

RICE, A. L.

INTERVIEW

#9740

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

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RICE, A. L.

INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Robert H. Boatman

This report made on (date) January 18, 1938

1. Name A. L. Rice

2. Post Office Address Route # 1, Lindsay, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) N. W. Lindsay, 7 miles

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 28 Year 1872

5. Place of birth Missouri

6. Name of Father G. W. Rice Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father Farmer Stockman

7. Name of Mother Isema Terry Place of birth Missouri

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 3

Robert H. Boatman,
Investigator,
January 18, 1938.

Biographic Sketches from A. L. Rice,
Route # 1, Lindsay, Oklahoma

I was born in the State of Missouri, near the town of Dartville, an old Indian village, April 28, 1872, though I left Missouri at the age of seventeen. I came to the Indian Territory in 1889.

I am a direct descendant of General Sam Houston.

The move from Missouri was by wagon and teams, a group of several families forming the emigrant group, and we were 20 days on the road, for travel was very slow progress and especially was it so after entering the Territory. There were no roads or bridges at all, only a few cattle trails. All creeks and rivers were forded and many times with great difficulty and danger. People just traveled in a general direction.

After some wandering around, we finally settled at Goodland in the Choctaw Nation. Goodland was an old Indian trading post and stage line station and was established first when the Choctaw tribe was removed here from Mississippi in 1831.

I had a high school education and had earned one year in college and seeing so bad the need of

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education among the Choctaw Indians, I began my early career as a school teacher among the full bloods of the Choctaw tribe, following this profession for a period of three years. My salary was \$75.00 per month. A great thrill it was teaching Indian children the English language and rules of discipline.

In 1892 I became assistant postmaster at Goodland, about which time I was married to Miss Anna Sprin.

I operated a store, blacksmith shop and a small cotton gin at the Spring Ranch till 1897 when I lost my wife.

In 1899 I was married to Miss Isabelle Brashears, another Choctaw girl. At this time I was serving as a peace officer - deputy U. S. Marshal.

The county was full of wild game, such as turkey, deer, black bear, prairie chickens, and wolves. There were black, Gray, Lobo wolves and coyotes. The Lobo wolves have in several instances been known to attack a man. I was once attacked by some 20 or 30 of them in the Red River bottom, and only by being a swift runner and swimming the river did I escape the clutches of this pack.

In 1900 I removed to the Chickasaw Nation and settled at what is now known as Criner. I there established a ranch, which still bears the name of the Rice Ranch Place, and I also put in a store and laid out a townsite and called it Rice City. I then applied for a postoffice to be called Rice. However upon notice from the department of a postoffice in the Western part of the Territory named Rice, I was given an office known as Criner, this being the name of some Indians of the Chickasaw tribe. Rice City then was changed to the above named Criner.

The old Goodland postoffice has long been discontinued though there still remains the school for Indians which is known as the Goodland Institution.

I live some seven miles northwest of Lindsay in
Mo. Clain County.