

MINSHALL, ELIZA JOURNEYCAKE.

INTERVIEW.

13634.

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Form A-(S-149)

BIOGRAPHICAL
SERIES PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Mary D. Forward

This report made on (date) April 12 1938

1. Name Eliza Journeycake Minshall

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Route 11, Box 64

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 16 Year 1871

5. Place of birth near Vinita, Oklahoma

6. Name of Father Robert J. Journeycake Place of birth

Other information about father Delaware Indian

7. Name of Mother Mary S. Randall Journeycake Place of birth

Other information about mother Delaware Indian

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 5.

Mary D. Forward, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History #-149
April 11, 1938

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ELIZA JOURNEYCAKE MINSHALL

Eliza Journeycake Minshall is the daughter of Robert Jordan Journeycake and Mary E. Randall Journeycake, Delaware Indians, both of whom are now deceased. Eliza was born at the family home along Mustang Creek about ten miles east of Vinita, Oklahoma, where she passed her girlhood. She attended school at Car-le-owe along Mustang Creek, later at the Quawpaw mission school near Miami, and at Bacone College at Muskogee at the time when Professor Bacone himself was in charge of the school.

Mrs. Minshall assisted in the enrolling of the Six Nations* at Tulsa, Nowata, and Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She has a copy of the list of all members of the Nations who came from New York down to Kansas and then to Indian Territory. She also has a copy of her credentials entitling her to enrollment among the Six Nations, and to work on the enrolling, which began in 1928.

*The Six Nations were the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca. The Oneidas had adopted the Stockbridge and Munsee, who had, according to Mrs. Minshall, previously adopted the Delawares.

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Mrs. Minshall was allotted land five miles northwest of Centralia, Oklahoma. She, with her family, had been living there previous to allotment and before Centralia had been established. She owned a mile square between Centralia and Mills but had to surrender all except eighty acres for herself and allotments for her children.

Mrs. Minshall's maternal grandmother, Eliza Sneed, married John Randall and had several children. John Randall served in the war with Mexico and in the Civil War, being enlisted with Company A, 12th Kansas Infantry, and serving as teamster for the Army.

At one time Randall was enroute to Fort Gibson with the rest of his company. He was driving a team of mules and in crossing a river at a ford one of the mules got down in the water. Randall got down from his wagon to see what was the matter with the mule when suddenly it got up and in doing so knocked Randall down into the water, injuring him severely. He contracted pneumonia from the exposure, went back to Kansas, and died.

After Randall's death Mrs. Randall managed the farm herself, doing her plowing with oxen, and growing corn which she herself took to mill.

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Prior to her marriage with John Randall, Eliza Sneed had been married to George W. Hendricks, but Hendricks had disappeared and his wife, supposing him dead, had married Randall and reared a large family, in the meantime moving with the tribe from New York to Kansas. Her children were all in school at the Pratt mission in Kansas,

when one day, while out playing, they saw a strange man leading a horse past the school. He went up the road a short distance and stopped. The children paid no attention to the man but went on into school and after school went home. There to their surprise, they found the strange man whom they had seen passing the schoolhouse. It was George Hendricks who had returned to his wife.

Mrs. Randall had recognized her former husband instantly, greeting him with, "Well, George." Since Randall had already been dead for some years, Mrs. Randall remarried her first husband. During all the years he had been out in California prospecting for gold.

According to the records of the Six Nations Eliza Jane Randall Hendricks in 1859 was thirty-five years old.

Mrs. Minshall tells of the marriage ceremony among the Delawares in the days before they came to Kansas. One mother would say to another mother, "I'll give you so much meat" (or so much calico, or some other commodity) "for your girl for my boy," and that was all. If the offer was agreeable and accepted the two young people lived together from that time on.

Mrs. Minshall has a copy of the will of Captain Vetchum, her great grandfather. The original will has been sent to Washington, D.C. It is dated October 20, 1856, and in it Captain Vetchum, who was chief of the Delawares, names his nephew James Conner (Indian name Ah-lar-a-chech) to be his successor as chief.

Mrs. Minshall also has an old family Bible containing recorded dates as early as 1639. She has a quilt block pieced by her grandmother, Eliza Randall, about 1865. She has an old Seth Thomas clock which her uncle brought from Kansas when the Delawares migrated from there.