For Belle Herbert

It is the Indian way to consider all elders "grandmothers" or "grandfathers," even if they are not directly related. To the Indian, all life that shares the earth is related. Thus when an Indian elder dies, it is a loss sustained by the whole tribe. What is lost is not only what is perceived as a loving human being of flesh and blood. but an irreplaceable part of their dwindling culture and history. Urion Heath 'In Praise of Tribal Elders'

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