

Missouri Prehistoric Giants?

by:

Ginger Michaud, Publisher

The subject of prehistoric giants certainly has a “giggle factor”. With that in mind, I will quote from articles printed in local and national newspapers so that you can decide the validity of the stories for yourself.

In December of 1934, the Southern Missourian published an article titled “Giant Skeletons in Missouri Mound; Light on Past May be Shed”. This article was picked up by the Associated Press, and read: *“Discovery of eight giant human skeletons arranged in four layers so that each pair formed a cross in a shallow Indian mound near here apparently sheds light on the religious customs of prehistoric tribes who once inhabited the Ozarks. In the crook of an arm of one of the skeletons was found an ancient stone sacrificial bowl, with markings which were exactly like four strange idols recently discovered by Mr. Newberry in Coleman Cave north of Springfield. Reverend S.P. Newberry, Springfield archaeologist, believed it was “highly probably” that the crosses formed by the skeletons were of religious significance.”*

Decades earlier, a different discovery was reported in Missouri, and published in various newspapers including the New York Times, in April 1885. Excerpts from the NYT article are as follows:

“The city of Moberly, Mo. is stirred up over the discovery of a wonderful buried city, which was discovered at the bottom of a coal shaft 360 feet deep, which was being sunk near the city...A hall 30 by 100 feet was discovered wherein were stone benches and tools of all descriptions for mechanical service. Further search disclosed statues and

images made of a composition closely resembling bronze, lacking luster. A stone fountain was found, situated in a wide court or street, and from it a stream of perfectly pure water was flowing, which was found to be strongly impregnated with lime. Lying beside the fountain were portions of the skeleton of a human being. The bones of the leg measured, the femur four and one-half feet, the tibia four feet and three inches, showing that when alive the figure was three times the size of an ordinary man, and possessed of a wonderful muscular power and quickness. The facts above given are vouched for by Mr. David Coates, the Recorder of the City of Moberly, and Mr. George Keating, City Marshall, who were of the exploring party. A further search will be made in a day or two.”

This article is available in full in the New York Times free archive. I could not find any follow-up articles, interviews, or corresponding exhibits of the Moberly story. Were there subsequent investigations? Who owns the mine now? From what I could find (or NOT find), the whole story goes completely cold after this report.

These are not the only reports of prehistoric Giant skeleton discoveries in Missouri. From 1825 to date, I found countless stories describing finds in North America alone, much less worldwide.

I dredged through the depths of internet murk and lore on this topic to bring you the most credible accounts of prehistoric giants in our great state. To anyone curious enough to take the plunge and research for yourself - beware. It is a GIANT undertaking!