

THE DERIVATION OF SOME ALLEGED "INDIAN" PLACE NAMES IN KENTUCKY

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In several of my recent toponymic publications, including a book on Kentucky's place names, I maintained that Kentucky may be the only "authentic Indian" name currently in use in that state. Expecting a few challenges to this statement, I have not been disappointed. I am grateful to Professor Cohen for this opportunity to clarify my position.

My basis for this rather unusual contention is, in part, the admittedly arbitrary decision of several Kentucky geographers and historians, in the planning of our long term and continuing state place names survey, to focus our attention on the places identified by the names rather than on the names themselves. Disregarding lexical and etymological considerations, we confined our investigations to the locations of the places with which we were concerned and the conditions underlying, and the reasons for, the applications of their names.

We were equally arbitrary in regarding an "Indian name" as one that was given to a place by the Indians themselves. We also considered a name of "Indian significance" if its "Indianness" was a factor in its having been applied to the place or feature. But we have found that so many of our so-called "Indian names" were actually borrowed from other places and are thus only coincidentally of "Indian significance". Rather, their significance was probably a matter of nostalgia for old homeplaces that just happened to have borne Indian names for reasons that had nothing to do with their application to the Kentucky places they have since come to identify.

Many other of our "Indian-sounding names" were corruptions of non-Indian names and some simply resembled the popular conception of an Indian name (e.g., Helechawa, Okolona, Thealka, Willaila). Some names like Indian Creek (and other generics), Seneca, Delaware, Mystic, Oldtown, etc. cannot even be considered genuine "Indian names or words" at all since they were actually applied by the white man to Indians or aspects of their culture in Kentucky or elsewhere. Nor can such English words as battle, war, defeated, etc., alleging to relate to events involving Indian-Indian or Indian-white conflicts, be considered "Indian names" simply because they may have referred to such events in other states on whose lists of "Indian names" they were thus included. They would certainly have no business being included if, in fact, they commemorated some event that did not involve Indians at all as was actually the case with most such names in Kentucky.

We are not inclined to consider any place name an "Indian" name if that name is said merely to have been identified as such somewhere else, or if it appears on lists of "Indian names" in other states. For example, just because Chenoa, Illinois, may be of Cherokee origin does not mean that Chenoa, Kentucky has to be of Indian origin too.

Those who contend that names, unless they have been artificially contrived, as in the case of acronyms, must belong to some language are undoubtedly correct and if we, in Kentucky, were concerned with the names themselves we probably would have considered a great many more of our names as "Indian names". But we were not. We have not cared what a name denotes or how it was ultimately derived but why and how it was actually applied to the place or feature it identifies. It is doubtful that most of our namers knew of or even suspected the name's literal meaning or, if this were the case, the name's Indian derivation.

In our Kentucky efforts, we have not been content to merely assume the derivation of a name but, rather, we have deliberately and with considerable effort attempted to track down the actual derivation of the name itself and the reasons and occasion for its application to the specific place or feature. We have not always succeeded; but, when necessary, we have honestly stated our assumptions, cited popular traditions as such, or said we simply don't know. We don't think we have fallen into the trap of accepting an "obvious folk etymology" as something else.

The following entries are from a sample list of names that Indian place name expert, Virgil J. Vogel, has identified as Indian names in other states. For each name I give its derivation as it was applied to a particular Kentucky place. As we shall see, many of these are not Indian names or words of any kind. Though they and the others may well be Indian names or words elsewhere, they have no "Indian significance" in Kentucky. To be fair, the several names whose origins are unknown, are also included.

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Chickasaw Park. This and several other Louisville parks (Cherokee, Iroquois, Wyandotte) were named by white developers. This tribe was never in that area.

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Cuba (village with dpo in Graves Co.) The post office was established and so named in 1858, it is said, in response to the considerable agitation in Washington about the desirability of annexing this Caribbean island.

Custer (po in Breckinridge Co.) was named for Col. George A. Custer for the post office petition was made on the day word of the Little Big Horn battle was received in Washington. Custer was not an Indian and this is hardly an Indian name.

Delaware (dpo in Daviess Co.) was named around 1860 for the nearby creek but no one knows why the creek was so named. Delaware, of course, was not an Indian name but was derived from that of the first colonial governor of Virginia. His name was given to the Indian tribe and it was probably from that tribe that white men applied the name to a number of places they settled.

Dowaqiac (dpo and hamlet in Hart Co. pron. 'DaU,dzæk ). This name, applied for a while to the post office and hamlet of Pike View, is said to have been suggested by someone who had spotted it on an old wheat drill but is also believed to have been ultimately derived from that of a town in Michigan. The latter bears a Pottawatami name but these Indians were never in Kentucky.

Elkatawa (hamlet and po in Breathitt Co. pron. 'Elk,ə,tə[ɔi]) was probably named in 1890 by Kentucky Union RR officials who, it is said, chose to honor The Prophet, Elkatawa being a corruption of Ellskwatawa, in turn, a corruption of Tenskwautawa. Most area historians now think this is most unlikely but have not been able to come up with any other explanation.

Helechawa (hamlet and po in Wolfe Co. pron. Hel'ɪ,tʃ,ə,wə ). This name, applied in 1900 to a station on the now defunct Ohio and Kentucky RR, was coined by combining the first syllables of the names of Helen Chase Walbridge, one of the daughters of the railroad's president. It was not named for either an Indian maiden or Tecumseh's brother, as is popularly believed, nor for the condition of the local road.

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Indian Hills is a recent name for a suburban Louisville residential development about which there is nothing Indian but the name.

Iroquois (a community and park in Jefferson Co.) One of a number of local features named by white developers.

Iuka (hamlet and po in Livingston Co.) The po was established as Livingston in 1879 and renamed Iuka in 1882. Some local people say it was named for an Indian girl who is supposed to have lived with her tribe on the nearby Cumberland River. Others think it was an Indian word meaning "welcome". There is little evidence to support George R. Stewart's contention that it was named for a 19th century Chickasaw chief who may have camped in that vicinity. It is more likely that the

name was imported from Mississippi where it is still borne by the seat of Tishomingo County.

Kinniconick (a creek and settlement with dpo in Lewis Co. Pron. 'KIN,IKən'IK )The name may refer to a Shawnee word for willow bark (there are still many willow trees in that area) or to a plant from which various Indian tribes and frontiersmen extracted a type of tobacco and is said to have been applied by white settlers to features where the tree or plant was found.

Kuttawa (a small city and po in Lyon Co. pron. K: ). Historians don't agree on the meaning of this name. According to some, it's an Indian word for "beautiful" or for a "city in the woods". Or it derives from the Delaware or Shawnee word for "great wilderness" and may have been an early name for the Kentucky River. Or it may have been borne by a Cherokee village in that area that was gone by 1755. In any case, it was applied by Charles Anderson to the city he founded in 1870.

Manitou (now a Hopkins Co. hamlet and po). The similarity between the mineral springs at this 19th century health resort first called Steubens Lick (at a site that earlier may have been known as Tywhopity) and those observed on a visit to Manitou Springs, Colorado, prompted C. J. Pratt in 1882 to apply the latter's name to the Kentucky community's post office.

Mexico (hamlet and dpo in Crittenden Co.) This was an old fluor spar mining town which, according to local tradition, was named for the country. But no one can recall why.

Muncy (dpo in Jackson Co.) was probably named for a family for there are many Muncys, of Anglo-Norman descent, in eastern Kentucky.

Mystic (dpo and whistle stop on an abandoned rr in Breckinridge Co.) This has also been called Pierce. No one knows why this name was applied to the po when it was established in 1904. There are no Indians around there and it is assumed that the name was either imported or has some association with the ordinary English word.

Niagara (hamlet and dpo in Henderson Co.) was named for a local falls in reminiscence of the famed falls in New York State.

Ohio County was, of course, named for the Ohio River which early formed part of its northern boundary. Over the years the county lost territory to other counties and no longer has an Ohio River boundary. The river does bear an Indian name, probably of Iroquoian derivation.

Okolona (an unincorporated working class suburb of Louisville). Residents first wanted to call it Lone Oak for a local tree -- a landmark -- but since there was already a Lone Oak in McCracken Co., they reversed the words and made a slight change in the spelling.

Oldtown (hamlet and po in Greenup Co.) may have been named for the remains of an old Indian town -- a way station for hunting parties, and a battle between prehistoric Indians (mound builders) may have been fought here.

Omaha (po in Knott Co.) No one knows why the po was given this name in 1897. It is said that the Post Office Department chose this name from a list of requested short names that were submitted by the petitioners.

Oneida (village and po in Clay Co. inexplicably pron. O'ni,də). There is no evidence that it was named for the Indian tribe on the suggestion of someone from New York State. There is an Oneida in Tennessee with close ties to a lot of eastern Kentuckians.

Oneonta (dpo in Campbell Co. locally pron. ɔn,i'jɛt,ə). County historians do not know the derivation of this name or the reason for its curious pronunciation. They discount the stories of the local Indian chief, Oneonta, or the Indian battles there. It could have been named for the city in New York State but no one knows why.

Ootan (a branch of Davidson Creek in Caldwell Co.). I know nothing about this feature other than its location.

Oscalooza No one knows why this name was applied to the dpo on Kingdom Come Creek in Letcher Co. other than that the petitioners had to come up with a name in a hurry. Some think it was named for the town in Iowa. We doubt it has anything to do with Osceola's wife whom local people back in 1900 would not have known about. (Incidentally, there was a town called Osceola on the Little Barren River in Kentucky's Green Co.)

Paducah (city in McCracken Co.) By no stretch of the imagination could this have been named for any legendary chief of the Chickasaws. There is no evidence that there ever was such a chief though the city has built a tradition on this to appeal to the tourists. Most likely William Clark, of Lewis and Clark fame, brought the name back with him when he helped establish the town, first called Pekin, in 1827. It is said to have been the name some Sioux-an speaking people gave to the "Comanche Indians". So, while it is likely an Indian name, it was the white settlers who applied it.

Paint Lick (village and po in Garrard Co.) The rocks and trees along the banks of the nearby creek for which it was named are said to have been painted by early Indians to direct others to good sites to hunt the animals attracted by salt deposits.

Paintsville (the seat of Johnson Co.) was named for Paint Creek and Paint Lick (pioneer) Station on or near the site which refers to the red and black painted figures of wildlife which early hunters spotted on the denuded trunks of many large trees in the area.

Panola (hamlet and dpo in Madison Co.) The name is locally believed to have been shortened, courtesy of the Post Office Department, from Hispanola. Yet the name may have been derived from the Choctaw word for cotton since this crop was grown in the county in the 19th century.

Paw Paw (hamlet and po in Pike Co.) was named for the local trees.

Peedee (dpo in Christian Co.) Originally spelled as two words (never Pedee), it was named for P. D. Smith, local storekeeper when the po was established in 1876.

Pewee Valley (village and po in Oldham Co.) was named for local birds.

Piqua (hamlet and dpo in Robertson Co.) was named for Piqua, Ohio, from whence its founder had come. Thus, this is an imported rather than a genuine Indian name. The Ohio town is at the site of the main village of the Shawnee subtribe of Pique Indians, and was Chief Tecumseh's hometown.

Pueblo (hamlet and po in Wayne Co.) For reasons unknown, this was probably named for the dwelling structures or Indians of the southwest. Since it would hardly have been so named by the stray bands of Cherokees that hunted through the area in the late 18th century, this was not a genuine "Indian name" either but an import.

Raccoon (po in Pike Co.) was named for the local creek which was named for the animals.

Saratoga or Saratoga Springs (all but extinct community and po in Lyon Co.) The po was established in 1858 and named for the local Methodist church. It grew up around a good spring which may have reminded early travelers of the famed springs in New York State.

Seco (hamlet and po in Letcher Co.) was named for the South East Coal Co. there.

Seneca Gardens (a Louisville suburb). Many Louisville communities and features were given so-called "Indian names" by developers and founders.

Sitka (hamlet and po in Johnson Co.) was named, but no one knows why, for the Alaskan city.

Stamping Ground (city and po in Scott Co.) Large buffalo herds are said to have gathered at a local salt spring and trampled much of the undergrowth and soil as they waited to taste the water. In short, this was probably a buffalo wallow. There is nothing Indian about it though such wallows did attract Indian hunters.

Tallega (hamlet and po in Lee Co.) was named, for reasons now unknown, by a railroad company when they established the local station. Until then, the local p.o. was called America for the first postmaster, America Crawford.

Tejes (hamlet and po in Clay Co. pron. 'Tidz,əs) was probably named for the two local creeks which were, in turn, named for the first settler, Adonirum Allen, who was such a stickler for details that his behavior seemed tedious to others, thus earning him the nickname Tedious or Tejus Allen. The creeks were actually identified on some older maps as Tedious.

Terrapin (an old crossroads settlement in Mercer Co.) According to tradition, at certain times of the year, the place would be crawling with harbacked terrapins that would come in from the fields.

Texas (hamlet and dpo in Washington Co.) No one knows why this name was applied in 1853 but it was probably derived from the state.

Thealka (hamlet and po in Johnson Co. Pron. θi'ælkə) First called Muddy Branch, it was renamed in 1911 for Alka Meek Mayo, the daughter of the owner of a fleet of steamboats that coursed the Big Sandy River and/or for one of these boats which was to have been named "The Alka" for Meek's daughter but for a sign painter's accidental running together of the letters. The boat was ever after known as Thealka.

Tolu (hamlet and po in Crittenden Co.) was named for a whiskey-based tonic, made with an extract prepared from the bark of the Colombian tolu tree, that was served to customers of the local store.

Tomahawk (village and po in Martin Co.) was named for an old newspaper published in the county seat of Inez.



Tywhapita (a bottom and rural neighborhood in Hancock Co.) As I pointed out in another article in this publication, there is no solid evidence that this place was named by Shawnee Indians on their eastward migration from the Cumberland River. I still feel, though with no solid evidence either, that the name was applied by white settlers a century after the Shawnee migration.

Waco (hamlet and po in Madison Co.) is alleged to have been named for Waco, Texas, by Phil Huffman around 1847. The Texas town, of course, had been named for the Hueco Indians.

Waneta (dpo in Jackson Co.) No one seems to know why this name was applied. Someone once told me that it may have been a corruption of the Spanish Juanita. But I have also heard that it was named by its first postmaster (c. 1900) for an old Indian friend named Waneta.

Warbranch (po in Leslie Co.) The origin of this name is unknown. The po was established in 1901.

War Creek (dpo in Breathitt Co.) was named for the stream which, according to tradition, was named for one or more early fights but these were not with, or between, Indians.

Wasioto (dpo and old sawmill town in Bell Co.) The nearby Cumberland Gap had early been called Quasioto or Mountain Pass by the Cherokees who visited (or may even have lived in) the area. T. J. Asher, the lumber and coal baron who founded this town, applied the name but simplified the spelling. Someone might be able to make a case for this being an authentic Indian name for the gap but not the town.

Willailla (hamlet and dpo in Rockcastle Co. Pron. Wil<sup>l</sup>ei<sup>l</sup>g) According to local tradition, this was named for the fact that Will Owens, a resident, was always ailing. Actually, it was named for Owens and his wife, Ailla.

Wingo (small incorporated city and po in Graves Co.) was named for its founder, Jerman Wingo, local land and slave owner. He was not an Indian and this is not a corruption of Mingo.

Wyandotte Park (Jefferson Co.) (See Seneca Gardens, Iroquois Park, above.)

Wyoming (virtually extinct town and dpo in Bath Co.) No one knows why this was so named giving rise to some far fetched folk etymologies. For a long time I've meant to trace the origins of some early families to see if they might have come from the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania from whence so many other "Wyoming"-names had derived. The po was named in 1853 so it was obviously not named for the territory or state.

Wysox (dop in Ohio Co.) All I know of this place is its location and the fact that the po was established in 1900 by John L. Benton.

Yamacraw (abandoned coal town in McCreary Co.) No one knows why this name was applied. It refers to a tribe of renegade Creek Indians that lived at the site of Savannah, Ga. There is no evidence for the belief that the Kentucky town was named for the chief of the legendary Comargo tribe who had led his people to this site following the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals.

Yosemite (po and ex-timber town in Casey Co. Pron. 'jo,sə,m,əit) The po was established and named in 1883 at the suggestion of Helen Zimmerman who had recently visited the valley in California and saw a similarity between that and the valley below the Casey Co. townsite.

Yuma (dpo in Taylor Co.) This po was established and named in 1910 but no one knows why. It is just presumed to have been named for the southwest Indian tribe or the town in Arizona.

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The only genuine Indian community name in the state is Eskippakithiki (ɛs'kɪ,pə,kə'θi,kə), that of the only confirmed more or less permanent Indian settlement in what became Kentucky, in southeast Clark County. This village whose Shawnee name means "place of blue licks", referring to nearby salt deposits, was probably in existence from around 1718 to 1753. A white man's village, railroad station, and post office were later located at this site which is now called Indian Old Fields.

Which leads us to Kentucky, an authentic Indian name, in some form, which may be a Wyandotte name meaning "land of tomorrow", though this has never been proved, or named for a Cherokee chief. (I refer readers to Lawrence S. Thompson's "The Meaning of Kentucky", American Notes & Queries, Jan. 1969, pp. 68-71, and Thomas P. Field, "The Indian Place Names of Kentucky", Names, Vol. VII(3), Sept. 1959, pp. 154-66.)

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of "Indian significance." Rather, their significance was probably a matter of nostalgia for old homeplaces that just happened to have borne Indian names for reasons that had nothing to do with their application to the Kentucky places they have since come to identify.

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Tvwhapita (a bottom and rural neighborhood in Hancock Co.) As I pointed out in another article in this publication, there is no solid evidence that this place was named by Shawnee Indians on the eastward migration from the Cumberland River. I still feel, though with no solid evidence either, that the name was applied by white settlers a century after the Shawnee migration.

Waco (hamlet and po in Madison Co.) is alleged to have been named for Waco, Texas by Phil Huffman around 1847. The Texas town, of course, had been named for the Hueco Indians.

Waneta (dpo in Jackson Co.) No one seems to know why this name was applied. Someone once told me that it may have been a corruption of the Spanish Juanita. But I have also heard that it was named by its first postmaster (c. 1900) for an old Indian friend named Waneta.

Warbranch (po in Leslie Co.) The origin of this name is unknown. The po was established in 1901.

War Creek (dpo in Breathitt Co.) was named for the stream which, according to tradition, was named for one or more early fights but these were not with, or between, Indians.

Wasioto (dpo and old sawmill town in Bell Co.) The nearby Cumberland Gap had early been called Quasioto or Mountain Pass by the Cherokees who visited (or may even have lived in) the area. T.J. Asher, the lumber and coal baron who founded this town, applied the name but simplified the spelling. Someone might be able to make a case for this being an authentic Indian name for the gap but not the town.

Willalla (hamlet and dpo in Rockcastle Co.) According to local tradition, this was named for the fact that Will Owens, a resident, was always ailing. Actually, it was named for Owens and his wife, Ailla.

Wingo (small incorporated city and po in Graves Co.) was named for its founder, Jerman Wingo, local land and slave owner. He was not an Indian and this is not a corruption of Mingo.

Wyandotte Park (Jefferson Co.) (See Seneca Gardens, Iroquois Park, above)

Wyoming (virtually extinct town and dpo in Bath Co.) No one knows why this was so named giving rise to some far fetched folk etymologies. For a long time I've meant to trace the origins of some early families to see if they might have come from the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania from whence so many other "Wyoming"-names had derived. The po was named in 1853 so it was obviously not named for the territory or state.

Wysox (dpo in Ohio Co.) All I know of this place is its location and the fact that the po was established in 1900 by John L. Benton.

Yamacraw (abandoned coal town in McCreary Co.) No one knows why this name was applied. It refers to a tribe of renegade Creek Indians that lived at the site of Savannah, Ga. There is no evidence for the belief that the Kentucky town was named for the chief of the legendary Comargo tribe who had led his people to this site following the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals.

Yosemite (po and ex-timber town in Casey Co. Pron. /jo, sam, aic) The po was established and named in 1883

at the suggestion of Helen Zimmerman who had recently visited the valley in California and saw a similarity between that and the valley below the Casey Co. townsite. Yuma (dpo in Taylor Co.) This po was established and named in 1910 but no one knows why. It is just presumed to have been named for the southwest Indian tribe or the town in Arizona.

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The only genuine Indian community name in the state is Eskippakithiki (εs'kɪ, (ə, kə'θi, kə), that of the only confirmed more or less permanent Indian settlement in what became Kentucky, in southeast Clark County. This village whose Shawnee name means "place of blue licks," referring to nearby salt deposits, was probably in existence from around 1718 to 1753. The site is now called Indian Old Fields, and a white man's village, railroad station, and post office were later located here.

Which leads us to Kentucky, an authentic Indian name, in some form, which may be a Wyandotte name meaning "land of tomorrow", though this has never been proved, or named for a Cherokee chief. (I refer readers to Lawrence S. Thompson's "The Meaning of Kentucky" American Notes & Queries, Jan. 1969, Pp. 68-71 and Thomas P. Field, "The Indian Place Names of Kentucky" Names, Vol. VII (3), Sept. 1959, Pp. 154-66)

THE DERIVATION OF SOME ALLEGED "INDIAN" PLACE NAMES IN KENTUCKY

In several of my recent toponymic publications, including a book on Kentucky's place names, I maintained that Kentucky may be the only "authentic Indian" name currently in use in that state. Expecting a challenge to this statement, I have not been disappointed. I am grateful to Professor Cohen for this opportunity to clarify my position.

My basis for this rather unusual contention is, in part, the admittedly arbitrary decision of several Kentucky geographers and historians, in the planning of our long term and continuing state place names survey, to focus our attention on the places identified by the names rather than on the names themselves. Disregarding lexical and etymological considerations, we confined our investigations to the locations of the places with which we were concerned and the conditions underlying, and the reasons for, the applications of their names.

We were equally arbitrary in regarding an "Indian name" as one that was given to a place by the Indians themselves. We also considered a name of "Indian significance" if its "Indianness" was a factor in its having been applied to the place or feature. But we have found that so many of our so-called "Indian names" were actually borrowed from other places and are thus only coincidentally

of "Indian significance." Rather, their significance was probably a matter of nostalgia for old homeplaces that just happened to have borne Indian names for reasons that had nothing to do with their application to the Kentucky places they have since come to identify.

Many other of our "Indian-sounding names" were corruptions of non-Indian names and some simply resembled the popular conception of an Indian name (e.g. Helechawa, Okolona, Thealka, Willalla). Some names like Indian Creek (and other generics), Seneca, Delaware, Mystic, Oldtown, etc. cannot even be considered genuine "Indian names or words" at all since they were actually applied by the white man to Indians or aspects of their culture in Kentucky or elsewhere. Nor can such English words as battle, war, defeated, etc., alleging to relate to events involving Indian-Indian or Indian-white conflicts, be considered "Indian names" simply because they may have referred to such events in other states on whose lists of "Indian names" they were thus included. They would certainly have no business being included if, in fact, they commemorated some event that did not involve Indians at all as was actually the case with most such names in Kentucky.

We are not inclined to consider any place name an "Indian" name if that name is said merely to have been identified as such somewhere else, or if it appears on lists of "Indian names" in other states. For example, just because Chenoa, Illinois may be of Cherokee origin does not mean that Chenoa, Kentucky has to be of Indian origin too.

Those who contend that names, unless they have been artificially contrived, as in the case of acronyms, must belong to some language are undoubtedly correct and if we, in Kentucky, were concerned with the names themselves we probably would have considered a great many more of our names as "Indian names." But we were not. We have not cared what a name denotes or how it was ultimately derived but why and how it was actually applied to the place or feature it identifies. It is doubtful that most of our namers knew of or even suspected the name's literal meaning or, if this were the case, the name's Indian derivation.

In our Kentucky efforts, we have not been content to merely assume the derivation of a name but, rather, we have deliberately and with considerable effort attempted to track down the actual derivation of the name itself and the reasons and occasion for its application to the specific place or feature. We have not always succeeded; but, when necessary, we have

honestly stated our assumptions, cited popular traditions as such, or said we simply don't know. We don't think we have fallen into the trap of accepting an "obvious folk etymology" as something else.

The following entries are from a sample list of names that Indian place name expert, Virgil J. Vogel has identified as Indian names in other states. For each name I give its derivation as it was applied to a particular Kentucky place. As we shall see, many of these ~~(names)~~ are not Indian names or words of any kind. Though they and the others may well be Indian names or words elsewhere, they have no "Indian significance" in Kentucky. To be fair, the several names whose origins are unknown, are also included.

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Atoka (a discontinued post office or dpo, and hamlet in Boyle Co.) The origin of the name is unknown.

Avawam (po and hamlet in Perry Co.) It is said that the first postmaster wanted to call it Wigwam or Agawam after a p.o. in Massachusetts but the name was corrupted to Avawam and no one bothered to correct it.

Battletown (po and hamlet in Meade Co.) Commemorates a fist fight between two local white citizens over either the location or the naming of the p.o. in 1890.

Bayou De Chien. Are historians believe this 30 mile long tributary of Obion Creek in Kentucky's Purchase Area was named by early French explorers and translates to "Bay of Dog."



Bayou (dpo in Livingston Co.) Named for the creek on which it is located (not the one given above), it was first called Bayou Mills and written as Bio in early documents. Though its origin is unknown, county historians doubt it has any Indian derivation.

Caddo (dpo in Pendleton Co.) The origin of the name is unknown but local people whose pioneer ancestors suffered grievously at the hands of Indian depredators would never have knowingly given it an Indian name.

Canada (po and hamlet in Pike Co.) was named for local white families whose name is a corruption of Kennedy.

Canoe (po and hamlet in Breathitt Co.) was named for its location on Canoe Creek, a branch of the Middle Fork of the Kentucky River, which is said to have commemorated the early discovery of someone's canoe that low tide had washed up on its banks.

Chenoa (po in Bell Co. pron. *San'oi*) was established in 1894 by W.A. Chenoa to serve his local coal camp.

Cherokee (po and hamlet in Lawrence Co.) Though named for the Cherokee Indians when it was established in 1857, it was, like all other applications of this name in Kentucky, the white man's doing. The Cherokees had no permanent settlements in Kentucky. In fact, they never called themselves this but Yunwiva (or "real people").

Chickasaw Park. This and several other Louisville parks (Cherokee, Iroquois, Wyandotte) were named by white developers. This tribe was never in that area. Cisco (po in Magoffin Co.) was named for its first postmaster, Hatler Cisco or his family, or possibly for Capt. T.S. Cisco, white men.

Cuba (village with dpo in Graves Co.) The post office was established and so named in 1858, it is said, in response to the considerable agitation in Washington about the desirability of annexing this Caribbean island. Custer (po in Breckinridge Co.) was named for Col. George A. Custer for the post office petition was made on the day word of the Little Big Horn battle was received in Washington. Custer was not an Indian and this is hardly an Indian name.

Delaware (dpo in Daviess Co.) was named around 1860 for the nearby creek but no one knows why the creek was so named. Delaware, of course, was not an Indian name but was derived from that of the first colonial governor of Virginia. His name was given to the Indian tribe and it was probably from that tribe that white men applied the name to a number of places they settled.

Dowagiac (dpo and hamlet in Hart Co. pron. 'DaU, d<sub>3</sub>ak). This name, applied for awhile to the post office and hamlet of Pike View, is said to have been suggested by

someone who had spotted it on an old wheat drill but is also believed to have been ultimately derived from that of a town in Michigan. The latter bears a Pottawatami name but these Indians were never in Kentucky.

Elkatawa (hamlet and po in Breathitt Co. pron.

'Elk, ə, tə [sɪ] ) was probably named in 1890 by Kentucky Union RR officials who, it is said, chose to honor The Prophet. Elkatawa being a corruption of Eliskwatawa, in turn, a corruption of Tenskwautawa. Most area historians now think this is most unlikely but have not been able to come up with any other explanation.

Helechawa (hamlet and po in Wolfe Co. pron.

Hel' i, t s, ə, wə). This name, applied in 1900 to a station on the now defunct Ohio and Kentucky RR, was coined by combining the first syllables of the names of Helen Chase Walbridge, one of the daughters of the railroad's president. It was not named for either an Indian maiden or Tecumseh's brother, as is popularly believed, nor for the condition of the local road.

Hickory (hamlet and po in Graves Co) was named for a local grove of hickory trees and was first called Hickory Grove.

Hickory Flat (dpo in Simpson Co.) was also named for its site in a grove of young hickory trees.

Indian Hills is a recent name for a suburban Louisville residential development about which there is nothing Indian but the name.

Iroquois (a community and park in Jefferson Co.) One of a number of local features named by white developers.

Iuka (hamlet and po in Livingston Co.) The po was established as Livingston in 1879 and renamed Iuka in 1882. Some local people say it was named for an Indian girl who is supposed to have lived with her tribe on the nearby Cumberland River. Others think it was an Indian word meaning "welcome." There is little evidence to support George R. Stewart's contention that it was named for a 19th century Chickasaw chief who may have camped in that vicinity. It is more likely that the name was imported from Mississippi where it is still borne by the seat of Tishomingo County.

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Warbranch (po in Leslie Co.) The origin of this name is unknown. The po was established in 1901.

War Creek (dpo in Breathitt Co.) was named for the stream which, according to tradition, was named for one or more early fights but these were not with, or between, Indians.

Wasfoto (dpo and old sawmill town in Bell Co.) The nearby Cumberland Gap had early been called Quasfoto or Mountain Pass by the Cherokees who visited (or may even have lived in) the area. T.J. Asher, the lumber and coal baron who founded this town, applied the name but simplified the spelling. Someone might be able to make a case for this being an authentic Indian name for the gap but not the town.

Willalla (hamlet and dpo in Rockcastle Co.) According to local tradition, this was named for the fact that Will Owens, a resident, was always ailing. Actually, it was named for Owens and his wife, Ailla.

Wingo (small incorporated city and po in Graves Co.) was named for its founder, Jerman Wingo, local land and slave owner. He was not an Indian and this is not a corruption of Mingo.

Wyandotte Park (Jefferson Co.) (See Seneca Gardens, Iroquois Park, above)

Wyoming (virtually extinct town and dpo in Bath Co.)

No one knows why this was so named giving rise to some far fetched folk etymologies. For a long time I've meant to trace the origins of some early families to see if they might have come from the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania ~~from~~ whence so many other "Wyoming"-names had derived. The po was named in 1853 so it was obviously not named for the territory or state.

Wysox (dpo in Ohio Co.) All I know of this place is its location and the fact that the po was established in 1900 by John L. Benton.

Yamacraw (abandoned coal town in McCreary Co.) No one knows why this name was applied. It refers to a tribe of renegade Creek Indians that lived at the site of Savannah, Ga. There is no evidence for the belief that the Kentucky town was named for the chief of the legendary Comargo tribe who had led his people to this site following the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals.

Yosemite (po and ex-timber town in Casey Co. Pron.

'yo, sam, ayt) The po was established and named in 1883

at the suggestion of Helen Zimmerman who had recently visited the valley in California and saw a similarity between that and the valley below the Casey Co. townsite. Yuma (dpo in Taylor Co.) This po was established and named in 1910 but no one knows why. It is just presumed to have been named for the southwest Indian tribe or the town in Arizona.

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The only genuine Indian community name in the state is Eskippakithiki (εs'kɪ, pɔ, kɔ'θ, kɔ), that of the only confirmed more or less permanent Indian settlement in what became Kentucky, in southeast Clark County. This village whose Shawnee name means "place of blue licks," referring to nearby salt deposits, was probably in existence from around 1718 to 1753. The site is now called Indian Old Fields, and a white man's village, railroad station, and post office were later located here.

Which leads us to Kentucky, an authentic Indian name, in some form, which may be a Wyandotte name meaning "land of tomorrow", though this has never been proved, or named for a Cherokee chief. (I refer readers to Lawrence S. Thompson's "The Meaning of Kentucky" American Notes & Queries, Jan. 1969, Pp. 68-71 and Thomas P. Field, "The Indian Place Names of Kentucky" Names, Vol. VII (3), Sept. 1959, Pp. 154-66)