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A GUIDE TO FORT ANCIENT

(SECOND EDITION)

With Road Map, Map of Fort and Illustrations

BY

W. C. TICHENOR

Price, Twenty-five Cents

For Sale by W. C. Tichenor, Lebanon, Ohio, by Hotels and
Garages in Towns near the Fort, and by Booksellers Generally.

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Looking South from Fort Ancient Bridge toward "Prospect Point."



Looking North from Fort Ancient Bridge. The Y. M. C. A. Boys' "Swimmin' Hole."

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1900-1910





ROAD MAP

Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of "A Guide to Fort Ancient" appeared in 1905. It was the original "Guide" and was the result of an effort to put into popular form the facts and speculations concerning the Fort. It developed from notes taken for the purpose of interesting a class of high school boys who were friends of the author. "Fort Ancient, Part II," by Professor Moorehead, of Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, contained the following comment:

"Among recent publications upon Fort Ancient there is 'A Guide to Fort Ancient,' by W. C. Tichenor, of Dayton, Ohio. This is a neat pamphlet of 34 pages with nine illustrations. It is well written, accurate and contains all needed information. It is the Fort Ancient Baedeker, and we commend its perusal to visitors who would understand what they observe."

The first edition of the "Guide" has long since been disposed of, but the continued demand for a brochure with maps, illustrations and definite information about the Fort has led to the publication of a second edition with many new features of interest. The road map, a number of illustrations and the stories about Fort Ancient are added. The illustrations at pp. 37 and 38 are from photographs furnished by Professor W. K. Moorehead; those at pp. 4, 21 and 46 are from photographs taken and furnished by Mr. Arthur Gilmour, of Lima, Ohio.



Among the Fort Ancient Hills.

FORT ANCIENT

Introductory

Fort Ancient is one of the most interesting remains of antiquity on the North American continent. It is situated in Warren County, Ohio, on a plateau at the summit of the east bank of the Little Miami River overlooking its namesake in the valley, a hamlet and station on the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway. It is forty-two miles northeast of Cincinnati by rail and seventy-eight miles southwest of Columbus. "The Fort," as it is called, is perhaps the largest and most wonderful work of the so-called "Mound-Builders." It has attracted students and men of science from every civilized country in the world.

The first printed account of Fort Ancient of which we have record was published in 1809. Extensive excavations were begun by Prof. W. K. Moorehead in 1889. The reports of these excavations, embodied in his volumes, "Fort Ancient" and "Primitive Man in Ohio," aroused great interest in these earthworks and did much to bring about the purchase of the parts of the Fort by the State of Ohio in 1891, 1896 and 1908. In later years exhaustive explorations and surveys have been made by Prof. W. C. Mills, of the Ohio State University.

A splendid collection of artifacts found at and near Fort Ancient may be seen at the Archæological Museum on the campus of the Ohio State University. At the Fort, however, there is nothing to point out to the visitor where the excavations have

been made, to show what the excavators discovered, nor to tell what is known or believed about the builders of this great earth-work. There should be a museum at the Fort in which the finds could be displayed. A building or room of sufficient size for this purpose could be built at moderate cost, and it would add to the attractiveness and educational value of the place. Archæologists tell us that there is no spot in the State of Ohio where so many relics of such value and perfection have been found as at the Fort. Six large collections of artifacts, almost all of which were obtained at Fort Ancient, aggregate 40,000, and several times that number have been taken away by tourists and private collectors. Yet no collection is to be seen at the Fort itself by the visitor while he is most interested.

It is to furnish to the visitor at the Fort a brief and convenient means of information that this brochure has been compiled. The map is a reduction and adaptation from the map published in Professor Moorehead's "Fort Ancient." The numbers and letters on the map mark the points of interest, and correspond to the numbers and letters of the descriptive paragraphs.

I take great pleasure in acknowledging the personal favors which I have received from Prof. W. K. Moorehead, of Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. He has permitted the use of the map of the Fort, the illustrations of the children's cemetery and of the artifacts, and such parts of his writing as I have found suitable to my purpose. I desire also to express my thanks to Prof. W. C. Mills, of the Ohio State University, for the reports of his recent explorations among the mounds of Ohio; to Hon. E. O. Randall, of Columbus, Ohio; to Mr. Josiah Morrow, of Lebanon, Ohio, and to Mrs. J. P. Owens, of Lebanon, for an excellent brochure on Fort Ancient written by her father, the late Dr. S. S. Scoville.

The following bibliography may be of interest to those who desire a more thorough knowledge of the subject:

“Fort Ancient,” and “Primitive Man in Ohio,” Prof. W. K. Moorehead.

“Observations Concerning Fort Ancient,” S. S. Scoville, M. D.

“Prehistoric America,” De Nadaillac.

“Antiquities of Tennessee,” Thruston.

“American Archæology,” and “Mound Exploration for the Bureau of Ethnology,” Prof. Cyrus Thomas.

“Antiquities of the Southern Indians,” Jones.

“Historic Races of the United States,” Foster.

Reports of the Peabody Museum, Cambridge.

“The Mound-Builders,” J. P. McLean.

“Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley,” Squier and Davis.

“Footprints of Vanished Races in the Mississippi Valley,” Conant.

“Antiquities of Ohio,” Shepherd.

The Reports of the Ohio Archæological and Historical Society also contain many articles on Fort Ancient.

If this pamphlet shall awaken a wider interest in Fort Ancient, in the mysteries of the works and their builders, in their value as an object-lesson to schools and study classes, and in the natural beauty of the place, it will have accomplished its mission.

Facts Concerning Fort Ancient

Length of the enclosure, 4,993 feet, or a little less than one mile.

Distance around the Fort following the top of the embankment, 18,712.2 feet, or a little more than three miles and a half.

Width of enclosure in a bee line from west to east, 993 feet.

Area within the enclosing walls, about 126 acres.

Tracts including parts of the Fort purchased by the State of Ohio: (1) 180 acres, May 11, 1891; 107 acres, December 5, 1896; 20 acres, June 3, 1908.

Height of plateau above low-water mark, 269 feet.

Height of plateau above the level of the Atlantic Ocean, 919 feet.

Amount of earth used in the construction of the walls, at least 139,000 cubic yards.

Total cost of land to the State of Ohio, \$15,500.

“The embankments are largely of earth, although stones are numerous here and there. . . . The material used in the construction of the embankment is chiefly surface loam and clay, although some glacial clay and gravel enter into its composition. The stones used to face the exterior of the wall to a height of four or five feet are large limestone slabs, 2 x 3 feet or 18 x 25 inches. They were laid without cement. Some very large slabs seem to have been used to prevent the edge of the wall from washing into the ravine. We find many of these stones several yards within the present edge of the embankment. Originally they marked the edge of the embankment, and the earth which now covers them has been washed down from above. A study of these and of their position gives us an idea of the width and height of the original embankments.”

GUIDE

The numbers of the following paragraphs correspond to the numbers on the map. They begin at the west entrance to the Fort.

NO. 1. POINT IN WEST WALL, SOUTH OF THE PIKE.

The wall here is nineteen feet high and seventy feet wide. It was much higher and narrower when first built. The ease of approach by this gentle slope made a stronger wall necessary at this point. Notice the stones in the wall opposite. Stones may be seen cropping out at many of the gateways. More stones have been found in similar walls near Glenford, Ohio, and elsewhere in the earthworks of the Mound-Builders. The presence of these stones has led some to believe that the Mound-Builders erected vertical stone gate-posts and faced the outside of the earthwork with stone walls.

NO. 2. RESERVOIR.

This place formerly contained several feet of water, but it has since been filled up with decayed vegetable matter. Artificial reservoirs for holding water are almost always found within the defensive works of the Mound-Builders when the works are not located near streams, and when springs are not included within them.

NO. 3. NORTH CRESCENT MOUND.

Much of this mound has been effaced. The road also cuts it in two. It was originally two hundred and sixty-nine feet long,

and was probably an effigy mound. Doctor Scoville suggests that it may have been a complete circle.

NO. 4. NORTH TERRACE.

On the other side of the ravine to the north is the North Terrace. It is about a mile in length, and is of almost uniform level with the terrace along the Fort hill and with the one on the opposite bank of the river. (See Paragraph No. 27.)

NO. 5. PLATEAU.

This plateau, enclosed by the walls, is two hundred and sixty-nine feet above low-water mark. The original surface soil and almost all of the clay beneath it were removed to build the walls, leaving little or no clay above the limestone. The soil now above the limestone is more than twelve inches in depth and has been formed by the gradual decay of vegetable matter since the time of the Mound-Builders. It is estimated that it has taken at least five hundred years to form this surface soil. The ground enclosed is somewhat lower than that outside.

NOS. 6, 7, 8 AND 9. FOUR SMALL MOUNDS.

These four mounds, one on the north side of the road and three on the south side, form a sort of rude square nearly in line with the cardinal points. The east mound (7) was covered with burnt stones. These mounds may have been used as dwelling sites, as the repository of the ashes of cremated bodies, or as "fire mounds," where attendants, like the Vestal Virgins of Rome, kept the fire ever burning.

Not much of interest has been found in the mounds, either inside or outside the Fort. The principal finds have been made in the graves, the stone heaps and in the valley below.

No. 10. PROBABLY A FIRE MOUND.

No. 11.

This narrow neck, which divides the structure almost into halves, is called the Isthmus. The south enclosure is the South, or Old Fort; the north enclosure is the North, or New Fort.

No. 12. CRESCENT GATEWAY.

Judging from its slight elevation, scientists generally agree that this was an effigy mound, for the effigy mounds are seldom more than three or four feet in height, and represent in outline the figure of some animal of gigantic size, often several hundred feet in length. The Serpent Mound in Adams County, Ohio, one of the largest, is five feet high and about one thousand feet long.

Scoville's Serpent Mound.

Some years ago Dr. S. S. Scoville, of Lebanon, discovered a Serpent Mound somewhat similar in shape to the Adams County Serpent Mound. It lies near Stubb's Mills (between Morrow and South Lebanon) in Warren County, and is 1,380 feet long, fifteen to twenty feet wide at the widest point and about three feet high. It is built upon a foundation of small river stones. Prof. Putnam, of Harvard University, investigated the Scoville Serpent Mound in 1886 and corroborated the statements of Dr. Scoville concerning it. On September 23, 1908, Dr. Wright, the eminent archaeologist of Oberlin, together with other men of science, visited the mound. The doctor pronounced the mound undoubtedly an effigy of a serpent, and was surprised that it had not been given greater publicity before.

No. 13. MIDDLE FORT.

This extends from the wing walls, which run out to make the Crescent Gateway, to the Great Gateway. Along the rib of the Middle Fort, near the road, great quantities of fragmentary human bones were found. The three Forts are often spoken of as one, and called The Fort.

No. 14. VALLEY VIEW.

No. 15.

Here no embankments were needed, as the steepness of the banks of the ravine afforded sufficient protection against the assaults of an enemy.

No. 16.

(Mounds Nos. 51 and 52, as numbered by Professor Moorehead.)

East and southeast from this point are several mounds.

Mound No. 51, two hundred yards south of Mound No. 50, which is one-fourth mile southeast of Mound No. 69 (No. 37 as stated below), contained traces of decayed skeletons, flints, and chips.

Mound No. 52, near the Fort walls, was surrounded by a circle of stone immediately beneath the surface, consisting of three layers twenty inches wide. Nothing was found within the stone circle. The field near this mound is rich in relics.

No. 17. GREAT GATEWAY.

The Great Gateway connected the Old Fort and the Middle Fort. Great heaps of stones, used both as coverings for graves and as a protection to the embankments, have been found about it. The raised platform which forms the approaches to the



Great Gateway, Looking South.

Gateway is about four feet higher than the surrounding level. The south approach contained many human bones, and many stones were found in the small mound near it. It is probable that the Great Gateway was a strategic point in aboriginal warfare, and that many bloody battles were fought there for its possession.

An old soldier of the Civil War who knew nothing of the Fort or of the manner of aboriginal warfare suggested while passing through the Fort one day:

“I’ll bet them walls is chock full o’ bullets and shells. If there’s as many skeletons there ez people round here says the’ is, the’ must ’a been lots o’ shootin’ goin’ on them times.”

Burials In and About the Fort.

From the different shapes of the skulls found in and about the Fort, Professor Moorehead concludes that two tribes or stocks of people dwelt in this locality at the same time. These he calls the "Short-heads" and the "Long-heads." The former may have buried their dead in the well-made *stone graves*, and buried with them ornaments and implements of war; whereas the latter may be those buried in *stone heaps*, without either ornaments or implements of war. The burials on the hillsides outside the Fort were in *shallow stone heaps*, while those inside the Fort were in *deep stone graves*. Possibly the "Long-heads" were held in captivity and were not given the honor of ceremonial burial. Some archæologists, however, believe that the differences in crania and in modes of burial do not warrant the belief that two stocks of people are buried here.

No. 18. BURIAL SITE.

On the terrace, nineteen feet down the embankment, were found fragments of eighteen or twenty skeletons among a *heap* of stones, eighty feet long, twenty feet wide, and two feet high, containing four hundred and sixty wagonloads. The bones were from ten to twenty inches under the surface. Some decorated and much plain pottery, a very fine celt, an excellent specimen of tool-sharpening tool, and a few good flint knives were found buried among the bones.

No. 19. CEMETERY.

This spot marks the center of the Mound-Builders' largest burying-ground. In every direction for one hundred and ten feet skeletons have been found; three hundred graves have been

opened, and over one thousand wagonloads of stones removed by different excavators.

Professor Moorehead found twenty skeletons. The burials were made in coffin-shaped stone graves, formed by placing stones beside and over the bodies. The interments were not so carefully made as those in the valley below, but are otherwise almost identical.

In some of the graves there were no stones at the sides, but the bodies were covered with two layers of flat stones above. One skeleton was completely encircled and covered with stones, while beside it were found fragments of pottery, a large stone celt, and a spear-head of yellow flint. The bones were saved entire and are now on exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute. Professor Moorehead says: "All skulls found in stone *graves* were well shaped; while those found in stone *heaps* were the thick ones." Members of two races are found buried about Fort Ancient. One of them may have been in captivity.

Some writers have believed that the interments in the stone graves and stone heaps were made by the Shawnee Indians. As against this theory Professor Moorehead offers the following argument: The Shawnees came to Ohio about 1710. The walnut tree, whose stump still remains here and whose roots spread out *over the graves*, was cut down in the fall of 1870. The rings of the stump showed a growth of two hundred and fifty-five years. It sprouted, therefore, about the year 1615, or ninety-five years before the Shawnees came to Ohio. Hence the Shawnees, Professor Moorehead concludes, could not have made the interments.

NO. 20. BURIAL SITE.

Here fragmentary human bones, celts and flint chips were found among a heap of stones containing forty wagonloads.

No. 21. BURIAL SITE.

Here two stone burial heaps ran together and formed a pile fifty feet long, twenty feet wide, and two feet high, containing one hundred wagonloads of stones. Twenty fragmentary skeletons were found among them. All of the skulls were crushed, and almost all of the jaw-bones were broken. The skeletons were those of very strong men, of average size. A clay dish or vase, five inches long, and almost entire, an ornamental slate pendant, and a beautiful stone celt were also found in the heaps.

No. 22. (V-V-V) VILLAGE SITES IN THE OLD FORT.

These are the sites of the villages of the Mound-Builders. The village site in the Old Fort covered from fifteen to twenty acres, and over this area were found animal bones, flint chips and fragments of pottery. In early times "hut-rings" or circles of clay like small circus rings thirty to forty feet in diameter were also found at frequent intervals in the field. The circles marked the outer boundaries of tepees or lodges which were built of saplings set in the ground, bound together at the top by vines or more pliant saplings, and roofed with clay. When the poles decayed, or when the lodges were abandoned, they were torn down, and the clay roof, falling to the ground, formed the circles. The plow has left no traces of them, but their location is remembered by persons now living. Professor Moorehead notes their resemblance to the lodges of the Mandan Indians of upper Missouri (1810-1835).

Pits.

Pits with bark floors were often found at the edges of the lodges. These pits were used as cellars for storing grain, beans, nuts, and even wild fruits, and possibly animal food. In some

cases the bark floors and the contents of the pits have been charred, thus preserving them to reward the search of the excavator. These pits when abandoned as cellars were often used as rubbish sinks, and occasionally as burial vaults.

Oven-Pits.

Pits have been found in the Scioto Valley in which the heat has been so great as to burn the sides of the pits to a deep red, and several inches in depth. These were doubtless used as ovens for baking mussels. Professor Mills found two such pits at the Gartner Mound, near the Scioto River. From the number of mussel shells found in each pit he concludes that fully five thousand mussels were used in each bake. Similar pits were likely dug here also.

NO. 23. THREE MOUNDS SOUTHEAST OF THE FORT.

There are three mounds one and one-half mile southeast of the Fort. A circle of stone around one of these mounds enclosed fifteen skeletons. All the burials were made with the heads toward the center. Ornaments of bear teeth were found buried with them.

No. 24.

Many stones were found at this gateway.

NO. 25. RESERVOIR.

NO. 26. FIRE-BED.

The ground shows evidence of long-continued fire.

NO. 27. TERRACES.

The terraces along the hillsides at Fort Ancient have attracted much interest among investigators. They are of clay and not of glacial gravel. Evidences of occupation by man are found



"Twin Mounds," Southeast Extremity of Wall of South Fort.

several inches below their surface. One of the terraces is about half way down the hillside from Prospect Point and extends for a quarter of a mile around the hill to the south and east.

The lower terrace is 135.2 feet above low-water level. A terrace extending for more than a mile along the hillside on the opposite side of the river is 137.7 feet above low-water level, and a third terrace (see No. 4), nearly two miles north of a part of the first terrace, is 136.6 feet above low-water level. Was this almost uniform level accidental, or did the Mound-Builders understand the principle of the level? Were the terraces the shores of a lake?

NO. 28. PROSPECT POINT.

The view from this point is said by travelers to be one of the most picturesque views to be seen in non-mountainous countries. It is sometimes called "Point Lookout."



View from Prospect Point, Looking North.

No. 29. RIDGES OR GRADED ROADWAYS.

Several ridges slope from the embankments toward the river by almost uniform grade. They were formed by glacial action; but they may have been worked by man to afford an easy approach to the walls from the valley below.

No. 30. MOAT.

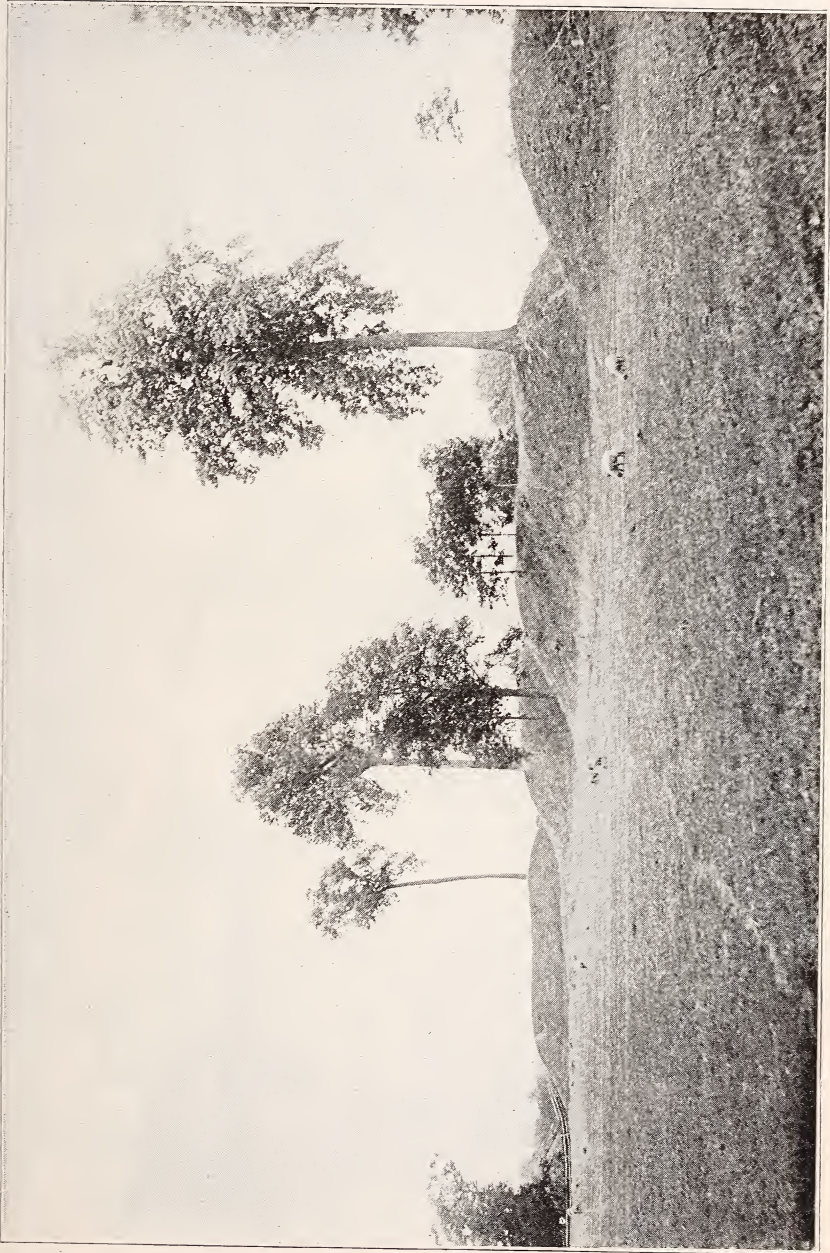
The original depth of the moat here was seven feet below the surrounding level. It has been filled up by the decay of vegetable matter.

No. 31. FIRST THREE SECTIONS OF THE EMBANKMENTS.

These sections of the wall are respectively eighty-five, one hundred and ten, and one hundred and fifty-nine feet in length. They are about the longest stretches of the embankments. It is probable that the Fort walls at the time of their completion were surmounted by strong palisades, for remains of palisades have been found on similar hill-forts elsewhere.

No. 32.

The first point at the top of the wall south of the pike is Station One of Fowke and Cowen's Survey. This point is 941 feet above the level of the Atlantic Ocean, and 291 feet above the low-water level of the Little Miami River. The wall here is twenty-two feet high and seventy-four feet wide at the base. Doctor Scoville found enclosing stone walls at the sides of the embankments. After exhaustive researches he concluded that the wall at this point was originally fifty-four feet wide at the base, fifteen to twenty feet wide at the top, and about twenty-four feet high.



Sections of East Wall.

The six sections of the wall between the ravines, when taken separately, are perfectly straight, but taken collectively, they form a curved line, with the angles at the openings. This resulted, as Doctor Scoville pointed out, from following the course of the streamlets already here when the walls were erected, the stream-beds affording additional protection.

The summits of the three sections south of the roadway are on an almost exactly horizontal line. From this the doctor concluded that the original summits were flat, that the erosion has been principally from the sides, and that the original summits were not much higher than the present summits.

NO. 33. MOATS.

Both within and without the embankments evidences of moats or ditches are found. The moats, together with the small streams, added to the difficulty of approach by an attacking enemy. The dirt from the moats was doubtless used in the construction of the walls.

“At no place does the moat seem to be deeper than six feet, and the average is about four. I can not say that the moat was filled with water. Excavations in it yield pottery, animal bones, flint implements and chips, and a few human bones. I can not believe that the moat is a strong feature of the place, save on the east side, where it is placed without the wall. There it seems to add considerable strength to the place. But at the many points where it is within the walls, it seems to be positively a detriment rather than a help. However, there may have been good reasons of which we know not for this peculiar method of defense. As I have before remarked, the inside moat is a characteristic feature of all prehistoric works in this country. Traces of fire at many points in the ditches seem to indicate that they

were not filled with water, and were used (for short intervals) as convenient places for camp-fires, etc.”

Many believe that these stream-beds and moats along the east embankment outside afforded protected passageways into the guarded way between the parallel walls, and that from the guarded way the natives resisted the first onslaught of the enemy coming from the level country to the northeast..

Stories of Hidden Treasure, Caves and Subterranean Passages.

Professor Moorehead repeats stories told him while conducting his excavations. Many have believed them.

“For many years some of the farmers in the neighborhood believed that a treasure lay hidden within the walls of this structure. Much time and money have been wasted in vainly searching for it. A story has gained considerable notoriety and is believed by many people, although most foolish and utterly groundless. The story has been related to me a number of times, and I would not be surprised if some of those who reported it believed it themselves. The story runs as follows:

“Long years ago, before the Mexican War, an old Indian came back to Fort Ancient from the Indian Territory, whither the Shawnees had been removed. He took up his abode with an old hunter and trapper, and spent all his time during the night in digging in some secret place in the wild ravines. He dug for twelve nights, and at midnight on the twelfth night he and the old trapper came upon a treasure. They say the Indian had a wonderfully loud, shrill voice. As soon as he made the discovery he let out a fearful yell, and the citizens of Fort Ancient, hearing it, arose bright and early the next morning and went over to the cabin of the trapper, expecting to hear of a terrible tragedy. They found the Indian gone and two or three little

stone jugs in a broken condition on the floor. On the interior of these jugs was considerable clay and in the clay the marks of coins. So this Indian went away very wealthy with the gold he had secured, and the old trapper bought a farm near by, in which he lived the remainder of his days. It is claimed that the old trapper, who had never been known to have a dollar ahead at one time, paid \$3,000 in gold for this farm.

“Some years ago there was printed in Cincinnati an account of a wonderful cave lying underneath the fortification. It was said that it was discovered by an old hunter and trapper. Probably it was the same master mind who found the gold. He told some of the people in the neighborhood that he had discovered a cave, but enlightened no one as to the exact location of it. So that when he died the secret was lost with him. This story has gained wide credence and many people believe it. Many persons coming to the Fort expect to see this cave and explore its mysteries.

“Taking advantage of this romantic rumor, a tenant who had charge of Fort Ancient and who took delight in guying the gullible, was in the habit of calling the attention of visitors to the cave. An unusual circumstance gave credibility to the joke. A farmer from Kansas had formerly occupied the tenant house at the Fort. Fearing a cyclone, he had dug a hole in the bank of a ravine near the house. The cave was eight by ten feet. To this he intended to flee in case of a cyclone. Later on the cave was used by subsequent tenants as a potato cellar. But the tenant who loved to fool the people thought to make a better place out of it, so he put a nice fence around the cave, put a door in the entrance and a padlock on the door. During his stay at the Fort he palmed off the cave as the entrance to a mysterious subterranean passage to the river and had great

fun at the expense of the unsophisticated tourists who came to visit Fort Ancient. Perhaps many families have heard the wonderful story of the cave fresh from the lips and colored by the vivid imagination of one who had been initiated into the mysteries of the tenant's potato cellar."

No. 34. PLATFORMS.

The platforms or breaks in the ditches were not filled in, but were merely left for approaches to the openings in the walls.

Gateways, or Openings in the Walls.

There are seventy-four artificial openings in the enclosing walls. They afforded ready means for ingress and egress for the inhabitants of the place and surrounding country. Probably they were furnished with means of closure; but no conclusive evidence of such provision has as yet been discovered, although decayed fragments of what might have been supporting posts of gates or bastions have been found in similar earthworks elsewhere. Men familiar with modern fortifications can not understand why there should be so many of these gaps. One-fourth of the number would have been sufficient. The greater number weakens the wall for defense.

No. 35. DITCH FROM MOUND No. 68 TO THE RAVINE.

Professor Moorehead believes that an artificial ditch extended northwest from this mound. Excavators discovered the original surface several feet below the present surface. In the bottom of the ditch were found remains of bones and fragments of pottery. It may have been used as a cover for retreat, the natives running through it to the hollow below.

No. 36.

(Mound No. 68, as numbered by Professor Moorehead.)

This mound consists of dark loam, with yellow clay on top. The clay is heaviest on the west side, and the loam on the east side. It was likely rebuilt. At the base of the mound is a layer of black soil, four inches thick, and of a very offensive odor. It contains fragments of finely finished pottery, charcoal flakes, and two pockets of soft earth and ashes.

In digging out a trench running northeast from this mound the same odor and the same soil were found fully five feet below the surface. This odor was never observed elsewhere among relics of the Mound-Builders.

No. 37.

(Mound No. 69, as numbered by Professor Moorehead.)

This mound is of yellow clay, with patches of dark earth here and there. The excavators found fragments of pottery and



The Two Mounds at the Ends of the Parallel Walls.

animal bones, but no traces of human bones. The roots of this elm tree have doubtless prevented the mound from injury from washing.

No. 38.

(Mound No. 50, as numbered by Professor Moorehead.)

Mound No. 50 is one-fourth of a mile southeast of Mound No. 69. It contained the following: A layer of burnt stone, three inches thick and six inches above the base line; two pockets covered with burnt stone, in which were pottery fragments, and three discs of yellow mica, with neatly-trimmed edges; a fragmentary human skeleton, and with it one arrow-head, pieces of pottery, a mass of red ocher, a broken celt, and a fine stone relic.

No. 39. PARALLEL WALLS.

Extending northeast from these two mounds, Nos. 36 and 37, and one hundred and thirty feet apart were two parallel walls, 2,760 feet long, twelve feet wide and one foot high. They have been almost effaced by frequent plowing, but traces of them may yet be seen under the fences and at points along their course. At the northeast end the walls curved together around a small mound. The ground is red and burnt, but nothing of importance was ever found either in or under these parallel walls. They bear a striking resemblance to the stadia of ancient Athens.

No. 40. PAVEMENTS.

A number of paved areas have been discovered at the Fort. The largest is the one extending for two hundred feet or more between the Parallel Walls. It is forty or fifty feet in width and lies one foot under the present surface of the soil. It was built of stones averaging twelve by six inches by one to two inches in size, with gravel between the stones for evenness. In

places the stones show evidences of heat, and all are worn somewhat on the upper side. Pottery, bones and ashes have also been found about and between the stones. A similar level area of *tamped and burnt clay* was found near Chillicothe.

Some archæologists believe that these areas were used as crematories, and that the ashes and charred bones were buried in the mounds near by. Professor Moorehead believes that this pavement was used as a place of assembly and amusement. The two large mounds to the west may have been the starting and finishing points of the race course on the parallel walls, or they may have been lookouts or pulpits for the leaders in the worship of the sun, or places where the musicians with tom-tom beats or other weird music kept time for the dancers in the sacred or war dance on the pavement below.

Prof. W. C. Mills discovered a number of smaller paved areas at the Fort. The one south of the Giant Causeway and along the east side of the west embankment was probably laid to afford a firm footing to and from the reservoir near by. Indeed, all of the pavements (here we abandon the lead of archæological fancy) may have been laid for the same purpose for which men lay them today—to afford a firm footing and to keep them up out of the mud and water.

The Village in the Valley.

(Along the railway and river north of the station and hotel.)

“On the banks of the Little Miami River, less than half a mile from Fort Ancient, is a large village site. The graves and the relics indicate that the same tribe who lived within the enclosure also resided upon the banks of the river. This village site is much larger than the one within the Fort. It covers fully one hundred acres of ground.”

It was occupied for a considerable length of time, as is shown by the remains of occupancy which extend to a depth of more than four feet. Three distinct strata at different depths may be traced.

The *first stratum* is two feet below the surface, and is six inches thick. In it are ashes, charcoal, scattered bones in small pieces and red pottery of crude design.

The *second stratum* is four feet below the surface, and is the largest of the three deposits. In it are bones of almost every bird, beast or fish known to have lived in this region, fragments of pottery, soft earth, a large, black mass of ashes, thousands of mussel shells perforated at or near the center, and burnt stone, showing long-continued cooking on one spot. Many sherds of pottery were artistically decorated. "Among other articles discovered were hammer and grinding-stones, broken celts, spear and arrow-heads, and knives of flint, bone awls and needles, some pointed at both ends, tibiae of deer, with the shaft worked to give a sharp edge on each side, . . . deer antlers, some of which showed marks of use as perforators or polishers, a few slate gorgets and a few small, perforated shell discs."

The *third stratum* is five and one-half feet below the surface, and is less than six inches thick. Here were found many antlers of deer.

No. 41. THREE BURIAL SITES IN THE VALLEY.

Thirty-seven graves, at an average depth of *two feet*, were opened in the three burial sites along the river. Twenty-five crania of a brachycephalic—short-headed—race were secured entire.

"The children were found, with but one or two exceptions, in one cemetery; the adults in another. Another peculiarity was



Children's Graves in the Burying Ground in the Valley.

that the skeletons of men were absent from these graves in the valley, and that women and children constituted the entire interment."

These graves were undoubtedly constructed in pre-Columbian times; for two periods of occupation have existed since the burials; and no glass beads or implements of iron were ever discovered among the debris to show association with European explorers or settlers.

In 1812, before they were cleared, these burial sites were covered with the largest sycamore, elm and walnut timber. The burials were made sufficiently early for a deposit of six or eight inches of river sand to have accumulated over them before that date.

Lower Village Burial Site.

The excavations about the graves found here were made in 1891. Upon a given day the graves were opened in the presence of eleven hundred people. Nearly all the graves were hollow, only a little earth having filtered in between the crevices. The stone slabs used here were larger than in the Upper Village Burial Site north of this point.

Upper Village Burial Site.

(Five hundred to six hundred feet from the above.)

Sixteen graves were found here. "The interments were somewhat different from those in the large cemetery in the South Fort on the hill. After the excavation of the grave had been made . . . stone slabs twenty-four to thirty inches in length by eight to ten inches in width were set upon edge one foot apart on each side at the head and at the feet. Large slabs were placed above." Here evidences of what loggers call a "shack" were found.

Northmost Burial Site.

The interments made here were like those described above.

The Irish Resurrectionist.

Soon after the burying grounds were opened at the Fort a clever Irishman concluded to make some excavations in search of skeletons for profit. Accordingly, a friend and he worked one hot summer afternoon with spade and shovel, and finally located a grave. The bones of the skeleton found in the grave were all in good enough condition except the skull, which—as is usually the case in these graves—was in fragments. They threw the bones and stones carelessly back into the grave, breaking many of the bones in doing so. Then they started to walk home along the railway track, hot, worn out and disappointed. Presently the friend incidentally mentioned that he had a skull in a good state of preservation at home. The Irishman stopped short, and, wiping the perspiration from his forehead with his sleeve, exclaimed in disgust: “Well, why didn’t you say so before? We could ’a put your skull onto the good bones of that Mound-Builder’s trunk and made a hundred dollars apiece! Nobody but one o’ them experts would ever ’a knowed the difference.”

The Story of the Ghost Dentist.

An amusing story is told of the experiences of the inhabitants of Fort Ancient with one of the skeletons exhumed in the valley. It was carefully removed from the stone grave and placed in a sand box in the room above the Fort Ancient store, where many came to see it.

The sight was uncanny and soon aroused the superstitions of the countryside. Groanings and moanings, even shrieks were said to be heard coming from the chamber, especially during the night and amidst the storms which swept the valley. Fear

seized the neighborhood. Timid persons were afraid to pass the store after dark. The tales of the ghoulish sight and the rumors of the sounds of anguish possessed them.

After a storm more violent than usual, when the moans and groans from the chamber had been most agonizing, a few courageous souls ventured to visit the room to see what evidences of suffering and conflict might be discovered. A gravelike stillness filled the place. The intruders crept stealthily to the side of the sand box. The skeleton of the aborigine was still there. All was as before, but lo, a tooth was gone! The intruders retreated in confusion to the landing and scurried down stairs. A spirit dentist was at work!

The story spread like wildfire. Terror fed on terror. No longer were there courageous ones willing to venture within the chamber where the Mound-Builder's skeleton lay in state. Superstitious dread of even human dentists was rife enough in the valley; but a ghost dentist, alas, who would dare to venture near his forceps!

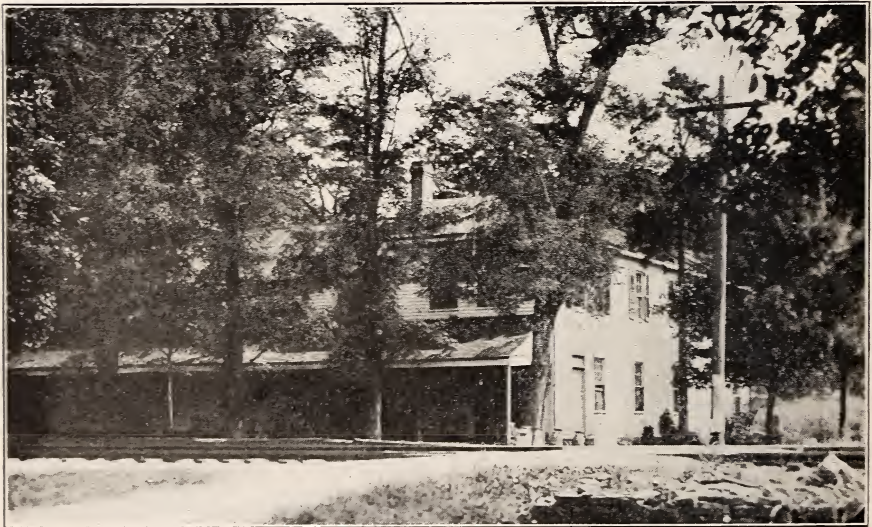
One fearless inhabitant, however, stood firm against the contagious terror. It was the Irish resurrectionist. He had his theory how it came about. This he kept a secret. He determined to see for himself. He took to visiting the chamber at night alone. After a few nights a second tooth was missing; then a third! The mystery perplexed him. Still he continued his nocturnal visits.

On a stormy night, just before the through freight was due, he took his station lantern, climbed the ladder to the charnel room, and crept noiselessly to the side of the skeleton. The oncoming train shrieked up the valley. The resurrectionist held the lantern over the skull of the Mound-Builder. The light shone through the spaces in the gumless upper jaw left by the three missing teeth. Where were they? Who had removed them?

The train rumbled nearer and nearer. The resurrectionist fastened his gaze upon the aborigine. The building began to shake and creak. The sand box and the skeleton visibly quivered. The head of the aborigine shook and his teeth rattled in their sockets. The heavy engine rumbled by, when lo, an incisor loosed from its socket slip—slipped and fell from the Mound-Builder's jaw into the sand below!

The resurrectionist lifted his lantern. Then he ran his fingers into the sand and removed not only the incisor which had just fallen, but also the three other teeth. The spirit dentist had been detected in the very act!

But to this day there are some among the oldest inhabitants of Fort Ancient who are none too willing to talk to you about the ghost dentist who spread such terror throughout the countryside.



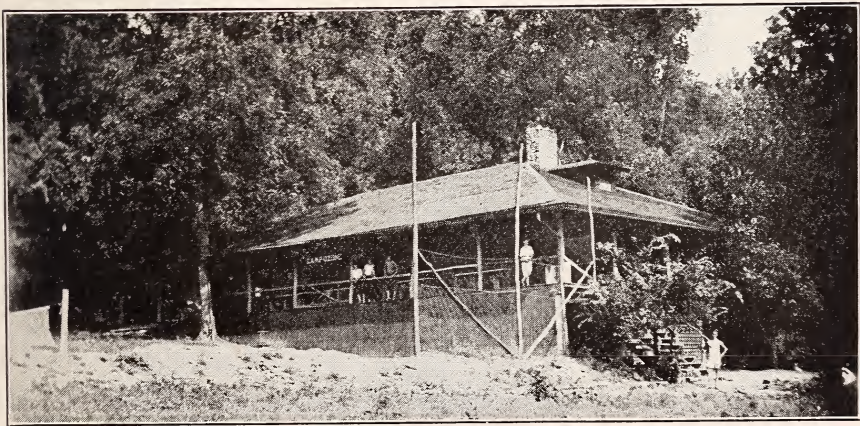
Fort Ancient Hotel. A Famous Tavern of "Ye Olden Time."

The Great Ax.

This stone, which resembles an immense ax and weighs two hundred and thirty pounds, was found near Fort Ancient. For years it lay in the yard at the hotel and was shown to visitors as an artifact of the Mound-Builders. Some archæologists pronounce it "emblematic" and insist that the aborigines may have set it up as a symbol of strength—the ax of the Mound-Builders' god. Whether the resemblance to the stone ax of the aborigines is accidental or by human design may never be determined. But the stone is worth seeing. It is now in the yard of Mr. Marshall Ward on the Lebanon and Morrow Pike.



The Stone Ax (Emblematic).
Weight, 235 lbs.



The Dayton (Ohio) Y. M. C. A. Boys' "Camp Ozone," at Fort Ancient.

Artifacts Found at Fort Ancient

"The problematical forms shown at page 37 present a variety of shapes. At the top are two sandstone objects (all these are shown about one-third size) which have grooves and depressions. The one to the left has depressions that resemble finger-marks; the one to the right, as if a tool of copper had been sharpened upon its surface. These were found in the Old Fort.

"No. 807 was found in 1884, and is a heart-shaped ornament of red slate. It is finely finished, polished and worked quite thin.

"To the right of the heart-shaped object is an ornament of banded slate, having two perforations. This was found in a grave by a farmer residing near the walls of the Fort.

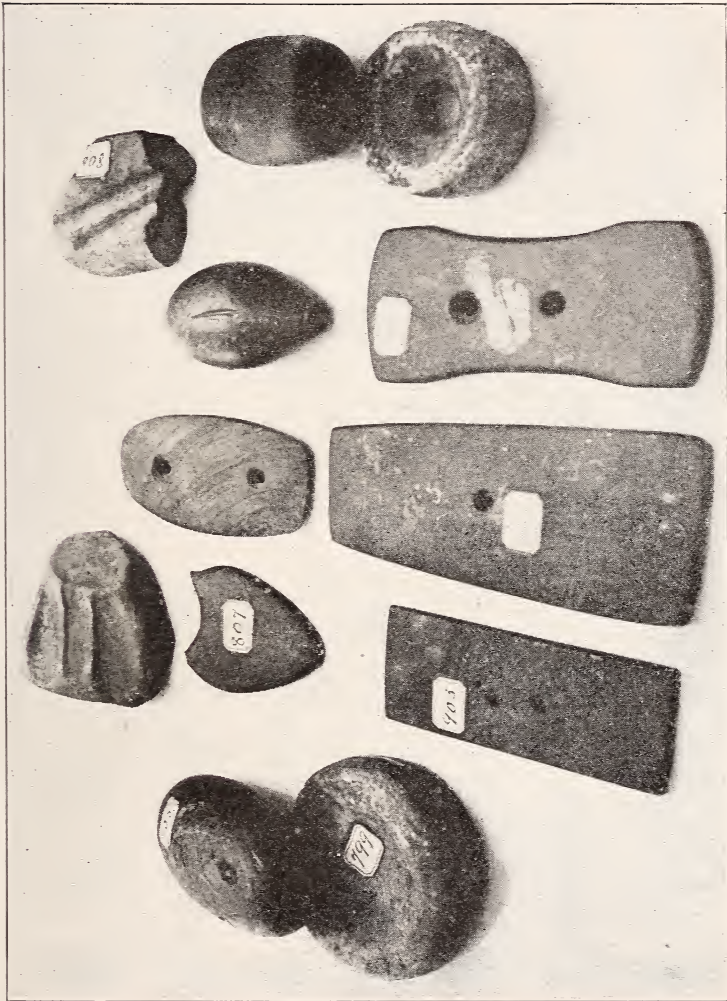
"The plumb-shaped object next to it is of blue slate, has a groove cut around the upper portion, as if it may have been used for suspension around the neck similar to an ornament.

"Lying elevated on two stones are two tubes or hollow cylinders of slate well bored and presenting a symmetrical appearance. They were found in the New Fort.

"No. 799 is a paint cup of soapstone found in a grave in 1884.

"To the right is a small discoidal stone of white limestone. Several of these discoidal stones have been found near the Fort.

"Nos. 905, 881 and 897 are all black or banded slate ornaments of superior finish and large size. There seems to be quite a number of objects of this class found within the walls, and it is a noteworthy fact that they are always of superior workmanship, seldom broken, and occasionally unfinished. In any large museum collection the percentage of broken problematical forms is larger than of perfect forms. The Fort Ancient types are, therefore, peculiar."—From Prof. W. K. Moorehead's "Fort Ancient," Part II.



Problematical Objects, Tubes and Ornaments. Surface Finds.
Old Fort and Middle Fort.

From Prof. Moorehead's "Ft. Ancient," Part. II.



Axe, Unfinished Pipe and Celts from Old Ford. Surface Finds.
From Prof. Moorehead's "Ft. Ancient," Part. II.

MOUND BUILDERS

At the close of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Columbus in 1899, one hundred of its members, with the officers of the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society, made an excursion to Fort Ancient, Warren County, the largest of the prehistoric works of America. Never before were so many men of science gathered together at this wonderful work. A dinner was served in a grove within the Fort, and short addresses were made by representatives of several universities and others interested in archæology. The chairman of the meeting then spoke of the eminent men Warren County has produced, mentioning Governors Morrow and Corwin, and called on Josiah Morrow, of Lebanon, the grandson of one and the biographer of the other, to speak as a representative of the county.

Mr. Morrow said he had already declined to speak as peremptorily as a good-natured man could decline a kindly-intended invitation. He had no claim to be classed among men of science, and he was only asked to speak because he happened to have been born and to live in the county in which Fort Ancient was built; and he confessed that he took pride in the fact that the greatest and strongest of all the works of the Mound-Builders, the Gibraltar of prehistoric America, was *made by Warren County people*. This convulsed the whole assembly, grave and reverend professors joining in the laugh.

Continuing, the speaker said: "We are greatly indebted to the archæologists for valuable knowledge concerning the prehistoric peoples and their works. On one occasion a student at Lebanon called on me for assistance in the preparation of an essay on the mounds of the Mississippi Valley, and he wished to know two things: first, *who* built the mounds, and second, *when* they were built. I replied that I was glad to be able to answer both questions. I then informed him that the archæologists and archæographers, the ethnologists and ethnographers have finally determined that they were made by that remarkable race formerly inhabiting the interior of North America, known

as the *Mound-Builders*, and that they were made at that period in American chronology known as the *prehistoric age*."

These humorous answers afforded the inquirer little information; but they expressed, in a different form, the answer which all, even after the most exhaustive research, must give, namely, "No one knows."

What race of people built this most remarkable work we can not know, nor even whether or no it was the race we call the Mound-Builders. There are two theories among archæologists concerning the Mound-Builders; one is that they were simply some tribe or tribes of Indians; the other, that they belonged to a more ancient and civilized people. The advocates of one theory point to the facts that, while their earthworks are extensive, no mark of a chisel has been found on one of the building stones; no implement, utensil or ornament has been found in their works indicating mechanical skill beyond that of some tribes of Indians; nothing in their works indicate exact measurement; their circles are not perfect circles, their squares are not perfect squares. On the other hand, it is claimed that the tribes of Indians which the whites found in possession of the country had no knowledge of the origin of these works, and could give no information concerning them.

While Fort Ancient bears evidence that it was intended as a work of defense, and is properly called a fort, the real purpose of the mounds and many earthworks is still a mystery. By whom built, at what period, and for what purpose, we can never know. Their builders left no history of their race to tell us whence they came or how they disappeared. Even tradition is silent concerning them; their very name is lost forever; and in the absence of positive knowledge, we call them the Mound-Builders, a name indicative of our ignorance.

More than ten thousand mounds in Southern Ohio alone stand as mute monuments to the industry of this unknown race; and many others are scattered throughout that part of the United States which lies between the Great Lakes on the north and the Gulf of Mexico on the south, and is bounded on the west by the States lining the west bank of the Mississippi

River, and on the east by a line drawn through the middle of the States of New York and Pennsylvania, and extending southward so as to include the greater part of the Carolinas and the whole of Georgia and Florida.

While it can never be known who the Mound-Builders were, still it may be interesting to learn what the archæologists and theorists have concluded or surmised about them.

Who Were the Mound-Builders? Whence Came They?

From the fact that there are no similar earthworks east of the Allegheny Mountains, it is agreed that they did not come from that region. It is argued, however, that they came from Iceland, and that this country is the "New Iceland" mentioned in the "Sagas" of that island; that they were of the tribes of Northern Asia, and that they crossed over by Behring Strait; that they were the Mandan Indians who built similar lodges and molded pottery of identical shapes and designs at their villages along the Upper Missouri; that they were a tribe of Indians from the Gulf States; that they were a tribe of the Lenapes, a powerful stock of Indians from the north. Still others maintain that the Mound-Builders were none other than the Shawnees, a tribe of the Algonquin stock which migrated from the northwest, entered this territory about 1710, and were in possession of it when the white man came.

When Were the Mounds Built?

Mr. Moorehead suggested at one time that the mounds may have been built about 1400 or 1430 A. D. This opinion he based upon the depth of the soil formed upon the pavement and plateau by decaying vegetable matter since their abandonment by the Mound-Builders. Two forests also have grown to maturity since the erection of the mounds, and probably more than two.

Some writers hold that the earthworks at Fort Ancient were not all built at the same time. Doctor Scoville says: "There are indications that the parallel walls, the different mounds, the

crests, and perhaps the two moats were constructed long before the heavy enclosing walls." Some have gone further back beyond the dates suggested by Mr. Moorehead, putting the age of the embankments at 5,000 years.

How Were the Mounds Built?

The building of the earthworks by primitive means was a most laborious task. The soil was probably loosened by means of hoes or adzes of shell or stone, and carried in baskets of withes or skin. In some places, where the structure of the mounds or walls is of one kind of soil, spots of about half a bushel of another kind of soil appear. From this it has been inferred that the laborers were carrying the earth from different places at the same time, and that they carried about half a bushel at a load.

It is not improbable that the earthworks were built by a people in captivity. Professor Moorehead says that skulls of two distinct stocks—the "Long-heads" and the "Short-heads"—have been found about the Fort; and the burial of the former in stone heaps without ornaments or implements of war or husbandry may be an evidence of their captivity.

Professor Putnam, of Harvard University, one of the most careful workers in this field of inquiry, has said that there is evidence of a mingling of races in the Miami Valley.

For What Purpose Were They Built?

From the crude resemblance of the outline of the earthworks to the outline of North and South America some have held that they were built as effigies of those two continents, although it would seem quite apparent that in following the natural embankments the resulting contour of the artificial walls was more the result of accident than of design.

Again, from the perfect closure formed by the walls and bastions, they might have served as corrals into which wild animals were driven, the archers or spearmen killing the game from their vantage points on the mounds and walls.

One antiquarian advanced the idea that the walls were to protect the Indians from the mastodons.

Another theory is that the earthworks are the effigies of great serpents. But more exact effigies are found elsewhere, and these are always of slight elevation.

An archæologist, a learned Ph. D. and D. D., was pointing out what he thought was a resemblance of the earthworks to a serpent. Turning to a lawyer in the party, he exclaimed, "Don't you see, Mr. M——, the resemblance to the serpent?" "No," replied the lawyer, slowly. "But then, doctor, I'm not so used to seeing snakes as you are."

It is most probable, however, that the earthworks were erected chiefly for defense. Military experts have pronounced this location the best site for defensive military structure to be found in the Ohio Valley. Another reason for believing it for defense is that the wall is always highest where an enemy might most easily approach, and where the approach is by the steep river hill, there is no wall at all. Professor Moorehead says: "It might be accepted that all the hilltop works, save, of course, the effigy structures, are defensive in character. A trace of palisades upon some of the hilltop fortifications proves their use beyond a doubt. When we consider that the Miami Valley contains a great many village sites, mounds and small enclosures, and that Fort Ancient is the only really strong position of them all, we can readily believe that the aborigines, for a radius of thirty or forty miles, would flock to this rendezvous and use it as a common fortification." Professor Moorehead estimated that 40,000 might have so found protection within the enclosure. It is not probable, however, that the Fort was occupied for long periods of time by large numbers, for the human remains found here are comparatively few.

Relations With Other Villages. Commerce.

That the villages at Madisonville, those near Frankfort and Cedarville, and those along the Great Miami River were in communication with Fort Ancient there seems to be little doubt. Signal fires displayed from high points may have warned the

villagers of the approach of an enemy, whereupon they fled to the sheltering walls of Fort Ancient. Many believe also that some sort of communication existed between the Mound-Builders whose villages and mounds extended in a chain from Southern Ohio to Central New York.

That the inhabitants of Fort Ancient had extensive commercial relations in various directions is evidenced by the finding of flints from Indiana and Eastern Ohio, mica from Pennsylvania or North Carolina, shells from the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, and copper from Lake Superior. At other earthworks in Ohio much more extensive finds have been made, including copper, larger quantities of sea-shells, mica, pearls, lead probably from Illinois, and obsidian from the region now included in Yellowstone Park. All these have been found in the villages in the Scioto Valley in large quantities, some of them by the thousands.

Mode of Life.

The exploration of the village sites at Fort Ancient indicates that the people lived largely by hunting and fishing. There is no evidence that they were agriculturists to the extent of the tribes in the Scioto Valley, or even those at Madisonville, near Cincinnati. In the village sites of the Scioto Valley there have been found charred remains of corn in the ear, and shelled corn and beans stored away in coarse sacks.

We know that the Mound-Builders chipped flint and fashioned other stones into various shapes. They probably dressed in the skins of animals, made baskets of withes and skin, and dwelt in lodges made of saplings, skin and clay. At some villages of the Mound-Builders excavators report the finding of evidences of tilled fields or garden beds.

Culture.

It is now recognized that the culture of this ancient people was strictly "Indian" in character, and belonged to the "Polished Stone Age," a transition stage between the Stone Age and the Metal Age. In a number of prominent traits it bore a

striking likeness to the culture of the Indians discovered by De Soto in the Gulf States in 1540-42.

The implements, ornaments and utensils of the Mound-Builders were of bone, shell and stone. Copper and lead have been found at the sites of some of their villages. These metals they hammered into various shapes, but they knew nothing of the smelting and casting of them.

There is a noticeable improvement in the culture of these people the farther south one goes. The stone graves in Tennessee were an improvement on those at Fort Ancient, in that they had stone floors. The mounds at Fort Ancient were in the form of truncated cones; those in the Gulf States were truncated pyramids, and showed superior workmanship; while the *teocalli*, or "temple mounds" of Mexico had stone steps added and were surmounted by stone temples. The stone and metal artifacts in many instances also showed greater skill in fashioning.

Whither Went the Mound-Builders from Fort Ancient?

From the similarity of the earthworks and artifacts of Ohio to those of the Gulf States some have held that the builders of the Ohio mounds were probably driven south by more powerful tribes from the north, and that they became the builders or the ancestors of the builders of the mounds of the Gulf States. But as against this theory Professor Cyrus Thomas reports that there is a marked distinction between the modes of construction and contents of the works of Ohio and those of the Gulf States.

Another theory is that the builders of Fort Ancient migrated to the west. Artifacts like those found at Fort Ancient characterize the aboriginal villages situated in a zone running east and west from Fort Ancient. In fact, "the culture and type zones, so far as they have any bearing upon the question of prehistoric migration, appear to indicate that this was along east and west lines."

To most of these questions concerning the earthworks and their builders, we can only answer as before, "No one knows."



Sheep on a Fort Ancient Hillside.

The picture of the sheep on the hillside suggests the

SOLILOQUY OF KING HENRY VI.

O God! methinks it were a happy life,
 To be no better than a homely swain;
 To sit upon a hill, as I do now,
 To carve out dials quaintly, point by point,
 Thereby to see the minutes how they run,
 How many make the hour full complete,
 How many hours bring about the day,
 How many days will finish up the year,
 How many years a mortal man may live.
 When this is known, then to divide the times:
 So many hours must I tend my flock;
 So many hours must I take my rest;
 So many hours must I contemplate;
 So many hours must I sport myself;

So minutes, hours, days, months and years,
 Pass'd over to the end they were created,
 Would bring white hairs unto a quiet grave.
 Ah, what a life were this! how sweet! how lovely!
 Gives not the hawthorn bush a sweeter shade
 To shepherds looking on their silly sheep
 Than doth a rich embroidered canopy
 To kings that fear their subjects' treachery?
 O yes, it doth; a thousand fold it doth!
 And to conclude, the shepherd's homely curds,
 His cold, thin drink out of his leather bottle,
 His wonted sleep under a fresh tree's shade,
 All which secure and sweetly he enjoys,
 Is far beyond a prince's delicates,
 His viands sparkling in a golden cup,
 His body couched in a curious bed,
 When care, mistrust and treason wait on him.

—*Third Part of King Henry VI, Act II, Scene 5.*

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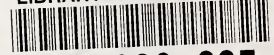
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