

THE SUMMER FIELD MEETINGS OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (1892-1905)

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The Ohio Academy of Science was formally created at an organizational meeting held in Columbus on December 31, 1891. One of its first projects was to sponsor a series of annual field meetings. These ran continuously from 1892 until 1901. The last one was held, after a brief interval, in the summer of 1905. The field meetings were initiated even before the first of the regular annual business meetings was held. During the early years of the Academy, the summer field meeting was considered one of its most important activities. This paper will trace the history of those events.

The first Annual Field Meeting, of what was then called the Ohio State Academy of Science, was held at Akron on June 3 and 4, 1892. This meeting was sponsored by the Science Department and the Akron Scientific Club of the institution known at that time as Buchtel College (later this became the University of Akron). At this initial meeting, there was a brief business session even though the first annual meeting of the Academy was not called until November of that year. Friday afternoon was given to field study and collecting at Long Lake, on which the group cruised about on a steamer. This trip was arranged for those interested in "geology, botany, zoology, entomology, ornithology, conchology," In the evening Professor E. W. Claypole, the first president of the Academy, had been scheduled to give an address of welcome in Crouse Gymnasium, but the mayor of Akron and Dr. O. Cone, President of Buchtel College, were finally asked to do this. The words of Dr. Cone reflected a concern at that time held by many who were worried about the introduction of science teaching into the college curriculum. Dr. Cone said in part, "We have no fear of science at Buchtel College. We are not afraid that its study will endanger a single truth. There is not a truth it has touched that it has not illuminated. Science enlarges most views—the marvelous truth of evolution has only brought into belief the greatness of the first cause." Following the speeches, a discussion of the observations made during the afternoon's excursion was enjoyed. Students of Buchtel College placed on exhibition microscopical slides which they had prepared. Arrangements were made to continue the field work for the following day in the gorge at Cuyahoga Falls where the glens held much of interest to the various naturalists.

In the spring of 1893 the executive committee mailed a circular announcing the second summer field meeting to be held at Logan in Hocking County on June 2 and 3. During the first morning a visit was made to the Logan Pressed Brick and Tile Works to observe the processes of manufacture. During the afternoon a field trip on the Hocking River gave the specialists an opportunity to collect specimens. That evening a meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church of Logan at which time President Edward Orton presided and presented a brief summary of the geology of that region. Professor W. A. Kellerman then called attention to the special botanical interests in that area. Dr. Clark placed on exhibition a fossil jaw which he had collected; Dr. Claypole commented upon the specimen and designated it as an unnamed species of *Dinichthys*; and Dr. Kellicott reported briefly on the activities of the entomologists who visited Cedar Swamp. It was at this meeting that plans were initiated for the development of a Natural History Survey.

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On June 3, members of the Academy went to Straitsville to visit a coal mine. On the way some of the entomologists and botanists left the party to engage in field collecting. The geologists and others who were conducted through the mine collected coal measure fossils.

The third field meeting was held June 1 and 2, 1894, at Denison University in Granville. One party spent a full day collecting at Licking Reservoir while another spent the day in field study around Granville. The new Science Hall of the university attracted much attention, and under the guidance of Professor W. G. Tight a visit was made to observe serious soil and river bank erosion. A series of photographs depicted the annual progression of erosion. The geologists collected fossils at the Waverly quarries. In the evening the Scientific Association of Denison University entertained the group with informal discussions and the projection of microscope slides following brief remarks by President Purinton and Professor F. M. Webster of Denison University and several prominent members of the Academy. On Saturday morning a group of 60 people visited the Effigy Mound on Alligator Hill and other ancient earthworks and archeological remains in the vicinity of Newark. A visit was also made to a postglacial gorge of the Licking River some twelve miles east of Newark, where these gorges were studied particularly by the geologists in the party under the direction of Professor Tight.

For the 1895 field meeting the Academy met at Sandusky in early July, meeting jointly with the Ohio Teachers' Association. Arrangements were made by Professor E. L. Moseley who also conducted the field excursions. A trip was first made to Cedar Point where a special study was made of the sand dunes, the cacti and other sand plants, and reptiles found in that area. The archeologists were taken to an old flint quarry and Indian arrow factory a few miles south of Sandusky. A visit was also made to the "Blue Hole" at Castalia and a neighboring old-lake ridge. Professor D. S. Kellicott, President of the Academy, explained the nature of the Academy to the Ohio Teachers Association during the evening meeting. W. H. Todd presented a paper on "A Cyclone in Erie County," and Dr. G. F. Wright gave the principal address of the evening, entitled "Evidences of the Glacial Age in Ohio."

The following day was devoted to a field excursion which took members of both organizations to Marblehead and three of the offshore islands (Sugarloaf, Green, and Kelley's Islands). At Marblehead and on Kelley's Island the glacial grooves were examined under the direction of G. F. Wright.

The field meeting of 1896 was a joint conclave of the Ohio and Indiana Academies of Science, held at Oxford on June 4 and 5. Miami University, Western College for Women, and Oxford Female Seminary served as hosts. The geologists made a trip to Darrown to observe glacial till; paleontologists collected trilobites at High Bank; biologists collected in local ponds and creeks; and anthropologists examined an Indian mound. On Thursday evening a banquet was held at Western College. An address by Professor Stanley Coulter of DePauw University was given in the chapel of Miami University. Friday evening dinner was served at the Oxford Female Seminary followed by an illustrated address given in Miami Chapel by R. E. Call on the subject of "Mammouth Cave." Professor A. L. Treadwell of Miami University was in charge of the local arrangements; and he provided visitors with collecting equipment and photographic supplies.

The sixth annual summer meeting was held at Brinkhaven and Gambier under the auspices of Kenyon College. Glacial moraines and tills were explored by the geologists, and the Mohican River was examined as far north as Alum Rocks by the various naturalists present. Following the field excursion at Brinkhaven, the group assembled at Kenyon College where an evening meeting was held. Following an address of welcome by President Pierce of Kenyon College and a response given by Professor E. W. Claypole, Miss Mary Hart of Western College spoke on "The Education of Women" and Mrs. W. A. Kellerman reported on the Women's

National Science Association. Mrs. Claypole described the scientific careers of her daughters who were professors at Wellesley College and Professor W. G. Tight then gave an illustrated lecture on past and present drainage in the Gambier area. On Saturday morning a field trip was made under the Direction of W. A. Kellerman to an area along Owl Creek known as the "Caves."

In 1898 the field meeting was held at Dayton on June 3 and 4. A visit was made to the glacial region south of Dayton on Friday afternoon, and that evening an illustrated lecture on glaciers was delivered by Dr. A. F. Foerste. On Saturday morning the naturalists went to Yellow Springs and to Clifton Gorge, which is cut through upper Silurian limestone, for observations and collecting activities. The Dayton science teachers and the science professors and students of Antioch College assisted with the arrangements.

The summer meeting for 1899 was held in Columbus as a part of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Because of the larger meeting in session, the Academy group did little more than hold a business meeting and hear an address by Rev. Herzer on the fossil genus *Sigillaria*.

The ninth summer meeting was held at Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island in Lake Erie from June 26-28. The Ohio Teachers Association also held its meeting at the same time and place. A visit was made to Rattlesnake Island and Middle Bass Island. The lake was too rough to continue to either Marblehead or Kelley's Island as had been planned. The group did, however, visit the U. S. Fish Hatchery, Crystal Cave, and Daussa Cave. At this meeting it was announced that arrangements had been made through the Ohio Legislature to engage the U. S. Geological Survey to undertake a topographic survey of the State of Ohio. This project, under the guidance of A. A. Wright of Oberlin, was considered the most important achievement of the Academy to that date.

The last regular field meeting since the founding of the Academy took place on May 31 and June 1, 1901, at Wooster. The University of Wooster (now the College of Wooster), the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Wooster Field-Naturalist's Club served as hosts. The bog and adjoining woods around Brown's Lake, located west of Shreve, were visited by the naturalists. A visit was made to the Agricultural Experiment Station and a trip was made up the Killbuck Valley to visit coal mines and Fox Lake with its tamarack bog. It was announced that special paper number 4 on "The Fishes of Ohio" was nearly ready for publication.

At the annual meeting held in Columbus that year, the secretary reported, "In view of the fact that the attendance at the field meetings for the last six years has been small except when held in connection with the meeting of some other association, I recommend that we abandon the policy of holding a field meeting every year, and without fixing a longer period, leave the matter to be decided each year by the executive committee with power to act in making future plans for Academy meetings."

The final independent field meeting of the Academy was held four years later at "The Breakers" and the Lake Laboratory of Ohio State University situated at Cedar Point near Sandusky, July 5 to 8, 1905. A meeting of the American Microscopical Society was held at the same place and at that time, making it possible for Academy members to attend both meetings. It was the 28th annual meeting for the American Microscopical Society, and it was upon its invitation that this joint meeting was planned. As in the past, much of the time was spent in field collecting. Visits were made to Johnson Island, Kelley's Island, and Put-in-Bay. A part of the joint program was a symposium on "Animals as Parasites and Carriers of Disease" and a symposium on "Freshwater Biology." Participants included E. A. Birge, L. B. Walton, C. H. Eigenmann, Herbert Osborn, R. H. Wolcott, F. L. Landacre, and Henry B. Ward.

No other separate field meeting has been held by the Ohio Academy. Some

of the state academies, notably the Indiana Academy of Science, have continued field meetings over many years time. The Ohio Academy has, however, often scheduled field trips immediately following the regular annual meeting. Field excursions were held in 1910, 1918, 1919, 1925, 1928, 1931, 1934, 1936, 1938, and regularly since 1952. These have been sponsored for the most part by the sections of zoology, plant sciences, geology, and conservation. Occasionally the chemistry, physics, and geography sections have sponsored visits to industrial plants and similar organizations located near the place of the annual meeting. Many of the field trips in recent years have been made to the same localities visited in the earlier days. To some members of the Academy the opportunity to visit natural areas throughout the State of Ohio and to make field collections have been high-lights at the meetings of the Academy.

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