INDIAN NAMES OF OTHER WAUKESHA
COUNTY LAKES

Both the Prairie Potawatomi and the Menomini had names for the Waukesha County lakes, the Potawatomi for all of them, the Menomini for some. Of the Potawatomi names some have survived. A larger number of lakes in this county bear Indian names than in any other county in southern or central Wisconsin. The significance of the names of several of these lakes has only recently been recovered.

Okauchee—Okatei, “something small;” Okidji, a “Pipe-stem.”

Keesus—Kisobis, “Sun lake.”

Peewaukee—Peewaunawkee, “flinty place.” Pewaukeeeneening or Pewaukeeenee, “lake of shells or “snail lake.” Nibeewuhkiih, “watery or soggy ground.”


Oconomowoc—Koonomowok, “name of a waterfall.”

The spelling of Indian proper names is subject to a great deal of variation not only amongst the tribes themselves
but also amongst the authors of Indian literature. Different locations and tribes adopted different interpretations of the phonetic expression, and thus, without a dictionary of the Indian languages or other standard authority in the matter, the apparent discrepancy in spelling must be overlooked or accepted as unavoidable.