A detailed black and white illustration of a Native American hunter on horseback, aiming a bow at a large bison. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment. The illustration is framed by a light-colored border.

**WAYS OF THE  
WAPAKUTE  
BAND OF DAKOTA**

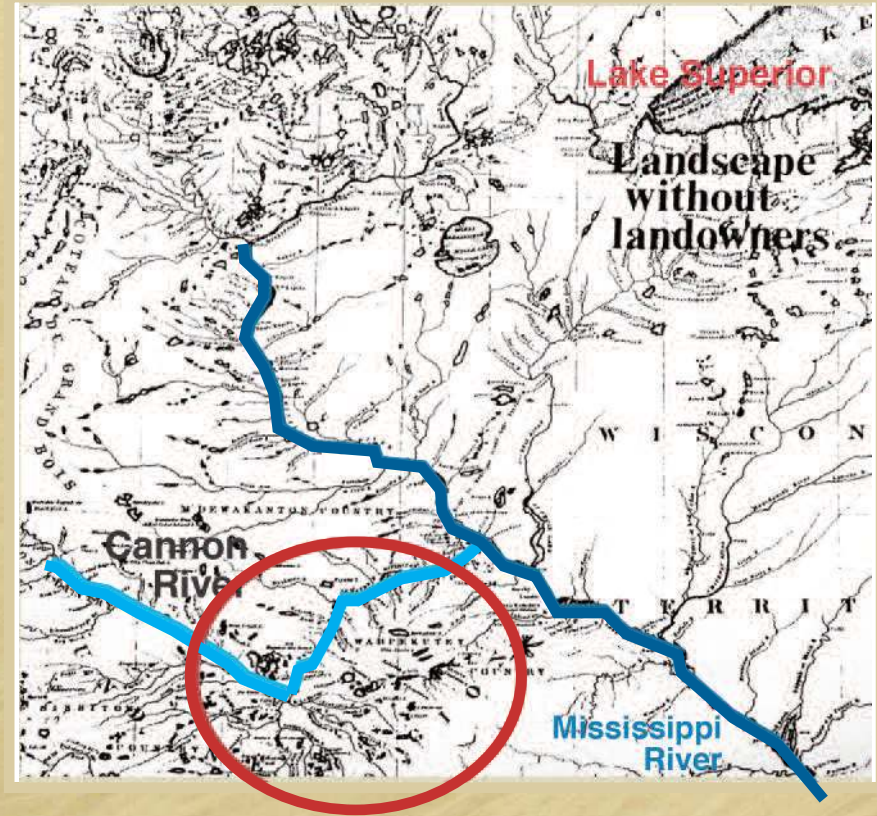
*By Roy Anderson & Jeff Jarvis*

# LANDSCAPE WITHOUT LANDOWNERS

■ Wisconsin Territory Map dated 1836-1848.

■ Wapakute Territory, “The Leaf-Shooters” are shown in what became SE MN.

■ Cannon River first known as Inyan-bo-sdta-wakpa, or “River of the Standing Rock,” then “La Riviere aux Canons,” then “Lahontan” by Nicollet.



Wapakute  
Territory

# MINNESOTA MAP

- Before 1800, the Dakota ranged over all of Minnesota.
- After 1800, Dakota occupied the southern third of MN.
- Wapakute Band shown in southern part of what became MN.
- Trails but very few roads.



# TRIBAL DIVISIONS

## ■ Eastern Dakota (Santee)

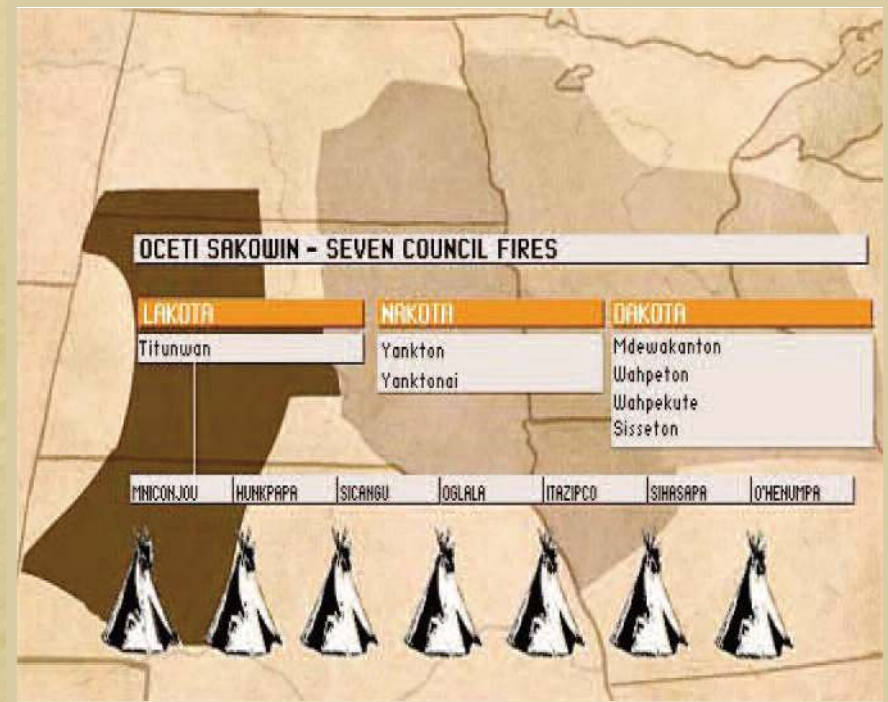
- Wapakute
- Mdewakanton
- Wahpeton
- Sisseton

## ■ Nakota (Middle Dakota)

Yanktoni  
Yankton

## ■ Lakota (Teton)

Western Dakotas  
Teton



# INDIAN PLACE NAMES By Paul Durand

The Dakota tongue is part of the Sioux language of Native Americans!

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## ■ CANNON LAKE

MDE TI-TAN-KA TAN-NI-NA

## ■ CANNON RIVER

IN-YAN BO-SDA-TA WAK-PA

## ■ LAKE MAZASKA

MDE MA-ZA-SKA

## ■ STRAIGHT RIVER

O-WO-TAN-NA WAK-PA

## A Lesson in Dakota Language

MDE = Lake

PAHA = Hill (Tatepaha Blvd.)

WAK-PA = River

IN-YAN = Rock

# DAKOTA TEEPEES

- Usually faced east.
- Required 8-1/2 bison hides, lasted about three years.
- Buffalo hides let in lots of good light.
- Used in winter and moved easily.
- Leaves used on the inside wall for insulation.



# BARK SUMMER LODGE

- Bark lodges for summer use

- Saplings formed into a rectangular frame, elm bark over walls and roof.

- Saplings interwoven on sides, bark overlapped on roof for shingles.

- Several families occupied a lodge.



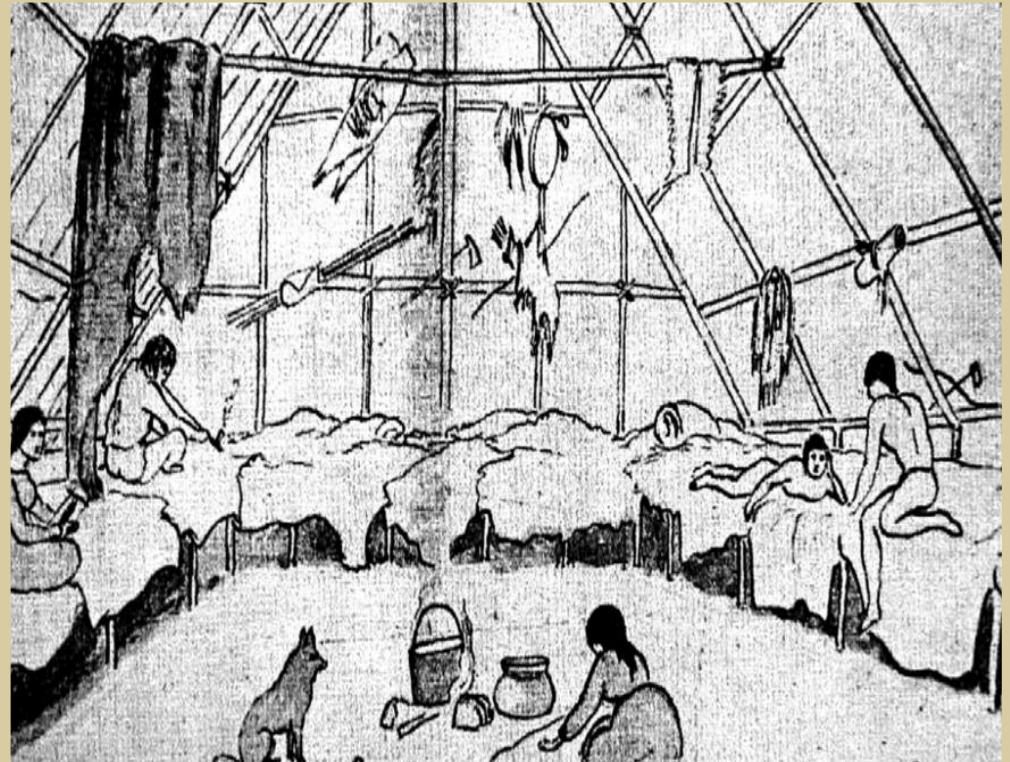
# THE LODGE INTERIOR

- Raised platforms for sleeping, resting, smoking, and storytelling.

- Hearth was for making meals. Smoke left through the roof.

- Clothes and meat hung over hearth for drying.

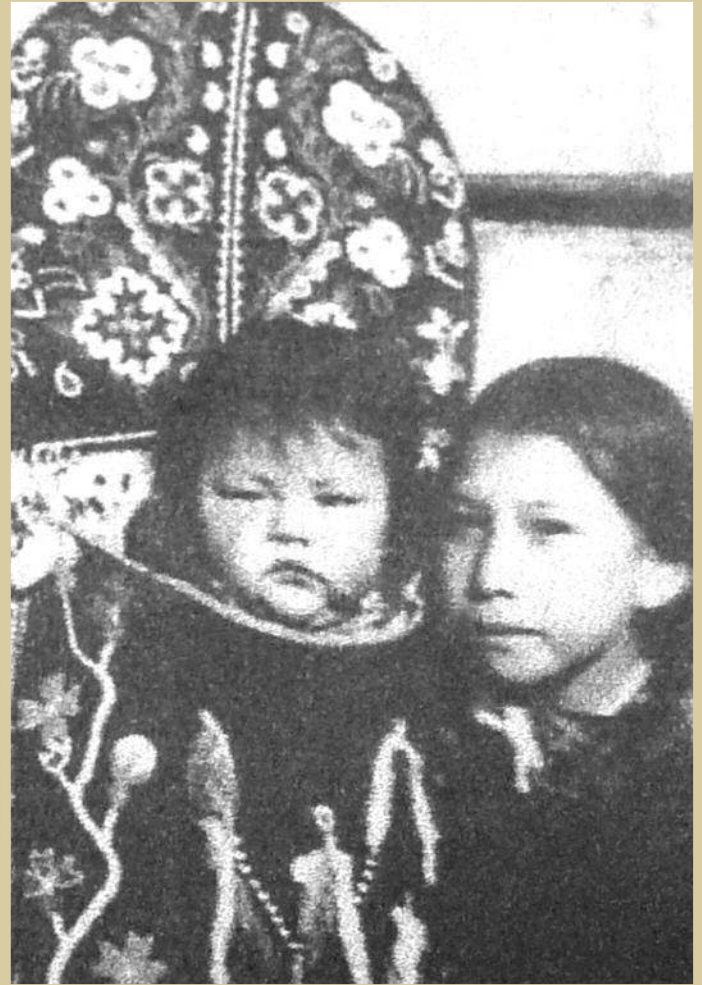
- Some Dakota men practiced polygamy.





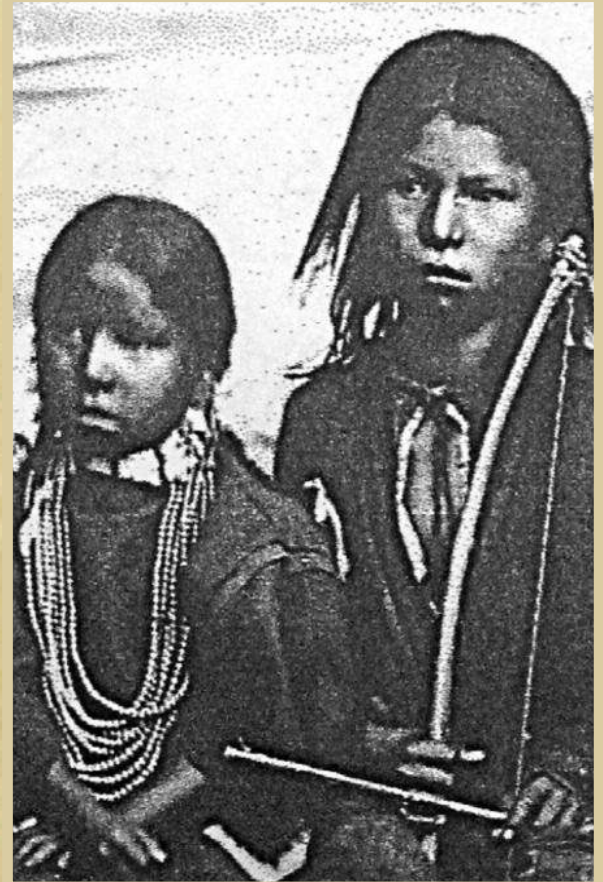
# DAKOTA CHILDREN

- Girl has sister in a cradleboard.
- Cradleboard carried on mother's back, a strap went over her forehead.
- Baby wrapped in buckskin which was attached to the board. A wooden hoop was for protection.



# DAKOTA CHILDREN

- Children rode horse with mother by age four, at age seven they were skilled riders.
- Girls played with toys, small tepees and dolls with embroidered clothes.
- Boys had toy canoes, practiced daily with a bow and blunt arrows.



# GAME OF LACROSSE

- Men painted their bodies, wore breechcloths, decorated with feathers, belts, and leather moccasins for lacrosse play.
- The lacrosse stick was used to scoop up and throw a ball.
- A good deal of betting took place during the games.



# DAKOTA MEDICINE MAN

- Medicine man drove off evil spirits thought to cause disease.
- Medicine men had a secret society where they consulted with others.



# FROM HIDE TO BUCKSKIN

- Dakota women worked hard on all tasks needed to make buckskin.
- Fat scraped off the hide, washed with animal brains, then cured by smoke.
- Buffalo robes worn with the hair side in for winter wear.
- Clothing, moccasins and other clothing made from buckskin.



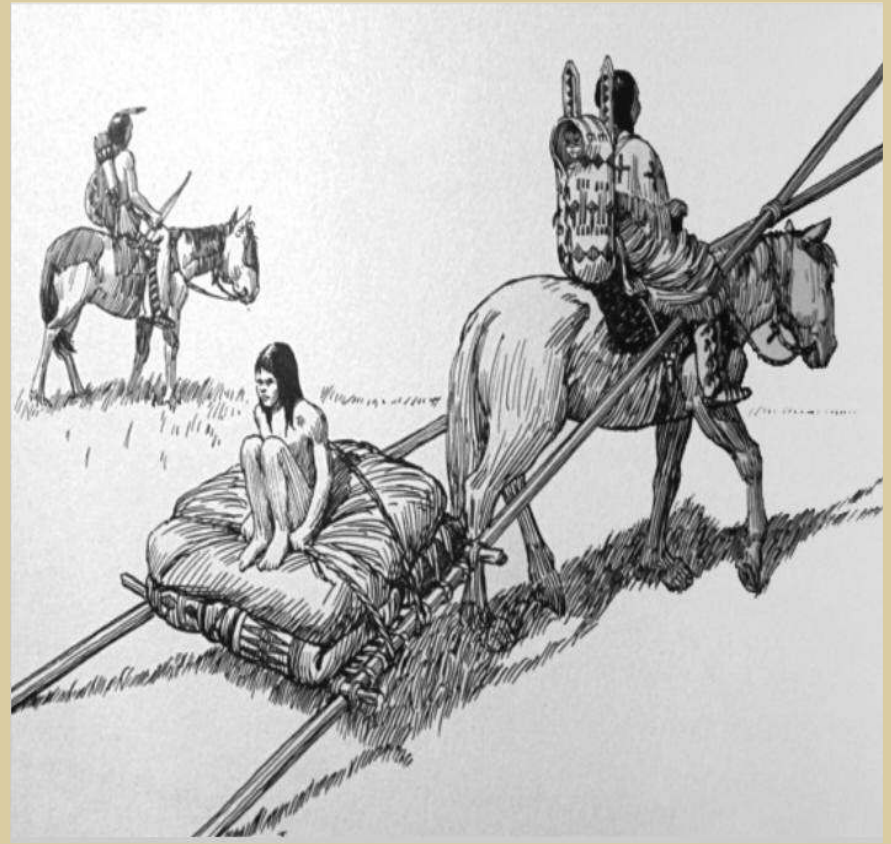
# FLUTE PLAYING

- Young men wooed their sweethearts with music.
- Lovers communicated by way of the flute, parents would not be aware of the relationship!
- Cedar flutes were used for healing, meditation, and certain spiritual rituals.



# THE TRAVOIS

- Used to move tepees, clothing, and other items from camp to camp.
- Items were lashed to stout poles with attached skins.
- Pulled by a horse, dog, or an adult.



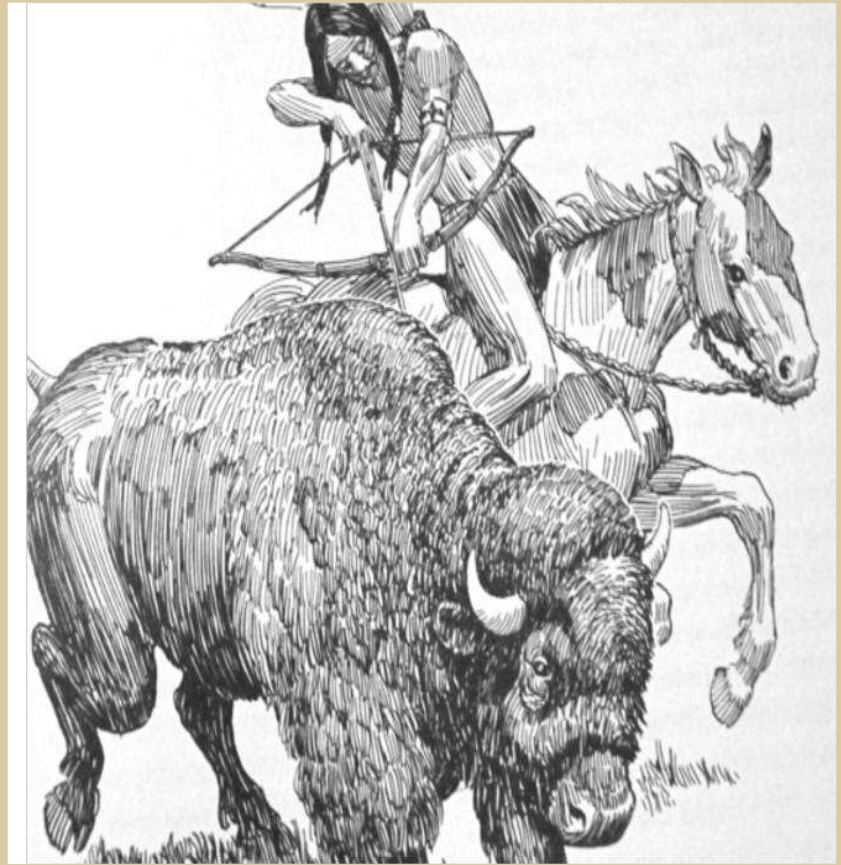
# Bison Hunting

■ A skilled hunter closes in for the kill. Many times, neither saddle or bridle were used.

■ For weapons they used flintlock rifles, lances, and bow and arrow.

■ The buffalo gave all - meat, hides, sinew, bones for weapons, horns for spoons, tools from bones, ribs made winter sleds.

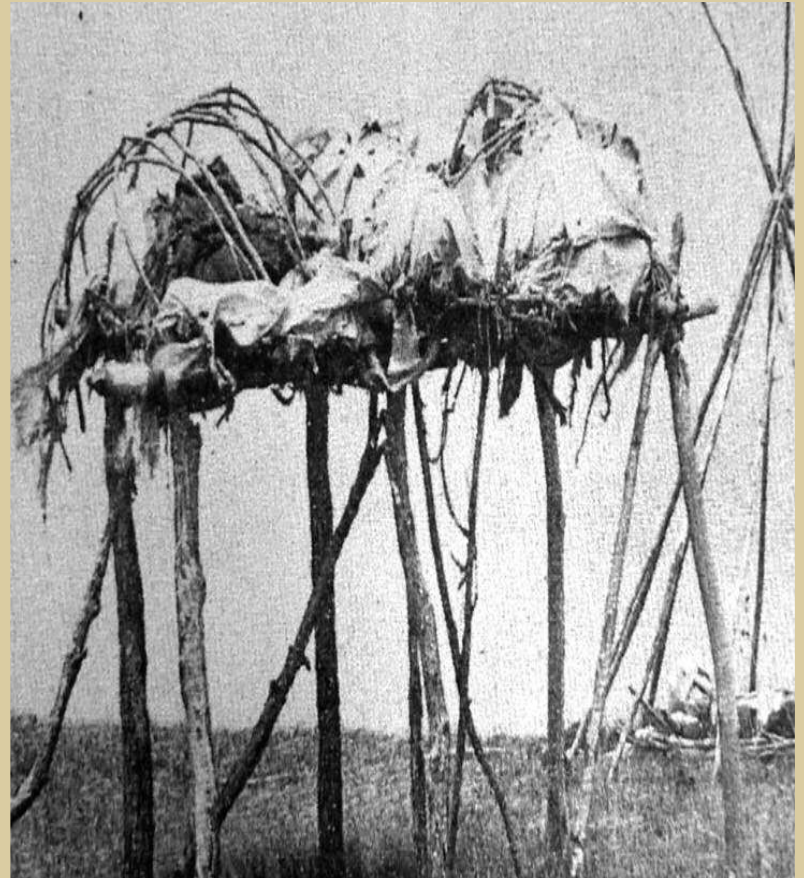
■ Buffalo jumps used to catch large numbers.





# BURIAL PRACTICES OF THE DAKOTA

- The dead and their possessions were wrapped in blankets or skins.
- Animals could not disturb the corpse.
- Later their bones were collected and buried.
- The Mound Culture predated the Wapakute people in our area.



# LOCAL VILLAGE SITES

- Orwin Rustad recorded many Wapakute sites.
- Camps located by lakes and rivers for drinking, fishing, and hunting.
- Located high above water level to avoid floods and defense of the village.
- High ground offered cool breezes, the wind kept away bugs!



# WINDS OF CHANGE

- Treaties: Traverse de Sioux 1853, and Mendota, 1851.

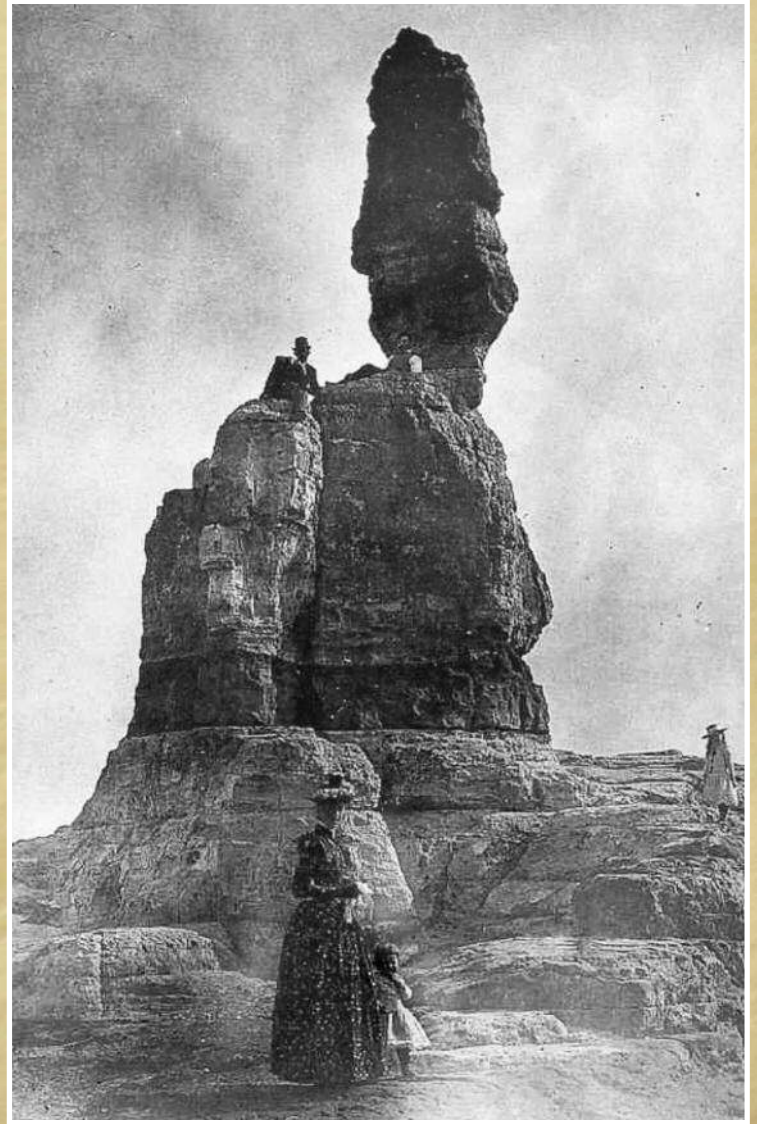
- Wapakute were moved to reservations in Nebraska and South Dakota.



# SACRED STONE

- Inyan is the God of Rock
- Stone is sacred to Dakota

Inyan-Bo-Sdata  
(Castle Rock)  
in 1889.



# Using Stone Tools

Stone tools were central to the Wapakute lifestyle:

- Weapons, hunting, cleaning game and fish
- Grinding grains, chipping wood
- Ceremonial & ornamental



# MAKING STONE TOOLS

Stone was converted to useful tools with elbow grease:



**Pecking & Grinding**



**Flint  
Knapping**

# STONE TOOL MATERIALS

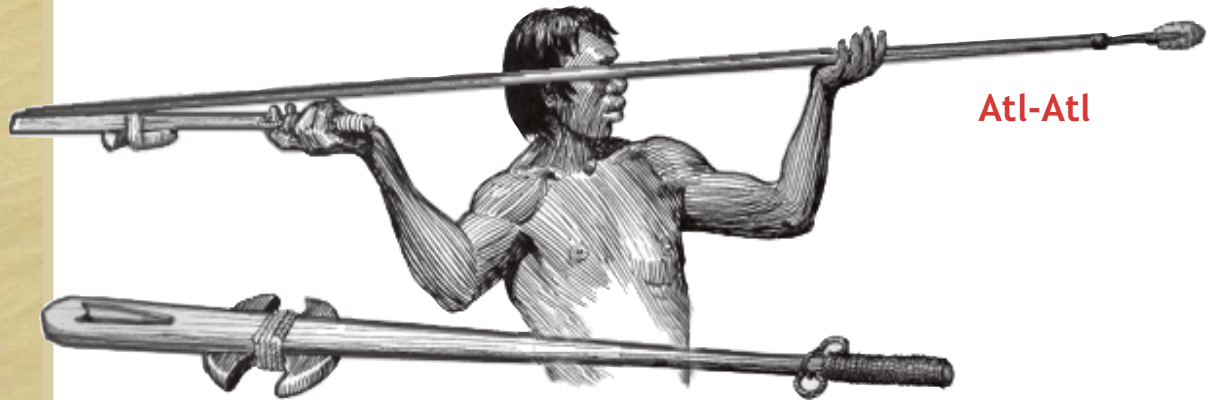
A variety of stone was used:

- Flint, chert, obsidian (sharp-edged tools) knives, points.
- Granite, basalt, hammers, axes, mortar & pestle, etc.
- Softer stone like pipestone carved into pipes, ornaments.



# TECHNOLOGY IMPROVES

- Shafts and handles of bone, antler and wood were added.
- Resulted in additional force, distance and pressure.



Bow & Arrow





# Cannon Valley Stone Tools

## Projectiles



# Cannon VALLEY Stone Tools

## Scrapers



# Cannon Valley Stone Tools

## Knives



# STONE TOOL STUDY

Analyzing stone artifacts teach us:

- What life was like - the Indian lifestyle
- Migration patterns and trade routes
- **Periods of Habitation**

Paleo: 18,000-8000 BC

Archaic: 8000-1000 BC

Woodland: 1000 BC-800 AD

Mississippian: 900-1700 AD

Modern: 1700-Present

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## ANCIENT STONE PLOW UNEARTHED

William M. La Pype Finds Strange  
Instrument, Believed to Be of  
Prehistoric Origin.

Stone artifact was  
found by Roberd's  
Lake in 1919.

An archaeologist  
deemed this the work  
of a modern settler.

Would a pioneer have  
the time and energy  
to work stone into a  
plow like this?