

While speaking of the early history of the country, and its first settlers, we should not pass over in silence, the history and sad fate of another race that formerly, not only occupied but owned the soil. I allude to the Indian tribes or Aborigines. When the country was first visited by white men, it was occupied by the Sacs and Foxes, and other tribes now extinct. In process of time these tribes were driven farther west by more numerous and powerful northern tribes; many sanguinary battles were fought between the Sacs and Foxes, and their invaders, before they abandoned the country on the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. The only monuments to remind us that these tribes were once the proprietors of the country, are to be found in the Mounds or Hills of Death, which contain their bones and cover their battle grounds. For many years prior to 1824, the northern portion of Wisconsin was occupied by the Winnebagoes, Menomonees, Chippewas, and some Pottawotamies. But the two first named tribes, owned nearly all of the country in the present State, lying on Lake Michigan and the Mississippi, Wisconsin, Fox and Wolf rivers. The Winnebagoes on the west side of Winnebago Lake and the Upper Fox and the Wisconsin rivers. The Menomonees, on the east side of the Lake, Fox and Wolf rivers, Green Bay, and the west shore of Lake Michigan. Both of these tribes were then powerful and held in great awe by the few white inhabitants then in this country. The Winnebagoes in 1824, numbered perhaps upwards of six thousand. The Menomonees between three and four thousand. Their character and habits differ very essentially. The former tribe, although they could scarcely be called either brave or warlike, were yet worse, they were cruel and treacherous; and would much rather dispatch an enemy in secret ambush than face him in fair and equal combat. They were friendly to the British, and for many years were their pensioners—going openly every year to Canada to receive their presents from the British Government. They hated the Americans,