

Pokégnek Bodéwadmik

The Pokagon Band
of Potawatomi



Survival and Revival through Storytelling

University of Notre Dame - 2016

Who Are the Potawatomi?

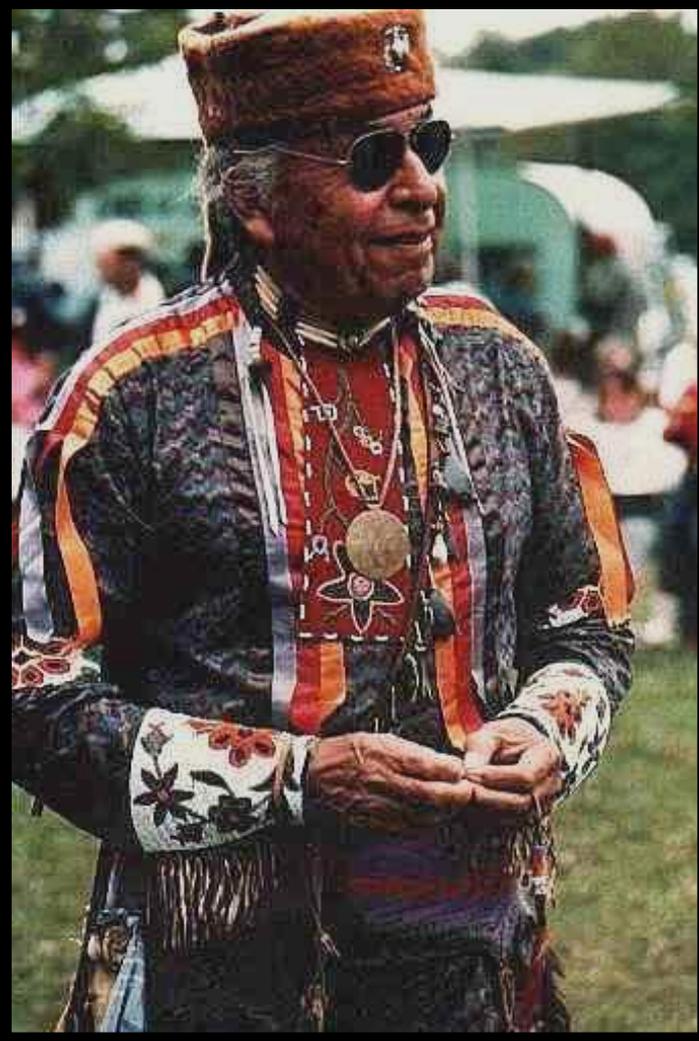
The identity of the Potawatomi, as with most every Native peoples in North America, is often stereotyped by outsiders. Through time, we have remained a proud and productive tribal community, and continue to hold a unique place in society. We are the descendants of the allied Potawatomi villages located along the St. Joseph, Paw Paw, and Kalamazoo Rivers in what is now southwest Michigan and northern Indiana.



Origins

Frank Bush (1922 - 1997)

Naswa Wua Quet - Eagle Weather, Eagle Clan Potawatomi



A Pipe Carrier and Head Veteran Dancer, of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.

See: <http://www.walkin-thespirit.com/>

Potawatomi Territory - 1680 to 1820



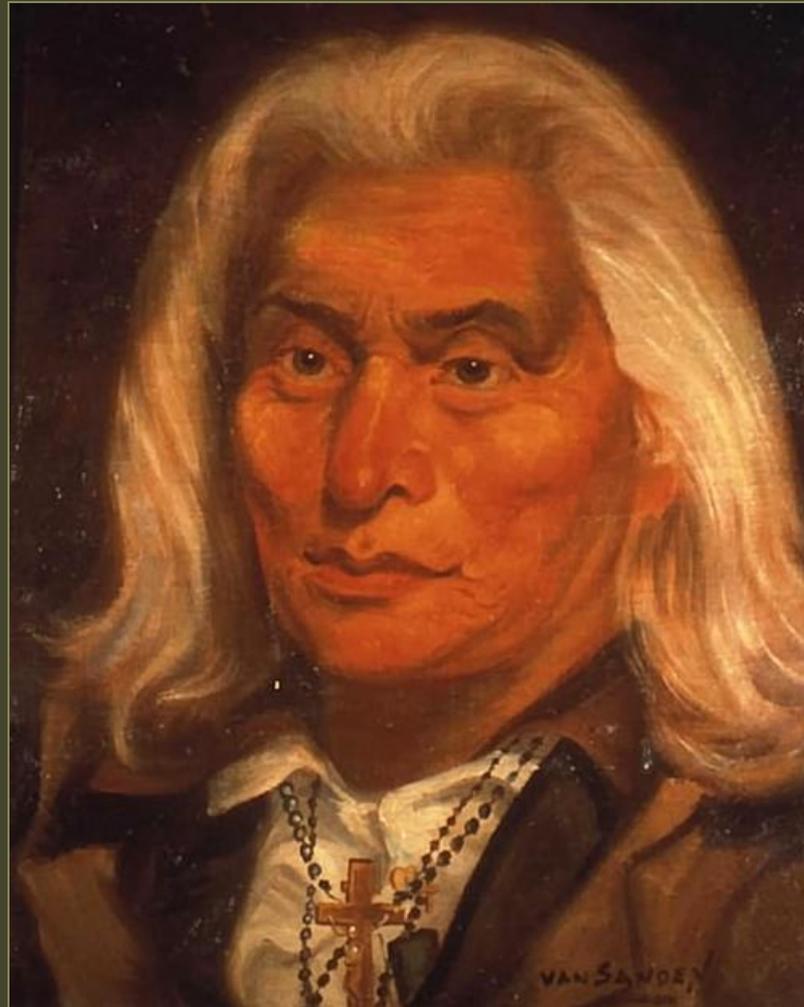
Wigwas Jimanen – Birch Bark Canoes



From the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, WCHA

The Emergence of
Pokagon's Band
of Potawatomi Indians

The 1833 Treaty of Chicago



Leopold Pokagon 1775 - 1841

Image courtesy of the Northern Indiana Center for History

Who Tells Our Stories?

- ✦ Explorers
- ✦ Colonizers
- ✦ Pioneers
- ✦ Newspapers & Magazines
- ✦ Politicians
- ✦ Anthropologists
- ✦ Archeologists
- ✦ Historians
- ✦ Biographers
- ✦ Travelers
- ✦ Fiction Writers
- ✦ Poets

But, Native people s were never silent...

Oral Traditions

- ✦ Creation Stories
- ✦ Songs
- ✦ Tricksters
- ✦ Lessons
- ✦ Life
- ✦ Explanations



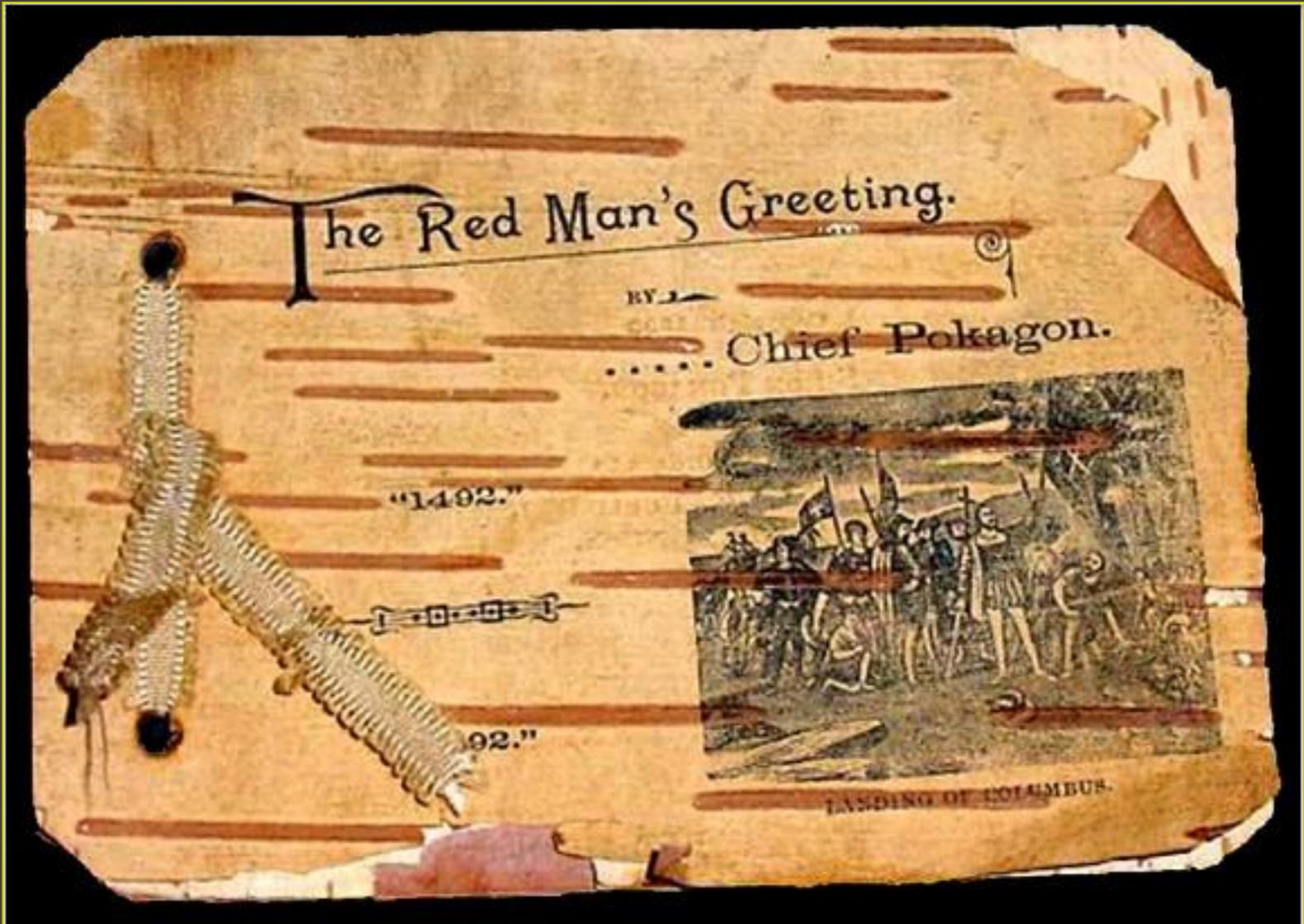
The Flood - by Roy Thomas, Charles J. Meyers Great Lakes Indian Art Collection

... and



- ✦ baskets
- ✦ birchbark Scrolls
- ✦ beadwork
- ✦ pottery
- ✦ chants and songs
- ✦ carvings
- ✦ dance

1893 - *The Red Man's Greeting* on Birch Bark



From *The Red Man's Greeting*:

On behalf of my people, the American Indians, I hereby declare to you, the pale-faced race that has usurped our lands and homes, that we have no spirit to celebrate with you the great Columbian Fair now being held in this Chicago city, the wonder of the world. No; sooner would we hold the high joy day over the graves of our departed than to celebrate our own funeral, the discovery of America. And while...your hearts in admiration rejoice over the beauty and grandeur of this young republic and you say, 'behold the wonders wrought by our children in this foreign land,' do not forget that this success has been at the sacrifice of *our* homes and a once happy race.

~ Simon Pokagon

"O-GI-MAW-KWE
MIT-I-GWA-KI"

Queen of the Woods



The cover of Simon Pokagon's novel, published after his death in 1899.

Frontispiece from his book



Chief Simon Pokagon

The photograph of the above portrait was taken at the request of the publisher of this book on the eighth anniversary of the founding of the city of Hartford, Mich. The guests of honor were the business men of Chicago, and many prominent residents of Michigan; the readers of the day were Governor Pitman, Hon. Andrew Smith, and Chief Pokagon. The latter with approval to the picture was the judge of the day, and was seated on by the general.

O-GĪ-MĀW-KWĒ MIT-I-GWĀ-KĪ (Queen of the Woods).

ALSO

BRIEF SKETCH OF THE ALGAIC LANGUAGE

BY CHIEF POKAGON

*Author of "Red Man's Greeting," Printed in a
"Book-back Booklet"*

*The past era never be undone,
The new day brings the rising sun
To light the way of duty here
To children with the dusky brow.*

BIOGRAPHY OF THE CHIEF, BY THE PUBLISHER

HARTFORD, MICH.
C. H. ENGLE, PUBLISHER
1899

Nationhood
and
Tribal Citizenship

The Dowagiac Creek near our Tribal Offices – the
beauty of *Nokmeskignan, Grand Mother Earth*



Rush Lake Mission - 1906

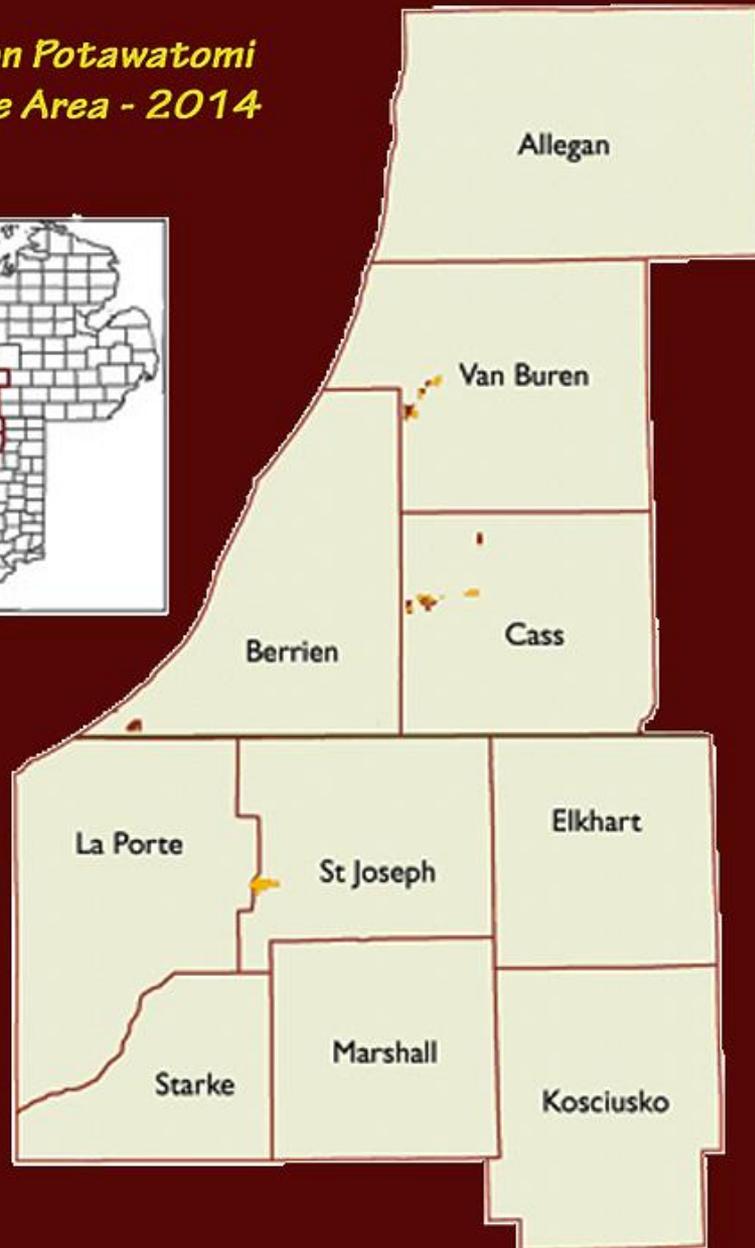




President Bill Clinton Signs a Law Restoring Federal Recognition to the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi – September 21, 1994. U. S. Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, and U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer, D-South Bend assisted tribal leaders in this effort.

(Photo courtesy of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library)

*Pokagon Potawatomi
Service Area - 2014*



Black Ash Basket Making Co-Op

Julia Wesaw & Agnes Rapp



Julia Wesaw, (right) pictured with friend and fellow basket maker Agnes Rapp.
Photo by Alan Kamuda, and courtesy of The MSU Museum, Michigan State University.

John Pigeon



NATIONAL MUSEUM of the AMERICAN

INDIAN

WINTER 2012

ART
MARKET

.....
PEACE
CHIEFS

TORN BY THE
WAR OF 1812

THE TRIUMPH OF
AMERICAN HORSE



WHAT MODERN DANCE
OWES TO INDIANS

JULIE BUFFALOHEAD

...AND MORE



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian



Jennie Brown
Strawberry Basket

The Power of Baskets and Basket Making

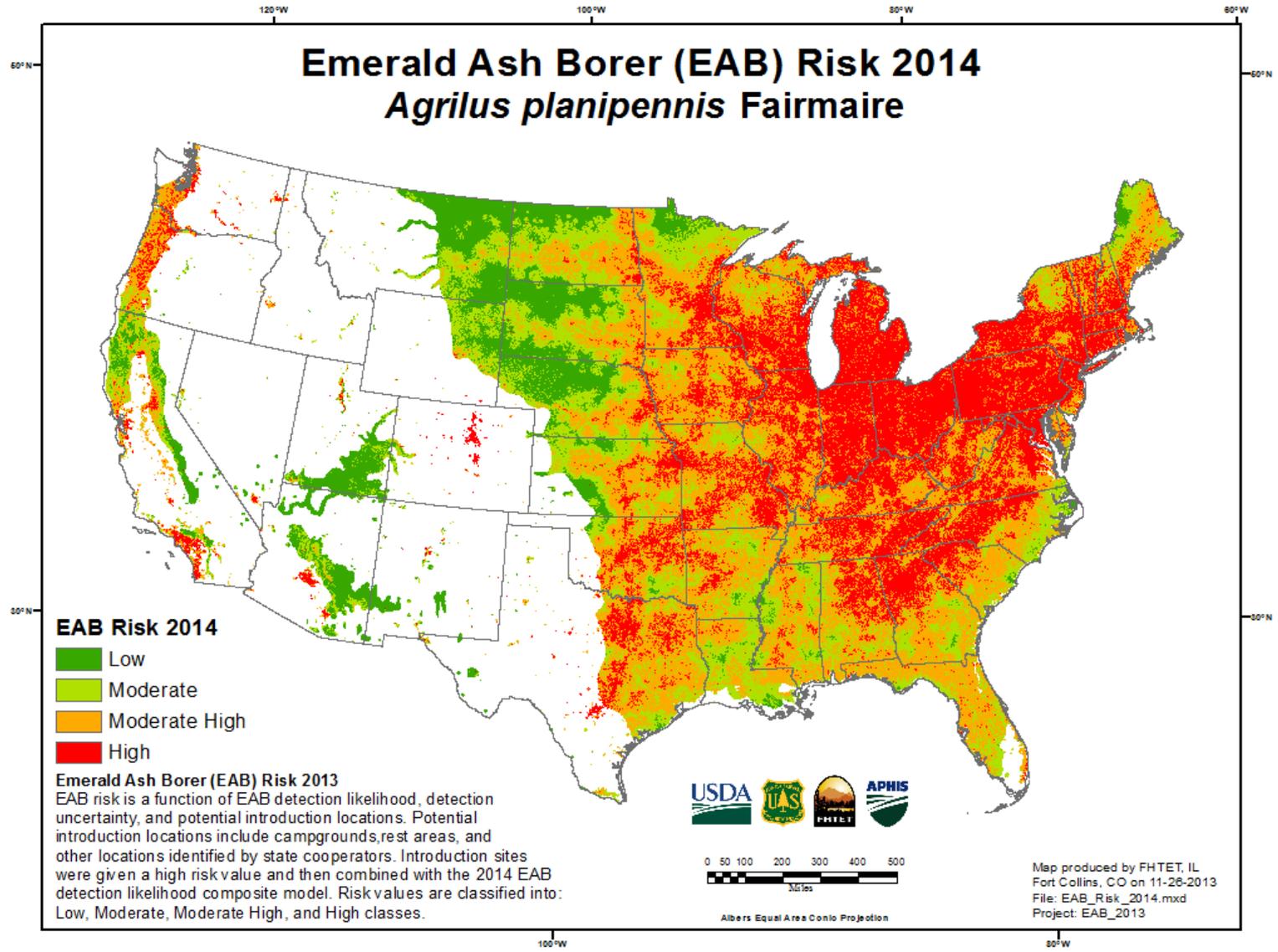
- ❖ Baskets are alive with biographies and autobiographies.
- ❖ Baskets are storytellers.
- ❖ Basket making is a recollection of traditional knowledge that supports community and individual pride and identity.
- ❖ Basket making promotes an iconic marker of Indigeneity within the United States.
- ❖ Basket making promotes economic development and a recognition of Native craft as fine art.
- ❖ Basket making provides a platform for Potawatomi women, in particular, to express themselves.

A threat to the landscape and to our culture, creativity and identity: the emerald ash borer; it bores into the black ash tree ultimately killing the tree.



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Risk 2014

Agrilus planipennis Fairmaire



Map of infestation as of 2016

If there are no black ash trees - there can be no new black ash baskets.

Question – what do you do when the material that you use to make your art and tell your stories disappears?



Tribal Services: More Than Casinos



Tribal Administration Center



Community Center

Pow Wow Dance Arena



Photo courtesy of Jason Wesaw

Pokagon Head Start Facility – School opened in 2005. Many Pokagon Band and non-Native children attend here together. In addition, the building is a place for many cultural and language related activities.



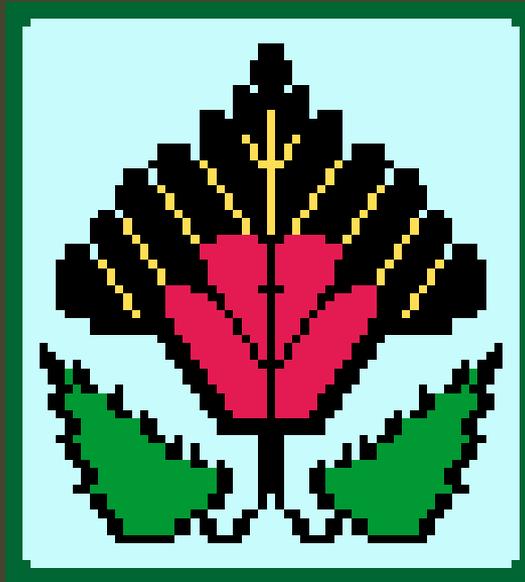
Photo courtesy of Jason Wesaw

The Pokagon Promise



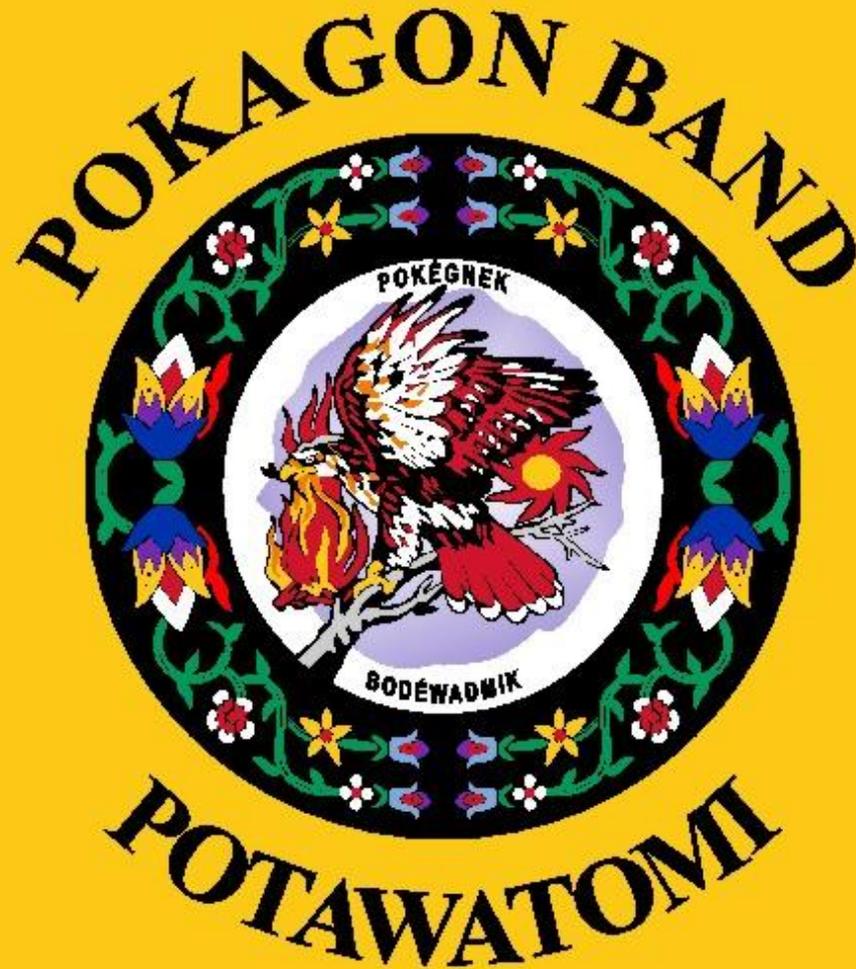
A commitment and a program to provide every Pokagon Band member with the information, services, and opportunities needed to advance the traditions, culture, and Potawatomi language for generations to come.

What We Are Preserving



- History
- Culture
- Language
- Community
- Caring
- Identity
- Legacy
- Pride
- Memories
- Traditions
- Stories
- Values
- Beliefs
- Wisdom





Our symbol of community and commitment.