

and recognized as one tribe, they elected as their chief, Baptiste Peoria, one that the members of the tribe today consider one of our greatest leaders. In 1888, this small reservation was allotted to individual members of the tribe, which at that time, oh, I would say, was around 160 members. Each received a little over 200 acres. This allotment closed in about 1880. And down through the years, members of the tribe sold these allotments. There was no land left in trusts for the tribe, with the exception of about three acres east of Miami, which is known as the Peoria Indian Cemetery. We have, in the last few years, been trying to keep it up. And after--- We'll go back a little further... After we moved here, Baptiste Peoria was the chief. I can, far as I know, I will try to name over a few of the leaders that I can call to mind. They were Yellow Beaver, and Frank Beaver, Jim Charley, Frank Beaver, Jr., and Willis McNaughton. In 1939, we were granted a charter under the Rogers Act, and our first chief was George Sky. After his death, I was elected chief, like I said, in '47.

LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS

Our tribe has married into the white, where today, our language is almost extinct. We have only one or two members that can recall only a few words, and those words are mostly something to eat. They are the ones that they remember from their folks. I know I tried here in the last year or two to try to locate someone that could speak the language well, so that we might be able to put it on tape and put it in the Smithsonian Institute, but there is no one. Not even the Miami language, which is the same language. I could find none of them. This is mostly, briefly, what all I know about the history of the tribe.