

# Chief Black Hawk and Bishop Kerns

by Kathleen Wiley

Chief Black Hawk was a red man .....and a good man.  
Bishop Kerns was a white man.....and a good man....

Bishop Kerns said..."Chief Black Hawk you made the promise  
But I never said I'd take you up on it...

They loved and trusted each other perfectly  
No one doubted their fidelity.

"Life for life...will never solve anything....  
We forgive...Let's end all this suffering...

Then came trouble brewing between their people...  
Neither wanted hatred or bad feelings

"Let's be friends...Let's have it like it was before...  
You have in your power to end this awful war..."

So Chief Black Hawk came to make a promise....

So Chief Black Hawk used his power and his might...  
War and hatred died upon that very night...

**Life for life if ever bad things came upon us  
From his tribe...His promise was he'd give his life  
If a member of his tribe caused death or strife...**

'Cause Chief Black Hawk was a red man...and a good man...  
Bishop Kerns was a white man...and a good man...

Then one day his grandson was accused falsely  
Was horsewhipped and then retaliated wrongly

Stole a horse belonging to William Kerns  
Bishop Kerns said..."Let it go, son. We have learned

"Wrong for wrong is never a winning scene....  
Let it go....Let's end all this suffering...."

But William went off angrily to get his horse  
Tragedy is in the making now of course....

In the fray, poor William was shot alone  
Sadly Bishop Kerns went to bring him home...

By the body....Chief Black Hawk was sadly standing...  
Chief Black Hawk said "Bishop Kerns, I'm now surrendering...

"My life for your son's is the command...  
My braves here will see you home. They understand... "