

Muskogee, Oklahoma  
June 18th, 1937

Words are inadequate to express my appreciation of the courtesy and hospitality extended me during my stay with John Redbird Smith, assistant chief of the Kee-Too-Wah society and his brother, Sam Smith, who is chief of the society, also for the most valuable information given in their interview.

Chief Sam Smith is property custodian of the Kee-Too-Wah and the last day of my visit with them he brought forth the ritualistic paraphernalia of the order. The secret work of the order and the sacred teachings are worked into seven pieces of beautiful wampum ranging in size from the smallest piece which is three inches in width and about two and one half feet long, white in color with seven pieces of white buckskin about one half inch wide worked into it crosswise, equal distance apart, representing the seven clans of the Cherokees sworn to eternal peace.

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Another larger piece of wampum of blue with the peace pipe and a tomahawk worked in white, its meaning, as Mr. Smith explained it to me, the peace pipe and the white tomahawk unstained with blood symbolized peace and brotherly love for all mankind.

The largest piece of wampum is six inches wide and about six feet in length worked in blue with a white stripe about one inch wide through the center diverging into a white square at each end of the wampum. In one of these squares ~~there~~ is worked the figure of two men with clasped hands, meaning sworn allegiance to each other to go down life's pathway together and be square to the end.

I was informed by Mr. Smith that the age of this wampum is unknown to the Indians of today as they have been handed down, generation after generation for hundreds of years. The beads in this wampum are all hand cut beads, cut from sea shells which is one of the lost arts for many centuries past.

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Other pieces of the wampum have characters worked into it dealing with the ritualistic secret work of the organization. It is all very beautiful and ancient work.

Chief, Smith also has in his possession the old Cherokee peace pipe made of stone from their old home in Tennessee in 1865, which was the last peace pipe made by the Cherokees. The pipe measures from bottom to top of bowl about five inches by two and one half inches in diameter, has a stem made of bois d'arc about two feet in length and weighs about three pounds.

Jas. S. Buchanan.