

CHAPTER II

C. B. Moore's Excavations in Mounds C, F, H and O.

Excavations in Mound C. (Moore 1905: 143-166).

Moore's 1905 excavation in Mound C produced some of the most richly accompanied burials thus far recovered at Moundville. He directed most of his efforts to excavation of the northern section of the summit plateau of Mound C. The pits he sunk there delineated at least two building stages: the earlier of the two building stages was discovered 6.5 feet below the surface of the mound plateau. Although aboriginal activity had obscured a major portion of the stratification, Moore noted that the burials discovered in both levels were in pits which had been intruded from the surface of one of the two observed building stages; however, most of the burials were intruded from the surface of the most recent building stage. A minimum of 45 burials were described by Moore and these burials have been numbered CM1 to CM45 here.

CM1 (1905:154). Few fragments of bone.
4 feet below the surface. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Copper axe

CM2 (1905:149-150). Skeleton, 3 feet
below the surface, extended on back. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Jasper drill point, at head;
Stone disc;
Scalloped stone disc (1905: fig. 23);
Stone palette (1905: fig. 24);
Wood and pigment.

CM3 (1905: 155). Stain in soil.
Associated artifacts:
Oblong copper gorget.

CM4 (1905:160). Bone fragments.
Child
Associated artifacts:
2 oblong sheet copper gorgets encrusted
with pearls (1905: fig. 38).

CM5 (1905:162). Bone fragments.
Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Copper axe (1905: fig. 28f);
Copper-coated shell bead.

CM6 (1905:162). Stain in soil.
Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Copper axe (1905: fig. 28b).

CM7 (1905:157). Stain in soil.
Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Copper axe (1905: fig. 33).

CM8 (1905:162-166). Skeleton showed as a
dark line in the soil; all that remained
were a few teeth and the mandible. Found
40 inches below the surface. Adult? Head
to east.
Associated artifacts:
45 globular copper-coated beads, around ankles;
Pearl beads, at ankles;

CM8 Continued

Copper axe, across knees;
 16 copper-coated globular beads, at wrist;
 Oblong copper gorget (1905: fig. 42), at
 lower chest;
 Circular copper gorget with pearls (1905:
 fig. 41), over oblong gorget;
 Sheet copper hair ornament (1905: fig. 45);
 Copper pin (1905: fig. 44);
 Amythest (?flourite) head (1905: fig. 46);
 associated with gorget on chest;
 Asphaltum.

CM9 (1905:147). Skeleton, 3 feet below the
 surface, extended on back. Adult?
 Associated artifacts:
 Copper ear plug;
 Copper sheet.

CM10 (1905:161). A few teeth, 4 feet below
 the surface.
 Associated artifacts:
 Copper pendant, below neck;
 2 copper ear plugs.

CM11 (1905: 147-149). Skeleton, 3 feet
 below the surface, extended on back. Adult?
 Associated artifacts:
 Sheets of copper, at head and chest;
 Shell beads, at knees;
 Pebbles, at ankles;
 Mica, at one knee.

CM12 (1905:154). Skeleton, extended on
 back, in pit. Adult?
 Associated artifacts:
 Copper axe;
 2 copper ear plugs;
 Circular copper gorget (1905: fig. 29);
 2 water bottles (1905: figs. 30-31).

CM13 (1905:162). Few bone fragments. Adult?
 Associated artifacts:
 Copper hair ornament.

CM14 (1905:155-157). Undefined number of bones, in pit.

Associated artifacts:

Galena;

Stone disc;

Copper fragments;

Pottery vessel;

Water bottle.

CM15 (1905:154). Skull and a few bones.

Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Vessel;

Cup.

CM16 (1905:157). Bone fragments, 4 feet below the surface. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Quantity of shell beads;

Shell cup, engraved (1905: fig. 34).

CM17 (1905:157). Fragment of tibia. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Great quantity of shell beads;

Fragments of sheet copper.

CM18 (1905:157). Skull and long bones.

Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Fragments of sheet copper.

CM19 and CM20 (1905:158-159). Skeletons, one above the other. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Shell beads;

Fragments of sheet copper.

CM21 (1905:154). Skeleton. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Small fragment of sheet copper.

CM22 (1905:150). Skeleton, extended on back.

Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Copper fragment, near skull, wrapped in cane matting;

Oblong layer of pebbles, surrounded by

CM22 Continued

decayed container; rattle?
Ceramic disc.

CM23 (1905:162). Cremation, 18 inches below the surface. No associated artifacts.

CM24 (1905:166). Skeleton, extended on back. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
2 shells.

CM25 (1905:154). Isolated femur. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Tubular shell beads.

CM26 (1905:143). Skull and long bones. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Mica;
Water bottle, red on white decoration;
Cup, incised oval.

CM27 (1905:158). Skull. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Quartz projectile point.

CM28 (1905:143). Bundle burial. Adult?
No associated artifacts.

CM29 (1905:150). Skeleton, 3 feet below the surface. Adult?
No associated artifacts.

CM30 (1905:151). Bones and skull, 52 inches below the surface. Adult?
Associated artifact:
Mica.

CM31 (1905:151). Skull, 56 inches below the surface. Adult?
No associated artifacts.

CM32 (1905:151). Teeth crowns, bones,
in pit. 54 inches below the surface.
Adult?
No associated artifacts.

CM33 (1905:151). Teeth and bones, in
pit, 36 inches below the surface.
Adult?
No associated artifacts.

CM34 (1905:154). Scattered bones. Adult?
No associated artifacts.

CM35 (1905:157). Cremation; small deposit
of calcined bones 1 foot below the surface.
No associated artifacts.

CM36 (1905:157). Cremation, 24 inches
below the surface.
No associated artifacts.

CM37 (1905:159). Bundle burial. Adult.
No associated artifacts.

CM38 to CM45 (1905:166). Bunches of
burials. Adults?
No associated artifacts.

Both C. B. Moore (1905:167-172) and the Alabama
Museum of Natural History conducted excavations in the
area northeast of Mound C. These small excavations
have been reserved for presentation at a future date.

Excavation in Mound F. (Moore 1905:188-194).

Mound F. was extensively eroded at the time Moore excavated it. After test-pitting this mound Moore chose to excavate its northeast quadrant to a depth of four feet. He discovered 19 burials in this area and he described nine of these burials in detail. These burials are numbered FM1 to FM9 here.

FM1 (1905:190). Skeleton, extended on
back. Adult?
Associated artifact:
Decorated water bottle (1905: figs. 87-88).

FM2 (1905:190). Skeleton. Adult?
Associated artifact:
Plain vessel.

FM3 (1905:192). Skeleton, extended. Adult?
Associated artifact:
Plain vessel.

FM4 (1905:194). Skeleton, extended. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Water bottle (1905: fig. 97), at head;
Water bottle, at knees.

FM5 (1905: 193-194). Skeleton, extended.
Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Plain water bottle (1905: fig. 96);
Soapstone pipe (1905: fig. 95), at skull.

FM6 (1905: 191-192). Skeleton, extended.
Adult?
Associated artifact:
Plain water bottle.

FM7 (1905:194). Skeleton, extended. Adult?
Associated artifact:
Plain water bottle.

FM8 (1905:193). Skeleton, extended. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Plain pot;
Bowl (1905: fig. 94).

FM9 (1905:191). Skeleton. Adult?
~~Associated artifact:~~
Shallow bowl.

FM10 to FM19. No data.

The Alabama Museum of Natural History excavated a small area east of Mound F in December 1933. This excavation has been reserved for future presentation.

Excavation in Mound H. (Moore 1905: 194-198).

Mound H had been partially destroyed by treasure hunters prior to Moore's arrival at Moundville. However, the material missed by the previous excavators and recovered by Moore rivaled that discovered elsewhere on the site. Burials HM1 and HM4 are as well accompanied by grave goods as any burial in Mound C. The four burials from Mound H have been numbered HM1 to HM4 here.

HM1 (1905:196-198). Skeleton, extended.
Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Stone disc, red pigment on surface, at
right foot;

16 shell beads, at ankles;

Spool-shaped shell beads, at knees;

Copper axe (1905: fig. 28e);

7 large shell beads, many spool-shaped
shell beads, at right wrist;

13 sheet copper "symbol badges", at
right elbow;

8 large shell beads and many spool-shaped
shell beads, at left wrist and forearm;

Shell beads, at neck;

2 copper ear plugs;

Copper hair ornament (1905: fig. 105),
at head;

Circular copper gorget (1905: fig. 106).

HM2 (1905:198). Skeleton, extended on
back. Adult?

No associated artifacts.

HM3 (1905:198). Skeleton. Adult?

No associated artifacts.

HM4 (1905:195). Skeleton, extended. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

14 shell beads, at ankles;

8 shell beads, on right wrist;

407 spool-shaped beads, on chest;

266 tubular shell beads, on right shoulder;

Circular copper gorget, pearls attached,
under chin;

Copper ear plug;

Copper ornament, at head;

Shell fragments, near right shoulder.

The Alabama Museum of Natural History excavated
several small areas to the east and southeast of Mound H
during November 1930. These excavations have been
reserved for future presentation.

Excavations in Mound O. (Moore 1905:199-218).

C. B. Moore excavated the plateau of Mound O to a depth of three to four feet.

The situation in which burials occurred in this mound was contrary to what had been found to be the general rule, for while two or three burials were present in the northeastern corner, no other burials were met with in the eastern part of the mound until the southeastern corner was reached. On the other hand, burials were numerous along the entire west side with the exception of the southeastern corner (1905:218).

Moore also recovered, apart from the burials, two effigy stone pipes three feet below the southwestern corner of the mound. One pipe, made of carbonate of lime, was so thoroughly decomposed that it could only be said to represent an animal of some kind. The other pipe was made of claystone and represented a crouching human (1905:214-215).

Moore recovered a minimum of 40 burials from Mound O. He described at least 27 of these burials in detail. These burials have been numbered OM1 to OM27 here. Two additional burials were discovered near the base of Mound O by Moore. These two burials have been numbered EOM1 and EOM2 here.

OM1 (1905:203-204). Single tooth, 38 inches below the surface.

Associated artifacts:

Scalloped stone palette (1905: fig. 110), red pigment on one side, white pigment on the other;

Scalloped stone disc;

Shell gorget;

Decorated water bottle, Moundville Filmed Engraved, (1905: figs. 112, 113).

OM2 (1905: 210-212). A few teeth.

Associated artifacts:

Plain vessel;

Water bottle, hand and eye design;

Cup, decorated, filled with glauconite;

Mussel shell, filled with red pigment;

Stone slab, red pigment on one surface.

OM3 (1905:206). Skeleton, extended. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Water bottle, Moundville Filmed Engraved, (1905: figs. 114-115);

Scalloped stone disc, white, cream, and pink pigment on one side, red pigment on other side;

Stone disc, unidentified pigment on one side.

OM4 (1905:212). Skeleton, disturbed. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Scalloped stone disc, red pigment on one side, white pigment on the other side.

OM5 (1905:200-201). Skeleton, disturbed.

Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Stone disc, above skull;

Scalloped stone disc, cream colored pigment on one surface, red pigment on the other surface, under skull;

2 copper ear plugs;

2 stone discs, where left shoulder should have been.

OM6 (1905:217). Skeleton, disturbed. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Sheet copper hair ornament;

Mass of lead sulphide;

5 large shell beads, at distal ends of one femur;

Shell beads, near lower end of skeleton.

OM7 (1905:206). Bundle burial. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Copper-clad wooden cylinder.

OM8 (1905:201-203). Skeleton, extended.

Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Large shell beads, at wrists;

Large shell beads, at ankles;

Copper fragments and pearls, below chin;

Copper ear plugs.

OM9 (1905:217). Skull and a few bones.

Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Water bottle;

Bowl;

Galena;

Circular copper gorget (1905: fig. 134), on chest;

Vessel.

OM10 (1905:206-207). Skeleton, disturbed.

Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Water bottle, Moundville Filmed Engraved, (1905: fig. 117).

Plain water bottle.

OM11-15 (1905:213). Pit containing a minimum of 5 burials.

Associated artifacts:

Ceremonial flint (1905: fig. 127), near surface of pit.

OM16 (1905:203). Skeleton. Adult?

Associated artifacts:

Shell beads;

Chert projectile point.

- OM17 (1905:203). Skeleton, extended on back.
Adult?
Associated artifact:
Water bottle, Moundville Filmed Engraved (1905:
fig. 109).
- OM18 (1905:217). Skeleton, disturbed. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Cup (1905: fig. 133);
Vessel;
Incised bowl.
- OM19 (1905:201). Skeleton, extended on back.
Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Effigy bowl, at skull;
Plain water bottle.
- OM20 (1905:207). Isolated skull. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Pot, loop handles,
Bowl.
- OM21 (1905:201). Skeleton, extended on back.
Adult?
Associated artifact:
Plain bowl.
- OM22 (1905:213). Fragments of decayed bone.
Associated artifact:
Water bottle, Moundville Black Filmed, (1905:
fig. 128).
- OM23 (1905:201). Skeleton, extended on back.
Adult?
Associated artifact:
Glauconite, on chest.
- OM24 (1905:203). Bone fragments.
Associated artifacts:
9 large shell beads.
- OM25 (1905:213). Skeleton, disturbed. Adult?
Associated artifact:
Copper hair ornament.

OM26 (1905:213). Cremation pit, calcined bone.
No associated artifacts.

OM27 (1905:217). Skeleton. Adult?
Associated artifacts:
Black ball of psilomelane, hydrated oxide of
manganese and cobalt oxide.

EOM1 (1905:218). Skeleton, extended on back.
Adult?
No associated artifacts.

EOM2 (1905:218). Skeleton, infant.
Associated artifact:
Atypical bowl (1905: fig. 136).