

On the margins of these two rivers, on the beach lands and the highest peaks of the bluffs, these tumuli are very numerous, and can often be seen from the boats passing on the river. Indeed there is no point yet discovered, of any great extent, in the country, which is not honored, to a greater or less extent, with these marks of ancient settlements, corresponding with the descriptions above given, and varying in form and size; some being not over ten feet on the base and two feet high, circular in form, while others, as above stated, have a base of two hundred feet, and twenty feet elevation, and others are in forms of animals which generally are one hundred feet long. And it is believed that at least one thousand of them can be found in the county, which is, however, geographically large. But in no case that has come to my knowledge, in thirteen years residence, have bones, or other matter than earth, been found in them, except with evidence of recent Indian interment.

One rather singular circumstance is observable in the construction of some of the mounds on Prairie du Chien, and especially those near the fine dwelling of B. W. Brisbois, Esq. They stand on the margin of the Mississippi, on the extreme west of the Prairie, and about one and a half miles from the Bluffs. The soil on the prairie is river sand intermixed with vegetable mould. But these tumuli are of a different soil, a loam, the like of which has not yet been discovered within several miles of its present location; so that, to appearance, the earth of which these mounds are composed must have been brought from a considerable distance.

It is also a singular feature of all the mounds and fortifications I have examined in the West—and they are quite numerous—that there is no appearance that the earth, of which they are composed, was dug up from the side of them, or even near by them. The surface of the surrounding soil generally comes up to the base of the mound on a smooth level. In some instances the mound stands on a natural elevation, show-