In the early 1800s, the Potawatomi indians inhabited the area near Lake Geneva, located 85 miles north of Chicago in southeastern Wisconsin. The lake is 7.6 miles long and 2.1 miles wide. The lake originated form a Michigan glacier. Most of the lake's water comes from rainfall, springs, and streams. The Indians named the lake *Kish-Way-Kee-Tow* which means *clear water*. For years the Indians walked a 26 mile path along the lakeshore.

In the 1870s following the Great Chicago Fire, many of Chicago's richest entrepreneurs began developing grand estates on the lakefront. Giant "summer cottages" were built on the lake shore. The property owners tried to close the path that circles the lake. However, they were not successful. State courts ruled that the the path should remin open because the Potawatomi used it before the property owners began developing the land.

Today, more than a century later, Lake Geneva is one of the ritziest resort areas in the Midwest, and you can still walk the path around the lake.