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

Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward

This report made on (date) July 22 1937

1. Name Leontine Edwards Faltinson

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 612 North Frisco.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 28 Year 1880.

5. Place of birth New York City, New York.

6. Name of Father Jonathan Fulton Edwards Place of birth New York.

Other information about father Descended from Jonathan Edwards of colonial fame.

7. Name of Mother Aglae St. Denis Edwards Place of birth France.

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 8.

Mary D. Dorward, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History S-149.
July 27, 1937.

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LEONTINE EDWARDS FALTINGSON

A Biographic Sketch
From a personal interview with the subject.
612 N. Frisco, Tulsa, Okla.

Leontine Edwards Faltinson came to Tulsa from Galveston, Texas, in 1900, the bride of Dr. S. H. Kimmons. Dr. Kimmons had settled in Tulsa two years earlier, his decision to locate here having been made quite by chance.

Just out of medical school he was casting about for a favorable location and had started for Oklahoma City to look that place over as a possibility. He stopped off in Tulsa between trains to see what this place looked like. Walking down the street he met J. M. Hall, an early-day merchant and influential citizen of Tulsa. Mr. Hall, recognizing the young physician for a stranger, engaged him in conversation and invited him to dinner in the Hall home. Inasmuch as there was only one train a day and there would not be another until the next day, young Dr. Kimmons accepted the invitation, as well as one to go to church the next day. While he was passing this brief time in Tulsa a case of typhoid broke out and Dr. Kimmons was called on the case. He stayed on in the little town and decided to remain permanently.

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EPIDEMICS.

Some time after my husband had become established in Tulsa, an epidemic of smallpox broke out. A pest house was set up on South Cheyenne at what is now the corner of 18th Street, where the residence of Dr. W. Albert Cook now stands. There were other physicians in Tulsa but because Dr. Kimmons was the only unmarried one he was elected to care for the victims in the detention camp, where he established himself and remained until the epidemic was broken.

Another time, after I had been here for some time, there was an outbreak of smallpox. One winter night I was at home alone while a blizzard raged outside. A man came to the door and asked for Dr. Kimmons. The doctor was out on a call, but the man looked so ill that I asked him to come in and wait. While he was waiting he had a chill. I gave him some beef broth and after awhile he fell asleep. I noticed a peculiar odor about him, put my hand on his forehead and found he was burning up with fever. When my husband came in he looked after the man; then, as he prepared to take him home, he turned to me and said, "Have plenty of hot water when I come back. I am going to vaccinate you. That man has smallpox." He took the man

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to stay with another family which also had several cases of smallpox at that time. They were very poor people who lived out in a poor section of town called "Ragtown" which extended east from the Midland Valley tracks for several blocks along what is now Fifteenth Street. I used to ride out there each day while they were sick and carry food to them in buckets. Otherwise I am afraid they would all have starved to death.

Once the Dr. **Kerrs** had a case of smallpox in their house. Dr. **Kerr** was expecting a visiting minister to preach for him on Sunday. Instead of coming on Saturday when he was expected the man arrived on Thursday. The next evening he became ill and Dr. Kimmons was summoned. The man had smallpox and of course stayed right there with the **Kerrs**. They put him in the kitchen, while the **Kerrs** managed to live in the living room. The room in between those two they hung with sheets dipped in carbolic acid to prevent any possible infection. Before the man had fully recovered he suffered a paralytic stroke, but he finally got well and is still living.

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EXPERIENCES OF A DOCTOR'S WIFE

I often went into the country on calls with Dr. Kimmons. Sometimes we went in the buggy and sometimes on horseback. Often when driving through the open country the way would be so rough that the doctor would have to get out and lift the rear wheels up or down over the rocks, while I attempted to guide the horses ahead.

We frequently forded the Arkansas River. When the river was high I would take the cases on my lap and sit up on the back of the seat. Even sitting up there I sometimes got my feet wet when the water came up over the back. Once in winter we were returning from Red Fork across the Arkansas with me sitting up on my perch when I slipped down off the seat and got wet to my neck. When we reached home my clothes were frozen to the seat.

I once had to administer ether while my husband performed an emergency operation. We were out driving in the evening and happened to pass through Dawson just after a man had been crushed in a mine cave-in. They called my husband to operate in hope of saving his life.

A DOCTOR'S PAY.

My husband often had to take his pay in such things as molasses, or flour, or corn for the horses, and even,

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on two or three occasions, live hogs, which we later butchered. Sometimes a bill would be paid in cash as little as twenty-five cents a week.

EXPERIENCES WITH INDIANS.

At first I did not always understand the Indians' point of view and sometimes unwittingly offended them. I once went with my husband to make a call on an Osage in the country near Hominy. When the Doctor went into the house one of the Indians invited me to come in, too, but I declined saying I would ride ahead and look about a bit. The woman was deeply offended and complained to my husband that she had asked me in to eat and that I had refused. He did his best to smooth things out for me, and must have succeeded for they asked me back another time. This time I knew what was expected of me and accepted. They served biscuits baked on a flat stone, and corn and potatoes roasted in ashes. When we left one of the women put several dozen eggs, a large quantity of both sweet and Irish potatoes, and a great ham in the back of our buggy.

I once created quite a sensation among the Indians by going bathing in Bird Creek. Being from Galveston I,

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of course, had a bathing suit and this caused much excitement among them.

Indians have never had much idea of the value of money. Once at Christmas time I was preparing to decorate my home to make it look a little more like Christmas. It was impossible to find anything like Christmas trimmings in Tulsa, but my people had sent me a few things from home and I had purchased some red crepe paper which I had cut into long strips like ribbon. I was busy hanging these things when an Indian acquaintance came in and, seeing the paper strips, said, "Why don't you use ribbon?" My reply was that it was too expensive. The woman soon left my house, went down town and bought **twenty dollars** worth of ribbon with which she draped her home.

*FIRST HOME IN TULSA.

Our first house in Tulsa was a little five-room cottage on Third and Elgin, for which we paid five dollars per month. The interior was very crudely finished, the woodwork being of rough unpainted pine, while the plaster was left rough. When this house was sold we went into a little two-room cottage. In this little house I never had to open the door to sweep because the cracks in the floor were so wide that the dirt had all fallen through the cracks before it got to the door.

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Later we decided to build our own home. Our friends, and especially my father, advised against this because it was known that allotments were soon to come and no one knew whether or not one would be permitted to keep what he had. But we went ahead and bought a plot of ground out on the prairie. It wasn't on any street at that time but when the town was surveyed it happened to be on the northeast corner of Cincinnati and Eighth Streets. We experienced no difficulty when it came to adjusting with the Government. We had been given a bill of sale for what we had paid and were asked to pay only the difference between that and the later valuation.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of Tulsa was very poor in those early years, one of the reasons for the frequent outbreaks of typhoid. We had an old-fashioned well which supplied several families. The well didn't even have a pump, the water being drawn with a bucket at the end of a rope. Later, a city water system was put in, the supply coming from the Arkansas River. That water was so hard and part of the time so full of sediment that we could scarcely use it. When we wanted to wash clothes we had to draw tubs full of water, put in sal soda or other chemicals to break

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it, let it stand over night and then draw off what was clear next day before we could use it. Most of the time there would be a sediment at the bottom of the tub so thick that we couldn't even throw it down the drain.

SOCIAL LIFE.

There was almost no social life in Tulsa in those days. One of our few forms of entertainment was an occasional picnic at Flatrock, about four miles northeast, where there is so much drilling activity just now. In the fall we sometimes went out for the day taking great gunny sacks and gathering pecans and persimmons. Sometimes we would walk down to the depot to see the one daily train pass through.

We never thought of making formal calls on each other. Instead one of us would invite a group of friends for the day, the husbands coming in for dinner in the evening.