

SPANISH RELICS NEAR GENOA

(The following correspondence relating to military and possibly Spanish evidences in the Loup Valley region indicates a wide interest. Beyond doubt there are many places in the Loup Valley where research will be rewarded by further evidences of military expeditions.)

Granite Falls, Minn.
May 18, 1924.

Supt. Sheldon:

The writer had some correspondence not long since with Mr. Warren Upham of St. Paul, Minn., in regard to ancient relics of seemingly Spanish origin found near Genoa, Nebraska. My last letter from him tells of receiving a number of your Society's publication containing an account of a Spanish expedition into Nebraska where it was nearly exterminated by some of the Indian tribes.

A party who as a boy had attended the Genoa school told me of finding old guns and armor and pouches of bullets there which the boys used to trade to a druggist in town for tobacco.

A year ago I was married to a woman who once attended this school and wishing to verify the above account, before laying the matter before your society, I inquired of her. She recognized the proposition right away and said, "Yes, when us girls used to swim in the river we always found bullets in the river bed." She had also heard of several old shields being dug up, also knives and swords.

In regard to the village site, Mr. Blackman reports that the Pawnees knew nothing of that. My wife says that her school companions from the southern tribes knew of this village site and stated that it was very ancient and had been occupied successively by different tribes or bands. It is very difficult for a stranger to learn anything from the Indians by inquiry, but if anyone belongs to the tribe and knows the language he will hear a thousand things he never expected to hear.

I would be very much interested in receiving a copy of your Society's publication containing the account of that old Spanish expedition. Hoping to hear from you, I am

Frederic W. Pearsall.

Granite Falls, Minn.
Dec. 15, 1924.

Supt. Sheldon:

I received your society's magazine last spring containing the account of the Spanish expedition into Nebraska in 1720.

I have studied this with much interest. I believe there must be a tradition among the Oto and Pawnee Indians of that battle, but it is something hard for strangers to find. I am acquainted with only one Oto. When my wife was at Genoa school she made more or less acquaintance with those southern tribes. Their name for Beaver Creek is Black Pipe creek, or Canduhupa-sapa-wakpadan, and our tribe always called Loup River, Wamnuhra ota wakpa or Many Periwinkle river. This probably was translation of some southern tribe's name.

Did your society make any investigation around Genoa last summer? Please let me hear from you.

Frederic W. Pearsall.