



Osiyo usdi aniyvwiya

“Osiyo usdi aniyvwiya” means “hello little principal people”

In the next two issues, we are going to explore the Cherokee Clans. It is fun to learn about the clans, and then try to discover which clan your family may belong to. Talk this over with your Parents, Elders, and leaders of your band. This is important teachings about who we are as Aniyvwiya or Tsalagi

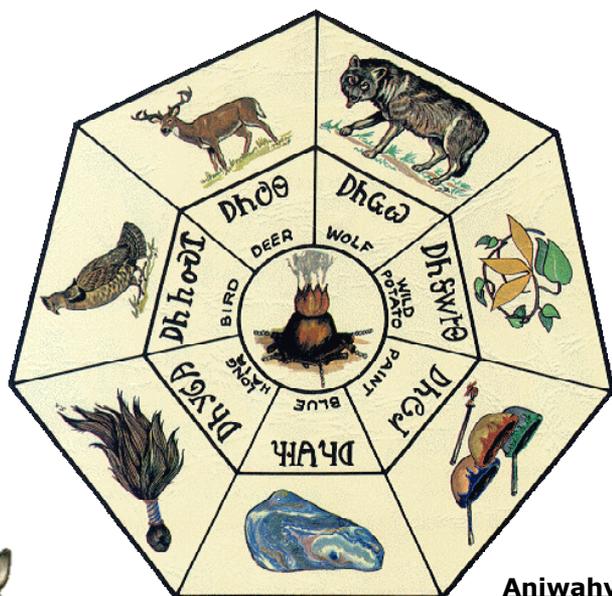


The word “clan” comes from “clann” which is a Gaelic means “children”. “Clan” has label for the tribal nature of Scottish and Native societies. Clans are located in every country, and are usually identified by a symbol such as a coat of arms, totem pole, or plants and animals.



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The clan system is a very stable way to organize a society: it keeps peace between different Clans and Tribes; it provides safety for each clan member; and insures that no one goes without shelter and food; and it makes sure that the leaders are making good decisions for the people. Cherokee society is divided into 7 clans:



Aniwahya (Wolf Clan or Panther representing war): The Wolf Clan is the largest and most prominent clan. They provide most of the war chiefs in our history.



Anigatogewi (Wild Potato Clan or Tobacco representing flesh): Members of this Clan were known as farmers and gatherers of the wild potato plants in swamps and along streams to make flour or bread. This clan may have also been known as the Bear Clan. They are nurturers by nature and gatherers. According to the Chronicles of Oklahoma, they were originally known as the Kituwah Clan.



Aniwodi (Red Paint Clan representing death): This clan was also known as the “Corn People”. Members of this clan made red paint and it is the smallest and most secretive of the clans. Healers/ sorcerers and medicine men, and wise men traditionally came from this clan.



Anisahoni (Blue Clan or Blue Holly representing Sky): Members of the Blue Clan were keepers of all children's medicines and caretakers of the medicinal herb gardens. They became known for a medicine from a bluish colored plant called the Blue Holly and were so named after it. They are also known as the Panther or Wildcat Clan in some regions.



Anigilohi (Twister Clan or "Long Hair" clan or Wind): Members of this clan wore their hair in elaborate hair styles, walked in a proud and vain manner, twisting their shoulders. (Hence, Twister Clan). Peace Chiefs from this clan wore a white feather robe. This Clan is sometimes referred to as the Stranger Clan because prisoners of war, orphans from other tribes and others with no Cherokee tribe were often adopted into this clan.



Ani Tsiskwa (Bird Clan or Red Tailed Hawk Clan): Bird clan members are the keepers of the birds; they are the ones that give the sacred feathers and



Anikawi (Deer Clan or Bison representing peace): These clan members were the keeper of the deer, deer hunters and trackers, tanners and sewers as well as keeper of the deer medicines. They are known as fast runners and foot messengers.

In our next issue we will learn how the clans worked together for the health and happiness of the Cherokee Nation.

(This information comes from Internet postings by Bonnie Ramsey. Images are found at www.photobucket.com)