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THE LAMB COLLECTION OF PREHISTORIC POTTERY, FLINT, STONE AND BONE

In the beautiful Rose Creek Valley, near Williams, in southern Thayer County, lies the farm of George F. Lamb. Acres of wonderful smooth prairie, with wide ribbons of woodland and gentle rises of table land make one of Nebraska's most attractive landscapes. Here, centuries ago, was the home of a prehistoric people.

About 1929 Mr. Lamb felt the challenge of the lodge circles, numerous in the Rose Creek Valley, and began a series of explorations. He had the co-operation of Mr. A. T. Hill of Hastings. The results were remarkable. Seven ancient houses have been explored. Photographs were taken of the excavations and articles found. An exhibit was made and visited by thousands. Descriptive accounts were written.

The best of these ancient artifacts have been grouped under the name of George F. Lamb Archaeological Collection and have been secured for the State Historical Museum by Director A. T. Hill.

During March, 1934, this collection of over 2,000 artifacts has been numbered, cataloged, indexed, installed in cases along the east wall of the Historical Museum in the first floor of the State Capitol with the help of Mr. Lamb, who spent an entire week in Lincoln.

The material classifies as follows:

Pottery:

21 complete pots

2030 parts of pots

Flint and Stone:

53 arrowheads

26 spearheads

- 75 skin scrapers
- 13 knives
- 12 pipes
- 7 drills

Bone:

- 11 hoes
- 2 picks
- 22 awls
- 1 needle
- 3 fishhooks
- 46 beads

Shell articles:

- 2 disk beads
- 3 small disks.

The collection is sufficiently large and varied to be quite a revelation of the life and the culture of the inhabitants of southeast Thayer County in one prehistoric period. Pottery is particularly amenable to the imagination and always an important index to the culture of a prehistoric people, wherever found. The pottery of the Lamb collection includes, among the twenty-one pots, a wide variety of sizes, from a miniature half inch vessel to large, half bushel containers. It is sand and gravel tempered, with the exception of a few pieces that are shell tempered, and its construction varies from crude workmanship to some fine specimen of ceramic art. The shapes of these pots are a compromise between the conical and the globular with a strong tendency toward the rounded base.

This ancient village site is almost in Mr. Lamb's door-yard. It has been visited by thousands of people eager to see prehistoric life as lived in the Rose Creek Valley. Mr. Lamb has gone about his work as an explorer in a thorough, scientific way. He has invented a method of his own for restoring broken pottery. He is an eager student of everything in the Archaeological field and is certain to become more widely known as an original and independent, self-taught scientist.

The Lamb collection in the State Historical Museum at the State Capitol is thronged with people eager to know more of prehistoric Nebraska.