



W. Warren

HISTORY *of the* OJIBWAY *PEOPLE*

WILLIAM W. WARREN

With an introduction by
W. ROGER BUFFALOHEAD



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CHAPTER XXVI.

PROGRESS OF THE OJIBWAYS ON THE WISCONSIN AND
CHIPPEWAY RIVERS.

Remarks—Numbers of the Lac Couerelle and Lac du Flambeau bands—
Their mode of gaining subsistence—They attribute their gradual westward
advance to the example of their pioneer traders—Michel Cadotte—In 1784
he winters on the Num-a-ka-gun—He winters on the Chippeway within
range of the Dakotas—He again winters on the Chippeway, and experiences
trouble from the Indians—He winters in the Rapids—Danger from the Dakotas
Falls—Two Canadians are drowned in the Rapids—Peace is happily effected—Credit due to Cadotte and La Rocque—War
fare between Ojibways and Dakotas—War party and death of "Big Ojib-
way"—Prairie Rice Lake—The Indian fight on its shores—A family of Ojib-
ways are massacred by the Dakotas—Bravery and revenge of the father—
Exploit of Le-bud-ee—New villages are formed at Lac Shatac, Puk-wa-t-
wah, Pelican Lakes and Wisconsin—Ojibways come in contact with the
Winnebagoes.

WE have now arrived at a period in the history of the
Ojibways, which is within the remembrance of aged chiefs,
half-breeds, and traders still living amongst them; and we
can promise our readers that but few occurrences will
hereafter be related, but the accounts of which have been
obtained by the writer from the lips of eye-witnesses, and
actual actors therein.

From this period, his labors in procuring reliable infor-
mation have been light, in comparison to the trouble of
sifting and procuring corroborative testimony from various
sources, the traditions which have been orally transmitted
from father to son, for generations past. The greatest
trouble will now consist in choosing from the mass of
information which the writer has been collecting during
several years past, such portions as may truly be considered
as historical and worthy of presenting to the world. The

important tribe of whom we treat in these pages, is divided
into several distinctly marked divisions, occupying differ-
ent sections of their extensive country, and we have been
obliged to skip from one section to another, that we might
relate events which have happened to each, in the order of
time.

In this chapter we will again return to the Lac Cou-
terelle and Lac du Flambeau divisions, whom we left, in a
previous chapter, in possession of the sources of the Wis-
consin and Chippeway rivers—two large tributaries of
the Mississippi.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century these two
bands already numbered one thousand souls. They had
located their villages on the beautiful lakes which form the
head waters of these rivers, and to some extent they prac-
tised the arts of agriculture, raising large quantities of corn
and potatoes, the seed for which had been introduced
amongst them by their traders on Lake Superior. They
also collected each autumn large quantities of wild rice,
which abounded in many of their lakes and streams. As
game became scarce in the vicinity of their villages, they
moved in large hunting camps towards the Mississippi,
and on the richer hunting grounds of the Dakotas they
reaped rich harvests of meat and furs.

The older and more intelligent men of these bands attri-
bute to this day their steady westward advance, and final
possession of the country nearly to the Mississippi, through
following the example and footsteps of their first and old
pioneer trader, Michel Cadotte, a younger brother of J. B.
Cadotte, mentioned in previous chapters.

The memory of this man, the marks of whose wintering
posts are pointed out to this day throughout every portion
of the Ojibway country, is still dear to the hearts of the
few old chiefs and hunters who lived cotemporary with
him, and received the benefits of his unbounded charitable