

ILLINOIS BUYS CAHOKIA MOUNDS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY COURTESY OF PROF. WARREN K. MOOREHEAD

WORLD FAMOUS PREHISTORIC EARTH-HEAPS NOW SAFE FOR POSTERITY.

The American Legion

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

LEGION WARNING OF FAKES

Alleged Veterans' Publications Used to Appeal to Sympathy of Patriotic Citizens.

The sale of fake "veteran" magazines and publications has cost the public more than \$5,000,000 within a period of fourteen months, according to information received by the American Legion which has issued a warning against the operations of promoters of the spurious publications.

Publishers often use the name "veteran" to persuade the public that former service men get part of the proceeds of sales. Their salesmen do not hesitate to use the disabled and wounded plea. Investigations by the Legion and other Veterans' organizations and the Department of Justice have disclosed that entire proceeds of publications go into the pockets of persons who did not serve in the war, and who capitalize the patriotism of the American public and the reputation of World War fighters to enrich themselves.

Salesmen often peddle the publications with the plea of "help ex-soldiers"; "proceeds help disabled men"; "wounded myself in France, and cannot get a job." In some cases it was found to be the "game" for publishers to disown agents soliciting advance subscriptions. Other agents were found to have bought and worn "wound buttons" from private concerns. Many peddlers who have been arrested admitted that they were not former service men. By using the "help-the-boys-who-fought-for-you" plea, they have disposed of magazines, some at 25 cents a copy, their profit ranging from 17 to 19 cents.

In a number of cases salesmen have represented their publications as endorsed by the American Legion, which is untrue.

American Legion posts in all sections of the country are urged to give publicity to these fakes in order to protect patriotic citizens in their communities.

TO BE CLOSER CO-OPERATION

Veterans of World War and British Legion Now Are "Comrades in Peace."

Closer co-operation between veterans of the World War of the United States and Great Britain is indicated by the fact that the American Legion was represented at the annual convention of the British Legion and at the biennial meeting of the British Empire Service League.

Replying to a message sent by Alvin Dowsley, American Legion national commander, to the British Legion, Sir Douglas Haig, head of the British organization, said:

"It seemed to me that your splendid words found an echo in the hearts of everyone present. To your wish, 'Let us be comrades in peace,' I hasten to assure you that that is the sincere wish of every member of the British Legion. The aims of our respective Legions seem to be identical for all practical purposes and I hope that by some means we English-speaking ex-service men may become more closely affiliated. Please convey to your colleagues of the American Legion the heartfelt thanks of the British Legion for your assurance of fellowship, which we cordially reciprocate."

Past National Commanders Hanford MacNider of Mason City, Ia., and Milton J. Foreman of Chicago represented the Legion at the British convention.

AIDS IN MEMORIAL PROJECTS

Idaho Law Provides for Recognition of Those Who Gave Lives in World Conflict.

State aid in memorial construction projects is provided by Idaho, by the terms of a law recently enacted by the legislature of that state. Under the law a memorial commission is authorized in each county, to be composed of the commander of the American Legion post, heads of other established and recognized war veterans' organizations and the county commissioners. Each county commission is empowered to decide on a memorial to honor the World War dead. When the county appropriates \$1,000 and acquires a site for a memorial, the state will provide an equal sum.

County recorders are directed to record all discharge certificates of World War service men on application, and to make certified copies of the record when requested. A fee of 25 cents is authorized for making the record or furnishing a certified copy.

Modern Hospital Opened.

A Soldiers' Memorial hospital for the care of men disabled in the World War has been opened near Muskogee, Okla. The hospital was built by the soldiers' relief commission created by the Oklahoma legislature on request of the American Legion. The institution has been declared by veterans' bureau officials to be one of the most modern in the country.

LEADER OF OVERSEAS BODY

Miss Louise Wells of Chicago is Re-elected President of Women's Service League.

Miss Louise Wells of Chicago has been re-elected president of the Women's Overseas Service League, known as the little sister of the American Legion because many Legion women are also members of the league, making for closer co-operation between the two organizations.

Members of the league were the Army and Red Cross nurses, Salvation Army lassies, the "Y" girls, signal corps girls, canteeners, librarians and entertainers who served America's fighting men in France. Many were trench fever and influenza. A few were killed in action.

Miss Wells entered the service from Los Angeles. She is the daughter of Arthur G. Wells, vice president of the Santa Fe railroad. After serving at



Miss Louise Wells.

Camp Upton, she went overseas as a canteen worker. At Glenoble, at Allevard-Les-Bains and at Lyon, she served as a canteen worker and with the entertainment forces. She organized the Los Angeles unit of the league, and later was president of the Chicago unit.

Speaking at a recent convention of the league, Brig. Gen. Charles D. Daves said:

"You never looked so good to me as you did in your somber uniforms and hats, wading through the mud and mire, tramping through the rain, serving hot chocolate for hours at a time, in that country which, before we went over, we called 'sunny France.'"

Respects of the American Legion were paid to the overseas women by Past National Commander John G. Emery of Grand Rapids, Mich.

TO HONOR WORLD WAR HERO

Arkansas Legion Members Plan Fitting Tributes to Ex-Service Man in Unmarked Grave.

Arkansas members of the American Legion are assisting in plans for the Herman Davis Memorial Foundation in honor of Herman Davis, Arkansas' outstanding hero of the World War, who died in January from the effects of gas and is buried in an unmarked grave at Manila, Ark.

Plans of the foundation call for the erection of a suitable monument to his memory at Manila, and a similar monument on the lawn of the State War Memorial building at Little Rock. In addition, a scholarship will be endowed at the University of Arkansas, to be known as the Herman Davis scholarship.

A highway leading through the northern part of Mississippi county, through Manila and past the burial place of the young hero will be known as the Herman Davis Memorial highway.

Placed fourth on the list of 124 heroes of the war by General Pershing, Davis was always modest and retiring. He did not seek to capitalize his fame, but when the war was over returned to his native soil and again took up the ways of the simple life which he always had led.

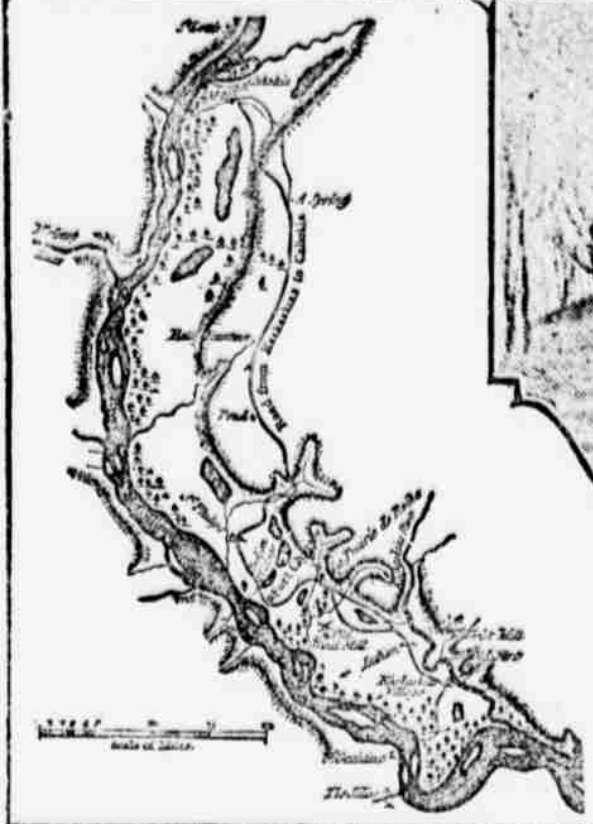
SAYS LEGION BENEFITS TOWN

Disabled Veteran Declares Organization Demands Justice for Every Ex-Service Man.

"We knew it would be a benefit to the town to get a post of the American Legion here. The Legion deserves all the assistance that every ex-service man can give it, for I, as a disabled man, know that through that organization a disabled man can get justice."

This was the declaration of Frederick Graham, a veteran of the World War and of the Spanish-American war, who now resides in Edmonds, Wash. The town has no post of the American Legion, owing to a small number of ex-service men, and Graham has been suggested as one to start such a movement among the former soldiers in the community.

Graham wrote national headquarters of the Legion that he was unable to take up the organization work on account of his physical condition. He said that he was being cared for by the veterans' bureau, after his case had been presented by American Legion officials.



NORTH VIEW OF MONKS MOUND



A CONICAL MOUND



EARTHENWARE VESSELS



SMALL MOUND BEING CUT AWAY BY CAHOKIA CREEK

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

ILLINOIS has at last bought the Cahokia Mounds—at any rate the last state legislature passed a bill appropriating \$50,000 for their purchase and Governor Small signed it. So these important relics of a prehistoric people will be preserved to posterity as a state park.

These Cahokia Mounds add the attraction of mystery to a region rich in historical associations of national importance. Monks Mound is the largest structure of its kind in the world. The Mississippi valley is dotted with the earth structures of prehistoric peoples and these Cahokia Mounds are presumably the most important of them all from an archeological viewpoint. When were they built? Who built them? What became of the builders?

These same questions were asked of the Illinois Indians when the first white men set eyes on the Cahokia Mounds 250 years ago. The answer was the same then as now—"Nobody knows."

These first white men were Joliet and Marquette—French explorer and Jesuit priest—who came down the Mississippi in 1673 from Canada by canoe. In 1675 the famous Jesuit founded a mission among the Indians at Kaskaskia. LaSalle began his operations in the Mississippi Valley in 1679 by building Fort Creve on the Illinois river at Peoria. Then the French settled all along the east side of the Mississippi from Cahokia to Fort Chartres. Until the English wrested Canada from France in 1763 all this region was French. The French staid on, with the British as overlords. Then came the Revolution and George Rogers Clark's splendid military coup, with results that made the American march across the continent inevitable—of which more later.

First, as to the Cahokia Mounds: The illustrations herewith are by courtesy of Prof. Warren K. Moorehead and are from an article by Robert H. Moulton in America Today, Chicago, with the title, "Movement Is Launched to Preserve Prehistoric Mounds in Illinois." This article contains the following:

"There is in Illinois a group of relics that stand to the prehistoric Indian culture of the United States as the pyramids do to that of Egypt—the Cahokia Mounds, near East St. Louis, including the Monks Mound, the largest known mass of earth ever built up by the labor of human hands.

"Notwithstanding the fact that the Egyptian pyramids are masses of stone and that they stand in a region without value, they have been partially demolished. Complete destruction would before now have been their fate, in all probability, had the Egyptian pyramids been great earthworks and the surrounding land needed for industrial development. A warning was sounded by Professor Warren K. Moorehead, the well-known archeologist, and largely through his efforts a movement has been started to have the state of Illinois purchase the entire Cahokia Mound region for park purposes. A bill having in view the preservation of these mounds failed of passage in the Illinois legislature in 1913. It appears, however, that it was not so much the cost of the land that deterred the state legislature from acting favorably in the matter, as the question raised by some as to whether the mounds were built by man or were a natural formation, notwithstanding that there has never been any doubt in the minds of archeologists as to their artificial construction.

To set at rest all doubts in the matter, Professor Moorehead, with the co-operation of the University of Illinois, Phillips Academy of Andover, Mass., and a number of individuals, began a series of explorations of several of the mounds during the fall of 1921 and continued them the following spring with the most gratifying results. Pottery fragments in great abundance, large quantities of flint chips, animal bones, and many complete human burials unearthed at considerable depths in several of the mounds, prove conclusively that they are the work of human hands. It is the belief of Professor Moorehead that the largest of the group, Monks Mound, so-called because of the presence there of the Trappists during a short period between 1808 and 1813, was a very long time in the building and that it probably was begun as a repository for the dead. That is, certain burials were made and other small mounds added as burials took place. Finally the structure became so large that the natives made it into a pyramid, added the upper terraces and used the top as a place of residence.

"While practically all of the Cahokia group of mounds, 72 in number, remain, their external contour has altered since the pioneers in Cahokia archeology gave us clear word pictures of conditions as they existed several generations ago. In all written accounts of the mounds most attention seems to have been concentrated on the largest and most prominent known as Monks Mound. In fact, nearly all the descriptions center in this ranking struc-

ture. The highest point of this mound as it exists today is 102 feet, its longest axis is 1,080 feet, and it covers slightly more than 16 acres. The great pyramid of Cheops in Egypt is 746 feet square, and the temple of the Aztecs in Mexico, 680 feet square. In volume, therefore, this Cahokia pyramid is the greatest structure of its kind found anywhere in the world.

"There is so much about the huge Cahokia Mound that is similar to the works of the Aztecs that it undoubtedly was from that part of the world that these people came, bringing their religion, their priesthood, their corn, their mode of life, and their middle order of primitive civilization. It is generally accepted, however, that the mound builders of Illinois did not observe the barbarous human sacrifices of the Aztecs.

"Eminent archeologists estimate that the settlement of the Cahokia mound builders numbered 150,000 at the height of its prosperity. They probably fished and hunted to some extent, but they likely depended for their subsistence upon their labor in the field, and their staple food was unquestionably corn."

Now for the historical associations of national importance. Kaskaskia was the first permanent European settlement in the Upper Mississippi Valley, as well as the first capital of the "Illinois Territory." Fort Chartres, named for the son of the regent of France, was built in 1720 by the French with the idea of giving protection to the operations of the Company of the West—John Law's famous "Mississippi Bubble"—organized in 1717. The fort was abandoned in 1772, the British garrison going to Kaskaskia. It has now been in part restored by the state and its powder magazine, the oldest building in Illinois, will be used as a historical museum. When in 1763 the Jesuits were suppressed in France and their property confiscated to the crown, the decree was enforced by the French commander against the Jesuits in Kaskaskia. The priests were expelled and their property, including 200 acres of cultivated land, many cattle and a brewery, was sold. This was just before the British occupation.

During the Revolution "Hair-Buyer" Hamilton, the British commander of the region, with headquarters at Detroit, incessantly harried the American settlements in Kentucky by Indian raids. George Rogers Clark, a heaven-born military genius raised up by Providence for the occasion, conceived the plan of winning peace for Kentucky by carrying the war to Hamilton at Detroit. He began operations by capturing Kaskaskia, taking it by surprise, without bloodshed.

The French of the Illinois territory called the Americans "Long-Knives" and believed them to be bloodthirsty and cruel. They had no love for their British overlords, but feared the Americans exceedingly. When Clark captured Kaskaskia without bloodshed, treated the inhabitants with kindness and announced that there would be no interference with their church and religion the simple villagers were overjoyed and enthusiastically took the oath of allegiance to the United States. They raised a company of militia and accompanied Major Bowman to Cahokia, where there was another bloodless victory. Then they volunteered to take Vincennes the same way—which they did. So Clark got possession of every British post in the Illinois country without a battle and without the loss of a life. Later that fall as everyone knows, Hamilton led an expedition from Detroit and recaptured Vincennes, only to lose it to Clark the next spring and be taken to Virginia as a prisoner.

Clark's sudden appearance and rapid capture of these western posts of the British astonished beyond measure the Indians and their chiefs for 500 miles round about flocked to see the "mighty war-

rior of the Long-Knives." By concerted action they could wipe out his scanty force in a twinkling. Clark met them in council at Cahokia with stern and lofty dignity. He showed no fear. He gave no indication of desire for friendship. He laid before them a war-belt and a peace-belt and told them to take their choice. In short, this young leader of backwoods militia bluffed the great crowd of restless, bloodthirsty, pro-British savages to a standstill. One chief after another arose and made submissive speeches. Clark refused to smoke the peace-pipe with any till he had heard from all and the treaties were concluded. These proceedings lasted five weeks and their influence extended to all the tribes around the Great Lakes. Clark had no further trouble with the Illinois Indians.

Virginia, which then claimed all this region, immediately clinched Clark's victory by creating the "County of Illinois." Col. John Todd, as "County Lieutenant," took possession, set up a capital at Kaskaskia in May of 1779 and established a complete civil government.

Cahokia also figures large in an ambitious plan by the British cabinet in 1780 to capture New Orleans, the Spanish posts west of the Mississippi and the Illinois Country. War had been declared May 8, 1779, between Spain and Great Britain. May 23, 1780, a raid was made on St. Louis, the Spanish headquarters, by a force of 140 English and Canadian traders and 1,500 Indians, fitted out by Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair of Michilimackinac (Mackinac) and led by a Sioux chief named Wabasha. A portion of the party crossed the river and raided Cahokia. Sinclair's official report says: "At Ponceur (St. Louis) 68 were killed, and 78 blacks and white people taken prisoners; 43 scalps were brought in. The rebels lost an officer and three men at Cahokia, and five prisoners."

Suddenly, without pressing the assault, the entire party decamped and scattered. They had discovered that Clark had returned in haste from Kentucky and was at hand, prepared to aid the Spanish. The very name of Clark was a terror to the Indians. A high wind prevented signals from being heard; otherwise Clark would have had a hand in the hostilities.

This attack was part of a general plan devised by Lord George Germain for the complete conquest of the West. Features of this plan were to bring down a force of Northwestern Indians on St. Louis; to send an expedition from Detroit to invade Kentucky and keep Clark busy; to bring a fleet and army up the Mississippi under General Campbell to unite with the northern expedition. The plan was a good one. It failed in part because Governor Galvez of New Orleans got busy, licked the British and captured their posts along the lower Mississippi and at Mobile and Pensacola. It also failed because Clark blocked the progress of the northern expedition and also brought to naught the expedition from Detroit to Kentucky under Captain Byrd.

If this British plan of conquest had been successful the country north of the Ohio and west of the Mississippi would have thereupon become a part of the Province of Quebec.

Clark's brilliant exploits in 1778 and 1779 therefore have a place of importance in American history that cannot be overestimated. They enabled the new nation of the United States in the peace negotiations successfully to insist upon the Mississippi as its western boundary as against the British contention of the Alleghenies.

With the Mississippi and the Ohio carrying their trade to the Gulf, the American people could not rest until New Orleans was an open port to them. This desire of the frontier brought about the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. And with the continent theirs from the Atlantic to the Rockies the march to the Pacific became a matter of course.