

found in all of the pits hitherto cleaned out; one of the heaviest mauls yet seen weighing 36 pounds, came from this location. It has a double groove, which is not usual, and it was intended, no doubt, to be used by two men. In one of the pits a rude ladder was found, formed of an oak tree, trimmed so as to leave the stumps of the branches projecting, on which men could readily descend or ascend to or from their work. Wooden levers are also found among the rubbish, preserved by water, which covered them continually. On the edge of the excavation in which the mass of copper was found, there stood an aged hemlock, the roots of which extended across the ditch. I counted the rings of annual growth on its stump, and found them to be 290. Mr. Knapp mentions another tree which had 395. The fallen and decayed trunks of a previous generation were seen lying across the pits.

Besides mauls made of stone the miners had mauls made of copper, which were fashioned into shape by pounding, some of them weighing as much as from 20 to 25 pounds, the handles generally being from 8 to 10 inches long—in fact they seem to have used the copper for many purposes, such as knives, chisels, bodkins, arrow and spear heads.”

How long a time has elapsed since these old miners were at work on the shores of Lake Superior is a question of great interest. Mr. Whittlesey, although he does not say so in express terms, inclines to the opinion, I rather think, that it was about the same time that the ancient Britons were digging for tin in the mines of Cornwall before the time of the Romans; for the workings, particularly the deeper ones, were similar in both cases. He claims for them, however, an antiquity of from 500 to 600 years, and supposes the race to be the same as the Mound Builders of Ohio, Kentucky, and some of the other Western States. These mounds, or tumuli, were repositories for the bodies of the dead, which being opened in recent times disclosed copper implements and copper ornaments, such as are found in the old Lake Superior mines.

No less a man than the late Gen. Harrison, before he became President of the United States, tried his hand on the subject before the Historical Society of Ohio, but neither he nor any other man could arrive at any certainty. My own opinion formed from some knowledge of the Indian race, would be against the Mound Builders and the miners being one and the same people; because from the workings carried on there must have been a great population on the ground at one time, and it is not likely that the Mound Builders would have travelled so far and remained so long on the same spot. It is more probable that the copper tools and ornaments found in the mounds were got in exchange by the builders