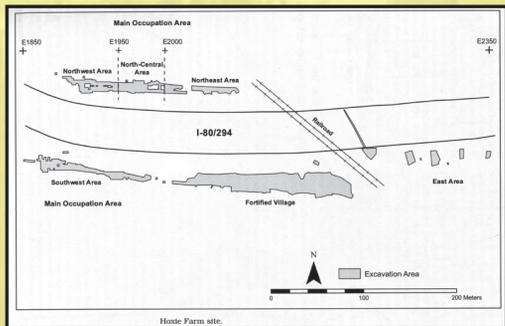
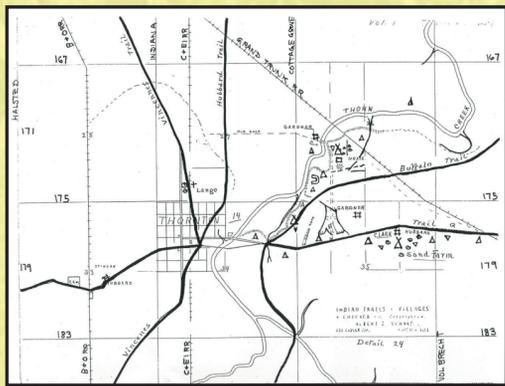


The Hoxie Site



Hoxie Farm Site Maps

Before it was known as Hoxie Farm or Wampum Lake, this site in Thornton, located along Thorn Creek, was an intensively occupied Native American site that represents one of the largest archaeological complexes in the Chicago area. Radiocarbon dates extend from the early 14th century to the mid-15th. The settlement of hundreds of houses was surrounded by a palisade and defensive ditches. It is the first such village of this kind in northeastern Illinois. This area had been a Miami tribe campground, followed by the Blackhawk tribe. By 1674, they were displaced by Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa.

The Treaty of Tippecanoe, an agreement between the United States government and Native American Potawatomi tribes in Indiana, was signed on October 26, 1832, opening up the land to settlers, destroying evidence of native activities including the fortification ditches and house structures. In 1871 Ira Gardner dug up pottery, arrowheads, a stone chisel and a pair of stone bullet molds on this property.

The Hoxie Farm site has been a well-known site for over a century and it has been excavated many times over the decades. Investigations conducted from 2000-2003 by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS) uncovered portions of three longhouse structures as well as a line of posts, along with other information on the lives of the Hoxie Farm people.

Hoxie Farm diet: Squash seeds were present as well as nutshells, beans and sunflower. Less maize was consumed as compared to other prehistoric populations. The occupants obtained a variety of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and mollusks. Animals remains such as bear, beaver, bobcat, cougar, coyote, mink, muskrat, skunk, squirrel, bald eagle, owl, passenger pigeon, turkey and turtle were found, with deer being the most abundant.

Large mammals: Hides, bones and antlers served multiple purposes. Two larger mammals, wapiti (elk) and bison were evident. The local inhabitants may have traveled farther to hunt bison although some local hunting of bison did occur. A number of the recovered remains represent tools fashioned into various utilitarian artifacts such as hoes, handles, awls, knives, and matting needles. Bone, teeth and antler items were also fashioned into decorative items such as beads or pendants to be worn on the body or attached to clothing.



Arrowheads

Weapons: The main occupation area at the Hoxie Farm site yielded massive quantities of stone materials. Chipped materials included a variety of tool types, most notably arrow points and knives. Arrowheads, or bird points, are simply the sharp tip end of the arrow which was attached to the shaft of a stick by being set into a slot in the end of the shaft. The arrowheads were tied to the arrow shaft with sinew, rawhide or cord which passed through the notches and shot with a stringed bow. Stone arrowheads were used on spears as well as arrows. Typically, the only difference between these two types of arrowheads were size. Larger arrowheads were attached to spears, which could be thrown great distances and with great accuracy to hunt animals as well as to spear fish.



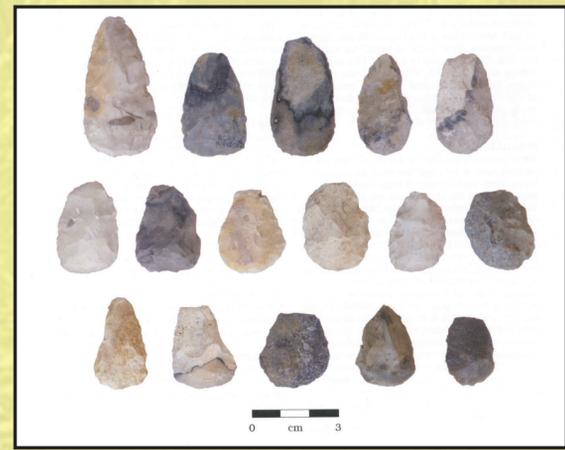
Drill Types

Tools: Drills (awls) were used for making holes in stone, shell, pottery, bone, and wood. To drill in a hard substance with simple tools required a long time. The simplest form of drill was similar to an awl, a sharp pointed instrument of bone, flaked stone, or copper. To make a hole you would press the instrument against the object to be drilled, turning the drill back and forth with movement of his wrist.



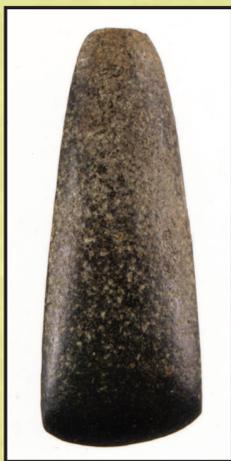
Elk Hoe

Wapiti (elk) scapulae were modified for use as hoes and other tools.



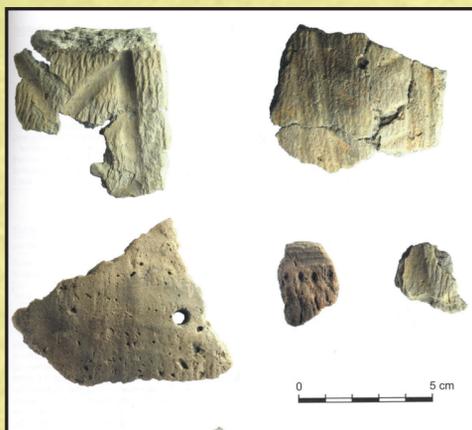
Scrapers

Many **scrapers** were also found. The edge of the scraper that is extremely angled is the working edge. This edge is often used to soften hides or to clean meat off of the hides, in addition to being used for wood work. As the term scraper suggests, this tool was scraped at the hide in order to skin animals.



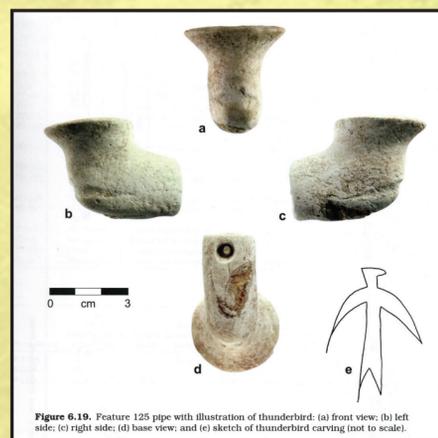
Stone Celt

Stone celts were also recovered; they served primarily as the heads of hatchets, hand axes and hammers. The polished stone ax or adz head was designed for attachment to a wooden shaft and probably mainly used for felling trees or shaping wood.



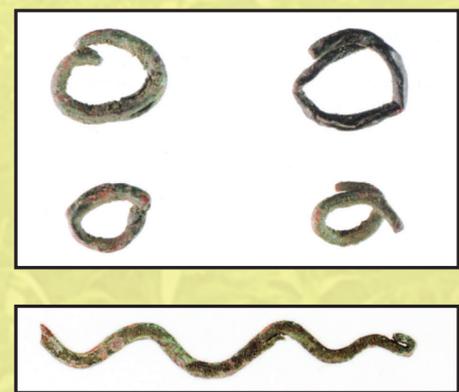
Pottery Sherds

Ceramics: Numerous potsherds, both decorated and plain, along with ceramics such as cooking jars, pinch pots and vessels were found. Some of the pottery was shell tempered, and some had decorative treatments such as rims, lips or shoulders.



Pipe Fragments

Non-chipped material in the form of **16 pipes and pipe fragments** was also at the site. One pipe depicts an illustration of a thunderbird carving.



Copper Serpent Effigy

Decoration: How the Hoxie farm people obtained copper is unknown, possibly acquiring it through trade. Some tubular copper beads, rings and awls were present. Copper serpent effigy forms were recovered from the nearby Anker site.

Burials: Burials were uncovered during the 2000-2003 investigations as well as the 1953 Bluhm & Wenner excavations. Some of these had been previously looted. Artifacts found in association with burials included ceramic vessels, copper objects, red ochre deposits, modified animal bone, chert tools and points, and a pipe. In a small number of cases animal skulls, sometimes with ochre staining and copper eye inserts were found, and clustered objects suggested the presence of medicine bundles or sashes. Analysis revealed that most of the Hoxie Farm residents experienced multiple episodes of nutritional stress during early childhood.