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PREHISTORIC BURIAL PLACES
IN MAINE

BY

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WITH FOUR PLATES AND FIFTY ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE TEXT
BY THE AUTHOR

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This paper is published by the timely aid of
Clarence Bloomfield Moore
of the class of 1873
whose many contributions to the Peabody Museum
have exemplified his devotion to American
Archaeology and whose personal researches
have materially aided its advancement

J. W. Putnam



EDITORIAL NOTE.

SEVERAL years ago, Dr. A. C. Hamlin of Bangor, Maine, kindly gave to the Curator of the Museum information of an interesting Indian burial place in Bucksport. In the summer of 1892, the opportunity occurred of securing the assistance of Mr. Willoughby, who is a Maine man and familiar with the region mentioned by Dr. Hamlin, to carry on for the Museum the exploration of this burial place and also of another at Orland.

The results of these explorations proved so interesting, and the work was so admirably carried out in accordance with the Museum methods, that it was decided to use the material from the Orland site to illustrate the "Methods of Archaeological Research by the Peabody Museum," in the Harvard University Exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The collection of specimens, as well as the photographs, sketches, field notes and a plaster model of the burial place at Orland, all by Mr. Willoughby, were exhibited in the Liberal Arts Building. The exhibit attracted favorable comment and was awarded a medal at the close of the Exposition. The Bucksport exhibit was made in the Department of Ethnology in the Anthropological Building.

In 1894, Mr. Willoughby explored other similar burial places in Maine, and the following paper gives an account of the two seasons' work. The illustrations are from drawings and photographs made by the author.

The specimens, together with several photographs of the graves, and models showing portions of two of the sites, are arranged in the Museum.

As the author has shown, these cemeteries are undoubtedly of very considerable antiquity; and it may be that they are of a people distinct from the historical Algonquins. The absence of pottery in and about the graves is a fact of ethnic importance, and one that should be borne in mind whenever burial places on the coast of Maine, and in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, are explored.

Mr. Willoughby offers a possible solution of the question, What people made these ancient cemeteries? But it is essential that a burial place in Newfoundland, the known country of the Beothuks, should be explored in order to provide the means of comparison with the burial customs of the prehistoric people on the coast of Maine.

F. W. PUTNAM,

Curator of Peabody Museum.

Cambridge, Mass.,

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Model of the Burial Place at Orland, Me., when partially explored, showing graves.