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# Review of *Two Toms: Lessons from a Shoshone Doctor*. By Thomas H. Johnson and Helen S. Johnson.

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reservation. The most important aspect of this work, however, is the traditional Shoshone philosophy of Wesaw, which taught tolerance and inclusiveness of all people, no matter their background or ethnicity. What the authors do not reveal in this work is how Wesaw's healing gift has been passed down, first to his son, George Sr., then his grandson, George Jr., and now carried on by his great-grandson, George Wesaw III.

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**Two Toms: Lessons from a Shoshone Doctor.** By Thomas H. Johnson and Helen S. Johnson. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2011. xi + 90 pp. Map, photographs, glossary, index. \$15.95 paper.

The Shoshone Indians, originally known as the Snake Indians to European fur trappers, occupied the western Great Plains along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains beginning in the early 1500s. It was not until the 1780s, after their traditional enemies, the Blackfeet, had gained firearms, that they were pushed west across the Rockies, leaving the Southern Shoshones, today known as the Comanches, stranded on the southern Great Plains. Today the Shoshones reside on fifteen reservations in Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Idaho, and Wyoming. The Wyoming Shoshones, on the Wind River Reservation, are the descendants of those who once hunted and lived east of the Rockies.

Thomas H. Johnson, one of the co-authors of *Two Toms: Lessons from a Shoshone Doctor*, was a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign when he first met Tom Wesaw in 1966 at a Sun Dance on the Wind River Reservation. Johnson returned to live with Wesaw during 1969–1970, in order to learn about Shoshone language and culture. *Two Toms* is based on his field notes from that stay.

Tom Wesaw (1886–1973) was a traditional Shoshone doctor, Sun Dance leader, and member of the Native American (Peyote) Church. He had left Wind River Reservation when only fifteen to live with relatives among the Shoshones on the Fort Hall Reservation in Idaho. Returning to Wyoming, he married Helen Hill and raised a family. When Johnson came to stay with him in 1969, Wesaw's wife had been dead for a few years, and the old man was living by himself. He welcomed Johnson, who cooked for him, drove him around, pumped water, and tended the fire at sweat lodge ceremonies, in exchange for being taught the ways of a traditional Shoshone medicine man. The name of this delightful book comes from the nickname the two of them received on the reservation, since they were always seen together.

*Two Toms* contains descriptions of the Sun Dance, peyote meetings of the Native American Church, sweat lodge ceremonies, and a Shoshone funeral, as well as information on Chief Washakie, the history of the Wind River Reservation, and a number of contemporary issues such as tribal enrollment and tribal royalties from oil and gas reserves located on the