

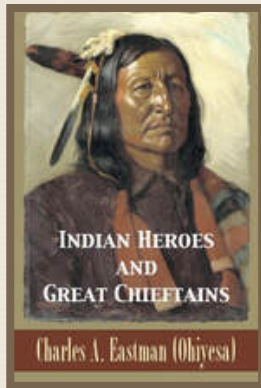
The next day, shots were fired and a Dakota man was killed. "I saw the Indians and whites pass our house, the former rushing into battle ten minutes after the first shot was fired," said E. Judson Pond.

The Dakota had old men, boys, and even some men who were disabled into the battle, a total of 65 men. And one of them was Tamaha. According to the *History of Carver County*, "There were but few good guns among them, all being common fowling pieces, some of them old and unreliable, while a dozen or more men had no guns at all. But the white men of Shakopee supplied this deficiency; they gave the Indians every gun in town."

During the Battle, Tamaha killed one Ojibwa.

A St. Paul newspaper described Tamaha as "A very old warrior, bent nearly double, but he had the good luck and grim satisfaction of putting the finishing touches to a gentleman of the enemy, of which the fellow feels very proud."

The Dakota leader and historian Ohíye S'a (Dr. Charles Eastman) said during the first alarm, Tamaha seized his gun and hobbled across the Minnesota River and provided a good fighter.



Ohíye S'a, or Dr. Charles Eastman, a Dakota leader and historian, wrote about Tamaha in the book *Indian Heroes and Great Chieftains*.

Ohíye S'a said that all of the remaining old members of Šakpe II tribe enjoyed telling of the exploits of Tamaha in Shakopee.

Wearing his trademark stovepipe hat, Tamaha was a vocal advocate of amicable relations between whites (particularly Americans) and Indians. Before the Dakota War of 1862, Tamaha stood before Little Crow and advised him not to go to war against the whites.

Tamaha died in 1864 at Fort Pierre South Dakota.



William Clark



Tamaha (c.1860) in his trademark stovepipe hat with the "small-sized medal" bestowed on him by William Clark



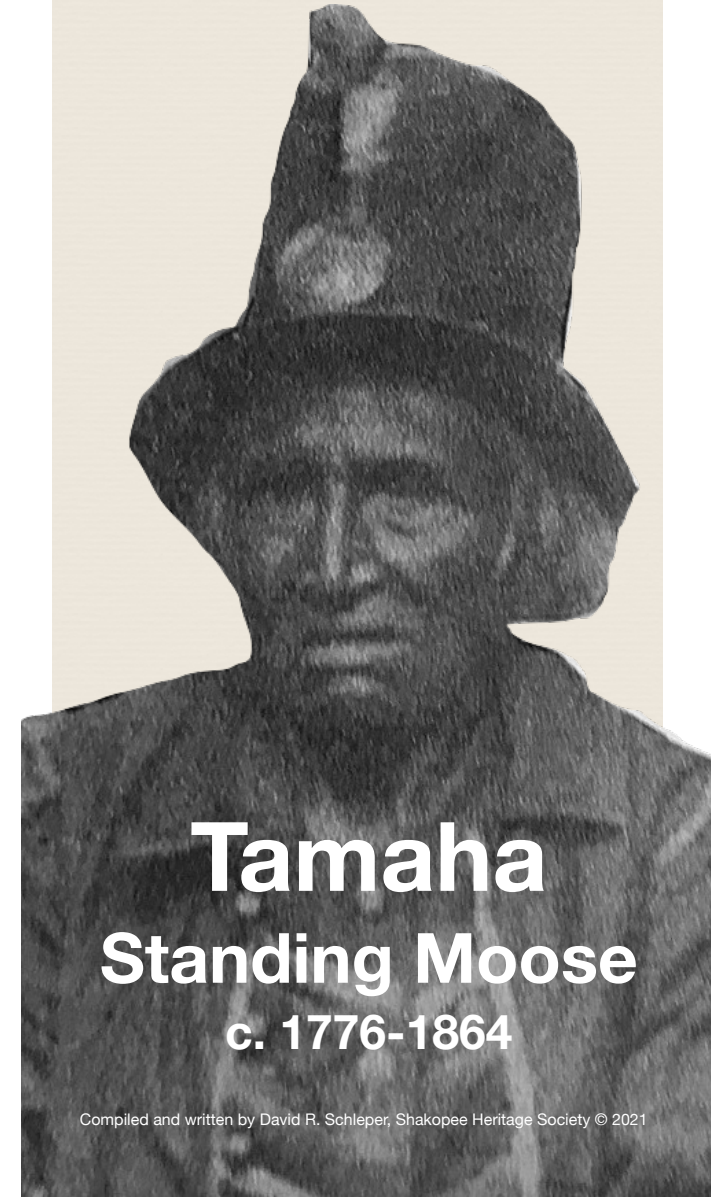
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Tamaha Standing Moose c. 1776-1864



Tamaha was born around 1776 at *Prairie à l'Aile* (present-day Winona, Minnesota), and was originally part of leader Wapahaša's band of Mdewakantōwaj Dakota. He was also known as Standing Moose or *L'Original Levé*.

Tamaha lost an eye in an accident as a seventeen-year-old, so he was called *Tamaha*, or One eye, in the Dakota language. The French called him "*Le Borgne*", or "One Eye." English picked up the name as "the One-eyed Sioux."

There are many colorful stories about his youthful exploits. In *Indian Heroes and Great Chieftains* (1918), Ohiye S'a (Dr. Charles Eastman) portrays Tamaha as a young man with "heroic proportions, herculean in strength, a superb runner; in fact, he had all the physical qualities of an athlete or a typical Indian. In his scanty dress, he was beautiful as an antique statue in living bronze."



Lieutenant Zebulon Pike



A drawing of Sha K' Pay, Minnesota Territory ca. 1854. Called *A Sioux Encampment on the Banks of the Minnesota River from Nature* ca 1854 by Edwin Whitefield from Minnesota Historical Society, used by permission. This drawing shows Tinta Oturwe with Sha K' Pay buildings in the background. This is where Tamaha was living during the Battle of Shakopee in 1858.

Ohiye S'a said that the injury to his eye was devastating to Tamaha, who then "sought glory and defied danger with even more than the ordinary Indian recklessness." On one occasion, young Tamaha and his best friend disguised themselves as Ojibwe warriors to flirt with Ojibwe girls. On another, he was hunting for buffalo when he was thrown off his pony and attacked by a bull. He quickly straddled the buffalo on its neck and held it by the horns, earning him the name Held-the-Bull-by-the-Horns.

According to Ohiye S'a (Eastman), it was during his escapade running from the Ojibwe that Tamaha famously said to his friend, "I'll meet you at the mouth of the St. Croix River, or in the spirit land!"

In 1806 and 1807, Tamaha became a friend of U.S. Army lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike. He was one of two Mdewakanton Dakota scouts for the United States in the War of 1812. He retained his loyalty even after his capture by the British, during which he refused to divulge information about the Americans on pain of death. The threat turned out to be a bluff.

Tamaha was presented with a medal and certificate by Governor William Clark of Missouri Territory for his loyalty to the U.S. He often wore the medal.

Tamaha was known as a powerful orator and a diplomat of unusual ability. Wearing his trademark stovepipe hat, he managed to maintain amicable relations between whites and Indians. At one time he was confined in a fort called McKay, where now stands the town of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. He had just returned from St. Louis, and was suspected of exciting his people to rebel against British subjects. His life was even threatened, but to this Tamaha merely replied that he was ready to die.

On May 27, 1858, Tamaha, who was 86 years old, was living at Tinta Oturwe, which was located on the south side of the Minnesota River. Anishinaabe (Ojibwa) from the Watpa wakarj (Dakota) or Misi-zaaga'igani-ziibi (Ojibwe) area headed south. On May 26, 1858, between 150 and 200 Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) warriors approached an encampment of Dakota on the Minnesota River near Shakopee.



DESP
From the History of Minnesota
BATTLE OF SHAKOPEE