

information listed below was actually not discovered until after the first survey phase was complete. It is likely that information will continue to emerge well after this research process is complete.

Human Remains

Skeleton 1:

Aboriginal male, approximately 19 years of age, killed by a musket ball

Human bones were discovered by Stan White in 1922/23, then a boy living at 10 Bedingfeld Road, Pinjarra. Stan's brother, Mr Geoff White, now aged 79 and living in Perth, communicated with the consultant the details of the discovery¹⁷. He wrote:

My older brother Stan and his pal George Hovey in approx. 1922/23 found bones protruding from the riverbank, on the south (east) side. Local GP, a Dr Joyce was informed and he went to the scene, collected the bones, and told my brother to sieve the area which he did and discovered a 1 ounce musket ball, flat on one side, where it had impacted. Dr Joyce said as near as he could judge, bones were from an 19 year old, as wisdom teeth were emerging from the jaw bone. My father kept the musket ball for many years and finally presented it to the state archives.

Mr White indicated on a map of the area the exact location where the bones were found, and this is recorded on Map 5.

Mr White went on to explain that the bones were discovered after a flood, which had washed away part of the riverbank to expose the bones embedded in the soil at a depth of about 3 or 4 feet. He recalled the side of the riverbank being sheer, and consisting of red soil, the top being grassed over. The finding consisted of bits and pieces of the skeleton, but not a complete one. Of these pieces, there was obviously at least part of a jawbone, because Dr Joyce noted emerging wisdom teeth as evidence of the person's age. He was also able to identify the parts of the skeleton as those of an Aboriginal male. Dr Joyce had apparently instructed Stan to sieve the soil around the bones, saying that if he did so, "you'll probably find what killed him". Sure enough, the musket ball described above was retrieved.

This finding, and the lodging of the musket ball with the W.A. Archives was recorded by Goldsmith in 1951. Goldsmith described the musket ball as a "spherical piece of metal, the size of a marble", and stated that it had been 'recently' lodged with the W.A. Archives, along with a metal military badge, by Mrs M.A. White of Pinjarra. Mrs White had indicated that her husband had treasured the musket ball and badge for 30 years. She was quoted as saying:

(The) badge was unearthed near the spot where the soldiers camped at the time of the Battle of Pinjarra. Mrs. McLernon (now Mrs. Collins) owns the land at present, having planted an orange orchard there years ago. When ploughing and scarifying the land, they came across the metal piece. The 'bullet' was found in a skeleton's bones on the bank of the Murray River after the floodwaters had receded, and the earth carried away from the bank. Our boy and a boy friend were playing on the bank, and discovered what they thought at first may have been a sheep's bones. When they examined them closely,

¹⁷ This information was received by the consultant after the first survey phase was complete. Prior to Mr White contacting the consultant, it was generally accepted that the skeleton had been found on the north-west bank of the river, opposite to where it was actually discovered.