



LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

McCOONTZ, PETER                      OTTAWA STORIES                      SECOND INTERVIEW                      12544

Field worker's name Nannie Lee Burns,

This report made on (date) December, 30, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Peter McCoontz,

Address Route 2, Fairland, Oklahoma.

This person is (male ~~or female~~) ~~White~~, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe Ottawa, Chippewa

2. Origin and history of legend or story From memory and as told in the Canadian lodges.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 11

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Nannie Lee Burns,  
Investigator,  
December 30, 1937.

Interview with Peter McCoontz,  
Route No. 2,  
Fairland, Oklahoma.

### The Basket Story.

The lady was wondering how she could save her child, worrying because it was going to be taken away from her; how could she save it? Angel came and spoke to her, "Make a basket. Make it waterproof so it won't sink." After it was finished she made bedding inside basket. She put baby in it and took it down to stream of water among the bulrushes. She let it stay there day and night and go and see the baby now and then, how it was getting along. After that, in a few days, some ladies went out for a walk early in the morning. They saw a basket floating. One of the ladies waded in to get the basket. They took it in their possession. They took it to the house. They kept it and in a day or two, they mentioned about some one to take the baby and raise it. They named the baby after he was adopted into this world back. The adopted named "Moses," Moses the child came to be grown up man, that he also when

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he came to be a grown up man, he preached the gospel, the connection with the three brothers, Christ Jesus and the next Jonah. Christ was crucified, he died for the world and he won the world back. He ascended to heaven, back to earth the third day. He was buried and rose again after he was crucified. Moses he preached upon that he was to be killed and in three days he come back to life. Then Jonah comes in. Christ he appointed Jonah to be one of the leader's disciples. Jonah took possession into that nation. He made up his mind after wondering what to do. He did not want to preach the gospel any more so he left his reserve and started to go to a foreign country where no one would know him. When he got to the sea, he saw the ship coming. When the ship land he got in and started across to the other side.

On the way a great change struck him, to wondering what to do. He shouted that he repented, that he made repent, got on railing of the ship all ready for the fish to come, a whale. As soon as he struck the water, the whale swallowed him and took him back towards dry land,

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safe. When Jonah discovered he back on dry land to know where he was, he went back where he started from. He repent what happened to him, he had stumbled of a great stone before him, temptation. That the great stone that you can see of your own will, if you repent what to do and what you are going to do, first make an announcement of good will, not to stumble if you started, not to make a report to tell what in your mind, you will stumble. So there it is, Jonah came back to this world in three days, after whaleswallowed him and Christ, he was killed and buried. Christ returned in three days, so you see Christ and Jonah were safe back on this earth to preach the gospel. So Moses, he made a wonderful sermon, between the two brothers Christ and Jonah who disappeared away from the world for three days and returned of the Saint Mark. The good will the angel spoke to the mother to save her child from danger. So here we are, all of our children are safe today. By making this basket, take the splinters around a circle of this tree, make your basket when they are complete. Moses he still claim that

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the basket his wigwam, his home well known in the bulrushes. You take care of my basket, cast it out into this world. Hang on to it until the Judgement Day, that my home stands upon your hands to remember me. I will love my two brothers, Christ and Jonah, casting out the light complexion, so you see where we stand, remember my old homestead, where it lay. The Indians still remember me and to keep my wigwam and live in it as I did. When we see wigwam amidst the Indians they are in my favor to be safe. My basket was my home.

Each tribe has its gift in making baskets. Only the ladies make the baskets. The squaws of the Chipewas still make the covered water-proof basket. Some of the tribes make mats of the bulrushes, the Kickapoos, the Sac and Fox, and the Pottawatomies. These made in swamps. To fish the Indian cut willows, make a brush fence about three feet high, take grapevine wrap it around from one end to other two or three hundred feet. Then they take that brush and swing it around then back to shore. When fish strike the willows they get stuck, lodge in willows, that the way Indian catch fish he no use spear, or net or line it with hook."

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## An Indian Deer Story.

A good many years ago, the Indians have a great pow-wow during the summer. Celebrate Green Corn Feast in summer, Indian custom. Have War Dances during the day, Stomp Dances at night. Two fine looking ladies used to come to them, looking on for pleasure with them. Every year they come, these two ladies. When night come, when the Stomp Dance began to circle round the fire, "Oh my, these two girls, I don't know which is my choice." They asked the ladies where they are from? "Way out in the open prairie during the summer, during the winter we go to the timber where it is warm, no house to go to out in the open prairies. When the pow-wow comes, we will meet you again.

"What's your name?" The young man asks and then he asks the other girl what her name is. The girl hit her partner. "What cause you to ask us name? We have no name but the deer." "Well, I want to know what your name is."

"I have told you that we have no name but the deer."

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This went on during the Stomp Dances during the summer. They go to the Stomp Dances during the summer. They go and come, go and come, the same beautiful ladies. Whenever the Stomp Dance going on and the men take the lead, these two ladies go dance with the people. When they took the lead they danced behind my back. When they took a rest, they get away from light off distance, disappear. In a few minutes another man takes the lead, these two ladies come back and flock right in with the crowd. This young man, these two ladies behind his back, so he turned when they sung the song, then the young man grabs the ladies behind as they trot, old Indian Custon. Time, time again, the young man liked the ladies very much. He planned how he could get connection with the ladies to keep company with the ladies. Often, often when the dance break up they disappear so he made up his mind what to do. He goes to the store and gets a spool of thread and a needle. The people at the pow-wow know that this man well acquainted with these ladies. Another big Green Corn Feast coming on lots of Indians camping for the feast. Hear the



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ladies coming. They all look around. "Peter-too-pee, Peter-too-pee. There your girl coming." Another man ready to take lead. Big time, way towards morning began to break up. The ladies began to sing a song like a drunken song, everyone began to stagger back and forth like they were ready to fall. That's the meaning of the song, "I drink whiskey, I drink whiskey till I die." The young man is still hanging on to the two ladies. "I will follow them till my death. I thread my needle, stick my needle into the clothes and holding my thread hang on to it. When the end of that song to break for the night, I will follow my sweethearts." There the last lick of the drumstick. The ladies turned and went away out in the dark. I will hang on to my thread, follow them, little prairie, one acre open place, there they discover me following them."

One lady says, "What are you following us for?" The other lady says, "What are you following us for?" The young man says, "I want to know." I have been with you number of years, I like you both, I don't know which is my pick. I love you both.

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"Why do you love us? Do you think we are in your tribe of your people?" "I think so," he says.

"Why is it that you want to keep company with us?" "I'll do anything to keep company with both of you."

"Haw! You couldn't stick to us."

"Yes, I could be with you all the time. Wherever you be I'll be with you."

"Why the reason you got in love with us? Do you think we are the tribe of your people? We are not tribe of Indians, you are in a danger to be with us." "Why?" he says to them. "Why the danger to be with us is that we can't accept you. We give you that warning." "I can't help it, I want you both, it makes no difference which but I will stick to you, stand by you till my death. I give my life to both of you girls." "Do you really love us?"

"Yes, I do." "Will you be with us where we go here and there? Tell us the truth, are you in love with us? We say, True love, true God and everlasting life. We are not tribe of Indians. We both tell you nothing but

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the truth, you be in danger, get killed."

"My God! My God! I love you girls for everlasting life stand by you, stick to you in love affairs."

"You will be hunted, can you stand it?"

"We want to be sure that you can stand it and really love us."

"Yes, I do." "You keep company with us and don't be afraid what you see, have your eyes open, be quick and go. We belong to deer. Your parents will miss you."

"If you be deer I'll be the buck, the big buck. I'll stay with you on the wild prairies, in the timbers, anywhere we can get pleasure." "All right."

So he turned to be a great buck with these two lady deer. Now they in a family with the deer, Mr. Too-pee. The people began to wonder where Mr. Peter Too-Pee went. The last time that he was seen was with the two ladies who used to come to our doings through the summer. They come no more, not knowing where they are.

One day the parents saw three deer running close by their home. This young buck he remembered his old home, his father and mother. He takes his two little wives to

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see the old home. Time and time again the old man see the three deer, the same ones hanging around there for some time. Sometimes he sees the track at the garden, sometime in the field he see the deer tracks. Time and time again, he see these three deer bunched together. The people wondered where Mr. Too-pee was. The old folks, they see their son and two daughters-in-law time and time again not knowing what they are, only to wonder where the son was. They see him quite often.

"One day the father point a gun at me. He going to kill me. I began to get discouraged. I want to be with my father and mother once more. My father shoot at me time and time again. I hear the bullet going swiftly by. I began to feel my life in danger when I hear the bullets. I make up my mind way out in the wild prairie that I want to go back to my people."

So he made a confession to the two girls, the two deer with him. The girls well pleased told him not to be in danger with them. "When you see us, you know us. You my beau was caught by thread, don't blame us, don't hurt us when you see us. You can shed your clothing and go

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back to your people. Good-bye forever more. Don't be with us again." When he shed his clothing, he went back at breakfast with his father and mother, brothers and sisters. Came back home safe, been gone long time among the wild animals.

"Mother, Father, do you remember those two ladies who used to come to our doings, our Green Corn Feasts? Daddy, I saw you time and time again pointing towards me with a gun, the bullet going swiftly by. That was me and my two girls. You see us. We see you often like you see us, used to come into your garden, your corn-field, help ourselves with your crop. It was deer, two deer and myself, I was the buck. The deer as girls used to come to our dances was my wives both. So I am glad you did not hit me. I am glad to be back home to good life. I am glad to be with you both to the end of my life. Will you not shoot at my two wives when you see them time and time again?"