

the next in the series is a class of mounds formed in part like the clay ones, but differing from them in having a pile of boulders heaped up over and around the spot where the body lay. These boulders were afterward covered with the neighbouring soil, the pile when finished being from four to eight or ten feet high, according to the depth at which the corpse was placed. This was evidently at times laid upon the undisturbed earth, at others a basin-shaped hole was first excavated in the soil, and the body placed at the bottom of this. Another significant feature of these tumuli is the presence of charcoal in some of them. In several I found a distinct stratum, in places an inch thick, extending over the whole area of the structure some feet above where the body lay. This charcoal was evidently the remains of a sepulchral fire. In this connection I may here state that, as far as my investigations go, they show that the mound builders of the Halkōmēlem district did not, at times at least, practise quite the same mortuary customs as did those of Vancouver Island. For while it is clear that both made use of the sepulchral fire, those of the island seem to have frequently cremated the corpse and afterwards deposited the ashes and unburnt bones in a kind of pit or rough cist at the bottom of the mound. The evidence, however, on this head is not always as clear as one would desire. There is no doubt, however, that cremation was practised by the island mound builders, while this custom seems to have been unknown on the mainland. What was consumed in these sepulchral fires it is impossible now to say, though, judging from more recent practices of the kind, it may well have been merely food for the shade of the departed or his clothes or other personal belongings. Mortuary fires for this purpose are not unusual among primitive races, and were, we know, commonly lighted among the tribes of this region until quite recently.

Next in the series we find a class of mounds which may be said to be typical of the greater number of these structures wherever found. These differ from the last described in having a rectangular periphery of stones. Elsewhere on the Fraser, on the mountain slopes overlooking Sumas Lake, at Point Roberts on the Sound and almost everywhere on Vancouver Island, we find mounds of this class. These inclosures vary in diameter from about ten to fifty feet. Sometimes they are proximately true squares, at others they are decidedly oblong in shape. The greater portion of the space contained by these boundaries is covered with the central pile of boulders or rocks, and over all is thrown the soil or clay of the neighbourhood, which is not infrequently interstratified with different coloured sands. Sometimes we find this type considerably elaborated, and instead of one boundary of stones we have three, one inclosing the other, with an interval of a few feet between them, with the outermost doubled and capped by an additional row. The stones of which these tombs are constructed vary in character with the locality in which they are found. All those at Hatzie were formed of water-worn boulders, and had to be conveyed to the spot from the mountain streams, a mile or so back from the site. They weighed from twenty-five pounds to 200 pounds each, and the total weight of them in one of the more elaborate mounds could not have been less than twenty-five or thirty tons. It will be seen that the building of some of these tombs was no light task. Those found on the mountain slopes overlooking Sumas Lake are in every case with which I am familiar built of jagged blocks of stone, of varying weight and size, taken from the mountain side. In other respects they do not differ