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THE CAIRNS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND WASHINGTON. BY HARLAN I.  
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One of the kinds of burial, on southeastern Vancouver Island in British Columbia, on the San Juan group, and on Whidbey Island in Washington, was in stone cairns. This method of burial is known to have antedated contact with the whites by a considerable period. The stone structures are usually located on slopes, with a gravelly soil, which are strewn with angular boulders, and near the sea. So far as we know they are always within a mile of shell-heaps.

In general the cairns consist of irregular piles of boulders, from three to twenty feet in diameter. One is found over each body, which in some cases, are found surrounded by a more or less rectangular cyst formed by placing the straightest sides of several boulders towards it, and covering the opening thus formed with one, two or more slab-shaped rocks of like character. In some cases there are the slab-like stones over the grave but the vault is not well-formed, if present at all, and in other cases the cover stones are so small that they do not form a protecting roof over the body. Over the cyst the rough pile of the cairn was reared. It is frequently bounded by a single row of large stones while the filling between this wall and the vault is of small fragments, boulders, and in some cases largely of soil or mixtures of these materials. Rectangular cairns have been found where the outer row had been carried up so as to form a retaining wall making the whole structure similar to a truncated pyramid. Cairns were also found in which the body was placed at the side of a large boulder and covered with small boulders piled up against the large rock.

The skeleton, which was placed on the side in the usual flexed position, is found on the original surface of the soil, sunken into it or in a shallow

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