

**PERSONAL NAMES OF INDIANS OF
NEW JERSEY: BEING A LIST OF SIX
HUNDRED AND FIFTY SUCH NAMES,
GLEANED MOSTLY FROM INDIANS
DEEDS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY**

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Personal Names of Indians of New Jersey: Being a List of Six Hundred and Fifty Such Names, gleaned mostly from Indians deeds of the seventeenth century by William Nelson

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**Being a List of Six Hundred and Fifty Such Names,
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teenth Century.**

By **WILLIAM NELSON.**

PATERSON, N. J.:
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1904.

PREFACE.

For vocabularies of the language spoken by the aboriginal inhabitants of New Jersey we look to

Heckewelder's "Words, Phrases, and Short Dialogues, in the Language of the Lenni Lenape, or Delaware Indians." In Transactions of the Historical & Literary Committee of the American Philosophical Society. Philadelphia, 1819. 8vo. Pp. 453-464.

Heckewelder's Comparative Vocabulary of Algonquin Dialects. Cambridge, Mass., 1837.

Zeisberger's Indian Dictionary—English, German, Iroquois—the Onondaga and Algonquin—the Delaware. Cambridge, Mass., 1837. 4to. Pp. v, 236.

A Lenape-English Dictionary, edited, with additions, by Daniel G. Brinton and Rev. Albert Sequaquind Anthony. Philadelphia, 1888. Sm. 4to. Pp. 236.

A Grammar of the Language of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians. Translated from the German Manuscript of the late Rev. David Zeisberger, for the American Philosophical Society, by Peter Stephen Duponceau. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. III.—New Series. Philadelphia, 1830. 4to. Pp. 65-250.

The Salem Interpreter, recorded in the office of the Secretary of State, at Trenton, and printed in the writer's "The Indians of New Jersey," Paterson, N. J., 1894.

These various sources furnish perhaps three thousand different words.

In the following pages about six hundred and fifty personal names are given, not counting repetitions. These are practically all additions to the vocabularies above mentioned, and so form a very material extension of our knowledge of the Lenni-Lenape language.

Moreover, Indian personal names were usually combinations of nominal, pronominal and adjectival themes, so that this list is calculated to throw much light on the habits of thought, the mental characteristics, the structure of their language and the environments of the aborigines.

The student of the origin of language will be interested to notice that certain sounds are almost never used in beginning personal names.

The frequency of the letters of the English alphabet in beginning the names hereinafter given appears by the following table. The third column shows the frequency of the several letters, taken from a list of 15,800 names of white inhabitants of New Jersey, 1670-1730. Dividing this number by 26 we have 600 such persons, the same number as of the aborigines named. The comparison is therefore based

on an equal number of names of Indians and whites, and of approximately the same period.

<i>In Indian Names.</i>	<i>Times.</i>	<i>In Names of Whites.</i>
M	113	37
W	77	45
P	60	29
S	56	60
T	51	21
N	51	8
A	39	17
C (hard, k)	34	34
K	29	10
C (soft, s)	1	1-6
Ch	4	5
H	20	52
O	20	6
Q	20	1-2
E	17	13
R	13	26
L	9	30
I and J (Y)	8	1-6
I (short)	4	3
J	3	14
G	6	23
B	5	46
Y	3	1
F	1	20
V	3	13 (including van)
D	none	23
U	none	1-3
Z	none	1

This comparative table is given for what it is worth. It is perhaps more curious than valuable.

Further examining the Indian names, we find that the letters b, f and v occur but 21 times in the entire list; l, 71 times; r, 150 times.

Taking c soft as equivalent to s, and c hard as equivalent to k; k for q and g; kh for ch; e for l, y and j (y); p for b, and the initial letters are reduced to 15, as follows:

M	113
K	83
W	77
P	67
S	56
T	51
N	51
A	39
E	29
H	21
O	20
R	13
L	9
F	1
V	1

As *f* occurs but once, and *v* only four times, it is probable that they have been incorrectly given, and they may be properly omitted. The sound indicated by *w* would be as well shown by *ou*. Thus the initial letters would be reduced to 12.

The preponderance of *m* is perhaps due to the prefix *m'*, indicating a general designation, as opposed to one in particular; *m*, *n* and *w* suggest pronominal prefixes. But most of the names are evidently descriptive.

As for the pronunciation: names appearing in deeds prior to 1664 were written by the Dutch, except some on the Delaware river, which were written by Swedes. After 1664 deeds for lands north of Newark were usually drawn up by Dutch scribes, and many in Monmouth and Somerset counties; but most of them were written by Englishmen.

It is evident that many, if not most, of these scribes had little or no knowledge of the native language; also, that they lacked the "Indian ear," as Heckewelder calls it, and so were unable to apprehend the precise sounds of the spoken words. In the same deed the Indian names are usually spelled differently four or five times. Some of these variations have been given, that the reader may be better able to judge approximately what was the actual or probable pronunciation. As greater care is usually given to the signatures in an instrument, so it doubtless was with these Indian deeds, that the scribes probably were more particular to have the names accurately written at the end. Hence, in the following list, special mention is frequently made of the forms of the names as "signed." Of course, the Indians themselves merely made their marks, often a tribal or gentile symbol, and the names attached to these marks were written by the persons who drafted the deeds.

About 250 of the names herewith given are compiled from the New Jersey Archives, Vol. XXI—Calendar of Records in the Office of the Secretary of State, at Trenton, 1665-1703. The figure following these names refers to the page of that volume where they may be found. More than half of the list has been gleaned by the writer from the records in the office referred to, having been omitted or overlooked by the compiler of the Calendar mentioned. Others have been gathered from all available printed sources, as well as from various original documents.

With very few exceptions no attempt has been made to interpret these names. This list was compiled with no such object, but rather to place it within the reach of expert students of the Algonquin language.

The origin and effect of Indian deeds for lands in New Jersey are explained in my "Indians of New Jersey." It may be noted, however, that because an Indian squaw or child joins in a deed it does not

follow that the aborigines recognized the woman's right of dower, or the child's right of inheritance in lands. The simple fact was that the white purchaser acted on his own knowledge of the English law, and wished to be sure of acquiring the whole of the Indian title. For the same reason, probably, he was in the habit of getting all the Indians of a neighborhood, as tenants in common, to join in the deed for an extensive tract of land, or at least to have them sign as witnesses, so that on *sober* second thought they might not claim that they had had no knowledge of the execution of the deed.

Something like half of these names were published by the writer in the *American Anthropologist* for January, 1902. The interest manifested in that publication has led him to extend the list to its present proportions. It is believed that no such list of aboriginal personal names, principally of the seventeenth century, has ever been published before. That it may be helpful to the student of American anthropology, and especially of the language of the Lenni-Lenape, is the hope of the writer.

- Abozaweramud, 66. Indian deed, Aug. 22, 1681. With eleven other "Indian proprietors," for a tract on Mattawang or Millstone river, extending to Pam-etapake, opposite Staten Island.
- Acchipoor of Hoogkong. Indian deed, July 10, 1657. See Taghkospemo.
- Ackitoauw (Winfield gives his name as Kikitoauw) and Aiarouw, Virginians, "inhabitants and joint owners," for themselves and three other proprietors. Indian deed, Nov. 22, 1630, for Ahasimus and the peninsula Aressick (Jersey City).—Winfield's Hist. Hudson County, 15; N. Y. Col. Docs., XIII., 2; Indians of N. J., 102.
- Agnamapamund. Indian deed, Nov. 19, 1681. See Pawark.
- Ahtakkones, Nauhoosing, Okanickkon, Weskeakitt, Petheatus, Apperingues, Kekroppamant. Indian deed, October 10, 1677, to Joseph Helmsley and others, for lands on Delaware river from Rankokus to Sent Finck creek at the falls.—W. J. Deeds, Lib. B, Part 1, p. 4.
- Ahwaroeb, Mensier, Pewaherenoes (alias Hans), Towachkack (alias Jan Clausen). Signed—Assowaka Sackima of Tappaan, Whusquataghey, Jantekoes of Tappaan, Metjes of Tappaan, Croppun, Sachema of Haverstroo, Wheren (alias Tinnker oft Ketelboeter¹), Harmanus, Coninko, Carsten Lursen, Sietey, and others with English names. Indian deed, in Dutch, dated at New York, April 13, 1671, to Isaac Bedloo and Balthaser DeHaert, for land on the west bank of the North river, in the juris-

¹"Tinnker oft Ketelboeter"—Tinker, or "Ketelboeter," the Dutch for tinker.

- diction of New Jersey, between Tappaen and Es-
petingh, between North river and Overpeck's
creek, 4240 acres.—E. J. Deeds, Lib. F, p. 370.
- Aiarouw. Indian deed, Nov. 22, 1630. See Ackitoauw.
- Allowayes, 559. Indian deed, Nov. 7, 1675. With six
others (Indians), for tract of land on Game or
fforcus Creek, Delaware river, and Cannahock-
inck Creek, adjoining the land of Chohanzick.
- Alpoongan. In Thomas's History of West Jersey, 1698,
he gives (p. 13) a list of "the Names of some of
the Indians," ten in all.
- Ambehoes, Mastewap, Yamatabenties, Echkamare, Indi-
ans living in Sussex county, cir. 1715-40, accord-
ing to the affidavit of Johannis Decker, in 1785.—
Hist. Sussex and Warren Counties, 1881, p. 368.
- Amegatha, Pecca Chica, Cancheris, Mochson, Thetoch-
hulun, Mondsolom, Machpunk, Ancnock and oth-
ers, "Indians of Northern New Jersey." Indian
deed, Sept. 16, 1709, for the Wagaraw tract, now
in Passaic county. Unrecorded.
- Amois, alias Poutchmouth. Statement of, about the sale
of land near New Brunswick, about Nov. 10, 1681.
—E. J. Deeds, Lib. No. 3, p. 175.
- Amoneino. Indian deed, August 8, 1700. See Nant-
zeckem.
- Anachkooting. See Alpoongan.
- Anaren. Indian deed, July 20, 1668. With five other
Indians, for tract called Meghgectecock, between
Hackingsack and Pissawack rivers. (New Bar-
badoes Neck.)
- Anasan. Indian deed, July 15, 1679. See Coovang.
- Ancnock. Indian deed, Sept. 16, 1709. See Amegatha.
- Anennath. Indian deed, May 1, 1701. See Tapgow.
- Anennath. Indian deed, May 6, 1701. See Tapgow.