

not to be removed from their hunting grounds. Black Hawk¹ was the leader of this band. From La Crosse I went across the country to Portage, and have never since been troubled by the Big Father or his soldiers, about removing to west of the Mississippi River.

I have camped with my family on my hunting and fishing journeys, all along the Wisconsin River. I was at Elroy for several seasons, and have been near Friendship for a good many years. In 1873, I took up a homestead of 40 acres near Pike Lake, but was never there.² The forty-acre piece I now live on, I bought in 1883. It is in the northeast quarter of section 1, town 18, range 5, about ten miles north of Friendship. I have broken 20 acres, and the rest is scrub-oak woods. The soil is poor, and I make but little money, having many orphan children and grandchildren and one great-grandchild to support. I am getting old and feeble, and I cannot see to hunt any longer, although I do some trapping on the Roche-a-Cri River.³

You ask me to tell you of the traditions of my tribe, and some of the old chiefs I have known. My memory is getting very poor; but I will do the best I can. It has been told me, by my father and my uncles, that the Winnebagoes first lived below the Red Banks, on the east shore of Green Bay.⁴ There was a high bluff there, which enclosed a lake. They lived there a very long time. From there they moved to the Red Banks, and met at that place the first Frenchmen whom they ever saw. The Winnebagoes were in a very bad condition; they had nothing but bows and arrows with which to kill game. The French-

¹ Probably the Winnebago chief who signed the treaty of 1832, and whose descendants claim for him the honor, such as it is, of discovering the fugitive Sac leader of the same name. See Spoon's own account of this affair, *ante*, pp. 453-455; narrative of Walking Cloud, *post*; and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii., pp. 261, *note*, 430, 431.—ED.

² See Paquette's comment on Winnebago homesteading, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii., pp. 418, 419.—ED.

³ Spoon Decorah was declared by his friends to have been, in his prime, one of the crack hunters of the tribe.—ED.

⁴ *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii., p. 491; iii., p. 203.—ED.