

*All Cornuda*

*L. Lewis + Clark's journal*

names from the animal who served as their patron saint. Thus, in most tribes there was a Fox Society, <sup>a Raven Society,</sup> a Buffalo or Bull Society, a society of Dog Soldiers, or it might be Strong Hearts. Each society had a lodge or tent pitched near the center of the tribal camp circle at the annual reunions, which served as headquarters, a kind of primitive military club, police headquarters, and social center for the warriors of the society. Women and dogs were not admitted to these tents, and men not members were not welcome without invitation. Young warriors often slept in these lodges, and indeed a young man was not very welcome in the home of his parents, since it was felt that he should be too active to be hanging around his mother's tent. When the society met they had chiefs to preside, a crier to announce their plans, <sup>marshals</sup> ~~ushers~~ armed with whips to direct their dances, members who acted in rotation as servants at the feast, and usually four virgins who sang and appeared with them at their dances. Such societies are apparently of ancient time as Indian life goes, and will be found described in the travels of Peter Radisson, who visited the Sioux as early as 1660. I wish to pause here to stress the fact that the warrior societies were well established on the Plains.

The warrior society must not be confused with the band. The band was a social organization, a group of relatives, men, women, and children who travelled and lived more or less together and formed a unit in the tribal camp circle at the annual Sun Dance. Membership in a warrior society was not restricted to any one band, so that men of different bands met together in each of the societies, just as among ourselves men from several cities may all be Masons or members of the Army and Navy Club. For this reason societies rarely went to war in a body. Sometimes this happened, perhaps once a year, at which time certain young men were selected, often to their surprise and against their secret wishes. They were given rank in the society, which entailed an

*Dog Soldiers (excepted)*

*4 - 6 Lance Bearers*

- drummers -
- surgeons -
- food-passers (mountain) -