

## **An Arrow Shot through Time, Landing in the Future**

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A Choctaw elder tells the story of a lost arrow shot through time which lands in the future.

In County Cork, Ireland, stands a monument to the Choctaw people — 20-foot-high steel feathers entitled ***Kindred Spirits*** commemorating the gift given to the Irish during the potato famine by the poor impoverished Choctaw Indians who only recently had completed the ***Trail of Tears***, their forced movement of thousands of native people from their homeland westward to “new” Indian Territory. Out of their poverty they donated today’s equivalent of \$5000 to a people they knew little of, yet understood the consequences of famine and the consequences of being forced to emigrate to a new land.

Amazing as this “historical” story is, the greater truth is found in today’s ongoing relationship with the Irish and Choctaw peoples. We never know how a simple action of reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need can result in future relationships and loving kindness. Individuals from both the Choctaw and Irish are keeping the story alive and building community today between the two different cultures and nations.

As we enter the Christmas Season and continue to scan for signals of change to improve our own communities, perhaps this simple story of giving can inspire us to keep looking, not just among the successful and powerful movers and shakers, but especially among the seemingly insignificant gifts which truly recreate our earth, our hearts and our communities.

Hmmm, it reminds me of the simple birth in Bethlehem that showed the world the way of love and redemption: an arrow shot through time landing in the future!

Read the article in [Smithsonian Magazine, September/October](#), pp 58-65