

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: GEORGE FIRST RIDER
STORY OF RIB CAGE
(BLOOD TRIBE)
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CARDSTON, ALBERTA
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INTERPRETER: DAVE MELTING TALLOW
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GEORGE FIRST RIDER

George First Rider of the Blood Reserve was born in 1904. He had no formal schooling but became an accomplished horseman and worked for a time on the rodeo circuit. After working as a farmer he ended up in jail as a result of alcoholism and theft. He attributes his reform to his conversion to Christianity.

He prides himself on his ability as a storyteller and on his knowledge of Blood culture, particularly the holy societies many of which he joined as a young man.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tells story of Rib Cage.

**NOTE: This document was not completed. However, a slightly different version of the same story may be found in document IH-AA.038.

George First Rider: Okay, these stories that I told are illustrations. I did not want to tell these stories in the first place. Now our son-in-law, Yellow Fly (John Hellson), advised me not to take any words out from the stories and not to add more to them, for me just to illustrate them right, so that people will know the story. Now we all want to know straight about life. That is why I illustrate the continuation(?) of our births. It's just the same like to

illustrate the holy writings (Bible). Now as I am working with you, the reason why I illustrate things to you, you will hear how babies form and the meaning. I'll say you, yourself, you know how we use women.

I am not saying it in an obscene way, it's a story. So you will know. Now I am talking to you, Holy Man In the Water (Dave Melting Tallow). I illustrate this to you. It's my story, so you'll know. Okay, I am going to tell another story.

The first people are the ones that live among the first life. Now the ones that we tell legends about. This woman had a baby. Her children were different. This husband of hers went away; he maybe went hunting or he maybe went for his meats. Her, she was pregnant. Her name was not mentioned. She is now pregnant. She was all alone in her home. Suddenly she heard a voice saying, "Which way? Which way? Huh, this." She said she was walking in circles in her home. The voice came closer. "Which way? Which way?" Then she noticed it walking around her home and that's the "which way, which way." This NAH - TSI - KAI means, "Where will I go?" It also means, "Who wants me to go to him/her?"

When he went around the lodge she took her awl. These awls are not iron, they are the splint bones of buffaloes; the white horns have them too. The material they use for awls are bones. The geese also have the bones that we make awls with. The white swans also have the bones that we make awls with. She took her awl and punched a hole in her lodge and she looked out through the hole. As she looked at it, it had no pelvis and legs; it was walking on its ribs. When she looked at him, she looked out at him through the hole that she made in the wall, when she saw him the way he was moving. The man was strange man. When he noticed that she had seen him, he said, "Ah, you told me to go in."

The girl sat down. The man entered. He sat on the south side towards to the doorway. She told him, "Please sit there." She told him, "I'll feed you." "Huh-ah-ya, I haven't eaten yet." So she set food in front of him. The man told her, "Huh-ah-ya. I was so hungry I don't use these for a plate." The girl went out and she cut some willows and she set the food on them for him. The man told her, "Ha-ump. I was so hungry I don't set my

food on these." She jumped to the back and she set the food on a food container for him. The man told her, "Ha-ump, I don't set my food on these." She looked around and she took her dress and she set the food on for him. The man told her, "Ah-ump, I almost eat. I don't set my food on these."

The girl told him, "What are you going to use to set your food on?" The man told her, "Yourself. Lie on your back here and I'll set my food on your chest*." So she laid down on her back in front of him and she set the food on herself and as the strange man cut the meat he cut open the stomach of the girl. She had twin boys. He took one and he tucked it in behind the

liner. He said, "Okay, this is Chief Tucked In Behind." He took out the other one and he stuck it in the where the ashes were and he said, "This is In The Ashes." And he got through eating and he tied a band round the woman; the woman didn't die.** I (First Rider) heard two stories about this. Some say she died and some say she didn't die. So she didn't know where her children were put.

When the man came home and saw what happened, he said, "Ha-ah-ya, it's a pity what happened to me, my woman." He went out to look for the one that brought disaster.*** The people told him, "Floating Ribs went into your lodge." He did not find Floating Ribs. Things went on and later the man went away; the woman also went out. The man uses wing feathers to put on the butt of his arrows; those are his property. He is drying arrows. As they went in, his new arrows were all scattered and the feathers that he uses for his arrows were kicked all over the place. "Why is it so messed up?" they said. They went away again. When they went home they heard some children making noise. The woman said, "Yaow, there are some kids in our lodge." The man ran lightly to his lodge and he barged into his lodge. There were no kids, but the inside of the lodge was in a mess. The lodge was really messed up but there were no kids. "Yes, I heard these kids making noise very clearly and there are no kids in here." After a while they went out. They put some food and water in the lodge. When they came back into the lodge the food were all eaten and the water container was empty. It wasn't spilled anywheres.

*The strange man didn't tell the girl, "Lie down here and I'll set my food on your chest." She told the strange man, "How about me?" And the strange man said, "Ah, that's what I use to set my food on."

**The woman died but she was brought back to life by her husband.

***The husband didn't go out to look for the one that brought disaster to his lodge.

The man told his woman, "Do you suspect anything? These kids maybe are our children." "Yi-ow, how can we have children?" the woman said. The man said, "I suspect them." They'd put some food and water inside and they'd go out and when they come back in everything would be gone, they'd be eaten, and the inside of the lodge will be untidy. Okay, they put dirt on the floor. They put white dirt all over and they brushed it smooth. They smoothened it out with an arrow. They just rolled it on the dirt and it laid out smooth. They set the food clearly on the floor -- a ground dried meat, a backfat, and a tripe, and some water -- and they walked away. When they went back home there were some kids acting unruly; there were two of them.

When they entered the lodge there were no kids. As they looked at the floor there were footprints made by the kids. The

tracks of one of them led to the fireplace and the other one's tracks led to the wall. They knew then that there were two of them. "Ha a, what is it?" they said. They tidied up the place. The next morning the man told his wife, "I am going to find out about them." So he started to put feathers at the butts of his new arrows. He made two arrows and two bows and he put them on the floor and he went away again. When they came back in there were the arrows. There were arrow holes all over the place. They knew then that there are two of them.

The man told his wife, "Tomorrow you will take your tools and you will go out there far away from here and work. I am going to find out about these kids. They probably are my children." So he painted his face in the morning and he put the arrows down and the food that they are going to eat. So he walked to the door and he laid down. He turned himself into a rotted log. The woman went out and sat away at a distance from the lodge. Himself, he laid by the doorway.* In the fireplace was the boy named In The Ashes. He moved the ashes and he came out and looked around in all directions. The man was a rotted log; he was watching him. When In The Ashes didn't detect anything he called out. He told him, "Chief Tuck In Behind, get up. Our father has gone out and our mother. Come, let us play." Chief Tucked In Behind called him, "My friend, we are not alone, our father is lying by the doorway." In The Ashes told him, "It's a log, how can it be your father?" He (Chief Tucked In Behind) told him, "No, my friend, that is our father."

*The man didn't turn himself into a log inside of the tipi. He went out with his wife and he told her, "I will turn myself into a log and you will take me inside and lay me down by the doorway." And there are no food set for the twins to eat.

In The Ashes took his bow and arrows and he shot the rotted log and he hit it; it was a rotted log. His arrow stuck into it. He walked up to it and pulled out the arrow. He told him, "My friend, why are you so scared? It's a log, it's not our father. Now come." And Chief Tucked In Behind came along. He was afraid of the log. In The Ashes told him, "Why are you so scared? It's a log that you are calling our father." "No, my friend, it's our father. He turned into a log. Our mother went out." In The Ashes shot the log. He (In The Ashes) told him, "There are your arrow, shoot it." But he was refusing. In The Ashes went and he retrieved his arrow from the log. He shot at it again and his arrow stuck into the log.

Chief Tucked In Behind was deceived and he shot at the log. He told him, "My friend, take my arrow too." In The Ashes went and pulled the arrows out, so he took a shot at the log again and Chief Tucked In Behind shot the log too. In The Ashes told him, "My friend, you get the arrows this time." Chief Tucked In Behind told him, "My friend, you will come with me and we'll go and get them. Let's go," and they walked to it. As they were about to take the arrows their father grabbed them and they struggled and they cried. The man told them, "You are my

children. Sample me." They didn't want to sample their father. Finally In The Ashes bit his father. He bit him on the shoulder and he stopped crying. He told Chief Tucked In Behind, "My friend, taste him. It's our father." So he bit him on the other shoulder and he quieted down.

The man called his wife and she came in and they had children. Those are the ones that came from the woman that Floating Rib used as a plate. Chief Tucked In Behind was a quiet kid. In The Ashes was a crazy child. So they then took them as their children. When they grew to a certain age he takes them along in turns in his travels. In The Ashes was very inquisitive. Every time he is going some place he (In The Ashes) wants to go along. Chief Tucked In Behind was quiet; he loved his mother.

Now he made bow and arrows for them. He told them, "Go in the east direction, don't go in the west direction." When they went out In The Ashes told him, "My friend, let's go westward." Chief Tucked In Behind told him, "My friend, our father told us to go downwind." "Ah, it's good to go the other way." They had an argument at that moment. In The Ashes got the best of his friend so they went the other way. Before they went away their father told them, "Help me, my children. As you are going out to hunt, go downwind. If you go westward don't shoot a greasy bird.*" Before they went their father told them, "Go downwind. If you go that way you'll come to a wrestler, if you go downwind it's all fine. If you go west there is a slider." Their father knew all things that we are going to die from. Chief Tucked In Behind was wise; In The Ashes was a crazy kid.

*A greasy bird is a goldfinch.

They came out; their father was away. Chief Tucked In Behind went on. In The Ashes told him, "Why are you going in that direction?" It's good where we are going." Finally In The Ashes won, so they went on. They came up to the slider. Slider means you are swinging. These are told in two stories. Crow Woman Who Slides, they were told by her. "Please sit in the slider." Chief Tucked In Behind told him, "No, we will not sit in it. Our father told us not to go that way." "Ah, let's ride in it," but Chief Tucked In Behind refused, so they went the other way. When they came up to the wrestler, "Okay, let's wrestle." When Tucked In Behind looked he saw a quartzite. When he saw it, it was very sharp. The wrestler throws his opponents on these quartzites. Chief Tucked in Behind....

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