

[Richmond Van Ness]

Gregg Montgomery March 24, 1936 Richmond Va Ness Lodi, Wis. Personal History

Mr. Van Ness was born and spent most of his life in West Point. [?] small Yankee settlement about four miles west of Lodi. The following stories are legends and old time customs of that settlement . REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Indian Skirmish [?]

It is believed that there was once an Indian battle on the Van Ness farm. This fact was deduced by the accumulation of relics found down a slight vale. On the highest spot of land near by Richmond Van Ness while digging for gravel found what he concluded to be the fire by which the tribesman made peace, for near this fire was found a buried tomahawk and three plumets. Plumets Richmond Van Ness gregg Montgomery 9

Plumets are uncommon relics. They are made of highly polished stone in oval or egg shapes. Some of them have small grooves around the [small?] end. Several explanations are offered for the use of plumets but the one that seems to hold the most credence is that they had a spiritual value in the Indian's medicine chest. "Medicine" to the Indian was any object connecting himself and the spiritual. It may have been a skull, a skin, pebbles, a bone or a polished piece of wood. which he would wear around his neck or belt. These things to him were part an intricate part of his religion and would help him to call up in his

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Richmond Van Ness Indian Lore (Cont.)

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rituals his own most friendly spirits and would help him to protect [???] and make him successful in his adventures.