

Nedobikag-Sibiwishen is the Indian name for Bay City Creek, within the limits of Ashland. Here Tagwagané, a celebrated Indian chief of the Crane totem, used occasionally to reside. Warren¹ gives us a speech of his, at the treaty of La Pointe in 1842. This Tagwagané had a copper plate, an heirloom handed down in his family from generation to generation, on which were rude indentations and hieroglyphics denoting the number of generations of that family which had passed away since they first pitched their lodges at Shagawamikong and took possession of the adjacent country, including Madelaine Island. From this original mode of reckoning time, Warren concludes that the ancestors of said family first came to La Pointe *circa* A. D. 1490.

Metabikitigweiag-Sibiwishen is the creek between Ashland and Ashland Junction, which runs into Fish Creek a short distance west of Ashland. At the junction of those two creeks and along their banks, especially on the east bank of Fish Creek, was once a large and populous Indian village of Ottawas, who there raised Indian corn. It is pointed out on N. Bellin's map (1744),² with the remark, *Ici était une bourgade considerable* ("here was once a considerable village"). We shall hereafter have occasion to speak of this place. The soil along Fish Creek is rich, formed by the annual overflowage of its water, leaving behind a deposit of rich, sandy loam. There is a young growth of timber along the right bank between the bay and Ashland Junction, and the grass growing underneath the trees shows that it was once a cultivated clearing. It was from this place that the trail left the bay, leading over to the Chippewa River country. Fish Creek is called by the Indians Wikwedo-Sibiwishen, which means "Bay Creek," from *wikwed*, Chippewa for bay; hence the name Wikwedong, the name they gave to Ashland, meaning "at the bay."

According to Blatchford there was formerly another con-

¹ In *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, v.—ED.

² In Charlevoix's *Nouvelle France*.—ED.