



Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History

Department of Anthropology
National Anthropological Archives

NAA MS 2776, folder 2
Truman Michelson field notes from the Munsee in Kansas
and the Delaware in Oklahoma, 1912-1913
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"

1 Long bone informant.

Naming + Birth. no special birth ceremonies. girl named by mother or old women. Boy named by father. Usually after some powerful animal so the boy could have a helper throughout life.

Puberty rites.

Boy. When voice is changing for 1 yr must live quietly at home. Not supposed to whoop during this period. At close he will be told he is now a man, and should marry.

Girl. When a girl menstruates for the first time, she must go outside to a small lodge. Her hands will be tied so she can not touch anything. If she did, her face would become blotched with blue dots.

Marriage.

The young man will go to the girl's house and engage in conversation with the old people. He may or may not address the girl. If his suit is favored he will be asked to stay all night. When the old people are asleep he is at liberty to get into bed with the girl. This will happen several times. He will then ask her to marry him + he will

then take her to his own home. If the young is bashful his mother may take presents, blankets, horse etc. to the girl's home whom the mother wishes her son to marry. She will engage in conversation with the girl's mother, and eventually will say she has come to take the daughter. If the gifts are accepted she will do so; and the girl will go. But the young man will be held in light esteem as lacking in manliness. - Longbone narrates a case where a sister acted the part of the mother.

Berdaches - Berdaches formerly were fairly common but do not exist today.

Burial . There will be a 'coffin' 1 foot above the ground covering the dead who is completely buried. The dead's head will point East. When Longbone's wife died he had to follow his wife's nearest male relative around the grave E. N. W. + S. stepping exactly in the foot prints of the relative. On returning to where

where they were originally, the relative
 struck out North West, Longbone following.
 The relative had 12 sticks, As they went
 along he took one in his right hand,
 and passed it over his left shoulder.
 Longbone received it with the right
 hand + put the end in his mouth
 and threw it away with his right hand.
 Then the relative used his left hand
 over right shoulder, and so on
 till all the sticks were used up.
 Longbone acting always as in the
 first case. Then the relative went to
 a timbered hill + gave Longbone
 advice, etc. + told him to marry as
 soon as possible. The 12 sticks
 signified ⁷

on neg. m. / i'm reel no. 56

2776

MICHELSON, TRUMAN

MUNSEE

&

Delaware

Ethnological and linguistic field notes from the Munsee in
Kansas and the Delaware in Oklahoma. [1912]. 170 pp.
185

This field work is referred to in 34th Ann. Rept.,
B. A. E. (Washington, 1922), p. 16.



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.