

The Little People

**By Nora Thompson Dean
recorded by David Oestreicher**

It was my mother who saw the little people. The first time was when she was just a girl and she and her family had come back from Coffeyville which was the nearest town back then, and they traveled by wagon and horses. She always got out of the wagon first to go open the door and light the lamps. When she opened the door some of the little people just scattered.

Another time when she was older and grown she was at an Indian dance and she and her cousin went out to the woods and those little people were all around her. She said she was afraid to step for fear on stepping on them. Finally her cousin got tired of waiting for her and she said, "What's wrong?" She said, "I don't want to step on these little people." And finally they all went away and she could resume her walk with her cousin. She said they were little people, small people. I assume they look like Delawares because they talked Delaware.

The first time she saw them at her home one of them said something in Delaware which means, "My friend they are home, they are here, they have arrived." So those little people that time must have been two women because they used a Lenape woman to woman word for my friend.