

## The Lemonwier River

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By D. McBride

This valuable stream, which gives name to the valley, derives its name from an incident of traditionary history among the north-western tribes of Indians, many years prior to any modern white settlement within the territory of Wisconsin.

An Indian Chief, who then held unbounded sway over the tribes of the West, from the southern end of Lake Michigan to the Mississippi, fearing the rapid encroachments of the white men, then spreading over the territories of Indiana and Michigan, formed the plan of an extensive league with the still farther western tribes around, and west of the Falls of St. Anthony; and, for the purpose of perfecting it, dispatched a messenger with a war belt of wampum, and a request for delegations of the Dakotas and Chippewas to meet in grand council at the big bend of the Wisconsin—now Portage City. The runner, in the course of his journey, encamped on the proposed council grounds over night, next morning crossing the river, following the well known trail to the West, again encamped on the banks of this beautiful stream. During the night he dreamed that he had lost his belt of wampum with which he was entrusted, at his last sleeping place. On awaking in the morning he found his dream to be a reality, and hastened back to recover the lost treasure, in which he was successful. On returning to the scene of his dream he again encamped, and before leaving on his mission,