about 50 miles away from Hogup. Jennings had excavated Danger Cave in the early 1950s and, like Hogup, it was literally filled with perishable artifacts. While the Danger Cave reanalysis revealed some highly intriguing concordances and discontinuities with the Hogup Cave collection, it also suggested to me a potential topic for my dissertation research.

Coincidentally, or perhaps serendipitously, I entered the field of perishable-plant-fiber artifact studies at a time when many of its older luminaries were either deceased (Otis T. Mason, Earl Morris), disengaged or disengaging from the field (Gene Weltfish, Robert Burgh), or about to retire (Charles Rozaire, Luther Cressman). Furthermore, despite the fact that a substantial number of high-quality descriptive works had appeared on prehistoric basketry from the 1930s through the early 1960s, no major comparative synthetic study of prehistoric

J.M. Adovasio at Meadowcroft in the mid-1970s.  
Mercyhurst College





Great Basin basketry had ever been attempted.

Such a study required visits to all of the major repositories in North America that housed prehistoric basketry collections from the Arid West. Each collection would have to be analyzed or reanalyzed using a standard descriptive terminology, and the results then quantified and synthesized by time period.

I ran my scheme past Mel Aikens, who heartily concurred. Then I approached the Dark Lord. Jennings's patience with me had "run thin" and the prospect that my project would necessitate my absence from Utah for an extended period (in fact, most of the 1969-1970 academic year) led him to endorse my dissertation proposal.

Throughout the fall and winter of the 1969-1970 academic year, I visited 19 institutions across the United States and examined more prehistoric basketry from more sites than anyone, as far as I knew, ever had. The "upside" of all this (in addition to temporarily escaping the Dark Lord's wrathful gaze) was to familiarize myself not only with the incredible technical diversity of prehistoric basketry, but also to develop an ever-escalating appreciation of what one of my colleagues, Bob Bettinger, calls "soft technology." Significantly, and in sharp contrast to lithic or durable technology — which is usually the province of males — basketry, cordage, netting, and related plant-fiber-derived products are often the work of females. Almost unconsciously, at least at first, I was developing a view of past societies and their actions that was by default far more oriented to female activities as opposed to the macho-male orientation derived from stone tools.

The downside of my multi-month excursion was to realize that most of the specimens I was examining came from rockshelter and cave sites that had been, to put it charitably, abominably excavated. The results of all this were, in the short run, a lot of chronological questions about the

temporal placement of objects I was examining and in the longer run a powerful reinforcement of the rigorous excavation protocols pounded into my head by the Dark Lord and his other creatures.

As I was finishing my dissertation in the spring of 1970, another one of those unanticipated and far-reaching serendipitous events occurred. Tom Lynch, a South American prehistorian who had just completed the excavation of a deeply stratified closed site in Peru, gave a lecture at the University of Utah. After his presentation on Guitarrero Cave, Jennings introduced me by dryly observing that I worked with "baskets and such stuff." Lynch then allowed as to how he had recovered a substantial amount of cordage, basketry, and textiles and asked if I might be interested in analyzing them at some point in the future. Though I had never worked with South American material, I readily agreed to assist him, then promptly forgot about my commitment.

I finished my dissertation later that spring, graduated with my Ph.D. in May, then conducted some fieldwork with another dose of rockshelter excavation in Nevada during the summer. The field director of the Nevada research was Don Fowler, another of



Crew mapping and excavating in Meadowcroft Rockshelter.  
Mercyhurst College

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Jennings’s ex-thralls, from whom I would hear again soon. Rather than participate in the open “meat market” of academic job seekers, I returned to Youngstown State University (YSU) in the fall of 1970.

Soon after my arrival at YSU and somewhat to my surprise, Tom Lynch contacted me about the Guitarrero basketry and related plant-fiber artifact collection. Lynch soon forwarded the large collection, and I began work on it. The Guitarrero collection occupied me for most of the 1970-1971 academic year and provided my final incentive to continue — and, indeed, expand — my involvement with prehistoric basketry, textiles, and “other such stuff.”

More or less concurrently with my initiation of the Guitarrero project, Don Fowler contacted me with yet another of those unanticipated and career-altering propositions. After he had completed his Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh, Fowler undertook a post-doctoral project at the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution. Convinced that the research experience he gleaned and the connections he forged there were highly useful for any young scholar, Fowler suggested I apply for a post-doctoral position for the 1971-1972 academic year.

I prepared a proposal to examine the large ethnographic Great Basin basketry collection at the Smithsonian Institution with the aim of discerning continuities and/or discontinuities between the prehistoric collections I had analyzed and the work of “recent” populations in the study area. Additionally, I hoped to scrutinize pre-historic collections from both western and eastern North America that I had not previously examined.

My proposal was favorably received, and I was told I could initiate my post-doctoral studies anytime after my teaching

commitments to YSU were satisfied. Before the assumption of my post-doctoral fellowship, indeed, well before I left YSU, yet another factor intervened, which in a very direct way affected the trajectory of my career. One of my fellow faculty members at YSU, a native of Cyprus, convinced me and one of my fellow assistant professors (Gary Fry, yet another of the Dark Lord’s “things” who had followed me to YSU in 1970) to do some extensive archaeological reconnaissance in western Cyprus, where little previous work had been done.

Thanks to a grant from the National Geographic Society, Fry and I spent a month on the island in the latter part of 1970 and the early part of 1971. The research was successful,<sup>4</sup> but its real import lay in the consequences of the second season of work on Cyprus, which we tentatively scheduled for some unspecified point in the future.

I continued to work on the Guitarrero Cave materials throughout the spring of 1971, and in the summer of that year headed off to the Smithsonian after co-directing (with Gary Fry) an archaeological field school in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania.<sup>5</sup>

In many ways, my post-doctoral year at the Smithsonian was all that I could have hoped for. I worked through numerous ethnographic and prehistoric collections, made a large number of connections that would prove invaluable in the future, and immersed myself ever deeper into the world of perishable technology.

Early in the fall of 1971, Tom Lynch contacted me about presenting a joint paper on the Guitarrero basketry and textiles at a South American symposium at the State University of New York at Albany. I readily agreed to participate, never anticipating that this invitation would be the penultimate “roll of the dice” that would lead me to a rockshelter on a hillside above Cross Creek in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

At that symposium, I first encountered



James (Jim) B. Richardson, III, a South American archaeologist at the University of Pittsburgh. Richardson casually informed me of a vacancy at Pitt in North American prehistory for the 1972-1973 academic year, but I paid little heed to this information given my ongoing commitments at the Smithsonian and a vague hope I might end up back out west.

At the conclusion of the symposium, I gave Jim a ride back to Pittsburgh. During our trip in a frightful snow storm, which occasionally inspired the thought our lives were imperiled, Jim elaborated on what Pitt was seeking in a North American archaeologist. In addition to teaching topical and area courses, this “new” archaeologist would develop a field training program and revive the University of Pittsburgh Archaeological Research effort in Western Pennsylvania. I indicated a general interest but offered no commitment.

Upon returning to the Smithsonian, I found myself enmeshed in another unforeseen project with far reaching effects. My adviser there — the late, great Plains archaeologist Waldo Wedel — and my unofficial mentors, Betty Meggers and Clifford Evans, concurred that it might be profitable for me to reexamine the huge perishable artifact collection recovered by Walter W. Taylor during his excavations in northern Mexico in the 1940s.

The reanalysis of the Taylor collection produced a variety of significant results,<sup>6</sup> which space precludes discussing, but also raised a complex series of both provenance and chronological questions. I determined that my queries could only be answered by Taylor himself who, at that time, resided in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I decided to visit him as well as a number of institutions housing basketry collections that I had not examined during my earlier dissertation trek. Concurrently, I explored the possibility of directly radiocarbon dating some of Taylor’s specimens if permission could be obtained from Taylor himself.

Prior to my trip, I decided with no little reluctance to pursue the Pitt position and visited the campus for the first time in the spring of 1972. My reception there was frosty in certain departmental circles because I was clearly not a “New Archaeologist” à la Lewis Binford, but I was nonetheless offered the position. Pivotal in Pitt’s decision was Jim Richardson’s aggressive support along with two of the most powerful members of the Pitt Anthropology Department, George Peter Murdock and Alexander Spoehr — both of whom, if not friends, were ancient “allies” of the Dark Lord.

My second basketry excursion through and across the western U.S. went off without a

Excavations at Meadowcroft Rockshelter, early in the project.  
Mercyhurst College





hitch and produced a series of productive connections, which served me well both then and, in many cases, up to the present. Significantly, Walt Taylor decided that I should reanalyze his basketry collection and, further, gave me permission to radiocarbon date any specimens. Upon my return to the Smithsonian, I contacted Bob Stuckenrath, the director of its radiocarbon dating facility in Maryland, to operationalize the dating project.

As I sadly detailed in his obituary, the Coahuila basketry dating project initiated my long relationship with Bob, who was the most careful radiocarbon dating specialist I have ever known.<sup>7</sup> As is by now well known, he not only provided the basic chronology by which Taylor's Coahuila cave sequence was dated, he was also the principal radiocarbon specialist for the Meadowcroft project. In the latter capacity, Bob aggressively and acerbically defended the Meadowcroft dates after some questioned them. Bob had little patience for fools and, like the Dark Lord, was committed to high-resolution, rigorous field and laboratory methodology. Ultimately, of course, he became one of the great pillars of the Meadowcroft/Cross Creek Project, serving in that capacity until his death.

Delvin Miller and J.M. Adovasio. Miller Collection, Meadowcroft Archives



In addition to visiting Walt Taylor, I spent an extensive amount of time at the University of Texas examining the vast basketry collections housed at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, during which time I also met David Dibble, director of the Texas Archaeological Salvage Project (TASP), yet another of the Dark Lord's former minions. Indeed, Dibble had worked as a student in Danger Cave during the 1950s directly under Jennings — in a Tolkienesque way, as close to the fires of Mordor as one could get.

From Dibble and some of his staff, like Elton Prewitt, I gained insights into the perishable technology of the ancient inhabitants of Texas and learned still more of the intricacies of rockshelter and cave excavation, which was Dibble's forté. During my Texas sojourn, I also met a budding palynologist named Kathy Cushman just prior to her departure for graduate school at the University of Chicago. This meeting proved fateful. In time, Kathy would become the paleobotanist of the Meadowcroft/Cross Creek project and notably used data from the site for her dissertation.<sup>8</sup>

I joined the Pitt faculty for the onset of the 1972-1973 academic year with the specific premise that my teaching would not begin until the second half of the year. This somewhat unusual situation was occasioned by my commitment to a second year of survey in western Cyprus, the long planned follow-up to my earlier research there.

Because of my obligations on Cyprus, I did not have the time to "scout out" suitable locations for the planned 1973 summer field training program in archaeology. This predicament initiated the final leg of the journey that led me to Meadowcroft.

Prior to departing for Cyprus, I circulated the word in the Western Pennsylvania archaeological community that I was looking for a suitable locus for the 1973 summer field school. I also set forth some minimal



parameters for the site. Specifically, for logistical reasons, I sought a location within a radius of about 30 miles from Pittsburgh, which could afford at once the opportunity to conduct a state-of-the-art, hopefully multi-year, multi-disciplinary investigation. As I envisioned it, this area would serve as a vehicle to train archaeologists as well as students from a variety of other disciplines, like geology, paleozoology, paleobotany, climatology, and history.

This need for a multi-disciplinary perspective had been instilled in me at Arizona by Emil Haury and William Longacre, an early Binford disciple, and indirectly by Vance Haynes, also at Arizona, who was one of the father figures in geoarchaeology during the early to mid-1960s. The Dark Lord, Mel Aikens, and fellow students and colleagues at Utah like Gary Fry, Jack Marwitt, D. Brigham Madsen, and Jay Hall also hammered this perspective home; it was reinforced many times over by the likes of Dave Dibble and others.

Ideally, my hoped-for study area would have only a minimum of previous work so that the planned field school(s) could contribute fundamental knowledge to the prehistory and paleoenvironment of the Commonwealth. Finally, I hoped it would contain at least one closed site, cave or rockshelter, because of my considerable familiarity with this challenging type of resource.

In the spring of 1973, I was contacted by Phil Jack, a historian at California State College in Pennsylvania. Phil informed me that he had a friend named Albert Miller, a gentleman farmer and avid amateur historian and archaeologist, who lived southwest of Pittsburgh near the West Virginia border. On the property of a foundation created by him and his brother Delvin (an illustrious harness racer) was a large rockshelter that both Phil and Albert fervently believed would make an ideal field school location. The property was called Meadowcroft, which was an acronym

for two other family-owned pieces of real estate, Meadowlands and Bancroft Farm. Impressed by Phil Jack's enthusiasm, I immediately made arrangements to visit the site.

As soon as I saw what would be named Meadowcroft Rockshelter it was apparent, to paraphrase Brigham Young, "This was the place!" The rockshelter is perched about 50 feet above stream level on the north bank of Cross Creek, a small tributary of the Ohio River, which it joins some seven-and-a-half miles to the west. The rockshelter's opening is oriented east-west with a southern exposure and has a high roof (about 43 feet above the modern surface of the site) with excellent ventilation provided by the prevailing wind that generally blows west-to-east across its mouth. There are also permanent springs with potable water on both the eastern and western margins of the site as well as a major source of water (at least in the pre-pollution days) directly below the shelter in Cross Creek. Within the rockshelter were over 490 square feet of protected floor space. When two large roof blocks that had fallen on both the eastern and western margins of the site were still in place, the living area beneath the

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Albert Miller and J.M. Adovasio at the Rockshelter. Meadowcroft archives







British archaeologist Clive Gamble (left) with J.M. Adovasio during filming of a British TV documentary in 2001. David Scofield

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overhang was as little as three and perhaps as much as five times larger than at present.

The site's relatively high position above the stream suggested that even during severe floods the rockshelter would remain high and dry. The site had other obvious amenities, too. The southern exposure guaranteed that the daily traverse of the sun would warm its sandstone roof and walls, providing a more equable micro-climate during the colder months of the spring and fall. The prevailing wind and high roof ensured that any campfires ignited within the site would be rapidly and efficiently ventilated and, further, keep flying insect pests at a minimum. Finally, it was clear that a veritable cornucopia of floral and faunal resources would have been available to anyone who visited the site. Moreover, given Meadowcroft's strategic position in a highly dissected region where traffic to and from the Ohio River was literally funneled down the generally east-west trending rivers and streams like Cross Creek, it was obvious that anyone passing by the rockshelter would view it as an ideal place to stop for a night or two. Of far less importance or, in fact, significance

to me, at least upon initial inspection, was the fact that the rockshelter was situated on the unglaciated portion of the Allegheny Plateau well south of the glacial front and, hence, could have been used any time it suited transient populations in the area.


For all but the last of the reasons cited above, I immediately solicited permission from the Meadowcroft Foundation to initiate excavations there in June 1973. Albert Miller was ecstatic, particularly since he had always believed, since childhood, in the site's great archaeological potential. In 1955, while exploring a groundhog burrow visible on the site's surface, he recovered some lithic and ceramic remains that convinced him Native Americans had indeed visited the site. He was unable to convince any professional archaeologists of the rockshelter's potential, though a test unit was excavated by Carnegie Museum staff members sometime in the late 1960s. Fortunately or not, this unit encountered roof fall close to the surface and the testing was promptly aborted. With the exception of disturbances caused by the 1950s groundhog and the failed Carnegie Museum test pit, the site was miraculously pristine.



The first field school at Meadowcroft began in 1973. We returned again and again to conduct extensive work at Meadowcroft and the adjacent Cross Creek drainage between 1973 and 1978, and then again in 1983, 1985, and 1987 — all under Pitt auspices. Additional work was conducted in the 1990s and into the new millennium under the aegis of Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute. From its more or less humble beginnings as the site for a field school, Meadowcroft became the epicenter of a fierce dispute about the temporal provenance of the so-called First Americans. This dispute continued into the late 1990s, until it began to unravel largely due to the impact of Meadowcroft and its South American counterpart, Monte Verde.

In retrospect, the convoluted twists and turns that connected me to Meadowcroft for some 33 years are nothing short of remarkable. Had I not attended the University of Arizona as an undergraduate, I probably would not have ended up a thrall of the Dark Lord at Utah. Without the Utah experience, I would have had no “parallel career” in basketry and textile studies and, in turn, would never have encountered Tom Lynch, gone to the Smithsonian, nor indeed, found my way to Pitt. Without the Cyprus experience, there would have been no reason to solicit help in finding a suitable field school site even if I had somehow managed to be hired by Pitt. Perhaps the final exquisite piece of serendipity in this improbable saga was the nature of the site itself.

While I would like to say that I presciently knew that Meadowcroft Rockshelter would prove to contain some of the most ancient archaeological remains in North or South America, this would be a patent falsehood. I, like my friend Tom Dillehay, who excavated Monte Verde and provided the opportunity for me to analyze its perishables assemblage, never suspected that the antiquity of my site would prove to be the final serendipity.<sup>9</sup> For me, deep and ancient deposits at Meadowcroft were the ultimate icing on a

cake I never expected to bake, the final part of a great journey, a personal odyssey, I never expected to make. 

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<sup>1</sup> James Shreeve, “The Greatest Journey,” *National Geographic*. (Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2006) 209(3):69.

<sup>2</sup> J.M. Adovasio and Jake Page, *The First Americans: In Pursuit of Archaeology's Greatest Mystery*. (New York: Random House, 2002).

<sup>3</sup> J.M. Adovasio, “Hogup Cave Textile Analysis,” *Hogup Cave*. (Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Anthropological Papers, 1970) 93: 133-153.

<sup>4</sup> J.M. Adovasio, G. F. Fry, J. Gunn, and R. F. Maslowski, “Prehistoric and Historic Settlement Patterns in Western Cyprus,” *World Archaeology*. (London: Taylor and Francis, Ltd., 1975) 6(3):339-364; “Prehistoric and Historic Settlement Patterns in Western Cyprus: An Overview,” *Research Reports of the Department of Antiquities*. (Nicosia, Cyprus: Cyprus Museum, 1978) 39-57; “An Overview of Prehistoric and Historic Settlement Patterns in Western Cyprus,” *National Geographic Society Research Reports*. (Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1981) 13:53-67.

<sup>5</sup> J.M. Adovasio, G.F. Fry, J. Zakucia, and J. Gunn, “The Boarts Site,” *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*. (Pittsburgh, Pa.: Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, 1974) 44(1-2):31-112.

<sup>6</sup> J.M. Adovasio, “Prehistoric Basketry of Western North America and Mexico,” *Early Native Americans: Prehistoric Demography, Economy, and Technology*. Ed. D.L. Browman (The Hague, Netherlands: Mouton Publishers, 1980) 341-362; J.M. Adovasio, “Some Thoughts on the Chronology of Cueva Esponsosa and the Cuatro Ciénegas Basin,” *Sandals from Coahuila Caves* by W.W. Taylor, *Studies in Pre-Columbian Art & Archaeology*. Eds. N.J. Demerath, M.C. Kennedy, and P.J. Watson (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Publications, 2003) (35)147-151; J.M. Adovasio, “Perishable Industries from Hinds Cave, Val Verde County, Texas,” *Ethnology Monographs*. Ed. K.A. Cushman (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1980) 5.

<sup>7</sup> J.M. Adovasio, obituary for Robert Stuckenrath, *Radiocarbon*. (Tucson, Ariz.: Department of Geosciences at the University of Arizona, 1995) 37(1):VII-XIII.

<sup>8</sup> Kathleen Cushman Volman, “Paleoenvironmental Implications of Botanical Data from Meadowcroft Rockshelter,” (College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University, 1981) dissertation on file; “Floral Remains from Meadowcroft Rockshelter, Washington County, Southwestern Pennsylvania,” *Meadowcroft: Collected Papers on the Archaeology of Meadowcroft Rockshelter and the Cross Creek Drainage*. Eds. R.C. Carlisle and J.M. Adovasio. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1982) 207-220.

<sup>9</sup> J.M. Adovasio, “Cordage and Cordage Impressions from Monte Verde,” *Monte Verde: A Late Pleistocene Settlement in Chile*. Ed. T.D. Dillehay (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1997) 221-228.

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*There are thousands of recorded archaeological sites in Pennsylvania, many of which are centuries old.*

Organized in 1929 to promote the study and preservation of the prehistoric and historic archaeological resources in Pennsylvania, the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, is a vibrant mix of professional and non-professional archaeologists, historians, and people interested in Pennsylvania's past. The organization publishes *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*, a bi-annual archaeological journal available to members of the Society.

In addition, most SPA chapters, six of which are located in Western Pennsylvania, hold monthly lectures, have group meetings, and excavate archaeological sites in their areas. No experience is necessary to take part in these activities; SPA members teach you the proper excavation techniques (while having fun at the same time).

There are thousands of recorded archaeological sites in Pennsylvania, many of which are centuries old. Each has a unique story to tell about the people who visited it, but unfortunately, more and more of these sites are destroyed by development before they can share their secrets. Do your part to help preserve and interpret unique non-renewable resources by joining the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology.

For more information, please visit [www.PennsylvaniaArchaeology.com](http://www.PennsylvaniaArchaeology.com) or write to The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc., P.O. Box 10287, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Help us save Pennsylvania's past before it disappears forever!

**Bill Tippins** is an amateur archaeologist and member of Allegheny Chapter No. 1 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (SPA). He is also the editor of *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*, the statewide archaeology journal published twice a year by the SPA.

## *Interested in Digging into Pennsylvania's Past?*

By Bill Tippins



**Mary Miles (president of Chapter No. 22) and her daughter Maraina (vice-president) at the Clear Creek Dig last summer.** Ken Burkett

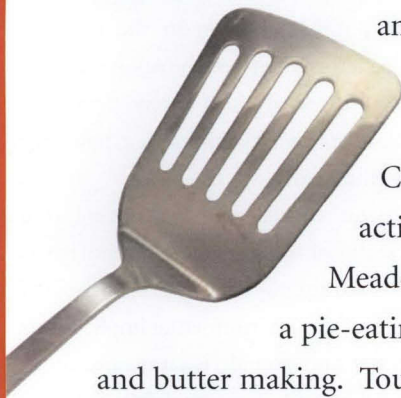


# Picnics at Meadowcroft

With its open fields and myriad of activities, Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Museum of Rural Life is the perfect place for your next company or family event catered by one of Pittsburgh's best restaurants, The Common Plea.



Escape to one of Western Pennsylvania's off-the-beaten-path destinations, about an hour's drive from Pittsburgh, and enjoy picnic fare in this beautiful rural setting.



Combine great food with great activities for all ages like lessons in Meadowcroft's one-room schoolhouse, a pie-eating contest, sack races, and biscuit and butter making. Tour the Rockshelter, Pennsylvania's newest National Historic Landmark, and try your hand at the atlatl, a spear-throwing device used by the Rockshelter's inhabitants 16,000 years ago.



All catering packages are based on a minimum of 200 guests.

For more information, contact  
Common Plea Catering at  
412-281-5140 or visit:  
[www.commonplea-catering.com](http://www.commonplea-catering.com)

**MEADOWCROFT**  
ROCKSHELTER AND  
MUSEUM OF RURAL LIFE

In association with the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center

