

The Principal Indian Towns of Western Pennsylvania

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One cannot travel far in Western Pennsylvania without passing the sites of Indian towns, Delaware, Shawnee and Seneca mostly, or being reminded of the Pennsylvania Indians by the beautiful names they gave to the mountains, streams and valleys where they roamed. In a future paper the writer will set forth the meaning of the names which the Indians gave to the mountains, valleys and streams of Western Pennsylvania; but the present paper is confined to a brief description of the principal Indian towns in the western part of the state. The writer has arranged these Indian towns in alphabetical order, as follows:

Allaquippa's Town*

This town, named for the Seneca, Queen Allaquippa, stood at the mouth of Chartier's Creek, where McKees Rocks now stands. In the *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, this stream is sometimes called "Allaquippa's River". The name "Allaquippa" means, as nearly as can be determined, "a hat", being likely a corruption of "alloquepi". This Indian "Queen", who was visited by such noted characters as Conrad Weiser, Celoron and George Washington, had various residences in the vicinity of the "Forks of the Ohio". In fact, there is good reason for thinking that at one time she lived right at the "Forks". When Washington met her while returning from his mission to the French, she was living where McKeesport now stands, having moved up from the Ohio to get farther away from the French. After Washington's surrender at Fort Necessity, July 4th, 1754, she and the other Indian inhabitants of the Ohio Valley friendly to the English, were taken to Aughwick, now Shirleysburg, where they were fed by the Colonial Authorities of Pennsylvania. Here according to George Croghan's letter of December 23, 1754,¹ Queen Allaquippa died in the latter part of that year. This noted Indian woman has often been confused with the Indian chief, Allaguias.²

*The modern geographical setting of the Indian towns is given. It is suggested that the reader refer to a detailed map of Pennsylvania as he studies the article.

Allagupas' Gap, near Bedford, and the range of mountains in the same region perpetuate the name of this Iroquois chief.

Assunepachla

This was a Delaware town, founded prior to 1731 and located near the present Hollidaysburg, Blair County. The name is from "Asun", meaning "a stone", and "Pasachsa-jeek", meaning "a valley". The first glimpse we get of this village in the *Pennsylvania Archives* is in the affidavit of James Le Tort, the trader, in October, 1731, in which he says that the village had at that time 12 families and 36 men. * The place was afterwards called Frankstown.

Aughwick

This town was situated at the mouth of Aughwick Creek, near the present Shirleysburg, Huntington County. It was likely established by the Tuscaroras during their migration from North Carolina to the territory of the Five Nations, in New York, which became the Six Nations after the Tuscaroras were admitted to the great Confederation. It is possible that the town was established as early as 1712 or 1713. The place had no Indian population when George Croghan moved to it from the Cumberland Valley in 1753. After Washington's surrender at Fort Necessity (July 4, 1754), Tanacharison, Scarouady, Queen Allaquippa and all other Indians of the Ohio friendly to the English, assembled at Aughwick and were fed by the Colonial Authorities of Pennsylvania throughout the autumn and winter, and it became the headquarters for the friendly Indians for several years. Here Queen Allaquippa died late in 1754, as before stated. In the autumn of 1754 an important conference between the Pennsylvania Authorities and Scarouady, King Beaver, Andrew Montour and other friendly Indians took place here. * From here Scarouady, Andrew Montour and other friendly Indians went to join Braddock's army at Fort Cumberland (the present Cumberland, Md.) early in the summer of 1755. Croghan built a stockade at Aughwick early in the autumn of 1755, known as "Croghan's Fort". Later in the same autumn Fort Shirley was erected by Governor Morris within the limits of the present town of Shirleysburg.

Black Legs Town

This was a Shawnee town, located at the mouth of the creek of the same name, probably on both sides of the creek, the site of the present town of Saltsburg, Indiana County.

Buckaloons (Buccaloons)

This was a Seneca town, later inhabited by Delawares also, located at the mouth of Brokenstraw Creek, at the site of the present town of Irvinton, Warren County. The name is likely a corruption of the Delaware "Poquihhilleu", meaning "broken". Colonel Daniel Brodhead's battle with the Senecas and the Munsee Clan of Delawares, August 15, 1779, was not far below this Indian town. At Buckaloons he constructed a breastwork and left supplies under a guard of forty soldiers while the main body of his troops pressed on to Conewango (which see) and other Seneca towns farther up the Allegheny.

Cat Fish Camp

This was the residence of the Delaware chief, Cat Fish, or Tanguocqua, located where Washington now stands. This Delaware chief was likely present at the councils of Christian Frederick Post at Kuskuskies (which see) in the autumn of 1758, when the Western Delawares decided to withdraw from their allegiance with the French. He attended a council in Philadelphia in 1759 and various councils at Fort Pitt after the French and Indian War.

Chartier's Town

This was an important Shawnee town, founded by the half-breed Shawnee, Peter Chartier, and the Shawnee chief Neucheconneh, about 1734, and located at the mouth of Bull Creek, where Tarentum now stands. It is clear that a part of the town was on the eastern shore of the Allegheny. In 1745, Peter Chartier deserted to the French, leading many of the Shawnees down the Ohio to join the French on the lower reaches of this river and on the Mississippi, robbing English traders as they went. After he left his seat on the Allegheny, this town is known as Chartier's Old Town. Likely near this town Celoron found a band of English traders in the summer of 1749 whom he ordered to withdraw from the region claimed by the French, and with whom he sent a letter of protest to the Governor

of Pennsylvania. Post crossed the Allegheny at this place when on his first mission to the Western Delawares in the summer of 1758.

Chinklacamoose

This was a Delaware town, founded probably as early as 1724 during the westward migration of this tribe and located where the present town of Clearfield stands. The name of the town is variously spelled. According to Heckewelder, it is a corruption of the Delaware "Achtschingiclamme", meaning "it almost joins"—having reference to the West Branch of the Susquehanna at this place. The Moravian missionary, Etwein, gives its meaning as "no one tarries here willingly", evidently confusing this town with Punxsutawney (which see). The latter town being infested with gnats, all early travelers complain of the annoyance caused by the punk flies, and hence no one tarried there willingly in the summer time. Christian Frederick Post passed through Chinklacamoose while on his way to Kuskuskies (which see) in the summer of 1758. Many white captives were detained here in the early days of the French and Indian War. In the summer of 1757, it being reported that a body of French and Indians was marching against Fort Augusta at Sunbury by way of the Indian trail leading through Chinklacamoose, Captain Burd sent out a detachment under Captain Patterson to scout as far west as Chinklacamoose. This detachment found the town burned.

Conemaugh, or Conemaugh Old Town

A Shawnee and Delaware town, founded prior to 1731 and located where Johnstown now stands. The name is derived from "Conunmoch", meaning "otter". Some historians have located Keckenepaulin's Town (which see) at this place, but this is an error, arising from the misplacing of Keckenepaulin's Cabin, which was on the Quemahoning, near Jennerstown, Somerset County. We get the first glimpse of Conemaugh Town in the *Pennsylvania Archives* in the autumn of 1731. At that time Ocowellos was the Shawnee chief who ruled over this town as well as Black Legs Town and Keckenepaulin's Town. °

Cock Eye's Cabin

This was a camping place on the Indian trail leading from Bedford to Shannopin's Town (which see), and located likely near Harrison City, Westmoreland County. Christopher Gist mentions it in his Journal of 1750 as does John Harris in his table of distances from Harris' Ferry (Harrisburg) to the Ohio. Cock Eye was a Delaware Indian.

Conewango

This was a Seneca town, later Delaware also, located at the mouth of the creek of the same name, which flows into the Allegheny at Warren. The name is very likely derived from "Ganowungo", meaning "at the rapids". Some authorities think that its name is derived from a word meaning "a long strip", having reference to the long strip of bottom lands where its inhabitants had their cornfields. On the bank of the Allegheny opposite this town, Celoron deposited one of his leaden plates in the summer of 1749. In February, 1759, a number of Indians from Conewango and Buckaloons attended a council with the Colonial Authorities and General Forbes at Philadelphia at which council they were positively told that the English did not intend to make any settlements west of the Allegheny Mountains—promises that were never intended to be kept. Here is what these dwellers on the Allegheny were told at this council: "The General [Forbes] knows that the French have told the Indians that the English intend to cheat them out of their lands on the Ohio, and settle it for themselves, but this, he assures you, is false. The English have no intention to make settlements in your Hunting Country beyond the Allegheny Hills".⁶ Conewango and the corn fields at the town were destroyed by Colonel Brodhead in August, 1779. The inhabitants fled from the town before his army arrived.

Cussewago, or Cassewago

This was a village of the Munsee Clan of Delawares, located at the mouth of the creek of the same name where Meadville now stands. The name is said to mean "the snake with a big belly". George Washington passed through this place on his journey to and return from Fort LeBoeuf (Waterford) in the latter part of 1753. During both the

French and Indian War and Pontiac's War, this town was occupied by Senecas as well as Delawares of the Munsee Clan. Custaloga was the Delaware chief who ruled over the inhabitants of this town and other villages on French Creek. He actively assisted Pontiac in the latter's great uprising, and was the only chief of the Munsee Delawares to sign the treaty or agreement with Colonel Henry Bouquet in 1764. For doing this the Senecas called him an "old woman" at Fort Pitt in 1765. The Delawares of the Turtle and Turkey clans did not agree to the terms which Custaloga signed. Cussewago is often called Custaloga's Town (which see).

Custaloga's Town

This was a town of the Munsee Clan of Delawares, located on French Creek at the mouth of Deer Creek in French Creek Township, Mercer County. The Delaware chief, Custaloga, ruled over the inhabitants of this town. At various times he resided not only here but at Cussewago and Venango (which see).

Diondega, or Menacht-sink (Pittsburgh)

The Seneca name for the "Forks of the Ohio", after its occupation by the French, was Diondega. In the Code of Ga-ne-o-di-yo, or Handsome Lake, the Seneca prophet, who was a half-brother of the noted Seneca chief, Cornplanter, we read: "They [the Indians] land at Diondega. It is a little village of white people. Here they barter their skins, dried meat and fresh game for strong drink. They put a barrel of it in their canoes. Now all the canoes are lashed together like a raft. Now all the men become filled with strong drink. They yell and sing like demented people". The great Seneca prophet then goes on to tell of the drunken fights, the debauchery and crime among the Indians, caused by the white man's "goniga-nongi" (strong drink). Heckewelder says that the Delawares called the "Forks of the Ohio" "Menacht-sink", after its occupation by the whites. According to this authority, the term means "where there is a fence", a fence also being a fort. Father Lambing in *The Centenary of Pittsburgh* says that "Da-un-da-ga" was the Seneca name given to the "Forks of the Ohio" and that the term simply means "the forks". The name "Da-un-da-ga", used by Father Lambing, is simply a

corruption of "Diondega", used in the Code of Handsome Lake. *

While Shannopin's Town (which see) was the only Indian village at the site of Pittsburgh at the time when the region was first visited by the French and English, it is likely that the Senecas had at least a temporary village at "The Forks" long before the coming of the white man to the shores of the Ohio, as the Iroquois, chiefly Senecas, used the Allegheny and Ohio as a war trail to the Illinois region long before the occupation of these rivers by the Shawnees and Delawares within historic times. *

Gangarahhare

This was an Indian village located at the mouth of French Creek, where Franklin now stands. Only one mention is made of it by this name, and it was likely the same as Venango (which see). The meaning of the name is doubtful. It probably means "a skull fastened to the top of it".

Goschgoschunk

This was a village of the Munsee Clan of Delawares, located at the mouth of Tionesta Creek, near the present town of Tionesta, and established about 1765. The name is from the Delaware "Gosch-gosch", meaning "a hog", and the locative "ing"—hence "the place of hogs." There were two other Delaware villages near Goschgoschunk to which this name was applied, one being two miles above and the other four miles below this central village. David Zeisberger established a Moravian mission here in 1767. In April, 1769, the mission was removed to Lawunakhannek (which see), and in April, 1770 it was removed to Languntouteneunk (which see). The Senecas objected to this mission on the Allegheny, saying that the English would first build a mission, then a fort and take possession of the region. Goschgoschunk was deserted soon after the Moravian missions were removed. Colonel Brodhead passed through the place in his expedition against the Munsees and Senecas in the summer of 1779. He calls it "Cush-cushing", and some writers have confused it with Kuskuskies (which see).

Hickory Town

This was a village of the Munsee Clan of Delawares, located at the mouth of Hickory Creek, Forest County. On almost the opposite bank of the Allegheny was another village of this name.

Jenuchshadega

This was a Seneca village on the Allegheny opposite the present town of Gawango, Warren County. The name is a corruption of the Seneca "Dionosadage", meaning "the place of burnt houses".

Keckenepaulin's (Kickenepaulin's) Town

This was a Shawnee village, later occupied by Delawares also, located on the Westmoreland side of the Kiskiminetas River at the mouth of Loyalhanna Creek. It was named for the Delaware chief, Keckenepaulin. As stated under Conemaugh Town (which see), some writers have confused these towns. Christian Frederick Post passed through Keckenepaulin's Town on his second mission to the Western Delawares in November, 1758. He left the army of General Forbes at Ligonier and then came as he says "to the old Shawneese town, called Keckenepolin".

King Beaver's Town

This was the residence for some years of the Delaware chief, King Beaver or Tamaque, and was located on the Ohio at or near the mouth of the Beaver. It is sometimes called Shingas' Town from the fact that King Beaver's brother, Shingas, "the bloody warrior" also had his residence here for a number of years. See also Sauconk or Sawcunk.

Kishacoquillas' Town

This was a Shawnee town, named for the friendly Shawnee Chief, Kishacoquillas, and located at the mouth of the creek of this name, which flows into the Juniata at Lewistown, Mifflin County. The name "Kishacoquillas" means "the snakes are already in their dens", according to Heckewelder, being a corruption of "Gisch-achgook-walieu". This town is also known as "Ohesson upon Choniata" (Juniata), being thus called by James Le Tort in his affidavit before the Pennsylvania Authorities in October, 1731.

Le Tort says in said affidavit that the town had at that time 20 families and 60 men, Kishacoquillas being their chief.¹⁰ Fort Granville, which was destroyed by the Delaware chief, Captain Jacobs, on August 1, 1756, was located not far from this town.

Kiskiminetas Town

This was a Delaware town, located on the Westmoreland side of the Kiskiminetas River, about seven miles from its mouth and about opposite the mouth of Carnahan's Run. A monument, erected by the Leechburg Rotary Club, at the mouth of Carnahan's Run, calls attention to the location of the Indian town.¹¹ Various meanings have been given for the name "Kiskiminetas". Heckewelder says that it is a form of the Delaware word "Gieschumanito", meaning "make daylight"; while John McCullough who was captured in Franklin County in July, 1756, and spent some time at this Delaware town, says that its name is the Delaware "Kee-ak-kshee-man-nit-toos", meaning "Cut Spirit".

Kittanning

A large and important town, founded by the Delawares of the Turkey and Turtle clans in the course of their westward migration, likely as early as 1724, and located on the east bank of the Allegheny, the site of the present town of Kittanning, Armstrong County. It is clear that part of the town was on the west bank of the Allegheny when Colonel John Armstrong and his Scotch-Irish troops from the Cumberland Valley destroyed Kittanning, September 8, 1756. The name is the Delaware "Kit", meaning "great"; "Hanna", meaning "river" or "stream"; and the locative "ing". Hence the place or town at the great river. In 1731, the traders, Davenport and LeTort, reported that there were at Kittanning "50 families and 150 men, Delawares mostly". At that time Captain Hill, of the Turtle Clan of Delawares, was the ruling chief at Kittanning.¹² When Celoron passed the place in the summer of 1749, the inhabitants fled to the forest. He called the town "Atique". This place being the western terminus of the Kittanning Indian Trail, the town began to fill up with hostile Delawares and Shawnees shortly before they began their invasion of the Pennsylvania settlements in the autumn of

1755, and from here Captain Jacobs, Shingas, King Beaver and lesser chiefs of the Delawares led many a bloody expedition before Colonel Armstrong destroyed the town, killing Captain Jacobs during the attack. Here, too, many white captives were tortured, among them being John Turner, step-father of the Girty brothers. Eleven white captives were recovered by the white men when Colonel Armstrong destroyed the town. Other captives, among them being Marie LeRoy and Barbara Leininger, were taken some miles into the forest on the western side of the river at the time of the attack and were therefore not recovered. After the destruction of the town, many of its inhabitants returned and erected their wigwams amid the ashes of their former homes. Indians assembled here in the summer of 1764 to march against Colonel Henry Bouquet at Bushy Run, and in the summer of 1782 to destroy Hannastown and raid the Westmoreland frontier. The former were of various western tribes and the latter were Senecas. The Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment assembled shortly below the present Kittanning in the latter days of 1776, and in the summer of 1779 Fort Armstrong was erected a few miles below the present town.

Kuskuskies, or Kuskuski

This was a group of four Delaware villages whose center was at or near the location of the present city of New Castle when Christian Frederick Post held his famous and important councils with Shingas, King Beaver, Delaware George and other noted Delaware chiefs at this place in the summer and autumn of 1758. The name has the same meaning as Goschgoschunk, "the place of hogs" (which see). The Delawares came to Kuskuskies as early as 1742 and established one of the most important Indian settlements in Pennsylvania. Before their coming, however, there were Seneca villages having the same name, one being at the mouth of the Shenango and the other at the mouth of the Neshannock, both at the site of the present New Castle. The Delawares at Kuskuskies were given to understand that just as soon as the English would expel the French from the Ohio Valley, they (the English) would return east of the Allegheny Mountains and leave the Indians in undisputed possession of this region. When the

English failed to keep this promise—a promise which was repeated many times—the Delawares at Kuskuskies became very suspicious of the former. In February, 1759, Colonel (later General) Hugh Mercer held an important council with the Western Delawares at Fort Pitt. At that time, King Beaver was living at Sauconk (which see). At this council, on February 24th, he reminded Colonel Mercer of the promises which the English had made, as follows: “The Six Nations and you desired that I would sit down and smok my Pipe at Kuskusky (Kuskuskies); and what they desired me I intend to do, and shall remove from Sa-cunk (Sauconk) to Kuskusky”.¹³ The failure of the English to keep these promises was the principal reason why the Delawares, the Senecas, the Mingoos, the Shawnees and other western Indians took up arms against the English in Pontiac’s War. Soon after the commencement of the Revolutionary War, the Indians of Kuskuskies moved westward to the Tuscarawas and Muskingum.

Languntouteneunk

This was the Moravian Indian village on the east bank of the Beaver between the mouths of the Shenango River and Slippery Rock Creek, in Lawrence County. Later a new town of the same name was established on the west bank of the Beaver, near the same place, called Friedensstadt by the Moravian missionaries, which is German for “City of Peace”. The Delaware name has the same meaning. The Moravian mission was established in the new town in the spring of 1770, the Moravian missionaries and their Indian converts leaving Lawunakhannek (which see) and floating in their canoes down the Allegheny and Ohio to the mouth of the Beaver, thence going up this stream to their new home, Languntouteneunk, now Moravia. The mission was abandoned in 1773, and the Indian converts were removed to the new missions at Gnadenhuetten and Schoenbrunn in Ohio.

Lawunakhannek

This was the name of the Moravian mission established among the Munsee Clan of Delawares by David Zeisberger in 1769, at the site of the present town of Hickory, near the mouth of the creek of the same name in Forest County. The name means “at the meeting of the streams”. The

mission was abandoned in the spring of 1770, the missionaries and their Indian converts going to Languntouteneunk, now Moravia, as stated above.

Logstown

This was an important town of Shawnees, Delawares, Mingoes, Senecas and a sprinkling of other stocks, established probably as early as 1725 during the period of the westward migration of the Delawares and Shawnees, and located on the north bank of the Ohio about eighteen miles below the "Forks", the junction of the Allegheny and the Monongahela, or, in other words, a little below Ambridge, Beaver County. Many important councils were held with the Indians at Logstown. To this town came George Croghan in the spring of 1748 with a present of goods as the agent of the Colony of Pennsylvania in an effort to win the Indians of the Ohio Valley to the English interest. He was followed by Conrad Weiser, who reached the famous town on August 27, 1748, at the head of what is usually called the first embassy on the part of Pennsylvania to the Indians of the Ohio Valley, though it would be more nearly correct to say that Croghan's mission in the spring of that year was the first. Celoron stopped here in the summer of 1749 and endeavored to win the Indians to the French interest. He was followed a few days later by George Croghan, who succeeded in counteracting his influence and who at this time purchased from Tanacharison and Scarouady three vast tracts of land on two of which stand the greater part of the city of Pittsburgh and all the towns on the south bank of the Ohio as far as the mouth of Raccoon Creek in Beaver County—the first grants by the Indian to the white man in the Ohio Valley. In June, 1752, Virginia held a treaty with Tanacharison and Scarouady at this place for the purpose of securing permissions to make settlements west of the Allegheny Mountains. At this treaty permission was given Virginia (the Ohio Company) to make a few settlements on the south and east side of the Ohio, but at the same time the Indians denied the English claim to any lands west of the Alleghenies. Washington stopped here while on his mission to the French in November, 1753. When the French took possession of the "Forks of the Ohio" in April, 1754, they destroyed George Croghan's trading house at Logstown, and

during Washington's campaign of this summer, Scarouady burned the town in order that the Indians who were in the English interest might not be tempted to live so near the French. The French rebuilt the town, however, for their Indian allies, a little farther up from the river than the site of the former town. In former times there was some dispute among historians as to the location of Logstown. Christian Frederick Post, who passed through the place on December 2, 1758, while on his way from Sauconk (which see) to the newly named Pittsburgh, describes it so accurately in his Journal as to leave no doubt as to its location. After the fall of Fort Duquesne, Croghan and other English traders established trading houses at Logstown, but nevertheless the town never became the important trading place that it was before the French and Indian War. About the time of the Battle of Bushy Run (August 6th, 1763), the Indians destroyed all the trading houses at Logstown. Colonel Henry Bouquet marched through this place on his way to the Tuscarawas, on October 5th, 1764, noting the same in his Journal of that date. General Wayne's "Legion of the United States" encamped a short distance below Logstown from November, 1792, to April, 1793. His camp was called Legionville, and the name still remains. The writer has been unable to find any satisfactory origin of the name "Logstown". The historian, Thwaites, states that the Indian name of the place was "Maughwawame", but this name does not appear in the *Pennsylvania Archives* and *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*. It may have gotten its English name from the fact that great quantities of logs and other driftwood spread over the level flats after a flood.

Logstown was the residence of Tanacharison, the Half King, sent by the Iroquois Confederation about 1747 to rule over the Delawares in the valleys of the Allegheny, Ohio and Beaver; also the residence of Scarouady, sent by this great Confederation, about the same time, to rule over the Shawnees in the same territory. They made an alliance with the English to help expel the French from these valleys with the understanding that, as soon as the French should be expelled, the English would return east of the Allegheny Mountains. Both these noted chieftains faithfully assisted the English against the French, but did not live to see the French expelled. Tanacharison became desperately

ill at John Harris' trading house, where Harrisburg now stands, in the autumn of 1754, after assisting Washington in his campaign of that year. Harris and Indians friendly to the English soothed his dying hours with their kind ministrations. Here, on the banks of the Susquehanna far from his home on the waters of the Ohio, the old chieftain, on October 4, yielded up his soul to the Great Spirit. Upon his death, Scarouady succeeded him as Half King. He died prior to August 26th, 1758, probably having lost his life in one of Johnson's expeditions in New York.

Loyalhanna, or Loyalhanning

This was a Delaware town, located where Ligonier now stands and established likely as early as 1727. The name is a corruption of the Delaware "Lawel", meaning "middle"; and "Hanna", meaning "a stream or river", with the locative 'ing', meaning 'place at or where'—hence "the town on the middle stream". The Delawares called the stream on which this town was located the "Lawel-Hanna" or "middle stream", because of its being half way from the Ohio to the Juniata. Christopher Gist described the place in 1750 as "an old Indian town". Here Colonel Henry Bouquet erected Fort Ligonier as the main part of General Forbes' army was toiling over the mountain ridges to the eastward in its advance upon Fort Duquesne in the autumn of 1758, he (Colonel Bouquet) having arrived at "Loyalhanning" on September 7th. Fort Ligonier was the only Pennsylvania post west of the Allegheny Mountains, save Fort Pitt, that did not fall into the hands of the Indians during Pontiac's War. "

Maghingquechahocking

This was a village of the Munsee Clan of Delawares, located at the junction of Conneaut Creek and French Creek, in the southern part of Crawford County. It was destroyed by Colonel Brodhead's troops in September, 1779 as they were returning to Fort Pitt from destroying the towns on the upper reaches of the Allegheny. The name is probably a corruption of "Meech-schinghacki", meaning "great level land".

Murdering Town

This was the Indian village near which Washington was shot at by a hostile Indian, less than fifteen paces distant, as he and Christopher Gist were returning from Fort LeBoeuf, on the evening of December 27th, 1753. They met the Indian at this town and thought they recognized him as one they had met at Venango. They asked him to guide them from Murdering Town by the nearest course to Shannopin's Town (which see). They had not gone far until the Indian, who was leading the way, suddenly turned and fired at Washington. Gist wanted to kill the Indian on the spot, but Washington would not permit him to do so. Accordingly they took the Indian into custody, and about nine o'clock let him go. Washington calls this town "Murdering Town" in his Journal, while Gist calls it "Murthering Town". How it got its name will likely remain a mystery. Nor can its exact location be determined. On Gist's map of 1753 there is a "Minicing Town" on Connoquenessing Creek. Darlington places Murdering Town about fifteen miles from Logstown "on a branch of Great Beaver Creek". Gist says in his Journal under date of November 30th, 1753: "We set out (from Logstown). At night we encamped at the Murthering Town, about fifteen miles, on a branch of Great Beaver Creek. Got corn and dried meat". This Indian town was likely the "Connoquenessing", mentioned in Christian Frederick Post's *Journal* under date of August 12th, 1758, as being fifteen miles from Kuskuskies. It is likely that the Indian town near the present Amberson's bridge on the Connoquenessing a few miles from Evans City, Butler County, was the "Murdering Town" referred to by Washington and the "Connoquenessing" or "Conaquonashon" referred to by Post. The Venango Indian Trail, which Washington and Gist followed from Logstown to Venango and which they followed from Venango back as far as Murdering Town on their return trip, crossed the Connoquenessing near Amberson's bridge, above mentioned. Another branch left the trail near this point and led to the headwaters of Pine Creek, thence down this creek to the Allegheny and Shannopin's Town (which see). It was this branch that Washington and Gist followed, or nearly so, after they left Murdering Town on their return trip.

Punxsutawney

This was a Delaware town, situated where the town of the same name, in Jefferson County, now stands, established probably as early as 1724 by the Delawares during their westward migration. The name is from the Delaware "Ponks", meaning "a gnat"; and "Uteney", 'a town"—hence "gnat town". Heckewelder says that the place was infested with gnats, or sand-flies. Many white captives were taken through this town to Kittanning and other Indian towns on the Allegheny and Ohio during the French and Indian War. Christian Frederick Post passed through this town while returning from his first mission to the Western Delawares in September, 1758. The place was then deserted, according to his Journal.

Pymatuning

This was a Delaware town, located near the mouth of the creek of the same name, and near the present Clarksboro, Mercer County. Heckewelder says the town derives its name from the Delaware "Pihmtomink", meaning "where the man with the crooked mouth resides". He says: "I was acquainted with the person to whose deformity there is allusion in the name of the creek". Hutchin's map of 1764 places Pymatuning on the west side of the Shenango below Clarksville, while Scull's map of 1770 places it on the east side. Probably, like a number of other Indian towns, it was on both sides of the stream.

Rique

Rique was the largest town of the Eries, located on or near the site of the present city of Erie. It was destroyed about 1655 by the Senecas, the most numerous and warlike tribe of the Six Nations or Iroquois. The conquerors "wrought such carnage among the women and children that the blood was knee-deep in places". According to the Jesuit *Relation*, the town, had in 1654, between 3,000 and 4,000 combatants, exclusive of women and children. After the breaking of the power of the Eries, the survivors were either destroyed, dispersed or led into captivity. Six hundred were taken by the Senecas to the present Livingston County, New York, where their

offspring were absorbed by the Seneca tribe. After the destruction of the populous tribe of the Eries, that part of Pennsylvania south of Lake Erie became infested with wolves.

Sauconk, or Sawcunk

This was a town established by the Delawares and Shawnees possibly as early as 1725 during their westward migration and was located at the mouth of the Beaver and for some distance below. The Indian settlement at the mouth of the Beaver (Sauconk, King Beaver's Town, Shingas' Town, etc.) extended to the bluff above the Ohio about a mile below the mouth of the Beaver at various times in the history of this settlement. Weiser went to Sauconk when on his mission to the Western Indians in 1748. He says in his *Journal* under date of August 30th: "I went to Beaver Creek, an Indian Town, about 8 miles off (from Logstown), chiefly Delawares, the rest Mohawks". Post visited the place when on his mission to the Western Delawares in the summer and autumn of 1758. The town was deserted after the Battle of Bushy Run, August 5th and 6th, 1763. When Bouquet's expedition passed through the place in the autumn of 1764 on its way to the Tuscarawas, the chimneys of the houses which the French had built for the Indians were still standing. The name "Sauconk" is a corruption of the Delaware "Sakunk", meaning "at the mouth" of a stream.

Sewickley, or Sewickley Old Town

This was a town of the Sewickley (Hathawekela) Clan of Shawnees, established prior to 1731 and located at the mouth of Big Sewickley Creek, Westmoreland County. The town stood near the present town of West Newton. However, there was another Shawnee town also called Sewickley, which stood on the north bank of the Allegheny below Chartier's Town, now Tarentum, Allegheny County. The Sewickley Shawnees are described in an affidavit made by the trader, Jonah Davenport, October 29, 1731, as "fifty families lately from South Carolina to Potowmack (Potomac), and from thence thither, making 100 men. Aqueloma is their chief". One of the tracts

of land which George Croghan bought from Tanacharison and Scarouady at Logstown in August, 1749, was located at the mouth of Big Sewickley Creek.

Shannopin's Town

This Delaware town, established as early as 1730 and named for the Delaware chief Shannopin, stood below the mouth of Two Mile Run, between the present Penn Avenue and the Allegheny River, north of Thirtieth Street, Pittsburgh. At this place the Indian trail leading from Harris' Ferry (Harrisburg) crossed the Allegheny. Celoron, Croghan, Gist, Washington, Weiser and many other early pathfinders visited this town. It was just above this town where Washington was almost drowned in the icy waters of the Allegheny as he was returning from his mission to the French, December 29, 1753. After this terrible experience, he spent the night on the former Wainwright's Island and then he and his companion, Christopher Gist, went to the trading house of John Fraser (the writer's ancestor) at the mouth of Turtle Creek. Chief Shannopin and about half a dozen other Delawares wrote a letter by the hand of the trader, Edmund Cartlidge, to Governor Gordon on April 30th, 1730, protesting against the ravages of the rum traffic and requesting the Governor to put a stop to the carrying of such large quantities of rum "into the woods".

Shawnee Cabins

This was a temporary stopping place of the Shawnees as they migrated from the Potomac to the Ohio, and was situated about eight miles west of Bedford and about half a mile east of Schellsburg, Bedford County. Among those who mention this place are John Harris and Conrad Weiser.

Shenango

This was a Delaware town on the river of the same name, located as nearly as can be determined, below the present town of Sharon. The name is a corruption of "Ochenango", meaning "large bull thistles". John McCullough, who was captured in Franklin County in July, 1756, spent two years and a half among the Delawares at Shenango.

Venango

This was an Indian town and prominent trading place, located at the mouth of French Creek, the site of the present town of Franklin, Venango County. The name is a corruption of "Onenge", meaning "a mink", according to Zeisberger and Loskiel. As Dr. George P. Donehoo points out in his *Indian Villages and Place Names in Pennsylvania*, the name as commonly used by the Delawares was "Winingus", a "mink". Washington stopped at this town when going to and returning from the French fort, LeBoeuf, where Waterford now stands. In the summer of 1749, Celoron stopped here, on which occasion the trader, John Fraser, and all the Indians except six Iroquois fled to the woods. The French drove Fraser away from this place in the summer of 1753. Here the French erected Fort Machault. In the summer of 1759 about one thousand Indians assembled here to attempt to recapture Fort Duquesne. In 1760, the English built Fort Venango at the mouth of French Creek, but this fort was burned in June, 1763, by the Indians during Pontiac's War. In the spring of 1787, a detachment of United States soldiers under Captain Jonathan Hart erected Fort Franklin at this place.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. 2, p. 218.
2. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, Vol. 6, p. 588.
3. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. 1, pp. 301, 302.
4. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, Vol. 6, pp. 150-160.
5. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. 1, pp. 301, 302.
6. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, Vol. 8, p. 269 and pages preceding.
7. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, Vol. 9, p. 253.
8. Donehoo, George P., *Indian Villages and Place Names in Pennsylvania*, p. 155.
9. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, Vol. 6, p. 57.
10. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. 1, pp. 301, 302.
11. See also *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. 2, p. 136, for the distance of this town from the mouth of the Kiskiminetas.
12. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. 1, p. 301.
13. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, Vol. 8, p. 307; Donehoo, George P., *Pennsylvania—A History*, II, 864-870, 882; and the writer's *Indian Wars of Pennsylvania*, pp. 407-412, for promises made by the English to withdraw east of the Allegheny Mountains as soon as the French were driven from the Valley of the Ohio.
14. For account of the events which happened at and in the vicinity of Fort Ligonier during the French and Indian War, Pontiac's War and the Revolutionary War, see the writer's *Indian Wars of Pennsylvania*.
15. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. 1, pp. 301, 302.