



BOB AND AUDREY MAURICE  
AT WORK ON A QUILT

“a culture at risk”—from the title of a book published by an organization they are quite familiar with, and they do not provide any citation. Obviously the phrase has been used loosely in a variety of contexts, and, as a result, the Elberts felt justified in using it as common property. Although the content of Charles Phillips and Patricia Hogan’s *A Culture at Risk* (1984) is different from that of *History from the Heart*, the context and intended meaning is virtually the same.

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*Indian Names on Wisconsin’s Map.* By Virgil J. Vogel. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1991. Pp. xvii, 323. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$42.50; paperbound, \$19.95.)

Virgil J. Vogel identifies Indian tribal, personal, descriptive, commemorative, and cultural names on today’s maps of Wisconsin. Complexity confronts any study of Indian place names; there are at least fifteen variant spellings of the state’s name, ranging from Mesconsin to Ouisconsens to Quisconsin to Wiskonsin, with attri-

bution made to five Indian languages and to French. Beyond general acceptance that the name belongs to the river, several definitions of the word itself have been suggested. Scholars may never find conclusive evidence for a particular spelling, attribution, or meaning of the word Wisconsin.

The initial Indian inhabitants gave names to their villages and to geographic features. Successive occupants kept some of the names and modified or replaced others. When European-American explorers, missionaries, traders, armies, and settlers heard and recorded these Indian words, they created an orthographic jumble of sorts. Indiana readers will recognize, for example, that Wea and Ouia are the same word, as are Maumee and Miami.

From Algonquin Park to Winnebago Point, Wisconsin's maps bear not only names of tribes who resided there but also of some non-resident tribes such as the Seneca. Most Indian personal names were put on the map by whites. Chiefs and warriors lead the list; but the other names vary and include a Quebec maiden candidate for Catholic sainthood and subject of ten biographies in six languages; mixed-blood French-Indian names; and names taken from *Hiawatha* and other nineteenth-century literature.

The Indians' material cultures and their spirit worlds are reflected in many of today's place names, as are flora and fauna. Wisconsin also borrowed names from other places; the name Tippecanoe, for example, came to Wisconsin from Indiana. Other borrowed place names were brought by Mexican War veterans, and eleven more Indian-derived names came from other states. There are even contrived pseudo-Indian names that are not recognizable words in any language.

Vogel's book is more than a listing-glossary or gazetteer. Names are posited in a simple classification system and are subjected to historical scrutiny, linguistic analysis, and anecdotal explanation. In cases where conjecture is necessary, Vogel's guesses are well informed. Furthermore, the book is good reading.

The documentation and bibliography are extensive and helpful, although the index should be expanded to include all of the place names in the text. Beyond Vogel's previously published volumes on Illinois (1963), Iowa (1983), and Michigan (1986), Wisconsin is the best.

*Indian Names on Wisconsin's Map* could well serve as a model for Indiana. Jacob Piatt Dunn's *True Indian Stories, with a Glossary of Indiana Indian Names* (1908) and Ronald Baker and Marvin Carmony's *Indiana Place Names* (1975) have introduced the subject.

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