

These grass houses are only used as summer residences, being too airy for winter use, and are from twenty to thirty feet in diameter. Lodges made from the skins of the buffalo, properly prepared and put up, being much warmer, as excluding the wind more effectually, are used to live in during the winter.

The Caddoes build their houses on the same general plan, being circular or oval in form, having two opposite openings, and a similar platform extending around the sides. The sides, however, differ from the Wichita houses by being made of small stakes, set in the ground close together, and about seven feet high, slightly drawn in at the top. These are chinked and pointed up with mud and grass, and a slight frame-work is placed above to support the thatching; no opening, in many instances, being left for the egress of smoke, which must escape through the thatch, after filling all the upper part of the house, darkening and rendering the domicile extremely uncomfortable.

3d Month, 2d.— This morning our agent started; in company with J. D. Hoag and Cyrus Beede, for the Kiowa camps, one hundred miles or more up the Washita, in order to see Big Bow, a degraded Kiowa chief, — that is, one whom, on account of his bad conduct, agent Tatum no longer recognizes as chief. Their object I know not farther than by supposition. He is a notorious raider, in the practice of killing people, and committing depredations on the whites, whenever opportunity presents. Such opportunities he makes quite frequent-

Residence of Captain Black Beaver
Wichita Valley

1813



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