

RECENT ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA.

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During the year 1922, some further investigations were made into the archeology of Jefferson County. One result of this work was the discovery of an additional mound, located along the bank of the Ohio River, approximately one mile above the mouth of Indian Kentucky creek in Milton Township, near the middle of section seven, on the Coleman farm. This mound is on what is locally known as the second bottom, or first terrace, and had been so undercut by the waves of the Ohio River during recent floods, that at least half of it had fallen away. The remnant indicated that the original mound had been 75 or 80 feet in length and 40 or 50 feet in width.

Near the middle of the mound lengthwise, and at a depth of some two and a half feet below the present surface, the writer found exposed where the bank had fallen away, a complete human skeleton lying at full length. The bones were much decayed, being, in that respect, very similar to those taken from the Lawson mound, a few miles away, some 20 years ago. Several parts of the skull, one clavicle, one humerus, a few vertebrae, the head of the left femur, and two teeth, incisors, were obtained in a fair state of preservation. Measurements of the remains indicated the height of the person to have been somewhat over six feet. The right humerus measured exactly $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and one of the finger bones also indicated a person of rather unusual height. The bones of this skeleton are at present in the geological museum of Hanover College.

At the same level as the skeleton, which was that of the base of the mound, were found many fragments of Ordovician limestone partially burned and badly decomposed, a few fragments of river mussel shells, and several fragments of very hard river boulders and pebbles of glacial origin. Since it is very difficult to break these boulders even with a heavy hammer, the probabilities are that these had been broken by heating to a red heat and then plunging into a vessel of cold water in cooking or other operations. No implements of stone were found closely associated with the skeleton, but many arrow heads, tomahawks, pestles, polished fleshers, and other such articles have been, and are still being picked up from the surrounding bottom lands. Judging from the number of implements found, and fragments of chert and of flint to be seen in the vicinity for several hundred yards from the mound, this site was probably that of a village. Flint such as may be picked up at this place is not found in any geological formation within many miles.

Another recent discovery of archeological interest in Jefferson County was that of a cache or deposit of flint implements. This cache was found early in 1922, on the farm of Hiram Foster in Graham Township, in the northeast quarter of Section 15, Township 4 North, and Range 9 East, some 300 yards from the old Hartwell mill site on Big creek. The immediate location of the deposit was a clay point

from which one or more feet of soil had been removed by erosion. There is no evidence of the deposit having been made in a mound or in connection with an unusual structure. Ninety implements were taken from this cache, all of which, except one, were in perfect condition. A few of the implements had been exposed by erosion, the others were obtained from a space not more than a foot or so across. Some 70 of these implements were in the possession of Mr. Foster, and others had been sold by the party who had removed them from the cache. Mr. Foster kindly donated six typical specimens to the geological museum of Hanover College. The implements of this deposit are composed of pure flint, and are remarkably uniform in shape. They are ovate in outline, varying in length from five to ten inches, in breadth from three to six inches and in thickness from three-eighths to five-eighths inch. All were finished entirely around the edges very much as an ordinary arrow or lance head. They were made of flint and are therefore quite dark in color. Circular and oval markings on the greater number of them show that they were made from flint concretions. The source of these concretions was not local, but probably from the Mississippian limestone of Harrison and Crawford Counties.

The purpose for which these implements were manufactured is largely conjectural. Some consider them to have been made for spades or hoes. If it were not for their evidently finished condition, they might be considered as material in course of preparation for arrow or lance heads. Neither theory as to their use is satisfactory.

The writer wishes to suggest that, in making the proposed archeological surveys of the different counties in Indiana, the implements found in each county, be placed in county, state, or institutional collections. In Jefferson County almost every farm house contains a few implements, but there is no one very large collection. If all specimens from a county could be placed in one group, properly labeled, and the name of the owner, and the locality in which the collection was made, attached, county collections of great interest and value could be accumulated.