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## Little walks about Madison. 1919

Brown, Charles E. (Charles Edward), 1872-1946

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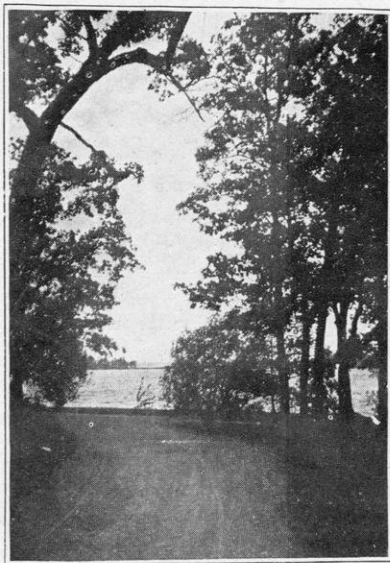
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# LITTLE WALKS ABOUT MADISON

*"It is wonderful how this walking through  
a country of a fine summer's day lightens  
the heart."—Dickens.*

Prepared for the use of students  
of the University of Wisconsin



CHARLES E. BROWN  
Chief, State Historical Museum  
MADISON, WISCONSIN  
1919

## INTRODUCTION

This series of rambles in and about Madison has been arranged with the idea of meeting the wants of University students desirous of taking short hikes and picnic jaunts. The walks are of easy distances. The distances given are in all cases approximate.

Space does not permit the details being given of the features of historic and archaeological interest passed on the walks. Additional information of this character may be obtained at the State Historical Museum.

*The Winnebago Indians called the Four Lakes region TAY-CHO-PE-RAH. The name Mendota, given to the largest of the Madison lakes signifies GREAT Lake; Monona, BEAUTIFUL; Waubesa, SWAN and Kegonsa, PIKE. Wingra (Ween-gra) means DUCK.*

## THE WALKS

### No. 1. To Sunset Point.

On alighting from the Wingra Park car at the entrance of Forest Hill cemetery take the road (Owen drive) leading between the Rentschler greenhouse and the Catholic cemetery. Walk west along this tree shaded, gradually ascending road to the Point. *Walk about three-fourths of a mile.*

Sunset point is a wooded promontory which commands a charming view of the western end of Lake Mendota and of the rolling country (forests and cultivated lands) lying west of Madison. It has long been a favored spot for picnics for small groups of students. Return by the same road.

### No. 2. To Picnic Point.

Follow the Mendota lake shore drive through the University grounds to where it connects with the Willow drive.

At the point of union a creek crossed by a wooden bridge flows into the lake. The drive takes its name from the line of golden willow trees which mark its course along the western shore of University bay. At its northern terminus, opposite Picnic Point farm, follow a path to the right along a farm fence and along the edge of the marshland. Pass through the opening in the fence and eastward through a pasture. Climb over a wire fence by means of a stile and on to Picnic point. *Walk from University Hall about 1 ½ miles.*

This narrow point, once called Strawberry point, is less than one-half mile in length. It was the site of an early Indian village evidences of which may still be seen. About half way down its length is a canoe portage from Lake Mendota into University bay. A number of low Indian mounds, oval and linear in form, are located among trees at the base of the Point. A single conical (burial) mound stands on the backbone of the Point a short distance from the portage.

The northern shore of the Point from the base to the portage is sandy and suitable for wading and swimming.

### No. 3. Over the Lake Shore Drive to Merrill Springs.

Continue from end of Willow drive opposite Picnic Point farm (Route No. 2) along a road leading west skirting the University marsh fields (on left) to a road leading north along the eastern boundary of the University farm. This road is a double road with a hedge of trees and shrubbery down its middle. Follow this road for slightly over half a mile to where it turns to the west paralleling the shore of Lake Mendota. (Opposite this turn, on the lake shore, is the University summer camp.) Follow the wooded road over the hills passing the University farm and Eagle heights (on the left). Cross rustic bridge and pass group of Indian effigy mounds (three bear mounds) on right. Pass group of summer cottages and just beyond last cottage take path down the wooded hillside to the lake shore and the large stone-walled Merrill spring. Return by the same route. *From University Hall about 4 miles.*

Beyond Merrill Springs (Spring Harbor), this road continues on to Pheasant Branch at the northwest corner of Lake Mendota. Distance about 7 miles.

### No. 4. The Trail to Nakoma.

Leave the Wingra Park car at Menges pharmacy (corner of Monroe and Harrison streets). Follow Monroe street west to the city limits. Continue along the country road (Nakoma road) passing the old Plough inn (a red brick dwelling house, on the right) to the Nakoma waiting station. Take road leading to left through lower Nakoma passing the early Spring Grove tavern. In front of the old red brick tavern a halt may be made for a drink at the Gorham spring, on the left side of the road. Continue along the road and when opposite the Nakoma Trading post, turn into Nakoma park. Eatables may be purchased at the trading post. *Walk of about 1 ½ miles.*

A return can be made to the city by the Nakoma automobile bus which leaves at stated hours.

### No. 5. Cross Country to Lake Forest.

Continue Route 4 from Nakoma park following the highway to the southwest for about two city blocks. At this point, from which a fine view of Madison and across lakes Wingra and Monona is to be had, walk east across a meadow to a boulder fence plainly to be seen in the distance. Follow the farm road on the right side of the fence until nearly opposite a clump of oak trees in a strip of pasture land on the left side. Climb the boulder fence crossing the pasture and passing the trees to a cultivated field beyond. Walk along the edge of the field, which here borders the Lake Wingra marsh, to the Lake Forest woods just beyond. Follow a well trodden path along the edge of the woods for a short distance to a fine spring and cress grown spring brook. There is no better place for the eating of a picnic lunch.

A winding path through the brush from the spring leads to the lake bank. On the land above the spring is a group of Indian effigy and burial mounds. *Walk of about 1 mile.*

A return to the city can be made from Nakoma by automobile bus. One may also return by following the path eastward along the edge of the woods,

crossing a brook which divides the woodland, and finally turning south to where a road crosses the marsh to the Gay farm buildings. Just beyond these take the highway leading north to the city, crossing a bridge across the Wingra canal enroute. This road meets the South Madison electric car line. *Walk of about 2½ miles.*

No. 6. Overland Ramble through Forest Hill Cemetery and Wingra Woods to Vilas Park.

Alight from Wingra Park car at entrance of Forest Hill cemetery. Walk southward to south boundary of cemetery passing graves of Union and Confederate soldiers on left. Climb fence into Wingra woodland. A line of Indian effigy and linear mounds runs through the woods. From this elevated land a fine view of the western end of Lake Wingra and of Lake Forest on the opposite shore is to be had. Cross the woods and Illinois Central R. R. right of way and continue south through Wingra settlement to Monroe street. Follow Monroe street city-ward for several blocks to Woodrow street and this street, which skirts the cultivated fields of Edgewood academy, southward to the shore of Lake Wingra. At the lake follow the pleasure drive road eastward to Vilas park.

On the way to the park this shady woodland road passes a group of Indian burial mounds (on left), several springs on the lake shore, and crosses a small stone bridge across a draw. *Walk of about 2 miles.*

At Vilas park, inspect the Zoo and the group of Indian mounds on the hill top above.

No. 7. To Monona Park.

Take South Madison car line to terminus in South Madison. Walk one-fourth mile east along road to Monona park. This is an ideal picnic ground. The lake shore is sandy. A fine view is had across Lake Monona to the city.

No. 8. Tenney Park to Maple Bluff.

Take the Johnson street car line to Baldwin street and walk one block north-east to Tenney Park. Cross the park to Sherman avenue on the Lake Mendota shore. Walk north passing over bridge over the Yahara river and continue northward along avenue passing the Fuller woods (on left). Numerous Indian burial and other mounds in this shady woods can be seen from the road. Pass Burrows park (on left) and continue on avenue to where a sign marks the entrance to Lakewood suburb. Follow road through Lakewood to the Maple Bluff Golf club grounds. Continue on road which climbs to crest of Maple bluff. Indian mounds may be seen in the woods and yards of summer homes on the Bluff. *Walk of about 3 miles.* Maple bluff was formerly known as McBride's point.

Continue on this road to reach Bernard's park and State Hospital grounds. On the Hospital lawn, some of the finest Indian mounds about the Four Lakes region are to be found.