

History of the Meskwaki Timeline, 2004

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.
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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
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.
- 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.

- 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.

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.
- 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.

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.

Text provided by Bennett, Mary, Johnathan Lantz. Buffalo, Dawn Suzanne. Wanatee, and State Historical Society of Iowa. *Meskwaki History*. Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 2004.