

See Lewis and Clark

The people were coming up this way from Knife River. In those times the people had dogs, some as many as 10; they had sticks arranged to carry the load on the dogs' back. When they camped, they would put the sticks together to top. Each dog would have a name taken from what the man had done on the warpath; ie Kills One, they came along and at last reached a place south of the site of later village of Fishhook. While camping there, they found a few buffaloes around but it was getting so that they would have to go far out and the men would take two days to find the buffalo.

At last the buffalo were still farther off and the people had on only the things of the garden to live on. Time passed and even the garden products ran out. There was man in the camp who had many children and all of them were hungry. This young man was a good hunter and the old men had often been invited in to eat and smoke. He respected the old man and they liked him. One evening he said to his wife, "Fix up my moccasins. I am going to cross the river (where Fishhook is today) and see if there is any game. Fix me a bag of calf skin (like in buffalo ceremony)" and he took the bag to gather the rose berries for the children to eat. She brought out moccasins and the bag and he left that morning.

He crossed just west of where the old village is and from there he went east coming to a ravine crossed it and went east three or four miles and then crossed back on the ice to the south side. He saw that someone had been there ahead of him and had taken the rose berries. He went on until he found another rose thicket, filled the bag by shaking them onto his robe. He made one ball of each for his wives and children. He came back along the track he had taken coming. When he had crossed onto the north side he looked back and saw a person there and he could not remember having seen anyone go out before him.

He followed his tracks and he saw two persons coming closer and he could not tell who they were but thought they might be some enemies so he went faster. When near Fishhook Bend he looked back and they were still closer and caught up to them. They stood before him and he stopped. There was a man on his right and a woman on the left and the man said to him, "The buffalo are far off and it is pretty hard for the people to get meat and though it may be hard for you to do, when you get home, get a full outfit of clothing new, and the same for the woman and when these are ready, bring them up here and put up two ash poles down and hang the clothes on it. Bring someone along with you; I know that your children are hungry, that is why you are going around with this bag gathering roseberries. When you put the clothing on the ash poles, the buffalo will come to your camp." Each of the two had a club stuck in their belts. "You will take the buffalo and get all the meat you want and each time you kill the buffalo, new ones will come to take their places. In the spring you will have so much meat that many will take their meat down the river in bull boats but a few will walk back on foot and take the dogs. You see how I am dressed, after this you will have not trouble getting the buffalo to come to the camp. You saw us far off coming and you stopped and looked the second time and we were closer but we did not come on land until we were near you; when we go, we do not have to talk" and he saw them take little jumps and were out of sight, telling him to watch them until they were out of sight.

They did not say what they were but they flew instead of walking and were human, but they flew even though no wings. Four Bears said that that place they walked was holy because these people had walked people had blessed the man and founded a village there.

He reached home and asked his wife to build up the fire and get together what he could to eat and sent word around for certain of the old men to come in and they came. He asked them to sit around and they did. She made some cornballs and he made what roseballs he brought into a

soup. The men are and when they finished he told them what he had seen on the trip “I saw some holy persons of some sort and they told me many good things I should do and that I would be a chief someday but I thought I would not be able to do all they asked of me for I am poor but I am depending on you” and the old men asked what it was and he said, “I am supposed to get a full dress for a man and a woman” and one man said that he had a new robe just finished, another moccasins, etc buckskin dress, and so on until they had all that the spirits asked for; had to get two ash poles; they took the white sage and made it in the form of a head and two magpie tails in the head and got a man to fix up the hair, put the robe over the pole, and did the same for the woman, the only difference the man having longer leggings. They painted the sage on the cheeks and forehead where the head was, using red paint.

On taking the clothes over they, they saw the tracks of the young man and the two others and walked along the outside of the tracks and then they disappeared. The distance that the tracks were apart was that of the range of an arrow. In putting up the posts, they took ash sticks and the ten men he invited the day he went back all went over with him. They cleared off a place in the snow, made a fire in the place of the two tracks to that out the ground so they could dig and then used the sticks to dig the hole 3 feet deep and put the poles up with the robes and clothing on. The two were set facing south for that was the direction they faced and returned. Then he told the ten men to go home saying, “I am going to stay here and cry around these posts and I may get a dream. Announce that four nights from now, all the people must tie up their dogs.

The other men left and he cried all night, walking around the posts; he did that for the first three nights and the fourth night he went out there again, telling the old men to stay at his tipi and that he would come back late. He went out to the post while many more men gathered in his tipi. Late one man was outside and he came back saying “It is snowing hard but I heard a noise outside” and another went out and coming back said, “There was a buffalo just outside and he chased me into the entrance.” They took a bow and arrows out, killed the buffalo, skinned it right there and had a feast even though it was not very fat for the buffalo are bulging until late in the fall and are not very fat.

(omitted: when they put the two posts up with clothes, young man smoked sweet grass and said, “I have the clothes that you wanted; two full suits and have put them up as you wanted me to do wishing that the buffalo would come soon.” And then he put smoke around the clothing.) He came back at midnight and told what he had been promised. Then he told the old men as follows:

While he was putting the incense he said, “I will have the buffalo come soon and from now on go through here often and in spring have rains so we can raise our crops and if any of our enemies come, we will get the advantage of them; all that you have promised me that they will; there will be no sickness among the children and we will have many children.”

Years after this, when anyone wanted to give things to these gods, they were put on the posts and this was the beginning of the practice of putting things on posts. Since building up at Fishhook where these things happened, enemies could not get best of them.

Name after meeting the two people called Holy Young Man and when older Holy Man Poor Wolf told Bears Arm the account, after putting up pole the people went back to village and if they had anything to give to the buffalos, gave it there for it was holy land; Four Bears chief and only few after smallpox, GV wandered around 7 years after the smallpox for a place to have village and Four Bears said, “Since these holy people had come to this place, it should be a lucky place since people had been putting up offerings there for a long time before living there, bringing the things up from Knife River and calling the Place by name, “Place

Where they Put Offerings for the Buffalo” so they decided to bring the people up there and put up the village.

From the old village where the two stood, there is a large ridge to south and the man could see them going over there and out of sight; afterward the people went over there and made a mound of rocks and afterwards the rosebushes grew up over the mound so they called it SHRUBBY MOUND. The reason the spirits told the young man to watch them until they went out of sight was that if he did that he would have a long life. After that the buffalo began to come into the camp and they had much meat for summer. The buffalo then worked down towards the village and then the people could go out and kill them near the village. After a while the enemy came and before the enemy came, the young man foretold that the enemy was coming and they killed the 15 of the enemy and he was chief from then on.

Bears Arm never saw them made up himself for he says it died out long ago. Began at Hidatsa Village.

This man kept buffalo skulls and bones of the neck which he would smoke with sweetgrass if the buffalo went off father and they would come back.