

THE RHOADS SITE

A Historic Kickapoo Village on the Illinois Prairie



Mark J. Wagner

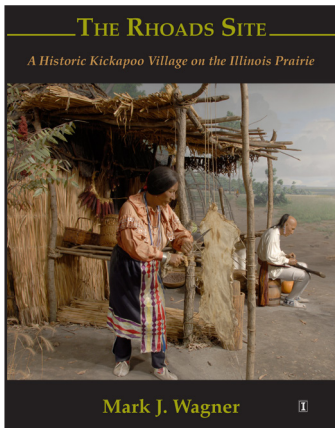


CONTENTS

List of Tables	ix
List of Figures	xi
Preface	xiii
Acknowledgments	xv
Abstract	xvii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	5
Introduction	5
Local Environmental Setting	6
Late Eighteenth-Century/Early Nineteenth-Century Landscape	7
Late Twentieth-Century Landscape	10
CHAPTER 3 THEORETICAL ORIENTATION	11
Introduction	11
Culture Contact Studies	12
Nativism	14
Accommodationism (Adaptive Resistance)	15
Material Culture Studies	16
Discussion	18
CHAPTER 4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	21
Introduction	21
Early Kickapoo History: 1634–1795	21
The Time of the Prophets: 1795–1811	24
The War of 1812: 1812–1815	27
Governor Edwards’ 1812 Expedition	30
The Hopkins- dTaylor 1812 Expedition	32
Major Benjamin Stephenson’s 1813 Expedition	32
General Benjamin Howard’s 1813 Expedition	32
Kickapoo Resistance: 1816–1832	35
Nineteenth-Century Euro-American Occupation	40
Summary	40
CHAPTER 5 KICKAPOO LIFEWAYS	43
Introduction	43
Political and Social Organization	44
Settlement and Subsistence	46
Summer Villages	46
Winter Villages	51
CHAPTER 6 THE KICKAPOO AND THE FUR TRADE	53
Introduction	53
Early Kickapoo History: 1634–1795	54
The Time of the Prophets: 1795–1811	56
War of 1812: 1812–1815	62
Kickapoo Resistance: 1816–1832	63
Summary	73

CHAPTER 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS.....	75
Introduction.....	75
Early Investigations.....	75
Illinois State Museum Investigations: 1972–1973.....	77
Phase II Investigations.....	77
Phase III Investigations.....	80
CHAPTER 8 FEATURES.....	85
Introduction.....	85
Pit Features.....	86
Form.....	86
Excavation Methods.....	86
Pit Types.....	87
Function.....	101
Structures.....	103
Structure 1.....	104
Structure 2.....	106
Structure 3.....	108
Structure 4.....	110
NonStructural Post Molds.....	112
Spatial Patterns.....	112
CHAPTER 9 ARTIFACT ANALYSIS.....	117
Introduction.....	117
Hunting.....	118
Gun Parts.....	118
Gunflints.....	122
Ammunition.....	127
Axes.....	130
Trap and Spear Parts.....	130
Projectile Points.....	132
Hide Processing.....	134
Metal Hide Working Tools.....	134
Warfare.....	136
War Clubs.....	136
Alcohol Use.....	136
Alcohol Bottles.....	136
Cooking and Eating.....	139
Knives.....	139
Kettles.....	141
Ceramic Vessels.....	152
Fire Steels.....	152
Adornment.....	153
Bone Ornaments.....	153
Stone Ornaments.....	154
Metal Ornaments.....	156
Beads.....	170
Clothing.....	177
Clothing Items.....	177
Clothing Manufacturing Tools.....	179
Tobacco Smoking.....	180
Euro-American Smoking Pipes.....	180
Native-Made Smoking Pipes.....	184

Transportation	186
Saddle and Harness Parts	186
Agriculture	188
Gardening Tools	188
Woodworking	190
Metal Tools	190
Architecture	191
Native-Made Artifacts	191
Iron Fasteners	192
Personal	193
Toys, Grooming Items, and Figurines	193
Other	198
European-Made Objects	198
Unidentifiable Metal and Glass Fragments	201
Other Materials	201
Native-Made Bone, Clay, and Lead Artifacts	201
Native-Made Stone Artifacts	206
Artifact Analysis Summary	212
CHAPTER 10 SUBSISTENCE	219
Introduction	219
Botanical Analysis Summary	219
Faunal Analysis Summary	221
Discussion	224
CHAPTER 11 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	227
Introduction	227
Settlement	228
Subsistence	229
Material Culture	230
European Artifacts	230
Native-Made Artifacts	232
Conclusions	234
Appendix A. Feature and Post Mold Tables	237
Bibliography	241
Index	263



The Rhoads Site: A Historic Kickapoo Village on the Illinois Prairie

Mark J. Wagner, 2011. Studies in Archaeology No. 5, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. xvii+266 pp., 88 figures, 34 tables, 1 appendix, bibliography. \$35.00 (paper).

Reviewed by Brian G. Redmond, Department of Archaeology, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio.

In this very interesting book, Mark J. Wagner combines aspects of a traditional site report with a case study of aboriginal culture change. Focusing on one critical period in Euro-American/American-Indian “entanglements” at the turn of the nineteenth century, the reader is given a surprisingly detailed view of conservative Kickapoo lifeways in one summer village in Illinois. This was a time when Indian peoples across the area struggled in their interactions with traders, soldiers, and politicians as they suffered increasing losses of population, territory, and their traditional ways of life. Many Kickapoo, following the dictates of the Shawnee Prophet, chose to reject many aspects of Euro-American material culture and influence, and return to what was recognized as a more traditional way of life in hope of recovering their lands and cultural power. The Rhoads site serves as an archaeological test case for assessing the utility of this historical interpretation. Wagner is well qualified to deal with this particular archaeological record and the result is a highly informative and stimulating work.

The three introductory chapters cover the goals, natural setting, and theoretical context of the Rhoads site investigation. The research-focus on the Rhoads site record as a test case for assessing the impact of the native revitalization movements on Kickapoo societies of the late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries is particularly apt. Such an approach elevates the study from a purely archaeological report of findings to a deeper anthropological study. It also makes for much interesting reading. In Chapter 3, Wagner clearly articulates the varying theoretical orientations to the study of cultural-contact situations and their relationship to the study of material-culture assemblages. I found the discussion of Kickapoo history in Chapter 4 particularly interesting, given its use of early maps to document the likely historical presence of the Rhoads site during this era. This historical discussion is extended into Chapter 6, but within the context of the Fur Trade. This is undoubtedly a logical extension of the background discussion; however, I feel that some content was a bit repetitious. This might have been avoided by either subsuming the core of Chapter 6 within Chapter 4, or at least switching the order of Chapters 5 and 6. This latter course seems even more advisable given the excellent summary of Kickapoo lifeways in Chapter 5, which nicely sets the stage for the remaining part of the book dealing with the archaeology of the site.

The formal archaeological report begins with Chapter 7, which describes the history of investigations. The subsequent descriptions of artifacts and field data are clear and not

Book Review

overly detailed, an outcome that is facilitated by presentation of much useful data in tabular form and one appendix. The use of color images is most welcome. Since I am not an expert in the study of historic material assemblages, I cannot adequately judge the thoroughness of the artifact descriptions; however, I found all to be very clear and relevant to the purpose.

I was very much interested in the descriptions of feature and structures in Chapter 8, particularly since I see numerous similarities to Late Prehistoric period village settlements in the Ohio Valley and lower Great Lakes, with which I am more familiar. To this end, I appreciate the drafting of clear and very readable excavation plans and feature profile illustrations with sufficient detail to allow such comparisons. I am fascinated by the occurrence of both rectangular (gable roof?) structures and ovoid (“wig-wam”?) dwellings at the site. All are characterized as summer houses, but I wonder if there was instead a seasonal segregation of such structurally different forms (e.g., only the ovoid structures appear to have included hearth features, possibly for cold season use?), or perhaps some evidence of social differentiation represented architecturally here? The selective manufacture (or historic collecting?) of flaked stone tools is also fascinating, as is the complete absence of traditional ceramic wares. The former phenomenon was predicted (i.e., use of triangular arrow points) by the working hypothesis of a nativistic material culture, but not the latter. In the end, Wagner provides adequate explanations for both outcomes as having to do with the selective acceptance of some Euro-American artifact forms, such as durable brass kettles in place of pottery, by Kickapoo of this era. The archaeology data also bear out the prediction that these same societies rejected the use of Euro-American clothing, dishware, and European livestock and crops. Finally, the evidence for the reworking of trade-metal artifacts, including kettles, knives, and silver jewelry, is also intriguing given the obvious resemblances to protohistoric trade material that appears on early seventeenth century sites in the lower Great Lakes and in the middle Ohio Valley regions. Wagner clearly articulates this instance of material-form convergence as the outcome of two very different historical processes, that is, initial contact and acceptance versus deliberate rejection of ‘non-native’ artifact forms.

In sum, this volume on the archaeology of the Rhoads site is a very welcome addition to the archaeological literature dealing with the later historic period of the midcontinent and highlights a fascinating era of Indian–White interactions. The archaeology discussed here also supports the historical accounts of Kickapoo cultural conservatism within a spectrum of native reactions to the encroachments and eventual dominance of Euro-American culture in North America.