

Tribe of its land in the Kansas City area, the government did, in a Treaty of 1855, set aside three acres of the Indian cemetery which was established when the tribe was moved from the Ohio region. The tribe still claims this three acres, now in the middle of the downtown business area of Kansas City, Kansas, although somehow it has been reduced to 1.9 acres. What will eventually happen there at 7th and Minnesota Streets no one is certain, but if Indian graves are respected the same as white people graves, it will remain a long time.

Beginning at the time when the Wyandottes left Ohio under the leadership of their Chief Francis A. Hicks, the tribe has had many able leaders. Some of these Chiefs were Loren Zane, George Long, Little Tom Spicer. Chief Leonard Cotter is their able leader at present.

The early settlement of the Wyandotte families were along Lost Creek and Sycamore Creek from the area of Wyandotte town northeast to the Missouri line. The valleys thru which these streams ran was and still are fine farming land. The wooded hills afforded needed timber and excellent hunting grounds. Some of those Indian original settlers included the Zane, Spicer, Walker, Elliott, Lofland, Harris, Wright, Hodgekiss, Brown, Peacock, Sarahans, Long, and Cotter.

About 1893 the government made allotments of land in severalty of the Wyandotte Reservation to some 241 Indians, thus ending an area that was the Wyandotte Reservation. Mrs. Vowel says that the adults got 160 acres of land, and minors got 40 acres. Very few of the Indians still own any of the land that was originally allotted. Descendants of the Elliott family does still have their land. Mrs. Vowel has the original deed on which 160 acres was allotted to her father, Isaac Elliott in 1892.

Mrs. Vowel says that most of the early day Indians did not understand any of the treaty matters, and certainly any of the removal actions. She says that the Indians were told that they were being moved to a new and better land that would be theirs forever. Many of the Indians held to the thought that they could continue living their own way of life for hundreds of years.

As evidence of the fact that the wyandottes are a diminishing tribe is that they held their last Green Corn dance in 1936. The old tribal stomp grounds was located at the foot of the hill by the present Seneca Indian School.

Of the many Wyandottes who contributed to the welfare and strength of the tribe one, B. N. O. Walker, is frequently mentioned. He was born in 1870 at Kansas City and was buried in the family cemetery on Lost Creek in 1927. For many years he was chief clerk in the Quapaw Indian Agency. He was also an accomplished musician, singer and poet. Writing under his Indian name, Hen-toh, he recorded history and stories of his people in a book entitled "Tales of the Bark Lodges", and other books. Mrs. Vowel says she has a manuscript of his last book which was never published which tells of the Wyandotte towns in Ohio and the removal to Kansas. Also she possesses a picture of Mr. Walker in which he wears his native Indian dress.