

Location of Nineteenth Century Pottawatomie Villages In or Near Fullersburg*

“The Potawatomi village of Sauganakka encompassed what is present day Oak Brook from the 1700’s to mid-1830’s. Early settlers traded with and wrote about the Native American dwellings in Fullersburg north of Salt Creek along York Road.” Fullersburg Chronicles, Valerie Spale and Donald Fuller

“In an interview shortly before she passed away, Mrs. Graue told how the mill ground whole wheat, white and rye flour... . She remembered Indians living in huts on the north side of the creek, on a clearing east of York Road; how they would wander over to the Graue’s place when the syrup was being boiled down, and how the family would always give them some of it spread over corn cakes. ... All of the Pottawattomie did not leave with the main body of the tribe when it was removed from this region, and some of them lingered on the north bank of the creek, both east and west of York Road, at the time the neighborhood was being settled.” Village on the County Line, Hugh Dugan, 1949

“Before 1830, there were four primary Indian villages in DuPage, according to the DuPage County Cultural and Historical Inventory prepared by the DuPage County Regional Planning Commission in 1993. One was along the east side of Salt Creek, near what is Oak Brook today.” Chicago Tribune, S. R. Carroll, July 2, 1995

“Little concrete evidence of the Indian occupation of DuPage County is to be found today, but four major Indian villages are believed to have existed in the area in the early 1800’s... . One of the major villages lay along Salt Creek, just south of present Elmhurst. To the north of it were two camps and a signal station; to the south, two chipping stations and a mound.” DuPage County, a Descriptive and Historical Guide, Marion Knoblauch, 1951

“From the late 17th Century to 1833-35, Potawatomi Indians lived in the Chicago area. A Potawatomi village called “Sauganakka” was located in the eastern section of present day Oak Brook.” Historical ‘Timeline,’ Village of Oak Brook, Oak Brook Historical Society

“On the property now owned by the forest preserve, the Potawatomie tribe assembled a major village that included a chipping station and ceremonial mounds. Today’s Ogden Avenue as well as Spring, Plainfield, and Joliet Roads were built over ancient Indian trails.” Images of America: Hinsdale, Sandra Bennett Williams, 2013

“Oak Brook is located in the lower Salt Creek drainage basin, where Salt Creek turns eastward toward the Des Plaines River. From the late 1600’s to the early 1800’s, the region was the location of the largest Potawatomie settlement in what is now DuPage County. Oak Brook was then known as Sauganakka.” Encyclopedia of Chicago, 2004

“By 1800 the Potawatomi had 6,000 people in fifty major villages, from Milwaukee around the bend of Lake Michigan to St. Joseph. In DuPage there were four major villages: one near Oak Brook on the Salt Creek... .” DuPage Roots, DuPage County Historical Society, 1985

*There are spelling variations of “Pottawatomie”; Fullersburg Historic Foundation, Sue Devick, Director