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R. A. Morris's Work With Indian Mounds.

Grandfather was about 19 years of age at the time he preformed his work as a mound excavator which he did during the winter of 1874 and 1875. He assisted three other men known as Charley Johnson, R. G. McQuarrie, and Dr. Palmar. Dr. Palmar was an Indian Agent for the Smithsonian Institute and a Government employee; he was also a very expert man when it came to excavating mounds, mending broken pottery and preserving skeletons.

Grandfather first became acquainted with Dr. Palmar and mound digging when J. E. Johnson, to whom Dr. Palmar had been directed when he came to this country, and also the most noted man of this section, directed Dr. Palmar to Grandfather as a likely helper. Grandfather received for this work about \$1.00 a day.

The mound they excavated was found on the land owned by Alex Fullerton, who showed them the mound, and "Dad" Rod, he was known by no other name. The mound bordered on the Santa Clara Creek at a point East and South of the old lava beds between Santa Clara and St. George. It has now completely disappeared. It covered half an acre of ground, was oval in shape and was at least thirty feet deep from top to bottom. There were pieces of pottery and arrow heads scattered around the mound.

Following is a summary of the mound. The soil was a light sandy loam very much like ashes. The implements found consisted of mill stones and pottery work of all kinds. The mills consisted of a flat stone with a hollow center to hold the corn and a round cobble stone to grind it. The pottery consisted of many different types for which there were many different uses; there were smooth jars and jars with a form of decoration made by pressing the thumbnail against the wet mud; the coloring was black and red. There

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were jars for cooking purposes; some preformed the duty of pitchers; there were jugs for practically every purpose and in one or two cases they also had handles. The implements of war and the hunt consisted of stone axes and stone knives, flint arrow heads and large spear heads were found in great quantities, there were no metals of any kind found. There were a few peculiar stones of a blueish color found in some of the jars. Dr. Palmar claimed that they were stones found only in Mexico, showing that the Indians either came from Mexico or the vicinity, or else they carried on a correspondence with tribes of that country. Grandfather does not remember as to basketry but he did not think there were any found. The jars that were found were discovered to have been placed in a sort of half circle starting at one shoulder. In some of the jars were found seeds the exact names of which were not known but were thought to be different kinds of garden seeds.

There were many skeletons found, the bones of which were of a brownish tan color and as soon as they were exposed to the air they decomposed into dust. When the workers found a skeleton they were desirous of keeping Dr. Palmar would immediately upon removal from the ground, cover it with a coat of shellac and very thin but thick glue which would set the bones as solid as when a person lived. There were skeletons of men, women and children and none seemed to be arranged in any particular manner. As far as known the bodies were encased in no coffins whatsoever. As to other forms of masonry work there was a large room in the center of the mound. The corner posts had rotted away but the walls still stood. They consisted of willows woven together and covered with a thick coating of mud which had been put on by hand as the imprints of the hands could still be seen. There were no animals skeletons

Their traditions which had been handed down from father to son did not mention them but as soon as work was commenced by Dr. Palmar, the Indians (Old Simon and others) objected and caused quite a deal of trouble until they were bought off by Dr. Palmar. The Indians knew nothing about the writings on the rocks and, like the mounds, they have nothing in their traditions that relate to them. More than likely the Indians of today and Grandfather's day drifted into this country long after the mounds had been and the writings put on the rocks.

The above described mound is the largest ever excavated in this section, which is proven by the fact that Dr. Palmar took better than a ton of pottery, arrow heads, skeletons, etc., away with him and practically all of it came from the one big mound described above. This is the only mound that Grandfather had much to do with although there are others in this locality. One is located in Langs' Farm on Toniquint and another was located at the junction of the Santa Clara Creek and Virgin River on what was known as Crosby's Land; nothing much was found in either of these. There is another mound on Jarvis's land South East of St. George on the South end of the Black Ridge. This has not been excavated to any great extent because the owner, Mr. Jarvis, objected.

This information was obtained from Grandfather on February 18, 1928, in his 71st year.