



Ancestry of *Latakuts Kalahar* (Fancy Eagle)

(Article begins on page 2 below.)

This article is copyrighted by History Nebraska (formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society).
You may download it for your personal use.

For permission to re-use materials, or for photo ordering information, see:

<https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/re-use-nshs-materials>

Learn more about *Nebraska History* (and search articles) here:

<https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/nebraska-history-magazine>

History Nebraska members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* annually:

<https://history.nebraska.gov/get-involved/membership>

Full Citation: George H Roberts, "Ancestry of *Latakuts Kalahar* (Fancy Eagle)," *Nebraska History* 40 (1959): 67-73

Article Summary: George H Roberts succeeded to the headship of the Pawnee at the death of his father, *Latakuts Kalahar*, the last of the Pawnee Scouts and head-chief of the Pawnee Council of Chiefs. Roberts gave the family genealogical material in this article to George E Hyde, who annotated it.

Cataloging Information:

Names: *Latakuts Tewitit* (Sitting Eagle), *Latakuts Kalahar* (Fancy Eagle, who also used the English name Rush Roberts), Frank North, Luther North, *Terrarecox* (*Kaheekie*), William Walton

Keywords: *Latakuts Kalahar*, Skidi Pawnee, *Terrarecox*

Photographs / Images: *Latakuts Kalahar*

ANCESTRY OF *LATAKUTS KALAHAR* (FANCY EAGLE)

WRITTEN BY GEORGE H. ROBERTS,
ANNOTATED BY GEORGE E. HYDE

Male Line

Latakuts Tewitit (Sitting Eagle)¹ of the Tuhitspiat (Village-stretching-out-in-the-bottomlands) clan of Skidi Pawnee, was married to *Stahwirakuwadde* (Roaming Princess)² of the same clan, by Skidi custom, in the land of Nebraska. To them were born five sons later known as:

¹ He was a doctor (*kurau*) and is said to have been head of the Skidi doctor society. The Roberts family have a very old photograph of him.

² *Stah*, feminine indicative; *wirakuwadde*, roaming.

Latakuts Kalahar (Fancy Eagle) whose English name was Rush Roberts, was the last of the Pawnee Scouts and head-chief of Nasharo, the Pawnee Council of Chiefs. On his death in Oklahoma in March 1958 his son Nasharoturiche (George H. Roberts), succeeded to the headship of the Pawnee.

This material was given to George E. Hyde of Omaha by George H. Roberts. Mr. Hyde, a long time student of the Plains Indians, has annotated it, making it much more meaningful to those who are not intimately acquainted with the Pawnee language and customs.

- a. *Pialaheshehu* (Noted Hawk), who was killed by enemy Indians in the land of Nebraska.
- b. *Pialuhukalahar* (Fancy Hawk), who was also killed by Indians in that land.
- c. *Latakutskalahar* (Fancy Eagle), who married *Chiha* (Reed Matting) of the Tuhwahukasa (Village-stretched-out-across-a-hill) clan of Skidi, by Skidi custom, in the land of Nebraska.
- d. *Latakutsawaruksti* (Sacred Eagle), who served with the Pawnee Scouts, September 3, 1876, to April 28, 1877. He died in Indian Territory in 1883.
- e. *Latakutsehodde* (Young Eagle), who died in youth in the land of Nebraska.

Latakuts Tewitit died in Indian Territory in 1879, and his wife there the following year.

Their third son, *Latakuts Kalahar*, and his wife, *Chiha*, had one son, who bore his father's name. The father was killed in the land of Nebraska by enemy Indians; the mother also died in that land.

Latakuts Kalahar (Fancy Eagle) was born in the land of Nebraska in 1859. When the Pawnee removed to Indian Territory, B. Rush Roberts, a Quaker, who was named after the famous Quaker physician, Benjamin Rush, came to assist in settling the Pawnee on their new lands, and since it was customary at that time for Pawnee boys to be given English names, *Latakuts Kalahar* was named Rush Roberts. When Major Frank North and his brother came to the Pawnee reservation in 1876 to recruit scouts, Rush Roberts' relatives begged that he should be taken, and he was finally permitted by Major North to go with the scouts, the youngest in the band. After his return from the Sioux war in 1877, the boy married the eldest daughter of *Ter-rarecox*, chief of the Skidi and later head-chief. This girl, Lou Howell, was of the Pahugstatu (Squash Vine Village)

clan of Skidi, both her father and mother being of that clan. She bore six children to *Latakuts Kalahar*:

- a. *Nellie Roberts*, born January 23, 1887. She married C. K. Templeton of Pawhuska, Oklahoma, and they have five children and four grandchildren.
- b. *Henry E. Roberts*, born March 24, 1888. Married Rose Denomie. They have four children and three grandchildren.
- c. *Gilbert Roberts*, born November 19, 1890; died 1891.
- d. *Lena Roberts*, born November 4, 1891. Married Mario Tafoya. They live at Albuquerque, New Mexico. No children.
- e. *Terry C. Roberts*, born December 7, 1893; died April 8, 1932. He married and had two children. All are dead.
- f. *George H. Roberts* or *Nasharoturihe* (Good Chief), born September 11, 1895, married, November 11, 1920, to Mary M. Smith of the Pahukstatu clan of Skidi, who was born November 21, 1897. They had five children.

Female line

Setekatawihurerit (They-oppose-him - in - Battle)³ and *Skahrúnasha* (Chief-of-the-Feast)⁴ both of the Pahukstatu (Squash Vine Village) clan of Skidi Pawnee, were married, by Skidi custom, about the year 1805, in the land of Nebraska, where they lived and died. Of this union three sons and one daughter were born:

- a. *Terrarecox*, also called *Kaheekée*,⁵ who was a sol-

³ *Sete*, means they or whom.

⁴ *Skaru*, feast; *nasharo*, chief.

⁵ George H. Roberts says that his grandfather's name, *Terrarecox*, means War Cry, and that in Indian Territory he was given the nickname *Kaheekée*, which is supposed to be the Sioux name for chief. However, this is not the Sioux name for chief. A Chaui Pawnee chief was called *Kaheekée* in 1845. *Terrarecah* in old Pawnee chief names meant war.

dier of the Skidi in 1869 and became their head-chief after the removal to Indian Territory. He was born about 1805 and died in 1885. He had five wives, the first four being sisters, of the Pahukstatu clan, the fifth belonging to the Tuhitspiat (Village-stretched-out-in-the-bottomlands) clan:

1. *Chutirarukawa* (Heroine - of - the - Chase), died in the land of Nebraska.⁶ She was the mother of Joseph Howell, born about 1845, died in Oklahoma, February, 1911.
 2. *Chesapottu* (Alien Princess),⁷ who died in the land of Nebraska. She was the mother of Lou Roberts (*Stahrekah*), born about 1860, died in Oklahoma, August 17, 1896; and of Rose H. Roberts, who died in Oklahoma, August 12, 1928.
 3. *Skahrukara* (Exclusive Feast), who died in Indian Territory. She was the mother of George Howell and Lida Howell Morris, both of whom died in Oklahoma.
 4. *Stahrukawa* (Doer of Best Deeds), who died in Indian Territory. She was the mother of Anna H. Sutton and Mattie H. Brown, both of whom died in Oklahoma.
 5. *Gypsy Wilde*, who died in Indian Territory. She was the mother of Viola H. Gover, who died in Oklahoma.
- b. The second son of *Setekatawihurerit*, was *Sakurutiketarit* (Sun Above, or Noon, hence his nickname, Dinner Time). He died in Indian Territory. Through his marriage with *Chapottakata* he was the father of James Yellow Calf, who died in Oklahoma.

⁶ *Chut*, heroine; *tirarukawa*, buffalo chase.

⁷ *Chesa*, said to mean princess; *pottu*, alien, also means blood. George H. Roberts says this is an Arikara name.

- c. *Stahka* (Whitey)⁸ a daughter of *Setekatawihurerit* married *Sakurunasha* (Sun Chief), alias *Rewahut*.⁹ They both died in the land of Nebraska. Their only child, Mark Evarts, died in Oklahoma.
- d. *Chiwakuraheshehu* (Noted Fox), another son of *Setekatawihurerit*, died in the land of Nebraska, leaving no children.

George H. Roberts, son of Rush Roberts and his wife Lou Howell, has five children by his wife Mary M. Smith:

1. *Setenasharuspe* (Looking-for-their-Chief), born January 16, 1922.
2. *Chiwakuturihe* (Good Fox), or Andrew S. Roberts, born October 16, 1923.
3. *Skaruterrara* (Feast of the First Fruits), or Lou C. Roberts, a daughter, born June 22, 1925.
4. *Arikarara* (Antlers), or James C. Roberts, February 19, 1927.
5. *Atarisa* (Aspiring to Leadership), or Edwin H. Roberts, born July 30, 1931.

Rush Roberts and his son, George H. Roberts, lived on the old Terrarecox allotment farm, in the Skidi settlement, three miles north of the town of Pawnee, which is the old Pawnee agency.

NOTE BY G. E. HYDE

This family record was kindly supplied by George H. Roberts, and has been reproduced practically in the original form. Mr. Roberts states that the names are written in several dialects, some even in what appear to be alien lan-

⁸ *Taka*, white. As a personal name, it is *Taka* in the masculine and *Stahka* in the feminine form.

⁹ *Rewahut*, They-applaud-Him. Full form, *Seterewahut*.

guages. Like so many Pawnee names, the original significance of many in this record has been lost. The princess-names do not sound like old-time Pawnee names, in which *woman* was used, but *princess* never.

The Roberts family regard Terrarecox as one of their most distinguished forebears and are very proud of him. Both Captain L. H. North and the Pawnee trader, Walton, knew this Skidi in Nebraska. He was not a chief in 1869, but had an Indian Office official document, in which he was described as *Terry-re-cecux, Soldier of the Skeedee Pawnees*. This was dated 1869. (This document is still in the hands of the Roberts family.) It would seem that, despite the elaborate Pawnee system of hereditary chiefship, the warriors, as among the Sioux and other tribes, frequently displaced the hereditary chiefs. In the early Seventies Terrarecox was attempting to gain the position of Skidi head-chief by forcing old Eagle Chief out. The old man was very greatly worried by the maneuvers of Terrarecox, and when Walton went to Washington in 1873 Eagle Chief begged him to go to President Grant and explain to him the trouble that Terrarecox was stirring up among the Skidi. Walton thought that he had no right to bother Grant with Skidi politics, the President having plenty of his own political worries at the moment; but he went to the Indian Office and explained the situation to the officials, taking Eagle Chief's part strongly. He was given an official commission, which set forth that Eagle Chief was the recognized head-chief of the Skidi, a good and loyal chief, who would be supported in his position by the government, as long as he remained loyal. Shortly after this the agitation for removal of the Pawnee to Indian Territory came up; the officials threw all the weight of their authority in favor of removal, and when Eagle Chief violently opposed this policy he lost his old rating as a loyal chief. Terrarecox then resumed his campaign; but the old chief, with the backing of many influential Skidi, held out.



Latakuts Kalahar (Chief Fancy Eagle or Rush Roberts)

(Photo courtesy of his daughter, Mrs. Lena Tafoya.)

As late as 1889 the Skidi still recognized Eagle Chief as the head of their tribe, and in that year they chose him to represent the Skidi on the Pawnee bench of judges.