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Skeletons and Pottery Are Found In Peachtree Mound

MINE SHAFTS BELIEVED WORK OF SPANIARDS

William Dockery Has Pick Found In Mouth of Tunnel At Tomotla

Despite the fact that the mound at the mouth of Peachtree creek on the north bank of Hiwassee, seven miles south of Murphy, has been explored several times in the past by amateur relic hunters, archaeologists of the Smithsonian Institution are finding it rich in valuable relics of the mound builders of the dim past about whom little definite history is known.

Wm. B. Colburn and J. D. Jennings who are in charge of the excavation work for the Smithsonian Institution, so far have found 23 skeletons, an unestimated amount of broken pottery, ornaments, beads and other trinkets of the mound builders and their civilization.

Of the 23 skeletons uncovered, eight have been saved, and it is believed that the others can be saved, although a number of them are in badly decayed condition. Several of the skeletons are those of children, under 16 years of age, Mr. Jennings said, while none of the skeletons yet found are of persons older than 35 when they were buried. It is generally conceded by medical authorities and archaeologists that the sutures of the head bones close between the ages of 35 and 40, Mr. Jennings said, and none of the sutures of the skeletons yet found have been closed.

The sizes of the skeletons found so far are of persons from four to five feet eight inches in stature, measurements have indicated. The position of the skeletons also indicate that no particular position for burial was followed by the people who occupied the place. Among those found so far, heads and feet were pointing toward practically all points of the compass.

Because of the rich humus conditions of the soil, and the condition of the bones of the skeletons found, the archaeologists believe that none of them have been buried there more than 200 years. All of the skeletons yet found have been around the edge and not in the mound proper. Excavation work began on the mound proper this week, and several strata of clay, soil and sand have been discovered, as well as a large rock pile which has not yet been uncovered enough for identification. The pile of rocks were discovered on the south side of the mound and little over a foot beneath the top soil. The rocks are of different sizes, none very large and are what is termed as water washed stones. The place is about ten feet wide by twenty feet long.

A copper ornament of some kind was found in a stone burial on the east side of the mound, beside the head of a skeleton, and archaeologists believe without doubt that this copper ornament is of Spanish manufacture, although it had not been removed from the stone burial pit Wednesday. White men's beads and trinkets have been found with practically every skeleton yet uncovered, it was said, which leads them to believe that all skeletons yet uncovered are not of pre-historic aborigines.

One of the reasons for excavating the Peachtree mound is the belief of archaeologists of the Smithsonian Institution that this particular mound marked the site of the ancient city of Guasili, mentioned in history by the original narrators as having been visited by Hernando De Soto's expedition of exploration in 1540. It is their hope to find evidence within the mound that will reveal early Spanish culture and influence definitely in this section of the country.

So far as early Spanish culture and influence in this immediate section is concerned, it appears that definite evidence is available, but authenticated only by tradition.

On top of the ridge of mountains, about half a mile east of Tomotla, between Murphy and Marble, are a number of old mine shafts and tunnels, which tradition from time immemorial says was sunk by the Spaniards under De Soto. However, De Soto passed through the section so rapidly that there is little likelihood that he or any of his men sunk the shafts, although evidence around the shafts and tradition strongly support the belief that a later expedition of Spaniards did actually work them.

William R. Dockery, of Marble, a native of this section, who has mined and sunk shafts himself in these mountains and in Colorado, Montana and Idaho, and who followed lumbering and logging for a number of years, related an interesting story about these old mining shafts from having personally assisted in exploring some of them in 1913 and 1914.

Mr. Dockery is the owner of what is believed to be an old Spanish pick found in a mine tunnel on the eastern slope of the mountain ridge east of Tomotla, which was explored by him and his brother-in-law, the late C. C. Moore.

In the winter of 1914, while prospecting on the mountain east of Tomotla, they ran across a slight depression in the earth. Examination showed it to be the mouth of a tunnel. The timbers at the entrance had rotted and caved in. They explored the tunnel a distance of six or eight feet, and found the pick in question.

The pick is of iron, the grains indicating that it was hammered out by hand. Both points are slender and curve sharply inward. The original handle is still in the pick, and is very short, indicating that it was made to use in close quarters.

Sometime after he found the pick, Mr. Dockery said the tunnel caved in for a length of about forty feet. In the edge of this tunnel, about 20 feet back from the original entrance, stands an oak stump more than 15 inches in diameter, now decayed and rotten. This he said, indicated that the tunnel was very old. Nothing is known about it, however, earlier than when he and Mr. Moore discovered it in 1914. At the time of discovery, there was no indication of a dirt dump either adjacent or in the vicinity of the tunnel mouth.

On top of the mountain, a short distance to the west he pointed out a mine shaft 50 feet in diameter and 25 feet deep. A large dirt dump several feet high surrounds the shaft. He said the shaft had caved in around the top, which accounted for it being so wide. Upon the dump next to the shaft, he pointed out a stump, now rotten and decayed, which he said measured 14 inches in diameter, indicating that the shaft was sunk there many years ago.

Six hundred and fifty feet to the west he pointed out a second shaft, and a third just 75 feet to the north of it. The second shaft, Mr. Dockery said he helped discovered in 1913 and assisted in exploring for a depth of 64 feet.

He and the Palmer brothers, J. F., B. B., and Henry—opened the shaft for the Palmer boy's father, who was about 80 years old. Mr. Palmer had somehow come into possession of a way-bill to the mine from some Indian of the West. The way-bill directed that they dig immediately beneath a forked chestnut tree near the top of the ridge. The tree was located, and was 15 inches in diameter at the time.

After cutting down the tree, he said 44 rings were counted in the stump indicating its age. They then dug up the stump, and found the entrance to the shaft. The ground around the tree and shaft was level, he said, and there was no indication about that a dump was ever there. The tree stood in the center of the shaft.

The entrance to the shaft was 9 feet square, and held this dimension all the way down for 64 feet, he said, at which level they were forced to give up further exploration because of water flooding the shaft at that depth. The dirt which filled the shaft was of a soft talc formation. After going down for 64 feet, Mr. Dockery said he took a 20 foot piece of piping and sunk it with ease 17 feet deeper. At a depth of about 50 feet, Mr. Dockery said they found a piece of what he called "Lynn bark" rope, which is now in the possession of Dr. S. C. Heighway, of Murphy and Waynesville.

The timbers and boards which banked the walls of the shaft were all of oak, hewn and split. The manner in which the beams were joined together, he said, indicated that the tools used in manufacturing the walls were augers, saws and axes. He explained this conclusion by saying that the timbers were placed at 3 foot intervals down the shaft as far as they were able to explore, and boards were driven in back of these timbers to form the wall for holding back cave-ins. The timbers were joined together by mortise and tenon. Marks and signs in the manufacture of the mortise and tenon, led him to believe

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SCHOOL NEWS

The grammar school will enter a course in music appreciation on January 15th, sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club. Prizes will be given to those who take part. Mrs. Davidson, music supervisor, will be in charge of the contest.

MR. ELDER HEMBREE DONATES SHRUBBERY

Before Christmas Mr. Hembree donated two truck loads of native shrubbery to the school. It was planted by the CWA workmen. The school wishes to thank Mr. Hembree for this donation.

MURPHY LOSES TWO GAMES TO CHEROKEE

The Murphy basketball teams lost both games in a double header to the Cherokee Indians Saturday, Jan. 6, by scores of: Girls 20-16 and Boys 17-5.

The girls played a very exciting game from start to finish, but due to loss of two players, were not able to withstand the offensive playing of the heavier and more experienced Cherokee team.

The boys game was very loosely played. The starting lineup was unable to click, and was replaced at the half by the entire second half.

fast Indians to a count of 2-2 during the second stringers, who held the Murphy will play their next game with Epworth, Ga. there Jan. 9.

HONOR ROLL FOR SEVENTH GRADE

Joe Miller Elkins, Frances Calhoun, Mildred Hill, Billie Jackson, Louise Leatherwood, Kathleen Roberts, Sarah Witherspoon, Sara Sword.

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL FOR DECEMBER

Hoyt Phillips, Freeland Ballew, Ernest Hawkins, Ruby Wells, Beatrice Davidson.

TENTH GRADE

Ersa McNabb, Ruth Hampton.

NINTH GRADE GIRLS

Miss Padgett, Emma Lee Ellis, Ann Hill, Winfred Townson.

EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS

Ruth Palmer, Miss Moser, teacher.

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL FOR FIRST SEMESTER

ELEVENTH GRADE

Ernest Hawkins, Ruby Wells, Miss Hoyt Phillips, Freeland Ballew, Latham, teacher.

TENTH GRADE

Pruden Davidson, Martin Montgomery, Roy Suit, Ruth Hampton, Miss Courtney, teacher.

NINTH GRADE GIRLS

Mae Timpson, Miss LeMay teacher.

NINTH GRADE GIRLS

Emma Lee Ellis, Anne Hill, Miss Padgett, teacher.

EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS

Ruth Palmer, Miss Moser, teacher.

SEMSTER ATTENDANCE HONOR ROLL

Those who have not been absent so far this year.

ELEVENTH GRADE

Louise Axley, Ernest Hawkins, Maggie Kisselburg, Hoyt Phillips, Irene Ramsey, Edna Mae Thompson, Robbie Williamson, Beatrice Davidson, Charles Hyatt, Miss Lachman, teacher.

TENTH GRADE

Tom Axley, Harley Bantor, Roscoe Dockery, Joanny Keenum, Hoyt Kilpatrick, Henry Luckett, Ersa McNabb, Vaul Adams, Maggie Anderson, Marie Gregory, Allene Hampton, Edna Hampton, Ruth Hampton, Virginia E. Lovingsood, Anna Lee Queen, Annie R. Watkins, Miss Courtney, teacher.

NINTH GRADE

Margaret Boyd, Catherine Coleman Emma Lee Ellis, Carrie Mae Evans, Willa Bell Evans, Dortha Grace, Ann Hill, Mozelle Moore, Mable Payne, Violet Phillips.

NINTH GRADE

Fay Akins, Neville Vee Hancock, Mae Timpson, Miss LeMay, teacher.

NINTH GRADE

J. O. Hensley, Jake McClure, Wilson Palmer, Claude Payne, Elmer Miles and George Tate Williamson. Miss Hatchcock, teacher.

EIGHTH GRADE BOYS

Edgar Weaver, Morris Miller, Vincine Queen, Frank Stalcup, J. L. Shields, Vincent Stiles, Mr. Carroll, teacher.

EIGHTH GRADE BOYS

Tye Burnett, Tyson Axley, Charley Curley, Orlen Clonts, M. J. Jordan, John Jordan, Troy Hampton, Mr. Wright, teacher.

EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS

Essie Mae Cavender, Elizabeth Gray, Mabel Hall, Hazel Hampton, Beatrice Howard, Christine Howell.

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FATHER OF DR. PARKER DIED IN WILKESBORO. MON.

J. L. Parker, 82, father of Dr. R. S. Parker, of Murphy, died at his home in North Wilkesboro Monday afternoon about 5 o'clock. For the past few years he had been in feeble health, due from old age and its attendant ills.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the residence in North Wilkesboro, and interment was in the family burial ground. The Rev. Linney, pastor of the Wilkesboro Baptist church officiated.

He is survived by his wife and seven children: Five sons, Harrison Parker, of Taylorsville, Ill.; R. S. Parker, of Murphy; Julius Parker, of Tallahassee, Fla.; Virgil Parker, of Lexington; Lawson Parker of Wilkesboro; two daughters, Mrs. Edgar Brown and Miss Dora Parker, of Greensboro; two brothers, P. M. and L. P. Parker, of Wilkesboro.

HARRY LAHN IS TAKEN BY DEATH

Harry Lahn, prominent Murphy merchant, died suddenly of heart disease last Saturday at 12:45 o'clock.

Shortly before noon, Mr. Lahn complained of pains near his heart and his physician advised him to go home and go to bed. He died soon afterwards.

Mr. Lahn came here from Copperhill, Tenn., two years ago and entered the dry goods business. He was a member of the Lions club and was active in civic affairs.

The body was carried to Baltimore, Md., Sunday for funeral and burial.

Surviving are his widow; two daughters, Muriel and Dorothy; one brother; three sisters, and his mother.

BANK MURPHY STOCKHOLDERS WIN APPEAL

The new stockholders of the Bank of Murphy won their case before the supreme court, according to news dispatches in the daily press Wednesday. The Superior court about a year ago upheld the appeal from a stock assessment by Gurney P. Hood, Commissioner of Banks, in assessing the new stockholders to the amount of \$15,000.00, the amount of new stock which was subscribed when the bank opened following its first closing about three years ago. The lower court denied the appeal, but the supreme court reversed the decision of the lower court when the appeal was taken before it.

The new stockholders were appealing from the commissioner of banks, and suing for the amount of the new and suing for the amount of the new stock subscribed. The appeal portion of the suit was heard and now the portion to recover the \$15,000.00 will be heard, probably at the next term of court, which meets here on Monday, January 22nd.

FUNERAL RITES LAST FRIDAY FOR ANDREWS MAN

Taps were sounded for Boyd C. Slagle 40, who was buried with American Legion honors in the Andrews cemetery last Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Slagle who was an ex-soldier and unmarried was found dead Wednesday at his home in Clay County where he had lived alone for some time. His throat slashed from ear to ear. He is believed to have committed suicide.

A brief funeral service was conducted at the home of his sister, Mrs. W. W. Ashe of Andrews, by the Rev. K. S. Eskridge, pastor of the Andrews Presbyterian church assisted by the Rev. R. W. Prevost and the Rev. E. F. Trotman.

The active pallbearers were Jake Baxter, Fred E. Swanson, J. V. McGuire, Bruce Bristol, Frank Clark, and Grady Hogsd. The honorary pallbearers were members of the Leslie Stillman Post of the American Legion and other ex-service men.

Slagle is survived by his mother, Mrs. Ida Slagle of Andrews; two sisters, Mrs. W. W. Ashe of Andrews and Mrs. H. Williams of Asheville; and three brothers, Edward Slagle of Orlando, Fla. and Cliff and Arnold Slagle of Detroit.

Library Hours

The following change in Library hours was announced this week by Miss Josephine Heighway, librarian: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 2 to 5 p. m. Saturday night, 7 to 9 o'clock.

BALL IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT PLANNED HERE

Walter Mauney Appointed Chairman of Birthday Celebration At Murphy

In celebration of his fifty-second birthday, an elaborate Birthday Ball for President Roosevelt will be held in Murphy on Tuesday evening January 30th.

Murphy will be one of the 5,900 cities and towns throughout the United States in which such a ball will be held to honor the New Deal President and to raise, from ticket sales, an endowment fund for the Georgia Springs foundation, created in 1926 by President Roosevelt, so that the foundation may carry on its national crusade against infantile paralysis.

Walter Mauney, Murphy druggist and civic leader, has been appointed general chairman of the Murphy ball by Henry L. Doherty, New York public utilities financier, who is chairman of the national committee for the Birthday Ball for the President. Mr. Mauney was recommended in response to a request from Mr. Doherty by C. W. Bailey, editor of the Cherokee Scout.

To make the President's Ball one of the largest in the town and one of the most important in the smaller towns in the national Birthday Celebration, Mr. Mauney will appoint a number of Murphy people on the committee to serve with him to develop plans for and promote the program, full details of which will be announced in next week's Scout.

Mr. Mauney was apprised of his appointment in the following letter: New York, December 29, 1933.

Mr. Walter Mauney, Murphy, N. C.

Dear Mr. Mauney: It gives me great pleasure, as Chairman of the National Committee, to appoint you general chairman of The Birthday Ball for the President your community.

Since this birthday party for the President is of nation-wide scope, you will want your local party to be outstandingly successful.

We are sure that you will have the support of citizens in all walks of life because the work of the Warm Springs Foundation, founded by President Roosevelt, is truly national as the problem of infantile paralysis affects every family and the welfare of every child in your community.

Your committee can play a great part in this humanitarian work and help relieve the President of his concern in relation to this problem.

We will forward to you, within a few days, a certificate evidencing your appointment.

Sincerely yours, HENRY L. DOHERTY, National Chairman

The Birthday Ball for the President

JURORS DRAWN FOR JANUARY TERM COURT

Following is a list of the jurors drawn for the two weeks civil term of court which begins, Monday January 22nd:

FIRST WEEK

Neal C. Hay, Andrews; D. S. Davis Grandview; A. D. Self, Postell; Tom Curtis, Culberson; J. S. Martain, Ranger, Noah McDonald, Murphy; R. C. Moore, Topton; M. S. Mnteson, Andrews; H. S. Sudderth, Murphy; Lee Owenby, Murphy; Chester Farmer, Unaka; W. A. West, Andrews; R. A. Shields, Culberson; Garfield Morrow, Violet; F. M. Bowers, Brasstown; Bob Bristol, Andrews; Guy Eller, Patrick; Arthur Palmer, Marble; W. M. Bradley, Andrews; J. T. Postell, Andrews, Oscar Taylor, Suit; George McFee, Suit; C. S. Evans, Murphy; Lum Nichols, Culberson.

SECOND WEEK

W. A. Elliott, Murphy; J. W. Hatchett, Murphy; Luther Murphy, Violet; Edgar Taylor, Suit; J. L. Arp, Culberson; J. B. Johnson, Suit; J. O. Penland, Brasstown; J. C. Wells, Murphy; Tom McClure, Birch; Rollin McDonald, Grandview; E. A. Voyles, Murphy; Jake Walker, Suit; Bob Roberts, Murphy; W. B. Raper, Brasstown; W. A. Smith, Culberson; Harve Carringer, Murphy; James Jones, Sr., Andrews; Fred Foister, Ranger; J. P. Decker, Suit; Lawson Lunsford, Murphy; Jud Morgan, Culberson; Tom Spencer, Murphy; E. E. Davis, Murphy.