

1736: CENSUS OF THE INDIAN TRIBES

[Extracts from an enumeration given by an unknown person,¹ dated Oct. 12, 1736. Transcribed from *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, ix, pp. 1052-1058.]

Enumeration of the Indian Tribes connected with the Government of Canada; the Warriors and Armorial bearings of each Nation. 1736

* * * * *

The Têtes de Boule or Tribes of the Interior

These are wandering Savages who have no knowledge either of the order or form of villages, and evince the least intellect; they inhabit the mountains and lakes in the interior, from Three Rivers to Lake Superior. Their armorial bearings are unknown, if any they have.

* * * * *

At Mississinakinak

The Outawas of this village amount to one hundred and eighty warriors; the two principal branches are Kiskakons (1) and Sinago (2); the Bear (1) and Black Squirrel (2),² 180

River Missisagûé

The Missisagûés on the river number thirty men, and twenty men on the Island called Manitouatim of Lake Huron. They have for device, a Crane,³ 50

¹The authorship of this enumeration has been variously assigned. O'Callaghan says it has been supposed to be Joncaire; but he was on the Ohio at this date, and not at Mackinac. Schoolcraft (*History of Indian tribes*, Phila., 1847, iii, p. 558), says there is a note on the original MS., that the compilation is supposed to have been made by Monsieur Chauvignerle. We think it probably the work of Céleron the younger, who was commandant at Mackinac at this date, and well acquainted with Indian tribes.—Ed.

²For the Ottawa clans, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, pp. 119, 120.—Ed.

³For location and history of this tribe, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, pp. 18, 371. The island is the Manitoulin, at the entrance of Georgian Bay.—Ed.

Lake Superior—At the Mouth

At the Falls of Saint Mary are the Sauteurs,¹ to the number of thirty; they are in two divisions, and have for device, the Crane and the Cat fish, . 80

Michipicoton—At North of this Lake²

The Papinakois and those of the interior; the first are twenty warriors, and have for device, a Hare, . 20

River Ounepigon

The Oskemanettigons are domiciled there to the number of forty warriors. They have for device, the bird called the Fisher . 40

The Monsonis,³ who are migratory, estimate themselves two hundred men, and have for device, a Moose [Original], . 200

The Abitibis and the *Têtes de Boule* come there also. Some have informed me that the first have for arms, the Partridge with the Eagle. I have already stated that they are in all one hundred warriors.

The Namewilinis have one hundred and fifty fit to bear arms. They have for device, a Sturgeon,⁴ . 150

The tribes of the Savannas, one hundred and forty warriors strong, have for armorial device, a Hare, . 140

¹For the history of the Chippewa (whom the French called Sauteurs), see *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, v.—Ed.

²There was a small French post on the Michipicoton River, a dependency of the larger one at Nipigon.—Ed.

³The fort on the Nipigon River was found to draw the trade from the English at Hudson Bay. It was resorted to by a number of roving tribes. The domiciled tribe is probably the loon totem of the Chippewa. See Warren, "History of the Ojibways," *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, v, ch. 2. The Monsoni were a wandering Algonquian tribe north and east of Lake Nipigon.—Ed.

⁴Probably the Sturgeon clan of the Chippewa.—Ed.

Kamanistigoya¹

The Ouacé are in number sixty men, and have for device
a Cat fish, ... 60

Tecamamiousen,² or Rainy Lake

These Indians are the same as those who come to Nepigon. They are about this lake to the number of one hundred men, ... 100

Lake of the Woods

The Cristinaux are scattered hereabout, to the number of two hundred warriors. They have for device, the Wild goose, ... 200

Lake Ounepigon

The Cristinaux are around this lake to the number of sixty men, ... 60
Assenipoëls. See Scionx.

South of Lake Superior

Kionanan [Keweenaw]. In this quarter there are domiciled forty Sauteurs, who have for device, the Crane and the Stag, ... 40
The Sauteurs of Point Chagouamigon are one hundred and fifty warriors, ... 150
The Scionx, at the head of this lake, in the woods and along the lakes, though scattered, are computed at three hundred men, ... 300

¹The post of Kamanistigoya was founded before 1718, to command the portage of Pigeon River, called "the Grand Portage." The Ouacé may be the same as the tribe referred to in 1697 as "Les Gensappelés de L'Outarde (people of the bustard) otherwise Oukalinny." See Margry, *Découv. et établ.*, v, p. 7.—Ed.

²This post was founded by La Vérendrye in the fall of 1731, and named St. Pierre.—Ed.

- The Scioux of the Prairies are, in the opinion of Voyageurs, over two thousand men, Their Armorial devices are the Buffalo, the Black Dog and the Otter, ... 2000
- The Assenipoëls, or Ponans can, according to others, vie with the Scioux, from whom they formerly sprung. They number one hundred and fifty to the south of Lake Ounepigon, and have for device, a Big Stone or a Rock, ... 150
- The Puans have retired, since 1728, to the Scioux to the number of eighty; they have for Armorial bearings, the Stag, the Polecat (*Pichoux*), the Tiger,¹ 80

The head of Lake Superior

- The Ayowois are settled at the south of the River de Missouri, at the other side of the Mississipi. They are no more than eighty. They have for device, a Fox, ... 80

Lake Michigan and its dependencies

- The Folles Avoines, north of this lake, number one hundred and sixty warriors, ... 160

The most considerable tribes [have] for device, the Larve tailed Bear, the Stag, a Kiliou—that is a species of Eagle (the most beautiful bird of this country,)—perched on a cross.

In explanation of a Cross forming the Armorial bearings of the Indians, it is stated that formerly a Chief of the Folles Avoines finding himself dangerously sick, consented, after trying the ordinary remedies, to see a Missionary, who, Cross in hand, prayed to God for his recovery, and obtained it from his mercy. In gratitude for this benefit, the Chief desired that to his arms should be added a Cross on which the Kiliou has ever since been always perched.

¹ The word "pichou" was commonly used for the Canadian lynx or leop carrier; the "tiger" was a catamount.—En.

- Poucouatamis.** In 1728 there was a small village of this nation retired on an island to the number of 20
- The Bay [La Baye],** at the head of this Lake is the sojourn, or rather the country of the Sakia. This nation could put under arms one hundred and fifty men. Others do not count but one hundred and twenty. They have for device, a Crab, a Wolf, and a She-Bear, 150

Fox River

- The river of the Foxes** discharges into this lake. This nation now migratory, still consists, when not separated, of one hundred men bearing arms. They have for device, a Fox, 100
- The Kickapous,** formerly their allies, may be eighty men. They bear for device, the Pheasant and the Otter, 80
- The Maskoutin** has for Armorial device, the Wolf and the Stag. This nation is estimated at sixty men, 60

River Saint Joseph, south of Lake Michigan

- The Poucouatamis,** who call themselves the Governor's eldest sons,¹ compose the village of the River Saint Joseph, to the number of one hundred warriors. The principal tribes bear the Golden Carp, the Frog, the Crab, the Tortoise, 100
- There are in the village about ten Miamis** who bear as their arms a Crane, 10
- Also, eight Illinois Kaskakias,** whose device is a feather of an arrow  notched; or two arrows supported one against the other (x) in *saltier* [like a St. Andrew's cross.]

These are the nations best known to us as well along the Grand River of the Outawas as north and south of Lakes

¹ It is probable that they called themselves the "eldest sons" because they were the first of the nations at La Baye to make an alliance with the French, and to visit Montreal. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, pp. 34-50.—Ed.

Superior and Michigan. I propose now proceeding again from Montreal by way of the Lakes to Missilimakinak.

* * * * *

Lake Erie and Dependencies; South Side

The Chaouanons towards Carolina, are two hundred men,	200
Flatheads. The Cherakis, Chicachas, Totiris, ¹ are included under the name of Flatheads by the Iroquois, who estimate them at over six thousand men, in more than thirty villages. I'm told they had for device a Vessel (<i>un Vaisseau</i>),	6000
The Ontationoué, ² that is those who speak the language of Men; so called by the Iroquois because they understand each other—may be fifty men. I know nothing of them,	50
The Miamis have for device the Hind and the Crane. These are the two principal Tribes. There is likewise that of the Bear. They are two hundred men, bearing arms,	200
The Ontationoué, ³ that is those who speak the language same Nation, though in different villages. They can place under arms three hundred and fifty men. The devices of these Indians are the Serpent, the Deer, and the Small Acorn, ⁴	350
Illinois. The Metchigamias at Fort Chartres, number 250 men,	250

¹The Totire (Tutela) were a small western Virginia tribe, identified by Powell as of Siouan stock. See U. S. Bur. Eth. Report, 1885-86. The English writers speak of them as on Big Sandy River in the latter years of the 17th century; and say that, about that time, they moved into North Carolina near the Southern tribes. Later, they joined the Tuscarora and were incorporated into the Six Nations.—Ed.

²The Tionmontate or Tobacco-Huron (more properly, Wyandot). In 1702, a remnant of this once important tribe dwelt near the Miami. See Wis. Hist. Colls., xvi, p. 224.—Ed.

³For a description of these villages, see Wis. Hist. Colls., xvi, p. 376.—Ed.

The Kaakakias, six leagues below, have a village of one hundred warriors,	100
The Peorias at the Rock, are fifty men,	50
The Kaokias, or Tamarois, can furnish two hundred men,	200

All these Indians comprehended under the name of Illinois, have, for device, the Crane, the Bear, the White Hind, the Fork, the Tortoise.

* * * * *

Lake Erie; Detroit

The Hurons at present are two hundred men, bearing arms. They mark the Tortoise, Bear, and Plover,	200
The Pontecoutamis have a village there of one hundred and eighty men. ¹ They bear for device the Golden Carp, the Frog, the Crab, the Tortoise. (See <i>River Saint Joseph, south of Lake Michigan</i> .) . . .	180
The Outawas have two villages there, composed of one of the tribe of Sinagos; the other of Kiskakons, and may count two hundred warriors,	200

They have the same devices as those of Missilimakinak; that is to say, the Bear and Black Squirrel.

Lake Saint Clair, which leads to Lake Huron

At the end of the little Lake Saint Clair, there is a small village of Mississagués, which numbers sixty men. They have the same devices as the Mississagués of Manitouatin and Lake Ontario; that is to say, a Crane,	60
--	----

Lake Huron.

I have spoken before of the Mississagués who are to the North of this Lake. On the South side, I know only the Outawas, who have a village of eighty men at Saguinan, and for device the Bear and Squirrel,	80
---	----

¹Note appended to text: "Instead of 180, only 160 men must be counted."

Remark.

All the Nations have this in common; that a man who goes to war denotes himself as much by the device of his wife's as by that of his own tribe, and never marries a woman who carries a similar device to his.

If time permitted, you would, Sir, have been better satisfied with my researches.

I would have written to the Interpreters of the Posts, who would have furnished me with more certain information than I could obtain from the Voyageurs whom I questioned. I am engaged in the history of the Scioux, which you have asked of Monsieur de Linerot [Linctot].

MISSILIMANINAK.

1736: LA RONDE SENDS SPECIMENS OF COPPER

[Letter of Beauharnois and Hocquart to the French Minister, dated Oct. 14, 1736. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; press-mark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 65, c. 11, fol. 81."]

MONSIEUR—We have The honor to inform You that Monsieur De la Ronde who was instructed to work the Copper Mines on Lake Superior, came down from there in the month of August to report on his discoveries, and brought with him About 500 pounds of ore taken from two large masses of copper, one of which is at the Tonnaganne River, and the other on the Shore of Lake Superior near the Piousabic River.¹ We have drawn up the annexed memorandum from what he has told us

¹Now Iron River, in northern Michigan. The word Piousabic (Pewabic) signifies iron, the terms being in the 18th century used interchangeably. Alexander Henry, in his *Travels and Adventures* (Bain ed., Boston, 1901), p. 187, refers to this as the "Piwatic or Iron River." Foster and Whitney, "Report on Copper Regions of Lake Superior," in United States Land Commissioner's Report, 1849, suggested Pewabic as the name of a town at the mouth of this river, and so laid it down on their map. A small village of that name is now in Houghton County, near the Pewabic mine.—Ed.