

BREEDING, W. G.

COLLECTION.

12042

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HISTORICAL COLLECTION FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field worker's name Gomer Gower

This report made on (date) October 28th 1937

1. Name of person owning collection W. G. Breeding

Address Zoe, Oklahoma

2. Name (if any) of collection Small metallic adze.

3. This collection contains the following types of material \_\_\_\_\_

Bullets of various molds which after an overflow of

Blackfork Creek were found lying in profusion on eroded ground.

4. Amount of material \_\_\_\_\_

5. Material deals with Small metallic Adze may establish

what exploring party; French, Spanish, or Civilized

Indian tribe used that type of implement.

6. Approximate period (dates) material is for Choctaw.

7. Locations of the collection (where it is kept) Zoe, Oklahoma.

8. Condition of storage place Good

Condition of collection Good

9. What does the owner intend to do with this collection \_\_\_\_\_

Would he be willing to part with it? Yes

10. Any other information about the collection, including its history \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does this owner know other people who have or might have collections.

Give names & addresses \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: In the event that any of the above questions cannot be answered fully in the space allowed, attach blank sheets firmly, and give all available information. Referring to question by number.

Number of sheets attached \_\_\_\_\_

Interview with W. G. Breeding  
Zoo, Oklahoma

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In the year 1935, the streams of Le Flore County overflowed on several occasions causing soil erosion. Black Fork Creek, which empties into the Poteau River at a point about five miles south of Heavener, is a swift running stream which heads in the mountainous region lying to the south. The area traversed by this stream was particularly affected as a result of those overflows. Acres upon acres were eroded, bringing to view, not only the primitive metallic adze referred to, but also many arrow heads and spent bullets.

Mr. W. G. Breeding, the owner of the land upon which the adze was found states that after one of those overflows he was looking over the damage wrought by a particularly destructive overflow and noticed the implement firmly imbedded in the ground at a level of about eighteen inches below the former level of the ground. Attracted by its peculiar shape, he pried it from its bed and took it to his home where he still has it.

Its length from head to bit is five and one quarter inches. Its head is one inch in width and five-eighths of an inch in thickness. Beginning one inch from the head a hole three eighths inches by five-eighths inches is made for the insertion of a handle. The width at this point is one and three-eighths inches, gradually decreasing in width to one and one-quarter inches at the bit end of the hole for the handle. It maintains the same thickness, five-eighths of an inch from the head to this point and then gradually tapers to an edge at the bit two and three quarter inches from the bit side of the hole attaining a width at the bit of one and seven-eighths inches. This bit, unlike a regulation adze bit, is somewhat circular in shape, having a curvature of three-eighths of an inch from a line drawn from one edge of the bit to the other. This fact gives the bit the same appearance as that of a gouge chisel of the same width.

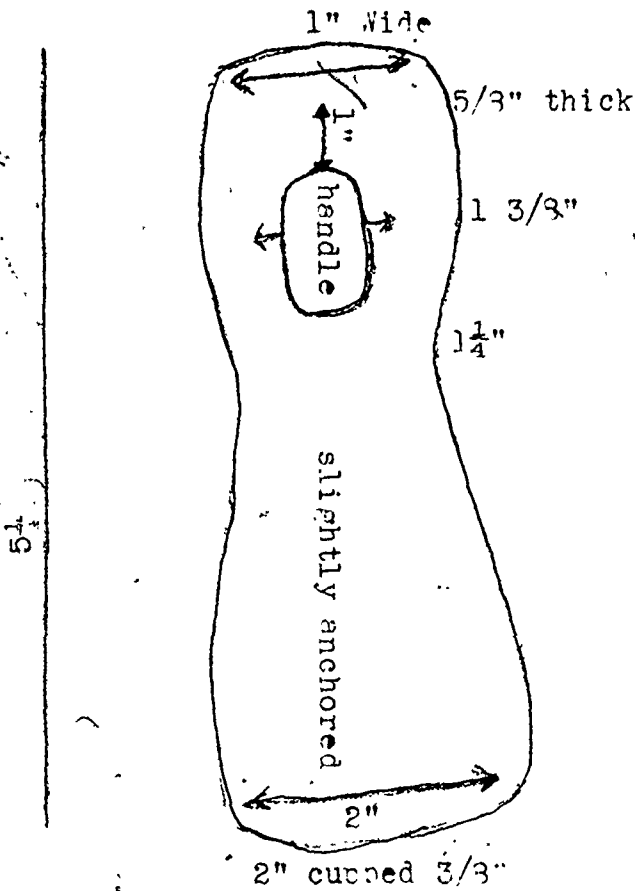
The size and shape of this adze made it adaptable for various uses, but more particularly for hewing out

a canoe from the light birch tree which grows in this section, and suggests the idea that it may have been brought from the far-off Ohio by the Shawnees who had it made by some enterprising blacksmith, who, with others, crossed the Allegheny mountains and lived at peace with the Shawnees in that far gone period.

Again, it may have been a part of the equipment with which the brave La Harpe and his party of explorers were supplied when they came into what is now Eastern Oklahoma.

The discovery of this metallic adze is very interesting.

METALLIC ADZE



Corrupted bullet of native lead

Found within a 100 yards south of the confluence of the Shawnee Creek and Black Fork Rivers at the foot of a walnut tree after an overflow which had eroded the soil to 1 1/2 feet below original ground

H.G. Breeding

Section 36-T. 4- 25E.

Mr. Breeding has lived in the territory since 1897.