

ARCHEOLOGY IN POSEY AND VANDERBURGH COUNTIES.

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Posey County is located in the extreme southwestern corner of Indiana, bounded on the west by the Wabash River and on the South by the Ohio River. The county has broad, low bottoms along these rivers, rising gently toward the interior, with numerous hills breaking the general level of the county. More than twenty lakes dot its surface, Hovey Lake, which is circular and about one mile in diameter, being the largest.

Vanderburgh County lies directly east of Posey County and is much smaller. Low bottoms several miles wide border the Ohio River, and the country rises gently into the hills and higher land in the center and northern part of the county. West of Evansville these hills approach the Ohio River.

The natural location of this section of the state seemed to have made it attractive to the earliest known inhabitants, the Mound Builders, later the Indians, and finally the white man. The New Harmony movement had its rise, development and failure in the western part of this territory, at the town of New Harmony. Even Audubon and Say found this an interesting and fruitful locality to study birds and insects.

In Posey County there are four mounds west of Mt. Vernon, not far from the river, but on high ground. In the eastern part of Vanderburgh County there are five mounds of considerable size. The only mound away from the river is found about twelve miles north of the Ohio. It has been largely explored and most of it has disappeared. These mounds have been more or less completely explored and the specimens distributed to many parts of the United States, the Smithsonian Institution having secured many of them. In the Museum at New Harmony large numbers of these relics have been placed and are now exhibited to the public. Last year a Museum Society was organized and incorporated in Evansville to receive a large collection from Sebastian Henrich. This collection, which is entirely local and made by Mr. Henrich, has been arranged and placed on exhibition in rooms in the Willard Library in Evansville. It consists of about 2,000 arrow points of great variety, and many of them the finest I have seen, a large number of drills, besides some good pieces of pottery, many splendid pipes, hundreds of celts, axes and copper specimens.

Another similar collection was made by C. F. Artes of Evansville. After his death it was sold for \$7,500 and removed from the city. A third collection, now consisting of about 5,000 specimens, half of which are arrow points, is owned by Mr. Otto Laval, who lives five miles east of the city of Evansville. His collection of drills is the best that has been made in this section. The mortars or grinding stones are of rare patterns, one being eighteen inches in diameter. One has an oval concavity and a pestle ground to fit it. His copper specimens, one of which

is a helmet, are superior. The collection of pipes is also very good, as well as the minerals, axes, celts, and a large variety of pottery.

In addition to these large collections, many smaller ones have been made in an incidental way. New specimens are being found from time to time. Last year a very peculiar one was found ten miles east of Evansville near the mouth of Green River by a negro while digging a hole in which to bury a dead animal. This specimen (fig. 1) which is



Fig. 1. Indian pipe taken from a mound near Evansville, Indiana. About one-half natural size.

recognized by the Smithsonian authorities as a pipe, is six inches high and seven inches long, and is made of light gray sandstone. It represents a man on all fours with head raised, and has two conical holes in it, one on the back and one in the rear—the two holes connecting. One hole served as the bowl and the other for the attachment of the stem. Having been found in the alluvial deposit, it indicates that it had been washed there. In the locality where this pipe was found are the five mounds of Vanderburgh County referred to above, and it seems highly probable that it came from one of these, either directly or from some house where it had been kept as a relic after having been taken from a mound.

Not only are works of man found in Posey and Vanderburgh counties, but also the remains of some of the ancient animals as well. A few weeks ago a part of the tooth of a mastodon was found in the river at West Franklin, 12 miles below Evansville. Near the same place, not long since, a thigh bone was found which weighed 55 pounds.