Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records, Series 2-1 School Records

SURNAME INTRODUCTION: *Surname within attendance records, ca. 1900-1970

Incomplete, last updated 10/2010 –
Arranged by surname followed by ethnic group, state/country of school (or family origin, if from out-of-state/country), and box number of records

Caution: The compilers made extensive efforts to create an accurate and comprehensive listing of surnames as they appear in the records. However, some spelling variations may be omitted due to difficulties in interpreting the many names that were handwritten.

Wherever possible, ethnic group names conform to Library of Congress subject headings, e.g. Mission = California.

An incomplete compilation of surnames from BCIM Series 2-1 School Records with the following completed -- Boxes 1, 3[1*], 5[4], 7[2-5], 10[1-3], 14[1* & 5*], 17 [1* & 5*], 19, 20[4], 21[3, 4, & 8*], 22, 23[1-3, & 8], 24[1*, 4*, 5*, 7*, 10*, 12, 14, 25[6*], 26[1 & 3], 29[1-3 & 6-7], & 30-38 only from a total 38 boxes for all or part of AZ, CA, MI, MN, MT, ND, NM, OK, SD, WA, WI, & WY. As a preliminary test, the surnames from boxes 1, 19, & 38 were cross-checked against the

“As” of the Series 1 correspondence index, producing a total of five matches. It is estimated that the surname index at that point was about 9% complete, with ca. 1,200 names. Therefore, assuming that this test is about 1,000 matches are expected.

Incomplete.
6/98: 8,000+ surnames, index & compilations not added.

This index is designed to assist researchers in identifying Native Americans named within the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records. It includes approximately 15,000 surnames [anticipated total] with tribal affiliations, from pupil lists within the Series 2/1 School Records, an extraordinary body of personal data on Indians at Mission schools in 15 Midwestern and western states, ca. 1900-1960.

Efforts have been made to include individual entries for all names with all variant spellings, ethnic affiliations, and states with two exceptions. For multiple word surnames with principal words capitalized, no distinction has been made for those using spaces between words and those which do not, as frequently it is not possible to determine this distinction in handwritten records. For surnames associated with mixed ethnicity, multiple tribal designations have been avoided and degree of Indian blood and various non-Indian ethnic information has been restricted to protect personal privacy.

Boldfacing indicates ca. 1,000 matches [anticipated total] between surnames in this index and the surnames in the Series 1 index to Bureau and Commission Correspondence. A match is determined when both indexes have names with identical spellings and affiliations within the same state. While this match does
not confirm a Native American identity, it does provide a measure of probability.

The pupil lists relate to mission schools in these states: Arizona, California, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Within the index, postal abbreviations followed by numbers indicate the schools’ states with box numbers of the original reports.

Tribal affiliations are described with Library of Congress (LC) subject headings, using the most specific term whenever possible, e.g. “Oneida” and “Cupeno” are preferred over “Iroquois” and “California” respectively but the latter are used when no additional information is given for individual surnames. Double question marks indicate that no tribal affiliations are given and single question marks following tribal names indicate possible tribal affiliations even though tribal affiliations are not given. No question marks following tribal names indicate that tribal affiliations are given for at least some instances. Bracketed states indicate the known states of origin for surnames when they differ from the states for school locations.

The Indian ethnic terms are arranged alphabetically by LC headings in the table of ethnic terms along with surname totals [from Boxes 1, 19, & 38] for each group and a listing of names when a total is 10 or less. LC terms are listed on the left and related ethnic terms are on the right. Surname totals for each tribe are also included.

Table of Ethnic Terms and Surname Totals [Bullets indicate tribes for which surnames have been found.]
• Apache
• Arapaho, UF = Arapahoe
• Arikara
• Assiniboine, UF = Assineboine
• Atsina, UF = Gros Ventre
• Bannock
• Caddo
• California, UF = Mission; NT = Cahuilla, Campo, Chumash, Cocopa, Cupeno, Diegueno, Hupa, Luiseno, Maidu, Miwok, Pomo, Serrano, Washo, & Yurok
• Cayuse
• Chehalis
• Cherokee
• Cheyenne
• Chickasaw
• Chinook
• Choctaw
• Clackamas
• Coast Salish, NT = Chehalis, Lummi, Nisqualli, Puyallup, Quinault, Suquamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, & Twana
• Cayuse
• Cocopa, UF = Cocopah
• Coeur D'Alene, UF = Coeur d’Alene
• Colville, UF =
• Comanche
• Cowlitz
• Cree, 18
• Creek
• Crow, 30
• Cupeno, UF
• Dakota, UF = Brule, Lakota, Oglala, Sioux
• Delaware
• Diegueno, UF = Mission
• Eskimo, UF = Inuit, Yupic Eskimo
• Haida
• Hopi, UF = Moqui
• Iroquois, NT = Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, & Tuscarora
Background

Native Americans had acquired surnames by 1900. Most used names acquired locally, either from their family and tribal heritage or from local non-Indians. Oftentimes, spellings, capitalization, word spacing within names, and the use of hyphens varied for the same individuals and surnames varied over time. At St. Labre’s Mission among the Northern Cheyenne of...
Montana, for example, native language surnames were used exclusively through 1904, followed by the exclusive use of English translations beginning the following year. Nonetheless, spellings, capitalization, and hyphenation continued to vary despite the language change.

Some general characteristics of Native American surnames:

- **Surnames of non-Indian origin.** Further reflects the historic non-Indian influence over Indians. It may also indicate non-Indian ancestry within a family.
- **Surnames of Indian origin, but not recognizably Indian.** Some surnames are generally not recognizable when expressed in native languages, e.g. Cantu, Hustoni, and Sooktis. Others became indistinguishable when translated into English and shortened to a single word, e.g. “Fish,” listed for three tribes; “White,” listed for seven tribes; and “Wolf,” listed for two tribes.

A few common examples of surnames of native origin:

- **Cherokee**- Bushyhead, Kingfisher, Matoy, and Youngbird;
- **Dakota**- Eagle Bull, Long Soldier, Red Owl, and Yankton;
- **Eskimo**- Egoak, Kinneeveauk, Nageak, and Tungwenuk;
- **Iroquois (Oneida)**- Metoxin, Powless, and Skanandore;
- **Navajo**- Begay, Redhouse, Silversmith, and Yazzie;
- **Ojibwa**- DeNomie, Gokey, Loonsfoot, and Onan.