

Origins and Racial Affiliations of the Illinois Hopewell Indians

KING B. HUNTER and GEORG K. NEUMANN, Indiana University

Abstract

The present paper which constitutes a revision of an earlier preliminary report on a Middle Woodland population clarifies its origin, morphological changes, and relationships to neighboring contemporary groups. The study of the material based on a multivariate discriminant analysis demonstrates that the Hopewellian people of the lower Illinois Valley are primarily derived from a long-headed Early Woodland population of the Lenid variety native in the Great Lakes area since Archaic times. By A.D. 200 this population had undergone a number of changes, such as some brachycephalization, which characterized many of the later groups of the Middle Woodland period, designated as the Ilinid variety. Parallel changes occurred since Late Archaic times in the Red Ocher people and groups in the Middle Mississippi area.

With the completion of a detailed morphological and metrical analysis of the skeletal materials from the Klunk Site in Calhoun County, Illinois, and comparisons with Fulton County and Ohio Hopewell crania of the same culture, we are now in a position to answer some questions of the origins, racial composition, physical changes, and perhaps the fate of the people that have been archaeologically grouped into the Hopewellian category.

The material from the Klunk Site is of special importance since it represents a complete population sample of over 300 burials, extending from an Archaic to a Late Woodland level, spanning a possible 800 year period.

As a background, the broad outline presented by Neumann (6) will be followed here. The most ancient populations in eastern North America which are reasonably well documented appear in early Archaic times, as early as 4000 B.C., and perhaps earlier in a few cases. Two widely distributed and quite homogeneous populations dominate the whole of the eastern United States at this time, both seeming to have considerable antiquity, and showing perhaps, a generalized common ancestor. In the northern area, primarily associated with a Great Lakes area Archaic cultural pattern, is the Lenid variety, described elsewhere by Neumann (6). An example is Old Copper. The area south of the Ohio Valley is populated by groups which may easily be distinguished from the Lenids, and which are generally associated with the southern riverine Shell Mound Archaic cultural pattern. These populations are consistently of the Iswanid variety, described by Neumann. The largest sample of this variety to date comes from Indian Knoll, which has a radiocarbon date of $3352 \text{ B.C.} \pm 300 \text{ years}$ (3). The earliest material from Modoc Rock Shelter is also Iswanid.

Neumann (6) proposes a differentiation from Lenid to the Ilinid variety, and from Iswanid to the Muskogid variety, beginning in Medial Archaic times, perhaps as early as 2500 B.C. or earlier. An Ilinid population is associated with Glacial Kame. This process of Lenid to Ilinid differentiation may also be observed in Classic Hopewell times. The se-

quence of Modoc Rock Shelter reflects the progressive differentiation from Iswanid to Muskogid. The Muskogid variety, especially, is quite widespread by Terminal Archaic, and Early Woodland times, with the Iswanid becoming marginal or peripheral by Early Woodland times, migrating both to the east and northward.

During Terminal Archaic and Early Woodland times the Muskogids apparently enjoyed a considerable extension of their range, moving up the Ohio Valley into the New York and eastern Great Lakes area, and into the Illinois Valley. In the Illinois Valley they are associated with Red Ocher and Morton, and in the Northeast, with Laurentian and Point Peninsula. The Adena people of Ohio were probably also originally Lenid, possibly receiving some Muskogid admixture as they spread into Kentucky. In general, the Lenids and Ilinids appear to be peripheral to the distribution of these groups during this time. With the appearance of Hopewell in Middle Woodland times, however, the Lenids once again became the dominant population north of the Ohio River and in the Illinois Valley (4). The Middle Woodland population in the Southeast is predominantly Muskogid, associated with such cultures as Copena and Marksville, while the differentiated Ilinid populations become dominant in the north. A final northern expansion of the Muskogid population during the Hopewell breakdown in Late Woodland times takes place in connection with the spread of Middle Mississippi culture. In most of the cases discussed above, little admixture is indicated. As a consequence, the populations associated with these culture complexes ought to be reasonably homogeneous.

The material from the Klunk mound group is rather significant when considered in this framework, in that it offers evidence which may be used to test certain of the foregoing hypotheses. The site may be briefly described as follows. The mounds are located on the western bluff overlooking the Illinois River, in Calhoun County. Archaeological evidence in the form of log tombs, subfloor burial pits, zoned Hopewell pottery, Hopewell stamped rocker-dentate pottery, and so on, indicates that the main body of the material is Classic Illinois Hopewell. The burials associated with this culture pattern constitute the largest sample of the Illinois Hopewellian population extant. One Hopewellian mound overlies a low Archaic or Early Woodland mound, which may have Red Ocher affiliations. This material offers an interesting comparison to the Hopewell series, and to Early Woodland populations from other sites. Finally, a few intrusive Jersey bluff burials are found in the mounds.

The investigation of the population associated with Classic Hopewell at the Klunk site yields an interesting and significant statistical pattern. Although it is primarily Lenid in character, certain morphological characteristics diverge from the expected Lenid pattern, and approach those of Ilinid groups.

There is no indication of any tendencies toward Muskogid characteristics, ruling out the possibility of significant admixture from this population. This is entirely consistent with Neumann's (6) proposal that Classic Hopewell is a period of Lenid to Ilinid differentiation.

Furthermore, those burials which are associated with Bluff culture are consistently Ilinid, and compare very nicely with the material from the Schild site. This last is under preparation in the same laboratory, and promises to be a large and very homogeneous sample of the Jersey Bluff Late Woodland population.

The Archaic Early Woodland material which has been examined and given a radiocarbon date of 908 B.C. comprises a small but very homogeneous sample that is unquestionably Muskogid. This material is tentatively classified as Red Ocher. This is not particularly surprising since it is during this period that a differentiation of Iswanid to Muskogid is hypothesized. Consequently, some Red Ocher groups would be expected to be clearly Iswanid, some clearly Muskogid, and some in an intermediate condition between the two.

Conclusions

1. The hypothesis that the Illinois Hopewell population is essentially Lenid is strengthened by a preliminary investigation of the Hopewellian skeletal material from the Klunk Mound group.

2. The proposed Lenid to Ilinid differentiation during Classic Hopewell times is also substantiated in this investigation.

3. The Lenid population associated with this Illinois Hopewell group appears to be essentially identical to the population associated with Ohio Hopewell, which is contemporaneous.

4. An examination of the presumed Red Ocher burials indicates a definite Muskogid association, which is expected.

5. The Late Woodland burials recovered are consistently Ilinid, and compare very well to other populations of the same period.

6. A northern source for certain of the characteristics that influence the development of Hopewell out of the indigenous Early Woodland culture is indicated by the appearance of certain Point Peninsula ceramic characteristics, such as dentate stamping. This helps to explain the predominance of Lenids in Hopewell, since their distribution at this time was to the north and west of the Illinois and Ohio Valleys.

Literature Cited

1. DEUEL, THORNE. 1958. *American Indian Ways of Life*. Illinois State Museum, Springfield. 80 p.
2. ———. (Ed.) 1952. *Hopewellian Communities in Illinois*. Illinois State Museum, Springfield. 271 p.
3. GRIFFIN, JAMES B. 1952. Culture Periods in Eastern United States. *Achaeology*, p. 352-364. In J. B. Griffin [ed.] *Archaeology of Eastern United States*. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago. 597 p.
4. ———. 1958. The Chronological Position of the Hopewellian Culture in Eastern U. S. *Anthropology. Papers Mus. of Anthropol., Univ. of Michigan No. 12*. Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
5. NEUMANN, GEORG K. 1952. Archaeology and Race in the American Indian, p. 13-34. In J. B. Griffin [ed.] *Archaeology of Eastern United States*. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago.
6. ———. 1960. Origins of the Indians of the Middle Mississippi Area. *Proc. Indiana Acad. of Sci.* 60:66-68.