

## kweehsitoolaanki kinwaalanihsia: Miami Citizen Daryl Baldwin Receives MacArthur Fellowship By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

Daryl Baldwin is well known throughout the Myaamia community. He is that linguist guy, the tall one with the braided hair who came to Oklahoma to teach early workshops on the Myaamia language back in the mid-90’s. He is to us, his relations, the leader of the Myaamia effort to restore our heritage language. His devotion to the work of language revitalization led to the creation of the Myaamia Center at Miami University and his appointment as the Director. He is the backbone of a language reclamation effort that, with an expanded staff, has produced a Myaamia Dictionary, a Myaamia story-book, multiple online language resources, and many other language learning tools. And now he is known not only to us, but far beyond our community circle. It was announced in September that Daryl Baldwin was chosen as a 2016 MacArthur Foundation Fellow.

So what is the MacArthur Foundation? And what does Fellow status entail? According to the Foundation’s website I offer the following:

*“The MacArthur Fellows Program awards unrestricted fellowships to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction.”*

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*Myaamia Center Director Daryl Baldwin, pictured teaching at Miami University, has been named a 2016 MacArthur Foundation Fellow. Photo courtesy of the MacArthur Foundation website.*

## Eight Tribes of Ottawa County Stand Against the Grand River Dam Authority By Ian Young, Cultural Resources Office Special Project Researcher

A ring of tables with additional chairs for spectators were set up in the council house on Wednesday, August 3rd for a scheduled consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Army Corps of Engineers to address issues related to the Pensacola dam which is owned and operated by the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA). The hydroelectric dam, which was completed in 1940, created Grand Lake O’ the Cherokees just down river from Miami, OK and results in the regular flooding of lands significant to all of the tribes in Ottawa County. Over the past 76 years the GRDA has operated the dam without consulting with impacted tribes or reimbursing for the regular flooding of land. Throughout the 20th century many tribes who suffered a removal were focusing their efforts on surviving as a community, so concerns related to the dam fell by the wayside until such a time as the tribes were able to address them.

The sequence of events leading up to the consultation began last Spring when the GRDA applied for a temporary variance that allows them to raise

the level of the lake. An elevated lake level, while reducing the cost of energy production, also raises the threat of flooding on vulnerable properties upriver from the dam. Upon learning of the GRDA’s application, the Miami Tribe spearheaded an effort among the nine tribes of Ottawa county to bring FERC, the Army Corps, and GRDA to the table to discuss the impacts of past dam operation along with the concerns for the requested variance. Each of the tribes sent a representative from their business committee to give a testimony of their people’s experiences caused by the dam and the resultant flooding. In some instances high waters cut elders off from access to health services and turned tribal complexes into island chains. Consultations such as these are critical to insure that tribes’ best interests are taken into consideration whenever they are impacted in any way, and this first one allowed the nine tribes to give voice to the concerns of the past seventy six years and continue engaging in the future.

Following the August 3rd consultation, FERC granted GRDA’s temporary variance of the lake level; how-

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*Chief Douglas Lankford addresses representatives of the Grand River Dam Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers during a meeting held on August 3, 2016 in the Miami Nation Council House. Representatives of each of the eight Tribes of Ottawa County attended the meeting. Pictured with Chief Lankford are Miami Nation Second Chief Dustin Olds (far left), Chief Billy Friend of the Wyandot, and Chief Ethel Cook of the Ottawa. AM Staff Photo.*

### aatotankiki myaamiaki...

*Two handwritten journals documenting the governmental actions of the Miami Nation from 1862 to 1910 have been repatriated. See the articles on page 6A and 6B .*





## aatotankiki myaamiaki

**MIAMI NATION NEWS** is a quarterly newspaper published by the Sovereign Miami Tribe of Oklahoma for our enrolled citizens. Aatotankiki Myaamiaki is distributed by mail and made available for download from the Miami Nation's website. A single copy is mailed free of charge to each tribal household. College students living away from home may request a copy be mailed to their campus, or off-campus, address.

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### Myaamia Publications

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### **Submission Requirements:**

**Photos:** Photos submitted electronically should be saved at a resolution of 300 dpi, sized at standard 4x6 or larger, and saved in jpg, tif, or pdf formats.

**Obituaries, Birth Announcements, and other time sensitive submissions** will be amended to show past tense text unless the family submitting the information expressly requests the text remain unaltered.

**Advertisements:** Enrolled citizens of the Miami Nation who are business owners, artists or crafts persons, etc., are eligible to receive free ad space once per year. Alloted ad size is 5" x 5" and should be sized at 300 dpi and saved as a jpg, tif or pdf file. Ad layouts, or links to download such from your Dropbox or other cloud storage site, should be emailed to [mtocro@gmail.com](mailto:mtocro@gmail.com).

### Miami Nation Elected Officials

**Chief - Douglas Lankford  
Second Chief - Dustin Olds  
Sec.-Treas. - Sarah Moore  
1st Councilperson - Donya Williams  
2nd Councilperson - Scott Willard**

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CONNECTED VIA INTERNET**

**MIAMI NATION WEBSITE  
[www.miamination.com](http://www.miamination.com)**

**Facebook - Citizen Members  
Listed as "Miami Tribe of Oklahoma"**

**Facebook - Public Page  
Listed as "Miami Nation Events"**

**Facebook - MHMA Page  
Listed as  
"Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive"**

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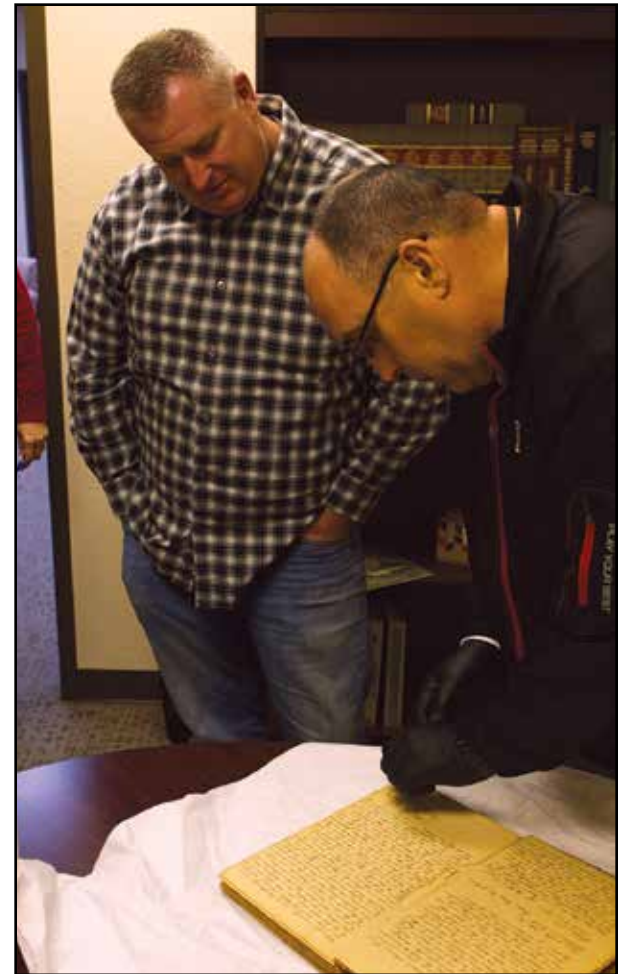
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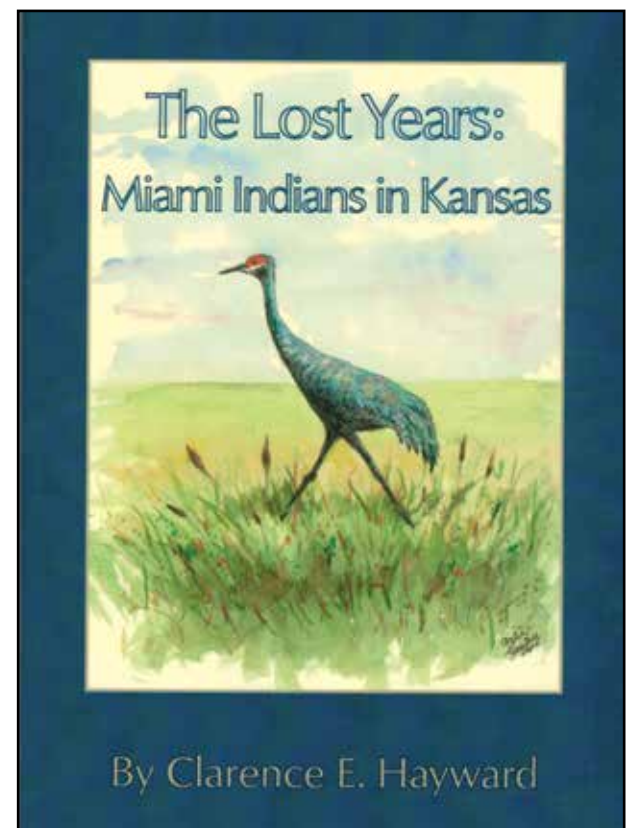
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**- THE MYAAMIA NEW YEAR BEGAN FEBRUARY 11, 2017**

**-THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MIAMI NATION GENERAL COUNCIL IS SET FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017.**

**-CHANGES TO MEDICAL BENEFIT CARD - See Notice on page 7C**

**-FALL GATHERINGS: WATCH THE TRIBAL WEBSITE FOR DATES**

**-FALL CAMP OUT IN OKLAHOMA - To Be Announced**

**-LANGUAGE WORKSHOPS - Dates are tentatively set -  
Washington State: Aug. 18-19  
Louisburg, Kansas: Sept. 15-16  
Fort Wayne, Indiana - To Be Announced - watch website.  
[www.miamination.com](http://www.miamination.com)**





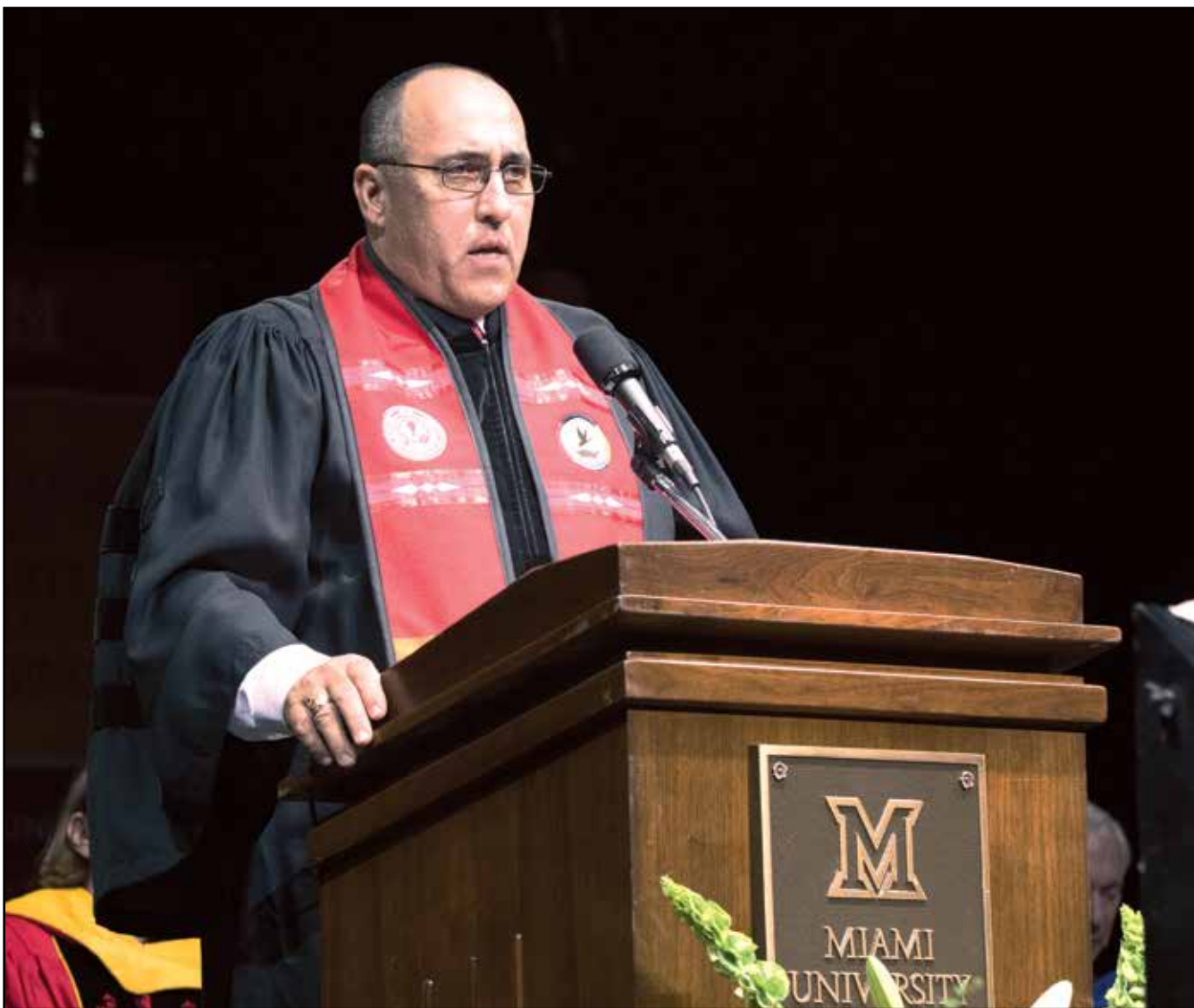
aacimwita akima: The Chief Reports By Chief Douglas Lankford, eecipoonkwia

Aya, ceeki eeweemakiki! Greetings to you from your Tribal Headquarters in nooŋonke si-  
ipionki myaamionki - Miami, Oklahoma. As  
the season of aalsoohkaani, or winter story tell-  
ing, has ended our community sets our sights  
on peekitahaminki, or lacrosse play and our fast  
approaching summer Community gatherings.  
Here, in myaamionki, the white bass are run-  
ning in the rivers, the red bud trees are showing  
off, and the weather teases us, bouncing weekly  
from warm to cool.

Spring time is a very busy time here at  
Tribal Headquarters. There is already a flurry  
of activity toward preparing for the Eewansaa-  
pita summer youth program and National Gather-  
ing Week events. Grounds work is underway  
to make sure the lacrosse field and pow wow  
arena are ready. Archery and lacrosse equip-  
ment are being checked, repaired and updated  
for our growing interests and needs. Planning  
is well underway for our Annual Family Day  
and the General Council Meeting, as well as the  
18th Annual Miami Nation Pow Wow, set for  
the last weekend in June, on Friday the 23rd and  
Saturday the 24th. Please be sure to check out  
the draft itinerary included in this publication  
and start your early planning for attendance at  
these important gatherings with your Tribal re-  
lations.

I am so pleased to announce there will  
be a very special presentation on Family Day,  
and at the Annual Meeting, that I hope you will  
be as excited about as I am, and for which you  
will make plans to travel home to Miami to ex-  
perience. On March 1st, 2017, a three-year long  
effort in Cultural Sovereignty was successfully  
completed with the return of two, long miss-  
ing, original, governmental documents known  
as Miami Nation Council Journals. For many  
years we knew that these two volumes of our  
Nation’s National Council Records were being  
held in the Collection of the Gilcrease Museum  
in Tulsa, OK. While the “Richardville Collec-  
tion,” as the Museum called it, contains some  
letters, marriage records, and other correspon-  
dence it also included two bound journals of  
original, formal, governmental records. That  
made our Cultural Resources Office begin an  
in-depth investigation in 2013 to ascertain why  
these objects of cultural patrimony, as defined  
by the Native American Graves Protection Re-  
patriation Act (NAGPRA) law, were in a col-  
lection in a museum instead of in the Nation’s  
governmental records archive.

The first journal, with dated entries from  
1860 to 1862, contains the formal record of gov-  
ernmental actions and decisions of the Miami  
Nation, post-removal, during our time in Kan-  
sas. The fragile journal includes the original  
handwriting of official clerks including Thomas  
F. Richardville prior to his role as Chief. The  
second journal provides written records, post-  
removal from Kansas, with entries dating from  
1870 to 1910 in the Indian Territory. In this  
journal the records are in the handwriting of  
Chief Richardville and Second Chief Harley  
Palmer. There is much to this story that is in-



Chief Douglas Lankford was honored to speak on behalf of the Miami Nation at the Inauguration ceremony for President Greg Crawford as the new President of Miami University. Chief Lankford’s inclusion in the event marks the fourth time a Miami Nation Chief has been invited to participate in the inauguration of a President at Miami University. Photo by Miami University - printed with permission.

cluded in the article provided in this publication,  
so I will not try to tell the incredible details, but  
I do encourage you to read the article. I am  
sure that you will be as proud, and revitalized  
in Myaamia spirit, as I was at the whole story.  
I commend our Cultural Resources Office, the  
NAGPRA Committee, and our Legal Counsel  
for waging a battle with the City of Tulsa, OK  
and the Gilcrease Museum that has finally won  
the return of these two very important and ir-  
replaceable governmental records to the Tribe.  
Thanks to the Cultural Resources Office, with  
the Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive, for  
providing the secure display case to allow these  
journals to be on display this summer for the  
benefit of all Myaamia citizens during our Fam-  
ily Day event and at the General Council Meet-  
ing.

The Tribe has been making progress in  
other NAGPRA areas as well. As you may be  
aware the Tribe has been diligently working  
since 2012 to change the culture of non-com-  
pliance exhibited by the state of Indiana and its  
Department of Natural Resources who has legal  
control over human remains and associated fu-  
nerary objects in the custody of many universi-  
ties and museums in Indiana. The Tribe has been  
working to ensure the federal law is enforced  
which requires these institutions to submit in-  
ventories of items they hold, to consult with the  
Tribes who have a historic presence in the areas

where the remains and items were discovered,  
and to allow the Tribes to repatriate the remains  
and items. We have been successful in our work  
with several institutions and will continue this  
important work until all of our ancestors have  
been returned to mother earth.

The Tribe has other exciting and promis-  
ing projects in the legal realm as well. One of  
our legal projects you may recall is the Tribe’s  
plan to make better use of our historic and loved  
lands in Kansas. As you know, the Maria Chris-  
tiana Reserve 35 in Kansas was part of our first  
home away from our homelands of Indiana.  
From the original Reservation, Reserve 35 com-  
prises the only remaining 35 acres of allotment  
land which was owned by Maria Christiana  
DeRome. Reserve 35 is a restricted fee allot-  
ment that, due to a complex and tragic history,  
is highly fractionated and therefore unmarket-  
able. The Tribe is the largest interest holder of  
Reserve 35, currently holding a 15% undivided  
interest in the parcel. In 2015 the Tribe reached  
out to the fractionated interest holders offering  
to purchase their interest at fair market value un-  
der the Tribe’s Indian Land Consolidation Plan.  
Ten tribal members agreed to sell their fraction-  
ated interests to increase the Tribe’s holdings.  
The approval for the sale of lands is pending in  
the office of the Assistant Secretary of the In-  
terior in Washington, D.C. We are hopeful that  
we will receive this approval in 2017.

Continued on page 4A



Elected leaders of the Sovereign Miami Nation - L-R, Chief Douglas Lankford, Second Chief Dustin Olds (standing), Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Moore, First Councilperson Donya Williams and Second Councilperson Scott Willard. Staff photo.



## aacimwita akima: The Chief Reports By Chief Douglas Lankford, continued from page 3A

Another very exciting project we are working on is our Illinois Land Claim. As you will recall, last year the Tribe, through its good friend and advocate, Congressman Markwayne Mullin, introduced legislation to confer jurisdiction to the Federal Court of Claims to hear the Tribe's land claim in Illinois. Under the 1805 Treaty of Grouseland, lands in what now is the southeast corner of the state of Illinois were reserved to the Miami Tribe. These lands were then sold by the government to private citizens in violation of the Treaty and the Tribe was never compensated for this loss. The 2015 legislation did not make it out of the House before the close of 2015 so legislation was reintroduced by Markwayne Mullin in 2017. The Tribe anticipates a Hearing before the House Committee on Indian, Insular and Alaskan Native Affairs before the Bill moves to the Senate side. The Tribe is working closely with Illinois state Congressmen and Senators who are in support of this legislation which, if successful, would resolve the cloud on title that affects many of their constituents.

Another focus of the Tribe is its efforts to compel the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) to meet statutory obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Miami Tribe joined the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, the Peoria Tribe, the Ottawa Tribe, the Wyandotte Nation and the Seneca Cayuga Tribe in its demand for consultation with FERC and the GRDA as a result of the GRDA's application for a variance and proposed amendment to alter its current license to operate the Pensacola Dam located in Ottawa County, at higher reservoir levels. As those of you who live in Ottawa County are aware, the Pensacola Project, as currently licensed has caused chronic flooding over many decades which has adversely affected the Miami Tribe and other Tribes trust lands, fee lands, traditional cultural properties, and economic endeavors, and the proposed undertakings will cause further destruction of tribal resources and properties. FERC has refused to engage in adequate Section 106 consultation with the Tribes to identify and discuss historic and traditional lands impacted through FERC is clearly obligated to do so under federal law. The Tribe will continue its work in this matter to protect its Tribal lands and resources.

In another area, the Tribe is working with other local tribes in the Tar Creek Superfund Site Tribal Coalition in a legal action against the Gold Fields Mining Company for natural resource damages by this company in the Tar Creek Superfund Site in Picher, Oklahoma. The Miami, like other local tribes is negatively impacted by the mining activities of this company which resulted in heavy contaminates of zinc,

lead and cadmium to thousands of acres of soil, hundreds of stream miles of surface water and associated riparian corridor, millions of cubic yards of sediment, and tens of square miles of groundwater. Gold Fields filed bankruptcy in 2016 and the Miami, along with other Tribes in northeast Oklahoma seek funds for damages and costs to restore the lands under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). Negotiations for damages and cleanup costs are currently underway.

In addition to these important legal projects, a new five person Miami Nation Enterprises Board was appointed September 30, 2016, fulfilling a commitment made at the 2016 General Council Meeting. The five Tribal Citizens appointed are Aaron Alsbaugh MNE Board Chairman (Miami, OK), Rachel Hall Eikenberry, MNE Board Vice Chairperson (Iowa), Brett Hayes MNE Board Secretary (Miami, OK), and MNE Board Members Joe Leonard (Oxford, OH), and Lance Theobald (North Carolina). Once this important board appointment process was completed, Tribal leadership worked closely with the new board and hired new Acting CEO, Peter Murphy. Mr. Murphy has a long and distinguished career first as a military officer and then serving as CEO for major corporations worldwide. Mr. Murphy worked with the MNE Board to implement positive changes in MNE and its business structure first by commencing the process of assessing all existing Tribal businesses for profitability.

Tribal leadership fully understands that hard decisions have to be made. Just as in the decision to leave the internet lending business, other challenges have surfaced and we have listened, discussed, questioned and assessed data toward making some difficult decisions to close some local businesses that, despite being given ample time, have not been able to prove their viability. These decisions are required of us in order to make certain that our businesses can continue to provide the revenue that is needed to fully fund Tribal programs and projects in a way that they are sustainable for many years to come. With our constant growth and change, sustainability is always at the forefront of our decisions and planning. We are very grateful to the MNE Board and to Mr. Murphy for their expertise and professionalism in working so hard to ensure the continued success of our businesses.

I am sure many of you who are signed into the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma private group on Facebook are aware of the monumental honor bestowed on Daryl Baldwin, Director of the Myaamia Center on campus at Miami University. Daryl was selected as a 2016 MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant recipient. The honor of this award changed Daryl's world, liter-

ally. His calendar is practically void of available time due to the high visibility the status of the MacArthur Award has brought to him and to the Myaamia Center. I join with you all in my appreciation, and respect, for what this man has committed to the reclamation and revitalization of our heritage language. I know there are many individuals who have joined him in this effort, and collectively they have achieved something amazing. Our language has moved from the status of "threatened" on various language status sites, to that of "revitalized". Over twenty years of diligent work by Daryl, our linguist David Costa, and Daryl's entire family, as well as others from the community, have made this happen. Let us all say kweehsitoolaanki - we show our respect to you - to Daryl and to all of our committed language workers!

Before closing, I want to extend my respect to those who have had loved ones depart this world recently. Since our last annual meeting we have been saddened by the departure of too many of our relatives. Among those were esteemed elders and some of their obituaries have been provided by family members and included in this publication. We have also been glad to celebrate with families who have grown with the birth or adoption of a new child. Whether in death, or life, our cultural revitalization is being witnessed in every way. Now more than ever, families are seeking to include Myaamia tradition in the events of death, birth, naming and in taking marriage vows. I have been so humbled in being asked to assist families as they bury their loved ones, or in the giving and receiving of Myaamia names. Kikwehsitoole - I show my respect to you, each family who has mourned, or celebrated, these life changing events, and I want you to know I think of these things all of the time. To witness our cultural revitalization is humbling and at the same time so uplifting! Life. This is our life, our continuance. In these things we are Myaamia!

We are looking forward to the National Gathering Week and especially to our General Council Meeting. Each year the work to plan and host these events grows, as our citizenship/enrollment grows. Tribal growth in the past 3 years, in the number of citizens enrolled, has been tremendous. Our Nation now exceeds 5,000 citizen members. Numbers we have not counted as a Nation since the mid 1700's. I am thankful we continue to grow, and it our commitment and honor to serve our growing population. Please pray for me and for our Business Committee as we work to carefully protect our rights as a sovereign Nation, our traditions, our culture and language and as we continue to care for and serve, you, each citizen of this great Nation.

**Myaamia National Gathering Week event planning is complete. Events are set to begin on Thursday, June 22, 2017 and will end on Saturday, June 24. The Annual Meeting of the Miami Nation General Council is set for the morning of June 24th, 2017 in the Miami Nation Council House in Miami, Oklahoma. Watch the Nation's website for updates - [www.miamination.com](http://www.miamination.com) and on the Tribe's Facebook page "Miami Tribe of Oklahoma". (The Tribe's Facebook page is a closed group created for enrolled citizens. Citizens should submit a request, via Facebook, to be added to the group. After citizenship status is verified the applicant is added to the group and will begin seeing posts.)**

**BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED FOR MIAMI TRIBE CITIZENS, SPOUSES AND CHILDREN BEFORE THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING ON SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 24TH, BEGINNING AT 7 A.M. IN THE MYAAMIA COMMUNITY CENTER LOCATED AT 2319 NEWMAN ROAD, MIAMI, OK.**



# 2016 National Gathering Events Set Record Attendance

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

The 2016 National Gathering events began on Thursday, June 23, with the annual Games Day held on the grounds at the Drake House in the heart of the Miami allotment area, northwest of the City of Miami.

Games began at 10:30 with beginning archery, and followed by a youth fun shoot, tomahawk throwing, and the lacrosse shoot-out. Following lunch, advanced archers competed in the re-curve and long bow challenges.

Lunch and dinner were provided on site.

On Saturday, June 24, the annual Family Day event kicked off with a community breakfast, followed by a community lacrosse game. Young and old grabbed sticks to engage in the popular game.

Following lunch, a cultural education program provided information on Myaamia language, naming and traditional games.

Friday evening brought the opening of the 17th annual Miami Nation Pow Wow which was held on the Nation’s new outdoor dance area.

Saturday morning, June 25th, breakfast was served in the Myaamia Center beginning at 7 a.m. The annual General Council Meeting, held next door at the Council House, was called to order at 9 a.m. with an attendance of 211 voting age members registered.

A round dance, followed by an invocation set the tone for the beginning of the meeting which was called to order at 9:33 time.

Chief Douglas Lankford gave a general report on the Nation, followed by the Secretary-Treasurer’s report by Sarah Moore and Business Report. Elections followed with Chief Lankford being re-elected as well as Second Council-Person Scott Willard, both are three year terms. Jewel Cunningham, of Miami, OK, was elected as Tribal Princess/Ambassdor for a two year term. A new position of Junior Princess was approved by vote of the General Council in attendance. Jennifer Potter was elected to the one year position.

A short intermission was held and blankets gifted to elders. Chief Lankford presented Elder Judy Davis with a special medal of honor commemorating her past service on the Tribal Business Committee. Mrs. Davis holds the distinguished honor of being the only person to serve in every position on the Tribal Business Committee and is the only Myaamia Woman to serve as both Second Chief and Chief.

The election continued with Carol Larkin and David Efird being re-elected to the Grievance Committee by acclamation.

Open forum followed. Newly elected officials were sworn in by Second Chief Dustin Olds. Adjournment followed at 2:23 p.m.

Following the meeting an Open House event was hosted at the new Tribal Headquarters allowing members to see the newly renovated space.

The National Gathering Week came to a close Saturday evening with the final dances of the 17th Annual Miami Nation Pow Wow. Outgoing Tribal Princess Cheyenne Watson crowned newly elected Tribal Princess Jewel Cunningham in the arena. Junior Princess, Jennifer Potter, was also introduced.



Second Chief Dustin Olds (left) administers the oath of office to elected officials and representatives during the 2016 annual General Council meeting. From left to right; David Efird and Carol Larkin were re-elected to three year terms on the Tribal Grievance Committee; Jennifer Potter was elected to a one year term as Junior Miami Nation Princess; Douglas Lankford was re-elected to a three year term as Chief; Scott Willard was re-elected to a three year term as Second Councilperson; Jewel Cunningham was elected to a two year term as Miami Nation Princess/Ambassador.



Judy Davis was honored at the 2016 Annual Meeting for her past service to the Nation and specifically for her status as the only Myaamia woman to serve the Nation as both Chief and Second Chief. Mrs. Davis is also the only Tribal citizen to ever have served in each position on the Tribal Business Committee.



Pictured in the grand entry at the 17th Annual Miami Nation Pow Wow is Jewel Cunningham (left) who was elected to the two year term of Miami Nation Princess for 2017-2018. Jennifer Potter, (second from left) was elected to the new position of Junior Princess. Behind her is previous Miami Nation Princess Cheyenne Watson.



Chief Douglas Lankford (at podium) presented the Chief’s Report during the 2016 Annual General Council Meeting. To his right are the members of the Tribal Business Committee, from left to right; Second Chief Dustin Olds, Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Moore, First Councilperson Donya Williams, and Second Councilperson Scott Willard . The Grievance Committee members, seated at left, are, from right to left; David Efird, Rodney Henson, John Cunningham, Carol Larkin, and Tera Hatley.

The itinerary of National Gathering Week Events was mailed to each household in late April, 2017. It is available for download at [www.miamination.com](http://www.miamination.com).



# Governmental Record Journals Repatriated

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

On March 1st, 2017, a three year long repatriation effort was completed when the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, returned two historic journals to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. City attorney Mark Swiney personally delivered the journals to Tribal headquarters where transfer of control documents were signed. Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer, Scott Willard, Assistant Cultural Resources Officer, Robin Lash, Tribal Attorney, and Meghan Dorey, Manager of the Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive were on hand to receive the historic objects.

The volumes contain handwritten council records of the Miami Nation dating from 1862, in Kansas, and ending in 1910 not long before the death of Chief Thomas Richardville. The books had been in the collection of the Gilcrease Museum (owned by the City of Tulsa) since the 1960's and were held in a collection known as the Thomas F. Richardville Collection. The "Miami Nation Council Books" were among a number of other Tribal, and some personal, records of the late Chief.

Beginning in the summer of 2014, the Cultural Resources Office began actively assessing the status of the two National Council Books as "Items of Cultural Patrimony" as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). According to this law, an Object of Cultural Patrimony "... means items having ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization itself, rather than property owned by an individual tribal or organization member. These objects are of such central importance that they may not be alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual tribal or organization member. Such objects must have been considered inalienable by the culturally affiliated Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization at the time the object was separated from the group."

The Miami Tribe Cultural Resources Office, with the NAGPRA Committee, Tribal legal counsel and Tribal historians, determined that the National Council Books were in fact original governmental documents of the Miami Tribe (the same as original meeting minutes or an adopted resolution) and therefore met the description of "Object of Cultural Patrimony" in the NAGPRA. The decision to begin the for-

mal repatriation process was made by Tribal leadership and, what would become a historic, antagonizing, and greatly rewarding exercise in cultural sovereignty was begun.

A long consultation process ensued, as is appropriate under the NAGPRA law, and during that period, from late summer of 2014 until the winter of 2017, research efforts verified not only the patrimonial status of the books, but also uncovered a mystery as to how the Richardville Collection came to be held in the Gilcrease Museum.

Surprisingly, it was discovered the Gilcrease Museum held no accession record, or any related documentation of any kind, regarding the addition of the collection to their holdings in the late 1960's. During research, the Tribe discovered that family members had loaned the collection to the Oklahoma Historical Society, through collector C.C. Conlan, in the late 1920's. The items remained at the Historical Society until the spring of 1949 when they were returned to Frank Pooler (grandson of Chief Thomas Richardville) following his written requests for their return.

After making the determination that the two National Council Books were, without question, by law, Objects of Cultural Patrimony, the Miami Tribe NAGPRA Committee, with consent from Tribal Leadership, initiated the formal repatriation process. However, the City of Tulsa, and the Director of the Gilcrease Museum, stood against the Tribe stating they did not believe the books fit the patrimonial description and denied the Tribe's formal claim for the items to be returned.

The Miami Tribe chose to take the matter before the National NAGPRA Review Committee and submitted a claim file totaling 472 pages of proof documentation and argument as to the absolute status of the books as Objects of Cultural Patrimony. The City of Tulsa (the entity in control and responsible to the argument) declined to submit any documentation or argument. The Review Committee Hearing was set for mid-March, 2017, in Denver, CO.

Wisely, the City of Tulsa elected to return the books to the Miami Tribe two weeks before being required to argue their case, or lack thereof, before the National NAGPRA Review Committee. Though the case was not heard by the Committee, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma was

armed and ready to make an historic statement before the National NAGPRA Review Committee, and indeed before all of Indian Country, in bringing closure to a repatriation case that would return documents as Objects of Cultural Patrimony. It would have been a precedent setting decision. And though this case was closed due to the return of the books before the hearing, the Miami Tribe NAGPRA Committee stands firm, based on the identity of the National Council Books and the opinion of legal counsel which was based upon expert opinions from outside the Tribe.

As the dust settles around this long running exercise, the Miami Tribe is determined to encourage all Tribal Nations to seek their historic documents, such as their original treaty copies, or governmental documents such as those returned to the Miami in this process, and to exercise their sovereignty, as provided for in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, by formally repatriating to their Nation those objects "... having ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization..."

As the Tribe looks back on the long argument to bring the National Council Books home, the Cultural Resources Office is committed to sharing the story of the importance of the books with the Tribal community, but also the history of their creation and their ultimate journey from the hands of Chief Thomas Richardville, to archive shelves and back to the possession of the Nation.

The Richardville Collection is shrouded in mystery and for a number of reasons. As mentioned, the Gilcrease can offer no answer as to how the Museum came to hold the collection. Furthermore, the collection also holds some other documents that are specifically Tribal governmental records. Such items should not have been merged with the personal records or documents of Chief Richardville during his term of office. How did this occur? It is expected that family members had no way of knowing the Chief still had in his possession, at his passing in 1910, items that should have been conveyed to the next Chief for care on behalf of the Nation. It appears, ultimately, that those documents, including the National Coun-

Continued on page 8A



On February 17, 2017, members of a Miami Tribe Repatriation Team visited the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, OK, to view the two volumes of National Council Books held in the collection in preparation for presenting the Tribe's case before the National NAGPRA Review Committee in March in Denver, CO. Pictured are, Tribal Special Legal Counsel Joe Halloran (left), George Ironstrack, Tribal Historian and Assistant Director of the Myaamia Center at Miami University, and Meghan Dorey, Manager of the Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive. Photo by Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer.



Chief Douglas Lankford, wearing protective gloves, observes handwritten council records from the 1860's inside one of two repatriated journals. With the Chief are Second Chief Dustin Olds, Tribal Legal Counsel Robin Lash (second from left) and Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive Manager Meghan Dorey. The volumes were returned to the Miami Tribe on March 1, 2017 by the City of Tulsa, OK. Photo by Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer.





# Miami Tribe Provides Assistance to Restore Roof at Historic Richardville House

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

On Friday, September 23, 2016, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma presented a donation to the Fort Wayne History Center in the amount of \$33,000, to assist in the restoration of the wood shingled roof at the historic Chief Richardville House.

Chief Jean Baptiste Richardville served as Civil Chief of the Miami from 1814 until his death in 1841. The House, constructed in 1827, was partially funded by the 1826 Treaty of Paradise Springs.

Restoration of the Richardville House was completed in 2004, a project that lasted for a decade and totaled nearly \$400,000. The beautiful Greek Revival house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 27, 1997 and was named a National Landmark on March 2, 2012. It is recognized as the oldest historic period Native American structure in the Midwest and the only existing Treaty House in the nation.

When Second Chief Dustin Olds visited the home in the fall of 2015, he was given a tour by the History Center's Executive Director, Todd Pelfry. Mr. Pelfry shared concerns about the state of the roof and the need to replace the wood shingles to protect the rest of the structure.

The Tribal Business Com-

mittee agreed to the need to supply assistance for the historic Miami site. Leadership committed funds received through the cell tower consultation process, conducted by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (and approved for heritage preservation efforts).

During their visit to Fort Wayne for the Tribe's annual fall community gathering, Tribal leaders and representatives from the Cultural Resources Office met History Center Board of Directors President Karen Richards, and the Center's Executive Director, Todd Pelfry at the home to make the formal donation.

Chief Lankford stated, "We are so honored to be here today, at this historic place, to make provide this donation, on behalf of all citizens of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, to show our respect to this house, its story and place in our history, and to aid the History Center in their work to sustain it as a historic landmark for generations to come."

The roof repair is complete and the home is open for public visitation on the first Saturday of each month from May to November, as well as available throughout the year for private tours or rentals.



*The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma donated \$33,000 to the Fort Wayne History Center for the installation of a new roof on the Chief Richardville House (pictured above), now a National Landmark. The donation was presented in front of the home, on Sept. 23, 2016. Pictured are, left to right: Julie Olds, Miami Tribe Cultural Resources Officer; Todd Pelfry, Executive Director of the History Center; Karen Richards, President, History Center Board of Directors; Douglas Lankford, Miami Tribe Chief; Donya Williams, Miami Tribe First Councilperson; Scott Willard, Second Councilperson; Doug Peconge, Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; and Diane Hunter, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Staff photo.*

# U.S. Forest Service and Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Sign Monumental Memorandum of Understanding - "First of its Kind" Agreement for Reburial of Tribal Ancestors

Forest Service Press Release - Reprinted with Permission

FORT WAYNE, IN (Sept. 26, 2016) – On Sept. 24, 2016 a monumental Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the heart of Myaamia homelands between the U.S. Forest Service and federally recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma for reburial of tribal ancestors.

Signed by Chief Douglas Lankford of the Miami Tribe and Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson of the Forest Service, Eastern Region, it signifies a "first of its kind" agreement (in principle) for American Indian reburial in the Midwest. The agreement outlines procedures that the parties will follow to make reburial requests and facilitate them.

The Memorandum of Understanding addresses a long-standing, critical issue that has afflicted tribes and their ancestors for many years. After centuries of having their ancestor's remains being subject to scientific and amateur curiosity, in 1990 Congress made it illegal to traffic in Native American human remains and required all agencies, institutions and museums to repatriate Native human remains and funerary objects in their possession to the tribes. Unfortunately, many tribes have no place to rebury their ancestors, especially if they wish their ancestors to be reburied near the original location of interment.

A partial solution came when Congress passed the Culture and Heritage Cooperation Authority of the 2008 Farm Bill. This was significant in that the Department of Agriculture oversees the Forest Service, one of the largest multiple-use federal land management agencies. With 193,000,000 acres in the National Forest System, the Forest Service is now authorized to consider requests from Indian tribes for the respectful and permanent reburial of their ancestors.

Indiana's Hoosier National Forest was represented at the signing by Forest Supervisor Michael Chaveas, who is among those who will play a key role in implementation of this new agreement. This Memorandum of Understand-



*On Sept. 24, 2016, Chief Douglas Lankford (seated, right) and Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson, of the Forest Service, Eastern Region, signed a monumental Memorandum of Understanding addressing the need for reburial locations in the midwest. Pictured with the leaders are, from left to right, Michael Chaveas, Hoosier National Forest Supervisor, Larry Heady, Special Assistant to the Regional Forester, Regional Tribal Relations Specialist, Forest Service-Eastern Region, Scott Willard, Miami Tribe Second Councilperson, Donya Williams, Miami Tribe First Councilperson, Doug Peconge, Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Diane Hunter, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer. Staff Photo.*

ing sets the tone for a unique government-to-government relationship for years to come. ###

*The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region includes 20 states in the Midwest and East, stretching from Maine, to Maryland, to Missouri, to Minnesota. There are 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie in the Eastern Region. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/R9](http://www.fs.usda.gov/R9).*

*The U.S. Forest Service manages 193*

*million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/). ###*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.*



# Storytelling, Games and Social Dances Highlight Myaamia Winter Gathering

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

The 2017 Myaamia Winter Gathering was held January 27 & 28, in the Nation's Council House in Miami, OK.

On Friday, the 27th, Jarrid Baldwin, Community Language Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Tribe's online dictionary and the smart phone language app.

Friday afternoon brought the ever-popular mahkisina meehkintiinki tournament. The Tribe was honored to have a large contingent from Miami University which included new University President Gregory Crawford. To the amusement and delight of all, President Crawford played against Chief Douglas Lankford in a game.

Friday evening brought the community dinner, and, what has become the focal point of the gathering for the community, the telling of Myaamia winter stories and narratives. Story tellers for this year's gathering included George Strack, George Ironstrack, Jarrid Baldwin, Haley Strass, John Bickers, Brad Kasberg and Chris Bowyer.

Gourd dancing and social dances were the highlight of Saturday evening, Jan. 28th. Again, the Miami Tribe was honored to have a large number of stomp dance leaders, including five Myaamia leaders, and many shell shakers, as well as social dance leaders from neighbor-



*Myaamia youth listen carefully as their elder, George Strack, tells a Myaamia winter story during the 2017 Winter Gathering in Miami, OK. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.*



*Mahkisina paahpiciki - Laughing, singing, bluffing...and a few wagers here and there; such was the scene, during the 2017 Winter Gathering when Miami University President Gregory Crawford played mahkisina against Chief Douglas Lankford. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.*

## SEARCHING FOR A COLLEGE? FIND OUT ABOUT MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Finding college options and then determining which one feels "just right" is an exciting, yet stressful experience. The typical college search most often happens during the latter half of the junior year in high school. For almost 25 years Myaamia students have been enrolled at Miami University. The presence of the Myaamia Center there allows Myaamia students to get an outstanding undergraduate education and also learn about Myaamia history, culture, and language while a Miami University student. Students discover more about their personal heritage and also become part of the Myaamia community on the Oxford, Ohio campus.

Any person that wants to consider Miami University as a potential college option should start by connecting with the Myaamia Center staff to be fully informed about the Myaamia Heritage Award Program. Several possibilities may be available for financial aid at Miami. There are also several expectations for Myaamia students who are accepted to Miami University and participate in the Heritage Program. Connecting with the Myaamia Center will help interested applicants understand all those important details. Campus visits are

also really important and provide a first-hand look and feel of the campus and environment. Visiting Miami University provides a great opportunity to meet directly with Myaamia Center staff.

Miami University is a highly selective institution and Myaamia students must meet the same rigorous admissions requirements as all other applicants. We encourage all interested



applicants to meet the December 1 (or earlier) deadline for submitting an application. To be eligible for the Myaamia Heritage Award Program, students must be enrolled members of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. We request a copy of the enrollment card be submitted to the Myaamia Center BEFORE the Miami University application is submitted. The Myaamia Heritage Award Program is designed to be a full 4-year undergraduate college experience and preference for entrance into the Heritage Program will be given to 1st time college students.

If you want to learn more about Miami University, please contact Bobbe Burke, Coordinator of Miami Tribe Relations, at burkebi@miamioh.edu or call 513-529-5648.

# New Members Appointed to Miami Nation Enterprises Board of Directors

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Business Committee has appointed new members to the Miami Nation Enterprises Board of Directors (MNE). Miami Nation Enterprises is a political economic subdivision of the Miami Tribe which purpose is to develop economic activity to provide for the health, safety, morals and welfare of Miami Citizens and the Tribe's government function.

The overall affairs of MNE are managed by the Board of Directors which is comprised of five individuals, four of whom must be enrolled tribal members. In response to a Motion made on the floor during the June 2016 Annual Meeting, a new five member MNE Board was appointed on September 30, 2016 through tribal Resolution 16-40. The five Tribal Citizens appointed are Aaron Alsbaugh MNE Board Chairman (Miami, OK), Rachel Hall Eikenberry, MNE Board Vice Chairperson (Iowa), Brett Hayes MNE Board Secretary (Miami, OK), and MNE Board Members Joe Leonard (Oxford, OH), and Lance Theobald (North Carolina).

The MNE Board holds regular meetings of the Board on the second Monday of each month, said meetings are closed meetings. Tribal members may attend Quarterly Reports of MNE which will take place in May, August, November and February. Information about the date and time of the Quarterly Report shall be placed on the Miami Nation webpage the month preceding the Quarterly Report.

## Governmental Record Journals Repatriated

By Julie Olds, Continued from page 6A.

cil Books, were co-mingled with the Chief's personal records (he was an ordained preacher) and therefore, when the family took possession of these items after Richardville's passing they assumed all items were owned by the Chief.

There remains a missing puzzle piece to complete the story. In the series of letters from Frank Pooler to the Oklahoma Historical Society, Pooler stated the need for recalling the loaned items was due to his wife's poor health and that she was in need of an operation. The Tribe is left to assume the collection was sold for this need, though no evidence of a sale has been located, nor does the Gilcrease Museum show documentation of the purchase. Therefore, research will continue in hopes the Cultural Resources Office may someday find the answer.

Now that the books are home, the Cultural Resources Office has announced a special presentation on the repatriation of the books, and will have the books on display on Family Day, June 23, and following the General Council Meeting on June 24. Tribal members and their families in attendance will have the opportunity to view these two bound volumes of Miami Nation governmental history.

## Tribes Stand Against the GRDA

By Ian Young, CRO Special Project Researcher, continued from page 1

concerns cannot be ignored any longer. In 5 years the Pensacola dam license will be up for renewal, and the impact on the tribes will have to be addressed in order to proceed with relicensing. This provides the time needed for each tribe to assemble a detailed account of affected lands so the entire scope of the impact can be properly addressed.

Despite the granted variance, bringing these organizations together for a consultation represents a victory 76 years in the making. After decades of being overlooked by these organizations, the 9 tribes of Ottawa county have spoken with a collective voice and will certainly not be ignored any longer.





# kweehsitoolaanki kinwaalanihsia: Miami Citizen Daryl Baldwin Receives MacArthur Fellowship

By Julie Olds, Continued from Page 1A

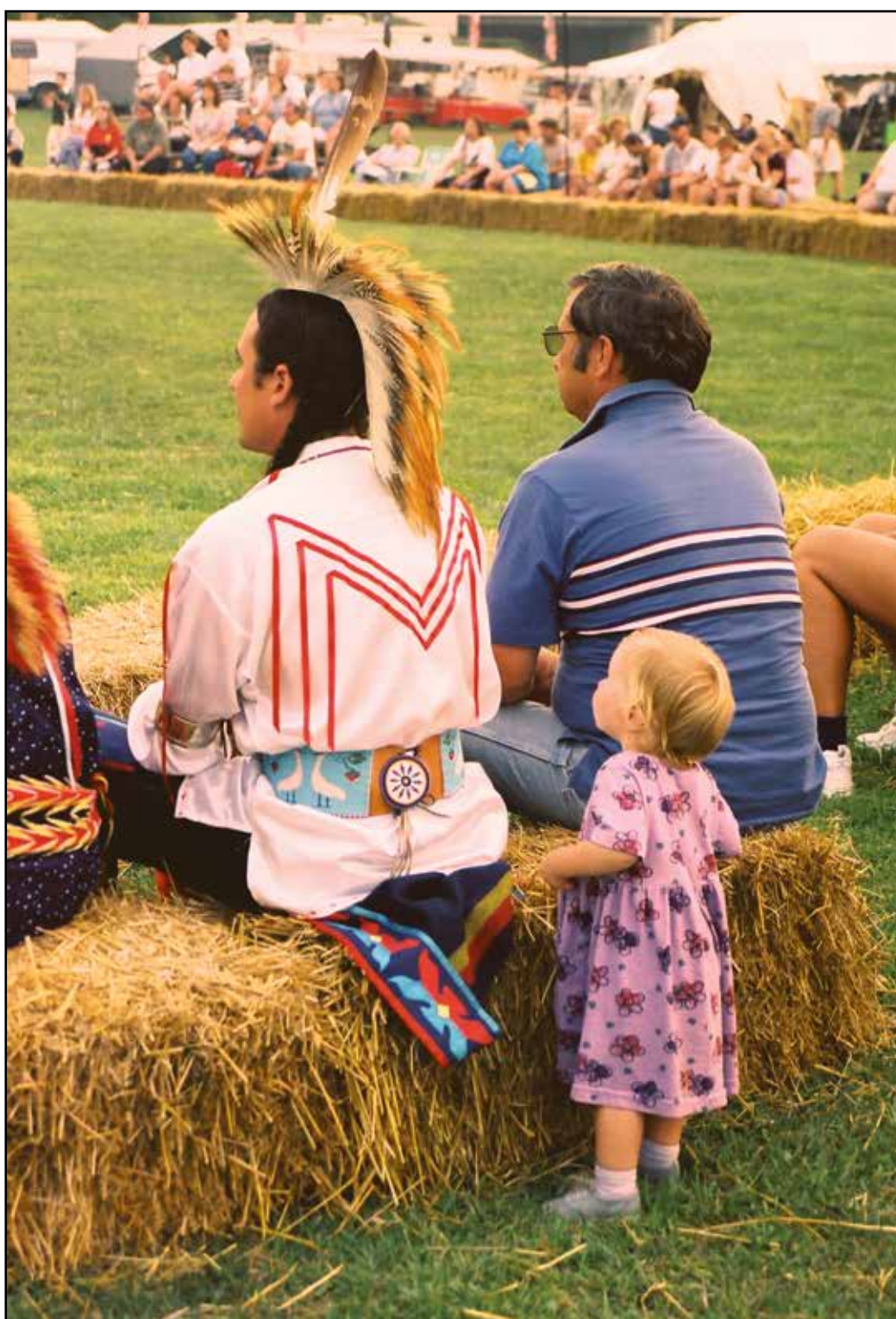
*“There are three criteria for selection of Fellows: exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishment, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work.”*

For those of us who have had the pleasure of working with Daryl, the three criteria for the selection of this Fellowship are easily validated by his work for our Nation.

Daryl Baldwin came to work with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma through a grant received in 1996 from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA). The grant, written by Karen Alexander, the Tribe’s librarian and archivist at that time, provided for a two-year project now acknowledged by the Nation as the seed that would spring up to become a language reclamation movement that has changed the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma forever.

Through the grant, Tribal leaders came to know Daryl, his work ethic and deep commitment to restoring the Myaamia language. The grant also introduced the Nation to Dr. David Costa, a linguist from the University of California, Berkeley, whose linguistic expertise, and professional and personal commitment, proved to be the ideal partner for Daryl on the ANA grant. Together their work for the Miami Nation, initiated through a grant and perpetuated through funding committed by Tribal leadership, has brought significant language learning tools to each and every Myaamia household.

Now, two decades later, Tribal leaders gratefully acknowledge the immeasurable benefits born of this commitment to language reclamation. Elders come forward to share language remembered from their youth while middle aged citizens embrace the opportunity to learn some-



**Amehkoonsa - Emma Baldwin is pictured as a toddler, looking up to her father at the Mihšihkinaahkwa Pow Wow, circa, 1998. Today, many Myaamia youth look up to Daryl Baldwin in his role as a community cultural leader. Staff photo.**

thing never before available to them. And, perhaps of greatest importance, our young people, seizing the benefits of a youthful mind, now play games and communicate in our heritage language. And for each person, no matter the age, a new reflection appears in the mirror... a deeper, personal identity as a Myaamia citizen. A changed reflection, for many, due to the depth of cultural knowledge instilled in each person through exposure to their heritage language.

These outcomes are well known and appreciated throughout our community and we have honored Daryl and David on multiple occasions and shown our respect for them and

pride in their collective accomplishments. And now, from an unexpected entity outside of the community, the highly respected MacArthur Foundation has honored our relative Daryl Baldwin with one of the most prestigious awards that anyone can receive. Daryl Baldwin is one of 23 individuals chosen as a 2016 MacArthur Fellow.

Again, I refer to the MacArthur Foundation website:

*“The MacArthur Fellows Program is intended to encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations. In keeping with this purpose, the Foundation awards fellowships directly to individuals rather than through institutions. Recipients may be writers, scientists, artists, social scientists, humanists, teachers, entrepreneurs, or those in other fields, with or without institutional affiliations. They may use their fellowship to advance their expertise, engage in bold new work, or, if they wish, to change fields or alter the direction of their careers.*

*Although nominees are reviewed for their achievements, the fellowship is not a lifetime achievement award, but rather an investment in a person’s originality, insight, and potential. Indeed, the purpose of the MacArthur Fellows Program is to enable recipients to exercise their own creative instincts for the benefit of human society.*

*The Foundation does not require or expect specific products or reports from MacArthur Fellows and does not evaluate recipients’ creativity during the term of the fellowship. The MacArthur Fellowship is a “no strings attached” award in support of people, not projects. Each fellowship comes with a stipend of \$625,000 to the recipient, paid out in equal quarterly installments over five years.”*

In regard to how Fellows are chosen, the website explains:

*“Nominees are brought to the Program’s attention through a constantly changing pool of invited external nominators chosen from as broad a range of fields and areas of interest as possible. They are encouraged to draw on their expertise, accomplishments, and breadth of experience to nominate the most creative people they know within their field and beyond.*

*Nominations are evaluated by an independent Selection Committee composed of about a dozen leaders in the arts, sciences, humanities professions, and for-profit and nonprofit communities. Each nomination is considered with respect to the program’s selection criteria, based on the nomination letter along with original works of the nominee and evaluations from other experts collected by the program staff.*

*After a thorough, multi-step review, the Selection Committee makes its recommendations to the President and Board of Directors of the MacArthur Foundation. Announcement of the annual list is usually made in September. While there are no quotas or limits, typically 20 to 30 Fellows are selected each year. Since 1981, 942 people have been named MacArthur Fellows.*

Continued on page 2B



**After working to establish the Myaamia Heritage Class for Myaamia Tribal students at Miami University, Daryl helped create a graduation sash that would provide identity to graduating Myaamia students. Photo by Andrew Strack.**



**Daryl is pictured with the late Mildred (Watson) Walker during a language workshop at the old longhouse in Miami, OK, circa 2005. Photo by Andrew Strack.**



## kweehsitoolaanki kinwaalanihsia: Miami Citizen Daryl Baldwin Receives MacArthur Fellowship

-Continued from Page 1B

*Nominators, evaluators, and selectors all serve anonymously and their correspondence is kept confidential. This policy enables participants to provide their honest impressions independent of outside influence.*

*The Fellows Program does not accept applications or unsolicited nominations."*

As one who has been involved in promoting and sustaining our language reclamation work, I have had the great honor and privilege of working with Daryl and David these many years. I admire and greatly esteem David Costa for his commitment to our people and our heritage language. And for my relative Daryl Baldwin, the anchor of our language reclamation effort, it must be known and appreciated that the MacArthur Fellowship was earned. Someone saw in his character, work ethic, and vision the qualities to be honored by a MacArthur Fellowship. How great is this honor, brought from outside

our community, in respect to Daryl's hard work and commitment. And, to those of us who know the Baldwin story, this honor must also be seen to acknowledge his wife Karen, and their children, who have learned with him and supported him throughout this journey. I must also note the invaluable support of, and sustaining energy drawn from, so many respectful, and greatly dedicated, Myaamia citizens, the two decades of Tribal leadership which has invested wisely in this effort, and the many other individuals who have contributed to our language reclamation work in so many ways.

I am so grateful to the person who nominated Daryl Baldwin. Whoever, and wherever that person is, we owe him or her respect and gratitude for bringing to the attention of the world the work of our relative and fellow citizen, which has permanently imprinted our Nation and each of us as citizens, in indescribable ways.



*His work, and visible success, in community language reclamation has made Daryl Baldwin a much sought after speaker at University programs and conferences. In 2013, Daryl and Karen Baldwin traveled to Melbourne, Australia when Daryl was invited to serve as the keynote speaker at the Puliima National Language Conference. The Baldwins are pictured presenting a handmade gift to Daryn McKenny, coordinator of the conference. Photo courtesy of Karen Baldwin.*



*Daryl Baldwin is pictured with the 14th Dali Lama at Miami University in October of 2010. Photo by Andrew Strack.*

## Niiki, Kiiki, neehi Kiikinaana - CREO Hosts Cultural Education Event

By Doug Peconge, Asst. THPO and  
CREO Community Programming Manager

The Cultural Resources Extension Office, located in Fort Wayne, Indiana, hosted a community cultural education event at Fox Island Park on March 18th, 2017.

George Ironstrack, Tribal Historian and Assistant Director of the Myaamia Center at Miami University, provided an in-depth look into myaamia homes. Ironstrack discussed the traditional living structure and how those living spaces evolved over time. He also lead a discussion of how Myaamia people make their contemporary house a Myaamia home.

The subject of Myaamia Homes is the educational focal point for the 2017 Eewansaa-pita Summer Youth Education Programs to be held in Oklahoma in June and in Indiana in July.

The Cultural Resources Office, at Tribal Headquarters in Miami, OK, will schedule George Ironstrack to give the presentation during the Winter Gathering events in late January of 2018.



*George Ironstrack, Tribal Historian and Assistant Director of the Myaamia Center at Miami University, is pictured during his presentation on Myaamia homes held in Fort Wayne, IN, in March of this year.*

## Miami Citizen Paul Strack Appointed to Indiana Native Affairs Commis- sion

Staff Article

In November, 2016, following receipt of a letter of recommendation from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Indiana Governor Mike Pence appointed Miami Tribe of Oklahoma citizen Paul Strack to the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC).

Mr. Strack is a resident of Ft. Wayne, IN, and is a lifelong resident of Indiana. He is recently retired after 50 years in the workforce. He and his wife Melanie are the parents of three and grandparents of four.

He has been involved in the Native American Indian community in Indiana for over 25 years. He has served as a board member of different not-for-profit organizations and currently volunteers with Big Brothers / Big Sisters, the American Legion, and the Sons of the American Legion.

Strack will fill a vacancy term with the INAIAC that expires in July 2018.





## MHMA Receives Donation of Cultural Items By Meghan Dorey, MHMA Manager

The Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive is excited to announce the donation of over one hundred cultural artifacts. The items range widely in date and function, and will greatly enhance the ability to teach about traditional myaamia life-ways, both at the museum and other educational or cultural events.

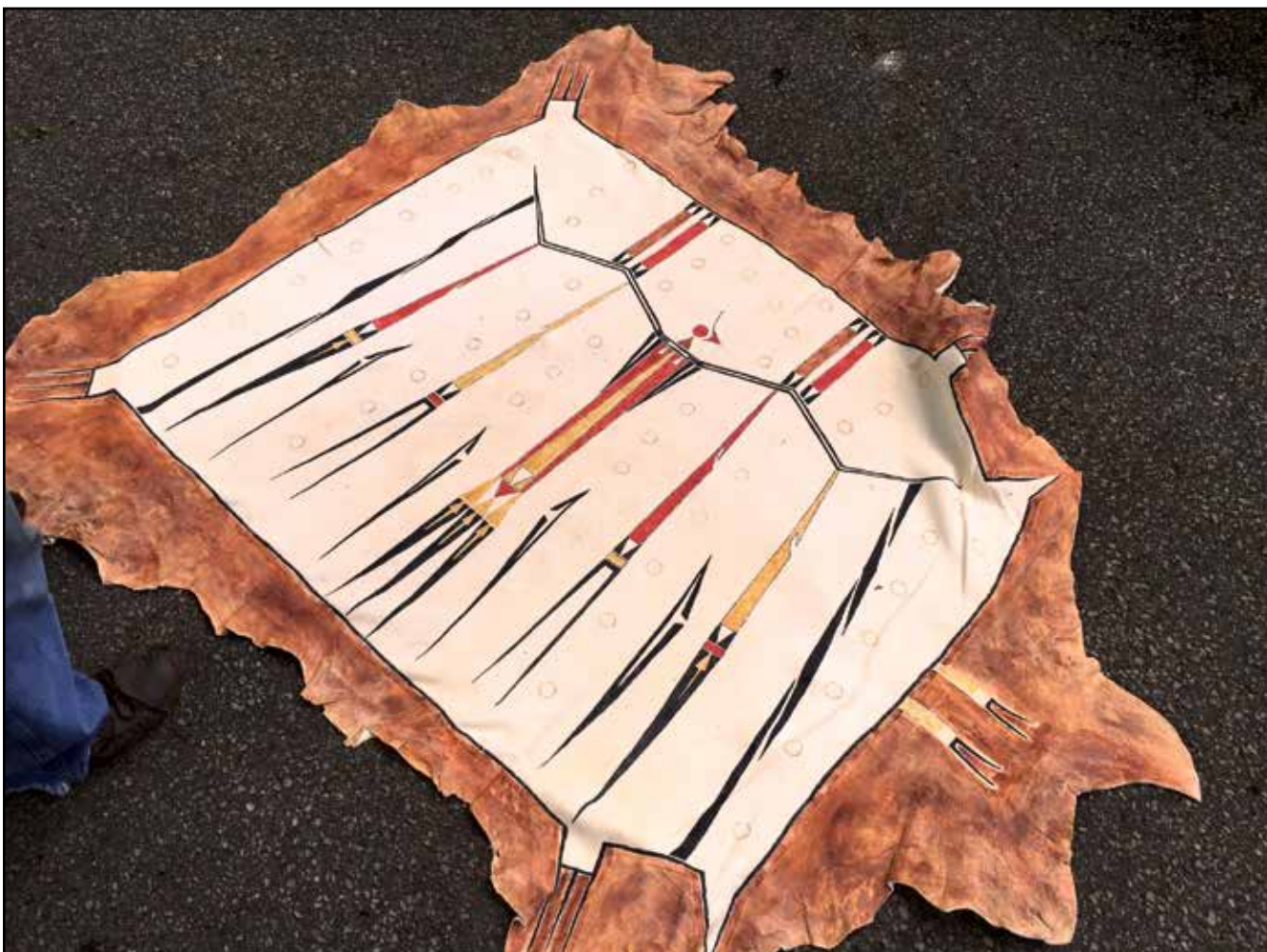
A large group of items in the collection focus on corn planting, harvesting, and processing. This is appropriate, as miincipi played an incredibly important role in sustaining myaamia communities for many generations. Included in this group are several black ash and bark baskets used for storage and processing, corn mortars and pestles used for grinding, and even some ears of corn.

Another group of items documents preparing food and eating, particularly feasting. One of the oldest items in the collection are original Hudson Bay Company kettles. Other items from this grouping include spoons and bowls, turtle shell platters, grinding stones, and carved gourds. A small number of items, related to the preparing of food, are gardening tools made out of animal bone and antlers.

A number of items document hunting, playing games, and processing of meat. Generally regarded as "men's tools," there are examples of hides, fishing gear, stone tools, knives and scrapers, and a bow and arrow.

Several important items also show the process of collecting sap and creating maple sugar. These items will create a fun display to explain the process of tapping a tree, boiling the sap, and packing and storing the sugar.

MHMA Manager Meghan Dorey has begun the work of photographing, inspecting, cataloging and creating safe archival storage housing for each item. Though this process will take some time, we are hopeful to soon begin creating displays that can be used in conjunction with the model wiikiaami at the museum and rotate the objects often. While these specific items may not be strictly made or used by myaamia people, they go a long way in providing examples of items used during everyday life. Most of the items were collected from Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. Though the donor wishes to remain anonymous, the Miami Nation will be forever grateful for such generosity.



*In December 2016, the Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive received a large donation of over 100 cultural items from an anonymous donor. The items include a beautiful traditionally hand painted replica (photo above) of a famous painted hide (the original is in the Musee de la Homme, France), and numerous handmade baskets and wood utilitarian items (upper photo). The hide, and many of the other items, are on display at the Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive located at 28 N. Main, Miami, OK. Staff photos.*

# CREO Outreach Projects in Indiana

One of the important activities of the staff at the Tribe's Cultural Resources Extension Office in Fort Wayne, Indiana is outreach to the citizens of Indiana to provide educational programming about the Miami Tribe, including our history in Indiana and the Tribe today.

The CREO is staffed by Diane Hunter, who serves as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and Doug Peconge, who is the Asst. THPO and also manages Community Programming.

The CREO staff give presentations to various organizations and at various events. Diane gave a presentation to the History Hunters group in Wabash, Indiana at the Wabash County Historical Museum on July 28, 2016, and she and Doug gave a similar presentation in Bedford, Indiana at the Lawrence County Museum of History on September 12, 2016.

Reaching out to all age groups, they presented seensewenki (the bowl or plumstone game), mahkisina meehkintiniki (the moccasin game) and peekitahaminki (lacrosse) at the Chief Richardville House in Fort Wayne on August 6, 2016. This event provided an opportunity to talk about the Tribe as they taught the games.

The Allen County (Indiana) Public Library is presenting a series of programs related to Helen Frost's book *Salt*.

On September 22, Doug and Diane gave a presentation to the Woodburn Historical Society at the Woodburn library branch on Life in 1812. Diane talked about domestic life and the changes that began to occur at the time. Doug told the story of the War of 1812 Battle of the Mississinewa from the Miami perspective. On September 26, Doug and Diane met with children at the Shawnee library branch to teach them about Miami games. Diane gave some background information about the Tribe past and present. Doug talked about how we play lacrosse and led the children in playing a game of seenseewiinki, the bowl or plumstone game.

Also as part of the series, Miami citizen Dani Tippmann presented on Cattail Mat Weaving and Creating Duck Decoys. Cathy Mowry is giving several presentations on Cornhusk Doll Making, and Katrina Mitten will talk about Native American Beadwork. During October, Doug and Diane will be giving additional presentation on Miami Games and Life in 1812, as well as talking about Everyday Life of the Miami Indians.

*The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Program is funded through an annual renewing grant from the National Park Service Tribal Preservation Program.*



*Diane Hunter, left, is the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. Her work, which is largely tied to the National Historic Preservation Act, includes consultation on projects impacting historic structures or places, but also includes cultural preservation work such as educational outreach, and representing the Tribe in meetings with state and local entities doing projects, or setting laws or ordinances that impact Tribal preservation and heritage sites. Diane is an employee in the Cultural Resources Office, and her office is based out of the Cultural Resources Extension Office in Fort Wayne, IN. She is supported in the THPO work by Doug Peconge who serves as Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Both are citizens of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. Staff photos.*

**Tribal citizens are encouraged to keep their mailing addresses up to date to help ensure delivery of publications, letters and other Tribal mailings. The citizenship roll is kept in the Enrollment Office. Contact Tera Hatley to supply address changes, name changes, births and deaths. 918-541-1300 or by email at [thatley@miamination.com](mailto:thatley@miamination.com)**



## Myaamia New Year Celebration Hosted by Cultural Resources Office

By Doug Peconge, Asst. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, CREO Community Programs Coordinator

February 11th, 2017 marked the beginning of the Myaamia New Year. To celebrate, the Cultural Resources Extension Office in Fort Wayne, IN, organized and hosted a Myaamia New Year's gathering.

Myaamia community members gathered at Classic Café, in Fort Wayne, where lunch was served. After the meal, nine traditional myaamia stories were told. The storytellers included members of the community, CRO staff, and Myaamia Center staff. The stories were enjoyed

by the children and elders alike.

Following the stories there was a friendly seenseewinki (plum stone game/bowl game) competition. There were three preliminary games with players ranging in age from the very young to the very young at heart. The winners of the preliminary games played a final game to determine the grand champion. Karen Lloyd, of Muncie, IN, won and received a gift card to Nine Mile restaurant and a seenseewinki bowl game set.



*Cathy Nagy Mowery, elder from Fort Wayne, IN, is pictured telling a traditional story to Myaamia children in attendance at the Myaamia New Year gathering hosted by the Cultural Resources Extension Office in Fort Wayne on Feb. 11, 2017. Staff photo.*

## Miami Tribe Police Officer, Alex Perez, Assigned Duty as School Resource Officer

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

On August 11, 2016, the Miami Nation Police Department (MNP) placed Officer Alex Perez on duty as School Resource Officer.

Miami Nation Police Chief, Ronnie Gilmore, stated, "The new position of School Resource Officer (SRO) is a cooperative agreement between the MNP, Commerce Public Schools, and the Commerce Police Department. Officer Perez, who works in the schools 40 hours per week, will also serve the Commerce Head Start program and the Nation's own Leonard Learning Center."

According to Chief Gilmore, the Police Department will be coordinating many outreach events through the SRO effort, including mock crashes, texting while driving simulator, red ribbon week, drug awareness and prevention classes.

The School Resource Officer's primary responsibility is to ensure the safety of the children; however, another paramount responsibility is to help bridge the gap between the public, local youth, and the police. Officer Perez is a figure that the students, and community, come to know personally, and care about, not just a uniform.



*Miami Nation Police Officer, Alex Perez, has been assigned duty as School Resources Officer at Commerce Public Schools. kweehsitoolaanki. Staff photo.*

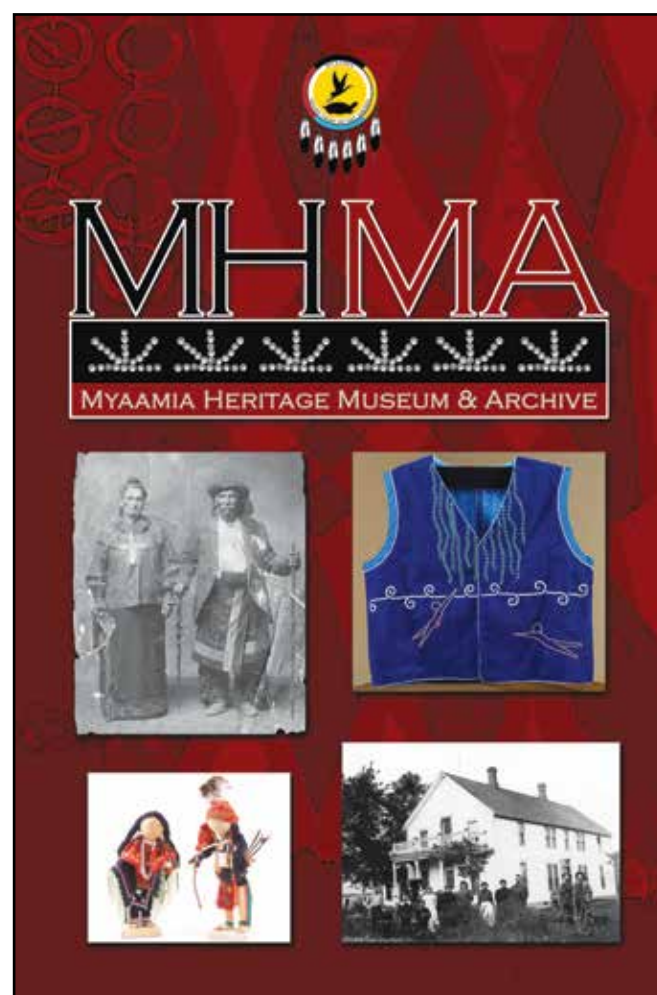
## Successful Exhibit Opening at MHMA

By Meghan Dorey, MHMA Manager

About eighty visitors took the opportunity during National Gathering events to stop at the new Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive exhibition space located at 28 N Main Street, Miami. Announced in the last edition of the newspaper, the exhibition focuses on the theme of aahpici aalhsoohkiiyankwi or "continuation." Objects in cases and frames invite visitors to explore myaamia history, culture, and traditional arts and think about how these things have changed over time. From treaty era trade goods to contemporary art, the exhibition tells just a fraction of a story of myaamia people who continue to live and perpetuate what is uniquely myaamia.

The MHMA also participated in this year's FestiFall, a community festival sponsored by the Miami Chamber of Commerce. In conjunction with the Clay Station and ArtWorx, the building was buzzing with people engaging in making and appreciating art. Around fifty people, mostly members of Miami and surrounding communities, walked through the exhibit or sat down to learn and play mahkisini meehkintiinki or seensiwiinki. We also enjoyed our first international tourists; two gentlemen from England enjoyed learning about the Miami Tribe through the museum.

Though the core of the exhibit will likely remain for some time, we will be working on rotating some objects through, adding a few more, and looking for ways to incorporate more technology into the displays. We want to be sure there is always something new to learn at MHMA!



*The Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive is located at 28 N. Main Street in the heart of the historic district in downtown Miami, OK.*

## Circle of Stones Monument Dedicated

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

On November 4, 2016, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Diane Hunter represented the federally recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at a dedication event for a new historic monument at Prophetstown State Park, in West Lafayette, IN. The event was among many events in the state commemorating the state's Centennial Legacy Project.

Ms. Hunter delivered opening comments for the event, followed by comments from John David, Deputy Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Members of the DNR staff read aloud letters of support and formal proclamations submitted by a number of the federally recognized Tribes counted among those for whom the site was created.

The monument, named "The Circle of Stones", is located in the Park's heritage area. According to Dan Bortner, director of the DNR Division of Indiana State Parks, conversations between his staff and representatives of federally recognized Tribes resulted in the concept and design of the site.

The central area of the monument is made up of large boulders with bronze plaques



*The new monument "Circle of Stones" was dedicated at Prophetstown State Park in West Lafayette, IN, in November 2016. Photo courtesy of Indiana State Parks.*

affixed to them bearing the names of the 14 Tribes who lived in the area in the late 1800's. Those Nations are the Ojibwe, Delaware, Kickapoo, Miami, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Shawnee, Wea, Wyandot, Winnebago, Fox, Sac, Creek and Menominee. All of these Nations suffered removals from their homeland regions, including the landscape on which the Park is situated. A large stone at the entry way reads, "These

stones represent a proud spirit of unity and the people who stood bravely to preserve a way of life."

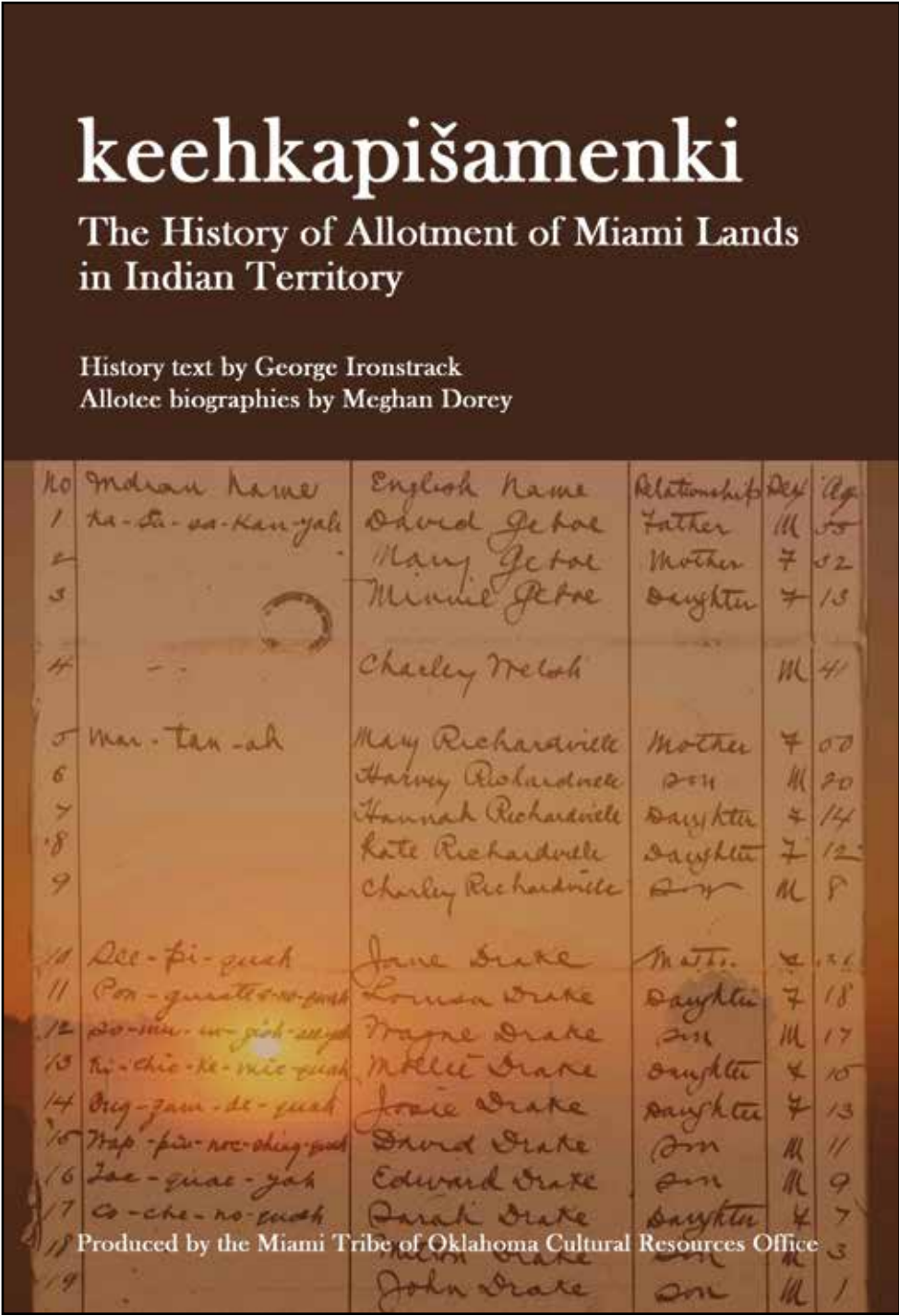
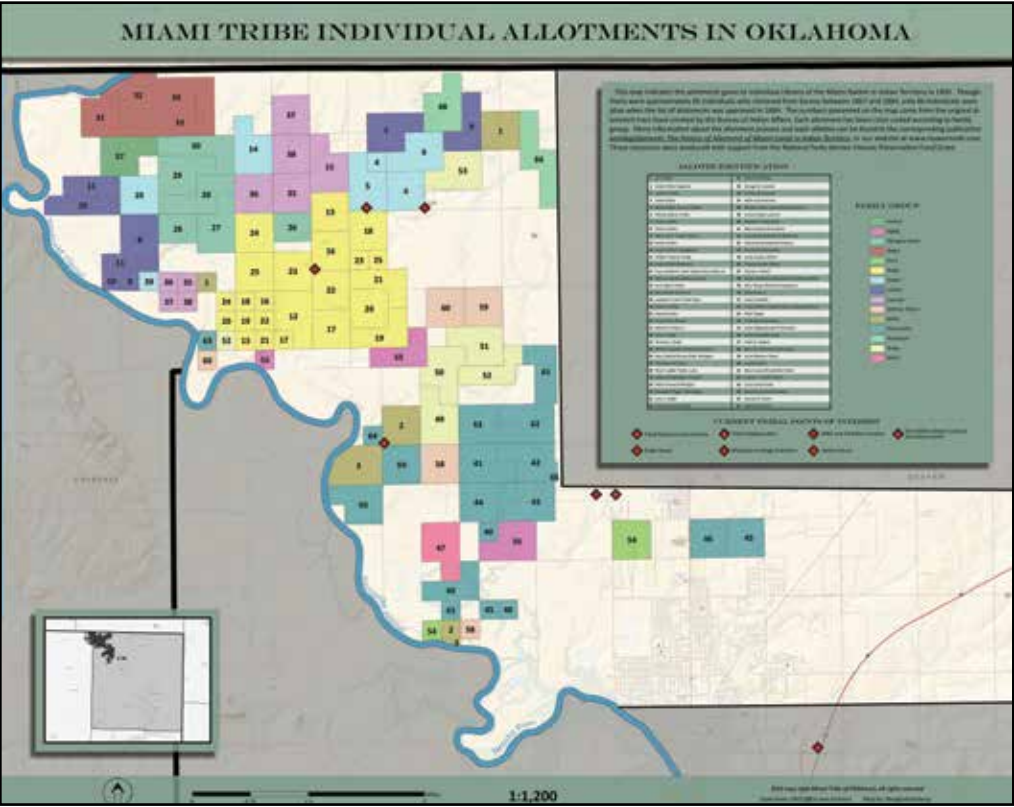
The Circle of Stones is open to visitors year round, during regular park hours. Prophetstown State Park ([stateparks.IN.gov/2971.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/2971.htm)) is located at 5545 Swisher Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906.



# Distribution of Allotment History Book

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

The grant funded project to document the history of allotment of Miami lands in Indian Territory was completed in the spring of 2016. The project called for the publication of the book, and a corresponding allotment map. Both products were completed and an initial printing took place. However, new information was located and added to the text, allottee biographies, and the map. Therefore, a full printing, with the added information, is underway. The Cultural Resources Office expects to have the books and maps available at the 2017 Family Day, on June 23, and at the Annual General Council Meeting on June 24. The distribution will be one free copy per Tribal Household (individuals 18 years and over who are the head of household). Mailing will take place in early July. The Tribe asks all citizens to check to make sure their correct mailing address is on file with the Nation in the Enrollment Office. Contact Enrollment Clerk Tera Hatley at 918-541-1300 or by email at [thatley@miamination.com](mailto:thatley@miamination.com) to confirm address status.



The Cultural Resources Office is set to complete distribution of the Oklahoma allotment history book and map. Mailing is set for early July. Those attending events during the 2017 National Gathering Week will have the opportunity to pick up their copy early.

# Miami Tribe Celebrates Inauguration of 22nd President of Miami University

By Bobbe Burke, Miami University - Miami Tribe Relations, Myaamia Center

The inauguration of Gregory Crawford as the 22nd President of Miami University occurred on Monday, October 10, 2017. The festivities began with Dr. Crawford leading an outdoor parade march of faculty, students and staff to the arena where the ceremonies took place. Chief Lankford, one of the invited speakers at the inauguration ceremonies, and several Myaamia students were part of the parade.

Chief Lankford welcomed Dr. Crawford and his family to “our Myaamia homelands”. Chief Lankford said he was “honored to follow in the footsteps of our late Chief Floyd Leonard, who during his tenure as chief of the Miami Nation welcomed three university presidents to these great lands.” Two of those presidents, Dr. James Garland (1996-2006) and Dr. David Hodge (2006-2016), were present for the inaugural events.

Chief Lankford wore a beautiful broadcloth sash made by Karen Baldwin. The sash had embroidered seals of both the Miami Tribe and Miami University, silver buttons and broaches, and hand-sewn ribbonwork. In addition, the Tribe designed a new diamond pattern representing the relationship between the Tribe and University and Karen sewed that pattern onto a new red ribbon that holds the President’s sterling silver medallion.

Dr. Crawford came to Miami from the University of Notre Dame where he developed a friendship with Notre Dame’s legendary football coach Ara Parseghian. Parseghian, a Miami University alum, is one of the coaches in Miami’s famed Cradle of Coaches. After football, Parseghian established the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation raising funds and hoping for a cure for the rare and deadly neurodegenerative disease Niemann-Pick Type C Disease (NP-C). Three of Parseghian’s grandchildren died from this disease. While at Notre Dame, Crawford and his wife Dr. Renate Crawford became friends with Parseghian and bicycled across the country to raise awareness and funds for research on Niemann-Pick Type C Disease.

An emotional moment of the inauguration ceremony occurred when Dr. Crawford presented Parseghian with the Miami University President’s Medal. This prestigious award is presented to individuals of high achievement who have made significant contributions to Miami or to exceptional individuals who exemplify the university motto through their extraordinary service to their community. Karen made a second ribbon, identical to President Crawford’s, and Parseghian’s award hangs from that red ribbon.

Dr. Crawford, a chemical physicist, applies his research to address areas related to human health, e.g., the analysis and dating of bruises, which are often key pieces of evidence in child abuse cases. His work includes more than 400 research and education publications, review articles, and book chapters, and 21 U.S. patents and patent applications. He began his role as President on July 1, 2017.



Miami University President Gregory Crawford (center) is pictured with Daryl Baldwin, Director of the Myaamia Center at MU, and Chief Douglas Lankford.



Miami Tribe students at Miami University (wearing blue t-shirts in the above photo) took part in the parade preceding the inauguration of Gregory Crawford as Miami University’s 22nd President

(Credit: Paragraphs 4 & 6 are details pulled from the Miami University webpages.)



# A History of the Miami National Council Books (1860-1910) and Their Historical and Cultural Importance to the Miami Nation

By George Ironstrack, Assistant Director/Program Director Education and Outreach Office  
Myaamia Center & Dr. Cameron Shriver, Contract Historian, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

*The following research article was assigned to Mr. Ironstrack, Miami Historian, and Dr. Shriver, by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma NAGPRA Committee and was submitted, with other proof documents, in the Tribe's effort to repatriate the volumes from the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is provided here for the benefit of all Myaamia people in understanding the historical and cultural importance of these volumes.*

On October 29, 1860, the first entry of the Miami National Council Books records the election of new leadership: Naapihšinka as head chief and Nkotikaapwa, Awansaapia and Louis Lafontaine as subordinate chiefs or counselors. The Miami Nation Council also selected Thomas F. Richardville as their interpreter. This first entry highlights the ongoing work of the nation and its people as they continued to adapt to their new home some fourteen years after their forced removal from their traditional homelands in Indiana. The record of the election is neither dramatic nor complex, but to many citizens of the Miami Nation today, this page and all those that follow are tangible, visceral, and emotionally-fraught symbols of continuance. These pages and the carefully crafted writings they contain are a part of the tapestry of Myaamia (Miami Indian) experience over time, and thus part of Myaamia cultural patrimony.

The two volumes of the Miami National Council Books are original, irreplaceable records of the governance of a tribal nation undergoing great changes. As such, they are necessarily also a record of the experiences of Myaamia people beyond merely the political. They preserve evidence of how Myaamia lives changed following forced removal. The Council Books address the allotment and diminishment of the Nation's reservation in Kansas. They record its second forced removal to the corner of Indian Territory, which would eventually become the state of Oklahoma. The books conclude by recording the near complete allotment of the Miami Nation's final reservation. The stories preserved in the council meeting minutes, election records, letters, marginalia, and signatures represent the lifeblood of a community adapting in the face of massive pressure and yet through it all resisting the dissolution of their peoplehood. The Miami Nation Council Books present Myaamia people with a link to their collective past unequalled by any other contemporary cultural, social, or political object. The Books carry significant historical, traditional, and cultural value for the Myaamia people.

Scholars agree that a crucial element defining a nation is its shared history. In this way, the Council Books are physical manifestations of the Myaamia Nation in a time often remembered as its darkest age. Thomas F. Richardville initially cared for these Council Books. He served as an elected interpreter, secretary, second chief, and chief from 1860 until his death in 1911. As an elected leader and representative of the tribal community, Richardville protected the records of the Nation but did not own them. After Richardville's death, of course, the government continued to meet and document their decisions. Unfortunately, many of these records are lost. For example, the national council meetings kept by the Miami leader Harley Palmer in a later volume was, according to the best available evidence, destroyed or lost during a bank merger in the town of Miami in the 1920s. Adding further importance to the Council Books

are the forces that sought to undermine the very existence of the Myaamia Nation in the period they record. The goal of allotment and boarding schools was the dissolution of the Miami Nation as a political and cultural entity. The Nation was supposed to cease to exist and so from the perspective of the United States government, the minutiae of its operations -- political, cultural, and economic -- was supposed to become merely "history;" archived and recorded by the local, state, or federal government if deemed interesting and consigned to the dust bin if viewed otherwise.

Thus, historical records produced by Myaamia people are both rare and critically important to the continuing endurance of the Nation as a sovereign and collective nation. The contemporary history of the Miami Nation and its people is one characterized by survival in the

in North America, and speak of worlds that came before the recreation of the world that Myaamia people currently inhabit. These mnemonic devices took many different forms, from wampum belts to painted hides, and each was used to train the next generation to maintain the record of the Nation and its relationships with other peoples and other-than-human beings.

Tragically, during wars in which Myaamia people defended their homelands from invading American armies, much of this historical record was destroyed during an invasion by the United States army and Kentucky militia under the leadership of General Josiah Harmar. During the winter of 1824-25, two Myaamia leaders lamented that previously:

*"They possessed formerly a large number of belts and pipes illustrative of different events in their history. Two boxes containing these were burnt accidentally at the time of Harmers [sic] defeat, and with them went their early history and traditions. Before their knowledge of the whites they used belts made of the small bones found in the legs of swans and other large birds, which were attached by means of a cord composed of the fibres of the wild nettle. These were made with much labour, and were said to be admirably wrought. They soon exchanged them however for the wampum and to the loss of the chests alluded to they attribute their ignorance of their early history."*

The description of this historic destruction does not reference where the "two boxes" were stored, but according to tribal tradition they would have likely been held in the lodge of the village akima (leading civil chief) or his delegate. The village akima was the guardian of these records but not the owner, he and his family were responsible for caring for these objects on the behalf of their community.

Harmar's invasion and the destruction of these historical records occurred in 1790 and as a result in the span of a generation the history contained in those objects was already being forgotten. Pre-contact Myaamia culture is often described as purely an oral culture, but as the loss of these record keeping tools demonstrates, symbolic communication and physical records were central to maintaining the people's history and recounting the non-historical stories central to passing on the cultural norms and traditions from one generation of Myaamia people to the next.

With the signing of the Treaty of Greenville in 1795 the semi-independent Myaamia villages of the Wabash River Valley began the process of unifying separate village governments into a single tribal national structure. During these years of consolidation, the written treaty record became essential to demonstrating the nascent Nation's retained rights and land as well as outlining the payments the Nation was to receive in return for ceding land. In a similar study of Anishinaabe nationhood, Heidi Stark explains that "[t]reaty-making was the primary apparatus utilized among nations to recognize the national character of one another." Only a few tribal leaders could read and write English, but the Nation also relied on American allies and business partners to assist in using the written record in pursuit of their policy objectives. During this same period of rapid adaptation and change, Myaamia families continued to participate in the fur trade and were necessarily drawn into record keeping systems that were



***The cover of the Miami National Council Book containing handwritten entries, dating from 1875 to 1910, detailing actions of Tribal leadership for that period. Photo by Meghan Dorey, Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive collection.***

face of fundamental structural, social, and political change. And for each period of transformation, the Myaamia people's awareness and understanding of such changes is dependent on the historical records that documented them: whether wampum belts and painted hides from the pre-contact period, the fur trade and economic records of the early nineteenth century, or the National Council Books of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Regardless of form, these historical records reflect the lifeblood of a Nation struggling to maintain its identity and sovereignty. The shared history of the Nation is priceless as it forms the Nation's identity and the identity of its people. As a result, the records that reveal this history are of central historical, cultural, and traditional importance to the Miami Nation.

The records contained within the Miami National Council Books are written in English and, in the case of Myaamia names, in Myaamiaataweenki (the Miami language) using the Roman alphabet. These writings are the result of over sixty years of efforts to adapt to European norms regarding record keeping and communication. But as the Council Book records of the election of 1860 make clear, many Myaamia people in the mid nineteenth century still required an interpreter when dealing with English-speaking Americans and many still lacked basic literacy according to American norms. As reflected in the Council Books, by the turn of the 20th century, this pattern nearly completely reversed as most Myaamia people were fluent and literate in English, but hardly any children spoke Myaamiaataweenki fluently.

Prior to contact with Europeans, however, Myaamia people were often multi-lingual and were fully literate in the cultural symbols and icons used as mnemonic devices to recall and recount communal histories, carry out diplomatic protocols, breathe life into traditional stories that were older than the human presence



A History of the Miami National Council Books... Ironstrack - Shriver, continued from page 6B

outside their control and often manipulated by businessmen and government officials with the intent of trapping Myaamia people and thereby their government into webs of debt. These debts were then used to force the Miami Nation to cede ever more of their homelands and enrich individual fur traders who took payment for debts directly from annual or biannual treaty annuity payments. Throughout the 1830s and into the 1840s, the Miami Nation and its people sought a greater control over these records and an increased ability to accurately record what was owed to extra-tribal entities and individuals. One strategy that the Nation employed was to send young Myaamia men to boarding school, at places like Choctaw Academy in Kentucky, in order to learn how to read and write English and to more effectively maintain and analyze financial records.

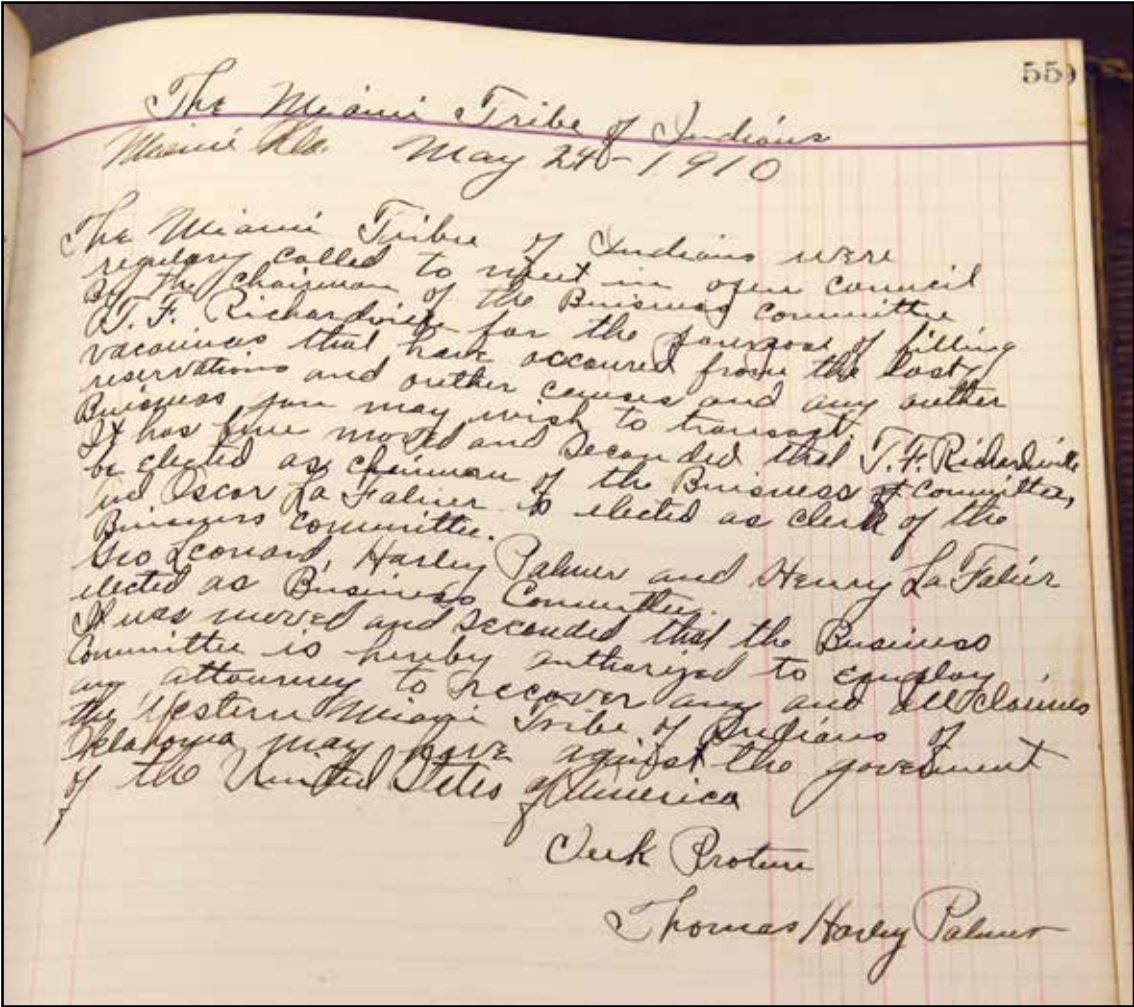
In 1840 and 1841, the deaths of the most influential leaders of the Miami Nation forced the community to adapt yet again. These were men who had guided the Nation through the rough years that followed the first Treaty of Greenville. They had helped to create the treaty annuity system, which was supposed to sustain the Nation’s economy as their land base diminished. But these same leaders had also agreed to remove the Nation west to Indian Territory (Kansas) by 1845. The chaos of their passing coupled with an intense desire to resist removal forced the community into holding the first known democratic election in the Miami Nation’s history. The Nation could not come to consensus around who should lead and as a result, a new akima (Chief) – Toopia or Francis Lafontaine – was elected via a simple majority vote. For the next five years, Toopia worked to resist the planned removal, but in the fall of 1846 his plans came to nought as federal troops arrived in Peru and Fort Wayne, Indiana and initiated the forcible relocation of the Miami Nation to new lands west of the Mississippi River.

On October 6, 1846 the Miami Nation and over three hundred of its people began their forced removal from their traditional homelands in the Wabash River Valley in northern Indiana. Over nearly a month of travel, the Nation was moved via canal, river, and by road. On November 5, they took the final steps of their journey as turned to the west and followed the narrow wagon road out of West Point, Missouri, crossed the border into Indian Territory, and arrived on the banks of Sugar Creek in their new home: the Miami National Reservation. At the edge of the Great Plains as winter descended, the Miami Nation and its people began the arduous process of recovering from their unwanted migration. Again, Myaamia records serve as a critical conduit through which the Myaamia people can understand the 1846 removal and its cultural and political ramifications. Near the end of their first month in Indian Territory, the leaders of the Miami Nation gathered together to write the President of the United States. This session was headed by the Nation’s first democratically elected leader, Akima Toopia or Chief Francis Lafontaine. In this lengthy letter they sorrowfully observed,

*“we have pitched our tents on the land set apart for us west of Mississippi. If we have not fulfilled our promises [to move] in due time, and if against your best wishes, you have been compelled to send troops to force us to compliance, you will easily account for it, Great father, in consulting your own feelings about the land of your own birth.... Dear to us was that home of our children, still dearer to us were the ashes of our forefathers, and how could we expect to find anywhere else aught that would compensate for such a loss.”*

But after summarizing their sorrow, the leaders of the Nation quickly pivoted to seeking a secure future for their Nation through controlled change. They asserted that the “change of country will necessitate the change of our habits; and if the aged portion of our people cannot do so, it is at least incumbent on us to provide for the growing generation, and to prepare this change by a prompt and well conducted education of youth.” This priceless letter was preserved in the records of the Office of Indian Affairs, but the minutes of most of the council meetings that followed the winter of 1846-47 were lost (in part perhaps because Akima Toopia passed away in the spring of 1847 on a journey east to address outstanding financial issues facing the Nation in Indiana). As a result of this loss, much of the experience of the early years post-removal is shrouded in darkness, and there is little known about how the Nation made decisions about adapting to its new environment and how its people rebuilt

back into the fold by building homes within the Nation’s new homeland west of the Mississippi in the La Cygne River valley in what would become the state of Kansas. In 1867, the Miami Nation was pressured into signing an omnibus treaty that included seven other tribes. In this treaty, the Nation agreed to relocate south to Indian Territory in what would become the state of Oklahoma. The Miami Nation purchased rights to just over 17,000 acres of land within a reservation that would come to be called the Confederated Peoria and Miami Reservation. The treaty also laid out the process by which citizens of the Miami Nation would have to remove themselves to Indian Territory or face the revocation of their tribal citizenship. The years after the United States Civil War were full of disruption and turmoil for the Miami Nation. The Nation had numerous illegal squatters on its lands in Kansas and as a result its citizens could not easily sell their lands before removing to the new reservation in Indian Territory. Leadership was in a constant state of flux as various chiefs were elected and then forced to resign over accusations of improper behavior. After a meeting recorded in the Council Books on August 3, 1871, the Council record goes silent for thirteen years. The August meeting declares that the council would meet again in September of the same year, but that meeting, if it happened, did not get recorded. The gap in the Council Book record is likely the product of the increasing disruptions created by the “self removal” policy created under the Treaty of 1867. It wasn’t until 1884 that all of the Miami Nation had completed their one-hundred-mile relocation to the Confederated Peoria and Miami Reservation. A few families may have trickled down after that date, but for the most part, after 1884, those who stayed behind in Kansas had United States citizenship forced on them and lost their Miami citizenship.



*Detail of an entry in the Miami Nation Council Book by Harley Palmer, then serving as “Clerk Protom”. Harley Palmer would become Chief of the Miami Tribe in the same year, following the death of Chief Thomas F. Richardville. Photo by Julie Olds, Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive collection.*

their lives. This period suffering and trauma produced a dark void in terms of documentation and oral tradition among Myaamia people. It is against this empty sadness that the Miami National Council Books stand as priceless historical, cultural, and traditional links to Myaamia people’s collective understanding of their Nation’s darkest period. Much to the benefit of history and Myaamia people, the record of this period of dramatic change resumes again with the October 29, 1860 entry in the first volume of the Miami National Council Books. During the fourteen years of missing council records, the Miami Nation built new homes and stabilized their population. In 1854, they ceded over seventy-eight percent of their 325,000-acre national reservation to the United States and were pushed to agree to allot their retained land base among their citizens. But the lack of governmental records for this period leaves unanswered many critical questions surrounding how the Nation initiated its rebuilding during its early years in Kansas following the 1846 removal from Indiana. The process of allotting the Miami National Reservation in Kansas Territory was complicated and required the council to meet regularly. The Council Books reflect that on November 13, 1860 the Miami National Council met to request that the sale of the reservations excess lands be postponed in order to account for the births of new citizens and the emigration of Myaamia people from Indiana back into their Nation. Since 1846, five Myaamia families had retained the right to reside outside their tribal nation in Indiana. But the Council Books preserve the Miami Nation’s continued will to allow absentee citizens of the Nation to immigrate

that the Council record picks up again in December of 1884. It seems highly likely that the Council had numerous meetings over the intervening thirteen years, but those records are mostly lost to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and its citizens. For this reason, many refer to the Miami Nation’s time in Kansas as the black hole of the Nation’s history. However, the lack of primary source materials is not merely a historical roadblock; it is also a cultural and emotional void that persists until today for Myaamia people. The Nation arrived in Indian Territory irrevocably altered for the worse by their time in Kansas. Yet, there is little that citizens of the Nation can connect with physically or emotionally to help them understand more fully the struggles their ancestors endured in order that the Nation survive. Given this emotional hole, the Miami Nation Council Books present Myaamia people with a link to their collective past unequalled by any other contemporary cultural, social, or political object. After 1884, the Council Books pick up the narrative of a tribal government struggling to adjust to a political landscape that was being shaken to its core by the earthquake that was the United States allotment policy. This policy, most broadly enacted by the Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887, was complicated in Indian Territory (Oklahoma) because each reservation had its own separate and somewhat unique legislation. Briefly put, the Dawes Act stipulated that each Native American head of household would receive 160 acres (fewer for minors and single persons). Individual parcels of land were called “allotments.” According to the Dawes Act’s Euro-American authors, separating Native communities from their communal land base into individual family plots would undermine



# Miami Nation Enterprises To Wind Down Joplin Operations

*The following press release was published in the Joplin Globe in early April.*

MIAMI OK, April 7, 2017: Miami Nation Enterprises (MNE) will exit its investments in the Joplin Area including former Innovative Objects subsidiaries. PILR/blu20, Choice Technologies and White Loon Construction will cease business operations by the end of this month. All of these operations have suffered a sustained period of losses and were not considered core to the MNE diversified base of business enterprises. Peter Murphy, MNE CEO stated “We have reached the decision to cease operations in these entities due to their continued requirement to be subsidized by Miami Nation Enterprises. We are saddened to part ways with the many fine employees who have provided great value to these companies and their customers.” MNE entered the Innovative Objects

investment in 2014 on the basis of fraudulent information, discovered by internal accounting operations, and was unable to overcome the difficult financial situation absorbed by PILR/blu20 and Choice Technologies. White Loon Construction has long been associated with Miami Nation and has completed many outstanding projects for the Tribe over the past twelve years. Currently, the limited construction opportunities in this market make it difficult for a small, wholly owned company to be sustainable and profitable.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s continued existence is due to, and in honor of, its ancestors who fought and struggled to survive and thrive in a changing world. The Tribe’s economic development efforts are vital to provide revenues for the government and its people.

Chief Doug Lankford spoke of the Tribe’s businesses, “Our focus is on profitable

growth, and we will continue to capitalize on the value of our businesses and remain focused on actions that will ultimately improve our financial results to provide the greatest return for our Tribal members. On behalf of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Business Committee and the Miami Nation Enterprises Board of Directors and management team, we sincerely wish the best for our employees’ future career endeavors,” Chief Lankford said.

Miami Nation Enterprises (MNE) is a political economic sub-division of the sovereign federally recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and was created by Tribal Leadership to pursue economic development opportunities for the good of the Miami Nation and its citizens. Miami Nation Enterprises has successful subsidiary operations in Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Ohio, North Carolina and Virginia.

## A History of the Miami National Council Books... Ironstrack - Shriver, continued from page 7B

tribes as societies (then viewed as a positive change), teach Native people the value of individual land ownership, and allow non-allotted reservation land to be sold to Euro-American buyers. This coercion was extended to the Miami tribe as well. The final legislation allotting the Confederated Peoria and Miami reservation ensured that each tribal citizen -- man, woman, and child -- would receive 200 acres each. The Council Books outline in detail how the Miami Nation began to stabilize after their years in Kansas and how tribal leadership attempted to get ahead of federal legislation and ensure that if allotment their shared reservation was to occur, it would happen on the best terms possible. Following the passage of an act to allot the shared reservation, Miami citizens quickly received their allotments, all of which were protected from sale, loss due to debt, and taxation for twenty-five years. Following allotment, the Miami Nation’s Council was mainly concerned with administering, attempting to allot, and eventually selling the Miami Nation’s portion of the excess acreage of the shared reservation. By 1910, the year of the last entry in the second volume, these issues had been resolved, for the most part.

According to Myaamia practice, community and governmental records, like the Miami National Council Books, were viewed as inalienable from the Nation from the their point of creation until the present day. For Myaamia people living in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries these records were prized collective possessions stored in the homes of leaders or those of their children or grandchildren. The Miami Nation did not reacquire land until the 1960s and did not have facilities of their own to store and protect vital materials until much later. In the intervening years, families cared for objects of great significance to everyone and in most cases the community knew who cared for particular items and how to go about visiting these family-centered archives.

In the case of the Miami National Council Books, Frank Pooler – a grandson of Thomas Richardville who had once kept the council records – cared for these books until the early 20th Century when he temporarily loaned them to the Oklahoma Historical Society. Pooler then requested the Council Books and other documents be returned to him in 1949. Based on circumstantial evidence, it appears that Frank Pooler illegally sold these precious objects in order to pay for surgery that his wife apparently needed. This apparent sale occurred without the knowledge or approval of the tribal nation to whom the records belong. Pursuant to Miami customary and constitutional law, the Council Books were not, and have never been, alienable by a particular individual despite Frank Pooler’s actions. Like other nations in which sovereignty rests in “the people,” including the United States, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s constitution asserts that “The supreme governing body of the Miami Tribe shall be the Miami General Council. The Membership of the Council shall consist of all members of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma eighteen (18) years of age and older.” Moreover, the status of the Council

Books as collective objects of the Miami Nation continues to this day.

The fragmentation of the Miami Nation’s population, the complete loss of a national land base, and the loss of ability to protect objects of cultural patrimony were all a part of the United States government’s plan to “civilize” American Indians and absorb them into the fabric of American society. Like new immigrants from foreign countries, American Indians would disperse across the United States and leave their native language, culture, and politics behind. For Myaamia people living in Oklahoma, the experience was made even worse by the great poverty and the general level of deprivation experienced as a result of the Great Depression.

As a result of the widespread financial collapse of the Great Depression many Myaamia families dispersed across the United States in search of work. Many of these families had become landless upon the expiration of protections for their allotments. Their lands were taken due to debt or back taxes, or in some cases were sold only as a last resort to avoid seizure. In the early years of the Great Depression the Miami Tribe probably reached its lowest point in terms of effective governance. Elected leaders, like Chief Harley Palmer, were left collecting donations of farm products from tribal members in order to afford the stamps necessary to mail correspondence to United States officials. But under the auspices of the Indian Reorganization Act and the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act, the Miami Nation reorganized as the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and formed a Business Committee to pursue the economic development that began to slowly build a foundation for economic, political, and eventually cultural recovery for the Nation.

The Council Books have and continue to be key to that recovery. Over the past seventy years, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma has rebuilt its economic foundation, strengthened its internal governance, and begun the most challenging task of revitalizing its traditional language and culture. Along the way the Nation and its people came to the realization that they did not fully understand how the terrible losses they lived with came about. The Myaamia people began to ask themselves deeply reflective and difficult questions, like “how did our language go silent?” And “how did we come to have population spread across the United States?” As tribal scholars and non-tribal historians and anthropologists worked on exploring these questions they identified the Miami Nation’s time in Kansas from 1846-1873 as a key transformative period. The Council Books have been found to be the most significant original Myaamia source of documentation of tribal governance and community change in that era. The maelstrom of events in Kansas set many forces of loss in motion. These losses often did not fully mature until decades after the nation left Kansas, but understanding these losses requires a tracing back of their origins and the Council Books serve as vital sources in this work.

Many surprising new historical realities have emerged through the collective explorations of the Miami Nation’s years in Kansas

and its transition to their shared reservation in Indian Territory. Miami Nation citizens have been surprised by the degree of documented interaction between the Nation in Kansas and Myaamia people who remained behind in Indiana after the first forced removal. The Miami National Council books speak directly to this ongoing connection. The hands who touched those pages, took minutes, and signed or made their mark on letters or minutes were carrying forward a joint effort to preserve the Miami Nation and to find a way for the Nation to thrive again despite the divisions produced by forced removal.

Additionally, the Council Books demonstrate a significant change in the realms of public governance and gender. Prior to forced removal in 1846, public councils were, for the most part, made up of only men. But beginning in the 1860s, Myaamia women began to participate in the councils of the Nation, vote in tribal elections, and even serve their Nation in a formal capacity as Secretary of the Council. Scholars assume that Myaamia women’s input was never completely separated from Myaamia governance, but the National Council Books provide tangible evidence of the essential work of Myaamia women during a period of rapid change and horrific loss.

The impacts of the increased knowledge of historical changes provided by the Miami National Council Books are not purely factual in nature. The words carefully recorded over one hundred pages in two separate volumes represent a physical and emotional connection with a collective Myaamia past that is no less significant or meaningful than the two chests of ancient wampum belts and painted hides that were destroyed in 1791. All of these objects were constructed to help Myaamia people recount and remember their stories, historical and otherwise. Wampum and hides are often more readily identified as “Indian” things because they are more obvious in their uniqueness. Perhaps this is because they are not viewed as exotic forms of record keeping by Americans today. However, the Miami National Council Books embody a record that is just as valuable as the Nation’s more ancient stories. Despite the Council Books reflecting a Euro-American method of governmental documentation, their historical, cultural, and emotional value is paramount because they demonstrate the adaptations Myaamia people made in order to find a path forward for their Nation and their people.

The Miami Nation Council Books are irreplaceable and have a intense emotional value to Myaamia people today. From the recording of the first Miami National Council meeting in the home of Louis Lafontaine on October 29, 1860 these Council Books were the inalienable property of the Miami Nation. They continued to be the inalienable property of the Miami Nation on the day of the last entry in Miami, Oklahoma on May 24, 1910. This inalienable status did not change as tribal leadership changed and new volumes of Miami Council records were created by the Nation.



# Toopeeliciki: Highlighting Accomplishments and Honors Bestowed on Miami Citizens!

## Frank Leonard Honored by AARP Oklahoma Reprinted with permission

*The following press release AARP Oklahoma Indian Elders Honors has been reprinted here with permission of the AARP.*

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Chief Douglas Lankford, and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Business Committee, proudly submit the nomination of tribal elder, Frank Dean Leonard, for the 2016 AARP Oklahoma Indian Elders Honors.

Frank Dean Leonard is an enrolled member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and has spent his life supporting the Tribe, fellow tribal members, and his community in and around Miami, Oklahoma. Mr. Leonard, is in attendance yearly at the Tribe’s Annual Meeting, and attends all tribally sponsored events to include the Tribe’s summer Powwow, Myaamia Family Day, Winter Gathering, Winter Story Telling, and many more events and activities.

Mr. Leonard has diligently continued to serve his Tribe as a tribally appointed member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Business Development Authority (MTOBDA). The MTOBDA is a subordinate economic entity of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma overseeing the Tribe’s business ownership interests with Rocket Gaming Systems, a Class II gaming systems manufacturing company. As a respected member of the MTOBDA, Mr. Leonard participates in monthly Board meetings to review business financials and company reports submitted by the Rocket CEO and other business directors. Mr. Leonard has been on the MTOBDA Board since the Board’s creation in 1999 and has served as Vice-Chairperson and Board member.

Mr. Leonard has also served his Tribe as an elected member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee, established by Constitution of the Miami Tribe, serves to determine disputes within the jurisdiction of the Tribe. The Grievance Committee term is a three (3) year term with elections held at the Tribe’s Annual Meeting.

Mr. Leonard’s service to the Tribe’s Board and Committee identified above, is enhanced by his business experiences in his life profession working with B.F. Goodrich in Miami, Oklahoma. While with BF Goodrich Mr. Leonard served as a Union Steward for 14 years. For two



*Miami elder Frank Leonard, son of late Chief Cy Leonard, is pictured with his daughter Miami Tribe First Councilperson Donya Williams at the 2016 AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors banquet. Staff photo.*

of those years he served as the Vice Divisional Chairman for Department 8060 where he represented approximately 300 employees. Mr. Leonard also volunteered his time to coach pee wee football and help with high school football.

At a time in life when many relax and enjoy their retirement years, Mr. Leonard steadfastly continues to serve his Tribe, its leadership, its businesses, his fellow members, tribal youth, members of other tribes and the community at large. Mr. Leonard is truly a man of strength, integrity and commitment, and his service to this Tribe is respected and greatly appreciated.

It is with great honor that the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma submits to you our beloved elder, Frank Dean Leonard, for the 2016 AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors. Mr. Frank Dean Leonard truly stands as a respected, hardworking tribal elder with a selfless commitment to all.

## Cheyenne Watson Takes on New Leadership Role - Wins Miss Indian NEO Crown Submitted by Cheyenne Watson

Aya, aya ceeki eeweemakiki- Hello all of my relatives! I am proud to announce that I have taken a new leadership role following my two years of service as Miami Nation Princess and Ambassador. I started attending Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in the fall of 2016 and I had the opportunity to meet young women who had served in a special position known as “Miss Indian NEO”. Since talking with them I made it a personal goal to become one of the next to serve as Miss Indian NEO.

While attending college, I waited for an email to be sent out with the requirements for running for this position. I started getting involved with the American Indian Center for Excellence/Native American Student Association (AICE/NASA), to show my determination and dedication. I had to write an essay on what I had done for community service and why I thought I should be selected. I had stated in my essay that getting to meet the former Miss Indian NEO’s had opened my eyes that I could still carry on to be an ambassador for my tribe, but for other tribes as well. I had to have 2 letters of recommendation and I had asked a teacher from NEO, Mrs. Beth Blalock and the President of Grand River Intertribal Society, Mr. Justin Barrett, (I am currently serving on the board of directors for this entity). I was also asked to do a recording in our language to introduce myself for the power point presentation that would be played before the pageant that I would have to participate in.

On November 1, 2016, all of the contestants for Miss Indian NEO, the advisor sponsor and president came upon the stage to show the power point presentation, and talk about some of the accomplishments for each girl. After the introductions, we had a guest speaker tell us a story in English and Cherokee. My brother Shawn played the rabbit, and Chief Lankford played the creator, which were the two main roles. The story was about how the rabbit got his long ears, and if he would follow the guidance of the creator to show his determination that he deserved his long ears. After the story was over the other young lady and I were asked to come back out on stage to answer a question that was drawn at random and was not known what it could even be about. I was asked, “What have I learned from my elders?” I had just a moment to come up with the answer and very nervously stated our language, stories, games and traditional food. But if was not for my elders I could not help pass the tradition onto others in our family.

The three judges were introduced to everyone, and then were given the chance to ask all the ladies any questions. The president of AICE, after explaining the roles and requirements for the Princess, made the



*Cheyenne Watson has been crowned Miss Indian NEO! Cheyenne served a two year term (2014-2016) as Miami Nation Princess and Ambassador and now continues to honor her community in this new role. Congratulations Cheyenne!*

announcement of who won. When I heard my name announced I was in shock. My family, who were in the audience, started clapping, and whistling to show how proud they were of me!

Since being crowned I have been attending benefits for other tribes, several stomp dance invitations, and even asked to sign the Lord’s Prayer for a special benefit. I was also honored to receive an award for Outstanding Under class Female for leadership at a conference that took place at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. I was one of many selected participants to be considered for this award which required going up against representatives from quite a few universities such as OU, OSU, University of Nebraska, and many more. I am so honored to be able to serve our Tribe, and my school, in this way. Neewe for your support and encouragement!



## Toopeeliciki: Highlighting Accomplishments and Honors Bestowed on Miami Citizens!

### Miami Citizen Rachel Dougherty Honored by Progressive Grocer

Reprinted with permission

Progressive Grocer's "Top Women in Grocery" is the industry's leading awards program that recognizes the outstanding contributions from female leaders in the retail food industry. The purpose of the awards program is to celebrate the critical roles the honorees serve in their companies, communities and the industry at large.

Candidates are nominated for one of three award categories – Senior-Level Executives, Rising Stars, and Store Managers – which represent all levels in the industry within both the retailer and supplier communities. In addition, the Trailblazer Award recognizes a single food industry executive whose leadership and vision have had a profound influence on women in the retail food industry.

The Top Women in Grocery winners are announced in June. The announcement includes recognition in Progressive Grocer's June issue. Winners are also formally honored at a gala awards celebration, where finalists are individually recognized with an engraved award before a crowd of industry luminaries, colleagues, and invited guests from across the country.

Miami Tribe citizen, Rachel (Niles) Dougherty was honored in the "Rising Star" awards category of Top Women in Grocery and, effective November 1, 2016, Rachel was appointed Associate Director, Product Supply, at Proctor & Gamble, Cincinnati. With this promotion Rachel is the only actively employed Native American Indian to reach the Associate Director level and the second in corporate history (Daniel Myers, who has since left the company, was promoted to Associate Director over 20 years ago).

Rachel lives in Ohio with her husband Ryan and their two children. A descendant of Tahkama, her fourth great-grandfather is late Chief John Roubidoux, her grandmother is the late Julia Gamble Lankford, and her mother is Carolyn Lankford Niles. Miami Chief Douglas Lankford is her uncle.



*Tribal citizen Rachel Dougherty was awarded as a "Rising Star" by Progressive Grocer's "Top Women in Grocery". Mayaawi teepi!*

### Allen Brothers Win Roping Events

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

Miami citizens Lafe and Laramie Allen, of Llano, TX have both garnered a number of Rodeo wins. Each rope and ride horses in rodeo and show. Lafe is 18 years old and Laramie is 16 years old and are the sons of Lucas Allen, Grandsons of Bill Allen, Great Grandsons of Mary Mae Lucas Allen, and Gr-gr grandsons of Silver Dollar Lucas.

Of their many wins, Lafe won the roping horse show with his horse Reno, in Houston, TX, early in 2016..

Laramie won the United States Team Roping World Jr in November of 2015 and the International Final Youth Rodeo in Shawnee,

OK in July of 2016. Laramie moved on to the Jr National Final Rodeo in Las Vegas, NV December 1-4 2016.

This summer Lafe will attend Auctioneer School in Gillette, WY and is set to begin classes at Cisco Junior College in Cisco, TX, this fall where he will be a member of the rodeo team. Lafe is a Miami Tribe Scholarship recipient.

Laramie is a Junior in High School and is currently sitting at first in the CPRA (Cowboy's Professional Rodeo Association) Team Roping standings.



*Brothers, Lafe (left), and Laramie Allen, Miami citizens from Llano, TX, are rodeo winners!*

### Gage Lankford Receives Youth Award

By Julie Olds, CRO

Gage Lankford, of Catoosa, OK, received the "Community Excellence Youth Award" for citizenship, academic teamwork and community involvement from Team Catoosa, a community program of the Catoosa Chamber of Commerce. Gage was also honored to be on the Superintendent's Honor Roll for the first and second semester of this school year.

Gage is the son of Tribal member Nathan Lankford and Lindsey Lankford. His Miami grandparents are Jerry and Diane Lankford. His great-grandmother is the late Julia Gamble Lankford. He is of the Goodboo, Roubidoux and Richardville Myaamia family lines.



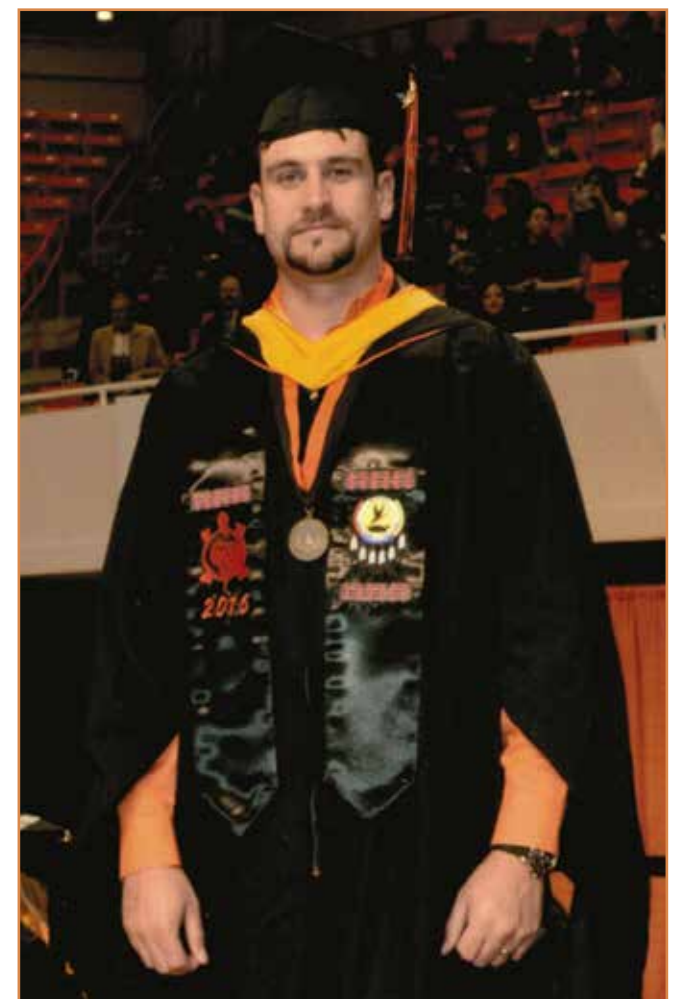
*Gage Lankford*

### Jordan Williams Earns MBA

Staff Article

Kintiwa neehi Jordan Dean Williams weenswita -Jordan Williams graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma State University on December 9, 2016.

Jordan is married to Lana Williams and is the son of First Councilperson Donya Williams and husband Jamie. His grandparents are Miami Tribal citizen Frank Leonard and wife Johnnie, and Janetta and the late James Williams. He is the great grandson of the late Chief CY Leonard.



*Jordan Williams graduated with a MBA from Oklahoma State University, on December 9, 2016. Mayaawi teepi!*

### Grace Peconge Wins at Allen County Fair

Staff Article

Mayaawi teepi Grace Peconge of Hoagland, IN! Grace was the Intermediate Llama Performance Grand Champion at the Allen County Fair, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Grace and her llama Avater took first place in all three obstacles and showmanship. She competed against twelve other kids ranging in age from eleven to fourteen. Grace has trained with Avater for the last three years and has been in 4H llamas for five years.



*Tribal citizen Grace Peconge, of Hoagland, IN, shows off her Grand Champion llama, "Avater", at the Allen County Fair.*

**The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Community is encouraged to submit family news to this publication.**

**Submit News to:  
mtocro@gmail.com**

**All photos must be 300 dpi.**



# waanantakhšinka ... Lying Quietly

**James Otho “J.O.” Downing**, 91, of Chetopa, Kansas passed away at 12:40 p.m., Sunday, June 26, 2016 at Freeman West Hospital in Joplin, Missouri.

He was born January 23, 1925 in Commerce, Oklahoma to Clint William and Marie A. (Lucas) Downing. He grew up and attended school in Commerce where he graduated from high school in 1943. After graduation, he joined the United States Navy and fought during World War II in the South Pacific where he drove a landing craft. His assignment was to drive the boat onto the beach letting off ground troops while dodging bullets. Upon his honorable discharge, he attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami.

J.O. fell in love with a beautiful Chetopa girl, Maxine Blundell. They were married on June 9, 1946 at the Assembly of God Church in Chetopa. After marriage, they bought a grocery store in Commerce. During that time, a son, Ron, was born. J.O. and Maxine later sold the store and moved to California. They then relocated to Wichita, Kansas where J.O. worked at Steffan’s Dairy for 25 years. While in Wichita, the couple became parents of a baby girl, Debbie Ann. After being injured while working at Steffan’s, he was forced to quit. J.O. then worked for Schofield’s Pontiac dealership where he loved selling new cars and went above and beyond to satisfy his customers.

Following his retirement in 1986, the

**Douglas E. “Rick” Downing**, 60, of Chetopa, passed away Wednesday morning, July 27, 2016 at his home.

He was born February 15, 1956 in Wichita, Kansas to Norman C. and E. Darlene (Piatt) Downing. Rick grew up in Wichita where he graduated from Wichita North High School.

Following high school, he worked at a full service gas station and later as a fireman for the City of Wichita. While serving in the United States Navy for 13 years as an avionics technician, he was stationed on the USS Independence aircraft carrier. Following his honorable discharge, he worked in New York as a union carpenter.

After the death of his father in 2007, Rick returned to Chetopa to care for his mother. While living in Chetopa, he worked as a card dealer at Downstream Casino. He was a member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. He enjoyed riding Harleys, Motocross, water skiing, scuba diving, playing poker, and playing his guitar and singing.

He and Tammy Ferguson were married. They later divorced. He and Jeanie Hill were married. They later divorced.

Survivors include: his mother, Darlene Downing, of the home; one son, Travis Downing of Norfolk, VA; two stepdaughters, Megan Gyetvai and Amy Hill; several grandchildren; three brothers – Jeffrey Downing and his wife, Rita of Wichita, KS, Brent Downing of Norman, OK, and Kent Downing and his wife, Cherie of K.C., MO; one sister – Brenda Bekemeier and her husband, Scott of Mt. Vernon, MO; nieces – Story Downing and Jennifer King; nephews – Adam Suder, Jeremy King, Brock Bekemeier and Caleb Bekemeier.

He was preceded in death by his father, Norman Downing, on September 10, 2007; and one son, Brandon Ryan Downing.

Memorial services were held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, August 6, 2016 at the Bath-Forbes-Hoffman Funeral Home in Chetopa. The family received friends from 1:00 p.m. until service time, on Saturday, at the funeral home. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery in Chetopa with military honors given by Brown-Bishop Post No. 704, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Miami Indian graveside custom was given by Chief Lankford of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Memorials are suggested to the United Methodist Church in Chetopa. These may be left at or mailed to Bath-Forbes-Hoffman Funeral Home, P.O. Box 346, Chetopa, KS 67336.

**Veteran** 

couple returned to Chetopa where they were both active members of the Chetopa Chamber of Commerce. J.O. also served on the Chetopa City Council and on the Miami Indian Tribal Business Committee for 15 years and was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Following the death of his wife, Maxine Downing, on June 29, 2011; Ron, his son, moved in with him. During the next five years, the two became best buddies.

J.O. loved attending all tribal functions and especially enjoyed eating at the Longhouse with his many friends.

Survivors include: One Son – Ron Downing of Chetopa, KS, One Daughter – Debbie VonFeldt and husband, Dwight of Oklahoma City, OK. Six Grandchildren – Mike VonFeldt, Mark VonFeldt and wife, Kristin; Joseph VonFeldt, Christopher Downing, Jon Downing, and Melissa Downing. Two Great-Grandchildren – Georgia Grace VonFeldt and Walker Isaiah VonFeldt. One Sister – Dolores Rhrobach of Reading, PA.

Numerous Nieces and Nephews.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, Clint and Marie Downing; and one brother, Norman Downing.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 30, 2016 at the Community Bible Church in Chetopa, KS. Burial followed at Oak Hill Cemetery in Chetopa with final rites given by the Chief of the Miami Tribe.

**Reva Jean (Leonard) Sisk** went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, September 7, 2016.

She was born on March 27, 1933 in Picher, Oklahoma to Joe and Ruth (Lassiter) Leonard.

She married David Sisk on February 26, 1955 in Carterville, Missouri.

She worked as a substitute teacher for many years, and then as a housekeeper at Freeman Hospital. She enjoyed baking cakes for family and friends, watching the St. Louis Cardinals, listening to The Statler Brothers, and spending time with her great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her spouse, David Sisk, parents, Joe and Ruth, brother, Chief Floyd Leonard, and sister, Shirley Sweeten.

She is survived by daughters, Daveda Sisk of Miami, Oklahoma, Becky Mee and Husband Kevin of Stotts City, Missouri; son, Terry Sisk and wife Sheryl of Miami, Oklahoma; granddaughters, Amy Wilson and husband Matt of Miami, Oklahoma, Stacy Craig and husband Clint of Baxter Springs, Kansas; and great grandchildren, Cortney Craig, Brayden Craig, Kalub Wilson, Emilee Craig, Ashlee Wilson, Mailey Sharp and Kailey Sharp.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, September 12, 2016 at the Carterville Cemetery. Craig Price officiated. Pallbearers were Craig Thompson, Kevin Mee, Clint Craig, Scott Reuscher, Matt Wilson and Van Benson.



**Reva Jean (Leonard) Sisk**



**James (J.O.) Downing**

**Veteran** 

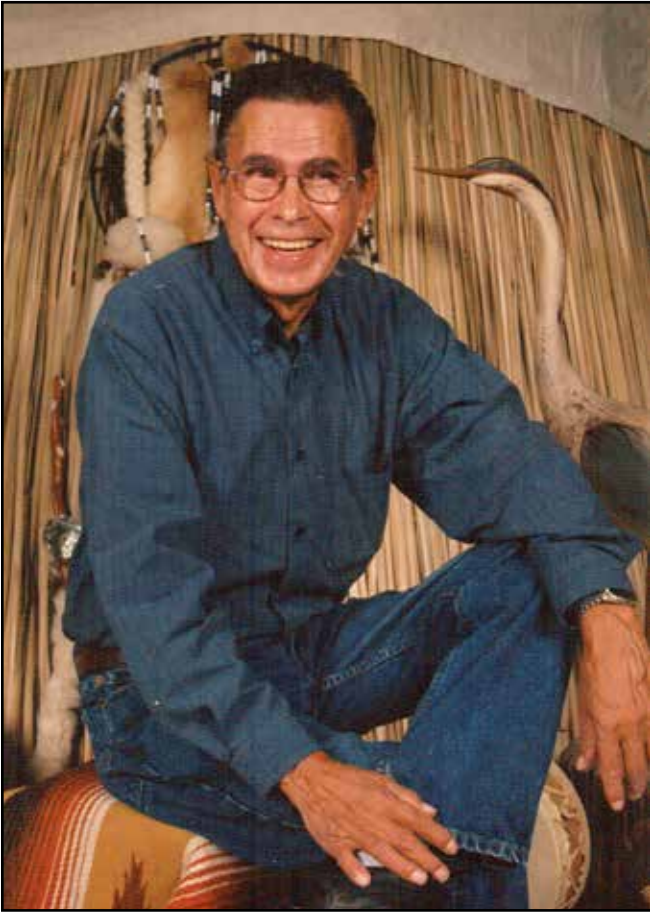
Memorials are suggested to the Miami Tribe Seniors. These may be left at or mailed to Bath-Forbes-Hoffman Funeral Home, P.O. Box 346, Chetopa, KS 67336.

**Harold D. Peconge**, 79, was called to rest Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016, in Fort Wayne. Harold Peconge awiila Myaamia. iihkipih sinonki eeminoo teeci, neehi kiihkay onki weeki maaci Karen K. Peconge. Niiyaaha neewiickicki, neehi Neekalaaciki yaalanwi piloohsahi.

Harold Peconge is a Miami Indian. He is from Peru, Ind. and married Karen K. Peconge in Fort Wayne. Together they lived there and had five children. Harold worked as an assembler with Navistar for 36 years, retiring in 2002.

He was a Citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, member of St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge 3512, American Legion Post 82, U.A.W Springfield Local 402 and 57, Teamsters Local 414, Army/Navy Garrison 57.

Surviving are his wife, Karen K. Peconge; daughters, Tammy (Richard Lally) Markel of Seneca, S.C. and Misty Peconge of Hicksville, Ohio; sons, Tim Peconge of Garland, Texas, Thomas Peconge of Fort Wayne and Doug Peconge of Hoagland, Ind.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by parents, Elmer and Margaret Peconge; and brothers, Ralph, Paul and Elmer Peconge.



**Harold D. Peconge**

**Veteran** 

**Submit Obituaries to:**  
**thatley@miamination.com**  
All photos must be 300 dpi.



## waanantakhšinka ... Lying Quietly

**Julia A. Wyatt** was born on September 12, 1940 in Melrose, Kansas and passed away on November 4, 2016. She blessed many lives during her 76 years on this earth and was always smiling. Julia always stood strong in her faith and was a member of Willard Avenue Baptist Church and a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. She loved the outdoors, her flowers and animals, and never missed a chance to be surrounded by family. She will be greatly missed.

Julia is preceded in death by her husband, Robert Wyatt, her daughter, Susan Klem, her parents, Clarence and Anna (Leonard) Hayward, and her sister, Betty Carlson. She is survived by her sons, Mike (Cindy) Klem and Jeff (Angie) Klem, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Her brother, Gene Hayward, passed from this life on March 8, 2017. Julia was the granddaughter of Tribal citizens, Charles Leonard and Addie Billington Leonard.

Services were held at 10 a.m., Thursday, November 10, 2016, at Maple Hill Funeral Home in Kansas City, Kansas. Pastor Aaron Patton officiated. Pallbearers were Michael Klem, Steven Marquardt, Greg Carlson, Eric Klem, Christopher Redman and Van Hayward. Burial followed at Maple Hill Cemetery, Kansas City, Kansas.



Julia A. Wyatt

## Veteran's Benefit

**The Miami Nation Veteran's Benefit was announced during the 2014 Annual General Council Meeting. It is designed to work just like the Tribe's existing elders and disability benefit debit cards. Veterans will receive a debit card, pre-loaded with \$500 to help with health-care expenses. If you are an elder and a veteran, you will receive an additional \$250, a total of \$750 on your card.**

**Veterans must apply through the Tribal Enrollment Office and provide proof of honorable or medical discharge, or current service status. The application can be downloaded from the Tribal website at [www.miamination.com](http://www.miamination.com). If you have additional questions, please contact Tera Hatley at 918-541-1324.**

**Rev. Clarence E. (Gene) Hayward**, 82, went home to his Lord March 8, 2017. He was born in Chetopa, Kansas, August 9, 1934, to Clarence A. and Anna Rose (Leonard) Hayward. He spent his adult life serving his Lord and mankind, first in the U. S. Army, 17 years as a teacher at Northeast Jr. High School (Kansas City, MO), and the remainder of his life as an American Baptist minister. He served churches in Kansas and Iowa.

Gene was encouraged by his maternal grandparents to honor and be proud of his Miami Indian heritage. At the time of his birth, the Miami Nation in Oklahoma was hardly functioning; however, the tribe was still able to register new tribal members. His grandfather, Charles Leonard walked from Chetopa to Miami, Oklahoma to register Gene on the tribal roles. Both of Gene's grandparents, Charles and Addie (Billington) Leonard were tribal members. Charles and four other men in the tribe fought to start the tribal organization after many years of non-activity.

Gene was proud of how the tribe had progressed. He was very supportive of the language project to bring the Myamia language back to the tribal members after it and many of the tribe's traditions were lost during his grandparents' generation. Even though Gene knew he would probably never be comfortable with the native language, he knew the importance of it for future generations.

In 2010, his interest in tribal history resulted in the publication of his research in the book "The Lost Years: Miami Indians in Kansas."

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Betty Carlson and Julia Wyatt, and

**Rebecca (Becky) Jayne Winslow** passed from this life on Thursday, December 22, 2016. She was born January 23, 1956, at Medicine Lodge, KS, the daughter of George Poschen and Irene Maye (DeRome) Steffan. She attended Haven High School, was past president of Local 1525 T and had worked as a labeler for HUBCO. Becky was formerly of O'Fallon, MO, belonging to the Show Me St. Louis Corvair Club and was a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Surviving is her husband of 12 years, Paul Winslow, married November 13, 2004, in Hutchinson. Also surviving are: sister, Sister Edwina Pope of Wichita, KS; children, Tammie Fletchall (Jake), Jennie Patterson (Shane), both of South Hutchinson, Jerry Bullock and partner, Parker McAllister, of Nickerson; step children, Cara Mayberry (Todd), of Advanced, MO, Patrick Winslow (Amanda), of Ludlow, MA, Dominic Winslow (Emily), of St. Louis County, MO; 16 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Patricia Patty Stahlheber and Jennifer Lynn Williams.

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, December 27, 2016, at Elliot Chapel, Hutchinson, with Father Tom Welk presiding. Burial followed in Iuka, Cemetery. Memorial gifts may be made to the Cancer Council of Reno County or Hutchinson Animal Shelter, in care of Elliot Mortuary, 1219 N. Main, Hutchinson, KS 67501.



Rebecca (Becky) Jayne Winslow

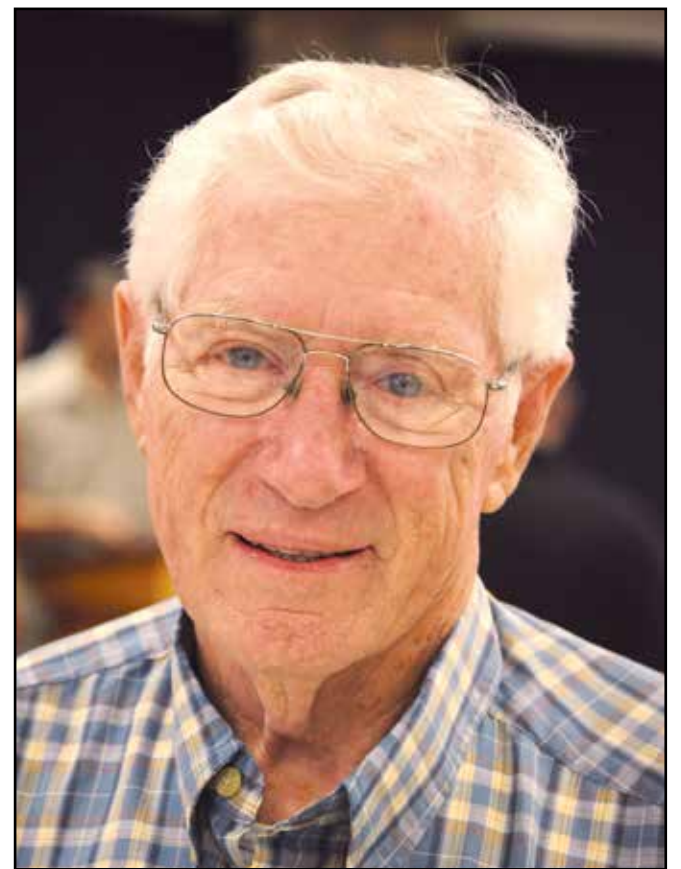
great-granddaughter Zara Hayward.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Helen (Heness), daughter Ivalah (Randy) Allen, son Van (Sandy) Hayward, grandchildren Kyrstin Allen (Jason) Bervert, Alan (Jamie) Hayward, Blake (Erica) Allen, David Hayward and James Hayward, and great-grandchildren Maxwell, Brinley, Tate and McKinley.

He will be greatly missed but we know he is rejoicing with his Lord and we shall be together again.

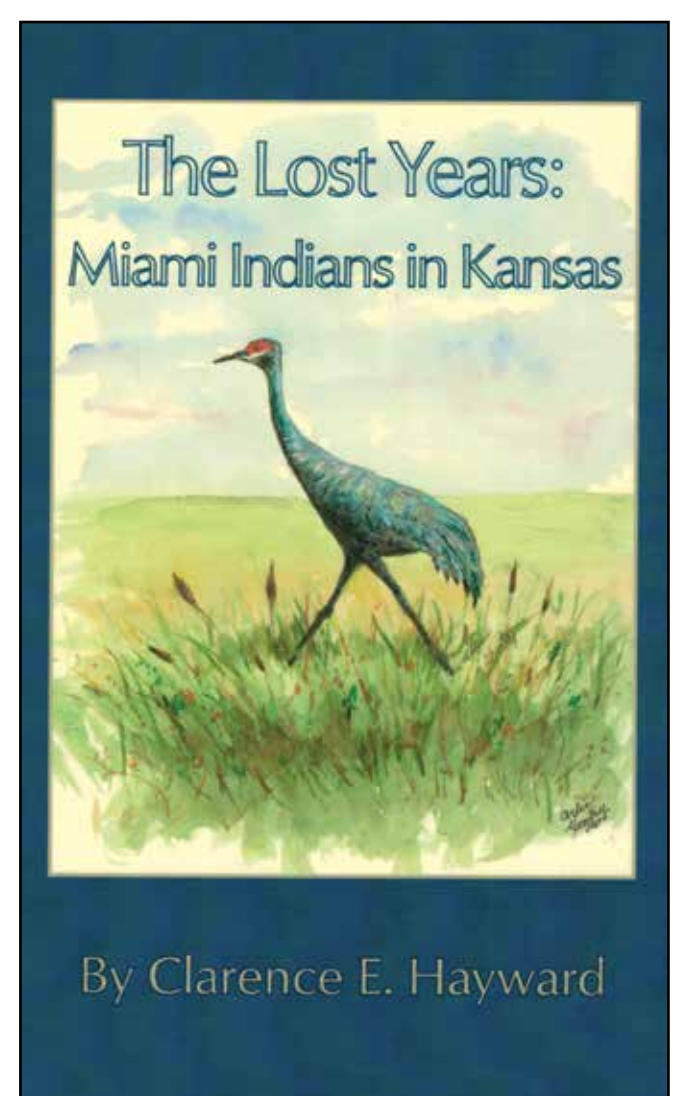
Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 18, 2017 at Maple Hill Funeral Home, Kansas City, Kansas. Dr. Rev. Steve Neal and Rev. Roger Ramsel officiated. Pallbearers were Butch Owens, Louis Bollen, Duaine Shaw, Jack Hansford, Bob Smith, Ray Peterson and Charles Faraci. Honorary pallbearers were Kyrstin Bervert, Blake Allen, Alan Hayward, David Hayward and James Hayward.

*The Cultural Resources Office extends the respect of the staff, our research team, and historians, to the family of Gene Hayward. His personal work, and publication of that work, has aided the ongoing research efforts of the Nation in regard to the years the Tribe lived in its reserve area in east central Kansas.*



Clarence "Gene" Hayward

**Veteran** 



*The late Rev. Clarence E. (Gene) Hayward, (right) spent a good deal of time researching Miami history. In 2010, his interest in tribal history resulted in the publication of his research in the book "The Lost Years: Miami Indians in Kansas." The publication is available through the Miami Nation Gift Shop.*



## peenaalinta... *One who is born*

**Beatrice Josephine Masseo** was born on Wednesday 06/22/16 @ 10:23AM at home. She weighed 8lbs, 4 oz and is healthy!

Her parents are Tribal citizen Amy Ratzloff Masseo & husband Joshua Murray Masseo. Her grandparents are Tribal citizen Mitchell Ratzloff & Susan Fouts and Joe & Darlene Masseo.



*Beatrice Josephine Masseo*

**Claire Jane Adkins** was born on April 29, 2017 at 4:32am weighing 6lbs 6oz and measuring 20in long. Her mother, Melanie Adkins, is a descendent of Thomas F Richardville. Claire is received by her mother (Melanie), her father (Benjamin), brother (Eli), and sister (Eleanor).



*Claire Jane Adkins*

**Adeline Alice Mabelle Fox** was born February 21 at 9:48am in kiihkayonki (Fort Wayne, IN). She weighed 6lbs 14.9 oz and was 21 inches long.

Adeline's parents are Tribal member Kristina Fox and her husband Jonathan Fox of Oxford, OH. Her maternal grandparents are Tribal member Leonard Marks, and Jacqueline Zimmerman. Her paternal grandparents are Michael & Susan Fox.



*Adeline Alice Mabelle Fox*

**Rio Vincent Swaidner** was born on September 14, 2016 at 11:12am in Bismarck, North Dakota to proud parents, Scott & Lauren Swaidner. He weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Rio descends from the Richardville, La-Fontaine, and Godfroy families. Both of his parents are enrolled citizens of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, who met while attending Miami University on the Heritage Award.



*Lauren and Scott Swaidner, are pictured with their baby boy, Rio Vincent Swaidner. Rio is pictured at right.*



**Matthew Curtis Moore** - Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Jordan (Lawson) Moore and husband Matthew Henry Moore announce the birth of their son, Matthew Curtis Moore. Curt arrived at 10:11 PM on Wednesday, November 23rd 2016 at Integris Hospital in Miami, OK. Curt weighed 7 Pounds 10 Ounces and measured 22 inches long.

His Maternal Grandparents are Tribal

member (past Tribal Secretary-Treasurer) Julie and her husband, Dr. Chauncey Witcraft. His Paternal Grandparents are Karen and the late Curtis Moore. Curt's Great Grandma is Tribal citizen Bobbie Munson. Baby Curt is a descendent of Emma Gordon McBee for whom the Historic Property, known as "The Gordon House", is named.



*Miami Tribe Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Moore and husband Matthew welcomed baby Matthew Curtis on November 23, 2016. Baby Curt is pictured at right.*



## myaamia iilweeko!

### THE ANNUAL

### CHIEF'S LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

DON'T FORGET TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR MYAAMIA LANGUAGE FOR THE ANNUAL "CHIEF'S CHALLENGE! THERE ARE THREE CATEGORIES; THE TEN WORD CHALLENGE REQUIRES THE PARTICIPANT TO LEARN TEN NEW MYAAMIA WORDS (WORDS YOU HAD NOT KNOWN PREVIOUSLY) AND THE TWENTY WORD CHALLENGE IS BASED ON THE SAME FORMAT. AND THE SPEAKER CHALLENGE REQUIRES THE PARTICIPANT TO PRESENT A SHORT PHRASE IN MYAAMIA. SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A SPECIAL PRIZE FROM THE CHIEF.



# Monarch Butterfly Restoration Project

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

The Miami Tribe has begun its second year of partnership with the organization “Monarch Watch”. Based at the University of Kansas, Monarch Watch is a nonprofit education, conservation, and research program that focuses on the butterfly, its habitat, and its fall migration.

The partnership includes six other Native American Tribes and operates with funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

As part of the grant, each participating Tribe received an 18’x36’ foot hoop house to be used for starting milkweed plants (the butterfly’s primary food source, and “nursery”) in late winter/early spring. The plants are then transplanted to restore habitat and food sources for the Monarch and other pollinator species. In this year, the Miami project team, started milkweed from seeds collected last fall from plants located on Tribal lands.

Monarch populations are estimated to be at about 5% of levels from a generation ago. After wintering in Mexico, they begin their migration north through Texas and arrive in northeastern Oklahoma in late March to early April, just as milkweed plants are large enough to lay eggs on. The larvae feed on the milkweed plants, and after becoming adults they continue their migration north. In late September and early October the butterflies pass back through

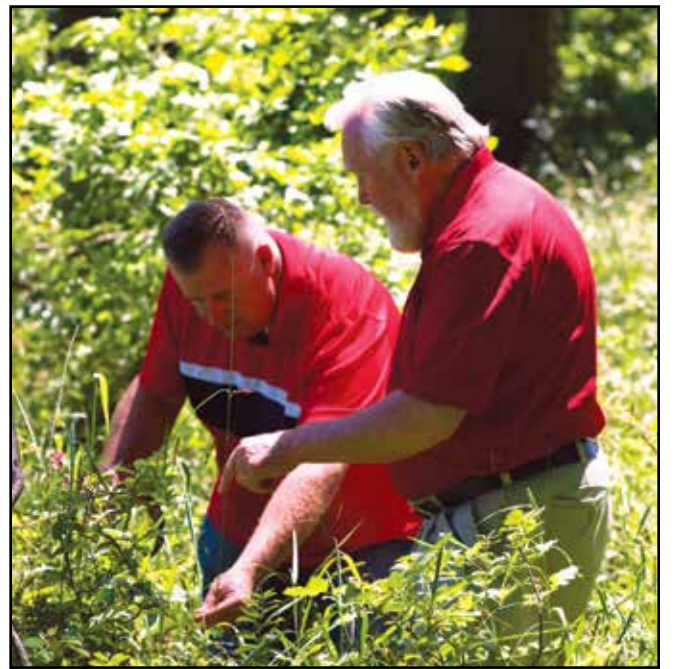
northeastern Oklahoma as they migrate back toward Mexico for the winter. At this time they need nectar from late-season flowering prairie plants to finish the journey.

A community planting day will be scheduled for sometime in late May, and all Tribal families are invited to participate. Watch the Miami Tribe social media sites, and the Nation’s webpage, for planting date announcements. Planting will take place at 5 to 6 different locations within the Miami allotment area.

*Interested in Monarch Watch and their commitment to saving the Monarch Butterfly? Check out their website at [monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org). Visitors will find a link to their online shop which offers all-things-Monarch! This is a great site for young and old and lends lots of education ideas for schools and home school families.*

***Pictured, top right: Second Chief Dustin Olds (left), identifying milkweed on Tribal land with Monarch Watch Project Director, Chip Taylor. Photo by Brad Kasberg.***

***Pictured, lower right: A mature monarch butterfly sits atop the bloom of a rare purple milkweed found on Tribal land in Oklahoma. Photo by Brad Kasberg.***



## Strawtown Koteewi Park Repatriation Nears Completion

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

In November of 2016 the Indianapolis Star newspaper ran a story on the desecration of a burial ground in Hamilton County, Indiana. The story, written by IndyStar reporter, Chris Sikich, informed the public of the unlawful status of excavations conducted at Strawtown Koteewi Park over a 10 year period (2001-2011).

The article exposed the blatant disregard of Park officials for the requirements, and prohibitions, provided in the federal law known as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA, 1990).

Strong, negative public opinion emerged from the expose’, and, due to the mention of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and the agreement the Tribe had entered into with the Park in 2013, many Tribes, and Tribal citizens, became concerned about the issue.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma has been in communication with Strawtown over the concerns addressed in the article for approximately 5 years. During this period, the Miami Tribe filed a formal “Failure to Comply” document against Strawtown Koteewi Park with the National Park Service (NPS). This filing, as provided for in the NAGPRA law, was necessary to bring to the attention of the NPS, as well as the Park and the State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources/Division of Historic Preservation, the facts that Strawtown Koteewi Park had not completed necessary summaries and inventories of the remains and objects held in the Park’s collection, nor had the Park made any effort to consult with federally recognized Tribes as required by the law.

In an effort to work with the Park to help bring them into compliance, in regard to future work at the Park, the Miami Tribe did draft and

sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Park. On August 25, 2013, Chief Douglas Lankford and Hamilton County Park Board President Terry Prather signed the MOU relating to future archeological research at Strawtown Koteewi Park.

However, regardless of the good intent of the MOU, communications declined over disagreement of the status of a number of items in the collection. As the Park acknowledged the burial status of a number of items, known as “associated funerary objects” under the NAGPRA law, the Miami Tribe elected to move forward with repatriation of the agreed upon inventory and to continue to consult with the Park toward helping them acknowledge the burial status of the disputed portion of the collection.

In April of 2017, the Strawtown Koteewi Park agreed to the repatriation of the remaining items previously in question. As of this writing, the Miami Tribe NAGPRA Committee is working with the Park to finalize this repatriation. Once the necessary notices are filed in the Federal Register, the NAGPRA Committee will take care of the respectful reburial thereby bringing closure to years of wrongful excavation and collection by exercising sovereignty through the process of the NAGPRA law and through Governmental consultation.

*The story, written by IndyStar reporter Chris Sikich, was titled “How a Native American Burial site was desecrated in Hamilton County”. The article is available for webview at [www.indystar.com/story/news/local/hamilton-county/...strawtown/91913202/](http://www.indystar.com/story/news/local/hamilton-county/...strawtown/91913202/) or search by title, author and publication.*

## Jackson County, Ohio NAGPRA Felony Case

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

In August of 2015, the Columbus Dispatch reported the guilty plea of a Jackson County, Ohio, man in U.S. District Court for the illegal purchase of Native American human remains.

Mark M. Beatty, of Wellston, OH, was found guilty and sentenced, in a plea deal, to three years of probation, including three months of house arrest. Beatty was fined \$3,500 and ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma toward reburial costs.

The case expanded as the grave robbers were also brought into custody and found guilty. Brian K. Skeens, 49, and Toby Lee Thacker, 56, of Wellston, OH, were sentenced in U.S. District Court for violating the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) by trafficking the human remains of Native Americans. The case is the first criminal enforcement of the NAGPRA in the Southern District of Ohio. Skeens was sentenced to 90 days in prison while Thacker received a 30 day sentence.

A third man, David Skeens, 40, was sentenced on July 21, 2016 to 30 days incarceration followed by a year of supervised release and ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma toward burial costs.

The remains and objects were stolen from private property which does not qualify as a NAGPRA situation in regard to the repatriation process. However, as the area is within the homeland region of the Miami, the Miami Tribe was approached to assist. Upon completion of the case it is intended by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, that the remains and objects will be turned over to the Miami Tribe.

It is the intent of the Tribe to turn these over to the Myaamia Foundation, a separate 501c3 entity qualifying as a museum under the terms of the NAGPRA, and thereby opening the door to the repatriation process which provides for consultation with Tribes toward final disposition, return and reburial.

The Myaamia Foundation will be compliant and work to facilitate consultation as soon as control of the remains and objects is transferred. The Foundation will temporarily house the remains and objects in a safe, climate controlled facility until repatriation action is complete.

## Changes to Medical Benefit Card

**Elders, Disabled and Veteran tribal members that have the Medical Benefit Card please read the following information concerning your benefit card.**

**Due to the change in claims processing systems for 2017, new Debit Cards will need to be ordered and will be a MasterCard instead of a VISA. Your previous Visa Debit Card was terminated on 12/26/2016 regardless of the expiration date on the card. The new MasterCard was activated on 12/30/2016 and the participants will have the remaining 2016 balances loaded on the MasterCard as of 12/30/2016. More information on the changes to the benefit card can be found on the Miami Nation Website.**



# Miami Nation Police Receive Grant to Establish Child Safety ID Program

By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

The Miami Nation Police Department received a grant from the Department of Justice, Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, and Tracking (SMART), to establish a Child Safety Identification Program.

The funding, received in October of 2016, is a part of the Tribe’s overall SORNA (Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act) Program.

The Miami Nation Police Department is the only Police Department offering the program within a 50-mile radius of Miami, OK.

Tribal members can have their child profiled (personal ID file, photo, video, fingerprints), free of charge, for the purpose of providing the parents, or guardians, with the specific, identifying information needed by law enforcement in the event that a child were to become missing or abducted.

The Miami Nation Police Department does not retain any of the information taken about the child being profiled, but does retain a copy of the signed consent form for statistics and data collection.

Parents receive the full profile on CD, USB or transferred directly to their smart phone via app which available on the Google Play market or thru the Apple App Store.

The Miami Nation Police Department will be on hand during Family Day and the Annual General Council Meeting and will also be on site at the Miami Nation Pow Wow. Tribal members may contact the Miami Nation Police Department to schedule an appointment to have their children’s ID file made at any time.

Contact Chief of Police Ronnie Gilmore with any questions at rgilmore@miamination.com or by phone at 918-541-1453.



## MIAMI NATION POLICE DEPARTMENT

3410 P. STREET NW  
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA 74354  
918-541-1453  
**CHIEF OF POLICE  
RONNIE GILMORE**

# Miami Nation Gift Shop Opens Online Store By Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer

Since the grand opening of the new Miami Nation Gift Shop, on October 20, 2016, the small shop has enjoyed steady local business and has had very good Tribal citizen support.

With Tribal citizens living in every state, the Tribe was eager to develop an online sales site. With this goal, and to ensure local sales continued to grow, a new manager was hired. Tribal citizen Jenna Scott took over as Manager of the shop in early 2017. With a background in retail sales, and inventory management, Jenna was tasked with establishing an online store, making the gift shop accessible to all Myaamia citizens.

The online site is now accessible at [www.myaamiagifts.com](http://www.myaamiagifts.com). Citizens of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma receive a 20% discount on most stock items. Items excluded from the discount are all consignment items. A promo code must be entered. Phone Jenna at 918-544-6049 or reach her by email at [jscott@miamination.com](mailto:jscott@miamination.com).

Watch the online store, and the shop’s Facebook Page “Miami Nation Gift Shop”, for promotions and special events.

The Miami Nation Gift Shop is open M-F 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Special hours for National Gathering week are Thursday, June 22 and Friday, June 23, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 24, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Myaamia citizen Jenna Scott is the new Manager of the Miami Nation Gift Shop. Staff photo.

# MIAMI NATION GIFT SHOP

28 N. MAIN STREET - MIAMI, OK - 918-544-6049

The new **ONLINE STORE** of the  
Miami Nation Gift Shop is open at  
**[www.myaamiagifts.com](http://www.myaamiagifts.com)**

Watch for promotions and updates  
via the Facebook page @  
“Miami Nation Gift Shop”

*Miami Tribe Citizens get a 20% discount  
on non-sale and non-commission items  
with verification of their enrollment.*



**All Myaamia College Graduates**  
**Please submit your graduation photo and information about your degree so that we may honor you and your accomplishment in the next edition of Aato-tankiki Myaamiaki.**





## Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Scholarship Applications

### Application Due Dates:

- Download applications from the miamination.com website. Search scholarships.
- The **FALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**, which includes the Single Semester Scholarship and the Vocational and Technical School Scholarship, is **DUE in the Myaamia Education Office by OCTOBER 1, each year.**
- The **SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**, which includes the Myaamia Scholarship, The Casino/Economic Development Scholarship, The Crane Award, The Fresh Start Scholarship, the MBRC Continuing Education Award, the Josephine Goodboo Watson Memorial Book Scholarship and the Non-Traditional Scholarship, is **DUE in the Myaamia Education Office by April 1, each year.**
- LATE and/or INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**



## NOTICE!

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL FUND APPLICATIONS HAVE CHANGED!

More information is now required and the applications will need to be signed at the bottom of the page. **Please note the “Due into Office” date. Late, incomplete, or non-signed applications will not be processed.**

An application is available for download on the miamination.com website and on the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Facebook Page after the applications are mailed. Scheduled application mailings will be: For the Fall Semester the application will be mailed in mid-May. The following Spring Semester applications will be mailed in mid-August.

Checks will be mailed in mid-August for the Fall Semester and after Christmas for the Spring Semester.



The Clay Station is a paint-your-own ceramics store providing a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. Come in for a creative outing with your children, a special date-night, ladies night out or other group party. We offer pieces for all levels of skill - from the beginner to the more advanced ceramic painter.

Open Thursday & Friday  
1 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Saturday  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Facebook.com/myclaystation  
918-919-2034

**28 North Main - Miami**  
Next door to the Miami Nation Gift Shop

**Miami Tribe Members**  
Present your Tribal Enrollment Card and  
get 20% Off non-sale items

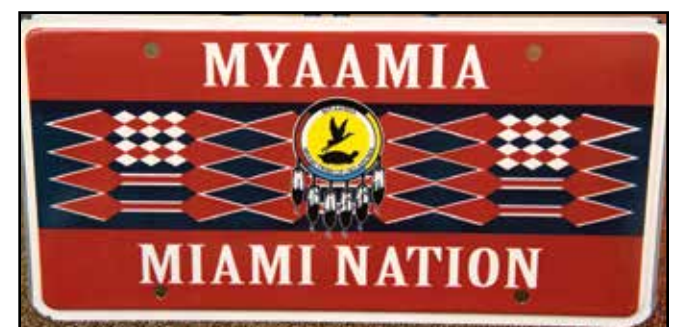
## 4-STATES CREMATION SOCIETY

Richard E. Kelley-Dixon  
CFSP  
(Miami Tribe Member)  
Licensed  
Funeral Director  
& Cremation Specialist  
28 C Street NE  
Miami, OK 74354  
**Cremation starting at  
\$495.**

richardekelley@yahoo.com

**918-325-2705**

**“Service with Sincerity”**



**Reminder:** Miami Nation personal vehicle plates are available through the Miami Business & Regulatory Commission for \$15 per plate. Price includes shipping. Contact Tera Hatley at Tribal headquarters at 918-541-1300 or by email at [thatley@miamination.com](mailto:thatley@miamination.com). Also available from the Miami Nation Gift Shop.

PDF files of this Publication  
are accessible in the News Archive at:  
**[www.miamination.com](http://www.miamination.com)**