

Bugonageshig (Old Bug) Leech Lake, MN born 1838

Bugonageshig was born in 1838 at Leech Lake, Minn., and was named after the first Bugonageshig. He was a sub-chief of the Bear Island Ojibwe.

In the late 1890s at age 60, he was arrested on a liquor charge and sent to Duluth for six months in the St. Louis County jail. His term ended in February, when he was released without winter clothes, money or provisions to return home to Bear Island. He walked home. When they came to get him to serve as a witness in court against the white man who sold liquor, Old Bug would have nothing to do with them. They caught him at the annuity payment and shackled him, but he escaped. Thus began the last military conflict between the Indians and the U.S. Army: the Battle of Sugar Point. They never did catch Old Bug.