



About this Book

The main purpose of this book is to revive the interest in the ancient cultures found in Ohio and to serve as a guide to help you discover many of these prehistoric wonders.

Ohio was so rich with the remains of prehistory when the settlers arrived, it would have been impossible to live in this area without disrupting many of these ancient sites. When this area was first settled, the attitude toward the native people and their ancestors was diverse. There were those who were sympathetic to the existing culture, but many were driven by growth and development. Sadly, many of the sites listed have been destroyed since the early explorers came to this land.

This book began about three years prior as a general history of Akron, Ohio and the surrounding areas. After much research I found that my attention was focused on the prehistory of the area. My main interests have always included history and archaeology, so a book about the ancient sites found in Ohio is an excellent fit.

The information at the beginning of each chapter is from the Archeological Atlas of Ohio which was published by the Ohio Historical Society in 1914. This section has a map and a chart with totals in each earthwork category.

The second section of each chapter contains information about the currently recognized sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places which maintains the official list of the Nation's historic places considered to be worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

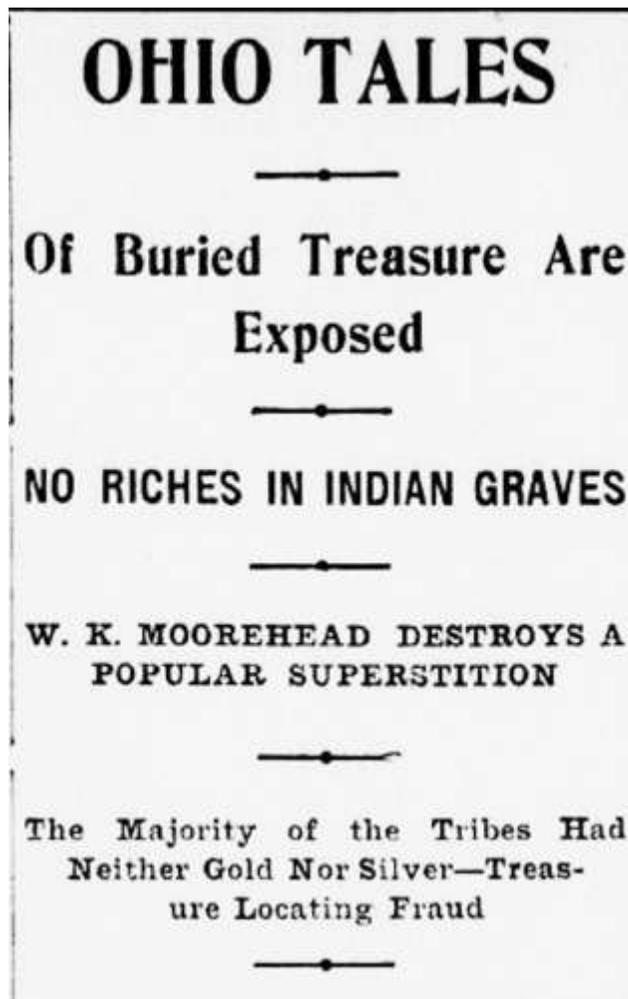
Since its inception in 1966, more than 80,000 properties have been listed in the National Register. Together these records hold information on more than 1.4 million individual resources including buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects which provides a link to the country's heritage at the national, state, and local levels.

There are over 3,700 properties and sites listed in Ohio. Of these, approximately 200 are prehistoric locations. Within Ohio's 88 counties, 50 counties include prehistoric sites listed in the National Registry.

Please Note:

- Some of the locations listed in the National Register are on private land. The GPS to some of these private sites is to the center of the corresponding county or the general vicinity of the site.
- Check with the local historical society or visitor center for information regarding unlisted sites.

- Ohio was admitted to the Union as the 17th state on March 1, 1803. Since that time, many of these sites have been thoroughly investigated. For detailed descriptions and photos of the various early excavations and archeological reports, visit www.ohiomounds.com.
- Please honor the owners of private property. I strongly suggest that if you desire to explore any of these sites, make absolutely sure that you are not trespassing. The owners of these lands have taken the initiative to make sure the sites are protected. We ask that you respect their privacy and property.
- Visit ohiomounds.com for more information on prehistoric Ohio.



Headline from - The Herald, November 14, 1897

For more headlines visit www.ohiomounds.com

Prehistoric Ohio -1914 Report

This report is from the 1914 Archeological Atlas of Ohio by Wm. C. Mills.

The territory embraced within the State of Ohio probably contains a greater number of prehistoric remains than any other equal area in the Mississippi valley. The number of these earthworks has been variously estimated. Some writers have estimated the number of tumuli at 10,000 and the enclosures, etc., at 1,000 to 1,500, making the total number of earthworks more than 11,000. As a matter of fact these estimates were based upon what was known of such counties as Scioto, Ross, Pickaway, Butler, Hamilton, Warren, "Washington and Licking, all of which were great centers of prehistoric activity.

If all the counties in the state were dotted over with the earthworks of prehistory man, as are the counties mentioned, the estimate would be inadequate. But we find the entire northwest part of the state unsuited in prehistory times for occupancy by a prehistoric people, as the greater portion was low and swampy and at certain seasons of the year covered with water. Again the southeast part of the state was entirely too rough and hilly and the valleys of the streams small, so that agriculture was carried on with great difficulty. The valleys of the two Miamis, Scioto and Muskingum were well adapted for the abode of prehistoric man and here we find his principal monuments.

The task of recording these monuments was begun in a very early day by Col. Chas. Whittlesey, President of the Western Reserve Historical Society. He had constructed a large 12 X 14 feet wall map and had recorded upon it all the known monuments. This map is now the property of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society and was drawn by Thomas Mathew, Professor of Drawing at the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College (State University). No date is marked upon the map but no doubt it dates back to the 1870's. In 1891 an Archaeological map of Ohio was published by the Smithsonian Institution, upon which many additional mounds were noted. In 1895 Prof. Warren K. Moorehead constructed for the Society a new Archaeological map and commenced to map the state systematically. The size of the new map was 6x6 feet which was much smaller than the map made for Col. Whittlesey. After Prof. Moorhead's resignation in 1897 the writer conducted a systematic examination of the State, county by county, verifying wherever possible those monuments already known and at the same time adding new records to the map. After due consideration the Executive Committee of the Society found that a wall map would be entirely too unwieldy and undesirable as a published account of the earthworks of Ohio and they changed the plan of publication to an Archaeological Atlas of Ohio, by counties, a more convenient form for examination and study.

In presenting the Archeological Atlas of Ohio, the author wishes to state it is as near complete as is at present possible, remindful of the fact that many monuments have been destroyed by a century or more of cultivation of the soil and by other destructive agencies and that many, no doubt, exist that we have no records of.

The various classes of earthworks shown on the maps of the Atlas are as follows:

- Mounds (mortuary)
- Enclosures (circular, crescent and square)
- Village sites
- burials (ordinary interments)
- cemeteries
- stone graves

- effigies
- petroglyphs
- flint quarries and caches

The symbols designating the various earthworks are shown in the subjoined cartographic table:

▲ Mounds	∩ Burials	⬛ Flint Quarries
□ Enclosures (square)	⌘ Cemeteries	◆ Caches
○ Enclosures (circular)	⌒ Stone Graves	▩ Rock Shelters
⌒ Enclosures (crescent)	⌚ Effigy Mounds	
⌛ Village Site	⌚ Petroglyphs	

The mound, for the most part erected as a monument to the dead, is the best known and most abundant of the earthworks of Ohio. They are usually conical in form and varying in height from a few feet to 67 feet and in diameter from 10 to several hundred feet. They may occur singly or in groups but always in close proximity to their villages. Ross County has 370 recorded burial mounds; Licking County has 225, Butler County 221, Jackson County and Pickaway County tie for fourth place with 173 each, while Auglaize, Henry and Wood counties have no records of a single mound. Total number of recorded mounds in the state of Ohio is 3,513.

The division of enclosures into three classes — the circular, the square and the crescent — is merely an arrangement of convenience suggested by their forms and is not necessarily indicative of purposes for which they were constructed.

With respect to purpose and location, the following classification probably is more desirable: "Hilltop enclosures, of irregular form, conforming to the topography of the mound on which they lie and from the natural strategic advantage of their position, suggesting a military, that is, a defensive use, closures, geometric in design more or less symmetrical and located on low or level lands, the purpose of which may have been the same, but perhaps constructed by a different culture; among enclosures partaking somewhat of the characteristics of the two preceding classes but located on high or low ground apparently with little regard to topography.

Fort Ancient, in Warren County, is the best example of the hill-top enclosures of the state. Enclosures of this class usually are constructed of stone and earth combined, and occur most frequently in the southern half of the state though not uncommon elsewhere.

The best examples of the second named (the square) class are found in Licking, Ross, Butler, and other counties contiguous to the Muskingum, Scioto and Miami rivers. They take the form of circles, squares, crescents, etc., singly or in combination and usually are constructed entirely of earth.

The third class of enclosures (the crescent) occur principally in the southern portions of the state and in several counties south of Lake Erie. They vary greatly in form and location and consequently in probable uses. The total number of enclosures recorded in the various counties of Ohio is 587. Ross County stands first with 49, Licking County 36, Pickaway County 33 and Franklin County comes fourth with 28.

The village sites marking the places where aboriginal villages or camps existed are scattered pretty generally over the state. They furnish intimate data regarding the domestic life of the aborigine. Among the important village sites are the Baum village site and the Gartner site, in Ross County.

Both have been explored by the Society and the results printed in the Society--s publications. The total number of village sites recorded in the state is 354. Miami County leads with 35 recorded sites, Jackson County 22, Hamilton 17, and Darke County 13.

Cemeteries and burials are self-explanatory. They usually occur in or near village or camp sites. The stone grave is merely a local variation of burial custom occurring most frequently along the Ohio River where the abundance of slabs of loose stone encouraged their use in preparing graves.

Of the effigy mounds, the greatest is the Serpent Mound of Adams County. Others are the Opossum Mound of Licking County, the Warren County Serpent, the tapir like figure in Scioto County and several anomalous figures in Pickaway, Ross and other counties. These works are described under their respective counties.

Petroglyphs or rock pictures are found cut into exposed rock surfaces and are most abundant along the Ohio River. Among the more important of the petroglyphs are those in Jackson, Meigs, Belmont, Columbiana and Cuyahoga counties and are described under those counties.

Flint quarries, the principal ones of which are located in Licking, Muskingum and Coshocton counties, were of great importance in the aboriginal economy. Their purpose is evident – the supplying of raw material for the manufacture of the multitude of chipped flint objects found in practically every section of the state. Flint Quarries recorded number 109.

The total number of the various classes of earthworks recorded upon the maps of the Atlas are:

Mounds (burial)	3,513
Enclosures (Square, circular and crescent)	587
Village Sites	354
Burials (Ordinary internments)	714
Cemeteries	39
Stone Graves	17
Effigy Mounds	5
Petroglyphs	16
Flint Quarries	109
Caches	6
Rock Shelters	35
Total	5,395

The author (of the 1914 Archeological Atlas) is under many obligations to Mr. H. C. Shetrone for his untiring efforts in assembling the records of the earthworks and placing the marks in the proper position on the maps and for personal examination of sections along the Ohio River.

To Mr. Phillip Hinkle of Cincinnati for furnishing the records for Hamilton County.

To Mr. Almer Hegler for furnishing the records for Fayette County.

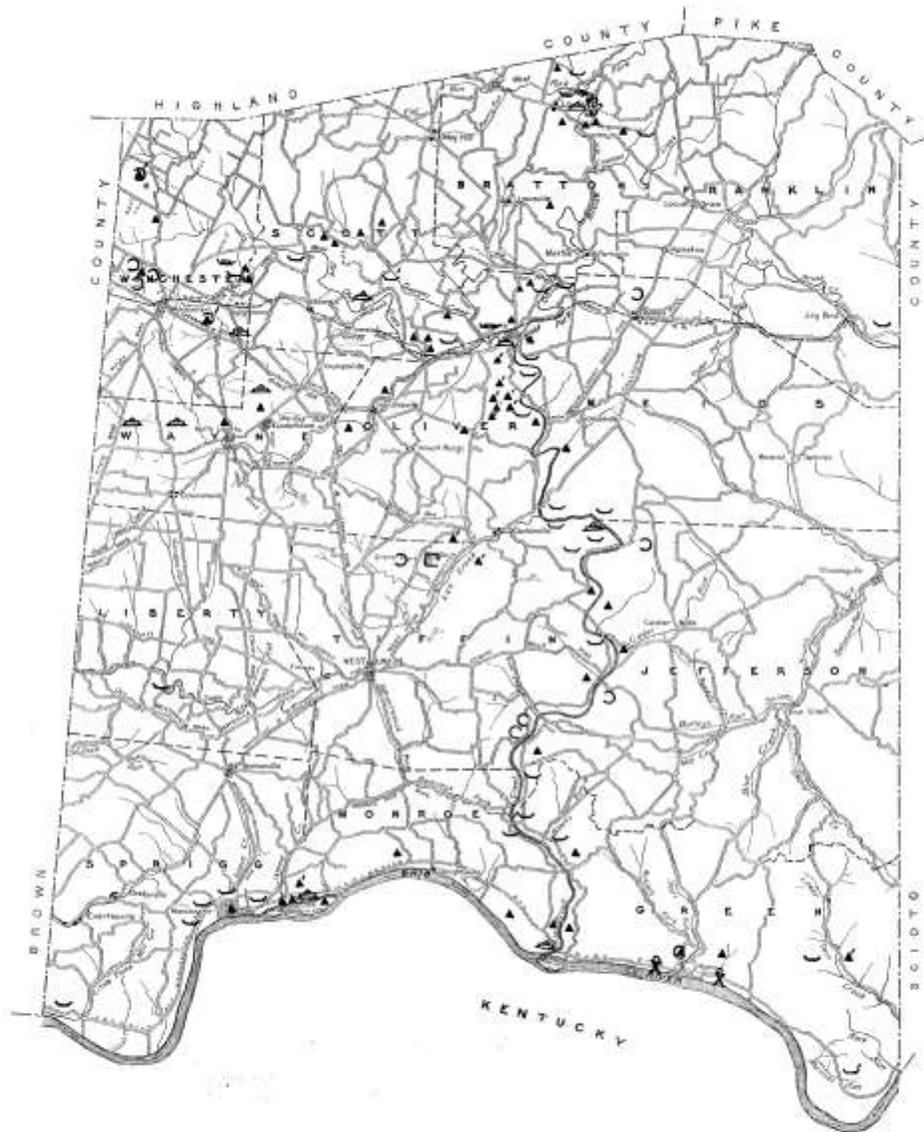
To Judge H. C. Miller and Mr. F. E. Bingman of Jackson for the records of Jackson County.

The author is also indebted to many others in the various counties of the state, who aided in many ways to furnish records and assist in locating the archeological remains for a permanent record.

Wm. C. Mills.

Columbus, Ohio, March, 1914.

ADAMS COUNTY



- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| ▲ Mounds | ⌒ Burials | ⚒ Flint Quarries |
| □ Enclosures (square) | ⌒ Cemeteries | ◆ Caches |
| ○ Enclosures (circular) | ⌒ Stone Graves | ⌒ Rock Shelters |
| ⌒ Enclosures (crescent) | ⌒ Effigy Mounds | |
| ⌒ Village Site | ⌒ Petroglyphs | |

ADAMS County - 1914 Survey

The great "Serpent Mound" of Adams County is in many respects the most remarkable of Ohio's prehistoric monuments, and ranks among the greatest of the world's so-called effigy mounds. It is located in northern Bratton Township and occupies an eminence which terminates in a sheer precipice towering nearly 100 feet above the bed of Brush Creek. The Serpent proper is 1,254 feet in length, measuring along the convolutions, with a maximum height of nearly 5 feet. There are three principal convolutions of the body, giving a very realistic undulating effect, while the tail is coiled twice around. The head is somewhat conventional, being triangular in shape, with the anterior side of the triangle concaved to form the mouth. Before the mouth is an oval figure 120 feet long and 60 feet wide which the serpent apparently is about to swallow.

The Serpent Mound was first described by Squier and Davis, the pioneers of American Archeology, in 1848. In 1885, through the efforts of Prof. Frederick W. Putnam, of Harvard University, steps were taken which secured perpetual preservation of this great earthwork. Through his initiative, a subscription fund was raised by certain public spirited women of Massachusetts, and the land containing the Serpent was purchased and deeded to the trustees of the Peabody Museum of Harvard University. That institution in 1900 deeded the Serpent Mound Park to the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society, for perpetual preservation as a public park. A tablet bearing the history of the Serpent since it came to the notice of white men was erected in the park in 1902.

Professor Putnam, to whom more than to any other man is due the credit for the preservation of the Serpent, made extensive excavations of the site which were fully described by him in the Century Magazine for April, 1890.

Probably the most comprehensive and complete history of the Serpent Mound yet published is that of Hon. E. O. Randall, secretary of the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society, entitled "The Serpent Mound," in which the great work and its possible relation to primitive serpent worship are discussed. A large model of the Serpent and Park is on exhibition in the Society's museum, and shows on a reduced scale the exact- appearance of this great work. The stream flowing at the foot of the cliff, the trees and grass, roadways, fences and other details, are shown in their natural colors and proportionate dimensions.

Adams County is rich in mounds and earthworks of the aboriginal peoples of Ohio, particularly along Brush creek and its tributaries and along the Ohio River.

Several pictographs, mostly in the form of human footprints cut in the exposed rock surfaces, are to be seen along the Ohio River, near the mouth of Stout's run, in Green Township.

The following table shows, by Townships, the number and kinds of earthworks in the county:

Adams County - Sites on 1914 Map								
Township	Mounds	Enclosures	Village Sites	Burials	Stone Graves	Effigies	Petroglyphs	Totals
Winchester	6	5	1	1	1			14
Scott	11		1	5	1			18
Bratton	6		1	3		1		11
Franklin				1				1
Wayne	2		3					5
Oliver	11		1	2				14
Meigs	2	1		3				6
Liberty				1				1
Tiffin	4	4	1	4				13
Jefferson	3	2						5
Spriggs	3			5				8
Monroe	5		2	1				8
Green	5	1		5			2	13
Totals	58	13	10	31	2	1	2	117

Adams County Now...

Adams County has 4 prehistoric sites listed in the National Register.

Adams County Paleo Indian District	
Address	North of US Route 52 near Sandy Springs
City	Sandy Springs
Acreage	1,750
Time Period	Not specified
Culture	Paleo-Indian
Historic Use	Village Site
Current Use	"Under water"
Listing Date	Thursday, October 17, 1974
Reference Number	74001389
GPS	38° 36' 48" N, 83° 17' 39" W

Adams County Paleo Indian District Details

This is an archaeological site near Sandy Springs in Green Township, Adams County, Ohio, United States. In about 8,000 BC, this site was repeatedly occupied by groups of Paleo-Indians, who took advantage of its location near salt springs to hunt local wildlife.

Artifacts found at the site are concentrated in multiple small middens that are believed to represent individual campsites. Among these artifacts are gravers, scrapers, and projectile points.

Dayton Power and Light Company Mound

Address	On the grounds of Dayton Power & Light
City	Wrightsville
Acreage	10
Time Period	999 BC - 1,000 AD
Culture	Adena, Fort Ancient
Historic Use	Graves/Burials
Current Use	Power Plant property - "Underwater"
Listing Date	Tuesday, July 30, 1974
Reference Number	74001391
GPS	38° 41' 20.4" N, 83° 28' 40.8" W

Serpent Mound

Address	5 mi NW of Locust Grove on SR 73
City	Locust Grove
Acreage	600
Time Period	499 AD - 999 BC
Culture	Adena
Historic Use	Graves/Burials
Current Use	Park - Ohio Historical Marker #15-1
Listing Date	Saturday, October 15, 1966
Reference Number	66000602
GPS	39° 1' 33.09" N, 83° 25' 49.6" W

Serpent Mound Details

The Great Serpent Mound is a 1,330-foot long, three-foot-high prehistoric effigy mound located on a plateau of the Serpent Mound crater along Ohio Brush Creek in Adams County, Ohio. Maintained within a park by the Ohio Historical Society, it has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of Interior. The Serpent Mound of Ohio was first described from surveys by Ephraim Squire and Edwin Davis in their historic volume *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*, published in 1848.

Including all three parts, the Serpent Mound extends about 1,370 feet, and varies in height from less than a foot to more than three feet. Conforming to the curve of the land on which it rests, with its head approaching a cliff above a stream, the serpent mound winds back and forth for more than eight hundred feet and seven coils, and ends in a triple-coiled tail. The serpent head has an open mouth extending around the east end of a 120-foot long hollow oval feature. Many theorize that the oval feature represents an egg, the sun, or merely the remnant of a platform. The site also includes a triangular mound approximately 31.6 feet at its base. There are also serpent effigies located in Scotland and Ontario that are very similar.

Wamsley Village Site

Address	West of Stout, near the mouth of Brush Creek
City	Stout
Acreage	80
Time Period	1,000 - 1699 AD
Culture	Paleo-Indian, Fort Ancient
Historic Use	Village Site
Current Use	Agriculture
Listing Date	Tuesday, July 30, 1974
Reference Number	74001390
GPS	38° 40' 34.8" N, 83° 27' 6.5" W

Wamsley Village Site Details

A prehistoric Fort Ancient culture village site located near the Mouth of Scioto Brush Creek. This site is privately owned.

“Giants” found in Adams County – 1880 Report

The Ohio Valley, and this immediate section in particular, is rich in remains of that wonderful prehistoric race, the evidences of whose civilization have been perpetuated in those curious pieces of engineering from which we derive the euphonious name "Mound Builders," given them by archaeologists. Within the past few days wonderful discoveries have been made in this vicinity, which open up a new chapter in the history of this remarkable race, and throw much light upon their manner of living, their social nature, and their physical character. In different sections of the world, at different periods of its history, there have been found the remains of an enormous fauna and flora, and of a gigantic race of men. So rare and far apart have been these discoveries, however, that we have looked upon historical accounts of them as cleverly constructed pieces of fiction, and been loath to believe that there ever existed a race of men able to battle with the savage mastodon or the fierce megatherium. It remains for Adams County to come forward with a startling confirmation of the scriptural text, "And there were giants in those days." For in Adams County have been found not only the bones of a gigantic race of men, but their implements of warfare and husbandry, and excellently preserved specimens of their art in sculpture, painting, engraving and writing.

Whether these prehistoric giants had a hand in the erection of those splendidly designed and durably constructed pieces of engineering which stretch across the country, from the headwaters of the Ohio to the mouth of Rio Grande, there to commingle with a similar chain of roads, mounds and fortifications coming down the Pacific Slope, and continue on through Mexico, Central America and the South American States, to be finally lost in the unexplored barrens of Patagonia, will be left for the solution of a wiser head than your correspondent possesses. He simply relates the facts; the scientists may build thereon the theories.

In conversation with some of the oldest citizens of this county I have been unable to learn the date of the discovery of a cave on the old Smith farm in Tiffin Township. Its existence was known to the earliest settlers, and they probably learned it from the Indians. For years it has been a place of resort for the curious, and was always esteemed a great natural curiosity. The old Smith farm is on the

Portsmouth pike, between fifteen and sixteen miles northeast of Manchester. The farm is now owned by Mr. Samuel Grooms and is a fertile, well-cultivated body of land. About a mile from the pike is a level plateau of two hundred odd acres, surrounded on all sides by lofty hills. As you near the mouth of the cave there is a gradual depression of the ground on all sides, forming what, in the local nomenclature, is denominated a 'sink-hole.' At the bottom of this circular basin is a hole, three feet in diameter, and about twenty-five feet in depth, at which distance from the surface you strike the floor of the first chamber in the cave, a dry cavern thirty by twenty feet, with smooth floor, roof, and walls of freestone. Crossing the room you enter a corridor five feet wide, connecting it with another chamber, smaller than the first, and this in turn is connected with a third chamber by a similar corridor. The third room is about the size of the first, but it has a lofty, arched dome, and the walls, floor and roof are of limestone. Through this rock water has oozed for countless ages, and formed thousands of glistening stalactites and stalagmites. Nowhere else in the cave do you find the limestone cropping out, and nowhere else do you find these slow-growing formations. To gain access to the fourth chamber it is necessary to climb a steep bank and squeeze through a narrow fissure in the rock. In one corner of this chamber is an elevation, which, when surmounted, discloses a yawning well, with a mouth ten feet in diameter, and of unknown depth. Apply your ear to the edge of the well and you can hear the hollow roaring of a stream of water hundreds of feet below. Beyond this chamber are five others connected by narrow galleries. The cave comes to an end against a perpendicular wall of solid rock, in the ninth chamber, and about five hundred yards from the mouth. The floors of all the chambers except the one where limestone crops out, are dry. All are mathematically regular in shape except this one. They are of different lengths, but all are of the same width and height. It is a romantic place for a picnic, and has been given up to such rural festivities for years. Every corner of the cave has been thoroughly explored a thousand times, and the walls of the limestone chamber are covered with the names of visitors and the dates of their visits. One, high up on the wall, reads, "Von Brady, 1789." Von Brady was a pioneer Indian fighter and hunter, who came here in advance of the "Ohio Company," in 1786. He was a daring man, and sent many of the red men to the "happy hunting grounds."

A few days ago a party of gentlemen visited the cave, provided with a plentiful supply of lanterns, ropes and tools, for the purpose of exploring the mysterious well. The following were the gentlemen composing the party: Messrs. M. R. Brittingham and Andrew Long, leading Manchester merchants; Mr. Ernst T. Kirker, one of the editors of the Manchester Independent; S. Newton Griffith, Esq., of the Adams County bar; Mr. Samuel Grooms, the owner of the cave, and the Commercial correspondent.

The cave was thoroughly explored, and then a rope ladder, 100 feet long, with which we had provided ourselves before starting out, was lowered down the well, and Mr. Kirker headed the exploration. When about fifty feet from the top of the well he called out to the party above to come down. We hastily descended, to find our friend standing at the entrance of a narrow gallery, leading out from the well. This gallery led back a considerable distance and got wider, debouching finally into spacious chamber.

The distance from the mouth of the well to the top of this gallery is forty seven feet. From the roof of the gallery to the floor is ten feet, six inches. At its mouth it measures five feet, four inches in width. The gallery is straight, fifty feet long, has a gradual descent, and where it enters the main chamber, twenty five feet in width. The chamber is 225 feet long, 110 feet wide, and twenty-four feet high. The roof, floor and walls of both the gallery and chamber are smoothly finished.

In the center of this chamber is a sarcophagus and mausoleum combined. The mausoleum measures at its base fifty-five by thirty-five feet. It is of simple though wonderful design, and carved out of solid rock. Its base is paneled on all sides, those panels containing bas-reliefs which are supposed to illustrate the four seasons of man's life—childhood, youth, manhood and old age. At the ends of the

bas-reliefs are tablets full of written characters, resembling the Hebraic, presumed to be memorials of the person or persons in whose honor the mausoleum is erected. The carving on the bas-reliefs is of the most delicate description, and fully equal to the Grecian school of sculpture. The limits of a newspaper article will not suffice to fitly describe them. From the floor to the top of this base is six feet. The base is hollowed out at the four corners, and these excavations are covered with slabs of freestone, accurately fitted and so firmly cemented that a cold-chisel struck with a heavy hammer made little or no impression on the cement. They are of uniform size, measuring five by twelve feet. In the center of the mausoleum rises a couch, two feet, five inches in height, twelve feet in length, and five feet in width.

On the couch is extended the figure of a man. It is probably of life size, and measures nine feet, four inches in length. The limbs are finely proportioned and disposed in an easy and graceful manner. The arms are folded across the breast, and the fingers clasp a bunch of leaves resembling the oak, reproduced with such fidelity to nature that they look like petrifications. Every vein and serration of the leaf is perfect. The figure is partially nude, a mantle or scarf crossing the breast and falling over the loins in graceful folds. The face is strong and robust in outline, and the contour of the features is decidedly Israelitish. The head is covered with a winged cap or helmet.

At each corner of the couch is a vase four feet, five inches high, covered with beautifully carved flowers and leaves. They are in shape something like an amphora, except that the bottom is flat and the handles affixed to the body of the vase. The neck is thirteen inches in length and tapers gradually and gracefully. The vases are of uniform size, although the carved designs are different. They measure in circumference four feet, five inches. Suspended from the roof by delicate copper rods, directly over the head of the recumbent figure, is a copper lamp of unique design, elegantly chased. At each corner of the mausoleum rises a carved pyramid column, surmounted by caps that are unmistakably Doric.

On two sides of the room are tombs of humbler design. They are side by side, of uniform size, and twenty in number; ten on a side. Like the mausoleum, they are carved out of the solid rock, and embellished with bas-reliefs. Their dimensions are as follows: Length, twelve feet; width, five feet; height, five feet. The tops are covered with slabs, securely cemented. On the front of each is a raised scroll, covered with written characters similar to those on the panels of the mausoleum.

On the wall of the room opposite the entrance, are painted twenty-five faces, no doubt portraits of those whose bones lie in the tombs. They are faded and blurred, but still distinct enough to be deciphered. The colors used are red, yellow, black and white, and were evidently laid on with oil. The portraits are executed in a superior manner, and the anatomical portion of the features is preserved to an exact degree.

After our first astonishment over these wonderful discoveries had in a measure subsided, we seized the tools, and set to work to open one of the tombs. It was no easy task. Our chisels would not cut the cement which held the slab in place, and we were at last forced to batter the tomb to pieces. The walls were thin, and a few blows of a heavy sledge-hammer shattered the freestone to atoms. To our great surprise there lay before us not a few handfuls of crumbling dust, but a splendidly preserved mummy, swathed in cloth covered with a thick varnish, which emitted a pleasant aromatic odor not unlike balsam of fir. The mummy measured nine feet one inch in length, and the cloth in which it was wrapped, although of coarse texture, was skillfully woven. One of the party cut the wrappings from the face, but did it so clumsily that the head crumbled into dust. Portions of the hair remained sticking to the cloth, and your correspondent brought some of it away with him. It is black, curly, and of fine texture.

Besides the body of the giant, the tomb contained a spear-head, a hatchet, two lances, three mattocks or hoes, a spade, a cup, two plates and a small urn, all of copper. I appropriated one of the lances and the cup as souvenirs. These wonderful people understood the secret of hardening copper, for an ordinary file will barely scratch the lance, and the edge of a cold-chisel turns up like lead when struck against it. The cup is of softer metal, and beautifully engraved with trailing vines and wreaths. A square package at the head of the tomb, wrapped in the varnished cloth, was opened and found to contain a book of one hundred leaves of thin copper, fastened loosely at the top, and crowded with finely engraved characters, similar to those already described.

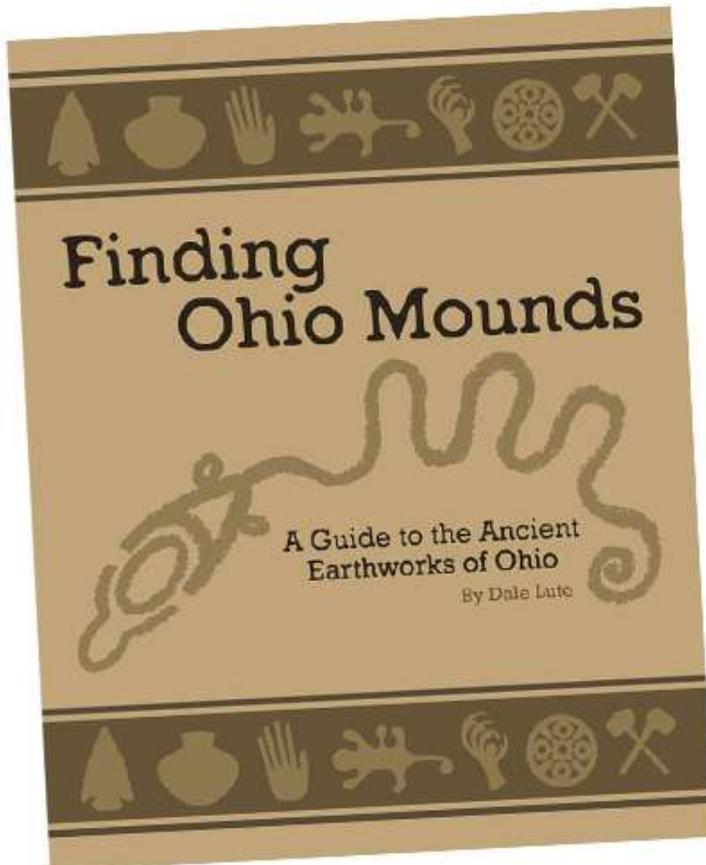
Lack of time and the total inefficiency of our tools prevented us from making further investigations, but when we ascended the well, we could plainly discern works of the sharp cutting tools used in excavating the cave. In the first two chambers, and in the last five, we had noticed many curious blocks of stone shaped like tables or benches, and presumed them to be of natural origin. Later examination revealed the marks of chisel and pick, and these agents were undoubtedly used to fashion the entire cavern. The irregularity of the limestone chamber is due to natural causes. In all probability the room was dry when the wonderful people who designed and built it were alive. The stalactites and stalagmites have formed since. I measured one of the largest of the former. It was five feet, six and one-half inches from base to apex. Allowing that it lengthened at the rate of one inch every fifty years, which a geological friend tells me is a very rapid growth, it would have been 3,325 years reaching its present length. Conjecture alone can fix the date of the last occupancy of the cave. It must have been years before the stalactites began to form. I examined the mouth of the cave and discovered traces of a stairway which once led to the surface of the ground. Indeed, I found broken fragments of rock which, five or six thousand years ago, were undoubtedly parts of a broad staircase. There were also traces of a stairway which once wound around the sides of the well, affording easy entrance to the lower cavern. The upper cave must have been the cellar of a residence built above ground, and used for domestic purposes or a place of retreat in time of danger.

Mr. Grooms intends to open up all the tombs and the great mausoleum, arrange convenient means of entrance to the cave, and throw it open to the general public, charging a small price of admission to reimburse him. Several parties have visited it since the discovery of the lower cavern, and all are impressed with the wonderful character of the discoveries. Mr. Grooms is anxious to have a scientist examine the cave, and at his request a description of the discoveries, together with the engraved book, have been forwarded to the Smithsonian Institute. — *Cincinnati Commercial*.

(From The Kansas City review of science and industry - 1880)

We hope you enjoyed this sample from [Finding Ohio Mounds Volume 1](#).

The information regarding the earthworks and the archeology in Ohio is vast, interesting, and educational. It is my hope that this book will help to further promote the preservation and recognition of these ancient wonders.



Many have estimated
**11,000 TO 13,000
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