
GRAND CANYON NATURE NOTES

Special archeological number



ABORIGINAL MAN IN ARIZONA AND HIS FORE-RUNNERS

Volume VII

Number 10

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Illustrations by Florence Satterwhite

ABORIGINAL MAN IN ARIZONA AND HIS FORE-RUNNERS

By Harold S. Gladwin,
Director of Gila Pueblo,
Globe, Arizona

(The story of early man in the American Southwest and his probable ancestors, as told by exhibits at the Wayside Museum of Archaeology, Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona.)

EARLIEST TRACES OF MAN

PERIOD OF THE OLD STONE AGE
DATE ABOUT 500,000 to 15,000 B. C.

The source of the native American population is not to be found in the New World. The absence in America of the anthropoid apes and of the fossil remains of either apes or primitive men points to an origin in the Old World where such remains have been found in great numbers at widely scattered points. The order of the appearance of the earliest men has been correlated with the advance and recession of the glaciers during the Pleistocene, or Age of Ice, and in western Europe has been resolved into a definite sequence. (See chart page 98)

Evidence of the Palaeolithic, or Old Stone Age, has not yet been accepted as having been found in the New World, although recent discoveries in Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas may properly be assigned to that epoch. At several sites, remains of men have been found in association with the bones of the mastodon, musk-ox, ground sloth, camel, and an early type of bison, animals which have long been extinct in America. As it is certain that the Americas were populated before the general use of boats, the only other means of entry, therefore, would have been over a land bridge. Such a bridge is known to have joined Siberia and Alaska up to the close of the last glaciation and it seems probable that the first men to enter America came as hunters during the last interglaciation, to be followed in more recent times by successive waves of migration from eastern Asia.

Glacial Epochs	Approximate dates	Types of Man	Culture Characteristics of period	Associated Fauna
Recession of glaciers	Yrs. 25,000	Cro-Magnon	Magdalenian Solutrean Aurignacian	Reindeer, wooly mammoth, wooly rhinoceros, Arctic fox, bison, stag, brown bear.
Wurm glaciation				
3rd Inter- glaciation	50,000	Neanderthal	Mousterian	Reindeer, wooly mammoth, wooly rhinoceros, cave lion cave hyena, cave bear, horse ibex, banded lemming.
Riss glaciation	100,000	Piltdown (?) (no artifacts)	Acheulian (no skeletons)	Hippopotamus, straight- tusked elephant, mammoth, broad-nosed rhinoceros, wooly rhinoceros, brown bear, spotted hyena.
2nd Inter- glaciation	500,000	Heidelberg (?) (no artifacts)	Chellean (no skeletons)	Sabre-toothed tiger, hip- popotamus, straight-tusked elephant, broad-nosed rhinoceros.
Mindel glaciation				
1st Inter- glaciation				
Gunz glaciation	1,000,000	Pithecanthropus (no artifacts)	Cromer Eoliths (no skeletons)	

EARLY MAN IN AMERICA

PERIOD OF EMERGENCE FROM THE STONE AGE

TO PRIMITIVE AGRICULTURE AND TEXTILES

DATE ABOUT 50,000 to 15,000 B. C.

HUNTER BASKETMAKERS: BASKETMAKER I

At what seems to be a much later time, another instance of man as a hunter was found at Lovelock Cave, Nevada, where the sum of culture was increased by a great wealth of perishable objects preserved by the dust and dry air of the cave. These objects all belonged in the class of man's hunting equipment, decoys, nets, string, snares, baskets, darts, and the spear thrower or atl-atl.

The people of this period are known as Basketmakers because of their skill in making baskets. This should not be understood to mean that baskets were hitherto unknown or that they were not subsequently made any more than that men ceased to be hunters when they became farmers. The term is here used to describe that stage of development where man was a hunter but, at the same time, broadening his life by the employment of a wide range of mechanical devices. The bones of the animals which were hunted were those of species existing at the present time, a fact which determines the relative age of the period.

The resemblance of many of the utensils and general manner of life to those of the later Basketmakers gives ground for belief that the men of Lovelock Cave may have been the ancestors of the people who later are known to have occupied the region and who shared largely in building the civilization of the Southwest.

FARMER BASKETMAKERS: BASKETMAKER II



There was a time in the history of the Southwest when the men known as Basketmakers first acquired a knowledge of agriculture. This included the growing of maize, squash, and sunflowers. The place of origin of these crops has not been determined, but it is not improbable that the Basketmakers acquired their knowledge from the Hohokam of Southern Arizona, who are known to have practised irrigation from very early times. Wherever the idea first formed, the change which at once took place was as revolutionary as in all those other areas of the world where the adoption of agriculture turned men from a nomadic to a sedentary manner of life.

The houses of this time have not been identified, and it is probable that the Farmer-Basketmakers lived in the open in huts of mud and twigs which completely disappeared when they were abandoned. Caves were not used to live in, but served as storage for corn and the burial of the dead. For these purposes pits were excavated in the floors of caves, lined with slabs and sealed with mud, twigs, and fibre, an idea which suggested the type of house for the next generation of Basketmakers.

The attempt to fill the need for more suitable cooking vessels than their baskets is seen in the fragments of unfired, sun-baked mud plates and bowls fashioned in baskets, which are found in the rubbish heaps of this period.

Atl-atl; A dart thrower used in hunting by the early basketmaker people.

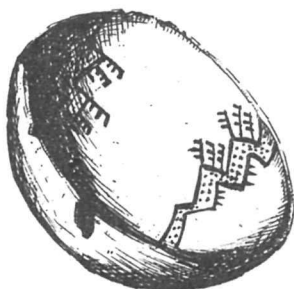
EARLY MAN IN ARIZONA

PERIOD OF THE BEGINNING OF POTTERY AND HOUSE FORMS

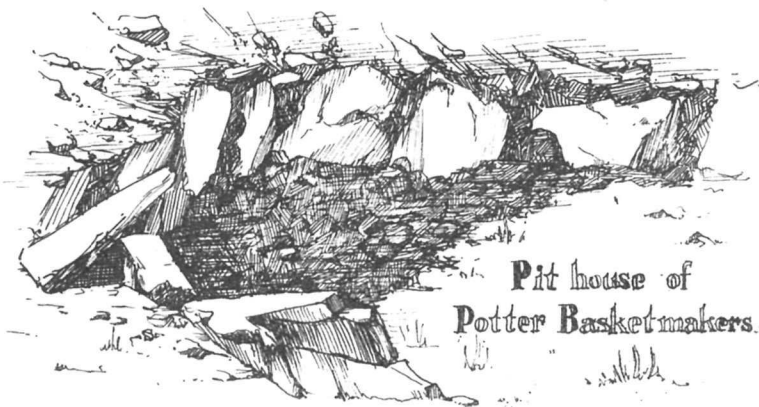
DATE ABOUT 500 B. C. to 500 A. D.

POTTER BASKETMAKERS: BASKETMAKER III

Out of the slab-lined cists of the Farmers grew the slab-lined houses of the Potter Basketmakers. Out of the mud vessels reinforced with cedar bark came true pottery tempered with sand. It was during this stage, known as Basketmaker III, that the Potter Basketmakers emerged as full blown potters of a remarkably high order.



Architecturally, a series of house types was developed which covered the span from small isolated slab houses built in caves to communities of single houses grouped in the open and apparently subscribing to a central rule.



Pit house of
Potter Basketmakers.

Grand Canyon Nature Notes

THE HOHOKAM

Below the Plateau, in Southern Arizona, a race of people have been identified who were Desert Dwellers, practised agriculture with irrigation, made buff pottery with red decorations, and built houses of a distinct type. These people are known as the Hohokam, a Pima word meaning the Ancient Ones, and their culture resembles to a remarkable extent that which existed in the Old World in many scattered localities at an approximate date of 4000 B. C.

The source of origin of these people has not yet been found. The area which they occupied is bounded on the north by the Mogollon Rim, on the south by the Mexican Border, on the west by the Colorado River, and on the east by the broken mountainous country of Eastern Arizona. Over this entire area their remains are uniform, a fact which implies dispersion from a central point which has not yet been determined. It is significant that a basic element in all the great civilizations of Mexico, Central America, and South America is found in the red-on-yellow, or red-on-buff pottery of various specialized forms which bear little resemblance to one another,



Interior designs on bowls made by the Hohokam.

but all of which may well have had their origin in some such form as that found in southern Arizona. In this connection, it should be noted that, at the present time, practically nothing is known of the early evolutionary stages of these great civilizations.

Cross finds of Northern pottery in Southern ruins, and vice versa, have been found in early sites, indicating contact between the two peoples, but it was not until about 1100 A.D. that distinct traces of inter-influence appeared. Nevertheless, the Hohokam never lost their identity, and quickly reverted to their characteristic manner of life on the withdrawal of the Pueblo people at the beginning of the sixteenth century.



LATER DEVELOPMENT OF MAN IN ARIZONA

PERIOD OF MASONRY, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF PUEBLOS
AND CLIFF DWELLINGS. IMPROVEMENT IN POTTERY.
DATE ABOUT 500 A.D. TO PRESENT.

PUEBLO I TO V

The Basketmaker epoch was brought to an end by the arrival in Arizona of a new race of men. Whereas the Basketmakers were long-headed (Dolichocephalic), the new-comers were broad-headed (Brachycephalic), further accentuated by occipital flattening, due to a custom of binding the heads of babies to a wooden cradle board.

From the meeting of these two peoples, three nuclei were created, one in Northeastern Arizona destined to become the modern Hopi, one in Western New Mexico which may have led up

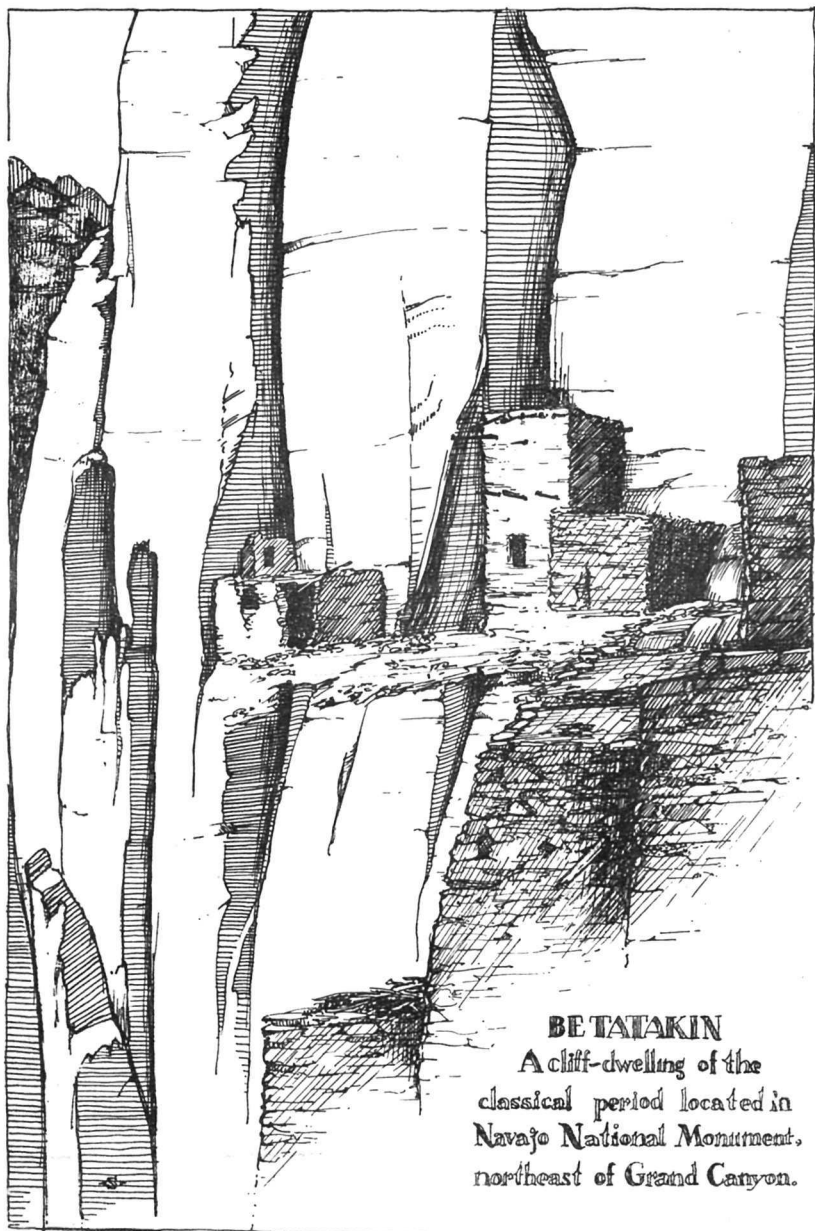
up to the present-day Zuni, and one in Southwestern Colorado which probably contributed to the existing pueblos of the Rio Grande Valley.

The three branches grew along parallel lines, and reached the height of their development at about the same time, 1200-1300 A. D. In Northern Arizona, the peak was reached in the cliff-dwellings of what is now the Navajo National Monument in Sagi Canyon; in New Mexico, at Pueblo Bonito and the great ruins in Chaco Canyon; in Colorado, amongst the great cliff-dwellings of the Mesa Verde.

The Classic period was brought to an end with the abandonment of the great pueblos and cliff-dwellings of Northern Arizona. This exodus was probably coincident with the arrival of the Navajo, an aggressive nomadic people of Athabascan stock.

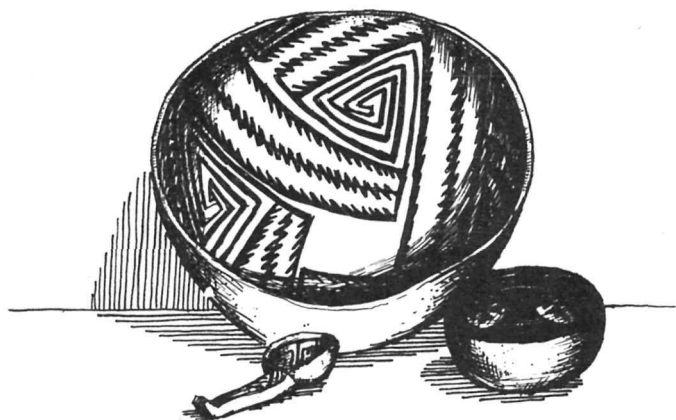


Ruin of type found at Grand Canyon showing
Masonry of an early Pueblo period.



BETATAKIN

A cliff-dwelling of the
classical period located in
Navajo National Monument,
northeast of Grand Canyon.



Pottery of the classical period of Pueblo Development.

The evacuation of the northern settlements stirred up a maelstrom which affected the entire Southwest. The ancestors of the Hopi moved south past the San Francisco Peaks and filtered down the Verde Valley and into Tonto Basin; colonies from the Little Colorado Drainage and from Mesa Verde moved eastward to the valley of the Rio Grande; other groups from the Little Colorado pushed southward into the rugged country of the Upper Salt River and brought about radical changes in Southern Arizona, where they merged with the resident Hohokam and built the great communal houses of the Gila Basin.

When Coronado entered Arizona in 1540, he found these communal houses abandoned, the Hopi concentrated in their present villages, having withdrawn from the Verde, the colonies of the Little Colorado settled near Zuni, and the pueblos of the Rio Grande Valley in much the same form as they are today. In Southern Arizona the Hohokam reverted to their former way of life, as found today amongst the Papago.



WALPI - A pueblo of today inhabited by Hopi Indians. Photo by Grant.

