

Recorded by J. Owen Dorsey ca. 1890-94
Reminiscences by Alphonsus Valliere

1)

Before the Civil War, we lived there on the west side of what they called Sweet Potato Creek.

ma-zhaⁿ shi-ka-zhi shoⁿ-ti
mažq šikáži šótti

land/bad/not, negation/and, still, yet/at, by, in, to = while there was not yet any war, at that time when the land was not bad

to ski-de i-ke-a-we
to skíde ikeáwe

potato/sweet/they say = they called it

ni e-ti k^{he},
ni ettí k^{he},

water, liquid, stream, lake, river/aforementioned, that, he, she, it/at, by, in, to = there, then, said of time as well as place/the singular lying object

mi o-xp[a]e-ta-de-de-do-shi
mi óxp[a]ettadédedóši

sun/fall into/towards, in that direction, on that side = toward the sunset, on the west side

aⁿ-kniⁿ aⁿ-ka-t^haⁿ naⁿ.
qknj ákat^hq nq.

we, 1st person dual, sit, stay, remain, camp, dwell, live, reside/we, 1st person dual, continuative standing/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

2)

Then, at the time, I was fifteen years old, and I was as large as boys are at that age.

e-ti o-ma-ni-ka kde-bnaⁿ taⁿ sa-taⁿ a-kniⁿ
ettí ománikka kdébnq-tq sattq aknj

there, then/year/ten/and, when, since, as/five/to sit on = fifteen

e-aⁿ-na-ska [a]-ni-he maⁿ.
eqnaska [a]nihe mq.

I that size, me of a certain size/1st person singular moving/I do, be, use, have = I was

3)

Then, at that time, my stepfather took from me the only horse that I had, and he traded it away on me.

e-ti iⁿ-ta-te zhi-ka shoⁿ-ke-a-kniⁿ
ettí jttátte-žika šqkeáknj

there, then/my father/small, little, young = my stepfather/dog/to sit on = horse

e-naⁿ hi aⁿ-taⁿ [a]-ni-he taⁿ,

ená-hi áttá [a]nihé-tá,

aforementioned, that, he, she, it/only, just, alone/very, intensifier = only that/I possess, I have/1st person singular moving/and, when, since, as

aⁿ-ki-niⁿ hi-d[e] a-taⁿ

qákinj hid[e] á-tá

to have taken my property/and

i-ki-k[a-iⁿ] aⁿ-ki-de t^he.

ikkikk[áj] ákkide t^hé.

to trade, barter, exchange/to cause for me = he traded it away on me, he traded it to my disadvantage/the past act, completed action; narrative marker; the singular, standing or collection

4)

Then, at that time, he rode away on my horse, and when he returned, he brought back a roan mare.

e-ti hi-de t^he naⁿ,

ettí hidé t^he-ná,

there, then/to have gone somewhere/the past act, completed action; narrative marker; the singular, standing or collection/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

shoⁿ-ke-a-kniⁿ wi-ta a-kniⁿ a-taⁿ de t^he naⁿ,

šókeáknj wíta áknj attá de t^hé-ná,

horse/my, mine/to sit on = he rode it/and/to go/the past act, completed action; narrative marker; the singular, standing or collection/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

kdi naⁿ

kdí-ná

to have come back here/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

shoⁿ-ke-a-kniⁿ wa-x'ó xo-te zhi-hi a-niⁿ kdi.

šókeáknj wax'ó xotté žihí anj kdi.

horse/woman/gray/reddish yellow = roan/to have brought back here

5)

The horse was very old and had recently become stringhalt in the right hind leg.

shoⁿ-ke-a-kniⁿ t^haⁿ zhe-ka

šókeáknj t^há žeká

horse/3rd person singular standing; the standing/a man's leg, hind leg of animal

e-ta de-de te-ta

ettá déde tsetta

aforementioned, that, he, she, it/to, at, toward, in that direction = there/to cause to go, sent away, went, to go this way/to the, at the = on the right side

hi di-ko shaⁿ-t^haⁿ

hi dikko šát^hq

leg or bone/drawn up, cramped, hobbled = stringhalt/newly, not so formerly the standing object, denotes a reversal of a previous act, state, etc.

shoⁿ-ke-a-kniⁿ naⁿ-haⁿ hi.

šókeáknj náhq hí.

horse/old, grown up, mature, raised/very, intensifier or arrive, reach there, have been

6)

So, he didn't even tell me, despite that it was my horse, he traded it away on me without even telling me, I was extremely displeased.

ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ

kóišóttq

that, there/and, still, yet/and, when, since, as = then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore

aⁿ-ki-da-zhi hi,

ákidáži hí,

tell something to me/not, negation/very, intensifier = he did not tell me at all

shoⁿ-ke-a-kniⁿ wi-ta ko-i-shoⁿ

šókeáknj witta kóišó

horse/my, mine/then, despite, notwithstanding; so, or in that case, of that sort

i-ki-k[a-iⁿ] aⁿ-ki-de t^he.

ikkikk[áj] ákkide t^hé.

to trade, barter, exchange/to cause for me = he traded it away on me, he traded it to my disadvantage/the past act, completed action; narrative marker; the singular, standing or collection

aⁿ-ki-da-zhi hi t^he aⁿ-shoⁿ-zhi a-ta-pa.

ákidáži hí t^he qšóži áttappa.

tell something to me/not, negation/very, intensifier/the past act, completed action; narrative marker; the singular, standing or collection/I am pleased/not, negation = I am displeased/too, great, exceeding, often, always

7)

Then I told my mother, when I told her, this is what I said,

e-shoⁿ iⁿ-da o-a-ki-bda,

ešó idá óakibdá,

aforementioned, that, he, she, it/and, still, yet = then, at length, and/my mother/I tell something to another, my relation

o-a-ki-bda ti de she [i]-he,
óakibdá-tti dé še [i]-hé,

I tell something to another, my relation/at, by, in, to = when I told her/this/that, that visible thing;
that way or course/I say = this is what I said, the following is what I said

8)

“I do not like it at all that my stepfather, without even consulting me, traded away my horse on me.

iⁿ-ta-te zhi-ka aⁿ-naⁿ-ho-da-zhi hi
jtátte-žika qnqhodáži hí

my stepfather/to ask me, consult me about something/not, negation = he did not consult me at all

shoⁿ-ke-a-kniⁿ wi-ta
šókeáknj witta
horse/my, mine

i-ki-k[a-iⁿ] aⁿ-ki-de t^he.
ikkikk[áj] ákkide t^hé.

to trade, barter, exchange/to cause for me = he traded it away on me, he traded it to my
disadvantage/the past act, completed action; narrative marker; the singular, standing or collection

aⁿ-ho-taⁿ a-ta-ha zhi hi
áhottá áttahá-ži hí

good for me, I am good/too, exceedingly, much/not, negation/very, intensifier = I disliked it
intensely

9)

Therefore, I am going to go somewhere else.

ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ e-ki-zhi
kóišóttq ekíži

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/somewhere else, elsewhere, different

bde ta [a]-ni-he
bdé ttá [a]nihé

I go/future, will, shall/1st person singular moving = I will be going

10)

I will do something for myself, because I think that I am large enough to acquire something for myself.

e-a-wa-ki-k'oⁿ, ta-taⁿ o-a-ki-k^he-taⁿ
eáwakkikʔó, táttq oákik^hettá

I do something for myself/what, something/I acquire, gain, possess something for myself

aⁿ-naⁿ-na-ska a-a-ki-zhoⁿ-m[iⁿ] e-t^haⁿ-ha.

qñánaska áakkižóm[i] et^háha.

I am large enough/I think about myself, I regard myself/this amount, this much *or* because

11)

Therefore, I will work for my uncle.”

ko-i-shoⁿ-taⁿ wi-te-ke

kóišóttq wittéke

then, thus, accordingly, in that way, therefore/my mother’s brother

o-a-ki-we-bda-bda te.”

oákiwébdabdá tte.”

I work for someone, my relation/future, shall, will be

12)

And then, at that time I ceased to live with both my mother and stepfather.

e-shoⁿ-we e-ti-t^haⁿ

ešówe ettít^hq

and, then/from that time, at that time, from then on = and from then on

iⁿ-ta-te zhi-ka iⁿ-da e-naⁿ-pa

ittátte-žíka jdá enápa

my stepfather/my mother/both, also, too, that one too

we-a-kdi-xe a-bdi-shtaⁿ.

weákdixe ábdištá.

I live, stay with them/I stop, I cease an activity

13)

And from that same time on I was working for my uncle.

e-ki-t^haⁿ-taⁿ wi-te-ke

ekkit^hqttá wítteke

that of equal length/and, when, since, as = from that same time on/my mother’s brother

o-a-ki-we-bda-bda [a]-t^haⁿ-he maⁿ

oákiwébdabdá [a]t^háhe má

I work for someone, my relation/1st person singular standing, the standing/I do, be, use, have = I was

14)

He paid me twelve dollars a month.

mi-aⁿ-ba mi-xti naⁿ

miába mįxti-nq

moon, month/exactly one, only one, just one/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when = monthly

ma-ze-ska kde-bnan-tan nan-pa a-kniⁿ aⁿ-nan-ki-da.
mazéska kdébnattá napá aknjⁿ qnákidá.

iron, metal/white = money/ten/and, when, since, as/two/to sit on = twelve/pay to me = he paid to me

15)

It was just two months later and then one day my mother sent someone for me.

e-ti-t^haⁿ mi-aⁿ-ba nan-pa hi taⁿ,
ettít^hq miqba nápa-hi-ttá,

from that time, at that time, from then on/moon, month/two/very, intensifier, just or only when used with numbers/and, when, since, as

hoⁿ-t^haⁿ-hi haⁿ-ba mi iⁿ-da aⁿ-kda t^hi-we aⁿ-ki-de.
hót^hqhi hába mjⁿ idá qkda-t^hiwe-qqkidé.

then, at length, it happened, once upon a time/day/one, a, an/my mother/to arrive here to get me, her own/to cause for me = she sent someone for me

16)

I said, “What is the matter?”

“hoⁿ-e,” i-he

“hóe,” ihé

what, how, in what manner/question sign/I say

17)

The messenger said, “Something has happened, your stepfather was wounded at the store of Crooked Nose and he was taken to his home. So, your mother wants you to come home.”

“hoⁿ-ni-haⁿ di-a-te zhi-ka i-yo-wi taⁿ

“hónihq diátte-žika iyowí-ttq

that is the matter, it’s this/your stepfather/wound someone or something/and, when, since, as

a-kda-niⁿ kdi k^he,

akdánj kdi k^he,

to have brought back one’s own/the singular lying object

pa kaⁿ-ka ta-t^haⁿ.

ppá kkaⁿka ttat^hq.

Crooked Nose, the nickname of a white trader/from

e-koⁿ da-k^hi koⁿ-da,” i-e.

ekó dak^hi koda,” ié.

that sort, like, thus, like that, so/you arrive back at your own/to want = she wants/to say = he said

18)

So, I headed for home, first thing that evening.

e-shoⁿ e-ti pa-ze he-be hi a-kde.

ešó etti ppáze hébe hí akdé.

then, at length, and/then, there/evening/piece, part/very, intensifier/I start for home, I head home

19)

When I got home, there was no hope of his recovery, he just laid there breathing.

a-k^{hi} naⁿ t'e ki-ha o-ni-aⁿ-hi-de shoⁿ-k^{he}.

ak^{hi}-nq tʔé kihá oníqhíde šqk^{hé}.

I arrive back at my own/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/die/finish, quit = terminal/to breathe/and, still, yet/the singular lying object

20)

My mother told me that when she had sent someone for me, she said, that my stepfather was still alive.

iⁿ-da aⁿ-ki-da, hi-we-wa-ki-de i-e,

jdá ákkída, híwewákkidé ié,

my mother/tell something to me/she had sent someone there for me/to say

e ni t^{he}.

é ni t^{hé}.

aforementioned, that, he, she, it/alive, conscious/the past act, completed action; narrative marker; the singular, standing or collection

21)

Not long after I reached home, he stopped breathing.

e-naⁿ a-k^{hi} e-shoⁿ o-ni-aⁿ-hi-da-zhi

enq ak^{hi} ešó oníqhídaží

only that, him, her, it/I arrive back at my own/then, at length, and/to breathe/not negation = he stopped breathing = he died

22)

It was still night, but towards day when they laid him out.

e-shoⁿ hoⁿ t^{he}-ti

ešó hq t^{hé}tti

then, at length, and/night/the singular standing or collection/at, by, in, to = it was still night

[h]aⁿ-ba k'aⁿ-ha-we.

[h]ába kʔáhawé.

day/they lay something down, they lay out

23)

The next morning, they buried him before noon.

e-ka-sa-ni haⁿ-b[a] [i]-haⁿ-ke taⁿ

ékasáni hqb[á][i]háké-ttq

the next morning/day/nearly, almost/and, when, since, as = before noon

maqⁿ-t^he de-da-we.

máq^he dédawé.

inside, in, within, under/they sent away, they cause to go, they send

24)

And then, at that time, I stopped working for my uncle.

e-shoⁿ e-ti-t^haⁿ wi-te-ke

ešq^h ettít^hq wittéke

then, at length, and/from that time, at that time, from then on/my mother's brother

o-a-ki-we-bda-bda t^he a-bdi-shtaⁿ.

oákiwébdabdá t^he ábdištq.

I work for someone, my relation/the past act, completed action; narrative marker; the singular, standing or collection/I stop, I cease an activity

25)

My mother and my older sister were all alone. Because they had only myself to depend on for support I stopped working for my uncle.

iⁿ-da wi-taⁿ-ke e-naⁿ-pa

jdá wittáke énapá

my mother/my older sister (make speaking)/both, also, too, that one too

naⁿ-hi-naⁿ-we taⁿ-ha

nq-hí-nq-we táha

only, just, alone/very, intensifier = all alone/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when/pluralizer/because

wi-e naⁿ-hi aⁿ-ki-toⁿ-we ta-i-t^he naⁿ,

wíe nq-hí ákittówe ttáit^he-nq,

I, me/only, just, alone/very, intensifier/to depend on me/they will, they shall/the past act, completed action; narrative marker; the singular, standing or collection/regularly, usually, often; past sign, when

wi-te-ke o-a-ki-we-bda-bda a-bdi-shtaⁿ.

wittéke oákiwébdabdá ábdištq.

my mother's brother/I work for someone, my relation/I stop, I cease an activity