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THE NACOOCHIE MOUND
IN GEORGIA

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A deposit of burned bones was found 19 feet in depth in the northeastern section, extending N.E.—S.W., and covering a space 8 x 17 in., by 2 to 2½ in. in thickness. The bones had been calcined to such an extent as to have become broken into small pieces. On the middle of this deposit, separated from it by a thin layer of earth, was a round, flat stone, 6½ in. in diameter and 1¼ in. thick, showing evidence of slight use.

In the southeastern part of the mound, 9 ft. deep, was another deposit of animal bones, mostly of deer, that had been buried as a mass. Charcoal was scattered through the immediately adjacent soil.

Reference to stray bones found throughout the mound will be made in describing the bone artifacts.

HUMAN BURIALS

The features of the mound and its more or less unusual contents having been referred to, we will consider the burials of a more commonplace character. In all, seventy-five burials were unearthed, none of which was in a state of preservation to enable measurement, and all of them indeed were so greatly decayed as to be entirely beyond recovery.

Burial 1.—(Depth 2 ft. 9 in.) A small child, directed E.—W., head to E., extended on back. Entirely decayed excepting a few teeth, a clavicle, a fragment of the lower jaw, and parts of a few ribs. The bones that had retained their form were protected by what had evidently been a breastplate consisting of large shell beads. A string of smaller shell beads, by which the breastplate had been suspended, was found under the jaw; among these were two shell hair ornaments. About one foot southwest of and six inches above where the skull had been, were four discoidal stones, irregularly placed. Traces of charcoal were above and beneath the burial.

Burial 2.—(Depth 2 ft. 9 in.) Adult directed N.N.E.—S.S.W., head to S., lying on right side, knees flexed upward, hands in front of face. Bones generally soft, but some of them in fair condition. Under the jaw was a catlinite platform pipe (pl. XLIX, a) with the

✓ stem toward the feet, with *Marginella* shells in the pipe-bowl but which seemed to have been in a string that had been attached to the hole in the lower part of the pipe. Around the neck was a string of blue glass beads, which likewise seemed to have been attached to the pipe. On and under the scapulæ and pelvis were *Marginella* and other shell beads that evidently had been fastened to a shirt and leggings. Under the lower leg were two polishing stones and a small piece of ground rock-crystal. Between the knees and the vertebræ were two small stone discoids, one of them, green in color, found hollow-side down, being nearer the spine. Above the remains were traces of charcoal and deer bone, and a few potsherds. Under the skull and extending to the scapulæ was a thin layer of ashes, and under the pelvis, mixed with the shells above referred to, was a small, worked, triangular stone. By the feet was a small stone implement (pl. LV, *i*) that probably had been used in modeling pottery. (Pl. XIV, *a*.)

✓ *Burial 3*.—(Depth 2 ft. 4 in.) Adult, directed S.E.—N.W., head to S.E., lying on face with legs flexed backward so that the feet touched the pelvis. On each upper arm was a broken copper arm-band that had been lined with bark. Under the right jaw was a mass of red paint, and beneath the chest was a breast-ornament consisting of 410 *Marginella* shell and glass beads. A small, long bird-bone (?) and two bone awls were at the upper part of the vertebræ. Extending from under the left arm-band to the feet was an irregular line of bird-bones, and under the left elbow was a small piece of micaceous stone. Beneath the entire body was a layer of red-burned earth resting on black ashes, evidently indicating that a fire had been kindled over the grave area before the interment was made. The bones of the skeleton were fairly well preserved, but the skull was crushed. (Pl. XIV, *b*.)

✓ *Burial 4*.—(Depth 2 ft. 9 in.) Adult, directed E.—W., head to E., lying on right side with legs flexed; bones badly decayed and skull crushed. At the back of the scapulæ was a stone pipe (pl. XLIX, *e*), the bowl toward the feet, and beneath the pipe were four glass beads. A copper button lay at the base of the vertebræ, and another, together with two lead buttons, was above the pipe. There

were also three lead buttons in front of the arms and three more near the feet. This skeleton also had been placed on a layer of red-burned earth, 2 in. thick, beneath which was a stratum of ashes 8 in. in thickness, and another thin layer of red-burned earth. (Pl. xv, a.)

Burial 5.—(Depth 3 ft. 8 in.) Adult, directed N.-S., head to N., lying on left side with hands under chin; legs greatly flexed backward so that the feet were against the hips. The skull, and indeed the entire upper part of the skeleton, were greatly decayed, many of the bones having disappeared. Around the neck was a necklace of shell and glass beads, and on one of the knees was a small piece of graphite. ✓

Burial 6.—This burial has already been described in connection with an adjacent stone deposit. See pages 35-36.

Burial 7.—(Depth 4 ft. 5 in.) Adult, greatly decayed, only the teeth being well preserved. The head was directed approximately S., but not enough of the skeleton was traceable to determine whether the body had been flexed. In association with the teeth and the traces of the skull were 21 white shell beads, badly decomposed, varying in length from a quarter to half an inch. Slight traces of baked dark clay lay beneath the skull.

Burial 8.—(Depth 4 ft. 5 in.) Adult, found 5 ft. north of Burial 7. Only traces of the skull and teeth were observable, the remainder having disappeared through decay, except for discoloration of the soil. The burial, however, had been made with the head directed southward and the legs had probably been flexed toward the E. There were no accompaniments.

Burial 9.—This burial has been described in connection with an accompanying stone deposit near the middle of the mound. See pages 36-37.

Burial 10.—(Depth 1 ft. 5 in.) Faint traces of bones only, not sufficient to determine their character or the direction of burial. Accompanying these traces was an entire jar (pl. XXI), standing upright, and immediately back of it, *i. e.*, northward, was a fire-pit, filled with red-burned earth and ash, mostly the former, measuring 13 in. in depth and 8 in. in greater diameter. The top of the fire-pit was 1 ft. 7 in. below the surface of the mound.

inch in its heaviest part to that of thick paper where corroded through, for it was broken into pieces when found. The band does not taper gradually from one end to the other, the narrower end having been cut away at one corner to a depth of $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches from the termination. In this end two holes, and in the other one hole, have been punched, the roughened edges of the holes on the under side not having been removed.

The other arm-band is $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide at each end, but is slightly wider at the middle and is of the same general thickness. Three equidistant holes have been punched in one end and two holes in the other, but in the latter a corresponding third hole was commenced and the attempt abandoned.

Particles of bark still adhere to the under side of the arm-bands, the remains of a thin padding or lining for the protection of the skin of the wearer. There is no reason to suppose that these arm-bands are of commercial copper, any more than that the copper celts are of foreign origin.

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

Scattered here and there in the mound or in the graves were fragments of mica, hematite, quartzite and other stones, galena, and such like mineral substances, largely the rejecta of manufacture or materials used for paint. Some of the hematite and galena show surfaces smoothed by rubbing for the purpose of reducing the raw material to paint, and deposits of hematite and ocher in pasty masses but which had once been powder, no doubt, were found in some of the graves, as likewise were a few quartz crystals, so precious to Indian medicine-men generally.

The plaited matting and fragments of woven fabric found with Burial 46 have already been described and illustrated (pl. VII, XVI, and fig. 2).

With Burial 39, as before mentioned, were found seven small drilled pearl beads that evidently had been worn at the neck.

OBJECTS OF FOREIGN ORIGIN

Beads.—No objects derived from the white man were found in the mound at a depth of more than four feet. Articles of foreign

provenience consist largely of glass beads, mostly spherical or barrel-shaped, blue or greenish blue, a number of them iridescent, a few striated with white. One of the blue beads is cylindrical, a little more than half an inch long, rounded at the ends, and much worn or weathered; another, also cylindrical, is half as long, with straight ends. There are also a couple of small plain white beads; two barrel-shaped ones, also white, each with three lines in red and blue, found with which, in Grave 4, were two smaller ones of the same shape but without the colored stripes; one purplish black in color with a netting of white wavy lines around the body; and one of amber-colored glass. The smallest of the blue-glass beads is less than an eighth of an inch in diameter, while the largest, somewhat barrel-shaped, is more than three-eighths of an inch long.

While most of these trade beads were found with comparatively recent burials, a few were recovered from the mound refuse. In two instances (Burials 3 and 4) trade beads in numbers were found with skeletons in association with native shell beads that had formed a breast ornament and a necklace respectively. It will be remembered that Captain Nichols plowed up in the adjacent field forty-five Venetian beads, "varying in shape and color, some of them being red, others blue, others white (of which variety some have a blue wreath, inlaid, encircling them), others green, with crimson and yellow horizontal stripes upon them, and others black."¹

Glass and Crockery.—Two fragments of bottle glass, one thin and green, the other thick and blue, were found not far beneath the surface, as likewise were some small pieces of crockery glazed on both surfaces.

Copper Objects.—With Burial 4 were a pair of well-made, circular, convex, copper buttons, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter, with shanks, and with a small boss in the middle of the face. A fragment of tanned skin was attached to each button at the back, as if to form washers, or they may be parts of a skin garment to which the buttons were fastened, as they were found under the scapulæ and pelvis of the skeleton. In one of the shanks are remains of a

¹ Jones, op. cit., p. 235.