

Excavation Shows Holt County Was Once The Home of Many Indians

By J. B. O'Sullivan

(Continued from last week.)

The Pawnee were said to be the proudest people in all the world when first the white had contact with them. To show this highly developed trait, the following, taken from a report made by Major Long, regarding contact his command had with Pawnee in October, 1819 and printed in the Nebraska History magazine, Volume X, No. 3, 1927:

"On October 9, messengers who had been sent yesterday for the Pawnees returned, having met with them on the Elk Horn creek, 25 miles distant, on their way hither.

"They arrived about noon, seventy in number, consisting of individuals of the three tribes, called Grand Pawnees, Pawnee Republicans and Pawnee Loups, or Pawneemahas, (the last band supposed to have lived on the Michael Gallagher farm here) and halted at some distance from our camp.

"As we approached them we observed the majority of them standing in a forest of young willow trees, holding their mules by the bridles, and looking dubiously around.

"The chief of the principal band, Long Hair, was harranging them in a loud voice, 'take off your saddles; why do you stand peeping and trembling in the bushes? You ought to have trembled when the whites were seen near the Konza village, etc.' We saluted the principal men in the usual manner of shaking the hand, though not with much cordiality. Major O'Fallon then said:

"Pawnees, camp here and smoke your pipes in security; you have conducted yourselves badly, but the whites will not harm the red skins when they have them thus in their power; we fight in the plains, and scorn to injure men seated peacefully by their fire-sides. Think well of what you will have to say to me in council tomorrow."

"These assurances seemed to annul their present apprehensions, and they proceeded to encamp.

"Three boats came from Camp Missouri to take on board a quantity of provisions which are stored here for the troops; we exchanged salutes with them. The noise of the artillery excited the apprehensions of the Indians; who, being sensible of having grossly offended the whites, now anticipated some exemplary punishment, and were not at ease until reassured of their safety, and the cause of firing such great guns so near them was explained.

"In the evening, accompanied by several gentlemen of the party, we visited the camp of the Pawnees, whom we found sitting around their fires, smoking their pipes in silence. Some were employed in making bows, having found plenty of hickory, and hop-horn-beam-wood here, which are not to be procured in the vicinity of their villages. Their mules were tied to trees, feeding on the bark of the cottonwood. The three tribes were seated around different fires.

"We sat down in the group of the Grand Pawnees, and smoked with their chief, Tar-ra-re-ca-wa-o, or Long Hair.

"This is an hereditary chief, of a lofty and rather haughty mien; his mouth is, perhaps thru habit, drawn down a little at the corners. He has the appearance and character of an intrepid man, although not distinguished as a warrior, having during his life killed but a single man, who was a Spaniard. He is, however, artful and politic, and has performed some laudable actions.

"At another fire, surrounded by his particular band, sat the Knife Chief, La-che-le-cha-ru, principal chief of the Pawneemahas. He is a large portly man, with a very prepossessing countenance; the hair on the sides of his head is gray; he has a deep scar on the right side, from a wound which was inflicted by a female prisoner, of the Padouca nation, whom he had adopted and taken into his family.

"This squaw, becoming infuriated at the prospect of slavery to which she supposed herself now reduced, stabbed her child to the heart, mortally wounded the brother of this chief, and before she could be dispatched, had inflicted this wound, thru which the bowels protruded. The individuals of this band live in great harmony amongst themselves, owing probably to their having but two chiefs, who are unrivalled. The second chief is a Mestizo. Against this band we have no accusation; (here again is favorable mention of some early Holt county people, the Loups or Skidi under another name) they have always demeaned themselves well toward the American whites.

"In a third group were collected representatives of the Pawnee Republicans. This nation or clan stands accused of whipping, robbing, and otherwise abusing a white American and his son, whom they found trapping beaver on the Arkansas this season; of killing two American citizens, two years since, who were also trapping beaver on the same river, and of robbing our party of sundry articles and horses, near the Konza village, whilst under the protection of the flag of our

country, of the nature of which they had been instructed, and perfectly well understood.

"These outrages, and many others, they had committed on lands to which they did not pretend to have any claim, situated far from their own territories, and in the immediate vicinity of nations with whom they then were, and still are, at war.

"On the following day the Pawnees were summoned to council, and in a short time they appeared, marching leisurely in a narrow pathway, in Indian file, led by the Grand chief. Near this pathway the musical band was stationed, and when Long Hair arrived opposite, they struck up, suddenly and loudly, a martial air. We wished to observe the effects which instruments, which he had never seen nor heard before, would produce on this distinguished man, and therefore eyed him closely, and were not disappointed to observe that he did not deign to look upon them, or to manifest, by any motion whatever, that he was sensible of their presence.

"The Indians arranged themselves on the benches prepared for them, and the cessation of the music was succeeded by stillness, which was suddenly interrupted by loud explosions of our howitzers, that startled many of us, but did not appear to attract the notice of the Pawnees.

"Major O'Fallon arose and addressed them in a very austere tone and manner; stating the offense they had committed against the white people, and admonishing them to the reformation in their conduct, and to restore the articles they had stolen from us.

"The council terminated after much of the property taken from us near the Konza village was restored, and a promise given that the offenders should be punished by whipping."

Here is a speech by the Knife Chief, head of the Loup band of the Pawnee, the tribe thought to have lived in Holt county long before the whites had even a name on the area. At the meeting mentioned above, each chief was asked to speak and the Knife, also called La-seech-ne-sha-ru, said:

"Father, Here I am' before you. You see me. I am poor.

"Father, I am a Pawnee Wolf, and those you see there, (pointing to his band) are Pawnee Wolves.

"Father, look at my people, and see if they have anything belonging to a white man.

"Father, I tell you I am poor.

"Father, Amongst my people, I believe there is not an individual that has injured you. If anyone of the other bands can say they have, let them speak.

"Father, This medal which hangs upon my breast, I received from my red headed Father below (Governor Clarke) I listened to his words, and on my return I told them to my people, and they believed.

"Father, you see I am old; but I do not recollect that myself, or any of my people ever injured any of the whites.

"Father, Neither my hands, nor those of my young men, have ever been stained with the blood of the Americans.

"Father, that is the reason why I have come to listen again to the words of my Father.

"Father, That is all I have to say. I have finished."

It should be interesting to read some notes set down by Lewis and Clarke on the tribes of the Pawnee:

"(Pania Proper) With respect to their idea of possession of the soil, it is similar to that of the Otoes; they hunt on the south side of the river Platte, higher up and on the head of the Kansas. A great proportion of this country is open plains, interspersed however, with groves of timber, which are most generally found in the vicinity of the water courses. It is mostly fertile and well watered; free of stone and lies level. They have resided in the country which they now inhabit, since they were known to the whites. Their trade is a valuable one, from the large proportion of beaver and otter which they furnish, and it may be expected yet to increase, as those animals are still abundant in their country.

"The periods of their residence at their village and their hunting, are similar to the Kansas and the Osages. Their population is increasing. They are friendly and hospitable to all white persons; pay great respect and deference to their traders, with whom they are punctual in the payment of their debts.

"They are, in all respects, a friendly, well disposed people. They cultivate, corn, beans, melons, tobacco, etc.

"(Pania Republicans) Are a branch of the Pania proper. About ten years since they withdrew themselves from the mother nation and established a village on a large northwardly branch of the Kansas, to which they have given name. They afterwards subdivided, and lived in different parts of the country on the waters of the Kansas river, but being harassed by their turbulent neighbors, the Kansas, they rejoined the Pania proper last spring. What has been said with respect to the Pania proper is applicable to these people, except that they hunt principally on the Republican river,

which is better stocked with timber than that hunted by the Pania.

"(Pania Loups) These are also a branch of the Pania proper, who separated themselves from that nation many years since, and established themselves on a north branch of the river Platte, to which their names also was given. These people have likewise no idea of exclusive right to any portion of country. They hunt on the Wolf river about their village, and on the river Platte above the mouth of that river. This country is very similar to that of the Pania proper, though there is an extensive body of fertile, well-timbered land between the Wolf river below their village, and the river Corn-de-Carf, or Elkhorn river. They cultivate corn, beans, etc. The particulars related on the other Pania is also applicable to them. They are seldom visited by any trader, and therefore usually bring their furs and peltry to the village of the Pania proper, where they traffic with the whites."

(Continued next week.)

Old Timer Praises Qualities Of Late Bernard McGreevy

The following tribute to the late Bernard McGreevy is from the pen of Jack Graham, formerly a neighbor of the McGreevys northwest of this city. Jack was one of the pioneers of this county, his parents having come to Nebraska in 1878 or 1879 and he grew to manhood in this county, leaving here in the nineties for San Jose, Cal., where he has since made his home. For many years he has been an employee of the Mercury Herald, San Jose's leading newspaper. His article follows:

"Just being informed of the death of Bernard (Barney) McGreevy, by another old timer, Mayme Welch Cherry, of Denver, I am wondering just how many of the newer generation of the O'Neill people realize the worth of this sterling man of the pioneer days, realize what a prominent part Mr. McGreevy played in the history making of O'Neill and Holt county.

"It was my privilege to know Barney McGreevy, as a youth and later to know him as a man and to know his many fine qualities.

"Mr. McGreevy came to Holt county about 1878, from Scranton, Pa., with his father and mother, the late John and Bridget McGreevy, settling on a homestead northwest of O'Neill, where the family erected a log house made of cottonwood timber, hauled by ox teams from the Niobrara river district and there he grew to manhood.

"It was the misfortune of the Graham family to be burned out of house and home in the dead of winter, only to be taken in by the McGreevy family in their small log house and there cared for until spring opened and frost thawed out so that another small sod house could be erected.

"Barney McGreevy became of age, and homesteaded and located a timber claim, which he planted to ash trees, grown from the seed, the timber still growing there.

"Having a poor school education, he began to study, mastering mathematics and even going into higher mathematics, mastering algebra and geometry and other knotty problems. He became a school teacher and taught successfully for a number of years in district No. 8.

"It was in the big blizzard of 1888, that he showed courage, when with no fuel in the school house, he gathered his little band of children, consisting of Nellie and Tom Joyce, Pat and John Handley, Pat and Mayme Welsh, and thru the blinding snow storm piloted them to the Joyce home a quarter of a mile distant, to warmth, fire, a hot meal and safety, and was only sorry that he did not have his violin to play for them. McGreevy's violin was famous as he was the master violinist of the country and he could make that instrument talk. Every one remembers Barney McGreevy and his 'fiddle.'

"Mr. McGreevy later became a business man but misfortune overtook him in the banking affairs and he later traveled to Washington and other parts of the country.

"As a young man he married a beautiful lady who bore him four children, she later passed away.

"The many virtues of Barney McGreevy will never be forgotten by the old timers of Holt county and it is only those of us who suffered the cold and hunger, the wild blizzard, cyclones and hail storms as well as droughts and grasshoppers and prairie fires, when there were only a few acres under cultivation, that can appreciate Barney McGreevy the fiddler of those early days, and as the old song, 'The Blizzardsville Boys' stated: 'There is Lord Edward Fitzgerald and Big Tony Murry, Tade Welsh and Jim Conley and Red headed Pete, McGreevy the fiddler who always willing to play us a Hoe-own when ever we meet!'"

Nebraska News Items

A bit of the rarest kind of luck resulted in the saving of lives at a grade crossing at Bayard. L. D. Hughes was towing motorists to town and as he watched the car he was towing, a train

appeared and passed between the first and second automobile as occupants gasped. The tow rope became untied just as the leading car passed over the tracks.

A new method of robbing oil station attendants was tried at Blair, working perfectly. Ditloff Wolfmann, carrying \$100, answered a knock on his door. One gunman stood guard while the other entered the home and pocketed the money as two guns were held ready for business.

One of the big Nebraska industries is that of searching for oil. Thousands of acres are under lease and the quest for black gold continues, a report says. Many firms stand to lose or gain stakes up in the millions. Chances of finding oil in Nebraska are said to be as good as they were in Oklahoma, oil men say.

The Nebraska State Softball association is being formed and teams of the following towns have signed up or agreed to enter teams: Plainview, Battle Creek, Meadow Grove, Creighton, Hartington, Bloomfield, Neligh, Madison, Walthill, Wakefield and Wayne. Towns of at least 12 counties are expected to furnish teams.

A small son of Mr. and Mrs. Radcliff, of near Stuart, lost two joints of his right hand small finger in a cream separator. The child placed his finger in the works of the machine while it was in motion.

One House Legislature

Donald Gallagher, an O'Neill boy doing big things in a big way at Lincoln, sent literature relative to the campaign of Senator Norris for submission to the voters of Nebraska of his proposed one house legislature. Donald is secretary of the Norris Amendment Committee, headquarters at the Cornhusker hotel, Lincoln.

At the head of the petition which was enclosed is this explanation:

"The object of this petition is to submit to the electors of Nebraska for their approval or rejection a proposed amendment to the constitution of Nebraska relating to the legislative authority thereof, and providing in substance in so far as any changes in the constitution are made, that beginning with the regular session of the legislature in 1937, the legislative authority of the state shall be vested in a legislature of one house consisting of not less than 30 nor more than 50 members, the members to be nom-

inated and elected in a non-partisan manner for a term of two years, the aggregate salaries of the members to be \$37,500 per year divided equally among them, each member to receive in addition to his salary an amount equal to his actual expenses in traveling by the usual route once to and returning from each regular or special session of the legislature, the lieutenant governor to act as presiding officer, the sessions of the legislature to be biennial except as may otherwise be provided by law.

"The request by any one member to be sufficient to secure a roll call on any question, the vote upon the final passage of any bill not to be taken until five legislative days after its introduction nor until it has been on file for final reading and passage for at least one legislative day, and all provisions in the constitution and laws of the state relating to the legislature,

the senate, the house of representatives, and joint sessions thereof, to mean, in so far as applicable, said legislature of one house."

Highway Association Elects New Officers

Randolph Times-Enterprise: A meeting of highway No. 20 Good Roads Association was held here Friday evening. This group is comprised of representatives from communities adjacent to the highway from O'Neill to Sioux City.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Harry Houston, Plainview, president; Dr. G. E. Peters, Randolph, secretary-treasurer and five vice presidents, Dr. R. P. Carroll, Laurel; George Lamar, South Sioux City; Matt Liewer, Osmond; Will Hammond, O'Neill and E. P. Van Kirk, Brunswick.

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