

center and at the base of them are found pipes, similar to the ones used in a later era by Southern Allegheny Cherokees. Embedded in layers of earth from their bases (word not clear) were found fragments of charred crematory posts similar to those of Southern Allegheny Cherokees. Set in hard place saucer-like depression, these post fragments were accompanied by artifacts and residues of bones thought to have belonged to the (word not clear); ancient Cherokees, the builders of these mounds. Further evidence of an early habitation of the Ancient Cherokees in what is now the Great Lakes region of the United States, comes from Linguists, who discovered that the Cherokee and Iroquoian language are, in many respects similar. As a result of this discovery, many Linguists now classify the Cherokee as a branch of the Iroquoian family originating in the North. However, this theory has not been adopted in social by anthropologist. This an interesting speculation now. The late Frank E. Speck for one, theorized that on the contrary, that the Cherokees and perhaps the Iroquois too, originated in the Orinoco and the Amazon River basins in South America. Speck contended that none of the southern tribes, say the Cherokees and possibly the KATAPAS, rimmed their baskets with a thin oak loop bound fast with hickory fiber, a characteristic of the baskets made by the natives of the Orinoco and Amazon basins. Both the Cherokee and South Americans employ the double weave and the chain and the diagonal patterns. This moment of weaving linked the Cherokee ancestry with that of the basket weavers in the Orinoco and Amazon area. Certainly today's Cherokee basket maker living in the (not clear) reservation in North Carolina employs a double weave, diagonal and chain pattern and the working method mentioned above. Even assuming that baskets definitely links the ancient Cherokee with South American prehistoric times, the Cherokees