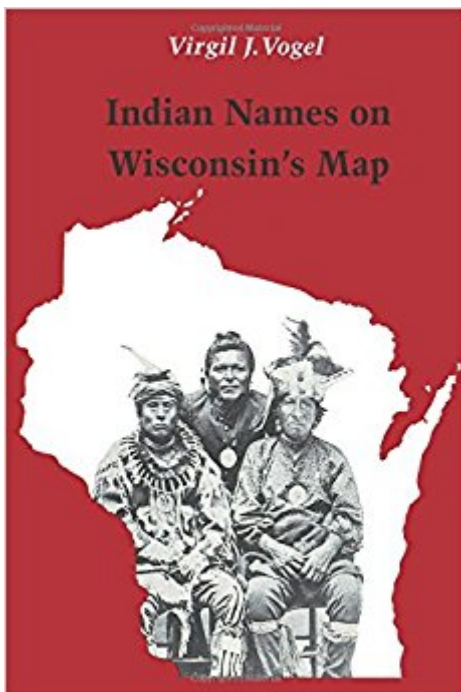


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# Indian Names On Wisconsin's Map





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## Customer Reviews

Place names are cultural artifacts which tell us much about how people lived, as do the relics dug from the ground. They are historical records which can chart the location and migration of people, both native and European. Names also tells us something about those people we have called Indians, including their cosmic views, their values, their understanding of their place in nature, and their ways of life.

Virgil J. Vogel, professor emeritus of history and social science at Harry S. Truman College, City Colleges of Chicago, is the author of Indian place name books for Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan in addition to *This Country Was Ours: A Documentary History of the American Indian and American Indian Medicine*.

If you live or aspire to be in Wisconsin it is a must own and read.

The condition of the book was great! Shipping was fast, and it was economical. We were very happy to get this book. We are always wondering what the different Indian names mean here in Wisconsin. The author was very thorough in his research.

Exactly what I wanted.

It's impossible that it be complete, even when limited to Indian names, but this book contains enough Wisconsin place-names to make an impression on the reader at least as powerful as a drive through the state or any amount of recent television coverage of its unfortunate current politics. Chapters on: 1) Wisconsin's name 2) Tribal names 3) Personal names 4) Women's names 5) French-Indian names 6) Literary and legendary names 7) The Spirit world 8) Material culture 9) Ethnicity, gender, rank, occupation, and age 10) Trails and portages 11) Descriptive names 12) Names from fauna 13) Names from flora 14) Water names 15) Topography 16) Commemorative names 17) French-Indian place names 18) State names 19) Transfer names [meaning names brought

from other parts of the country, mostly by non-Indians]20) Names from south of the border [the author means, "from Spanish-speaking America", not Illinois]21) Potpourri22) Artificial names

The author is an historian, and a good one (in my opinion), not, however, a linguist, which is a bit of a drawback here, as an enormous amount of linguistic detective work can be exercised on names that may have existed in numerous variants and were subsequently transmogrified into gibberish by non-native speakers, sometimes in multilingual succession. However, the book is rich in anecdote relating to origins (sometimes very uncertain) of names and their transmission, down through varying tongues and cultures

There are good notes and an excellent bibliography; the sources include books, articles, newspapers and magazines, correspondence, maps, various unpublished texts and personal interviews. The few illustrations, mostly portraits of Indians and early maps, are well-selected and evocative.

"We were once a powerful but now a small nation. When the white people first crossed the big water and landed on this island, they were then small as we are now. I remember when Wiskonsin was ours and now it has our name. We sold it to you." [Attributed to] Chief Wapello of the Mesquakie [believe it or not, another corruption of the tribal name wound up being written down as "Wisconsin"] Oct 16th, 1841.

How can you not spend at least some time with a book that begins with a quotation like that?

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