

(Story given by Ella Robinson, January 11, 1937)

FROZEN ROCK

The home of William Shorey Coodey, situated on the south bank of the Arkansas River, four miles east of Muskogee, derived its name in this way. When Mr. Coodey was looking for a location in 1841, he was standing on the opposite side of the river. He looked across across at the steep slate ledges that formed the bank, which was covered in ice. It presented a beautiful sight. He said to his companions "That is where I will build my home, and call it Frozen Rock." He built the home and took his young bride, Elizabeth Fields there. He constructed a private dock and they could take a boat at their back yard and go by water to New York City, via New Orleans. This home was the setting of many brilliant social gatherings, where beautiful Cherokee girls met gay young Army Officers, stationed at the Fort Gibson Post. Numerous weddings was the culmination of such affairs. After Mr. Coodey's death in 1849 the home passed into other hands. It was occupied by Union Troops during the Civil War and partially destroyed. However, The beautiful walnut and Pecan groves survived for many years.

The community in which the home was located is still known as "Frozen Rock," as the school and cemetery. The remainder of the house was destroyed by fire a few years ago.

Frozen Rock was the birth place of Mrs. Ella Coodey Robinson on

April 28, 1847.

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The house consisted of eight large rooms built of logs, two story structure, having four rooms on the ground floor and four rooms above. At the rear was two rooms made of planks and across the little passage way was a detached kitchen. A wide hall in the center divided the rooms, and could be converted into an open passage way in the summer. A large portico adorned the front. The back porch was at the rear as no southern home was complete without. The floors were made of walnut boards, about fifteen inches in width. The door, window facings and wainscoating were of solid walnut. The locks were brass, having been bought by Mr. Coodey in New York. Two large stone chimnies one at each end of the house furnished four fire places. The entire house was heated with wood, which was plentiful. The home faced an Avenue of walnut trees, reaching to a big gate some two hundred yards from the front yard. A never failing well walled with stone, in the corner of the front yard, furnished water.