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"Meskwaki" is the name we call ourselves, but we are also known in history and by others as:

*The Fox Foxes Mesquakies
Renards Outagamies
Tama Indians ... and more*

The **modern Meskwaki Nation flag** combines traditional concepts: Green represents Spring, Peace, or Life; Red represents Fall, War, or Death.

Green is placed on top to express the hope that Spring will arrive, Peace will prevail, and Life will endure;

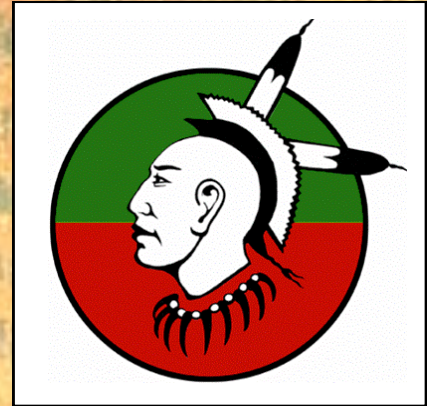
Red is joined because Reality is also that Fall always follows, War always threatens, and Death always comes.

The unification of these colors symbolizes the tribal character to never take lightly either the joys or tribulations of life, and to always remember our past so that the Tribe will survive and become stronger.

"***Know Ye that the Foxes are Immortal***" -Fox Chief Pemoussa 1712. Pemoussa's final declaration at the Siege of Detroit, a deceitful plan connived by the French, the Jesuits, and their Native allies, intent on committing total genocide of the Meskwaki (Fox) people. More than 1,000 Meskwaki men, women, and children were massacred at Detroit in the dark years for the Tribe known as the "Fox Wars".

Information Compiled by the Meskwaki Historic Preservation Department - September 2024

Sac & Fox Tribe Of The Mississippi in Iowa



**Meskwaki Indian Settlement
Tama County, Iowa**

VISITOR INFORMATION GUIDE

**Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
349 Meskwaki Rd.,
Tama, Iowa 52339-9629**

Telephone (641) 484-4678

Website: www.meskwaki.org

Welcome to the Meskwaki Indian Settlement

THE TRIBE TODAY

- A Federally recognized Indigenous Tribe: "The Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa"
- **Traditional Tribal name: Meskwaki** (*Red Earth People*)
- Tribal Enrollment: 1,450 approx.
- Owns over 8,000 acres in Tama Co./Palo Alto Co. Iowa
- Annual Pow Wow held in August - 2nd full weekend
- Employs over 1,200 people
- Official website: www.meskwaki.org

TRIBAL OPERATIONS

- Tribal Administration/Executive Office
- Attorney General's Office/Prosecutor's Office
- Health Clinic/Dental/Pharmacy/Behavioral Health
- Public Works
- Meskwaki Youth Services
- Meskwaki Senior Services
- Media Services & Meskwaki Nation Times news
- Housing Dept/Realty/GIS Services
- Natural Resources/Buffalo mgt/Air & Water Quality
- Family Services (MFS), RISE Victim Services Tribal
- Historic Preservation Office (THPO), NAGPRA
- Museum/Library/Archives/Community Outreach
- Tribal Court & Tribal Probation Department
- Public Defender's Office
- Meskwaki Nation Child Support Services (MNCSS)
- Meskwaki Nation Police Dept (MNPd)
- Recreation/Fitness Center and Events
- Child Care Facility

EDUCATION

- Meskwaki Settlement School (MSS)
Elementary: 3 yrs old – 6th grade
- Meskwaki High School (MHS)
Middle School: 7th & 8th grades
High School: 9th - 12th grades
- Higher Education/Vocational Program
- Meskwaki Language Preservation Dept.
- Apprenticeship Program - Technical Trades

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Workforce Development/PTech
- Pinnacle Bank - Marshall County/Tama County
- Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel
Gaming Commission
- Fox Xchange Services: Internet Services
- Meskwaki Inc./Travel Plaza/Fuels
- Food Sovereignty Initiative & Community Gardens
- Red Earth Gardens
- Meskwaki Elements Full-Spectrum CBD/Hemp Oil

TRIBAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Meskwaki Annual Pow Wow Association
- Robert Morgan Post #701, American Legion

MESKWAKI HISTORY

The Meskwaki are indigenous Algonquian-language speakers from the Eastern Woodland Culture area. The language is the same dialect as the Sauk and Kickapoo, and is similar to the Ojibwe and Cree. Historically, the tribe was located in the St. Lawrence River Valley, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and in Iowa. The Meskwaki were called "Renards" (the Fox) by the French, the tribe's first contact with Europeans in 1666, but have always self-identified as "Meskwaki", the Red Earth People.

Meskwaki and Sauk are two distinct tribal groups. Linguistic and cultural similarities between the two tribes have often made them associated throughout history. Terminology established by U. S. Government continues to treat the Sac & Fox as a single political unit despite their separate identities.

Meskwaki fought against the French in what is called the *Fox Wars* (1701-1742). Meskwaki resistance of French rule was so effective that the French King signed a decree commanding the complete extermination of the Meskwaki, the only edict of its kind in history of a major European power officially declaring war with all its resources and full standing army on one particular American Indian nation. The Sauk and Meskwaki allied in 1735 to fend off Europeans and other Native tribes. Both tribes moved southward from Wisconsin into Iowa, Illinois and upper portion of Missouri.

After the Black Hawk War of 1832, the United States combined the two tribes into a single group known as the Sac & Fox Confederacy for treaty making purposes. After a series of land cessions under the name of "Sac & Fox," the Sauk and Meskwaki lost all lands and ultimately were removed to a reservation in east central Kansas in 1845.

However, some Meskwaki remained hidden in Iowa and developed friendships with the new neighbors, allowing the tribe an unbroken presence in the new state. In 1856, the Iowa legislature enacted a law allowing the legal residence of the Meskwaki in the state, and allowing the tribe to purchase land. With more people returning from Kansas, the U.S. government tried to force the tribe back to the Kansas reservation by withholding treaty-right annuity payments.

In 1857 the Meskwaki purchased 80 acres in Tama County. Ten years later the U.S. finally began paying annuities to the tribe, an act which gave the Meskwaki a new formal identity as the "Sac & Fox of Iowa" to distinguish them from the other two Sac & Fox groups. But the jurisdictional status was unclear because the tribe had formal federal recognition and also had a formal relationship with the State of Iowa due to the tribe's private ownership of land, which was held in trust by the Governor's office. Subsequently, they lived a more independent lifestyle than other tribes who were confined to US military reservations managed by federal authority, policies, churches and traders.

In 1896, to resolve this jurisdictional ambiguity, the State of Iowa ceded all jurisdiction over the Meskwaki to the Federal Government and Congress. Over the next hundred years the tribe steadily purchased more land, parcels at a time, and now own more than 8,000 acres of land. The tribe's presence and strength are recognized as integral to the vitality of Tama County, central Iowa, as well as the State of Iowa.

*Owing to the noble sacrifices and vision of ancestors,
The Meskwaki still remain....and thrive.*