

Sqewtómuhs

Simon Gabriel, Sr.

Peter Dana Point, ME

August, 1977

Note: Simon Gabriel, Sr., was born on November 11, 1903, and spent his early years at St. Mary's First Nation in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He spent much of his adult life, however, at Pleasant Point and Peter Dana Point in Passamaquoddy country in Maine. He died on November 16, 1998, at Oromocto First Nation in New Brunswick.

1. Mecimi=te eci ìyá, eci- éhpit -koti-nicánit, on=oc 'taltáqsin nòt Sqewtómuhs.

[Whenever a woman is going to have a child, then that Swamp Woman will go around wailing.]

2. Nit=kahk=ölu itómúhtit.

[At least that's what they say.]

3. On nìt eci- éhpit -koti-nicánit, 'tiywan wasísol, naka nicàn kotökíhi 'koti-kciciyan tàn wètönat yúhtol wasísol kòtökil, 'tiyà, "Sqewtómuhs npeciatakúnol, npetakúnol welaqìk."

[So then when a woman is going to have a child, (and) she has the child, and her other children want to know where she got this other child from, she tells them, "Swamp Woman carried him here to me, brought him to me last night."]

4. Mèc=yaq=öte altáqsu Sqewtómuhs, cèl=öte nil mèsq nomiyàw kòsõna nutūwàw.
[Swamp Woman still goes around wailing, they say, but I have never seen her or heard her.]
5. Tàn=al=lu níta léyu kòsõna=al tàn, ma=te nkocicihtúwon.
[Whether that is true or not, I don't know.]
6. Kénuk=ölu nìt, kénuk=ölu nìt itòmúhtit.
[But that's, but that's what they say.]
7. Itòmúhtit eli- ìyèy wòt -altáqsit Sqewtómuhs, naka=yaq wèn koti-nicanìw, on=oc nìt ìyèy, wásis nemihqosìt, éhpit 'títõmon, "Sqewtómuhs yúhtol npetakúnol."
[They say that this Swamp Woman goes around wailing, and someone is going to have a baby, and then when the baby is born, the woman says, "Swamp Woman brought this one to me."]
8. Ma=te 'koti-yaháwon eli, eli tahalu=hp, eli-nomihqosílit.
[She doesn't want to tell them how, how, like, how he was born.]
9. Kénuk tókèc 'kocicihtùnìya, eli-nomihqósit wásis.
[But nowadays they know how a child is born.]
10. Etuceyossultíhtit peskúwok tóké.
[Some of them are so young now.]

11. Ma=te nipūwultiwīyik, pesqon=öte nicanultíhtit.

[They are not married, but they have children just the same.]

12. Póssaq=al ktanaqsúwok sqewtomúhsok, kéhsit wásis nemihqósit tóké.

[There must be a great many swamp women, so many children are born nowadays.]

13. Elináqsit wasísok.

[There are a lot of children.]

14. Mecimúhse=kak=öte nòt Sqewtómuhs.

[That Swamp Woman must always be walking.]

15. Nít=te=kahk=öte.

[That's about it.]

16. Nít=te=kahk=öte nil kehsi-kciciyuk, *far as I know*, Sqewtómuhs.

[That's about as much as I know about her, far as I know, Sqewtómuhs.]