My Family Came Back

Elaine Strangeowl

1) no?ka máhtóhtó-no?e=áá?e tséstanéhest?cheaéneo?e
   100 years, that’s how many years ago,

2) tséhne?éváhešáhoxovénehvóse notame-ôhméséhe hatégáhe heéváhetaneno
   that they crossed back, Northern Cheyennes, from there in Oklahoma,

3) tséhne?éváhešáhoxovénehvóse 4) naa tséhemešéméto ma?o?nehe éheševhe
   they left. And my grandfather, Redwolf, he was named.

5) éheéváhetaneno o?xe naa o?xe énotame-ôhméséheve 6) heške
   He was a So. Cheyenne, half, and half, he was Northern. His mother
món notame-ôhméséhevehvéve 7) naa heho mxéhevéhevétáhñehvévóhe
   was a Northern Cheyenne woman. And his father was a Southern Cheyenne.

8) naa mónnohtatsé?cheháhe tséhevéske?méto tséto?sehešévévé
   And she was asked, my grandmother, what she was going to do:

   "Will you stay here to live? You’re about to have a child.*And also,
tsévéséto?éméto mónótsævó?o?tséhóte tsavéváshëvësëto naa heho heške
   your spouse, are you going to leave him?" they said to her, her fa. & mother.

12) naa hová?aháne éheševéstse 13) máto?seévaasévé?háhtse
   And, "No," she said. "I’m going to go back with (you).

   I’m going to accompany you," she told her mother & father. And

éhe?évaasévé?háhtsésástse 16) hétséhéhe mónótsáhëvëstötsé?chehëhe
   she started to accompany. Here he was born then,

   tséhmëšéméto kémó?nehe my grandfather. She was pregnant with him when she left, his mother. And,
   "It was that many years ago when I was born," he always told, my grandfather,
   Redwolf. And here he was enrolled, here

19) tsé?mó?nehe?éhevévóse 20) naa éohkéhósësta hatégáhe tsévëxochë-
   when they got back. And he told abt that, over there how it
   was hard for them, as they crossed back. Many were killed
   by the soldiers. Whole families were killed by soldiers. And
   still they just kept on coming. All they did was pray

   as they came. Only, "We are going back home!" they were saying.
They weren't afraid of the soldiers even tho they killed a lot of them.

27) cha éhvántomeevamëchtséssésto 28) naa cha hohásto énéxhováneehésésto
But they nevertheless came on. But many were gone (dead),
ka?eškóého mé?eševoto naa mæhtamáháheho 29) naa hoséstse
children, babies, and old women. And some
éhmáhešenásésto 30) énáhmáhóóvéhová?áhanéhénése vóéstanéhevestótsése
were lying there (dead).*It was all gone, home(s)/life.

31) naa cha tónesto tséhetaa?he?kónahetse hetséhóčhe náévého?hóxovóehnéme
But some of us, we who were healthy, here, we arrived back,"
échhétóhta?áhane tésheméšéméto 32) naa tésheméšéméto éhéstáhe
he would tell, my grandfather. *And my grandfather is from
mo?óhtávetoo?to mó?óchhéstóhehehe hako?é táháóhe évaveto
Black Kettle, that's what he was called, a very long time ago,
téshemóšéméto 33) hénáhéóce éréxhéstáhe téshemóšéméto
my grandfather. From there he was from, my grandfather.

34) énéváhtanéve o?xé
He was a Southern Cheyenne, half.