



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to MS 2016 Daniel Little Chief drawings of
Cheyenne ceremonial customs and implements,
with explanations by Albert Gatschet, 1891

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 2016 Daniel Little Chief drawings of Cheyenne ceremonial customs and implements, with explanations by Albert Gatschet
Date:	1891
Identifier:	NAA.MS2016
Creator:	Little Chief, Daniel, -1906 (Cheyenne) (Artist) Unknown (Artist) Gatschet, Albert S. (Albert Samuel), 1832-1907 (Annotator)
Extent:	1 Volume (disbound; 29 drawings and 34 pages of typescript notes) 1 Volume (notebook) 1 Drawings (visual works)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Related Materials

A nearly identical set of drawings by Daniel Little Chief is located held by The Newberry Library in Chicago, see [Cheyenne Ledger Book, Crayon pictures of Cheyenne ceremonial customs and implements by Wuxpais].

Processing Information

The items in this collection were originally cataloged individually by the NAA under numbers MS 2016-a (the bound volume containing the drawings and typescript notes); MS 2016-b (Gatschet's notebook); and MS 2016-c (the unrelated drawing found in Gatschet's notebook). In 2023, the collection was reprocessed and all items were incorporated into a single collection under MS 2016.

Preferred Citation

MS 2016 Daniel Little Chief drawings of Cheyenne ceremonial customs and implements, with explanations by Albert Gatschet, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Daniel Little Chief, also known as Daniel Littlechief and Wuxpais, (?-1906) was a Northern Cheyenne warrior whose band of Cheyenne were sent south to the Cheyenne-Arapaho Reservation in Indian Territory after their surrender, traveling there between 1878-1879. In 1881 this band moved north to the Pine Ridge Agency in South Dakota. In 1891 Daniel Little Chief inherited the role of head chief from his father and remained in South Dakota until his death in 1906.

Biographical Note

Albert S. Gatschet (1832-1907) was educated in his native Switzerland (University of Bern, Ph.D., 1892) and in Germany (University of Berlin). Early in his career, he pursued antiquarian research in European museums and wrote scientific articles. Among his interests was the etymology of Swiss place names. After coming to the United States in 1869, he worked on the American Indian vocabularies collected by Oscar Loew, of the United States Geological Survey West of the 100th Meridian (Wheeler Survey). Eventually John Wesley Powell employed him as an ethnologist with the United States Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountain Regions. He joined the staff of the Bureau of American Ethnology at its founding in 1879, and continued there until he retired in 1905. For the Powell Survey, Gatschet researched the ethnography of the Klamath in Oregon and the Modoc in Oklahoma. He also collected Native American material objects and investigated special problems for Powell's classification of the American Indian languages north of Mexico, working on languages of the Southeast, including groups forcibly settled in the southern Plains. He not only visited well-known tribes, but also searched out small groups, including the Biloxi and Tunica. He also worked with the Natchez, Tonkawa, Chitimacha, and Atakapa in the United States and Comecrudo and several other small groups in northern Mexico. Through library research, he studied the Timucua, Karankara, and the Beothuk. During the later part of his career, Gatschet was assigned comparative work on all the Algonquian languages. Although the project was never completed, he collected much about many of the languages, especially Peoria, Miami, and Shawnee. In addition, he worked with members of diverse tribes of the eastern United States.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a volume, now disbound, of twenty-nine (29) drawings by Daniel Little Chief together with thirty-four (34) pages of typescript explanatory notes by Albert Gatschet. The volume also includes an identifying title page handwritten by Albert Gatschet and one drawing on ruled paper by an unidentified Cheyenne artist. The explanatory text was transcribed from Gatschet's notebook, also in the collection, with corrections by Gatschet. The collection also contains a drawing which was found in Gatschet's notebook which does not appear to be directly associated with the works by Daniel Little Chief. Subjects of the drawings include ceremonial items, name glyphs, painted tipis, and illustrations of Cheyenne customs.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Variant Title

Crayon Pictures of Cheyenne Ceremonial Customs and Implements. Drawn by Wuxpais or Daniel Littlechief, son of the present headchief of the Cheyenne Indians of South Dakota, at the Pine Ridge Agency. Explained by notes obtained from the same Indian by Albert S. Gatschet.

Conservation Note

In 1994 the volume was disbound in order to be photographed and because the binding structure was causing damage to the drawings. A full conservation report is available in the NAA files.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Cultures:

Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Ledger drawings
Works of art

Places:

North America
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (S.D.)

Container Listing

Daniel Little Chief drawings with typescript explanations by Albert Gatschet	
Box 1, Folder 1	Title page 2 Leaves (ink and crayon)
Box 1, Folder 2	Medicine tent 3 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper) Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet Notes: NAA MS 2016a 002 NAA INV 08657200 Caption title from descriptive text: Cheyenne "medicine-tent"
Box 1, Folder 3	Medicine dreamer and painted tipi 2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper) Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of medicine dreamer and painted tipi, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of medicine dreamer and painted tipi, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet Notes: NAA MS 2016 005 NAA INV 08657500
Box 1, Folder 4	Musical instruments 2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper) Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne musical instruments, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne musical instruments, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet Notes: NAA MS 2016 004 NAA INV 08657400 Musical instruments identified by Gatschet as: a) whistle (tapin) of golden eagle's bones; b) whistle in shape of rattlesnake; c) whistle of red cedar; d) whistle of sumac wood. Caption title from descriptive text: Musical instruments = tapinun'hts
Box 1, Folder 5	Medicine tent 2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper) Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine tent, with
descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 003

NAA INV 08657300

Caption title from descriptive text: Maheyune-um tent

Box 1, Folder 6

Medicine tent and sweat lodge

4 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine tent and sweat
lodge, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine tent and sweat
lodge, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine tent and sweat
lodge, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine tent and sweat
lodge, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 006

NAA INV 08657600

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Big medicine crazy tent
= Massá-um, mas'há-um

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 2: Sweat lodge = Éma-
um ...

Box 1, Folder 7

Cap-medicine tent

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne cap-medicine tent, with
descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne cap-medicine tent, with
descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 007

NAA INV 08657700

Caption title from descriptive text: Cap-medicine tent = Hu'htcha-
éyum or hu'hka-éyum

Box 1, Folder 8

Crazy medicine tent, married people's tent, and medicine arrow

3 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne crazy medicine tent, married
people's tent, and medicine arrow, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne crazy medicine tent, married
people's tent, and medicine arrow, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Image(s): Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne crazy medicine tent, married
people's tent, and medicine arrow, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 008

NAA INV 08657800

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Crazy medicine tent =
Hu'hnúka-um ...

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 2: Married people's tent
= Hutáyu ...

Box 1, Folder 9

Crazy medicine war spear

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne crazy medicine war spear, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne crazy medicine war spear, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 009

NAA INV 08657900

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Crazy medicine war
spear = Hu'hnú'hkawu ...

Box 1, Folder 10

Arrow medicine tent

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne arrow medicine tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne arrow medicine tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 010

NAA INV 08658000

Box 1, Folder 11

War-arrow exhibit

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne war-arrow exhibit, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne war-arrow exhibit, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 011

NAA INV 08658100

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: War-arrow exhibit = Ihú-
ustansts mahúts

Box 1, Folder 12

Yellow Nose, Cheyenne medicine man

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Yellow Nose, Cheyenne medicine man, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Yellow Nose, Cheyenne medicine man, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 012

NAA INV 08658200

OPPS NEG 45493

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Cheyenne medicine
man = Tsits'histats mahéyu hitán

Box 1, Folder 13

Sun dance medicine tent

3 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne sun dance medicine tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne sun dance medicine tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne sun dance medicine tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 013

NAA INV 08658300

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Sun dance medicine tent = Huxíhuyum, or, ho'hwéheyum ...

Box 1, Folder 14

Scent stone

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne scent stone, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne scent stone, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 014

NAA INV 08658400

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Scent-stone = maheyúnu huná ...

Box 1, Folder 15

Stone cup

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne stone cup, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne stone cup, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 015

NAA INV 08658500

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Stone-cup = hohoná kiwítuxk

Box 1, Folder 16

Interior of the sun dance tent

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of interior of Cheyenne sun-dance tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of interior of Cheyenne sun-dance tent, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 016

NAA INV 08658600

OPPS NEG 55089

Box 1, Folder 17

Ornamental shield

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne ornamental shield, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne ornamental shield, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 017

NAA INV 08658700

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Ornamental shield = wi'hputš huá

Box 1, Folder 18

Medicine pipe

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine pipe, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine pipe, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 018

NAA INV 08658800

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Medicine-pipe = mutsináyo

Box 1, Folder 19

Amulet ball

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne amulet ball, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne amulet ball, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 019

NAA INV 08658900

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Amulet ball = wonhá-ixa ...

Box 1, Folder 20

Snake-shaped medicine object

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne snake-shaped medicine object, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne snake-shaped medicine object, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 020

NAA INV 08659000

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Big medicine "of a snake" = ma'hshishinu'hts hissíyu'hts, or, mí'hni híssiuyxts

Box 2, Folder 1

Medicine shield

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine shield, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne medicine shield, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 021

NAA INV 08659100

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Medicine shield =
howá'hnu ...

Box 2, Folder 2

Wolf company (warrior society) rattle
2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)
Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne wolf company \(warrior society\) rattle, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)
Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne wolf company \(warrior society\) rattle, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)
Notes: NAA MS 2016a 022
NAA INV 08659200
Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Rattle = shíshin

Box 2, Folder 3

Ferret company (warrior society) war spear
2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)
Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of ferret company \(warrior society\) war spear, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)
Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of ferret company \(warrior society\) war spear, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)
Notes: NAA MS 2016a 023
NAA INV 08659300
Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: War-spear = ma-
istúktawu ...

Box 2, Folder 4

Wolf company (warrior society) war spear
2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)
Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne wolf company \(warrior society\) war spear, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)
Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne wolf company \(warrior society\) war spear, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)
Notes: NAA MS 2016a 024
NAA INV 08659400

Box 2, Folder 5

War spears
2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)
Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne war spears, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)
Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne war spears, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)
Notes: NAA MS 2016a 025
NAA INV 08659500
Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: War-spears = ...
xumó'nxts

Box 2, Folder 6

Cowskin quiver
2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)
Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne cowskin quiver, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne cowskin quiver, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 026

NAA INV 08659600

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Quiver = ístus ...

Box 2, Folder 7

Otterskin quiver

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne otterskin quiver, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne otterskin quiver, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 027

NAA INV 08659700

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Quiver of the otter = ná-istus ...

Box 2, Folder 8

Mountain lion skin quiver

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne mountain lion skin quiver, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne mountain lion skin quiver, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 028

NAA INV 08659800

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Lion quiver = nanússia ístus

Box 2, Folder 9

Burial cairn

2 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne burial cairn, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne burial cairn, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 029

NAA INV 08659900

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Burial cairn = hohanínno ...

Box 2, Folder 10

Cheyenne name glyphs

3 Leaves (graphite and colored pencil drawing; ink and typescript on paper)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne name glyphs, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne name glyphs, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Image(s): [Daniel Little Chief drawing of Cheyenne name glyphs, with descriptive text by Albert Gatschet](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 030

NAA INV 08660000

Caption title from descriptive text, leaf 1: Names of Cheyenne
men and women

Box 2, Folder 11

A Blackfeet killed by a Cheyenne

1 Leave (graphite, ink and colored pencil drawing on ruled paper)

[Image\(s\): Anonymous Cheyenne drawing of a Blackfeet Indian killed by a Cheyenne](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016a 031

NAA INV 08660100

Note on drawing reads: "Blackfeet Indian was killed by a Cheyenne; see below; the gun was a Winchester and the two yellow sticks are the rest for the gun to lean on ... The year was about the time 1872. in winter. 5 6 3 4 1 2 7. Cheyenne Indian. T.D. Little Chief." This drawing is not an original part of the main set of Little Chief drawings nor is it a drawing by him.

Box 2, Folder 12

Original binding

Box 2, Folder 13-14

Albert Gatschet notebook

1 Volume

[Image\(s\): Anonymous drawing, possibly Cheyenne, of mounted warrior](#)

[Image\(s\): Anonymous drawing, possibly Cheyenne, of mounted warrior](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Notes: NAA MS 2016b

NAA MS 2016c

NAA INV 08660200

The notebook has two entries:

1. "Explanations of ethnographic pictures referring to the Cheyenne tribes at Pine Ridge Agency, by Daniel Littlechief, February and March 1891." These notes are the basis for the typescript notes bound with Littlechief's drawings.

2. "Grammatic analysis of the story, 'The wolf and the fox,' written down from D(aniel) L(ittlechief) dictation."

In addition, the notebook contained an unidentified drawing, possibly Cheyenne, of a mounted warrior wearing a feathered bonnet. A caption in red ink on the front of the drawing reads: "this Indian man not war because this man play Running Horse the man very nice play." A caption in the same ink and handwriting on the reverse reads, "... this man name Ark-wor-gar-ne." The drawing does not appear to be related to the works of Daniel Little Chief.

Northern Cheyenne | 30 Pictures explained