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Includes notes from interviews with:

- Chief David Thomas
- George Green & wife
- Deskaheh (Alex General)
- Jerry Aaron

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The Origin of the Cayuga Chiefs

A man came from the North, wandering from place to place. He came to a lake, and he saw a man in a canoe out in the lake. He watched him. The man with the canoe came to the shore. The wanderer asked the man what he was doing out in the lake.

The answer was, "I like to ride the waves."

The stranger said to him: "You shall go back to your people. You shall be a chief. You shall be called A-ten-da-he-ah, "Riding the Waves."

Then he asked if there were anyone camping nearby. Aton-daheah said, "Yes, there is one camping not far away."

He went along with the stranger from the north, to find the other man's camp.

When they came to a place where there were a lot of bulrushes growing, the man from the North asked the camper what he was doing here.

He said, "I have been watching the bulrushes. Look at the top. It is piercing the sky."

The stranger said: "You shall now go back to your people, and be made a chief, and you shall be called De-goh-hon-do, "Piercing the Sky."

He also asked if he knew if there was anyone else camping nearby.

Well, the answer was "Yes, there is one camping not far from here."

Then he said, "We shall go there."

When they got to the place they found the man sitting on a log, just looking on the ground.

When they stood before him, they asked him, "What are you doing here?"

It seems that he had a bear on the ground. He had cleaned ~~ix~~ it out, and had had the intestines taken out and had straightened them out on the ground.

The answer was, "Well, I ~~ix~~ love to see how long the intestines of the bear are."

So then the stranger said: "You shall now go back to your people. We have some important work to do. You shall be called Swee-ong-wee, Long Intestines."

He was also asked, "Is there anyone who is camping nearby?"

I don't remember how they found Dee-ong-whay-ton. I am not too sure what that name means.

This story goes on for a long time. It might take us all afternoon.

△We stopped and went on our way.△

The tutelo Story

The story was that a young man left the settlement, and he traveled through the forest for many days. In those days it was dangerous for anyone to travel. It was a time of scalping.

This young man, whenever he saw danger coming, he would transform himself into something that crept under the leaves, concealed himself there until all danger is past. Then he would go on. Sometimes he would climb ~~a~~ the tallest tree and he ~~would~~ would survey in all directions, to find if there was any settlement round him and if there was any danger coming.

At this time ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~expressed~~ came to a place and climbed up a tree and looked down. He saw people in a village. It appeared to him that they were enjoying themselves with games. He thought, "What a very happy people."

So he approached the village and came out into the open, and these people saw a stranger; and he stood there. He didn't dare go nearer.

Then some of these people went and told their chiefs that they saw some stranger. They in turn instructed their warrior to go and meet him and invite him to come in the village.

So they went there and had a signs talk, and invited the stranger to come in their village. They took him along and brought him in the village before the chiefs. They asked him where he had come from. He told them in a signs talk where he had come from.

They asked him ~~to~~ to stay with them. So he stayed there. They treated him as their own people. He took part in their games, enjoyed himself with the people. He stayed there for some time. He got so that he would understand their talk, and then he told them, he told these chiefs, that he would like to go back and go after his family if they would expect them to live with them.

The chiefs said they were very welcome to come and live with them.

He went back home and told his people that he had found people who

were very kind to him and he asked if they would be willingk to go back and live there.

There were several families that made up their minds that they would ~~xxxxxx~~ leave their settlements and go back where this young man had been.

As they traveled every night where they came they would build a log fort, with a camp-fire right in the centre of the fort. They would lie down and sleep. They lay in a circle, and the children would lie near the fire in a circle. They did that all the time they were traveling every time they would camp.

So when they were coing near to this Cayuga settlement, on the last night in camp, when they had built their fort, and were all lying down, resting, and they heard someone was circling round their fort.

This young man understood some of the things he overheard the people on the outside of the fort talking. They were saying that these people in the fort would be very nice meat to eat. They could make very nice meat of them.

They were all right that night. Next morning they went on. These ^{who} people/were ~~were~~ there the night before followed them up. When they arrived at the Cayuga village, these people that were following, they spoke to the chiefs of the Cayugas and told them that these people would make very nice meat for them to eat. The chiefs of the Cayugas said, "We will not allow anyone to harm these people. They are my people."

He warned them that if they should try to harm them, "I myself will take steps to rub my hands on them (i.e., protect them)."

Thes people that wanted to make meat out of them were the Senecas.

That is the end of the story.

The Cayugas adopted the Tuteloes. They were always together with them. The Tuteloes have never got mixed up with other tribes until later on.