

homa, came back in 1893, and searched on this very hill for the grave of his sister, where his mother told him she was buried, "when the Pawnees lived on this hill." He was evidently wrong, as Judge Hudson, of Columbus, told me that he passed over this ground many times in the early 40's and the ruins looked as ancient then as they do now.

I speak of this to show you the conflicting testimony with which one has to contend in this connection. If we are to take the form, size and general mode of structure in the village, which we know the Pawnees built, as a criterion, I am quite sure the Pawnees had something to do with the building of the Wright site. This is not a safe premise, however, so we can only say with a certainty that the manner of building was similar to the Pawnee mode of construction.

None of the early travelers mention this as an inhabited village, so far as my reading has yet shown; many of them speak of this territory as "Pawnee country," but the location is not specifically mentioned anywhere that I have been able to find. So may we not safely assume that it at least anti-dates the white traveler?

A careful tracing of the Pawnee tribe proper, or the Chou-i, the Kitke-hahk-i and the Pita-hau-erat bands leads one to believe that they never lived so far west, but the Skidi band was found further west (on Horse Creek, west of Fullerton) by Elsworth, in 1832. Elsworth followed up the Platte river that year on a trip to make treaties with the Indians, and, if so large a village existed so near his route, would he not have been likely to at least mention it? However, he found the Skidi band farther west, but we know that these same Skidis came from the south, so it is possible that they occupied the Wright site on their way up the Loup in an early day. That it was occupied before contact with the whites is quite evident, as no iron has been found and not a single article shows contact except a small piece of substance that has every appearance of bone or ivory which came up on a small auger with which I was prospecting; it was ten feet under ground and found in black earth which was mixed with charcoal and ashes; I had passed through five feet of yellow clay before I came to the ashes. This bit of bone is about an inch long and a quarter wide; it is a part of a circular piece, or more properly a ring; it seems to be engraved too accurately for hand work, but the piece is so small that it is hard to determine, and it may be only a piece of a tooth with natural tracing on it. We hope to open the cache next summer and will know more about it then.

Copper is not common in the state,

and when I found a copper bracelet on this site, I thought it proved contact with the whites, but upon careful examination it was found to be beaten out of native copper and had never been through a mill, as can be seen by the uneven edges. A number of copper bangles were found and one very fine knife, showing an uneven thickness as if beaten out by hand; this knife is two inches long and nearly an inch wide.

The pottery found here is not the same as that found on the Roca site, but is better preserved and more elaborately ornamented. The handles are a different design in general. No fabric impressions are to be found except a very few found near the more ancient lodge circles. The difference in the pottery first drew my attention to the difference in age shown on the site.

To the north of the village site are steep bluffs and at their base runs the Beaver creek; these bluffs are so steep that a horse can scarcely climb them; they formed a good barrier to the north, while at the south side of the village still may be traced a trench and the bank of earth which came out of it, reaching from one draw to the other; the draws are deeply worn and the banks are scarcely less than on the north, so the east and west are both protected, as is the north, by steep bluffs; the south was evidently protected by a ditch and bank, and the site was admirably situated from a military point of view. The ditch is sixty yards long, and this part of the site covers over ten acres.

Many of the lodge circles are sixty feet across; they are very plainly defined, as the land was first broken a year ago. They show that the lodges were built on top of the ground, not dug down as so many are. The fire place (when it can be found at all) is at the surface. The depressions are three feet deep in some instances, or more properly, the circular ridges are three feet high.

There are also a few "mound houses" found here, of which I shall have occasion to speak when I describe another site, not far away.

On the next ridge to the east is the place of sepulchre, five acres completely covered with graves; it was here that the Pawnee boy thought he found the grave of his sister, but the Pawnees never buried here but on low ground near their village. The graves are plowed up every spring. The bones plowed out on this hill are very much decayed. Where graves were opened in an early day (in the 60's) the bones were entirely decayed in some instances, I am informed.

The most important point by which we will be able to identify the people who lived here, if at all, is the class of chipped flints found scattered over

the entire country as far as I have explored in the vicinity. The material is a brown jasper in the best specimens and grades down to a light yellow color and a softer quality of stone. Some specimens have a chalky appearance and look as if they may be changed by the weather. I am not sure about the place from which this brown material came, as I have not seen any of it in the quarry, but parties living in Franklin county told me it is found there and I hear of a quarry on the Niobrara river also.

The chipping is much finer, the implements much more artistic and the forms much different than any I have yet described in detail. The "Scraper" is greatly in evidence in this locality. This is a blunt instrument which is flat or concave on one side and chipped to resemble a thumb on the other it was used to dress hides by being fastened in the end of a piece of elk horn. This elk horn was a triangular piece with a handle about ten inches long and the part to which the scraper was attached was about five inches long; this made a sort of hoe with a flint edge and must have been quite effective. We are enabled to give such an accurate description because we have found them with the flints inserted, and the recent Indians used the same tool with a piece of iron in place of the flint. A great quantity of these scrapers has been gathered on the Wright site.

Large implements are numerous; one is unique; it is about four inches long and over two wide; it looks like a knife that has one edge longer than the other, which gives it the appearance of an apple leaf when one-half has grown larger than the other. Its use is a mystery; it would make a very effective corn knife if fitted with a handle. The large implements found along the Platte and its tributaries are to be studied carefully, as they form a class not common. Here is where Nebraska excels, and I hope to see the day when we will know more of these massive flints. One was found near Fullerton that measures twenty-three inches in length, which I have mentioned before. When we know the use of this huge implement, we can better tell what the smaller ones were used for.

A number of very small "war points" were found. These are not over an inch long and many are half that length. They have no notches in the side, but were fastened loosely in the split end of the arrow shaft, so that upon pulling out the shaft the point would be left in the wound. These little bits of flint are chipped so skillfully and made so sharp that one must conclude that much pains was taken in their manufacture.

Another small point is also quite common; these are called "bird points" by our eminent archaeologists, and are scarcely larger than the war points; they have notches cut in the sides, sometimes two pairs of them, and some have been found in the east with three pair of notches. The notches were to fasten them securely to the shaft so that they could be pulled out and used again in hunting. Good authorities say that these small bird points were used in killing buffalo as well.

My space limit for this article is reached, but I have so much more to tell that I shall devote some more space to it next time.

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