

Unidentified voice: Isn't there a story about the flood?

Mrs. Kilpatrick: Well, there's a story about how they got their fire. They had it across some water or something. (Sentence not clear)

Mr. Hagerstrand: You brought the question of origins of some of these stories and there are references in other tribes. And there's also one particular reference in a letter which was written by a trader in Indian Territory about--oh, I think it was 1670 or it was one of the earliest references to people that are identified as Cherokees. And in this, he describes in the old English style a little bit of their beliefs. I ran across it when we were doing research for Tsa-La-Gi. And he described it as a religion in which they believed in the Great Spirit Who was good. And because the Great Spirit was good, He could do no evil--had nothing to do with evil. There were other spirits that were evil and it caused man to do evil. But the Great Spirit Who is the giver of all life--gave to the Cherokees their fire. Was not or--could not be evil because you could not be both evil and good. This is the essence of what he was saying. And there was also a reference to the flood or something that can be referred to the flood--as the flood in which he was told that in the ancient times, there came a great rain. It just covered all the earth--and all the earth, the animals and the man had to seek high places and it rained and rained and rained. And only the Cherokees were left. This they believe--well, I suppose you could relate this to the story of Noah and the flood, and, certainly, I don't know how valid it is, it was merely a recitation in a letter and rather difficult English, for me at least, to interpret.