

## 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.*