

Lola?nhá·u ohkwa·lí.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1970/1979

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He Knows How to Hunt Bear

Long ago in the times when the Oneidas were still in New York, there were great forests where they used to hunt. There were big trees, various nuts growing and all sorts of berries and for that reason game was pretty plentiful and they were fat. My grandfather told a lot of stories of how he used to know how to hunt bear.

One time when he was going hunting, it was a hilly and bad land. They get mean when they have their young and if you only wound them when you hunt, it would be dangerous because they run towards you and take away your knife when they catch up to you. The kind of guns they had then could load only one bullet. They say it was hard to reload their guns.

So a hunter found a bear. Just then he ran off but he was chased. He hid from place to place among the trees. The bear would just make a noise and grab around and he'd stand somewhere else among the trees. It went on that way until the bear got tired and was barely able to run. That is when he himself drove it back in the direction toward his house. There was just a little garden there.

They noticed that the bear was coming so they sure got scared and stayed in the house watching as it just kept on coming. They realized that the hunter was driving it. Just as it was pretty near the house he took careful aim and shot and killed the bear. They were then really amazed and asked him why he hadn't shot it when they first met up. The hunter said, "It's too heavy and it would be hard working at that distance."