

## Santa Clara Indian Mound Excavation

Excerpt from

the Annual Report of the Trustees of the Peabody Museum of  
American Archaeology and Ethnology 1875

lected and presented by Dr. E. PALMER.

8341-8379. A collection of articles from a burial mound in Southern Utah, comprising a jar containing ashes, over which another vessel was inverted; a pitcher-shaped jar; a red jar with a small opening; a beautifully made vessel of very thin clay, red with black lines of a peculiar pattern; two bowl-shaped vessels and a perfect ladle of the peculiar white and black pottery so characteristic of the ancient Pueblos; a number of fragments of tile-like pottery, and a bone implement. Also forty-seven arrow-



*1875 Santa Clara mound excavation red pottery shards  
(Harvard Peabody Museum, U of U Mariott Library)*

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Excerpt from

the Annual Report of the Trustees of the Peabody Museum of  
American Archaeology and Ethnology 1876

Dr. Edward Palmer, acting under the special appropriation for explorations made at the last annual meeting, has made a careful examination of several mounds in Southern Utah, from which numerous articles of pottery, bone and stone were obtained. The notes and descriptions furnished by Dr. Palmer, show that most



*1875 Santa Clara mound excavation broken pot  
(Harvard Peabody Museum, U of U Mariott Library)*

of these mounds in Utah are in reality, the remains of adobe or mud houses, and that in some instances new houses have been successively erected on the remains of the old. In other instances the mounds are formed by the decay of a collection of houses built in such a way as to form a nearly continuous wall about an area thus enclosed, on the same principle as that suggested by the Hon. Lewis Morgan in his discussion of the probable use of the great artificial embankments in the Ohio valley. The only difference being, that in Utah the walls of the houses formed the protection to the area enclosed; while in Ohio, according to Mr. Morgan's theory, an earth wall was first raised, upon which houses were erected. It is evident that the latter method would give far greater protection to the inhabitants than the former. From the character of the articles found in these mounds in Utah, and especially from the pottery, we have some evidence that the people were the same as those who lived in the cliff houses of the Colorado region, and in the ruined Pueblos, and are probably represented at this time by the Moqui, Zuñi and allied tribes. These adobe houses of the plains of Utah may possibly have been temporary residences of some of these tribes during portions of the year, or they may have been the locations of out-lying bands until the inroads of other tribes forced the people to the cliffs for protection. In this connection it is of interest to note the discovery, by Dr. Palmer, of a skeleton in one of the mounds, and that the cranium, the measurements of which are given in another place, is remarkably broad and low. Dr. Palmer also had the fortune to discover a cave in Kane County, Utah, in which were two perfect vessels of the Ancient Pueblo type of pottery, one of which was filled with small coils of cord finely made from some kind of bark or strong vegetable fibre. In this cave was also discovered a unique article in the form of a spade, made by flattening a piece of horn and fixing it to a long handle of wood. At what Dr. Palmer believes to have been an old camp of the Pah Utes, in the mountains, he discovered several interesting articles, among which was a pair of shoes made of the fibre of the *Yucca*, which, in shape, style of braiding and several details, very closely resemble those made of the leaves of the *Typha*, which I had the good fortune to find, a few years ago, in a cave in Kentucky. Dr. Palmer also obtained a very instructive and important collection of articles made and used by the Pah Ute Indians, while the notes, which accompany



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*1875 Santa Clara mound excavation ordinary pot  
(Harvard Peabody Museum, U of U Mariott Library)*

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*1875 Santa Clara mound excavation arrowheads  
(Harvard Peabody Museum, U of U Mariott Library)*



*1875 Santa Clara mound excavation black and white pottery shards  
(Harvard Peabody Museum, U of U Mariott Library)*