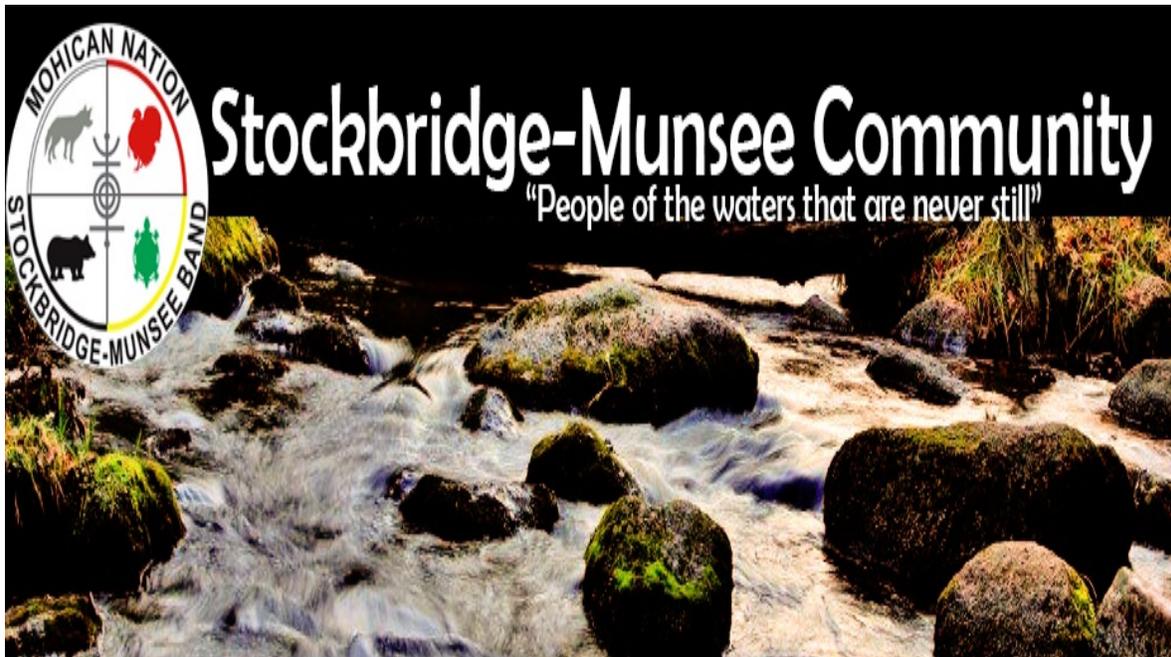




# **Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Nation**

**Prepared by Ava L. McCall**

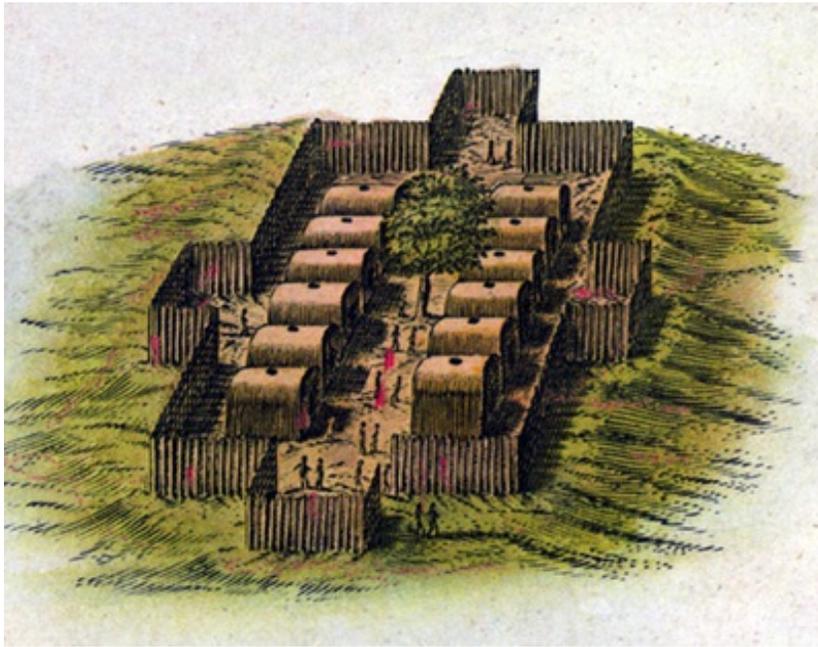
Based on *Native People of  
Wisconsin* by Patti Loew



The Mohicans first lived near the Atlantic Ocean in the state of New York.

The Mohicans call themselves Muh-he-con-nuk (mo **he** kuh nuk). The name means “The People of the Waters That Are Never Still.” The waters of the Atlantic Ocean near the state of New York are the “Waters That Are Never Still.” When the Mohicans first met Europeans in the 1600s, they were living along the Hudson River near Lake Champlain in the state of New York.

## Mohican Tribal Traditions



The Mohicans lived in villages of about 200 people. The people lived in wigwams or Long Houses. They built tall, wooden fences around their villages to protect them.

The Mohicans lived in villages in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Vermont. About 200 people lived in each village. The Mohicans built a tall, wooden wall around each village to protect it. The Mohicans lived in wigwams or Long Houses in the villages. Several families from the same clan lived in one wigwam or Long House. The leader of each village was a sachem (sa chum).



Mohican women planted corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers for food.



Mohican men hunted and fished for food for the people to eat.

The Mohican people hunted, fished, gathered, and grew food. Women planted the gardens of corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers. Men hunted and fished. They moved their villages when their gardens no longer grew food well.

# Mohican Tribal History



INDIANS BRINGING BEAVER-SKINS TO FLEET.

The Mohicans wanted to trade furs with the Dutch to get European trade goods.

There were about 20,000 Mohicans living in New York when Europeans first arrived. The Mohicans wanted to trade furs with Dutch fur traders. They wanted to get such European trade goods as guns, copper kettles, and liquor. The Mohicans became allies or friends with the Dutch.



The Mohicans were pushed from their homelands by Dutch and French settlers and conflicts with the Mohawk.

Unfortunately, the Mohicans had conflicts with another Native nation, the Mohawks. More and more Dutch and French people moved onto Mohicans' land. European diseases also led to the deaths of many Mohicans. Because of their conflicts with the Mohawks and Dutch and French people's movement onto their land, the Mohicans were pushed from their homeland. By this time, there were less than 1,000 Mohicans still living.



Christian missionaries influenced the Mohicans to become Christian. The Christian Mohicans moved to Stockbridge, Massachusetts to live with other Christian Native people.

The Mohicans were influenced by Christian missionaries and many became Christian. Christian Mohicans and other Christian Native people moved to an area named “Stockbridge” in Massachusetts. They became known as the Stockbridge Indians.



Wigwams were traditional Mohican homes.



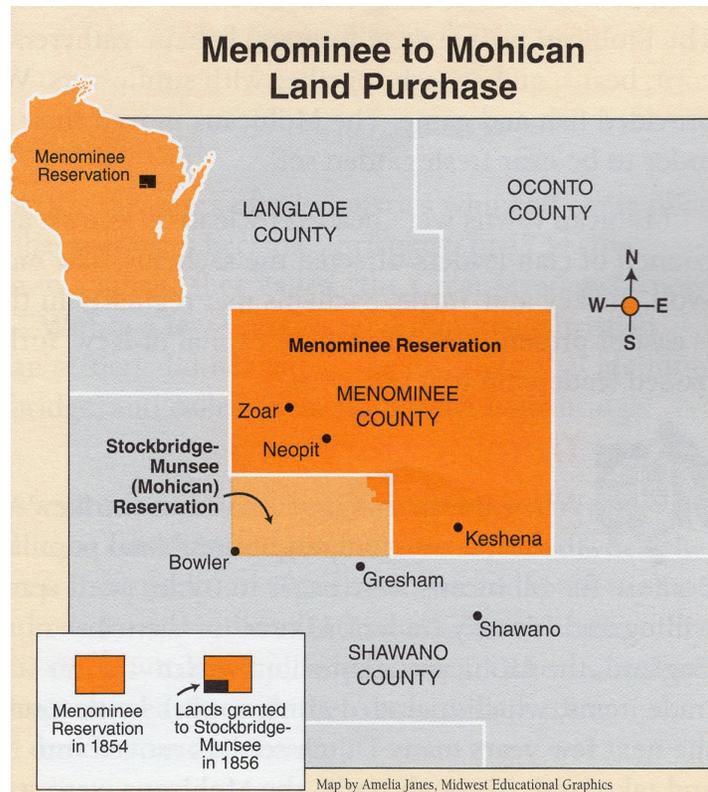
Log cabins were early European American homes.

The Mohicans' culture changed because they were surrounded by European Americans. They could no longer move their gardens when plants did not grow well. Mohicans began working as farmhands, lumberjacks, and on fishing ships. Mohican women began selling their handmade baskets and moccasins to earn money. They began building homes and wearing clothes like European Americans.



The Mohicans helped the Americans during the American Revolutionary War.

The Mohicans helped the Americans during the American Revolution when the Americans fought for independence from Great Britain. The Mohicans fought battles with the Americans and served as scouts for the American soldiers. Sadly, half of all the Mohicans who fought in the American Revolution were killed.



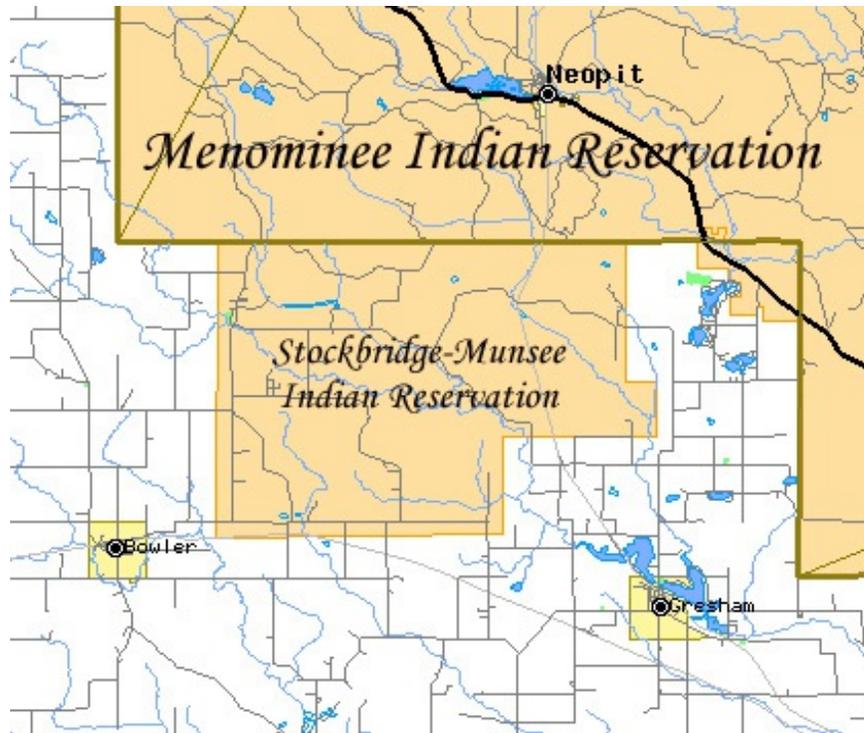
The Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans have a reservation on the southwestern corner of the Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin.

In 1821, the first group of Mohicans of Stockbridge moved to Wisconsin. They first settled at Kaukana, then moved to the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago. They became known as the Stockbridge Munsee. In 1856, the Mohicans made a treaty with the United States government and gained a reservation on the southwestern corner of the Menominee Reservation. They now call themselves the “Mohican Nation, Stockbridge Munsee Band” to show they are a specific group of Mohicans.



The United States government forced Mohican children to attend boarding schools where they could not speak their Native language or practice their culture.

The United States government forced the Mohicans to send their children to boarding schools. Mohican students could not speak their Native language or practice their culture. Many students stayed at the school all year and returned home only in summers or stayed at school all year. Some children went to boarding schools in Wisconsin, but others went to schools in South Dakota and Pennsylvania. The United States government began closing boarding schools after 1934.



Many Mohicans left their reservation and moved to cities, such as Chicago, to get jobs in the 1950s.

In the 1950s, the United States government encouraged the Mohicans and other Native people to leave their reservation and move to cities to find jobs. By 1966, less than half of the Mohicans who originally lived in Wisconsin still lived on their reservation.

# Mohican Nation, Stockbridge-Munsee Band Today



The Mohicans developed a museum to show the history and culture of the Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans.



The Mohicans created a family center to help their people stay fit and enjoy recreation.

In the 1980s, the Mohicans opened a casino and bingo hall to make money. They also created a golf course, campground, family and community centers, and an elderly center to help their people. The Mohicans built a museum to show their history and culture.



The Mohicans created a health clinic to help their people stay healthy.



The Mohicans developed a Head Start program to provide good educational opportunities for young children.

The Mohicans created education programs for young children, such as Head Start. They also have a health clinic to provide health care for their people.



The Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans have a powwow each year to celebrate their cultural heritage.

Now Mohicans are returning to their reservation for jobs and opportunities. Each year they have a powwow to share their culture.