

Plan for Today (Session Four)

- **Berkshire** Land Acknowledgment
- Brian Cina on Indigenous Names in **Vermont**
- Additional Resources for **Abenaki** language
 - **Local** Indigenous Placenames
- Eagle Article re Renaming at **Monument Mountain**
 - Excerpts from **Braiding Sweetgrass**
 - Response to Questions/Comments in **Chat**
 - **mfw@mfw.us**

Coming Attractions

- Session Five (April 21)
 - Cheryl Savageau, poet & author
(land use)
- Session Six (April 28)
 - Haudenosaunee Beadwork
original research by Professor Jerry Reid

More Values, Taught to Children

love to all men, and be kind to all people

any that are in distress, you must try to help

listen to the instruction of old folks: thereby you will be wise

you must be very kind to strangers

be honest in all your ways

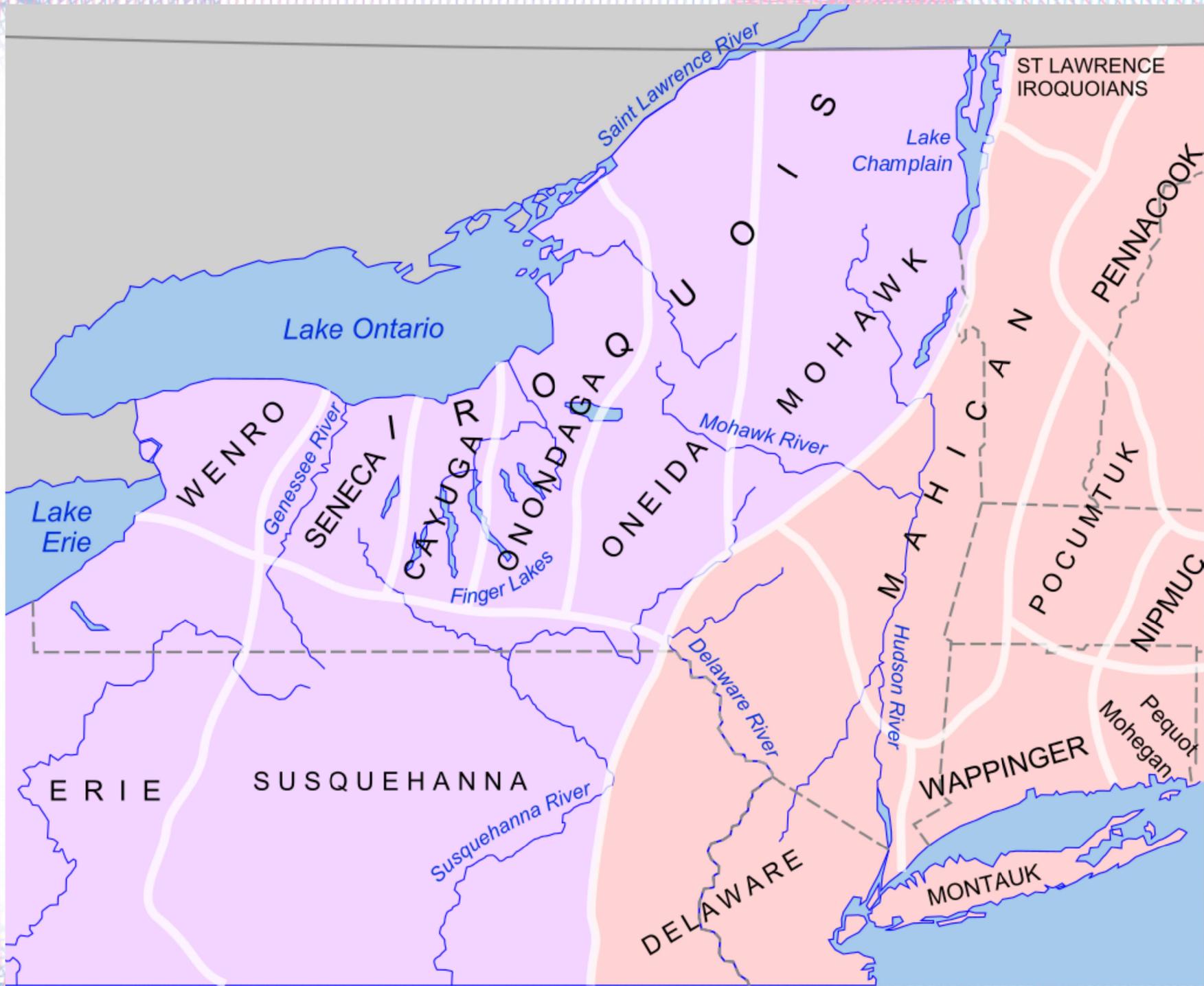
never steal anything

always avoid bad company

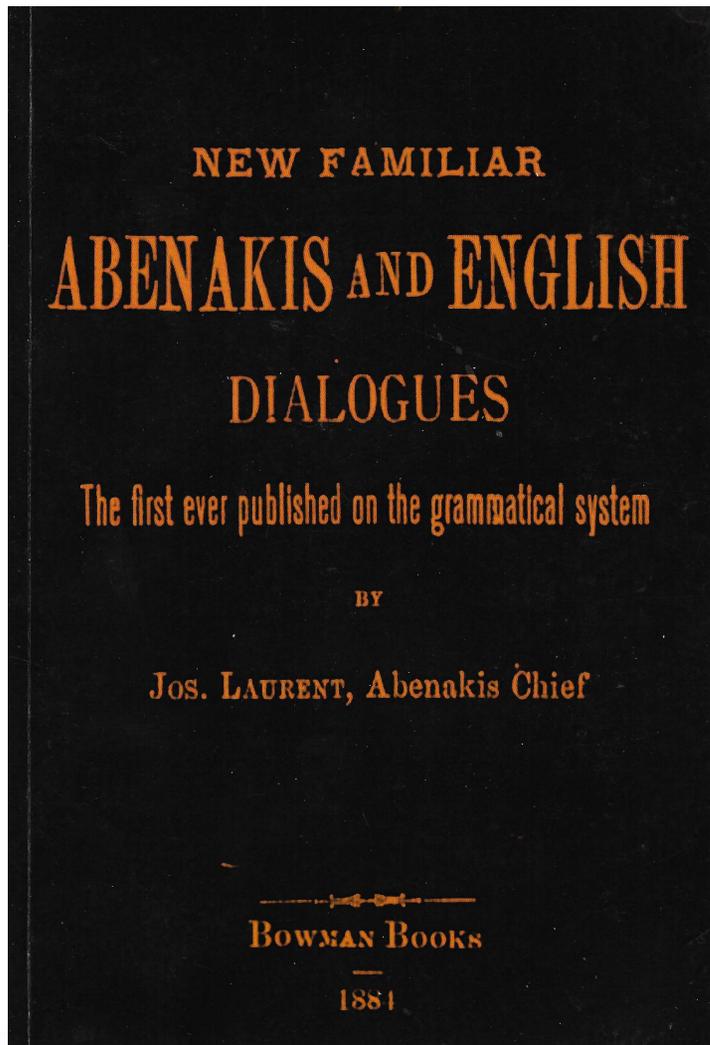
never commit murder

you must be very industrious

at all times you must obey your Sachem and Chiefs



Texts available at
<http://www.mfw.us/blog/olli/indigenous-voices/>



Abenaki Indian
Legends, Grammar and
Place Names

BY
HENRY LORNE MASTA

Odanak, P. Q.
1932



Editor
La Voix des Bois-Francs.
Victoriaville, P. Q.

BOWMAN BOOKS



Hot off the press!

Conor Quinn is mentioned

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/04/19/how-did-a-self-taught-linguist-come-to-own-an-indigenous-language>

Adapted from an email to my friend Ken Littlefield

Ken (Mr. Kikônsis), I thought you might enjoy seeing this little field at the U Maine campus in Bangor, picture taken by my friend Jon.

Achi, minawi, tamenok wazôliskik [Also, again, soon there will be a little snow on the ground] (notice how concise their language is, compared with awkward English -- no doubt -- in my mind -- this was because of their strong oral tradition and the need for precision in passing along knowledge).

In Abenaki (a closely-related dialect to the Penobscot you see here), the word for garden is spelled "kikôn" -- the "ki-" part of the word is the Algonkian word for "land" or "soil" or "ground" -- "Abenaki" for example, refers to the "Dawnland" or, literally, the place where the sun first looks down on the land, since these people were the ones who lived the farthest east on Turtle Island (North America).

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/04/19/how-did-a-self-taught-linguist-come-to-own-an-indigenous-language>

The prefix "psôn-" means "snow" so "psônkikôn" is a snowy field.

The suffix "-sis" means "little" (as in molsem=wolf and molsmesis=coyote OR pezo=wildcat (bobcat) and pesosis=domestic cat), so "psônkikonsis" would be a little snowy field, or just "kikonsis" would be a Littlefield.

There are many, many words in Abenaki relating to snow and snowshoes -- obviously an important part of their original culture in the north country. Some examples:

ôgem- snowshoe

ôgem pl ôgemak snowshoe, a snowshoe

ôgemaôbi pl ôgemaôbial a snowshoe string; pl ties, or harness, used to keep snowshoes connected to feet

ôgemaôzik one uses snowshoes

ôgematagw pl ôgematagol snowshoe lacing

ôgemakamek one makes snowshoes

ôgemakawôgan act of snowshoe making

ôgemakw pl ôgemakok white ash, snowshoe wood, *Fraxinus americana*

ôgemakwibeskaôtkwen pl ôgemakwibeskaôtkwenal an ash bough, a snowshoe tree branch

ôptôgska bend a snowshoe frame

ôptadema s/he is lacing snowshoes

adalademamek pl adalademamekil lacing snowshoes place, where one laces snowshoes

ademômek one laces a snowshoe

ademawôgan snowshoe lacing instrument

chitamtema fine meshed; s/he laces a snowshoe tightly

chitamtemamek one laces a snowshoe tightly

asigelademômek one weaves (a snowshoe) coarsely

kadôgema s/he takes off her snowshoes

azigan pl aziganal a foot wrapper, a moccasin liner

aziganapo it snows foot wrappers (said of large snowflakes falling slowly)

chitôpsôngwata snow gets deeper

kokokha pl kokokhak snowy owl, white-owl

kottlejagpo precipitation of mixed rain and snow

kottlipsôn it snows mixed

lôbazigamek one cuts something into strips (especially rawhide for snowshoe lacing)

nok- soft, loose

nokôliagzit what is soft snow

nokôliagzo s/he is soft snow

psô- snow

psôk when if it snows

psôn it snows

psôngwata snow is deep

psônka when it will snow, when will it snow

psônkikôn pl psônkikônal a snowy field

psônoso it snows a little

wazôli pl wazôliak snow, pl. snowballs

wazôliinebi snow water

wazôlis a little snow [wazôliskik = a little snow on the ground]

awighigan pl awighiganal = a book; a letter
kchiwigwôm pl kchiwigwômäl = headquarters, a big house, main house
negôni = old
negôni wigwôm pl negôni wigwômäl = an old house
pedgwigwôm pl pedegwigwômäl = a round house



Abenaki = kchi ôwdi
Alakwsôwdi = the star path





attali? “play” = papi

-mek is both locative (for names) and an event ending meaning “do”





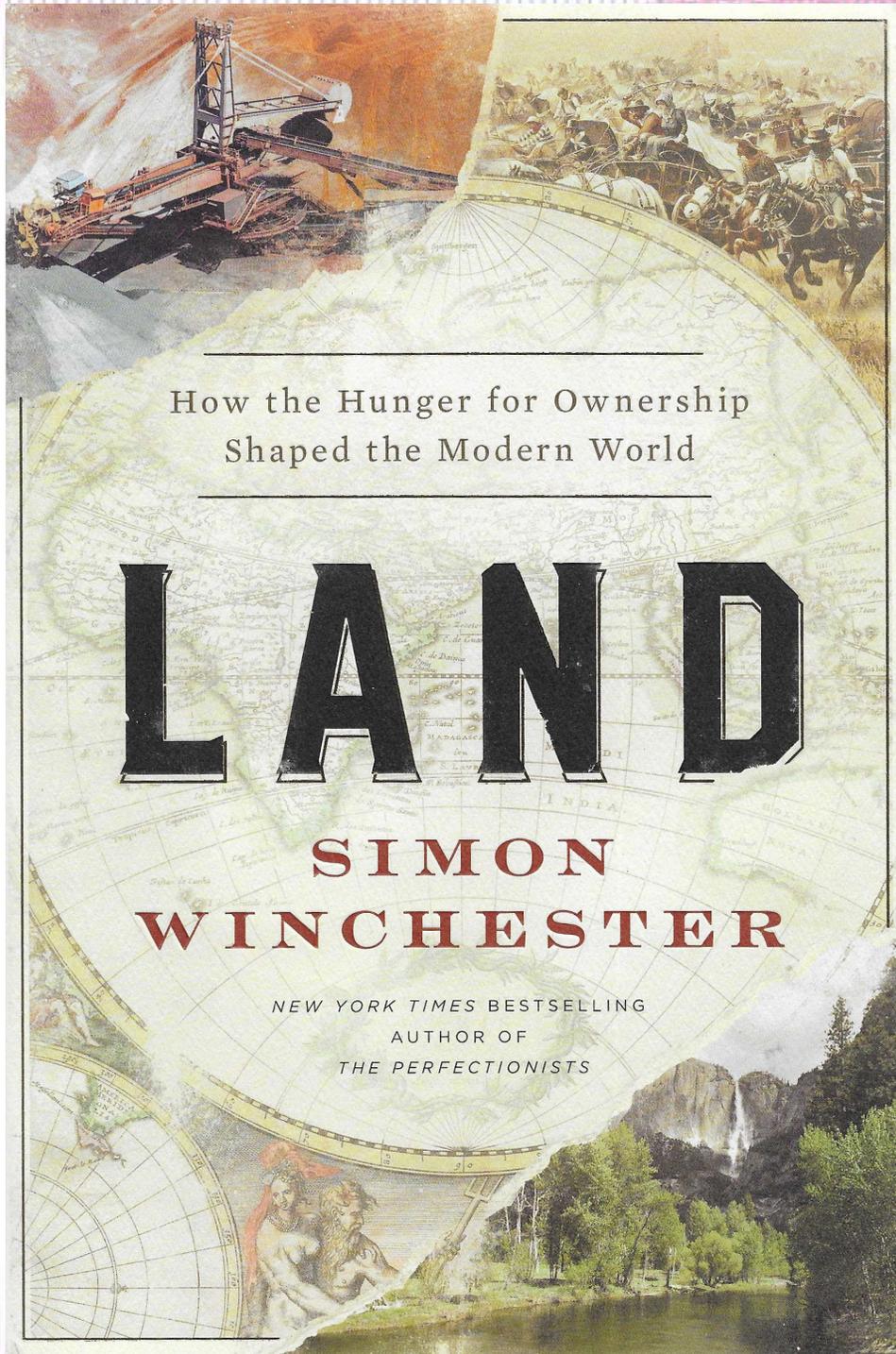






Renaming at Monument Mountain





How the Hunger for Ownership
Shaped the Modern World

LAND

SIMON
WINCHESTER

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING
AUTHOR OF
THE PERFECTIONISTS

**awas- beyond, on the other side, over
awasaden the other side of the hill or mountain**

Awasadenek Housatonic River, CT, beyond the mountain

**awasagiwi over beyond, on the other side
awasakwa beyond the woods**

Awasadenek Housatonic River, CT and MA, at the over the mountain place

- **Laurent**

HOUSATONIC, (Abenakis), for *awasadenik*, beyond the mountain ; over the hill. This is from : *awasi...* beyond, *aden*, mountain or hill (only in composition), and *ik*, one of the Abenakis suffixes which gives the name in local term.

- **Masta**

HOUSATONICK RIVER. The sources of this river are in the towns of Lanesborough and Windsor, Berkshire Co., Mass. It meets the tide water at Derby, 14 miles above its entrance into Long Island Sound.

Housatonick from Awass'adenik meaning over the mountain.

Prefix "Awassa" means Over, Suffix "Aden" means Mountain. The particle "ik" means to or at.

New AMC Chapter Name

POCUMTUCK or Deerfield River, Franklin Co. Mass. This beautiful and important Indian stream joins the Connecticut between Freenfield and Deerfield.

Pocumtuck from Pokw8mtekw meaning Very narrow river.

Kweni-tekw declined.

Nom:—Kwenitekw—*Connecticut.*

Gen:—Kwenitekw'i—*Of Connecticut.*

Dat:—Kwenitekwok—*To Connecticut.*

Acc:—Kwenitekw—*Connecticut.*

Tbl:—Kwenitekw ok—*From connecticut.*

'A hymn of love to the world'

ELIZABETH GILBERT



BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



Indigenous Wisdom,
Scientific Knowledge and
the Teachings of Plants

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER