

THE HURON CEMETERY is a beautiful and tranquil place in the heart of downtown Kansas City, Kansas located at Minnesota and 7th Ave.

The Wyandot's left Ohio in 1843 by steamboat, and were left stranded on the bottoms by Westport. With no proper place to bury their dead, their bodies were carried across the river to a high ridge which overlooked the Kansas and Missouri Rivers.

The Huron cemetery was established.

Mass graves of Wyandot's, civil war soldiers, as well as individual Wyandot graves are found here. Many graves were not marked with a stone. Those that were marked with a stone have been stolen or destroyed. Many years of destruction have taken its toll.

The Wyandot Nation of Kansas have fought to protect and preserve the memories of our ancestors. The Conley Sisters made history protecting our burial grounds. Slivers of the cemetery have been whittled away for the progress of the city and greed of others.

We remain strong with a voice to protect our loved ones. As long as they are remembered, they live through us.

Kristen Zane
WNK Cemetery Commissioner



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Wyandot Nation of Kansas

Keepers of the Council Fire

In Kansas Since 1843



OUR STORY

by Principal Chief Judith Manthe

The Wyandots (also called the Huron by the French) originated in Midland, Georgian Bay area of Ontario, Canada. They referred to themselves as Wendat, or People of the Islands.

Because of Disease and the Beaver Wars, they were almost wiped out by the Iroquois. Fleeing their homelands, they dispersed west- through the Straits and down to Michilmackinaw, then into Detroit area.

Settling in Detroit area they developed a town called Wyandotte, Michigan. Leaving those Wyandot who wish to remain there our family settled in the Sandusky area of Ohio.

Knowing through all the broken treaties, they knew they would never be allowed to remain and were talked into selling their land.

Weeping as they left their homes and buried love ones: they traveled from Upper Sandusky to boarded steamboats at Cincinnati, Ohio.

From the Ohio to the Mississippi to St Louis, they boarded two steamboats, the Republic and the Nodaway. Arriving at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers in July, 1843. With no where to go, most camped in the bottoms and that first year more than 100 died. Looking for the highest ground to bury their dead, the Huron Cemetery (aka Wyandott National Burying Ground) was established.

Two towns were formed Wyandott City and Quindaro. Once again, they were living in a war zone, between Bloody Kansas, and the Civil War, or the War between the States. The land given to them was already targeted for land speculation, development and the railroads.

An 1855 treaty served to take away tribal status, inflate taxes until the families were evicted from their property, and to diminish tribal identity, although they protested that they never gave up their tribal identity, they continued to retain their heritage.

Since the 1800's the Wyandot became successful community leaders, and contributed to the growth, development and stability of their communities.

The People of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas have maintained uninterrupted presence in the state of Kansas since 1843.

The modern tribe consists of the lineal descendants of their ancestors who have lived on the continent for millennia. It includes active members who meet several times a year to preserve tradition and a dynamic community.

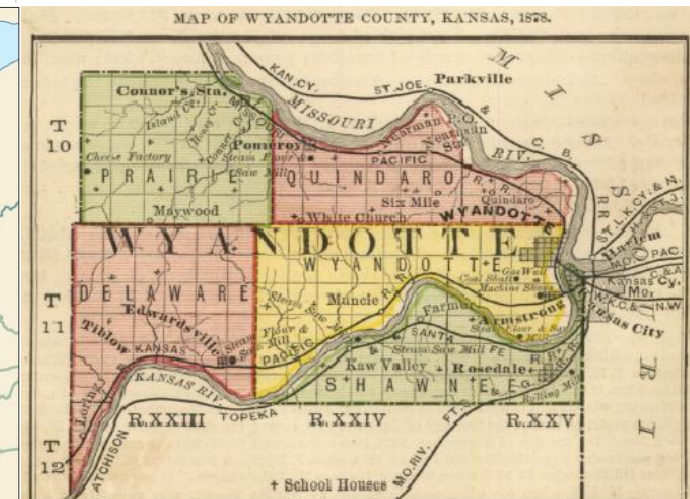
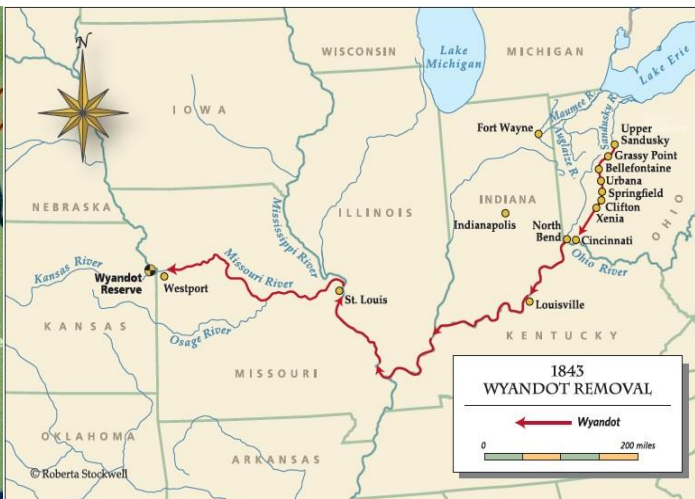
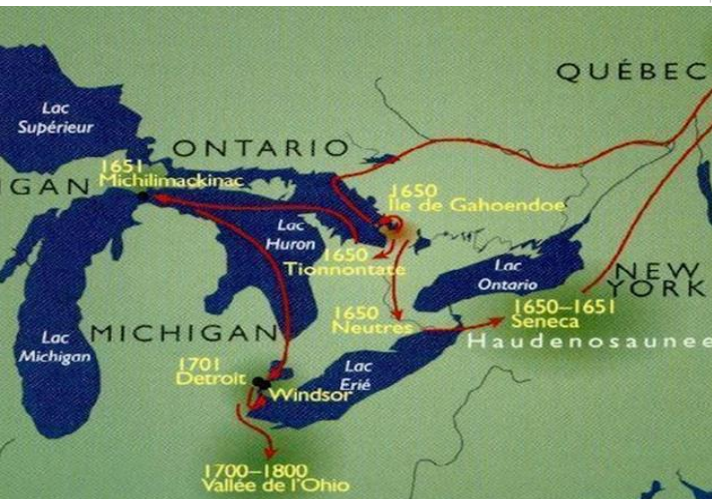
The Wyandot heritage in our area is reflected in the Wyandotte County name, look around and you will find most streets carry Wyandot names, our historic cemetery which is still located in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. As Resilient people we proudly call Kansas Our home.



QUINDARO

by Second Chief Louisa Libby

The Wyandot Nation of Kansas has an unbreakable bond with the township of Quindaro, Kansas. Quindaro was named after Wyandot Indian Nancy Quindaro Brown Guthrie. Quindaro means bundle of sticks. A bundle of sticks is stronger together than with just a single stick. Quindaro was built on land allotments that belonged to thirteen Wyandot tribal members. It is located just a few miles upstream from Wyandotte City (aka Kansas City, Kansas). Nancy's husband Abelard Guthrie purchased their allotments which totaled 80 acres in 1856 and the Quindaro Township began. Quindaro became the first free state port on the Missouri River. The Wyandot's of Quindaro played a very important role in history by supporting the Underground Railroad. Quindaro was in abolitionist Kansas Territory and sat across the river from pro slave Missouri. Runaway Slaves (Freedom Seekers) who made it across the river were hidden from the slave masters, in cisterns, tunnels and even in a local business' ice cave. Wyandot's adopted many freedom seekers or helped those that wanted to connect with the Underground Railroad to the north. To this day the Wyandot's and Quindaro families remain close and share the stories of their ancestors.



Map reprinted from "The Other Trail of Tears: The Removal of the Ohio Indians" by Mary Stockwell (Westholme Publishing, 2015)