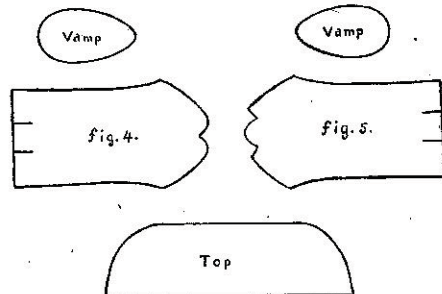


These two pages are from "Camp and Trail Methods" by E. Kreps, published by A.R. Harding in 1910. The one on the right (fig. 5) is a rabbit nose style, Page 28. On Page 29 is the beaver tail style.

tops, they hold the snowshoe strings securely, and the shape of toe is better than that of the ordinary Sioux pattern moccasin. These moccasins are easily made, and Figs. 4 and 5 show two patterns, the only difference being in the toe. In sewing in the vamp, the sides must be gathered slightly, and if the material is not too heavy it is best to make an inside seam. The heel

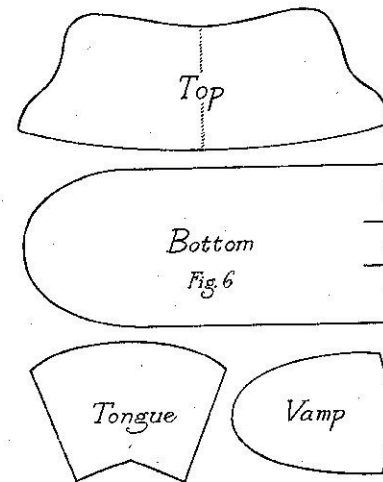


Chippewa Moccasin Pattern.

is made by bringing the edges of the end together, and turning the small flap in the center up over the seam, on the outside. After sewing up, they should be well washed and kept stretched into the proper shape while drying. When dry, the gathering on the sides, will have entirely disappeared.

The oil tanned pac and the factory made moccasins of the same style are what is known

as the Sioux pattern. They are also easily made if one has the proper material. If you have an old pair of factory made moccasins, rip them apart and then you can cut a pattern over them, making them larger or smaller than the old ones



Sioux Moccasin Pattern.

if desired, and remedying all the defects of the old pair. If you have no old ones, cut the bottom as shown in Fig. 6, the vamp and tops being made as shown.

I make a last of the proper size and shape, of cedar or pine wood, then soak the leather in

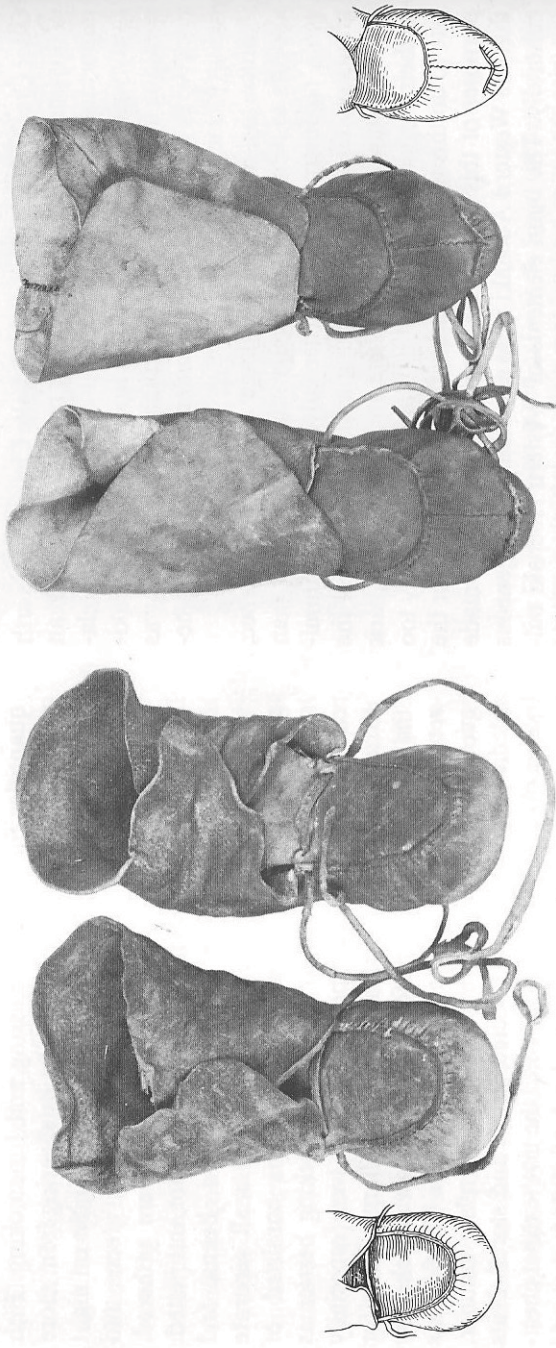
migration. Eels were caught and smoked for winter. Deer were hunted by stalking rather than by snaring and driving as in southern New England. Bears were killed after they had denned up for the winter. Moose were hunted by calling during the rutting season in the fall and by running them down on snowshoes or shooting them in yards in the winter. Muskrat, beaver, otter, and other furbearers were taken in the fall and winter, both for food and pelts. All furbearers were trapped; beavers and muskrats were taken in their lake houses, and muskrats were additionally dug or driven out of their riverbank dens. Spruce grouse and porcupine could be taken when other game was scarce. The mainstays of their subsistence were probably moose, fish, corn, and beaver in that order.

Clothing and Adornment

The basic male costume was a breechclout and belt, both of tanned skin. The belt was wrapped around the waist two or three times and knotted at the hip with the fringed ends hanging at the side or in front. Moosehide moccasins were worn in winter and often in summer. Two patterns are known, the beavertail and the rabbit nose (fig. 3) (Hatt 1916:171-178, 167-169). In winter, foot wrappers of tanned skin or of rabbit fur were worn under the moccasins and an outer pair of moccasins with higher tops was added. The moose-hock moccasin boot, which was nearly waterproof and was considered especially good for snowshoeing, was sometimes worn. Leggings, with feet, reaching to the thigh and tied to the belt were worn gartered below the knee. A long sleeveless coat of two panels of moosehide, front and back, was worn by both sexes in cold weather. It was probably painted like the Penobscot coat, but no museum specimens are known. The sleeves were separable. The young male wore

his hair long and loose, sometimes secured by a headband, and the married man's hairdo was a coil or knot on the crown of the head held by a thong. The female wore the hair long and loose or secured by a band or, characteristically, in two braids with a flat coil on the crown of the head tied by a thong with pendant ends. Hair ornaments might be attached to this coil. Both sexes might go bareheaded or with the head covered with a blanket in cold weather, but a variety of caps was made for both warmth and dress. A man's pointed hoodlike cap falling to the shoulders was documented in the eighteenth century but may not have been aboriginal. The woman's cap was conical, and both might bear feathers at the point. Males sometimes wore a fur cap made from the skin of a young buck deer with the antlers left on. Another cap was made from the shoulder skin of a moose, the long white hairs of the moose hump forming a natural crest, which might be left white or dyed. This cap had an opening in the back for the hair knot and feathers if feathers were worn. It may be that this was the prototype of the widely distributed deer-hair roach. There is an Abenaki tradition that no more than two feathers were worn by the men.

Robes were of fur with beaver preferred. It is possible that kilts were also worn by the Western Abenakis, since they were worn by the Iroquois and the Eastern Abenakis, but there is no evidence for them. A knife was customarily worn in a sheath on the breast suspended about the neck; a wooden cup (fig. 4) and a small skin bag containing the fire-making kit, pipe, tobacco, and guardian spirit keepsake were tucked under the belt. The basic female costume was moccasins, leggings, a knee-length skirt, and a blouse reaching to mid-thigh.



Natl. Mus. of Canada, Ottawa: left, III-J-53ab; right, III-J-6ab.

Fig. 3. Winter moccasins of beavertail (left) and rabbit nose (right) design. Both pairs were collected in 1908 from Western Abenakis living at Lake George, N.Y. Traditionally these would have been manufactured of moosehide, but these may be deerhide. Height about 25 cm.