

WISCONSIN

A Story of Progress

*maps of
Indian
Lands
1970*

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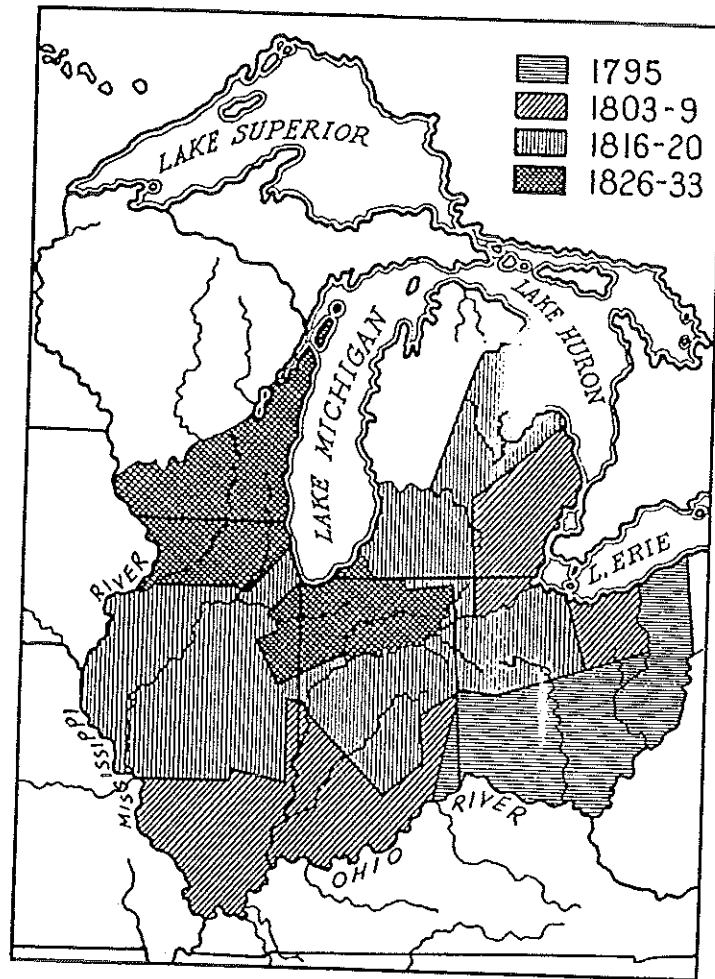
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76 INDIANS AND TRADERS LEAVE THE STAGE

hours, and at least 150 were killed and an equal number were drowned. Of some three hundred of Black Hawk's followers who in one way or another reached the west bank of the Mississippi half were killed by Sioux unleashed by General Atkinson.



INDIAN CESSIONS, 1795-1833

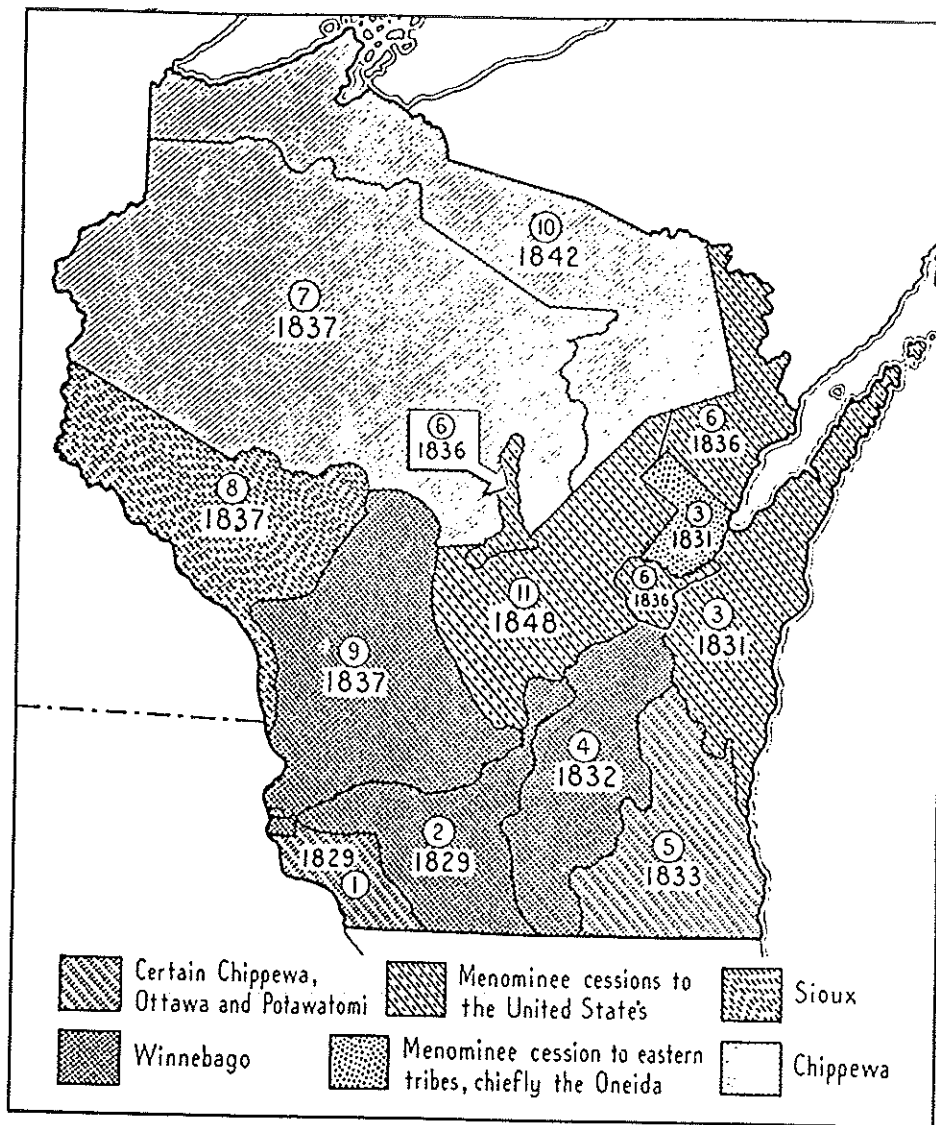
Of the band of about a thousand that had crossed the Mississippi in April, only about 150 were alive four months later. Black Hawk was captured and after being taken through the eastern states was released in June, 1833.

THE FINAL CESSIONS

Within a little more than a year after the Black Hawk War, two important treaties were made which together completed the

holdings of the United States south and east of the old waterway of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. In September, 1832, the Winnebago signed away the rest of what they possessed south of that line. A year later a great meeting was held with the southern Chippewa, the Ottawa, and the Potawatomi at Chicago. From five to seven thousand Indians were present, and the United States there paid or promised to the Indians and their creditors no less than a million dollars. The Indians gave up southern Wisconsin east of the Rock River and the adjoining part of Illinois. Pursuant to the treaty these Indians gathered at Chicago two years later for a final payment, held a last frenzied war-dance, and, barbaric to the end, departed toward the setting sun. Thus far had the elimination of the Indians proceeded when in 1836 Wisconsin was separated from Michigan.

During the twelve years in which Wisconsin was a territory the extinguishment of Indian title was all but completed. In 1836 by a treaty made at the Cedars, between Appleton and Kaukauna, the Menominee gave up nearly four million acres at a cost to the United States of about seven hundred thousand dollars. The cession lay between the Wolf River and Green Bay and ran northward into upper Michigan. On the map of cessions by Indian tribes to the United States government, this area is cut into three pieces by the cession previously made by the Menominee to the Oneida, but in 1838 the Oneida gave most of this to the United States. Another parcel of land along the middle of the Wisconsin River was also yielded by the treaty of 1836. Three treaties of 1837 with Chippewa, Sioux, and Winnebago, respectively, covered the western half of the state from the Wisconsin River almost to Lake Superior. In 1842 the Chippewa gave up the rest of what they had within the limits of Wisconsin. When Wisconsin became a state in the spring of 1848, only a wedge-shaped piece in the east-central part of the state remained in the hands of the Indians, and this was ceded by the Menominee in October of that year. In the nineteen years from 1829 to 1848, the Indians had given up the whole of the state.



PRINCIPAL INDIAN CESSIONS IN WISCONSIN

The area comprised in the state of Wisconsin was acquired from various Indian tribes by eleven treaties of cession. The exact dates of the treaties, together with the places where they were negotiated and the Indian tribes concerned, are given in the following list. The numbers of the treaties correspond to the numbered areas on the map.

Five of these treaties were negotiated while Wisconsin was a part of Michigan Territory, and covered all the area south and east of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers.

1. July 29, 1829—Prairie du Chien—Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi nations of the waters of the Illinois, Milwaukee, and Manitowoc rivers.
2. August 1, 1829—Prairie du Chien—Winnebago.
3. February 8, 1831—Washington, D. C.—Menominee. In addition to the cession to the United States, the Menominee ceded land to eastern Indians. The many changes in the holdings of these eastern Indians are not further noticed here.
4. September 15, 1832—Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, Illinois—Winnebago.

Most of these later treaties stipulated that the tribes concerned should have new homes farther west, and western lands were assigned to several of them. A good many Winnebago were removed by the United States Army, and their descendants are found in eastern Nebraska today, but many made their way back to their old homes. The Sioux, who were not numerous in Wisconsin in the nineteenth century, withdrew to Minnesota. The Menominee and the Chippewa were gathered or "condensed" into reservations. In 1854 a tract twenty-four miles by eighteen was set apart for the Menominee on the upper Wolf River. Not long afterwards they sold two of their twelve townships to the Stockbridge Indians who came up from Calumet County. Also in 1854 three good-sized reservations and some smaller ones were assigned to the Chippewa. The larger ones were the Bad River, the Lac de Flambeau, and the Lac Court Oreilles reservations in Ashland, Vilas, and Sawyer counties. The census of 1930 showed somewhat more than ten thousand Indians residing in Wisconsin. In round numbers there were four thousand Chippewa, two thousand Menominee, three thousand Oneida, twelve hundred Winnebago, six hundred Stockbridge, and four hundred Potawatomi.

THE END OF THE FUR TRADE

When the Indians were gathered into reservations or removed beyond the Mississippi River, and when farm making drove away

5. September 26, 1833—Chicago, Illinois—Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi nations.

Five treaties were made while Wisconsin was a territory.

6. September 3, 1836—Cedar Point, on the Fox River below Appleton—Menominee.

7. July 29, 1837—St. Peter's, at the confluence of the St. Peter's and Mississippi rivers—Chippewa.

8. September 29, 1837—Washington, D. C.—Sioux.

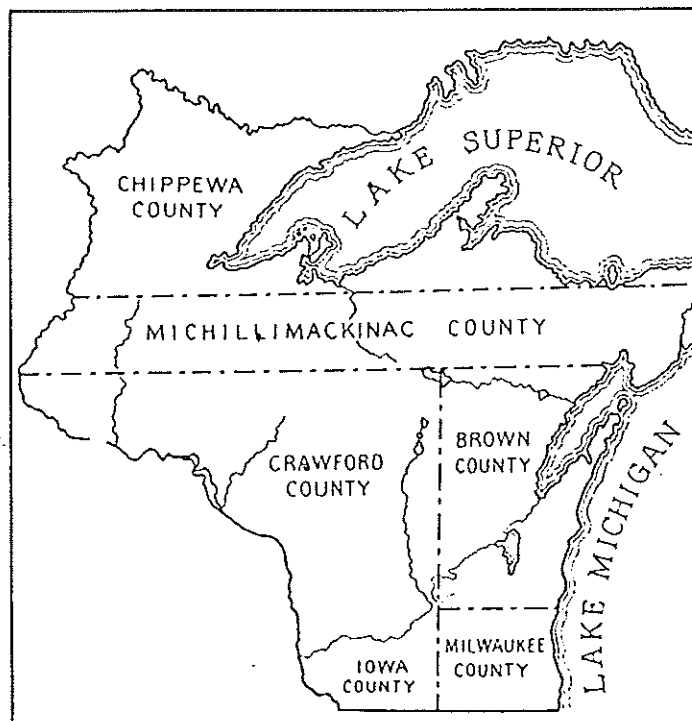
9. November 1, 1837—Washington, D. C.—Winnebago.

10. October 4, 1842—La Pointe of Lake Superior—Chippewa of the Mississippi and Lake Superior.

When Wisconsin became a state, the Indian title had been extinguished to all land except what the Menominee retained in the east-central part of the state. The cession of this soon followed.

11. October 18, 1848—Lake Pow-aw-hay-Kou-nay (Lake Poygan)—Menominee.

ship of Governor Cass. Doty began his work in 1824, and until 1832, he held court, now in Green Bay where he made his home, now in Prairie du Chien or in Mineral Point. His travels about the future state, sometimes by canoe and sometimes on horseback, gave him a great familiarity with its resources. David Irwin held the same office from 1832 to 1836. The people of



COUNTIES IN 1836*

Michigan gradually advanced in the degree of self-government that they enjoyed. For a time all officials were appointed; then there was a legislative council of nine men chosen from eighteen elected by the people; and finally, in 1827, the people had the privilege of choosing councillors. The people west of the lake took part in this rather meager political life. Brown County sent Robert Irwin, Jr., to the council in 1824, and from 1832 to 1835 the West was represented at Detroit by Morgan L. Martin³ of Green

* From Joseph Schafer, *Agriculture in Wisconsin* (1922). By courtesy of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.