

The Winnebago Outbreak

In a speech, Gen. Lewis Cass, at Burlington, Iowa, in June, 1855, made the following reference to the Winnebago outbreak in 1827:

"Twenty-eight years have elapsed," said the venerable statesman, "since I passed along the borders of this beautiful State. 'Time and chance happen to all men,' says the writer of old. And time and chance have happened to me, since I first became identified with the West. In 1827 I heard that the Winnebagoes had assumed an attitude of hostility toward the whites, and that great fear and anxiety prevailed among the border settlers of the Northwestern frontier. I went to Green Bay, where I took a canoe with twelve voyageurs and went up the Fox river and passed over the Portage into the Wisconsin. We went down the Wisconsin until we met an ascending boat in the charge of Ramsay Crooks, who was long a resident of the Northwest. Here we ascertained that the Winnebagoes had assumed a hostile attitude, and that the settlers of Prairie du Chien were apprehensive of being suddenly attacked and massacred. After descending about seventy miles farther, we came in sight of the Winnebago camp. It was situated upon a high prairie, not far from the river, and as he approached the shore he saw the women and children running across the prairie, in an opposite direction, which he knew to be a bad sign. After reaching the shore he went up to the camp. At first the Indians were sullen; particularly the young men. He talked

A cousin of the WAR-EAGLE was WAU-KAUN-HAH-KAW, or *Snake Skin*, commonly called WAU-KON, or WASHINGTON DE KAU-RAY. The word *wau-kon* in Chippewa means devil. WAU-KON DE KAU-RAY was a signer of the treaties of 1829 and 1832. He is still living at an advanced age.

Gen. H. L. DOUSMAN, a resident of Prairie du Chien since 1826, states in a letter to the Secretary of the Society: "Mr. ROLETTE and all the old traders in the country, when I first came here, told me that the commonly pronounced name of DE KAU-RAY had its French origin in DESCARIE. Old Gray-Haired DE KAU-RAY, and others of the family, you know, had a good deal of white blood in them. Old Gray-Haired DE KAU-RAY had his village near the Wisconsin Portage; *Wau-kaun Hau-kaun*, or *Snake-Skin*, commonly called WAU-KON DE KAU-RAY, the principal speaker or orator of the Winnebago nation, had his village on the Mississippi, about thirty miles above Prairie du Chien; and One-Eyed DE KAU-RAY had his village on Black River." L. C. D.