

**THE MOUND BUILDERS : BEING AN
ACCOUNT OF A REMARKABLE PEOPLE
THAT ONCE INHABITED THE VALLEYS OF
THE OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI, TOGETHER
WITH AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE
ARCHÆOLOGY OF BUTLER COUNTY, O.**

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The Mound Builders : Being an Account of a Remarkable People That Once Inhabited the Valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi, Together with an Investigation into the Archæology of Butler County, O. by J. P. MacLean

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J. P. MACLEAN

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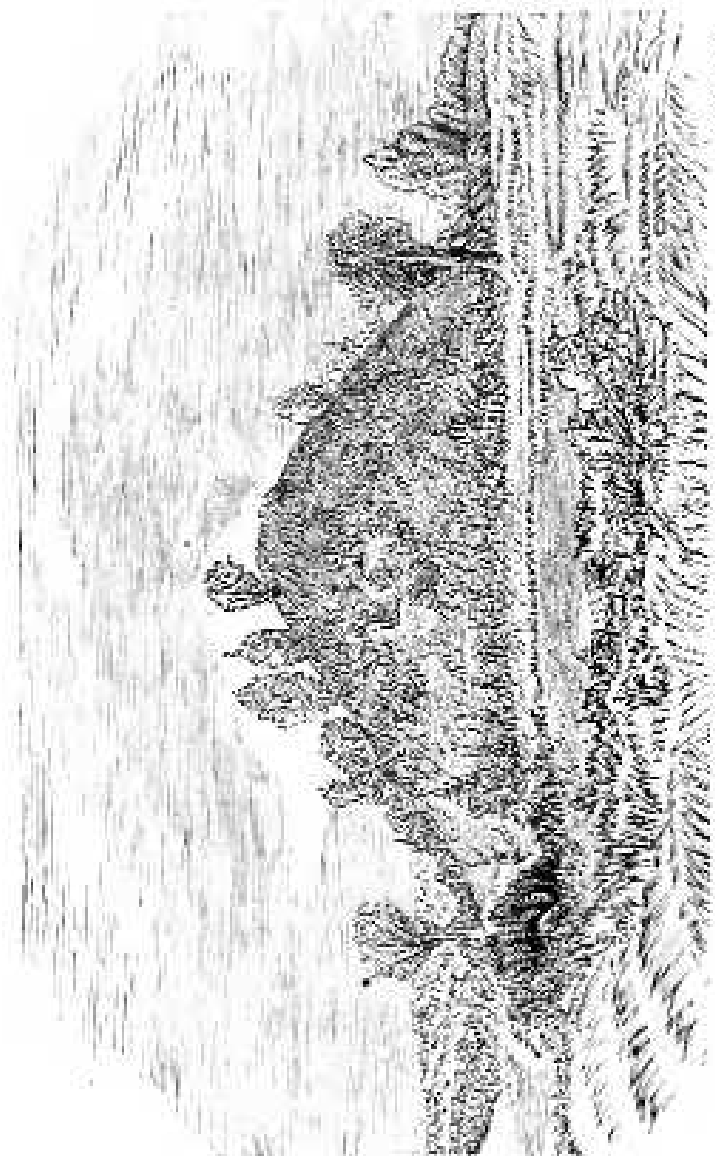


FIG. 1.—GRAY HOUND NEAR MICHIGAN.

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By J. P. MACLEAN, 1848.

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Illustrated with over One Hundred Figures.

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PREFACE.

Within the last few years much interest has been developed in American archæology, especially in that branch relating to the Mound Builders. The mystery surrounding this lost people creates a fascination which is greatly increased in the mind of the student of nature as he lingers among the ruins which invite his attention and rivet his eye. Standing upon one of the monuments the lover of the mysterious will lose himself in meditation, or else in imagination will behold a strange people toiling under the heat of a burning sun, or perhaps see them suffering from the effects of a winter's wind while erecting structures devoted to such rites as are recorded in the pages of history. There are others who behold these remains and although taking no particular interest in original investigation, yet desire to obtain such information as may be known concerning them.

The mounds, even separated from their history, have an interest in themselves. When one sees them he cannot help but pay more than a passing notice. Hence it might be presumed that public attention was early called to the ancient earth-works of Ohio. In the year 1772 Rev. David Jones first publicly noticed their existence. Twelve years later Arthur Lee wrote concerning them. The first general survey of the works was made by Caleb Atwater, of Circleville, Ohio, in 1819, under the

auspices and at the expense of the Archaeological Society at Worcester, Mass. In 1848 the Smithsonian Institution published, under the title "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley," the surveys made by E. G. Squier and Dr. E. H. Davis, together with the plans and notes furnished by others who had taken an interest in the matter. This publication constituted the first systematic work with descriptions and figures of the numerous remains of the Mound Builders. From that time to the present the institution has continued to publish books and original papers relating to this subject. This has created an impetus on the part of original investigators, the consequence of which has been the publication of many manuscripts at private expense.

In placing the present work before the public it is admitted that, for the most part, it contains such information as is already available; yet it is believed that favor will be accorded it both on the part of the general reader and the specialist. To the former it attempts to present all the essential facts which have been gathered without being burdened with elaborate speculations, while to the latter, the chapter on the archaeology of Butler County contributes something new to the study, and, besides, making what might be termed a complete report on a county which once was an important seat of the Mound Builders. The design then, of this work, may be said to be twofold: First, to give the required information and to quicken the interest of the general reader; and second, to assist the antiquarian in his researches. However, it was another reason which spurred the writer on and held him to the task: The monuments of Butler County are fast becoming obliterated, and in order to preserve their plans or dimensions

the work must not be delayed. Assisted by an able corps of gentlemen the work of investigation was a pleasant task. It was the endeavor to search out every enclosure and locate every mound, and if any have escaped observation, it was because the required information could not be obtained.

In the preparation of this work advantage has been taken of all the important publications on the subject. Except in a few cases, I have purposely abstained from burdening the text with references, although in several instances I have closely followed the descriptions as given by others. All such places will be readily detected by those who are sufficiently acquainted with the literature of this subject.

In the classification of the implements the archaeologist will object to assigning Fig. 31 among the chisels. This was done against my own judgment and in deference to certain parties who have won for themselves a reputation in the field of original research. Evidently there has been a confusion on this point. The chisel is distinctly separated from the flesher, or barkpeeler or wedge and the hatchet. Whoever has seen the true chisel will never mistake one again. A very clear statement of what a chisel is may be found in "Archæological Collection, No. 287," page 13, published by the Smithsonian Institution. It is a wedge-shaped implement of an elongated form and of comparatively small size. The figure referred to is evidently a barkpeeler or hatchet. I have classed it in the list of cabinets under the head of fleshers.

Most of the engravings were made especially for this work. Some of them were taken from old designs, and others from original plans.

Through the courtesy of Colonel Whittlesy and C. C. Baldwin, respectively President and Secretary of the Historical Society of Cleveland, a loan was tendered of Figs. 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 21.

Mr. E. Gest kindly furnished the cuts of the Cincinnati Tablet given in Figs. 22 and 23.

Dr. John E. Sylvester, the discoverer of the Berlin Tablet, generously placed at my disposal the engravings of that relic.

The fact should not be concealed that the publication of this volume is largely due to Mr. Richard Brown, who volunteered to bear half of all the expenses incurred in the undertaking. This will not be so surprising when the fact is considered, that for some years he has taken an active interest in all questions relating to the Mound Builders. Alone and unassisted he carried on his investigations in his native township of Ross.

J. P. MACLEAN.

HAMILTON, O., Sept. 2, 1879.