

How Birney Got the Name Oevemanáheno
by Elaine Strangeowl

Naa tséheškéto nánóhtséstóvo hé'tóhe tséhmano'éévóse
And my mother I asked her (about) this where they have a village,

Oévemanáheno tséhestohe. Hénova'e tséohkéhésenéhestohe hé'tóhe Oévemanáheno,
Scabby Place, as it is called. "Why is it called that, this Scabby Place?"

náhéto.
I said to her.

Naa hákóke tótseha tséhéóhe tséssáa'éšemano'ééhévóse vo'éstaneo'o,
"Well, long ago here when the people did not yet have a village,"

éhevoo'o, netao'o háá'éše móméhaenonó'kevo'éstanéhevéhévohe tsé'tóhe Oévemanaho,
she said, "All over far away they used to live by themselves, these Scabbies,

tséohkéhestóhese hétsetseha, naa tséssáa'éšemano'ééhévóse, éhevoo'o.
as they are called now, and when they did not yet have a village," she said.

Mó'óhkméhaa'ovóenéhestóhehanéhe Tó'éséhahtámáhoéve'ho'éno,
"It first used to be called Longfoot Town,

mó'óhkméhaahestóhehanéhe. Hetane néhéóhe móhvo'éstanéhevéhéhe.
it used to be called that. A man lived there.

Móxhoháa'éstáhehéhe naa móhto'éséhahtáhéhe. Tó'éséhahtámáhoéve'ho'éno,
He was tall and he had long feet. Longfoot Town,

éohkméhaa'ovóehestohe, éhevoo'o. Naa tsé'tóhe hetane móhnéheševéhéhe
it first used to be called," she said. "And this man was named

Oévemana. Naa hétsetseha Oévemanáheno tsétaohkéhóséhestohe, éhevoo'o. Naa
Scabby. And now Scabby Place as it is again called," she said. "And

néhe'xóvéva ésáa'éšemáhoéstovéhane hétséhéóhe, éhevoo'o.
at that time there was not a town here," she said.

(Note: Birney is the most southern town on the Northern Cheyenne Indian
Reservation.)