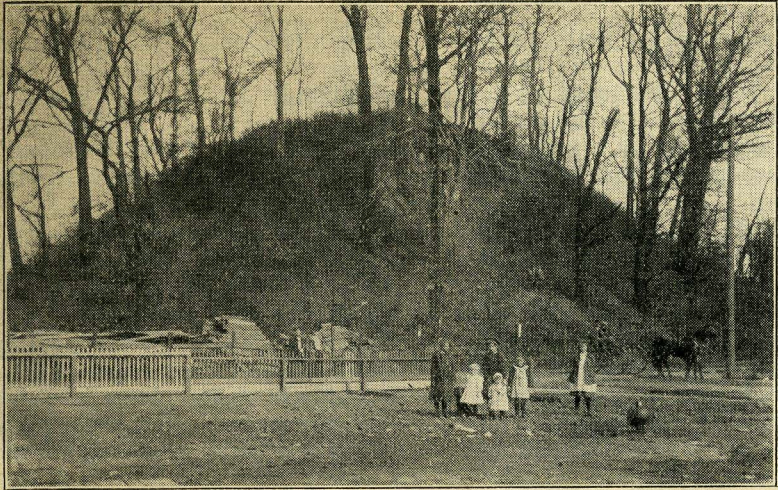


SHALL NOT THE MOUND BE PRESERVED?



THE MOUND AT MOUNDSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA.
 Discovered in 1770.

The largest Mound in America, originally 90 feet high, 900 feet in circumference at its base, with trees now growing on it nearly 700 years old.

MOUND DAY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1908

To be observed in all the schools of West Virginia, and it is further suggested that Historical and other societies have appropriate exercises on this occasion.

OBJECTS:

- I. To learn as much as possible concerning this Pre-historic Race.
- II. To raise funds for the purchase of the Mound.

All money to be deposited in the nearest bank to the credit of the treasurer of this fund, Hon. Newton Ogdin, State Treasurer, Charleston, and the amount to be reported to the Department of Schools. At a later date Mr. Ogdin will draw upon these banks and collect the fund.

Is there not enough interest in historic matters in West Virginia to preserve this remarkable memorial of a now extinct race?

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

1:30 P. M. Thursday, November fifth.

Music	<i>America</i>
Devotional exercises.	
Music	<i>Guide Me</i>
Statement by the teacher concerning the observance of the day.	
Paper—"Why we Observe Mound Day,"	<i>by a girl.</i>
Paper—"Historical Sketch of the Mound,"	<i>by a boy.</i>
Paper,—A Description of the Mound,	<i>By a girl.</i>
An address by a prominent speaker,....." <i>The Mound Builders.</i> "	
Two-minute statements from pupils of the school relative to the Mound.	
Music,	<i>West Virginia Hills</i>
Report of contributions.	
Adjournment.	

SUGGESTIONS.

It is urged that teachers begin early to prepare for Mound Day and that the pupils all be requested to contribute something towards the preservation of the Mound. In many places it would be well to appoint a soliciting committee to go out among the people. Many of our citizens will gladly aid in raising a fund for the purpose named.

Let a careful list of all contributions be made so a complete record may be kept. This list will be deposited in the State Archives. I am glad to say that over twenty-five dollars have already been raised, this sum having been sent in from the Institutes of Raleigh, Mercer and Wyoming Counties, being balances of Institute fees.

In many private libraries and in all public libraries books relating to the Mound Builders and their work may be found, and it is suggested that teachers seek information on this subject wherever it may be obtained.

There are many smaller mounds in West Virginia and it is noticeable that those on the Monongahela and the Kanawha increase in size as one goes towards the mouth of the stream. This is true in a measure of those along the Ohio, except that the one at Moundsville is the largest in America. Ohio has many of these memorials, the Serpent Mound in Adams County being the most noted. That State has spent over three hundred thousand dollars in restoring and preserving these memorials besides large sums of money that have been raised by historical societies and private contributions.

Some years ago Hon. G. S. McFadden, who then owned the Mound and whose children are in possession of it today, made the following statement to a representative of the Pittsburg Press:

"When I went to Moundsville 17 years ago I found a German trying to buy the Mound for a popular resort and he intended to start a saloon there. Now, I didn't want a saloon anywhere around there, and I bought the Mound myself. I put a good fence about it and it is now a great curiosity. It stands in this valley of 4,000 acres and from the top you can see many miles in all directions. In 1862 Mulligan's battery was at Moundsville and he planted a gun on top of the Mound, which commanded the valley."

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.

DEPARTMENT OF FREE SCHOOLS.

CHARLESTON, Sept. 29, 1908.

As has already been announced, Thursday, November 5th, will be observed in the schools of West Virginia as Mound Day. Not only is the subject of the Mound-builders, their antiquity, their memorials and general history, so far as it is known, to be studied, but an earnest effort will be made to raise funds for the preservation of the celebrated Mound at Moundsville in Marshall County. As is generally known, this mound is private property, and has been preserved up to this time without any return whatever to the owners; in fact it has been an expense to them in the way of taxes, keeping up fences, etc. A number of times the question of purchase by the State has been discussed and once or twice the matter has been brought before the Legislature, but nothing definite has ever been determined upon. The price fixed upon it is \$25,000, with a donation of \$5,000 from the amount as a memorial to Mr. G. S. McFadden, through whose generous offices and that of his heirs the Mound has been preserved for nearly thirty years.

As this is the largest Mound of its class and the most noted of these memorials of a pre-historic race, it should by all means be preserved. I think it would be a reflection upon the intelligence and progressive spirit of our State to permit it to be removed. However, it seems unfair to expect private ownership to continue to serve the public in its preservation. As the Mound occupies about a block in the center of the city of Moundsville, the land on which it stands is very valuable, and by the removal of the Mound, would make most excellent building sites. The owners had actually contracted for its removal, but in view of the wide-spread interest in its preservation they have agreed to suspend work for a little while awaiting the outcome of this effort.

It is hoped that in the effort made on November 5th not only will our schools be interested, but that all our citizens will lend a hand in the movement. While it may not be possible to raise a sum sufficient to purchase the Mound at once, if it can be retained for a while until legislative action may be taken, the end will be accomplished. However, with the great interest manifested in the preservation of the Mound, I am led to think that a good round sum can be realized if a proper effort is made all over the State. It is suggested that on the afternoon of the day appointed, a program be carried out in each school. On another page of this folder an order of exercises is suggested, but the ingenuity of teachers, and the information that many of them have relative to the Mound, may enable them to formulate a program better suited to the occasion.

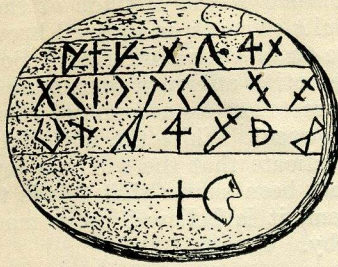
In addition to the effort through the schools, I am sure that

the general public will be glad to join in contributing to the movement. With this end in view, I suggest that the teachers of each community be constituted a soliciting committee to see business men and citizens generally, asking for contributions. It is further recommended that all funds received shall be deposited in the oldest bank of the town or city where the exercises are held and that in country districts the bank most convenient to the teacher be chosen as the place for depositing funds. A list of all contributors should be made and sent to this Department where a record will be kept. When funds are deposited in the bank, a deposit slip should be secured from the cashier and sent to the treasurer of the fund, Hon. Newton Ogdin, State Treasurer, Charleston, West Virginia. Mr. Ogdin has kindly consented to take charge of these funds and will properly account for them.

Now, let us have a united effort in this movement for the preservation of the Mound, and I am sure much will be accomplished. The matter has already been too long delayed and I believe it will be a pleasure for thousands of our citizens to contribute to the preservation of this historic spot. While I have no idea as to what may be done finally, I am of the opinion that the Mound should be the property of the State and cared for by the State. While in a large measure it should be retained in its present condition, yet there are some things which can be done from time to time that will add very much to its beauty and attractiveness.

It is urged that every pupil in our schools be requested to contribute something towards the purchase of the Mound. It will be a satisfaction in future years for the citizens of the State to remember that they had a part in preserving this historic spot. The school children of the State chose our State Flower, and the State Flag is the outgrowth of the work of this Department, and I believe the educational public will be pleased to have a part in this patriotic work. Let there be a record kept of all contributions both from pupils and citizens, and I will take pleasure in depositing such a list among the State Archives. With an earnest effort all over the State on November 5th, I am sure a considerable sum can be raised, and above all, such a sentiment awakened in behalf of the Mound as will lead to its preservation and put it under the control of the State where it properly belongs.

Some years ago, as is stated in the articles published herewith, the Mound was explored by the sinking of a shaft and the digging of a tunnel and a number of interesting objects were found. Among these was a stone upon which curious characters were carved. A cut of this stone is herewith given. These hieroglyphics, if they may be so called, have never been deciphered, although they have been sent to learned societies in various parts of the world. The stone is now in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, having been sent there some years ago through the efforts of Dr. Wills DeHaas.



CARVED STONE FOUND IN THE MOUND.

This stone was found in the Mammoth Mound in 1838. The inscription is in unknown characters, resembling those used by the Scandinavian priests before the introduction of the Roman alphabet. It has never been deciphered and nothing like it has ever been found in America. It has attracted more attention from scientists and antiquarians at home and abroad than any other relic found in the United States. The characters are now conceded to be of European origin, and, if this be true, then there is evidence that Europeans visited this continent before the coming of Columbus. But who were they? No reply can be made beyond the fact that they were of those acquainted with some ancient alphabet known and used along the coast and among the islands of the European continent. Powell, the antiquarian, says: "Four of the characters correspond to the ancient Greek, four to the Etruscan, five to the Norse, six to the Gaelic, seven to the old Erse, and ten to the Phoenician," Certain it is that these characters were those of the ancient rock alphabet consisting of right and acute angled strokes used by the Pelasgi and other early Mediterranean people and which is the parent of the modern Runic as well as of the Bardic. How came this stone to be in a West Virginia mound is a question which scientists and antiquarians will continue to ask, but one which will never be answered.

I am pleased to give herewith an article from Hon. Virgil A. Lewis, State Historian and Archivist. As will be seen, Mr. Lewis utterly discards the view which has been so generally accepted, that the Indians built these mounds.

I also quote from the *Cyclopedia Americana*, in which the theory of a Pre-historic Race is further advanced.

Some have maintained that these mounds were built as memorials to dead rulers; others, that they were places of worship and that sacred objects were placed therein. A noticeable feature of the Mound at Moundsville is the fact that it is in the center of a comparatively level and circular area of about two miles in diameter, extending up and down and across the Ohio River and up Grave Creek.

It is claimed that some of the Mounds of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys were built of earth and gravel brought from different sections as a tribute or a votive offering. Some have advanced the theory that these votive offerings were made from time to time when pilgrimages were taken on account of some prominent event in the history of the race. While the material found in some of the mounds would indicate that the soil was brought from different sections, it has not been shown that this is true of all of them. In fact, some of them, it is believed, were made from earth and material found nearby.

THE MOUND-BUILDERS — MOUNDS — THE MAMMOTH MOUND AT MOUNDSVILLE.

By HON. VIRGIL A. LEWIS, STATE HISTORIAN AND ARCHIVIST.

Among the most mysterious antiquities of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, are the ancient *tumuli* or mounds, the work of an intelligent but long forgotten people—a vanished race. These Mound-Builders! Who were they? Alas, we shall never know, for when they were here the North American continent was as a sealed book to the historian. They were isolated from all the world besides, and they disappeared therefrom leaving no place in history, and not in blood, manners, speech, nor laws, have they left a trace behind them. That they did disappear is not remarkable, for we know that other tribes and nations have done likewise; that there have been wars, migrations, absorptions, and extinctions of peoples whose pre-historic life is veiled in the mysteries of the long distant Past. These Mound-Builders may have perished at the barbarous hands of the warriors of the Iroquois Confederacy, who were the Romans of the Western World, or they may have been merged into the Natchez of the Lower Mississippi Valley, or the Mayas of Yucatan, or the Aztecs of Northern Mexico. Volumes have been written to show how America was originally peopled and still no satisfactory solution of the problem has been reached. On the contrary, these contain little else than a mass of contradictions. Certain it is, we may trace these people here, there, and everywhere by the mounds they have reared and by the weapons, utensils, implements and ornaments, found therein or scattered over the surface of the land, or dug from the sands and gravel-beds of the rivers.

On what was long known as Grave Creek Flats, in what is now Marshall county, West Virginia, they reared a Mammoth Mound. It has given a name—Moundsville—to the modern city which surrounds it. It is now sixty-nine feet high, the top having been graded off somewhat for a platform, and in the shape of the frustum of a cone, having a circumference of three hundred yards at the base and a diameter of fifty feet at the top. It was heaped up by a people destitute of knowledge of iron, and without domestic animals to aid them. It is a vast monument to the in-

dustry of the ancient inhabitants of the Ohio Valley; a masterpiece of the works of antiquity; a tremendous memorial of the aboriginal life of a by-gone people. Standing there alone in its majesty it marks the site of an ancient metropolis of the Mound-builders of this region and may rest upon ruins still more ancient than itself. It was discovered in 1770, by Joseph Tomlinson, the first pioneer settler who reared his cabin on the Grave Creek Flats. While hunting in the vicinity, he came suddenly to what seemed to be a hill which reared its steep, cone-shaped form before him with its summit among the tree-tops of the surrounding forest. Ascending it he stood that day upon America's most noted artificial mound. From that time to the close of the century, many persons stood upon it and gazed in admiration and wonder upon the surrounding scene. Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, the historian, ascended it in 1818; Joseph Doddridge, author of the "Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia and Pennsylvania," was on it in 1819; and they, with many others, have left to us their descriptions of it. When was it built? What is its age? None know, nor ever will know. Tomlinson stated that when he discovered it, the growth of timber thereon was as large and dense as any of the surrounding forest. Names and dates were cut upon some of these; one of the latter, in the bark of a large beech tree, being that of 1734. A gigantic oak tree which stood upon the summit, was felled some years afterward, and by counting the cortical layers or growths, its age was ascertained to be more than five hundred years; and thus fixing the time when the tree began to grow, at the beginning of the thirteenth century, or nearly two hundred years before Columbus discovered America. Even conjecture can not point out the time when the mound was erected. It may have been old when the Pyramids of Egypt were being built, or when Cleopatra's Needle was being fashioned. It remains for some other Champollion to exercise his ingenuity in ascertaining the period of erection and uses of these monuments. This Mammoth Mound, the greatest monument of antiquity in the Ohio Valley, is in West Virginia—stands in the very heart of a flourishing West Virginia city—and it should never be destroyed. Will not the nine thousand teachers, the three hundred and fifty-two thousand school children, the one million citizens of a wealthy State—representing its scholarship and intelligence—see to it that this great Mound shall continue as an attraction for the admiration of the generations to come after us? So may it be.

FROM THE CYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA.

One of the most interesting mounds of North America is that known as the Grave Creek Mound located in Moundsville, West Virginia. The Mound is situated on an elevated table-land, and is an artificial truncated mound, some 70 feet high and 900 feet in circumference at its base. The Mound was built by a race superior and previous to Indians, and is the most notable mound in the

Ohio Valley. Its cubic contents are equal to the third pyramid of Mycerinus, but was heaped up by a people destitute of the knowledge of iron, and who had no domestic animals or machinery to aid them. They were evidently people like the Egyptians, ruled by some one monarch, who was able to combine vast numbers in the erection of one structure, and at the same time, able to provide them with food in abundance. The mound-builders cultivated the soil like Egyptians, and had maize for their food, as the date and leek and onion supplied the wants of the laborers on the Nile. No Indian was ever known to toil in this manner. No government existed among the Indians that could bring them so such servitude. The authority of a chief or sachem is too slender a thread for such a people. It must be remembered that in Egypt to build one of the pyramids required the labor of 360,000 men for 20 years. This Mound was visited by white men at a very early date, for, in 1818, one of the large trees growing on the Mound bore the date of 1734, and several names cut in the bark were yet distinguishable. Tomlinson, the owner of the Mound, was induced—by his neighbors and friends in Wheeling—to open the Mound, which he did in 1838. From the north side he excavated toward the centre an adit ten feet high and 7 feet wide along the natural surface. At the distance of 111 feet he came to a vault that had been excavated in the earth before the Mound was commenced; 8 feet by 12 feet square and 7 feet in depth. Along each side, and across the ends, upright timbers had been placed, which supported timbers thrown across the vault as a ceiling. These timbers were covered with loose unhewn stone, common in the neighborhood. The timbers had rotted, and the stone tumbled into the vault. In this vault were two human skeletons, one of which had no ornaments. The other was surrounded by 650 ivory beads and an ivory ornament about six inches long. A shaft was also sunk from the top of the Mound to meet the other. At 34 feet above the first or bottom vault, was found another, similar to the first. In this vault was found a skeleton which had been ornamented with copper rings, plates of mica, and bone beads. Over 2,000 discs cut from shells were found here. The copper rings, or bracelets found, weighed about 17 ounces.

Trusting that "Mound Day" may be a most pleasant and profitable occasion, and that a large sum may be realized towards the preservation of the Mound, I am,

Very respectfully,

J. W. Miller

State Superintendent of Schools.