

Lytton. This place is on the tableland overlooking the Fraser River, and near the present Indian village of Slanie. Here were human bones, fragments of pecten shells, fragments of steatite pipes, and wedges of antler, scattered by the wind. On the lower terrace, close to Stein Creek, are remains of ancient houses, which measured from fifty to sixty feet in diameter.

Some attention was given to a sixth site, which is marked by burials and traces of habitations, on the low sandy terraces on the west bank of the Fraser River, about opposite the main burial place. These sites may or may not have been occupied at the same time.

All through this region are evidences of prehistoric habitations, located at varying distances from the larger village-sites. This suggests that the mode of life of the prehistoric people was similar to that of the present Indians, among whom one or two families often live at some distance from the main villages.

At Spences Bridge a single grave was the most interesting site explored. It was located on the edge of the first terrace overlooking Thompson River from the north, about a quarter of a mile above the ferry. There are numerous old graves near by, on an island near the north bank of Thompson River, which the Indians did not wish us to explore; while they had no knowledge of the first grave, and assisted in exploring it. This grave contained no evidence of contact with whites. On the other hand, there is no positive evidence pointing to great antiquity. Fabrics that were buried with the body, and wooden posts in the surrounding soil, were still in a fair state of preservation.

About four miles above Spences Bridge, on the north side of the valley, are several pits surrounded by embankments, which mark the sites of ancient underground houses. Excavations in these pits resulted in finding broken bones of deer, bear, bison, etc., charcoal, burned and crackled stones, and other evidences of occupancy.

At Kamloops attention was directed particularly to the large burial place and camp-site on the Indian Reserve, on a low sandy stretch north of Kamloops Bridge. Except where held in place by an occasional sagebrush, the light yellowish grey sand is ever shifting over this site, so that the depth of the remains varies daily, and the original order of burial has been much disturbed. Burned and crackled boulders hold in place conical piles of sand twenty to thirty feet in diameter. These are evidently the places where stones have been heated to be used in cooking roots, or in boiling food in baskets. Strewn over the entire site are found the bones of food-animals, stray bones from graves, burned and crackled fire-stones, and other objects, such as dentalium shells, copper beads and flat oblong beads made of bone. The last named were usually found in little patches near traces of fires, and were frequently charred. Chipped points for knives, arrows, etc., wedges made of antler, and stone pestles or hammers were also discovered.