

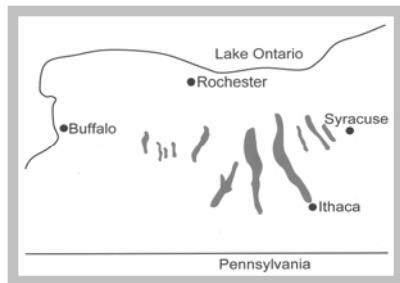
CHAPTER

10

HANDS

In Popular Culture

IROQUOIS LEGEND ATTRIBUTES THE GEOGRAPHY OF central New York State to the Great Spirit, who is said to have blessed the land with the imprint of his hands. Indeed, a series of nearly parallel, finger-like lakes nestle between previously glacier-covered ridges. The rolling countryside has been prime agricultural land since the time of the Indians. Today vineyards, orchards, and dairy farms share the hills with dense forest. From west to east the lakes are gracefully named Conesus, Hemlock, Candice, Honeoye, Canandaigua, Keuka, Seneca, Cayuga, Owasco, Skaneateles, and Otisco, and collectively are, of course, known as the Finger Lakes. Yes, there are eleven, but when Indians roamed this area, they may have been enjoying the scenery rather than carefully counting.



Hands, fingers, and even thumbs have permeated their way into nearly every crevice of popular culture: expressions, songs, movie plots, and place names to cite a few. Let's start with thumbs.

The Hand Owner's Manual

Other topics covered in Chapter 10: Hands in Popular Culture

THE THUMB IN POPULAR CULTURE

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING

Figures of speech regarding shoulder, elbow, thumb

THE COVERT MISSION

81 “hand” expressions in a quasi-coherent story

FAMOUS HANDPRINTS

In the cement Grauman's Chinese Theater, Hollywood

I KNOW IT LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND

Is this expression really true?

THROWING HANDS IN ANTWERP AND ULSTER

Ancient legends from Belgium and Ireland

A GOTHIC STORY

Horace Walpole and the first Gothic novel

MOVIE HANDS

Hands, usually disembodied, play key roles

MOVIES NOT REALLY ABOUT HANDS

Titles that include that magic word

THE ORIGINAL DISEMBODIED HAND

Old Testament, Daniel 5

A ONE-ACT, TWO-HAND PLAY

Hand gestures