

Towne Native American Artifacts Collection

Presenter: Lyle Mork

July 29, 2013

- Ray Earl Towne grew up on a potato farm located south of Waupaca. He became acquainted with a number of Native Americans who used to camp along a nearby river. They were mostly from the Winnebago tribe (now referred to as Ho Chunk), while there were some who belonged to the Menomonie.
- At that time, potato farming was done mostly by hand, so artifacts would often be found.
- There was an article in the 1903 Iola Herald about Indian Point. This is an area on the west bank of Lake Iola where Lakeshore Drive is presently located. The water in that area was shallow and contained wild rice.
- The Waupaca area was kind of a cross-road for a number of tribes, so much trading had been done in the area. A lot of the artifacts came from around the Chain of Lakes.
- This collection is rather unique in the number of tools displayed. Ray Reser, from the Museum of Natural History at UW-Stevens Point, plans to examine and date the collection.
- One effigy mound is left in the area. It is thirty inches high and twenty feet long. There is a plaque marking the location on the west side of county highway QQ. The plaque was installed in 1913 by the "Monday Night Club".
- A replica bow and a couple lacrosse sticks, made by Pat Peters, were passed around.
- At the end of the program, Wayne Towne donated a "hay knife" to the Historical Society.