



Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History

Department of Anthropology
National Anthropological Archives

NAA MS 1834
Autobiography of a Fox man by Alfred Kiyana, undated
English translation part 2
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"

BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS

1834 ✓

Stock Algonquian

Language Fox Dialect _____

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

Collector Dr. Michelson

Place Tama, Ia. Date _____

Remarks Autobiography of a Fox Man. Text and English
translation. 294 pp 8 x 5", and 294 pp 8 x 7".
(Ethnology)

ant
ARCHIVES OF THE
BUREAU OF
AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

(2)

No. 1834

Transl., A. 2

Shirlylawn Fabric



FABRIC FINISH

plums, choke cherries,
^{a kind of Perry} many apples, berries,
grapes, crab apples, goose-
berries any little thing that
grows wild, everytime I
would fast for four days
and also anything that
we raise, squash, Maize,
beans, anything that we
raise, They do the same
thing to me, even the
ducks, early in the spring
the first ones they
killed, they do

the same by fasting me,
in everything they would
tell me what blessedness will
bring me and if I should
eat them without letting
any one know about it, I
would have trouble with
my teeth. and they told
me "I have already told
you who will tell you
if you eat them ~~if~~ even if
you eat them at night, the
one who gave the fruit to us will
surely know, then you will
never be well, but will
always have pain on your
teeth.

whenever I see them, if I
pick them up and eat them.
then this will happen to me,
but if I fasted first before
eating them then the makers
will say 'He done fasted.'
Then they will not think any
thing of you. This what they
use to say to me, "Each
one, my grandchild, the
great spirits has control of
the fruit. everything that
is sweet. That's you fast
first before eating them,
to your children, four
days —

you would fast. You are
not the only one, but they
done the same thing to us!"
That's what my grandmother
use to say to me. Then
once I owned a little dog
"Bonelust" was his name.
It was brown with white
neck, it was given to me
when it was small, I took
care of it till it grew big. In
the spring I liked it. He could
find squirrels, but one
afternoon my father fed
it a whole lot of things

He said "Now I am going to take your dog to the gens festival," I did not know what he meant, He took it. Next day he said, "Now you are going with me, you are going to sit for your dog. for your clan, they put on my best costume, still I was ignorant of all this. when we got there, there we saw columns of smoke from our lodge, we went in, there we saw some men cutting up meat, I found out those were (ma mi di a ki) all day -

I sat around. I was pleased
to see them dance. My father
was singing, soon they
began to depart. We also
started for home father
and I. When we got home
I asked my father, "Where
is my dog?" He said, "Gens
festival (to Ka ne) They ate
it." As soon ^{and I} as he said
this I began to cry so hard
I was angry. My father
began to tender me, but
never a word would I
listen to, soon I could
not cry —

I felt so bad. They ate my dog, and always my father tendered me, never will he utter any harsh words. I began to get sick and everytime I thought about my dog began to cry again. Then my grand mother gave me another, it was a little bull dog. The same kind a little bull dog. Then I got well, and once —

Afterwards after my anger faded away my father began to explain things to me, but I never wanted to listen. Then he began to take me to the festivals. Then after we get home he would begin to explain, I would eat the dogs but I never like them. After we are in bed my father would begin to explain about the gen festivals and what the ones who blessed done.

(52)

blessed by God, what are
being said about them.

I began to understand
the songs, that were sung
in the festivals. I would
listen at festivals these songs
and sure they would make
me lonesome, from then I
was that way, the songs
would make me lonesome,
these festival songs, this
religion I would often
go. and never will I
refuse if I was in
for the revival of the
souls.

"this is what they use to say to me
if I don't do that I won't do
it. If I think exclusively
of bad, then by nature I won't
be there. This is what you
will do if you do not
listen." If you think you are
for yourself, you will not
understand me, that's what I
have told you. you as my
son. I won't think I have
control over my son.
I will not say that, I do
not own you -

then when the time comes
for me to die, then from
then I can't help you.
this is what happens to us
Indians, if you think you
own yourself, that's what
you will do, you cannot
help yourself. you will
not live to be old, that
is why these sacred
packs are handed to
us for us to depend
on for our lives, to
live to the old age.

(55)

Our lives, you will depend
on it, not only your pack
or of your clan, but to
our friends also, if
you are called upon,
respond, and worship
the pucks as well as
they do, you sit for
them, To go over and
think over ourselves
not to have any happy
thoughts but the most
sacred, about God, to
think hard —

(56)

of him who bless us.
That sacred pack will know
exactly your thoughts, there
isn't anyone that God
does not like, but he likes
the women best, only to
good women. To girls who
have reached maturity
and to girls who are bad
he does not think of them.
To us he told a lie.

(57)

This is what God does,
you cannot try to tell a lie
or even have evil thoughts
for he will surely know.
God, then he will not
think much of you! This
is what my father use to
say to me. "And if you
eat at the festivals you
are to eat reverently, not
how you eat ordinarily
but to eat with care, in
eating a dog in.

(58)

festivals; This is what my
father use to say to me,
when he explains to me and
really I wanted thing of
God only. Once I went to
gives festival and I thought
of God only, who bless us.
and of those who have been
blessed, and to live longer
and sure enough the songs
seem to cause one to be long-
some, when I listen to
them, what they told
me about them, Then this

is what I did, what my
father used to say. "This is
the only way in which to
obtain power to kill
our enemies, and to them
they cannot get you, from this
when I told you about
the religion. God's own
thought of you, that
you will obtain life.

(60)

"Then if there is anything difficult happening to me this will carry you through to life. You will live. If anyone is so seriously ill, this will surely relieve him of illness, if you do this." This what my father used to tell me. and my grandmother she also used to tell me the same thing. Both alike.

(61)

this tell me these things
so often that I began
to think seriously of religion,
myself at the festivals.
I would think only of
God, and when I eat
I would eat very care-
fully, and I eat slowly
then I would carefully
eat so as not to let a single
drop and I would chew
my food thoroughly.
whenever I am invited.

at festivals I would not
have any evil thoughts.
I would be glad when-
ever I'm invited, then
I would not have any
happy thoughts. I was a
little boy. and at home
I would often be bad
but whenever I'm invited
I would think of nothing but
religion. as long as festival
lasts, and whenever its
over I would promptly go
home, and after getting
into our lodge —

and out I go again, to frolic
that was what I was told
to do. Soon I began to
fast, then my father
died, never to see him again,
it was winter when my
father died. from then I
would never forget, but
I was never able to kill
any game yet. only thing
was that, I was a bad
boy. That time when
my father died I
would think I have
better stop my fasting.

(64)

I was somewhat glad
and once my grandmother
said "Grundschild you
have understood and you
do whatever you are told
but since your father's
death, you will feel for it
some day, you will wish
you had a father. you
will feel very bad about
it, but here is the best
thing for you to do and
that is to blacken your
face with ashes -

At all times, fast, then this
will be good for you. you
will benefit nobody but
yourself. if you fast. if
God blesses you, you
will not be fooled, but
you will be whatever
he blesses you for,
this is what you are
going to do.

(66)

Even if he blesses you in
an difficult way. you will
be that." said my grand
mother to me. Then I began
to fast during winter, and
she told me this. my grand-
mother. "Whenever you
fast, you must have some
thoughts against Jeremies
the Lions, Commanches
any others who speak
different language, they
have killed many of
our relatives.

(67)

that I. to myself urge
you to fast. My grand
children. That you say these
things to you and when I
was a girl I, to have to
fast, even when I was
up to maturity, I fasted.
and sure enough, now I
have lived long enough.
It seems, that it is very
hard, what I have
gone through, they killed
each other, the Indians.

and I never was wounded
nowhere. I carry no scars
even though I was right
in the fights of the Indians.
The Sioux would attempt
to get, but they are the
ones that get killed most.
This is what my grand-
mother use to say to me,
"That's why I urge you
to fast, because you
are my grandchildren."

(69)

"I have known what hard
ships the Indians went
through, and it seems I
find the way through".

"This is what my grandmother
told me. Then she fasted
me herself, my grandmother
then at noon she would
feed me. "Grandchild
they only ones, the white
man, we have not
fought, the Mesquakies".
My grandchild!"

"These Mesquakies, they have not killed any whiteman and also the whiteman have not killed any Mesquakies." This is what my grandmother told me. Then in the spring I would cease my fasting whenever the croaking of the frogs sounded. Then I cease my fasting.

"Grandchild, the devils are now awake, you shall cease fasting," she would say. "except on the occasions like at someones death!"

Four days, whenever the wild
fruits ripe, then, four days
and whatever we raised.
four days I would fast
then after fasting, I had
rot, afterwards, and
my mother, I asked about
her to my grandmother.
"Why is it, that my mother
wears such a ragged clothes?"
I asked my grandmother.
"Well, grandchild,

she is a widow, your mother, that's what they do. she will be that way, before the adoption, then your mother will not wear them." She told me, soon my other grandmother came after me my father's relative. I went with her, then I found out that there was going to be an adoption, feast, all the relatives of my father gathered, and us who are related, we were there.

Then a man came, whom I especially noticed, they began to feed him. After he ate he went out, and I sleep there. They were so kind to me, they gave me a bow, my father's brother gave me two spears, I was extremely grateful. They told me "You will use these against the Livings."

(74)

and this bow, it is a fighting
bow," they would say. Next
day, throngs of people came.
I found out this was an
adoption feast and I saw
my mother with beautiful clothes.
Then in the evening my grandmother
to me back, I took the bow
with me. then they gave me
something else when I got
there, I put my spears
carefully away and my
bow I wrapped it.

(75)

Because that was what I was
told, to wrap it, and once in
the fall, my father's brother
came after me, to go with
them on their hunting expedition.
I was treated kindly. They
never told me to fast, once
it snowed, not so much
fell. Then next morning
they told me, "well (toKa ne)
you will fast, this snow
over (nephew) we must
answer, this.

(76)

he will see you with ashes
on your face, and as soon
as it all melt away you
will cease fasting (to Kane).
We will never say 'eat' as long
as the snow is here." And I
done that every morning. I
would take ashes and blacken
my face. They use to
remind me of it, and
they use to tell me legends
and —

(77)

I like to hear these legends.
often I would wish I could
be like the characters in the
legend. I like these legends
often they would tell me
to listen very tentatively
just to listen and now
to have any ^{other} thoughts to
interfere, they would tell
those legends very slowly
to me. and then whenever
I get sleepy I would
tell about it and then—

I would go to sleep, and then the next night they would continue. because I was willing to fast, whenever I wake up in the morning I would take the ashes. I need not have to be told. I would begin blackening my face with my own sord, and then at night I would listen very tentatively, after I would laugh and then at times I would be saddened. then—

they tell me about the Indians
of long ago. What they done
trench other, fighting. I like to
hear these also. They would
continue these for several
nights. They done this all
winter, whenever I get
sleepy I would tell them
so, then I go to slumbers.
they would say, "Go to sleep (to
ka ne). then I solemnly-
go to sleep. Thus-

(80)

the next night, they would
continue from where they
left off, I learned a number
of jokes, when my father
was alive, he would never
tell me any jokes and
also my mother she
would never tell me any
jokes. my father's brother
was the one who gave
me a lot of jokes

(81)

Soon the snow melted away.
I ceased fasting, and the
weather became warmer. I
asked, "Will you tell me some
more legends?" "No (to ka
ne)" when they said this I asked
why. "Because the garter
snakes might crawl in
(bed) with you." When
they told me this I said, "I
will go around and stop up
all the holes, so they won't
crawl out." I insisted.
"Well we will later on."
I was told.

"When we get back home.
back to our village, and then
I guess they told my cousin
about this and he killed
one of these garter snakes
(Ba to Ka a) was his name.
They told me, "Now I'm going
to tell you a legend, but you
must first, go around and
stop up all the holes so they
won't crawl out, the garter snakes.
I told you once they might
crawl in (bed) with you,
so to night —

(83)

you will see your unbeliefs",
they told me, they have not
camped my mother, my
grandmother, and that night
they began to tell me a legend.
I slept with my cousin, they
told me a legend until late
in the night and the next
morning, I guess they put
the snake, besides me.

"Wake up, see that snake
besides you," when they
told me this —

(84)

I looked and there I saw
a big garter snake, they
told me, "Go after it
you're a man." I grabbed
it, threw it into the
fire, coffee was boiling
there, but I spilled every
bit of it, and all the squaws
who ^{were} cooking jumped up. My
^{uncle (Mrs. Larkin)} cousin was trying quickly to push
the snake away from the fire, but
before he could do anything the
snake exploded. What the
squaws were cooking
was thrown away —

I was frightened, but they never said a thing to me. they never even made me fast. I was afraid them to have more legends told to me. I believed everything. everytime, this might happen to you, was said to me. I would believe it. soon my mother came, they took me there. The one who took me along. My grandmother told me, "Grandchild,

(86)

honestly. grandchild, you are
not what you use to be,
you are now very talkative,
you talk too much, you go
right ahead and say what you
please." That was what my grand-
mother said to me. "I believe
they do not try to teach you any-
thing," she said. "We use to
try to impress your mind
upon the right ways, and to
keep you thinking, I use
to think a lot of you, my
grandchild."

"And now you say almost anything you please, you do not seem what you use to be." This is what my grandmother told me. She asked me how many times I fasted, and I her, "This is what I done grandma, when the snow first fell they told me that our nephew had come, and if I fasted he would see me, so ever since I fasted each day, never going with clean face, all winter.

"Then all winter they tell me legends, and what the Indians done, long ago. Every night they would tell me these." I said to my grandmother. "I see my grandchild," she said. "This year festivals are the only things that I can recommend and nothing else, only this."

If you have lived with me, I would have taught you other things," This was what my grandmother told me, "I would have told you about these festivals," she said. "and now you are loaded with legends and old stories. I would never have taught you any of things. these various stories, they want you to like them, that's why they done this," I was told

"why you told me your father?"
I replied my grandmother
"yes, from now on you will
talk back to me," she said.
I never said a word afterwards.
she began to explain things
to me, and all I done was
to listen to grandmother. I
never told her anything,
she kept on explaining
after she was through, I
sneaked out and ran away
back to where they brought
me from." you came back?
they said to me, "yes!"
my grandmother -

drove me away." I said.
Soon my mother came
after me. So I went back
to my mother. "Why do
you like the place?" She
asked me. "Because they
always tell me interesting
things." I told her. "And
my grandmother, she always
scold me, she never say
anything good, when I came
back, that's why I ran
away." I said to my
mother. "I never scold you
any." she told me.

"Just so, you won't get too
bad. I want you to be, and I
don't like this fasting and you
are poor, to think my poor
son is made to fast. That's
the way I think, and this your
grandmother has a lot of grand-
children she won't make every-
one of them fast. You are the
only one that fasts, if only

(93)

said my mother." and
this your grand mother, she
lived with those and she
won't made them fast.
and she also tells legends
to them herself, and still she
scold you about it!" He said
to me, I liked my mother
more than ever, and she
never tells me to fast, not
even when anyone dies.
and I eat any wild fruit
and

and these things what we
raise, we eat them anytime
while I was living with my
mother. Then my grand-
mother came, some one died
just at that time. "Why didn't
you fast your son?" she told
my mother, then she spoke
up. "I do not want to lose
my son as poor as he is, I
won't do that to him and
besides there's lots of other
children who do not fast."
They told my grandmother,
"And about these —

legends they are being told
to them. so I won't say anything
against it. ^{to} your grandchildren
you tell them legends and they
sit around, and after you are
through no one would fast.
and this one you insist on
my son. you know
about this listening. he
is only a child and
that is why he can
listen very tentatively.

(96)

I felt so glad, towards
my mother, and I stayed
with her at my ~~mother's~~
and in the father ^{paternal} my
uncle came, and asked
my mother if he can take
me. she consented, and I
went along with him. "You
will sit here," he said and
they treated me so kindly, he
told me many legends
which were familiar
but told them in a
different way, and
some —

they would be same.
He told many jokes and
he never made me fast.
It was nearly spring
we never heard of my
grandmother, my mother's
mother. she came after
me, I felt bad. then
she began to make me
fast. then my uncle
moved away and
my grandmother treated
me so bad.

(98)

next page will be 99



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.