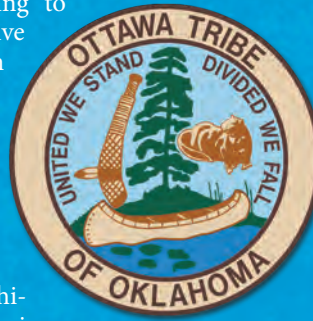


Watts for Dinner *with*

THE OTTAWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

The name "Ottawa" is derived from the Indian word "adawe" meaning "to trade." This name was fitting for the Ottawa tribe due to its extensive trading with other tribes and eventual involvement with the French. In 1615, Frenchman Samuel de Champlain recorded meeting the Ottawa near the French River in Canada. The Ottawa were very important to the fur trade. They would trade with other tribes for their furs and then trade those furs to the French. The Ottawa were considered allies to the Huron and the French during the French and Indian war.



Chief John R. Ballard

The Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma is made up of descendants of those original Canadian Ottawa who, after migrating from Canada into Michigan, agreed to live in the lands near Fort Detroit and the Maumee River in Ohio. Upon passage of President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Bill in 1830, there were Ottawa villages in Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. In 1833, the Ottawa signed over its lands in Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. The Ottawa people were hesitant to move, and it wasn't until April of 1837 that the Ottawa of Blanchard's Fork, Roche de Boeuf, and Oquanoxies's Village agreed to relocate to a new site in Kansas. Within five years of the move, nearly half of the Ottawa had died.

The Ottawa knew that in order to survive their children must be educated. In 1862, the Ottawa were allotted 74,000 acres of land. The Ottawa sold 20,000 acres of that land to raise money to build a Baptist school for the education of whites and Indians. This university was named after the Ottawa. The Indians made an arrangement with the university that Ottawa children would be educated free of charge. The reservation where the Ottawa lived became a township named after them. They lived there until 1867.



In 1867, the Ottawa sold their land in Kansas and moved to Indian Territory in Oklahoma. There, they entered into a contract with the Shawnee tribe to purchase approximately 15,000 that was part of the Shawnee reservation. By the time the Ottawa settled in Oklahoma only about 200 remained.

In 1956, the United States government decided that the Ottawa Tribe served no purpose and would be terminated. This was a dark period in the tribe's history. However, tribal members continued to fight to be recognized and on May 15, 1978, the Ottawa Tribe was restored and re-established as a federally recognized entity.

The Ottawa Council and U.S. Congress ratified the Constitution in 1979.

The original government structure of the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma consisted of band chiefs who formed a governing council with a head chief. Each band elected their own chief and then these chiefs would elect a head chief. The tribe today has a chief (John R. Ballard), second chief (Ethel Cook), secretary/treasurer (Bert Kleidon), first councilman (Dr. Kevin Dawes), and second councilman (Dr. Charla Dawes). These individuals are elected from every member of the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma age 18 and over. The Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma currently has around 2,500 enrolled members.



The Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma provides assistance to enrolled members of the tribe through its social services programs. The goal of these programs is to promote personal and family unity, social and economic stability, and to have tribal members work toward the attainment of self-sufficiency when assistance or services are not available or are not being provided by state, local or other agencies. Programs available through tribal social services include: Child Protective Services, Indian Child Welfare, Promoting Safe and Stable Families and Education. Additional programs designed to create opportunities for Ottawa tribal members include: higher education grants to Ottawa (Kansas) University, Community Health Program, Elders Utility Assistance Program and Childcare Assistance.

Administrative headquarters for the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma are located in Miami. The tribe sponsors numerous events and resource programs at the Adawe Community Center. It's 48th annual pow wow and celebration will be held in September at Adawe Park in Miami. Other important events include tribal elections in May, and the annual Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas party.

High Winds Casino is in its fifth year of operation under the tribe's supervision.

INDIAN BEEF AND GRAVY

Cubed beef
Flour
Salt and pepper
Cooking oil
Water



Salt and pepper flour to taste. Coat beef with flour mixture and brown in oil. Add water to make gravy and steam meat until well done and tender.

INDIAN HOT MEAT

2 to 3 pounds cubed pork
½ small jar jalapenos
1 can Ro-Tel
2 cans tomato sauce

Combine all ingredients. Cook slowly until tender, stirring often.

