

Billy Caldwell  
Saganash, or Englishman  
Potowatomic Chief

1820 - The Potowatomic chiefs Robinson and Caldwell accompanied General Leass, as Interpreters - to make a Treaty with the Chippewas for a tract of land at the outlet of Lake Superior, for a Military Post. - W. Col. VII - 330

1827 - Big Foot's band of Potowatomies were about to join the Winnebagoes - in their plans to exterminate the Whites. The band was at Geneva Lake, then known as Big Foot's Lake, not far from Chicago. The Whites at Chicago sent Chiefs Shabonee and Billy Caldwell as spies to Big Foot's village to learn their intentions. Shabonee entered the village, while Caldwell hid in the woods, and Shabonee was immediately seized, and questioned. Big Foot urged him to join him and act with him. He said he would have to go home and call a Council of his braves and send an answer. He was escorted by Big Foot's Indians for half a day - and when passing where Caldwell was hid he gave him a signal - so that they would not return together. A council was held and the whites sent to the Wabash for aid which arrived in 7 days - in the meantime the 1st Troop - surprised the Winnebagoes - and they promptly signed a Treaty of peace.  
W. Col. VII - 342.

1831 - The small body of Potowatomies and Ottawa Indians who were raised in 1832 to operate against Black Hawk, included Robinson and Shabonee as chiefs, and were commanded by Gen. E. Walker, with the title of Captain.  
idem VII - 344

1812 - On the night of the Ft. Dearborn Chicago massacre, when the Indians were about to slay the survivors and prisoners, Billy Caldwell awoke in a canoe and cried out - "I am the Saganash". Chief Black Partridge said "Then hasten to the house, for our friends are in danger, and you alone can save them." Caldwell ran to the house, entering the parlor, which was full of Indians, and by threats and entreaties prevailed upon them to abandon their murderous design; and by him King's family, with the prisoners at the Fort, were saved from death. Such was Shabonee's unvarnished narrative -  
W. Col. VII - 417-418

Billy Caldwell, a half-breed, said to be a son of Col. Caldwell, a British officer. He was one of the principal chiefs among the Potowatomies, and was well known by the early settlers of Chicago - idem 415. note.

Oct 5, 1813. Black Hawk was in company with the Potowatomic Chiefs, Shabonee and Billy Caldwell, near to Tecumseh when he fell. - W. Col. XII - 221

Sept 1785. Sam. Montgomery says in his journal - "We were informed that he (Abraham Kuhn) was at this time employed in a flour-trade carried on between some persons at Pittsburg and Detroit by the way of Cayahoga (now Ohio) and at that place, under the immediate direction of a Captain Caldwell, a man who commanded a ranging company during the late war in the service of Britain, who formerly exercised and continues to exercise the British influence over the minds of the Indian nations, and is now largely concerned in the trade with them."

Note - This may have been Col. Wm Caldwell who commanded the British forces and their Indian allies, at Upper Sandusky June 4, 1781. It was here the American forces were defeated, their Commander Col. Wm Crawford, and many others captured - M.V.H.R. II - p. 266.

Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1785 - Montgomery wrote - "Simon Girty, the partisan, in influencing the minds of the Indians to our prejudice, had visited this nation [Shawnee] a few days before our arrival, in company with Captain Caldwell and Abraham Kuhn, and used their address with them." M.V.H.R. II - 272.

Billy Caldwell

Oct 20, 1832. Treaty of Potowatomie at Camp Kippewaun Ind. proclaimed Jan 21-1833 - U.S. Stat. VII-378

Article III of Treaty reads - In consideration of the cession in the first article, the U. States agree to pay to the aforesaid Potawatomie Indians, an annuity of fifteen thousand dollars for the term of twenty years, six hundred dollars shall be paid annually to Billy Caldwell, two hundred dollars to Alexander Robinson, and 200 dollars to Pierre La Blere, during their natural lives.

U.S. Stat. at Large VII-p 379

Sept 26-1833 - Treaty at Chicago proclaimed Feb 22, 1835.

By Art III - 400 dols a yr to be paid to Billy Caldwell and 300 dols a yr to be paid to Alexander Robinson for life, in addition to the annuities already granted them.

idem p 433

By schedule A - in place of Reservations, 600 dols. to be paid Billy Caldwell's children

" " " " " " " " 10 000. to B. Caldwell idem 435

" 436

He signed the name - Saw no nook to the Treaty idem p 441

The Treaty was amended so as to give only 5000 dols each to Billy Caldwell & Alex Robinson instead of the ten thousand as above - idem 447. note