

The First Abenakis on St. Francis River by Theo Panadis recorded
by Gordon Day in 1961 at Odanak Translation by Jesse Bruchac
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Ni ga kd8dokawlen8 alt8gwak kizi n8wat So it-is I-tell-you what-
happened (what was heard/the news from) long-ago

waji l8dokaziidit kchaiyomenawak ali Pastoniak salakiwi based-on
what-they-talk-about our-own-old-people the-way the-Americans
once

lestamoodit ali Wes8genaizibok oswadagen paami wligek, when-
they-heard that on-the-St. Lawrence (Algonquin-River) that-the-
fur-is-better,

taba ta tmakwak paami mamsegiloodit. and the-beavers that-they-
would-be-bigger.

Ni s8gawi adoji kizid8ziidit wji wakasswa W8banakia lagim88dit
So then they-decided to a-few Abenakis send

ga ni sibok wji n8ji manowidaadit oswadagen Kepak ta
Mad8balodenik. then there on-that-river for them-to-go-to-buy fur
at-Quebec and at-Three-Rivers.

Ni, niga wdelagwi m8jakannin8 lagwiwi Kwenitegok. And-it-is
they-set-out-travelling towards the-Connecticut-River.

wn8d8dawaanosan8 wn8dawanosano lagwiwi Wlastegok, they-
went-to-the-height-of-the-land towards the-St. John River,

ni wdagwedamen8 Kchitekw, li ga ni odanaikok. then they-go-up
the-St. Lawrence (the-Big-River), so then there at-the villages (of
Quebec and Three Rivers to get furs).

Ni adoji saagi pmakannikhozin8, kaginijoan ta kwagani
onigano, And it-was-such-a hard journey, hard-current and very-
long portaging,

ni adoji kizida8ziidit, that they-decided,

Pedgiagwaji, paliwi kdelagwi pedgibna. When-we-will-make-our-return, a-different way we-will-go-back.

Ni kdagwedamenana Kchitekw li s8gedahl8k Alsig8ntekw. So we-go-up-stream the-Big-River to-where it-flows-out the-St.-Francis River.

kedagwedamenana li mamategwak, We-go-upstream to the-very-end-of-the-river,

ni kedali wanaskamnana ni mina Kwenitekw. and we-there-meet there again the-Connecticut-River.

Paamiji nlaldam kolitegakkannibna. More-will I-think well-off-we-travel. (than on the way)

ni gaala! that it-is-certain!

Ni adoji agwedaamoodit io 8sogenaizibok. Then they-went-upstream on-this Algonquin-River.

Ni nem8, paiy88dit pab8miwi pasodaokamoodit s8gedahl8k sibo And there, when-they-arrive about when-they-approach the-outlet (of) the-river

ni ni nebes ao, ta kwinata msi - kska sibo, ngwed8s - and there a lake it-is, and very big - wide river, six -

t8baw8s kasta mialal -- Kwen8gama seven times miles -- Lake Saint Pierre

ni odali wanaskaw8n8 nigik and they-there-met-them those

Pilowimagwa. Strange-Iroquois (St. Lawrence Iroquoians).

Ni agwa adoji channagoodit. And it-is-said then they-stopped-them.

Wdidamen8, “T8ni maowi ki8w8 wadosaakw?”They-said, ‘Where exactly have-youPL-are-been (where are you coming from)?’”

Nd8bi n8dosanana Kepak ta mad8balodenik, nd8bi nimskaw8bena oswadagenol. We-have-gone to-Quebec and Three-Rivers. We-have-gone-to-get furs.

8da waj8n8ppa temakwa nem8 lagwiwi? They don’t-you-have beavers there (your)-way?

Sogata. Kanwa, paami ga pabiwesswak nda toji wligenowi madagen. Surely. But, more are small not very good skin.

Idam ni, Nebagagimganana waji manohow8k yo pebonkiidemakwak.

And-he-said, They-sent-us to buy here northern-beavers. Idam, ni ga kedagakimlenana achowi lalokamek

He-said (i.e. an Iroquois), And we’re going we-show-you what-must one-do.” idam aida,

And he said um,

kegadenemolnana koswadagenomw8n. 8da awassiwi kelosadoln8. We-take-away your-fur. Not farther you-go-with-them.

ta achi 8daaba kagwessa kelimamagaoloppnna.And also would-not something we-do-you-any-harm.

wa azitaji awani nd8mjolaz8na wanaskwejola, wjiji 8da mina iodaliThis-one to-each-and-every-one we-will-cut-a-piece-of-nose the-end-of-the-nose, so-will not again here

namiogwezikw yo lakamigwiwi. ni kdagwedakamena sibo ni you-be-seen in-this-country. And we-go-up-stream the-river and

kem8jin8 waji8wiakw ni akwi mina lakwamigwiwi namiokak. you-leave-for your-proper-place and don’t again in-this-region be-

seen.

*t8nwa temez8zik wj8l niji niji tem8debaz8n.whoever has-cut-noses
then-will, so-will their-head-be-cut-off.*