

TURNER, GOLDIE. FIRST WHITE PEOPLE IN OKLAHOMA
#12298

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Investigator
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Coming down from Ohio in 1883 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lowry were allowed to enter the Indian Territory because they resembled Indians although they were really white people.

Game was plentiful and the Lowrys were able to make a good living by hunting and trapping. They located in the Osage country just across the river near the Blackdog camp. Blackdog was the leader of a small band of Osages.

A story is told that at one time the Indians, all decorated in their war paint, went out in the search of hair to be buried with one of their prominent dead members. They visited the Lowery farm. Mr. Lowery sat in a corner sharpening a large knife on a grindstone.

The women sat huddled together on a bench on the other side of the room. When the Indians arrived at the farm they first circled around the house then growing bolder, entered and looked around. Mr. Lowery kept on sharpening his knife until the Indians made a move toward them,

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then with a violent gesture he waved his knife towards them and they quickly dispersed.

The Lowerys did not learn for several days the purpose of the Indians' visit.

Another story is told about the Osage custom of burying human hair with one of their deceased tribesmen.

One time soon after the Opening, at a gathering at Blackburn, some hair hunting Indians came to an old man with a long white beard and by gestures made it known that they wanted to buy his long beard. The old man consented and the amount of money agreed upon, but when the old man saw the evil looking long knife which they were going to use, he tried to back out of the deal. The Indians then grabbed him and held him down while one of them sawed off his beard. He was then let up, unharmed, and given his money.