



Family in front of their wigwam at Skunk Hill during the latest occupation (Wisconsin Historical Society Digital Collections)

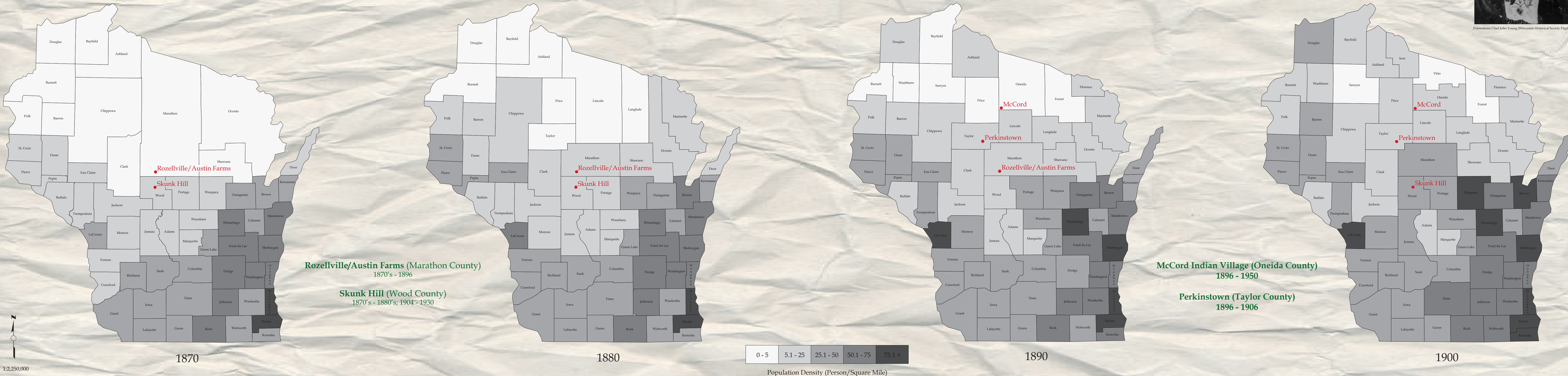
Desiring Distance, Requiring Trade

Contextualizing Late 19th - Early 20th Century Native American Communities in Wisconsin's Northwoods

After the Sioux Uprising of 1862 in Minnesota, efforts to remove Native American tribes from Wisconsin escalated. Some individuals managed to evade removal parties, while others faced the arduous journey back to Wisconsin from as far away as Nebraska. These 'strolling' bands of Indians established new communities in the Northwoods. In order to continue customary practices without interference, areas with low Euro-American populations were preferred. Community members, however, also wished to maintain access to Euro-American markets. As a result, rather than occupy the least populated areas, the communities of Rozellville/Austin Farms, Skunk Hill, McCord Indian Village, and Perkinstown were established in marginal areas with the second lowest class of population density.



Potawatomi Chief John Young (Wisconsin Historical Society Digital Collections)



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