



Dr. Edward Palmer (1831-1911), ca. 1864

In cooperation with the *Smithsonian* and the *Bureau of Indian Affairs*, John Wesley Powell directed the acquisition of Indian materials for display at the 1876 Philadelphia International Exposition (Centennial Exhibition).

Edward Palmer was a Civil War veteran. He became best known as the American *Father of Ethnobotany*. In the years immediately before and after the Centennial Exposition he was engaged by Major Powell to obtain archaeological artifacts and curiosities to be displayed as a part of the Centennial's *American Indian Exhibit*.



1876 Centennial Exhibition, American Indian Exhibits (Smithsonian Archives, 1976)

Major John Wesley Powell, in connection with his major Colorado River expeditions, engaged photographers, artists and scientists to document geography, geology, botany, ethnology, and archaeology of Southern Utah. Including a comprehensive study of native language and culture. https://issuu.com/utah10/docs/uhq_volume37_1969_number2/s/103556



1873 Paiute Chief Chaurumpeak with Family, Kaibab Plateau, J.K.Hillers

Dr. Edward Palmer is the first archaeologist mentioned in the 1997 Utah Historical Quarterly article *150 Years of Utah Archaeology*. Palmer was funded by the Smithsonian to collect artifacts and excavate “mounds”, but had others interested, including Harvard’s Peabody museum. https://issuu.com/utah10/docs/uhq_volume65_1997_number2/s/10359446

FROM ST. GEORGE.

Collecting Specimens and Curiosities—Aboriginal Relics

St. GEORGE, Nov. 28, 1875.

Editors Herald;

Dr. Edward Palmer, who visited this region seven years ago, making research into the botany and natural history of this vicinity, returned here about the beginning of this month, and proceeded to make collections of various sorts of timber fibre and useful plants for the Centennial, and also to make collections of various things for the Smithsonian institute, including the relics and curiosities of the ancient population of this country. We directed his attention to a very large and ancient mound on the Santa Clara, which he has, with a force of help, been excavating for the last week, and has succeeded in bringing to light many articles curious, strange and interesting, among which are mills, stone and bone tools and articles for amusement, tools of flint, obsidian, and others of beautiful stones, pots for cooking, vessels for carrying water, eating from and for various other uses; the walls of ruined houses and other strange things of the buried past of thousands of years ago. The doctor is an industrious and determined worker; has made a large collection here, and leaves in a few weeks for other fields of labor. Within the past two years he has made research in botany and natural history from Eastport, Maine, to the extreme of Florida, then around to the Pacific and its most interesting islands, and has made discovery of many new things in both vegetable and animal life.

J.

November 28, 1875

Salt Lake Herald Republican

The local Utah newspapers contained quite a bit of good information about Dr. Edward Palmer's activities and background. The author "J", of this column was mormon Joseph Ellis Johnson, best known for his garden, vines and orchard.

Johnson was also the publisher of the monthly *Utah Pomologist and Gardener*. Dr. Palmer was lodged at Johnson's home during this period.

Note "*We directed his attention to a very large and ancient mound on the Santa Clara ...*"

Antiquities.—Dr. Palmer has arrived from the southern part of the Territory, where he has been engaged in searching for and collecting relics of the ancient aboriginal inhabitants of these parts. He is connected with the Smithsonian Institute, also the St. Louis, Cambridge and Peabody (Boston) Museums, and other principal scientific institutions, to which he forwards the specimens obtained in his researches.

We understand he will be pleased to receive information regarding the location of any Indian mounds in this vicinity.

August 22, 1877

Deseret News



MOQUI (WORLD), ONE OF THE SEVEN TRIBES.
(From a photo taken by the U. S. exploring party in 1875.)

Besides the mound-works observed on the upper San Juan by Mr. Holmes associated with the work of the Cliff-dwellers, recent exploration has shown that combinations of mound and pueblo features of architecture exist in Utah. Dr. C. C. Parry found in a mound on the St. Clara River in Southern Utah very fine specimens of Pueblo pottery, and other articles which clearly identify its architects with the people of the cliffs or with the village builders at the South.¹ The recent exploration of several mounds in southern Utah by Dr. Edward Palmer fully confirms this conclusion. In Kane County, Utah, the same explorer discovered among a number of articles of apparent Moqui make in a cave-shelter, a shovel of horn having a blade fourteen inches long by five inches wide. Among the articles was a pair of shoes made of the fibre of the *Yucca*, which in style, shape, manner of braiding, etc., closely resemble shoes made of the leaves of the *Typha* found by Prof. F. W. Putnam in a cave in Kentucky.²

The North Americans of Antiquity: Their Origin, Migrations and Type of Civilization
John T. Short, 1882, pg 330 <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/67101/67101-h/67101-h.htm>

Dr. Edward Palmer's archaeological work in Southern Utah was recognized as significant by his contemporaries. The illustration above was made from a J. K. Hillers photograph on an expedition to this Hopi village funded by the *Smithsonian* and kept in J. W. Powell's *Bureau of Ethnology* records. Go to <https://digital.denverlibrary.org/digital/collection/p15330coll22/id/63056/>

Deseret Museum.—Dr. E. Palmer, of Davenport, Iowa, has presented to President Brigham Young, for the Museum, copies of a report of the exploration of an Indian mound, on the Santa Clara River, a few miles from St. George, in southern Utah. It appears that large quantities of stone implements and pottery were discovered, vessel of hard-burnt earthenware, stone mortars, "metals," pestles, grinding-stones, flint arrows and spear heads, and such Indian implements or property as could not be destroyed by fire. From the appearance of the human remains found, it seems they had been burned, in fact that cremation was practised by the mound-builders of that region. The Doctor thinks the Moquis, Pimos and Maricopas tribes now living are descendants of these ancient Indians.

ST. GEORGE.

Centennial Curiosities — The Grand Gulch Copper — News From the Sunny South.

St. GEORGE, Utah,
Jan. 8, 1876.

Editors Herald:

We have had a nice rain for a day and night, and now the sun is out in its usual splendor, and its warming rays remind one of spring time and garden making.

Dr. Palmer, left here last night for California via your city, after shipping his collection of various woods, plants, seeds, samples of Indian food, textiles and ancient and modern Indian implements and curiosities, mostly for the Centennial. He was an indefatigable collector and a gentleman.

*November 22, 1876
Deseret News*

National Museums were not the only place where Dr. Palmer's artifacts found a home. Some remained here in Utah at the Deseret Museum, managed by Professor J.L. Barfoot and owned by John W. Young, Brigham's son.

MUSEUM & MENAGERIE
Half Block East DESERET NEWS Office,
Proprietor,.....**JOHN W. YOUNG.**

THE Tourist may see the Minerals and Natural Productions of Utah at a glance. The Wild Beasts, Birds and Reptiles of the Rocky Mountains: Wolverines, Wild Cats, Lynxes, Eagles, Serpents, etc., Indian Dresses, Tomahawks, Scalps, etc., Skulls, Pottery, Hatchets, Medicine Balls and Curiosities from the Ancient Indian Mounds. Fossils: the Mammoth, Orthoceros, Corals, etc.
Admission 50 cents. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

J. L. BARFOOT,
Manager.

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However, the majority of Dr. Palmer's collection went to the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.

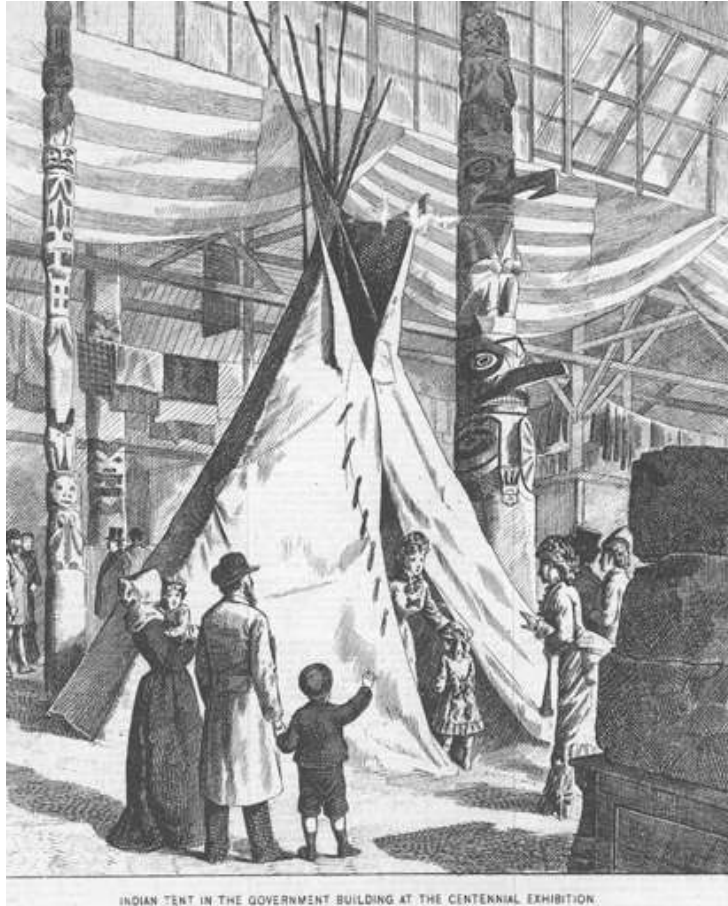
*January 8, 1876
Salt Lake Herald Republican*

Collections of native products, useful things, manufactures, curiosities, etc., for the Centennial are being collected, and the ladies, as usual, are up to the mark in preparing samples of their handiwork from native materials, and will doubtless have some nice things to present.

A mine of impure salt has recently been discovered across the Clara, which, upon further examination, may prove valuable.

Amusements are rather slack. A dancing party now and again, and meetings of the young men's association and the young ladies' meetings, also weekly, are well attended. There seems to be little of special interest transpiring.

J.



INDIAN TENT IN THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING AT THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

***1876 Centennial Exhibition
Illustration of the American Indian
Exhibit (Smithsonian Archives)***

Stephen Baird, the director of the National Museum, and J. W. Powell planned to have one hundred tribal representatives come to Philadelphia for the Centennial and camp in Fairmount Park. Baird and Powell made a 13 point checklist for the participating Indians, requiring them to be more white than Indian. They had to be influential among their own people, speak English, have an American style family of two children and a dog, and be spotless in living style and habits. As matters turned out, the cost of supporting the Indian delegation was more than Congress would approve. There were no Indians at the Centennial's American Indian exhibit.



***American Indian
Exhibit Pottery
Collection
(Smithsonian)***

Edward Palmer's collection of Indian artifacts, curiosities and manufactures, from Utah, were prominently displayed at the exhibition. In 1879, Powell was chosen as head of the *Bureau of Ethnology* created by an act of Congress to preserve all Indian records, artifacts, materials.



Mancos Canyon Cliff House, William Henry Jackson photographer (1875)

CLIFF HOUSES. — An interesting feature of the Centennial exposition will be the exhibition, by Dr. Hayden, of clay and plaster models of the cliff-houses of Colorado and Utah, now being prepared by Messrs. Jackson & Holmes, photographers to the survey. These houses are still to be found, in a good state of preservation, upon the narrowest and most inaccessible shelves of the canon walls of those regions. They are well built, of dressed stone, which had been brought from a distance, and occupy often-times almost the entire available portion of the terrace upon which they have been erected. It is supposed that they are the work of the Moquis, an agricultural nation, of which remnants still survive, and that they were rendered necessary by the incursions of hostile northern Indians.

February 15, 1876

Salt Lake Herald Republican

The photograph above was one of many in the American Indian Exhibit depicting Cliff Houses that captured the imagination of the Philadelphia exposition's patrons.

<https://arizonaorigins.com/products/1876-centennial-world-fair-colorado-original-hayden-survey-display-wh-holmes>

<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1192&context=nmhr>

*Frontispiece of
Frank Leslie's Illustrated
1876 Centennial Exposition*

The 1876 *Philadelphia Exposition* was the first international “world’s fair” held in the United States. Patterned after the London’s *Great Exposition* of 1851, it was proposed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1776 *Declaration of Independence* which was signed in Philadelphia. “*We hold these truths to be self-evident.*”

As shown in the frontispiece artwork, American Indians were to be a focus of the celebration. But, 1876 is also remembered for *Custer’s Last Stand* at the *Battle of the Little Bighorn*.

For Leslie’s complete guide go to

<https://archive.org/details/frankleslieshis00les/page/102/mode/lup?view=theater>



*Torch of Liberty (Statue of Liberty)
displayed in Fairmount Park,
Philadelphia, August 1876*

Spencer Baird’s estimated cost to Congress for the Indian delegation camp in Fairmount Park was \$115,000 in 1876 dollars. So no Indians came.

Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, the sculptor and promoter of the Statue of Liberty took the opportunity to display the forearm of his statue holding the torch of liberty as a fundraising event in Fairmount Park.

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Exploration of a Mound in Utah, Edward Palmer, *The American Naturalist*, July, 1876

<https://wchsutah.org/people/edward-palmer2.pdf>

base. A general view of the situation showed an isolated elevation which had originally covered about half an acre of ground with a varying height of ten or twelve feet, which had been cut away nearly one half on the side of the river by the action of its waters during a freshet in 1861 or 1862. The outline it presented on the ground was quite irregular. The rise in the river had changed the position of the channel, and deepened it and also made it wider. At this time, however, the stream is reduced to a very small width, say from twelve to fifteen feet. What remained of the mound was quite a conspicuous object in the landscape, about forty feet from the river-bed, with a vertical escarpment on that side, but evidently it had been a circular work before its partial demolition by the river. The lines of stratification seen on the river front were conclusive as to its having been piled up by human agency, showing various horizons from the base up, on which dwellings had been erected and occupied by the residents of the spot until some member of the household, probably the head, should die, when it was burned down with all its appurtenances, the dead body included; leaving a deposit of ashes with incombustible stone implements to designate the location.

This account of his 1875 excavation of the Santa Clara Indian Mound was written by Edward Palmer and published in *The American Naturalist* magazine, which documented research of the American Society of Naturalists.

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Excerpt from the

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

<https://wchsutah.org/people/edward-palmer1.pdf>

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)*

This photo is of the objects collected by Edward Palmer in 1875 in Southern Utah (Santa Clara). They were archived in Harvard University's Peabody Museum, and are presently on loan to the University of Utah's Marriott Library.

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William H. Holmes, Pottery of the Ancient Pueblos (1883)

<https://wchsutah.org/people/edward-palmer3.pdf>

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POTTERY OF THE ANCIENT PUEBLOS.

smoothed down on the interior surface as usual, a ridged appearance being the result. This comes from the difficulty of operating within a much restricted aperture. The color is gray, with a few effective clouds



FIG. 243.—Vase from the tumulus at Saint George.— $\frac{1}{4}$

of black, the result of firing. Another, of similar form, was taken from the collection by unknown persons.

The only example of coiled ware from this locality having a handle is a small mug. Its body is shaped much like the larger vessels, but it is less regular in outline. The single vertically placed handle, now partially broken away, was attached to the side of the body near the top, and consisted of a rough cord of clay less than half an inch in diameter. The Saint George tumulus furnished a number of vessels with smooth, unpainted surfaces, very similar in form and size to the coiled vessels. They are generally blackened by use over fire, and, like the large coiled pots, were evidently used for culinary purposes. A few smaller vessels

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Dr. Edward Palmer's Address at the Davenport (Iowa) Academy of Natural Sciences in 1893, clarifying his excavation of mounds in Payson, Utah.

<https://wchsutah.org/people/edward-palmer4.pdf>