

Charles Theodore Earle, Jr.
(aka "Carlos")

Cora May Poitevent - daughter of Junius Poitevent (owner of
Portavant mounds complex on Snead island)

married Charles Theodore Earle

children: Eleanor Tracy (1891-1915)

She earned a captain's license; worked as an Audubon warden.

Died in her sleep, aged 24.

Charles Theodore Jr. ("Carlos") (c. 1893-c.1935)

An avid artifact collector.

The widowed Cora May Poitevent Earle & children moved in with her parents, later
married Asa Pillsbury, Jr.; moved across the river from Snead Island to Palma Sola, lived
adjacent to the Pillsbury mound.

No evidence in the Earle letters that stepfather Asa ever gave Charles permission to dig
in his mound.

EABLE, CHARLES T.

317-40 American Ethnology ~~Palma Sola, Florida,~~

Rec'd MAY 10 1920

May 6 1920
Bureau of American Ethnology

Ref'd to

~~Dr. Walter F. Fisher~~ MAY 10 1920

Ref'd to

Ref'd to.....

Dear Sir:

Today I interviewed Mr. George Breeze of Bradentown who has seen more of these shell mounds than any man I have met. He had charge of the workmen that tore down the great Shaw's Point mound. He was ~~there~~ when the first shell ~~was~~ moved twenty years ago ^{or} until just before Mr. Ed Ballard stopped the work by buying the property last year.

ANSWERED

MAY 17 1920

Mr. Breeze states that he met with whole skeletons all through the ^{shell} mound, grown persons buried singly, that were big men much larger than himself — he is well over six feet!

He told of finding bone implements
six or seven inches long, having one
end like a needle and the other
perforated (like a sailor's marlinespike)
and were covered with scratches for
ornamentation. Also smooth
hard stones tapered at one end
and rounded at the other apparent-
ly used for pounding. There were
no end to conch hammer, arrowheads,
pottery, and several large sandstone
grinders. He gave away every-
thing ^{to different people} except a few arrowheads
which he will try to find and will
give to me for you.

He described a hitherto unrecorded
Indian site on Bishop's Harbor,
east shore of Tampa Bay, half way
between Indian Hill and Sherris Pt.
There is one large mound and two
smaller ones and a burying

mound containing hundreds of
bodies, only partly disturbed by
the usual ~~the~~ "buried gold" hunters.
I will visit the location at the
earliest opportunity.

Without disclosing my de-
terminations regarding the
Manatee River Shoal he said
convincingly that it was a
large mound - that the oyster
bar theory was unsound.

Mr. Breeze expressed surprise
when I told him that Mr. Clarence
Moore had never visited Shaw's Point,
declaring that Shaw's Point is
the best known and geographically
most conspicuous of any mound
he knew of.

He says that two or three
hundred thousand cubic yards
of shell were taken from Shaw's Point.

I have read Mr. Clarence Moore's
"Certain Antiquities of the Florida
West Coast," (1900) and found
it sadly lacking ⁱⁿ that essential
attribute, "esprit de corps".

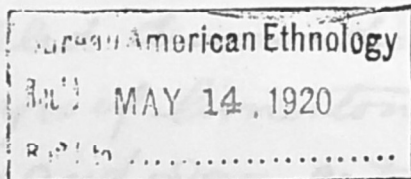
I realize that it is valuable to
a student, and it has helped
me much, but it is very
discouraging to a beginner.

Last year when Mr. Moore
returned from his cruise among
the Ten Thousand Islands, I,
standing on the beach at Shau's
Point, ^{show his boat, the "Yarker".} steamed serenely by this
prehistoric settlement on a
bright spring morning, going
on up the Bay. I had just
written a few weeks before
describing these places to him.
He replied that little had been
found on Tampa Bay and

he had never visited the places
I located in my letter.

The white cliff-like front
of the great Shaw's Paint mound
was a famous land mark and
could be plainly seen by all
ship entering the Bay, miles
away. In Mr. S. T. Walker's
paper, ^{Smithsonian} Report for 1879, the height
of that cliff is given as 15 to 20
feet, but all persons who ~~have~~
~~see~~ saw it declare it was
much higher.

Respectfully yours,
Charles F. Carle



Palma Sala, Florida, INDEXED

May 11, 1920.

Dr. J. Walter Fawkes,
Dear Sir,

~~J. Walter Fawkes~~

On the 8th inst. I visited the mounds at
Bishop's Harbor, east shore of Tampa Bay.

ANSWERED

MAY 14 1920

The mounds are in a mangrove swamp and consist of one shell heap, very symmetrical, about 18 feet high, having a long shell causeway leading up its western slope. This mound is partly destroyed, perhaps a fourth has been removed for road building. Its composition is similar to all other mounds but there is no stratification whatever - it looks like the mound was built rapidly ^{and} without any lapses of time as is indicated in some other shell heaps. There are two low narrow shell ridges running parallel with the present shore line. Between these ridges is a burial mound of earth about three feet high and fifteen feet in diameter. It has been much dug in and I was told by its owner that someone found a perforated copper disc there, also some "grooved pebbles"; and the boys at Indian Hill said that people had found what

+ Letter of 10/26/20, Earle to Fawkes, mentions Manatee River shell dredging by the "Tampa Sand and Shell Company."

called diamonds - some kind of crystal set
lumps of limestone. The crystals glitter in
the sun and can cut glass. On the Bishop's
Harbor mound. The most interesting object ^{we found}
was a lump of sandstone weighing perhaps
80 lbs. showing signs of aboriginal workmanship
and having a hole through it as if used for a
canoe anchor. We transported the relic
to our boat and brought it home.

It was lying on top of the burial mound.

These mounds are owned by a Mr. Woods
who lives near by. He permits anyone to dig.

Respectfully yours,
Charles T. Beule.

Nampa Bay

WALLING

Fish house

mangrove swamp

Fish camp

shell ridge
sand burial mound
shell ridge

shells

large mound

Bishop's Harbor

cs → z

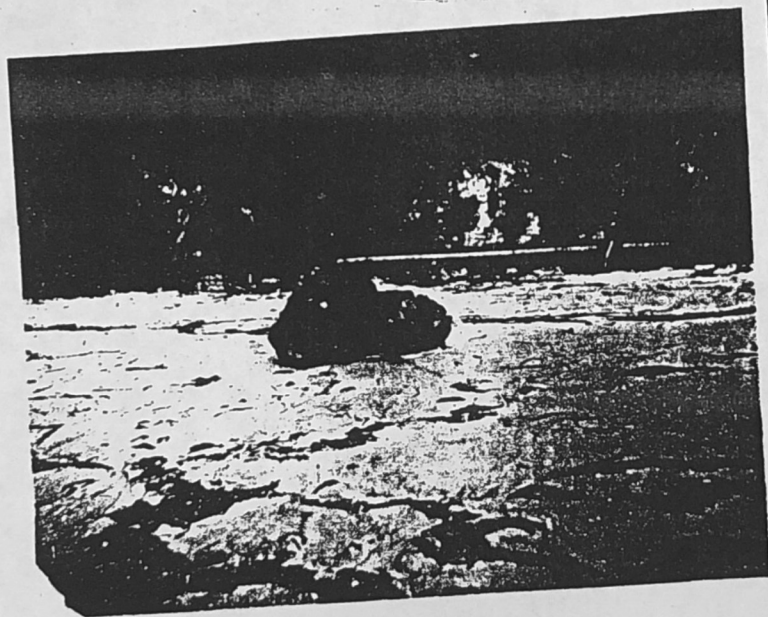
100 yds.

mangrove flats

small shell mound

"Canoe anchor" of sandstone.
from Bishop's Harbor burial
mound.

Hale for fastening cable
visible in upper left of
object. It weighs 80 or 90 lbs.



May 26 1920.

Dear Sir:

In the absence of Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, who left for Colorado last week, I am authorized to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 17th, also of the boxes sent by express and a package forwarded by parcel post. The box containing bones from Indian Hill will be turned over to Dr. Hrdlicka as will also the teeth enclosed in the package. I will endeavor to have the shells indicated identified and let you know the result. The small retainer was returned to you, as requested.

On behalf of the Bureau I wish to thank you for the specimens which will be added to others you have forwarded, all of which will eventually be placed in the National Museum.

Very truly yours,

H. W. DORSEY

Chief Clerk
Smithsonian Institution

Mr. Charles T. Earle,
Palma Sola,
Florida.

EX-100

EARLE, CHARLES T.

INDEXED.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Wdel. JUN 2 1920

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM
JUN 2 1920
CORRESPONDENCE
AND DOCUMENTS.

JUN 1 1920.

ANSWERED
JUN 8 1920
Earle

Dear Sir:

In the absence of Dr. Tewkes, I am authorized to transmit herewith a box of human bones sent to the Bureau by Mr. Charles T. Earle of Palma Sola, for examination and report. Will you be good enough to ask Dr. Hrdlicka to make the identification.

Very truly yours,

J. S. Laylin
Acting Chief Clerk

Mr. W. deC. Ravenel,
Administrative Assistant in charge
of the United States National Museum.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

Transportation No. 155/395.

June 4, 1920.

SPECIMENS RECEIVED FOR EXAMINATION

(Sender) Mr. Charles T. Earle,

Palma Sola

(Address) (Thru Bureau of American Ethnology)

REPORT

The specimens submitted to me include one female and portions of several male skulls, of Florida Indians. The female skull is relatively massive which, however, is nothing uncommon for Florida. The male skulls are only represented by fragments which afford little, if any, ground for comment. There are also several pieces of long bones and one entire humerus. The latter proceeds from a powerful male skeleton.

The archeological specimens show forms characteristic of and common to all parts of Florida.

The correspondent should be asked what disposition he wishes to make of the remains; it should be pointed out to him that a more careful collecting would give us specimens of real value to science and on which a more satisfactory report would doubtless be possible.

Disposition of material:

(Signature)

A. H. H. H.

Curator,

(Title) Division of Physical
Anthropology.

Respectfully forwarded to the Assistant Secretary in Charge of National Museum.

Head Curator.

1921

13-200

H.M. OCT 28 1920

Palma Sola, Florida,
October 25, 1920.

INDEXED

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes,
Chief, Bureau of American Ethnology.

Dear Sir:

In today's mail I am forwarding a box containing the smallest conch hammer I ever saw, and another that is the next smallest. There is a specimen of a breccia-like(?) concrete that is often found around the mounds. It is believed to be of aboriginal manufacture. There are chunks of it weighing fifteen or twenty pounds, and if you would like any more I can break off some.

Enclosed herewith is a letter that may be of interest to you. Mr. Walling is a fisherman in charge of the Savarese fish house at Bishop's Harbor. When we were up at Bishop's Har. last May we met him, and he showed much interest in natural history, having a mixed collection of fishes, shells, crustaceans, insects, rattlesnake skins, and other things. He told of having just given away a number of relics from the mounds there. The piece of copper in question was dug up from the burial mound.

In replying to Mr. Walling I am suggesting that he write direct to you, and am telling him that he might make application for the 1917 Smithsonian Report and for lists of publications. I also took the liberty to caution him against giving away his finds to private collectors, and of the honor of donating them to the National Museum. He will, undoubtedly, dig some in the burial mound this winter, and I believe that if you can arouse his enthusiasm he will give you what he finds.

Since writing to you about the origin of the shark's teeth I have received some literature from the State Geologist on the phosphate beds of Florida which explains the origin of the shark's teeth. We find many of them around the mounds, most of them showing signs of wear. Mr. Walling speaks of finding two with perforations & similar, I presume, to the one from Shaw's Point sent in to you last spring - the only one we ever found.

Respectfully yours,

Charles D. Earle

P. S. Will you please return Mr. Walling's Letter

November 24 1920.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of November 3, addressed to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been referred to me. I do not know as anything could be done should the Gopher land in the vicinity in which you have been working. It is very good of you to be so interested in the National Museum, but Mr. Moore's contributions to the science of archaeology have been of the highest order and anything that falls into his hands would be eventually well housed or described in his publications. I do not think you need to worry.

✓ I have received the several letters from Mr. Walling addressed to you, and one from Mrs. Hall relative to a piece of copper. I am enclosing an excerpt, entitled "Copper" from the Handbook of American Indians, Bulletin 30, of this Bureau, which will give you some interesting information. After reading it you might forward it to Mr. Walling. This work, I regret to say, is no longer available for distribution by the Bureau, being out of print.

✓ I understand that the National Museum has recently communicated with Mr. Walling. Mr. Walling's letters are returned herewith, also the one from Mrs. Hall.

Very truly yours,

J. WALTER FLEWELL

Chief.

Mr. Charles T. Earle,
Palma Sola, Florida.

Nannie Hall bought what became the
Burger property from W.J. Dawson
on July 9, 1913.

EARLE, CHAS. T.

Palma Sola, Florida, March 14, 1921

Bureau of American Ethnology

Dear Dr. Fewkes:

The three-pointed stone at last!

Rec'd MAR 18 1921

INDEXED

Ref'd to.....

Yesterday we went up to Bishop's Harbor and found the snoopers

at home. Mr. Walling seemed pleased to know you were interested in his finds, and told us to take anything we wanted for you.

ANSWERED

MAR 23 1921

So I picked out several of the curios little balls, to which he added a large shell bowl from a new (to us) shell mound on Frog Creek, and the human jaw with strangely worn teeth found in the burial mound on Harbor Key and described in one of his letters.

He would have given us more had we been willing to accept, but we would rather not take too many of his treasures until he gets in touch with you or sees your report on a few, that is we would rather go slow, as he doesn't ^{yet} realize fully that these are of value,

and "test your interest" with a few crude ones. The specimens are as follows : No. 1, a stone formed in the shape of a "nautilus" or "horse-eye" shell (Neverita duplicata) and No. ² in the shape of a clam shell - can you tell us if ~~it is~~ ^{they are} a natural formations or if they were made by man; No. 3 is a stone strongly suggestive of the the Porto Rican type, Mr. Walling is almost sure it is (and I am too) No 4 is a "stopper-shaped" stone; No 5 is a "pecked" stone having what Mr. Walling calls a bird form - if held with point to right a tiny hole answers for the eye of the bird) No 6 is a pecked stone with a groove; No 7 is a pecked stone with two grooves; No 8 is an oblong pecked ball with knob; No 9 is a smooth round ball with knob. ^{and knobs} We would like to know if the pecks ^{from you} on those stones are natural or not. ~~Any~~ Comments ^{from you} on each of the specimens will be appreciated.

It is now time to go to the P.O. to get this off so
you must pardon its abrupt ending and wait for the continuation
which will, I assure you, be written at the next chance. The
little balls and things are being sent separate by parcel post,
the threecornered stone under your frank, both parcels in this
same mail.

Respectfully yours,

Charles T. Earle

P. S. The human jaw bone with worn down teeth is one of Mr Wallings
prized possessions, and is being sent to prove that these mounds
are not monuments to hunger - I'll explain in my next.

*Will you please return the large tin-can container
(empty)*

*Citing
S.T. Walker
1880*

EAPLE, CHAS. T.

Bureau American Ethnology

Palma Sola, Florida,
March 16, 1921

MAR 19 1921

INDEXED

Re'd to.....

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes,

Dear Sir:

Please let me continue my letter of the 14th inst.

Mr. Walling's collection certainly has grown since we saw it last December in all branches of natural history as a result of the past three months fine weather and the help of his father, who is spry and clear-sighted. It is too bad that he is going home so soon (early in April) - thereafter Mr. Walling will have to snoop alone. (unless you come down and help him!)

That three-pointed stone proved to be an enchanted stone the night it staid in my room on the first lap of its trip to Washington. It took so many shapes and sizes - assumed a personality - fascinated - captivated. It must be real, and if it is, then the little odd-shaped stone marked No. 3 may be, just might be, of a similar nature too (that's the way we argue - if one is Porto Rican the other could be) . But be assured, Dr. Fewkes, we will not be cast down if it is a disappointment - if you find that both are only natural formations - we will share your keen regret but will keep right on snooping to the beat of our ability and keep you informed as to our finds (I am speaking of ourselves; you know Mr. Walling's temperment too well to need assurances) But as the cut and description of a certain stone in the 25th Ann. Rpt. ^{PLATE "L", d.} fits this stone so nearly, except for size, that we hold very high hopes for it and await your report eagerly.

A stone that impressed me very much is a "pecked" ball about four inches in diameter. It bears a resemblance in several ways to a human skull, fanciful I must admit, yet noticeable. It was described in one of his letters as coming from a new locality over on the mainland.

The teeth in that jaw were worn down by holding to the end of a strap, probably to support a container on the man's back, & to be used to carry shell and sand to build the mounds, according to Mr. Walling, who stoutly denies the theory that the mounds are the remains of feasts - not "monuments to want and hunger" but "to patient toil", and as I mentioned in my first letter, he values that jaw very much. But he told me that he intends to take his skeletal material back and bury in the mound - and intention which will not be carried out if you express a wish to see more of the bones, I feel sure.

The fine, large Fulgar perversum bowl he insisted on my keeping as a personal memento is now in my room awaiting a chance to go to the Express Office in Bradentown (it will be some time before the chance comes, though). The Fulgar carica shell cup is small and rather worn, but unbroken, and, I believe, one of the most valuable finds as Professor Moore in his "Certain Antiquities of the Florida West Coast" does not mention finding any Fulgar carica vessels or implements on this coast. But of course he may have found such in recent explorations, and if you will tell us of any such record we will be glad to be corrected. (Mr. Walling's shell is still with his collection - waiting to see if you are really interested, don't you see).

*not sent
to.*

Since writing that the stone formed in the image of a shell resembled *Neverita duplicata* I have seen the body-form of *Melongena corona* and notice that the resemblance is more striking.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles T. Earle

P. S. Your report on the specimens I wish to forward to Mr. Walling, with your permission.

March 23 1921.

Dear Mr. Earle:

Your letter of March 14 has been received; also the box of small stone specimens, and in another package the supposed three-pointed stone. I have also received a letter from Mr. Walling, which I read with great interest and answered today. I regretted to tell him that the resemblances to the three-cornered stones of Porto Rico are only accidental. The smaller stones are most of them natural concretions, one or two of them being fossils. It is my hope, and I expressed myself to Mr. Walling, that he will yet find Carib objects along the Florida coast.

Very truly yours,

WALTER FAWCETT

Chief.

Mr. Charles T. Earle,
Palma Sola,
Florida.