

The names and the history of the Indian tribes who have dwelt within the boundaries of Lancaster county during the historic period present a most prolific *field* for conjecture, doubt and confusion. I have within a week examined many pages of records and the result has been only to convince me that our Indian history is not in good shape. I do not think I can add anything to the general stock of information, but I will try to unravel the twisted skein a little.

In our local history we find the names of the following tribes : Susquehannocks, Piquaws, the Shawnese, the Conestogos, the Nantlcokes, the Ganawese, the Conoise or Conoys, Mingoos, Minquays and the Delawares. Here we have ten tribes as resident in this county between 1650 and 1750. We had the names but we did not have the Indians, as I will attempt to show.

The Susquehannocks were the most numerous tribe that lived here. In 1608, according to Capt. John Smith's narrative, he found them all along the Susquehanna River for 100 miles northward from Chesapeake Bay. They were tall, athletic and courageous. He describes their appearance both with pen and pencil. At one time they could put 600 warriors in the field from their stockaded fort at Turkey Hill, in Manor township. They were unable to adapt themselves to civilization, and were swept out of existence.

The Conestogos are best known to us by name. They were Susquehannocks, and were called Conestogos when they

settled along the Conestoga. They were given that name by the whites. At other times they were called Mingoies and Minquays and Hickories, five names for one tribe.

Redmond Conyngham has written a pamphlet about the Piquaws. He says tradition has it that 200 years before the whites came there were no Indians in Lancaster county. If tradition says that then I don't believe tradition. This name was given to these Indians because they resided on the Pequea creek. They were Shawnese who went from Ohio to Alabama, thence to Georgia, where the Catawbias and Cherokees got after them and drove them North, after which they asked Penn to let them live here. He consented, the Susquehannocks becoming their sureties. They were next to the Susquehannocks in numbers. They lived on the Pequea thirty-four years. They had a town of 500 souls about two miles from Christiana. Other of their towns were in Sadsbury township and on Shawnee run, at Columbia, where they went and remained until the whites became too numerous. They were a roving, gypsy tribe. In 1737 only 130 were left in the county. They departed secretly and went beyond the Alleghenies.

The Ganawese came into the county in 1698 from the Potomac region by permission of Penn, and located at Conejohala, where the borough of Washington now stands, and built a town there. A few years after they removed to the mouth of the Conoy creek. In 1743 they removed to Shamokin. They were known as Ganawese, Conoys, Conoise and even as Nanticokes.

Other accounts say the Nanticokes came over from Berks county and settled in Cocalico township, where they were

numerous and had a town. It is said the Nanticokes and the Ganawese spoke the same tongue. I have already partially identified the Nanticokes with the Conoys and Ganawese. How they could come both from the Potomac and from Berks county I cannot tell. There seems to be hopeless confusion here. Heckwelder says the Gauawese and Conoys were the same.

The Delawares, who settled in this county in considerable numbers, previously lived along the Brandywine, in Chester county, crossed over into this county, where they remained only a short time. Despite Cooper and the "Deerslayer," they had a bad reputation here.

There were four or five large Indian villages in the county and many smaller ones. The dialects spoken were different even in near localities. As already said, the Ganawese and Nanticokes had allied languages.

Pennsylvania seems to have been an asylum for many tribes of Indians.

Every tribe in the county was brought under the yoke of the Five Nations. The Susquehannocks, aided by troops from Maryland, fought a bloody battle near Turkey Hill in 1676 with the Northern Confederacy and defeated them, but later became a vassal tribe, as did all the rest, to the Five Nations.

In 1680 the Cayugas and Senecas almost exterminated them. The last remnant of them, known as the Conestogos, were slain in 1763 by the Paxtang boys, six at Conestogo Town and the remaining fourteen within a few yards of this spot.

All these Indians, I believe, belonged to the Algonquin family.

I think it can be established that our numerous Indian tribes can be traced to these five tribes :

1. Susquehannocks, (called later Cone-

stogos, Mingoos, Minguays and Hickory Indians.)

2. Ganawese, sometimes known as Conoys, Conoise and Nanticokes.

3. Shawnese, often also called Piquaws.

4. Delawares.

5. Nanticokcs, if it is conceded these Indians have not been sometimes confounded with the Ganawese.

In all four tribes, or five at most, instead of ten.

In all the conferences held by the Provincial Agents with the Indians in this locality between 1721 and 1750, only four tribes of local Indians are mentioned, the Conestogos, the Shawnese, the Ganawese and the Delawares. It is a most reasonable inference that the Piquaws, Conoys and the Hickories were only settlements of the above who took their names from the localities where they had their villages.

In all probability the number of Indians in this county at no period exceeded 3,000 or 4,000.

Author: Diffenderffer, Frank Ried, 1833-1921.

Title: Indian tribes of Lancaster County / by F. R. Diffenderffer.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Names, Geographical--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.  
Indians of North America--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.  
Names, Indian--North America.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society,  
1896-97

Description: [85]-88 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 1,  
no. 3

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.1

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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