

Americans called him Grey-headed Decorah.¹ He was a brother² of One-eyed Decorah, or Big Canoe.

I remember hearing of the British attack on the American fort at Prairie du Chien [in 1814]. Some of our relatives joined in it. Their names I do not now remember; I am getting very old; my memory is not as good as it was. My father's party were at Little Green Lake at the time of

carefully rendered both questions and answers. The result I have formulated into two continuous narratives, following as closely as possible the Indian manner of speech; as here printed, they meet with Paquette's approval. It is not because of any fresh data herein contained, that these simple "talks" are awarded a place in the *Collections*: but they present the Indian view of several important historical events, thus giving us an insight into what Wisconsin savages themselves are thinking and talking about, in their camp-fire reminiscences of early experiences with the white man. The scraps of folk-lore which I was enabled to gather from these two Winnebago head-men are neither numerous nor important; but, such as they are, seem worth preserving. The Winnebagoes have been confronted with white men since Nicolet's visit, in 1634; two and a half centuries of such contact have almost entirely eliminated from their minds the prehistoric traditions of the tribe; their lodge tales of to-day have little to do with the myths of their forbears, and even when revived by the old men are hopelessly although unconsciously incrustated with a later growth, the result of missionary teaching. The bulk of the Winnebagoes have borrowed little else from the Christian instruction which has so long been lavished on them; of all Wisconsin Indians, they have been the least influenced in their religious belief.

See article, "Wisconsin Winnebagoes," in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii., pp. 399 et seq.—Ed.

¹ Called also Schachipkaka (White War Eagle), and Old Decorah. He was the son of The Ladle, repeatedly mentioned in previous volumes of the *Collections*. He died at Peterwell, on the Wisconsin River, April 20, 1836, said to be 90 years of age. He had fought in the battle of the Thames, and against Sandusky; and had been held as a hostage at Prairie du Chien for the delivery of Red Bird, in 1827. For sketches of the Decorah family and this exemplary individual member of it, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii., p. 178; iii., pp. 286-289; v., pp. 153, 155; vi., p. 224; vii., pp. 346, 347; also Mrs. Kinzie's *Wau Bun* (1856), pp. 89, 486; and Gale's *Upper Mississippi* (1857), pp. 81, 82, 189.—Ed.

² Cousin, in fact. The Winnebagoes make no distinction, in common speech, between brother and cousin.—Ed.