

cipice, is what was once, apparently, a look-out—a high mound of earth, a few feet high, now half carried off by the wearing away of the cliff. To the southward and eastward of the fort, occupying some hundreds of acres, were the planting grounds of the people who inhabited the place. Large trees now over-grow the ground, yet the furrows are as distinctly marked as if made but last year, and are surprisingly regular. The whole work is admirably placed, and would do credit to the forethought and judgment so necessary in correct military positions of modern times.

This is the only ancient earth-work, it is believed, which possesses an undoubted history or tradition, and that is but the history of its fall. When and by whom it was built, there is no story—nothing but the persistent declarations of the Indians of the vicinity that it was the work of red men long, long ago. The tradition which follows, is related by O-kee-wah, or *The Sea*, an Indian woman now living near the Red River, on the eastern shore of Green Bay, and who, beyond doubt, is upwards of one hundred years of age. She sat over a wigwam fire, only a few nights ago, and related this story, while the light of other days faintly illumined her wrinkled face as she marked out in the ashes the plan of the campaign, and as she told of the long days of desperate fighting, in which her ancestors were engaged, her withered arms seemed nerved with the strength of youth, like the old soldier, who

—“Shouldered his crutch,  
And fought his battles o’er again.”

“It was long ago,” said O-kee-wah\*—“I was so high”—placing her hand about three feet from the ground, “when my grandfather told me the story. The Sauks and the Outagamies lived in the old fort at the Red Banks. They had lived there a long time, and had their planting ground there, and ruled the whole

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\*The tradition is rendered into English with the strictest possible adherence to O-kee-wah’s relation, though, of course, without attempting to follow the Indian idioms. She told it in her own tongue, and it was translated by a faithful interpreter.