

AN ONEOTA SITE IN MISSOURI<sup>1</sup>

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THE village site, which is the subject of this report, has been known for at least three-quarters of a century. Its large size, the abundance of surface materials, and the nearby presence of a conspicuous earthwork, combined to attract attention to the site. Prof. G. C. Broadhead, of the University of Missouri, explored the region in 1872,<sup>2</sup> and gathered a number of sherds which form part of the present archaeological collection at the University. During the '70's and '80's there were quite a few pseudo-scientific excavations on the site, the published reports of which are more tantalizing than illuminating to the modern student. Fowke was there in 1907;<sup>3</sup> and local amateurs have long made the practice of gathering specimens there, and sending them to scientific institutions.

When the current taxonomic system came into vogue in the Mississippi valley, it was readily observed that the pottery from this site bore striking resemblance to that from neighboring states and that it could be classified in the Oneota aspect of the Upper phase of the Mississippi pattern. This paper, based upon recent surveys and excavations, offers a more complete report than has yet been published on the cultural material from the site. Furthermore, the writers are convinced that this is the site of the Missouri Indian village of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. This report, therefore, presents one more bit of evidence for the theory that the Oneota aspect represents the culture of the Chiwere Sioux.<sup>4</sup>

A survey was made during the summers of 1939 and 1940, covering both banks of the Missouri River, and some of its tributaries, in Howard, Chariton, Carroll, and Saline Counties. Small village sites were found to be quite numerous. Cultural material, for the most part, resembled the Woodland type, which appears to be common over a great part of the state of Missouri.<sup>5</sup> On a few sites, however, we found sherds and points similar to those recently reported from the Kansas City area, and which have been designated Hopewellian.<sup>6</sup> These Woodland and Hopewellian sites were invariably small in size, and on none of them did we find any evidence of trade material. We conclude, therefore, that

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<sup>2</sup> Broadhead, 1880, p. 356. Bibliography, see pp. 311-318 of this journal.

<sup>3</sup> Fowke, 1910, pp. 86 ff. <sup>4</sup> Griffin, 1937a.

<sup>5</sup> Adams, 1939; Berry, Wrench, Chapman and Seitz, 1938; Harrington, J. C., 1938

<sup>6</sup> Wedel, 1938, pp. 99-106.

they had been abandoned long before the arrival of the whites, and probably even before the arrival of the Chiwere Sioux.

Four sites in the area, however, were unique. The site marked "B" in Fig. 30 is the subject of this report. It covers an area of approximately 150 acres. In addition to the definite Oneota traits described

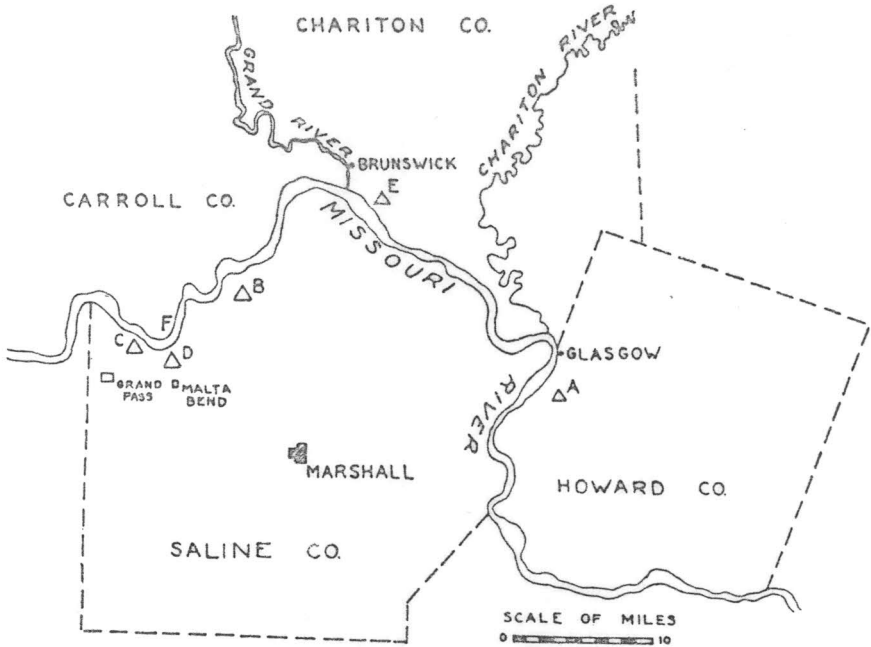


FIG. 30.—Map showing location of sites, Missouri

herein, we found a small amount of trade goods. Historical data strongly indicate that the Missouris were living here in the early part of the eighteenth century; and both documentary evidence and the very small quantity of trade material suggest that the site was abandoned soon after the whites began to penetrate the region. Site A, from which we have only surface material, is also Oneota. No evidences of contact have come from this site; and we suspect, therefore, that it is prehistoric Oneota. Site C, at which only a little work has been done, is definitely later. Trade materials predominate, and the pottery, while Oneota, is limited in quantity and degenerate in type. We believe this to be a Missouri village of the late eighteenth century. Site D, at which only one test pit has been dug, is also late. Trade goods are abundant, while sherds and flint work are extremely rare. We believe this to be the village of the Little Osages.

varied from buff to dark slate gray, with occasional examples of orange. Sixty-five sherds had been painted with red hematite paint. In hard-

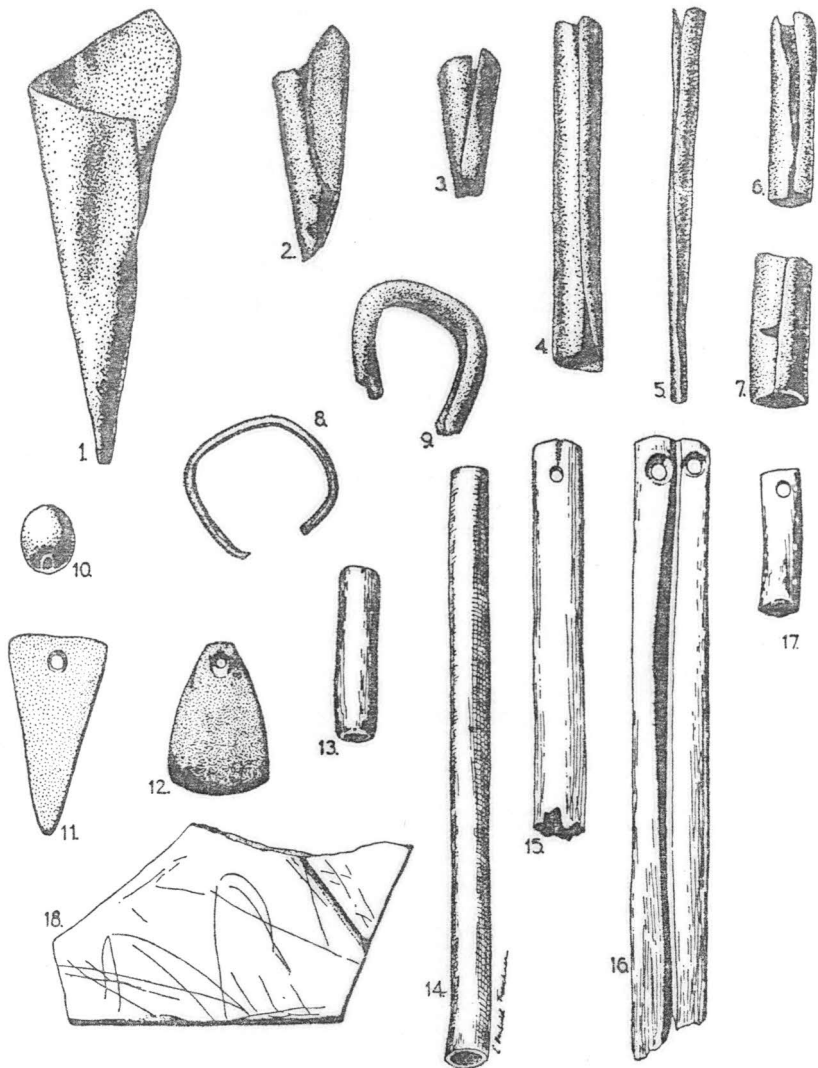


FIG. 34.—Miscellaneous artifacts, Utz site

1-3, copper cones or spangles; 4-7, copper tubes or beads; 8, 9, copper rings or bracelets; 10, blue glass bead; 11, 12, hematite and catlinite pendants; 13, 14, bone tubes or beads; 15, 16, 17, bone bracelets (?); 18, inscribed catlinite tablet (?). (One-half natural size.)

ness, sherds were a little above, or a little below 3 (calcite). Thickness varied from 1/16 to 7/16 of an inch. The tempering, in 99.9% of the