

INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

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IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I

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". . . but the unknown Mound Builders
who (ever?) they were what became of them
is a mystery yet to be solved and it would
be a happy day for me to learn from whence
they came and where they went or what be-
came of them finally."--From field notes,
dated 1880, in Peabody Museum archives.

PREFACE

The dissertation that follows is replete with all the faults that inhere in a work undertaken without a fixed purpose and point of view. It has, consequently, merely succeeded in ending where it ought to have begun, namely, with a working hypothesis for an attack on the prehistory of the Mississippi Valley. Unfortunately it was not until a summary comparison of materials presented in Sections III to VI was attempted, that certain chronological implications forced a reorientation of the problem, so that it is only in Section VII that the real argument may be said to begin. The reader with little time to spare is advised, therefore, to read the last three sections first, after which he can judge for himself how much of the remainder is worth his attention.

It is my pleasant duty to acknowledge the many obligations laid upon me during the course of this work. To the late Professor R. B. Dixon I am indebted for the original impetus that led to its inception; to Professors A. M. Tozzer and E. A. Hooton for much guidance and forbearance necessary to its continuance. Mr. Donald Scott and members of the Peabody Museum staff have been unfailingly helpful in putting materials and information at my disposal. A list of institutions and individuals throughout the country, that have contributed in the same disinterested spirit would fill several pages. I must mention particularly Dr. G. C. Vaillant, whose intelligent interest in a field outside his own has been a source of

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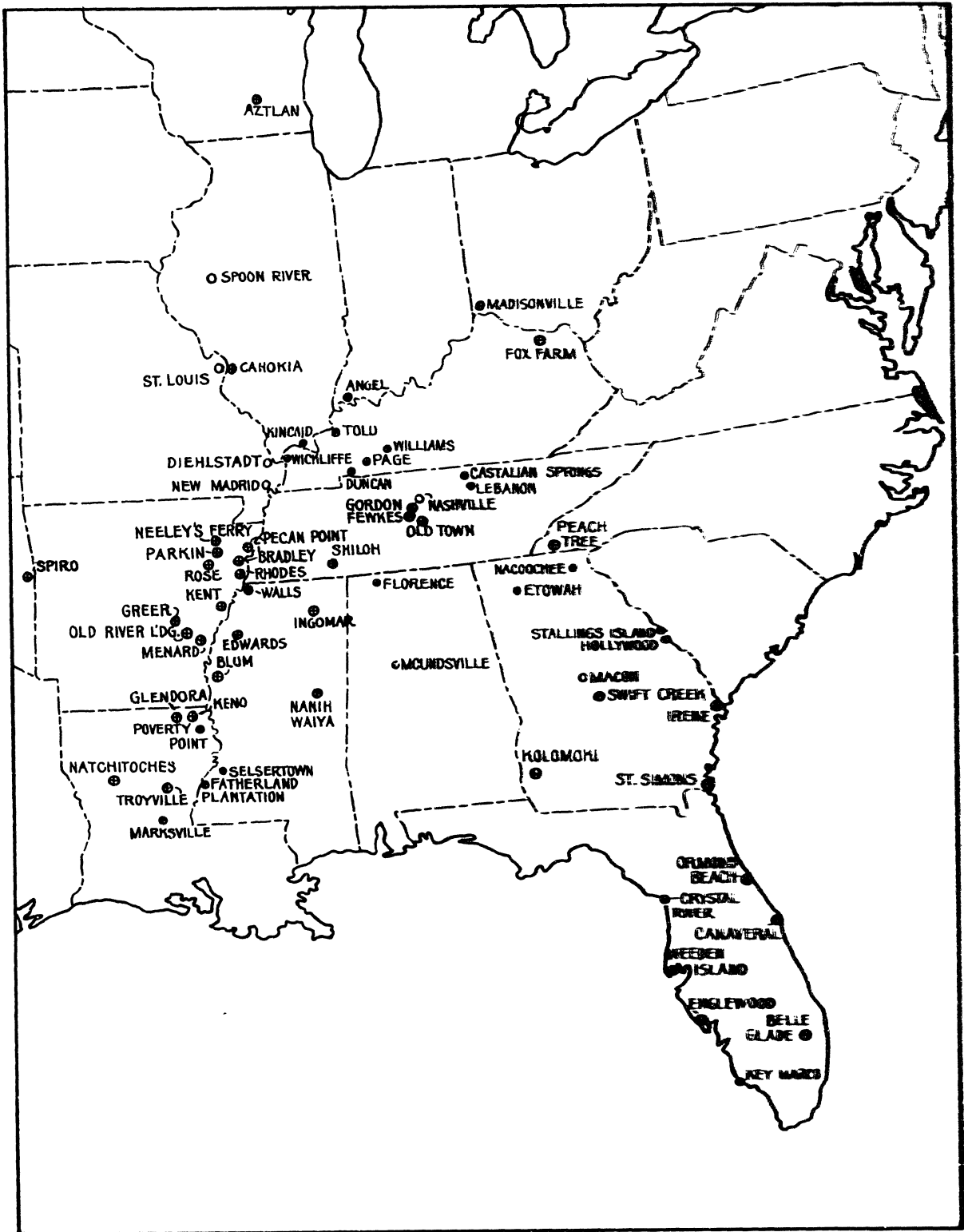
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