

Meherrin Talking Leaves



Talking Leaves

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Chief Wayne Brown

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- ▶ We had the passing over of our great Chief Wayne Brown on February 7th 2019. Chief Brown loved his family, and served his tribe passionately. In 1975 he placed an ad in the local newspaper-seeking Meherrin Nation descendants. He re-organized the Meherrin Nation in 1975 and became the first chief under the newly formed government since the 1800s. This led to the endeavor of gaining state recognition in 1986 and the pursuit to obtain federal recognition for the tribe. In 2008, following a notable career in Virginia, Wayne Brown was elected Principal Chief in a general election by Meherrin Nation tribal members. Chief Brown instituted many beneficial programs for the Meherrin Nation and facilitated the return of traditional Iroquois cultural practices to our community. Working with tribal members and medicine society members from the Haudeonosaunee, Chief Brown restored ceremonies and the Great Law of Peace in the Meherrin Community, which shares a history with the Tuscarora Nation. These have grown among the community in the time since. His leadership will be missed.



Tribal Enrollment

- ▶ The Meherrin Tribe opened enrollment for new members in the Fall of 2018. There were over 250 new applications submitted during that time. The Tribal counsel is currently reviewing all of the applications and will be making decisions on these applicants in the near future.
- ▶ The tribe did have some unexpected delays in this review process with the passing of Chief Brown along with other elders of the Nation. We apologize for not getting back in touch with you sooner and we appreciate your patience as we work through this process.
- ▶ If there are questions regarding the status of your tribal enrollment please feel free to contact Jon Caudill at bmeherrin@yahoo.com

Nyaweh
(Thank You)



Tribal Spotlight

Patrick Suarez

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- ▶ Patrick Suarez is a longtime active member of the Meherrin Nation. Patrick is a part of the Snipe clan with ties to the Brown family. Patrick is originally from Ahoskie North Carolina but currently lives in Kernersville North Carolina with his wife Jane Suarez and his four children Aiyana, Brielle, Chelsea and Daiya. Patrick went to East Carolina University and now works as an Occupational Therapist. Patrick is highly involved with the Meherrin Nation and is devoted to keeping the tribe moving in the right direction. Patrick is also a renowned smoke dancer and goes to powwows all over Indian country. Thank you Patrick for all that you do for your family and your Nation!



What's your clan

- ▶ There are 5 clans amongst the Meherrin Nation. The clan system represents your extended family amongst the tribe. These clans include Bear, Beaver, Snipe, Turtle and Wolf. Below are the Surnames that fall into each clan. Which clan do you belong to?
- ▶ Bear Clan – Smith, Lassiter, Melton, Weaver, Manning, James, Flood
- ▶ Beaver Clan – Bizzle, Butler, Hall, Rogers, Hunter, Garrett
- ▶ Snipe Clan – Wiggings, Brown, Archer, Reid, Nickens, Copeland, Sears
- ▶ Turtle Clan – Simmons, Reynolds, Robbins, Pierce
- ▶ Wolf Clan – Boone, Tann, Manley, Lewis, Keene, Chavis, Pugh



Meherrin language

- ▶ The traditional language of the Meherrin Nation is *Ska:rù:reḡ*. Few Meherrins speak *Skaru:re* today, but many tribal members are working hard to remember and learn the language. You may hear *Skaru:re* being spoken at our traditional gatherings and social dances, especially as part of our Thanksgiving Address which is recited before and after all festivities.
- ▶ *Ska:rù:reḡ* is a Northern Iroquois language, closely related to those of the Five Nations. The ancestral group of the Tuscarora, Meherrin and Nottoway broke away from the common ancestral group we share with the *Haudenosaunee* (Five Nations) about 2,000 years ago and migrated to what is now North Carolina and Virginia. Once here, we separated into three distinct nations, but remained politically united.
- ▶ Efforts are being made to restore the language to the Meherrin people. The tribe is coming up with ideas to create instructional videos for those interested in relearning the language.

Nyaweh
(Thank You)



Upcoming Events

- ▶ The Tuscarora Nation in North Carolina will be protesting in Raleigh North Carolina on May 31st regarding their petition for State Recognition. We would like to encourage members of the Meherrin tribe to show their support for our fellow Tuscarora people by showing up and standing beside our Tuscarora brothers and sisters.
- ▶ The Meherrin Nation would like to start holding family days in the near future. These events would be held on the tribal grounds in Ahoskie and would consist of a potluck along with social dancing and singing. Please reach out to find out more about these events and how we you can participate.
- ▶ The Tuscarora Nation will be having their tribal powwow on May 10th and 11th in Maxton NC.
 - ▶ The address for the powwow is 288 Tuscarora Nation Rd, Maxton, NC 28364
- ▶ 2019 Meherrin Powwow will be held on October 4th – 6th. This will be our 31st annual powwow. We would like to encourage people to participate in anyway possible. This event requires a lot of planning and coordination. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

