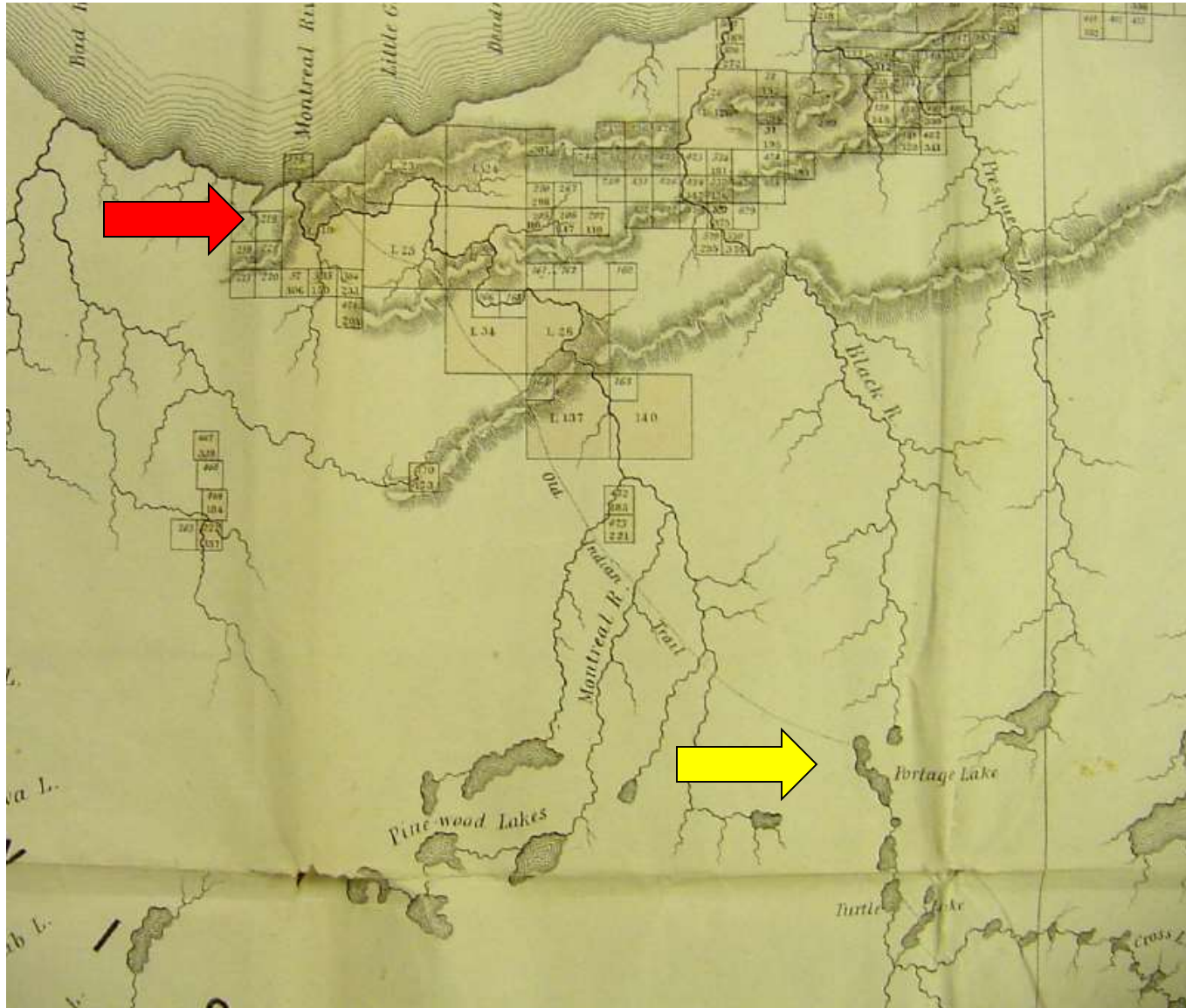
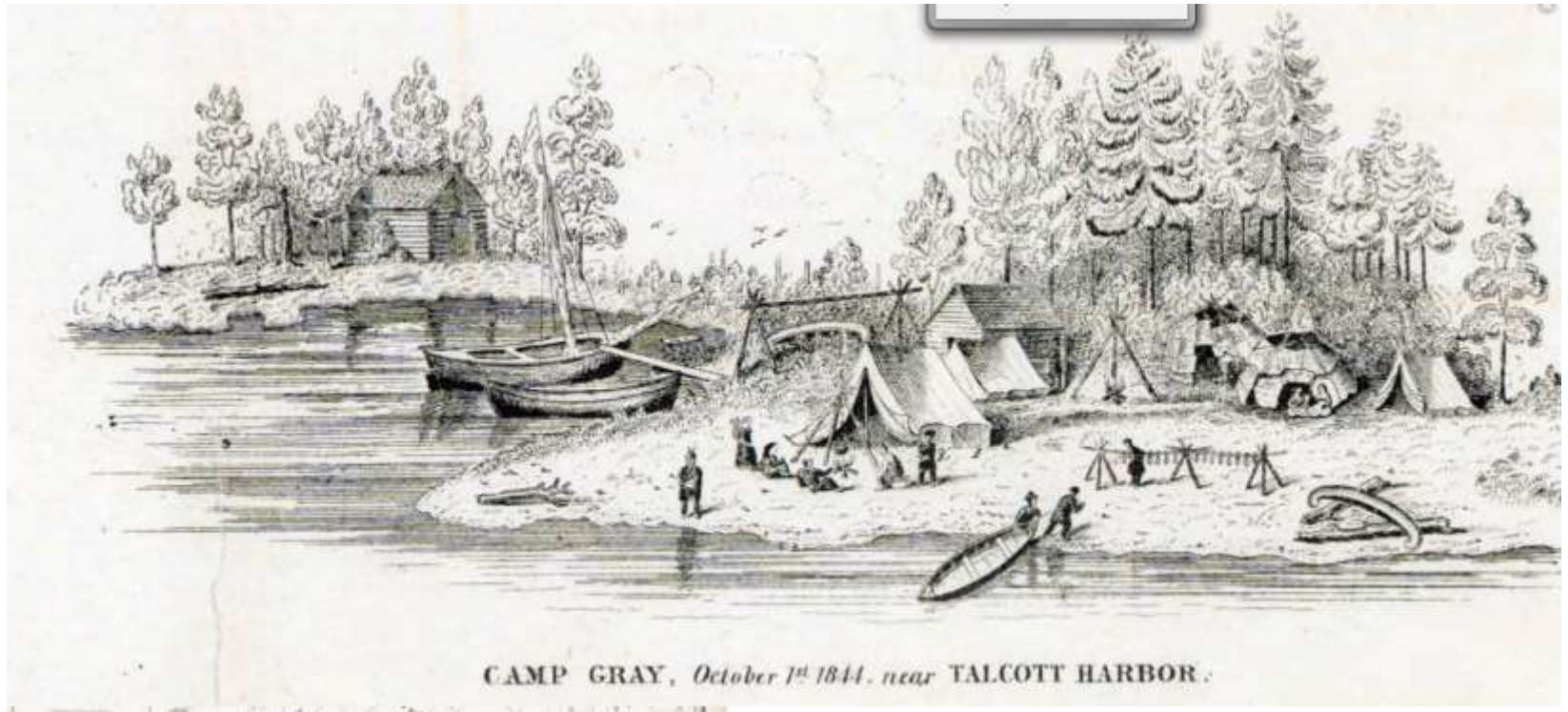


# Flambeau Trail Legacy

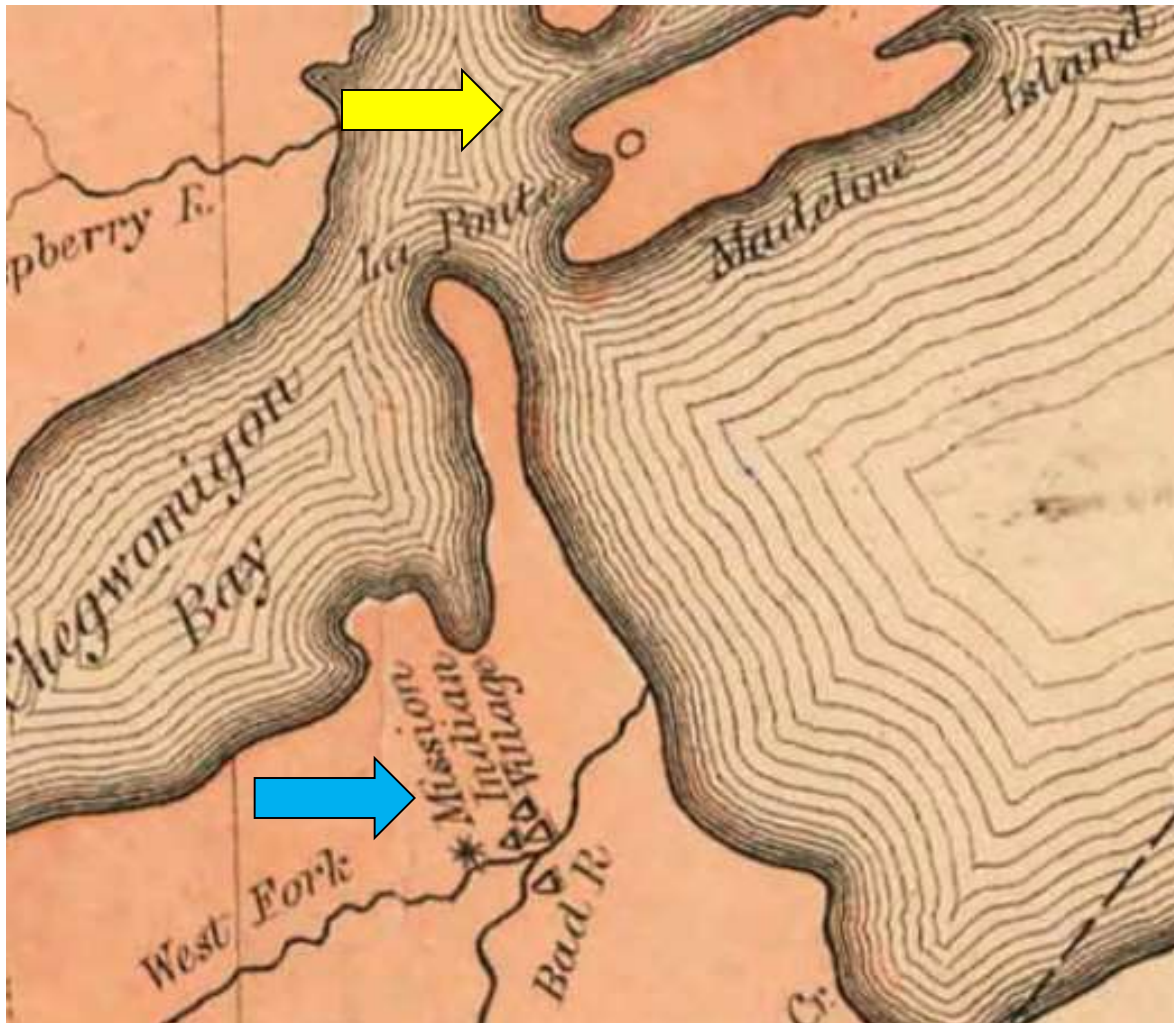


# Lake Superior communities



CAMP GRAY, *October 1<sup>st</sup> 1844, near TALCOTT HARBOR.*

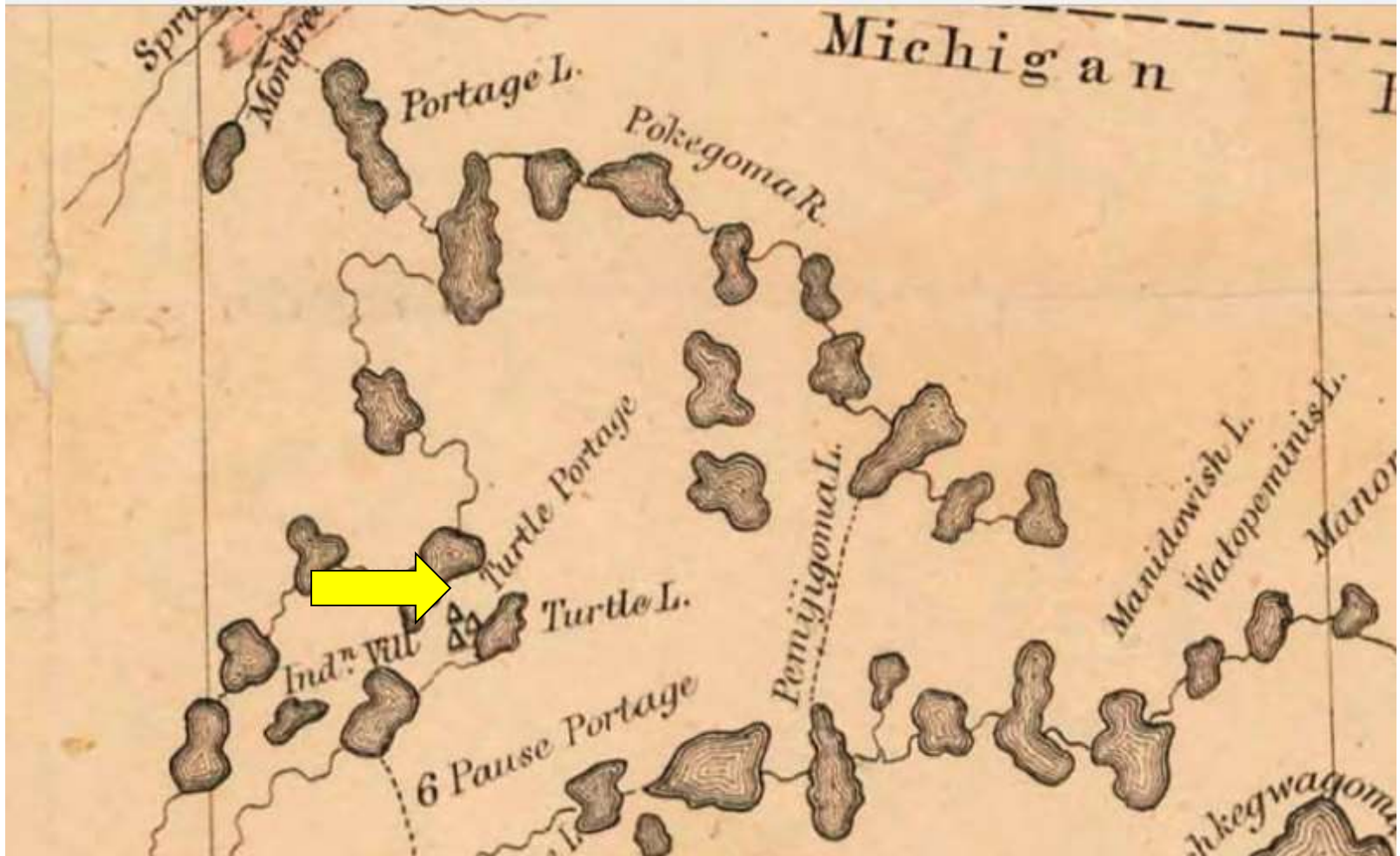
# Lake Superior communities near Flambeau trail



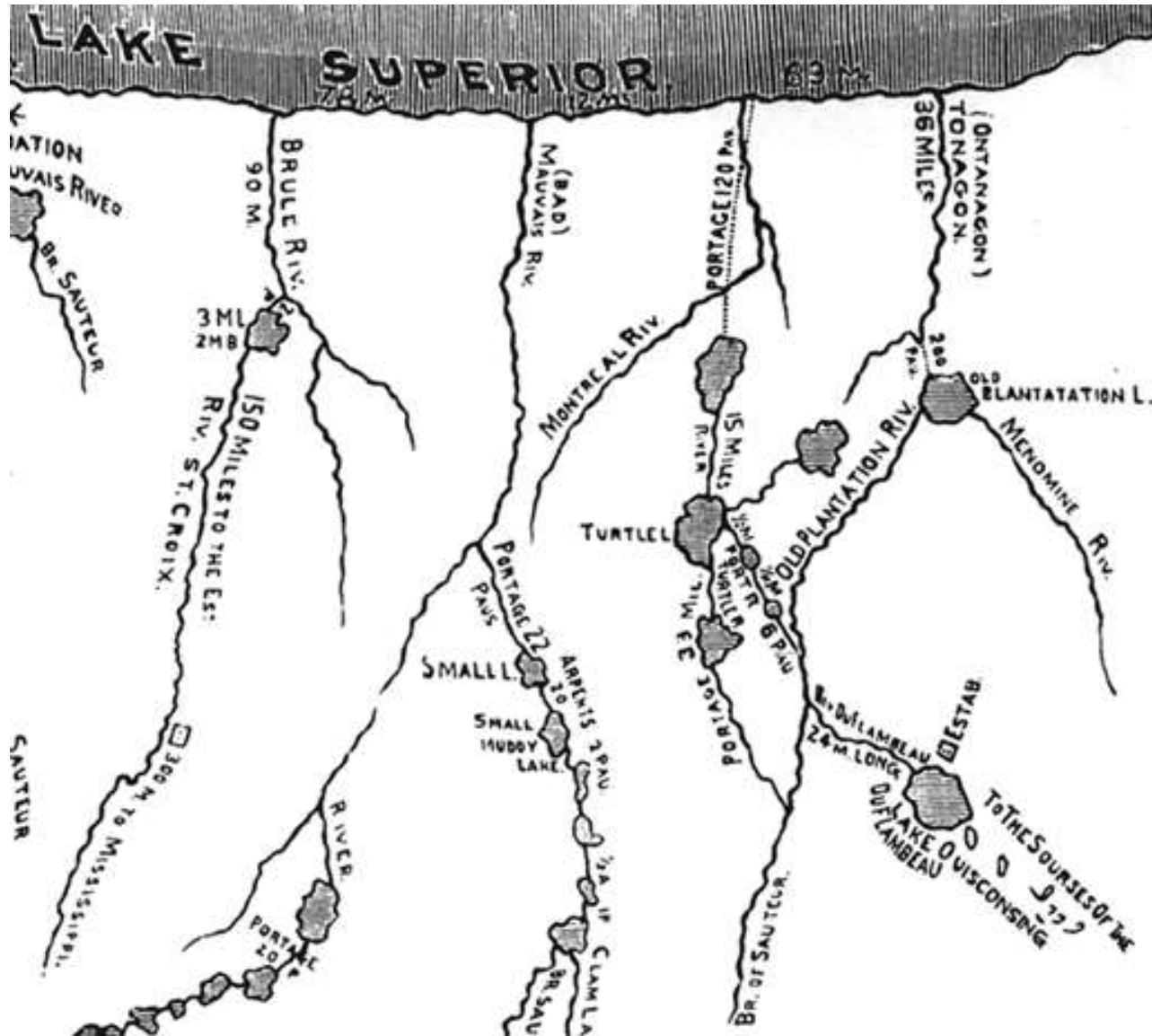
# Interior lake communities



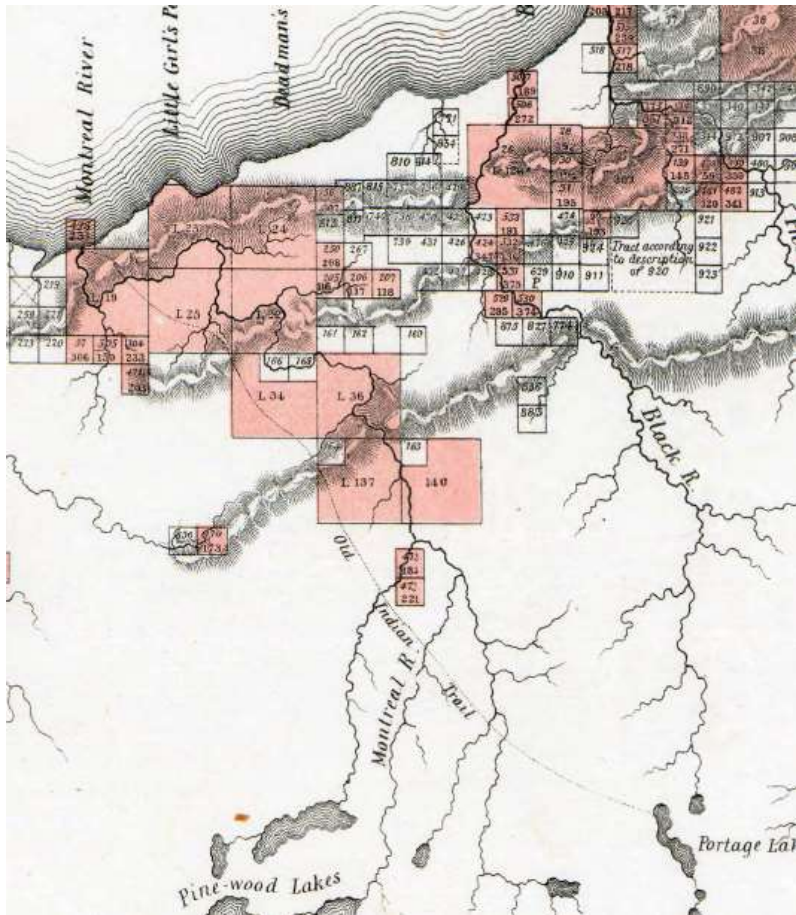
# Interior villages- ex. Turtle Portage Band



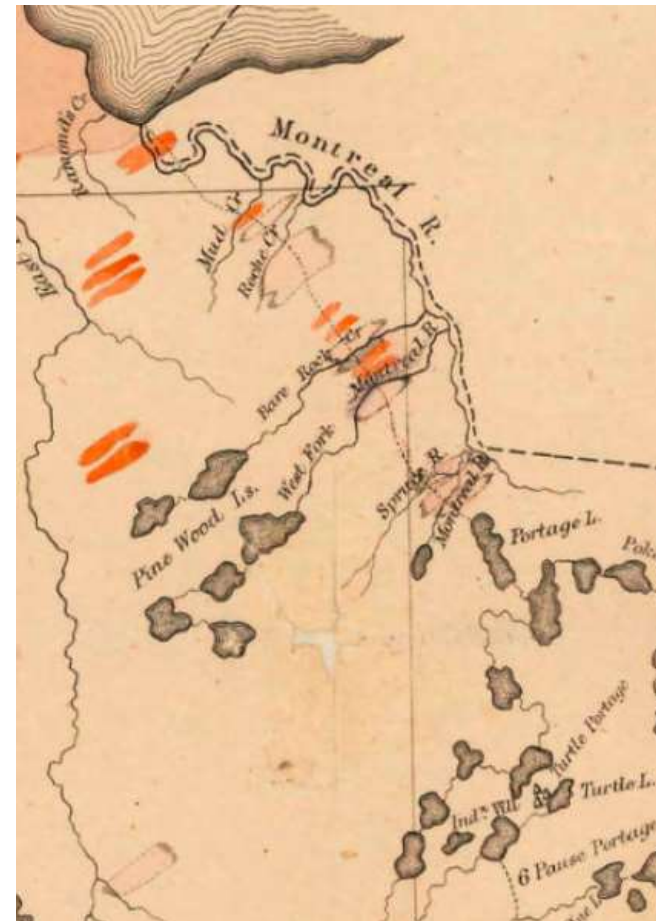
1820 Doty map was vague and lacked scale



# Geologist in 1846 & 1847 precisely documented the Flambeau Trail

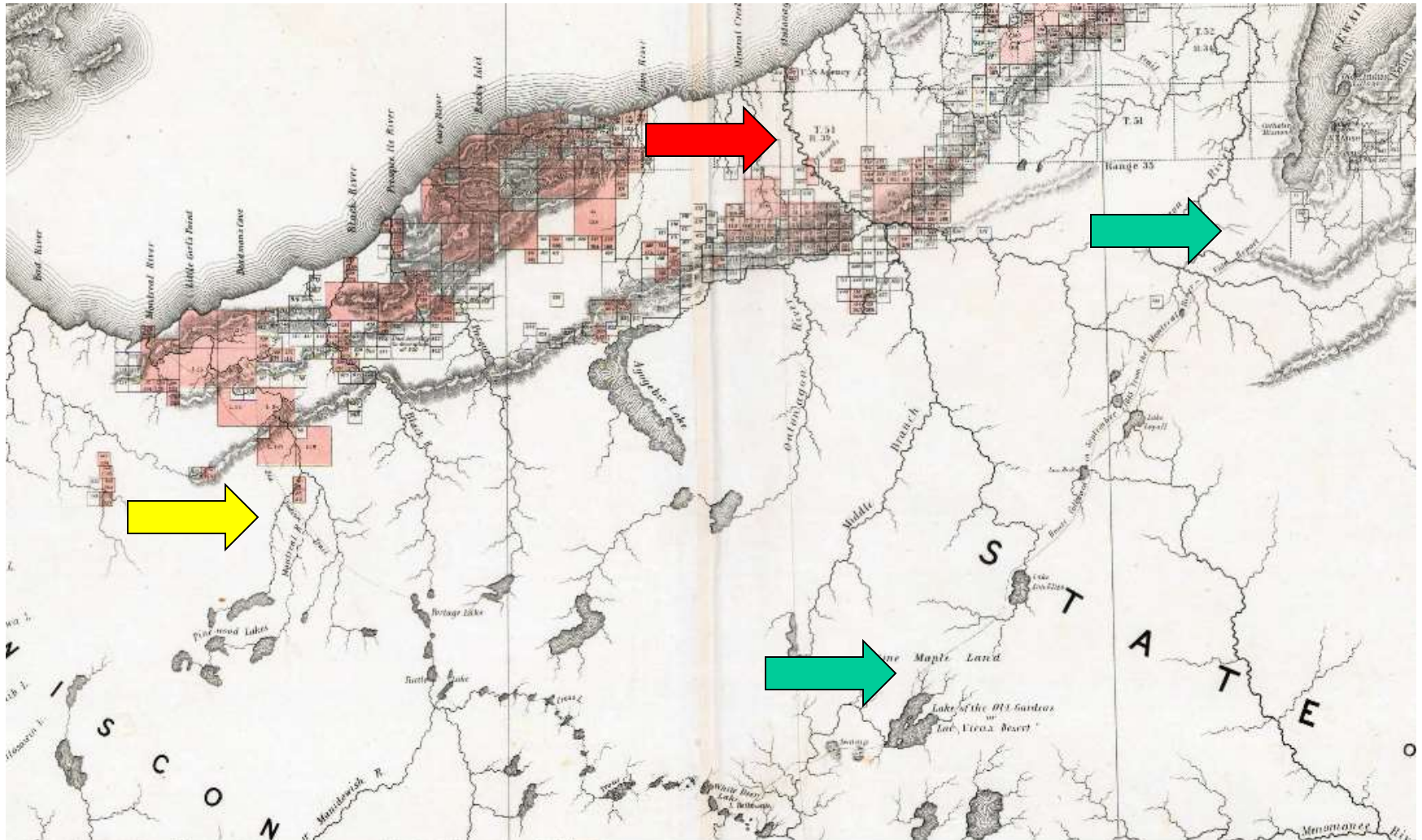


1846 A B Gray

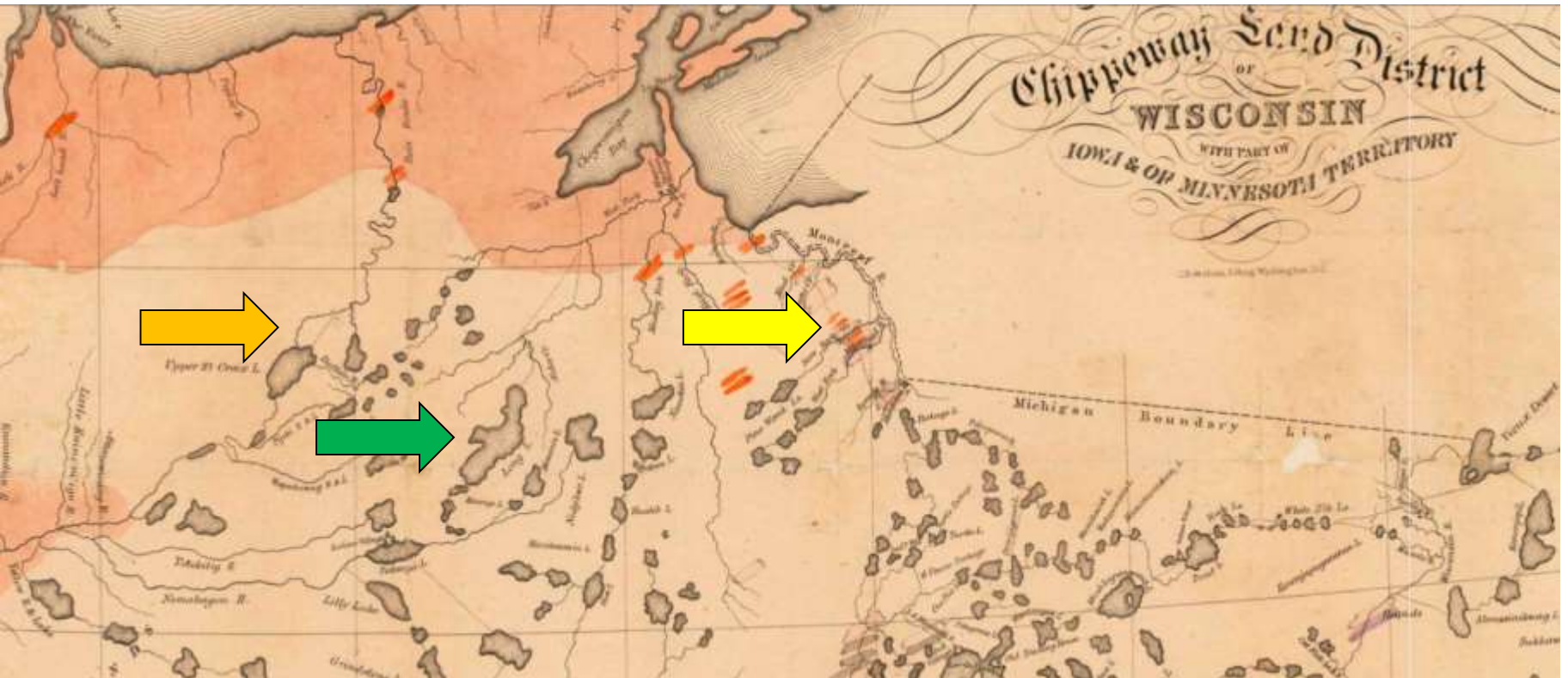


1847 J G Norwood/D D Owen

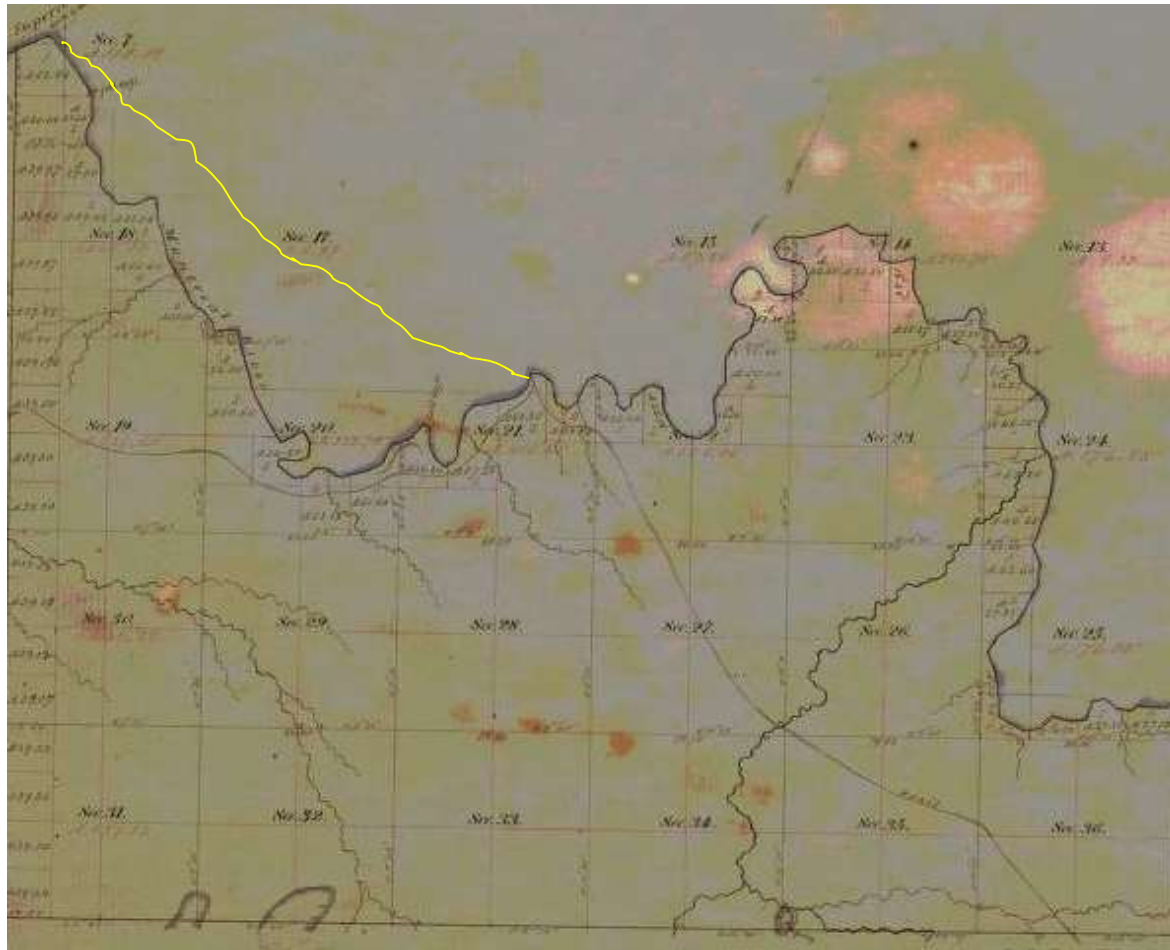
# Eastern Routes from Lake Superior to interior lake regions

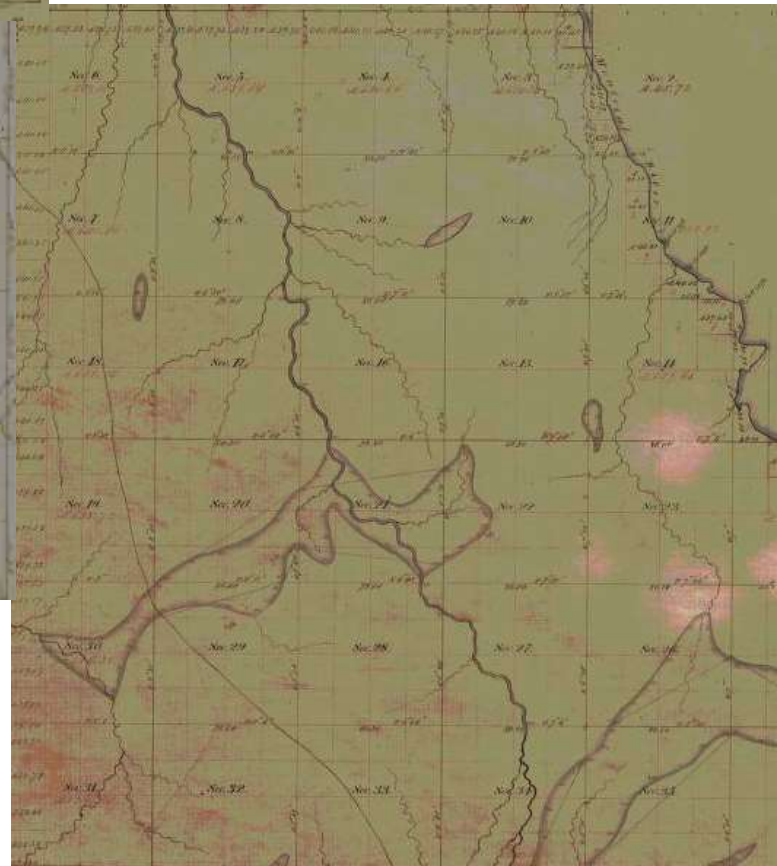
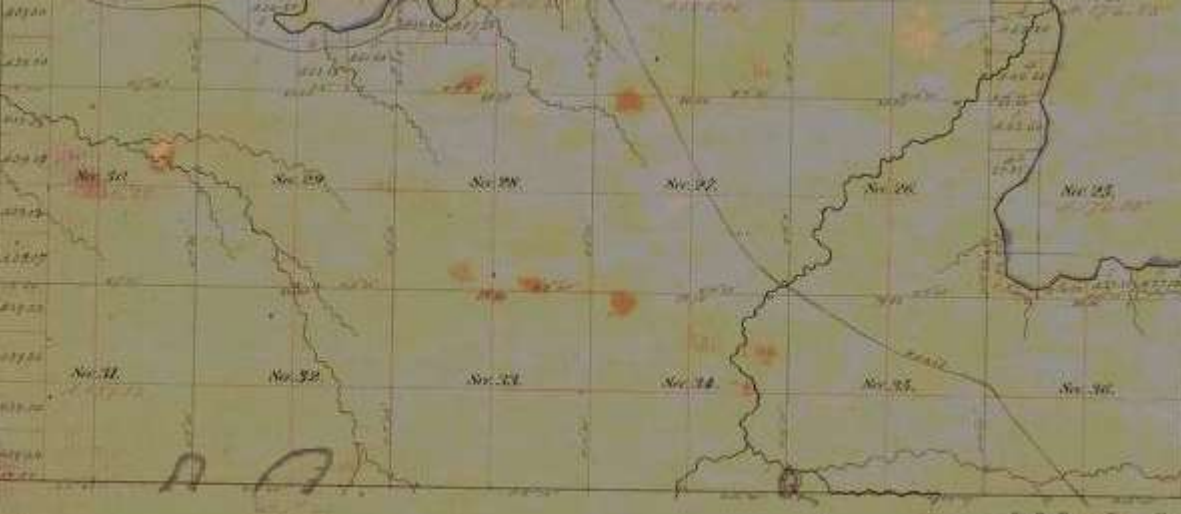


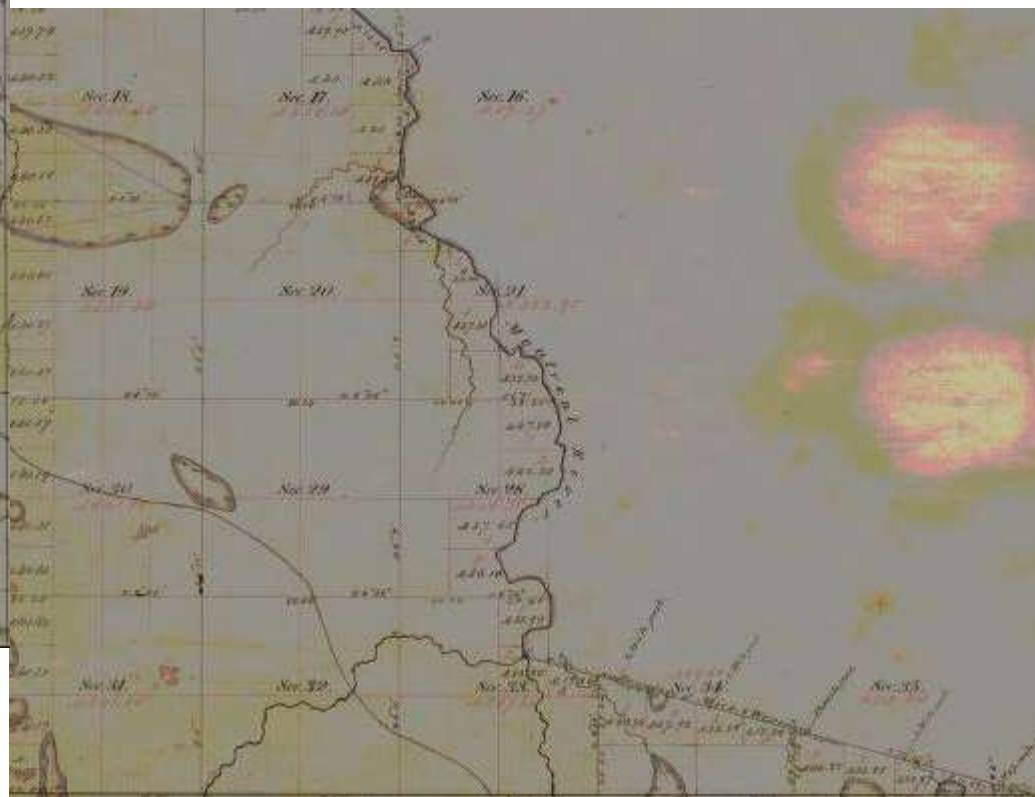
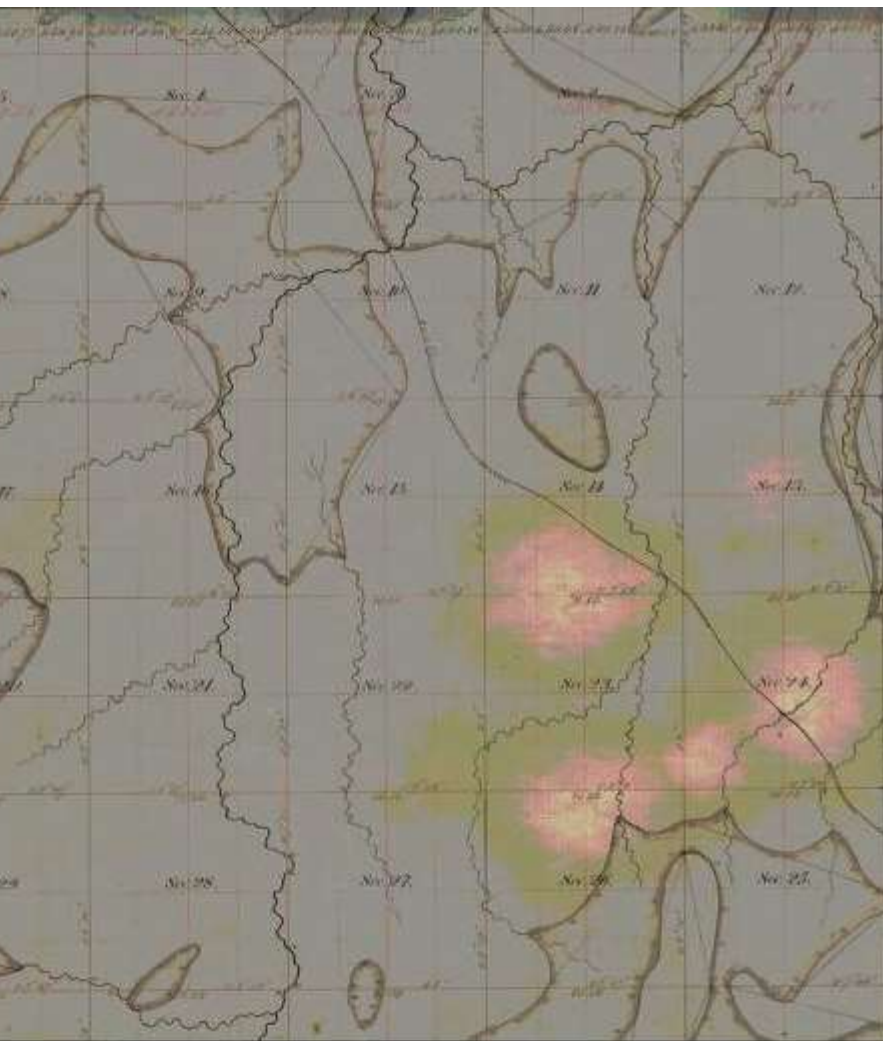
# Western Routes from Lake Superior to interior lake regions



# 1861 Original Survey by the U.S. Government further documented the Flambeau Trail



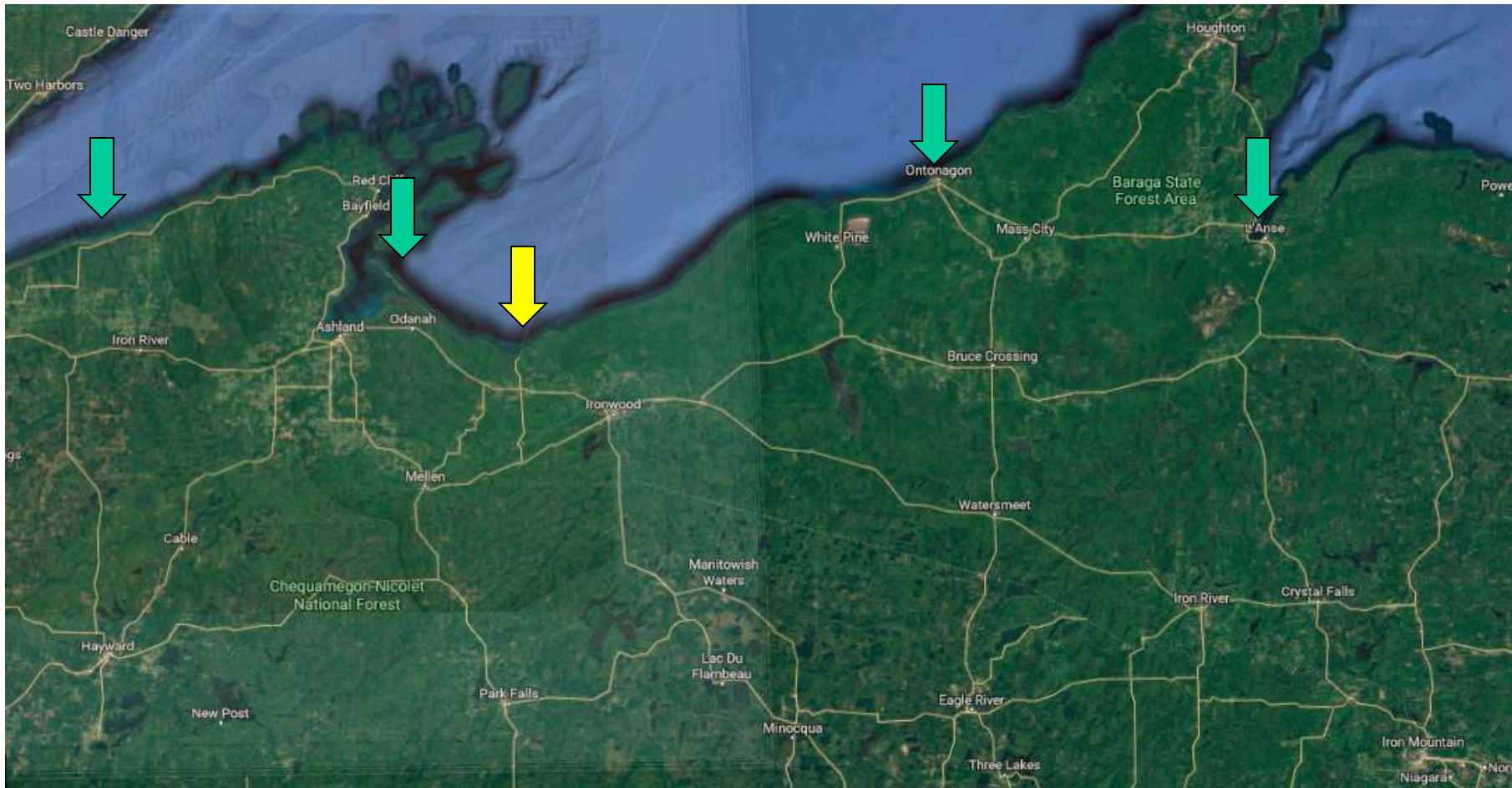




# The Flambeau Trail terminated at the north end of Long (Portage) Lake

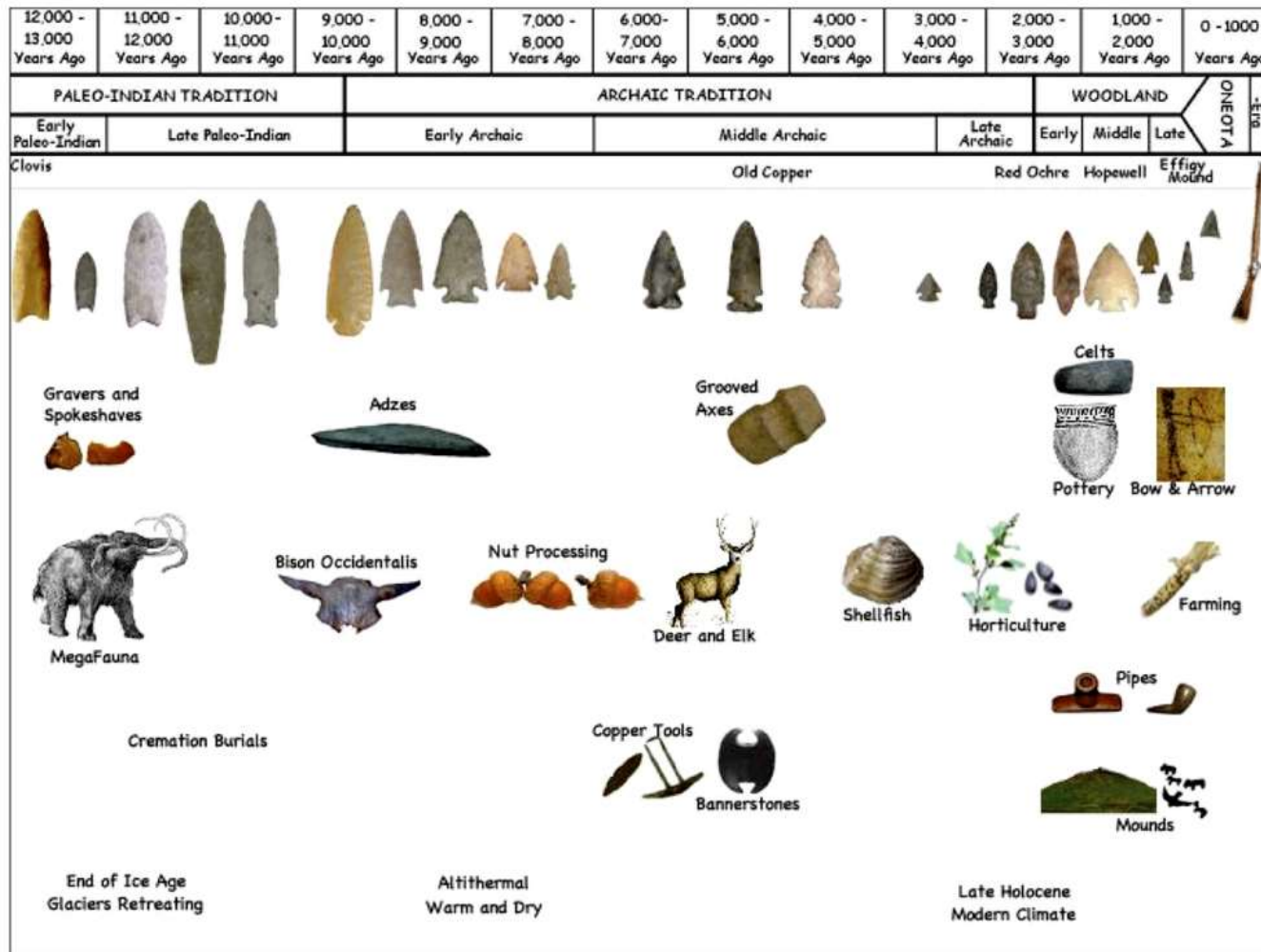


Of the 5 entry point to the interior lakes the  
Flambeau trail has some of the best  
documentation



# Flambeau Trail Chronology

## Wisconsin Archaeology Overview



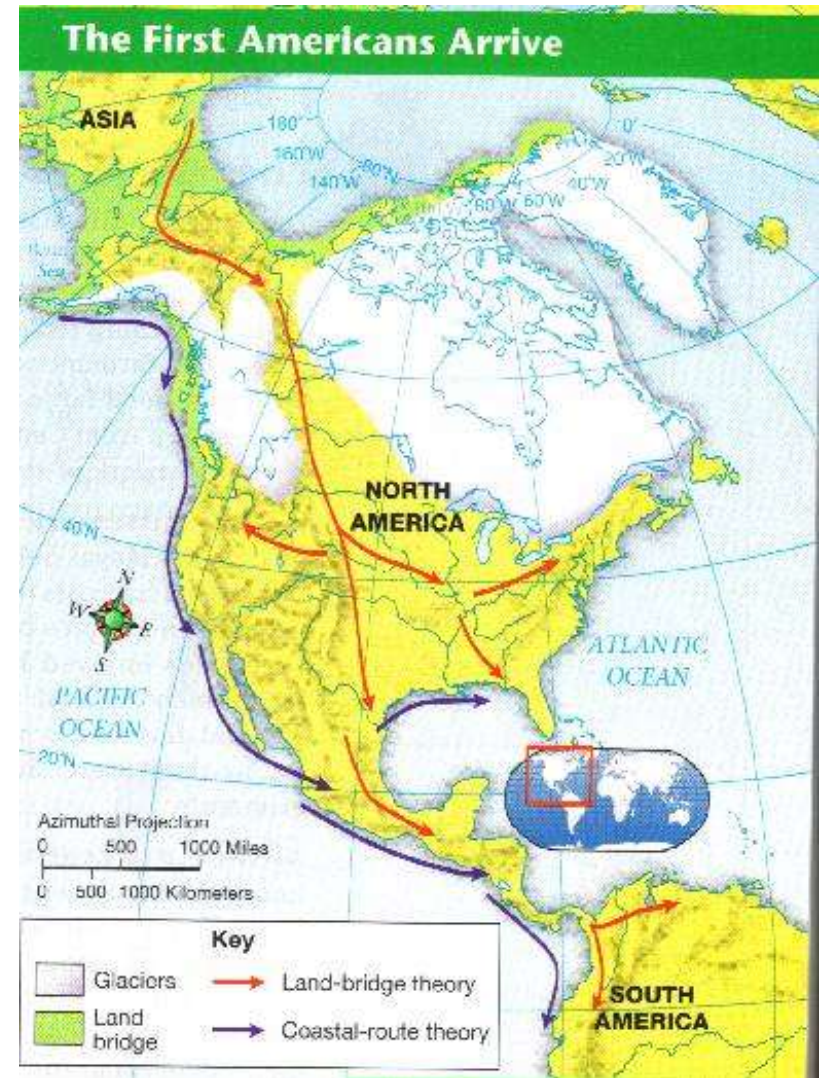
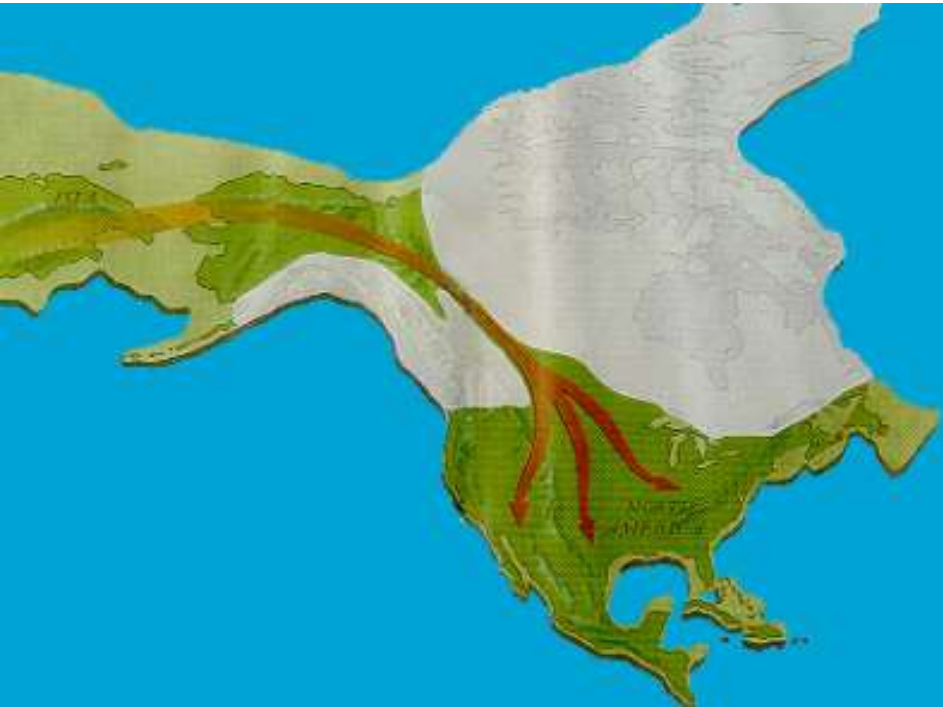
Source: Wisconsin Archaeology Society

# Prehistoric Cultures



# Paleo Culture

## 12,000-8000 BP

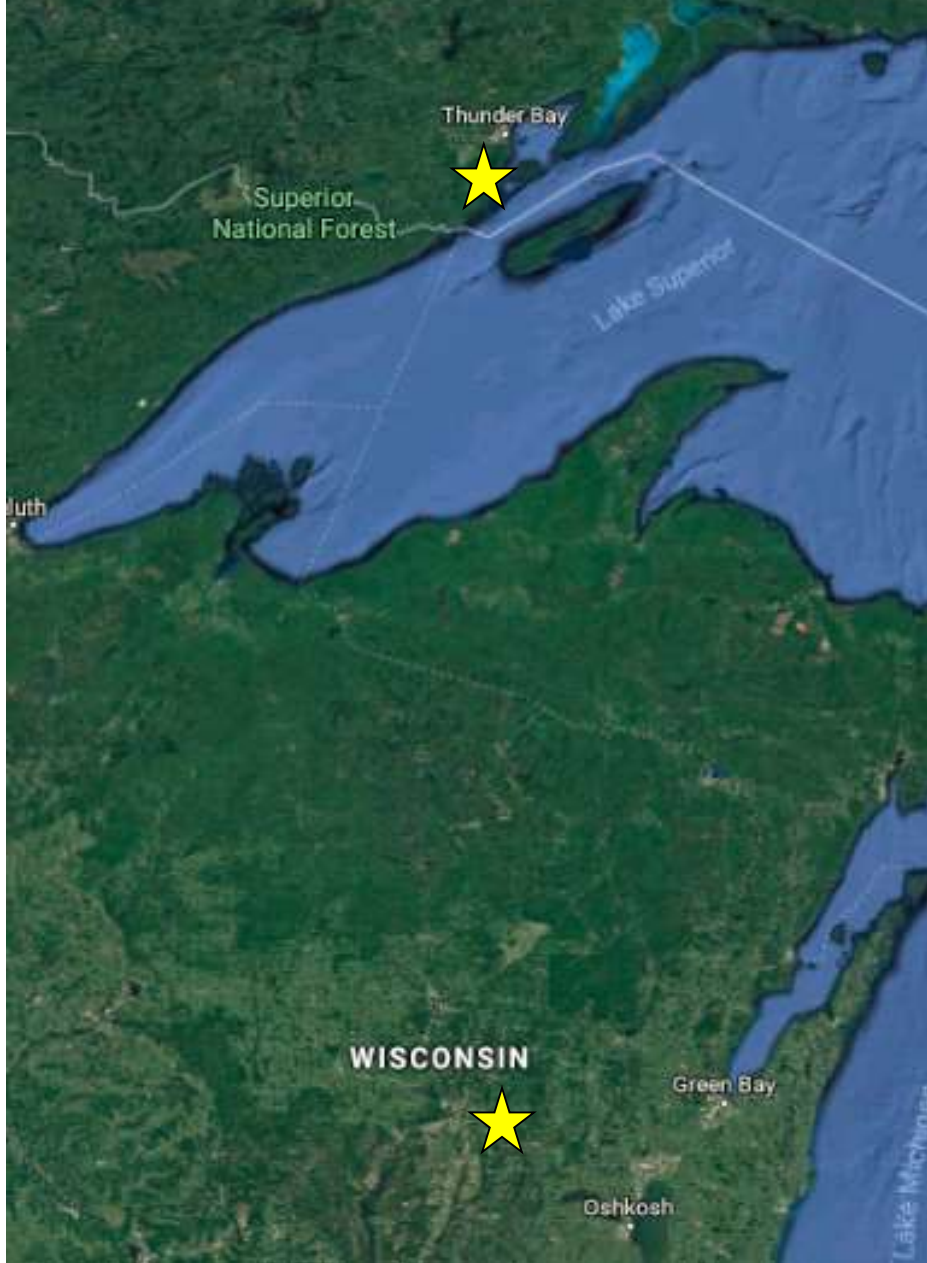


# Post glacial mega fauna



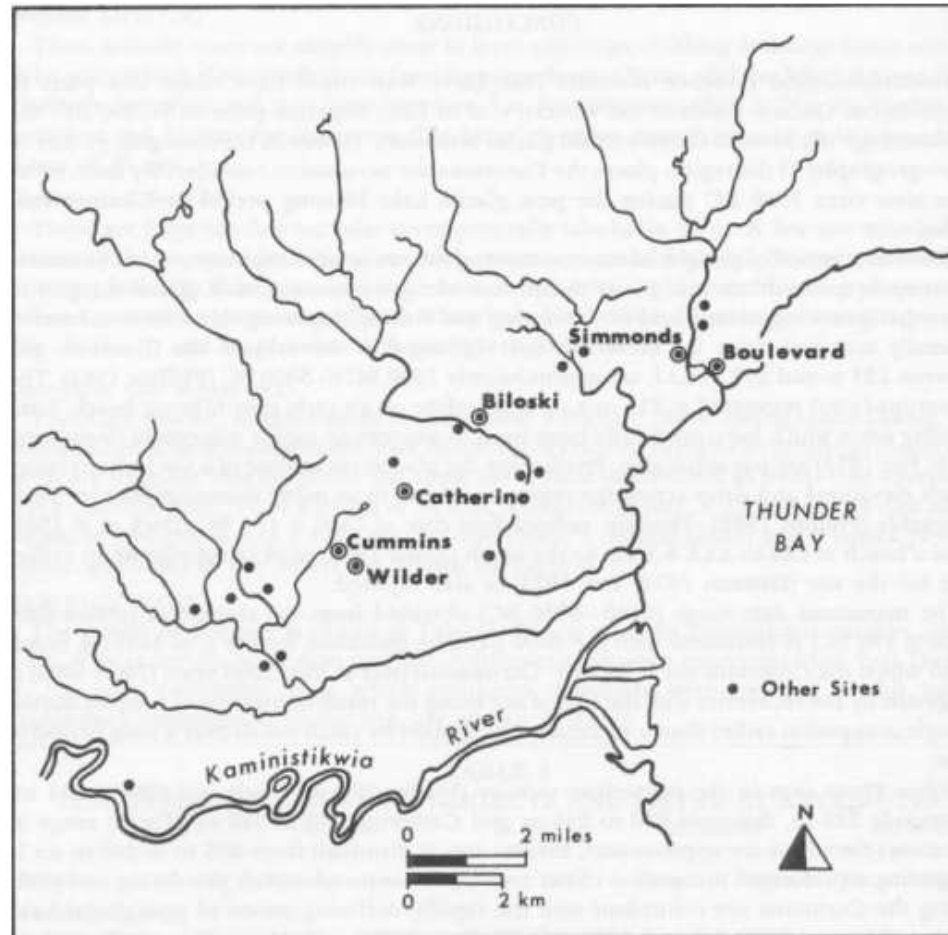
Late Paleo communities were nomadic  
and also hunted smaller game





Archaeologists have found artifacts suggesting linkages between Thunder Bay ON and Waupaca County WI. Logically, Paleo travel to Lake Superior required efficient routes.

# Paleo sites in Canada that may be linked to the southern shore of Lake Superior

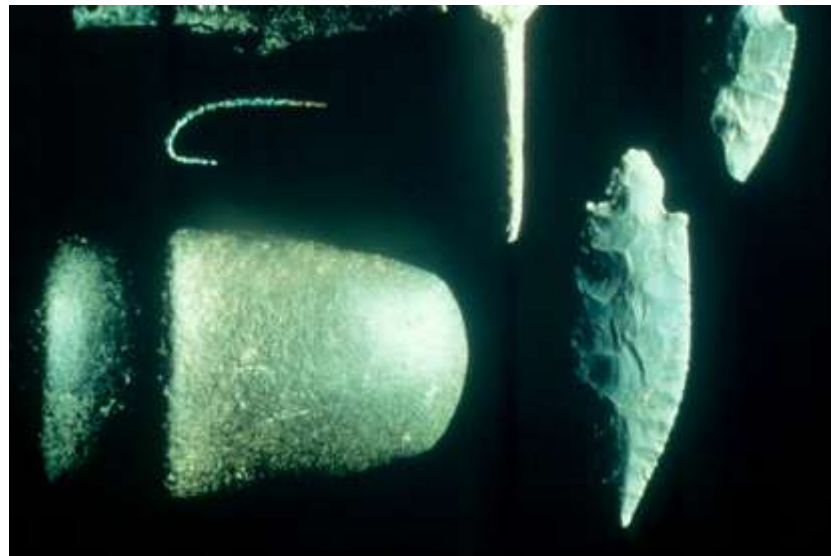


g. 6. Plano sites on the glacial lake shores of Thunder Bay.

# Interior lake paleo points from western Vilas County



# Archaic Culture 8000 -2000 BP



# Museum display of copper mining





19<sup>th</sup> century  
lithograph of  
the Ontonagon  
'copper rock'

Actual Ontonagon  
'copper rock' curated  
in the Smithsonian  
museum



# Raw copper and socketed spear point from Turtle Portage Area





## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

HOME SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES SERVICE AGENCIES

(c) The state historical society shall update the list as necessary to add additional locally designated historic places to the list or to delete designation

History: 1987 a. 395; 2007 a. 97.

**44.47 Field archaeology.** This state reserves to itself the exclusive right and privilege of field archaeology on state sites, and establishes regulation to preserve archaeological and scientific information, matter and objects. It is a declaration of legislative intent that persons practicing field archaeology in accordance with this section, and that the looting of all archaeological remains be strongly discouraged. Persons having knowledge of the location of archaeological sites shall report such information to the state archaeologist. This section is not intended to burden persons who wish to use state public property for recreational and other lawful purposes or to use such property for scientific purposes.

(1) **DEFINITIONS.** As used in this section:

- (a) "Archaeological methods" means scientific procedures used in field archaeology by recognized professional authorities on archaeology.
- (b) "Archaeological site" means any land or the bed of any stream or lake where there are objects or other evidence of archaeological interest, aboriginal or historic Indian mounds, historic and prehistoric watercraft and associated objects, aircraft and other archaeological and historical features.
- (c) "Data" means field notes, photographs, maps and other records relating to field archaeology.

# Woodland Cultures 2000-500? BP



# Mississippian Mound Culture based in Cahokia reached the south shore of Lake Superior



Pottery was a defining technology of Woodland cultures and are among the most common area woodland artifact



# Bow and arrow emerged to in the Woodland period



# Shift from Prehistoric to Historic cultures



# WHERE TWO WORLDS MEET

*The people of the Countrie came flocking  
aboord, and brought us . . . Bevers  
skinner, and Otters skinner, which  
wee bought for Beades, Knives  
. . . Hatchets, [and other] trifles.  
—Robert Juet, 1609*

*The English have no sense; they  
give us twenty knives like this  
for one Beaver skin.  
—a Montagnais Indian, 1634*



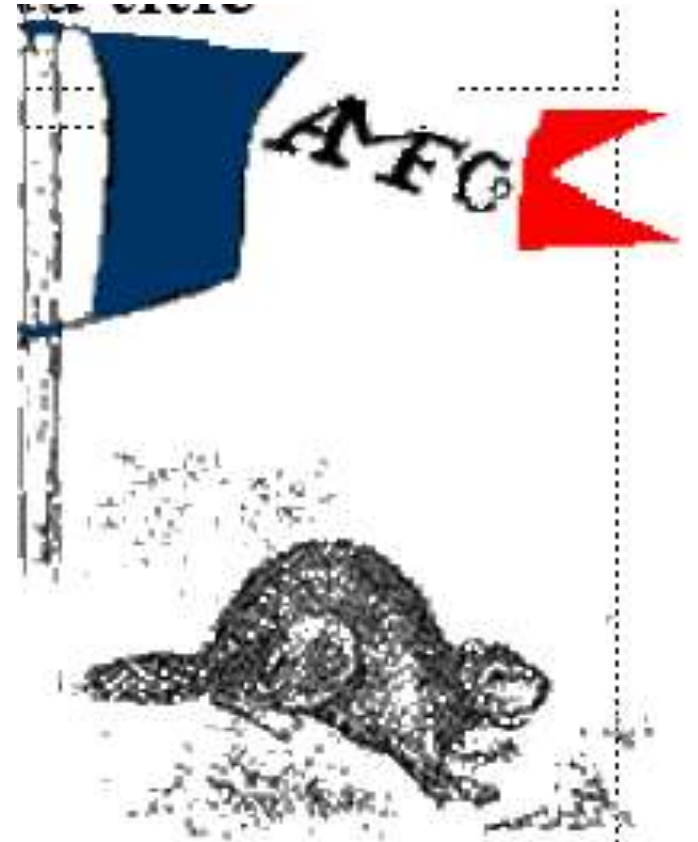
1. ENGRAVED CARTOUCHE, 1777. A trading transaction was represented on William Faden's "Map of the Inhabited Part of Canada, from the French Surveys." C-35062/Public Archives Canada.

# Classic Lake Superior Fur Trade:

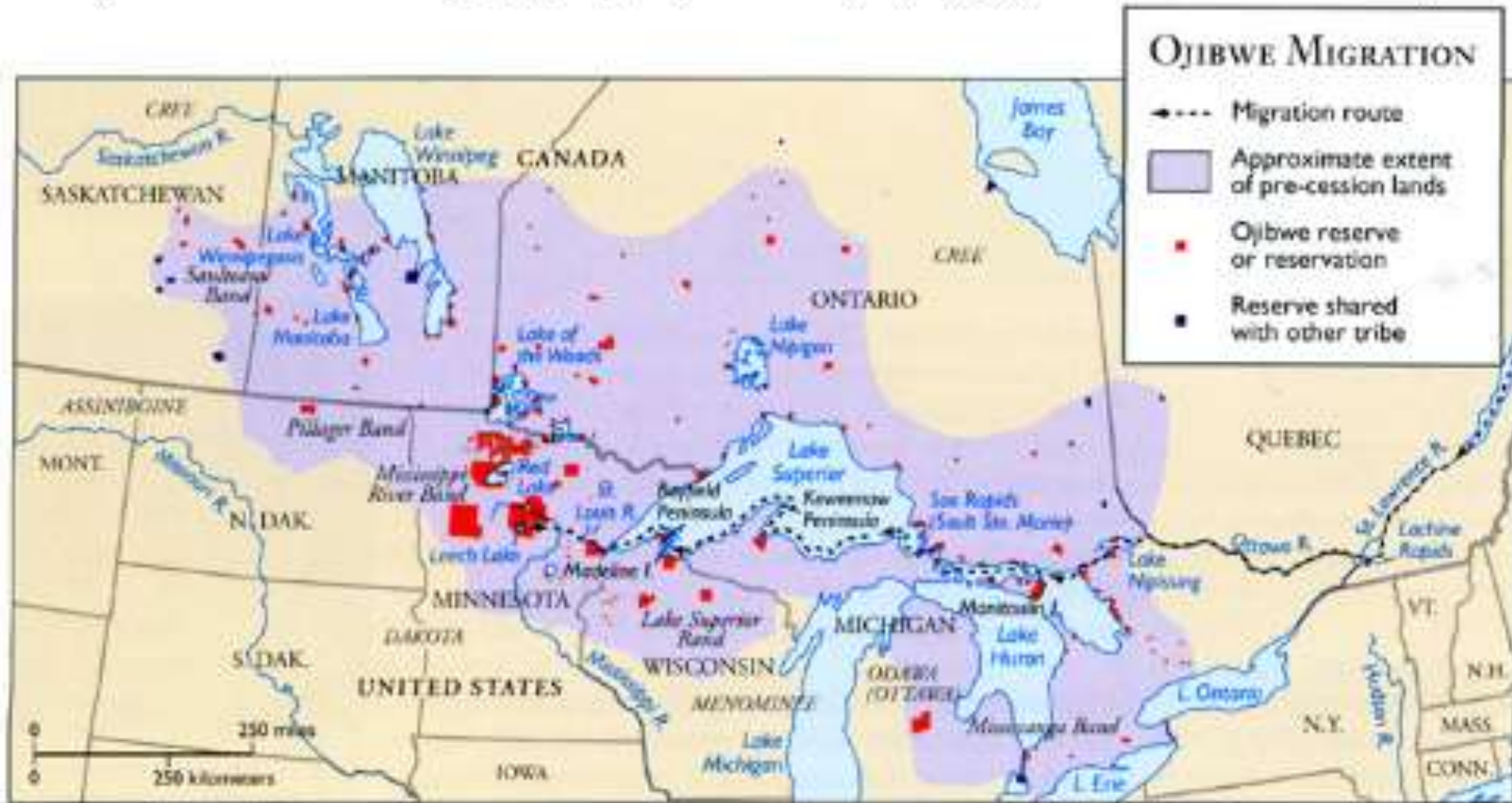
French until 1763  
British 1764-1816  
United States 1817-1847



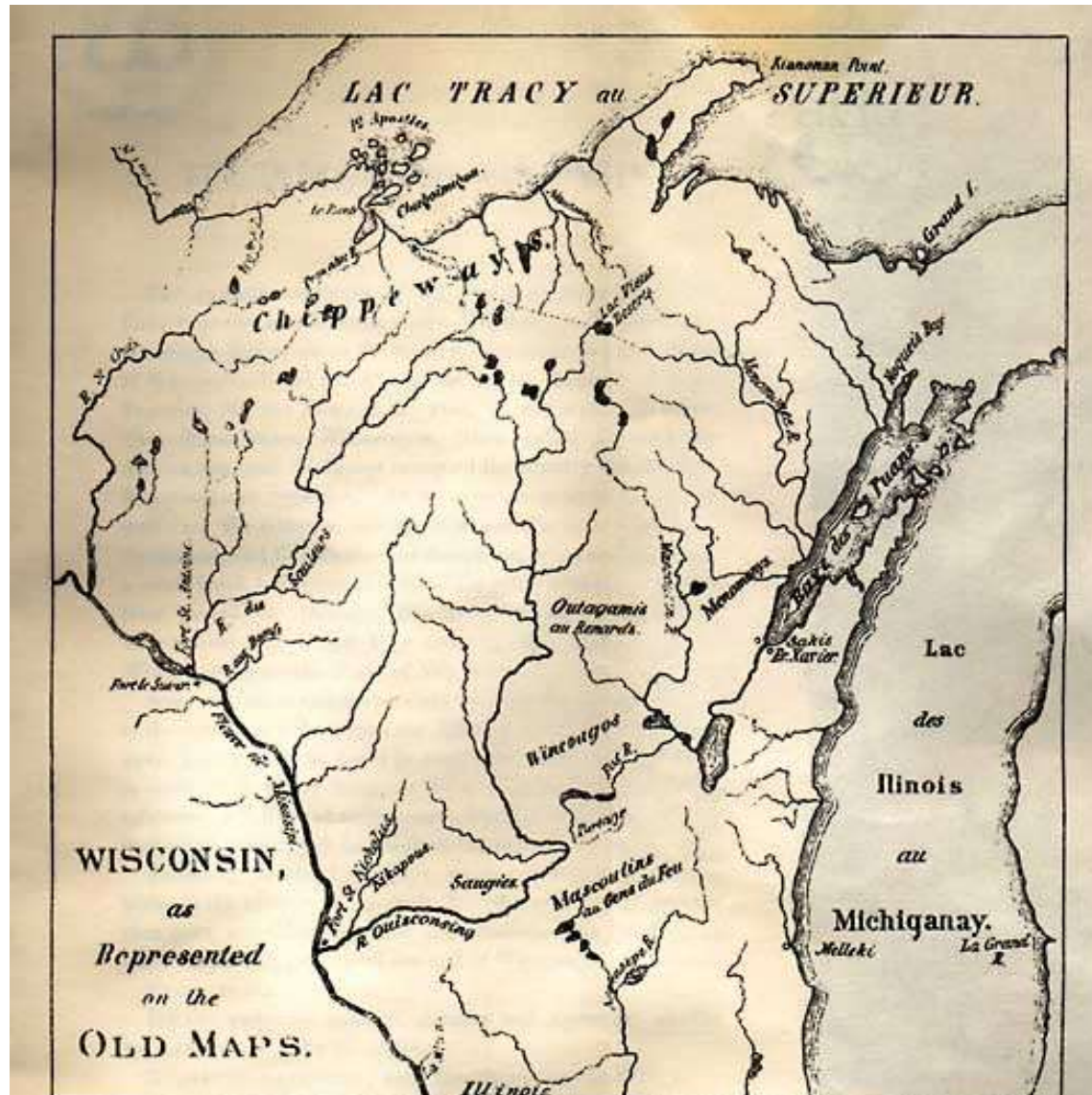
Trade goods from Europe were shipped to trading posts & furs from trading post were shipped to Europe. Later American trade goods were also used in exchanges.



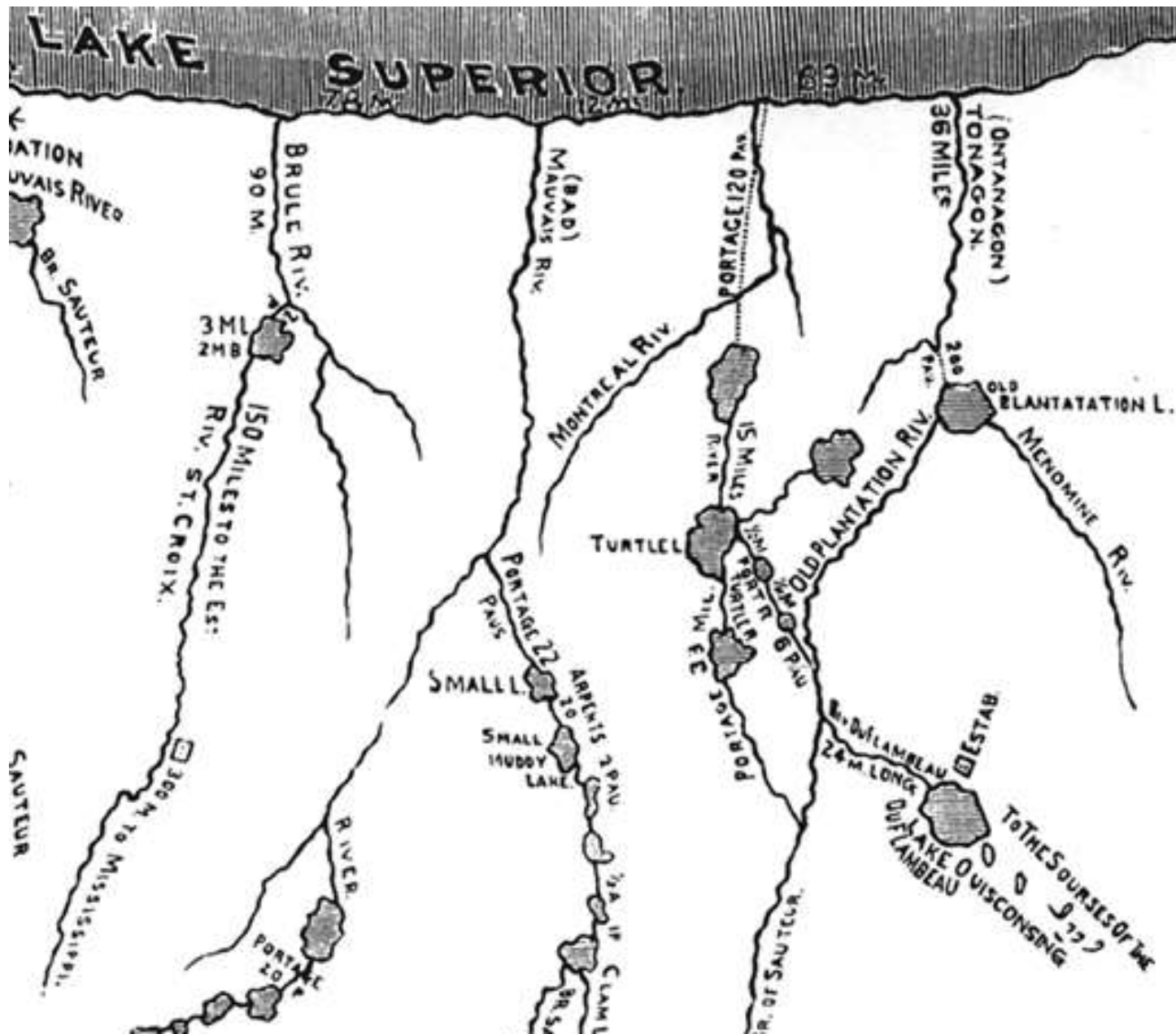
# Ojibwa will ultimately dominate western great lakes fur trade



# Historic Map of Wisconsin Tribes



# 1820 Map J. D. Doty



# Norwood 1847

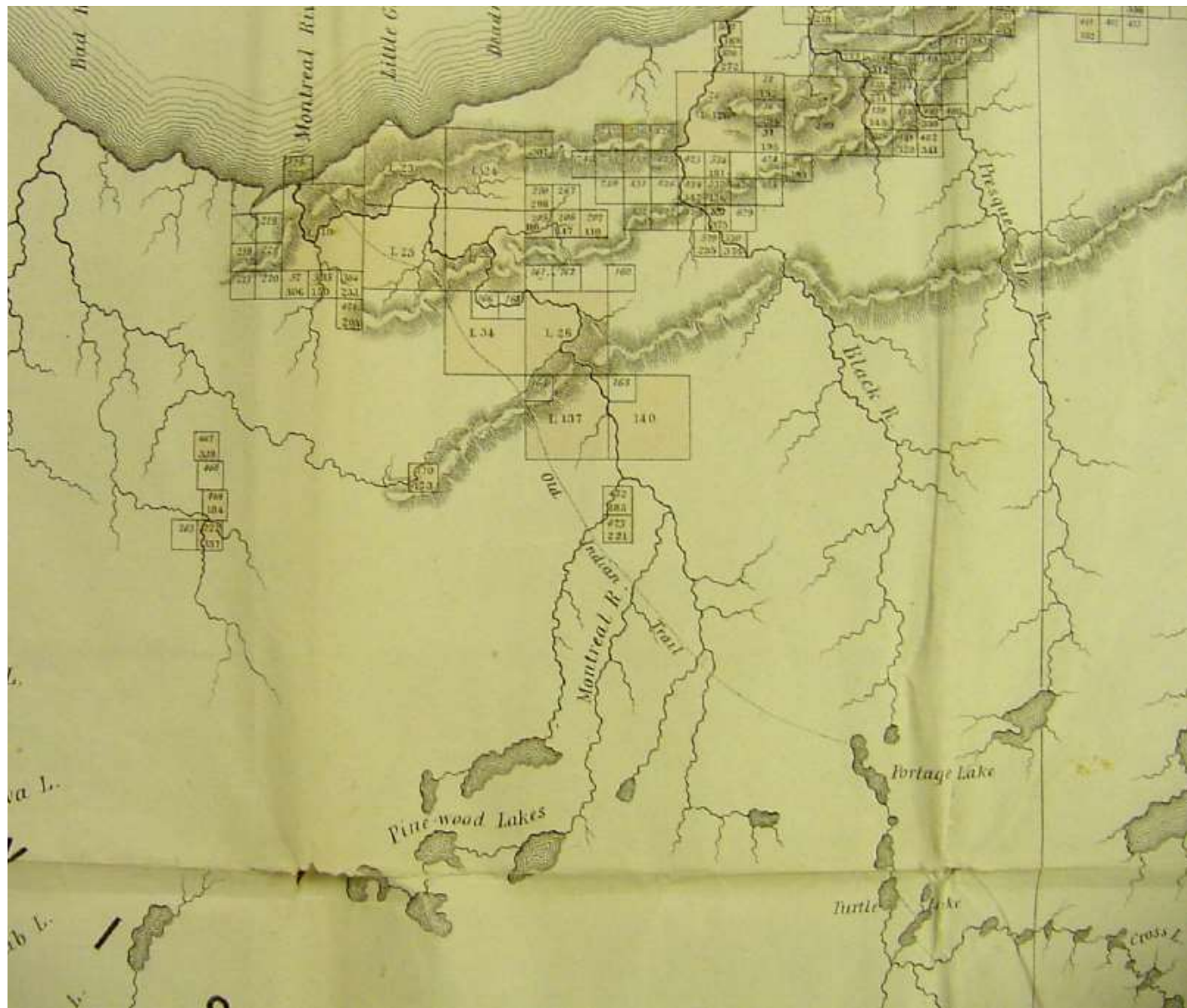
September 25.— Turtle portage is an excellent one, over the plain lying between the two Turtle lakes. At the east end of it is an Indian village, inhabited during the summer months by one of the Chippewa bands. At present it is deserted, the band having gone north to their winter hunting grounds. Potatoes and corn are raised at this village...

The outlet from Little Turtle lake is through a very narrow channel connecting it with another lake, which we crossed, and came to the beginning of what is known as “Six Pause portage.”

The 6  
Ojibwa  
bands from  
the Lac Du  
Flambeau  
District



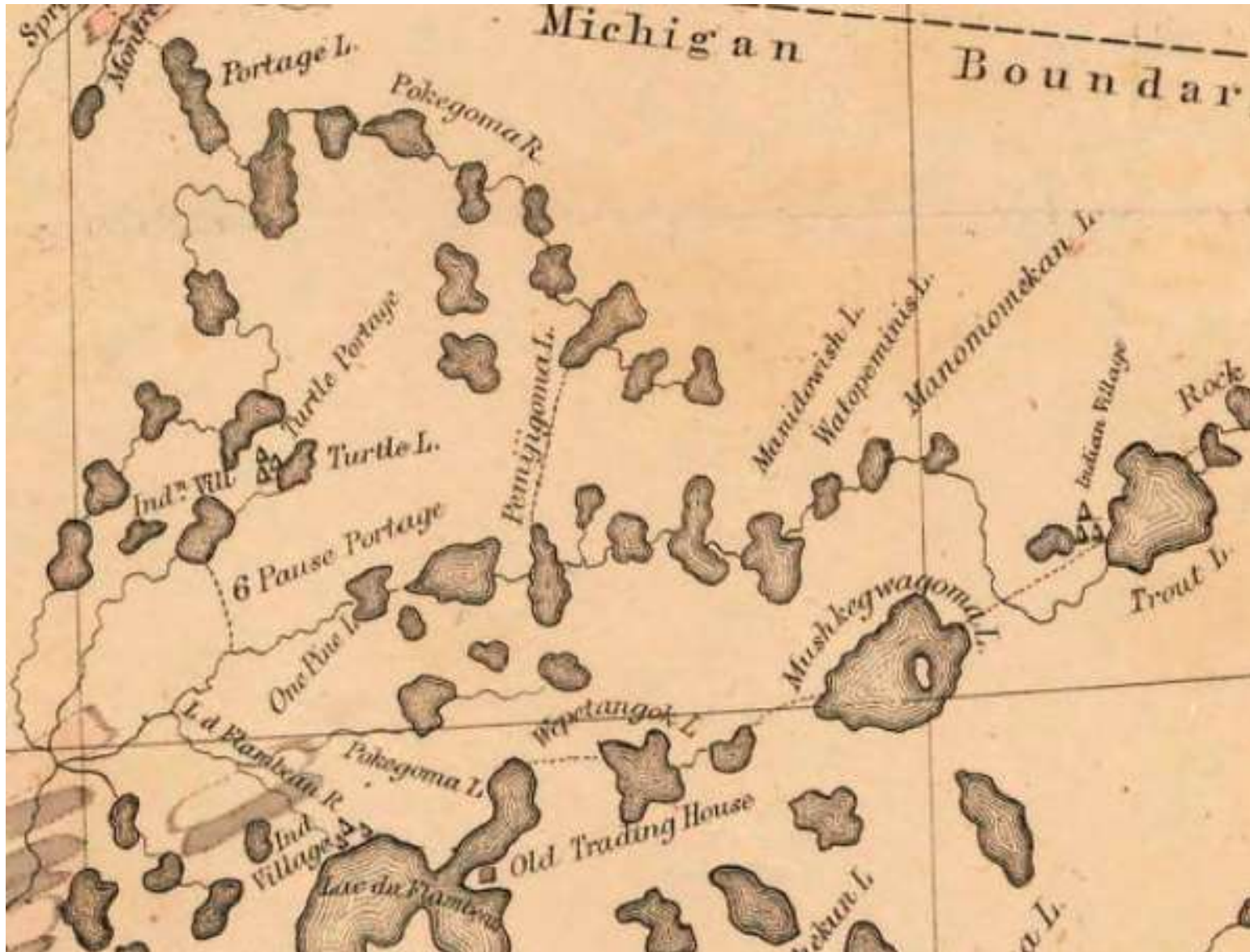
# A. B. Gray 1846



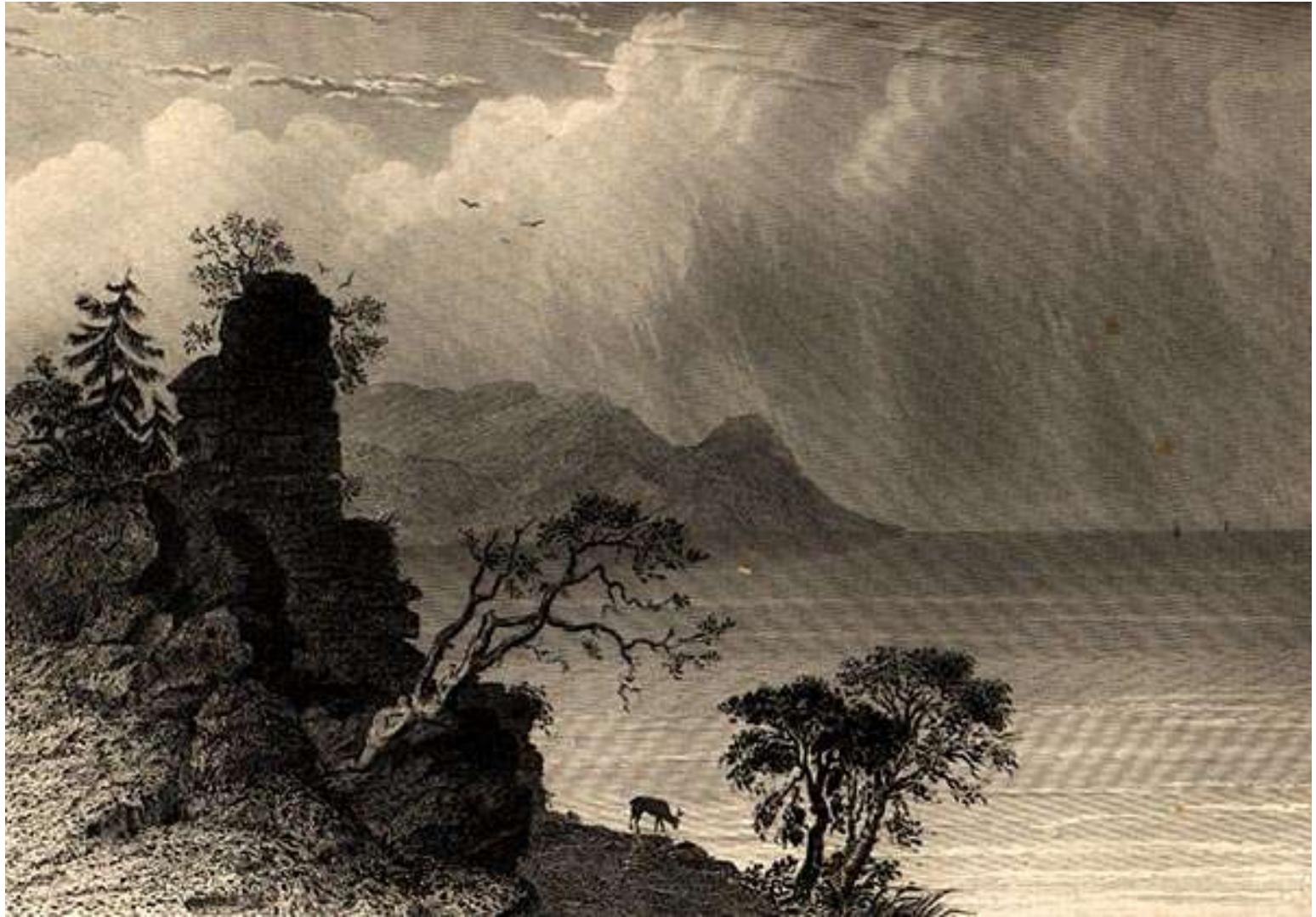
# 1847 Owen/Norwood Map



# 1847 Owen/Norwood Map



# Lake Superior near Flambeau Trail



# Mouth of Montreal River and start of Flambeau Trail



# Malhiot 1804

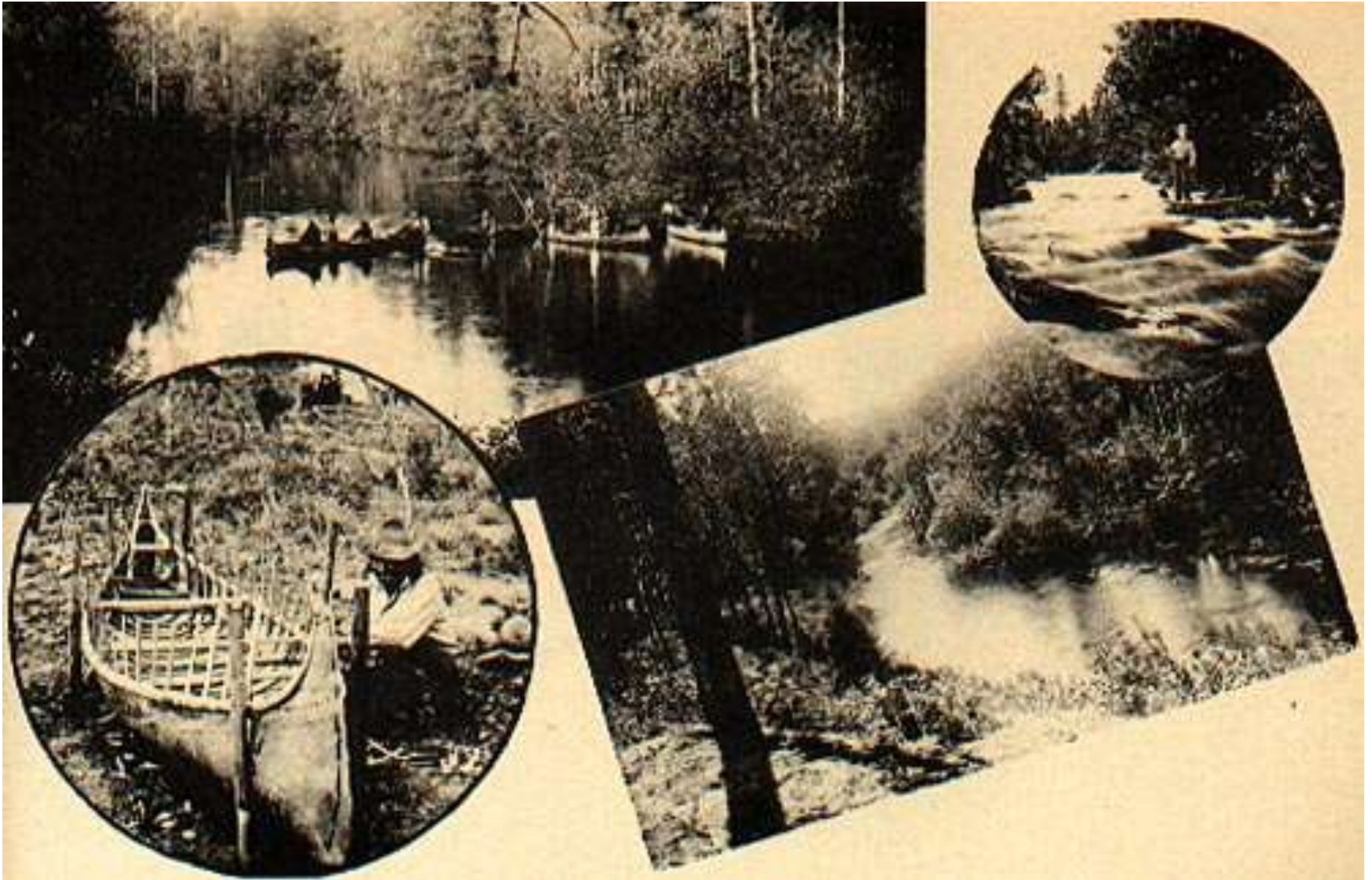
26th Thursday. I ordered the men to get ready to enter the portage tomorrow. I gave each one a double handful of flour, a pound of pork and a drink of rum as a treat.

28th Saturday. I started this morning from Lake Superior with seven of my men to proceed at once to Lac du Flambeau. I took with me a bale of merchandize, a roll of tobacco, 20 pounds of shot, 20 pounds of bullets, three quarters of a sack of corn, a barrel of rum double strength, and all my baggage. Today we did forty pauses.

# Gray 1846

On the afternoon of the 29th the canoes have in sight, and by sunset a large number of the Indians had encamped on the right bank of the river below us. By 8 o'clock next morning we were all on the March, Major Campbell and myself being provided each with two able and trusty voyageurs, who had been accustomed to "pack" and travel through the woods. We were three days and a half making the "portage," estimated at about thirty-five miles by the old Indian trail from the mouth of the Montreal to "Portage lake," which latter is the head of a succession of small lakes extending for ten miles, and which are the head waters of some of the tributaries to the Chippewa river.

# Ojibwa Travel



# Chippewa River



Furriers provided Europe numerous fur products



Fur for beaver felt hats created huge  
demand in Europe



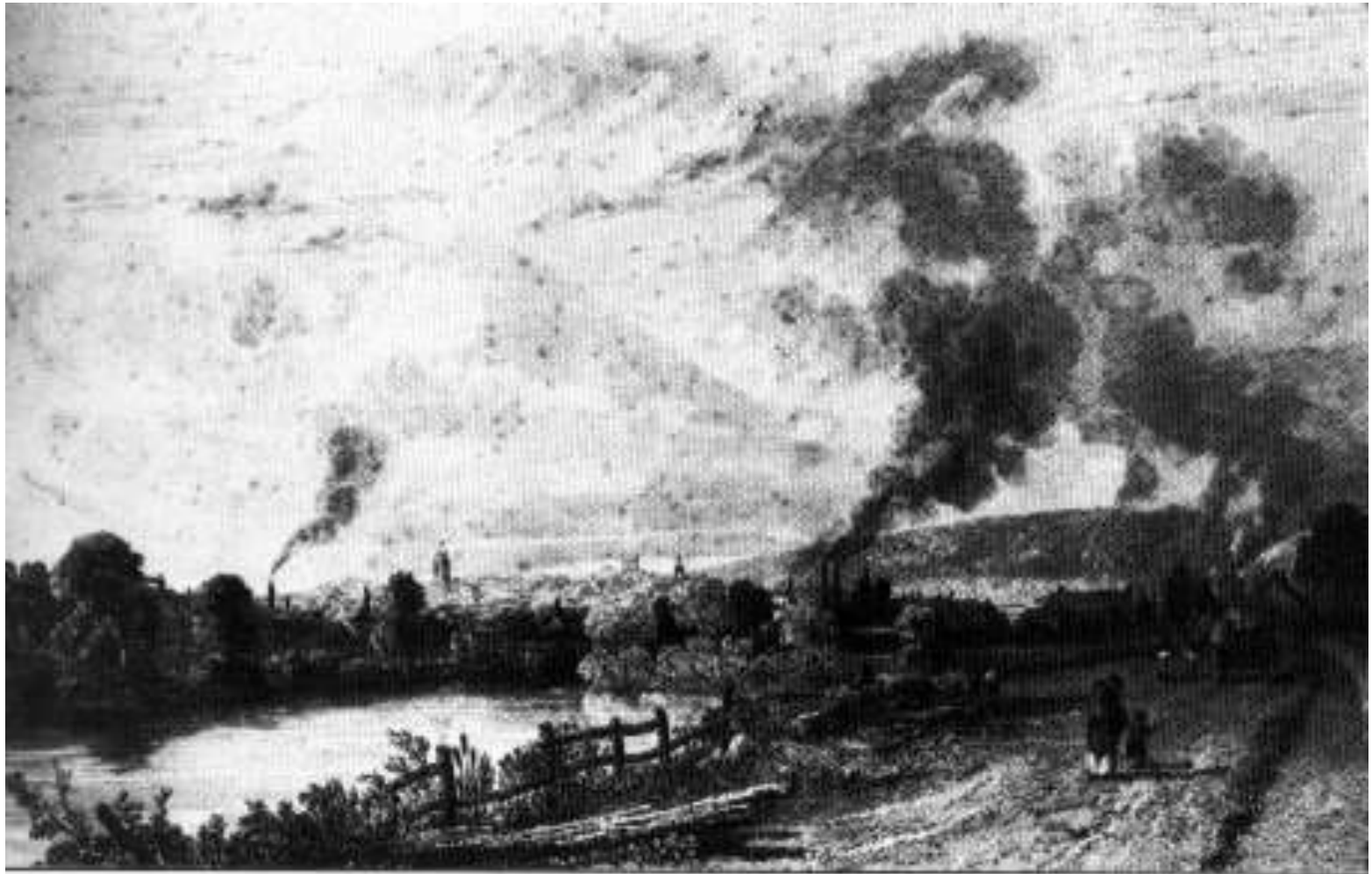
These fashions drove economics that shaped 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century Northwood's communities



Fur trade goods motivated the Ojibwa to take a leadership role in trading.



# European factories supply prized trade goods





# Fur trade artifacts

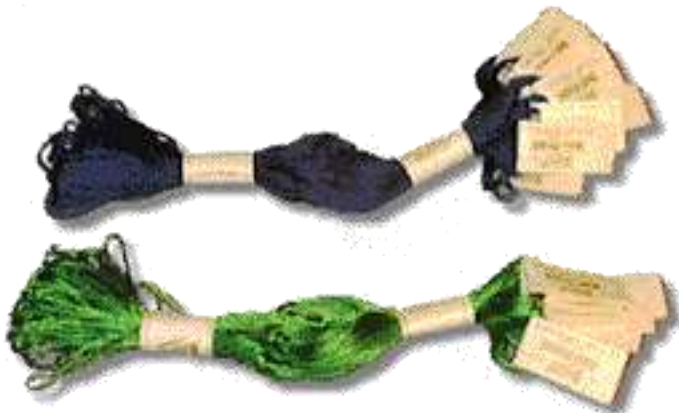


Gun flints, iron, and axes were high demand trade goods

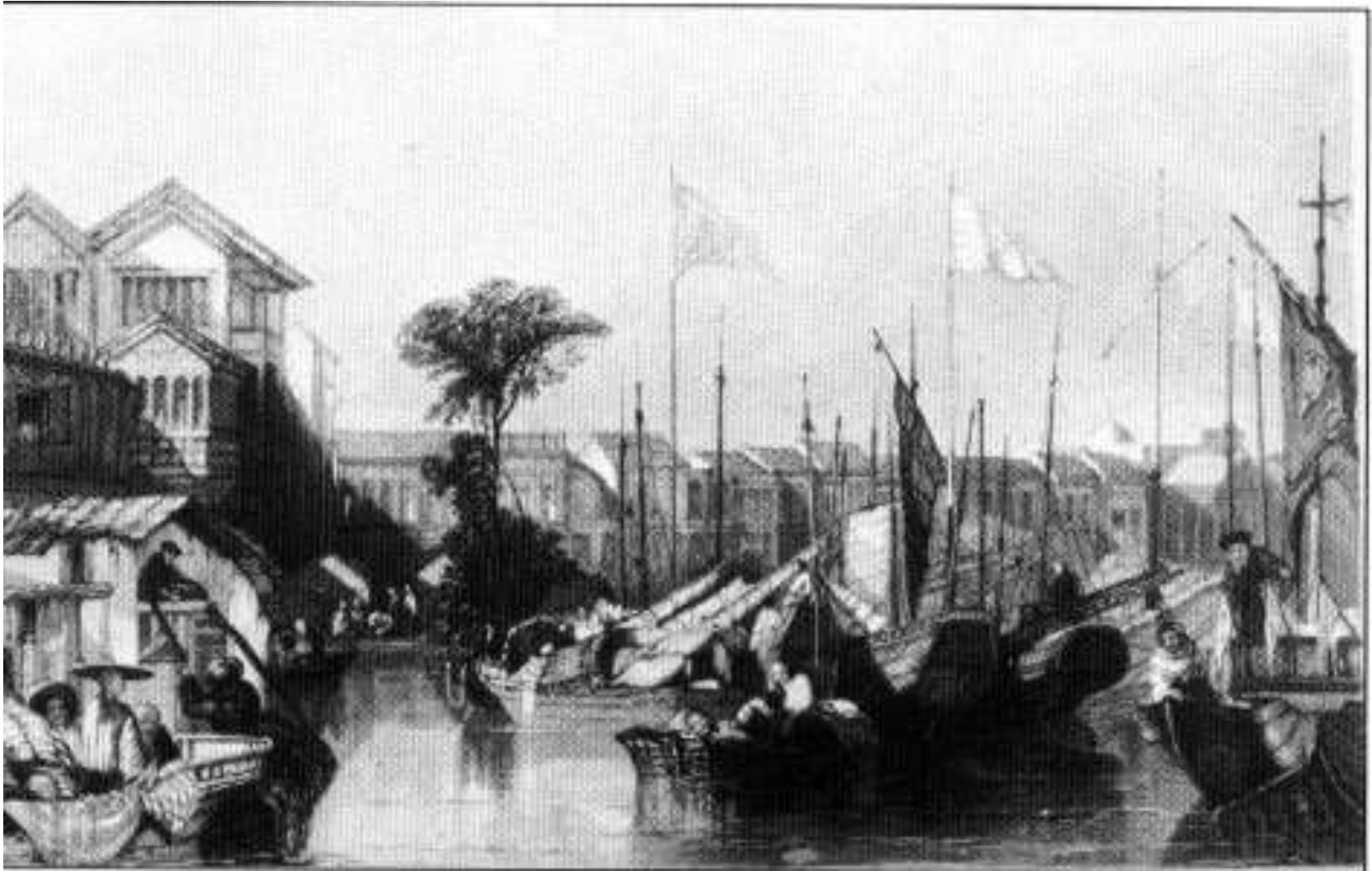




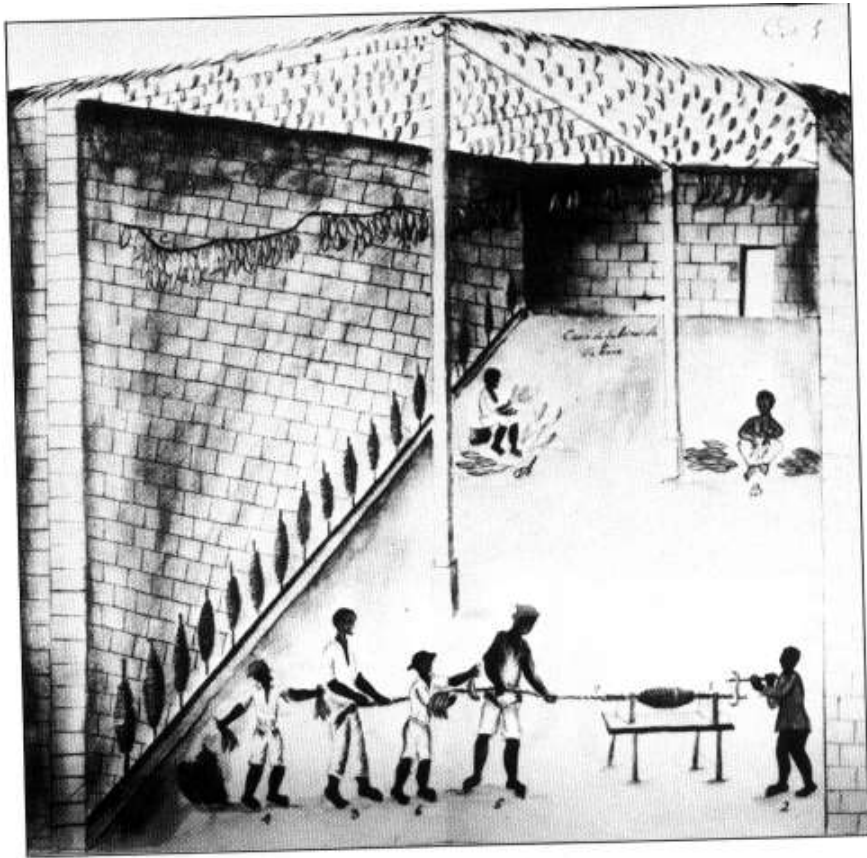
Beads, needles, thread and other decorative supplies were desired trade goods.



Relatively easy water transport  
facilitated fur trade exchanges



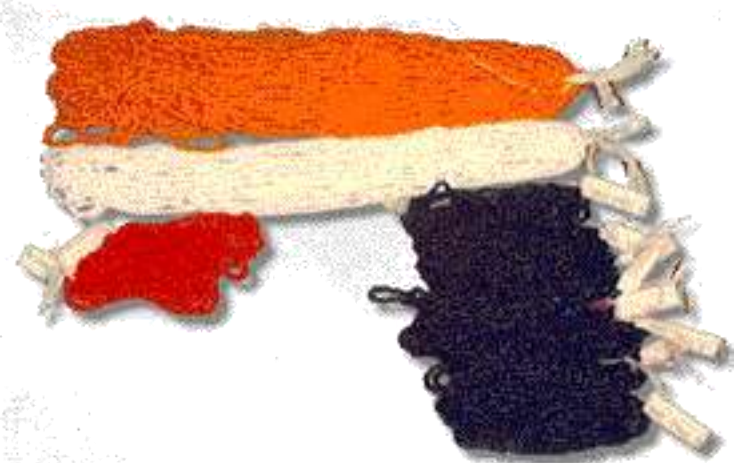
Products from other colonies were also  
key trade goods



Caribbean Tobacco Carrots were prized  
by the Ojibwa



# Tobacco carrot, beads, and common trade goods.



After exchanges furs ultimately were  
shipped to Europe



Ojibwa traded and later trapped furs and  
the French merely parleyed trade goods  
for furs



# Malhiot fur trade explaining exchanges using “Plus” as a system of currency

21st Friday. Martineau and Bruno arrived at five o'clock in the evening and brought furs to the value of 24 plus, most of them beaver skins. George, Durocher and Little Cadotte remained at the lodges. Martineau told me that Lalancette had given a kettle, the first of the nest for two and a half plus; he also gave a new net for twenty muskrat skins and another for the damaged skin of a bear cub. The Savages also ask for provisions, shot and some other small articles.



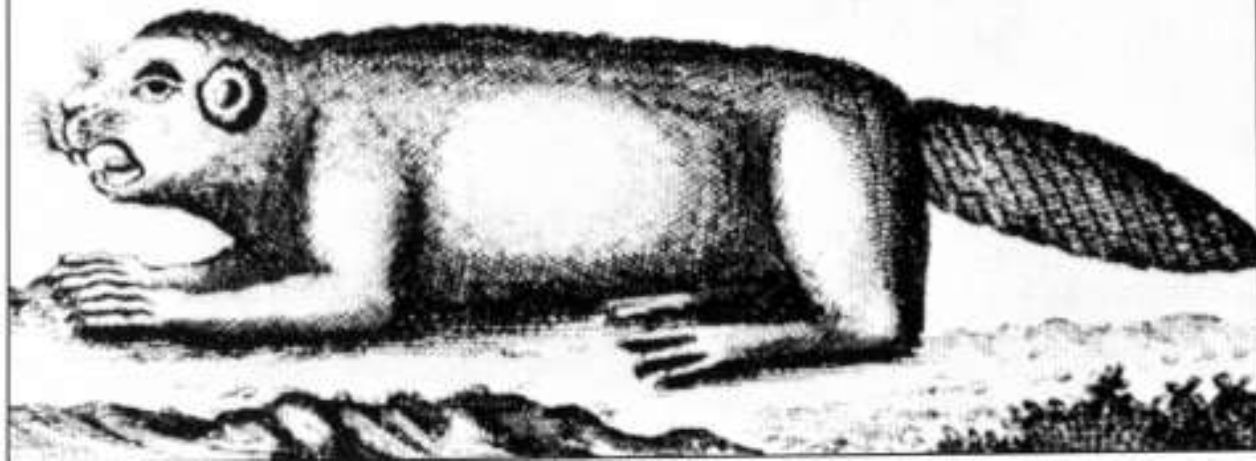


# Beaver the dominant fur of the Fur Trade Era





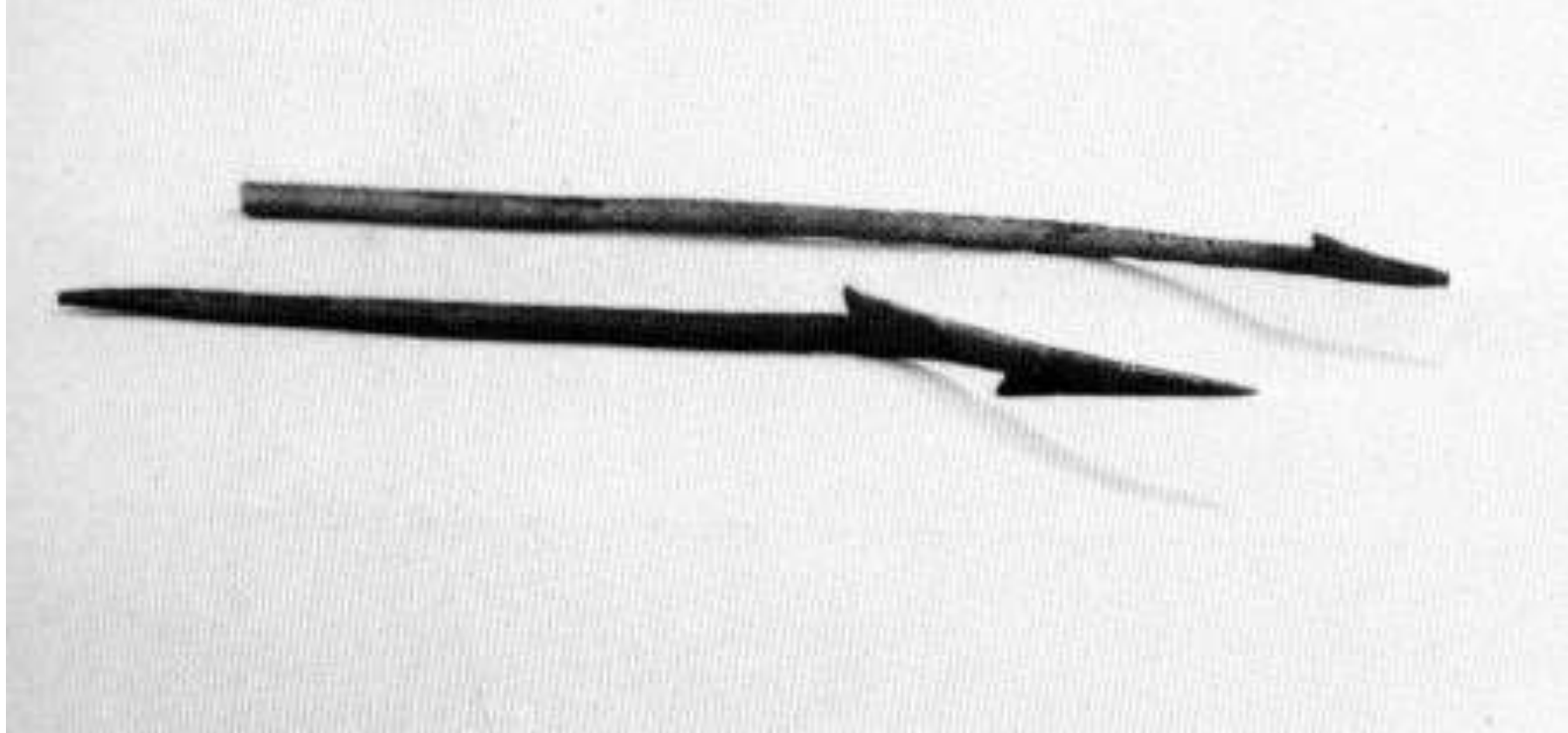
*A Beaver 25 inches long from the  
head to the tail*



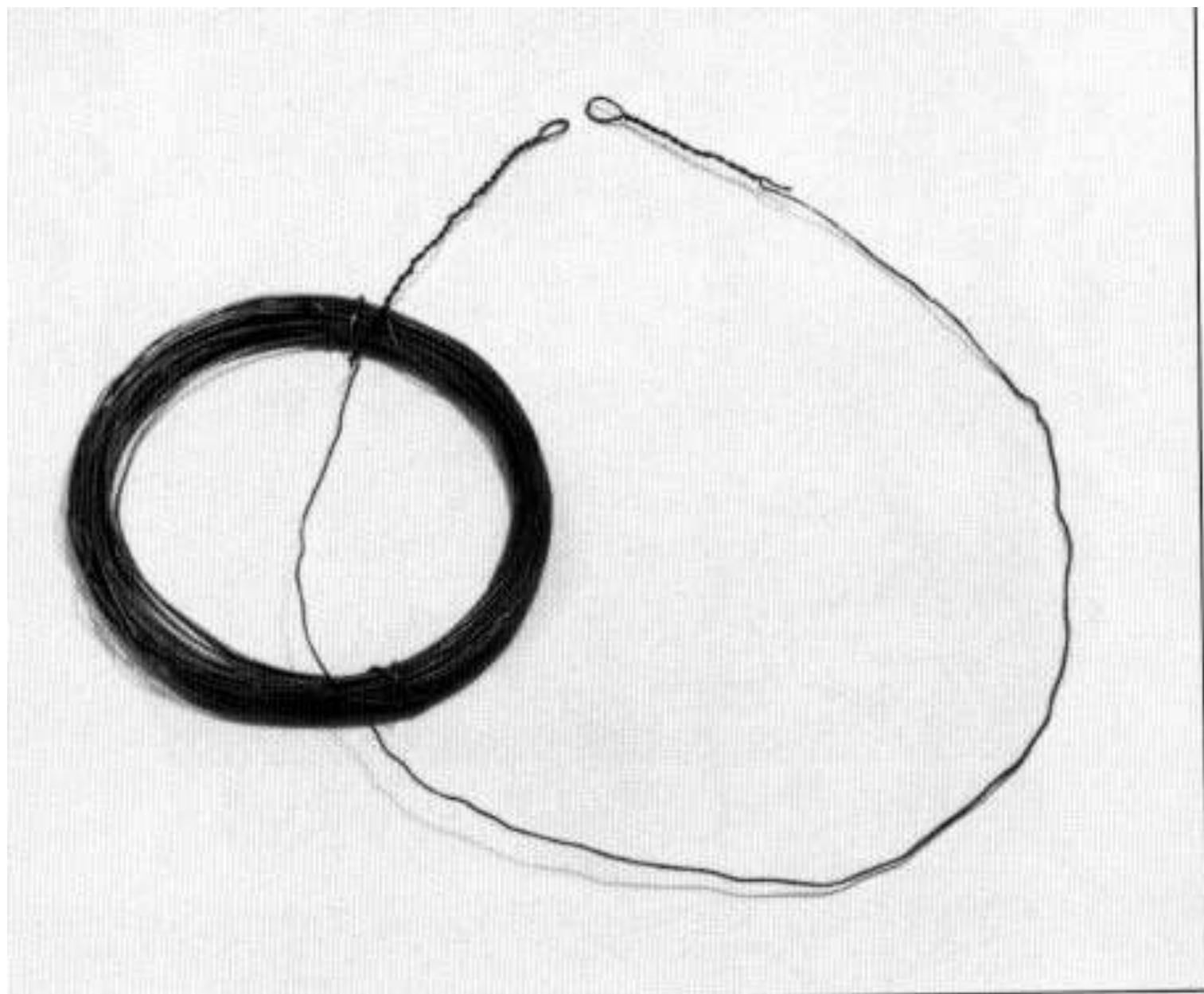


Ojibwa also used spears for muskrats and beavers; and traditional trapping

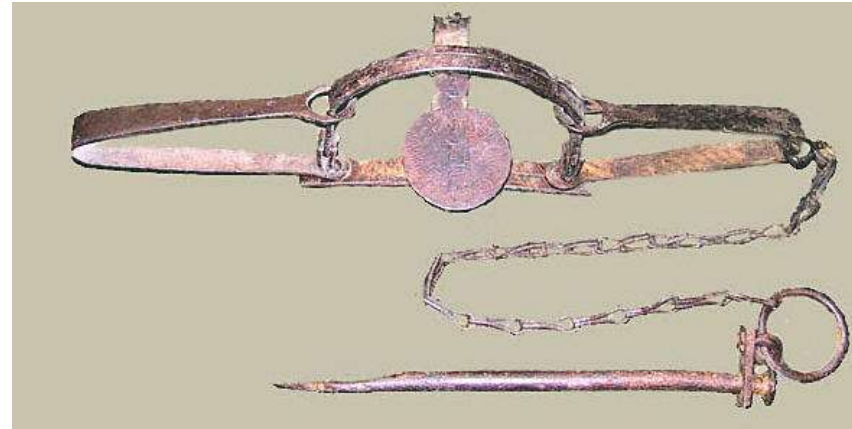








Traps were a key trade good from Europe and later the United States





A BEAVER HOUSE.

Fur traders were intensely interested in trading for food



# Exchanges for furs and gathering food were the most important activities

Malhiot 1804

9th Thursday. Le Petit Forgeron, a Savage from the Vieux Desert came here yesterday evening. I traded with him and got a 4 beaver, 2 otter, one beaver and two dressed moose skins. I gave him on credit five plus of ammunition and tobacco and he is not to return until autumn. At last we have caught five carp and a Masquinonge in our nets this morning; but Gauthier had to stay out all night with Beaulieu, my Montreal man. They killed four partridges. What a miracle!







# Gardens produced critical foods

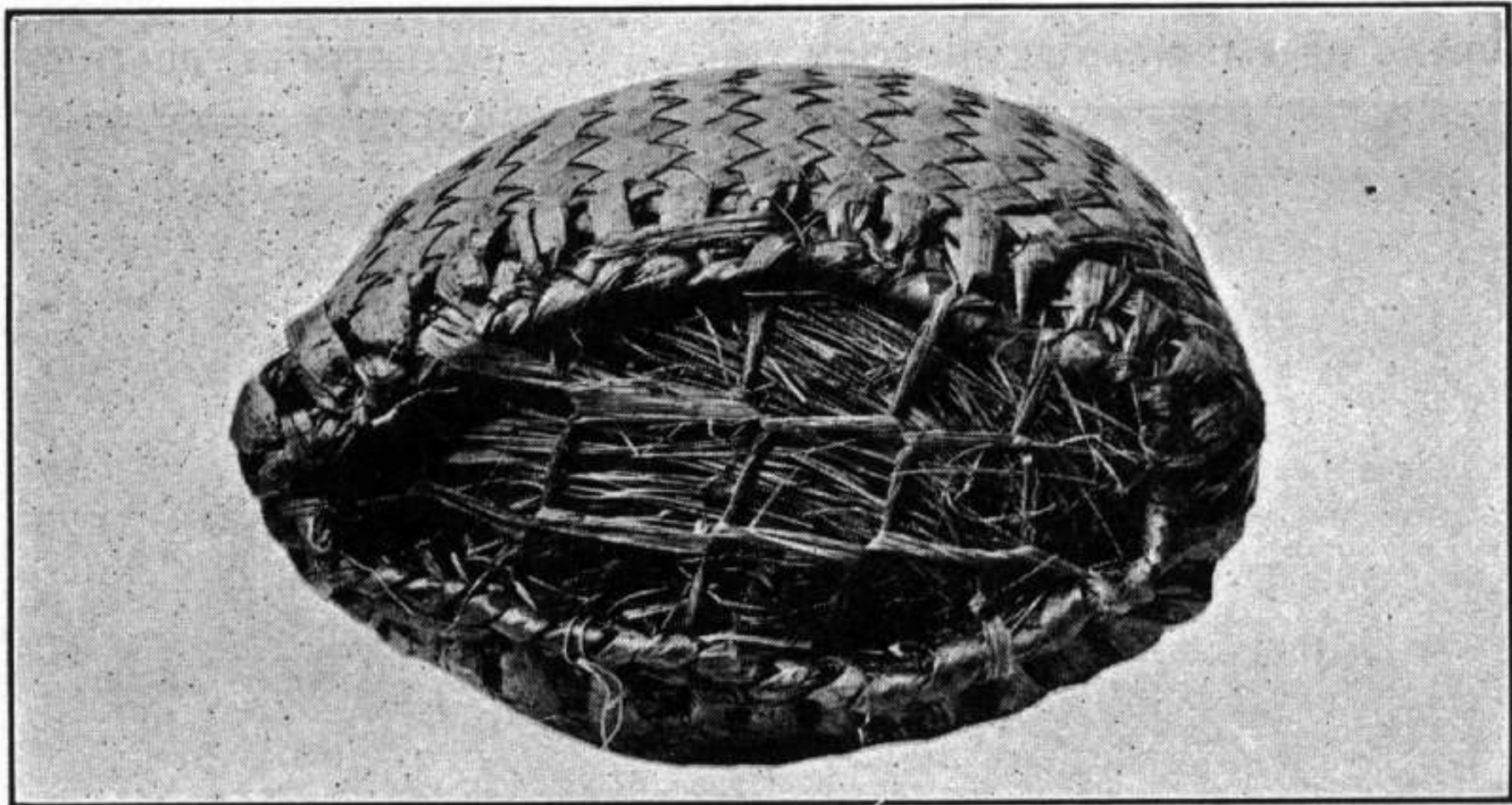






# Malhiot 1804

Bazinet is sometimes in one village, sometimes in another trying to get a sack of wild rice. “But,” you may say, “how does he manage?” I answer that he runs no risk because he arrives at a village, I suppose, with a keg of rum. He finds the Savages sober; he gets from them 10 or 11 sacks of wild rice for which he gives his keg, then he leaves at once and is rid of them...



c, Bark bag filled with wild rice

Rum was used in the fur trade era with  
often devastating results



# Both Voyageurs and Ojibwa supported fur trade logistics



# Mahliot 1804

. . . of all the spots and places I have seen in my thirteen years' of travels, this is the most horrid and most sterile. The Portage road is truly that to heaven because it is narrow, full of over- turned trees, obstacles, thorns, and muskegs. Men who go over it loaded and are obliged to carry baggage over it certainly deserve to be called 'men'

# Norwood 1847

September 23.— Montreal river is about twenty-five feet wide at this point, and three feet deep. It has been bridged in a rude manner by the engages of the American Fur company, who have, for many years, transported goods over this route to the small trading posts established among the Indians at Lac du Flambeau and other points in this direction. We crossed at 7 o'clock, and commenced ascending hills of slight elevation, apparently made up of granite boulders, until we reached a ridge one thousand and seventy-eight feet above the lake. One mile beyond this station we reached the summit of the highlands, dividing the waters of Lake Superior from those of the Mississippi.



# Gray 1846

Their packs usually are very heavy, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty pounds weight, and they are obliged to take advantage of as much water travel as possible. The system of packing, too, is not confined to men alone; but their women pack equally as much, and their children, down to four years of age, in proportion. Upon our expedition I saw an old squaw over seventy years of age with a pack weighing from 80 pounds to 100 pounds, she carried the whole portage.

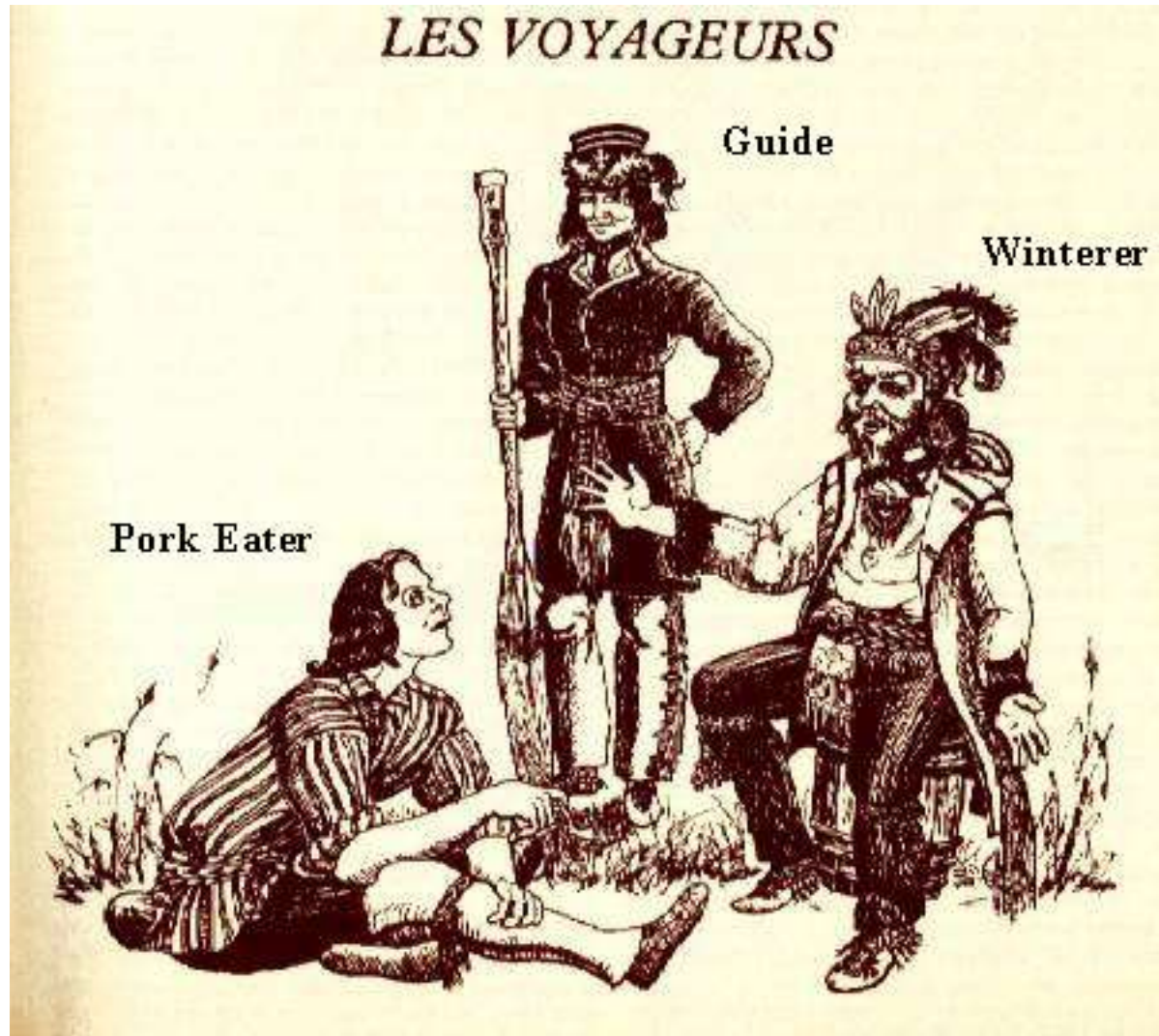
# Allen 1832 on the St. Croix and St. Louis rivers

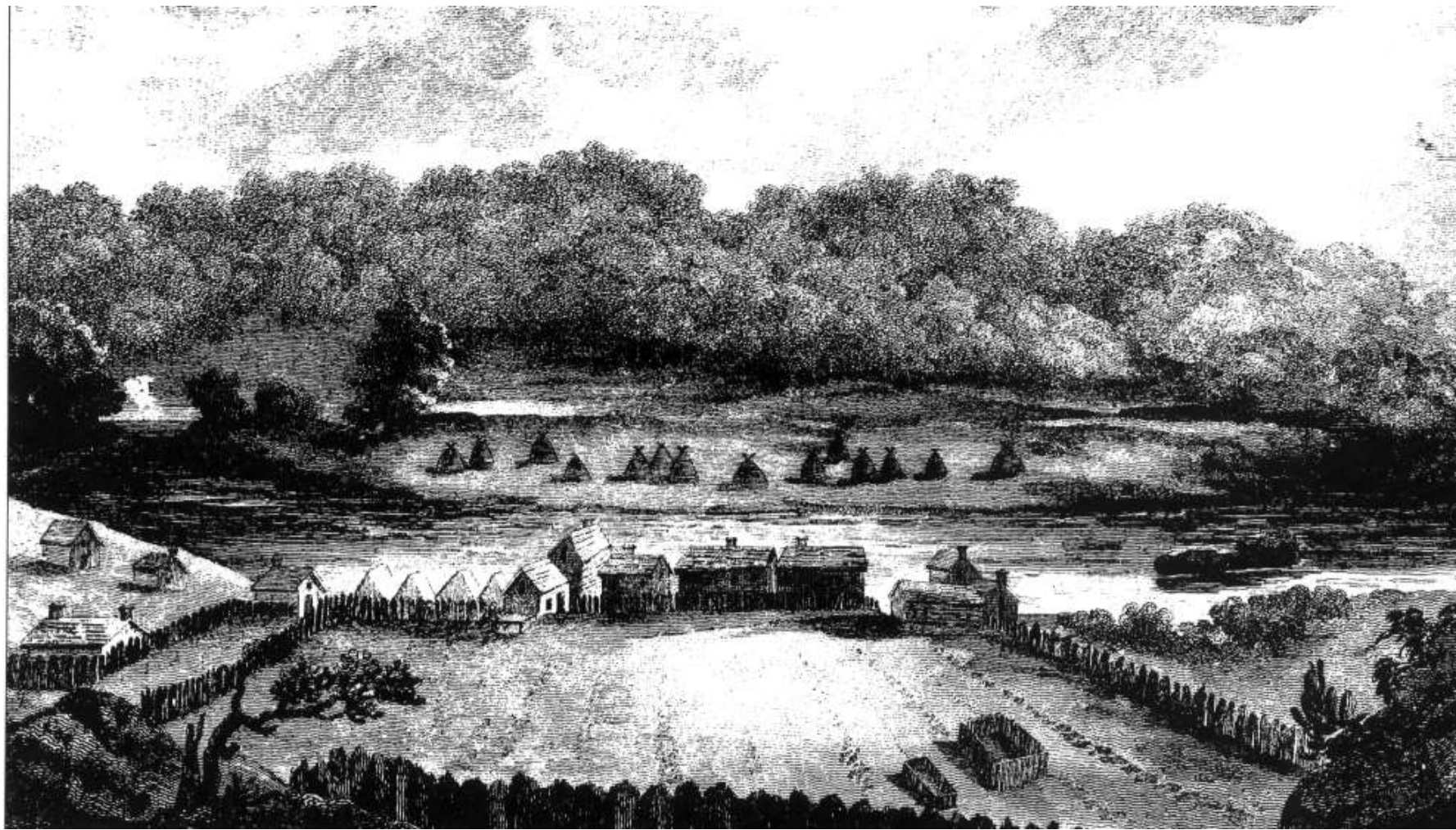
The Indian women carry better than the men being less indolent, and more accustomed to it. I saw a small young Indian women, at the close of the day, carry a keg of one thousand musket ball cartridges for a distance of one mile, without resting, and most of the distance through swamp that was frequently over her knees: this too after having carried heavy loads all day, and when, with less exertion than she had made, my strongest men were exhausted.

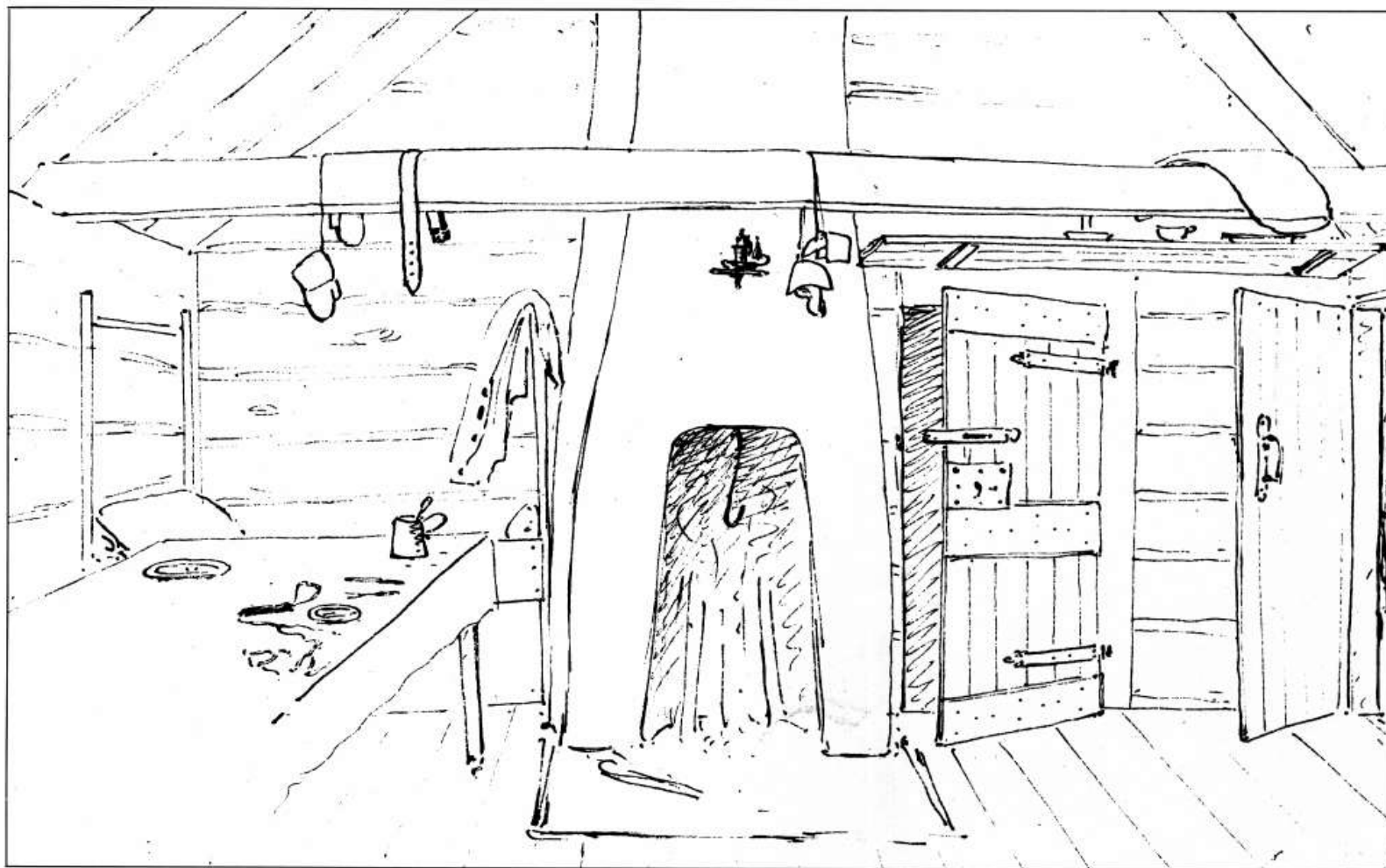
# Who were the voyageurs?



# French labor for fur trade







# French Canadian Fur Trader





# French along the Great Lakes transported goods and furs



# French boatmen and voyageurs



Voyageurs also provided transport for interior regions





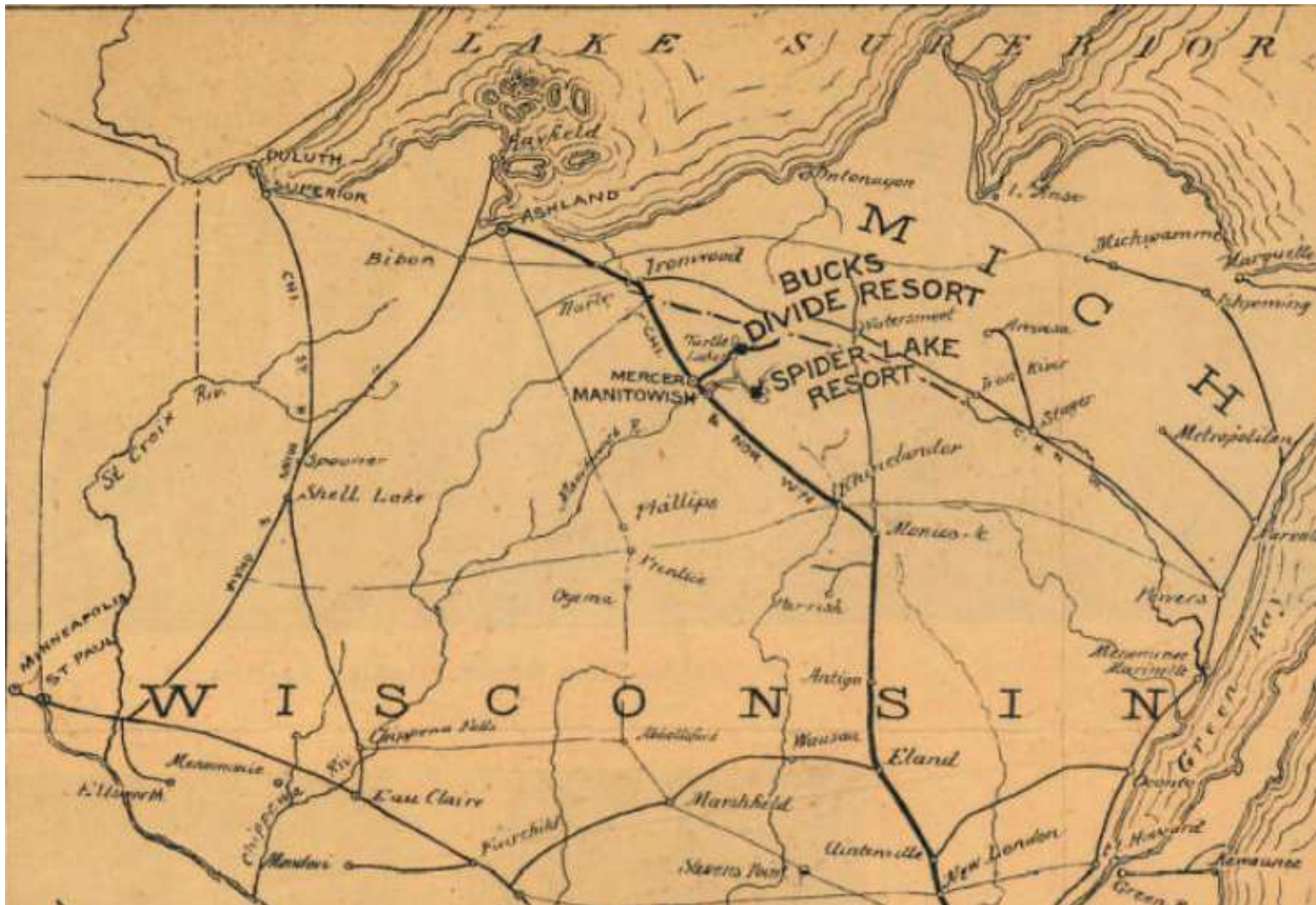
# French fur trade camp site



Non Ojibwa trappers were only present after 1847 in Lac Du Flambeau, but used the Flambeau Trail to trade until 1890



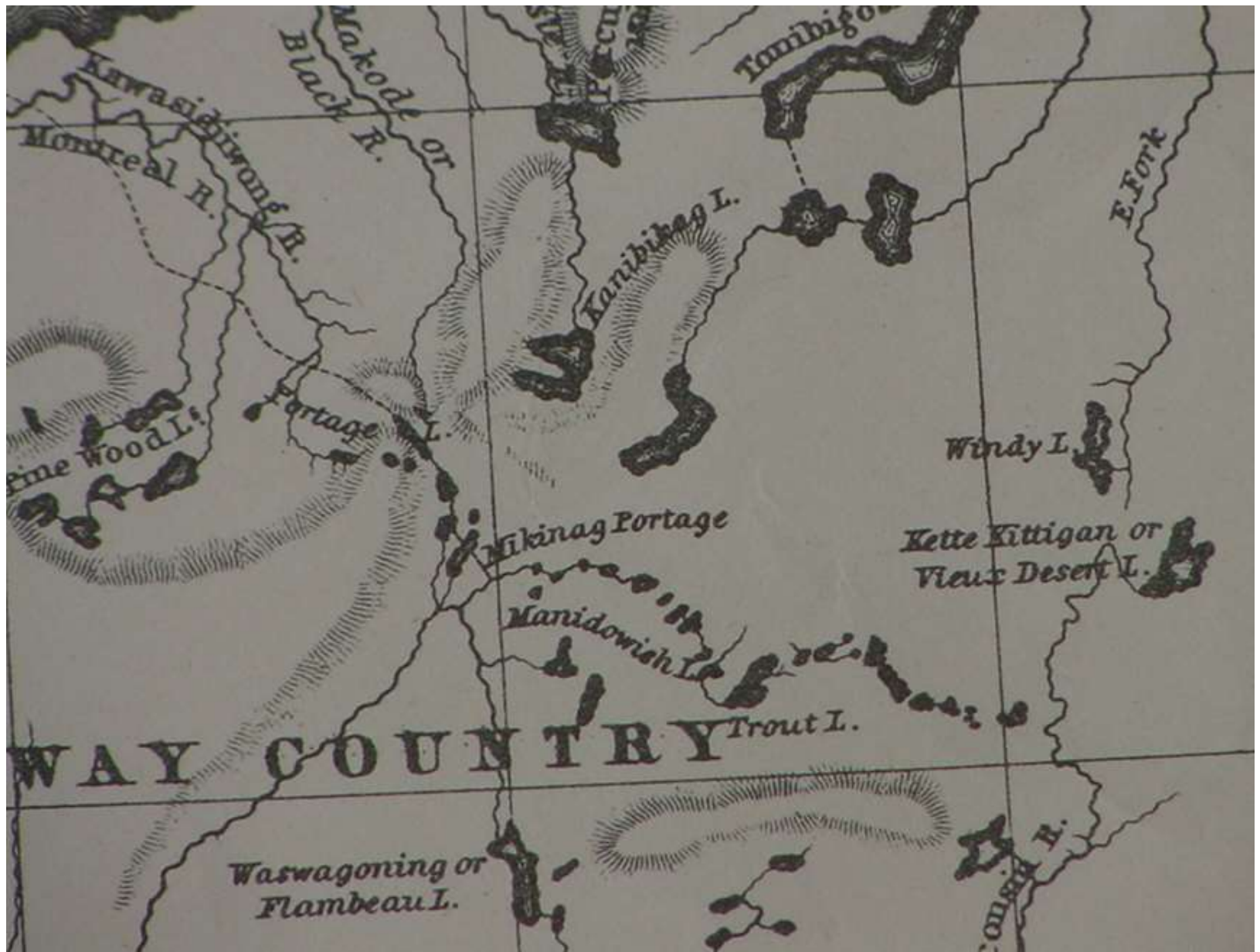
Railroads and wagon roads ultimately  
make the Flambeau Trail obsolete



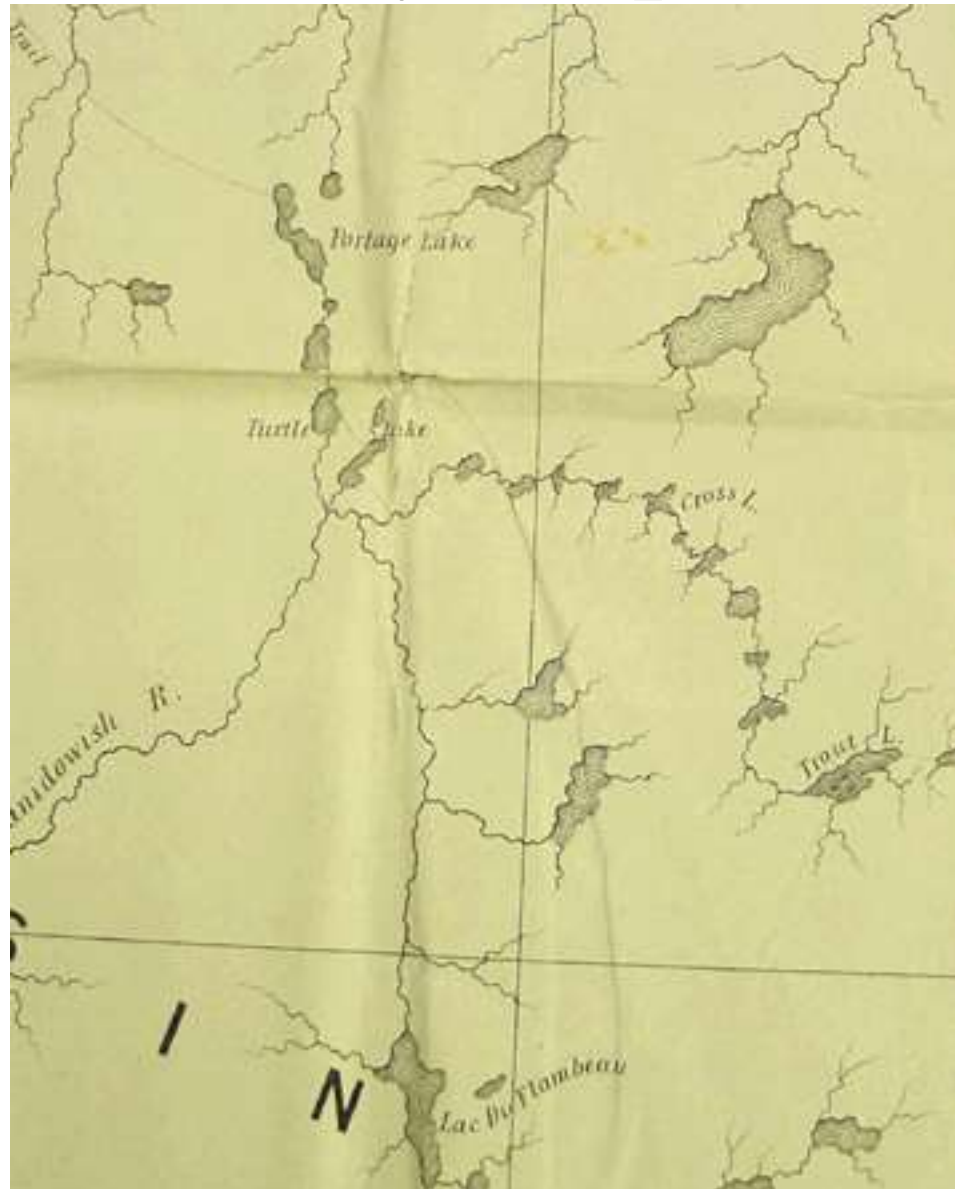
# Selected Historic Maps highlighting the Lac Du Flambeau Fur Trade Era



# Nicolet Map 1843



# AB Gray Map 1846

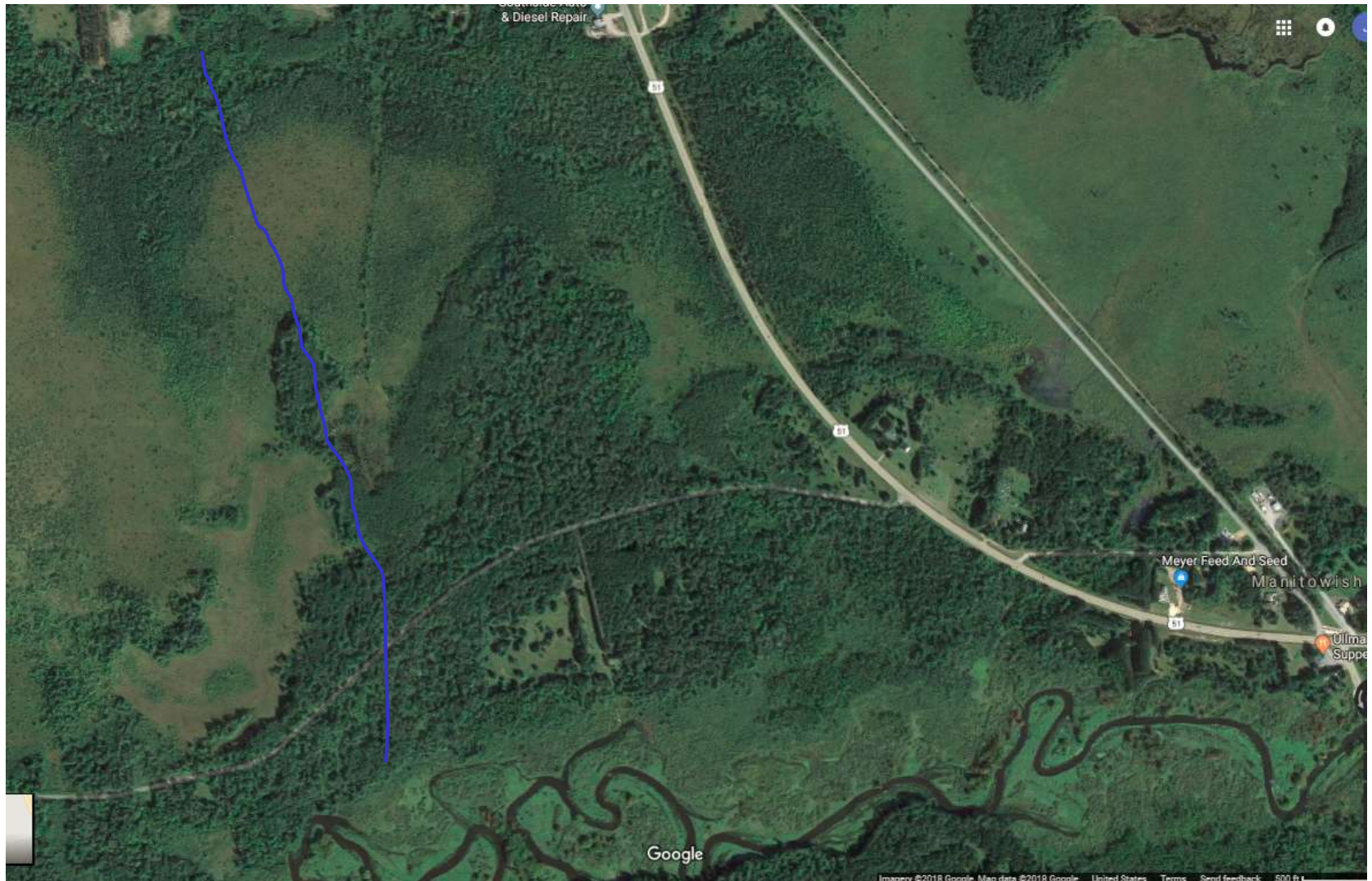


# 1854 Map H. R Schoolcraft





# Trips to take that link to the Flambeau trail...Murray Landing Road



# Bear Print from the trail of 6 -Pause Portage





More sites to visit!



# Copper Harbor-A.B Gray Journal





# Mouth of the Montreal River supported by all journals





# Mouth of Montreal River and start of Flambeau Trail



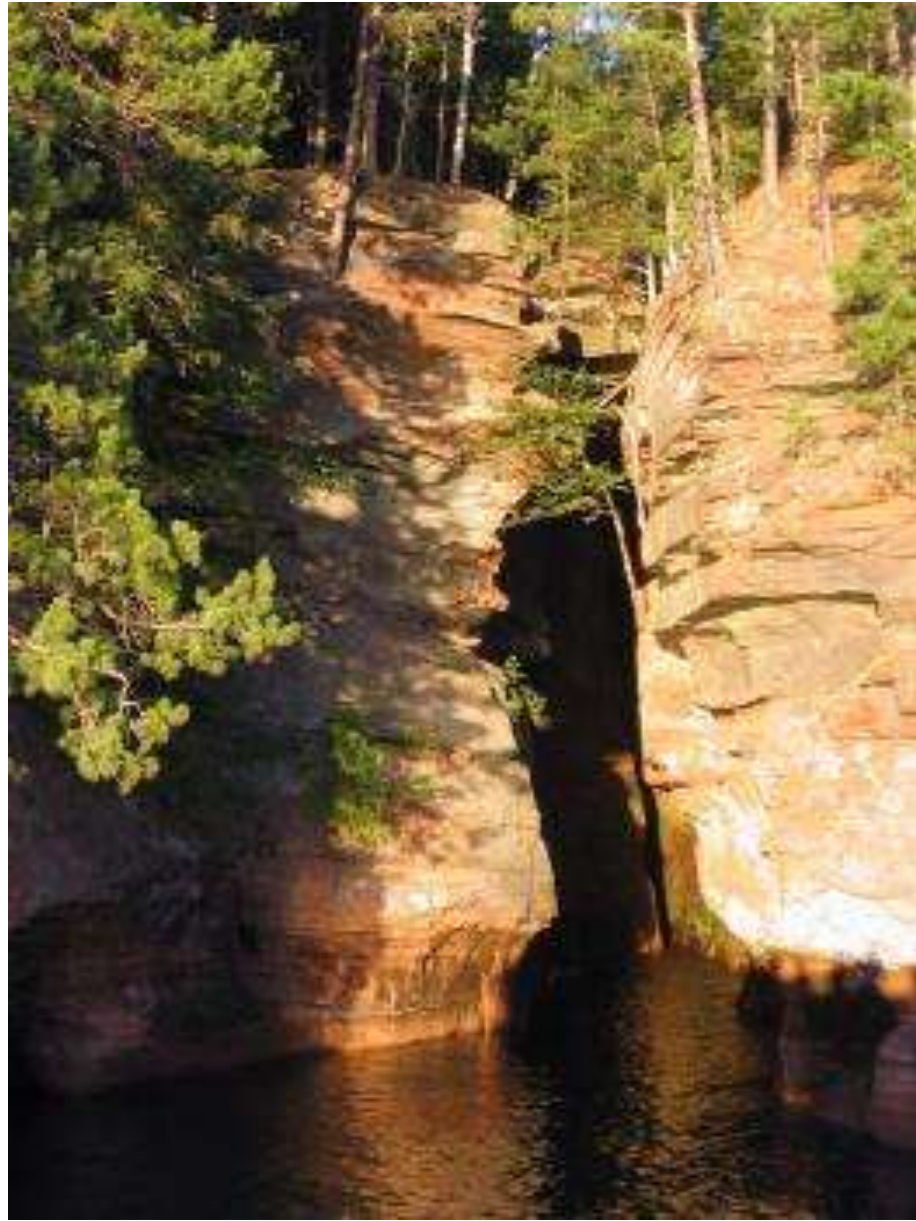




# Sea Caves near Cornucopia-Allen Journal

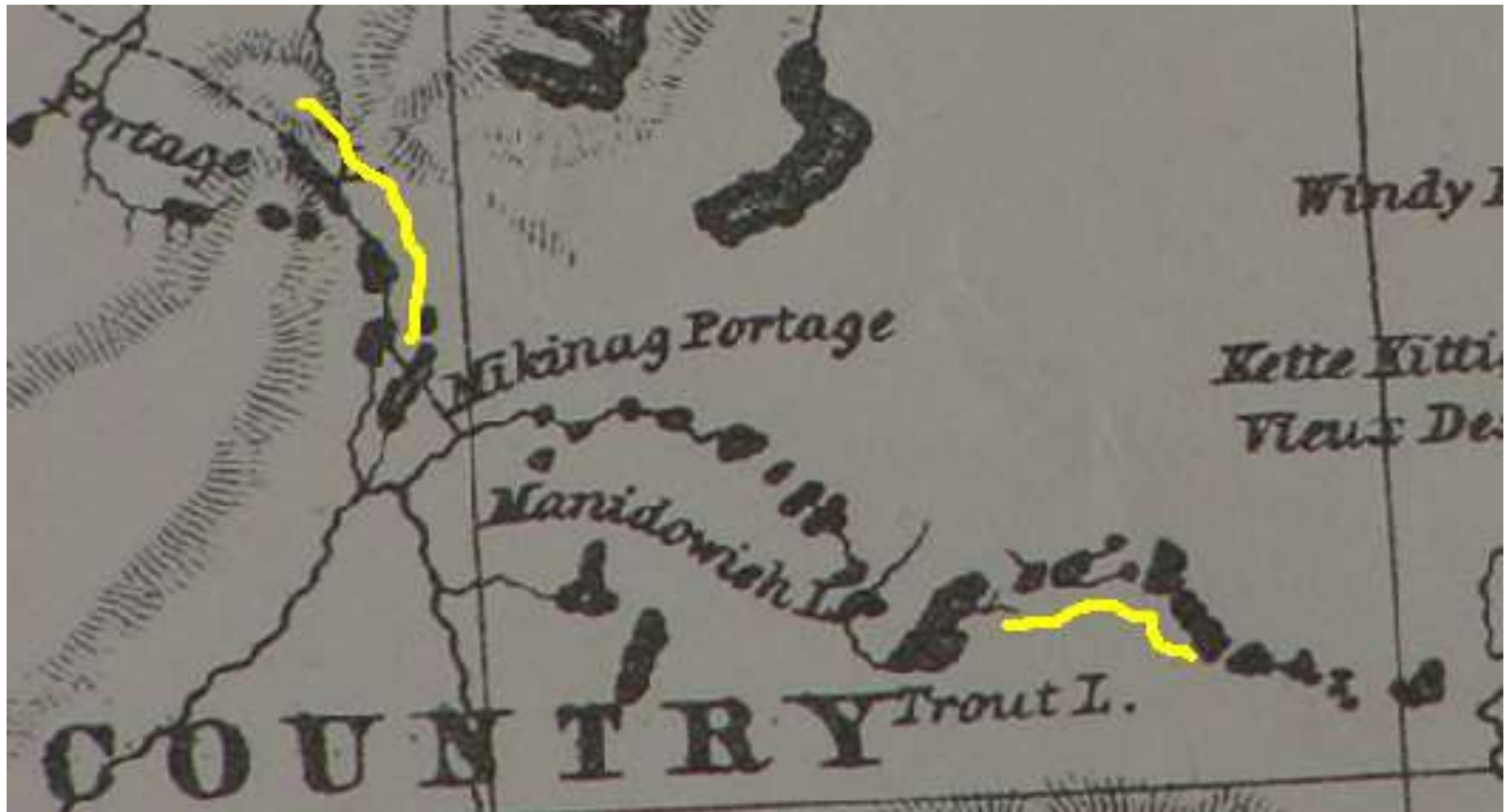




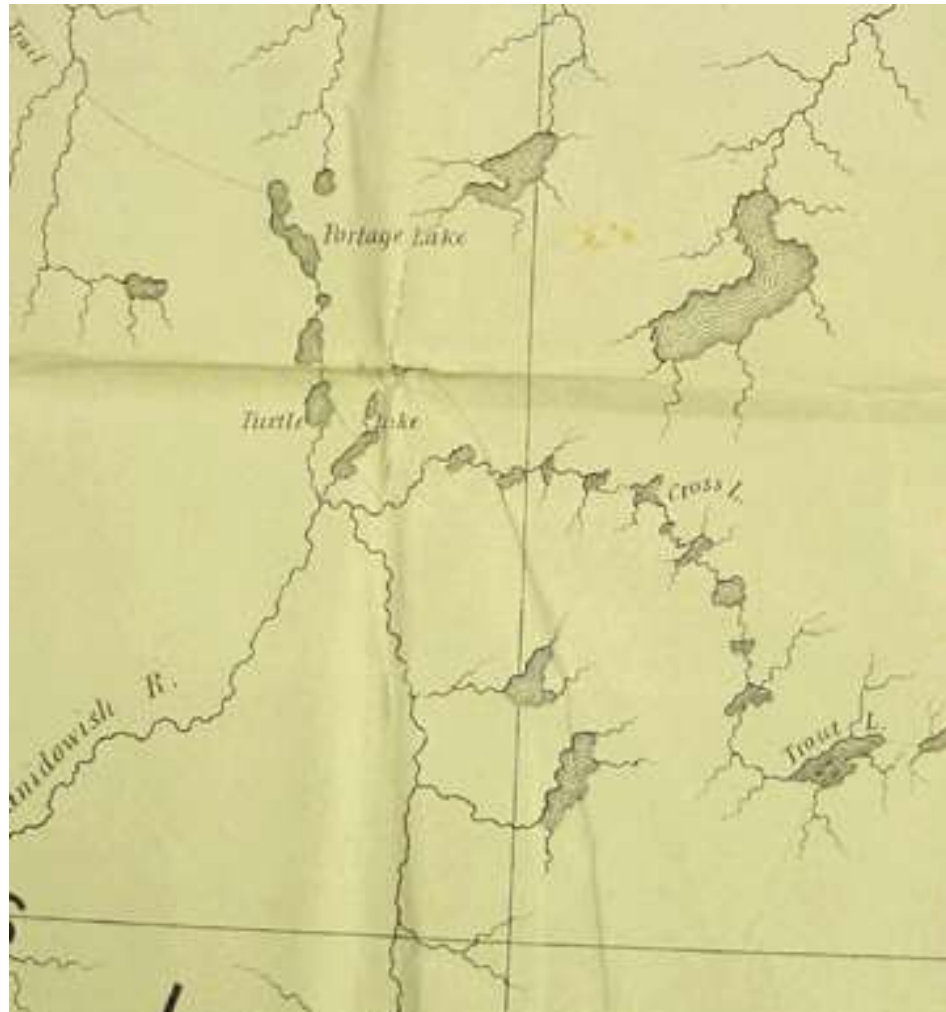




# Two Interior trips



# Long Lake to Mercer WI-A.B. Gray, Malhiot and Norwood Journals





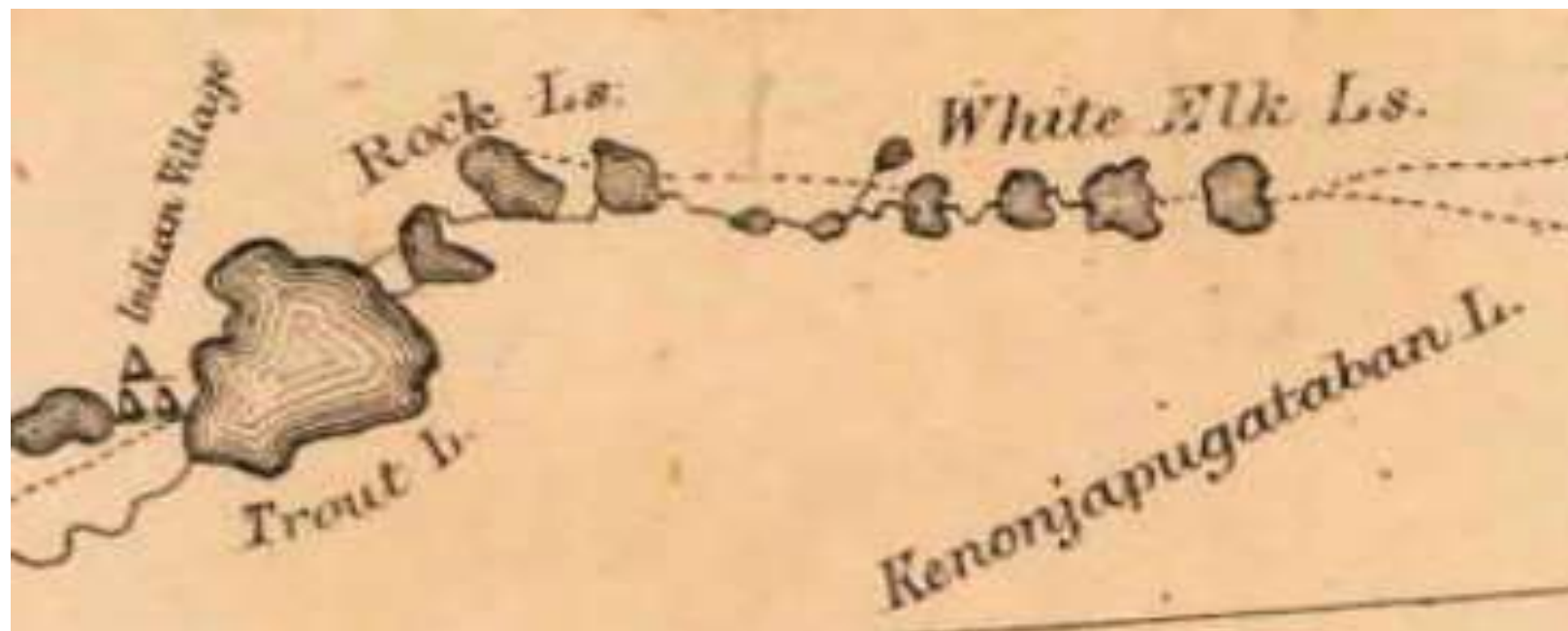






# Trout Lake to Lake Laura –Gray and Norwood Journals



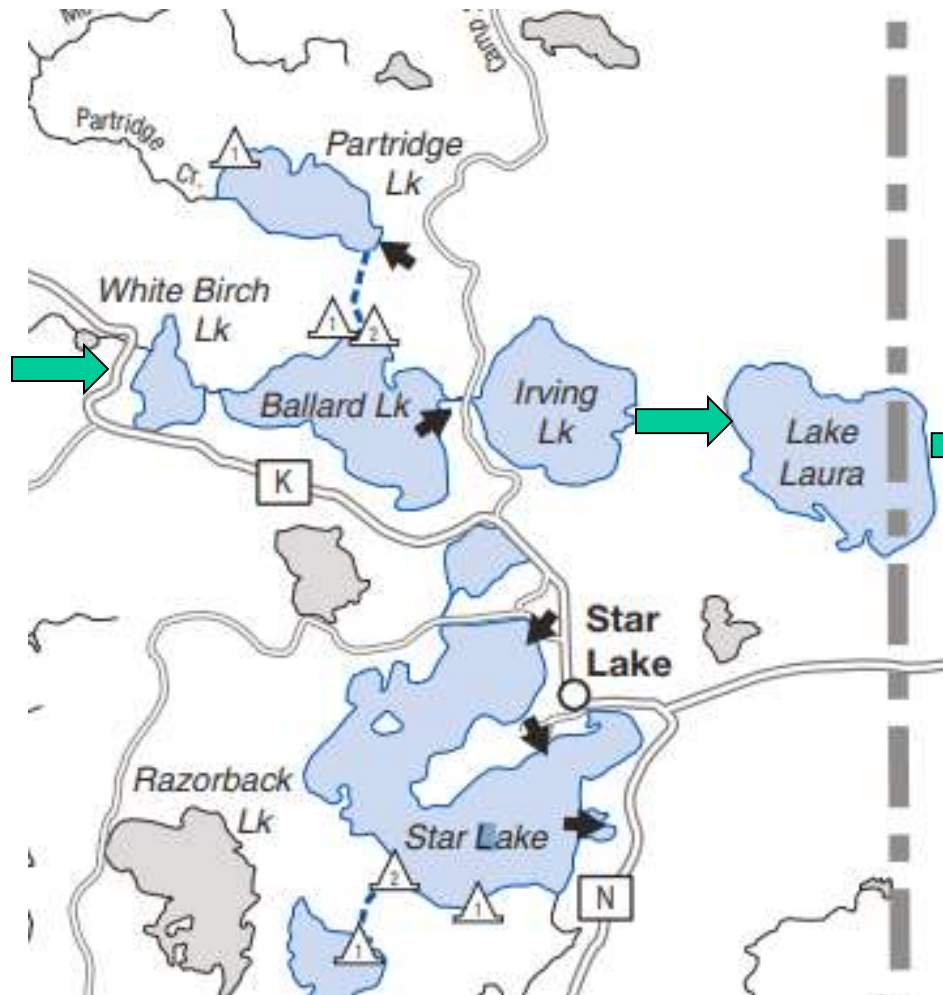


# Access to historic trails via DNR trails



# Access to historic water ways

Long  
portage  
from  
Escanaba  
Lake



Super Long  
portage to  
Buckatobin  
Lake

# Pallet Lake



# Escanaba Lake



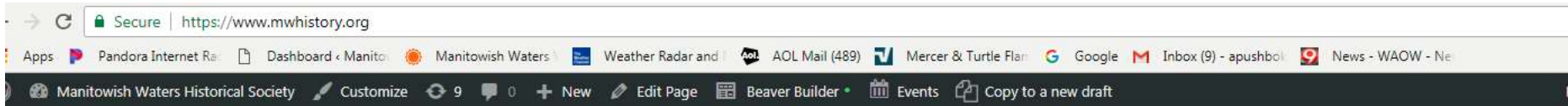


Location:



# mwhistory.org

## bokernapush@gmail.com



**MANITOWISH WATERS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

- ≡ Research
- ≡ About Us
- ≡ Membership & Donations
- ≡ Oral History & Family Stories
- ≡ Manitowish Waters Historians
- ≡ MW History Blog
- ≡ Calendar of Events
- ≡ Contact Us



- Prehistory
- Early History
- Government
- Recreation
- Commerce
- Community

### Search

### Categories



#### Prehistory & Archaeology

Manitowish Waters Overview, Best Practices  
Q & A, Laws



#### Government

Infrastructure, Federal, State, County,  
Local/Town



#### Commerce

Resorts & Accommodations, Manufacturing,  
Retail, Restaurants & Taverns, Agriculture



#### Early History

Fur Trade, Logging, Ojibwa, Missionaries, Railroads,  
Rest Lake Dam, Federal Agents, Criminal &  
Nefarious Activities



#### Recreation

Hunting, Fishing, Biking, Snowmobiling, Skiing,  
Hiking, Water Sports, Community Center & Parks



#### Community

Municipal, Chamber of Commerce, Schools, Rest  
Lake Dam, Fish Hatchery, Civic Organizations,  
Cultural Activities