

Che-cau-gou Native American Style

Welcome to 2021 ODHDC – HHHHH LXV (based on buttons from previous years.) The theme this year is Native Americans and their influence to Chicago. Native American names and trails will be referenced for your use. Some are now street names, some are now differently named roads, and some are just Native American. These names were used in locating questions, not all were used. All locations are within a short distance of the trails or the names referenced.

The Native Americans who lived in the area had established a vast network of trails and portages to connect two great water systems, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. This enabled them in theory to travel from the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico and to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

Archer Ave When construction started on the I&M Canal, a road was needed, and the old Indian trail between Joliet and the Chicago Portage (near 47th and Harlem Avenue) was followed to create Archer Avenue. (Early Days, Potawatomi, and Archer Avenue, Posted on [June 17, 2016](#) by [Pat Camalliere](#))

Calumet, a highly ornamented ceremonial pipe of the Native Americans

Chicago The most-accepted meaning is a word that comes from the Algonquin language: “shikaakwa,” meaning “striped skunk” or “onion.” According to early explorers, the lakes and streams around Chicago were full of wild onions, leeks, and ramps.

Clark St. is built on a ridge that is an ancient shoreline of Lake Michigan. Native Americans used it as a trail to avoid the swampy, marshy areas existing in Chicago at the time and is now named after George Rogers Clark, famous for ‘capturing’ Illinois for Virginia during the Revolutionary War.

Elston Ave cited by some as a Native American trail (could not find any source) was a wagon trail and is named after Daniel Elston, a London merchant who immigrated to Chicago in the early 1800s.

Erie is a shortened form of the Iroquoian word erielhonan, meaning long tail.

Green Bay Road originally ran from Fort Dearborn at (present day) Michigan and Wacker, along Rush St, then Clark St, then Ridge Av, finally continuing north through the northern suburbs toward Fort Howard (now Green Bay, Wis.)

Illinois comes from the French word meaning Illini or Land of Illini. It is an Algonquin word meaning Men or Warriors.

Indiana means "Land of the Indians" or "Land of Indians."

Indian Boundary Line In 1816, it was agreed upon as an imaginary line 10 miles on either side of the Chicago Portage, with the line being established by surveyors in 1818-19.

Kwanu'sila is the name of the totem pole at Addison and Lake Shore Drive. James Kraft, of Kraft, Inc, visited the First Nation tribe of Kwakiutl'1 in British Columbia and purchased 2 totem poles, one of which he gave to the City of Chicago in 1929. Years of vandalism, insects, and weather nearly destroyed the original, and in 1986, a replica was brought to Chicago, the original was returned to the Kwakiutl'1 at their request.

Menomonee derived from the Ojibwe language word for "Wild Rice People"; known as Mamaceqtaw, "the people"

Michigan Derived from the Indian word Michigama, meaning great or large lake.

Milwaukee comes from an Algonquian word Millioke, meaning "Good", "Beautiful" and "Pleasant Land" (cf. Potawatomi language minwaking, Ojibwe language ominowakiing) or "Gathering place [by the water]"

Milwaukee Avenue originated as a Native American trail, used for centuries by the original inhabitants of Illinois. (from Chicago Patterns, John Morris, July 2016.)

Narragansett is an English corruption of Nanhigganeuck, their actual name meaning "people of the small point."

Natchez named for a tribe of Native Americans, who with their ancestors, inhabited much of the Mississippi/Tennessee area from the 8th century AD through the French colonial period.

Natoma is a Choctaw name for girls meaning Successful. A person who arrives or attains.

Neenah was from the Hoocak word for "water" or "running water". It was the site of a Ho-Chunk village in the late 18th century.

Ogden Ave was a French and Indian fur-trading route between Ft. Dearborn (now Chicago) and Lisle first known as the "Ottawa Trail". In the 1870's, Western Springs maps described the road simply as "North Boulevard". However, in 1877, the entire length of road was re-named Ogden Avenue after the first mayor of Chicago, William B. Ogden. (Info from The Patch, Western Springs)

Ohio got its name from the Iroquois word, "O-Y-O," meaning "great river."

Oneida is derived from the English pronunciation of Onyota'a:ka, the people's name for themselves. Onyota'a:ka means "People of the Standing Stone".

Ontario comes from the Iroquois word "kanadario", meaning "sparkling" water.

Osceola is an anglicized form of the Creek Asi-yahola (pronounced [as:i jaho:la]); the combination of asi, the ceremonial black drink made from the yaupon holly, and yahola, meaning "shout" or "shouter". Osceola was an influential Florida Seminole leader.

Pontiac comes from the Ottawa chief who is perhaps best known for his namesake battle, Pontiac's War.

Pottawattomi means "people of the place of the fire."

Ridge Av. Was also an ancient shoreline and used as Native Americans as a path to avoid marshy areas.

Sangamon the Illinois Secretary of State's Office endorses a popular, albeit boosterish explanation: "Named after the Sangamon River ... which derived its name from the Pottawatomie Indian word Sain-guee-mon or Sangamon (pronounced sang gä mun) meaning literally 'where there is plenty to eat' or what we would call the 'land of milk and honey.'" (From [CyberdriveIllinois](#))

Sauganash from Billy Caldwell, whose Indian name was Sauganash (meaning Englishman)

Sauk Trail was originally a Native American trail running through what are present-day Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

Skokie comes from a Potawatomi word for "marsh"

Vincennes Ave: originally a Native American trail going to present Joliet then to Ft. Vincennes, IN

Wabash is an English spelling of the French name for the river, "Ouabache". French traders named the river after the Miami-Illinois word for the river, waapaahšiiki, meaning "it shines white", "pure white", or "water over white stones".

Washtenaw is a variant of the Ojibwe word: "Wash-ten-ong," the Ojibwe name for the Grand River in Michigan

Wilmette named after Antoine Ouilmette who married a Potawatomi woman and had a log cabin at Lake & Michigan in Gibson Park

Winnebago "people of the dirty water." That might sound like a joke because of the camping aspect, but it's actually the name of a Native American tribe who lived around Wisconsin's Fox River, known for being muddy (the river, not the people).

Winnemac was the name of a number of Potawatomi leaders and warriors beginning in the late 17th century.

Wisconsin's name evolved from "Meskonsing," an English spelling of the French version of the Miami Indian name for the Wisconsin River, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society.