



Green Thumb Workers prepare cement grave markers that are being made for all graves without headstones.



Indian Origins of the Names of the U.S. States

Alabama — Indian for tribal town, later a tribe (Alabamas or Alibamons) of the Creek confederacy.

Arizona — Spanish version of Pima Indian word for "little spring place," or Aztec arizuma, meaning "silver-bearing."

Arkansas — French variant of Kansas, a Sioux Indian name for "south wind people."

Connecticut — From Mohican and other Algonquin words meaning "long river place."

Delaware — Named for Lord De La Warr, early governor of Virginia; first applied to river, then to Indian tribe (Lenni-Lenape), and the state.

Idaho — A coined name with an invented Indian meaning: "gem of the mountains;" originally suggested for the Pike's Peak mining territory (Colorado), then applied to the new mining territory of the Pacific Northwest. Another theory suggests Idaho may be a Kiowa Apache term for the Comanche.

Illinois — French for Illini or land of Illini, Algonquin word meaning men or warriors.

Indiana — Means "land of the Indians."

Iowa — Indian word variously translated as "one who puts to sleep" or "beautiful land."

Kansas — Sioux word for

"south wind people."

Kentucky — Indian word variously translated as "dark and bloody ground," "meadow land" and "land of tomorrow."

Massachusetts — From Indian tribe named after "large hill place" identified by Capt. John Smith as being near Milton, Mass.

Michigan — From Chippewa words *mici gama* meaning "great water," after the lake of the same name.

Minnesota — From Dakota Sioux word meaning "cloudy water" or "Skytinted water" of the Minnesota River.

Mississippi — Probably Chippewa; *mici zibi*, "great river" or "gathering-in of all the waters." Also: Algonquin word, "Messipi."

Missouri — Algonquin Indian tribe named after Missouri River, meaning "muddy water."

Nebraska — From Omaha or Otos Indian word meaning "broad water" or "flat river," describing the Platte River.

North Dakota — Dakota is Sioux for friend or ally.

Ohio — Iroquois word for "fine or good river."

Oklahoma — Choctaw coined word meaning red man, proposed by Rev. Allen Wright, Choctaw-speaking Indian.

South Dakota — See North Dakota.

Tennessee — Tanasi was the name of Cherokee villages on the Little Tennessee River. From 1784 to 1788 this was the State of Franklin, or Frankland.

Texas — Variant of word used by Caddo and other Indians meaning friends or allies, and applied to them by the Spanish in eastern

Texas. Also written *texas*, *tejas*, *teyas*.

Utah — From a Navajo word meaning upper, or higher up, as applied to a Shoshone tribe called Ute. Spanish form is *Yutta*, English *Uta* or *Utah*. Proposed name *Deseret*, "land of honeybees," from Book of Mormon, was rejected by Congress.

Wisconsin — An Indian name, spelled *Ouisconsin* and *Mesconsin* by early chroniclers. Believed to mean "grassy place" in Chippewa. Congress made it *Wisconsin*.

Wyoming — The word was taken from Wyoming Valley, Pa., which was the site of an Indian massacre became widely known by Campell's poem, "Gertrude of Wyoming." In Algonquin it means "large prairie place."

