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INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA

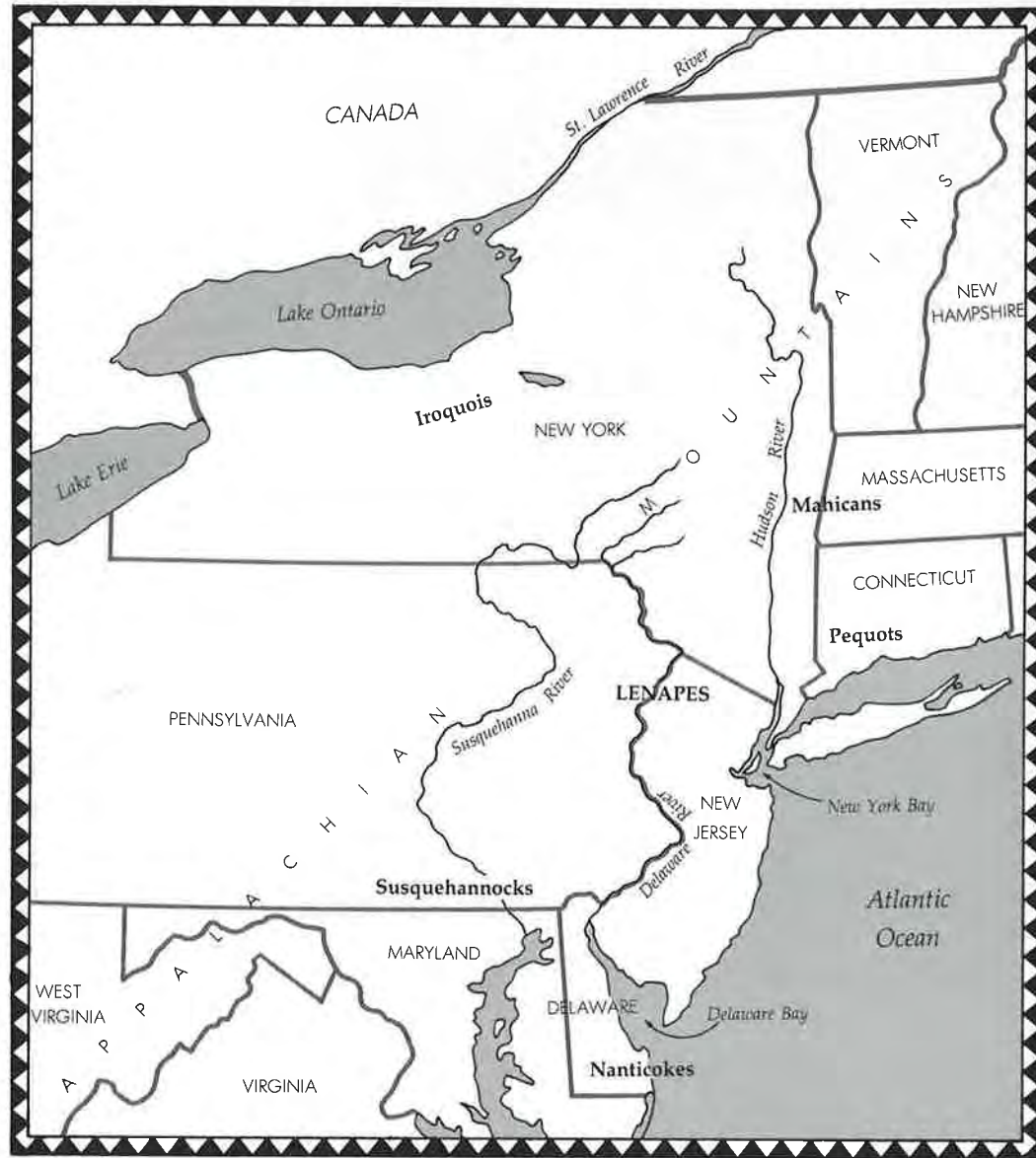
THE LENAPES

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CHELSEA HOUSE PUBLISHERS

New York Philadelphia



Thomas West, baron De La Warr, was governor of the colony of Virginia from 1610–11. The Delaware branch of the Lenapes, as well as the colony (now state) of Delaware, are named after him.

living in the fur-rich Ohio country. Many Lenapes, however, found their movements blocked by powerful tribes. To the south and west, the Seneca of the Five Nations and the independent Iroquoian-speaking Susquehannocks jealously guarded paths and rivers leading beyond the Appalachian Mountains to the rich trapping lands in the Ohio Valley. To the east, the Pequots stood between the Lenapes and abundant New England trapping grounds and well-stocked Boston traders. And to the north, the Mohawk and the Oneida of the Iroquoian-speaking Five

Nations and the Algonquian-speaking Mahican and prevented competitors from gaining direct access to furs and French trade goods from Canada.

Lenapes responded to these challenges in different ways. Many moved nearer to the colonists' towns to take advantage of closer trade and social contacts. Others, such as those Lenapes who began moving in the 1600s to what is now Ohio, abandoned their ancestral lands. But most relocated to already existing Lenape villages farther inland, away from the main European settlements along the major rivers.

In the north, many Munsees moved away from New Amsterdam north to the rocky uplands east of the Hudson River. Others moved west from the Hudson up along the Esopus and Wallkill rivers below the Catskill Mountains. Farther south, Munsees living along the shores of Long Island Sound and the lower Hudson moved inland toward the rugged interior. Others moved eastward on Long Island to the Indian towns of Canarsee, Rockaway, Massapequa, and Matinecock in what are now Brooklyn, Queens, and Nassau County.

Between 1640 and 1700 Munsees living around New York Bay and the lower Hudson also moved south and west to villages along the Hackensack, Passaic, Raritan, and Musconetcong rivers in what is now northern New Jersey. During the first decades of the 18th century most of these people joined other Lenapes at Minisink towns along the upper Delaware River. It was there

that they and their kinfolk first came to be known as Munsees, "People from Minisink."

By the 1630s, many Unami-speaking Lenapes living around the mouth of the Schuylkill River were driven east, into what became New Jersey, by Susquehannocks seeking to dominate the Delaware River trade. Most of these people settled along the many small creeks flowing through the Jersey pinelands. Most later moved north to central New Jersey or to the Lehigh River country above Easton, Pennsylvania, and farther west to Tulpehocken (Turtle Place) on the upper Schuylkill above Reading, Pennsylvania. Others later moved south of Philadelphia to communities located at Okehocking (Surrounded Place) on Brandywine Creek. These and other Unamis ultimately became known as the Delaware Indians, after the river running through the heart of their territories. The name itself springs, as previously mentioned, from Thomas West, baron De La Warr, the English soldier who as governor of Virginia Colony dissuaded settlers from abandoning Jamestown during a difficult point in their enterprise.

Many Lenape families who left Lenapehoking during the 1600s and 1700s moved away forever. Others left only temporarily. Many were lured away by the fur-rich trapping grounds, but others simply did not want to live near Europeans. The dispersal of the Susquehannocks by the Iroquois during the 1670s removed a major obstacle to Lenape travel to the west. By 1700 many

Lenapes had settled along the Susquehanna River valley to remain close to their ancestral homes. Others moved farther away, to Indian towns in the Allegheny and Ohio river valleys beyond the Appalachian Mountains, or north, where they were among the French and their Canadian Indian allies. A few may have gone even farther, into the deep forests north of the Great Lakes or west into the prairie grasslands of the Great Plains.

Although many Lenapes initially welcomed Europeans, others violently opposed them. In 1631, for example, the Sickoneysinck destroyed Swanendael (today the town of Lewes, Delaware), one of the first Dutch settlements along the South River. Others, such as the Munsees living along the lower Hudson River, were driven to open resistance only gradually.

Misunderstanding, miscalculation, and stupidity led to a wave of murders, assaults, and thefts by settlers and Indians alike during the 1630s. This ever-increasing violence finally erupted into war in the following decade. After being attacked without warning first by the Dutch and later by their Mahican allies, a confederacy of at least 12 Munsee communities went to war against the settlers. The resulting conflict, which lasted from 1640 to 1649, included a series of European massacres of Indian communities between 1643 and 1645. This phase of the fighting is today known as Governor Kieft's War, after the Dutch governor who, on February 23, 1643, ordered the massacre of