



Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History

Department of Anthropology
National Anthropological Archives

NAA MS 2719, folder 4

***Shawnee notes and texts collected by Truman Michelson,
1911, 1934***

National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Please cite the material in the following format:

"NAA MS [Manuscript Number], National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution"

For example:

"NAA MS 2108, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution"

Joe Billy informant
J. W. Alford interpreter

good Sociology No. 8th I
~~good Sociology~~

Each major division of Shawnee

grown chief, warrio; messenger

... w. ... w. . . . woman.

male line hereditary

female hereditary

Rabbit, Crane
extinct

Deer or Horse; Person ~~Deer~~ Fowl⁴ only ones
eligible to chieftainship because they are
supposed to be peaceable.

Panther, all animals of prey. Cannot be chief,
but is warrior. Warrior must be of this class,
because supposed to be combatative.

Messengers must be of Raven class.

~~women~~ females as males.

Early days different divisions

two days journeys from each other

At dance young man sees sweetheart & vice versa
father or mother of young man negotiates
with parents of young girl. Lovers have nothing
to say. Negotiator of sides that they will treat
girl as own daughter, that she will be
given the best of care by her husband to
the end that they may raise 12 children
by that means to receive favor from
the Grandmother. If the girls parents

favor it they give consent. This is regardless of what ^{is the} guardian spirit ^{division} of gothastig parties.

but in naming of the children, if they belong to different guardian spirit divisions an equal number of their children will be named for each guardian spirit division. Major political divisions cut no figure; no exogamy or endogamy. Except those of chief-blood (man or woman) should marry one of chief-blood of another major division. In negotiating ~~the~~ such a marriage negotiator must bring pure white wampum of 3 strands reaching to the foot from head as a mark of respect. If proposal accept, all right and .

In case of warrior beads must be ~~the~~ bluish-lines. ~~before~~ properly he too supposed to marry outside his major political division, but nothing forbidding absolutely.

^{of blood}
Non-chief ^{not} supposed to marry Indians
not Shawnees.

If chief of one division is to visit chief of another division, he starts out with his people to the village of other division; when at a certain distance he halts & summons his messenger, and instructs him to convey to the chief he intends to visit a token of his friendship & good will in the shape of small amount of Indian tobacco. He arrives at the village presents it to the chief with the message. The other thanks him, and at once summons his messenger to notify his own people that the chief of such a division was coming to visit, & pay his respects on a certain day. The people are requested to appear at that date preparatory to receive their visitors with goodwill. At the appointed time the chief comes and met under a designated spot, usually under a large tree; ~~one side~~ the procession forms, the chief being at head in the order noted ~~before~~. One party makes a circuit around, the other division ~~not~~ goes in opposite direction, + make at half-circle ^{and converge on}, stopping as the receiving chief is at the next ^{receiving chief going} chief. Then they sit down, facing the east.

The receiving chief makes a sacred fire in the middle and produces Indian tobacco and offers it to the fire. As the essence of smoke rises from the fire he offers a short prayer to the grandmother, to the effect as she owns him and owns his thoughts, and that nothing evil could come out of the meeting unless she directs him for the success of the greeting. After the prayer the messenger takes up a pipe filled with ordinary tobacco mixed with pimic, and lights it, passes the same to the receiving chief (his own chief) then to the visiting chief, then all around then lays it down. Then the receiving chief announces that they have not been kwhite hōpe (= we have now smoked with our thoughts out). Then business begins.

In finishing the council, a string of wampum of 12 strands plaited is produced by each chief + laid on the ground side by side. Then Speaker refers to the beads as tokens of their greater good feeling.

Towards them which must ever be
 a road to them through life, that neither
 parties should turn to right or left to
 that road, thus represented by these
 heads, to the end of time.

Sm'l council usually in centre of
 the settlements; at appointed they come,
 in material where each major
 division comes, but all of same division
comes together.

In villages of major divisions
 in material what location those of some
 guardian spirit have. They do not have to be
 together, but are scattered.

Social rules

Horse ^{guardian} has no right to slur or joke
 with those of some guardian spirit;
 but have a ^{right} to say anything
 to members of Dog, wolf, Owl; not
 expected to get angry. No one has
 right to get ^{angry} with member of some
 guardian spirit.

Horse ^{dn}: Horse deer, antelope, goats & sheep

Wolf (round-footed). Panther, wolf, dog, cat, etc.

~~Deer~~ Deer, always down on Wolf is because W. is cruel and tears up young fawns, but later get even w. W., first fur and all which often kills wolves.

If persons marry belonging to different major political divisions, children belong to: if ~~the~~ parents living, no rule. At majority the children choose their division.

If children orphans half + half to each political division. At their majority they can go to which ever division they choose

It was customary to give a child as his
for somali a rabbit because this
never bites, and it befits his station. The
Rabbit is the only somali that has
no associate, + being alone, every other
guardian-spirit division is supposed to be
friendly to it.

Wolf: ^{includes} Panther, wildcat, Fox,
wolf, cat.

Turtle: all classes of turtles, fish, + otter.

Coon: all kinds of Bears, beaver.

Turkey ~~star~~: all turkeys, buzzard, vultures,
hawk + its family, crane and its kind

There are about all the somali divisions.

In case of birth of a child on 4th to the
10th day, 4 persons were to be at the
birth place, preferably the grandparents
of child (in any case 2 men + 2 women).
There the parents will present the child
to a grandfather or - mother as the case
may be to be named by the person
to whom it has been presented, and
to be of the guardian spirit division of names.
If the child a boy, immediately under
such instructions of the grandfather who

8

named it from time when the child
came to the age of understanding till
grown; at that age the grandfather
makes a bow & 4 four arrows; previously
telling the boy he presented, about
day break the morning the boy was to
hunt the first time: This must be his
weapons in the hunt; first little birds
and gradually the large animals
were to be his chase;

* for adventure in his wanderings in
the wood, by may find some creature
to befriend him which friendship
might help him to grow to an old age;
he will go in the last direction or his first
hunt; he is not to lose any of those first 4
arrows presented him; and that in his
wanderings in the hunt or seeking some
creature to befriend him, should shoot
a bird and lose the arrow, he is
to call upon a certain snake sasa-
ganwadi to sing asking the snake
to bring the arrow into sight; this he may
4 times. Get close to & again to go in
the direction of the arrow; he will
surely find it because sasaganwadi has

brought it to his view. At the age of 12 years he is then instructed to hunt specially to hunt for deer gone such as bear, deer, and so on; that he was forbidden to eat of the flesh of any that he may kill until the 4th one which he may partake truly of. Should he eat any of them before he had killed four, he will spoil his chance forever to be a successful hunter. And he was instructed also to pursue in his vocation as a Hunter; to try to find out the location of each kind of animal, the kind of country they inhabit during known season, and qualify himself thus to become a suitable husband for some unknown maiden who awaits him among his own people; that at the age of 27 yrs he will take an apparel, the best to be had, and paint his face, then enter the ring for the 1st time of a social dance if you please & keep from that time on till death; be present at the performance of the tribal dance as god intended. But be careful in those dances that you

Do not make light of the things
you here see done there or talk
privately of anybody, but enter
heartily into all the doings, treating
every person as your friend; and
cause no one to have sorrow by
your mis conduct. By observing these
you will receive a lengthening of your
days & years by our grandmother,
the young old age; and adopt the
same dress as you see others wearing;
by following the course I have touched
upon for your guidance, you will
please to your Creator by your
uprightness in conduct, who in turn
will prepare you at the end of your
life the way for you to enter the road
~~that~~ leads to her. If not you will
be led to the devil (~~ma tiskonita~~);
most 'dī'la).

The instruction of the girl are
the same save they are learned to
manage the household affairs; to
keep the house in order; to sweep
early in the morning; and that she
is to smoke baskets from cane, brush,
and from hickory-grain wood;

and she is to be presented a little
mortar to beat corn on until
she has made 12 baskets; she is
then informed she is proficient that
way, at the age of 12 years she is
instructed to care for seeds of all
kinds which god gave them such as
corn, beans of all kinds, and other seeds,
and to plant them in the four seasons
of the year, and gather the fruits from
them, and was also taught how to
dress, prepare garments so as to fit the
body well, and ~~not~~ to respect old
age, and not talk frivolously about
any body, ~~the ground~~

Shoulder blade of buffalo tied to stick.
how to use this in grubbing ground
she was instructed, that by working
faithfully she would not only
receive returns for her labor, but that
she would also receive the smiling
continuance of the creator which
would vouchsafe her a long life;
that by her work she will qualify
herself a worthy wife of some young
man unknown, now in the tribe
as we are intended to be so matched

to each other by our creator; and at the supper age you will undoubtedly be ask for by the parents of some young man to take your station in life; should it be the case, treat your 1st child very tenderly; should you be blessed to possess the 2^d &c, treat it the same manner to the 4th & one. Then after that until the 12th one you will be blessed by our creator; and should you suffer misfortune as the loss of your husband, remarry again to the 4th time if need be, but never a 5th time; and that recollect throughout your life you are mother of not only of your children but of the whole tribe. Be generous with your table. Thus you will gain the esteem of our people and entrance to our grand mother. And in the dance which God has given us to commemorate you are to take part as you see others do. Do not desecrate any by word or conduct, but treat everybody

kindly for by this means you will
gain respect and good will from
others and from our grandmothers.

— — —

Joe Billy informant
Billy Hodge in the future S.

Nov. 12

pābitc' kāwēdi
~~and~~ of the bow-
string snake

It was the boy that came and afterwards when he was 7 years old, he had the story in 2 ways, one story was all in fun, and the other was true. And the boy name was Wi'kwano. Wi'kwano was quite a boy; he was a medicine-boy, and told the tribe that he was going out to hunt sharp arrows, but instead of finding the arrows. He used these small snakes; he would catch one or two and use them for arrows. For his bow string he used another snake that stays in the water. ~~water~~ The boy went out early in the spring when the gobblers were gobbling, the boy saw the gobbler and he got close enough to shoot the gobbler, and then he shot him through the head and body, and killed it with these snakes. The boy went out in the river; he saw some ducks swimming around. Then he wondered if he could kill all of them, and finally he saw a chance. Drove the ducks and shot at them and killed 4 out of the bunch as far as the snake would find them.

The boy went out to see an old man
and found him at home, and the
old man had an old musket, &
the boy told him if he could swap him
out of it, the boy told the old man "I
'd give you my bow and arrow
and a little to boot, I will give
you 6 turkeys and six ducks for
your gun" and the boy went out
to the flocks; then he saw some
ducks swimming around, killed
3 out of the bunch, and then he
went to another place, and saw
some more, & got three more.

About the gobblers. The boy went before
day break. He saw some turkeys
roosting upon the trees, and then he
killed six gobblers, and then he packed
the turkeys and ducks to the old man
and said to himself "That will be
my gun which the old man
had." He brought the turkeys
and ducks to the old man, the
trade is made. And the old man
showed the young boy how to
work the gun. After making
the trade, the boy talked to

the snakes and they went about
and left the old man. He beat
the old man at last. After
making the trade the boy was
pretty well pleased with his gun
and early in the fall he went to
a hunt over the hills and
finally he saw a deer grazing
abundant, and he shot him. Then
he wondered how big could take
the deer. Finally he said:

When men kill game they
generally pack it on their backs,
and I guess I will have to do the
same thing. "And so he did.
Going over the rough hills, the
trees were low and his gun
bothered him. Then he found a
way of packing his gun. He
had it on his shoulder. He saw
something moving around
but still he didn't know what
it was and finally he got up
to it, a kind of deer; stuck him
in the anus with the barrel
and the moose got away taking
the gun along with him. He traced

him all along, finally found found the moose dead, and also found his gun near by the moose. The gun trigger must have got caught somehow & discharged the gun. That's how he killed the moose. The boy went on during the winter time on a hunt, he saw several deer in a bunch. He was picking out a good one which he wanted to kill. He wanted to kill the biggest buck. And he picked out a good one and shot it, killed it, and then he went to the deer and he saws come be' two ~~two~~ lying on his den. He shot through ~~the~~ deer and also killed one be' kwa (kind of deer). When the boy went out the snow was about 2 or 3 ft deep. (at beginning) after killing the two he had to pack them on his shoulder like all game which he had killed. No boy went out again on a trip through the timber and along the river and then he heard some people yellings hollering around, and

he looked around to see who it could
 be, but did not see anybody, the
 only things which he saw were a whole
 lot of bones and skeletons of the
 people. And he said: "There has
 been a war on this here place"
 and walked on a little further.
 He saw a horse grazing around,
 and he wanted to know how he
 could catch the horse, and he knew
 how to fool the horse. He went +
 got a piece of dirty wood, long as
 an ear of corn and he began
 calling, and then the horse went
 towards him, and somehow another
 boy knew a few words in
 English, calling the pony "Come
 John" and ~~then~~ he said at him self
 "I will not pack any more game
 on my back," ~~and~~ and

he took the horse, made a cross-
 stick saddle, and a bear skin for
 straps, and hickory for stirrups.
 And again he said "I can marry
 some Squaw" and he fell in love
 with a middle aged woman and
~~then~~ he went to the Squaw and

told her "Would you marry me?
If you do, I will give you my horse,
and I have everything at home
what is needed." The woman
said: "I want to marry such a
man as you are for you are
a good hunter." The boy was married.
He went out on a hunt & told his
wife that he would go out to kill
100 ducks and told her that they must
have feathers or addresses. And so he
came to a creek. Then he saw
300-400 ducks swimming around -
And he wanted to know how to do
hundred in a day. Then he
studied a while. Finally he knew.
He came to a forked tree, then he
put his gun in the fork, and bent
it in 4 places just the way the
creek was. And then he shot the ducks
of which he killed a hundred. After
killing 100 he went and picked
them up packed them on his
back, took them to his camp & told
his wife "I've got the ducks & you
pick the feathers, I have them for
a bed-cover. The wife asked him.

"How did you kill all these ducks?" and he told his wife "I have a good shooting gun" and he told her just what he had done, that he came to park the and he told her "I've bent my gun in four places just the way the ~~Creek~~ lay." The man went out again with his wife on a bear hunt, and then after going as far as they thought there was game, they left their home staked out; and he told his wife "You go around the edge of the hill" which the woman did, and the man stayed down in the bottom where there was high grass, and he knew that his wife was scared some game in the thicket and as he looked around there come a walking a big bear, and he shot him, and killed him, and again another one coming slowly through the tall grass he killed, as his wife was in the thicket she scared another one, and he also killed it. And again he looked around & he saw one more walking along, and he

also killed it and then he told his wife "Go on the other side of the horn and hold the cross-sticks white I put one bear on one side & you come back around here hold this side while I put the other one on"; and after putting two on each side, they went back to the camp but they had a time making it back to the camp. After a day or so they saw their horse with a bump on the back & then their horse had a big sore back. "We had too much load on the horse". After 2 or 3 days the horse disappeared, they never found him again. After on a big hunt the man thought they had better go back when he was worried which they did. And a year after that then he went back for another hunting trip to the same place & which he had lost his horse. He said to himself: I might find this horse. Which he did, but on the horses back there was a hickory nut tree growing out from his other back, and he said "Now is a

good chance for me to make a saddle." and he tied his horse to a tree, and while standing he cut the tree down off the horses back. Hewed it out to a saddle but he said: "I will not over load my horse anymore." This squaw said him "How did that happen?" He said he did not know; but still at the same time I found a horse and a tree grew on his back, and that's all he could tell. This squaw told him man that she was in a family way. "And the man told his wife: "I dreamt that you were in a family way, & we are going have a boy." The man went & got his horse, told his wife that he was going up to a little town & see what he could see: which he saw. 2 men in a bar room hitting glasses together. Which he did not understand, and then the 2 men said this is a red man lets give him a taste." ~~What~~ The boy took 2 or three drinks, and began feeling good, and then the boss

of the house told the red man "I will give one quart of this to go home on" and every now and then he would whoop on the way going home after leaving home his wife told him "you will get in the habit of drinking". But he told her not to mistreat

when they the child comes + birth. Again at another time he went back to town + never came back ~~again~~. It was not long when the child was born. Finally the man came back drunk and the woman told him "we've got a boy!" And he told her "Take good care of the child, when he becomes a man, she will support us." The man went away again up to town, stayed away 2 years from his wife + child.

After 2 years he came back to his wife, and the child knew his father, and his wife told him "You must stay round & stay at home to take of the child". When the people knew that he had come back good many of the people went to

visit him, and thus he was, & he told
the people "I've been gone away
2 years," and he said his wife would
have to stay at home. Finally
another man disputed his word,
and he said: "You ~~are~~ my friend,
are going to kill me" When they
said that he stretched out and
died. And that's the last.

BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS

No. 2719

Stock Algonguiian

Language Shawnee Dialect

Description: (words, vocabulary, dictionary, grammar, text, legends, notes)

Collector Dr. Michelson

Place Date

Remarks Ethnology; linguistics; texts, etc.

77 pp various sizes.



Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History

Department of Anthropology
National Anthropological Archives

The Smithsonian continues to research information on its collections. Contact Smithsonian for current status.

Please observe the following rules for file sharing, which are intended to help protect the integrity of the material and associated information.

- Do not incorporate material into a publicly accessible database or website without checking with the National Anthropological Archives (NAA).
- Do not post whole manuscripts to a social media site, such as a blog, Facebook page, Twitter feed, etc;
- Do not modify or obscure the source information or copyright notice included in the material;
- If you deposit the material in a tribal library or resource center, make sure that the library or resource center knows the source of the original material and is aware of these rules. Please let the NAA know where material is deposited so that we can guide community members to it.

Questions? naa@si.edu.