

## Chief Crowfoot

I'm writing about a hero named, Chief Crowfoot. He had many names. One name was Astohkomi [Shot Close]. Then Crowfoot was given a new name by his stepfather, Bear Ghost. Crowfoot became chief after the death of Three Sons. He was born in the years of 1830. His mother's name was Attacked Toward Home and his father's name was, "Packs a Knife." His father was killed during a raid against an enemy Crow band in Northern, Montana. Then his mother remarried "Many Names" and moved with him to the Northern Blackfoot called Siksika. It was not until many years later when the Mounted Police came to Blackfoot lands, a scout and interpreter named Jerry Potts. Introduced himself to Crowfoot he was 20 when he married, "Cutting Woman." He was born into the Blood Nation of Southern Alberta, about 1830.

Crowfoot's son died during a war against the Cree Crowfoot then realized that war between the Blackfoot and the Cree was not good. Crowfoot persuaded some of the Cree leaders to stop the fighting. The peace lasted long enough for Crowfoot to visit a Cree camp. Crowfoot and his wife adopted a young Cree named "Poundmaker" because he resembled his late son that was killed in the war. Alcohol came into the lives of the Blackfoot. Fights and murders increased. In 1874 Crowfoot was happy that the Red Coated Policemen from the East were on their way to help the Blackfoot People. Whiskey was a big problem for the Blackfoot because it led them into starvation and hardship. The white settlers were killing all the buffalo so the Blackfoot had nothing more to live on. That buffalo was like a Walmart to the Blackfoot people. It had everything they needed to survive. The Blackfoot Treaty Seven was then signed along with the Queen's Representatives. The Blackfoot was the last to sign a Treaty. They signed it on September 17 1887.

Crowfoot was the last chief to sign a Treaty. He was successful in moving the location of the Treaty signing from. Fort Macleod to Blackfoot Crossing along the Bow River that was known as Blackfoot Crossing. Although, he was doing everything the Government said. He grew angry because the Canadian Government was not holding up its side of the bargain in Treaty 7.

Crowfoot was known as a father of his people for so many reasons. He was kind to his people and wanted them to live their way of life and he believed that he had the power to save his Blackfoot people. He was always so very patient with the Government and cooperated up until his dying day. Crowfoot died by a sickness called Tuberculosis.

Chief Crowfoot inspired me to want to continue living in our Blackfoot traditional way's. Such as speaking our Blackfoot language, attending the Sundance and dancing, attending Powwows, and sweat lodges. I also want to help fight for our Treaty Right's for the Blackfoot. I'm interested in learning the Blackfoot Songs and their meanings to be a strong, persistent and proud leader like Crowfoot for our Community and Blackfoot Nation.

Source: Native Chiefs and Famous Metis Book  
Leadership and Bravery In the Canadian West.