

of the former is not known, but it appears to have been as early as the year 1600. From a tradition of the Dakota, the Winnebago preceded them into Wisconsin, where they remained undisturbed for several centuries. The period of their occupancy was probably not to exceed 500 years before the dawn of history, which would allow them ample time to construct all the earthworks found here.

THE WINNEBAGO THE AUTHORS OF WISCONSIN'S EFFIGY MOUNDS AND ASSOCIATED EARTHWORKS.

That the tribes of the great Siouan family of Indians, wherever found, have been builders of conical mounds and other earthworks, within historic times, is well established. As has already been noted, Lapham early hinted that to some of the tribes of this stock future archaeologists must turn for information tending to establish the authorship of our prehistoric monuments.

The Winnebago are admitted to be one of the oldest branches of Siouan stock. Miss Alice Fletcher informs us that:

"Not only is this antiquity shown by the language, but by the finding of many of the religious ceremonies of different tribes common to the Winnebago, and Winnebago words discovered in the religious ritual of other tribes."—Proc. A. A. A. S., 1883.

They call themselves Ho-tcan-ga-ra, "First of parent speech," and are occasionally referred to by some of the other closely related tribes as "grandfathers."

Their traditional migration brought them to Wisconsin in advance of any other tribe either Siouan or Algonquin, and here they established themselves. There is a lack of evidence that the Chippewa and other tribes of the latter stock, whose arrival in Wisconsin is so recent as to be almost a matter of history, were ever anywhere particularly, a mound building people.

That the Winnebago were the authors of the effigy mounds is a belief that appears to be quite well substantiated by the evidence thus far obtained, and is one that is supported by many of the most prominent archaeologists and historians of America. A few, however, do not hesitate to cast a doubt on the hypothesis, without being able to suggest a better one.