

RICE, FRANCES Coykendall

INTERVIEW

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RICE, MRS. FRANCES (COYKENDALL) -

INTERVIEW

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Form A-(S-149)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Mrs. Nora Lorrin, El Reno, Oklahoma

is report made on (date) August 19, 1937

Name Mrs. Frances (Coykendall) Rice.

Post Office Address El Reno, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) 419 North Fock Island.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 14 Year 1877

Place of birth Los Gatos, California

Name of Father John Roberts, Coykendall Place of birth Illinois 1838

Other information about father Died December, 1920

Name of Mother Esther (Dunlap) Coykendall Place of birth Ohio, 1853

Other information about mother Died February 16, 1922.

See 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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Interview with Mrs. Frances Rice  
El Reno, Oklahoma

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Mrs. Rice was born in Los Gatos, California, in 1877.

Her father, John Roberts Coykendall, was born in Canton, Illinois, in 1838, died in December, 1920.

Her mother, Mrs. Lister (Dunlap) Coykendall, was born in Highland County, Ohio, in 1853; died February 16th, 1922.

Mrs. Rice's parents were married April 29, 1875, in Johnson County Nebraska. They came to Oklahoma for the first opening in 1889, coming up from Oklahoma City on the stage coach. It was packed full of people, and Mrs. Rice then a child of twelve years, had to sit on somebody's lap. It fell to the lot of two rather famous men, to alternate in holding her. One of them was an author, his name was Charles Scribner, author of several books.

She has forgotten the name of the other man, but remembers that he was someone who was pretty well known at the time.

They came to what is now known as the 10th street crossing in Oklahoma City, and the stage coach driver, "Charley Todd" told them it was "Dead Man's Crossing" A man had been found

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hanging to a tree at the crossing a few days before this, and for a long time after this crossing was known as "Lead an's Crossing".

Mrs. Rice, then a little girl, sat on those ca.'s legs all the way to "Frisco". They slept a good amount of the time. Her nerves of a nervous temperament and the tale of the lead an. did not help her nerves any; she was ~~Exti~~ ~~last~~ ~~they~~ ~~were~~ going to be held up and the way and he ried about it.

They settled at "Frisco," because her father thought that "Frisco" would be the big city of the state.

They came to this country with gold miners, and was the first United States Marshal in the Territory.

Her father was sick in bed the day of the coming. Their first house was the first real residence in Frisco. It had two rooms and a lean-to, the other buildings were store fronts and tents. Frisco was just a small town and it is no longer in existence; it was located about ten miles due east of Reno.

One night a rider came through Frisco with the news that the Indians were on the war path. The Frisco residents barricaded a big drug store with piles of cotton, and their women and children inside a dual of guard duty. There was nothing to do, so they had to have a little fun. The citizens of Frisco in the year of 1874.

The first conversion was held in Frisco. The citizens were very much interested in the subject. Little, was the first of the conversion.

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Bill Grimes, our first United States marshal and another man by the name of army.

Her oldest sister was married October 16th, 1889.

There were no marriage licenses issued and Miss Coyendall had to go to Fort one with her fiancé to get a permit to marry.

There were none of these Coyendall girls.

Mrs. Rice remembered that, turkey, mail, rabbit carcasses, as the name of these early days and she also remembers that there were lots of fish.