

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: J. C. HOUSEHOLDER, Indianapolis

Mr. Wm. B. Adams was elected chairman of the section for 1946.

The distribution of aboriginal bastioned stockades in North America.

MARY FRANCES KELLY, Indiana University.—Certain of the pre-Columbian Indians had a very highly developed system of defensive warfare. One of the most important manifestations of this system was the bastion. A bastion is a walled outset from a fortification, placed in such a position that the defenders can keep up a cross-fire along the front of the main wall. It is easy to see of how much value a system of bastions at convenient bow-fire from each other would be to a fortification.

There appear to have been three main developments of the bastioned stockade. Several Algonkian and Iroquoian villages have been found to include bastioned stockades, and the Mandan and Hidatsa of the Upper Missouri River also included the bastion in their scheme of warfare. But we must look to the Southeastern Area before we find wide and concentrated distribution of the bastion.

This southeastern development appears to center in the state of Tennessee along the great river valleys. From there it extends as far north as Aztalan in Wisconsin, and the eastern and western limits are provided by those Algonkian, Iroquoian, and Mandan-Hidatsa bastions that I have mentioned before. The sites where bastions are found in the Southeastern States are predominately Middle Mississippian in culture development.