AN ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDY

In “The Wisconsin Archeologist” a very interesting resumé is made over the archeological finding about Pine Lake and its surroundings, which are pertinent to the story of the first Swedish Settlement, and is by permission in part quoted here.

The Chenequa Lakes are among the larger of the thirty-six large and small old Indian lakes, which are the aquatic jewels of the Waukesha County country side, in southeastern Wisconsin. Waukesha County has been for many years famous in America for its beautiful lakes and health-giving springs.

The Government survey of Pine Lake was made by Mullet and Brink, during the months of July and August, 1835.

The length of Pine Lake is slightly over 2½ miles, its greatest width slightly over one mile. Its maximum depth is about 90 feet. Its area is nearly 700 acres. Its elevation above sea level is given as 315 feet.

The Mascouten or Prairie Potawatomi Indians, who formerly inhabited Waukesha County and other southeastern Wisconsin counties, are a division of the Potawatomi tribe, the other division being the Forest Potawatomi, whose place of residence is the forests of northern Wisconsin, Michigan and southern Ontario. The Prairie Potawatomi are the Indians referred to in the writings of the Jesuit fathers as “The Fire Nation.”

At the present time several hundred Potawatomi are living on small homesteads provided for them in Forest County,
and a small group near Arpin in Wood County. Some of these are descendants of southern Wisconsin Prairie Potawatomi.

Mr. Charles Rudberg, whose father, John O. Rudberg, settled on the northeast shore of Pine Lake in 1842, says that the Indians came from Pewaukee lake over the trail now followed in a general way by the highway on the east side of Pine lake and running between Pine and Beaver lakes. In his father's time they passed over this trail, going and coming, in numbers in both the spring and the autumn. He does not remember, that they had any guns. They used the bow and arrow in hunting.

Among the Potawatomi chiefs who visited the Chenequa region was Kewaskum (Kiwaskum, "goes-back-on-his-tracks"), who had a village at Pike lake, Monches of the Oconomowoc river village, and Leatherstrap of the Waukesha village.

John Shawano, Nawquakeshik (Noon Day), great-grandson of Waika or Waukesha, at present living in Forest County, states, that the Chenequa lakes were a part of the hunting grounds of the Potawatomi of his Waukesha village. They were very particular about their hunting territories and would never permit any other tribe to trespass on them. This may have been true, before the white settlers came to this region. The Menomini certainly also hunted about the lakes in the early forties.

The early Wisconsin maps, up to the year 1839, give no names for the lakes of the Chenequa group. A "map of Wiskonsin Territory, 1839," prepared by Capt. Thomas J. Cram, government topographical engineer, gives the name of Gay lake to Pine lake, Peekor to Beaver lake, and Ahko to North Lake. Lake Keesus is here named Meeshel lake. Where he obtained these names is unknown. Farmer's map,
1848, doubtless copying Cram, gives the name of Gay lake to Pine, and Peekor to Beaver.

On a "Map of the Milwaukee Land District, 1840," the name of Pine lake appears as the name for that lake. This name also appears on the Milwaukee Land District Map of 1846, Nagawicka, Pewaukee and Oconomowoc lakes being the only other northern Waukesha County lakes which bear any names.

Dr. Increase A. Lapham may be credited with having first given the attractive name of Chenequa to Pine Lake. In his book, "Wisconsin," published by P. C. Hall at Milwaukee in 1844, he says: "Pine Lake lies immediately north of Nagowicka, two miles long, three-fourths of a mile wide, five and a quarter around, and has an area of six hundred and ninety acres, being exactly the same a Nagowicka. The Indian name is Chenequa or Pine, given in consequence of a few pine trees having been found on a small neck of land or island in this lake."