ROSS COUNTY.

Ross county comprises within its territory the most interesting archaeological area of its size in Ohio and probably in the United States and might be termed the center of highest culture of the mound-building peoples.

It is remarkable for the great number and diversity of highly specialized earthworks; a type peculiar to the highest development of aboriginal man in the Ohio valley. This type consists of figures more or less geometrically exact, principally the square and circle, singly or in combination. They are distinct from the so-called forts or defensive structures, which are assigned their purpose from the strategic positions occupied, usually a hilltop or other point of vantage, easily defended and difficult of approach.

The great total of 455 prehistoric sites has been recorded in Ross county. Forty-nine of these are of the enclosure class, while 370 are mounds. These prehistoric remains are distributed generally along the Scioto river and the north and south forks of Paint creek. Great as may appear the number of recorded works in the county, according to early observers and writers and to more recent scientific examination it is believed that many more such remains at one time existed, many of which at this time have been obliterated.

One of the greatest of the Ross county works, particularly as evincing a high degree of culture of its makers and occupants, is that known as the Hopewell Group, in Union township, on north fork of Paint creek. It consists primarily of two conjoined figures—a square of 15 acres and a larger irregular parallelogram of about 110 acres. Within the larger enclosure there are two secondary enclosures, one a semi-circular figure containing 7 mounds and the other a circle with 1 mound. Outside these secondary enclosures but within the large figure are 13 other mounds, and within the square there are four mounds set opposite an equal number of gateways. Specimens secured from excavations into the mounts of the Hopewell group are of the most advanced type yet found in Ohio.

The Harness works in the Scioto valley, Liberty township, consists of a combination of a square, a large and a small circle. The square contains about 27 acres and the large circle about 40 acres. This work is a very imposing one and evinces the high culture of its builders. It takes its name from the owner of the land on which the work is situated. A large mound located within the larger of the two circles, was thoroughly excavated by the Society in 1903 and many fine specimens illustrating the life of the builders of the works were obtained.

The High Banks works are situated a few miles north of the Harness works and about four miles south of Chillicothe. They consist of a circle and an octagon in conjunction and of several small circles, and parallel walls in close proximity. The large circle contains 20 acres and the octagon about two acres less. A remarkable feature of the High Banks works is that, while none of the figures comprising the Ross county works are geometrically exact, the large circle in these works approaches very near to an exact circle. Each of eight gateways in the octagon is faced by a mound.

A typical work of the square-and-circle combination formerly existed at the eastern edge of the city of Chillicothe and another of similar type was located at the town of Frankfort, in Concord township.

An interesting work is that near Hopetown in Springfield township. It consists of a square and circle with extended parallel walls and with several smaller circles nearby. Each of the larger figures encloses upwards of 20 acres.

The Cedar Banks works lie just north of the Hopetown works, and consist of a square, or rectangle, which contains an elevated structure, resembling the elevated squares found in the Marietta works. This platform is about 250 feet long, 150 feet wide and 4 feet high. The usual circle is missing in this work, but there is a rectangular enclosure nearby, but detached, 870 feet long and 70 feet wide. Some distance to the south of the main work there is a small circle and a square mound. The area of the large square or rectangle is about 30 acres.

One of the interesting works of the county is that known as Mound City, located in Union township, a few miles north of Chillicothe. This work consists of a rectangular enclosure with the corners rounded off and containing within its simple walls 23 mounds. From these mounds the early explorers and writers on Ohio antiquities, Squier & Davis secured some of the finest specimens, representing the highest sculptural art of prehistoric man, including many effigy pipes in the form of animals, birds and reptiles.

Dunlaps Works are located on the land of the County Infirmary, a short distance north of Mound City. They consist of a large rectangle and a small circle connected by parallel lines and parallel walls of considerable length. A small oval enclosure is nearby.

The Blackwater group is located on the east side of the Scioto river, near the northern line of the county. It consists of 7 circles and crescents, all small and not connected and a peculiar rectangular figure formed by parallel walls with closed ends, located some distance further south than the circles. These latter are about 750 feet long and 60 feet wide.

The Junction group, is situated on Paint creek about two miles west of Chillicothe and consists of nine small figures, all detached. These figures are in the form of circles, rectangles and crescents.

The Baum works are located on Paint creek, in Twin township, near the village of Bourneville. They consist of a square, a large and a small circle, in conjunction. The square in this work is almost geometrically correct. In connection with the Baum works is one of the most extensive and remarkable prehistoric village sites in the state. It was explored by the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society in 1899, 1902 and 1903 and many hundreds of most interesting and valuable relics were secured. These are now on exhibition in the Society's museum.

The Seip group, is one of the largest in the Scioto valley. It is located on the north bank of Paint creek about 3 miles east of the town of Bainbridge, in Paxton township. It resembles in form the Baum works. Within the enclosure are two mounds, the larger of which is known as the Pricer mound and the smaller