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## Prehistoric Aborigines of Minnesota and Their Migrations

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in rich moist places, and *Vicia linearis* (Nutt.) Greene, a western species, has been collected as far east as Ortonville.

In conclusion it may be said that the prairie Legumes while belonging to but few species were rich in individuals, and probably contributed much to the fertility of the prairies.

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### PREHISTORIC ABORIGINES OF MINNESOTA AND THEIR MIGRATIONS.

N. H. Winchell.

[Paper written for the Minnesota Historical Society, and read Feb. 9, 1907.]

#### (ABSTRACT.)

Prof. Winchell based his discussion on the latest results of the study of the Glacial period, and the conclusions of the Bureau of American Ethnology. He said that by the former the farthest back that we hope to trace the human occupancy of Minnesota is not more than five or six thousand years, that being the approximate date at which the state became habitable after the retirement of the ice of the last Glacial epoch.

He called attention to the map of late major Powell showing the distribution of the original linguistic stocks of the American aborigines, which number between fifty and sixty; and to some of the remarkable features of that distribution. He showed that after the Glacial period the tribes resident along the Pacific and the Atlantic coasts, and on the gulf coast began a slow migration into the country that had before been uninhabitable lying toward the north. The vanguard of the tribes moving from the southwest was held by the Athapascan and the Algonquian, and from the southeast by the Iroquois and the Sioux. Remnants of these tribes still reside in their pristine seats, and their dialects, which have been carefully studied, are found to be more archaic than the body of the same now known further north, showing that these remnants were the parents of the more northern dialects.

The valley of the Ohio and much of the adjacent country were occupied by the migrating Sioux and they became the celebrated mound builders of the region. The Algonquian, moving from the southwest, took possession of the timbered region of the northwest, extending to Hudson's bay, the whole of Minnesota probably being occupied by them. This constituted the first great migratory movement.

Then began a great war—the result of which was the disruption and expulsion of the Ohio mound builders. This is confirmed by traditions, and by some sub-historic facts. The Algonquians of the northwest moved southeastwardly and crossed the Mississippi in a hostile incursion near the southern boundary of Minnesota, and finally drove the mound builders who have now been learned to have been

the Cherokees and some cognate subtribes, out of Illinois and Ohio and into Virginia and North Carolina, where they were met by De Soto and where they were still building mounds.

Many of them escaped down the Ohio valley, and at its mouth they divided, a part of them returning again to Minnesota and to Iowa, and there establishing, or renewing, the dynasty of the mound builder, this later phase being distinctively called the Minnesota dynasty. It is this migration that brought the present Sioux into the northwest, an event which is believed to have been not more than 500 years ago.

After this the Ojibwa (Algonquian) stock made another successful raid on the Dakota tribes, and gradually pushed them again further south, and recaptured the northern half of the state of Minnesota. This last movement is verified by some historic facts, and by abundant tradition. It was during this war that the whites appeared on the scene. The conclusion of the paper summarized the human migrations that have passed over Minnesota as follows:

1. Algonquian occupancy from the southwest. (During this epoch the Ohio mound builders flourished.)
2. General hostile movement against the mound builders by the Algonquian (Kilistino?) tribes from the northwest, resulting in the destruction of the Ohio dynasty.
3. Fugitive mound builders return up the Mississippi river and possess the country under the second, or Minnesota, dynasty, occupying the southern part of the state, say 500 years ago.
4. The Sioux again driven away, at least from the northern part of the state, by the Algonquian stock, 150 years ago.
5. Aryan civilization.