

Quick Facts about Zhaawni-binesi

- Had village site in present day downtown Wallaceburg
 - Part of the Beaver clan which was prominent at Walpole Island and along Bear Creek (Sydenham River)
 - Family received payment following the St Anne treaty in 1796
 - Signed the Treaty of Detroit in 1807 that covered south eastern Michigan
 - Fought in the war of 1812
 - Had a daughter Omahzenaw in 1814
 - Received presents for his band at Amherstburg in the 1820s
 - Signed the Huron Tract Treaty of 1827
 - Head Chief at Walpole Island in 1830
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- Made education a priority while insisting that the youth retain their traditions
 - Moved to Aamjiwnaang with others from Walpole Island and died around 1834
 - Family moved back to Walpole Island
 - One of his grandsons was Philip Kiyoshk

Issues with Yellow Hawk (Othaawaapeelethee) being Sawa Benashe

- Rev. David Jones writes of a spiritual discussion with Chief Yellow Hawk who lived in 1773 on the Ohio River in his journal which was published in 1865.
- Yellow Hawk would have been around 85 years old at the Battle of the Thames
- We have found no other records that show he was at the battle or his descendents lived at Walpole Island
- Descendents likely would have referred to Yellow Hawk as Sawa Gekek

Alternative Explanation: Zhaawni-binesi carried Tecumseh's Flag into battle

- Zhaawni-binesi's English name was "Yellowbird"
- Affidavits from family state that he fought in the war of 1812 and received a medal
- Oral tradition of Walpole Island maintains that those who fought from the island in the war fought alongside Tecumseh
- Zhaawni-binesi's descendents are known to be living on Walpole Island today.

<http://www.queensu.ca/pwip/home>

Zhaawni-binesi Battle Flag



By Rick Fehr, Jared Macbeth and
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Centre Open House



The Flag: What is known

- Currently this flag is part of the collection of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington D.C.
- From the NMAI files - Wool Bunting Flag said to have been given to Tecumseh (Shawnee, 1768-1813) by the British circa 1812, and carried during the Battle of the Thames in 1812 by Sawa Benashe (probably Yellow Hawk/Othaawaapeelthee, Shawnee, ca. 1728-ca. 1820), and handed down in Yellow Hawk's family as an heirloom. Purchased by Milford G. Chandler (1889-1981) in 1942 and part of his collection until 1961 when it was presumably sold to Museum of the American Indian.

How accurate is this account?

There are numerous references to a head chief of Walpole Island, also known as the "islands at Chenail Ecarté," with an Anishinaabemowin name that translates as "Southern Bird." Zhaawni-bnesi is a contemporary Anishinaabemowin orthographic spelling for the various references.

1796: Shapenesse

1830: Shaweny penincy

1830: Shawiny penency

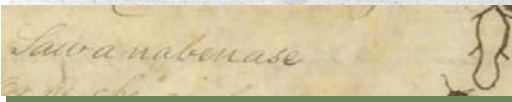
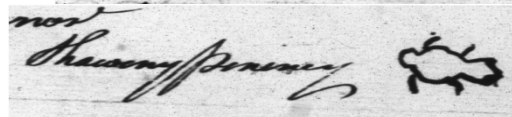
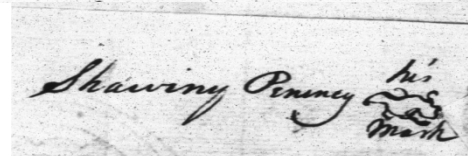
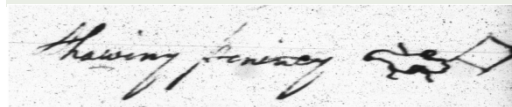
1806: Signed as '**Yellow Bird**', in letter to Baldoon Farm Manager Alexander McDonell

1807: Treaty of Detroit, includes the name "**Sawanabenase**," with a beaver dodem;

1825: Provisional Treaty: **Shaw wi ni penance** (Beaver dodem)

1827: Treaty #29, includes "**Shaw anip inissie**," also with a beaver dodem.

1879: Indian Affairs affidavit, a community member (Omahzenaw) identified her father as chief **Sha-wan-i-pi-ne-sie**, and that she was born in 1814 at a place which is the present town of Wallaceburg.



Zhaawni-bnesi (aka Yellow Bird) complaining about the Baldoon Settlers cattle destroying his corn fields in 1806

I'm very sorry to inform you that your catel [sic] have destroyed all mi [sic] corn fields which was our dependance [sic] for their winter provisions that is all I have to depend on.

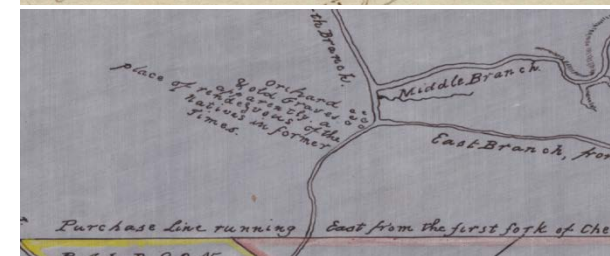
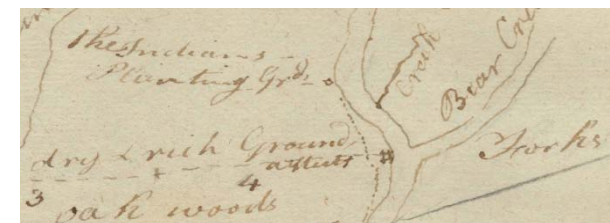
Father Cudint [sic] you make me some recompense for me and mi [sic] brothers [sic] fields on the Bare [sic] Creek and iff [sic] you [looks like 'do'] not recompense us for our corn we will have to do something with your catel [sic] and if you satisfy us we shall be satisfied and iff [sic] not we must kill

Sir forever yours

Friend the Chief of this (looks like 'reserve' or 'river?')

mi [sic] name is the Yellow Bird

and mi [sic] tribe is the (illegible, looks like 'bever' [sic])



Zhaawni-bnesi's Village at the forks of present day Wallaceburg