

those waters. In 1829, a treaty was concluded with the Winnebagoes, in which the water now known as Fourth Lake is mentioned. It is called, however, "the most northern of the four lakes," as if it was not yet known by its number.

It is a pity that our pioneers designated the Four Lakes by numbers. If they had not, we should now know their original Indian names, and the meaning of those names. Dead Lake was not numbered, and so J. A. Noonan, a land-hunter here in 1837, heard its name as Wingra, and ascertained that Wingra means duck.<sup>1</sup> We may fairly conclude that but for usurping numbers Mr. Noonan would have heard the aboriginal appellations of all the Four Lakes, and would have transmitted them, as he did Wingra, to the art preservative of all arts.

The birth-year of Madison is commonly considered to have been 1837; but fully five years earlier, there was at least one house built here, and that by a French builder. In 1832, on the 15th of October, two deserters from Fort Winnebago were arrested near what we call Johnson street, at the trading-house of a Frenchman, Oliver Armel.

Armel's christian name is printed "Louis" in the books; but I write it Oliver on the authority of Simeon Mills. His testimony is more credible than any book, for he was the justice to whom Armel afterwards came for marriage, and he heard him called Oliver for years.<sup>2</sup>

Armel was in the Four Lake country at least as early as 1829. In August of that year, in passing Third Lake, he

<sup>1</sup> *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii, p. 410.

<sup>2</sup> In Dr. Chapman's sketch, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iv, 347, the name Louis Armel is given, followed by Durrie's, and Park's *Histories* of Madison. In the treaty at Prairie du Chien, in 1829, thirty years before Dr. Chapman wrote, we find the orthography "Oliver Armell," whose two children, Catharine and Oliver, each received a section of land from the Winnebagoes—evidently because their mother was of that tribe. At the treaty with the Pottawatomies at Chicago, in Sept. 1833, a claim of \$300 was allowed to "Oliver Emmell." De La Ronde, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, viii, p. 360, writes "Oliver Arimell;" and Noonan, in same volume, p. 410, has it "Arnell." The *Illustrated History of Dane County*, gives the name as "Oliver Emell," pp. 367, 369, 402.