

Unexcavated Indian Mounds in Franklin, North Carolina



Nikwasi Indian Mound

Franklin is a pretty hamlet located on the Little Tennessee River in the Nantahala National Forest. There is a beautiful trout-stream called Kul-la-sa-jah. The chasm of the Sugar Water Falls is about half a mile long and below the impressive perpendicular precipices. Nearby in the valleys are numerous Indian mounds which are believed to have built by a race of people now extinct, which the Cherokees formerly used as centers for their dances and games. A prevailing superstition is that in the ancient days every Indian brought to a certain place a small bark full of the soil which he cultivated. It was a tribute to the Great Spirit, who, in turn, sent them a plenteous harvest. Some people think that the mounds are burial places of great warriors and hunters, while others claim that the mounds served as fortresses and a place to hold religious rites. The Nikwasi Indian Mound pictured here was later taken over by the Cherokees, upon which they built

a town house. It has never been excavated.