

INDIAN NAMES IN THE TAMALPAIS REGION*

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The tribe of Indians formerly inhabiting the Tamalpais region called themselves Hoo'-koo-e'-ko. Their territory extended from the Golden Gate north-erly to Valley Ford Creek, and from Point Reyes Peninsula easterly to the Petaluma marshes and San Pablo Bay, thus coinciding almost exactly with the bound-aries of the present County of Marin.

It is of interest historically that of the numerous tribes of Cali-fornia, this was the first to be discovered by Europeans, for in the summer of 1579 Sir Francis Drake when overhauling his vessels in the broad bay that now bears his name, on the south side of Pt. Reyes Peninsula, spent several weeks in their country, and had much to say of their friendliness and singular customs.

Mount Tamalpais and the series of beautiful valleys by which it is surrounded, from Olema and the long fiord-like Tomales Bay on the west to San Rafael on the east, including Nicasio, Lagunitas, San Geronimo, Fairfax, and San Rafael valleys, all lie within the territory of the Hoo'-koo-e'-ko, were taken from the vocabulary of this tribe. Among these are Tamalpais, from Tam'-mal the bay country, and pi'-es a mountain-Tam'-mal-pi-es or Tam-mal-pi's, being their own name for the mountain; Tamales Bay, which they called Tam-mal le-wah-le-wah, salt water; Point Reyes, which they called Tammalhoo-yah-hooyah a point or projection; Tamales Point, called Kal-loo'-pe tam-mal in reference to the shape of the point, which from its length and slenderness suggests the bill of a hummingbird (Kal-loo'-pis). The people on Tamales Bay they called Tam-mal'-ko-ko meaning people. Olema and Olompale are place names still in use--the latter originally an Indian village on the west side of Petaluma marshes, now perpetuated for a district and schoolhouse; Marin County, as well known, was named for Marin, a great chief of the Hoo-koo-e-ko tribe, while Novato and Nicasio were names of other chiefs--though Nicasio is Spanish, not Indian.

Other geographic or place names in the native language of the Hoo-koo-e'-ko, but which have not been perpetuated on our maps are: Etch'-a-tam'-mal, Nicasio Valley; Etch-a-tam'-mal chawk, Nicasio Creek; Oo'-troo-mi'-ah, vicinity of present town of Tomales; O-la'-mah lo'-kah, Olema Valley; Wah-kah-te, Petaluma Creek; Ah-wan-we, San Rafael; Wal-lo ma-la-kum, San Francisco Bay; Sah-tah-ko, San Geronimo Valley; Lo-was, Ross Valley; Sho-tum-ko, Gallinas Creek Valley; Cho-ketch-ah, Novato, Le-wan-hel-o-wah, coast at or near Sausalito.

* California Out-of-Doors, April, 1916, p. 118.

Names of Animals

Bear - Koo'-leh	Sparrow hawk - He-le'-lek
Coon - Hoo-ma'-ka	Great horned owl - Too-koo-lis
Bob-cat - To-lo'-mah	Crow - Ah'-wetch
Gray fox - Ah-wah'-ke	Blue jay (without crest) -
Coyote - O'-yeh	Si'-etch
Deer - Ka'-sum	Valley quail - Hek-ek'-ki
Gray squirrel - Sam'-kow'	Rattlesnake - Oo-koo'-lis
Wood rat - Yu'-loo	Common lizard - Pet-tan-yah
Brush rabbit - No'-meh	Frog - Ko-to'-lah
Jack rabbit - Owl'-yeh	

Trees and Other Plants

Redwood - Cho'-la	Tanbark - Kah-tah'-me
Douglas fir - Hoo-toos'	Madrone - Kah-kas
Live oak - Sah'-tah	Buckeye - Ah'-te
Black oak - Ko'-tis	Poison oak - E'-tum
Brake fern or bracken - Oo'-tuk	