



[Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.](#)

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March 15, 1944

MEMO TO MWB

Mr. John L. Gleason, 2617-16th Avenue South, Minneapolis, was in to see me yesterday on behalf of the Chippewa Research Society, which composed of Minneapolis Chippewa and half-breeds. The Society is interested in research upon matters relating to the Chippewa in Minnesota in place names, legends, folk lore, culture, etc. The chief activity at present is listing the Chippewa names given to geographical features of the state. They are compiling a list of Chippewa names of lakes of the state. They hope to interest the Department of Conservation in including the Chippewa name beneath the English when signs are erected. They plan to have a meeting shortly in Minneapolis at which the list of Indian names will be presented to the Society. There will be a dinner I believe at the Andrews Hotel. The dinner will be held Sunday, so I wouldn't expect you to come.

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OJIBWAY NAMES
OF SOME
NORTHERN MINNESOTA LAKES.

Compiled by the
OJIBWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY
OF MINNESOTA .

Report No. I.

April I, 1944.

Minneapolis, Minn.

AITKIN COUNTY.

Big Rice Lake.

Ojibway - Ge-Chi-Mah-No-Min-Ne-Kah-Ning.

Meaning - Great rice Harvesting place.

Hanging Kettle Lake.

Ojibway - Ah-Kick-Bah-Dah-Ke-Zod.

Meaning - Kettle standing up. (Shape of kettle.)

BECKER COUNTY.

Bad Medicine Lake.

Ojibway - Mah-Ge-Mah-Shki-Ke.

Meaning - Bad Medicine.

Big Basswood Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-We-Go-Bish-Mi-Shi-Kog.

Meaning - Lake of Basswood trees on islands.

Big Rat Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Ge-Chi-Gah-Me-Joush-Ko-Kog.

Meaning - Lake where Muskrats are many.

Big Rush Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Ge-Chi-Gah-Me-Wosh-Ko-Kog.

Meaning - Lake of big rushes.

Blackbird Lake.

Ojibway - Ah-Se-Gin-Nock-Ko-Sah-Gah-E.Gon.

Meaning - Lake of Blackbirds.

Detroit Lakes.

Ojibway - Gah-Yah-Sha-Woh-Wong-Kog.

Meaning - Sand bar connecting one lake with another.

Egg Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Wah-Won-O-Kog.

Meaning - Lake where eggs are plentiful. (The lake was a
(great nesting place for ducks.)

Elbow Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-O-Dos-Quan-Nee-Gum-Mog.

Meaning - Body of water shape of elbow.

Flat Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Bah-Quog.

Meaning - Floating bog lake.

Floyd Lake.

Ojibway - Me-Ge-Ze-Wah-De-Swan-Ning.

Meaning - Eagles' nesting place.

Height Of Land Lake.

Ojibway - Ah-Sha-Way-Way-Sa-Tah-Gon-Ning.

Meaning - Portage from one body of water to another.

Ice Cracking Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Mah-Mah-Dway-Qua-Ding.

Meaning - Traveling sound of cracking ice.

BECKER COUNTY.

Island Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Me-Nee-Se-Wong.

Meaning - Lake of islands.

Juggler Lake.

Ojibway-- Je-Sah-Kong-E.Sing.

Meaning - Juggler of Medicine. Medicine man's place of performance of ceremony of medicine.

Little Bemidji Lake.

Ojibway - Bay-Mee-Ge-Gum-Mah-Sing.

Meaning - Small lake lying diagonally

Little Flat Lake.

Ojibway - Nah-Bah-Gush-Kounce-Se-Kon-Ning.

Meaning - Flat rush lake.

Many Point Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Mah-Mi-Nay-Mah-Mi-Wong.

Meaning - Where there are many shore points.

Round Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Wah-We-Yea-Gum-Mog.

Meaning -Round body of water.

Shell Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Ween-Bah-Ge-Way-Gom-Mog.

Meaning - Lake Deep among hills.

Strawberry Lake.

Ojibway - Gah -O-Dah-E-Ne-Nee-Kog.

Meaning - Where strawberries abound.

Tamarack Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Mush-Ke-Qua-Tig-O-Kog.

Meaning - Tamarack forest.

Tulaby Lake.-

Ojibway - O-Do-Nee-Bi-Si-Kah-Ning.

Meaning - Where tulabies abound.

White Earth Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Wah-Bah-Bi-Gon-E-Kag-Zah-Ga-E-Gun.

Meaning - Greyish Clay earth lake.

CASS COUNTY.

Big Rice Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Bah-Qwog.

Meaning - Shallow, boggy.

Boy Lake

Little Boy Lake

Woman Lake

Baby Lake

Ojibway - Ning-Go-Dou-Shay-Zah-Gah-E-Gon-Non-

Meaning - Family of Lakes.

Cass Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Me-Squa-Wah-Sko-Kog.

Meaning - Where there are many red Cedar.

Laura Lake.

Ojibway - Noo-Dah-E-Shi-Bah-Ning.

Meaning - Where ducks are hunted.

Leech Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Zah-Gah-Squa-Ge-Mah-Kog.

Meaning - Where the leeches are many.

Steamboat Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Bah-Kah-Zah-Ge-Dah-Wog.

Meaning - Outlet from the main stream.

Windigo Lake. (Lake Windigo) (Lake within Star Island
Cass Lake)

Ojibway - Win-De-Go-

Meaning - A legendary Cannibal giant - a man-eating ogre-
Descriptive meaning for children, "One who never
gets enough to eat."

CLEARWATER COUNTY.

Big Rice Lake.

Ojibway - Ge-Chi-Mah-No-Min-Nee-Kah-Ning. Also known as
Mah-No-MinNah-Gush-She-Kong

Meaning - First: Great rice harvesting place.
Second: Thick rice bed.

Clearwater Lake.

Ojibway -Gah-Wah-Kah-Mig.

Meaning - Clear water.

Pine Lake.-

Ojibway - Zhing-Quok

Meaning - Pine.

Upper Rice Lake.

Ojibway- Mah-No-Mi-Nee-Kah-Ning.

Meaning - Rice harvesting place.

CROW WING COUNTY.

Border Lake..

Ojibway - Me-She-Wah-Jou.

Meaning - Great Mountain Lake.

Long Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Ge-No-Gah-Mog.

Meaning - Long Lake.

Pelican Lake.

Ojibway - Sha-Day-Zah-Gah-E-Gon.

Meaning - Pelican Lake.

HUBBARD COUNTY.

Lake George.

Ojibway - Nay-Way-Zah-Gah-E-Gon.

Meaning - Bull Snake lake.

ITASCA COUNTY.

Bow Strin Lake.

Ojibway - Ge-She-Ah-Sha-Bah-Ning.

Meaning - Big Bow-string.

Cut Foot Sioux Lake.

Ojibway - Gish-Gish-Ke-Se-Day-Bawn-Ne-Sah-Gah-E-Gon.

Meaning - Lake where the feet of a Sioux were cut off.

Pokegama Lake.

Ojibway - Bah-Kay-Gah-Mog.

Meaning - Lake which branches.

KOOCHICHING COUNTY.

Nett Lake.

Ojibway - Ah-Sub-Be-Que-Nay-Zah-Gah*E-Gon.

Meaning - Lake enclosed by lifting fog as by a net.

MAHNOMEN COUNTY.

Gull Lake.

Ojibway - Zah-Sha-Gein-Se-Kah-Ning.

Meaning - Where cranes are many.

(Named by Indians settled from the big Gull Lake.)

Island Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Me-Nes-Se-Wong.

Meaning - Lake of Islands.

Roy Lake.

Ojibway - Gah-Jah-Ge-Kug-Ge-Way-Gom-Mog.

Meaning - Lake enclosed by steep bluff banks.

Snider Lake. (Previously known as Sucker Lake.)

Ojibway - Ge-Ne-Bah-Mo-Zounce-Se-Kon.

Meaning - Sleeping little moose. (Name given to Mrs. Snider by Indians who lived at the lake.)

Sucker Lake. (Later known as Snider Lake above.)

Ojibway - Nah-May-Be-Ne-Kah-Ning.

Meaning - Lake of many suckers.

Twin Lakes.

Ojibway - Gah-Nee-Zho-Gum-Mog.

Meaning - Two lakes together.

MILLE LACS COUNTY.

Mille Lacs Lake.

Ojibway - Mi-Se-Zah-Gah-E-Gen.

Meaning - Very large lake.

Ogechi Lake.

Ojibway - Nah-Tah-Me-Gah-Mog.

Meaning-- The first lake.

Onamia Lake. (Lake Onamia)

Ojibway - A-Squa-Gah-Mog.

Meaning - The last or the end lake.

(The name is possibly a variation from
O-Ne-Mi-Yung, meaning "Where we dance", or
from O-Ne-Mi, meaning "Where he dances".

Shakopee Lake.

Ojibway - Nay-Sah-We-Gah-Mog.

Meaning - Middle lake.

The object of the Ojibway Research Society of Minnesota is to obtain and record such information as may be had revealing the history and culture of the original people of the State.

William Madison, President.
Mary Doehle, Secretary.
Joseph Fairbanks
Edward Carl
William Littlewolf
Archie Libby
James McIntosh
David Belland
Niles Beaupre
Henry Selkirk
Richard Smith
Peter Sitting
Alex Whitefeather
William Pell
John Jekey
Charlie Daydodge
James Longie
Mrs. Wm. Littlewolf
Mrs. Louisa Peake
Mrs. Edward Carl
Mrs. James Longie
Mrs. Elizabeth Rock

Members represent the localities from the White Earth, Cass Lake, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and Red Lake, Reservations.