

Francis La Flesche. (1857-1932)

Francis La Flesche was the first North American anthropologist of Aboriginal descent. Francis was the brother of Dr. Susan La Flesche and Susette La Flesche, both written-up elsewhere. Francis was a well-educated man and worked as an assistant and interpreter for anthropologist Alice Fletcher in 1881. In 1891, he collaborated with her to produce the publication *Study of Omaha Musi*. Alice actually became like an adoptive mother to Francis. Together they developed a rich ethnographic history of the Central Siouan people. Their 25-year study resulted in a 672-page book on *The Omaha Indians*. He is best known for his colossal work *A Dictionary of the Omaha Language*. The University of Nebraska awarded him an honorary LL.D. in 1926.



Francis was of French, Omaha and Ponca descent, the son of Metis leader Joseph LaFlesche and his second wife, an Omaha woman, Ta-in-ne (Elizabeth Esau). (Contributed by Tanis Thorne.)



Francis and Suzette La Flesche

Reference

Fletcher, Alice and Francis La Flesche. *The Omaha Tribe*. Extract of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1911.



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