

**THE LODGE CIRCLES, MILLS AND BURYING GROUNDS OF THE ROCA SITE.**

The lodge circles as observed in the Roca site are similar in every way to those observed and measured at Fullerton. These remains at Fullerton occupy the same relative position with regard to the relief of the country that is maintained by the lodge circles at the Roca site. This naturally leads to the conclusion that the same race of people built and occupied both sites.

At first I was inclined to the opinion that the Fullerton ruin was simply an old Pawnee camp of recent years, but inquiry revealed the fact that the site had never been occupied by the Pawnees since white men knew them, and a little study and observation of the more recent camp sites revealed much dissimilarity in the location and general form of the sites.

The recent sites are on low ground, quite near the creek banks and in draws where surrounding hills form a natural protection from the north-west winds, while the ancient sites occupy the bench at a point where a bend in the creek commands a good view of the valley for some distance and where some high point of ground near by commands a view of the country in all directions, yet where some small stream furnishes a supply of water and some near-by ravine furnishes wood and a convenient cover for the smoke when an enemy is near. The recent sites seem to be selected without reference to a commanding view, but more with reference to protection and access to wood and water.

From the position of the Roca site one immediately recognizes it as an ancient site. But two of the centers of lodges in this site have been explored, and these not as thoroughly as they will be. The first group of lodge circles is located on Donald Bissett's farm and is the southern extremity of the village site. This point of rolling prairie has the creek to the north-east of it; the creek flowing northward comes to this point from nearly due south, and this point commands a view up the valley for a distance of five miles. From this point the creek veers slightly and continues in a north-by-north-west direction; the sinuosities of the stream can be traced with the eye for a distance of several miles in this direction.

**Site of Former Indian Village.**

From the top of the hill immediately west of this point and but a few feet higher one has a magnificent view bounded by the horizon, fully eight miles in all directions; in fact one may look as far as he can see at this point. Lincoln, crowned by the silvery dome of its white capitol, reflects against its setting of bright green foliage to the north; Roca, with its white-spined church and beautiful school building, forms a

picturesque panorama to the south-east; surrounded as it is by its quarries of white limestone cropping out amid the green fields of waving corn and ripening grain; while far to the south-west may be seen the dim outlines of Centreville church and all around cosy white farm-houses with their accompaniment of spacious red barns and fluttering wind-mills.

It is doubtful if the ghosts of departed chiefs can appreciate the scene as it now exists; they may sigh for the herds of buffalo and the excitement of the chase.

At this picturesque and commanding point on Salt Creek once were gathered seventy-five or one hundred lodges, circular in shape, and, according to the outlines left, from sixteen to forty feet in diameter. These outlines can be traced in some instances, while in others it takes a practiced eye to discern them. The field has been in constant cultivation for thirty years so the ground has become pretty well leveled by the cultivator and harrow, but the places where the lodges stood may be determined by the pottery shards, fine gravel and flint chips, as well as by the color and texture of the soil.

The collection of lodges did not assume a geometrical form but they were scattered and grouped here and there as the relief of the ground favored. As to the form of architecture, we cannot determine from the meagre outlines left, so we must turn to the old Spanish manuscripts which give an account in a general way of the huts or lodges which they saw while searching for Quivera.

The writings along the line of search are voluminous; and the meagre references to these huts are not so conflicting as the writings are on some other points. Most of the writers agree that the lodges were circular and the remains left to this day prove this much to be true. As to material the authorities differ somewhat; this difference may be on account of a real difference of material used, or on account of the fact, noticeable in all Spanish documents referring to this new region, that they dwelt upon and made prominent mention, not of the most pronounced features, but of the strange features, that would excite wonderment in the minds of the readers. A careful student of these writings cannot fail to notice this peculiarity and must base his judgment accordingly when using these writings as a source from which to deduce fact.

**Coronado's Description.**

Coronado, in describing the houses of the nomadic tribes, says:

"They have little field tents made of the hides of the cows, tanned and greased, very well made, in which they live when they travel around near the cows, moving with these."

This account, very obviously, does not describe the Roca site, as this was a per-

manent village. A little farther on in his account Coronado describes the houses of the permanent settlements of Quivera to which his guides were taking him. This account he seems to have gathered from the wandering tribes, for he says;

"I obtained from these an account of the country where the guides were taking me, which was not like what they had told me, because these made out the houses were not built of stones, with stories, as my guides had described it, but of straw and skins, and a small supply of corn there."

This account seems to be more in keeping with the remains left; especially if they heaped earth around the outside in winter, as was the practice with many of the more recent Indians.

After his arrival at these permanent settlements, Coronado goes on to say:

"They eat the raw flesh like the Querechos and Teyas; they are enemies of one another; but are all of the same sort of people, and these of Quivera have the advantage in the houses they build and in planting corn."

This seems to convey the idea that the houses were better here. Again:

"In this province of which the guides who brought me are natives, they received me peaceably, and although they told me when I set out for it that I could not succeed in seeing it all in two months, there are not more than twenty-five villages of straw, etc."

Here we get quite a definite idea of material, although he does not tell us how they were made. There must have been some support for the straw structures. Quite a graphic account of these "grass houses" is given by Catlin, but I have not the account at hand from which to quote.

Castanedo, who, doubtless, wrote at second hand or from hearsay on this matter, but whose writings are even more accurate than are the lines of Coronado himself, and whose work is taken as authority by all students of the subject, says:

"The houses are round, without a wall and they have one story like a loft under the roof, where they sleep and keep their belongings. The roofs are of straw."

Richard Hakluyt says:

"Of the hides (of the buffalo) they make houses."

Other accounts tell of houses made of hides tanned very white and some mention a thatching of straw.

De Freytas, in his account of the Penalosa expedition to Quivera, which seems to have reached a point much farther north than did Coronado, and, as I verily believe, to have penetrated as far as the present site of Columbus, where his historian describes a magnificent city of "houses made of hewn