

was a root used by the Indians, which they regarded as a substitute for potatoes, which was found in marshes, growing in a succession of bulbs. Mr. Rasdell said it had no resemblance to the arrow root, either in root or top. I was quite unable to get a satisfactory impression of what it was. Mr. Rasdell had not seen it for several years. The name given it by the Indians was *No-ah-how-in*. Mr. Rasdell was once cast ashore from Mendota Lake, and having no provisions, subsisted upon this root for ten days. This was in 1835, while arranging a trading establishment near the First Lake. At a prior date, while on an excursion near the same lake, he saw a bear, and soon after coming across the wigwams near its outlet, he informed the Indians, who willingly sallied out, being in great want of food, and soon succeeded in capturing it. They readily divided the prey, allowing a liberal share to Rasdell's party, although quite short of food themselves. A trading establishment was located at or near the City of the Four Lakes in 1835 or 1836. That place, at first, seemed to him more likely to become the capital, than Madison. The Winnebago Indians, at that time, were regarded as friendly. The Sacs and Foxes had been displeased by the Pottawattamies and Winnebagoes, which led to a visit from Big Thunder, to the region of the Four Lakes about that time. The Indians then appeared to be more provident, for in 1831, 1832 and 1833, he believed that they raised not less than three thousand bushels of corn at the various fields and villages about the Lakes. This was mostly stored in places arranged below ground, enclosed by the trunks of small trees, with which it was covered, and then often covered with earth.

In the month of June, 1832, was the first assault from the Indians in this region of country. At that time three men were killed near the rude fort which had been reared at Blue Mounds. The Indians seemed to cherish cruel intentions, as was inferred from their treatment of the bodies of these men, after they were slain, for they were horribly mutilated. These men were Smith, Force and Green; others have only referred