

**Henry Bascomb Collins Diary
Jan. 30, 1928 thru Feb 20, 1929**

By Henry B. Collins

**Being portions of an unpublished Diary
From the Henry B. Collins Papers (box 51) National
Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution,
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1929

NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Diaries

Henry B. Collins Papers

1928
1/30 - 2/24
5/4 - 7/12

1928

Jan 30. Left at 8 am morning for Capital.
Charles Kury, Venen downed out me. Got to
Cigüira (the town) around noon and set out
immediately for the mound on the upper part of
the island. About a mile beyond Red Rock Pass.
Our equipment was a full load for the boat
but we made it in good time, put up our
tarp to sleep under, got a kit to eat and
began to dig. Got several more skulls. Some
digging on the south side of the mound found
a pavement of regularly laid coral rubble,
three or four feet of them extending for
about 20 feet. The pavement may continue
around the mound but it has been so long
over that it has probably been destroyed.
There is a good place to camp, right at the
water edge and only about 50 yards from the
mound. There is enough food for several days,
with a few plantains, only a 2 gallon jar of

distilled water, and there is now to be had water
in camp.

Feb 5. The seventh day of our stay at Captain
and have been so busy digging up skulls that
we have only taken time out to eat. When we
have succeeded that I had expected, we may
have moved to the 15 right the first day. Most of
them were found near the house of the mound in the
with the abundance of the ground and took to be
clipped out with hammer and screwdriver. It is
the densest dense in the process. I try to dig up
series of the ordinary round rock but the great
majority of the shells will have to remain on the
we will have more time to show down up.
Today we went in the boat to the large shell mound
above here as I could make additional
observations. I got back about 4 PM and started
to dig up the large from the mound

and wrapping them up. We have no light as
it is not yet day in the night.

Feb 6. Finished packing up the skulls, loaded
them and our equipment into the boat
and started for Captain about 8:30 AM.
The boat was all the boat could stand.
only open under clearance of the water.
Fortunately the water was unusually calm,
and got a few splashes as we passed.
We got to Capt. Rivered Captain a couple
of hours later and waited for the steamer
which came about 12:30. Arrived at Mayan
at 5:30, and had the boat with it and
skull taken to the Captain back yard
when I will pack them up.
Feb 7. Worked on the skulls all day but didn't
even finish digging the small and rock out of
them. Another day will to get them packed

ready for shipment. Will leave for Concho
place day after tomorrow.

Feb 8. Looked up skulls all day. Had to get
suitable wooden boxes, everything seems to
come in portable cases. Finally got the
last one in a box and cleaned up the
room at 5 P.M. Mr. Allen helped me all
day.

Feb 9. Left for Concho place, east of Amador
with Lammie and Nick. Went by way of
La Balle, Lupton and Keller road. Had some
trouble finding Concho place. Camped in
the "yard" and started in digging in the
garden plot and the adjoining mound. Sent
Sutton however, there is plenty of pottery.
animal bones, etc in the garden, evidently a
camp site, and occasionally there are found
in the mound, but it is becoming more and
more

more evident that the mound was not used
to any extent for burial. It is not found
something however one may have not to that.

Feb 10. Spent the morning digging in the same
places and in the other nearby mounds but
with negligible results. Found a stone arrow
point, a "beak bone", several bone awls and
a good many pieces of roughly decorated
pottery. Drove camp after lunch and
left shortly after 1 P.M. About 20 miles out
of Ft. Wayne something went wrong with the
motor, and we moved into town like the
spirit of St. Denis. Will try to leave as soon
as possible.

Feb 11. Tired up the boxes for shipment and
sent them on to Washington, 590 pounds.
Am leaving tomorrow at 8:30 on the Atlantic
Coast line by way of Kansas City on that 8 am

of New Orleans and visited between houses and
 Mrs. Clark & Co. & his wife & family who were
 spending a few days there.
 Feb 20. Called at the Coleridge office this
 morning and saw his Indian collection. He lent
 me a copy of Timberlake's map of the "Ozark"
 Cherokee Range, also a large map of the country.
 His wife is personally in with government & as he
 cannot accompany me to look over the place.
 Left at 9:07 AM for Vicksburg, was met at the train
 by Mr. Coleridge's brother-in-law and Mr. Q. E.
 Brantley, the latter to take me to see the
 old village sites, mounds, etc. I first saw a
 large mound 30 ft high & about 100 ft diam
 at or near the site of the old Cherokee
 town of Toqua. Great quantities of pottery
 around it. Covered by dirt & weeds. Next
 saw three small mounds pointed long way up
 the mountain side, only a few feet from the house

see all quarter forming a few mounds: the
 train made 30 minutes there. There on to
 New York & Columbia. This was the same
 81st Street and St. Marks turned out in
 time to do honor to its most distinguished
 citizen. Had big dinner at the municipal
 pier and the auditorium, all taken in by
 the mayor's men. I didn't go since I had some
 writing & other work to attend to. First
 dinner with the Coleridge at the Board.
 Feb 19. Arrived at New Orleans, La.
 7:40 tonight and was met by Mr. H. R. Coleridge,
 County Sup't of Education with whom the Bureau
 has been in correspondence concerning mounds
 & village sites around here (Athens & eastern Tenn.)
 Will make a rapid reconnaissance of the
 area likely to be affected by the dam or possibly
 get on back to Washington. Jackson has
 been spent at Columbia, returned by way