

- my email: mfw@mfw.us
- my blog: <http://www.mfw.us/blog/>

An OLLI Walk Through Berkshire History: Overview

Today: The Mahican-Mohawk Trail

Future Sessions:

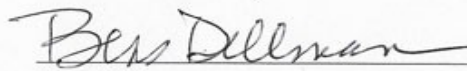
- Stockbridge: Ice Glen & Laura's Tower
- Monterey: The Bidwell House
- Becket/Chester/Middlefield: The Keystone Arch Bridges and the Railway to the Moon
- Alford Springs
- Lenox: Parsons Marsh




BERKSHIRE HIKERS 2018 AWARDS

**BEST STORY TELLER
(FACTS MATTER)**

this certificate is awarded to:
Michael Wilcox


Bess Dillman


Joe Gelinas

<http://www.mfw.us/blog/2019/03/02/word-of-the-day-usufruct/>

These three concepts of property rights come down to us from Roman Law.

1. *usus* = simple use
2. *usufruct* = rights to the product of the property
3. *abusus* = right to destroy or convey ownership

Williams High School

The Town of Stockbridge
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Michael Forbes Wilcox

has completed the College course prescribed by the
School Committee for graduation and is presented with this

Diploma

In testimony whereof we have hereto affixed our
signatures, this fourteenth day of June in the year of Our Lord
One Thousand Nine Hundred and sixty-three.

Edwin S. Flinn
School Committee, Chairman



Wilfred M. Gallagher
Principal
Superintendent



LIFE iN GeNeRAL



Gertrude Radigue



Richard Robbins



Michael Wilcox



Vera Sweet

SIX APPOINTMENTS IN FOUR DEPARTMENTS

Michael F. Wilcox, Systems Programmer,
Group Insurance. Michael came to CG in 1967.
He is a senior at American International
College, where he is president of the evening
school honor society.



Madeline Martine



James Hopkins

Five Supervisors Named In Data Processing



Charles Kickham



Gary Lehrman



William Sherris



Michael Wilcox



Timothy Wood

QWAFAFEW

Quantitative Work Alliance for Applied Finance,
Education, and Wisdom

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Events

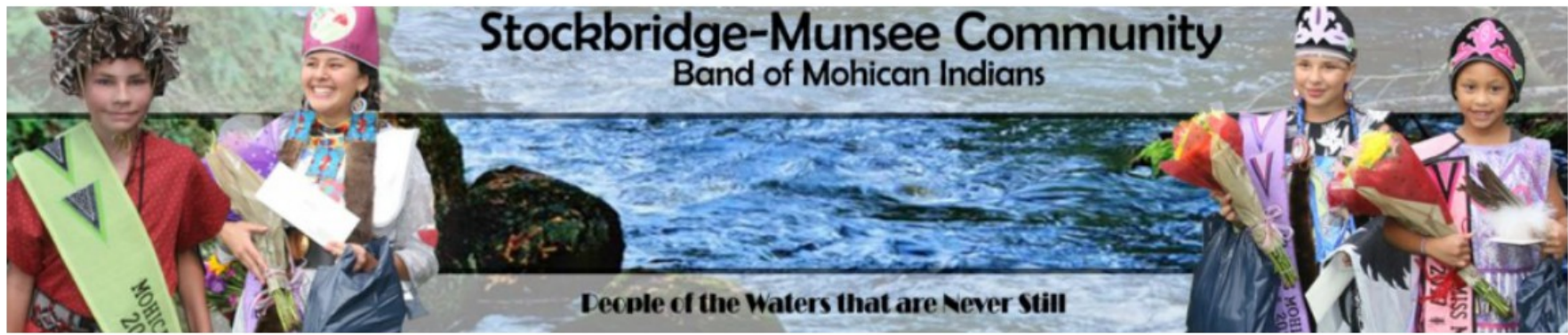
EDINBURGH UK QWAFAFEW
Thurs 11 April 2019 – Dan di
Bartolomeo, "Incorporating Text
News Analytics into Risk
Assessments"

Source: QWAFAFEW New York
Events | Published on 2019-04-11

Next Boston QWAFAFEW
Meeting: 16 Apr 2019

Anushiik

Ah-noo-sheek

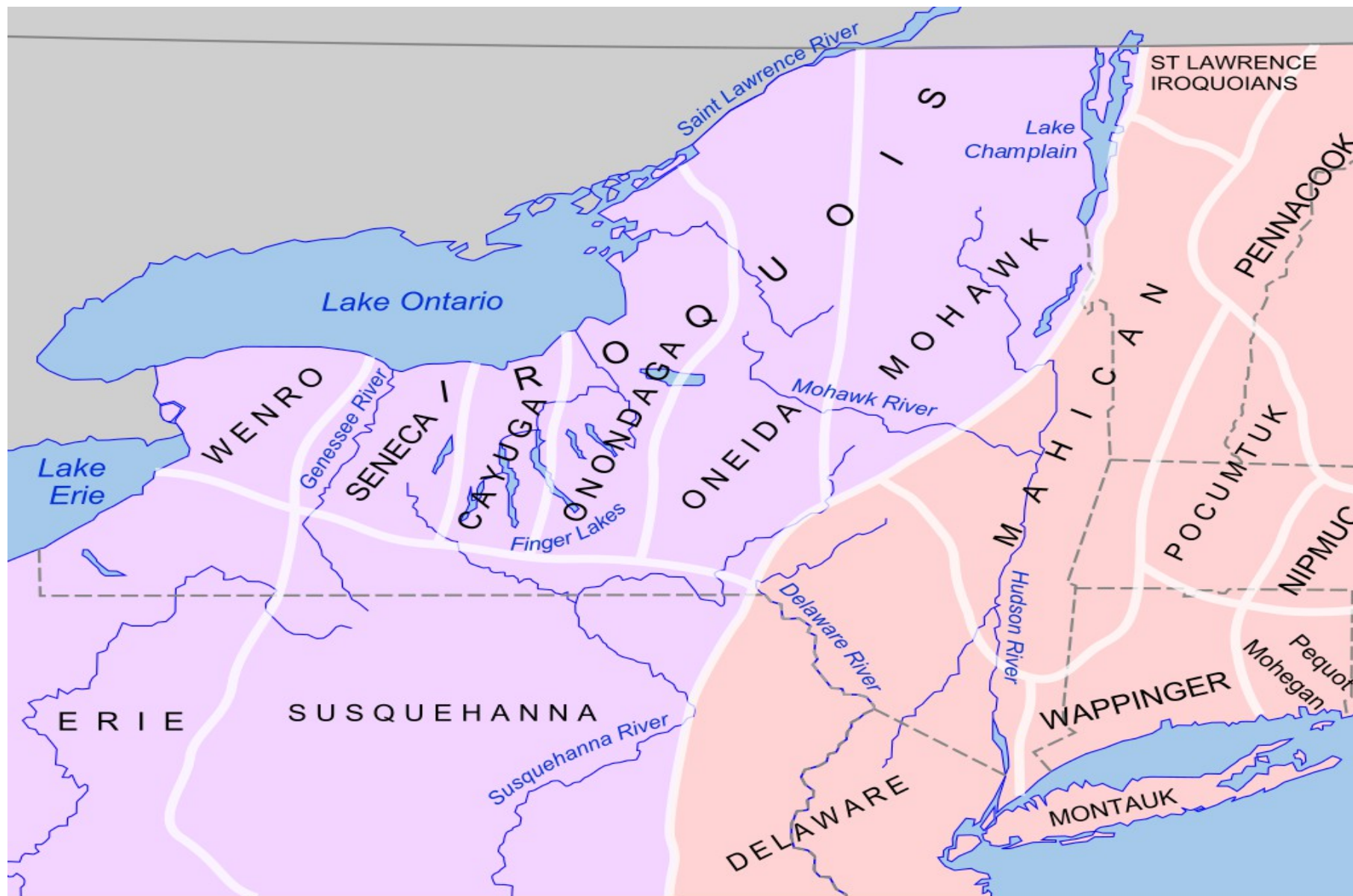


Come With Me to the Pre-Contact Berkshires

Let us now begin our exploration together of a sampling of what makes The Berkshires the most special place on this planet.

Property One: The Mahican-Mohawk Trail

- Where is the Mahican-Mohawk Trail?
- What was its original purpose?
- Who are the Mahicans?
- Who are the Mohawks?
- Are there other, similar, trails, and if so, where?
- What was Berkshire County like before it was Berkshire County?
- How and when did Berkshire County come into existence?
- Why do I have so many questions?





Early tourist postcards of the Mohawk Trail feature “the wigwam,” the Whitcomb Summit, and famous Hairpin Turn on the way down to North Adams.

Heydays along the Mohawk Trail

Lauren R. Stevens

Engineering that was remarkable for its day in 1914 created automobile passage over the forbidding Hoosac Mountains, second in these parts only to boring a railroad tunnel through the same rock some four decades earlier. But my interest is more in the context of the construction. When you set out for an automobile ride, is it the trip itself, seeing the sights and stopping occasionally for snacks and gifts? Or is it your goal to avoid towns and get to your destination as soon as possible? The centennial of the Mohawk Trail automobile road defines that issue.

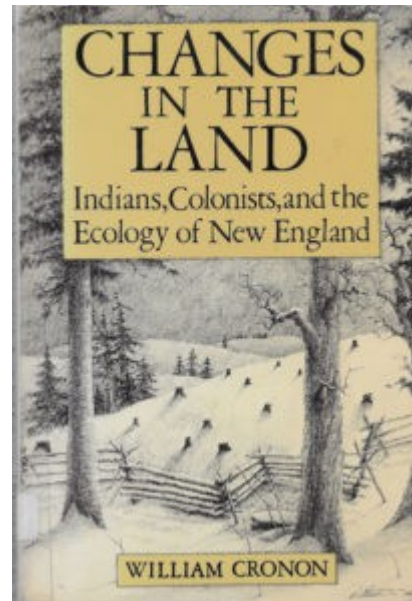
A few comments on Stevens's article:

- "In Colonial days, almost all European arrivals in Berkshire County came from the south..."
- "... a Mohawk raid on the Pocumtucks ... in timely fashion for the arrival of settlers of European extraction."
- "... the closing of the American frontier. 'Wyoming Bill's Wild West Show' ..."

Speaking of wilderness, here is a passage from the essay I shared, *The Trouble with Wilderness*, by Bill Cronon.

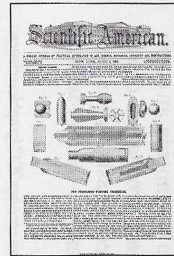
Indeed, one could almost measure wilderness by the extent to which our recognition of its otherness requires a conscious, willed act on our part. The romantic legacy means that wilderness is more a state of mind than a fact of nature, and the state of mind that today most defines wilderness is wonder.

https://www.williamcronon.net/writing/Trouble_with_Wilderness_Main.html



Now since it is but foode and rayment that men that live needeth (though not all alike,) why should not the Natives of New England be sayd to live richly, having no want of either?"

Thomas Morton 1632



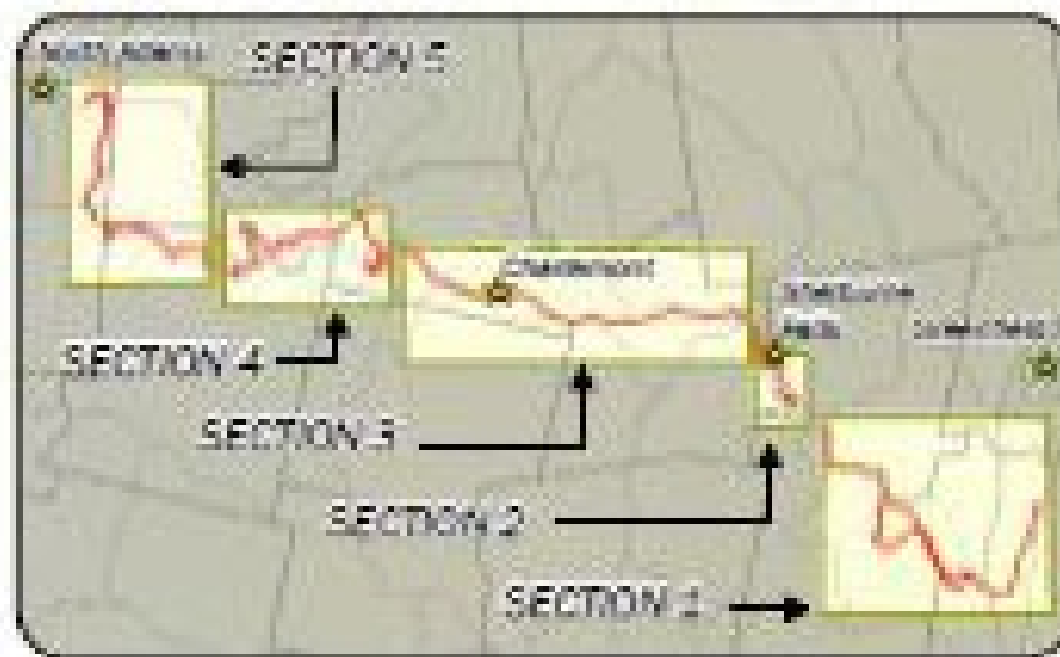
April 1863

A Prairie's Value

"It is a singular fact that what were vast treeless prairies in Illinois, twelve

years ago, are now covered with a dense growth of thrifty young forest trees, comprising various species of oak, hickory, cottonwood, ash, etc. So rapid has been this change in many localities, that where some of the early settlers located, twenty to twenty-five years ago, without a tree around them, they can now cut and hew good building timber a foot square. Prairie land, when kept from the annual fall burning formerly practiced by the Indians, rapidly produces a growth of trees. Some of the old citizens, who greedily located the timber land when they came to this country, and were careless about acquiring prairie, now find the latter of more value than the former; their timber has grown faster than they used it."

- <https://www.mass.gov/location-details/mahican-mohawk-trail>
- <https://www.bnrc.org/trails-and-maps/top-10-berkshire-trails/hoosac-range/>

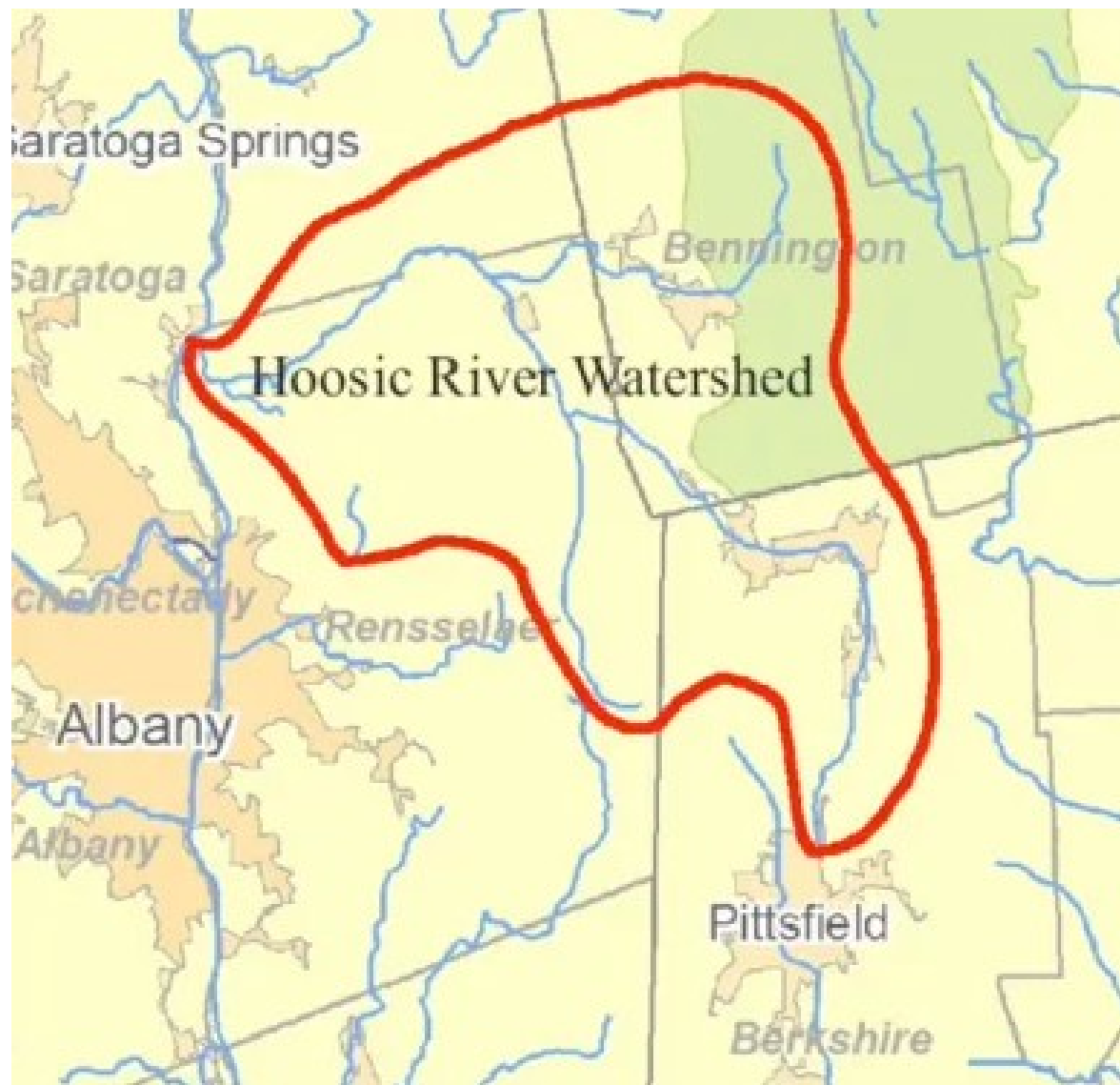


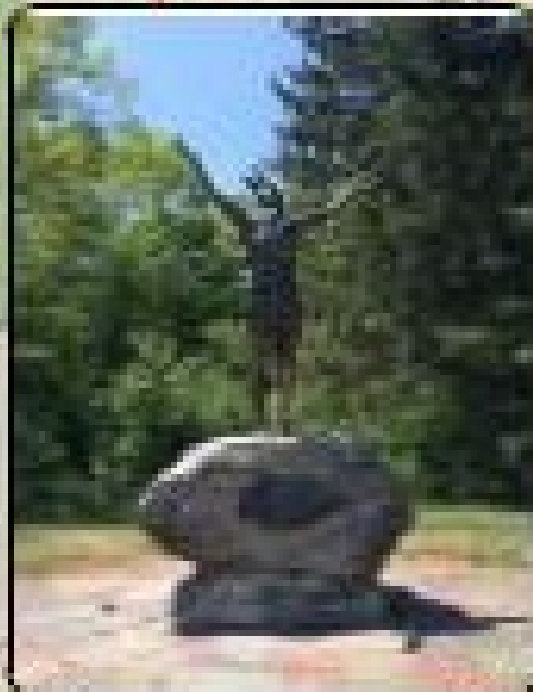






Hall to the Sunrise
Monument was
erected Oct. 1, 1932,
to honor the Mohawk
Nation that inhabited
Western Massachusetts
and New York State.



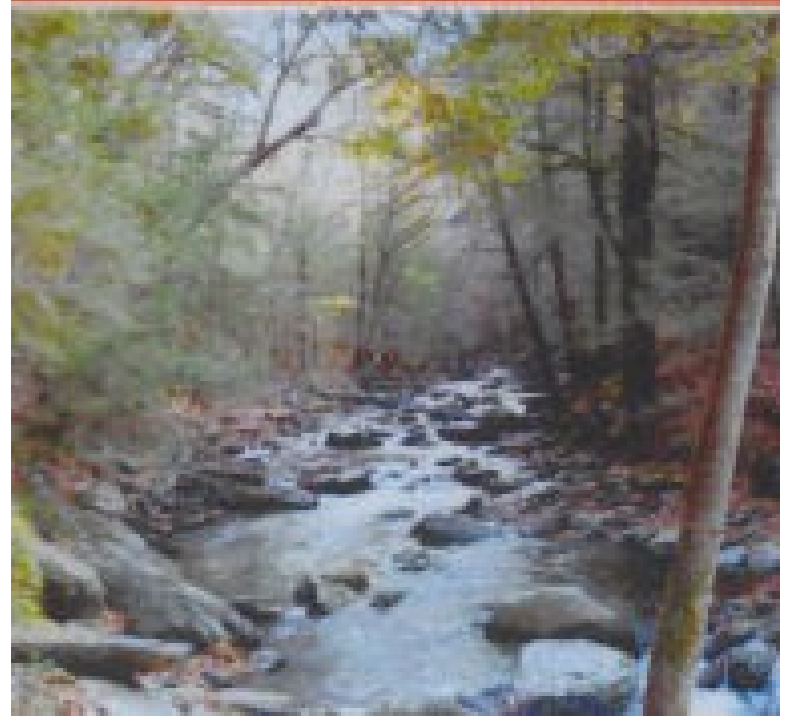


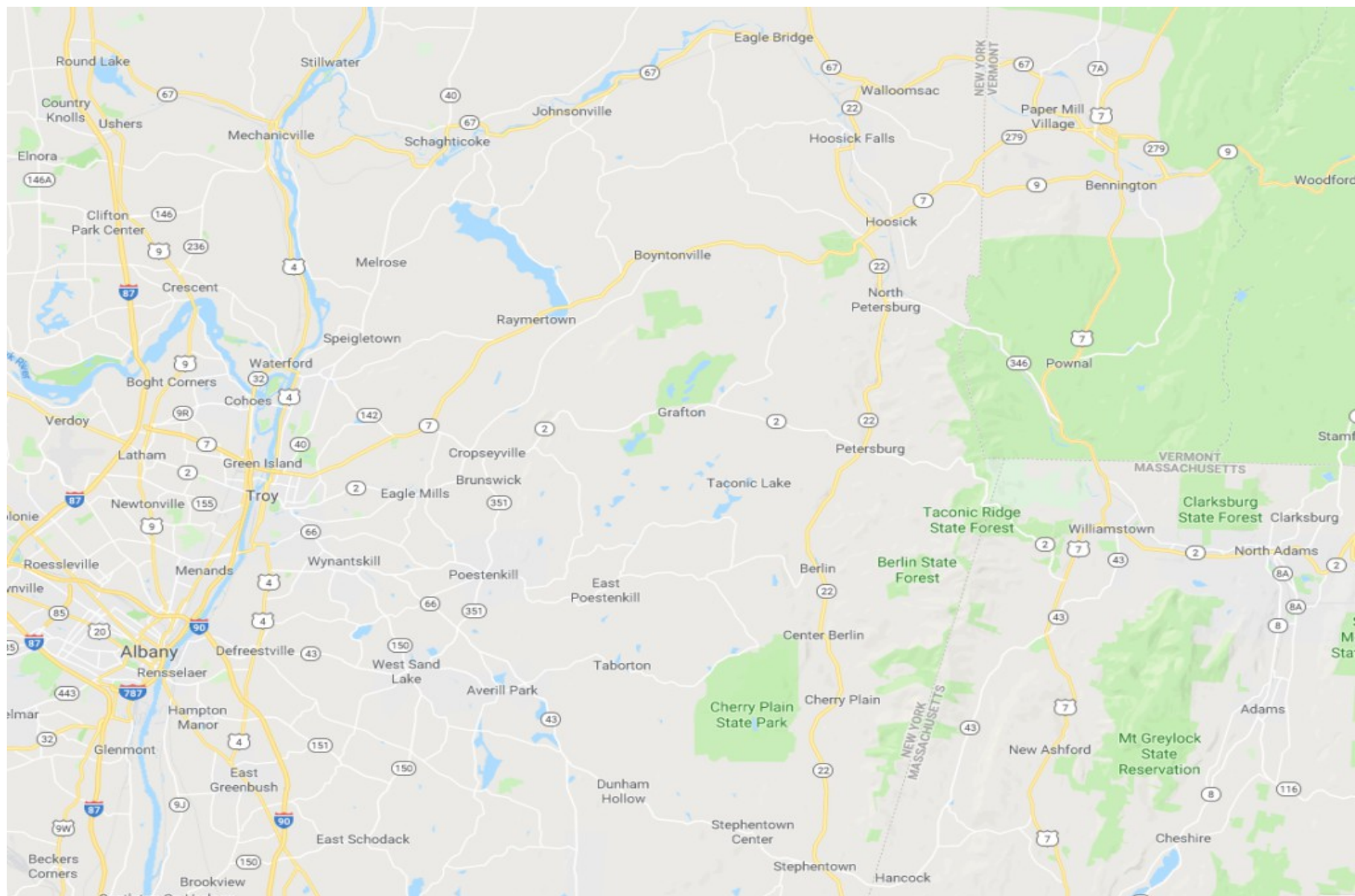
Hail to the Sunrise Monument was erected Oct. 1, 1932, to honor the Mohawk Nation that inhabited Western Massachusetts and New York State.

THE INDIANS OF THE BERKSHIRES

AND THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

David C. King





I have also retained the traditional English spelling of “Mohican” rather than the Dutch and subsequent ethnological spelling “Mahican” in order to make the work more generally familiar. Neither version should be confused, however, with “Mohegan,” the term used for the Indians concentrated mainly in Connecticut who at one time were part of the Pequots. After the Stockbridge Indians achieved the ability to write and communicate in English, they referred to themselves as “Muhheconnuk” or “Moheakunnuk.” The pronunciation of the first syllable, therefore, is with the short “o” (as in “Monday”).

*From **The Mohicans of Stockbridge** by Patrick Frazier*

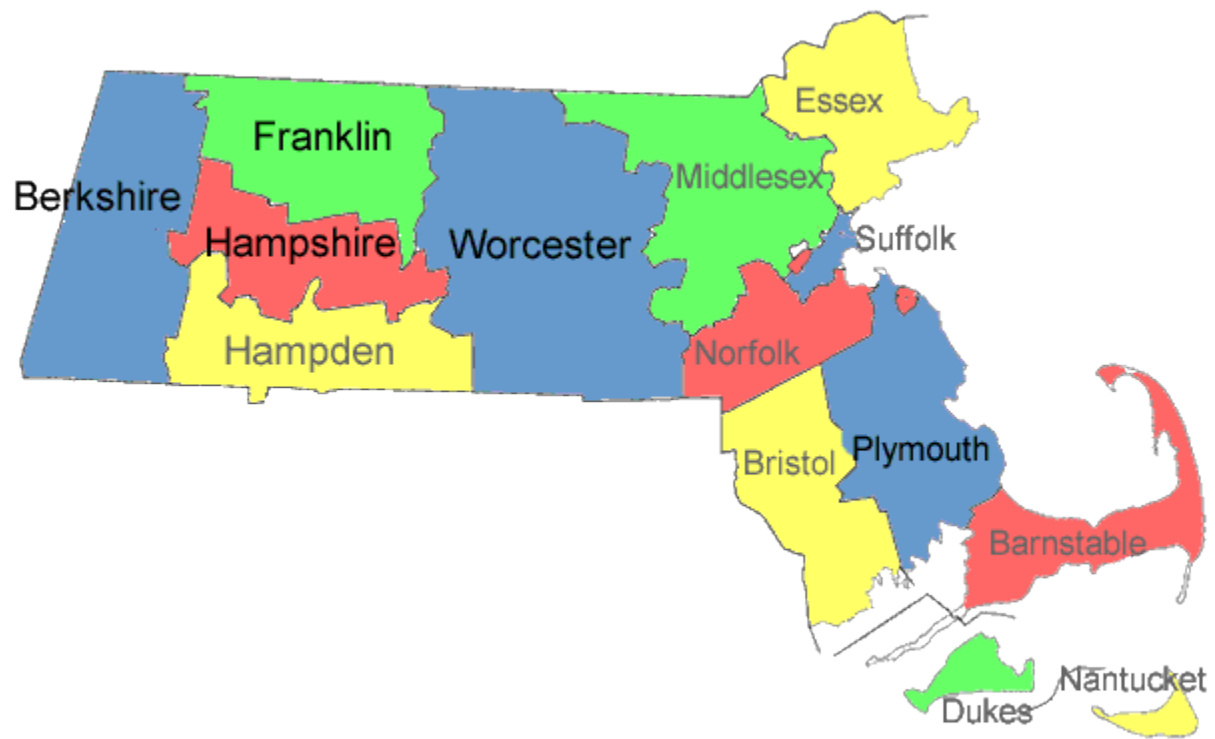
The similarity between their names is due to coincidence and European mispronunciation-- "Mahican" comes from the word Muheconneok, "from the waters that are never still" (the Hudson River), and "Mohegan" comes from the word Mahiingan, "wolf." Today there are about 3000 Mahican Indians in Wisconsin, where they were forced to emigrate, and many Mahican descendents scattered throughout New England.

<http://www.native-languages.org/mohican.htm>

- MoHeConNuck
- Mo-hea-con-nuck
- Muh-he-con-neok [I'm told this -- with long "e"s -- is probably closest to the actual pronunciation]
- All of these mean "People of the Waters that are Never Still" and are related to the name of the River, **Mohicannituck**







BERKSHIRE COUNTY

Topographical Map of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, showing the towns of Adams, Amherst, Belchertown, Berkshire, Bourne, Brookfield, Chatham, Colerain, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, Lenox, Northampton, Otis, Pittsfield, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Warren, Westerlo, and Windsor.

Scale of Miles
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Published by the
Massachusetts State
Geological Survey
1900