

A Cedar Point "Glacial Kame" Burial

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In August of 1941, while excavating the basement of a summer home at Cedar Point on Lake Wawasee for Mr. Roland R. Schulz of Fort Wayne, a most interesting Indian skeleton was unearthed.

This site has rather a respectable history, for as early as 1882, one Mike Flowers, a squatter on the premises, dug up a skeleton accompanied by a British half-penny encrusted with a globular mass of green colored earth. No other facts are known about this burial, its depth, condition, or accompanying articles. The half-penny is now in the possession of Mr. J. E. D. Crow and has been pronounced by authorities at the Smithsonian Institution to have been struck between 1790 and 1810. The almost obliterated date on the coin seems to be 1795.

About 1923 Mr. T. D. Doll, while doing some grading for Mr. Thomas Snook, plowed up eight human skeletons and the bones of a dog. Several circular shell gorgets ranging from $3\frac{3}{4}$ " to $4\frac{1}{8}$ " in diameter, with central perforations of from $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{2}{3}$ " across were found. These



gorgets had two holes near their peripheries for suspension. The skeletons were buried about eight feet beneath the surface in flexed positions.

Dr. W. N. Leonard of Fort Wayne has unearthed three skeletons and Mr. J. C. Craig another—all accompanied by shell gorgets of the same type.

A somewhat more serious archaeological "dig" on this location was conducted in 1931 through the courtesy of Mr. Snook. Five broken and burned rock fire places, a deeply buried semicircle of stones set in clay, and a shallow infant burial accompanied by one of the characteristic shell gorgets was about all that was discovered.

Mr. Bert Leifer, Mr. Schulz, and Mr. Snook should have full credit for making such careful records of the burial found in August, 1941.

A most creditable job of unearthing, photographing, and recording the facts was carried out. The body was in a flexed position, a "sandal sole" shaped shell gorget 9½" long with four perforations was on the chest. It was buried ten feet below the old ground level. There were no artifacts except the gorget. It was observed, however, that there was "just below the smaller end of the gorget, and running underneath it, a very dark brown or black deposit interwoven with a fibrous substance like roots which may have been the last traces of some wooden implement or a tool handle." Copper had been present as there were deep green copper stains on leg and arm bones.

The exciting thing about the burial is that all of the traits recorded parallel the so-called "Glacial Kame" burials in northern Ohio, southeastern Michigan, and northeastern Indiana. These include: deep, flexed burials, circular and "sandal sole" shell gorgets, presence of copper and no pottery. Red ocher and feather spreaders, sometimes accompanying "Glacial Kame" burials, are absent or at least have not yet been discovered.

According to Mr. Wilbur M. Cunningham of Benton Harbor, Michigan, who has made a great study of these "Glacial Kame" burials, most of them occur in Hardin and Mercer counties, Ohio, across the line in Indiana in Allen and Wayne counties and near Winchester, Randolph County. Occasionally they are found as far afield as one in Alabama, three or four in Canada, and a few in artificial mounds in Illinois.

It seems to be the consensus of opinion that "Glacial Kame" burials are related to Hopewellian remains—one tubular and one platform pipe found with some of these remains giving additional authority to these conclusions. There are, however, many Adena and Hopewellian traits never exhibited by "Glacial Kame" interments.

An examination of the 1941 Leifer-Schulz-Snook skeletal material by Mr. Georg Neumann of the University of Michigan showed that the individual belonged to the Gooden type, a sub-class of the Sylvid racial group. To this type the "Glacial Kame" skulls belong but it also includes the Central Algonquins, namely: the Illinois, Miami, and Potawatomie. Mr. Neumann reports that the skull is a little closer to the Central Algonquins than to the "Glacial Kame." Two large fragments of one skull rescued from the eight plowed up in 1923 were classed with the 1941 skull.

The crucial question in this instance is what relation the British half-penny burial discovered in 1882 bears to the 1941 discovery. It is needless to say that nothing definite can be concluded now but with Messrs. Leifer, Schulz, and Snook on the ground constantly, the problem may yet be solved.

I should like to submit, though, that there are more chances that all of these burials are closely related than not, for:

- (1) At least one in the group of eight of 1923 was the same type as the 1941 skeleton.

- (2) There is very little evidence in northeastern Indiana and especially in the lake region of occupation during the Hopewellian period.

(3) It is a historic fact that there were not many Indians in these parts until after the beginning of the 18th century when they were brought into the region by the French to buffer the Iroquois tribes—English allies.

(4) The bones of 1941 were "in an excellent state of preservation looking almost like dissecting room specimens." Too much dependence cannot be put in this because the sandy alkaline soil would tend to preserve skeletal material well.

(5) The 1941 skull is close in relationship to the Central Algonquins, Illinois, Miami, and Potawatomie.

Conclusion

There are several possible conclusions:

a. That "Glacial Kame" burials are historic Central Algonquin circa 1750-1800.

b. That certain "Glacial Kame" traits were at least in this one instance carried down from Hopewellian times to some historic Central Algonquin tribe or tribes.

c. That the half-penny skeleton of 1882 and that of 1941 were unrelated and the latter is a "Glacial Kame" burial of Hopewellian extraction.

Perhaps additional proof will be forthcoming in the future, but at least the discovery raises the question of the antiquity of "Glacial Kame" burials.