

country ; also timber and branches of trees, all of which confirmed him in his opinion of the existence of other countries westward.

If the Romans may have found this country, they may also have attempted its colonization, as the immense *square* forts of the west, would seem to suggest.

In 1821, on the bank of the river Desperes, in Missouri, was found, by an Indian, a *Roman Coin*, and presented to Gov. Clark. *Gazetteer of Missouri*, p. 312.

This is no more singular than the discovery of a *Persian* coin near a spring on the Ohio, some feet under ground ; as we have shown in another place of this work ; all of which go to encourage the conjecture respecting the presence of the ancient Romans in America.

The remains of former dwellings, found along the Ohio, where the stream has, in many places, washed away its banks, *hearths* and *fire places* are brought to light, from two to six feet deep below the surface.

Near these remains are found immense quantities of muscle shells and bones of animals. From the depths of many of these remnants of *chimnies*, and from the fact that trees as large as any in the surrounding forest, were found growing on the ground above those fire places, at the time the country was first settled by its present inhabitants, the conclusion is drawn that a very long period has elapsed since these subterraneous remnants of the dwellings of man were deserted.

*Hearths* and *Fire Places* : Are not these evidences that buildings once towered above them ; if not such as now accommodate the millions of America, yet they may have been such as the ancient Britons used at the time the Romans first invaded their country.

These were formed of logs set up endwise, drawn in at the top, so that the smoke might pass up, at an aperture left open at the summit. They were not square on the ground, as houses are now built, but set in a *circle*, one log against the other, with the *hearth* and *fire place* in the centre. At the opening in the top, where the smoke went out, the light came in, as no other window was then used. There are still remaining, in several parts of England, the vestiges of large *stone* buildings made in this way, i. e. in a circle.

—David Blair's *Hist. of England*, page 8.