Lasnessville, Butler County, Ohio 15458
5 miles N.E. of Hamilton.

Mr. Myers having heard
by Mr. W.P. James the Hill
and Dr. Burns of your visit
west in search of American
or western antiquities-
relics of extinct tribes, who
have lived on these western
lands. I address a letter to you.
I came to Ohio in 1838.
I have all the time since then
interested in the earthworks,
Mounds and Castra here.
I measured many of them
and made drawings.
My conclusions are 1st Mounds
are burying places of great men.
2d Castra are pens where game
as Buffalo + Elk + Deer + were
driven in to capture as needed for food.
These People did not live in these Pens is evident from this, all signs of fire where food was cooked is outside and distant from the castles. None of their implements are found inside these Pens. Most of these Pens have a place for capturing the game when needed. From one corner run two parallel earth walls to an enlarged circle where a mound is in the center. Here the game were driven and caught with ropes or killed with battle axes. There were other modes of taking game also in these Pens. Round stones were a mile or more from the game Pens. There may have been a trade among these tribes in food, implements, skins, etc. They used long spears in driving game in their Pens. The bow and arrows were little used.
Only one is buried in some of the large Mounds whilst others much smaller contain the bones of numerous men in several layers all buried by the rites of fire. Brush were burned over their dead and earth heaped on top. Then as more were buried, they were put on top—the same rites of fire performed—and again a third layer of dead were buried with rites of fire.

One on Pike Atston's farm 3 miles below Hamilton on the Big Miami shows three layers of bones, six men on a fire over the mound in the top layer. The river has carried away two-thirds of the mound. It was surrounded by castles to keep wild animals from passing over it. It being a great burying place.
Those early ethne buried in graves from a foot and a half to two feet deep along the banks of the two Miami's From Union Bridge on the little Miami up to Milford 8 miles their along the river and on some of the high banks or upper bottoms 100 or 150 are to the acre buried. Remains of several ethne are found on the two Miami's One cover their dead with stone in small heaps An other ethne put stone ground the outer edge of their mounds These last seem very old many of the stone moved out of place and these mounds are low I think the stone mounds most recent of any of the ancient mounds generally large Mounds and less ancient small mounds have no stones set edgewise round them
Near Newtown on the Little Miami I have seen fire places in the river bank buried burnt stone and charcoal 15 feet below the cared bank of beds where stood oak trees 100 years of growth or more. I have observed the same in other places the Miami I have found a few shells are the same in the old deposit Palaeocene, they are rare a thousand years old, as at the present day Menios, Alasmodontus, Anasontus, Millania, Palaeocord. has been found - Marine on the Ohio river near the south bend I found a piece of a large stone pot - Steatite probably from North Carolina. I have found pieces of hematite iron worked in implements. Large pieces of mica are also found on the two Miami. On Chalkahowan gauge near Atlanta I found their small pots of clay had three legs. Only place near the place on Little Miami have I seen Segon Pottery.
All the pottery of ancient type in Ohio has no signs of legs:
I have seen fragments of large pots at the salines, on the Maricopa river 25 miles below St. Louis. These large pots were used in making salt by some tribe.
All these relics of ancient pottery are made of clay mixed with some porous material. Shells pounded were used the most in this ancient pottery. Gneiss rock also pounded was used in some large pots.
I dug out an Indian Pot at Carthage, Ohio near the fair ground.
A man, woman and child were buried there. The Pot was near the breast of the man in it was a mussel shell. Alum, calx, lime. This held the bear oil and the Pot was dinner for the Indian to the Fair hunting grounds in his young age.

An other Pot I obtained in Tennessee.
Large Mounds had small mounds at the base, near the base, thus showing a distinction among among men.

A large mound near Belford has small ones at base.

The great mound 15 miles below Wheeling, Virginia at Grave Creek has several small mounds at base.

The first view from the Ohio river was truly grand, rising like a little mountain.

A large Mound in Butler County, Ohio or 10 miles N.E. of Hamilton is grand and imposing as it stands in the woods, towering up to the tree tops, a solitary monument of bygone days, in ages long past. The position of some mounds when first seen.
has a remarkable effect on the mind. They may be huge but do not produce such sublime sensations at first sight.

We speak to their dust,
We talk to their bones,
And not a sound can there come Of their Glory again.
They have run their last race,
They sleep their last sleep
and no sound can wake them
To Glory again.
these mound builders were prophet increased till all the game were taken then starvation famine and pestilence swept them from the earth, long before the roving indian came here. These ancient ethni did not use tobacco. No pipes are found with their implements on the western waters.

Pieces of flint, and their bones are as chips, but not a piece of a pipe is found. We find battle axes, meat pounders, skin dressers, sinkers for fish lines, round balls of stone, prominent to 5 pounds in weight, but not on their earth works.

They were domestic and peaceable people; waves would have entered their modes of liveliness, Warring nations like the present roving tribes of indians leave no monuments. They have not time. They are on the look out and moving from place to place. They have no settle system of liveliness. Great Monuments like pyramids in Egypt require great resources of food. Wandering tribes cannot raise great monuments. They may make curious wrought pipes or scratch on
sand rocks with pieces of flint as they are watching for game. But at stationary labor they would starve. They have no provision for food beyond coming want, and all their time is devoted to that end, and generally from living then. These mound builders had systems, laws, rules and probably notions of honor, honesty and equity among men. Their monuments are evidence of these tracts of human character and conditions. Indian tribes have left no traces of such tracts. They have left no traces of their existence, only their ravages of Plunder, save a few corn hills, where their slaves raised their vegetable food.
The Indians have left a few skin dressers, their squaws used on skins. A few pipes and pieces of broken pots used in cooking their food. The men have no arts, only cunning, deception and Plunder. Their Medicine man was a liar, he pretended to be what he was not. He pretended to act by charms; he deceived others, he deceived himself. The Indians followed their leaders to battle, war and Plunder. Their great schemes were to destroy human life. They had no civil arts, no literature, no learning, but cunning, lying and deception. The normal man was all that produced sociability, they had no "sumum bonum". They had Deceamn but all was selfish greatness.
What notions the mound builders had in burning brush over their dead is to us unknown. According to Homer, the Greeks in the Trojan war buried their dead on piles of wood. Ancient Romans and other nations burned their dead.

American Indians have never, as my knowledge, burned their dead. Some Indian tribes put their dead on scaffolds and allowed the flesh to rot off and then hung the bones. Indians are buried sitting with bow and arrows and other implements by them. In these mounds no implements are found in the mounds with the bones—few exceptions only. I have dug in many and found nothing but bones, charcoal, and flat stones.

Before mound builders were here, large animals lived in these western lands. Megasaurus, American Elephant, Pally theoreum, great paper. The bones of the "large beast" are deep buried in the debris of the Glacier Period. The teeth of the old beast are found on or near the top of the earth in Ohio. Megasaurus is a name applied to one species of these great beasts. Various names are applied to different species of these great beasts. The bones found are filled with mineral matter, oxide of iron and manganese. No human bones are found in this connection. It is plain they were here long before many smaller quadrupeds and soon after the Glacier Period.
When the earth deposits of the glacial period were soft and great lakes, ponds, and marshes were south of the great lakes of North America. I must close—My address is Cartes Shepard, Loveland, Ohio.

Yours sincerely,
Cartes Shepard
This is a circular earth wall on a bank of drift 20 feet high. A mound 6 feet high keeps the back wall from view at the entrance on the raised way. This raised way is 50 feet wide on an inclined plain down to a lower level plain. Outside of the castria is a level 12 feet wide all round to the raised pass way. At the high sand did not fell a part of the circle-earth was filled in to make it.
This circular Pen is part on the farm of Michael Tuning and part on this Pen from wall to wall through the center is 300 feet. This castria is 4 mile. Before the junction of the Eastfork River little Miami a mile and a half south of Milford Clermont County Ohio north of it on the banks of the little Miami is a Mound covered on top with green stone and hornblend petishes. East of it is a large Mound with small Mounds at the eastern foot nearly obliterated. On a Plain NE every earth wall of endlessness now nearly obliterated by plowing.
This is earth walls on the old Fair Redd farm now Camden City 1/2 mile South of Millard Two extention walls ruin 15/8 from the main Cattle to a circle around a small mound herein this circle the deer, buffalo, etc. and other game were taken
There were many earth walls near this cashta which I measured 30 years ago, now almost obliterated by the plow. All the raised or open passes in to these pens are near 50 feet in width. In the square pens a mound stands inside of the line and 50 feet, to hide the back wall from view, when game ne

 driven in
This is an enclosure of earth walls about 8 or 10 acres on the 360itch farm a mile east of Milford, Clermont County, Ohio. South of it are other walls enclosing in all about 20 acres. Near the N.W. corner outside was a well—a hundred loads of stone have been hauled from it.
These earth walls are on the line of the town of 4 miles NW of Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio's SE side of the Big Miami.

At this entrance outside is a small mound. In the entrance is a circular ring of earth wall round that ring is a ditch where a game was caught in coming in to the large pen. The outer mound hid from view the inner works.
Other earth works similar in construction are at Dunstaff's Station below Venice bridge on the Big Miami. This was a large pen. I traced one of the earth walls a thousand paces 20 years ago and still some of the walls are plain to be seen.

From Carlo's, Steepbank, Ohio.