



Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Project Research Summary **The Work of Anthropologist A. Irving Hallowell**

From 1930 to 1940, American Anthropologist A. Irving Hallowell (1892-1974) made seven summer field trips to the Berens River region. On five of those trips, he made substantial visits to Ojibwe communities up river – communities of Little Grant Rapids, Pauingassi, and sometimes Pikangikum and other settlements in the Pimachiowin Aki area.

His voluminous research notes have been publicly available to researchers in the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, since the mid-1980s. Over four decades, he published about thirty-five articles on his Berens River studies, and drafted an ethnographic monograph that finally found publication in 1992.

Hallowell's writings on the Berens River Ojibwe constituted the core of his contributions to anthropological research and knowledge, and confirmed his position in his academic profession. His Ojibwe mentors, primarily Chief William Berens (his principal collaborator and guide), also brought their history, culture, philosophy of life, and homeland to the attention of the wider world, as Hallowell published, taught, and in turn mentored a generation of students who passed on his findings and the insights he had gained. In him the Ojibwe found someone who listened, respected what they had to say, and confirmed their sense of worth at a time when other outsiders dismissed them or aimed to change their ways.

This report looks at the reciprocities of knowledge and understanding that Hallowell and his Ojibwe associates established. Their work laid an important foundation for our recognition that the people, lands, and waters of Pimachiowin Aki hold a special place in the world.

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