May 22, 1896

Dear Archaeologist,

Yale University

Dear Sirs, Should you desire to enlarge your collection of relics of the Ancient Indian or mound builders either by purchase or by excavating mounds & earthworks and companies I would be glad to hear from you as I am so situated that I could assist you very readily. I have several mounds to open now and have opened two lately and could get quite a number to open but I am limited by my income to just such as I can excavate by myself without hiring any help. My territory in my business embraces Pickaway, Fairfield, Ross, & Pike counties all of which are famous for their mounds & earthworks. I can locate 40 mounds & earthworks within 6 miles of Ashville and also numerous camp sites and burying grounds among them. I have no relics to sell at present but if you will name a price for specimens
I will see what I can do at buying and I know where there are plenty of them for sale no large number in any one place except 2 private collections but here and there all over the country almost every farmer has a few nice ones and lots of them for sale. As to excavating Mounds I would like to hear from you in that line especially as there are two other Universities expecting to do work in that line through this section of the country and who do not want to neglect all the relics. As a collector I appreciate the value of these mounds and contents from a historical and scientific point and would like to see them go to a University with a National reputation rather than a local or State University. Availing your reply I remain,

Yours truly,

J. S. Roof,

P.S. References furnished.

Ashville, Ohio

J. S. Roof,

RICHARD W. ASHVILLE, OHIO