

Why Are So Many Boulders Found in the Woods?

“Mr. Olof Ohman told me that in his farm in several places, in the woods, are "mounds" in groups, the largest he has noticed being about six-foot-high, with smaller ones round about.”

Newton H. Winchell, 1909
Minnesota State Geologist

Letter to the Landowner - November 2022

Jeremiah, my grandson, and I were on the site when he found something that we did not put the pieces together until a short time later. That's why we didn't take any photos or get GPS coordinates.

Jeremiah searched the field's edge, trees and thorny undergrowth, for Indian mounds and inscribed rocks but came up empty-handed. However, Jeremiah discovered a sizable cluster of large rocks and boulders, some measuring four feet or more in length and diameter, located about a hundred feet north of the burial mound site. This was the outer edge of the field before the tree and undergrowth took over. We looked closely at the rocks and boulders to find any inscriptions, but none were found.

Later we realized no other rocks and boulders of this size were found anywhere on or next to the field. Therefore, these large rocks and boulders are connected to the six-foot-high burial mound Olof Ohman talked about. If the mound were only rocks and boulders, Olof would have called it a "Rock Pile." I assumed the burial mound was entirely made of soil. Now I know the mound was made of Rocks, Boulders and Soil.

This field shown on a map of 1910 was “timber” (woods). Sometime in the 1920s or 1930s, with the use of power equipment, the field was cleared of **rocks, boulders, trees (in the woods), and mounds ("mounds" in groups) (with smaller ones round about)**. The field is now being cultivated; the **smaller mounds** would have been plowed over, typical of Indian mounds found in farm fields at that time. The **rocks, boulders, trees, and debris** that were on the field would have been pushed to the northern edge of the field, to the embankment, and down to the marshland below. (See **ENBANKMENT** on Arial Photo.)

Back in the middle of the woods, about 100 feet north of the burial site, there are many elongated clusters of rocks and boulders. (see photos) The boulders are of various sizes, from about one to three feet in diameter; one is over four feet in diameter. I estimate several hundred boulders are in the woods. No other boulders are found in the woods that surround the field, just in this one location. (See **BOULDERS** on aerial photo.) So, they are connected to the 10 Martyr's Burial. Over the years the woods have gradually encroached on all sides of the field. (See the 3 aerial photos.)

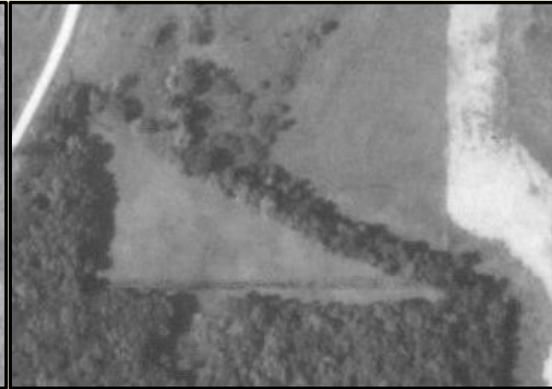




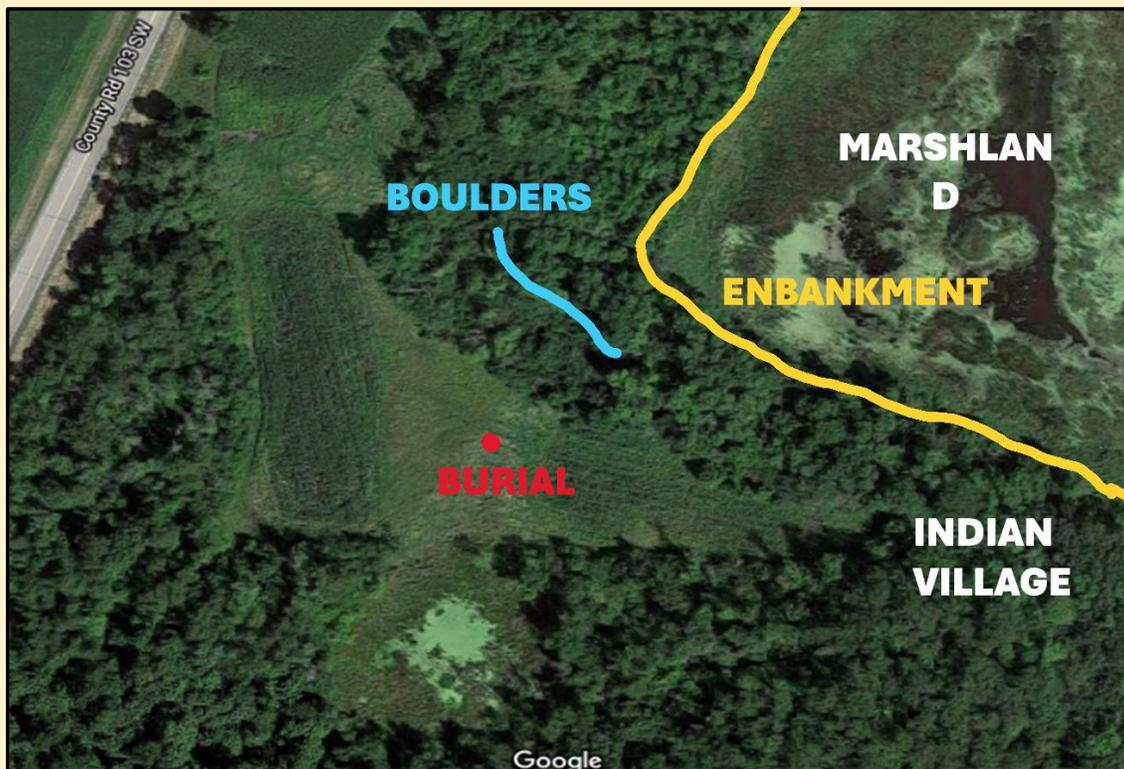
1951



1965



2025



When the landowner started to plow this field, they could see removing this nuisance obstruction of earth, rocks, boulders, trees, and tree roots that are entangled in the boulders. (**six-foot-high mound**) was too great of a task with their farm equipment, so the landowner just left it alone and plowed around it as shown in the 1951 aerial photo.

Sometime between 1951 and 1965 (see aerial photos), which coincides with the commercial availability of the chainsaw, the landowner could now cut down the trees and entangled roots and hire a contractor with a Caterpillar Dozer that could remove this nuisance obstruction (**six-foot-high mound**) in a day. The flat front end of the dozer's blade would explain why the boulder clusters were elongated.

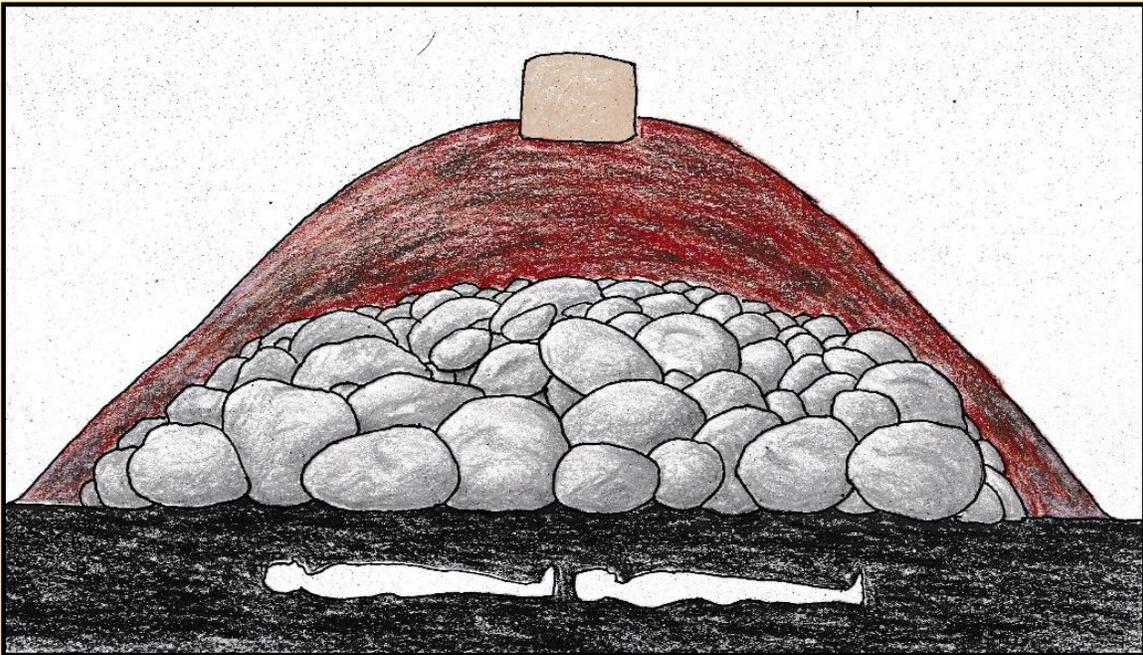


It looks like several hundred rocks and boulders were removed from the Mound/Cairn burial site that are now found in the woods. The dozer could push the **rocks, boulders, trees, and debris** to the northern edge of the field into the brush and small trees but not farther into the embankment edge and down to the marshland, as was done when the field was originally cleared. That is now blocked by mature trees from the wood's encroachment into the field. At that time the north edge of the field was now in the middle of the woods where the elongated clusters of **rocks** and **boulders** are now located.



The Burial Site is about in the center, looking east. The woods where the numerous boulders were discovered are north on the left.

The Many Boulders Found in the Woods Could Have Only Come from the Martyr's Mound/Cairn Burial



8' Foot High Mound/Cairn - Martyrs 5' - 6" (Drawn to Scale)

Cutaway View of Mound/Cairn Burial Site in 1362

This is on private property and posted "No Trespassing." The landowner utilizes their property for hunting and firearm activities. Permission must be obtained each time you enter the property.

Another Cairn with Rocks & Boulders in the Woods

See the Essay:

The Kensington Runestone Was Meant to Be Seen

