



Ace and Bess Sam, married in 1906.

Dear readers,

My family's journey of economic & individual freedom began in 1906, when Ace Sam of the Choctaw tribe and Bess Eller of Irish and German parents, married in Oklahoma. They integrated love and honor between two extremes of culture. My Great Grandparents marriage celebrated the natural evolution of individual freedom protected by the Constitution in the United States of America. My grandparents chose to manage their own land for individual economic self-determination. They kept their land from being held in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Trust and entered into lease contracts for themselves and their family without federal or tribal restrictions. I ask for your patience, kind deliberation and commitment to End the Federal Recognition of the Indian Tribes thereby, ending the status of the enrolled members as Incompetent Domestic Dependents of the BIA. It is my goal to unite our nation with an increased power of individual economic freedom for all United States Citizens and return the BIA to our military to help improve these same services for our Veterans & Troops.

Since the U. S. Government still Federally Recognizes my tribe, the Northern Arapaho in Wyoming, I sent a 3 page letter to both governments. In this letter I requested the removal of my name from tribal enrollment. I based my choice on the decision of the Northern Arapaho Tribal Council to profit from Casino gambling on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. I am no longer an enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho, as of March 1, 2006, thereby ending my participation in the discriminatory Federal Recognition of American Indian tribes. However, because of the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act my descendants are still at risk. Today, we must look to our past to secure the Blessings of Liberty for our children's future. We must be allowed to act for ourselves or any Government that would oppress us will act upon us. To be sure of our Ethics in Government, we should look to this quote from as Alexander Hamilton's 1788 speech defends the United States Constitution and his intentions to allow it to protect all of us that choose to be governed by it; **"If today, I am among the favored few, my children, tomorrow, may be among the oppressed; these observations, show that it cannot be the wish of any reasonable man to establish a government unfriendly to the liberties of the people."** The trade agreements offered; food, blankets, rifles etc... in exchange for land for the Army Fort. Therefore, both governments established and limited the land boundaries for white settlements in exchange for readily available items for the members of the Tribes. These signed treaties were of peaceful intent to ensure freedom from government invasion and continued friendship and Trade.

The United States Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs maintains a colonial guardianship over the Federally Recognized tribes enrolled members that own land that is being held in Trust. The **1790 Commerce Clause currently prohibits** the sale, lease or improvements of Indian land held in trust; either Tribal or Individually. Federal and Tribal Permission has become a source of incessant corruption and bureaucracy of both governments and has continued to plague our Country and our Citizens. The Civil War ended in 1865 with new legislation that still protects Citizens. Congress ratified the 13th and 14th amendments to abolish slavery and grant Citizenship. However, **In 1871** Congressional law and Secretary of the Interior, Columbus Delano 1870-75, declared all tribal members Incompetent; **"Indian Tribal groups are not recognized as independent nations, but Wards of the United States"**.

Chief Friday, Cochise, Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull and all the Tribes wanted the same freedom for self-determination as the Founding Fathers. The prosperity of good relations with the U.S. and settlers is still evident in their types of trade, religion, and beaded artwork as they chose to

integrate the elements of European life into their own. My family continues to prosper today as Individual Land Owners allotted to them from the 1887 General Allotment Act and 1906 Burke Act. In 1893 President Cleveland gave these instructions to Henry Dawes: **Allotment is in "the interest of the Indians" to put them in "the very best possible condition, in order that they may become good citizens of the United States and enjoy the property which belongs to them."** The June 2, 1924 Citizenship Act granted, "All Indians born within the Territorial limits of the United States are Citizens of the United States," (43 STAT. L. 253). However, American citizenship did not free and has not freed the enrolled members of federally recognized tribes from their Enrolled Ward Status. This status supersedes Citizenship and continues to demean the American Indian as nothing more than an **Incompetent Dependent**. I choose to be identified as an American Citizen not as a federally recognized Incompetent Ward of the United States Government.

In 1985, Ross Swimmer was an Assistant Secretary of the Interior said **"If we fail, we fail on our own. And if we succeed, we don't have to be grateful to anyone."** It is the natural evolution of these United States to promote and ensure individual economic freedom for all Americans. In 1994, Newt Gingrich made this bold commitment to Americans; **"We must restore freedom by ending bureaucratic micromanagement here in Washington... We've got to return power back to you, to your families, your neighborhoods, your local and State governments to promote economic growth and create a better future with more opportunities for our children."**

In September 2008, Senator John McCain introduced S.531 to end the 40-year old "Bennett Freeze" of the Hopi and Navajo land dispute. It should not have taken 42 years and an ACT of Congress to help 8,000 American Citizens have water & electricity! This Bureaucratic nightmare is the direct result of the Self-Imposed Trust responsibility of the BIA on behalf of federally recognized Indian Tribes.

I implore the President of the United States to Issue an Executive Order to End the BIA Federal Recognition of the Indian Tribes and Release their enrolled members from their status as Incompetent Domestic Dependents. I am an American Citizen and we require the Protection and Responsibility of Equality. Throughout history, we have witnessed the awful legislative chains which bind children as incompetent domestic dependents to the Department of the Interior and BIA. I am one of those children. As parents we should protect our children, our country and our military as we are free to be united partners in the building up of America's economic infrastructure.

We are Brad and Lee Ann Ragains, owners of BLT Tanks LLC, in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. We invite all potential opportunities for individuals and businesses to compete as equals in America's economy.

I am asking every American citizen and business to encourage this message of emancipation for the 562 Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes and their enrolled members by ending the Bureau of Indian Affairs Trust Responsibility over these citizens. We are American citizens and DO NOT need the government as our Trustee, we are competent to manage our own affairs; especially when a Competency Hearing was never held for my ancestors or for me. The government should combine agencies- NOT create MORE agencies.

The following is a list of the freedoms and responsibilities of the individual American Indian Land Owners will have to make their own choices concerning their land. For example, 53 million acres to sell, lease or make improvements at a minimum rate of \$1,000.00 an acre will equal 53 billion dollars. In addition to this amount there is over 20 billion dollars in the Individual Indian Money Accounts that will no longer be held in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Trust Responsibility. These American Indian citizens will re-invest in their communities, help rebuild America's economy and have the equality to pursue happiness and possibilities to increase their status from poverty; create jobs, business ventures, investments and to incorporate as city and county governments, build houses, buy a car and other necessities and enter into lease, sale and improvement contracts without Tribal or Federal restrictions as equals.

We must unite our country with cooperation to stabilize America's economy by ending the Trust Responsibility of the BIA, America has the BEST All Volunteer Professional Military, Reserves and National Guard in the world. The BIA must be returned to the war department that created it in 1824. Today, our military needs the best Exclusive Medical Care we can offer our Veterans and Troops.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Ragains

Continued next month

PAID ADVERTORIAL



Friday, a renowned "Friendly Chief" of the Northern Arapaho (my 7th generation Great-Grand Father) with a delegation to Washington, D.C. in 1851-52, after the signing of the Treaty of Fort Laramie.

Reference Information:

In 1871 Congress and Secretary of the Interior, Columbus Delano 1870-75, declared all tribal members incompetent; "Indian Tribal groups are not recognized as independent nations, but Wards of the United States". The federally recognized American Indian continues to be an incompetent Domestic Dependent of the BIA. The United States Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs maintains an archaic Self-Imposed Trust Responsibility on behalf of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes Enrolled Members. This "Federal responsibility and Tribal relationship" Never allowed the Individual Indian Landowners to give their PERMISSION for drilling gas, oil, coal or permits for removing historic, archeological and antiquities until 1974. The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians withholds their lands and money in a Special Trust on behalf of the American Indian Land Owners.