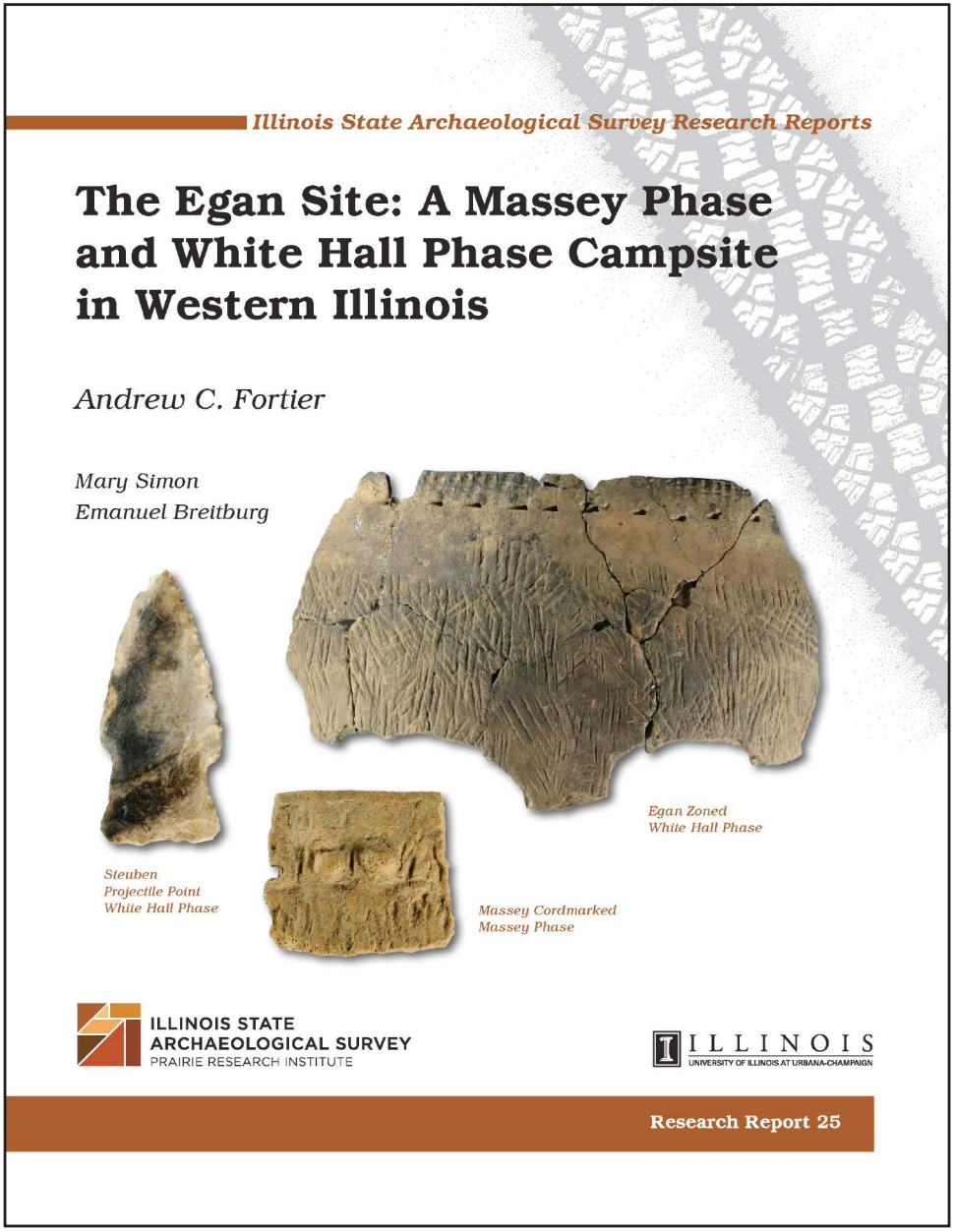

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The Egan site is situated in the uplands in Scott County in western Illinois, about 20 kilometers east of the Illinois River valley. It was excavated in 1999 by ISAS personnel as a result of a proposed local roads IDOT bridge and road-widening project. Surface surveys had indicated the presence of a small Hopewell occupation. However, following hand excavation of 65 pit features and several isolated postmolds, and the subsequent analysis of all materials, it became clear that the site actually was the location of several chronologically distinct occupations, dating to the Hopewell era (circa cal A.D. 150), the late Middle Woodland Massey phase (circa cal A.D. 400) and the Late Woodland White Hall phase (circa cal A.D. 600).

The Hopewell occupation is the smallest encampment with only two pits and a wide scatter of redeposited Hopewell ceramics and lithics. The late Middle Woodland Massey component consists of twenty-five features divided into two distinct clusters. The two Middle Woodland occupations are separated chronologically by 350 years. Massey diagnostics include Massey Cordmarked and Massey Fabric Impressed ceramics. Massey people probably represent the remnants of an earlier migrant population of southern Illinois Crab Orchard people that had interacted with the local Hopewell population. Finally, the White Hall occupation occurs some 200 years after the Massey campsite and consists of 20 pits separated into two distinct clusters. White Hall diagnostics include Egan Cordmarked and Egan Zoned ceramics (so named in this report for the first time) as well Steuben points.

Of significance is the fact that several distinct occupations occurred in this same relatively isolated location. The author proposes that this location probably was utilized over a 500 year period because it lay along a possible overland trail connecting the Illinois River valley with the upland prairies. It sits above a creek that ultimately drains into the Illinois River valley.

The Egan site is unique in many respects, but it mainly stands out because of its distinctive material assemblages, its surprising chronological placement, its isolated position in the Western Illinois uplands, and its ground-breaking subsistence information. This report represents one of the few attempts to analyze and report material and subsistence assemblages from the Massey and White Hall phases. Because so few are known from these periods in this area the Egan report will stand as a baseline for future research.

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All photography by Linda Alexander.

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