

Chief John Chiniquay

[CHIN-nik-kee]



This is a story about the history of this place from the Îyârhe [ee-YAH-hhay]. Îyârhe means “mountain people.” We are a branch of the Sioux/Dakota/Lakota/Nakoda people, who are now called the Stoney Nakoda Nation.

Īsniyēs [ish-niesh] — Thank you.

This story was shared by Chiniki Elders of the Stoney Nakoda Nation. The artwork and bench were provided by Stoney Nakoda Nation members, in a joint 2017 Canada 150 project of the Chiniki Elders Advisory Council and the Municipal District of Bighorn.

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Canada

Top: Rolland Rollinmud,
Stoney Nakoda Artist.

Bottom: Iliena Wildman,
Stoney Nakoda Artist.

This was the site of Chief Chiniquay's home settlement, which included several log homes.

John Chiniquay [CHIN-nik-kee] was born in approximately 1834 and died in approximately 1905. He married the sister of Chief Jacob Bearspaw, **Ozija Thiha** [oh-ZIN-jah SEE-hah]. He was a proven peacemaker and leader in the Stoney camps, and was Chief by the mid-1800s. John Chiniquay was the longest serving chief of the Chiniki Band.

Chiniquay was one of the three Stoney chiefs to sign Treaty No. 7 at Blackfoot crossing in 1877, along with the Blackfoot, Blood, Peigan and Sarcee chiefs. The Chiefs could not read what they were signing, and their understanding of what was agreed to was not the same as what was written down at the time.

John Chiniquay was a strong advocate of education and is remembered as being generous, fair and pleasant. He understood the importance of trusting others. He believed in honesty, and that all nations of every background could share and work together to live off the land in peace.

