

Mary Maude "Grandma" Supernaw
Interviewed by: Bill Supernaw, Jr.
Interview Date: 1962
Transcribed by: Rise Supernaw Proctor and Billy Supernaw Proctor
Subject: Quapaw Name Giving

Quapaw Name Giving

Bill: What do you have to have to give a name?

Grandma: Oh, we got to have, got to have a pan, uh, just anything that uh, puts goods in it, pan or skillet or whatever you want to, just get pan, four yards of white goods and, and tobacco, and a eagle feather, and a shell¹. Let's see, a pan, and good(s), tobacco, eagle feather

Irene: Shell.

Bill: Shell.

Grandma: Shell.

Irene: Who gave Mary² her name?

Grandma: Oh, Ms. Fire.

Irene: Oh.

Grandma: That's her grandmother³ too, Ms. Fire. She got it for him (her), my father give them all this name.

Irene: Oh.

Grandma: One of you want give us a name, you have to tell somebody get it for him, if you don't, you have to go yourself, get your name.

Bill: Oh.

Grandma: Get it. When sometimes when they get sick you have to, second time you have to go back and uh, you have to give a, like doctor, you know, give a little more, add to it, you give a, anything a little, bigger you have to give, if you got horse or just anything, that's just a you want them to get well, you have to give something better, so they get well sometime.

That's the way I do, when I was small they, they do to me. We spent, oh, a cow

sometime and uh, give ole cow and a horse away and, and they told me, they told that, Quapaw, Indian doctor told, when I be twelve years old I won't be sick anymore. I Uh, sure enough, on a twelve years old I never did get sick.

¹ Odestine McWatters says the shells were button shells with two holes, kind of cupped and pinkish.

² Grandma's daughter by Willie Thompson.

³ Irene Supernaw said that this was Mary Thompson's aunt.