

# Native Americans and the Settlement Era in DuPage County, Illinois

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# Scharf map inset

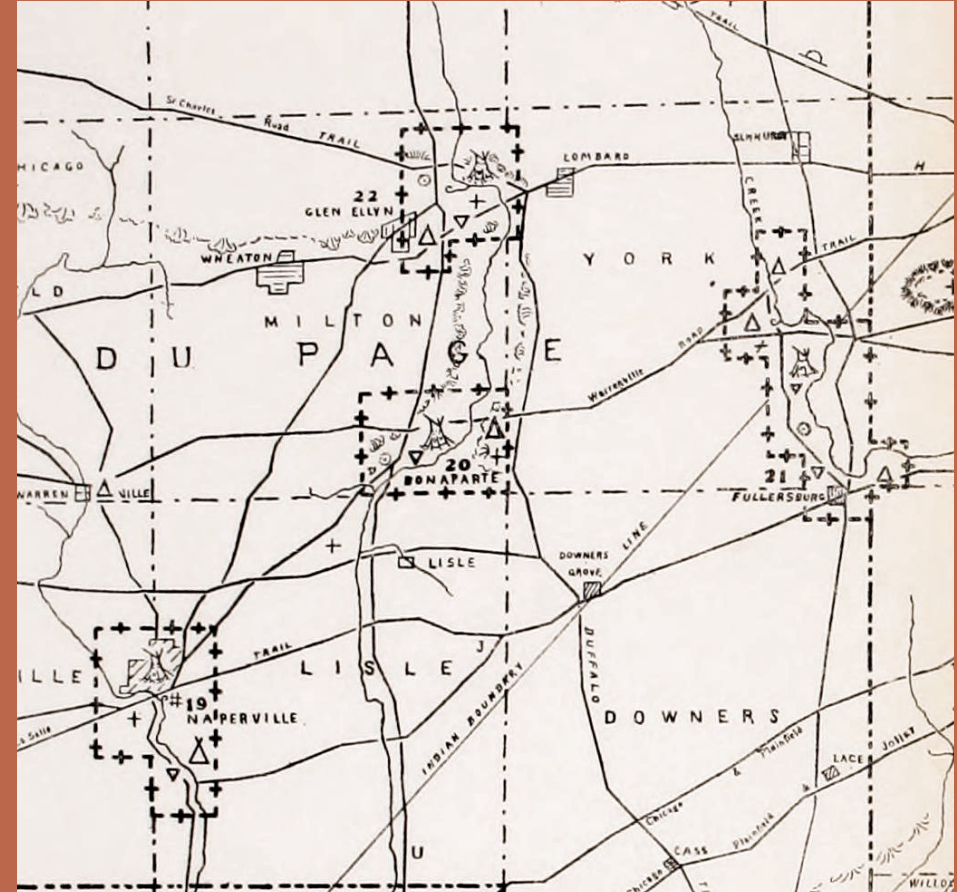
## Native American villages in DuPage:

**Fullersburg (21) village, 3 camps, burial mound, 2 chipping stations, signal station**

**Glen Ellyn (22) village, camp, signal station, chipping station, mound**

**Bonaparte (20) village, camp, chipping station, mound, signal station**

**Naperville (19) village, camp, signal station, chipping station**

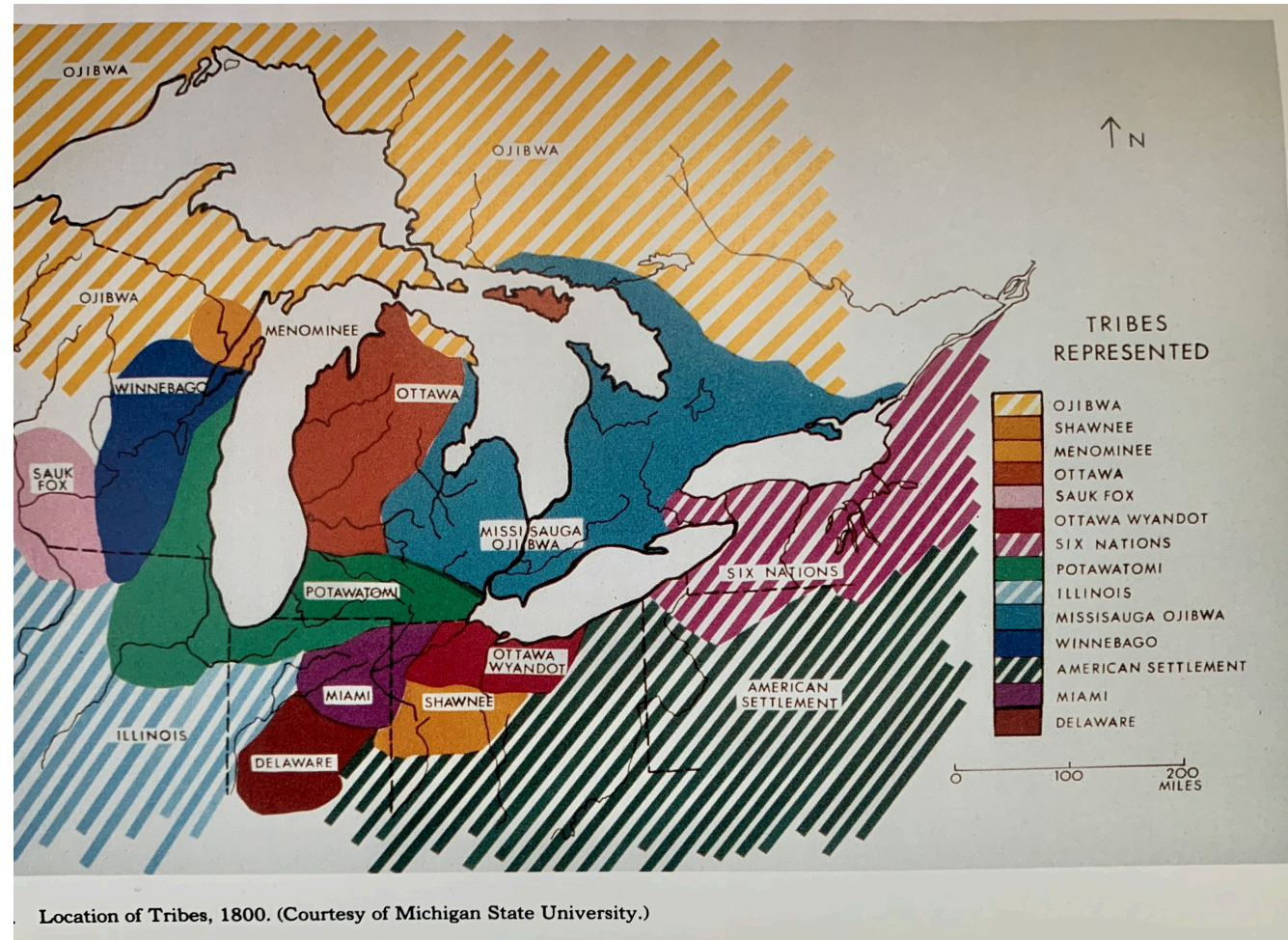




# Who were the Potawatomi?

## One of the Anishinaabe tribes

- Three Fires Confederacy united
- Chippewa, Ottawa, Potawatomi
- Linked by alliance, culture, trade, speech
- Locations around Lake Superior, Huron, Michigan
- Tribal structure—collections of bands, clans
- Three tribes lived freely with each other; by 1800, very little difference between them
- Historical migration westward due to Iroquois aggression, continuous unrest
- Strong French connections
- Similar alliance between Sauk and Fox, who were not Great Lakes tribes



# About the Potawatomi

Seasonal migration; portable, easily built wigwams

Hunted deer, elk, bear, beaver, wild birds

Clothing made of skins, including moccasins

Men hunted, played lacrosse, archery, athletic contests, prepared to be warriors--feathers

Excellent canoe builders and traders

Women farmed, gathered, cared for children and helped to construct houses

Simple marriage ceremony

Spiritual—Every living and natural thing had spirit (manitou); afterlife journey 4 days

photos courtesy of Citizen Potawatomi Nation





# Historical Events Leading to Black Hawk War

**1803 Louisiana Purchase**

**1804 Controversial Treaty of St. Louis**  
(See map, right; courtesy of Wikipedia)

**1812-14 War; Shabbona pledged peace**

**1818 Illinois became 21st state**

**1825 Erie Canal was finished**

**1830 Indian Removal Act**

**1832 Black Hawk War**

**1833 Treaty of Chicago**



# Who was involved in the Black Hawk War?



Shabbona, or  
"Built Like A Bear"  
(1775/6 – 1859)



Black Hawk, or  
"Black Sparrow Hawk"  
(1767-1838)



Keokuk, or  
"Watchful Fox"  
(1780-1848)

# Dramatic events that impacted DuPage County

- **Black Hawk's band crossed the Mississippi River into Illinois (1000 braves, women, children)**
- **Black Hawk's war dance at Keokuk's lodge**
- **Aurora Council between Black Hawk and Shabbona; Shabbona's warning saved many settlers and avoided full U.S. war response**
- **Settlers' flight through Brush Hill to Chicago**
- **Indian Creek, Hall Sisters' kidnapping**
- **War ended at Bad Axe; Sauk men, women, and children were killed as they tried to recross Mississippi River**



# 1833 Treaty of Chicago and Impact on Illinois

Potawatomi had to “sell” by treaty their remaining land in northern Illinois (and other areas)

Forced to move west of Mississippi River, to Iowa and then close to Sauk area in Kansas; Shabbona did not fare well, and some Potawatomi lingered in DuPage County

Some Potawatomi lingered peacefully in Fullersburg for many years; difficult life, hardships

Land acknowledgement statements made recently by local institutions

*“The Forest Preserves of Cook County acknowledges that we are on the lands of the Council of Three Fires—the Ojibwa, Ottawa and Potawatomi—as well as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sauk, and Meskwaki peoples.*

*As a land management agency, we acknowledge that we have played a role in shaping the histories of local Native Americans by acquiring this land. We also recognize, share and celebrate their immemorial ties to this land.*

*We commit ourselves to developing deeper partnerships that advocate for the progress, dignity, and humanity of the many diverse Native Americans who still live and practice their heritage and traditions on this land today.”*

