

Aztalan,

As a Modern Township

standing in a more attractive agricultural region than Madison, was settled earlier. One of its surviving citizens reminded me with pride, that it had once lacked only two votes of being made the State capital instead of Madison. In 1848 it had four large hotels, a wagon factory with half a hundred workmen—and its streets were full of freight-wagons, bound either with farm products to Milwaukee, or with merchandise to many an inland point. But railroads one and all, from first to last, have come just near enough to kill it.

Prehistoric Aztalan

is the largest and most elaborate monument of Wisconsin aborigines. Its ruins were first discovered by Timothy Johnson in the fall of 1836. In January following it was explored and described with a drawing in the *Milwaukee Advertiser* by Nathaniel F. Hyer. Another account of it, with cuts, appeared in 1843 in *Silliman's Journal*, New Haven. This was written by Stephen Taylor, then living at Richland Forest, and afterwards at Stevens Point, and who has recently bequeathed a thousand dollars to the State Historical Society.

But the antique remains, unique in Wisconsin and perhaps outside of it, were first accurately surveyed and plotted by Dr. Lapham in 1850. His description and drawings were published in 1855, in the Smithsonian *Contributions to Knowledge*.

The Strange Monument

styled Aztalan by Mr. Hyer—inasmuch as it seemed to him a structure worthy of the Mexican Aztecs, and possibly erected by some kindred race—is situated on the right bank of the Crawfish, the first western tributary of Rock River above Koshkonong. It may be viewed as an intrenched camp on the west bank of the stream, which here flows south, and is about one hundred feet in width.