

# MI'KMAQ

WIKEWIKU'S 2012 HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2012

## Ms̄t No'kmaq — "All my Relations"

Benoit or Benwah — Kitpu (eagle)

Googoo — Ku'ku'kwes (owl)

Martin — Apistana'wj (pine marten)

Poulette — Plawej (partridge)

Young — Atutu'wej (squirrel)

Gabriel — Ka'qaqj (crow)

Marshall or Francis — Tia'm (moose)

Stevens or Stephens — Mimikej (butterfly)

Smith — Awo'kaq, Awo'kwejit (spider)

Sylliboy or Knockwood — Muin (bear)

Morris or Morrison or Moursou — Lentuk (deer)

Cope — Kopit (beaver)

Bernard — Wowkwis (fox)

Francis or Phillips — Apl'kmuj (rabbit)

Johnson — Apukji'j (mouse)

Julien or Julian — Pkwimu (loon)

Denny — Jakej (lobster)

Gould — Ki'kwesu (muskrat)

Prosper — Lapalo's Mniijku (Ambroise Island)

Lafford or Laford — Mikjij (turtle)

Lewis — Kiwnik (otter)

Gloade, Claude, Cloud, Gload, Glod, Glode or Lowe — Kluj (wolf fish)



### 1700's Chief signatures with their respective clan symbol.

The Mi'kmaq teachings of Ms̄t No'kmaq or "All my Relations" strengthen our connections to each other and the world around us. The idea that everyone and everything is related is not only spiritual, but physical as well. Through Ms̄t No'kmaq we reaffirm our respect for our ancestors, and for the animals, plants and world that we interact with daily.

Mi'kmaq today are starting to research familial connections as we come to understand the significance of the matrilineal clan system. When looking at past treaties signed by the Mi'kmaq, we can see how the signers relate their clan symbols as extensions of themselves.

While various Mi'kmaq family names have survived intact for thousands of years, after contact with Europeans, some of these names have changed or have been Anglicized. In the case of Anglicization, the connection to the clan system may have been lost. A number of family names have slight spelling variations, like Julien and Julian, or Gloade and Glode. This may be due to the proximity to, or relationship with, neighbouring groups of French and English.

Families are at the heart of Mi'kmaq communities. The web of family relations has ensured the continuation of traditional knowledge since time immemorial. Before contact with Europeans, Mi'kmaq kinship lines were mapped from the mother's side, or matrilineally. Today we have adopted a patrilineal method of tracking our descendants, based on our surnames passed on by our father's family.

Alex — jenu (giant or ice giant)  
 Battiste — wskus or skus (weasel)  
 Bedaway — pitewey (tea)  
 Benoit or Benwah — kitpu (eagle)  
 Bernard — wowkwis (fox)  
 Christmas or Noel — pi'jlwejk (sharp-shinned hawk)  
 Cope — kopit (beaver)  
 Cremo — klumweij (mosquito)  
 Dennis — mo'qi (over extravagant)  
 Denny — Jakej (lobster)  
 Doucette — sa'qati (needle, spruce needle)  
 Francis or Phillips — apl'kmuj (rabbit) or tia'm (moose)  
 Gabriel — ka'qaqj (crow)  
 Gloade, Claude, Cloud, Gload, Glod, Glode or Lowe — kluj (wolf fish)  
 Googoo — ku'ku'kwes (owl) or mijijamues (bee)

Gould — ki'kwesu (muskrat) or kopit (beaver)  
 Herney — sawe'j (tag along)  
 Isadore — po'ks (ladybug)  
 Jeddore — named after the Mi'kmaq settlement at the Head of Jeddore  
 Joe — mte'skm (snake)  
 Johnson or Johnston — apukji'j (mouse)  
 Julien — pkwimu (loon)  
 Julian — owli pikanonit (buffalo)  
 Knockwood — muin (bear)  
 Lafford or Laford — mikjij (turtle) or ki'kwa'ju (badger)  
 or paqtism (wolf) or apuksikn (lynx)  
 Lewis — kiwnik (otter)  
 Marshall — tia'm (moose) or puku'kwowij (sap of tree)  
 Martin — apistana'wj (pine marten)  
 Morris, Morrison, or Moursou — lentuk (deer)

Paul — waqntew (bone) or jikkue'wj (sheep) or People from the Hollow  
 Peters — mte'skm (snake)  
 Phillips — apl'kmuj (rabbit) or kitpu (eagle)  
 Poulette — plawej (partridge) or jikjo'n (rooster) or ki'kl'kwej (chicken)  
 Prosper — Lapalo's Mniijku (Ambroise Island) or squlj (frog)  
 Simon — (unknown Mi'kmaq, but marble in English)  
 Smith — awo'kaq or awo'kwejit (spider)  
 Stevens or Stephens — mimikej (butterfly)  
 Sylliboy or Sylliboy — muin (bear)  
 Toney — wi'kanak (beanstalk)  
 Wysote — u'lukwej (coyote)  
 Young — atutu'wej (squirrel)