

The Heritage of the Chippewa Swan Family

Gi-ji-gos-se-kot, aka **Ke-che-gos-se-kot**, was born in the early 1500's probably near the St. Lawrence River in what is now Quebec. Sometime during the period of 1300-1400 the Ojibway people were near the Eastern tribes, along the St. Lawrence River to the Great Lakes.

[About 1855, the chief of the Ojibway band at Fond du Lac (Wisconsin), **Loon-Foot**, was interviewed by Johann Georg Kohl. Mr. Kohl, an eminent German traveler, formed the acquaintance of several of the Ojibway Indians and wrote about their ancestors, customs, character, and way of life.]

It is said of his name: *“With the name of the last, Loon-foot’s genealogical tree was lost in the clouds...of this name Loon-foot gave me the extraordinary explanation, “le ciel qui a peur de l’homme.” He must have been a species of Titan. I cannot give the derivation of the word, but I find in it certainly, traces of Gijig = heaven and agoski = fear.”*¹

His son was **Misk-wan-di-ba-gan**¹, born abt. 1550. His name is given in French as “l’homme a la tete rouge”, which means either a man with very red hair or a red head or he may have had over his head a red animal skin.

He had a son abt. 1580, **Mi-ti-gua-kosh**², which means a stick of wood. The Chippewa were in Northern Peninsula Michigan and around Lake Huron.

His son **Scha-wan-a-gi-jik**³, was born abt. 1610. The Chippewa were still around Lake Huron but were being driven North by the Hurons and the Wyandottes.

His son, **Wajki**⁴, was born abt. 1640. His name means ‘the young man’ or ‘the beginner’. There were several Chiefs by this name or variations thereof, who were prominent in later years. They may have been namesakes or descendants of this man.

Wajki’s son, **Wa-ja-wa-daj-koa**⁵, was born abt. 1670. His name means, ‘one having very red skin or wearing a very red skin.’

His son, **Matchi-wai-jan**⁶, was born abt. 1700. His name means ‘the great skin’. He was a mighty hunter, Loon-foot added. In 1734 the Loon Clan was supposed to be around the Nipigon River on the North shore of Lake Superior. Also around this period they are suppose to have driven the Hurons and Wyandottes out of Northern Michigan and reclaimed land they had previously called their own.

Matchi-wai-jan’s son, **Bi-aus-wa**⁷, was born abt. 1730 and died before 1825. His name means, ‘the man who was dry or needed a drink of water’. From the Talks of Four Lakes, he was “generally accepted as the leader of the first successful attacks on Sandy Lake.” He was the principal chief of the Sandy Lake village during its first years as capital of the Ojibway Nation. **Bi-aus-wa** was even better known,

¹ Johann Georg Kohl, *“Kitchi-Gami: Wanderings Round Lake Superior”*; p. 146-7; Chapman and Hall, London, 1860. Complete book is available on line at:

http://books.google.com/books?id=tKwNAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Loon+foot+genealogy&source=gs_similarbooks_s&cad=1#v=onepage&q=Loon%20foot%20genealogy&f=false

however, for his civil leadership than as a war chief. **Loonfoot** said that “his grandfather had been a great ‘jossakid’ or magician. Once his squaw had been quite paralyzed, nearly dead, but his grandfather had brought her to life with his breath.” His children were:

Zah-gah-tah-gun⁸, aka, Spunk or **Sq-ga-ta-gun**, born abt. 1770, died abt. 1840; He married **Be-mo-sah-dum**, daughter of **No-day** and **Ah-gway-daush**. He signed the treaty of 1837 as a warrior from Sandy Lake. One of their 5 children was a son, **Mah-ke-boin-ain-shish**.

Mah-ke-boin-ain-shish⁹, was born abt. 1790 and married **O-bah-bah-me-bug-oke**. They had a daughter, **Kish-di-dee**¹⁰, born 1812 and died 6 July 1905. She married **Rabbit** or **Wah-boose**. They had a daughter, **Ay-go-je-bin-ais**¹¹, born 1847, died 21 Jun 1935. She married **Mon-ne-do-de-she-kee**.

Their son was **Thomas Swan**¹², born 1868, died 26 Aug 1935, Becker County, MN. He married **Nancy Bellanger**, born 1867, died 1 October 1953, daughter of **Henry T. Bellanger** and **Ke-zhe-wahn**.

Their son was **John Swan**¹³, ‘**Shayday**’, born February 1896, died 12 March 1960. He married **Sophia St. Clair**, born 3 September 1898, died 31 July 1978, Becker County, MN. Their son, **Maynard Leonard Swan**¹⁴, born 1 November 1925. He married January 4, 1953, Hubbard County, MN, **Cleo Marie Armstrong**, born 19 October 1932. Their children are:

- 1) Donald Duane Armstrong, b. 14 Oct 1949
- 2) Patricia Ann Armstrong Strom, b. 14 Sep 1951
- 3) Vicki Lynn Marie Swan, b. 10 Jul 1953
- 4) Beverly Diane Swan, b. 7 Jul 1954
- 5) Michael Arliss Swan, b. 2 Aug 1955
- 6) Doreen Swan Seelye, b. 24 Sep 1956

Compiled by Vicki Lynn Marie Swan, 2000. Edited by Jan Jordan Lokensgard, 2010