**A History of the Rice Lake Indians by Mary Jane Muskratte Simpson**

**The Story of Paudash**

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**This historical paper was read before the Ontario Historical Society of Windsor, June, 1904, by Lt. Col. H. C. Rogers, President of the Peterborough Historical Society at that time.**

**"Paudash, son of Paudash, son of Cheneebeesh, son of Gemoaghhenassee; to the Ontario Historical Society: -**

**Greeting:**

**I, Robert Paudash, with my son, Johnson Paudash, am desirous of placing on record for the first time the solemn tradition of the Mississaugas respecting their present place of settlement in Ontario and the migration which led them thither. No word of what I am about to say has come from reading, or in any other way than from the mouth of Paudash, my father, who died aged 75 in the year 1893, the last hereditary Chief of the tribe of Mississaugas situate at Rice Lake; and from the mouth of Cheneebeesh my grandfather, who died in 1869, at the age of 104, the last Sachem, or Head Chief of all the Mississaugas, who had learned according to the Indian custom what Gemoaghenassee, his father, had heard from his father, and so on.**

**I am glad for the sake of the Mississaugas, who were always loyal to the great king, to hear of his revival of interest in the Mississaugas; who do not appear in history or in the records of this country as much as they deserve from the importance of their deeds in war, and their efforts to preserve peace and good will towards the great king.**

**In the first place, as you would know, the Algonquin, who include the Mississaugas, inhabited the great northern portion of this continent, excepting the small part which the Iroquois, their deadly enemies, inhabited on the south shore of Lake Ontario; while far to the south dwelt the Muskogees.**

**The Mississaugas were so named because they settled on a river on the north shore of Lake Huron about seventy miles from Sault St. Marie, the word "mississauga" meaning a river; but they were Shawnees, part of the great Ojibway tribe, of which the word "Chippeway" is a corruption. In what is now the Ohio Valley the Shawnees dwelt in peace and power until such time as their sachems became disturbed and divided by party strife. One party thereupon went north through the country of the Michigan's and crossed into Canada, at Boweeting now known as Sault St. Marie, settling down on the north shore of Lake Huron.**

**Not many years after the arrival of the Mississaugas, the Iroquois, represented by their chief tribe the Mohawks, came north across Ontario and exterminated the Hurons, possessing themselves of their hunting**