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INFORMANT'S ADDRESS:
TOUCHWOOD AGENCY

INTERVIEW LOCATION: TOUCHWOOD AGENCY

TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JULY 12, 1934
INTERVIEWER: DR. D.G. MANDELBAUM
INTERPRETER: FRANCIS CYR
TRANSCRIBER: HEATHER YAWORSKI
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This agency is located out of the prairie proper in a rolling, wooded country. There are three reserves near the agency, all of which have a large proportion of Cree -- Gordon's, Poorman's and Day Star. Two reserves are 125 miles away from the agency, Mt. Lake and Fishing Lake. The Mt. Lake is a far-famed one wherein the Indians are on a primitive level, there being no school there. An old medicine man rules both reserves. Mr. Waddy, the agent, is very sure that they are all Soto.

Mr. Waddy took me out to Gordon's and introduced me to Francis Cyr, a halfbreed who is nevertheless a treaty Indian and has lived like an Indian for a good many years. He is a man of over 70, and speaks English well.

Informant - Kas-kawauipiec - "Thunder Mist" (Chief of the Reserve)

At the time of treaty signing, this informant's father, kaniuwuskwatau, "Four Claws," was chief. His English name was George Gordon. Before him his father uskitcewa-piu, "Pipe Stem," was ukimau. Before him his father wataxkaxkwana, "Wing," came to the Cree from the Kaxkakiwatcayanuuk, "Crow"(?).

According to the informant, his grandfather had fled from the Crow because two of his sons were bad actors. He came to the Cree with four other men and their families. I am not clear if it was his sons and their families who formed the rest of the party. At any rate, they allied themselves with a band of Cree. The old man was a famous warrior among his own people and was immediately recognized by the Cree as an ogihtcitau ukimau.

Their territory was from Fort Pelly westward, south of the Saskatchewan to the Rockies. They went south as far as Turtle Mt. and Cypress Hills.

Try as I might, I could get no band affiliations for these people. They insisted that the only name they ever went by was simply Nehiawuk. Francis corroborated this by citing an instance (the exact situation I did not get straight) of where each chief had to give his tribe and band. George Gordon, the old chief, said that he was of the Nehiawuk.

The other ukimau that were close to their people. Kicigausatcaxkwus, "Day Star," kawaxkatcuu, "Poor Man," kanwises, "Little Boy," kauahaxtca-peu, "Bow Fixer." They said that the greatest ukimau of all was tcima-skis, "Short Stick." Poor Man and Gordon were uitciwaus.

At the present time the reserve is mostly Cree with some Soto, Assiniboine and Uskastsimusuk, "Young Dogs"(?) among them. These informants spoke Cree, however.

They averred that in the old days the Soto, Assiniboine, and Cree each were more separated than they now are but at the time of the great encampments there was much intermarriage. Then the young bride went to live with the man's people because they had paid a good price for her. But this was not an absolute rule.

I asked them about the uto-tem concept. To them it simply meant a very close friend. It had no exogenous nor animal implications whatsoever.

This informant said he was 70.

Informant - Kakiciqauwipautawat "Standing Day" or Longman

This man asked me if I had ever heard of a chief who had died in the States. His band also had died out and the government was looking for heirs. Longman evidently thinks he is one of the heirs. The chief turned out to be itawuskiyik, "Double Eye." I told him that some of his people were at Crooked Lake.

Itawuskiyik was his grandfather, kauwises, "Little Boy", his father. Longman explained his being in this Gordon reserve by saying that Gordon had married kauwises's sister. Kauwises had been a muskwitau ukimau before the treaty, but (according to Longman) was not recognized by the government.

I pounced on this last ukimau term but they all positively affirmed that ogihtcitau ukimau, pas-qua ukimau, and muskwitau ukimau were one and the same thing.

Their enemies were the Sioux, Blood, and Blackfeet.

The house was a government building with two connected rooms, peaked roof, whitewashed inside. It was fairly clean.

There were two beds in the room I was in, two tables, a sewing machine, a watch hanging from the wall, hat and purse on the wall.

Informant - Francis Cyr

As an informant Francis was not very good despite his ability to speak English and his age.

Some odd bits of information I got from him:

Pas-qua had seven wives.

Never saw Buffalo Pound in use.

They would kill ducks at this season, when they were moulting and unable to fly, by hitting them with sticks.

Bows and arrows used on buffalo only in his day.

Fishing in winter was done, he heard, by rubbing fat on carved wooden minnow. Big fish would swallow this, in summer fish would be speared.

Poor Man and Gordon bands lived at Long Lake -- Piapot at Cypress. Pasqua where they now are.

He has seen bark tipis among the Gordon band called mistikikiwahpa.

The lodge of the ogihtcitau was called ogihtcitau ukamik.