

In the 1960s, a group of students at Arizona State University organized a multiyear program of archaeological survey and excavations in the Perkinsville Valley, an archaeologically unknown region briefly visited by Jesse Walter Fewkes in 1906. Starting with a wide-ranging reconnaissance, a survey identified 21 sites, indicating a long-term occupation throughout the entire cultural sequence of the Verde Valley, from at least Early Archaic through the terminal AD 1300–1400 periods. A number of sites were excavated, identifying multicultural occupations by people of the Hohokam, Prescott, and Southern Sinagua traditions. This work was documented in a series of student papers and a few publications, but they provided a tantalizing glimpse of the importance of the Upper Verde Valley to the prehistory of central Arizona. To look into this more closely, I have reviewed the records, photographs, and collections from those projects that are curated at Arizona State University. This presentation shows the results of that initial foray and relates it to the broader picture of Verde Valley prehistory.