



LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

COLEMAN, ELIZABETH ELLEN INTERVIEW 9812

Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes,

This report made on (date) January 24, 1938

1. This legend was  
secured from (name) Elizabeth Ellen Coleman,  
Address Geary, Oklahoma.

This person is (~~xxxxxx~~ female) white, ~~xxxxxx~~

If Indian, give tribe \_\_\_\_\_

2. Origin and history of legend or story \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

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Louise S. Barnes,  
Investigator,  
January 24, 1938.

An Interview with Elizabeth Ellen Coleman,  
Geary, Oklahoma.

I was born in Franklin County, Ohio, in 1859 and came to Oklahoma from Nebraska, bringing with me one child, Harry, leaving the other child, Daisy, in Nebraska to attend school. I came to live with my husband, George Coleman, who was teaching in the Arapaho school at Darlington.

In 1894 we moved southwest of Watonga, across the North Canadian River, where Mr. Coleman was in the Indian service six years; he ran the issuing station and was Indian Farmer of District 9. He leased all the land from the Government to the people between the Coyote Hills and Salt Creek. It was a day and night job because he wanted to accommodate everyone.

Our home stood on a hill and the Indians would come and bring their tepees and stay for days at a time; we had Indians working all around us, because the Government had built a blacksmith shop and there were carpenters, butchers, and police,

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so none of our children were afraid of them and enjoyed playing with the Indian children because they could learn their language and ways.

While we were living here our youngest girl was born, whose name is Cleo. When she was only a year old, a Cheyenne Indian living on Salt Creek, whose name was Iron Shirt, would come and bring his wife and stay for days at a time, because he took a liking to our baby girl and, according to Indian fashion, thought he could trade for our baby.

One day he came to the commissary and mentioned the fact that he had brought two spotted ponies and \$40.00 in cash to trade for Cleo. I was very surprised and called Mr. Coleman and told him. He didn't know what to think and when he told Iron Shirt that we could not trade, the Indian threatened to force us to trade, and said he would kill Mr. Coleman if we did not. We were <sup>not</sup> afraid but the Indians were afraid for fear he would carry out his threat. This Indian and his wife had no children and he seemed so sad when he left the commissary. I could not help but feel sorry for him because I knew he loved our baby.