

GUN LAKE TRIBE HISTORIC TIMELINE

Source: <https://gunlaketribe-nsn.gov/about/our-heritage/>

- 1795 Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish signs the Treaty of Greenville on behalf of the Chippewa, Ottawa and Pottawatomi Tribes.
- 1820 Primary village located at the head of the Kalamazoo River
- 1821 Treaty of Chicago
- 1827 Treaty of St. Joseph
- 1833 Treaty of Chicago (1833), Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish refused to sign
- 1838 Chief's Band settles near Gun Lake in Bradley, the beginning of the Bradley Indian Mission; under the protection of an Episcopalian church and later the Methodist church
- 1885 Bradley Indian Cemetery established
- 1890 Moses Foster (Shau-be-quo-ung) and his brother D.K. Foster join with the Huron-Pottawatomi and Pokagon Pottawatomi groups and file claims against the United States for unpaid treaty annuities
- 1894 The Bradley Mission is "dissolved" by the Church; the land is divided and deeded to 19 descendants of the Chief's Band; most land was lost due to tax liens
- 1903 Moses and D.K. Foster die
- 1904 The "Taggart Roll" is prepared by the BIA as a result of the claims filed by the Pottawatomi to distribute the awarded annuities
- 1911 Charles Foster is elected Chief
- 1939 The Bureau of Indian Affairs declines organization under the IRA of 1934
- 1940's Many Gun Lake Tribe members serve in the U.S. military in WWII
- 1992 The Bradley Settlement Elders Council is formed
- 1993 Gun Lake Tribal Constitution drafted
- 1994 Petition for federal acknowledgment submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 1999 Federal recognition of Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) achieved
- 2000 Tribe's constitution is adopted
- 2009 Ground is broken for the Gun Lake Casino
- 2011 Gun Lake Casino opens improving the economic development of the Tribe
- 2015 Gun Lake Tribe's Government Campus opens in Shelbyville, MI and will serve as the Tribe's Capital
- 2017 Gun Lake Investments opens its Noonday Market and Subway Store
- 2019 Signs posted in Kalamazoo identifying the boundaries of the original 19th century "Treaty of Chicago" Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Pottawatomi Reservation.

Sources: <https://gunlaketribe-nsn.gov/about/our-heritage/>
: <https://www.kalamazoocity.org/news/428-first-match-e-be-nash-she-wish-pottawatomi-reservation-boundary-sign-to-be-unveiled-april-22>



SHORT HISTORY OF THE MATCH-E-BE-NASH-SHE-WISH BAND OF POTTAWATOMI INDIANS OF MICHIGAN (GUN LAKE TRIBE)

SHELBYVILLE, MICHIGAN

FIRST PEOPLES

"The first settlers to make their home in West Michigan were the Native Americans. The Gun Lake Tribe, led by Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish, originated from the Kalamazoo Valley, their village "at the head of the Kalamazoo River". The Gun Lake Tribe were Potawatomi Indians, which are part of the Three Fires Confederacy. During this time period, many land cessions were being made and eventually the tribe relocated to the Gun Lake region, where they stayed for quite some time.

"In the early 1900s, the tribe tried to take the steps to become officially recognized by the state as a tribe. The Bureau of Indian Affairs declined their recognition, along with the rest of the Lower Peninsula tribes in Michigan, but later in the 1990s the Gun Lake Tribe filed once again for federal acknowledgment. On August 23, 1999 Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish and his tribe were granted their wish and were finally considered an official Native American Tribe. The Gun Lake area still has a Native American presence to this day, with the Bradley Mission being the main place of interest for the tribe."

Source: <http://michiganhistory.leadr.msu.edu/native-american-settlers-of-gun-lake>

1800s: A TIME OF TREATIES

"Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish signed the Treaty of Chicago in 1821, which was the first land cession to the U.S. government that directly affected his Band. Under the terms of the 1821 Treaty, the Tribe retained a three-square-mile reservation located at present day downtown Kalamazoo.

"The U.S. and the Pottawatomi Tribes signed the Treaty of St. Joseph in 1827. Under its terms the Chief ceded rights to the Kalamazoo reserve granted under the 1821 treaty. Neither payment nor land was ever provided to the Chief's Band and instead this began a period of constant movement north in an effort to avoid forced removal out west. The Band briefly settled in Cooper, Plainwell and Martin before finding a permanent settlement in Bradley, circa 1838, near Gun Lake.

"The Bradley Settlement was first known as the Griswold Mission. This was an effort of the Episcopal Church under the direction of Reverend James Selkirk to Christianize the Indians. Later known as the Bradley Indian

Mission, Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish's Band remained an Indian community and persevered as a Tribal Government into present times.

1900s: A TIME OF STRUGGLE

"The political leadership of the Band since European contact is well documented. First, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish followed by his son Penassee, followed by his first son Shu-be-quo-ung (a.k.a. Moses Foster) and then Moses's brother, known by his Anglicized name - David K. (D.K.) Foster. Charles Foster, D.K.'s son, was later elected Chief in 1911.

Under the leadership of Selkirk Sprague, the "Bradley Indians" attempted to organize under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act. Before doing so, however, the Bureau of Indian Affairs decided to withhold recognition of Lower Peninsula Michigan Indian Tribes.

During the 1980s the Band prepared for federal recognition under the new federal acknowledgement procedures of 1978. In the early 1990s, the Tribe filed for federal acknowledgement by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Branch of Acknowledgement and Research. Federal recognition of Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish's Band of Pottawatomi Indians became effective on August 23, 1999.

2000s: A TIME OF GROWTH

The Tribe's constitution was adopted in 2000 and continues to guide the Tribal Government. The seven-member, popularly elected Tribal Council has authority over all affairs of the Tribe and its subsidiaries. The Tribe's five-county service area includes Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ottawa counties.

In 2001 the Tribe began an arduous process to re-establish reservation lands to pursue economic development under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The federal process did not conclude until 2005 when the first of several frivolous legal challenges delayed the Tribe's gaming project for nearly four years.

In 2003 the Tribe hired Station Casinos to manage its gaming project. After years of struggle and hardship the Tribe is beginning to see the possibilities of a brighter future.

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