

The Kaw were removed several times before final settlement in Oklahoma.

Gaxá khéji baskú aⁿgólⁿbe *We Lived along the River*

The Kanza Indians left their homelands east of the Mississippi River during the 1600s. They settled into what is today the northeast part of Kansas. Within 100 years, they had built two large villages on the Missouri River. Waterways provided the sustenance for their people and were part of the tribe's culture. The Kanza's next moves were forced.

Leaving Home

By treaty, more than 1,600 Kanza were relocated to a reservation near Council Grove, Kansas, in 1846. The Santa Fe Trail had become a successful trade route that passed through the reservation. As more people headed west, either for trade or to settle, the Kanza were yet again forced to move, this time to Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma.

Living Heritage

The Kaw Nation is headquartered today in Kaw City, Oklahoma. The tribe has grown to over 3000 people and provides its members with social, cultural, and health care benefits under the governance of the Kaw executive and general councils.

We are still here.



You treat my people like a flock of turkeys. You come into our dwelling place and scare us out. We fly over and alight on another stream, but...you come along and drive us farther and farther. In time we shall find ourselves across the great mountains and landing in the bottomless ocean.

Chief Allegawaho's description of removal and treatment of the Kaw.

Kanza leader Hard Hat addressed the US Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1857.





Ak'a Onikashiⁿga

People of the Southwind

The Kanza Indians left their homelands east of the Mississippi River during the 1600s. They settled into what is today the northeast part of Kansas. Waterways provided sustenance for their people and were part of the tribe's culture. The success of western routes of travel, such as the Santa Fe Trail, and American demand for land in the West forced the Kanza to relocate several times.



The Kaw Nation is headquartered in Kaw City, Oklahoma. The tribe has grown to over 3,000 people and provides its citizens with many social, cultural, and health care benefits under the governance of the Kaw executive and general councils.



Lifeways Change

By the 1720s, the Kaw people were labeled the Kanza by European Americans. The name Kanza or Kansas applied to the people, waterway, and later, the territory and state. In forced moves, more than 1,600 Kanza were relocated to areas near Council Grove, Kansas, by treaties that each reduced reservation size in 1825, 1846, and 1859. The final, forced move to Oklahoma occurred in 1872.



Living Heritage

The Kaw Nation maintains its connection to the waterways with programs that work to protect natural resources. Its rich cultural heritage — past, present, and future — is preserved through education, showcasing tribal arts and artifacts, promoting cultural activities and workshops, and serving as a cultural resource.



Surviving Removal

This land was once part of Kaw and Osage homelands. In the early 1800s, the Kaws' domain extended well beyond today's state borders. In 1846, the federal government had forced the Kaw people onto a twenty-mile-square reservation surrounding Council Grove. About 1,000 people, struggling with disease

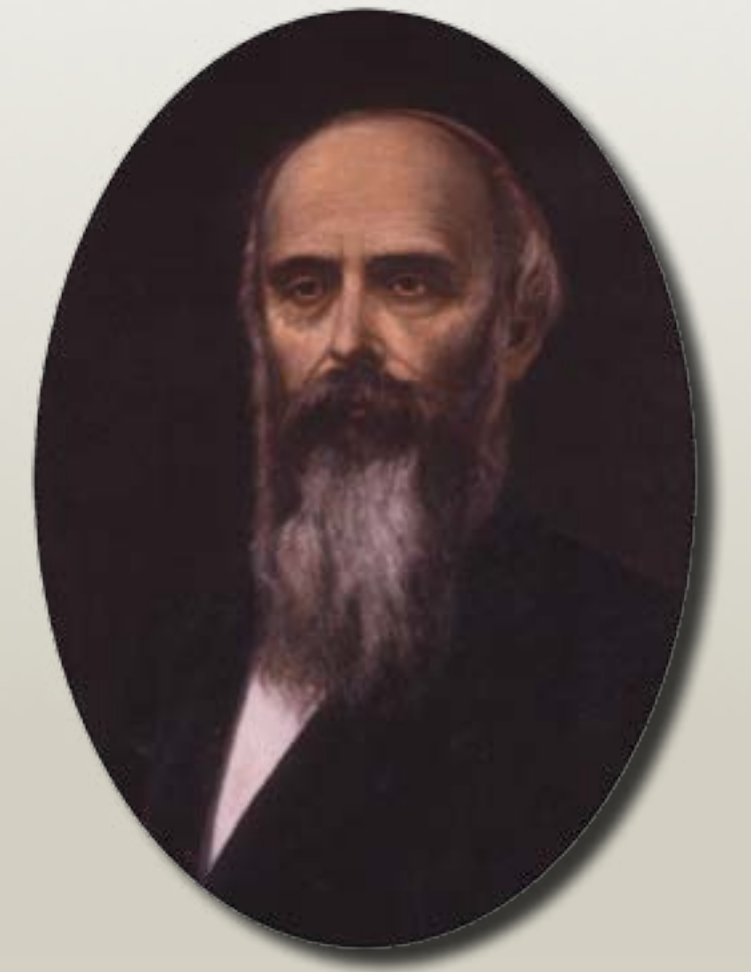
and starvation, lived in three nearby villages. The Kaw lived here in the Neosho Valley for less than 30 years when, despite an impassioned plea to Congress by Chief Allegawaho in 1873, the US government relocated 600 Kaws to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma).



Life at Kaw Mission

[The Kaw Mission School] averaged about thirty pupils, all boys. The branches taught were spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic. None of them received instruction in the trades. The boys worked well on the farm."

Teacher Thomas Huffaker, 1905



In 1850, workers from the Shawnee Methodist Mission near Kansas City traveled 110 miles on the Santa Fe Trail to build this mission and boarding school for Kaw (Kansa) Indian boys. The mission opened in 1851, with funding from the US government. For three years, 30 Kaw boys called this building home and school.

Mission schools were part of the effort to assimilate American Indians into white culture and toward Christianity. However, the government reported that the operational costs were too high, and the school and mission closed in 1854.

While it was the Kaw Indians who gave the State of Kansas its name, the headquarters for the Kaw Nation is now in Oklahoma, where the tribe was removed to in 1873.