

# THE TOMAHAWK.

MINNESOTA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY.

"Truth before Favor."

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## The TOMAHAWK.

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A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER devoted to the interests of the White Earth Reservation and general Northwestern News. Published and managed by members of the Reservation.

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THE TOMAHAWK  
WHITE EARTH, MINN.

### RESERVATION LANDS TO LEASE

100,000 acres of first class farm lands on White Earth Reservation, in tracts of 80 acres and more, by ALLOTTEES.

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"the Tomahawk."

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## THE WHITE EARTH RESERVATION.

Brief History of Events Which Lead to its Establishment.

Under a misapprehension which extended among the Pillager Chippewas, Hole-in-the-day, the celebrated chief, forfeited his life.

Without going into the details of the causes which led to the uprising among the Chippewas in 1862, we will merely state that there was sufficient provocation in the minds of the Indians to enable the late celebrated chief, Hole-in-the-day, to induce them to take up arms against the government.

Although Hole-in-the-Day has always been charged with being the instigator of the uprising, it is certain that he did not commence hostilities until an attempt was made by army officers to arrest him.

The first intimation the public got that the Chippewas contemplated an outbreak was when Lieut. Forbes, now a resident of Albert Lea, with a squad of soldiers, made an attempt to arrest Hole-

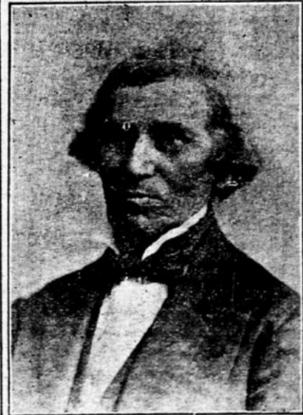


Hole-in-the-day.

in-the-day at the old village of Crow Wing.

But the writer hereof, who was then a boy of nine years of age, met Hole-in-the-day and his escort or brave, Quayse-good, a short distance from the village, and upon being questioned by the chief, told him that the soldiers were at Crow Wing. Quayse-good had proceeded on his way without stopping, and when Hole-in-the-day got through conversing with us, he went to the hill overlooking the village, and from there saw the soldiers arresting the former. But the soldiers also got sight of him, and immediately started in pursuit of him. He took a trail near the river which led to his house, and which made the distance nearly one mile nearer than by the wagon road, and he succeeded in reaching home, and removing his family to a place of safety before the soldiers arrived there. When the latter got to the house they saw Hole-in-the-day crossing the Mississippi river in his private ferry boat. They rushed to the river bank and got there just as the boat touched the opposite shore. Lieut. Forbes ordered him to stop, but paying no attention to this, the soldiers were ordered to fire at him, which they did without effect.

Hole-in-the-day drew his revolver and returned the shots, gave a war-whoop, and disappeared over a hill. Within a month after that he returned to



C. H. Beaulieu, who took an active part to suppress the outbreak, and induced the Mille Lac Indians to come to Ft. Ripley in 1862.

Crow Wing with a large force of braves, and surrounded the town.

The commissioner of Indian affairs, who happened to be there, held a peace council with the chiefs, but without any results. A short time after the Dole council, Gov. Ramsey, who had a strong influence over the Indians and especially over Hole-in-the-day, arrived at Crow Wing and succeeded in inducing the hostiles to disband and return to their respective reservations. The actions of the Mille Lac Chippewas, who had tendered their services to the government to suppress the uprising, contributed largely to the cessation of hostilities by Hole-in-the-day.

These hostile demonstrations by the Chippewas led to the treaty of March 11, 1863, wherein the Mississippi Chippewas ceded six reservations in this state in lieu of a large tract of land which is now known as the Mississippi Chippewa reservation, within which the Leech, Cass and Winnebagoish lakes are located, with the view of being consolidated thereon.

This treaty, which was made at Washington, by the chiefs of the several bands of Chippewas in Minnesota, caused so much dissatisfaction among the Indians that another delegation went to Washington in 1864 and succeeded in making another treaty on May 7 of that year, which greatly increased the size of the reservation set aside by the treaty of the previous year. Several years after the treaty of 1864, it was found that the Mississippi reservation



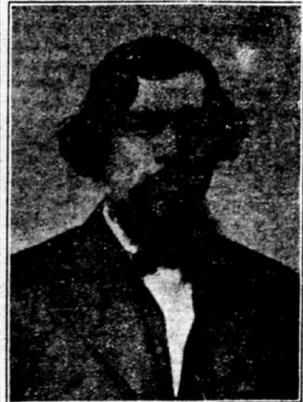
White Cloud, who was one of the chiefs that made the treaty of 1868.

was not adapted to farming purposes, and in 1867, Hole-in-the-day was authorized by his band to proceed to Washington and there negotiate another treaty. On March 19, 1867, the treaty setting aside thirty-six townships of land, so as to include the White Earth and Wild Rice lakes, was concluded.

No definite boundaries being fixed by the treaty, Hole-in-the-day, Major Joel B. Bassett, who was then the United States Indian agent for the Chippewas, and Paul H. Beaulieu, selected the reservation and fixed, approximately, the boundary lines thereof. The wisdom of this selection can never be questioned, since the reservation is now considered the garden spot of Minnesota.

Assassination of Hole-in-the-day.

The Pillager Chippewas of Leech Lake, however, got the impression that they had been over-reached in the matter of the treaty of 1867, and held Hole-in-the-day responsible for it.



Peter Roy, who acted as one of the interpreters of the treaty of 1863.

The ill-feeling on this account was very bitter against him among them, and in August, 1868, a party of nine of them, headed by May-dwa-we-mind, one of the leaders of the Leech Lake uprising in 1868, started for the old Chippewa agency, near Crow Wing, near

which Hole-in-the-day was living, for the purpose of assassinating him. When they arrived at his house they did not find him there, he being absent at Crow Wing, where he was making preparations to start for Washington on the following day.

They then decided, after discussing the matter, to go to Crow Wing, and there await an opportunity to kill him. They immediately started for that town, and when they were about one mile from the agency they met Hole-in-the-day in his buggy, with Chief Ojibway of this reservation, and just after he had passed them, May-dwa-we-mind shot him in the back, killing him instantly.

Gull Lake Indians Start For White Earth.

Three months prior to Hole-in-the-day's assassination, Paul H. Beaulieu started for this reservation with his first contingent of Mississippi Indians from the Gull Lake reservation, near Crow Wing. They were en route six, ten or seventeen days, and on the 14th day of June, 1868, they arrived at the



P. H. Beaulieu, who led the Chippewas to White Earth Reservation in 1868.

old trading post, two miles from here.

The conditions which confronted the Indians upon their arrival here were such that it was a very difficult task for the officials to induce them to remain here. And notwithstanding the efforts to keep them here, many of them returned to their homes at Gull Lake, and it was only within a few years passed that they were induced to return here.

It was not until 1871, when E. P. Smith, the first Indian agent that was appointed under President Grant's famous peace policy, that any further effort was made to remove the Indians of the Mississippi bands to this reservation.

Immediately after Mr. Smith took charge of the White Earth Indian agency, he succeeded in having the appropriations made which were provided by treaties, and in less than two years had secured the removal of a large number of Indians; and, by his policy of dealing with and encouraging them, induced more full-blood Indians to open farms than all the agents here have since



Rev. J. J. In-ne-me-gahow, who inaugurated the 14th of June celebrations.

succeeded in doing. While the progress of the Indians as farmers has been very slow and unsatisfactory to the government, there are a great many of the members of this reservation who have from one hundred to five hundred acres of land under cultivation on their farms.

Prospective railroads through this reservation will be an inducement hereafter for the reservation farmers to enlarge their farms, since the prospects of being able to sell their farm produce at railroad stations will be equally as good as to haul this produce from twenty to thirty miles as they have been doing in the past.

## THE GOVERNOR'S PARTY.

At one o'clock yesterday Governor Van Sant and party arrived at this Agency. They were met several miles from here by the Indian police force, chief Me-sha-ke-shig and others, all mounted, who acted as an escort from there to the Agency.

The party consists of Governor and Mrs. Van Sant, United States district attorney and Mrs. C. C. Haupt, Miss Haupt, assistant United States district attorney J. M. Dickey, Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Best, representative of the Minneapolis Times and George Van Smith, representative of the St. Paul Globe.



Chief Mesha Kegeshig, who participated in the negotiations of the treaties of 1863 and 1864, and who, although over seventy years of age, is taking an active part in the present celebration here.



Prominent Indians who took part in the anniversary celebration here, on June 13 and 14, 1902.

## PROGRAMME

FIRST DAY, MONDAY, JUNE 15th.  
Federal Salute at Sunrise.  
Exercises of the Day to commence at 8 o'clock A. M.  
Grand Aboriginal Parade.—The Indian of Yesterday.  
Music by the White Earth School Military Band.  
Vocal—National Anthem.  
Music by White Earth Cornet Band.  
Speeches by Hon. Ray W. Jones, Lieut.-Gov. of Minnesota; Hon. M. J. Daly, of Perham and Chief Joseph Charrettes.  
Music by the Band.  
DINNER.  
Music by White Earth School Military Band.  
Indian Games and Races.  
Aboriginal and Bowery Dancing.  
Game of Base Ball between the Ulen Tigers and the White Earth Badger.  
Matinee in the Assembly Hall: Subject—Longfellow's "Hiawatha" by Native Men and Women.

## A TWO HUNDRED YEARS WAR.

A majority of our visitors here today attending the celebration doubtless know that the Sioux and Chippewa Indians carried on a fierce and relentless war against each other for two hundred years and more, but we doubt if many of them know the causes which led up to this war.

There are two versions of the causes of the war given by the Chippewas. One of these is to the effect that there was a large settlement of Chippewas at the mouth of the Wisconsin River, and an equally large settlement or village of Sioux, three or four miles up the river from the Chippewa settlement; that during the spawning season one year the Chippewas built a dam near the mouth of the river, so as to prevent the fish from going up the river. The Sioux resented this, and demanded that the dam be removed, which the Chippewas refused to do. As soon as the Chippewa refusal was received by the Sioux chief, he gathered his forces and started for the dam with the view of destroying it. But the Chippewas hearing of this awaited the arrival of the Sioux forces, and when the latter attempted to break the dam a pitched battle took place and the long war followed; and Chippewa villages were located at the points stated.

The other version, which is more romantic, is that the Sioux, and that the son of the Chippewa chief was an accepted suitor of a beautiful Sioux maiden. The maiden also had another suitor among the members of her own tribe, who one evening met the Chippewa rival, and without any warning shot him in the back with an arrow, killing him almost instantly.

The Chippewas made a demand upon the Sioux to surrender the murderer, and upon their refusal to deliver him to them, the chief formed a war party, and charged on the Sioux village and almost exterminated the Sioux that were living there.

While both of these versions are plausible, it is generally agreed among the Indians that the war was commenced at the point indicated.