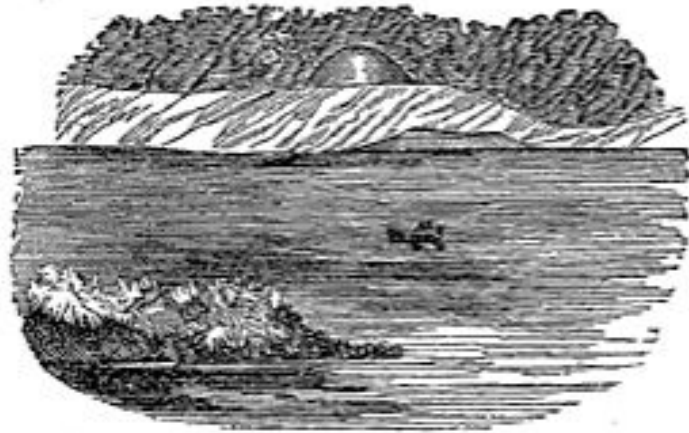


Sacred Prehistoric Sites of the Fox River Valley

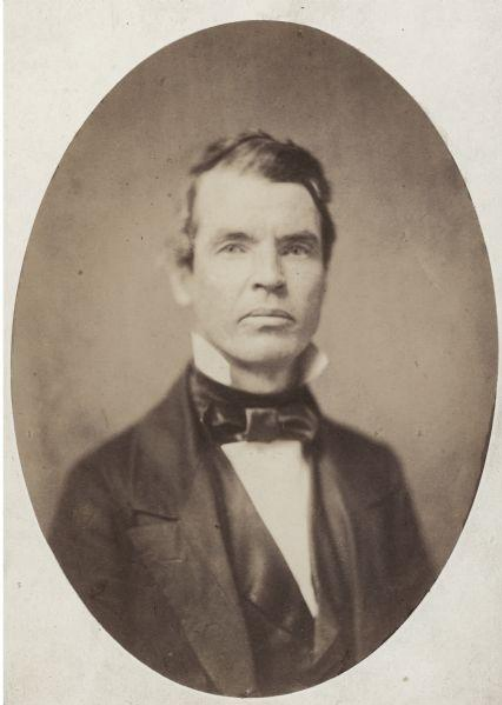
FIG. 25.



Little Butte des Morts, as seen across the Lake. June 14, 1851.

Increase Lapham

This tumulus is about eight feet high, and fifty feet in diameter. It is to be hoped that a monument so conspicuous, and so beautifully situated, may be for ever preserved as a memento of the past. It is a picturesque and striking object in passing along this fine lake, and may have been the cause of serious reflections and high resolves to many a passing savage. It is well calculated to affect not less the bosoms of more enlightened men. **There is neither necessity nor excuse for its destruction; and we cannot but again express the hope that it will be preserved for the benefit of all who may pass along that celebrated stream.**



Little Butte des Morts, as seen across the Lake. June 14, 1851.

1. Wisconsin and the Fox River Valley

2. Maps and Images

3. Springs

4. Earthworks and Burial Mounds

5. Petroforms and Petroglyphs

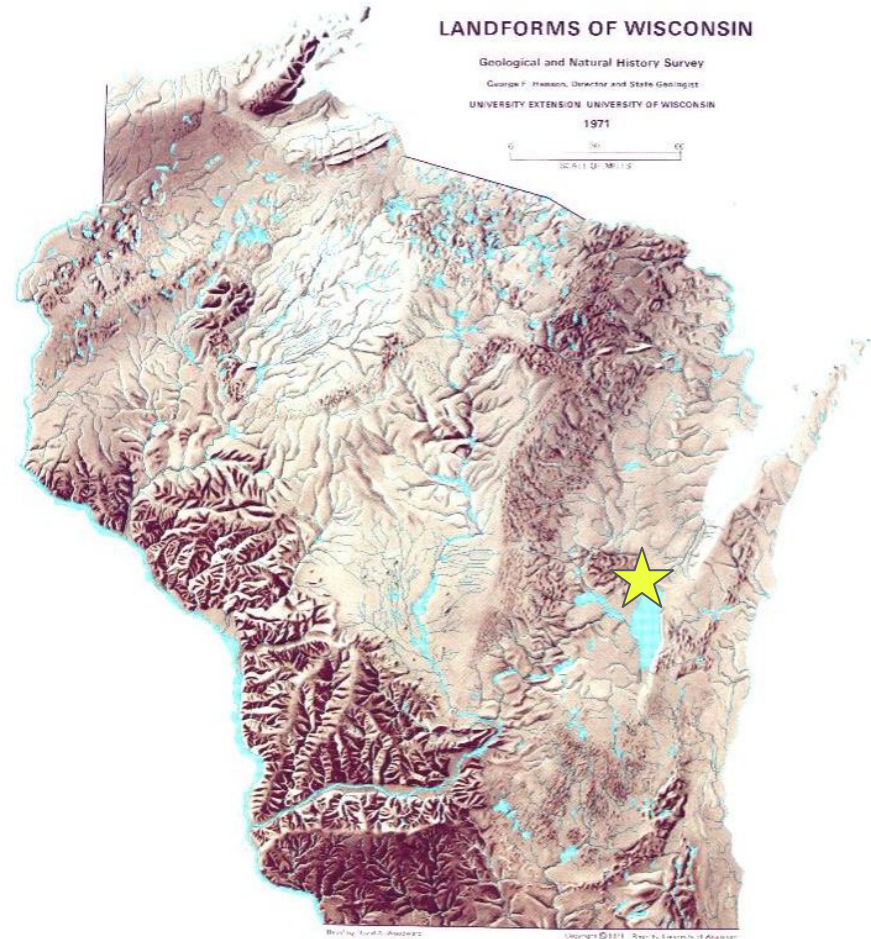
6. Further Discovery and Adventures



You are here: Appleton Wisconsin



The Land

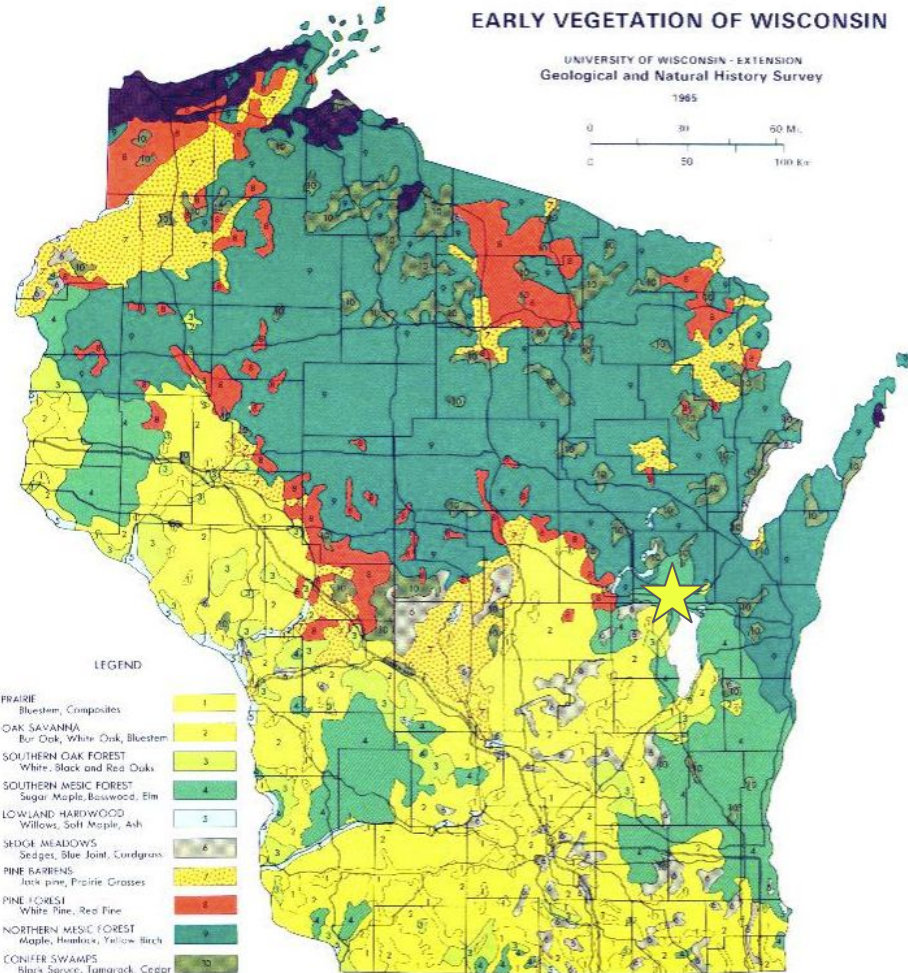
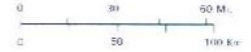


The Trees

EARLY VEGETATION OF WISCONSIN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - EXTENSION
Geological and Natural History Survey

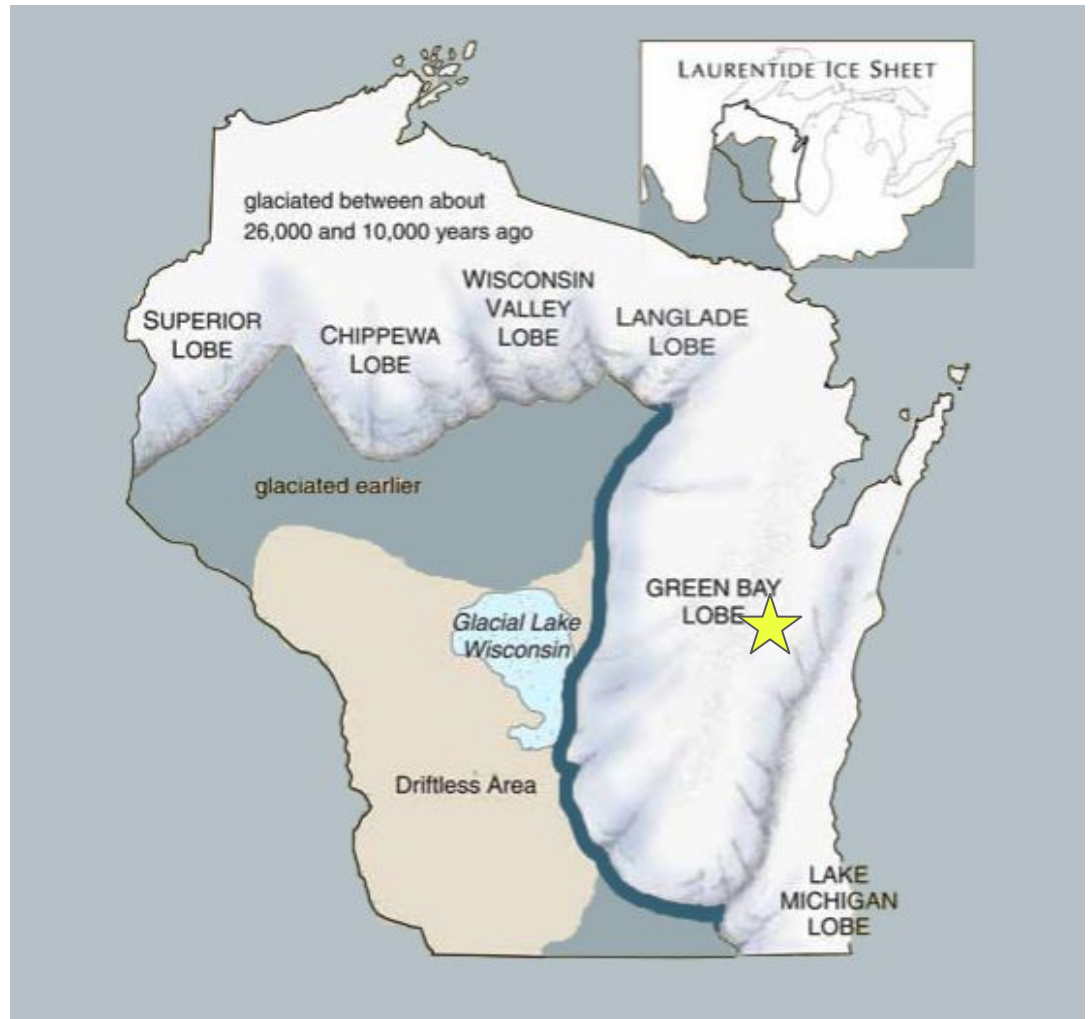
1965



LEGEND

- | | |
|--|----|
| PRAIRIE
Bluestem, Composites | 1 |
| OAK SAVANNA
Bur Oak, White Oak, Bluestem | 2 |
| SOUTHERN OAK FOREST
White, Black and Red Oaks | 3 |
| SOUTHERN MESIC FOREST
Sugar Maple, Boxwood, Elm | 4 |
| LOWLAND HARDWOOD
Willows, Soft Maple, Ash | 5 |
| SHOGE MEADOWS
Sedges, Blue Joint, Cordgrass | 6 |
| PINE BARBENS
Jack pine, Prairie Grasses | 7 |
| PINE FOREST
White Pine, Red Pine | 8 |
| NORTHERN MESIC FOREST
Maple, Hemlock, Yellow Birch | 9 |
| CONIFER SWAMPS
Black Spruce, Tamarack, Cedar | 10 |
| BOREAL FOREST
Balsam Fir, White Spruce | |

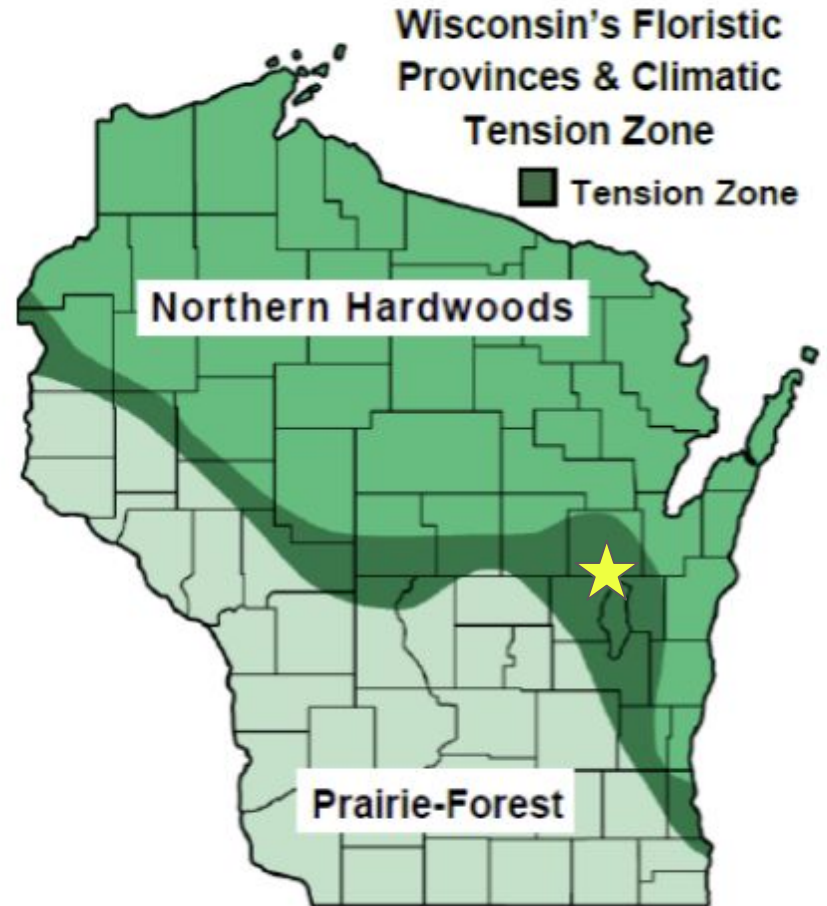
The Glaciers



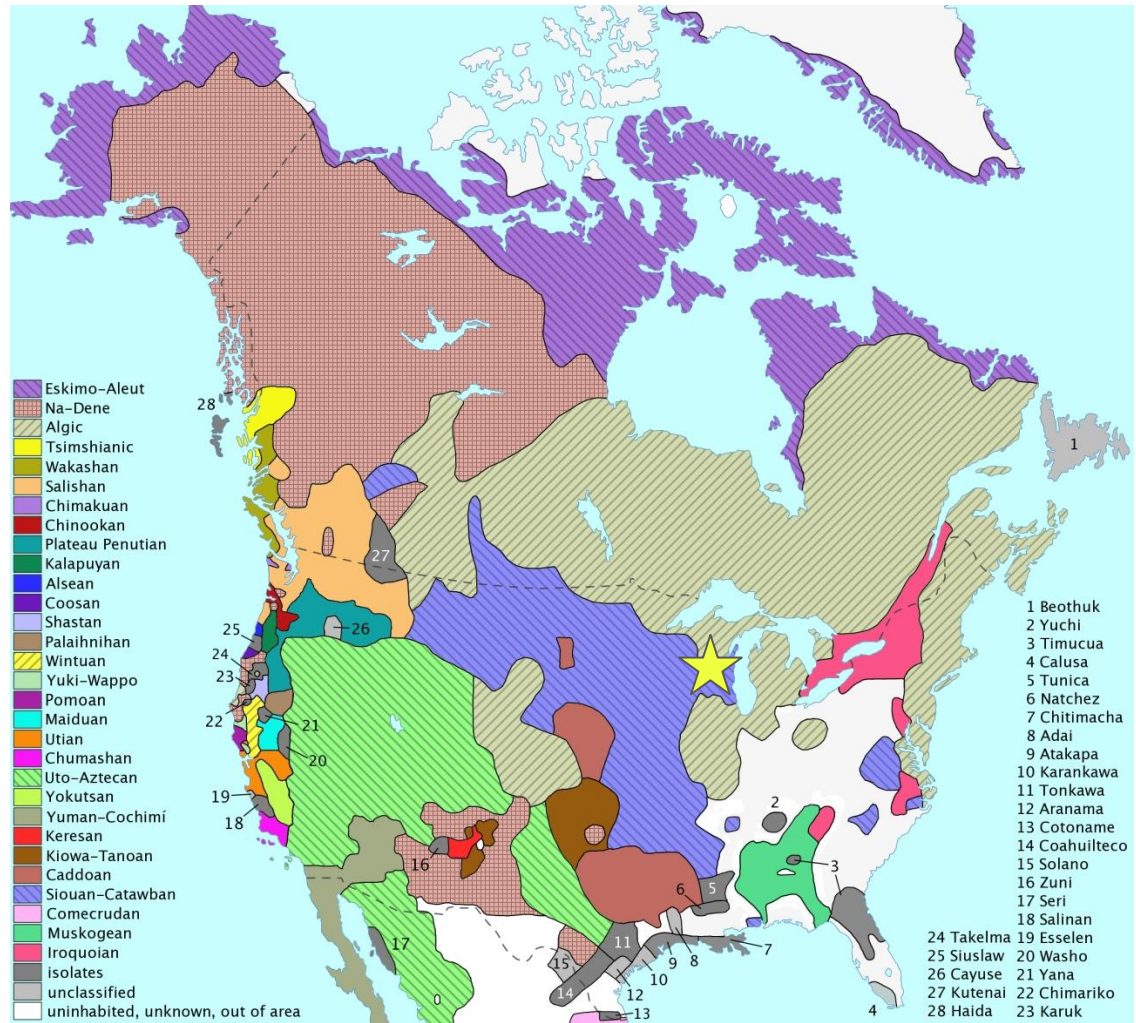
The Glaciers



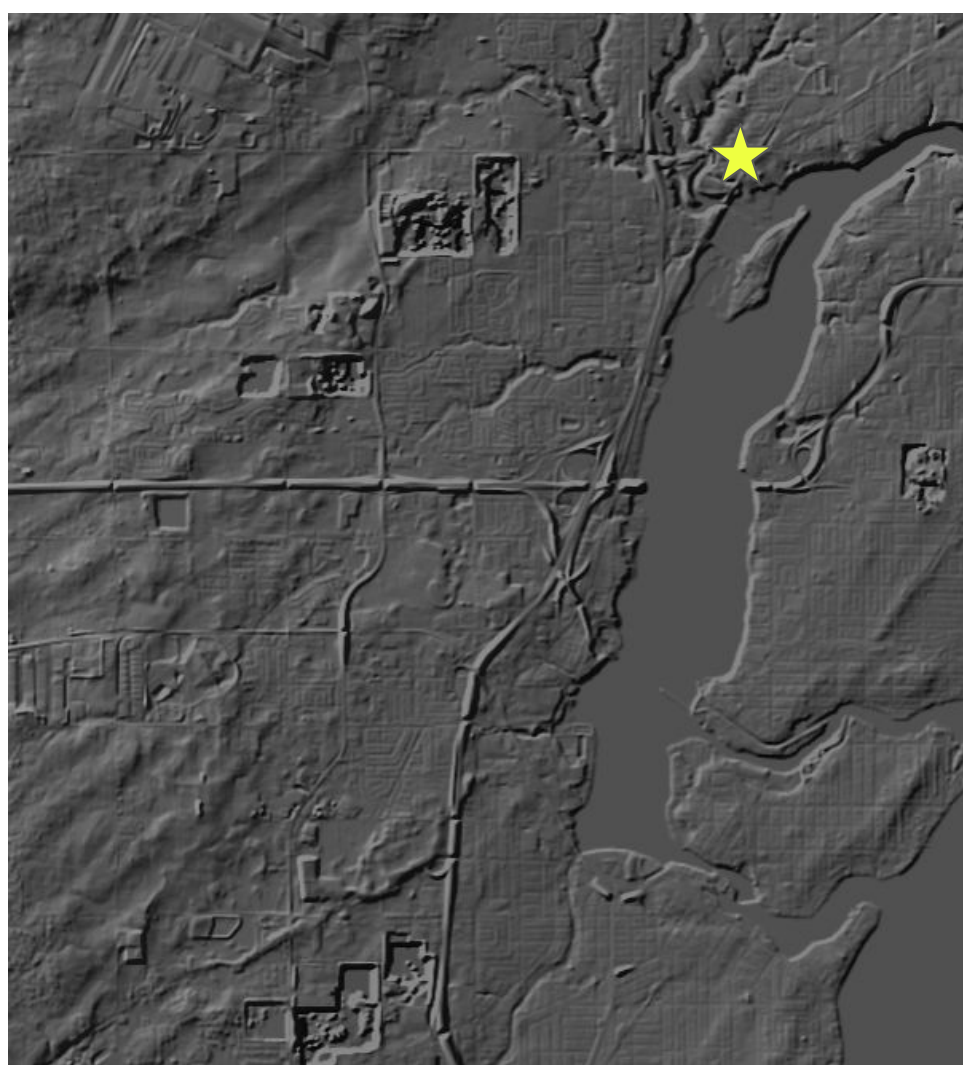
The Tension Zone



The Languages



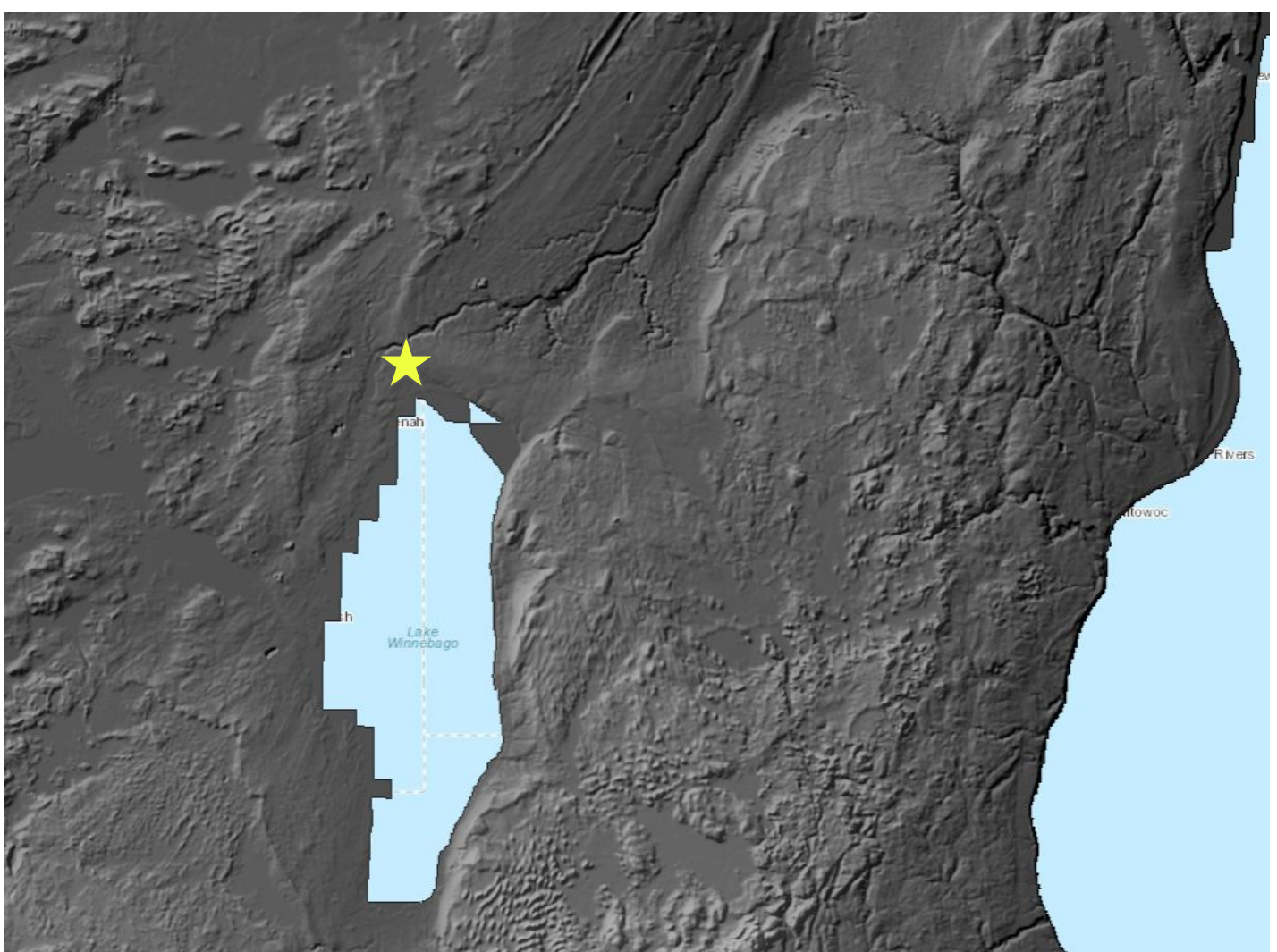
Maps and Images



Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder - 1937



Wisconsin
LiDAR
Hillshade
- 2019



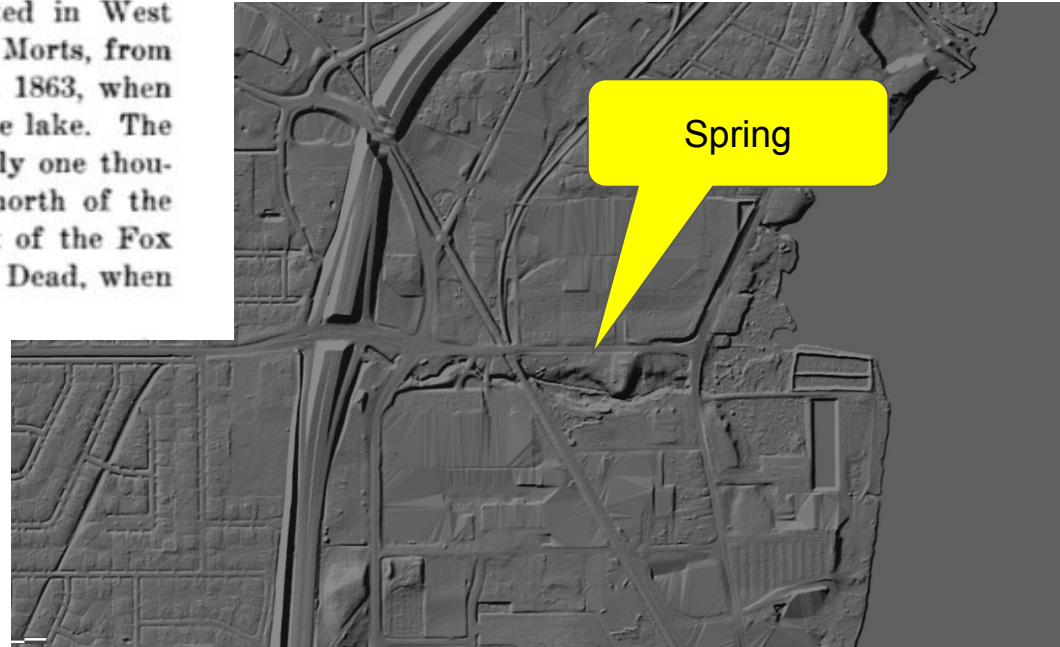
Springs



TELULAH MINERAL SPRINGS, *Appleton, Wis.*, HYDE & HARRIMAN, *Proprietors.*

Springs -Blair's Spring - Neenah

There are a number of never failing springs. The **Blair's spring** in the glen on the old homestead on the lake shore road is quite notable. The old Tomahawk trail along the west bank of the Fox river ran to this spring and passed up onto the ridge or eskar toward the southwest to the ford above Big Butte des Morts, thirteen miles away. The trail can still be traced in two places near Blair's Springs. The celebrated hill of the dead, named by the French Butte des Morts, was located in West Menasha on the high bank of Little Lake Butte des Morts, from which it takes its name. The hill was destroyed in 1863, when the Northwestern railway bridge was built across the lake. The Tomahawk trail passed the site of the hill and nearly one thousand feet of the ancient trail can still be traced north of the site. The Tomahawk trail ran along the west bank of the Fox river from Green Bay to just beyond the Hill of the Dead, when it ran inland to **Blair's Spring**, as mentioned above.



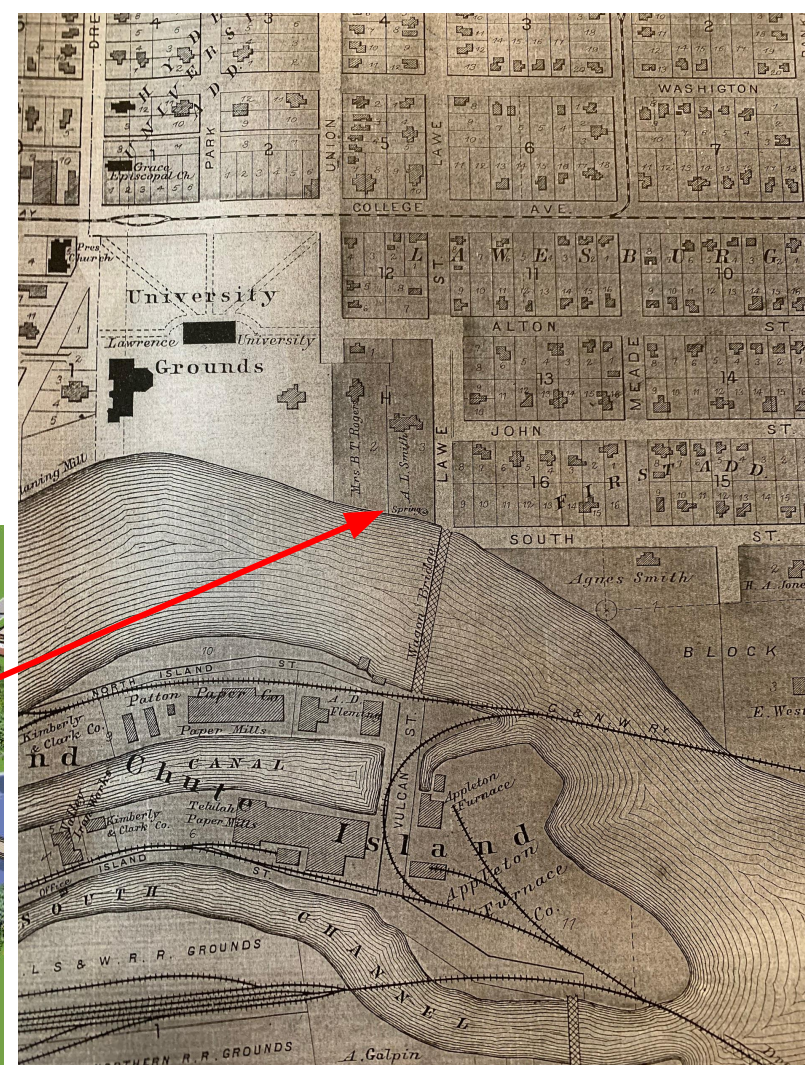
Springs -Telulah Park - Appleton Parks



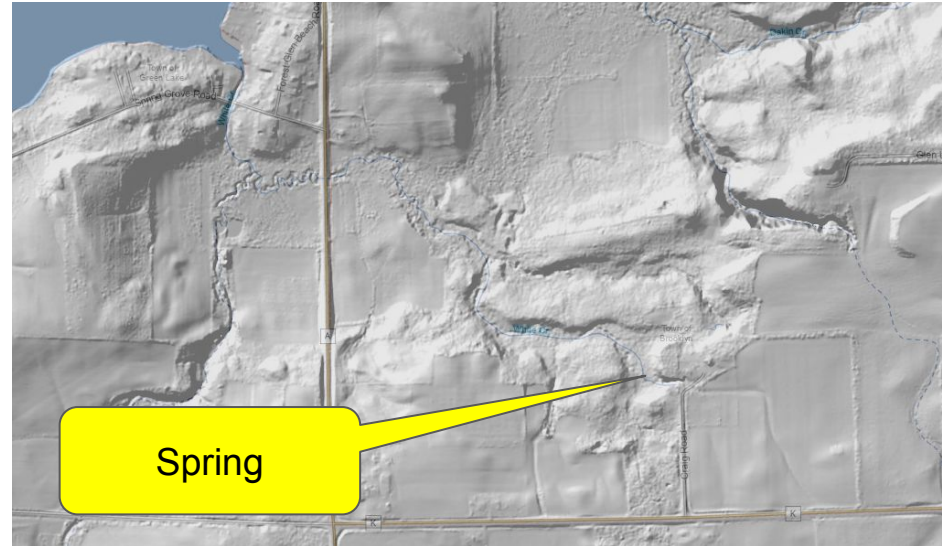
TELULAH MINERAL SPRINGS, *Appleton, Wis.*, HYDE & HARRIMAN, *Proprietors.*

Springs - Lawe Street Hill Appleton

Lawrence University Gardens



Springs - Powell Spring - Green Lake Conservancy



Earthworks & Mounds

Effigy Mound Sites in Wisconsin

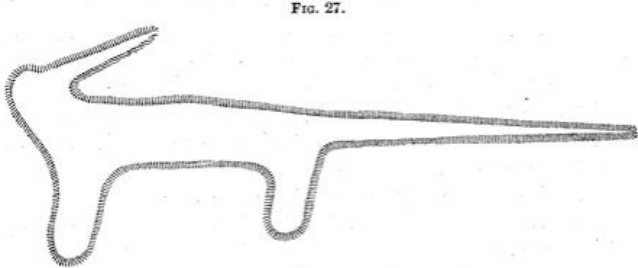
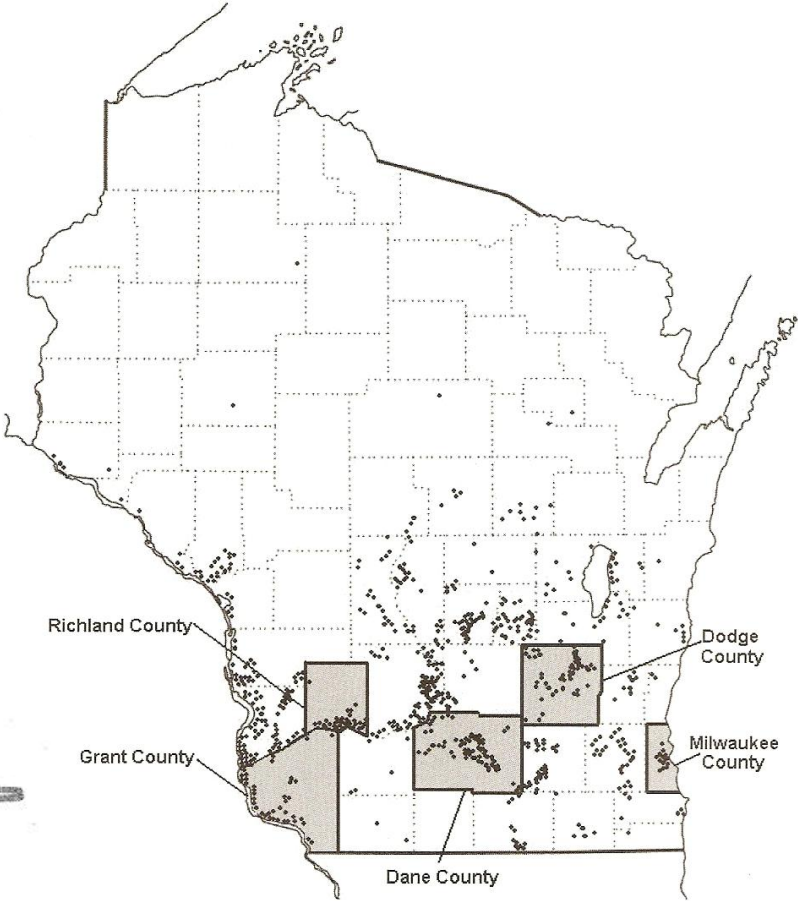
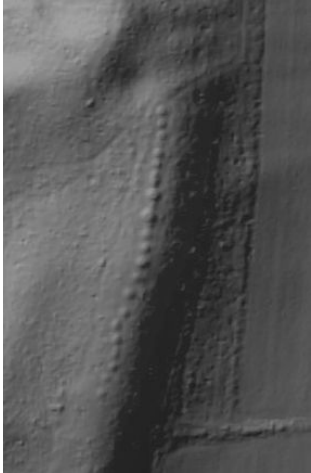


FIG. 27.

At Moundville. Forty feet to an inch.

Effigy Mounds - Where else on earth?



Earthworks & Mounds - Little Lake Butte des Morts



James A. Baird, Col. "Pilot"

A VIEW OF THE WOODS ISLANDS (MORTS) BARRIERS

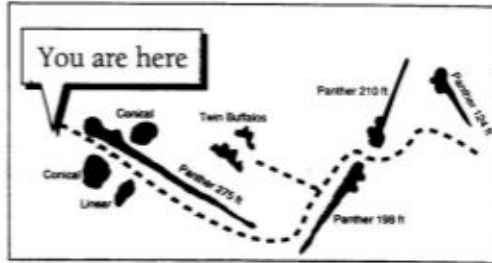
with the arrival of the Commissioners Gov. LEWIS CLARK and Col. M^o KENNEY

in 1807

Based on the original drawing

Earthworks & Mounds - High Cliff State Park

Archaeologists speculate that people from the late Woodland period (1,000 to 1,500 years ago) built these mounds over many years, perhaps even hundreds of years. Current thinking suggests that the whole grouping of mounds had a broad meaning such as to indicate the territory of a family band, to mark important astronomical events or to communicate to a clan or ancestor. Some suggest they represented a ritual to honor the earth. In addition, each individual mound likely had its own spiritual meaning. This panther is thought to represent a water spirit. The panther is the most common and largest shape in this grouping of mounds.



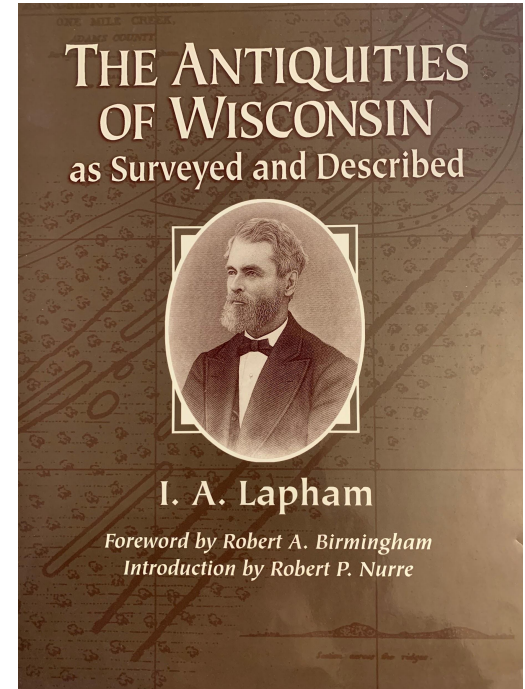
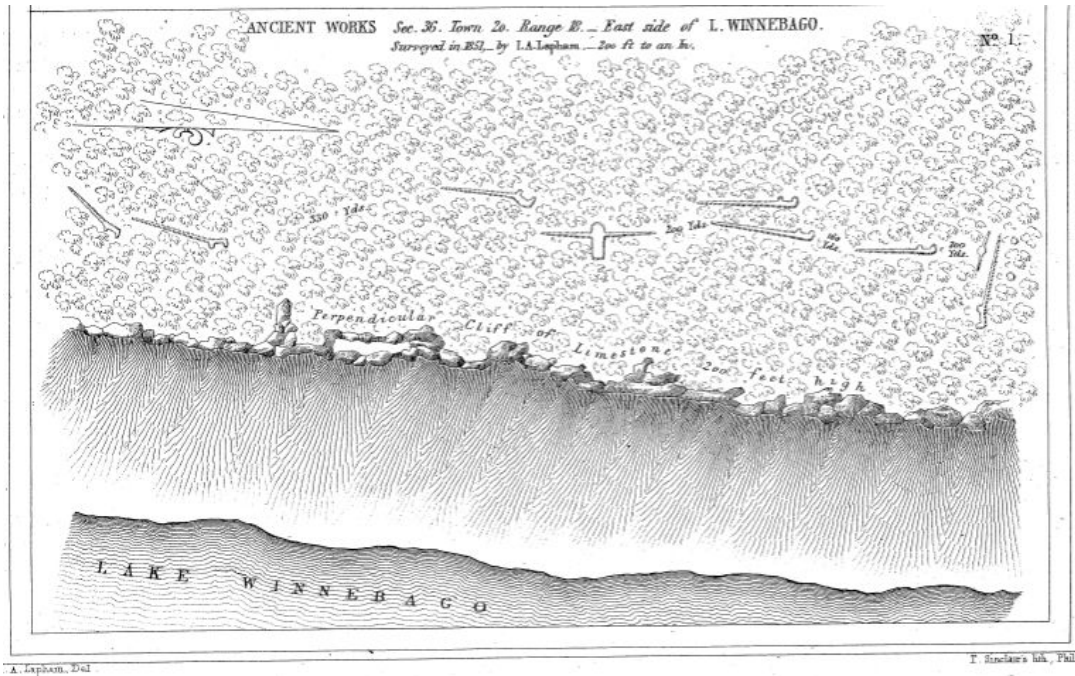
The mounds on this trail are all that remain of the 27 mounds that once existed between here and the lookout tower. The mounds were destroyed by the quarry operation and other developments before the park's creation in 1957.



Increase Lapham

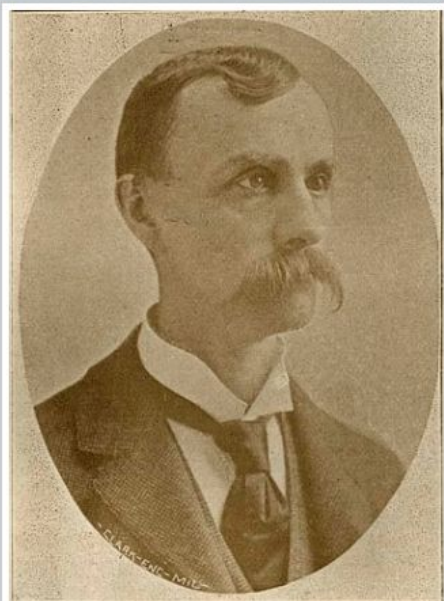
From Menasha we went in a sail-boat across the north end of Lake Winnebago, to examine and survey the mounds on the top of a high limestone cliff or ledge.

On the northwest quarter of section thirty-six is a small clearing on the bank of the lake, not far from the foot of the bluff; in which were traces of three long mounds; and in the adjacent forest are three small embankments, extending across a small ridge from the bank of the lake to a valley back of it. We had much difficulty in climbing the ledge, which has quite a formidable aspect, and is probably two hundred feet high above the water; the last forty or fifty being perpendicular, or nearly so. From the top commences an almost level plateau, extending towards the east; and here we were fully paid for our labor, by the magnificent view of the lake and surrounding country. Those who have examined the banks of the Niagara below the great falls, or the mountain ridge as is seen in western New York and Canada, will have a correct idea of this ledge of limestone; and being composed of a rock of the same geological age, the resemblance is not to be wondered at.



Earthworks & Mounds - Calumet County Park

"A man among men, a friend of truest type, whose kind acts and worthy deeds will live long in the memory of those who have been proud to know P.V. Lawson as a friend and fellow citizen. In the home a void has been left in which human power cannot fill."



HON. P. V. LAWSON, SIX TIMES MAYOR OF MENASHA, AND MANAGER OF THE MENASHA WOOD SPLIT PULLEY CO.



P.V. Lawson

with insertion
April 29, 1899

Traces of Mound Builders Around Lake Winnebago.

Hiawatha heard a rustle
As of garments trailing by him,
Heard the curtain of the doorway
Lifted by a hand he saw not;
Felt the cold breath of the night air,
For a moment saw the starlight;
But he saw the ghosts no longer,
Saw no more the wandering spirits
From the kingdom of Ponemah,
From the land of the hereafter.

On the east shore of Lake Winnebago, near Stockbridge in Calumet County, Wisconsin, there is a group of eighteen large and wonderful symbolical or effigy mounds, and several kindred graves of later date. It is altogether a weird, ghost-like place. As one enters, it seems like a vast graveyard at dusk. With the bright sun shining outside, not a ray of sunlight enters through the thick leafy tops of the tall oak and maple trees. No grass or shrubby grows beneath the trees, but as you look out into the shaded shadows of this midday dawn, everywhere are graves and pictured mounds, the laborious art of pre-historic races. It is the Ponemah of other days. The garden of the gods.

PICTURED MOUNDS.
Nine of the pictured mounds are of the type misnamed "Lizard" mounds, although four of these have but one leg projection, and resemble crosiers or war clubs, and none of them bear any resemblance to any animal whatever. They range in height from three to six feet. There is one serpent mound thirty inches high, and 258 feet long. There are two cross mounds, and six rain drop mounds, described below, and some low circular mounds. Some of the pictured mounds are so high, that a person walking on one side cannot see one walking on the opposite side. There are about ten thousand yards of earth in these mounds, which are all scraped from the top soil of the vicinity, by the women with stone hoes, shells or sticks, and carried in earthen jars or wicker baskets into place. As they could not work in winter nor all the days in summer, supposing they worked fifty days in one year, and one person could place one quarter of a yard a day, it would take 800 women to build them in one year. This would represent a population of upwards of three or four thousand.

Three miles back from the lake are corn rows left by the mound builders. Doubtless others existed before the civilized plow ran over the rich soil of these beautiful hills. Many other mounds are found at intervals along the east shore. All of which is indicative of a once populous and fixed community. That these tribes were industrious and fixed, not nomadic, is evidenced by their large and numerous works. That they had much of culture, aesthetic taste and skill, is shown in the handsome lines, graceful curves and perfection of these bas-reliefs. They are marvels of grace and beauty. Though one of them is 321 feet long, it is perfectly straight. All of them are exactly regular.

It is not altogether so wonderful that they did the work so well, as that they should have arrived at that degree of culture as to do the work so well. Because for all the purposes of their religion, or why ever they made them, it would be entirely in keeping with their surroundings to have left them a little uneven, or crooked, or up and down. They would still have a general outline of the symbol represented. We also judge that these people were immigrants because we see no intermediate steps in their work.

They were a thinking people, who had through many generations, reduced their imaginings, fears and hopes to a regular and exact symbolical psychology—were able to make its salient tokens into images or emblems. They had gathered the scattered threads of their fears and hopes into a definite whole, so that a representation of part, at once suggested the whole.

The genesis of these people is unknown. They are supposed to have come from the west. But that they slowly emigrated south with increasing improvement in their arts, culture and education, until as the Mayas or Toltecs of Central America and Yucatan they reached their golden age, is quite probable from the remains found along the way.

CROSS MOUNDS.
The relation of these mounds of Ponemah to those of the south and to the childhood of the Maya or Toltec races may obtain some additional facts if what follows is quite true.

Earthworks & Mounds

Doty Island - Smith Park

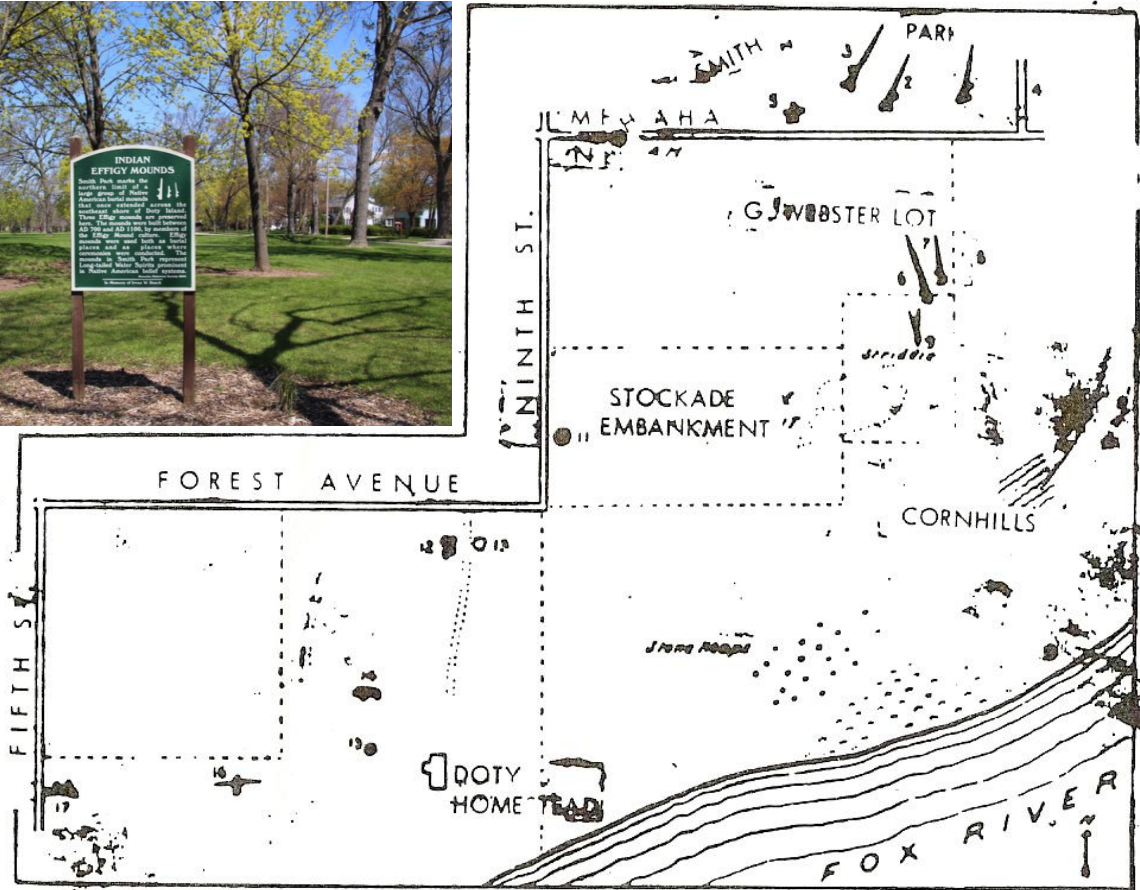


Fig. 5.

Earthworks & Mounds - Menasha - west of Jefferson Park

"Half a mile from Menasha is a group of eight mounds about four feet high and from forty to fifty feet in diameter. They are on the southeast quarter of section fourteen, township twenty, range seventeen, not far from the shore of Lake Winnebago. This ground has been selected for a cemetery by the present inhabitants, who do not scruple to dig up the Indian skeletons to make room for the bodies of a more civilized race."

Increase A. Lapham 1851
Chapter IV Ancient Works in the Basin of the Fox River
Antiquities of Wisconsin - As Surveyed and Described

"With the kind assistance of several of the pioneer residents I have been able to relocate four of the original group, as accompanying plat. (Fig. 1) "A" was removed in 1859, in the building of Second street. It was 75 feet in diameter at the center. It had been utilized by the early settlers as a burial place for their dead."

P.V. Lawson 1903
Wisconsin Archeologist Vol 2.

This is currently a residential block in the city of Menasha, along 2nd Street between Manitowoc St. and east of the water tower and west of Jefferson Park.

The Winz Brewery, mentioned by P.V. Lawson, was located at the corner of Manitowoc and 2nd.

Stand near the water tower and, with a little imagination, see that this sacred site would have been a oak savanna with a view towards High Cliff across lake Winnebago.

Early Woodland Mounds - City of Menasha

"B" is the only mound of the group which is still in existence. At present it is 4 feet high and 66 feet in diameter. It was originally 8 feet in height. It is located in the garden of the A. Winz Brewery.

"C" was 6 feet in height and 20 feet in diameter.

"D" was 4 feet in height and 30 feet in diameter.

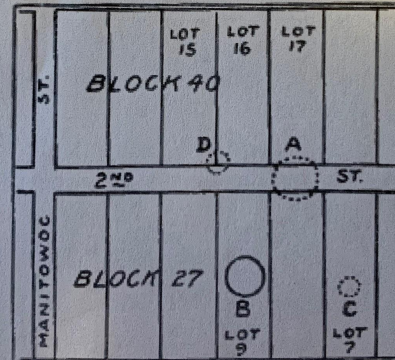


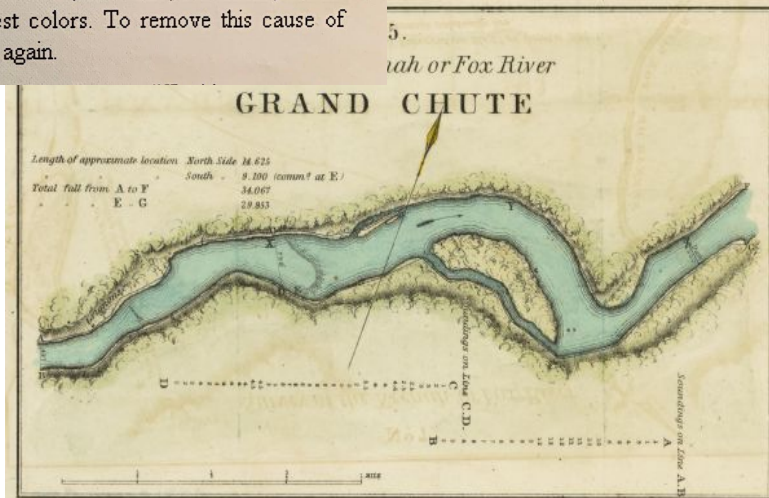
Fig. 1.

Petroforms - Manitou Stones

ARTICLE II. JOURNEY OF THE SAME TWO FATHERS TO THE FIRE NATION, AND THE BEAUTY AND CURIOSITIES OF THAT COUNTRY.

IF the country of this Nation somewhat resembles an earthly Paradise in beauty, the way leading to it may also be said to bear some likeness to the one depicted by our Lord as leading to Heaven. For scarcely has one proceeded a day's journey up the river from the head of the [163 i.e., 165] Bay des Puans, when he finds three or four leagues of rapids to contend with; and they are more difficult than is usual in other rivers, since the pebbles on which the [Page 191] men must walk barefoot, dragging the Canoes, are so Sharp and cutting that they have the utmost difficulty in withstanding the Swift current which flows there.

At the Fall of these rapids, we found a sort of Idol which the Savages of that region honor, never failing to offer it some Sacrifice in passing, — either of tobacco, or arrows, or painted objects, or other articles, — to thank it for aiding them to escape, on their way up, the dangers of the waterfalls occurring in the stream; or else, if they have to descend, to pray for its assistance on that perilous voyage. It is a rock shaped by nature in the form of a human bust, in which one seems to distinguish, from a distance, the head, shoulders, breast and, more especially, the face, which passers-by are wont to Paint [164 i.e., 166] with their finest colors. To remove this cause of idolatry, we had it carried away by main force and thrown to the bottom of the river, never to appear again.

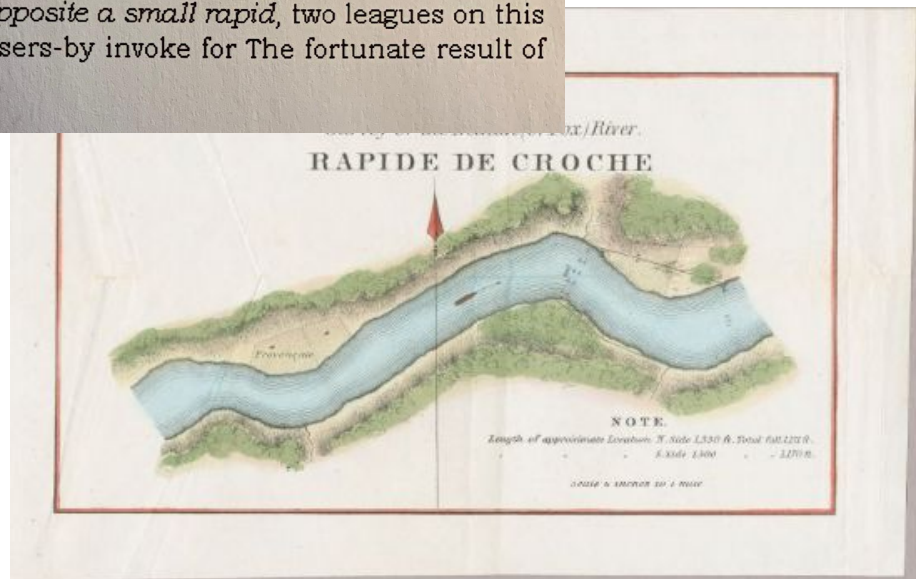


Petroforms - Manitou Stones

[ARTICLE 6TH. OF] THE MISSION OF SAINT MARC TO THE OUTAGAMI.

I HAVE baptized during the past year, — *that is, from June, 1672, to June, 1673, — I have baptized there* [in that Mission,] 48 persons, of whom a child and two adults died shortly after baptism.

Having learned that some Cabins of outagami had remained in Their village on Account of the sick, who could not Walk, — they were those whom I had baptized The previous spring, — I went to see Them. It was [While on the Road to the Outagami,] The 4th of November, when I left to go there by land, — about noon we found, at a little distance from the Road, [opposite a small rapid,] a great rock, roughly carved into the figure of a man, The face of which had been painted red. It was *opposite a small rapid*, two leagues on this side of a great rapid called The Kakalink. It is an **idol** which passers-by invoke for The fortunate result of Their journey. We rolled It into The water. ^[3]



Petroforms - Stone Circles

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Archeological Notes.		

Ancient Cairns and Stone Circles in Winnebago County.

In nearly every land the cairn, a pile or mound of stone, has been the method of protecting the grave from desecration by wild animals. As the dangers guarded against by the cairn were universal, the custom was general among peoples separated by oceans and mountains.

The Europeans found their own custom of erecting cairns over the dead to be in existence among some of the aborigines of America, both races having in their widely separated domains experienced similar necessities leading to the adoption of a similar custom.

A number of these aboriginal cairns are located on the eastern shore of Lake Winneconne in the Town of Winneconne, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, on the property of Mr. R. Lasley (S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 10, R. 15, E.) They are one-quarter of a mile east of the lake shore on land elevated about 15 feet above the lake and overgrown with trees and brush. Two of them are 40 feet long, 30

Petroglyphs

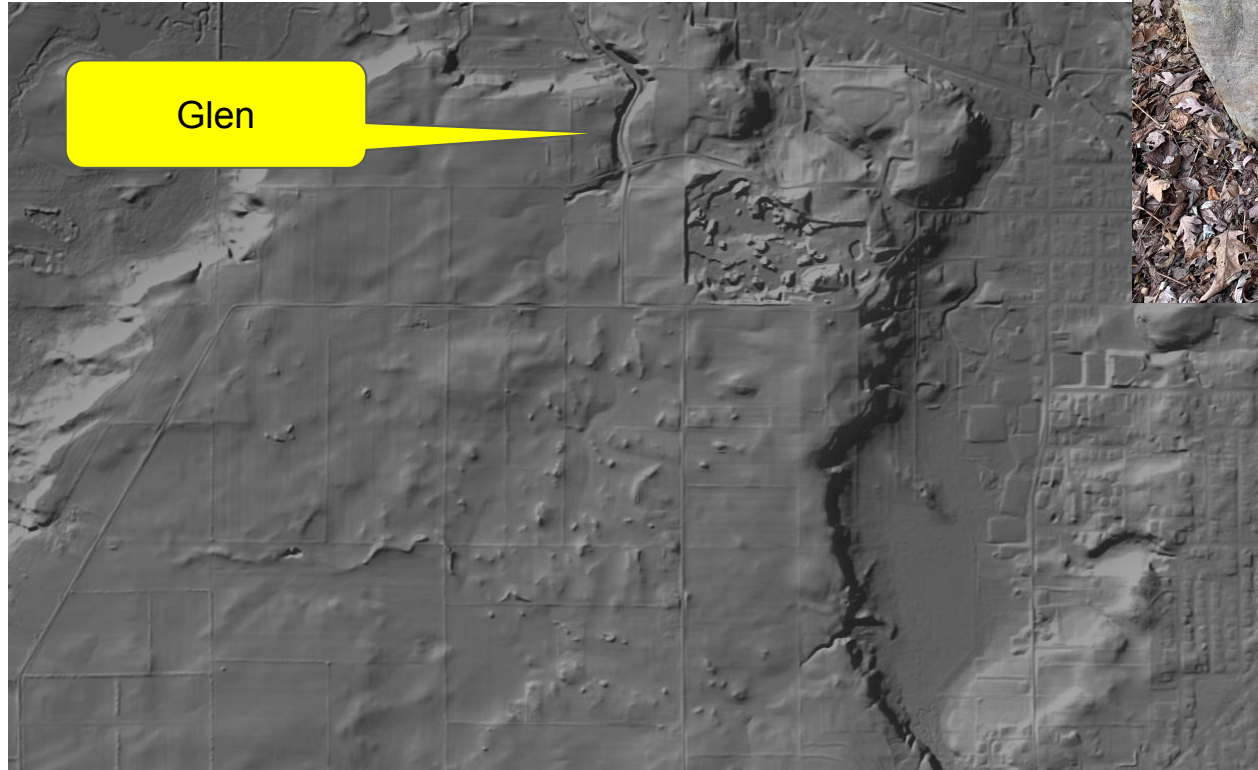
Observatory Hill State Natural Area - Marquette County



The highest point in Marquette County is Observatory Hill, an isolated outcropping of porphyritic rhyolite rising 300 feet above the surrounding landscape. The fine-grained rhyolite, an igneous rock embedded with feldspar crystals, is highly resistant to erosion and has been dated to 1.76 billion years ago. On the exposed rocks at the summit are polished rock surfaces with grooves, striations, and chatter marks created by the passage of the glacial Cary ice sheet 12,000 years ago.

Recently, scientists have discovered the existence of petroglyphs on the hill's rock outcroppings, which may be part of a larger prehistoric petroform found in Marquette County.

Petroglyphs - Arcade Glen - Ripon



Pyramids

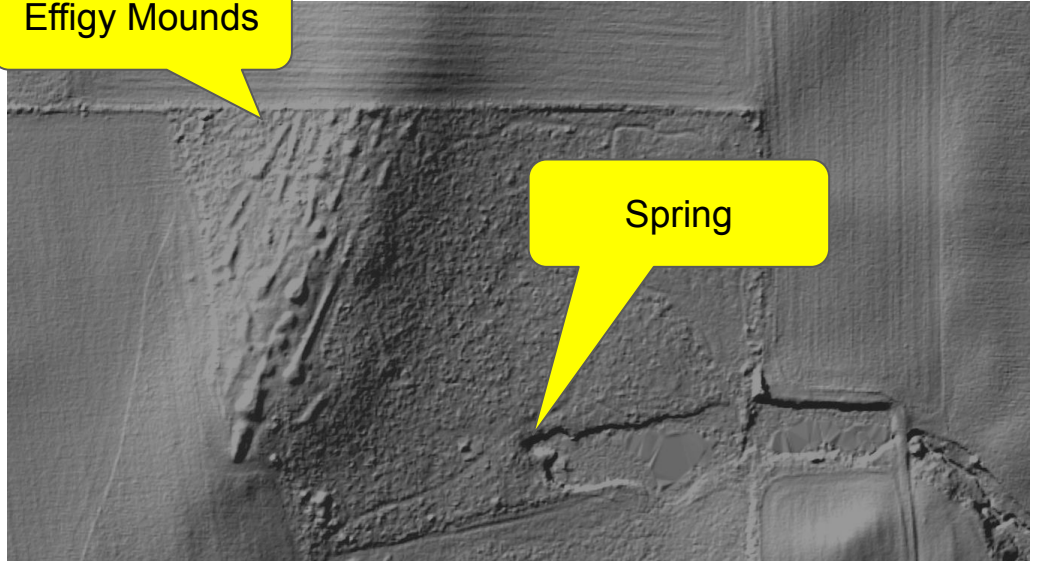


Springs - Nitschke Mounds - Dodge County Parks



Effigy Mounds

Spring

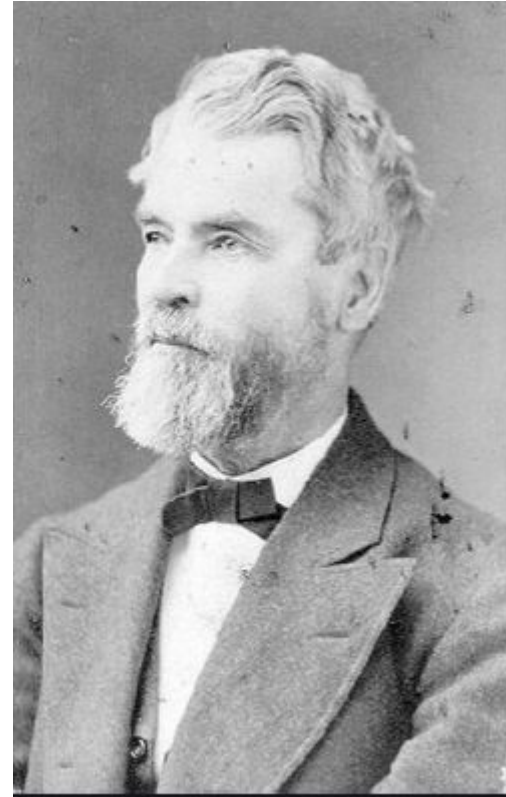


Conclusion - Increase Lapham - 1855

The ancient works in Wisconsin are mostly at the very places selected by the present Indians for their abodes; thus indicating that the habits, wants, modes of subsistence, &c., of their builders, were essentially the same.

If the present tribes have no traditions running back as far as the times of Allouez and Marquette, or even to the more recent time of Jonathan Carver, it is not strange that none should exist in regard to the mounds, which must be of much earlier date.

It is by considerations of this nature that we are led to the conclusion that the mound-builders of Wisconsin were none others than the ancestors of the present tribes of Indians.



Further Study - Web Sites

Wisconsin Public Land Survey Records - <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/SurveyNotes/>

Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder - <https://maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/#7/44.750/-89.750>

Wisconsin LiDAR Hillshade - [https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1
&layers=d5a4498fe0294f92a8b6729948a7d71d](https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=d5a4498fe0294f92a8b6729948a7d71d)

Wisconsin Mounds - <http://www.wisconsinmounds.com/>

Deep Cave Rock Art - <https://mvac.uwlax.edu/past-cultures/specific-sites/rock-art/>

Further Study

Raven Maps & Images - <https://www.ravenmaps.com/>

WI Archeological Society - <http://wiarcheologicalsociety.org/>

WI Historical Society - <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>

Book: Antiquities of Wisconsin - as Surveyed and Described

Mark Walker - mercianbike1975@gmail.com