



# MHA Women's History Month

## 2019



### Yvonne Howard Fox

Yvonne “Bonnie” Howard Fox is considered one of the most knowledgeable person about the culture of the Sahnish. Most important, she is a “Keeper” of one of the Mother Corn Bundles. The Bundle calls the community together each fall. Yvonne inherited the Mother Corn Bundle from her mother, Pearl Felix Howard. Pearl inherited the Bundle from her mother Philomine Little Sioux Felix and Philomine was given the Bundle by her mother, Helen Little Sioux.

Yvonne spent her early years with her family in White Shield. She graduated from St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal School in South Dakota. She married and raised seven children,

three girls and four boys with her husband, Episcopal Minister, Rev. Duane Fox.

Yvonne then attended the University of North Dakota and received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the university. She started her teaching career at Aneth, Utah teaching Navajo children for five years. Then she returned home taught Special Education at White Shield School for 30 years. She was also Tribal Education Director for the tribe. In 1991 she was “Teacher of the Year.” She also received an award for cultural programs at White Shield from the National Indian Education Association. She is active in the N.D. Episcopal Church.

Yvonne was appointed to and worked on a ND State project to put together the history of the Sahnish with a small group of Sahnish called the Sahnish Cultural Society. They took on the task of putting together the history of Sahnish by gleaning information from the North Dakota State Historical Society files, elders, and other resources. After about a year, the project was completed and published. The book was to be used in the North Dakota State School System.

Fox, Lena Malnourie (dec), Greta White Calf, Rhoda Star and a few others spoke around the state and region about the Sahnish. Some of the places they spoke were Knife River, Ft. Stevenson, Ft. Buford, Denver, Colorado and many other places. They collected baskets, pottery, dried corn, squash and other items that they talked about during their travels.

Yvonne continues to participate in ceremonies, events and other projects with the tribe and provides information and council to the people.