

Anpetu Wastewin (Good Day Woman): Heroine of the 1885 Resistance

Anpetu Wastewin and her husband Kangi Tamahecha (Lean Crow) were Lakota from Sitting Bull's band. Her husband and his two brothers, Siyaka (Teal Duck) and Mato Wakakesija (Tormenting Bear), participated in the 1885 Resistance. Lean Crow was sentenced to three years jail, later commuted to one year. Subsequent to 1885, they moved to Moose Jaw. By working for farmers and ranchers her husband and their sons, Tasunka Opi (Alex Wounded Horse) and Paha Onajinkte (Bob Lean Crow) acquired a herd of nearly 100 horses. They then later settled on the reserve at Wood Mountain.

The Wood Mountain Historical Society gives the following biography of Anpetu Wastewin and Tamaheca:

Kangi Tamaheca along with two of his brothers, his wife Anpetu Wastewin, and five children were among the Lakota families that moved to northern Saskatchewan in the spring before Sitting Bull left Canada (1881). The first year they worked for various ranchers and settlers in the Dundurn district (Prairie Ronde, with the Trottier family). The next year they found work with Metis families at Batoche and moved there. They soon developed a loyalty to those families. During the Resistance of 1885 they fought on the Metis side. Kangi Tamaheca was taken prisoner by the Canadian Army, tried for treason and sent to Stony Mountain Penitentiary. Due to the efforts of Father Lacombe he was released a year later. While he was in prison his family traveled on foot to Moose Jaw and joined the Lakota.¹

Their daughter Ayuta Najin Ktewin, "Killed the Enemy That Stood Looking" (1871- 1938) was a small girl when she came to Canada with her parents and she was 14 years old when the fighting at Batoche happened. She accompanied her family to northern Saskatchewan in 1881 and lived with them at Dundurn and Batoche until 1885 when they returned to the camp at Moose Jaw. While at Moose Jaw she married Oye Waste (Tom Good Track). He was one of the headmen who later negotiated with the government for a reserve at Wood Mountain. In 1911 Ayuta Najin Ktewin and Oye Wastewin moved to Wood Mountain. Like the other Lakota they lived off the land, hunting, gathering and gardening. They always kept a few horses for work and transportation.²



¹ Wood Mountain Historical Society, cited in *Legends of Our Times: Native Ranching and Rodeo Life on the Plains and Plateau*, Canadian Museum of Civilization, June 25, 2001.

² Op. cit.