

Pipestone

National Monument
Minnesota

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Oneota Culture at Pipestone



<https://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com/pictures-of-the-native-americans/49-picture-of-otoe.htm>

Early Keepers' Enduring Legacy

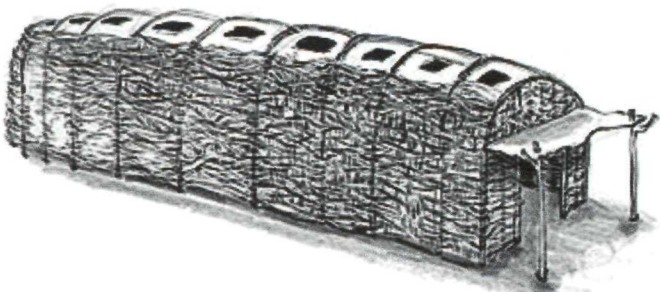
According to oral traditions, people of the Oneota culture group were the earliest of keepers of the Pipestone Quarries between 1300-1700 CE. They began a tradition of neutral ground at the site where all could visit in peace.

Today, the descendants of the Oneota culture continue to be stewards of the quarries through government-to-government consultation, archeological monitoring, and other partnerships.

Distinguishing features of the Oneota culture are their use of shell-tempered pottery and bison bone tool kits. Oneota villages would traditionally be located around terraces and flood plains within broad river valleys.

Who Were the Oneota People?

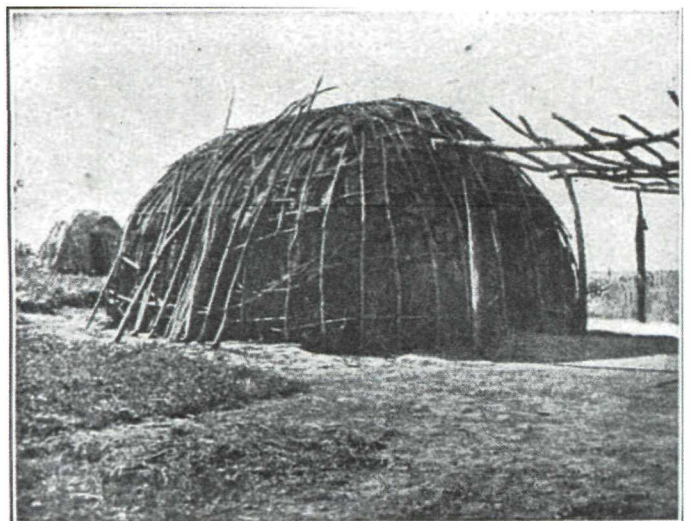
The Oneota Culture were ancestors to the present-day Otoe-Missouria, Ioway, Ponca, and Omaha tribes. Oneota people were semi-nomadic, living off of big and small game. Their horticulture included maize, beans, and squash. Unlike the tipis of the Great Plains, their housing structures consisted of both round and long oval houses. Yet like the tipis of the Great Plains, their housing structures were sometimes made with bison hides. The Oneota people also used earth lodges to help protect them from harsh winters.



https://mvac.uwlax.edu/PreEuropeanPeople/miss_oneotasettlements.html

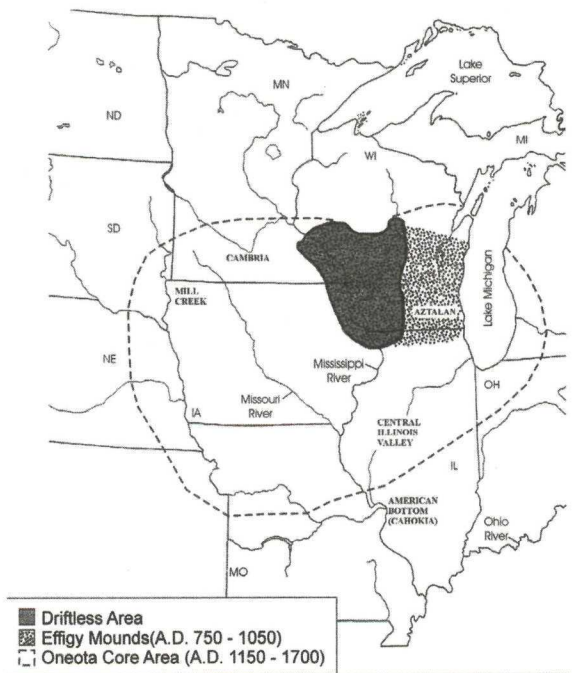


<https://www.okhistory.org/images/enc/PA022.jpg>



Houses of the Iowa Tribe | Access Genealogy

Plate 32b - An Iowa Structure



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Extent-of-the-Driftless-Area-effigy-mounds-and-Oneota-cultures-in-the-Upper-Midwest_fig1_261285556

When?

Archeologists have dated Oneota sites around the Midwest from 900-1700 CE.

Where?

Oneota sites have been found in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

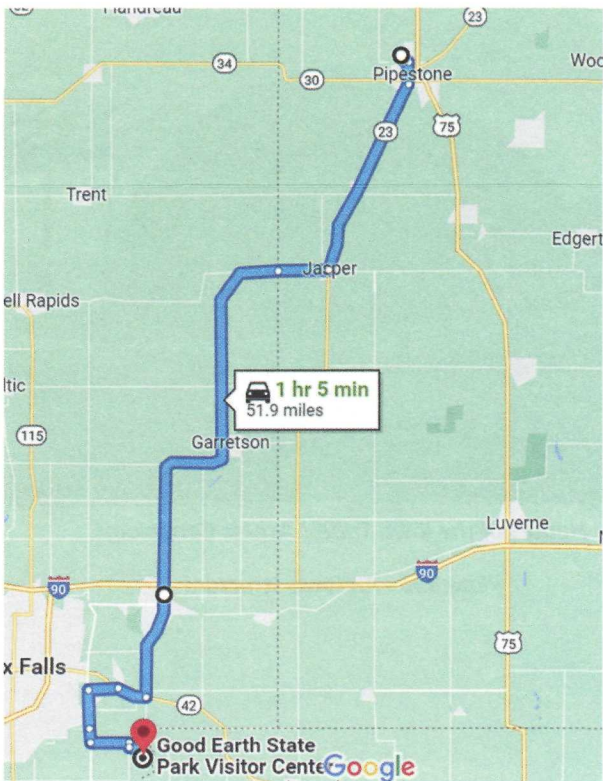
Good Earth at Blood Run

One of the largest Oneota sites is Good Earth at Blood Run. It is located just 50 miles south of Pipestone National Monument in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. From Good Earth, people of the Oneota Culture traded pipes across the country, especially as the devastating presence of the Spanish created a demand in the south for the stabilizing effect of the sacred pipe’s ceremonies. It is estimated that in 1650 CE, Good Earth had a population of 6,000-10,000. At the same time, cities like Boston and New York were estimated to have only 1,000-2,000 people.



<https://www.omtribe.org/who-we-are-culture>

Good Earth at Blood Run was extremely influential as a central trading ground between 1500 to 1700 CE. This site helped bridge a connection between the people of the plains and woodlands. Evidence shows that Oneota people quarried for pipestone at least 300 years before the Dakota/ Lakota arrived in the area. People brought stone back to Good Earth to be processed and traded. After 1700 CE, the people of Good Earth started to move and followed the Missouri River. Archeologists believe that disease, lack of resources, and westward expansion of Tribes and settlers played into why the Oneota left Good Earth at Blood Run.



How to Get to Good Earth

- For GPS: 26924 480th Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57108
- Go south on MN-23W
- Take a right in the town of Jasper onto SD-11S
- In Sioux Falls, take a left on 69th St.
- Take a right on 480th Ave.

*This is not a free park, visitors must pay (per vehicle) in the visitor center
Call 605-213-1036 for current prices and hours

Where are Descendants of the Oneota People Today?

Descendants of the Oneota culture live in present-day Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa as members of the Ioway, Otoe-Missouria, Ponca, and Omaha Tribes.