

Podunk

**The Land that was Both Elevated and Sunk
The High Banks near the Wetlands where the Frogs went Kaplunk**

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Podunk

**There was a place in the Thumb of Michigan once called by some Podunk.
It was where the green and yellow bullfrog went Kaplunk.**

Much can be said about the meaning of the name.
The place called Podunk in Michigan's Thumb was a place of much renown.
It was the early home of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indian town.
What was the meaning of the name?

On the East Coast the place called Podunk was early on called Potaecke.
In Old English to blow or bulge out was to pot or pout.
A corner of land in German is also called "ecke".
Podunk would then mean where the land lumped up or out.
The English word pot and pout mean to be like a bubble to well.
On the east coast the Native Nantick word "pootoemoo" also means to swell.

In the Chippewa and Ottawa language "ombaog" means to swell.
In Latin a circular swelling was called a "bulla" or "boss" and means to bubble or well.

These definitions seem connected to Podunk's root meaning.
In Chippewa and Ottawa, "bodaska" means I had a blowing out or swelling.

In the eastern states Podunk is said to mean a "neck or corner of land".
Podunk was there where the land projected above a wetland bog.
It was the high hill that lay just above the home of the frog.
Podunk was where there was a puff in the land.
Podunk was a neck of land that projected out, a promontory, or point.
In Chippewa and Ottawa "patakann" means it comes to a point.

"Bodana" in Chippewa and Ottawa means I blow.
In Latin "flatus" and "flo" mean to blow.

The East Coast concept of a corner of land may be connected with the Nantick word "pootsai".
In Nantick the word for ground, earth, or a dwelling place was "ohnke"
The Chippewa and Ottawa used for earth the similar sounding word "aki"
Podunk on the East Coast may have been connected with the phrase "pootsai-ohnke",
It should mean a corner of land.
The later New York notion of Podunk was an isolated small, backwater, piece of land.

Actually pootsai means a corner of the house or a resting place that was out of the way.
It was where the house bulge out or puffed out to form a nook or corner.

The Nantick word "pookeu" means something puffed up, waft, or blown out of the way.

In Connecticut the local Native phrase "ptukeu-ohke" means neck or corner of land.
It means the puffed out part of the earth or land.

Podunk in Michigan's Thumb may mean a hill, high bank, or small mountain.

To be bulged up or to be high in Chippewa is "ishpa".

A hill of mountain is called an "ishpadina".

The town name Ishpeming, Michigan, means in Chippewa and Ottawa the high place or heaven.

The basic root "ishpa" means to be deep in depth or high.

It means to be near the sky.

Podunk was the place where the ground swelled and cropped up above the wetland meadows.

Podunk was the land by the swamps, streams, and the river where the land arose.

Podunk in Michigan's Thumb was the home of many a Native American.

In its fens and uplands they would roam in search of elk, moose, and venison.

Podunk was the land of the Native town.

Podunk was a land of much renown.

In the Thumb of Michigan Podunk was a region of causeways and a central hill.
It was a place that Native People would cultivate and till.
Podunk or high bank was bordered to its north by level land that was rich and dark.
At Podunk the hill rose above the Mattawan River where one at the shore could disembark.

Podunk was the land of the ridge and high hill.
In Michigan's Thumb it was the high point in the interior.
In the later 1700's Podunk was the home to the Ottawa people.
It was at Tuscola's or the Flat Land's core.

Podunk seems to have been the name of both a region and its main Indian town.
At Podunk fields of potatoes, squash, beans, and corn were grown.
The Village of Podunk had surprising yields.
Podunk was the place of many Indian fields.
Podunk was the Native hill and cultivated nook.
It was the high knoll that was the out of the way resting place or nook.

Podunk was the setting of many a Native wigwam.
The wigwams would stand relaxed under the pine forest that was temperate, still and calm.

Podunk was also the land of the beaver.
The local Chippewa and Ottawa called them the "amik".
The headwaters of the local streams were filled with many beaver.
They dammed the streams.
In warning they would dive into the ponds with a quick flick.
Their tails would make a resounding sound.
Podunk was the region of the beaver ground.
Thoughts of taking the beaver in the winter filled many people's dreams.

Podunk was where the land was both elevated and sunk.
Near the high ridge the Native drum would tap and tunk.
There often was more than enough potatoes, squash, beans, and Indian corn.
The pathway to Podunk was well worn.
On the river banks of the Village of Podunk stretched many fields of Indian corn.
They grew down near to the river's edge that in stops was swamp.
The high bank of Podunk was celebrated with much dancing and pomp.

Podunk was the high hill.
It was also the place of the Indian corn mill.