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Cottonwood

6314 N. Lovely St.
Portland, Oregon
March 28, 1940.

Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Secretary:

I am a former member of your society, and resided in the state of Iowa. In the "Cottonwood County Citizen" are a series of historic articles by the undersigned. A resident of your city wrote me relative to Lake Talcott, and I gave him some information about its name.

Madame Lee Nute has extensive knowledge about fur trading posts. Permit me to ask:

1. Who named Lake Talcott (in Cottonwood Co. Minn.)?
2. Since what year has Lake Talcott its name?
3. Was Andrew Talcott ever located by that lake?
4. How early was a fur trading post built at Lake Talcott?
5. Who were the earliest fur traders at Lake Talcott?

A reply to above questions shall interest me, and an old resident by Lake Talcott. (I know Andrew Talcott's biography). If your reply involves expense (for one or two hours) state it.

Respectfully yours,
H. O. Sanderson

April 2, 1940

Rev. H. O. Hendrikson
6314 N. Lovely Street
Portland, Oregon

My dear Mr. Hendrikson:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your inquiry regarding Lake Talcott and the history of that vicinity. We are compiling information for you, and as soon as we have completed it we will send it to you. There will be no charge for this service.

I note that you are a former member of our Society. May I extend to you an invitation to again become a member? Even though you are in a place quite distant from Minnesota, I am sure that you will find a great deal of pleasure in our publications.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Superintendent

April 15, 1940

Rev. H. O. Hendrikson
6314 N. Lovely Street
Portland, Oregon

My dear Mr. Hendrikson:

Mr. Larsen has asked me to send you the information about Lake Talcott which you requested in your letter of March 28.

Lake Talcott in Cottonwood County, Minnesota, was so named by Joseph N. Nicollet on the map accompanying his Report Intended to Illustrate a Map of the Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River (26 Congress, 2 session, Senate Documents, no. 237 -- serial 380; also printed as 28 Congress, 2 session, House Documents, no. 52 -- serial 464). The map and the report were published in 1843.

Warren Upham, in his Minnesota Geographic Names, p. 153 (Minnesota Historical Collections, vol. 17 -- St. Paul, 1920) says that "Talcott lake . . . is one of the names placed by Nicollet on his map . . . to commemorate friends and prominent men of science," and speaks of Nicollet's "generous use of such names in the upper Mississippi region."

It seems unlikely that Andrew Talcott was ever located on or near Lake Talcott. His biography in the Dictionary of American Biography indicates that his duties during his active years as a soldier and an engineer kept him occupied elsewhere; after his retirement in 1867 he travelled abroad and upon his return he settled in Baltimore, and later removed to Richmond, where he died.

According to Grace Lee Nute, in her "Posts in the Minnesota Fur-trading Area, 1660-1885," in Minnesota History, 11:381 (December, 1930), a post of the American Fur Company was located near Lake Talcott on the headwaters of the Des Moines as early as 1835.

I am sorry that I cannot tell you who were the earliest fur traders at Lake Talcott. The early travellers and explorers in the region fail to mention in their accounts the names of traders that they encountered.

Sincerely yours,

Editorial assistant.

Lake Talcott