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Report on Neuter Cemetery

Grand Island, N. Y.

EXCAVATED FOR THE
BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

By FREDERICK HOUGHTON

July 27, 1909.

Mr. Henry R. Howland, Superintendent,
Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.

Dear Sir:—

I take pleasure in submitting this, a report of my archaeological field work during June and July.

Early in June I learned of the discovery of Indian remains at the lower end of Grand Island. Investigation showed that it was a large cemetery and worth excavating. Accordingly work was at once begun and has now been satisfactorily completed.

The cemetery was the burial place of the village marked No. 30 on my map. It is situated on a farm occupied by John Van Son and owned by Mr. Hoffeld of this city. It is on a low knoll, 1/4 mile north of the Long Road and 1/4 mile east of Niagara River. The village seems to have been on the river bank opposite the middle of the "pulp boom", at a point well marked by refuse heaps, though they are now hidden by a growth of sweet clover. The knoll in which the cemetery is, was also occupied by the village at one time, for the surface above the graves and to the eastward of the burial place is littered with potsherds, animal bones and charcoal, the remains of refuse heaps. Many graves are covered with an undisturbed layer of midden earth, showing that the knoll was occupied after the burials took place. That these middens are not recent is shown by the occurrence in them of pottery and flint points.

Grave No.	Position	Character	Articles
33.	Child, much decayed,	Flexed	Broken clay jar.
34.	Adult,	Bundle	Nothing.
35.	Child, decayed	Probably flexed	Glass beads, shell beads iron knife.
36.	Adult, Head E. Face S.	Flexed	Nothing.
37.	Adult,	Bundle	Nothing.
38.	Young adult, Head W. Face S.	“	Broken clay jar.
39.	Child, much decayed,	Probably flexed	Brass coiled spring at pelvis.
40.	Adult,	Bundle	Nothing.
41.	Child, much decayed,	Probably bundle	Blue glass beads. ✓
42.	Adult,	Bundle	Nothing.
43.	Adult,	“	1 stone point, 1 bear's claw.
44.	Adult, Head E. Face S.	Flexed	Clay pipe at hand in front of jaw, iron knife and awl in right hand.
45.	Child,	Bundle	Nothing.
46.	Child, (across head of No. 47)	Flexed	Beads.
47.	Adult, Head N. Face W.	“	Glass and shell beads mixed with beads of No. 46.
48.	Young adult, Head S. Face E.	“	Glass beads, shell beads fish vertebra.
49.	Child, much decayed,	Probably flexed	Nothing.
50.	Adult, Head S. Face E.	Flexed	Nothing.
51.	Adult, Head E. Face S.	“	Clay jar behind pelvis, broken clay jar above body.

Grave No.	Position	Character	Articles
52. Young adult,	Head S. Face W.	"	Nothing.
53. Adult,	Head W. Face S.	"	Nothing—Refuse heap at depth of 15 in. above grave.
54. Adult,	Head E.	At full length, Lower jaw on end of cervical vertebra. Skull 12" W. of Dorsal vertebra and 4" higher, upside down. Right humerus removed and lying across vertebra, 4" above it, fingers of both hands on pelvis.	Pipe at left elbow. Shell gorget on lumbar vertebra, concave side up. 2 blue beads at neck. ✓
55. } Adult,		} Bundle, 4 leg & foot bones in position. All others mixed.	Nothing.
56. } Adult,			
57. } Adult,			
58. } Adult,			
59. Adult,	Head E. Face N.	Flexed	Shell beads along right arm, clay pipe, iron knife and iron awl at right elbow.

Cache of red ochre on southern side of grave pit.

FROM REFUSE HEAPS.

- From above No. 44, Clam shell with large perforation.
 " " " 53, Earth mixed with charcoal and ashes.
 Broken animal bones.
 " " " 47, 1 flint point.

From refuse heaps on east side of grave pit, 1 piece turtle carapace, perforated.