

# AMERICA'S ADENA MOUNDBUILDERS

And Their Burial Tablets

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Epigrapher since 1977 and  
colleague of many advocates  
of ancient America for 30 years.

**Colonial explorers crossed the Appalachian Mountains and discovered large earthen mounds and geometric earthworks !!**



***Who built these mounds?***

***Why?***

**Criel Mound, South Charleston, West Virginia**

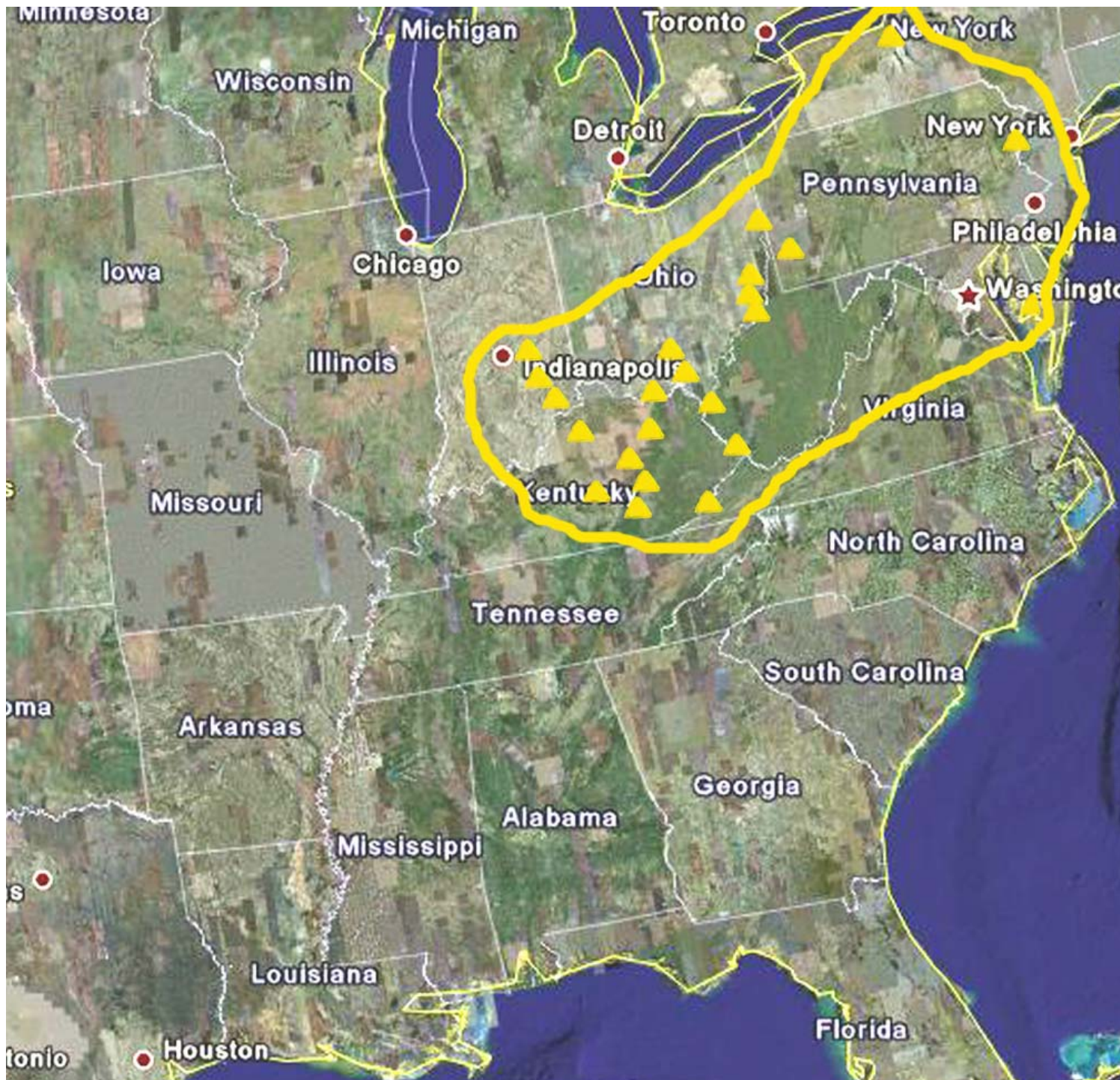
# The Adena Moundbuilders

**Adena built mounds to bury dead.**

**Adena occupied valleys along Ohio River and its tributaries from about 3000 to 1600 years ago (ya).**

**Later, Hopewell and Mississippian people also built mounds.**





**ADENA**



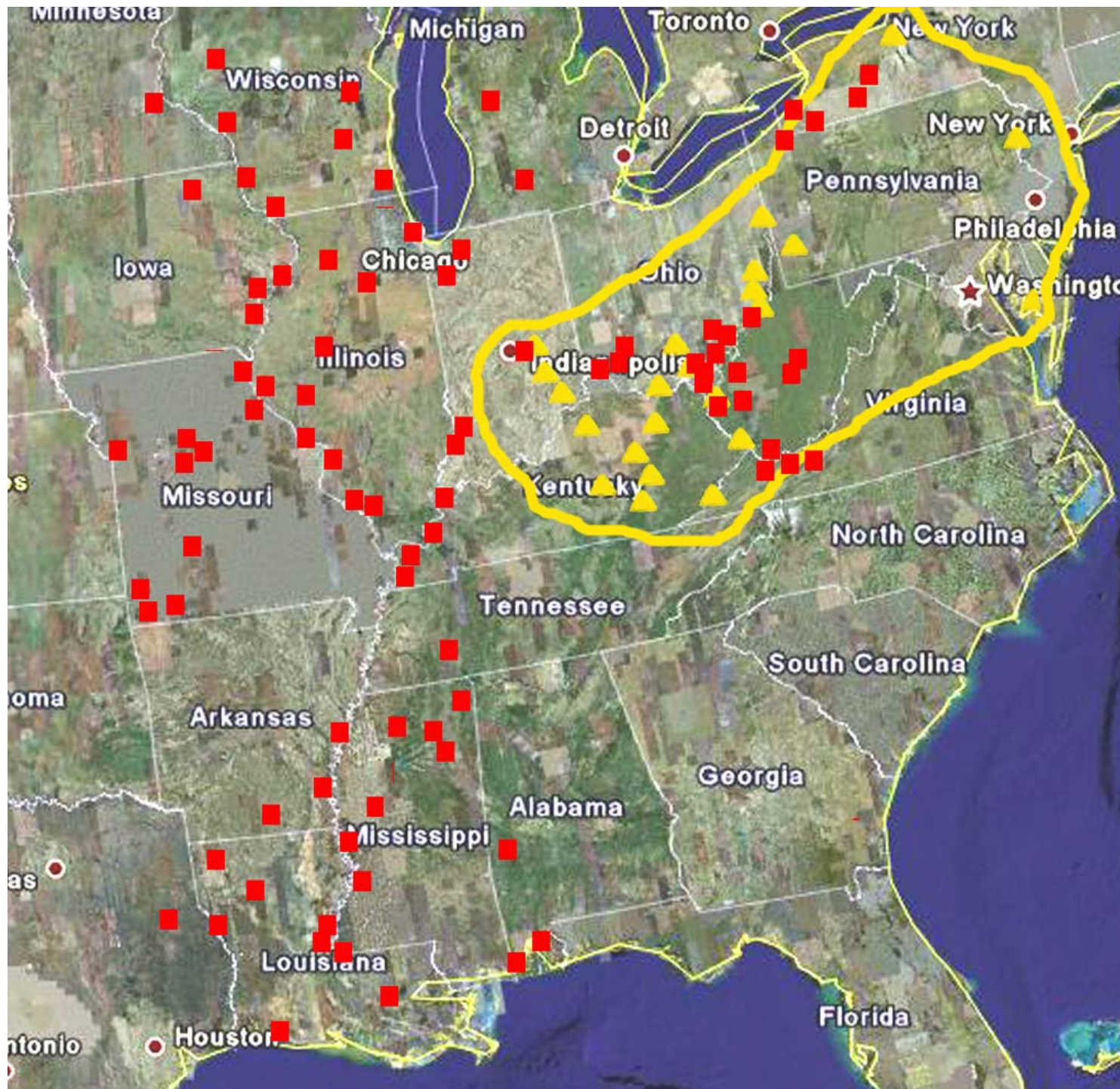
**3000**

**To**

**1600**

**Years ago**





**ADENA  
+  
HOPEWELL**



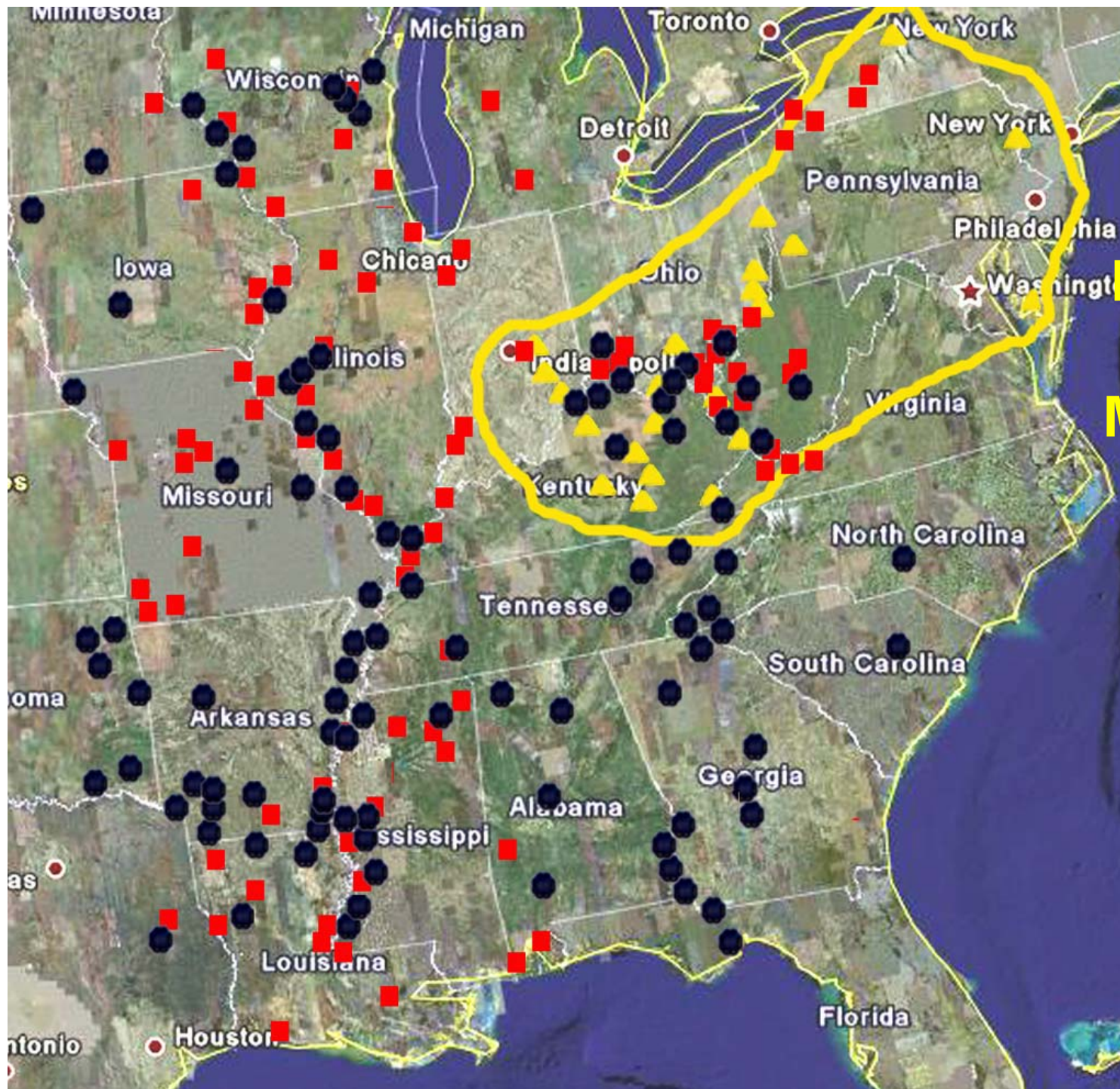
**2200**

**TO**

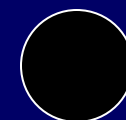
**1500**

**YEARS AGO**





**ADENA  
+  
HOPEWELL  
+  
MISSISSIPPI**



**1200**

**To**

**500**

**Years ago**

# The Adena Moundbuilders

**Adena people named after estate of Ohio Governor Worthington.**

**In 1901 mound on Adena estate was excavated.**

**Adena mound contained distinctive artifacts that identify the Adena group.**

# The Adena Moundbuilders



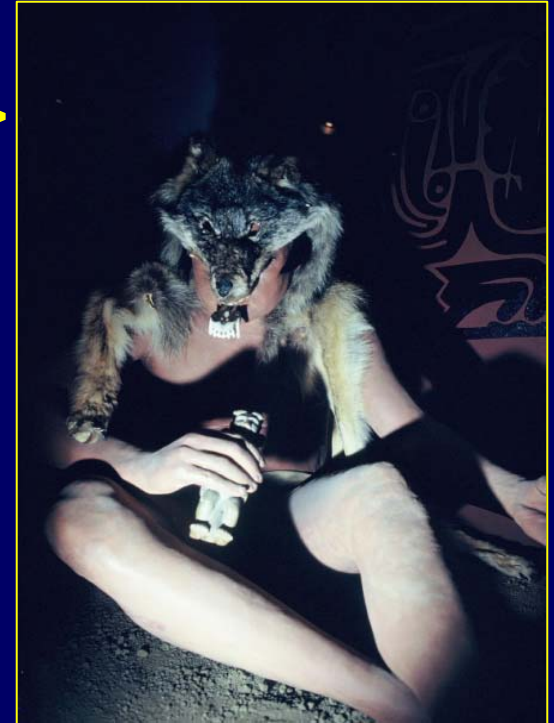
<<< Adena pipe shows squat male, with goitered neck, and stylized hair.

He wears ear spools and a loincloth feathered in back.



The Adena Moundbuilders  
Replica of Adena shaman  
with a wolf headdress >>>>  
holds the Adena pipe.

Adena may have migrated  
from Mexico due to their  
physical type and similar  
decorative designs.  
Both groups erected  
mounds over burial tombs.



# The Adena Moundbuilders

**Others maintain Adena mounds evolved from burial practices of earlier native people living in the Midwest or Northeast.**



# The Adena Moundbuilders

Burials of Adena elite contained:

decorative objects, copper bracelets,

mica, pipes, seed pearls,

tablets incised with symbols, and

tablets with ancient writing.



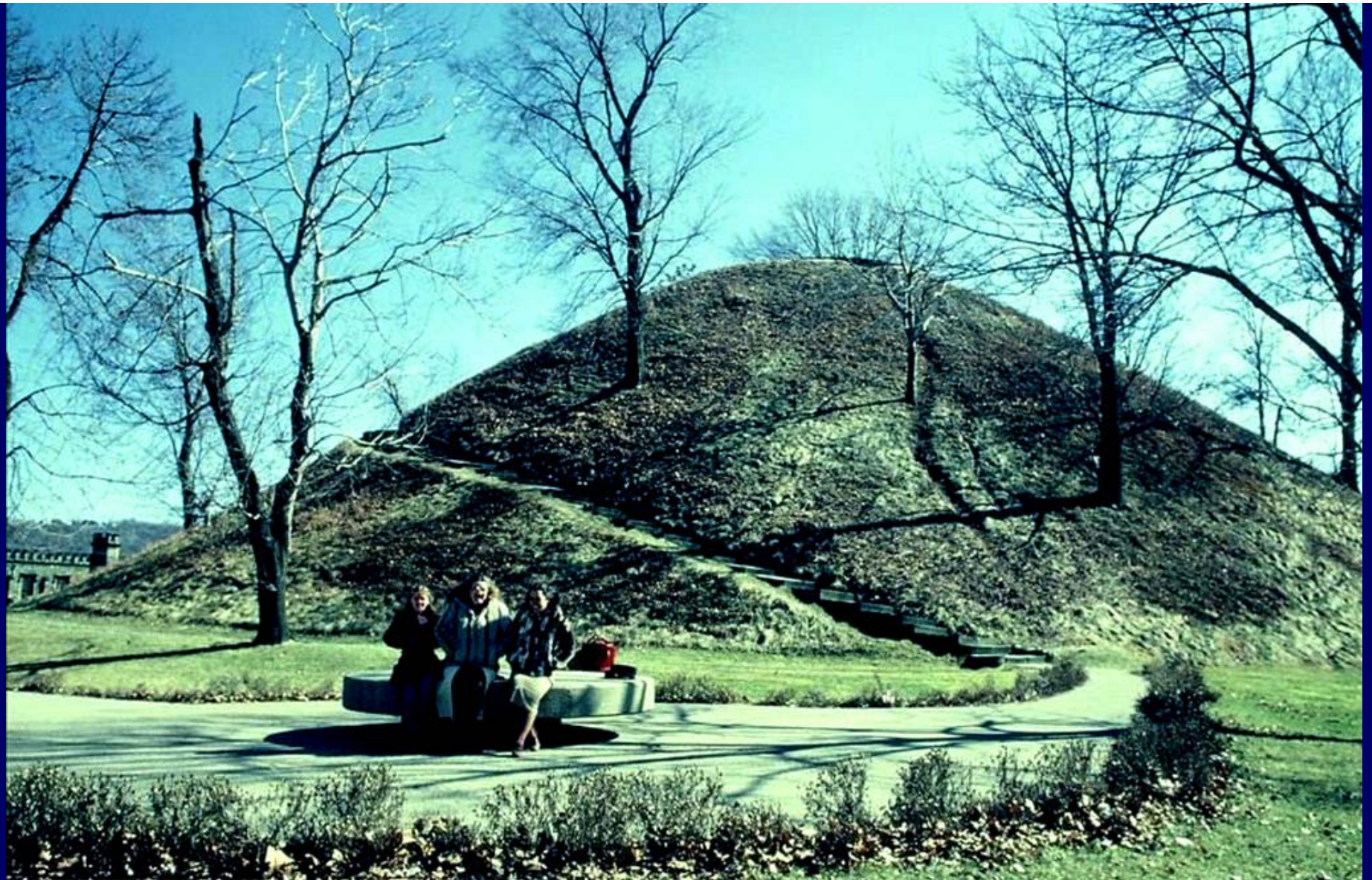
## GRAVE CREEK MOUND

This world-famous burial mound was built by the Adena people sometime before the Christian Era. The mound was originally 69 feet high, 295 feet in diameter, and was encircled by a moat. There were many mounds in the area-hence the city's name: Moundsville. In 1838, the Grave Creek Mound was tunnelled into and two log tombs with several burials and grave offerings were found.

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC COMMISSION, 1963

Grave Creek Mound, Moundsville, WV





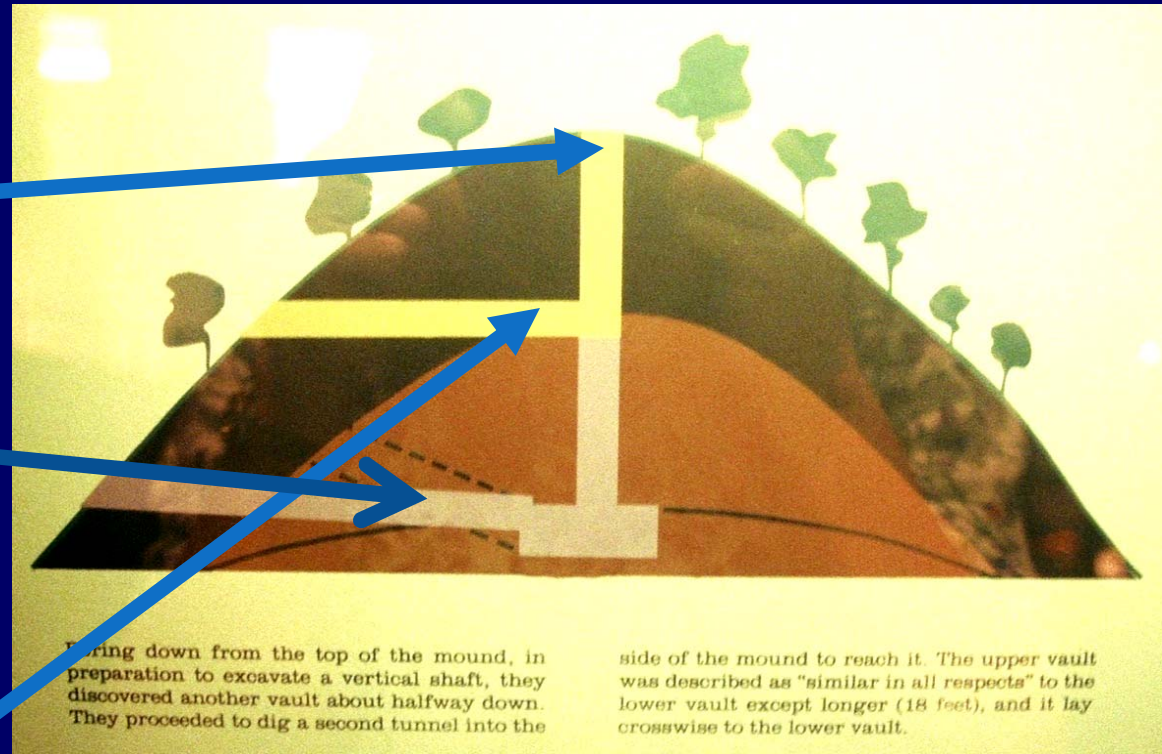
Grave Creek Mound on Tomlinson farm.  
It contained two tombs.



# Grave Creek Mound Excavation

Shaft sunk  
from top

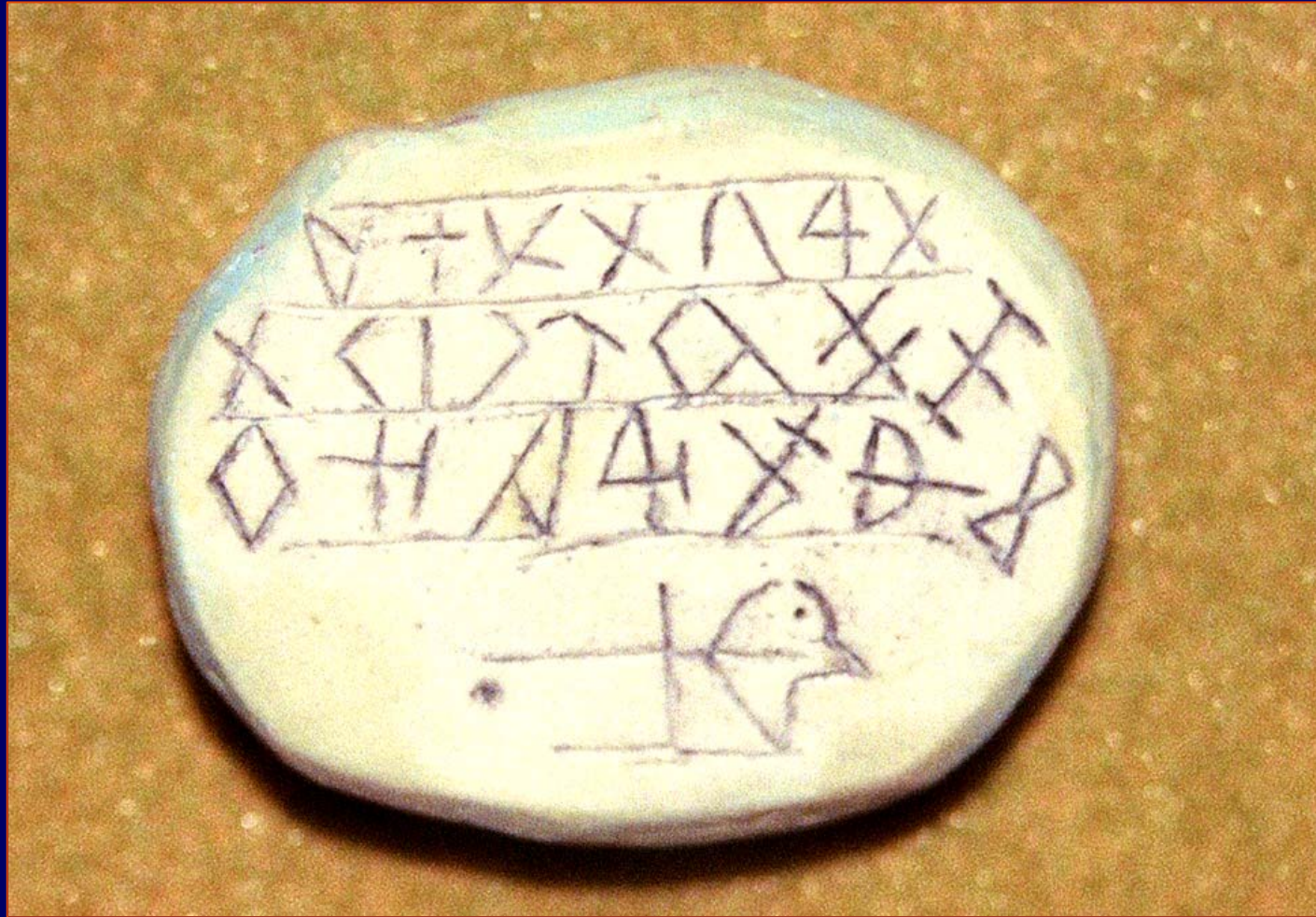
Tunnel to  
lower tomb



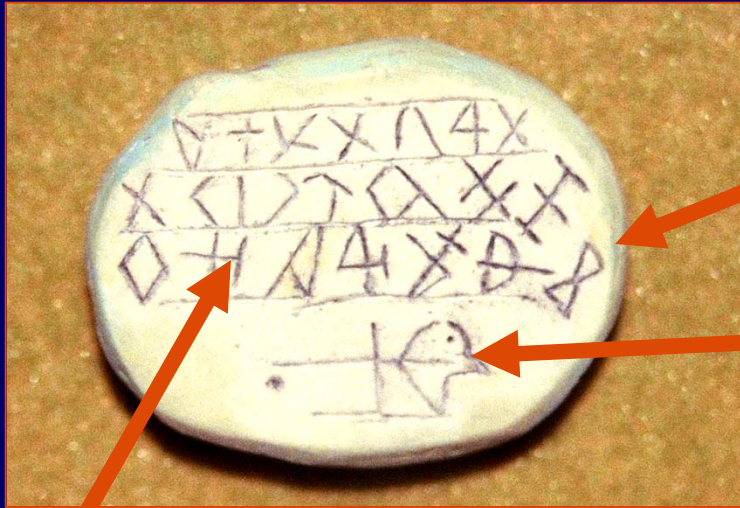
A second tunnel 34 feet above ground reached upper tomb with one skeleton and grave goods including an inscribed tablet.



# Replica of the Grave Creek Tablet



# Replica of the Grave Creek Tablet



**1 ½ x 2 inch tablet**  
**Grayish sandstone**  
**Signs like cross**  
**and bird's head**

**Three lines of Southwest Iberic  
(Spain) script on one side translate:**

***“The mound raised-on-high for  
Tasach. This tile his queen caused-  
to-be made.”***



# Replica of the Grave Creek Tablet



Translation  
published by  
Dr. Barry Fell  
in 1975

**AUTHENTIC?**  
**EARLY COPIES**  
**NOT ACCURATE**

**TRANSLATIONS**  
**VARIED**

**DISPARITY RAISED**  
**QUESTIONS**

## Additional Southwest Iberic Tablets

### The Braxton County or Blaine Wilson Tablet

Text parallels  
Grave Creek Tablet  
*“The memorial of  
Teth. This tile  
(His) brother  
caused –to- be  
made.”* (Barry Fell)



School children Blaine Wilson and  
his sister found the tablet in 1931.



# Additional Southwest Iberic Tablets

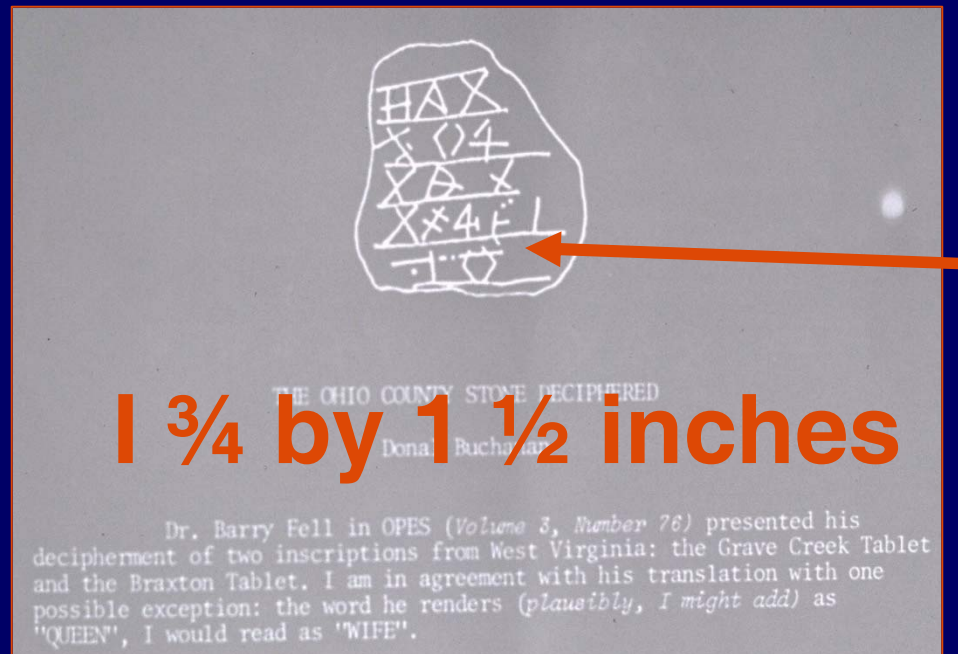
## The Braxton County or Blaine Wilson Tablet

***Did Iberian  
scribes reach  
West Virginia by  
2100 ya?***



***Did Iberians inscribe the tablets  
or teach Adena scribes their  
alphabet?***

# The Ohio County Tablet, West Virginia

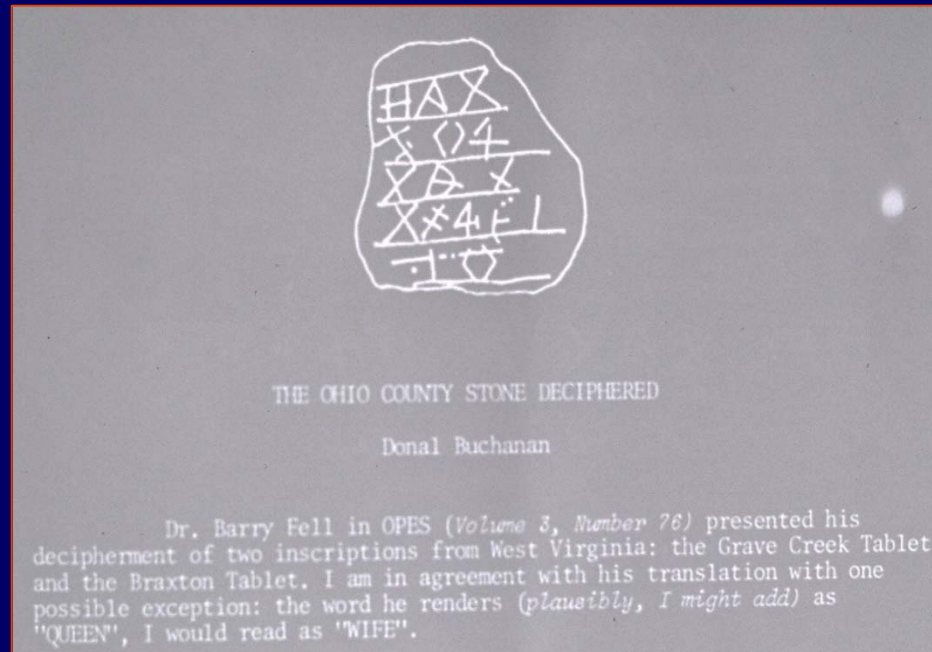


An elongated cross with a head and a dot is below the last line of Southwest Iberic script.

Teenager Robert C. Dunnell found the Ohio County Tablet in 1956 .



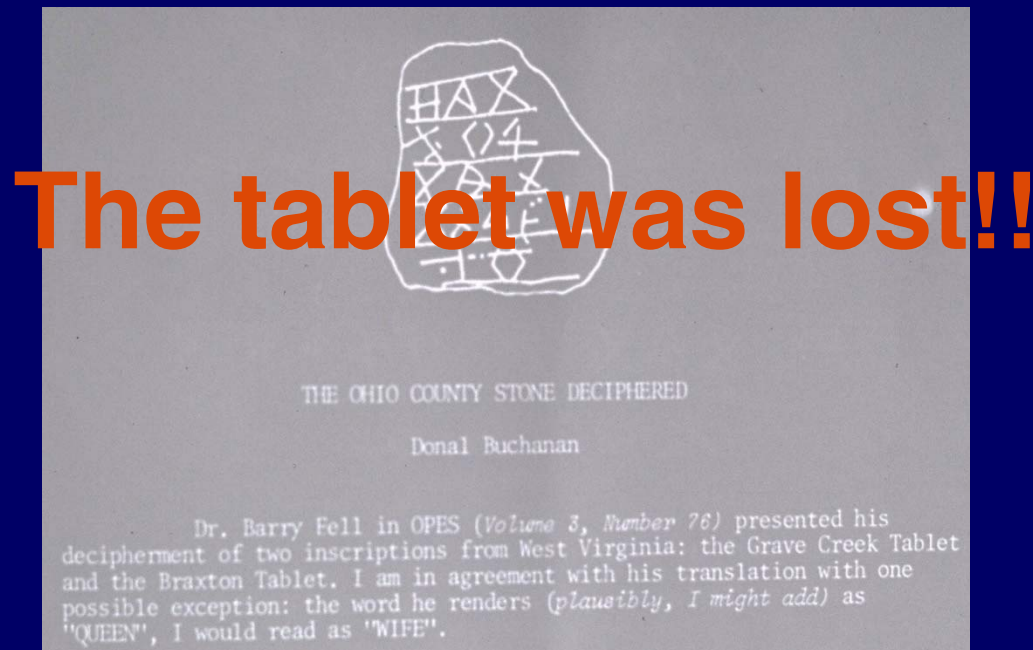
## The Ohio County Tablet, West Virginia



**Dunnell took tablet to Delf Norona who worked for Grave Creek Mound Museum.**

**Archaeologist Norona's original opinion was that Grave Creek Tablet was authentic. He later changed his mind because others said "fake."**

# The Ohio County Tablet, West Virginia

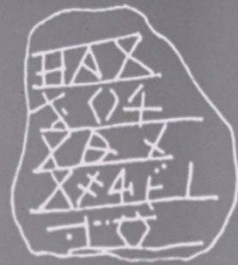


**Norona then said the Ohio County Tablet was “planted” to legitimize other finds.**

**Sam Shaw, editor, Moundsville Daily Echo newspaper, photographed tablet and interviewed Dunnell and Norona.**



# The Ohio County Tablet, West Virginia



THE OHIO COUNTY STONE DECIPHERED

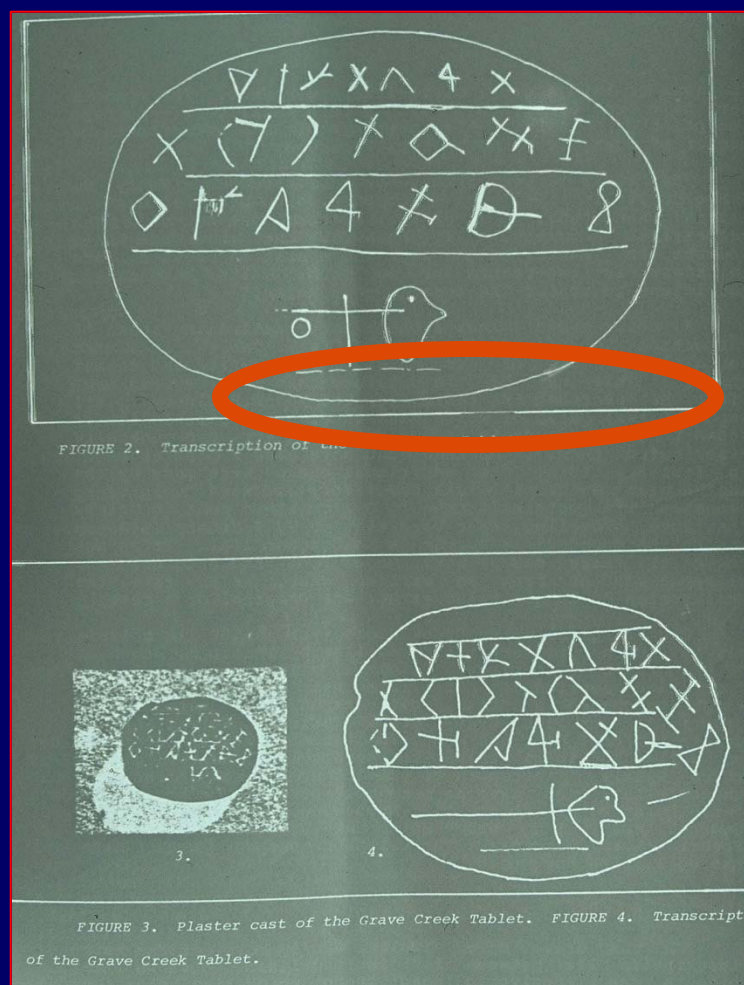
Donal Buchanan

Dr. Barry Fell in OPES (Volume 3, Number 76) presented his decipherment of two inscriptions from West Virginia: the Grave Creek Tablet and the Braxton Tablet. I am in agreement with his translation with one possible exception: the word he renders (plausibly, I might add) as "QUEEN", I would read as "WIFE".

**Donal Buchanan,  
noted decipherer  
of Southwest  
Iberic, translated  
the message.**

***“This was set up for Lydia, wife,  
Jacob engraved it.”***

# The Morristown Tablet

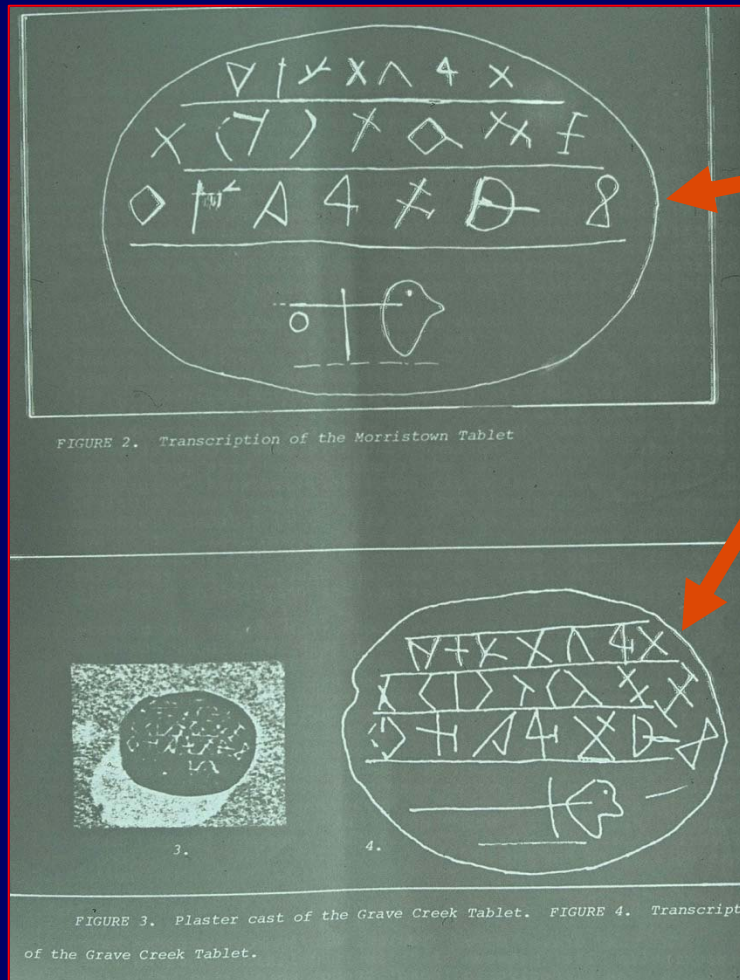


**Morristown  
Tablet was found  
near Morristown,  
Tennessee.**

**Dr. Paul Cheesman  
reported it to  
epigraphic scholars  
in 1981.**

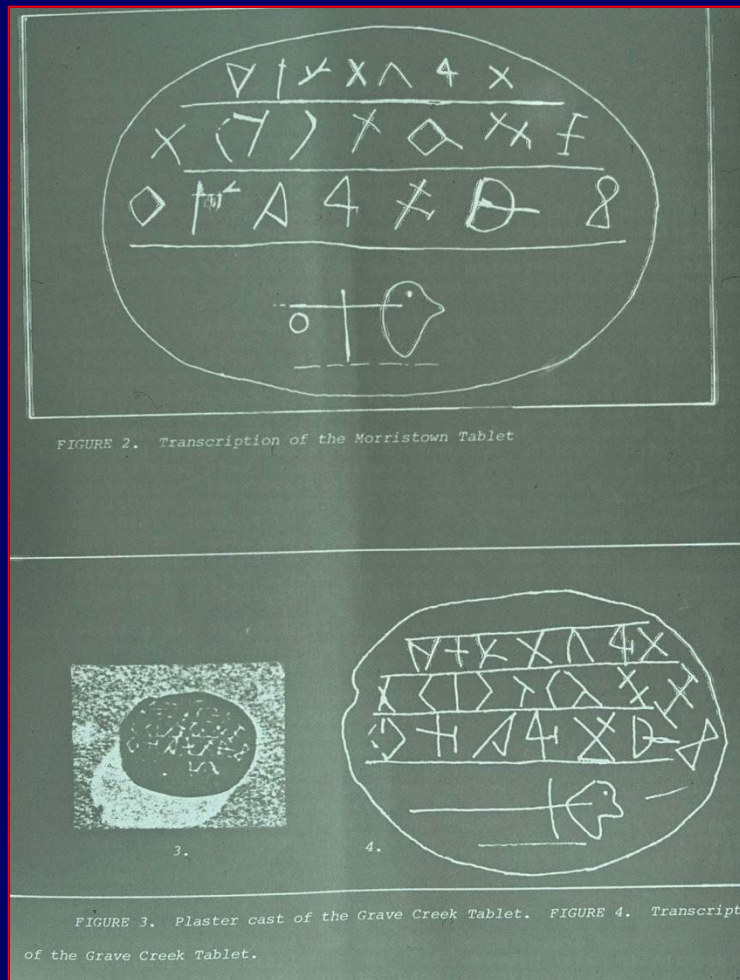


# The Morristown Tablet



**Inscription is comparable to Grave Creek Tablet. Donal Buchanan found all symbols could be equated.**

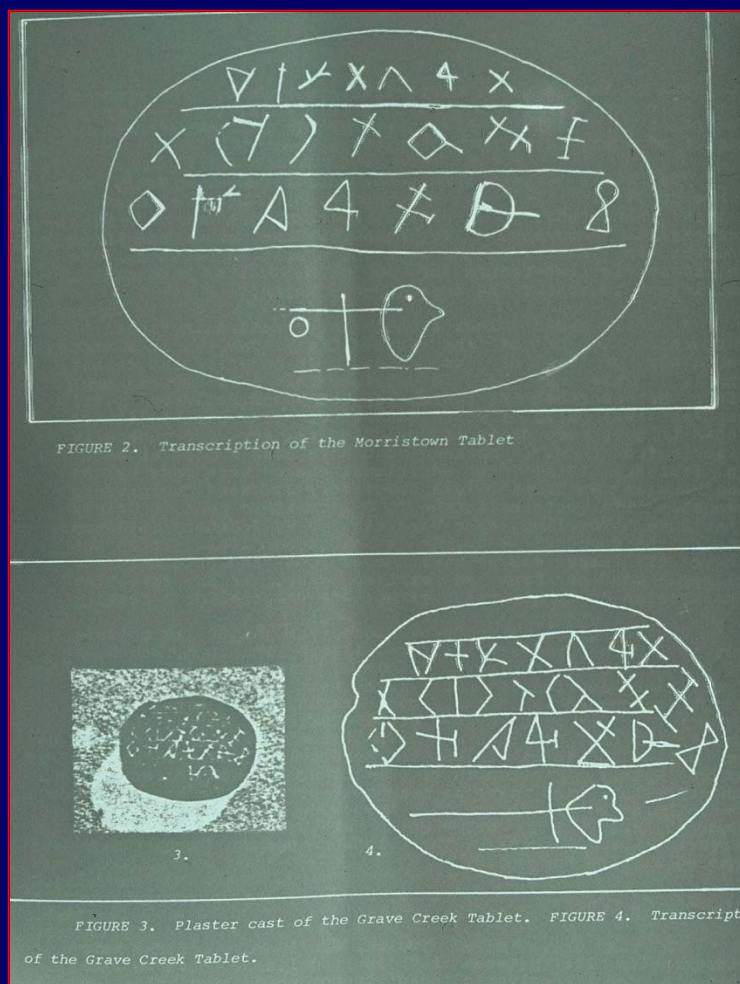
# The Morristown Tablet



**Conclusion:**  
the inscription is  
funerary formula.  
Either the name  
“Tadach” is not a  
personal name or  
there were two  
people named  
Tadach on tablets.



# The Morristown Tablet



**Did someone make  
a copy of the Grave  
Creek Tablet?**

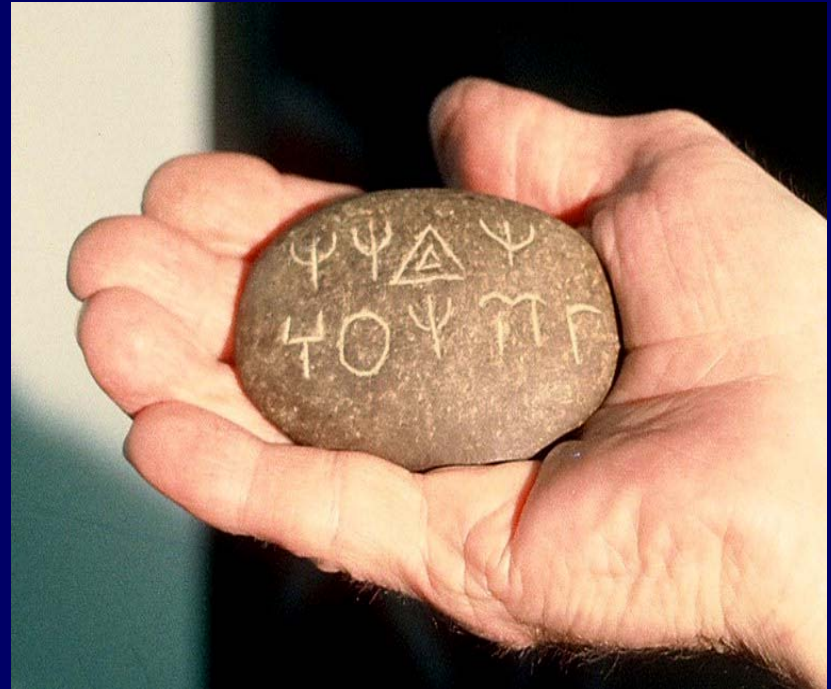
**Was the Morristown  
Tablet ancient or  
modern?**

***What do you think?***

## The Genesee Tablet

William Johnson  
found Genesee  
Tablet in the Genesee  
River bed near  
Belfast, New York in  
1975.

Epigrapher Donald  
Eckler saw tablet in  
Dana Klein's  
collection.



**Tablet measures  
2" x 3"**



## The Genesee Tablet

Eckler forwarded a photo to Dr. Fell.

Dr. Fell wrote that the two lines were Iberic script. He called it a trader's token which says:



“Confirmation. I have pledged to pay in full.”  
***Was this an early IOU?***

# The Genesee Tablet

Genesee River was route traveled by Amerindians.

Genesee Tablet on known trading route suggests that natives led foreign traders to America's interior by water.

St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes provided access from the Atlantic Ocean.

Susquehanna River empties into Chesapeake Bay. Ohio joins Mississippi River that terminates in Gulf of Mexico.



## QUESTIONS

Was it possible for Iberian people to cross the Atlantic Ocean by 2100 ya?

Why would Iberians come to America?

Did an Iberian scribe introduce Iberic script to Adena moundbuilders? Why?

If Adena tablet script was invented by native people, what was its source?



# **CONCLUSIONS**

**THE GRAVE CREEK TABLET IS GENUINE**

**THE SCRIPT IS FROM IBERIA**

**SCRIPT IS OLDER THAN 2000 YEARS AGO**