

dwelling in two towns about four miles below the mouth of Knife River. One of these towns was named Métutahanke, Mitutahankish, or, as Maximilian writes it, "Mih-tutta-hangkusch," meaning *Lower Village*. The other was called Rùptari or Nuptadi. They were almost exterminated by the small-pox in 1837, after which, for a time, they occupied only one village. In 1845, when the Hidatsas moved away from Knife River, some of the Mandans went with them, and others followed at different times afterward. For a short time, it appears that a few Mandan families occupied the old Amahami village. We have an account of some moving up to the village at Fort Berthold as late as 1858, and of others still remaining at the mouth of Knife River at the same time.*

The word Mandan seems to be a corruption of the Dakota name Matani or Mawatani. Previous to 1837, they called themselves simply Numakaki, *i. e.*, *People, Men*. They sometimes spoke of themselves and the Minnetarees together as Núweta, *Ourselves*. A large band of their tribe was called Siposka-numakaki, *Prairie-hen People*, or Grouse Men.† This name, Mr. Catlin, in his first work, renders "People of the pheasants",‡ and, in his last work, presents in the shape of "Nu-mah-ká-kee (pheasants)",§ and then, from this translation, leaves us to draw the "important inference" that the Mandans once lived in the Ohio Valley. They now often call themselves Metutahanke, after their old village below Knife River.

Captains Lewis and Clarke, Mr. Catlin, the Prince of Neu-wied, and Dr. Hayden have written very full accounts of this tribe, and all but the first-named explorers present vocabularies of their language. The work of Prince Maximilian contains the most accurate and extensive information regarding their customs and manners. Notwithstanding the great changes in the tribe since 1834, the majority of his notes might be used without alteration in describing the Mandans of

* Boller, pp. 35, 36.

† The Mandan name Siposka (Hidatsa, sitska or tsitska) is applied to the *Tetrao phasianellus* (Linn.) or Sharp-tailed Grouse, the prairie-hen of the Upper Missouri.

‡ N. A. Indians, vol. i, pp. 80, 178; vol. ii, p. 260.

§ O-kee-pa, pp. 5, 44.