

river. This ridge was riddled with foxes' burrows. A prong on the end of a stick, with which to pull out the little foxes, was the most successful boyish method of capture. The skins could be sold, or made up into garments, and the fun of doing it was thought to be fine. Later, the traders discouraged this sport, as tending to exterminate the animals, and it was no longer followed. The ridge was often called by the Pottawattomie Indians, "*waugooshance*," meaning simply "place of the little foxes;" occasionally we would hear some of the Indians call it *waugooshance-seepee* (little foxes' river); but this was not the usual name.

Of course, you can see that the corrupted word "Waukesha" means nothing; like so many other Western place-names, of Indian origin, it has, through ignorance and carelessness, been so twisted as to be almost unrecognizable and quite unmeaning. For instance: Muskego was originally *miskeekwak* (sun fish). Milwaukee is a corruption of *maunahwaukee* (place of the gathering of multitudes). Oconomowoc has been corrupted from the old name *oconemiwing* (waterfall), meaning, in a large way, that the water here fell and expanded into lakes; curiously enough, this corruption becomes actually another Pottawattomie word, for *oconomowoc* really means "the gathering of the livers," which of course is a misapplication. Mukwanago is a corruption from *mukwa* (bear) and *onahko* (fat) — the fat bear. This was a popular place for hunting black bears; the greatest in the West, I used to be told. I have eaten of many that came from there. When the Indians of this region wanted to have a big feast, they would send young hunters thither, from all along the lake shore, even as far off as Kewaunee. Wauwatosa is from *wauwautawsa* (the lost brave), probably referring to some legend in which an Indian warrior was lost. Pewaukee is from *pewauki* (a timber opening, or scattered wood), which has been but triflingly corrupted. *Wauki* in the Pottawattomie tongue, means "water," which accounts for the frequency of this termination in the place-names of southeast Wisconsin, where the Pottawattomies were once in force.