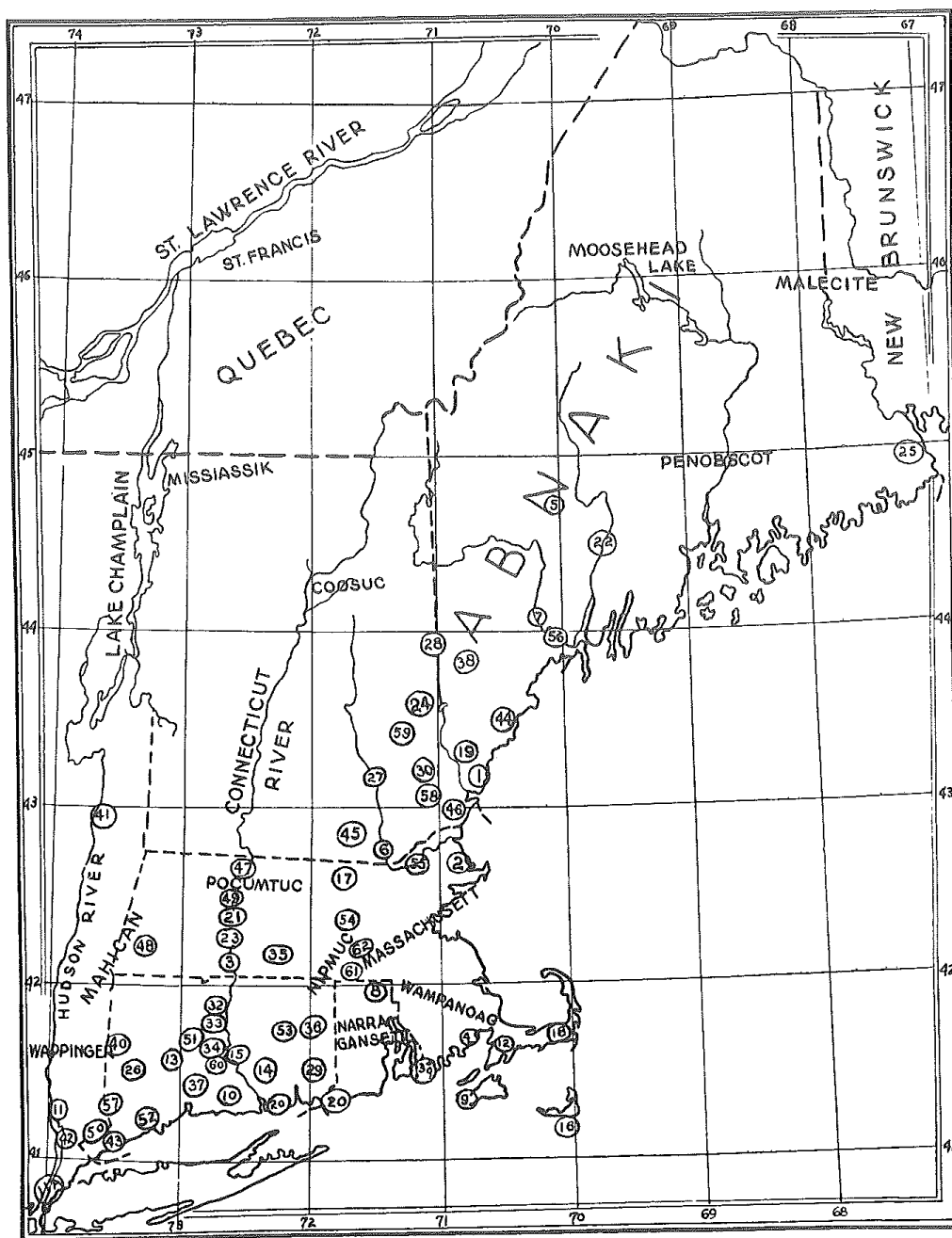


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## THE NEW ENGLAND TRIBES

NAMES AND LOCATIONS

**ALGONKIN.** All of the New England Indians were members of this linguistic stock, the largest in extent of territory in North America.

**TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.** Owing to the early disappearance of most of these Indians and to the faulty observation of early writers, exact information is lacking as to which of the following groups were true tribes and which were merely branches of larger groups, so that it is impossible to give an exact picture of the situation when this area was discovered. The following list certainly contains the names of the most important groups. But it is quite possible that some of the small bands have been omitted.

**CONFEDERACIES.** It was the custom of many of these small bands to join in loose groups under the leadership of one strong tribe. The Abnaki, Pennacook, Pocumtuc, Nipmuc and Wappinger confederacies are those most commonly mentioned, though the Massachusetts, Wampanoag and Mohegan-Pequot also seem to have headed organizations of this sort. Membership in these confederacies is shown in this leaflet thus: "Malecite. Abnaki group."

**POPULATION.** In 1921 James Mooney of the Bureau of Ethnology estimated that in 1600 there were 25,000 Indians in New England. Other investigators have doubled this figure, but probably without justification. Today there are perhaps 2900-3000 survivors of these tribes. 1750 Malecite, Penobscot and Passamaquoddy, of quite pure Indian blood, live in the neighborhood of their original homes in Maine, Quebec and New Brunswick. About 500 survivors of several tribes, much mixed with white and negro blood, live at Gay Head, Mashpee and in very small groups scattered through southern New England. About 350 remnants of many tribes, mostly Abnaki, live at or near St. Francis, Quebec. In Wisconsin are 300 Stockbridge Mahicans and about the same number of the Brotherton group of survivors of several tribes.

**NAMES.** The attempts of writers and explorers of three nations to spell the names of the tribes they encountered in New England resulted in a very widely differing lot of spellings. The spelling used in this leaflet is that of the Bureau of Ethnology. In the Handbook of American Indians, Bulletin 30 of the Bureau of Ethnology, under the headings of each tribe mentioned, will be found most of the different ways of spelling the tribal names.

**CAUSES OF DECLINE.** Disease seems to have been the principal cause of the rapid disappearance of the New England Indians. In 1617 eastern Massachusetts and the southern coast was swept by a fever which destroyed thousands. In 1632-33 smallpox invaded southern New England and killed most of the survivors of the 1617 epidemic. Wars with the whites were responsible for the destruction of other thousands. The Pequot war of 1637, King Philip's war of 1675-76 and the 18th century wars on the Maine border were the principal conflicts. A system of bounties for Indian heads or scalps increased the slaughter. Slavery was common. Drink and ceaseless pressure by the colonists did for most of the rest. Only in Maine did the Indians hold out at all successfully, principally because they were under the protection of devoted French missionaries.

**CONTACT WITH WHITES.** While it is probably true that the Norsemen in 1000 were the first white men to touch New England, the first European to establish any contact was the Italian Verrazano,



who in 1524-25 touched along the coast from Maine to New York. During the 16th century several vessels explored the Maine coast. Not until the very early 17th century were permanent settlements made. The French filtered into Maine from the north, and remained predominant there until the end of their power in America. The English, notably the Pilgrims of 1620, made their settlements along the coast from Maine to New York. In 1609 the Dutch landed at New York and pushed their influence up the Hudson and east into Connecticut.

**LOCATIONS.** The encircled numbers assigned to each tribe indicate the approximate center of the area belonging to it. All of the Indians wandered through the neighboring country on hunting and fighting expeditions. This is especially true of the Indians on the coast of Maine, who traveled all through the country lying inland. The absence of Indians in Vermont is due to the fact that this mountainous area was a barrier between the New England Algonkins and the New York Iroquois. Both parties hunted in it, but neither made permanent settlements.

**ABNAKI, ABENAQUI, WABANAKI** 'east land'. These and other variants of the same name are applied to all of the tribes living in Maine and north and east into Canada and New Brunswick. In the strictest sense the name is given to the Norridgewock band.

**ACCOMINTA** (1) 'shore line'. Pennacook group. A small tribe formerly living near the present York, York Co., Maine. As a tribe they disappeared early.

**AGAWAM** (2) 'fish curing place'. Pennacook group. A small tribe which lived near the present Ipswich, Essex Co., Mass. A few survived until 1726.

**AGAWAM** (3). A small tribe which lived on Long Hill, near the present Springfield, Hampden Co., Mass.

**AGAWAM** (4). A small tribe which centered around the present Wareham, Plymouth Co., Mass.

**AMASECONTI** (5) 'abundance of small fish'. Abnaki group. A small tribe which lived near New Sharon, Franklin Co., Maine. In 1797 the remnant moved to St. Francis, Quebec.

**AMOSKEAG** (6) 'one takes small fish'. Pennacook group. A small tribe formerly living by the Amoskeag Falls of the Merrimac river in Hillsboro Co., N. H.

**AROSAGUNTACOOK** (7). Abnaki group. Originally the tribe lived near Lewiston, Androscoggin Co., Maine. They were in many wars with the English. In 1725 they moved to St. Francis, Quebec.

**COOSUC** 'at the pine'. Pennacook group. They lived in Coos and Grafton Cos., N. H. along the upper Connecticut river. In 1704 they moved to St. Francis, Quebec. The tribal name still existed in the early 18th century.

**COWESET** (8) 'place of small pine trees'. A small band which lived in northern Rhode Island, west of the Blackstone river.

**ETCHIMIN.** This is an old name for the Malecite and Passamaquoddy living along the St. John's and St. Croix rivers on the Maine-New Brunswick border.

**GAYHEAD** (9). A village on the west end of Martha's Vineyard, since the 17th century the home of a group of Wampanoag. The present population is about 200. Few if any are full blood.

**HAMMONASSET** (10). A small band which lived on the Hammonasset river near the present Guilford, Middlesex Co., Conn.

**KITCHAWANK** (11) 'at the great mountain'. Wappinger group. A small tribe on the east shore of the Hudson from the Croton river to Anthony's Nose. They had a village at Peekskill, but the main town was at the mouth of the Croton River.

**MAHICAN** 'wolf'. A large tribe formerly holding both banks of the Hudson river and western Massachusetts. About 1730 bands of the tribe began to move west and to lose their identity. Only the Stockbridge band now living in Wisconsin has kept the tribal name.

**MALECITE**. Abnaki group. This tribe formerly roamed the country around the Maine-New Brunswick border. About 700 now live in New Brunswick and 100 in Quebec.

**MANHATTAN** (11A) 'the hill island'. Wappinger group. The Indians of Manhattan Island. The island was only hunting territory, the main village being on the site of Yonkers. After selling their land to the Dutch they disappeared from history.

**MASHPEE** (12) 'great pool'. This is the name of a village in Barnstable Co., Mass., established in 1660 for Christian Indians of many tribes. About 100 still live there. There is much negro blood in the group.

**MASSACHUSETT** 'at the great hill'. A large tribe, numbering about 3,000 when discovered, which lived in the eastern part of Massachusetts. Wars with the Abnaki and pestilence so reduced them that they had disappeared as a tribe by about 1650.

**MATTABESSEC** (13) 'at a large brook'. A large tribe formerly centering about Wethersfield, Conn., and extending quite widely in all directions, especially to the west. They controlled many of the small tribes near them.

**MISSIASSEK** or **MISSISQUOI**. Abnaki group. They formerly lived along the Missisquoi river in northern Vermont. In 1730 about 800 of them moved to St. Francis, Quebec.

**MOHEGAN** (14) 'wolf'. This group, once numbering over 1,000, centered in the valley of the Thames river, Conn. Under the celebrated Uncas they were, about 1676, the leading tribe in the region. Under white pressure they rapidly diminished, the survivors centering about Mohegan and Norwich, Conn. At present there are about 125 mixed bloods. The Brotherton band of Wisconsin has some Mohegan members.

**MONTOWESE** (15) 'little god'. A branch of the Mattabesec, once living near Middleton, Middlesex Co., Conn., on the Connecticut river.

**NANTUCKET** (16). Two tribes, numbering about 1,500, lived on the island in 1642. By 1809 only a handful were left.

**NARRANGANSETT** 'people of the small point'. A large tribe which centered in Rhode Island. They escaped the great pestilence of 1617 and were increased by remnants of other tribes. Despite other losses from sickness they numbered 5,000 in 1674. King Philip's war in 1675

broke up the tribe, the survivors fleeing in all directions. A few returned to join the Niantic near Charleston, R. I. Some joined the Brothertons. In the east there are a few survivors living with the Mohegan near Norwich, Conn.

**NASHUA** (17) 'the land between'. Pennacook group. A tribe once living around Lancaster, Worcester Co., Mass. The tribe was nearly destroyed in King Philip's war. Most of the survivors fled west to the Mahican.

**NAUSET** (18). A tribe which lived on Cape Cod east of Bass river. Until about 1710 they kept their early number of about 500, but thereafter began to decrease. By 1802 all were gone. The tribe was always friendly to the English colonists.

**NEWICHAWANOC** (19). A small tribe once living about the site of the present Berwick, York Co., Maine. The tribe early became extinct.

**NIANTIC** (20) 'a point of land on an estuary'. A small tribe with two divisions, one between the mouths of the Thames and Connecticut rivers and one on the coast at the Rhode Island-Connecticut border. The survivors of the eastern branch merged with the remaining Narragansett after King Philip's war. The remnants of the western branch joined in the Brotherton group. A few descendants of the eastern branch live with the Mohegan.

**NIPMUC** 'freshwater fishing place'. A large tribe or group of bands formerly living in the south part of Worcester Co., Mass., and the adjacent parts of Connecticut and Rhode Island. The survivors of King Philip's war fled to Canada or to the Mahican.

**NONOTUC** (21). Pocumtuc group. A small band which lived on the site of the present Northampton, Hampshire Co., Mass. They disappeared after 1677.

**NORRIDGEWOCK** (22) 'people of the still water between rapids'. Abnaki group. A tribe once centering near the present Norridgewock. Somerset Co., Maine, and extending up and down the Kennebec river. It was the most characteristic group of the Abnaki confederacy. They fought for the French and after 1754 moved to St. Francis.

**NORWOOTUC** (23). A tribe which lived in the Connecticut river valley near the present South Hadley, Hampshire Co., Mass. After King Philip's war they seem to have joined the Mohawk.

**OSSIPEE** (24) 'lake made by river widening'. Pennacook group. A small tribe which lived on the Ossipee river and lake in Carrol Co., N. H., and Oxford Co., Maine.

**PASSAMAQUODDY** (25) 'plenty of pollock'. Abnaki group. This tribe has always lived around Passamaquoddy bay on the Maine-New Brunswick border. The present population is about 500, mostly located at Point Pleasant, Washington Co., Maine.

**PAUGUSSET** (26) 'where the narrows open out'. Wappinger group. A tribe of 700 or 800 which centered around the junction of the Housatonic and Naugatuck rivers. They decreased rapidly and after 1752 lived at Scaticook, near the present Kent, Conn.

**PENNACOOK** (27) 'at the bottom of the hill'. The chief tribe of the confederacy of the same name, once living on the Merrimac river up



and down from Concord, N. H. After 1676 they fled to the New York Scaticook and to St. Francis, Quebec. Descendants of the latter still live at St. Francis.

**PENOBSCOT** 'plenty stones'. Abnaki group. An important tribe which lived around Penobscot bay and in the valley of the Penobscot river. Some lived to the north on Moosehead lake. They controlled a large area and were at war till 1749. Since then they have remained peaceful. They are now about 450 living on the river north of Bangor, Maine.

**PEQUAWKET** (28) 'at the hole in the ground'. Abnaki group. A small tribe which lived on the headwaters of the Saco river in Carroll Co., N. H., and Oxford Co., Me., centering near the present Fryeburg, Me. After 1725 they moved to the headwaters of the Connecticut, where some were still known to be about 1800.

**PEQUOT** (29) 'destroyers'. An important tribe located around New London, Conn., and under the chief Sassacus in control of eastern Connecticut. The population was about 3,000. In 1637 a disastrous war with the English broke up the tribal unity, the survivors scattering far and wide. Today a few dozen mixed bloods live in the state.

**PISCATAQUA** (30). Pennacook group. A small tribe, long extinct, which lived near the present Dover, Stafford Co., N. H.

**POCUMTUC**. A large, important tribe which centered around the present Deerfield, Franklin Co., Mass., and controlled the Connecticut valley. After King Philip's war they fled to Scaticook, N. Y., and after 1754 moved to St. Francis, Quebec.

**PODUNK** (32) 'a neck of land'. A small tribe formerly living in north central Hartford Co., Conn. They disappeared after King Philip's war.

**POQUONNOC** (33) 'a clearing'. A small tribe, closely allied with the Podunk, which lived near the present Windsor, Hartford Co., Conn.

**PYQUAG** (34) 'open country'. A small branch group of the Mattabesec, whose village was near the present Wethersfield, Hartford Co., Conn.

**QUABAUG** (35) 'red pond'. Nipmuc group. A tribe formerly living near the present Brookfield, Worcester Co., Mass. They disappeared after King Philip's war.

**QUINEBAUG** (36) 'long pond'. Nipmuc group. A tribe which lived along the Quinebaug river north of the present Jewett City, New London Co., Conn.

**QUINNIPIAC** (37) 'long water people'. Wappinger group. A tribe whose principal village occupied the site of the present New Haven, Conn. Never numerous, they vanished before the Revolution.

**ROCAMECA** (38) 'on the land upstream'. Abnaki group. A small tribe formerly living along the Androscoggin river on the border of Oxford and Franklin Cos., Maine.

**SACONNET** (39). A small tribe which lived on Sakonnet point, Newport Co., R. I. Once numbering about 500, they had become extinct by the early 19th century.

**SCATICOOK, CONN.** (40) 'at the river fork'. An Indian village near the site of the present Kent, Litchfield Co., Conn. It was established



in 1730 by Gideon Mahwee, a Pequot, for the survivors of small neighboring tribes. It never became large, but has persisted until today, though only a few mixed bloods now survive.

**SCATICOOK, N. Y.** (41). A Mahican village at the junction of the Hoosac and Hudson rivers in Rensselaer Co., N. Y. to which fled refugees from many of the New England tribes broken by King Philip's war. In 1702 there were 100 inhabitants. Shortly after they began to move to St. Francis, Quebec. By 1760 all had moved.

**SINTSINK** (42) 'at the small stone'. Wappinger group. A small tribe which centered around the present Ossining, N. Y.

**SIWANOEY** (43) 'salt people'. Wappinger group. A large tribe located on the coast from New York to Norwalk, Conn., and inland to White Plains.

**SOKOKI** (44) 'people at the outlet'. Abnaki group. A tribe which once occupied the banks of the Saco river, York Co., Me., near its mouth. After King Philip's war some fled to Scaticook, N. Y. In 1725 the remnant moved to St. Francis, Quebec.

**SOUHEGAN** (45). Pennacook group. A tribe which once lived near the site of the present Amherst, Hillsborough Co., N. H.

**SQUAMSCOT** (46). Pennacook group. A small tribe formerly living near the site of the present Exeter, Rockingham Co., N. H.

**SQUAWKEAG** (47) 'red earth'. Pocumtuc group. A tribe which occupied both sides of the Connecticut river in the neighborhood of the present Northfield, Franklin Co., Mass.

**STOCKBRIDGE** (48). A Mahican village on the Housatonic river in south central Berkshire Co., Mass. In 1785 the inhabitants moved to the Oneida reserve in New York and in 1833 to the Menominee in Wisconsin with the Oneida and Munsee. In 1856 the present reservation inland from Green Bay, Wis., was occupied. The population is about 300.

**SUKIAUG** (49). A tribe which lived until 1730 around the site of the modern Hartford, Conn.

**SAINT FRANCIS.** An Indian village near Pierreville; Yamaska Dist., Quebec, established by Catholic missionaries in the 17th century. To it fled the broken remnants of the New England tribes. There are now about 300 inhabitants, mostly of Abnaki blood.

**TANKITEKE** (50). Wappinger group. A small tribe formerly living back from the coastline in Westchester Co., N. Y., and Fairfield Co., Conn.

**TUNXIS** (51) 'the point where the river bends'. Wappinger group. An important tribe once living in the neighborhood of Farmington, Hartford Co., Conn. As a tribe they had disappeared before the Revolution.

**UNCOWA** (52) 'beyond'. Wappinger group. A small tribe formerly living about Fairfield, Fairfield Co., Conn.

**WABAQUASSET** (53). A small tribe once living in Windham Co., Conn., west of the Quinebaug river, near the present Woodstock.

**WACHUSET** (54) 'at the small mountain'. Pennacook group. A small tribe which centered around the present Princeton, Worcester Co., Mass.

**WAMESIT** (55). Pennacook group. An important tribe which lived on the south bank of the Merrimac river near Lowell, Middlesex Co., Mass. In 1686 they moved to St. Francis, Quebec.

**WAMPANOAG** 'eastern people'. A very important tribe which centered in Bristol Co., R. I., but controlled all of southeast Massachusetts except Cape Cod. Massasoit was the head chief in 1620. His son was the King Philip who led the New England Indians against the English in the war of 1675-77, which was so fatal to the natives. The remnants of the tribe joined the Saconnet. Several hundred mixed bloods now survive, mostly at Gay Head.

**WAPPINGER** 'easterners'. An important tribe, the leader of the confederacy of the same name. They formerly lived in the neighborhood of Poughkeepsie. Despite destructive wars they remained until 1756, after which the survivors joined the Delaware or the Stockbridge.

**WAWENOC** (56) 'people of the bay country'. Abnaki group. A tribe which once lived about the mouth of the Kennebec river in Lincoln and Sagadahoc Cos., Maine. By 1750 all had moved to Canada, principally to Becancour, 30 miles east of St. Francis. A few dozen survivors still live in the neighborhood.

**WECQUAESGEET** (57) 'end of the marsh'. Wappinger group. A tribe which centered around the present Dobbs Ferry, N. Y. and stretched east to Norwalk, Conn. They were all killed off in the 17th century.

**WINNECOWET** (58). Pennacook group. A small tribe formerly living in Rockingham Co., N. H.

**WINNIPISAUKE** (59). Pennacook group. The tribe which once lived around the lake of the same name in central New Hampshire.

**WONGUNK** (60) 'at the bend'. Wappinger group. A small group which lived near the present Chatham, Middlesex Co., Conn.

**WUNNASHOWATUCKOOG** (61) 'people at the fork of the river'. Nipmuc group. A tribe which lived on the banks of the Blackstone river in southern Worcester Co., Mass.

**WUSQUOWHANANAWKIT** (62) 'at the pigeon country'. Nipmuc group. A small tribe living near the above, in central Worcester Co., Mass.

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

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