



Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History

Department of Anthropology
National Anthropological Archives

NAA MS 1879, folder 6
Nine Fox legends collected by Truman Michelson,
undated
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"

1879

BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS

Stock Algonquian

Language Fox

Dialect _____

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

Collector Dr. Michelson

Place Tama, Ia.

Date _____

Remarks 8 legends; listed on Card No. 2 in File.

(30)

Wi-sa-ke-t-Hunting.

- 1 -

Ke-sa-ke-a- went out hunting, as he was going along, he came to a plum tree, "now, here is where I am going to eat all the plums I want," he said.

The plums were under the water, he took all his clothes ^{off} and jumped into the water, he dived way down deep and felt around for the plums. He kept putting different kinds of stones in his mouth. He kept coming on top of the water so he striped a piece of bark for a rope tied it around his neck with a stone on it. as he was so sure he had seen the plums in the water. He began to get tired

-2-

So he climbed to the bank here he saw the plum tree with nice red plums, "How foolish I am," that I did not see them before," he said. When he had eaten all the plums he went home.

The next day he went away from home again as he was walking along near the river he again saw a deer laying down in the bottom of the river, so he took all his clothing off and dived down under the water.

-3-

He kept diving under the water, finally he grabbed a great big stone. Then he got out of the water and dressed - as he looked up there he

saw a deer laying down
on the bank, so he took
his bow and arrows and
killed the deer, here
he roasted the deer.

When he was roasting
the deer, there was some
branches there close by
rubbing back and forth
squeaking which sound-
ed like ~~it~~ said father,
mother, so he just
hated that sound of
the trees, it was a couple
of small trees rubbing
as the wind blew. But
he was mad and told
it to stop saying it.

- 4 -

He said, "our mother and
father died a long time ago,
so shut up", he said, as
he said this he took

a stick and climbed up the tree, here where he had his hand was open just there, and the wind blew and caught his hand. He was helpless that he could not get his hand out. As he was up in the tree a band of wolves came along they smelled something very good like roasted meat. So they went up close to the smell, here they found roasted deer, but saw no one around. As they all got there, one happened to look up, "there he is up in the tree", they started to run away but they noticed his hand was fastened there some way. "He can't get away; it's

have a big feast, so they ate up his meat he had roasted and intended to take home to his grandma.

These wolves even ate his deer hide, and broke up all his dishes and kettle.

At last he finally got loose, he jumped down from the tree and ran home.

- 7 -

When he reached home he told the old woman all about how his aunts and uncles had eaten up his meat, broke his dishes and kettle all up in pieces.

"Yes," your uncles and aunts are very naughty," meaning the wolves. Some times he didn't tell his grand mother the truth. The old woman said it was the custom for the uncles and aunts to

abuse their nephews.

- 8 -

It was the naughty wolves that ate up his roasted meat, his hide, broke up his dishes and kettle.

So the sa-ke-a went out again the next day as he was walking along he could hear some body laughing, so he stepped aside along a path, and hid in the weeds. Here along came the wolves, he moved a little and they saw him.

- 9 -

That is the sa-ke-a said the wolves, "I wonder what he is laying there for, lets go and ask him,"

They came to where he was laying, "brother what is the matter," "O, nothing at all

I am just laying here for
the fun of it," said the
sa-be-a. "What happened
to you?" they said again.

-10-

"Well, hustle up some
wood right away. I will
show you," said the

The wolves all got busy
to bring dry wood, when
they had gathered a pile
he made them all
march around the fire.

And one by one he let
them catch fire. The
first caught fire, he ran
hollering in the thick
brush as hard as he could
it burned him so badly.

"That wolf isn't hurt he is
just saying that it feels
so good, now he is going
to lay down in the woods
some where," he said.

And another one caught fire he also went running for the thick brush, And another and still another till the same thing happened to all of them.

Where ever these wolves dropped there they burned to death. He killed all of these wolves this way.

He laughed at his trick I am awfully mad yet for what these wolves done to me, when they ate up my meat, deer skin, broke my dishes and bottle, now I got rid of them he said. So he went home to his grand mother.

When he reached his grand mother's home, he told her all about it again.

The next day, he said,
"Grandma get all my
fancy Indian clothes out
I want to take a walk."
"yes, that is the way your
uncles, and aunts used to
do take walks." She began
taking all his clothes out.
He put on his great
long strings of beads, his
head dress, his feathers,
and buckskin leggings,
and buckskin moccasins.
He was all dressed as if
he were going to a dance.
-13-

He went away, and as
he was walking along he
heard some one holler, "you
can't eat me, you can't eat
me, if you do, you will
have bad luck, you will
run off your bowels," etc.
"Oh, he said, 'who ever you

are I don't care to eat you,
you are just trying to
deceive me, I will not
bother you."

He went on and on this
thing seem to be keep
saying this. He went on
he didn't want to hear it.

14

And as he was far off he
heard it again. It said.
"I bet no one could eat
me"; no one can eat me."

He became disgusted then
"say, that is enough now
don't say any more!"

He hadn't gone very far
till he heard it again.

He stopped and started
toward where the sound
came from, here were a
bush of daisies. He grab
them up, roots and all.
He put the dried stems in

his mouth and chewed them all up. Then he started on, as he was walking along he had awful pains in his stomach. But he kept on going, till he got worse and worse.

Till he kept doing some thing awful, and kept on and on.

And the pains in his stomach were bothering him pretty bad.

"Well," he said, "I didn't eat very much before I left, surely; it must be those dry daisy stems. They didn't tell me story what they said was true."

He had an awful experience from eating those dry daisy stems. His stomach

was so out of order, he could do nothing for himself, he rolled on the ground too.

Till finally he could not go no farther.

He was so tired out and felt so badly too. He at last climbed a tree and thought he would remain there, it happened to be a cotton wood tree, right near the river. He climbed too far up and broke the limb and fell right in the water. He began to swim, he lost nearly every thing he had.

- 17 -

When he saw a nice place, he climbed up to the bank. Here he took

his clothes off, and threw
most of them away.

Then he went home, and
when he got back home
he told his grand mother
a story, he told her
he had seen some of
his uncles and they took
away some of his clothes.
She said, "yes, your uncles
will abuse you."

-18-

He told a sad story to
her of how he was abused
of how they took away
all his fine clothing, but
it wasn't that at all.

He was going to climb up
a tree, he broke a limb
and fell in the water,
here is where he lost his
clothes and what he didn't
lose was ruined by the

water, but the old lady
always believed what
he said. Then he went
away after he had put
on dry clothing.

- 19 -

When he was going along
he saw a large flock of
ducks. He hid in some
weeds, pulled some weeds
up and made sort of a
round bundle. When he
made this round ball of
weeds he threw it on his
back and walked away.

These ducks saw him and
came toward him. "Uncle
what have you on your back?
they asked. "never mind,"
he said.

20

But they bothered him to
tell them, so he told them
it was songs, they asked.

him to sing just one song
the worse song he had in
his bundle. He said he
would if they would all
dance and do as he had
asked them to. The ducks
agreed to do as he asked
them to. So he stopped and
said he would sing so
they were going to dance

21

He said, "I am in a hurry
but I will do as you say
this time." In this song you
all stand in a row as
close as you can with your
eyes shut," he said. "alright"
the ducks said willingly.
Then he said, "all dance
in a bunch with your heads
together," as he sang a
song about his little brothers
the ducks'.

- 22 -

as they were dancing so hard with their eyes shut. He - so - he - a - took out his bow and arrow, took only a few shots and killed the whole flock, that is he thought he did, but they all came alive and ducked under the river near by.

These ducks made fun of him after they got away. He said he didn't care to eat them in any way. Some day my uncles will be eating you ducks, he said as he walked on home.

23 -

The next day he went out here he killed a lot of them. He put them on his back after he tied the heads altogether. He then started for

the river. He unloaded them from his back near the river on a bank, here he picked the feathers off the ducks and laid them in a row, after he made a hot fire he began to roast the ducks. Next by passed some wolves, and it smelled so good, they could smell the ducks roasting. "It is We-sa-ke-a-" they said so they stepped up. Here just when these ducks were about cooked, he had them on sticks near the fire roasting. He was so tired he laid down near the fire place and fell fast asleep. While he was asleep these wolves came up and ate all his roasted ducks.

24-

So they ate up all his roasted ducks, bones and all. The - pa - ke - a - slept on and on and never woke up. There were only feet left, the feet he cut off and didn't cook. When he woke up that was all there was left. The hungry wolves had eaten every thing, to bones, except the feet.

25-

He was very hungry when woke up, and that he would have a big feast. But there was not a bone left but the fat and the nice smell of roasted ducks. He left very bad, he did not know who had stolen all his nice meat, but rights

away he began to track
around there.

- 26 -

Here he tracked the wolves
They were the ones who
done the awful trick
on him. He was very
angry. He was so angry
he beat himself up,
even threw hot ashes on
some places of his body
which done no good.
As he was abusing him-
self he found a small
piece of meat laying on
the ground. He grabbed it
and ate it. It was so
good. Then he went on.

- 27 -

All at once he heard some
wolves making a lot of
noise. He looked about
then he saw a lot of wolves

looking at him, and making fun of him, he then started on a run and hid from them. Along a path he laid down and made off to sleep. Soon these wolves came along, he is asleep they said. So they teased him until he made off they had woke him up.

- 28 -

They asked him, why he was laying there, he said just for fun. So they asked him to show them a little fun, he said I will, then he began to sharpen his knife, then one by one he cut them all up. He cut one so bad, it ran a little ways and died.

He done this till he killed
all of them.

- 29 -

He would scuffle with
them till he cut them
up so bad with his
knife they would die.
And they all wanted a
chance till he killed all
of them. He done this be-
cause they made him so
mad that they ate up
all his nice roasted duck.
So he went home.

30

When he reached home
he told his old grandmother
about it. He said, "I had
a hard time with my
uncles." meaning the wolves.
"yes, your uncles are very bad,"
she said, "they like to abuse
their nephews."

He didn't go away for a few days, then he went away again. As he was going far off he saw a giant coming with a big stick. It came singing. It was just going to drop the big stick on him to kill him.

- 31 -

Here there came another giant so there were two giants. They laughed at him and said how cunning he was that he got away from the big stick that was going to kill him. So the father said he would try, that they both tried but he got away from both of them. This is where We-pa-ke-became a giant killer.

- 32 -

He took the stick and killed both of them. He said, "this earth is intended for my people to walk freely as they wish and hunt all they want," he said after he killed them.

So there never was any giants after that as We-sa-ke-d killed them all.

He ran home as quick as he could and told his grand mother how two giants nearly killed him and how he had killed them just by breaking their legs with a stick they intended to kill him with.

- 33 -

By dropping a large stick on him and how it had missed him.

But the old lady got very

angry at We - pa - ke - a -
and he got mad at her
too and said, "You old lady
you wanted them to kill
me." "You cry every time
I do some thing to defend
myself." So the old lady
got alright and said "I
was just saying that", "I
didn't mean it."

- 34 -

The next day he went
away far off in the
prairies, suddenly as he
walked along, he saw
something flying toward
him swiftly, he stopped
to see, it landed right
on his stomach, it meant
to pierce his stomach and
kill him but he was too
quick. He grabbed it and
crushed the nose all up

and threw it away dead. He said, "my uncles will walk and hunt freely on these plains and prairies some day," you are not to take charge." He went home

- 35 -

As usual he told his grandmother all about his trip how he escaped death a gain. So he left again and went away. His grandmother told him to go, she said "that is the way your uncles use to do, walk about the country all the time."

As he was walking in the timber when he was attacked by a herd of elk - one ran and tried to hook him in the stomach to kill him but

- 36 -

It failed - He said, "O! O!" and the herd ran away after they couldn't kill him. As he walked in the timber he saw a tree full of wild apples, he filled his bosom as full as he could. Then he went on until he came to the prairies, here these elk came out of the brush and started after him. One was going to bite his stomach but bit his wild apples instead. The wild apples hurt the elk's teeth and ran off. He told them they shouldn't do those things that they was to be only meat for his muscles!

Then he went back to his home, and told his grandmother of how the elk tried to kill him.

Ne-sa-ke-said he believed he had done a great harm to the animal that was going to bite his stomach when the elk ate the wild apples instead of him. Again the old lady scolded him. But he said all these animals would be so fierce and kill people all the time if nothing was done to them.

and the old lady said it was alright then.

and again he said "Well, grandmother" I am going away again.
"Yes, that is the way your

animals use to do," So he
was walking in the woods
and a skunk ran just
ahead of him - and shot
out some awful strong
odor on him. He got after
him and said the skunk
was not to do that trick to
the people. So the skunk
felt ashamed and went
far off from you.

39 -

The skunk tried to get
away from him then.
As he got home he told
his grandma, that even
the skunks tried to do
him harm, "yes, every
thing is dangerous." you
have to be very careful,
said she. That is why
people have to look out
for animals even a small

skunk ^{can} do so much harm,
even to day it is so,
as it was in the days of
We - sa - ke - a -

40

A long time ago before there
was any sign of white
people on this earth, when
there were only Indians,
or We - sa - ke - a 's people.
In those days they knew
not about the horse, but
owned dogs as their pets.

But We - sa - ke - a - had
told his people long before
all that is happening to
day, that there would be
horses, trains would run
on iron's all over the
world, wires would carry
messages and all that
has happened, We - sa - ke -
a - had told his people.
The End.



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.