

RANCK, LINNAEUS B. EARLY INDIAN BURIAL GROUND 518  
#8148

Linnaeus Ranck, Field Worker.  
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AN EARLY INDIAN BURIAL GROUND.

About twenty-five years ago the writer, with some neighbor boys by the name of Wood, while prowling about the neighborhood on a Sunday happened to discover this old Indian burial ground, the location of which is near the northeast corner of the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of ~~Section 6, Township 22, Range 24, Ellis County.~~ It is situated on the east slope about 200 yards west of the Twenty-five Mile Creek, the line of graves running in a generally north and south direction, practically parallel with the creek bed at this point.

The forces of wind and washing ~~over~~ long years, I am presuming caused enough of the cover soil to be removed to expose some of the skeletons. At least that is how we happened to find them. One skull was partly exposed. We did practically nothing ~~at the~~ time in the way of excavating, instead advised our elders of our discovery and a few days later we returned with the father of the Wood boys and unearthed, as best I recall, most

of the bones of at least 6 bodies, the skulls yet containing some of the teeth. We were positive they were the graves of Indians because amongst the bones we dug out a number of genuine Indian arrows, a few flint - rock hatchets or tomahawks, many pieces of pottery, etc., which was proof sufficient that they were Indian graves. I remember, too, that the woods filled an ordinary grain sack with bones, etc., from the graves we excavated and took them home. I took an arrow or two which some of my family likely still has. None of us, I am sure, realized the historical value of our discovery and so far as I know nothing was preserved of the contents of the graves we dug into.

That we had found a number of early Indian graves was un-mistakable to us at the time and I am sorry, indeed, that some one who knew of it at the time did not make the necessary effort to preserve what we had removed from the graves, and, too, make further explorations.

Just how these many graves happened to be where we discovered them it occurs to me would be a matter of

the most remote conjecture. The location of them could scarcely have been an accustomed burial ground; these were too few in number and it seems that the lay of the land where we found them, so to speak, was not such as would have been chosen for a burial ground. Then, too, the Indians inhabiting this section of the country were of the roving, nomadic kind. Might we not, infer, therefore, that the graves we found could have been those of warriors who were killed in some battle or skirmish with possibly early-day white men, or more likely enemies of their own race.

At any rate this has been a point of much interest to me throughout the years but nothing remains today to indicate even its historical value and importance. I revisited the spot just a few days ago.

Further proof of a ~~probable~~ theory that they were graves of Indians killed in skirmish is the fact that not far distant from the location of the burial ground ran the old Hobectie- Fort Supply Military Trail which was es-