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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

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### Indian History

The Indian history of Milwaukee County is of a very fragmentary character, our knowledge of the customs of its early aboriginal inhabitants being gleaned chiefly from short descriptions and notes occurring in papers and narratives published in the Wisconsin Historical Collections and in the several histories of the city and county.

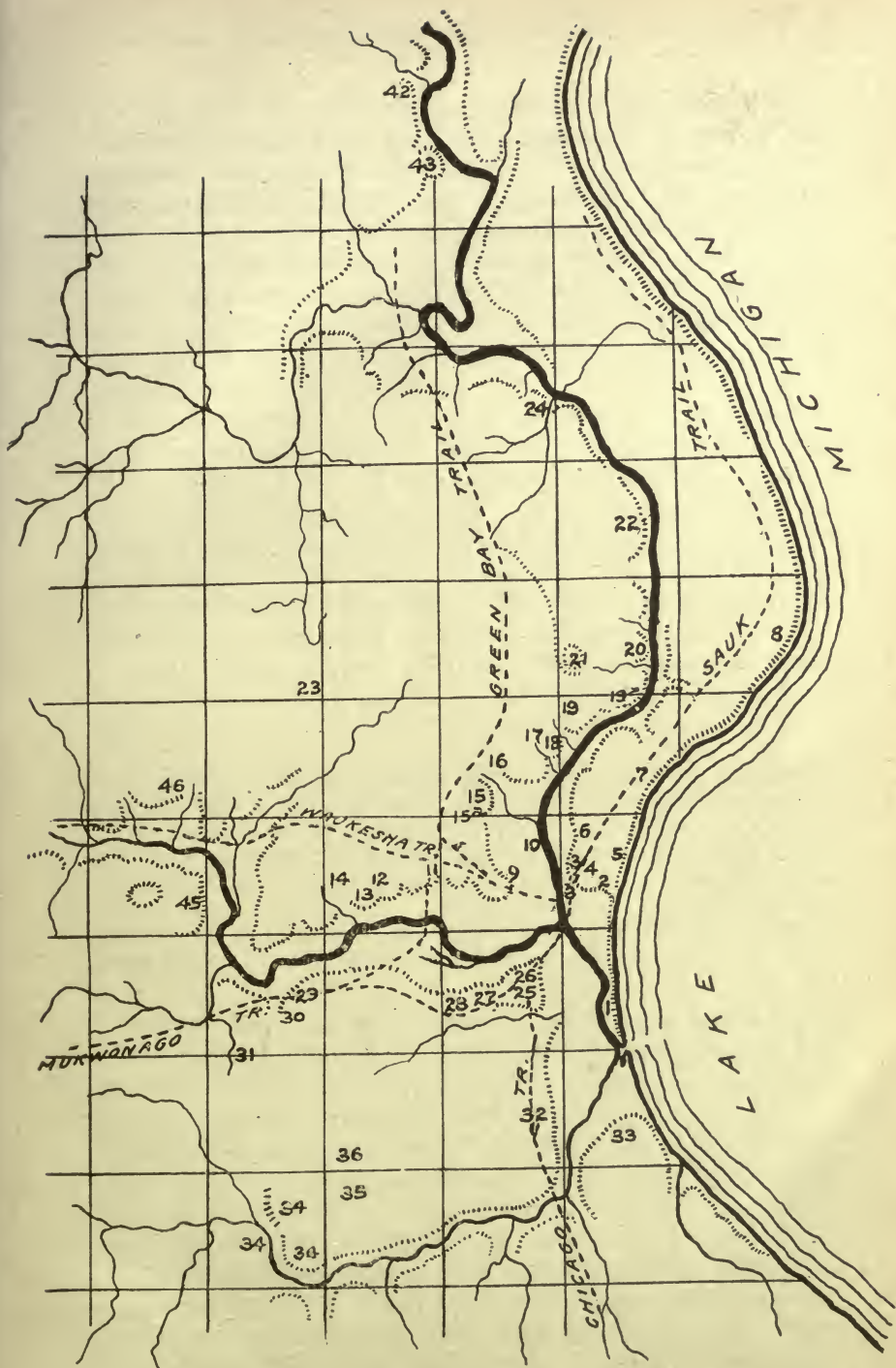
The earliest Indian occupants of the present site of Milwaukee were very probably Winnebago this tribe being displaced after many years, perhaps several centuries of occupation, by the migrating Algonquian tribes who were in possession of the land at the dawn of local history.

Mr. John Rave, an old Winnebago Indian and one of the historians of his people, whom the writer interviewed in 1911, stated that according to a tradition of his particular family, his people, a branch of the Winnebago formerly known as the "Lake People," once inhabited the shores of Lake Michigan in the vicinity of Milwaukee. This was before the coming of white man and before other strange tribes had intruded upon them. If this tradition is worthy of credence it is more than probable, as archaeologists have long sus-

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Map of Milwaukee  
Showing location of Indian mounds, village sites and trails.





pected, that the Winnebago or several Winnebago clans, were the builders of the numerous earthen burial and symbolic mounds once located at Milwaukee and the occupants of the old stone age village sites in their vicinity. The tribes which in later days re-occupied these same sites were none of them mound-building tribes. History indicates that a small number of the Winnebago either remained in the vicinity of Milwaukee or returned in later days to live with the other tribes in their villages, and share in the benefits of the Indian trade.

We are informed that in 1743 two lodges of Fox Indians were located at "Meloaky" and ten at "Chicagou." (17 Wis. Hist. Colls., p. 437). These Indians had probably retreated to these localities at the conclusion of the long continued wars of their tribe with the French (1680-1712?). It must not be supposed that these Fox were then the only Indians on the present site of Milwaukee. The Pottawatomi and members of other Wisconsin tribes had villages there.

Lieut. James Gorrell, a British officer stationed at Green Bay, mentions in his Journal under date of August 21, 1762, that:

"A party of Indians came from Milwacky and demanded credit, which was refused, as they properly belonged to Mishimakinac and did not touch at this place, I desired them to go there and make their complaint, and they would be redressed. They promised me to come to this place to trade in the spring. I made them a small present, and told them if they did they should be well treated and not imposed on." (1 Wis. Hist. Colls, pp. 35-36.)

"This", says the then editor of the Wisconsin Historical Collections, in a footnote, "is the earliest notice, it is believed, of Milwaukee, and indicates that there was then, 1762, quite an Indian town, with an English trader residing there."

Gorrell, in a table of the Indian tribes dependent on Green Bay for articles of trade, mentions "Milwacky" as being inhabited by "Ottawas, etc." Elsewhere he says that there were 100 of these Indians at "Milwacky" and Little Detroit.

The Milwaukee Indians were visited by agents of Pontiac, who appear to have succeeded in gaining any affection which these Indians may have possessed for the British. From the "Recollections" of the noted Wisconsin fur trader,

Augustin Grignon, we learn that it was a part of the plans of Pontiac's conspiracy that the capture of the British fort at Green Bay should be undertaken by the Milwaukee Indians. A wampum belt painted red as a sign of war was sent by the latter to the Menomini Indians at Green Bay, being borne to its destination by Wau-pe-se-pin, or the Wild Potato. The Menomini, through the wise counsel of Chief Old Carron refused to join in this undertaking and remained friendly to their British masters. This was in 1763. (3 W. H. C., p. 226).

"Col. Arent Schuyler De Peyster, who commanded the British post of Michillimackinac from 1774 till the autumn of 1779, in a volume of miscellanies, in which he recorded the substance of a speech delivered by him at the Ottawa town of L'Arbre Croche, on the shores of Lake Michigan, on the 4th of July, 1779, speaks of "those runegates of Milwakie—a horrid set of refractory Indians."—(1 W. H. C., p. 35.)

In the same speech, in another connection, he alludes to one, "'Wee-nip-pe-goes', a sensible old chief at the head of a refractory tribe"—probably referring to the Milwaukee band.

Sig-e-nauk, called by the French Letourneau or Blackbird, a Milwaukee chief, is mentioned as giving the British much trouble in 1777. He was suspected of having formed an alliance with the Spanish on the lower Mississippi (7, W. H. C., p. 406).

In 1775, after several others had failed, Wisconsin's peerless border ranger and soldier, Charles De Langlade, journeyed to Milwaukee to induce the Indian residents to attend a grand council of the Northwest tribes at L'Arbre Croche called to assist the British in the Revolutionary War.

"He talked to them awhile without any apparent favorable results, when he concluded to resort to his knowledge of Indian habits and customs. He built a lodge in the midst of the village, with a door at each end, had several dogs killed, and the dog-feast prepared; then placed the raw heart of a dog on a stick at each door. Then the Indians partook of the feast, when De Langlade, singing the war song, and marching around within the lodge, as he passed one door he bent down and took a bite of the raw heart and repeated the same ceremony as he passed the other—an appeal to Indian bravery, that if they possessed brave

hearts themselves, they would follow his example, and accompany him to war. They could not resist this ancient and superstitious custom; and so one after another joined in the war song and tasted the dogs' hearts, till all became followers of De Langlade, and he lead them forth to the grand council at l'Arbre Croche."

It is probable that De Langlade's performance took place in the Indian village once located at the mouth of the Milwaukee River. The surrender shortly after the council of the British Lieut. Gov. Hamilton to Col. George Rogers Clark made unavailable the Indian expedition which set out from Mackinaw for his relief.

A document in the Canadian archives, dated 1796, calls attention to the fact that great preparations are said to be on foot among the Milwaukee Indians to take the warpath against the Sioux.

An Indian census taken by Indian agent John Bowyer of the Green Bay agency in 1817, states that:

"The Indians at Millwakee are composed of Renigadoes from all the tribes around them (viz), the Sacques, Foxes, Chippewas, Menominies, Ottawas, Winabagoes and Potawatomes, estimated at three hundred warriors. (19 W. H. C., p. 471).

Samuel A. Storrow mentions the Pottawatomie village at Milwaukee, which he visited on August 29, 1817. It was of small size. The English name of the chief was "Old Flour." (6 W. H. C., p. 175). By this name he refers to Onautissah, whose English name, is said to have been "The Flower."

In 1818 definite limits were prescribed for the several Indian agencies in the Middle West, the Indians at Milwaukee being attached to the Chicago agency. (20 W. H. C., p. 48).

Mrs. Mary Ann Brevoort Bristol, whose father, Major Brevoort, was the Indian agent at Green Bay in 1822, states that she remembers well:

"When Milwaukee was a wilderness, the Indians coming from there to the Green Bay Agency on foot, clothed in the skins of wild animals. They came for ammunition, blankets, etc., and I was often called to the council chamber to smoke the pipe of peace, with my four brothers . . . and to listen to their speeches." (W. H. C., p. 303).



In 1824 the Green Bay agency again reported the number of Indians residing at Milwaukee at three hundred.

Andrew J. Vieau, Sr. gives the information that:

"In the winter of 1832-33, the small pox scourge ran through the Indian population of the state. Father [the trader, Jacques Vieau] and his crew were busy throughout the winter burying the natives, who died off like sheep with the foot-rot. With a crooked stick inserted under a dead Indian's chin they would haul the infected corpse into a shallow pit dug for its reception and give it a hasty burial. In this work, and in assisting the few poor wretches who survived, my father lost much time and money; while of course none of the Indians who lived over, were capable of paying their debts to the traders. This winter ruined my father almost completely; and in 1836, aged 74 years, he removed to his homestead in Green Bay." (9 W. H. C., p. 225).

Indian fur-traders reaped a steady harvest in their trade with the Milwaukee natives.

"From 1760 to 1765, Alexander Henry, a native of New Jersey, visited Milwaukee as a trader; Mr. Lottridge of Montreal sent a clerk here in the Spring of 1763; in March of the same year French and English traders visited Milwaukee, remaining several months." (West. Hist. Co., Hist. of Milw., p. 56).

The earliest fur-trader located at Milwaukee of whom there is much information is said to have been Alexander Laframboise, who came from Mackinaw and who was among the Milwaukee Indians as early as 1785. He afterwards sent a brother to manage the business which failed and the post is said to have been closed in about the year 1800. At about this time another trader established a post at Milwaukee, employing as clerk Stanislaus Chappue. This post either failed or was abandoned in about 1805. At about this time, Jean B. Beaubien established a post. This trader was born at Detroit. He entered the fur-trade as a clerk for Joseph Bailly at Grand River, where he was located in 1808. Later he removed to Milwaukee, where in 1814 the Pottawatomie unsuccessfully planned to murder him and steal his goods. About 1818 he was removed to Chicago by the American Fur Company. About 1804 or 1805 Laurent Fily was sent to Jacob Franks from Green



Bay to Milwaukee to carry on a summer trade with the Indians. He was befriended, and protected against the Indians by Match-e-se-be, or Bad River, a brother of the local chief Onautissah. James Kinzie was sent to Milwaukee with a stock of goods by the American Fur Company. Hypolite Grignon also wintered there as a trader in about the year 1818. (3 W. H. C., pp. 291-92).

Jacques Vieau went to Mackinaw from Montreal as a voyager for the Northwest Fur Company in 1793. In 1795 he was appointed an agent for the company and established posts on the west shore of Lake Michigan at Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Milwaukee. At Milwaukee he was met at the mouth of the river by a large number of Pottawatomies and a smaller number of Sac, Fox and Winnebago. He had a good stock of goods and erected a log dwelling and warehouse on the south bank of the Milwaukee River on the present site of Mitchell Park. Jean Baptiste Mirandeau did blacksmithing and other work for him. Vieau remained at Milwaukee during the winter and returned to Green Bay in the spring leaving a clerk in charge of his business. His wife was the daughter of a Menomini chief, Puch-wau-she-gun. Vieau died at the age of ninety-six years at Fort Howard, July 1, 1852.

Solomon Juneau, the founder of Milwaukee, who had worked for Vieau at Green Bay, came to Milwaukee in 1818 first as his clerk and then as agent. In 1820 he married Vieau's daughter Josette. In 1822 he removed from the trading post on the Menomonee River to a combination dwelling and storehouse located near the present intersection of East Water and Wisconsin streets. Here he carried on a profitable trade with the Indians and acquired great influence over them. His trading post was:

"A rude structure of unhewn trees. It faced the south and had been formerly surrounded by a stockade for protection against Indians. At the eastern end a shed was attached." (Wheeler's Chronicles of Milwaukee, p. 57).

Later finding this establishment insufficient to accommodate his increasing trade, he erected a large frame house. Juneau died at Shawano, Wisconsin, November 14, 1856. He was buried at Keshena, his remains being afterwards removed

to Milwaukee. It has been said of this great friend of both the Indians and of the early white settlers of Milwaukee that:

"Perhaps no Indian trader ever lived on this continent for whom the Indians entertained a more profound respect." (Hist. of Milw., p. 19).

After the establishment of Juneau's trading post on the east side of the Milwaukee River, Jacques Vieau "reopened a post at the old place on the Menomonee," as agent for Michael Dousman of Chicago. Later he traded at Milwaukee for Daniel M. Whitney of Green Bay. (15, W. H. C., p. 459). While an agent of the American Fur Company Vieau sustained intimate relationships with John Jacob Astor, Ramsay Crook and others of its members.

The removal of the Milwaukee Indians took place in 1838.

"Among other notable things done this year, was the removal of the Indians west of the Mississippi, which occurred in the month of June. They were collected at the old Indian fields, near the Layton House [opposite Forest Home Cemetery], where they were fed at the expense of the government, until preparations could be made, teams procured and supplies collected in compliance with the treaty, made at Chicago in 1833. The contract was given to Jacques Vieau, who was compelled to press into the service, every available team in the country, in order to accomplish their removal.

This removal cleared the country of all the Pottawatomies and Menomonees, with the exception of the Shawano band, and a few who, on account of intermarriage with the Creole French, were permitted to remain at Theresa, Horicon and other places along Rock River. (Pioneer Hist. of Milw., pp. 146-247).

Small bands or groups of Indians continued to return from time to time and camped for short periods of time at various places about the city, for many years afterwards.

Milwaukee is said to be derived from the Algonquian word Milioke, meaning "good earth" or "good country."

### **Milwaukee a Center of Archaeological Interest**

Milwaukee has been since the earliest days of its settlement the center of archaeological interest in the state.

Dr. Increase A. Lapham, the distinguished pioneer antiquarian whose labors in this field have done so much to

encourage an interest in systematic archaeological research not only in Wisconsin but throughout the entire Middle West, came to Milwaukee in 1836. His early home was located on Third street between Chestnut and Poplar streets, and later, on Poplar between Third and Fourth streets. He had had previous acquaintance in Ohio with prehistoric and other Indian earthworks which knowledge was undoubtedly of assistance to him here. At various points along the Milwaukee River bluffs were interesting groups of Indian mounds the locations of which he soon discovered. He was by profession a civil engineer and while running the lines for new streets in the city he encountered groups of Indian mortuary and other earthworks. Some of these latter he decided were constructed to represent animals. Of these mound groups, with the assistance of various friends he made surveys and detail drawings. As opportunity offered he extended his researches beyond the limits of Milwaukee and before he had been a resident of the city for a year he published in the *Milwaukee Advertiser* an account of a large turtle-shaped mound which he found in Prairie Village, now Waukesha. This appears to have been the first published description of a Wisconsin effigy mound.

Through his articles in local and other papers and his occasional talks and lectures Dr. Lapham thus early created a popular interest in the prehistoric and modern Indian remains of the state. The manuscript copy of one of his lectures, delivered by him before the Young Men's Association of Milwaukee, on January 16, 1857, at the Free Congregational Church, is in the writer's possession.

In "A Geographical and Topographical Description of Wisconsin," published by Dr. Lapham at Milwaukee, in 1844, he gives a brief account of the character of Wisconsin antiquities. This little volume has the distinction of being the first book ever printed in this state.

In 1855 he published as a Smithsonian contribution to knowledge, his very valuable work, "The Antiquities of Wisconsin". The expenses of his surveys in preparation for this publication were borne by the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Massachusetts. For his services he neither asked or received compensation. His investigations extended from the Lake Michigan shore west to the Missis-



issippi River and from the state line as far north as Lake Winnebago and Green Bay.

In the preface of this work he says:

“My office has been to fulfill the duties of the surveyor, to examine and investigate the facts, and to report them as much in detail as may be necessary, leaving it to others with better opportunities, to compare them and to establish in connection, with other means of information, such general principles as may be legitimately deduced.”

His book gained for him a reputation which extended over two continents. Mr. W. H. Canfield of Baraboo, Prof. S. T. Lathrop of Beloit and others aided him with plats and information for which he has given to them due credit in his book.

Dr. Lapham continued his researches up to the date of his death in 1875.

Of the numerous mound groups which Lapham found at Milwaukee not a single trace now remains. In re-describing some of these in this bulletin we are largely dependent upon the matter contained in his original descriptions and noted upon his maps. For the preservation of this data present residents of the city owe to him a lasting debt.

On February 9, 1877, several years after the death of Dr. Lapham, there was organized at Milwaukee with a view to perpetuating his work, The Lapham Archaeological Society. The organization meeting was held at the Newhall House. The founders of this society were the Messrs. Geo. H. Paul, C. T. Hawley, James MacAlister, Geo. W. Peckham, H. H. Oldenhage, Charles Mann, A. B. Geilfuss, A. Hardy, S. G. Lapham, C. A. Leuthstrom, John Johnson, James G. Jenkins, Newton Hawley, Dr. F. H. Day, W. T. Casgrain, E. B. Northrup, W. M. Lawrence, and Dr. S. Sherman.

Mr. Geo. H. Paul acted as president and Mr. Seneca G. Lapham as secretary of the meeting, the Messrs. Hawley, MacAlister and Hardy being appointed a committee to draw up a constitution and by-laws. At a second meeting held on February 14, 1877, the following permanent officers were elected: Geo. H. Paul, president; S. G. Lapham, recording secretary and treasurer; C. T. Hawley, corresponding secretary; H. H. Oldenhage, curator; Geo. W. Peckham, James MacAlister and Charles Mann, executive committee.



Among the early members of the society were Mrs. John Hiles, Mrs. S. S. Merrill, R. C. Spencer, Theodore D. Brown, Rev. E. R. Ward, Dr. N. A. Gray, Moses Strong, L. M. Wyatt, Dr. John A. Rice, C. H. Haskins, Charles J. Hustis, Geo. Gordon and Thos. A. Greene.

Among its corresponding members were Dr. P. R. Hoy, Henry Lapham, Horace Beach and C. B. Stone. The Misses Mary J. and Julia A. Lapham were honorary members.

The society held frequent meetings during the years 1877 at which papers were read and subjects of archaeological interest discussed. Explorations were conducted by its members at Racine, Milwaukee, Lake Koshkonong and other places in the state. It passed out of existence in the following year.

The Wisconsin Archeological Society, which in recent years has accomplished so much for the cause of American archaeology by properly organizing and systematizing archaeological research in Wisconsin, was organized at Milwaukee, June 12, 1899, as the Archaeological Section of the Wisconsin Natural History Society. Its organizers were the Messrs. L. R. Whitney, W. H. Ellsworth, O. J. Habegger, and the writer. Mr. C. H. Doerflinger was its first director, being succeeded by Mr. L. R. Whitney.

The section increased rapidly in membership and in October 1901 the first number of "The Wisconsin Archaeologist" was published. On March 23, 1903, its work having already won state-wide recognition, the section separated from the parent society and organized the Wisconsin Archeological Society. On April 3 of the same year the Society was regularly incorporated under the laws of the state. Mr. Henry A. Crosby of Milwaukee became its first president. Other officers elected at this time were Mr. George A. West, Mr. Rolland L. Porter, Mr. P. V. Lawson, Mr. W. H. Ellsworth and Mr. H. P. Hamilton, vice-presidents; Mr. L. R. Whitney, treasurer and Mr. Charles E. Brown, secretary. The number of its charter members was about one hundred, residents of various sections of the state, these including nearly all archaeological students of prominence in Wisconsin. Among these were a number of former members of the Lapham Archaeological Society.

In the past thirteen years this society, which is now acknowledged to be one of the most active state organizations of its character in the United States, has been engaged in creating an intelligent popular interest in the historical and educational importance of Wisconsin antiquities. Surveys and explorations have been conducted by its members in many unexplored sections of the state and the results published and widely circulated among students, libraries, and educational institutions. Particular attention has been given to securing the preservation of representative groups of Indian earthworks and other evidences of aboriginal occupation.

Other presidents of the Society to date have been the Messrs. Geo. A. West, W. H. Ellsworth, O. J. Habegger, O. L. Hollister, Arthur Wenz and Ellis B. Usher. Its present presiding officer is Mr. Joseph Ringeisen, Jr. Fourteen volumes of the Wisconsin Archeologist have now appeared.

A more complete history of the Wisconsin Archeological Society may be found in volume 3 of Mr. Ellis B. Usher's work "Wisconsin, Its Story and Biography," published in 1914.

### Local Collections

The collections of the Milwaukee Public Museum contain a considerable number of aboriginal stone, copper and other implements collected from village sites, graves, mounds and other places now or formerly located within the county. Many of these were presented years ago by members of the Wisconsin Natural History Society. Some of these specimens are on exhibition and others in the reserve collections of the museum. A recent addition to the archaeological collections of this institution is the G. A. West collection of aboriginal pipes, of about 600 specimens, some of which were collected in Milwaukee County.

Of the privately owned archaeological collections in Milwaukee County the most important is undoubtedly that of Mr. Joseph Ringeisen, Jr. In perfecting it its owner has spent a large amount of both time and money. This collection is especially rich in fine series of stone gorgets and other ornaments, discodials, and ceremonial objects such as bird

stones, banner stones, and boat stones. The collection of bird stones may be said to embrace nearly every known type as well as some not to be seen in other collections in the country. The flint implements, grooved stone and fluted axes, celts, adzes, gouges, hammers, stone balls, hoes and spades in this collection are all of surpassing interest and many of them of great beauty of workmanship. There are a number of fine caches of flint implements as well as a large number of other flint implements of all classes. Not a few of the specimens in this collection were also collected from Milwaukee County sites.

In 1907 there was disposed of to the Logan Museum of Beloit College by its owner, the W. H. Ellsworth collection of about one thousand specimens of stone axes, celts, gouges, adzes, hammers, spuds, spades and other classes of the heavier stone implements in the assembling of which its owner had spent a number of years. This collection was at the time of its sale unquestionably the finest private collection of its character in the Northwest. The W. H. Elkey, another large and valuable collection, soon after also passed into the keeping of the Logan Museum. In both of these collections Milwaukee County was represented by numbers of specimens. Another collection, made by Dr. Fisk H. Day, of Wauwatosa, was after his death taken to Michigan and there finally disposed of, it is reported to a dealer in Indian relics, and its contents scattered to the four winds. Being assembled in an early day this collection is said to have consisted very largely or almost wholly of materials collected within the limits of the county and perhaps largely in the Menomonee Valley near Wauwatosa.

Other Milwaukee collections of interest and importance to the student of local archaeology are those of the Messrs. W. H. Ellsworth, W. A. Phillips, W. H. Vogel, Arthur Gerth, C. G. Schoewe, Arthur Wenz, O. L. Hollister, O. J. Habegger, L. R. Gagg and L. R. Whitney, all of these gentlemen being members of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society. Other collections are those of Mr. C. A. Koubeck, H. A. Kirchner and H. R. Dennison. All of these collections contain a few or many specimens from sites within the county. Many of the more interesting of the specimens contained in these cabinets have been described by the



writer and others in monographs, articles and notes published in previous issues of the Wisconsin Archeologist.

Of the copper implements in the Milwaukee Museum, which were collected in the county, some of the most interesting were described in an article written by the writer and which appeared in the first number of the Wisconsin Archeologist, published in 1901.

Among others not described at that time there may be mentioned: Two copper awls found in an Indian grave south of the city, probably in Layton Park, and presented by Mr. J. P. Rundle; a small socketted copper harpoon, a rather rare type of implement, found on the Lisbon Plank road near Wauwatosa, donated by Mr. Carl Thal; a copper spearpoint and crescent found on the banks of the Kinnickinnic River, in 1892, and given by Mr. C. A. Reed; a copper axe from a mound near Forest Home Cemetery, and two copper axes weighing nearly two pounds each, taken from a mound on the Green Bay road ten miles north of Milwaukee. The exact location of this mound has never been ascertained. A leaf-shaped copper implement obtained in 1892 on the banks of the Kinnickinnic, was donated by Mr. Wm. Frankfurth.

In the museum collections there are two fine specimens of the rather rare long-bitted stone axes specimens of which have been obtained from only a very limited area in eastern Wisconsin. One of these was found at Milwaukee and the other at New Coeln. This last specimen is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and weighs about six pounds. There is also a very good specimen of the rather rare oval axes. This is said to have been found on the south side of the city. A steatite pipe, presumably intended to represent a turtle, was obtained near the site of the House of Correction. A Micmac pipe of black chlorite was also found in the city. Other implements in the museum are mentioned elsewhere in this bulletin.

The museum collection of Indian crania from Milwaukee County is small. In it are two skulls from an Indian burial place formerly located at the northeast corner of Walnut street and Island avenue, presented by H. Voigt and A. Toellner, and another found in a grave while excavating for a store at 445 Milwaukee street, between Wisconsin and Oneida streets.



In the museum at Milwaukee Downer College there is a fine discoidal made of "variegated quartz of a light brown color." Its diameter is  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches. It is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick at the edge, each side being excavated. Its center is perforated. This specimen was found at Milwaukee and is figured by Dr. I. A. Lapham in his *Antiquities of Wisconsin*. His figure does not do justice to its beauty.

In the *History of Milwaukee* published by the Western Historical Company there is figured a large pottery vessel said to have been found "near Milwaukee." "It would hold about seven quarts, wine measure." Nothing further is known of this vessel.

In the collection of Mr. W. H. Vogel is a peculiar stone celt found on Grand avenue. The lower portion of its blade is elevated above the remainder of the implement. A bird stone in the Ringeisen collection was found one half mile north of Keippers park, in Granville township. A long-bitted axe was found near Silver Springs P. O. Its length is 11 inches and its weight 4 pounds. In the H. P. Hamilton collection there is a copper spearpoint found in Greenfield township.

A large flint ceremonial knife was found in Layton Park by S. P. Croft, while grading, in 1892. This is now in the Logan Museum. It is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at its base.

At the same time there was unearthed a cache or deposit of six blue hornstone knives of the familiar "turkey-tail" pattern. A fine polished stone celt was brought up by a dredge from the bottom of the Menomonee River, near the 26 street crossing. An obsidian knife about 3 inches in length was found on an Indian site near the Kinnickinnic River south of Forest Home cemetery. This material does not occur nearer Wisconsin than the Rocky Mountains, and it is probable that this specimen found its way to Milwaukee County in the course of trade with tribes west of the Mississippi River. A small copper axe was found on the bank of the Milwaukee River about one mile south of Silver Springs P. O. In the vicinity of this place there was also obtained a small perforated discoidal of pyrite or marcasite. Its edge was encircled by a narrow groove.

A large marine shell (*Busycon perversum*) was found in grading streets in the Sixth Ward, in Milwaukee. This on the authority of Dr. Lapham. Its length was  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Thousands of other Indian implements have been found on the site of Milwaukee since the day of settlement but only a comparatively small number of these have been preserved in public and private collections. Most of the others have been lost, broken or carried away to other states by their owners. It is to be regretted that a careful collection from some of the many Indian sites now occupied by the City of Milwaukee could not have been made when the opportunity offered and the results preserved in the local public museum. A collection of this character would to-day be an object of interest and instruction to thousands of visitors.

Elsewhere in this publication other Milwaukee County artefacts are described in connection with the sites from which they were obtained.

## INDIAN EVIDENCES

### Milwaukee (East Side)

1. **Onautissah's Village.** Maps of early Milwaukee show a long, narrow tongue of land extending along the shore of Lake Michigan from the vicinity of the foot of present Huron street to the old mouth of the Milwaukee River, a distance of one and one-fourth miles.

On the west this sandy peninsula was bounded by an extensive marshy area embracing nearly the whole of the present Third Ward and by the waters of the Milwaukee River. On James S. Buck's map, showing the city as it appeared in 1835 and 1836, this peninsula is shown to have been overgrown from end to end with trees. Its width is there given as 150 feet.

On this peninsula, at a point about 500 feet south of the present harbor entrance, on land now forming a part of Jones Island, was situated an Indian village whose inhabitants were largely Pottawatomie with a sprinkling of Chippewa. Their rush matting and bark covered lodges were scattered over the sands. In their midst was for some years after



Jones Island  
Plate 1





1784 the log cabin of Alexander Laframboise, a fur trader from Mackinaw.

Concerning this most important of the several Milwaukee Indian villages local historians have failed to preserve but a small amount of information. Very little is known about the manner of life of its aboriginal inhabitants. Their number is reported to have been at different times from 200 to 500.

Dr. Enoch Chase stated that the "aboriginal lakeside loiterers" at Milwaukee numbered at times as many as two thousand. Among these were Pottawatomi, Winnebago, Chippewa and Menominee. (West. Hist. Co., Hist. of Milwaukee, p. 179).

The Indian inhabitants of Onautissah's village subsisted largely upon fish (sturgeon, trout and whitefish), such wild animals large and small as inhabited the land and marshes, on roots, wild fruits and wild rice.

There were burial places connected with the village other than the Huron street cemetery elsewhere described. Some of these graves were opened in 1858 and 1859 by Mr. C. P. Cornillie and his brother. These particular graves were located about 300 feet north of the mouth of the old harbor.

"The conflicting currents of the new and old harbors at that time washed over the land exposing the graves, also the bones of wild animals and other refuse."

The chief of the Milwaukee harbor village was Onautissah or Onaugesā. The late Mr. Daniel W. Fowler prepared an account of this old chief, which he read at a meeting of the Old Settlers Club and which was afterward printed in the Milwaukee Sentinel. This paper is here reprinted in part:

### King of the Pottawatomes

"O-nau-tis-sah, head chief and so-called 'King of the Pottawatomes,' was born, it is claimed by Mr. Peter Vieau, at or near the present city of Milwaukee about the middle of the Eighteenth century. He was one of three brothers, all of whom had great influence among the Pottowatomie and Menominee Indians who then lived in and about Milwaukee. The name O-nau-tis-sah is translated as meaning 'silver sand,' and it is claimed for this spelling that it more nearly expresses the true orthography of the word than O-nau-ge-sah, as it has been heretofore spelled.

The father of the subject of this sketch was a Pottawatomie-Menominee Indian, whose name is said to have been Che-ko-tau, (The Leader.) The father of Che-ko-tau, it is said, was a Chippewa named 'Mo-zau-maun.' The exact meaning of the name cannot be given, but it is said to relate to 'high birth.'

"Chekotan's sons, of whom we have knowledge were O-nau-tis-sah (Silver Sand), Match-i-si-pi (Bad River) and O-taw-we-yo (Yellow Body). The latter was the youngest of the three brothers. Onautissah, it is stated, lived in and about Milwaukee all his life until his removal to Council Bluffs with his tribe in 1837 or 1838. He is supposed to have been about 88 years of age at his death, which occurred within a short time after his removal from Milwaukee. When he left here he was so feeble that he could not walk without assistance.

"The exact date when he came into the chieftainship is not known, but Augustin Grignon says that he was a chief as early as 1785, to his knowledge, and lived in Milwaukee. No wars that he waged against either whites or other Indian tribes are on record. He is described as speaking very fair English and French for an Indian, was about six feet tall and weighed upwards of 200 pounds. He had a large head and a broad forehead and was a man of dignified manners and deportment, temperate in his habits. It is said that he never indulged in intoxicating liquors to excess. His wife, a Pottawatomie woman, bore him two daughters and a son. The son's name was Mis-si-non-is-see (The Powerful Man). He was born in the present limits of the Seventh ward in 1828. If all accounts were true, he was a sad scapegrace, and his end is not known. The daughters both died young.

"Onautissah's royal mansion was a two-room bark wigwam, which stood just north of the present line of Biddle street in the Seventh ward, at its intersection with Van Buren or Cass, in a one-acre clearing. Footpaths leading to the lake and down the bluffs showed that they went there to get water for domestic purposes. After the advent of the whites, it is said, he embraced civilization so far as to furnish his wigwam with a four-post bedstead and some wooden chairs.

"Matchesipi, his brother, was his grand councillor and chief of state, and had his wigwam a short distance away from the royal residence, where he acted as watchman over the root cellars in which corn, pumpkins, potatoes, squashes and wild rice were stored. These cellars were mainly supplied by the contributions of the chief's loyal subjects, who cultivated corn and vegetables quite extensively on the hills to the westward of Muskego avenue and elsewhere within the present limits of Milwaukee.

"The Winnebagoes are said to have attempted to despoil the storehouses of O-nau-tis-sah, and when caught they were often punished for their offenses by being tied hand and foot and left lying on the ground for several hours, the sport of the younger members of the population, who jeered them without mercy.

"Matchesipi and his brother, Onautissah, were nominally Catholics, and despised the arts of the medicine men of their people. They were both hospitable and charitable, and looked with disfavor upon drunkenness and debauchery. Matchesipi was the Bismarck of the Milwaukee Pottawatomies, and beside the name of Matchesipi he bore the name of Missaubic-inini (The Iron Man), a name given him by the Indians and not by the white men. He died in Mukwonago in 1837.

"Only one of these renowned chieftains of the Pottawatomies was destined to be buried in the place of their nativity. This was O-taw-we-yo (Yellow Body) who died in Milwaukee in 1836, and was interred in the Indian burying ground which was located in the present Fifth ward.

"The chief of the Mukwonago band of Pottawatomies was See-boi-a-sem (Corn Stalk.) He died there in 1833. O-taw-we-yo had married his daughter.

"It is said that in 1828 the Sioux Indians crossed the Mississippi at Prairie du Chien and made war upon the Pottawatomies. Cornstalk and Yellow Body and the Mukwonago band were on the frontier, so to speak, and first met the shock of the invaders. It is said that the Milwaukee chieftains supplied a strong force of fighting men to cooperate with the Mukwonago warriors. They slew 100 of the hated Dakotas with small loss, and captured seventy-five or eighty prisoners and as many ponies. They brought the prisoners in triumph to Milwaukee, where Onautissah generously set them free and sent them out of the country on foot, retaining the ponies for his own use and that of his brother Matchesipi.

"Onautissah, wore a large silver medal, the insignia of chieftainship, which he received from his father, who had it from the government after the Revolutionary war. After his death at Council Bluffs, this medal fell into the hands of Louis Vieau in Kansas, and may still be in the possession of his descendants.

"There is a tradition that the Chippewas, Menominees, Ottawas and Pottawatomie were driven westward from an Eastern home by the Iroquois about 500 years ago, and that before that they were all one people. This kinship among them may account for the selection of Silver Sand's granddaughter, a Chippewa Indian, and of Silver Sand himself, a Menominee Indian, for chiefs by the Pottawatomies.



"There were several petty chiefs of the Pottawatomies who held sway in Milwaukee county. Poh-quay-gee-gum ruled over the lime ridge band, who lived on the lime ridge near Twenty-fourth street, and those streets east and west of it, in the Sixteenth ward. Pemano, also called Peshano in the histories, a petty chief of the Kinnickinnic band at one time, afterward joined Cornstalk at Mukwonago where he was next in rank. Matchesipi, Silver Sand's prime minister and chief of police, died at Mukwonago while attending a council, from the effect of a stroke of paralysis.

"The man most feared was old Pauschke-nana, the medicine man and all-round sorcerer, who lived for many years in the neighborhood of the intersection of National and Sixth avenues. He is said to have been a loathsome creature, and was quite generally hated.

"Kenshay-kum (the Pickerel) is mentioned by different historians as a petty chief appointed by Onautissah to rule the troublesome Indians in his neighborhood.

"All those mentioned were subject to Onautissah, the head chief, who seems to have been a man of ability. He proved himself an orator at the grand council held in Milwaukee in September, 1822, when the government was trying to extinguish the Indian title to the lands in this neighborhood. Some 500 or 600 Indians were gathered at the council place, which was in the upper part of the Seventh ward, near the Biddle street line. Indian Agent Dixon represented the government at the council. There were present, besides twelve Menominee and Pottawatomie chiefs, Solomon Juneau, Jacques Veau, Charles Vieau, the interpreter and Peter Veau, then a lad of 8 years of age. The council had continued for three days, and Dixon had induced eleven of the twelve chiefs to sign a stipulation to cede their tribal domain to the government. Onautissah alone refused to sign. Dixon being wearied with his obstinancy, started to walk out of the council in anger, but the old chief called him back, announcing that he had something important to say. Dixon attempted to resume his seat on the stump from which he had risen, but lost his balance and fell to the ground, whereat the assembled Indians raised a mighty yell. After order was restored, Onautissah arose and said:

"'Father, listen. Three days before this grand council assembled I had a dream in which his Satanic majesty appeared and said to me: "O, king of the Pottawatomies you are doomed to the eternal fires. Look beyond there and see that opening in the ground. You must descend into that abyss." I replied: "As you request and command, so shall I do." I advanced into the abyss, tomahawk in hand, and there I beheld "Kitchi-menan-quet Mash-ki-ki," that is "bad medicine," (burning brimstone.) I walked along



about two hours toward a beautiful mansion which I beheld in the distance. No Kitch-i-mo-kom-on-ag (Big Knife people) in this country could build such a house, so large and beautiful it was.

"I had my tomahawk in my hand, and at last I came to the door of that mansion. I looked all around and could see the smoke issuing from the windows. I took my tomahawk and struck three times on the door. His majesty from the inside cried out: 'Who goes there?'"

"'Open the door,' I cried.

"'I cannot,' said his majesty, 'until you give me your name.'

"'I will. My name is Onautissah, king of the Pottawatomies.'

"'What do you want here, Onautissah, king of the Pottawatomies?' he asked.

"My reply was: 'I was sent down here and I want to come in.'

"'No,' he answered. 'There is no place for you here, king of the Pottawatomies.'

"I said: 'Open the door and let me prove your statement.'

"At last he unlocked the door and opened it. 'Now,' said he, 'O, king of the Pottawatomies, you doubted my word, and you have the privilege of seeing for yourself.' I stooped down, looked in and beheld there myriads of people, sitting in chairs, suffering, moaning, burning. Onautissah bent down and looked as far as he could through the smoke and flames, and saw in the distance a golden chair, mounted on a platform. The chair was trimmed with the richest silks and velvets. 'Why,' said I, 'your majesty did not tell me the truth. There is one vacant chair over there suitable for me.' He said: 'You are too worthy to sit in that chair, it is reserved for one less worthy than yourself. You can't have that chair. It was made and reserved for a particular friend of mine, Dixon, the agent, and he is entitled to it. Go at once, go instantly, Onautissah, king of the Pottawatomies,' and he slammed the door in my face.

"I have hastened here to-day to tell you that he is waiting patiently for you to go there and take the seat, and hopes that you will not disappoint him any longer.'

"Onautissah slowly resumed his seat, but a great uproar followed among the assembled Indians, and Dixon again arose and remarked in a disgusted way 'Sold by——!' and walked away holding the arm of Juneau. He saddled his horses and left that night for Green Bay."

Wheeler says of Onautissah:

"He is a Menomonee, with respectable red and white connections at Green Bay and who delights in a breech-clout and Chinese vermillion. According to our best authorities, however, this aboriginal settlement (that at the mouth of the river) was founded by Sacs and Foxes, and O-nau-gesa, was a renegade whose superior craft and eloquence won upon the strange tribe, and they, in accordance with Indian customs, allowed him to usurp the position of chief. What fragments of history bear his reflection are highly laudatory of his kind disposition and worthy character." (Chronicles of Milw., p. 6).

"He was the head war chief of the Milwaukee band, and was when too old succeeded by his son, Kow-o-sett or Kow-o-sott, who was acting chief when the whites came, and who died at Theresa, Dodge County, in August 1847. Onautissah died at Council Bluffs, in 1838, aged 112 years. (Pioneer Hist. of Milw., p. 149).

"The Milwaukee band of Indians were very fond of racing and indulged in this sport fully as often as their white brethren of to-day. The race course was a broad strip of hard, sandy beach near the mouth of the old river.

"The races at this point, on ponies, not horses, were kept up until the advent of the Anglo-Saxons. They were exhibitions of speed, horsemanship, equestrian feats, battle attitudes and the physical prowess of the riders. The races to test speed were generally short but swift and spirited. The other exhibitions consisted of riding on the side, rump, neck and almost under the horse; in a standing or crouching posture; in jumping from one horse to another while the animals were speeding at a wild rate; in leaping to the ground and back to the horse while the animals were on a run, and in performing various maneuvers with spears or poles. The manner in which both horses and Indians thus performed was remarkable indeed, Solomon Juneau declaring that before the warriors were demoralized by whisky, the equestrian exhibitions which he witnessed the first year he was in Wisconsin surpassed in horsemanship and physical training, anything he had ever seen or read of.

"Although greatly degenerated, the few races had by the Indians after the whites came were said to be interesting and exciting in the extreme. The aborigines had no horse-trots, the racing was to test the running qualities. The dress used by the riders was occasionally fantastic, but not elaborate, as clothing was a burden that interfered seriously with the gymnastic performances. The horses, which were ridden without saddles of course, were ponies, and smaller than the trained and race-horses of the present day." (West. Hist. Co., Hist. of Milw., p. 219).

**2. Michigan Street Site.** An Indian camping ground was situated along the edge of a high bluff formerly located along the line of present Michigan street. This bluff extended in a westerly direction from Huron street to present East Water street. Lying south of the foot of the bluff was the extensive so-called Juneau marsh already mentioned in connection with the Milwaukee harbor village. The bluff was covered with a thicket of bushes and scattered black, burr and white oak trees. Numerous springs had their origin in this bluff.

The writer is indebted to Mr. Henry W. Bleyer, a pioneer and member of the Old Settlers Club of Milwaukee County, for information concerning this Indian encampment, which in his youth he frequently visited. It was here that the Indians of the surrounding region gathered once a year, in the spring or early summer, to exchange furs with Solomon Juneau and other traders. At such times their wigwams were scattered in small groups along the whole length of the bluff and ravine from the foot of present Huron street to near the northeast corner of Michigan street and Broadway. These annual gatherings were made the occasion of dances, ceremonies and of games such as pony racing, and shooting with the bow. These took place for the most part on the firm ground at the base of the bluff, between present Michigan and Huron streets.

On the top of the bluff, near the present location of the Third Ward school house, at the intersection of Huron and Cass streets, at an elevation of about fifty feet above the marsh, was located an Indian burial place of some thirty or more graves. The greater number of these were laid out in quite regular north and south rows with a narrow path between them. These graves were constructed in the following manner. The remains of the dead were placed in a shallow grave which was afterwards closed or slightly mounded over with earth. At the end of each grave was placed a forked stake several feet in height across which was placed a stout pole. Against this pole, on either side, one end embedded in the ground, were placed split shakes or puncheons thus forming an A shaped covering which served to shed the rain and in a measure to prevent the graves disturbance by dogs or wild animals. At the head of each



grave was an upright pole usually from four to six feet in height, to the upper end of which strips of blanket or colored cloth were fastened. Burials were made in this cemetery up to as late as 1840. Indian graves were also located in various places along the top of the Michigan street bluff. Some of these were disturbed in after years in the erection of buildings on the blocks between Wisconsin and Michigan streets.

Andrew J. Vieau remembers that in 1823 the marsh was flooded and the home of countless waterfowl. In later years it became a quite dry meadow and was the grazing ground of great droves of Indian ponies. (11 W. H. C., p. 227). When the pioneer settlers located at Milwaukee (in the thirties) this marsh was largely under water. Of two quite large islands in it, both located south of Huron street, the most northerly was known as Duck Island.

Mr. Bleyer states that the land on and at the base of the bluff then abounded in such small game as rabbits, squirrels, prairie chickens, quail and wild turkeys. At the time of the great flights of passenger pigeons hundreds of these were killed here by throwing sticks into the small trees and shrubs.

**3. East Water Street Camp.** Indians also camped along the line of the bluff which extended from what was once known as Mud Point, a short distance below where the present foot of Huron Street meets the Milwaukee River northward along the line of present East Water Street. This was in the thirties. Samuel Freeman's Guide, published in 1851, states that:

"There were some 200 Indians, principally of the Pottawatomie tribe tented in wigwams, erected a short distance apart" from the location where the United States hotel once stood, at the northeast corner of Huron and East Water streets, to the present location of St. Marys Catholic Church, at the corner of Broadway and Biddle streets.

Mr. Albert T. Fowler, a Milwaukee pioneer, informed the historian James S. Buck, that in 1883 Indian corn hills were to be seen upon the narrow strip of mud situated between the then Milwaukee River bayou, afterwards River Street, and the river, (Pioneer History of Milwaukee, v. 1, p. 153).



**4. Wisconsin Street Enclosure and Effigy.** This oval earthwork is described as having been located on the city block enclosed by present Wisconsin and Mason and Broadway and Milwaukee streets. It is reported to have occupied nearly the entire block, the earthen wall being "about the height of a man's shoulders." Neither of the latter statements are worthy of credence. This block has a length on Wisconsin of 254 feet and on Broadway of 360 feet. The enclosure was undoubtedly much smaller and the greatest elevation of the wall not over 3 to 3½ feet.

"It was nearly razed by Geo. D. Dousman, in 1835, and the annihilation was completed the following year by the Olin Brothers." (West. Hist. Co., Hist. of Milw., p. 111, Fig. 2). The Wells building and the Miller block occupy the Wisconsin street frontage of this site.

A "man mound" is reported to have been "razed when Wisconsin street was graded in the Spring of 1836" (Ibid, p. 111, fig. 3). It is said to have been 150 feet long. The rather crude illustration given of this effigy indicates that it was very probably intended to represent a bird rather than a human figure. Its bent wings and divided tail were responsible for this erroneous conclusion. Its exact location on Wisconsin Street cannot be learned. Lapham appears not to have encountered either of these earthworks since he makes no mention of them.

**5. Lake Shore Camp Sites.** It is evident that in stone age times and perhaps later Indian camps were located in various places on the tops of the high bluff overlooking Lake Michigan from Wisconsin street to as far north as Lake Park. These bluffs have been for many years occupied by the fine residences of wealthy citizens of Milwaukee.

Mr. Charles Askew of Madison, who in his boyhood (1843) resided in Milwaukee, informed the writer that on the ground near his former home, north of the intersection of Mason and Marshall streets evidences of a stone age camp were once to be seen. In his father's garden, located on the edge of a ravine draining into the lake through present Juneau Park, numerous flint and fragments and hearth stones were scattered about. Here he collected flint arrow-points, stone celts and axes and other implements.

**6. Juneau Mounds.** Lapham's plat of these earthworks is reproduced in Plate 2. His survey of them was made in 1884. They were situated at the intersection of Broadway and Johnson streets.

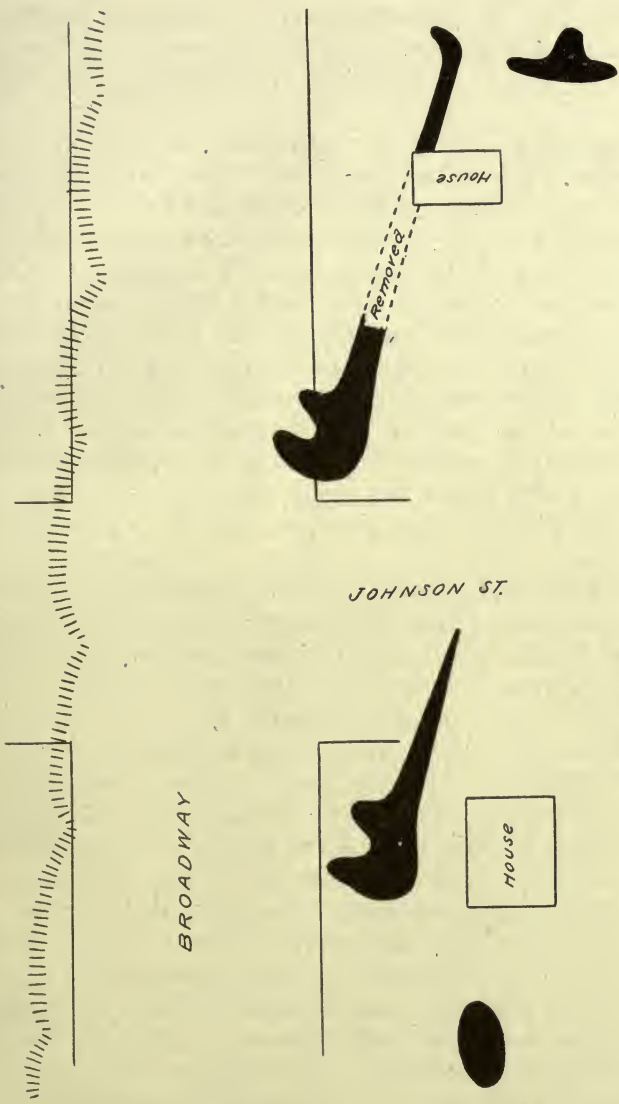
The group consisted of an oval mound, two effigies of the panther type, a small triangular mound with small projections, or wings, probably intended to represent a bird, and an oval enclosure.

The oval mound had diameters of 17 and 27 feet. Within 40 feet of it was the first of the two panther effigies. This mound was 88 feet in length. The second panther effigy was about 135 feet in length. At the time of Lapham's survey a small house had been built upon its tail near the middle and the adjoining portion of the tail removed. This effigy was peculiar in having a small rounded projection at the extremity of its tail. These effigies were situated "on high ground near the edge of a hill or bank, their heads toward the south, legs toward the bank, and their general direction obliquely towards the edge of the bank." The small mound lay about 10 feet east of the extremity of the tail of the largest effigy. Lapham in his survey notes gives its greatest diameters as 24 and 40 feet.

The oval enclosure, which Lapham describes but does not figure in his plate, was situated in Broadway on the east side of its intersection with Juneau avenue. Its diameters were 31 and 44 feet. The wall of earth was 9 feet wide and one foot high.

From the base of the high land upon which these mounds were situated, westward to the bank of the Milwaukee River, for a distance of several blocks, the land was low and marshy and was known in the early days of Milwaukee as the "Bayou."

**7. Brady Street Mound.** The writer was informed by Mr. Henry Smith, the well known Milwaukee alderman, that a large conical mound was formerly situated near the east end of Brady street. It stood near the edge of the lake bluff and gradually disappeared with the caving away of the bluff. This caving he described as due to the cutting of the surrounding forest trees and the wash of the lake waters at the base of the clay bluff.



Juneau Mounds  
Plate 2





This mound was about 40 feet in diameter at its base and 5 feet high.

Mounds or graves are also reported to have existed in the vicinity of the First Ward school but no exact information concerning them is obtainable.

**8. Lake Park Mounds.** A group of conical burial mounds was once located on the present site of Lake Park. Only one of these remains the others having been destroyed in grading a portion of the land when it was being prepared for park purposes. The last mound of the group is located at a distance of about 200 feet southeast of the street railway entrance to the park, at the foot of Newberry boulevard, and about 130 feet south of the head of a small park ravine. It is marked with a fine metal tablet erected by the Board of Park Commissioners at the request of the Wisconsin Archeological Society, in 1910. This mound is at the present time about 40 feet in diameter and about 2 feet high. On and about it a number of young ash, elm and maple trees have been planted.

Mr. Carl Bodenbach, who best remembers the Lake Park mounds, informed the writer that other burial mounds were formerly situated east and southeast of the mound described. Some were near the spot where the present stone bridge crosses a ravine and others south of these. The largest mound of the group was situated several hundred feet east of the marked mound. It was located about 300 feet west of the lake bluff drive and nearly the same distance south of a ravine leading to the lake shore. This mound is said to have been about 50 feet in diameter and five or more feet high.

Undoubtedly there was a village site connected with these mounds but of this the writer has not been able to find traces. Others remember to have picked up flint arrow-points in the fields at this place before the land was purchased for park purposes. In the writer's boyhood the land now occupied by the park was widely known as Lueddemanns-on-the-Lake and was a much favored spot for the holding of Sunday school and other picnics.

### Milwaukee (West Side)

9. **Kenozhaykum's Village.** This Pottawatomie village was located at the base of a steep wooded bluff about sixty feet in height, which extended from across the present Grand Avenue in a general north and south direction about midway between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

There were in 1841 about 100 Indians in this village, occupying more or less permanent wigwams constructed of wattle work.

Along the base of the bluff, on either side of the village, between what are now Wells and Sycamore streets, and between the village and the extensive marsh on the east, were the planting grounds where squash, melons, corn and other Indian products were grown.

Describing this locality James S. Buck in his "Pioneer History of Milwaukee" (p. 62) says:

"All that portion of the Fourth Ward bounded by the Menomonee on the south, Spring street (now Grand Avenue) on the north, and to a point midway between Fourth and Fifth streets, on the west, where the hills commenced, was a wild rice swamp, covered with water from two to six feet in depth, in fact impassable marsh. There was a small island near the corner of Second and Clybourn streets, upon which was a large elm tree. All else was a watery waste. At Spring street the ground commenced to harden and from there to Chestnut, with the exception of West Water, from Spring street to Third, (which was also marsh) the whole was a swamp, upon which grew tamaracks, tag alder, and cedar in abundance."

Andrew J. Vieau, Sr. stated that:

"The Spring street flat, from the river back to the bordering highlands, the Indians had under quite excellent cultivation. There was scarcely a grub to be seen in the entire field."

"On the west side of the Milwaukee, on the Spring street flat, opposite Juneau's place, the chief was Kenozhaykum (Lake Pickerel)." (11 W. H. Colls., p. 228)

The late Rev. Johannes Bading remembered that in 1854 there were a few Indian wigwams on what is now Fifth street, between Grand Avenue and Sycamore street.



It appears from other writers that the Indian wigwams occupied both the top and the base of the bluff, which was known in early days as "Menomonee Hill." An Indian cemetery was located on this hill.

**10. Buttles mound.** Mr. H. R. King informed the writer (March 28, 1907) that an Indian burial mound was located at the west approach of the State street bridge.

This was excavated in an early day by Mr. Anson W. Buttles, an early settler of Milwaukee. No information concerning the results of his exploration could be obtained. Mr. Buttles has been dead for some years.

**11. Grand Avenue Mound.** A conical mound was situated in an early day on the then J. H. Rogers property, on the south side of Grand avenue between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, in the present Fourth ward. It was located on the east side of a ravine leading to the Menomonee River. Lapham locates this mound on his "Map of Ancient Works in the Vicinity of Milwaukee."

The late Mr. John W. Dunlop, an early settler, informed the writer, that while in the employ of Mr. Rogers, in 1843, he and a hired man undertook the exploration of this Indian earthwork. It was then, as nearly as he could remember, about 25 feet in diameter and about 5 feet high at its highest part, at its middle. At its base they found a quantity of Indian bones, fragments of a pottery vessel, several stone celts and a number of flint arrowpoints. The land was afterwards plowed over and all traces of the mound obliterated.

The mound was constructed of surface soil.

**12. Twenty-first Street Mound.** This round mound, the former presence of which Lapham also notes on his map, was located south of Grand avenue (formerly known as Spring street) near present Twenty-first street, on the bluffs overlooking the Menomonee Valley. This was in later years the site of the old Catholic cemetery. Since the writer's boyhood this region has been greatly altered by grading and has been long occupied by residences. No other data concerning this mound or the date of its destruction is obtainable.

**13. Lime Ridge Village Site.** On the high, once wooded bluffs along present Clybourn street between Twentieth and Twenty-sixth streets, and overlooking the Menomonee valley, there was up to as late as the year 1841, a Pottawatomie Indian village. According to the late Peter J. Vieau, a son of Milwaukee's early fur-trader, this was in his boyhood the largest Indian village at Milwaukee. He often visited the village which up to 1835 and 1836 consisted of 250 bark covered wigwams. In 1841 it is reported to have had 100 inhabitants. Connected with this village were quite extensive gardens and corn fields. According to Andrew J. Vieau (11 W. H. C., 228) the chief of this large village was Poh-quaygeegun (Bread). Of him, nothing further is known.

These bluffs were known in the early days of settlement as the "Lime Kiln Ridge." Such was their height that from them an unobstructed view of the wide expanse of marshy river valley extending from opposite this point eastward to the union of the Menomonee with the Milwaukee river could be obtained. On the property between Clybourn street and Grand avenue (the site of this early Indian village), now occupied by streets and residences, Indian burials have been occasionally disturbed and stone and iron implements found.

In an interview published in the Milwaukee Sentinel, January 10, 1904, Peter J. Vieau states that in about the year 1820 John Kinzie had a log cabin on the Lime Ridge about half a mile east of the Indian Village. He was a trader for the American Fur Company.

"He traded with the Indians there and got to be a good deal of a nuisance by selling them liquor. My father had the good will of the Indians who had villages at Mukwonago, Muskego, and at Racine, and traded with them. About the time of my birth (1820) he made complaint to the officers of the American Fur Company that Kinzie was breaking the laws of the territory by selling liquor to the Indians, and the company sent agents to investigate. The result was that Kinzie got notice to vacate the place, and he did so in October, 1821. His log trading post was plainly visible from my father's house across the valley."

The Vieau trading post was located on the present site of Mitchell park. The Lime Ridge village is located on a map drawn by Morgan L. Martin, in August 1833, and

reproduced in the 1906 Proceedings of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

**14. Hawley Mounds.** Near the middle of Block 283, in the Sixteenth Ward, several hundred feet northwest of the intersection of Wells and Twenty-fourth streets, on property then belonging to the Hawley estate there was formerly located an effigy mound of the common panther type. According to Dr. Lapham's measurements of this effigy, made by him on November 7, 1874, with the assistance of Miss Nellie Hawley, and a plat of which is now in the writer's possession, this effigy was about 85 feet in length and 22 feet in width at its middle (across the body). It was a trifle over 3 feet in height. Upon it were an oak stump and several trees.

The earth employed in the construction of this mound was thought to have been obtained from a field west of the mound. The high wooded land upon which it was located overlooked a low, swampy tract some blocks in extent immediately south of the corner of Wells and Twenty-fourth streets.

This mound was excavated on May 8, 1877 by the members of The Lapham Archaeological Society, of Milwaukee. Among those present and assisting were the Messrs. Geo. H. Paul, Dr. Geo. W. Peckham, Prof. H. H. Oldenbake, Prof. A. Hardy, Prof. James MacAlister, Mr. C. T. Hawley, Mr. Newton Hawley, Ex-Alderman Johnson, Mr. Edward Barber, Mr. J. C. Crombie, a number of ladies of the Science Class, and others. Transverse trenches 2 feet in diameter and 18 feet long were dug through the middle of the figure and extending to a depth of one foot below the base of the mound. Except a small collection of animal bones, which were afterwards pronounced to be those of a dog, and a fragment of a stone chisel, nothing was obtained. A brief account of this investigation was published in the Milwaukee Sentinel of May 9, 1877. Mr. Newton Hawley presented a report of the results at a meeting of the Society.

Lapham's map shows what appears to be a second panther effigy a short distance west of this one. There were two or three burial mounds located on Block 269 adjoining this block on the north. Dr. Frederick C. Rogers remembers



one of these to have been located on the Kavelage place, on the north side of Cedar street between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets. It was destroyed when the house was built, in 1890 or 1891. Dr. Charles D. Stanhope informed the writer that a number of effigy and other mounds were once located on a hillside between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth and Cedar and State streets. Of these he and Mr. W. M. Lawrence, a former principal of the Fourth Ward school, made a survey. The plat made from these field notes has been lost or destroyed.



Fig. 1

**15. Winnebago Street Effigy** (Figure 1). Lapham gives a figure of a bird effigy which was located on "Block No. 120, Second Ward" (*Antiquities of Wis.*, pl. VII, No. 3). This is the triangle block enclosed by Vliet, Winnebago and Tenth streets and now occupied by stores and other buildings. This effigy is shown to have represented a bird with drooping wings. Its head was directed towards the south. The length of its body including the head is shown to have been 34 feet, the distance from tip to tip of its wings was about 95 feet. Lapham gives the length of the wings as 60 feet (p. 17). His plat of this mound was made in May 1850, previous to the publication of his book, which bears the date 1855. His daughters, the Misses Mary J. and Julia A. Lapham, assisted him in taking the measurements. It is said that he published an account of this mound in Woodworth's *Youth's Cabinet*, in 1850.

Lapham's map of 1836 to 1852 shows a conical mound and what appears to be an effigy located a short distance north of the bird effigy. Buildings have long occupied these sites.

**15a. Mill Street Mounds.** In some unpublished Milwaukee notes Dr. Lapham gives a sketch and brief descrip-

tion of a panther and a linear mound located on Block 114 between Eighth and Ninth and Mill and Vliet streets. The effigy extended in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction across the northern half of the block. The linear lay on the western side and within a few feet of the tail of the effigy, which it paralleled as to direction. About half of this mound lay in Mill street, now Central avenue. The effigy was the larger of the two mounds.

Lapham says of these mounds:

"The earth composing them is of a light colored sandy clay with small pebbles while the soil and subsoil around them is of a reddish color, and is free from sand and pebbles—being a loamy clay. These works are now (1850) nearly destroyed. Their position can be traced through a garden by the lighter color of the materials."

Buildings have long occupied this site.

**16. Lapham Park Group** (Plate 3). This group of twelve mounds consisted according to Lapham's Plate VI of three oval and two short parallel sided linear mounds, a bird and a turtle and five panther effigies. His plate is a copy of a sketch made by him in 1836. Lapham states that:

"These works were in 1836, covered with a dense forest. The oblong, at *a* in the plan, appears to have been the 'observatory,' being in a very conspicuous place, from which may be seen all the works, while in the opposite direction there is presented a magnificent view of the valley of the [Milwaukee] river, and the bay of Lake Michigan, now called Milwaukee Bay. It is eighty-three feet long, twenty wide, and four in height. Two of these mounds were opened, but produced nothing beyond the fragment of a bone, and a slight admixture of carbonaceous matter near the original surface. They were composed of the same tough, reddish, sandy clay that constitutes the adjacent soil. There were two natural elevations or mounds near these works, and upon the summit of one was a small 'winged mound.' The other though the largest was apparently not occupied by the aborigines." (*Antiq. of Wis.*, p. 16).

His plate shows this group of mounds to have been located between Galena street and Reservoir Avenue and Fifth and Sixth streets, in the Second Ward. This locality is about one block east of Lapham (formerly known as Schlitz) Park.

Mr. Henry Smith of Milwaukee in a communication directed to the writer some years ago, says regarding this locality:

"The mounds were situated north of a ravine that extended from Tenth street in an easterly direction south of Galena street and ran out on Cherry street, at its intersection with Sixth street. The banks of the ravine east from Eighth street were bold and steep, the north bank being the highest, and would bring the mounds between Sixth and Seventh street and the south one-half of Block 201 and the north one-half of Block 102, including all of Galena street. From that point there was a good view of the valley. They could not be well situated north of Walnut street and west of Sixth street, as that was flat ground, and too far north of the bold front of the ravine. Part of the Froedert Bros. malt house and elevator rest on thirty feet of filling. This will give an idea of the height of the ravine banks."

According to Lapham's plate the lengths of the panther effigies were about 100, 100, 156, 162, and 212 feet.

The turtle effigy measured about 155 feet in length. The bird had a wingspread of about 100 feet. The oval mounds were about 30 and 60 feet and the linear mounds about 50 and 75 feet in length.

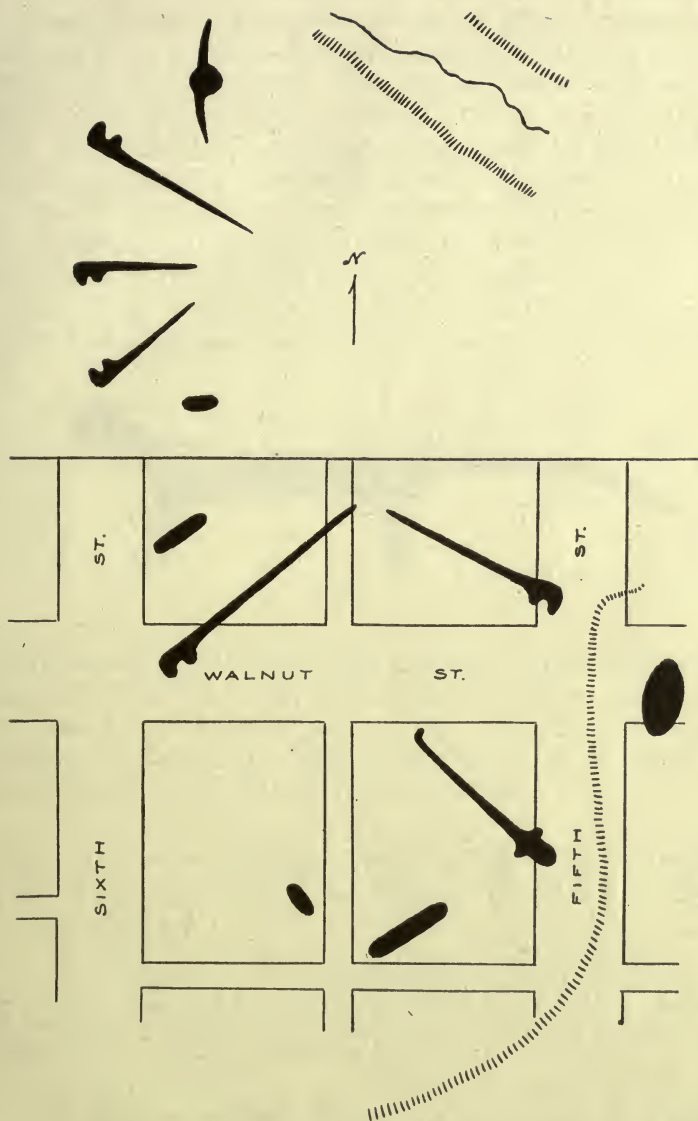
All of these interesting earthworks had disappeared many years before the writer came to know this locality. They were destroyed in the growth of the city.

**17. Sherman's Addition Mounds** (Plate 5). These mounds are thus described by Lapham:

"In that part of the city known as Sherman's Addition, we first found mounds of undoubted animal forms. One of these (Plate IV. Fig. 2) is on ground covered by the corn hills of the present race of Indians, who occupied the lands in this vicinity down to a very late period. It may be considered as a rude representation of a wolf or fox guarding the sacred deposits in the large though low mound immediately before it. Both these are of so little elevation as to be scarcely observed by the passerby; but when once attention is arrested, there is no difficulty in tracing their outlines. The body of the animal is forty-four feet, and the tail sixty-three feet in length." (*Antiq. of Wis.*, pp. 16-17).

His figure shows these mounds to have been located on Block 33. Maps of the City of Milwaukee show this block





Lapham Park Mounds  
Plate 3



to be the one bounded by Reservoir avenue and Sherman and Hubbard streets. Lapham's survey of these mounds was made in 1848. According to his figure the effigy mound was about 130 feet in length. The burial mound adjoining it had a diameter of about 57 feet. On its top an Indian provision cache had been dug, presumably by the Indians who camped in the river bottom below the bluff.

Mr. Henry Smith informs the writer that just north of the location of these mounds was the mouth of the great ravine that had its source west of Fourth street near Locust street. They were on the west side of its mouth. This ravine had in it a running creek as long as the surrounding



Fig. 2

forest existed and up to as late as 1848. He recollects that when the C. M. & St. P. R. R. roadbed near these mounds was being graded many human skeletons and flint implements were disturbed. The earth was carried down as far as Galena street for filling for the roadbed.

**18. Sherman Street Effigy** (Figure 2). Lapham gives a figure of this mammal effigy in his Plate VII, Fig. 2. He says of it:

"A more graceful animal form was found on block No. 36. It may be regarded as a representation of an otter. Length of head and neck twenty-six feet; body, fifty feet; tail, seventy feet. Its direction is a little south of west." (p. 17).

Its location on block 36 of Sherman's addition would place this mound on the block bounded by First and Second streets and Sherman street and Reservoir avenue. This location is about three blocks east of the Lapham Park group and two blocks west of the Sherman's Addition mounds. The Milwaukee River is about three blocks distant.



Mr. Smith says of this locality:

"The lay of Block 36, part of Block 37 and all of the north half of Block 35 presented a bold front south and gave a commanding view of the Milwaukee River Valley, an ideal place for the location of an Indian mound."

**19. Beaubian Street Effigy.** A mound of the panther type was located, according to Lapham (*Antiquities of Wisconsin*, Plate VII, No. 1) on "Lot 88, Beaubian Street, Second Ward." Beaubian street is now Garfield avenue and this location is now in the Sixth Ward. Nothing further is known of this mound. It is probable that it was situated somewhere east of the great ravine already mentioned.

**19a. North Avenue Mounds.** On this map Dr. Lapham shows by means of several dots the location of several mounds which are reported to have formerly existed on and adjoining the land occupied by the C. M. & St. P. R. R. North Milwaukee roundhouse. They were situated south of North avenue and about two blocks east of Kilbourn Park. One of these mounds was a panther effigy.

**20. School Section Group** (Plate 6). Lapham thus describes this mound group:

"Proceeding up the [Milwaukee] river, we find the next works on the School Section between the plank road from Milwaukee to Humboldt and the river. (See Plate VII, No. 4). They consist of three lizard [panther] mounds, and four of the oblong form, occupying a high level plateau completely covered with the original forest trees. (p. 17)."

This location was east of present Humboldt avenue and south of Clarke street. The track of the Milwaukee and La Crosse Railroad (now the C. M. & St. P. R. R.) passed between the mounds and the river bank, which at this place was fifty feet high.

Lapham's survey of this group was made in November, 1849. The three panther effigies were about 130, 130 and 135 feet in length respectively. The largest of the linear and oval mounds was about 60 feet in length. Lapham also shows one conical (burial) mound but does not mention it in his description. The river bank near the mounds was 50 feet high.



Dr. Increase A. Lapham  
Plate 4





**21. Richard Street Mounds.** An effigy, probably of the common panther type, and a conical mound are located by Lapham on his map. He gives no description of these earthworks, which were situated on the top of a large hill formerly located just north of the intersection of Wright and Richard streets, in the Thirteenth Ward. Several blocks west of this hill was a creek which drained a large marshy area which extended from this point in a northwesterly direction to beyond present Burleigh street. Near the head of the creek and on the edge of the marsh was a beaver dam the presence of which Lapham notes. According to Mr. Henry Smith the creek flowed down a ravine leading to the Milwaukee river. It crossed Third street near Clark "running in a zigzag manner southeasterly to the center of Block 2 at the intersection of Garfield and Hubbard streets" and then continued on to the river.

**22. Humboldt Mounds.** According to Lapham's map these mounds, which were conical in form, were located on the west side of the Milwaukee river east of Humboldt avenue and between what are now Auer and Keefe avenues. Situated directly north of these mounds was the early Milwaukee river settlement known as Humboldt.

The family of Rev. G. E. Gordon formerly possessed some Indian implements obtained from some of the mounds of this group.

**23. Fond du Lac Avenue Effigy.** A bird effigy is described as having been located "on the west side of what is now Fond du Lac Avenue (West Historical Co., History of Milwaukee, p. 111). The location is very indefinite. It is thought that this mound must have been situated on the edge of a large tract of marshy land near the union of Fond du Lac avenue with present Twenty-seventh street, in the Nineteenth Ward. This tract of marshy land was drained by a creek which flowed in a general southwesterly direction to the Menomonee river.

The figure of this effigy was that of a bird with a divided tail. It is quite evident from this figure that it is merely a reproduction of a sketch and that it was not platted according to measurement.

**24. Teller Group** (Plate 7). This group of Indian earthworks was described by the late Mr. C. H. Doerflinger, and the writer in January 1900; in the Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society (V. 1, No. 1). Its presence was made known to the Archaeological Section of that Society, in May, 1899, by Mr. Edgar E. Teller, in whose honor it was afterwards named.

The Teller group was located on the south side of the Milwaukee River, about one-half mile beyond the then northern limits of the City of Milwaukee, in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 5 of Milwaukee Township. The Port Washington road was about one-third of a mile west of the mounds, and the Milwaukee Cement Co. quarries were located a short distance to the east of them.

The mounds were situated west of and close to the brink of a ravine, about 200 feet wide at its widest part, and through which in the spring and early summer a creek flowed northward into the Milwaukee River.

The general elevation of the tree covered pasture land surrounding the mounds was about 18 feet above the ravine, 36 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the river and 17 feet above the Port Washington road.

There were in this group five large effigy mounds of the common panther type and a single oval mound. (See Plate 7).

The dimensions of the effigy mounds were:

No. 1. Length 162 feet, width of the body 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

No. 2. Length 122 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet, width of the body 25 feet.

No. 4. Length 119 feet, width of the body 24 feet.

No. 5. Length 136 feet, width of the body 21 feet.

Effigy No. 6, which was located at a distance of about 400 feet north of the other mounds of the group, had lost a considerable portion of its tail in the grading of the right-of-way of a railway spur track leading to the cement mills. The oval mound (No. 3) was 55 feet long and 22 feet wide.

This last mound was excavated on June 25, 1899, by a party of members and friends of the society. It was found to be constructed of black loam mixed in places with what appeared to be sand and charcoal. The only objects found during its exploration were an unfinished or rejected arrow point made of white chert and a small fragment of human

bone. These were found very near the top of the mound and may have been carried in with the earth used in its construction.

In the original report of the Teller group the presence of "twenty-seven smaller tumuli of approximately circular or oval outline" about the larger mounds is noted. All of these, as expressed by some members of the section at the time of the preparation of the report, were afterward proved to be elevations caused by the falling of trees in the original forest.

Mr. Frank Blodgett, a local civil engineer, was employed by the Society to make the survey and to prepare the plat and detail plans of the mounds which accompany the above mentioned report.

The property upon which the Teller mounds were located has in recent years been secured by the City of Milwaukee for use as a public park. When the writer and Dr. E. J. W. Notz visited this locality in the year 1914 some of the effigies had been partly removed by persons desiring the black earth for use on lawns and in gardens and the others badly mutilated.

No trace of a stone age village site was found near these mounds the surrounding lands never having been under cultivation. On the lands on the opposite bank of the river a few flint and other implements have been collected.

**Other Evidences of Indian Occupation.** Where the Essex flats now stand, at the northeast corner of Ninth and Wells streets several Indian burials were disturbed and a number of stone implements found some years ago. A grooved stone axe made of reddish granite, obtained on the site of this burial place in 1886, is now in the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Other Indian graves are said to have been located on the property of the late Mr. James Kneeland, on the south side of Grand avenue between Tenth and Eleventh streets.

In 1877 an Indian grave situated on the edge of a ravine at the foot of Seventeenth street was disturbed by graders engaged in the grading of Clybourn street. In this grave was found a human skeleton in a sitting posture the bones being surrounded by a mass of tree roots. With it were found a small copper trade kettle, a bone-handled knife,



two circular silver earrings and some stone implements. The kettle, one earring and the bone handle of the knife are in the possession of Dr. Frederick C. Rogers of Oconomowoc. A Mr. Thomas Carroll, broke the knife and took the blade and one earring.

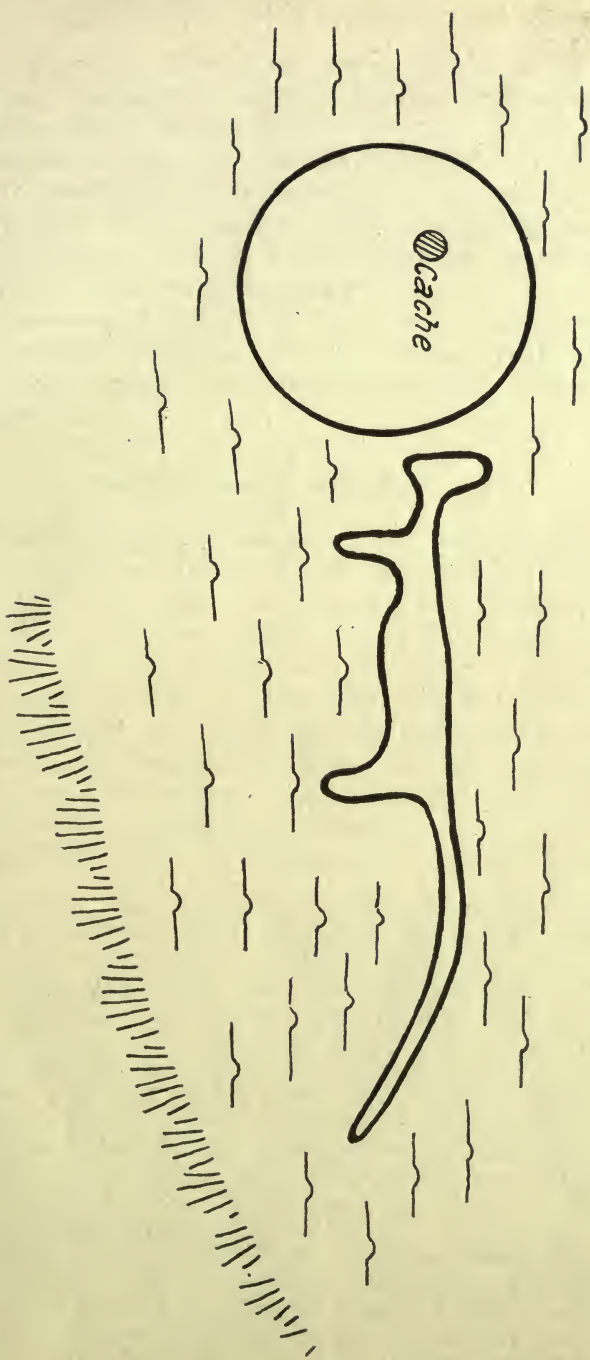
Mr. Charles Tesch informed the writer that in about the year 1875 a band of Winnebago Indians had a summer camp on the bluff in what was long known as Tesch's woods (Park Hill subdivision) overlooking the Menomonee river and present site of the West Milwaukee railroad shops. In working a gravel pit at the western end of this bluff two Indian crania were unearthed.

From Mr. Christian Widule, an old settler, the writer learned that in about the year 1850 a Winnebago Indian camp was located near the present intersection of Sixteenth and Vliet streets. About two blocks east of this place was a chain of marshy ponds known as Cannon's ponds. Between the camp and the ponds was a strip of woodland. The white residents of this district visited the camp each Sunday to see the Indian lacrosse and other games and dances.

Mr. Herman Hirsch reports that on Vliet street, between Seventh and Eighth streets, was a hill known as the Green hill. From an Indian camp site on this hill he collected flint arrowpoints and other stone implements in his boyhood, in about the year 1875. A similar site was then located on Winnebago street between Tenth and Eleventh streets. Evidences of flint working were abundant on this site. This is the site of the bird effigy located by Dr. Lapham and elsewhere described. Mr. Hirsch states that in about the year 1875 some Oneidas and Pottawatomies were encamped near the present intersection of Tenth and Cherry streets. This was a favorite Indian camp ground.

In the year 1836 and later an Indian corn field was located between Third and Fourth and Chestnut and Poplar streets. Undoubtedly there was an Indian camp in the vicinity. This locality is within half a block of the Milwaukee River.

Some years ago Indian graves were disturbed by graders in the northeast corner of the city block located near the intersection of Walnut street and Island avenue. These burials were made at a depth of from 2 to 2½ feet below the



Sherman's Addition Mounds  
Plate 5





surface of the soil. The crania are preserved in the Milwaukee Public Museum. Lapham mentions that an Indian camp was located in this vicinity.

Mr. August Krueger reported to Dr. E. J. W. Notz, a member of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society, in 1907, that in the years 1849 to 1850, a Menomonee Indian camp of twenty or more wigwams was located on Seventeenth street between Vine and Brown streets.

An Indian burial place was located on a hill formerly located north of Burleigh and near Fourteenth street. Mr. William Zuerner here unearthed Indian bones and implements.

### Milwaukee (South Side)

**25. Pauschkenana's Village.** This Pottawatomie village was situated near the intersection of Sixth and National avenues and in the Fifth Ward, on the South Side of Milwaukee. This place was formerly known as Walkers Point. Andrew J. Vieau, Sr. stated that there were no planting grounds connected with it. The occupants were known to the pioneer settlers as "wild" Indians and spent much of their time in pony racing, gambling, drinking, fighting and like pleasures. The village is said to have been still in existence in 1841, or several years later.

Vieau thus describes the "Walker-point rogues," 1832.

"The Indians were principally Pottawattomies. Those who were at what came afterwards to be called Walker's Point, on the south shore of Milwaukee river, were considerably intermixed with Sacs and Winnebagoes. They were lazy fellows, as a rule, and preferred to hunt and fish all summer long, to cultivating corn. They were noted players of the moccasin game and lacrosse, and given to debauchery. In the winter time, these fellows scattered through the woods, divided into small hunting parties, and often Walker's Point was practically deserted. But in the summer, there was a large settlement here, the bark wigwams housing from a thousand to twelve hundred Indians of all ages and conditions."

"The Walker Point chief of my day was Pauschkenana (The Ruptured). He was a short, thick-set, ugly looking fellow, with a vicious disposition and a broken nose, in which latter was inserted a piece of lead to keep the cartilage in position. He was much feared by the rest of his band,

as he pretended to be a sorcerer. He died about 1830. When my father came to Milwaukee (1795) the grandfather of this chief was the head man of the village." (W. H. C., V. XI, p. 111).

James S. Buck, Milwaukee historian, says:

"There was an old Indian cemetery at the extreme end of the old Point, which was graded off in 1838, I doing the work for D. S. Hollister to make room for a warehouse. A large quantity of relics were taken from the graves, consisting of beads, silver ornaments, brass and copper utensils, coins, etc. (Pioneer Hist. of Milw., p. 40).

On page 97 of the same publication he says:

"Mr. (Solomon) Juneau informed me that in 1838, the lower marsh from Walker's Point to the mouth of the river, was hard ground and used by the Indians as a race ground for their ponies.

**26. Walker's Point Mounds.** Dr. Lapham says of these:

"At Walker's Point were several circular mounds and lizard [panther] mounds, now [1852] dug away in the process of grading streets. One of them, exhibited in section, was examined during the excavation, and found to be composed of whitish clay, of uniform texture and appearance. The blue, yellow and red clays, found abundantly in the country, all assume a whitish color upon exposure at the surface; and it is, therefore, not difficult to account for the difference in the color of the clay composing this mound, without resulting to the improbable conjecture that it was brought from a great distance. The several layers of soil, brown subsoil, and blue clay run uninterruptedly under the mound, showing that it was built upon the natural surface. (See Fig. 7.) No excavation had been made, and no relics of any kind were found in it. Indeed, the animal-shaped mounds have never been found productive in ancient relics or works of art. It was probably for purposes other than the burial of the dead, that these structures were made." (Antiq. Wis., pp. 15-16).

In some unpublished notes of Dr. Lapham's he says that there were eight circular mounds "near the northwest corner of Walker's Point Addition." On block 22 of Walker's Point he found a lizard (panther) and an oblong

(linear) mound. These were located northwest of the intersection of Virginia and Grove streets. The head of the effigy was directed toward the street corner its body extending toward the northwest. The linear mound was a short distance behind this mound. Its general direction was northeast and southwest.

**27. The Runner's Village.** According to Andrew J. Vieau, Sr., a petty Pottawatomie chief, Palmaipottoke (The Runner) had, in about 1823, a small village "between Walker's Point and the Menomonee." (W. H. C. XI, p.

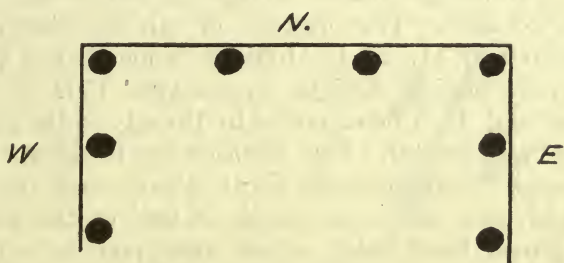


Fig. 3

228). This location is very indefinite. An examination of the earliest maps of Milwaukee show that the site of this village may have been located on land across a marsh situated directly west of Walker's Point.

Nothing further is known of this village.

**28. Buck Mounds** (Figure 3). A brief description and diagram of this group of mounds is given by James S. Buck, in his "Pioneer History of Milwaukee," published in 1876. (pp. 99-100.)

"There were also upon that part of the south side, lying between Elizabeth (now National Avenue) and Park streets Fourth and Eighth avenues, originally eight mounds or tumuli, about twenty feet in diameter at their base, and twelve feet in height, arranged in the following manner:"

These have long since disappeared.

Dr. Lapham also locates this group of conical (burial) mounds on his map (Antiq. Wis., pl. III). He shows them

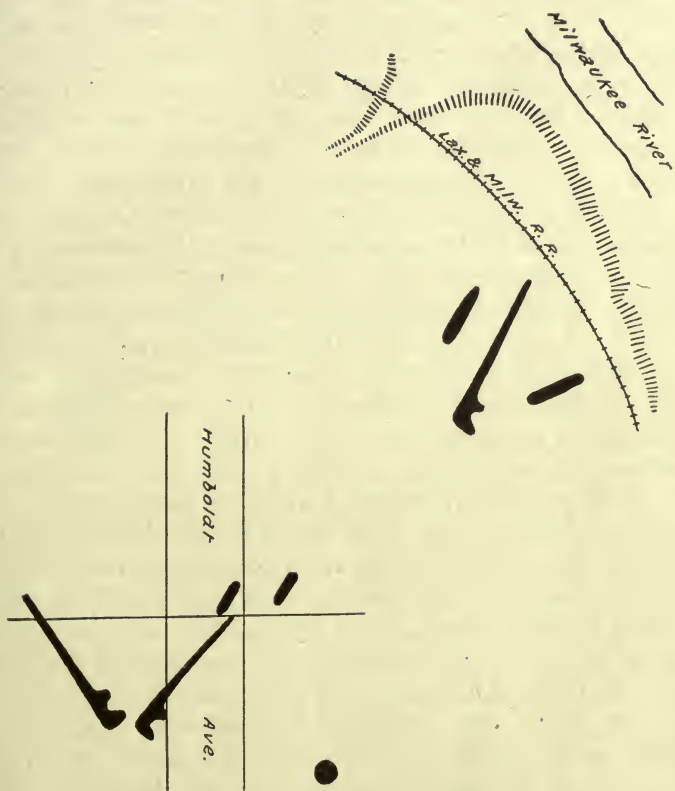


to be on the south instead of on the north side of the Waukesha Plank road, now National Avenue.

Buck's sketch, doubtless made from memory, is too conventional to be correct. Doubtless their arrangement was much more irregular.

**29. Mitchell Park Village Site.** The present attractive city park, known as Mitchell Park was in early days the site of an Indian village. On the top of these bluffs overlooking the present great Menomonee Valley manufacturing district, once a broad expanse of marsh and water, was located a stone age Indian village of which local history gives no account. The presence of this site was detected and reported by Mr. O. L. Hollister, a member of the Wisconsin Archeological Society, in the year 1902, at a time when the land, then being added by the city to the park, was about to be improved. This addition lay between 17th and 18th avenues and between South Pierce and the valley bluffs, and now forms the southern half of the park. In rambling over these fields, which may have been tilled for half a century, Mr. Hollister found flint chips and other unmistakable evidences of early aboriginal residence. He thereafter devoted much of his leisure time to its examination and has thus been able to assemble therefrom in the course of several years a fine study collection of stone artefacts embracing nearly all of the commoner and a few of the more unusual types.

Mr. Hollister has very kindly furnished to the writer, (April 29, 1916), a series of excellent pencil drawings and notes on the various classes of stone implements collected by himself from this site. These include a re-sharpened and a "pebble" axe, a good grooved axe of a common type and a wedge-shaped implement with a battered poll and broken cutting edge. There are several hammer stones of irregular form whose flat worn faces indicate that they may have been employed in pulverizing some substance. Several stone spalls have a sharpened edge and were probably employed as knives or scrapers. An unfinished celt shows plainly the marks of its rough flaking and the beginning of the pecking process by which it was to have been dressed into shape. A hammer stone has slight depressions or "finger-holds" on



School Section Mounds

Plate 6





its two sides. Rude stone and flint scrapers and knives are of several types.

The arrowpoints in the collection include specimens of the leaf-shaped, triangular, notched, barbed, serrated, asymmetric and other classes. Several perforators, and a number of knives and blanks are in the collection.

One of the most interesting of the finds made by Mr. Hollister was made, in 1909, on the northwest slope of the portion of the river bluff upon which was once located the Vieau Indian trading post. Here he noticed a few fragments of flint implements and in excavating on the spot with his jack-knife uncovered a large number of additional fragments. These proved to be the bases and points of what he determined to have been no less than thirty-six arrowpoints, which had been cached or secreted by their Indian owner in the side of the bluff. Just previous to this time this side hill was used by the International Harvester Company, in demonstrating the climbing power of their gasoline traction engines, and by some of these the destruction of this cache was accomplished. These points are thin in section and of very fair workmanship. Their bases are square, indented and rounded.

The point on the Mitchell Park site at which indications of Indian occupation were the most plentiful was that upon which the Vieau memorial log cabin has in recent years been erected by the Milwaukee Old Settlers Club. Here the scattered, burned and broken stones from wigwam fireplaces and the chips, flakes, spalls and other rejectage of the Indian flint worker were most abundant. Dr. E. J. W. Notz, Mr. H. R. Dennison, the writer and others have also collected archaeological specimens from this village site.

Of the Jacques Vieau fur-trading post, which was located at the base of this bluff from 1795 to 1834, information has been given in the introductory chapter on Indian history.

**30. National Avenue Effigy.** This emblematic earthwork is also described by James S. Buck:

"In Elizabeth street, now National avenue, above Twenty-fourth avenue was a gigantic lizard [panther], at least two hundred feet in length, upon it stood oak trees three feet in diameter. All traces of this have long since disappeared."

In a foot note he adds:

"This fine specimen of the artistic skill of that singular race known as Mound Builders, stood in what is now National avenue, which is crossed in a transverse direction from northeast to southwest, its head was to the southwest, but the main part of its body, including the legs were in the avenue. It was discovered by the writer in June, 1838, while engaged in conveying the material for the construction of the center portion of the dwelling now known as the residence of the late Col. William H. Jacobs." (Pioneer Hist. Milw., p. 156, 1890).

As nearly as can be determined this panther was located opposite the site of old National Park, a famous race course and picnic ground of some years ago, but now occupied by city residences.

**31. Trowbridge-Carey Mounds** (Plates 8 and 9). This group of mounds because of its distance from the more thickly settled portion of the South Side and because of the character of the land upon which these earthworks were located, was never known to more than a comparatively small number of persons. It was situated on the J. C. James property, formerly known as the Carey tract, lying between National and Greenfield avenues and between 33d and 35th avenues and partly upon the adjoining Trowbridge property. The land was rather hilly and rough. To the east of Greenfield avenue the land is said to have been formerly low and swampy. On the National avenue front of the property was a large gravel pit. West of the mounds the land sloped gradually to a tract of low land which was partly under cultivation and partly covered with brush. Through this lowland, which is said to have been once a pond, a small creek flowed, which drained into the Menomonee valley to the east. Here also were the remains of a beaver dam.

When this locality first became known to the writer, in about the year 1900, nine mounds of the original group of about seventeen still remained. These were low and inconspicuous. Of the nine mentioned six were conical (burial) mounds, one a straight linear and two effigies of the well-known panther type. The conical mounds were of the following dimensions:

No. 4. Diameter 18 feet, height 1 foot.

No. 5. Diameter 35 feet, height  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

- No. 6. Diameter 50 feet, height 2 feet.
- No. 7. Diameter 28 feet, height  $2\frac{3}{4}$  feet.
- No. 8. Diameter 40 feet, height 3 feet.
- No. 9. Diameter 40 feet, height  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

The linear mound was 50 feet in length with a uniform width of 12 feet. It was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. The exact dimensions of the effigy mounds could not be ascertained since both had lost a considerable portion of their tails, which extended across Greenfield avenue and on to the lots on the opposite side of the road. All of these mounds were on land overgrown with trees and brush. On the edges of two of the conicals (Nos. 6 and 7) were growing oak trees from one foot to 16 inches in diameter.

Conical mound No. 8 was excavated by the writer with the assistance of the Messrs. O. L. Hollister, W. G. Ehlhardt, Dr. E. J. W. Notz, Paul Joers and Hans Sauer, members of the Wisconsin Archeological Society, and others, on October 27, 1907. It was found to have been constructed of soil similar to that of the surrounding surface (top soil and clay), with the exception of a small pocket of gravel near the middle. This last began a few inches beneath the surface and extended nearly to the mound's base. Previous to our exploration this mound had been dug into by others. A small excavation about 3 feet across at the top had been carried down to within a few inches of the base of the mound when the digging was discontinued. Our own digging was carried down into the undisturbed clay beneath the mound. Midway between the center and the western edge of the mound, at a depth of 14 inches beneath the top, was found a human skull lying on its side and facing the north. A few inches west of it was the lower jaw bone and other bones. A leg and a collar bone lay on the south side of the skull. This interment, it was evident, was of the class of mound burials known as bundle, or bone burials, the bones having probably been removed from a temporary burial place and here interred when this mound was erected. About midway between the center and the northern edge of the mound on about the same level as the other burial, a few scattered human bones were also found. These were not accompanied by a skull. All of the bones in both interments were in a poor state of preservation. Elsewhere in the mound small quan-



tities of charcoal and a few potsherds were obtained. These may have been carried in with the earth during the mounds construction.

Mound No. 5 was also excavated. A deep pit had been dug into its center by others. In enlarging this pit the Messrs. F. H. Williams, H. Sauer and Dr. Notz encountered a burial between the north side and the center of the mound at a depth of about 18 inches beneath the top. This consisted of a skull lying face downward and near it, the arm and leg and a few smaller bones. Several feet northwest of it were a jaw and other bones. No vertebrae were found with either group of bones. Large lumps of charcoal were found beneath the center of the mound on the edge of the earlier excavation.

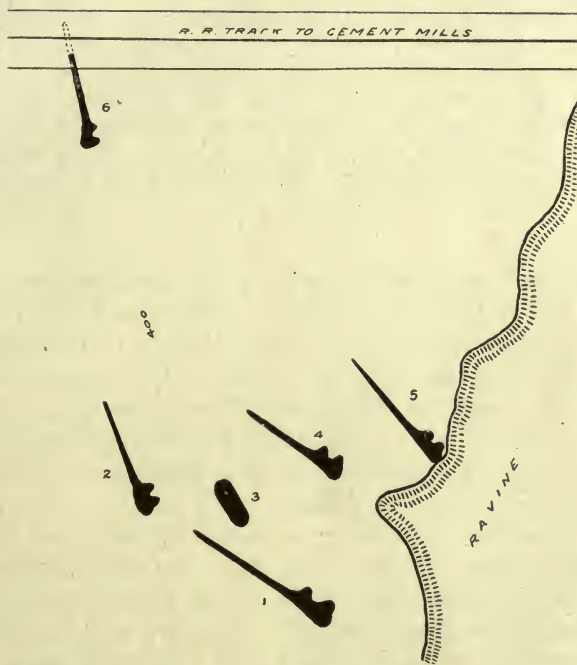
Mound No. 4 was excavated but without any indications of burials being found.

All of these mounds were built of black and other soil obtainable in their vicinity. South of the effigies, on the Trowbridge property, there formerly were, it is stated, other mounds. Dr. Lapham, in his unpublished notes, says that four conical mounds were located near the Trowbridge home. A small conical mound was in the yard.

Four other conical burial mounds were formerly situated on the site of the James' gravel pit.

Capt. George W. Barber, formerly of the National Soldiers' Home, at Milwaukee, has given the following description of these mounds:

"They are situated upon a swell of land from 20 to 100 rods distant from what was once a shallow pond or lake. The land occupied by the lake has been partially drained within a few years and is now a meadow. All [of these mounds] have been explored. I have taken bones from two of them, and have been told that pottery and bones were found in the other two. I have one good skull from No. 2, and leg bones, vertebrae, ribs, &c., from No. 1. No account of these mounds has ever been published, to my knowledge. Nos. 3 and 4 have been entirely obliterated for purposes of cultivation. No. 2 has been dug into. No. 1 is fast being undermined to obtain gravel for the streets of Milwaukee. For two years past I have watched with sad interest the destruction of this grand monument of a decayed race, and secured the bones as they were exposed. It now presents a perpendicular section, running nearly through the center,



Teller Mounds  
Plate 7



of which a photograph might easily be taken. A maple and a red oak tree grew upon the mound, each 18 inches in diameter.

I assisted in taking out of No. 1 the fragments of three skulls, and other bones of three skeletons. The skulls, vertebrae, and hip bones of each skeleton were on about the same level, and in a space not more than 15 inches square. In one case the crown of the skull was downward, and the top on a level with the hip-bones. This position at first puzzled me, but I suppose the body was buried in a sitting posture, and the superincumbent weight of the earth, as it settled and the flesh decayed, turned the top of the head downward by the side of the body, and it continued to descend until it reached the level of the hips. The faces, judging from the position of the legs, were toward the west. The bodies were not inclosed. One skull was quite well preserved, but the other bones were considerably decayed." (Smithsonian Report, 1881).

The linear mound, No. 3, was investigated but without results. By the permission of Mr. Carey James, the writer was present when the removal of the burial mound, No. 9, was undertaken in the course of the enlarging of the gravel pit. It was removed with plows and scrapers, the writer and the foreman supervising the work. No burials or other indications save a small quantity of charcoal were found.

In the Carey gravel pit a number of Indian burials were disturbed at different times by workmen. Some of these were accompanied by stone and copper implements. In 1904, or 1905, two fine bird stone ceremonials, a rolled copper bead and a copper awl, six inches in length were found with one of these burials. The birdstones are described and figured in *The Wisconsin Archeologist* (V. 8, No. 1). They are now in the Elkey collection in the Logan Museum, at Beloit College. The larger of the two is made of grey slate ornamented with darker bands and measures  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length. When found it showed traces of having been treated with what appeared to be vermilion paint. The smaller specimen, about  $3\frac{5}{8}$  inches in length and  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches in height at its middle, is fashioned out of a hard black stone. Its base is not perforated. The tail is represented by a short upward projection. Both specimens have large eye (or ear) disks which stand prominently forth from the head.



The following information concerning the discovery of a remarkable series of stone and copper implements in the Carey gravel pit is furnished by Mr. W. A. Phillips, a member of the Wisconsin Archeological Society:

"The gravel pit is from 8 to 15 feet in depth. While engaged in removing gravel at a 12 foot level on or about February 19, 1913, Emil Klingbeil, an employee of J. C. James, noticed human bones protruding from a large section of the upper soil which had become dislodged, and during the night had fallen to the level at which he was at work. Upon a closer examination of this earth he found some small pieces of copper which proved to be beads, some triangular flint arrowpoints and a fragment of a large flint ceremonial knife together with the bones of two or three human skeletons. The bones with the exception of a skull and a femur were in a poor state of preservation and could not be saved. He then started to dig and in a short time unearthed about fifty copper beads, from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches in diameter and globular in form; three tubular copper beads  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length respectively; a few bone beads; a copper pike square in section and  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length; a copper spearpoint of rather unusual form  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length; nine triangular flint arrowpoints, and parts of nine flint ceremonial knives.

"The attention of other workmen and teamsters was attracted by Klingbeil's digging and in the mad scramble to secure relics some of the most interesting specimens became broken and scattered. Some were trampled into the gravel and lost. I have succeeded after considerable effort in recovering and adding to my collection the following articles:

Necklace of 53 copper beads having a total length of 18 inches.

Copper pike  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and  $\frac{1}{16}$  inches square at its middle. It tapers to a point at one extremity the other having a chisel edge  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch in width.

Copper spearpoint  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length. Its base is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in width and it tapers to a point.

Copper awl 5 inches in length.

White flint ceremonial knife 11 inches in length.

White flint ceremonial knife 11 inches in length and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width at the widest part of the blade. It was broken in two and has been restored. This and the foregoing specimen are both finely chipped.

Flint ceremonial knife  $10\frac{5}{8}$  inches in length. Made of a poorer grade of material than the foregoing. It is thicker and not so well chipped.

White flint ceremonial knife  $10\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length. Only the base and point of this once fine specimen were obtained.

The missing central portion I have restored with plaster of paris.

Ivory white flint ceremonial knife  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, well chipped.

15 Triangular flint arrowpoints.

4 Bone and one shell bead.

Another ceremonial knife,  $13\frac{5}{8}$  inches in length was found by Gus Grams, a teamster. This and a similar knife,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, secured by me from another teamster, Jack Koepsel, are now in the Milwaukee Public Museum. Both are described in the Wisconsin Archeologist, Volume 13, No. 4.

All of the flint implements are more or less coated with a reddish discoloration resembling paint. Whether they were so treated by their aboriginal owners or discolored by some mineral in the soil it is difficult to decide. Two of them were apparently broken when buried with their owner as the broken ends show the same discoloration. The copper pike appears to be of more recent manufacture, as indicated by its character and condition, than the other copper pieces.

It is possible that the various implements found accompanied two or more burials made at intervals of many years. There were indications in the pit of at least two graves, each about two feet in depth, at the surface from which the earth became detached. However, the evidence obtainable on these points is of such a contradictory nature that it is rather difficult to form a definite conclusion as to the probable age of these burials.

Mr. Phillips has since disposed of these specimens to Mr. E. F. Richter, a local collector. Some of the lot and the two knives in the collection of the Milwaukee Public Museum are shown in Plate 9.

The Carey property showed some indications of having been the site of a stone age camp or village. In digging about the edges of the pit in previous years both the writer and Mr. C. A. Koubeck, a Milwaukee collector, found the burned and broken stones of old Indian fireplaces. From a spot lying between the two effigy mounds already described (from which the sod had been removed) and 33d avenue, the writer collected a considerable number of flint chips and fragments. Similar evidences of flint working were also found in the vicinity of Mound No. 9.

When Mr. Elisha Trowbridge settled on the lands adjoining the Carey tract on the south, in 1837, the Indians camped in this locality. Both William and Henry Trowbridge, sons of the pioneer, remember the Indian corn hills at this place. From the Trowbridge place a quite large number of stone axes, celts, flint implements, pieces of copper and other specimens have been collected by members of the family, and by other persons.

**32. Chase Mounds.** On his map, Lapham locates a group of burial mounds a short distance west of the Kinnickinnic River, near the center of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 32, or the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 5. (*Antiq. of Wis.* pl. III.) A comparison of Lapham's map (1836-52) with the Buck and Chase map of 1835-36, shows that these mounds must have been situated north of Horace Chase's residence of that time and a brook tributary to the Milwaukee-Kinnickinnic River marshes. This would place their former location a short distance either north or south of present Greenfield avenue. There were at least five conical mounds in this group.

**33. Deer Creek Village.** When the first settlers arrived at Milwaukee an Indian encampment was located south of the mouth of Deer Creek in present Bay View. But little is known of this early village whose inhabitants were probably Pottawatomies. Mr. Henry W. Bleyer, the Milwaukee pioneer and historian, states that the Indians also camped north of the mouth of the creek. In this section of the city Indian burials and implements were found during the construction of streets and buildings. Evidences of former Indian occupation have also been found on the lands on the west side of the creek. Mr. Andrew Schwab informed the writer (August 13, 1903) that a large number of flint arrowpoints had been found in the garden of a Mr. Chris. Beck, near the intersection of Kinnickinnic and Northwestern Avenues.

**34. Indian Fields Mounds and Village Site** (Plate 10). These were located in the part of the city now known as Layton Park. They are thus described by Lapham:

"The ancient works about Milwaukee are most numerous at a place near the small creek called the Kinnickinnic









[now the Kinnickinnic River], and on lands known as the Indian Fields. They are chiefly in section twelve, township six, and range twenty-one, town of Greenfield. When the country was first settled (in 1836), the place was destitute of trees, and exhibited signs of recent Indian occupancy, and cultivation. The creek borders it on the south and west, and an extensive swamp on the north and east.

The fields lie at a considerable elevation above the bottom-lands of the creek, and are much broken and uneven in surface. The soil is loose, sandy or gravelly, and could be easily worked with the rude instruments of the aborigines; which may have been an inducement for selecting this spot. The subsoil is gravel to an unknown depth. The Milwaukee and Janesville plank [Hales Corners] road passes through the fields and the wooded land adjoining has been adopted on account of its gravelly soil, undulating surface, and beautiful forest trees, as the site of a cemetery for the city, named appropriately the 'Forest Home.'

About fifty circular mounds, and four or five of the lizard [panther] form, have been found here. Some of these can yet be traced although the plough has made sad havoc with most of them. Two of the latter class were here associated in a manner not observed elsewhere in the State. One is two hundred and and fifty feet in length." (Antiq. Wis., p. 13-14).

Some of these mounds were located in the grounds now occupied by the cemetery and were destroyed in its preparation. Others were situated on the south side of Layton Avenue (the road to Hales Corners) and between it and the Kinnickinnic River, in present Layton Park. Some of these were destroyed in the early cultivation of this land and others in later years, in the grading of the land. There appear to have been several distinct groups of these mounds, but little can be said of them as no one now appears to know much about them. These mounds were located on land formerly owned by Mr. Geo. O. Tiffany. On this land was an interesting earthwork of the class known to archaeologists as enclosures.

Lapham made a survey of this earthwork in 1851. (See Fig. 4, No. 3.)

It was horseshoe-shaped, with a double wall or embankment, the open side resting near the top of the bank. Large trees grew upon and near it. Its north and south diameter was about 115 feet and its east and west diameter about 135

feet. The outer embankment, which was broken in two places, was separated from the inner wall by distances of from 9 to 15 feet. The width of both walls was in places from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 feet. They were  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height. Within the enclosure were several irregular shallow depressions. At the foot of the bank below the opening of the enclosure were several large springs the water from which flowed into the river. The bank was 8 feet high.

This enclosure may have been used for the presentation of Indian ceremonies. So far as could be ascertained no

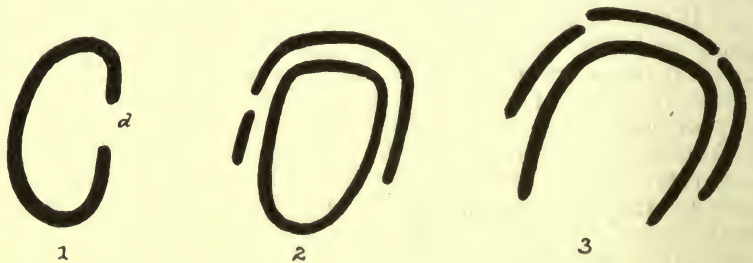


Fig. 4

indications of a stockade of temporary buildings or of other evidences of occupancy were found during its destruction. A beaver dam was located in this vicinity.

Lapham states that:

"Further up the creek, on the west side, north of the plank road [Layton Avenue] and not far from some very large mounds are three similar works (enclosures), except that they are not on the immediate bank of the creek. Two of them are represented in Fig. 4, Nos. 1 and 2. This inclosure is about one hundred feet long, and thirty wide, in its greatest dimensions. The opening at d appears to have been caused by the washing away of the earth by the rain that fell within the inclosure. The walls were nine feet wide and one foot high." (Antiq. of Wis., p. 15).

These were on land then, or later, owned by Reynolds Bros. No trace of them or of the mounds now exists.

Mr. John Haug states that he carefully excavated one burial mound situated on the "right" bank of the creek in this locality. Its diameter was 15 feet and its height 6 feet. It was constructed of black soil. On the north side of the

mound he found a skeleton in a good state of preservation and probably of an intrusive character. The skull, which rested on the bones of the left arm, faced to the north. At the base of the mound were the bones of several different skeletons and with them a number of ornamented potsherds and several pieces of copper ore. Arrowpoints and other stone implements were scattered through the mound. (*Evening Wisconsin*, May 28, 1885.)

On a small tract of cultivated land located on the north side of Layton avenue and between the creek and the C. & N. W. R. R. tracks, flint chips, flakes and fragments, fireplace stones, potsherds, arrowpoints, flint and pebble hammer stones and celts have been found by the writer and other members of the Wisconsin Society. Some of these are in the local collections of Messrs. O. L. Hollister and C. A. Koubeck. On August 6, 1905, a small human skeleton, which had already been partly exposed, was removed from a small gravel pit on a knoll east of the creek and but a short distance north of the road. Its bones were somewhat scattered indicating that they may have been buried after the flesh had left them.

On the cultivated lands lying south of the road and west of the creek (E.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 12) scattered indications of flint working and of wigwam sites were also found. Such indications were formerly also found on the lands on the south side of the Kinnickinnic, south of Forest Home cemetery.

### 35. Hull Mounds. Dr. Lapham says:

"A few rods east of the cemetery [Forest Home] on the land of Mrs. Hull may be seen a remarkable excavation, surrounded by part of the earth thrown from it. (See Plate IX, Fig. 1.) It has four sloping ways or entrances, one of them very much elongated; and the reader will not fail to discover in its general figure that of a lizard [panther] mound reversed." (*Antiq. Wis.*, p. 15).

When the writer came to know this region, in about the year 1898, every trace of this intaglio effigy and of the burial mounds once located near it, had long since disappeared, the intaglio through the opening of a gravel pit on the property. Mr. Walter B. Hull, a nephew of the former owner, who was



interviewed at about that time, stated that there originally were six small conical mounds on this tract. These were situated a few yards east of the old cemetery fence and a short distance south of the southern margin of the gravel pit. Several, he said, had been dug into some twenty-five years previous by unknown persons. So far as he was able to learn this digging was barren of results. Lapham's figure shows the intaglio effigy to have been about 150 feet in length.

A few flint arrow and spear points and several grooved stone axes were found in the field, near the mounds. Some of these were, in 1898, in Mr. Hull's possession.

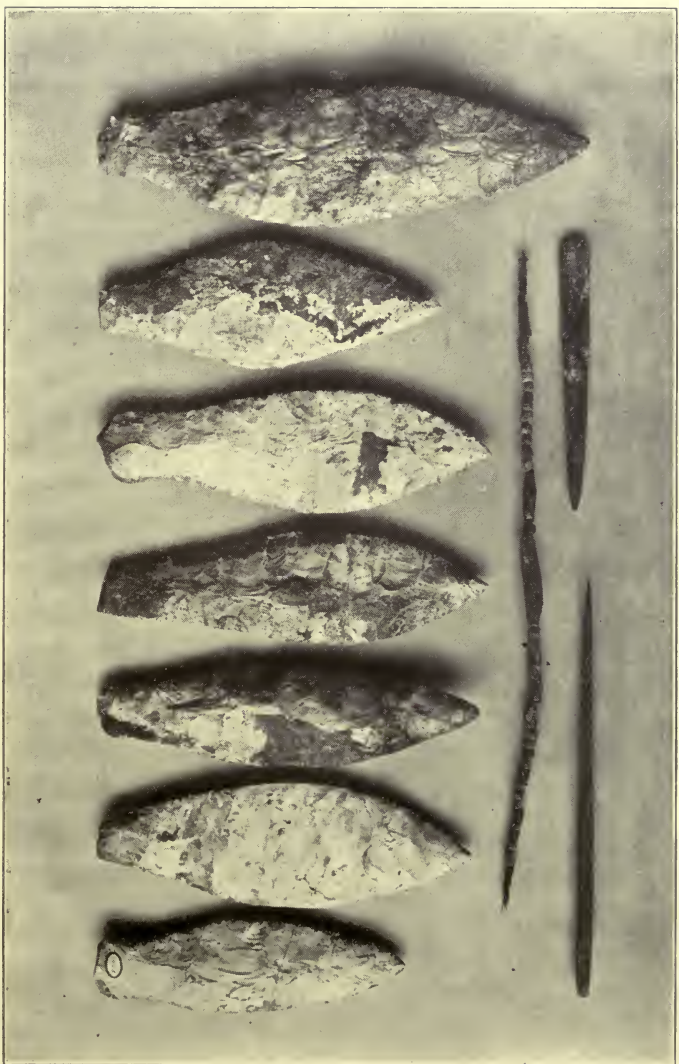
This tract has since been added to Forest Home cemetery.

**35a. Distillery Hill Burials.** Several Indian burials were disturbed, according to a report made to the Society, in May, 1907, by Dr. Joseph Quin, in working a gravel pit on the former site of the old T. O'Neil distillery, overlooking the Kinnickinnic River, at the south end of 11th avenue, just south of where it crosses Windlake avenue. These were unaccompanied by implements or ornaments of any kind. This locality is but a short distance east of the site of the old Hull farm, mentioned in the previous paragraph.

**36. Muskego Avenue Village.** In the early days of settlement a Pottawatomie village was located on the side and at the base of a hill a short distance northeast of the junction of the present Muskego and Forest Home avenues. This location is directly north of Forest Home cemetery and is connected with the Indian Fields site. The village was bounded on the north and east by a swamp of considerable extent. Connected with this village there were quite extensive planting grounds.

"Amiable [Amable] Vieau says that they [the Indians] had extensive fields of corn near Milwaukee when he was a boy and he remembers watching for coons in a cornfield near Forest Home cemetery.

These more modern cornfields were plainly visible to the early settlers. The hills were never in regular order, but heaped here and there, a few feet apart, about as forest trees spring up. The business of corn planting was attended to by the squaws. The "bucks" never plant or gather. The manner of cultivating was to scrape wide



Ceremonial Knives and Copper Beads and Awls from the James Gravel Pit. The Two Knives at the  
Right of the Line are in the Milwaukee Public Museum.



heaps for the hills. These were from 3 to 5 feet across and about 12 to 15 inches in height. In these same hills the corn was planted year after year, thus making the hills as marked and solid as any natural hillock or depression. That this was the mode adopted by the last Indian inhabitants of Milwaukee was well known to the first settlers . . . . .” (West. Hist. Co., Hist. of Milw., 1881, pp. 115-116).

Mr. Edward Wiesner, an old settler who came to Milwaukee in 1835, stated that at that time there were two distinct Indian villages in this locality, one being situated on the north and the other on the south side of the present Forest Home avenue, with a trail running between them.

According to Andrew J. Vieau, Sr., Oseebwaikum (Cornstalk) was the chief of a band of 150 or 200 Pottawatomie Indians whose village was situated on the banks of the Kinnickinnic River (W. H. Colls., v. XI, p. 228). This village was very probably the one located at the Indian Fields.

### Granville Township

**37. Brown Deer Camp Sites.** Several Indian camp sites are located on the upper Milwaukee River, near Brown Deer. One of these is situated on the Mooney farm in the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 1, near the edge of the bank of the stream. In a cultivated field on this farm there were found at several points scattered hearth stones, the white fragments of decomposed clam shells, and considerable numbers of flint chips and fragments. A broken arrowpoint and fractured pebble hammer stone were also found. The fragments of decomposed clam shells probably indicate the presence of hidden refuse pits. From the small amount of refuse found on this site it may be concluded that the camp once located here consisted of not more than two or three wigwams at most.

On the Knebel place in the same quarter section, and adjoining the above on the south, is a site giving more abundant evidence of camp life. This site occupies about an acre of ground beginning at the north line of the farm and extending back from the river bank to the farm house and barn some distance away. The soil is sandy and as it had been cleared at the time of the writer's visit, on Novem-



ber 8, 1907, of all vestiges of recent cultivation the various evidences of aboriginal occupation were plainly exposed to view. At six or seven places in this field were found groups of burned and broken stones from Indian fireplaces, these and tiny bits of charcoal marking the locations of former wigwams. About these habitation sites and elsewhere in this field were numerous flint chips, flakes, fragments and nodules of the same material. Some of the latter showed upon their edges plain evidence of their use as hand hammers or pecking tools. Among this refuse a flint knife and several arrowpoints were found. There were no pottery fragments, nor had any been found by the boys of the family who have picked up many flint arrowpoints in this field which has been under cultivation for a number of years as a truck garden.

A third camp site was located on the edge of a field lying between the road to Brown Deer and the south bank of a creek which here flows into the Milwaukee River. This farm is known as the Kneiop place and is in the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 12. Here were found scattered stones from Indian fireplaces and small numbers of flint chips and fragments. The indications found appear to show that not more than two or three wigwams were located here. Numerous arrowpoints have also been collected.

Indications of a small camp and workshop site also exist on the Hyer place just east of Brown Deer (N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 12). These are on the edge of a field which is here elevated but a few feet above the low land bordering the river. The Menomonee Indians are said to have camped on this and adjoining lands in 1840 and for several years later.

Indications of several Indian camp sites have also been found along the east fork of the Menomonee River between Granville and the town line.

In Cyrus Thomas' "Catalogue of Prehistoric Works," a group of mounds is reported as located near Schwartzburg (now North Milwaukee). No such group has ever existed there.

## Milwaukee Township

**38. Fish Creek Camp Site.** At Fish Creek (Section 4), in the northeastern corner of this township, some stone circles are reported to have formerly existed in what are now cultivated fields lying south of the creek and not far from the shore of Lake Michigan. These circles, or ovals, are said to have been constructed of stones, probably picked up on the surface of the fields or on the lake shore. It is thought that they may have been laid about the bases of Indian wigwams as supports against the force of the wind. All traces of these had disappeared when the writer and others visited this locality in 1903.

In early days of settlement, small bands of Indians frequently camped in this locality. A few stone implements have been collected along the lake shore bluffs.

**39. Pickerel Run Village Site.** Evidences of an early Indian village site occur on the lands bordering the east shore of the Milwaukee River for some distance to both the north and south of a small stream tributary to the river and known as Pickerel Run or Indian Creek. This site is located in sections 7 and 18 and extends westward following the curve of the river into section 12 of Granville Township. It was first visited on November 8, 1903, by a party consisting of the Messrs. H. A. Crosby, Arthur Wenz, Howland Russell and the writer. This locality is one of the most picturesque on the upper waters of the Milwaukee River and appears to have been in every respect well chosen for the location of an Indian village. On the cultivated lands especially of the Edward Bradley and John Kuettemeyer farms and on the Henry Kopf farm, the latter situated in the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 7 of Granville Township about one-half mile east of Brown Deer, large numbers of flint implements of all of the commoner classes, and occasional grooved stone axes, celts, chisels, gouges, gorgets, pipes and other stone implements and ornaments have been collected in past years. Mr. H. P. Hansen, the tenant on the Bradley farm, Mr. Kuettemeyer and Mr. Kopf had small collections of these in 1903.

In the course of several visits which the writer made to this locality he was able to find on the fields on this site the

usual abundant indications of Indian residence consisting of large numbers of flint flakes and fragments, blanks, broken arrowpoints, hammer stones, pottery fragments, portions of animal bones and hearth stones.

On November 14, 1903, Mr. H. P. Hansen, while working in a gravel pit on the Bradley farm, unearthed the well preserved bones of a human skeleton and several flint implements which probably accompanied this burial. In another cultivated field, occupying low level land in the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 18, the writer and others found nearly equally abundant remains of Indian occupation. In 1903 and for some years afterward the river lands between this site and the Bradley site were still overgrown with trees and brush. It is probable that these lands when cleared and cultivated also yielded evidences of Indian camp life.

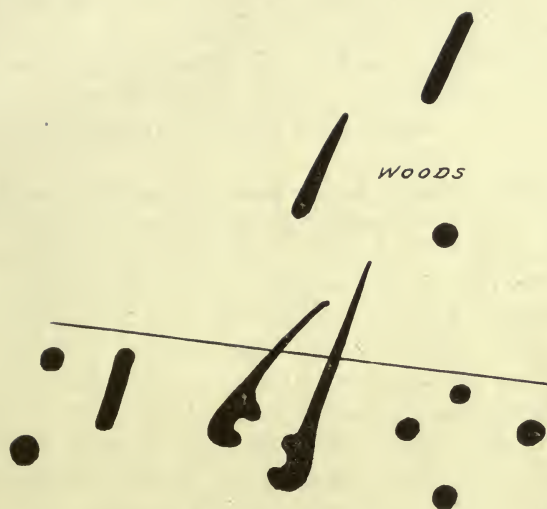
**40. Smith Caches.** On a prominent ridge on the Charles Smith farm, near a large basswood tree, there were formerly located according to its owner, some thirty or more circular pits, believed to have been provision caches.

These were but short distances apart. They measured about 3 feet across at the surface and were from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet deep. All had become partly filled with decaying leaves and soil. All were destroyed several years previous to November 8, 1907. The Smith place is on the west side of the Milwaukee River, in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 7.

Mr. Smith reported to the writer that in the Milwaukee River, in the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 18, the Indians had built a fish trap. It was constructed of boulders and ran diagonally across a shallow place in the stream.

**41. Good Hope Village Site.** Directly east of Good Hope P. O., on the C. W. Bertram farm and farms adjoining it on the south, on the west bank of the Milwaukee River, in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 19, there are to be seen in the cultivated fields the scattered indications of a former village site. Flint rejectage and hearth stones are found everywhere on the surface of the soil. Many of the latter were, on October 7, 1906, also to be seen in a stone heap collected on the top of the river bank, on the edge of one of the fields.

From this site Mr. Bertram has made quite a representative collection of materials consisting of a considerable num-



*CULTIVATED*

Indian Fields Mounds  
Plate 10





ber of flint implements, stone axes and celts, some of them in various stages of completion, stone gorgets, a conical copper point, a copper spear of the socketed form and other specimens.

When Mr. Werner Bertram, the father of the collector, came to this section of the county, in about the year 1843, there was located on this site a Menominee Indian camp. It consisted of quite a number of bark-covered lodges, one of these having been located at a distance of about 250 feet west of Mr. C. W. Bertram's house. The trail to Green Bay is said to have formerly crossed these lands.

**42. Spring Grove Mounds and Garden Beds.** On the J. W. Jaeger place, known as Spring Grove, on the west bank of the Milwaukee River, in the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 19, is a group of three oval mounds and the small plot of Indian garden beds. This land is located opposite the Sunny Point turn of the river and the old race to the former Hermann mill. The river bank is quite high and steep. The land was formerly overgrown with trees, most of which have now been cleared away. When the writer first became acquainted with this place on June 29, 1907, two small summer resort cottages had been erected on the river bank. Within 80 feet of the second of these was the first and largest mound of the group. Its diameters were 35 and 30 feet and its height at its middle about 3 feet. This mound had been excavated several years before my visit by a son of Mr. Jaeger. He dug into it from the top in the course of his digging, unearthing the bones of two human skeletons. Mound No. 2 was situated about 240 feet beyond the last. Its diameters were 18 by 12 feet. It was then undisturbed. Mound No. 3 was about 150 feet beyond No. 2. It had been mutilated by relic-hunting vandals. Mr. Jaeger, whom the writer met at this time, promised the restoration and preservation of both mounds.

About 140 feet west of Mound No. 2, in the woods, was a small plot of Indian garden beds. The width of this patch was about 80 and the length of the longest rows about 32 feet. The beds were in places no longer very definite and were overgrown with shrubs and tall weeds. The general direction of the beds is northwest. The beds are from 3 to

4 feet wide and from 4 to 6 inches high and the paths between them  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 feet apart.

**43. Indian Prairie Village Site and Mounds** (Plate 11). Perhaps the most interesting old Indian site on the upper Milwaukee River was located at a point in sections 29 and 30, known to the early white settlers of the vicinity as Indian Prairie and in later days as Bender's Prairie. Dr. Lapham, who made an investigation of the Indian remains at this place, in May, 1850, has published a description and survey of them. (*Antiq. of Wis.*, pp. 17-20, Pls. VIII and IX.) The locality was one most favorable for Indian occupation. It was a fine level plain elevated, according to his notes from 12 to 30 feet above the river and marshy low land, in part prairie and the remainder occupied by a rather dense woodland. Its eastern boundary was the Milwaukee River. On the north was a long narrow ravine with steep banks and on the south a tract of low and marshy land and a similar ravine. Both ravines lead to the river, a creek flowing through each.

The Indian earthworks located at Indian Prairie consisted of twenty-two conical mounds, two linear mounds, two bird effigies (which Lapham refers to as crosses), five intaglio effigies and four small enclosures. Of the conical or round mounds the greater number were scattered over the prairie overlooking the river, a small number being in the woods. These mounds were from 2 to 4 feet high and from 10 to 54 feet in diameter at their bases. The two most prominent, situated near the middle of the prairie, their bases almost touching, were each 8 feet high and 53 feet in diameter.

A short distance southwest of these large tumuli and lying almost side by side, their tails pointed towards these mounds, were four intaglio effigies. Lapham's diagrams show these to have been very likely intended to represent the very common panther type of effigy mound. They differed from the ordinary effigy mounds in being dug out of the soil instead of constructed upon it. The earth taken from the excavations had been heaped up about the edges of the outlines possibly with the idea of giving greater prominence to the figure. (See Figure 5.) A sixth intaglio of similar outline, but lacking the long tail, was located on the edge of

the woods near the northern end of the prairie. Just to the south of this intaglio Lapham noted "four small circular enclosures, about thirty feet in diameter, the ridge [of earth surrounding them] having no great breadth or elevation. One circle surrounded a cavity two feet deep, in which was growing a basswood tree (*Tilia americana*) of large size."

Two linear mounds about 70 and 75 feet in length were located in the woods near the marsh beyond the southern end of the prairie. Beyond these at the southern extremity of the group of earthworks, the larger on a point between the marsh and ravine, were two of the common form of bird effigies with outspread wings. The larger of these was 166



Fig. 5

feet in length with a wingspread of 141 feet. The width of its head, Lapham gives as 22 feet.

A number of the burial mounds have been excavated. One of these was investigated by John Haug, a former teacher in St. Joseph's school, at Milwaukee. (See *Evening Wisconsin*, May 28, 1885.) This mound was the southern of the two largest tumuli. In the digging he was assisted by several laborers. In it he found a large number of partly decomposed human bones and a "large quantity of broken pottery." Ashes and charcoal were found mixed with the soil of which this mound had been built. Mr. J. W. Jaeger is also reported to have opened several of the burial mounds formerly existing at Indian Prairie but without results other than the finding of a few Indian bones. The most southern of the two linear mounds was dug into by the two sons of Mr. J. H. Bender who found therein the bones of four skeletons which Mr. Bender caused to be re-buried. No implements were found during this digging.

On October 19, 1902, a party of members of the then Archaeological Section of the Wisconsin Natural History



Society and including the writer visited the Indian Prairie site.

At this time only a few of the original group of mounds were found to be still in existence. An east and west highway leading to the river, known as "Bender's road," crossed the land. The few conical mounds remaining were located on property known as Highland Springs, then owned by a Mr. A. Schorse of Milwaukee. These had been long under cultivation. In an adjoining cultivated field were the two prominent mounds described by Lapham. The height of these had been reduced from 8 to about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet but their outlines were still quite distinct.

Mr. Amos Buttles, a pioneer resident of Milwaukee township, in a letter addressed to the writer (December 16, 1904) stated that in 1846 and 1847 a camp of Menominee Indians was located at Indian Prairie. Mr. J. H. Bender, who purchased and settled on this land in 1851, stated that small numbers of the same tribe camped on the river bank near the mounds at that time. When Lapham was engaged in making his survey he found at the Prairie that it had been a habit of these recent Indian occupants to bury their own dead in the mounds. On one mound he found "three graves but lately formed. They were secured from the ravages of the wolves and other animals by logs of wood held in their places by four stakes." The logs were laid in the form of a low pyramid.

Lapham found at Indian Prairie, and on the lands both to the north and south of the two ravines, plots of Indian corn hills. A plot of garden beds was located about the large bird effigy at the southern extremity of the site, the beds extending over its body. The beds consisted of broad, parallel ridges averaging about 4 feet in width, the paths between them being about six inches in depth.

In the cultivation of the fields at Indian Prairie many Indian stone implements have been found and burials occasionally disturbed. A copper spud obtained here by Mr. John Haug is in the Milwaukee Public Museum. In recent years a burial was unearthed from a gravel pit just south of and adjoining the site of the old Bender grist mill at the northern end of Indian Prairie.



Indian Prairie Mounds



**44. Stewart Farm Village Site.** This farm is located east of the Green Bay road and north of Mud Creek, in the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 31. Here and on the opposite side of the creek were to be seen the usual indications of a stone age village site when last visited by the writer and others, on October 7, 1906. Many interesting archaeological specimens have been found on this site. Some of these are, or were, in the collection of Mr. Joseph Ringeison, Jr., at Milwaukee.

An Indian skeleton was obtained from a gravel pit on this property. Mud Creek is a tributary of the Milwaukee River.

Indications of an Indian camp site also exist on lands bordering the west bank of the Milwaukee River, in the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 31 and the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 5. A local collector, Mr. Louis Allerdings, has, or had, a large number of implements which he found in these fields.

Another stone age camp site was located on the land known as Lindwurm at the bend of the Milwaukee River east of the Port Washington road.

Mr. Ringeisen has a pebble hand hammer and flint blank from this site.

### Wauwatosa Township

**45. Story Quarry Burial.** This burial was disinterred in March, 1896, in the working of the well-known Story Bros. limestone quarry, then located just west of the western limits of Milwaukee. The quarry was situated just south of the Blue Mound road, in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 26, and overlooked the Menomonee Valley.

A communication received by the writer from Mr. W. E. Story (October 3, 1903) gives the information that this grave, the only one found on this location during fifteen years of quarrying, was disturbed "by using dynamite in the earth above the stone to loosen the same." The skull and bones were found by the workmen after the explosion, having rolled down the bank.

The skull and thigh bones of this skeleton and sixty-one rolled copper beads and a copper axe found with them, were presented to the Milwaukee Public Museum by A. L. and W. E. Story. The grave is said to have been located about five feet below the crest of the quarry hill.



A brief account of this burial was published in the Milwaukee Sentinel of March 20, 1896.

**46. Menomonee Valley Camp Sites.** These sites, of which there were a number, were located at intervals along the top of the high, once thickly wooded bluffs on the north side of the Menomonee River beginning in the vicinity of the old Gettleman brewery in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 26 and extending westward into the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 22, within the limits of Wauwatosa. Several small creeks empty into the river in this region. The most westerly of these has its origin in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 16 and flows in a general southeasterly direction through sections 15 and 22 and into the valley. In the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 22, it passes through a tract of land now occupied by streets and residences and formerly known as the Pabst farm where there were indications of a camp and workshop site. Mr. L. R. Whitney, Mr. E. J. W. Notz and Mr. H. A. Kirchner have made small collections from this site, consisting of flint arrow and spear-points, stone celts and spherical stones and other specimens.

The other creek had its origin in a large spring called the Ne-ska-ra, formerly located on a farm property owned by G. D. Dousman, immediately west of present Washington Park, in the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 23. This region is now occupied by residences. From this place the creek flowed in a general southeasterly direction to the Vliet Street road and down a small ravine into the Menomonee Valley. The spring just mentioned was, according to J. M. Wheeler, a favorite stopping place of the early Indians who continued to camp in its vicinity for many years and up to as late as 1850, or later. It was a halting place on the journey from Waukesha (Prairieville) to Milwaukee. On another tract of land formerly owned by Mr. Dousman on the south side of the present Vliet Street road was an Indian cornfield. James S. Buck gives the following description of it in his "Pioneer History of Milwaukee:"

It is "upon the farm once occupied by Mr. G. D. Dousman, southwest quarter of section twenty-three, Town seven, Range twenty-one, in Wauwatosa. This was originally the claim of Miss Almira Fowler (afterwards Mrs. B. F. Wheelock); and in the winter of 1836 I camped upon it, cut five acres of timber, split the rails to fence it, and put up a good block house for Wheelock.

The timber was heavy; and when that and the thick coating of leaves was removed, rows of cornhills were plainly visible; and to our astonishment we saw a ditch at least 1000 feet in length, running north and south, upon the east side of which these rows rested, while upon the west, they ran parallel with it, and oak trees were standing in that ditch that were three feet in diameter, whose consecutive rings would indicate an age of at least one thousand years.

No modern field was laid out with more regularity than this. Below is a rough sketch of this old cornfield.

Those upon the east or right hand represent the rows with their ends resting upon the ditch, and those upon the west, or left hand, those that were parallel with it.

These hills were as well defined as though made the previous year."

With our present knowledge of the great irregularity of all old Indian cornfields, we find it difficult to believe that this one was as regular as described by Mr. Buck. If such a ditch as that described ever existed it is the first instance of the kind on record in Wisconsin. Mr. H. A. Kirchner, a collector residing near Washington Park, has in his cabinet a considerable number of flint implements and a few grooved axes, hammer stones and other implements collected from the camp sites along the Menomonee bluffs. A fluted stone axe was found near the Gettleman brewery. Another fine stone axe of the same character, now in the W. H. Ellsworth collection, in Beloit College, was found by some workmen engaged in digging a trench at the western limit of Washington Park.

**47. Hart Mounds.** This appears to have been the only group of mounds located in Wauwatosa Township. According to information given to the writer, in May 1903, by the late Dr. Fisk H. Day, a former resident of Wauwatosa, and pioneer archaeologist, this group of three burial mounds was situated on property formerly owned by a Mr. T. W. Hart, in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 21. This location is on the north bank of the Menomonee River, opposite the present County buildings, and within the limits of Wauwatosa.

The largest mound in the group, Dr. Day stated, was about 75 feet in diameter and about 12 feet high. Upon it were several trees and a large stump. Not far from it were two

smaller mounds. A diagram prepared by Dr. Day for the writer, shows that the larger mound, when explored, was found to have been constructed of alternate layers of black soil and yellow sandy loam. In the upper layers of soil were found the "badly decomposed" bones of two Indian skeletons, probably intrusive burials. These were on either side of the center of the mound, within a short distance of each other, but on different levels, one being interred several feet below the other.

In the gravel bed at the base of the mound and at a depth of about 12 feet below its apex, the bones of another skeleton were found. About it were pieces of charcoal. Elsewhere in this mound there was found a piece of sheet copper about two inches in width which was rolled in a coil.

In a paper read at a meeting of the Lapham Archaeological Society, held at Milwaukee, in April 1877, Dr. Day, gave a description of the skull of the latter skeleton. (*Milwaukee Sentinel*, April 9, 1877.) This skull was also described by the archaeologist, J. W. Foster, at the Dubuque meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The following additional information concerning the Hart mounds is extracted from a letter addressed to the writer (December 2, 1904) by Mr. J. D. Warren of Wauwatosa:

"The graves mentioned in your communication were opened by Dr. F. H. Day, Bert Warren and myself. They were in a mound located about three hundred feet south of Kenyon street and four hundred feet west of Western av., S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sect. 21, on ground now known as the [C. M. & St. P.] railroad gravel pit. The railroad people have worked in from the south and hauled away the grounds to the depth of perhaps twenty feet so there is nothing remaining of the old burial place at this time.

There were two mounds, one about twenty feet in diameter at its base and from four to six feet high in the center. The other, the larger one, was, I judge, from forty to fifty feet in diameter at its base and from ten to twelve feet high. An oak tree some eighteen inches in diameter stood on the south slope of this mound.

We opened the large mound finding quantities of bones but in a decayed condition. We found no implements whatever. There was a noticeable quantity of charcoal in the hard soil around the bones. The skulls were face down and on or between the leg bones, near the feet. I remember that Dr. Day's explanation of this was that the



bodies were placed on the ground in a sitting position and that the legs extended at right angles with the trunk then the trunk bent forward and down on the legs.

This exploration was [made in] about the year 1870-1871. Some years after this, say in about 1880, when the gravel had been taken away up to this point and had caved off a fresh section of the mound, I made a visit there and secured the upper part of a skull and jaw bone."

Indian camp sites are indicated in several places along the Menomonee River in this vicinity. They have yielded the usual hearth stones, flint chips and fragments, and occasional pebble hand-hammers and arrowpoints.

**48. Underwood Creek Camp Sites.** In cultivated fields on both banks of Underwood Creek, in the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 20, scattered evidences of Indian camp and workshop sites were found. Underwood Creek, which rises beyond the western limits of Wauwatosa Township, flows in a general northeasterly direction to the Menomonee River.

**49. Lyon Cache.** According to Mr. W. A. Phillips, a cache of 250 chipped flint implements was found in about the year 1875, beneath a large flat rock on a farm then owned by Moses Lyon, in the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of this section.

**50. Butler Camp Site.** Mr. Francis Bell, an early settler, reported to the writer (October 7, 1906) that a Menominee Indian camp was located on the Menomonee River in section 6, east of Butler, in 1841. Some Indian graves were located on the Wetzel farm on the west side of the Menomonee, in the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 6, about one-half mile east of Butler.

Flint implements, several stone axes and celts and other Indian materials collected at this place on the John Hilgen and other farms were formerly in the collections of Mr. W. H. Elkey and Mr. Louis Vonier, of Milwaukee. Dr. F. H. Day also obtained a number of specimens in this vicinity in the 70's.

**51. Honey Creek Camp Site.** On the banks of Honey Creek in the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 33, indications of an Indian camp site were found by the writer on October 18, 1903.



This site is said to have been occupied in an early day by a band of Menominee and in later years by Pottawatomi and Winnebago Indians. Numbers of flint arrow and spear-points and a few stone axes and celts have been found here in past years. Both Mr. John M. Wheeler and his son, Mr. M. J. Wheeler, had small collections of these.

An Indian corn field about two acres in extent was formerly located in a bend of the creek between the north and south road, now known as Greenfield avenue, and the creek bank. When Mr. Wheeler settled on the adjoining land, in 1862, the corn hills were still in evidence. The last traces of these he destroyed when building a residence for his son on this site.

On the edge of the corn field and running in a north and south line were three pits or caches for the storing of corn. They were located on sandy soil on the higher land above the creek. The largest of these was about 7 feet in diameter and 3 feet in depth. They were wattled up with willow twigs, dry leaves being packed in between the wattling and the sides of the pit. Mr. Wheeler estimated that the largest would hold about fifteen bushels of shelled corn.

### Greenfield Township

**52. State Fair Park Mounds and Camp Site.** These mounds are located in the State Fair park, in the thriving village of West Allis.

The three mounds originally constituting this group were arranged in the form of a triangle, the most western mound being situated about 105 feet east of the west boundary fence of the park, and the northern mound about 250 feet to the southwest of the so-called Manufactures building. They were 35, 40, and 45 feet in diameter respectively and varied in height from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet. They were separated from one another by distances of 40, 50 and 80 feet. From them the land sloped gradually southward to the bank of Honey Creek, the mounds being elevated but a few feet above the creek bottom, the nearest (eastern) mound being about 295 feet north of the waters edge. The land on which the mounds were located was formerly a grove of hardwood timber, only a portion of which still remains on the southern side of the creek, in

the southwestern corner of the grounds. Mr. N. N. and his sister, Miss Bashna Cornwall, who have resided almost within sight of the mounds for many years remember that there was formerly a fourth tumulus in the group. This was destroyed in the constructing of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway spur track to the grounds. This line is situated just outside of the western fence and about 115 feet to the west of the nearest mound.

These mounds are said to have been about 5 feet in height in 1840, when the Rev. Lucius Doolittle, an Episcopal clergyman, opened one of them by means of a trench dug across it and uncovered a complete skeleton and several (brass?) kettles. The bones were reburied only to be again and again disturbed by curiosity seekers. The other mounds suffered a like lamentable fate so that little definite or reliable information in relation to their contents may now be obtained. Mr. Stutley I. Henderson of West Allis, who dug into some of these mounds in his boyhood days, remembers to have taken several skulls and a quantity of bones from one of them.

Honey Creek, a tributary of the Menomonee River, was in 1902 about ten feet in width in this locality. The traces of the action of water then indicated that the stream was formerly much larger and probably in certain seasons navigable for Indian canoes. The proximity of a mineral spring in the grove and the general character of the location pointed to this site as the location of a former aboriginal camp. The Indians had, however, generally left the section before 1838.

The mounds were surveyed and platted on October 26, 1902, by the Messrs. Rolland L. Porter, O. L. Hollister, H. A. Crosby, Philip Wells and the author, representing the Wisconsin Archeological Society. A brief description of them written by Mr. Wells was printed in the Milwaukee Sentinel of October 28.

At this time a portion of the rough field lying between the mounds and the creek and west fence was being graded and the removal of the sod disclosed the fact that this was a stone age village site. From this small graded portion there were collected by the writer and his associates up to as late as the year 1908 large quantities of flint chips, flakes and

fragments, hearth stones, a number of flint arrow points, scrapers and perforators of common forms, a quantity of potsherds, fragments of animal bones, a bone awl and other specimens. The potsherds collected here are tempered with crushed rock and are nearly all devoid of ornamentation. One rim piece is marked with finger prints.

On February 6, 1903, the Society appointed Mr. James A. Sheridan to enter into negotiations with the State Board of Agriculture with a view to securing the permanent preservation of the mounds.

This was finally accomplished by Mr. Harry A. Crosby, then president of the Society, who appeared before a session of the board and received its promise of their future protection. Shortly after this agreement had been entered into by the members of the Board one of the three mounds (the most westerly) was destroyed by G. W. Harvey, then superintendent of the grounds, to secure material for surfacing the race track. The wholly unwarranted action of this officer raised a storm of protest to which he offered a rather weak apology exonerating the State Board and Secretary True of all blame in the matter. (Letter, Milwaukee Sentinel, May 26, 1903). Later in the year the writer with the aid of several workmen and a team restored the other mounds to their original height by filling the excavations made by explorers with the earth thrown from them. The Board caused each mound to be enclosed with posts supporting an iron railing.

On September 15, 1910, Milwaukee Day, the Wisconsin Archeological Society caused a fine bronze marker to be placed on the larger of the two mounds. The dedicatory address was delivered by Mr. Charles A. A. McGee, then district attorney of Milwaukee County. The tablet was unveiled by Miss Jean West, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. A. West. Mr. Laurens E. Scott of Stanley, a member of the State Board, accepted it for the Board and the State. (See Wis. Archeo., V. 9, No. 3).

**53. Beloit Corners Burials.** In the collections of the Milwaukee Public Museum are a series of five fine copper crescents and a large copper axe which are labelled as having been obtained from a "mound" in section 17, Green-



field Township. These are described in the Wisconsin Archeologist (V. 1, No. 1, p. 12). They are of the common canoe-shaped form. The largest is 10 and the smallest  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

In the same collection there is a fine flint ceremonial knife which was also found here. This specimen was formerly in the collection of the late noted collector, Mr. F. S. Perkins of Burlington. He bought it from Dr. F. H. Day of Wauwatosa in 1878 and sold it to the museum in 1885. Its length is nearly 15 inches and its greatest width  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The material of which it is made is a salmon colored flint. It weighs 15 ounces.

According to a letter written by Mr. Perkins (March 23, 1898):

"It was obtained in 1877 by men who were hauling earth from an excavation [since ascertained to have been a gravel pit] 12 or 15 feet deep, on the farm of Peter Leser, in the SW.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 17, in Greenfield township, Milwaukee county. With it were found a considerable number of copper and several flint implements and the bones of eight human beings, which had been buried in an upright position."

On July 28, 1903, the writer and Mr. Valentine Fernekes visited this locality and by the careful questioning of old residents the following additional information was obtained.

The gravel pit (not mound) from which all of the above specimens were obtained is located on the farm formerly belonging to one Peter Leser, but now occupied by Mr. Charles Miller, in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 18, and not in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 17 as stated by Mr. Perkins.

The gravel and sand pit, which has not been worked to any extent for many years and of which a trace can still be seen, is about 100 feet west of Mr. Miller's house, which stands on the west side of the Beloit road. This locality is about one mile southwest of Beloit Corners and about one and one fourth miles southwest of the depot at West Allis. Root Creek lies but a short distance directly east of the Miller farm and is crossed by the Beloit road not far from the old pit.

In addition to the implements now in the Milwaukee museum there are said to have been found in the pit a quantity of copper beads, several stone axes and other im-



plements. Their present whereabouts is not known. The skulls found at the time were placed, it was stated, in a hollow purposely left in the foundation of the large barn on the place and where it is possible they still remain.

Mr. F. M. Wright a collector residing near West Allis formerly had a notched flint spearpoint which was found on the Leser farm. This specimen measured  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches in width at its widest part, at its middle.

### Franklin Township

**54. Root River Camp Sites.** In Franklin Township evidences of early Indian occupation have been found chiefly along the banks of the Root River. The writer and Dr. E. J. W. Notz, on October 8, 1907, made an examination of the fields and farms on both banks of this stream in Section 33, Greenfield Township and sections 3, 4, and 10, of Franklin Township but without results. No camp sites or other archaeological remains were located in the region investigated. A few flint arrowpoints and an occasional stone celt or axe have been found along the river banks.

Mr. John W. Evans, a member of the Society has reported (August 3, 1903) the existence of a camp site on the Fueger farm on the east side of the Root River, in the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 27. On his father's farm there was in the early days of settlement a plot of Indian corn hills. This farm was situated in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 34, on the east bank of the river.

A camp site was also located on the Beck farm on the same bank of the river near the Milwaukee-Racine county line, in the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 34. Here, when a boy Mr. Evans collected his first arrowpoints.

Mr. Geo. A. West reported (September 21, 1903) that during the past twenty-five years at least half-a-dozen Indian burials have been removed from a gravel pit on a farm at Howards Prairie formerly belonging to a Mr. Daniel Brewer. With these were found a large number of bone beads, two socketted copper arrowpoints, broken flint implements and several pottery vessels one of which was in fragments.

This place is on the west bank of the river, in the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 34.

Dr. Notz found indications of a camp site about a small pond on the Bruss and Walters farms in the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 1. From this site he collected a broken celt, flint arrowpoints and other implements.

### Lake Township

**55. Austin Burials.** Indian burials have in past years been occasionally unearthed, it is reported, in a gravel pit on the S. Austin place. This place is located west of the old Chicago Road, in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 17.

### Oak Creek Township

**56. Oak Creek Mounds.** Dr. Lapham gives the following description of these, which were situated within the present limits of the village of South Milwaukee.

"Between Racine and Milwaukee we found a single mound, which was six feet high, and the remains of one or two more about half a mile below the place where the main road crosses Oak Creek. This mound was more than usually steep on its sides, and may consequently be supposed to be of recent origin, time not having levelled it down as much as those of greater antiquity.

A mound that had been removed several years since, disclosed a number of skeletons of human beings and an earthen cup said to hold about a pint." (Antiq. of Wis., p. 11).

Dr. P. R. Hoy quotes Lapham's description of the large mound. (Who Built the Mounds, p. 24, 1886). Lapham's location would place its former situation somewhere between the present South Milwaukee depot and Oak Creek.

**56a. Rawson Mound.** Mr. O. L. Hollister reported to the Society, in 1904, that a single conical mound was formerly located on the Rawson property, at South Milwaukee. It was situated in a woodland on the south side of Rawson avenue. In excavating this burial place Indian bones were disinterred. This land now forms a part of the village of South Milwaukee, being located between the C. & N. W. R. R. and Oak Creek.

**57. Oak Creek Camp Sites.** Evidences of aboriginal occupation are not as plentiful along the banks of Oak

Creek as one might expect them to be. On November 4, 1907, the writer and Dr. E. J. W. Notz in the course of an examination of lands on its banks found indications of a former Indian camp and workshop site on the Welbes' farm, between the Nicholson Road and the C. & N. W. R. R. tracks, in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 10.

Such indications as there were had been scattered by the cultivation of the field which was situated on the north side of the creek. They were found only on the more elevated parts of the field and consisted of flint nodules, numerous chips, blanks, broken and rejected and several perfect arrowpoints, and a pebble hammerstone. No potsherds or hearth stones were collected. The farmer's sons have found a grooved stone axe and a considerable number of flint arrowpoints on this land.

The flint in use here was largely of a white or grayish white color. A brown chalcedony blank and a flake of the same material were among the materials collected.

On the opposite (south) side of the creek a number of chips of white flint and a single flint blank were obtained.

**58. Lake Shore Camp Sites.** On the high bank overlooking Lake Michigan, in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of fractional section 13, are indications of an Indian camp site. These were found in a cultivated field on the north side of a small ravine. Flint chips, flakes, spalls and nodules were fairly plentiful over a small area. A simple blank and an arrowpoint were recovered. The flint which had been chipped here was largely of a white or grayish-white color and of a fair quality. This locality is about one-half mile north of the manufacturing village of Carrollville.

About one mile south of South Milwaukee another camp site was located. This was on the banks of a small ravine which enters the lake near the north line of section 14. On the south bank of this ravine and east of the lake road in a cultivated field hearth stones and the rejectage of the Indian arrowmaker were particularly plentiful when the writer examined this site on August 12, 1905.



## Summary

According to present records the total number of all classes of aboriginal earthworks in Milwaukee County was 217. Of this number 169 were located within the present limits of the City of Milwaukee, 109 on the south, 47 on the west and 13 on the east side. Forty-eight were situated in other parts of the county. An idea of the distribution, classes and grouping of these Indian monuments can be had from the following table of mound groups. The names employed are those used in designating these groups in the text of this bulletin.

### MOUND GROUPS

Name	En- closures	Oval Mounds	Conical Mounds	Linear Mounds	Effigies	Total
Wisconsin Street.....	1				1	2
Juneau.....	1				3	4
Brady Street.....			1			1
Lake Park.....			4(?)			4
Buttles.....			1			1
Grand Avenue.....			1			1
Twenty-first Street.....			1			1
Hawley.....			3(?)		2	5
Winnebago Street.....			1		2	3
Mill Street.....				1	1	2
Lapham Park.....		3		2	7	12
Shermans Addition.....			1		1	2
Sherman Street.....					1	1
North Avenue.....					1	1
Beaubian Street.....					1	1
School Section.....			1	4	3	8
Richard Street.....			1		1	2
Humbolt.....			2			2
Fond du Lac Avenue.....					1	1
Teller.....		1			5	6
Walkers Point.....			8	1	1	10
Buck.....			8			8
National Avenue.....					1	1
Trowbridge-Carey.....			14	1	2	17
Chase.....			5			5
Indian Fields.....	4		50	3	4	61
Hull.....			6		1	7
Spring Grove.....		3				3
Indian Prairie.....	4		22	2	7	35
Hart.....			3			3
State Fair Park.....			3			3
Oak Creek.....			3(?)			3
Rawson.....			1			1
Totals.....	10	7	140	14	46	217



Of the total number of earthworks, 10 were enclosures of large or small size, 7 were oval, 140 conical, 14 linear and 46 effigy mounds.

Of the enclosures, one was approximately circular in form. This, the largest of the Milwaukee County enclosures, was that once located on the site of Wisconsin street. The smaller enclosures at Indian Fields, now Layton Park, were both single and double enclosures. The four enclosures at Indian Prairie were of the character generally classed as hut rings. It is believed that these latter were the sites of wigwams which had collapsed, or been removed. The enclosure in the Juneau group was oval in form.

Of the 147 oval and conical earthworks nearly all were probably erected for burial purposes. The largest number of these in any one place (50), were in the groups at Indian Fields. At Indian Prairie there were 22, and in the Trowbridge-Carey group 14. Several mound groups, the Buck, Chase, Lake Park, Humboldt, Hart, State Fair Park and Oak Creek groups, were composed entirely of mounds of this character. In most of the Milwaukee County groups, however, they occur in association with effigy and linear mounds.

These burial mounds were of various diameters and heights.

The number of linear earthworks (14), is surprisingly small. All but two, which were of tapering form were straight linears with parallel sides. None of them approach in length the large linear earthworks located in other sections of southern Wisconsin. Of the Milwaukee County linears, the longest, each about 75 feet in length, were those in the Lap-ham Park and Indian Prairie groups. The size of the three known to exist at Indian Fields is not known.

Of the 46 effigy or animal-shaped mounds in the Milwaukee County groups, 25, or half of the total number, were effigies of the form known as the "panther type," and thought to represent that animal. But few of these appear to have had very prominent heads being of the sub-type to which one Wisconsin archaeological investigator has referred as the "monkey-wrench" form. Several had a knob or small protuberance at the extremity of the tail, a feature of not uncommon occurrence among panther effigies in southern Wisconsin. Several other variations, such as the

up-curved tails are not met with in the Milwaukee County examples. Of the other effigies, 6 were intended to represent birds and one, probably the turtle. The remaining effigies are of uncertain identification. The largest of the panther mounds were one in the Lapham Park group, which measured about 212 feet in length, and that described by Buck as being located on National avenue and which was "at least two-hundred feet in length." Fourteen other effigies of this form were from 100 to 162 feet long. Of the bird effigies several had straight, outstretched, and several curved wings, and two of them divided tails.

Milwaukee is one of only five localities in the state where intaglio effigies have ever been found, the others being Pewaukee, Ft. Atkinson, Theresa and Baraboo. Of the Milwaukee intaglios, five were located at Indian Prairie and one at Mrs. Hulls' at Indian Field. All but one, that at Indian Prairie, appear to have been intaglios of the panther type. These intaglios, as already explained, are the reverse of the effigy mounds, being excavated out of the soil instead of erected upon it.

All of the archaeological evidence at hand appears to show Milwaukee to have been occupied for a long period of time previous to the arrival of the intruding Indian tribes and of the arrival on its shores of the first white men, by a numerous Indian population. Their villages were located, as testified to by the mounds and numerous evidences of their industries found at these places, on some of the most favored highlands on the banks of the three streams, the Milwaukee, Menomonee and the Kinnickinnic, which here unite and enter Lake Michigan. The Pottawatomi and Menomini occupied some of these same sites when they located in this region.

As is shown by the data presented elsewhere in this publication corn was grown at a number of the later Indian village sites. The existence of these planting grounds is known both from the descriptions given by Milwaukee historians and through the finding of plots of corn hills by Dr. Lapham and other investigators. It is very probable that other vegetable products were also cultivated at some of the villages. Plots of garden beds were located on the Jaeger place on the west bank of the Milwaukee River, at a place known as Spring Grove, and at Indian Prairie.

The principal Indian trails leading from Milwaukee were those known as the Chicago, Sauk or Lake Shore, Green Bay and the Waukesha trails. Their courses are shown on the map in this bulletin.

Andrew J. Vieau describes the S uk trail as running from Milwaukee to the Chippewa Indian village at Saukville, thence to the mouth of the Sheboygan River and Manitowoc Rapids and from the latter place northwest to Green Bay. From the mouth of the Sheboygan to the Rapids it ran "sometimes on the beach and again on the high land, for fifteen or sixteen miles." It was very crooked. "The time occupied in traveling from Green Bay to Milwaukee was four days, either by foot or by French train, the distance being estimated at 125 miles." The other trail from Green Bay was by way of the east shore of Lake Winnebago to Fond du Lac, thence to Watertown, and Waukesha and into Milwaukee by the way of the Kilbourn road. (II, W. H. C., 229-30.) On the east side of Milwaukee the Sauk trail is said to have passed the present location of the Colby and Abbott building and proceeded from thence to North Point. According to Horace Chase, an early settler of Milwaukee, the Chicago trail lead from the site of the Vieau trading post along the Menomonee bluffs to Walkers Point. This trail passed over the present C. M. & St. P. R. R. cattle yards and crossed the Menomonee at about 13th street. Here it turned up the hill and united with the Green Bay trail. (Pioneer Hist. of Milw., p. 40.) At the Menomonee crossing there was an old tamarack pole bridge. Mr. M. D. Cutler, who came to Milwaukee in 1834, is quoted as saying that the Green Bay trail especially was worn to a depth of about twenty inches through long continued use. (West. Hist. Co. Hist. of Milw., p. 48.)

Peter Van Vechten states that a guide sign to the Green Bay-Chicago trail was an Indian figure carved into the trunk of a beech tree which stood near the present corner of Wells and Thirteenth streets. This figure held a bow in one and an arrow in the other hand.

"The arrow pointed to the Menomonee River and the bow to the Milwaukee. The trail separated at this point. The one to the east led to the Milwaukee River at Wisconsin street, where Anton Le Claire had built a log cabin in 1800, and at all times kept batteaux, Mackinaw boats and



canoes to ferry people over. The trail to the south crossed the Menomonee at about Thirteenth street.

Parties who wished to go down to the mouth of the river, where the Juneau settlement was, including Pottowatomies, Menomonees, and some Sioux, would go down the east side of the river from Le Claire's place or ride on the river."

Mr. Milton B. Potter, a pioneer resident of Wauwatosa, informed the writer that the Waukesha trail followed the Menomonee River to its junction with Underwood Creek and then continued westward across the country until it again struck the creek.

There were other trails of which there is less information notably one leading from Milwaukee to the early Indian village at Mukwonago, in Waukesha County. Another trail lead from the head of present Wisconsin or Michigan street in Milwaukee down the lake shore to the village at the mouth of the Milwaukee River. From East Water street it probably followed the Michigan street bluffs. Another trail connected the villages on the Kinnickinnic with the Chicago trail, and another with the Milwaukee-Mukwonago trail. Laterals probably connected all of the early camp and village sites with the main trails.

### Closing Remarks

The collection of data in preparation for this publication was undertaken by the author in the year 1899 and continued until his removal from Milwaukee to Madison, in 1908. After that time it was taken up again and pursued as time and opportunity permitted. As every trace of most of the early mound groups known to Dr. Lapham, and particularly those once situated along the Milwaukee River, had been destroyed and the sites occupied by streets and buildings, the task of accurately re-locating and obtaining additional information concerning them, presented numerous difficulties. Only a very small number of persons who knew of some of these early prehistoric Indian monuments are still alive. To the kind interest of the Miss Julia A. Lapham, who placed her father's notes and letters in the author's hands, and to the several early settlers of Milwaukee who assisted in other ways, he is particularly indebted. In the body of the publication credit is given to the various members and friends of the Wisconsin Archeological Society who assisted in the conducting of the necessary investigations.





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Gilbert Lake