

part of these monuments, were the progenitors of the existing Indian tribes, and that this is rendered probable by the resemblance of the pots and vases in figure, &c., to those now found in old Indian villages, and to those still made by the women of the Mandan and other tribes. He also supposes there was a gradual transition in the form of the mounds. They are found in all figures, from the full circle, through the oval and elongated mounds, to the oblong and long ridges. He considers the oldest to embrace those formed in the figures of animals, and the great works at Aztalan; that the next in the order of time were conical mounds erected for sepulchral uses—these coming down to a recent period. Indications of garden beds have been found in connection with some of the mounds, which are planted in geometrical figures or in right lines. These he places later. The most recent are those bearing marks of plantations by modern Indians, with no observance of regularity or order. This theory supposes a singular and sad degeneracy in the latter race of the Red Men. It is worthy of notice, that the animal-shaped mounds are chiefly confined to the territory embraced in the State of Wisconsin. A few have been referred to as in Ohio.

It is greatly to be desired that the public care should be bestowed on the preservation of the few monuments left us as the sole legacy from the ancient occupants of the West. Such there are in our own State—a few mementos—all we have or can have of their history. It is unfortunate for Illinois, that, among the institutions of that State, she cannot yet number a Historical Society, to garner up, and elucidate the materials of her history. Wisconsin has set us an honorable example of enlightened and patriotic interest in this department of Science, well worthy of our imitation.*

* A few public spirited men of Chicago have, since this paper was written, formed the *Chicago Historical Society*, and have already made a noble commencement; and the Historical Society at Alton has been resuscitated under favorable auspices. These evidences of increased attention to Western history, with the renewed efforts in the same direction in Michigan, Iowa and Tennessee, are very gratifying, and give promise of fruitful results.