

home with Indians from the heart of the continent, near Lake Huron, and wandered with them a year where no white man's foot had ever trod.

I am now reminded of the first French pioneers in Wisconsin by just having visited an *earth-work*, which may by possibility have been one of their foot-prints. The remains to which I refer are in Barron County, about one mile southeast of the village of Rice Lake—in township 35, range 11 west, and section 27. They were visited by me on the seventh of October, 1880.

I found a ditch about a foot wide and a little less in depth, inclosing a square plat of ground fifty feet square. At two diagonal corners—namely southwest and northeast—there are projections, indicating the sites of two flanking turrets. Near two sides of the inclosure are small heaps of flat stones, which may mark the spots where fires were made. Digging in the ground at various points, we discovered that it was underlaid everywhere with charcoal dust, at a depth of about three inches. Near the fireplaces we turned up a great quantity of bones. It seemed clear that a palisade had stood in the ditch. A resident in the neighborhood, Mr. James Bracklin, told me that he once dug up a stump of one of the poles or stakes, which was sharpened at the lower end, and that plainly with a white man's ax.

This stockade stands on an eminence, with an outlook on Rice Lake and a lakelet. The locality is called Pocagamah, a Chipewewa word said to signify *Confluence*. There is some underbrush on the site, but no tall trees are near.

On the saddle or isthmus between the lake and lakelet, there is a grading or road-way, which was, as it now is, when the oldest inhabitant came into the region. The embankment is about six hundred feet in length, its width thirty feet at the base, and fifteen at the summit, its height from six to seven feet. Regarding the causeway, I have no opinion, but think the fortification to be of French origin.

Indian works were irregular—this is an exact square. They had no flankers, as may be seen in pictures of them drawn by Champlain. Aztalan I consider a pre-Indian work. But here nothing is plainer than the provision for a flanking fire. Indian defenses were always larger than this is, being intended to protect