

Washakohwístu.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1970/1979

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Annuity

Long ago in the time of George Washington when they were fighting, at one point when he set aside his sword, he wanted to give up fighting. At that time an Oneida woman showed up and she picked back up his sword and returned it to him. She said, "Here is your sword. Don't give up. We will help you."

In those days the Oneidas had done a lot of fighting, or maybe I should say the Five Nations, up until the time when George Washington won. At that point he promised them lots of things and he even made laws to guarantee that he would always take care of us and help us forever after. So then he gave a reward of a dollar for each person. From then on each year he gave the Oneidas money. Then one could buy a lot of provisions with one dollar. That is how it got its name as annuity money.

At this time each year for several months the government gives out money. Each fall we got a quarter each and with the high cost of things these days we would just spent the quarter and we had to go get the annuity money. Then it started to be every three years that they are sending us our annuity money and we do not go after it.