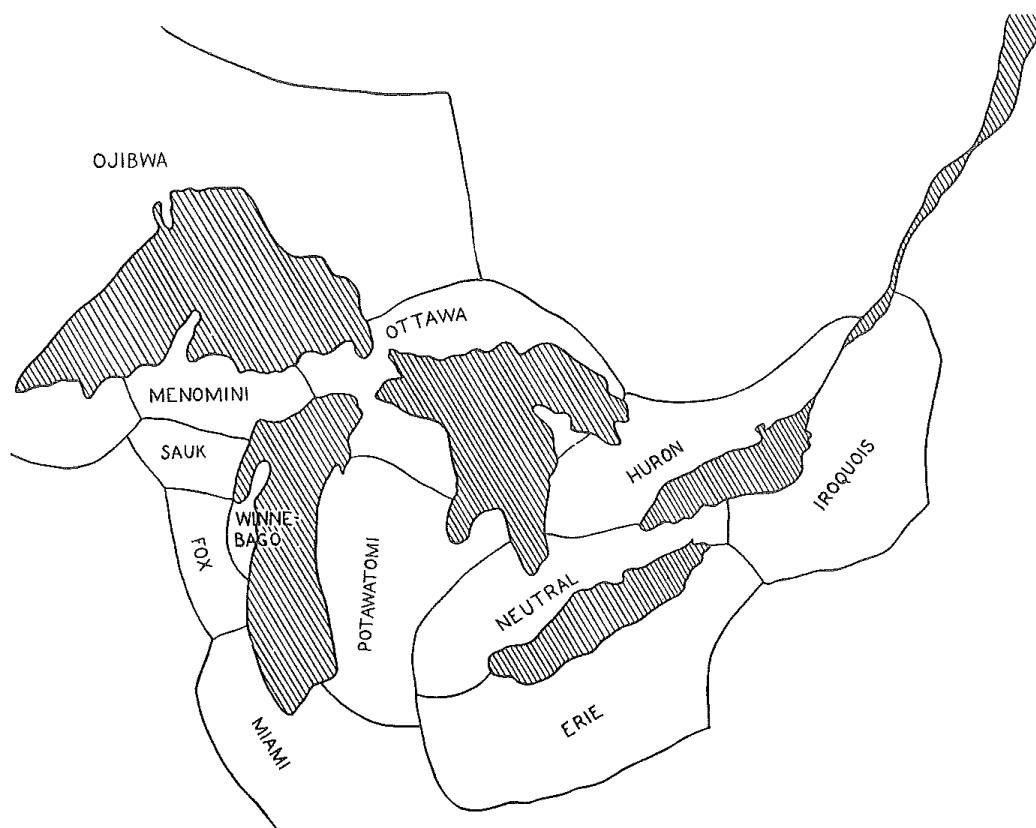


# DENVER ART MUSEUM

1300 LOGAN STREET, DENVER, COLORADO

## DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN ART

RICHARD G. CONN, CURATOR



This map shows approximately the 17th century locations.

*Courtesy of Dr. George P. Murdock*

## TRIBES OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

LEAFLET 81

DECEMBER, 1937

3rd Printing, June 1957

1. **LINGUISTIC STOCKS.** The tribes which lived around the Great Lakes at the time of their discovery belonged to three linguistic stocks, Algonkin, Iroquoian, and Siouan. See Leaflet 51-52 for further information about Indian linguistic stocks.

2. **POPULATION FIGURES** are very difficult to obtain. Many of these eastern tribes do not live on reservations and are not included in censuses. Uncounted others are scattered throughout the nation. The remnants of broken tribes live with and are counted with other groups. The figures given in this leaflet are at best only fair approximations of the numbers found in the large settlements and groups of settlements, both on and off reservations.

3. **WHITE BLOOD** is abundant in all of these tribes, few full-blooded Indians being found.

#### ALGONKIN

4. **TRIBAL MOVEMENTS.** After the coming of the French into this region in the early 17th century all the tribes of this stock except the Ojibwa, Menomini, and Ottawa were forced into southern and western movements, passing out of Michigan and Wisconsin across northern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to their present locations as given below. The Ojibwa, Menomini, and Ottawa have remained approximately in or near their old homes.

5. **CULTURE.** The manner of life of this group of tribes is best described in the following adaptation from "The American Indian" by Clark Wissler. Food provided by raising corn, beans and squashes, by wild rice and maple sugar, by hunting and fishing; pottery slightly developed, wood and birchbark vessels being used instead; some splint basketry; two types of house were used, a dome-shaped bark or mat covered wigwam for winter, a rectangular bark house for summer, though the Ojibwa tended to use a conical bark house; birchbark and dug-out canoes were common; skin shirt, leggings and breechcloth for men, skin skirt and jacket or sometimes a one piece dress for women; soft soled skin moccasins for both sexes, as also skin and rabbit skin robes, bags and belts of bark fibre and, later, wool, woven on simple frames; mats of cedar bark and reeds; work in wood, stone and bone weakly developed, decorative art with quills and beads tending toward non-geometrical forms, though geometric forms were not uncommon earlier; a gens organization, no social classes or formal property distinctions; a secret initiation into an esoteric society called the Midewiwin or Medicine Lodge; a well developed scalp dance, fixed ritualistic procedures in conducting a war party; ceremonial bundles for war, hunting and also for social groups; complex mythology, dealing in part with Manitou beings; elaboration of song rituals for many phases of routine life; specialization in root and herb formulas for treating the sick, but some shamanistic traits, as the juggler's lodge and tricks.

6. **CHIPPEWA.** See below under Ojibwa, of which Chippewa is a corruption.

7. **FOX.** Native name, "Meskwakiagi," "Red Earths." "Fox" is a translation of the name of one group in the tribe, "Wagoagi," the Fox gens. It was applied to the whole tribe by the French. The name "Outagamis" is sometimes used. It is derived from the Ojibwa name for the Fox, "Utagamig," "They of the other shore."

441 Fox live today at Tama, Iowa. A few others live with the Sauk in Kansas and Oklahoma. The tribe formerly numbered perhaps 1500.

8. **MENOMINI** (Me-náh-mih-nee). Derived from the native name "Manomanewuk," "Wild rice men." The present reservation in Shawano county, northeast Wisconsin, was established in 1856. The present population is 2221, an increase over past years. Its former number was about the same.

9. **MIAMI** (Me-á-me). Probably derived from the Ojibwa name for the tribe, "Oumau-meg," "People who live on the peninsula." The native name appears to have been "Twanh-twanh," the cry of the crane, which was corrupted into "Twightwees" by early writers. 287 Indians listed as Miami live in Oklahoma. In 46 of the 92 Indiana counties live some 300 Indians, the majority of whom appear to be of Miami extraction. Both of these Miami groups are much mixed racially.

10. **OJIBWA** (O-djib-way). There are two suggested origins for the name. The more recent and likely derives it from "ojibiweg," "those who make pictographs;" this word being derived from "Nindojibiwa," "I mark or write on some object." The older explanation derives the term from "ojibubway," "to roast till puckered up," referring to the puckered seam of the tribal style of moccasin. "Anicinabe," (Ah-neé-cih-na-be) "First man," was the tribal name.

The tribe is now found on 10 reservations in Minnesota, 4 in Wisconsin, 1 each in North Dakota and Montana, and on several in Canada. About 4000 of the tribe live in Michigan, but not on reservations. There are about 30,000 Ojibwa in the United States and about 20,000 in Canada, 50,000 altogether. The United States group is the third largest tribe in our borders, being exceeded only by the Sioux and Navaho.

**11. OTTAWA** (ót-tah-wah). The word is a corruption of either one of two Indian expressions: "adawe" (ah-da-way), "to trade"; or "Outaouan" or "Outaouaks," a name for a river on which the tribe once lived.

Since about 1830 the tribe has been in its present locations. About 2700 live in scattered settlements along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan in Michigan; about 1500 live on Cockburn and Mantoulin Islands in western Ontario, Canada; and about 400 live in extreme northeastern Oklahoma. The total number of the tribe is about 4600.

**12. PIANKASHAW** (Pee-áng-ka-shaw). A division of the Miami. The name is possibly derived from "payangitchaki," "those who separate." The few dozen survivors are with the Peoria in Oklahoma.

**13. POTAWATOMI** (Po-ta-wá-to-mee). Possibly derived from the Algonkin word "Potawatomingk," "people of the place of fire." Another meaning of the name is given as "keepers of the fire." The tribe is at present distributed as follows: 2650, called the Citizen Potawatomi, in central Oklahoma; 1000 in northeast Kansas; 425 around Arpin, Wood county, central Wisconsin, called, with those of Kansas, the Prairie Potawatomi; 850, as estimated in 1933, in and around Forest county, northeast Wisconsin, called the Forest Potawatomi; about 300 in Van Buren county, south Michigan, the so-called Potawatomi of Huron; and about 250 in western Ontario, Canada, mostly on Walpole Island in Lake St. Clair. This makes a total of about 5425 members of the tribe.

**14. SAC AND FOX.** The Sauk (or Sac) and the Fox were so closely associated in early times that they came to be considered as one tribe on government records. Since about 1850 they have not been treated separately, though there are many differences between the two groups. See sections in this leaflet under Sauk and Fox.

**15. SAUK** (Sawk). Possibly derived from the Sauk word "asagiwa," "they who came forth," but by some derived from "asawakia," "yellow earth." Today there are about 875 Sauk in central Oklahoma and about 125 on a reservation lying in extreme northeast Kansas and running over into Nebraska.

**16. WEA** (Wée-ah). Possibly derived from the native name "wawiaqtenang," "place of the round or curved channel;" or possibly from "wayahtonuki," meaning "eddy people." A division of the Miami. The handful of survivors are with the Peoria in Oklahoma.

#### SIOUAN

**17. WINNEBAGO** (Win-ne-báy-go). A corruption of the Algonkin Ojibwa nickname for this Siouan tribe, "winipig," "filthy water." The native name is "Ho-tcháng-gara," meaning "big fish people." The Winnebago are the easternmost of a group of related Siouan tribes, the others being the Iowa, Oto and Missouri.

The tribe was found on Green Bay. Beginning in 1837 it moved about in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota until 1864 when the present Nebraska reservation was established. This group now numbers 1212. The remainder, 1456, are scattered in Wisconsin, mostly in Adams, Jackson, Shawano and Marathon counties. The total number of the tribe is 2668.

#### IROQUOIAN

**18. CULTURE.** Quoting from Wissler's "The American Indian": The Iroquoian tribes were even more intensive agriculturists and potters (than their Algonkin neighbors); they made some use of the blow-gun, developed cornhusk weaving; carved elaborate masks from wood; lived in rectangular bark long houses of peculiar pattern; built fortifications; were superior in bone work; maintained a series of masked secret societies, a corn harvest festival, and, above all, a highly developed political organization, or "League of the Six Nations" which made systematic conquests.

**19. ERIE** (Ear-ee). A French corruption of the Huron word "yenresh," "it is long tailed," referring to the eastern puma. In 1644 the Iroquois of New York practically destroyed the tribe. Many were captured and incorporated with the Iroquois. It is possible that descendants of the Erie are with the so-called Seneca of Oklahoma.

**20. HURON** (Héw-ron). A French word meaning "bristled or rough haired." The native name was "Wendat," meaning possibly "the islanders," or "dwellers on a peninsula." Between 1648 and 1650 the Huron group of tribes was broken up by the Iroquois of New York, many being killed and the rest captured. Under the name "Wyandot" some Huron groups were settled in Oklahoma in 1867 after living in various places in southern Michigan and northern Ohio. Another portion of the tribe fled to the French and the descendants of this group live at Lorette near Quebec. Today there are 783 in Oklahoma and 500 in Quebec.

21. **IROQUOIS** (Eár-o-kwoi). A French corruption of the Algonkin name "Irinakhoiw," meaning "real adders." A group of five tribes, Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga and Seneca, to which the Tuscarora were later added, which occupied New York state and adjoining regions from about the 13th century until the break-up of the League of the Six Nations at the time of the American Revolution. The tribes are now found on five reservations in Quebec and Ontario, Canada; and on six reservations in New York, one in Pennsylvania, one in Oklahoma, and one in Wisconsin. The Canadian groups number about 11,550; those in New York and Pennsylvania about 4500; in Oklahoma 700; and in Wisconsin 3250, a total of about 20,000. Further details of tribal distribution will be discussed in a future leaflet.

22. **NEUTRAL**. So called by the French because the group was neutral in wars between the Iroquois and Huron. The Hurons called them "Attiwandaronk," "they are those whose language is awry." There appears to be no native name for the confederation as a whole. The group was broken up by the Iroquois in 1650-51 and the survivors assimilated into neighboring tribes. Nothing is mentioned about the confederation after the mid-17th century, and nothing certain is known today about any descendants. Some of the so-called Seneca of Oklahoma are said to be of Neutral ancestry.

23. **WYANDOT** (Wy-an-dot). See section 20.

24. **STOCKBRIDGE**. The Algonkin Indians called by this name, while not originally inhabitants of the Great Lakes region, are included here because they have lived on a reservation in Wisconsin since 1856. The tribe, of which the native name is "Mahican," formerly lived in the valley of the Housatonic river in Massachusetts. The name "Stockbridge" came from a nearby White village. In 1785 the tribe began a series of western movements which eventually brought it to its present location. The Munsee Delaware joined it in 1833. The combined groups today number about 600.

Compiled from the following sources by F. H. Douglas:

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8. Article on the meaning of "Ojibwa"—Truman Michelson. Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 78, no. 1, p. 116. 1927

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9. Review of Skinner's Sauk Ethnology—Truman Michelson. Vol. 26, no. 1, p. 95, 1924
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Thanks are due to W. C. McKern, Milwaukee Public Museum, for suggestions about this leaflet.