

Legend of the Red Banks

By Charles D. Robinson

Upon a high bank, on the eastern shore of Green Bay about twelve miles north of the town, is an interesting earth-work, bearing a singular resemblance to military defences of modern times. Its walls, at one time, must have been some seven feet in height, or thereabouts, having a ditch or moat on the outside, and provided on its three exposed sides with regular bastions. Its fourth side fronts on a precipice of perhaps one hundred feet in height, whose base is washed by the waters of Green Bay; and leading down this steep bank impassable at any other immediate point, is what seems to have once been a protected passage of steps cut into the clay, and perhaps covered with boughs of trees. This was the communication from the fort to the water; and standing here now, it needs but little fancy to see those grim warriors of the olden time filing down their covered way, with less of the pomp, and more of the nerve of the mailed knights of feudal days, issuing from their rock-bound castles.

In, or near, the centre, are two parallel walls, about twenty-five feet long, which were probably united at the ends, as there is some appearance of it now. It is very difficult to imagine the use of this part of the structure, unless it was to protect valuables, or such inmates of the fort as were incapable of aiding in its defence. Had the place been constructed in these days, it would have made a magazine of the most approved kind. A few rods to the north, outside the walls, and on the very brink of the pre-