

Derivation.

The name Mistassini is formed from two Algonkin words—"mista," signifying big, and "assino," a stone; and is so called because of the large boulders of gneiss strewn along the west shore.

Size.

Lake Mistassini is a long and narrow body of water, stretching from north-east to south-west, with a perceptible curve between the ends, the concavity of the curve being towards the south-east. It lies between N. Lat. 50° and $51^{\circ} 24'$, W. Long. $72^{\circ} 45'$ to $74^{\circ} 20'$. The length, in a straight line between the extremities of the north-east and south-west bays, is nearly one hundred miles, the average breadth of the main body being about twelve miles. At either end of the lake, a long point stretches out, dividing the ends into two deep bays. Between the points, and seemingly a continuation of them, is a long chain of rocky islands, which, by overlapping each other, almost divide the lake into two parts, so that a view of the opposite side is rarely obtained in going around the shore. A slight decrease in the present level of the lake would result in the production of two separate lakes, as the water between the islands is quite shallow, and forms a contrast in this respect with the great depth between the islands and shore on either side. Here the lake is very deep, an isolated sounding, made in crossing, having given 374 feet at a point which, I was informed, was not the deepest part of the lake.

The bay at the south-east end of the lake is called Abatagush. This bay, sixteen miles from its mouth, is again divided by a long point into two other bays. About four miles from the end of this point, and on it, the Hudson Bay post is situated.

Cabistachuan Bay.

The eastern part, called Cabistachuan Bay, runs slightly east of south, in an irregular course, for about twelve miles, the Little Perch River coming in at its head. The western part is much larger and more irregular. It stretches south for sixteen miles, a small river from Lake Wakiniche falling into it at that distance. A side branch of the bay runs to the westward for upwards of ten miles. The general width of Abatagush Bay is one and one-half miles. The south-west, or Pooinchaun Bay, for a distance of twenty miles from its entrance, has an average breadth of about five miles. Its shores are broken by smaller bays, and its surface is covered with islands, varying from six miles long, by one and one-half wide, to mere boulders. After the first twenty miles, the bay narrows to an average breadth of less than one-half mile, and continues in a south-westerly course for a long distance, as the end was not reached after ascending it fourteen miles. The Indians say that a large river empties into the lake at the head of this bay. The north-east and north-west bays are not so deep as the southern ones; the distance from the end of the point to the mouth of the Northern rivers Papasquatssee River, a large stream coming in at the head of the