

Kechewaishke or Beshkike or Le Boeuf (Buffalo)

La Pointe, WI - 1760-1856

Buffalo was born in 1755 and was the grandson of chief Audaigweos, the head of the Loon clan from La Pointe on Madeline Island. He signed the 1825 peace treaty at Prairie du Chien and represented the interests of his people during the 1837 treaty negotiations. In 1841, Buffalo led a battle against the Sioux at the Brule River. Because of Buffalo's strategic planning the outnumbered Ojibwe won.

He journeyed to Washington D.C. in April 1852 to discuss the tragedies of his people with President Millard Fillmore. He was accompanied by Chief Oshoga, Benjamin Armstrong (his son-in-law) and four braves. They arrived in Washington D.C. on June 22, 1852, and were seen by the president.

“It is generally the case with the white men, when they selected a spot to dwell at, that they begin to consider and look around them, to see what obstacles are in their way. They begin to cut away the underbrush and bad trees, in order to make the land level and smooth so that nothing will come in contact and hurt their feet. They see good trees and they are allowed to stand and live. We beseech you to do towards us as you do, allowing the good trees, the Wisconsin Chippewas, to stand and live in your domain,” Chief Buffalo said.

The removal order was rescinded, and the annuity payments were returned to Madeline Island.

Chief Buffalo once again represented the wishes of his people when signing the 1854 treaty at La Pointe. Shortly afterward, the revered chief fell ill. He died in 1855 and was buried on Madeline Island.