

women among the Halkōm'lem tribes, past or present, as far as we can learn. That these mound builders are an old race, and some of their tombs of great age, we may gather from the fact that out of the crown of the one from which the deformed skull was taken—and which was probably the cause of its partial preservation—there stood the decaying stump of a large cedar tree, which could not have been less than several centuries old. From this it is clear that this mode of sepulture dates back to a comparatively remote period, too remote, I think, to have been known or practised by the ancestors of the Halkōm'lem tribes. Deep-rooted customs such as these widely scattered monuments of a bygone age reveal do not change easily, or give place readily to others so radically different.

In concluding this paper I may be permitted to briefly sum up the results of my investigations of the archaeological remains found within the Halkōm'lem borders. First, we gather from the evidence of the older middens that the Lower Fraser was in possession of a primitive people at a comparatively remote date, probably not less than 2,000 years ago; that the cephalic index and the general contours of the heads of at least some of these differed radically from those of any tribe that now exists or has been known to exist here; and that these or some other equally unknown people practised important mortuary rights and customs altogether unlike those practised by the present tribes, or known to have been practised in the past by them. From these results and from my linguistic studies, which show that the speech of the Halkōm'lem tribes, distantly separated as some of them are, is practically homogeneous, which could certainly not be the case if these scattered tribes had occupied the Lower Fraser district from the period of the earlier middens and burial mounds, we may fairly conclude that the present Salish tribes are not the original occupiers of this portion of the province; that they are, in fact, comparative late comers. Who, or of what race, were the ancient midden and mound builders, whether they were related to the De'ne' of the interior who once undoubtedly occupied a greater portion of Southern British Columbia than they do now, or to some other unknown race which has been exterminated or absorbed, future investigations may one day reveal to us.