Indians.—The region now embraced in Northampton County, when first seen by white men, was sparsely occupied by the Lenni-Lenape (usually shortened to Lenape) or Delaware Indians, a branch of the Algonkians. According to tradition these Indians came from the west and took possession of territory that had still earlier been occupied. The evidence of such residence is vague and extremely unsatisfactory, although several investigators are inclined to believe that some of the stone artifacts that have been so plentifully found throughout the area represent a pre-Algonkian culture. Claims have been made by some archeologists that primitive man occupied the Delaware River Valley during the last invasion of the great glacial ice sheet. This is a fertile field of investigation.

The Lenape Indians were divided into three tribes, two of which shared this area, with the limits of their respective claims indefinite. The southern division, the Unami, whose totem was the Turtle and accordingly known as the Turtle Tribe, claimed the territory from what is now northern Delaware to the Lehigh River, or according to other beliefs to Kittatinny (Blue) Mountain. The Minsi tribe with the Wolf as their totem occupied the region to the north, embracing the headwaters of the Delaware and Lehigh rivers.

It seems fairly certain that the Iroquois Indians pushed into Pennsylvania before the tenth century and gradually supplanted the authority of the Algonkians over much of that territory. When the European settlers appeared in eastern Pennsylvania the Lenape or Delawares had come under the domination of the Iroquois, some tribes of which had banded together to constitute the Five Nations. The Iroquois applied the title of Women to the Lenape, a term which in time became very obnoxious as indicating weakness and inferiority.

The Indians seem to have established few permanent villages within the present confines of Northampton County. The only one of which we have more than the most superficial information is Welagamika, which was located between Nazareth and Schoeneck on the east side of the road connecting these towns. The site seems to have been occupied for some time as the early Moravian settlers found there groves of peach and plum trees and fields of corn and pumpkins. It was with great reluctance that the Indians abandoned the village in 1742.