

tury, and not one of the early settlers ever questioning or doubting it; while no solitary tradition can be cited, nor any fort remains pointed out at any point, within reasonable distance, below the Wisconsin.

The Old Fort not the Work of the Mound-Builders

Mr. Butterfield, in the preceding paper, as well as in his *History of Crawford County*, attempts to account for the old French fort by boldly declaring that it was no French fort at all, but simply the work of the mound-builders. He cites no authority to sustain his opinion, save a palpable misconstruction of Long's *Travels*, and Snyder and VanVechten's *Historical Atlas of Wisconsin*, of which latter work he himself was the principal writer, and doubtless prepared the very statement to which he now refers to strengthen his position.

Col. Isaac Lee, an officer who had seen much service during the War of 1812, unhesitatingly pronounced it, in 1820, a military structure of the French, as did Hon. Lucius Lyon a few years later; and both marked upon their respective maps, a fortress with bastions at each corner, and denominated it "the old French fort." Rev. Dr. Alfred Brunson states, in our Society's fourth volume of *Collections*, that Crawford County, in which Prairie du Chien is situated, was very prolific in remains of the mound-builders, having at least five hundred of those interesting tumuli within its borders, of which a hundred could be found in the towns of Prairie du Chien and Wauzeka alone. The old settlers of Prairie du Chien were familiar with these prehistoric remains—some of which were from ten to twenty feet in height; and neither Dr. Brunson nor any others of the old settlers ever regarded "the old French fort" as ranking in that class of antiquities.

In Squier and Davis's *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*, the opinion is expressed, and cited with approval in Dr. Foster's able work on the *Pre-Historic Races*, that among the mound-builders there seems to have existed a great defensive line, or system of defences, extending from the sources of the Alleghany and Susquehanna,