

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

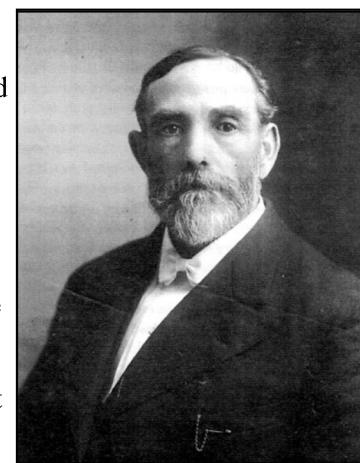
Looking Back at Dr. Charles L. Metz: Physician & Archeologist, Part II

In 1878 Dr. Metz found a pair of burial mounds on Drake Road in Indian Hill which he described as “a circular embankment about 3 feet high and about 400 feet in circumference enclosing a tumulus about 4 feet high”. More spots were discovered throughout Hamilton County and recorded. Excavated pieces can be seen in national and international museums, and the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History has in its collection a prehistoric grooved axe head (c. 2000 B.C.) found in Indian Hill.

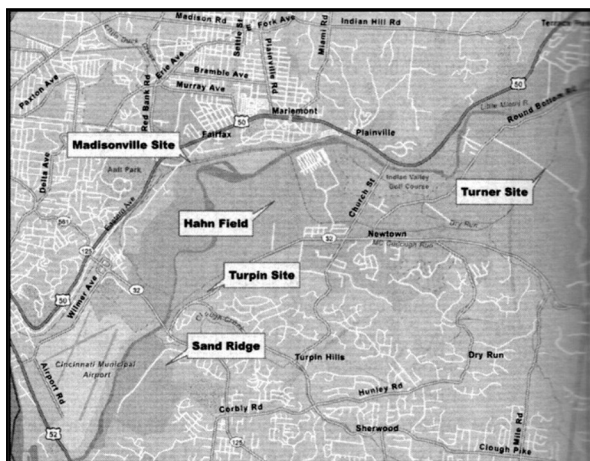
With the publications of Metz’s findings and the display of various artifacts at Expositions in Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and later Chicago, Dr. Frederick Putnam of Harvard University became intrigued and began an affiliation with the Ohio physician. In 1882, the Peabody Museum of Harvard began sponsoring and funding excavations at some of Metz’s digs. Putnam had prominence and funding, and Metz had access to some of the most important archeological places in the nation. They became colleagues and friends. Thousands of valuable objects were recovered, some of which were sold or moved to museums. Besides the Madisonville Site, digs occurred at locations throughout southwestern Ohio. Dr. Metz found evidence that Native Americans lived in the area from prehistoric times (c. 7000-2000 B.C.) until about 1625.

Even while these 19th and early 20th century excavations were taking place, valuable earthworks and mounds were lost to make way for roads, houses, railroads, barns, commercial enterprises, or agricultural fields. Sometimes valuable trinkets were removed by amateurs who kept or sold them. Many prehistoric sites have been disturbed or obliterated – a huge loss to those interested in history.

Dr. Charles Metz continued his archeological studies into the 20th century, identifying locations with illustrations, collaborating with others, keeping meticulous notes, and producing articles and maps about his findings. He was a pioneer excavator and made southern Ohio a celebrated region for antiquities of ancient native people. In addition, as a practicing physician for more than 50 years, he delivered over 3,300 babies. He died in 1926, and was known best for his archeological work, but was also revered by his friends and community.



Dr. Charles Metz



**Map of archaeological sites investigated by
Dr. Charles Metz.**



**A preserved mound, Shrum Mound,
Columbus, OH shows what the mounds
around Cincinnati likely resembled.**

Dr. Charles Louis Metz and the American Indian: Archeology of the Little Miami River Valley was a valuable resource for this article.