

**CERTAIN MOUNDS AND
VILLAGE SITES IN OHIO,
VOL. 3, PART 3;
FLINT RIDGE; PP. 169-239**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649019601

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Certain Mounds and Village Sites in Ohio

VOL. 3 PART 3

Flint Ridge

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THE F. J. HEER PRINTING Co.
COLUMBUS, OHIO:
1921

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FLINT RIDGE.

BY WILLIAM C. MILLS.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The explorations and studies recorded in this paper on Flint Ridge were undertaken for the purpose of securing for exhibition in the State Museum a complete collection of the various kinds of flint found at Flint Ridge as well as the implements used in quarrying the flint from its natural bed. A preliminary examination of Flint Ridge beginning at its western edge in Hopewell Township, Licking County, Ohio, extending eastward and ending in western Muskingum County, a distance of practically eight miles, made it apparent that a more extended and systematic study of the quarrying, manufacture, and distribution of flint objects was necessary to enable one to cope with the many complex problems arising from a study of the art of shaping the raw material into artificial forms to meet the varied needs of a primitive people.

As the search for specimens of flint and the implements used in quarrying progressed, it was found necessary to examine a number of so-called pits, in search of the evidence of quarrying flint and to find the flint in its original bed, partly quarried, and this proved a very difficult task in the region of the suitable flint for making knives, arrow, and spear points, for this flint had practically all been removed from its original bed, carried to workshops and made into suitable forms convenient for transportation.

The examination soon developed the fact that primitive man may have developed quarrymen who devoted their time exclusively to producing the raw material and turning over such material to a second industry, that of roughing-out the blank forms. This, however, may have been accomplished by the same individual but at different times and places.

The third process comprised the art of trimming, making into special forms and finishing blades or cores ready for transportation.

Therefore, it seems that the three well defined steps would give rise to three separate industries carried on by the same individuals at different times or places or by different groups of experts trained in their respective industry. The Flint Ridge quarries for the most part show that the first and second steps were accomplished mainly at the quarries, because primitive man found it uneconomical to transport blocks of material of which nine-tenths would be thrown away as useless; and further, the promising blocked-out piece might develop seams or geodes of crystals that would destroy its usefulness in making the desired implement. The workshop developed many such specimens, showing the advisability of working out the form of the article to be shaped in such a manner as to test the material and its capacity for specialization before leaving the source of supply. In other words, Flint Ridge became a great factory site, in which two principal commodities were manufactured and made ready to transport by manpower over the entire state of Ohio and into other states where the raw material was lacking. The two commodities mentioned were the flint blades, ranging in size from

the small arrowhead to the blades for making into spears, and the flint core, from which the flint knife was made. The flint used for these purposes was found in the region of the cross-roads directly north of Brownsville. The workshops in close proximity to the quarries contained many rejects, showing that even with expert selection many of the pieces were not adapted for making the desired flint knife with a long, keen cutting edge, so highly prized by primitive man.

As the examination of the quarries and the region surrounding them progressed, many problems arose concerning the probable prehistory Indians who did the extensive quarrying. All the surrounding workshop sites were examined but no implements other than those used in shaping the blades were found. However, at the west end of the ridge was located a large mound surrounded by a circle made of blocks of flint and earth. This mound was examined and the culture determined to be the Hopewell, the highest in point of advanced prehistory civilization in Ohio, showing that this culture had established themselves at the site of this wonderful supply of the most desirable raw material used in the manufacture of artificial forms to meet the varied needs of the primitive inhabitants. A detailed account of the examination of this mound will be found in the pages following the account of the examination of the quarry sites.

I am greatly indebted to many individuals for their assistance in the examination of Flint Ridge and especially to Mr. H. C. Shetrone, assistant curator, who carried forward the work on occasions when other duties connected with the Museum compelled me to be

absent; to Dr. Clark Wissler of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, who spent a short time in July, 1918, and again in August, 1919, for his help and counsel; to Professor J. Arthur MacLean of the Cleveland Museum of Art, for his assistance in the exploration of the mound located at the west end of the "Ridge;" to Mr. Jay Clark, a resident of the "Ridge" for more than forty years, for help and information given and specimens presented to the museum. To the many residents of the "Ridge" I wish to extend my thanks for assistance in the laborious excavations made in various sections and for specimens presented to the museum.

THE FIELD OF INVESTIGATION.

Flint Ridge is a very irregular plateau-capped line of rugged hills, located in Licking and Muskingum counties, about midway between Newark, the county seat of Licking, and Zanesville, the county seat of Muskingum. The region is a part of the great Allegheny Plateau which has an elevation of approximately 1,200 feet at the western end of the ridge in Licking, gradually decreasing eastward, probably due to the greater eroding agencies. The Licking River, located about five miles north of Flint Ridge, runs approximately east and parallel with Flint Ridge and empties into the Muskingum River. The small ribbon-like valley plains, with small streams fed by springs from the "Ridge", would furnish no means of water transportation to and from the source of supply; consequently the only way to reach the "Ridge" was by trails through the deep tangled forest, leading to the great manufacturing industrial center of the prehistoric Indian, in the region of Clark's blacksmith-shop, located at the road-crossing three miles directly north of Brownsville. It is striking to observe that the varied phenomena studied are assembled within a radius of one mile of this place, and at the extreme eastern end of the "Ridge". The flint occurring outside of these two places was of no practical use to primitive man, be-



Fig. 1. Cleared portion of Flint Ridge looking north from east and west road on the top of the Ridge.

cause of its unfitness for chipping into form on account of impurities.

In the region of the cross-roads the best examples of flint may be found, as well as the largest quarries located on the "Ridge".

An examination of the quarries developed the fact that only a very small portion of the flint deposit was of use to prehistoric man in the manufacture of artifacts, as much of the flint was full of seams and cracks which did not permit of the manufacture of a desired artifact with any degree of certainty, as demonstrated by the many broken blades found on the site of the work shop.

Another feature of the flint in this section was the presence of countless geodes filled with quartz crystals. The geodes varied in size from that of a pea or less to large geodes of from twelve to fourteen inches in diameter. The quartz crystals found in the geodes were usually small, but the large geodes generally contained large crystals. Apparently the crystals, unless very large, were not used in any way and were thrown away with the useless flint.

The flint found outside of the regions where it was quarried is very porous and fossiliferous, and very frequently mixed with calcareous or argillaceous material, which rendered it useless to primitive man as far as chipped implements were concerned.

The flint at the west end of the "Ridge", in Licking County, was especially useless to primitive man, but the early white settler found it well adapted to the making of buhr-stones, used in grinding grain into flour. Near the western edge of the outcrop of the flint, several partly formed buhr-stones, each weighing a ton or more, may be seen where they were quarried, upon the farm of Mr. William Hazlett, near the only large mound located upon the "Ridge".

The flint at the eastern end of the "Ridge" is likewise unfit for implement making but well adapted for buhr-stones. In the early pioneer days of Ohio, Mr. Samuel Drumm quarried the flint in suitable blocks and fashioned them into small hand buhr-stones. One of the buhr-stones complete and one partly shaped