

Wm. Dick Dies at a Milwaukee Hospital

S. L. A. *Thurs* 16 Nov 1933

Saturday afternoon, Nov. 11, at Red Springs, funeral rites were held for a man known throughout the state, and especially at the University of Chicago, as the "Last of the Mohicans."

His name was Makwa Monpuy and his English name was William Thomas Dick. He passed to the Happy Hunting Ground of his ancestors on Tuesday November 7 at the Milwaukee county hospital at Milwaukee.

Makwa Monpuy — William Thomas Dick—was born at Stockbridge, Wisconsin in 1857. He attended the government school and was a carpenter by trade. He was married to Miss Mary Showers and to that union one daughter, Lena, was born. She is now Mrs. Lena Bowman, Milwaukee.

William Dick was a Stockbridge Indian, said to be the last of the race about which James Fenimore Cooper wrote many years ago, and the last of Mohicans to speak lingering, musical remnants of his native tongue. He learned the language from his grandmother when he was a boy. As far as scientists have been able to determine, Monpuy was the only person alive who knew and spoke Mohican. He had been sought out by the University of Wisconsin and Washington, D. C., research departments, and the anthropology department of the University of Chicago who spent several days two years ago recording in phonetic writing his words.

* The Mohicans never advanced enough to record their language in either pictures or words. It is for this reason Mohican is important to linguists. In recording the language they have obtained a valuable link in the growth of speech from sound to written equivalents.

In the Milwaukee papers two years ago there were many stories about William Dick—"Last of the Mohicans." It was written in one

paper following an interview that William Dick remembered no tribal songs or legends. His parents were converted to the Presbyterian faith and he too joined the church and was an elder of his congregation.

"But in his heart he retained a deep sympathy for the Pagan Indian, for his simple philosophy, ancient lore, and instinctive knowledge of woods and sky and animals."

For the past several years William Dick lived with his daughter and grandson at Milwaukee. It was they who brought the body to Red Springs to be interred at the Red Springs Cemetery. The Rev. Hillegas of the Presbyterian Church conducted the services.