

Chief Wabanningo



Andy Wisinki carved this statue of Chief Wabanningo from the trunk of a large cherry tree that had been damaged in the Memorial Day storm of 1998. (Demos photograph)



The Chief Wabanningo statue stands in front of the Holloway-Rudolph cottage (Block One, Lot 12). (Demos photograph)

The above two pictures of Chief Wabanningo were found in a book entitled "Land Between The Lakes" by Drs. Daniel J. Yakes and Steven S. Demos. There was no additional information in the

book about him, and there seems to be almost no other information available on Chief Wabaningo in general. Perhaps he is just a mythical character.

Chief Wabaningo was a real person.

History Of Muskegon County Michigan, H. R. Page & Co. 1882 page 29. Charles Mears met Wabaningo's band of half dozen Indian families, near where the lighthouse now stands.

The Boy Scouts had pageants, which ran from 1928 to 1938.

The Montague Observer August 3, 1933, page 1. Boy Scouts in Historic Pageant, Chief Wabaningo.

The Whitehall Forum August 3, 1933, page 1 & last page. Pageant Promises Beautiful Historic Scenes.

The Whitehall Forum August 4, 1932, page 1. Fourth Annual Indian Pageant.

Montague Observer April 30, 1914, page 4. Mo-A-Qua Wabaningo, his father was chief of Ottawa Indians.

Whitehall Forum April 30, 1914, page 4/6. Local Items: Thommey Wabbenaggo visit The Forum. He was born March 20, 1856.

His father was last of old chiefs in this part of Michigan. The correct spelling of Wabaningo is Wabbenaggo; it is still being spelled wrong to this day.

Kurt Weber