



Michigan Archaeological Society

W. L. COFFINBERRY CHAPTER

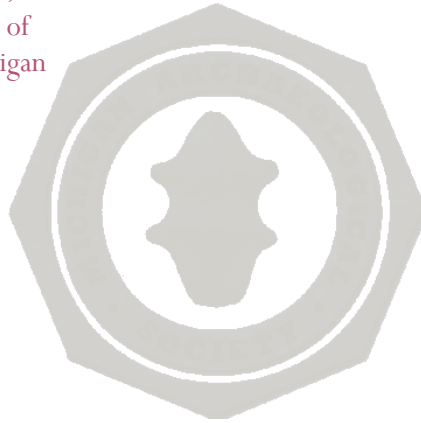
April 2019 News

Image of Bela Hubbard, a surveyor and historian, who, along with Henry Schoolcraft, form much of our understanding of these works in West Michigan

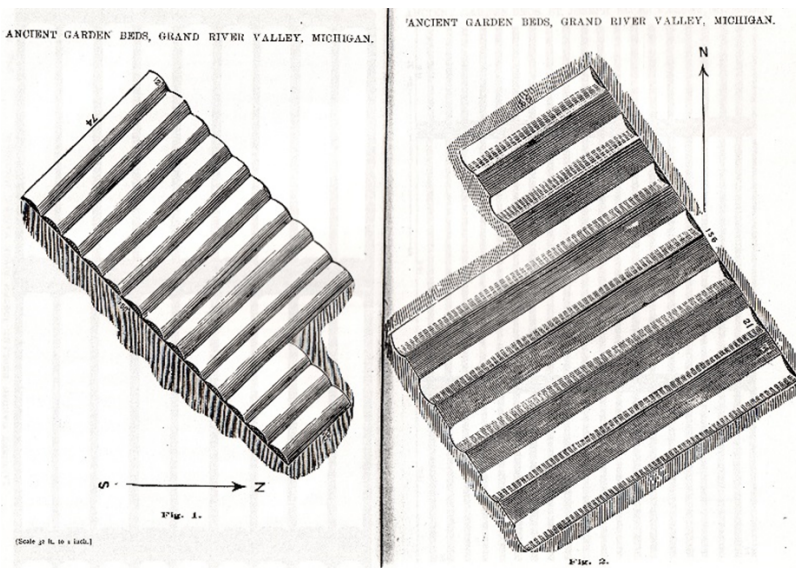
All meetings are free and open to everyone with an interest in the past! Parking in Lot M is free after 6:30 pm

April Meeting

Lynn Chapman will present
Garden Beds of Southwest Michigan- Revisited



Thursday, April 11th
7:00 p.m.
Lake Michigan Hall
Room 249
GVSU



Above: Drawings of Garden Beds observed along the Grand River Valley.

“They consist of raised patches of ground, separated by sunken paths, and were generally arranged in plats or blocks of parallel beds.”

Hubbard, Bela. [Ancient Garden Beds of Michigan](#), published in the *American Antiquarian*, 1877.

Garden beds (aka. ridged fields) are a prehistoric phenomenon documented in southwest Michigan by the early settlers but now entirely destroyed by agricultural practices. Although commented upon by antiquarians of the 1800’s, the presence of garden beds in southwest Michigan, for want of hard data have largely fallen out of modern archaeological discourse. The same is not true for Wisconsin and neighboring regions where garden beds were more numerous, some have survived, and research is ongoing.

This presentation draws upon the 1800’s descriptions of the garden beds in southwest Michigan and then reviews research in Wisconsin over the last five decades, focusing specifically, what has been learned in Wisconsin which might apply to the southwest Michigan case. Finally, I am going to describe some research of my own in an attempt to situate southwest Michigan garden beds in the archaeology of the region. This research is ongoing but some patterns have begun to emerge from the data.



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Submit news and event postings to Lynn Chapman, Coffinberry chapter president – lynnalanchapman@gmail.com