

“As far as the Arikara side, we . . . identify with a certain type of medicine in terms of a clan system. Because a big part of it was based on our medicine societies . . .

The Hidatsa have it a little different. They're more structured . . . It's . . . based off a man who had . . . a connection to the thunder. . . And there was another one—The Water Buster. . . The Hidatsa people . . . maintain their clan system, so anybody in that clan . . . you would be a brother or a sister. . . and that always followed your mother [mother's side of the family].”

Loren Yellow Bird (Hidatsa and Arikara) Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold, ND. NMAI Interview 2016

Loren Yellow Bird (Hidatsa and Arikara) gives a brief description of the societies that made up the Arikara social system and the clans that are part of the Hidatsa society. Members of a clan were your brothers and sisters. Clan relatives were responsible for the upbringing of all younger clan members, and they were obliged to help in sacred and ceremonial situations.