Selected** American Indian Manuscript Collections at Wisconsin Historical Society

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Notes by Brown and others on the history of the Lake Chippewa, Sawyer County, Wis., area, especially in relation to the native Chippewa Indian tribe and “The Post,” a trading post inside the Chippewa reservation. The notes also contain information on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation and some narratives about Indian – White relations.


Photocopy of a letter, September 11, 1919, written by Curran, a resident of Merrill, Wisconsin, to the U.S. Indian Agent, Lac du Flambeau, protesting the rumored intention of the government to buy a home in Merrill for an Indian family.


Biographical newsclippings and general correspondence of a Menominee Indian leader who was a founding member of DRUMS, a lobbyist to restore federal aid and reservation status to the Menominee tribe in Wisconsin, and Menominee tribal chair (1975-1977).

Papers from Ericson’s Wisconsin National Guard service in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 128th Mechanized Infantry, in Eau Claire, Wis., including papers on the unit’s activation in response to the Menominee Warrior Society takeover of the Alexian Brothers Novitiate near Gresham, Wis.,


Papers collected by Father Goldsmith, founder of the "Catholic Sentinel" and an early Chippewa Falls, Wis., settler. The papers primarily date 1841-1872 and concern the Wisconsin frontier. Included is fragmentary correspondence of the Cadotte and Ermatinger families, 1821-1862, and J. L. Mahan, U.S. Indian Agent, 1880. Papers of George and William Warren, Indian agents, 1841-1872, include family and business correspondence as well as the "Private Journal of the Chipewy River Outfit," 1848-1849, by George Warren. Drafts, copies, and possibly original versions of various legal documents (1841-1872) concerning the Chippewa are included.


Records of a standing committee established by the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends in 1959 to study the welfare of Indians, particularly the Menominee, Oneida, and Winnebago tribes, and to support legislation to aid the Menominees in adjusting to termination. Included are correspondence, annotated copies of relevant state and federal legislation, minutes of I-WFCAI and related groups, and newsletters, clippings, and other research material on the Menominees.


Papers of an inspector in the Office of Indian Affairs, including typewritten copies of reports and correspondence pertaining to conditions in the La Pointe and the Oneida Indian schools in 1911; investigations made in 1915 of claims for land allotments to the Bad River band of Chippewa; transcripts of the hearing held at Oneida in 1917 shortly before the trust period on the Oneida land allotments expired; and miscellaneous items about tribes in other states, including the Choctaw and Colville Indians. The collection
contains documents written by tribal members and therefore provides access to Native American voices. It also provides insight into government dealings with Indians.


Records of the Midwest Treaty Network, an organization with 30-35 affiliated groups involved in the defense of Chippewa treaty rights and in organizing local participation in witness programs of nonviolent support for Indians at boat landings during spearfishing season. Also included are scattered records of the Madison Treaty Rights Support Group, which was instrumental in the founding of Midwest Treaty Network, and a videotape, "Spearfishing in Northern Wisconsin, 1990."

Milwaukee Woman’s Club Inter-racial Relations Committee. Resolution, 1930.

A resolution regarding the conditions of Native Americans in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives. Housed at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center Area Research Center. Ashland, Wisconsin.

Materials assembled by Beatrice Randall Piepenburg while preparing her family history. Included is historical information about Willard Leroy Ackley and his descendants and about the Sokaogon Chippewa Community in the Mole Lake, Wis. area. Much of the material is from published sources and includes newspaper clippings and excerpts from books, but there are also photocopies of photographs, typescripts of speeches and talks by Alice Ackley Randall (sister of Willard Ackley, an Ojibwe Chief) that describe many elements of a traditional lifestyle, especially food and foodways. The collection also contains information about Indian-White relations.


Lengthy reminiscences by Runkel, written in 1957, recalling her life at the Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, government school for Indian children while her mother worked there as a seamstress, 1895-ca. 1910. Photographs date 1895-1920 and show the school site, staff, students, girls in sewing class, the council hall, and lake and street views of Lac
du Flambeau. This collection provides insight into Indian boarding schools and Indian-White relations.

Four of the images in the photograph collection are available on the Wisconsin Historical Society Web site: http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/advancedSearch.asp
Search by keyword: runkel


A reference collection of a social worker long active in American Indian affairs, education, and family health and children’s services in Wisconsin.


Three Papers of the Reverend Benjamin F. Stucki, long-time director of the Winnebago Indian School, Neillsville, Wis. Included is general correspondence; articles and sermons related to Winnebago Indians; correspondence and reports of the National Fellowship of Indian Workers, 1935-1958; and correspondence with the American Bible Society, 1902-1909, regarding publication of the Winnebago Bible. Also present is a manuscript version in Winnebago of a portion of the Bible, written by the Reverends John Stacy and Jacob Stucki in 1906.


Three papers on Indian lore and Indian medicine rituals practiced by Bear Skin, an Ojibwa medicine man in Lac du Flambeau, Wis.; delivered at meetings of the Northland Historical Society, Rhinelander, Wis., by Herman Witt. One address describes Bear Skin’s calling to become a medicine man and his perceptions of the healing process.