

been through the Suhtai that the Cheyenne acquired the Sun Dance, a major ceremonial complex found in all Plains tribes. The Suhtai dialect continued to be spoken until fairly recent times.

Eventually the Bent brothers established a trading post on the Arkansas River near the mouth of the Purgatoire for the purpose of dealing directly with the central and southern Plains tribes. The Cheyenne, who had become dependent on trade for such items as guns, steel axes and knives, iron and brass kettles, metal dishes, flint and steel, wool blankets, beads, tobacco and cloth, gradually moved south and west to a range which included much of eastern Colorado and western Nebraska and Kansas.

Nineteenth Century Plains Culture

By the early 1800's all the Cheyenne were fully committed to the Plains. The economy was based primarily on buffalo hunting and equestrian nomadism. Food, of course, was mainly meat, but this was supplemented by wild plant foods such as plum, choke cherry and Indian turnip, as well as horticultural produce obtained by trade from the village Indians. Like other Plains tribes the Cheyenne lodges were tipis, or conical tents, whose covers were made of buffalo cow skins carefully tanned and fitted and sewn together. Clothing also was made from tanned skins. Rawhide was used to make containers and for moccasin soles. The pericardium, bladder and paunch of the buffalo were used as water containers. The paunch was used also as a pot for boiling food, being suspended on a frame of sticks while the water was heated by the addition of hot stones. Glue was made from the hoofs. Dippers and ladles were made from the horns, and ropes were braided or twisted from buffalo hair. Tools were made from certain bones.

Almost all parts of the buffalo were eaten. Tender parts of the animal were broiled or roasted, and the tougher parts boiled. After a large