

by Lewis Henry Morgan

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## THE SHAWNEES

This is one of the most celebrated of the Algonquin tribes. They have, from the days of William Penn, had perhaps as large and eventful an intercourse with the whites as any other Indian Nation. They are now far advanced in civilization, and are trying the great and dangerous experiment of dividing up their lands with the unrestrained power of sale in each individual. They sold their reserve to the Government several years ago; reserving a farm of 200 acres for each man, woman, and child, which after 8 years each was to have power to sell. It is believed that many of them will make a good use of the encouragement which the ownership of their own land will give them. They tell me, however, at the Mission that quite a number are inclined to and will sell and go down and live with the Cherokees, who have invited them to do so. This reminds me of the fact that the Shawnee prophet, Elketsana (Eiskwatawa), or Tecumseh, went down to visit the Cherokees in his day and claimed kindred with them, as the Iroquois coming west even now claim kindred with the Wyandottes.

As Henry Harvey has written a book on the History of the Shawnees, it will save me the necessity of making many inquiries of a general kind. I have his book. The Shawnees here numbered at the last payment 850 souls. To this number must be added the Shawnee Band in the southern part of the state, numbering about 75, and these, I believe, make up the remainder of the race. They had originally, I think, 100,000 acres of land at the mouth of the Kansas on the south side, the best watered land except that of the Delawares on the opposite side of the river in the state. It was no doubt thought to be quite important to displace them when the rapid settlement of the territory began, and the Shawnees appear to have been wise enough to see the necessity of removing or selling a large part of their reserve lest they should find their condition intolerable from the pressure upon them by the whites.

## Shawnee Clans:

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. Wolf    | M-wa-wa   |
| 2. Raccoon | Tnappa-ti |
| 3. Turtle  | No-ma-tha |
| 4. Turkey  | Pa-la-was |
| 5. Snake   | Ma-na-to  |
| 6. Hare    | P-sa-wa   |

(from John Bluejacket  
U-kai-ue (cf. Systems)  
Rabbit Clan)

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 7. Rabbit     | Pa-tak-e-na-the |
| 8. T. Buzzard | We-na-se        |
| 9. Panther    | M-se-pa-se      |

- |          |             |                        |
|----------|-------------|------------------------|
| 10. Deer | P-sak-e-the | (Common Deer)          |
| 11. Loon | Ma-gwa      | (He thinks it is lost) |
| 12. Bear | M-quu       |                        |
| 13. Owl  | Me-ath-wa   |                        |