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Chronicle Of East Shore Indian Tribes Presented At First Fall Meeting Of County History Group

Brothertown, Stockbridge Redmen Described As Pioneer Settlers

History of the Brothertown and Stockbridge Indians was discussed by Otto Heller, Brothertown, at the first fall meeting of the Fond du Lac County Historical society in the courthouse Monday night.

Heller said that the pioneer settlers in this area actually were not white persons but members of the Brothertown tribe who established themselves in a community on the east shores of Lake Winnebago in 1832. There were seven men and their families at the time.

Of Narragansett Tribe

Originally the Brothertowns and Stockbridges were members of the Narragansett tribe of the Algonquin Indians who formerly dwelt near Narragansett bay in Rhode Island. One of their leaders, Eleaser Wheelock, gained an education in the colonies and returned to his tribe, teaching them in various fields and starting a school for them. The Indians became industrious and turned their efforts to planned agriculture.

Gradually the tribe was forced out of Rhode Island and went to New York shortly after the American Revolution. In 1810, they emigrated to Indiana, acquiring land from the Miami Indians. Later the Stockbridges were forced from the state and in 1822 went to what is now Kaukauna. They were followed in 1831 by the Brothertowns who purchased land on the east shore of Lake Winnebago and located in what is now Calumet county.

Made Good Progress

The Brothertowns brought along with them their knowledge of agriculture and developed and progressed much better than did the Stockbridges, according to Heller. Early day travelers marvelled at the efforts of the Brothertowns in connection with their crops. The Brothertowns took an active interest in civic affairs and held several Calumet county offices until after the Civil war.

Heller, who substituted for the scheduled speaker, George Pasko, of Ripon, said that he had several relics of the early Indian days in Wisconsin, including a record book which has court proceedings from 1797 to 1840.

A report of the society's August picnic was given by Gerald Holzman. Mrs. Franklin Brown reported on the group's booth at the 1949 county fair and on finances.

Early Spanish settlers in Amer-