

# “American Progress,” 1873



Croft, George A., "American Progress," 1873. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

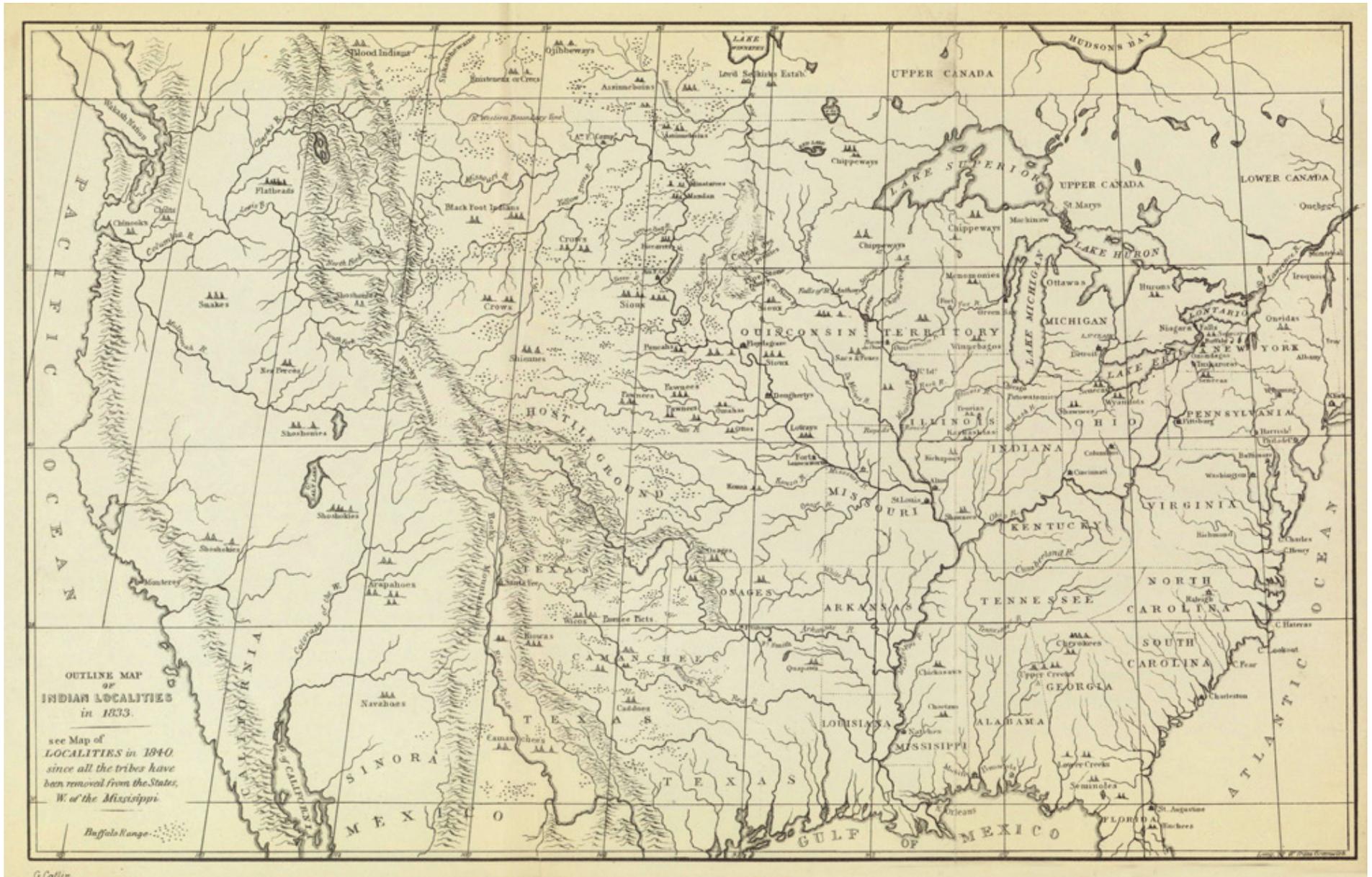
# Typical Immigrant Outfit in Central Oregon, December 5, 1910



“Typical Immigrant Outfit, Central Oregon,” 5 December 1910. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)



# Outline Map of Indian Localities of 1833, Date Unknown



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Catlin, George, Date Unknown

# Dakota Sioux in the Great Plains, 1905



Curtis, Edward S., "[The plains of the Dakota--Sioux]," 1905. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

# Meskwaki Weaving in Wickiup in Tama, Iowa, 1905



## Eskimo Children “Under the Salmon Row,” 1906



Nowell, Frank H., “Under the Salmon Row, 1906. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

# Hopi Indian Harvest Dance, between 1909 and 1919



“Harvest Dance, Hopi Indians,” between 1909 and 1919. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

# Cree Man Calling a Moose, 1927



Curtis, Edward S., "Calling a moose--Cree," 1927. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

# Seminole Men, Women and Children, 1936



“Seminole Indians,” 1936. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

# Meskwaki Code Talkers, February 26, 1941



—T.-R. Photo

**MAN-NWE-NET-DA-MON!** It's an Indian's way of saying "We don't like it" in his native Mesquakie and what he really means is that he doesn't like to have people ask too many questions about his language, now that he knows it will play a strategic part in regimental communications of the 168th infantry. Above is a composite picture showing how eight Sac and Fox Indian boys, members of Company H, will use the army's "walkie-talkie" radio units for field communications. Upper left Willard Sanache helps strap the unit to Dewey Youngbear's back. At the right Capt. John C. Petty giving a group of Indians instruction in the use of the units. At the lower left, Lieut. Dean A. Knudson points out troop movements to Williard Sanache, who broadcasts the information by short wave radio, while at right Dewey Youngbear picks up the message and translates it into English for Captain Petty, commanding officer of Company H, theoretically at field headquarters.

# Meskwaki Powwow Celebration in Tama, Iowa, 1953



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 1953

# Timeline of “How the Meskwaki and Sauki Became Three Separate ‘Sac & Fox’ Tribes,” 2004



## Meskwaki History

How the Meskwaki Tribe and the Sauki Tribe became Three Separate “Sac & Fox” Tribes

**1812 -1824**

The Meskwaki (Fox) are concentrated along the Mississippi River Valley areas. The Sauki (Sac) are also along the Mississippi River but more to the south. Leaders of both tribes sign treaties as "Sac & Fox;" both tribes controlled a large stretch of the waterway and subsequently were identified as the "**Sac & Fox of the Mississippi River.**" Then a group of mostly Sac Indians broke away from the larger Sac tribe and moved to northwest Missouri along the Missouri River Valley and in 1824 this break-away group signs a treaty independently ... receiving a separate identity as the "**Sac & Fox of the Missouri River.**"

**1837**

The Sacs and Foxes are forced inland as punishment for the Black Hawk War and to break the tribes' domination of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The Fox are moved into central Iowa Territory, the Sac are moved into southern Iowa Territory and the other Sac group (the "Sac & Fox of the Missouri River") are moved to a reservation in the northeast Kansas Territory. The government refers to the Sacs and Foxes in the Iowa Territory as "**The Sac & Fox of the Mississippi**" in order to differentiate this group from the "Sac & Fox of the Missouri".

**1845**

Wanting more land for settlers, the government forces a treaty to remove the "Sac & Fox of the Mississippi" from Iowa Territory to a reservation in east central Kansas Territory ... south of the reservation already occupied by the "Sac & Fox of the Missouri." However, only one-fifth of the Meskwaki (Fox) actually arrive at the new reservation; the rest are still hiding in Iowa or have taken refuge with other tribes. The Fox who go to Kansas occupy the west side of the reservation and the Sac occupy the east side. Following the removals, Iowa almost immediately becomes a State in 1846.

**1846 -1869**

The Meskwaki gradually return to Iowa before and after purchasing 80 acres of land in the state in 1857. The United States is embroiled in Civil War, 1861-1865. The people remaining at the second reservation are mostly Sauki and move to a new reservation in the new Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). The vacated reservation in central Kansas is opened up to white settlers. The reservation in northeast Kansas remains intact. This accounts for the three Sac and Fox tribes of today:

**The Sac & Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa** (primarily Meskwaki),

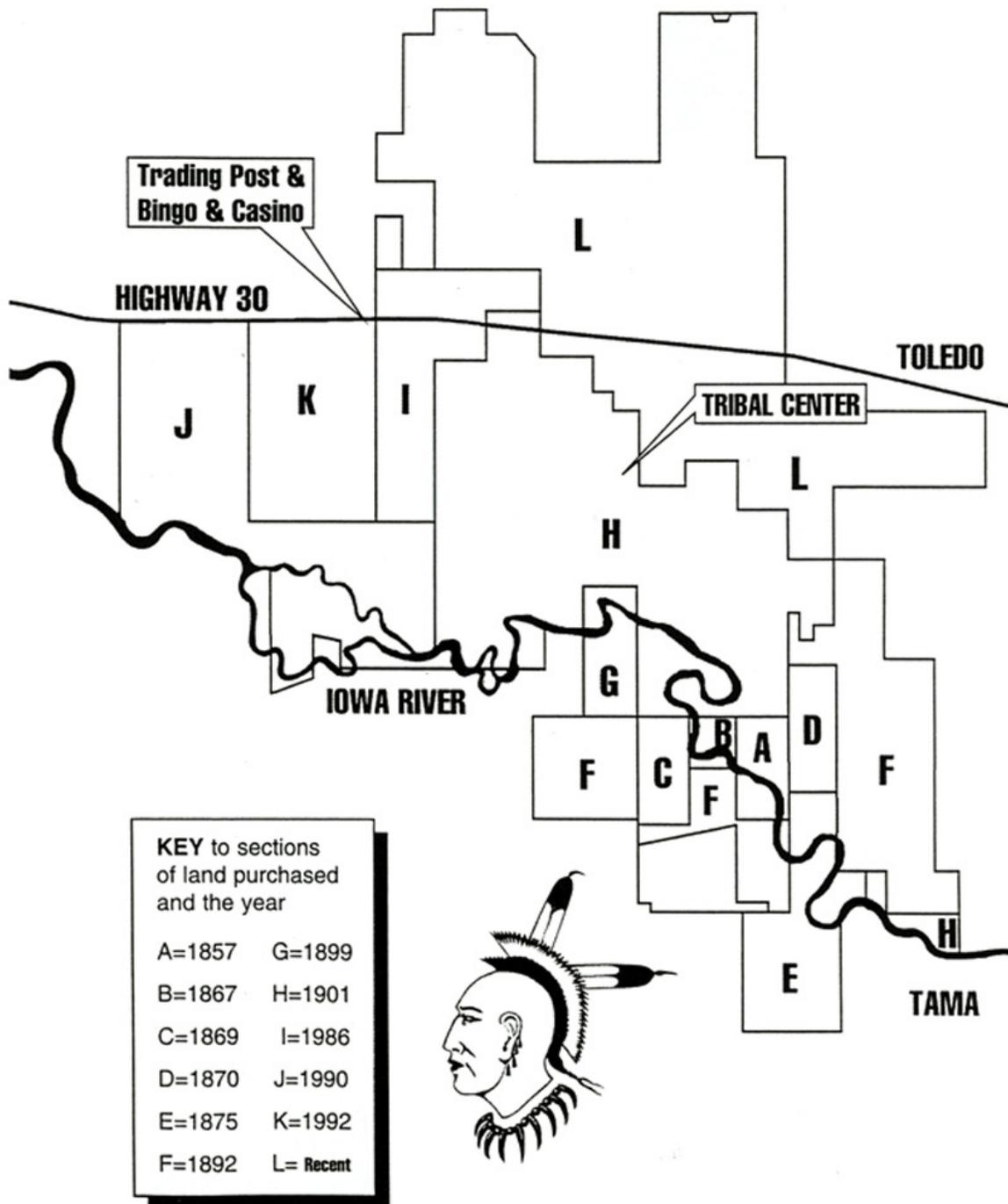
**The Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma** (remaining Sauki plus a few Meskwaki), and

**The Sac & Fox of the Missouri** in Kansas and Nebraska (the first group of Sauki who broke away in 1824).

Text provided by the Meskwaki Nation Historical Preservation Office.



# Meskwaki Land Purchases, 2004



# Meskwaki Land Purchases, 2004

## Meskwaki Land Purchases, 2004

On July 13, 1857, the Meskwaki purchased their first 80 acres in Tama County. A small band gathered in a summer village on the west bank of the Iowa River, but they scattered in all directions to their winter camps. *(Section A on the map)*

Every year between 1857 and 1866, different groups of the Meskwaki returned to the Settlement in Tama County with the majority coming to the area after 1862. The tribe traveled 130 miles to obtain funds to purchase another parcel of 40 acres in January 1867. *(Section B on the map)*

In 1867, the United States government finally allowed the Meskwaki living in Iowa to receive federal annuity payments for the first time in ten years. By generating income through trapping and by accumulation annuity payments, the tribe was able to purchase additional land between 1867 and 1901. This expanded the Meskwaki Settlement to almost 3,000 acres. The Settlement stayed the same until 1987, and this area is commonly referred to the “Old Settlement”. *(Sections C, D, E, F, G, H on the map)*

In 1987, the Meskwaki purchased more land, expanding their holdings to 7,054 acres. Although the tribe’s summer village and housing were originally built on river bottom land or along the Iowa River Valley, the tribe gradually acquired land on higher ground towards the north, closer to Highway 30. *(Sections I, J, K, L on the map)*

Once the tribe relocated away from the flood-prone areas, the Meskwaki secured housing improvements and other modern amenities. Tribal activities at the Settlement have shifted to the north, where the casino, high school, and newer housing are located but pow-wow celebrations are held on the south. Subsequent land purchases were made in 1990 and 1992, and the Meskwaki continue to acquire neighboring land as it becomes available. *(Sections M, N, O on the map)*

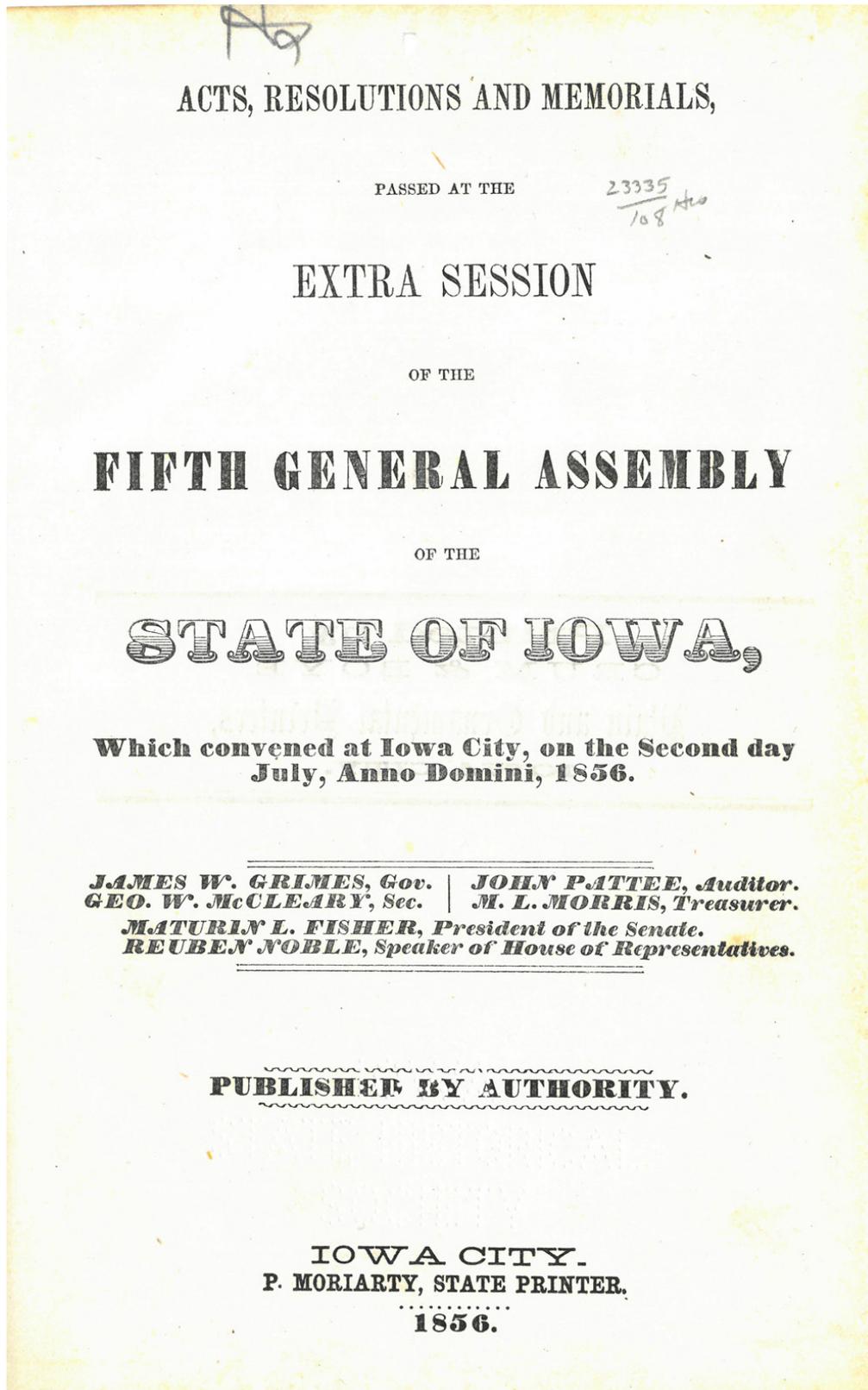
*Text provided by the Meskwaki Nation Historical Preservation Office.*

# Meskwaki New Settlement School, Date Unknown



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Date Unknown

# Iowa Law to "Allow Meskwaki to Purchase Land and Live in Tama, Iowa," July 15, 1856 (Pg.1)



# Iowa Law to "Allow Meskwaki to Purchase Land and Live in Tama, Iowa," July 15, 1856 (Pg.2)

## LAWS OF IOWA.

77.

### CHAPTER 30.

#### INDIANS.

AN ACT permitting certain Indians to reside within the State.

SECTION. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That the consent of the State is hereby given that the Indians now residing in Tama county known as a portion of the Sacs and Foxes, be permitted to remain and reside in said State, and that the Governor be requested to inform the Secretary of war thereof, and urge on said department, the propriety of paying said Indians their proportion of the annuities due or to become due to said Tribe of Sacs and Fox Indians.

Consent of the State given.

For Sacs and Foxes, to reside in the State.

Annuities.

SEC. 2. That the Sheriff of said county, shall as soon as a copy of this law is filed in the office of the County Court proceed to take the census of said Indians now residing there giving their names, and sex, which said list shall be filed and recorded in said office, the persons whose names are included in said list shall have the privileges granted under this act, but none others shall be considered as embraced within the provisions of said act.

Census.

List filed.

SEC. 3. This act shall take effect from and after its publication in the Iowa Capital Reporter and Iowa City Republican published at Iowa City.

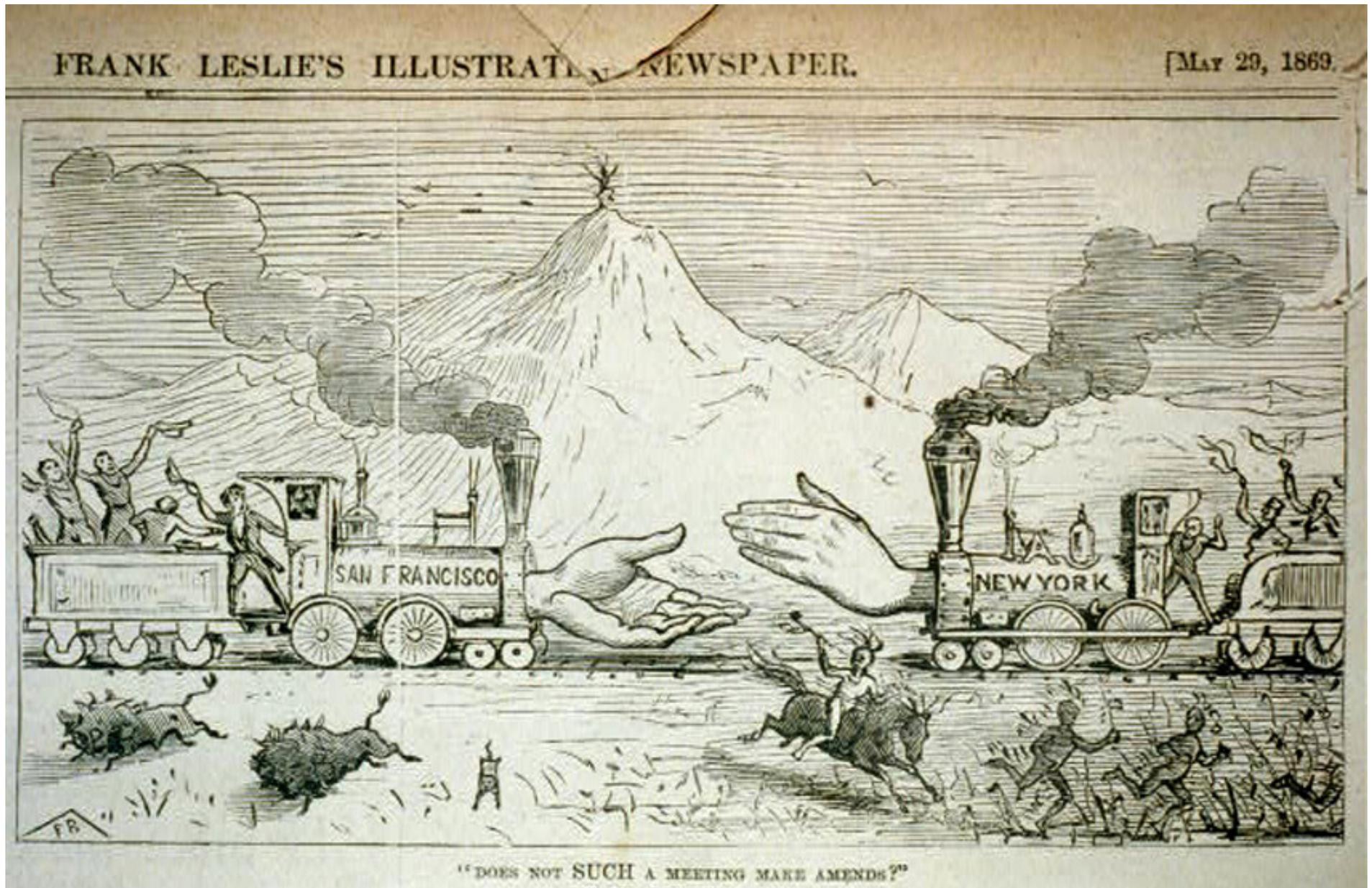
Take effect.

APPROVED July 15th, 1856.

I certify that the foregoing act was published in the Iowa Capital Reporter July 30th and in the Iowa City Republican July 23d 1856.

GEO. W. McCLEARY,  
Secretary of State.

# “Does Not Such a Meeting Make Amends?” May 29, 1869



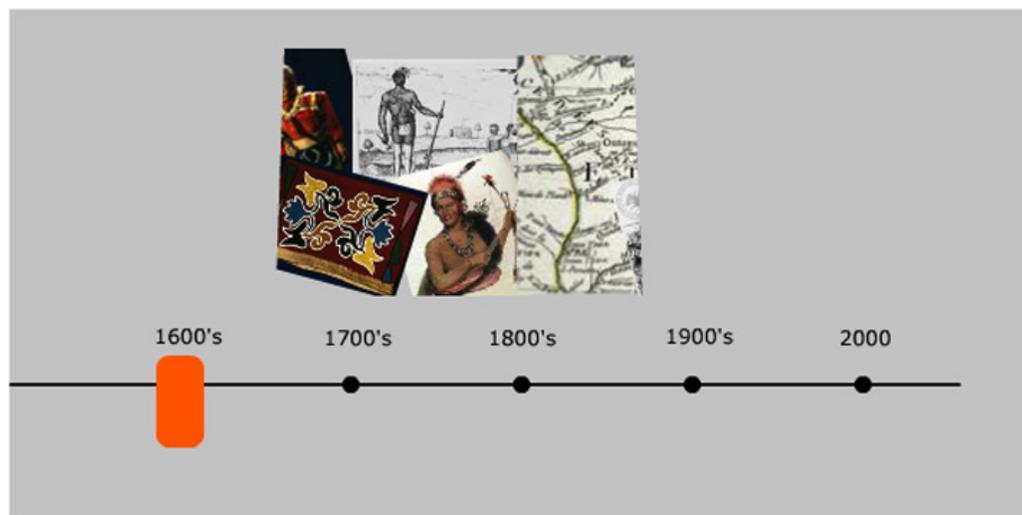
Beard, Frank, “Does Not Such a Meeting Make Amends?” 29 May 1869. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.1)



## Meskwaki History Timeline

First Contact to Present (Use scroll bar at right to view timeline and click on an image to learn more about an era.)



1500s

1524 French begin seeking Northwest Passage.

1530 Portuguese colonize Brazil.

1539-1542 Spanish adventurers explore Florida, Grand Canyon, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, and up the Mississippi River

1600s

1605 Santa Fe, New Mexico, founded.

1626 The Dutch buy the entire island of Manhattan for a reported \$24.

1642 New Zealand "discovered"

1665 First documented meeting between French and Meskwaki.

Meskwaki move their main village to Wolf River in Wisconsin during winter of 1665-1666.

# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.2)

Caleb Cheeshat eaumuck, first North American Indian to get an A.B. degree at Harvard.

1666 Band of Meskwakis make trip to Montreal and are mistreated by French Soldiers.

1669-1670 Iroquois-Meskwaki war.

1671 The Chippewa destroy the last Meskwaki villages on the St. Croix and Chippewa Rivers.

1671-1677 War breaks out between Meskwaki and Sioux with raids between both tribes.

1673 Louis Joliet and Father Jacque Marquette are the first white men to set foot on Iowa soil.

Meskwaki meet with Seneca and make peace with Iroquois.

1675-1676 Illinois begins raiding Meskwaki villages.

1682 Meskwaki-Chippewa war breaks out.

1684 French arrest and execute an Ottawa and Menominee for killing some Frenchmen.

1689 Imperial Wars begin.

1692 Salem, Massachusetts witch trials

1697 British and French sign peace treaty to end King William's War.



## 1700s

1701 End of Iroquois war.

1713 Queen Anne's war ends.

1717 Pemmoussa dies.

1718 Illinois territory is annexed to Louisiana.

1727 Quakers demand abolition of slavery.

1728 King Louis XV orders the complete destruction of the Meskwaki.

# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.3)



*A Man and Woman of the Ottobasians.*

1733-1734 Rock River village is formed.

1735 French soldiers under

Des Noyelles fight battle with Sac and Fox Indians near present Des Moines.

Paul Revere is born.

1737 French grant a general pardon to the Meskwaki thus ending the "Fox Wars."

1741 Russian navigators arrive in California, via Alaska and Aleutian Islands.

1742 All of the Meskwaki prisoners finally released by the French.

1743 French explorers reach Rocky Mountains.

1744 King George's war begins in North America.

1754 French Indian war begins.

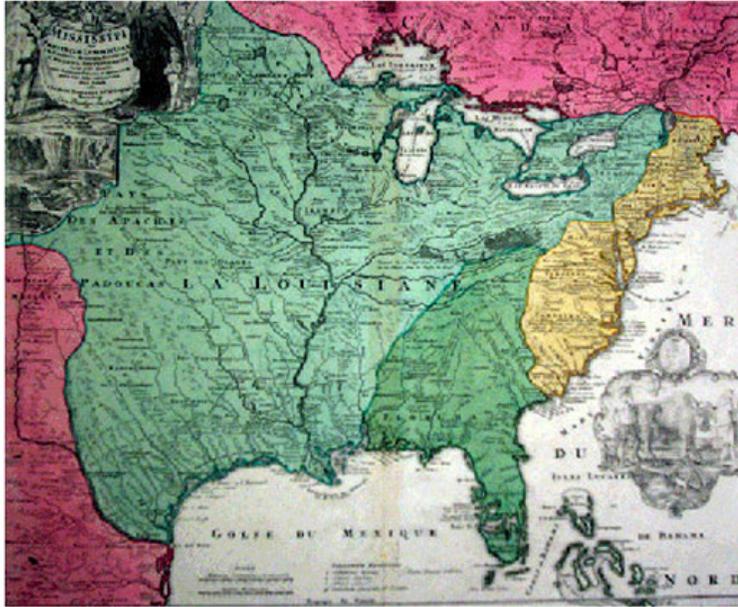
1757 The Battles of Fort William Henry take place (Meskwaki participate).

1759 French are defeated at the Battle of Quebec and the attack on Wolf at Montmorency falls.

1762 By a secret treaty, France cedes to Spain part of Louisiana west of the Mississippi; it is later known as the Louisiana Purchase.



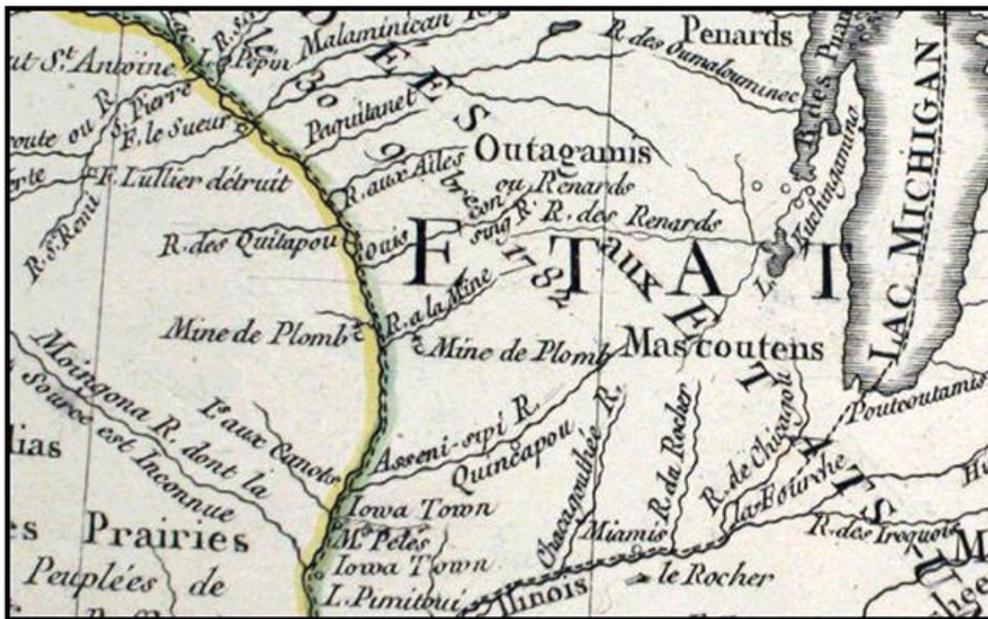
# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.4)



- 1763 Imperial wars end after 74 years.
- 1764 Jesuits suppressed in France.
- 1766 Meskwaki and Sauk begin going to Santa Fe to trade or raid for Spanish horses.
- 1769 Pontiac is killed by an Illinois.
- 1773 Boston Tea Party.
- 1775 American Revolutionary war begins.
- 1778 James Cook "discovers" Hawaii, and is murdered the following year.
- 1779 Spain declares war on England.
- 1780 Meskwaki and Sauk join attack on St. Louis.

1785 Joseph Brant, a Mohawk, began forming a Confederacy of Great Northwest Tribes.

1788 Julien Dubuque, fur trader, obtains sanction from Indians to work lead mines; he settles near site of city now bearing his name.



1789 First U.S. Congress meets in New York; George Washington

inaugurated as first President of the United States; New York first federal capital, followed by Philadelphia in 1790, and finally Washington, D.C. in 1800.

# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.5)

1789-1792 French Revolution.

1793 Sir Alexander MacKenzie, Scotsman, the first to cross Canada from coast to coast.

1793-1815 Rise and fall of Napoleon.

## 1800s

1800 The Osage make peace with the Spanish.

1803 United States purchases Louisiana, including present Iowa, from France for \$15,000,000 with cancellation of certain debts.

France renews war with Britain.

Ohio becomes a state.

1804 Captain Meriwether Lewis and William Clark ascend to the Missouri River along what is now western Iowa.

United States makes treaty at St. Louis with five representatives of Sac and Fox tribes for the cession of lands in Illinois.

1805 An estimated 8,000 Indians are living in Iowa; they include Sauk, Fox, Winnebago, Iowa, Sioux, Omaha, Oto, and Missouri.

1809 Annual fur trade in the Iowa country is valued at \$60,000.

1812 The Americans declare war on Great Britain.

1813 Fort Madison is abandoned and burned in the War of 1812, after several Indian attacks led by Sauk and Fox leader Black Hawk.

Mexico declares itself independent.

1816 A Treaty is signed by Indians, including Black Hawk, ratifying Treaty of 1804.

1817 A Sioux and Meskwaki war breaks out in the disputed lands of northern Iowa.

U.S. begins construction of Erie Canal between Buffalo and Albany (completed in 1825).

1818 Border between Canada and U.S. agreed upon (49th Parallel).

Illinois becomes a state.

1820 The Sauk, Iowa, and Meskwaki begin a war against the Osage, Kansas, Omaha, Oto, and Missouri living along the Missouri River.

Maine becomes a state.



# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.6)

Missouri becomes a state (Missouri Compromise).

1822 The Americans begin to move into the Illinois land claimed by the Sauk and Meskwakis.

1823 Monroe Doctrine closes American continent to colonial settlements by European powers.

1824 Bureau of Indian Affairs established in the U.S. War Dept.

1825 Neutral line is established between Sioux, Sac, and Fox Indians.

Erie Canal is completed, opening up the interior of the U.S. to export of natural resources through the Great Lakes and the Port of New York.



1828 A Treaty of Peace and Friendship is made between the Oto, Omaha, Kansas, Pawnee, Iowa, Sauk, Shawnee and Meskwaki.



1830s Neutral Ground is established between Sioux, Sac, and Fox Indians.

Sac and Fox complain settlers are plowing up gravesites.

1832 Black Hawk War

1833 Indian title to Black Hawk Purchase is transferred to United States Government; settlers are permitted to remain.

Ottawa, Pottawattamie, and Chippewa Indians are given lands in what is now southwestern Iowa.

1834 Congress reorganizes Indian department as part of the Dept. of Interior.

1836 Territory of Wisconsin is established, including Iowa country.

Sac and Fox Indians cede Keokuk's Reserve to the United States.

The Alamo, Texas wins independence from Mexico and becomes a Republic.

1837 Michigan becomes a state.

Financial and economic panic in America (inflated land values, wildcat banking, paper speculation).

1838 Transatlantic steamer ships cross from London to New York in 15 days.

1840 Black Hawks remains stolen from his grave.

# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.7)

1841 Twenty-five Delawares on their way to visit the Sauk and Meskwaki are killed by Sioux in western Iowa.

1842 Sac and Fox Indians cede all remaining lands in Iowa, and agree to evacuate the State within three years.

Wapello dies near the forks of the Skunk River.



1843 Sac and Fox Indians vacate lands east of line passing north and south through the Red Rocks in Marion County as of May 1st.

During 1843 to 1844 winter the Meskwaki, under Poweshiek, return to the Iowa River valley.

1844 Morse's telegraph used for first time between Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

1845 Sac and Fox Indians withdraw from Iowa.

1846 Pottawattamie Indians relinquish lands in western Iowa.

Iowa becomes a state.

In Iowa, Indian remains routinely unearthed and placed in museums.

Famine in Ireland caused by failure of potato crop.



1847 A war party of Iowa, Sac, and Meskwaki attacked a Pawnee hunting party, taking 17 scalps.

U.S. forces capture Mexico City; treaty ends Mexican-U.S. war; U.S. gets large sections of land including California.

California Gold Rush.

1850s Sac and Fox graves looted at Kansas.

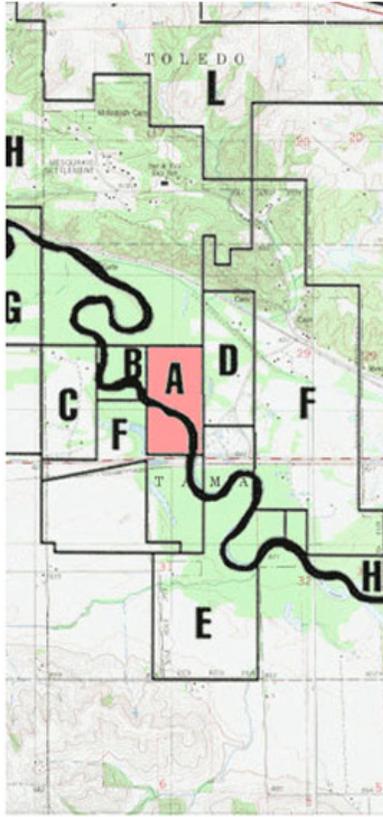
1852 Moses Keokuk leads a delegation to Washington D.C.

1853 A battle is fought between the Pawnee and Plains Indians and a Number of Cheyenne.

1854 Poweshiek, the principal chief of the Meskwaki, died from a broken neck caused from a fall from his pony's back.



# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.8)



1856 Massacre of Potawatomi Creek, Kansas; slaveholders murdered by free-staters, located near the Sac & Fox Reservation in Kansas.

Iowa passes law allowing Meskwaki to return or remain in Iowa.

1857 Spirit Lake Massacre; Sioux Indians kill 30 settlers.

Small band of Sac and Fox Indians return; they are permitted to buy 80 acres of land in Tama County, Iowa but are not paid annuities.

1861 American Civil War begins. Union Army gets 100% of its lead from the 5 counties around Dubuque.

Kansas becomes a state.

1862 Blockhouses are erected in northwestern Iowa for protection against the Sioux.

1864 Massacre of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians at Sand Creek, Colorado

1867 Annuities finally paid to those Meskwaki living in Tama County, Iowa.

U.S. Government prohibits any further Sac & Fox refugees from trying to return to Iowa.

Nebraska becomes a state.

1873 Meskwaki Black Wolf kills visiting Pawnee at the village. Case dropped.

1879 Standing Bear, a Ponca Indian, found by a U.S. court to be "Human" not "Animal."

1881 Sioux Crow Dog shot Spotted Tail a Sioux chief.

1882 U.S. court held that American Indian tribes retained an inherent attribute of tribal sovereignty.

1889 North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington become states.

1896 Iowa legislature voted to turn trusteeship and responsibility for the tribe over to the U.S. Department of Interior.

Klondike Gold Rush.

# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.9)

## 1900s

1900 Y-Ta-Tah-Way (a Meskwaki Indian) v. Rebok, a landmark legal case establishing tribal autonomy and citizenship.

All large game extinct in Iowa (buffalo, deer, and elk).

1901 Small pox epidemic breaks out and the federal government quarantines the Meskwaki Settlement for six months, burning all of the dwellings, clothes, and possessions of the tribe. Meskwaki turn to cloth as primary source of clothing due to absence of game skins.



1905 Settlement grows to 3,000 acres.

State Historical Society of Iowa sponsors Duren H. Ward's expedition to the Settlement to study and document tribal history and culture.

1908 U.S. Secretary of the Interior assumes the role of trustee for tribal lands, the position originally held by the governor of the state.

1913 First year of Pow wow.

1916 3rd annual Pow wow is held and makes \$1,700.

1917 4th annual Pow wow makes \$2,000.

1918 Lincoln Highway paved near Settlement.

Worldwide influenza epidemic strikes; by 1920 nearly 22 million are dead.

1920 19th Amendment grants American women the right to vote.

1921 Attendance at 8th annual Pow wow drops but gate receipts are about \$6,000.

1924 Indians are made citizens of the U.S. and are given the right to vote.

The Meskwaki Pow Wow Association is formed and a Constitution is adopted.



# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.10)

1929 U.S. Stock Exchange collapses; world economic crisis begins.

1930s During the Great Depression, Works Projects Administration (W. P. A.) and other government programs paid Meskwaki workers fifty cents a day to plant three stands of pine trees and other hardwoods as a conservation measure.

1933 Starvation in U.S.S.R. reaches disastrous proportions.

Adolph Hitler appointed German Chancellor; the first concentration camps erected by Nazi Germany.

1934 Indian Reorganization Act.

1935 Over 35,000 people come to the 22nd annual Pow wow.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs U.S. Social Security Act.

1937 Constitution and By-laws of the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa approved and newly elected Tribal Council governs.

Canning factory established to preserve and share food.

1938 A Meskwaki skull, dug up in the 1860s, was sold as a "souvenir" to the Peabody Museum at Harvard University.



1941 The Stone House was built by Civilian Conservation Corps (C. C. C.), Indian Labor Division; building serves as community center.

1941-1945 Forty-six Meskwaki warriors serve in the military during World War II.

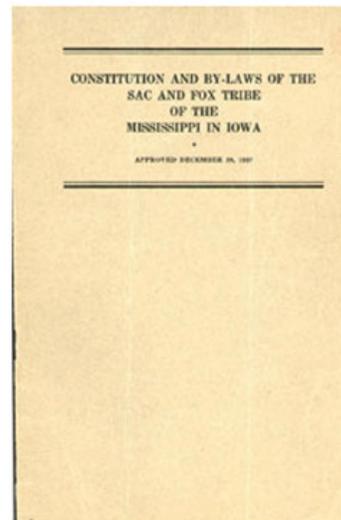
1943-1944 No Pow wow held because of World War II.

1948-1962 Sol Tax of the University of Chicago and his graduate students practice "action anthropology," working with and studying the tribe for his Fox Project and book, *The*

*Mesquakies of Iowa*, 1953.

1960s Tribal members are involved in reburials.

1965 50th annual Pow wow is held.



# History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004 (Pg.11)



**1971** Controversy over burial remains begins. American Indian Movement (AIM) takeover of museums and construction sites.

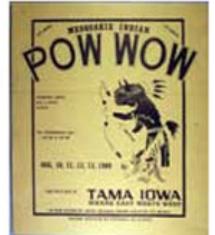
**1973** Sac and Fox Tribal Council make policy statement that Indian remains should be reburied immediately and without ceremony or fanfare.

**1978** Indian Child Welfare Act passed.

**1979** Meskwaki Tribal Center built; serves as center for most governmental and social activities.

**1980** The Presbyterian Church established by missionaries on land next to the Settlement closes after approximately 100 years.

**1983** Sac and Fox Settlement



School renamed (formerly Sac & Fox Day School) and opened under the administration of the tribe.

**1987** Tribe began small bingo enterprise.

**1990** Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is enacted into law.

**1992** Bingo expanded and tribal-operated casino and hotel complex built and opened.

**1993** Tribal Council discusses NAGPRA and tribal role. Pass motion to appoint NAGPRA Coordinator.

**1996** Tribal Council establishes the Historical Preservation Project.

## 2000s

**2000** The Meskwaki own 7,054 acres of land in central Iowa, and tribal enrollment is at 1,163.

**2001** New Meskwaki Settlement School opens for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade; offers training in language and culture and other programs geared to adults, talented and gifted students, and students with special needs.



**2002–2003** Dispute over tribal leadership leads to closure of casino until new Tribal Council elected.

**2004** Major expansion of casino complex begins.

