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**EARTH LODGE RUINS OF INDIAN HABITATION ON
ROSE CREEK IN THAYER COUNTY.**
(Presumably Pre-Historic.)

By George F. Lamb

Rose Creek is a tributary of the Little Blue River which empties into the Republican River about 100 miles to the Southeast of this location. If you are familiar with the legal description of your premises or the locality in which you live you may easily locate where this Indian Village is situated when you learn that it is on [REDACTED]

noted that indication of Indian habitation has existed at some prior time, along this stream. Evidences such as pot sherds and other artifacts had been taken from the banks where exposed by washing action of the flood waters. These indications were reported to the State Historical Society, but not a great amount of investigation was made until the spring of 1932 when indication was found in a field adjacent to Rose Creek, which had been brought to the surface by rodents and gophers.

This investigation consisted of an excavation about 30 inches deep, which was to the floor level of an earth lodge ruin, revealing many artifacts and utensils of an ancient people. The Nebraska State Historical Society was informed of this find, as was Mr. A. T. Hill, of Hastings, Nebraska, a Director of the Society. Mr. E. E. Blackman and Mr. I. E. Jones, representing the State Historical Society, and Mr. A. T. Hill of Hastings, Archaeologist of the Plains Indians and ardent supporter of the State Historical Society, arrived on the same day, and a preliminary survey of the situation was made. It was decided that this find was an Indian house ruin. On this date, May 1st, an earthen vessel was removed which had been badly frost cracked. The base of this vessel rested 33 inches below the surface of the ground. Later it was placed in the hands of an expert who restored it to its original form which proved to be a beautiful complete specimen, 14 inches in diameter. Work continued from this date on, intervals, with the wonderful cooperation of Mr. Hill and Mr. Samms, until this House site was completely excavated. It is approximately 40 feet square with an entrance way 22 feet long. Dr. W. D. Strong, of the Smithsonian Institute with his field party visited this Ruin and concluded that it was "a PAWNEE EARTH LODGE RUIN, which had an earth roof approximately 14 inches thick covering same, and likely pre-historic, as no metal objects or glass of any description was found in the site." This would indicate that these early people had made no contacts with early traders or travelers who did have metal objects and glass beads which they exchanged for pelts and robes.

These early people were agriculturalists as well as hunters, as evidenced by the implements of stone, bone and shell. Eighteen scapula (shoulder blade) of Bison was found in House Site No. 1, (one of which is fossilized materials). These are shaped into picks and hoes. These implements show indications of being hafted with handles for use in their field and garden. Charred corn cobs were found as evidence of agricultural material. Clam and oyster shells with perforations were found. Bone awls and other objects of bone were discovered indicating their use as perforators and implements.

Many flint objects, as snub nose scrapers, celts, arrow points, knives, drills, of different shapes and designs was found. Grinders,

pulverizers, sweat stones and other crude stone objects, as well as a limestone pipe was discovered.

Six cache pits and a few smaller cache pockets on the surface of the floor were located and excavated which yielded many objects, one of the caches being lined with flat stones, both bottom and sides. Two stone tables elevated slightly above the floor level at either side of the entrance which was left intact are located in this house ruin. Seven almost completely restorable vessels (earthen) were found, and approximately 400 differently designed Rim sherds from different vessels were found in the soil structures of the house ruin, and almost bushels of pottery sherds. The tempering materials used in the pottery is principally grit or sand and some mica. A few unusual pieces of decorated ware were found and some broken vessels with loop handles.

The roof and entrance to this dwelling was supported by about 150 posts as evidenced by the charred remains of the posts or the post mould in the post holes. The fire place is almost exactly in the center of the house ruin. It is problematical as to how the trees were felled which were used in the construction of this house as no stone axes were found.

Later, upon further exploration, a number of other house ruins were located, one of which is in progress of excavation. This second house ruin is approximately 32 feet in diameter and is semi-round. It has yielded no earthen vessels, although about 200 Rim sherds of different design have been found. Many arrow points, celts, scrapers stone anvils, one ground axe, many awls, no scapulas, a few shells with perforations, a few shell disc beads, one shell pendant, two bone fish hooks, and other materials as grinders, pulverizers, a pipe and such materials usually found in such ruins. No Metals or Glass were found.

I find this work very interesting, personally, when pursued in a systematic and scientific manner. I may have one of the earth lodges restored in the near future, as most of the material is easily available. This Village ruin has created a great amount of interest among the public, and the schools of the adjoining territory are requesting permission to visit and study the remains of a former human habitation; whose customs and habits can only be visualized and pondered by those who study and read of today.

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THE RUINS OF A PREHISTORIC HOUSE IN HOWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By A. T. Hill, Hastings, Nebraska

In the fertile valley of the North Loup, on the banks of Munson Creek, three miles west of Elba, is the enjoyable farm home of Wm. Lehn and family. Through the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs.