

Identity of "Lake Sakaegan"

MERTON, November 30, 1880.

Editor Free Press:—The Smithsonian Institution is about to publish an *Historical Atlas of Indian Affairs*. In doing so, it becomes necessary to ascertain the exact location of a little lake formerly known as "Sakaegan."

The lake in question is mentioned in the treaty of St. Louis, November 3, 1804 (by which the Sac and Fox Indians ceded a large portion of their territory to the United States), in the following words: "Passing up the Mississippi to the mouth of the Wisconsin River, and up that river to a point which shall be thirty-six miles in a direct line from the mouth of the said river, thence by a direct line to the point where the Fox River, a branch of the Illinois, leaves the small lake called the 'Sakaegan,' thence down the Fox River to the Illinois River, etc."

Now, I suppose, the lake in question must be the one now known as Pewaukee Lake, as one branch of the Fox River leaves this lake; but there is nowhere any record that this lake was ever known by such name. When the first settlers came to this county in 1834, this region was in possession of the Pottawatomies, a large village being on the banks of this lake. According to the late history of this county, it was then known by the name of "Pewaukeewenink." According to Mr. J. Witherell, in a communication published in vol. iii, of the *Wis. Historical Collections*, 1856, it should be spelled "Peewaunawkee" (the flinty place), this was no doubt the Pottawatomie name. How long this tribe had been located here is not known; but it is certain that in 1804, the Sacs and Foxes claimed all this region, and a great part of Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, and it was the treaty of that year, in which this lake was mentioned, which led to the famous Black Hawk War, Black Hawk, a Sac chief, never assenting to it. Sakae-