

JOHN WORTHINGTON.

It is believed that JOHN WORTHINGTON was the first white man to live in this area. According to Guy Wallaces historical write-ups in the Rib Lake Herald, he lived in a log cabin near Waltys, on the shore of a body of water he named Worthington Lake.

He was married to, or lived with, an Indian maiden named Sara., who would sample his jug of liquor whenever he was gone.

He trapped all over the territory and sold his furs at Stevens Point, making the trip with ponies.

He hid his jug each time he went to check his trap lines or haul his furs. Things went along quite well until she discovered the hidden cache of liquor. That time when he returned from his trip, The cabin had burned flat to the ground and his beloved with it.

He then moved to a log cabin at the west end of the larger part of the lake. He had canoes on many of the nearby lakes. They were hewed out of logs and very well made. Some of them were still in fair condition when the settlers came later.

He died in 1882 and was buried at the Chealsea cemetery. This rubbing was taken from his very old, crumbling head stone by Naida Straub and Adeline Walbeck. It states that he was a member of Co. B. 1st Wisconsin Cavalry.

NOTE--- Later, much of the land around Lake Worthington was bought up by a man named Wellington Haight, who re-named it Wellington Lake.

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The worthington property changed hands many times.

The cabin was covered with siding at one time. It was later dismantled and moved to Beloit.

Papers were found to verify the fact that he was married to the Indian girl.

SOME TIME AFTER Helen Wallace owned it in 1897.