

THE NUMBER 12 IS USED IN CHURCH SERVICE

Katherine: (Why was 12 a good number to have?)

Nora: We consider twelve to be a good number because it represents the twelve months of the year. And Red and Black, too, are what we call Delaware colors, because we had this Mësingw in our Delaware Big House church. And this Mësingw's face was painted -- half red and half black, which I was told by the old people, it represented good and evil. And we had this Mësingw faces -- we had twelve in all, but the center one was the main one. We considered this Mësingw face in the Big House as representation of the game spirit, the Mësinghòlikàn spirit, the Mësinghòlikàn himself. He was the guardian spirit of all the animals. Of course, in those days the Delawares had to depend on the wild meat before they could have meat. And this Mësinghòlikàn was the guardian spirit of all these wild animals. Deer, bears, so on like that. When we had the Big House, the Delaware people did not pray to this Mësingw image. We pray to the Kishelëmùkòng which is God Himself. There had been a lot of misinformation that the Delaware people pray to this Mësingw face. But this is not true. We never prayed to this Mësingw face.

(Static interference) – Oluhomo was an elderly like man but they developed a great friendship. They even went hunting together.

Jim: The Delawares came in 1867 and it wasn't too long after that they started having smokes -- it must have taken place not too long after they got here.

DELAWARE TRIBE ORIGINATED IN PENNSYLVAINA

Katherine: (Where did the Delawares start out?)

Nora: Pennsylvania, Ohio.

Jim: Also New York, New Jersey.

Katherine: (And, after you got here--do all Delawares live in this area?)

Nora: There's a few at Anadarko. But they are mostly mixed with the Caddis, down there. But we understand each other, even though the dialect is a little different. But we're able to understand each other.

Katherine: (And did you say you had some in Wisconsin?)