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## **ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS OF THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR 1933**

By A. T. Hill, Director of Archeological Research

The field work for the year consisted, for the most part, in a continuation of excavations in sites where the digging had been previously begun. Several trips were made, however, to various localities for the purpose of inspecting reported collections and sites. It is the sincere hope and intention of Director of Field Activities that excavation work may begin in some of these new sites in the summer of 1934.

For valuable assistance in bringing to our attention new sites and cooperation in the work carried on in 1933 we wish to express our appreciation to: J. C. Samms and A. M. Brooking of Hastings; Robert Stevenson of Alma; Lewis Lehn, William Lehn and sons of Elba; George F. and J. J. Lamb of Williams; Paul Mortensen of Cotesfield; N. C. Burham and R. E. Olmstead of Wauneta, B. E. Bengtson of Hordville and others.

The one new site in which excavation work was begun in 1933 was that in the vicinity of Stockville. A complete report of this work, by Field Representative Waldo Wedel, is contained elsewhere in this issue of the magazine.

The first trip of the season was one of several made to the George F. Lamb site near Williams. Excavation work in this site for the past few years has been carried on almost entirely by Mr. Lamb, in cooperation with Direct-

or Hill of the Historical Society. A brief report of findings there is contained in the magazine for July-September 1932. This is a large site and is yielding an abundance of material. It is especially rich in pottery and a number of these vessels are now on display in the Museum in the Capitol. A detailed report and conclusions on this site will be given later.

During an extended trip through the East Director Hill visited the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh, New York State Museum at Albany and the Schenectady Historical Museum. Many hours were spent in these institutions making comparison studies of the material. The similarity of the artifacts from the Iroquois and that from the Pawnee sites in Nebraska is very interesting and especially so of the pottery. A few days were spent in visiting archeological sites in New York. Two days were well occupied in working with the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter of the New York State Archeological Association in excavating a site on the Mohawk River.

After returning from the East work was resumed at the Garner site in Adams county where four prehistoric houses were excavated. This site was chosen because of the interest created by the prehistoric house excavated there in 1932. The extraordinary thing about the house excavated in 1932, was that, though it was distinctly prehistoric, it was round and contained six center posts in a circle, instead of the usual four center posts forming a rectangle. One of the houses excavated in 1933 disclosed very clearly that it had been burned, and from all indications, sometime after it had been evacuated. The line of the outer wall was clearly defined and the floor easily followed by its covering of charcoal. This house was also especially interesting, for, though it contained four post holes, its shape was that of a truncated circle with the straight wall and doorway in the east. The other three were rectangular in shape but with rounding corners. There were many small artifacts and potsherds found, but the controlling interest was the construction of the lodges.

We left the Garner site on September 9, and arrived at the Lehn Site in Howard County on September 10, where in accordance with word already received we found Mr. Lehn had a house excavated almost to floor

level with the fire place and doorway located. This house was about thirty feet southwest of the house on which excavation was completed in 1932. It was almost a duplication of the one excavated in 1932, rectangular in shape with doorway in the south. The artifacts and other evidence indicate that it was inhabited during the same period and same culture as the other house of which a report is contained in the July-September issue of the Nebraska History Magazine for 1932.

After returning to Hastings for the week end we went out on Monday to investigate a site on Thirty-Two Mile Creek, in Adams county, which I had discovered several years ago. The immediate attraction to this site was the similarity of the pottery here to that we had secured at the Garner Site. We were inspired with the anticipation of finding further evidence of the round house culture discovered at the Garner Site. Mr. Samms discovered signs of a house site in the bank of the creek and so we started to work there. We established beyond doubt that this was the remains of a rectangular earth lodge and found some potsherds and broken flints but as a large part of the house had been washed away by the creek we started a search for another house. A second house proved to be more difficult to follow than the first so after a general survey of the territory we concluded there were more house sites there which we would return to work later.

On October 11, we went with Mr. B. E. Bengtson of Hordville two miles north of that place to where the highway had cut through three house sites. Several iron hoes and axes have been found in this village and we dug up a large piece of sheet copper. This historic village is possibly the one mentioned by Major Wharton, referred to on Page 268 of Volume 16, Kansas Historical Collections.

On October 12, we went to Wauneta at the invitation of R. E. Olmstead to look over the beautiful collection assembled by himself and another by N. C. Burham. The following two days were spent in going over two villages in that vicinity with Mr. Olmstead. Though it was only a preliminary survey the trip was well worthwhile and some interesting evidences are there. We anxiously await the time when we can do the necessary exploration

work there to strengthen or disprove our theories regarding the early inhabitants of this village which has no doubt been a very large one. On our return we called on Robert Stevenson at Alma and made a hasty survey of the work Mr. Stevenson is doing there. This village is creating an interest and we hope will yield some worthwhile information in that field.