

Mural in the Main Hall in Hononegah High School, Rockton, Illinois



Ho-No-Ne-Gah

Whose name means “Dear Little One” was the first born daughter of a Potawatomi Indian chief. The Great Spirit had given her the gift of healing and she sought out the afflicted using nature’s remedies to heal. In 1822, Hononegah met Stephen Mack whom she healed of a persistent fever. He then gave her father 2 horses, 2 saddles, and 2 blankets for her hand in marriage. The couple moved to an Indian village called Birds Grove, now Hononegah Forest Preserve. Subsequently they founded Pecatonic, present day Macktown, in 1835. Hononegah and Stephen Mack were prominent citizens in Pecatonic, and had 11 children, 9 of whom survived infancy. Stephen Mack had received an education in Vermont and wanted to ensure that the children in his community would receive an education so he hired and paid the salary of a school teacher. Hononegah continued to lead a life that showed concern for all peoples while remaining true to her culture in dress and in habit.