

Good Morning, I am Susan Carol Nesti, I am a full blood Native American Indian, a Chickasaw from Oklahoma.

Today, I will share some information on the Native American Indians that lived in Pennsylvania and West Virginia which are in the boundaries of the Synod of the Trinity.

You ask who are the indigenous people?  
We are known as the Native American Indians.

We, maybe, referred to as the Invisible Indians or the Apple Indians.

The indigenous people had occupied the land, known as North America, thousands of years before the first European explorers arrived.

In Pennsylvania, there are 6 known American Indians tribes in the history books.

*(show map here)*

the [Erie tribe](#): Erie people were absorbed into the Seneca or other Iroquois tribes.

The [Iroquois tribes](#) are made up from 6 other tribes, it was common practice to adopt other tribes. (especially the [Seneca](#) and [Oneida](#))

The [Lenape tribe](#) There are no fully fluent speakers of Lenape Delaware anymore.

The [Munsee tribe](#) Munsee is an [Algonkian](#) language closely related to American Delaware

The [Shawnee tribe](#) Shawnee is an [Algonquian](#) language spoken by 200 people in Oklahoma. It is most closely related to the [Sauk-Fox](#) and [Kickapoo](#) languages.

The [Susquehannock tribe](#) Susquehannock was an [Iroquoian](#) language. The language is extinct and tragically so are the Susquehannock as a tribe; the Susquehannock's were devastated by smallpox, and a lynch mob massacred the survivors in 1763.

In West Virginia, there three known tribes. They are the [Cherokee](#), [Iroquois](#), and [Shawnee](#) tribes.

**There are no federally recognized Indian tribes in Pennsylvania as of today.**

**And never contained a reservation.**

The stance of state government is that there are no Native Americans in the state. However, there is a large and growing community of Native Americans that is growing more active and more frustrated with the state's position.

**Only 14 states celebrate to honor Native American histories and cultures which is on Columbus Day or referred to as “Indigenous Peoples Day.**

Most Native Americans were forced to leave Pennsylvania during the 1700's, when eastern tribes were being displaced by colonial expansion. These tribes are not extinct, but except for the descendants of Pennsylvania Indians who assimilated into white society, they do not live in Pennsylvania anymore. Most tribes that once were native to Pennsylvania ended up on Indian reservations in Oklahoma.

The way of life and history of West Virginia Indians was dictated by the natural raw materials available in the State of West Virginia. The natural resources and materials available provided the food, clothing and houses of the West Virginia Indians.

These Native American Indians were mainly hunter-gathers, farmers, fishers and trappers. Their housing, homes or shelters were: Wigwams referred as Birchbark houses

The way of life for the Pennsylvania and West Virginia Indians were profoundly affected by the newcomers to the area.

The Europeans brought with them new ideas, customs, religions, weapons, transport (the horse and the wheel), livestock (cattle and sheep) and disease which profoundly affected the history of the Native Indians, such as the smallpox.

The 2018 census reported roughly 2500 Native American Indians lives in Pennsylvania and the 2019 census reported roughly 3700 Native American Indians live in WV.

The Native American was once considered the majority but now considered the minority

Thank you.

I would recommend reading

**Invisible Indians: Native Americans in Pennsylvania Illustrated Edition**

by [David Jay Minderhout](#) (Author), [Andrea T. Frantz](#) (Author)

