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# Miscellaneous Investigations in Florida

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#### MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATION IN FLORIDA.

By CLARENCE B. MOORE.

Our archaeological exploration in Florida, during the season of 1904, was unsatisfactory to a certain extent; but as it has ever been our wish to let no investigation of ours pass unrecorded, we give a brief description of the season's work.

#### THE KISSIMMEE REGION.

The Kissimmee river, leaving the southern extremity of Lake Tohopekaliga, on which is the town of Kissimmee, flows through Cypress Lake and Lake Kissimmee, and continues in a southerly course to Lake Okeechobee. A canal connects the southwestern side of Lake Okeechobee with Caloosahatchee river, which empties into San Carlos bay, an arm of the Gulf of Mexico. These geographic features are shown on maps of Florida, and are presented on the outline map accompanying this report, which shows also the scope of all our archaeological work in that State.

A few years ago it was possible, by the aid of certain canals, to make a journey by water, in a steamer of light draught, from Lake Tohopekaliga to the Gulf. Recently, however, the canals had been neglected, and an extensive growth of water-weeds, miles in extent, had formed in Kissimmee river north of Lake Okeechobee; in addition, a heavy dam<sup>1</sup> had been built across Caloosahatchee river, somewhat south of the lake. It was impossible, therefore, at the time of this exploration, for us to take our large, flat-bottomed steamer from the Gulf coast, where she lay, into the Kissimmee region.

Mr. J. S. Raybon, captain of our steamer, an expert in locating mounds, with a companion familiar with the territory, carefully traversed the region between Lakes Tohopekaliga and Okeechobee, inclusive. The report, however, was discouraging. Nowhere was there news of the discovery of earthenware vessels, and such few objects as were reported to have been found by the inhabitants were mainly of European make, and, perhaps, intrusive.

Lake Okeechobee was reported to be surrounded by marsh, and to be without mounds. Nevertheless, we determined to explore the region, if possible, and for this purpose chartered a small steamer which took in tow a flat-boat on which quarters had been built for the use of our colored mound-diggers.

After investigation of the mounds of Lake Tohopekaliga, which was practically without positive result, as the appended account will show, a severe accident occurred to our steam-boiler, which would have rendered the boat useless for a considerable time. No other boat being available, the investigation of the region was therefore abandoned.

<sup>1</sup> Since removed.

## MOUNDS OF LAKE TOHOPEKALIGA, OSCEOLA COUNTY.

## MOUND NEAR KISSIMMEE.

In a prairie, near the lake-shore, about one mile in a SSW. direction from the town of Kissimmee, on land of Mr. Walter Bass, Sr., of Kissimmee, is a mound, circular in outline, that has been much pawed and trampled by cattle. Its present height and diameter of base are 3 feet and 80 feet, respectively. It is built of sand, as are all the mounds of Lake Tohopekaliga.

Twelve excavations, each about 3 feet square, extending to the base of this mound, resulted in the finding of one arrowhead of chert, a fragment of earthenware bearing the ubiquitous small check-stamp, and several sherds of most inferior ware, each about .5 inch in thickness, with decoration of incised lines. No human remains were found. The mound was doubtless domiciliary.

## LANIER MOUND.

Situated in pine woods, about 6 miles in a southerly direction from the town of Kissimmee, on property of Mr. J. M. Lanier, living near by, is an artificial ridge of white sand extending almost due north and south. This ridge is 250 feet long and 90 feet in maximum basal breadth; its greatest height is 12 feet 3 inches. Previous to our visit, considerable digging had been done in this mound by persons in some cases known to the owner. No discoveries were reported by these persons.

Although the Lanier mound had every appearance of having been constructed for domiciliary purposes, and the lack of success of previous diggers tended to bear out this idea, three excavations were made by us, each 10 feet square and extending to the base of the mound. One of these was in the southern part, where the mound reached its greatest height; another, of almost equal depth, somewhat more to the north, and the third toward the northern extremity, where the height of the mound was about 8 feet.

In one excavation no relics or remains were encountered. In one was a small deposit of charcoal, and three bits of inferior, undecorated earthenware, found separately.

In the second excavation, at a depth of about 20 inches, was a "celt," with fragments of a human pelvis and parts of a femur and a humerus. About 3 feet distant, at the same level, was a human skull without the lower jaw.

Two and one-half feet down, in the same excavation, was a "celt," almost oblong in outline, with a bit of shell and two fragments of bone, too small for identification.

In our opinion this also was a domiciliary mound and the "celts" and human remains were intrusive.

## MOUNDS NEAR BROWN'S LANDING.

Brown's landing is about one mile south of Edgewater, on the southwestern shore of Lake Tohopekaliga. A mound is situated in pine woods about 2 miles in a southwesterly direction from the landing, in sight from the public road, on prop-