A photograph of a grassy mound, likely a prehistoric site, with a dirt path leading up to it. The scene is framed by trees and a sky with some clouds. The text "MYTH" is overlaid in a black box.

MYTH

OF THE

MOUNDBUILDERS





MOUNDS



















WOODHENGE



PARK

44

91

B

43

42

76

75

74

58

PICNIC AREA

48

57

GRAND PLAZA

56

TWIN MOUNDS

59

60

STOCKADE

BORROW PIT

94

72

SAND PRAIRIE LN.

COLLINSVILLE RD.

40 55 70

39

77

41

MONKS MOUND

STOCKADE

37

36

PARK

51

50

54

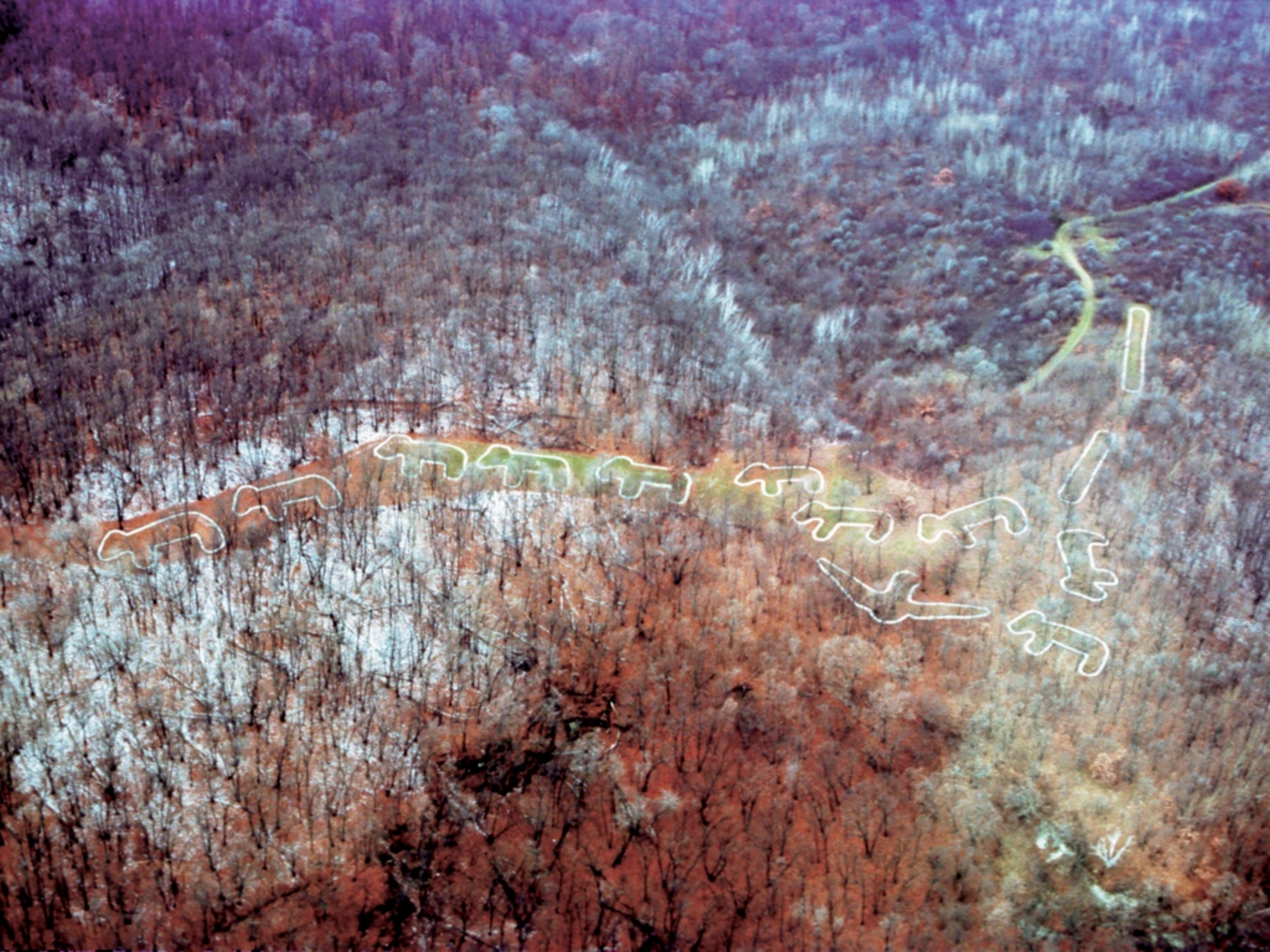
RAMEY ST.

55









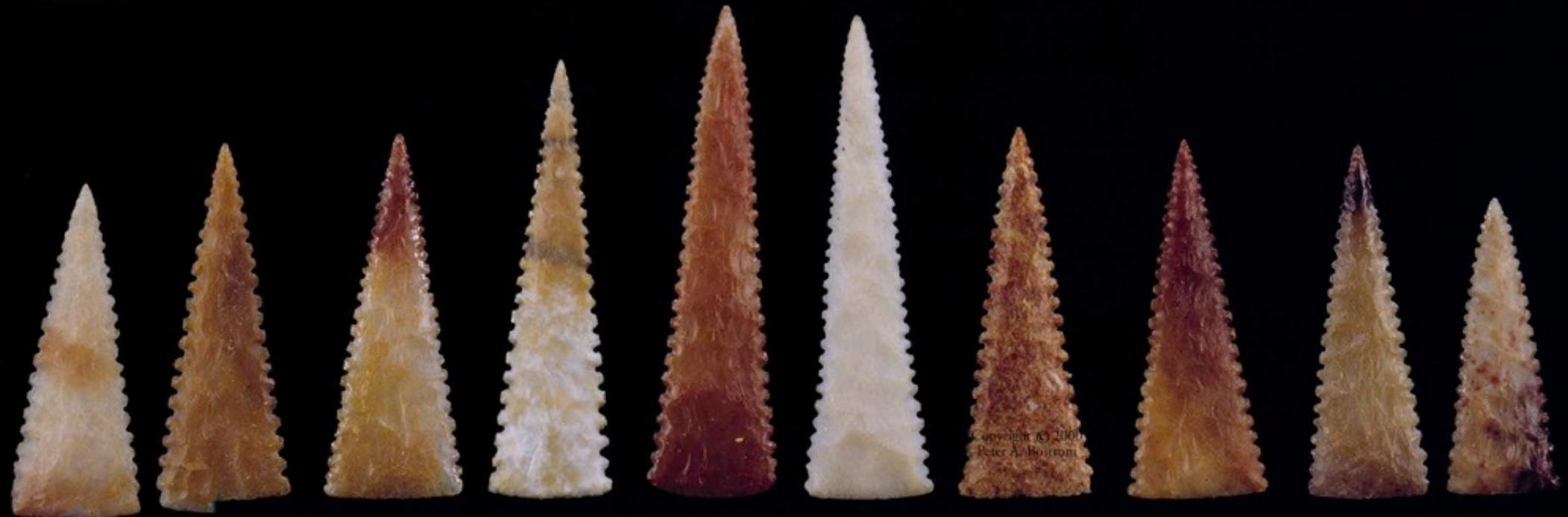
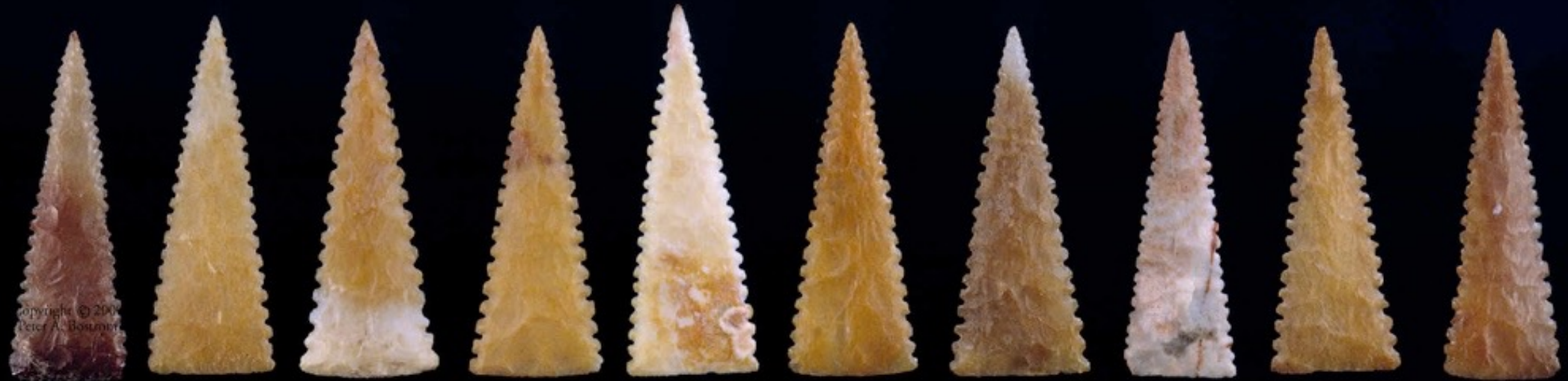




MOUNDBUILDER

ARTIFACTS









Brought to life
in CAHOXIA
PISTE XIX
Coll. Titterton
Mission Co. Ill.

CAHOXIA
PISTE XIX









Painted Ceramic Bottle, found at Moundville, circa AD 1300-1450. This style originated in the Tennessee Valley.



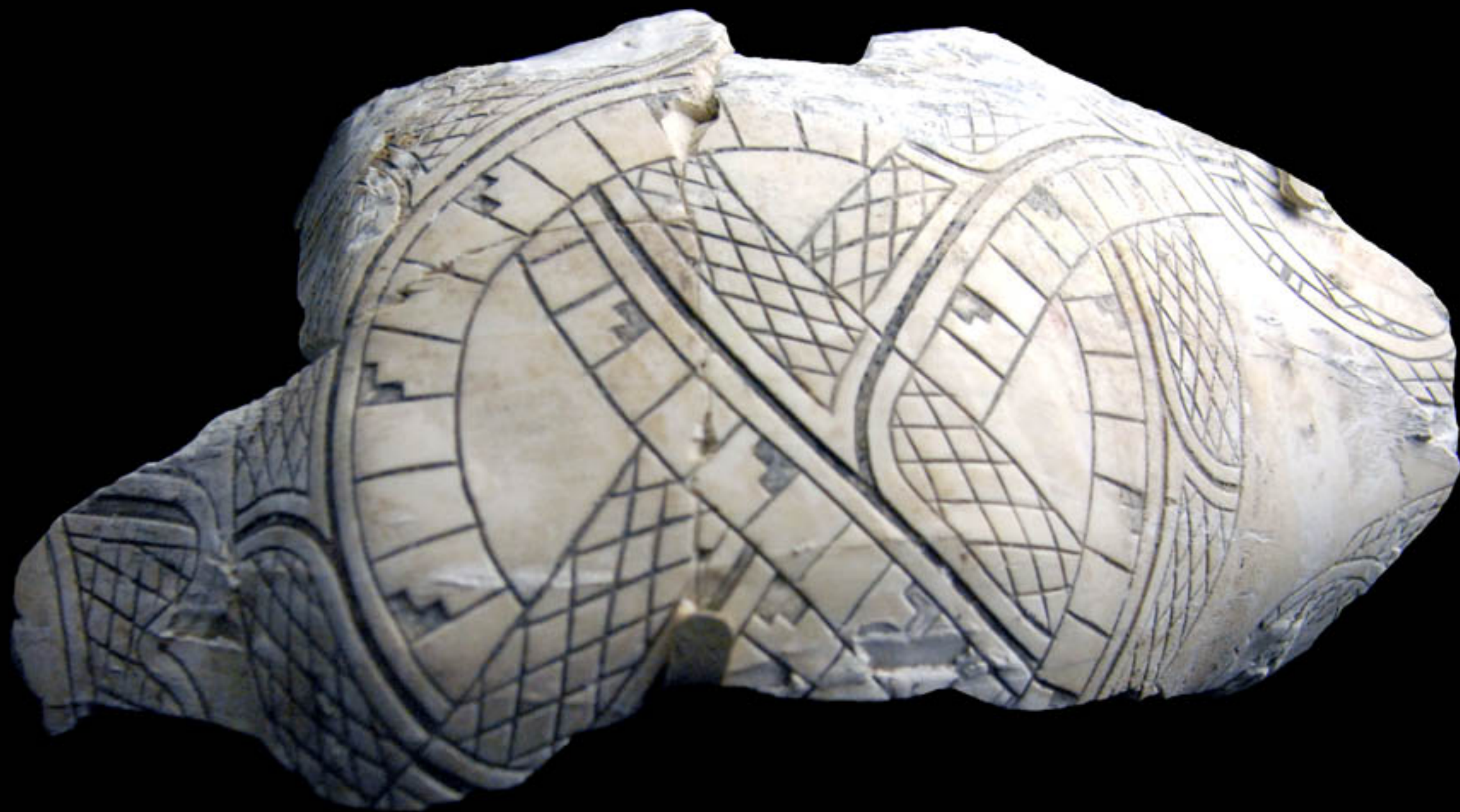
Painted Ceramic Bottle, created in the Caddoan style. Found at Moundville, circa AD 1300-1450. The Caddoan style originated in Western Louisiana and Eastern Texas.

MOUNDVILLE'S CONTACT WITH OTHER MISSISSIPPIAN SITES

Interestingly, Moundville not only









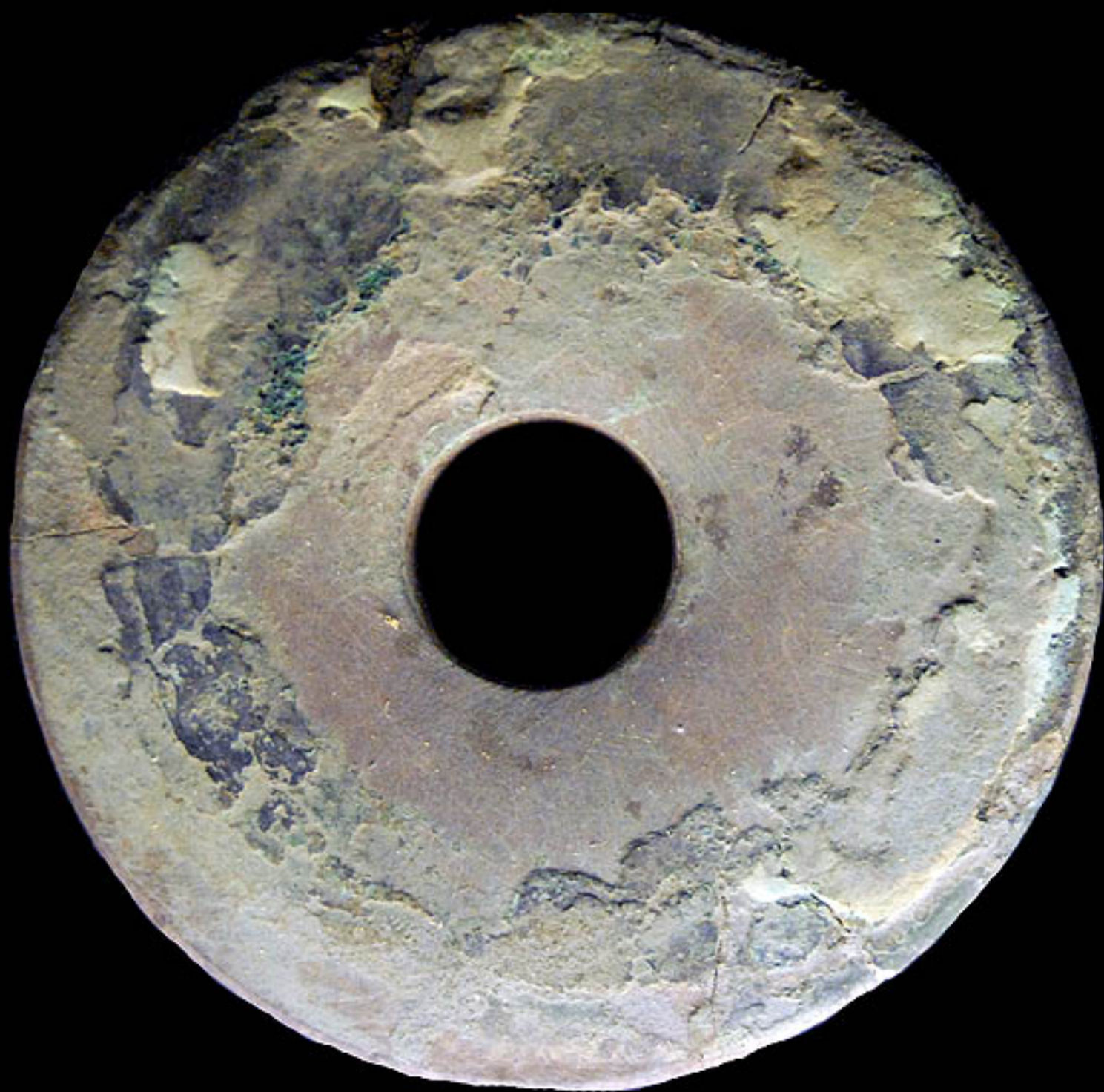


















WHO?

MYTH
OF THE
VANISHED
RACE

1

First Nations peoples were too primitive to have built the mounds and produced the beautiful stone, metal, and ceramic artifacts attributed to the moundbuilders.

"He was never known voluntarily to engage in an enterprise requiring methodological labor; he dwells in temporary and movable habitations, he follows the game in their migrations. To suppose that such a race threw up the symmetrical mounds which crown so many of our river terraces is as preposterous, almost, as to suppose that they built the pyramids in Egypt."

J.W. Foster, President of the Chicago Academy of Sciences (1873)

"It is absurd to suppose a relationship or connection between the original barbarism of these Indians and the civilization of the moundbuilders"

J.D. Baldwin, Ancient America (1894)

2

The mounds and associated artifacts were much more ancient than even the earliest remnants of First Nations culture

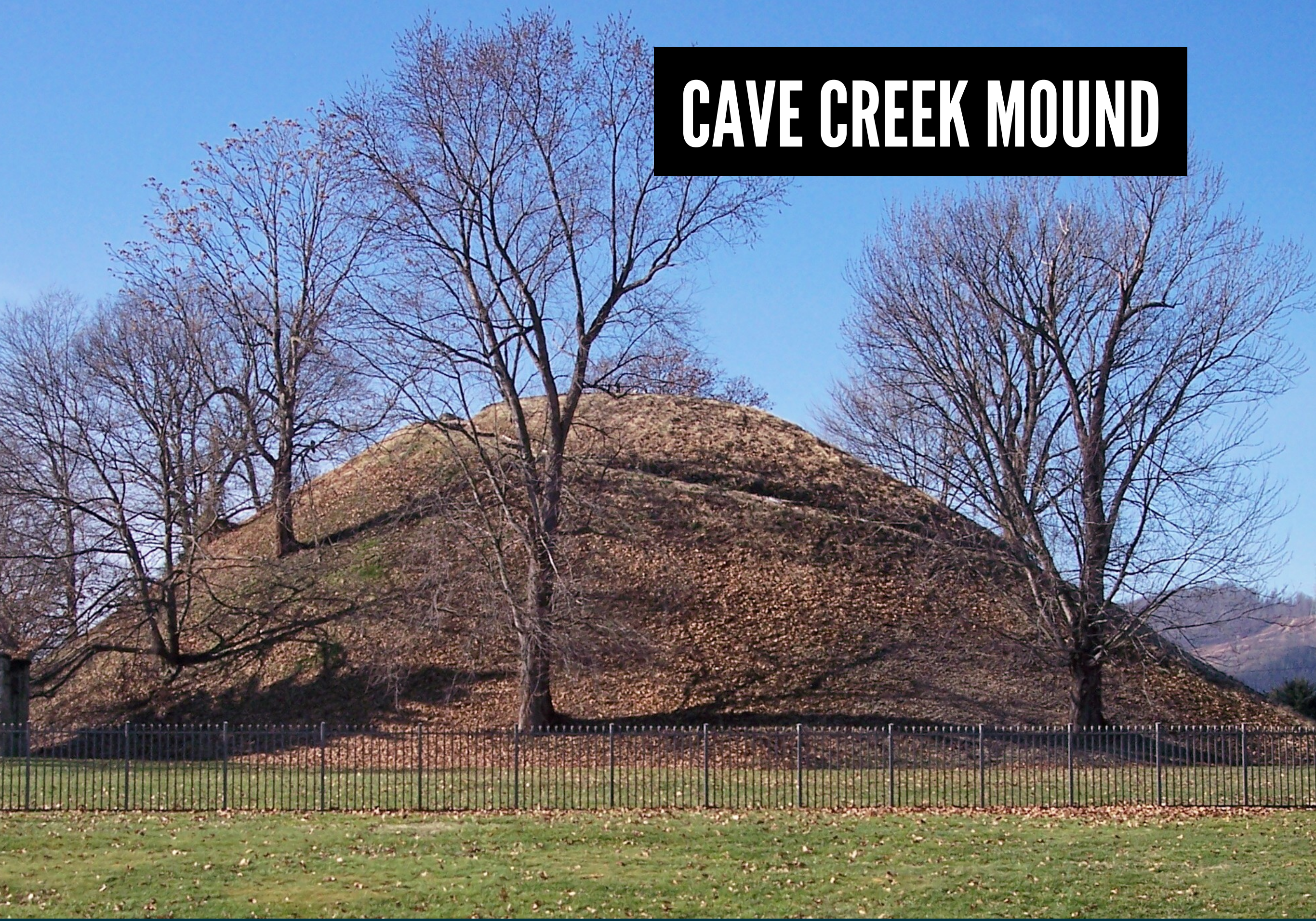
"Indian antiquities are always either on, or a very small distance below the surface, unless buries in some grave; whilst articles evidently belonging to that people who raised our mounds, are frequently found many feet below the surface, especially in river bottoms."

Caleb Atwater, Antiquities Discovered in the Western States (1820)

3

Stone tablets had been found in the mounds that bore supposed inscriptions in European, Asian, or African alphabets

CAVE CREEK MOUND

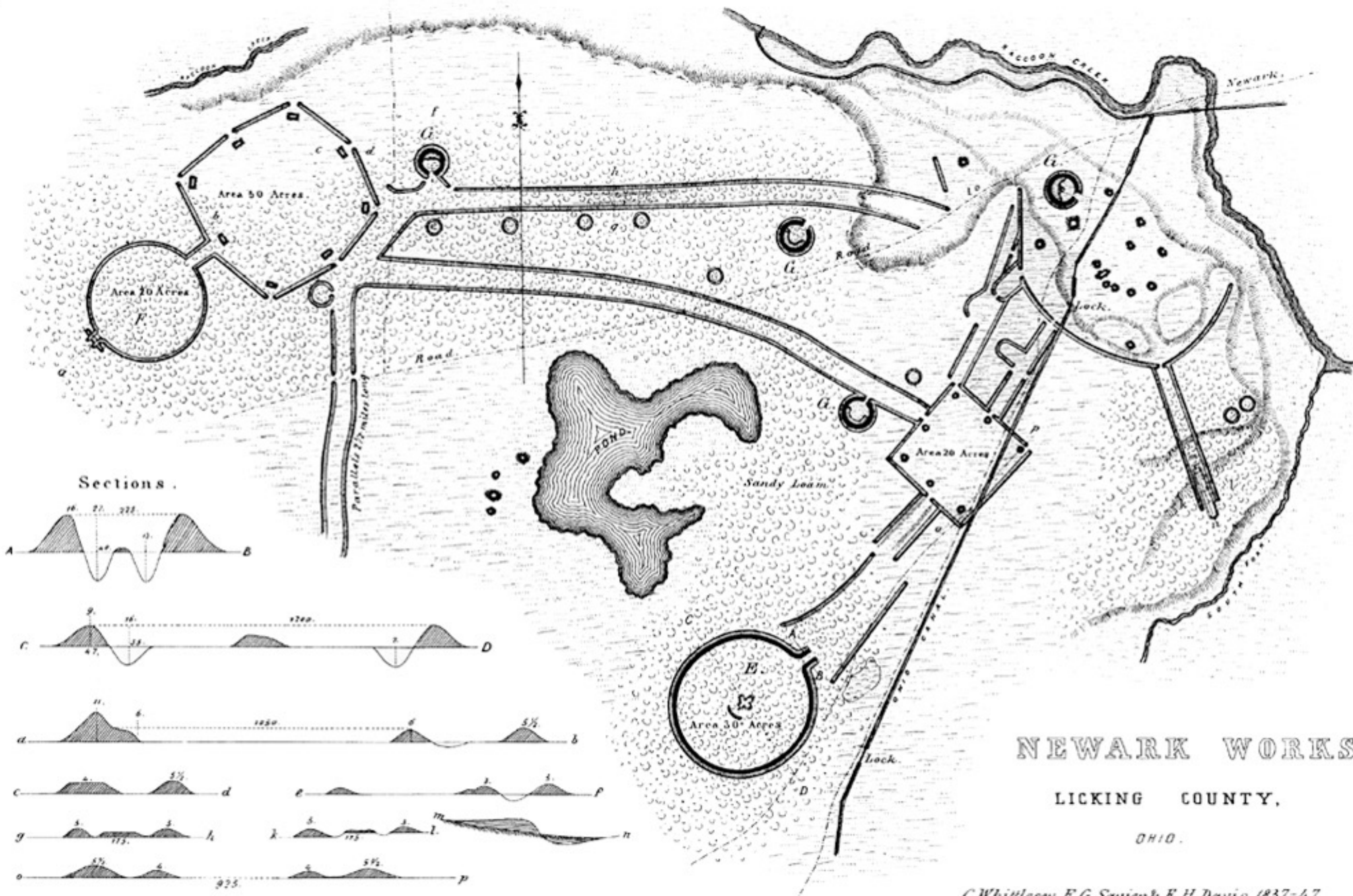




GRAVE CREEK MOUND STONE



NEWARK EARTHWORK



NEWARK WORKS

LICKING COUNTY,

OHIO.

C. Whittlesey, E. G. Squier & E. H. Davis 1837-47.

SCALE.

1300 ft. to the Inch.









BAT CREEK INSCRIPTION



COOK FARM MOUND TABLET

4

First Nations peoples were not building mounds when first contacted by European explorers and settlers. When asked who made the mounds, they professed complete ignorance

"...all the tribes uniformly say that when their ancestors arrived in the West, in order to settle in seclusion, they found the ruins there such as we see them today"

François, René Vicomte de Chateaubriand (1801)

5

Metal artifacts made of iron, silver, ore-derived copper, and various alloys had been found in the mounds





Vikings

Egyptians

Israelites

Greeks

Chinese

Polynesians

Welsh

Phoenicians

Tartars

Saxons

Africans

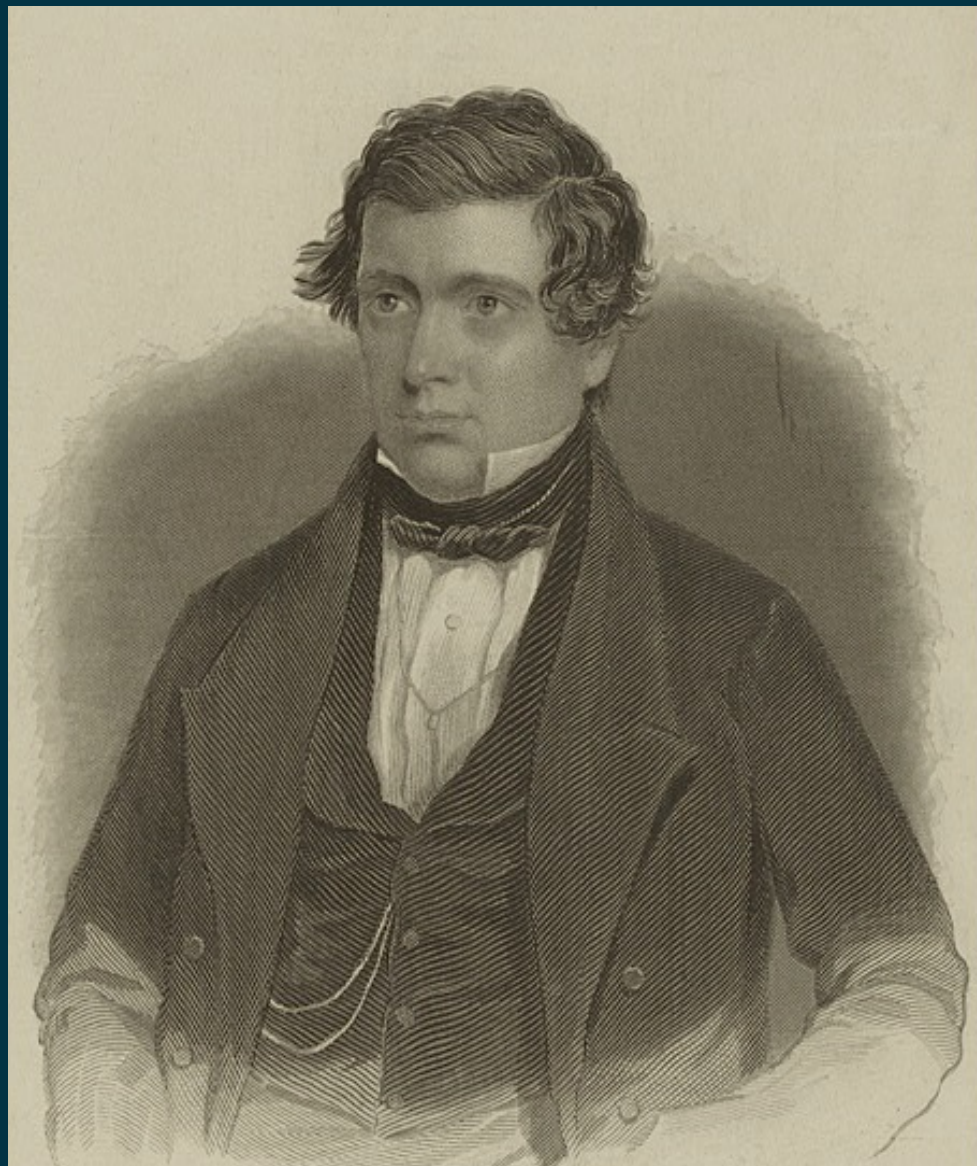
Mexicans

Members of the Hernando de Soto Expedition

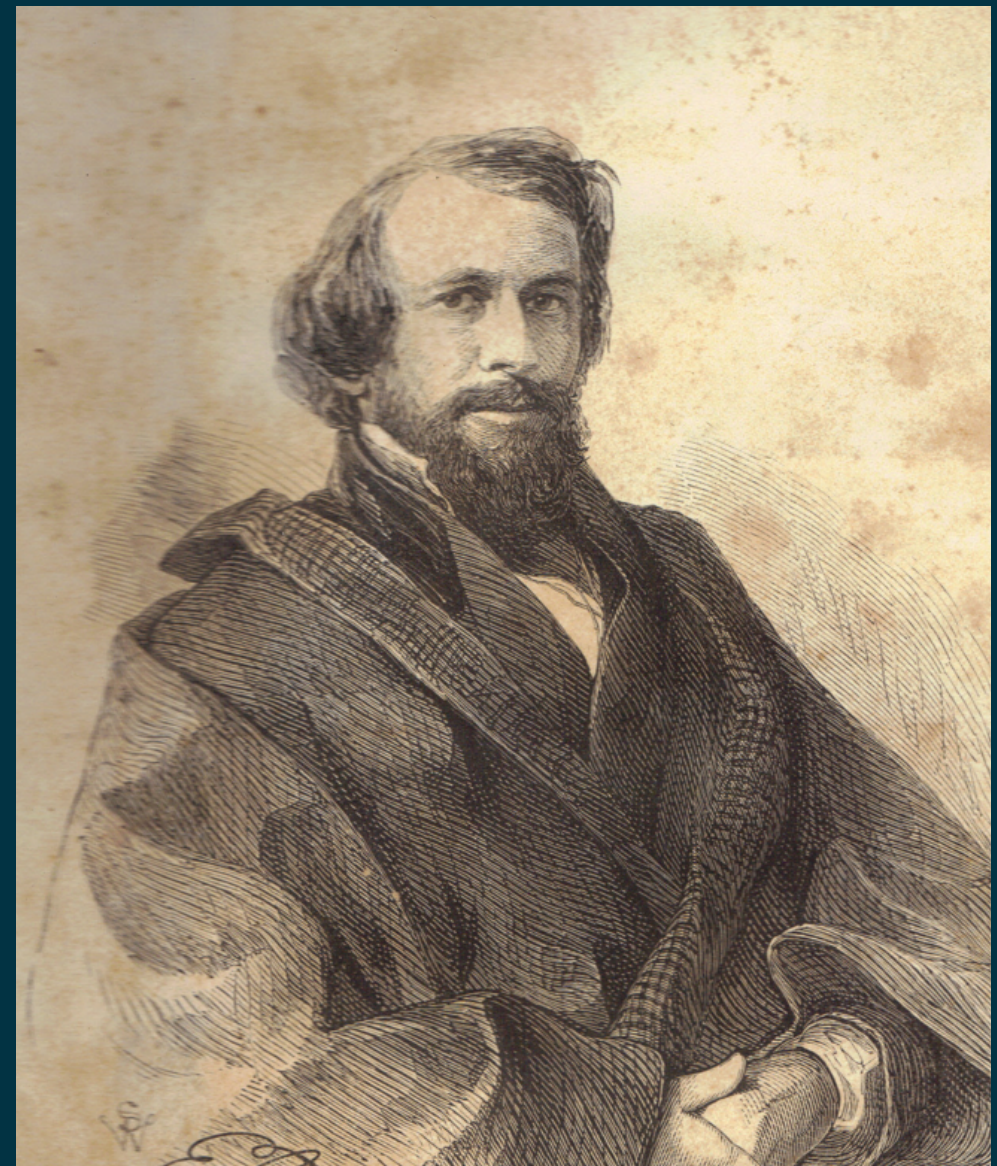
Prince Madoc

Atlanteans (+ other lost continent citizens)

God



EDWIN HAMILTON DAVIS



EPHRAIM GEORGE SQUIER



H. ORR. & RICHARDSON

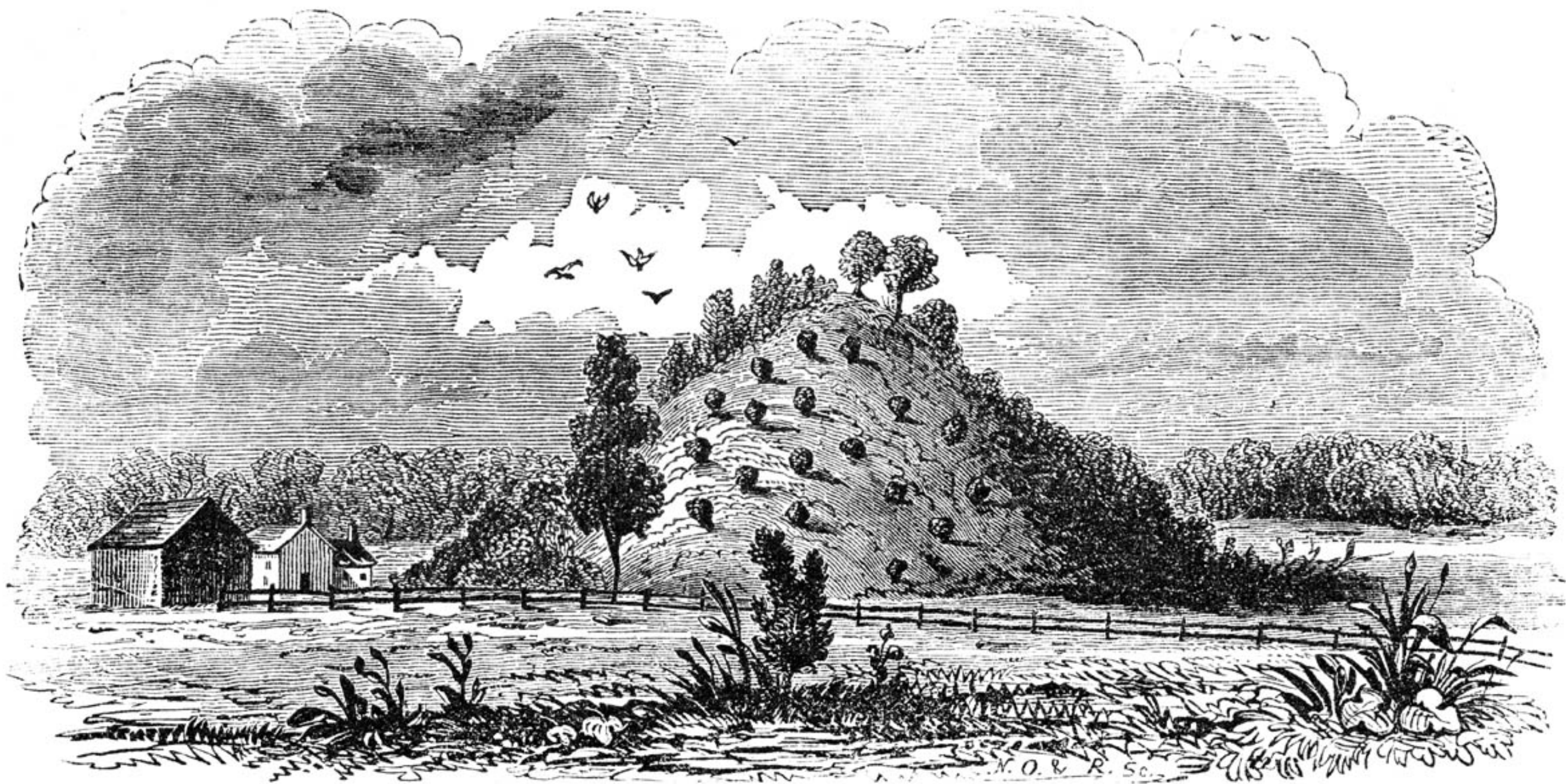
***Ancient Monuments of the
Mississippi Valley (1848)***

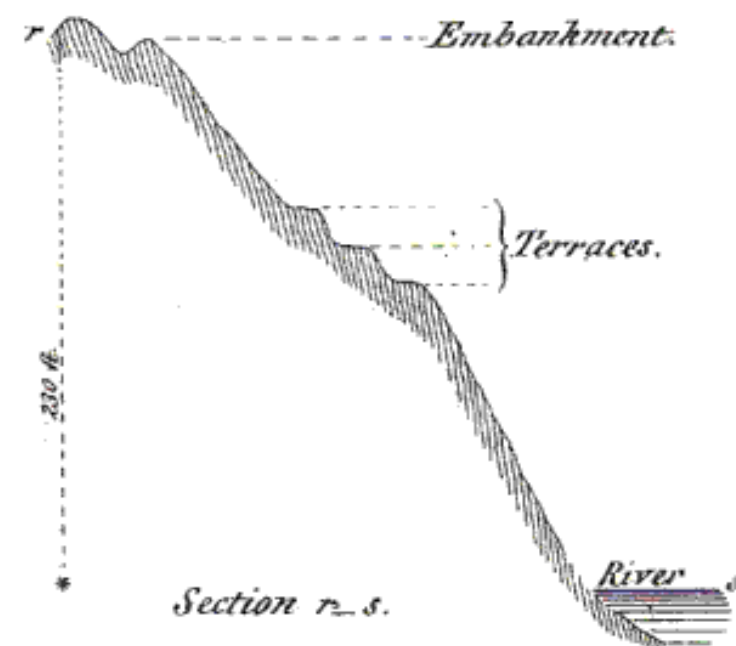
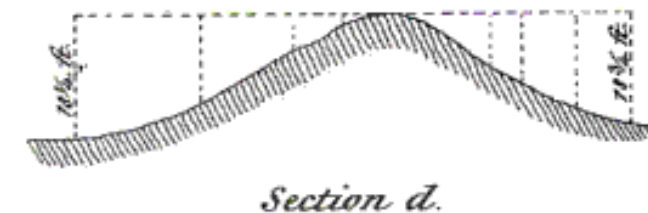
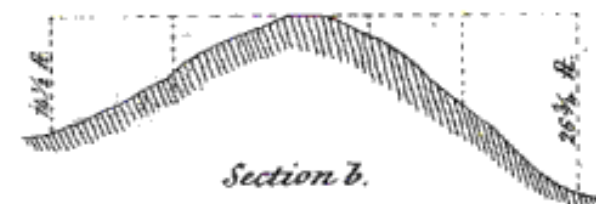
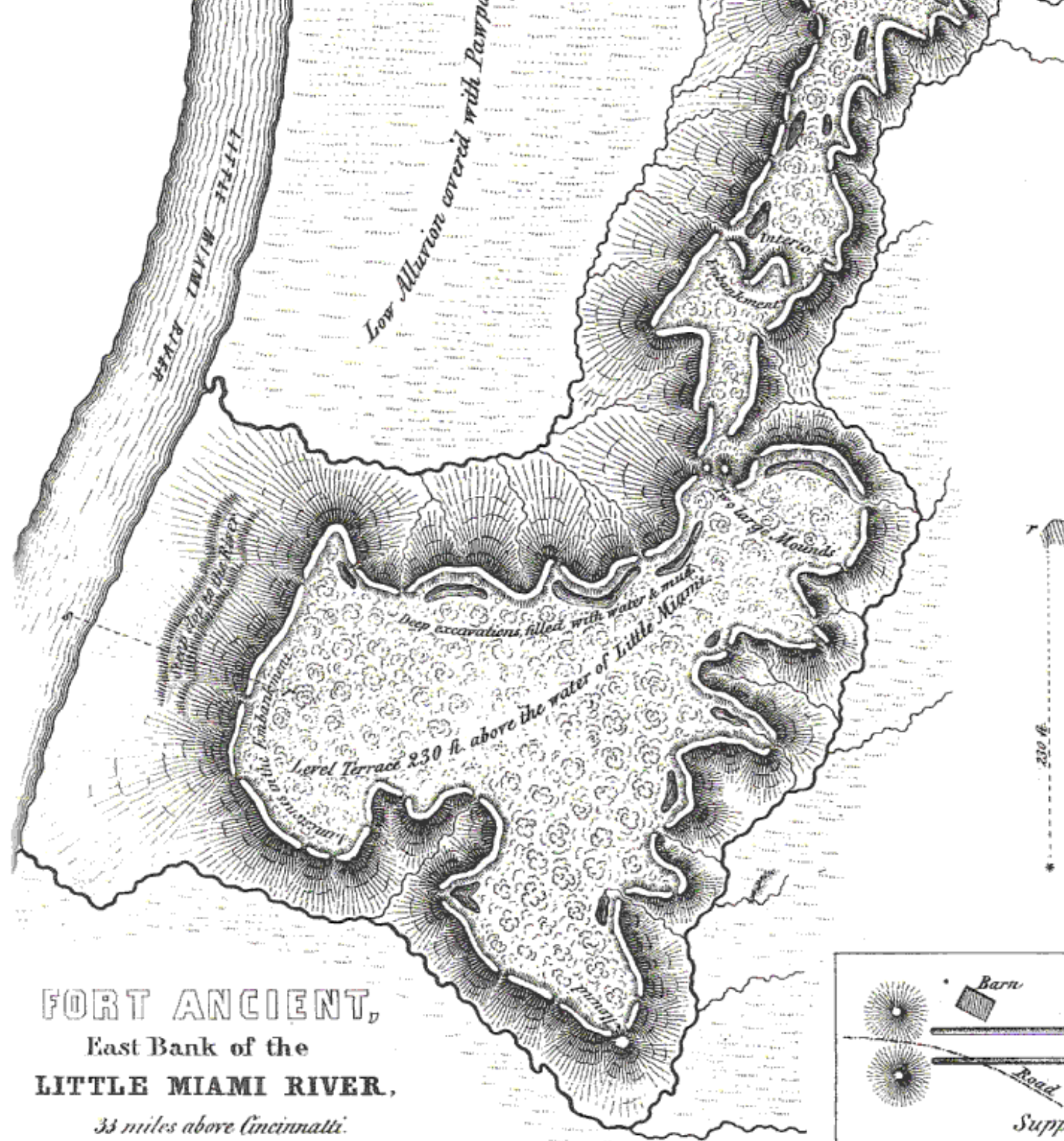


LITH. BY SARGENT & MASON, NEW YORK.

ANCIENT WORKS, MARIETTA, OHIO,

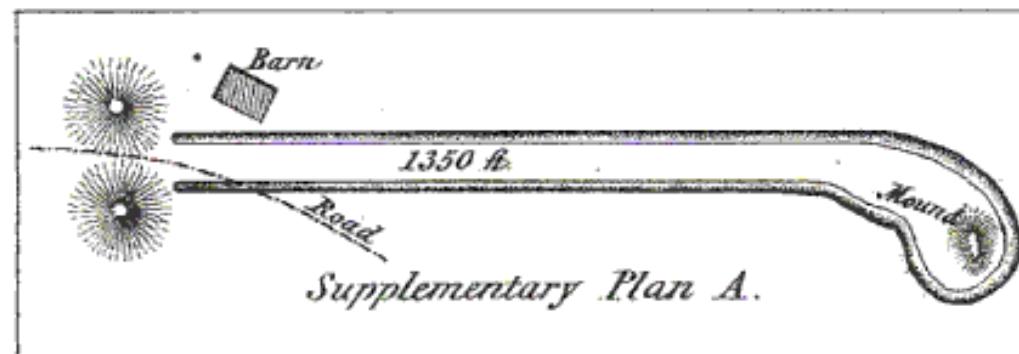
“With no hypothesis to combat or sustain, and with a desire only to arrive at truth, whatever its bearing upon received theories and current prejudices, everything like mere speculation has been avoided”

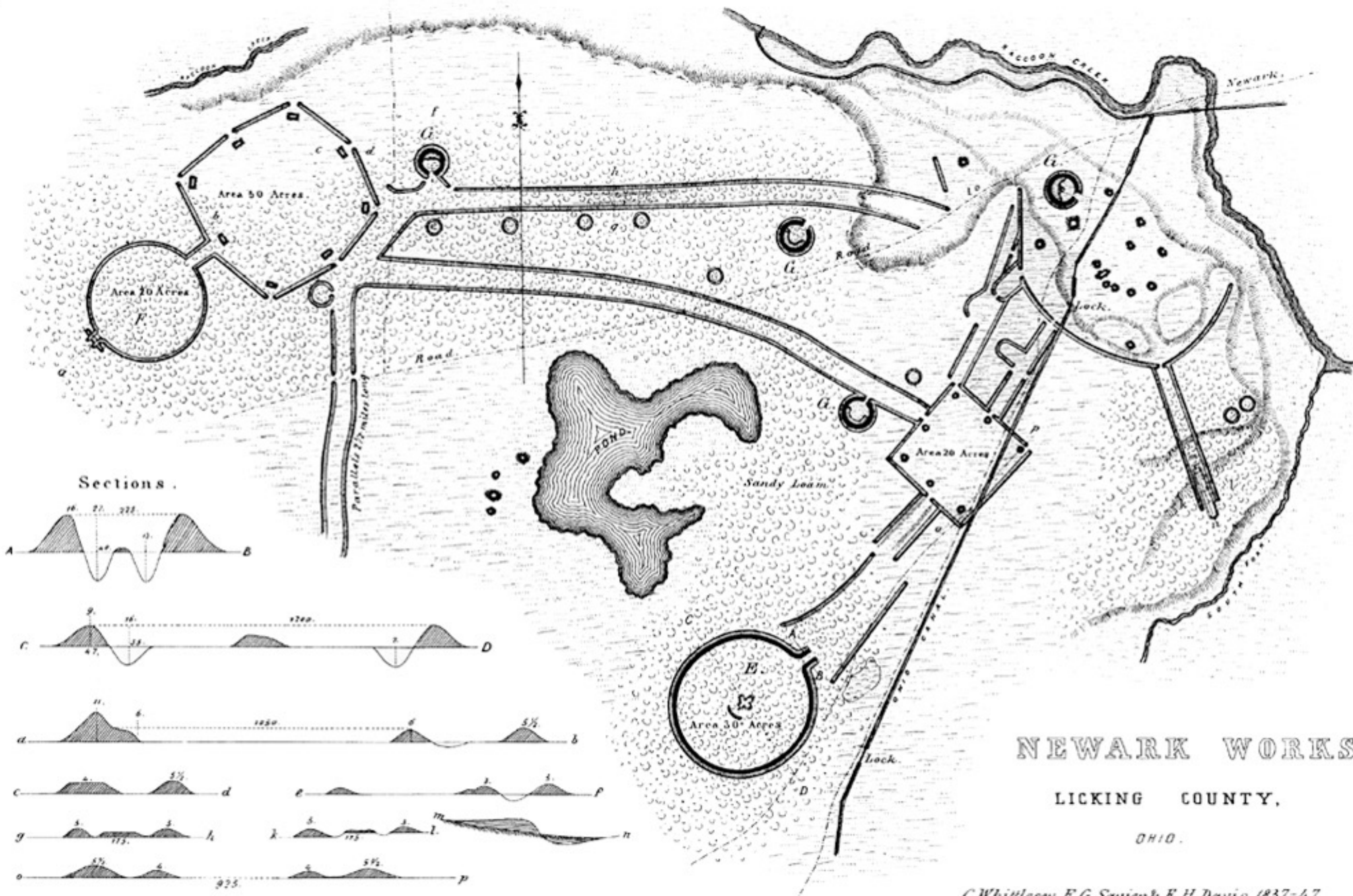




FORT ANCIENT, East Bank of the **LITTLE MIAMI RIVER,**

*33 miles above Cincinnati.
John Lock Surveyor.*



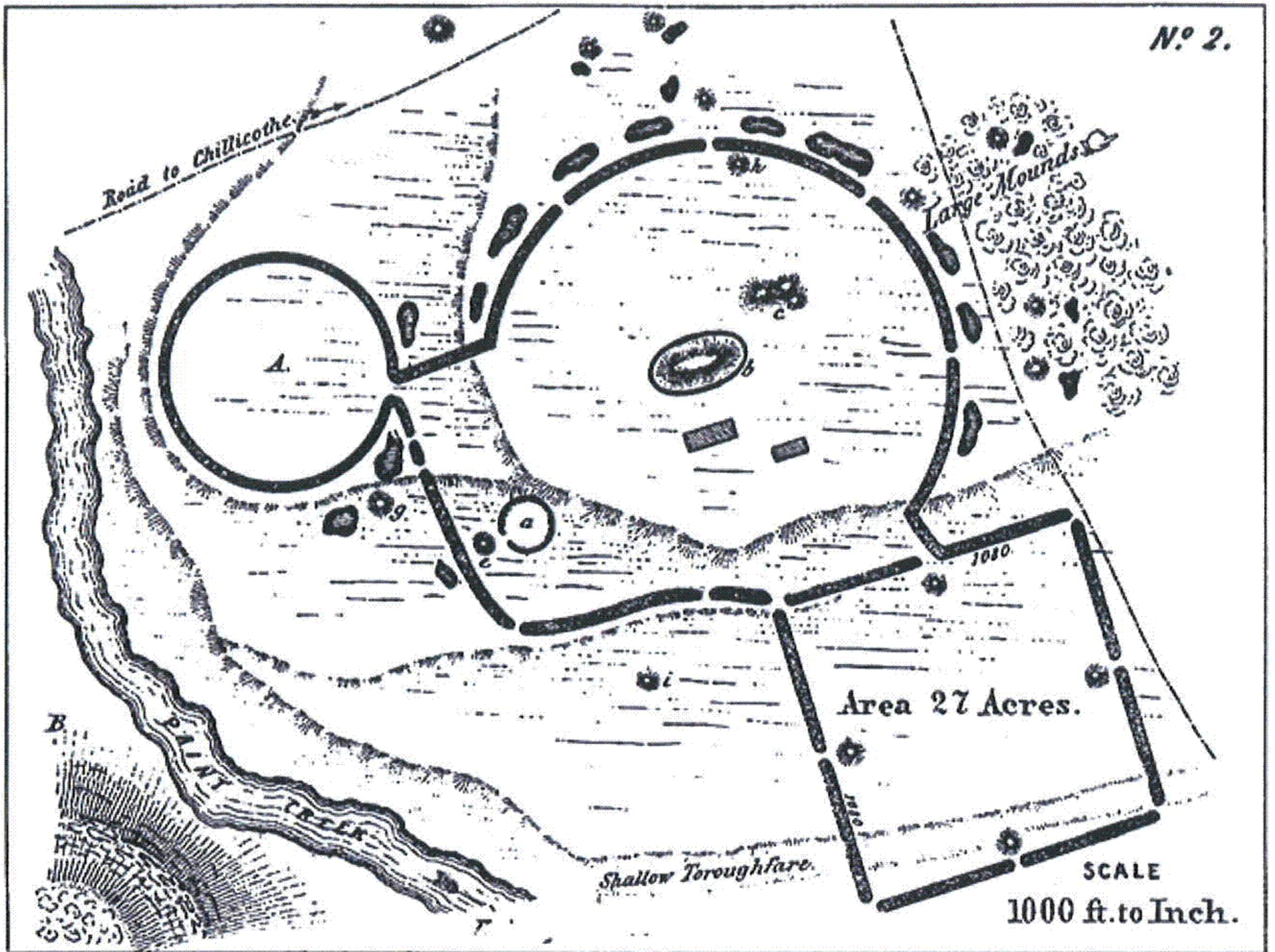


NEWARK WORKS LICKING COUNTY, OHIO.

C. Whittlesey, F. G. Squier & E. H. Davis 1837-47.

SCALE.
1300 ft. to the Inch.

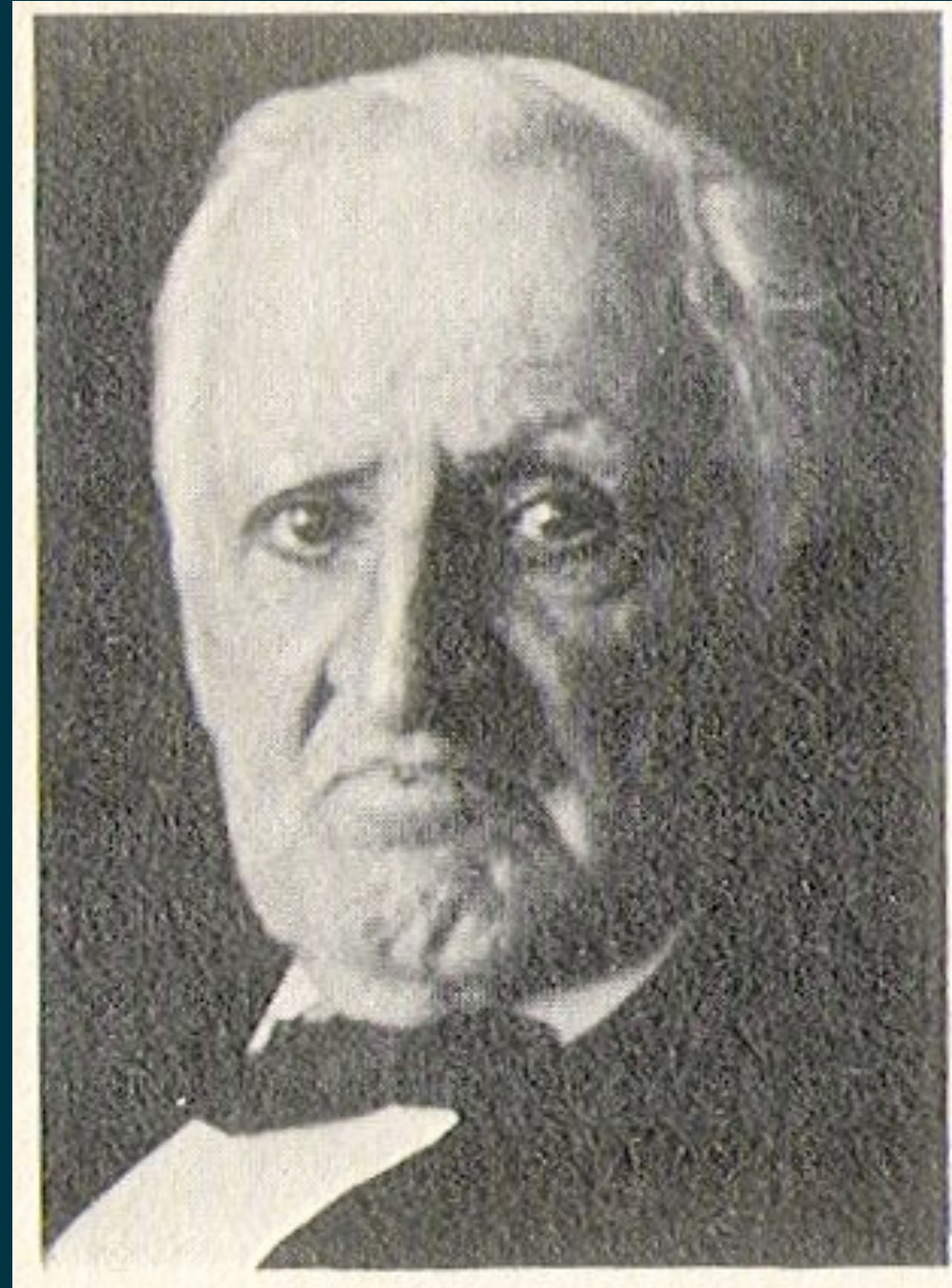
Nº 2.





THE MYSTERY

“SOLVED”



CYRUS THOMAS

(1825-1910)

CYRUS THOMAS

- ★ WELL RESPECTED ENTOMOLOGIST FROM ILLINOIS
- ★ 1882 - HIRED TO DIRECT DIVISION OF MOUND EXPLORATION
(WITHIN THE BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY)
- ★ \$5000 OF THE \$25000 BAE BUDGET BE DEVOTED TO SOLVING
THE MOUND-BUILDER MYSTERY

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
U.S.
BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY

TO THE
SECRETARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

1890-'91

BY
J. W. POWELL
DIRECTOR



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1894

THE END