

METHVIN, J. J.

5th INTERVIEW

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8622

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

Field Worker's name Lillian Gassaway

This report made on (date) September 22 1937

1. Name J. J. Methvin

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 709 West Alabama

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 17 Year 1846

5. Place of birth Jeffersonville, Georgia

6. Name of Father John Methvin Place of birth Georgia

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Mourning Glover Methvin Place of birth Georgia

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 _____.

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The Quo-dle-quoit was a privileged class of Kiowas. It was an honor that was transferred from one to another. One can be a Quo-dle-quoit for only four years, then he must choose his successor. A person chosen to be a Quo-dle-quoit dare not refuse and must submit to being painted and decorated after the manner of the Quo-dle-quoit:

Around the forehead at the edge of the hair are parallel streaks of black, these are continued around the face, on down under the chin. On each cheek bone is the picture of the moon very far in crescent. On the center of the chest is the picture of the sun and on each side of the chest a little lower down is the crescent moon which is painted green and light green on the open side of the moon. The sun on the chest is also light green, while the whole body is yellow as a background. He wears a jack rabbit bonnet, ornamented with ears of jack rabbit and eagle feathers. Instead of being painted, some had the sun and moon cut into the flesh.

When a man is selected to be a Quo-dle-quoit by a friend and is painted up and ornamented he must pay his predecessor well for it, and each year as his predecessor paints and ornaments him he is obliged to pay

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additional installments of ponies, blankets and robes.

At the end of four years he in turn selects some friend as his successor, then he begins to receive remuneration.

This sometimes works a hardship, but none selected dare refuse to become a Quo-dle-quoit. Many things are denied him. He never looks into a mirror of any kind. He dare not see himself. He is denied the privilege of eating dog or polecat, or of being around the fire where cooking is done, or entering a tepee where a dog is. There are many other things denied him but he enjoys security in war. No weapon of war can hurt him.