

*Indian Mounds*



***THE BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB  
AND  
ITS HISTORIC INDIAN HERITAGE***

by

L. J. MARKWARDT, Honorary President



JULY 4, 1976



Indian Hills Garden Club



*Engraved by T. S. Arthur*

MAJ-GEN-AL-OF-ARMY-OF-UNITED-STATES

OR

**BLACK HAWK**

*A Celebrated Sac Chief.*

*Engraved from the original portrait of 1833.*

**CHIEF BLACKHAWK**

*Picture courtesy of State Historical Society.*

Black Hawk Statue.



*BLACKHAWK* by Lorado Taft

*The gigantic statue is located at Oregon, Illinois, overlooking the Rock River Valley.*

*Picture courtesy of State Historical Society.*

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FOREWORD

*This paper was sponsored on behalf of the Blackhawk Country Club as a contribution to the 1976 Bicentennial Program.*

L. J. Markwardt  
Honorary President

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Acknowledgment is made to Walter Scott for his invaluable assistance in providing some data and historical information on local history; to John Halsey of the State Historical Society for examining and identifying the Indian mounds at Blackhawk; and to the Wisconsin Archeological Society whose 1910 Proceedings relating to Indian mounds at Madison have been freely quoted.*

L. J. Markwardt  
Honorary President

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
58 CHEMISTRY BUILDING  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

RECEIVED  
JAN 15 1964

TO: DR. J. H. GOLDSTEIN  
FROM: DR. R. F. SCHNEIDER  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Illegible text follows]

Very truly yours,  
R. F. Schneider

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### Introduction

As we reflect on our rich heritage in this Bicentennial year of 1976, it seems appropriate to review some of our early history. In this connection, Joseph Anderson reminds us:

There is nothing that solidifies and strengthens a nation like reading the nation's history, whether that history is recorded in books, or embodied in customs, institutions and monuments.

Pertinent also is the comment of Samuel Johnson:

We must consider how very little history there is; I mean real authentic history. That certain Kings reigned, and certain battles were fought, we can depend on as true; but all the coloring, all the philosophy of history is conjecture.

So history means many things to many people. Some wag once said that because history is a dead science, historians have no future. History can be uninteresting when it becomes a mere recital of dates and events, but it can become exciting when reported as a living presence, as it is by some competent visionary historians. A final comment by Robert A. Willmoth, an English author, sums it up in a glamorous perspective:

History presents the pleasantest features of poetry and fiction--the majesty of the epic, the moving accidents of the drama, and the surprise and moral of the romance.

### Perspective Orientation

Wisconsin is indebted to the ice age for its innumerable beautiful lakes and its wetlands and marshes. Geologists estimate that about 50,000 years ago, Lake Mendota and neighboring lakes were created by glacial action. They have given us a heritage of fish, wildlife and recreation areas with incomparable surroundings. Glacial lakes are not traditionally deep ones, and are subject to gradual silting. Lake Mendota has a maximum depth of eighty-four feet in an area near Maple Bluff. The receding glaciers left terminal moraines, which have been identified; these moraines characterize shore areas. A beginning of the unglaciated area comprising southwestern Wisconsin may be found near Pine Bluff, just west of Madison.

In our short perspective we often think of America as beginning with Columbus' famous expedition in 1492. We are prone to forget earlier discoveries, such as that of the Vikings:

*History tells ten centuries past,  
How Vikings brave by oar and mast,  
Not only Greenland did explore,  
But also America's verdant shore.*

—L. J. M.

But these discovery concepts overlook the Indians who were here long before and seem almost indigenous. It has been established that in the period 0-500 A.D. the prehistoric "Hopewell Culture" Indians lived in the Madison lakes area. Three mounds they built have been found on the south shore of Lake Mendota. Archeological studies have found a human burial and related artifacts in these mounds.

Indians who roamed the nearby Blackhawk area between 500 and 1500 A.D. were termed "Effigy Mound Builders." They built the bear mound and a related "linear" mound on the hill above the Spring Harbor school. The effigy and burial mounds at Blackhawk, described later, are attributed to these Indians. After the prehistoric Mound Builders Culture, and until about 1837, the Winnebago Indians occupied, with numerous camp sites, the Lake Mendota area and nearby Spring Harbor and Pheasant Branch. The largest



Winnebago campsite was at Pheasant Branch where several hundred lived under Chief White Crow and War Chief Yellow Thunder.

Finally, it would seem logical to designate the period 1800 to today as the modern era. The influence of the white man began to exert itself, and the historical records became more precise and clearer. It is interesting to summarize some of the pertinent events of this period to bring us up to date.

Chief Blackhawk signed a treaty with the government to evacuate lands east of the Mississippi and move with his followers to lands west of the river. He so enjoyed his Wisconsin and Illinois lakes, streams, forests, and cornlands that he regretted signing the treaty and tried to repudiate it. He had hoped to recruit a large force of followers and retake the land, but support did not materialize. The result led to the Blackhawk War of 1832 in which the Indians were defeated at Bad Axe on the Mississippi, August 1 and 2. Blackhawk later was captured.

Signs of the beginning of settlement in the Blackhawk Club area appeared when surveyor John Mullett ran exterior section lines that started the pattern of land subdivision. On the last line of Section 18 he found a bur oak 12 inches in diameter and reported: "Land stony and hilly; second rate and timbered with bur, white and black oak."

In 1834 Orson Lynon continued the survey by establishing the interior section lines of Township 7 North, Range 9 East, and reported that he found the Indian trails and Army wagon roads well defined.

Another sign that frontiers were vanishing occurred with the construction of a new military road from Fort Winnebago to Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien in 1835 and 1836. This road passed through Cross Plains; evidence of it is clearly visible on the Stanley Herrling "Hillybrook" Ranch, three miles south of Cross Plains.

In 1835 Ebenezer Brigham of Blue Mounds was the only white settler in Dane County. With the establishment of Wisconsin Territory on April 20, 1836, the pace of settlement increased; Madison was started after it was named by the Territorial Government as the Capitol site. The oldest

sandstone farm house in Madison, built in 1842 and appropriately located on Hickory Drive, has been established as an Historic Landmark, "Hickory Hill House," by the city's Landmarks Commission. An even older sandstone house called "Honey's Tavern," is located at Cross Plains.

The pace of activity stepped up in the late 1840's and early 1850's. On February 3, 1846, the Village of Madison was incorporated with a sum total of 283 residents. By 1852 there were only 707 houses in the village.

Notable construction developments included the construction in 1849 of the Yahara River dam, which raised the level of Lake Mendota by two feet and later by five feet. Shortly afterward (1854) the railroad was brought to Madison.

### **Blackhawk War**

History records that in 1832 Chief Blackhawk and his followers--men, women, and children--passed along the south shore of Lake Mendota through the Shorewood Hills area as they fled Westward to escape the federal volunteer pursuers. The pursuit ended in the Blackhawk War, with battles at Wisconsin Heights (near Sauk City) and at Bad Axe on the Mississippi River, where his party was decimated August 1 and 2. Chief Blackhawk was forced to flee, only to surrender soon afterwards. Legend has it that Chief Blackhawk took refuge in a cave in the rocky southern shore of Lake Mendota, now in the Village of Shorewood Hills. The cave has since carried the Blackhawk name. The area thus early became associated with the Blackhawk tradition.

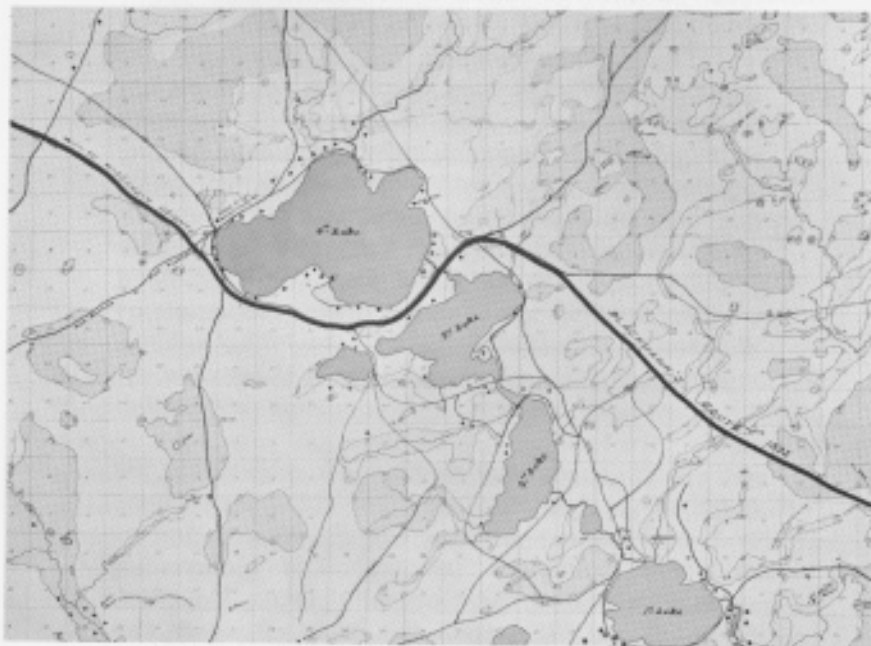
This is of course a mere myth, as the old warrior and his fleeing Indian band were being too closely pursued by the military to seek even temporary security in any cave. But this legend persists despite the efforts of historians and others to discredit it. The cave is entered from the water, and every year curious persons approach it by boat and enter it, believing it once harbored the famous Sauk Indian patriot of pioneer days.

As some Indian artifacts were found in this cave years ago,



# BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB

MAP OF MADISON AND THE HISTORIC  
FOUR LAKES COUNTRY IN 1832  
SHOWING THE BLACKHAWK AND OTHER INDIAN  
TRAILS, AND VARIOUS INDIAN CAMP SITES



THIS MAP COMPILATION AND FRAME  
WAS PROVIDED BY L. J. MARKWARDY

1974 AND REPRODUCED BY HERBERT HANCOCK, INC.

LEGEND  
— BLACKHAWK TRAIL  
— INDIAN TRAILS  
• INDIAN CAMP SITES

ACKNOWLEDGMENT IS MADE TO CHARLES BROWN  
FOR ASSEMBLING THE DATA ON INDIAN TRAILS  
AND CAMP SITES AND TO WALTER SCOTT FOR  
ASSEMBLING THE DATA.

