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INDIAN PLACE NAMES IN VERMONT

THE settlement of Vermont by Yankee colonists did not—in fact, could not—begin in volume until the French had surrendered Quebec and Montreal, 1759–1760. These Green Mountain pioneers were chiefly of English descent; they and their forbears had experienced more than a century of dealings with Indians in New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Their Indian contacts had been mostly Algonkian, (Mohican, Narragansett, Wampanoag, Squakheag, Pocumtuc, Pennacook, Abnaki, etc.) so it is not surprising that most of Vermont's Indian place-names are Algonkian, and that Algonkian terms were transplanted from the older settlements to this state.

In the parent colonies, pioneers had bargained directly with the Indians for land, so Indian place-names from old grants, deeds and treaties are commonplace in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and New York. In Vermont such sources do not exist; the newcomers dealt chiefly with governmental agencies, because by 1760 the Algonkians in New York and New England had (as a rule) been either killed off or forced to migrate to Canada. Hence, very few Indians were “at home” to greet white immigrants to New York's four northeast counties (Charlotte, Albany, Cumberland and Gloucester) alias “The Hampshire Grants,” later “New Connecticut,” then Vermont. Most of the Indians who dwelt in Vermont during its formative years (1760–1790) were apparently Abnakis or Pennacooks. Linguistically these tribes were very similar.

In a few cases Vermont's earliest town fathers had as neighbors some Mohawks from *Caughnawaga* (“at the rapids,” the Lachine rapids near Montreal) or Hurons from Ancien-Lorette, a suburb of Quebec city. Occasionally, too, Oneidas and Senecas strayed here from New York's Finger Lakes region where the Iroquois Confederacy was a going concern until the late 1770's.

The Abnakis who dwelt in Vermont (or trickled in from Canada) spoke poor French and even worse English. They were willing enough to interpret Indian names (as Rowland Robinson's works will testify) but the first two or three generations of Green Mountain settlers couldn't understand Indian Joe very well, and were too busy clearing land to pay much heed. It follows, therefore, that compared

with other New England states (and with New York) Vermont has relatively few Indian place names, and in too many instances those locatives are garbled.

Even in the Champlain valley the great majority of place-names transmitted to the first Yankee settlers (1760-1790) are Algonkian, which is to say, chiefly Abnaki or Mohican. But on both shores of Lake Champlain a considerable number of Mohawk (and other Iroquoian) terms have been preserved, notably on French and British military maps. There is also a sprinkling of toponymics from far-distant tribes; wherever possible these non-Algonkian, non-Iroquoian words have been labelled and translated.

[In the text, Algonkian names are given Arabic numerals; Iroquoian terms have lower-case letters. All other Indian names stand without numbers or literals.]

Evidently the (Iroquoian) *Mohawks* controlled the whole Lake Champlain watershed from 1400 (?) A. D. until around 1600, while the rest of Vermont was (Algonkian) territory belonging to *Mohicans*, *Pocumtucs*, *Pennacooks* and later, *Abnakis*. None of these people "stayed home"; before and after Samuel de Champlain's visit in 1609 the east shore of "Iroquois Sea" (Lake Champlain) was quite vulnerable to Mohawk raids, while the heavily forested ranges to the west were often visited by Algonkian hunters. The Indian name for New York's Mount Marcy is *Wa-wob-aden-ek*, identical with the Abnaki-Pennacook words meaning "at the White Mountains" in New Hampshire. Further, the word "Adirondacks" was not originally applied to the mountains, but was a derisive Iroquoian nickname for Abnaki interlopers. The Mohawk term *Ra-ti-ron-ta-keks* can be translated approximately as "those (weaklings) who eat bark and other things from trees." Significantly, Lake Saranac, in Mohawk country, probably gets its name from Abnaki *sen-hal-on-ak*, literally "sumac buds."

Aboriginal place names are generally simple descriptives, so we have "Big Island" (Abnaki *Kchi menahan*; Mohawk *Ka-weh-né-yo*,) etc. Indian names often contain "action-sense," too; "Quinneaska Point" (and river) in Shelburne gets its name from Abnaki *Kwini eskuan*, "a long elbow or other joint which bends." In Grand Isle County, *De-ye-hon-wah-kwá-tha* comes from Mohawk words which signify "at which somebody picks up his canoe," that is, a portage or carrying-place.

[George Washington inherited a striking nickname from his grandfather, whom the Iroquois called *A-na-da-ga'-ri-as*, "destroyer of

towns." Governor Montmagny of Quebec (1636) was *On-non-tio*, "Mountain Large," a direct translation of his French name.]

Most of the words included in this brochure have been gleaned from colonial documents, missionaries' notes, maps, town histories, textbooks, novels, old letters, diaries, legends, and even folk-tales. Their interpretations have been attempted by referring to documents in Quebec, Montreal, St. Francis, Nicolet, Ottawa; Portland (Maine), Albany, Boston, New Haven, New York, and Washington, D. C.

Quoting from Nils Holmer's *Indian Place Names in North America* (Harvard University, 1948): "Probably there is only one effective way of determining meanings . . . which have persisted. That is to try to fit them into surviving patterns found among tribes *that have not yet lost their language and traditions*. It is in most cases a hazardous task."

A hazardous task, indeed, and in many cases it is too late. But thanks mainly to Sagamore Stephen Laurent, Hereditary Chief of the St. Francis Abnakis, we have nailed down quite a collection of Algonkian words; and the venerable Mohawk scholar *Tha-wen-nen'sere*, Mr. Charles A. Cooke of Ottawa has translated and augmented our modest nucleus of Iroquoian place-names. Other benefactors are listed in the acknowledgements; to say that we are grateful is indeed an understatement.

*Algonkian names are numbered; Iroquoian names are lettered.
Other Indian names are given without numbers or letters.*

ADDISON

1. Owl's Head Harbor: *Wal-oi-as muh-dup*, literally "owl's head."
2. Chimney Point: *Chemaun Nayaug*, from *Chemaun*. "a canoe" plus *Nayaug*, "a point of land."

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- a. At various times since 1600 Chimney Point has been called *Krum* (Crooked) by the Dutch, *Crown* by the English, *Pointe de Chevelure* by the French; some old English maps call it *Scalping Point*. Crude attempts have been made to derive Chimney Point from Algonkian radices involving words for "canoe" and "point" (*Chemaun Nayaug*) but in the light of advices from Charles A. Cooke these are patently wrong.

Here is the derivation as given by the eminent Mohawk philologist: *Yen on hom ra rä gwá tha* means "where scalping is done,"

or "to remove from the top." This name may allude to the smoke-hole in an Indian lodge, or a chimney. So "Chimney Point" is Chimney Point: some Europeans, with their imperfect knowledge of Mohawk, thought it meant "Scalping." The more acceptable word is *Ka nión ra* "where smoke goes up, from the hole at the top of a dwelling."

- b. The fort made of wooden stakes, the "Fort de Pieux" at Chimney Point, (1726? 1730?) was called by the Mohawks
A den heñ ra, "a stockade."
Ni wa den hen rá ha "a small stockade."
- c. Villages on both sides of the lake were called *ga nya da rak' ta*. "near the lake."

ALBURG (and vicinity)

1. Isle aux Têtes: *Modepsek Manan*, or *Wdepsek*; "Isle of Heads." one of small islands north of Alburg where Abnakis surprised, killed and beheaded Mohawks, putting the severed heads (*modepsek*) up on poles.

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- a. Isle aux Têtes. or Heads Island: The Mohawk word is *Ga non wa ro'ha re*, "Head is hung up or hoisted."

This Long House name has been applied to several places along the Richelieu River and Lake Champlain, localities where luckless victims' heads were exposed. According to some accounts Remember Baker's head was in such a manner stuck on a pole and hoisted as a warning.

ARLINGTON

1. *Mkuigen*: "It is red." (Red Hill?)
Kansas: a village. Probably from name of Kansas state, which gets its name from Kansa or Kaw tribe. *Kansa* is Siouan for "wind," especially the wind from the south.
Nebraska: a name jokingly applied to region near Kansas village. From Osage (Siouan) dialect, *Nebthaka*, "water that is wide and flat."

BELLOWS FALLS

1. *Kitchee Ponteguh*: "The Great Rapids."
2. *Kitchee Kokuh*: "The Great Whirlpool."
3. *Niben*: "Summer." Part of name meaning "summer fishing place"?

BENNINGTON

1. *Waloomsac*: If Algonkian, possibly a contraction of *Wallas-teg-ak*, "at the place of the shallow river."
2. *Askaskwigek-wadjo*: "The green mountain." (Mount Anthony?)

BLOOMFIELD

1. *Nulhegan* river and region: from *Kulhegan*, "wooden trap, or deadfall."

The Nulhegan river was part of the Abnaki route from St. Francis to the Connecticut River.

2. *Mozia*: "Moose meat" (here?).
3. *Ska hô gan*: "A sharp stick."
Small animals were trapped by means of deadfalls, *Kulhegan*, cleverly assembled from *Ska hô gan ak*, sharpened sticks tied together with thongs.

BRADFORD

1. *Madagascar*: a wild, wooded section known today as Brushwood. Probably *Ma-to-gu-as*, "rabbit or hare," (*matta-guas*, or *matta wigos*, "poor game, bad meat.")
2. The Waits River: *Ma-houn-quam-mas-see*. Some say this is derived from *Mada hondo*, "a devil or spirit," *quam*, "a tree," and *mas*, "great." Hence, "Devil's big trees" or "Evil Spirit of big trees."
3. Mossback Meadow: the golf links east of the business section of Bradford village. Probably from *Mas-ba-ak*, "where much water overflows."
4. *Nassarwee*: land between the Connecticut and the Waits. *Na-sa-wi*, "between (rivers)."
5. Devil's Den, in Wright's Mountain: *Madahondo-Apskuh*. "The Devil's Rocks."
6. *Kikon*: "A Field." Cleared fields (possibly Pennacook or Abnaki cornfields?) north of Stone Cliff Farm.
7. *Nokhigan*: "Flour," or "Meal." (Probably part of a word meaning "mortar-and-pestle," used for pulverizing corn.)

BRANDON

1. *Neshobe*: Indian name for region; taken from *Mas-ba-ak* meaning "place very full of water," where Otter Creek overflows. (Similar places are called by same name all over New England.)
2. *Warwuwises*: "A fox." A resident of Forest Dale says this word was formerly used to describe a fox's den in a back pasture.

BRATTLEBORO

1. *Kee-ta-do-gan apsko seebis*: "Whetstone rock brook," or "small stream (*seebis*) where grindstone rocks abound."
2. *Odana*: "a village." This name was used years ago to identify a place on a meadow south of Brattleboro. Does this mean that Abnakis had a village there?

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BRIGHTON

1. *Menanbawk*: "Island-in-Pond."
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- a. *Os we' ga chie*: river: "very long bay, or estuary." This name probably is a "transplant" from the Ogdensburg, New York, region. (Oneida? St. Regis Mohawk?)

BROOKFIELD

1. *Ah-wah-soos aden*: "Bear Mountain." (Rowland Robinson often used the nom-de-plume *Ahwahsoos*, "The Bear.")

BRUNSWICK

1. *Nebi son-bik*: "Water which has different taste," the mineral water springs.
2. *Nolkanak*: "Deer (here?)"

BURLINGTON

1. *Mis-ta-sen-nee*: "huge stone," the large boulder at Lone Rock Point.
2. *Neg-wee-sen*: "single, lonely rock."
3. *Misk-wa au-bik Nay-aug*: "Red Rock Point."
4. *Misk-wa-bik-ud*: "Red Rock Place."
5. *Wo-ja-ho-sen*: Rock Dunder; "The Forbidder's Rock," or "The Guardian's Rock."
6. *Nolirwi Menan, Nonnegowil Menahanol*: "five islands." "The Four Brothers," or "Isles of the Four Winds" and Juniper Rock.

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- a. Appletree Point: *Da-ron'-go-wa*, "large duck." From *da-ron*, "a duck" and *go wanan*, "large."
- b. The Lone Rock at Rock Point. *Osten wanne* (Beauchamp); *Ostten ro wanan* (Cooke) "the large rock."

c. Several rocks near Juniper Island? Rock Dunder?

Regiohne (Beauchamp).

Rogeo Rotsio (Old Maps).

Ren ji yoh' neh (Cooke). "His rock is good."

d. *Skaneent graksenge*: "dangerous to land on this side" refers to Burlington in some fragments. Mr. Cooke gives the correct Mohawk spelling as "*Sga nen tga ra aksen' geh*, which means a notably bad landing place—bad on account of being precipitous, or lack of foothold, or swift water," descriptive of all the Vermont shore. Perhaps also, "dangerous to land because of (Mohican?) enemies."

CABOT

1. Molly's Falls: *Mali pan-jah-lok*.

2. Molly's Pond: *Mali bowk*.

3. *Mali* is Abnaki for "Mary;" hence "Indian Molly," "Indian Joe's" wife.

CANAAN

1. Lake Wallis: *Na-maas-ko-tick*, "The Lake-Trout Place."

2. *Metalluk's* Brook: so named for an old Indian named Metalluk, who lived in Coös county, New Hampshire. (The Abnaki word *Marw larwl dak* means "Cedar Tree;" it is said that *Metalluk* called himself "The Cedar Man.")

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a. There is some slight evidence that Hurons from Ancien-Lorette, Quebec, called the mountains in Canaan and vicinity *Ya non da' sa*, "small mountains," or "foothills."

CASTLETON

1. Lake Bomoseen (Also Hortonia?): *Mas-kee-koh-wo-gam*: "Big pond with grassy banks."

2. Bird Mountain: *Wee-ko-wam-aden-sees*. "Mountain shaped like little (Abnaki) wigwam." (Not the cone-shaped type but like a round-domed, bark-covered hut.)

3. *Bomoseen*: a lake on Route 30, north of Castleton Corners. Other spellings include *Bomzeen*, *Obamaseen*, *Obam-Sarween*. Possibly this name comes from the Abnaki *Obum-Sarwin*, "keepers of the ceremonial fire." When asked about this, the Obum-Sawins of Thompson's Point replied. "Possibly that is correct. We heard that from older people, long ago in Canada."

CHARLOTTE

1. Mt. Philo: *Ma-te-guas-aden*, "Rabbit Mountain."
2. Mt. Philo: *Ma-te-guas-semee*, "Rabbit Rock." (See also Bradford, 1, Madagascar.)
3. *Ma-kin-ack-ock*: The Bight of Lake Champlain near Thompson's Point; from *Makimmekon*, "turtle." Large edible turtles were caught there.
4. *Tommy Squatter*: Deep water off Thompson's Point, from *Tee-min iskwat-tam*, "deep water all around here." (Several places in New England and Canada have similar names.)
5. *As-wahden-ick*: a flat place near Lewis Creek, east of Mt. Philo, "the place beyond the hill." (Similar to *Housatonic*, a river in Massachusetts and Connecticut.)
6. Thompson's Point: *Ko-zo ap-skwa*, "Stony Point."
7. Charlotte Cove: *Pa-won-bowk*, ("dish-shaped pond.")
8. *Topabsqua*: "Split Rock," in Lake Champlain.

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a. The Lookout-Place.

Mount Philo, and several other high places commanding good view of Lake Champlain.

Tyon tka tho' tha, "There, some distance away, someone makes use of this place for looking about."

Tyon tka en yon' tha, "there at some distance away someone uses this place for examining the view."

b. Turtle Bight or Turtle Cove near Thompson's Point. (Also several places in Grand Isle and Franklin Counties.)

Oh no wa ra' ke, "at the place of turtles;" from *oh no wa ra*, "turtle" and *ke*, locative suffix.

O non wa da' ge, "a marshy stretch of land, full of sluggish pools of water, likely haunts for turtles."

The turtle is the symbol of a very important clan. A Mohawk name for Turtle Clan is *O na te nyah' te*. Perhaps this word means "neck-out-neck-in animal"; the Mohawk root-word "neck" is *O nya ta*.

c. *A don' nia te*: Thompson's Point, "It is a point."

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CHITTENDEN

1. *Nickwacket*: a mountain in Chittenden. From Abnaki *Ngwa* or *nikowa*, "a squirrel," and the place-suffix *auke*. Hence, "squirrel-place."

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- a. One Mohawk name for the common gray squirrel is *a ro sen* but only the flimsiest trace of this name appears in Vermont. Across the lake in New York state we find also *Is gwa de go wa*, "big squirrel."

CLARENDON

1. *Chippenhook*: village on Clarendon river, possibly from *Kitchee-pen-ho-ack*, "great steep banks," or *Kitchee ponteguh*, "great rapids."

COLCHESTER

1. Camp, etc., *Wimmisquam* at Clay Point: from *Wanas Kwam*, "Tall Tree."
2. Colchester Point: *Nay-aug*, "the point."

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- a. *A gen ya te on nia*, or *On nia gen ya te*: Probably Colchester Point, but perhaps Porter's Point. Both spellings contain "at the end," *A gen ya te*, and "a point," *on nia*.
- b. Some old maps indicate the mouth of the Winooski River with the (Onandaga?) Iroquois word *Ya na on goh' ton*, "river-mouth."
- c. One of the best Iroquoian jars ever discovered was unearthed in Colchester over a hundred years ago.

CONNECTICUT RIVER, ETC.

1. Connecticut: from *Kwimi-teguh*, "the long river." ("Long River place" is *Kwimi-teguh-ack*, the Connecticut valley.)
2. *Muhsagwuh*: "marshes." Many places along rivers are called *Muskeg*.
3. *O-ma-wô-gan*: "Fishing (places?)"
4. *Chaw pemigan*: "Fish hook."
5. *Ahlabem*: "A net."
6. *Agwiden* "a canoe."

CORINTH

1. *Oquassanock*: brook-drained flat lands near Meadow Meeting House; from *O-quas-sa*, "slender trout," plus *ock*, "at the place of."

CORINTH-WEST FAIRLEE

1. Bear Notch: *Owassoosen*, from *Ah-wah-soos*, "bear" and *sen*, "rock."

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- a. Bear Notch: *Yah ge' shon*, "on the stones," or "among the rocks." The Caughnawaga (Mohawk) name for "bear" is *ah nion' gen*. The Bear Notch area is indeed "among the rocks" so *yah ge' shon* is truly descriptive; but it does *not* mean "Bear Notch." Or is this name a transplant, like *Oswegatchie*?

DANVILLE

1. Joe's Pond: *Sozap Nebees*, (see also Cabot: Molly's Falls, etc.) *Sozap* is the Abnaki pronunciation of "Joseph." *Nebis* means "pond" or "stream of water." Probably so named for "Indian Joe" of early Coös fame.

DORSET

1. *Netop*: a mountain in Dorset; a Massachusetts form of *Nidoba*, "my friend."
"The Abnakis lived and died paired off as friends . . . A man's *nidoba* was more than a brother; a man gladly laid down his life for his *nidoba*."

Robert P. Tristram Coffin, in
The Kennebec.

2. *Wanas quatoek*: "Head or source of river." (Several streams rise in Dorset.)
3. *Wan-askw-teg-ek*: "At the end of the river of many little falls."? (See also Weston.)

DUMMERSTON

1. *Wicopee*: a hill in Dummerston. Possibly from the Delaware words for "long hill;" possibly from Natick *wequanebe*, "at the good water."

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- a. On an English map compiled before 1666 (the Pocumtuc fort, destroyed that year, is shown as a going concern) the notation "Maquaes fort" appears in southeastern Vermont. This would be translated "a Mohawk (Iroquois) outpost, or fort;" it might have been here, or in the Newfane, or in Marlboro.



DUXBURY-HUNTINGTON

1. Camel's Hump: *Tah-wak-be-dee-ee-so wadso*, "the resting-place mountain."

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FAIR HAVEN

1. *Cocksackie*, (*Cooksacky*, *Cooksauke*, etc.): (ledges where snakes sun themselves) "snake-place," from *skog*, or *skook*, "snake, serpent" and place-suffix *ack*, "land."

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2. On old maps showing ("Wood Creek," "South Bay," "Grand Marais," "The Great Marsh," etc.) the southern end of Lake Champlain appears an almost indistinguishable word, probably *A nia da ra wom' te*, "a lake attached to another."

FAIRLEE

1. A camp on Lake Fairlee: *Quinibeck*, from *Kwini-bowk*, "the long pond."
2. *Semneemahgesso*: The Eagle Cliffs, on Route 5 north of Fairlee village. "Rocks (*semnee*) where eagles (*mahgessok*) live."

FAYSTON

Buell's Gore: *Appalachian* gap. Perhaps Muskohegan (Hitchiti) *apalachee*, "people of the other side," or possibly from Choctaw *apelachi*, "helper."

FERDINAND

2. *Seneca* mountain: "place of stones." Probably Iroquoian, although "stone" in Abnaki is *sen*.

FERRISBURG

1. *Wobegilseebis*: "Goose Creek."
2. Otter Creek, or Great Otter: *Pee-kon-tuk*, probably from *pe-kon-tuk*, "crooked river" although some say *pe-koan-tuck* or "water-snow river;" also *pe-kikon-tuk*, "field watered by river."
3. *Jigwallick*: a marsh and frog-pond near the mouth of Lewis Creek. Probably from *Chee-gual-ock*, "place of big frogs."
4. Lewis Creek: *Sun-gah-nee-took*, "Fish-weir river."
5. *Wo-no-ka-kee-took*: "The Little Otter River."

FERRISBURG (*continued*)

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- a. *Da wi neh' neh*: "at the abode of otters," from *Da wi neh*, "otter" plus suffix *neh*, "at the place, abode, or haunt of."
- b. *Don wa ga yon*: "an old muskrat lodge."

GLOVER

1. *Nagwadog* hill: On maps marked as "Lone Tree Hill," perhaps from Quiripi dialect (Connecticut) *nagui tog*, "a solitary tree." (See Burlington, *Negweesen*, "Lone Rock Point.")
2. *Pekda bowk*: "Smoke Pond" or "Dark Pond." Shadow Lake?

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GRAND ISLE

1. Grand Isle: *Keechee Manan*, "The Big (or Chief) Island." (Similar names all over New England; as *Grand Manan* off Maine coast; also *Man-hattan*, "The Island Place," New York City.) See also LEMINGTON.
2. *Gitshee Menahan*: variant of 1.
3. Butler Island?: *Kaskoi Menan*, "Heron Island."

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- a. *Oh ske non' ton*: "a deer." Place near ferry-landing, Vermont terminus, place near Cumberland Head, New York, ferry landing; also several places in Franklin County.
- b. *Hochelaga*, (Camp): *O se la ga* is Mohawk for "at the beaver dam."
- c. *Ga sa ra' ge*, *Kogh se ra' ge*, apparently meant, "It is winter again," or "It is winter here;" and referred to the islands in particular, as well as northern New York and Vermont in general.
- d. The Carrying-Place. (Also other portages, both sides of Lake Champlain; a main thoroughfare in Ticonderoga, New York.) *De ye hon wah kwa' tha*, "With which someone takes up a canoe." Freely paraphrased, "A carrying-place; a portage."
- e. *Kah-weh-ni'-yo*, "Large or beautiful island."

GRANBY

1. *Moccasin* hill: from Abnaki *m'kazen*, "shoe," or "foot-covering."

GREENSBORO

1. *Elligo*: a pond in Greensboro. If this is an Abnaki name, it is probably just a fraction; the Abnaki word for "good" is *wli*. "It is good" would be *wligo*. "Handsome" is *waliget*. Possibly the complete name would be *wligobowk*, "good pond," or *wligonebes*, "good water."

GUILDHALL

1. *Adden* mountain: This may be an English name, Adden or Hadden. If Abnaki, it might come from *aden*, literally "mountain."

HANCOCK

Texas falls: *Texas* (the state which shares with Vermont the distinction of having been an independent republic) derives its name from the Hasinai Indian word *tejas*, meaning "friend."

HARTLAND

1. *Ottaqueechee*: the river so named. This is a very difficult problem; it may mean "current coming out" or "cat-tails near current" or even "place where land near muskrat lodges trembles." In some Massachusetts dialects *cochichawick* means "at the place of the wild dashing stream;" possibly *ottaqueechee* is Old Abnaki for the same type of river. Further West, *ottumwa* meant "rapids;" so "rapid current" or "tumbling stream" would seem to fit.

HINESBURG

1. *Iroquois* lake: from Algonkian *Irinakhoiw*, "real adder-snakes," a term of hatred applied to the Five Nations by Algonkian tribes.

HOLLAND

1. *Massawipi*: one of the old names for Holland Pond; the meaning is "much good clear water." Possibly from Abnaki *mas sa wli nebi*, "much good water." (Lake Massawipi is in Ayers Cliff, P. Q., about 12 miles from Derby Line, Vt.)





ISLE LA MOTTE, ETC.

- a. The mission-place of Ste. Anne—*Tga wis ta ni' yon teh*—"There the bell is suspended. (Cooke)

There are legends that missions existed at Ferrisburgh and at Lake St. Catherine. As far as documentary evidence is concerned, only Isle La Motte rates this name.

- b. *ga rih wi yas' ton*: "affair beautified." (Christianity.)
- c. *De ga ya' son te*: "Sign of the cross is made."
- d. *Ga we ni dak' he*: "Island alongside (island)"

JAMAICA

1. *Shatterack*: a mountain in Jamaica. Possibly the derivation is *iskoda-auke*, "at the fire-place." Another suggestion is *nashua-tuk-auk*, "place where two streams meet." This name was possibly imported from Hampden County, Massachusetts.
2. *Skamonikoos*: "Corn harvesting moon."

LAKE CHAMPLAIN

1. Lake Champlain: *Pe-ton-bowk*, "Waters that lie between (the Abnakis and the Iroquois)" or "Waters that lie between (the Abnakis and the Mohawks.)" (?)
2. Lake Champlain and Lake George: *Pe-ton-bowk*, "Two great ponds joined"?

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- a. *Gon yat a re ga ront*: "The wide lake." (Cooke)
- b. *Caniaderi guarante*
- c. *Caniadere Quaront*
- d. *Kan ya ta re Kanhoho*

All these have been translated as "portal of the country," "gateway to our land," "broad lake which is the portal," etc.

- e. *An dia da rocte, Caniade rochte*, etc.; "Tail of the Lake; where lake narrows," etc., Lake George.
- f. *Che non de ro ga, Tieconderoga*, etc.: Ticonderoga, "conflux of two currents, or two rivers, or two bodies of water."

LEMINGTON

1. *Monadnock*: a mountain in Lemington; name derived from French "monnaie," (money or silver) plus *aden*, Abnaki for "mountain" plus Abnaki *ock*, "at the place of." Hence "silver-mountain-place."
2. *Monadnock*: same mountain, but derivation given as *Menan-aden-ock* or "island-mountain-place," or "where the mountain sticks up like an island." (Geologically: "A mountain of resistant rock surmounting a peneplain is called a *Monadnock*," as near Keene, N. H.)
3. *Matincook*: a hill or mountain, "look-out-place" or "high land." From Massachusetts *m'atimne*, "to search or examine." (Do not confuse this with *matanan-cook* or *matanacook* which means "bad islands" or "bad lands.")

LUDLOW

1. *Okemo*: a mountain near Ludlow: probably from Ojibwa *ogimau* or Abnaki *sôgmô*, "a chieftain." (But the word *kemo* in Abnaki means "louse," or "chigger" such as are found on blueberries; also the very small biting insect "no-see-um.")
2. *Ma-kaze te go*: Literally, "The Black River." (Many such in New England.)

LUNENBURG

1. *Tug* mountain. There are several "Mount Tugs" in Vermont. The name may be Abnaki *tuk*, "river," or Algonkian *tig*, "tree."

MANCHESTER

1. *Ekwanok*: Perhaps a fake Indian name, like *Naidni* in Brandon and *Retawerif* in Shelter Island, N. Y., but not so transparent. (Spell these backwards.) If Abnaki, the name possibly might mean "place of fog." If Delaware, *equin-auk*, "where clothing is distributed."
2. *Taconic*: the mountain range. Meaning doubtful; possibly this is derived from *toh-koo-tan-auk*, or *ti-ca-to-nik*, "a steep ascent" or "ladder." Some authorities make it *taughannock* indicative of waterfalls, as in *Rappa hammock*, etc.

*Algonkian names are numbered; Iroquoian names are lettered.
Other Indian names are given without numbers or letters.*

MILTON

1. *Kwenosakek*: the mouth of the Lamoille river, from *Kwenosa*, "pike" plus *kek*, "at the place of."
2. *Sen-ha-len-ac tuk*: part of the Lamoille river bordered by *Sen-ha-len*, "sumac trees," hence, "at the place, near the river, where sumacs grow." (*Senhalec* is also the Abnaki name for Saranac, New York.)

On certain old French maps the Lamoille river is labelled *Riviere des Serpentes Sonnettes*. "The river of rattlesnakes." Possibly French cartographers of that period were influenced by Abnaki information. Chief Joseph Laurent mentions possible derivation of the name *Missisquoi* from the Abnaki (Algonkian) *msa-sisik-wa*, "big rattlesnake;" perhaps pioneer map makers confused the Lamoille and the Missisquoi.

* * * * *

- a. Only the flimsiest evidence would indicate that the Mohawk word for "rattlesnake," *Oh ne ken' tsi*, has lingered in Vermont as a place-name.

MORETOWN, WAITSFIELD, DUXBURY, ETC.

1. The Mad River. Apparently this designation is taken from an Abnaki (or Mohican?) name for this stream as shown on old maps: *Madi tegu*, "bad river."

MORGAN

1. *Namagonac*: Seymour Lake: "Salmon trout place." (This name has appeared as *Nammygonic* in several places in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Quebec; in Maine also as *Numgonaug*. A general Algonkian stem for "fish" is *namas*; "salmon-trout" is *namago*, etc.)

NEWBURY

1. *Conicut*: a railroad station at South Newbury. This is NOT a pure Algonkian name; it was given by the railroad officials to prevent confusion with Newbury. It may be a contraction of Connecticut, which see.
2. *Muskwash* or *Musquash*: a meadow in Newbury; from *Moskwas*, "the muskrat."
3. *Co^os* or *Koës*; also *Corwass*, *Cohos*, *Cohase*, *Cohaser*, etc.; "The Pine Tree."

Two places in Vermont were called *Koessek* (*Coösick*, etc.)—one at Newbury, one at Vernon.

On June 13, 1704, the Abnaki Indians of *Koessek* wrote to Governor General Vaudreuil of New France stating that they were "pleased by the invitation to leave *Koessek* and go to live near the Nicolet River" (not far from St. Francis, Quebec) but they felt that "the best place to take revenge on the English" was there at *Koessek*.

It is not certain which *Koessek* the June 1704 letter concerns; it is known, however, that King Phillip (*Metacomet*) interviewed prisoners at the Vernon *Koessek* in 1675, and that Stephen Williams was a captive at the Newbury *Koessek* (Coös) in May 1693.

NEWPORT

1. *Memphremagog*: the lake stretching from Newport into Canada. From Abnaki Mam-low-baug-og. "the great pond place" or "the place of the very extensive lake."
2. *Walorwadjo*: "Owl's (Head) Mountain" on the west shore of Memphremagog. (Also given as *Waloimudupsek*.)

NORTH HERO, SOUTH HERO, ETC.

- a. *Kah weh ni' yo*: "Large, or beautiful island." From Mohawk *ga weh na* "island" and suffix *iyo*, "good, beautiful," or (obsolete) "large."

NORTON

1. *Ko-a-tek-awk*: Coaticook river; from *Koas* or *Co-ös*. "the pine tree," plus *tek*, "river," and *awk* "at the place of." (Hence, "the river at the place of the pine trees.")

NORWICH

1. *Ompompanoosuc*: or *Pompanoosuc*, a village and a river; from *Om-pom-pa-noos-uc*, "at the place of mushy, quaky land."

ORLEANS

1. *Keekomkwak*: a fishing spot on the Barton river; "sucker-fishing-place," from *Keekomkwa*, "sucker" plus *ak* the location suffix.



*Algonkian names are numbered; Iroquoian names are lettered.
Other Indian names are given without numbers or letters.*

PAWLET

1. *Mettarwee*: a river and its valley; meaning not clear. *Matta* means "furthest away" in some Algonkian dialects; but in the Natick, *Metwee* is "poplar tree." (Perhaps this name was imported by early settlers, as *Netop* was into Dorset?)
2. *Mettarwee*: possibly a corruption of *Metewemesick*, "place of black earth."

POWNAL

1. *Nebisee-woldam-wogan*: "The Weeping Rocks," where the Mohicans were defeated? "Rocks where sad tears are shed."? (Rowland Robinson's "Adirondia.")
2. *Hoosac*: mountains, river, tunnel; from *Hussun-ack*, "stone-place."?
3. *Hoosik*, *Hoos-akik*: "Round Kettle," or "at the kettle rim."?

* * * * *

- a. The Mohawk Trail (Chemin des Agnions, Agnie, Agne, Anniez, Aniers, etc.) was several miles to the south of Pownal, but apparently the Hoosac valley was a favorite stopping-place for Mohawk parties.

One of the Mohawk names for the Mohawk Trail was 'a ha hi' yo or yo ha hi' yo from 'a ha, "road or trail or path" and i yo, "good, satisfactory, beautiful, (large.)"

- b. *A tga to gwis sas*, "He scoops up fish with a basket." This name indicates good fishing at several places along the Hoosac.

PUTNEY

1. *Karassentekwa*: a bare place near the Connecticut river; "Whirlwind blew into river." This name apparently was given by Abnakis or Pennacooks or Squakheags to any place where high winds or hurricanes had uprooted trees, causing them to drop into a stream.

ROCHESTER

1. *Michigan* camp; from Ojibway (Algonkian) *maci goma*. "big water" (Same meaning as *Gitchee Gumee* in Longfellow's *Hiarwatha*.)

ROYALTON

1. *Cascadnac*: name of a hotel burned some years ago. Also local name for "White River," but Abnaki name for "White River" is *Wassabaastego*. Possibly the source of this name *Cascadnac* is the same as that of *Ascutney* in the town of Weathersfield, which see.

RYEGATE

1. *Scotami seebooses*: a trout brook in East Ryegate; from *scotami*, "trout" plus *seebooses* "little stream." This name also appears as *Scotamak*, "at the trout place," in northern New England.
2. *Tickenecket*: Ticklenaked Pond. Possibly from *taugamochek*; (Delaware) . . . "a little beaver" or "some little beavers." Captain John Smith mentions *Taugh-tanak-agnet* several times, but the meaning is not clear from the context. In some Massachusetts dialects *tekekom* means "a spring of water;" possibly Ticklenaked is just a corruption of that word. This compiler prefers the "little beaver" derivation, from the terrain and the general history of the region.

ST. ALBANS

1. *Popasquash-(Menan)*: An island in St. Albans jurisdiction. The derivation is given variously as: *Pamapskak*, "rocky place"; *Pop-e-kwa*, "cranberries"; *Pop-e-qua-tuck*, "broken land"; *Wabees-qua*, "white, bubbly water."
2. *Sobigwillow*: Hathaway Point. Probably from *So-bag-wil-ha*, "a sea duck." (Possibly "sea ducks come to feed here"?)

ST. JOHNSBURY

1. *Passumpsic*: a village and a river so-named. From Abnaki *Pa-som-ka-sic*, "clear, sandy bottom," or "clear springs and fine sand." On some old maps this appears as *Pesammes*.

SALISBURY

1. *Moosalamoo*: a mountain near Lake Dunmore. Some say this is derived from an Indian name for silver trout, but it may be a corruption of *Maa-so-zi-al*. *Mozial*, "big ferns" or "many ferns." (Also, *Moz*, "moose"; *alamoos*, "dog"; hence "moose chased by dog.")?
2. *Keewaydin*: a trail near Lake Dunmore. Taken from the Ojibwa expression *Keewaydeenong*, meaning "people of the north;" or *Giwédin*, "north; northwind."

SHARON

1. *Pantigo*: a hill on Route 14, between Sharon and West Hartford. Probably from *Pen-teguh*, "the swift river."
2. *Wassabestego*: "The White River."

SHELBURNE

1. *Kwini aska*: The LaPlatte River: from Abnaki *Kwini*, "long" plus *eskuan*, "joint" or "elbow." Probably refers to long arc of river-bed. Spelled also *Quimmeaska*.

SHOREHAM

"Narrows" on Lake Champlain:

- a. *Tek' ya dough in yar iga*: "two points of land standing opposite each other."
- b. *Ka non do ro*: "Narrow portal."

SPRINGFIELD

1. *Skitcherwaug*: a mountain near Springfield; a road called Skitcherwaug Trail. Possibly from *Kitchee wadjo*, "big mountain"; *Kitchee ski-ka-wan-ock*, "great thick fog place." Other variants, meaning obscure, *Paskilcharwago*; and *Gitsheebaug*. *Kchi bagw*, "big pond." One old document of 1788 spells it *Skichee waag*.

Miss Eva Baker, Springfield's nonagenarian historian, offers this story about Sagamore Skitcherwaug:

"Around 1760 the chief returned (from Canada?) as he was a very old man, and wanted to die and be buried in the Indian cemetery at Weathersfield. He lived in the caves known as Torrie Hole; among his frequent visitors was a halfbreed called Better-ga-noa, who lived at Better-ga-noa Falls around Weathersfield Bow. The aged Sagamore Skitcherwaug told Better-ga-noa that the name (now given to the trail and the mountain) *Skitcherwaug* meant "great mountain." Sometime about 1765 the Sagamore disappeared; later the remains of a man were found on top of the ground in the Indian cemetery, and Better-ga-noa was positive that the bones were those of Skitcherwaug."

2. *Poosoomsuck*: a river. Possibly same derivation as *Passumpsic*, in St. Johnsbury; but it may be "the 'possum-place" or "place of opossums," from *apasomsek*, plural of the Algonkian name for the marsupial.

STAMFORD

1. *Hoosac*: mountains. (From *wadjo-abik*, "mountain-rock.")? (See Pownal.)

STOWE

Mount Mansfield—the highest mountain in Vermont, easily visible for long stretches of Lake Champlain.

1. *Kodakwadjo*: Mount Mansfield. “The cloud-hidden mountain.” (Also Mt. Washington, N. H., and other high places.)
2. *Keetahdeen*: Mount Mansfield, “The Principal Mountain.”

* * * * *

- a. *Twa we hes tha*: “customarily it is piercing something.”
 - b. *T'yon yon' go* (Cayuga)
 - c. *Tyo ron yon' go* (Mohawk)
 - d. *Tyo lon yon' go* (Oneida)
- b, c, d mean “It hits or reaches the sky.” Translations for a, b, c, d are by Charles A. Cooke.

SWANTON

1. *Maskwenzakek*: a place in Missisquoi Bay; literally “at the place where the great pikes (muskellunge) are caught.” (From *mas*, “great” plus *kwenoz*, “pike” plus locative suffix (or plural?))
2. *Azzastakak*: places along the Missisquoi River; “where the current reverses,” or “where the river turns on itself.”
3. *Maquam*: a neighborhood west of Swanton: “The beaver.” (Some maps give this erroneously as *Masquam*. The Abenakis called large trees *Mashquam*; there are no large trees at Maquam.)
4. *Missiassuk*: Missisquoi Bay—the bay *only*. Sometimes interpreted as *missi* or *mas* “many” plus *seebi-sips*, “water-fowl.”
5. *Missisquoi*: the bay so named, where the river flows into it and certain ledges along the river. From Abnaki *Mas-ipsko-ic*, “where there is much flint.”
6. *Missisquoi*: “much good marsh grass here.”

* * * * *

- a. There was a French sawmill at Swanton from the late 1740's up to 1757 or 1758. This was mentioned in Indian speeches at Isle la Motte in September 1766.

Prior to the coming of the Europeans the Mohawks had no word for “boards,” but they called sheets of bark *oh swa* or *oh-swen ka*; they used this name to mean “board” or “lumber.”

The Mohawk word for “sawmill” was *De ka swen ka ro' rens*, “that which splits something into boards.”

SWANTON (*continued*)

- b. An old name for the falls of the Missisquoi is *Tà qua hunga*. This in Mohawk is rendered *The ka non' ke*, "at the place or haunt of bitterns." (*The ka' hon*, "bittern, mud-hen" plus *ke*, locative suffix "at the place, abode, or haunt of.")
- c. Some meadows near Swanton were called *Oh don wa ga yon*, "the old beaver or muskrat lodges."

THETFORD

1. *Tolbabauk*: a swamp near the (Y.M.C.A.) Camp Billings on Lake Fairlee. Literally "Snapping-turtle pond," from old Abnaki *Tolba* (or *torupa*) "snapping-turtle" plus *bauk*, "pond."
2. *Ke-je-gi-gil-ha-sis*: a camp site east of Lake Fairlee. From Abenaki name for "chickadee."
3. *Kôgwis*: a camp site north of Lake Fairlee. From Abenaki name for "a young porcupine."
4. *Watagua*: a reedy shallow water stretch near "Kozynook," from Abnaki word *wa-ta-gu-a*, "a pickerel."

The veteran director, Archibald C. Hurd, is an ardent Indian-lore advocate. For many years a visit of Abnaki Sagamore John Wadso has been an annual high spot in the Billings program.

TOWNSHEND

1. *Kamouraska*: several birch groves in this town. Derived from *Ska-moraskwa* "there is some birch bark."

VERGENNES

1. *Netah-me-puntook*: the Lower Falls of the Otter. "The first of the falls (above the mouth of the river.)"
2. The Otter: *Pe-con-took*, possibly "The Swift River"; but some say the name was originally *Pecon-auk-took*, "a small enclosed field near the river." Possibly a garden where Abnakis raised corn, squash, and melons?

VERNON

1. *Squakheag*: name of Vernon and nearby territory in the middle and late 1600's, when it was the rallying-place for King Phillip, *Metacomet*, and the remnants of New England Algonkian tribes. Probably *Squakheag* included the Connecticut valley on both sides of the river from Northfield, Massachusetts, to Bound Brook, near

the north line of present-day Vernon. Possible derivations:

Squa-hee-gan, "waiting place";

Skwa-ga-nak, "wide place," in stream or valley;

Squo-higgan, "it is pointed," as on a fish-spear.

The *Squakheags* have been called fish-spearers, so this third derivation may be the most appropriate. However, an Abnaki name for "fish-spear" is *No-dam-agon-gan*; the Abnakis would call "a fish-spearing-place" *No-dam-agon-gan-ock*. In the early 1930's this writer fished in Vernon at a place called *No-damm-goodick*.

2. *Koessick*: see Newbury, *Koessek*, etc.

WARREN

1. *Algonquin*: a mountain in Warren. Taken from name which is used as a general term for the language-group. (Literally, "people of the other shore.")?

Algonkin may be a mispronunciation of the Micmac *algoo meaking*, "at the place of spearing fish, (as from the bow of a canoe.)"

WEATHERSFIELD

1. *Ascutney*: a mountain and a village, commonly called 'Scutney. Possibly a mispronunciation of *Cas cump ek*, "bold, steep" or *K'ask-aden-aik*, "at the mountain with steep sides."

Senator Flanders states that the meaning may be "water falling over steep sides."

2. *Ascutney*: *Ascu-teg-nik*, "at the end of the river-fork."

WELLS RIVER (Newbury Town)

1. *Ammonoosuc*: a river which flows into the Connecticut near Wells River, Vt., and Woodsville, N. H. Taken from Old Abnaki *O-mano-sec*, "the narrow fishing-place."

WESTMORE

1. *Pisgah*: a mountain near Lake Willoughby. Taken directly from the Abnaki word *Pis gaah*, which means "dark." (Perhaps early settlers thought this was a Hebrew word, and gave the other Willoughby guardian the Old Testament name of Hor.)



WESTON

1. *Wantastiquet*: a lake in Weston; the name is given also to the West River, and to a mountain in New Hampshire, north of Brattleboro. The most satisfactory derivation is from *Wanas-kwa-tekuh*, "the head (or source) of the river," or "the top-place of the river." Sometimes the West River is called "Waters of the Lonely Way." Perhaps the name *Wantastiquet* is only a fragment of its original Algonkian appellation. One Abnaki friend suggested *Bas-kan-he-gan* for "Lonely, unfrequented." That may well be; the root *Poskanigan* means "coffin" or "graveyard." When applied to the place where the West River flows into the Connecticut, the translation of *Wantastiquet* is sometimes given as "meeting of the waters." Perhaps the full name of the West River—Connecticut confluence was *Wantasteguh-kwiniteguh*, or *Alnikiiloteguh-kwiniteguh*.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION (Hartford Town)

1. *Wassabestiguh*: Literally, "The White River."

WHITINGHAM

1. *Sadarwga*: a lake, "named after an old Indian (Pocumtuck?) who had not moved away with the rest."

* * * * *

- a. Charles A. Cooke writes *Sadarwga* as it appears is not identifiable with Mohawk, (but) it may be a distortion of *Sga na wa ga*, "notedly swiftly flowing water," as in *Caughmarwaga*, "at the rapids," the Lachine Rapids near Montreal. In this name *Sadarwaga* or *Sadarwga* the hint of a fort is not implied at all. The elements of "fort" or "palisade" include
Ten hen' ra or
Den hen' ra," (as in Fort de Pieux, ADDISON.)
So it is probable that the "Maquaes fort" (see DUMMERSTON) was not at Sadawga Lake.
- b. *Sadarwga* may be a mangled version of the Mohawk *on sa da go*, "a home burst open or exploded." The Mohawks did just that to Pocumtuc houses!

WHITE MOUNTAINS

1. *Wa wo badenik*: literally, "White Mountains," in New Hampshire.

2. *Wa wobadenik*: "White Mountains," Mt. Marcy in the Adirondacks.

(These are outside of Vermont but can be seen from Vermont. Some of them "belonged" to Vermont in the days of the "Greater Vermont" republic.)

WINOOSKI

1. Winooski: Abenaki *winos*, "onion" plus *ki*, "land," The river is labelled on old maps *winoski-tuk*, "onion-land stream."
2. *Winooskeek*: Mohican village at mouth of Winooski River?

WOLCOTT

1. *Wapanaki*: a lake in Wolcott and Hardwick. The name is a variation of *Abnaki* or *Waubanakee*. It may be an importation, and may refer to hare or rabbit demonology, legends of the rabbit-god *wabos*, etc.

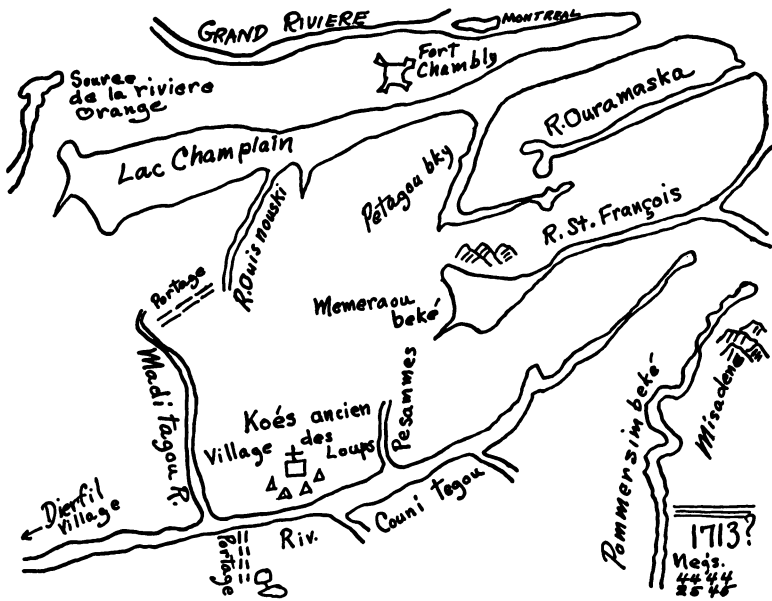
WOODSTOCK

1. The *Pogue*: probably not an Indian name, but if so, it could be from Abnaki *bowk*, "pond," or *pegui*, "sand."

* * * * *

- a. *Ohio* hill: from the state name (Iroquoian) meaning "big river."





We do not know the full extent of early French penetration into Vermont, but this map shows a mission-village at Koés, today's Newbury.

The chief trails between New France and English colonies are suggested by the waterways shown here.

Translations of Indian names were made by Stephen Laurent, Ambrose Obumsawin, Alice Masta Warwanolett and Oliver Warwanolett of the Abnaki Reserve at Odanak, P. Q.

NOTES ON COPY OF PART OF FRENCH MINISTRY OF MARINE MAP
(NEGS. 4444, 2545) PUBLISHED IN UTRECHT IN 1713,
SHOWING NEWBURY AS AN OLD INDIAN VILLAGE, ETC.

LABELLING ON MAP

COMMENTS

Lac Champlain

Notice no indication of Lake George but a definite notation concerning the "Source de la Riviere Orange" or headwaters of the Hudson River. On similar maps of the period portages are shown in that region.

R. Ouisnouski

The French had much difficulty in pronouncing and spelling Abenaki and other Indian words. This was the River Winooski (*Winooski-tuk*—Onion Land River) which the French rendered as 'Yes, we, river'.

Madi-tagou R.

Madi tagou means "bad river." As this was reached by a portage from the Winooski, and joined the Connecticut below *Koés* (*Coös*, Newbury) it may have been the Waits or the White—most probably both.

LABELLING ON MAP	COMMENTS
<i>Koës ancien village des loups</i>	"Coös, an old Indian village." Note the mission-symbol, a square surmounted by a cross.
<i>Riv. Coumi-tegou</i>	This is how the French rendered <i>kwini tegu</i> , "Long River," the Connecticut.
<i>Pesammes</i>	Probably the Passumpsic River— <i>Psa-som-sak</i> , "full of clean water, fine sandy bottom."
<i>Memeraoubeké</i>	Lake Memphremagog, "Extensive Lake." (<i>Maum-low-baug-og</i> , "the place of the big pond or lake.")
<i>Pommersimbeké</i>	Probably a Pennacook word. It may mean "Chain of ponds connected by swift water." This stream is the headwaters of the Androscoggin River.
<i>Misadene</i>	Literally, "Big Mountains," the White Mountains.
<i>R. St. François</i>	The St. Francis River, one of the most important war trails of the Abenakis and other Indians of St. Francis (Odanak) up to 1760. (The Abenakis call this river <i>Alsigontuk</i> , "river abounding in shells"; so the St. Francis Indians are <i>Alsigontukwiak</i> , "Shell-River People.")
<i>Pe tagou bky</i>	"River full of eddies," or perhaps, "land between bends in river full of eddies;" the Missisquoi River. If <i>Pe tagou beké</i> , the meaning is water-river-pond.
<i>R. Ouramaska</i>	In this rendition the meaning is probably "Birch trees around here." (Old Abenaki <i>ska moraskua</i> , some white birches.) But the modern spelling (since 1730?) is <i>YaMaska</i> , some toads." The Yamaska figured prominently in border warfare 1775-1783.
<i>Grande Riviere</i>	The Ottawa river at its conflux with the St. Lawrence.

INDIAN GROUPS IN VERMONT

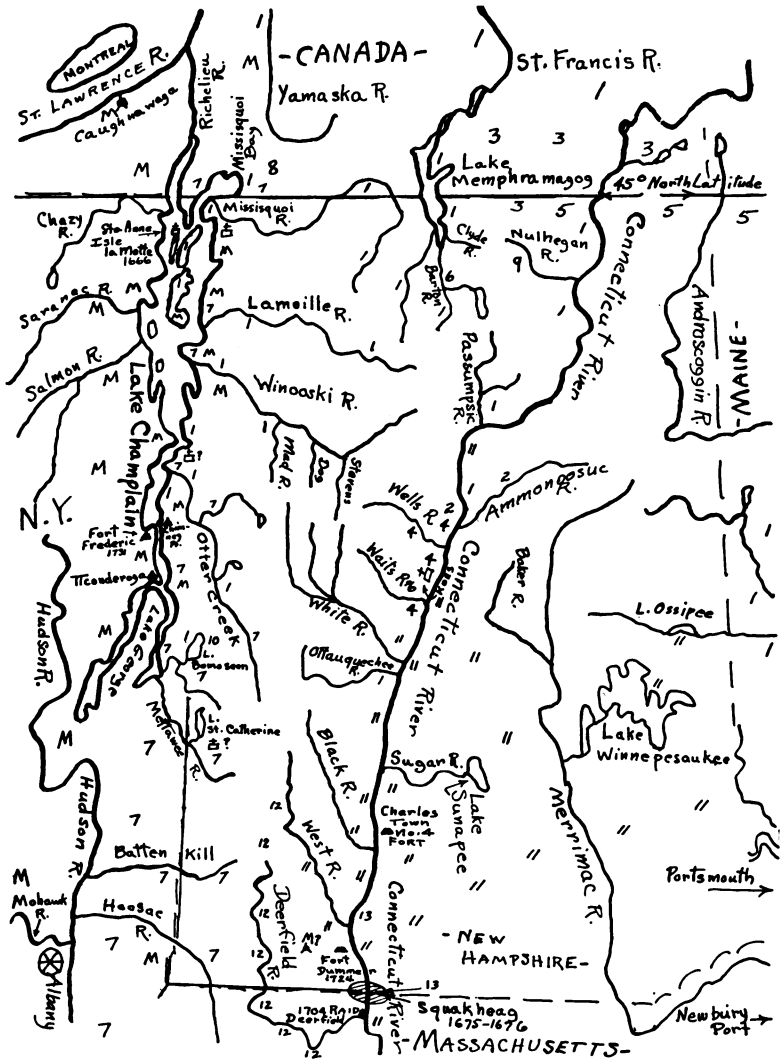
I. *The Pre-Algonkians, ?? B.C.—2000 B.C. ??*

Unmistakable evidences of Pre-Algonkian (and Eskimo?) cultures have been found all over New England and New York, as well as in the parts of Quebec Province and the Maritime Provinces south of the St. Lawrence River.

Pre-Algonkian sinkers and fish-lures have been unearthed in Hubbardton; polished slate knives at Swanton; whale-tail ceremonial objects in the Otter Creek region. All these bear witness that Pre-Algonkian people lived and died in Vermont.

For detailed, profusely illustrated accounts of aboriginal cultures in Vermont see ANTIQUITIES OF THE NEW ENGLAND INDIANS by Charles C. Willoughby. (Harvard University Press, 1935.) Professor Willoughby drew heavily on the works of Vermont's late Dean George H. Perkins of UVM.

Long before the dawn of history these people were pushed out of New England by the "Old Algonkian" stock.



Numbers refer to Algonkian Indian groups; Capital M shows Mohawk sites; trail routes are indicated by waterways. See pages 29-32 for key-statements.

II. *The Old Algonkians, 2000 B.C.—1300 A.D. ?*

Old Algonkian pottery together with other implements have been discovered in every state east of the Mississippi River and north of the Tennessee-Carolina regions.

Some of the best artifacts of Old Algonkian origin were discovered at Swanton in the 1870's, and near Orwell 1933-1934.

It is probable that further archaeological research would reveal many other Old Algonkian and Pre-Algonkian sites in Vermont.

III. *Recent Algonkians, 1200 A.D.—1790 A.D.*

All these tribes or sub-groups spoke Algonkian dialects. They could understand each other fairly well, and as a rule hated the *Iroquois*. In fact, *Iroquois* is an Algonkian word meaning "real adder snakes," not exactly a term of endearment. The ancient hatred between these two great Indian groups arose part because the Iroquois split the Algonkians in terrible wars which left the Iroquois in possession of central New York and the St. Lawrence estuary.

1. *Abnakis* (*Abenakis*, *Ouabenaki*, *Waubanakee*, etc.)
"Dawn People," "People of the East." Along Lake Champlain from Missisquoi Bay to Otter Creek and possibly to Chimney Point; around Lake Bomoseen; around Lake Memphremagog; along the Connecticut River and tributaries from Canada south to the Ottauquechee, at least.
2. *Ammonoosucks*
"Narrow fishing-place people." Wells River, Barnet, McIndoe Falls, etc. (Probably *Pennacooks*?)
3. *Arisagunticooks* (*Alsignotigak*, etc.)
"People who live near the river abounding in shells." Along the St. Francis River in Quebec from Lake Memphremagog and vicinity northward. Sometimes called also *Coaticooks*, "People at the Pines." Probably sub-groups of the *Abnaki*; possibly mixed with *Kenebekis*.
4. *Coosucks*
"Pine-tree place. People."
Newbury, Ryegate, Barnet, Bradford, Fairlee, Thetford.
Probably *Pennacooks*.
5. *Kenebekis*
"People at the Long Lake." Averill, Canaan, Bloomfield.
Probably *Abnakis* from the headwaters of the Kennebec; possibly some *Pennacooks*.
6. *Kikomkwaks*
"Those who live near sucker-fishing places."
Bradford, Newbury, Orleans, etc. Probably *Pennacooks*.
7. *Mahicans* (*Mohicans*) "River-Folk"; "People of the Ebbing Tide"; and "Wolf-People."
(In the 1600's, Mohicans occupied the Hudson Valley east shore. They were broken up by English, Dutch and Mohawks, and driven north before 1750.) Hoosic Valley, Pownal; West Arlington; Back Bay, near Fair Haven; Lake Bomoseen, Lake Hortonia, etc.; mouth of Winooski river; Missisquoi Bay. Probably also at *Squak heag* (Vernon, Guilford, Brattleboro and Putney.) During King Phillip's War, 1675-1676.
8. *Missisquatucks* (*Missisquois*; *Mississiak*, etc.)
"People at the marshy, grassy place (which abounds in waterfowl!)"
Missisquoi Bay, Swanton, Highgate, etc.
The *Missisquatucks* were *Abnakis* plus Algonkian refugees from New York and New England, together with a few Hurons from Ancien-Lorette, Quebec.

Missisquoi Bay and its environs was an outpost of the St. Francis (Odanak) *Abnakis*.

9. *Nulheganocks*

"Trapping-place people" or, "People who use wooden deadfall traps." These were probably *Abnakis* or *Pennacooks* who trapped along the Nulhegan River, (Brighton, Ferdinand, Brunswick, Maidstone.)

10. *Obom Sawin* (Bomaseens, Bomzeens, etc.)

Probably a band of *Abnakis*, but possibly *Mohicans*, (or perhaps both) who lived around Lake Hortonia and Lake Bomoseen, "Indian Fields" in Castleton.

11. *Pennacooks*

"People of the Foot Hills";
"People at the Bottom of High Land."

Southern and western New Hampshire, as far west as Connecticut River from Bernardston, Massachusetts, northward to Newbury or Barnet. *Pennacook* pictographs have been found in Bellows Falls; other traces of these peaceful people indicate that they also lived in considerable numbers at Vernon, Brattleboro, Springfield, Weathersfield, and Westminster. The *Pennacooks* linguistically were close relatives of the *Abnakis*, so their place-names are very much alike. Furthermore, most of the surviving *Pennacooks* had migrated to Canada before 1700, making it very difficult to identify their place-names wherever they had been in contact with the *Abnaki*.

12. *Pocumtucks* (*Pocomtooks*, etc.)

"People of the very narrow swift river." (?)

Until the destruction of their "fort" (near Deerfield, Massachusetts) by the *Mohawks* in 1666 the *Pocumtucks* were located in western Massachusetts and southwestern Vermont, especially the Deerfield valley. Their village *Squakheag* was near Northfield, Massachusetts.

13. *Squakheags*

"People Who Catch Fish With Pointed Spears."
"People of the Broad River Fishing-Place."

In 1674-1676 these *Algonkians* included remnants of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and New York tribes gathered under *Metacomet* "King Philip." See also *Pennacooks* and *Pocumtucks*.

IV. *The Iroquoians, 1300 A.D. ?-1790 A.D., etc.*

The *Iroquois*, "The Long House," "People of the Extended Lodge" were in central New York and the St. Lawrence estuary as early as 1550. The *Iroquois* spoke similar, but not identical languages. From west to east the Long House Five Nations included *Senecas*, "Stone People"; *Cayugas*, "Swamp Dwellers"; *Ondagas*, "We of the Hills"; *Oneidas*, "Beacon Rock Folk" and *Mohawks*, "Wolves."

After 1712 the *Tuscaroras* migrated from the Carolinas to New York, joining their *Iroquoian* relatives and becoming the Sixth Nation.

The *Mohawks* in 1550 controlled Eastern New York north of the Mohawk river, plus all of Lake Champlain and the Richelieu river which on old maps are called respectively "The Sea of the *Iroquois*" and "*Iroquois River*." It is not surprising, therefore, that *Mohawk* pottery, arrowheads and other evidences are found in western Vermont, often mixed with *Algonkian* goods.

The *Iroquois* jar discovered at Colchester, Vermont, in 1825 is one of the best of its kind. It is on display in the Robert Hull Fleming Museum at the University of Vermont, Burlington.

The *Mohawks* (probably) had outposts at Alburg, Swanton, Milton, Colchester, Monkton, Addison, Shoreham, Orwell and near Brattleboro.

In Massachusetts and Connecticut towns west of the Connecticut river, every two years a deputation of Mohawks would collect tribute from the Algonkian tribes; the Mohawks were feared as far east as Castine, Maine, so it is fair to assume that they exacted their levies north of the Massachusetts line.

INDIAN TRAILS THROUGH VERMONT, USED BY INDIANS AND FRENCH, 1500?-1760

Iroquois Routes, Montreal to Mohawk Valley.

1. Starting at Caughnawaga, the Mohawk village south of Lachine Rapids near Montreal; overland to Richelieu river, southward to Alburg, Isle LaMotte, South Hero, Colchester Point, Shelburne, Thompson's Point, Chimney Point; across to Ticonderoga-Lake George portage; thence along Kayadrosseras Trail from southern tip of Lake George to Glens Falls; through Wilton and Galway to Mohawk River near Amsterdam. [Kayadrosseras is probably a variant of *Caniade ro seras*, an Iroquois term meaning "lakes linked up." (?)]
2. Caughnawaga to Chimney Point as in 1; down Wood Creek (south part of Lake Champlain) to West Haven; across to Whitehall, Fort Ann, Fort Edward; down Hudson river to Albany, or to Mohawk confluence. Also from Fort Edward to Saratoga Lake, Ballston Lake, Eel Creek and on to Mohawk river near Amsterdam.

Iroquois and Algonkian Routes from Montreal to English Settlements on the Connecticut River.

3. As in 1 and 2 to Stillwater, N. Y., thence via Schacticoke to Hoosic river, through Pownal and Williamstown to Mohawk Trail and Bay Path eastward.
4. The French Road, sometimes called Trunk Line.
 - a. Caughnawaga to Colchester Point as in 1 and 2; along Winooski river (French river) to Middlesex; thence along Mad River (*Madi tegu*) through Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren to height of land; thence through Granville, Hancock, Rochester, Stockbridge, Bethel, Royalton, Sharon, West Hartford, reaching Connecticut River at White River Junction.
 - b. Caughnawaga to Colchester Point as in 1 and 2; along Winooski to Dog River, thence southward through Northfield, Brookfield, Randolph, (or Roxbury and Braintree to Randolph), Bethel and on to White River Junction.
 - c. As in a and b to Colchester; along Winooski to Stevens Branch; down White River to Connecticut River, via Williamstown, Washington, Chelsea, Tunbridge, Royalton, etc.
 - d. To Colchester Point as above; along Winooski to neighborhood of Plainfield; across to the Wells River, and down to the Connecticut via Groton, Topsham, Ryegate and Newbury.
These trails, as well as some of those which follow, were sometimes called *Misadene*, paths: from *Mis*, "great" and *adene*, "mountains."
5. a. As in 1 and 2 above to Thompson's Point; thence by Otter Creek and Mill River over to Black River, down to the Connecticut near Ascutney; therefore sometimes called Ascutney Trail. Also, from neighborhood of Springfield over Skitchewaug Trail to the Connecticut.
 - b. As in a to Otter Creek, over to West River, thence to the Connecticut. Sometimes called the Wantastiquet Path.

5. c. As in 2-a above to West Haven, thence to Poultney; up Poultney and Mettawee rivers to West River and down to the Connecticut.
6. Routes via Lake Memphramagog.
These trails led to the Upper Connecticut settlements; also to trails in New Hampshire leading to Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts points.
 - a. Montreal to the St. Francis river; up the St. Francis to Lake Memphramagog; down the Nulhegan to the Connecticut.
Also from Lake Memphramagog to the Barton river; thence to Sutton Lake and the Passumpsic; down the Passumpsic to the Connecticut.
7. Routes via the Yamaska River.
 - a. Montreal to the Yamaska; over to the Missisquoi, or to Missisquoi Bay; or from the Yamaska to Lake Memphramagog, etc.
8. Other trails led from Lake Memphramagog through Irasburg, Craftsbury, and Hyde Park to the Lamoille, thence to Lake Champlain; still more through the Ottaqueechee valley to Bridgewater, over to Shrewsbury, Clarendon, West Rutland and Castleton to the Lake Bomoseen-Poultney area.
9. This list includes only routes for which historical evidence exists. If we can believe the records left along streams (such as stone arrowheads, skinning knives, etc.), Vermont must have been crisscrossed by hundreds of Indian paths before the coming of the earliest explorers.

LEGEND OF HEAD'S ISLAND

Wdali pay8n8ni w18gwiwi tadbog8 mnaanizek aoldidid Maguak. Ni agua nizwak W8bamakiak: Imakwa ta Moskwas wbikag8 kamguinn8 ni snojiwi mnaanizek wz8kwassinn8, ma8wi 8mpchi mitsoldowak Maguak, Ni s8gm8 adoji idak "T'cha nguilotah8n Wobanaki." ni adoji mamhlawakad kchi wskan li snojiwi. Nigaki na wawlitah8n Moskwassa wdepek. Nitta Imakwa wgedoban8n wid8ba waji 8nda waolwakw. Ni kizi mziwi Maguak kaoldidid ni agma adoji tedozek mziwi wiguaolal ni sibiwi pedgi kanguid li wid8baikok. Nitta mziwi W8banakiak wgiz8joldin8 ni kanwa m8manni wbikag8n8 nanni achakwak. Ni kizi wli wiwnikaw8did Magua nitta wm8ja migak8m8n8 sibiwi mamhlawi kwakwah8midid ta mziwi wmatta8w8. Ni oji wnimakwhamn8 mziwi Magua'8-depal kwnakwam'ikok ni uli wiwnig8badon8 mnaanizek. Ni 8nka enni mnaanis waji liwit8zik "Wdepekse."

(This text and translation is from the works of the late Past Head Chief Henry Lorne Masta of the St. Francis Abnakis, by courtesy of his daughter, Mrs. Alice Masta Wawanolett of the St. Francis Reservation, Odanak, P. Q.)

It was night when they reached the place opposite the Island temporarily occupied by the Iroquois. Two Abenakis, Imakwa (Beaver) and Moskwas (Musk-rat) dived to the Island and there just their heads were out of water. The Iroquois were eating and the Chief said "T'cha I am going to hit an Abenaki with this" and he threw aimlessly but with all his might a big bone hitting Moskwas on the head and Imakwa to prevent an alarm immediately held his friend under water. When the Iroquois were all asleep he cut open all their canoes and then dived back to his friends. The Abenakis got ready at once but they slowly got over at dawn and as soon as they had closely surrounded them they began the slaughter, yelling loudly and every one of the Iroquois group was killed and the head of each one of them was stuck at the end of a pole and all the poles planted around the Island, and that is the reason why that Island was called "Wdepekse" Head's Island.