

DOWNING, O. P.

INTERVIEW

10333

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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INTERVIEW

#10333

Field Worker's name Don Moon, Jr.

This report made on (date) March 25 1938

1. Name O. P. Downing

2. Post Office Address 715 East Vilas Avenue, Guthrie, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2.

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Don Moon, Jr.,
Investigator
March 23, 1938.

Interview with O. P. Downing
715 E. Vilas Avenue, Guthrie.

Dirty Face, a Wichita woman, sister of Sallie Hunter, was so sick that they thought she was going to die. She was living just east of the little creek that flowed from the small lake into the Washita River in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 7 North, Range 11 West, Caddo County.

The family loaded her into a wagon and hauled her to the old Wichita burial ground in the S $\frac{1}{4}$ of the same quarter section and they dug the grave with Dirty Face lying in the wagon beside it. But when she did not die by evening, they took her up to the house of her sister, Sallie Hunter, just about 200 yards south of the burial ground. She got well and lived for three years after that.

Several years later, Jimmie Hunter lost a little child, while they were living on the other side of the Washita. I asked him where he was going to bury the child and Hunter named a burial ground on that side of the river. When asked why he did not bury the child in the old burial ground on Sallie Hunter's place, Jimmie Hunter replied, "We do not take the bodies of our dead across running water".

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That explains why they hauled Dirty Face to the graveyard before she was dead, so they would not have to cross the little creek near her home with her dead body.