



Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions  
Records, Series 2-1 School Records  
SURNAME INTRODUCTION: *Surnames  
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

- Iowa
- Jemez
- Kalapuya, UF = Calapooia
- Kickapoo
- Kiowa
- Klamath
- Kutenai, UF = Koutenie
- Luiseno, UF = Mission
- Lummi
- Maricopa
- Menominee
- Mohave
- Mohawk
- Muckleshoot, UF = Mickleshoot
- Navajo
- Nehalem, UF = Tillamook
- Nespelem, UF = Nespelim
- Nez Perce
- Nisqualli, UF = Nesqually
- Nooksack
- Ojibwa, UF = Chippewa, Saukteaux
- Okanagan, UF = Okanogan, Okinagan; BT = Colville
- Oneida
- Osage
- Oto UF = Otoe
- Ottawa
- Picuris
- Piegan, RT = Siksika
- Peoria
- Pima, 157
- Potawatomi, UF = Pottawatomie
- Pueblo, NT = Acoma, Jemez, Hopi, Isleta, Keresan, Picuris, Taos, Tewa, & Zuni
- Puyallup
- Quapaw
- Salish, UF = Flathead
- Sauk & Fox, UF = Sac & Fox
- Seminole
- Seneca
- Serrano, UF = Morongo
- Shoshoni, UF = Shoshone
- Siksika, UF = Blackfeet, Blackfoot; NT= Piegan
- Siletz
- Skokomish
- Spokane
- Stockbridge
- Suquamish, UF = Port Madison
- Swinomish
- Tlingit, UF = Douglas
- Tohono O'Odham, UF = Papago
- Tulalip
- Tututni, UF = Tetotney, Rogue River
- Umatilla
- Umpqua
- Walla Walla
- Wenatchi, UF = Wenatchee
- Wichita
- Winnebago, UF = Ho Chunk
- Wyandot, UF = Wyandotte
- Yakama
- Yaqui
- Yuma
- Zuni
- Indian surnames without tribal identification, 70
- Afro(-American) = Colored, Negro, 4
- European (American) = White, 4
- Mexican (American) = Mexican, 8
- Spanish (American) = Spanish, 1

### 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 Skenandore;
- **Navajo-** Begay, Redhouse, Silversmith, and Yazzie;
- **Ojibwa-** DeNomie, Gokey, Loonsfoot, and Onan.