

October 14, 2018

Scott's Thoughts



On our way back from my niece's wedding in Illinois, Ava and I took a couple of days just to spend time with each other. We wound up in Manhattan Kansas.

We chose Manhattan simply because we had never been there before. We did not get to see very much of the city because of the rain, rain and more rain, but we did go to "The Flint Hills Discovery Center."

As you might guess, it is a center dedicated to preserving the history of the flint hills. I'm the first to admit that I knew nothing about the flint hills, I learned that Newkirk sits just west of the southern end of the flint hills. In fact most of Kay County is part of the flint hills. There is a mineral just below the shallow soil that is mixed with the limestone called chert we commonly call it flint. It is a form of Quartz and is very hard. Flint is hard but can be chipped leaving a very sharp edge. Lime stone, on the other hand, when it is removed from the ground is relatively soft and easily shaped but when it is exposure to the Sun and dries it gets hard.

The Indians used flint to make knives, axes, arrow heads and most any type of cutting instrument. It seems that tribes from other locations would travel to the Flint area to trade

with the local tribes for this valuable material. I'm told it is still a wonderful place for collectors to find arrowheads.

The Indians and the first European settlers used the sod from the flint hills to build houses. Later, the Europeans would build more substantial homes from the abundant lime stone. Both the Indians and the Europeans used what God had placed in their path to make homes and tools to support their families.

I'll admit that I was fascinated by our time at the "Discovery Center." I learned a great deal from the experience and it has drawn my thoughts more to the evidence of God than human ingenuity. Genesis 1:1 (ESV) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The creation included the Flint Hills. When did the first people arrive at the Flint Hills? I have no idea but I know God created and prepared the way for man to make his home there. It was home first for the Native Americans, later for European settlers, and finally for us today. We can look around and see God's intricate plan even in this small part of the world. Other locations are just as interesting and hold different evidence of the same God. Let's take a few minutes to sit and look at God's creation and marvel at Him.

Thanks for listening and let us know if we can help.

—Scott