

SIGNERS OF THE TREATIES

During the 1800s Ojibwe people met many times over the summer in treaty session. It was at these treaty meetings that the chiefs had to represent their bands in the government negotiations. Some of the chiefs had to come from far into the interior for the meetings. It would take weeks for the journey.

The traditional chiefs from each band were usually accompanied by lesser chiefs and the two top warriors from their band. These warriors were often called headmen.

Consequently, those who are recorded as having signed Ojibwe treaties are traditional chiefs, headmen and warriors. They represented the many bands in the treaty makings. They also had to report back to their bands and discuss the details and ramifications of the treaty issues.



photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

1913 - Leech Lake

Signing of the Declaration of Allegiance to the U.S. Government

As these Ojibwe leaders signed treaties, their Indian names were written down, and their band. Their particular bands that signed the treaties were evidence that significant villages were present.

Many of those villages do not yet remain Indian land. A classic example is the village of Gull Lake. Bug-o-nay-ge-shig, or Hole-in-the-day, as he was known, led his people for many years residing on the shores of Gull Lake. The surrounding area also was the home of many Ojibwe people.

Madeline Island, which is mentioned many times in the Midewiwin speeches of our tribe, was once the site of the longest Ojibwe villages of all time. It, along with Sandy Lake, was the center point of Ojibwe people.

These, then, are the chiefs, headmen and warriors who have been recorded as signing the Ojibwe treaties. When they were recorded, the government stenographers made countless mistakes in the spelling of their names. We have corrected them where possible.

LAKE SUPERIOR

BANDS

Grand Portage

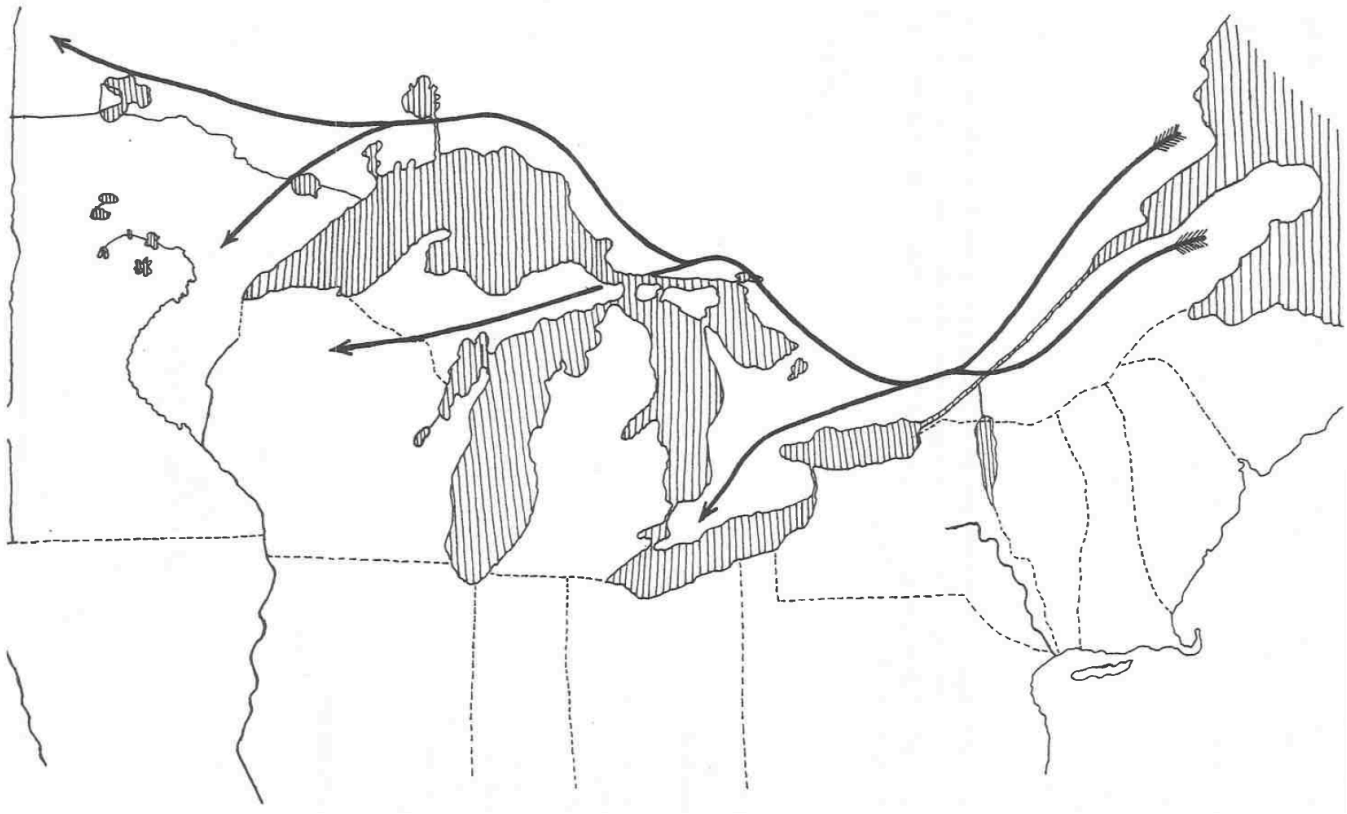
Shaw-ga-nah-sheence
 Kitchi-inini
 Maw-da-gaw-me
 Way-mi-tee-go-she
 Bay-me-ge-wung
 Ah-deek-once
 May-mahsh-ko-wash
 We-wigi-wam

Wisconsin and some Michigan bands are included here because they were a part of the 1854 Lake Superior treaty. It is important to note that in those times Ojibwe people were not divided by state boundaries. Also, a great kinship was felt by all Ojibwe Indians as they migrated eastward. Many Ojibwe in Minnesota and Ontario can trace their people's ancestry to Madeline Island.¹

Lac Du Flambeau

Me-zha-kwad
 Ah-mous
 Ke-nish-ti-no-ah
 Mee-giz-ee
 Kay-kay-go-nay-ah-shee
 Oh-chi-chag
 Nay-she-kay-gwaw-nay-be
 O-shkaw-bay-wis
 Kwi-wi-zaince
 Nee-gig
 Nay-wadj-ee-gee-zhick
 Kway-kway-kee-gah
 Wa-ba-nim-ikee
 Wa-bish-kah-kah-gay
 Oh-ge-ma-gah Bah-se-quam-jis

¹ Editors note on Wisconsin Band



Ojibwe historians tell of "the time when we lived by the great salt water..." This map shows the path of the Ojibwe from the original homeland to the lands occupied today - primarily in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and bordering provinces of Canada.

LAKE SUPERIOR

BANDS

She-gawg
 O-cun-de-cun
 Wa-say-geeshick
 Keesh-ke-taw-wug
 Oh-gaw-bay-ah-naw-kwad
 Wa-bish-kee-bee-nays
 Bay-bahm-ah-sing
 Keesh-kee-mun

Ontonagon

David King
 John Southwind
 Pete Marksman
 Naw-taw-me-geeshick
 Aw-se-neence
 May-dway-aush
 Bash-kway-geen

LeVieux Desert, L'anse, Bad River

Ah-kee-wain-zee
 Key-no-zhaince
 Kitchi-bi-nay-see
 Kitchi-wah-bi-shay-she
 Wah-bi-shay-sheence
 Kway-kway-cub
 Shaw-waw-go-me-tay
 Nay-naw-ong-gay-be
 O-saw-wehsh-ko-geeshick
 Ay-yaw-baynce

Lac Courte Oreilles

LAKE SUPERIOR

BANDS

Shin-goob
 Mang-oh-zid
 An-ni-mah-sung
 Na-ga-nab
 Naw-bun-way-geeshick
 Manito-geeshick
 Oh-saw-gee
 May-kwaw-me-we-geeshick
 Kay-tah-waw-be-day
 Kitchi-aki-wainze
 Keesh-kwak
 Wenji-ma-dub

Fond du Lac



Photos courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Chief Buffalo
Age 96 - Died 1856

La Pointe

Head Chief of the large Lake Superior Band. Every chief was given a large land allotment by the U.S. Government. In 1854, Chief Buffalo chose his allotment on the present day site of Duluth.

Bee-zhi-kee
 Ta-kwaw-gah-nah
 Cha-ching-gway-oh
 Shee-we-tah-gin
 Ki-mi-wun
 Ma-ka-dey-bi-nay-see
 O-shkin-ah-wey
 Ah-da-we-geeshick
 Bay-bah-me-say
 Na-wa-ge-wah-nos

MISSISSIPPI, PILLAGER, WINNIBIGOSHISH

BANDS
Mille Lacs

Me-gee-see
 Nay-kwan-ay-bee
 Bah-kay-naw-gay
 Wah-jushk-ko-kone
 Wenji-gee-shee-guck
 Adawe-gee-shick
 Ka-ka-gwap

MISSISSIPPI, PILLAGER, WINNIBIGOSHISH

BANDS
St. Croix, Snake, & Chippewa River

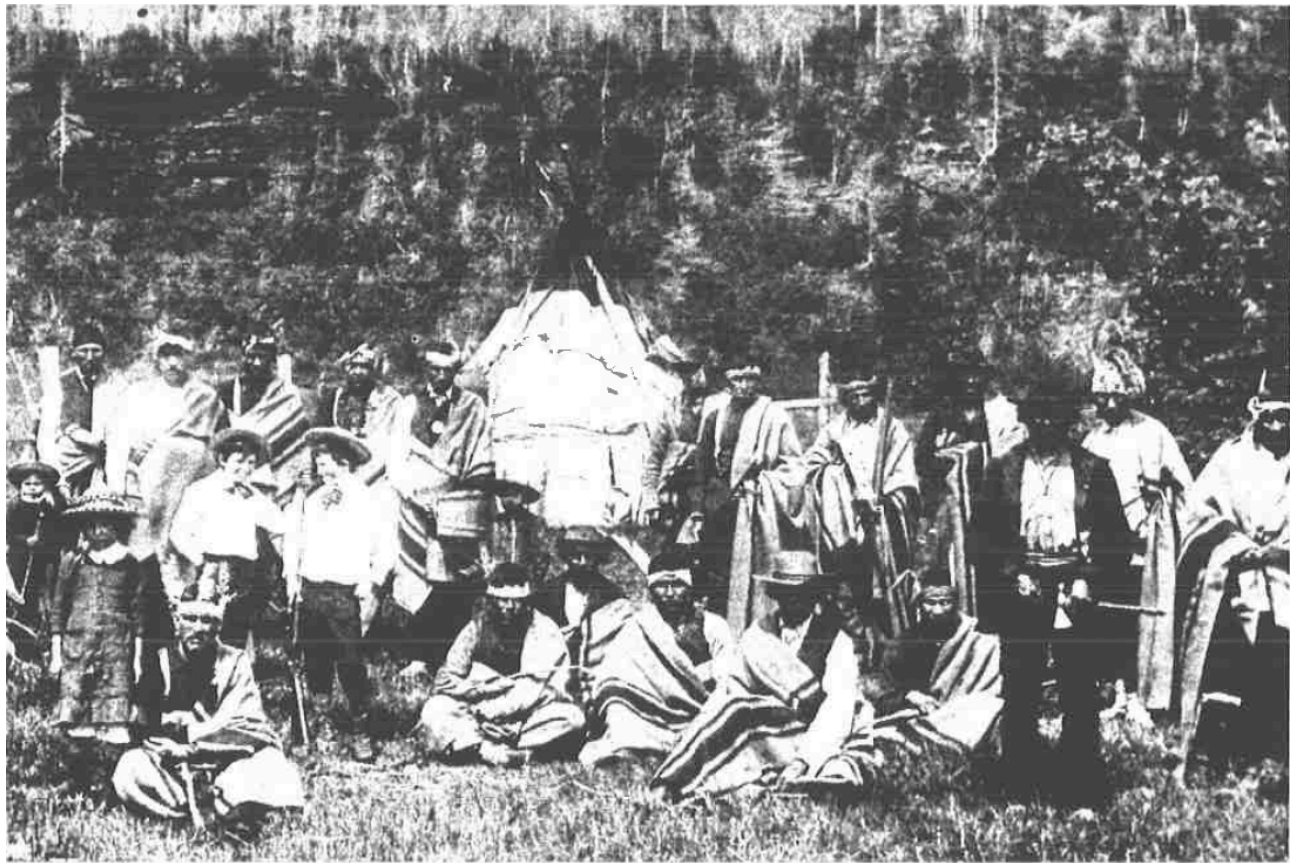
Be-zhe-ke Ka-be-ma-be
 Ba-gah-wey-we-wedung
 Ay-ya-banse
 Kish-kee-ta-wag
 Na-tam-ee-ga-bow
 Sah-ga-tah-gun
 No-din
 Sha-go-bay
 Sho-nee-yah
 Wee-mi-ti-go-sheens

Sandy Lake, Rice Lake (Pokegama)

Ah-aw-be-dway-we-dung
 Miskwa-dace
 Mah-no-min-i-kay-shee
 Bee-dud-ence
 Ma-ya-je-way-we-dung
 Naw-gawn-nee-gah-bow
 Mah-ya-ge-way-dung
 Kitchi-wee-mi-ti-goshe

Leech Lake & Winnibigoshish

Aish-ke-bug-e-koshe
 Bi-shee-kee
 Nah-bi-nay-aush
 O-gee-mah-wah-che-waib
 Ki-mi-wan-aush
 Mis-ko-bee-nay-say
 Manido-gee-shig
 O-gee-tub
 Kaw-be-mah-bee
 Kitchi-sai-yay
 Mah-ji-gah-bow



Photos courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Indians at Grand Portage at foot of Rose Hill about 1885. Chiefs and men stopped game of la crosse to meet with government officials. Chief May-maush-ko-waush stands in from holding tomahawk and wearing a chiefs medal, 6th from left in back row is Mike Flatt.

MISSISSIPPI, PILLAGER, WINNIBIGOSHISH

BANDS
Mississippi Band

Ga-nawn-da-maw-win-so

Ay-yah-baince

O-taw-waw

By-ah-jig

Ih-yah-shaw-wey-ge-zhick

Mah-ko-dey

Ke-wey-cah-me-gee-shkung

Gah-besh-ko-da-way

Wah-dee-na



Photos courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Chief Wabanaquot or White Cloud of White Earth

Gull Lake and Crow Wing

Bug-oh-nay-gee-shig
 Wah-bo-jeeg
 Wah-ba-na-kwad
 Manido-wab
 Sho-baush-kung
 Kwi-wi-zaince
 Wa-de-kaw
 Way-nah-me
 Song-ah-cumig



Photos courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Delegation of Leech Lake Ojibwe Leaders in Washington D.C. 1889.

Rabbit Lake

Me-jaw-ke-ki-zhick
 Ah-ah-jaw-way-ge-shick
 Day-dah-com-mo-say
 Moz-oh-mah-nay
 Way-saw-wah-no-nayb
 Mino-gee-shick

MISSISSIPPI, PILLAGER, WINNIBIGOSHISH

BANDS

Nett Lake, Vermillion, Pelican, Basswood Lake

Ga-besh-co-daway
 Ba-baw-madjew-esh-cang
 Way-zaw-we-je-zhick-way-sking
 O-saw-way-bi-nay-see
 Shay-way-be-nay-see
 Bah-pee-oh
 Ah-da-wawnequa-bee-nays
 Sa-gwa-da-came-gish-cang
 Ne-oning
 Wa-ba-gam-agwa
 Gan-ah-wah-bam-ina
 Gaw-nanda-ma-winzo
 Ah-be-tang