

KANSAS ARCHAEOLOGY.

The archaeology of Kansas is so closely related to that of Nebraska that a glance at that field will not come amiss in a study of this. Hon. J. V. Brower, who has elaborated the Kansas field so graphically in two of his volumes, "Quivera," and "Harahey," invited me to visit Kansas in his company last October, and I am sure the readers of The Conservative will be interested in what I saw there.

After an extended trip over Nebraska, Mr. Brower and I made our first stop at Manhatta, Kan. Here we remained only long enough to catch the train to Junction City. At this point we were met by Capt. Robert Henderson, an old settler there, who took us to his beautiful home, "Logan Grove," and there we were hospitably entertained by his interesting family over Sunday. At Logan Grove wave the inspiring folds of "Old Glory" every day that the sun shines. You can but faintly realize the good cheer dispensed here.

Sunday was a beautiful day and we were driven over to Fort Riley and climbed to the Ogden Monument, where there is a view of the fort worth going all the way down there to see.

Monday morning we started, by team, across the country to Alma, about thirty-five miles due east. Thirty-five miles in that country means something; it means beautiful but narrow valleys literally rock crowned, it means following these valleys and climbing flint ledges where the valley is too narrow and too valuable to admit of both a road and a field, it means mile after mile of roadbed made of flint spalls where the road skirts half way up the steep ledges. When one is once on top of these ledges, the country seems one unbroken, level plain for miles in all directions. This plain is broken every few rods, in any straight line, however, with other and smaller valleys, rock crowned, until at the very heads of the little draws the valley is scarcely wider than the road but still rock crowned and canyon-like.

The level upland looks like one continuous plain and the soil appears all right. Not a rock is to be seen there. It seems that the deposits of limestone were made nearly level; this limestone alternates with layers of flint, from two inches to two feet thick, layer upon layer; first limestone, then flint. Then a deposit of soil was made over the rock and flint field. Then came erosion, and the mighty torrents for ages wore away the beds for the many little streams down through these rock-deposits, until thousands of these little valleys are linked with the larger ones and these, with the noble Kaw river, until you can not travel a

hundred rods in a straight line without coming to a rocky precipice.

The Kansas river is sixty to one hundred feet below the surrounding level plain, and the intervening bluffs are one great flint mine. The farmers use the high land for pasture and fence their farms with great blocks of flint. Mile after mile of stone fence, every rod of which is an Indian's gold mine, greets you on every side.

All along the larger valleys, on low land and quite near water, are found many ancient village sites, containing the coarsely chipped "Quivera" flints, but no potshards. These sites are too numerous to mention each one, and a description of one must suffice for this paper.

About two o'clock we halted in the McDowell creek valley, near the "Elliott Site," from which a ton of chipped flints has been taken. There were still many left, however, and a number of these are now attracting attention in the State Historical Society rooms at Lincoln.

The site covers about sixty acres and the ground is so thickly strewn with flint spalls that it must be a hard field to plow. No lodge circles are perceptible and no pottery or metal has been found. The rocks cropping out of the bluffs near by contain stratas of flint, but the tools and spalls found on the site are of a better quality of flint than shows on the surface near. I have noticed this peculiarity in the Kansas field throughout and it leads me to believe that they mined below the surface for a better material.

The Hollingworth site near Holmesville, this state, was occupied by the same people once living along the Kansas river. Not only are the implements the same, but the geographical location with reference to water and the surrounding country are the same. After a personal survey of both, I am prepared to say that the Hollingworth site is identical with the Kansas "Quivera" sites.

The Nebraska sites along the Platte, Loup and Elkhorn valleys (of which I shall treat later) are made by another people; we visited a similar site near Manhattan on our way home.

Mr. Brower has described the Quivera village sites in his book, "Quivera," and draws the conclusion that these people are the same that Coronado visited in 1542, and the data on the subject seem to bear him out. He further concludes that the ancestors of the Wichita Indians were the identical people, which fact looks plausible. Nebraska certainly had one village of these people on her soil, and the question then arises, did Coronado get as far north as the Hollingworth site? This question may never be satisfactorily answered, but when the natives told Coronado, "this is the end of Quivera," he seemed to have been exploring in a northeasterly direction, so, if the natives told the truth, one of two conditions only is possible; either Coronado came into Nebraska or the Quivera Indians emigrated into Nebraska after Coronado's day. Either condition leads to an interesting field, which I must not detail here.

The team was ready to start at four, and rather than risk a night on these almost desolate hills, we concluded to drive to Alma that night; it took a drive of twenty miles over a strange country. About sundown we came to the end of the road, near an orchard; we enquired which of the many gates

led our way and loaded the carriage with apples. We passed a house a half mile farther on and the rest of the drive was something to remember. Some one down there concluded to become progressive and depart from the usual custom of laying out the road along the valleys; so for once we found a road on a section line, and every few rods there was a new hill just a little steeper than the last. One of us walked most of the time and called out the various irregularities along the "rocky road." Our bones would now be bleaching amid the disintegrating flint spalls had it not been for the natural sagacity of the team. About nine o'clock, just as the rising moon began to show the dim outlines of distant hills, we saw the lights in Alma. We were a thankful tired but jolly lot, which did the supper table ample justice. Oh, yes, one meets some interesting experiences exploring, but he is always hungry and generally happy; apples are not archaeology, but they form a very pleasant accessory.

At Alma we met Judge Keagy and E. A. Kilian, two active and scholarly gentleman who find time out of a busy life to inquire into the past.

From this vicinity Judge Keagy had gathered nearly a thousand specimens of chipped flints. This country is very rich in relics. We went about a half mile from town to see a steep bluff, where the stream had cut a sheer precipice of twenty or thirty feet. Half way down this bank, twelve feet below the surface, was found an arrow-point, and you may still see the lodge circle in cross-section with ashes and charcoal in the fire-place in the center. This has been covered by a change in the bed of the stream to a depth of twelve feet, while the surface bears trees two feet in diameter. How long since that arrow served the red man can only be approximately determined.

After a very profitable and pleasant stay of two days in Alma, we took the train for Manhattan, following the Kansas river up stream. The valley is quite wide here and the great bluffs of flint in the distance are very picturesque.

Mr. W. J. Griffing accompanied us to the "Griffing Site," about two miles from Manhattan. This site is similar to the Roca site in its relics, only it is on low ground and quite near the water. I notice this condition prevails in Kansas, while in this state the villages are on high ground. This may be due to the natural features of the country, or it may have a more far-reaching significance.

I brought back with me a complete lot of "Quivera" and "Harahey" types which Mr. Brower selected from his collection. Judge Keagy and Mr. Henderson also gave me collections.

The trip to Kansas has proved very helpful in my work in this state. We covered the ground rapidly but quite effectually, and I appreciate more fully Mr. Brower's Quivera and Harahey since this trip. He has taken a matter of five tons of flint implements from the country we explored, to St. Paul, Minnesota, at no small cost to him in money and labor. The state of Kansas can never replace them nor can they duplicate them now. Too long have the officials of the Kansas State Historical Society slumbered, and Minnesota is the gainer. Science has lost nothing, but the loss to Kansas as a state is irreparable.

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