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"Kankakee": An Old Etymological Puzzle

MICHAEL MCCAFFERTY
Indiana University, Bloomington, USA

A clean linguistic analysis of a place name as important in history and geography as "Kankakee" is presented here. The original place name, from the Miami-Illinois language, while faithfully recorded in the early 1680s by the explorer René de La Salle, was distorted by the French in the years that followed. This article explains the original form of this place name and its development into the form "Kankakee." It even shows how aspects of the original Indian and French pronunciation of the name are still with us in the English pronunciation of this name.

KEYWORDS Kankakee River, Miami-Illinois language place names, René Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, Illinois and Miami Indians, Algonquian languages

For three centuries the American Indian place name "Kankakee" has eluded interpretation. Historically, this term applied to major wetlands located about twenty-five miles south of Lake Michigan and to an important river that ran through them. The Kankakee wetlands in their original glory no longer exist, and the river itself has been radically altered by humans since the early twentieth century and effectively reduced to a shadow of its former self. But, just as the Nature Conservancy of Illinois and Indiana is currently at work restoring parts of these wetlands, this paper restores meaning to the place name "Kankakee," for, as written, this term has no meaning in local native languages.

The Kankakee River takes its rise in extreme north-central Indiana on the west side of the city of South Bend and flows generally to the southwest before angling northwest into Illinois to meet the Des Plaines River flowing southwest from the Chicago area. The junction of the Kankakee and the Des Plaines rivers marks the beginning of today's Illinois River, a great tributary of the Mississippi. Before it was artificially straightened, the Kankakee River meandered for *three hundred miles* through a valley only *eighty-five* miles long[1] (Faulkner, 1970: 26).

The Kankakee River first entered history in September of 1673 when the French explorers Father Jacques Marquette and fur trader Louis Jolliet, along with their five French-speaking companions, passed by the mouth of this stream on their return trip

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from their famous Mississippi voyage of discovery, a journey that took them up the Illinois and Des Plaines rivers to Lake Michigan at Chicago. The western end of the Kankakee River as well as the confluence of the Kankakee-Des Plaines rivers are visible both on Marquette's holograph map of the Mississippi, drawn at Green Bay in the winter of 1673–1674, and on a map drawn in the late summer or early fall of 1674 at Quebec by Jean-Baptiste Louis Franquelin at the request of Louis Jolliet.[2]

The first known European to float down the Kankakee, during the last two weeks of December 1679, was another famous French explorer, René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle. And it was La Salle who came to know the river better than any European in his day, as he went up and down it seven times between December of 1679 and December of 1682 (Delanglez, 1940: 293–304).

La Salle was also the first person in history to write a description of the Kankakee (Margry, 1876, 1: 463–464, 2: 247–248) as well as the first to record a native name for it, which he spelled "Téakiki"[3] (Margry, 1876, 2: 127). He wrote this name several times in slightly different forms, all of which reflect the same pronunciation. Moreover, during the time La Salle spent in the Kankakee area, the native groups that he was dealing with, the ones who in fact controlled the Kankakee watershed, spoke the Miami-Illinois language. Therefore, "Téakiki" should represent a term from that language.

It is important to point out at this point in the discussion that the river known as "Téakiki" also had a curious French name starting in the 1680s: *la rivière des Illinois*, "the Illinois' River." This designation might appear to be a misnomer given the fact that, except for the brief appearance in the Kankakee area of the Tamaroa in the summer of 1673 as indicated on Marquette's map noted above, the early historic villages of the Illinois Indians were not located on the Kankakee.[4] Why, then, did the French call the Kankakee "the Illinois' River"? The answer to this question relates directly to our study of "Kankakee."

The history of the Illinois Country and the Ohio valley reveals that where one river ends or another begins could be a matter of opinion. One people's tributary could be another people's main stream, and vice versa. To shed light on this difference in perception and practice are a few examples.

The once famous portage route known as the Aboite River in northeastern Indiana, which importantly connected French Detroit to French establishments on the Wabash River, is today considered a tributary of the Little Wabash River. However, the early French conceived this relationship differently. They thought of the Little Wabash as a tributary of the Aboite (Potier, 1744–1780: 181; Barnhart, 1951: 116).

Another example involves what the early Miami-Illinois-speaking peoples called the Wabash River. For them, it was a stream that flowed from its source in western Ohio *all the way to the Mississippi*. In other words, what was known as "Wabash" in late prehistory and early historic times was the river we know today as the Wabash *plus* the westernmost segment of what we call the Ohio River, that is, that part of the Ohio downstream from today's Wabash and Ohio confluence (McCafferty, 2000: 224–228).

A further example involves what the historic Iroquois referred to as "Ohio," which is an Iroquoian Seneca term that means "big/beautiful river," just as "Mississippi" means "big river" in Algonquian. To the Iroquois, "Ohio" was composed of the

Allegheny River, the Ohio as we know it today, and the lower Mississippi all the way south to the Gulf of Mexico (Margry, 1876, 1: 436).[5]

Likewise, the Kankakee and Illinois rivers in early and middle historical times, according to a preponderance of evidence, were considered *one and the same river*, not two separate waterways as we think of them today. Therefore, the Illinois tribes such as the Kaskaskia at Starved Rock and the Peoria at *Pimitéoui* actually lived on the "Kankakee" after all, since this river flowed from extreme north-central Indiana all the way down to the Mississippi.[6] The separation of the Kankakee and Illinois rivers into two conceptually distinct waterways did not occur until around the turn of the nineteenth century.

La Salle is very clear on many occasions that the Kankakee and Illinois rivers are one and the same waterway. He states, "[. . .] the Illinois' river, called Teatiki [*sic*] by the wild people [. . .]" [la rivière des Islinois, appellé par les Sauvages Teatiki] (Margry, 1876, 2: 174),[7] and again, very plainly, "[. . .] the Colbert River [i.e., the Mississippi], into which flows the river of the Illinois, called Téakiki [. . .]" [le fleuve Colbert [. . .] dans lequel la rivière des Islinois nommée Téakiki se descharge] (Margry, 1876, 2: 245). In fact, one can follow the stream's course from its source near present-day South Bend all the way to the Mississippi right in La Salle's reports:

1) "[. . .] this river of the Illinois [. . .] is born in a marsh one and half leagues from that [the river] of the Miami [i.e., the St. Joseph River of Lake Michigan]" [cette rivière des Islinois [. . .] naist dans un marais à une lieue et demy de celle des Miamis] (Margry, 1876, 2: 170),[8] and "the river of the Islinois takes its rise [. . .] only one and a half leagues away from that (the river) of the Miami [. . .]" [la rivière des Islinois prend sa source [. . .] n'est esloignée que d'une lieue et demie de celle des Miamis] (Margry, 1876, 1: 463).
2) La Salle then tells about an important tributary of the Téakiki, the Des Plaines River, which had in all three names in French: "[. . .] Teatiki [. . .] receives from the right [side] that [the river] of Chicago [Teatiki [. . .] reçoit à droite celle de Chicagou] (Margry, 1876, 2: 174); and "The Divine River falls into that of Téakiki, or of the Illinois" [la rivière Divine tombe dans celle de Téakiki ou des Islinois] (Margry, 2: 128).
3) La Salle next describes the course of the river below its confluence with the Des Plaines River, called here the "Chicago": "By following the Teatiki River, from its confluence with the Chicago [. . .]" [En suivant la rivière de Teatiki, depuis le confluent de Chicagou] (Margry, 1876, 2: 174).
4) Finally, in speaking of the confluence of the Illinois River with the Mississippi, the explorer calls the mouth of the Illinois "[. . .] the mouth of Teatiki [. . .]" [l'emboucheure de Téatiki] (Margry, 1876, 2: 135).

Pierre-Charles Delliette, a relative of La Salle's famous assistant Henri de Tonti, also expressed this same understanding of the river's original form in his firsthand accounts concerning the Illinois Country (Pease and Werner, 1934: 393–394). In fact, it was common knowledge throughout the French regime locally (*ca.* 1680–1763), and even later, that the Kankakee and the Illinois rivers were one and the same river — and that the waterway was known as "Téakiki." Indeed, in the 1760s, Father Pierre-Philippe Potier, who was in charge of the Jesuit mission at Detroit for nearly four decades in the mid- to late eighteenth century, was still using this same name for the

Illinois River — eighty years after La Salle had recorded it (Potier, 1744–1780: 166b).[9] It is important to understand that Potier was eminently well informed in all matters geographic and onomastic concerning the Illinois Country and is an authoritative source for such data, as they came directly from his own travels and from French traders working out of Detroit who plied the waters of the Kankakee-Illinois and who, according to the documentary evidence, knew the river intimately.

Interestingly, within forty years after La Salle recorded "Téakiki," people were already starting to wonder what this place name meant, for La Salle had never gotten around to providing a translation for it. This is no surprise, however, for La Salle's failure to translate this native name exemplifies the generally cavalier manner with which he generally handled the corpus of native names that he was in fact the first in history to record. His failure to provide translations for place names appears to be yet another of the countless victims of his consuming economic and political interests. His obvious failure to consult the local natives over a three-year period for the translations of these place names seems to relate to his constant, pressing pursuit of the power, profit, and glory of empire building. In other words, he had "better things to think about."

In 1721, during a trip to the Illinois Country, the French Jesuit priest Pierre François-Xavier de Charlevoix became the first person on record to offer a translation for La Salle's "Téakiki." According to him, the place name meant "wolf country" (Bartlett, 115; Thwaites, 1896–1901, 66: 348). But since Charlevoix stated explicitly that he did not know what language the name came from, one can only conclude that his translation was speculative (Thwaites, 1896–1901, 66: 287).[10] However, Charlevoix did perform an important service to our understanding of the place name by providing another name for the Kankakee in the form "Kiakiki," a name that local French were using at the time. "Kiakiki" is in fact the link which connects "Téakiki" to "Kankakee," for these two terms, however different they appear on the surface, are one and the same word.

What is considered the modern spelling, "Kankakee," has actually been around since at least 1816, when it appears on a map made by St Louis resident René Paul,[11] and my research has not turned up an earlier spelling in the form "Kankakee" than Paul's. In fact, Paul himself may been the creator of the "Kankakee" spelling. He was an important mapmaker and a surveyor in Spanish Louisiana, and the son-in-law of the famous trader and founder of St Louis Auguste Chouteau. Furthermore, Paul was bilingual in French and English, and "Kankakee" is a transliteration into the English spelling convention of an older, underlying French place name, spelled "Kinkiki," which is attested, for example, in the papers of the Wabash valley trader Hyacinthe Lasselle in the late 1700s and early 1800s (Lasselle).[12] A variant French spelling of "Kinkiki" with an identical pronunciation in the form "Quinquiqui" was also in use by the late 1700s. We see it, for example, in the writings of the well-known Detroit trader Guillaume Lamothe (Barreis et al., 1974: 136).[13] Importantly, although Lasselle's, Paul's, and La Mothe's "Kinkiki" was commonly used in the latter half of the eighteenth century, this form had essentially been around since the early part of that century, for "Kinkiki" is simply a modest twisting of Charlevoix's "Kiakiki" from 1721.

There are two ways to explain how Charlevoix's "Kiakiki" morphed into "Kinkiki." First, "Kinkiki" could simply be a slightly twisted French pronunciation of the

earlier French "Kiakiki."[14] In alternative fashion or in tandem with the pronunciation shift, "Kiakiki" could have been miswritten as "Kinkiki," and this new form then made its way into popular speech.

Yet, regardless of the precise route that "Kiakiki" traveled to become "Kinkiki," it is clear that these two names are the same word — Hyacinthe Lasselle in fact used both spellings in referring to the Kankakee River, and, quite tellingly, *he once used both of them in in the same document* (Lasselle, 1802: 556). We are then left to ponder, "Where did Charlevoix's 'Kiakiki' come from?"

In reality, "Kiakiki" is a La Sallian legacy in disguise, for this spelling represents the same Miami-Illinois word as La Salle's original "Téakiki." Here in "Kiakiki" is the result of a garbling involving alliteration and regressive assimilation of the initial *t* sound to the second *k* of the original term, in other words, a process that made all three consonants of the term *k*.[15] Charlevoix himself certifies this finding when he says: "[. . .] Theakiki, which by corruption our Canadians name Kiakiki" (Bartlett, 115).[16]

This is how La Salle's "Téakiki" became "Kankakee":

> "Téakiki" → "Tiakiki" → "Kiakiki" → "Kinkiki" → "Kankakee." This sequence shows the evolution of the place name as it has been used by the general French- and English-speaking public since La Salle recorded it.[17]

La Salle's original "Téakiki" and his variant spellings "Teakiki" and "Théakiki" appear to represent a Miami-Illinois dependent (conjunct) I.I. verb in the form *teeyaahkiki* "it is open country," "it is exposed land," "it is land in the open." The components of this term are the initial *teeyaa-* "uncovered, exposed, open," the final *-ahki* "land, country," the dependent peripheral suffix *-k-* and the conjunct ending *-i*.[18]

Faulkner did a remarkable job reconstructing a clear image of the historical reality of the river and its environs. He explains that before the 1900s this watershed was an extraordinarily rich bioregion, as it lay where the great Carolinian hardwood forests of eastern North America, situated generally to the east and south of the Kankakee, met the great prairies of the mid-continent, located generally to the west. Right at this grand intersection of primeval forest and ancient prairie sat the Kankakee, a flat 1000-square-mile expanse of wetlands and marshes, with a perennially wet prairie stretching to the horizon. Woven into this fabric, which was essentially treeless except along the river's edge, were the Kankakee River, three significant lakes, and various micro-environments, including dry prairies (Faulkner, 1970: 26). The old Kankakee was no doubt a site to behold, as we can gather from these excerpts from La Salle's and Tonty's descriptions of it: La Salle says, "[. . .] one finds nothing but beautiful country as far as the eye can see, broken up from time to time by a few groves" [on ne trouve plus que de belles campagnes à perte de vue interrompues d'espace en espace de quelques bouquets de bois]. Tonty adds, "[. . .] as charming a country as you may find: it is just plains adorned with groves [. . .]" [pays aussi charmant qu'on en puisse voir: ce ne sont que plaines ornées de bouquets de bois] (Margry, 1876, 2: 247; 1: 582). La Salle's comment "beautiful country *as far as the eye can see*," and Tonti's "just plains" lend support to the *teeyaahkiki* analysis.

Finally, Algonquian place name morphology and syntax support the etymology presented here. Hartley's research into place names in Ojibwe, a close relative of

Miami-Illinois, also demonstrates that verb-based place-names are very commonly of the type found in *teeyaahkiki*, i.e., an initial + a final + an I.I. (inanimate intransitive) verb ending. Importantly, as in Ojibwe, this kind of construction in Miami-Illinois is found in descriptive place-names usually referring to *aspects of topography* (Hartley, 1981: 31), which is precisely what *teeyaahkiki* is.

Notes

[1] Portions of the original wetlands have been restored, particularly at the Grand Marsh Lake County Park, in the Beaver Lake area, and in the English Lake area. Richard Schmal, personal communication, February 17 2004.

[2] The best copy of Marquette's map is in Sarah Jones Tucker, comp., *Indian Villages of the Illinois Country*, vol. II, Scientific Papers, part I, Atlas (Springfield: Illinois State Museum, 1942), pl. V. The data concerning the Mississippi valley that appears on Franquelin's map came exclusively from Jolliet's memory since he had lost Marquette's written account and one of the priest's two original maps of the Mississippi voyage earlier that summer in a canoe wreck near Montreal.

[3] In addition to "Teakiki," without an acute accent, La Salle also spelled the term "Theakiki." See Margry, 1876, 2: 246.

[4] The location of the Maroa, or Tamaroa, on Marquette's map, which he learned from the Kaskaskia, is authoritative, given our knowledge of the accuracy of his cartographic work in general. See Lucien Campeau, "Les Cartes relatives à la découverte du Mississipi par le P. Jacques Marquette et Louis Jolliet," *Les Cahiers des Dix* 47 (1992): 47–53. For the authenticity of the Marquette map, see David Buisseret and Carl Kupfer, "Validating the 1673 'Marquette Map'." *Journal of Illinois History* 14 (Winter 2011): 261–276.

[5] See La Salle's statement: "[. . .] une grande riviere que les sauvages appeloient Ohio et les autres Mississipi" (a great river that the Indians called Ohio and the others Mississippi), in Margry, 1876, 1: 436; also a statement by Rémy de Courcelles from ca. 1669: "[. . .] une grande rivière que les Iroquois appellent Ohio et les Outaouas Mississipy" [a great river that the Iroquois call Ohio and the Ottawa Mississippi], ibid., 1:181; see also de Gallinée's remarks on the Iroquoian hydrological conception for the Ohio River in Jean Delanglez, *Life and Voyages of Louis Jolliet (1645–1700)* (Chicago: Institute of Jesuit History, 1948), 41. The term *ohi·yo?* is composed of |o-|, a simple noun prefix that carries no meaning, |-h-| meaning "river," |-iyo-|, the verb "be big, be great/beautiful," and |*?*|, which represents a glottal stop, the required noun suffix, which also has no meaning. Blair A. Rudes, personal communication, December 29 1997. For another good example of the verb |iyo| in a Northern Iroquoian hydronym, see "Ontar**io**," which means "(the) lake is big."

[6] The place name "Pimitéoui" does not mean "place of fat," another skewed La Sallian onomastic legacy. The French spelling represents the Miami-Illinois language term *pimiteewi* "it burns past," a reference to prairie fires. Analysis by David J. Costa, personal communication, July 10 1996. This Miami-Illinois term is composed of the initial root *pimi-* "past, by," the I.I. final *-itee* "by heat," and *-wi*, the independent I.I. ending. See the folk etymology presented alongside the correct linguistic etymology under the heading "Pimitéoui" in the encyclopedia of the internet site on the history of Chicago, <earlychicago.com>.

[7] All English translations of Margry in the present article are the author's. Parenthetical remarks are also the author's. All French quotations appear in their original form, irrespective of modern French orthography.

[8] Henri de Tonti, La Salle's right-hand man, concurs when he says, "[. . .] after going up the River of the Miami [St Joseph River] about twenty-seven leagues, and having no one who could guide us in order to find a portage that led to the River of the Illinois (i.e., the Kankakee) [. . .]" [après avoir monté la rivière des Miamis environ vingt-sept lieues, et n'ayant personne qui peust nous guider pour trouver un portage qui va a la rivière des Illinois], Margry, 1876, 1: 581.

[9] Right before the traveler reaches the Mississippi, Potier correctly states "Le tiatiki coule et courre est" [The Tiatiki flows and runs east] (Potier, *Gazettes*, ms).

[10] Charlevoix came to his translation in an interesting way. He equated La Salle's "Téakiki" with "Huakiki," another Miami-Illinois language name for the Kankakee, recorded by the Jesuit missionary Gabriel Marest in 1712. "Huakiki" is a slightly garbled spelling of Miami-Illinois *mahweehkiki* "it is wolf country."

[11] René Paul, 1816, "A Map Exhibiting the Territorial limits of several Nations & Tribes of Indians agreeably to the notes of A. Chouteau . . .," in Tucker, *Indian Villages*, pl. XLI. The latter is a map designed for the American government. "Kinkiki" also appears on the map from 1812 drawn by the first American governor of the Illinois Country,

Ninian Edwards: Ninian Edwards, 1812, "Illinois River leaving Peoria to go to Chicago," in Tucker, *Indian Villages*, pl. XXXV.

[12] In French, "Kinkiki" and "Quinquiqui" are pronounced [kēkikí]. One of the amazing features of the place name "Kankakee" is the fact that the French pronunciation of "Kinkiki" has been remarkably preserved in the modern English pronunciation of this place name, which is [kēŋkIkí]. Interestingly, the stress falls on the last syllable of "Kankakee," just as it does in the French pronunciation of "Kinkiki" ~ "Quinquiqui" — and, in fact, in every word in French having two or more syllables. "Kankakee" as an English language place name should actually follow the same stress pattern we see in "Kentucky," and it would have, had it not been borrowed into English from French.

[13] See excerpt of La Mothe's letter from April 24 1782, in David A. Baerreis, Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin, and Remedio Wycoco-Moore, "Anthropological Report on the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi Indians in Northeastern Illinois," in David Agee Horr, comp. and ed., *Indians of Northeastern Illinois* (New York and London: Garland Publishing, 1974), 136. A Guillaume Dagnaux known as "Lamotte" was in the company of Delatour at the Miami post in the 1700s. See Frances Krauskopf, "The French in Indiana, 1700–1760: A Political History" (PhD diss. Indiana University, 1953), 104. A Guillaume de Lamothe was on his way to the Miami from Quebec with brothers and associates in 1726. Ibid., 126. For Pierre-Guillaume Lamothe, *dit* Guillaume Lamothe, see <www.usinternet.com/users/dfnels/lamothe.htm> [Accessed January 6 2014].

[14] It should be noted that "Kiakiki," "Kinkiki," etc., represent place names used by the *French*; the Indians would never have stopped using the original morphologically, phonologically, and grammatically correct place name in their own language.

[15] Regressive assimilation refers to a phonological process whereby a sound is changed by a sound that follows it. The discrepancy between the two terms' first vowels is insignificant, since Frenchmen who did not know the Miami-Illinois language often confused native *e* and *i*. La Salle correctly heard *e*; Charlevoix, who had immeasurably less experience with the Miami-Illinois language than La Salle, incorrectly heard *i*. Note that it was La Salle himself who created the meaningless variant "Teatiki," which became "Tiatiki."

[16] To split hairs, "Kiakiki" derives from a French pronunciation of La Salle's original "Téakiki" in the form "Tiakiki."

[17] La Salle's term also followed a second evolutionary trail: "Téakiki" → "Teatiki," and "Teatiki," which has been used by modern French-speaking historians. See, for example, Gérard Malchelosse, "La Salle et le Fort Saint-Joseph des Miamis," *Les Cahiers des Dix* 22 (1957): 91–92. La Salle's original "Téakiki" might have yielded its meaning at a much earlier date had La Salle not muddied the waters with the misspelling of the name in the form "Teatiki" (Margry, 1876, 2: 248). La Salle's promoter in France, the abbot Claude Bernou, picked up this misspelling and used it right away on his map from the following year (Claude Bernou and M. Peronel, [1682], "Carte de l'Amérique Septentrionale . . .," in Tucker, *Indian Villages*, pl. VIII). Bernou was an influential force in the development of early French geographic conceptions pertaining to North America, including the spellings of Native place names, even though he did not know anything about Indian languages. He exerted this influence because of his connection to La Salle and to various important people in France. In this way, the Bernou map left its mark on place naming with its errant "Teatiki." Even though La Salle's many good, consistently formed renderings of "Téakiki" appeared in various publications, including Bellin's map of 1745 and De Vaugondy's influential atlas from 1750, his meaningless "Teatiki," with Bernou's "help," took root in the French lexicon and went on to have a very active life of its own — and not just in Europe but especially in the Illinois Country, right alongside "Téakiki" and *la rivière des Illinois*. See Pierre François-Xavier de Charlevoix and Nicolas Bellin, 1745, "Partie Occidentale de la Nouvelle France," *Historical Atlas of the Great Lakes and Michigan*, comp. by Louis C. Karpinski (Lansing: Michigan Historical Commission, 1931), 44. Bellin was a French naval engineer; Robert de Vaugondy, 1750, "Amérique Septentrionale . . ." (Paris). Manuscript map at the American Geographical Society, Milwaukee (AGS Rare A.T. 050 A-1757). A published version of this chart is in Karpinski, *Historical Atlas*, 97. See also "Teakiki" on the anonymous French government map titled "Forts Français et anglais sur l'Ohio en 1755" in Marcel Trudel, *Collection de Cartes Anciennes et modernes pour servir à l'étude de l'histoire de l'Amérique et du Canada* (Quebec: Tremblay and Dion, 1948), pl. 67; and an official French map bearing the same spelling for the river's name: n.a., 1757, "Carte de la Floride, de la Louisiane et Pays Voisins Par M.B., Ing. de la Marine," at the American Geographic Society, Milwaukee (AGS 800-A-1757).

[18] Largillier's Illinois dictionary has "teïahan8i [. . .] en plain air, qui n'a aucun abri, cabane au milieu d'une prairie" [outdoors, in the open, (that) which has no shelter, a house in the middle of the prairie]; "teïatapate8i, teïa8ate8i exposé a la veüe de tous" [exposed to the everyone's view]; "teïateheta qui decouvre son coeur" [one who reveals his heart]; and the adverb "teïa8e a decouvert . . ." [in everyone's view, out in the open]. Jacques Largillier, [Illinois-French dictionary], [ca. 1700]. Watkinson

Library, Trinity College, Hartford. This dictionary was commonly attributed to Jacques Gravier. However, see Michael McCafferty, "Jacques Largillier: French trader, Jesuit brother, and Jesuit scribe *par excellence*," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* (Vol. 14. no. 4, Winter, 2011): 188–197. I would like to thank David Pentland for our discussion concerning the vowel length of the first syllable of *teeyaa-*. Note that the combination of *-ahki-* "land, country" plus *-k-*, the dependent peripheral suffix and *i*, the conjunct ending that we see in "Téakiki," is discussed in Largillier's dictionary: "-aki8i est une terminaison qui marque la situation, ou la difference des terres, -akiki pour le subjonctif" [-akiwi is an ending that marks the situation of or the difference between lands, -akiki for the subjunctive]. What is curious about the final product "Kankakee" is that the **-akee** part was taken by previous scholars to be *-ahki* "land, country" in Miami-Illinois. In truth, the -akee of "Kank**akee**" actually represents the ***-iki*** of *teeyaahk**iki***. It is in fact the **-nka-** of "Ka**nka**kee" which is a warped original Miami-Illinois *-ahki* in this place-name.

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Notes on contributor

Michael McCafferty is a linguist and the author of many works including the historical and linguistic study *Native American Place-Names of Indiana*. McCafferty also researches and writes on the early historic French-Algonquian interface in the Illinois Country and environs. He teaches at Indiana University.

Correspondence to: Michael McCafferty. Email: mmccaffe@indiana.edu