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# Letter from Stephen Laurent 1936

Stephen Laurent

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Odanak, P.Q.  
February 20, 1936.

Mrs. Fannie Hardy Eckstorm  
Brewer, Maine.

Madam:

I read not long ago one of your articles on the Indian language. It was an old issue of the Maine Library Bulletin, April 31 and the article dealt with the Abenaki dialect.

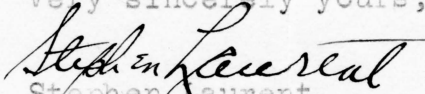
Your correspondent is the youngest son of Chief Joseph Laurent, author of a little book entitled: Abenakis and English Dialogues. My father has been dead for over 18 years now, but the tribe of which he was chief for many years is still extant. Formerly known under the name of the St. Francis Reservation, the name is now Odanak, Province of Quebec. This name was adopted in 1917 and means: "at the village" or "at home".

With no other view in mind but that of being of some help to you, I take the liberty of explaining to you one or two obscure points in regards to Chief Joseph's book.

- 1st. The three words Sozap Lolô Kizitôgw that appear on the first page of the book mentioned above mean: Joseph Laurent made it. Kizitôgw is a verb and not a part of my father's name. Of course one is not to be blamed for assuming that it is part of a person's name, with the capital letter used and no translation of the word kizitogw given anywhere. But I assure you that Joseph Laurent's indian name is Sozap Lolô.
- 2nd. With regards to punctuation -- no, I mean pronunciation as far as accents go, I am not aware that there is such a thing as the accentuation of words in the Abenaki language. As you undoubtedly know, the accents in English are very much stressed, more so, I daresay, than in French. Well, to my mind, the Abenaki dialect is similar to French concerning the placing of accents. Now, I am merely stating my opinion here and I write this at the correction of anyone. I do not profess to know more about the Abenaki dialect than any other Abenaki, but I do believe I know as much as the average Indian living here.

Hoping this may be of service to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

  
Stephen Laurent.