

THE SO-CALLED ELEPHANT MOUND IN GRANT COUNTY, AND EFFIGIES IN THE REGION SURROUNDING IT.

BY REV. S. D. PEET.

The survey of the mounds in the neighborhood of the so-called elephant effigy, which was undertaken under the auspices of the Wisconsin Academy of Arts, has not, for various reasons, been reported until now. The survey was conducted by the writer mainly during the year 1885, but a trip previous to that in 1882, and subsequent to it in 1886, are to be taken into the account. It is very fortunate that the Society recommended this survey at the time that it did, as many of the mounds then in a good state of preservation, have been destroyed since. A railroad has been built along the valley of the Mississippi and the track has been laid in the very midst of the mounds that were surveyed. Before giving a description of the survey we propose

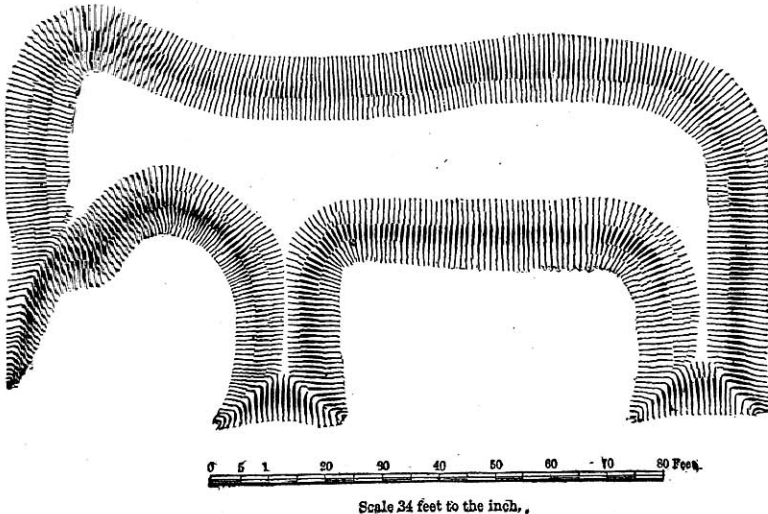


Fig. 1.

to give a history of this effigy. The discovery of the elephant effigy was made by Mr. Jared Warner, of Patch Grove, Grant County, and the account was first published in the Smithsonian report of 1872, with a cut, an electrototype. (See Fig. 1). Mr. Warner says "this effigy was situated on the high sandy bottom lands of the Mississippi, on the east side, about eight miles below the mouth of the Wisconsin river. There are on each side of

the mound, some fifteen or twenty rods distant, sandy, grassy ridges, some fifteen feet higher than the land about the mound; the mound is, therefore in a shallow valley, sloping gently to the Mississippi river, and only about eight feet above high water. Its total length is 135 feet; from hind feet to back, sixty feet; from fore feet to back, sixty-six feet; width across fore legs, twenty-one feet; across hind legs, twenty-four feet; space between hind and fore legs, fifty-one feet; from end of proboscis to fore legs, thirty-nine feet; across the body, thirty-six feet; general height of body above surrounding ground, five feet. The head is large, and the proportions of the whole so symmetrical that the mound well deserves the name of the "Big Elephant Mound." Next to Mr. Warner was Mr. Moses Strong, who published an account of the effigy and the mounds surrounding it in the *Smithsonian Report* for 1876. Mr. Strong was at the time connected with the Geological survey of the state, and took in the exploration of the mounds incidentally. He describes a group of mounds on the Mississippi bottom situated on Sec. 17, N. E. quarter Tp. 5, R. 6 W. [The effigy is on Sec. 21].

Mr. Strong says, "following the course of the Mississippi about a quarter of a mile southeast of the preceding locality, numerous long mounds are seen arranged in several rows parallel to each other and to the river. They are situated in the cultivated fields and are nearly obliterated. At the time these localities were visited the valley was covered by a crop of standing corn which rendered it difficult to find them; and it is probable that many exist which were not noticed. No circular or effigy mounds were found in connection with them. Continuing down the valley we come to a group in which the three kinds of mounds are well represented. They lie upon the alluvial bottom quite near a bayou of the Mississippi and none of them are more than eight feet above high water mark, while those in the southern part of the group are not more than three feet. In this group where all kinds are represented, there seems to be a separation of the long and round mounds from each other. There is nothing of peculiar interest in the occurrence of the long and circular mounds, but we have here two quite singular effigies. The central one of the group is evidently intended to represent a bird with the wings spread in the act of flying; the head is directed to the south. The wings measure ninety-four feet each way from the center of the body to their extremities, and the length of the tail is sixty-five feet. It is quite a large and well-formed effigy and is different from the other bird mounds in having an angle in the wings. Situated at the northern end of the group is the most interesting effigy mound any where observed. A description of it by Mr. Warner, of Patch Grove, was published in the *Smithsonian Report* of 1872, page 416. It is known as the "Elephant Mound," and as it lies upon the ground it resembles an elephant or mastodon, much more closely than any other animal, and the resemblance is much more perfect in this instance than in other effigies. This mound, in common with all the rest in the group, has been under cultivation; and on account of its size, special efforts have been made with plows

and scrapers, to bring it to the level of the adjacent field. Its size alone has protected it. These efforts have resulted in diminishing its height, increasing its width and general circumference, and rendering its outline somewhat indistinct so that it was difficult to make exact measurements."

The writer first visited the effigy six years after Mr. Strong made his report. It was then nearly obliterated. Subsequent to this first visit the employes of the Ethnological Bureau surveyed some groups of mounds and effigies on the bluffs, three miles north of the effigy, but their report has not yet been published. Subsequent to their survey, Mr. Brown, a student in Wisconsin University, and an assistant of Prof. Conover, of Madison, Wis., was employed to make measurements of the mound, so that a cast might be made of it and put on exhibition with the Smithsonian relics, at the New Orleans Exposition, during 1885. The exploration of the writer under the auspices of the Society was subsequent to all these. It embraced not only the so-called elephant effigy, but all the mounds in the vicinity. The mound was again measured, making the fourth actual survey.

The following is the result of the personal examination of the mound at this time: When the the writer visited the locality in 1885, only two mounds out of the whole group were left, one which is described as the bird effigy, the other known as the elephant mound. Both of these had been nearly plowed down, but owing to peculiar circumstances were plainly visible. During the spring preceding the visit, the water from the bayou had set back into the swail and remained standing upon the low ground, but did not quite reach to the summit of the effigies. There was at the time a growth of clover upon the soil, but this was drowned out by the flood except where the effigies stood. As a result the effigies were covered with the clover, but the surrounding ground was either bare or had a slight covering of grass upon it. Standing upon the summit of the hill or ridge adjoining, we were able to look down upon the swail and see the outlines of the two effigies, the dark color of the clover contrasting with the light shade of the grass. The shapes of the two effigies were easily made out. The bird had its head toward the southwest, its wings extending across the swail, nearly reaching the foot of the sand ridges. The so-called elephant effigy had its head in the same direction, to the southwest, but its body was lengthwise of the swail, its heavy legs extending toward the southeast. The two effigies were in contrast, as the bird had long, narrow wings, small body and neck, while the animal had a broad, heavy body, almost square in shape, with its legs unusually wide and clumsy. On approaching nearer the outlines of the effigy were not so distinct as when at a distance, though the clover seemed to give it an elevation. The real mound was but slightly raised above the surrounding surface and there were no sharp lines to the effigy.

The measurement of the mound was very unsatisfactory on account of the condition in which it was. The figures would not represent the mound as it was when first seen, and would be very unreliable as there were no

points from which to begin or end the measurement. One thing was noticeable, however, to the eye and confirmed by measurements. There was no proboscis to the figure. The point which extended from the nose was indistinct and appeared to be the result of the washing of the sandy soil down to the level. It was evident that that which was taken for the proboscis was never long enough or wide enough to properly represent that part. The writer has had considerable experience in tracing out mounds which were nearly obliterated and ordinarily would be able to describe the figure from what might be called the shadow of it. The peculiar color of the soil, which originally belonged to the figure, and the indescribable shading of this soil into the undisturbed surface of the soil or ground surrounding it, will ordinarily give the figure to the eye, even if the measurements should be unsatisfactory. The impression formed by this effigy, and especially the part of it which is the distinctive and deciding point was that the proboscis was never there. The writer hesitates to put himself on

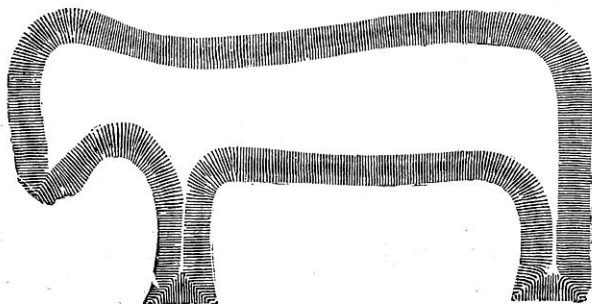
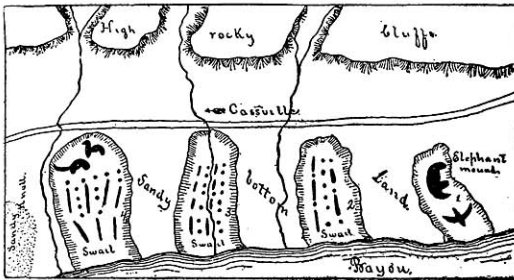


Fig. 2.

record as contradicting such reliable persons as have given a description of the effigy to the public. There is this, however, to be considered. If the engraved figure which was made according to a scale from the measurements of Jared Warner, and those accompanying him, should be taken, and the narrow, pointed snout left off from the figure as uncertain, we should have an effigy which bears very little resemblance to the elephant. (See Fig. 2.) On the other hand, if any one undertakes to draw the figure so that it shall have the trunk in its usual place and shape he would have to completely overdraw and distort the figure, as it is now. This view led the writer, at his first visit, to doubt the intent of the effigy, and every other visit has increased the doubt. The examination of the effigy itself proved so unsatisfactory that the writer determined to study and survey the groups adjoining, and therefore a description of these groups is added to the report. It should be said that the study was given first to the groups on the bottom-lands, then extended to the bluffs, and afterward the whole region was traversed and examined, until all the groups in the vicinity were explored. These will be given in their order.

We call attention to the mounds in the immediate vicinity of the so-called elephant effigy. The writer traversed the region in a reverse order or direction from that which Mr. Strong pursued, but was able to identify some of the groups which he mentions. There were no effigies in the vicinity, except two, which were very nearly obliterated.



There were several groups in the swails which cut through the bottom land in this vicinity, and to these we first gave our attention. The swails are the dry beds of water courses, which in the time of heavy rains, flow out from gorges or so-called "coolies" in the bluff toward the bayous of the river. These swails are generally in a direct line with the openings in the bluffs, and extend from the foot of the bluffs across the sandy bottom land or terrace to the bayous. They are so much below the surface that the mounds in them are not seen until one suddenly comes upon them as he reaches the edge of the swail. The swail in which the so-called elephant mound was placed was not exactly in a line with the rest but angles to the southwest, and where the effigy is, was much deeper than the other swails. The method of arranging these mounds in the swails was peculiar. They were placed in parallel rows which extended lengthwise of the swail, sometimes three or four rows in each swail and in some of the swails as many as thirty or forty mounds in a group. Four such groups were discovered by the writer in passing from the elephant mound, northward, the most of them composed of alternate rows of long mounds and round mounds, arranged in parallel lines. There were no effigies in the swails, merely round and long mounds. The only place where effigies were discovered was on the terrace or bottom land outside of a swail about a mile north from the elephant effigy, on what was called the Bagley place. These effigies were nearly obliterated but seemed to have been very large in size, and possibly one or two of them may have resembled in shape the effigy which is called the elephant. But the figures were so far gone that no effigy could really be traced.

It should be said of these that if one were determined to make out the existence of the elephant and camel effigies, the shadowy shape left upon the surface of the soil might easily satisfy him. There were two

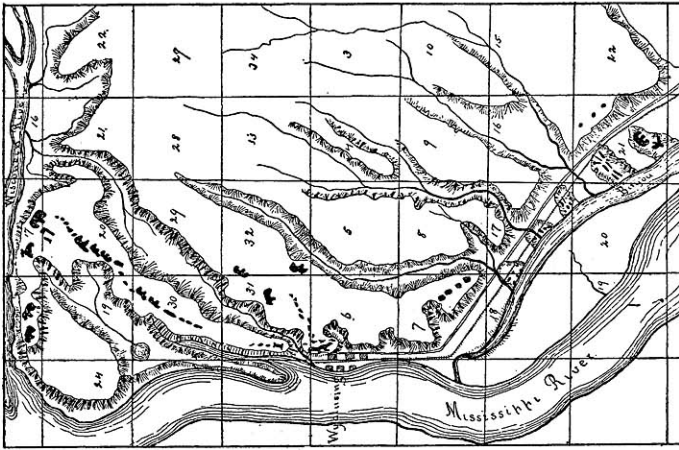
figures. One with a large body and a snout (Fig. 3) extending from it to a great length, curved somewhat like the horns of the mastodon. The other with a body slimmer and not so large, but with a long neck protruding above the body. Still no man of candor would undertake to build up a theory on so shadowy a foundation as this, for we have only to reverse the figure to make it represent a gigantic raccoon instead of an elephant, and the theory is upset. In reference to the different groups of mounds, which were found in the swails, we should say that they belonged to the same age as the so-called elephant effigy, and yet there was a fresh look to them, as if they were of a comparatively recent date. It would hardly seem possible for mounds to be preserved in the sandy soil, during the many centuries which have elapsed since the mastodon became extinct, and the theory that they were built at the time of the mastodon seems untenable. The evidence that they belonged to the same time and belonged to the same people, is that they were situated in the same kind of swails and were arranged in the same order, and at the same time were near the group in which the effigy is found. The probabilities then are against this effigy being an elephant, and the figure is given only to show how easily one may be mistaken.



Fig. 3.

The examination of the effigies and mounds on the bluffs followed that of the mounds on the bottom lands. It should be said that the bluffs, in this region, are very precipitous, and are broken into narrow and crooked ridges, on either side of which the water courses through deep gorges, down to the streams and water-spouts, until it makes its way to the bayou and to the river. The only way to reach the summit is to climb the precipitous face of the cliff, or to follow up the narrow and crooked valley of the stream to the plateau above, and then retrace one's steps out on the level to the edge of the bluffs. When one reaches the summit from either direction he is pretty sure to find mounds on the ridge. They are hidden from view until he reaches the hill-top, but they run in long lines from the edge of the cliff back to the plateau at the head of the gorges. A perfect net-work of these long mounds, round mounds, and effigies, was discovered, nearly every ridge having its own line, but some of the ridges having lines that were connected. They seem to be the most numerous on the bluffs which intervene between the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, and yet we understand that others are to be seen on the bluffs immediately overlooking the so-called elephant effigy. The lines of mounds extend to great distances, some of them three or four miles in length, and it was not difficult to imagine them to be sort of elevated roadways con-

necting lookout stations, on which warriors might watch the enemy coming down the Wisconsin river, or up the Mississippi river, and so notify the people residing in the village of the danger that threatened them. At least the lines of long mounds and round mounds seem to follow along the ridges which intervene between the two rivers, as if the object was to connect the valleys by lookout stations and elevated roadways. The view from the edge of the high bluffs is always extensive and commands the bottom lands below. There are, however, lines which extend from the face of the bluffs back to the prairies and open plateau in the interior, and an explanation of these would be that they were elevated ways on which hunters might run while watching the game that should be driven from the plateau down the gorges to the bottom land below.



Map 1.

The explanation, however, is not the purpose of the survey, but merely the statement of the facts. The long lines of mounds on the bluffs, all seem to have effigies, and the object was to ascertain what kind of effigies they were. The lines which were followed out were more or less directly connected with the group in which the elephant effigy was situated, at least they were on the bluffs which overlooked the same terrace and we understood some of them were on the edge of the same gorge through which the water would make its way, while passing through the swail where the effigy mound is seen. The elephant effigy forms the southernmost limit; but the northern limit of the long mounds and effigies upon the bluffs is seven or eight miles distant, on the Wisconsin river. The groups on the bottom lands and on the bluffs adjoining, seem to form connecting links, so that if one were to study one group, he needed to study all. There are three or four lines of effigies on the bluffs and three or four groups of parallel mounds on the bottom lands. One object was to see if there was any connection between the different parts of this system. Another object was to

examine the different effigies on the bluffs and compare them with those on the bottom lands and ascertain the character of both. A third object was to ascertain whether there was any effigy on the bluffs which in any way had resemblance to the so-called elephant effigy on the bottom lands. With these three questions in mind, the exploration was undertaken. It was not an easy thing to do, as the gorges were long and the bluffs were steep, but it was accomplished by the aid of a guide who knew the location of all the groups. We take up the groups or lines of mounds on the bluffs in their order, and call attention to the map of these different mounds as well as the topography of the country in which they were found. We give the names of the people who owned the land, and call the groups by the name of the place. (1) The group on the Kendall place. This is composed of a series of long mounds and effigies which run from the edge of the bluff, overlooking the village of Wyalusing, out across land belonging to Mr. Glenn, Sec. 31, to land belonging to Mr. Kendall, on Sec. 32. This group or line of mounds overlooked the gorges on either side, and extended out to the level plateau at the head of the gorges. The line was composed mainly of long mounds, but the effigies were situated at either end of the line, the effigy of a squirrel being at the west end of the line on the edge of the bluff, and three effigies at the east end of the line; a moose, wild cat, and bear. The squirrel was a very unique and interesting effigy, representing the animal as in the attitude of running; the wild-cat was of the ordinary shape, but the moose was the most interesting of all. It was situated on the edge of the bluff overlooking a deep gorge, south of it, and commanding a view of other effigies on the other side of the gorge. (See map 1, the works in Grant Co., also Figs. 4 and 5.) The attitude of the moose was very natural.

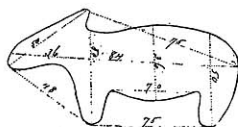


Fig. 4.

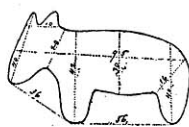


Fig. 5.

We call attention to the different effigies found in these groups, as the answers to questions asked will be found in them. It will be noticed that there are no elephant effigies in any of the groups. The effigies as discovered are as follows: (1) The squirrel on the bluff overlooking Wyalusing, map 2, Section 31. (2) The moose, Fig. 4, situated at the head of the gorge on the Kendall place, Section 32. (3 and 4) The bear and the wild-cat situated in the same group. (5) Raccoon on the Darby place, Fig. 5, Section 31. (6) The buffaloes on the Glenn place, Section 30. (7 and 8) A group of bear and three deer on the Locke place, Section 17. See Fig. 6. (9) Two buffaloes on Section 18, Figs. 7 and 10. A group of turtles on the Scnee place, Section 22. These were just such effigies as are common throughout

the state, though the attitude of the squirrel and buffalo and stag or deer were quite unique and interesting. They represent the animals which formerly abounded here. We cannot resist the impression that they represented the animals which were hunted and for which the mounds were erected as observatories. They possibly may have been the "dream gods" or "dream totems," or they may have been "game gods" or "game totems," both signifying the same thing to the superstitious hunters. There was nothing which had any resemblance to the elephant or could convey the idea that the elephant or mastodon was hunted or even known by this people.

The locality which was next examined was north of the Wisconsin river, in Crawford county. This is a region which has been explored by the assistants of the Ethnological Bureau, and we need not dwell upon it in detail. It will be sufficient to say that an interesting discovery was the result of the exploration by the writer. It was found to be the residence of a clan, the swallow being the totem of the clan. We speak of this because it is important, as throwing light on the so-called elephant effigy. The point in mind is this: The swallow which was everywhere discoverable in all the groups visited in Crawford county, shows that this was a totem of this region; and the probability is that the buffalo, which is the most num-

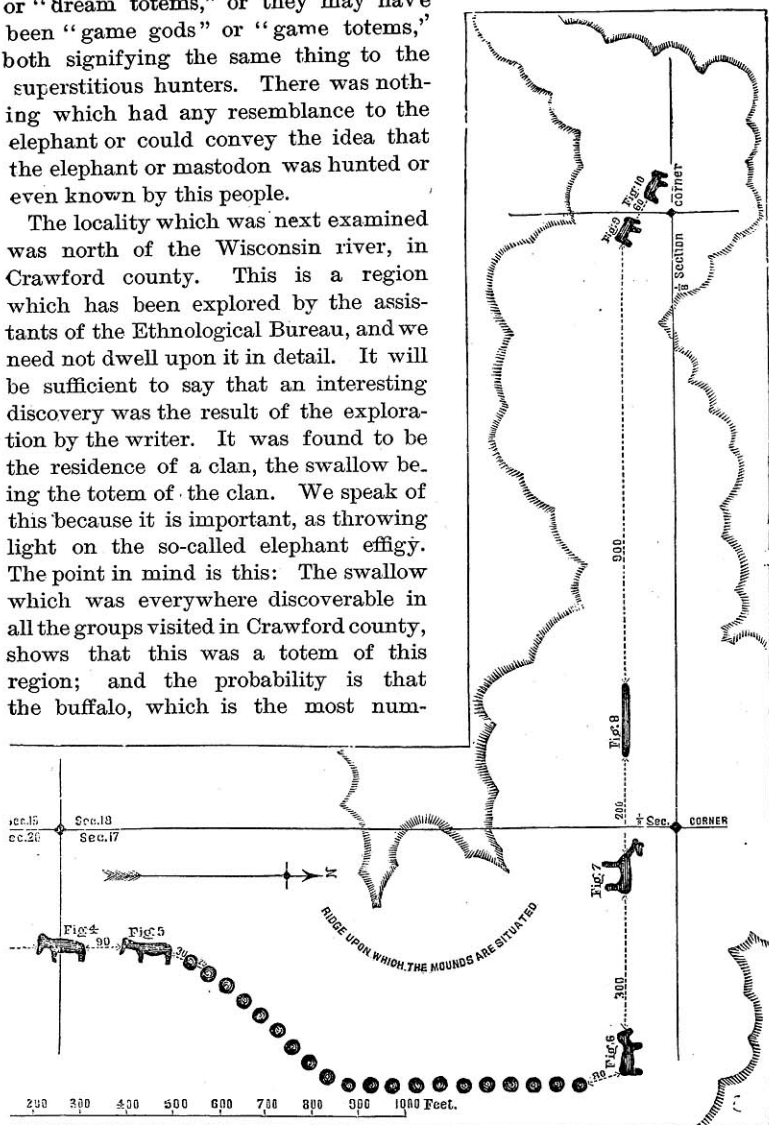


Fig. 6.

erous and prominent effigy in Grant county, was the totem of that region. If this is so, then we have an additional reason to believe that the so-called elephant effigy was nothing more nor less than a buffalo, and represented the totem of the region. We have this to contend with, however,—it was maintained by Dr. J. W. Phene, that he discovered in Campbell coolie, three miles north of Prairie du Chien, the effigy of a camel, and that the camel and elephant were associated in the mound-builders' art. The search was in part for this camel effigy, and in part to ascertain whether the theory of game drives, dream gods, and clan totems, could be carried out by the facts. The result was that the clan totem was ascertained and the theory of the game drive was rendered even more probable.

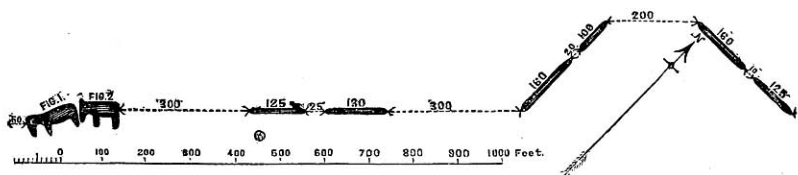
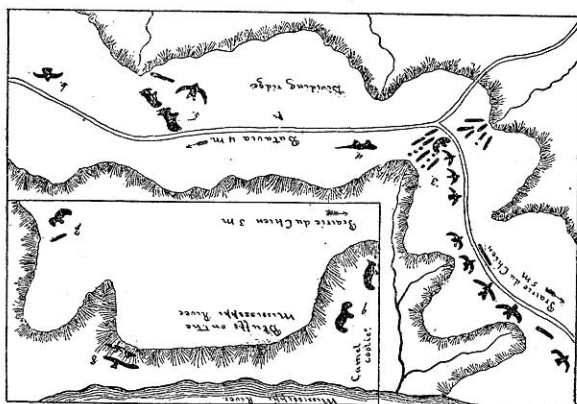


Fig. 7.

We shall illustrate the points. There are seven or eight groups on the bluffs adjoining Prairie du Chien extending along the road from Prairie du Chien to Batavia. In all these groups the swallow is most prominent. In one group, which was composed in part of long mounds, round mounds and effigies, the swallow was associated with the buffalo. (Map No. 2). In another group it is associated with two effigies of bears. (Map 2, No. 5. In a third, situated near the village of Batavia, it is isolated, and yet other effigies



Map 2.

may have been at one time near it. The groups were all situated on a ridge, but at points where the ridge was the narrowest, and where the impression was that the different kinds of game made their way across the ridge from the Mississippi river to the Kickapoo. In passing down to the val-

ley of the Mississippi other effigies were discovered. Two wolves on the side of the bluff, five miles north of Prairie du Chien (Map 2, No. 9), on the Brush place, and two effigies nearly obliterated, on the Dousman place.

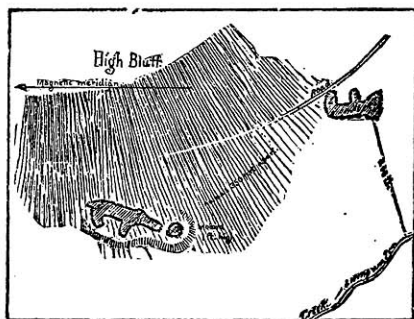


Fig. 8.

One of these we took to be the effigy of the camel, concerning which Dr. Phene and Mr. L. H. Lewis, had spoken, but we could discover no resemblance to that animal. The hasty exploration of all these groups was made in company with Dr. Cyrus Thomas, of the Ethnological Bureau; Washington, D. C., and two of his assistants. Their attention was called to the location of the groups and the theory of the game drives seemed to commend itself as a good explanation of the reasons for their erection. On the way back the party passed a group of large conical mounds, situated on the bottom lands, near the Courliss Bayou. Dr. Cyrus Thomas advanced a theory in reference to these, which seemed very plausible. It was that the mounds were made large and flat so that they could be places of refuge in times of high water. These mounds were arranged in a large circle enclosing an area of about twenty or thirty acres. The impression made upon the writer was, that it was a village site, possibly the site of the village of the very people whose game drives had been discovered upon the hill-tops. The gorges and roadways from the bottom lands to the bluffs and the summit of the ridges, seemed to concentrate near this point. Other groups of large mounds, were, however, visited subsequently, and one of them was found to have an effigy near it. It is probable that several villages existed on this prairie at different times. Which one belonged to the effigy-builders is uncertain.

The discovery of the clan totem was subsequent to this. At a point, three miles south of Prairie du Chien, there is an effigy of a swallow (Fig. 9) situated on the edge of the bluff and overlooking the Wisconsin river. The swallow has its wings spread, but the peculiarity of the effigy is that where the wings are spread to the widest fan, the bluff itself assumes the shape of the wing. Where the body is, the ridge is sharp and narrow, so sharp and narrow that the head and tail of the bird are built out from the sides of the ridge, making it seem as if the body were dropped down below the wings.

It was a singular freak for the people to have erected the effigy in such a place! but no doubt the shape of the bluff or rocky spur suggested the effigy. The clan totem found its embedment in the rock, or at least it was so imagined to be by the builders.

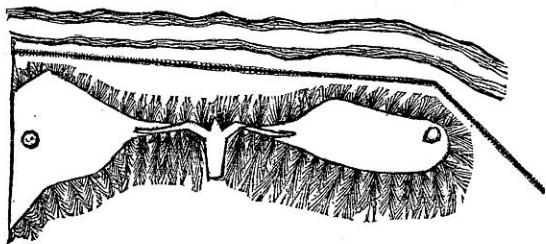


Fig. 9.

Confirmatory of this theory of the clan totem was a discovery made a few days after on the Kickapoo river. At the mouth of this river near the village of Wazeka, there is a group of long mounds and effigies, one of them the effigy of a weasel. Five miles north of Wazeka two other effigies were discovered, both of them swallows. One of these was situated on the top of a very high hill, which overlooked the valley of the Kickapoo and which commanded a view of nearly all of the groups which were previously visited, especially those on the summit of the ridges near the village of Batavia or Eastman. It was a lone swallow and seemed to mark the border line of the swallow clan. The other effigy was situated in a very retired and lonely spot, down near the water's edge at a bend of the river and hidden away among the surrounding hills. This also was a lone bird. Its wings stretched from bank to bank across the bend of the river, and it covered the bottom-land. The impression formed from these two effigies was that the Kickapoo river was occupied by the swallow clan.

In all these groups which were situated north of the Wisconsin river there were no effigies which resembled in any way an elephant. There were effigies of bear, buffalo, wolves, birds and weasels, but the most numerous and common was this effigy of the swallow. This completes the report of the survey of the effigies in the vicinity of the so-called elephant mound of Grant county. There were, however, about this time various reports published concerning the discovery of elephant effigies in other parts of Wisconsin, and the writer took pains to visit these localities.

The following facts are presented as supplementary to this description of the survey. The place which was visited by the writer to ascertain the facts about a rumored elephant effigy was in Green Lake county, not far from the city of Ripon. It should be said the discussion about elephant pipes which was conducted between Mr. Chas. E. Putnam, Esq., President of the Davenport Academy of Science, and Mr. Henry W. Henshaw, of the Ethnological Bureau, during the year 1885, gave additional interest to the

survey of the effigy mounds and led many of the archæologists, to notice every report of the discovery of new elephant effigies. When, therefore, Mr. Theodore F. Wise, who was at the time publishing a monthly paper, called "*The Young Mineralogist and Antiquarian*," made the announcement that he had discovered an elephant effigy in the vicinity of Green Lake county, it seemed desirable to the writer that the place should be visited and the facts about the effigy be ascertained. The extension of the survey and a report of it will therefore be excusable. The trip resulted in some very interesting discoveries, but in the refutation of everything which was announced by Mr. Wise in reference to the effigy. The neighborhood of Green Lake is very interesting on account of the number and variety of its effigies. Here on the west side of the lake, situated on the summit of the bluffs and overlooking the water, the writer discovered many beautiful effigies a large majority of them being in the shape of squirrels. The squirrels were in every conceivable attitude, some of them of large size.

On the south end of the lake a group was discovered which contained the effigies of two bears and a deer in the attitude of running. There were also various groups of effigies on the southeast side of the lake. Some of these were birds, some panthers and a few turtles, but many of them were squirrels. (See Fig. 10.) The impression formed by the survey was that here was a clan residence, and that the reason for the erecting of these effigies on the various bluffs, was because the totem of the clan was that of the squirrel. The trip was extended to the shores of Lake Puckaway. Here on the south side of the lake, there are many mounds and effigies. One long row of mounds was followed for the distance of three miles; the row was situated on the edge of the bluff overlooking the lake, and consisted of long mounds, round mounds and various effigies, among which were the bear, and a fox represented as running with his head turned around and looking behind him, a very interesting effigy. A number of groups were discovered also upon the north side of the lake, one of them near the Chicago club-house. This was also in the shape of a squirrel, but a squirrel in a peculiar attitude. There were no effigies resembling the elephant, anywhere on either of the lakes. A gentleman who attended the writer in his explorations at Lake Puckaway (Mr. A. Aldrich, of Green Lake) gave information in reference to the so-called elephant effigy, and volunteered to be a guide to the spot. Accordingly, on the return trip, we went in search of the effigy, and in a field which had been plowed for many years, discovered a number of round mounds, and one that looked as if it might have been an effigy at one time, but it was so far obliterated that no shape whatever could be made out. This was at Dautz Tavern, half way between Green Lake and Lake Puckaway. Mr. Aldrich informed the writer that he was with Mr. Theodore S. Wise when he examined this mound, and that at that time it was in the same condition that it was when we visited it. The resemblance to an elephant was wrought out of the imagination of Mr. Wise, but had no existence. In fact it was im-

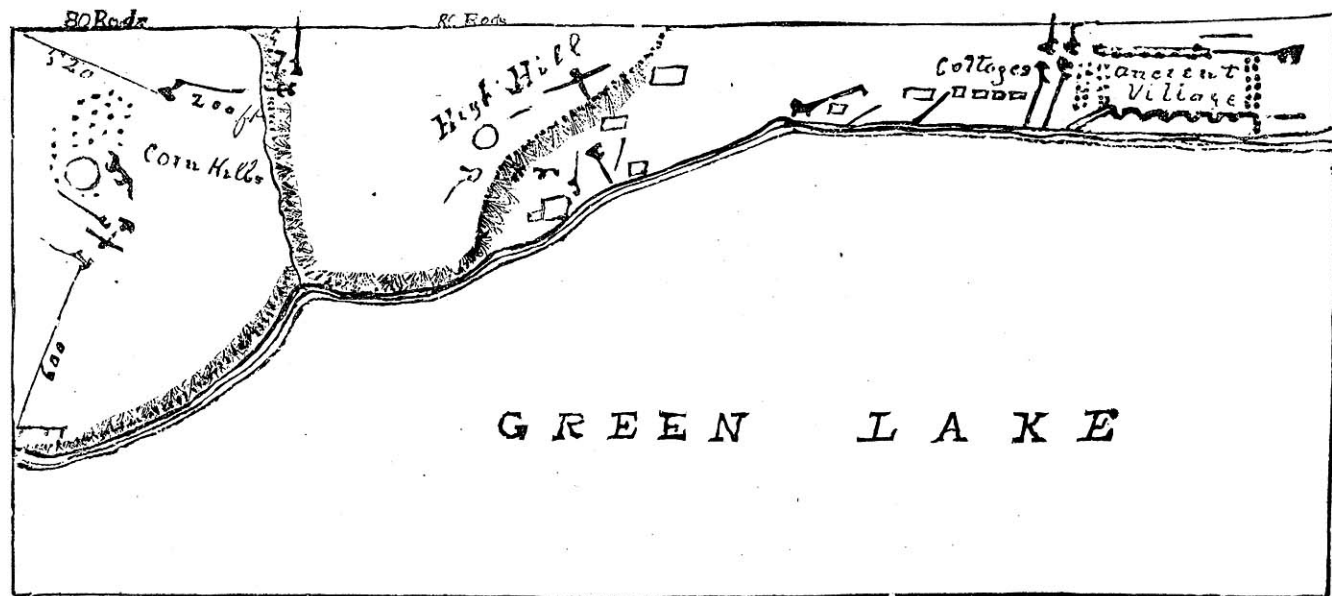


Fig. 10.

possible to trace a single outline that would give the idea that it was an elephant effigy. This finished the search, for it was evident that the effect of the discussion was to create these imaginary figures, and it did not seem worth while to follow up uncertainties. The theory in reference to the clan emblem was confirmed, and the impression was made all the stronger that the effigies of Wisconsin were imitations of the animals which were once common in the region, and that no extinct animal is to be found represented by them.

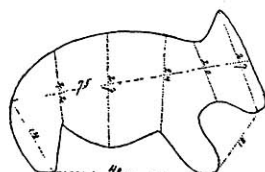


Fig. 11.

A few words more in regard to the effigies, which might be easily mistaken for the elephant. There are two effigies at Merrill Spring, near Madison (see Fig. 11), which have been by some supposed to represent elephants. They are probably effigies of buffalo. They are placed around a large conical burial mound, or lookout station, in the midst of a group which was designed to guard the camping place at the spring. There is also an effigy on Peck's place near the city of Beloit (see Fig. 12),

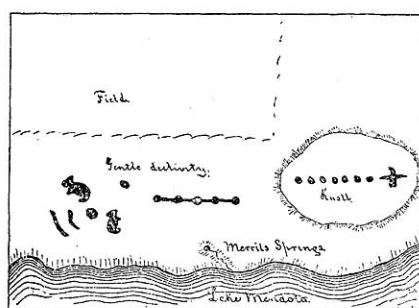


Fig. 12.

which at first sight resembles an elephant. It has the sloping rump and large, heavy body of the elephant, but lacks the proboscis. There is a projection above the head which is probably designed to represent horns. This is in the midst of a buffalo game drive, and represents the dream god, or game god, or fetish, of the hunters. There was formerly a large effigy on the Downe place, east of Beaver Dam. It is nearly obliterated now, but formerly represented some four-footed animal, such as bear, buffalo or moose. It might have been mistaken for an elephant. There is a mound which Mr. T. H. Lewis discovered on the bluffs on the west side of

the Mississippi river, opposite Prairie du Chien, which he says "resembles an elephant." It is probably a buffalo. Other mounds might be mentioned, and among them the group which was one of the earliest discovered in the state, namely, the group described by Mr. S. Taylor, and situated near Blue Mound. (See Figs. 13 and 14). One of these resembles the figure which

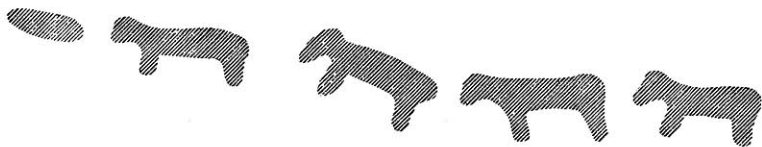


Fig. 13.

we have drawn out of the so called elephant effigy, and we therefore give it as a specimen. Our conclusion after all this exploration is that there are no

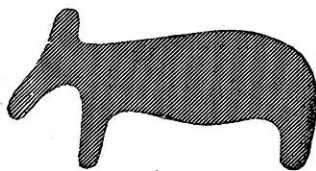


Fig. 14.

elephant effigies in the state, and that the so-called elephant mound was designed to represent either the bear, the wild-cat, the buffalo, or the moose, every one of which contains the same elements of a heavy body, a large head and a protruding snout, and any one of which might be made to represent an elephant if we would cut off certain parts of the head, and add to other parts.