

about twenty miles west of the Mississippi, in Iowa. It is taken, as many other of the diagrams in the work of Mr. Conant were, from the book prepared by Mr. Wm. Pidgeon; but as this book is wholly unreliable, we pass by this record. A similar work is described by Mr. Conant, as existing in 1835-40, on the site of the city of St. Louis. The groups at Lake Koshkonong are not so massive nor pretentious as those described by Dr. Conant; but as this triangular emblem is still in existence, we call especial attention to it. It is the only one which we have seen. It consists of two ordinary tapering mounds, each two hundred and fifty feet in length, and varying in height from a few inches to two feet, which formed two sides of a triangle, the third side being composed of two oblong mounds, and a bird effigy. The object of this triangle is unknown. Openings at each corner would preclude the idea of its being used for defense, and we accordingly place it among the composite mounds, as it may have been designed for a tribal sign or emblem.

It is associated with a very large group of effigies, and the mound which we have designated as a banner mound or badge, and hence we conclude that it had a symbolical meaning. It forms one end of the group, while the interesting cluster, consisting of an observatory mound, guarded by the panther upon one side, and by the catfish upon the other, forms the other end of the series.

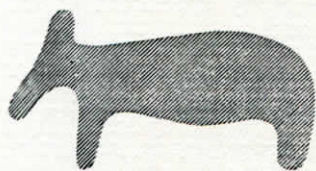


Fig. 24.

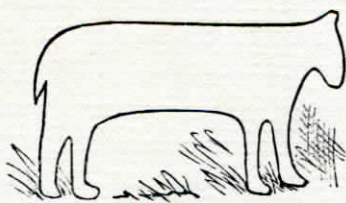


Fig. 25.

All these mounds are located on the high bluff which overlooks the lake to the westward. Situated as they are, on the slope of the bluff, and occupying the line of the shore around the whole length of the point of the land, they form a very conspicuous feature in the landscape. This and the badge are the only symbolical figures among them. The rest are all effigies. See Figs. 24, 25 and 26. Also Plate III.