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Shawnees

GOLDEN HATCHET AGREEMENT

Information about the Shawnee Indians when the Shawnee Chieftans decided to have an agreement with the United States Government.

"They handed over their golden hatchet to one of our Presidents and said, 'I want you to bury this hatchet four feet under the ground, then you build your court house on top of this ground. This will mean that I gave up to you, and all other nations also, not only you but all; from here on when ever you have a war with others do not ask me or send me along to fight with you, when we bury my hatchet that show that I can't get my weapon any more to fight. We have agreed that you are to take good care of me and my people as long as the sun rises in the East and sets in the West and the water flows and the grass grows. You kneel down to me today for a peaceful long standing agreement between each other, my tribe, So-wan-wa-ge, and the White Government. You are to send me Westward little by little until you bring me to the end of the world. Between here and there my people will need your agreement with us. But you will hesitate to do so unless my tribe kneel down to you as you have today. You will send some of your bad men along to kill out our wild game and make few more agreement and promises. These late agreement and promises will not stand firm, but our first agreement must stand and be recognized as we pray and ask God to be with us and witness our

agreement with the father of our nation when we handed over our hatchet. God created us here and to love each other and not to think one man was born better than the other, and tell other what to do or what he must do. William Penn was the only white man we have met that tryed to do right. From East to Westward to Ohio we lived for a while, then the Government wanted to exchange the Territory with us by giving us \$30,000,000 difference for the timber which grew there in Ohio, for land near Cape Girardo. \$30,000,000 was deposited in St. Louis federal bank. Since that time this amount has been growing interest of 4%, the principal and interest is untouched. They told the banker some of these days we will need this money then we will come and get it. We will not need the money for several years.

From there they went to Texas. There they earned 40 miles square of land which is now called Johnson County Texas. The Texas government gave these Shawnees and a few Delawares this land for fighting Spanish government, helping Texas government to win the war over Texas territory.

The Shawnee Indians have never agreed to take allotment in Oklahoma. They have allotment over in Pott county which they did not agree to. When the Commissioner came to see them, a young Duey Mohawk ran up to meet the Commissioner and said, "these Indians are ready to take their allotment". This was said without the consent of the Chief or Council. The Commissioner was ready for a crooked work

anyway, as he did so. These Indians wanted to go back to Texas before someone else claim their land in Texas. This tribe of Indians would be one of the richest tribes living if the White Government would comply with this agreement. Today they are the poorest Indians living, but they still believe that God Almighty will still see after the Golden Hatchet agreement. Our White Father has forgotten many many agreements with the Indians. The Golden Hatchet agreement said to never send the Shawnee Indian to war, they were the first ones to be sent when the World war started. I think these few should draw pension balance of their ^{days} ~~days~~. It is all right for these Indians to help our White Government fight in this Country, North America, but not to go over sea to battle with other race of people. But we do trust in God that Roosevelt will straighten out the bad promises and see after his wards. Take good care of them first before he spends money for something else. He knows his race and other races of people came here as intruders upon the pure true blue Indians of North America.

I have went to a White church sometime ago. There I heard the preacher to say. "Thy shall not break any sort of an agreement if thy enter the Golden Gates in Heaven". Now how many of our greatest men of our Capital will go to Heaven when they die. They are mighty few of our Indian will be able to enter also, for they have learned how to swear, lie and steal since they have learned how to steal milk away from the calf and its mother. Since the flint corn quit growing so they could raise their children on an honest living dish of beaten corn. Whenever you raise good corn you have raised

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by James Conishelm, 11/17/54

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something by the sweat of your brow, that way you have earned
an honest living.