

Pioneers Around Delta, Ohio

By Mrs. Vashli Seaman

THE MOUND BUILDERS OF FULTON CO., O.

Fulton County has many mounds, built by the MOUND BUILDERS. Their origin, and customs, and where they went after leaving our area seems to remain a mystery. They left no written language and records for us to solve their passing, or the approximate time that they lived here. But, from the size of the mounds in our county, I believe they were living in the area of central Fulton County for many years. And that they had no special tools to cultivate land or for digging.

Most of the mounds were located near a stream, where it was convenient to scoop up damp soil for covering their dead - or the sand that must have covered some of this land, many centuries ago, just as we find

sandy soil in central Fulton County today.

Wauseon is located upon and around three of these Indian or Mound Builders' mounds. One is known for many years as HOWARD HILL, upon which DRESDEN HOWARD built a fine brick house some years before his death, and which he used during the winter months. A second mound is known as NORTH PARK, and located several blocks west of the HOWARD HILL mound. The third mound is the oldest part and highest part of the Wauseon Cemetery, located a mile west of the business district. Frank Fauver told me a year ago, that some times when digging graves they still find parts of human remains, and spearheads and arrowheads. Which points to the fact that several "people", the mound builders, red Indians and now the white race have used this particular mound for a burial place.

Possibly the best defined and noticeable mound is located on the north side of Route 2 and 20A, now farmed by HARLEY FETTER, west of Delta. His farm house sits upon the highest part of the mound, and the terraced banks are still well defined. I have found no record that mentions that any of these mounds have ever been investigated. But, I found the following story of the opening and work done at the mound on which DRESDEN HOWARD built his 2nd home at Winameg, about 1850. His old home place is on the east side of the road, and for many years has been occupied by the McCLARREN Family. This excavation of the mound at Winameg is undated, but it mentions that DRESDEN HOWARD was then in his 76th year.

The name on the inside of the old scrap book in which I found the story of the WINAMEG MOUND

is ROXIE HANDY RICE". Someone added that she died in 1916, aged about 90 years. She was an early school teacher in Fulton County when she was a young lady.

WINNAMEG MOUND

(This article appeared in a local newspaper of about 1893 - when DRESDEN W. H. HOWARD was about 76 years of age. No date or name of the newspaper that printed the story.)

"The work of excavating their mounds at Winameg is now under way. Startling developments as to the Strange Manners and Customs of this once mighty race, conclusively showing them to have been co-existent with, if not antedating the Druids.

"Last fall, a TRIBUNE representative visited the beautiful farm of Hon. D. W. H. HOWARD, at Winameg, and while there was told by that stalwart pioneer, who had himself been an eye witness of many of the vivid scenes enacted before the white people came to this country of the wonderful things that had happened in the neighborhood. Mr. HOWARD'S farm, then of course, was still owned by the Indians, and had been the site of one of their numerous villages. They had also used a portion of the ground as a burial place, and many have been the skeletons of Indians which Mr. HOWARD has accidentally unearthed. Leading the scribe into his fine old orchard, Mr. HOWARD pointed to a number of small elevations which were distinct but had been smoothed and rounded over with age. To this question as to whether they were Indian graves or not, he replied, 'No, I think they are much older than the Indians who ever lived here lately. This is the work of the MOUND BUILDERS'. When Judge HANDY learned that there were mounds on Mr. Howard's farm, he resolved to investigate it, as he is an able and devoted student of the subject. An opportunity presented itself last week and the Judge took advantage of it. In the following interesting article we are permitted to give the details of what he found. -- The Editor."

"In the past week one fact has been demonstrated, viz; that great lost race which for want of a better name is called the MOUND BUILDERS, once inhabited Fulton Co. Until now, the works in Ohio north of the Allen Co. north line, or west of the Lucas Co. line have never been certainly identified as the work of these people. On archeological maps and reports, Fulton County and her sisters west and south have been a blank. Today, on the banks of Bad Creek, overlooking the famous council grounds of the POTTA-

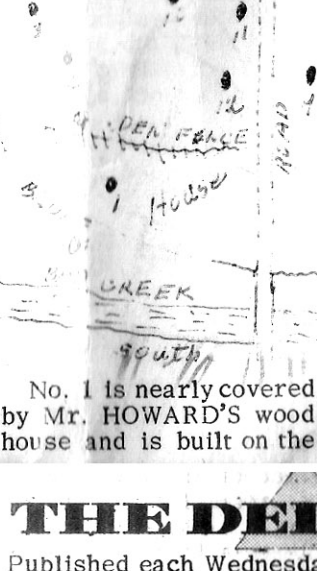
WATTOMIES, on which stands the Historic Council Oak tree of the red Indians, we have located and identified eleven mounds of the MOUND BUILDERS, and the site of a twelfth.

"Of the archeological value of these finds too much cannot be said, at present, as the careful reader will observe further on. That we are able to identify and locate them at all is due entirely to the thoughtful and intelligent guardianship and care that has been for more than half a century, exercised over them by Hon. D. W. H. HOWARD, on whose farm and in whose orchard most of them are situated.

"During all of these years he has zealously guarded them from vandalism, permitting no one to in any manner interfere with them further than to cultivate the ground. The confidence he placed in me when he finally gave me permission to investigate them to the fullest extent desired, thereby expressing his belief in my integrity of purpose, is a compliment I fully and gratefully appreciate, and wish in this manner to earnestly thank him.

"Though now 76 years of age, Mr. HOWARD is full of energy, as active and apparently as strong as a man of 40, while his wonderful memory and intellectual powers are unimpaired. Having associated from boyhood with the red Indians of Northwestern Ohio, and accompanied them to their reservation beyond the reservation; always as their friend; able to converse with them in their own language; to get into their inner lives, as it were; to appreciate the credit due them with their virtues and condemn their faults, he easily became their confidant, and possessed of their traditions. His memory is a mine of wealth of the traditional lore of these people. These people, who had no written language, are authentic history. I think it will be conceded that the story of our first parents and their descendants for the first generations, at least, rests on tradition, and yet it is accepted by the whole Christian world as authentic.

"The mounds are located on the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 Sec. 9, T7S, of R3E, in Pike Twp., Fulton Co., O. They are built on a high ridge, containing 5 or 6 acres of land and following the highest outer elevation of the bluff, with three exceptions. The following diagram will afford some idea of the general location and the plan.



No. 1 is nearly covered by Mr. HOWARD'S wood house and is built on the

southern edge of the bluff. A distinct and well defined terrace appears on the north side of the bluff. No. 8 is located in the road to Winameg, and nearly obliterated. The balance, while their outlines are somewhat indistinct, can be easily seen. The soil is a top dressing of light sand, mixed, however, to a depth of 6 or 7 inches with gravel. Long years after these mounds were built they were exposed to the winds and rains, and consequently have lost much more by erosion than they have gained by decaying vegetation or otherwise. And, indeed, Mr. HOWARD tells me that within his memory they were much higher and more distinct in their outlines than now. Besides they have been cultivated more or less for many years. Col. HOWARD tells me that he heard old Chief WIN-NA-MEG, the father of the younger WIN-NA-MEG, after whom the post office was so named, and when the old chief then was about 95 years of age, say that their oldest man did not know who had made the mounds and that nobody knew; but he thought a great battle had been fought there and that the dead had been buried in the mounds. Indian tradition, then, has failed to account for them. If the red Indians had built them, tradition would have brought the facts down to old WIN-NA-MEG. But we need no argument to convince us that the manners and customs of the red Indians did not build these mounds or other works of the MOUND BUILDERS.

which a large sugar maple tree is growing thereon, that a more thorough examination would destroy the tree, and the other five showing evidence of comparatively recent disturbance, which we have abandoned, after discovering they are really the work of the MOUND BUILDERS.

tree a large sugar maple tree is growing thereon, that a more thorough examination would destroy the tree, and the other five showing evidence of comparatively recent disturbance, which we have abandoned, after discovering they are really the work of the MOUND BUILDERS.

MOUND NO. 5

"Our first excavation was Mound No. 5, shown on the diagram. We began by digging a trench between 2 and 3 feet in width from the outer edge of the mound, digging down to the original surface of the ground and towards the center. This mound is about 35 feet in diameter. About 10 feet from the center we found small pieces of charcoal. The soil when we got to the altar, was composed of mould 6 inches; white sand of 18 inches; yellow sand mixed with some gravel at the surface. At about the center we uncovered two altars, one a circle and the other a parallelogram in shape - the circle lying directly south of the latter. The circle was 4 feet in diameter. The parallelogram, as near as we can make it, is 4 to 6 feet.

"The altars were constructed in about the same manner. First was the soil. Overlying this one foot of baked soil - and baked to a light brown color. Overlying this is 4 inches of sand baked until it had turned to a bright

THE EXCAVATIONS & THE RESULT

"We went into these mounds with the purpose of making some excavations thorough enough to disclose their identity, their purpose, and whether they had ever been disturbed. When this had been accomplished, we quit working on each particular mound.

"At this writing, we have examined 8 mounds, two of them very thoroughly. Of the balance, one has been located on

THE DELTA ATLAS

Published each Wednesday - "FIRST IN FULTON"

Second Class Postage Paid At Delta, Ohio

Clifford L. Mack, Publisher. Thomas W. Mack, Co-Publisher-Adv. Mgr.; Jack L. Mack, Sports Editor-Reporter; Bernice Mack, Office; Larry Favorite, Asst. Adv.; Jeanne Bratton, Linotype-Composing; Tom Mack, Jr., Headliner-Comp.

212 Main Street, Delta, Ohio 43515 Phone 822-3231

red. Overlying this was 5 inches of charcoal and above this another 6 inches of sand and mould.

"On the circular altar we found some remnants of human bones that had been partially burned, and nothing else. On the other altar, we found some human bones partially burned and the bones of different kinds of wild animals. Among the human bones found on the circular altar, was a jaw bone with 4 teeth, in fairly good condition.

"Very near the baked face, but with the baked clay covering him, immediately under the circular altar, we found the skull and a portion of the skeleton of a man, his head to the west and lying on his face. We have this skull, and the part of the skull above the nasal bones are well preserved. Compared with the skull of an Indian found intrusively buried in Mound No. 6, we find two distinct types of "Man". This is all that we found in this mound.

"The ground on which

the altars were composed had never been disturbed since the great fires had burned out. This is demonstrated to a certainty. No digging could ever have been done without disturbing the layers of soil on the altars. It was noticeable that the burned sand of the altars was as dry as the dust that blows in the street, while the original soil which had not been burned and was under the altars, we found was quite moist. The baked sand, the red burned ground, the charcoal were in each mound, as perfect as if placed there by the hands of a master mason. Remember, that this skull was lying under the red burned sand and charcoal and in the baked sand, and was surely placed there before the last fires went out, and so we have the skull of a MOUND BUILDER, or of the representative of some race of the age of the MOUND BUILDERS.

"Col. HOWARD, Miss AGGIE HOWARD, WILL

Continued On Page 3

Continued From Page 2

HOWARD, d in Wauseon

Children of ROBERT N. HOWARD and his wife, ADA:

Baby HOWARD, B Mar. 21, 1897

WALDO HOWARD, b Sept. 17, d Sept. 23, 1900

CHARLES HOWARD, b Feb. 23, d Feb. 28, 1913

ROBERT N. HOWARD (father), b July 3, 1869, d Dec. 21, 1928

ADA L. (SCHAFER), his wife (mother), b Aug. 30, 1877, d Nov. 4, 1957

Children of G. W. HOWARD and wife, SARAH:

GLADYS HOWARD, b Aug. 9, d Sept. 25, 1893

Baby HOWARD, b Apr. 22, d Apr. 23, 1896

GEORGE HOWARD, b 1867, d 1871, buried Wauseon, O.

SARAH (SCHUMACH-

ER) HOWARD, b 1870, d 1943

WALTER N. HOWARD, b 1892, d 1918, Co. D, 347th Inf. U.S.A.

We, save their descendants of the HOWARD Family living in Fulton Co., O.

OBITUARY OF MRS. D. W. H. HOWARD

MARY BLACKWOOD COPELAND was b near Ovid, N. Y., May 4, 1824, and passed away at the old farm home near Winameg, where she had lived for nearly 63 years, on Saturday, Jan. 30, 1915, at the ripe old age of nearly 91 years.

In early life she moved to Deposit, N. Y. with her parents, where her father, a physician, practiced medicine for a few years, and later the family moved to Michigan, locating near Ypsilanti. At 16 years of age, she came to

Perrysburg, and taught school there and in that vicinity, and it was during this time that she met and became acquainted with DRESDEN HOWARD near Grand Rapids. They were married at Monroe, Mich. in Nov. 1842. Ten years later they located in their new home at Winameg, where they spent the remainder of their lives with the exception of some time during the late winters when they resided in their home on HOWARD HILL in the village of Wauseon. Mr. HOWARD died in 1897.

MR. and MRS. HOWARD were great friends of the Indians and were personal friends of the Pottawatomie Chiefs OTTOKEE, WAUSEON, and WINAMEG. This tribe of Indians often held council beside a large boulder under a large oak tree just south of their home. When these Indians were removed to the west of

the Mississippi River, the U. S. Government delegated COL. HOWARD to accompany them to their new home. As a token of his kindness towards them, he was presented with a beautiful white pony.

In August, 1914, DR. GEORGE W. HARTON JAMES of Pasadena, Calif., a great student and friend of the Indians, accompanied the editor of the Expositor on a visit to Mrs. HOWARD at her country home, and in several letters since then he has spoken appreciatively of his visit to the HOWARD home, and sorry he could not have remained for a longer visit.

MRS. HOWARD is survived by one son, O. F. HOWARD of National City, Calif., and one dau., MRS. AGNES McCLARREN, who with her family resides in the old home-stand farm. There are also 7 grandchildren and

2 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the home Monday, conducted by Rev. W. T. WILLIAMS, and she was laid to rest beside her husband in the vault at the brow of the hill on which they had made their home for so many years. The last resting place was prepared for them by her husband some time before his death.

Issue of May 1914: N. M. HOWARD, of Omaha, Nebr., an uncle of our fellow townsman, GEORGE HOWARD, died at his home in Omaha on last Sunday morning. The body was brought to Wauseon, on the Lake Shore train No. 10, and taken to the home of GEORGE HOWARD, where the funeral services were held. His burial is in the Salsberry Cemetery. His widow accompanied the remains of her husband to Wauseon.