

## Book Reviews and Notices

*Household Economy at Wall Ridge: A Fourteenth-Century Central Plains Farmstead in the Missouri Valley*, edited by Stephen C. Lensink, Joseph A. Tiffany, and Shirley J. Schermer. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2020. xvi, 251 pp. Illustrations, tables, references, endnotes, index. \$70.00 hardcover.

Reviewer Rob Bozell is the Nebraska State Archeologist at History Nebraska (formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society).

Iowa archeologists have a long-standing record of conducting important research and disseminating results to the public and professional communities in exciting ways. This book on the Wall Ridge site is absolutely another such contribution. The volume stems from a 1984 Mills County archeological excavation. A tremendous amount of post-fieldwork research and writing was needed over the past three decades to produce this book. Certainly, this involved lots of donated time and was a labor of love for the principal authors and their collaborators, who included Toby A. Morrow, Michael J. Perry, James L. Thelar, and William Green. The archeological community and the general public with a serious interest in archeology will be most grateful for their persistence.

Wall Ridge is the well-preserved, 720-year old buried ruin of a single 900-square-foot Native American timber and earthen lodge. The home was evidently an isolated farmstead along a gentle hillslope overlooking the Missouri River and occupied by an extended family of approximately fifteen people for about five years. The Wall Ridge people were members of a cultural tradition that lived throughout most of Nebraska and northern Kansas from one thousand to six hundred years ago. They likely were the distant ancestors of the Pawnee, Arikara, and Wichita tribes. About nine hundred years ago, some of these people moved across the Missouri River and flourished for up to two centuries. Over two hundred sites of this culture are densely packed in the Loess Hills near Glenwood, Iowa. The archeological excavation was careful and used fine mesh screens to sift soil resulting in the recovery of an extraordinarily large assemblage of over one hundred species of plants and animals. Hundreds of artifacts were also discovered.

Through careful field recovery, thoughtful formulation of research questions, and thorough analytical methods, the authors crafted an exciting story of the subsistence life of this large family during the few years that they lived at Wall Ridge. The lodge was located strategically to exploit resources from both the Missouri River floodplain as well as adjacent woodlands, streams, and upland prairies. Subsistence was based on corn farming, wild plant collecting, hunting, trapping, and fishing. The home was occupied year-round but each season featured differing economic strategies. In order to make maximum use of seasonal opportunities, the Wall Ridge people fashioned a diverse array of stone weapons and ceramic vessels and dug deep pits for food storage. These pits were later used for trash disposal and became the focus of some of the most important archeological discoveries. The Wall Ridge family likely interacted regularly with neighboring farmsteads scattered through the hills. Based on pottery and stone material, they were also in loose contact with kin in present-day Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri.

This is solid scholarly work with rigorous scientific analyses addressing well-formulated research questions. It contains new methods and conclusions, and Great Plains and midwestern archeologists with an interest in late prehistoric culture will want to have the book. Beyond that though, the project tells a story of an intensive occupation of the Missouri River by ancestral Indigenous populations, and the general public with a keen interest in Iowa's deep past will also enjoy the volume. As a final note, the University of Utah Press is developing a reputation as one of the finest outlets of cutting-edge archeological research nationwide. The publication of the Wall Ridge story in that series is a testament to its importance.

*Indigenous Life around the Great Lakes: War, Climate, and Culture*, by Richard W. Edwards IV. Midwest Archaeological Perspectives. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2020. xvii, 283 pp. Maps, charts, appendices, index. \$35 paperback.

Reviewer Constance Arzigian is Senior Lecturer with the Archaeology and Anthropology Department at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She is also the co-editor of *The Wisconsin Archeologist*.

The causes and consequences of the adoption of agriculture have been studied worldwide, examining the shift from hunting and gathering to manipulation and domestication of plants for food production. Edwards's book places the Oneota—archaeologists' term for the late precontact populations who lived in present-day southeastern Wisconsin—within this